

Caribbean Today

JUNE 2008

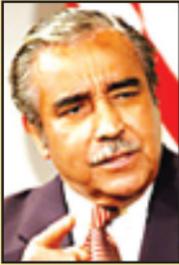
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THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



Caribbean leaders will seek increased trade and direct foreign investment from the United States

when they meet Congressman Charles Rangel and other U.S. leaders during this month's Conference on the Caribbean in New York, page 3.

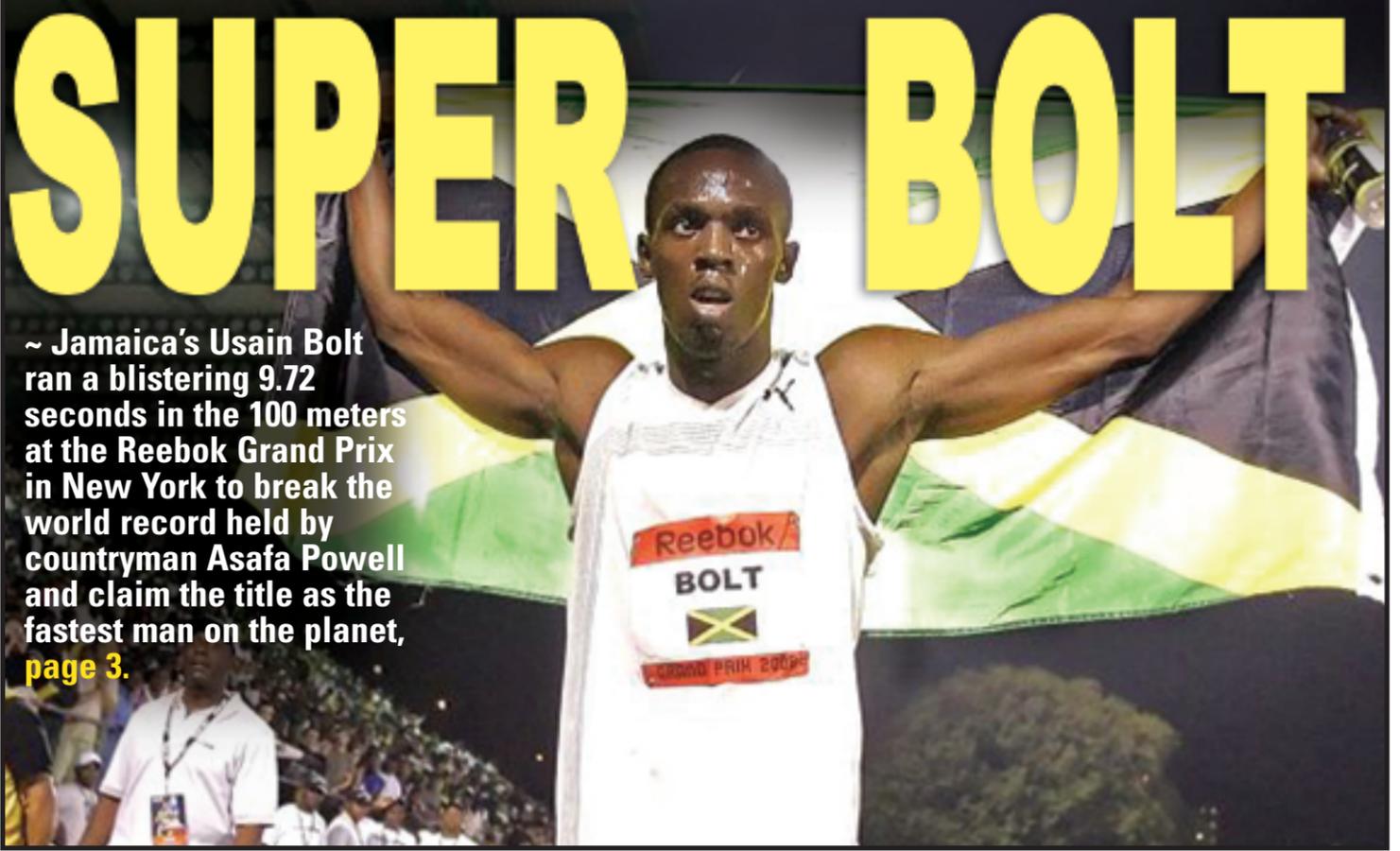


Jamaican-born Trevor Graham, a former Olympic athlete who has coached some of the world's greatest

track stars, has been found guilty of lying to United States prosecutors in one of the biggest doping scandals to hit the sport, and now faces time in prison, page 7.



Miami F.C. has expanded its core of Caribbean players, adding Trinidad and Tobago World Cup star Avery John to its United Soccer Leagues (USL) roster. The move has already started to pay positive dividends, page 17.



SUPER BOLT

~ Jamaica's Usain Bolt ran a blistering 9.72 seconds in the 100 meters at the Reebok Grand Prix in New York to break the world record held by countryman Asafa Powell and claim the title as the fastest man on the planet, page 3.



CARIBBEAN CONTRIBUTION

~ June is Caribbean American Heritage Month and at least one elected United States official, Georgia State Representative Billy Mitchell, believes native-born Americans have much to learn from the people of the region, page 2.

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CaribChat

Caribbean community in the U.S. can no longer be ignored ~ Mitchell

Georgia State Representative Billy Mitchell (Democrat-Stone Mountain) says his stint as a United States government employee in the Caribbean was the best year of his life. That declaration, coming from a politician whose constituency has one of the largest Caribbean communities in the U.S., may raise some eyebrows. But Mitchell has had a close up look at Caribbean culture and its influence on the U.S. Last month he shared some of those insights with Caribbean Today's Managing Editor Gordon Williams.



Mitchell

the American society has responded to the Caribbean community, especially because it is growing?

B.M.: You know, I've often said that the Caribbean community in particular has been able to take advantage of the American way more so than a lot of Americans because I believe they appreciate the opportunities. And it's such a good thing. I like to say businesses, particularly small businesses, is the backbone of any governmental structure in the community. And the Caribbean community has come in and certainly has really grasped that concept. And as a result of that our cities, our state, is a better place to be as a result of that. And that's why I am so proud to see what's going on there. They've made certainly a great contribution to our communities.

G.W.: Do you think the Caribbean community fully understands, or fully grasps, the growing influence that it has been having in the American society?

B.M.: You know, that's a very good question. I would perhaps say that, because I have found that the Caribbean is a hard working people, they're interested to make certain their families are intact and their businesses are growing. As a result of that I don't believe that they fully understand their impact that they have on our community. I think that's going to increase as more Caribbeans involve themselves in the economy and in business and in our community, which is a very good thing.

G.W.: Do you think that there is anything specific that they need to do in order to fully

understand their influence in the American society?

B.M.: You know one of the things that they ought to do is what I'm seeing being displayed here (at the launch of Atlanta's Caribbean carnival last month). They need to support the Caribbean initiative, the Caribbean heritage, because it is a very fine heritage. They need to support Caribbean businesses. They certainly need to encourage other Caribbean businesses to support other businesses as well. That in itself will kind of help develop even more opportunities for them.

G.W.: The American society in general, how has it embraced the Caribbean presence, the growing Caribbean presence?

B.M.: You know one of the things about America is that we are all immigrants. Despite what some may feel, we are all immigrants, and the fact of the matter is I think the city of Atlanta, the Atlanta metropolitan area, embraces those who can come in and contribute to the community. And certainly the Caribbean community has certainly done that. And I think, by and large, they have embraced them. As a country of immigrants we understand what it takes to really ingratiate yourself, get involved in the community, and they have done that, certainly as best as any group. And I think, by and large, the Atlanta community is certainly welcoming.

G.W.: Your bio tells me you had a significant role to play in the establishment of Caribbean American Heritage Month. How far do you think that has gone to establish the Caribbean presence here in the United States?

B.M.: I think it has gone a great deal. I must say to you that in trying to get this legislation passed, we've had other initiatives that were on the ballot. As a matter of fact, probably the most controversial, at the same time, was the initiative to get the state to apologize for slavery. That failed. However, when I came forward with this initiative to recognize Caribbean Heritage Month, we got widespread support from every corner of Georgia, from every political persuasion, because they recognize the value of the Caribbean community. And that made me proud, that that wasn't something that I had to go and twist arms to do. They recognize the

value and as a result of that we were able to get this passed in short order.

G.W.: You said you had some experience living in Jamaica for a year as an employee of the U.S. government...How much did that change, or affect, your view of the Caribbean and Caribbean people? You talk about the physical beauty of the area, but in terms of how you perceive the Caribbean people and what they're aiming for when it comes to the United States, how did that year of experience affect that?

B.M.: You know that's another great question. As a matter of fact, I always say that that perhaps was the best year of my life. I've got great friends...I go back and I see them often. As a result of being there, I thought this would be just a year of me just getting involved and maybe going to the beaches and the like. But I really enjoyed myself. I saw a side of the country that a normal tourist would not see and I was a better person for that. And I was so struck by a number of things, even the athleticism. You know Jamaica produces more Olympic athletes per capita than any other country in the world for that matter? The culture, the education. As a matter of fact, I've often said that the education system in Jamaica is far superior than the education system that our (American) youth are going through. This notion of uniforms there - I could tell you what school a student went to by the colors that their uniforms were. And these are the kinds of things that I think if everyone in this country saw they would appreciate Jamaica so much better and try to implement what they are doing there as well.

G.W.: Generally Caribbean people, though, what do you think the Americans have learned from them? You, as one man, has learned a lot from a year in the Caribbean.

B.M.: You know, one of the things I think that they are certainly teaching us is that, you know, hard work pays off. How you can come and work hard and you can do just about anything that you want to when you work hard and you are industrious.

G.W.: You are a politician, you are in the political circle. What is the feedback on the circuit, outside of public comment? Is

there a general movement embracing and recognizing more, from a political standpoint, the Caribbean contribution in the United States?

B.M.: I must say to you, politicians doing what politicians do, voters are important to them. And as more and more Caribbean voters are around, certainly they recognize that they must avail themselves more. They must certainly cater certain bills, certain laws, certain advocacy towards the Caribbean community. And that's just the fact of the matter. Wherever there are constituents that need to be served, that politicians will certainly go that way. But I tell you, I can even say that I learned something about politics in Jamaica because they take their politics very seriously in Jamaica, which is the way it ought to be. We certainly should take it seriously because just about every aspect of our lives is affected by politics and it's good to see that the numbers that the Caribbean community has because they deserve to be represented as well.

G.W.: So, from the political circles in America, they are certainly, now, starting to take full notice of what's going on the Caribbean community?

B.M.: Oh, no question about that. I had a conversation with Vin Martin, the honorary consul general (for Jamaica in Atlanta). He's a constituent of mine. Lives in Stone Mountain. That's one of his endeavors that he'd like to encourage as well, that there be more political participation by those in the Caribbean. When you're involved, you're involved more politically, it's easier to ask for services that you deserve and be heard.

G.W.: It (the Caribbean) community is no longer a community that can be just overlooked or ignored (in America)?

B.M.: Absolutely not. As a matter of fact, you will find other communities...the Hispanic community has learned that they're getting more involved. Other communities have learned. The fact of the matter is, when you're presented with the kind of numbers that the Caribbean community now has, they're a community that cannot be ignored.

Cover photograph of Mitchell by freelancer Dale Nicholson.



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NEWS

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Jamaica's Bolt is world's fastest

Usain Bolt shattered the 100 meters world record held by Jamaican countryman Asafa Powell and in that blistering run stamped himself as the fastest man on the planet late last month in New York.

Running at the Reebok Grand Prix meet on a wet night, but in front of a large turnout of enthusiastic, flag-waving supporters from his homeland, Bolt clocked 9.72 seconds to beat world champion Tyson Gay of the United States and eclipse Powell's record of 9.74 set in Sept. 2007.

"Just coming here, knowing a lot of Jamaicans were here giving me their support, it meant a lot," Bolt said after the race. "I just wanted to give them

what they wanted."

NO SURPRISE

It was only Bolt's fifth 100 meters race at the senior level, but the record run was not a

he warned the world that he was geared up for an historic run by clocking 9.76 seconds, .02 seconds outside Powell's mark.

World and Olympic cham-



Bolt celebrates his world record time.

- Photograph by Sharon Bennett

total surprise. Last month, in winning the event at the Jamaica International Invitational meet in Kingston,

pion Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica had sig-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Caribbean leaders want more trade, investment from U.S.

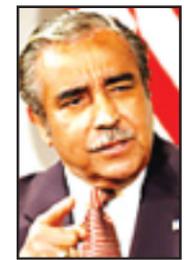
NEW YORK – Caribbean leaders will seek increased trade and foreign direct investment from the United States during this month's Conference on the Caribbean, according to a statement issued here by the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Consular Corps of New York.

It said that the June 19-20 conference would also examine the growth and development of the Caribbean community.

The Caribbean diplomats said that the two-day event, dubbed "The New York Conference on the Caribbean Community: A 20/20 Vision Continued", would be attended by regional leaders, policy makers, representatives of various international organizations, the academic community and the private sector.

During the conference, the regional leaders will meet with Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel, chairman of the powerful U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, as well as New York Governor David Paterson and New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

"Through this conference we hope to once again direct the attention of the people of the United States – one of the Caribbean's major trading partners and the home of the largest number of migrants from the region – to the future of the Caribbean and its peoples," said McChesney Emanuel, the Antigua and



Rangel

Barbuda consul general and chairman of the New York Conference on the Caribbean Community. Caribbean leaders held a meeting with

U.S. President George Bush during the first Caribbean conference last year.

Key highlights at this month's conference include an education symposium at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College, which features several CARICOM heads of government and ministers, along with leading educational authorities in the city.



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Jamaican bomb suspect held in Florida without bail until trial

ORLANDO - A Jamaican man arrested in Florida for attempting to carry pipe-bomb components onto a flight has been ordered by a

federal judge to be held without bail until trial. United States Magistrate Karla Spaulding said that Kevin Christopher Brown's

possession of flammable and explosive nitro-methane in his luggage, his lack of financial or residential ties to Central Florida and evidence that he

was involuntarily admitted to a Veterans Affairs hospital for psychiatric problems, were key factors in her decision to detain him.

problems. Brown, 32, was scheduled to fly to Montego Bay on an Air Jamaica flight on April 1 when Transportation Security Administration officers at the Orlando International Airport spotted him acting suspiciously and detained him.

He was searched and officers discovered two galvanized pipes, end caps, two small containers of BB pellets, batteries and two containers of liquid in his luggage. A laptop computer and bomb-making literature were also found in his backpack.

In a six-page ruling released last month, Spaulding determined by "clear and convincing evidence" that no combination of bail conditions would protect the community or assure Brown's appearance in court.

DEFENSE

At an hour-long hearing, defense lawyers Wayne Golding and Tim McClain

argued that their client only possessed bomb components and not completed explosives that could have endangered passengers. They also presented testimony from a brother and his stepmother who said Brown could reside with aunts or cousins in Orlando and that he was scheduled to inherit millions of dollars from his late mother's estate.



Brown being searched by a law enforcement officer after being accosted for suspicious behavior at the Orlando airport on April 1.

Psychiatrist Dev Chacko further testified that Brown had post-traumatic stress disorder and was not a threat to himself or the community as long as he took medication. He added that in his opinion Brown was competent to stand trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Vincent Citro and FBI Task Force Agent Kelly Boaz told the judge that Brown, an Army ambulance driver in Iraq in 2003 and a logistics contractor there last year, had a history of psychological

Early last month, a U.S. federal grand jury indicted Brown on one count of attempting to carry an explosive device on an aircraft.

Citro said in court documents that Brown was returning to his native Jamaica to get revenge against two men charged with strangling his mother, Sandra McLeod, a Jamaican hotelier in June 2005. Both suspects in her murder are out on bail.

Jamaica's Bolt is world's fastest

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) nated earlier that the evening of May 31 would be good for sprinting by winning the women's 100 meters in 10.91 seconds, a fast time in a field packed with world stars such as Americans Alyson Felix and Lauryn Williams. But the meet at first seemed an unlikely place for track and field's premier event world record to fall. The day was plagued by thunderstorms. Races were run on a wet track, although in perfect mid-

70s temperatures. The 100 meters for men was even hampered by a false start. But none of that affected the 6' 5" Bolt, a 21-year-old who started running the 100 meters to improve his start and speed for the 200 and 400 meters.

"He ran a perfect race," the American Gay told reporters after finishing second in 9.85.

Wire service reports contributed to this story.

AKSYON KOLEKTIF, REGLEMAN KI PWOPAZE AK ODISYON REGLEMAN AN AVI SA A KAPAB AFEKTE DWA LEGAL OU, TANPRI LI AVI SA A AVI AVÈK ATANSYON.
 Youn tribinal te otorize avi sa a. Sa se pa demand pou avoka.

POU: Tout moun oswa enstitisyon ki posede pwopriyete nan vil Miami epi ki te peye Eyalasyon Ponpye Sekou ak/oswa Eyalasyon Ponpye Minisipalite a te ranmase nan ane fiskal 1997-1998 jiska ak nan ane fiskal 2006-2007.

For the English language version of this notice and all relevant case documents, please visit www.MiamiFireFeeSettlement.com, or call 1-800-981-7567.

Para revisar las versiones traducidas español de este aviso y todos los documentos importantes del caso, visite www.MiamiFireFeeSettlement.com o llame al 1-800-981-7567.

Kisa pwosè sa a konsène? Yo te pwopaze de Règleman apa nan yon pwosè aktyon kolektif sou eyalasyon ponpye ak sekou yo te fè pwopriyete byen imobilye peye nan vil Miami ak evènman ki te pase pandan pwosè a. De (2) règleman sa yo se avèk 1) vil Miami, epi 2) kabine anika Adomo & Yoss, LLP. Pwosè a rele Masztal v. City of Miami, Moun yo tradui lajistis yo rele "Pleyan", epi vil Miami rele "Defandè". Kabine anika Adomo & Yoss, LLP rele "kabine avoka". Règleman yo pa vle di Minisipalite vil la oswa kabine avoka a dakò pou yo angaje nan mwa zafè oswa nan mwa konduit oswa pou yo mal aj oswa pou yo voye nenpòt lwa oswa règleman nan nenpòt konsiderasyon, eksepte pou sa ki konsène vil Miami pou pèson Eyalasyon sekou Ponpye/Sekou ki te adopte pou ane fiskal 1997-1998 ak 1998-1999. Tribinal Siprèm Florid decide pwosè City of North Lauderdale v. SMM Properties se yon pwosè ki legal pou yon Minisipalite pou piblye eyalasyon pou sèvis ponpye, pèske sèvis ponpye pwokire yon benefis espesyal pou pwopriyete a. Apre 14 septanm 2008, Minisipalite vil la te decide yon Eyalasyon li s pòte sou sèvis ponpye sèlman epi kidan eyalasyon an legal. Pleyan yo deklare Eyalasyon an te rete ilegal nan konstitisyon an. Pa t jann genyen okenn desizyon oswa konklizyon jistis sou konfli mal sa yo. Menm Tribinal la, nan Litj sa a k ap rezoud la, decide yo Eyalasyon Ponpye/Sekou yo te resewa nan ane fiskal 1997-1998 ak 1998-1999 pa t konstitisyonèl nan limit li te eyalasyon sèvis medikal lan. Tribinal la pa pran desizyon oswa pa fè konklizyon pou endike Eyalasyon Ponpye/Sekou oswa Eyalasyon Ponpye te enkrank sèvis sa ki endike anwo a. Ni li pa t detèminè limit, si genyen, Eyalasyon Ponpye/Sekou te fè yon fason inadmèt pou sèvis medikal lan yo. Pleyan yo prezante reklamasyon tou kont kabine avoka pou aktyon ak inaktyon posib ki gen pou wè ak pwosè yo kont Minisipalite vil la nan pwosè sa a. Kabine avoka a, san admèt responsabite ak kontestasyon toudekou reklamasyon Pleyan yo, chwazi pou rezoud aktyon sa a. Kidan, menm Tribinal yo dakò pou Règleman yo ak yon pwosès ranbousman, pa t genyen desizyon okenn Tribinal ki endike Gwoup la genyen dwa pou jwenn yon ranbousman, oswa kantite lajan ki endike a. Ni pa t genyen desizyon okenn Tribinal ki endike Gwoup la genyen dwa pou resewa lajan nan kabine avoka a.

Ki moun ki te adopte Règleman yo? "Gwoup" oswa "Mainm Gwoup" dwa vle di tout moun oswa enstitisyon (avèk tou sèksè legal ki kalifye yo, jan sa defini nan paragraf 1.13 Avè Règleman an) ki posede pwopriyete nan vil Miami, Florid, avèk tou ansyen ak aktyèl anplwaye, ajan, reprezantan, ofisyèl, ofisye Minisipalite a ak manm fanmi pwòch yo, ki reprezante kapasite endividyèl yo kom kontribitay, ki te peye Eyalasyon Ponpye/Sekou ak/oswa Eyalasyon Ponpye Minisipalite vil la te resewa nan ane fiskal 1997-1998 jiska ak nan ane fiskal 2006-2007. Vil Miami ekli nan Gwoup la.

Ki Benefis ki genyen? Ou kapab kalifye pou resewa yon ranbousman, sa vle di yon pòsyon lajan Komen total (ki dakò anba a) chak manm Gwoup la genyen dwa pou resewa, jan sa detèmine dapre yon fòm Tribinal la apwouve. Kantite lajan yo dwa peye chak manm Gwoup la ap dapann kantite manm Gwoup la ki soumèt yon reklamasyon valid. Okenn manm Gwoup la pa ap resewa yon ranbousman ki pi pase kantite lajan Eyalasyon manm Gwoup la te peye, epi, kidan, Pati yo kwè li pa posib pou nenpòt moun ap resewa yon ranbousman konpò tout lajan Eyalasyon ki te peye a. Li enpòtan pou ou sonje pòsyon Eyalasyon ki dwa resevwa san finansman sèvis ponpye a se yon pòsyon ki legal. Pousantaj Eyalasyon peye k ap retounen pou chak manm Gwoup la ki kalifye apa pa kapab detèmine jouk moman li yo te rele demand yo dapre Akò Règleman yo. Fon Komen an ap redwi a kantite lajan fè avoka ak fè Tribinal akòde Konsèy Defans Gwoup la, ak kantite lajan fè administratè Tribinal la apwouve pou administrasyon règleman yo.

Ki dispozisyon Règleman ki pwopaze yo? Kòm konsiderasyon pou Règleman li, Minisipalite vil la ap finanse \$35,550,000 nan yon fon ki rele "Fon Komen". Kòm konsiderasyon pou Règleman li, kabine avoka a ap finanse \$1,600,000 nan Fon Komen an. Debousman Fon Komen an ap fè dapre Akò yo. Nenpòt entèn ki nyalize sou nenpòt pòsyon Fon Komen an dwa vin fè pati Fon Komen an. Chak manm Gwoup la dwa jwenn dwa pou fè demand yon ranbousman dapre pwosè ki prezante an gwo nan Avi sa a. Se sèlman manm Gwoup kalifye oswa sèksè legal kalifye yo ki dwa jwenn dwa pou chwazi jwenn yon ranbousman. Dwa pou jwenn yon ranbousman pa dwa transfere. Chak Pati dwa jwenn dwa pou fè restriksyon, dapre lòt, restriksyon, oswa lòt restriksyon, nenpòt vyosyon oswa menas vyosyon dispozisyon ak règleman ki nan dokiman sa a, epi pou egzanp pèfòmans espesifik dispozisyon ak règleman sa yo. Konsènan konsiderasyon pou Règleman yo, depi genyen Apwobasyon Final, chak manm Gwoup la dwa amajaj pou bay yon konplikasyon total ak konpò pou nenpòt ak tout reklamasyon ki nan pwosè a ak lòt reklamasyon jan sa dakò nan Akò Règleman yo. Konplikasyon an dwa genyen yon pèti eritaj ak enpòtan Règleman yo, epi li pa kapab separa nan Règleman yo. Nenpòt manm Gwoup ki pa vle bay konplikasyon an dwa decide pou pa patipè jan sa dakò nan Avi sa a. Règleman avèk kabine avoka a genyen ladan yon dispozisyon ki pèmèt li anile règleman an anba sèten kondisyon. Si sa nwa, manm Gwoup ki kalifye yo ap resewa notifikasyon nan moman yo ap resewa pòsyon règleman an avèk Minisipalite vil la. Y ap resewa tou notifikasyon pou fè pwosè kont kabine avoka a poukont yo epi avèk pwòp depans yo.

Kisa mwen DWA fè pou mwen vin kalifye pou resewa yon ranbousman posib? Ou dwa fè Demand yon Fòmèl Ranbousman, ki dakò anba a, anvan 2 septanm 2008. Epitou, ou dwa decide anvan 10 jiyè 2008 si ou vle fè objeksyon kont Règleman yo epi pou soumèt nenpòt objeksyon alekri. Pou fè Demand Fòmèl Ranbousman an, ou dwa rele Administratè Règleman an nan nimewo 1-800-981-7567. Ou kapab wè Fòmèl Demand Ranbousman an jansman avèk davis kalite dokiman règleman sou entènèt nan sit wèb www.MiamiFireFeeSettlement.com epitou ou kapab enprime li nan sit wèb la.

Kisa mwen dwa fè si mwen vle Ekli tèt mwen nan Gwoup la? Si ou pa vle patipè nan yon oswa nan tout règleman yo, ou kapab mande pou yo ekli ou. Pou fè demand ekliyon nan Gwoup la, ou dwa raspi ak soumèt yon demand ekliye bi Grefye Tribinal la epi voye demand lan pa lapòs nan adrès ki endike anba a. Ou dwa raspi fòmèl demand lan epi tenb ki sou anpil la dwa date anvan 10 jiyè 2008:

Pou Administratè a (houreye):
 Masztal v. City of Miami
 Settlement Administrator
 PO Box 3170
 Portland, OR 97208-3170

Pou Tribinal la (dweye):
 Clerk of the Court
 Circuit Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County,
 Florida
 73 West Flagler St
 Miami, FL 33130

Demand pou ekliyon an dwa prezante san nenpòt patikilye, men li dwa endike enfòmasyon sa yo:

1. Non ou, adrès ou ak nimewo telefòn ou;
2. Yon deklarasyon ki endike ou vle ekli tèt ou nan Gwoup la;

Pou jwenn plis enfòmasyon, rele nimewo 1-800-981-7567 oswa ale sou sit wèb www.MiamiFireFeeSettlement.com

3. Siyati ou;
 4. Non ak nimewo pwosè a (Masztal v. City of Miami, Case Nos. 06-11208 CA 31, 05-2117 CA 31), epi
 5. Si ou fè demand ekliyon ou nan:
 a. Règleman avèk Minisipalite vil la, OSWA,
 b. Règleman avèk kabine avoka a, OSWA,
 c. Toudele.

Ranek: Si ou pa presize ki règleman, y ap konsidere demand ou kòm yon demand ou fè pou ekli tèt ou nan tout règleman yo.

Tanpri asine ou ekri mo "EXCLUSION REQUEST" (demand pou ekliyon) sou kwen gòch pa anba devan anpil la.

Si ou chwazi pou ekli tèt ou nan Gwoup la:

1. Ou pa ap kalifye pou okenn nan benefis yo;
2. Ou pa ap jwenn pèmyasyon pou fè objeksyon kont dispozisyon yo;
3. Ou pa ap genyen obligasyon pou respekte okenn fòm desizyon yo pran nan pwosè sa a epi
4. Tanjou pou nenpòt règleman (Minisipalite vil la oswa kabine avoka a oswa toudele) kote ou te fè demand ou ekli ou:

- a. Ou pa ap kalifye pou resewa okenn nan benefis yo;
- b. Ou pa ap jwenn pèmyasyon pou fè objeksyon kont okenn dispozisyon;
- c. Ou pa ap genyen obligasyon pou respekte okenn fòm desizyon yo pran nan pwosè sa a epi
- d. Pou resewa lajan nan plas Règleman sa yo, w ap sibiye fè pwòp pwosè ou epi avèk depans ou.

SONJE: OU DWA FÈ DEMAND OU POU EKLIYON AVÈK ANVLOP KI GENYEN TENB KI DATE ANVAN 10 JIYÈ 2008. SI W PA FÈ SA, SOF JAN TRIBINAL LA KAPAB BAY LI, DEMAND POU EKLIYON OU AP AN RETA AK INVALID.

ODISYON POU REGLEMAN AN: Nan dat 30 jiyè 2008 a 10:00 AM EDT, nan adrès 73 West Flagler St, Courtroom 11-1, Miami, Florida 33130, Tribinal la ap oganize yon Odisyon san Pati pou konsidere si pou li akòde sètifikasyon Gwoup la pou objèktif Règleman an, epitou si pou li apwouve Règleman yo kòm Règleman ki jis, rekonab ak satisfèzan. Tribinal la ap oganize yon odisyon preliminè nan dat 23 jen 2008 a 10:00 AM EDT nan manm adrès kite l ap resewa prè ki gen pou wè ak demand pou frè avoka yo. Answit, Tribinal la ap akseptè dokiman okenn siplemantè ki gen pou wè ak frè avoka yo jiska 16 jiyè 2008.

Sa mwen vle fè Objeksyon kont Règleman yo? Ou dwa rete yon manm Gwoup la pou ou kapab fè objeksyon kont, nenpòt aspè Règleman yo, epitou kont sètifikasyon final yon Gwoup, okenn Règleman yo, konpòtan Pleyan ak avoka yo ki reprezante gwoup la, ak distribisyon Frè ak Depans Avoka a. Objeksyon alekri ou dwa genyen ladan:

1. Your name, address and telephone number;
2. Yon deklarasyon objeksyon ou (yo) ak nenpòt lwa ak/oswa prèv epò ou vle entoude;
3. Non ak nimewo pwosè sa (Masztal v. City of Miami, Case Nos. 98-11208 CA 31, 05-2117 CA 31).

OU DWA SOUMÈT OBJEKSYON EKRI OU SA GREFFE TRIBINAL LA ANVAN 10 JIYÈ 2008 PA LAPÒS NAN ADRES SA A:

Clerk of the Court,
 Circuit Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County,
 Florida
 73 West Flagler St
 Miami, FL 33130

OU DWA VOYE KOPI OBJEKSYON SA YO TOU PA LAPÒS BA TOUT AVOKA KI ENDIKE ANBA A, EPI ANVLOP LA DWA GENYEN TENB KI DATE ANVAN 10 JIYÈ 2008.

Konsèy Defans pou Minisipalite Miami:
 Julie O. Bru, City Attorney
 Office of the City Attorney
 444 SW Second Ave, Ste 945
 Miami, FL 33135

Thomas E. Scott, Esq.
 Scott A. Cole, Esq.
 Cole, Scott & Kissane, PA
 1390 Brickell Ave, Third Floor
 Miami, FL 33131

Konsèy Defans Gwoup la:
 Patrick A. Scott, Esq.
 Richard L. Williams, Esq.
 Michael Garcia Pettit, Esq.
 2600 Miami Center
 201 S. Biscayne Blvd.
 Miami, FL 33131-4310

Konsèy Defans pou Adomo & Yoss, LLP:
 Ronald L. Kammer, Esq.
 David F. Hartnett, Esq.
 Hirschler & Culbertson, LLP
 9155 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 1800
 Miami, FL 33156

Tribinal la pa ap konsidere okenn objeksyon ki soumèt/avèk anpil ki genyen tenb ki date apre 10 jiyè 2008, sof si ou kapab montre rezon esklè pou tèt ou anreta. Si ou soumèt objeksyon ou anreta, y ap konsidere ou abandone oswa ou anile objeksyon ou, sof si ou montre rezon ki esklè.

Si ou soumèt objeksyon ou yo alè epi Tribinal la anile yo, w ap toujou kalifye pou resewa yon ranbousman anba Règleman yo depi ou raspi ak soumèt yon Fòmèl Demand Ranbousman ale.

Nanman pou mwen jwenn enfòmasyon adisyonèl? Avèk sa a se sèlman yon rezime Règleman yo, ki prezante nan dokiman legal pi detaye ki rele "Akò pou Règleman ak Konplikasyon." Avèk Règleman ak Konplikasyon konpò ant Pleyan yo ak Minisipalite vil la ak Akò Règleman ak Konplikasyon konpò ant Pleyan yo ak kabine avoka a nan dweye ki nan bwo Grefye Tribinal la. Pou jwenn yon deklarasyon detaye sou zafè ki konsène pwosè sa a, Pleyan yo, Minisipalite vil la ak kabine avoka a refere ou tou nan Plet lan ak nan lit ak lòt Tribinal te ki nan dweye nan bwo Grefye a. Ou kapab enspekte dokiman sa yo nan Bwo Grefye a nenpòt kiè nan ane nòmal bwo, Landi pou rive Vandredi, ant 9:00 a.m. ak 4:00 p.m., Fwa Grè Lè. Si ou genyen nenpòt kesyon oswa sèpleman ki ou bezwen an kopi Fòmèl Demand Ranbousman, ou kapab rele Administratè Règleman an nan nimewo 1-800-981-7567 oswa ou kapab wè davis kalite dokiman règleman an sou entènèt nan sit wèb www.MiamiFireFeeSettlement.com, epitou ou kapab enprime Fòmèl Demand Ranbousman an nan sit wèb la.

TANPRI PA RELE TRIBINAL LA, GREFFE TRIBINAL LA OSWA MINISIPALITE MIAMI YO P AP ANWEZ POU REPONN AKSYON OU YO.

Date la: 5 m 2008, nan Miami, Florid.

U.S. agency pledges another \$25M in food aid to Haiti

MIAMI – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) says it will be dispatching \$25 million more in food aid to Haiti, bringing its total to \$45 million.

“We know that we are not the full solution, we are a part,” said USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore in a meeting late last month with Haitian American leaders at the USAID warehouse in West Miami-Dade County.

“We are trying to be supportive, and we are trying to help,” she added.

Fore said USAID would help provide 36,000 tons of food staples to 2.5 million Haitians through three types of programs targeting the disabled, orphans, mothers, children and the elderly.

The programs are to be administered by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), Catholic Relief Services and World Vision, and will pay Haitians with food in exchange for helping to rebuild irrigation systems and roads to boost domestic production efforts.

“As close neighbors, the

United States has a vital stake in providing both emergency assistance as well as long-term support for Haiti’s economic, social and economic develop-



Bastien

ment,” Fore said.

PRaise

The announcement was welcomed by South Florida’s congressional delegation, including Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, who introduced Fore at the event.

Diaz-Balart said that the U.S. Congress in a “bipartisan basis” had approved \$250 million in aid to Haiti.

“Today, the United States takes another step, character-

istic of its generosity of (helping) Haiti,” he said.

The announcement came six weeks after violent riots over rising food prices rocked Haiti, leaving several people dead and the country without a working government. In the wake of that unrest, Haitian senators fired the prime minister on April 12, blaming him for the crisis.

The Lower House, the Chamber of Deputies, also rejected President Rene Preval’s choice of the prime minister’s successor after the Senate confirmed him.

CRITICISM

But Haitian activist Marleine Bastien criticized what she described as U.S. short-term relief.

“What we are doing here today, it’s only for short-term relief,” said the executive director of Haitian Women of Miami, who recently visited the impoverished, French-speaking Caribbean country as part of a delegation led by U.S. civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson.

“The U.S. has been engaged in Haiti for almost

200 years now,” she said, adding that “I think it’s time for us to re-assess our intervention and understand it is better for us to invest in bring-



Wyclef Jean

ing Haitian agriculture to its past grandeur.”

Meantime, Haitian-born, international hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean and two leading development organizations have collaborated in dispatching immediate food aid to Haiti.

The Grammy Award-winning Jean last month said that his foundation, Yele Haiti, the WFP and the Pan American Development Foundation have established a group called “Together for Haiti” in

responding to the urgent food crisis in his native land.

“Together for Haiti”, which has the support of another Grammy-Award winning musician Paul Simon, model Petra Nemcova and influential economist Jeffrey Sachs, would provide food, create jobs and support local agriculture in response to the crisis.

Jean said they plan, over the next six months, to create labor-intensive jobs, paying workers with cash and food; distribute food to malnourished children under five and pregnant women, as part of WFP’s existing food assistance programme; and provide fertilizer, seeds, training and micro-enterprise grants, as well as support local agriculture.

“It starts with the ground,” Jean said.

“Let’s start implementing projects, so that we can create jobs. Job creation will slow down the violence.”

He said, to date, the campaign has raised \$1.5 million, with the Haitian cell phone company, Voila, among the corporate contributors.



Guyana’s president collaborates with int’l group on climate change

NEW YORK – Guyana’s President Bharrat Jagdeo last month joined an international conservation group in launching a new global campaign that focuses on the “vital role of healthy tropical forests” in stabilizing the climate.

Jagdeo and top executives of Conservation International (CI) told reporters at the launching ceremony that they would like to change the practice of burning and clearing tropical forests, since such a practice emits at least 20 per cent of total greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

“We must create incentives to reward the conservation of existing forest and support our communities with new economic development alternatives for the 21st century,” Jagdeo said.

“This will compensate countries like Guyana that have protected their forests for decades, and prevent the migration of deforestation to countries where it historically has not taken place.”

DAMAGE

Jagdeo and CI leaders said the central message of the “Lost There, Felt Here” campaign, which includes a video featuring actor Harrison Ford, is that “destroying tropical forests anywhere hurts people everywhere”.

They said the “pristine” forests that are home to half the species on Earth also combat climate change and provide essential resources to the people who live in and around them.

Jagdeo said he was working with CI and other international and local partners in creating incentives to conserve the “irreplaceable habitat.” He has offered to place his country’s forest under a strict regime that pays Guyana for the carbon dioxide stored in the trees and other biomass.

Currently, the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change does not recognize forest protection actions - such as Guyana’s - as valid carbon credits. But CI executives said United Nations’ negotiators were now considering an expanded market to include forest conservation.

Jagdeo said Guyana has retained up to 80 percent of its original Amazon forest cover.

“Conserving forests is one of the quickest and most cost-effective ways to combat climate change and help people adapt to the impacts of a warming planet,” said CI Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Peter Seligmann.

“We need to ensure that these investments are proportionate to the magnitude of the problem.”

“These irreplaceable forests are under threat from increasing demand from a resource-hungry world,” said CI President Russell A. Mittermeier.

“The fact that the carbon market is finally beginning to look at the critical importance of forest carbon provides a unique new opportunity to compensate tropical countries for protecting these forests at a scale far beyond anything that has been done to date and in a way that is truly sustainable both ecologically and economically,” he added.

Mittermeier commended Guyana’s “enlightened approach” to this issue, noting that it could serve as a “model for many other forest-rich countries around the world.”

The “Lost There, Felt Here” campaign calls for the harnessing of nature’s technology - the healthy ecosystems that regulate the climate and sustain life on Earth.

“The goal is to raise awareness of the cost and harm to all of us from destroying some of the richest tropical forests in the world,” said Bill Bruce, chairman and chief creative officer of BBDO New York, which created the campaign.

“It is intended to shake people up and get them to take action.”



Children gain from World Bank’s \$65M loan package for Jamaica

WASHINGTON - The World Bank Board has approved a \$65 million loan package for Jamaica that would strengthen the social safety net, improve health and education services for children and support HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

“The World Bank is pleased to continue supporting the government’s social and economic development strategy by investing in projects that promote equal opportunities for all Jamaicans,” said the World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean Yvonne Tsikata.

CHILDREN’S AID

The bank said that \$40 million would go towards the Social Protection Project aimed at strengthening the country’s social insurance and social assistance system by supporting a number of initiatives, including the improvement of the Program of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) - a cash transfer program that provides benefits on the condition that children attend school and visit health centers periodically.

Since its launch in 2002, PATH has become the Jamaica’s flagship social assistance program, providing cash transfers to almost 230,000

beneficiaries in 2007.

“The World Bank’s support will also allow the government to increase the benefit level by 23 percent to adjust for inflation, to increase grants for secondary school students by up to 75 percent to stimulate grade progression and high school completion and to give a one-time bonus to students moving to tertiary education or training”, a statement from the World Bank said.

“It also will expand benefit coverage by 50 percent to reach approximately 14 percent of the population, the equivalent of the country’s poverty rate in 2007. The increase in benefits also addresses loss of purchasing power of PATH benefits due to the sharp increase in food prices and the need to compensate families for the increasing opportunity cost of schooling”.

The second loan for \$15 million will be used to co-finance the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Development, while the final loan of \$10 million would help support the government’s National HIV/AIDS Program by targeting high-risk groups and increasing access to treatment, care and support services.



Tourism summit offers opportunities for Caribbean diaspora to connect in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Caribbean diaspora in the United States will have the opportunity to directly interact with visiting Caribbean tourism ministers this month during town hall meetings organized in conjunction with the first Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit (ACTS).

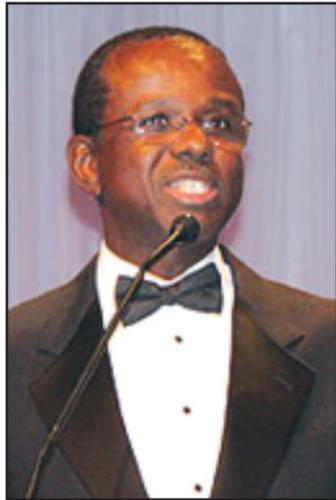
Ministers of tourism will converse with Washington/Virginia/Maryland-based nationals in open forum discussions on June 22. The event is designed to appeal to Caribbean nationals, Caribbean Americans, Caribbean interest groups and young adults considering a career in tourism.

The Caribbean Tourism Development Company (CTDC), the marketing and business development unit owned equally by the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), has created ACTS as a major forum in which to focus on the economic future of the Caribbean region. A primary objective of ACTS is to bring the services industry in the Caribbean, of which tourism is a part, to the forefront of development discussions.

ENGAGEMENT

The conference will take place June 21-24 at the International Trade Center at the Ronald Reagan Building in downtown Washington, D.C and will celebrate Caribbean heritage while coinciding with June's Caribbean American Heritage Month in June.

"We have designed this conference as a way to engage influencers to help grow tourism and increase investment in the Caribbean region," said Hugh Riley, co-chief operating officer for CTDC.



Riley

"At the same time, we want to celebrate the tremendous contributions of the peoples of the Caribbean and to continue raising the awareness of our brand."

All events and activities are open to participants who register. In addition to town hall meetings, there will be:

• **June 21** - CTDC and Condé Nast Bridal Media will host a "Capital Caribbean Wedding", resulting from Condé Nast Bridal Media's online search for a couple with a compelling story on the theme of "When You Knew Your Love was Monumental! Tell us Your Love Story or Your Picture Perfect Proposal". The winning couple will publically exchange vows and receive a honeymoon to a Caribbean destination. There's free admission to attend the wedding, but registration is required.

• **June 22** - Founder and Senior Pastor of Bahamas Faith Ministries International Dr. Myles Munroe will make a presentation at a motivational brunch. There is an admission fee of \$35. Register online.

• **June 23** - Gala Awards Dinner and Ball. The black-tie event will feature music from Byron Lee and the Dragonaires. Caribbean personalities, including Professor Rex Nettleford and the Mighty Sparrow, are among those listed to attend. Contemporary luminaries from entertainment, public service and sports will be presented with awards named after famous Caribbean heroes. Ticket information available at www.ACTSdc.com.

• **June 24** - Financial experts will convene for an interactive "Workshop on Small Business Investment in the Tourism Sector", featuring information on how to source funding, technical assistance and incentives offered by governments, hotel chains and investment groups to ensure greater business success. Admission fee is \$25.

• **June 24** - Rum & Rhythm Celebration, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event will include a sampling of premium Caribbean rums, traditional Caribbean hospitality, and interactive demonstrations on how rum is made. Tickets are at \$60.

For more information on the first ACTS and to register for all events, visit www.ACTSdc.com or call 800-603-3545.



Amnesty International worries over human rights abuse in Jamaica

LONDON, CMC – The London-based human rights group Amnesty International says murder and police killings in Jamaica have remained at a high level.

"Police officers were largely unaccountable and rarely brought to justice for human rights violations. Discrimination and violence against women and gay men were widespread", the human rights group stated in its 2008 report released late last month.

It said homicide rates reached another record high with more than 1,500 people murdered during last year.

Amnesty said that although the Jamaican Justice System Reform Task Force launched its preliminary report last May, with comprehensive reform recommendations, "no clear plan for their

U.N. monitoring cost of living impact on Caribbean children

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - A top official at the Barbados office of the United Nation Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) says the U.N. is concerned about the impact which the rising cost of living is having on children and other vulnerable groups throughout the Caribbean.

Tom Olsen, UNICEF representative at the Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, told reporters at a media exchange last month that governments need to do more to mitigate the effects of the global problem on children.

"What do you do in the meantime? I think that's where you have to get a government that is proactive. Government needs to be on top of it as well and having mechanisms in place to ensure that there are fair prices out there," he said.

"I hear many people talking and saying 'I don't understand because last week the food prices were like this'... They come in the shop today and food prices have gone up and no container has come into the port. I would say somebody is doing busi-

ness on it," he added.

Olsen said UNICEF's office in Barbados has to come up with a strategy to offer assistance to children and families affected by the increasing food prices.

"When we are responding to it we want to do it adequately with facts and data and not



U.N. worried about impact rising food prices is having on region's children.

only making statements. I think we need some time to develop that kind of strategy to see how we can deal with the increase in food prices and the impact on children and the most vulnerable groups," the U.N. official added.

He noted that the issue of high food prices is bigger than the region, pointing to the fact that U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has established a special committee to deal with the issues.



implementation had been devised by the end of the year".

CONCERN

It added that while there has been a continuation of a review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, initiated by the previous administration, "there was concern about the lack of consultation with human rights organizations".

Amnesty said that during 2007, reports of police brutality also increased.

"According to the Bureau of Special Investigations, 203 people were killed by police between January and September, a significant increase compared with 2006. Victims were mainly from socially excluded inner-city communities", it stated.

"Although the police rou-

tinely claimed that these killings occurred during shoot-outs with criminal gangs, eyewitness accounts often alleged that police had extra judicially executed victims".

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Amnesty also said that sexual violence against women and girls was prevalent throughout the country, and that "the authorities failed to bring those responsible to justice".

Amnesty also said while no one was executed in 2007, the new government announced there would be a free vote "allowing representatives to vote according to personal conscience, in Parliament on the resumption of hangings".

The last execution in Jamaica took place in 1988.



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Jamaican-born coach guilty in U.S. athletics doping scandal

Trevor Graham, a Jamaican-born former Olympic athlete-turned-track-coach to several of the sport's biggest names, has been found guilty of lying to a United States grand jury and faces time in prison.

Graham, who was a member of the Caribbean island's 4x400 meters silver medal-winning squad at the 1988 Olympic Games and later trained world stars including Justin Gatlin, Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery, was convicted on one of three counts of lying to federal investigators following a trial which concluded in San Francisco, California late last month.

The jury could not agree on a verdict for the other two charges of lying to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents, which had been laid against Graham following federal investigations into the use of performance-enhancing drugs. He was convicted of a



Gatlin

charge linked to his relationship with Texas resident Angel "Memo" Heredia, a key prosecution witness, who testified that he supplied Graham with drugs for some of his athletes. Graham, who did not testify at the trial, had earlier denied those allegations.

TRAIL

Graham's name first surfaced in the doping investigations after a syringe containing the performance-enhancer

known as "the clear", then an undetectable steroid, was traced to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO) several years ago. BALCO had been linked to supplying top athletes with performance-enhancing drugs. The syringe had been originally sent to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency by an unknown source. Graham later admitted that he had sent it.

Since then BALCO's boss Victor Conte has been convicted of supplying performance-enhancers. American Jones, a multi-Olympic champion who at first vehemently denied using performance-enhancers, was later convicted of lying to federal agents and sentenced to six months in prison. Montgomery, also of the U.S. and a former world record holder in the 100 meters, also admitted to using enhancers. Gatlin, another American, tested positive for



Jones

performance-enhancers and was banned from the sport for four years. He is appealing his sentence.

All three, plus several other prominent track and field athletes, trained with Graham at his Sprint Capitol USA club based in North Carolina.

SCAPEGOAT?

William Keane, Graham's attorney, called his client "the original whistleblower in BALCO" who was being

made a scapegoat.

Several of Graham's former athletes testified at his trial. Among them was American Antonio Pettigrew, an Olympic 4x400 meters relay gold-medal winner, who admitted, for the first time, that he had used performance-enhancers since 1997.

Up to press time prosecutors had not yet announced if they would again try Graham on the other two charges. Keane said he would try to get the charges dismissed.

The conviction on the lone charge carries a maximum sentence of a \$250,000 fine and five years in prison. But Graham, a first time offender, is likely to be locked away for under a year. His sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 5.

Several sources, including wire reports, contributed to this story.



Antigua resolute despite gaming dispute with U.S.

HALIFAX, Canada – In the midst of a five-year battle with the United States over Internet gaming, the Antigua government has insisted it has no plans to give up on its financial services sector.

Speaking at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank Board of Governors, Finance and Economy Minister Dr. Errol Cort highlighted the important role of the sector in the country's economy and said his government would continue to pursue policies to diversify the industry and to ensure its future growth and sustainability.

"In an attempt to position Antigua and Barbuda as a premier jurisdiction for asset protection and wealth management, a number of pieces

of legislation have been enacted. These include the International Trust Act, the International Foundation Act and the International Limited Liability Company Act," Cort said last month.

"The government recognizes the need to continuously update its domestic laws, thereby ensuring that a strong regulatory framework is maintained and, in this regard, we have enacted new legislation that allows the Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC) to operate as a single regulatory authority for all



Cort

non-bank financial institutions in addition to all International Business Corporations," he added.

BLOW

His comments come as the country's financial sector recovers from a blow dealt by Washington when, two years ago, it barred U.S. banks and credit card companies from processing payments made to online and offshore gambling operators in Antigua. The move prevented the twin-island nation from tapping into the lucrative American gaming market.

The matter was taken to the World Trade Organization (WTO) where a panel of arbitrators awarded \$21 million in sanctions against the U.S.



Jamaican, Haitians die after boat capsizes

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC – Bahamian authorities identified the bodies of the three persons who died when the boat they were on capsized in a storm late last month.

They said the deceased were a Jamaican man and a man and a woman from Haiti.

Justin Snisky, chairman of the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association, said a fourth victim was snatched away by sharks before officials could retrieve the body.

Bahamian authorities said they are also trying to determine what happened to the skipper of a sailboat en route to the Netherlands from Fort Lauderdale, Florida after his

vessel was caught in the same storm on the night of May 24 that saw 45 mile-per-hour winds and 12-foot seas.

It was while looking for the captain on May 25 that U.S. Coast Guard officials spotted

the overturned fishing boat about 13 miles west of Grand Bahama Island. Bahamas police spokesman Basil Rahming said the vessel was apparently headed for the U.S. coast.



Broward Community College

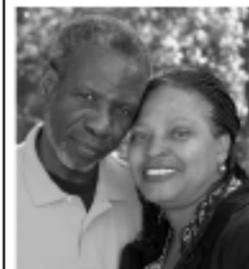
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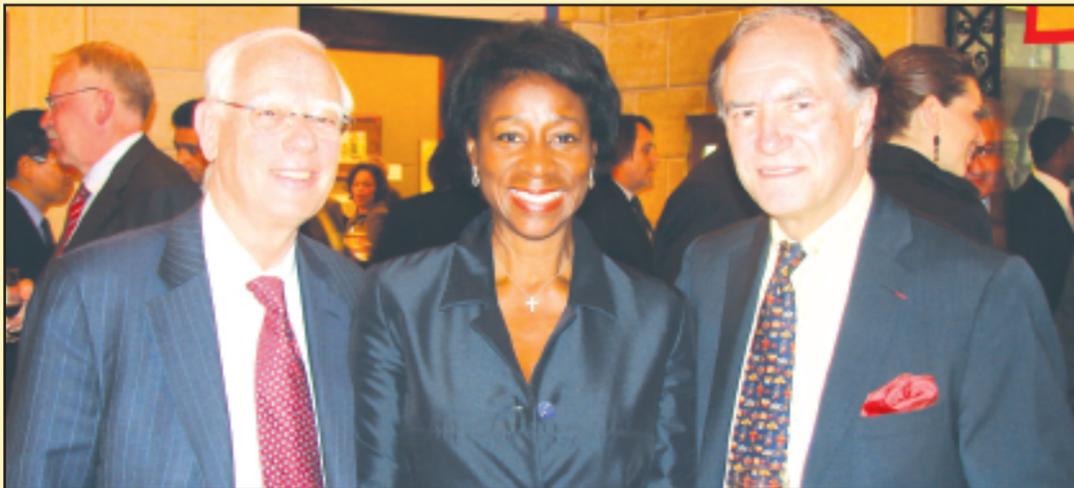
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GETTING TO KNOW YOU



- JIS/NYC photograph

Geneive Brown Metzger, center, consul general of Jamaica in New York, was among several of her peers who were feted at a recent reception for new consuls general organized by the Society of Foreign Consuls (SoFC). The consuls general and their guests were hosted by Christopher Forbes, right, vice chairman, Forbes, at the Forbes Galleries in Manhattan. At left is Michael Hess, senior managing partner of Giuliani Partners, LLC.

IMMIGRATION KORNER

QUESTION: How do I get a re-entry permit into the U.S.?

ANSWER: If you want to get a re-entry permit, file Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, says the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS).

Officials say you should file this application well in advance of your planned trip. The I-131 is available at uscis.gov and the instructions on the form will give you more details. If you have questions after reading the instructions, call customer service at **1-800-375-5283**.

A re-entry permit establishes a presumption that you did not abandon your legal status in the United States, and it allows you to apply for admission to the U.S. after traveling abroad for up to two years, without having to obtain a returning resident visa, the USCIS say.

Getting a re-entry permit into the U.S.

Re-entry permits are normally valid for two years from the date of issuance. It can help prevent problems associated with your Permanent Resident Card becoming technically invalid for re-entry into the U.S. if you are absent from the U.S. for one year or more, or your U.S. permanent residence being considered as abandoned for absences shorter than one year, if you take up residence in another country.

You may also want to get a re-entry permit if you plan on traveling outside the U.S. and cannot, or do not wish to get a passport from your home country. Many countries throughout the world may allow you to use a re-entry permit much like you would use a passport – placing necessary visas, and entry and exit stamps in the permit – so you may use it as your main travel document. Be sure to check with the countries you plan on visiting about their requirements before you travel.

U.S. immigration rules do not require you have the document in your possession when

you depart, but they do require that you apply for the permit before you leave the U.S.

Note that re-entry permits can't be extended. If your permit expires, you'll need to apply for a new one. If you have a valid re-entry permit in your possession, you will need to send it in when you apply for a new one. You need not send in an expired re-entry permit. For security reasons, the USCIS says it will not issue a new re-entry permit to someone who already has a valid one in his or her possession.

If you need a new re-entry permit because your previous one was lost, stolen, or destroyed, please indicate this on your application for the new permit.

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.



FYI

June is "Caribbean American Heritage Month". *Caribbean Today* will use its FYI column to list some of the activities during the month.

HIV/AIDS AWARENESS

June 8 of Caribbean American Heritage Month in the United States is being used to observe National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NCAHAAD).

NCAHAAD is a national mobilization effort designed to encourage Caribbean Americans and individuals born in the Caribbean, across the U.S. and its territories, to get educated, tested, treated and involved. It is also a time to reflect, memorialize and show compassion for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

TAMPA CELEBRATES

The Caribbean American Heritage Foundation of Tampa Bay, Florida has lined up several events to mark Caribbean American Heritage Month. They will be held in Tampa. Among them are the following:

- **June 7, noon to 5 p.m.** – Caribbean American Business Expo, Carrollwood Cultural Center Annex, 13335 Casey Rd.
- **June 8-22** – Caribbean Art Festival, Orange Park Gallery, 1215 N. Franklin St.
- **June 18, 6:30 p.m.** – Wide Awake Wednesday's topic: "Caribbean American Commonalities and Misconceptions", Mango's, 4237 Armenia Ave.
- **June 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – Caribbean American Wellness Health Festival, Carrollwood Cultural Center Annex.
- **June 28, 9 p.m.** – Tampa Bay Seventh Annual Calypso Competition.
- **June 29, noon to 6 p.m.** – Caribbean American Family Olympics, Rowlette Park, North 22nd Street and Rowlette Dr.

GEORGIA EVENTS

The Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition (GCAHC) has announced several events in June. They include the following:

- **June 7, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** – Caribbean Cultural Variety Show, co-hosted by the Atlanta Caribbean Association, Hillside Presbyterian Church, 1879 Columbia Dr., Decatur.
- **June 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** – Launch reception of the GCAHC's mentorship/internship program, Junor Fine Art Gallery, 114 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur.
- **June 19, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** – Business opportunities semi-

nar, Clark Atlanta University, 223 James P. Brawley Dr., Atlanta.

• **June 25-26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** – Caribbean Arts and Culture Symposium. June 25 event at Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta campus, 1600 Peachtree St. June 26 event at Auburn Research Library on African American Culture and History, 100 Auburn Ave. Visit www.caribbeansymposium.com for more information.

• **June 28, 7:30 p.m.** – Awards banquet and silent auction, John Williams Ballroom, The Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. Visit www.cobbgalleria.com or call **404-667-7933** for more information.



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Never return to old stomping grounds

“Oh to turn back the hands of time,” they say, or, “If I knew now what I knew then, things would be different.”

Well, I always say what's past is past, what's gone is gone, it's all water under the bridge, so it's best we leave it be.

Still, some people insist on trying to recapture the past, go back to the glory days, relive their youth, or worse yet, return to a former lover. Well, take it from me, you shouldn't go back. Have you ever gone back to your old primary or prep school and wander through the classrooms? The first thought that hits you, is how small everything seems, the classroom, the tiny desks and chairs and the playground. Everything just seems so out of proportion and you wonder how you ever managed to fit into that tiny world. You have grown.

What is true is that memory is selective, and usually we tend to remember only the good things from past relationships, hence the saying, the good old days. Heck, there was nothing particularly good about the good old days. They were just normal days, fraught with peril and misfortune as well as good times. But as time passed, we, by process of elimination, sifted out the bad times and left only the good memories, and voila, it's the good old days.

As the book “A Tale of Two Cities” said: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. The same applies to relationships, and if you had the experience of leaving one, it's best to leave well enough alone and don't return. There is a reason why you left in the first place. Either she left you or you left her, or it was by mutual agreement. But what matters is that things got so bad that you had to part ways.

JUSTIFICATION

Now years have passed and the selective memory kicks in, and suddenly she looks so appealing again and you want to have another go. Big mistake. First you try to justify all the reasons to return. “Oh, I must forgive and forget, let bygones be bygones, I must turn the other cheek and take her back.” You only say that now because your selective memory has erased all the pain and hurt that she put you through over the years. You forgot the tears, the pain, anguish and anger that you felt when she tore up your heart. If you're a lady, the grief that he put you through as he ran around with your best friend has perhaps abated, and now you're willing to give him a second chance. “Oh, he has changed, and he won't hurt me again,” you think.

So whether you are man or woman, you reckon that the past relationship is worth



another shot, so you decide to turn back the hands of time and give it another go.

Well first of all, time has marched on, and as time passed, so have both parties grown. Many people expect to just pick up exactly where they left off when they broke up years ago. She was 25, he was 30, now she is 30 and he is 35. It's been a long five years of separation and plenty water has gone under the bridge. Yet so many couples just expect to resume life the same place that they left it.

REALITY CHECK

After a few weeks there's a harsh reality check, as the world comes crashing down when reality sets in and both realize that things and times have put a different spin on the relationship. No longer is she the young naïve waif like girl who he could bowl over with his charms. When they were together he was her idol and she hung on to every word that he said like a starry eyed pupil listening to a professor. In those five years apart she has grown, gained her independence, became assertive, increased in stature, has more self esteem, landed a great new job and is certainly not dependent on any man, including him, for anything.

Or flip it, he has grown tremendously, while she has remained the same disco queen of yesteryear, still flitting from club to club every weekend night, refusing to mature and be responsible. For her, the party has not ended. What happens too, is that the circle of friends on both sides may have expanded or become different, and suddenly he or she is thrust into a world not of their liking. “Who are those people that she's now hanging about with? I can't relate to them at all” Or, “Now he's taken up with a rum



TONY ROBINSON

drinking gambling crowd, I am certainly not used to that.”

Another reason why you shouldn't return is because of what took place in that dash between when you broke up and now. Suddenly, the woman who was once only yours, now has a history of exes in the space between then and now. Your virgin bride has been sullied, tainted by recent experiences. It was all well and good if she had a boyfriend or two

before you, but to know that in the six years that you've been apart, it's about two or three different men who have run through, partook of your precious fruit. It's perhaps a bit much to bear. Now when you make love to her all you can think about is those big tough back dudes who encroached on your property. The thought is often agonizing, and even though it might not manifest itself in the beginning, after a while it will seep through and come to the fore. And that's why you should not return.

'DAMAGED GOODS'

Interestingly, this doesn't seem to bother women as much as men, as it's mostly men who have expressed this to me. “My God, every time I see her talking to a man I wonder if she had a thing with him when we were apart. I now see her as damaged goods”.

What happens when you go back is the past somehow creeps back in, and the selective memory isn't as selective as it used to be. Suddenly you start to remember his annoying little habits, how lazy he was around

the house, how dependent he is on his mother even now, and the floodgates of the negative waters of hell burst open as you remember everything. Suddenly he remembers that she was sexy only once or twice for the month, but his selective memory had blocked out the periods of forced abstinence.

As romantic as it may seem my friends, you can't return. My findings are backed up by scientific statistical data which proves that most second tries do not work. Always remember, things had to get really bad for you to have parted in the first place, so why do you think that those bad things have gone away?

If you want to relive the past, it's best to get someone who closely resembles your ex. That way you'll have the best of both worlds - same physical appearance, but a brand new experience. Perhaps she will bring you crosses too, but at least it's new crosses.

You can't return, just look ahead and stop trying to relive the past.

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CARIB Comments

• “The relationship between the police force and the community has to be 100 percent. You cannot demand respect from people; you have to earn it and once you earn it any problem is surmountable” – Jamaica's recently appointed Minister of National Security Trevor MacMillan last month discussing his solution to the crime problem.

• “I am not too sure where this is coming from but I am the prime minister; I am here to serve and I will continue to serve in the interest of the people” – St. Lucia's Prime



Minister Stephenson King last month dismissing reports that he planned to resign over the current crisis within his government that was sparked by calls by disgruntled legislators for the dismissal of Economic Affairs Minister Auber D'Auvergne.

• “Whatever may have inspired and motivated it (embargo), it belongs to an era that is long past” - Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding last month calling for the lifting of the United States-imposed economic embargo on Cuba.

• “When one gets a feeling of invincibility, of arrogance, then that is the time the party must take stock” - Ken Valley, deputy leader of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) in Trinidad and Tobago, last month calling for the removal of Prime Minister

Patrick Manning last month.

• “The recent downturn in the U.S. economy is not impacting the interest in the Caribbean” - Alec Sanguinetti, director general of the Caribbean Hotel Association, expressing optimism last month about the region's tourism future.

• “I'm very disappointed. I've had sleepless nights after that hearing. I think what happened is unfortunate” - Richie Richardson, a member of the West Indies Cricket Board disciplinary committee and former captain of the region's team, last month hitting out at the decision to ban Marlon Samuels for two years over his involvement with an alleged Indian bookie.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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FOOD

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Versatile shrimp offers easy fix for Caribbean seafood treat

BEV BENNETT

Shrimp is a wonderful ingredient when you're cooking for two. You can buy shrimp by the ounce so

style has its virtues and drawbacks. If you choose the preparation that suits your needs you'll save time and expense.

For example, if you're lucky enough to find fresh shrimp in your supermarket, savor the delicate taste with a simple preparation, such as shrimp in a lemon-but-ter sauce.

Shrimp that's cooked with the peel is more succulent and flavorful. If you're preparing shrimp to use in a salad



Delicious shrimp in chipotle sauce

you have just enough for a meal without leftovers and you can prepare the seafood in so many ways you won't get tired of it.

But shrimp comes in so many forms, from fresh, which rare, to cooked, peeled and ready to eat. Each preparation

and you have the time, buy unpeeled shrimp. Rinse the shrimp under cold water so the shrimp meat contracts slightly from the shell and is easier to remove. Start with 12 ounces of peel-on shrimp and assume you'll lose about two ounces of the initial weight.

You have to peel raw shrimp you're going to use in soup, stew or a dish with sauce. Whether you buy peeled raw shrimp or do the work yourself depends on your time and budget. Peeled shrimp are more expensive, but you'll shave five minutes off preparation, if that's important. Peeling small raw shrimp is tedious and I recommend buying the peeled product.

Shrimp have a long dark vein that runs down the back. In small shrimp, the vein isn't an issue; in large shrimp, the vein can be filled with grit.

You can buy de-veined shrimp. If you have to do the job yourself, take a small paring knife, make a slash down the back and pull out the strip.

Your supermarket fish counter also offers cooked, peeled shrimp. This is pricey and limits your options. Use precooked shrimp in salads or for appetizers. Avoid adding the shrimp to a dish you're cooking; the results will be tough and dry.

For the following recipe of shrimp in a zesty chipotle chile tomato sauce, start with large shrimp and peel them before cooking.

SHRIMP WITH CHIPOTLE-TOMATO SAUCE

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced roasted tomatoes (see note)
- 1/4 teaspoon chipotle chile flakes (see note)
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed dried oregano
- 12 ounces large raw shrimp, peeled
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Couscous with herbs (follows)

Method

Heat the oil in a large skillet. Add the onion and garlic and cook over medium heat for three minutes or until tender. Add the tomatoes with liquid, chili flakes and oregano. Reduce heat to low and simmer for one minute. Add shrimp. Cover skillet and cook for 10 minutes, or until shrimp are cooked through. Stir occasionally. Stir in lemon juice, salt and pepper.

To serve, spoon couscous onto two plates. Top each with the shrimp and sauce.

Makes two servings.

NOTE: If roasted tomatoes aren't available, use plain diced tomatoes. Chipotle chile flakes are available in the spice section of supermarkets. If not available substitute crushed red pepper flakes and a pinch of chili powder.

COUSCOUS

Ingredients

- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup large pearl couscous, also called Middle Eastern couscous
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro
- 2 tablespoons minced chives or scallions, green parts only

Method

Bring the broth to a boil in a medium pot. Stir in the couscous. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for five minutes or until broth is absorbed and couscous is tender. Remove from heat. Stir in cilantro and chives.

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Guyana expecting record participation for CARIFESTA

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – The 10th staging of the Caribbean Festival of the Arts (CARIFESTA X) is set to attract record participation from Caribbean, Latin American, North American and European countries, according to Guyana's Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Dr. Frank Anthony.

He said that approximately 1,300 of the expected 2,000 delegates from 22 countries have already confirmed their participation in the Caribbean's premier cultural event to be staged in Guyana this year Aug. 22-31.

Traditionally, CARIFESTA had showcased the top creators of the Caribbean in their varied artistic spheres. However, the festival has opened its doors to countries outside of CARICOM and Latin America.

The culture minister added

that other countries, such as Australia, United Kingdom, China, French Guiana and Morocco had also indicated an interest in participating in CARIFESTA X, which is being hosted under the theme "One Caribbean, One Purpose - Our Culture, Our Life".

Expressing satisfaction with the response so far, Anthony said that an "aggressive awareness campaign," which is to be launched soon, would further stimulate more international interest in the festival and assured that adequate accommodation would be provided.

He pointed to 3,041 existing hotel rooms and announced his intention to augment this by reactivating the Bed and Breakfast programme that was successfully operated during Cricket World Cup 2007.

Grenada carnival sticks with foreign judges

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Carnival organizers here say they are planning to use foreign judges for local calypso competitions again despite objections from the Grenada Progressive Association of Calypso and Tents (GPACT).

The announcement was expected to upset GPACT, whose opposition to foreign judges sparked a conflict that threatened to throw last year's carnival celebrations into disarray.

"GPACT as you all know took us to court for that action last year and they had expressed to us in our post mortem meeting that they are against foreign judges," said Arthur Hosten, Grenada's chief carnival organizer.

"Based on what happened last year with the confidence and integrity of the process,

we are continuing with foreign judges this year."

COMPROMISE

The dispute played out in a Grenada High Court at the height of carnival celebrations last year after Justice Kenneth Benjamin ruled in favor of an application by GPACT to present their case against the Grenada Cultural Foundation (GCF).

However, the start of the calypso finals, part of De Manche Gras, the main carnival show, was delayed by more than four hours due to a backstage quarrel between officials and GPACT over the composition of the final judging panel.

Carnival, Grenada's major cultural showpiece will climax Aug. 11-12.

Guyana reviving steel pan industry

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Guyana is spending an estimated \$20,000 to acquire 32 steel pans from Trinidad and Tobago in a bid to resuscitate the local steel pan industry.

The pans will form the nucleus of a national steel band which, according to a Government Information Agency (GINA) statement, will hopefully take its place in the national cultural arena.

"The National Steel Band will consist of approximately 56 persons and rehearsals will commence shortly", the statement added.

"Steel band was a popular form of entertainment for several years in Guyana but went into decline. It is hoped that this initiative will bring it back to its former glory and reach even further heights".

Andrew Tyndal, project consultant for the National Steel Band and Development Project, said that the resuscitation of steel band in three schools has commenced, with tutors conducting training sessions at St. Joseph's High, Dolphin Secondary and Lodge Community High School.

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Jamaican artist Paul Blackwood shows his artwork to his country's Ambassador to the United States Anthony Johnson next to him. The pieces were on display last month at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, D.C. Also viewing the artwork are, from left, fellow Jamaican artist Courtney Morgan and Stephen Salny. The four-day exhibition showcased over 75 works by the two artists, specializing in landscapes, abstracts and semi-abstracts, oil on canvas and collages. It was the third year that the two artists have shown their works in the U.S. capital.

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CELEBRATION ISLAND STYLE



- Photograph by Dale Nicholson

Costumed revelers show off some of their moves on the streets of the Georgia, United States city during last month's Atlanta Caribbean Carnival. The carnival season featured several colorful events, including the King and Queen Band Competition, a parade in downtown Atlanta, a Caribbean Carnival Festival Village, and live performances by some of the region's top entertainers, including Iwer George, Pater Ram, Jamesy P., Problem Child, Burning Flames, WCK and 2Intrigue.

Jamaican jerk fest moved to November

Citing the constant threat of rain and the September heat, promoters of the annual "Jamaican Jerk Festival" have moved the event to early November.

This year's festival will take place on Nov. 9 at Markham Park in Sunrise, Florida.

The "Jamaican Jerk

Festival" is a family treat, with attractions and activities for all ages. Each year its package of Caribbean foods – especially "jerk" dishes – and entertainment attract a huge crowd.

Last year rain brought the festival, produced by Riddims Marketing and Jamaica Awareness Inc., to a premature end.



'An Amazing Grace' hits South Florida stage on June 15

Jamaican actor Christopher Daley will do double duty as director in the play "An Amazing Grace" which premieres June 15 at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts in South Florida.

The play is written by South Florida-based graphic artist Roy "Artbwoy" Martin.

"An Amazing Grace" is Martin's first effort at playwriting, but Daley has been a popular actor/comedian in Jamaica for years. Years ago he gained recognition for his role as "Little Johnny" in the television show "Lime Tree Lane" and has appeared in several stage productions since, including "Yard '99", "Dis Ting", "Oliver and the Gene", "Cindy Relisha and the DJ Prince" and "Jamaica 2 Rahtid".

"An Amazing Grace" is a story about "Johnny", played by Daley, an aspiring reggae singer with dreams of making it big. He struggles with his criminal past with bad man "Dredie", played by Andrew Clarke, and "Puddy", played by Sammy Question.



Daley plays entertainer "Johnny" in "An Amazing Grace".

"Queenie", played by Ann "Charm" McKenzie, is Johnny's love interest. The "other woman" is church sister "Grace", played by

Chanise Brady. For more information, call 305-405-1059.



Tobago to celebrate heritage festival July 11-Aug. 1

The island of the Tobago will celebrate its 21st annual heritage festival with the theme "One Hand Can't Clap".

This year's event, set to take place July 11-Aug. 1, is a commemoration of the island's traditions and the impact of its predominant African heritage.

Tobago was originally inhabited by Amerindians. However, it quickly became home to many African slaves after the colonization by Europeans. These historical experiences have come together to define what it means to be Tobagonian and essentially given birth to the cultural extravaganza that is

"Tobago Heritage Festival".

CELEBRATION

Since the festival's inception in 1987, Tobagonians from various communities have used the annual celebration of culture to educate and entertain visitors and the youth. Each village contributes its own presentation. The main event is the traditional "Ole Time Wedding", hosted in the village of Moriah. This marriage ceremony highlights the influences of European culture on the local population. It features a colorful procession of the satin-garbed and top-hatted wedding party and guests dancing in the streets.

The reception features a chorus of fiddle music, local cuisine, speeches and period entertainment.

The festival is also considered a family affair, with children displaying their talents at the "Junior Heritage Explosion". The climax of festivities is the crowning of "Miss Heritage Personality" and the "Heritage Calypso Monarch".

Tobago, along with Trinidad, is part of a twin-island republic located in the southeastern region of the Caribbean.

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Animal rights group intensifies lobby for boycott of St. Kitts and Nevis

NORFOLK, Virginia – An international animal rights group has launched a global campaign aimed at getting travel agencies to boycott St. Kitts and Nevis over alleged cruelty to animals at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

The Virginia-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has to date succeeded in getting at least two major travel agencies in the United States in boycotting the twin-island federation over the alleged mutilation and killing of healthy sheep, donkeys and goats at the veterinary school.

PETA, in a statement issued last month, said that while some travel agencies were “planning quietly” to steer travelers to other destinations, the Washington-based Green Earth Travel was the latest in publicly announcing that it would encourage its clients not to visit the Caribbean nation “until the school ends its cruel and deadly surgical procedures on animals”.

In April, the Las Vegas-based Holiday Systems International, a high-end travel agency, said it had started to refuse to book holidays to St. Kitts and Nevis for its over 300,000 clients.

Donna Zeigfanger, president of Green Earth Travel, said she was urging clients to vacation elsewhere “because of

the harmful and outdated surgeries that are performed on animals at Ross and the St. Kitts government’s defense of them.

“We will only resume encouraging people to book their travel to St. Kitts once Ross University ends the needless suffering of animals by using humane veterinary teaching alternatives recommended by PETA”, she said in a letter to PETA.

ALERT

Zeigfanger added that Green Earth Travel had also posted an alert in its newsletter about the alleged animal cruelty at Ross University.

PETA – which has affiliates in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, India, and the Asia-Pacific region – said it had urged the Denzil Douglas administration in St. Kitts and Nevis to investigate the veterinary school for alleged violations of the United States’ Protection of Animals Act. It said it had received complaints from “concerned Ross students” about “cruel teaching procedures”.

But PETA said while the St. Kitts and Nevis’ Ministry of Agriculture had launched an investigation, the veterinary school reportedly “continues to conduct needless practice sessions on healthy animals that often result in

death”.

The group also called on the school to establish a veterinary teaching hospital to help sick and injured animals instead.

A St. Kitts and Nevis government statement in April said “the citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis are peaceful, hardworking and law-abiding and do not condone any acts of cruelty anywhere to animals or humans alike. Any insinuation by PETA that our government and people think or behave otherwise is a gross misrepresentation of our proud Caribbean culture and traditions”.

The administration said it viewed the boycott threats as “a ploy to attract attention by PETA and to force the intervention of the St. Kitts government into a dispute between two privately-owned and operated organizations, both of which are headquartered in the United States of America and which operate under U.S. laws”.



Retirement of U.S. planes troubling for region ~ CHA

ST. GEORGE’S, Grenada, CMC - The director general of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) has warned that regional economies stand to suffer significantly by the third quarter of this year as a result of the decision by major United States airlines to retire dozens of their planes from September.

Addressing members of the Grenada Hotel and Tourism Association during their annual general meeting last month, Alec Sanguinetti said that industry analysts estimate that airlines will trim their fleets because of high fuel costs and a downturn in the U.S. economy.

“Airlines will be trimming between five and ten percent of their aircraft,” Sanguinetti told the tourism stakeholders “...I see serious negative effects on our tourism industry, serious negative effects on the growth of the region’s economy and serious negative

effects on our social life.”

CUTS

While American Airlines has declined to provide exact details of its mass plane retirement, the CHA head said that United Airlines plans to cut 30 of its oldest 737 planes, Continental will retire 34, Sanguinetti and Delta and Northwest between 15 and 20.

“All these major cuts mean less seats available, less planes available and ultimately less persons coming to our region. These changes spell trouble and it’s time for us to realize that life is not the same and things should not continue as we know it in terms of travel and tourism.”



Sanguinetti

High airfares affecting youth travel in Caribbean ~ delegate

BARBADOS - High airfares are grounding the development of future air travelers, according to a young travel expert from the Caribbean.

Javon Griffith, designated junior minister of tourism of Barbados 2004-2005, is lamenting the high cost of intra-Caribbean travel, claiming it is hindering efforts to develop a youth travel market.

“The continuing increase in the cost of travel is limiting the ability of the Caribbean to develop a youth travel market,” said Griffith, who believes Caribbean youth need to be educated early about the importance of tourism to the region’s economy.

“They need to understand that without the contribution of tourism to the Caribbean the region would be rendered economically non-viable,” the 20-year-old said.

“Furthermore, they need to understand that this is why

it is argued so often that the Caribbean is the most tourism dependent region in the world.”

IMPACT

Griffith recently completed a bachelor of science degree in hospitality and tourism management from the University of the West Indies. He has worked as a part-time server at the Fish Pot Restaurant in Barbados. He said



Griffith

affordable travel options help to shape the youth’s world view and address their need to understand “the scope of tourism’s impacts, the level of job creation and the valuable foreign exchange to be earned from the sector.

Jamaica at 46

On August 4, 2008, the island of Jamaica marks the 46th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation.

Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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Jamaica embraces plans to increase trade with U.S. 'City of Brotherly Love'

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Anthony Johnson has announced that his government is looking at ways of increasing trade with the United States city of Philadelphia.

"All efforts will be made to increase export from Jamaica to Philadelphia which now stands at just under US\$100 million to US\$200 million," Johnson told the Philadelphia City Council recently.

"All efforts will be made to fortify a stronger trade relation with Jamaica and Philadelphia."

STRENGTHENING

In the 18th century, Jamaica and Philadelphia,

also known as the "City of Brotherly Love", "had a strong trading relationship; and there's no reason why we cannot strengthen

that relationship back, so both Jamaica and Philadelphia can

"All efforts will be made to fortify a stronger trade relation with Jamaica and Philadelphia"

— Ambassador Johnson

benefit economically," the diplomat said.

He said that trade could be doubled by making



Johnson

Philadelphia a port of entry "for a wide range of Jamaican products". In addition, the new U.S. envoy called for the enhancement of Jamaican products in Philadelphia, stating that rum, sauces, pepper products, liqueurs and beers are some of the goods that could be exported from Jamaica to the large U.S. city.

Carol Brooks, manager of International Trade for the City of Philadelphia's Department of Commerce, said in 2007 a total of \$67,538,013 in goods were imported from Jamaica, a 39.36 percent increase over 2006.

She said the top imports were beverages, spirits, vinegar, vegetables, fruits, and nuts.



Small businesses to highlight Miami trade summit in July

MIAMI, Florida - Medium-to-small companies from a dozen countries, including the Caribbean, are expected to participate in the Miami International Trade Days Summit 2008 next month.

The two-day event will be held July 11-12 at the Sheraton Mart Plaza here.

The showcase, sponsored by the corporate members of the Minority Chamber of Commerce, will feature exhibitors in businesses such as beverages, food, construction, furniture and textiles.

"We are excited about bringing a new vision to our expos here in Miami, Florida," Doug Mayorga, chair of the chamber's committee, said in a

press release issued recently to promote the event.

"Miami International Trade Days Summit will focus

"We are excited about bringing a new vision to our expos here in Miami, Florida"

- Doug Mayorga, "Miami International Trade Days Summit will focus on all aspects of business."

on all aspects of business, such as connecting with prominent exporter and importer companies as well as providing visitors with leading edge information that can offer a true competitive advantage for small entrepreneurs."

Among the activities

scheduled for the event are a series of educational conference sessions featuring industry insights and business development ideas to help streamline costs, introduce new items and grow businesses, and focus issues about certification for "nostalgic products".

Registration is limited to export-import industry professionals, including owners of small businesses, supermarkets, restaurants, retail stores and wholesale distributors. It is not open to the general public.

For more information, call Juan Maltes at 786-260-1965.



Protecting credit during divorce

JOSE H. CARBALLO

When a marriage ends in divorce, the lives of those involved are changed forever. During this time of upheaval, one thing that shouldn't have to change is the credit status you've worked so hard to achieve.

Unfulfilled promises to pay bills, the maxing out of credit cards, and a total breakdown in communication frequently lead to the annihilation of at least one spouse's credit. Depending upon how finances are structured, it can sometimes have a negative impact on both parties.

Yet by taking a proactive approach and creating a specific plan to maintain one's credit status, anyone can ensure that "starting over" doesn't have to mean rebuilding credit.

The first step for anyone going through a divorce is to obtain copies of your credit report from the three major agencies: Equifax, Experian®, and TransUnion®. It's impossible to formulate a plan without having a complete understanding of the situation. (Once a year, you may obtain a free credit report by visiting www.AnnualCreditReport.com.)

Then create a spreadsheet, and list all of the accounts that are currently open. For each entry, fill in columns with the following information: creditor name, contact number, the account number, type of account (e.g. credit card, car loan, etc.), account status (e.g. current, past due), account balance, minimum monthly payment amount, and who is vested in the account (*joint/individual/authorized signer*).

PLAN

Now make a plan. There are two types of credit accounts, and each is handled differently during a divorce. The first type is a secured account, meaning it's attached to an asset. The most common secured accounts are car loans and home mortgages. The second type is an unsecured account. These accounts are typically credit cards and charge cards, and they have no assets attached.

For a secured account, your best option is to sell the asset. This way the loan is paid off and your name is no longer attached. Next best is to refinance the loan. In other words, one spouse buys out the other. This only works, however, if the purchasing spouse can qualify for a loan by themselves and can assume payments on their own.

Your last option is to keep your name on the loan. This is

the most risky option because if you're not the one making the payment, your credit is truly vulnerable.

In the case of a mortgage, enlisting the aid of a qualified mortgage professional is extremely important. This individual will review your existing home loan along with the equity you've built up and help you to determine the best course of action.

SPEED

When it comes to unsecured accounts, you will need to act quickly. It's important to know which spouse (if not both) is vested. If you are merely a signer on the account, have your name



removed immediately. If you are the vested party and your spouse is a signer, have their name removed. Any joint accounts (both parties vested) that do not carry a balance should be closed immediately.

If there are jointly vested accounts, which carry a balance, your best option is to have them frozen. This will ensure that no future charges can be made to the accounts. When an account is frozen, however, it is frozen for both parties. If you do not have any credit cards in your name, obtain one before freezing all of your jointly vested accounts. By having a card in your own name, you now have the option of transferring any joint balances into your account, guaranteeing they'll get paid.

Ensuring payment on a debt, which carries your name, is paramount when it comes to preserving credit. One 30-day late payment can drop your credit score as much as 75 points. It is also important to know that a divorce decree does not override any agreement you have with a creditor. So, regardless of which spouse is ordered to pay by the judge, not doing so will affect the credit score of both parties. Not only eliminate all joint accounts, but do it quickly.

Jose H. Carballo is branch manager for the Coral Gables office of Source One mortgage. You can contact him at caraballo12345@comcast.net or 305-968-1257.





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HEALTH

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Fit to a tea: green or black, they pack punch

GREG ISAACSON

The leaves of the camellia sinensis plant contain an array of bioactive substances, but scientific interest is brewing over the medicinal properties of antioxidant polyphenol compounds known as flavonoids.

In green, or unprocessed, tea, the most potent are the catechins. As tealeaves are fermented by air exposure to produce black tea, the catechins are transformed into theaflavins and thearubigins. Though all have benefits for brain and body, it may be best to consume a variety of teas.

GREEN TEA

1. Arthritis: Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) inhibits inflammation, bone erosion, and joint damage from rheumatoid arthritis.

2. Cancer: Populations that drink green tea have lower rates of cancer. EGCG combats free-radical cell damage and activates p57, a protein that protects healthy cells.

3. Cholesterol: Lowers total cholesterol and raises good HDL cholesterol.

4. Intestinal inflammation:

EGCG has potent anti-inflammatory properties that could help treat inflammatory bowel disease.

5. Liver disease: Lowers risk of developing liver disorders in men. May also protect liver against damaging effects of alcohol.



A cup of tea offers many health benefits.

6. Sunburn: EGCG mitigates sunburn reaction. May protect against skin cancer.

BLACK TEA

1. Bone health: May increase bone mineral density.

2. Cancer: May reduce risk of many cancers. Theaflavin-3'-monogallate (TF-2) acts as a COX-2 inhibitor to suppress cancer cells.

3. Cholesterol: Drinking five cups of black tea per day low-

ers total cholesterol and bad LDL cholesterol.

4. Heart disease: Helps lower blood pressure. May reverse endothelial dysfunction; also reduces blood platelet activation. Note: Adding milk to tea cancels the beneficial effect.

5. Stress: Speeds recovery from stressful events, reducing levels of cortisol and diminishing blood platelet activation.

BOTH

1. Brain health: Catechins in both green and black tea (although more concentrated in green tea) protect against buildup of amyloid deposits, implicated in Alzheimer's and other age-related neurodegenerative diseases.

2. Diabetes: Improves glucose tolerance in borderline diabetics.

3. Oral health: Rich in fluoride, which protects against cavities. Theobromine found in tea appears to strengthen teeth and protect against cavities better than fluoride. Added to chewing gum, green tea extract protects gum tissue and stimulates salivary glands.

4. Weight control: Catechins stimulate thermogenesis, boosting fat metabolism and calorie expenditure.

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Cuba offers free eye surgeries to Antiguans

HAVANA, Cuba, CMC - Cuba and Antigua and Barbuda have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) providing a legal framework for the free eye surgery program, "Operation Miracle", that has already benefited more than 1,000 patients from the English-speaking Caribbean nation.

The document was signed by Cuban Health Minister Ramon Balaguer and Antigua Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, who was on an official visit to the country at the invitation of President Raul Castro last month.

Balaguer told the Cuban News Agency (ACN) that Spencer was particularly inter-

ested in the Cuban experience in the treatment of diabetes, a disease that is significantly affecting the people of the twin-island federation.

The prime minister also expressed his interest in increasing cooperation in the training of Antiguan nursing personnel in Havana.

Operation Miracle, a program that began in 2004, has already benefited more than 1.1 million people from 32 countries, mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean. Patients from Antigua and Barbuda entered the program on July 22, 2005.

Finding ways to stop smoking

DR. HARVEY B. SIMON

Question: I know I should quit smoking. I'm 27 years old and just started three years ago. I always believed I could quit any time I wanted. Now, almost four months have gone by since I made my New Year's resolution to give it up for good. But I am still smoking a pack per day. What can I do?

Answer: In addition to nicotine replacement you can buy without a prescription, your doctor has additional tools to help you quit.

Two forms of nicotine replacement require a prescription.

Nicotine inhalers (Nicotrol Inhaler) - Each cartridge delivers a "puff" of vapor containing four mg of nicotine through a plastic holder. The holder may help satisfy a smoker's oral urge. The average dose is six to 16 cartridges a day for up to 12 weeks, followed by a gradual reduction in dose over the next 12 weeks.

Most of the nicotine is absorbed through the mouth, not the lungs. Side effects may include mouth or throat irritation and cough.

Nicotine nasal spray (Nicotrol NS) - Each spray delivers 0.5 mg of nicotine. Use one spray in each nostril when you feel the urge to smoke, up to a maximum of 10 sprays an hour or 80 a day for three months. Side effects may



include nasal irritation, sneezing, tearing, and cough.

DRUGS

Many smokers need more than just nicotine replacement and behavioral therapy to stop smoking. Two of the drugs prescribed most often are bupropion (Wellbutrin, Zyban) and varenicline (Chantix).

Bupropion (Wellbutrin) - This antidepressant was approved for smoking cessation under the name Zyban. It doesn't contain nicotine and can be used in combination with nicotine replacement therapy. Start taking bupropion one to two weeks before your quit date. The dose for the first three days is 150 mg once a day, then 150 mg twice a day for the next eight to 12 weeks - or longer if needed. Bupropion may help prevent weight gain after quitting. Side effects may include dry mouth and insomnia; seizures are very rare.

Varenicline (Chantix) - This is the newest drug approved for smoking cessation. Although experience is

still limited, it appears to be the most effective quit-smoking drug. It blocks nicotine receptors in the brain while also partially stimulating these receptors to reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms. The usual dose is 0.5 mg once a day for the first three days, then 0.5 mg twice a day for four days, followed by the full dose of one mg a day for 12 weeks or longer. The dose should be lowered in patients with severe kidney disease. Nausea is common and bad dreams may occur. Contact your doctor if you experience behavior or mood changes.

Smoking is the top threat to public health. So if you smoke, quitting should be your top priority.

Over 45 million Americans have quit smoking and you can, too.

Dr. Harvey B. Simon is an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a member of the Health Sciences Technology Faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For additional consumer health information, please visit www.health.harvard.edu.

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Windies stumble late, lose cricket Test to Australia

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica – A disappointing batting display by the West Indies on the final day of a captivating match handed Australia an impressive victory to open the three-Test cricket series between the two long-time rivals in the Caribbean which began late last month.

Asked to make 287 runs to win with one full session and the entire fifth day in glorious weather the home side, enthusiastic and competitive throughout the first four days, crumbled to 191 all out to lose by 95.

Only Denesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy, Devon Smith and Daren Powell offered any second innings resistance, and what was headed for a cliff-hanger finish fizzled into a huge anti-climax, although the players appeared satisfied with the spirit of the contest.

"I think anyone who played in this game certainly enjoyed the atmosphere," Australian captain Ricky Ponting said.

The match was filled with pulsating intrigue from the first day. Australia, the top team in the world, won the toss and elected to bat at bright, warm Sabina Park here, but in front of a disappointing crowd considering the traditional rivalry and the recent improvement shown by the eight-ranked West Indies.

'TIGER'S' TURN

The visitors got off to a wobbly start at 37 runs for two wickets on an uneven pitch, but then asserted themselves to take control. Ponting top scored with a century, while pace bowler Fidel Edwards grabbed five wickets, as Australia finished at 431 all out on the second day. The West Indies started its response solidly. Openers

Brenton Parchment and Smith added 47. Runako Morton chipped in with 67 and Dwayne Bravo 46. But it was senior batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul who once again proved to be the backbone of the West Indies batting. The little Guyanese they call "Tiger" ticked off his 18th Test century to lead his team's fight back. Chanderpaul, despite suffering a crashing blow to the head that numbed his body after he ducked into a short ball from pacer Brett Lee, scored 118 runs to push the home team to 312 all out.



Chanderpaul's heroics could not save the Windies against Australia.

The West Indies began its second stint in the field brilliantly. The mighty Australians were buckled by the Edwards-Powell one-two late evening punch and ended with 17 for four, 136 runs ahead with six wickets standing. The crowd, sensing a home team fight-back, broke into song - "Rally 'Round The West Indies" - as the match swung towards an exciting climax.

"It has been an eventful day," West Indies coach John Dyson said after day three.

PRESSURE MOUNTS

The Caribbean team piled on more pressure, Powell taking an early wicket to leave Australia at 18 for 5, its lowest

start in decades, barely 10 minutes into day four. But the visitors gradually pulled themselves back into the contest and finished their second innings at 167 all out. But after putting just 22 on the board, Parchment edged man-of-the-match Stuart Clark to the wicketkeeper to add to the mounting drama. When bad light forced the players off at 46 for one on day four, the West Indies still needed 241 to win with nine wickets standing. Bravo, who took four wickets in Australia's second innings, sounded positive his team could pull it off.

"We are in a position of strength," he said.

Yet a dramatic start to the final day sent the West Indies spiraling towards defeat. The home team lost five wickets before lunch and stumbled to 82 for 6. Late resistance by Sammy, Ramdin and Powell brought respectability to the total, but a golden chance to lead the Test series had already slipped away.

Final scores: Australia 431 (Ricky Ponting 158, Andrew Symonds 70 not out; Fidel Edwards five wickets for 104 runs) and 167 (Symonds 79; Dwayne Bravo four for 47, Edwards three for 40). West Indies 312 (Shivnarine Chanderpaul 118; Brett Lee three for 63, Stuart Clark three for 59) and 191 (Ramdin 36, Sammy 35, Devon Smith 28 and Daren Powell 27; Clark five for 32).

REMAINING SCHEDULE BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS:

Second Test – May 30-June 3, Antigua; Third Test – June 12-16, Barbados; plus one 20/20 on June 20; and five one-day internationals – June 24, St. Vincent; June 27 and 29, Grenada; and July 4 and 6 in St. Kitts.



Team of ex-Windies stars wins 20/20 cricket tourney in Florida

LAUDERHILL, Florida - A West Indies All-Stars team, comprising several former Test players, marched to a 37-run victory over Canada All-Stars to win the MAQ Twenty20 championship last month.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat first, the West Indies scored 128 runs in their allotted 20 overs, and Canada could only reach 91 all out in 18.5 overs when they replied at Central Broward Regional Park here.

The Windies All-Stars included Richie Richardson, a

former West Indies captain, Philo Wallace, Franklyn Rose, Stuart Williams and Courtney Browne.

About 600 fans attended the championship match, many cheering for the Caribbean team that was a crowd favorite all Memorial weekend.

The West Indies All Stars won all three matches in the weekend tournament, which also included a World XI and Pakistan All Stars teams.

"It's exciting," said Richardson, the West Indies All-Stars captain.

"Even though I've been retired from the international game for a long time, I feel a little bit of buzz," added the 46-year-old, who captained West Indies from 1991 to 1996.

In the West Indies total, Browne top-scored with 48, while Stuart Williams (13), Philo Wallace (13) and Richardson (11) also got to double figures.

Geoff Barnett (28) and Sanjay Thuraisingham (25) were Canada's chief scorers in their failed run chase.



Caribbean-born runner matches strides with American grid star

GORDON WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania – It's clear, Aaron Ross is drawn to speed. From pee wee league, through high school, college and even now in his job, as a professional American football player, Ross is about matching strides with the game's fastest.

But successfully chasing Jamaican-born track star Sanya Richards, for what eventually should be her hand in marriage, was a different ballgame than scurrying after wide receivers. Ross was simply unaware of what he was getting into when he first saw Richards at a track meet in his home state of Texas a few years ago.

"To tell you the truth I didn't know she was a Jamaican until later on in our relationship," said the rookie defensive back for the Super Bowl champions New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) recently at the Penn Relays, which he attended here to be with his fiancée as she competed for the United States.

Now that he does, he has some catching up to do and Ross, even his ladylove agrees, is not doing badly so far. The Texan and the Jamaican appears a game-winning combo.

"She's been a joy in my life ever since I met her," Ross said of Richards, "so it's been great."

CARIBBEAN ROOTS

An early encounter with her parents enlightened him about Richards's Caribbean background.

"I had a chance to meet her father (former Jamaican soccer player Archie Richards) and I heard his accent; her mother's and all that," he said.

Now he's learning to work himself into the Jamaican culture. A key approach, Ross explained, is simply listening and absorbing the nuances. But his best strategy to integrate, he said, is to lean on his own upbringing, where courtesy always worked.

"Just a smile," he said, as both he and Sanya burst out laughing. "I'm a Texas gentleman."

The two met as students at the University of Texas where Richards ran track for the Longhorns and Ross played football. Ross was a productive first round draft pick of the Giants in 2007 and is set to earn millions of dollars as a pro. Richards has already bagged huge sums on

the international track circuit. They are both financially secure and may get married in 2010.

With Richards as his side, Ross said he is getting comfortable with the Jamaican culture. Sanya's family has made his assimilation smooth as well. And all he has to do is, well, show up.

"Just being myself," he said, explaining his game plan. "I'm around them all the time, with the family. So everything is good."

That carries some benefits. Ross now claims to love Jamaica's reggae music. Crooner Beres Hammond is his favorite. But mealtime at the Richards home has some perks too.

"I'm loving the food," he said.

FORTUNE

Sanya is happy too. "I feel very fortunate," said the 23-year-old Richards, who moved from Jamaica at age 12 and chose to run for the U.S. "because they've given me so much."

Despite struggling last season, where she was slowed by illness and failed to make the U.S. team to the 2007 World Championships (W.C.) in her pet event the 400 meters, Richards still considers the past year a success. She earned a gold medal in the W.C. 4x400 meters relay and in February attended the Super Bowl to root for her man and share his triumph.

"My fiancé had the best year of his life," she said. "...So I feel definitely fortunate. I'm very happy and my personal life has gone great."

Yet when she was at her lowest point, Ross stepped up. It was a time for him to slow to Sanya's pace and be supportive.

"Absolutely. I mean, it was exciting to come off my season and come straight into his and see him," she said of 2007/2008. "As soon as I got back to the States he became the starting cornerback and then it was just success, success. So it was good and it definitely kept me in good spirits."

She is eyeing a 400-meters gold medal at this summer's Olympic Games in China. But Ross's NFL commitments could prevent him from attending. It shouldn't matter much. There will be time for him to catch up. After all, he can't let her get away.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



SPORT

www.caribbeantoday.com

T&T star joins Miami professional soccer club

GORDON WILLIAMS

MIAMI, Florida - Miami F.C. has expanded its core of Caribbean players, adding Trinidad and Tobago World Cup defender Avery John to its United Soccer Leagues (USL) roster.

John, a key member of the "Soca Warriors" who made an historic appearance at the game's showpiece event in 2006 in Germany, joined Jamaican attackers Sean Fraser and Sean Barrett, and Haitian defender Stephane Guillaume at the USL club last month.

The 32-year-old signed with the South Florida-based team last month after failing to agree to contract terms with his former club New England Revolution of higher rated Major League Soccer. He played for the Revolution from 2004-2007, appearing in the MLS finals.

However, John told **Caribbean Today** that the drop in professional level would not dampen his enthusiasm for the game nor his bid to return to the "Soca Warriors" squad in time for the World Cup 2010 qualifiers, which begin this month.

"It doesn't affect much," said the man who has represented T&T more than 50 times.

"At the end of the day, wherever you are playing, it could be the MLS, it could be the USL - it could be the English first, second, third division, it could be somewhere else in the world - once

you are competing, once you are fit and once you're doing what is needed to be on the national team and competing



John

week in week out, you should earn a (national) call."

IMPACT

John's presence appeared to make an almost immediate impact with Miami F.C., which had struggled early this season under new coach Zinho, who was a member of Brazil's winning 1994 World Cup team and up to last season played for the USL club. Although Miami F.C. lost its first game with John, the team rebounded to record two consecutive shutouts with him at central defense - its first of the season - in a win and a draw later in May.

John is refusing to rest on the laurels of his World Cup success, where he played against Sweden in a surprising draw with the European powerhouse team, missed out in a

loss to England due to suspension, and returned against Paraguay, another T&T loss. Both coach and player

have put a positive spin on John's arrival at Miami F.C.

"He has experience and he has leadership," Zinho described John's attributes to **Caribbean Today**. "He has the World Cup experience and so he knows how things should be done at the back."

John, meanwhile, said he is still cognizant of the fact that he is also representing the region, no matter what level he is playing.

"Always, everytime I step on the pitch anywhere I go, I know I represent Trinidad, I represent the Caribbean," he said.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Caribbean legends for U.S. Cricket Hall of Fame

NELSON KING

HARTFORD, Connecticut - Former star West Indies opening batsmen Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes will be inducted into the United States Cricket Hall of Fame, organizers say.

The Hartford, Connecticut-based U.S. Cricket Hall of Fame said last month the Caribbean legends will be bestowed the honor on Sept. 20 at the Marriott Hotel, downtown Hartford.

The other nominees are Florida cricket administrator, Barbadian Jeff Miller, co-founder of

Lucas Sports Club in New York Jamaican Mascelles Bailey, and Guyanese Mohamed Baksh, a member of the West Indies Cricket

Umpires' Training and Examination Committee.

Greenidge, one half of the West Indies' prolific opening partnership with Haynes, began his career in 1974 against India and continued to play international cricket until 1991. He played in 108 Test

matches and scored 7,558 runs with 19 centuries.

Fellow Barbadian Haynes was Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1991. Haynes formed a formidable partnership with Greenidge, "which was integral to the success of the West Indies team in the 1980s", the statement said. Haynes compiled a 7,487 runs in 116 Test matches at an average of 42.29.

The organizers said Miller, who began his cricket career as a youngster in his native Barbados, established himself in the U.S. both as a player and an admin-

istrator. Bailey was co-founder of The Bankers Athletic Cricket League in New York in 1971. Baksh, from an early age, was involved with sports at various levels, serving on a number of community organizations and regional cricket boards. For a number of years, he was a member of the West Indies Cricket Umpires' Training Examination Committee.



Greenidge



Haynes

Miami celebrates Caribbean culture at Little Haiti Soccer Park

MIAMI - The City of Miami last month celebrated the grand opening of the Little Haiti Soccer Park.

The South Florida park was also renamed after the late Emmanuel "Manno" Sanon, one of Haiti's most celebrated soccer players, during the event.

To kick off the celebration, Miami City Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones joined Mayor Manny Diaz and other elected officials from the City of Miami, Miami Dade County, North Miami, North Miami Beach and members of the Little Haiti community in a day-long event. The celebration included the Toussaint L'Ouverture Parade, three soccer matches that included local Haitian teams and L'Athletique D' Haiti (from Haiti) and a Haitian festival with Caribbean music and live bands.

VISION

Spence-Jones said the late Commissioner Arthur E. Teele first introduced the idea



- Photograph by J. Perez, Office of Communications, City of Miami.

Soccer matches highlighted the opening of the new park in Little Haiti.

for a "first-class full/service-park" park in Little Haiti five or six years ago.

"His vision included a facility that exemplifies and captures the Haitian culture, rich with the colors of the Caribbean," she said. "The recreational and cultural components of the park will provide the Little Haiti, Edison, Little River, Buena Vista, and Lemon City residents with a park that they can truly call their own."

The Little Haiti Soccer Park and Cultural Complex is the first state-of-the-art-facility in the Little Haiti/Lemon City area. The soccer park includes both a practice field and a playing field, covered seating for 580 people, a tot lot with a jungle gym under a canopy, and a children's water splash park.

Commissioner Spence-Jones's vision is to eventually create a soccer exchange program between the City of Miami and L'Athletique D' Haiti.

"What we want to bring to the park is a cultural exchange program where kids from Little Haiti and Haiti can interact and communicate with each other," she said.

To ensure that the new park incorporates the Haitian/Caribbean culture, the City of Miami has created committees that will provide input on the cultural and recreational components of the park and the cultural complex. In addition, the office Spence-Jones has created partnerships with the city of Jacmel and Port-au-Prince Haiti.

The Little Haiti Soccer Park and Cultural Complex is funded by both the City of Miami and Miami Dade County. The total project cost approximately \$36.9 million, of which the City of Miami contributed \$29.6 million and Miami Dade County contributed \$7.3 million.



Jamaican politician renounces U.S. citizenship

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The way is now clear for embattled Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) candidate Daryl Vaz, to seek re-election as the Member of Parliament for the West Portland constituency.

Vaz announced last month that he had officially renounced his American citizenship, allaying concerns about his eligibility for the by-election in the West Portland constituency which was ordered by court in April.

Chief Justice Zaila McCalla made the ruling after the Opposition People's



Dabdoub, left, Vaz

National Party (PNP) candidate Abe Dabdoub challenged Vaz's election on the grounds of his dual citizenship.

Vaz's renunciation of his American citizenship is the most recent development in

the dual citizenship row here. Last month, Director of Elections Danville Walker resigned with immediate effect after it was disclosed that he too held dual citizenship.

Vaz said that he supported Walker's decision to resign and also called on Members of Parliament across the political divide to declare their loyalties.

Dabdoub has said he would take the issue to the Privy Council if he was not named the M.P. for West Portland.



...JLP candidate follows opponent, files appeal

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Less than 24 hours after the Opposition People's National Party's (PNP) Abe Dabdoub filed an appeal to be declared the Member of Parliament for the West Portland constituency, the sitting M.P. Daryl Vaz appealed a judge's decision that disqualified him from holding the seat.

In documents filed in court on May 15 the Jamaica Labour Party's (JLP) Vaz said Chief Justice Zaila McCalla was wrong in ruling that he was not qualified to sit as M.P.

because he holds a United States passport.

Vaz also intends to challenge the ruling that he was not duly nominated in August last year, just ahead of the Sept. 3, 2007 general elections.

"Mr. Dabdoub filed an appeal...so as a result I have had to file an appeal...so that in the worse case scenario I will be able to stay in Parliament during the life of the appeal," Vaz explained.

"But I am hoping that we will be successful in arguing against any stay being granted

which means it would clear the way for a by-election. If that is done then obviously there would be no need for me to pursue the appeal," he added.

In April, Chief Justice McCalla ruled that Vaz should be disqualified from sitting in Parliament because he holds dual citizenship. But instead of turning over the seat to Dabdoub she ordered a by-election, prompting the PNP candidate to file his appeal.



Haitian Parliament rejects nominee for prime minister

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - One month after the Senate dismissed Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis, lawmakers in Haiti have rejected President René Prével's latest nominee for the post.

The Lower House of Parliament last month voted by a margin of 51-35, with nine abstentions, to reject economist Ericq Pierre as Alexis's replacement.

"We didn't really believe in the plan that he had for the people of this country," Levaillant Louis Jeune, a leading Opposition legislator told reporters.

Pierre, 63, a senior official with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), had been nominated by President Prével to replace Alexis who was dismissed on April 12 over criticism that his government failed to show

leadership and mismanaged the economy before violent food protests that left seven people dead.

CONFIDENCE

Prével will have to nominate another candidate, who must win a vote of confidence in the two houses of Parliament and Stephen



Pierre

Benoit, a member of Prével's Lespwa party, said Haitians must unite behind the next nominee.

"We need to have a new prime minister in office soon," he said.

Prével nominated Pierre for the same position in 1997, but he was rejected after promising to push a United States-backed economic plan that would have resulted in thousands of government workers being laid off and privatized state-run enterprises.



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Economic situation on Jamaica diaspora conference agenda

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Jamaica government has said that the economic situation in the country would be among agenda items to be discussed at the third Biennial Diaspora Conference to be held here this month.

A government statement said Prime Minister Bruce Golding would discuss the country's economy and related development initiatives at the June 16-17 event.

The statement added that the role of Jamaicans in the diaspora would also be discussed at the two-day meeting that is expected to be attended by more than 700 nationals from the diaspora, including a high-level delegation from the United States.

Junior Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Ronald Robinson said the conference would be held under the theme "A Borderless Partnership for Development". He said the

theme underscores the "concentrated efforts of many Jamaicans on the island who seek to build stronger relationships with Jamaicans in the diaspora to achieve greater economic development".

Robinson said that the conference, organized by the Jamaica Diaspora Foundation (JDF), "will bring all the diaspora representatives together in one place, where the prime minister and ministers of government can articulate to them the policies and direction of the new administration.

"We are looking to have a conference this year with a big, big difference," he added.

CORE AREAS

The government statement said that experts and government officials would discuss five core areas of development, including economic growth and investment, education and culture, crime

and justice, the church role and faith based organizations in development and youth and leadership.

Robinson said the Golding administration is seeking to bring more young people into the diaspora movement and to encourage them to assume leadership roles to ensure continuity.

"For the first time this year's conference will have a delegation of youngsters coming with the members of the diaspora and we will have a special session where that is concerned," he said.

"We will be engaging these individuals not just as a new administration, but also in terms of building on what was there before. This means that the conference will be looking to actualize a lot of the ideas and thoughts and so this conference for us is a very important one."



China provides \$1M grant to aid Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - China has donated \$1 million to Grenada that will help the government follow through on a promise of back pay for civil servants as well as carry out a number of development projects.

The grant, according to Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and China's Ambassador to Grenada Zhang Wanhai, who signed the agreement, was in keeping with the memorandum of understanding

signed between the two countries at the resumption of diplomatic relations three years ago.

"It's clearly written in the memorandum of understanding that this sum is to be given annually until the year 2009," Mitchell said.

SUPPORT

He explained that the money would be used for, among other things, budgetary support and payment of retroactive salaries to public

servants in June as provided for in the recently signed collective agreements with the Grenada Public Workers Union and the Grenada Technical and Allied Workers' Union.

"In this period every bit of grant is important to us because it is money we don't have to pay back and I assure that it will be put into productive use," the prime minister said.



Caribbean ready to sign EPA in July

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Commission (EC) and the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) is to be signed next month, according

to a statement issued by the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretariat.

It said that the EPA had been discussed at the special meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in Antigua last month and that

trade and industry ministers had considered possible dates for signing and the provisional application of the agreement and reported they were in consultations with the EC on the subject.



Bahamas's budget offers relief

NASSAU, The Bahamas, CMC - Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has delivered what he described as a balanced budget to "cushion the harshness of the impact of international turbulence" on citizens.

In tabling the \$1.8 billion fiscal package in Parliament late last month, Ingraham said his government "carefully determined the size and components of the fiscal program which will touch every family with significant financial relief.

"At the same time we will not under any circumstances compromise the sound fiscal status of our economy which we have worked so hard to maintain through several terms in government," he said.



Ingraham

Electricity Corporation's (BEC) fuel imports to address the rising utility surcharge.

Ingraham admitted that some of these measures will result in revenue losses for the government, but said they will provide some much-needed relief for consumers and homeowners.

LION'S SHARE

With respect to the allocation of budgetary funds, the ministries of Tourism and Aviation, National Security and Education received the biggest shares.

"Once again education receives the greatest call on the government's resources. This ought to be no surprise as we believe that the education of our children is the

"Once again education receives the greatest call on the government's resources"

- Ingraham

LESS TAXES

The budget, which primarily focused on providing relief for low income families who are mostly impacted by the rising cost of living, included the elimination of several taxes on food items and suspension of taxes on fuel imports.

"Having reduced the stamp tax on food items from four per cent to two per cent during our last stint in office we are now moving to eliminate the two per cent stamp tax on some 160 food items," the prime minister said.

The measure will result in the elimination of import duties on a number of citrus fruits, frozen vegetables, cereals, oatmeal, and breads.

With regards to the rising cost of fuel, the prime minister announced that his government will grant a two-year suspension of customs and stamp duties on the Bahamas

most critical investment that we can make in the future of our nation," Ingraham said.

"The education, youth, sports and culture services receive a total of \$312 million or 20 percent of total recurrent expenditure."

He also announced salary increases for civil servants, with every public officer expected to get a \$750 hike and each teacher in the country's public schools being promised a \$1,250 pay rise.

Despite the global uncertainties, Prime Minister Ingraham has projected that the economy will grow 2.8 percent this year, a drop from the 4.8 percent growth recorded in 2006. However, he said, the anticipated growth was "commendably strong in the context of the developing international economic downturn."



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