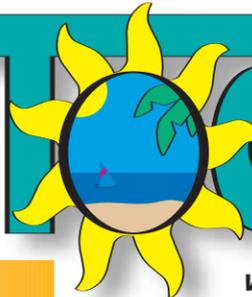


# Caribbean Today

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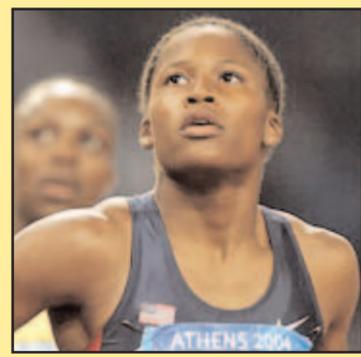
THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



**Grenadian sociologist Claude Douglas argues that the Caribbean's attitude to homosexuality is changing and tolerance has increased significantly. He blames that partly on America's cultural invasion of the Caribbean, page 8.**



**How does Caribbean visual and literary art shape cultural identity? Is there artistic value in Jamaican dancehall? Is skin bleaching and hair straightening forms of artistic expression? These and other questions were explored by critic and writer Annie Paul at a symposium in Miami, page 17.**



**Former sprint World Champion Lauryn Williams, of the United States, believes the prolonged backlash against Jamaica's successful outing at the recent Olympic Games is totally unjust, page 19.**

# CHANGE COMES TO AMERICA

~ Democrat Barack Obama is elected president of the United States, the first African American to hold the nation's highest office, ending eight years of Republican White House rule under George W. Bush and offering hope to Caribbean people in the U.S. and the region, **page 3.**



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## President Préval calls for U.S. to end deportations to Haiti

MIAMI – Haitian President René Préval has reiterated his fervent appeal to United States President George W. Bush to grant temporary protected status (TPS) to Haitians living illegally in the U.S.

Préval's call came at a time when the French-speaking Caribbean country faces a massive task to rebuild in the aftermath of a series of deadly storms, which killed nearly 800 people and also destroyed homes, crops and infrastructure. It also came against the backdrop of a recent decision by U.S. immigration officials to temporarily halt the deportation of Haitians.

Préval cautioned against a resumption of deportations because of the economic challenges faced by Port-au-Prince.

"This is a chance for the U.S. administration to put in place for Haitians, the temporary protected status that has already been granted to other countries in the region,"

Préval told the Americas Conference in Coral Gables, Florida last month.

Préval said while he had personally told Bush about his deep concerns, he will again write him on the matter.

### PUSH

Two Florida Democratic congressmen have been pushing the Bush administration to permanently cease deportation of Haitians because of the hardship being experienced in the impoverished country. Kendrick Meek and Alcee L. Hastings, strong Haitian advocates, have assailed the administration's policy on Haiti, stating that Haitians have, for too long, been victimized by Washington's "double standard" immigration policies.



Préval

Meek, who last month led a delegation of U.S. legislators on a fact-finding mission to Haiti, said it was unconscionable that the White House had continued to deport Haitians while the country suffers.

"It's gone far beyond reason for the administration not to give Haiti some relief," he said.

Meek, who represents Miami, said Haiti "over-qualifies" for TPS, bestowed when the U.S. government determines eligible nationals are temporarily unable to safely return to their home country because of ongoing conflicts, environmental disasters or other "extraordinary and temporary conditions."

Hastings, who represents the city of Miramar, outside Miami, said, in his letter to Bush, that Haiti can "hardly sustain the lives of those currently living within its borders."



## Grenada's P.M. meets Bush

WASHINGTON – Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas last month held talks with United States President George W. Bush, with trade, security and climate change foremost among their concerns.

"We are not only neighbors but we share a common tradition, so we are concerned about the security of the region, trade and climate change," said Thomas after meeting with the president for just about half an hour at the White House.

Thomas, who recently took over the leadership reins in Grenada also used the opportunity to appeal to the U.S. president, who demits office in January next year, for support in the restoration of his country's centuries-old Parliament building that was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

"I regard that as a very important institution within the democratic system and it seems as if President Bush sees it as a priority too, so it is

a matter we are going to follow up on," he said.

### CRISIS

The meeting also touched on the current global financial crisis, in particular high food and fuel costs with Bush inquiring after the welfare of ordinary Grenadians.

Overall, Thomas, who is the current chairman of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), characterized the day's deliberations as "interesting" and said he looked forward to strengthening and deepening of the relationship between the U.S. and the Caribbean.

It was Thomas's first visit to Washington since he led his National Democratic Congress to victory in general elections on July 8, defeating the Keith Mitchell-led New National Party that had governed the island since 1995.

In March, the newly elected leaders of The Bahamas, Barbados and Belize also met with the U.S. leader.



## Haitian strongman jailed for fraud in New York

NEW YORK – A United States court has sentenced former Haitian paramilitary leader Emmanuel Constant to up to 37 years in prison for his role in a mortgage fraud scheme in New York that bilked lenders out of more than \$1 million.

In his sentencing remarks late last month, Justice Abraham G. Gerges, of the State Supreme Court in Brooklyn, linked Constant to the American foreclosure crisis and the current global economic turmoil.

"This case, while serious in and of itself, takes on an added resonance given the current global financial crisis," he said.

"While the defendant and his confederates cannot be held accountable for the nationwide economic meltdown and the foreclosure crisis, this scheme, and others like it, have played a role in the situation."

Constant's lawyer Samuel Karliner planned to appeal.



## Jamaican-born pilot helps Miami students 'Build and Soar'

### JUDITH HUDSON

"Gentle, quiet, always ready to help," Clovealy Irving beamed with pride as she described her son.

Her words rang true as Barrington Irving gladly stopped to take pictures with anyone who asked. He indulged the young mother screaming out from the crowd that her son wanted to meet him, and the teacher speaking on behalf of her mentally-challenged students who desperately wanted to take a picture with their hero.

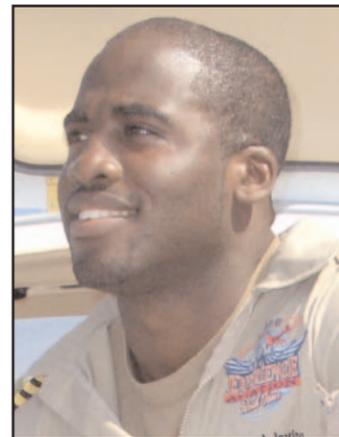
It was only a year ago that the 24-year-old Irving made history as he circled the globe in a single-engine aircraft. Not only was he the youngest person to achieve that feat, but Irving was also the only Jamaican-born African American to do so.

No wonder, therefore, that on Oct. 16, thousands converged at the Opa-Locka Airport in South Florida to celebrate another of Irving's achievements – building a single-engine plane in 10 weeks with the help of 60 students from Norland and Carol City high schools. This time Irving's flight was not around the world, but around the airport, showcasing their creation.

The students were selected as a part of Irving's "Build and Soar" aviation program designed to encourage inner-

city youth and minority students to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

"We had an open door policy," Irving said of the stu-



Irving

dents. "We weren't interested in their past, just what they wanted to do now and in the future."

### HARD WORK

The students appear willing to go along. Thomas Nelson, a 15-year-old from Norland who helped build the plane, said he always wanted to be a pilot.

"Hard work will pay off," he said. "Barrington is the greatest person now in aviation, and to get the opportunity to work with him was great. I hope that I get to work with him next year."

Kenneth Mack, 15, also from Norland, agreed that hard work paid off.

"It was hard work putting the plane together," Mack said. "We stopped and rested, but we continued until it was finished."

Irving has no plans to go around the world, at least not on another solo flight. Instead, he dreams of working with at-risk children. He wants them to know that they can accomplish whatever they desire.

"I want them to look at me and realize that if I can achieve my dream, they can too," he said.

His mission will also take him to Jamaica where youths there will be able to share in his vision.

"My dreams started when I met a Jamaican pilot named Gary Robinson," Irving remembered. "He asked me if I wanted to be a pilot; if it weren't for him I would not be here today."

Miami Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, said Irving's speech and mannerism make him seem much older than in his 20s.

"He is an inspiration just like the plane said," Jordan exclaimed.

*Judith Hudson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



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# Obama whips McCain, sweeps into U.S. White House

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

Democrat Barack Obama, campaigning on a platform of change and an end to politics that has divided his nation, convincingly swept aside the challenge of Republican John McCain to become the 44th president of the United States and the first African American to hold the country's highest office.

Obama, the 47-year-old senator from Illinois born to a black African father and a white American mother, finished the Nov. 4 election with 349 electoral votes to McCain's 163. He only required 270 votes for the historic win that ended eight years of Republican rule in the U.S. Obama also tallied over 63 million of the popular vote to just under 56 million for McCain.

President-elect Obama will be officially sworn into the White House on Jan. 20. Running mate, Delaware Senator Joe Biden, will be his vice president.

Riding a wave of high U.S. voter turnout, especially among young people and minorities that included overwhelming support from Caribbean Americans, many who stood several hours in line to cast their vote, Obama rolled into the Oval Office fueled by key promises to deliver a tax system that will benefit the middle class, an improved health care policy, access to better education for all, and a reversal of a lingering threat of economic doom in the nation.

A massive, well-drilled organization and some three million money contributors boosted a campaign that stressed unity between people of different political beliefs, ethnic backgrounds and economic status. That translated into a huge margin of victory. It also sparked positive emotions that better times were ahead for America.

"It feels like hope won," popular U.S. talk show host Oprah Winfrey told a television reporter.

**UNITY**

When Obama took the stage in his home state of

Illinois minutes before midnight on Nov. 4, and shortly after John McCain acknowledged defeat from his state of Arizona, the president-elect at once embraced the significance of his accomplishment while pledging to be the president for all Americans, not just his supporters.

"Out of many we are one," he said in a similar mes-

sage to Jamaica's motto "Out Of Many One People".

Millions of people in the Caribbean and around the world appeared to openly celebrate Obama's victory. Hundreds gathered in front of the White House in Washington D.C. when it became clear he had won. Obama sounded a note of hope for countries elsewhere

too, including the Caribbean, indicating that the U.S. under his leadership would be part of their struggle for better global relations.

"To all watching from beyond our shores," Obama said, "...our story is singular, but our destiny is shared."

He zoomed in on his own nation, and talked about people like Atlanta's Ann Nixon

Cooper, who at 106 had lived through an era when African Americans were not even allowed to vote, but who could now witness one become president.

"It's been long time coming, but tonight change has come to America," said Obama in an acceptance

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Obama



McCain

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## Caribbean Americans celebrate Obama's election victory

JUDITH HUDSON

Caribbean Americans, eager for change in their adopted homeland, have enthusiastically embraced Barack Obama's successful bid to become president of the United States.

According to several interviewed by Caribbean Today on election night, Nov. 4, they voted for a candidate who will make life better for them and their relatives, one who they hope will not forget them when he settles in the White House and not sweep their issues aside but will tackle them head-on.

"For the economy to stabilize, we have to first choose a good leader," said Irwine Clare, the Jamaican-born managing director of Caribbean Immigrant Services in New York, who said that he always believed that Obama was the better candidate to become president.

"We have chosen a leader not only for the United States but for the world, one who will now bring everyone to the table."

Clare said it is still unclear about Obama's immigration policy, but he believes that the Caribbean community will benefit if it works with other racial groups.

"Right now, I don't think

we have done enough in America to get special obligation," he said. "We must ask ourselves, 'are we doing enough to make an impact on this nation, are we at the level to demand change'. I don't think we are."

Clare also added that whatever happens it is a great time to be in the U.S.

"Barack is the first African American president, and if he can do it, as a child with immigration background, that makes me believe that I can do anything," he said. "This is history in the making."

### 'ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE'

Patrick Beckford, chairman of Jamaica Diaspora organization in the U.S. north-east region, agreed.

"Words cannot express how I feel," Beckford said on Nov. 4. "Look at what is happening. I picked my daughter up today from college and I can now tell her that anything is possible, anything can happen."

Beckford said that many young people voted because they believe they have a voice and can be a part of the decision-making. But he too was not sure where President Obama will stand on immigration.

"He has a Caribbean affairs advisor," Beckford said, "so I

think we might get some help from him."

Yet Pauline Walters, a businesswoman, said that she voted for Obama because of his stand on immigration.

"Senator Obama voted in favor of giving illegal aliens amnesty," she said.

Walters added that the Democrat will need time to fix the economy and other problems that the U.S. faces, but the first step was to put him in the White House instead of Republican opponent John McCain.

"President-elect Obama is the best person to set us free," she said. "He will restore all that is lost. He is the only American politician who went to Germany and got such a reception. Barack brings new ideas, while McCain has none."

Sara Williams, a retired elementary school teacher said she cried when Obama won.

"We have come a long way," she said, "from the cotton fields to the White House. This is what we have dreamed about, but thought it was impossible. Now that our dreams has come through we need time to take it in, then we must get ready to work."

*Judith Hudson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



## Obama whips McCain, sweeps into U.S. White House

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

speech often punctuated by chants of "Yes we can!" from the estimated 200,000-plus people who gathered in Grant Park, Chicago.

In a sober but commanding tone Obama hardly acknowledged an often hostile campaign, in which his opponent's camp linked him to terrorists and a socialist philosophy and questioned his fitness to lead the nation, to credit McCain and ask for his help to move the U.S. forward.

"This is our moment," he said, repeating a line from his campaign trail. "This is our time."

Long before election night Obama's message had indeed started to change the way American's view politics. Several senior Republicans, included former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a son of Jamaican parents, openly endorsed Obama, the first senator since John F. Kennedy to take the Oval Office. After the election they remained confident Obama could carry out his mandate.

"What he did in this campaign was be all-inclusive,"

Powell told one news organization, "...to bridge the gap between generations."

Obama said he was determined to "heal the divide that held back our progress."

### BUSH'S BURDEN

Outgoing President George W. Bush led the U.S. for two terms, which culminated in the country's worst economic crisis possibly in a century and his own personal popularity plunging among the lowest ever for a sitting U.S. leader. That appeared to weigh heavily on McCain's campaign. Other stumbling blocks, revealed by several national polls, included the Republican Party's consistent negative campaigning and McCain's choice of Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate.

The growing unpopularity of the U.S. involvement in two wars did not help the Republican. Neither did McCain's - a long time senator and respected ex-military man - failure to convince the majority of Americans he offered the best solution to

the nation's economic woes and his inconsistent shows of leadership which the Obama campaign often described as erratic. McCain humbly accepted the voters' decision.

"The American people have spoken and they have spoken clearly," he said.

The Arizona senator was gracious in defeat, congratulating his opponent and promising to help him rebuild America. McCain also acknowledged the "special significance" of Obama's win.

"Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and his country," said McCain during his concession speech.

Obama signaled his intent to hasten the transition from the Bush administration. He had reportedly long decided on key team members, including a chief of staff. His job, he said, required urgent attention.

"Victory alone is not the change we seek," Obama said, "It's the chance to make that change."

*Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.*



Obama proved popular to voters in South Florida and the entire U.S.

## Fashion from the islands hit The Bahamas catwalk

GORDON WILLIAMS

NASSAU, The Bahamas - Fashion creativity in the Caribbean is fast becoming serious business for designers from around the world, and The Bahamas is stepping boldly onto the catwalk, hoping to capitalize on that growing interest.

The Caribbean chain staged "Islands of the World Fashion Week" (IWFW) from Nov. 5-8 here and, according to its organizers, the aim is to transform entrepreneurial spirit of the region into real recognition and earnings.

"If you look at a number of the established designers around the world, they look at other cultures in terms of transporting and importing a lot of the designs etc. from other cultures into their fashions and you see it on the catwalks in Paris, in London, wherever," Owen Bethel, president of Mode Iles, an affiliate of a financial services operation which produced IWFW, explained to Caribbean Today on the eve of the four-day extravaganza.

"...And so what I saw was really to bring to value to the economies of the (Caribbean) countries, to the countries those designs originate from...That's why I refer to it as the business of fashion as opposed to simply the entertainment of fashion."

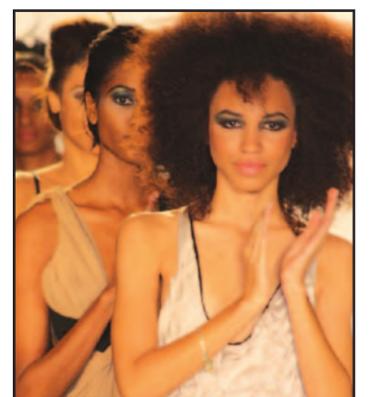
To prove its point, IWFW advertised some 30 garment and accessories designers from 11 islands, many in the Caribbean but some from as far away as Fiji, Indonesia and Madagascar.

International guest designers, including Peter Ingwersen, of Noir Illuminati II from Denmark, and Nick Verreos of Nikolaki in the United States, were also slat-

ed to show.

Despite a disappointing late start to the first day, the show unfurled into a steady flow of tropical-flavored designs. Haitian David Andre's line of "Sea, Sex, Sun" starting the event rolling, followed by presentations from Darcel De Vlught and hometown girl Christine Demeritte. Yet the Caribbean will need a greater push along the runway to carve out a sizeable niche.

"To be honest with you, I don't think that the Caribbean



Photograph by Demetrius Francis  
Bahamian Apryl Weech leads a group of models on the catwalk during "Islands of the World Fashion Week"

has really presented itself significantly in the world of fashion," Bethel admitted.

"We have some fantastic designers, but I think what has happened...is that it has not gone to the next level of business, as such, outside in the international market...As a region, I don't think we have gone anywhere near the force that we have and the potential that we have."

The world is waiting...at the end of the runway.

*Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.*



## great TALK

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**Q.** How have you used your 7th Heaven Reward points?

I love free tickets, and I share my free tickets with the people I love. It's always about bringing my family and friends together.

**Q.** What's your favourite trip?

Flying to Jamaica straight from work on a Friday evening to spend a weekend with my family and friends and then coming back up to Miami on the early flight just in time for work on Monday morning. I even get a nice Jamaican breakfast on board to start the day off right!

**Q.** Share with us one of your travel secrets?

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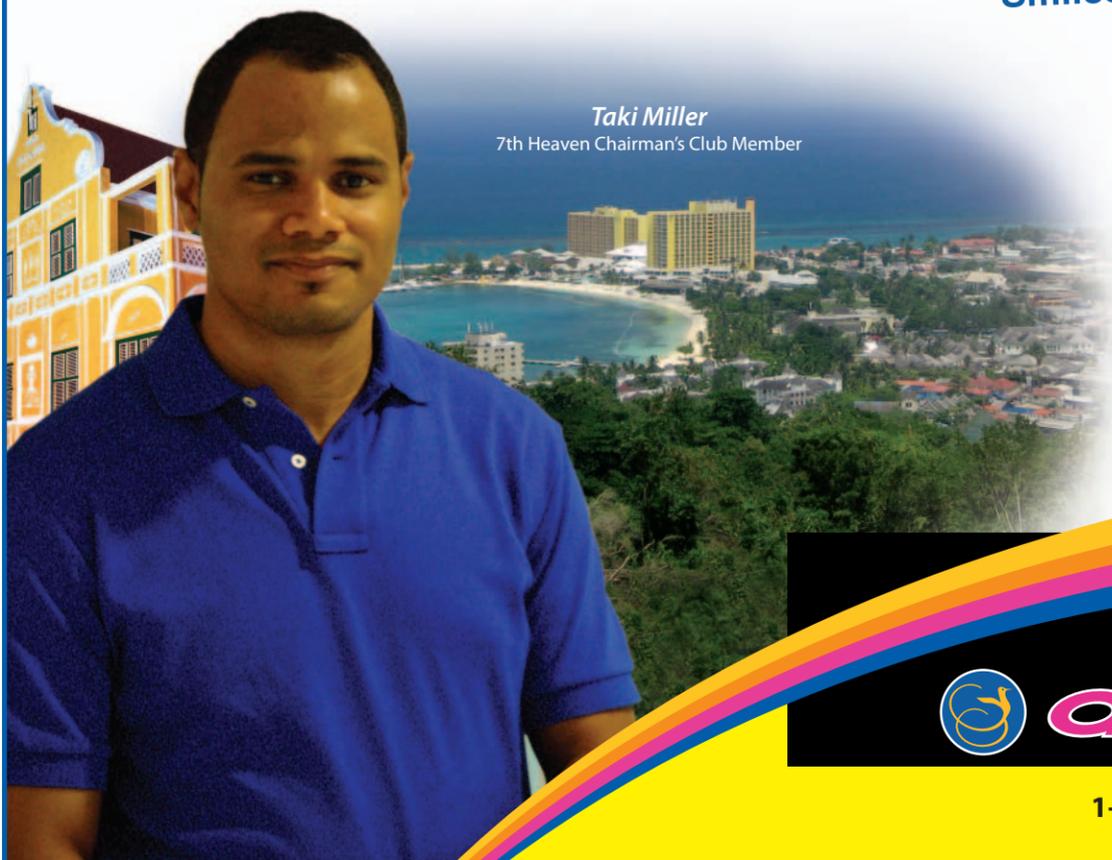


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## Home affairs minister dismisses U.S. report on crime in Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Guyana's Home Affairs Minister Clement Rohee has accused the United States Embassy of blowing the crime situation out of proportion, after a warning was issued to American citizens about an upsurge of crime in the country.

The report, issued through the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), said the U.S. was aware of the recent increase in robberies at local gas stations, including those often frequented by U.S. Embassy personnel in Georgetown.

"Due to a rise in criminal activity during the hours of

darkness, the U.S. Embassy is recommending that its employees fill their gas tanks during day-light hours only", the advisory stated.

"Private U.S. citizens in Guyana may wish to heed this same advice".

### 'INACCURATE'

However, Rohee late last month described the U.S. report as inaccurate, saying there have not been any recent attacks on gas stations. He acknowledged that there



Rohee

were minor criminal activities, but said the security forces were fully prepared to tackle these problems.

Rohee further noted that in recent times there have been no attacks on overseas-based Guyanese, labeling the U.S. report as yet another attempt to "blow out of proportion" the crime situation in Guyana.

The minister also chided the department, suggesting there were other countries in the region with a worse crime situation than Guyana. He called on the U.S. to consult with Guyanese authorities before making wild and irrelevant assumptions.



## U.S. student rescued from St. Lucia ordeal

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC – An American biology student was released from hospital here on Oct. 26 following his dramatic rescue from Petit Piton – St. Lucia's landmark 2,461 foot mountain.

Mark Francis Heinmann, 21, of the New York College, was among a party of students who came to St. Lucia for the "semester-at-sea program" and made the climb up the Piton. However, officials say he ran into difficulty on his way down, slipping 200 feet down the slope and landing on a ledge from which he had to be rescued.

The student suffered dehydration, bruises to his

body and a pain in his shoulder, but appeared to be in good spirits.

The entire ordeal lasted more than 12 hours as the French Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter, stationed on nearby Martinique, had to be mobilized by way of a request by the United States Embassy in Barbados.

Several local agencies were also involved in the rescue, including the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), the St. Lucia Fire Service, St. Lucia Helicopters, the Soufriere Disaster Committee and the Royal St. Lucia Police Force.



## HERO IN THE HOUSE



- Photograph by Derrick Scott/JIS

Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding, left, and Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) José Miguel Insulza stand next to a statue of Jamaica's first National Hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey during the prime minister's recent visit to Washington D.C. in the United States where Golding paid a courtesy call on Insulza. The statue is on display in the foyer of the OAS headquarters. The OAS recently passed a resolution to name its cultural hall in honor of Garvey.

## Cubans to get U.N. food aid

NEW YORK – The United Nations says close to two million Cubans affected by recent hurricanes Gustav and Ike will receive vital assistance under its World Food Program (WFP) over the next six months.

Under the newly-approved emergency operation, WFP will provide \$5.7 million in food rations, including rice, beans, vegetable oil, canned fish and CSB, a blended food compound of maize and soy fortified with vitamins and minerals.

The agency's efforts are in support of the Cuban government as it responds to communities needing food assistance in areas that bore the brunt of hurricane damage in late August and early September.

"WFP is playing an important role helping people who suffered great losses in the storms," said Sonsoles Ruedas, WFP representative in Cuba.

In addition to the rations, WFP will supply temporary food storage warehouses and liquid gas stoves to people who lost cooking facilities in the storms.

A series of hurricanes – Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike – killed hundreds of people and caused billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure across the Caribbean.

In addition to Cuba, Haiti and the Turks and Caicos Islands were among the hardest hit.



## Caribbean American congresswoman wants more aid for struggling Haiti

WASHINGTON – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has called on the George W. Bush administration to increase aid to Haiti in the wake of destruction by a recent series of storms.

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants who represents the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** before departing for Haiti recently that more needs to be done to help the French-speaking Caribbean country.

"We cannot allow this situation of poverty, disease, and vulnerability to the elements to continue unanswered," said Clarke, who was part of a United States Congressional delegation which went on a two-day visit to Haiti to

"physically examine the damage on the ground."

### MORE AID

Clarke, the representative for the largest Congressional district of Caribbean immigrants in the U.S., has joined her Congressional colleagues in asking Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to provide an appropriation of at least \$300 million in disaster assistance for Haiti in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has nearly doubled the amount of humanitarian assistance to Haiti from \$10 million, announced on Sept. 8, to \$19.5 million.



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## FEATURE

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# Caribbean tourism responds positively to climate change

DAWN A. DAVIS

Responding to climate change is no longer an option for Caribbean tourism practitioners and property owners.

Global warming is destroying coral reefs, creating more frequent and ferocious storms, and raising sea levels. This issue is affecting how hoteliers and attractions are doing business, sparking strategies aimed at keeping small island nations' bread-and-butter economies alive.

"Without a doubt, climate change can bring about a total reversal of development," warned Jamaica's Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett at a recent seminar on Climate Change and Tourism held at the Ritz Carlton Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), world tourism is responsible for four percent to six percent of total global emissions and could grow by 150 percent over the next 30 years. The

UNWTO report also found tourism flows could be affected in climate-sensitive regions such as the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean, events that could cripple the sector.

The urgency of the problem is underscored by findings from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change warning that global temperatures could rise by 1.8 degree Celsius to 4.0 degree Celsius by the end of the 21st century if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced. Added to this is the fact that tourism is highly climate-sensitive and, therefore, vulnerable to these disastrous changes.

"It therefore seems that making Jamaica and the region carbon neutral destinations is an imperative. The Caribbean's carbon intensity relative to GDP is currently the world's highest," Bartlett said in his address to stakeholders at the ministry-sponsored seminar.

## GOV'T RESPONSE

Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism has answered the call

by adopting the Davos Declaration principles reached among members of the UNWTO at its climate change

such as the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management and the National MET service was one of the ini-

disasters.

At the ground level, the Ministry of Tourism along with the Tourism Product Development Company created programs such as Spruce Up Jamaica and the Intercoastal Cleanup Project designed to harness the interest and actions of the entire population through awareness and eco-friendly practices.

Tourism's collaboration with the Ministry of Energy is also a signal of the government's commitment to develop alternate sources of energy such as ethanol and bio-diesel. The ministry also outlined the sector's investigation into carbon markets and the potential of selling carbon offsets for credits. Carbon off-setting simply means the greenhouse gas emissions that is created in one area, for example from an airline flight, can be offset by reducing emissions in another area by planting a tree, for example.

The Jamaican government is also encouraging the adoption

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Photograph by Dawn A. Davis

Resorts like The Palms Negril in Jamaica are doing their part to preserve the Caribbean's environment.

conference last year. The ministry will thus integrate climate change policies and practices into its Sustainable Tourism Master Plan at its mid-term review.

Partnering with agencies

tiatives the ministry believed was needed to "instigate a more integrated sense of environmental awareness". Out of that was borne a Tourism Emergency Management Committee to focus on the sector's response to

# Recognition battle rages on in Grenada at U.S. invasion milestone

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada - The words from former United States First Lady Nancy Reagan echoed to a captive audience a stone's throw away from where a battle waged between U.S. marines and Grenadian soldiers 25 years ago.

The man who made the call to the U.S. - former Governor General Sir Paul Scoon - Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, as well as veterans of the war, were part of the audience at last month's ceremony rededicating a monument for 19 American soldiers killed in the war.

"I can hardly believe 25 years have passed since my husband received that early morning call for help from the governor (general) of Grenada," recalled Reagan in a letter read by U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Mary Ourisman. "Authorizing military force is an extremely difficult decision for a president to make, but my husband didn't hesitate."

The ceremony, a highlight of the national Thanksgiving Day, occurred just outside the Point Salines International airport where Cubans and Grenadians fought side by side to repel U.S. marines arriving on helicopter gunships.

## UPHEAVALS

The invasion, supported by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Jamaica and Barbados, came at the peak of political upheavals brought on by a split in the People's Revolutionary

Government (PRG) of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Bishop, who was placed under house arrest by the PRG faction opposed to him, was later rescued by supporters many of whom were massacred by the firing squad which executed the revolutionary leader and some of his Cabinet colleagues.

In 1979, former Prime Minister Eric Gairy was ousted in a bloodless coup and the Marxist-Leninist PRG came to power, headed by Bishop. Under his leadership, Grenada aligned itself with Cuba and other Soviet bloc countries, which alarmed the U.S. and other Caribbean nations. Following the bloody events of Oct. 19, 1983, the day Bishop was killed, a dust-to-dawn curfew was announced by a Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

## CONTENTION

The pomp and pageantry of the rededication ceremony and the high-ranking officials present may have sustained the high profile nature of the American tribute. However, recognition of the events of Oct. 1983 has been an issue of lingering contention and perhaps political currency here as well. A recent government announcement to work with

Cuba to erect a monument in honor of the 24 Cuban construction workers who died during the invasion has angered sections of the population.

The Cuban monument will be funded by Havana and is expected to be erected near the Point Salines Airport built mainly by workers from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island.

The rededication of the American monument, and plans for a Cuban monument are bound to fan the flames of debate over similar tribute to fallen local soldiers. Cuban trained medical practitioner and former leader of the now defunct Maurice Bishop

Patriotic Movement (MBPM) Dr. Terrence Marrayshow has been a leading campaigner for recognition of Oct. 19 and the soldiers who died.

"On October 25th we commemorate the lives of those who invaded us, but our soldiers who died giving their lives in defense of the country for whatever reason...what they did was patriotic...they died defending Grenada's Independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity," complained Marrayshow, who now leads the Maurice Bishop and October Martyrs Foundation, (MBOMF).

Some political pundits

here believe the chances of state tribute to soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), who died defending Grenada, has increased since the new Thomas administration took office following the July 8 general elections. Many of the key players of the new government were members of the PRG as well as its political arm, the New Jewel Movement (NJM). Recently, amid public debate on the subject, Junior Culture Minister Arley Gill announced that some form of tribute would be paid.

- CMC



Bishop

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FEATURE

# Caribbean's gay uprising sparks heated debate

RAWLE TITUS

Fingers pointing to the sky are shaped in the form of guns. Imaginary triggers are squeezed as crowds of partygoers react with approval to a popular song by Jamaican dancehall icon Buju Banton at Grenada's top nightclub Fantazia.

"Boom bye bye in ah batty boy head, Rude boy nah promote dem nasty man, dem ha fi dead", Banton's controversial homophobic lyrics, blare from the speakers.

This scene could very easily be anywhere in the Caribbean or the diaspora.

While the plethora of homophobic reggae songs might have contributed to a sub-genre of its own, it seems to underline the region's strong resentment to the gay lifestyle. But Grenadian sociologist Claude Douglas argues that the Caribbean's attitude to homosexuality is changing. Douglas, a lecturer at St. George's University, says tolerance has increased significantly in recent years and partly blames the United States cultural invasion of the Caribbean.

"Yesterday's deviants will become today and tomorrow's norms," Douglas told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**.

## CASE IN POINT

Douglas makes his case in his new book, "Homosexuality in the Caribbean – Crawling Out of the Closet", which examines the rise of this alternative lifestyle in the region. In his 60-page book, Douglas explores issues ranging from biological origins and the "gay tourists phenomenon"

to the campaign to decriminalize homosexuality in the region. The university lecturer argues that there is not a tremendous increase in the number of homosexuals in the Caribbean, but that more people are finding the



Mottley

courage to "come out".

His book narrows in on some of the key factors impacting on this lifestyle, including religious values and the campaign of the gay rights movement. Although the former chair of the Social Sciences Department at the T.A. Marryshow Community College does not believe people like to hear his argument, he envisages in his book that "homosexuality is becoming an alternative and acceptable form of human sexuality in the Caribbean".

## 'PROGRESS'

Despite strong opposition by the religious community, the gay rights movement is reported to be making considerable progress in the Caribbean. From The Bahamas in the north to Guyana in the south, there has been a persistent struggle for equal rights. Puerto Rico, an overseas department of the U.S., is considered by many to

be the most tolerant Caribbean country where gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and transsexual groups march openly in the annual gay parade.

Fidel Castro's niece and sexologist Mariela Castro is leading a new revolution in Cuba, a country in which homosexuality is becoming increasingly recognized.

To some extent, it appears that the struggle for homosexual rights is helping to remove laws considered oppressive. In 1997, legislative changes in Cuba effectively decriminalized homosexuality and have paved the way for gay and lesbian couples to

enjoy the same civil rights as heterosexual couples. The gay community in the United Kingdom continues to pressure the Caribbean to change laws forbidding homosexual practices. The British homosexual organization Outrage has been working closely with Caribbean groups like Jamaicans for Lesbians, All-sexuals Gays (J-flag) and Barbados Gay and Lesbians Against

Discrimination (BGLAD). In 2001, the U.K. forced the repealing of laws in overseas dependent territories such as the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla.

## CHANGE

Among those who agree that a change in attitude is needed at the highest levels of society is former Barbados Attorney General and present Opposition Leader Mia



Claude Douglas

Mottley.

"A government in pluralistic society must accommodate and respect the human rights and dignity of each individual," she said. "To that extent, a law, which seeks to discriminate in a society whose history has been scarred with the cancer of discrimination, has in fact, to be reformed."

Meantime, public health authorities continue to advocate for the decriminalization of homosexuality as a key strategy in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

"There is a rampant homophobia in the Caribbean...a lot of it has its origins in the concept that HIV/AIDS was a disease of homosexual males, which of course is not," declared health expert Sir George Alleyne, who believes stigma and homophobia are obstacles in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Among leading regional politicians calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality to help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS have been St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas and Guyana's Health Minister Dr. Leslie Ramsammy.

## OPPOSITION

Despite the progress made by the gay rights movement in advancing the cause of the homosexuals in the region, stiff opposition to such lifestyles remain, particularly in Jamaica, which has been labeled the most homophobic country in the world. Kingston continues to report the brutal murders of a rising number of homosexuals, including gay rights activist Brian Williamson in 1994. Three

years later prisoners killed 16 fellow inmates who were thought to be gay.

Despite the opposition to homosexuality in Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean, Claude Douglas, in his book, maintains that the region, including the church community, has become more accepting of this lifestyle.

Some religious organizations fronted the protest action against gay cruises to Grenada last winter season. But Leopold Friday, the bishop of the Anglican Church in the Windward Islands, said although the church remains opposed to homosexuality, it would not throw out members who practiced the lifestyle.

- CMC



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## Caribbean tourism responds positively to climate change

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

of environmental management systems that addresses environmentally efficient construction and planning. As well, there is a program of incentives to support eco-friendly practices such as concessionary rates to hotels and other tourism properties for alternative energy resources and equipment such as solar water heaters.

## GREEN GLOBE

Hotels and other tourism sector practitioners across the region are taking the environmental issues seriously and are adapting. Properties in the region are striving to become Green Globe certified, with some attaining the honor. Green Globe participants have set up systems to help them reach high environmental performance by, for example, cutting waste, recycling and

becoming more efficient.

Among some of the Green Globe-certified properties are Long Bay Hotel in Antigua, Bougainvillea Resort in Barbados, Dominica's 3 Rivers Eco Lodge, Spice Island Beach Resort in Grenada, and Jamaica's Sandals Resorts. The properties strive to teach environmental awareness, monitor water usage, and recycle bed linens, towels, etc at guests' request. In fact, there are 57 such properties across the region according to the Caribbean Hotel Association-Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism website.

Awareness is growing and the sector is taking a stand. Even smaller properties that cannot afford extravagant environmental systems are doing their part. A Jamaica Tourist Board-sponsored tour of The Palms Resort on the

island's famous north coast of Negril revealed a property fitted with low flow water-saving toilets, energy-saving light bulbs, and locally-made furniture. Another small property, Rooms, also featured water-saving systems, a recycling program, and energy-efficient lighting in addition to fire extinguishers on each block of rooms. Sea Wind Resort's response to the environment is to offer rooms that virtually touch the pristine sea.

Dean Fenton, of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism office in New York, explained that Antigua's newest resort, the Veranda Resort & Spa, is Green Globe certified.

"This hotel is a pure example that the sector and the government is moving in the right direction," he said, adding that "the government is looking at better ways to

attract these types of resorts on the island because it helps the environment as well as tourism."

Fenton elaborated on a unique program within the sector. He explained that the island's Heritage Beach Resort has come up with a creative program to curb waste in that the resort gives leftover food to a pig farm in return for fresh pork.

"There is more awareness on the island in regards to climate change and being eco-friendly. It is catching on," Fenton said.

Echoing this sentiment, Bartlett remarked: "United as a body, our actions today can be significant in turning the tide."

*Story and photograph by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



## Circular firing squad

CLARENCE PAGE

Rush Limbaugh dismissed Colin Powell's endorsement of Barack Obama as motivated by race. Who's playing the race card now?

"Secretary Powell says his endorsement is not about race," the radio blab show host e-mailed to the web site Politico's Jonathan Martin. "OK, fine. I am now researching his past endorsements to see if I can find all the inexperienced, very liberal, white candidates he has endorsed. I'll let you know what I come up with."

No need, Rush. Instead, here is a list of recent presidential candidates to whom Powell has given money:

- Sen. John McCain of Arizona: \$2,300 (the maximum allowed).

And here's a list of the very conservative inexperienced people who Powell wishes McCain had not nominated to be vice president:

- Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

As Powell put it, if race were all that he had only in mind, "I could have done this six, eight, 10 months ago."

Remember back that far? That was back when McCain was still speaking and behaving like a true maverick. Back then, the far-right folks like Limbaugh were calling McCain some sort of a "RINO" - Republican in name only.

### EASY PICKINGS

I'm picking on Limbaugh for two reasons. One, he's easy. He sets himself up, bending over with a big kick-me sign, so he can play the victim after he gets kicked.

When Powell was a featured GOP convention speaker in 2000, he was a fine patriotic American, in the eyes of those who see the world as Rush does. Now that Powell prefers a guy who happens to be a Democrat, the retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff suddenly is a Benedict Arnold in blackface, "Benedict Powell", which is how syndicated cartoonist Gordon Campbell recently portrayed him.

In case you snoozed through history class, Benedict Arnold was a brilliant Revolutionary War general who joined the English in one of the greatest acts of treason America has ever known. That's how Campbell later told an interviewer that he sees Powell's support of affirmative action and the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade abortion rights decision. And that's how a movement once

energized by big ideas turns small-minded - and drowns itself in a bathtub full of its own narcissism. Glub, glub.

Which brings us to my second reason for picking on Rush. Like Campbell's cartoon, Limbaugh's race-based rebuke reveals the narrow-gauge thinking that has corrupted and fragmented the once-strong conservative coalition that Ronald Reagan, the Republican Party's last truly transformational leader, built in the 1980s. Two decades later, President Bush's approvals have plunged, along with those of Congressional Republicans. The old coalition's latest iconic leader was former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, the conservative Texas Republican still awaiting trial in connection with campaign finance allegations.

### 'CHANGE ELECTION'

Judging by the polls, McCain never quite grasped what this "change election" is about. He had a perfect opportunity to wage a national contest for what Powell has called the "sensible center" of America's political life. But, he passed over his friend and fellow maverick Sen. Joe Lieberman, a breakaway independent from the Democrats, to be his running mate. Fearing a walkout by the religious right, McCain swung back to his party's base and chose Palin, a darling of social conservatives, but woefully unprepared for prime time in national politics.

Instead of ideas, McCain tried an arsenal of tactics. He never got around to articulating a governing philosophy except to denounce "pork" and "earmarks" and call himself a "maverick." When denunciations of Obama's "inexperience" failed, McCain tried to present himself as a better agent of "change", without explaining quite what he meant.

McCain won Limbaugh's support and lost Colin Powell's, not because Powell is black but because McCain lost interest in new ideas. He left the broad middle ground of America's electorate, the masses who are looking for programs, not just platitudes about "pork" and "earmarks", to the neophyte Obama.

Meanwhile, back on the right, there are reports that a blamestorm begun within the McCain campaign. A circular firing squad of advisors blamed Palin for the campaign's setbacks in the polls after her initial bloom wore off. One insid-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## Love costs more to get more

Love costs, that's a fact, but it costs more to get more.

A lot of men want more though, preferring to spend on other women.

Still, this practice is not new, and occurs in many countries. It was the Japanese who quantified and dignified the practice of men having mistresses on the side without having to hide and do so. Japanese men had their consorts, women who were like second wives, but did much more.

Every Japanese man of worth, nobility, breeding or class in ancient times, had his consort, and there was no hypocrisy or secret in the matter. Of course, he had to maintain her, and royally too, for consorts did not come cheap, and that's why it was mostly men of means who could afford them.

The practice in the west still pervades now, albeit under a cloak of secrecy and guile, as men are forced by society to keep their consorts under cover. Call them what you will, consorts, mistresses, "mateys", the other woman, concubines, they all come with a price tag, a cost that is often hidden.

Whichever way you slice it, however you approach it, extra love is going to cost you, both financially and emotionally, for you will have to share what resources you have between her and your wife and family.

### TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

A concubine or "matey", is a woman who cohabits with a man without being legally married to him; a mistress, a secondary wife basically, as defined by the dictionary. Still, most women do not really relish the term, and prefer to be called, girlfriends, wives, or 'my woman'.

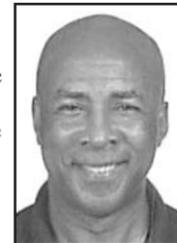
But that should be the least of the man's concerns, as the cost of the mistress should take priority. First of all, most



expect and indeed demand some sort of financial assistance from their men. It's hardly likely that a professional woman with her own income and dwelling is going to be any man's mistress. So right then and there, she is a drain on the private purse.

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. So when the man, with a fixed income, gives her money, it is from funds that would normally go to his wife and family. Something's got to give. And the bitter irony is, most men will sacrifice the house money to give to the other woman. His wife will need stuff for the house, or the kids will require clothes or school things, and he will cry how broke he is and beg her to stop pressuring him. But as the "matey" opens her mouth or makes a phone call, he will drop whatever he is doing and run to her with his last dollar.

You'd be surprised how many men have to buy two sets of groceries and hide one in the car trunk for the other woman. Usually the fancier one is for her, for they do have 'high chest', as the term



TONY ROBINSON

goes. The wine, the foreign cheese with the French name, the fruit cocktail, the Pringles potato chips, and the Charmin rolls, all for her. Meanwhile the wife and household in general will have to settle for the generic brand name, second-rate stuff and be grateful for it too.

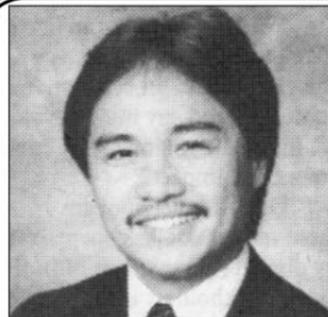
### STYLE

Then the girlfriend has to live in a certain area and in a particular style. No way is she going to be satisfied living in a small studio apartment or half a house somewhere south of the ghetto. Mistresses have class, or at least aspire for it, and class demands cash, and cash invariably flows from the fool, bypasses the family, and then to her.

Mistresses do not give, but take and take and take. No man is going to have his mistress looking all frumpy, ordinary and haggard. If that were the case, he'd just stay home with his wife.

Girlfriends have to always look sharp, wear the finest clothes and makeup, and smell of the best perfume. She always demands and gets the best. It doesn't take a fashion guru to spot a mistress among a crowd of wives. Put them side-by-side and even an untrained eye can tell who is the wife and who is the mis-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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# CARIB Comments



• **“It is really cruel for the United States to do this, especially now under these circumstances”** – U.S.

Congressman Kendrick Meek opposing deportation of Haitians from the U.S. even as the Caribbean country battles to recover from recent natural disasters.

• **“You are saying that I am a U.S. citizen. I am saying I am not a U.S. citizen”** – Keith Mitchell,



Grenada's Opposition leader and former prime minister issues a denial last month in a bid to stop mounting claims.

• **“We have some trying times ahead”** - Barbados's Central Bank Governor Marion Williams last month focusing on the country's economic downturn.

• **“Yesterday's deviants will become today and tomorrow's norms”** - Grenadian sociologist

Claude Douglas predicts increasing tolerance for gays in the Caribbean.

• **“If urgent action is not taken on the disaster risk reduction front, then we're simply going to see more tragedies in the future”** - United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian



Affairs John Holmes warning that Haiti was suffering its worst disaster in over a century and that aid agencies are far short of the millions needed to help the country recover from four deadly hurricanes this year that left 800 people dead and affected another million.

Compiled from several sources, including CMC.

## Circular firing squad

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

er called her a “diva”, according to CNN. Her supporters, by contrast, blame McCain's team for refusing to let her be herself. In fact, McCain would have had more success had he been content to let himself be himself.

Fingers of blame point every which way in a losing campaign. Some conservatives long welcomed a loss. Only then, some say, could they hope to regain the energy and vitality that comes from being the “out” party. Looks like they're about to get their chance.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ress. But for her to maintain this high fashion standard, she requires high maintenance, and she's not doing the maintaining, plus she doesn't care where the man gets it from, as long as he delivers. For that reason, it's usually not young men who have mistresses, as that onerous privilege is reserved for men a little up in age and more financially established than their younger counterparts.

After all, the older the man, the more foolish he is, and a fool and his money makes nice parties.

### DAMAGE

But do these women know what damage they create to the financial and emotional state of families? Or do

## Love costs more to get more

they care?

They say that if the man wants to keep them, then he has to stand the costs. After a while, they get bold, and think that they have a right to the man, which includes calling him at home, even if the wife is there or not. This takes an enormous emotional toll on wives, and by extension the children, for pickney is not fool, and most know what's going on.

Many have told me of the grief and torment that they felt growing up under the grip of a mistress.

Mistresses have to be taken out, and to the finest places too. What's the point of being a mistress if you can't live the good life? Wives on the other hand are grateful if they get to see a play, taken to a fancy dinner, or a weekend get-

away. That's reserved for the girlfriend, and the same money that could be used to look after the house, is instead diverted to care and maintain her on these romantic ventures.

And where do you think the money comes from, some secret stipend on the man's salary? I think not. It comes from the same paycheck that the man gets, but he has to share it up, and divert an ample portion to the mistress. It's very rarely that the girlfriend is refused cash, but marital discord over money is legendary, and indeed is the basis for many a divorce. A man will refuse his wife money, but never his other woman. I have never heard of a man and his “matey” bickering over money and breaking up.

The cost of getting more loving can have a devastating

effect on families, as men have been known to lie through their teeth about not having any money to support the household, while secretly they have a stash waiting to give to the mystery lady. Men have been known to give small fortunes to them, while wives have to live from hand to mouth.

That's why in the past it was only men of means who could afford to have mistresses, concubines or consorts, but nowadays even broke old men want them, resulting in financial and emotional ruin. Mistresses cost, and if you can't afford one, stay home with your wife, for they may cost more than you can afford.

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The guide is available at [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net). For more information, contact the Office of Parent Involvement at 305-995-1233.

## HURRICANE RELIEF

In response to relief efforts following damages by Tropical Storm Gustav in Jamaica recently, a disaster recovery fund was launched with a donation of \$20 million by Supreme Ventures, in collaboration with the government's effort.

Additionally, Jamaica National Building Society through its remittance arm, JN Money Transfer services, as well as Grace Kennedy Remittances Services (GKRS), through Western Union, have agreed to open accounts to enable Jamaicans in the diaspora to contribute to the fund. The funds are Hurricane Relief United Jamaica Account for Grace Kennedy and, in the case of Jamaica National, the JN Recovery Fund Account.

The funds from the accounts will help to meet the cost of the emergency works and relief measures that are being carried out with particular emphasis on schools and hospitals.

The public is being advised to make donations at any JN or GKRS (Western

Union) locations in the South Florida area.

All remittance fees will be waived for contribution to those accounts.

## COLLECTION DRIVE

Broward County, Florida is collecting donations to provide aid for hurricane victims in Haiti, Cuba, Turks and Caicos, The Bahamas and other Caribbean islands affected by the storms.

County residents are encouraged to donate:

- Canned goods (no items within six months from expiration)
- Bottled water
- Men's, women's, children's and infants' clothing in good wearable condition;
- Baby items, such as bottles, formula, diapers, wipes, etc.;
- First aid and personal hygiene items;
- Gently-used, clean bedding; and
- Flashlights, radios, batteries, etc.

Last month collection boxes were set up at the following locations:

- Broward County Governmental Center Lobby, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale;
- African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale;
- Northwest Regional Library, 3151 University Dr., Coral Springs;
- Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines; and
- West Regional Library, 8601 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation.

For more information, visit [www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org) or call 954-357-8053.



## IMMIGRATION KORNER

**Question: When I submit a family petition for my wife and kids who are overseas, will the USCIS check all the information that I declare when I apply for United States citizenship, such as date of birth of my children and our marriage date?**

**Answer:** Absolutely, says Irwine Clare, head of the Caribbean Immigrant Services in Queens, New York. The application that you submit includes biographical information, which a USCIS agent will use to confirm your citizenship, your birth certificate and marriage or divorce certificates and children's birth certificates.

It is the USCIS agent's job to check on all the facts you provide and ensure it is accurate. And this can take some time since to verify as the U.S. immigration agency also cross-references existing files for consistency, added Clare.

Follow the I-130 relative petition instructions and check the USCIS 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 qualifying relationship to each person for whom you are filing.

## SPECIAL STANDING

Note, however, that the law gives special standing to a U.S. citizen's wife, unmarried children under 21, and parents. There is no waiting list for immigration for these relatives. The Department of State will invite them to apply for an immigrant visa as soon as it approves your petition. In some cases, the petition can be filed outside the U.S., directly at the U.S. consulate.

## Accuracy, honesty best policies when applying for U.S. citizenship



If they entered legally and are currently in the U.S. (and meet certain other requirements), they may be able to file applications to adjust to permanent resident status.

The other stage of the application will include verification of your poverty level to ensure you can take care of your family once they arrive in the U.S. and they will not

be a burden to the country. Once the application is approved, you will be notified when a decision is made. Normally, when the application is approved, the petition is sent to the U.S. State Department's National Visa Center (NVC).

*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.*



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## HELP FOR HAITI



Daniel Armstrong, a student of Barry University in South Florida, helps load a van with items such as clothes, food and toiletries for victims of Hurricane Ike in Haiti during the school's recent charity drive. Thousands of victims of deadly storms, which have hit Haiti in recent months, are expected to receive donations of cash and kind from the drive. Collected supplies were delivered to St. James Catholic Parish, which will ship them through the Catholic Charities Mission Office.

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## Refreshing, tasty peanut punch



### Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of essence
- 1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg
- 2 1/2 teaspoons peanut butter

### Method

Blend together the milk with the peanut\_butter, along with sugar, for about three to four\_minutes.

Next add the nutmeg and essence to taste.

Place the punch into the fridge. Chill and\_serve.



## Strict diet not the only way to fight gout

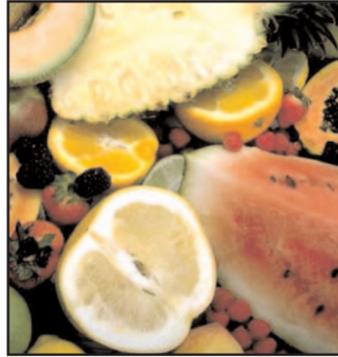
DR. ROBERT SHMERLING

**Question:** I recently had my first experience with gout. I had blood work done, which showed high levels of uric acid. I was given a list of many foods I should avoid, but the list is so extensive! I'm not sure what to eat besides fruits and vegetables. What do you recommend to balance my diet? I would like to avoid taking medication unless I really need it.

**Answer:** Personally, I don't recommend strict dietary modifications after an initial attack of gout. Here's why:

Gout is a condition in which uric acid deposits in joints, causing inflammation. A gouty joint is an unhappy joint - it's painful, swollen and does not move well.

People with gout almost always have high blood levels of uric acid, one of the body's nor-



A diet including fruits, many commonly found in the Caribbean, may help to prevent attacks of gout.

mal waste products. Most uric acid is removed from the body by the kidneys, so people with kidney disease typically have high levels of it. But gender, genetics, body weight, and other factors go into making a person's level of uric acid what it is.

A unique property of uric acid is that it cannot always

dissolve well in the blood and tissues. When the blood levels are even slightly high, uric acid can get deposited as solid crystals in the joints (causing arthritis), kidneys (causing kidney stones), and other tissues.

### RISK

Recent research suggests that a diet high in meat, seafood, and alcohol increases the risk of newly diagnosed gout. In addition, dairy products and coffee may be protective, lowering the risk of gout. However, these studies looked at people who had not had gout before. They did not assess the effect of diet on people who already had gout.

The list that you got of foods to avoid was probably a list of foods that are high in purines, a building block of protein that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

## 'Bahama Mama'



'Bahama Mama'

### Ingredients

- 1/2 oz. of 151 rum
- 1/2 oz. of dark rum?
- 4 oz. pineapple juice
- 1/2 oz. coffee liqueur
- 1/2 oz. coconut liqueur

### Method

Stir together all the ingredients with the ice, then strain into a chilled\_tumbler filled with ice.

Finally, garnish the drink with a cherry\_or strawberry.



## Papaya pie



### Ingredients

- 4 egg whites
- A pinch of cinnamon
- 4 table-spoons of flour

- 4 tablespoons of sugar
- 3 ripe medium papayas
- 2 teaspoons of lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon of lime zest
- 1 dash of orange extract
- 1 sweet medium pre-baked pie shell

### Method

Remove the seeds and coarsely mash the\_papayas. Add the lime juice, zest,\_cinnamon and the orange extract. Fold\_in the sugar and flour.

Beat the egg whites together until\_they are stiff, then fold into mixture.

Finally, bake for at least 25 minutes until the top is brown.

Serve warm or cold.



## Ackee, callaloo, rice casserole

### Ingredients

- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 cups of rice
- 1/2 cup of chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons pepper (white)
- 1 cup of grated cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 can ackees in salted water
- 1 can of callaloo in salted water

### Method

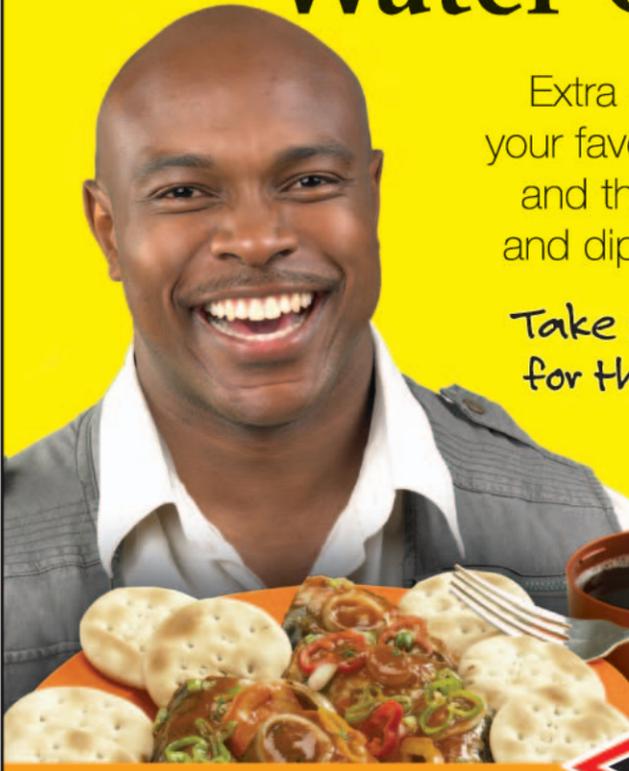
First preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.?Cook rice and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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## Spiny lobster bisque and Johnny cakes



Lobster bisque

### Ingredients

- 2 cups of milk
- 3 cups of cream
- 4 tablespoons of butter
- 1/2 cup of tomato puree
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 1/2 pound of fresh lobster
- 1/4 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of minced green onions
- 1 tablespoon of minced fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons of dry cooking sherry
- 1/4 teaspoon of pepper hot-pepper sauce to taste
- 1 teaspoon of salt

### Method

First boil or steam the

lobster. Cool and roughly cut the lobster into bite-size pieces and set aside.

In a large saucepan, melt the butter. Stir in the green onions and the garlic and sauté until the onions are transparent.

Blend in the flour. Cook, stirring constantly to blend in with the flour and the butter. Slowly, add in the milk along with the cream, stirring until the mixture is a nice and thick texture.

Finally, add the lobster, salt, puree, sherry, tomatoe, dill weed and pepper.



## Creole fish stew, St. Lucia style

### Ingredients

- oil for frying
- flour for dusting
- 2 tablespoons spice seasoning
- 2 tablespoons of malt vinegar
- 2 whole red bream or large snapper, prepared and cut into one-inch pieces

### For sauce

- 2 thyme springs
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 10 ounces of fresh tomatoes,

- peeled and finely chopped
- 1 hot chilli pepper chopped
- oregano springs to garnish
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 cups of fish stock or water
- 8 ounces of green and red pepper, finely chopped
- salt to taste

### Method

Sprinkle the fish with the spice seasoning and vinegar, turning to coat. Set aside to marinate for at least two hours.



## Ackee, callaloo, rice casserole

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

set aside in a greased casserole dish.

In a frying pan, heat the vegetable oil and sauté the

chopped onions. Add the drained ackees and the white pepper, then set asid



## CARNIVAL WINE AND DINE



- Photographs by Dawn A. Davis

Broward Carnival 2008 was a kaleidoscope of hot colors, costumes, music and food. The food stalls did brisk business. Among the most popular were the Trinidadian vendors serving up favorites such as "shark 'n bake" - fried dough stuffed with richly seasoned shark fillet topped with condiments, and "doubles", that's fried dough stuffed with channa, spicy curried chick peas. Photograph on the left shows Giselle, from the Mascots troupe, enjoying shark 'n bake, while Charlene from Curry Hut restaurant makes sure the channa just right.





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## Roast breadfruit and saltfish

### Ingredients

- 1 onion
- 1 tomato
- 1/4 cup of oil
- 1 small cucumber
- 1/4 cup of water
- 1 large breadfruit
- 1 pound of saltfish
- 1 teaspoon of butter



### Method

Place saltfish into a pot and boil until it is not too salty.

Strip and clean the salt-

Breadfruit

fish into small bite size pieces.



## Grenada's oil down

### Ingredients

- 2 chives
- 1 celery stick
- 1 whole pepper
- 2 sprigs of thyme
- 2 breadfruit (small)
- 250 grams of saltfish
- 1 whole chilli pepper
- 250 grams of salt meat
- 1.5 litres of coconut milk

- 1/8 teaspoon salt (optional)

### Method

Add the fish and meat in cold water and soak overnight. Pour off excess water then remove the core from the breadfruit. Peel and



## Corn soup from Cuba

### Ingredients

- salt
- 1 cup light cream
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 eggs, beaten lightly
- 2 tablespoons parsley chopped
- 4 cups of fresh corn kernels
- white pepper (freshly ground)

Note: if you choose to use frozen corn kernels, thoroughly defrost.



### Method

In a blender or a food processor add the corn and chicken stock. Blend to a puree. Do this in about two batches.

Fill the saucepan with the puree. Stir in the cream and let it simmer on low heat, stirring from time to time, for five minutes.



## Strict diet not the only way to fight gout

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

is broken down into uric acid. Most of the foods with the highest purine content are not ones that people eat often. These include thymus, pancreas, anchovies, liver, kidneys, brains, and game meats.

It turns out that following a strict diet to avoid purines doesn't usually accomplish much. There are better ways to help lower uric acid and decrease the risk of further gouty attacks. It's much more effective to:

- Limit alcohol intake (alcohol is known to trigger gout attacks)
- Lose excess weight

(being overweight increases the risk of gout)

- Avoid foods that seem to trigger attacks of gout for you

Ask your doctor if there are medications you're taking (especially diuretics) that can cause uric acid buildup, and see if you can switch to something else.

When needed, there are medications (especially allopurinol) that can effectively lower uric acid and markedly decrease the risk of gouty attacks. They are much better at doing so than following a strict diet.



## JAMAICAN JERK FEST



Competition among some of the best "jerk" food chefs in the United States will resume at the seventh annual "Jamaican Jerk Festival" from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 9 at Markham Park in Sunrise, Florida. On tap will be a variety of jerk cuisine, including delicacies such as jerk ice cream. The event is also scheduled to include cultural presentations, including Byron Lee and the Dragonaires band. The festival is being presented by Air Jamaica and Publix. For more information, visit [www.jerkfestival.com](http://www.jerkfestival.com).

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Caribbean Today

# Resilient Jamaica bouncing back from Hurricane Gustav

DAWN A. DAVIS

Judging from the north coast side of the island, it would seem Gustav did little damage to Jamaica recently. Although the prime tourism areas were not much affected, the eastern side of the country felt the brunt of the hurricane.

But the island is bouncing back.

"We were back up and running almost immediately (after the hurricane)," Jamaica's Director of Tourism Basil Smith told *Caribbean Today* at the recent World Tourism Day conference and seminar hosted by the Jamaica Tourist Board at the Ritz Carlton in Montego Bay.

According to Smith, the country did take a heavy beating from the rains and wind, "but fortunately it did not affect tourism." Noting that the sector is ready for the winter season, the tourism director outlined that the affected areas have been cleaned up and trees trimmed in preparation for what he expects to be a good season.

Smith explained that the Bog Walk Gorge in St. Catherine, an important route linking the island's capital Kingston to other tourism

sites, was affected. It has since been repaired and re-opened to vehicular traffic.

## REPAIR BILL

However, the destruction caused by Gustav will take a tidy sum to repair, according to Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett, especially with Jamaica facing other financial issues at this time.

"When we begin to look carefully at the damage that has been done, particularly in the eastern side of the country, it is really huge," Bartlett said.

"We are looking at a price tag of well over J\$28 billion, that at a time when we have issues with oil prices, issues with the sub-prime, issues with the financial meltdown in the U.S."

To find the money to cover the costs, Bartlett explained, the government will have to readjust certain areas of priority to allow for some level of repairs. He added that the impact of the storm could also disrupt



Jamaica still expects a good winter tourism season despite Hurricane Gustav's damage.

remittance flows as well as tourism traffic, two of the most important foreign exchange earners for Jamaica. The priority, however, is to restore the roads and bridges that were destroyed to ensure smooth traffic into the north coast, the minister said.

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Director General Ronald Jackson said that a good chunk of the money earmarked for repairs is being used on infrastruc-

ture, including bridges, roads, retaining walls and gullies.

## RESILIENT

Jackson also confirmed that the export side of agricultural sector, particularly banana growers, was negatively affected, although the domestic market was saved as recoverable bananas would be used for local consumption. He noted that the Hope River Watershed in St. Andrew was also affected.

The housing sector, both informal and formal, were also touched by Gustav, particularly on Jamaica's east coast. To address the problems, Jackson said that the sector is "working with international development partners, the various missions in Jamaica, and Jamaicans in the diaspora to see what we can raise."

Although the ODPEM director general could not predict how long it would take to complete all the necessary repairs to the infrastructure, as well the housing sector, he said a number of areas relative to housing would be fully addressed by December, while infrastructure repairs could take up to a year or more.

Strategies, he said, would include looking at placing affected families in alternative housing locations as land for housing is not readily available.

Meanwhile, Jamaica seems to be getting back on its feet.

"We are a resilient people, a resilient brand," said Smith. "You can't beat brand Jamaica, try as you might."

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



## 10-y-o Vincentian wins Caribbean essay contest

Ten-year-old Storm Halbich, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has been named winner of the 2008 *Condé Nast Traveler* "My Caribbean" essay contest.

The announcement was made at a recent Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Conference in Trinidad by the magazine's Editor in Chief Klara Glowczewska, who also named the two runners-up: Kemisha Sylvan, of Grenada and D'Vaughn Powell of Jamaica.

The contest, now in its 16th year, is open to Caribbean school children. Grand prize winner Halbich received a \$2,000 scholarship. The runners-up each received a \$500 scholarship. Halbich's winning essay, which focused on the theme "If you could share a secret about your island with someone visiting for the first time, what would it be?", will also be featured in the January "Gold List" issue of *Condé Nast Traveler*. It read:

*I really want to tell you about our friendly and interesting people who are always ready to welcome you to our country. Let me tell you about Tonty Muggy who mixes up*

*herbs to cure everyone. Tourists come from far and wide to cure ailments by her side. And what about old man Earl who takes you on a beach lime and shows you how to catch your own fish for lunch, man you will have so much fun. Grandma Vee in her wooden house will invite you in for fresh passion fruit juice and a slice of hot banana bread; you will unbuckle your belt and beg for more. Let me carry you by Rasta Wally who will strum some sweet reggae music while we sit drinking coconut water by the seaside.*

*So come, let me take you to find the Caribbean you've been looking for.*

This annual contest is administered through the school system in each Caribbean country. It aims to educate primary and early secondary school children in the Caribbean about the importance of tourism in their region.

After a multi-step judging process involving the ministries of tourism, the ministries of education and the Caribbean Tourism Organization, a finalist was chosen from each island.

This year's finalists, in alphabetical order by country,

are:  
 Anguilla: Avern Gumbs  
 Antigua and Barbuda: Terriquia Benjamin  
 Aruba: Ekta Alwani  
 Bahamas: Adrienne Kelly  
 Barbados: Abigail Bryan  
 Belize: Tatiana Habet  
 Bermuda: Brittney Ferreira  
 British Virgin Islands: William McIntyre  
 Cayman Islands: Rachael Boyd-Moss  
 Curacao: Minuska Belioso  
 Dominica: Breeanne Louis  
 Grenada: Kemisha Sylvan  
 Guyana: Chelsea Edghill  
 Haiti: Marckenley Djovany Exume  
 Jamaica: D'Vaughn Powell  
 Martinique: Valentin Vigeo  
 Montserrat: Dikembe Cabey-Lee  
 Nevis: Kelsia Liburd  
 St. Eustatius: Reinalda Fleming  
 St. Kitts: Chioma Henry  
 St. Lucia: Christian Henry  
 St. Maarten: Manaar Mohammed  
 St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Storm Halbich  
 Suriname: Gideon Alidikromo  
 Trinidad and Tobago: Cergio Augustine  
 Turks and Caicos: Clintrea Simmons



## Spending plunges in Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - Spending by visitors to Bermuda plummeted by more than \$18 million in the second quarter of this year, according to new statistics released early this month.

The Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics shows that air arrivals during the second quarter fell by 10 percent compared to the same quarter last year. The number of visitors stood at 89,642.

The report says that the "decline can be partly attributed to the knock-on effects of soaring oil prices on the global economy, as some major carriers have reduced their service to the island to combat increased fuel costs."

Air arrivals from the United States fell 14.5 percent in the second quarter to 66,379, down from 77,648 visitors in the same period last year.

"Despite lower numbers, visitors from the U.S. continue to account for the largest percentage of air arrivals to the island, representing three quarters of all tourists", the report stated.

"Conversely, modest growth was recorded in arrivals from other major tourist markets as the number of visitors from Canada and the United Kingdom

increased by six percent and 5.9 percent respectively".

## SPREADING

The decline in air arrivals translated into a similar fall in visitors staying at guest accommodations, according to the report. Resort hotels experienced a decline in occupancy for the fifth consecutive quarter, dropping by 13 percent, or 6,077 fewer bookings than recorded in the second quarter of 2007.

Similarly, visitors staying at small hotels, cottages and clubs fell by 19 percent to 17,515 compared to 21,631 people in the same quarter last year. The number of visitors staying at housekeeping and guesthouses also declined significantly, dropping by 18.1 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively.

In contrast, around 6.8 percent more visitors stayed in private homes.

Expenditure by air arrival visitors amounted to an estimated \$126 million during the second quarter of this year, some \$18.3 million less than the second quarter of 2007.

"This 12.7 percent decrease in spending is a direct consequence of fewer air visitors", stated the report.



## Caribbean exports on track for growth ~ ECLAC

NEW YORK – The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean says the region's exports are on track for more than 20 percent growth this year, despite the global financial crisis.

In its latest report, the United Nations agency said higher commodity prices during the first half of the year, particularly in metal and fuel, led to a 25.5 percent increase in the value of exports, compared to a 10 percent increase for the same period in 2007.

The "Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy" report, released in Mexico City late last month, also noted that the value of imports to the region will rise by an estimated 22 percent, leading to an expected trade surplus of \$51 billion at the end of 2008.

However, the global economic slowdown and the drop

in commodity prices in the third quarter of this year combined with a falling demand for Latin American products, primarily from the United States and to a lesser extent the European Union (EU) and Japan, will lead to lower growth rates and less favorable trade balances in 2009, ECLAC said.

The report stressed that the looming recession and current credit crisis means that states in the region will have to deal with restricted access to external financing, higher interest rates, tumbling stock exchanges and a shift of capital to safer destinations, as well as lower remittances and direct foreign investment in the coming year.

### REFORMS

But it said reforms made over recent decades had better prepared the region for the

threatened global economic slump and financial meltdown.

It stressed that these reforms must be maintained, particularly those contributing to fiscal responsibility, control of inflation, freer trade, market diversification, debt reduction and the accumulation of international reserves.

ECLAC also recommended that regional governments undertake a series of measures to absorb the economic shocks felt around the world and reduce the impact felt on their economies. Its suggestions include reinforcing supervision of banks and financial institutions, maintaining the reforms and investing income from higher commodity prices to promote competitiveness, human resource development and export diversification.



## Courts Caribbean furniture chain opens store in New York

Courts, a top Caribbean furniture, electronics and appliance chain, was scheduled to make its debut in North America late last month by opening a store in the New York borough of Brooklyn.

The chain was set to open its doors at 2822 Church Ave., between Nostrand and Rogers avenues on Oct. 31, bringing economic empowerment to the Big Apple despite the current economic turmoil in the U.S.

Courts Caribbean said it is following on a tradition of connecting families and friends, and will offer the service of island delivery to people in the region.

"Wherever your relatives live in the Caribbean, the company will offer you hassle free shopping of the latest in furniture, electronics and appliances, plus guaranteed free delivery of your purchases," officials said in a recent press release.

A contingent from Courts Caribbean was scheduled to be in New York late last month for the official media kick-off and reception.

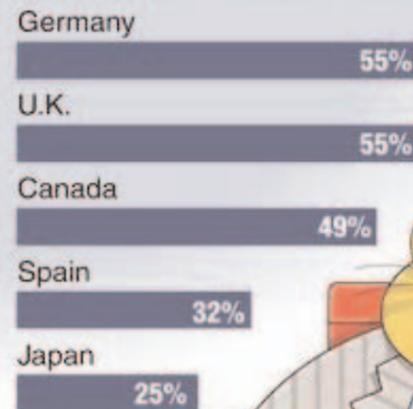
The Courts store opening came on the heels of its summer debut at the largest carnival in North America, the West Indian Labor Day in Brooklyn, and at Irie Jamboree in Queens, New York.



### BizFact

## Fat cats

Average pay of CEOs in selected countries as a percentage of average CEO pay in the U.S.:



Source: The State of Working America  
Graphic: Pat Carr, Paul Trap

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## Getting free job help from the 'yellow pages'

JOYCE LAIN KENNEDY

**DEAR JOYCE: Although I have a college degree, I've been out of the job market for six years raising my child. My husband's hours in the auto business have been cut and I need a job. To avoid paying expensive baby sitters, I'd like to start work in late afternoons after my husband gets home. My head's in a glue pot. Ideas? - S.G.**

**Answer:** Your preferred time frame fits cashier jobs in supermarkets, box stores, movie theaters, restaurants and sports venues, to name a few. Construct a lead-generation list of potential employers who might be a fit with your time frame. Start with phone calls and follow up in person when you sense a job opening on the horizon.

Hold a brainstorming party and offer an amusing, inexpensive prize for party guests who offer specific ideas of where to find the kind of job you want.

Scout the help-wanted ads in your daily and weekly newspapers, including the free publications. Major online job boards sometimes list local part-time and night jobs, but you can check the niche job board snagajob.com.

You can also choose the golden-oldie approach that's helped countless job seekers for decades: the Yellow

Pages Starter Solution. Here it is, step by step.

Step 1. Sit down with the thickest yellow pages directory you can find. Go through the directory, A to Z, circling or highlighting each classification that appeals to you.

Ask yourself: "Does this subject interest me?" If the answer is "no", move on. If the answer is "yes" or "not sure", mark or highlight it. Don't deliberate - be quick to decide. Go with your visceral feelings.

Step 2. List the headings you select on the tablet of paper. Reduce the number of headings (perhaps hundreds) to the 30 you like best.

Step 3. For each of the 30 headings, ask yourself: "What in my education, training or experience validates my interest in this particular field?"

Step 4. By now you have trimmed your list of interesting headings to 15 or so. The next question to ask yourself is: "In view of my requirements, such as lifestyle preferences, travel potential and earnings future, which fields should I consider?"

Step 5. Your list should now be a manageable size. Rank your top 10 headings, putting the most appealing at the top.

Step 6. Turn back to the "yellow pages" directory and find a list of companies that have the kinds of jobs you prefer. Work these companies to qualify them for your lead-generation list.

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# Critics celebrate Caribbean visual, literary culture in Miami

DAWN A. DAVIS

How does Caribbean visual and literary art shape cultural identity? Is there artistic value in Jamaican dancehall culture? Is skin bleaching and hair straightening forms of artistic expression? These and other questions were explored at a recent symposium hosted by University of Miami's Caribbean Literary Studies Program in association with the Otto Richter Library's Digital Media Services.

The event brought together noted critic and writer Annie Paul, based at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona campus, and academic visionaries Patricia Saunders and Sandra Pouchet Paquet, University of Miami professors spearheading the Caribbean focused program at the Miami-based institution.

Representing artistic voices from across the Atlantic, Renee Mussai introduced the audience to Rivington Place, a public space in London devoted to showcasing culturally diverse visual art and photography.

Acknowledging the Caribbean's rich visual heritage, Saunders announced the launch of an interactive website

(<http://www.library.miami.edu/caribbeanvisual>) focused mainly on the work of Caribbean artists, both local and international. The site, she explained, will feature the artists talking about their lives and work as background to the art. Dubbed "As Far As the Eye/I Can see", the site will promote a variety of work, including photography, painting, music, film, digital art, as well as galleries and art spaces that support and promote Caribbean visual culture.

## STARZ BORN

This collaborative effort also celebrated the fifth anniversary of "Anthurium", a Caribbean studies journal that publishes the work of Caribbean writers and scholars on a range of topics incorporating Caribbean themes and cultures. Marking this milestone, a special issue was produced featuring selected writings and interviews from the program's Archaeologies of Black Memory Symposium and Seminar held last year, which included presentations on science, history, literature, visual arts, and popular culture.

A perfect backdrop for Paul, the literary critic, in her lecture "Starz Are Born: Entertainment Report (ER) as an Archive of Jamaican

Popular Culture", which examined the great divide between the Jamaican art world and the island's masses.

"Visual art in Jamaica is an interesting case study in itself," Paul insisted. "Although politically an open society, it has produced one of the most insular and isolationist art scenes in the region."

She bemoaned that even with the creation of Jamaica's National Gallery and Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts, the majority of Jamaica's populace is still not included in the country's art scene. Paul partly blames the attitudes and assumptions of the "elites" that define and run the art institutions noting: "Visual art is constructed as a signifier of good taste, connoisseurship, civility and refine-



Annie Paul, right, discusses art with Jamaican-born, Florida resident Louis Davis.

ment; a veritable bulwark against the incursions of the supposedly loud, cultureless, clueless mob perpetually threatening to drown the hard won gains of high art with their vulgar music and dance."

But, the UWI critic warned that this formal art world had better learn to speak "the language of the Jamaican street" if it is to reach this wider public that has creat-

ed a legitimate form of expression through the raw visuals of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## Two days of 'Caribefest' in Miramar, Florida

Veteran reggae singer Gregory Isaacs will lead a diverse list of Caribbean performers scheduled for two days of "Caribefest-Community Showcase" this month in South Florida.

The multi-cultural event, slated for Nov.15 and 16 at the Miramar Cultural Arts Center, is free and open to the public.

On the first day of the showcase, which is staged annually by Caribefest Inc. and the City of Miramar, Isaacs will be joined by Brazilian singer Soaria, Haitian band T-Vice, and the group MaWon. New York-based reggaeton rapper Negro Baby, reggae singer King Banton and the Latin group James De La Raza and El Ritmo Band are billed for the show, which will also feature the Virgin Islands Mocko Jumbies, Trinidadian steel band and neighborhood dance groups.

The festival will feature a varied selection of booths selling Caribbean foods such as jerk chicken, curry goat and fish, plus art and craft items.

On Nov. 16, the focus will turn to Caribbean jazz, featur-



Isaacs

ing veteran Jamaican musician and founder of the Ocho Rios Jazz Festival Sonny Bradshaw. He will be joined by vocalist Myrna Hague, saxophonist Dean Fraser, Grammy nominated Haitian-born Reginald Policard on keyboards, as well as trumpeter Jean Caze.

For further information, call Alex Davis of Caribefest Inc. at 954-270-4601 or Lolita Dunn, City of Miramar, at 954-704-1631.



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# Byron Lee conferred Jamaica's fourth highest national honor

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Popular Jamaican band leader Byron Lee has been conferred with his country's fourth high-

est national honor, the Order of Jamaica (OJ).

Lee, who is gravely ill with cancer, was presented

with the award during a special ceremony at the University Hospital of the West Indies on Oct. 26.

"Byron Lee and the Dragonaires was an institution that made such an impact on the lives of so many people that Byron's contribution must be boldly recorded when the history of Jamaican music is being written," Prime Minister Bruce Golding said at the cer-

emony.

Lee founded the band in 1950. One of their most recent performances was the opening ceremony of the Cricket World Cup at Jamaica's Trelawny Multi-purpose Stadium in Mar. 2007.



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## Critics celebrate ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

dancehall and music videos.

### PATWA

One such official channel has taken up the call. Entertainment Report (ER) began as a five-minute segment in 1990 on the island's government-sponsored television station - the Jamaica Broadcasting Company (JBC), now Television Jamaica (TVJ). The show, hosted by Anthony Miller, showcased the rebellious and increasingly popular dancehall culture that would eventually help shape mainstream identity.

A reclusive, no-nonsense, hard-hitting interviewer, Miller highlighted dancehall culture and its requisite fashion and accoutrements, with a fresh, objective eye.

According to Paul, the ER host only speaks standard English even while interviewing Patwa-speaking guests, and has no problem communicating.

As a result, Miller has personally bridged the gap and has earned the respect of a "renegade culture" that has created stars out of the art movement called dancehall. The ER creator can be viewed as a groundbreaking performance curator, according to Paul.

The Caribbean on a whole would be greatly served with out-of-the-box thinkers such as Miller. For "in regions like, this visual art cannot model itself on narrow, modernist concepts and tropes without risking extinction," Paul concluded.

Story and photograph by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



## 'WHAT GOES AROUND



Glamorous Sakina Samuda poses on the red carpet at the premiere of the Sunrason Films' latest release "What Goes Around" at the Cinema Paradiso in South Florida recently. Samuda plays a leading role in the tale of love, lust, revenge and remorse. The movie, which carries a message of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, is directed by Jamaican-born Steve "Tehut Nine" McAlpin and produced by Johnny Blacks of Johnny Blacks Entertainment. Additional United States screenings have been scheduled for Washington D.C., Atlanta, Philadelphia New York. The film will also be shown in Jamaica, and Toronto, Canada. McAlpin was also behind the films "Foreign" and "Bashment: The Fork in the Road".

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## U.S. athlete praises Jamaicans' performance at Beijing Olympics

MIAMI - Former sprint World Champion Lauryn Williams, of the United States, believes the prolonged backlash against Jamaica's successful outing at the Olympic Games in August is totally unjust.

Williams, the fourth place finisher behind three Jamaican athletes in the women's 100 meters final in Beijing, said she believes the sprinters who forced her off the podium in the event, and the dominance of Usain Bolt in the men's category, were not a result of performance-enhancing drugs and vowed not to be drawn into the continuous insulting debate.

"I think the slurs about Jamaican sprinters are unfair," said Williams, who won the 2005 World Championships 100 meters title in Helsinki, Finland.

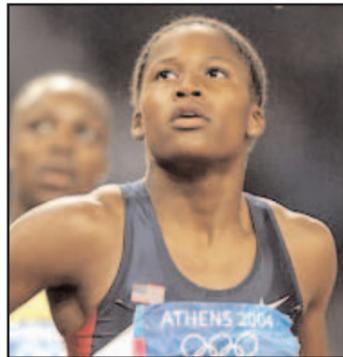
"I believe they are clean. I'm not really worrying about drug issues," she added.

"Of course, we're working hard to make sure every country has the same testing policies, but the Jamaicans have worked really hard for what

they achieved. They have been in the mix for a long time, they haven't suddenly appeared this year," said Williams, who turned 25 last month.

**CRITICISM**

Jamaica's drug-testing program has been criticized and Bolt's rise to stardom in the 100 meters this year has



Williams

raised a flurry of reaction from the track and field fraternity - including former U.S. Olympic sprint star Carl Lewis - questioning the validity of the Jamaican sprint dominance. But in spite of the cloud over the sport in the past few years, Williams backs the Jamaicans to be clean and thinks it is heartbreaking to know that whenever someone runs fast it rests on performance-enhancing substances.

"It's sad that athletics is constantly dragged back to that," said Williams.

- CMC



## Chanderpaul leads Windies in rankings

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, CMC - Batting star Shiv Chanderpaul is the only West Indies player among the top 10 in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) batting and bowling rankings for one-day Internationals (ODI).

Chanderpaul, who is number one in the current Test match batting ratings, is listed at sixth on the ODI list, which is headed by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, of India.

The Australian left-hander Mike Hussey is number two, followed by South African Graeme Smith and Australian Ricky Ponting, with Pakistan's Mohammed Yousuf at number five.

West Indians Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan hold top 20 spots in the ODI batting, with Gayle at number 11 and Sarwan 19th.

Australian pacer Nathan Bracken heads the ODI bowlers' list, ahead of New Zealand's Daniel Vettori, and Australian Mitchell Johnson. Sri Lanka's magic spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who leads the Test bowling rankings, is number six on the ODI list that has pacers

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

## T&T, Jamaica only Caribbean teams remaining in World Cup soccer hunt

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

Three Caribbean countries were officially eliminated last month, but the region's traditional top two teams hung on dearly to hopes of qualifying for World Cup 2010, soccer's premier event. Haiti, Cuba and Suriname all tumbled out of the CONCACAF semi-final round of qualifiers after failing to finish among the top two in their respective groups following crucial games last month.

However, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica both secured important points to stay in the race for places in the final round of qualifiers which begins next year.

Last month, when teams in all three groups completed five games, T&T drew with rival Guatemala 0-0 on Oct. 11 and beat leaders United States 2-1 on Oct. 15 to move into second place in Group 1 with eight points. The U.S. has 12 points, while Guatemala has five.

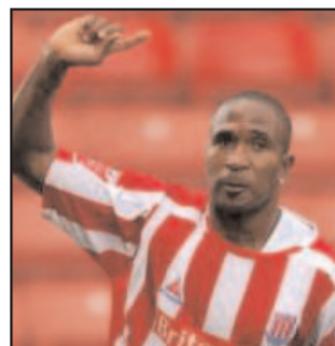
Cuba, currently on three points, could finish last in the group once the semi-final round fixtures are completed on Nov. 19. On that date the U.S., which has already qualified, will host Guatemala. Cuba will visit T&T, which only needs a point to advance.

If Guatemala wins and T&T loses, the second place finisher in the group, which will join the U.S. in the next round, will be decided on goal difference. Guatemala cur-

rently holds the edge with a plus one difference, after scoring six goals and conceding five, while T&T is even, scoring six and allowing six.

**KEEPING PACE**

The two teams advancing from Group 2 will also be decided on Nov. 19 when Jamaica hosts Canada, which



Fuller

has been eliminated, and Mexico travels to Honduras. Mexico has 10 points and leads the group, followed by Honduras on nine and Jamaica with seven.

The Reggae Boyz scored two stunning home wins last month to keep pace with the group leaders. On Oct. 11 Jamaica beat Mexico 1-0 through a goal by striker Ricardo Fuller.

"Jamaica played well," admitted Mexico's coach Sven Goran Eriksson after the game. "...Physically we can't compete with them."

Four days later, Luton Shelton's strike nipped Honduras 1-0. Backed again

by a huge home crowd, Jamaica competed hard in the second game as well.

"It's the Jamaican spirit that came out in the game," said Jamaica's assistant coach Bradley Stewart.

If Jamaica wins and Honduras loses next month, Jamaica will join Mexico in the next round. If Jamaica loses or draws, the Reggae Boyz will be eliminated. If Jamaica wins and Mexico draws with Honduras, Mexico will advance as group winner and the second spot will be decided on goal difference. If Mexico loses and Jamaica wins, Honduras will advance and goal difference will decide the remaining place between Mexico and Jamaica.

Going into the games next month, Mexico, with nine goals scored and five against, holds a plus four goal difference. Honduras has a plus three goal difference, scoring eight and allowing five. Jamaica has a negative difference, having conceded six goals while scoring only three.

Jamaica and T&T are the only two English-speaking countries to qualify for the World Cup finals. The Reggae Boyz made it to France in 1998, while the Soca Warriors qualified for the 2006 finals in Germany. The 2010 finals will be staged in South Africa.

*Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.*






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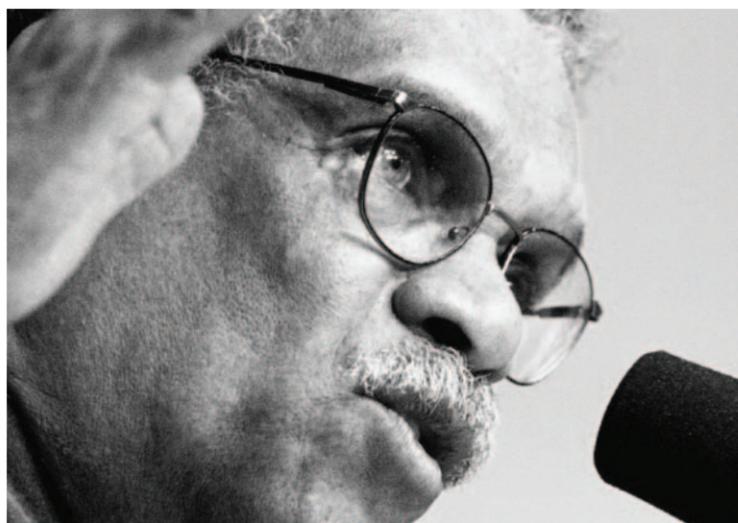
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**Derek Walcott** received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992. A native of St. Lucia, he is the author of 13 books of poetry, including the recent *Selected Poems*, which spans 50 years of work. Walcott is also the author of seven collections of plays and a book of essays. He is the founder of the Trinidad Theater Workshop and the Boston Playwright's Theatre. He is on the executive board of Cities of Refuge North America.

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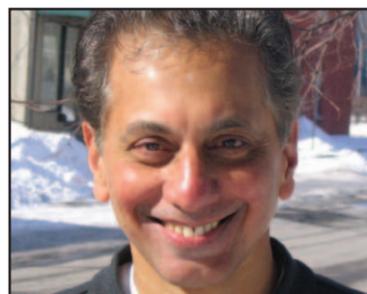
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## SPORT

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## Jamaica's Johnson returns to boxing ring on Nov. 11

FLORIDA, United States – Glen Johnson is hoping his Nov. 11 clash against Tiwon Taylor will be the catalyst for more competitive fights in boxing's light-heavyweight division.

Johnson, the Jamaica-born former International Boxing Federation champion, is set to face American Taylor at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino here, and intends to make the bout a tune-up for bigger contests.

"I'm looking forward to fighting the big boys in the light-heavyweight division, they don't want any part of me," the 39-year-old Johnson told the **Boxing Talk** website.

"With a fight like this, I have to do what I have to do to stay busy...I'm coming out bombs away, and I'm trying to take care of business real quick."

Johnson, also known as "The Road Warrior", indicated that he is looking to fight any of the pugilists in the top 10 of the world rankings.

"We're looking to do something in January hopefully that will work out," he said. "I think they're talking about January 3 for another big fight."

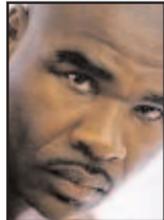
"I want to be the champion of the light-heavyweight division. All of the guys who have the titles, I want to fight them and collect those."

Johnson last fought southpaw Chad Dawson in April, losing a controversial unanimous decision to the American in Tampa, Florida.

"I wouldn't say I've gotten over it, but I know that I just have to move on," he said.

Johnson holds a fight record 47 wins, 12 losses, and two draws in 61 fights.

- CMC



Johnson

## Bahamian high jump star considers return to hoops

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC - Reigning high jump world champion Donald Thomas is considering the possibilities of ending his track and field career to focus his attention again on playing basketball.

Bahamian Thomas, who only took up high jumping in 2006 to get a break from basketball while attending school in the United States, surprised his more seasoned competitors to win the world title at the 2007 World Championships in Osaka, Japan.

However, after suffering



Thomas

from an ankle injury which shortened his indoor season this year and also hampered his preparation for the rest of season, Thomas failed to generate the same form he showed the previous year and flopped at the Beijing Olympics. He is now thinking about switching back to playing ball.

"That's something that I will have to evaluate when I get back in training and decide what I will do from there," Thomas was quoted as telling **The Freeport News**.

The 24-year-old Thomas failed to get beyond the qualifying round in Beijing in August, after clearing a mere 2.20 meters for 12th in his qualifying height.



## Chanderpaul leads Windies in rankings

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

Jerome Taylor (11th) and Daren Powell (15th) as the highest ranked West Indies bowlers.

Kenya's Peter Ongondo has reclaimed a top 20 spot among ODI bowlers following his team's Tri-series with

Zimbabwe and Ireland in Nairobi. He is 20th. New Zealand's Jacob Oram leads the all-rounders' list ahead of England's Andrew Flintoff and Pakistan's Shoaib Malik and Shahid Afridi, with Gayle at number five.



## Euro's pro soccer clubs woo Caribbean players

GORDON WILLIAMS

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Professional soccer clubs in Europe, particularly in England, are steadily wooing more players from the Caribbean, drawn by their skills and athletic ability.

According to Jamaican-born John Barnes, who was recently appointed coach of Jamaica's senior national team and who played professionally in England for 25 years, where once they doubted, the clubs have now become more convinced that Caribbean players have the necessary commitment to handle the rigors of some of the world's most competitive leagues.

"(The perception of Caribbean players has) been changing since (Trinidad and Tobago's) Dwight Yorke," said Barnes, who played for clubs such as Watford, Liverpool and Newcastle in the top division after moving to England as a boy.

"I wouldn't say since me, because I went to England when I was 13 so I grew up there and played, whereas Dwight came over as a footballer. So since Dwight it's been like 'yes, we can get Caribbean players'," Barnes told **Caribbean Today**.

"...Because once upon a time, the perspective that they had of black players generally, even English black players in the 70s, was fast, skilful, can't think too much, put you on

the wing, put you up front, not positions of responsibility – defensive midfielder, goalkeeper, center back. Whereas now all of those myths have been dispelled, because the England team has black center halves, black goal-keeper.

"Now, from the Caribbean perspective, it was like 'yeah, you can get the wingers over 'cause they're fast, but if it's cold...' Whereas now, and of course from a Jamaican perspective, since Ricardo Gardner went there, it opened the doors for a lot of people."

### EVERYWHERE

Dozens of Caribbean-born players are currently with top British clubs. Yorke, Gardner, T&T's Kenwynne Jones and Jamaica's Ricardo Fuller are among those playing in the top flight English Premier League (EPL). Many others play in lower English leagues and in Scotland. Several others have been signed by agents and are awaiting work permits to join British clubs. Some have moved on to other European clubs while they await word on the permits.

Barnes has helped expose Caribbean talent to England working as a scout as part of a



Barnes

program sponsored by telecommunications company Digicel. He invited several under-20 players from the region to EPL club Sunderland earlier this year, where reports indicated they impressed the club's management.

"Sunderland actually wanted to bring three of them back; three of the eight," said Barnes. "...After two days (Sunderland's manager) Roy Keane himself came down, took the boys into the dressing room for one of the matches. He recognized the talent...The manager heard about the quality they actually had, heard about the discipline and the spirit they showed in playing."

Yet while the door to a professional soccer career may be widening in Europe, Barnes said talent alone will not help Caribbean players force their way through it.

"You have to have that hunger and playing," he said. "...The commitment that you need has to be the commitment within yourself, not to the occasion or the situation...Because (the clubs have) always known they (Caribbean players) have good ability, but now they are looking at their spirit and their desire and their dedication and their discipline."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



•Miami-Dade County•

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# 3-1-1

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## HIV/AIDS killing 38 per day in Caribbean

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – The head of the United Nations AIDS Office in the Caribbean has called for renewed action to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region, which is currently reporting 38 deaths each day from the deadly disease.

Addressing the seventh annual United States Chiefs of Mission Conference on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean last month, Dr. Karen Sealy said while there had been remarkable improvements in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, there is need to increase momentum in the areas of prevention, care, treatment and education.

“We lose 38 citizens of the Caribbean to AIDS every single day and on a daily basis, 55 Caribbean citizens are newly infected with HIV every single day,” she told the conference, while also high-

lighting the need for behaviour modification in the region.

### CONCERN

Of particular concern to the U.N. official are men who have sex with men and sex workers, who she listed among high risk groups where the virus seems to be on the rise. Sealy said there was also an increase in reported cases among crack cocaine users, adding “perhaps the category that we have not identified is that of prisoners.

“We know that the spread of HIV in the Caribbean is in fact being fuelled by serious gaps in gender equality with the removal of homosexuality from the legislation in Panama recently.

“All the countries of the Americas which have homosexuality as a crime are now located in the Caribbean

region,” she said.

In his address, Prime Minister Patrick Manning noted that his government had scored some successes in the fight against the deadly disease through the provision of antiretroviral drugs. But he acknowledged there was still much work to be done in curbing its spread. He told the delegates that most of those infected with the virus were now able to live “a high quality of life” as a result of the country’s health care program. He said “one of the true successes” was the decline in the mother-to-child transmission of the disease, noting that all pregnant women who attend government pre natal clinics and were found to be HIV positive could access antiretroviral drugs free of cost.



## Colonic irrigation remains controversial

DR. HOWARD LeWINE

**Question: A friend of mine recently told me she was getting colonic irrigation. She is generally healthy but had been feeling run down. After three sessions, she felt much more energetic and believes that the treatment removes toxins from her body. Is this true? Is colonic irrigation safe?**

**Answer:** Colonic irrigation, also called colonic hydrotherapy, is a variant of enema treatment, which involves flushing the bowel with water in different quantities, temperatures, and pressures. Through a tube inserted via the rectum, water may be introduced alone or with added enzymes, coffee, probiotics or herbs. Treatment sessions usually last about one hour.

Colonic irrigation may have been used as early as ancient times in Egypt, China, India, and Greece. This practice gained some popularity in 19th century European spas.

Without scientific evidence to support the claims, colonic irrigation has been promoted in modern times to improve general well being and suggested as a treatment for cancer and other diseases unrelated to the lower intestine. Proponents of colonic irrigation claim that it can improve mental outlook, eliminate toxic substances that cause chronic diseases, and boost immunity. One theory is that intestinal flora (bacteria that normally live in the intestine) and waste products in our lower intestine somehow

impede the function of the body’s immune system. It is proposed but unproven that washing away these flora and waste products may have beneficial effects.

Colonic irrigation can potentially cause severe adverse effects and must be carefully administered. People receiving frequent treatments may absorb too much water, leading to electrolyte imbalances in the blood. If severe, this can lead to nausea, vomiting, abnormal heart rhythms, and, very rarely, coma. There is a risk of bowel perforation (breakage of the bowel wall), which is a serious problem.

Colonic irrigation should not be used in people with diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease, severe or internal hemorrhoids, or tumors in the rectum or colon. Unless directed by your doctor, it should not be used soon after bowel surgery. Regular treatments should be avoided by people with heart disease or kidney disease.

If you are not doing the cleansing yourself, be sure that the equipment used is sterile and that the practitioner is experienced.

Colonic irrigation should not be used as the sole treatment (instead of more proven



A colonic irrigation set used for the procedure.

therapies) for severe conditions, and it should not delay consultation with a qualified health care provider for a potentially severe symptom or illness.

In my opinion, the evidence to date does not support the use of colonic irrigation as a way to promote better health and prevent disease. Although rare, serious complications can occur.

*Dr. Howard LeWine is a clinical instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and practicing internist with Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. © 2008 President and Fellows of Harvard College. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.*



## No ‘best’ remedy for arthritis

DR. ROBERT SHMERLING

**Question: What’s the best natural way to combat the aches and pains of arthritis?**

**Answer:** That’s a tricky question, for a number of reasons.

First, there are more than 100 types of arthritis. The best remedy - natural or otherwise - often depends on the type of arthritis a person has. In addition, many people with aches and pains have no arthritis; conditions such as tendonitis or bursitis can cause joint pains that mimic arthritis.

Second, what should be considered “natural”? Some people don’t consider prescription medications natural even if they contain substances found in nature. Certain thyroid hormone supplements and digitalis are examples of prescription medicines that contain naturally occurring components.

Finally, there is frequently no best “natural way” to treat symptoms of arthritis. Unfortunately, we have no convincing evidence that natural remedies will reliably and effectively treat symptoms of the most common types of arthritis.

That said, here’s what I consider some of the best complementary remedies for symptoms of arthritis:

- **Weight loss** - For most forms of arthritis, taking the load off a weight-bearing joint (such as the knee) by losing excess weight can be helpful.

- **Exercise** - Physical activity may provide significant benefits for many types of arthritis. Exercise can include land or water-based physical activities or other low-impact exercises that strengthen muscles around arthritic joints, improve balance, and enhance physical fitness.

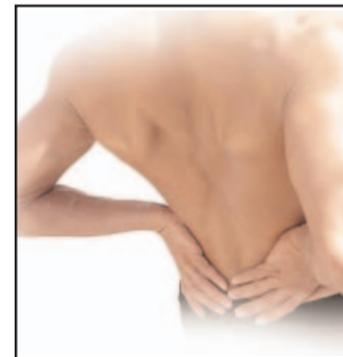
- **Vitamin D** - Low blood levels of Vitamin D are common, may cause achiness, and have been linked with an increased risk of osteoarthritis. While increasing your vitamin D intake (through foods or supplements) is unlikely to produce a prompt reduction in arthritis symptoms, it may prevent future arthritis and reduce bone pain in the long term.

- **Glucosamine** - Multiple studies suggest that glucosamine may reduce knee pain due to osteoarthritis. There is controversy about claims of other benefits, including the possibility that it can prevent arthritis or heal established arthritis.

- **Acupuncture** - Well-designed studies suggest that acupuncture may be effective for osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and other chronic pain.

Just how acupuncture improves symptoms of arthritis is uncertain.

- **Diet** - While recommendations abound regarding which foods to favor and which to avoid for various types of arthritis, the link between diet and arthritis is strongest for one particular type of arthritis, gout. Limiting alcohol and high purine foods (such as herring, anchovies, liver, and bacon) can reduce the frequency of gout attacks in some people. Recent studies have linked various dietary components (including meat, fish, and high fructose corn syrup) to an increased risk of newly diagnosed gout. Other foods (especially low-fat dairy products) seem to reduce the risk of gout. However, for people with established gout, the impact of changing the intake of these foods is uncertain. For rheumatoid arthritis,



there is limited evidence that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce joint inflammation; in my own practice, I haven’t seen much benefit.

Keep in mind that as appealing as natural remedies may be, they can be just as dangerous as prescription medications. After all, toxic mushrooms are all-natural! And because the regulation of herbs, vitamin supplements, and other non-prescription “neutraceuticals” is less stringent than for prescription medicines, it can be difficult to know exactly what’s in an all-natural remedy. Impurities, interactions with other medicines, and variable potency can cause significant problems.

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## Lack of interest stalling Caribbean single market, economy ~ Gonsalves

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves says an apparent lack of interest by key players, including Jamaica, is currently forestalling the creation of a Caribbean community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Gonsalves leveled the charge, even as he sought to justify recent efforts by the Eastern Caribbean leaders to forge a closer union with Trinidad and Tobago.

“What do you do, do you wait for the slowest in the integration movement or those who wish to go further and deepen the integration processes?” asked Gonsalves.



Gonsalves

Delivering a special integration lecture at the University of West Indies Cave Hill Campus here late last month, he went further to suggest that there was absolutely nothing wrong with having different levels of integration within CARI-

COM. But he warned that 2015 deadline set by leaders for full implementation of the CSME was unlikely to be met, based on the unwillingness of certain governments to move forward.

He said the Bruce Golding administration in Jamaica also seemed unwilling at the moment to countenance the requirement for there to be “a centralized political apparatus.

“A host of reasons may be offered, one of them I believe is that Jamaica has not yet exorcised the ghost of the failed federal venture,” suggested Gonsalves.



## Guyanese tops Caribbean exams

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – Yana-Marisa Edwards, a Guyanese student, has emerged as the most outstanding candidate in the region in this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC).

It is the third straight year that a student of the Queen's College in Guyana has taken the top spot, the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) said in a statement late last month.

Edwards achieved Grade I in 14 subjects - agricultural science (Double Award), biology, Caribbean history, chemistry, electronic document preparation and management, English A, English B, French, human and social biology, information technology (general), mathematics, physics, social studies,

Spanish and technical drawing – and a Grade II in music.

She follows Wainella Isaacs in 2007 and Shivarnie Persaud in 2006 respectively as the top student in the region.

Two other Queen's College students - Aaron Haralsingh and Suraj Mattai - also received awards.

The award for the “Most Outstanding Performance in Humanities” went to Lori-Ann Vaz of Wolmer's Girls School, Jamaica. She achieved Grade I in 11 subjects, including five humanities subjects – Caribbean history, English B, geography, social studies and Spanish. She also achieved Grade I in biology, chemistry, English A, information technology, mathematics and physics.



## Manning v. Rowley: T&T political party rift widens

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Regardless of what the former Housing Minister Keith Rowley does to clear his name, the die has already been cast.

While Prime Minister Patrick Manning did not specifically call his name in connection with the supposedly missing TT\$10 million (\$1.6 million) from a housing project in 2003, the intention was very clear.

Speaking during the recent budget debate, Manning told legislators that the cost of the residential units in the eastern part of the country amounted to TT\$133.4 million (\$22.2 million) “but the contract is for TT\$143.4 million (\$23.9 million).

“I ascribe no motive to the member for Diego Martin West. All I am saying is that the member was the minister

of housing on whose recommendation that the Cabinet took a decision for 143 million,” Manning said, noting that the issue would be a subject of an inquiry.

“And therefore, I cannot get an answer anywhere else. Perhaps he (Rowley) is in a position to help me and I am asking him, where de money gone.”

The reaction was immediate. Rowley, who in 1996 had challenged Manning for the leadership of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), said that Manning's statement was an “act of desperation.”

### WARNING

In September, in a newspaper column under the heading “Paying Lip-service To Ethics, Integrity”, Rowley warned of office holders who

“fall in love with the positions and become less and less accountable as they grow bigger than the posts into which they have been placed”.

Emile Elias, whose company, NH International, was contracted to build the houses, has all but called Manning a liar over the affair and has demanded a forensic investigation.

But political observers are questioning how long could Rowley remain within the fold of the ruling party. They point out that prior to last year's general elections, Manning sought and received the backing of the PNM for him to take action he thought would ensure the success of the party in the polls. They said what Manning did was unprecedented in local politics. He ensured that half of his old Cabinet colleagues, including the deputy political leader

Ken Valley, were not part of the slate of candidates. The party's campaign song “Patrick We Stepping Up With You” included the line “Patrick is boss”.

### OPEN CONFLICT

Rowley was among the few who were initially spared, but then in April, Manning fired him over allegations that he had behaved in a very disorderly manner during a meeting of Cabinet ministers in the prime minister's absence.

“If they haven't already done so, or been asked to, members of the executive of the Diego Martin West constituency of the ruling party are going to have to choose between their member of Parliament and their political leader”, wrote veteran journalist Andy Johnson.

The Sunday Express newspaper's Political Editor Ria Taitt said there had never been an open display of conflict within the ruling PNM before, noting that earlier situations involving then Prime Minister Eric Williams and other senior party officials such as ANR

Robinson and Karl Hudson-Phillips “never attained the public dimension as the current dispute”.

Political scientist Professor Selwyn Ryan also reflected on that internal election, noting that “the two men have little real love, Christian or otherwise, for each other.”

The conflict between the two men has not been lost on the general public either. Various radio and television talk shows have been flooded with calls from listeners and viewers with their comments in support of either man, while venting their frustration in letters to newspaper editors.

The Sunday Express newspaper quoted party sources as saying that the rift between the two men could result in “tremendous damage to the party”, noting that moves were afoot for some form of rapprochement. Both men have, according to the article, indicated a willingness to discuss the matter.

- CMC



## Liverpool holds on to Dominica's presidency

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC – 74-year-old Nicholas Liverpool has taken the oath as president of Dominica for a second time, ending public speculation that he would not stay on as ceremonial head of the country.

Liverpool's recent re-appointment came during a brief ceremony, presided over by Senior Council Denis Barrow, at the Office of the President, just outside the capital.

In July, Liverpool received an endorsement from both houses of the Dominica Parliament to continue as head of state after the Oct. 1, 2008 expiration of his initial five-year term. But there had been media speculation that Liverpool would retire to



Liverpool

make way for Sir Brian Alleyne, the retired acting chief justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Alleyne subsequently said he was not interested in the presidency, after retiring as a

member of Parliament for the western community of Mahaut.

Speaking to the media following the Oct. 2 swearing in, acting Prime Minister Rayburn Blackmore said Liverpool's agreement to serve for a second term demonstrates “the honor of the man.” He also described Liverpool as an outstanding son of the soil and credited his contribution to national development.

Liverpool was previously awarded Dominica's highest honor (the Dominica Award of Honor) and earlier this year received the Order of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM's highest award.



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