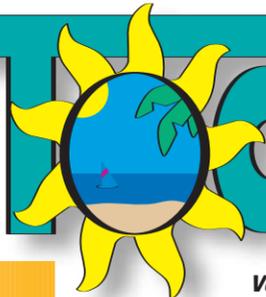


Caribbean Today

MARCH 2009



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 7315

Tel: (305) 238-2868
1-800-605-7516
editor@caribbeantoday.com
ct_ads@bellsouth.net
Jamaica: 655-1479

We cover your world

Vol. 20 No. 4

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



Caribbean American billionaire Sir Allen Stanford has been charged by United States financial regulators for allegedly orchestrating a "fraudulent, multi-billion dollar investment scheme", page 4.



American R&B star Chris Brown, right, has been charged with two felonies following the alleged beating of his girlfriend, Barbadian pop singer Rihanna, page 15.



Jamaican-born Glen Johnson kept on track for another shot at a world boxing title by scoring a unanimous decision win over American Daniel Judah in their light heavyweight bout at the Hard Rock Live arena, page 18.



~ The United States accuses Caribbean of widespread human rights abuses, page 3.

U.S. WANTS JAMAICA IN SPRINT SHOWDOWN

Americans propose head-to-head meets as rivalry with Jamaicans heats up on the track, page



Tyson Gay



Usain Bolt



Veronica Campbell-Brown



Lauryn Williams

CALL CARIBBEAN TODAY DIRECT FROM JAMAICA 655-1479

INSIDE

News2	Viewpoint9	Local15	Sport18
Financial Planning5	Vacation Planning11	Culture16	Food19
Feature7	Spring Shipping13	Arts/Entertainment17	



SAVE YOUR BUSINESS IN 2009

Advertise for free in the Classified section and the Biz Directory of **CARIBBEANTODAY.COM**
Just register & place your ads, as many as you want.

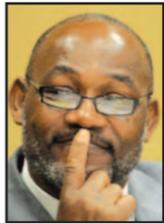
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S FREE. WE ARE DOING OUR PART THE REST IS UP TO YOU!!

CaribbeanToday.com "We cover your world"

Check Us Out & Call Now To Reserve your Space 305-238-2868, 1-800-605-7516. Jamaica Call 655-1479
OR e-mail us at sales@caribbeantoday.com

Mistrial in ex-Miramar commissioner's gun case

MIRAMAR, Florida – A judge in South Florida has declared a mistrial in a court matter involving Jamaican-born former Miramar City Commissioner Fitzroy Salesman after learning that a juror had brought a dictionary to the jury room.



Salesman

Broward Circuit Judge Matthew Destry had earlier ordered jurors to quit deliberating pending a hearing on the issue.

Salesman, 52, a former commissioner of Miramar, a city north of Miami and south of Fort Lauderdale, is charged with assault with a firearm.

The controversy with the dictionary started on Mar. 2 when the jury asked for the definition of "imminent" in trying to decide whether Salesman was in imminent danger when confronted by two teenage boys during an altercation in a crowded supermarket in Nov. 2007.

Prosecutors said Salesman reacted by pulling a gun on the teens because he "feared for his life".

Court officials said the juror apparently brought the dictionary into the jury room on the morning of Mar. 3 to look up the word "imminent". Several jurors said they also read the definition from the dictionary.

'HARMLESS'

The juror who brought in the dictionary, John Fanning, said he didn't think anything was wrong with looking up the word or bringing in the dictionary.

"I thought it was harmless," he said. "I really don't like what happened here. It was a waste of time to me. We just weren't sure about the word."

A new trial is expected to start next month.

Prosecutors and Salesman agreed a mistrial was appropriate despite spending almost two weeks battling it out in court.

"The law is clear on this. Jurors have to rely on the law and not definitions in a dictionary," said Eric Schwartzreich,

Salesman's attorney.

If convicted, Salesman would face a mandatory three-year prison sentence.

He was slated to be on the Mar. 10 ballot, seeking to reclaim his position. Now, political observers say voters will have to make a decision about whether to choose Salesman without knowing whether he can truly serve the term.

Since Salesman would still have a felony charge pending, if he wins his political race, Florida Governor Charlie Crist would issue a new order suspending him from office, according to Crist's spokesman, Sterling Ivey. That would force the city to hold a special election to fill Salesman's seat.

Miramar held a special election last year to fill Salesman's seat after he was suspended for a "Driving under the Influence charge", on which he was later acquitted.

Salesman vows to run on his "record". See related feature on page 7.



Jamaicans among dead in New York plane crash

BUFFALO, New York - Four Jamaicans were among 50 people who were killed in a plane crash here last month.

The Continental Connection flight from Newark, New Jersey was on its approach to Buffalo Niagara International Airport when it crashed shortly after 10 p.m. on Feb. 12. There were no survivors from the 45 passengers

and four crew members on board. One person on the ground was also killed.

The Jamaicans who perished on the ill-fated flight were identified as Danny Massop, 42, his wife Dawn Massop, 43, their 13-year-old son Shaun Ferrice Reid, and an unnamed sister of Mrs. Massop.

According to a relative in Jamaica, the family was in a

state of shock.

"This has affected the family terribly," said Kenneth Meikle last month. "It's not only the husband but the wife, the son and a sister in law. The family was only in Jamaica two weeks ago."

Investigations were continuing up to late last month to determine the cause of the crash.



Hundreds rally to protest U.S. deportation of Haitians

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida - Around 250 persons attended a rally in Pompano Beach just north of here late last month urging the Barack Obama administration to stop deportations to Haiti.

Speakers at the Feb. 28 rally said the United States government should grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians because of the humanitarian crisis facing the impoverished Caribbean nation, which is still struggling to recover from a series of deadly storms that devastated the country last year.

If TPS is granted, thousands of Haitians living in the U.S. illegally would be given the right to remain and work in the country.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement figures show that more than 30,000 Haitian

nationals have been ordered to return to their home country. Around 6,000 of them are being held in U.S. detention centers.

Hip hop artiste and

Haitian Goodwill Ambassador Wyclef Jean made a surprise appearance at the event.



Wyclef Jean

"It's important that Haitians get the justice that

our Cuban brothers and sisters get," said Jean.

"This is not a Haitian cause, it's a human being cause."



Holder makes first Caribbean visit as AG

WASHINGTON – Newly-appointed United States Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr. made his first official visit to the Caribbean late last month, touring the Guantánamo Bay detention center in Cuba.

Holder, the son of a Barbadian father, visited the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island as part of the Barack Obama administration's review of its pledge to close the center in eastern Cuba.



Holder

U.S. Justice Department officials said Holder engaged in discussions with officials at the base on detention and interrogation practices. Matthew A. Miller, a Justice Department spokesman, said the U.S. attorney general discussed case histories of specific detainees and charges which were pending before President Obama suspended military commissions as part of a comprehensive terrorism policy review.

FIRST

Holder, 58, was officially sworn in last month as the first Caribbean American attorney general of the U.S. He is also the first black attorney general.

"Nowhere but in this great country could a person like me or the president hope to achieve the positions we are now so fortunate to hold," said Holder, after Vice President Joe Biden administered the oath of office.

The U.S. Senate had voted

overwhelmingly to confirm Holder as the highest law enforcement official in America, becoming the nation's 82nd attorney general. Holder is now in charge of about 110,000 employees at the U.S. Justice Department.

Meantime, detainees' lawyers and human rights groups have assailed an 85-page report that U.S. Navy Admiral Patrick M. Walsh sent to the White House recently, declaring conditions at the Guantánamo Bay prison as humane.

"There is no basis to believe, other than his say-so, that this was an independent report," said Vincent Warren, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Constitutional Rights.

Admiral Walsh, appointed by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates to conduct a review of Guantánamo conditions that was ordered by the president, conceded that there had been widespread accusations of violence against detainees, humiliating treatment and other abuses. But "we found no such evidence," he told reporters.

The report addressed 27 categories of treatment, including health care and disciplinary rules. It also proposed many possible improvements, including more human contact for detainees and, to assure humane treatment, videotaping their interaction with guards. But detainees' lawyers issued their own report, and produced letters from some of their clients, describing severe isolation and brutal tactics.



Join Baynanza

2009

BISCAYNE BAY CLEANUP DAY

Show your love for the beauty of Biscayne Bay while giving back to your community by taking part in the 27th annual

BAYNANZA Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 18th.

FREE commemorative T-shirts are available! Register now at www.miamidade.gov/derm or by calling 305-372-6784

It's fun, free and very fulfilling!

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Photo by Benjamin Tracker (GIC)

NEWS

www.caribbeantoday.com

U.S. accuses Caribbean of widespread human rights abuses

NELSON A. KING

WASHINGTON – The United States has issued a scathing report on human rights practices in Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries, accusing member states of a myriad human rights violations.

In its 2008 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the U.S. State Department said while CARICOM governments “generally respected the human rights of citizens, there were problems”

in a number of areas.

The agency said it was concerned about a variety of developments ranging from excessive use of force by police to poor prison conditions, and from violence against women to sexual abuse of children.

But the report was particularly critical of alleged human rights offences in Guyana and Haiti. The State Department highlighted reported abuses in Guyana of “potentially unlawful killings by police, mistreatment of suspects and detainees by the

security forces, poor prison and jail conditions, lengthy pre-trial detention, government corruption, and sexual and domestic violence against women and children”.

POOR PRACTICES

It said prison conditions there were “poor and deteriorating, particularly in police holding cells”, and that the Bharrat Jagdeo administration “did not permit monitoring of prison conditions by either independent bodies or by Members of Parliament, and turned down requests for



monitoring visits from the parliamentary opposition and from a diplomatic mission”.

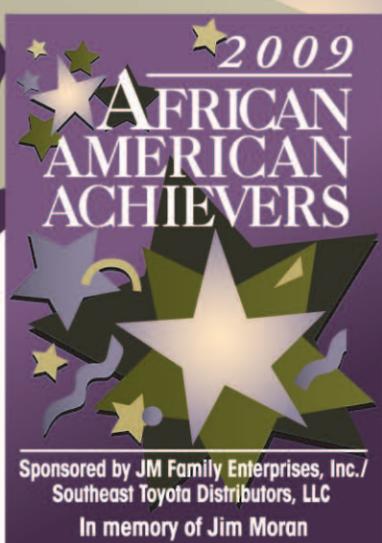
Poor training, inadequate

equipment, and acute budgetary constraints were identified by the State Department as reasons why the effectiveness of the Guyana Police Force was “severely limited”, noting that public confidence in and cooperation with the police remained low.

“There were reports of corruption in the Force”, it added.

“Lengthy pre-trial detention, due primarily to judicial inefficiency, staff shortages, and cumbersome legal proce-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



A Legacy of Leadership

Thursday, April 16, 2009 • 6:15 p.m.

Broward County Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Please join JM Family Enterprises and Southeast Toyota Distributors for an evening of inspiration – our 17th annual African-American Achievers award ceremony. We are honored to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals whose hard work, determination, and compassion have touched the lives and hearts of others in unique and unforgettable ways. Together, they have helped build a stronger community and legacy of leadership.

Mark your calendar for this special celebration!

RSVPs are required.

RSVP online at www.africanamericanachievers.com,
or e-mail your reservation to achievers@jmfamily.com,
or call 866-516-2497 or fax 800-728-0156.








U.S. challenges Jamaica to sprint showdown

The United States, still smarting from Jamaica's outstanding performance at last year's Olympic Games, is challenging the Caribbean country to a showdown on the track this year.

The Americans have proposed a dual meet format against Jamaica – a home-and-home series, “head to head team, scored competition” – for sometime in May/June 2009.

The formal invitation, for the proposed “USA-Jamaica Challenge”, was made to Jamaica's Neville “Teddy” McCook by U.S. Track and Field's (USATF) Chief Executive Officer Doug Logan in a letter this month.

A press release issued by USATF explained that the meets would feature male and female athletes competing in the 100, 200 and 400 meters; 100/110 and 400 meters hurdles; long jump; and the 4x100, 4x400 and medley

relays. Three or four athletes from each country would participate in each individual event and two teams each for relays.

RIVALRY

“It was obvious to everyone that with the rise of your country's great sprinters and hurdlers, a compelling rivalry between Jamaica and the United States had developed”, Logan wrote to McCook, area group representative of the NACAC. “These competitions would offer a means to showcase our phenomenal strengths to the NACAC region and the world”.

At the 2007 IAAF World Championships, Americans won the men's 100, 200 and 400 meters, sweeping the longer race, as well as the women's 200, both relays, women's 100 hurdles and men's 400 hurdles. Jamaica won the women's 100 and numerous sil-

ver and bronze medals. An American or Jamaican won 10 of 12 medals in the men's and women's 100 and 200 meters and went one-two in three of the four relay events.

At the 2008 Olympic Games, Jamaicans won the men's and women's 100 and 200 meters, including a sweep in the women's 100. Usain Bolt broke the world record in the 100 and 200. The 4x100 relay, on which he ran third leg, also broke the world record.

Jamaica won the women's 400 hurdles, while Americans swept the men's 400 meters and 400 hurdles, won two medals in the men's 110m hurdles and took gold in the women's 100 hurdles.

Collectively, U.S. and Jamaica won 11 of 12 medals in the 100 and 200; 16 of 18 in the 100 through 400; and five of six medals in the 400m hurdles.



Jamaican executed by lethal injection in U.S.

An eleventh hour appeal to Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine failed to win a stay for a convicted Jamaican death row inmate in the United States.

Edward Bell, who was convicted of killing a U.S. police officer nearly a decade ago, was executed last month.

In a release posted on his website, the governor declined to intervene to save Bell from lethal injection.

“Having carefully reviewed

the petition for clemency and judicial opinions regarding this case, I find no compelling reason to set aside the sentence that was recommended by the jury, and then imposed and affirmed by the courts,” the governor said in his statement.

Bell, 44, who maintained his innocence, was from the



Bell

eastern parish of Portland. He was convicted in 2001 for the capital murder of Winchester City Police Officer Richard Timbrook in Virginia.

Gov. Kaine noted that in two separate sentencing hearings culminating on Jan. 26, 2001, a jury had sentenced Bell to death. He also noted that Bell's trial, verdict, and sentence had been reviewed by state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.



CARIBBEAN CONTACT



- Photograph by LA PRESSE CANADIENNE /Sean Kilpatrick

Michaëlle Jean, right, Haitian-born governor general of Canada, meets with Barack Obama during the United States leader's visit to Ottawa last month, his first overseas assignment since being sworn in as president on Jan. 20.

Caribbean American billionaire on 'shocking' fraud charge in U.S.

HOUSTON, Texas – United States financial regulators have charged the Antigua-based Texan billionaire Sir Allen Stanford for orchestrating a “fraudulent, multi-billion dollar investment scheme”.



Stanford

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) named Sir Allen, 58, and his Antigua-based Stanford International Bank (SIB), Houston-based broker-dealer and investment adviser Stanford Group Company (SGC), and investment adviser Stanford Capital Management as players in the alleged \$8 billion dollar fraud by misrepresenting the safety and liquidity of the uninsured certificates of deposits (CDs).

“We are alleging a fraud of shocking magnitude that has spread its tentacles throughout the world,” Rose Romero, regional director of the SEC's Fort Worth Regional Office, said last month.

A U.S. judge has also issued a temporary restraining order, freezing the defendants' assets and appointed a receiver to marshal those assets.

“Stanford and the close cir-

cle of family and friends with whom he runs his businesses perpetrated a massive fraud based on false promises and fabricated historical return data to prey on investors,” said Linda Chatman Thomsen, director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement.

“We are moving quickly and decisively in this enforcement action to stop this fraudulent conduct and preserve assets for investors,” she added.

BIG PROMISES

The SEC's complaint, filed in federal court in Dallas, alleges that acting through a network of SGC financial advisers, SIB has sold approximately \$8 billion of so-called “certificates of deposit” to investors by promising improbable and unsubstantiated high interest rates.

These rates were supposedly earned through SIB's unique investment strategy, which purportedly allowed the bank to achieve double-digit returns on its investments for the past 15 years, a release on the SEC's website said.

The SEC's complaint also alleges an additional scheme relating to \$1.2 billion in sales by SGC advisers of a proprietary mutual fund wrap program, called Stanford Allocation Strategy (SAS), by using materially false historical performance data.

Sir Allen is a naturalized Antigua and Barbuda citizen and has built a corporate empire on the twin-island nation with various financial, media and sporting franchises based in St John's.



With Miami-Dade Transit's new EASY Card, simply tap and go!

- Faster boarding, no need to worry about carrying cash or exact change.
- Buy a one-day pass, a seven-day pass or a monthly pass that offers unlimited rides —it's your choice.
- Convenient automatic reloading and protection against loss or theft when you register your card.

To find out more about the EASY Card, go to miamidade.gov or call 3-1-1.

SAVE

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Sign up at miamidade.gov for direct access to news and services.

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

IMF official worries over impact of economic crisis on Caribbean

WASHINGTON – A top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is wor-



Strauss-Kahn

ried about the impact of the unfolding global economic crisis on vulnerable nations, including those in the Caribbean, and suggests that the donor community needs to respond with “urgent” and “generous” action.

“After hitting first the advanced economies and then the emerging economies, a third wave from the global financial crisis is now hitting the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries,” said Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn at the recent launch of a new IMF study, entitled “The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Low-Income Countries”.

“This puts at risk the

major achievements of higher growth, lower poverty, and greater political stability that many low-income countries have made over the past decade,” he added.

The IMF study found that a number of countries are particularly vulnerable to the unfolding crisis. Strauss-Kahn

estimates that at least \$25 billion in urgent concessional financing will be needed this year in the most affected countries.

CAUTION

Strauss-Kahn cautioned that lower growth could have serious implications for poverty

and potentially also for political stability, stating that spending on targeted social safety net programs “should be ramped up to protect the poor.” At the same time, he said it will be critical to protect spending on health, education, and vital infrastructure.

Strauss-Kahn said his goal

is to double the IMF’s concessional lending capacity, stating that the IMF is also looking at ways to make its lending to low-income countries more flexible, “reflecting their growing diversity and heightened exposure to global volatility.”



Crafting a better financial future

ERIC BENDEROFF

Dan Hassenplug’s monthly expenses used to include around \$300 for lunch and three or four books bought from *Amazon.com*. Now he’s plugged into a new breed of social network that helps him manage his finances.

“When you see a graph that says you averaged \$10 a day for lunch - about \$300 for the month - well, that’s a lot of money,” said the 24-year-old design manager from Geneva, Illinois.

Now he’s cut that expense in half by packing a lunch most days and buying only one book a month.

“There’s a library down the street,” he said.

With the economy wobbling and people worried about job security and stretching their

dollars, memberships at social finance sites such as Mint - which Hassenplug uses - and *Wesabe.com* have grown as people look for financial discipline. The sites, which are free to join, are more than Facebook meets your checkbook. They offer forums where users discuss spending habits and solicit feedback from peers.

In addition, the sites employ interactive tools that help teach users how to budget and search for the best deals based on the spending habits of all users. Useful spending patterns can be determined because the social finance sites



are linked to a users’ bank, brokerage and other accounts. Individual account data remains anonymous and secure.

Typical financial software is “good at telling you were your money went,” said Marc Hedlund, Wesabe chief executive officer and founder. That’s helpful, but it’s not “good at getting you to a better

place.”

UNCOMFORTABLE

He said most people are uncomfortable talking about personal finance, even with close friends. But on a social site, where users have only a

screen name, they are open and honest.

“People go into the discussion area and say, ‘This is my situation, what should I do about it?’ People can see they are not alone,” Hedlund said, “and they can learn from others.”

The interactive tools at Wesabe make specific suggestions on how to save.

For example, the site might suggest using a different auto mechanic, noting that other users have saved money using an independent repair shop. The site is able to provide specific store names because it bases its advice on aggregated payments culled anonymously from users’ checking accounts.

Wesabe, launched in 2006, has more than 100,000 mem-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Let us open the door to financial opportunities in Jamaica for you.

The Victoria Mutual Building Society Florida Representative Office



Suzette D. Rochester
B.B.A., M.A.,
Manager

For over 130 years, Jamaicans have trusted The Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS) to provide the best financial solution to achieve homeownership. Today, the Society remains committed to its members and aims to operate as a truly mutual organization, that is, one that is owned by and run for the benefit of its members.

We have now opened a Representative Office in Florida to give you easy access to our full range of financial products and services.

Call or Visit us Today!

We can help you to accomplish your financial goals.



The **VICTORIA MUTUAL**
Building Society

The Place To Save

County Square Shopping Center
21461 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33169

Tel: (305)770-2622 / 2643 / 2654; Cel: (305)812-3023

Toll-Free: 1-877-770-8627 (VMBS)

Fax: 305-770-2656

Email: manager@vmbs.com

Website: www.vmbs.com

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

How to: Finding ways to save money

Since loans are tough to get and retirement funds are shrinking fast as the stock market crashes, we thought we'd share some old-fashioned penny-pinching tips.

Keep a thrifty home - Unplug electronics that aren't being used. Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Seal ducts and add insulation.

Paying (and cutting) bills - Pay biweekly instead of monthly on your mortgage. You'll make an extra payment annually and save thousands on interest over the life of the

loan.

Your ride and your routine - Consolidate trips to save gas. Carpool. Buy a fuel-efficient, reliable car.

Eat healthy, pay less - Cook more meals at home and turn last night's dinners into today's lunch.

Go online for savings - Sign up for online polls; you can earn gift cards.

Use credit cards wisely - Get a credit card with rebates you can use.

Travel more, spend less - Use

Hotwire or other online sites to book hotel rooms. Don't be afraid to negotiate with hotels for a lower rate.

Stay fit, let savings fatten - Lose the gym membership and take a walk or a run.

On holidays, be a scrooge - Shop for Christmas and other gift-giving times throughout the year to take advantage of sales.

- *McClatchy Newspapers. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*



Crafting a better financial future

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

bers across the United States. The average user is a 28-year-old earning \$50,000 to \$60,000, Hedlund said. But recently, as the depth of the nation's economic woes became more apparent, Wesabe has seen its biggest growth, with a 35 percent month-over-month increase in membership.

GROWTH

At Mint, the average user is 30 years old with an income of about \$75,000, said Donna Wells, chief marketing officer. Mint has been growing steadily since its launch in Sept. 2007 - it has more than 475,000 users - but in the last month, "there's been a notable uptick in usage," Wells said. "People are looking for any new tool to

help them budget and save."

Chicago media planner Ryan Rutledge, 24, uses Mint to track his 401(k) plan, his student loans, checking and savings accounts plus the balances on his five credit cards. He rents an apartment in a two-flat and is working on paying off more than \$20,000 in student loans.

"It shocked me when I saw I was spending \$500 eating out every month," he said.

He has cut back, to about \$350 a month, and is working to lower that. The ability to track how much he spends and at what restaurants has helped reign in those expenses, he said.

Rutledge is spending about the same each month, with one key difference: he's spending "at least \$100 more a month"

to pay off his debts.

Rutledge is reflective of Mint users overall. Each month since January they have reduced spending by four percent on gifts and charitable donations. And they are treating themselves a little less, too.

"I went from spending \$75 a month to less than \$40 a month at iTunes," Rutledge said.

But he admits to being an impulse buyer. He couldn't stop himself from buying the new Keane album at the online retailer.

"Of course you try to save money, but I really am spending more wisely," he said.

© 2008, *Chicago Tribune. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*



Money advice: A head-to-toe guide

KARA MCGUIRE

Dean Junkans barely passed high school biology, but that didn't stop the Wells Fargo executive from seeing many parallels between the human anatomy and investing.

"In the human body, a number of key organs and body parts must work together to sustain life. An individual investment portfolio, the various parts of it, and the individuals managing it, must also work together to have a sustainable and successful experience," Junkans, chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank, writes in his new book "The Anatomy of Investing".

Junkans links several body parts to core financial planning and investment concepts. The result is a thorough and accessible head-to-toe financial guide.

Brain: The logical, analytical left brain is your investment plan, or road map to your goals. The right brain represents your emotional side.

In investing, individuals shouldn't let the right brain get too involved, especially in uncertain times when fear and greed can easily take over. But you don't want to cut the right brain out completely.

"Add some fun and creativity to the portfolio" by owning stocks in companies that you know, Junkans said.

BACKBONE

Spine: The backbone of your portfolio is asset allocation. This is your mix of investments such as stocks, bonds, real estate, commodities and cash. To have a healthy backbone, your investment mix must be well diversified.

Eyes: "The eyes were put in the front of the head, not the back of the head, for a reason," Junkans said. "And a lot of investors look backward...investors tend to chase performance."

Or, in down markets, they tend to avoid recent bad performance. I guess that explains why billions of dollars were taken out of mutual funds recently. Investors should really be looking forward to determine how to position themselves for the future. Given broad market declines, Junkans says he sees value in all corners of the

market - with the exception of pricey U.S. Treasuries - although he favors domestic stocks to international developed market stocks.

Ears: The ears have the big job of filtering out noise about the stock market and the economy, which can cause investors to think they need to make constant tweaks to their portfolio.

SNIFFING OUT

Nose: Use the nose to sniff out whether an investment opportunity smells right. If the return is really high, check the risks. In a market such as the one we're in, bad actors tend to materialize, claiming that they can reverse your losses with their investment scheme. Be wary.

Mouth and stomach:

The mouth and stomach feed your portfolio. This market might have demonstrated to you how much risk you can stomach. Unless you need the cash right now, Junkans says "generally it's going to be a mistake to notch down the risk after a 40 percent drop in the

market." Instead, make more conservative current contributions going forward.

Neck: The neck is your portfolio's flexibility. Have cash on the sidelines so you can take advantage of opportunities that arise.

Heart: A core portfolio of dividend and income-paying stocks is one strategy for heart health. And don't overlook putting the heart into your financial life. Consider socially responsible investing with mutual funds that screen stocks based on your values, or supporting charities that matter to you, which may also earn you a tax deduction.

Kidneys: The kidneys get rid of toxins. Cleanse your portfolio from time to time to realize tax benefits.

Lungs: Rebalance periodically to avoid shortness of breath. You'd be surprised what this market has done to your investment allocation pie.

Arms and legs: Get moving and pick your investment vehicles, but not before you understand how the rest of your body works in concert to realize your investment goals.

© 2008, *Star Tribune (Minneapolis). Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*



Going green is fun, easy and rewarding!

- Recycle everything from glass to plastic to metal and all kinds of paper through Miami-Dade's new curbside recycling program. Sign up for recycling alerts today!
- Join the change: Participate in the Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day and help keep our beaches beautiful for future generations.
- Have some good clean fun with one of the County's many Eco-Adventures.

For green tips, savings and more,
go to green.miamidade.gov or call 3-1-1.

GREEN



Sign up at miamidade.gov for direct access to news and services.

FEATURE

www.caribbeantoday.com

'My record says it all' ~ Salesman

~ Embattled Jamaican-born politician runs for office again

DAWN A. DAVIS

Come Mar. 10 will former City Commissioner Fitzroy Salesman, 52, run for Commission Seat #1 in the Miramar, Florida municipal election?

Jamaican-born Salesman is facing charges of aggravated assault with a firearm following an incident on Nov. 21, 2007 when he brandished a



Salesman

gun against a fellow shopper in a crowded Miramar Winn-Dixie supermarket. Then commissioner, he was suspended from his post by Florida Governor Charlie Crist in December that year.

It was not the first time Salesman had been suspended. In 2005 he was stripped of his commission seat by former Governor Jeb Bush for "fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer in violation of Section 316.1935(1), Florida Statutes, and driving under the influence, in violation of Sections 316.193(1) and 316.1934(1), Florida Statutes", according to the State of Florida Executive Order. He was acquitted of that charge.

The embattled politician has publicly claimed his innocence, stressing that he acted in self-defense against the 19-year-old man he allegedly pointed the gun at. His trial started Feb. 23, 2009, just two weeks before the Miramar city elections in which he hopes to take part. Earlier this month the judge declared a mistrial, so Salesman will likely be back in the courtroom next month.

If convicted, Salesman faces a three-year sentence. Before the mistrial decision, Miramar city spokesperson Gus Zambrano told **Caribbean Today**: "If he wins (the election) and is found not guilty, he has to go through reinstatement, then he can take office. That governor reinstatement

has to occur because it's the governor who suspended him.

"Acquittal doesn't automatically mean he takes back his office," added Zambrano. "If that occurs, then a certain amount of back pay and benefits are due to him."

UPHILL BATTLE

Salesman faces an uphill battle, but is determined to prove his innocence and pursue his political career in Miramar. According to the city's official website, Salesman qualified to run for seat #1 on Jan. 5, 2009. Also in the race are incumbent Carl J. Lanke, Joseph Romero and Barbara Sharief.

"I am confident," Salesman told **Caribbean Today**. "You have to trust the justice system; you are not living a true democracy if you are not willing to trust the justice system. I am going to put the facts out there with my attorneys, and I will let the jury look at the facts, and I am sure they will come back with the right decision."

The upbeat Salesman said he was "still serving," adding "my absence from the commission has never precluded me from serving. I get more calls as a suspended commissioner than any other sitting commissioner there right now."

"I am letting the people know that I am out here, I don't plan on going anywhere. And the most important thing I want them to understand is, regardless of the outcome of this election, win or lose, I will always be there for my fellow citizens."

Asked about his platform, Salesman boasted: "I stand squarely on my record, on the premise that there has never been, now or before, with the exception of Vicky Coceano who has been designated 'Mother of the City', anyone who has done more individually as a commissioner to benefit the residents of this city. My record says it all."

STRAIN

Incumbent Carl J. Lanke is running on the platform that put him in seat #1 last year: Safety, foreclosures, and his "green" initiative. In his first year the commission has added 14 new tactical officers on the streets of Miramar with a net result of reduced criminal activities, Lanke said.

The commissioner

bemoaned that "foreclosures are killing us," noting that the foreclosure rate in Miramar is 10 percent. He added that the resulting stress is causing a ripple effect in the city's economy. To help ease the crisis, the

"I am confident. You have to trust the justice system; you are not living a true democracy if you are not willing to trust the justice system. I am going to put the facts out there...and I am sure they will come back with the right decision" – Salesman

commissioner explained that the city will offer "forgivable loans" to residents from the \$10 million the city received from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This, along with other initiatives, such as partnering with local hospitals and mental health institutions to help those who are mentally affected by the economic strain, characterizes Lanke's objectives. Then he takes his own subtle shot at the ex-commissioner.

"I've been there, I'm sincere, I've been active within the community, I'm not going anywhere...Plus I have nothing in the court system," Lanke quipped.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Contender Barbara Sharief is campaigning on her record of community activism and business background.

"Miramar has the highest foreclosure rate in Broward County," she said. "That is why a large part of my campaign and community activities has been focused on stopping foreclosures and helping people find jobs."

Sharief is adamant about stemming increases in city fees to residents and finding creative ways to cut government costs. The successful businesswoman believes that support-

ing small business development is key to the city's economic development and said she will, as commissioner, offer free advertising to small businesses through the city's newsletter, commission meetings, and local television station.



Lanke

Asked about the legal problems surrounding Salesman, Sharief said: "We are in a democratic country where every man is innocent until proven guilty."

PROTEST

Romero, the fourth candidate for seat #1, called his platform "compassion."

"The drive for me is the will to help, the will to have

transparency, the will to have things fair," said the Dominican Republic-born candidate.

On Salesman, he said: "He has his supporters, he's done his work. He was a worker when he was there. He is going through a process, through the judicial system and they will render their verdict. So we have to wait for that to happen. Everybody is entitled to due process."

In addition to the race for seat #1, well-known Jamaican broadcaster Winston F. Barnes is vying to keep his position as commissioner in seat #3. Alejandro Casas is running against him.

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



Romero



Sharief

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA, INC. CELEBRATES THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY

PEACOCK BALL

SATURDAY MAY 16, 2009 6:00 PM - BLACK TIE THE RITZ-CARLTON COCONUT GROVE, MIAMI 3300 SW 27TH AVE MIAMI, FL 33133

HONORING MICHELE ROLLINS PHILANTHROPIST AND CHAIRMAN ROLLINS JAMAICA LTD. 2009 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENT

TO RESERVE TICKETS, EMAIL INFO@THEAFJ.ORG CALL 212-626-6663 OR VISIT WWW.THEAFJ.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT JAMAICAN CHARITIES IN EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CASTHELY ORTHODONTICS

"Creating Straight & Beautiful Smiles"

DENTAL BRACES • INVISALIGN®

Free Consultation • Easy Payment Options
Serving Miami's Caribbean Community for Over 9 Years

North Miami Beach Office
1400 NE Miami Gardens Dr., #101
North Miami Beach, FL 33179
305.940.4911

Kendall Office
7887 N Kendall Dr., #103
Miami, FL 33156
305.275.1094

F. Lucie Casthely, DMD, MS
Orthodontic Specialist

Children • Teens • Adults

www.casthelyortho.com

Caribbean states among world's major money launderers ~ U.S.

WASHINGTON – The United States has named four Caribbean community (CARICOM) member states among 59 major money laundering jurisdictions.

In its 2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, the State Department identified Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize and Haiti among “jurisdictions of primary concern, whose financial institutions engage in currency transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from international nar-

cotics trafficking.

“The category ‘Jurisdiction of Primary Concern’ recognizes this relationship by including all countries and other jurisdictions whose financial institutions engage in transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from all serious crimes”.

The State Department also listed nine CARICOM states as “Jurisdictions of Concern”. They are Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the

Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dominica is named among “Jurisdictions Monitored”.

The agency said “Jurisdictions of Concern” and “Other Jurisdictions Monitored” are identified on the basis of several factors, including whether the country’s financial institutions engage in transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from serious crimes; the extent to which the jurisdiction is or remains vulnerable to money laundering, notwithstanding its

money laundering countermeasures, if any; and the nature and extent of the money laundering situation in each jurisdiction, whether it involves drugs or other contraband.

SUSCEPTIBLE

The State Department said Antigua and Barbuda “remains susceptible to money laundering due to its offshore financial sector and Internet gaming industry”.

On The Bahamas, the agency said money laundering is primarily related to finan-

cial fraud and the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Money laundering, primarily related to narcotics trafficking, and contraband smuggling, is “suspected to occur through onshore banks operating in Belize”, it added. Haiti is seen as a “major drug-transit country with money laundering activity linked to the drug trade and to kidnapping”.

- CMC



U.S. accuses Caribbean of widespread human rights abuses

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

dures, remained a problem”, the report further stated.

In addition, the State Department said while the law provides for criminal penalties for official corruption, “the government did not implement the law effectively”, pointing to the World Bank’s worldwide governance indicators that reflected that “government corruption was a serious problem”.

HARSH ON HAITI

The report was equally harsh on Haiti, identifying among the impoverished country’s human rights problems the “failure to hold timely parliamentary elections; alleged unlawful killings by Haitian Nation Police (HNP) officers; ineffective measures to address killings by members of gangs and other armed groups; HNP participation in kidnappings; and overcrowding and poor sanitation in prisons”.

Others grouses listed were “arbitrary threats and arrests; prolonged pre-trial detention; an inefficient judiciary subject to significant influence by the executive and legislative branches; severe corruption in all branches of government; violence and societal discrimination against women; child abuse, internal trafficking of children, and child domestic labor; and ineffective enforcement of worker rights”.

The State Department said organized criminal gangs were primarily responsible for the “arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life”.

It said prisons and detention centers throughout the French-speaking country remained overcrowded, poorly maintained, and often unsanitary, and many prisoners and detainees suffered from a lack of basic hygiene, malnutrition, poor quality health care, and the presence of rodents.

The report noted efforts to reform the Haitian National Police remained incomplete, and officers were occasionally

implicated in corruption, kidnapping, and narcotics trafficking.

“In practice, authorities widely ignored the constitutionally provided right to a fair public trial”, the report noted.

JAMAICAN INJUSTICE

In Jamaica, the State Department said serious problems comprised “unlawful killings committed by members of the security forces, abuse of detainees and prisoners by police and prison guards, poor prison and jail conditions, impunity for police who committed crimes, an overburdened judicial system and frequent lengthy delays in trials, violence and discrimination against women, trafficking in persons, and violence against suspected or known homosexuals”.

It said the police employed “lethal force” in apprehending criminal suspects on many occasions, which resulted in 224 deaths during 2008, a drop from the 272 fatal police shootings of civilians in 2007.

Although the law prohibits such practices, reports of physical abuse of prisoners by guards continued, despite efforts by the government to remove abusive guards and improve procedures, the report stated.

“Prison conditions remained poor, primarily due to overcrowding and poor sanitary conditions”, it noted, adding that medical care also was poor, primarily a result of having only three full-time doctors, one full-time nurse, and one psychiatrist to cover 13 facilities with 4,790 inmates across the island.

In addition, the State Department said the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG) continued to report human rights abuses, including “arbitrary detention, mob attacks, stabbings, harassment of homosexual patients by hospital and prison staff, and targeted shootings of homosexuals. Police often did not inves-

tigate such incidents”.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the U.S. agency said there were “occasional reports of police brutality, corruption, excessive force, discrimination against homosexuals, and allegations of abuse by prison guards”.

The report said prison conditions in Antigua and Barbuda were very poor and that the country’s only prison, which housed 229 convicted prisoners at the end of last year, “overcrowded, did not have toilet facilities, and slop pails were used in all 122 cells”.

It attributed overcrowding, in part, to a law that limited the ability of magistrates to grant bail to those accused of certain offences.

DISCRIMINATION

The report stated, in The Bahamas, there were “complaints of abuse by police and prison and detention centre guards, poor detention conditions, poor functioning of the judicial system leading to delays in trials and lengthy pre-trial detention, violence against women and children, and discrimination against persons of Haitian descent”.

The State Department said violence against women was also a “serious, widespread problem” in The Bahamas.

In Barbados, the U.S. said problems included excessive use of force by police, poor prison conditions, and societal violence against women and children.

“While the constitution specifically prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment, there were reports that police sometimes used excessive force”, it stated.

Belize was another country cited for lengthy pre-trial detention, with the State Department also identifying domestic violence, discrimination against women, sexual abuse of children, trafficking in persons for sexual and labor exploitation, child labor and

human rights problems, including brutality and use of excessive force by security forces.

CORRUPTION

Human rights problems in Grenada included allegations of corruption, violence against women, and instances of child abuse, the State Department reported. It said prison conditions generally met international standards, with the exception of overcrowding, describing it as “significant”. It claimed the 386 prisoners, of which nine are women, are held in space designed for 98 persons.

Poor prison conditions, violence against women and children, and adverse conditions experienced by indigenous Kalinago (Carib) Indians were the main human rights issues in Dominica, the report stated.

Excessive force by police, poor prison conditions, corruption, and violence against women were the major human rights problems in St. Kitts and Nevis, the report noted. Prisons were overcrowded, and resources remained limited. In addition, it said violence against women was a problem, but there were “no prosecutions or convictions for domestic violence during the year”.

In St. Lucia, problems of abuse of suspects and prisoners by the police, long delays in trials and sentencing, violence against women, and child abuse predominated. According to the State Department, corruption had become a serious issue.

“Observers expressed concern that the country was moving backwards in terms of transparency and accountability,” it stated, adding that there was also “widespread concern that some members of the government (was) associated with known narcotics traffickers”.

The State Department said “impunity for police who used excessive force, poor prison conditions, abuse of official position by government officials to circumvent

the judicial process, an overburdened court system, violence against women, and abuse of children” were the major problems in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

- CMC



Caribbean Today

Street Address:
9020 SW 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33157
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6010
Miami, FL 33116-6010
Telephone: (305) 238-2868
(305) 253-6029 • Fax: (305) 252-7843
Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-290-4550
1-800-605-7516 • Jamaica: 654-7282
E-mail: editor@caribeantoday.com
Send ads to: ct_ads@bellsouth.net

Vol. 20, Number 4 • MAR. 2009

PETER A WEBLEY
Publisher

GORDON WILLIAMS
Managing Editor

SABRINA HOPKINS
Graphic Artist

DOROTHY CHIN
Account Executive

SHARON LEE
Account Executive

CARMEN CHANG
Account Executive

JACQUELINE RUBIANO
Accounting Manager

Caribbean Media Source
Media Representatives

Opinions expressed by editors and writers are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Caribbean Today, an independent news magazine, is published every month by Caribbean Publishing & Services, Inc.

Caribbean Today is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. To guarantee return, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Articles appearing in Caribbean Today may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

VIEWPOINT

www.caribbeantoday.com

When Rihanna's private life becomes public obsession

Are you happy now? All your eyes pressed to the window staring at the detritus of someone else's life, all your mouths chattering together like birds on a wire, all you watchers and voyeurs, you Peeping Toms and Thomasinas, you eye spies and inquiring minds that had to know, did you get what you needed, did you see what you wanted? Are you happy now?

I'd think you would be. The photo, after all, is pitilessly explicit: a close-up of a woman facing the camera with eyes closed in a face scarred



LEONARD PITTS JR.

by bruises and abrasions, and what looks like dried blood in the corner of her mouth. Los Angeles police say it appears to be authentic, an image of singer Rihanna taken as part of their investigation of singer Chris Brown, who allegedly assaulted her on Feb. 8.

The department has launched a probe, continuing as of this writing, to determine how the picture could have made it from their files onto TMZ.com, the celebrity gossip web site, on Feb. 22. There is suspicion that some cop or clerk stole it and sold it, trading a young woman's misery for personal profit.

INFO LUST

But hey, you had to know, right? All you fans and fanatics who scour the web obsessively for the latest dish on Brad and Angie, Tom and Katie, Chris and Rihanna and other luminaries who don't know you from Adam but with whom you are, nevertheless, on a first-name basis...you needed this information, did you not? You had a sacred right to stare into the battered face of a hurt and vulnerable woman on one of the worst nights of her life.

As a poster who fancies herself (maybe himself?) "Sultry Siren" puts it on TMZ's site: "And for all you saying TMZ shouldn't have posted the photo. Shut it up! We wanted to see it and TMZ always delivers."

Amen. Because we all know that what you want is all that really matters.

I expect to get some flak for giving you flak, though. See, while you were debating whether Rihanna, in the view of one post, "was asking for it," I was debating a Pentagon policy (overturned last month)

that banned pictures of the ceremony they hold when caskets containing the remains of American military personnel are returned to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. I argued against the ban in this space, saying that we should not be shielded from reminders of what happens when we send our children off to war.

So yes, I'm expecting some folks to see a disconnect between that opinion and this one. But there isn't really. On the one hand, we're talking about a matter of compelling national interest. On the other, we're talking about humiliating a woman so you can get your jollies.

And it strikes me now how quaint was the former debate over the morality of images, how anachronistic the attempt to balance public needs with private ones, in the world you are creating. In that world, there is no morality higher than "we wanted to see it" and no need to balance public and private because they are one and the same.

BEING 'THERE'

An ambulance comes for Britney Spears and You Are There. Paris Hilton has sex and You Are There. Robyn Rihanna Fenty is photographed as the victim of an alleged assault, in a state with laws that theoretically protect the privacy of assault victims. And yet, You Are There.

The lives of others are one big reality show to you, aren't they? One more excuse to press your face against the window glass and gather chattering on the wire.

Excuse the rest of us if we don't see it that way, if we think we have a right to reasonable control over how and when we are presented to the world, if we believe that our triumphs and sorrows are just that - "our" triumphs and sorrows, not an entertainment produced for your amusement. Because life is not a reality show.

Get one, and you'll see.

© 2009 The Miami Herald. Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Editor's note: Rihanna was born in Barbados.



Rihanna

Obstacles to romance

There are so many obstacles to true love before we can truly know who is the right person for us.

For some of us, it may take years to find the right person, while for others it's the proverbial love at first sight.

Whatever happened to the phrases, "Haste makes waste", "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread", "Take time to know her", "Marry in haste, repent at leisure?" There are so many, and for each there is a counter, or someone giving advice as to what to do.

No wonder those advice columns are so popular, as people want to know exactly what they're getting into before making that potentially fateful plunge. It's easy when buying a car or house, as all one has to do is make a thorough investigation of both. Oh if we could do that with prospective spouses, but we can't.

SIGNS

In romance or relationships, there are certain signs that you should look for before making that fateful leap, certain obstacles that will prove too difficult to overcome, that will doom it from the beginning.

For example, is it wise to engage in a relationship with a woman who is much older? First there is the self esteem and insecurity of the older woman dealing with the younger man. Many women suffer from low self esteem, insecurity and jealousy, even those who are young, attractive, educated and even quite beautiful. Now just imagine how a woman who is much older than her spouse must feel, knowing, or at least wondering, if he's going to leave her for a younger woman.

Now I don't want you older ladies to pillory me now, but would you want your 20-year-old son settling down with a 40-year-old woman, your best friend perhaps? Makes you think now, doesn't it?

LONG DISTANCE

Then there are long distance relationships. Now why in heaven's name would some-



one get involved with a long distance lover? It's hard enough dealing with someone who lives right here.

Some people have it thrust on them, as after being involved for a few years, one has to go away to school, or work, or something beyond their control. But why would you get involved with someone who lives far from you right from the beginning?

And yet people meet while on vacation, or strike up pen pal or e-mail relationships and then think about making it permanent. Bad move, very bad move. As the old saying goes, "Love and sea water don't mix". You can write and phone so much, e-mail until your fingers go numb, the fact is, the person is there and you are here, and never the twain shall meet.

ORAL BOUNDARIES

Then what about oral sex, is it an obstacle to romance? Well, talking about sex can't do any harm, but what about the real deal, getting on down, one stop above 68, if you know what I mean? Times have changed. It is a definite obstacle if she wants it, expects it, demands it and he doesn't, for she'll seek it elsewhere. So just do what the majority of Caribbean men do, indulge her, but lie about it to your male friends.

The same applies to sexual incompatibility, for if there is inequality, don't even go there. If appetites vary greatly, it's doomed from the start.



TONY ROBINSON

Can previous children be a hindrance to a relationship? Now that's a tough one, as children can be such a joy But they can also prove to be major obstacles in relationships,

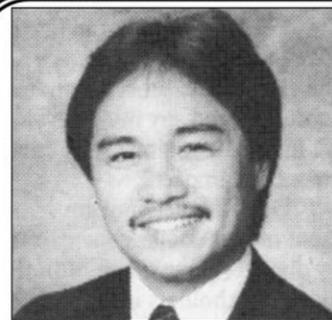
and tales of the wicked stepmother or abusive stepfather are not unfounded.

If you meet a woman and she already has a child, that can be cool. If she has two, the stakes rise a bit. But if she has three or more, that can prove to be a major obstacle. I'm not saying in all cases, but an instant family for a young man can create major problems; worse if those kids have different fathers. The same applies to women who meet men with multiple baby mothers too. Just think, will he stop with you?

Another obstacle is the in-law. Nothing is worse than a meddling in-law, and they should be outlawed.

So as you race on this romantic road, there are certain obstacles that we must steer clear of, run around, push aside and avoid, for if we don't, those same obstacles will become a ball and chain around your ankle.

seido1@hotmail.com



PAUL W. MOO YOUNG, D.D.S. FAMILY DENTISTRY

EMERGENCY WALK-IN SERVICE

- Cosmetic
- Restorative
- Preventive
- Oral Surgery
- Oral Cancer Screening
- Root Canal Treatment
- Orthodontics

Member American Dental Association
Most Insurance Accepted

6701 Sunset Drive, Suite 114
South Miami, FL 33143

(305) 666-4334



I believe saving the planet is impossible.

When you come from a history so rich in dreams and accomplishment, you can't help but think achieving the impossible is possible.

Publix Celebrates History.

Publix®

© 2009 Publix Asset Management Company

VACATION PLANNING

www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

It can be wonderful fun taking Spring Break with the kids

EILEEN OGINTZ

Anne and Jim Stewart and their two teenagers are happily counting down the days till their Jamaica Spring Break.

They're not rich - or crazy to take a vacation when everyone is cutting back. In fact, they almost didn't go this year,

Brown, senior editor at Travelocity.com Her tip: Book an air-hotel package and save \$300 or more. She likes San Diego (www.sandiego.org) with plenty of kid-friendly attractions, a 10 percent decrease in airfare and a whopping 17 percent decrease for hotel rooms in March and April.

Even the national parks

Spring Training season with the Cincinnati Reds before they head to Arizona and offers plenty of appealing hotel deals.

DEALS

"We're seeing three times as many hotel promotions now," added Orbitz.com

spokesman Jeanenne Tornatore, with plenty of rooms to be had for under \$100 a night across the country. There are also plenty of deals on condo rentals so you can save more on meals, and even invite a friend along for your teen (www.vacationrentals.com), (orbitz.com)

or (www.Zonder.com). You'll even find plenty of deals and freebies in Orlando with their new Bundles of Free Smiles campaign (www.bundlesoffreesmiles.com) and packages at Walt Disney World ([\(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12\)](http://disney-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)



There are many activities in the Caribbean for kids and adults.

says Anne, a Connecticut physical therapist. Yet, despite the recession, they didn't want to forgo the opportunity for some much-needed family time.

"It won't be too long before the kids are off to college and won't want to be with us," she explained.

So the family compromised. Instead of a full week, they're going for just five days. And a web search yielded a terrific deal at an all-inclusive resort so there shouldn't be many extra expenses - just \$3,000, including flights for the four of them.

The best part: "The kids are really excited about going and being with us," said Stewart.

As we count down to Spring Break in March and April, a lot of you are telling your kids, "Not this year!" - 79 percent of those surveyed by TripAdvisor (www.tripadvisor.com), in fact. But maybe it's time to think again. We all need a break from all the gloom and doom - even the First Family. Michelle Obama told **People** magazine recently that her family will be heading off on a family Spring Break this month.

AFFORDABLE

They haven't said where they're going, but you can get away, too - whatever your budget or wherever you'd like to take the kids - you'll be surprised at what you can afford this year.

"We haven't seen deals like this in years," said Genevieve

have gotten into the act. Every "A" on a report card earns \$10 off the room rate (up to \$30) at the Grand Canyon (www.grandcanyonlodges.com). (Use the code STAY4A.) You'll find plenty of bargains at state parks, too.

And by traveling you'll be doing your bit to help the economy. Consider that almost 200,000 jobs were lost in the travel industry last year and, according to the United States Department of Commerce, another 250,000 will be lost this year. All of those waiters and cooks, hotel maids and front desk clerks have families too. And they'll thank you.

Take your pitchers and third basemen to Spring Training either in Florida (www.floridaspringtraining.com) or Arizona (www.cactusleague.com) where tickets are a lot cheaper than major league stadiums and your little leaguers might get close enough to get an autograph. The best part: flights and hotels cost less than last year, notes Brown.

Check out deals in Arizona at Best Western's Dobson Ranch Inn in Mesa, (www.dobsonranchinn.com), which include breakfast, or the just-renovated Westward Look Resort in Tucson (www.westwardlook.com) where you can check out the night critters in the desert with special goggles, go horseback riding or laze at the pool when you're not trying to catch a fly ball.

Sarasota (www.sarasotafl.org), meanwhile, is celebrating the final

FREE
extra
BAG
to **Jamaica**

Between March 9 and May 31
Air Jamaica gives you one additional piece of checked baggage FREE on all flights between Fort Lauderdale and Jamaica.

During this period your FREE baggage allowance is:
3 pieces in Lovebird Economy Class
4 pieces in Lovebird Executive Class

airJamaica
www.AirJamaica.com • 1.800.523.5585

Additional checked baggage subject to space availability and must weigh a maximum of 50lbs. and maximum dimensions of 62".

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Be prepared for new document requirements starting in June

ED PERKINS

If you're heading out of the

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY



Milton E. Wilson
REALTOR
Residential/Commercial



Up to \$10,000 Down Payment Assistance for First Time Homebuyers by the Florida Assist Program

Office: (954) 467-0105
Mobile: (954) 696-6792
Fax: (954) 467-2722
miltonwilson@keyes.com
wilsonmilton.sef.mlxchange.com

Ft. Lauderdale Branch
1520 E. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33304



country and expect to return after June 1, it's time now to make sure your documents comply with the tightened requirements that will apply.

Those tightened requirements focus on re-entry by land or sea from countries participating in the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) program (Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, including The Bahamas, and Mexico). To enter those countries and cross the border back to the United States you will need either:

- **A U.S. passport** - the traditional, all-purpose document for international travel.
- **A passport card** - the new credit-card-size ID, valid for travel to/from only countries in the WHTI program. It is issued by the U.S. State Department; it's a less expensive alternative for travelers interested mainly on cross-border

travel by car or foot.

- **An enhanced driver's license (EDL)** - the updated, high-tech version of a conventional driver's license that requires proof of citizenship as a condition of issue.

- **An ID from one of the "Trusted Traveler" programs.**

This rule has two prominent exceptions:

- Children under age 18 without the documents required for adults will be able to enter or return from WHTI participating countries with any accepted proof of citizenship, including birth certificate (original or copy) or citizenship card.
- Cruise ship passengers on "closed loop" itineraries (cruises that begin and end at the same U.S. port) can enter or leave with a birth certificate or government-issued photo ID. (You may, however, need a U.S. passport to disembark at some ports.)

Border Protection Agency touting its new high-tech facilities at the Tijuana-San Ysidro border crossing, the nation's busiest. By scanning the radio frequency ID (RFID) chips in the latest high-tech travel documents, U.S. agents can speed the flow of traffic through the checkpoint and - they hope - reduce the long lines of vehicles that currently clog the border crossing. All passports, passport cards and EDLs contain chips, which provide instant access by agents to the government's passport database, and all future passports will contain them.

Some folks are worried that hackers will be able to extract personal data from EDLs and other chip-enabled cards. The people who make these systems - and the government - say that a metal sleeve will prevent unauthorized reading.

Air travelers arriving from any foreign country, including those in the WHTI program, will see no changes: You need a passport; the passport card won't do. This requirement applies to travelers of any age, including children and even



U.S. citizens traveling out of the country by air will need a passport to return.

infants. The only exceptions are for active-duty military personnel, merchant mariners, travelers with NEXUS cards, and permanent residents - groups with their own specific ID requirements.

For more detail on any border crossing documentation issues, log onto the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Website at www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/. And if you think you'll need a passport, apply now: I'm sure that a short-staffed State Department will again be slow in filling applications.

© 2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.



"Oh...Delicious!"

Flavor rush **OCHO RIOS**

Email: info@ochoriosfoods.com • www.ochoriosfoods.com

Miami • Ocho Rios Miami, Inc. • 3675 NW 71 Street • Miami, FL 33147-6525
Tel: (305) 696-1237 • Fax (305) 691-0911

Atlanta • Ocho Rios Atlanta, Inc. • 1989 Tucker Ind. Road • Tucker, GA 30084
Tel: (770) 908-8866 • Fax: (770) 908-8845

Olive Chung-James, M.D.

Board Certified Family Physician

children • adults • gynecology • weight management

▲ **Dr. Chung-James, practicing in Miami since 1983, well-known in the Caribbean community.**

Conveniently Located Across From Jackson South E.R. at:
9275 SW 152 Street, Suite 204 • Miami, Florida 33157
Phone: 305-251-3975 • Fax: 305-251-9839

The Citizenship Clinic

Real Lawyers. Real Cheap.

STARTING FROM
\$299*

1 (888) 928 REAL
1(888) 928-7325
www.citizenshipclinic.com

400 SE 12th Street Building C
Ft. Lauderdale FL 33316

* does not include USCIS filing fees. The hiring of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based on advertising alone. Before you decide, visit our website or ask us to send you free information about our qualifications. Attorneys Edward Boreth and Inna Shapovalov.

HI-TECH

This column was prompted, in part, by a news release from the U.S. Customs and

It can be wonderful fun taking Spring Break with the kids

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

world.disney.go.com) and Universal Studios (www.universalorlando.com) that offer free nights, theme park admission and significant savings. One local vacation rental home company (www.ImagineVacationHomes.com) has even piggybacked on Disney World's promise of a free ticket on your birthday, offering birthday tickets for your whole family, if you book a five-night stay. The best part - three-bedroom houses that start at \$159 a night.

You don't need to plan ahead either this year, even for the busiest times.

"Families need to know this year we're seeing a lot of excellent last-minute deals with hotels willing to throw in freebies or perks to entice guests at the final hour," says Arabella Bowen, editorial director of www.shermanstravel.com, which focuses on deals.

CRUISE

Maybe this is the time to try a cruise. Go from a port near home and you can save on airfare. Many cruise lines are offering significant shipboard credits and deals where kids cruise for \$99 (Norwegian, for example, www.ncl.com), or even free (www.disneycruises.com). On a four-day cruise, Carnival is offering deals under \$1,400 for a family of four.

"There are still plenty of

opportunities for families to snag a good deal," says Carnival spokesman Jennifer de la Cruz.

Cruise Compete (www.cruisecompete.com), which enables travel agents to offer you the best deals they have for the time you want to travel, touts some Holland America sailings for just \$70 a person a day, says spokesman Heidi Allison-Shane.

Look at an all-inclusive. Club Med (www.clubmed.com) offers \$499 per person deals for an entire week at some of its family resorts. Don't discount places you thought were too pricy either, especially if you can snag a cheap flight. Use up those frequent flier miles. And go for a long weekend rather than a week. Windjammer Landing in St. Lucia (www.windjammer-landing.com), for example, is offering 50 percent off the room rate in "sun dollars", credit for food and activities. Mention Taking the Kids and you can get a parents' massage too. Hotels.com, meanwhile, has a luxury for less sale (www.hotels.com/luxuryforless) that promises upscale lodging for as low as \$89 in cities across the country.

Try something you've never done. Go to the Frost Valley YMCA camp in the Catskills (www.frostvalley.org) and you can see how maple syrup is made. Join a flotilla of sailing boats in the British

Virgin Islands and save 25 percent with Sunsail (www.sun-sail.com). (Other deals offer as much as 35 percent off.)

FREE SKI

There are so many third-night-free deals in ski country that you can find an entire page devoted to them at (www.ski.com/3rdnightfree). Ski.com's Dan Sherman added there are many second-night-free deals in Park City, while Vail and Beaver Creek have just extended their kids-fly free ski-free deal (book by Mar. 14 (with your travel deadline of Mar. 31) - one child flies and skis free for each paying adult (www.flyvail.com)).

Also www.perfectfamily-vacation.com has just slashed prices significantly from last year's rates at Shadow Ridge Resort in Park City Utah.

Wherever you want to go, don't be shy about asking the resort/cruise line/hotel to up the ante - a better room, free breakfast, free kids' club. Remember, they want - and need - your business. And you need that time together.

"The kids are only going to be this age once," says Anne Stewart.

© 2009 Eileen Ogintz. Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.



SPRING SHIPPING

www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

Caribbean shipping execs to meet in Colombia in May

Top names in the regional shipping industry, including owners, shipping executives and industry leaders, are expected at a three-day Caribbean Shipping Executives Conference in Cartagena, Colombia in mid-May.

The eighth conference, set for May 18-20 at Hotel Las Americas Global Resort, is scheduled to feature speakers from several countries worldwide.

Issues to be discussed will include the following:

- Is the shipping industry in the Caribbean and Latin American region ready to deal with the current global financial crisis?
- Are businesses equipped to seize the opportunities that will present themselves during this time?
- What is the future of the cargo and cruise shipping industries and how can stakeholders in the region position their businesses to stay "afloat" and maximize growth?
- Is it time to implement National Port Community Systems throughout the region to improve supply chain efficiency, security and customer satisfaction?

The conference is being presented by the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA) in collaboration with Sociedad Portuaria Regional de Cartagena (SPRC).

Collapsible shipping container could transform cargo trade

Ocean carriers spend \$16 billion annually on repositioning empties. A collapsible container



Collapsible containers could save the industry space and money.

designed by two professors from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, India, could revolutionize the marine cargo sector.

In less than four minutes, the container is collapsed hydraulically to one-quarter its original size. Kept together with a self-locking mechanism, four vertically stacked containers take up exactly the same space as a regular 20-foot box.

Scheduled sessions include: "The Business and Economic Outlook for Global Trade"; "Repercussions of the Global Recession on Port Operators: Liner Companies, Shipping Agents and Labor"; "Today's Opportunity for Tomorrow's Growth"; "Strategic Positioning of Cruise Tourism to Maximize Growth for All Stakeholders"; "The Luxury Yacht Sector: Business Opportunities for the Region"; and "Secured Commerce for Economic Growth".

Among the scheduled keynote speakers are: Dr. Walter Kemmsies, chief economist, Moffatt & Nichol; Robert West, principal, trade and transportation, Halcrow; Rupert Conner, president and chief executive officer, Luxury Yacht Group; Michael Horton, principal Latin America, Moffatt & Nichol; Michael McFadden, vice president, Halcrow; Iker Allison, senior commercial manager, SSA Mexico; Dr. Andrew Coggins, professional consultant School of Hotel & Tourism Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Giovanni Benedetti, director of marketing and sales, Sociedad Portuaria Regional de Cartagena; and Joseph Cervenak, principal, Kemper-Joseph LLC.



More than 52 years ago, Malcom McLean, a North Carolina trucking entrepreneur, originally hatched the idea of using containers to carry cargo. He loaded 58 containers onto his ship, Ideal X, in Newark, New Jersey, and once the vessel reached Houston the uncrated containers were moved directly onto trucks — and reusable rectangular boxes soon became the industry standard.

Anoop Chawla and Sudipto Mukherjee from IIT's mechanical engineering department worked on the collapsible concept for three and a half years.

"We made at least two models before coming up with the current proof of concept," Chawla said. "There were many difficulties we encountered in the entire process — right from conceptualization to ensuring the structural rigidity of the collapsible container. For instance, we had to ensure there were proper sealing and locking conditions."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

USA TO JAMAICA & THE CARIBBEAN

"Your Cargo in good hands!"



COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS/ PERSONAL EFFECTS

- LCL (Less than Container Load) or Full Load Consolidation
- Weekly sailings to the Caribbean
- Immediate cargo arrival notification

We also offer:

- Pick-Up of cargo from anywhere in the U.S.
- Packing, Crating and Marine Insurance

MIAMI FREIGHT & SHIPPING CO. LTD.
(305) 885-0558

Fax: (305) 887-6684

7790 NW 46th Street • Unit 18 • Miami, Florida 33166 • email: xjohnston@miamifreight.net

We take **CARE** of your **CARGO**



Air Jamaica Cargo is committed to making the transportation of your goods easy and convenient, with the best prices, frequency and service.

Ship your cargo to or from anywhere in the world, then sit back and relax as our group of experienced professionals take care of your cargo needs.

We Offer:

- The best Frequency
- The most Capacity
- Efficient Connections
- Online Cargo Tracking
- Personalized Service
- 767 All cargo service between MIA and KIN & MBJ



airJamaica
CARGO
Freight without the wait.

www.AirJamaica.com/cargo

cargosales@airjamaica.com

KIN: 876 924 8750 / 924 8848 • MIA: 305 526 2390/1 • JFK: 718 917 6171

~ A Caribbean Today advertising feature

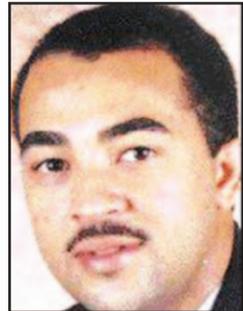
Jamaica importing fertilizer with human waste ~ minister

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Controversy has erupted over a decision by the Jamaica government to import low-cost fertilizer from the United States, which Agriculture Minister Dr. Chris Tufton has revealed is made with human waste.

The matter, which was the subject of heated debate in the Parliament recently, has spilled out of the chamber, with Opposition Leader Portia Simpson Miller demanding that Prime Minister Bruce Golding provide answers to the country.

Simpson-Miller, speaking at a People's National Party (PNP) workers meeting, said she was extremely concerned that the fertilizer, containing human excrement, had

already been distributed for use by the agriculture sector.



Tufton

Her statement came hours after Roger Clarke, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, sought answers from Tufton during debate in the House.

“Human faeces (import-



Simpson Miller

ed) to Jamaica, I am asking out of the interests of not just the Jamaican farmer but the Jamaican people, what is the protocol in place with the use of it?” asked Clarke.

Tufton stoutly defended the imports and insisted that the product, made primarily from domestic sludge and waste water, has been tested by the U.S. authorities.

Clarke called for tests to be conducted locally on the fertilizer.

Collapsible shipping container could transform cargo trade

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

COMPATIBILITY

The concept also had to be compatible with existing equipment for intermodal transport. Speed was another concern.

“We wanted to keep the folding and unfolding time to within three to four minutes,” he said. The watertight container, which is fabricated from Corten steel like the standard container and equals its strength, opens upward to allow top loading of commodities. A system to collapse and erect the container also had to be conceptualized.

“We designed a base station or special platform to fold and unfold the container horizontally within the target time of three to four minutes,”

Chawla said. “The system, which could be hydraulic-based, helps collapse the container automatically.”

It takes a

semi-skilled person half a day to one day to be trained on the base station, said Avinder Bindra of Simpri Investments Ltd., who financed the container project. A former banker, Bindra approached IIT, one of India's best engineering schools, about taking on the challenge. He felt collapsible containers could improve the logistics and decrease the cost of backhauling empty containers.

The shipping industry spends a great deal of time and money repositioning empty containers. If trade were balanced, there would be no empties. But trade imbalance has resulted in approximately 2.5 million TEUs of empty boxes stored in yards worldwide with empties comprising 20 percent to 23 percent of the movement of containers around the world.

According to research conducted by International Asset Systems, the average container is idle or undergoing repositioning for more than 50 percent of its lifespan. It also

determined shipping companies spend \$16 billion in repositioning empties. To compensate for these costs, carriers add surcharges to freight rates. These range between \$100 and \$1,000 per TEU.

It is estimated that if 75 percent of empty containers were folded by 2010, the result would be a yearly saving in shipping of 25 million TEUs, or 50 percent of the total volume of empty containers shipped.

Edited from an article written by Kathryn Horibe and published recently on Caribbean Shipping Inc.'s website.

“Service comes first with us . . .”

FCBF
2008 Transportation Firm of the Year

Fast, Dependable Transit • Accurate Documentation
Dry and Refrigerated Containers • Machinery & Rolling Stock

MIAMI (305) 592-6060
US General Agents: SeaFreight Agencies USA, Inc.
Web site: seafreightagencies.com

JACKSONVILLE • PORT EVERGLADES • ARUBA • BARBADOS • BONAIRE • CURACAO • GRAND CAYMAN • GRENADA
GUYANA • HAITI • JAMAICA • MARGARITA • PANAMA • ST. LUCIA • ST. VINCENT • SURINAME • TRINIDAD • VENEZUELA

OWEN TAYLOR
Principal Agent

18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 648
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157
305.232.8222
Fax: 305.232.9334
Cell: 786.512.0174
otaylor@bellsouth.net

DAILY ALL CARGO FLIGHTS TO AND FROM

THE CARIBBEAN

Services include:
General Cargo, Barrels, Small Packages, Hazardous Materials, Perishables, Personal Effects, Live Animals and much more...

For more information call:
1-800-927-6059 or email us at sales@amerijet.com

www.amerijet.com

South Florida celebrates 'Miss Lou' - pioneer of Jamaica's 'patwa'

DAWN A. DAVIS

The legacy of Louise Bennett-Coverley has left an indelible impression on Jamaica and the Caribbean. It is this icon, this tradition, this birth right, that was commemorated at the South Regional Broward College Library in Pembroke Pines, Florida last month.

Under the patronage of Sandra Grant-Griffiths, Jamaica's consul general to the southern United States, the event brought together linguists, educators, writers, performers and friends who celebrated an indigenous language and culture and "Miss Lou", the woman who instilled pride in Jamaican "patwa".

Journalist, playwright, director, actress and cultural activist Barbara Gloudon was among those honoring the woman that gave voice to Jamaica.

"Louise was marked out

"Louise was marked out to free the tongue of the Jamaican people" - Gloudon

to free the tongue of the Jamaican people," Gloudon said.

"Louise was born for a particular purpose, at a particular time. As happens in every generation, one or two people are born to change time. Barack Hussein Obama carries that burden, Nelson Mandela carries that burden, Martin Luther King Jr. carried that burden, Marcus Mosiah Garvey carried that burden. So, we need to take her work seriously."



Louise Bennett-Coverley left a huge impression of Caribbean culture on the world.

Miss Lou was the major force in promoting Jamaican language as a legitimate form of communication. She used Jamaican patwa, a mixture of African languages brought to the island by slaves, and English in her writings as a young journalist, in performances, and everyday life without shame. And, in time, her genius was recognized with a scholarship to Britain's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, an institution that represented the system she fought to loosen its grip on Jamaican culture.

According to Gloudon, Miss Lou was part of a political movement. The statements in her poetry were political, the strongest being her railing against the British. In those days, all things British was good. Hence, a whole generation was made to feel ashamed of their tongue because it was not "the Queen's English".



Gloudon

PANTOMIME

Among the stages Miss Lou used to showcase her proud heritage, talent, and persistence was pantomime, a British tradition of acting out children's stories onstage that traditionally opened on Boxing Day each year. Miss Lou performed in 25 pantomimes between 1943 and 1975; several times alongside her famous sidekick Ranny "Mas Ran" Williams. She

became a prolific director and performer, peppering her productions with the language of her people. The tradition continues today.

"She gave us no end of proverbs, which were in fact parables; they were almost biblical in their connotations," Gloudon said. "For example, 'wen chubble tek man, pickney shut fit im'. It is clear, when trouble takes man a child's shirt will even cover you. It was almost biblical wisdom, which she would put into folk language, and little by little they have become part of our history. If you look in the Oxford dictionary now, it is carrying words out of the Jamaican autography."

But, it was not only pantomime that benefited from the strength and character of "patwa". Not just a theatrical genius, Miss Lou weaved her stories, poems, and plays with folkloric tales in the voice of the characters she brought to life. And, she did not keep it to herself, but passed on the tradition to those around her. Gloudon was one of her protégés.

Miss Lou, and Gloudon after her, were perhaps the first journalists to use "patwa" in the print media for everyday communication. Both women worked at *The Gleaner*, Jamaica's oldest newspaper, in their early careers.

"The *Gleaner* received enormous amounts of complaints that Louise Bennett and myself had conspired to cheapen the Jamaican language and weaken the identify of the people," explained Gloudon.

Later, when Gloudon started her radio call-in program "Hotline", she was again

criticized for speaking in "patwa".

In spite of that, and perhaps because of that, the show has grown to become one of Jamaica's most popular community radio shows. Listeners can call in and air their opinions in a language they are comfortable with.

BEYOND COMEDY

Gloudon implored scholars to look beyond Miss Lou's comedic performances for she was much more than that.

"We have forgotten to spend some time on the importance of the journey that she took and its relevance to the development of Jamaica,"

"In time, her genius was recognized with a scholarship to Britain's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, an institution that represented the system she fought to loosen its grip on Jamaican culture"

she said "...Her purpose was to be tongue and voice to a people who had no voice...The work I do as a writer is all driven by Louise...But, we have to understand that the road ahead still nuh dun."

Gloudon is involved in a project that will help keep Miss Lou and Jamaica's indigenous voice alive. A website, www.ltmpantomime.com, has been created. It celebrates 60 years of Jamaican theater. The site features a detailed history of the movement as well as directors, producers, and cast members from every pantomime performed since 1941. Packed with a dizzying array of facts, visitors to the site will also learn about choreography trends, designers, and little known facts about the pantomime company and Kingston's Little Theatre.

Even the Canadian government recognizes the valuable contribution Louise Bennett-Coverley made to Jamaican culture with the creation of "Miss Lou's Room". Opened on July 26, 2007 at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto on the first anniversary of Miss Lou's death, the facility provides a permanent display on her life and performances and houses DVDs, audiocassettes, and interactive media that allows visitors to "perform" along with the beloved Jamaican icon.

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



R&B star faces felony charges for alleged beating of Rihanna

LOS ANGELES, California - The District Attorney's office here says R&B star Chris Brown has been charged with two felonies following the alleged beating of his girlfriend, Barbadian pop singer Rihanna.

The singer made a brief appearance in court with his attorney Mark Geragos early this month and did not enter a plea to the two felony charges of assault and making criminal threats.

The judge granted Brown's request for a continuance on April 6.

If convicted, Brown faces anywhere from probation to a maximum four years and eight months in state prison,

District Attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said. The formal charges come almost a month after the couple argued on the morning of Feb. 8, just hours before Rihanna, 21, and Brown, 19, were both scheduled to perform at the Grammys.

U.S.-based media organizations published the sordid details of the incident, while quoting an affidavit which chronicles the attack in which Brown allegedly punched, bloodied and threatened to kill his girlfriend. They also indicate that the couple has reunited following the incident.



Rihanna, left, and Brown performing.

'My Nappy Roots' sparks hair-raising questions about African heritage

DAWN A. DAVIS

Images of regal Africans with elaborately plaited natural hair, beautifully decorated with cowrie shells,

or mud-encased locks flash across the screen. Larger-than-life pictures of Caribbean musical icons Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer flashing their "natty" rein-

forces the message: natural black hair is beautiful.

Unfortunately, this is not universally embraced by blacks.

Ever wonder why the subject of black hair is so vexed? Why are issues of self-esteem image, power, control intertwined with black hair. These questions and more are tackled in the documentary "My Nappy Roots: A Journey Through Black Hair-itage", which was screened at Fort Lauderdale's Nova Southeastern University in celebration of Black History Month in February. The 78-minute film explores the social, psychological, and cultural issues that surround the sometimes touchy subject of black hair.

Producer/Director Regina Kimbell takes us on a psychological journey with "My Nappy Roots", forcing viewers to question their own attitude to black hair. Pre-slavery Africans on the continent were proud of their natural crowns. It was not until they were enslaved and brought to the Americas that terms such as "wooly", "nappy" and "bad hair" became the signifier of black hair as another means of power and control by slave masters.

The strategy worked, negatively marking an entire race of people. The expressions "boad 'ed", "dry 'ed", "natty 'ed", often heard in some Caribbean nations, are just a few examples of how African descendants have come to accept the negative definition of black hair in its natural state.

MONEY-MAKER

But out of all this negativity, emerged a billion-dollar black hair care industry. Kimbell interviews some of the most successful and powerful figures in the business, including George Johnson of the Johnson products line and

Edward Gardner of "Soft Sheen". Madame C.J. Walker is celebrated as the African American who created the black hair hair care business.

The film walks through the evolution of black styles and the messages they sent during a particular era. For example, noted African

sides of the hair story. Her goal, she says, is to educate black folks about the chemicals and processes they use on themselves without being judgmental.

"It's about being fully aware of the choices you make," she said.

A host of historians, writers, and hairstylists offer their perspectives on the culture, history, and business of black hair, giving the film a broad-based appeal beyond that of ordinary documentaries. The "Hair Wars" segment is perhaps the most entertaining, highlighting the best of the biggest African American hair shows in the United States that showcases the artistry of

hairstylists, along with the most elaborate, outlandish hairdos they create.

CONVERSATIONS

"My Nappy Roots" also nudges the viewer to think about the implications of skin color and class issues. It points out the significant impact of the media on image and self-esteem. Ultimately, the film applauds black creativity, but underscores: Whatever the style - natural, straight, wiggled, bald, weaved - black hair starts with strong nappy roots that crown a people.

"These are conversations we need to have, particularly with our young people," says Kimbell.

She continues, "Once we know what our true beauty is, we can be free to express it in whatever way we like."

But, the arguments for or against the natural continues. One viewer put it this way: "The feeling of betrayal is always there if I hide my African-ness with someone else's hair."

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



Film producer/director Regina Kimbell gets to the root of the hair debate.

American entertainers such as Cab Calloway and Nat King Cole wore the early "relaxed" hairstyles called the "conk", which required a painful chemical process to ultimately straightened the hair. Today's relaxers may be more sophisticated and less chemically harsh, but the process can be painful, both physically and mentally. Nonetheless, it is the price many are willing to pay for straight hair.

The 1960s saw the re-emergence of natural when afros and corn-rowed braids were all the rage, signifying a return to black pride and power. Today black hairstyles run the gamut from natural to straight. But many choose to follow the European standard of beauty - long, flowing, silky.

TOUCHY

Black celebrities, wearing their preferred styles, speak about the touchy hair issue. Actress Kim Fields, with shoulder length locks, discusses her preference but warns that blackness is more than just a hairstyle. Actress Vivica A. Fox applauds those who wear naturals, but prefers her roots straightened.

Kimbell highlights both

Anthony A. McFarlane, MD
BOARD CERTIFIED CARDIOLOGIST



CARDIAC DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY
CARDIAC CATHETERIZATIONS
NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY
STRESS TESTING
PACEMAKERS

~ Now Accepting Appointments ~

Telephone: 954-601-6490
4101 NW 4th Street, Suite 404 Plantation, FL 33317

Donovan D. Taylor, M.D.
Board Certified Family Physician



children • adults • gynecology
• weight management

Donovan Taylor, M.D.

Please call for an appointment
(305) 655-0702

Graduate of UWI. Previously practiced in Mandeville, Residency at JMH.

NEW LOCATION
250 NW 183rd Street, Miami, Florida 33169
DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

GENTLE FAMILY DENTISTRY



IAN C. JONES, D.D.S.

- Preventive Dentistry
- Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry
- Crowns, Bridges, Dentures
- Oral Surgery & Root Canals
- Bleaching of Teeth

6300 W. Atlantic Blvd. • Margate, FL 33063

(954) 956-9500

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS

trusted.



Marlon A. Hill, Esq.

The Firm is a full service law practice, with experience in commercial, family, probate, criminal defense, and administrative litigation, as well as, general corporate, international business, intellectual property, immigration, and government transactions.

Our dedication to quality, understanding of the law, trust, and respect all form the foundation for our long-standing relationships with clients and the community.

Practice Areas
General Corporate
International Business
Intellectual Property
Immigration

delancyhill
TRUSTED. RESPECTED. DEDICATED.
WE ARE YOUR LAWYERS.

phone: 786-777-0184
954-874-1736
web: www.delancyhill.com

A-A-A ATTORNEY REFERRAL SERVICE

- ★ Severe Injury & Death
- ★ Personal Injury
- ★ Vehicle Accidents
- ★ Worker's Comp.
- ★ Wills/Probate
- ★ Criminal Defense
- ★ DUI & Tickets
- ★ Divorce/Custody
- ★ Bankruptcy
- ★ Immigration

1-800-733-5342
24 Hours

Burning Spear wins reggae Grammy

Jamaican reggae icon Burning Spear was the lone Caribbean winner at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles last month.

The singer, whose real name is Winston Rodney, won the Best Reggae Album for "Jah is Real". The album was released by Burning Music Production.

In 2000, Burning Spear won the Best Reggae Album for his "Calling Rastafari" album, but lost out to Stephen Marley with "Mind Control" for the title in 2007.

In all, he has received 12 Grammy nominations to date. Other nominees for the 2008 Best Reggae Album were Elephant Man for "Let's Get Physical"; Heavy D for "Vibes"; Sly & Robbie for "Amazing"; and Shaggy for "Intoxication".



Burning Spear

Black Uhuru was awarded the first Reggae Grammy for "Anthem" in 1985.

Barbadian pop-singing sensation Rihanna failed to get a 2008 Grammy Award. She was nominated for three, including Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals. Rihanna was also expected to perform at the annual event, but was a no show.



Caribbean entertainment promoter goes missing, found murdered

GORDON WILLIAMS

ATLANTA, Georgia - What should have been a celebration of Caribbean spirit and creativity was marred here last month by mourning over the death of a man known for his work promoting the region's culture.

The body of a Marc Stewart, who over the years has helped staged many Caribbean entertainment events in the United States, was found in the state of Georgia days after he was reported missing by his family.

The 38-year-old Stewart was involved in the promotion of "What Goes Around", a movie by Jamaican filmmaker Steve "Tehut Nine" McAlpin. The film was scheduled for a screening on Feb. 15 in the Stone Mountain area of Georgia, where Stewart resided. Due to his death, a candlelight vigil, attended by dozens of Caribbean immigrants, was held outside the Torch Theaters.



Stewart

LOSS

Prior to the screening, McAlpin lamented the loss of Stewart, who he had met a few years ago during the promotion of another film, and who he described as a friend.

"It hits very hard," McAlpin said. "...Life is just

complex and unpredictable. Sometimes you hear things like this happen and you never think it will happen to people close to you.

"It feels like a nut or bolt that holds things together is just gone."

Up to press time Georgia police were still searching for clues leading to Stewart's killer. He reportedly was shot in the head. No arrests had been made.

The promoter reportedly called his wife from Marietta, Georgia, the last time anyone heard from him. He was later reported missing. His body was found in Gwinnett County. Reports later indicated that it appeared someone may have tried to use his cellular telephone and bankcard shortly after Stewart had called his wife.

Those attending the candlelight vigil last month sang hymns and paid tribute to Stewart.

"He was too young to die," one mourner said.

"Marc, we love you and know you're alright," added another.

"What Goes Around", primarily a story focusing on the twists and turns of love and the deadly threat of AIDS, was first released last year. Stewart was trying to help promote the film, which features primarily a Caribbean cast.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Miami's story arrives at 'Black Crossroads'

DAWN A. DAVIS

FLORIDA - Miami, ranked the third richest in the United States in 2008, is what it is today because of the contributions of the African diaspora in building and shaping this so-called "Magic City".

A major exhibition at Miami's Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) puts it all in perspective with unforgettable photographs, video stories, historical documents, and artifacts.

A pre-opening event hosted late last month by Miami-based law firm Delancy Hill gave a throng of museum and art supporters a special preview of the show, dubbed "Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami". In keeping with the spirit of the exhibition, former County Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson was honored for her work in helping to inspire change and development through community activism.

The exhibition runs through Jan. 24, 2010. It highlights the labor and cultural connection that African Americans and African Caribbean groups have with Miami, from 1896 to the present.

LABOR OF LOVE

The large exhibition was a three-year labor of love according to Haitian-born chief curator Joanne Hyppolite. After painstaking research, which involved going through historical documents, talking to community members, and six

months of building and constructing, the story is now being told.

The mostly black and white photographs show black neighborhoods, men at work on bridges, hotels, and the roads that marked out this coastal city. Neat row houses in tight clusters where colored folk lived almost seem to serve



Patron Guy Bury stares at a Ku Klux Klan robe.

as a racial line of demarcation, for Miami in the late 19th century and into the 20th century was a segregated city, as much of the American South.

Majestic landmarks, like the Lyric Theater in what was then called "Colored Town" (today's Overtown) come alive in pictures. Opened in 1913, this 400-seat theater, built by Geder Walker, a black man from Georgia, is a concrete example of the economic, cultural, and political impact blacks had on Miami. It still

stands today.

SHOCKING

There are also photographs that show how blacks lived under the heavy hand of racism. Disturbing images of men and women packed in rickety boats is not much different from the pictures of Haitians landing on the Miami shores today, most ending up in detention centers and ultimately deported. More shocking still, because of its in-your-face reality, is a Ku Klux Klan robe protected behind glass. And, not far from it, a companion symbol - a burnt cross - still standing erect.

With over two million photographs in its archives, much of the pre-World War II images on display come from the museum's collection. Among them are photos by Commodore Munroe, an early settler in Coconut Grove who hired some of the early Bahamians to help build the city. There is also a large number of images taken by Claude Matlack, a commercial photographer who was active in Miami in the 1920s.

A powerful exhibition, "Black Crossroads" sheds light on Miami's past, its development and present. It shares with viewers the melting pot of cultures that defined the city in its infancy, and why it remains a city of mixed voices bursting to tell their stories.

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



Our Hours have Changed!

The Building Code Compliance Office (BCCO) is now open
Monday through Thursday
7am to 6pm

The Office is
CLOSED on Fridays.



Delivering Excellence Every Day

For more information
call 305-375-2901 or visit
www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode



Jamaican Johnson dominates Judah in light heavyweight boxing clash

GORDON WILLIAMS

HOLLYWOOD, Florida – Jamaican-born Glen Johnson kept on track for another shot at a world title by scoring a unanimous decision win over Daniel Judah of the United States in their light heavyweight bout at the Hard Rock Live arena here late last month.

The former world champion took the 10-rounder with a commanding performance, dominating Judah throughout to earn a huge margin of victory on the judges' scorecards

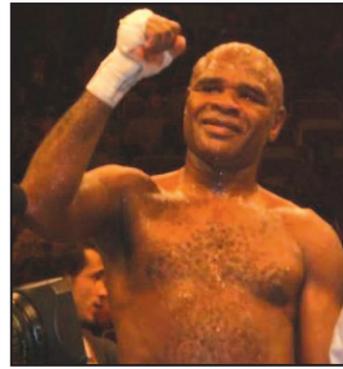
and avenge a draw against the American in 2003.

Fighting in the colors of his homeland, Johnson, who now lives in Miami, looked decisive from the opening bell and almost ended the fight early with a thunderous right hand that sent Judah tumbling into the ropes where he was given a standing eight count by the referee. But Judah refused to go down the remainder of the way, denying Johnson the knockout he craved but earning criticism from the Jamaican for failing to show enough aggression

and will to win.

"It seems like when they get in the ring with me it's more like a survival tactic than anything else," said Johnson while cooling down in his dressing room after the bout.

"A lot of guys don't really try to win and then the rest of them kinda try to run around and try to throw some pitty pat shots as they're moving, trying to create space. It's just another way of surviving, trying to not let me get close to them to throw combinations."



Photograph by Sean Young
Johnson raises his fist to celebrate victory over Judah.

CLASH OF HEADS

Yet Johnson occasionally got too close to Judah for his own good, resulting in the fighters clashing heads and raising concern in the Jamaican's camp that he could suffer injuries that could endanger future fights, including a title challenge expected this summer.

"The man bucked me like a cow," Johnson said of the head butts, one which caused the referee to stop the fight and allow both boxers time to recover.

"I was just more in fear of getting cut than anything else, because I wanna get back in

the ring as soon as possible and with a cut it would kinda be a setback. I was a little bit nervous there with the collision."

That aside, Judah offered little beyond clowning and taunting. The lopsided win was reflected in the judges' scorecard – 99-89, 99-90 and 99-90 – in favor of Johnson, the World Boxing Council's number one contender in the 175-pound weight division.

Johnson, nicknamed the "Road Warrior", improved his ring record to 49 wins, 12 losses and three draws.

Although the 40-year-old former world "Fighter of the Year" in 2004 welcomed the win, he did not mask his disappointment at not adding Judah to his list of 33 knockout victims.

"It was a successful night," the Jamaican said. "And I'm a little bit disappointed, but more than anything satisfied at the victory."

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.

Johnson cover photograph by Sean Young



Caribbean athletes shine at special winter games

BOISE, Idaho – Caribbean athletes came in for high praises from Special Olympics Caribbean Executive Director Candilla Berment after a claiming a cluster of medals at the World Winter Games here last month.

Jamaicans won two gold medals, a silver and two bronze medals competing in floor hockey and speed skating, while Trinidad and Tobago secured a floor hockey bronze medal.

"Our teams performed excellent, which should not come as a surprise," Berment said. "We prepared well for these games."

She said the athletes' victories would go a long way in creating more awareness in the Caribbean that people with disabilities are capable of living productive lives and can achieve wonders, if given the opportunity.

Jamaica's floor hockey team picked up the country's

first gold medal with an upset win against Canada in the Division Two final. Richard Hillary captured an individual gold for Jamaica in the 200 meters speed skating and teammate Monique Brown won three medals for Jamaica in speed-skating events. A total of 85 countries – represented by over 3,000 athletes – competed at the World Winter Games.



Spring and Summer Education



It's time once again to plan for spring classes and summer school! Come with Caribbean Today this April as we show you what is new and expected for the ongoing school year. Allow us to help you showcase what is unique and different about your educational institution.

Let the world know the special

features that your school has to offer. Caribbean Today will help you promote your product and services in our ever growing and diverse marketplace in this special edition.

Caribbean Today is widely circulated throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta and the Caribbean.

CALL NOW TO ADVERTISE!

1-800-605-7516 • 305-238-2868

Fax 305-252-7843

e-mail: sales@caribeantoday.com

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: MARCH 20th, 2009

Caribbean Today®

Windies take cricket honors from England in February

KINGSTON, Jamaica - The West Indies scored a commanding win over England to take a 1-0 lead in the home cricket Test series, then fought doggedly to secure that advantage going into the final match this month and ensure it would not lose the series to its higher ranking, traditional rivals.

The Caribbean team opened the series impressively last month at Sabina Park here, ripping into England on a dramatic fourth day to register a massive innings and 23 runs victory.

Batting first, England made 318 all out, with star batsman Kevin Peterson getting 97 runs. The West Indies, led by centuries from captain Chris Gayle (104) and Ramnaresh Sarwan (107), replied with 392 all out.

However, England crumbled under an impressive combination of spin and pace to be bowled out for 51 runs, the visitors' third lowest Test total of all time. Fast bowler Jerome Taylor finished the second innings with figures of five

wickets for 11 runs. Spinner Sulieman Benn picked up four for 31.

REVERSAL

Gayle commended his players for a "really, really brilliant" performance and hinted that the result could reverse the Caribbean team's struggling fortunes of late.

"It's definitely a turning point," said Gayle. "...We combined together. It was tremendous."

The euphoria did not last long. The second Test at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua was abandoned during the second over, when umpires ruled the outfield unfit for play.

The teams moved to the Antigua Recreation Ground for the third Test, where the West Indies held on for a draw.

The final Test in February, played in Barbados, also ended in a draw.

Both teams traveled to Trinidad for the final Test, Mar. 6-10, with the seventh ranked West Indies assured it cannot lose the series to England, rated fifth in the world.

- Gordon Williams



Sarwan



www.caribbeantoday.com

Exotic West Indian flavors hot off the stove at Timehri

DAWN A. DAVIS

Looking for an exotic gastronomic experience? Well, look no further than Pembroke Pines,

nitely worth the wait. The price is right too, with entrees averaging about \$10.

A sample of the Guyana-Chinese chef's specialties left no doubt that this was indeed authentic West Indian food

be eaten from an animal that has been slaughtered in the proper way, not strangled or beaten), all the meat prepared by the restaurant is halal. No pork is served as it is forbidden by Islamic law.

A large space, the restaurant is clean, airy, and brightly colored. Piped soca and Indian music add to the Caribbean/West Indian feel. It is set up in two parts, with one

are also offered.

OPPORTUNITY

Thirty three-year-old owner Cindy Narain, who is of Guyanese and Indian descent, migrated from Canada to open what is now the fourth restaurant in a family-owned chain started in 1998. With two operations in Canada and one in Orlando, Narain took the leap to invest in the South Florida market.

"Although it is tough economic times, we realized it was cheaper to purchase now," explained Narain. "You just have to be able to wait out the storm at the beginning...I know there was a need for a really good Chinese-West Indian restaurant. So, I thought if we brought the same food we have in Canada, the same kind of atmosphere to South Florida, it would be a restaurant you could take your family or business colleagues to."

Starting this month, Narain will attract the after-work crowd with drink specials and a lime on weekday evenings. Timehri is open Tuesday through Sunday in

College Plaza, 7855 Pines Boulevard.

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



Variety is the spice at Timehri's restaurant.



Narain and her five-year-old son Kadin.

Florida where the recently opened Timehri restaurant serves up a stunning mix of West Indian and Chinese cuisine.

Timehri, named after the Guyanese airport, opened its doors on Feb. 14 to a packed house with a long line of patrons waiting for tables up to one hour. With spicy and Caribbean seasoned dishes like jerk chicken chow mein, dhalpuri, curry channa, polouri, dhalpuri and curried goat, barbecue duck, and vegetable fried rice, it was defi-

with a definite Caribbean flair. Highly seasoned, with plenty of pepper as Caribbean food should be, the food adventurer will love the jerk chicken and even the vegetable lo mein. The dhalpuri and channa potato is just one of the variety of dishes that is sure to satisfy vegetarians.

HALAL

In addition, because South Florida has its share of devout Muslims who follow halal food standards (i.e., some foods are forbidden and meat can only

side serving dine-in customers, while the other half can be used for private gatherings such as weddings. Take-out, catering, and delivery service

PSYCHIC ADVISOR

Sister Maria is able to help you in all problems of life such as love, health, finance, restores lost nature and removes bad luck from the root. One visit will convince you. All readings done in the privacy of her home.

1 FREE Question by phone

954.559.6512

Guaranteed results!

In loving Memory of Susan Thousand



A dear Mother, a sister, an aunt, a friend and everything else you can imagine. We hold you close within our hearts and there you shall remain. To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. So rest in peace dear love one and thanks for all you've done.

Sunrise 4/30/1926 - 3/9/2008 Sunset

BROWARD COLLEGE

Call for Bids or Proposals

For a listing of available Broward College (BC) open procurement solicitations, visit: www.broward.edu/purchasing/bids or contact **954-201-7455**

BC strongly encourages participation by minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE firms)

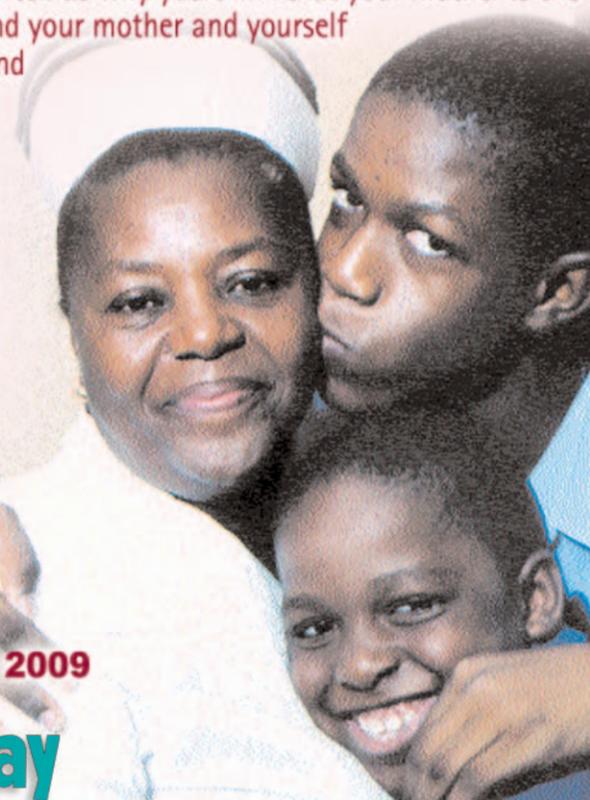
Dear mamma,
How I love you. You have been there since birth for me, with your nurturing, loving, caring self. You have made me into who I am today, and I want to tell you how grateful I am to you, because there is no other like you for me.

Caribbean Today invites you, the reading public, to participate in our "Dear Mamma" contest. Write and tell us why you think that your mother is the best in the world and you could find your mother and yourself jetting away to any Caribbean Island that Air Jamaica flies to for free. This is a great chance for you to show the world how much your mother means to you, and what's even better you could WIN!! WIN!! WIN!!

Mail your entrances to Caribbean Today
9020 SW 152nd. Street,
Miami, Fl. 33157
or e-mail your entrances to sales@caribbeantoday.com
or fax to 305-252-7843

DEADLINE IS MAY 10TH, 2009

Caribbean Today



CAN'T CHOOSE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

Right now, with any Extra Value Meal[®] you buy at McDonald's[®], you can add a four piece chicken McNuggets[®] made with white meat for just

\$1



i'm lovin' it[®]

For a limited time. Prices and participation may vary. Valid when product is served. Price of required purchase posted on menu board. Available in Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties. ©2009 McDonald's