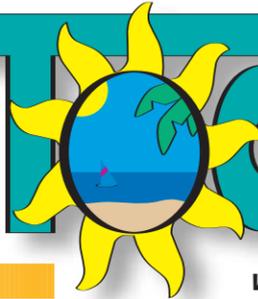


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Vol. 17 No. 9



Haiti's former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, who was jailed under the previous interim administration, has finally been released from prison

following an order by the country's Appeal Court, page 2.

JOB SQUEEZE



More undocumented aliens, including thousands of Caribbean immigrants, will be squeezed out of America's work force by a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security program urging employers not to hire them, page 2.

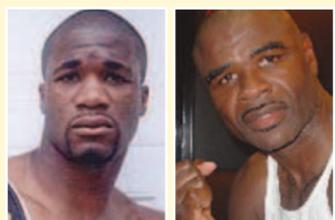


Jason and Laura Henzell manage "Jake's", the Jamaican seaside Treasure Beach resort of cotton candy-colored cottages, which has become synonymous with the best in international literary arts, page 7.

MAXIMUM EFFECT



~ Singer Maxi Priest has more than 20 years in the music business and many hits to match. His style, born from a combination of his Caribbean roots and international exposure, is hard to pin down, but he doesn't mind at all, page 17.



Two Caribbean-born boxers, O'Neil Bell, left, and Glen Johnson, are getting ready for more glory in the ring. Bell is looking to defend his world cruiserweight title, while Johnson wants to take back the light heavyweight crown, page 20.

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New push to squeeze illegal aliens out of U.S. work force

GORDON WILLIAMS

A panic wave set off among undocumented aliens in the United States a few months ago, leaving thousands of Caribbean immigrants jittery and confused, could be further heightened by a recent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) decision to intensify its push towards a legal American work force.

The DHS last month announced that its Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(ICE) arm will partner businesses in a program that will ensure that employers weed out immigrants not legally allowed to work in the U.S.

The new program is called the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE), which, according to a press release issued by the DHS, "is designed to build cooperative relationships between government and businesses to strengthen hiring practices and reduce the unlawful employment of illegal aliens. The initiative also seeks to

accomplish greater industry compliance and corporate due diligence through enhanced federal training and education of employers".

That proposed compliance should do little to ease the prevailing tension existing in the undocumented alien Caribbean community, especially after ICE's recent announcement to increase its efforts to round up illegal immigrants on the job.

"Months ago there was a wave of panic," said Miami-based, Jamaican-born attorney

Dahlia Walker-Huntington. "There is a lot of uncertainty...People are scared.

"(IMAGE) will clearly have an impact on the Caribbean businesses...One way or the other it is going to have some impact," she added.

According to Walker-Huntington, many Caribbean business owners tend to be sympathetic to the problems faced by illegal immigrants seeking employment. They also hire them because they believe they can trust them more than others not from the region.



Walker-Huntington

However, if the new program forces them to comply with the rules of not hiring illegal immigrants, or face steep fines, the employers will have no choice but to cut them from their payrolls.

"It's the bottom line," said Tanya Ragbeer, president of the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce (GCACC), which lists some 150 Caribbean business owners among its membership.

"If that is what the government demands, then we as a people are going to have to comply."

According to Walker-Huntington, when ICE announced its stepped up initiative a few months ago, she was "flooded with calls" from people who did not know

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

NO CHOICE

Ex-Haiti P.M. Neptune released from prison

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - Haiti's former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, jailed under the previous interim

administration, was released from prison late last month following an order by the country's Appeal Court.



Neptune

a small village near Port au Prince - on Feb. 11, 2004. On leaving the prison, the 59-year-old former leader, who was on a (liquids only) hunger strike for the past 15 months, told journalists "the fight will continue" since there were still a number of other political prisoners in jail who should be released.

"This is not exactly the way I wanted it to happen but the essential thing is that I am going to go, but the fight will continue," he said.

JOY

As news of his release spread, scores of people took to the streets of Port au Prince to celebrate. Gonsalves told the Caribbean Media Corporation he was overjoyed that the former leader had



Aristide

been freed. "I am overjoyed. He ought to have been released earlier and I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country...CARICOM as a

administration, was released from prison late last month following an order by the country's Appeal Court. His release has been welcomed by Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who was one of the key leaders of the Caribbean pushing for Neptune to be let out of prison.

On July 27, a frail Neptune was carried out the National Penitentiary by two United Nations soldiers who took him to a waiting ambulance which then transported him to a U.N. hospital to undergo medical checks.

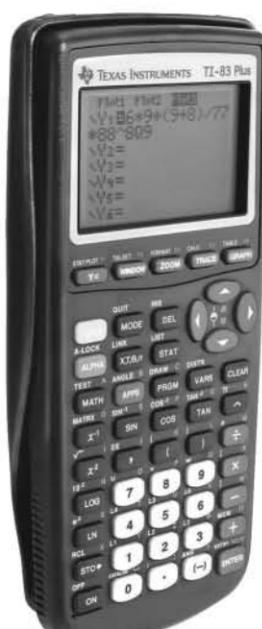
Neptune, who served as prime minister under former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was arrested and detained 25 months ago on accusations he masterminded what Aristide's opponents call a "massacre" in La Scierie -

been freed. "I am overjoyed. He ought to have been released earlier and I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country...CARICOM as a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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U.S. revokes visa of Guyana's top cop

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo has called on the United States Embassy here to justify revoking the visa of acting Police Commissioner Henry Greene.

The U.S. embassy cancelled Greene's visitor's visa on July 21, the same day he was scheduled to take over from retiring Police Commissioner Winston Felix.

"I find the timing very strange because if there was this ongoing investigation it should have been done much earlier," Jagdeo said.

Jagdeo reminded that Greene "held some critical positions," including crime chief and acting commissioner of police on several occasions.

"So I find the timing very strange and I have asked the U.S. government to provide us with specifics," the president said.

TOUGH STANCE

Washington gave no details why Greene's visa had

been revoked, but in the last two years it has taken a tough stance against nationals suspected to be involved in the illegal drug trade. Two months ago, the U.S. Embassy also cancelled Greene's diplomatic visa.

"Now if you revoked one visa, why not revoke both at the same time. If you were so concerned about his involvement, then all of his visas should have been revoked at that time...I want answers," Jagdeo said.

In a statement last month, Greene denied any involvement in the illegal drugs trade and expressed outrage that attempts were being made to "besmirch my good character."

EVIDENCE

Jagdeo said that his administration wanted evidence of Greene's involvement in illegal activities before it took any action.

"We did not move against Felix based on rumors or anything else. We are not prepared to do that," Jagdeo said, challenging Washington to make



Guyana's acting Police Commissioner Henry Greene, left, has a chat with outgoing Commissioner Winston Felix at a recent function.

the evidence of its claims public or even the reason for the visa revocation, "since Greene has agreed to this.

"If we find there is evidence of wrong doing, we will remove him. If he is involved, then there must be evidence of his involvement and they should provide that to Mr. Greene and the public and, at least, share it with the govern-

ment," Jagdeo said.

The U.S. Embassy also revoked the visa of former Home Affairs Minister Ronald Gajraj, who had been accused of involvement in extra-judicial killings. But even though a Presidential Commission of Enquiry cleared him of any wrongdoing, the U.S. government refused to lift the travel ban imposed on him.

Jagdeo said the revocation of Greene's visa would affect his credibility.

"It must cast a shadow because it leaves doubts in the minds of all Guyanese and they (U.S.) have some obligation to all of us as a country to say, here are the reasons why we revoked the visa and we have provided evidence to your government and then shift it to us if we don't move on it," he said.

"If they give us the evidence I am prepared to make it public," Jagdeo said.



U.K. Privy Council favors embattled T&T chief justice

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – The London-based Privy Council has ruled against any immediate arrest of the embattled Trinidad and Tobago Chief Justice Satnarine Sharma on a charge of attempting to pervert the course of public justice, even if the state gets the Court of Appeal to overturn an injunction preventing his arrest.

A statement issued late last month by the lawyers representing the chief justice said that the ruling goes into effect "immediately upon the delivery of the said judgement of the Court of Appeal".

On July 27, the three-member Court

of Appeal said that it would hear the matter as one of urgency after it categorized the case as "a novel and exceptional category".



Sharma

Lawyers for Police Commissioner Trevor Paul, his assistant Wellington Virgil and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Carle Browne Antoine are seeking to overturn the ex-parte injunction granted to Sharma's lawyers by High Court Judge Judith Jones preventing his arrest on the charge. Further, the injunction bars any member of the 7,000 strong Police Force from executing the arrest warrant that the police had first tried to execute on July 14 at the residence of the embattled chief justice.

UNDERTAKING

According to the Privy Council ruling, both the respondents and the attorney general gave an "undertaking" that the terms of the injunctions granted by Justice Jones on July 10 and maintained on five other occasions "will continue to be observed by all persons bound by them unless and until judgement of the Privy Council is given against the chief justice in any appeal, which he may make to the Privy Council against the judgement of the Court of Appeal".

It said that the terms of the injunction would also remain "until further orders of the Privy Council, so long as the chief justice's appeal to the Privy Council is prosecuted with due expedition".



U.S. bill against Internet gambling 'bad signal' ~ ex-Antigua diplomat

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - A bill approved in the United States House of Assembly last month, clamping down on Internet gaming has been described as "unsettling" by a former Antigua and Barbuda diplomat.

Critics say the Republican-written bill is an election-year appeal to the party's conservative bases, but Sir Ronald Sanders told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that Antigua would have to look very keenly at what happens with the legislation as it progresses through the U.S. Congress.

"At the moment, there's nothing to worry about because the bill is not yet law,

but it's a very bad signal and it will cause unsettlement in the industry," Sir Ronald said.

"It's a bad signal because what it's actually saying is that the United States administration is continuing to ignore panel decisions made at the World Trade Organization (WTO) that says they need to bring their laws in conformity with their obligations under the general agreement on trade and services."

Earlier this year, the WTO

upheld an Antiguan complaint against the Americans that U.S. restrictions broke rules on free trade.

CLAMPDOWN

While Antigua has been waiting for the U.S. to comply with the WTO ruling and remove its checks on Internet gambling, last month's approval of the bill will result in a more stringent clampdown on the industry.

"The position of the Antiguan government was that the United States government was in violation of its obligation to allow cross border sports and recreations, including Internet gaming into the U.S. territory," Sir Ronald said.



Sanders

NEWS BRIEFS

• ECLAC predicts 6% growth for Caribbean economies

The economies of Caribbean countries are expected to grow by an average 6.3 percent this year, according to the latest figures released by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

ECLAC said steady expansion of the world economy and abundant liquidity on international capital markets have helped bring about increased exports and better terms of trade for South America, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago.

"While the remaining Caribbean countries and Central America saw their terms of trade deteriorate, they did benefit from remittances sent by emigrant workers, as did Mexico," ECLAC stated

in a report titled "Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005-2006" released late last month.

• T&T seeks to evacuate nationals from Lebanon

The Trinidad and Tobago government last month said it was seeking to evacuate its nationals from war-torn Lebanon.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the London-based T&T High Commissioner Glenda Morean-Phillip had been in contact with the island's Honorary Consul in Lebanon Jean Haidar to coordinate efforts to locate and evacuate nationals who wished to return home.

The ministry said it was aware that at least three nationals had

indicated a wish to be evacuated.

• Barbados, U.S. sign pact for seismic station

A Tsunamis and Coastal Hazards Early Warning System for the Caribbean (Caribe-EWS) came a step closer to reality last month with the signing of an agreement between the governments of Barbados and the United States.

Barbados Attorney General Dale Marshall and U.S. Ambassador Mary Kramer initialed a memorandum of understanding which will result in one of the region's seismic monitoring stations being located at Gun Hill, St. George, the site of a former British signal station.

• U.S. urges St. Lucia to tackle crime

A United States official has urged law enforcement authorities in St. Lucia to deal with the rising crime problem amid reports that Washington was planning to issue a visitor advisory notice against the island.

New U.S. Consul General Clive Howard Jr. said that in recent times a number of visitors had become victims of violent attacks and there was need for urgent action to deal with the situation. Howard told reporters late last month that he was in St. Lucia for talks with police officials on how the crime situation was affecting the tourist industry and the island in general.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



IMAGE to help U.S. businesses avoid hiring undocumented aliens

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced a new initiative to help employers ensure they are building a legal work force through voluntary partnerships with the government.

Called the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE), the program is designed to build cooperative relationships between government and businesses to strengthen hiring practices and reduce the unlawful employment of illegal aliens. The initiative also seeks to accomplish greater industry compliance and corporate due diligence through enhanced federal train-

ing and education of employers.

According to a press release issued by the DHS late last month, the criminal prosecution of worksite violations has increased in recent years. DHS claims it has been flooded by requests from employers seeking information on how to avoid hiring illegal aliens. IMAGE is a partnership program that seeks to provide answers to these questions and help employers comply with the law.

“Any comprehensive strategy to stem the flow of illegal immigration must address the thousands of employers that hire illegal aliens both wittingly and unwittingly,” DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff

was quoted in the release as saying.

“We have been bringing a growing number of criminal prosecutions against unscrupulous employers; however prosecutions are only part of the solution. If the government is going to fully address the problem of illegal alien employment, it must partner with employers, educate them and provide them with the tools they need to develop a stable, legal workforce.”

“Most employers want to comply with our nation’s immigration laws. Yet, every day they are confronted with illegal aliens attempting to secure jobs through fraudulent means, including the presentation of



Chertoff

counterfeit documents and stolen identities. Employers are not trained or obligated to be document detectives,” said Julie Myers, assistant secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“We are launching IMAGE to help employers deal with these situations and confidently develop a legal workforce.”

PARTNERSHIP

Under the program, ICE will partner with companies representing a broad cross section of industries in order that these firms may serve as charter members of IMAGE and liaisons to the larger business community. As part of this program, businesses must also adhere to a series of best practices, including the use of the

Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program, administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). To date, more than 10,000 employers across the United States are using the Basic Pilot Employment Verification to check the work authorization of their newly hired employees, the release stated.

“New employers are signing up to use the Employment Verification Program every day,” said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. “It’s an indication that more and more employers are committed to making sound hiring decisions and in the process preventing unauthorized people from working in the United States.”

HOW IMAGE WORKS

What benefit does IMAGE hold for employers?

ICE will provide training and education to IMAGE partners on proper hiring procedures, fraudulent document detection and anti-discrimination laws. ICE will also share data with employers on the latest illegal schemes used to circumvent legal hiring processes.

Furthermore, ICE will review the hiring and employment practices of IMAGE partners and work collaboratively with them to correct isolated, minor compliance issues that are detected.

Those companies that comply with the terms of IMAGE will become “IMAGE certified”, a distinction that ICE believes will become an industry standard. Participation in IMAGE will

help companies reduce unauthorized employment and minimize identity theft.

What is expected from companies that seek to participate in IMAGE?

As a first step, companies must agree to a Form I-9 audit by ICE. They must also use the Basic Pilot Employment Verification program when hiring employees. This Internet-based system, which is free to employers and available in all 50 American states, provides an automated link to federal databases to help employers determine the eligibility of new hires.

For more information on this program and other USCIS verification programs, visit the USCIS website at www.vis-dhs.com/EmployerRegistration/.

GETTING CERTIFIED

In order to become IMAGE certified, partners must also adhere to a series of best practices. These include the creation of internal training programs for completing employment verification forms and detecting fraudulent documents.

IMAGE partners must also arrange for audits by neutral parties and establish protocols

for responding to no-match letters from the Social Security Administration.

ICE is also asking employers to establish a tip line for employees to report violations and mechanisms for companies to self-report violations to ICE.

A full list of best practices can be found at www.ice.gov.

New push to squeeze illegal aliens out of U.S. work force

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) where to turn. Many government agents would invade workplaces and cart away anyone who could not produce the desired immigration approval. They also feared lay-off or dismissal from jobs, primarily in small establishments such as restaurants, beauty parlors and corner stores.

There are reportedly more than 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. If ICE came looking for undocumented aliens, they argued, then they would not be hard to find.

“Many of (those businesses) identify themselves as Caribbean,” Walker-Huntington said.

MUM’S THE WORD

Meanwhile, there is no clear indication how much Caribbean business owners would be willing to comply with the new program. Most, according to Ragbeer, do not

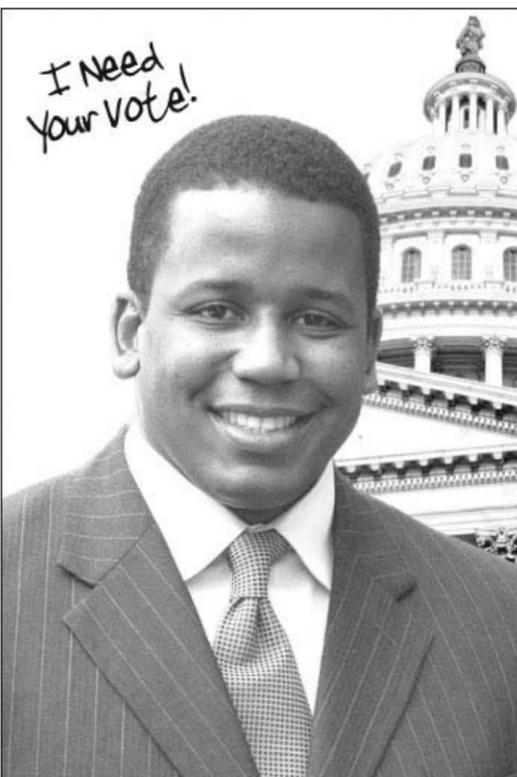
want to discuss publicly whether or not they hire undocumented aliens for fear of being targeted by agencies like ICE.

“I am not hearing from the businessmen,” she said. “They are not willing to admit they hire illegals.”

Meanwhile, other experts on Caribbean affairs are reluctant to support the DHS’s intensified push to get employers to comply. The issue, they claim, is much broader.

“The immigration policy needs addressing, but the way to address it is not by picking (illegal aliens) up, jailing them and then deporting them,” said Glenn Joseph, vice president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in Washington, D.C.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today’s managing editor.



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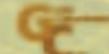
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Ex-Haiti P.M. Neptune released from prison

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

whole and myself have been both privately and publicly calling for his release and we

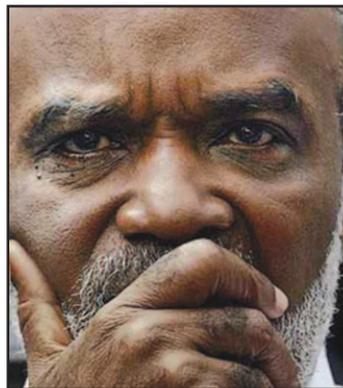


Gonsalves

are very pleased to see this happen," Gonsalves said.

BLAME

Speaking to a group of journalists from jail on July 26, Neptune blamed the newly installed government of President René Préval for



Préval

keeping him locked up and charged that he was abandoned by the international community.

"I am a political prisoner," Neptune said. "Whether I get out of jail dead or alive will be on the government's decision. My case has nothing to do with justice. It's up to the government to release me."



Guyanese go to the polls on Aug. 28

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Guyanese are preparing to go to the polls on Aug. 28 to elect a new government after the President Bharrat Jagdeo made the highly anticipated announcement last month.

The announcement comes after the country's Parliament voted in May to extend the Aug. 4 constitutional deadline by one month to give the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) more time to adequately prepare for the polls.

After receiving the all clear from GECOM authorities, Jagdeo moved to fix the election date.

"Having taken into account the advice of GECOM, and in accordance with the powers given to me under Article 61 of the constitution, I today, July 21, proclaim that the general elections for the election of the president and for the election of members of the National Assembly, will be held on August 28th," said Jagdeo, in prepared statement released by the Government Information Agency (GINA).

OBSERVERS IN

He also said the tradition

of having international observers, which was started in 1992, would be maintained, with hundreds of foreign and



Jagdeo

local monitors due to participate in the upcoming poll.

The president was full of praise for both the international community, for assistance rendered to Guyana so far, and to GECOM officials for meeting the challenge of elections.

Last month GECOM Chairman Steve Surujbally said the commission was now in a position to conduct the polls, having completed the revision of the List of Electors, as mandated by law.

"I would like to commend the Guyana Elections Commission since, in spite of difficulties, the commission and its staff have been able to confront and overcome the many challenges and hurdles in their way," the president said.

He assured that no effort would be spared to ensure

free and fair elections, but said this would require the support of the general population.

"Guyana is a member of the fold of nations that are free and democratic. The single most important feature of our democracy is the right of every citizen to elect a government of his or her choice. The advice tendered today and subsequently elections are the most compelling evidence of the restoration of that right," he added.

SECURITY CONCERN

With security a major concern, the president also called for an election "free from fear and violence."

He urged political parties and their supporters to join in an effort to ensure a peaceful and civil electoral period, while warning that the security forces will be on alert.

"Let us work together in harmony to ensure that elections are held in a peaceful environment, providing optimal opportunity: for GECOM to effectively execute the tasks necessary for a transparent elections process; for citizens to exercise their rights according to law; for the media to responsibly inform the public; for certified observers to freely observe the elections from beginning to end; and for political parties to be able to present, openly and freely their programs and plans for Guyana's future," he urged.



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Jake's in Jamaica: where the word and guests find a home

DAWN A. DAVIS

“Jake's”, the Jamaican seaside Treasure Beach resort of cotton candy-colored cottages, has become synonymous with the best in international literary arts.

Jake's hosted the sixth annual “Calabash International Literary Festival recently, accommodating more than 3,000 over the three days of spoken and written word, music, concerts and special performances. Poets and writers from across the Caribbean island and around the world came to read and perform their work on a stage framed by the ebbing tide of the Caribbean Sea.

Indeed, the words of Sonia Sanchez, Kwame Dawes, Tanya Stephens Ishle Park, Lorna Goodison and others will mark this year's festival as one of the most memorable.

Founded by Colin Channer, a noted author and mentor, and produced by Justine Henzell, both Jamaicans, “Calabash” has truly lived up to its mission: to be daring, diverse, and inspirational. In fact, its first year was a clue of what was to come.

GRASSROOTS

“We didn't know what to expect. But, from the first year you could see that writers never had a platform to read their work in Jamaica,” explained Jason Henzell, general manager and co-owner of Jake's.

“And, on the recipient side, so many Jamaicans have read their books and never got a chance to meet the authors. The first festival was so much more than just meeting the authors, it was a weekend spent with them. It was, and still is no pretentiousness, no attitudes, just very grassroots, which makes everybody very at ease.

“I don't think this would have worked in the ballroom of a fancy hotel, you need a certain surrounding. Right from the beginning, Colin said he wanted it to be daring, edgy, bold. And, as much as Jake's has done for Calabash, Calabash has done for Jake's. In fact, Calabash is bigger than Jake's, it's Treasure Beach,” Henzell emphasized.

The energetic businessman noted that the type of events held in a community frames the image of that community, adding that foreigners don't necessarily think of Jamaica as an intellectual place, but instead see the island as an entertainment and beach destination. Calabash has helped to change that perception, he said.

The literary festival has positively impacted the local

community economically, according to Henzell. Every guesthouse is fully booked months in advance of Calabash, usually held in May. Many rent out their bedrooms. It's the biggest event of the year, and it has the most spin-offs throughout the community, he said.

“It's heartening to see school children from the region attending Calabash,” Henzell explained. “People from the area also see it as an opportunity to learn more about the literary arts. When you see someone reading with passion and love, it really says something about the power of books, and Calabash of course.”

Henzell added that Calabash is a home for conscious people, including Rastafari.

“This is what makes it very stimulating without being snobbish,” he said. “I kind of took for granted that most literary festivals are like this. But, not at all, they are very boring, very snobbish; it's all about business, not about the

mixing and the socializing, which is so important.”

The significance of Calabash to the community and, by extension, Jake's, was demonstrated when Hurricane Ivan hit Jamaica with devastating force. The hurricane



Henzell and his wife Laura are having a ball at “Jake's”.

severely damaged the resort, but the community rallied in numbers, bringing back the resort to full operation within two months after the destruction. The only evidence of

Ivan, according to Henzell, is some sand erosion on the beach and the roads that are still in deplorable condition.

OPPORTUNITIES

Henzell sees unique opportunities in his home community of Treasure Beach, much like his English grandparents who settled in Mandeville in the 1920s. In 1941 they built a vacation home, Treasure Cot, the second beach house ever to be built at Treasure Beach. They eventually rented out the cottage to vacationers, including Alex Haley, who wrote the book “Roots”.

“It's hard to say how much of ‘Roots’ was written there, but Alex Haley was there for about six months and he was writing the whole time. So we feel fairly confident to say that a substantial part of it was written in that cottage,” Henzell explained.

Later, in 1991, Henzell's mother Sally, a theatrical designer, bought her own patch of land in Treasure Beach, designed and built two

unique cottages and a restaurant, the only eating establishment in the area. The idea for Jake's was born.

Further expansion required professional investment and financial expertise. That's when Henzell came on board. An investment banker at the time, he gave up his financial career and joined his mother to manage the growing hotel business, while she focused on designing the charming cottages that is Jake's today. The young Henzell brought vibrancy to the unique resort, with spontaneous events and marketing ideas. Word got around about this “happening” place in Treasure Beach called Jake's.

“Soon after, Chris Blackwell approached us and asked us to be part of his Island Outpost collection, which includes the resorts Strawberry Hill, Goldeneye, and The Caves. So, we are now under that umbrella,” he said.

Today, Henzell and his wife Laura manage the suc-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Sandals Whitehouse hotel attracts tourists, controversy

KATHY BARRETT

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Until the Sandals Group agreed to open the latest of its hotels there in Feb. 2005, the Whitehouse community in Jamaica's western parish of Westmoreland was a sleepy fishing village.

But instead of attracting tourists, Sandals Whitehouse, the multi-million dollar all-inclusive hotel, has become embroiled in a controversy that first surfaced after the Sandals Group complained that the state-owned Urban Development Corporation (UDC) had failed to deliver the property fully functioning and completed when it opened its doors for business.

The project is a joint venture between two government agencies - the UDC and the National Investment Bank of Jamaica (NIBJ) - as well as Gorstew Limited, the private holding company of Gordon “Butch” Stewart, the owner of the Sandals Group. Sandals said because it was not handed a proper functioning hotel, it was forced to cut rates and refund hundreds of guests and that its international reputation had also been damaged.

In fact, Sandals complained that the hotel was completed more than a year behind schedule and well over the \$70 million budget.

The main Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP),

citing mismanagement and cronyism, called for a probe into the project and last October Parliament approved



Sandals Whitehouse

an Opposition motion calling on the government to conduct a forensic audit into the financial and management aspects of the project.

LAWSUITS

On Oct. 25, last year, the government of then Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, appointed a six-member team to carry out the audit. But soon after the team was appointed, Gorstew Limited and Sandals Whitehouse Management Limited filed civil suits against the UDC, and two other developers - NIBJ and Ackendown Newtown Development Company.

Sandals said that it was owed \$29 million as a result of the losses suffered and that it

also wanted the court to rule that it should not contribute to the \$41-million cost overrun because it made no mate-

rial design change to the property that would have significantly contributed to the increased cost.

But in response, the UDC claimed that a substantial reason for the cost escalation was the extensive changes in design demanded by Gorstew and Sandals.

In the midst of all the controversy, the sleepy Whitehouse community was being gradually awakened by the influx of visitors. For a short while the issues sur-



Stewart

rounding Sandals Whitehouse appeared to have fallen off the public radar. But seven months after the lawsuit was filed, the Contractor General Greg Christie announced that he had concluded his formal investigation into the project and submitted a 73-page report on his findings to Parliament on July 18.

The report was critical of the state-owned entities, and accused UDC under its chairman, Dr. Vin Lawrence, of committing flagrant breaches of procurement procedures on the project. It also accused the UDC of hiding information to sabotage the investigation making reference to sabotaged investigations, dummy corporations, unchecked spending and massive cost overruns.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The report said that the project was wracked by multi-million dollar overruns and recommended that the legislature ensure public bodies and public officials who breached procurement procedures were held accountable.

Christie said Dr. Lawrence acted in conflict of interest when awarding some of the contracts on the project. It said in one instance, a J\$18.8 million (\$285,160) contract was awarded to Jentech Consultants Limited, which is a civil and structural engineer- (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

New study to determine tourism spending in the Caribbean ~ Odle

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Caribbean hoteliers have commissioned a study aimed at determining how much of each tourism dollar is remaining in the region, says newly-installed Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA)

President Peter Odle.

While dismissing a recent United States study which concludes that Caribbean hotels are enjoying high profitability as not being representative of the sector, Odle told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that

the CHA-commissioned hotel spend study would give a much clearer picture of the what is occurring in the sector.

"While they are not going to specifically address the area of profitability, I am sure that hopefully out of the study will

come some idea of profits, but the study is designed to extract information on how much money is left in a country and the trickle-down effect of the tourism spend in that particular destination," he said.

Odle said the CHA study,

which is being conducted by the Barbados-based consultants, Tourism Global, would encompass the entire Caribbean area. The study is expected to be completed by September.



Odle

In its study released last week, the Atlanta-based PKF Consulting used financial statements from 34 hotels operating in various countries, including Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Jamaica and the British Virgin islands, to conclude the Caribbean hoteliers enjoyed a profit margin of 22.9 percent, while U.S. hotels had a profit margin to 20.4 percent.

Jake's in Jamaica: where the word and guests find a home

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7) cessful family business. And, in Jan. 2005, Henzell was named president of the Island Outpost group.

"It's been very stimulating," he said. "Like us, Chris Blackwell has a very unique approach to development. It's not about bigger; he goes against the grain and is not afraid of doing something very unique. In the Caribbean on a whole, if you are a small hotel, people automatically see you as down market, whereas we are small but up market. So, we have created a real niche for Island Outpost, not just for Jake's. We are known as the boutique collection for Jamaica."

Jake's clientele has changed over the years. In 1995 the majority of the guests were German backpackers. Today the resort attracts mostly New Yorkers, Londoners, and Floridians.

"People literally started arriving by helicopter. They would rent a helicopter for \$1,000 to come and stay in a \$75 room," Henzell explained.

"We completely turned the market on its head. We were now attracting New Yorkers and Londoners who wanted something authentic, something that would inspire them, something that was appealing, something that was not pretentious,

something that was funky. Who would have thought that there are New Yorkers that want a place without a phone, without a television."

Giving back to the com-



Jake's resort at Treasure Beach, Jamaica.

munity, in 1998 Henzell co-founded a non-profit organization called BREDS (short for brethren), established by local community leaders with the assistance of Peace Corps volunteers to promote education, sports, cultural heritage, and environmental awareness in Treasure Beach. Their goal is to make Treasure Beach a model for low-density sustainable development.

Among BREDS's accomplishments is the reduction of building density from 30 rooms per acre to 10 rooms per acre. A \$85,000 grant will allow them to conduct environmen-

tal audits of guest houses at Treasure Beach and make environmental practice recommendations. Jake's is Green Globe certified, and the aim is to certify all guest houses and

market the area as an eco-friendly destination.

Henzell said BREDS has established the Treasure Beach Emergency Response Unit with its own ambulance and 27 first responders. The non-profit community organization has also built and refurbished a number of classrooms. A 15-acre sports park is also in the works. It will have cricket, soccer, basketball, tennis, swimming pool, children's play area, running track, jogging trail, and other facilities.

Asked about the inevitable change that will take place in this small village,

Henzell said: "Treasure Beach will change because everything does. The important thing is that it is managed change, and that it grows in a way that makes Treasure Beach sustainable and will make it a premium destination. Obviously, it is better to be small and premium. We can't be mass because we don't have a seven-mile beach like Negril."

What's next for Jake's? The entrepreneur sees the brand growing into cottages and villas outside of its present location, but within Treasure Beach. He noted that many people have asked about designing and building. So, Jake's in the future will also be a management company, maintaining these properties for absentee owners. "I think that Treasure Beach in the future will be known for its architecture," Henzell said. "Bigger is not necessarily better, it's about being creative. There is no question that my mother is an artist and a very talented designer. So, to me, as her son, I feel a big sense of pride to support her with land and the financing to keep expressing herself."

Photographs and story by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

Sandals Whitehouse hotel attracts tourists, controversy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7) ing entity in which Lawrence was a long-standing shareholder and director.

It was also noted that contracts were awarded to Gorstew Ltd. amounting to \$421,068, and an unknown amount to Appliance Traders Limited, companies that are owned by Stewart.

"The referenced circumstances have undoubtedly raised compelling evidence of a conflict of interest, and absence of transparency, a lack of competition and the absence of arms length approach in the award of the subject consultancy contracts," the report said.

"We would respectfully recommend that the legislature acts decisively and with urgency to ensure that public bodies and public officials who, with flagrant and glaring

impunity, ignore the government's procurement procedures, are made to be held punitively accountable for their misdeeds and breach of the public's trust."

'BLATANT DISREGARD'

The JLP said that the breaches were a "blatant disregard of rules and regulations that govern public contracts" and has demanded that the report be sent to Parliament's Public Accounts Committee as well as the forensic audit.

Soon after the report was laid in Parliament, the UDC dismissed some of the findings, insisting that it had given full access to investigators.

In a statement, the UDC said it found the allegations disturbing and that all files kept on the Sandals Whitehouse project were at all times fully available to the

contractor general.

"At no time did the UDC make any 'deliberate attempt to conceal information regarding certain relevant decisions as well as the basis upon which those decisions were made' as alleged by the contractor-general", it said.

"Our records will show that there was never any request from the Office of the Contractor General for additional information and documentation and at no time did that Office indicate to the UDC dissatisfaction with either the quality or timeliness of the documentation which was provided.

"In addition, the contractor general was at liberty to interview any of the officers of the UDC or other persons having knowledge of the project to seek and obtain clarification or additional information if he needed such infor-

mation", the statement said.

But Christie said he is standing by the report.

"Having carefully read your comments, I must respectfully advise that the Office of the Contractor General reiterates and stands firmly behind each and every one of its findings and conclusions as are set out in the referenced report," he said.

Gorstew Limited has since said it had asked its lawyers to write to the contractor general "to clarify the issues that we have spoken about in our release and to provide a formal legal documentation to back up our assertions.

CMC

Editor's note: Dr. Vin Lawrence has since resigned as chairman of the UDC.

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Immigration is vital

BRIAN LEE

Immigration is vital to the development of the United States. In President Bush's May 15, 2006, Address to the Nation on Immigration Reform, he emphasized the importance of immigration to our country: "The success of our country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into our society, and embrace our common identity as Americans...When immigrants assimilate and advance in our society, they realize their dreams, they renew our spirit, and they add to the unity of America".

Indeed many immigrants have achieved success, climbing from the bottom rung of the societal ladder to the upper echelons. Foreigners add to the eclectic mix of backgrounds and foster cultural diversity. In this increasingly globalized world, immigrants encourage stronger relations with other nations. The influx of people adds to the United States' labor pool of workers, allowing the economy to prosper.

Immigrants dream of living in America to fulfill the promise of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

Throughout the world, it is accepted as fact that Americans are not geographically inclined. A recent geographic literacy study found that American students are severely lacking in the area: 88 percent of those questioned could not find Afghanistan on a map of Asia, and 44 percent of those questioned could not find Iraq, Iran, Israel, or Saudi Arabia on a map. This is extremely disturbing because if students cannot locate countries in the world, they cannot possibly understand the intricate relationships of the global world.

MINDSET

Immigrants combat this isolated American mindset by bringing cultures from other nations and infusing geography lessons into communities. Immigrants bring their native culture of art, food, dress, and customs, creating a more understanding American society. The major U.S. cities of Miami, New York and Los Angeles are replete with immigrants and, as a result, are known for their booming commerce, unique attractions and diverse demographics.

One striking example that shows the benefit of foreigners is the addition of mosques in urban areas due to the immigration of Muslims. The availability of churches, synagogues, and mosques allows Americans to understand the Islamic religion. Since Sept. 11, 2001, many people have scorned Muslims as terrorists. Having

mosques available permits friendly discourse about the true ideals of Islam and destroys ignorance.

The effect is evident with the contrasting areas of Miami, Florida and Dayton, Ohio. Miami has a diverse cultural landscape with immigrants from Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. Dayton has a homogeneous demographic with people of European lineage. In effect, immigration tends to destroy ignorance and encourage a worldly view.

In the U.S., foreign languages are neglected in the educational system. In Europe, governments require the learning of foreign languages because they understand the need to think globally. Immigrants bring their native language, revealing that proficiency in foreign languages will be essential in the future. Without this encouragement to think globally, most Americans would be content with perfecting their English skills.

TRAINED FOREIGNERS

Especially important is the phenomenon of trained foreigners who enter the U.S. to work in a professional field, the brain drain, because they contribute positively to the economy without requiring the financial cost and time of training.

The impact of foreign scientists and engineers is immense: immigrants made up about 50 percent of those aged 25-44 with doctoral or professional degrees and working in engineering, math/computer science, and physical/biological sciences.

The innovation of America is largely dependent on immigrants, as America is not graduating enough native scientists, doctors, and engineers to fill demand. The salaries of Americans in these fields do not suffer. In fact, there is more labor supply due to immigration, so the competition for the best and the brightest drives up salaries.

Some people argue that illegal immigration leads to lower wages for Americans, but the true effect on employment cannot be generalized so simply. The majority of illegal immigrants are Mexicans who work for dismally low wages in states next to the border. Average Americans who require at least minimum wages scorn most of these jobs.

Whether illegal immigration is inherently wrong is not at issue. Illegal immigration provides employers who need unskilled workers with cheap labor, increasing production and profit margins, which translates into more competition among businesses. This is better for international busi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

All hooked up

A few weeks ago, a friend of mine called to ask my advice regarding his son who seemed to have a penchant to smoking ganja.

Fortunately, just a few days before that, I had interaction with some organizations that dealt with the problem of addiction and dependency, so I had a few contact numbers and places to refer him to.

The lad was no bum, but rather mannerly, quiet and polite, educated, skilled in his profession and smart. But he was hooked on weed.

Some among us may say, "But a nuh nutten dat, mek de boy smoke him collie." But I know differently, as I have seen first hand what it has done to friends and colleagues of mine. I'm not fighting against ganja either, as I feel the same way about alcohol.

Oh, a little smoke occasionally is harmless, as is a little drink now and then, as long as you aren't driving of course; social drinking or social smoking it's called. But the rules of the game change when the servant becomes the master, and the person is so dependent that he or she simply cannot stop, even though they will profess, "Hey, I can stop anytime I want to, anytime."

Whenever I hear that I always say, "Well, stop right now then, prove it to me."

At that point the argument shifts, as "anytime" is forever in the distant future, never to materialize today or anytime soon. Remember that when you dance with the Devil, he won't change, but you will.

When I last saw my distressed friend and asked him how his son was doing, and if he had gone to any of my referrals, he replied that, "Oh, he's okay now, he has promised to stop smoking for the family's sake." Not to burst his bubble of hope, but the statis-



TONY ROBINSON

tics show otherwise, and that simplistic approach rarely works. People who are dependent on any substance need great help to wean themselves off it, and it's the rare person who just stops cold turkey.

MIND ALTERING

But ganja is no worse than alcohol, as they are both mind altering. In fact, I would give alcohol the slight edge in terms of danger, as what I've seen drunkards do, I haven't seen ganja smokers do, although it often leads to harder drugs.

The police worldwide say that the majority of motor vehicle accidents are alcohol related, resulting in death and dismemberment that horrify even seasoned veterans of the police force.

Alcoholism is a scourge, and only people who have been touched by its ugly talons, as it rips away the fabric of families and relationships, can understand or appreciate its destructive force. People lose jobs, lose ambition, lose their minds, lose their health and their lives all because of alcohol dependency. They loiter in bars, drink on the job, while driving, ferret out hidden bot-

cles of their favorite brew from hiding places that not even the FBI could find.

But what they cannot hide is the smell, as not even the most powerful Listerine or Scope can mask the telltale odor. Money is drained away, money that could otherwise buy food, books for the kids, or clothes. It's a common sight to see women corraling their men folk on payday, before they find their way to the corner bar to drown their sorrows. Yet these same people will say, "Oh, I can stop whenever I want to."

FRIGHTENING

What is frightening is the age that many kids become hooked. I learnt that an extremely large percentage of substance abusers fall within the nine to 15 year-old age group. Yet you have parents who still insist on giving their young children alcohol to imbibe. "Cho, is just a little tip, it can't do him anything." What is even more astonishing is that some of these parents are from homes where alcoholism has wrought havoc, yet they see no harm in indulging their offspring. So the cycle continues.

But there are other addictions. Gorgeous Halle Berry had to kick her last husband to the curb because he had a sex addiction. Imagine, someone as beautiful as her couldn't satisfy his urges. But sex addiction is quantitative, not

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CARIB Comments

• **"I don't think the issue of secession has anything to do with me, and if the present government does not**



want to deal with it, I can't force them, but it is something that they will have to deal with later" – former Nevis Premier Vance Amory indicating last month that the issue of Nevis's secession from St.

Kitts did not die with his failed election bid.

• **"This unprecedented collapse of the island's power system has serious implications for the country and it cannot be left to the company to investigate itself" –**

Jamaica's Opposition Leader Bruce Golding commenting on last month's island wide blackout.



• **"I want answers" – Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo last month demanding the United States show evidence to support its decision to revoke the visa of acting Police Commissioner Henry Greene.**

• **"We now have the chief justice, who has been charged for a criminal offense and for whom a warrant has been issued, presiding over the courts of the country" – Trinidad and Tobago's Attorney General John Jeremie last month saying attempts to have the embattled Chief Justice Satnarine Sharma investigated for alleged acts of misconduct, under the provisions of the Constitution, have effectively been blocked by lawsuits filed by the head of the judiciary.**

• **"The chief justice is not above the law but equally the chief justice is entitled to have due process followed" – regional constitutional lawyer Dr. Francis Alexis last month warning government officials in Trinidad and Tobago not to meddle in the work of the judiciary as controversy surrounding Chief Justice Satnarine Sharma deepens.**

Compiled from CMC and other stories.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

qualitative. He just has to have it from whoever, whenever, wherever. He even checked into sex rehab, but his thirst could not be sated. Halle's husband is not alone. It's just that we call it different names. For a man it's sex addiction, for a woman it's nympho, slut, whore, harlot.

Still I don't see it as harmful as substance addiction, but that's just me. But in these times when you have so many things going around, it can have devastating consequences and can be a death sentence.

Gambling is huge, and years ago it was confined to the ponies, the steeds, race-horses, the only animal that can take so many people for a ride at one time. The Sport of Kings that is loved by the common people, but makes paupers of many. Now we have a slew of gambling institutions

that have created more addicts than in crack houses. Simply put, they are hooked, but it is no simple matter to stop.

A few fortunes have been made, but many have been lost. When you add up the money spent on gambling it is mind boggling, staggering. For many people, this daily occurrence of gambling is as natural as eating breakfast or lunch and they all do not see it as an affliction. "Cho, a nuh nutten, just a little wager, I haven't got to do it, I can stop anytime." I wager you that they cannot kick the habit, can't stop, can't quit, win lose or draw, they're hooked for life.

NO LETTING GO

Cigarette dependency, tobacco addiction, whatever you call it, those little sticks with the gossamer wisps of smoke, hold people with greater adhesion than a young

All hooked up

woman to an old man with money. They cannot let go. So much so that an entire industry has been created to aid smokers quit. There's the nicotine patch, tablets, low dose cigarettes, drying out farms, all costing gobs of money. Many fail, yet the smoker will still insist, "Cho, if I want to quit, I can quit anytime. In fact I'm down to two packs a day now."

I know people who are addicted to chocolates, yes chocolates. They have this insatiable craving that they cannot beat. I guess it's harmless enough an addiction,

although the side effects can affect your sides, as in love handles of mammoth proportions. Yup, people addicted to chocolate are often a tad on the portly side.

Simple as you take it, people get addicted to prescription drugs. People pop pills to fall asleep, to stay awake, to open appetite, to suppress appetite, to quit smoking, to ease pain, to fight depression, to raise the dead. You name it, there's a pill to fix it. As a result, a new addict is created, addiction to prescription drugs. Now I see where people are even hooked on the Internet.

So name your poison, there is so much to be hooked on, even coffee. In every case it has a negative and destructive effect on the slave, yes slave, for that is what a person hooked up really is, a slave to his or her hook.

Still, of all the evil addictions, some are a little less evil than others. Take sex addiction for example. I must do some more research before I pass judgement. I'll let you know my findings.

seido1@hotmail.com



Immigration is vital

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ness and for domestic consumer prices. In this case, illegal immigration may bring wages down, but it is not appreciable in the view of the entire economy.

GROWTH

All immigration, whether legal or illegal, makes up a majority of employment growth. In the U.S. economy, foreign-born workers make up over 57 percent of employment growth. This increase in the U.S. labor pool strengthens the economy by increasing supply and demand, and thus boosting production.

When immigrants first arrive, most do not have the finances to buy a house in the

suburbs. They usually buy or rent a home in their price range, which includes those in undesirable neighborhoods. This revitalization of previously ignored neighborhoods through immigration solves a major problem in urban areas. These areas suffer from government deficits, low resident income, faltering public services, and high crime rates. Immigrants move into the area, bringing their vibrant culture, starting businesses, and bringing determination to an apathetic community. This positive effect is compounded by chain migration.

Immigrants flock to areas where relatives live or where there is a familiar language and culture, creating "chains". This grass roots development improves the working class, rather than abandoning and removing them through gentrification.

Immigrants move to America, but they never forget their homeland. Many return for visits or send funds back to relatives, which improves the economies of other nations and most importantly, diplomatic relations among those nations and the U.S. In this way, the U.S. is forced to interact with foreign countries. More frequent communication leads to better relations and ultimately, a peaceful and long-term relationship.

In today's world of weapons of mass destruction

and ethnic cleansing, the U.S. needs as many allies as it can get. Alliances such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the United Nations (U.N.) are able to function more effectively with popular support for the U.S.

With today's issue of immigration, the loudest controversy is over illegal immigrants. Yet all foreigners who come to the United States add to the "melting pot" economically, culturally, and politically. We cannot forget that the founding fathers were immigrants who created the constitution and formed our country's foundation. They had the great comprehension that the U.S. could only prosper with the new ideas of immigrants. Foreigners strengthen our economy, teach cultural values, and bring the vast world closer together. With them, our country is a much better place.

Brian Lee is a graduating senior at Coral Reef Senior High School in Miami and the son of Jamaican parents who live in Florida. The above article was the winner of the South Florida segment of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month Youth Essay Competition. Read more on page 23.



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How can I avoid dehydration?

Question: What exactly is dehydration? It put me in the hospital after a mild flulike illness. How can I avoid it in the future?

Answer: It may come as a surprise, but your body is 50 to



If you feel you are losing water, drink up.

60 percent water. Each of your trillions of cells is about half water, and you also store water outside your cells - in your blood and in the spaces between your cells.

Dehydration is when the amount of water in your body gets too low. We get water from food and drinks, and we lose it through sweat, exhaled breath, urine and feces.

Many things can cause

you to lose more water than usual, such as exercising in the heat, a bout of vomiting or diarrhea, a high fever that results in a heavy sweat (which can happen when you have the flu or something like it), or diuretic medicines.

A mild case causes a little dizziness when standing up, weakness, and fatigue. More severe dehydration can cause seriously low blood pressure or even loss of consciousness.

Estimating how much water you've lost when you're sick is difficult, and it's often hard to eat and drink enough. Sometimes intravenous fluids are necessary. So if you've got a condition that could be causing you to lose water, just do your best to keep up with the fluids. And if you think you're getting behind, call your doctor.

- **Anthony L. Komaroff, M.D., Harvard Health Letter editor in chief.**

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Pear pleasure: avocados' benefits far outweigh risky fat content

SUZY COHEN

QUESTION: A friend of mine, who is a nutritionist, says I should eat avocados to reduce my risk for heart disease. My doctor says not to eat them - they're too fatty. Can you settle this and tell me what to do?

ANSWER: I love avocados and believe that the benefits far outweigh the fat content.

Technically, both the nutritionist and the doctor are correct. Avocados are high in calories - about 200 calories for half a cup, according to the USDA Nutrient Database. Between 70 and 90 percent of the calories in avocados are from fat, but it's "monounsaturated" fat, which lowers cholesterol and subsequently your risk for heart disease. It's the same with olives and olive oil.

BETTER

The avocado beats all other fruits (yes, it is a fruit) in beta carotene and potassium content. If you are on certain diuretic drugs and have been told to eat a banana or drink orange juice daily for potassium, you should know that avo-

cados are even better - they contain more potassium than both bananas and orange juice.

For diabetics, avocados - also called "alligator pears" because of their shape and skin - are a great choice because they don't contain a lot of sugar or starch.

Avocados contain heaps of protein, potassium, folic acid, thiamin, riboflavin, biotin, niacin, pantothenic acid, vitamin E and vitamin K. Two other nutrients stand out as crucial to health. The first is beta sitosterol, which may ease symptoms of BPH (benign prostatic hypertrophy). Guys, you may end up needing medicine costing hundreds of dollars a month, but one avocado will set you back about a dollar and lab analysis shows that avocados contain about 76 mg beta sitosterol per three and a half ounces of raw, edible fruit.

I'm not suggesting dollops of guacamole on top of meat-stuffed cheese burritos; I mean sliced-up avocados on top of a salad.

The second nutrient in avocados is glutathione. You need glutathione to stay alive and process dangerous byprod-



Avocados

ucts in the body. We produce it, but aging, certain drugs and disease conditions wipe it out. Avocados contain 15 to 20 mg of glutathione per three and a half ounces.

HELPFUL

Glutathione is so helpful to the liver and digestion that studies have shown a correlation between eating glutathione (from fruits and veggies) and a lower risk for cancer, specifically oral and pharyngeal cancer.

Glutathione may be depleted from the body by many drugs, including acetaminophen (Tylenol), and depletions can cause joint pain. If you take this medication, it's good to supplement with glutathione, or eat lots of foods that contain it.

Don't try this at home, but isn't it fascinating that certain parts of the avocado tree, leaf, skin and seeds have been pulverized, roasted or otherwise concocted for use over the centuries to treat intestinal parasites, wounds, neuralgia, hypertension, sore throat, menstrual problems and even as an abortifacient?

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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Keep yourself afloat: Tips to prevent drowning

MIAMI, Florida - Drowning is the number one cause of death for children ages one to four in Miami-Dade County.

The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department in South Florida recommends a multi-layered approach for parents and caregivers to help prevent drowning.

- Teach children water and swimming skills as early as possible by enrolling them in local swim programs.
- Install a self-closing and self-latching gate around the pool so that children do not have direct access to the pool from the house.
- Alarm every house door that leads to the pool to alert you if a child has gone outside and install a safety pool cover to securely cover the water area.
- Never leave children unsupervised in or around a body of water even for a moment. Don't be distracted by doorbells, phone calls or chores. If you must leave the pool area, take the child with you, making sure the pool gate latches securely when it closes.
- Remove all toys, tricycles - anything that might attract a child - from the vicinity and allow children to play in the



Playing it safe means the children can always have a good time.

pool area.

- Designate an adult to watch the children during pool parties or family beach gatherings.
- Avoid keeping water or solutions in buckets and other containers when toddlers are in the home.
- Never leave an infant or small child unattended in the bathroom, even for a few moments. Children can drown in as little as two inches of water.
- Talk with baby-sitters about pool safety, supervision and drowning prevention.
- Don't rely on flotation

devices to protect your children in the water. These devices can slip out from underneath an active child.

- Long hair should be clipped close to children's heads, be braided or make the children wear a cap. Long hair can get suctioned into pool vacuum lines and cause drowning.
- Respond quickly if someone calls for help. Post CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) instructions and the 911 emergency phone number near the pool area. Check with the American Red Cross, American Heart Association

or Miami-Dade Fire Rescue for a schedule of CPR classes.

- Keep lifesaving equipment, such as a pole, life preserver and rope - in the pool area. Hang them from the fence so people won't trip on them.

- Don't assume that a drowning incident couldn't happen to you or your family. It's preventable, but no one is immune.

For more information on drowning prevention, please call the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department Media Relations Bureau 786-331-5200.



Donovan Taylor, M.D.

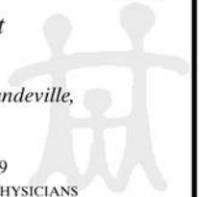
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FOOD

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Dare to sample pineapple, mango and papaya squares

With the summer fully here, Caribbean people are always up for fruit-flavored delights, especially pastries to satisfy the "sweet tooth's" cravings.

This month, **Caribbean Today** offers a tasty treat, made from the familiar fruit of the region. Similar in texture to lemon bars, these have a shortbread cookie base and a delightful tropical fruit filling.

INGREDIENTS

FILLING

- 2 cups chopped cored peeled fresh pineapple
- 1 cup chopped peeled pitted mango
- 1 cup chopped peeled seeded papaya
- 3/4 cup (packed) dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- Pinch of ground cloves

CRUST

- 2 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar

- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 2/3 cups all purpose flour

METHOD

For filling: Combine chopped pineapple, mango, papaya, brown sugar, orange juice, cinnamon stick, orange peel, lemon peel and ground cloves in heavy medium saucepan.

Cook over low heat until reduced to 1 1/2 cups, stirring frequently, about 1 1/2 hours. Remove cinnamon stick. Cool.

For crust: Using electric mixer, beat butter, sugar, vanilla extract and salt in large bowl just until blended.

On low speed, gradually add flour, beating just until dough begins to come together. Turn dough out onto floured work surface.

Gather dough into ball; divide into two pieces, one slightly larger than the other. Flatten each piece into square. Wrap each in plastic; chill 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Roll out larger dough piece on lightly floured work surface to

10-inch square. Transfer dough to nine-inch square



Fruity, tasty squares.

metal baking pan.

Press dough onto bottom and half-inch up sides of pan. Pour filling into crust. Roll out remaining dough piece on floured surface to nine-inch square.

Cut into one-inch-wide strips. Place four strips atop filling, spacing evenly. Place five more strips diagonally atop first four strips, forming lattice. Trim lattice edges. Bake until crust is golden brown, about 50 minutes. Cool completely. Cut into nine squares. (Can be prepared

one day ahead. Store in single layer in airtight container at room temperature.)

Edited recipe and photograph reprinted from Epicurious website.



Mango, ginger beer make cool summer drinks

MANGO

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large ripe mangoes
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 16 cubes of ice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 can Seven-Up or Sprite

METHOD

Wash, peel and cut up mangoes. Place mango, milk, sugar, vanilla and ice cubes in blender.

Blend on slow speed until ice cubes break up then use higher speed. Chill until ready for use and then add Seven-Up or Sprite and stir.

GINGER BEER

You can get fresh ginger from the produce section of

your supermarket.

INGREDIENTS

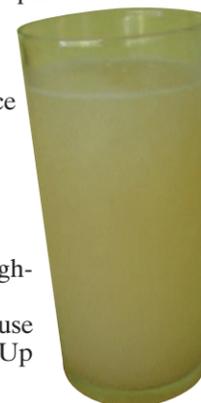
- 1 pound fresh ginger
- 4 pints of boiling water
- Sugar to taste

METHOD

Wash, peel and grate fresh ginger. Place in a large bowl and pour boiling water over the grated ginger. Leave to soak for about a day.

Strain mixture into another large bowl or bottle. Add sugar to taste. Store in the fridge. Serve over ice.

If ginger beer is too strong add more water or soda water to give it a fizz.



Reprinted from Caribbean Cuisine Site.



Publix joins you in celebrating Trinidad & Tobago's Independence Day—8.31.06

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H E A L T H

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It's easy to apply online for help with Medicare costs

While general enrollment in the new Medicare prescription benefit in the United States has ended for 2006, you may enroll in a drug plan without penalty if you qualify for extra help with Medicare Part D costs.

This extra help, available to people with limited incomes and resources, can pay some or all of your Part D premiums, deductibles and co-payments. The extra help could be worth an average of \$3,700 per year.

As a general guideline, to qualify, your annual income (including pensions and gross Social Security benefit) should be below \$14,700 for an individual, \$19,800 for a married couple living together. Income may be higher if you or your spouse has earnings from work, support other family members who live with you, or live in Alaska or Hawaii.

In addition, resources

must be worth less than \$10,000 for an individual, \$20,000 for a married couple living together.

Resources include bank accounts, stocks and bonds, but not your house and car.



Enrolling in a plan can help cut cost for drugs.

Limits may be slightly higher (an additional \$1,500 per person) if you plan to use some resources for burial expenses. You may complete the appli-

cation for yourself or on behalf of a relative, friend or client. The fastest and easiest way to get a decision is to file at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp

In a recent survey of e-commerce sites operated by U.S. federal agencies, the online application for extra help tied for first place in customer satisfaction. If you don't have access to the Internet, call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** or visit a

local Social Security office.

Once you qualify for the extra help, you may enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug program and pay no

No danger in longterm use of antidepressants

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I've been taking doxepin for depression for 15 years. Is it safe to take antidepressant medications for such a long time? I've tried to wean myself off, but my symptoms return.

ANSWER: For patients who experience a single episode of depression, a six to 12-month course of a suitable antidepressant will often suffice. But for those who experience more than one episode and whose depression may become a chronic condition, "maintenance treatment" is recommended. In such cases, efforts to wean oneself from the drug may result in the return of the depressive illness.

Patients with diabetes (who need insulin chronically) and patients with hypertension (who take antihypertensive drugs on a regular basis) are in a similar situation. Their medications, like antidepressants, do not merely mask symptoms but treat the underlying condition.

Antidepressants can pro-

duce side effects such as constipation, urinary retention, and sexual difficulties. Some side effects may be transient - that is, they appear when the patient begins taking the drug and resolve after a few weeks, even though he or she continues taking the drug - while others persist for as long as one is on the antidepressant.

SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can usually be reduced by adjusting the dose, taking an alternative antidepressant, or adding an agent that counteracts the specific problem. There is no evidence to date of any persistent side effect of antidepressants - physical or cognitive - caused by long-term use.

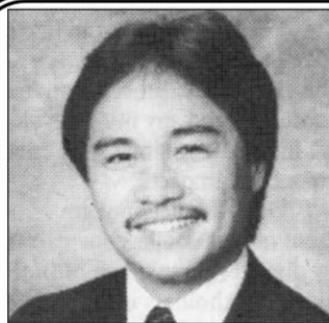
The current first line of drug treatment is the class called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. They include citalopram (Celexa), sertraline (Zoloft) and fluoxetine (Prozac). SSRIs, which presumably act on fewer neurotransmitters, tend to have fewer side effects.

While most antidepressants have a similar level of efficacy, a medication that works for one person might not work for another. If a patient's response to a particular agent does not result in satisfactory progress after four to eight weeks, the doctor may suggest changing the dose or replacing it with another drug from a different chemical family.

- **Teresa A. Rummans, M.D., psychiatry, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA.**

Edited from Medical Edge from Mayo Clinic, an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. To submit a question, write to: medicaledge@mayo.edu

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Caribbean culture has influenced the world in many ways over the years, from the exotic beauty of the islands and people, to the pulsating rhythms of their music - reggae, soca, salsa and merenque.

Now, Caribbean food is beginning to play a new and vibrant role in how the world views this region, from jerk pork to curry chicken, fried plantains, fried yuca, cracked conch to flying fish, from mango chutney to quava jelly.

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Caribbean Today



A roadmap to fulfillment and freedom

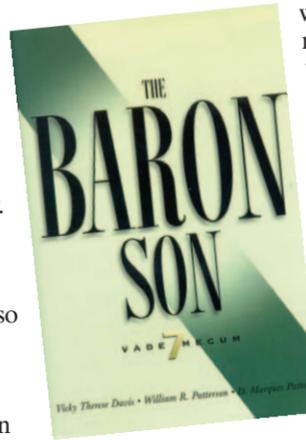
• **TITLE: THE BARON SON**
 • **WRITTEN BY: VICKY THERESE DAVIS, WILLIAM R. PATTERSON & D. MARQUES PATTON**
 • **REVIEWED BY: DAWN A. DAVIS**

Most books that embark on teaching the rudiments of wealth building, financial management, investment, and success strategies are usually viewed as boring.

Not so with "The Baron Son". Authors Vicky Therese

Davis, William R. Patterson, and D. Marques Patton have managed to incorporate all the principles of success and wealth building in an engaging story.

No gimmicks here, you will learn and retain the business and life plans - so artfully laid out - as you follow the life-changing events that catapult a young man from penniless to Baron.



wealth, and witnesses grave injustices against the helpless. Motivated to turn around his now penniless state and that of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised he takes the path of creativity. But, it is not without great challenges that oftentimes

breeds fear, doubt, and insecurity.

It is through these trials that he learns that "thy struggle shall bring wisdom... The mind is promptly exhausted when permitting negativity to fester. The energy expended on such doubt may easily be applied to creative endeavors. Embrace not that which limiteth thee".

ESSENCE OF BUSINESS

Persistence breeds creativity, a lesson learned early on as we follow the Baron on his

entrepreneurial venture. Through trial and error and good planning, he makes a step on the road to success, acknowledging that achievement cannot be attained by oneself.

Readers also share in the Baron's failures, his missteps due to natural disasters, greed, negativity, and market forces. It is through these events that the reader captures the essence of business.

"Tis the repetition of specific measures that alloweth one to unconsciously duplicate successes or failures... a man's actions serve either as the marble to erect his empire or iron bars to fit his prison."

Indeed, "The Baron Son" draws a roadmap to a fulfilled life and financial freedom; the lessons are clear. "Positive thoughts and deeds" as a foundation for success is unmistakably the thread that runs through this rich fabric.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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Caribbean Today

INQUISITIVE YOUTHS

Set in times past in the land of Mh'ki, we are introduced to the Baron, the richest and most respected man in the land, who is besieged by three inquisitive youths seeking his secrets to wealth and wisdom. In olde English readers are taken on a journey of discovery, creativity, rejection, loss, and rebirth.

As a youth, the Baron lost his family, his position, his

A new writer delivers a 'page turner' with distinctly fresh Caribbean flavor

TITLE: UNBURNABLE
AUTHOR: MARIE-ELENA JOHN
REVIEWED BY: GORDON WILLIAMS

If lovely little Dominica has to be the scene of murder, rape and vengeance, then it's a welcome relief that the tale is told by a native of the Caribbean island, and that the story comes from a novel.

That clears all the room for the reader to simply relax and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John does offer up material to savor in "Unburnable".

If the novel is John's first, then it is clear that her talent and future are exceedingly bright. Her intention shoots out immediately - from the very first page - when she sets an appetizing table of what is to come: sex, violence, a woman's intrigue, and relationships between a small country and its characters.

Yet "Unburnable" is about enduring love and Caribbean culture as well, neatly woven and tastily written - in a fashion that moves quickly and almost drags you along with it. If the short chapters are like samples of delicious Saturday afternoon Caribbean soup, the language is actually the main course.

John exposes the reader not just to Dominica's culture, but the unique feel of the entire region as well. It's different from the America the book's lead character Lillian had come to know after leav-

ing the island, but it is also the pulse that no amount of years elsewhere could dim in her soul. Lillian's typical "mix up, mix up" regional background - Carib father, African mother - only adds to the spice and color of the tale.

Yet it is that tale - Lillian's return to Dominica to confront her past, lover Teddy in tow - that keeps the reader riveted. She must sift away the scandals of her past, folklore that stains her grandmother Matilda and her mother Iris. That same sordid past that forced her to leave Dominica in the first place forces her to return 20

years later. It is time to make it better, to release the haunting. To heal herself.

"Unburnable" is a magnet. It sucks you in and keeps you braced for the truth, the finish as it unfolds. But that is fiction. In real life, for John, she has set the bar for her other works so very high.

PUBLISHER: Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN: 0060837578.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor. Beginning Nov. 1, 2006 you may e-mail him at editor@caribbeantoday.com



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Maximum style: Love of performing never gets old for Maxi Priest

~ Versatile singer rolls through Florida on 'Reggae Sunsplash' tour

GORDON WILLIAMS

Maxi Priest has seen the music tour circuit many times, all over the world, in more than two decades as a performer.

The British-born son of Jamaican parents can't remember the number of shows he's done on the Reggae Sunsplash tour – stretching from the Caribbean to Asia and North America.

But, he swears, getting on stage never becomes a played out routine.

So when the United States leg of the show rolls through Florida this month - West Palm Beach, Tampa and Cocoa Beach - the veteran singer will still be eagerly hopping around.

"The time flies so fast, especially when you're having fun," he told *Caribbean Today* recently from London. "No, I don't really feel old. I feel I've been around the blocks a few times. But this is what I do and what I love."

That passion, and the long, winding road it has taken him through, has also given him a unique perspective on the rise and decline of "the godfather" of reggae shows, from its early years of

dominance, to the current flicker of hope that says Sunsplash will rise again from the ashes.

"I don't think it has faded away," Priest said of Sunsplash, which has featured some of the world's greatest musicians and performers since its inception decades ago in Montego Bay, Jamaica, including reggae legend Bob Marley and Stevie Wonder.

"The 'shop' was closed down because of neglect or someone not taking up the slack," is how Priest described Sunsplash's decline in prominence following the death of founder Tony Johnson.

"Lots of black business never seem to carry on after the person who created it (has passed)," he added.

COMEBACK

But recent events indicate that Sunsplash is planning a huge comeback. This month, the tour is scheduled to feature some of the biggest names ever to play reggae, including Priest, British group UB40, and the veteran Jamaican acts Third World and Toots and the Maytals.

Long after Marley died in 1981, and aided by his legacy and that of others, reggae has



Maxi Priest - crossing generations with his music.

now stuck a firm toehold in the American fan fabric. They have finally come around.

"It's obviously improved since Bob," Priest said. "(The Americans) have embraced it a lot more."

"We've had a lot of chart success (in the U.S.) since the days of Bob and the rest of the cats like Dennis Brown... Obviously the music

has changed and adopted different forms."

FLEXIBLE

Priest himself has long been versatile in his approach to music. He has topped charts with traditional reggae, R&B and soul numbers. He has teamed up with singers like Roberta Flack and Beres Hammond, plus deejay/dance-

hall acts like Shaggy, Beenie Man, Bounty Killa, Shabba Ranks and Red Rat. He doesn't want to be fenced in by genres and asks audiences to understand when the music and other artistes change as well.

"For me, I'm not one of those to sit and say 'dem not playing true reggae'," Priest said, while explaining the sometimes harsh judgments fans make about performers who try to experiment.

"Music is music... I get my music from an open mind and respect for the art."

A long list of hits, since his first shot on the charts in the mid-1980s, seems to underline his point. "Close To You", "Say A Prayer For The World", "That Girl" (which he did with Shaggy), "Some Guys Have All The Luck", "Wild World", "House Call" (with Shabba Ranks) and the "Set the Night to Music", a 1991 duet with Flack, ensure Priest's followers evade not just cultur-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

Jamaica's 'Miss Lou' is dead

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Jamaica's beloved cultural icon, Louise Bennett Coverly, better known as "Miss Lou", died last month in a Canadian hospital.

Miss Lou, 86, died at the Scarborough Grace Hospital in Toronto after collapsing at her home.

Born in Kingston on Sept. 7, 1919, Miss Lou had been Jamaica's premier folklorist, poet, entertainer and comedienne. She transformed theater in Jamaica and is often referred to as a cultural giant who made the Jamaican dialect an accepted language



Cultural icon Louise Bennett.

through her many poems. Miss Lou received many



Louise Bennett (Miss Lou) lies in repose at Highland Funeral Home in Toronto, Canada.

~ Photo by Devon Dunn

accolades and awards during her lifetime, including the honorary degree of doctor of laws from the University of

the West Indies and York University in Canada.

She was scheduled to receive an official Jamaican

funeral this month in her homeland.



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Caribbean music not well defined ~ *Burgie*

KEMOY MCEKRON AND ASHA YEARWOOD

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – He's recognized as one of the greatest composers of Caribbean music - a true pioneer and an eternal pacemaker.

Irving Burgie penned such classics as "Day-O" and "Islands in the Sun", as well as the Barbados national anthem.

"Day-O" was made popular by renowned entertainer Harry Belafonte and Burgie composed eight of the songs on Belafonte's ground-breaking 1956 "Calypso" album. The album, an amazing musical accomplishment, was number one on the Billboard charts for 32 weeks, being the first album in history to sell over one million copies.

Burgie, a Brooklyn-born composer of a Barbadian mother and American father, tells the **Caribbean Media Corporation** that despite many strides Caribbean music is still not defined after many years of experimentation.

"The Caribbean thing

(music) at this point is evolving into something that I don't think is quite there yet," he says. "As a matter of fact, I was a little concerned that lately in the last few years that almost all the islands are having nothing but jazz festivals and the Caribbean music is pushed aside entirely."

Burgie, however, concedes that there may be a fusion of Caribbean music and other genres in the near future that will be more of what Caribbean people represent.

He was in Barbados finalizing plans for a program in New York where Caribbean islands will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Calypso" album.



Burgie

COPYRIGHT

He says another major problem facing the music industry in the Caribbean is the issue of copyright.

"The whole situation here is that they have never been



Burgie's music scored major success for Belafonte and "Calypso" - and vice versa.

really able to establish a legitimate copyright situation. In fact, many of the people here that write stuff, they have their material copyrighted in the (United) States because they do have a copyright code and a system and it's hard to develop here," Burgie adds.

With the inclusion of musicians on the list of persons so far granted free movement across the Caribbean community, Burgie says the idea is a good one that should be encouraged since it provides a bigger base and opens the market for artistes to flourish in the region.

"You take a lot of those big time writers in the States, those guys were courted by Hollywood and all these people and given a lot of money for writing their things. But they don't have that kind of base here it takes to attract people who have some facility and knowledge and experience and talent," he says.

The solution, he says, is to create a successful system that catches the world's attention similar to the reggae and calypso phenomena.

"The only way you can have a successful system here is if you can build something

that catches on, for instance, like calypso did or reggae did where it went into the outside world and then the outside realizes," he says.

He points out, for example, that the U.S. offers a base for exploitation because of its large appealing industry for millions worldwide.

HONORS

Burgie will be honored at this year's Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (Carifesta) in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the event in the U.S. In commenting on the special U.S. gala program, he says "they are going to give me a song of the century award for 'Day-O' and it will be quite a big Celebration" on Oct. 29. In keeping also with this celebration there will be a launch of a website and DVD in Burgie's honor this month.

Meanwhile, the Literary Award for school children in Barbados in his name and in honor of his mother continues in its 26th year. It has grown from seven to 12 students, including a student graduating from the University of the West Indies each year.

As to his future, Burgie who is 82, said: "I don't really have anything to retire from. I just go right along and I try to keep myself involved and I travel and I try to live well and take care of myself and help my friends and my family."

"Life has been very, very good to me and I've lived very well and enjoyed most of it and I'd like to do the whole thing over again, but I still expect to be around here for a while."

- CMC

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A NEW TREND IN SOCA MUZIK

Maximum style: Love of performing never gets old for Maxi Priest

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17) al barriers, but age ranges as well.

"My audience is a very cosmopolitan audience," said the father of nine, who still sends the girls swooning during shows, as he responded to a question about who shows him the most love.

"Very liberal...black, white, all nations, all age crowd. I don't think much has changed in that respect other than the fact there is a young movement going on...At the same time, the youths are giv-

ing me respect."

Enough to make him consider another couple more years on the circuit?

"This is what I do," said Priest, who is promoting a new single "Makes Me Wanna Hallah".

"As every year comes, I greet it with open arms."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor. Beginning Nov. 1, 2006 you may e-mail him at editor@caribbean today.com

S P O R T

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Stanford 20/20 cricket raises level of Caribbean spirit

The color and excitement of the Caribbean spirit was fully on show as the inaugural Stanford 20/20 cricket tournament got underway last month in Antigua. Some of the tournament's highlights on and off the field were captured by the organizers' photographers.



The Antigua Posse gets into the groove at the "Sticky Wicket" restaurant and bar.



Vincenitian fans jump up in celebration.



A Jamaican supporter plays the face card.



St. Lucia's Garey Mathurin takes a catch.



20/20 fashion in full swing.



St. Lucians get behind their team.



Antigua's team takes a victory lap after an early round game, but the homesters were eventually knocked out of the competition.

Caribbean's 'Road Warrior' Johnson bids to retain world light heavyweight boxing title

GORDON WILLIAMS

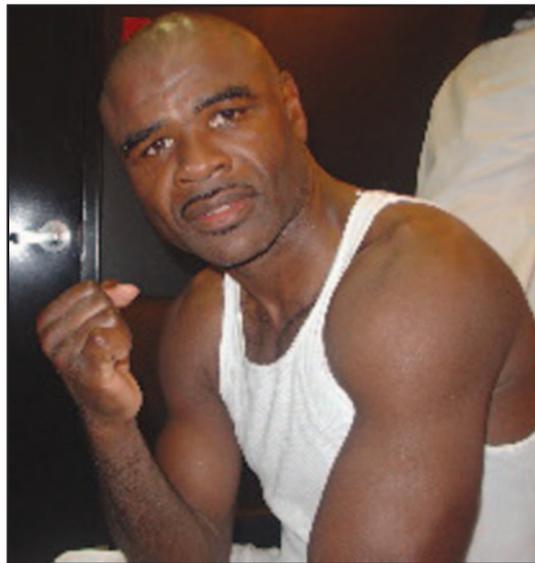
Caribbean boxer gets another chance to regain a world title in the ring when Jamaican-born Glen Johnson fights Britain's Clinton Woods for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) light heavyweight crown early next month in England.

The 37-year-old Johnson, with a ring record of 44 wins, 10 losses and two draws, will meet Woods on Sept. 2 at the Bolton Arena in Lancashire.

For Johnson, it will be the third time fighting the Yorkshireman in his home country. The two first fought to a draw in Nov. 2003. Johnson, known as the "Road Warrior" for his willingness to fight anywhere in the world, won the return match and claimed his first hold on the IBF title in Feb. 2004, also in England.

However, he was lured by a large purse to relinquish the belt and fight top American Antonio Tarver. They met twice, Johnson winning the first bout, Tarver the second, both on decisions. Now Johnson is looking to regain his crown from Woods.

"Being a champion is always what it is about," he told *Caribbean Today* last



Johnson, seen here relaxing after the Hall fight, has big business to attend to on Sept. 2 in England.

month. "It means something."

ROOTS

What has also been of major importance to Johnson is representing his Caribbean roots. He spent his early teen years growing up in the Jamaica parish of Clarendon before migrating to Miami, Florida to join his mother. However, he has always maintained his ties to Jamaica.

"I can't stop respecting," he explained. "I can't switch off from being Jamaican."

Early next month his focus will be squarely on

Woods, a man he said he admires but would like to finally confirm his superiority against.

"I punished him for 24 rounds (the total for the first two fights) and he took it," Johnson said. "You can't count him out...He's a tough guy. I'll never underestimate anyone. He's a danger."

Johnson claims that the

IBF title signifies the best light heavyweight fighter in the world, although France's Fabrice Tiozzo (World Boxing Association) and Poland's Thomasz Adamek (World Boxing Council) hold the other major belts in the 175-pound weight division. He hopes to win the IBF crown to attract bigger-paying fights as his career winds down.

TOP SHAPE

However, the 2004 world "Fighter of the Year" told *Caribbean Today* he is in great

shape and that his training schedule for Woods, who has record of 39 wins, three losses and a draw, has been on target.

"It's going good," Johnson said. "I feel excellent."

Johnson last fought in February against fellow Jamaican Richard Hall in South Florida. He beat Hall on decision in a brutal 12 round bout at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood. He had been scheduled to fight Woods in June, but the champion skipped the mandatory title defense - with the approval of the IBF, according to Johnson's promoter Leon Margules - to take on Australian Jason DeLisle in May. He knocked out DeLisle in the sixth round.

As for being asked to go to England for a third time to fight Woods, Johnson, who has been victimized by bad hometown decisions at several venues in his long career, explained in simple Jamaica style it is no problem.

"You've just got to go take care of business," he said.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Cricket World Cup makes successful launch in India

NEW DELHI, India, CMC - Senior Cricket World Cup Inc. officials last month launched



Dehring

the 2007 event in India with Chris Dehring, chief executive officer and managing director, hailing the event as a

major success.

"I thought it went very, very well. There was a very, very strong attendance by the Indian media which of course is quite massive," Dehring told *CMC Sports* in a telephone interview from India.

"There was in excess of 10 or two television crews and a host of other media from across India that were here to participate."

He continued: "It was a tremendous response and a very good gauge for how the Indian market perceived the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean."

"They certainly think if it as a mega event and a very special event simply because of the spirit and history of the Caribbean when it comes to cricket and of course, the relationship between India and the West Indies with so many West Indians who actually played for the West Indies and live in the West Indies, of East Indian descent.

"So there is pretty good amount of affinity between the two nations and I think it gives the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean a very special appeal."

At the launch, the official logo of the Mar. 13 to April 28 tournament was unveiled, while Dehring and Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell made presentations.

Dehring was accompanied at the event by Ken Gordon, chairman of the CWC 2007 Inc.; Chris deCaires, chairman of World Cup Barbados Inc., and CWC's Corporate Communications Director Marvia Roach.

With India currently representing cricket's largest television market, the launch also saw the CWC contingent linking up with their official sponsors, including Hero Honda, Hutch, Pepsi and LG, Dehring said.



Bell preps to defend world cruiserweight crown

GORDON WILLIAMS

Undisputed world cruiserweight boxing champion O'Neil Bell, a Caribbean native who currently resides in the United States, is looking to put his crown on the line next month.

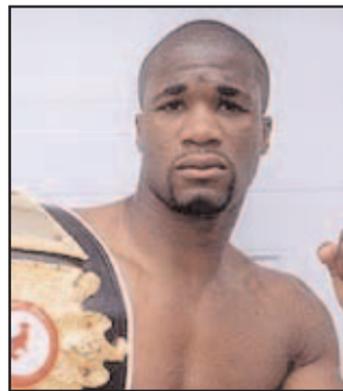
Bell, who currently holds the World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Council (WBC) titles in the 200-pound division, is awaiting confirmation for a possible title defense against American Chris Byrd, a former International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion who will be stepping down in weight class to face the Jamaican.

The exact date and location for the fight were still being discussed up to press time. However, according to Bell, the fighters are ready to rumble.

"Both me and Chris agreed on that note," he told *Caribbean Today* last month.

"I like to accept challenges and of course Byrd is a challenge," he added later in explaining his choice to fight a

quality heavyweight. "...It's gonna take fights like that to put your name out there. It will be a good showcase for my talents."



Bell

IMPRESSIVE

Bell has already impressed boxing critics this year. In January he knocked out Jean-Marc Mormeck in 10 rounds at New York's Madison Square Garden to take the Frenchman's WBA and WBC crowns. At that time Bell held the IBF belt as well, but was stripped of the

title after failing to make a mandatory defense against American Steve Cunningham in June. Bell had asked for a postponement of the fight after complications from surgery to remove a wisdom tooth prevented him from training properly. The IBF rejected the postponement request.

"I was frustrated after they stripped me," he said. "But I looked at the great ones (boxers), they've all been through the struggles."

However, Bell is bouncing back and, in addition to Byrd, he is also training in the Atlanta area to participate in a "Superfighter" series in Australia later this year. The event's planners want to involve eight heavyweights in a one-night elimination contest. The eventual winner, who gets a reported \$5 million, will have to win three fights that night. Each fight is scheduled to go three or four rounds.

REMATCH

A possible Mormeck rematch could be in the cards

as well and Bell has not ruled out eventually facing Cunningham, a former long-time sparring partner, sometime in the future. He claimed that although the American is "skilful" in the ring, he would not pose much of a threat.

"I don't see him presenting any serious problems," Bell said.

In the meantime, Bell is concentrating on getting ready for Byrd. The 31-year-old Montego Bay-born boxer is training twice a day at a new gym. He said he is nearly halfway to his peak, but on target for whenever his next bout is announced.

He said he has also recovered fully from a ribcage injury suffered during the Mormeck fight.

"I'm cool," he said. "It's been seven or eight months."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor. Beginning Nov. 1, 2006 you may e-mail him at editor@caribbean today.com



P O L I T I C S

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Nevis elects new government

CHARLESTOWN - Voters in Nevis last month ended three terms of government for Vance Amory and his Concerned Citizens Movement.

Joseph Parry's Nevis Reformation Party won the poll, ending 14 years of office for the CCM.

The CCM had been pushing for secession from its federation with St. Kitts to become one of the world's smallest nations at 36 square miles. A referendum in 1998 fell five percent short of the two-thirds majority needed to break away.

Outgoing Premier Amory insisted the issue isn't dead, while Premier-elect Parry said the NRP favors constitutional reform.

Parry said the priority of his administration will be the revitalization of the island's economy. He told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that his party would begin to "look at our tax structure and administration of taxes" while seeking to "inject funds into the economy."

He said the priority would be to "stabilize the economy in Nevis and to make sure that people are well positioned to

benefit from the development that will be coming to Nevis for the next few years."

NO SEPARATION

Parry said that for the

hope for improved relations with Basseterre.

"Since 1991 we have (said) constitutional reform is the best way for Nevis and now that we are in govern-



Joseph Parry, right, the new premier of Nevis, celebrates his election victory with party supporter Hensley Daniel.

past 14 years, his party had been drafting development policies for the island that forms part of the twin-island federation with St. Kitts. He dismissed any notion of seeking to move away from the federation and seek to become an independent state, insisting that constitutional reform represented the best

ment we can more reach out to the Federal government and seek out a road or a road map that we can be satisfactory to citizens of both islands," he added.

Compiled from CMC reports.



POLITICS BRIEFS

• 10 parties file for Guyana's polls

Nomination Day excitement swept over Guyana's capital last month as political parties competing in this month's general and regional polls presented their lists of candidates to the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) at City Hall.

Ten political parties filed the required legal and constitutional documents to contest the Aug. 28 polls.

• Dookeran hints at new 'movement' in T&T

Embattled leader of Trinidad and Tobago's main Opposition United National Congress (UNC) Winston Dookeran, has hinted at the formation of a new all-inclusive "movement that will transcend change" even as he left open the possibility of healing the rift within the party.

Addressing supporters at what had been billed "Dookeran's Day" in Freeport in Central Trinidad late last month, Dookeran said he had been given a new mandate as to "how to move forward with a new movement that will transcend change." He told supporters that a national congress would be formed from the people bringing

"together all interested parties."

• Bermuda's politicians get huge rise in pay

Bermuda's politicians are to get their controversial pay rises thanks to the island's constitution.

The pay rises, approved in June by the House of Assembly, cleared their final legislative hurdle last month after it was ruled that the constitution prevented the Senate (Upper House) from voting on the hikes which will see Premier Alex Scott's pay package shoot up by 80 percent.

• Ex-Opposition M.P. to join Dominica's ruling party

Former Deputy Leader of Dominica's Opposition United Workers Party (UWP) Julius Timothy confirmed last month that he will take up a Cabinet position in the Roosevelt Skerrit administration.

Timothy, a former finance minister, will be responsible for international business. He said he has been meeting with Skerrit to finalize what other portfolios he will be given.

• Canadian diplomat predicts safe Guyana elections

The outgoing Canadian High

Commissioner to Guyana Bruno Picard has predicted a violence-free poll in September.

"I have trust and confidence in the maturity of the political class of this country and the maturity of the Guyanese to prepare for those elections peacefully (and) to hold those elections peacefully, and to accept those results peacefully," Picard said last month.

• Opposition will support Grenada's electoral reform

The main Opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) says it fully supports the introduction of an Organization of American of American States (OAS) recommended system of continuous registration of electors in Grenada.

The NDC said last month it would also give support to the Keith Mitchell administration in ensuring the implementation of the recommendations by an OAS observer mission.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Opposition JLP kicks off Jamaica election campaign

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) has declared its readiness to topple the governing People's National Party (PNP), which has held power here for the past 17 years.

JLP officials last month outlined plans for their political campaign as speculation mounted that Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller would call general elections shortly.

"Bring it on prime minister. Anytime you're ready, we are ready for you," JLP General Secretary Karl Samuda told reporters. "Let us not just hear talk, talk, talk about all this wonderful popularity and five term thing. The only way you can manifest that hope into reality is to hold an election and we are ready for you anytime."

TOUR

Beginning late last month the JLP was scheduled to stage a five-day tour, taking it into 35 constituencies and more than 150 communities to promote its message of change.

The JLP is hoping to break the political grip of the governing party, which is going for five consecutive terms in power.

Samuda said the campaign for the next elections would cost millions of dollars, but said the JLP had the necessary cash in its political war



Samuda

chest.

"Democracy is very expensive," he said. "Funding is always a problem in Jamaica today. But we are hopeful and very encouraged by the response so far."

General elections are constitutionally due here in 2007, but it is expected that Simpson Miller, who assumed office through an internal party election earlier this year, will seek her own mandate by going to the polls this year.



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'Business without pressure', the Caribbean Chamber's way

DAWN A. DAVIS

Celebrating its 12th year, the 150-member strong Fort Lauderdale-based Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce (GCACC) has become an important link among Caribbean businesses in South Florida.

"We provide links to government entities and networking events that allows our membership to meet other Caribbean and American businesses to create partnerships," said Tanya Ragbeer, GCACC president.

However, Ragbeer admits that getting Caribbean business owners to network is sometimes a challenge.

"What we don't take advantage of is the networking opportunities, going out there and talking to people about our businesses; exchanging our business cards," she said.

"We actually don't understand the value. We don't understand that it is word-of-mouth advertising and it definitely helps our businesses.

"We as Caribbean people think that we can sit in our offices and business will come in to us, just because we are Caribbean. But, it doesn't work that way. People have to know that you exist and know what you do to be able to refer to you. And, unless you are out there promoting yourself and your business, it just won't work," Ragbeer added.

TALK

Asked how she tackles this particular challenge, the GCACC president noted that the issue is dealt with at meetings and gatherings.

"We talk about it," she said. "People are actually shy about giving out their business cards; they are shy about talking about their business. But after exposure at the meetings, they realize the value."

She was quick to point out that Caribbean businesses are successful.

"We are entrepreneurial people and we understand business," the banker emphasized.

The bottom line, Ragbeer explained, is that members want the opportunity to expose and improve their business. They want training. Caribbean people, she said, enjoy a little lyme, so, if they can do it in a social environment, they come out in droves. It is "business without the pressure".

TRADE MISSIONS

As a platform for economic development, the GCACC participates in trade missions that bring diverse businesses together.

er. According to Ragbeer the GCACC participated in a trade mission to Jamaica, and plans to expand it to include other islands to facilitate trade between island businesses and their counterparts in South Florida. It is likely that GCACC members, who are predominantly Jamaicans, in addition to Hatians, Trinidadians, Dominicans and some Americans, would



President of the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce Tanya Ragbeer, right, presents the GCACC's "2005 Small Business Person of the Year Award" to Carl Dixon, owner of Carl's Seafood Restaurant in Lauderdale Lakes, earlier this year.

benefit from the majority of these linkages.

Although the GCACC suffers from meager funding, its all-volunteer staff, which consists of seven executive board members, six advisory board members, and eight at-large directors, continue to host in-country trade missions, workshops, and training. One such event is a scheduled media forum to be held this month that will bring together South Florida print, television, and radio organizations to talk about doing business with the media to community and business leaders.

'TASTE'

Ragbeer also confirmed that a restaurant expo is also planned for October. Dubbed "A Taste of the Caribbean", the forum will highlight the variety of Caribbean restaurants in South Florida.

"Restaurant owners will get feedback from surveys that we have set out to the community," she said. "And, they will be able to use this feedback, whether negative or positive, to get to the next level."

The GCACC's annual "Business of the Year" event puts a successful business in the spotlight "so that people can see which businesses are up and coming within the community," Ragbeer noted.

The GCACC's continued focus on business success strate-

gies has also led it to partner several Broward County cities involved in major redevelopment projects, Ragbeer confirmed. For example, Lauderdale Lakes' current redevelopment project, on Oakland Park Boulevard just east of State Road 7, could open up potential economic partnerships for the astute business owner according to the GCACC president. The GCACC hosted a forum specifically to educate its members about this opportunity.

The developer, United Homes International, is building a mixed-use community, dubbed Bella Vista, which is estimated to cost around \$130 million and will include condominiums, townhouses, retail shops, a library, and green spaces. Ground has already been broken and lots pre-sold to prospective residents. The GCACC has also informed its membership about other redevelopment projects in the City of Miramar, Florida.

SPIRIT

The GCACC's partnerships are not only about economics. It is determined to spread the entrepreneurial spirit. Its alliance with the Institute of Caribbean Studies focuses on education and scholarships.

"Our goal is to help students be socially conscious and provide them with funds to use towards their education," Ragbeer said. "We hold an essay competition each year, and the topic this year was: 'Is Immigration Good for the United States?'" The essays were phenomenal."

She added: "Many people tend to assume that because our children are being educated in the United States they are not stepping up at a level that they would back home. But not so, these children are really bright. The young man that won, Brian Lee, is of Jamaican heritage and is planning to go to the University of Miami this fall."

The GCACC also awards \$500 scholarships each year to students in high schools in the Lauderdale Lakes and Lauderhill areas. These scholarships come from the Chamber's annual golf tournament, sponsored primarily by the City of Miramar.

"We give back to the community, by inspiring our youths to look toward business ownership," Ragbeer said.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Enron U.S. scandal has Caribbean implications

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC - A leading Caribbean business executive says the recent ENRON scandal in the United States has resulted in the continuous scrutiny of the operations of global financial services companies.

"This will be a determining factor in making one company over another, the company of choice and CLICO (Colonial Life Insurance Company) intends to be the company of choice in the Caribbean," said CLICO's Executive Chairman Leroy Parris.

In 15 years, Enron grew from nowhere to be America's seventh largest company, employing 21,000 staff in more than 40 countries. But the firm's success turned out to have involved an elaborate scam. Investigators said that Enron lied about its profits and accused it of a range of shady dealings, including

concealing debts so they didn't show up in the company's accounts.

BANKRUPTCY

As the depth of the deception unfolded, investors and creditors retreated, forcing the firm into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December last year.

Parris quoted a former U.S. executive as saying that "if the rate of change on the outside exceeds the rate of change on the inside the end is near".

Parris, addressing a recent meeting of CLICO officials from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, said that as a result of the new scrutiny, the Trinidad-based conglomerate was working "assiduously" to maintain its leadership position in the Caribbean as a strong, well managed, innovative company.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

• WTO 'time out' no harm to Caribbean

The suspension of a new round of trade talks at the World Trade Organization (WTO), while disappointing, should not be harmful to the region, according to Dr. Richard Bernal, the Caribbean's lead international trade negotiator.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy last month announced the "time out" of the talks, referred to as the Doha Development Agenda, saying that key players were too far apart in their positions, but he did not say how long the suspension would last since that depended on when countries made concessions from their entrenched positions.



Bernal

• Sanders wants businesses to merge

Former Caribbean diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders has urged businesses in tiny, eastern Caribbean islands to merge their operations as part of a survival strategy within the regional single market.

Sir Ronald said successful companies from Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) territories could compete with bigger enterprises from some of the larger Caribbean countries if they pool their resources.



Sanders

• Arthur worries about B'dos's forex earnings

The amount of foreign exchange Barbados spends on imports is much larger than what the country earns from the sale of goods and services and this is a major worry for Prime Minister Owen Arthur.

The Barbados leader argues that if this imbalance is not addressed soon, there could be serious consequences for the Barbados economy.

• T&T firm signs big loan with German bank

The German-based KJW IPEX-Bank has provided a \$1.2 billion loan to the local-based Methanol Holdings Trinidad Limited (MHTL) for the construction of a petrochemical plant regarded as the largest ever private sector financing project in the Caribbean.

Construction on the seven-building complex is scheduled for later this year at the Point Lisas Industrial Complex, south of Port of Spain.

• Dominica's fiscal performance among best

Regional economist Jawala Rambarran says Dominica's recent fiscal performance is among the most impressive in the Caribbean.

"Dominica has shown what I consider to be the strongest fiscal consolidation effort in the Eastern Caribbean," Rambarran said while speaking last month at a Caribbean Money Market Brokers (CMMB) seminar. "As a matter of fact no other country except Jamaica can boast of a stronger fiscal consolidation effort. What you have done is tremendous and I think government should be commended for that."

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



EDUCATION

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17-y-o wins Caribbean Heritage Month essay contest



Brian Lee, second left, a 17-year-old resident of Miami, was recently selected the winner of the South Florida segment of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month Youth Essay Competition, which was hosted by the Institute of Caribbean Studies, Washington, D.C., and sponsored for students in the area by the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce (GCACC). Participants submitted essays on the topic: "Is Immigration Good for the United States?" (Essay reprinted on page 9.)

Lee, the son of Jamaican parents Bernard and Marie Lee, entered as a senior of the Coral Reef Senior High School in Miami. He was awarded a \$200 United States savings bond and a plaque of appreciation at the GCACC's recent "Unifest" celebration where he read his essay to the crowd. He also attended the Business Leaders of America National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, where he competed in the category of economics and placed seventh. Lee was awarded an academic scholarship to the University of Miami and will enroll this fall as an engineering major. For now, he spends his summer enjoying his favorite pastimes - reading and playing badminton.

Others in the photograph are, from left, Hazelle Rogers, Lauderdale Lakes city commissioner; Tanya Ragbeer, president of the GCACC; Glenn Joseph, vice president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies; and UNIFEST emcee Neki Mohan, from Channel 10 television station in Florida.

Guyana wants communication system for regional education

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Guyana's Education Minister Dr. Henry Jeffrey has challenged the regional education system to work tirelessly to link the Caribbean into an interactive system of instant communication.

Addressing more than 400 graduates of the T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC) last month, Dr. Jeffrey noted that the region's graduates at the tertiary level, particularly in science and technology, are "way below



Jeffrey

what is needed." "We should perhaps reposition our schools as community resource centers and pay greater attention to special needs education," he told the graduates.

"But whatever we do, we (CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

Youth leaders to be CSME advocates

Youth leaders from across the Caribbean are being co-opted as advocates of the regional single market and economy, which came into operation earlier this year.

Some 30 youth leaders from the region met in St. Lucia last month for a workshop on the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME) looking at issues

such as the history of regional integration, the current status of the CSME as well as media relations.

"The sessions were quite informative. We were able to do quite a lot," Grenada's Nerisa Celestine said, expressing satisfaction with the workshop.

"We already started sensitizing the public about the issues relating to CSME, but (CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

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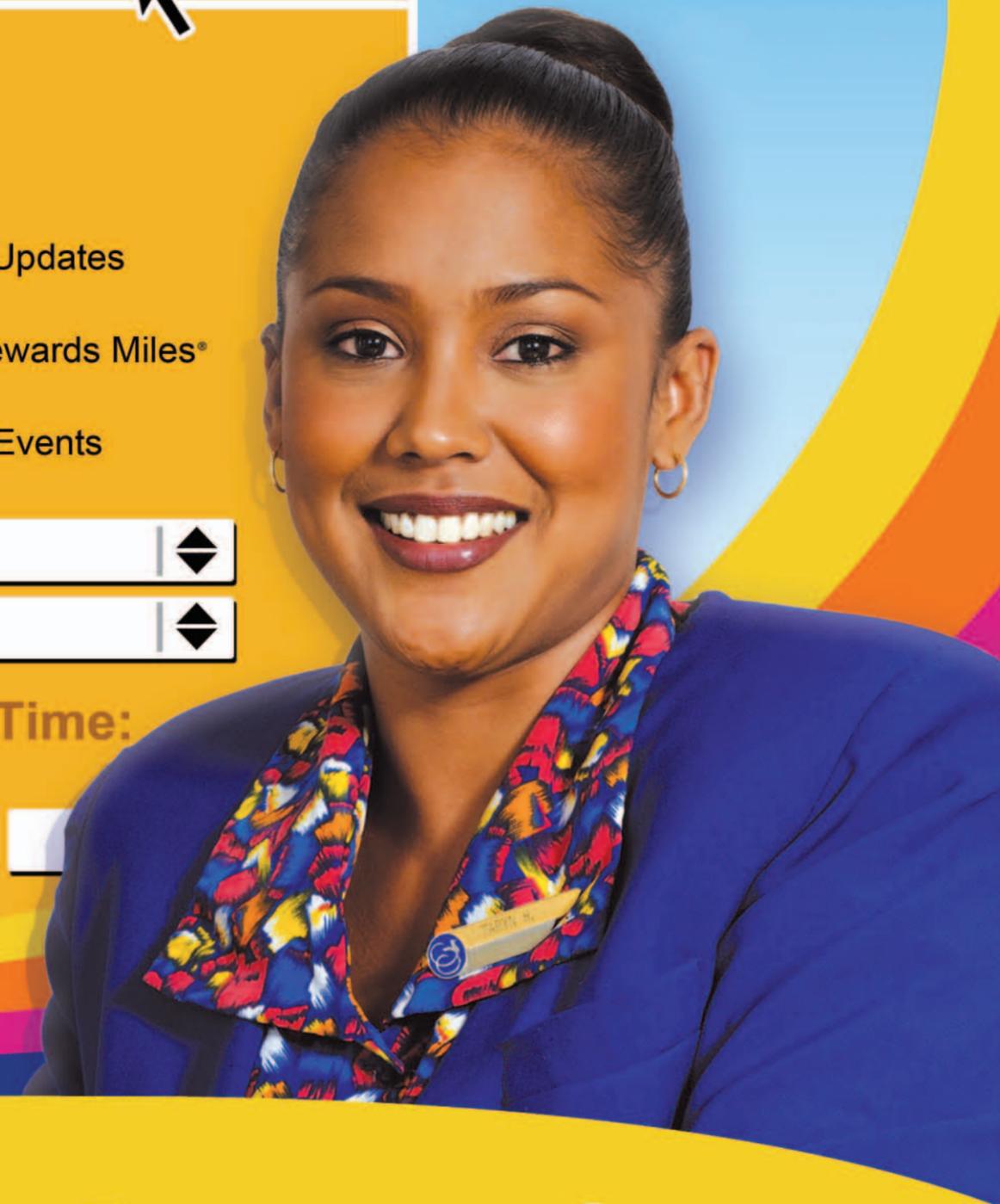
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~ Caribbean Today's back to school advertising feature

Preparing your children to go back to the classroom

DR. VINCENT IANNELLI

The end of summer means going back to school, or starting school for the first time, for many children.

In addition to the usual social and educational stresses of going to school, kids are faced with many other issues, including drug use, violence, suicide and bullies. Talking with your children about these issues at age appropriate times may help decrease their chances of becoming a victim to them.

It is also a good idea to

regularly talk with your child about how school is going. Regular communication will help you to recognize problems early, before they get out of control and when it is easier to intervene.

Does your child like going to school? Is he making friends? How are his grades? Is there anything he doesn't like about school? What happens during breaks, such as recess, lunch and in between classes?

Breaktime is when children are most likely to be unsupervised and when problems are likely to occur, so



Getting your children ready for school is important to their development.

asking open ended questions about what happens during these times may help you to recognize problem behaviors. Other topics and issues

you should review as your child goes back to school include:

Immunizations - As part of the preparation for your child going to school, you should find and review his immunization records. Are his shots current? Preparing early and getting your child immunized can prevent a frantic call to your pediatrician and a rush to get shots.

What shots does your child need to attend kindergarten or the first grade? In addition to the shots he received as an infant, school age children usually need

booster doses of the MMR, DTaP and IPV vaccines. These boosters are commonly given at the four to six year old well child visits.

In addition to these boosters, your child may also need the chickenpox vaccine (Varivax) if he hasn't already been immunized or had a natural case of chickenpox and the Hepatitis B series. Older children also require a tetanus booster. This is usually given around the age of 12 years.

Dr. Vincent Iannelli is a pediatrician.



Evaluating a school or program helps adults make better choices

If you are considering continuing your education, select three or so possible educational providers and ask a representative of these providers the following questions:

What are my educational options?

- What programs are available?
- When and how are courses offered?
- Are there any programs specifically designed for adult and part-time learners?
- What career assistance services are available when I graduate?

- What is the average course load for an adult learner?
- How much time should I plan on studying per week per class?
- What are the requirements for my particular area of interest?

How do I apply and get admitted?

- Admission requirements and criteria: What transcripts and/or entrance exam test scores are required? What is the minimum grade point average required? Are there any courses I need to have completed before I will be admitted? (e.g., prerequisite

courses) Do I need to submit letters of recommendation?

- Application procedure: What is the application procedure? Is there an application fee and how much is it?
- What are the deadlines to apply? When and how will I be notified of the admissions decision?
- When do you admit students? How many students do you admit?
- How do my previous credits transfer?
- How do you regard an older and/or a lower GPA?

What support services are available?

- What services are available related to academic support, tutoring, "How to Study" classes, assistance centers?
- What types of educational planning, academic advising, and/or career counseling are available?
- Are there any special programs for adult, part-time students?
- Are there support services for similar communities or cultures?

What is the cost and what financial assistance is available?

- What is the cost per credit? Are there other fees?
- What can I expect to pay, on average, for books/supplies per class?
- What types of financial aid are available?
- What are the criteria for applying for the various types of aid?
- What is the application process?

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~ Caribbean Today's back to school advertising feature

Tips for adults seeking academic success

1. Keep up – It's more manageable to do a little every day on reading and assignments than to try to catch up on a week's worth of work on a Sunday afternoon.

2. Review class notes - Reviewing class notes as soon as possible after class and often has been proven to increase understanding and

retention.

3. Engage in active vs. passive learning - Transfer your notes or summarize information onto a tape recorder and listen when in your car; organize and re-write your notes; make a chart, diagram, or flash-cards; or, discuss or teach what you are learning with another person. Any time you

can interact with, and think about, the information in a new way, you increase understanding and retention.

4. Set the best stage for studying - Study when you are at your best. Are you a morning person? A night person? Can you study during your lunch hour and still be productive in the afternoon or do you need to find time after work?

Research also indicates that setting aside a quiet, separate place in your home that will be your study place and always studying there is an effective strategy.

5. Set reasonable study goals - After two hours of studying one's effectiveness is reduced. Take breaks often; the average attention span of an adult is approximately 20 minutes.

Study accordingly.

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Dr. Rozalia Williams, center, an African American of Bahamian descent, was recently added to the faculty of the Tavis Smiley Leadership Institute. Williams is president of Hidden Curriculum Education in South Florida where she teaches the College Life Skills Course®. She is the author of the "College FAQ Book: Over 5,000 Not Frequently Asked Questions About College!"

Williams is joined Dr. Cornel West, left, of Princeton University, Smiley, right, and others on the faculty whose mission was to help the foundation build a "Legion of Leaders". The Harvard graduate taught the Institute's National Youth Advisory Council and 160 students from 16 states the "A7MQ™ Life Management Method."

Guyana wants communication system for regional education

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

must put particular emphasis upon equity, quality and the integration of our distinctive Caribbeaness into the general world of things," he added.

At the same time, Dr. Jeffrey said strategies need to be devised to retain the regional workforce in a competitive environment. He chal-

lenged the graduates to make use of the abundance of choice.

"All the factors of production, including labor, are searching and finding the most profitable and desirable locations with little concern for borders," he said.

Youth leaders to be CSME advocates

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

from this workshop we were able to learn new ways through new media about how to disseminate the information."

FREE MOVEMENT

The single market component of the CSME came into operation earlier this year with the larger CARICOM countries on board. Last month six other countries from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States joined the pact, which allows for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor across the participating states. The single economy is expected to come into being by 2008.

A statement from the CARICOM Secretariat said the youth leaders, also called CARICOM youth ambassadors, pledged to find more creative ways to present the issues

to young people and get them involved in the CSME. Kyle De Freitas, of St. Vincent and the Grenadines described the sessions as "opportune". He added, "When disseminating information, especially about the CSME, you must take a systematic approach to doing it.

"What I am hoping to do is to have a training of trainers conference similar to this one for CYAs. This allows for a more targeted approach, not just educating people about the CSME, but preparing and enlisting them to help with disseminating information such as its benefits," he added.

Dr. Heather Johnson, deputy program manager for youth and community development at the CARICOM Secretariat, said she was pleased with the workshop and congratulated those who assisted in making it a success.

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Suriname says 'sorry' for Moiwana slayings

MOENGO, Suriname, CMC - The Suriname government has officially apologized for the murder of 39 civilians nearly 20 years ago that had been condemned by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR).

At a ceremony last month at a soccer stadium in the former bauxite mining town Moengo, 100 kilometers east the capital, President Ronald

Venetiaan offered apologies to relatives of those killed as well as the entire nation for the Nov. 29, 1986 massacre carried out by soldiers.

"As representative of the Republic of Suriname, the president of Suriname solemnly and publicly declare that the state Suriname offers its apologies to the whole Surinamese nation, in particular the surviving relatives of the victims of Moiwana, for the brutal armed attack, that has been carried out by the state, on the peaceful community of Moiwana, on November 29, 1986," he said.

The apology was also directed to Matodja Gazon, leader of the Aucaners maroon tribal group.

'ERRONEOUS DECISION'

"Wrong intentions, an

erroneous decision has resulted in the nightmare of a mass murder on innocent, defenseless civilians, on behalf of the nation," Venetiaan told the ceremony attended also by representatives of various international organizations and countries.

The IACHR ordered the public ceremony as part of its ruling and also called on the Suriname government to pay compensation for material and moral damages to 130 Moiwana community members and surviving relatives of the victims. Each person received a sum of \$13,000 in compensation.

In his statement, Venetiaan said that his administration was distancing itself from those that had participated in the killings carried out

during the rule by the military government of Desi Bouterse.

On Nov. 29, 1986, the now deserted village of Moiwana was raided by an army unit as a crackdown on the so-called "Jungle Commando", a rebel group which took up arms against the Bouterse administration.



Venetiaan



Bouterse

Suriname's Illes heads OAS council



- Photograph by Roberto Ribeiro OAS/OEA

Ambassador Henry L. Illes of Suriname, left, last month assumed the chairmanship of Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS). At right is Ellsworth John, the council's vice chairman from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who presented Illes with the gavel symbolizing his new post.

According to a press release from the OAS, Illes pledged to continue focusing attention on poverty-eradication and development issues. He will lead the hemispheric organization's second highest decision-making body for the next three months, while Ambassador John becomes the vice chairman for that period.

Homosexuality and prostitution are not crimes, says Bajan priest

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - An Anglican priest here has stoked heated public debate on homosexuality and prostitution when he declared they are not crimes and suggested government remove them from the sanction of the law.

While saying the acts are a "sin" Austin Carrington, rector of the Christ Church Parish Church, said last month they should not be classified as criminal acts.

"But, because it is a sin doesn't make it a crime. I am convinced it should not be a

crime," stressed the priest who is also a HIV/AIDS educator and counselor.

DISCRIMINATION

He said discrimination against those engaged in buggery and prostitution drives them underground and increases the difficulty of offering them counseling, especially in cases where they might be suffering from HIV/AIDS.

"It is very difficult to reach persons who may be HIV-positive and want to

come to us for help and guidance," he was quoted as saying in a **Nation** newspaper report.

The government here has repeatedly rejected calls from sector interests and individuals to decriminalize buggery and prostitution.

The priest also supported the idea of distributing condoms in prison, arguing the reality is that sexual activity does, in fact, occur in overcrowded conditions like those in prison.



REGION BRIEFS

• Arthur rejects alien landholding laws

Prime Minister Owen Arthur says the Barbados government will not follow Eastern Caribbean countries and introduce alien land holding legislation, since this strategy does not keep land out of the hands of foreigners.



• Dominica breaks off ties with U.S. group

Less than a year after accepting the "Salute To Greatness Award" from the United States-based King Humanitarian Global Foundation, Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit says he has broken off relations with the organization.



• United States DEA sets up in Suriname

Officers of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) were scheduled to arrive in Suriname to form a permanent presence of the agency in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) state.

• T&T Muslim leader granted bail

A High Court last month granted TT\$400,000 (\$66,660) bail to Yasin Abu Bakr, the leader of the Jamaat Al Muslimeen group, who had been in prison since November last year on charges of sedition, incitement and terrorism.

• Bermuda vows to beef up police

"Street-wise" police officers from overseas will be the main target in a recruitment drive as the Bermuda government seeks to bring the Bermuda Police Service (BPS) fully up to strength within three months.

Compiled from CMC reports.



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