

Caribbean Today

NOVEMBER 2006

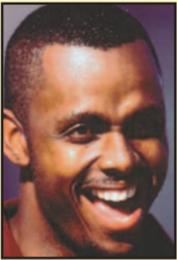
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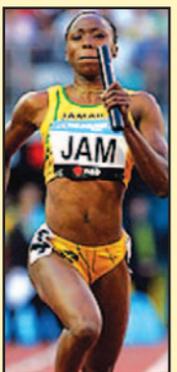
Former West Indies bowling great Courtney Walsh believes the standard of the region's cricket has

dropped in recent years, but could rebound to the glory days in time for next year's Cricket World Cup, page 7.



As we devour Caribbean foods with relish, let's honor those who prepare them so well.

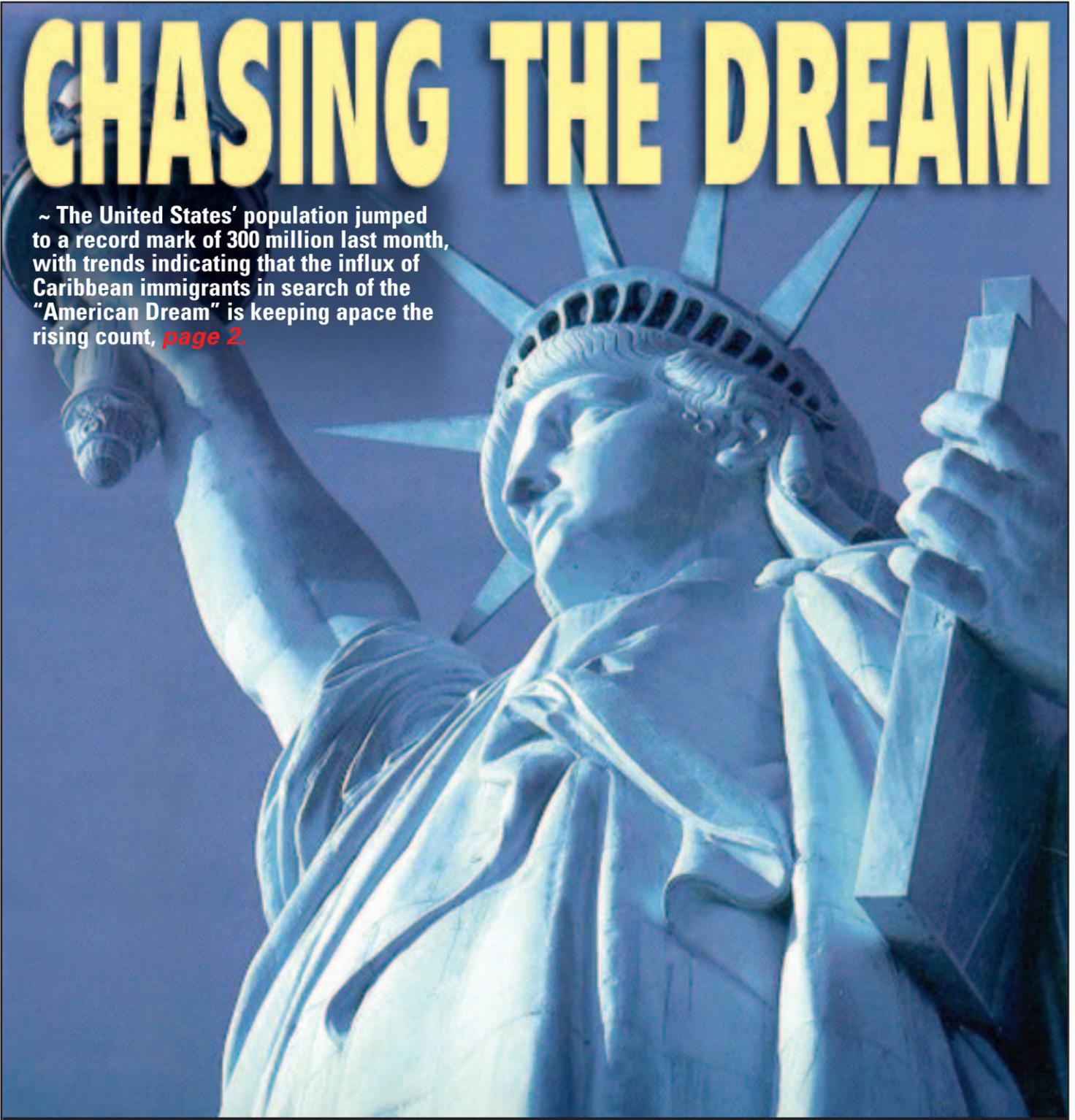
Top-of-the-class chefs from the region, known for their dedication, innovation and expansive use of the local bounty, are in our spotlight this month, page 13.



Jamaican sprinters Asafa Powell, right, and Sherone Simpson have been selected the best Central American and Caribbean Athletes of the Year, after both had superb seasons in 2006, page 23.

CHASING THE DREAM

~ The United States' population jumped to a record mark of 300 million last month, with trends indicating that the influx of Caribbean immigrants in search of the "American Dream" is keeping pace the rising count, [page 2](#).



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Stand and be counted: Caribbean immigrants still pouring into the U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

The United States' population jumped to a record mark of 300 million last month, with trends indicating that the influx of Caribbean immigrants in search of the "American Dream" is keeping pace the increasing count.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the new mark was reached on Oct. 17, based on the average population gain of roughly 2.8 million a year.

With over a third of the estimated one percent annual growth rate coming from immigration, the Caribbean has likely figured prominently among the statistics again. In the last official U.S. census in 2000, the number of foreign-born residents in the U.S. was

estimated at 28.4 million, some 10.4 percent of the total population. Just over half that figure – 14.5 million – came from Latin America and 9.8 million from Central America, including Mexico. Immigrants



Clare

from the Caribbean registered 2.8 million and the trend is not likely to subside soon. "The (reasons are the) same as as always, economics," said Irwine Clare, managing director of the New York-based Caribbean Immigrant Services Inc., "especially when countries like Jamaica and others in the Caribbean cannot provide economic opportunities for its population. They will seek

opportunities elsewhere."

The official census, which is done every 10 years, showed the foreign-born population was scattered primarily over six states: New York, Florida, California, Texas, New Jersey and Illinois.

The growth in the U.S. population through immigration from the Caribbean has been steady for close to three decades. For example, only 0.7 million immigrants from the region were registered in the U.S. in 1970.

MOVING ON

However, the census indicates that not all of the foreign-born population – including those from the Caribbean – may be staying in the U.S. for long periods. The statistics show that although more

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

U.S. strengthens Caribbean ties, appoints diplomat to CARICOM

Bilateral relations between the United States and the Caribbean will be strengthened with the appointment of an envoy to the Caribbean community (CARICOM), a U.S. spokesman said late last month.

Ambassador to Guyana David Robinson, who has



Robinson

been accredited as the first U.S. plenipotentiary representative to CARICOM, said the appointment signaled Washington's desire to maintain good relations with the group of 15 nations in the regional grouping.

"As recent and continuing meetings between CARICOM, its member states and high lev-

els of my government, including the secretary of state, the U.S. trade representative and most recently Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff demonstrate, we recognize the importance of cooperation and friendship in the region," Robinson said.

Robinson presented his credentials to CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington during a brief ceremony at CARICOM's Georgetown-based secretariat. The American diplomat said both parties were aware "of the opportunities and challenges that shape the region's hemispheric relationship, from



Carrington

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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Antigua's Sir Viv is 'National Hero'; U.S. mogul knighted

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC - Antigua and Barbuda has conferred one of its highest awards on former West Indies cricket captain Sir Vivian Richards, proclaiming him as a "National Hero" as the island celebrated its 25th anniversary of political Independence from Britain on Nov. 1.

Sir Vivian, who never lost a series at the helm of the West Indies cricket team, is the second person after



Stanford

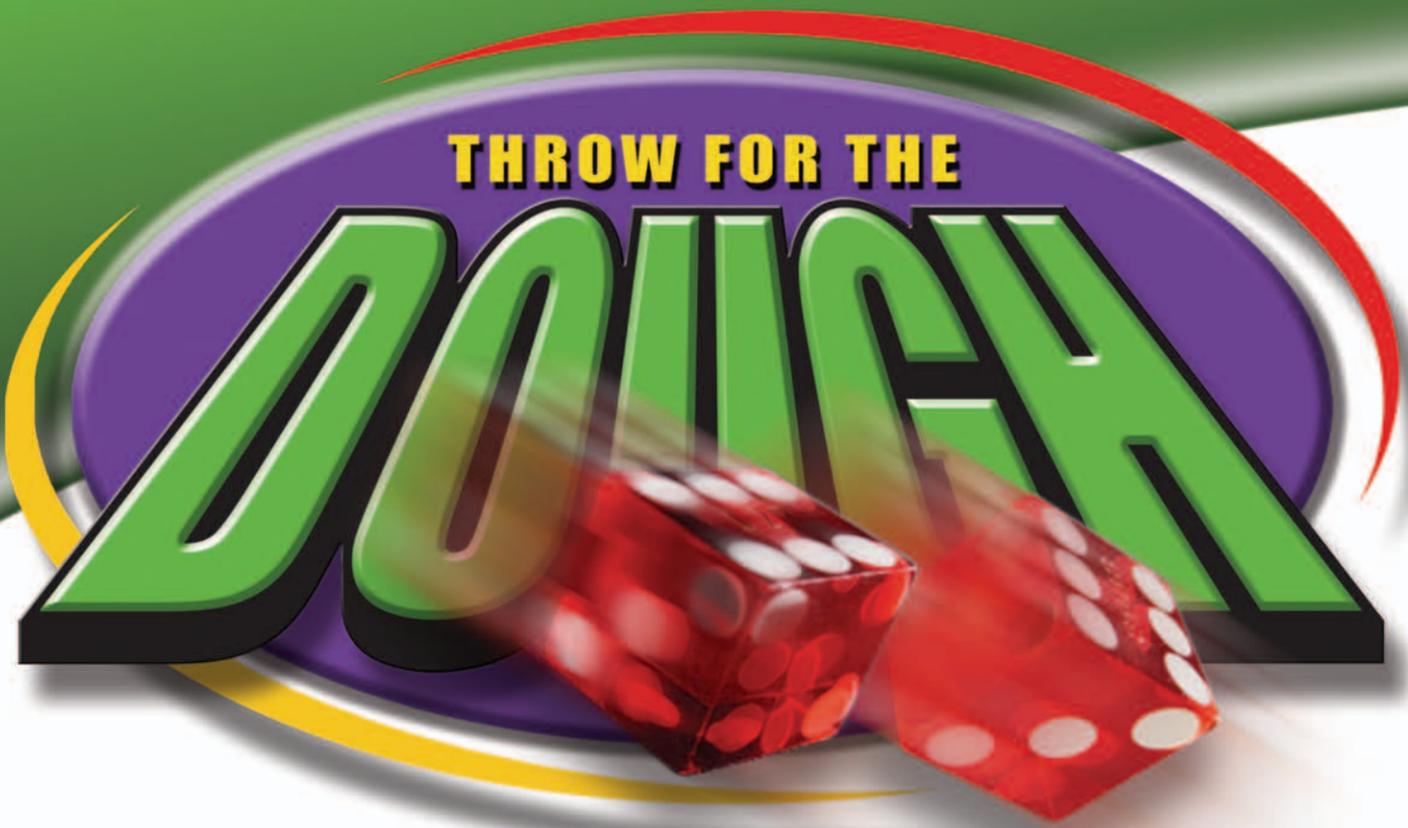
the late Vere Cornwall Bird, the island's first prime minister, to receive the award. Sir Vivian was honored for his contribution to the development of sports.

United States businessman Allen Stanford was conferred with a knighthood.

The knighthood for Stanford, who has Antigua and Barbuda citizenship, had been mired in controversy with Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer describing the nomination by the Opposition Antigua Labour Party (ALP) as "most unfortunate."

Stanford is the island's single largest investor with a number of companies including Caribbean Star and Caribbean Sun airlines. He was honored for his contribution to the development of the island.





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CARICOM partners U.S. in security for CWC 2007

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning says security restrictions in the world have changed since the Caribbean decided to host the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 (CWC).

"When we agreed to host CWC in 2007, there was no 9/11," said Manning, the head for the Caribbean community's (CARICOM) regional security. "There was no issue involving terrorism in the U.K. and the effects on air travel."

He said because of those developments, CARICOM decided to seek assistance from other countries, includ-

ing the United States, to ensure that CWC would have proper security arrangements.

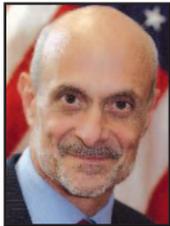
Manning was speaking last month on the memorandum of intent (MOI) that was signed by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and CARICOM heads.

It was also disclosed that the U.S. government will be entitled to receive information about people traveling to and from the Caribbean and even within the region under an agreement

signed between CARICOM and the U.S. It provides for the sharing of airline passenger data.



Manning



Chertoff

Stand and be counted: Caribbean immigrants still pouring into the U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

immigrants are coming to the U.S., they are spending far less time in the country. That could mean that although more Caribbean immigrants sense better opportunities are available in the U.S., once they have achieved a certain level of accomplishment they are willing to return to the region.

"You find that people came here at a younger age," Clare explained. "Many who came in the 1970s, came in their 20s and 30s. So once they reach a point where they have sent their children to college, retired from their jobs, they realize that the opportunity to live in the Caribbean is better than it is to live in the States...especially if they are

U.S. citizens."

According to the 2000 census, "the proportion of the foreign-born population residing in the United States for 20 years or more dropped from 50.4 percent in 1970 to 32.2 percent in 2000.

"The proportions residing in the United States less than five years, five to nine years, 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, were all higher in 2000 than in 1970", it added.

WIN-WIN

However, the census appears to indicate that the large influx of immigrants from the Caribbean in the 1960s and 1970s had a specific historical pattern, and the length of time those immigrants resided in the U.S. may have been directly related to

"Generally, we look at the security situation as it relates to drugs in particular, taking into consideration that we are located between the producing countries of the south and the consuming countries of the north," Manning said.

IMPORTANT

Chertoff said the aim is to keep out terrorists and serious transnational criminals from the Caribbean, a region that he says is important to the U.S.

"I think the Caribbean is very important...we are part of this community because of the coastline that borders on the Gulf and the Caribbean," he said.

According to Chertoff, "we have a vibrant travel industry that moves people back and forth... We have a lot

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

the mass migration of Cubans during that period following the communist takeover of the island. But other countries from the region are not being left out. They can see benefits that go both ways.

"The good thing with the whole migration pattern is that it provides for economic infusion with the whole remittance business," said Clare. "The brain drain in today's real world is a positive for the region. The people who come here are taking care of their families in the U.S. and at home in the region. The migration pattern now is a win-win situation."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



U.S. strengthens Caribbean ties, appoints diplomat to CARICOM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

economic promise of trade and tourism; to the cultural and family ties that come with migration; and to the difficult work of confronting organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism."

NO CONFLICT

Robinson said his appointment as ambassador to CARICOM would not be in conflict with other U.S. ambassadors throughout the Caribbean.

"I am accredited bilaterally only to Guyana, but I am the United States representative to the secretariat, to CARICOM itself. So I will be working closely with the secretary general and his staff, but will certainly not be trying

to dictate terms to my colleagues in other Caribbean countries," Robinson added.

Carrington noted that over the years CARICOM and the U.S. have enjoyed a friendly and fruitful relationship, which has been underpinned by many factors, including the shared common democratic values and traditions.

"This year has been especially active for relations between CARICOM and the United States," Carrington said, adding that CARICOM foreign ministers were pleased to have met with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in The Bahamas in March.

"You will also recall that in April of this year, CARICOM



Rice

trade ministers met with the then United States representative, Mr. Rob Portman, to build on CARICOM-U.S. trade

relations. More recently, in September in New York, our foreign ministers held further discussions with the secretary of state, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly," Carrington added.

He said meaningful dialogue is taking place between the U.S. and Caribbean countries on issues beyond trade and economic issues.



HONORING SISTERHOOD



- Photograph by Derrick A. Scott

Mayor Shirley Franklin, right, presents the Phoenix Award, the United States City of Atlanta's highest honor, to Metty Scarlett-Jones, chairman of the Montego Bay branch of the Atlanta Montego Bay Sister Committee. The award is in recognition of the committee's outstanding contribution in supporting the Atlanta Montego Bay Sister City Health Mission to Jamaica's second city for the past 13 years. The presentation took place during a function last month at Atlanta City Hall.

Douglas gets 'Global Award'

Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, has been selected to receive the "Global Award" at the 15th Annual Trumpet Awards.

The ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 22 at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada and air on TV One network television stations across the

athlete Michael Jordan; and actor/director Clint Eastwood.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Most recently, Douglas has successfully spearheaded the St. Kitts and Nevis sustainable development plan for the transition from an economy driven by the agribusiness of sugarcane production – its primary industry for more than 300 years – to a service-oriented market economy driven by the hospitality and tourism industries. Under his direction, the twin island nation is gaining worldwide recognition by joining the ranks of host nations for the ICC (International Cricket Council) Cricket World Cup 2007, hosting of the 2005 F-CCA (Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association) Conference and Trade Show, and also the increasing popularity of the annual St. Kitts Music Festival.

Douglas has additionally taken a leadership role in the fight against HIV/AIDS on an international scale, and has been recognized for these humanitarian efforts by U.S. President George W. Bush, former President Bill Clinton, and Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg.

Douglas was sworn in as the second prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis following his party's election victory in 1995. He was re-elected in 2000 and again in 2004.



Douglas

United States.

Douglas was selected to receive the 2007 Trumpet Awards' Global Award due to his outstanding achievements as an individual and his accomplishments contributing toward the betterment of global society. He is only the third individual from the Caribbean to receive the award in the 15-year history of the honor. Also among those to be honored are entertainers Toni Braxton, CeCe Wynans and Dionne Warwick;

Seaga unearths region's folk identity at N.Y. lecture

Former Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga last month appeared at his first public engagement in New York in many years as special guest speaker at the third annual CIN TV Lecture Series held at the Schomburg Center for Research In Black Culture in Harlem.

Seaga discussed "The Folk Roots of Jamaican Cultural Identity", touting the arts as the most widely recognized area of folk talent in the Caribbean island.

"Jamaica's contemporary music is a product of the raw talent that enables untrained, unlettered composers to produce an impressive range of rhythms, lyrics and melodies that have excellence and international recognition," he said.

Hip hop music, which is dominant in North America, owes its origin to impromptu interjections of rhythmic

rhymes in pop songs popular in Jamaica, he added.

Seaga also focused attention on the strategic role that mothers play in the matriarchal Jamaican culture and said many women are symbols of achievement in Jamaican folk culture and are the backbone of political support, determined players in civic organizations, achievers in scholarship and a great reliance at any work place. The former prime minister also explained that the pre-occupation with skin shades is a legacy of slavery and colonialism.

"The phenomenon of lightening skin color by 'marrying up' or bleaching, terms like 'pretty' hair, stem from a system of slavery and colonialism that saw everything associated with the master and therefore, everything European as better," he said.



Jamaica's P.M. lauds aluminum company during visit to the U.S.

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller has commended Alcoa Aluminum Company for its commitment in investing in Jamaica.

"Jamaica is indeed proud to have the world's premier aluminum company as a partner and investor," Simpson Miller said while delivering the keynote address at the Alcoa Women's Network Second Global Leadership Conference for Alcoa's senior management women last month in Virginia.

Simpson Miller said Alcoa's commitment to Jamaica has spanned 47 years and explained that it was in 1959 that Alcoa first established roots in the economic cultural and social life of Jamaica. That relationship has grown from strength to strength and Alcoa has remained steadfast in its commitment.

"As a good corporate citizen, Alcoa has demonstrated community outreach with a



- Photograph by Derrick A. Scott

Simpson Miller

concern for social development," the prime minister said.

ECONOMIC DRIVER

Alcoa, she added, was well recognized as an important

driver of the Jamaican economy before the Caribbean island achieved Independence from Great Britain in 1962 and, to date, Alcoa is still making its contribution to the Jamaican economy.

Simpson Miller also appealed to the Alcoa Women's Network to take a special interest in the Jamaican process and to share their expertise in building networks, links and strategies that will assist Jamaica move forward on a global stage.

Professor Gordon Shirley, Jamaica's ambassador to the U.S., and Cabinet Secretary Dr. Carlton Davis were among the special guests who attended the conference.



West Indians in Connecticut honor outstanding Jamaicans

Two Jamaicans, musician Byron Lee and surgeon Dr. Lenworth Jacobs, have been honored by the city of Hartford, Connecticut and the West Indian Foundation.

Lee and Jacobs were honored last month at the 28th Annual West Indian Foundation Scholarship and Awards Gala, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

In a citation that was read to him by Councilwoman Veronica Airy-Wilson of the Hartford City Council on behalf of Connecticut

Governor Jodi Rell, Lee was commended for his outstanding contribution in promoting Caribbean and Jamaican music for over 50 years. The governor declared Oct. 14 as "Byron Lee Day" in Connecticut.

TRAILBLAZER

Jamaica's

Consul General to

New York, Dr. Basil K. Bryan,

in presenting Dr. Jacobs with



Byron Lee, left, receives his lifetime achievement award from Hartford City Councilman Ken Kennedy.



Jamaica's Consul General to New York Dr. Basil Bryan, right, presents Dr. Lenworth Jacobs with his award.

his special award, noted that he was a trailblazer and pioneer in the medical field, specializing in emergency medicine. He said Dr. Jacobs was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Life Star Emergency Program and in the development of a national model for healthcare response to terrorism activities.

Dr. Jacobs is the chairman of the combined adult pediatric trauma program of the Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. He is the son of Dr. Ben Jacobs of the National Family Planning Board in Jamaica.

The West Indian Foundation

presented three scholarship awards. The Migrant Farm Worker Memorial Scholarship was presented to Lovelyn Bogle; the Marcus Garvey Scholarship to Kathrina Chin; and the West Indian Scholarship Club Memorial Scholarship to Andrew Mitchell.

It is estimated that over 70,000 Caribbean nationals reside in Connecticut, with Jamaicans representing the largest number.

- Information obtained from the Jamaica Information Service.



CARICOM partners U.S. in security for CWC 2007

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5) of critical trade, including for example, liquid natural gas here in Trinidad and Tobago which makes this country the biggest exporter of LNG to the United States.

"We are very much part of the same neighborhood and we are very deeply committed to making sure that we are all secure," he added.

BURDEN

He said although the U.S. was not participating in CWC with an official team, Americans would represent one of the largest groups of spectators.

"Of course, that does place a burden on the region, in terms of security, particularly in a time when we are fighting a war against an enemy who does not see anything such as an innocent bystander...That puts every-

body at risk," he said.

"That's why we are particularly delighted to sign this MOI regarding the Advanced Passenger Information system and to provide other support to the region in its preparation, not only for the cricket event, but for the long-term challenges we face ahead."

The U.S. security secretary said the Caribbean faces an emerging national security issue with respect to the possibility of terrorism.

"We know there is an international ideology that uses terrorist means to promote its aims," Chertoff said.

"There is no reason to believe that any part of the world is off limits and that includes this area as well.

"The way in which we can combat that ideology is by sharing information, by sharing techniques, by exchanging data that we have and that is

part of what we are doing with the agreement that we signed..."

HERE TO STAY

"This is not a problem that is going to go away in a short period of time," Chertoff added.

"When bombs went off in Bali, or they went off in London, or when the aircraft impacted on the World Trade Center, there was no selection among the victims.

"People from all over the world suffered and I dare say people from this part of the world suffered as well.

"All voices demand of us that we stand together in the face of this threat and that we do it in a way that allows us to continue our freedoms and our way of life but it also affords citizens the security," Chertoff declared.



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FEATURE

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CaribChat

Caribbean cricket standard has dropped ~ Courtney Walsh

Courtney Walsh is the most successful bowler in West Indies cricket history and was once the greatest wicket-taker in the Test game. He is still involved in the Caribbean's favorite sport and is currently helping to promote next year's Cricket World Cup in the region, visiting the United States as part of that effort. Caribbean Today's Managing Editor Gordon Williams spoke to Walsh recently. The following is an edited version of that interview.

GORDON WILLIAMS: Overall, West Indies cricket is not in the best shape right now. What do you think is happening with the development of the team, especially with Cricket World Cup 2007 approaching and the importance of the West Indies putting on a good performance? How prepared will the team be come 2007?

COURTNEY WALSH: I think they will be pretty well prepared. They are probably not well prepared now. There's a little bit of finetuning to be done. But my main concern is the focus, the discipline and the pride that we

need to see in the team. I think that's what a lot of people expect to see and would like to see regenerated, where the passion of playing for the West Indies is there and the will to want to win and want to do well and also just to, sort of, not just be playing for yourself, but for the people, the region.

I think that can be done. It's not gonna be easy when you lose a lot of players. But what is more concerning to me is we seem to be running hot and cold and we just need to see that more consistency in the performance, heading in the right direction.

G.W.: In times gone by, players were being paid far less money than now. Isn't that supposed to be a major incentive?

C.W.: It should be, and one hopes that it is. Having not been there (in recent times) it's hard to say, but I'm sure that being paid more would make you want to play better because you want to play longer and perform a lot better. So that should be the case. But one just hopes that what is going on now probably lacks a little bit of profession-

alism because the guys are not accustomed to playing pro league cricket in England. That might be an aspect. So sometimes you have to look at that, but one is hoping that, as I said, you want to see a consistent level of improvement and you know that you're going the right direction.

G.W.: Are you satisfied with the progress of the team, especially under the Australian coaches now?

C.W.: The consistency is still not there. When he (head coach Bennett King) came in he said he wanted some time. I'm not too sure. I haven't been that close to it (the team) so it's difficult for me to sort of be a judge of it. But what I would like to see, as I've said, is a little bit more level of consistency and if he's not bringing that to the park then you've got to question that one.

I'm sure that this team, they must be trying their best. Sometimes I've got to ask the question: are the players putting out their best or are they committed to the cause? So there are a lot of questions that we on the outside don't really

know what the answers are.

I know you are looking at me and saying how come I am on the outside. Yes, I am on the outside and a lot of people think I'm supposed to be nearer than most, but when I go there I just try to pass on help in whatever way I can. I am not really involved in terms of the day-to-day running and what they're doing and how the guys get ready and who needs to be talking. But from what I see on the outside, they need a little more cricket talk on the middle from former players who've been there, done that, pass on the experience and help to guide them as well.

G.W.: When you just came to cricket at the highest level, West Indies cricket, there was a big competition for places...Do you think that is no longer in existence in the West Indies? Do you think it is too easy now to make the West Indies team?

C.W.: I think it is, in terms of the level as well. Not just too easy to make the West Indies team, I think the standard of cricket in the Caribbean has dropped, in terms of from our



Walsh

domestic first class to even club cricket. So that is an area we need to focus on, build back with the school cricket, the club cricket, the regional cricket and that will build strong West Indies cricket. But some people think that if one territory and one country is strong, the cricket is strong. That is not so. If all territories are strong and everybody is competing, when Jamaica plays Barbados it's going to be a mini-Test, that's what we want to see...If everybody is strong, then West Indies cricket is gonna be strong.

G.W.: You are not so far away from playing cricket itself...not far away from what is happening. The seeming confusion - to people looking

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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Frustration, hope linger for cricket in the U.S.

GORDON WILLIAMS

Former West Indies cricketers are lamenting the continued frustration of establishing cricket as a major sport in the United States, even as the game's single biggest event – Cricket World Cup – heads to the Caribbean next year.

According to them, the U.S., with its money, facilities and huge population of expatriates from cricket-playing nations all over the world, plus its history of having first staged the game nearly three centuries ago, should have been much further along in developing cricket.

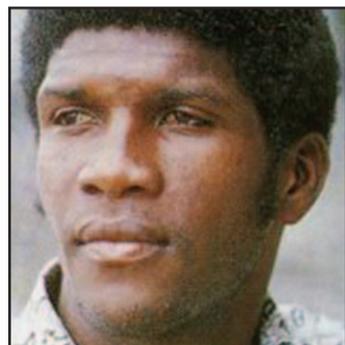
"It hasn't progressed as much as I'd like to see, really," Lawrence Rowe, among the most talented batsmen ever to come out of the West Indies and a current U.S. resident, told *Caribbean Today* recently while visiting his home country Jamaica as honorary coach of a U.S. select team.

"It very much, I think, is in disarray right now."

Many ex-players believe that the failed U.S. bid to secure CWC games next year has been a major setback. However, others point to the disjointed organization of the sport long before that, which has been blamed for the USA Cricket

Association's (USACA) suspension by the game's international ruling body International Cricket Council (ICC) last year for being "dysfunctional".

The ban was subsequently lifted, and although many issues remain unresolved, the former



Rowe

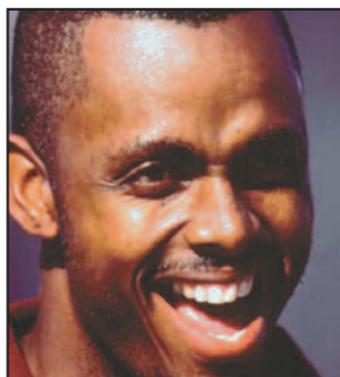
players insist that if the game prospers in the U.S. all will benefit.

"I've always said if we could get (cricket) developed there (in the U.S.), one, it would be financially beneficial for all of the players and administrators as well," ex-fast bowler Courtney Walsh told *Caribbean Today*.

EXCELLENT SPOT

Thousands, including many from the Caribbean, enjoy cricket in the U.S., a game records show was first played in

the country in the early 18th century. However, most of the players are expatriates, meaning the game has not attracted U.S. citizens used to traditional sports such as basketball, baseball and American football. According to Rowe, "especially South Florida," offer excellent conditions for cricket. However, the man who scored a double century and a century on his Test debut admitted that the U.S. missing out on CWC matches next year was a huge blow to the sport.



Walsh

"I think it was a big setback," he said. "It was unfortunate that we couldn't even have gotten a few practice games and even one of the early round matches.

"I think it would have been

good for the Caribbean and West Indies cricket if we could have gotten that and it would also help to develop our cricket in the States a lot. The governing body there (in South Florida) did a lot to get a new stadium going there. Cricket is not a popular sport in the States and I think if they had gotten the World Cup games a lot more money would be put into it and a lot more interest would have been there," Rowe added.

HOPE

Meanwhile, all hope is not lost for the game in the U.S., despite reports last month that at least one USACA director had resigned and others were reviewing their position. According to *Cricinfo.com*, a cricket web site, the association said it is about to explore a "new partnership with an international marketing company" to promote the game in the U.S.

Walsh, the all-time West Indies leading wicket taker in Test cricket, said that although he has never been asked, he would be willing to help the game in the U.S.

"Anything to do with cricket, and to promote the game, once I am available and everything is O.K., I'll be interested," he said.

Already he is pleased that

recent adjustments in the way cricket is played could enhance its appeal in the U.S. The 20/20 cricket, a shortened version of the game, is one example Walsh believes can attract Americans.

"When you look at the 20/20, I think that is probably the ideal game to start in the States," he explained. "...Within three to four hours (spectators) could be in and out (of the stadium) and have a wonderful, spectacular day of cricket and everybody would leave there being happy because you would have a result. And I think that's what the Americans want. They want a result at the end of it all."

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



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Caribbean cricket standard has dropped ~ Courtney Walsh

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

on from the outside – with the administration of West Indies cricket, just how much do you think that has impacted on the way the game is being played now in the region?

C.W.: Well, as you said, I am not really into it, (but) I have not been far from it either. In terms of how it has impacted, when you look at the setup of the West Indies Cricket Board, you've got to look and see how many former players have gotten involved and, how many former players are there with them, and how many former players want to be involved, and also what direction they want to be at the board level.

I'm hoping that everyone who is there has good intentions to move West Indies cricket forward. But we need to devise a plan and a strategy to do that.

It's not gonna happen overnight, but at the same time you don't want it to be taking 25 years. You want to see something more with progress so you can say 'well yes, we're on the right track, the hard work is coming, the dedication is coming, we're heading in the right direction, so give us two, three years

time'. We might not return to world championship, but we might return to being a very competitive team that everybody has to have a fear about.

G.W.: You are involved with the Stanford 20/20 (cricket competition). Apparently the first year was very successful. You see a man with a whole lot of money coming to the Caribbean and putting on a tournament which seems to have been a big hit going across (to the public). How much do you think a man like (American Allen) Stanford, a man from the outside, even though he is willing to put up his money, should be involved in West Indies cricket at this point?

C.W.: I think if he (Stanford) wears his heart on his sleeve and he is committed to trying to help West Indies cricket, which he's said time and time again, he's got to be involved in some way, shape or form. The 20/20 success came from good planning and I think the team he had around him, with some of the former players, has helped.

I think he genuinely wants to help, but obviously at the end of the day he is a businessman at the same time and he's gonna be looking to see

how best it could help or enhance his business. The (20/20) plan that went out is to get cricket back in the Caribbean, get the kids and the families coming back to the game, get the guys (players) financial gains from that, to let them be paid properly, and I think that everything that we set out on our agenda, from our first meeting, we've met all those criteria.

So to me it was a tremendous success. As you said, there was a bit of friction between himself (Stanford) and the (West Indies Cricket) Board, (but) the sooner that can be solved the better it will be, I think, in the interest of West Indies cricket.

G.W.: When you are watching them (players), what goes through your mind in terms of one, the talent level that there is out there, and two, the application and commitment that they are giving it?

C.W.: You look at the talent and you see it and you assess them and see where their strengths and weaknesses (are) and you try to talk to them about it. But also you try and play a mind game. You talk to them to try and get them to think ahead of the time and to think more posi-

tive and to be confident in what they're gonna do. And if you see a fault you mention it to them. And also whatever the strength is, because your weaknesses could be your strength and your strength could be your weakness.

So you've got to work on both at the same time. That's the sort of advice I try to give them.

G.W.: How do you perceive the response that you get?

C.W.: Most of the responses I've gotten have been tremendous in terms of the guys I speak to. They will listen to you. Obviously, there might be one or two who might not catch on or might not think that it makes sense to that individual. But most of the guys that I've spoken to I think have taken it all on board. They've given it their best shot. They've tried to do the best they can do and that is encouraging for me.

I've never really come across any of the players who probably don't take it on board. However, I've heard that some guys do not like to be spoken to and they think that they know it all and in cricket you never know it all. You're never too old to learn.

What time is it? Caribbean time!

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean time, that unique system where the pace of the region's progress lines up right behind the urgent haircut or manicure for some of its leaders, is at work again.

How else does one explain that with just about two months remaining before the United States' new passport regime comes into effect, whereby American travelers to the region will require a passport to re-enter the U.S. – not just a driver's license or birth certificate – the Caribbean is only now being seen as scrambling around trying to get another delay in the law's implementation?

Oh, they are saying that the law will severely damage the region's tourism industry because Americans, noted for their spontaneity in travel, will no longer visit. The theory is they just can't be bothered to apply for a passport.

O.K., so it is reasonable to say that the American, faced with added hassle just to go on a vacation, will simply find somewhere else to go in the U.S. – Las Vegas, Colorado, maybe Orlando or the Big Apple. They just ask for cash in those places, not passports. But that means loss of revenue for the Caribbean – big revenue, because most of the region's visitors are from North America.

PANIC

That is where the panic appears to setting in. Theories for the stand by the U.S. – claimed to be aimed at tightening border security – abound, including the belief that the region is being punished for cuddling too close to rival Venezuela (read Hugo Chavez). But the U.S. is always correct if it says it needs to protect its borders. Every nation has that right.

If the Caribbean is claiming that the same rules are not being applied to other nations where Americans visit, like Mexico, the region may have a point, but not a very strong one. The U.S. can do whatever it pleases to protect itself.

WHISPER

What is most disturbing, however, is the fact that the Caribbean's uproar over the law is only now rising above a whisper. Sure, some entities, including resorts and travel agencies, have offered to assist Americans in applying

for passports. But somehow, long after the law was passed, and even with extension to its implementation, you never got the feeling that the collective Caribbean was putting real political muscle behind its objection.

Fragmented screams of oppression are never going to prod the mighty U.S. into rolling back any rule. And that is what the region has served up until now. It's like chicken soup without the chicken and dumplings...and vegetables.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT

Sure the region is now sending missions to Washington, hoping to break the will of the U.S. Now the region is banking on some American entities with tourism interests in the Caribbean – namely airlines – to back up their push to knock over the passport law. All of a sudden, a region which vociferously opposed the apartheid regime in South Africa years ago and adamantly refused to throw Castro under the bus, despite U.S. pressure, is generating nothing more than a collective whimper in the face of what it says could be the most telling blow against its biggest money earner.

I just don't get it.

To make matters worse, the ICC Cricket World Cup begins in the Caribbean in March. American citizens, albeit mainly transplants from cricket-loving nations around the world, will want to get up and go to the region – to watch games or simply suck up the tournament's vibes. Thousands of them will get the sudden urge to rush to the Caribbean, which is hosting the event for the first time. Shouldn't the region have known that this passport rule would affect that too, especially when a reported \$150 million has already been invested in infrastructure to host the games?

But no, they have waited. They waited to pass Sunset Laws needed to stage CWC 2007. And they are still waiting. Until the January day of decision is almost upon them. I guess it's all being done on Caribbean time. After all, the leaders do have to make time for that haircut and manicure.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



We all know that a cur is the lowest type of dog, a mongrel, the ones you see hanging around junk yards, fish shops, picking up guts and scraps, accepting any food that is thrown at them.

It's a bad thing to be a cur, lacking in pedigree, but we are all made up differently in this life.

Still, there are women who love to say that all men are dogs. But guess what, we be dogs all. We bitch all the time anyway. The irony is, a dog is supposed to be man's best friend, as usually he is loyal, faithful, obedient and filled with unconditional love. But aha, heel boy, for women do not want those qualities in men, at least not in the long term. Oh, they'll say that's what they want, but when they do get it, they find the man boring, and they nitpick for any flaw that they can find.

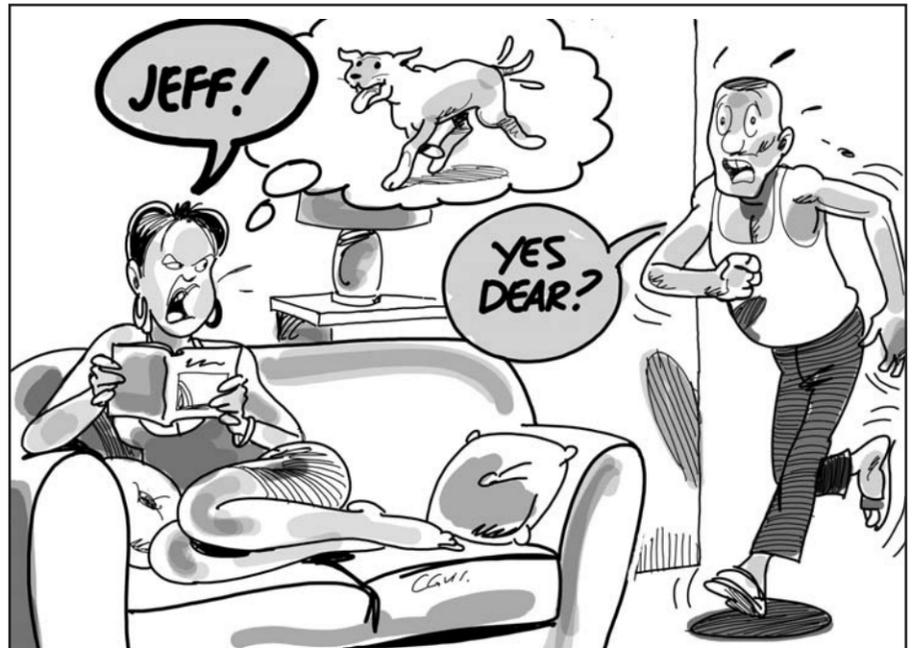
"Yu say your man keep on leaving the toilet seat up, that's all? I wish that was the only fault my womanizing, drinking, gambling brute of a man had."

SUFFERATION

I have witnessed some male friends of mine suffer at the hands of women who just upped and walked out on them. One was a teacher, quite, decent, church going man, good provider, loyal to his wife, home every night early, devoted father. Everything a woman would want in a man, or so they say, ala Mr. Right, knight on shining horse and all that.

But hold on to your dog sled, after 10 years of marriage she wanted out, saying she wanted more out of life,

Canines, curs and bitches



TONY ROBINSON

and that he was too predictable. Predictably she left him with the three kids, to go and 'find herself'. Dog or no dog? But few dogs abandon their pups.

Another woman tricked my good friend into marriage, getting pregnant and not telling him until she was almost seven months. Decent chap that he was, he walked down the aisle with her. A year later, after dogging him, she walked all over him then walked to the airport and beyond. But not before she cleaned everything. She cleaned out all the bank accounts, cashed in the insurance policies and took out loans with his name as guarantee. Life's a bitch, or was he married to one?

Now you're going to say that sort of thing happens to women all the time. Well, it just might, but somehow we hardly hear of it when the role is reversed. Also it always seems to happen to such

decent, humble, sensitive, gentlemen too. But those qualities invariably contribute to their downfall.

MONKEY BUSINESS?

Another friend of mine went to Florida to link with his girlfriend who was in a so-called business marriage. Upon arriving, he discovered that he could only see her a few times a week for conjugal rights, as the other nights were reserved for her 'business husband'.

Now every dog is supposed to have his day, but my friend had none. He kept whining to me about his plight, so I told him to stop bitching. He didn't and she eventually threw him out after cutting up all his suits.

On the male side, the canine breed runs wild. The puppy dog is the little young boy who wants to act all grown up. To compensate for his youth, or missing his mommy, he hangs around the older dog, hoping that she can teach him a few things. Of course there's nothing that he can teach her, as you know what they say, you can't teach an old dog new tricks, plus in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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CARIB Comments

• **“When we agreed to host CWC in 2007, there was no 9/11”** – CARICOM’s head for regional security, Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Patrick Manning, last month explaining that security restrictions in the world have changed since the Caribbean decided to host the ICC Cricket World Cup.

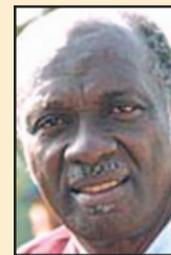
• **“I have confidence that we can sit at the table with the Americans, speak to them, and they will understand”** – St. Lucia’s Tourism Minister Philip J. Pierre expressing optimism



the Caribbean will be able to convince Washington to opt for a diplomatic solution to its decision to enforce a regulation calling on Americans visiting to region to have a valid passport upon their re-entry into the United States.

• **“There are some very prominent members of his party now seeking to distance their dirty hands from the setting sun, hoping for a cleansing from the new circle. They know the law coming, so they looking for a new savior. But they not getting away”** – Trinidad and Tobago’s Director of Public Prosecutions Geoffrey Henderson last month expressing concern over a statement made by Prime

Minister Patrick Manning that two members of the newly formed Congress of the People (COP) party may be arrested soon on corruption charges.



• **“Playing at home we are always very dangerous”** – former West Indies cricket great Wes Hall discussing the team’s chances at next year’s Cricket World Cup to be hosted by the Caribbean.

• **“We all just wanted to win so badly”** – West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor after his

hat-trick of wickets helped the Caribbean team beat Australia in an ICC Champions Trophy match last month.



• **“It was like the icing on the cake of my career”** – Former world light middleweight and middleweight champion Julian Jackson, of the U.S. Virgin Islands, following his induction into the World Boxing Hall of Fame last month.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Canines, curs and bitches

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)
many cases you don’t want to know the amount of tricks that these old dogs know

either.
Then there is the watch dog. This applies to most men, as like it or not, all men are ruled by the visual and see

women in a sexual light. They visualize, and that’s why women pander to this whim and desire in men and dress provocatively. Men are attracted first by their eyes. You know how often a man will see a woman and drive around the block just to get a second look? He does not know or care about her intellect or education, all he knows is that she looks fabulous and he must have her. When a pretty woman unloads her problems on a man his canine hearing is selective.
“I tell you John, my husband and I just not making it, he’s driving me crazy, plus my job is going nowhere, I just don’t know what to do...”

What do you think that the man hears and is thinking?
“Not making it with husband, not making it, not making it... Lord she look great, look on those breasts, I’d love to see her naked, get her into bed... not making it with husband.”

See, he’s just another dog.

BIG DOG
Then you have the big dog. Now with the big dog, it’s not

a matter of size, at least not in the endowment department. For that he compensates. Being the alpha male, his greatness is his stature, and he wields this power like a king’s scepter - his job, his status in life, his car, his house, all symbols of his wealth. He carries these around with him and flashes them at every opportunity in the eyes of women. He can’t wait for them to ask, “So what do you do, where do you work, where do you live, what do you drive?” After that she can just sit back and listen to him talk for hours.

“Well, I’m a big CEO.”
Spell that C...U...R.
Women who resist this flash have told me that some of these big dogs have told them, “A woman like you I can’t bother with, as it’s too much work to get you into bed.”
Those big dogs are so used to flashing their bones and silly women snap them up, that when they meet a woman of substance, they back away. Too much work indeed.

The lap dog is the worst though, or so it would seem. This is the man who is so hell bent on pleasing his woman that he does anything and everything to be in her good books and her bed. He would lose his dignity, just not to be in the doghouse. Everything is, “Yes dear, no dear, anything you say dear, I’m coming dear... may I go on top tonight dear?”

Oh dear, his life, gone to the dogs. These men exist, but we hardly hear about them, as they live in the shadows and are forever in the doghouse.

Then we have the faithful dogs. These are the guys who truly love their women, devoted, loving, dedicated like the guys I mentioned earlier. They

usually get shafted though. Tough tits for them and, after a while, no tits at all, as in so many cases the women walk out on them.

It must be an aberration of nature, a quirk in our social fabric why good guys finish last.

Have you ever noticed how it’s the thugs and gangstas who get the best women, while the decent guys get left or get bun? That’s because women are drawn to power, and decency is often seen as weakness. I have never heard of a woman leaving one of these guys for a decent man yet, it’s always the other way around. That’s why good guys will always lose and curs and canines will always run wild.

In contrast, you have the dog heart men, who have not even one ounce of moral fiber, no conscience, no scruples, no integrity, not one shred of decency. Now he’s the catch, he’s who women are drawn to, even for a fling, as they crave the excitement of running wild with the pack.

The only thing worse is the stray dog, and even him some women will feel sorry for and take in.

So you see, we be all dogs, canines, curs and bitches, whether we like it or not, and we all exhibit doggish qualities at one time or another. As they say: “It’s a dog eat dog world, every dog has his day, dog nyam yu supper, you’re in the doghouse, life’s a bitch and then you die.”

But still, you haven’t got to live with one. Quit bitching, quit dogging, wag your own tail.

Later.

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Assault lifestyle diseases in Caribbean ~ Alleyne

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Caribbean governments must fight non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with the same vigor they are combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic says one of the region's top health experts.

University of the West Indies (UWI) Vice Chancellor Sir George Alleyne last month told the three-day 20th Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) meeting that this is necessary as a Caribbean citizen is "several times more likely to die" from NCDs than a North American resident.

"There is nothing genetic about this," said Sir George, a former director of the Pan American Health Organization, who now heads the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development - a body tasked with the responsibility of providing guidelines for action to

increase investment in health in the countries of the 15-member Caribbean community (CARICOM).



Alleyne

PRE-VENTABLE

In his presentation on "Priorities for Health and Development in the Caribbean", Sir George noted that in the last 20 years, heart diseases, diabetes, stroke, hypertension, injuries, and now HIV/AIDS continue to be the leading causes of deaths in the region.

"All of these are preventable," the UWI academic added.

He said given the prevalence and knowledge of NCDs in the Caribbean, "heads of governments must show similar enthusiasm and urgency (on

tackling NCDs) that they have approached the HIV/AIDS" pandemic affecting the region."

He also said the incidence of obesity among males and females has skyrocketed throughout the region in the last 30 years and is "as high as 70 percent" in some states.

On the issue of hypertension, it is estimated that as much as 25 percent of the population of all regional countries suffer from the ailment, possibly affecting economic progress region-wide, Sir George suggested.



Anguilla to set up health fund

THE VALLEY, Anguilla - Anguilla is to establish a National Health Fund (NHF) by the start of 2007.

Health Minister Evans McNeil Rogers said last month that advancement in new medical techniques and technologies and an aging population were among the main reasons for establishing the NHF, which is being set up as part of the government's Health Sector Development program.

"All government funding for health will be funneled through the fund which will be run as an independent body with consumer representation," he said. "At the same time, we are allowing the fund to raise more money through an additional contribution from salaries and wages, in the same way that the Social Security Board now collects funds for pensions and other benefits."

The NHF will cover health care services both on and off the island and payments for expensive specialist care overseas - provided the patient is properly referred by the NHF - would be limited to only five percent of the costs of that care, with the fund picking up the remainder.



'Code Blue' launches anti-cancer campaign

November, recognized as "Lung Cancer Awareness Month", is being used to launch a new national anti-smoking public service campaign in the United States.

"Code Blue for Lung Cancer" a partnership between the American Legacy Foundation and the National Association of Broadcasters, is attempting to spread the life-saving message that early detection, quitting smoking and the search for a cure can help make lung cancer history.

"Code Blue" is a comprehensive national effort to raise

awareness about preventing lung cancer and increase survival rates for those struggling with it. The campaign includes a 30-minute documentary that explores the devastating impact of lung cancer on four families and discusses how to reduce lung cancer deaths, primarily through early diagnosis and by quitting smoking.

The campaign, in both English and Spanish, also includes radio and television public service announcements, a guidebook for local broadcasters, and an accompanying online component at www.americanlegacy.org/codeblue.



WARR ON BREAST CANCER



- Photograph by Derrick A. Scott

Totlin Taylor-Newby, left, executive director and founder of Women At Real Risk (WARR), pins a pink breast cancer ribbon on the lapel of Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Gordon Shirley as he arrives at the Seventh Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fund-raising Gala last month at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. Looking on is Claudia Hudson, president and co-founder of WARR. October marked "Breast Cancer Awareness Month". WARR has made outstanding contributions in the fight against breast cancer, including the staging of a teen program initiative at the Marymount High School in St. Mary, Jamaica, where some 200 students underwent self-breast examination, and with the staging of the "Women of the Diaspora" seminar, which included women of African American and Caribbean descendants.



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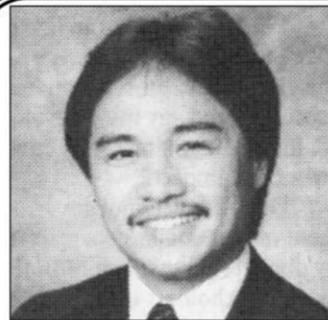
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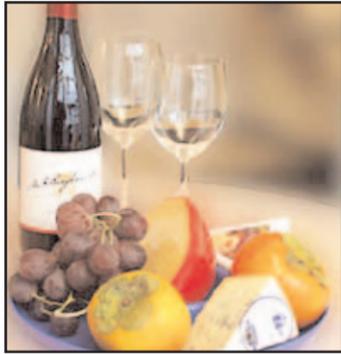
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Miami serves up int'l wine fair

More than 1,000 beverages will be available for public taste at the two day Miami International Wine Fair this month.

The fifth edition of the annual event, scheduled for Nov.



11 and 12, moves to the Miami Beach Convention Center.

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This year's ticket sales will benefit the disaster relief efforts of the American Red Cross of Greater Miami & The Keys.

For ticket information, call 1-877-577-WINE or visit www.miamiwinefair.com



'Floribbean' shrimp is nice, with island rice and sugar snap peas

'Floribbean' shrimp

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound peeled/deveined large shrimp
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 drops liquid smoke flavoring
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon garlic butter

METHOD

Combine all ingredients (except shrimp and garlic butter) in medium bowl. Pat shrimp dry and stir into mixture; let stand 10 minutes to marinate. Wash hands.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium high two to three minutes. Place butter in pan; swirl to coat. (Pan should size.) Add shrimp; cook four to five minutes, stirring frequently until shrimp turn pink and opaque. Serve over rice.

Island rice

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup water
- 1 (six-ounce) can pineapple

juice

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon curry powder
- 16 ounces sugar snap peas
- 1/8 teaspoon allspice (optional)
- 2 cups instant rice
- black pepper to taste

METHOD

Combine all ingredients (except rice) in medium saucepan. Cover and bring to boil on high. Stir rice into boiling mixture. Cover and remove from heat; let stand for five minutes or until water is absorbed. Serve.

Sugar snap peas

INGREDIENTS

- 16 ounces frozen sugar snap peas
- 1 tablespoon garlic butter
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt

METHOD

Place peas in microwave-safe bowl. Cover and

microwave on high. Drain peas and return to bowl. Stir in butter and seasoned salt. Cover and microwave two more minutes or until peas are tender. Stir and serve.

Meal time – 30 minutes.



Serves four. Tip: Capture the great flavor of the shrimp. Give the cooked sugar snap peas a one-minute sauté in the same pan.

Recipe and photo reprinted from *Publix's Apron's Simple Meals*.



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FOOD

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~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

Top-of-the-class Caribbean chefs serve up tempting delights

ELEANOR M. WILSON

As we devour Caribbean foods with relish, let's stop to honor those who prepare them so well. The five chefs we've profiled (all Caribbean) are outstanding for their dedication, innovation and expansive use of the local bounty.

Norma Shirley, Jamaica

As a bride, Norma couldn't even boil an egg. Today, her name appears on three successful restaurants: Norma's on the Terrace at Devon House in Kingston; Sea Splash (Negril); and at the Port Antonio Marina.

When her husband, Dr. Michael Shirley, introduced Norma to travel and gourmet dining, the elaborate presentations awakened her sense of style, leading to a career prepping plates for photo shoots in New York. But Norma wanted to infuse her favorite Jamaican foods onto those plates, and eventually opened her own restaurant in Massachusetts.

In the 1980s, Norma returned home as a well-established chef. Her cuisine represents her world travels, but remains Jamaican based, as in tender smoked pork chops marinated in ginger and

Red Stripe beer, glazed with guava and topped with caramelized tropical fruits.

Awards and television appearances for this "Julia Childs of the Caribbean" are numerous, but Norma hasn't deserted the kitchen. That wide Jamaican smile still goes into every dish!

Patrick Levine, Grenada

When Hurricane Ivan destroyed his cozy cottage on Lagoon Road in St. George's, our genial host/cook/waiter/cashier opened again just up the street. Patrick's unique approach to dining makes this 12-table eatery a 'must' stop in Grenada. He began cooking with his adopted mother at Mama's Restaurant, opened his own place nine years ago, and quickly became a Grenada legend. His new building, seating 120, is due to open in Feb. 2007.

"Come hungry," says our chef. "You'll get 20 different local dishes, plus soup and dessert, for just US\$20.00, excluding drinks."

There's no menu. Patrick just cooks a giant home-style feast and often serves it himself. Our table bore several little dishes of callaloo soup, lobster salad, codfish fritters, fried jacks, cou-cou, fish



Open-air dining Caribbean style.

steaks, lambie in creole sauce, stir-fried rabbit, spinach rice, curried mutton, Tania cakes with shrimps, oildown cooked in coconut cream, carrot cake and more! His stewed-beans-in-curry dish (see sidebar) was my surprising introduction to non-spicy curry.

Cecilia Joseph, St. Lucia.

The chef at Stonefield Villa Resort in St. Lucia is the great-granddaughter of a Carib, but there the similarity ends.

"Cecilia is very quiet and

humble, the exact opposite of her fierce ancestors," exclaims General Manager Aly Brown. "Her team simply follows her lead to create magic in our quaint creole kitchen here at Mango Tree."

This unassuming chef always liked cooking with her grandmother, and as the oldest daughter, took over the kitchen for her mother. Such early exposure brought out a talent with local herbs and spices.

Guests rave over her fresh caught fish, either drizzled in

creole sauce or turned into broth seasoned with bay leaf and oregano. Or try her bullion with unmaturred breadfruit, callaloo leaves and hand-grated coconut.

How do you top that off? With stewed guava over coconut ice cream, of course.

Gwendolyn Smith, Anguilla

Koalkeel Restaurant, a historic former home, features a centuries-old rock oven.

Given a day's notice, chef Smith fires up that oven to prepare the house specialty, rock oven chicken. Your entree will appear table-side, served in an exquisite silver chafer, surrounded by fresh vegetables and thyme-roasted potatoes. Several hours before, the chef placed that chicken in the oven (over grapewood logs for special flavoring), checking often to make sure the roof remained white hot, while preparing

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Eating favorite Caribbean foods while enduring diabetes

According to the American Diabetes Association, 2.8 million African Americans over the age of 20 currently have diabetes. That's 10 African Americans for every six white Americans with diabetes.

"There are several reasons for this disparity," explains nutritionist and author Constance Brown-Riggs.

One is genetic: African Americans are more susceptible to diabetes than whites. They also have a higher rate of obesity, which also increases the risk of diabetes.

The other reason is cultural. Typically African Americans have less access to diabetes information than whites, and the food plan required to lower diabetic risk and control diabetes is atypical for many African Americans.

REMEDY

While the genetic causes are uncontrollable, the cultural risk factors can be remedied. As a nationally recognized nutritionist, registered

dietitian, and certified diabetes educator with over 25 years of experience, Brown-Riggs decided she wanted to

drawn-counts for foods that will appeal to African Americans who suffer from diabetes.



- Photograph by Meals Matter

Eating can be fun and healthy.

help this group get and stay healthy. As part of her plan, she has written "Eating Soulfully and Healthfully with Diabetes" (www.eatingsoulfully.com), a guide that provides nutrition information and carbohy-

Diabetes educators agree that the first step to prevention and management of diabetes is access to helpful information. It is especially important for African Americans to understand the dangers of diabetes since they have a higher

risk for complications like kidney failure, visual impairment, or amputation. Lack of education is the first problem that Brown-Riggs tackles in her book, explaining diabetes and outlining how it can be managed.

FOOD

The hardest part of diabetes management, however, is food.

"The basic dietary recommendations for those with diabetes are culturally insensitive," observes Brown-Riggs. "People with diabetes are generally given vague instructions like 'stay away from sugar,' or 'just eat smaller portions' which only make everything more frustrating. And," she explains, "instructions for food management typically don't take into account cultural or ethnic food preferences."

She hopes her book offers one step toward solving this problem. In "Eating Soulfully", Brown-Riggs has devised several ways for people with diabetes to be mindful of their eating habits while

"Brown-Riggs has devised several ways for people with diabetes to be mindful of their eating habits while still enjoying foods popular in the American South and the Caribbean."

still enjoying foods popular in the American South and the Caribbean. Her "Soul Food Pyramid", for those with diabetes, organizes food by carbohydrates, since the carbohydrates break down into glucose, and it is the glucose that is out of balance in people with diabetes.

The 96-pages of charts include all the necessary nutritional information, from portion size and calories to fat and carbohydrate grams, even carb choices and exchanges depending on what plan works best for each individual. Alongside information on turkey burgers and omelets, there is also information on dishes like blackened catfish

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

Top-of-the-class Caribbean chefs serve up tempting delights

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13) accompanying savory gravy.

Smith was hired when Koalkeel opened in 1989, expanding her abilities under such renowned executive chefs as Guy Guenego and George Reid. A nasty hurricane destroyed the property in 2001. It reopened in 2004 with Gwendolyn as executive chef.

That ancient oven is only part of her domain. Her Anguillian roots account for the menu's local flavor, aided by the restaurant's own

herb and spice garden (see sidebar).

the elegant ambiance at Marshall's almost equals the food. At softly lit tables sur-

rounding an indoor pool, most diners begin with exotic drinks, specialties of the friendly Kittitian bartender. Now you're ready for the next step...your exceptional meal.

The many positive comments Marshall received from dinner guests at his home encouraged this Jamaican to follow his passion for good food in a stylish setting. After graduation from Casa Monte Hotel School in Jamaica, various positions eventually landed him at Marshall's in St. Kitts.

That gift for entertaining remained a part of his ultimate dream, to please his guests and make sure they have a wonderful dining experience. A few bites of his tortellini caprice will convince you he has reached his goal.

Eleanor M. Wilson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Eating favorite Caribbean foods while enduring diabetes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

and stewed tomatoes and okra. This should help African Americans to prepare and enjoy traditional ethnic fare while maintaining normal glucose levels and healthy food intake.

While offering resources and tips, Brown-Riggs also encourages everyone with diabetes to shed pounds, improve food choices, and exercise.

The book includes:

- A diabetes soul food pyramid and explanation;
- A listing of traditional foods from the South and Caribbean;
- Fast food and brand-name nutrient information and label-reading advice;
- A two-week soul food menu plan and sample food diary;
- A glossary of food terms; and
- Tips for upscale dining.



The rock oven at Koalkeel is over 200 years old and still cooking.

Verral Marshall, St. Kitts
Often voted one of the top restaurants on St. Kitts,

rounding an indoor pool, most diners begin with exotic drinks, specialties of the



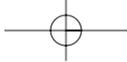
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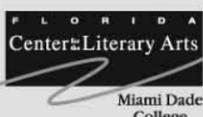
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Friday, November 17, 5-7 p.m., \$40

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- Family Secrets, Family Truths: American Immigrant Stories
- Living the Golden Years
- Globalization Diaspora and Caribbean Popular Culture
- El Código Da Vinci: La Controversia Continua (In Spanish)
- Imaginando el futuro de Cuba (In Spanish)
- Un país de inmigrantes (In Spanish)
- Nonviolence: A discussion with Mark Kurlansky, Tom Hayden, and Chris Hedges

Congress of Authors: November 12-19 Street Fair: November 17-19

Caribbean Issues, Caribbean Authors

Saturday, Nov. 18

10 a.m., Room 3313-14

Fiction from Jamaica's Calabash Writers:
Colin Channer, Marlon James, Geoffrey Philp

11 a.m., Room 3313-14

Christopher John Farley on The Rise of Bob Marley

Noon, Room 3313-14

Panel on Globalization, Diaspora and Caribbean Popular Culture moderated by Christine Ho with Mike Alleyne, Jane Bryce, and Keith Nurse

1:30 p.m., Room 3313-14

Caribbean Voices: Lawrence Scott, Pamela Mordecai and Donna Weir-Soley

2 p.m., Room 3315

Elizabeth Nunez and Rafael de Acha on interpreting the classics for a contemporary audience

3:00 p.m., Room 3313-14

Caribbean Voices: Lorna Goodison, Deborah Jack, Dawad Phillip and Ramabai Espinet

4:30 p.m., Room 3313-14

Caribbean Voices: Kamau Brathwaite, Shara McCallum, and Mervyn Taylor

Sunday, Nov. 19

1 p.m., Room 3315

Phyllis Baker on African American Spirituality

2 p.m., Room 3315

Haitian Topics: Timothy Brothers and Margaret Armand

2 p.m., Room 7106-07

Marie-Elena John on Unburnable

3:30 p.m., Room 3315

Haitian Topics: Myrian Nader and Anthony Georges-Pierre



Channer



Mordecai



Brathwaite



Jack



Farley



McCallum

International Village

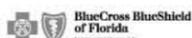
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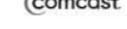
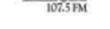
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Caribbean looks to home-stay tourism for big profits

DAWN A. DAVIS

Major players in the Caribbean hotel sector, such as Sandals, SuperClubs, and Almond Resorts, have traditionally benefited from the lion's share of tourism dollars.

With more outlay for advertising and strategic partnerships with major airlines and institutions, these "big guys" have overshadowed small inns and bed and breakfast concerns.

However, with growing interests among travelers to experience "village tourism" outside the walls of the all-inclusives, tourism executives are scrambling to create to accommodate this growing movement.

Considered one of the fastest growing industries in the world, Caribbean tourism

is expected to grow close to five percent in 2006, with employment numbers close to 2.6 million. And with over \$50 billion projected in tourism dollars for the region, the community tourism market could earn its share, if properly positioned.

'OUTSIDE THE BOX'

Addressing participants at the fifth annual Caribbean Media Exchange conference in St. Lucia last month, Chairman and Managing Director of Almond Resorts Ralph Taylor urged the industry to think outside the box.

"This (ICC Cricket World Cup 2007) presents the perfect opportunity, to allow us to open the doors of tourism to our people, so that they can share firsthand, in the experience, and the rewards," Taylor said. "The thousands of peo-

ple who will be visiting our shores, should be staying in homes, that we have identi-



Unique Jamaica's Chairman Millicent Lynch makes a presentation of Jamaica's diverse tourism products.

fied, are capable of hosting tourists."

The hotelier added that

the Caribbean should be working towards critical tourism linkages that would encourage visitors, to stay in homes, even after the World Cup.

JAMAICA'S TAKE

"Jamaica is definitely poised for this market," Millicent Lynch, chairman of Unique Jamaica, told Caribbean Today.

Unique Jamaica is a consortium of more than 60 private sector companies involved in the tourism industry. Noting that Unique Jamaica offers authentic, interactive experiences for travelers, Lynch discussed the island's home-stay program that is an integral part of the themed "explore it, taste it, feel it" experience.

"It's bringing a family home. We are not asking

homeowners to do anything they would not have done for their homes," Lynch explained. "There is no big income requirement, we just ask that they keep their home as nice as possible and open it up to any visitor just as they would welcome family or friends from abroad."

Visitors to the island will be able to stay in private homes throughout the island offering up to four rooms at rates ranging from \$35 to \$65 per night, depending on the nature of the accommodation. No room tax will be charged. Homes are inspected and homeowners are trained through the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo), the training arm of the industry.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

New stadium offers Jamaica's latest visitor attraction

GORDON WILLIAMS

Montego Bay stages reggae festivals. Negril offers miles of white sand beaches. Ocho Rios serves up Dunn's River Falls and Kingston is, well, Kingston, the capital and heartbeat of the

nation.

But by the end of next month Jamaica will complete yet another major attraction, and this time sports and entertainment will be the key drawing cards.

The Trelawny Multi-

Purpose Stadium, near Falmouth to the west of the island, is rounding into completion, well in time to host the opening ceremony for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and four warm-up matches in the game's biggest tournament starting in March.

The new stadium recently hosted its first competitive match between Jamaica and a select team from the United States and, although rain interrupted play forcing a premature end, from most indications the picturesque grounds bowled over fans, players, ex-players

and writers invited to witness the national airline's inaugural "Air Jamaica Cup".

CHARMED

The stadium, built through a government-to-government agreement between Jamaica and China, is expected to hold 25,000 fans. When CWC 2007 is over it will be the home to other sporting events, plus stage shows and other forms of entertainment. Yet even with many rough edges still exposed, it has already charmed visitors.

"Beautiful, beautiful," former Jamaica batsman Wayne

Lewis gushed after visiting the stadium in late September to watch the game. "...Once everything is in order it's gonna be a beautiful place to play cricket. Magnificent facilities. It's really looking good. I'm very impressed."

Lewis was not alone. Most fans sitting in the southern stands, one of two huge areas where the seating is colored black, green and gold and arranged to resemble the Jamaican flag, were in awe of the breathtaking view of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)



One of two main stands at the new Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium in Jamaica, which will host the opening ceremony and some warm-up matches for Cricket World Cup 2007, shows off its seat color pattern of the Jamaica flag.

Bahamas lures more Canadians

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC - The Bahamas has launched a multi-million dollar campaign aimed at getting more Canadian tourists to visit the chain of islands in the wake of a decision by the United States to have its nationals acquire passports for travel to the Caribbean.

Tourism officials say they expect the campaign, that was launched last month, would result in a 10 percent to 20 percent increase in tourist arrivals from Canada.

Caribbean countries are worried that the decision by Washington to implement the Western Hemisphere Travel initiative (WHTI) could decimate their tourism sector. In September, the U.S. Congress approved a further postponement of the WHTI, which requires U.S. citizens to have passports when traveling to the

Caribbean, Bermuda, Canada and Mexico. An exact date has not been announced, but the U.S. Congress has agreed to relax the Jan. 2007 implementation date to occur as late as June 2009.

While the postponement defers the passport requirement for travel by land and sea, it has remained silent on air travel.

Tourism officials here said they were also examining other measures and strategies to increase the number of cruise ship passengers, who do not have to meet the new passport requirement for another 20 months.

Last year, five million visitors came to The Bahamas, with official figures indicating that 3.5 million of those visitors came by sea.



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Air J looks to catch Cricket World Cup fever

GORDON WILLIAMS

The Caribbean's leading airline is looking to reap a huge windfall linked to the expected surge in travel sprouting from Cricket World Cup (CWC) to be staged in the region next year.

According to Paul Pennicook, Air Jamaica's recently appointed senior vice president for sales and marketing, the "Love Bird" will be luring the affections of cricket followers worldwide in an attempt to cash in on the game's biggest single showcase event which begins in March.

"We certainly want to make sure that we take as highest a load factor as possible on the routes that we currently fly," Pennicook told **Caribbean Today** last month.

Jamaica's national airline is already part of a group of carriers from the Caribbean which has been contracted to transport teams participating in the event, officials, cricket watchers, media and sponsors across the region.

HUB

But the airline wants to add special flights, which will allow

fans to use Jamaica as a sort of hub.

"What we are looking at, therefore, is to encourage people, or to invite people, to sleep in Jamaica and go to cricket matches in the eastern Caribbean or down in the other islands," Pennicook explained.

"In which case we would put flights on, say early in the morning departure, go down to the eastern Caribbean, watch a match for the day, and come back up at night."



Pennicook

Other opportunities are looming for the airline as well during Cricket World Cup 2007. With hundreds of thousands of fans expected from

huge cricket-loving nations worldwide, such as Australia, England, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, Air Jamaica said it is looking to function as the carrier which takes fans from overseas cities and transports them to the region.

"In other words, carriers would come from deep in Asia,

would take their people to say London, and then we would take them from London to Jamaica," Pennicook explained.

IMPROVEMENT

Yet before all that unfolds next year, Pennicook admits that the biggest challenge in his new portfolio will be to get Air Jamaica operating reliably, meaning improving on time departures and avoiding flight cancellations which have plagued the airline.

"Yes we've had some good patches where we have done very well, you know, on time performance, but we've had a sort of up and down experience the last few months, which, that sort of thing impacts our passengers," said Pennicook, who worked as the island's director of tourism before moving to Air Jamaica.

"...I'm not satisfied that we're at the point where we can have absolute reliability, very, very, very few cancellations and all of that. And that is my biggest challenge, to keep the airline full."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



New stadium offers Jamaica's latest visitor attraction

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17) beach to the north and Trelawny's capital town of Falmouth to the west. They also basked in the cool breeze from the sea, which consistently washed over the grounds.

Even cricket purists, some who originally questioned the decision to build the new facility so far from the nation's capital, are on their way to being convinced that the multi-million dollar stadium should turn out to be a worthwhile investment.

"About a year ago I was quite concerned about it," said senior cricket writer Tony Becca. "...Generally I am quite satisfied where it is at now."

Several observers at the ground drew favorable comparisons to other cricket stadiums around the world. Becca said

the Trelawny stadium reminded him of the Port Elizabeth in South Africa, a Test cricket venue. Lewis came closer to the Caribbean, saying that Arnos Vale in St. Vincent and the Folly Oval in Portland, Jamaica offered the best reminders.

The players were pleased as well, downplaying concerns that the wind from the sea would affect the quality of their game, whether batting, fielding or bowling.

"It's a very good view and the breeze is not a problem," said West Indies fast bowler Jermaine Lawson, who represented Jamaica versus the U.S. "...It's very nice, good facilities here. So I think it's definitely a stadium to look forward to...It was wonderful being out there."

Lawson's national coach

seemed to agree.

"It is conducive to good cricket," said Junior Bennett. "The scenery is extremely good and, just talking to the players, they also said that the vision of the ground is good."

Yet after the West Indies plays India on Mar. 9 in the final CWC warm-up game in Jamaica, the focus of the new stadium will switch to other events. Gone, at least for a while, will be the sound of bat on ball and loud appeals to umpires. But the exciting rush of cheering spectators is expected to continue, and visitors will find Greenfield, Trelawny a hard place to ignore.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



TOURISM BRIEFS

• Caribbean Airlines unveils new logo

Caribbean Airlines, the new entity replacing the financially-strapped BWIA, unveiled a new logo last month, showing a vibrant hummingbird in full flight.

"The livery and logo of Caribbean Airlines center around the hummingbird. The hummingbird is found only in the New World and early references to Trinidad are as the land of the hummingbird," BWA Chief Executive Officer Peter Davies said in a statement.

• British developer to build resort in Grenada

A British developer has announced the commencement of a multi-million dollar resort and marina project in Grenada.

Peter de Savary, a well known international businessman, plans to build a 120-room five-star hotel, a small beach, a world class marina offering berthing for 350 vessels, as well as other residential units.

• Faith tourism for The Bahamas

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism is partnering with former Fox News correspondent and CNN news anchor Andria Hall to promote faith tourism in those Caribbean islands **Nov. 30 through Dec. 3.**

• No U.S. retaliation for passport initiative

Vincent Vanderpool Wallace, secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), has scoffed at suggestions that the amended United States Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) was aimed at punishing Caribbean countries for their close ties with Venezuela.

Passed last month by the Congress, the WHTI requires all Americans returning to the U.S. by air to have passports effective **Jan. 8, 2007.**

• Club Med to open in December

Club Med La Caravelle is scheduled to open in Guadeloupe on **Dec. 16** following the completion of renovations, which reportedly cost \$29 million.

• Health tourism symposium May 13-14

The "Caribbean Health Tourism & Spa Symposium", produced by Positive Tourism Network, will be held from **May 13-14, 2007** at the Hilton Kingston Hotel in Jamaica.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Caribbean looks to home-stay tourism

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Security will also be taken into consideration and homeowners will be required to go through security screening.

According to Gerrard McDaniel, director of corporate communications in Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism, "there are no blacklisted areas except possible (crime) hotspots."

McDaniel explained that for the protection of guests, homeowners are required to have public liability insurance. Jamaica's government has negotiated with Victoria Mutual Insurance Company to offer the insurance at J\$500 per year per room. And, with a maximum of four rooms per home, the most a homeowner will layout for liability insurance will be J\$2,000. The insurance company won the bid by offering the rate based on signing on 500 such policies. To date, more than 400 homeowners have signed on to the Home-Stay program. McDaniel expects the number of homes to reach 500 by Mar. 2007.

Lynch explained that Unique Jamaica would do the booking. The tourism executive added that the program is ahead of schedule, with Home-Stay accommodations scheduled to be in operation before the World Cup season, which begins in March. However, she was quick to

add that the program was not developed specifically for the World Cup, but was created as part of the unique Jamaica experience.

"This would create a different type of tourism," explained Taylor to a packed audience, "one which would generate a greater level of acceptance of the industry by our people."

He warned that there are many other avenues of linkages that remain unexplored - avenues that have not been fully exploited to involve the wider public in this massive industry.

In response, Lynch, also marketing executive at Jamaica's Caymanas Track Limited, remarked that through Unique Jamaica, visitors could access the island's diverse elements, such as nature and culinary tours. The group recently introduced a "Jerk Trail" that allows visitors to taste a variety of jerked cuisine on "jerk stops" throughout the island and meet descendants of The Maroons who developed the novel pit-in-the-ground jerk process.

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



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Fort Lauderdale exhibit explores roots of Haitian contemporary art

A month-long exhibition exploring contemporary Haitian art, through the works of one of that Caribbean country's best known creative forces, is currently on display in South Florida.

Through Dec. 3, the Broward Main Library in Fort Lauderdale will display paintings, sculptures and jewelry as part of "Roots: The Idea of Modernity in Haitian Contemporary Art: The Works of Philippe Dodard". Some 60 artworks will be presented.

THE ARTIST

Dodard was born in 1954, in Port-au-Prince. He studied at the Poto-Mitan Art School with TIGA (Jean-Claude Garoute), Patrick Vilaire and Frido Casimir.

In 1973, he entered the Academy of Fine Arts, then



One of 60 pieces of Philippe Dodard's artwork currently on display in Florida.

worked as layout artist and founded a studio of audiovisual graphic arts. Five years later, he received a scholarship to the International School in Bordeaux, France, enabling him to specialize in pedagogic

graphic design. Two years later he received a scholarship from the Rotary International Foundation and left on tour with the Group Study Exchange of Haiti to give conferences on Haitian culture.

His artwork has evolved to include large sculptures, fine iron works and fine jewelry design.

The exhibition, on display at Gallery 6 and open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day, is being presented by Broward County Libraries Division, A.C.T.I.O.N. Foundation, Galerie Marassa and Galerie d'Art Nader.

For more information, call **954-357-7478** or **954-678-2975**.

The Broward Main Library is located at 100 S. Andrews Ave.



Belize revives African culture on 'Garifuna Settlement Day'

"Garifuna Settlement Day", a celebration to mark freedom and preservation of African culture in Belize, will be held on **Nov. 19**.

A national holiday, the day, remembers the liberation of African slaves upon their arrival in Belize from St. Vincent in 1832. The celebration illustrates the devotion and enthusiasm of the Garifuna people in keeping their culture alive through music, dance and food.

Beating drums, brightly colored dresses and dashikis and soulful, rhythmic dancing, highlight the celebration and the mark Garifuna people have left on the cultural landscape of Belize.

Festivities center on the reenactment of the landing of

the firsts boats of the Garifuna to Belize's shores, which are performed in towns throughout the country, but most prominently in Dangriga, the



Drums and dance mark Garifuna Settlement Day in Belize

hub of Garifuna life.

Settlement Day is deeply seeded in its religious and cultural significance, but welcomes participation from tourists and locals from any of Belize's diverse ethnic groups.

For more information on Belize, visit www.travelbelize.org or call **1-800-624-0686**.

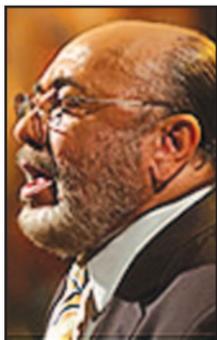


Anguilla jazz fest set for Nov. 9-12

An exciting collection of jazz greats, including Grammy-winning Latin legend Eddie Palmieri, are set to perform at the fourth Anguilla Tranquility Jazz Festival **Nov. 9-12**.

The 35 square mile British territory will host the festival, billed as the only straight-ahead jazz festival in the Caribbean region, which kicks off with a concert by songstress Nnenna Freelon at the CuisinArt Resort. The next day, the LA Café will host a triple bill featuring Palmieri, saxophonist Pharaoh Sanders and pianist Robert Glasper.

On **Nov. 11**, the action returns to LA Café with the



Palmieri

McCoy Tyner Trio and saxophonist Javon Jackson.

The festival culminates on **Nov. 12** with the "Jazz on

the Beach" series at Johnno's Beach Stop in Sandy Ground where The W.E.S. Group will perform.

To learn more about the Tranquility Jazz Festival, visit www.anguillajazz.org or call the Anguilla Tourist Board at

1-877-4 ANGUILLA.



ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• **'Assistant Thief' in Florida**
Several performances of Patrick Brown's comedy play "Assistant Thief", starring Oliver Samuels and Glen Campbell, will be staged in South Florida this month.

The schedule is as follows: **Nov. 4, 8 p.m.**, William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens; **Nov. 10, 8 p.m.**, North Miami Beach Performing Arts Center; **Nov. 11, at 8 p.m.**, Richmond Heights Middle School; and **Nov. 12, 7 p.m.**, Coral Springs Center for the Arts.

For more information, call **305-891-1242**.

• **Miami Book Fair International Nov. 12-19**
The 23rd Annual Miami Book Fair International will host an assembly of Caribbean and African American authors between **Nov. 12 and Nov. 19** at the Miami Dade College

Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. Second Ave. in Miami, Florida.

• **A Lil Bit Of Jazz**
The Caribbean Cultural Coalition, Inc. will present "A Lil Bit Of Jazz" concert at **7 p.m. Nov. 26** at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts in Florida. Featured artistes include Bemol Jean Telfort, Ginou and Dadou Pasquet, with special guests The Magnum Band.

• **Flashpoint Film Fest for Negril**
The Flashpoint Film Festival, a forum for new Caribbean films, will run from **Dec. 1-3** at The Caves in Negril, Jamaica.

Compiled from **CMC** and other sources.



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F Y I

BETHEL HOUSE TO RE-OPEN

After 11 years of efforts, and a \$145,000 grant from The Miami-Dade Task Force on Urban Economic Rehabilitation, the Bethel House African-Bahamian Museum, the homestead of one of Florida's earliest Bahamian settlers, will re-open its doors to the public at **10 a.m. Dec. 18.**

Bethel House is located at

18201 S.W. 103 Court, Perrine.

The Bethel House has been revived as a cultural center for residents of Perrine and the surrounding areas. It will also function as an economic entity that will display exhibits and archival collection on African-Bahamian lifestyle.

Admission is free although donations are accepted. To learn more about the museum and

upcoming events there, call Helen Gage of Mz Goose Inc. at **305-251-2458.**

ALUMNI SOCCER

The All Jamaica High School Alumni Soccer Tournament '06, hosted by Calabar and Queens High School Alumni, will be held from **9.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3** at Tree Tops Park in Davie, Florida.

To register a team, or get more information, call Mackie at **954-583-1567** or Chris at **954-274-8541.**

PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Education Fund have co-published a free Parent Resource Guide 2006-2007 for the public.

The 88-page guide, sponsored by global financial services provider ING, gives parents information they need to know about their child's school, curriculum and student requirements.

The guide is printed in three languages -English, Spanish and Haitian creole. Each school in the system will receive additional copies for use in parent-teacher meetings.

The guide may also be viewed online at www.educationfund.org (under "Our Publications") and www.dadeschools.net (under "Resources").

The 2006-2007 Guide provides a wealth of information including revised curriculum requirements, test schedules, immunization requirements, student services, legal rights and parental involvement.

HURRICANE RELIEF

Elderly residents of Broward County, Florida, home to hundreds of Caribbean immigrants, will get hurricane help from the county.

A \$5,655,000 grant that will

provide assistance to residents 60 years and older that were affected by the 2005 hurricanes.

The grant money will be administered by the Broward County Elderly and Veteran Services Division, and will be used for rental subsidies to assist elderly residents for housing expenses incurred as their residences were damaged, in-home services such as minor repairs and clean up, as well as roof replacement.

The grant funds will be available to any Broward County resident 60 years or older who is not receiving services from another source and was impacted by a hurricane in 2005.

Assistance will be provided through an application process. For more information, call the Elderly and Veteran Services Division at 954-537-2936.

South Florida community builds a fishing village



Donations received at Food For The Poor's 2006 Fine Wines and Hidden Treasures, held recently in Palm Beach, Florida, have helped to build a fishing village in the community of Bull Bay, Jamaica. "The Palm Beach community demonstrated how generosity and compassion can turn despair into opportunity and bring hope to families eager to earn a living," said Robin G. Mahfood, president of Food For The Poor.

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Assistance will be provided through an application process. For more information, call the Elderly and Veteran Services Division at 954-537-2936.

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

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.



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B U S I N E S S

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Florida hosts 'Matchmaker' business confab, trade fair

Florida's signature event which provides a forum for minority women and businesses, state purchasing officers and private industry to share ideas and develop business partnerships will be held this month in Orlando.

Governor Jeb Bush and the state's Department of Management Services (DMS), Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD), will host the annual "Matchmaker Conference and Trade Fair" Nov. 15-17 at the Orange County Convention Center.

The conference is an outgrowth of Gov. Bush's "One Florida" initiative, in which he challenged Florida's state agencies to increase minority businesses spending and expand outreach and services to minority businesses statewide.

In 1999, when the initiative was introduced, total certified minority spending among government agencies was approximately \$150 million. Since then, government agencies have increased minority spending by 263.5 percent or \$397 million. For fiscal year 2004 to 2005, the state spent \$693 million dollars with minority businesses statewide.

"There is no doubt, minority businesses statewide have benefited from the governor's emphasis on minority contracting," said DMS

Secretary Tom Lewis, Jr. "Matchmaker is just one of the many ways we help minority vendors connect with government spenders. Governor Bush had a vision, and it has come full circle."

The business conference is designed to create an atmosphere that allows small and minority businesses to interact directly with state procurement officials and large corporations to build working and lasting relationships.

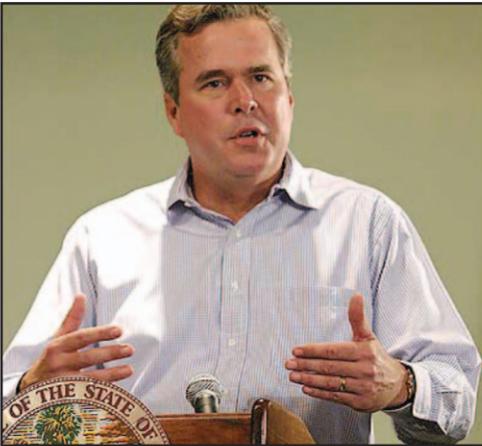
The agenda is packed with events that offer attendees numerous opportunities to enhance their business skills. Nationally known speakers and presenters, as well as top state leadership, have been invited to attend.

"Matchmaker is a one stop shop for minority businesses, state purchasing officers and private industry to share ideas and develop business partnerships," said OSD Director, Windell Paige. "We are thrilled that our previous sponsors and participants are excited to return and we look forward to fostering new partnerships."

This year's event features more than 200 companies that

will seek to purchase goods and services from eligible, certified minority vendors.

Through this event, the OSD is working to enhance vendor involvement with purchasing personnel, not only through traditional series of



Bush

professional development workshops and plenary sessions, but with opportunities such as the professional development breakfast, awards banquet, and nightly networking receptions.

Corporate sponsorship and registration opportunities are still available.

For more information, visit www.flmatchmaker.com or contact the Department of Management Services, Office of Supplier Diversity at 850-487-0915.



Miami-Dade offers small business development loans

The Miami-Dade Department of Business Development will launch a new program that guarantees loans to Community Small Business Enterprise (CSBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms this month.

The program relieves some of the financial burdens these companies encounter as small business contractors/vendors when awarded county contracts and guarantees loans for CSBE and SBE firms performing on county contracts, through a partnership with Continental National Bank of Miami.

The intent is to bridge the gap between submission of requisition and receipt of payment.

The loans are in the form of a line of credit, whereby invoices for contract related expenses may be paid within 48-hours. Loans may range from a minimum of \$25,000 to a maximum of \$250,000 per participant.

Eligible CSBE/SBEs must have a county contract award and be in good standing with the county.

For more information, call Laurie Johnson at 305-375-3121.



Young Caribbean CEOs to meet in January

Some 50 of the Caribbean's leading chief executive officers under age 40 are scheduled to convene in Jamaica in January for a regional summit to generate new ideas.

The event, which will also feature a presentation to the best business person among the group, will be held Jan. 23 and 24 at the Courtleigh Auditorium in New Kingston.

Participants will have an opportunity to quiz the region's top business leaders about the realities companies face and the strategic directions they see for the future. Discussions are expected to

cover core business issues, including growth, innovation, talent management, information technology, global markets and leadership.

The "2007 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award" will also be presented. The award is given annually to an individual(s) under age 40, who started their own business or are involved in the "hands on" running of the company as an active member of senior management and can be directly linked to the recent performance of the company.



Foreign information returns may be subject to automated penalties

STEVEN M. ROSENTHAL & MICHAEL ROSENBERG

In an effort to promote better information return compliance, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is considering automating the penalty setting process for information returns relating to foreign operations and transactions.

As United States taxpayers expand their businesses into foreign locales and more foreign persons and entities conduct business in the U.S., the information contained in such returns is becoming more necessary and more often utilized by the IRS.

Consequently, ensuring that penalties for either failing to file such returns or for filing such returns late are enforced is vital to increasing compliance with respect to international transactions.

The forms that the IRS is

focusing on are Form 5471, "Information Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations",



and Form 5472, "Information Return of a 25% Foreign-Owned U.S. Corporation or a Foreign Corporation Engaged in a U.S. Trade or Business". Each of these forms is an informational document that, when applicable, must be attached to, and filed by the due date of, the taxpayer's related income tax return.

Furthermore, a duplicate of each required form must be filed with the IRS Philadelphia Submission Processing Site in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

COSTLY

Failure to file either return (as required) on a timely basis, or not at all, can be quite costly. The penalty for not filing, or for filing late, a required Form 5471 or 5472 is \$10,000. Furthermore, such penalty may be imposed even if the return is timely filed in the event such return is viewed by the IRS as substantially incomplete.

However, the IRS has determined that it is missing opportunities to assess such penalties based on a recent analysis of validly filed Forms 5471 and 5472 for the tax year 2002 performed by the Treasury Inspector General (CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)



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Free small business seminars in Miami during November

Free public seminars on focusing on maximizing opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners to succeed in Miami-Dade County, and contribute to its economic growth by providing business services, will be held throughout November in South Florida.

During the month, the county's Enterprise Community Center will present its "Emerging and Expanding Business Seminars Series" by offering one on one counseling and business information to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The seminars, to be held at 3050 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 201, in Miami, are being divided in two parts consisting of the "Emerging Business" and the "Expanding Business" series.

The Miami-Dade ECC is a division of the Miami-Dade Empowerment Trust. The ECC also offers a small business resource library and daily one on one business counseling.

For more information about the seminars, and to register, call 305-579-2730.



WICB appoints new commercial manager

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – Barbadian Paul Skinner has been appointed to the new post of commercial manager of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

Skinner now has responsibility for managing the WICB's Commercial and Business Development Department.

"The new role will focus highly on growing current business and exploring new revenue streams for the WICB", the board stated late last month.

"In addition, the relationships developed with sponsors in his previous role as sponsorship and events manager will



Skinner

be further strengthened in the pursuit of expansion and progress of the business", the WICB stated.

Skinner has a degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada. He worked for 12 years with Shell Antilles and Guianas Ltd. and was responsible for the Shell Select Convenience store network in the Caribbean.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

• 30th Miami trade confab

The effect of recent initiatives such as the Caribbean Single Market will be among the issues assessed at the 30th Miami Conference on trade and investments scheduled for Dec. 4-6.

Will the Caribbean be able to effectively integrate and create a truly single market space that allows for increased regional and foreign direct investment? Is CAFTA-DR delivering on its promise or is there significant work to be done to make Central American economies competitive? Regional leaders will discuss those subjects during the three-day event.

• Europe to provide trade aid to Caribbean

The European Union last month said it would begin preparing a strategy to deliver more than Euro 2 billion (\$2.5 billion) in aid to Caribbean and other developing countries.

The E.U. said that the funds would help put in place new trade policies to boost their growth and help them integrate into global markets.

• OECS develops investment ties with Puerto Rico

The St. Lucia-based Organisation of

Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) says it has developed an alliance with Puerto Rico aimed at developing trade, tourism and investment sectors.

It said the sub-regional grouping has established a tourism and investment office in Puerto Rico that would be used as a base for stimulating trade between the two regions.

• CARICOM gets support for trade talks

The Caribbean community (CARICOM) has received support for its repeated calls for the resumption of the stalled Doha Round of global trade negotiations.

Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Pascal Lamy, told a United Nations Second Committee special panel discussion on "Negotiating Doha" that the WTO would be reduced to nothing more than a trade litigation forum if the Doha Round of trade talks were to fail. He urged Europe and North America to engage in some "political heavy lifting" to prevent the failure of the important talks.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Golden Krust expands into Maryland



Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Professor Gordon Shirley, center holding bow, cuts the ribbon marking the official opening of Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery and Grill 108th store in the mall at Prince George's Plaza, Maryland, last month. Sharing in the ceremony is Golden Krust President and Chief Executive Officer Lowell Hawthorne, to Shirley's immediate left, and Garfield Gordon the new franchisee. Also joining in the celebration are members of the Golden Krust family members and well wishers.

Ambassador Shirley said "the growth of Golden Krust into a successful franchisee is not only impressive, but is also a testament to the enterprising spirit of the Jamaican people." He said Golden Krust is the largest Jamaican-owned chain restaurant throughout the United States.

Hawthorne said Golden Krust is expanding its chain of restaurants into Maryland and there are plans to establish an additional 10 stores in the state over the next five years.

"The trend of the restaurant business is growing in that area and Golden Krust is now moving towards capitalizing on this market and to bring Jamaican cuisine to both the Caribbean and American community," Hawthorne said.

Golden Krust, he added, will bring to Maryland a concept that is a Caribbean theme with a strong Jamaican emphasis - authentic jerk chicken and variety of patties.

Two months ago Golden Krust opened four stores in Atlanta, Georgia.

P.M. projecting investments, healthy economy for St. Kitts

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC - Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas is projecting the St. Kitts and Nevis economy could benefit from investments totaling more than one billion east Caribbean dollars (\$370.3 million) over the coming months.

Douglas said among the projects is the construction of hotels, marinas, golf courses,

villas, condominiums and thorough-bred horse and dog racing tracks.

He told local private and public sector officials that the federation had been able to attract several high profile investors, including the Ritz Carlton hotel group, to do business on the island.

"These developments will result in well over one billion in

investment in our economy over the medium-term," Douglas said. "There is clearly no doubt that the growth potential of our economy is strong and that we need to continue to create an environment that is conducive to strong and sustained economic growth."



Foreign information returns may be subject to automated penalties

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21) for Tax Administration (TIGTA).

According to such study, approximately three percent of the forms 5471 and 5472 filed for 2002 were filed late (7,929 out of 245,419; such numbers were based on a sample analysis).

However, not a single taxpayer filing a late Form 5471 or 5472 was assessed the \$10,000 penalty. Based on these results, the TIGTA has determined that the IRS is potentially missing out on the opportunity to assess approximately \$79.2 million in penalties annually, assuming the taxpayers in question did not have reasonable cause for filing late.

Such missed opportunities are the result of the IRS's reliance on examiners to manually identify the delinquency and to then to appropriately assess the penalty, a result that could be eliminated through an automated process.

STUDY

As a result, the TIGTA has recommended to the IRS that a study be performed by the IRS to determine whether an automated penalty setting process should be put in place with respect to Forms 5471 and 5472. The IRS has agreed that such a study should be performed in order to determine the benefits that may be derived by implementing an automated penalty set-

ting process in comparison to any related costs.

Consequently, it may become even more important in the future that any taxpayer who may be required to file either a Form 5471 or 5472 do so on a timely and accurate basis. As the penalties for failing to file a Form 5471 or 5472 are not insignificant, taking the time to make sure these returns are timely filed will likely become of utmost importance.

Michael Rosenberg is a shareholder and Steven M. Rosenthal is an associate with the Coral Gables law firm of Packman, Neuwahl



SPORT

www.caribbeantoday.com

Jamaica's Powell, Simpson top regional athletic awards

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, CMC - Jamaican sprinters Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson have been selected the best Central American and Caribbean Athletes of the Year, after both had superb seasons in 2006.

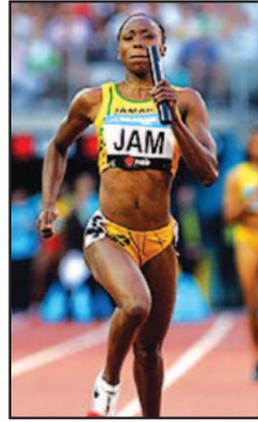
Stephen Francis, their trainer at the Jamaica-based MVP Track Club, was also named the North America, Central America and Caribbean Track and Field Coaches Association (NACTFCA) Coach of the Year.

Unbeaten in 16 finals, the 23-year-old Powell equaled his 100-meter world record twice (9.77) and became the first Jamaican to claim a share of the IAAF Golden League jackpot. He also added the Commonwealth Games and the World Athletics Final titles to his extensive pedigree, as well as improving his 200-meter personal best to 19.90 seconds in a tremendous season. Powell is being awarded with the CAC Athlete of the

Year honor for the second consecutive season.

EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE

Simpson was also impressive in the sprints, posting the year's fastest times in both 100



Simpson



Powell

meters (10.82) and 200 meters (22.00). The 22-year-old clocked seven of the 11 sub-11 second times and won the World Cup in Athens, as well as the World Athletics Final,

both over 100 meters.

In March she won the Commonwealth title over 200 meters, defeating her teammate and Olympic champion Veronica Campbell.

Simpson also dominated four of the six IAAF Golden League meetings and anchored the Americas squad to the 4x100-meter sprint relay win at the World Cup.

Powell and Simpson are also up for two major world awards from the IAAF. They have both earned nominations the 2006 World Athlete of the Year award, plus the "Performance of the Year" prize that will be declared at the 2006 IAAF World Athletics Gala in Monaco on Nov. 12.



New format for Caribbean cricket

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC - The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has announced a new format for regional cricket with the 2006-2007 four-day Carib Beer Series and KFC Cup limited overs tournaments to run concurrently.

Starting on Jan. 4, 2007, venues will use a six-day window to host the four-day Carib Beer Cup matches and

then the KFC Cup limited overs game two days later.

In the opening matches in the Carib Beer series on Jan. 4, title-holders Trinidad and Tobago will be away to Barbados at Kensington Oval, the Leeward Islands entertain Jamaica in St. Kitts, and the Windward Islands will be at home to reigning KFC Cup champions Guyana in Grenada. At the completion

of those Carib Beer Cup matches, teams will stay on for the KFC Cup matches two days later on Jan. 9.

The pattern will continue through subsequent weeks until the KFC Cup Final Four series in St. Vincent on Feb. 14, 15, and 17.

The five-day Carib Cup final is slated for Feb. 22-26 at Guaracara Park in Trinidad.



Soca Warriors fall from top of Caribbean soccer rankings

ZURICH, Switzerland - Jamaica has replaced Trinidad and Tobago as the top team in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU), according to rankings released by soccer's world governing body FIFA last month.

The Reggae Boyz, despite being knocked out of the Digicel Caribbean Cup at the first group stage, jumped 20 places in the rankings to 57th, resulting in a CFU leap from number three to number one.

The Jamaicans were defeated 2-1 by St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) in Digicel Cup group play in September, but benefited from otherwise good results during the latest period under ranking review, defeating other top 100 teams Canada (2-1) and Haiti (2-0), while



Yorke

winning three of four games.

T&T's Soca Warriors, led by veteran Dwight Yorke, played in last summer's World Cup finals for the first time in the country's history. The

country fell 24 places to 80th in the world rankings to be the number three CFU team. Cuba climbed to number two in the Caribbean after climbing one place up the world rankings to 68th.

St Lucia, which was fourth in the last CFU rankings, dropped out the top five to ninth after falling one place on FIFA's list to 116.

The other CFU teams to drop in FIFA's ratings are The Bahamas (eight places to 146th), The Netherlands Antilles (one spot to 172nd) and Cayman Islands (one place to 178th).

The St. Lucians were overtaken by Haiti, SVG, Barbados, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda respec-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

USVI's Jackson enters Boxing Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES, California, CMC - Former world light middleweight and middleweight champion Julian Jackson, of the United States Virgin Islands, joined some big names of the past as inductees into the World Boxing Hall of Fame (WBHF) last month.

Standing alongside such greats as the legendary Panamanian Roberto Duran, Jackson was one of the star inductees at the WBHF's 27th Annual Banquet of Champions with over 900 attendees at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel.

Duran was the biggest name among the 13 inductees that included other ex-champions Matthew Saad Muhammad and Eddie Perkins, and announcer Barry Tompkins.

Jackson starred in the middleweight division with his pure knockout power during the late 1980s and early 1990s and was a three-time champion, embracing the 154-pound light middleweight and 160-pound middleweight divisions. He racked up an impressive ring record of 55 wins (49 knockouts) against six losses, and is widely regarded as one of the hardest punchers in world junior middleweight and middleweight boxing history.

TITLE RUN

He won his first world title in Nov. 1987 by knocking out South Korean In Chul Baek in three rounds in Las Vegas to capture the World Boxing Association (WBA) light mid-

dleweight title that had been vacated by Jamaican Mike McCallum.

Jackson had lost his first try at that 154-pound WBA belt when McCallum, already in the WBHF, beat him in two rounds in Florida in Aug. 1986. After defeating Baek for the title,



Jackson

Jackson successfully defended the belt three times with impressive knockout wins - against

Brazilian Francisco DeJesus and Americans Buster Drayton and Terry Norris - before moving up to the middleweight division.

In his first title opportunity at the 160-pound middleweight level, Jackson whipped Britain's Herol Graham in four rounds to capture the World Boxing Council (WBC) title in Nov. 1990. He defended that title four times before losing it to American Gerald McClellan in May 1994.

As a 34-year-old, he regained the belt by beating Italian Agostino Cardamone in Mar. 1995, but lost it to American Quincy Taylor in his first defense five months later.

Jackson retired in 1998 after losing to American Anthony Jones. Now age 45, Jackson is the national coach of the USVI and gets his WBHF induction in his third year of eligibility.



Former world champion Berbick killed in Jamaica

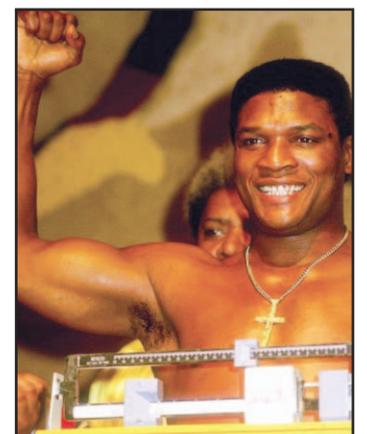
PORTLAND, Jamaica, CMC - Jamaica's former world heavyweight boxing champion Trevor Berbick was found dead close to his home in Norwich late last month. He was 51 years old.

Berbick was discovered with multiple wounds, apparently inflicted by a machete.

He won the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title in Mar. 1986 by defeating American Pinklon Thomas, but lost the belt eight months later in a second-round knockout to Mike Tyson.

After representing Jamaica at the 1976 Olympic Games in Canada, Berbick remained in that country to pursue a professional career in the sport and within three years he became Canada's heavyweight champion.

In Dec. 1981, in The



Berbick

Bahamas, Berbick defeated Muhammad Ali on points, in what was the last professional fight for the legendary American, widely regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time.



Jamaican wins MLS Golden Boot award

NEW YORK CITY, New York, CMC – Jamaican-born forward Jeff Cunningham has secured the Budweiser Golden Boot award as top scorer in the 2006 United States Major League Soccer (MLS) regular season.

Cunningham, a former U.S. international who plays for Real Salt Lake alongside another Jamaican Andy Williams, scored 16 goals during this year's campaign, two more than the Chivas USA forward Ante Razov and the D.C. United midfielder Christian Gomez, who each had 14 goals.

The 30-year-old

Cunningham, who migrated to the U.S. from Montego Bay in Jamaica as a 14-year-old, added 11 assists to his goal tally.

This marks the third time that a Caribbean-born player has won the Golden Boot award, following back-to-back awards for Trinidad and Tobago's Stern John in 1998 and 1999.

Now in his ninth MLS season, Cunningham has 90 career goals and is fourth on the MLS all-time scoring list behind Jason Kreis (108), Jaime Moreno (105) and Razov (98). Cunningham, who has nine caps for the U.S., spent most of his MLS years



Cunningham

with Columbus Crew and one season with the Colorado Rapids before being traded to Real Salt Lake. He earned MLS "Player of the Week" honors four times during the 2006 season and was "Player of the Month" in August.



Barbados bracing for Jamaica onslaught in under-16 netball

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Defending champions Barbados is bracing for a stern challenge to their Caribbean Netball Association's under-16 title, when the tournament gets underway this month.

Though confident of mounting a strong title-defense after choosing a strong 12-member team, Barbados is wary of threats to the title it won last year in St. Kitts and is eyeing five-time champions Jamaica in particular.

"All things being equal, the girls have been training hard, we have put them through some very severe tests here because we are really aware that Jamaica really wants to get back the under-16 championship," Annette Beckett, the Barbados Netball Association president, told CMC Sports.

CHALLENGE

Barbados claimed the title

in the last tourney after beating perennial champions Jamaica 26-24 in a thrilling encounter, the marquee event at in the championship. Beckett said Barbados expected its major challenge to come from its northern neighbors again.

Yet despite the challenge from Jamaica, Beckett said she expected Barbados to successfully defend its title.

"We are expecting the under-16 team for 2006 to perform as good as or better than the one did in 2005," Beckett said.

The championships will be staged at the Jean Pierre Complex from Nov. 23 to Dec. 3. Nine teams are confirmed. Ex-champions Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) will join Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and hosts Trinidad and Tobago.



SPORT BRIEFS

• T&T Soca Warriors quit threat to retire

Trinidad and Tobago's Soca Warriors, who participated at the World Cup finals in Germany in June, have withdrawn their threat to retire from international soccer over disputed bonus payments.

After consultation with lawyers, the players' committee - with Dwight Yorke, Brent Sancho, Stern John and Dennis Lawrence at the helm - said last month that there is a suitable arbitration process under the FIFA statutes to resolve the issue.

• Windies hosts Sri Lanka 'A'

Sri Lanka's 'A' team will embark on a seven-match cricket tour of the West Indies starting late this month.

The Sri Lankan reserves will play West Indies 'A' in two four-

day matches in Guyana and St. Kitts before facing the home team in five one-day matches in Jamaica.

• U.S. Wellness team for Reggae Marathon

United States-based team The Wellness Community's Strides For Hope will be among the more than 400 participants to contest the sixth staging of Reggae Marathon/Half Marathon in Negril, Jamaica on Dec. 2.

Participants are also expected from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The course runs along the seven-mile white sand beach strip in Negril.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Soca Warriors fall from atop Caribbean soccer rankings

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

tively. Haiti, SVG and Barbados made the biggest moves in the entire world rankings. The Haitians

jumped 35 places to 83rd, SVG 44 to 85th and Barbados 52 to 100th.



CFU rankings (world ranking in brackets)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Jamaica (57) | 14. Grenada (157) |
| 2. Cuba (68) | 15. Dominican Republic (160) |
| 3. Trinidad and Tobago (80) | 16. Turks and Caicos (168) |
| 4. Haiti (83) | 17. British Virgin Islands (171) |
| 5. St. Vincent & the Grenadines (85) | 18. Netherlands Antilles (172) |
| 6. Barbados (100) | 19. Cayman Islands (178) |
| 7. Guyana (106) | 20. Dominica (120) |
| 8. Antigua and Barbuda (109) | 21. Puerto Rico (191) |
| 9. St. Lucia (116) | 22. Anguilla (196) |
| 10. St. Kitts and Nevis (118) | 23. Aruba (198) |
| 11. Suriname (122) | 23. United States Virgin Islands (198) |
| 11. Bermuda (122) | 23. Montserrat (198) |
| 13. Bahamas (146) | |



Milutinovic set to coach Jamaica's Reggae Boyz

The Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) last month announced that it is close to signing Bora Milutinovic as the next coach of Jamaica's Reggae Boyz soccer team.

The JFF has been sourcing sponsorship to pay the salary of Serbia-born Milutinovic, one of the world's best-known soccer coaches, and both parties have declared they are close to an agreement.

Jamaica's Finance Minister Dr. Omar Davies said his government was committing \$500,000 annually for the next four years toward Milutinovic's salary. Davies said that allocation was being shared between the government and an undisclosed private sector interest.

Currently based in Mexico,

Milutinovic is one of the world's most traveled international coaches and he is the only man to have led as many as five different teams at the World Cup finals - China in 2002, the 1986 hosts Mexico, Costa Rica (1990), hosts United States (1994), and Nigeria (1998).

Milutinovic has a reputation as a coach who will make surprise team selections. Former United States national team player Alexi Lalas, who played for Milutinovic, told Caribbean Today that the coach will also favor smart, young players.

In France 1998, under the guidance of Brazilian coach



Milutinovic

Rene Simoes, Jamaica created history when it became the first English-speaking Caribbean team to appear in a World Cup finals, but the Reggae Boyz have struggled to reach those lofty heights since then.



Caribbean to crown new soccer kings

A new champion of regional soccer will be crowned early next year following Jamaica's elimination from the preliminary round of the Digicel Caribbean Cup last month.

Jamaica, playing at home, finished third in its group, behind Haiti and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The second qualifying round of matches will begin this month with 12 teams split into three

groups of four. The top two teams from each group will automatically join hosts Trinidad and Tobago in the finals of the tournament in January. The third placed team in each group will play off, with the winner earning the last spot in the finals.

Play in Group G, based in Barbados, will feature the hosts, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bermuda and The Bahamas. The opening group games are

scheduled for Nov. 19.

Games in Group H will be hosted by Guyana, which will be joined by the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, and Antigua and Barbuda. The first matches will kick off on Nov. 24.

On Nov. 8, play begins in Group I, featuring hosts Martinique, Cuba, Suriname and Haiti.



E.U. envoy urges Caribbean not to miss trade pact deadline

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - As the Caribbean negotiates a new economic deal with the European Union (E.U.), Europe's point man in the region has warned that the Caribbean community (CARICOM) stands to pay a hefty price if a new deal cannot be struck in time.

Ambassador Amos Tincani, head of the European Commission Delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, said the region must get its trade position together by the Jan. 2008 deadline to negotiate a new Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the E.U.

"We should not flaunt the deadline, but equally we have no magic alternatives to offer

and it is politically unrealistic to think that (World Trade Organization) members would agree to extend the current waiver, and certainly not without a hefty price," he told cultural workers and trade negotiators gathered here to make recommendations for promoting creative industries.



Tincani

CHANGE

The E.U. envoy told participants at the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM)-organized seminar last month that

the EPA would fundamentally change the E.U.-Caribbean relationship from one that offers trade preferences to one that builds lasting regional and international markets for the Caribbean.

"The world is moving on and preferences are eroding - eroding permanently. It does the region no favors to cling to the past," he told his audience which is tasked with determining how the region's cultural industries will be integrated into the Caribbean's external trade negotiations.

Tincani said the Caribbean is stressing weakness in regional economies and the need for flexible trade tools while Europe is showing "some flexibility" to reflect

the regional realities in negotiations for a replacement to the Lome and Cotonou trade

and aid pacts with new reciprocal trade arrangements.



REGION BRIEFS

• Caribbean, U.S. sign anti-drugs pact

The United States has signed an agreement with several Caribbean, South American and European countries aimed at dealing with the illegal drug trafficking trade.

Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, the Netherlands, France, Britain signed the "Paramaribo Declaration" last month at the end of a two-day conference.

• Caribbean, U.S. sign anti-drugs pact

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Brazil, the Netherlands, France, Britain signed the "Paramaribo Declaration" last month at the end of a two-day conference.

• BVI to introduce new work permit card

Authorities in the British Virgin Islands are introducing a new work permit card in an attempt to wipe out what they say is widespread forgery of the current document.

Noting that the measures were long overdue, Minister of Labor Eileene Parsons said the BVI Labor Department has contracted a Barbadian firm to produce the new card which will be introduced Jan. 3.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Jamaican named 'African Living Legend'

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretary General Edwin Carrington has praised Jamaican diplomat Dudley Thompson who has been recognized as an "African Living Legend".

Ambassador Thompson was given the honor by the African Press in Ghana, along with Nelson Mandela, United Nations Secretary General Koffi Annan, Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka, and three other African nationals.

"The fact that this is your second such recognition by Africans is a powerful testi-

mony that you have sincerely dedicated most of your life to the Pan-African movement. You have not only served your home the Caribbean very well but have extended your hand further afield to cross borders and continents to embrace our African brothers and sisters while seeking to reinforce the ties that have bound us," Carrington said in a congratulatory message.

He said for Thompson to have received the recognition along with persons such as Mandela, Annan and Soyinka "is a tremendous honor, not only for yourself and Jamaica

but for the entire Caribbean."

Born in 1917,



Thompson

Thompson received the Order of Jamaica and the Order of Balboa from Panama. He served in Britain's Royal Air Force during World War II and interacted with such Pan-African greats as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, George Padmore of Trinidad and Tobago and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya.



IDB approves \$18M loan to develop Haiti's agriculture, livestock sectors

WASHINGTON, CMC - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a \$17.8 million loan to Haiti to further develop the agricultural and livestock sectors.

The IDB said that the funds would be used to strengthen extension and research centers, reduce losses caused by key crop and livestock pests and diseases and generate business opportunities.

The funds will also be used for a program to increase productivity in rural supply chains with proven growth potential.

FALL

The IDB said that agricultural output has fallen dramatically in Haiti over the past two decades, increasing poverty levels in the countryside, where the majority of Haitians reside.

"Nevertheless, a variety of agriculture and livestock-based activities show promising prospects to add value and generate more income and jobs in rural areas," it added.

Building on studies of Haiti's emerging rural supply chains, the IDB said the new program would strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) by investing in existing research and extension centers and promoting public-private cooperation.

"Knowledgeable members of producer associations will be included in steering committees to ensure the relevance and accountability of the research and extension programs," it added.

PEST CONTROL

A second component of the program will bolster Haiti's capacity to detect and control key pests and diseases affecting plants and animals in the priority supply chains; improve quarantine controls at airports, ports and border crossings; run quality control, compliance and certification systems; and carry out specific phyto-zoo-sanitary campaigns.

The program will help the MARNDR boost its capacity to make public investments in rural supply chains by providing financing to train staff in strategic management, human resources and operations management and information management.

As part of the program, a \$500,000 grant from the Japanese Poverty Reduction Fund (JPRF) will help link rural producer groups and entrepreneurs to market opportunities, including services to develop business plans and to identify financing sources, the IDB said.

It said that investments made under the program would complement other rural development projects financed by the IDB and various international agencies and donors in Haiti.

The new loan is for 40 years, with a 10-year grace period. It has an annual interest rate of one per cent during the first decade and two per cent thereafter.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) No. 6000000039 Information Technology Services

The Procurement Department of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed proposals up to 2:30 p.m. opening time on December 15, 2006 to develop a pool of qualified Contractors that can provide the District with Information Technology Consulting Services.

An **OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** will be held on November 27, 2006, @ 1:30 p.m. in the District's building B-1, Auditorium, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach Florida for all interested respondents.

All proposals must conform to the instructions in the RFP. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFP (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov; (3) by calling (561) 682-2715; or (4) by calling the 24-hour **BID HOTLINE (800) 472-5290**. The public is invited to attend the proposal opening. **Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov.**

Official public meetings regarding oral presentations for this RFP are scheduled for the period of January 25, 2007 thru March 5, 2007.

Oral presentations are subject to cancellation in the event that the District's final ranking is based solely on the written proposal evaluation. All meetings will be publicly noticed when dates are confirmed. All public meetings will be held at the District's headquarters site, building B-1. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing the South Florida Water Management District, Procurement Department, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-4680. Persons with disabilities or handicaps who need assistance may contact the District Clerk, (561) 682-6297, at least two business days in advance of the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.

Should one or more members of the evaluation committee need to attend any of the meetings by means of communication media technology (CMT), the meetings will be teleconferenced at the dates, times, locations and conference rooms referenced above. For more information, please contact Donna Lavery, Lead Procurement Specialist, at (561) 682-6420, or Penny Burger, Contract Specialist, at (561) 682-2536.



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Architectural and engineering as well as construction project announcements are published in the *Daily Business Review*.

Delivering Excellence Every Day

Jamaica offers incentives for U.S. passport holders

Jamaica is encouraging Americans to get their passports through a series of value added and educational programs created in response to the new U.S. passport regulations.

Two programs announced by the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) and the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) offer incentives for travelers who obtain new passports, and provide opportunities that make it convenient for potential travelers to sign up for their passports.

Visitors who travel to Jamaica after Jan. 8, 2007 with new passports and have Jamaica as the first port of entry stamped in their new passport, will receive special credits during their stay that equal the standard amount spent on applying for a U.S. passport. These incentives may include hotel services, such as spa treatments, golf greens fees, attraction tour fees, room upgrades, extra nights, gift shop and photo shop purchases, and more.

Participating hotels will

offer the various incentives through Dec. 2007. Services and amenities provided by hotels will equal the U.S. dollar amount spent on each new passport: \$97 per adult and \$82 per child for new passports. Details for participating hotels will vary.

For more information go to www.visitjamaica.com/rewards

COFFEE BREAKS

On Nov. 15, the JTB is expected to launch a series of "Jamaica Morning Coffee Breaks" at major commuter terminals in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Consumers can apply for their passports on-site or collect the necessary forms.

Free Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee will be offered, as well as information on Jamaica travel and new passport requirements.

Commuters will need to



Assamba

have all necessary documents if they want to apply at the events. This program will continue in additional major U.S. markets through mid-winter 2007.

HONEYMOONERS

The JTB is also encouraging couples and families to include getting their passports on their "must do" list as they plan honeymoons and family vacations.

"Jamaica realizes how important it is to educate Americans about the new passport regulations, and to encourage travelers to apply for their passports as soon as possible," said Minister Of Tourism, Entertainment and Culture.

"These initiatives are designed to make the application process easier, as well as to provide an incentive to make Jamaica the first stop upon receiving a passport."

For more information about the passport requirements and Jamaica's passport initiatives, go to www.visitjamaica.com



Seniors encouraged to apply for Social Security benefits

For Caribbean nationals living in the United States who are planning an early 2007 retirement, now is the time to contact Social Security.

Here's why: the Social Security office generally encourages people to notify it about three months before the month in which they plan to retire.

For those planning to retire in 2007 who want their monthly payments to start in January or February, they can do it now and get the process completed before the start of the busy holiday season.

ONLINE

For those who are Internet savvy, Social Security makes the process even easier and more convenient through options available at its website www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire.

Applications can be made online for a person's retirement or his or her spouse's benefits. Before the online process begins, applicants will be informed that he or she will sign the application form electronically, once they click on the "sign now" button at the end of the application. That means the applicant accepts responsibility for the accuracy of the information submit to Social Security.

Social Security will need to have proper verification to make a decision on claims, such as proof of age, earnings, marriage and sufficient medical evidence for disability claims.

For those who do not have access to the Internet and are ready to apply for retirement benefits, visit a local Social Security office or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



'Beautiful' teaches sweet lessons in self-esteem

Author and illustrator Camille A. Alston has published a children's book entitled "Beautiful as a Butterfly" which speaks to young readers and addresses their concerns about self-esteem.

The easy-to-understand prose helps children grasp the somewhat complicated issue of self-esteem. Alston, who also illustrated the book, saw a need for this type of book after working directly with children from a variety of circumstances.

"In today's society, youth, and adults alike, are constantly presented with many challenges including issues of low self-esteem and lack of self-worth. 'Beautiful as a Butterfly' presents parents with an important opportunity to discuss ways to help their children develop a healthy sense of confidence," Alston

in a recent press release.

Teachers are also encouraged to use this book as a tool to teach students about this vital aspect of growth.

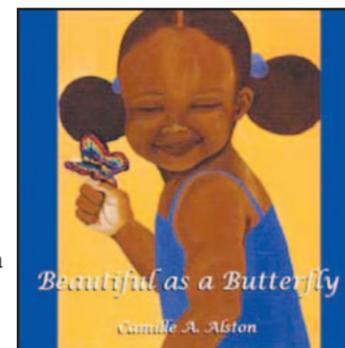
In the book, Sweet Pea's daddy tells her how beautiful

she is, but she doesn't believe him, until she discovers what makes her beautiful. She asks her mother and other important people in her life for their opinions and she finds out

that everybody thinks she is beautiful for a different reason.

Alston was born and raised in Plainfield, New Jersey and graduated from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA with a degree in fine arts.

- BlackNews.com



CHEERING FOR A CURE



Supporters of the fight against breast cancer cheer at a gathering for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure held last month at Bayfront Park in Miami, Florida. More than 14,000, including close to 600 breast cancer survivors, participated, the highest number since the first race in 1996. The foundation is dedicated to eradicating breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. October was "Breast Cancer Awareness Month".

LOCAL BRIEFS

• Attorney re-elected AJA president

Attorney Allan Alberga was last month re-elected president of the Atlanta Jamaican Association for a third consecutive term.

Among those elected to serve on the AJA's board, which will assume office in Jan. 2007, are: Vice President Trevor Smith, Secretary Sylvia Ricketts, Assistant Secretary Hope McDonald,

Treasurer Joy Boothe, and Sargent-at-Arms Winston Henry.

• Remittances on the rise

According to Dame Billie Miller, Barbados's minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, remittances from Caribbean nationals abroad, including the United States, grew from \$400 million in the early 1990s to about \$4 billion in 2002.

• Flu shots for seniors

Free flu and pneumonia vaccinations are available to persons age 65 and older through the Senior Immunization Project, a partnership of the Health Foundation of South Florida and Health Choice Network.

Vaccines are free for uninsured seniors. Insured seniors may participate by bringing their insurance cards.

For more information, call 305-599-1015 Ext.8008.

• Taste of Florida-Caribbean

The Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce (GCACC) will host its inaugural "Taste of Florida-Caribbean" expo and food tasting event from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at Volunteer Park, 12050 Sunrise Blvd in Plantation, Florida. The event will include a fun-filled family day of food tasting,

Caribbean steel pan music, fun, games and entertainment for all ages. Attendees can expect to taste different cuisines from various Caribbean restaurants, caterers and suppliers.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



P O L I T I C S

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P.M. Arthur keeps Barbados guessing over date for general elections

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - With both major political parties stepping up activities across the country, Prime Minister Owen Arthur is keeping Barbadians guessing on when the next general elections will be called.

Addressing a political mass meeting in the southern town of Oistins late last month, Arthur told supporters that his ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) could be seeking a fourth successive term anytime from as early as before year end, until after mid-2008 when the poll is constitutionally due.

"There is no need to speculate about the date of an election in Barbados," he told cheering supporters.

"Whether an election is called in January next year or this year - and you hear when I say this year - or sometime in 2007 or 2008 it will not mat-

ter, it will not make any difference because the result of the election will be the same - four love."

SPECULATION

Speculation about an early



Arthur

poll grew recently following the publication of a poll which showed that the ruling party had increased its popularity over the last year, coupled with

the party's decision to follow in the footsteps of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) to hold mass meetings across the country.

Arthur, however, told his audience that the "Conversation with the Nation" series of meetings were decided on because his government realized that it could not depend on the mass media to take its message to the country and not because of an impending election as the opposition suggested.

"Tonight I have come to refocus the serious purpose behind these meetings, I have not come out to electioneer. The time will come when I will ask for your support but I feel the need for a general conversation with our people," the prime minister added.



Jamaica government survives vote of no confidence over 'Trafigura Affair'

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller broke her long silence on the controversial campaign finance scandal involving her ruling People's National Party (PNP) government as it survived a vote of no confidence brought against it by the main Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Both the PNP and the JLP voted along party lines last month for a 33 to 23 defeat of the motion that had been tabled by Opposition Leader Bruce Golding last in light of the on going controversy surrounding the campaign contribution fund involving the PNP and the Dutch oil company Trafigura Beheer.

The controversy has already led to the resignation of Information Minister Colin Campbell, who also stepped down as the PNP's general secretary after Trafigura Beheer denied the PNP's account of how J\$31 million (\$467,000) got into an account bearing Campbell's name.

Campbell had claimed that the money was a gift from Trafigura towards the PNP's election campaign, but the JLP



Golding

called for the resignation of the entire government.

GOV'T DENIAL

In her presentation, Simpson Miller emphatically denied any impropriety in the "Trafigura Affair" saying the motion was a bid by the Opposition to score points ahead of the impending general election. She said that in his bid to score political points, Golding breached banking laws, adding "this is not the sort of conduct that can be regarded as a qualification for leadership of our country."

The prime minister said that on the issue of campaign

financing, it was now a matter to be dealt with by a parliamentary committee that would also allow for public participation in its deliberations.

Golding, describing the "Trafigura Affair" as "the mother of all scandals," brushed aside a call by the prime minister for a Joint Select Committee of Parliament to discuss a bill on party funding and registration tabled by Independent legislator Abe Dabdoub.



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