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THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



Another major American restaurant franchise has added some distinct Caribbean

tastes to its menu, like the coconut shrimp. As "Captain D's Seafood" admits, "Caribbean flavors are very hot now," page 14.

International dancehall entertainer Moses Davis, popularly known as "Beenie Man", is free on bail, but he still has to answer to charges of failing to pay millions of dollars in taxes in Jamaica, page 19.



AIDS FUROR

~ A recent study claims the virus that causes AIDS came to the U.S. via Haiti, **page 2**, sparking outrage from others who say the information does a 'grave disservice' to that Caribbean community, which is 'going crazy' over the allegation, **page 18**.



Jamaica's captain Chris Gayle poses with the spoils after he and his team dethroned T&T to claim the KFC trophy and title of the Caribbean's top one-day cricket team, page 25.

Remembering our heroes

~ A monument to the Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue, Haitian soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, was unveiled last month in Savannah, Georgia, page 5.



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INSIDE

News	2	Tourism/Travel	11	Local	18	Politics	23
Feature	8	Health	13	Arts/Entertainment	19	Sport	25
Viewpoint	9	Caribbean Foods	14	Region	21	Education/Youth	27



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HIV arrived in U.S. from Haiti ~ study

NELSON A. KING

ARIZONA - A new study in the United States says HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, probably came into America from Haiti around 1969, a decade earlier than most scientists believed.

The study, titled "The emergence of HIV/AIDS in the Americas", was published on Oct. 29 in "The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences". It is the work of Michael Worobey, an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at The University of Arizona in Tucson, and his colleagues.

"Our results show that the

strain of virus that spawned the U.S. AIDS epidemic probably arrived in or around 1969. That is earlier than a lot of people had imagined," Worobey said.

"Haiti was the stepping stone the virus took when it left Central Africa and started its sweep around the world.

"Once the virus got to the U.S. it just moved explosively around the world."

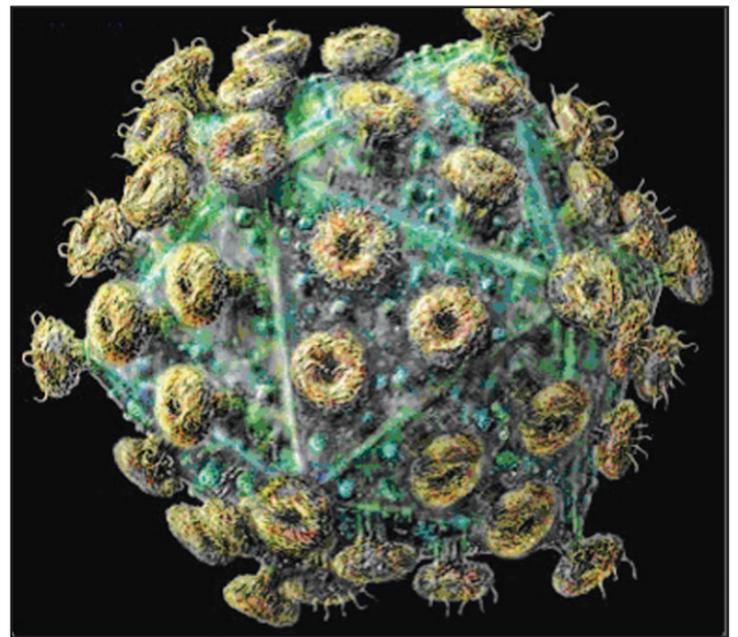
COMMON ANCESTOR

The researchers found that most HIV/AIDS strains in the U.S. came from a single common ancestor that predates the well-storied "Patient Zero" theory. The Patient

Zero theory came from a misrepresentation for Patient O, for "Out of California", where early research on AIDS by the Atlanta-based U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggested HIV in the U.S. spread in the late 1970s, early 1980s came from one man in California.

According to the work of Worobey and his colleagues, the strain that came to the U.S. in 1969 was HIV-1 group M, subtype B; and is the first discovered human immunodeficiency virus.

"This strain is the most dominant of the AIDS strains that exist in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa,



The AIDS virus.

nearly all of which descended from the one that came out of Haiti," the researchers said.

The researchers analyzed the genes in stored blood samples of five AIDS patients to pinpoint the date HIV arrived in the U.S. All the patients had recently emigrated from Haiti.

"The most likely route was Africa to Haiti then the U.S., which yielded a probability of 99.8 percent," the researchers said, adding that the gene sequence analysis also showed that most viruses

in the U.S. can be traced to one ancestor, the one that entered the U.S. from Haiti in and around 1969.

The researchers said that Haiti had a greater genetic diversity of the subtype B virus than the U.S., Australia, Europe and other countries. They estimated the virus traveled from Africa to Haiti in 1966.

Haitians outraged by research findings, page 18.



Caribbean joins U.N. in calling for end to U.S. embargo on Cuba

UNITED NATIONS – The Caribbean community (CARICOM) has once more joined the United Nations in calling for end to the commercial, economic and financial embargoes imposed on Cuba by the United States for nearly half a century.

For the 16th year in a row, the General Assembly adopted

a resolution – with an overwhelming 184 votes in favor – reiterating its call to all states to refrain from "promulgating and applying laws and measures not conforming with their obligations to reaffirm freedom of trade and navigation".

Speaking on behalf of CARICOM, The Bahamas's U.N. Ambassador Paulette Bethel said the "significant impact of the embargo on the Cuban economy is of great concern" to CARICOM, "as was the humanitarian impact on the Cuban people,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Bethel

Governor backs off plan to issue licenses to N.Y.'s illegal immigrants

NEW YORK – New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer is backing off his plan to allow illegal Caribbean and other immigrants to obtain the same kind of driver's licenses as other New Yorkers, after controversy over the proposal.

Instead, the governor said late last month that illegal immigrants in the state would be able to obtain a license that would permit them to drive, but would not be accepted as



Spitzer

identification to board planes or cross borders.

Other New Yorkers who can prove that they are legal residents of the United

States would be eligible for federally recognized identification cards.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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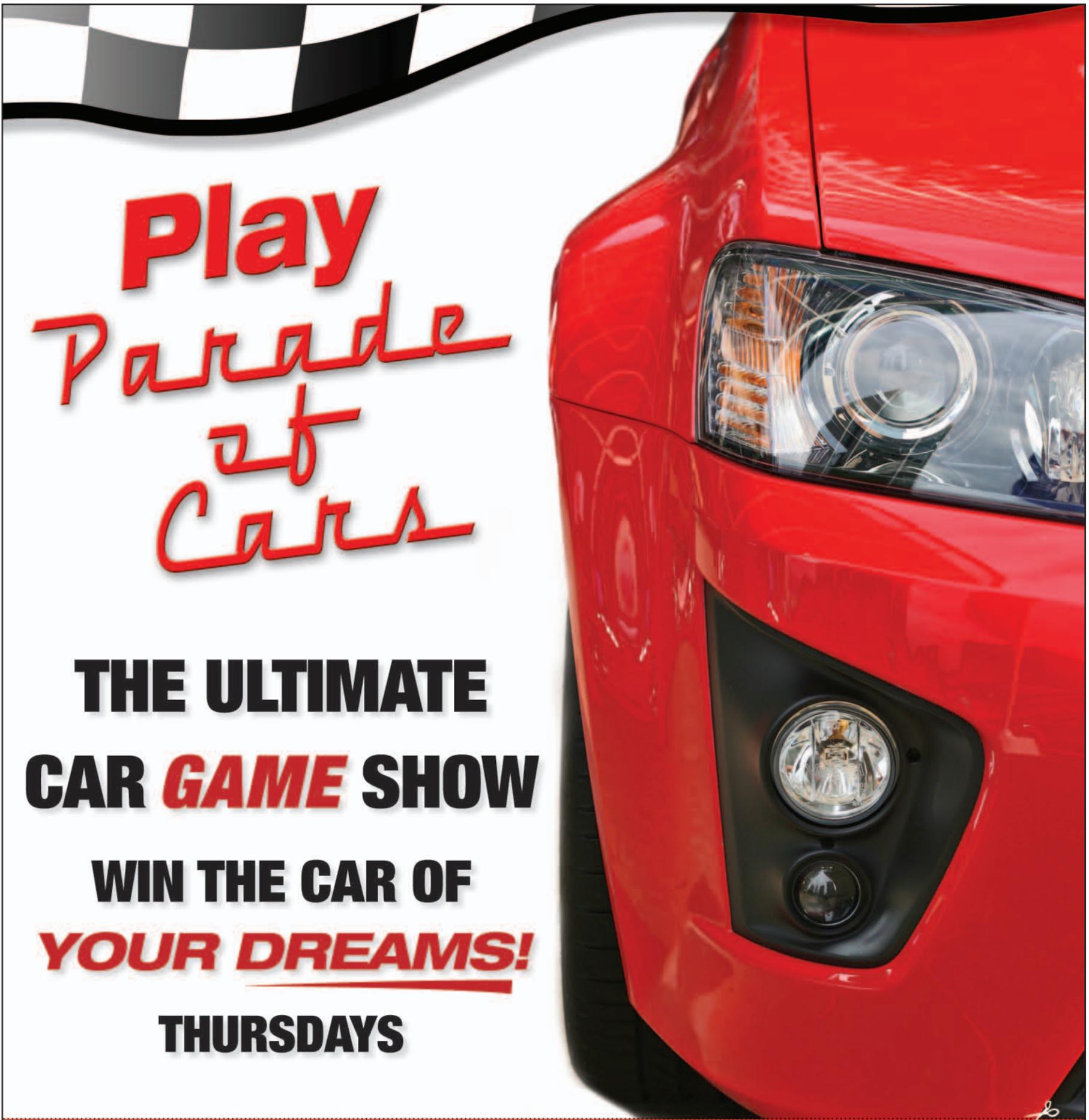
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Crime hampering Caribbean development ~ OAS

WASHINGTON, CMC – The Organization of American States (OAS) says crime and violence are undermining development in the Caribbean and has called on regional countries to address the problems through greater cooperation and partnerships at regional and international levels.

OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin said governments should invest more in economic, social, education and prevention policies to combat the challenges of drugs, guns and gangs, through, for example, poverty eradication and youth development programs.

Speaking on the topic of "Crime, Violence and Security in the CARICOM: Creating Community in the Caribbean", at a conference here late last month, Ramdin said drug trafficking, the emergence of terror networks, and the linkages between criminal gangs and terrorists are at the core of the region's



Ramdin

crime problem. He expressed concern that the region has to contend with its status as a major trans-shipment point for narcotics and its vulnerability to drug trafficking and cited a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/World Bank report said the drug trade is at the core of violent crime in the Caribbean.

"To compound matters, fighting drug trafficking and narco-related crime diverts criminal justice resources needed for other important activities; and at the same time, increases and embeds more violence, undermines social cohesion and con-

tributes to the widespread availability of firearms," Ramdin said.

WORSENING

The assistant secretary general said that, worse yet, the Caribbean is no longer just a region for illegal drugs to pass through, it is increasingly becoming a market for illegal drugs, targeted particularly at youth. Noting the negative impact crime and violence has on the region's already vulnerable economy, Ramdin said many of the challenges facing the Caribbean transcend national and regional boundaries.

"Demand for drugs emanates from Europe and the United States. On the other hand, the supply of hard drugs like cocaine emanates from Latin America and flows northward via the undermanned, porous borders and open waters of the region," he said.



NYC honors Jamaican soldier killed in Iraq war

NEW YORK – New York City Council has posthumously honored a Jamaica-born, United States soldier who was killed in the Iraqi war.

The parents of Sergeant Kimel Lincola Watt received the proclamation last month from the City Council at a ceremony at New York City Hall.

Sgt. Watt, 22, was killed in action in Iraq on June 3 when an explosive device detonated near the army vehicle in which he was traveling.

"Please give Sgt. Watt's parents a big handclap for their strength, courage and their ability to keep going forward," said Councilman Charles Barron, who represents the Brooklyn district of East New York, where Sgt. Watt lived with his parents, Clifton and Naomi Watt, before he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003.

"We, in East New York and the entire city, are saddened.

"And we want to at least pay homage to their son and honor them today, as they continue to deal with this devastating loss of life," he continued.

ARMY FIRST

Sgt. Watt, who migrated to New York from Jamaica when he was six years old, chose the army over attending John and Wales University in Rhode Island on a scholarship, his parents said. They said he thought that, by enlisting in the army, "he would have better opportunities and more hands-on experience to build a career in computer science."



Stewart

Sgt. Watt had received a number of awards since enlisting in the army, including the Commendation, Achievement and Purple Heart awards, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal Patch.

"Sgt. Kimel Lincola Watt...stands as a symbol of courage and commitment to the finest traditions and ideals of our City and nation", the proclamation read.

Dr. Kendall Stewart, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines-born chair of the Council's Committee on Immigration, said he was saddened by the loss of another young soldier in the ongoing war in Iraq.

"It's very sad to know that we are losing so many of our young people in a war that we don't understand why it continues," Stewart said.



Governor backs off plan to issue licenses to N.Y.'s illegal immigrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

These would serve as driver's licenses and would be accepted as identification for a number of purposes, including boarding planes and entering federal facilities.

CRITICISM

The move followed a wave of criticism over the governor's proposal, with many Democrats warning that Spitzer had put the state party in political peril. The new plan also reflects the increasingly complicated security require-

ments that have been developed by the U.S. federal government since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Spitzer announced his new plan at a news conference in Washington with Michael Chertoff, the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Chertoff explicitly did not condone the move by New York and some other states to allow illegal Caribbean and other immigrants to apply for any kind of driver's license.

"I don't endorse giving licenses to people who are not

here legally, but federal law does allow states to make that choice," Chertoff said.

"What we can do is insist that licenses that do not meet federal requirements be clearly so labelled," he added. "New York has agreed to do that."

Still, he said the plan in total "represents a major step forward for security, both for New York and for the country."

- CMC



Caribbean awaits details on U.S. deportee program

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The Guyana government says it is yet to receive any official document in relation to the proposal by the United States government to implement a program for people deported to the country.

Last month the Georgetown-based Caribbean community (CARICOM) announced that the

U.S. State Department had signed an agreement with the secretariat to include Guyana, Jamaica and The Bahamas in the deportee program it established with Haiti a few years ago.

U.S. Ambassador to Guyana David Robinson said the decision to extend the pro-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Barbados elected to key UNESCO body

NEW YORK – Barbados is among nine countries elected to the 21-member United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) committee charged with overseeing the World Heritage List of cultural and natural wonders.

A UNESCO statement issued late last month stated that Barbados would join Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria and Sweden as new members on the committee elected to four-year terms during the General Assembly of the 184 States Parties to the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, held in Paris.

The committee meets annually to inscribe sites on the World Heritage List and to

review the state of sites already on the list and whether action needs to be taken to support their safeguarding. It also maintains the List of World Heritage in Danger.

PROPOSAL

As a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, Barbados has proposed two cultural sites and one natural site on its Tentative List with the hope that they will eventually be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Bridgetown and its Garrison; The Industrial Heritage of Barbados: The Story of Sugar; and The Scotland District of Barbados are the sites on the Tentative List.

There are currently 851 cultural or natural sites on the World Heritage List, and they are situated in 141 countries.

Caribbean joins U.N. in calling for end to U.S. embargo on Cuba

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

particularly in the area of health care and food.

"Cuba is an integral part of the Pan-Caribbean process, and CARICOM's links with Cuba remain strong.

"It is no small feat that Cuban assistance in the field of health is considerable, even as the impact of the embargo is systematically stiffened," she added.

"Through its actions, Cuba has shown it was an integral part of the Caribbean."

NO THREAT

Bethel said Cuba has not threatened any member state, but rather, has sought to assist its neighbours "in the quest for human development.

"The embargo against Cuba is an anachronism and serve no useful purpose in the 21st century, which is also facing the climate change challenge," she said.

As CARICOM enjoys friendly relations with Cuba and the United States, Bethel called for a "new beginning"

between both countries, "akin to initiatives undertaken for negotiations of far more difficult international issues."

CARICOM states supported the draft resolution, which was opposed by four states – Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, and the U.S. The Federated States of Micronesia abstained.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque denounced the long-running blockade imposed on his country, calling it the main obstacle to the development and well-being of the Cuban people, and a "blatant, massive and systematic" violation of their rights.

"Anyone can understand the level of socio-economic development that Cuba would have attained had it not been subjected to this unrelenting and obsessive economic war," he told delegates.

He said the U.S. has not only ignored, "with both arrogance and political blindness," the 15 resolutions adopted by the Assembly calling for the lifting of the blockade; but has, over the last year, adopted new measures, further tightening the sanctions.

U.S. city honors Haitians who fought in American Revolution

A statue commemorating the contribution of Haitian soldiers who fought in the American Revolution was unveiled last month in Savannah, Georgia.

The statue, which was erected in Franklin Square, depicts life-size statues of four soldiers, all members of the Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue, a regiment which formed a tenth of the allied army during the Revolutionary War's bloody siege of Savannah in 1779.

The Haitian free blacks, who numbered more than 500, were the largest military unit of the Savannah battle, and possibly the largest black unit to serve in the American Revolution. The soldiers were noted for their distinguished bravery, often risking their lives to provide cover for the American colonists and French soldiers they fought alongside.

After fighting unsuccessfully to keep the British out of the city, many returned to Haiti to lead rebellions that won that country's Independence in 1804.

The statue in Savannah stands on a six-foot tall granite pillar and illustrates two Haitian soldiers with rifles

raised on either side of a fallen comrade, and a young Henri Christophe as a drummer boy. Christophe fought in Savannah as a teenager, and later became Haiti's first president after its liberation from France.

"Unfortunately, many Americans are unaware of the significant contribution this unit of Haitian soldiers made to our Independence," said Dorian Rolle, a Miami-Dade County commissioner who attended the event. "Hopefully, the statues will lead to more questions and more answers so that the story of their bravery will continue to be told and that Haitians' long history with the United States will be acknowledged."

Commissioner Rolle contributed funding to the creation of the monument. He was joined in Savannah for the event by U.S. repre-



The monument to the Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue, Haitian soldiers who fought in the American Revolution.

sentatives Kendrick Meek and John Barrow, Savannah Mayor Otis. S. Johnson, Haiti's Consul General Ralph Latortue and several other elected officials from across the U.S. and from Haiti.

The memorial was made possible by the fund-raising and lobbying efforts of the Miami-based Haitian American Historical Society. The organization had been championing for the statue

since 2001. An additional portion of the monument – two more soldiers - will be erected in Feb. 2008.

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Senator faces expulsion from Haiti's House in row over U.S. citizenship

GUY DELVA

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - A United States citizen of Arab decent, who has been elected to Haiti's Senate, now faces dismissal and possible arrest after officials accused him of fraudulently obtaining a Haitian passport and making false statements before election authorities.

Senator Rudolph Boulos, who is a member of one of the country's wealthiest and most powerful families, was born on April 28, 1951 in Manhattan, New York, United States, according to official documents, copies of which have been obtained by the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**.

Those documents have also shown that Boulos had been using a U.S. passport lately, confirming that he has U.S. citizenship - which disqualifies him to occupy a seat at the Haitian Senate even as he continues to claim he is Haitian.

"I have never renounced my Haitian nationality. I have been targeted for political reasons, because I stand against a plan uttered by certain authorities to restore a dictatorship in the country," he said.

'EVIDENCE'

But Haitian officials maintained Boulos - who is part of a family with a long tradition of doing business in Haiti - is a U.S. citizen and should leave Parliament.

"We have documented evidence that Mr. Boulos is a U.S. citizen. Therefore he is not allowed to seat at the Haitian Senate," said a high-ranking government official who spoke to **CMC** on condition of anonymity.

"If Mr. Boulos does not give up the Senate seat he has obtained fraudulently, he runs the risk of being arrested and prosecuted," the same source told **CMC**. "He still has time to choose."

The Haitian constitution provides that any Haitian citizen who has obtained a foreign citizenship loses the Haitian nationality and therefore is banned from running for Parliament and for president.

In a document signed by Boulos before immigration authorities, he admitted that the Haitian passport he obtained in Aug. 31, 2005, was his very first Haitian passport. But Boulos had been living in Washington for years and has gone on numerous trips during the past years. President of the Senate Joseph Lambert said he was expecting official notification from judicial and government authorities before acting and has announced the Senate would launch its own investigation.

"If it is confirmed that Senator Boulos possess a U.S. passport, he will be simply dismissed," said Lambert, inviting Boulos to voluntarily resign if he really holds a U.S. passport.

Boulos traveled to the Dominican Republic on Mar. 15, 2005 with a U.S. passport numbered 701-977-831, while he holds a Haitian passport

numbered PP 1260252, according to documents obtained by **CMC** from government, judicial and electoral sources.

U.S. proposes military test site in Suriname

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, **CMC** - The United States government has proposed to establish facilities in Suriname to test the performance of newly developed U.S. military vehicles, President Roland Venetiaan said after a meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates.



Venetiaan

Gates met with Venetiaan and Suriname Defense Minister Ivan Fernald in Paramaribo at the close of his five-day, five-country tour through Latin America last month.

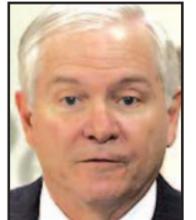
The U.S. official's visit to Suriname coincided with the conclusion of the humanitarian mission of the U.S. Navy hospital ship Comfort which offered free medical and health care services to locals.

Venetiaan did not disclose details of the proposed U.S. military test site or when it might be operational, but said the government has been discussing the issue with Washington for a while. He

said Suriname is willing to assist the U.S.

"This is an issue we are discussing for some time now and it has been mentioned again by the defense secretary. We have the conditions and if vehicles could be tested in our conditions we are willing to assist - of course on a basis of mutual benefit," said the president after the meeting with the defense secretary at the presidential palace.

Gates told local media that he did not discuss the possible establishment of a



Gates

U.S. military air base in Suriname or elsewhere in the four other nations he previously visited during his tour.

The U.S. is in search of a location to establish a small air base for counter-narcotics flights. It is likely that Ecuador will not renew the lease on a facility it hosts when the agreement expires in 2009. U.S. officials, however, are hoping that Ecuador will change its position.

Antigua open to amicable settlement with U.S. on Internet gaming dispute

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, **CMC** - The Antigua and Barbuda government says it is still open for finding an amicable solution to the ongoing Internet gaming dispute with the United States.

Last month, the Baldwin Spencer administration filed a motion with the World Trade Organization (WTO) requesting the suspension of concessions and other obligations with respect to the Internet gaming dispute. The twin-isle state is pressing for \$3.4 billion in trade sanctions against Washington after it banned cross-border Internet gaming.

"We've had talks, we've had discussions with the United States. The door is still open.

We've agreed to a 30-day suspension of certain actions so as to allow for further dialogue," Finance and Economy Minister Dr. Errol Cort said.

NEGOTIATE

Attorney Mark Mendel, who is heading the Antigua and Barbuda legal team, said the island has always been willing to negotiate.

Cort said that Antigua and Barbuda had no other options than to press for the sanctions.

"We were not originally desirous in going down that road," he explained.

"...If, however, as the rules allow for any party to withdraw its obligations, then we are gov-

erned by those rules and then the issue really becomes one of fair compensation."

Last year, Washington barred American banks and credit card companies from processing online gambling payments. While WTO has upheld a U.S. decision to prevent cross border gambling, it ruled that it was illegal for the U.S. to target offshore gambling outlets and not apply the same rules to American operators.



Cort

Caribbean awaits details on U.S. deportee program

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

gram to the other three CARICOM countries was taken by U.S. President George W. Bush. However, Minister of Home Affairs Clement Rohee said the Bharrat Jagdeo administration was yet to receive official notification of the U.S. government's intentions.

"We have not given this much thought because we are not in receipt of any official communication which points out the details under which the program will be operated... until then I think we would be in a much more informed position to be able to respond," Minister Rohee told reporters here. He said without getting details of the program, initial observations were that it would be merely consultative without

more concrete projects being offered.

"What this program will basically do is provide a number of consultancies to persons who would come and talk to people to get a sense of how this matter is playing out... I think it's very clear to those in the U.S. who are responsible for these matters how the deportee issue is affecting CARICOM countries.

"If they want to send consultants to talk and get a greater sense of how the issue is impacting the crime, social and economic situation, we don't have any difficulty with that," Rohee said.

ACTION CALL

He said while consultation would be welcomed there was a need for more practical pro-

grams seeking to integrate the scores of persons who were deported to the region on an annual basis.

"At the end of the day, we want to ensure that programs are put in place to address things like training, resettlement, reintegration and identification," Rohee said.

"There must be concrete projects put in place in order to address the deportee issue in a profound way and that is what I am hoping we would be able to achieve sooner or later."

In June this year, CARICOM heads of government, during a dialogue with the U.S. president in Washington, expressed the need for proper re-integration programs for U.S. deportees.

U.S. court finds man guilty of killing T&T singer's nephew

NEW YORK - A Brooklyn jury last month found a 21-year-old New Yorker guilty of second degree manslaughter as a hate crime and petty larceny in the killing of the nephew of Trinidadian entertainer Calypso Rose.

Prosecutors said Anthony Fortunato, who had been charged with murder as a hate crime, was one of four men who lured Michael Sandy to a Brooklyn beach with the promise of gay sex, but then attacked him and chased him onto a busy highway, where he was hit by a car and killed.

The defense claimed Fortunato couldn't be guilty of a hate crime, because he himself is gay.

EXTRA TIME

The hate crime element of the conviction could mean extra time in prison for

Fortunato, who faces from five to 25 years in prison.

"My client turned to me and he thanked me and he's crying because he obviously knows the ramifications for any kind of a conviction of a hate crime are very serious. The time that he is facing is substantial," said defense attorney Gerald Di Chiara.

Prosecutors said Fortunato and the others targeted Sandy because they thought his sexual orientation would make him easier to rob.

Last month, a separate jury found John Fox, another man in Fortunato's group, guilty of robbery and manslaughter as hate crimes but not guilty of murder. A third man has pleaded guilty to attempted robbery, and a fourth is being tried separately.

St. Vincent nationals urged to give back to their homeland

NEW YORK – Nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been urged to give back more to their homeland.

Camillo Gonsalves, the country's newly appointed ambassador to the United Nations, made the appeal late last month as he delivered the keynote address at a gala luncheon in Brooklyn marking the 28th anniversary of the nation's Independence.

Gonsalves, a lawyer, is the eldest son of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

It was his first major address to nationals here since he replaced Margaret Hughes-Ferrari, another lawyer, who was recalled earlier this year. Gonsalves said that Vincentians had a "unique and indispensable role to play in this new era of nation building."

"In the early days of the diaspora community, Vincentians did not have the numbers, the income and the

respect that you have earned to this point," Gonsalves said. "As a community, you have grown larger and more assertive; you have earned promotions, raises, and higher education; you are managers, CEOs, and business owners; you have clout both in New York and at home.

"Your remittances are vital. It is impossible to overstate the importance of the money that you send back home," he added.

'REVOLUTION'

The new ambassador also urged nationals to remit their knowledge, expertise, perspective and their time to their homeland. He said that the incumbent administration in Kingstown was crafting a "modern, post-colonial society that is centered on the needs and interests of our people and our Caribbean civilization."

"The revolutions that you

hear the government discussing these days – education revolution, wellness revolution, etc. – are part and parcel of a greater post-colonial revolution, where St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not simply attempt to get by as it has always gotten by," he said.

"Instead, this post-colonial revolution marks the birth of a new phase in our journey of independence."

The luncheon, organized by the Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the umbrella Vincentian group here, and the New York Consulate General, culminated a week of activities, commemorating the Independence anniversary.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines obtained political Independence from Great Britain on Oct. 27, 1979.



Caribbean still subject to economic risks ~ IMF

WASHINGTON – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says despite favorable economic performance in recent years, the Caribbean is still subject to significant economic risks.

After conducting a seminar here to discuss selected regional issues, the IMF said in a statement Friday that significant risks remain.

"The Caribbean region is vulnerable to fluctuations in external demand and damage from hurricanes", it stated. "As a result, economic growth and overall macroeconomic performance have been volatile."

"And with current account deficits mostly in double digits, the region remains highly dependent on external financing".

The IMF stated that pub-

lic debt remains "very high", exceeding 100 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in some cases. It said while debt levels have fallen modestly in recent years, fiscal deficits deteriorated in some countries in 2006.

CO-OPERATION KEY

The IMF directors, therefore, considered increased regional co-operation to be a key element of the Caribbean strategy to make the most of globalization and address the challenges it entails, welcoming the initiative to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

"Directors noted, in particular, that regional integration can help the Caribbean overcome some of the limitations imposed by size and compete effectively in the

global economy", the statement said.

"At the same time, directors underscored the continuing need for action at the national level to strengthen the foundations for sustained regional growth and reduce vulnerabilities".

The directors were, however, encouraged that some countries had taken advantage of favorable economic conditions to strengthen public finances and reduce debt earlier in the business cycle. But they said that in countries, where efforts have waned more recently, it will be "important to accelerate the pace of debt reduction", stating that this will also be "key to freeing up resources for social priorities and to create room to respond to future shocks".



Florida men charged with murder in Caribbean Sea

MIAMI – Two Florida men, who United States federal authorities say gave them inconsistent information in the disappearance of four crew members of a boat in the Caribbean Sea in September, have been charged with first-degree murder.

Prosecutors said last month they have enough evidence to charge the men, Kirby L. Archer, 35, and Guillermo A. Zarabozo, 20, who chartered a vessel called the "Joe Cool" in September. The 47-foot boat, which was

supposed to be going to The Bahamas, was found near Cuba the day after Archer and Zarabozo chartered it.

The men were later found floating in the boat's life raft, but the crew was not found.

The men initially told the authorities that pirates had attacked the group and shot the crew members, Jake Branam, 27; his wife, Kelley Branam, 30; his half-brother Scott Gamble, 30; and Samuel Kairy, 27.



Terrorism concerns not affecting U.S. visa approval rate ~ official

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – Concern about terrorism has had no significant impact on the number of Caribbean nationals being granted visas to travel to the United States, an official at the U.S. Embassy here has said.

However, Consul General Clyde Howard admitted that security concerns have significantly impacted the way the department does business.

"A lot of changes have taken place in the way we process visas since 2001," Howard said.

"We are much better at sharing information among U.S. government agencies about who should not be allowed into the United States."

He told journalists during a familiarization tour of the new embassy serving Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean that a lot more information about applicants is now being taken and the photographs of all applicants are compared with those of people who are known security threats.

CHANGES

"All these changes are designed to make the process better and more secure to keep people out who might intend to cause harm to the United States," Howard said, adding "I don't think there are many people like that in the Caribbean so those changes I don't think have had much effect on flows from this region."

In addition to Barbados, the embassy serves Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It also serves

the British, French and Dutch territories in the Caribbean.

Officials say the embassy issues some 3,000 immigrant visas and 45,000 non-immigrant visas per year, and all applicants, with the exception of those under 14 or over 80, are required to attend an interview in Barbados.

"There is no way for us to take visa applications outside of the embassy," Howard said. "The main reason for that is that we have to be able to electronically scan people's fingerprints and at this time there is no way to do that outside of this office."

"I know the Bureau of Consular Services at the State Department is studying the possibility of providing a means for consular officers to do remote collections of applicant data, but I don't think we're close to being there yet, maybe in a few years down the road."

CRITICISM

The embassy came in for some harsh criticism recently over the conditions made available to visa applicants waiting to go through their interviews.

"We understand that we are here to provide a service to the public and we want to try to make that service as convenient and as easy to the public as we can," Howard said.

"We are restrained a little bit by the way our space is laid out and by the size of the waiting area that we have, but we've worked out processes that we think will make this process as pain free and as user-friendly for the public as we possibly can."



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Grenada speculates on pending general elections

RAWLE TITUS

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada - A slip of the tongue could have revealed the date for Grenada's next general elections.

"Quickly prime minister, when is the election again?" asked a probing television anchor, hoping by some stroke of luck that the Grenadian leader would fall for her final question in the live interview.

He did not.

"We have until March 2009," was his only reply followed by a loud chuckle.

And a few hours later in a news conference in St. George's, Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell revealed just a little bit more: a date when Grenadians would make that trek back to the polls was already in his mind and a new public opinion poll with a 30-day shelf life would not change it.

"The date that I have in mind will certainly not be altered by this poll," insisted Dr. Mitchell in reaction to the survey which predicted that his New National Party (NNP) could win a fourth straight term in office if general elections were called soon.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES) carried out the survey over a four-day period in September. Of the 900 successful interviews completed in all 15 constituencies, 30 percent said they supported NNP, while 24 percent backed the main Opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) of Tillman Thomas.

"Our polls have a 30-day shelf life. In other words if an

election were called within 30 days of that period it's likely that an outcome will be something similar," said CADRES Director Peter Wickham.

GUIDE

There has been initial

speculation here that general elections would have been called after April when Grenada hosted super eight matches in Cricket World Cup

2007 at the brand new Chinese built national stadium. Any further speculation of a poll before year end was dismissed by Foreign Affairs Minister Elvin Nimrod when he announced that public consultations were underway ahead of a December reading of the 2008 estimates of revenues and expenditure.

Kenny Anthony's St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) lost the government to John Compton's United Workers Party (UWP) when he called the elections roughly three months after the shelf life of a poll conducted by CADRES predicting his party would retain office.

"The poll will not determine the date in my mind that we have projected to call a general election," said Prime Minister Mitchell when that scenario was presented to him. But the Grenadian leader said he was not bothered by this.

"It is a guide to tell us what are some of the strengths and what are some of the



Mitchell

weaknesses and we intend to use it for those particular purposes," was all he would say.

The fifth anniversary of the last general elections here is Oct. 2008, but the poll can be constitutionally called as late as Mar. 2009. However, the fact that Mitchell has never gone down to the wire has helped to fuel speculation that a poll could be imminent.

CHANGE

But a lot has changed.

Prime Minister Mitchell's administration has been rocked by a spate of corruption allegations that just won't go away and his government has had to grapple with a cost of living that has doubled. A new Value Added Tax (VAT), which would put 15 percent on a range of goods and services, has been pushed back twice with the prime minister suggesting that another delay is possible.

"They are trying to postpone the imposition of the tax to hold the elections before that measure is implemented. That seems to be what is going on," observed Thomas, the Opposition leader whose NDC controls seven of the 15 seats in the House of Representatives.

"An early election maybe in his favor, but the longer he takes...it seems that a lot of issues are popping up and it seems that the government becomes more vulnerable with time," Thomas told CMC.

NNP came to power 12 years ago, when it defeated NDC of then former Prime Minister George Brizan and it retained the government in the

next elections with a landslide victory by winning all 15 seats, a first in Grenada's political history.

However, NNP has seen its popularity nosedive. It barely scraped

through in the 2003 elections by six votes in the Carriacou and Petit Martinique constituency and figures



Thomas

from the office of the Supervisor of Elections indicate that most Grenadians who voted did not cast ballots for the party in the overall popular vote.

Political observers here have pointed to the 43 percent of respondents in the CADRES poll who have not said who they will support. An editorial in the weekly *Grenada Advocate* newspaper has said that "it believed this silent majority that will emerge as the as the major factor in determining the outcome of the next general elections". And local political commentator Lloyd Noel has dismissed the conclusion of an NNP win as inaccurate.

"When you think there is only a difference of six percent between the two parties but there is 43 percent waiting to be convinced. It seems to me the conclusion of the polls is not accurate at all," Noel said.

NNP officials say the party has regained lost support and claim that a series of internal polls carried out in recent years have indicated this, while the NDC has taunted them to prove it by calling fresh elec-

tions.

During the recent throne speech, the government announced several election-grabbing projects ranging from an 80 million dollar agricultural diversification project to a 35 million dollar upgrade of a market in the eastern parish of St. Andrew's.

Days later, the NDC unveiled a package of measures it says it would introduced if elected into government such as a plan to grow the level of employment by 15 percent in five years and increase tourism's share of GDP from 27 to 35 percent in five years.

- CMC



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HIV/AIDS offers major challenge for Caribbean churches ~ leader

NEW YORK – The Secretary General of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) says the spread of HIV/AIDS is one of the major issues now facing churches in the Caribbean.

Gerard Granado told leaders of the World Alliance of

Reformed Churches meeting in Trinidad that "in 1973, when the Caribbean Conference of Churches was formed, there was nothing in the world known as HIV/AIDS.

"Now one of our biggest programs is the response to HIV/AIDS", Ecumenical

News International quoted Granado as saying in a report issued here late last month.

He pointed to statistics that show that the Caribbean region is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in the rate of HIV infection.

According to UNAIDS, the pandemic claimed an estimated 24,000 lives in the Caribbean in 2005, making it the leading cause of death among adults aged 15 to 44 years.

SUPPORT

Granado said a recent set of guidelines developed by the CCC for Caribbean Faith-Based Organizations to deal with HIV/AIDS have gained support from international organizations, such as the World Bank. He said substance abuse, narcotic trafficking, the related rise in criminality, and the proliferation of

guns and small arms are among other issues that are now challenging Caribbean churches and society.

"We don't manufacture arms here, but the gangs have more sophisticated weapons than the police," Granado said, referring to a recent case in which a young man apprehended by police possessed a U.S.-made lightweight submachine gun similar to the well-known Israeli Uzi.

A Roman Catholic layperson, Granado has led the CCC since 1999.

The church conference grouped 33 member-churches in 34 territories. The CCC is the first regional ecumenical organization to include the Catholic Church as a founder member alongside Protestant and Anglican denominations.

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

• The module "Harmony", which was taken last month to the International Space Station, will offer docking facilities for space programs from Japan and several European countries, not China, as reported on page 2 of *Caribbean Today's* Oct. 2007 issue. We regret the error.

• Please note: *Caribbean Today* is requesting, effective immediately, all editorial correspondence be e-

mailed to editor@caribbeantoday.com. We appreciate your cooperation. In addition, the deadline for submitting articles to be considered for publication is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. For example, the deadline for articles for *Caribbean Today's* December 2007 edition must be received no later than November 20, 2007.



Same knife sticks sheep, sticks goat?

GORDON WILLIAMS

During a recent conversation, a Caribbean immigrant-turned-United States citizen expressed exasperation at the boiling opposition of some American political commentators to recent attempts to slacken immigration rules in the U.S.

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, for example, announced recently that his state's residents would no longer be asked to produce documentation that proves that they are legal residents of the U.S. in order to secure a driver's license. Under severe pressure from opponents he later backed off this plan. Yet most immigrants in the U.S., including those from the Caribbean, have eagerly embraced ideas like Spitzer's. They say hard-working people, including thousands of illegal immigrants from the Caribbean, need these opportunities to survive and thrive. Most of those illegal immigrants pay taxes and contribute immensely to the development of the U.S., so why not give them a real shot at prosperity since they are already in the country?

Fair enough.

FLAWED

Yet there are others who toss out that argument. First of all, they say the U.S. should not support people who break the law. In addition, the U.S. cannot back the uncontrolled influx of illegal immigrants, which they say will increase rapidly if states like New York continue to make it easy for them to assimilate. Furthermore, if they break the law they should not get a reward, meaning an easier life in the U.S.

Illegal aliens, the critics say, take jobs from legal American residents as employers use their uncertain status to compensate them with a fraction of what the jobs would normally pay – at a level Americans would accept. Critics also say illegal aliens are a burden to the U.S. system, including health care and education.

Yet while many Caribbean immigrants will support help for illegal aliens in the U.S., even if it is against the law, recent events in their homeland have shown that the same debate has taken on a different twist.

Despite the bold move towards a Caribbean Single Market and Economy, it seems that the region's people are not equally eager to encourage unauthorized labor in their own midst.

Last month, for example, the new Jamaica Labour Party

government ordered all foreign workers in the island without a work permit to report to the Ministry of Labour within days to secure one or risk being deported.

NOT PLEASED

It seems that some Jamaicans have not been too pleased about foreigners taking their jobs in a country mired in economic malaise. Household and hotel workers, construction workers, technical experts etc., have all come under scrutiny in the island if they are not bearing a Jamaican passport.

The labor minister has vowed to find illegal workers and root them out. He has also ordered that jobs filled by foreigners carry a Jamaican understudy, who will be trained for the post for no longer than three years. At which point the understudy – a Jamaican – will take over the post, or a new application process will be opened.

Jamaica is not the only Caribbean nation fighting the battle of unauthorized workers in its midst. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Caribbean people have fled the region in search of a better life in the U.S. Many could not get jobs in their homeland and were upset that foreigners were often chosen over them – even foreigners who do not have the proper permission to work. Yet many of those same Caribbean nationals have entered the U.S. without proper permission to work. They too now want the rules slackened in the U.S. to allow them take jobs. The voices ring out loudly that they should be allowed to do so, even if it is against the law.

An old Caribbean saying warns: "The same knife that sticks sheep, sticks goat". That is to say that the same thing that happens to you can happen to me.

So now it appears that some Caribbean immigrants would like America to ease up on illegal immigrants, especially in the workplace. I understand their compassion. But are they also going to demand the same stance of the governments in their Caribbean homeland? It may be too early to tell, but judging from one conversation it does not appear everyone is ready to do so.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Needing more than a pound of flesh

Skinny used to be the order of the day, but even now, models are coming under fire for being too bony and need some flesh on their frames – a bit more than a pound too.

Well, based on the findings of some scientists, fat is in, and skinny is out. I guess it began a while ago when they started to use not only normal size women to model clothes, but rather large women too, calling them outsize or full bodied ladies, or something like that. Let's face it though, those models who they usually use are so rail thin and anorexic looking that they seem unnatural. Plus they made so many women go on starvation diets to try and look like them.

They seemed as unlikely and unnatural as the clothes that they modeled. Yet so many of our women would starve themselves trying to look like Naomi, Cindy or Iman. Unreal, and slim chance they had of looking like them too. So, as a result, they brought in those portly models so that fat people could identify with them.

GOOD NEWS

It seems that there is more good news for overweight people, as scientific studies are now showing that there's actually an advantage to being just a few pounds over your ideal weight. You may live longer, they say. The Centers for Disease Control have determined that while obesity is indisputably lethal, people who are modestly overweight actually have a lower risk of death than those who are underweight.

Well, more weight to them, for my granny always used to say that babies and people in general should always carry a little extra weight.

"Pickney must fat, for when dem get sick, there is something to draw pon."

How true it is, for when



folks get the flu or pop down with any other kind of illness, they always draw down to skin and bone. But if they had a little extra weight on their



TONY ROBINSON

frame they wouldn't look so bad during or after the illness. Now suddenly scientists are jumping on granny's bandwagon. That's why we should always listen to old people.

But here's the crunch though. The research also shows why women should love fat men. Caribbean women were always drawn to slightly heavier men than their skinny counterparts anyway. No wonder most of the skinny guys that I know can't get any women. In fact, one even told me that his wife left him because he was too skinny.

"She couldn't take it when my bony hips and knees knocked up on hers."

Many women who I know speak with affection about their men's portliness and even give names to their bellies.

"Lord, him can eat yu see, look pon him belly how it nice and round and hefty. Come here Honey, mek a feel yu belly."

The study goes on to say

that women should fall in love with heavy men because they are more likely to be faithful lovers than their thin, svelte counterparts. Now that's heavy research stuff, which also said that men who were of average weight are twice as likely to be unfaithful as heavy men. You might think that fat men don't have many opportunities to stray, but the research says that you'd be wrong. Fat men are less likely to cheat on their partners because they are less inclined to engage in risky sex, plus overweight men are less likely to visit brothels or call sex telephone hotlines. Is this perhaps linked to their inability to beat a hasty retreat if caught? Mark you, this research was done in Europe, and you know we defy all the odds and break all the rules anyway.

So ladies, before you run and marry a fat man, hoping that he'll be faithful to you only, make sure that he's a fat European man, for as far as I see, fat men in my region run up and down after skirt tails just as much as their skinny counterparts. They may not run as fast because of the weight, but even as they huff and puff, they will waddle after women.

NORM

Expanding waistlines are

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Dr. Wentworth Jarrett

Black turnover in the U.S. boardroom

After hiring his newspaper's first black journalist to hold a management position, an editor insisted that the pioneering move was not such a big deal, as I recall. Real progress comes not when you are able to hire a black editor, he said, but when you also are able to fire her.

The danger of getting fired is a sign that you're accountable. It is evidence that you have been hired for your ability to help the company achieve its mission, not for your value as a token. Of course, such double standards are not fair. But no one promises you a rose garden in the world of management, except maybe if you're the president of the United States - and even that one has plenty of thorns.

Those realities of corporate life sprang to mind when I heard the news from Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., that the financial giant's top boss, E. Stanley O'Neal, "has decided to retire from the company, effective immediately." In O'Neal's case, that was corporate-speak for, "Don't let the door knob hit you where the dog should have bit you."

DISAPPOINTMENT

O'Neal's departure is a disappointment to those of us who praised his rise after 16 years at the company to become the first African American to head a major Wall Street firm. But just as his rise was a sign of progress, so is his slide out the door, as long as it indicates that women and minorities have to meet the same rigorous profit-making standards as white men do.

O'Neal, you may recall, shared a stunning *Newsweek* magazine cover photo with two other black CEOs of mega-giant Fortune 100 com-

panies, Kenneth Chenault of American Express and AOL Time Warner's Richard Parsons. That Dec. 2001

cover was an encouraging sign in that tense post-Sept. 11 season that America is a land where any kid can grow up to be president of, at least, a multi-billion-dollar corporation.

Just six years earlier, Bob Holland broke that glass ceiling when he was named CEO at Ben & Jerry's. Unfortunately Holland quit the quirky ice cream company less than two years later following disagreements with its famous founders. But in one of corporate America's tastiest peace offerings, his severance included endless free pints as a member of the company's elite "Ice Cream for Life Club".

That's how the Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough crumbles in corporate life. You benefit on your way up and, if you play your cards right, you can collect a lot more than cookie crumbs on your way out.

RIGHT DIRECTION

Now, in addition to O'Neal, Time Warner's Parsons also is expected to step down soon. That leaves only Chenault still in place among the *Newsweek* Three and only five total African American CEOs in the Fortune 500, according to *Black Enterprise* magazine. That's a setback, but the success of these pioneers is a sign that history in the long run is moving in the right direction.

Like Time Warner and American Express, Merrill



CLARENCE PAGE

was going through tough times when O'Neal took over. Its stock was down almost 30 percent. It was cutting jobs and trying to rebuild its image after paying \$100 million to settle state charges of misleading investors by tailoring research to please clients.

With that, I can hear faint echoes of my late father's wry observation: "White folks don't give colored folks nothing until they're tired of it!" But, had he lived long enough to see it, I'm certain that Ol' Dad he would have smiled with approval at how well O'Neal was allowed to prove himself the old-fashioned way, through grit, determination and the inventiveness that Ol' Dad used to call "Mother Wit".

The grandson of a man born a slave, O'Neal grew up in rural Alabama poverty, as my father did. He learned golf, took control of his southern drawl through speech training and worked his way up from a General Motors assembly line to earn a Harvard MBA.

The financial media are calling O'Neal the first chief of a Wall Street investment bank to be done in by the subprime mortgage crisis that's been making big headlines for months. "Last hired, first fired," say the cynics in my neighborhood barbershop. But as long as the profits rolled in, O'Neal apparently was as free as any other CEO to do things his way, for better or worse. Worse got him. That's how they play the game on Wall Street. No one can guarantee results, but everyone deserves to have an equal opportunity.

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CARIB Comments

• "She needs to go to jail. That's just how I feel" - Bahamian Olympic gold medalist Debbie



Ferguson launching a scathing attack on disgraced sprinter Marion Jones, following the American's confession that she used performance-enhancing drugs.

• "And it is the prayer of mankind that this belated momentum has not come too late to reverse the damage



already inflicted on our planet" - Vincentian Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves recently applauding the United Nations' focus on climate change and global warming.

• "My point is that in life you will meet obstacles. I believe for us as Hindus it is a good thing" - Inter-Religious Organization President Pundit Mukram Sirjoo explaining last month why the timing of Trinidad and Tobago's Nov. 5 general elections may have been a blessing in disguise.

• "I believe that there should be zero tolerance to improper financial practices by all government departments and no ministers should be involved in



any impropriety" - Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur last month saying integrity legislation and issues of accountability in governance will be addressed before the next general elections, constitutionally due by mid-2008.

• "They promised me the world, but I will not be tempted" - Trinidad and Tobago's Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar last month claiming that she had turned down approaches by both the PNM and the COP to join them prior to the Nov. 5 elections, insisting that she has always been faithful to the UNC.

• "The door is still open" - Antigua and Barbuda's government last month saying it is still willing to find an amicable solution to the ongoing Internet gaming dispute with the United States.

• "We are in a Third World country and when we decide to put First World legislation we will run into problems" - Minister of Economic Development and Planning Julius Timothy saying last month that Dominica should focus more on tackling developmental issues.

• "A change in government, a change in rules" - Jamaican dancehall artiste Beenie Man speculates why he faces tax evasion charges in his home country.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Needing more than a pound of flesh

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

becoming the accepted norm, the survey went on to say, adding that while many people are overweight and sedentary, most aren't bothered by it. So while a lot of men still go to the gym for a good workout, many simply can't be bothered and accept the spread that goes around their middle, even before they reach middle age too.

I still marvel when I see young guys with potbellies though, which they wear proudly. It seems to be sort of a status symbol, plus it's also a sign that you haven't got AIDS, as the perception is, if you're fat and healthy, then you cer-

tainly can't have AIDS. Lose a few pounds though, and see how fast the whispers and murmurs start.

"Yu nuh see Cedric, how him lose weight so fast, nuh must AIDS him have?!"

Apparently, those guys with the well sculpted physiques and Adonis-like bodies are intimidating to women, a fact that I have to agree with. As far back as I can remember, women have always looked on sculpted men and said, "All man like you must have plenty woman running you down, I better stay far from you."

"Man like you," I always wondered what that meant, but it has been their legacy, it

has been their curse, and they just have to live with it. Women do see men with good bodies and feel intimidated, but feel more comfortable with the guy who is a bit overweight.

"After all, like how him fat and slabba slabba, no other woman nah go want him apart from me."

Now that's charity. So I guess there is some truth to the research after all. The fat guy might be so grateful for being chosen, that he'll remain faithful to her forever, or until he loses some weight. By the same token many men love to keep their women fat, in the belief that no other man will want them. Even now I know

of husbands who hate it when their wives lose weight, look real hot and step out on the town. "Is must man yu want to catch why yu looking so good," they have said. So as a result, the women quit the gym, come off their health program and pack on more than a pound of flesh to please their men.

SAFE BET

So the survey concludes that women are of the notion that guys who are slim and trim are so full of themselves, so vain, so self absorbed and over confident, that they'll eventually stray anyway.

So give them the fat, portly, safe men. "Any man who look so good will never be

faithful to me," said some ladies.

So gentlemen, if you want to find a lady and settle down, pack on the pounds of flesh, don't bother with the gym, eat all you want, wolf down those carbs, build that gut, for clearly that's what the modern woman wants.

And ladies, skinny is out, belly is in, and the pound of flesh is your ticket to love.

As one man said: "A women with meat on her bones feel comfortable like sofa."

Now, he was no Shylock, but he loved his pounds of flesh.

seido1@hotmail.com



T O U R I S M / T R A V E L

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Caribbean to resume relaxed travel arrangements

PUERTO RICO, San Juan, CMC - The relaxed travel arrangements, which Caribbean citizens benefited from during the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup earlier this year, will resume when the region succeeds in creating a single regional air space, a senior Caribbean tourism official has said.

Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace told reporters at the 30th annual CTO conference here that as part of the proposed single regional air space the single domestic space created among the nine host countries of the Cricket World Cup would be eventually be reintroduced.

Tourism officials say the single regional air space is being established to improve the management of international and intra-regional air services.

"I am assured that is going to return first with that group of nine again, but in such a way that is going to be a great deal easier and will have many more exemptions for many more countries," Vanderpool-Wallace said last month.

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Dominica,

agreed on the single domestic space in order to facilitate easier travel of fans and cricketers during the cricket competition.



Vanderpool-Wallace

"Part of the difficulty in establishing the single domestic space was that unfortunately there were some countries that did not require a visa prior to that that required one afterwards and that created a little bit of confusion, but I think those details are now being worked out," Vanderpool-Wallace said.

ENVIRONMENT

The conference, which was held under the theme, "The Next Generation: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future", focused on protecting the environment, exploring the impact of climate change on the region and looking to tourism's future plans and future leaders. Vanderpool-Wallace said the major decision which came out of the talks was for the region to move forward as one Caribbean with the recognition that the regional countries also had to market themselves as one group. The CTO official said there was agreement for a central fund in the promotion of the Caribbean.

Vanderpool-Wallace said

regional tourism officials also held discussions with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association on a possible partnership with the entire region.

On the issue of climate change and environmental protection, the CTO official said although the Caribbean was generally not responsible for the increase in greenhouse gases and the other major negative effects of climate change, it was bearing the brunt of the

effects.

"Suddenly the Caribbean is being punished as a result of the activities of more of the industrialized countries and so we have this idea of having a Caribbean sustainable zone and there's been some discussion on establishing a Caribbean Sustainable Fund in order to move this forward but this is obviously in the very early stages," Vanderpool-Wallace said.

The Caribbean tourism stakeholders also agreed to amend the constitution of the CTO to establish a Council of Ministers as the organization's supreme policy making body; the establishment of an independent research and information unit and a plan to launch the CTO's website in other languages, including Chinese.



MATCHMAKERS



Travel executives gathered recently at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in New York where Barbados tied the knot with its virtual online connection with Air Jamaica.

The airline, known as "The Lovebird", has pledged its troth to Barbados's new weddings and honeymoons website, www.IDoBarbados.com.

The new site shows prospective brides and grooms how to satisfy their wedding or honeymoon needs for a romantic and stimulating venue. Among those present at the launch were, from left, Air Jamaica's Mark Anthony Schlyfer, Erika Cannegieter-Smith of Almond Resorts, and the Barbados Tourism Authority's Richard Williams.

Grenada wants Oprah as part of tourism campaign

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - The Grenada government wants popular United States talk show host Oprah Winfrey to visit the island as part of a tourism marketing plan.

Tourism Minister Clarice Modeste Curwin said that she has asked Oprah's father Vernon Winfrey to encourage her daughter to visit the tri-island state.

"We want more people to be aware of and come to Grenada," declared Curwin during a news conference last month.

"And we know that with Mr. Winfrey's connection, what more can you have than a blood connection with Oprah Winfrey, who has expressed her interest in this country."

Winfrey's father was part of a delegation from the U.S. visiting Grenada as part of the activities marking 24 years since U.S. troops invaded the island to restore democratic rule. Others included country and western music writer and singer Rae Stephenson, and



Winfrey

Grenadian-born Nashville-based artist Joe Country.

Oprah made a brief stop in Grenada several years ago and on her television talk show highlighted the reconstruction efforts in Grenada following two hurricanes in 10 months. Her father told journalists that he would encourage his daughter to visit Grenada.

"I would tell her that I was here and I enjoyed it and I was impressed and I think you need to come and see what I am talking about," he said.



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Male sex tourists fueling AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean ~ study

WASHINGTON - A new study suggests that male sex tourists, mainly from the United States and Europe, may be fuelling an HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean.

The study, conducted by Mark Padilla, a University of Michigan assistant professor of public health, also found that efforts to stop the epidemic would be severely hampered unless HIV prevention funds were diverted to help male prostitutes.

Padilla interviewed 298 bisexually-behaving men over a three-year period.

Padilla is also saying that the study should serve as call to action for the tourism industry to implement HIV/AIDS prevention programs for tourists and tourism employees.

The Caribbean is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in HIV/AIDS cases, and the disease has been described as primarily heterosexual.

However, the study entitled "Caribbean Pleasure Industry: Tourism, Sexuality, and HIV/AIDS in the Dominican Republic", shows that sexual contact between Caribbean male sex workers and male tourists may be a much larger contributor to the HIV/AIDS epidemic there than previously thought.

"Currently, prevention dollars in the Caribbean serve primarily heterosexuals, and this particular population of male sex workers who have sex with tourists is largely neglected," Padilla said.

WARNING

He warned the male prostitute population was growing larger as the traditional, agricultural jobs dry up, noting that funding comes from a variety of sources including governments, multilateral organizations and private foundations.

The majority of the tourists coming to the

Caribbean come from North America and Europe and the study warned that the local men who served these male tourists also had sexual encounters with female tourists.

"Many men are unemployed from rural areas, and they immigrate to tourism areas. Very few identify themselves as sex workers, and most have other income from tourism", it stated.

"Because of social stigma, these men often do not communicate with female partners about their involvement in sex work".

The study urged the stakeholders in the tourism sector to "prioritize HIV prevention in any initiative", adding "they need to be aware that they are contributing to a sex economy that they are indirectly supporting, and to take responsibility to provide HIV prevention for these individuals".



Barbados expects benefits as Virgin shifts to Heathrow

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Tourism Minister Noel Lynch says Virgin Atlantic's decision to use the Heathrow Airport slots it bought from Air Jamaica to fly to Barbados this winter will benefit the high end of the country's tourism product.

"That decision puts us in a much better position to get better connections coming out of that major gateway," Lynch said.

"We are now in a much better position, especially when you talk about 747s coming out of Heathrow, to move to the next level in terms of our European businesses," Lynch said in Parliament on Oct. 30 as the Lower House gave its approval to legislation aimed at improving security at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Beginning Dec. 11, Virgin Atlantic will move its winter flights from the United Kingdom from Gatwick to the busier Heathrow Airport, while operating its code-sharing agreement flights to Kingston from out of Gatwick. Last year Virgin Atlantic entered into an agreement with Jamaica's national airline to buy that carrier's Heathrow slots for £5.1 million (\$10.2 million) and also agreed to fly into Kingston under a code-sharing agreement with Air Jamaica, which the previous People's National

Party administration said was losing money. Since then, the new Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) administration said it would seek to review that agreement.



Lynch

IMPROVEMENT

Lynch said Virgin Atlantic's improved service to the island was only part of the general improvement in airlift from the United Kingdom market which delivered the vast majority of visitors to the island on a yearly basis. He said coupled with the strength of the pound and Euro against the United States dollar, the vital tourism sector could look forward to a good winter season.

"I therefore say we are now in one of the better positions that we have been in recent times to attract more visitors from the U.K. and European markets," he explained.

"The pound is now very strong against the U.S. dollar and therefore very strong against ours. So if the U.K. is our number one market, we expect to see an influx of visitors, even more so than we saw last year," Lynch added.



Bermuda seeking to lure Chinese visitors

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - Premier Ewart Brown says Bermuda has made a significant impression during a global tourism summit in China.

Brown delivered a keynote address to the conference in the capital Beijing on Oct. 29 and then hosted a dinner for 200 representatives from around the world.

"It's been a fantastic experience. It sets the foundation for an eventual relationship with China, and sets up the likelihood that what is now a trickle of business visitors will grow into a flow," he later told reporters.

Brown attended the summit in his capacity as tourism and transport minister. The summit was hosted by the Beijing Tourism Administration and brought together more than 200 travel and tourism industry leaders from 24 nations.

IDEAS

Brown said prior to the event that he hoped to glean new ideas for expanding Bermuda's tourism reach and exploring opportunities for joint ventures. He told the delegates about the success of the recent high-profile PGA Grand Slam tournament at the Mid Ocean Club, which was won by Argentina's Angel Cabrera, and the Bermuda Music Festival.

"October turned out to be the exclamation point on a blockbuster summer for us," Brown said.

"For the summer, overall tourist arrivals are up, visitor spending is up and hotel occupancy is up. Bermuda is in the

"We want to start chipping away at this mission before we have the new hotel beds so that when are new hotels are built



Enthusiastic crowds have attended the Bermuda Music Festival. Brown is hoping it will attract more Chinese visitors to the country as well.

throes of a high-gear tourism turnaround after almost a decade stuck in neutral.

"In my beautiful country, there is limitless potential for our tourism industry. One of the reasons I wanted to be here in Beijing...is because I want to learn a great deal more about the Chinese tourist.

"Like so much of the world, Bermuda wants to tap into this seemingly bottomless pool of consumers. It will be an uphill climb, but we're ready for the challenge. And the timing is crucial.

we will already have made inroads with new travelers from new markets," he added.

But Brown admitting that the distance between China and Bermuda would be a challenge adding "however, we are certainly willing to give it a shot. We'd be silly not to.

"People from China like the same things that most visitors like about Bermuda — the golf, spas and locations. When we showed our video...there were many 'oohs' and 'ahs' in the room and scores of questions."



Haiti positions itself as tourist destination

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Haiti is embarking on a project designed to develop the island's tourism industry, Tourism Minister Patrick Delatour has said.

Delatour told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that the local tourism sector had been suffering as a result of the violence that had been affecting the former French colony as well as the high incidence of the HIV/AIDS virus. But he said the election of President René Preval a few years ago had resulted in the government placing more emphasis on developing the tourism sector as part of the overall development of the Haitian economy.

"At this Caribbean Tourism Conference meeting we informed our fellow tourism ministers from the English, Dutch, French and Spanish speaking Caribbean of our intention to integrate our plan into the markets of the Caribbean, as well all seek to compete with the rest of the

world," said Delatour, who attended the annual conference of the Caribbean Hotel Organisation (CTO) here last month.



Delatour

FAST TRACK

He said that as part of the new plan a number of regions in the country have been identified for development and that would allow Haiti to fast track its return to the competitive tourism industry. Among the projects identified by Delatour include the development and promotion of the National History Park at Citadel as the country's sole World Heritage site, as well as the \$30 million re-development of its main sea port to accommodate bigger cruise ships by 2009.



H E A L T H

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U.S. issues warning against drug resistant skin infection

Health authorities in the United States are urging residents to take simple, preventive measures to protect themselves against a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) skin infection.

Several elementary, middle and high school students in the U.S. have been infected recently with MRSA.

MRSA is a drug-resistant bacteria that causes red, painful boils that contain pus. The infection usually appears near cuts and scrapes, and areas of the body covered by hair, such as the back of the neck, groin, buttocks, armpit or beard.

MRSA infections are rarely fatal, and nearly all infections can be treated by

draining the pus with or without antibiotics. More serious infections, such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections or bone infections are very rare in healthy people who get MRSA skin infections.

TRANSMISSION

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact, or touching shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection, such as towels or used bandages. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified five factors that facilitate MRSA transmission: crowding, frequent skin-to-skin contact, compromised skin, contaminated items and surfaces,



MRSA infection of the hand.

and lack of cleanliness.

Schools, military barracks, daycare centers and prisons are examples of places where these factors are most common.



Antigua on course for universal care for persons with HIV/AIDS

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC - Health Minister John Maginley says Antigua and Barbuda hopes by the year 2010 to provide universal health care for persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Maginley told a meeting of the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PAN-CAP) that the island had been receiving assistance from a number of partner agencies as it moves towards achieving the goal of universal health care.

More than 100 delegates attended the two-day meeting last month. It was held under the theme "Universal Access by 2010: Ensuring Success" and meeting examines the progress made in implementing the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS (CRSF).

PANCAP, established in 2001 and coordinated by the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretariat, is the regional mechanism responsible for coordinating

the Caribbean's response to HIV/AIDS pandemic.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Maginley told the meeting that the authorities here "now have in place all the building blocks on which to deliver and to get universal access.

"We think we have the team in place and with the support of our aid agencies, and UNAIDS and PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), we can achieve the goal of universal access by 2010," he said.

For the past two years, the public healthcare system has been providing free anti-retroviral therapy for more than 140 persons living with HIV/AIDS. But Maginley said there were several other areas that still needed attention.

"Universal access also talks about prevention, care and support. We still have to work on those areas," he said.

"We want to make sure that while we treat people that

the incidences of AIDS do not continue to increase. So we need to now refocus on prevention. We've been doing quite a lot of work with in terms care with non governmental organizations and the faith-based organizations."



Maginley

CHALLENGES

According to the health minister, the movement of people throughout the regions poses its own set of challenges for effectively providing healthcare.

"Movement of people in the region means that many persons seeking healthcare may be our Caribbean neighbors and this can place a heavy burden on our healthcare system," he explained.



Prevention steps

The Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEM&HS) and the Florida Department of Health (DOH) are urging residents to take the following steps to protect themselves against a MRSA infection:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Shower immediately after exercising.

- Cover cuts and scrapes with a clean, dry bandage until healed.

- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors that come into contact with your bare skin.

- Place clothing or a towel between your skin and shared equipment, such as weight-training benches.

- Keep frequently touched surfaces clean.

- Closely monitor children who participate in sports where sweat and other bodily fluids may be exchanged.

- Clean sports equipment between uses.



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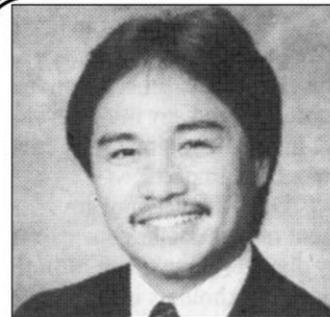


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~ A Caribbean Today feature

Caribbean flavor spices up American seafood diner's new menu

GORDON WILLIAMS

A major American restaurant franchise has added some distinct Caribbean flavor to its menu.

"Captain D's Seafood", a well-known chain in the United States, has introduced several Caribbean treats to the public.

"Caribbean flavors are very hot now," Mark Miller, director of research and development for Captain D's, explained to **Caribbean Today** when asked about the chain's decision to spice up its menu.

Among the offerings available to diners are a coconut shrimp basket with

marmalade sauce, island chicken and shrimp skewers with Jamaican jerk seasoning, a fish and coconut shrimp dinner, also served with marmalade sauce, an island chicken dinner and a mahi mahi dinner.

The restaurant chain serves the shrimp basket with fries. The island chicken dinner comes with rice, corn, salad and bread, while the shrimp dinner is served with coleslaw and fries.

PROMOTION

The new additions to the menu came out of responses



Captain D's coconut shrimp.

from a focus group conducted by Captain D's several months ago. They are being advertised as part of a Captain D's "Island Fest" promotional campaign, **Caribbean Today** understands, which is being

displayed prominently in the restaurants and flyers across the country. The promotion, which began on Oct. 29, is expected to run for about nine weeks. If the Caribbean flavor proves a hit with diners, it could land on the menu permanently.

"If the items become popular they will be moved to the main menu," said Mike Shannon, Captain D's director of brand marketing.

According to Miller, the restaurant chain had "played around" with the idea of introducing coconut shrimp on the menu over the past 18 months. It is already a popular treat at other American restaurant chains. Captain D's is optimistic the new flavors will do well.

"We're hoping it will start to catch on in a week or so," a Captain D's employee in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

Food glossary

The following is a list of foods favored by people from the Caribbean:

Ackee

Popular breakfast food throughout Jamaica.

Breadfruit

Breadfruit is typically served - baked, grilled, fried, boiled or roasted - with meat.

Callaloo

Spinach-like vegetable is prepared as turnip or collard greens.

Coo-coo (or cou-cou)

The Caribbean equivalent of polenta or grits; now made almost exclusively with cornmeal. Versatile coo-coo can be baked, fried or rolled into little balls and poached in soups or stews.

Dhal

Hindu name for legumes; in the Caribbean, it refers only to split peas or lentils.

Dasheen

Also known as coco, taro and tannia, usually served boiled or cut up and used as a thickener in hearty soups.

Escabeche (or 'escoveitch')

Usually refers to fresh fish (and sometimes poultry) that is fried, then pickled in vinegar, spices, hot peppers and oil.

Goat

Curried goat is a Caribbean classic. Most first-timers find goat milder in flavor than lamb and an excellent substitute for lamb in most recipes.

Mango

"The fruit of the tropics" is used in a variety of ways in the Caribbean, including in hot sauces and condiments, in desserts, candies and drinks.

Saltfish

Saltfish is any fried, salted fish, but most often cod.

Sorrel

A tropical flower used to flavor drinks, jams and sauces, especially during Christmas season.

Tamarind

Brown pods containing a sweet and tangy pulp.

Edited from UniChef.com

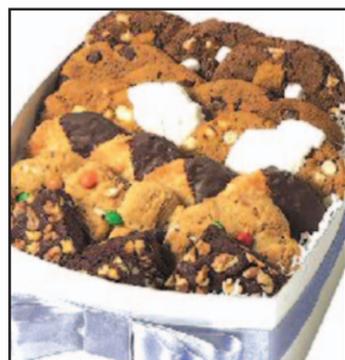


St. Kitts and Nevis places hold on prices of baked products

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – The government here has given consumers the assurance that the price of baked goods will not be increased until next year, even in the face of rapidly rising flour prices.

The Denzil Douglas administration noted last month that bakers in the twin-island federation had agreed to hold prices constant until the end of the first quarter of next year.

"After three weeks of negotiations, government has



reached a settlement with local bakers on the price of bread and other baked goods consumed by the local public",

a Cabinet paper said, noting that bakers had requested an increase in the cost of products commensurate with the increase in the price of flour purchased from overseas.

Recently consumers in neighboring Antigua and Barbuda were hit by a 20 percent hike in the price of bread and other baked products. The government there said the decision to grant the increase was based a 13.3 percent increase in the price of flour.



Salmon, salad and sauce for a spectacular outdoor grill

WOLFGANG PUCK

Many dedicated outdoor cooks are looking for one last spectacular dish to prepare with their outdoor grill.

Think simple. Think flexible.

Too many cooks, both at home and in restaurant kitchens, make the mistake of believing that impressive food has to be complicated food. Sometimes the most impressive food is the simplest. The key is to start with the best ingredients, whether it's a prime steak or an ocean-fresh fish fillet, an organically grown vegetable from the farmers' market (or your own garden) or a juicy summer fruit recently picked from the tree.

Simple cooking is also often the best way to highlight top-quality ingredients. What could be simpler than placing pieces of food over white-hot charcoals and letting them sear to a deep golden-brown



Grilled salmon.

color on the outside while they stay moist and flavorful within? What more do you need to complement such simple food than a good side dish and a simple sauce, also made with the best ingredients?

FLEXIBILITY

Which brings me to the matter of flexibility and today's recipe: Grilled Salmon with cucumber-yogurt sauce and warm fingerling potato salad.

Start with the fresh wild

salmon, which is so much lighter, cleaner-tasting, and more delicate than the farm-raised salmon served so often today. Seasoned only with salt and pepper and a little olive oil, it's perfect for the grill, especially if you take care not to overcook it. (My tip: It's done to perfection

when it still yields a bit to light fingertip pressure; if you let it cook until firm, it's overcooked.)

The bed of warm potato salad the grilled fish rests upon can be made several hours ahead and reheated just before serving, another convenience. And the cool cucumber-yogurt sauce takes only minutes to prepare.

Then there's the recipe's flexibility. You can follow it precisely and serve it as described: warm potato salad, hot-off-the-grill salmon and cold sauce. But

if you want to be more casual, cook the salmon in advance, either half an hour or so before, and serve it at room temperature, or make it a day ahead, and serve it cold from the refrigerator. Don't want salmon? Try any other fresh fish you prefer, or shrimp or scallops, or grilled chicken or lamb.

Any approach will yield impressive results.

FINGERLING POTATO SALAD

- 1 pound (500g) fingerling potatoes or other small boiling potatoes
- Water
- Salt
- 1 cup (250ml) champagne vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 medium red onion, cut into 1/4-inch (6-mm) dice
- 1 cup (250 ml) good-quality canned chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons unsalted

butter

CUCUMBER-YOGURT SAUCE

- 4 to 6 English cucumbers
- 1/2 cup (125ml) plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup (125ml) crème fraîche
- Juice and grated zest of 2 lemons
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped fresh dill
- 1/2 medium red onion, cut into 1/4-inch (6-mm) dice
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

GRILLED SALMON

- 4 fresh wild salmon fillets, each about 6 ounces (180g)
- Extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 dill sprigs, for garnish

METHOD

Several hours before serv-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



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~ A Caribbean Today feature

Caribbean 'Veggie Fest' set for Jamaica in 2008

A vegetarian-only event, for health conscious people will be held next year in the Caribbean.

The two-day "Caribbean Veggie Fest 2008" is scheduled for Mar. 1-2 at the Rhodes Hall Plantation located in Green Island, Hanover, Jamaica.

The festival, being presented by Positive Tourism Network in association with the Caribbean Health Tourism & Spa Conference, will focus on available vegetarian foods in the Caribbean, including five star gourmet preparations, raw foods, healthy juices, natural pies, natural herbs and spices, natural wines (yam and ginger).

Exhibitors will include



A vegetarian pizza.

vegetarian restaurants, vegetarian food purveyors, juice makers, natural seasoning producers and a farmers market.

Veggie Fest 2008 plans to deal with earth-grown derived foods, which will be prepared and exhibited. Examples

include: ackee gourmet, vegetarian pies, cassava and potato pudding, fruit and vegetable juices, vegetable-based ice cream, vegetarian sandwiches and burgers, vegetarian soups and wraps, energy juices, garden salads, vegetarian pizza, vegetable run-down and vegetarian one-pot cooking.

"I have long held this vision of creating a veggie festival where people can eat wholesome and satisfying foods," said Theo Chambers, one of the organizers of the festival, "where hoteliers and restaurateurs become more

conscious of vegetarian needs, thus exposing them to a variety of healthy menu choices."

The festival, which is free and open to the public, will



Natural juices.

facilitate sharing of ideas amongst participants.

For more information, e-mail address Tanika@Caribbeanveggiefest.com or call 876-957-9243.



Salmon, salad and sauce for a spectacular outdoor grill

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

ing, make the potato salad. Rinse the potatoes, leaving their skins on. Put them in a saucepan with enough cold water to cover well and add a sprinkling of salt.

Bring to a boil over high heat, and then adjust the heat to maintain a steady boil and cook until the potatoes are just tender enough to be pierced easily with a long metal skewer, about 15 minutes.

Drain well, transfer to a large mixing bowl filled with ice and water, and leave until thoroughly cooled, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in another mixing bowl, stir together the vinegar, sugar, and salt and pepper to taste. Peel the potatoes, using your fingertips and, if necessary, a small, sharp knife to slip off their skins.

Cut each potato crosswise into discs about a quarter inch thick and add them to the vinegar mixture. Add the red onion, toss gently, cover with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for three to four hours.

About an hour before serving, prepare the cucumber-yogurt sauce. Cut each cucumber in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Cut each half lengthwise into strips a quarter inch wide, then cut across to make dice the same size.

Italy funds Caribbean food security

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Caribbean countries are getting special assistance to promote food security after Italy announced additional financing to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) project that would allow regional states to take advantage of trade liberalization policies.

The FAO project, "Promoting CARICOM/-CARIFORUM Food Security", was originally due to last four years, but it has been extended for another three years to 2010.

Italy, which provided initial funding of approximately \$5 million, has agreed to provide an additional \$3.3 million for the second phase.

The countries involved in the project are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic.



GRACE GASTRIC DELIGHTS



- Photograph by SoHo Photo

Elsie Foster Dublin, left, council president, Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, and Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, former New York city councilwoman, sample offerings from GraceKennedy Caribbean Tradition Brand Entrees last month in the United States. Dublin and Clarke were chosen from the audience at the Jamaican Consulate in New York. Jamaican-based GraceKennedy rolled out the first four entrees - curried chicken/white rice, curried shrimp/white rice, jerk chicken/rice and peas and oxtail/rice and peas - which are being packaged for overseas markets.

Caribbean flavor spices up American seafood diner's new menu

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Georgia told **Caribbean Today** last month.

OTHERS

However, Captain D's is not the only American chain to add Caribbean flavor to its menu, whether long or short term. Other chains like Red Lobster, Buffalo Wild Wings

and Applebees have featured Caribbean flavored dishes. According to Captain D's corporate officers, Americans who travel to the Caribbean often return to suggest to U.S. restaurants dishes they had tried - and liked - in the region.

"People are being more and more exposed to these flavors," Miller explained.

And while Caribbean dishes at U.S. restaurant chains were once restricted to summer, the popularity of the flavors appears to be warming up colder months as well.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



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CARIBBEAN FOODS

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~ A Caribbean Today feature

Recipes

Island shrimp with calypso rice and heart of Florida salad



Ingredients – shrimp and rice

- 2 (8 oz.) packages frozen island lime shrimp
- 1 cup frozen petite peas
- 1/4 cup pre-diced red onions
- 2 tablespoons sofrito (Spanish cooking sauce)
- 2 (8.8 oz.) pouches pre-cooked yellow rice

Method

Place shrimp in large sauté pan on medium heat. Cook 10 to 12 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until shrimp are pink and sauce is slightly thickened.

Meanwhile, combine peas, onions and sofrito in microwave-safe bowl. Cover and microwave on high for four minutes or until hot.

Stir in rice and microwave on high two to three more minutes or until rice is thoroughly heated. Stir rice; spoon shrimp mixture over rice and serve.

Note: Sofrito is a cooking sauce made from tomatoes, garlic, peppers and spices. It is used as a flavoring ingredient in many Caribbean recipes.

Heart of Florida salad

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup mojo marinade
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 medium tomatoes (rinsed)
- 1 seedless cucumber (rinsed)
- 1 (14-ounce) can cut hearts of palm (drained)
- 2 tablespoons sliced black olives

Method

Combine mojo, olive oil and honey in a salad bowl.

Cut tomatoes and one-half cucumber into bite-size pieces; add with remaining ingredients to dressing.

Stir until well coated. Chill until ready to serve.

Publix Apron's Simple Meals Nested crab cakes with couscous, pears and gorgonzola cream

Ingredients – crab cakes with couscous

- 4 (3 oz.) frozen lump crab cakes
- 1/4 cup butter, divided
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 (5.8 oz.) package roasted garlic/olive oil couscous
- 2 cloves fresh garlic



- 2 cups tightly packed fresh spinach
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Method

Place crab cakes on microwave-safe plate; heat in microwave on defrost (30% power) two minutes or until thawed.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium heat two to three minutes. Place one tablespoon butter in pan and swirl to coat; gently add crab cakes and cook five minutes.

Add one tablespoon of butter and turn crab cakes. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook six more minutes or until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Use a meat thermometer to accurately ensure doneness.

Meanwhile, combine water

and one tablespoon of butter in microwave-safe bowl. Cover and microwave on high for three minutes or until boiling. Stir in couscous mix; cover and let stand.

Remove crab cakes from pan and cover to keep warm. Add remaining one tablespoon of butter to pan. Crush garlic, using garlic press, into pan. Use knife to remove garlic from bottom of press.

Cook one to two minutes until browned. Add remaining ingredients, cover, and cook one to two minutes, stirring occasionally, until spinach is hot and tender. Form nests of spinach and top with crab cakes. Fluff couscous with fork and serve.

Pears with gorgonzola cream

Ingredients

- 1 lemon for zest (rinsed)
- 3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup crumbled gorgonzola cheese
- 1/4 cup whipped cream cheese spread
- 1/4 cup honey
- 4 medium or large pears (rinsed)
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 2 tablespoons of cinnamon sugar
- 1/2 cup pressurized whipped heavy cream (optional)

Method

Peel one to two strips of lemon peel with vegetable peeler (or zester). Finely chop, then measure (one teaspoon). Add to medium bowl; add all cheeses and honey.

Whisk one to two minutes until smooth and well blended. Divide into serving bowls and chill until ready to serve.

Peel pears, remove core and cut into bite-size pieces.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium two to three minutes. Add butter (swirl to coat), add pears, and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Cover and cook for six to eight minutes, stirring

occasionally, until tender and browned. Can be set aside until ready to serve.

Spoon pears over cheese

mixture, top with whipped cream and serve.



Cou cou and flying fish



Method

Marinate the fish in the salt and lime juice for 10 minutes. Rinse the fish and pat dry with paper towels, then rub in the Barbadian seasoning and leave to marinate for an hour.

Roll each fish into a sausage shape, starting

with the tail.

Heat the margarine in a saucepan and sauté the onion and garlic until the onions become transparent.

Add the tomato and parsley and continue to cook for two minutes. Tie the thyme and marjoram together and add to the pan together with the remaining ingredients.

Place rolled fish on mixture in pan, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes until fish is cooked.

Taste sauce and adjust flavor to taste.

Serve with cou cou.

Cou-cou

Ingredients

- 1 lb. corn meal
- 1/4 pod chopped garlic
- 16 oz. cold water
- 2 teaspoon chopped herbs
- 8 oz. okras
- 2 oz. butter
- 16 oz. water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 oz. chopped onions

Method

Soak cornmeal in cold water for five minutes.

Combine okras, salt, onions, garlic and herbs in saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and let simmer for 10 minutes. Strain off okras and hold.

In a thick bottom saucepan, over a low flame put the soaked cornmeal and half of the okra liquid. Stir constantly with a whisk. Add in stages the remaining okra liquid. Continue to stir and allow to steam until corn meal is totally cooked.

Add okra and butter. Mix well and serve with your favorite sauce or steam flying fish.

Steamed flying fish

Ingredients

- 8 flying fish fillets
- 1 teaspoon parsley chopped
- 3 limes
- 1 large tomato chopped
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon limejuice
- 3 tablespoons Barbadian seasoning
- 2 cups water
- 1 large onion sliced
- 1/2 tsp hot pepper sauce
- 6 cloves garlic minced
- ? tsp curry powder
- 1 green bell pepper cut in julienne strips
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 1/2 oz. fresh thyme
- Seasoned salt to taste
- 1/2 oz fresh marjoram

Method

Marinate the fish in the salt and lime juice for 10 minutes. Rinse the fish and pat dry with paper towels.

Mix the seasoning ingredients and spread over the meaty side of the fish. Leave for about an hour to marinate.

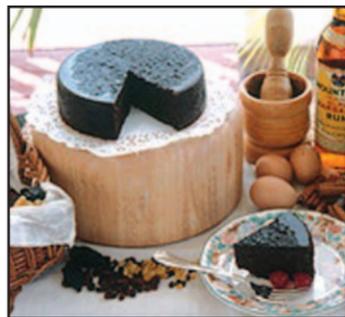
Dip the fish into the beaten egg and then into the bread crumbs.

Fry gently on each side until golden brown. Serve with a wedge of lime.

Compliments of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA).



Barbadian fruit cake



Ingredients

- 3 oz. raisins
- 1 teaspoon mixed essence
- 2 oz. cherries
- 3 whole eggs
- 2 oz. pitted prunes
- 3 oz. unsalted butter

- 3 oz. brown rum
- 4 oz. self rising flour
- 3 oz. red wine
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 oz. brown sugar

Method

Add fruit and alcohol to blender, and blend until smooth.

Heat a sauce pan and add blended fruit mixture to it. Allow fruit to cook until acidity has reduced, then add sugar and butter.

Remove fruit from stove and allow too cool for 10 minutes.

While fruit is cooling

break eggs into a mixing bowl and beat together with essence.

When fruit is cool fold in beaten eggs, flour and baking powder.

Grease a six compartment muffin pan or sheet pan and add mixture.

Heat oven to temperature 350 degrees and place mixture in for 20 to 25 minutes.

Submitted by chef Creig Greenidge from Sandridge Hotel. Obtained from www.tasteofbarbados.com



F Y I

www.caribbeantoday.com

CARIBBEAN CONFAB

Prime Minister Hubbert Ingraham of The Bahamas will deliver a keynote address, and receive the Star of the Caribbean Award, during the 31st Caribbean Central American Action conference **Dec. 3-5** at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Miami, Florida.



The Star of the Caribbean Award is given in recognition of distinguished service and committed efforts to improve the economic well being of the people of the Caribbean Basin.

CCAA's Miami Conference focuses specific attention on the smaller economies of the Caribbean and Central America. Invited heads of state for this year's Conference include Denzil Douglas, prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis; Nelson Oduber, prime minister of Aruba; Leonel Fernandez, president of the Dominican Republic; Martin Torrijos Espino, president of Panama; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, president of Brazil; Stephen Harper, prime minister of Canada; Oscar Arias, president of Costa Rica; and John de Jongh, governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

Other invited speakers include Charles Rangel, U.S. congressman; Luis Alberto Moreno, president, Inter-American Development Bank; Dan Sullivan, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of State; and Carlos Gutierrez, secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, among others.

For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.c-aaa.org/>.

RADIO CHANGES

Radio station 1080 AM, the home for Caribbean Saturdays for more than two decades, has been bought by California-based Salem Communications for more than \$12 million.

According to a recent press release, issued last month, under the new ownership, the format has changed to an English lan-

guage christian talk format.

The station, which offered the longest running Caribbean programming in South Florida, has featured hosts such as Jamaicans Eddy Edwards, Mike Andrews and Don Daly over the years.

The new Caribbean Saturday's line up is as follows:

- **3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** - Caribbean Upliftment Program with Don Daly;
- **5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** - Caribbean Riddims hosted by Eddy Edwards; and
- **7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** - South Florida Caribbean Sportsline.

The Caribbean Connection Show with Mike Andrews will air on 1580 AM from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

JOB FAIR

The South Florida Workforce Little Havana Career Center, in

partnership with Burger King, Memorial Plan, Corporate Staffing and Denny's, will host a Job fair from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 14** in South Florida.

Job seekers will have the opportunity to interview for a variety of positions that include, but may not be limited to, managers and assistant managers, sales and other administrative and clerical positions which are available in South Florida.

The event will be held at the Little Havana Career Center, 701 S.W. 27th Ave., Little Havana, Miami.

It is free and open to the public. For more information, call **305-594-7615**.

JAMAICAN DRAMA

"Jamaica Farewell", a play written and performed by Debra Ehrhardt, will be

staged **Nov. 23 and 24** at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The theater is located at 201 S.W. Fifth Ave. For more information, call **954-462-0222**, toll free **877-311-7469** or visit www.browardcenter.org.

CARIBBEAN PAGEANT

The seventh annual Miss Florida Caribbean pageant will be staged at **6 p.m. Nov. 18** at the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel, 1870 Griffin Rd., Dania Beach, Florida.

For more information, contact Jannice F. Davis at **954-882-2729** or visit www.miss-floridacaribbean.com.

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LOCAL

HIV/AIDS study sparks among Haitians, researchers

NELSON KING

MIAMI – A new scientific finding that HIV/AIDS came to the United States from Africa via Haiti has spurred controversy among researchers and Haitians here.

Published in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the study seeks to better explain the origin of HIV/AIDS. The study, titled "The emergence of HIV/AIDS in the Americas", stated the virus that causes AIDS, probably came into America from Haiti around 1969, a decade earlier than most scientists believed.

"Our results show that the strain of virus that spawned the U.S. AIDS epidemic probably arrived in or around 1969," said Michael Worobey, an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at The University of Arizona in Tucson, the study's principal author.

'GOING CRAZY'

But the new findings have drawn outrage from the Haitian community here and have sought to reopen deep wounds over the U.S. medical community's alleged role in fostering a stigma against nationals from the French-speaking Caribbean island. Many Haitians said they are tired of being stereotyped

and unfairly treated.

"People are going crazy," said Dr. Laurinus Pierre, executive director of the Center for Haitian Studies in Little Haiti in Miami, stating that he has battled stigmas against Haitians from the first days of HIV/AIDS.

In Feb. 1990, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) policy prohibited Haitians from donating blood in the U.S., triggering scores of protests and boycotts of blood drives. But by Dec. 1990, the FDA rescinded that policy and developed a more rigorous screening of all blood donors.

"This does a disservice to the Haitian community, who feel like they already went through this 20 years ago," said Dr. Paul Farmer, a professor of medical anthropology at Harvard University.

"This is very slender evidence on which to base such a grand claim," added Farmer, who is also a founder of Partners in Health, an international research and aid organization active in fighting AIDS in Haiti.

"I don't think this is very helpful," said Dr. Jeffrey Laurence, a professor of medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York.

"People love to play history, and it would be great to fig-

ure out who Patient Zero was but there are doubts," he said.

'PATIENT ZERO'

The Patient Zero theory came from a misrepresentation for Patient O, for "Out of California", where early research on AIDS by the CDC suggested HIV in the U.S. spread in the late 1970s, early 1980s from one man in California. According to the work of Worobey and colleagues, the strain that came to the U.S. in 1969 was HIV-1 group M, subtype B; and is the first discovered human immunodeficiency virus.

"This strain is the most dominant of the AIDS strains that exist in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa, nearly all of which descended from the one that came out of Haiti," the researchers said.

Pitchenik said the study has "nothing to do with race or sex or color of skin," adding: "We should not stigmatize any particular group.

"It's not whether you're Haitian or homosexual," he added.

"It's the high-risk behavior you engage in, whether you have unprotected sex, whether you're a drug user sharing needles," he continued.



Caribbean, Florida agree to greater co-operation

A greater level of co-operation between the Caribbean and Florida was established following a visit last month of CARICOM diplomats to the governor of the southern U.S. state.

At a meeting with Governor Charlie Crist, and a delegation of consuls general representing the CARICOM member countries in the southern United States, it was agreed that several trade delegations to CARICOM states would be established in the near future, beginning with the larger markets of Trinidad and Jamaica.

The meeting, held at the state capitol office in Tallahassee on Oct. 25, included representatives from the Department of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

FUTURE TALKS

It was also agreed that there would be discussions with Caribbean in-state agencies and promoters of cultural events, such as the annual Caribbean carnival and the annual jerk festival, to address ways that the state can incorporate those activities into the general roster of tourist attractions in Florida.

Ricardo Allicock, Jamaica's consul general in Miami, who is also chair of the CARICOM Diplomatic Corp in South



Allicock

Florida, described the meeting as successful, noting that the delegation was reassured that, at the highest level, Florida indicated strong interest in partnering with CARICOM and its diaspora.

Also resulting from the meeting, was an agreement for follow-up discussions "hopeful that there would be appreciable and positive results over the next year," said Allicock.

According to Allicock, the discussions were centered around CARICOM's trade relationship with Florida, the positive impact of the Caribbean business community on the state's economy, education initiatives, technical cooperation and immigration matters.

Regarding education, the delegation expressed to the governor an interest in acquiring and creating greater access

to scholarships for Caribbean students at educational institutions throughout the state. Presently, a large number of the student enrolment in several tertiary institutions in Florida are Caribbean nationals.

On the matter of immigration, the delegation explained to the governor how those policies negatively impacted the Caribbean community, especially in the area of deportation.

Pointing to the joint programs between the FDLE and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the governor lauded the partnership of officers for the liaison efforts in law enforcement activities in both regions. In addition, it was further agreed that seminars would be hosted for senior representatives of Florida law enforcement agencies to further sensitize them to the cultural behavioral nuances of the Caribbean community.

The CARICOM delegation included Edward Bushell of Barbados, Alma Adams of The Bahamas, Gerard Greene of Trinidad and Tobago, Ralph Latortue of Haiti, and Ian Sweeney of Antigua.

- JIS



Marriage can change U.S. status, but baby may not offer the same privilege

Question: I recently got married to a United States citizen. We are in the process of filing my paperwork, but have not completed it and I have overstayed my visa. I would like to know about any fines I may have to pay?

Answer: The fact that you have fallen in love and got married to a U.S. citizen, allows you the opportunity of adjusting your status in the U.S., says Irwine Clare, immigration counselor and managing director of the Caribbean Immigrant Services. Further, being inspected by an immigration officer upon entry into the U.S. ensures you won't have to pay any fines or penalty.

The application fees you will pay are as follows: application fee - \$355; adjustment of status - \$1,010; and employment authorization fee - \$340.

Within 90 days you should have employment authorization, which allows you to apply for your Social Security number. Within three to six months you should have an interview for permanent residence and "Green Card". Maintain your marriage and good luck.

Q: I am in the U.S. on a B1/B2 visa and I gave birth to my son here. Am I eligible to obtain a work permit, so I can work and live here to support my child?

A: The answer is no. Unless you are married to a U.S. citizen, or have been sponsored by a naturalized citizen parent, child over



21, an employer or sibling, you cannot legally work in the U.S., says Clare.

Additionally, if you are a highly skilled immigrant, you may be eligible for a H-1B visa. H-1B status, however, requires a sponsoring U.S. employer. The employer must file a labor condition application with the Department of Labor attesting to several items, including payment of prevailing wages for the position, and the working conditions offered. The employer must then file the certified LCA with a Form I-129 petition, plus an accompanying fee of \$130.

Based on the USCIS petition approval, the migrant may apply for the H-1B visa, admission, or a change of nonimmigrant status.

Compiled by Felicia Persaud. The answers provided here are for information purposes only and do not create an attorney-client relationship; nor are they a substitute for legal advice, which can only be given by a competent attorney after reviewing all the facts of the case.



Social Security benefits available for disabled military

Social Security has procedures in place to expedite survivor's applications and disability claims that apply to any injured military service member, regardless of where the injury occurred, according to Michael J. Astrue, commissioner of Social Security.

"I want to assure the brave men and women of (the United States) Armed Forces and their families that they will not have to wait for these needed benefits," said Commissioner Astrue. "The special process is just one way Social Security can show our military personnel how much we appreciate their service."

For people applying for survivor's benefits using Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 - there is a specially-dedicated immediate claims taking unit that processes an application at the time of contact. Those applications received in a local Social Security office also are expedited and given priority

handling, according to the agency.

For Social Security disability applications, the agency's goal is to schedule an appointment within three working days of the initial telephone call, or to have the local office call the service member within two days to start the disability process. Disability claims filed online at www.socialsecurity.gov are also expedited.

This applies to military service members who become disabled in the line of duty on or after Oct. 1, 2001. The expedited process is invoked regardless of where the disability occurred, whether in the U.S., Iraq, Afghanistan, or on other foreign soil during active military service.

For more information about Social Security survivors and disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



Dancehall star 'Beenie Man' faces tax evasion charges

KINGSTON, Jamaica - International dancehall entertainer Moses Davis, popularly known as "Beenie Man", was granted J\$1.5 million (\$21,000) bail after he appeared in court on tax evasion charges late last month.

Earlier in October, a court had issued an arrest warrant for the artiste after he failed to appear before the Tax Court to answer the charges.

Beenie Man, accompanied by his attorney Garth McBean, had appealed to the court to quash the warrant, but the request was turned down. McBean told the court that his client had been performing overseas and missed his flight back to Jamaica resulting in his inability to attend court on the scheduled date.

The tax authorities are alleging that Beenie Man owes the state J\$47 million (\$661,971), but the artiste has blamed his former management company Shocking

Vibes for the situation.

Beenie Man who is due to reappear in court on Dec. 3, said he is being targeted by



Beenie Man

the new Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) administration because of his open support for the main Opposition People's National Party (PNP).

"That is why the govern-

ment want me for so much money," he reportedly said before arriving in Jamaica. "A change in government, a change in rules."

However, the ruling JLP government has dismissed Beenie Man's claim that it is responsible for him being charged with tax evasion.

"Misguided, mischievous and absurd", the party said in a statement on Oct. 30 in response to the Grammy Award-winning artiste's claim that he was being targeted by the government because of his support for the Opposition PNP.

Earlier this year Davis's wife D'Angel took him to court over the ownership of assets and he was in court again several weeks ago after the St. Andrew Parish Church filed a lawsuit against him for shooting a video in the church cemetery without permission.

Compiled from CMC reports.



Dark warning for 'dreamers'

• TITLE: THE MOST DANGEROUS GANG IN AMERICA: THE NYPD
• AUTHOR: RICHARD JEANTY
• REVIEWED BY: GORDON WILLIAMS

Young men often sit around the Caribbean dreaming about living elsewhere - the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom.

They see a lavish, open lifestyle on television and want to experience those places themselves.

Some, especially those enduring the brutal hardships of inner-city life in the islands, desperately hope to escape. After all, it is no secret that young, poor men are prime targets for victimization by law enforcement and gang-related violence.

But before these youngsters happily depart the island shores, American-born author Richard Jeanty, who is of Haitian descent, is offering a glimpse at the "security" they can expect elsewhere, especially in the U.S. Jeanty's book, "The Most Dangerous Gang in America: The NYPD", lays out a chilling reminder that no matter what these dreamers may be thinking, a move to the U.S. does not guarantee peace and safe-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

B'dos movie makes U.S. debut at American Black Film Festival

LOS ANGELES, CMC - "Hit For Six", a popular Caribbean movie, made its international debut last month at the American Black Film Festival.

Written and directed by



- Photograph by BBC News
Saunders-Franklyn directs "Hit for Six".

West Indian communications specialist Alison Saunders-Franklyn, and produced by Blue Waters Productions, the film is the first from the Caribbean island of Barbados to be featured at the festival.

"Hit For Six" is a fictional account of a West Indian cricketer who fights a match fixing charge. He learns about love while struggling for his last chance to play in a major global tournament and earns the respect of his estranged father, a former great West Indies player.

"Hit For Six" screened at

Mann Theatres late last month.

Since its premiere in Barbados last April, "Hit For Six" has been released in several Caribbean countries.

"The film has secured Caribbean-wide theatrical distribution deals for 14 countries through Palace Amusements of Jamaica and the Trinidad-based Goldmine Entertainment," said Saunders-Franklyn, who was in Los Angeles for the festival.

"We are thrilled to move to another level."

She said that there are plans for further international exposure and distribution opportunities.

CARIBBEAN CAST

The movie features an all-Caribbean cast and crew, including popular MTV Tempo host, Trinidadian Jeanille Bonterre; British-based Trinidadian actor, Rudolph Walker; lead actor Barbadian Andrew Pilgrim; Canadian-based Barbadian actress, Alison Sealy-Smith; and Barbadian actress Varia Williams.

One month after its debut, "Hit For Six" won three awards at the annual Bridgetown Film Festival 2007, including best Barbadian film, best actress and best cinematographer.



Soulful line-up for Cayman jazz

American R&B singer Brian McKnight, soulful crooner Joe, Jamaican jazz pianist Monty Alexander and international gospel headliner BeBe Winans are among the scheduled headliners for the three-day Cayman Jazz Festival set to begin this month in Grand Cayman.

Other artistes scheduled to perform at the show, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, include jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves, Swiss-born keyboardist and composer Alex Bugnon, and Philadelphia soul singer Musiq.

The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism has retained BET Digital Networks for the fourth consecutive year to promote the Cayman Jazz Fest across both BET and BET J cable channels. BET J will produce a one-hour post concert show highlighting the performances and artistes of the festival to air on the network sometime next year.

"With headline act Brian

McKnight and other internationally acclaimed jazz and R&B artists, Jazz Fest 2007 is going to be another great event," said Cayman's Minister of Tourism Charles Clifford.

"Based on the positive feedback received from visitors and residents after Jazz Fest 2006 - one influential journalist describing it as a 'gem' of a festival, I am confident that we will see an increase in attendance over previous years. The event also provides a forum for local musicians in this genre to interact with and perform



McKnight



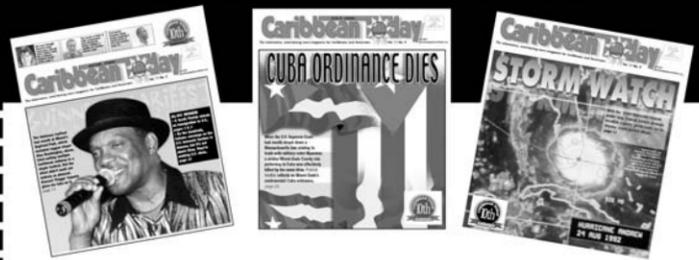
Alexander

beside internationally renowned artists. This opportunity can only boost the development of local talent and bring greater international awareness and appreciation of them."

The jazz fest is organized by Cayman's Department of Tourism in partnership with BET J. For more information, visit www.caymanislands.ky/jazzfest.



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Caribbean Today

Dark warning for 'dreamers'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

ty, especially for young men of color.

GRIPPING

In 43 graphic chapters from a man who is described as "the social activist author that writes with a conscience", Jeanty draws on case after case of brutality by law enforcement officials. The tales of some of the names featured in the book – like Amadou Diallo and Abner Louima – have made their way into national and international headlines. Others are not so familiar. But all cases offer a gripping reminder.

Jeanty does not hide his motives for writing "The Most Dangerous Gang in America..." He spells it out clearly in the introduction: "I'm actually writing this book to voice my personal frustrations with the police department as well as the justice system". His frustrations are not confined to New York City, although the "Big Apple" has most of his attention.

Jeanty is also clear on his own justification for writing the book: "Is there really a need for this book? I would say yes". It is here that he makes sure that the people of the Caribbean understand that the problems in the U.S. will surely affect them when they cross the border.

"Most people would be hard pressed to find another major city in any part of the world that typifies multiculturalism or a melting pot, as it is often referred to, more than New York City". No doubt.

Jeanty feels it is his job "to offer a voice to those who will never be heard". It is worthwhile to listen to his voice. The researched evidence he offers in the book is compelling. If Jeanty's claim that "many police officers, not just the NYPD (New York Police Department), have this fear that most Black men walk around with concealed weapons looking to take a shot at them" is true, then everyone has reason to worry. Yet he is honest enough to admit "if you're looking for an objective point of view, you bought the wrong book".

The examples Jeanty offers among the wide range of topics handled by the book, however, present enough evidence to suggest that all is not well for young black men in America. Amadou Diallo was fired on 41 times by NYC cops. He was hit 19 times and died in the lobby of his own apartment.

"He lost his life", the book states, "because cops mistook his wallet for a gun". "The Most Dangerous Gang in America: The NYPD" is surely worth reading. It offers the dreamers something to think about. And although Jeanty is also listed as a comic "who hopes to lift the spirit of the world through his words", his book is definitely no joke.

Publisher: RJ Publications, LLC, Newark, New Jersey

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



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Peter Pestano

Shaggy gets Jamaican national honor

Entertainer Shaggy has been awarded the Order Of Distinction in the rank of commander by Jamaica for outstanding service to the country.

The honor was presented to him on Heroes Day, Oct. 15, at Kings House in Jamaica.

Shaggy, born Orville Richard Burrell, in Kingston, Jamaica, relocated to his mother's home in Brooklyn, New York at age 18. After leaving the United States Marines Corps in the early 1990s, he launched his music career to great success.

"Oh Carolina", a cover of The Folkes Brothers (1960)



Shaggy

hit became his first major success when it roared into the

number one spot in the United Kingdom and nine other countries. In 1993 the song also appeared on the "Pure Pleasure" album. Shaggy followed in 1995 with the "Boombastic" album for which he won a Grammy in 1996 for Best Reggae Album. In the last 12 years Shaggy has sold over 20 million albums worldwide.

"I feel honored to receive this award and overwhelmed that the Jamaican government saw it fit to bestow upon me such recognition," Shaggy was quoted as saying.



Guyana 'full steam ahead' for CARIFESTA 2008

GUYANA, Georgetown, CMC - The Bharrat Jagdeo administration says it is moving "full steam ahead" with preparations for the staging of next year's Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), the region's biggest cultural extravaganza.

Culture Minister Dr. Frank Anthony, speaking at the open-

ing of the 16th Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) last month, said Georgetown was earnestly working towards the success of CARIFESTA X from the time it decided to host the festival when original host, The Bahamas, backed out.

"Guyana is proudly hosting of the Caribbean commu-

nity's flagship cultural exposition – the Caribbean Festival of Arts next year, is a great opportunity for the region to astound the world with its beauty, diversity and creativity," Anthony said.

Guyana will host CARIFESTA X from Aug. 22-31, 2008.



'Caribbean Photo Contest' opens to students

GORDON WILLIAMS

College shutterbugs from across the Caribbean, Latin and North America, Africa and England will this month begin their quest to capture the beauty of the islands and possibly earn rich rewards too.

Entries are now being accepted for the annual "Caribbean Photo Contest". Young photographers can submit up to five images in the preliminary stages of the competition. Application for that stage is open through Feb. 15, 2008.

According to the main organizer, the contest will offer the youngsters a chance to explore their creative talents while focusing on nature and culture.

"We want to highlight the visual arts and its ability, through visual imagery, to capture nature and cultural glimpses through the eyes of today's youth," international photographer Jomo Kenyatta was quoted as saying.

"The program is designed to challenge college students to be the best among their peers in an artistic endeavor and be rewarded for their success."

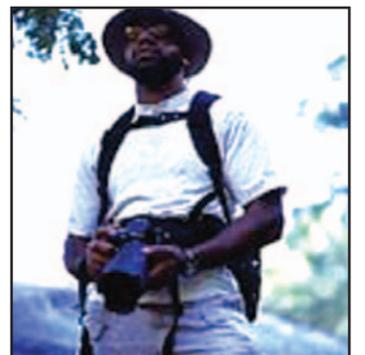
WHY CARIBBEAN?

However, American-born Kenyatta has his own personal connections to the Caribbean. His wife Joan is from Kingston, Jamaica, while he traces his father's side of the family to Barbados.

In addition, Kenyatta is the creative force behind "Caribbean Unseen", a multimedia work project featuring still photos and film which was first released in New York in 2002, but which he describes as a work in progress. According to Kenyatta, Caribbean Unseen "highlights and preserves rarely seen and uncommon aspects of Caribbean history, geography, culture and lifestyle."

For the "Caribbean Photo Contest", he is hoping the budding photographers will be able to capture the region's special charm as well.

"It's such a rich and diverse place," Kenyatta told Caribbean Today. "I also think it's a place that's untapped; the hidden and unseen aspects of the



Kenyatta

Caribbean."

The hunt to capture those special images could bring rewards such as scholarships. To qualify for those, contest entrants must first get through several stages of competition. A panel of judges will select the top 100 candidates from the original batch of entries.

The best images will then be posted on a website to allow the public to vote. Ten finalists will be determined from that process. The finalists, in addition to winning a camera package, will also earn a trip to Jamaica, for a photo seminar and expedition.

The awards ceremony for the winners, along with an exhibition of photographs as part of the contest, will be held in June in Jamaica.

For registration information, visit www.caribbeanphotocontest.com.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



R E G I O N

www.caribbeantoday.com

Antigua announces zero tolerance on crime

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government has announced a zero tolerance on crime, warning that criminal activities could seriously undermine the island's fragile economy.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, in a radio and television broadcast on last month, urged the nation to be cooperative as the government moved to implement measures to deal with the increase in criminal activities on the island.

"Support the government in its quest to prevent this unwelcomed development in our peace loving twin island nation," Spencer said. "Our safety depends on this. The survival of our fragile tourism industry depends on this. Our economy depends on this."

Police figures show that 17 people have been killed so far this year, five more than

in 2006.

MEASURES

Spencer unveiled a series of crime-fighting measures, including more usage of specialized crime detection and surveillance equipment, a crackdown on illegal guns, increased police patrols and searches as well as a curfew for minors.

"Minors found wandering on the streets after 10 p.m. will be apprehended and their parents called upon to account for their actions," the prime minister said. "Parents must recognize that they are responsible for the actions of minors under their care."

"Parents must also recognize that the absence of good values, traditions and discipline only leaves room for lawlessness to take root."

OPEN STATIONS

Spencer announced that police stations would remain open on a 24-hour basis and that members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force would be deployed immediately to assist the police in their operations. He told the public that they should expect random roadblocks and personal searches island-wide.

"These forces will conduct joint coordinated patrols especially within the areas of high crime, with more frequent patrols within other areas," he said.

"I appeal to you to be patient and more so to be cooperative with the law officials. Your lives might become disrupted by the increased stoppages, searches and blockades – but it will redound to all of our benefit."

Spencer said there would

be more collaboration among the security forces and ordered the immediate removal of tints from unauthorized vehicles, including members of the police force.

Spencer also expressed concern about the financing of criminal activity and issued a firm warning to those involved in financing illegal activities on the island. He told the nation that the authorities had information regarding persons who were providing financial sup-

port to criminals.

"I do not wish to believe that this is so. But if that is the case, I wish to assure you that you too will be flushed out with the criminals and will be prosecuted," he said.

"Today, your government is faced with what appears to be a war between drug lords, an escalation in crime and violence and the deportation of criminals from North America to Antigua and Barbuda."



Jamaica's new army chief promises transformation

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – New Chief of Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Major General Stewart Saunders said he will put the focus on the continued transformation of the army during his tenure.

"I am very much aware of what the government and the nation require of the Jamaica Defence Force, and the capabilities that have to be achieved to satisfy this requirement," he said in his acceptance speech after assuming charge on the military on Oct. 27.

"It is important that as a military entity, we continue to be relevant to the society we serve and its interests."

Maj. Gen. Saunders is a past head boy of Jamaica College – one of the country's premier all-boy secondary

schools. He joined the JDF 34 years ago in 1973 and has served in various capacities

including lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.



Saunders

In a changeover ceremony with few

glitches and much precision, Saunders became the ninth chief of staff, succeeding Rear Admiral Hardley Lewin, who is one of those being considered to become the next commissioner of police.



Guyana forms new body to push climate concerns

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - A newly formed local body has met ahead of a December climate conference in Bali, Indonesia to draft and refine a blueprint to push major climate

stakeholders.

'ROADMAP'

The effects of global climate change have generated much debate and many countries are co-operating to formulate effective strategies to help mitigate the problem. The conference in Bali is aimed at looking at possible solutions.

The government release said a "Bali Roadmap" is expected to establish the process to work on the key building blocks of a future climate

mechanism for rewarding countries for conserving those rainforests," the president added.

In the interim, Jagdeo said work needs to be done with bilateral donors so they can guarantee a particular financial flow to the country and then possibly use the carbon credits that could be derived from standing rainforests if they are assessed, to offset carbon emissions.



Jagdeo

change concerns of Guyana and the rest of the region.

A statement from the Guyana government said the National Climate Change Committee, under the auspices of the Agriculture Ministry, will prepare a document for the Bali Conference "to encourage stronger global actions and support in addressing the issues."

"The principal tasks of the committee will involve examining the program of events and activities for the conference; identifying and discussing key issues and areas of relevance to Guyana; and to prepare briefing documents for Guyana's representatives to conference", the Government Information Agency (GINA) said in a statement.

According to GINA, in a bid to sharpen the focus of the briefing document, the National Climate Change Committee is to hold talks with national

change regime, including adaptation, mitigation and technology co-operation and financing the response to climate change.

Guyana is willing to deploy its vast rainforest in the global climate change fight if there will be financial rewards for the sacrifice, President Bharrat Jagdeo told the recent Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting which was held in the capital city, Georgetown.

"Guyana would ensure guaranteed sustainable forestry practices as well as focus heavily on conservation if there is economic reward for that and that we're prepared to work with bilateral donors, as well as commercial entities to put this to the market or to guarantee a financial flow to the country," Jagdeo said when questioned afterwards.

"We're hoping that in the post-Kyoto protocol framework that there would be provisions for standing rainforests and a

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Caribbean steps up call to address climate change

NELSON KING

UNITED NATIONS – As the United Nations wrapped up the two-week 62nd Session of the General Assembly debate last month, Caribbean governments used the opportunity to intensify calls on the developed world to provide more aid to better address the challenges of climate change.

Caribbean leaders, foreign ministers and diplomats pleaded with rich countries to bear more of the burden in the global fight against climate change, stating that they are the leading producers of greenhouse gas emissions.

Baldwin Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister, said the collective response to climate change "represents a monumental test of the political will and courage of humanity in general, but especially of the political leaders of the most powerful countries." He also urged greater spending on the adaptation fund, noting that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were among the most vulnerable in the world to natural disasters as much as climate change.

"Because of our size and the nature of our primary economic activity, the infrastructure of an entire country can be destroyed by, for example, the passage of a single hurricane," he said.

In his maiden address to the General Assembly, Stephenson King, the new St. Lucia prime minister, stressed that the large producers of greenhouse gases "must bear the responsibility for the damage being caused to the global environment, and, in particular, to the vulnerable countries whose sustainability and very existence are increasingly threatened by their actions."

DEVELOPMENT

King said the climate

change issue is directly related to the Caribbean's development, warning that it "threatens the very core of our social, economic and political security."

"The dangers we face as a result of the hazardous level of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are well known and documented," he said. "Urgent, resolute action is, therefore, required to reverse this situation."

His Vincentian counterpart Dr. Ralph Gonsalves applauded the United Nations' focus on climate change and global warming, stating that it is a "welcome development."

"And it is the prayer of mankind that this belated momentum has not come too late to reverse the damage already inflicted on our planet," he said.

"After all, we are short-term caretakers of this earth," added the Vincentian prime minister, "and it is our sacred duty to preserve it for future generations."

Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Kenneth Baugh, who is also foreign affairs minister, said implementing a global response to climate change must remain a priority, noting that Jamaica and other Caribbean countries are "all too familiar" with the adverse effects of climate change and associated phenomena, including sea-level rise and the increase in frequency and intensity of hurricanes and other weather events. He said these "threaten the sustainable development, livelihoods and the very existence of Small Island Developing States."

27 for a parade marking the country's 28th anniversary of Independence.

He said that what would be announced in his budget presentation would be the bounties of the country's recent years of economic growth and the government's sound economic management.

"There will be more benefits if we work even harder, in a more sensible, creative, imaginative, disciplined, and productive way," Dr. Gonsalves said.

"In my own country, the onslaught of Hurricane Dean, on 19th August, resulted in the loss of life, extensive damage to infrastructure, property, the agricultural sector, as well as the loss of livelihood for many," Baugh said.

For Grenada, Foreign Affairs Minister Elvin Nimrod said despite international conferences on climate change, there is still dire need to translate "a religious fervor into good deeds in the neighborhood of our global village."

"As we preach, so, too, must we become converts," he said. "Let us move from resolutions to results."

Nimrod welcomed the efforts of the British U.N. Mission in working "ceaselessly" in raising awareness and understanding of the threat of climate change, "echoing the very concerns that many small island states, and low-lying coastal nations have raised over the last 15 years."

SETBACKS

But he said, despite concerted efforts, climate change has led to a downward assessment of Grenada's sovereign credit rating, pointing out that the country is now under the guidance of the International Monetary Fund.

In underscoring the need for concerted global response to climate change, Dominica's Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Savarin said climate change "seriously threatens human security" and will undermine developing countries' ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"Unless there is a global and collective response, this

planet will become unliveable for most of us," he said, noting that SIDS are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, "even though they contribute the least to emissions of greenhouse gases."

Guyana's Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Rudolph Insanally said some developed countries do not seem prepared to accept primary responsibility for protecting the environment.

"Instead of 'common but differentiated responsibility,' they speak of 'shared responsibility' – clearly demanding a greater contribution by developing countries to the campaign against climate change," he said.

"This demand often becomes a conditionality of any development assistance that they provide."

"For developing countries, which suffer from a chronic lack of resources, this imposition is, clearly, unequal and unfair," he continued.

Insanally said despite their initial promise, in the Barbados Action Plan, to assist the small-island and low-lying states of the region, developed countries are yet to "yield the measure of assistance needed" in overcoming the consequences of climate change.

"Invariably, these affected countries must rely on their own limited resources to protect the environment from harm," he said.

Insanally, therefore, called for a "Partnership for Additionality", which, in return for a commitment by countries for the preservation

of the environment, will provide "adequate and predictable financing to allow them to pursue a path of accelerated and sustainable development."

CO-OPERATION

St. Kitts and Nevis' Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Timothy Harris called for greater South-South cooperation, while appealing for increased humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, noting that, over the past year, nearly every region of the world has endured some form of natural or man-made disaster.

"No country escapes the need for this assistance," he said.

"And, in addition to supporting the existence and role of the Central Emergency Response Fund, we encourage member states to commit to this and other similar initiatives," he added.

Trinidad and Tobago's U.N. Ambassador Philip Sealy said a "clearly defined global mitigation strategy" that keeps long-term temperature increase at less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels is necessary. He cautioned that an increase of over two degrees would likely result in "increased adverse impact" on SIDS.

"In order to avoid a global climate disaster, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago calls for urgent and ambitious action by all states in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities and social and economic conditions," Sealy said.

- CMC



Nimrod



Savarin



Baugh

Dec. 10 is 'budget day' in St. Vincent and Grenadines

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent, CMC - Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has announced Dec.10 as budget day, saying Vincentians could look forward to tax relief and more zero-rated items in the Value Added Tax (VAT) scheme.

"These tax relief measures are designed to leave more money in the hands of the companies and employees in the private and public sectors," Dr. Gonsalves told a large crowd gathered on Oct.

The Vincentian leader also promised to announce increases in the budget for the school feeding program and the nutritional support for pregnant mothers by some 25 percent.

During his Independence message, the prime minister announced salary increases, welfare payments, bonuses, and other incentives, amounting to some EC\$33 million (\$12,359,550).



First woman AG in Dominica

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC – One week after Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced a shake-up of his two-year old Cabinet, Francine Baron Royer was sworn in as the island's first woman attorney general on Oct. 29.

Skerrit said that Baron Royer, the former head of the Dominica Bar Association (DBA), had not been chosen because of her gender to replace attorney Ian Douglas who has appointed minister of tourism.

"Mrs. Baron Royer was

not selected because she is a woman, I do not select people based on gender we select them based on their abilities," Skerrit told reporters after the brief ceremony.

He said Baron Royer, in her mid-30s, was a competent attorney and he was confident that she would perform well. The new attorney general said she was confident of performing her new task.

Baron Royer is the fifth attorney general since the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) came to power in 2000.



U.S.-based group condemns Jesse Jackson's planned pre-election visit to T&T

NEW YORK – A United States-based Caribbean group assailed as “imprudent and inappropriate” a proposed visit to Trinidad and Tobago in the heat of electioneering by famed U.S. civil rights leader, the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

The Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) said Jackson's planned visit is allegedly to “endorse an Opposition political party in that country, the United National Congress-Alliance (UNC-A), or one of its candidate, or to attend a UNC-A sponsored event, ahead of general elections in the republic on November 5.”

The Brooklyn-based CGID said its President Rickford Burke, a lawyer, wrote to Rev. Jackson, a former U.S. presidential candidate, expressing the group's opposition to such plan.

“As you may be aware, the nation of Trinidad and Tobago is currently preparing for national elections on November 5, 2007.

“Consequently, on condition that these media reports are accurate, CGID wishes to express its opposition to any such visit by you, in the midst of a political campaign, to support a political party,” he added.

“I, therefore, wish to dissuade you from this engagement, if you have in fact committed to traveling to Trinidad and Tobago for the above stated purpose, in support of, or to attend an event sponsored by, a political party,” he continued.

Bermuda's premier launches fresh bid to muzzle media

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - Premier Ewart Brown has launched a personal attempt to further muzzle the island's media from printing leaked details of a police investigation into a scandal at the Bermuda Housing Corporation (BHC).

Having issued a writ against the daily **Royal Gazette** newspaper and others three months ago, last month he issued an application for an interim injunction to restrain the parties from printing anything further about him personally until the conclusion of his case.

The latest move came just days before the London-based Privy Council, the island's



Jackson

'INTERFERENCE'

Burke said Jackson's participation in any event, sponsored by or endorsed by him, “will be deemed indubitably partisan, as well as, an unwelcome intervention and interference in the internal affairs and internal politics of Trinidad and Tobago.

“CGID holds fast to the democratic ideal that the people of a nation state are the arbiters of their own political faith and must be free to elect their own government without outside interference or intervention,” he said.

Burke said it was in keeping with this very ideal that former South African President, Nelson Mandela, last month declined to “endorse an election campaign or a candidacy” of the UNC-A of Trinidad and Tobago, allegedly upon a request from the UNC-A.

CGID urged Jackson to “value and uphold to this important, internationally recognized, non-interventionist principle of the democratic ethos.



highest court, was due to rule on a similar legal move by Attorney General Philip Perinchief and Police Commissioner

George Jackson. Chief Justice Richard Ground and the Court of Appeal had previously turned down an application from Perinchief and Jackson to ban further publication of information from the leaked police files on the investigation into the BHC, a government-funded entity.



P.M. outlines policies as Antigua celebrates 26th Independence

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer used his Independence Day message to further allay concerns for public safety while outlining new policies to be pursued by his three-year old administration.

“(Recently) the police have recovered a number of unlicensed firearms, seized illegal drugs, confiscated large quantities of cash and executed a number of search warrants. As a result, a number of persons are in police custody assisting them with their investigations into the recent armed robberies and slayings,” Spencer said.

He said law enforcement officials have also removed illegal tint from more than 100 vehicles and have issued over 40 tickets for major traffic offences.

Spencer told the country that the police will soon begin issuing weekly updates to the public on arrests and convictions,

drugs, guns and ammunition seizures, as well as information on deportation of hardened criminals from North America and elsewhere.

“I appeal to you to be patient and more so to be cooperative with the law officials. Your lives might become disrupted by the increased stoppages, searches and blockades – but it will redound to all of our benefit,” he said.



Spencer

EDUCATION

The prime minister also outlined plans to improve the nation's education sector, including the provision of additional scholarships for students to pursue their education abroad and the construction of additional learning facilities.

The prime minister said though he was happy with the progress his three-year old government has made, there was still room for improvement.

“When I look back I can say with some satisfaction that we have moved forward with great progress,” he said. “We might have been slow in taking certain giant steps, but we have been certain.”

He appealed to residents to adhere to core family values and responsibilities of being dedicated to duty, committed to instilling discipline and providing guidance.

“Our Independence calls for a renewal of family and family values,” Spencer said. “We are a nation of families and as a family we can all aspire to great things, advance our nation and achieve the ultimate for our people.

Antigua and Barbuda obtained political Independence from Britain on Nov. 1, 1981.



No rush to labor code ~ St. Lucia's gov't

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - Labour Minister Edmund Estaphane said his government will not be rushed into implementing the controversial Labour Code, but will continue a process of consultation on the revised legislation.

The minister made the statement in response to pressure being mounted by at least three of the island's trade unions for the code, which was adopted by Parliament last year in the final weeks of the former St. Lucia Party administration, to be passed into law.

At least two of the unions, the Civil Service Association

(CSA) and the Seamen Waterfront and General Workers Union, have called on the government to enact the code in its present form, stating that the time for consultation had passed.

The unions recommended that any adjustments to made to the legislation be done after it was adopted into law.

SPLIT

However, the trade unions have not been speaking with one voice on the issue as the National Workers Union has not supported that view, calling instead on the government

to continue the process of consultation to ensure that clauses which were still unfavorable to workers were ironed out.

In an address to the St. Lucia Employers Federation, Estaphane said he would continue to meet with employers and trade unions to prepare for the review of the code and would not be rushed into enacting the legislation until all parties were satisfied that it had been thoroughly reviewed.

“I want to make it abundantly clear that my ministry will not be rushed into approving the labor code,” he said.



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S P O R T

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Jamaica dethrones T&T to win KFC Cup in cricket

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – Jamaica, behind an important all-round performance from Jerome Taylor and superb fielding by Shawn Findlay, captured the 2007 KFC Cup with a hard-fought victory by 28 runs over Trinidad and Tobago in a competitive final at the 3Ws Oval on Oct. 28.

After Brenton Parchment's half-century and crucial runs from the lower order rallied Jamaica to 230 in 50 overs, pacer Taylor grabbed three wickets and Findlay took two sensational catches and also effected a run out to help restrict Trinidad and Tobago to 202 in 49.3 overs.

In a match of fluctuating fortunes, Jamaica recovered from 36 for three and later 167 for seven, thanks mainly to Parchment's 52 and the support from the lower half, which included 18 from Taylor.

The West Indies fast bowler then made impact with the new ball by collecting the wickets of Daren Ganga and Mario Belcon, but the large turnout of spectators was more impressed with Findlay's outstanding fielding. He took a fantastic one-handed catch at long-off to account for Kieron Pollard for 27 and then completed a run out with a direct throw from cover that got rid of top-scorer Lendl Simmons for 64. He later held another fine, diving catch at



Jamaica's captain Chris Gayle returns home with the winning KFC trophy.

cover to help dismiss Rayad Emrit.

Taylor, who finished with three for 37 from 10 overs to win the man-of-the-match award, removed Belcon via the lbw route and had Ganga caught by the keeper attempting to hook. Captain Chris Gayle also bagged three wickets at a cost of 32 runs and one of his victims was Denesh Ramdin, who made 48 before falling in the 42nd over when he was the last hope for Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica, sent in, benefited from an impressive 52 off 67 balls from opener Parchment, but they were put under pressure by a quick three-wicket haul from leg-spinner Samuel Badree that caused them to lose momentum. After a slow start in the historic day/night

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

Caribbean men miss out in Breeders' Cup racing

OCEANPORT, New Jersey, CMC – Caribbean racing men missed the biggest prizes at last month's rich Breeders' Cup horse racing meet at Monmouth Park.

Jamaican jockey Shaun Bridgmohan had a top three finish in his event, while Barbadian jockey Patrick Husbands and Barbadian trainer Sir Michael Stoute were outside of the top frame in their events.

In the \$2 million Breeders Cup Juvenile colts and geldings event, Bridgmohan placed second with the 4-1 second favorite Pyro. The colt finished steadily as the favorite War Pass, under Cornelio Velasquez, won the mile and 16th trip easily by four and three quarter lengths. War Pass, the 2 -1 choice in the 11-horse field, clocked one minute 42.76 seconds in his victory.

Husbands rode the 17-1 shot Clearly Foxy in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies event and placed sixth. He raced near the back of the 13-horse field early and rallied to finish sixth, 10 and a quarter lengths behind the winner Indian Blessing.



Bridgmohan

Garret Gomez won the mile and 16th event with the 3-2 favourite, clocking in one minute 44.73 seconds for trainer Bob Baffert.

Sir Michael Stoute started the 7-1 chance Jeremy in the \$2.5 million Breeders' Cup Mile and the four-year-old colt finished 10th in the 13-horse field.



Powell fears fallout from Jones's confession

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Men's 100 meters world record-holder Asafa Powell of Jamaica believes Marion Jones's disclosure of taking performance-enhancing drugs will affect him in the near future.

Jones, a three-time Olympic champion, pleaded guilty on Oct. 5 to lying to United States government investigators about using performance-enhancing drugs.

The disgraced American sprint superstar subsequently announced her retirement from international track and field competition.

Powell indicated he would come under intense scrutiny next season when he starts to run faster.



Powell

"People are going to say a lot of stuff when I run fast," he said in a television interview late last month. "But I will be going out there to perform and break records. People will always say bad and good things. It's just a

part of the game."

UNFAIR

Powell described Jones's decision to take performance-enhancing drugs as unfair.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

SPORT BRIEFS

• **Bahamian to fight for title**
The Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC) has sanctioned a super middleweight title fight between Bahamian Jermaine Mackey and Charles Adamu for December in The Bahamas. The bout is set for **Dec. 1**.

• **Jamaican scores in Seattle's USL triumph**
Jamaican Craig Tomlinson scored in the Seattle Sounders fourth United Soccer Leagues (USL) championship title win recently.

The Sounders defeated the Atlanta Silverbacks 4-0 in the final. Greg Howes netted two goals. Hugo Alcaarez-Cuellar also scored and Tomlinson capped off the win with a 90th minute strike against Atlanta, which had Jamaicans Machel Millwood and Tweety Walters and Trinidad and Tobago's Anthony Wolfe in its line-up.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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Major shake-up in Caribbean soccer rating

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) achieved an all-time best rating of 73rd in the world while Cuba jumped back to the top of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) ratings released last month.

FIFA's October rankings list shows SVG - now the third-ranked side in the CFU - being the best movers in the world this past month, leaping 24 places from their world position on 97th in September. Meanwhile, Cuba hurdled to number one in the CFU for the first time since April.

Eight-time Caribbean Cup champions Trinidad and Tobago slid from the top to number four, and former CFU number one Jamaica plunged - out of the top-100 for the first-time ever - to 103rd in the world, the Reggae Boyz' lowest rating since the FIFA Coca Cola rankings were established in 1993.

The computerized ratings served up major shuffles in October in spite of little international matches for regional teams

since the September rankings. Cuba had no games, but climbed seven spots to 64th in the world and to the top spot in the CFU. Haiti, which drew 1-1 with Costa Rica in a recent friendly, surged 15 places up FIFA's list to No.68, making it the second ranked team in the CFU.

SVG, beaten Caribbean Cup finalists in 1995, played no internationals in the past month, but its considerable leap took the country past its previous best position of 85th in the FIFA world rankings.

FALLING

The 2006 World Cup finalist Trinidad and Tobago, which battled El Salvador to a 0-0 draw in San Salvador last month, is fourth in the CFU with a world rating of 78th, followed by Guyana (92). Barbados moved 16 places up to equal its best world rating of 93rd. Barbados is rated sixth in the CFU.

Three-time Caribbean Cup champions and 1998 World Cup finals qualifiers Jamaica, the CFU's number one team as recent

as June this year, dipped seven places on the world list from its September position and is now seventh in the CFU.

The CFU's Top-10 is completed by Bermuda, Suriname and Antigua and Barbuda.

Mexico, a semi-finalist at the Copa America tournament this summer, kept its number one spot in CONCACAF although it slipped two places on FIFA's world list to No.15. The United States stayed second in the confederation with a world rating of 18th. CONCACAF's number three team is now Canada (51) ahead of Cuba, Panama (65) and Costa Rica (66), followed by Haiti in seventh and SVG eighth.

Argentina remained the world's top-rated side, ahead of Brazil, with reigning World Cup champions Italy third. France is fourth, Germany fifth, and Spain sixth, followed by the Netherlands, Portugal, Czech Republic and Croatia completing the top 10.



Fennell retains presidency of Commonwealth Games body

LONDON, England, CMC – Jamaican Mike Fennell is set to retain presidency of the Commonwealth Games Federation for another four years, the CGF has declared on its website.

Fennell was expected to have no challengers for the job when the General Assembly holds a scheduled meeting this month in Colombo, Sri Lanka where its 71 member nations and territories are expected to endorse the Jamaican's candidacy.

"As the sole nomination for the Presidency of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), The Hon. Mike Fennell, OJ, CD, is set to continue his leadership of the organization for another four year term", the CGF



Fennell

stated on its website.

Fennell was first elected to lead the organization at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada. He served as chairman until 2003 and then as president after the post was re-named. He is also the president of the Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA), a position he has held since 1977.

"Under his leadership, the Commonwealth Games have gone from strength to strength, highlighted most recently by the successful Melbourne Games in 2006," the CGF said.

The CGF said Fennell has modernized the Games' movement through the deployment of a range of innovative management strategies and initiatives, substantially upgrading the support provided to Commonwealth Games host cities and candidate cities for future Games.



Jamaica dethrones T&T to win KFC Cup in cricket

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

affair, Parchment and Gayle seemed to be getting into stride before Gayle fell to a fine low catch by Badree at short mid-wicket from a firm pull against Mervyn Dillon.

Findlay was soon bowled attempting to drive off-spinner Sherwin Ganga, who played a key role in stemming the early flow of runs before Badree came into the attack. With Parchment and Brendan Nash together in a third wicket partnership of 49, Jamaica were setting up nicely for a big total, but Badree applied the brakes with the quick dismissals of both batsman and also claimed the wicket of Tamar Lambert to leave Jamaica at 103 for five in the 28th over.

After Nash edged a drive to slip, Parchment played

across and was bowled to end a promising innings that included six boundaries. Trinidad and Tobago then seized the initiative as Lambert was caught at the wicket attempting to run a ball to third-man.

Jamaica revived its effort with a sixth wicket partnership of 45 between Danza Hyatt (28) and Carlton Baugh (25) before the latter gave a catch to deep cover. After Hyatt was caught at cover, there were useful runs from Nikita Miller (26) and Darren Powell (20) that pushed Jamaica up to its winning total.

For Trinidad and Tobago, Sherwin Ganaga finished with three for 31 from 10 overs, while Badree took three for 36, also off 10 overs.



Powell fears fallout from Jones's confession

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

"It's unfair to other athletes because they were robbed of their moment in time," he said. "It's very, very unfair. It (Jones's action) will put a lot more pressure on the sport because of her status.

"So many people look up to Marion Jones, and after so many years, they found out that she was actually taking drugs, this is going to put a lot of pressure on the sport."

Powell, who ran a world record 9.74 seconds mere days after losing to American Tyson Gay at the World Championships of Athletics, said he intends to remain focused on capturing gold at the Olympic Games in Beijing, China, next year. He said he will not let the Jones situation or his disappointing performance at Worlds side-track him from that objective.



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OAS launches youth projects

WASHINGTON -The Organization of American States (OAS) says it has launched two youth projects in St. Vincent and the Grenadines aimed at engaging young people, governments and the business community in creating economic and other opportunities for young people.

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza said the joint launch of the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) St. Vincent and Grenadines National Chapter represents "tremendous opportunities for the Caribbean country's young people to build a new future for everyone by creating opportunities to directly address problems of poverty, violence and inequality."

An OAS statement issued here said that Insulza participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the project last month. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of various international donor countries.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said the project had the potential to help tackle



Insulza

challenges stemming from the new realities brought on by globalization. He said the new projects, launched by the OAS in conjunction with the state-owned National Center for Technological Innovation, would "help to better prepare the young people for the competitive world."

ENTHUSIASM

Insulza praised the government "for the enthusiasm with which they have embraced the two initiatives (that) seek to equip young people with the skills needed to make them

more marketable in today's changing employment environment." He said the OAS-affiliated Trust for the Americas initiative provides disadvantaged persons in Latin America with education and training in advanced technology, growing from two training centers in Guatemala into a network of 49 centers in 11 countries.

The OAS secretary general said the "unique partnership" would provide IT training, job readiness training, and civic education to young people and the community at large.

The business labs are intended to help young people develop their entrepreneurial spirit and basic skills in starting a small business, through short intensive hands-on workshops "as a strategy for governments and local organizations to create employment opportunities for young people in their communities", the OAS statement said.



Caribbean secondary students to study works of T&T's first P.M.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Final year students at secondary schools throughout the Caribbean are to participate in an essay competition launched by the "Eric Williams Memorial Collection" (EWMC) marking the 2007 Bicentenary of the British abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade in Africans.

The initiative takes its name, "School Bags Essay Competition", after a famous exhortation to the children of Trinidad and Tobago by the country's internationally renowned historian prime minister and author of "Capitalism and Slavery", Dr. Eric Williams.

On the eve of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence from Britain on Aug. 30, 1962, Williams, in a nation-wide address as first prime minister, said to the school children:

"...In your innocent hearts the pride of the nation is enshrined, on your scholastic development, the salvation of the nation is dependent...You carry the future of Trinidad and Tobago in your school bags..."

COLLABORATION

The essay project, organized by the Memorial Collection based at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies, in collaboration with the Jamaica National Bicentenary Committee, has also drawn support from the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretariat; the regional airlines LIAT and Caribbean Airlines as well as a number of Trinidad-based companies.

The competition, which ends on Dec. 15, is restricted

to final year sixth form students in all CARICOM states, and should be based on Dr. Williams's seminal scholarly work

"Capitalism and Slavery". The essay will focus on two questions: "How has 'Capitalism and Slavery' shaped current debates on the commerce in African slaves and the abolition of slavery?" and secondly, "What relevance, if any, do these debates have for today's student?"

The organizers said that the first prize winners would receive a four-day all expenses paid trip for two to Trinidad and Tobago or Jamaica.



Williams

New tax to fund Internet access

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, CMC – The St. Vincent and the Grenadines government has launched a "Universal Service Fund" designed to provide Internet access to schools on the island.

Telecommunication, Science, Technology and Industry Minister Dr. Jerrol Thompson said that the fund would be financed by a one percent tax of the gross revenue from each of the major telecommunication providers.

"This fund will be used to help provide broadband (Internet) access to schools,

clinics and other important social service institutions," Thompson said, adding that the government would soon be

launching a host of other projects including training.



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11-y-o Vincentian wins 'My Caribbean' contest

Eleven-year-old John Rickards, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has won the Condé Nast Traveler "My Caribbean" Essay Contest.

In an awards ceremony held last month at the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Klara Glowczewska, editor-in-chief of **Condé Nast Traveler** magazine, also announced the two runners-up: Chante Springer of Barbados and Alexander Fonseca of Belize.

The contest, in its 15th year, is open to Caribbean school children.

Grand prize winner Rickards received a \$2,000 scholarship. The two runners-up each received a \$500 scholarship. Rickards's winning essay will also be featured in the January "Gold List" issue of Condé Nast Traveler.

Given the topic: "Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?" John wrote:

"I want locals to be involved in order to make tourism a success. First, I would examine all the natural tourist attractions such as waterfalls, the volcano, beaches, and hiking trails. I would have workshops with the locals to inform them of the importance of natural attractions and how they could play a part by securing these attractions from criminals in order to make the tourists more safe. The locals would act as tour guides whenever tourists would visit the island and educate tourists about our local culture."

EDUCATION

The annual contest, administered through the school system in each Caribbean country. It strives to educate primary and early secondary school children in the Caribbean about the

importance of tourism in their region. After a multi-step judging process involving the ministries of tourism, the ministries of education and the Caribbean Tourism Organization, a finalist was chosen from each island. Each of the 28 finalists and a chaperone were flown to the Caribbean Tourism Conference (CTC) in Puerto Rico where they interacted with their government delegates and ministers of tourism.

The contest is sponsored by Condé Nast Traveler, as well as the Caribbean Tourism Organization, American Airlines, HRG North America, Holiday Inn San Juan, Puerto Rico Tourism Company, Museo de las Americas and Destination Puerto Rico (operated by Travel Services, Inc.)

This year's 28 finalists, in alphabetical order by country, were: Anguilla: Johnessa Harrigan; Antigua and Barbuda: Aaliyah Mussington; Aruba: Simran Mirpuri; Barbados: Chanté Springer; Belize: Alexander Fonseca; The Bahamas: Ferré Cambridge; Bermuda: Arisha-Renee Butterfield; British Virgin Islands: Kenisha Frett; Cayman Islands: Jaida Alexander; Curacao: Maximiliaan Van Aalst; Dominica: Miranda Forde; Grenada: Kaze'll Banfield; Guyana: Kevin Camacho; Haiti: Sybille Legitime; Jamaica: Jason Gooden; Martinique: Meddy Marguerite; Montserrat: Nikita Howe; Nevis: Kerese Elliott; Puerto Rico: Blanca Pagan Amaro; St. Eustatius: Jaiir Jack; St. Kitts: Krystal Lescott; St. Lucia: Michelle Augustin; St. Maarten: Julique Hodge; St. Vincent and The Grenadines: John Rickards; Suriname: Nicole Ritfeld; Trinidad and Tobago: Nikolai Beharry; Turks and Caicos: Jesthea Saunders; and U.S. Virgin Islands: Sh'Nae Carr.



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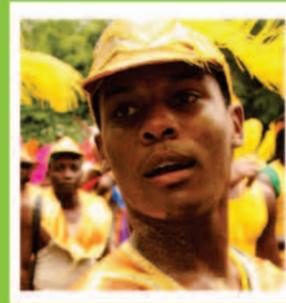
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