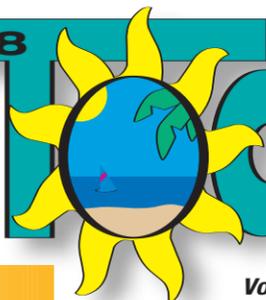


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Vol. 19 No. 10

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



In a rare ruling, a United States immigration judge has decided against deporting a Caribbean-born lesbian on the grounds that she might be tortured in her native country because of her sexual orientation, page 3.



On Sept. 20, Portia Simpson Miller, left, and Dr. Peter Phillips will again square off to see who leads Jamaica's Opposition PNP in an election some believe could divide the political party, page 7.



Brent Sancho was a star with T&T's "Soca Warriors" squad, which made it to soccer's 2006 World Cup finals. After stints in Europe, he's back in the United States trying to jump-start his career with the Atlanta Silverbacks, page 22.



GOLDEN GAMES

~ Jamaica's Usain Bolt was brilliant at last month's Olympic Games in China earning three gold medals and setting three world records. The Caribbean had other success stories too, like gold medal winners, from left, Shelly-Ann Fraser, Dayron Robles, Veronica Campbell-Brown and Melaine Walker. Story on page 12.

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INSIDE

News	2	Viewpoint	9	Arts/Entertainment	15	Sport	22
Local/FYI	6	Environment	11	Food	17		
Feature	7	Olympic Wrap-up	12	Health	18		
Spotlight on Belize	8	Business	14	Region	20		



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Caribbean nationals to sue N.Y. cops for alleged abuse

NEW YORK – Two Caribbean nationals here say they plan to file legal action against the City of New York and the New York Police Department (NYPD) for alleged abuse and false arrest.

Guyanese Clive Fraser, 27, and his Trinidadian friend Jeremy Phillip, 26, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** last month that they have hired a lawyer and will sue for unspecified damages.

"I'm totally upset about it," Fraser said. "I feel that my rights were definitely violated. I'm definitely taking legal action."

"The NYPD don't have any respect for a black man," Fraser continued.

Both men said they were "unjustly and unlawfully" arrested in July by narcotic officers attached to the Brooklyn South Task Force as they witnessed and video-taped, using a cell phone, three white officers and one Hispanic officer "dragging and beating" two unidentified young black men at a store near Utica Avenue in Brooklyn.

I.D. PROOF

They said when the officers realized that they were being video-recorded, they demanded the cell phone and asked them to provide proof of "U.S. citizenship." The

Caribbean men said when they refused to turn over the cell phone, they were both arrested.

Fraser said he sustained injuries, as officers drove him around Brooklyn in an unmarked van, without air condition, for over three hours in further punishing him. He said just before he was to appear before a judge the next day, July 18, he was inexplicably released.

Phillip said he was also released after the officers searched him and confiscated the cell phone.

"We caught them beating some guys on the floor," he said. "They knew they were doing something wrong. I told them, 'You just beat two guys for no reason.'"

Up to press time the police had not commented on the incident.

ABUSE

Meanwhile, the Brooklyn-based, community activist group, Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) has condemned the police's action.

"It is clear from the video tape and from what transpired, thereafter, that the two broke no laws and should never have been arrested," said Guyanese Rickford Burke, CGID president, who

is also a lawyer.

"Their arrest was purely an abuse of police powers – revenge for being caught on tape committing possible abuses," he added.

"How can we ask these youngsters to respect and cooperate with the police, when the police conduct in the community is beyond repugnant?"

In addition, Burke said it is "abhorrent and unlawful" for NYPD officers to ask young black men in New York City to provide identification to prove that they are U.S. citizens. He said these "biased questions" cannot be asked in other communities because they "violate New York City statutes."

The CGID has called on New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly to "review this practice, as such complaints persist."

"Some officers use this tactic to intimidate immigrants," Burke said. "However, it is a manifestation of prejudice and unlawful conduct for which they should be disciplined."

The institute has also called for an internal investigation of the incident involving Phillip and Fraser and for more sensitivity training within the NYPD.



Inflation poses challenge for Suriname ~ IMF

WASHINGTON – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says inflation has become a "growing" challenge in Suriname.

The Washington-based financial institution said while substantial increases in world food and fuel prices have clearly contributed to inflation, domestic demand growth has also played a role "spurred by the substantial improvement in Suriname's terms of trade and an expansionary macroeconomic policy stance".

"In particular, given the de facto exchange rate peg, external inflows are fuelling rapid money and credit growth, and the envisaged fiscal loosening in 2008 will add further stimulus", it stated.

The IMF has since called on the Suriname government to tighten its macroeconomic policies, recommending also the issuance of treasury or central bank bills or raising reserve requirements to bring credit growth to "more sustainable levels".

The IMF said that a "significantly tighter fiscal stance"

is needed this year to help rein in domestic demand growth.

ADVANTAGE

The financial institution added that it regards the exchange rate stability as advantageous for Suriname at this stage and said that as policies strengthen and institutions develop over time, greater exchange rate flexibility would be appropriate, enabling the economy to better weather adverse shocks.

"Setting a more prudent debt ceiling and an appropriate target for the non-mineral fiscal balance would help ensure that fiscal policy avoids pro-cyclicality and remains sustainable over the long run", the IMF noted.

It recommended strengthening the monitoring of public enterprise operations to lower fiscal risks and broadening the coverage of public debt statistics to include debt that is not contracted or guaranteed by the central government.



U.S. focuses on literacy, curbing HIV/AIDS in Haiti

WASHINGTON – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) says increasing literacy and curbing HIV/AIDS will form the major part of its new three-year, multi-million dollar effort to help stabilize Haiti.

USAID said the Haiti Basic Education Project, a \$19 million investment, will target public and private primary schools, as well as youths who are no longer in school.

"In Haiti, 50 percent of children and adolescents have never attended or didn't complete primary school and can't read, which means there is little chance they can escape the intergenerational cycle of poverty," said Rebecca Adams, manager of USAID's worldwide education and health program.

"It's not something you remedy overnight," she added.

Adams said through this program, youths who are out of school will be offered accelerated learning at community centers, and HIV/AIDS pre-

vention will be added to the curriculum.

EARLY START

She said the program will primarily focus on reading, mathematics, decision-making and problem-solving courses for grades one through nine.

Adams said the program would also provide books and supplies and would reach

beyond public schools "because most of Haiti's primary education is private or church-sponsored.

"Bringing educational services to troubled areas is intended to keep youths away from crime, draw parents into the community and improve schools," she said.

"While the plan increases literacy, it also perfects admin-

istrative skills and training for teachers and school inspectors, so education officials can better manage schools and resources."

Adams said the American Institutes for Research, a Washington-based behavioral and social science organization, along with Catholic Relief Services and The Mitchell Group, a company

that provides guidance to developing countries, are contracted to carry out the program.

USAID said a database would track student progress and document the licensing of non-public schools and teacher certification.



St. Vincent includes diaspora in economic consultations

NEW YORK – The Ralph Gonsalves administration in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has planned a series of consultations with nationals in the diaspora as part of what it says are preparations for a National Economic and Social Development Plan for the country.

A government delegation, headed Deputy Director of Planning Decima Corea visited the United States last month after conducting consultations in the United Kingdom.

The team held public fora in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

and conducted similar meetings in New York and Washington.

The economic and social development plan covers the period 2008 to 2025.

"This involves the process of developing a shared vision for the country's future and deciding upon the major steps to be undertaken in order to move the country in that direction," acting New York Consul General Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas told the Caribbean Media Corporation last month.

"The plan will incorporate all dimensions of the develop-

ment paradigm – economic, social, environmental, political, cultural and institutional – into an integrated, multi-sectoral policy agenda that promotes sustainable and balanced growth and development."

INCLUSION

Thomas said the methodology for formulating the plan is centered on "inclusion and widespread participation."

Thomas said public consultations were held throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines during 2007. He said the primary objective of

the consultations in the diaspora is to provide all Vincentians with an opportunity to "articulate their vision for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2025, critically assess the country as it is now, and identify issues that need to be addressed."

In addition, the acting consul general said the consultations seek to "identify, discuss and recommend the strategies and activities that will be needed, to be undertaken, to realize the vision."



Judge decides not to deport Jamaican lesbian from U.S.

MIAMI – In a rare ruling, a United States immigration judge has decided against deporting a Jamaican-born lesbian on the grounds that she might be tortured in her native country because of her sexual orientation.

Judge Irma Lopez-Defillo had initially ordered that the unidentified woman, 29, be deported because of drug convictions, but she deferred the order last month, basing her decision on what she described as a “climate of intolerance” in Jamaica.

“The general atmosphere in Jamaica is a feeling of no tolerance towards homosexuals in general and, as such, the respondent’s life is definitely at risk,” Lopez-Defillo ruled.

The judge ordered the woman to return to court in three months.

United States Department

Cruise ship rescues Haitians off Cuba’s coast

MIAMI - The Miami-based Carnival Cruise Line says one of its larger ships rescued 44 Haitians from a sinking motorboat off the coast of Cuba late last month.

The company said that the Carnival Liberty was off the northeast coast of the island when the crew on the bridge spotted the boat. Tim Gallagher, a spokesman for the company, said the Liberty crew notified the United States Coast Guard, and then sent a rescue vessel to the sinking boat to rescue the Haitians.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Nick Ameen said the Haitians were floating on a 27-foot boat, and that the motors had fallen off and the vessel was taking in water. Ameen said one of the Haitian migrants, an unidentified woman in her mid-30s, collapsed and died soon after she was rescued. The cause of death is not known.

He said that the Haitians also reported that before their rescue, six migrants had died and were buried at sea.

“Originally, there were 50 people on that boat; 43 returned to Haiti. This just shows what happens when you go out to sea unprepared. It’s dangerous out there,” Ameen said.

of Homeland Security officials said they still have the authority to send the woman to a country other than Jamaica.

‘OSTRACIZED’

She was released from a detention center in Puerto Rico earlier this year and is now living with her parents in Florida. Her 33-year-old brother testified in court that she would be ostracized if sent back to Jamaica.

“Nobody would accept her. I don’t know where (she)

would live or what she would do. It’s not a good move for her to go back to Jamaica. I’m strongly against that move,” he said.

In 2006, the Jamaican was convicted on a cocaine delivery charge after pleading no

contest. Shortly afterwards, she was convicted in a Broward County Court in Florida for possession of cocaine, cannabis, and other drugs.



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Jamaican-born Rogers scores historic win in Florida House race

Hazelle Rogers became the first Caribbean American woman to represent Broward County in the Legislature following her victory in District 94 of the Florida House of Representatives last month.

Rogers defeated five other candidates, including fellow Jamaican American Eric Hammond, in a Democratic primary to earn the seat in the Aug. 26 elections.

Since there are no non-Democratic opponents, Rogers will go directly to the House.

"Her victory is her reward for her work," Rogers's media adviser Glenn Joseph was quoted as saying in a local Florida newspaper.

"It validates the opinion of what the voters think of



Rogers

her. She has committed her life to service and this is her crowning moment."

'HEAVY HITTERS'

The same newspaper quoted Hammond, who in the past used Rogers as his own campaign manager, as saying:

"We were up against some heavy hitters."

In the House Rogers, the former Lauderdale Lakes city commissioner, will represent the South Florida cities of Lauderdale Lakes, Plantation, Margate, Lauderhill and Sunrise.

District 94 was vacated by Matt Meadows due to term limits. Meadows endorsed Rogers's campaign.

Rogers tallied just under 40 percent of the 9,627 votes cast. She finished way ahead of Hammond, who had made two other bids for the seat in 2002 and 2004 against Meadows. He captured 2,606 votes or 27 percent.

Ken Thurston finished with 2,123 (22.1 percent). Robert L. Lynch, Roshawn

Banks and Rubin Young were the other candidates.

The race between Rogers and Hammond featured less-than-expected pleasantries between two Caribbean American candidates. Reports circulated that Hammond believed Rogers used backstabbing methods to gain support, especially in communities known for their large Caribbean immigrant populations. Rogers's camp denied those accusations.

MOMENTUM

Yet it was clear that Rogers had started to build early momentum during the campaign. A late July debate between the candidates left political observers impressed by her position on issues,

especially health insurance, education housing.

Rogers, a city commissioner since 1996, has worked on several local boards, including the Broward League of Cities, the Broward County Management and Efficiency Study Commission and the Broward County Charter Review Committee.

In 2006 **Success Magazine of Florida** named her one of the 25 most influential women that year. Rogers, who was born in Kingston, migrated to the United States in 1969. She attended school in New York and Florida and has been married to her husband Clifton for 34 years. She is a realtor and mortgage broker by profession.



DOLLS FOR DOWNTRODDEN



Maria Costa Delmont uses her sewing machine to make dolls to be distributed to needy orphans in Haiti. She is among several seniors at the Springtree Assisted Living Community in Sunrise, Florida who have been making "Dolls for World Peace". Some 750 handmade dolls are scheduled to be shipped and distributed by Food For The Poor.



You and your child are cordially invited to the annual
Ransom Everglades Middle School
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Our Fall Open House is for those candidates interested in grades 6-8.

Thursday, October 16 at 3:30pm

Ransom Everglades Upper School Campus
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Global situation could damage Barbados's economy ~ IMF

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that weaker global demand could affect the Barbados economy, primarily through its vital tourism sector.

The Washington-based financial institution said that this could take place at a time when inflation has been pushed up by rising food and fuel prices.

With the exchange rate pegged to the United States dollar and fiscal space constrained by high public debt, the IMF stressed the importance of addressing these challenges through a "coordinated policy response".

It said that it saw "the main task for fiscal policy in identifying savings to finance targeted support to the most vulnerable groups, while containing risks to medium-term sustainability".

The IMF welcomed the



Thompson

recently revised budget, which combines a reduction in the central government deficit with "well-identified revenue measures" to finance additional social and other priority spending and encouraged the government to make additional efforts to generate a modest overall public sector surplus over the medium term, to reverse unfavorable debt dynamics and put public debt on a "firmly declining trajectory".

As fiscal savings could take time to materialize, the

IMF urged the David Thompson administration to identify specific revenue and expenditure measures early on, at the same time welcoming the recent adoption of an automatic fuel price adjustment mechanism as "an important step in this direction".

The IMF said a reduction in interest rates may become necessary should a more severe slowdown in economic activity be accompanied by easing of inflationary pressures.

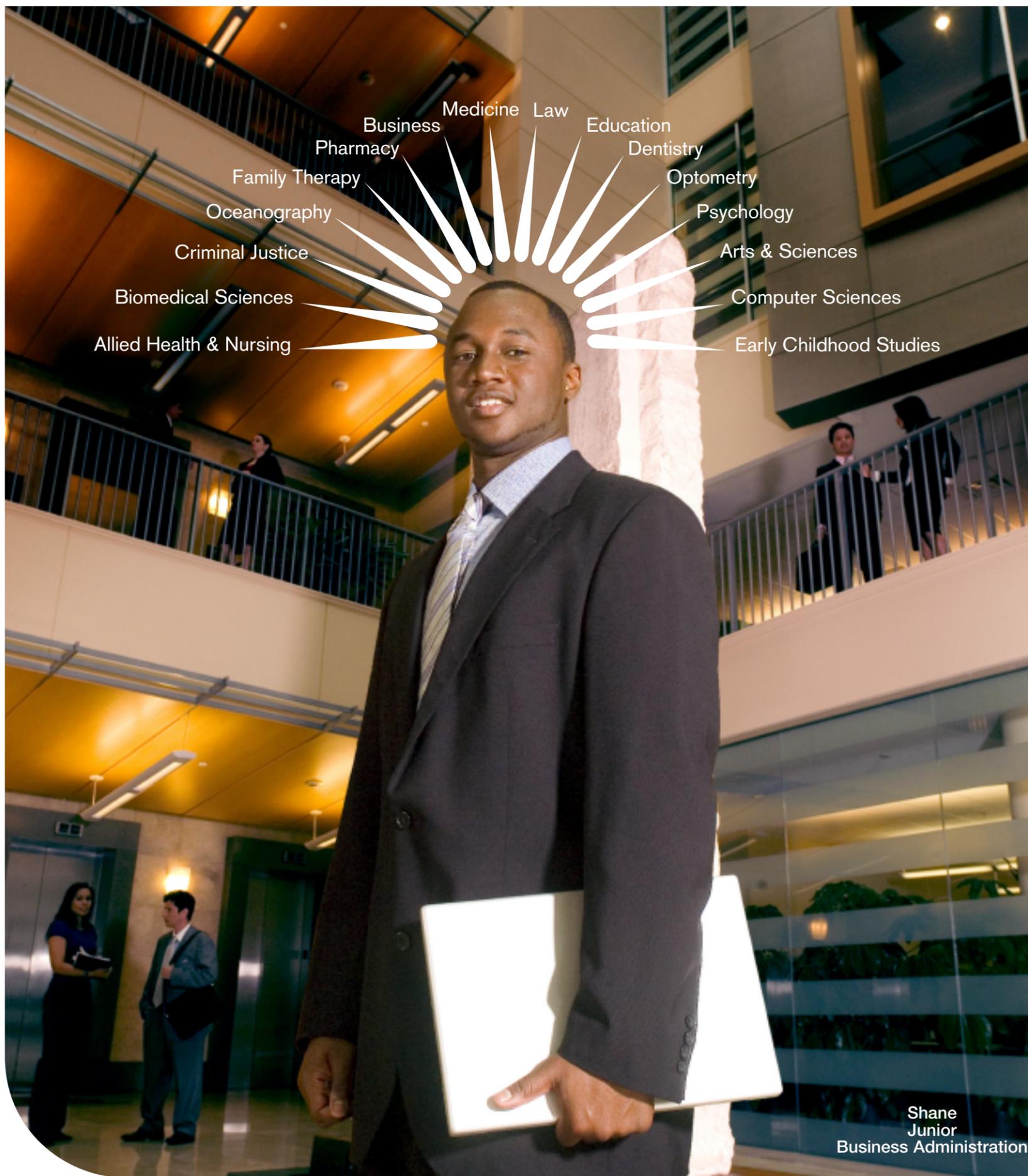
It also encouraged the authorities to advance preparations for introducing indirect monetary policy instruments, to be ready for their implementation once global financial markets have calmed and viewed the outcome of wage negotiations as critical in determining the effectiveness of the overall policy response to the current challenges.



WELCOME BACK SALUTE



Surinam Airways Flight 463 is welcomed back to Miami International Airport (MIA) with a water cannon salute by the Miami-Dade Fire Department. Last month, officials from the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), Surinam Airways and the Surinamese government celebrated the return of passenger service by the airline to MIA after a 16-year absence. The airline will provide twice-weekly service, Monday and Friday, between Paramaribo, Suriname and MIA, with a connecting stop in Aruba.



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LOCAL / FYI

IMMIGRATION KORNER

QUESTION: I recently got married to a non-United States citizen who is here on a V visa and I need to know what are the forms I need to fill out for permanent residency. His visa runs out at the end of this month.

ANSWER: Assuming you are a U.S. citizen, you will be able to sponsor your new husband for permanent residence or a "green card", according to U.S. immigration laws. Legitimate marriages of U.S. citizens are considered "immediate relatives" under immigration laws; therefore they are excluded from all numerical quota limitations. This means that there are an unlimited number of green cards available to foreign nationals who marry U.S. citizens.

Marriage to a U.S. citizen can lead to permanent residence

You can begin the process, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Agency, by filing a completed Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. The I-130 is available at uscis.gov.

Follow the I-130 relative petition instructions and the website for any updates on instructions or fees. Make sure your petition is complete. You will need to submit evidence of your U.S. citizenship, and evidence proving your marriage. The document list to ensure this are as follows:

- Petition for Alien Relative (USCIS Form I-130);
- Application to Register Permanent Residence (USCIS Form I-485);
- Biographic Information (USCIS Form G-325A);
- Affidavit of Support (USCIS Form I-864);
- Permission for Work Authorization (Optional) (USCIS Form I-765);



- Medical Examination Results (USCIS Form I-693);
- Request for Travel Documents (Optional) (USCIS Form I-131);
- The appropriate supporting documents; and
- The USCIS filing fees (\$1,010 to \$1,365).

PROCESSING

Processing time depends on a number of factors. Once you file a relative petition, the USCIS will post an updated

estimate of the processing time on the USCIS website. However, you can also contact an attorney or an immigration counselor to assist you with this application.

Note that applicants for adjustment to permanent resident status are eligible to apply for a work permit while their cases are pending. You should use USCIS Form I-765 to apply for a work permit for your husband.

Process:

The USCIS will contact you first regarding the biometrics/fingerprinting appointment. The USCIS will then issue the work authorization and permission to travel approximately 90 days after filing.

The USCIS will contact you next to schedule an interview. This will be anywhere from 6 months to 9 months after filing the initial application.

Following a successful

interview, the foreign national spouse will receive a stamp classifying him/her as a Conditional Permanent Resident.

USCIS will mail the permanent resident card ("green card") approximately four to eight weeks after the successful interview.

The conditional status may be dropped by applying for Removal of Conditional Status (USCIS Form I-751) within 90 days of the two year anniversary of the granting of conditional permanent residency.

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.



F Y I F Y I F Y I F Y I F Y I

GARVEY CELEBRATIONS

The 21st annual Marcus Garvey Birthday Celebrations will be held from **noon until midnight Sept. 13** at Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida.



Garvey

Among those scheduled to make presentations at the lecture/forum are: Donald Jones, law professor at the University of Miami; Max Rameau, from the Center for Pan-African Development; and spoken word artiste Heru.

Prof. Jones is expected to discuss "Legal and Other Aspects of the Marcus Garvey Trial". Rameau will focus on "The Death of Gentrification". Heru will discuss "Practical Garveyism".

Other scheduled attractions include a back to school family fun day and cultural concert, plus art and craft and food.

For more information, call **786-663-3000** or e-mail imi-marcus@yahoo.com.

SCHOLARSHIP GALA

The Caribbean Bar Association (CBA) will hold its annual gala on **Oct. 4** to raise funds for its scholarship program for high school and college students.

This year the event will be held at the Signature Grand, 6900 State Road 84, Davie, Florida.

The CBA is hoping to

make this one of its most entertaining events, as it celebrates the "Spirit of the Caribbean", reflecting the culture and diversity of the region, which will be showcased in part through the performance of Broward Caribbean Carnival, Inc., a co-sponsor and the primary entertainment for the evening.

Cocktail reception is at **6:30 p.m.**, followed by dinner, entertainment and dancing.

For more information, including tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact CBA President Sherylle at **954-958-1584** or sgordon@ghj.com.

HONORING HAITI

The first anniversary of the unveiling of The Haitian Memorial Monument in Savannah will be held on **Oct. 11** in that Georgia city.

Scheduled activities include church services, a Haitian festival at the monument, gala and shopping tours.

For more information, contact the Haitian American Historical Society at **786-621-0035**.

NEIGHBORHOOD HELP

Miami's Team Metro Government on the Go Buses is bringing services into South Florida neighborhoods every month. The public can apply for a United States passport, purchase a Baby Stroller Parking Permit, apply for a library card, purchase a dog license tag, and transit items, as well as obtain information on county services and programs.

For more information on the Government on the Go

Buses' schedule for September call the Miami-Dade Answer Center at **311**.

LIBRARY AMNESTY

The Miami-Dade Public Library System's first-ever Amnesty Program – designed for patrons to return or replace overdue materials and have fines removed from their accounts - runs through **Sept. 30**.

The program comes before the implementation of a new policy for handling overdue accounts, which begins Oct. 1. During this period, patrons who return or replace their overdue materials will have the fines associated with those materials removed from their accounts.

"The goal of the Amnesty Program is to give patrons the opportunity of returning materials without penalty, so that other patrons can enjoy them," said Library System Director Raymond Santiago.

Following the amnesty period, the Library System will implement new overdue account policies. Beginning Oct. 1, when a library card comes up for renewal, any outstanding fines must be paid in full. Patrons can go to the library's website or contact any branch to determine their renewal date. If a patron does not clear his account of outstanding fines, and fails to respond to written notices to bring his account current, the account will be referred to a debt collection agency.

For more information visit www.mdpls.org or call **305-375-2665**.



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES APPOINTS NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS



Ambassador La Celia Prince, left, presents Secretary General José Miguel Insulza with her letters of accreditation as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' new permanent representative to the Organization of American States.

The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has elevated an alternate representative to that country's new permanent representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington D.C.

Ambassador La Celia Prince delivered her credentials to OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza during a recent ceremony at the organization's headquarters. She pledged to enhance her government's involvement and to give OAS even greater visibility within government circles in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Prince, who is also being designated as ambassador to the United States, pledged to continue her country's close collaboration and deeper involvement in the inter-

American system as the government's top diplomat at the OAS. She said her own government's goals are in line with priority hemispheric agenda issues such as education, youth, employment and poverty alleviation, along with economic and social development, "so the synergy is good."

Her country's alternate representative to the OAS for the past two and a half years, Prince said she is mindful of the tremendous responsibility of her new position and assured the secretary general that the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines remained committed to the OAS and to ensuring the organization remains financially viable.



FEATURE

www.caribbeantoday.com

Internal election sparks division fears in Jamaica's Opposition party

VERNON DALEY

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Mention presidential election to some members and supporters of the People's National Party (PNP), then watch fear and anxiety cloud their faces.

On Sept. 20, the Opposition party will hold internal election to elect a new president and already there is public sniping and bickering among the supporters of the candidates, leading many to predict a bitter fight that could further fracture the divided party.

But Professor Neville Duncan, political scientist at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus, says the party can withstand the pressures of another leadership race.

"There will be a split, (but) a strategic split because you're trying to get the person you prefer to win," said Duncan.

"There will be no splinter group; there will be no other party form out of the PNP. I think the PNP will simply reunite because they are one of the two major parties in the country and there is no advantage to dividing the party because there will be no hope of victory for either faction if that were to happen."

Former National Security Minister Dr. Peter Phillips announced in mid-July that he would be challenging the incumbent and former prime minister Portia Simpson Miller for the top job, arguing that his decision was a response to supporters who felt the party had lost its way and needed to get back to its roots.

"In response to the demands of thousands of comrades at all levels of the party and the demands of citizens across the length and breadth of Jamaica who have asked that I accept your nomination to lead this process of renewal, my answer is a resounding yes," said Phillips to deafening applause at a meeting in St Andrew where he unveiled his plan.

"We need a PNP which is united once again, we need a People's National Party that recognizes the value of the grass roots workers and organizers. Time is too short and the crisis is too great for us to fool around any longer with the old politics of division and backbiting."

MIXED BLESSINGS

His decision to run, which was expected for months, was welcomed throughout Jamaica by his supporters but con-

demned by Simpson Miller's backers, who think the challenge comes at the wrong time and could further divide the party which has not yet healed from the previous presidential election in early 2006.

In that fight, Simpson Miller became the first woman to head a major political party in Jamaica, coming out ahead of Phillips in a four-horse race that included former Finance Minister Dr. Omar Davies and former Water and Housing



Phillips

Minister Dr. Karl Blythe. The 2006 campaign was bitter and divisive, splitting the party into various camps.

Simpson Miller succeeded P.J. Patterson as PNP president and prime minister, but went on to lose the general elections last September to the Bruce Golding-led Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), ending 18 years of PNP rule. Three months later the party also lost the local government elections on Simpson Miller's watch.

This has given ammunition to her detractors who argue that she is incapable of providing solid leadership to go up against the JLP.

Simpson Miller, a populist grass roots politician, is often caricatured as not being intellectually curious and lacking an overall vision and strategy for moving the PNP and the country forward.

SHAFTED?

But her supporters feel that she is being shafted because of her humble working class roots. They point out that this is the first time in the history of the 70-year-old party that a sitting president will be challenged.

"The People's National Party has an enviable reputation for internal democracy. This is however the first time in our history that a sitting president of the party is being challenged and in the year of our 70th anniversary, no less," Simpson Miller herself acknowledged in a statement.

Party treasurer Roger Clarke, who is a declared supporter of Simpson Miller, says the election is likely to open old wounds despite attempts

that will be made to keep the peace in the party.

"I look at both comrades - Phillips and Simpson Miller - as two elephants within the party and the PNP as the grass and I say whatever façade you see out there, the wounds are opening," Clarke told local radio recently.

REUNITE

Prof. Duncan told the **Caribbean Media Corporation**, however, that the party is likely to come together behind the victor when the election is over.

"I think the party will remain united after the essential conflict that will occur because they are competing over the leadership," he added.

With speculation rife that the JLP might call early elections to increase its small seat count in Parliament, Simpson Miller supporters would like to see the party get behind her to boost its chances of retaking government. Simpson Miller herself has scoffed at Phillips's challenge, noting that recent opinion polls here have put the PNP, under her leadership, ahead of the JLP as the party most favored by the electorate at this time. She argues that even though it is the democratic right of any member to run for office, the unity of the party should always be paramount.

"Look at us comrades. In less than nine months after losing the closest election in our history, one poll shows us ahead of the government. The Jamaican people are not done with us. We owe it to them to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of a government in waiting," she said in July.

Speaking at a recent party meeting Simpson Miller signaled that she had embraced

post-election recommendations for the PNP to renew itself and that she had worked hard as leader to bring about unity in the party.

"Comrade Patterson handed the baton to me. I kept the same team in place. I did that; that was our A-team, and I believe in party unity and the country first and personalities after," she said.

"I am not perfect. God is not finished with me yet. I also know that my party is not perfect, but I know that the People's National Party remains the best hope for Jamaica."



Simpson Miller

She maintains she will not be campaigning during the run-up to the polls as she is the sitting president and not a challenger. A group of supporters, known as "Team PNP" will, however, be looking out for her interest within the party, she says.

FAIRNESS

Meanwhile, the PNP Secretariat says it is working hard to ensure fairness in the election, especially with allegations floating around about attempts by supporters of the candidates to bribe delegates and influence which names are on the voters' list.

In fact, Clarke has openly

accused the Phillips camp of trying to buy votes. This was denied by Phillips and his supporters who called for Clarke to be disciplined by the party. Some 4,000 delegates will cast their ballots to elect the new president.

Under the rules of engagement, nominees have pledged to uphold the constitution of the party as well as its principles and objectives, abide by its code of conduct, promote unity, abide by the outcome of the results, and give full support to the elected leadership.

They have also agreed to avoid personal attacks and denigration of all candidates, their team and supporters, and to refrain from seeking to secure votes by threats, bribery or intimidation.

The election, which will be conducted by the Electoral Office of Jamaica, the country's election management body, will also see eight persons going up for the four vice presidential posts in the party.

"It is surprising. Unprecedented. I don't think I have ever seen so many nominees for vice presidents before," PNP Chairman Robert Pickersgill said at a post-nomination press conference at the PNP's headquarters in Kingston last month.

The party chairman said, however, that the nominees were expressing their democratic rights.

With some six weeks to go before the PNP polls, the country is waiting and watching to see whether this once formidable party can find it within itself to unify behind the person who emerges as leader.

- CMC



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Parliament passes legislation allowing recall of parliamentarians

BELMOPAN, Belize, CMC –The Belize Parliament has passed legislation allowing for the recall of parliamentarians, but Prime Minister Dean Barrow said the new measure would not come into effect until next month.

Barrow told legislators that the government was awaiting the outcome of an appeal it filed against a court ruling that there should be a referendum before any change is made to the constitution.

“The government has appealed the chief justice’s decision. The Court of Appeal comes in October and we will wait to see what the Court of Appeal says. If the Court of Appeal says it agrees with the chief justice and we must hold a referendum, notwithstanding that it will make no difference to the law, we will do so because we are obliged to respect the courts of this country,” Barrow said.

‘RED LETTER’

The prime minister described the passage of the Sixth Amendment Bill as “a red

letter day” for his government and the people of Belize.

“When we pass these constitutional amendments...we would have made safe, in a way unprecedented, our democracy and the rule of openness and transparency,” he said.

Barrow has blasted the main Opposition Peoples’ United Party (PUP) and others who have gone to court arguing that there is need for a referendum before changes are made to the constitution.



Barrow

“As I indicated, that was always nonsense. The constitution itself prescribed the method for amending the constitution and no ordinary law can interfere with that because such an ordinary law would be unconstitutional,” he said.

“The chief justice has confirmed that, but said that after the law is passed by the two

Houses, in his view, there should be a referendum which cannot affect what the two houses would have done, which cannot affect the efficacy and the validity of the law, but which he says would give the people of Belize an opportunity to express an opinion.

“In my view, that would be an idle exercise because the law would already have been the law and nothing that is said by way of the referendum could change that. We want to be absolutely careful to signal to the entire country that we have the greatest possible respect for the chief justice, more to the point, for the courts of this country and for the Supreme Court of this country,” added the prime minister.

DISAGREE

But Barrow noted his administration did not agree with the ruling.

“We disagree with the chief justice that there is any need to hold what we consider to be an idle referendum but out of deference to his position as the head of the courts, we will not bring the amendments

into force until this matter has been sorted out by the Court of Appeal,” he added.

But in their contribution to the debate, Opposition members said while they embraced the spirit of the legislation, they would not support legislation that was “grounded in mischief.

“So we can embrace the spirit in which the new recall law is being advanced. I think everybody understands the spirit in which it is being advanced. What we cannot and should not embrace. However, it is a deformed recall law which I believe is grounded in political mischief and back-room deals,” said Francis Fonseca, the representative for Freetown.

His colleague, John Briceño, said the other concern for the opposition is the “bundling” of the amendment to the constitution.

“And by bundling we mean that the government has decided to put a number of amendments to its constitution and there are several of them that we have absolutely no problems with, such as the

three terms for prime minister. I mean we certainly have absolutely no problem in supporting that,” he said.

“But when you bundle everything, it ties our hands that we either have to say yes to everything or no to everything when obviously, that is not our position. It is very serious business when it comes to tampering and amending the constitution.

“It is serious business when you’re talking about changing the fundamental rights and freedoms of Belizeans,” Briceño added, urging that more consultation should be held with the population on the issue.



Planned referendum on Belize-Guatemala border dispute

BELMOPAN, Belize, CMC – Belize is hoping to hold a referendum by the first quarter of next year as part of efforts to settle its longstanding border dispute with Guatemala, according to Foreign Minister Wilfred Elrington.

“We are just now at this point in time trying to settle on exactly what is the question we will be asking of the Belize people and exactly what is the question that we’ll be asking of the International Court of Justice (ICJ),” Elrington said last month, adding “the hope is that they will be able to have the referendum by the first quarter of next year.”

Elrington said the referendum could only be held after the Belize and Guatemalan parliaments pass the necessary resolution giving approval for it.

“Once that is done then we are going to have a referendum for the people again in general, not only for their representatives but for the people in general to say whether or not we should proceed with the process.

“Those are two questions that have to be agreed upon first by the negotiators of both parties. It is only when the Belize team and the Guatemalan team together agree on those questions that we will be in a position to take the matter to our national assembly and to our referen-

dum saying ‘these are the questions, do we go to the ICJ?’”

Elrington held talks with the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Jose Miguel Insulza, who says he supports the efforts by Guatemala and Belize to settle their land dispute through the ICJ in The Hague. Insulza, who had a two-day visit to Belize last month, also met with government and Opposition officials as part of the bi-partisan approach that has been adopted in the negotiations.

ADVICE

The OAS is the regional body under which the negotiations have been conducted and it maintains a presence at the border with Guatemala where it is responsible for promoting confidence-building measures. Insulza told reporters that his advice to both countries is to solve the dispute at the ICJ.

“The reason for this is that it is the court that is probably most prestigious in the world and probably gives more royalties to all countries that go to

it. Both Belize and Guatemala have signed a statute,” he said.

“The first thing that had to be done was for the politicians to accept the recommendation and they did. First Belize did and once Belize did they sent me a letter saying that they are willing to abide by these recommendations. And then Guatemala sent me a letter with the same thing, saying that they are also willing to go to court.

“So the next thing to do is what they are doing now and that’s to meet and decide exactly the terms of our decision to go to court, and write them down in a kind of a treaty or an agreement. That agreement, I understand, has to be approved by the Congress or the Parliament in both countries and then take it to referendum,” Insulza added.

GOOD CHANCE

Elrington said he believes Belize has a good chance at winning the matter at the ICJ.

“Personally, I think we have an excellent chance,” he said.

“I also think, personally, that the decision to go to the ICJ is the correct decision; it’s probably the best decision that we can make at this time. That is my personal view,” he said, adding that the ruling party had not yet discussed the matter up to press time.

Belize not joining new political union

BELMOPAN, Belize, CMC – Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow said he has no intention of joining, for the time being, a planned political and economic union involving Trinidad and Tobago and countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

But he has commended the effort being undertaken by the twin-island republic, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to establish the economic union by 2011 and political union by 2013.

“I applaud the notion and I think it is a grand idea worth pursuing,” Barrow told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) after holding talks with Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Patrick Manning late last month.

Last month, Manning met with leaders around the region, including Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Dominica, to discuss the initiative.

Professor Vaughan Lewis, former St. Lucia prime minister and former University of the West Indies senior lecturer, and Trinidad and Tobago diplomat Dr. Cuthbert Joseph have been mandated to prepare a study by the end of 2008 on the proposed initiative.



Insulza

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They didn't know us

GORDON WILLIAMS

I'm sure Jacques Rogge may have seen a stirred-up hornets nest before.

But I bet it's nothing like the one he created when he chastised Jamaica's Usain Bolt for his colorful celebrations following the sprinter's world record-breaking performances at the recently concluded Olympic Games in China.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) must have thought that criticizing Bolt's post victory dances would have won him favors with those watching the Games. That narrow-minded plan surely backfired.

See, despite American Michael Phelps's exploits in the pool, the Olympics had been so tightly wrapped, by China's restrictions and word that abuses elsewhere had wiped away claims that the government had somehow become more open, it threatened to bounce right out of the public's hungry embrace.

That is, until Bolt came along. His exploits in competition, breaking world records and winning gold in all three events he entered, were to stun even the casual sports observer. His dancing celebrations, wide smile and let's-have-fun mentality loosened almost everyone up. The man was great. He wanted to make sure you knew it. You did. And you loved it. Everyone did - fellow athletes dying to escape the cloud of suspicion hovering over them and millions of spectators all over the world.

HATERS

Well, almost everyone. The handful that thought Bolt was being a classless showboat, including Rogge and some television commentators, well, they got to express their views. Young people today would call them haters. But their criticisms didn't stop the world from embracing Bolt. He was the best known athlete at the Games, even if Phelps won more gold medals with more world records.

Bolt made people smile. This is sport, he said with his exploits, enjoy the ride.

And everyone who knows the star will swear that this is the man. A 22-year-old prone to expressing himself. Youth just wanna have fun. Turns out everyone else did too. If Bolt did not fit the profile of what a few believe to be the prototypical winner, complete with typical acts of post-victory orchestrated poses, well sorry. It's just who the man is,

Mr. Rogge. Get used to it.

Oh, you should have been already. Years ago, when the 15-year-old won the 200 meters at the World Juniors in his home country, he bounced about just the same. The choreography may have been a bit different in Beijing, but Bolt's bubbly Caribbean spirit remained: Show off the "gully creeper" dance or shoot an imaginary arrow into the sky. The people loved it.

Even Americans have a saying for it: It ain't bragging if you can do it.

Bolt did it. He came to the Olympics, he competed and he celebrated. We, meaning almost everyone in the world looking on, thought that was what the Olympic Games were all about. Seems Rogge and a couple others had other concepts.

RICH HAUL

Led by Bolt, Jamaica reeled in 11 medals overall, six gold. Cuba visited the podium many times. Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and The Bahamas earned medals too. The Caribbean celebrated right along with them.

Rogge, and the few other skeptics, just didn't know about the Caribbean and its ways. They need to get on the Usain Train.

Every time predictions in certain events involving Caribbean athletes slighted the region's chances, they simply rose up to the occasion. Big names and small names, it didn't matter. Sure Bolt was expected to contend for the gold medal in the 100 meters dash, but who saw T&T's Richard Thompson claiming silver? The top three positions in the women's dash occupied by Jamaican athletes, who knew? The world all but handed America's Allyson Felix the 200 meters title. But Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown, who came to the Games as the defending champion in the event, no less, thwarted that plan. Who knew?

The Caribbean knew. It's just "they" who didn't know about us.

So, Jacques Rogge, when you find time to revisit the tapes of the Olympics '08 you will see that the Caribbean brought the big package to your Games. Excellence in competition, brilliance in spirit. Quite a combo. See if you can finally catch it.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Snoop doggy females

Perhaps I should have named this piece Faas Ferrets instead, as faas in the Caribbean means snoopy, inquisitive, nosy, and we know what a ferret does, dig out things.

Well, some women are equipped with the most basic, and also the most subtle, sophisticated, intelligent, roundabout, skilful way of acquiring knowledge too, worthy of any forensic data that police forces the world over use.

We often watch those T.V. shows like Dexter, Court TV, CSI, or Forensic Files which show how police use seemingly innocuous bits of evidence to implicate and eventually nab criminals. A simple drop of blood, a tiny bit of skin taken from beneath the victim's fingernail, a fingerprint, a strand of hair, an eyelash or a drop of semen are often enough evidence to be used in court to convict the bad guy. Well, women have their own built-in forensic ability, the means to ferret out, sniff out, seek out, dig out, root out and find out exactly what their men are up to.

They say that even the most professional criminal always makes a mistake, always leaves behind a telltale clue that links him to the crime. The trick is, it takes a skilful detective or a master forensic scientist to detect the evidence. Enter the snoop female, who has this innate gift. Women are able to detect one thousandth part perfume on a man, plus tell him what brand it is, where it was bought, which woman was wearing it and how much it cost on sale. So acute is the olfactory sense of the snoop doggy female.

GIFT

Their other gift is the art of questioning, as for starters they will rarely ask a direct question, but prefer to take the roundabout route.

Usually it goes something like this:



"So, when last you spoke to Valerie?"

"Oh, not for a while now."

"So when last you spoke to her good friend Sharon, who you used to go out with?"

"Not in a long time now."

"But I saw Liz, and she told me that you mentioned Valerie to her...so are you still in contact with that sketel Valerie?"

Silence, for the man is now totally confused and befuddled by her line of skilful questioning and dare not answer as all the names, dates, places and times are but a jumble in his head, and liars had better have good memories.

Did you notice how she started off with a name completely different, then adroitly dropped in the name that she really wanted to find out about? Just by going about the line of questions in a roundabout way, she has managed to get an answer which suits her just fine. It might not be the correct answer, but the man is so confused that it might be mistaken for guilt, so he's busted anyway.

Did you notice how she started off with a name completely different, then adroitly dropped in the name that she really wanted to find out about? Just by going about the line of questions in a roundabout way, she has managed to get an answer which suits her just fine. It might not be the correct answer, but the man is so confused that it might be mistaken for guilt, so he's busted anyway.

GOSPEL

In a real court of law,



TONY ROBINSON

hearsay is inadmissible evidence, but for the snoop doggy female it's gospel, and enough to hang the man. All it takes is a phone call, a text message, a whisper, a name dropped, that links you with a female, and you are doomed. She will automatically take that hearsay over your protestations any day, for in the court of women, you are guilty as charged, until proven innocent, and no man is ever innocent.

The more you try to defend yourself against this hearsay, is the deeper you'll sink in the quagmire of despair, despondency and damnation, so don't even try. Years ago you may have mentioned the names of your exes. Big mistake, for like all true forensic scientists, they have the ability to store these names in a data bank for instant retrieval.

So, you'll be out a public function, mingling about, having a good time, until it's time to go, then she'll say:

"I see that your ex was in the crowd!"

"What, when...who are you talking about?" you sputter.

"Well, I heard the name Sheila mentioned by some ladies, and I recall that you used to go out with a Sheila 15 years ago, so I put two and two

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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CARIB Comments

• **"The hard work, values and contributions of West Indian Americans have made America stronger and better"** –

United States President George W. Bush last month praising the Brooklyn-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association, which is responsible for staging the annual Labor Day extravaganza in that New York borough.

• **"It's an expression of the confusion currently existing in CARICOM, which appears to**



be caught in a bind" - Dr. Kenny Anthony, leader of the main Opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), explaining the indecision within the Caribbean community (CARICOM) over the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe.

• **"I have been tested so many times I lost track. And we're okay with it"** – Jamaica's triple Olympic gold medalist and world record holder Usain Bolt indicating he has no problems being tested for performance enhancing drugs because he is clean.

• **"If school is going to be dis-**



rupted as a result of teachers standing up for their just demand then so be it" - Julian Monroe, president of the St. Lucia Teachers Union, discusses industrial action late last month over wage demands.

• **"If Britain is going to have any say then for God's sake have a sensible say. Britain is a waste of time if they are going to be like that"** - Bermuda's Shadow Justice Minister Mark Pettingill blasting Governor Sir Richard Gozney for his "silent support" of government's latest crime plan.

• **"Looking at the results, we see that 38 in every 100 students did not pass in the sciences; this leaves a lot to be desired"** - Grenada's Education Minister Senator Franka

Bernadine last month expressing concern about the number of students who did not obtain passes in the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) this year.

• **Manning said that the decision to embark on the proposed initiative came about because there is a feeling within the region that there are "a number of leaders who are committed to integration in a way that we had not seen for some time".**

"That is why we are putting together a coalition of the willing. The position of Trinidad and Tobago has always been (that) we are prepared to integrate with any country in the region that is prepared to integrate with us" – Prime Minister Patrick Manning commenting last

month on his proposed initiative to establish a political and economic union in the Caribbean by 2013.

• **"This is another wild scheme. They have signed to a political union by 2013? You know how many regime changes are possible? What about the people of the region? You have to deal with the people of the region; leaders can't just come together and significantly alter their constitutions by forming a political union. It shows contempt for the people of the Caribbean"** - University of the West Indies lecturer Dr. Paul Ashley offers his views on Manning's plan during a radio program.

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Snoop doggy females

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

together, and came up with guilty. So you still love her, she still love you, when last you spoke to her, when last she called you?"

Now that's the art of a snoop at work, taking a snippet of information and convicting a suspect, and if it wasn't so damning, it would be a thing of beauty to watch in action.

The very same way forensic scientists can use a strand of hair to solve a crime, is the same way a strand of hair can sink a man. For remember, wherever a man goes there is a romantic crime scene, at least that's what the snoop doggy female thinks. If she comes to your house and sees a hair in your bathroom, she won't say anything to you at that time, but will wait until a few weeks or months before bringing it up. By then you won't remember if it was your puss, dog, sister, auntie, cousin or friend who visited you, so once again you're flummoxed.

It may very well be her own hair, before she got the dye job, but the facts don't matter. The snoop doggy female has gathered and garnered her evidence and once again, you're guilty as charged. Another telltale clue is tissue paper, for it's a scientific fact that women use more tissue paper than men. So if she visits your house and sees the wastebasket stuffed to overflowing with tissue paper, then instantly her snoopy mind will start buzzing, whirring, spinning into action.

"So which woman came to visit you?" she'll ask.

Hanged by tissue paper, and no answer will suffice. What they also do is place their hands on your car bonnet to see what time you really

came home, as opposed to what you told her. It's no point to try and explain the intricacies of a Glycol cooled inter-cooler super hyperventilated computerized combustion engine. The fact is, the bonnet is cool, therefore you were home longer than you said you were. So she'll demand to know who was there with you before she came.

'NET GAIN

As for the Internet, that's the snoop doggy female's stomping ground, if you're foolish enough to leave behind telltale clues like passwords and such.

That's like leaving the name of the hotel that you once frequented, plus the room number and the key along with a road map. She will beat a path through your e-mail and misinterpret, misread, miscalculate and miss the point of every e-mail that has a female name in it.

Now that's forensic suicide for any man to be so careless. The fact is, no woman can resist the temptation to read a man's e-mail, go through his wallet, read his letters, go into his cell phone address log, or eavesdrop on his phone calls. It's just their nature, they can't help it and it's like giving cream to cats, they'll lap it up and cry for more.

But then again, it beggars the question: Why go to all that trouble, go out of your way to find out things will only cause pain, why dig and decipher, spend so much time and effort to catch the man if he slips up...is it really worth it?

I want the snoop doggy females to answer that one for me.

seido1@hotmail.com



ENVIRONMENT

www.caribbeantoday.com

'Gustav' sweeps through Caribbean, leaves many dead

Tropical storm Gustav swept through the Caribbean late last month, seriously affecting several countries in the region.

The storm has been blamed for dozens of deaths and leaving many homeless in countries such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

As Gustav lashed the northern Caribbean, the United States Department of State warned U.S. citizens about traveling to Haiti, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba.

Up to press time, at least 22 people had reportedly died in the Dominican Republic and Haiti alone by the pas-

sage of Gustav.

Close to a dozen more lives were feared lost up to press time in Jamaica as Gustav pounded the island with heavy rains and strong winds.

Many persons in the eastern parishes, such as Portland and St. Thomas reported that their roofs had been blown

away and as many as 100 persons went to shelters. The heavy rains also left many people stranded in Jamaica

and the authorities imposed curfews in some areas.



Predatory 'lionfish' threatens Caribbean reefs

WASHINGTON, United States – A new study has found that the invasion of predatory lionfish in the Caribbean poses yet another major threat to the region's coral reef ecosystem.

The study, released recently, found that within a short period after the entry of lionfish into an area the survival of other reef fish is slashed by about 80 percent.

Scientists from Oregon



Lionfish

"This is a new and voracious predator on these coral reefs and it's undergoing a population explosion"

State University (OSU) said aside from the rapid and immediate mortality of marine life, the loss of herbivorous fish also sets the stage for seaweeds to potentially overwhelm the coral reefs and disrupt the delicate ecological balance in which they exist.

Following on the heels of over-fishing, sediment depositions, nitrate pollution in some areas, coral bleaching caused by global warming, and increasing ocean acidity caused by carbon emissions, the lionfish invasion is a "serious concern," said Mark Hixon, an OSU professor of zoology and expert on coral reef ecology.

CRISIS

The study is the first to quantify the severity of the crisis posed by this invasive species, which is native to the tropical Pacific and Indian Ocean and has few natural enemies to help control it in the Atlantic Ocean.

The scientists said the first lionfish were introduced into marine waters off Florida in the early 1990s from local aquariums or fish hobbyists. They have since spread across much of the Caribbean Sea,

"In the Caribbean, few local predators eat lionfish, so there appears to be no natural controls on them"

the scientists said.

"This is a new and voracious predator on these coral reefs and it's undergoing a population explosion," Hixon said.

"The threats to coral reefs all over the world were already extreme, and they now have to deal with this alien predator in the Atlantic."

In studies on controlled plots, the OSU scientists determined that lionfish reduced young juvenile fish populations by 79 percent in only a five-week period. Many

species were affected, including cardinal fish, parrotfish, damselfish and others. One large lionfish was observed consuming 20 small fish in a 30-minute period.

Lionfish are carnivores that can eat other fish up to two-thirds their own length, while they are protected from other predators by long, poisonous spines.

"In the Caribbean, few local predators eat lionfish, so there appears to be no natural controls on them," Hixon said. "And we've observed that they feed in a way that no Atlantic Ocean fish has ever encountered."





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~ A Caribbean Today Olympic Games feature

Jamaica's sprinters lead Caribbean gold rush at Olympic Games

The Caribbean, led by Jamaica's powerful show on the track and Cuba's overall depth, dazzled the world at the Olympic Games in Beijing, China last month.

Spearheaded by Jamaica's Usain Bolt, undoubtedly one of the top stars of the Games with three gold medals, all from record breaking performances, the region finished with a total of 41 medals.

Cuba led the Caribbean with 24 medals, including two gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze. But Jamaica, through its dom-

find another Usain Bolt," declared Jamaica's Don Quarrie, himself an Olympic champion and former world record holder.

DOMINATION

Except for a disqualification in the women's 4x100 meters relay, caused by a muffed baton exchange, Jamaica was flawless in all three sprint events, male and female. The island of under three million dominated the expected rivalry with the United States.

Relatively unknown Shelly Ann Fraser stunned the

world to capture the women's 100 meters title. She was followed home by the Jamaican pair of Sherone Simpson and Kerron Stewart, who tied for silver.

Veronica Campbell retained her 200 meters crown with an equally awesome dis-

play, brushing aside her heralded successor Allyson Felix of the U.S.

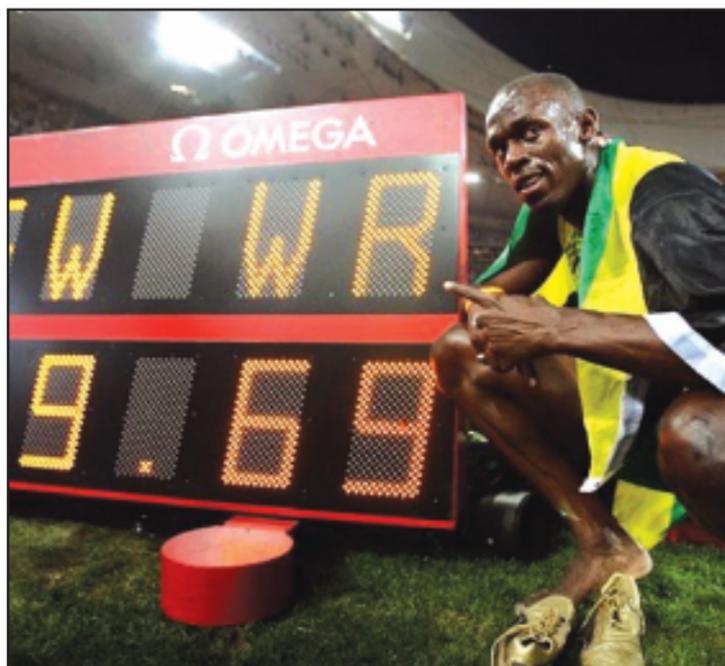
Meanwhile, Jamaica's impressive Melaine Walker won gold in the 400 meters hurdles.

No other English-speaking Caribbean nation won a

gold medal at the Olympics.

However, Cuba's Dayron Robles earned gold in the men's 110 meters hurdles. His compatriot Mijain Lopez won the Greco-Roman wrestling gold at 120 kilograms.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Bolt poses with his new world record clocking in the 100 meters.



Jamaica's Powell, Carter, Bolt and Frater shattered the world 4x100 meters relay record.

ination of the sprint events, landed the most gold, six, finishing with a total of 11 medals, which also included three silver and two bronze.

LEADER

Leading Jamaica's charge was the charismatic 6' 5" Bolt. The world's fastest human shattered his own record in the 100 meters with an astonishing time of 9.69 seconds. Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson finished second to earn one of the twin island republic's two silver medals.

A few days later Bolt stunned the world again, eclipsing American Michael Johnson's world mark while winning the 200 meters in 19.30 seconds. He capped off one of the most electrifying performances in Games history by running a leg on Jamaica's 4x100 meters relay team, which set another world record of 37.10 seconds. Nesta Carter, Michael Frater and Asafa Powell were the other members of the victorious relay team.

"You're never going to



Fraser, left, won gold in the women's 100 meters, with Stewart and Simpson tied for silver.

GLORY IN BEIJING

www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A Caribbean Today Olympic Games feature

Bolt can run faster ~ coach Mills

BEIJING, China, CMC – Glen Mills, coach of Olympic sprint double champion and double world record holder



Mills

Usain Bolt of Jamaica, believes there are greater things to come from his pupil over the next few years.

Mills thinks that Bolt, though running the fastest times ever seen from a human being, is still in the developing stages of his career, and he feels the sprint phenomenon will delight track and field fans once he gets stronger and develops the right striding technique.

“He is still not as strong as he should be,” Mills said on the **Spikes Magazine** website.

“If he gets stronger, his stride frequency will improve and when we achieve that in perhaps the next two years, he is going to run even faster.”

Jamaica is known for developing world class juniors, but for one reason or another, they have rarely transferred those gifts at the senior level. Mills noted four years ago, it seemed that Bolt, on his way out of high school and with all

the junior titles already wrapped up, was perhaps destined for the same route. But the noted coach took Bolt under his wings and, after some trying times at getting him to stay focused, succeeded in helping him become a great sprinter.

“Our emphasis was to get him as technically correct as possible and that took us over two seasons,” said Mills.

“Last year, we concentrated on correcting his running the bend, making him more efficient around the curve.

“I felt that I could significantly improve his 200 meters. He was leaning inside on the turn and was unbalanced. We got him to lean forward and that contributed to him developing a good first 100 meters.”

TURNAROUND

Still buzzing from his historic Olympic feat where he landed three gold medals with three world records from three races, Bolt also admits to making a huge turn around under the guidance of Mills.

“Things changed dramatically when I joined up with Glen,” he said. “(He) is like a father figure to me. He has never done me any wrong and he has always made the right decisions.

“He is a guiding light in my career and he has shown me the way to improve myself both as a person and as an athlete.”



Olympic champ not bothered by drugs tests

BEIJING, China, CMC – Jamaican Olympic hero Usain Bolt is not surprised by the number of raised eyebrows following his performances at the Beijing Olympics, but said he has nothing to worry about because he is clean.

Bolt turned the Olympics upside down with his three gallant performances, winning gold in the 100 meters and 200 meters in world record times. He ran the third leg of the sprint relay as Jamaica also captured gold in world record time.

Bolt said he had been tested numerous times this season with all the results returning negative.

“We’ve been tested a lot. I was tested four times before I even started running,” Bolt said, while speaking at an

event put on by his sponsors Puma.

“I have taken urine tests and blood tests. I have been tested after every competition,” he added.

He continued: “I have been tested so many times I lost track. And we’re okay with it. We work hard and we perform well and we know we’re clean. Anytime they want to test us is okay with us.”

Bolt took the Olympics by storm, speeding to 9.69 seconds in winning the 100 meters before returning to clock a sensational 19.30 seconds to break American Michael Johnson’s 12-year old 200m record and become the first double Olympic sprint champion in 24 years.



Jamaica's sprinters lead Caribbean gold rush at Olympic Games

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

The Dominican Republic earned gold and silver. Felix

Mathieu, Andrae Williams and Christopher Brown secured a silver medal, while

Leevan Sands earned the country's other medal, a bronze.



Campbell-Brown finishes first in the 200 meters.



Bolt wins the 100 meters ahead of Thompson, center

Diaz won the light welter-weight division in boxing, while Yulis Gabriel Mercedes was a beaten finalist in taekwondo, 58 kilograms.

T&T's Thompson was joined by Keston Bledman, Marc Burns and Emmanuel Callender on the 4x100 meters team that finished second to Jamaica.

The Bahamas's 4x400 meters men's team of Andretti Bain, Michael

Congratulations! Jamaican Track Team.

Unu ah gwaan wid tings. Big Up!

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Understanding your credit score and repairing it

JOSE H. CARABALLO

Credit remediation is a subject consumers often face with fear and trepidation, and for good reason.

With the exception of recognizing that the best score wins, the average home shopper knows little about the whole credit scoring process. Sub-prime borrowers who were eager to move into A-Paper territory often found themselves at a loss when trying to find ways to upgrade their credit history.

The good news is there are ways to improve less-than-perfect credit scores and obtain a loan for the home you really want.

The first step in the process is making sure that you have a current copy of your credit report. The United States Congress recently amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act so that consumers may now receive one free credit report annually. There are three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. Since entries can vary across bureaus, you'll want to request a free report from each of the three companies. (Go to www.annualcreditreport.com.)

GOOD SCORE

It's also important to know just what a good credit score is. Most A-Paper scores generally begin around 680, although this number may differ slightly among lenders.

Increasing your score just five points can save a significant amount of money. For example, if your score is 698

and you increase it to 703, then you could save yourself thousands of dollars over time as a result of a slight improvement to your loan's interest rate.

While credit repair is necessary for some, it's not the only way to increase your credit score. Even if you have stellar credit, you can enhance your score through these steps:

- Evenly distribute your credit card debt to change the



ratio of debt to available credit. Let's say you have a credit score of 665. If you have debt on only one card, and four additional credit cards with zero balances, evenly distributing the debt of the first card could move you closer, and possibly into, that ideal bracket.

- Keep your existing accounts open and active. The average consumer is usually anxious to close credit card accounts that have zero balances, but doing this can cause them to lose the benefits of a long-term credit history and increase their ratio of debt-to-available credit. The bottom line is don't close those old accounts. (At least not around the time

you are thinking of purchasing or financing a home.)

- Keep credit inquiries to a minimum. Each inquiry into your credit history can impact your score anywhere from two to 50 points. When it comes to mortgage and auto loans, even though you're only looking for one loan, multiple lenders may request your credit report. To compensate for this, the score counts multiple auto or mortgage inquiries in any 14-day period as just one inquiry, so try and stay within that time frame.

PATIENCE

Improving credit scores requires time and diligent effort. So it's a good idea to start at least three to six months prior to submitting your application for home financing.

If you decide to make your own credit improvements, visit as many websites as possible to get information regarding credit laws and consumer rights. A good place to start would be the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website, which contains a wealth of helpful literature.

If you're facing severe or complicated credit issues, enlist the assistance of a professional credit repair company. But familiarize yourself with the FTC's regulations on credit repair. There are over 1,100 credit repair companies. Examine the FTC's information on fraudulent practices to avoid falling prey to credit repair scams.

A professional mortgage consultant can be an invaluable

resource. Part of the mortgage origination process is going over the credit report with a client and finding ways to increase the credit score if needed or advising on what mistakes not to make during the application process. A well-versed mortgage professional will most likely have contacts with reputable credit repair companies if needed.

Jose H. Caraballo is a branch manager of the Source One Mortgage office in Coral Gables and is the founder of The South Florida Institute of Education.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- To order your free credit report, go to:

www.annualcreditreport.com

- To read the Fair Credit Reporting Act, go to:

www.ftc.gov/os/statutes/frca.htm

- For the Federal Trade Commission's information on consumer credit, go to:

www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/credit/index.html

- To get a free copy of our booklet "Your Credit Score" understanding the role credit scoring plays in mortgage financing e-mail caraballo12345@com-cast.net or call 305-968-1257.



Fall: A good time to save

ALFREDO BROOKS

Those who may be nearing retirement need to be sure that they are prepared to make this important life-choice.

According to a study by Boston College, about one-third of all Americans, now within 10 years of retirement, eligibility will not be able to meet their retirement financial goals unless they save more or work longer. To find out how prepared you are, visit the Social Security Administration's financial planning page at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners.

The calculators featured on this site test different retirement ages and calculate future potential earnings amounts. A link to a worksheet will also help you decide how much you need to save and invest for a comfortable retirement.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

In addition, www.mymoney.gov is a financial website supported by a variety of U.S. federal agencies. This site provides information on how to save, invest and manage your money during all stages of life.

Working longer may not always be an option, due to health issues or other concerns, so it is wise to begin saving for retirement as soon as possible. Most financial planners recommend 70 percent to 80 percent of your pre-retirement income to live comfortably. Social Security will only replace about 40 percent of what average wage earners make before they retire. This leaves a 30 percent to 40 percent gap in retirement coverage. Private pensions, IRAs and savings or other investments will need to satisfy the difference.

Each year, the Social Security Administration mails every United States worker, age 25 and older, a Social Security Statement. Read this document to see how much you and your family can expect to receive from Social Security when you retire, if you become disabled or die. If you find a discrepancy between your records and SSA's records, contact the SSA.

With a little bit of planning and effort, your transition from work to retirement can be as pleasant as the fall foliage.

Alfredo Brooks is a U.S. Social Security public affairs specialist in Orlando, Florida.





LOCATIONS

 <p style="text-align: center;">Connecting The Caribbean Globally</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">1-800-368-6929</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">www.laparkan.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">info@laparkan.com</p>	<p>MIAMI OCEAN FREIGHT 2929 NW 73 St., Miami, FL 33147 (305) 836-4393</p> <p>LAUDERDALE LAKES 3750 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311 (954) 731-1440 lpkll@laparkan.com</p> <p>ORLANDO 6100 West Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 33028 (407) 298-9887 orlando@laparkan.com</p> <p>ATLANTA 2260 Lithonia Industrial Blvd., Unit B, Lithonia, GA 30058 (678) 526-7814 atlanta@laparkan.com</p> <p>PORT ST. LUCIE 2768 SW Edgarcia Street, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 (772) 621-9858 portstlucie@laparkan.com</p> <p>WEST PALM BEACH 4440 S. Tiffany Dr., Magnolia Park, Unit 3 West Palm, FL 33407 (561) 494-2898 westpalm@laparkan.com</p> <p>AIR FREIGHT OFFICE 6640 NW 22 St. Cargo Bldg. 707, Suite. 101, Miami, FL 33122 (305) 870-9949</p>
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West Indian American Carnival in N.Y. gets high praises



The colorful carnival spirit comes alive in Brooklyn, New York on Labor Day.

Caribbean artists kept in 'state of deprivation' ~ Nobel laureate

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott has criticized regional governments and the private sector for keeping Caribbean artists in a “state of deprivation.”

During last month's 10-day Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), Walcott called on regional governments to suspend the festival until it is produced professionally.

The St. Lucian-born Walcott, who participated in a panel discussion on “Caribbean Culture at the Crossroads: Seeking the Past, Living the Present, Exploring the Future”, said that disadvantaged Caribbean artists are further insulted by the staging of CARIFESTA every two years.

“What is there to celebrate?” asked the internationally celebrated poet and playwright who has often suggested scrapping the event.

“You are killing your artists,” added Walcott, who described theater in his native St. Lucia as “an abomination,” blaming greed and corruption for the state of affairs.

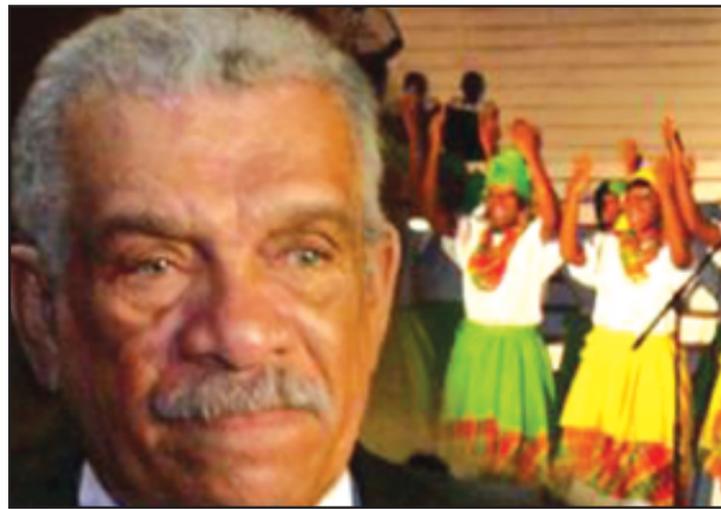
‘PROSTITUTION’

Walcott further accused regional governments of prostituting themselves in the name of development.

“We are selling our lands like whores and calling it development,” he said. “Don't let this continue, or something terrible is going to happen.

“It is terrifying. All around there are huge hotels we are going to leave as monuments. We are not leaving

challenge to Caribbean politicians to change their attitude to ensure there is a guaranteed future for artists.



Walcott

museums or theaters, because the governments say they can't afford it,” Walcott added.

Walcott challenged regional government to pursue what he called “simultaneous thinking,” noting that there must no longer be a choice between hotels and museums.

The renowned writer said regional territories must shun the “either or” mentality and tell foreign investors “you can build hotels but we also need museums and theaters.”

CHALLENGE

Walcott further issued a

WASHINGTON – United States President George W. Bush has hailed the massive annual West Indian American Carnival Parade on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway as contributing to America's diversity.

“The hard work, values and contributions of West Indian Americans have made America stronger and better,” Bush said in a letter to the Brooklyn-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) late last month.

“I applaud your efforts to celebrate and preserve your heritage,” he told WIADCA, the organizers of the annual spectacle, which culminates on Labor Day.

“By sharing your culture, you remind all Americans of the unique fabric that makes up our country and you ensure that your values and traditions are passed on to the future.”

New York State Governor David Paterson, who has roots in Jamaica and Grenada, said that those who hail from the West Indies are known for a vibrant lifestyle that adds a

cultural perspective appreciated by people of all backgrounds.

“I applaud the West Indian American Day Carnival Association for sponsoring this festive event for the past 41 years, preserving the honored customs as well as a valuable legacy the people of the West Indies have bestowed upon our modern society,” said Paterson, who was selected as one of the parade's grand marshals.

“The entire Caribbean community can take pride in holding the annual Labor Day Carnival Parade as a means by which they can preserve their heritage and instill appreciation of their culture among future generations,” the governor added.



Paterson

PRAISE

New York City's Mayor Michael Bloomberg, another (CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Five get automatic entry to international soca finals

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC – Soca monarchs from five Caribbean countries will gain automatic entry into the finals of the world's biggest soca competition, held every year in Trinidad and Tobago, organizers Prestige Promotions have announced.

The winners from Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will compete in the International Soca Monarch scheduled for Feb. 20 next year at the National Stadium in Port of Spain. Semi-final places are normally allocated to winners from other islands, but organizers have introduced the change as part of an overall plan to boost the profile of the event in a bid to help soca music attain Grammy award status.

“I must say we are fortunate to have come to an agreement with Caribbean Prestige Foundation that we would have automatic admission to the finals,” said Tommy Mathews, chairman of the Grenada Carnival Committee.

“So, no longer would we be competing for a position in the finals. It is automatic that they would be part of the international soca finals listing.”

Soca music has been achieving growing appeal as a genre which derived from calypso. Competitions are held at the peak of carnivals throughout the Caribbean and in the diaspora, and plans are on stream to also grant automatic entry to the monarchs from London and Canada.

EXPOSURE

“Hopefully after 2009 with the international media coverage that we will be showing, we expect not only the rest of the Caribbean, but other smaller islands to come on board but we have Canada and London looking in,” declared William Munroe, chairman of Prestige Promotions who is a businessman based in Trinidad, but born in Grenada.

“We have to produce a proper show to show the world. If we have to get on the Grammy award we cannot come with mediocrity. We have to come with a professional event.”

Finalists of the International Soca Monarch competition will receive an appearance fee of TT\$100,000 while the winner gets TT\$1 million.



Biko is Grenada's new calypso monarch

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Biko Lewis, whose tune "Ah Can't Understand" was a satirical examination of the campaign slogan used by the New National Party (NNP) in the July general elections, has won the 2008 Grenada Calypso competition.

Biko won the title that was vacated by "Scholar", the five-time monarch who refused to defend his title last month.

"It's a privilege. I would like to (perform) in other competitions throughout the region. I don't think it should stop here," said Biko, whose second tune, "Ah done with that" rebuked calypsonians who refused to sing about social ills affecting the country, but performed on the NNP platform during the election campaign.

"It was like running a relay. I thought in the first round I had paced myself well and the second round it was just like on the home stretch taking it home," added Biko.

He amassed 811 points, five more than "Sour Serpent" who placed second. Arlene, an experienced singer who was making her debut into the calypso arena, placed third from a field of 10 finalists.

The calypso crown is the third major carnival title captured by a resident of the northern historical parish of St. Patricks, which is home to Prime Minister Tillman Thomas. The others include Carnival Queen Ashieda Charles and new soca monarchs Luney Sparks and Electrify.



JUMP UP AND CELEBRATE



Singer Richie Stephens leads thousands in joyous, flag-waving celebration of Jamaica's 46th Independence last month at the Independence Sunday Market hosted by the Embassy of Jamaica at the grounds of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington D.C. The event featured more than 30 booths showcasing a variety of Jamaican products, ranging from art and craft to food. Entertainment was provided by Stephens and deejay General Degree, plus Image, Bare Essentials and Storm bands.

Photograph by Derrick A. Scott (JIS)

HONORING A LEGEND



- Derrick A. Scott (JIS)

Singer Ken Boothe, right, accepts the Jamaica National Association Lifetime Achievement Award from Pamela Johnson, assisted by her husband Ambassador Anthony Johnson, at the association's Independence Ball last month at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C., United States. The legendary Boothe, who has decades in the music business, is known for numerous hits, including "Puppet On A String", "Everything I Own", "The Train Is Coming", "Tell You Goodbye" and "Freedom Street".

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• Islands Fashion Week

The "Islands of the World Fashion Week" is scheduled for Nov. 5-8 in Nassau, Bahamas.

The event will seek to make a splash into the fashion scene, introducing various styles of island wear showcasing designers from the region. Visit www.islandsfashionweek.com for more information.

• Spragga Benz's son killed

Carlton Grant Jr., the 17-year-old son of Jamaican reggae singer Spragga Benz, was shot and killed by police in Kingston last month.

According to police, Grant Jr., whose father was reportedly off the

island when the incident occurred, the teen was carrying a gun.

• Int'l Caribbean Music Fest

The International Caribbean Music Festival returns to its original Pre-Thanksgiving weekend on Nov. 16 at the Virginia Key Beach Park, Key Biscayne, Florida.

Over the years, artistes from various genres have appeared on the show, reflecting the diversity of the region. For more information, visit www.icmfest.com.

Compiled from several sources.



West Indian American Carnival in N.Y. gets high praises

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

grand marshal, has also praised the event, stating that it unites the West Indian community in a shared tradition and culture.

"As members of one of our city's largest ethnic groups, New Yorkers who trace their roots to the Caribbean make tremendous contributions to our economic vitality, cultural vibrancy, and civic progress," Bloomberg said.

"Visitors from around the world join millions of New Yorkers in dancing to steel pan, dining on roti, and

marching down Eastern Parkway in the largest parade in America," he added.

Bloomberg added that as they do so, "we all recognize the indelible impact West Indian New Yorkers continue to have on the life our city."

WIADCA President Yolanda Lezama-Clark, who is the daughter of the late founder of the carnival Carlos Lezama, said masqueraders in about 40 costumed bands were scheduled to dance to the rhythms of soca, reggae, compass, zouk and other Caribbean rhythms during the grand extravaganza Sept. 1.

The theme of this year's event: "One Caribbean, Many Cultures".



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FOOD

www.caribeantoday.com

Two's company: Fruit, vegetable salads signal summertime

BEV BENNETT

If your summer salad consists of lettuce and dressing, broaden your options and enjoy better tasting and healthier salads.

Nutrition experts recommend that you not only eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, but also choose from a wide range of produce so you get the specific health benefits of each ingredient.

Now that farmers markets and supermarkets are brimming with seasonal produce, you have an abundance of foods to choose from.

Instead of limiting your salad to fruit or vegetable ingredients, combine the two. The results are delicious, and you're more likely to satisfy your goal of eating more produce.

When you shop, think beyond a piece of fruit for

snacking or a head of lettuce for a salad and select fruits and vegetables with salad potential.

'NO LEFTOVERS'

To avoid scraps of leftover produce, select ingredients you can use completely.

For example, toss a sliced peach with a bunch of fresh spinach, combine a small diced melon with a head of Bibb lettuce, or mix together a diced nectarine and a yellow or red bell pepper cut into strips. In addition, use fresh fruit juice instead of or along with vinegar and add sweet lively taste to salad dressings.

The exception to the "no leftovers" suggestion is grilled fruits or vegetables. Put some extra bell pepper halves, asparagus or corn on the grill. What you don't serve immediately can be refrigerated for a couple of days before adding

to a salad.

Here are two summer salads to whet your appetite.

Corn and avocado salad

- Ingredients**
- 1 small jalapeno chili, cored, seeded and minced
 - 1 scallion, trimmed and sliced
 - 1 small ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced
 - 1 tablespoon limejuice
 - 1/2 cup cooked corn kernels (see note)
 - 1 tablespoon canola oil
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Romaine lettuce or endive leaves

Method

Combine chili, scallion and avocado in a medium bowl. Add limejuice and stir gently. Stir in corn, oil, cumin, salt and pepper. Stir gently, but well. To serve, spoon corn



mixture into cavities of romaine lettuce leaves.

Serves two.

Note: One small ear of cooked corn yields half cup.

You can spoon the salad into hollowed out large cherry tomatoes as a change from the lettuce.

Mango and arugula salad

- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar, preferably white, not red
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 tablespoons orange juice

- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 medium mango, peeled, pitted and diced (see note)
- 1 tablespoon minced chives
- 3 cups baby arugula

Method

Stir together vinegar, oil, orange juice, salt and pepper in a cup. Set aside.

Combine mango, chives and arugula in a salad bowl. Toss gently but well. Pour on dressing just before serving and toss again. Serves two.

Note: If desired, substitute one large ripe peach or nectarine for the mango.

Bev Bennett is the author of "30 Minute Meals for Dummies", John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003.

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'Chunky Chicken Pot Pie Soup' that eats like a meal

WOLFGANG PUCK

Sometimes I think people worry too much about labeling what they eat, a habit that can limit the pleasure we get from food.

Since an omelet is a breakfast dish, for example, many people think twice about eating one for lunch. Labels can confuse us as much as they help.

That's especially true when it comes to soups and stews.



Chunky chicken soup

There's a hazy overlap between the two categories, a point at which eaters might wonder whether a light stew is really a soup or a robust soup is actually a stew. After all, the reasoning goes, soups are first courses, and stews are main courses.

I'm a firm believer in eating what seems good to you for any given purpose at any given meal, regardless of what it might be called. And a perfect example is my recipe for a main-course "Chunky Chicken Pot Pie Soup".

Yes, I call it a soup, mainly because I like to serve it in a soup bowl. But the soup is so chockfull of chicken and vegetables, all coated in a thick

and creamy broth, that if you ladled it into shallower bowls or plates you could be forgiven for swearing it was a delicious stew. The secret to developing that good flavor is to first sauté its base mixture of aromatic vegetables - leeks, onions, celery, and garlic - and then simmer them gently and slowly along with the chicken breast, carrots, mushrooms, peas, and pearl onions.

The broth you choose for simmering also makes a big difference. Look for the best-quality, preferably organic canned broth (or larger-volume cartons) you can find. Choose one that doesn't have too much sodium, so you can adjust the seasonings to taste after the soup has simmered and concentrated in flavor.

As well as the reduction that happens during simmering, the soup's thick, creamy consistency also results from some flour sprinkled into the sautéed vegetables; and from some cream stirred in toward the end of cooking. Of course, you can leave out the cream if you'd like a lower-fat soup.

The final element, which helps transform it into a full-fledged main-course dish, is dumplings that are cooked separately in a little broth and then added to the soup at the last minute. If you prefer, you can make your favorite biscuit recipe, baking them and placing one or two on top of each bowl at serving time.

Of course, dumplings or biscuits make labeling this recipe even more confusing, turning it into the pie that it's traditionally named. Which shows you even more clearly

how meaningless such nametags are. After all, whatever you call it, it's just plain delicious.

CHUNKY CHICKEN SOUP

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin

olive oil

- 2 medium leeks, trimmed,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

CARIBBEAN TODAY

Caribbean Foods

Caribbean culture has influenced the world in many ways over the years, from the exotic beauty of the islands and people, to the pulsating rhythms of their music - reggae, soca, salsa and merengue.

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Grim HIV/AIDS figures for Caribbean

PETER RICHARDS

At least 14,000 people in the Caribbean died of illnesses related to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) last year, but there appears to be a stabilization in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, according to figures released in Trinidad recently.

The figures, which were released as part of the Caribbean Launch of the UNAIDS Global report 2008, showed that last year an estimated 230,000 to 270,000 persons were living with HIV, while an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 were newly infected.

"We have made some headway against HIV in the region," said Dr. Michel de Groulard, acting Director of UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Support Team.

"But we still have a long way to go to ensure that our response is as effective as it should be and that our prevention strategies really work and reach those who need them most," he added.

CHALLENGE

In a message read at the launch, Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretary General Edwin Carrington said that after 27 years since it was first identified in the region, the epidemic is challenging "our basic way of life, family, society, community and workplace.

"Many Caribbean families have lost their loved ones to AIDS, many communities have lost their leaders and their members to AIDS. In addition, the persistence of stigma and discrimination against people living with AIDS is an affront to the principles of human rights," he

said.

"How many times has someone been denied a job because they are living with HIV?" Carrington asked.

The CARICOM top official however pointed to some positive news in the fight against the epidemic.

"Despite the somewhat gloomy picture which the data suggests, there has been substantial progress in the Caribbean. It is the only region in the world which has built strong partnerships against the epidemic," Carrington said, pointing to the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).

STABILIZED

United Nations officials said that although surveillance systems were largely inadequate in several countries, available data indicates that most of the HIV epidemics in the Caribbean appear to have stabilized, while a few have declined in urban areas.

"This is particularly evident in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Both countries are home to the largest epidemics in the region", according to UNAIDS.

It said that at the end of last year, an estimated 30,000 people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral treatment in the region, a 50 percent increase since the end of 2006 when 20,000 people were on treatment.

UNAIDS said that the main mode of HIV transmis-



Carrington

sion in the Caribbean remains unprotected heterosexual sex, but "unprotected sex between men is also a significant factor in several epidemics."

It added that as many as one in eight, or 12 percent, of reported HIV infections in the region occurred through unprotected sex between men.

"It reportedly represents the main driver in Cuba and studies in Trinidad and Tobago have found HIV prevalence of 20 among men who have sex with men.

"In the Dominican Republic, surveys have indicated that more sex workers are protecting themselves and their clients against HIV, especially in the main urban and tourist areas. Among female sex workers, HIV prevalence of nine percent has been documented in Jamaica and 31 percent in Guyana", the UNAIDS report stated.

It said that AIDS remains one of the leading causes of death among people aged 25 to 44 years in the Caribbean, but the "scaling up of anti-retroviral treatment could be reducing the number of HIV positive people progressing to AIDS and eventually dying of AIDS-related illness".

POVERTY LINK

UNAIDS said that the Caribbean epidemics occur in the context of high levels of poverty and unemployment, gender and other inequalities and considerable stigma, "all of which can fuel the spread of HIV as well as hinder efforts to control the epidemics.

"The scaling up of prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV programs

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Hospital offers free prostate screenings, childbirth classes

The North Shore Medical Center in South Florida will be offering free prostate screening testing and childbirth preparation classes in the upcoming weeks.

The prostate screenings, to help combat one of the most deadly forms of cancer among men, is part of the center's efforts to improve health through preventative medicine and education.

Sessions will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates at the C. Gordon Griffith Cancer Center, 1100 N.W. 95th St. in Miami:

- Sept. 15
- Oct. 17
- Dec. 19

CHILDBIRTH

The "Prepared Childbirth Class", designed for first time parents in their 27th and 28th week of pregnancy, will feature topics on general pregnancy and childbirth, breastfeeding



and sibling introduction.

Each session of the one-day class will begin at 10 a.m. at the North Shore Medical Center, 11 N.W. 95th St. Scheduled dates are:

- Sept. 14
- Oct. 12
- Nov. 9
- Dec. 12

For reservations for both programs, call 1-800-984-3434.



Caribbean devising plan to fight chronic diseases

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – Barbados will host a conference which organizers say will be critical to crafting the Caribbean's collaborative response to the current epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs). Cardiologist Professor Trevor Hassell said the Oct. 16-19 conference, titled "Healthy Caribbean 2008 – A Wellness Revolution Conference", would bring together civil society groups from across the

region to build a united strategy for going forward. "Its aim is to mobilize a wide cross section of the Caribbean community, including civil society, health NGOs, educators, government, trade unionists, faith based organizations and business to address, in a highly participatory and interactive workshop format, these most burdensome yet preventable lifestyle diseases," said Hassell, who leads the organiz-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

'Chunky Chicken Pot Pie Soup' that eats like a meal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

thoroughly rinsed, and chopped

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 8 cups good quality canned chicken broth
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 pound small white button mushrooms, quartered
- 1 (10-ounce/300-g) bag frozen peas with pearl onions
- 2 large boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into thin strips
- salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 cup heavy cream

POT PIE DUMPLINGS

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leafed (Italian) parsley, plus extra for garnishing

Method

First, prepare the soup. In a large stockpot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the leeks, onion, celery, and garlic and sauté, stirring occasionally, until just softened, about seven minutes. Sprinkle and stir in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for two minutes, taking care not to let the flour

brown.

Remove the pot from the heat and, stirring constantly, slowly pour in six cups of the broth. Add the carrots, mushrooms, peas and onions, chicken, one teaspoon of salt, the tarragon, and the white pepper. Return the pot to medium-high heat and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to maintain a gentle simmer, cover the pot, and cook until the chicken is done and the vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, put the remaining two cups of broth in a separate shallow saucepan and add one cup of cold water. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

For the dumplings, stir together the flour, baking powder, salt, and pepper in a mix-

ing bowl. With a pastry blender or the tines of a table fork, cut the butter into the flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg, milk, and parsley, then stir them into the flour mixture until a dough forms.

Reduce the heat under the boiling broth to maintain a simmer. Using a greased teaspoon, gently scoop up rounded teaspoons of the dough and carefully drop them into the broth. Cook until the dumplings are well risen and cooked through and float on the surface, about seven minutes. Keep them warm in a small amount of the broth until ready to serve, reserving the remaining cooking liquid.

Before serving, stir the cream into the soup. Adjust the

soup's thickness, if necessary, by stirring in some of the broth in which the dumplings cooked. Taste the soup and add more salt to taste, if necessary. Add the cooked dumplings, raise the heat under the soup pot to medium, and heat through until the soup is almost but not quite boiling.

Serve the soup immediately, ladling it into large warmed bowls and arranging the dumplings on top. Garnish each bowl with extra parsley.

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H E A L T H

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Self-care may help avoid risk of high blood pressure

DR. SHELDON G. SHEPS

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I am a very healthy, active and slender woman of 50. I have pre-hypertension. Hypertension is hereditary in my family. I hope to avoid prescription medication. Are there other treatment options, such as yoga or breathing therapies, that would help me?

ANSWER: Hypertension is another word for high blood pressure. A person's blood pressure is determined by the amount of blood the heart pumps and the amount of resistance to blood flow in the arteries. The more blood the heart pumps and the narrower the arteries, the higher the blood pressure.

A blood pressure reading, measured in millimeters of mercury (mmHg), has two numbers. The first, or upper, number measures the pressure in arteries when the heart beats (systolic pressure). The second, or lower, number measures the pressure in arteries between beats (diastolic pressure).

Normal blood pressure is below 120 systolic/80 diastolic. High blood pressure is above 140/90. Pre-hypertension is any measurement between those two. Pre-hypertension describes the condition when blood pressure averages less than 140/90, but more than 120/80.

Any factor that increases

pressure against the artery walls can lead to pre-hypertension. In some cases, an underlying medical condition can cause the rise in blood pressure.

Possible conditions include sleep apnea, kidney disease, heart disease or diabetes. If you haven't already done so, talk to your doctor about screening for these conditions

controlled without prescription medication. Lifestyle is important to keeping elevated blood pressure in check.

GOOD START

You already have a good start by being active and slim. Blood pressure often increases as weight increases. Maintaining a healthy weight

recommended for people who have elevated blood pressure. For more details about the DASH diet, talk to your doctor or get information online at MayoClinic.com. Type DASH in the search box.

In addition, try to limit alcohol intake. Drinking more than moderate amounts of alcohol can raise blood pressure by several points (mmHg). Most physicians recommend no more than one drink a day for women and two a day for men.

For some, caffeine may also increase blood pressure. Although not everyone's blood pressure rises due to caffeine, it's wise to limit consumption to no more than 200 milligrams a day - about the amount in two cups of coffee.

BREATHING

Also important is avoiding tobacco products and secondhand smoke. Nicotine in tobacco products can raise blood pressure by 10 mmHg or more for up to an hour after smoking. For those who smoke throughout the day, blood pressure may remain constantly high. In addition, tobacco use can damage arteries directly.

Breathing therapies may help, too. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a device called Resperate for reducing stress and lowering blood pressure. It analyzes a person's

breathing pattern, creates a personalized melody, and transmits it to earphones. Then, the listener synchronizes breathing to the melody. The goal is slow, deep breathing - 10 breaths a minute - with long exhalation.

The theory behind breathing therapy is that many people who have elevated blood pressure also have increased activity in the part of the nervous system that controls blood flow (the sympathetic nervous system). Regular use of deep, controlled breathing exercises reduces this activity, allowing blood pressure to return to normal. Studies indicate such therapy works, but it's not permanent. If you stop doing the breathing exercises, your blood pressure will rise again. If you prefer not to spend the money on Resperate - the device costs about \$300 and is not always covered by insurance - it may be possible to achieve similar results by doing yoga on a regular basis. By following these healthy lifestyle choices, perhaps you can successfully control blood pressure and avoid or delay the need for medication.

Dr. Sheldon G. Sheps, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. © 2008 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.



It's important to talk to your doctor about screening for high blood pressure.

to ensure that they aren't causing pre-hypertension.

In addition, some medications can temporarily raise blood pressure, such as birth control pills, cold remedies, decongestants, over-the-counter pain relievers and some prescription drugs. Once the possibility of contributing factors has been ruled out, pre-hypertension usually can be

and exercising regularly are linked to lower blood pressure levels.

Watch what you eat and drink. Make sure your diet is rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products, and low in saturated fat, cholesterol and sodium. This eating plan - the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet - is often

Caribbean devising plan to fight chronic diseases

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

ing team for the event along with Professor Henry Fraser, dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

The organizers said that the principal outcomes from the conference are expected to include a preliminary Caribbean Civil Society plan to tackle chronic diseases over the next two to five years, with specific attention given to improving identification and treatment of diabetes, dyslipidemia and hypertension throughout the Caribbean.

Prof. Hassell said that the conference would continue the campaign against CNCDS, which began last year when Caribbean Heads of Government, recognizing chronic diseases as the primary causes of premature death and reduced quality of life in the Caribbean, signed

the "Declaration of Port of Spain; Uniting to stop the epidemic of Chronic Non Communicable Disease (CNCDS)".

The conference is being facilitated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Heart Foundation, the Barbados Ministry of Health, CNCDS Commission and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados.

International and regional leaders in the field of chronic disease prevention and treatment are expected to attend the four-day conference.

Highlights of the conference will include the delivery of the Inter-American Heart Foundation Science of Peace Lecture and the presentation of the Science of Peace Award to UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne and the presentation of the fifth Inter-American Journalism Contest Awards on Tobacco Control.



Grim HIV/AIDS figures for Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

in several countries including Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica has significantly reduced the rate of transmission to infants", the report said.

But UNAIDS noted that there were still many challenges facing the Caribbean.

It said, for example, that while surveys in the Dominican Republic have indicated that more sex workers were protecting them-

selves, "prevention success has not kept pace with treatment success.

"This is especially the case among the most vulnerable populations such as sex workers, men who have sex with men and crack cocaine users. There is, too, a need for the development of more effective surveillance systems so that the region can truly know its epidemic", UNAIDS said.

It said that the sustainability of funding was also

another key factor in the fight against HIV.

"It is recognized that there is a need to scale up financing both from country resources and international support to ensure that any gains made are reinforced and built upon. This is part of a long-term visionary response necessary if the epidemic is to be successfully challenged", the UNAIDS report added.



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Manning pleased with visits to Caribbean states

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Prime Minister Patrick Manning said he was pleased with the outcome of his recent whirlwind visit to four Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries this week to gather support for plans to establish a political and economic union by 2013.

Manning dismissed media reports that he had been blanked by the governments of the Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize and Suriname during his visit.

He said that the visits to these Caribbean islands, as well as those to Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis and Dominica last month, were intended to bring the leaders up to date on the initiative that had been discussed by him and the leaders of Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Port of Spain last month.

"At no time was there ever a suggestion that as we visit the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname...that we were seeking to get them to sign on to any agreement. That was not so then, it is not so now," Manning told a news conference.

"The position of these countries is very well known to all of us and therefore we did not seek to get them to sign on and there is no question of us being blanked by anybody or any such thing. It is not so and I hope the media would be a little bit more informed before they place these things and distort the reality in the minds of the population."

IMPLICATIONS

He said the meetings were necessary given the fact that the new initiative represents a move by a sub-grouping within CARICOM and "one of the things they (the other leaders) would be concerned about is the implications for Caribbean unity and for the existence of CARICOM as it now stands.

"We went to explain what we had decided in Trinidad and Tobago and we then went on to explain, as far as we under-

stood it at that time, the implications for CARICOM," Manning said.

"This is a coalition of the willing and each country is free to look at their own circumstances in relation to what is now being proposed and to come to their own conclusions."

Manning, who led a delegation that also included his Foreign Affairs Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon on the visit to the islands, said Haiti was not included in the trip because of



Manning

the impending passage of Hurricane Gustav.

"We were well received in all the countries and in fact all the leaders expressed the view that they were very grateful, very pleased that we took the time off to come personally to explain to them the decisions that we have taken and to discuss with them what are the implications might be," the Trinidad leader said.

He said that in the case of Jamaica, Prime Minister Bruce Golding had indicated that "they were anxious to see the report" being undertaken by the former St. Lucia Prime Minister Vaughan Lewis and Trinidadian diplomat Dr. Cuthbert Joseph on the form of economic and political union.

Manning said that the committee, which will submit its report by the end of the year, would also be expanded to include other experts.

"The exact form of political union has not been determined," he said. "It requires studies, it requires consulta-

tions and it requires experts to consider the views they would have heard carefully, before making a recommendation to the countries involved as to the direction we should take, the modalities of economic and political integration and the process by which we arrive at either or both of them."

Manning added that the leaders of the four islands so far involved in the initiative had also taken a decision that their populations would be involved in the process, adding "it is not going to be a movement of leaders, it has to be a movement of people."

INTEGRATION

Manning said that the decision to embark on the proposed initiative came about because there is a feeling within the region that there are "a number of leaders who are committed to integration in a way that we had not seen for some time.

"That is why we are putting together a coalition of the willing. The position of Trinidad and Tobago has always been (that) we are prepared to integrate with any country in the region that is prepared to integrate with us.

"If there is only one country prepared to integrate with us we are prepared to integrate with them...as it now stands four countries have signed the agreement and when the OECS heads meet, and the prime minister of Grenada (who is also OECS chairman) has committed to a meeting before the end of the first week in September, it is possible that others may consider signing on."

The prime minister also hinted at the possibility of a new common currency to govern the proposed initiative.

St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are part of the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) with a common currency and Trinidad and Tobago has its own currency.



Cops kill Guyana's most wanted man

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Guyana's most wanted man Rondell "Fineman" Rawlins and one of his accomplices were shot dead in a confrontation with police late last month.

Rawlins and Jermaine "Skinny" Charles were killed when members of the Joint Forces surrounded and then entered Kuru Kuru, a forested village located 30 miles outside the capital, Georgetown, along the Soesdyke Linden Highway.



Rawlins was said to be responsible for massacres earlier this year that claimed the lives of 23 people, while Charles had been wanted for the murder of the country's Agriculture Minister Satyadeow Sawh in 2006.

Canadian police to help fight crime in St. Kitts

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC - The St. Kitts and Nevis government has enlisted the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to assist in its fight against crime.

"Our commitment is to quick response, a systematic approach and a high degree of professionalism when a crime has been committed" - Douglas

"In a matter of months, the RCMP will be here in the federation, implementing this program that we have developed and they will be funding," Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas said late last month.

Douglas, who earlier in August assumed responsibility for national security, said the partnership with the RCMP was vital since crime is global in its causes and manifestations and "the fight against crime must, similarly, extend beyond our borders as well."

He said he has been maintaining direct contact with the high command of the police force, in order to ensure that a relentless, multi-pronged approach to crime is maintained.

"Our commitment is to quick response, a systematic approach and a high degree of professionalism when a crime has been committed. Effective crime detection is a priority," the prime minister told reporters.

He said the Ministry of National Security must be on the right track since the RCMP is considering replicating, in other Caribbean juris-

dictions, the management, crime detection, and crime prevention training program that has been developed in St. Kitts and Nevis.

PRIORITY

Up to press time 15 murders had been recorded in the twin-island federation in the first eight months of this year and Douglas said that bringing perpetrators to justice swiftly



Douglas

was a priority.

"Heightened proficiency in evidence collection, heightened proficiency in the preparation of case files, heightened professionalism and capacity building...these are all priorities," he added.

Douglas said the recent town hall meetings held by the security forces across the country have been invaluable.

"The feedback and the intelligence that these sessions have yielded have contributed greatly to the security forces ability to meet the perpetrators of crime head on, and it is this type of police/community collaboration that is always key to any security forces effectively countering criminal activity," the prime minister said.



Sir Shridath Ramphall launches new book

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Former Commonwealth Secretary General Sir Shridath Ramphall has launched a book chronicling his 25 years of service to the Commonwealth and the wider world.

The book titled "The Commonwealth and the World" was launched as part of the activities marking the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) which took

place here last month. It also coincides with the 80th birthday of Sir Shridath, a former attorney general in Guyana and also a trade negotiator for the Caribbean.

The book will be officially released in London at the headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat on Oct. 3 - Sir Shridath's birthday.

"I have to say that this book is not my work. It is only

about my work and I praise it for the undertaking not for the judgments," Sir Shridath said.

The book features various essays covering Sir Shridath's work that includes his stint as secretary general of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat in 1975 and the decade he served as attorney general and foreign minister in Guyana.



REGION

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Premier 'shocked' by Zoom Airlines bankruptcy

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - Premier Ewart Brown says he is shocked that the low-cost transatlantic carrier Zoom Airlines, which began a twice-weekly service to the island last year from London, has declared itself bankrupt leaving hundreds of passengers stranded in Bermuda.

"This comes as a shock to me and the tourism and transport team. Our people have launched an urgent effort to replace this valuable low-fare service from the U.K.," said Brown, who is tourism and transport minister.

In announcing the suspension of all flights on late last month, the airline posted a statement on its web site advising passengers to contact



High fuel costs blamed for Zoom's losses.

their credit card company for refunds and seek alternative flights on other carriers.

Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Tourism, Kim Swan, described the budget airline's collapse as "a disappointing development for Bermuda."

The Anglo-Canadian airline blamed high fuel costs for its losses.

COMPETITION

When Zoom began operations in June 2007 it provided competition on the route for British Airways, which has flown to the island from the U.K. for more than 70 years.

"We deeply regret the fact

that we have been forced to cease all Zoom operations. It is a tragic day for our passengers and more than 600 staff," said the airline's founders Hugh and John Boyle.

They said the company's fuel bill had jumped nearly \$50 million in one year and they had been unable to secure a new investment package.

Jean McCallum, 57, who arrived on the island on on Aug. 28 on the last Zoom flight, for a week's holiday with her husband Ian, 71, said passengers received no warning of the airline's impending closure or any in-flight announcements.

"There was a strange atmosphere on the flight," she said. "When we took off you just had the feeling that something wasn't quite right."



New copyright law coming to protect Grenadian entertainers

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Junior Minister for Culture Arley Gill says Grenada will have a new copyright law by the end of the year to better protect the work of the country's entertainers.

The new Copyright Act will cover several areas that are not addressed in the current law. It is expected that under the new law a Companies and Intellectual Property Office will be set up to assist Grenadians to manage copyright issues.

"It will also develop a collective management society

for the collection of royalties on behalf of rights' owners," said Minister Gill, who explained that the new copyright law will give performers greater protection on the local, regional and international scene.

The new legislation is among 14 pieces of legislation that will make it easier for companies and individual to register their trademark names and for persons involved in the creative arts to protect their intellectual property.

Registrar of the Grenada Supreme Court Robert

Branch said the Ministry of Legal Affairs has submitted the draft of three of the 14 pieces of legislation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for consideration and is awaiting endorsement.

"Once we receive approval the necessary steps for them becoming law will be undertaken," he said.

Branch did not point out which pieces of legislation were submitted to WIPO but indicated that some existing legislation will be repealed.



CTO names new interim secretary general

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has named Director of Marketing for the Americas Hugh Riley as interim secretary general of the organization.

CTO Chairman Allen Chastanet said Riley will act in the position while the organization's Executive Committee completes the search for a new secretary general.

During that time, Deputy Director for Projects and Administration Sylma Brown Bramble will act in Riley's substantive post.

Riley's interim appointment was necessitated by the



Riley

Aug. 14 death of Interim Secretary General Arley Sobers, who assumed the position at the beginning of July when the previous Secretary General Vincent Vanderpool-

Wallace returned home to become minister of tourism and aviation in The Bahamas.

Riley was appointed director of marketing for the Americas in Mar. 2002 and has since overseen the Caribbean's marketing program in the United States and Canada.

He is also co-chief operating officer of the Caribbean Tourism Development Company (CTDC), the marketing and business development unit owned equally by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the CTO.



E.U. diplomat warns Caribbean to sign trade accord by deadline

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - A senior European Union diplomat has warned Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries that failure to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) by the Oct. 31 deadline could result in the loss of preferential access for their products entering the European market.

Carlo Pettinato, first secretary at the European Commission Office in Jamaica, told the Financial Gleaner newspaper late last month that Europe would simply revert to the generalized system of preferences (GSP) for those countries that do not sign the accord.

Pettinato said that the Caribbean has little room to manoeuvre, maintaining that the EPA is a good agreement that should be put into operation.

"A short delay will not be a problem, but a long delay will be a problem because preferential regime towards the Caribbean will expire," he said, noting that the negotiators had initialed the agreement in December with the understanding that the agreement would come into force, even in a provisional manner, by the end of October.

"So, if this is not provisionally in force, the regime simply

expires and we will not have a legal regime that allows us to grant the preferential market access to the Caribbean into the EU market," he added.

CONFLICT

Recently, there have been conflicting positions within CARICOM regarding the signing of the EPA. The agreement was scheduled for signing in Barbados on Sept. 2, but some Caribbean states, including Guyana, St. Lucia and Grenada said they were not prepared to sign the accord as yet.

Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago indicated their readiness, but Barbados Prime Minister David Thompson requested a CARICOM meeting to discuss the situation which has arisen because of the divergent views.

That special meeting was likely to be held on Sept. 9, according to Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning.

A number of Caribbean academics, trade unions, the Caribbean Conference of Churches and other non-governmental organizations have called on the regional government to renegotiate the accord.



Antigua's top cop leaves

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC - Justice Minister Colin Derrick has denied reports that Canadian Gary Nelson was fired as police commissioner less than six months after he was appointed to the top position of Antigua and Barbuda's Royal Police Force.

Nelson, a retired member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), left police headquarters with his personal belongings late last month. He is the fourth top cop to leave the force in as many years.

It was reported that he has

been released from his two-year contract due to an unsatisfactory performance. But Derrick denied any knowledge of the commissioner's departure and, when contacted by the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), Nelson would neither confirm nor deny his dismissal, saying he would issue a statement later.

Nelson was one of four retired Canadian police officers appointed on Feb. 29 to the top four positions of the force, and the third to leave before the end of the contract period.



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T&T World Cup star looks to revive soccer career in America

~ Brent Sancho signs on with USL's Atlanta Silverbacks

GORDON WILLIAMS

ATLANTA, Georgia, USA - The solitary, muscular figure just kept going - round and round the Atlanta Silverbacks soccer stadium field - alternating speeds as his shoulder-length braids flopped up and down.

More conditioning drills followed, jumping over and between small cones while heading and passing a ball served up by a trainer. Then he paused, blowing hard, eventually bending over, resting his palms on sweaty knees before finally taking a seat on the artificial turf.

Just over an hour before the Silverbacks kicked off against Miami F.C. in a United Soccer Leagues (USL) clash here early last month, few fans could identify the player in the home team's red, black and white kit working up some heavy sweat on this 90-degree summer evening.

"I heard they were getting a new player," said Elaine Carroll, a longtime Silverbacks team photographer, "but I don't know who he is."

If Silverbacks fans were still in the dark about Brent Sancho, one of Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup soccer heroes from 2006, it was not surprising. The defender had just joined the team two days before his workout. He signed a deal through the remainder of this season and next, but had to wait for international clearance from his former club in Scotland before playing a game for the Silverbacks, club management said. That didn't mean Sancho wouldn't have to start work right away. There was plenty of catching up to do and not all of it could be done on his own.

"You know, I do think I need games," admitted the Soca Warrior, after showering, dressing and watching his new team play. "I would be lying if I said I didn't."

REALITY

Since then the defender has worked his way off the substitutes' bench and into the first team. But it would be hard to hide the reality that the 31-year-old Sancho is probably closer to the crossroads of his playing career than a start. He has not added to his 43 caps for T&T since the World Cup in Germany and did not re-sign with Scottish First Division Club Ross County this season. He was out of contract in England and waiting for an opportunity



T&T World Cup teammates Avery John, left, and Brent Sancho.

when the Silverbacks called from America. And while the USL seems a bit of a drop from international level, Sancho, who played in the league before he left for Europe several years ago, is using it as a sort of beginning on the road back.

"Football has changed a lot," he reasoned. "I think there's no major difference between teams or levels or divisions...I don't see anything as lower or lesser or anything

Sancho's first few games with the club. But coach Jason Smith, who admits a preference for T&T players since his days as their teammates at a U.S. college, likes several aspects of the Sancho's game. He's eager to fit him into the team's plans.

"Obviously he's got a lot of experience," said Smith, who watched Sancho play in the World Cup against Sweden, England and Paraguay and wanted to sign



Sancho is heads up on what he needs to do to return to the Soca Warriors.

like that. I see a professional organization (Silverbacks) that's trying to establish themselves and move forward in the right direction. And if that's the situation, I want to be involved in something like that."

He was also not about to reject a lifeline that could revive his competitive career. Sancho's new club believes he can make an immediate impact. Through the Miami F.C. game, the Silverbacks led the USL in goals allowed with 33. The leaking did not stop in

him earlier this year. "He's extremely tough. He can play anywhere along the backline."

ADAPT

Aside from the clearance, the biggest push is to get Sancho in shape. USL 2008 was already past its two-thirds mark when the player joined the club and that means Sancho must quickly adapt to the Atlanta. Kevin Barrow, a fellow Trini, is in the Silverbacks squad, but after making the transition from Europe, the early signs indi-

cated that Sancho still had a way to go to blend in.

"I think he's having some adjustment issues with the heat," Smith said on Aug. 8. "Even though he's from Trinidad he's been in England a long time. This surface gets extremely hot during the day...When they first come off the field, their very first training session, the shoes come off because their feet are on fire."

Sancho believes the adjustment to Atlanta will not be painful. He has become used to moving about since leaving St. John's

of Spain.

"Yeah, it's a lot easier," he explained. "So I can take all these chances and make these moves and what not."

Yet eventually he must settle down, that is, if he wants to accomplish another longstanding goal - returning to the T&T national team. With World Cup qualifiers resuming last month, Sancho knows he has little time to step back into the national team picture. Up to press time he had not spoken to T&T coach Francisco Maturana or anyone from the T&T Football Federation about a possible recall. Furthermore, his association with a group of national players who challenged the federation on a bonus issue following the World Cup appears to make his road back that more difficult. Many believe the issue

has cost some players their places in the team. Sancho is among them.

"Obviously with the situation that we had with the World Cup bonuses and what not," he said, "I haven't played since then."

CLAIM

Yet at least one World Cup teammate believes Sancho has a real shot of staking a claim, especially now that he can get enough competitive football with the Silverbacks.

"The most important thing is everybody knows Brent Sancho," said Avery John, who started late with Miami F.C. this season, but has since been recalled by Maturana. "We

know what he brings to a club team. We know what he brings to a national team. The negative effect is that he hasn't been playing much. Right now he needs to get back match fitness...And once he's doing well, he deserves to get a call back...He deserves to get a chance to be back in the (T&T) team, at least to get a chance, to get another look."

But first, even Sancho admits, he must re-establish



Getting into playing shape is Sancho's top priority in Atlanta.

University in New York in 1997. His professional stops in the USL include Charleston Battery and Portland Timbers. In T&T he played for San Juan Jabloteh and Joe Public. He lined up with several clubs in England and Scotland, including Dundee United, Gillingham, Wrexham and Millwall before his stint at Ross County. With no wife or children tugging along, the transition to America becomes simpler for the man from the Belmont area of Port

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

SPORT

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West Indies sweeps tri-nation cricket tournament in Toronto

GORDON WILLIAMS

TORONTO, Canada – The West Indies made a clean sweep of a tri-nation cricket tournament here last month.

The Caribbean squad won all three matches at the Maple Leaf Cricket Club, against Bermuda once and Canada twice, including the final, in a one-day international series that was initially scheduled as part of the regional team's preparation for the ICC Champions Trophy.

The Champions Trophy, which should have taken place in Pakistan this month, was subsequently postponed due to concerns over the security in that country. However, the West Indies, which included a few new faces in its squad, appeared pleased with the North American tour.

"There's been a lot of enthusiasm among the squad here, during their training, during their net sessions," coach John Dyson told **Caribbean Today** on the final day of the series. "It's good to see new faces get an opportunity."



Captain Gayle scored a brilliant century in the final.

EASY WIN

In the final, played on Aug. 24 in front of a fair-sized crowd that included many Caribbean nationals, the West Indies restricted Canada to 179 all out off 46.5 overs. Man-of-the-series Rizwan Cheema topscored with a blistering innings of 61 runs off 45 balls.

Fast bowler Jerome

Taylor took three wickets for the West Indies, while spinner Nikita Miller accounted for two. Darren Powell and Brendan Nash took a wicket each. There were three run outs.

In reply the West Indies, led by captain Chris Gayle's rampaging, undefeated innings of 110, which included 14 fours and six sixes off just

77 balls, rattled up 181 for three wickets off just 27.3 overs. Gayle received good support from opening partner Sewnarine Chattergoon, 23, and Carlton Baugh Jr. 29.

Among the highlights of the tournament was a scintillating performance by West Indies batsman Xavier Marshall. In his team's first match against Canada, Marshall blasted 157 not out. The innings included 12 sixes, which tied a world record for most sixes in a one-day international.

TOURNAMENT SCORES:

Aug. 18 – Canada beats Bermuda by 26 runs
Canada 260 for seven off 50 overs; Manoj David 48, Sunil Dhaniram 36, Rizwan Cheema, 34. Stefan Kelly two for 57 off nine overs, Rodney Trott, two for 50 off 10.

Bermuda 234 for eight off 50 overs; Chris Douglas, 69, Jekon Edness, 45 and Stephen Outerbridge, 28.

Aug. 20 – West Indies beats Bermuda by six wickets
Bermuda 158 for nine off 50

overs; Chris Douglas 53, Irving Romaine 20, and Dwayne Leverock 20 not out. Nikita Miller three for 19 off 10 overs, Kemar Roach two for 29 off 10 overs, Jerome Taylor one for 22 off nine overs and Darren Powell one for 32 off 10 overs.

West Indies 159 for four off 31.5 overs; Ramnaresh Sarwan 49 not out, Shawn Findlay 41, Leon Johnson 27 and Brendan Nash 27 not out. Delyone Borden two for 38 off eight overs.

Aug. 22 – West Indies beats Canada by 49 runs

West Indies 303 for four off 50 overs; Xavier Marshall 157 not out, Leon Johnson 51, Brendan Nash 39 not out. Rizwan Cheema three for 31 off 10 overs.

Canada 254 all out off 47.2 overs; Cheema 89. Nash three for 56 off 10 overs, Dave Mohammed two for 34 off 10 overs.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Caribbean teams kick off crucial World Cup qualifiers

GORDON WILLIAMS

TORONTO, Canada – Two Canadian players with deep Caribbean roots almost dealt Jamaica a huge setback when the two countries met in a crucial World Cup soccer qualifier here last month.

First Julian de Guzman, whose mother is from St. Catherine, Jamaica, gave Canada the lead in the 47th minute of their Aug. 20 CONCACAF semi-final round match played at the BMO Field. And although Jamaica equalized through Andy

Williams's 52nd minute goal directly from a corner kick, Dwayne De Rosario narrowly missed opportunities to give the home team the win.

De Rosario, who was born to Guyanese parents and whose father lived for years in Jamaica, missed a clear second half header, which could have again given Canada the lead and later was not quick enough to get onto a ball fumbled by Jamaica's goalkeeper inside the penalty area with the goal wide open.

de Guzman too missed a chance to snatch a late win for

Canada when his powerful long range shot in the 86th minute smacked the crossbar in another close call for the Reggae Boyz. Jamaica appeared satisfied with the 1-1 result.

"At the end we came out with what we deserved," said captain Ricardo Gardner.

COMPETITION

The CONCACAF region is divided into three groups. The top two teams in each will advance to the final qualifying group stage from which the top three teams will receive

automatic bids to World Cup 2010 in South Africa. The fourth place country will play-off for another place in the game's biggest showcase.

Other Caribbean teams were also involved in qualifiers last month. In Group A, Trinidad and Tobago scored an important away win, beating Cuba 3-1. Haiti, a Group C team playing at home, was held to a 2-2 draw by Suriname.

In other CONCACAF results, host Mexico beat



Williams

Honduras 2-1. Both countries are in Group B with Jamaica and Canada. The U.S. traveled to Guatemala to win 1-0 in another Group A clash. Costa Rica hosted El Salvador and won 1-0. Both teams are Group C.

The qualifiers continue this month with play in all groups. T&T will host Guatemala. Cuba will be at home to the U.S. visits Canada will host Honduras. El Salvador will be at home to Haiti and Suriname will travel to Costa Rica.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



T&T World Cup star looks to revive soccer career in America

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

himself on the pitch. He has had discussions with Smith about his role with the Silverbacks. International football is not his immediate priority, but watching John's progress from Miami F.C. back into the national fold has given him hope.

"I think for Avery, I'm really happy for him," Sancho said a day after the two hung out for a bit and re-hashed old times, including the World Cup.

"...My mind is trying and establishing myself here (in Atlanta). If that (national call) comes, you know, that's all well and good. But for me it's

all about trying to get back in, get playing, get into a rhythm of games and then take it from there."

That means, like John, earning the respect of his new teammates and the support of Silverback fans. John, despite missing the first few games of Miami F.C.'s season, captained the team against Atlanta and has been a stalwart in the team's defense. His progress has been impressive. For Sancho, his road back is just beginning. The sweet taste of Germany 2006 hasn't quite left him yet. Nor has the desire to pull on the T&T shirt. He still follows the national team, doing televi-

sion commentary of recent games. When his chance comes – if it comes – he has no plans to miss it.

"For me, there's no bigger joy than playing for your country," Sancho said. "...And if that opportunity presents itself, once everything is right, I'll definitely grab it with two arms."

Gordon Williams is a Caribbean Today's managing editor. Photographs courtesy of Elaine Carroll/Atlanta Silverbacks.



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