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.

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.

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.

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.

~ 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.

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.

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 — 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.

“aristide was released from prison

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.

“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.

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 been freed.

“I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country…CARICOM as a whole,” he said.

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.

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

“aristide was released from prison

months ago there was a wave of panic,” said Mami-based, Jamaican-born attorney Dahlia Walker-Huntington.

“aristide was released from prison

“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.

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.

“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.

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 been freed.

“I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country…CARICOM as a whole,” he said.

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 been freed.

I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country…CARICOM as a whole,” he said.

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 been freed.

“I am very pleased to see that the democratic institutions are working in the country…CARICOM as a whole,” he said.
U.S. revokes visa of Guyana’s top cop

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – A bill approved in the United States House of Representatives 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 strategy aimed at reviving the United States political process, 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 have 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.

U.S. bill against Internet gambling ‘bad signal’ — ex-Antigua diplomat

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 United States has to take to bring the evidence of its claims public or even for the reason for the visa revocation, ‘since Greene has agreed to this’,” Jagdeo said.

Jagdeo noted that Greene “held some critical positions,” including crime chief and acting commissioner of police and he “was well known.”

“So I find the timing very strange and I have asked the U.S. government to provide me 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 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 “besmirk 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 were not prepared to do that,” Jagdeo said, challenging Washington to make the evidence of its claims public or even for 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 we will remove the evidence of his involvement and they should provide that to Mr. Greene and the public and, at least, share it with the government,” Jagdeo said.

Together with Guyana’s Prime Minister Miguel Henry Greene, left, has a chat with outgoing Commissioner Winston Felix at a recent function.

The United States is in urgent after the ex-Antigua diplomat clamped down on Internet gambling, last month’s approval of the bill will result in a more stringent clampdown on the industry.

“We are not prepared to do that,” Jagdeo said, challenging Washington to make the evidence of its claims public or even for 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 we will remove the evidence of his involvement and they should provide that to Mr. Greene and the public and, at least, share it with the government,” Jagdeo said.

A United States official has urged St. Lucia to deal with the rising crime problem amid reports that the country is planning to introduce legislation to prevent the purchase of a new law enforcement camera that can be used for surveillance.

Third U.S. official has urged law enforcement authorities in St. Lucia to deal with the rising crime problem amid reports that the country is planning to introduce legislation to prevent the purchase of a new law enforcement camera that can be used for surveillance.

A United States official has urged law enforcement authorities in St. Lucia to deal with the rising crime problem amid reports that the country is planning to introduce legislation to prevent the purchase of a new law enforcement camera that can be used for surveillance.
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 training 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 willingly 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 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, IMAGE 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 EMPLOYER ID Number (EIN) when hiring employees across the United States are using the Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program 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.”

For more information on this program and other USCIS verification programs, visit the USCIS website at www.visa-ibs.com/employerregistration.

In order to become IMAGE certified, partners must also adhere to a series of best practices, which 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
A New Home Awaits You This Summer!

Home is closer than you think.

1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Residences & Townhouses with Private Backyards

$2,500 Moves You In Immediate Occupancy
FROM THE $170’s NO CLOSING COST*

Luxurious Clubhouse · Sparkling Lakeside Pool · Hot Tub/Spa · Lighted Tennis Courts
24-Hour Fully Equipped Fitness Center · Lush Landscaping · Assigned Parking

SPECIAL BROKER PARTICIPATION
954.322.1125

9450 Palm Circle North, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
Located on Pines Blvd. Between Palm Ave. & Douglas Rd.

WWW.THEPALMSOFPEMBROKE.COM
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 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 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 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 conditions 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.
from the beginning, Colin said certain surrounding. Right have worked in the ballroom still is no pretentiousness, no spent with them. It was, and read their books and never got you could see that writers never necessarily think of Jamaica adding that foreigners don't held in a community frames. 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 inspira- tional. 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, that 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 tourists don’t necessarily think of Jamaica as an intellectual place, but instead see the island as an entertainment 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, 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 con- scious people, including Rastafarians. “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 common man, Dr. Vin Lawrence, of the UDC of hiding information to circumvent the laws of procurement procedures on the project. It also accused the UDC of hiding information to sabotage the investigation making reference to sub- tained investigations, dummy corporations, unchecked spending and massive cost overruns.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The report said that the project was approved by multi- million dollar overruns and recommended that the legisla- ture ensure public bodies and public officials who breached procurement procedures were held accountable. Calabash, praised Dr. Lawrence for acting in conflict of interest when awarding some of the contracts for the project. It also accused the UDC of hiding information to sabotage the investigation making reference to sub- tained investigations, dummy corporations, unchecked spending and massive cost overruns.
BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Caribbean hoteliers have commissioned a study aimed at determining just how much of each tourism dollar is remaining in the region, says newly-installed Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) President Peter Odle.

“Since 1998, and in 1995 the majority of the guests would rent a helicopter for that,” Henzell explained. “A $1,000 to come and stay in a place in this small village, and now attracting New Yorkers, Londoners who wanted something authentic, something that was appealing, something that was not pretentious, and 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 community, 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 environmental 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 the CHA-commissioned hotel study spend would give a much clearer picture of the what is occurring in that sector.

“We 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 designation,” 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.

In its study released last week, the Atlantic-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 of 20.4 percent.

New study to determine tourism spending in the Caribbean ~ Odle

(Continued from page 7)

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

Jake’s resort at Treasure Beach, Jamaica.

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 not just 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, freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

(Continued from page 7)

Sands Whitehouse hotel attracts tourists, controversy

Jade Odle/Caribbean Today

E-mail: caribtoday@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6010, Miami, FL 33116-6010.
Street Address: 353 St. Nicolas Street, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 2P1
Tel: (514) 931-0422 • Fax: (514) 931-0455
Opinions expressed by editors and writers are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Caribbean Today is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. To guarantee return, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Caribbean Today may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor.
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. They influence people to 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 of the Middle East. This is extremely disturbing because if students cannot locate countries in the world, they cannot possibly understand other people’s 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 ambience into communities. As a result, many people have scorned Muslims as terrorists. Having studied the true ideals of Islam and truly respect the person is so dependent upon any substance that they simply cannot stop, even though they will profess, “Hey, I can stop any time I want to,” anytime.

As I hear that I always say, “Well, stop right now then, prove it.” At that point the argument shifts, as “anytime” is forever in the distant future, never to materialize today or anytime soon. The member that when you dance with the Devil, he won’t change, but you will.

When I last saw my disinterested friend and asked him how his son was doing, and if he had gone any of my referrals, he replied that, “Oh, he’s okay now, he has promised to stop smoking for the family’s sake.” To burn his bubble of hope, but the statistics 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 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 loot in bars, drink on the job, while driving, ferret out hidden bottles 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 corralling 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 frightening is the age that many kids become hooked. I learned of an extremely large percentage of substance abusers fall within the nine to 13-year-old age group. Yet you have parents who still insist on giving their young children 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 loot in bars, drink on the job, while driving, ferret out hidden bottles 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 corralling 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 frightening is the age that many kids become hooked. I learned of an extremely large percentage of substance abusers fall within the nine to 13-year-old age group. Yet you have parents who still insist on giving their young children 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 loot in bars, drink on the job, while driving, ferret out hidden bottles 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 corralling 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
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 that the United States show evidence to support its decision to revoke the visa of acting Police Commissioner Henry Greene.

All hooked up

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

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 any time.” I wager that you 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 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. So how do you get the smoker to still insist, “Cho, if I want to quit, I can quit any time. 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 harm less enough an addiction.

(10 CARIBBEAN TODAY August 2006)

Immigration is vital

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 business, 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 important, diplomatic relations among those nations and the U.S. In this way, the U.S. is forced to interact with foreign countries in a more frequent and regular 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 immigrants, the least 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.
**How can I avoid dehydration?**

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

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


© 2006, President and Fellows of Harvard College. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Media Services Inc.

---

**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 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.

---

**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 avocados 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, folate, thiamin, riboflavin, biotin, niacin, pantethenic 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-covered 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 byproducts like compounds in tobacco and chemicals in the environment. Glutathione also repairs the DNA in cells that get damaged by those bad chemicals. We get glutathione from foods - and that includes avocados.

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

Avocados contain around 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 vegetables) 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, hyperension, 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.

© 2006 Dear Pharmacist, Inc.

Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

---

**Avocados**

Avocados are a great source of fiber, vitamins, minerals and healthy fats. They are low in calories and high in nutrients, making them a healthy addition to any diet.

**Nutritional benefits**

- **Fiber:** Avocados are a good source of dietary fiber, which can help with digestion and satiety.
- **Vitamin B12:** This vitamin is essential for energy production and red blood cell production.
- **Potassium:** Avocados are a good source of potassium, which is important for maintaining healthy blood pressure levels.
- **Beta Carotene:** This vitamin is a precursor to vitamin A and is important for eye health.
- **Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** Avocados are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, which are important for heart health.

**Nutrient content**

- **Calories:** 100 calories per 1/4 avocado
- **Fat:** 15 grams of fat per 1/4 avocado
- **Protein:** 2 grams of protein per 1/4 avocado
- **Carbohydrates:** 10 grams of carbohydrates per 1/4 avocado
- **Fiber:** 7 grams of fiber per 1/4 avocado

**How to eat them**

Avocados can be eaten on their own, in sandwiches, salads, or as a topping on pizza or pasta. They are also a great addition to smoothies or as a spread on toast.

**Tips for storage**

- **Shelf life:** Avocados can last up to a week at room temperature or for up to 10 days in the refrigerator.
- **Ripe avocados:** Look for avocados that feel soft to the touch and that have a dark green skin.
- **Green avocados:** If you prefer green avocados, they will ripen at room temperature once you remove the stem.

**Nutritional information**

- **Calories:** 233
- **Fat:** 22 grams
- **Protein:** 3 grams
- **Carbohydrates:** 31 grams
- **Fiber:** 13 grams

**FAQ**

**Q: Can avocados help with weight loss?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a great addition to a weight loss diet. They are filling, low in sugar, and high in healthy fats.

**Q: Are avocados good for people with diabetes?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a good food choice for people with diabetes. They are low in carbohydrates and high in healthy fats, which can help with blood sugar control.

**Q: Can avocados help with skin health?**

A: Yes, avocados can be beneficial for skin health. They are high in vitamin E, which is important for healthy skin.

**Q: Are avocados good for people with heart disease?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a good food choice for people with heart disease. They are low in saturated fat and high in healthy fats, which can help lower cholesterol levels.

**Q: Can avocados help with gut health?**

A: Yes, avocados can be beneficial for gut health. They are high in fiber, which can help with digestion and bowel movements.

**Q: Are avocados safe for pregnant women?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a safe and healthy food choice for pregnant women. They are high in essential nutrients, such as folic acid and vitamin C, which are important for fetal development.

**Q: Are avocados safe for children?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a safe and healthy food choice for children. They are high in nutrients, such as fiber and vitamins, which are important for healthy growth and development.

**Q: Can avocados help with muscle gain?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a good food choice for muscle gain. They are high in protein, which is important for muscle building.

**Q: Are avocados good for people with high cholesterol?**

A: Yes, avocados can be a good food choice for people with high cholesterol. They are low in saturated fat and high in healthy fats, which can help lower cholesterol levels.
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
- 2 2/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

**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 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.)

**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 than 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.

---

**Dare to sample pineapple, mango and papaya squares**

Published by Caribbean Today
www.caribbeantoday.com August 2006

Fruity, tasty squares.

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

---

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 than 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.
No danger in longterm use of antidepressants

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I’ve been taking doxepin for depression for 15 years. Is it safe to continue the medication 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 produce 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 counters 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 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 to another drug from a different chemical family.

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

Edited from Medical Edge Tribune Media Services, Inc. © 2006 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

HEALTH BRIEFS

- Guyana could benefit from HIV/AIDS fund. A Russian diplomat says Guyana could benefit from a commitment by his country to provide funds to the Global Fund for Infectious Diseases.

“ln 2005, Russia has doubled its pledge to the Global Fund Against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. The money from this fund goes to almost all developing countries,” Maxim Pimenov, charge d’affaires in Guyana, told a news conference to discuss the recently concluded G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia.

- Crisis hotline in Florida. Multi-lingual counselors are available to respond persons suffering from stress or needing help with housing, food, child care, caring for teens or other similar problems.

Call 211 from a regular telephone or 864-537-0211 from a cellular.

The free service is being offered as part of Broward County’s helplines.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.

Leighton A. Taylor, M.D.
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon

The look you dreamed of: BREAST AUGMENTATION • LIPOSUCTION • TUMMY TUCKS • VARICOSE AND SPIDER VEIN TREATMENT • KELIOD REMOVAL • EYE LASH REPAIR • FACIAL LIGHT • MICRODERMABRASION

Please call for a consultation
(954) 963-1337
Fax (954) 991-7935
2261 North University Dr, Ste 200 • Pembroke Pines, FL 33024
(across from Memorial Hospital Pembroke)
Safe Driver Discount

Drive safely and get up to 38% OFF

You already do it. Allstate thinks you should be rewarded for it. Keep a clean driving record, and you could save with the Safe Driver Discount.

It’s time to make your world a better place to drive. That’s Allstate’s stand.

Call your South Florida Allstate agent or 1-888-ALLSTATE®
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 merengue.

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 guava jelly.

Caribbean beers, rum and liquors are seen all over the world. Come with Caribbean Today as we take you from the tip of the Yucatan to the jungles of Guyana, as we explore the tastes of the Caribbean. We will tell you where you can find those hard-to-get products and foods.

**CALL NOW TO ADVERTISE!**

1-800-605-7516 • 305-238-2868
Fax 305-252-7843
e-mail: sales@caribbeantoday.com

Articles for Editorial Consideration: October 19th, 2006

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCTOBER 27TH, 2006**
A roadmap to fulfillment and freedom

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 achieving his life goals. Do not take this young man’s story lightly. 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 limeth thee”.

INQUISITIVE YOUTHS

Set in times past in the land of Min. 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 home, and wealth, and thus learnt the burdens of being a pauper and the importance of planning for success. 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 challenges. 

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 limeth 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 stop on the road to success, acknowledging that achievement cannot be attained by oneself.

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

Is the repetition of specific measures that alloweth one to unconsciously duplicate successes or failures…a man’s actions serve either as the markable to erect his empire or iron bars to fix his prison.”

Indeed, “The Baron Son” does not lead to a fulfilled life and financial freedom; the lessons are clear. “Positive thought. Good energy and foundation for success is unmistakably the thread that runs through this rich fabric.

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

M A R I E - E L E N A J O H N

The 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 the way for the reader to simply relax and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John does offer up material to savor and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John’s first, then it’s a welcome relief that the novel is applied to creative endeavors. 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 stop on the road to success, acknowledging that achievement cannot be attained by oneself.

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

Is the repetition of specific measures that alloweth one to unconsciously duplicate successes or failures…a man’s actions serve either as the markable to erect his empire or iron bars to fix his prison.”

Indeed, “The Baron Son” does not lead to a fulfilled life and financial freedom; the lessons are clear. “Positive thought. Good energy and foundation for success is unmistakably the thread that runs through this rich fabric.

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

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

T Is the 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 the way for the reader to simply relax and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John does offer up material to savor and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John’s first, then it’s a welcome relief that the novel is applied to creative endeavors. 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 stop on the road to success, acknowledging that achievement cannot be attained by oneself.

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

Is the repetition of specific measures that alloweth one to unconsciously duplicate successes or failures…a man’s actions serve either as the markable to erect his empire or iron bars to fix his prison.”

Indeed, “The Baron Son” does not lead to a fulfilled life and financial freedom; the lessons are clear. “Positive thought. Good energy and foundation for success is unmistakably the thread that runs through this rich fabric.

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

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

I love the 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 the way for the reader to simply relax and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John does offer up material to savor and enjoy; for Marie-Elena John’s first, then it’s a welcome relief that the novel is applied to creative endeavors. 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 stop on the road to success, acknowledging that achievement cannot be attained by oneself.

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

Is the repetition of specific measures that alloweth one to unconsciously duplicate successes or failures…a man’s actions serve either as the markable to erect his empire or iron bars to fix his prison.”

Indeed, “The Baron Son” does not lead to a fulfilled life and financial freedom; the lessons are clear. “Positive thought. Good energy and foundation for success is unmistakably the thread that runs through this rich fabric.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.
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 swear, 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 legends 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 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/dancehall 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 artists 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 cultural

(Continued on page 18)
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.

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 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 artists 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 with 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

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

(Continued from page 17)
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.
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, who was 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, with Tarver 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 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 Tomasz 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 Jamaican style it is no problem.

“You’ve just got to take care of business,” he said.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today’s managing editor.

Bell preps to defend world cruiserweight crown

GORDON WILLIAMS

Undisputed world cruiserweight 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 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 “Superfight Series” in Australia later this year. The event’s planners want to involve eight heavyweight currencies 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 rib cage 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
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."

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

NO SEPARATION

Parry said that for the 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 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 government we can more reach out to the Federal government and seek out a road or a road map that we can be satisfactorily 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 helping 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 Grenada's electoral reform

The main Opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) says it fully supports the introduction of an Organization 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 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.

Samuda.

POLITICS TODAY www.caribbeantoday.com

BANKRUPTCY

Elias Leonard Douza

Attorney at Law

Forrester Denis "Real Estate/Reaffirming Transactions Family Law/Personal Injury/Real Estate/Refinancing Civil and Business Litigation"

115 S. Pine Island Road, Suite 200, Plantation, Florida 33324

24 Hour Hotline (954) 763-7772

www.EliDouza.com

Payment Plans Available

Call us for a FREE Information Booklet on Credit and Bankruptcy

MORE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you hire a lawyer, you should ask the lawyer to provide written information about your qualifications and experience.

Miami Parking Authority

"MPA provides parking and generated revenue for the City of Miami for more than 50 years. We’re proud of our service to Miami."

Joanie Williams, Customer Service Representative

MPA provides convenient, safe and affordable parking in the City of Miami.

Visit us at www.miamiparking.com or call 305-373-6789.
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.

“We do not 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. But 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

At the meeting, Ragbeer explained that a restaurant expo is also planned for October. Dubbed “A Taste of the Caribbean”, the forum will highlight the diversity of Caribbean restaurants in South Florida.

“Hosts will get feedback surveys from those we 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.”

President of the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce Tanya Ragbeer, right, presents the GCACC’s “2002 Small Business Person of the Year Award” to Carl Dixon, owner of Carl’s Seafood Restaurant in Lauderdale Lakes.

“The GCACC has members who 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 within 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 diversity of Caribbean restaurants in South Florida.

“Restaurant owners will get feedback surveys from us that we 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 success in the spotlight ‘so that people can see what businesses are up and coming within the community,” Ragbeer noted.

The GCACC’s continues focus on business success strategies has also led it to partner several Broward County cities involved in other 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 as yet 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 $30 million and will include condominiums, shops, a library, and green spaces. Ground has already been broken and lots pre-sold to prospective tenants. The GCACC has also informed its membership about other redevelopment projects in the City of Miramar, Florida.

SPRIT

The GCACC’s partnerships are not only about economics. It is determined to sprout up potential economic 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 held an essay contest last 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 was 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 Lauderdale 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

BASSETTRE. 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 service 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 been on 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, it 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 an elite status position in the Caribbean as a strong, well managed, innovative company.
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. Marrryshow 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 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

-- Caribbean Today’s back to school advertising feature

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, Hazel 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.

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)
airjamaica.com
[Click on our NEW website]

Check Flight Status

Find Low Fares
- Round Trip
- One Way
- Your way

- Track Baggage
- Purchase Tickets
- Sign Up For E-mail Updates
- View 7th Heaven Rewards Miles*
- Check Out Exciting Events

From: [ ]
To: [ ]
Depart On: [ ]
Time: [ ]
Preparing your children to go back to the classroom

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 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?

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 an older student?
- How do you regard an older student?

How do my previous credits transfer?
- How do you regard an older student 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 aid 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?

Reprinted from College of Continuing Education.

Evaluating a school or program helps adults make better choices.
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 flashcards; 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.

Reprinted from the College of Continuing Education.

Call for Bids or Proposals

For a listing of available Broward Community College (BCC) open procurement solicitations visit: www.broward.edu/purchasing/bids
OR CONTACT 954-201-7455

BCC strongly encourages participation by minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE firms)

Walk this way to experience


Walk this way to Florida Memorial University.

Florida Memorial University, South Florida’s only Historically Black University, has been providing excellence with the opportunity to succeed since 1879. Today, we offer our multi-cultural student body 47 undergraduates and 4 graduate programs at four locations in Miami-Dade and Broward County.

Call us at 305-626-3600 or visit www.fmunv.edu.

Guyana wants communication system for regional education

(Continued from Page 23)

must put particular emphasis upon equity, quality and the integration of our distinctive Caribbeanness 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 challenged 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. Dr. 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.

Tips for adults seeking academic success

(Continued from College of Continuing Education.

Call for Bids or Proposals

For a listing of available Broward Community College (BCC) open procurement solicitations visit: www.broward.edu/purchasing/bids
OR CONTACT 954-201-7455

BCC strongly encourages participation by minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE firms)

Walk this way to experience


Walk this way to Florida Memorial University.

Florida Memorial University, South Florida’s only Historically Black University, has been providing excellence with the opportunity to succeed since 1879. Today, we offer our multi-cultural student body 47 undergraduates and 4 graduate programs at four locations in Miami-Dade and Broward County.

Call us at 305-626-3600 or visit www.fmunv.edu.

Guyana wants communication system for regional education

(Continued from Page 23)

must put particular emphasis upon equity, quality and the integration of our distinctive Caribbeanness 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 challenged 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. Dr. 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.

Tips for adults seeking academic success

(Continued from College of Continuing Education.

Call for Bids or Proposals

For a listing of available Broward Community College (BCC) open procurement solicitations visit: www.broward.edu/purchasing/bids
OR CONTACT 954-201-7455

BCC strongly encourages participation by minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE firms)

Walk this way to experience


Walk this way to Florida Memorial University.

Florida Memorial University, South Florida’s only Historically Black University, has been providing excellence with the opportunity to succeed since 1879. Today, we offer our multi-cultural student body 47 undergraduates and 4 graduate programs at four locations in Miami-Dade and Broward County.

Call us at 305-626-3600 or visit www.fmunv.edu.
**REGION**

**CARIBBEAN TODAY**

www.caribbeantoday.com

**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 of 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, November 29, 1986 massacre carried out by soldiers.

**‘ERROUS 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.

**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**

**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 ($66,600) bail to Yaun Abu Bade, 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.

- **Suriname’s Illes heads OAS council**
  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.

---

**COMMITMENT TO QUALITY HAS MADE US THE #1 COMMERCIAL ROOFING COMPANY IN SOUTH FLORIDA!**

Advanced Roofing Inc. has been in business since 1983 & it is steadily growing in the commercial roofing industry offering a full range of roofing services.

Come be a part of a team full of growth and excellence!

**WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR:**

- **FLEET MECHANIC** - 5 years exp required. ASE certified. $17-$22/hr
- **SHEET METAL MECHANIC** - Min. 5 yrs experience required. $15-$25/hr
- **SHEET METAL HELPERS** - Min. 1 yr experience required. $12-$14/hr
- **ROOFING MECHANICS** - Min. 2 yrs experience required $15-20/hr
- **ROOFING FOREMAN** - Min. 5 yrs experience required $20-25/hr
- **AIR CONDITIONER MECHANICS** - Min. 3 yrs experience required
- **TRUCK DRIVER** - Min 2-3 yrs, CDL Class A License

We offer an excellent compensation & benefits package that includes:

- **Medical Insurance**
- **Dental Insurance**
- **Life Insurance**
- **401K Plan**
- **Vacation Pay**
- **Holiday Pay**
- **Sick Days Pay**
- **Bonuses**
- **$1K Out of State Relocation Bonus & $1K for 1st mth housing**

Refer A Friend - Referral Fee of $500 for Fluid Mechanics & $100 for all other positions. However, hiree must complete 90-day probationary period in order to receive referral fee.

Applications accepted Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm:
Advanced Roofing Inc. 1650 NW 22nd St. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
(561) 522-8989, 1-800-808-6660 or Email Resume to jobs@advancedroofing.com

www.advancedroofing.com

EOE
Drug-Free Work Place
M/F/D/V
CaribFLEX at JA Money Transfer
Your Digicel connection in the UK & USA

Now you can send Digicel credit directly to friends and family in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

When you're in the UK and USA, Caribflex is your connection to Digicel.
AVAILABLE AT SELECT JA Money Transfer LOCATIONS

Credit available in denominations of £1, £2, £3, £5 and £10.
For further information call JN in the UK at 0-800-328-1622 (toll free) or 380-ROAM(7626) (international rates apply),
Call JN in the USA at 1-800-828-9291 & 1-866-735-6002
Or visit our website at www.digiceljamaica.com

Credit will be applied in Jamaican dollars.
Credit may also be added online using WebFLEX

Terms and conditions apply
IT PAYS TO PLAY.
BE A FLORIDA LOTTERY RETAILER.

What a great way to grow any business.

- Great for restaurants, drugstores, discount stores and other retailers
- No investment required
- Earn commission on every ticket sold
- Increase store traffic
- Earn extra cash through retailer incentives
- Support from sales, advertising and marketing staff
- More than 1.3 Million transactions daily, statewide
- Over $3.5 Billion in sales last year alone

Get started today.
Call the Florida Lottery Business Development Department at 850.487.1733 or e-mail us at L2BO@flalottery.com.
© 2006 Florida Lottery.

When you play, we all win.
www.flalottery.com