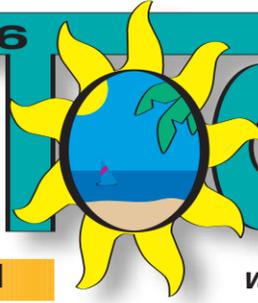


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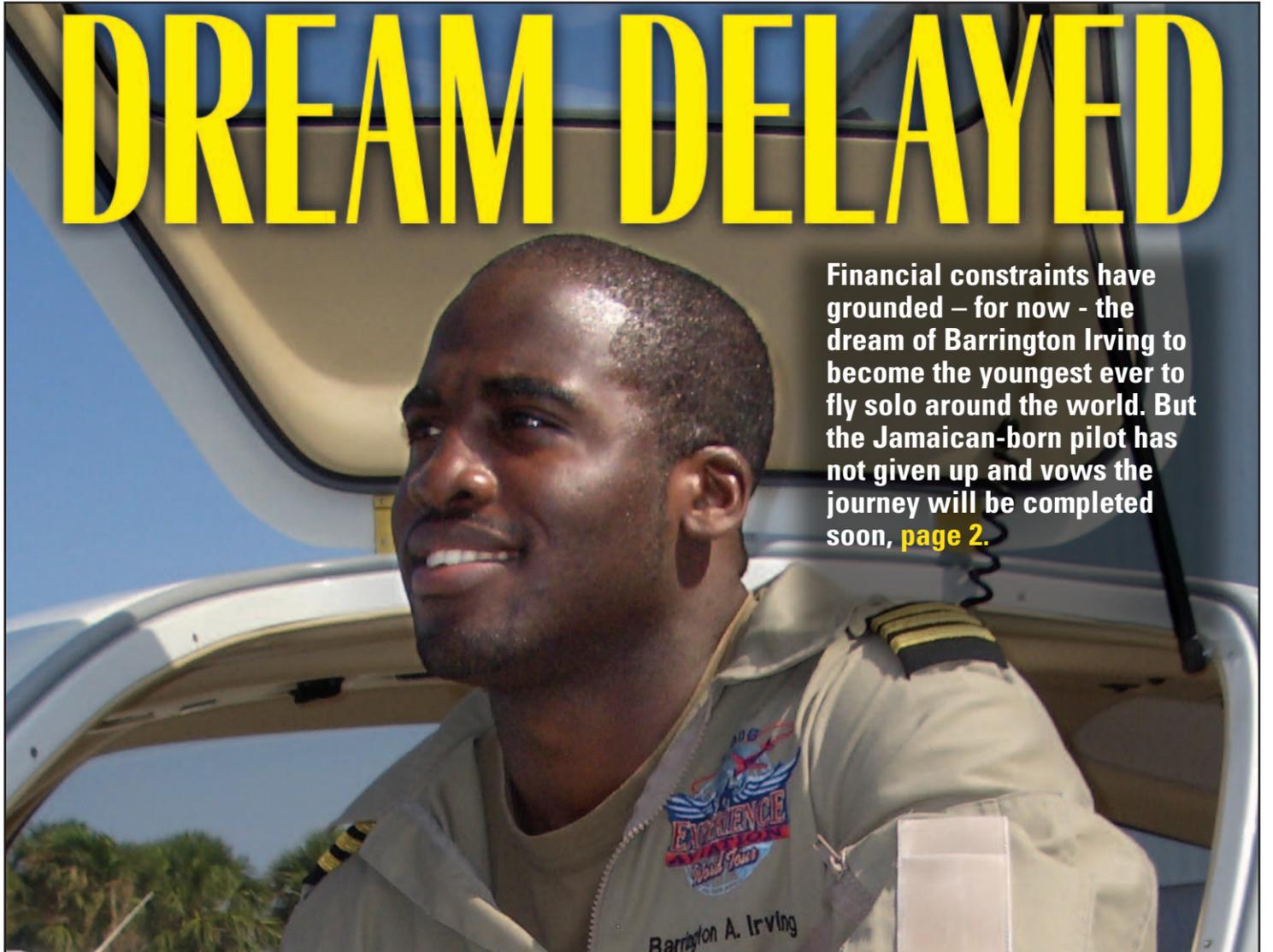
One year ago Caribbean guest workers employed at resorts in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana were forced to flee the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina damaged their workplaces. Some of them are back, page 4.



Many people who are not affected by migraine headaches, a legitimate health condition, continue to believe commonly-held myths about migraine, page 13.



Next month, Bicentennial Park will be the venue for the Miami Carnival 2006 Parade & Festival, the closing of a series of fetes and special events that showcase colorful Caribbean celebration, page 16.



DREAM DELAYED

Financial constraints have grounded – for now - the dream of Barrington Irving to become the youngest ever to fly solo around the world. But the Jamaican-born pilot has not given up and vows the journey will be completed soon, page 2.

Jagdeo, PPP/C return to power in Guyana



Following last month's elections, the incumbent People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) government, led by Bharrat Jagdeo, was set to form the ninth Guyanese government since the country gained political Independence from Britain 40 years ago, page 7.

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Lack of funds ground around-the-world solo flight by young Jamaican...for now

GORDON WILLIAMS

Jamaican-born pilot Barrington Irving's plan to fly solo around the world has been grounded for a while longer due to lack of funding to support the venture.

According to the 22-year-old Irving, who lives in South Florida and wanted to become the youngest ever to complete the journey, the Sept. 1 take-off could not get the green light because he had not secured the \$1 million needed. Fundraising

for the project has so far netted about \$700,000.

"Basically we still have to meet the fundraising goal," Irving told *Caribbean Today* last month.

He said the new departure date for "Experience Aviation World Tour", an east-to-west route which is expected to take 30 days with more than 90 hours flying time beginning in Florida, is being re-scheduled for sometime next spring. Any take-off before that would not be wise, Irving explained, due

to the expected change of weather patterns, especially on his return, which could result in his Columbia 400 aircraft flying into dangerous winter conditions.

"There was no possibility of going (anytime soon) after Sept. 1," he said. "That would be winter time, if I was supposed to leave say in October. Anytime later than September the window closes."

AVIATION BOOST

Irving originally con-

ceived the idea to fly solo around the world to convince young people - especially minorities - that aviation is a great career and that any goal can be accomplished if genuine commitment is applied to the task. He holds public seminars and lectures at schools to promote those ideals. However, he said companies, the main targets of his fundraising efforts, have been asking for more in return for their contribution.

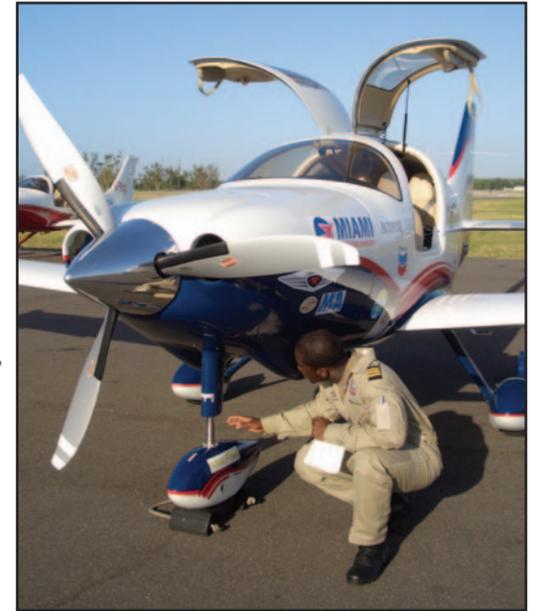
"Corporations, the dollars we are asking for, they want to see more than me just talking to kids," he said.

So, the man who prides himself on his Caribbean roots, emphasizing that his "values, character and principles are built on my Jamaican background," has embarked on an additional project. He plans to open a learning center at his base, the Opa-Locka Airport in Florida,

to teach middle and high school students about careers in aviation.

MOTIVATION

In the meantime, Irving said he has been able to han-



Irving inspects his Columbia 400 plane.

dle the disappointment of postponing his dream, preferring to look at the positives he has accomplished so far.

"I've still made great progress from where I was six (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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U.S. warns Caribbean of fraud on the Internet

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - An Internet scam purporting to come from the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has resurfaced, the U.S. embassy in Barbados and the eastern Caribbean reported late last month.

According to the embassy, the scam resurfaced earlier in August when a number of persons received "notification" purportedly from the IRS claiming they were entitled to a refund and all that was needed was for the recipient to give their credit card number and the money would be credited to their account.

"It is not the practice of the IRS to request this type of information via e-mail. The IRS warns that care should always be taken when disclosing personal information," the embassy warned in a statement.

Jim Dupree, a spokesman for the IRS in Baltimore, said the scam was very serious since "people see something (purporting to be) coming from a government agency as more serious and needs more attention."

The embassy said the frauds send an e-mail to individuals posing as an IRS rep-

resentative informing them that, if they are awaiting a refund, they can check the progress of the refund by clicking on a link contained in the email.

LINK

This link directs individuals to a website that requests personal information including Social Security Numbers (SSN) and credit card information and the website may also attempt to infect systems with malicious code. According to the embassy, the IRS has investigated 12 phishing scams from 11 countries since November last year. Last month the IRS received examples of nearly 1,300 fake email correspondence from concerned taxpayers.

Taxpayers have been urged to be suspicious of emails that urge them to act quickly or their accounts will be suspended or closed, emails that are generic and don't address them by name or any e-mails requesting personal information such as account numbers, SSN credit card numbers or pass words.



Jamaica's P.M. among most powerful women in the world

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Jamaica's Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller has been included in the United States-based **Forbes Magazine** list of the 100 most powerful women in the world.

Simpson Miller is the only person from the Caribbean included on the list. She was ranked at number 89.

According to Forbes Magazine, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has overtaken U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice as the world's most powerful woman. Merkel was not included in the Forbes top 100 index in 2005.

Chilean President

Accountant jailed in N.Y. for swindling Bermuda gov't

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - A 35-year-old Bermudian accountant, who stole almost \$2 million in the biggest ever fraud against the Bermuda government, has been jailed for four years and seven months in New York City, the **Royal Gazette** newspaper has reported.

Harrison Isaac, Jr. looted a Bank of New York account set up by the Bermuda government to pay vendors in United States dollars under post-9/11 financial regulations.

Isaac was employed in the Accountant General's Department, where he was given sole responsibility for the online account in question. He exploited a loophole in safety checks to siphon off \$1,899,888 through Internet transfers over an eight-month period from May 2003.

The offenses were deemed to have taken place in New York, and addressing the U.S. District Court in Manhattan that dealt with Isaac last month, Bermuda's Attorney General Larry Mussenden said he had let the island down.

Isaac was caught by police while at Bermuda International Airport in April 2004. He had an outbound ticket to Atlanta, Georgia and was found with five access cards for the Bank of New York account in the names of staff from the Accountant General's Department as well as handwritten notes saying: "Sell everything", "liquidate", and "reset password".

He was arrested and in Nov. 2004 extradited to the U.S. where he remained in custody up until last month's hearing. Isaac pleaded guilty to 15 fraud-related charges during a previous court session.

Michelle Bachelet is listed at number 17, while Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf took 51st position and South Korean Prime Minister Han Myung-sook made it onto the list at 68.

Other leading women politicians include the Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi, known

in China as the "Iron Lady", who dropped one place to number three.

Simpson Miller, who was appointed prime minister earlier this year, has been leading in a recent poll published in the **Jamaica Observer** newspaper. The poll states that more Jamaicans believe that

Simpson Miller and the ruling People's National Party (PNP) would do a better job of running the country than the Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) led by Bruce Golding.



Simpson Miller

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Caribbean workers return to U.S. jobs after Hurricane Katrina

GORDON WILLIAMS

Many Jamaican workers who fled the United States after Hurricane Katrina's extensive damage to their workplaces are back on the job, according to at least one employer.

The management of Beau Rivage Biloxi said that it has retained a full quota of roughly 200 Jamaican workers, although not all of those were on the job last August when Katrina lashed the Mississippi resort, forcing it to close.

"We have about the same number, but not all of them were here previously," Beau Rivage Biloxi's Director of Human Resources Rogena Barnes told *Caribbean Today* late last month when the resort officially reopened. "Not all of them came back."

According to Barnes, some of the workers had since taken jobs with other resorts in the U.S. and were unable to break their contracts to return to Beau Rivage Biloxi. She

said "roughly a third" of the original 200 had returned.

"They had opportunities to work for other companies while we were rebuilding," Barnes explained. "They just couldn't leave until their time had expired."

SCARED, ANGRY

Last August most of those guest workers, who were employed mainly in house-keeping and maintenance jobs, wanted to do anything but stay in Biloxi. Traumatized by the fury of Katrina, the worst natural disaster in the history of the U.S., which had forced them to evacuate their lodgings and live on bare necessities for days at a shelter without proper sanitary conveniences, many vowed never to return to work in the U.S.

"We were scared," Serene Samuels told *Caribbean Today* on the day she left for Jamaica last year.

Some workers were also angry at what they called the unfair treatment they received

in terms of compensation prior to their departure. Workers showed *Caribbean Today* checks valued as low as 44 cents. The workers argued that although Beau Rivage Biloxi secured transportation for them to the shelters and generally treated them well, they did not believe the resort should have deducted certain expenses after the tragedy.

"What happened, (the Jamaicans) believed that they (Beau Rivage Biloxi) shouldn't take any rent from their pay because we were there not working more than a week (during the hurricane)," said Delroy Coke, a floor care worker at the time.

The issue was raised by the workers with Jamaica's

Ministry of Labour when they returned home to the Caribbean island. *Caribbean Today's* efforts to contact the relevant government authorities in Jamaica and the U.S. were unsuccessful late last month.

Beau Rivage Biloxi, meanwhile, chose not to address the issue of the workers' compensation.

"We are not allowed to discuss compensation," Barnes said late last month. "That is one particular thing we don't discuss with the public."

However, Barnes said Beau Rivage Biloxi was happy that Jamaican workers decided to return to the job and the resort was pleased with their performances.

Katrina, a Category Five hurricane, swept through the southern U.S., including the states of Florida, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. Some 350 Jamaican employees, primarily in Mississippi and Louisiana, were out of jobs after the hurricane, which killed roughly 1,700 people, 231 in Mississippi. Louisiana was the hardest hit, with nearly 1,500 deaths in that state attributed to the hurricane.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Lack of funds ground around-the-world solo flight by young Jamaican...for now

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

or three months ago," he explained. "(The postponement) is discouraging, but at the same time it motivates me."

Irving is encouraged by the progress because, he admitted, when he first conceived the idea for the solo flight he didn't really believe he could pull it off. In addition, the amount raised so far has also exceeded his expectations. Now there is no turning back.

"It will be done," he said.

But, Irving added, a wise approach is necessary. By the time he eventually makes the journey he will have turned 23, yet flying before the weather clears next spring would go against one of the same principles he has taught the children he visits.

"It's just not the safest or smartest (thing to do)," he explained about tackling unfavorable winter conditions in a small plane, especially in places like Alaska. "You'd just be asking for trouble."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor. Beginning Nov. 1,

2006 you may e-mail him at editor@caribbeantoday.com.



Jamaica, U.S. sign border security agreement

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - National Security Minister Dr. Peter Phillips and United States Ambassador to Jamaica Brenda LaGrange Johnson have signed a \$529,300 agreement to assist Jamaica in securing its borders against drug trafficking.

"Illegal drugs are often exported to the United States; they often poison and distort our own local environment, so the governments of Jamaica and the United States have a mutual interest in ensuring that we reduce the impact of

illegal drugs through our own territorial space and prevent its export to other countries, including the United States," Phillips said at the recent signing ceremony.

He said that the funds would provide a further boost in the fight against drug trafficking in Jamaica.



Phillips

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NEWS

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~ Elections in Guyana

Jagdeo leads ruling PPP/C back to power in Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - The incumbent People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) government, led by Bharrat Jagdeo, has formed Guyana's ninth government since the developing country gained political Independence from Britain 40 years ago.

The victory in the Aug. 28 elections secured another five-year term for the PPP/C.

Jagdeo's party won 36 of 65 parliamentary seats and 183,887 or 54.6 percent of the 338,839 valid votes cast in regional and general elections to beat its main rival the People's National Congress Reform One Guyana (PNCR-1G) in both polls.

The PNCR-1G won 22 seats with 114,608 votes, while the newly formed Alliance for Change won five seats after securing 28,366 votes.

Absent from Parliament will be the Rise Organise and Rebuild (ROAR) Movement; The United Force (TUF) headed

by Manzoor Nadir, Tourism, Industry and Commerce Minister in the last PPP/C government; and the Guyana Action Party (GAP), which held a combined five seats in the last Parliament.

In the last Parliament, the PPP/C got 34 seats; the PNC/R 27; GAP/WPA two; ROAR one; and TUF one.



Jagdeo

'WALK WITH ME'

The 42-year-old Jagdeo was sworn in as Guyana's sixth executive president at a ceremony at State House in the capital less than a week after the elections and immediately called on citizens of the multi-racial republic to "walk with me" in developing the Caribbean community (CARICOM) state.

"I am fully aware on the responsibilities that now fall on my shoulders - very human shoulders," Jagdeo said. "These are responsibilities that I cannot carry out alone. I need you to walk with me, as I walk with you along the road of development."

Last month's elections turned out to be a largely peaceful exercise. The PPP/C had also won the violent and bloody 1992, 1997 and 2001 polls comfortably.

The principal election contestants complained of low voter turnout for the 2006 polls. In 1997 voter turnout was 86.4 percent and climbed in 2001 to 89.4 percent.

Jagdeo, a Russian-trained economist, will have to grapple with an ailing economy, as well as dealing delicately with bridging the bitter racial divide between the two main ethnic groups here.



A voter casts her ballot.

Peace at the polls, organizers hailed

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - The Guyana Private Sector Commission (PSC) says the maturity displayed by Guyanese voters on Aug. 28 disappointed the chorus of local and foreign 'naysayers' who were forecasting unprecedented violence at the polls.

PCS Executive Major General Norman McLean said the 2006 model has so far produced peaceful general and regional elections and should be used as a guide for future polls. McLean did not believe that armed Joint Services ranks who patrolled the country "can take credit for the peaceful poll," but said it was a collaborative effort.

He said the education program pursued by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), political parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must take the credit for the "dignified and efficient manner" in which electoral workers and voters conducted themselves on polling day.

"Guyanese now understand that they can express their views and opinions without coming to blows about it. We have to give the public credit for displaying maturity..."

Some 492,000 voters were expected to vote, but according to preliminary figures, voter turnout was disappoint-

ingly low.

HAPPY

PSC Chairman Yesu Persaud, speaking about the absence of bloody violence which characterized all polls here since 1992, said "we are all today happy," that the anticipated violence never occurred.

Persaud admitted that local businessmen, especially in the volatile urban centers, including the capital, were expecting "all hell and fire" on election day, but it turned out to be "the most peaceful poll in a number of years," in the former British colony.

Meanwhile, the United States embassy in Georgetown joined the chorus of praise showered on Guyanese voters "for exercising their democratic franchise in a calm, responsible manner". An embassy media statement said "the 23 U.S. Embassy personnel who participated within the OAS Observer Mission reported that the election day process went smoothly except for a few instances of disorganization that were not sufficient to affect the outcome."

"The Embassy applauds the tireless efforts of dedicated GECOM staff, polling station officials, party agents, and voters in carrying out the General and Regional Elections", the statement added.

★



Voters in Guyana wait in line outside a polling station for a chance to make their choices.

Voting process satisfies CARICOM observer mission

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - The Caribbean community (CARICOM) electoral observer mission which monitored the recent regional and general elections in Guyana has expressed "general satisfaction" with the conduct of the poll.

In a statement released days after the Aug. 28 polls, the team said while some people encountered problems locating their polling stations at locations with multiple stations, the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) did

its best to facilitate electors when these problems arose.

"The CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission is pleased with the way in which the process of voting was conducted and expresses its general satisfaction with the logistical arrangements for the conducting of the poll," the team, which was led by Hensley Robinson, a former chief electoral officer in Barbados said.

"The CARICOM Electoral Observer Mission acknowledges, with satisfac-

tion, the efforts of all involved in the multiple aspects of the electoral process. The Observer Mission is especially encouraged by the participation of Guyana's youth", the 13-member team said in its statement issued through the CARICOM Secretariat.

The Organization of American States (OAS) also said it was pleased with the conduct of the polls. It said it was also pleased that the elections had passed off peacefully.



★
Stories compiled from CMC sources. Photographs from other wire services, including AP.

Cyclist completes 4,000 miles in 40 days to raise awareness, resources to improve lives of Haiti's children

MIAMI - Haiti Kids Foundation Chairman Jesse Johnson cycled into Toussaint L'Ouverture Elementary School in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood last month, ending his 4,000-mile in 40 days cross country "Bike for Haiti Kids" trip.

There, he was greeted by more than 500 school children as well as Haitian American community leaders and supporters.

Johnson departed Seattle on July 14 to raise awareness of the needs of Haitian children with the goal of raising \$1 million along the way.

"The Bike for Haiti Kids

has been challenging on many levels, but in the end a success because we have informed and engaged thousands of people across the country on the issues facing the children of Haiti," said Johnson.

Councilman Jacques Despinosse presented Johnson with a city proclamation. The school's principal Dr. Lilane Delbor welcomed Johnson to Miami and the school and joined the students in cheering his efforts.

INSPIRATION

Haiti Kids Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedi-

cated to improving the lives and futures of Haitian children by providing safe living environments and life sustaining care. The foundation plans to direct all funds raised from the Bike For Haiti Kids project to supporting and extending the work of quality orphanages in and near Port-au-Prince. Long-term plans include developing new orphanages and programs to strengthen living environments for all Haitian children.

"My hope all along was that people will be inspired by this ride to learn more about the children of Haiti, and get

involved in making life changing improvements in their lives," said Johnson. "Even if people contribute only a few dollars, that money will make a difference to a child in need."

To find out more about the Haiti Kids Foundation, visit www.haitikids-foundation.org



Jesse Johnson is greeted by the students at the Toussaint L'Ouverture Elementary School in Miami.

Caribbean Today's publisher gets lifetime achievement award

Peter Webley, publisher of the South Florida monthly newspaper, Caribbean Today, has been selected as a recipient of the Caribbean Peer Awards Life Time Achievement Award for 2006.

Webley was among four awardees, all Caribbean nationals, who were honored for their sterling contribution to the growth and ongoing development of Caribbean media in the area of sales, marketing and advertising. The other awardees include: Ken Gordon, of Trinidad and Tobago; and Lester Spaulding and Neville Blythe, both well-known Jamaican media personnel.

The honorees were selected from a list of 10 Caribbean nationals by the Peer Awards Foundation of AKM Communications.

PIONEER

Described as one of the pioneers of Caribbean news publishing in South Florida, Webley launched the Caribbean monthly newspaper in Dec. 1989. As the Caribbean diaspora began to grow in the early 1980s in this

region, Webley told JIS News that he saw a need for greater and better news coverage of the Caribbean region and of the nationals here in Florida.

With a distribution of almost 40,000, circulation of Caribbean Today has grown outside the region to include United States cities Atlanta and Chicago, plus communities in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, as well as some Caribbean islands.

The paper is free to the public and covers news, features, entertainment and sports especially related to the Caribbean community.

WEBSITE

Earlier, this year, the Caribbean Today developed a website to include on-line readers.

"Readers of Caribbean Today would also note a refreshingly positive portrayal of minorities," Webley said.

A recent audit conducted by the City of Miami Metro Communications Department, indicated that among 72 publications Caribbean Today ranked sixth overall, and first



Webley

among the black population in the South Florida region.

A recipient of several awards over the years, Webley was into the Miami Hall of Fame inducted in May last year for his outstanding contribution in the area of journalism.

Other outstanding awards for business development and community contribution include the United Coalition of Minority Business Enterprises 2003, the Minority Enterprise Development (MED Week) Award 2003, and the Broward Black Elected Officials' Business Leader Award 2006.

He has also received other awards from several schools in

the South Florida community, where he continues to work with students on educational projects.

Webley is also a founding member of the Florida-based Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce (JAUSACC) and the Kendal South Dade chapter of the Kiwanis Club.

According to Webley, Caribbean Today is now a thriving news magazine that has contributed greatly to raising the positive profile of South Florida's Caribbean community.

"Perhaps our most poignant achievement is that by providing the community with a positive reflection of its many faces, the paper has helped the community to understand the diverse cultures that embrace this community," he added.

The Peer Awards Foundation was inceptioned in 1998 by AKM Communications to recognize Jamaican media personnel in the areas of marketing, advertising and sales. This year, the program was developed to include the Caribbean media community.

U.S. gaming company in Antigua closes shop

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC - The United States-based gaming company BETonSPORTS (BOS) plans to cease operations in Antigua and Barbuda.

The company said that it would also close its operations in Costa Rica. The decision follows the issuance of a temporary restraining order from a U.S. District Court preventing it from continuing its operations.

The order required BOS to close its U.S. facing Internet gaming websites and post a notice promising to pay clients outstanding money. In a statement issued last month, the company said after "thorough-

ly reviewing possible alternative business plans" it could "no longer considers the U.S. facing operations of the company, which are based in Costa Rica and Antigua, to be viable" in light of the temporary restraining order.

It said it would not accept any wagers from U.S.-based customers and that it would also end its operations in Antigua and Costa Rica "as soon as practicable".

JOBS LOST

As a result of the decision, 800 employees in Antigua and Costa Rica were scheduled to

lose their jobs.

The company has promised to pay "any liabilities to staff and creditors in an orderly manner and repay balances due to U.S. customers in an orderly manner". But it warned that payment would depend upon its ability to persuade banks and cash processors to release its funds.

On July 17, the U.S. unsealed a 22-count indictment against BOS executives accusing them of running an illegal Internet gambling operation. Prosecutors have indicated they will seek a \$4.5 billion penalty against

the company.

ELUSIVE

Many Americans use the Internet to place bets on sporting events and the industry has been largely considered outside the reach of U.S. legislators and prosecutors who do not have jurisdiction over offshore operations.

U.S. prosecutors insist that offshore Internet casinos violate the Federal Wire Act of 1961, but legal experts say the position is untested.

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VIEWPOINT

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Reggae makes 'Splash

GORDON WILLIAMS

Last month, reggae, the music which blossomed throughout the world after springing from its Caribbean roots in Jamaica, witnessed two important milestones – one good, the other sad.

Most satisfying was that, for the first time in nearly a decade the musical festival "Reggae Sunsplash" returned with a tour that ran from its birthplace throughout the United States.

On a sour note, reggae lost one of its greatest ambassadors, Joseph Hill, leader of the group "Culture", who died while on tour of Europe.

No one needs to be convinced of reggae's popularity today. The steady, intoxicating beat – heavy on drum and bass – that first generated attention more than four decades ago, has survived admirably in the topsy turvy world of popular music. It has made a huge impact, and fans everywhere have lapped it up. It has helped to put the Caribbean squarely on the world music map.

It is no surprise, for example, that the late Bob Marley's CDs still sell briskly a quarter of a century after the music's rebel icon passed away.

CHANGES

Today the music has witnessed startling changes or influences. It has altered other musical genres as well. Along the way, dancehall – the deejay-flavored spin-off made popular by the likes of U-Roy, Shaggy, Beenie Man, and even one of Bob's children Damion "Jr. Gong" Marley – has forced its way into mainstream thought as well. Yet, sometimes, the message, so important to the early "roots" reggae promoters, including Marley, Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer, Culture and Burning Spear, has taken a bit of a back seat to more likeable lyrics and beats. Still the music's core thrives.

Now Sunsplash, which drooped into dormancy especially following the death of one of its founders, is on the mend. The start of the U.S. tour in Florida has given every indication that the music is still satisfying to many, even with the limited dancehall influence. In West Palm Beach, Tampa and Cocoa Beach, the crowds warmed to mellow sounds of Third World, Maxi Priest, Toots and the Maytals and headliners UB40.

A group like Culture would have fit right in on a slate like that as well. Or would it?

The response of the audience on the early part of the U.S. Sunsplash tour said the

bouncy mixture of reggae flavored with R&B and rock was just as tasty as anything Marley could have conjured up. They danced in the aisles for Maxi Priest and rushed to the front of the stage to greet him when he climbed off-stage as part of his performance.

GOOD RECEPTION

Despite the less-than-capacity audiences at the Florida sites, the fans present all embraced his hits as if they were rolling up today's charts. The same reception was showered on Toots, Third World and UB40. If the reggae pitcher had been emptied in the U.S. due to the absence of Sunsplash, the tour was serving up a refill with added flavor.

But those audiences were predominantly white. While young black Americans – long a target of Bob Marley in his heyday – have grabbed hold of dancehall's appeal, especially when tied to hip hop, the early Sunsplash returns in the U.S. suggest that the mellow roots reggae is still struggling to get their attention.

Yet that does not mean that the Sunsplash tour doesn't offer quality entertainment. When Third World, Priest, Toots and UB40 appear on any show a myriad of hit tunes are bound to be unleashed. It's nice, clean entertainment.

The promoters must be pleased. The question is: should they be? Has the real force behind reggae, the protest edge that helped to launch its worldwide appeal, eluded the music after the departure of Marley and Tosh? Bunny Wailer once said: reggae is the music that carries the message, it tells of history, the truth and the rights. Sweet love songs with catchy drum and bass are all right – great, even. But maybe the music is heading a tad bit wide of its original target. Has reggae lost its sting?

Now the death of Hill leaves even a bigger void. The group Culture, whose origin coincided with the launch of roots reggae with such telling songs as "Two Sevens Clash", will carry on, at least for a while without its influential lead singer. But the music's old guard is disappearing.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves just yet. It's time to celebrate Sunsplash's return. It's reggae's original shining symbol, a great celebration still creating waves.

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

High maintenance



It's a fact, some women are high maintenance and cost an arm and a leg, plus tax, just to squire, wine and dine them.

Apparently there is some myth that it's a man's world and that women really have it hard. That may be true yes, that some women do have it hard, but so do the mass of men.

Women come into this world and everything is handed to them. They expect to be wined, dined and if they feel like, bedded, wooed. We all know what wooing is, it means to court a woman, to wit, spend a coil of money on her, feeding her, buying her food that she can eat and flowers that she can't eat.

It takes money to woo. But women are conditioned that men are supposed to pay for everything, and no amount of argument will ever convince them otherwise. It can prove to be very expensive.

Let's take a man and a woman who are involved somehow, both earning the same amount of money, or she even more. She gets pregnant. The man is expected to pay

for all procedures, all doctor visits, all medicine, hospital fee, pre and post natal. Come delivery time, he better pray that it's a natural birth too, and not a C-section, or it'll take a few C notes to pay.

This caught a good friend of mine who, as the saying goes, only "tief" a piece – had a one night stand – with a co-worker who wasn't even his real woman either. She got pregnant, had some complications and had a C-section plus other surgical stuff at a private hospital which cost the earth. To this day that man rued that night when he stole forbidden fruit. The female produce market can be a very expensive place.

The lady had a good job, plenty money, but society dictates that the man must spend on her. Be careful when you offer to spend your life with a

woman, all she hears is the word 'spend'.

After the child is born, there is this thing called child maintenance, which the man better fork over every month or he's hauled before the courts and shamed like dog. All school fees and such must be paid by him.

"Who made these laws anyway, a woman?" was the cry of many men who I spoke to.



TONY ROBINSON

EXPECTATIONS

It's not that they want to shirk their responsibilities either, as children are expensive and many women can't manage, but in many cases the woman has a big job with loads of cash, but just expects that the man must pay for everything. It doesn't matter that he's out of work, lost his job through redundancy or fallen on hard times.

Many women are so locked into this maintenance syndrome, that their hearts turn to stone. No wonder you have the term, high maintenance women.

"As you look pon some (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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CARIB Comments

• “We talk of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy, yet travel to Trinidad from say



Barbados or vice versa requires the completion of more forms than applying for a major bank loan” - President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), Vic Fernandes
commenting last month on the way nationals are still being treated as aliens when they go to other countries in the region.

• To say that my objective stability has gotten considerably better would not be a lie. To affirm that my recupera-



tion will not take long would be absolutely incorrect” - Cuba’s President Fidel Castro delivering a message to the Cuban people last month to be optimistic about his health, but to be prepared for any bad news.

• “Once they point guns at you, you have to take them out” - Guyana’s President



Bharrat Jagdeo last month calling on the security forces to use whatever means necessary to take back control

of the crime situation in the country.

• “Whatever numero uno says goes. I am saying we must correct that” - Trinidad and Tobago’s former President Sir



Ellis Clarke saying recently that too much power has been placed in the hands of every prime minister since the

oil rich republic attained Independence in 1962.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



can’t face reality. You are not bashing anyone, you just call a “spade a spade”, you just don’t sugar coat anything, you are my kind of a guy. I love you for that. I am a returning resident from the USA and it’s so wonderful to be home irrespective of the negatives things that have been portrayed about my blessed paradise.

**One love brother,
Jean Grant
(jgmgrant@yahoo.com)**

Beautifully written

I sat in the doctor’s office on July 26, I started reading **Caribbean Today**, and on the second page (of the supplement) was an article written by Tony Robinson. I read the article. I must tell you that for

a long time I have not read anything as beautifully written as this article.

I got so obsessed that I started turning the pages of all

the papers looking for more. I found another one entitled “Woman on top”. I certainly enjoyed the writings. Today I went out looking for papers.

The articles are excellent.

**Always DEISam
(delsamcook@bellsouth.net)**

The fun of reality

Hey Tony, I found your article in **Caribbean Today of July 2006** (“Woman on top”) to be so interesting and hilarious. You are perfectly correct in your facts about the role that women play. Most men would not buy your arguments, but that’s sad for them if they

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9) girl so, yu know say dem is high maintenance, me can’t afford dat league,” say some men as they look on wistfully and longingly at some beautiful women.

Some women appear to be out of the leagues of many men, leading some guys to resort to all sorts of schemes just to get and hold them, including stealing. She expects to have money lavished on her all the time. Don’t bother to show up at Miss Uptown’s house in an old bruk down car with no money in your pocket and expect to take her out. And even if you manage to reach somewhere and wish to make a commitment it’s going to cost you, as is diamond ring dem want. Remember the old saying, “Diamonds are a girls best friend.”

There’s this T.V. commercial for engagement rings that says, ‘If you really love her, is six months salary enough to prove it?’ Women don’t have that pressure. Mortgage your life, for a little love.

PAY PER VIEW
If perchance your eye catches a woman and you wish

High maintenance

to take her out, be assured that it’s you, the man, who spends. You find transport to pick her up, take her to the movies, you pay as she walks in and heads straight for the cafeteria like nuh food nuh deh at her yard. Come intermission, she wants more, so you pay again, and after the movie if you decide to go elsewhere, you pay again, cover charge, drinks, more food, the man pays.

The irony is that some of these ladies could buy and sell the man, as they have high powered, high paying jobs, but it is the unwritten law of their nature that man must mind them. Invite a woman to dinner and it’s the man who is expected to pay. All she has to do is say yes and sit and wait for him. And when she orders, it’s the top of the line food too. No curry goat or ackee and salt fish, but food she can’t even pronounce. No Pepsi or Coke, but foreign wine, and of course, after the main course, the most expensive desert to finish off the guy. So much so that in some restaurants there are separate menus for men and women. Guess which menu has the prices on it? The one for the man of course. She can blithely order anything she wants with no regard for the price.

Meanwhile his brain is going, ka-ching, ka-ching, like a cash register, as she orders. Very rarely does a woman say to a man, ‘hey let’s go out later, my treat, I will pay for EVERYTHING’. It’s so rare, that when it happens, it’s a big deal. Women cry for equality, but when it comes to paying, no way. That’s why some men don’t have many women any more. It’s just too expensive.

sometimes hit hard and hit quickly, for as they meet the man, the sob story starts. “Listen, I know I just met you, and normally I don’t do this sort of thing, but I’m a little short this month, and the rent is due, so...ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching.”

Either that or it’s, “The car is in the shop and I can’t even get it out as I’m a little short this month.”

Are there no tall women anymore, is everyone a little short?

Pity the man who starts to pay the rent or buy groceries just to get the woman, for it’s precedent, and law is precedent, and it’s the law that men pay.

Even if you get married and divorced, it costs the man, as the dreaded alimony is another lifetime of living hell. Why can’t she pay him alimony, after all her salary is more than his? It should be spelt allthemoney. That’s why some men simply disappear, it’s cheaper than getting divorced. Life is stacked against men in that department. From the day they are born they are expected to pay for women. Young boys, saving up lunch money, walking home to save bus fare, starving, just to have money to take out girls. Why couldn’t it be that it happens half and half, instead of the woman just sitting back and waiting to be maintained? As for those special days like Valentine’s and such, the man’s pocket better be deep. That’s why men are so stressed out, die before women and leave them behind to spend the insurance money.

High maintenance women drive so many men to their graves, from which they keep on paying. Ka-ching, ka-ching.

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CXC reports big growth in CAPE entries in the Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) said that candidate entries and unit entries for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), had shown a significant increase for 2006 over last year.

It said that unit entries increased by 36 percent, from 43,993 in 2005 to 69,018 entries this year, while candidate entries

also increased by approximately 30 percent from 13,651 in 2005 to 19,019 this year.

Communication studies became the first CAPE subject to surpass the 10,000 candidates mark, with 10,218 entries this year. Other units with large entries were Caribbean studies (7,259), pure mathematics unit one (4,413), management of business unit one (3,878) and sociology unit one (3,670).

In 16 of the 43 units exam-

ined, more than 90 percent of the candidates achieved Grades I to V, while in 14 of the units more than 80 percent achieved Grades I to V. Only in two units did less than 60 percent of the candidates obtained acceptable grades. These were Computer science unit two (54 percent) and law unit two (50 percent), CXC said.

It said there were improved performance in French unit, communication studies, history,

biology, accounting, pure mathematics and electrical and electronic technology.

CXC said that candidates who completed seven CAPE units this year are eligible for the CXC associate degrees.

"The degrees will be based on performance in both the

2005 and 2006 sittings.

Candidates must have completed seven units including Caribbean studies and communication studies and must have achieved Grades I to V in each unit", it added.

Caribbean youth still careless about HIV/AIDS ~ Douglas

MARVIN HOKSTAM

TORONTO, Canada, CMC - St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas says greater efforts would be needed to get young people of the Caribbean to adopt preventive measures against the deadly HIV/AIDS virus.

"Our goal is to devise a new strategic framework (for the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS, PAN-CAP), one with continuing efforts at prevention," said Douglas, the CARICOM spokesman on HIV/AIDS and PAN-CAP chairman.

"Because even though we see a decrease in prevalence, there are still 70 percent of our

young people not taking measures to protect themselves and that are putting themselves at risk of being infected with the disease. We need to repackage the promotional aspect of our efforts."

Douglas was attending the 16th International AIDS Conference here and held discussions with former



Clinton

United States President Bill Clinton. He said the meeting with Clinton was to request assistance from the Clinton Foundation in devising and executing the new strategic framework.

"I have extended an invitation to Mr. Clinton to attend our next 'Champions for Change' gathering," said the prime minister.

Clinton has said that the Caribbean is making progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The first Champions for Change gathering was held in St. Kitts in November 2004 and it is being hailed as a "landmark event" that brought together a wide cross-section of Caribbean parliamentarians, cultural and sporting icons and representatives of non-governmental organizations in an effort to stimulate debate on the disease in the Caribbean. The next gathering is scheduled for Barbados and according to Douglas the aim is to get Caribbean media on board.

Dominica introducing alternative to prison terms for young offenders

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC - The Dominica government says it will introduce alternative sentencing for young offenders as it seeks to deal with a growing prison population.

Attorney General Ian Douglas said that the Community Services Order pilot project would allow law enforcement authorities to give an alternative to a jail term for minor crimes.

He explained that the project could be implemented by October and would help reduce the over crowding situation at the lone prison.

There are more than 310 prisoners at the Stock Farm prison, just on the outskirts of the capital.

Superintendent of Prisons Algernon Charter earlier this year expressed concern over the growing number of young people in prison.

Charter has also welcomed the introduction of the pilot program, saying it would also reduce government's spending on the prison.

"I think it's a good move for us and it is something that we always wanted. It is going to cost the government much more to maintain an inmate as opposed to making them do community service," he said.

Douglas said the pilot program would help in the rehabilitation of prisoners.



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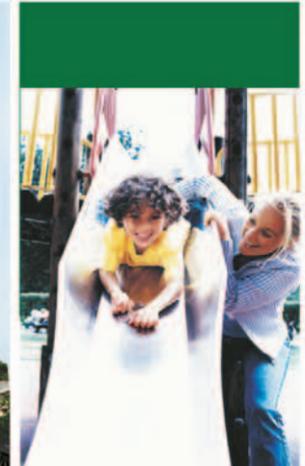
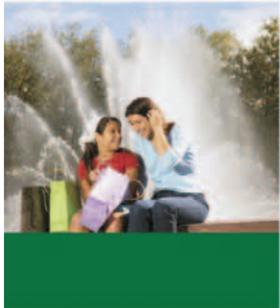
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H E A L T H

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Foundations pump \$1 million into media HIV/AIDS campaign

TORONTO, Canada, CMC - Three international foundations have come together to pump \$1 million into a Caribbean-wide media campaign on HIV/AIDS.

The Ford Foundation and the Elton John Foundation announced last month that they would be joining with the Kaiser Family Foundation to support the operations of the Caribbean Broadcasters Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS, the region's first media-led initiative on HIV/AIDS.

"We know that the media is our most powerful tool to get out information and change attitudes. I am delighted that my foundation, in conjunction with our partners Kaiser and Ford, will work directly with Caribbean broadcasters to help educate their audiences, promote tolerance, and change the public

dialogue about this epidemic," Sir Elton John, founder of the Elton John Foundation said.

Also speaking at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, where the



Sir Elton John

announcement was made, Ford Foundation executive Dr. Jacob Gayle said: "Media is a central part of Caribbean communication and culture. It is well

placed to bring HIV/AIDS concern and awareness into the households, hearts and actions of our families and communities."

LEVERAGE

Dr. Allyson Leacock, head of the seven member broadcasters steering committee and general manager of the **Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation**, said the collaborative effort was a way to leverage communication power to raise awareness, fight stigma and intolerance and support people already suffering with the disease.

She said the 30 television and radio stations operating in 22 regional countries who were involved in the partnership were committed to reserving a minimum of 30 seconds per hour - 12 minutes per day - for HIV/AIDS messages across all program genres, including news, public affairs and entertainment. The strategy involved a pan-Caribbean public service campaign; original HIV-themed entertainment, such as soap operas; program workshops for writers, producers and on-air talent; journalist trainings and briefings and complementary information sources.

The partnership was launched in May.



Haitian seniors get medical help in Miami

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Department of Health's Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade and the Alliance for Aging, recently hosted the "Haitian Wellness Expo for

seniors regarding the existence of free or low-cost health, safety and fitness resources. Our goal is to foster healthy lifestyles and reduce the risk of disease," said Mayor Alvarez. "The initiative's ultimate goal is to eliminate all barriers to healthcare, thus improving the health of the community overall."

The "Mayor's Initiative on Aging: To Life!" is the result of a public and private partnership of organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of Miami-Dade County residents 55 and over. During 2006, a series of promotional, educational and fitness activities will be held exclusively to engage Miami-

Dade's senior residents. This public awareness campaign will have a minimum of 12 main monthly events designed to encourage positive aging.

For more information about the mayor's initiative, call 305-375-3333 or visit www.mayorsinitiativeonaging.com



Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, left, presents a key to the county to Dr. Rony Francois, secretary of health, Florida Department of Health.

Seniors" at the Haitian Emmanuel Baptist Church in Miami.

More than 250 seniors attended the expo to learn about improving their health and quality of life. They also participated in tai chi classes, and blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings.

"The initiative's events provide much needed informa-

Dispelling migraine myths from fact

Many people who are not affected migraine headaches, a legitimate health condition, continue to believe commonly-held myths about migraine.

According to the National Headache Foundation (NHF) in the United States, some of the more common myths are as follows:

Myth: Caffeine cannot help relieve a migraine.

Fact: For certain migraine sufferers, caffeine is a migraine inhibitor, for others it is a trigger. Keeping a headache diary can help determine whether caffeine helps or hurts your migraine. Caffeine is found naturally and as an additive in coffee, tea, chocolate, cola, certain soft drinks, and some pain relieving and acute migraine medications.

Myth: Migraines are not triggered by stress.

Fact: Stress is a commonly recognized trigger of migraines. Stress can be physical or emotional. It can be good or bad. It is an unavoidable part of modern life.

Events causing emotional stress can trigger a migraine headache. Migraine sufferers are thought to have highly sensitized brains. In times of emotional stress, certain chemicals are released that provoke the vascular changes that can cause a migraine headache. Factors related to

stress include anxiety, worry, shock, depression, excitement, and mental fatigue.



Headaches can make life uncomfortable.

After a stressful period there may be a letdown which can, in itself, trigger a migraine headache.

Myth: Regular exercise may not help reduce migraine frequency.

Fact: For those who suffer from chronic, recurring migraines, exercise can either provoke an attack or lessen the frequency and severity of these headaches. If exercise or physical strain induce a headache, it is important to see a healthcare provider. Maintaining a regular exercise program can reduce the number of headaches and contribute to overall good health.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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HEALTH BRIEFS

• Cubans setting up regional eye facility

Cuba is assisting in the establishment of a state-of-the-art regional eye care facility to be based in St. Lucia, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony has confirmed.

The prime minister said last month that plans were "proceeding apace" for the establishment of the ultra-modern ophthalmology center which would provide expert services to patients from neighboring islands through Cuba's Miracle eye care project "Plan Milag".

• HIV/AIDS battle may be lost

Marcus Day, head of the Caribbean Drug Research Institute (CDRI), says the war against the HIV/AIDS virus will be lost if the authorities fail to adopt critical measures to help young people protect themselves against the pandemic.

"We have to depend less on promoting the theory of abstinence, and that young people should stay away from sex," said Day, who has called for condoms to be made available in schools and health centers on demand.

• Cuba upgrades nursing program for St. Lucians

The Cuban government has agreed to upgrade its scholarship nursing program to allow St. Lucians studying in that country to obtain higher qualifications, St. Lucia's administration announced.

The government also revealed it would be recruiting another 100 students to help fill the island's original quota of scholarships offered by Havana.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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Caribbean countries seeking to introduce smoking laws for Cricket World Cup 2007

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Some Caribbean countries have signaled their intention to introduce legislation banning smoking in public places in time for next year's Cricket World Cup.

This was the word coming out of the recently concluded meeting of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Cricket World Cup Health Sector Subcommittee, which was held in Barbados late last month.

Chairman of the Subcommittee, Barbados's Minister of Health Dr. Jerome Walcott, said both Barbados and St. Lucia were moving in the direction of banning smoking in public places, while Grenada's Minister of Health, Senator Ann David Antoine, said her country also intended to introduce similar legislation.

FINAL STAGES

Walcott said Barbados's

legislation was in its final stages and should be laid in the Parliament in October.

"Anti-smoking legislation is before Chief Parliamentary Counsel Shirley Belle for fine tuning. The legislation has been much talked about for some time and we have had discussions with the various stakeholders," Walcott told members of the press at the end of the meeting.

He said the International Cricket Council had stipulated that there would be no smoking at stadiums except in designated areas, but those regulations would be superseded by a country's legislation in cases where that legislation existed.

In the case of Grenada, Antoine said while they planned to introduce the legislation, it was not at a stage where it could be taken to Parliament for discussion.

"Grenada is one of the

countries that has responded to the request to address the issue of smoking in public places. We are very concerned about the public health issue at it relates to smoking in public. There is also the issue of safety," she said.

Victor Roach, president of the Caribbean Chapter of the International Committee for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** his organization would continue its lobbying to ensure that regional countries introduced legislation prohibiting public smoking. With regards to the CWC 2007, he said the previous tournament in South Africa was smoke-free and there was no reason why this should not be the case in the Caribbean next year.



Dispelling migraine myths from fact

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Myth: Dietary supplements cannot be helpful in migraine treatment.

Fact: Those suffering from frequent migraines may have a low magnesium level. Magnesium has a relaxant effect on smooth muscle, such as in blood vessels. Daily supplementation of 500 mg to 750 mg increases the body's magnesium level. Riboflavin (Vitamin B2) assists nerve cells in the production of ATP, an energy producing substance, which is essential for many chemical reactions to occur in the body. High doses of riboflavin (400 mg. is recommended) may reverse cells' "energy crisis" during migraine attacks.

Myth: Migraines are not triggered by a lack of sleep.

Fact: Migraine can be triggered by lack of sleep. Go to sleep at the same time every night and wake up the same time each morning, including on weekends. This maintains the body's natural circadian rhythm.

Myth: Migraines cannot be triggered by exposure to smoke, odors or perfume.

Fact: Certain fumes and vapors can initiate a migraine headache. Perfumes are also often a culprit. Being in public places which are smoke-filled or poorly ventilated can result in the onset of a migraine.

Myth: Migraines do not run in families

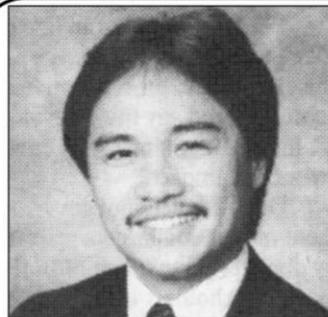
Fact: Migraines can be hereditary. If one parent has migraine, the child has a 50 percent chance of having

them. If both parents have them, there is a 75 percent chance the child will develop migraine and if even a distant relative has migraines, there is a 20 percent chance the child will also experience them.

"Because migraine is an often misunderstood disease, it is important to dispel myths that may contribute to the confusion," said National Headache Foundation Executive Director Suzanne E. Simons. "It is our hope that this effort will further the understanding that migraine is neuro-biologic disease."

For more information on headache causes and treatments, visit www.headaches.org or call 1-888-NHF-5552 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST).

- National Headache Foundation



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'Sweet Hands' stir tasty tradition into a Caribbean

TITLE: SWEET HANDS: ISLAND COOKING FROM TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
AUTHOR: RAMINGANESHAM
REVIEWED BY: DAWN A. DAVIS

Food reflects culture. And, when a culture is as diverse as the Caribbean's, the cuisine is bound to be as varied, and exotic.

Sweet Hands is more than just a cookbook. Not only does the author showcase the enticing ethnic cuisine of the twin island republic, she cleverly intertwines the history and folklore that surrounds a particular dish.

Born in New York to a Trinidadian father and Iranian mother, Ramin Ganeshram goes back to her roots through the culinary arts of the Caribbean island known for carnival and "doubles", a tasty breakfast treat or late-night snack of spicy chickpeas served between two pieces of fried dough.

JUST TWO HANDS

If you ever crave "Trini" food, but don't know where to find it, well this book is for you. Its simple directions, with

accompanying pictures and fascinating stories on the origin and tradition behind the recipe, ensure a successful meal. No complicated equipment needed, just your two hands, some provisions, flour, fish, meat, etc.

Adding to the book's allure is how cleverly Ganeshram weaves her own family stories between the pages, giving each recipe a personal touch. We learn of her father, Krisnaram, who watched the women in his Trinidadian household cook in "coal pots" under the house that sat high on stilts. He watched them bake the breads he so loved, yet his hands just weren't "set for it", until years later when he migrated to New York. He became a prophetic baker.

MELTING POT

Trinidad is a melting pot of Indian, African, Chinese and other cultures. Africans are descendants of the West African slaves brought to the New World, while the large Indian population is a result of the indentured servants brought to the island by the British after the abolition of slavery. They brought with them their foods and religions.

The mixture created a blend of tastes unique to Trinidad. In fact, no household is complete without Indian curry, West African callaloo (a root food used for its leaves) and fried rice.

From street foods (cooked and served roadside) to soups, vegetables, and black cake, the reader can pick and choose from well-organized sections. There is even a glossary that defines the unique Caribbean foods.

Ever heard of "Buss Up Shut"? Check page 116 for detailed preparation techniques. Trinidad's famous corn soup, a staple during carnival time, is not left out; neither is roti, a favorite among many Caribbean people.

Vegetarians too will feel quite at home with this cookbook. With recipes like dal puri, a tasty bread filled with spicy cooked lentils, and breadfruit oil-down, stewed breadfruit with spices like hot pepper, scallions, and thyme cooked in coconut milk, the non-carnivore can prepare delicious and nutritious meals.

WORTH ITS SALT

Throughout the book, Ganeshram highlights many

old traditions, some that are sadly "heading dangerously close to cultural subjugation to computers and televisions". One such tradition is "Dancing the Cocoa", where villagers walk through cocoa beans spread out on level ground in order to "polish" them before being roasted and ground to make cocoa sticks. The payoff is a nice steaming cup of "cocoa tea", a Caribbean favorite.

Speaking of traditions, no Caribbean cookbook would be worth its salt without a mention of rum punch, ginger beer, and sorrel. Well, Ganeshram does these beverage recipes justice and even adds some appetite-whetting drinks such as mango wine, soursop punch and sugar cane wine. Of course, the Trinidadian aromatic bitters that gives most drinks (worldwide) their oomph, Angostura Bitters, takes pride of place with a little history. Manufactured under a veil of secrecy since 1824, "the bitter ingredients arrive by ship to Port of Spain and are stored in a special warehouse that is guarded at all times. There are never any markings on any bag, box, or label to give even a hint



as to the contents of those precious containers," cites Ganeshram.

Sweet Hands is filled with much more interesting historical tidbits. So, what will you get from this book? Hopefully "sweet hands", the highest complement a cook can receive, and a little "lagniappe" (extra) or "brawta" as they say in Jamaica.

PUBLISHER: Hippocrene Books, Inc.

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



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'One Love' voted 'Top Foreign Song'

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – “One Love”, the popular reggae song by the late Jamaican singer Bob Marley, has been voted the “Top Foreign Song” by a foreign-based magazine.

According to the **Conde Nast Traveler** magazine, more than 12,000 readers chose the song by the legendary Marley as the top tune. The September edition of the magazine carries an article entitled “Around the World in 50 songs” in which it allowed readers to pick the top 50 tunes.

Journalist Jim Farber, who wrote the article, said “One Love” was selected as top song for its powerful evocation of Jamaica’s hopes for peace.

“Bob Marley’s sumptuous melody and caring vocal stand as testaments to the island’s finest resources and aspirations,” he said.

“One Love”, which was designated the Song of the Millennium by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in 2000, has been used by the Jamaica Tourist Board

in its advertising campaign for many years.

“The popularity of an identity that reggae and Bob Marley generate made it easy to select ‘One Love’ as



Marley

Jamaica’s advertising theme. It brings instant recognition as consumers around the world connect. So it’s a perfect fit,” said Donny Dawson, Jamaica’s interim director of tourism.



Play mas with Miami Carnival

DAWN A. DAVIS

Come Oct. 8 Miami’s Bicentennial Park on Biscayne Boulevard will once again be the venue for the Miami Carnival 2006 Parade & Festival.

Celebrating its 22nd anniversary, the climactic event brings to a close a two-week long series of fetes and special events that showcases colorful mas bands, gyrating bodies, and the latest in soca.

Historically plagued with logistical problems and lack of a venue they could call “home”, organizers seem to have found some stability, at least for the time being, at their new location in Bicentennial Park. With adequate space for vendors, revelers, and enough “road” to showcase the bands as they enter the park, this year’s carnival should be smooth sailing.

ORGASMIC

Miami Carnival season actually kicked off in July with a free fete with music by Miami and Orlando DJs, steelband music, partying, and costume displays at Haulover Beach in Miami.

Revelers will get a pre-

view of the orgasmic parade that draws thousands with a Mini Carnival Costume Parade at Bayside Hut, Key Biscayne on Sept. 23. Billed as a “Warm-Up and Taste of Miami Carnival” mas bands and steel bands, the Miami Pan Symphony, the Tambo Bamboo Steel Orchestra, Miami DJs and a host of vendors with arts and crafts and Caribbean food will come together in this appetite whetting event.

To gear up for the ultimate party, here is a rundown of other fetes that will build up to the road march:

STEELBAND PANORAMA JAMBOREE & JOUVERT PARADE

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Hialeah Park, 2201 E. 4th Avenue, Hialeah

INTERNATIONAL CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, Oct. 7,
Bicentennial Park



Miami Carnival is time to get dressed up and jam.

JOUVERT & BREAKFAST

Saturday, Oct. 7

MIAMI CARNIVAL 2006 PARADE & FESTIVAL - CARICOM CONSULAR VILLAGE - MACHEL MONTANO & XTATIK

Sunday, Oct. 8

The parade starts at noon at N.E. 36th Street and N.E. Second Avenue. It proceeds south on N.E. Second Avenue, east on N.E. 19th Street, south on N.E. Fourth Avenue and into Bicentennial Park.

Festivities in the park continue until 11 p.m.

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



Culture’s lead singer dies while on Euro tour

Internationally acclaimed veteran artiste Joseph Hill, the lead singer of the reggae group “Culture”, died last month in Berlin, Germany while in the middle of a European tour.

Hill, who was born in the central parish of St. Catherine, Jamaica in 1949, began his career in music at the legendary Studio One. He founded the reggae group in 1976 and recorded songs written in response to the State of Emergency declared by the Jamaican government in that year.



Hill

Hill was the lead voice behind hits such as “Two Sevens Clash”, a reference to the numerological coincidence of July

7, 1977; “Natty Never Get Weary” and “Stop the Fussing and Fighting”.

Hill, who last performed at Reggae Sunsplash in Jamaica last month, had over 22 albums to his credit.



Bounty Killer arrested in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC- Internationally acclaimed dancehall artiste Rodney “Bounty Killer” Pryce was arrested by the police last month following a show in the eastern parish of St. Thomas.

Bounty Killer was taken into custody by the police after he reportedly used expletives and blasted police officers who had earlier taken action against some artistes on the “Saddle to the East” show who had also used expletives.

However, his arrest did not go down well with some resi-

dents from the community of Grants Pen in the parish who blocked the road to protest against his arrest.

Police granted bail to the singer. He appeared in court late last month to answer to charges of using abusive and indecent language and pleaded not guilty. He is slated to return to court on Oct. 4



Bounty Killer

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A NEW TREND IN SOCA MUZIK

Jamaica's economy grows by nearly 3%

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Jamaica's economy grew by nearly three percent during the period April to June this year, according to Director General of the



Hughes

Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Dr. Wesley Hughes.

He said the 2.8 percent growth was as a result of the strong recovery in agriculture and tourism.

The tourism sector grew by 19.5 percent, with tourists spending some J\$447 million (\$6.7 million) over the three-month period, while the agricultural sector recovered from a severe drought to record a 17 percent growth.

Hughes said the strong performance of the agriculture sector was due to more favorable weather conditions, which saw domestic crop production growing by 24.2 percent, while export crop production increased by 15.8 percent.

The mining sector also had a significant turnaround, with a 1.4 percent increase after two consecutive quarters of decline.

Hughes said the increased demand for alumina in China, which is experiencing a boom in its productive sectors, improved mining technologies, and a more stable industrial environment, resulted in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

A tax tip to ponder for beneficiaries, foreign estates in the United States

TODD N. ROSENBERG
& MICHAEL ROSENBERG

Because of various concerns such as privacy, confidentiality, avoidance of probate and protecting beneficiaries from the claims of potential creditors, many foreigners decide that leaving their foreign assets in an inter vivos revocable trust is an appropriate planning strategy when United States person beneficiaries are involved.

Many tax practitioners would agree with this overall conclusion, but one should always note that each situation should be considered separately and additional planning will most likely be necessary upon the passing of the grantor.

Upon the passing of the grantor, and if the trust remains foreign (for example, due to the fact that the trust continues to be governed by the laws of a foreign jurisdiction), said trust

will become an irrevocable foreign non-grantor trust, and in this situation, various U.S. income tax consequences will arise.

In the case of a foreign non-grantor trust, foreign source income and foreign source capital gains are generally not subject to U.S. income tax. Special



source rules apply to foreign persons so that even gain, for instance, from the sale of shares in a U.S. corporation, can constitute foreign source capital gain.

Capital gains are taxable to such a trust if said gains result from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest (USRPI) or if such gains are effectively

connected with a U.S. trade or business (ECI).

MODIFICATIONS

A U.S. person beneficiary of such a trust must include in his or her gross income the amount of the trust's income which is required to be distributed, or is otherwise properly paid or credited to the beneficiary during the taxable year, to the extent of the trust's distributable net income (DNI). Simply put, DNI is the foreign trust's taxable income with special modifications.

Thus, the maximum amount of the trust's current income that may be taxable to any U.S. person beneficiary will be the amount of the trust's DNI allocated to said beneficiary.

In the case of a foreign non-grantor trust, foreign source income and any net capital gains are included in DNI pursuant to rules that modify the starting taxable income base. If such income or net capital gain is distributed in the tax year earned (or within 65

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

GUYANA BATS FOR DIGICEL



Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo, left, receives a cricket bat signed by members of the Digicel-sponsored West Indies cricket team from Colm Delves, chief executive officer of Digicel Group last month. Delves was informed by the Guyana government that Digicel will receive a license to offer Guyana technology and mobile telecommunications services. The new license will also expand the company into South America.

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Caribbean Today

T&T using soccer hype to attract European investments

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Trinidad and Tobago is seeking to capitalize on the interest generated by the Soca



Yorke

Warriors' participation in the 2006 World Cup soccer finals in Germany to drive European investment in its non-energy sectors.

Trade and Industry Minister Ken Valley said the twin-island republic is sending a mission to

European capitals since investors there have been expressing a lot of interest about investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago in the aftermath of the tournament.

The minister said the mission will play a main part in the government's economic diversification thrust by focusing mainly on laying the groundwork for these European nations to invest in the country's non-energy sector.

The mission is to be made up of government officials as well as public and private sector representatives from organizations in the energy and non-energy sectors of the economy. Additionally Valley said efforts are being made to ascertain if former national football captain Dwight Yorke will be willing to be part of the mission. He said FIFA Vice-President Jack Warner will also be welcomed to join the mission if he chose to do so.

However, when contacted last month Warner said no one had invited him to be part of the mission.



Warner

Valley said the Sept. 4-22 tour include Ireland, Germany, Spain, France and England. The minister said other investment missions will be sent to the Far East and Latin America.

T&T keeps healthy rating from Standard & Poor's

NEW YORK, CMC - International rating agency, Standard & Poor's, has maintained healthy financial ratings for Trinidad and Tobago.

While warning that a significant increase in government's already "high level" of fiscal spending could lead to a reversal, the agency last month affirmed its 'A-' long-term foreign and 'A+' long-term local currency sovereign credit ratings for the oil-rich Caribbean country.

Additionally, the agency maintained the country's 'A-2' short-term foreign and 'A-1' short-term local currency sovereign credit rating.

Roberto Sifon Arevalo, the agency's credit analyst, said the ratings reflected continuing surpluses in the republic's fiscal and external accounts which stood at 30 percent of gross domestic product in 2005, and it is estimated to reach a high 33 percent of GDP in 2006.

"This performance along with Trinidad and Tobago's political and macroeconomic stability, high energy prices, and increased output-boost policy flexibility underpin strong economic growth prospects over the medium term," Arevalo said.

SLOW GO

The credit analyst said the

expansionary fiscal stance was accompanied with slow development and tax reductions in the more labor-intensive non-energy sector, increases the non-energy deficit (overall deficit minus energy revenue) to 16 percent of GDP in 2005 from eight percent of GDP in 2004.

"This performance highlights the country's heavy exposure to changes in energy prices, a risk that is compounded by large increases in government expenditure. However, general government and public sector debt continue to decline on both a gross and a net basis," he said.

Net general government debt was 2.8 percent of GDP in 2005, and the government is expected to reach a net creditor position of 1.0 percent of GDP in 2006, far better than the 'A' median's 30 percent net debtor position, he said.

Arevalo said the stable outlook balanced the expectation that external and fiscal trends would remain positive and that the growing Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF) would provide an increasingly important buffer for the open,

Jamaica's economy grows by 3%

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

a 7.7 percent increase in bauxite production in Jamaica.

STRUGGLE

Manufacturing and construction however, continued to struggle, as cement production had declined by more than 19 percent, causing a corresponding 3.5 percent drop in activity in the construction sector.

Hughes said that the posi-

tive macroeconomic performance should be seen within the context of low inflation rate of 2.8 percent, stability in the foreign currency exchange rate and increased revenue intake, which was J\$1 billion (\$15.1 million) more than projected.

"The fiscal deficit has performed better than projected at J\$2.5 billion (\$30.3 million) less than programmed and J\$4.5 billion (\$60.6

million) less than recorded in the corresponding period of 2005 and that is moving in the right direction," he explained.

He predicted that "the economy will remain positive for the future quarter" owing to "the continued growth in tourism and agriculture and a return to expansion in construction sector, should be the main domestic drivers."

A tax tip to ponder for beneficiaries, foreign estates

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

days thereafter), the "character" of such distributions (e.g., ordinary income, capital gain, etc.) will flow through to the U.S. person beneficiaries.

If such income or net capital gain is not distributed currently, thus potentially avoiding a current U.S. income tax at the trust's level, adverse consequences will arise when the trust later distributes to a U.S. person beneficiary any such accumulated amounts.

The so-called "accumulation throwback rules" are

beyond the scope of this article, but any U.S. person beneficiary of a foreign non-grantor trust that is accumulating or is thinking about accumulating income or net capital gains should seek immediate counsel.

On the other hand, if a U.S. person beneficiary receives a distribution from a foreign estate that generates foreign source income and net capital gains, there is a viable argument that the U.S. person beneficiary will be in a better position from a U.S. income tax point of view than if said beneficiary received the same distri-

tribution from a foreign non-grantor trust. In fact, the result may be the receipt of income or gains U.S. tax-free.

Consider the following situation: A foreign non-grantor trust holds the deceased grantor's foreign vacation house which has a basis of \$500,000. The trust holds the property for a few years when the trustee decides to sell the asset in order to produce liquidity so that a monetary distribution can be made to the U.S. person beneficiary.

Presume a \$1,000,000 gain on the sale of the property and the trustee makes a \$1,500,000

distribution to the U.S. person beneficiary. Although such gain is not considered taxable income to the trust for U.S. income tax purposes, the realized capital gain will be included in the trust's DNI and if distributed in the same year realized (or within 65 days thereafter), the U.S. person beneficiary will be subject to tax on the \$1,000,000 gain (which gain will maintain its character as capital gain).

LOSING GAINS

If the distribution is not made in the year the capital gain is realized, but is made in a subsequent year, the distribution will lose its capital gain treatment and will also be subject to the adverse accumulation throwback rules.

If instead, it was a foreign estate and not a foreign trust which sold the vacation house, a viable argument exists that the entire distribution to the U.S. person beneficiary could be U.S. income tax free. Foreign estates are generally subject to U.S. income tax in the same manner as nonresident alien individuals. Nonresident alien individuals are generally not subject to U.S. income taxation on foreign source income or capital gains (unless said gain is

ECI or from the disposition of a USRPI).

Unlike a foreign non-grantor trust, the computation of a foreign estate's DNI does not include foreign source income or realized capital gains. In this respect and in comparison to the example above, the \$1,000,000 gain should not be included in the foreign estate's DNI.

Therefore, the distribution should not be taxable to the U.S. person beneficiary as the maximum amount of the distribution that would be taxable to said U.S. person beneficiary would be the amount of the estate's DNI, which in this case would be zero.

If you or a loved-one are a U.S. person taxpayer and are the beneficiary of a foreign non-grantor trust or a foreign estate, U.S. tax counsel should be considered to guide you or your loved-one through the complex U.S. tax rules.

Michael Rosenberg is a shareholder and Todd Rosenberg is an associate with the Coral Gables law firm of Packman, Neuwahl & Rosenberg and can be reached at 305-665-3311.

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S P O R T

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Jamaican soccer player on comeback trail in U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

Just months after his most successful season as a professional soccer player, Jamaican international Fabian Dawkins was forced to the sidelines following a knee injury which threatened his promising career. Now he is on the road back.

Just days before Dawkins faced South Florida's Miami F.C. on Aug. 25 he was given the green light by doctors to play the entire game for his club the Atlanta Silverbacks, which competes with Miami F.C. and 10 other teams in America's United Soccer Leagues (USL). Prior to that game, doctor's orders restricted him to the bench and limited appearances as a substitute.

"I just got cleared from the doctor (Aug. 23) to play a full match," a happy Dawkins told *Caribbean Today* prior to his departure for Miami for a game at Tropical Park on Aug. 27 which featured other Caribbean players such as Jamaican Sean Fraser and Haiti's Stephan Guillaume, plus teammate Machel Millwood, who is also Jamaican.

BATTLE

Dawkins believes his full recovery could not have come soon enough. The Silverbacks are locked in a battle to secure a USL playoff berth. Consecutive losses to Miami late last month proved to be major setbacks for the Atlanta, Georgia-based club, which dropped from the sixth and final playoff spot to seventh following the second straight loss - a 7-1 thrashing - to Miami.

However, the forward/midfielder who last represented Jamaica versus the United States in a friendly international in April, is looking forward to recapturing the form that resulted in 15 goals and four assists in 26 games and a spot on the USL All-League First Team last season. He is also focused on playing at a higher level in the future. The USL is the second-tier professional competition in the U.S.

"Right now I'm coming off injury. My immediate plan is to get 100 percent fit," Dawkins explained. "From there, I'd love to move on to a higher standard somewhere in Europe. My main goal is to play (for Jamaica) in the 2010 World Cup."

Dawkins injured himself on May 16, 2006 while training with the Silverbacks. An MRI showed medial and lateral meniscus tear in his right knee. He had surgery to repair the damage on May 23. He

returned to the team in June and by late July described himself as being "70 to 75 percent" fit. However, through the end of last month he had still to make any starts for



Dawkins

the team.

"I'm still working in," Dawkins told *Caribbean Today* recently.

"It (knee) is feeling alright," he added. "No pain."

GOING HOME

After the USL season, which could end early this month for the Silverbacks if the club fails to make the playoffs, the former national youth player may return to Jamaica to turn out for his club Village United, where he enjoyed tremendous success last season. The all-round

competition of Jamaica's National Premier League is about the same as the USL, Dawkins said, with a few differences.

"Here (in the U.S.) coaches are more adamant to stick to the game plan," he said. "In Jamaica they tend to stray from the game plan more."

He also has his eyes on becoming a permanent member of Jamaica's Reggae Boyz senior national team, which recently rehired Carl Brown as technical director on an interim basis. Despite only recently recovering from the injury, Dawkins was named in Jamaica's squad to train for two friendly matches against Canada this month. He is hoping other chances will pop up, especially since he may be able to showcase his talents in Jamaica's NPL.

In the meantime, Dawkins is hoping that his performance for the Silverbacks will help other Caribbean players, particularly those from his native country, to secure professional contracts in the U.S.

"Based on what I've done here my coach is always interested in Jamaica," Dawkins said. "He's always asking if I know players I think will blend

in (with the Silverbacks)."

Dawkins has no problem with that, as long as the coach does not forget that his star striker is definitely on his way

back to full force.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



RECORD REPEAT



Jamaica's Asafa Powell acknowledges the crowd's applause after equaling his own world record in the 100 meters last month in Zurich, Switzerland. Powell ran 9.77 seconds in the event, the third time he has clocked that time. American Justin Gatlin has also run that time, but his records are under scrutiny after he tested positive for banned substances.

CARIBBEAN SAMBA CELEBRATION



Photograph from Miami F.C.

Former soccer superstar Romario, left, celebrates with Caribbean teammate Sean Fraser, center, and fellow Brazilian Diego Walsh after their club scored one of seven goals against the Atlanta Silverbacks in a United Soccer Leagues game in Miami, Florida late last month. Romario scored three times in the game, while Fraser, a Jamaican, scored twice and assisted on two of the Brazilian World Cup winner's goals.

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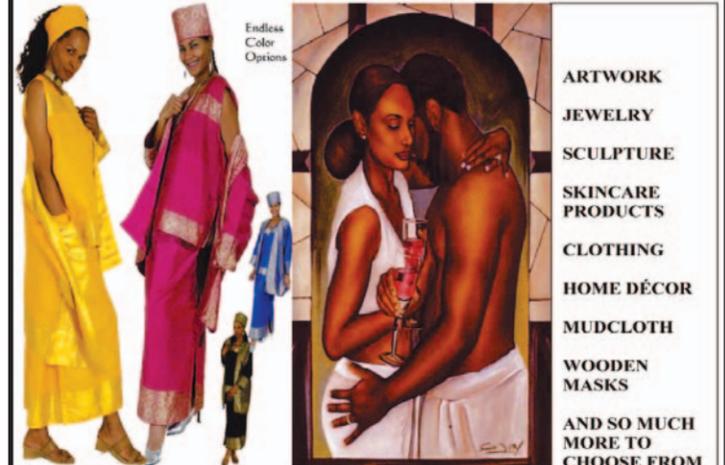
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Airport plans set to transform Canouan

KINGSTON, St. Vincent CMC - The St. Vincent and the Grenadines government has signed a contract to begin further development of an airstrip on the Grenadine island of Canouan.

A \$15 million loan from Scotiabank and Merchant Bank of Trinidad and Tobago was awarded to Canouan Construction Associates, CCA Ltd. to redevelop the airport and its facilities.

The facelift would see an additional 2,300 feet added to the 7,000 meters airstrip along with improvements to the airport's terminal building and fire fighting facilities.

TRANSFORMATION

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said the expansion would transform the airport into the country's first jetport



Canouan offers an impressive 18-hole golf course.

and would result in the continued growth of passenger arrivals to the country. The prime minister noted that the requirement to expand the airport arose due to the restructuring policy of U.S.-based carrier American Eagle, which operates a shuttle service to the island.

He said with the airline increasing its fleet to accommodate larger volumes of passengers from Miami to the Grenadine Island, the extension would enable the carrier to use larger aircrafts on its Canouan route.

According to Gonsalves, the new runway at Canouan would create opportunities for other commercial aircrafts to exploit the Grenadines market.

"There are lots of Vincentians who would use the Canouan airport rather than to go through Barbados and St. Lucia to connect to their international carriers," Gonsalves said.

Nestled between Mustique and the Tobago Keys, Canouan has become one of the economic boons of the Grenadines attracting the attention of foreign investors to its shores.

The island is home to the now world renowned Raffles resort and the popular Trump international Jim Fazio-designed 18-hole golf course.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a multi-island state, has five functional airports, and plans are in the pipeline to construct an international airport by 2011.



Gonsalves

Couples to expand resorts in Jamaica

Couples Resorts has announced plans for expansion with the addition of a fifth resort to its brand.

The new resort will be situated near the multi-billion dollar Harmony Cove luxury tourism project in the parish of Trelawny, Jamaica. The 370-room resort is estimated to be a \$57 million investment and will be built on 38-acres of land owned by Lee Issa, Couples Resorts' chairman.

The construction is estimated to be completed in 2008.

"Couples has been in expansion mode for the past few years," Glenn Lawrence, Couples chief executive officer, said in a press release issued late last month.

"We have created a highly successful resort model, which has allowed us to grow exponentially. We started with a single resort, Couples Ocho Rios, over 28 years ago and now offer 900 rooms spread amongst four resorts..."

Couples Resorts, headquartered in Montego Bay, Jamaica, currently owns and operates four properties in Jamaica.

Cheaper getaways to Jamaica this fall

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) has made a listing of resorts in the Caribbean island which are offering vacation packages as the summer draws to a close. Among them are the following:

- **Half Moon's** "Homecoming Package" for parents who want to spend quality time with their children before the school year gets on its way. Runs through Oct. 31. Check www.halfmoon.com
- **Coyaba Beach Club** is offering the fifth night free on any booking until Nov. 16. Visit www.coyabajamaica.com
- **Jamaica Inn** is offering a "Pay for Four Nights Stay for Five" special until Dec. 14, with blackout dates from Nov. 21-29. Check www.jamaicainn.com
- **Sandals Resorts** is offering discounts of up to 50 percent off published rack rates at www.sandals.com
- **Sunset Beach Resort & Spa** - During September, October and November, all children ages 12 and under stay free. Visit www.sunsetbeachjamaica.com/
There are many more equally attractive packages. Visit the JTB's website at www.visitjamaica.com

The Building Code Compliance Office ensures uniform code compliance County-wide

Miami-Dade County's Building Code Compliance Office (BCCO), created by the County Commission in 1991, is a regulatory department that provides oversight on building code issues throughout Miami-Dade County, administers the issuance of local contractor/tradesman licenses and approves construction products that are used to build structures in the County.

BCCO's mission of uniform code compliance throughout Miami-Dade County is achieved through its work in three department sections: Code Compliance, Contractor Licensing/Enforcement and Product Control.

Code Compliance:

- BCCO Code Compliance Specialists author revisions and amendments to the statewide Florida Building Code.
- BCCO Code Compliance Specialists ensure uniform application of building code County-wide and provide technical assistance to municipal building officials by completing routine field visits
- BCCO Code Compliance Specialists disseminate new code provisions by conducting monthly building officials meetings and industry trade organizations and teaching continuing education courses for code certified personnel

Contractor

Licensing/Enforcement:

- BCCO Code Compliance Investigators conduct monthly Contractor Commercial Vehicle Checkpoints and construction site sweeps in a proactive effort to curtail the number of unlicensed contractors as well as conduct Reverse Contractor Stings to curtail unlicensed contractors
- BCCO Code Compliance Investigators investigate unlicensed contractor complaints.

Investigators work closely with Miami-Dade Police and the State Attorney's Office in the attempt to gain financial restitution for the homeowners, as well as provide information that could lead to the unlicensed contractor's arrest.

- BCCO Contractor Licensing process contractor exam applications and issue licenses and certificates of competency for building and trade categories

Product Control:

- The Product Control Section oversees the Product Approval process for building envelope materials to ensure that they meet the County's rigorous standards
- The Product Control Section monitors the products submitted to state to obtain the optional state product approvals
- The Product Control Section researches new methods of standards to enhance the performance requirements in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone.
- The Product Control Section oversees a Quality Assurance program to ensure that products approved with a Notice of Acceptance are maintaining the standards of production.

For more information on BCCO, visit the department's website at www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode or call 3-1-1.



TALLER TASTE



The "Red Stripe Ambassador", right, presents a bottle of the new, bigger version of the famous Red Stripe Beer to Jamaica's Ambassador to Washington Gordon Shirley, on Jamaican Independence Day last month in Washington, D.C. Red Stripe is well known worldwide and travelers often visit Jamaica, where the beer is brewed, to sample the taste. It has become a popular brew with tourists. The new size is 24 ounces, but the familiar "stubby" shape of the bottle remains the same as the 12-ounce version.

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REGION

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T&T minister defends decision to hire police officers from U.K.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Trinidad and Tobago Minister of National Security Martin Joseph has defended government's decision to recruit United Kingdom cops to fight crime in the country.

His latest defense came after the Chamber of Commerce issued a statement saying government should have followed Guyana's example to use the crime fighting skills of former New York Police Commissioner Bernard Kareck.

However, in a letter to Chamber President Ian Welsh, Joseph pointed out that Kareck is currently under two federal investigations for financial impropriety. He further stated

that his ministry has not been secretive about its crime fighting tactics and reminded Welsh that it was just recently that his ministry met with the chamber to discuss how it is fighting crime.

UNDER PRESSURE

Joseph has recently come under attack for recruiting 27 Scotland Yard officers to help fight crime in the country. Each officer is being paid a million Trinidad and Tobago dollars (TT \$1 = U.S. 16 cents) a year, a figure which in some instances is eight times higher than what senior local cops are being paid a year. That is the equivalent of the

U.K. salaries of the officers who have been on the job in the Caribbean since April.

Cabinet granted approval for the Scotland Yard detectives to be appointed to the anti-crime unit because of the unprecedented upsurge in crime in the country, Joseph said. Joseph also said the ministry is open to more discussions with the chamber pertaining to how to keep the country and citizens safe.



Joseph

Barbados's public workers give thumbs up to govt's inflation offer

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Barbadian public servants have voted to accept a \$20 million payout from government to offset the increased cost of living over the last year.

However, Walter Maloney, president of the National Union of Public Workers, said they do not want the money as a one-off payment as had been proposed by government, but instead want it to be treated as a retroactive pay increase for the last year of a three-year agreement which ended in May.

"We are saying that the two percent should be added to the basic pay of public servants and that it be retroac-

tive. So we have not dismissed the \$20 million that the government is offering, but we have said that \$20 million must not be a one-off payment," Maloney said.

The *Daily Nation* newspaper quoted Maloney as saying that once the money was added to salaries as a retroactive payment it would be reflected in the pensions and gratuities of the public officers. Government put the offer on the table since there was an agreement with trade unions that public workers would be given additional funds once the inflation rate climbed over five percent dur-

ing the final year of a three-year wages agreement.

According to Central Bank Governor Dr. Marion Williams the inflation rate reached seven percent up to the end of June this year.

"We applaud the government for accepting that there was a move in the inflationary rate and so the offer of \$20 million," Maloney said.

The umbrella trade union body, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations, previously said it was not in agreement with the one-off payment.

Sir George Alleyne receives Suriname's highest national award

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC - Sir George Alleyne, former director of the Pan-American Health Organization, has been decorated with Suriname's highest national award.

In a brief ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Paramaribo last month, the distinction as "Bearer of the Grand Sash in the Honorary Order of the Palm" was conferred to Sir George by President Ronald Venetiaan.

In his remarks the head



Alleyne

of state noted the illustrious career and regional and worldwide achievements of

the former PAHO director, who is currently chairman of the Caribbean Commission on Health Development and United Nations special advisor on HIV/AIDS.

DEDICATION

Venetiaan said the Barbadian national has dedicated a great part of his career to medicine and health care and uplifting the standard of public health for the benefit of his people and the overall process of Caribbean development.

He said one of Sir George's major philosophies - "the wealth of the Caribbean is the health of the Caribbean" - became the cornerstone of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) policy on health and development.

The president said as director of PAHO, Sir Alleyne has dedicated a great part of his life to the health of the Caribbean people and was a tireless advocate of economic growth and development of the Pan-American population.

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South Dade Government Center
10710 SW 211 St. 1st Floor
(M-F 8 AM to 4:30 PM)

Douglas
3071 SW 38 Ave. 1st Floor
(M-F 8 AM to 5 PM)



Or visit us online at www.miamidade.gov/wasd/ or call 786-552-8955 for more information on how the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department can help save YOU water and money!

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Robertson in charge of PNP campaign for upcoming polls

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The governing People's National (PNP) eased into election mode last month when it announced the appointment of political talisman Dr. Paul Robertson as the party's campaign director for polls widely expected within months.



Robertson

Robertson, one of the party's most seasoned strategists, assumed the post he has held in previous campaigns, including the 2002 elections which saw the party getting a fourth consecutive term in power.

He developed a reputation as a brilliant campaigner in 1986 when as general secretary of the party, he helped to lead the PNP to the local government elections then the general elections in 1989.

Colin Campbell, PNP general secretary, confirmed Robertson's appointment and

told local media that a formal announcement about the campaign hierarchy would be made in due course.

Robertson, Member of Parliament for South East St. Catherine, has already announced his intention to quit representational politics. He was campaign manager for Dr. Peter Phillips, who lost against Portia Simpson Miller in internal elections to choose a new party leader earlier this year. Simpson Miller is Jamaica's prime minister.

Executive member severs ties with Dominica's ruling party

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC - An executive member of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has severed links with ruling party and is discussing his political future with a recently formed political party.

Kenrick Ambo, who held the position of assistant secretary with the DLP, said he is leaving the party because of his disappointment with the treatment he received since unsuccessfully contesting the May 2005 general elections on the party's ticket. In that elec-

tion he was beaten in the Salisbury constituency by United Workers Party Leader Earl Williams.

"I am severing ties with the Dominica Labour Party and resigning as the assistant general secretary of the party," Ambo announced on state radio late last month.

Ambo says his decision is based on two fundamental reasons: "One, the party's lack of respect for the people of Salisbury, Morne Rchette and Coulibistrie. Two, for the

party's lack of respect and appreciation for the level of sacrifice that I have made and my family have made on behalf of the party."

Ambo, a police officer who resigned his job to enter politics, says he is not satisfied with the management of the state, and several attempts to reach the prime minister to discuss matters pertaining to his constituency have been rejected.

Former Dominica parliamentarian dies

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC - Pat Stevens, a former legislator and member of the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), died last month after a prolonged battle with cancer of the bladder, relatives said. He was 71 years old.

Stevens, who once represented the Marigot constituency, north of here, died at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

He began his political

career at the age of 26 where he unsuccessfully contested the Eastern District constituency in the 1961 general elections on a ticket of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP). But he entered Parliament in 1973 when he contested a by-election following the decision of his father, W.S Stevens, to retire from active politics.

In the 1975 general elections, Stevens contested the

Marigot constituency as an independent candidate and won and later joined the DFP in 1978. He represented the constituency until his retirement from active politics in 1990.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, in his condolence message, described Stevens as a "great son of the soil."

Guyana polls could be turning point in country's history ~ Carter Center

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The Carter Center, which observed the Aug. 28 elections in Guyana, says the peaceful polls could be a turning point in the country's history.

"The character and resilience of the Guyanese people has been borne out by these elections (and) if the current spirit is maintained, and Guyana's political leaders make wise and far-sighted choices, acknowledge deeply-held concerns, this could be a turning point in Guyana's history," head of the Carter

Center team, Sir John Compton, said last month.

Sir John, a former St. Lucia prime minister, said the orderliness of the elections speaks of "the maturing of Guyana's political culture and the deep yearning for peace and progress which is shared by all Guyanese."

PRAISE

He praised the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), political parties which contested the polls and the wider Guyanese public for

"the most peaceful and orderly electoral process in recent history." He said notwithstanding the political maturity displayed,

"the frustration and fear that exists across society must be acknowledged and mitigated through actions of political leaders over the coming days and beyond."



Compton

Christie puts party on election alert in Bermuda

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC - Prime Minister Perry Christie, who turned 63 last month, has called on his colleagues in the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) to prepare for the next general elections.

The PLP won 29 of the 40 seats in Parliament in the 2002 elections to take power from the Freedom National Movement.

Christie told supporters that the PLP is the party of choice and he is looking forward to winning a second term in the next poll, due 2007.

"One by one, step by step, community by community, island by island. And we will be relentless in our efforts

to guarantee that the people of this country are fully aware of the integrity of our purpose.

"Our focus is to ensure that this country continues to be a stable democracy, continues to move forward and upward, and that we do so and not

allow people who are out to stop us to distract us from the work we have to do," Christie said.



Jagdeo promises Cabinet shake-up

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - Re-elected President Bharrat Jagdeo has said there would be changes to his new Cabinet following the Aug. 28 regional and general elections.

When asked whether there would be any change in the composition of his new Cabinet Jagdeo replied: "There will be changes to my Cabinet."

Speaking at a news conference here before the results of the elections were officially

announced, Jagdeo said that he was "very very confident about the parliamentary majority" his ruling People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) would enjoy in the new National Assembly.

Prior to the elections Jagdeo said that his party was seeking a 51 percent majority in the 65-seat legislature, adding that any thing above that figure would be "a bonus".



P.M. hails national unity at T&T's Independence

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - As Trinidadians celebrated the country's 44th anniversary of political Independence late last month, Prime Minister Patrick Manning commended nationals for their spirit of national unity.

In his Independence message Manning said citizens have transformed "our highly-multi-ethnic nation into one society, breaking down the barriers of race, class, gender and other prejudices inimical to our collective peace and progress. He, however, lamented that the country has "not been able to escape the difficulties of organised crime."

According to Manning, 44 years ago - Aug. 31 - Trinidad and Tobago took the "important and necessary decision" to part with colonialism and Independence provided the opportunity for greater control over the country's affairs.

"Since the achievement of our Independence, our nation has made remarkable progress in our human development, the living standards of our citizens, our economy, and our relations with the nations and peoples of

the world," he said, adding that these outcomes are not inadvertent.

Manning said the twin-island republic continues to pursue national development on the foundations of an open and liberal democracy, the supremacy of the constitution, the rule of law, and equality of justice.

ONE SOCIETY

"Through the nurturing of goodwill, understanding and genuine appreciation of all among our citizens, we have transformed our highly-multi-ethnic nation into one society, breaking down the barriers of race, class, gender and other prejudices inimical to our collective peace and progress."

He added that out of the difficult economic circumstances of the past, Trinidad and Tobago has evolved into a strong, stable, progressive and promising economy.



Manning

F Y I

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JAMAICAN JERK FEST

The tasty spice and flavor of cooking done with Jamaican jerk seasoning will again be available this month at the Markham Park in Sunrise, Florida.



A plate of tasty Jamaican jerk chicken.

The fifth annual "Jamaican Jerk Festival" will be held on **Sept. 24**, featuring cooking and domino contests, live entertainment, a new art of food and wine pairing competition, plus a fun zone for children.

Activities begin at **9 a.m.** For more information, call **305-891-1242**; or visit info@jerkfestival.com.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Florida will hold a "Parents Night Out" event on **Oct. 13**.

"Parents Night Out" is a chance for parents to have an evening out on the town alone while their children ages four to 12 create art, participate in creative movement activities, play games, eat pizza and watch movies at the center, 1650 Harrison Street.

During this event, parents will drop their children off at **6 p.m.** and pick them up at **10 p.m.**

The theme is "What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?" Kids should dress up as someone in their chosen profession. Each event costs \$15 per child for center members or \$20 per child for non-members.

For more information and reservations, call **954-921-3274**.

PASSPORTS

The National Passport Information Center (NPIC), the United States Department of State's single, centralized public contact center for U.S. passport information, is offering a toll free service and has expanded its service availability/options.

Persons with questions or need status checks on pending

passport applications can call **1-877-487-2778**. Customer service representatives are available from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday**, excluding Federal holidays. Automated information is

available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For e-mail access, visit: npic@state.gov Website of passport and other international travel information is available at travel.state.gov

'GREEN CARD' FILING

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that aliens must mail applications to renew or replace permanent resident cards, commonly known as "Green Cards", directly to the Los Angeles Lockbox.

The Lockbox is a processing facility used by USCIS to accelerate the collection of applications and petitions. The announced change allows the agency to improve the processing of Form I-90 (Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card) by electronically capturing data and images and by performing fee receipting and depositing from one central location, rather than at the local district office, service center, or application support center (ASC).

Aliens filing a Form I-90, regardless of their state of residence, must mail those applications with an application fee of \$185 and a biometrics fee of \$70 to one of the

following addresses:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) deliveries:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, P.O. Box 54870 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0870;

Or for non-USPS deliveries (e.g. private couriers):

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Attention: I-90, 16420 Valley View Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638

Applicants should not include initial evidence and supporting documentation when submitting the Form I-90 to the Los Angeles Lockbox.

Applicants will receive a notice for a biometrics processing appointment at an ASC and will submit their initial evidence during that appointment.

Applicants will receive their biometrics appointment in the mail.

CRISIS HOTLINE

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 **954-537-0211** from a cellular.

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

NEW JTB DIRECTOR

A Jamaican national, who held a senior position in The Bahamas tourist industry, has been appointed as new head of the Jamaican Tourist Board (JTB).

Basil Smith, a veteran in the tourist industry, has been selected to replace Paul

Pennicook as the director of the organization.

Smith, who was a deputy director of the JTB from 1995-1997, currently works in The Bahamas as the senior director of communications in The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. He has also served as the executive vice president of The Bahamas Hotel Association.

In a press release issued last month, the JTB said Smith will aid in the expansion of its global reach and develop strong partnerships with the private sector.

Earlier this year Pennicook opted not to renew his three year contract with the JTB and on June 1 he joined the national airline Air Jamaica as senior vice-president of sales and marketing.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CARIBBEAN NATIONALS

The Caribbean Hotel Foundation (CHF) has awarded a record

number of scholarships to Caribbean nationals to pursue studies in tourism related fields.



Sanguinetti

It said that the scholarships to 39 Caribbean nationals reaffirm the program as the "largest scholarship program in the Caribbean hospitality industry and one of the top programs in the industry worldwide".

"The scholarships granted are a testimony of tomorrow's trends and practices in our industry. From summer schools in profitability and food service management to

certifications in eco-tourism, almost all of the applicants' educational interests are somehow related to the sustainable development of the tourism product and the preservation of Caribbean's identity, especially through cuisine," said Gill Titcombe, coordinator of the CHF.

Alec Sanguinetti, director general and chief executive officer of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), praised the regional private sector including the Florida-based Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) and other cruise liners for their contribution towards the program.

"Thanks to contributions of our industry partners and the hard work of our coordinator, the Caribbean Hotel Foundation has become the biggest and most versatile scholarship program in the tourism and hospitality industry, with awards to promising students and industry professionals at all levels," Sanguinetti said.

LOW COST TO FLY TO BERMUDA

Low-cost Canadian airline, WestJet, plans to start flights to Bermuda as well as several Caribbean destinations, the **Royal Gazette** newspaper has reported.

WestJet, which already flies to numerous locations within Canada and the United States, has received approval from the Canadian government to provide services to 10 regional locations including Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and The Bahamas.



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