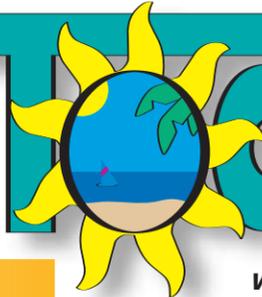


# Caribbean Today

JUNE 2009



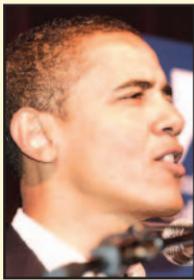
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THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



A senior official in United States President Barack Obama's administration says Cuba has agreed to resume talks with Washington on immigration and direct mail that were suspended under former U.S. President George W. Bush, page 3.



Miramar City Commissioner Winston Barnes discusses the fall of fellow Jamaican-born politician Fitzroy Salesman, who

was convicted on a gun charge in Florida, and its possible impact on the Caribbean American community in the U.S., page 9.



## NEW RULES

~ Beginning this month, the United States will implement laws requiring all travelers entering the U.S. from the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico to show passports or approved travel documents to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, page 2.



"Barrel children". The term elicits a myriad of emotions among Caribbean people. It is a label borne out of disrupted family relationships as one parent or the other leaves the region to make a better way for those left behind. The connection - or the lack of it - is explored in an art exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, page 11.

## SILVER LINING

~ Everyone in the world knows about Usain Bolt. But United States-based T&T star Richard Thompson didn't do too badly himself at the 2008 Olympic Games. Now being runner up to the Jamaican has inspired the man from Cascade, Port of Spain to set greater goals, page 7.



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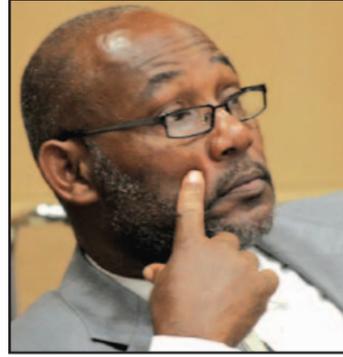
## Jamaican-born former city commissioner jailed in U.S.

MIAMI, Florida – A Jamaican-born, ex-commissioner for a city in southern Florida was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a year on probation after being convicted in a firearms charge.

Last month, a Broward County jury convicted Fitzroy Salesman, 52, a former Miramar commissioner, of a misdemeanor firearms charge, but acquitted him of a felony count that could have sent him to prison for three years.

Salesman was charged with aggravated assault with a firearm after prosecutors said he drew his gun inside a supermarket during a confrontation with another shopper in Nov. 2007. He was found guilty of the lesser offense of improperly exhibiting a firearm.

Salesman said he drew the weapon after being confronted by Lazavius Hudson, 19, during an argument over Hudson's choice of checkout



Salesman

lines. He said Hudson threatened him by saying, "let's take it outside."

Salesman could have been sentenced up to 364 days in the Broward County jail for the conviction.

Florida Governor Charlie Crist suspended Salesman from the Miramar City Commission when he was first charged with the felony. Salesman lost his bid for re-election since the charges were filed against him.

Salesman has said he wouldn't rule out running for elected office again some day.

"It's a calling," he said. "But first, I have to put the pieces back together."

**Jamaican-born Miramar City Commissioner Winston Barnes discusses the fallout from Salesman's conviction, Viewpoint, page 9.**



## St. Lucian woman allegedly smuggles cocaine under her wig

LONDON, England, CMC - A St. Lucian woman who allegedly tried to sneak cocaine into the United Kingdom by placing it under her wig was one of three persons traveling from the Caribbean who were nabbed by authorities for suspected drug smuggling late last month.

The U.K. Border Agency (UKBA) said Chermisa Lisa Daniel, 32, was detained at Gatwick Airport after arriving from a flight from her homeland on May 31. UKBA said she was found with one kilo-

gram of the drug worth an estimated \$66,247 in her possession.

Daniel is scheduled to appear in court on June 10.

Mack Andrew Hamilton Graham, 28, also of St. Lucia was detained by UKBA officers on May 30 after arriving on a flight from Barbados, while a London woman, Alisha Youngblood, was held after disembarking a flight from Jamaica.

Graham was allegedly found with two kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$132,494. He is

also due in court on the same day as Daniel.

Peter Avery, the assistant director of criminal investigation at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, said British authorities are serious about thwarting efforts to traffic narcotics across their borders.

"Our investigators and their U.K. Border Agency colleagues have demonstrated that we are determined to stop Class A drugs reaching our streets," he said.



## New passport rules for travelers re-entering U.S. from Caribbean

WASHINGTON – United States authorities this month began implementing laws requiring all travelers entering the country to possess a valid passport.

The U.S. Department of State and the Homeland Security Department said the new rules were part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which mandates that "all Canadian and American citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean must show passports or approved travel documents to U.S. Customs and Border Protection".

Previously, a photo identification or driver's license was required.

Caribbean countries had earlier indicated that the new measure would severely affect their tourism sectors.

Approved travel documents include a regular passport, a new passport card, a "trusted traveler" card or an "enhanced driver's license" proving citizenship of every traveler over the age of 16.

### WIDE INITIATIVE

The new travel requirements are part of a wider initiative outlined by the George

W. Bush administration in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. For years, Americans who visited Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean were exempt from presenting identity papers at U.S. borders and seaports.

Effective June 1, U.S. citizens returning by land or sea from those countries will need passports or other secure identification, unless travelers are youngsters or on certain



exempt cruises.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said some Americans were unaware of the new requirements or may have forgotten to get the necessary documents.

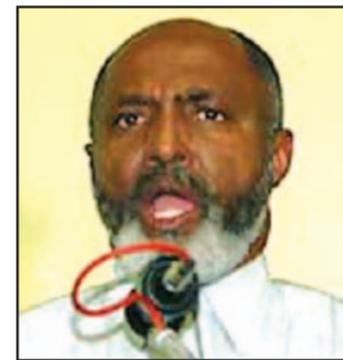
"We'll work with them at the border," she said.



## Prominent Haitian priest Jean-Juste dies in Miami

MIAMI, Florida – Roman Catholic priest, Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a prominent spiritual and political leader in the Haitian community in South Florida has died. He was 62.

Ira Kurzban, a Miami attorney who represented Jean-Juste's Haitian Refugee Center in several lawsuits against the United States gov-



Jean-Juste

ernment, said he died on the evening of May 27 at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital following a stroke.

"The Haitian American community has lost a visionary and a central figure who helped to establish the Haitian community in South Florida.

"They (have) lost a friend whose arms and heart were always open," he said, adding that the death was unrelated to the leukemia that he was treated for three years ago.

Marlene Bastien, executive director of Haitian Women of Miami, said Jean-Juste, a liberation theologian, was "an icon, someone who gave himself wholly, selflessly to others without any need to."

She described him as the "greatest champion of refugees" who fought tirelessly for the rights of immigrants.

"He showed that we, as a country, could do better in the way we treat people who leave their native land to come here."

### 'TERRIBLE'

Jean-Juste was an ardent supporter of ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Fanmi Lavalas Party.

"This terrible, terrible news [is] a big loss for us," said Maryse Narcisse, a Lavalas leader and spokeswoman for Aristide, who resides in exile

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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NEWS

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## Cuba, U.S. agree to resume immigration, direct mail talks

WASHINGTON – The United States says Cuba has agreed to resume talks with Washington on immigration and direct mail.

A senior official in U.S. President Barack Obama's administration said on May 31 that the Cuban government had expressed interest in resuming the talks that were suspended under former President George W. Bush.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the official told reporters in Washington that Havana "would like to resume migration talks (and) engage in talks on direct mail service."

"We and the Cubans have to determine a mutually convenient place and time," he added.

### DIALOGUE

The official also indicated that Cuba would like to "explore areas of additional dialogue" on counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, hurricane and disaster preparedness response, among others.

In May, the Obama administration proposed the resumption of migration talks between both countries that had been conducted every two

years until Bush suspended them in 2003. A month earlier, Obama eased travel and money transfer restrictions on Cuban Americans with relatives in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country. Obama has also been under enormous pressure, primarily from



Amselem

Caribbean and Latin American countries, to lift the decades-old economic and trade embargo against Havana.

"These talks are part of our effort to forge a new way forward on Cuba that advances the interests of the United States, the Cuban people and our entire hemi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## N.Y. settles lawsuit in wrongful death of Jamaican hospital patient for \$2M

NEW YORK - New York City has settled a wrongful death lawsuit with the family of a Jamaican psychiatric patient who died last summer on a hospital floor in Brooklyn for \$2 million.

The settlement was signed on May 27 in Brooklyn Supreme Court before Justice Allen Hurkin-Torres. It came 11 months after Esmine Green, 49, collapsed and died at the sprawling Kings County Hospital Center.

"To anyone who saw the video clip, it was clear this was a horrible, wrongful and negligent act," said Stanford Rubenstein, the lawyer representing Green's Jamaican-born daughter Tecia Harrison, who had filed the lawsuit against the city for negligence.

"What remains most important to this family is the criminal culpability for those responsible for what happened and those who attempted to cover it up, which continues, after all this time, to remain under investigation by the New York City Department of Investigation," Rubenstein added.

"In no way does this settlement affect that investiga-

tion, and the family remains adamant in its demands that anyone who committed a criminal act with regard to the death of Esmine Green or the attempt to cover it up be prosecuted criminally to the full extent of the law."



Green

ecuted criminally to the full extent of the law."

### LOSS

Alan D. Aviles, president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation that oversees 11 municipal hospitals, including Kings County Hospital Center, said the settlement "is not meant to put a value on a life and the loss of a loved one," adding: "That remains priceless."

Green's death was cap-

tured on video, showing that hospital staffers ignored her for hours.

Green, who had a history of mental illness, had been taken to the psychiatric emergency room on June 18 last year. Reports say she may have been sitting in the waiting room for nearly a day, including an hour during which she lay on the floor.

An autopsy determined she had a fatal blood clot in her lung caused by "physical inactivity".

The city Department of Investigation said it is looking into whether hospital staffers falsified Green's medical records. A medical chart says Green was "sitting quietly in the waiting room" at 6:20 a.m., but the video shows she was dead on the floor.

"The family wants anyone who committed a criminal act with regard to this act to be prosecuted," Rubenstein stressed.

### CONCERN

Green's death came amid mounting concern over psychiatric service at the Kings

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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## U.N. names Bill Clinton special envoy for Haiti

UNITED NATIONS - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has officially appointed former United States President Bill Clinton as the U.N. special envoy for Haiti.

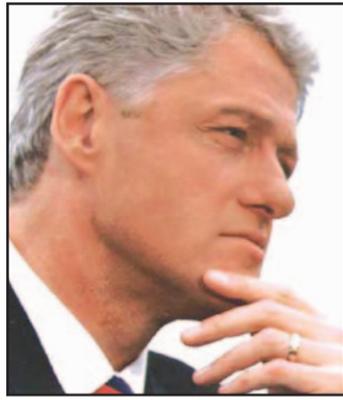
Ban said he hopes Clinton will attract private and government investment and aid for the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, building on his extensive engagement in Haiti.

"I am confident that President Clinton will bring energy, dynamism and focus to the task of mobilizing international support for Haiti's economic recovery and reconstruction," said the U.N. secretary general.

Ban and Clinton joined forces to help Haiti when they visited the French speaking country in March "to raise awareness of efforts to help its people and government bolster their economic security," the U.N. said.

### SETBACKS

Haiti suffered a string of



Clinton

severe setbacks last year, and was deeply affected by the rise in global food and oil prices. In addition, the country was devastated by four successive storms last year, leaving 800 people dead and another million either homeless or badly affected.

"It is an honor to accept the secretary general's invitation to become special envoy to Haiti," Clinton said.

As special envoy, the U.N.

said Clinton will support the efforts of the Haitian authorities to "jumpstart sustainable social and economic development.

"He will focus attention on the importance of new partnerships and efforts among the private sector, civil society, and donors, as well as strengthen local capacity, and create a more stable and prosperous future for the children of Haiti", the U.N. stated.

Clinton said Haiti is "better positioned to make progress for all its people than at any time" since he first visited the country in 1978. He is no stranger to the U.N., having previously served as the U.N. special envoy for Tsunami Recovery after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake.

In April, international donors pledged \$324 million, including \$57 million from the U.S., to help in Haiti's rebuilding efforts.



## N.Y. settles lawsuit in wrongful death of Jamaican hospital patient for \$2M

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

County Hospital Center, the only mental health provider for many poor people in Brooklyn. In May 2007, the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit alleging abuse and neglect of psychiatric patients at the hospital, and that December, the United States Department of Justice began an investigation.

In February this year, the authorities issued a scathing 58-page report that found other

problems, including that patients were not treated for suicidal behavior, were routinely subdued with physical restraints and drugs instead of receiving individualized psychiatric treatment, and were frequently abused by other patients. The report found that conditions at the psychiatric unit were "highly dangerous and require immediate attention".

It also concluded that in at least three cases, including Green's, employees falsified

records to hide their neglect.

Green had migrated from Jamaica in the late 1990s to earn money for her six children back home. A devout churchgoer, she had worked caring for the elderly and helping at a day care center for children, before she lost her job. She suffered from depression, authorities said.

Rubenstein described the settlement as "fair and reasonable."



## 'Be prepared', U.S. experts warn Caribbean as storm season begins

The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season officially started June 1 with weather forecasters predicting a near-normal six-month period.

But Caribbean countries were warned that, as with any season, they need to be prepared for the possibility of a storm hitting home.

In its initial outlook for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, the United States-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had indicated a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season.

"Global weather patterns are imposing a greater uncertainty in the 2009 hurricane season outlook than in recent

years", the NOAA stated, noting that forecasters were indicating a 70 percent chance of having nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes.

"This outlook is a guide to the overall expected seasonal activity. However, the outlook is not just about the numbers, it's also about taking action," said Dr. Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

"Prepare for each and every season regardless of the seasonal outlook. Even a near- or below-normal season can produce land falling hurricanes, and it only takes one land falling storm to make it a bad season."



## Cuba, U.S. agree to resume immigration, direct mail talks

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

sphere," said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ahead of the Organization of American States (OAS) summit in Honduras earlier this month, where Cuba's re-admission into the hemispheric body was expected to be discussed.

"These talks are in the interests of the United States and also in the interests of the Cuban people," she added.

"At the same time, we will continue to press the Cuban government to protect basic rights, release political

prisoners, and move toward democratic reform," Clinton continued.

### CONSENSUS

The OAS' Permanent Council last month agreed to create a working group to try to find a consensus text for the re-admission of Cuba. The agreement came after the U.S., in a surprise move, said it was willing to re-admit Cuba in the Washington-based organization, a sudden reversal of its long-standing opposition.



## Prominent Haitian priest dies in Miami

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

in South Africa.

Jean-Juste was jailed twice in Haiti for his protest actions, demanding the return of Aristide after a 2004 violent revolution and attack on government corruption.

"He's going to be missed a whole lot, and he's going to be remembered in a very positive way even by some of his detractors," said Yvon Neptune, a former prime minister under Aristide, who exchanged notes with Jean-Juste from adjacent jail cells after both were arrested by the interim government of Gerard Latortue.

"Especially in the 1980s, he was very instrumental in having the U.S. government consider the case of the Haitian refugees," Neptune said, adding that the former priest had been involved in social work "not only in helping the Haitians solve their legal problems but in helping

them in many ways."

### FIRST PRIEST

In 1971, Jean-Juste became the first Haitian to be ordained as a priest by the Catholic Church in the U.S. He described the U.S. government's policy towards the Haitian "boat people" as "heartless, racist, and criminal."

In 1980, he launched The Haitian Refugee Center Inc. in Miami as an independent agency, and in that same year, U.S. District judge James Lawrence King ruled that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had systematically discriminated against Haitian refugees by issuing sweeping deportation orders.

The judge told the agency to conduct new hearings for 5,000 Haitian refugees.

Mary Ross Agosta, a spokesperson for the Miami Catholic archdiocese, called Jean-Juste "a voice of the poor, both here and in Haiti."



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## NEWS

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## Nine Haitians die in smuggling operation 'gone wrong'

MIAMI, Florida - The United States Coast Guard confirmed that nine migrants, all believed to be Haitians, were found dead in waters off South Florida last month.

The Coast Guard said 16 survivors were adrift for more than 10 hours before they were rescued in what is being described as "a smuggling operation gone wrong".

It said the migrants were part of an apparent operation that set off from Bimini in The Bahamas in a vessel carrying 30 people, including children and one pregnant woman. The Coast Guard said the overloaded boat sank around 2 a.m. May 13, but it did not learn about the incident until 10 hours later, when a passing boater spotted three passengers in the water about 15 miles from Boynton Beach, near Miami.

### RESCUE

The Coast Guard said the discovery triggered a massive and dramatic air-and-boat rescue at sea.

Chief Warrant Officer James Mullinax said three of the survivors were taken ashore after a doctor aboard the Cormorant decided they required immediate attention

at a hospital. At least one person died in the hospital.

Coast Guard Captain Jim Fitton said the boat was "obviously overloaded" and that authorities believe the boat was being used to smuggle Haitians into the U.S.

### UPSURGE

Coast Guard officials said there has been a recent upsurge in the number of Haitians caught at sea. Nearly 1,400 have been apprehended since last October, up from 972 during the same seven-month period a year ago, it said.

Duty Officer Sergeant Alexander Bannister of The Royal Bahamas Police Force in Nassau said his force was also investigating the incident.

Sergeant Yvonne Cacioli, of the marine unit of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, said her unit was among the first to arrive after the migrants were spotted. She said people were found scattered across the water along with shards of boat debris, adding that survivors were dehydrated, exhausted and "in total shock."

"The ones who were able to hold on, thank goodness we could get to them," Cacioli said.



## Major religious group launches campaign seeking refugee status for Haitians in U.S.

WASHINGTON - A major religious organization in the United States has launched a campaign urging President Barack Obama to grant refugee status to thousands of undocumented Haitians.

The Washington-based American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) affiliated organization, has appealed to Obama to reverse the George W. Bush administration's position and grant temporary protection status (TPS) to Haitians.

"Given the devastating and overwhelming conditions in Haiti, TPS is the most immediate form of humanitarian assistance the United States government can provide," said AFSC last month, noting that the U.S. government has granted TPS to nationals from other countries "that face significant hardship and suffering".

AFSC identified among those countries Sudan, Liberia, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador and Guatemala, due to political unrest, and Honduras and Nicaragua after devastation by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

"The Bush administration,

however, was adamant in its refusal to grant the same status to Haitians", the group stated, adding, "one has to



Clinton

wonder why".

### DISASTERS

AFSC noted that storms and hurricanes in Haiti have left scores of people dead, an estimated one million families and children homeless and destroyed local crops needed for food.

It said presently 70 percent of the Haitian people are unemployed, while others still wait for relief and assistance.

"Deporting Haitians in the United States by not granting TPS aggravates the

political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis", the group stated.

Ninaj Raoul, founder and executive director of the New York-based Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, said it would be fair for the estimated 30,000 Haitians who face deportation because of their immigration status, to get TPS.

"They certainly meet the standards," she said.

"It's hard to know what's going to happen with the TPS, because it seems that this administration is, above all, focused on border enforcement."

### CONSIDERATION

In April, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, en route to the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, said in Haiti that the U.S. was considering granting TPS to illegal Haitians.

"We are looking carefully at the policy, which we inherited," she said.

"And we are going to be considering how best (for those) who are here to continue to have those resources,"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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## St. Vincent elected to U.N. organizations

UNITED NATIONS, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been elected to two organizations within the United Nations.

Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves said the island had been elected to serve on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

The elections took place during last month's organizational session of the 54-member U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

"The election to these two critical bodies represents another facet of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' active foreign policy," Gonsalves told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**.

"In seeking election to pivotal governance and organizational bodies within the international community, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is able to bring its unique perspectives to bear on the shaping of policy in matters of particular interest to Vincentians



Gonsalves

and the wider Caribbean. "Along with the diplomatic outreach to friendly countries, this institutional activity is a critical pillar of the Vincentian foreign policy," he added.

### CRIME FOCUS

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, based in Austria, is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Its four mandated priority areas are: international action to combat national and trans national crime, promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment;

crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence; and improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' three-year term on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice begins on Jan. 1, 2010.

The Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, based in New York, is the leading United Nations Institute devoted to research, training and knowledge management in partnership with governments, the U.N. System, civil society and academia "to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment". The island's three-year term on the 10-member Executive Board also begins on Jan. 1, 2010.

Gonsalves said St. Vincent and the Grenadines was unsuccessful in fielding a candidate for the International Narcotics Control Board, missing the final slot by three votes.



## Stanford was U.S. informant ~ BBC

LONDON, England – American-born Sir Allen Stanford, who became a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda and has been accused of being at the center of a multi-billion dollar fraud scheme, has found himself the target of fresh allegations.

**The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** reported that according to its sources, Sir Allen, 59, was an informer for the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and that he cooperated with the agency to track money laundering by Latin American drug cartels. That helped spare him earlier because he was an informant of the U.S. government.



Stanford

The claims were made in the weekly investigative television program, Panorama: The Six Billion Dollar Man, which aired last month. The program claims some U.S. officials were aware of Sir Allen's links to cartel for nearly two decades, dating back to 1990.

"Sources told Panorama that if he was a paid anti-drug informer, that could explain why a 2006 probe into his financial dealings was quietly

dropped," the BBC reported.

### ACCUSATIONS

Panorama, which prides itself as the world's longest running investigative television show, said there is "strong evidence" that the businessman was a "confidential agent" for the DEA and that he turned over details of money laundering by clients from Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed civil charges against the investor and financier of the glitzy Stanford Twenty20 cricket tournaments, alleging that he perpetrated a \$8 billion investment fraud "of shocking magnitude" using his Antigua-based Stanford International Bank. However, no criminal charges have been filed against the principal of the Stanford Group of Companies.

Sir Allen has vigorously denied any wrong doing and has vowed to clear his name.

"I would die and go to hell if it is a Ponzi scheme," he said in an earlier interview. "It's no Ponzi."

He has also insisted that involvement with drug cartels "is something absolutely foreign to everything in my body."

**Information obtained from CMC.**



## Major religious group launches campaign seeking refugee status for Haitians in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

added Clinton, who held discussions April 16 with Haitian President René Préval.

Clinton, however, cautioned that Washington did not want to encourage other Haitians to make the dangerous journey across the water.

"People who were there before President Obama became president would be eligible," she said, adding: "People who came after would not be."

### SLOW GOING

But Haitian advocates say Washington is not moving fast enough. Consequently, they have increased pressure on the Obama administration to grant TPS to Haitians, with Préval among immigration advocates and U.S. lawmakers urging the president to act faster.

Two prominent U.S. Democratic senators – Charles Schumer of New York, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border, and Patrick Leahy of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee –

have been among many writing Obama, expressing deep concern about the status of Haitians in the U.S. They said that Haitians "may be in danger of being prematurely returned to their homeland, despite its devastation from four recent hurricanes and tropical storms.

"Because the country – the poorest in the Western Hemisphere – is still reeling from the impacts of these storms, we urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States", they wrote.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (NAACP), the largest civil rights organization in the U.S., has also joined a chorus of calls on Washington to grant TPS to undocumented Haitians. The NAACP said it "strongly supports" legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Florida Democratic Congressman Alcee Hastings to grant TPS to Haitians.



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# CaribChat Silver lining: T&T star Thompson has no regrets finishing second to Bolt

**I**n the hoopla that surrounded the triple gold medal and world record-breaking performances by Jamaica's Usain Bolt at the 2008 Olympic Games, some forget that other Caribbean athletes shone as well in Beijing. Trinidad and Tobago's Richard Thompson who finished second to Bolt in the 100 meters final and was part of T&T's silver medal-winning 4x100 meters relay team, was among them. **Caribbean Today's Managing Editor Gordon Williams** caught up with the United States-based Thompson last month in Kingston following his appearance at the Jamaica International Invitational (JII). That meet was part of his preparation for this summer's IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany. The following is an edited version of that interview:

**Q: Where are you now, in relation to where you want to be come August at the World Championships in Athletics?**

**A:** Well, the thing is last year at this time I was well ahead of where I am right now...I got into an accident January 1st and that set me back in my training about a month...I think I'm ahead of where a lot of people expected me to be.

I'm ahead of where I expected to be at this point...By the time Berlin rolls around...I'm gonna be ready.

**Q: What did the accident actually do to you, physically?**

**A:** I got a bad whiplash. My neck was giving me problems for a very long time. Lower back was hurting. I still have marks on my knee from the accident. My knee was hurting really badly as well as my inner thigh.

**Q: What was your first reaction when you heard of Bolt's accident in Jamaica, did it bring back any memories?**

**A:** Yeah, it certainly did because you know I kinda traced back to January 1st when it happened to me. Now Usain. We're both very fortunate to have been in a complete wreck where the car was a write-off and still be able to walk out of it. I think it's really a blessing that Usain is still here. It would have been really bad for this sport, and for him as a person...I think he still has room for improvement and, you know, taking the sport to another level. So I'm really glad to know that he's O.K.

**Q: Bolt is obviously a rival on**



T&T's Thompson finishes second to Bolt in the Olympic 100 meters final.

**the track...**

**A:** Right, and, you know, I think in this sport, or any sport, anyone who is very competitive who wants to win they should see themselves as being the best someday. You know, you're being realistic about your goals, and I'm a realist. I won't step into a competition and say 'Hey, I'm gonna beat Bolt today or beat Bolt tomorrow'. It may not happen this year...But if he's in any kind of shape that he was in last year, I don't think there is anyone in the world who is capable of beating him...But who knows, by 2012 (Olympic Games in

London), maybe someone else will emerge. Maybe...I will be able to beat him, especially 2012 because that's the goal. Everyone wants the gold medal, so...I don't think on my best day and his best day that I would be able to beat him.

**Q: Coming into JII it's announced that Bolt is not running...How does it feel to be the next in line, everybody is looking to you, right?**

**A:** Right. Well I understand that and when you're in a position like that it's definitely an honor. It's something that you work for. You want your name

to be mentioned in a meet. It shows that you've worked hard and you've earned a certain level of respect from the crowd, the promoters and everybody. But at the same time, you know, you're given that pressure and sometimes I don't mind being the underdog. I prefer, just like last year, I was the underdog in nearly every meet I went into...I was seen as the underdog and it's a lot less stressful.

**Q: You don't like top billing?**

**A:** No, I wouldn't say I don't like it. I could handle it, but I just like being the underdog, preferably.

**Q: Going into the Olympic Games, the atmosphere first. Obviously you're comfortable with where you were, in terms of your preparations?**

**A:** I was very comfortable, especially with the rounds and so on, because I had been doing 200s (meters) for the entire year for LSU (his school Louisiana State University in the U.S.)...So I knew that if I could handle rounds of 200s, rounds of the 100s would be nothing for me and I was in the best shape of my life. I told my parents before the meet, I (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## Financial experts offer grim outlook for Caribbean economies

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos Islands – No one came to the Turks and Caicos Islands expecting to hear good news regarding the economies of the Caribbean.

In fact, the governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), some of whom are finance ministers of their own respective regional coun-



Bourne

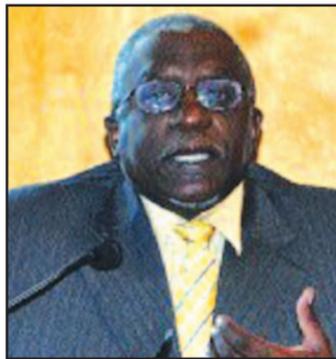
tries, had traveled here late last month prepared to accept the diagnosis that Dr. Compton Bourne, president of the region's main lending institution, was about to deliver.

Bourne did not hold back any punches. He made it clear that "we are not in ordinary times." In fact, he warned that for seven of the 13 English and French speaking Caribbean countries that are members of the bank, negative economic

growth is projected for 2009, and in the case of the other six countries, the growth rate, although positive, would be slower this year than in 2008.

Trinidad and Tobago's Central Bank Governor, Ewart Williams, participating in a panel discussion that discussed the "Global Economic Crisis: Implications for Caribbean Sovereigns and the Private Sector", said he is expecting economic growth to be at least one percent in his country even though the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it would be below that figure. It is a disclosure that holds implications for the rest of the region, since oil rich Trinidad and Tobago has been able to weather the global crisis much better than any of the other Caribbean countries and more so provide millions of dollars to a regional fund to assist disadvantaged Caribbean countries.

"We were getting accustomed to oil at a price at well over U.S. 100 dollars and suddenly we wake up and it is less than 50 dollars and it has serious implications for us," Williams said, adding that consumer confidence which is necessary for rebuilding the economy has declined as "people see the whole world with problems."



Williams

### WORRY

CDB Director of the Economics Dr. Denny Lewis-Bynoe, said that another worrying problem for the region is

that while some countries are in a better position than others to deal with the global meltdown, all are still "challenged by the magnitude of the situation."

The United States-based international rating agency, Standards & Poor's (S&P), said that economic activity in the Caribbean during the first half of last year had increased, with some countries taking advantage of the international capital markets. But by the year-end the picture had changed drastically. S&P noted that the nine rated Caribbean countries ended 2008 with real Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) growth at two percent versus 3.2 per cent in 2007.

"Although no one knows for sure the duration and the depth of the global economic downturn, the picture seems to worsen with every new forecast," said Olga Kalinina, a director at Standards & Poor's.

"Similarly our ratings predictions for 2009 also lack much optimism."

### SHOCKS

Grenada's Finance Minister, Nizam Burke, whose country is now facing an uphill task in meeting a multi-million dollar debt owed to Taiwan,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



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## Silver lining: T&T star Thompson has no regrets finishing second to Bolt

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

told my coach, anyone who was close to me, that I wasn't leaving Beijing without a medal.

**Q: Based on the times that were being run...the medal color you were looking at was not silver?**

**A:** Well, going into the Games I believe I had the fourth fastest time in the world. Bolt, obviously, he had broken the world record. Asafa was second in line and Tyson Gay had run 9.77 in their (U.S.) trials, but then he got injured the next day in the 200. So that put me third in line. Everyone expected me to get the bronze medal. But you know, as fast as Bolt had run all year and as fast as Asafa had run all year, my mentality going into the race, was that I was going in to win. You know, as I said, I'm a realistic person and being realistic you go into an Olympic final and stuff happens, you know...I knew I was able to handle pressure because I was doing it for the entire NCAA season and I was very well prepared.

**Q: You step to the line in the 100 meters final...**

**A:** Well, anyone who knows me, knows that I thrive off of things like that...I love things like that so it just gave me an adrenalin rush and I was excited...When they zoomed in on me to announce that I was in lane four, whatever, 'from Trinidad and Tobago, Richard Thompson', anyone who remembers, I was jumping around and I was smiling and

so on. So I was very confident.

**Q: So the gun pops. Bolt doesn't get out as well as everybody else, but you know he is going to show up at some point.**

**A:** The gun goes off and I have the best start I have ever had in my entire life. I'm in front for 30 meters. Bolt isn't too far behind me. I know I'm in front of everyone else. I'm executing the race perfectly. I go all the way to 30 meters and I'm driving. I come up slowly, relaxed and everything and generating power at the same time. And then I just feel Usain pull up at the side of me and within 10 meters, between 40 to 50, I could just feel him separate himself so quickly and it's the most crazy thing I've ever seen in my entire life. It's kinda like a full bus passing you (he laughs).

**Q: You feel the breeze?**

**A:** (He laughs again.)...He just shot off. And at that point I wasn't even fooling myself, I knew the race was over. I knew the gold medal was gone unless he had gotten injured or he had fallen. If he had fallen he may still have beaten us. That's how far ahead he was...

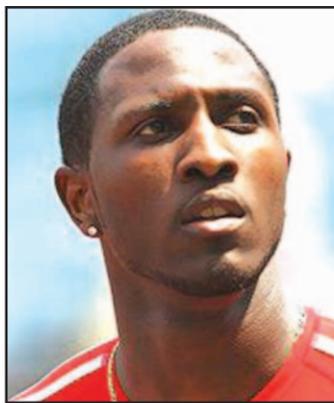
**Q: Bolt's acceleration, the speed, have you ever seen anything like that before?**

**A:** No. Bolt is extraordinary. It's not everyday you see a guy 6' 5" being able to turn his legs over so quickly. I think that's what separates him from everyone else...

**Q: Outstanding accomplishment, Olympic silver medal, especially running against someone, as you describe it, in**

**a different class. What was your first thought coming through the finish?**

**A:** I couldn't believe that it had happened, even though I knew I was capable of doing it. It was surreal...



Thompson

**Q: Your expectations have gone up now?**

**A:** Yeah, certainly, because there are a lot of people who didn't even know who I was in Trinidad prior to the Olympic Games and now they know who I am and they expect that, after such a performance like the Olympic Games, they want me to be consistent all the time. You know, I'm only human. I'll have good days, I'll have bad days. But the major thing is to be able to pull it together when it counts, which is the World Championships... So, I just wanna be able to do that again and pull through for myself, my country and friends, fans, everybody.

**Q: Do understand the expectations of your nation?**

**A:** I do. I do. It's definitely there. No doubt about it.

**Q: Is it something that you feel? Does it pressure you?**

**A:** No it doesn't pressure me. I just try to take the same approach to what got me to where I am and I believe that once I think like that everything will work out the way it's supposed to.

**Q: Usain Bolt being at a different level in the sprinting, does that make your job easier, when people don't expect you to beat him?**

**A:** I wouldn't say it necessarily makes my job easier. It actually makes it harder for me and the rest of the athletes.

**Q: I mean, if you lose to Bolt, in other words, people will say 'O.K.'**

**A:** I understand what you're saying now. Losing to Bolt is kinda like winning the race to everyone else. No, seriously, because really, you step on the line with Usain Bolt, everyone expects you to come nothing other than second because he's expected to win the race. So yeah, it makes it easier on me and the rest of the field every time we step on the line to run against Usain. He's the one with all the pressure. Everyone expects him to win every time.

**Q: Is that a blessing or a curse for you as an athlete?**

**A:** You could see it as both...All the pressure is on him. But then it's a curse because if you continuously let him win all the time then that expectation will always be there and you will always be number two...

**Q: On a scale of one to 10,**

demands.

"I can't say why," he added.

### ASSISTANCE

Britain has already indicated that it is prepared to assist the Caribbean ride the crisis as well as to deal with matters relating to climate change, which are also presenting both a financial and social burden to the small coastal countries of the region. International Development Minister Mike Foster, who chaired the CDB meeting, said that while global economic growth would return, for the Caribbean with its own unique dynamics, strengths and vulnerabilities, "recovery will come differently and it won't be the same across the region."

In addition, London is promising to help the Caribbean move forward in its vision for better integration and building viable areas for growth, including environmen-

tally sustainable growth.

But despite such promises of goodwill, the CDB president has issued a warning to regional governments. With declining revenues from the various sectors including tourism, construction, remittances and a reduction in the availability of trade credit to Caribbean importers, his message was that if those trends persist, even moderately into the medium term, it would be catastrophic for everyone, more so the most vulnerable members of Caribbean society.

"It is therefore a matter of major public importance that the slide be halted and economic growth re-started," Foster said. "Determined, national economic leadership by governments is required."

### 'POSITIVE'

Bourne has promised that the CDB would be sending a "positive" message to the Caribbean countries that it was

seeking to help them deal with the financial crisis.

"The message we want to send from the bank is that the bank is very conscious of the special economic difficulties the countries are facing at this time," he said adding that the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) would be the main beneficiary of the decision to provide loans to regional countries to meet the premiums for their insurances during the hurricane season that would have normally come from the World Bank.

In addition, the CDB is also examining other options, including expanding its capitalization base with Bourne noting "some of our countries are close to the borrowing limits and will not be able to access funds if we do not increase the capitalization base."

- CMC

**with 10 being very realistic and one being no chance at all, where do you see yourself in terms of beating Bolt?**

**A:** For 2012? Nine.

**Q: Representing the Caribbean, how much of the responsibility of the region do you carry into competition?**

**A:** Every time I step on the line, whether it's in Trinidad and Tobago wear or whether it's in Nike, I represent Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. It's not just one country. It's an entire region and I understand that, you know, and it made me feel really proud to be part of history in the Olympic Games, with Bolt and I finishing one-two. And not just that. If you look at the line up for the 100 meters final, there were six Caribbean athletes in the eight man final. So, yeah, every time we step out there we certainly represent the Caribbean...A lot of people know that the U.S. were dominant, back in the days when it came to sprinting. Now it's the Caribbean. So it's something that I have to live up to.



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VIEWPOINT

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# Salesman has 'purpose, service to offer' ~ Barnes

Last month, a South Florida court sentenced Jamaican-born Fitzroy Salesman to 30 days year in jail on a firearms charge. Winston Barnes, along with Salesman and fellow Jamaican George Pedlar, made history in 2003 as Caribbean Americans by comprising the majority of the elected Miramar City Commission. Pedlar no longer sits on the commission. Salesman's conviction cost him his seat. Barnes, discussed the impact of Salesman's fall from grace with Caribbean Today's Managing Editor Gordon Williams.

**QUESTION:...**What kind of effect do you think that Salesman's conviction has on the Caribbean community? Is it a big letdown and do you sense that in the American community they're looking at it as that, saying that probably Caribbean people cannot succeed or cannot handle success?  
**ANSWER:** I want to think that they have learnt to understand the situation in a more wider scope.

**Q: You mean the Americans?**  
**A:** The larger community as I like to say. At first I was shrugging off the situation, saying 'Hey, they know it's an individual, not a community'. But to be very honest, I got some intimation and, after a while, I became extremely aware that something of a focus was on me, being the last one (Caribbean American) left in there (on the Miramar City Commission).

**Q:...**Are you suggesting or thinking that they are looking for you to be the next one to fail?  
**A:** Hopefully not, because I think that the community and especially from the commission's standpoint, I think people understand very, very clearly that I came in there with my own persona intact. I didn't go in there and start that notoriety or fame, whichever you choose. I came to the situation with that. That's what brought me in

there, with people who listen to my radio program saying, 'Hey, do this'. But no, as I said, when situations like that happen, my response, for example, to callers on the air is, 'Listen, it is an individual, people can't be judging'. But they will, they will. But I think what has happened now is that I have so distinguished myself, in whatever way, differentiated myself, if you prefer, on the commission, people are saying, 'Whoa, O.K.'. And whether it's misfortune or whatever has happened, where Fitzroy is concerned, something of a pattern has developed. So it can't be said, 'Hey, this is how Jamaicans behave'. This is how an individual behaves.



Barnes

**Q: You're saying people understand, but are probably not surprised, that it has happened to Fitzroy Salesman based on what has happened in the past?**

**A:** Not necessarily. I say that in the context of saying it does not necessarily parlay to another individual. This is how a particular individual behaves. So it cannot be said, at least I'm thinking the larger community is saying, this is how this individual behaves, not necessarily this is how Jamaicans behave.

**Q: How will it impact, something like this, because it's one thing for him to be accused on different occasions and being incarcerated? How do you think this will impact on future Caribbean American candidates, not just in Miramar, but how it's viewed on a wider scale in the United States?**

**A:** Not much, to be honest. I'll tell you why: I am convinced now that Americans are smarter than that. Like a saying from an old Jamaican song was 'All kinda people come a dance'. So different personali-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

# Deleting a lover with a stroke on the keyboard

How many of you have had regrets about your love life, even as you suffered through it, even as you marked time to the dull beat of a thrumming heart that has lost its excitement?

You have two choices, either you endure the torment of being with someone who you do not care for, or you can delete them, just as you press the "delete" button on your computer.

In the old days, gallant men would write a letter and have it delivered to the hapless lady. Women too, would write a 'Dear John' letter, named after the song about this guy who went off to war and his fiancée wrote him a letter of termination. Or as Tom Jones sang, "Please release me, let me go, for I don't love you anymore, to waste our lives, would be a sin, release me, and let me love again."

### INTERNET CUT

Those days are long gone, and people now delete lovers in the coldest, cruelest, crass, callous ways. Imagine my surprise to learn that people delete lovers via the Internet, which is a sort of letter I suppose: To John.com from Sheila.com: Message: deleted: Dear John, I don't love you anymore, goodbye: ps: I put a block on your e-mail so don't try to e-mail me: Message sent.

Now that's cold, but what's even colder is deleting your lover by text. Hi it's me I dnt luv u n e mur, it's ovr, u r histry, by.

The fact is, teenagers are fickle and flit from one to another, and clearly, they control the text market, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised that they use that preferred way to drop each other. Folks used to utilize the phone too, and have long talks explaining why they're dropping their lover, but with phone credit being



what it is nowadays, that is not an option.

"Karen, I have something to tell you...listen...I was thinking about us and...Damn, me credit run out."

See, it just wouldn't work in these times.

Way back when, I have known men who sent flowers with a note saying that the relationship has run its course and he has to move on. But that too has proven to be too expensive, plus those same flowers are better used to woo his new lover anyway.

### DINNER DUMP

Deleting your lover can be an expensive venture, and that's why dinners are out too, for men do not spend money on food and drink for women, only to drop them. Dinner is usually introductory, rarely valedictory.

Plus it's always risky to delete your lover in a public place, for many do not go off quietly into the night. Many women swear off men after being deleted, and often seek solace in the church. Yes, non-



TONY ROBINSON

believers or not, emotional trauma has driven more women into church than all the evangelists in the world combined.

The man on the other hand, after being deleted, usually mistrusts women forever, and lives a life playing the field, having short flings for fear of being dropped again.

Few things are worse for a man than being dumped by a woman. The first thing that he's going to think, is that it's because of another man. But some women simply want to move on, and a future of uncertainty, possibly loneliness, is a far better prospect than staying with him. Sadly, many men cannot cope with this emotional trauma, and succumbing to their bruised egos and pride, they do something drastic, like murder/suicide.

### INVESTMENT LOSS

If the woman doesn't want you and says so, why not just walk and don't look back? But I guess everyone's different, and some men view being dropped as a loss of investment.

Some women may not go the murder/suicide route, but might just do a half of the tragi-comedy and commit suicide alone, as the emotional pain is simply too hard to

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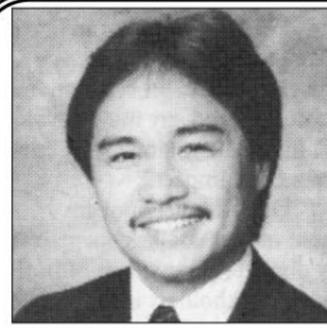


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## Deleting a lover with a stroke on the keyboard

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

bear. But low self-esteem plays a major role in these actions. Sometimes the person doing the deleting is also wracked with guilt and makes matters worse by prolonging the agony, dragging out the inevitable, remaining friends with the victim when she wants more than mere friendship.

People should not take being deleted as being the end of the world, but instead treat it as a new beginning, and a chance to meet new people and cultivate new friendships. But whoa, not so fast, as some ladies told me that their biological clocks play a huge role in the after effects of being dropped. "When I was a

teenager and was dropped is one thing, but my man dropped me at age 52, where am I going to find another lover at my age?!"

Well, she might have a valid point, but does she really have to acquire another lover? Can't she survive and live off her memories? Apparently it's not so easy for women, and just recently one told me that what she misses most now, is being in love and having someone love her. That's the downside of being deleted, it erodes your self esteem and also leaves you feeling lonely and empty.

Bear in mind that there is a distinction between being left and being deleted. If you cheat on your lover and he

leaves you, that's not being dropped, but if things are going fine from your end, you play by all the rules, do everything for her, and she still leaves you, then that's being deleted.

But listen, you shouldn't have to rely on someone else to make you happy or feel loved. So what if he deleted you? Life sucks, get over it, be a whole person by yourself, join a service club, start reading again, buy a dog. Being deleted by your lover is not the worse thing in the world, but may just be a sweet release.

seido1@hotmail.com



## Salesman has 'purpose, service to offer' ~ Barnes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ties make up different communities. So, no, people ought to look beyond that. And there is a possibility that you say, 'Whoa, another Jamaican', but no, I think not, because through the very diversity - a word I don't particularly care for - the very diversity of our community, the people say, 'Hey, no, it's just one member of the community'.

**Q: ...When you and Mr. Pedlar and Mr. Salesman were elected to the commission, a lot was made of the fact that you are Caribbean American and it reflected, in most people's eyes, as a sign of progress in the Caribbean American community. What has happened to Salesman, is that like a huge setback for the Caribbean American community?**

**A:** Not necessarily and I'll tell you why: When that big thing was made of the Caribbean American thing I absolutely and totally rejected it. I just rejected it because I think too much was being made of it. And I understand. I understand the newsworthiness of it. I understand it could be an indicator of a certain amount of progress for a community. I understand all of that. But from the get go I was fearful of just wearing that brand. I just never subscribed to it at all. In a number of situations I just flatly rejected it. Maybe, subconsciously, I was aware that, 'Huh, once you put that brand on people start focusing on it'.

**Q: Intentionally or not, the fact that that occurred, those three persons, yourself, Mr. Pedlar and Mr. Salesman, were looked upon as possibly role models for accomplishments by Caribbean American people. You don't agree?**

**A:** That is a distinct possibility.

**Q: So now that this has happened (to Mr. Salesman), is this something they would look at and say this is a letdown?**

**A:** O.K., look at it from another perspective: America is a fairly politically savvy country. You have politicians here that go to jail sometimes. So to unfairly, in my opinion, unfairly say Jamaicans behave in a particular way, Caribbean people; all people behave in that fashion. I don't want to for one second deny that whole Caribbean, Jamaican thing. But no, it's a reality that happened and it could happen to anybody.

**Q: On a more personal note regarding Mr. Salesman, what has happened to him in the past with a track record of him**

**running into the law...do you think he should have taken on a more responsible role and understood what he represented within the community and just, more or less, be far more careful than he has been?**

**A:** I have to agree with that. And I also respond in this way: I've been extremely fortunate, because of my substantive work situation, I am absolutely aware of that whole public thing. And I know you just walk a straight line in public.

**Q: You don't think he fully understood, as they would say 'he never got it.?'**

**A:** You know something, he got it, but maybe from a different perspective. He got it from the perspective of service, because he has a connection with the community that I'm never going to have. I mean it's just incredible, the kind of connection he has with what is sometimes called 'the street'. I mean, I have it too, but from a different level in the sense that everybody knows Mr. Barnes and stuff. But he's in the street, with people. Honestly, I hope that he can find a way to serve the community. He has a connection, that knack that none of us have and a lot of it is personality.

**Q: Do you think he has blown it, finally?**

**A:** I hope not, because...I'm convinced that he has a particular purpose and a service to offer the community.

**Q: And you think the community, the huge Caribbean American community, will forgive him?**

**A:** A lot of them have already.

**Q: Has he talked about coming back and running again?**

**A:** That is something that you say under those circumstances, but the thing is this, I want to believe that he can serve the community even if he's not on the commission again.

**Q: Have you spoken to him personally?**

**A:** I saw him the very day that he came from court. He was looking at the possibility of an appeal.

**Q: Has something hit him to say 'Wow, what have I done now?'**

**A:** I fear maybe not. I'm being frank, you know. I mean he and I have had some harsh words over the years about that whole thing. Some people have been not so pleased with me that I don't show myself in certain situations, but he knows where I stand. He has a pretty good idea where I stand...



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# Art's reflection of 'barrel life' renews Caribbean connection

DAWN A. DAVIS

“Barrel children”. The term elicits a myriad of emotions among Caribbean people.

It is a label borne out of disrupted family relationships as one parent or the other (traditionally, the mother) leaves the island for “fahrin” to make a better way for those left behind. Once overseas, the barrel, filled with day-to-day necessities, trinkets and toys, becomes the one tangible connection these children have with the parent.

That connection - or the lack of it - is explored in an exhibition dubbed “Reflections of the Barrel Child: Symbols of Caribbean Family Life” at Fort Lauderdale’s Sailboat Bend Artists

Lofts’ 1310 Gallery. As part of a larger exhibition (“Signs of Oneness”) that examines symbolism and the human spirit, “Barrel Child” nudges the viewer to question his or her concept of family and relationships.

“We have left our people and our families for decades in search of a better life,” says Nerissa Street, exhibition host and the architect of this Caribbean focused piece. “What they remember of us, while we stay in ‘fahrin’ are the things we send back. What they want is us.”

American-born of Jamaican parents, Street constructed the piece around memories of her grandmother, a “barrel child” who spoke freely about the separation from her mother. Old photos

mother maintained strong bonds in spite of the distance that marked them. In prose, Florida International University professor and poet Donna Aza Weir-Woley paints a poignant picture of the

new shirts and jeans from Aunt Bertine and second-hand wool skirts and sweaters, hand me downs from cousins I have never met. There is laughter and sadness in grandmother’s living room, anger too...”

Caribbean’s male dominated society and the role women play. “As I observed the women of my culture attempting to live up to these patriarchal ideals, I became more aware of the necessity to break free of the enforced mold,” she explains. “Bound”, the beautifully sculpted bronze-like vagina



“The Barrel”

dot the crocos (burlap) bag wrapped around the open barrel spilling out its contents of cornmeal, diapers, and half forgotten memories.

Street references the too-tight shoes and clothes that were often part of the contents, alluding to the washing away of memories and familiarity distance and time create. The pain of separation is evident in the photos strewn across the barrel contents. Some relationships mend upon reunion, others flounder. Street’s mother, Pat, confirms that her mother and grand-

scene that is so familiar to many Caribbean children. “The scent of ‘foreign’ fills the air once the barrel is opened,” she says. “The smell of old and new clothes, mixed with Dial soap and boxes of Tide detergent, perfumes, chocolate and assorted candy assails my nostrils as I reach for Blow-pops and Snickers bars. Stick fingers clutch at brand

**PATRIARCHAL IDEAS**  
The symbolism in Jamaican-



Simone de Bernard Mas’s work questions the Caribbean’s male dominated society and the role of women.

born artist Simone de Bernard Mas’s work highlights another form of connectedness. Her molded sculptures of female genitalia questions the

trapped in a rusting clamp speaks volumes about the controlled existence of women. Bernard Mas uses the female form in all her work - her jewelry, her paintings, her sculpture. She explains that this specific form of art is her way of looking at women’s self image and how it is formed. It is also a bold statement about the female as “goddess”. Using color as a means of bringing balance and “order to chaos” is how Haitian-born artist Eddy Jean-Baptiste depicts his Caribbean heritage. The high-ceilinged gallery walls

becomes his canvas, with abstract digital pieces flashing across the white space, leaving impressions of rich Caribbean

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

## Dancehall star Ninja Man, son denied bail on murder charge

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - A court here has denied bail to popular dancehall artiste Desmond Ballentine (aka Ninja Man), who is accused of murder.

The court has also denied bail to the singer’s son Janeil Ballentine, 20, and another man, Clayton Dennis, who have all been charged with the murder of 20-year-old Ricardo Johnson.

Police allege that on Mar. 16, Ninja Man, his son and Clayton were traveling in a car through the corporate area inner city community of Olympic Gardens when they fired bullets at a man, but missed the target and instead hit Johnson who was pronounced dead upon arrival at hospital.

The singer later surren-



Ninja Man

dered to the police, while the other two accused were captured in a police operation in the northern parish of St. Ann.?

The three accused were scheduled to return to court on June 1.



Major festivals featuring Caribbean music are popping up on this summer’s entertainment



Mavado

calendars across the region.

This month, St. Kitts will host the 13th annual “St. Kitts Music Festival”. The three-day event, to run from **June 25-27**, is expected to feature an assortment of musical flavors, including reggae, hip-hop, calypso, jazz, gospel and R&B.



## Hot summer for Caribbean music festivals

Among the artistes scheduled to perform are Jamaican dancehall star Mavado and American soul singer Regina Belle.

Next month, Jamaica will draw the spotlight with the 17th staging of “Reggae Sunfest”. The weeklong festival, billed as “the world’s greatest showcase of reggae music”, will be staged from



Beenie-side

July 19-25 in Montego Bay. It will kick off with a beach party. Live performances,

beginning with “Dancehall Night” on July 23, are among



Bounty Killer

the highlights.

Up to press time Sunfest organizers said they were still finalizing the show’s line-up of artistes. However, dancehall stars Beenie Man, Mavado and Bounty Killer are reportedly set to perform. Singers Tarrus Riley, Etana and Coco Tea, plus the group Morgan Heritage are also slated to take the stage.



**www.caribbeantoday.com ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

## STRAIGHT FROM 'YARD'



Popular Jamaican actor Oliver Samuels, seated far right, will lead the cast of Patrick Brown's play "Sheep in Wolf's Clothing" during a June 20 performance at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro, Georgia, United States. Showtime for the play, which is being presented by the Sunshine Theatre Company, is 8 p.m. Call 770-875-7370 or 786-237-5493, or visit [www.SunshineTheatreCompany.com](http://www.SunshineTheatreCompany.com) for more information.

## ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• **'Isaiah', the Caribbean musical**

Two performances of "Isaiah", a Caribbean musical, will be staged this month at the Gwinnett Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth, Georgia, United States.

Performances, presented Missionaries of the Poor, are set for **June 27 and 28**. For information, call 404-287-1641 or visit [www.missionariesofthepoor.org](http://www.missionariesofthepoor.org).

• **'Caribbean Fashion Extravaganza'**  
Online publication Synjen

Magazine will host a Caribbean Fashion Extravaganza this month in South Florida.

The event, which will take place at 8 p.m. **June 28** at the Renaissance Plantation Hotel, is expected to feature a lineup of fashion designers, makeup artists, hair stylists and models.

For more information, contact Zach Matzuga via e-mail at [zachmatzuga@johnlessipfirm.com](mailto:zachmatzuga@johnlessipfirm.com) or call 954-639-6922.

• **Belizaire's art exhibition**

To mark "Caribbean Heritage Month", the works of Haitian artist Frankin Belizaire will be on display **through June 27** at the Miramar Branch Library and Educational Center in South Florida.

For more information, call 954-404-3071 or 954-437-1806, ext. 235.

Compiled from various sources.

## Art's reflection of 'barrel life' renews Caribbean connection

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

landscapes.

Disturbing landscapes also took shape in Louis Davis's photo art. A social activist through his work, muted watermark images of a homeless man, a swastika, a swinging noose, a Christian cross, all splattered with blood, brings home messages of racism, hypocrisy, depravity. Davis's work often leaves the viewer questioning his role in humanity.

That is why "Signs of Oneness", or the search for the common thread that connects all humanity, is about self-determination, says Street. And, the artists in this show demonstrate that the images and symbols we create are signs of society exploring and evolving.

Sailboat Bend Artist Lofts is a community of artists living in one space. The three-storey downtown Fort Lauderdale building of one, two and three-bedroom apartments serve as living and studio space for visual artists, writers, and performers who

feed off each creatively. Each month the residents put on an exhibition featuring their work and that of guest artists. "Signs of Oneness" continues through June 13 and will also showcase films, performances



Dahlia Walker-Huntington, a Jamaican American, makes her mark on an interactive art piece.

and a book signing.

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



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- Get the Golden Ticket Arts Guide for seniors 62 and over and attend great cultural events FREE. Available in English and Spanish.

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## CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

## Florida's kids to gain from 'Caribbean Heritage Summer Institute'

Jamaica Awareness is scheduled to launch a "Caribbean Heritage

### Brooklyn music fest to pay tribute to Caribbean

Caribbean culture will be the focus of the "Brooklyn Music Festival" scheduled for June 21 at the Floyd Bennett Field in the New York City borough.

This year's event is being tied in with Caribbean American Heritage Month and is expected to feature a line-up of Caribbean and Caribbean-inspired artistes.

Among them will be reggae-fusion acts like Asian band Brown Rice Family, BennyBwoy, acclaimed actor Leon and his reggae-soul band The Peoples, 'skragga' musicians The Rudie Crew, ska musician King Django, and the New York Ska-Jazz Ensemble.

"This music festival brings together the best in Caribbean music-not just from the Caribbean, but from the Caribbean-influenced neighborhoods right here in New York," said Crooks.

Summer Institute" this month for children ages 11 to 18 in South Florida.



BennyBwoy

"Caribbean music isn't just island music," said Caribbean music promoter George Crooks, who initiated the annual Brooklyn Music Festival in a recent press release.

"We purposely scheduled the concert in June - Caribbean Heritage Month. We want New Yorkers as a whole to celebrate Caribbean music and culture."



The program, aimed at empowering youth and strengthening their performance skills, will run from June 8 to July 3 at the Holy Family Episcopal Church in Miami Gardens.

According to Sydney Roberts, executive director of the non-profit organization, the goal of the program is to develop children's understanding of the cultural heritage of the Caribbean region and the ways in which this heritage has shaped both the local and broader community.

"As we look to the future, it is essential that we work to empower our youth for school and community development," said Roberts in a recent press release.

"This summer institute is designed to ensure that participants leave with a heightened

appreciation for culture and a strong sense of the role they can play in strengthening the development of their community by making a meaningful contribution through the arts."

#### TARGET

Targeting middle to high school youngsters, the Caribbean Heritage Summer Institute is designed to grab their interest through diverse hands-on, interactive activities where they will learn new crafting and performance skills, fine-tune existing ones, and move on to present their work to the community in a variety of settings. Dr. Marva McClean, program director, will lead a team of educators from local school districts and professionals in the cultural

arts in providing the students with a creative and innovative visual and performing arts curriculum over the four week period.

All students will participate in five core areas: Caribbean Heritage, Dance and Music, Caribbean Games, Art of the Caribbean, and Celebrations: Carnival and Festivals.

"Our vision is that during the time they are with us, the Institute's participants will receive an engaging, challenging and relevant community based education which they can use as a springboard for their future development," said Roberts.

For more information, call 305-519-8043, 305-652-6797 or 305-405-2712.



## Obama praises Caribbean contribution

United States President Barack Obama has issued the following proclamation marking Caribbean American Heritage Month:

"Caribbean Americans have made lasting contributions to our Nation's culture and history, and the month of June has been set aside to honor their cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and social diversity.

Generations of immigrants have preserved the traditions of their homelands, and these traditions have defined our Nation's identity. Caribbean Americans bring a unique and vibrant culture. This multilingual and multi-ethnic tradition has strengthened our social fabric and enriched the diversity of our nation.

Millions of individuals in the United States have Caribbean roots. Unfortunately some Caribbean Americans were forced to our country as slaves; others arrived of their own volition. All have sought the promise of a brighter tomorrow for themselves and

their children.

In their pursuit of success, Caribbean Americans exhibit the traits all Americans prize: determination, a devotion to



Obama

community, and patriotism. They have made their mark in every facet of our society, from art to athletics and science to service. Caribbean Americans have also safeguarded our Nation in the United States Armed Forces.

This month we also recognize the critical relationship (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

# Jamaica at 47

On August 6, 2009, the island of Jamaica marks the 47th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation.

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

**OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT!** *Jamaica at 47* ~ to be published in July 2009, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people.

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## Holder returns to Barbadian roots

Like his boss, President Barack Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder Jr., has scored a first in United States politics.

Obama is the first African American to lead the most powerful nation in the world, while Holder, 58, has become the country's first black attorney general.

Both have intriguing and similar family backgrounds. Obama's father was born in Kenya, while his mother was an American. In Holder's case his father, Eric Holder, moved to the U.S. from Barbados when he was 11 years old and even though his mother, Miriam, was born in New Jersey, her family roots are in St. Phillip, the eastern Barbados parish.

A highlight of his three-day visit at the invitation of

the Barbados government last month was the official opening of Tamarind Hall Municipal Complex in Horse Hill, St. Joseph. This complex was be renamed in Holder's honor.

Prior to the re-naming ceremony, Holder held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister David Thompson.

Holder, who grew up in Queens, New York, is the 82nd attorney general of the U.S. He previously served as a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and deputy attorney general. He was a senior legal advisor to then Senator Obama during the presidential campaign and was one of three members of Obama's vice-presidential selection committee.



## San Juan to host 'Taste of the Caribbean'

Food and beverages will be the toast of San Juan, Puerto Rico when the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) presents "Taste of the Caribbean" **June 12-14**.

The three-day event, billed by its promoters as the largest and most important culinary event in the region, will feature educational seminars, workshops and demonstrations for hoteliers, restaurateurs and food and beverage professionals.

"Taste" is being held in

conjunction with the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association and Puerto Rico Tourism Company. Sponsors include Bahama Breeze, Albert Uster Imports, Inc., Certified Angus Beef®, Dowman Design, Fosters Wines, U.S. Dairy Export Council and U.S. Meat Export Federation.

It will begin at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan on **June 12**, with two days of workshops, tastings and demonstrations on **June 13 and 14**.

"With global competition

reaching a critical mass during one of the most difficult tourism markets we've ever faced, it is increasingly important to distinguish ourselves as a region through culinary excellence and creativity in our food and beverage offerings," said Enrique De Marchena Kaluche, president of CHTA.

For more information, call CHTA at **305-443-3040** or visit [www.caribbeanhoteland-tourism.com/taste.php](http://www.caribbeanhoteland-tourism.com/taste.php).



## 'Caribbean Expressions' come to Miramar, Florida

South Florida will welcome 1992 Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott as part of its literary fest during "Caribbean Expressions" this month in Miramar.

The four-day Caribbean American book and art fair, set **June 18-21** to mark Caribbean Heritage Month, will be staged at the Miramar Cultural Arts Park.

The Caribbean-born writer is scheduled to be the

main attraction during "The Night of the Nobel Laureate: A Celebration of the Work of Derek Walcott" on **June 19**.

"Caribbean Expressions" will also feature literary panels, readings by authors, artist presentations, film screening, poetry and spoken words presentations, and Caribbean music and culinary arts.

An awards night, recognizing Caribbean women of excellence, is slated for **June 18**.

During those days of celebrations Walcott and Jamaica's Professor Rex Nettleford will also receive recognition for their accomplishments at the event being staged under the patronage of the CARICOM Consular Corps.

For more information, call **954-357-7478, 754-224-8150** or **786-537-5897**.



## N.Y. hosts 'Caribbean Week' June 8-12

NEW YORK, New York – The Caribbean Tourism Development Company has confirmed venues for "Caribbean Week in New York", **June 8-12**.

The following is a list of activities:

**June 8-12 - Celebrity Chef Program:** Chefs will prepare distinctive Caribbean dishes at prestigious events held all over the city to showcase a taste of the region to consumers, travel industry professionals and media.

**June 11**  
• **Caribbean Media Awards Luncheon at the New Yorker Hotel, 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**

• **Workshop for Travel Agents at New Yorker Hotel, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.:** The workshop will offer niche market presentations on "Weddings and

Honeymoons" to a select group of travel agents invited by CTO, its chapters and member countries.

• **Caribbean Media Marketplace at New Yorker Hotel, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.:** The media are invited to interact with tourism officials, hotels, tour operators and airline representatives to gain information about the Caribbean.

• **Caribbean Treats: Food, Rum & Rhythm at Manhattan Center, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.:** A celebration of the Caribbean region's award-winning rums, including sampling of premium rums and rum cocktails, celebrity chef demonstrations and musical performances.

**June 12**  
• **Caribbean Marketing Conference at New Yorker Hotel, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:** To be attended by ministers, com-

missioners and directors of tourism, as well as senior tourism industry representatives from the private sector.

• **Allied Awards Luncheon at New Yorker Hotel, Bank Room, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.:** To be attended by ministers, commissioners and directors of tourism, as well as senior tourism industry representatives from the private sector.

• **36th Annual Governments of the Caribbean State Ball and Awards Presentations at Plaza Hotel, 7 p.m. to midnight:** The official closing event to Caribbean Week in New York. Highlights include the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Special Recognition Award and Excellence Award.

For more information, visit [www.onecaribbean.org](http://www.onecaribbean.org) or call **212-635-9530**.



## Obama praises Caribbean contribution

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

the United States maintains with Caribbean nations. In a world of increasing communication and connectivity, this friendship has become even more important. We are neighbors, partners, and friends; we share the same aspirations for our children; and we strive for the very same freedoms. Together, we

can meet the common challenges we face.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as National Caribbean American Heritage Month. I urge all Americans to commemorate

this month by learning more about the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third."



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# Rhyme and reason: Haitian American eyes big time on field, in classroom

**DAWN A. DAVIS**

Seventeen-year-old Frankie Telfort is among the elite in high school American football. Even before he reached his final year, the 5' 11", 200-pound linebacker with strong Caribbean roots was being courted by top universities in the United States.

And, with more than 35 colleges vying for his attention, making a decision proved challenging. But, Telfort has made his choice.

"I chose the University of Southern California (USC) because they have a great coaching staff and the school excels in preparing athletes for their careers," the soft-spoken star linebacker told Caribbean Today.

The young man is serious about his future, and it goes way beyond football.

"I plan on pursuing a double major, pre-med and writing," said Telfort. "Medicine is my career choice, but I also want to focus on my writing."

The son of a Haitian father and American mother, Telfort has been writing poetry and short stories for several years. Shakespearean-style

sonnets is a large part of his poetic repertoire. One of Telfort's poems is slated to be published soon in a literary magazine.



Simpson Miller Telfort is USC bound.

"I was reading Hamlet and I figured I would try writing a sonnet, and it came out pretty well," said the native of Miami, Florida.

**TOP RANKING**

The multi-talented teen also stands out on the football field. He helped carry his high school team, Miami-based Gulliver Prep Raiders, to the

2A state championships this past season, Telfort recorded an impressive 163 tackles and four sacks. College recruiters took note, resulting in the footballer's top ranking among popular recruiting database website rivals.com.

So, what's the secret that makes Telfort so marketable?

"It is definitely my speed," he said. "I run a 4:3 (seconds) 40 (yard dash). It's my speed and my mind; I have a great knack for the game."

Invariably, practice and drills are also part of the equation. Telfort explained that he works out with childhood friend Dacoi Sumler, a wide receiver from Gulliver Prep. Constant training and inspiration from his friend makes him to work harder.

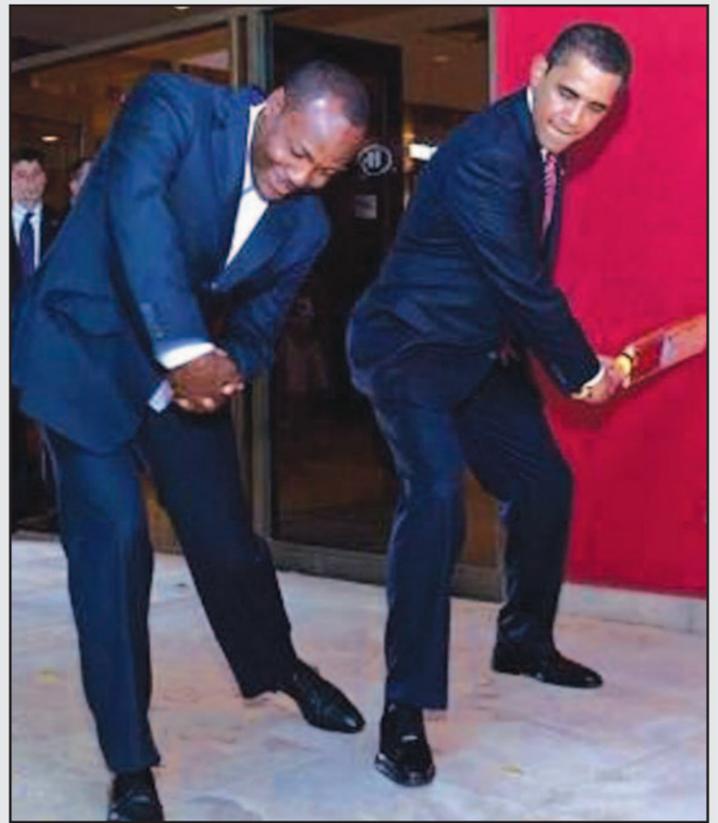
"Basically, we do a lot of lateral drills to make sure the footwork is right," Telfort explained. "We work with truck tires for coordination. We push each other to make each other better."

**FOCUS**

Telfort is not just a natural in football. He also runs track. He has competed at the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

## ON THE FRONT FOOT



West Indies cricket great Brian Lara, left, offers some batting tips to fellow left hander Barack Obama, during the United States president's recent visit to Trinidad and Tobago to attend the Summit of the Americas.

## T&T's Glen returns to MLS soccer

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Trinidad and Tobago striker Cornell Glen is making

a return to United States Major League Soccer (MLS) after signing with San Jose Earthquakes, the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation (TTFF) Media has reported.



Glen

The Earthquakes signed Glen until the end of the season with the option to extend for the next season after the 28-year-old impressed coach Frank Yallop at trials last month.

Glen had MLS appearances between 2004 and 2006 with stints at New York,

Dallas, Columbus, Colorado and Los Angeles, where an injury sidelined him for the last half of the 2006 season

"It's great to finally get a chance to come back out with an overseas club," Glen told TTFF Media.

"I've been working very hard towards this and coming here I felt this was the chance I had to grab.

"It's good for me because I have the experience of playing in the MLS before and hopefully now I can establish myself again and help the club go on to greater things. They are an ambitious club and I hope to play a part in helping them achieve success," Glen added.

Glen joins Jamaican Ryan Johnson as Caribbean players on the San Jose roster.

# World rated Haitian fights in U.S. on June 12

GRAND RONDE, Oregon, CMC – World-rated Haitian middleweight boxer Daniel Edouard is booked for his first appearance this year when he fights American Dumont Welliver this month.

Square Ring Promotions announced last month that Edouard, ranked number nine by the World Boxing Association (WBA), will face Welliver in the main event of a June 12 card at the Spring Mountain Casino.

The bout will be televised on ESPN2.

"It's exciting to be back on Friday Night Fights," Edouard said in a Fightnews website story.

"I feel that winning produces results and I have positioned myself on the edge of contention and hope that con-



Edouard

tinued success will result in a title challenge," added Edouard, who holds a number 14 ranking with the World Boxing Council (WBC).

Edouard boasts a solid ring record of 21 wins (12

knockouts) against two losses and two draws and is expected to have little trouble disposing of Welliver, who has 18 wins (six knockouts) against 18 losses and one draw.

Welliver has lost 12 of his last 16 fights including a points defeat to Barbadian Christopher Henry when the two clashed in November 2003 for the vacant International Boxing Union (IBU) light middleweight title.



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# Jamaica's Reggae Boyz draw twice on U.S. soccer tours

GORDON WILLIAMS

**R**eigning Caribbean soccer champions Jamaica failed to secure a win in two friendly internationals played in the United States late last month, but the Reggae Boyz showed improvement in their build-up for the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament scheduled for July in the U.S.

Jamaica, playing a man short for all of the second half, came from behind to snatch a late 2-2 tie against fellow Caribbean team and Gold Cup participants Haiti on May 23 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The following weekend, the Reggae Boyz played to a goal-

less draw with El Salvador, a Central American team still in the hunt for a place in the 2010 World Cup.

Against Haiti, ranked 122nd in the world by the game's governing body FIFA, Jamaica (70th) were unimpressive early, but took the lead at Lockhart Stadium when striker Nicholas Addlery pounced on his own blocked shot in the 29th minute to score in the on his senior international debut. Ten minutes later Haiti drew level when substitute Jean Robbins Jerome redirected a cross inside the far post.



Jamaica's Jermaine Johnson dribbles away from El Salvador opponents Julio Martinez, left, and Victor Turcios during last month's game. Simpson Miller

## SETBACK

But the Boyz suffered a major setback right before half time when captain Claude Davis was cautioned for the second time and sent off. Playing a man short, Jamaica fell behind in the 65th minute. Goal scorer Jerome turned provider when his cross was slotted in by teammate Lesly Fellingua.

Jamaica battled back and was rewarded two minutes before full time when Damion Stewart headed home a free kick taken by teammate Jason Morrison.

"The team did not play well as a whole," Jamaica's coach John Barnes admitted after the game. "...I expected a hard match and I got that."

However, Haiti's Colombian-born coach Jairo Rios was overjoyed with the result.

"Haiti did a great job," he said. "...For us this is very, very good news."

## SALVADORIAN TEST

The following weekend the Boyz traveled to Washington D.C. where they held World Cup hopeful El Salvador, which is drawn in the same group for the Gold Cup. The May 30 game offered the two teams, which will meet on July 10 in the final group game, a preview of what to expect in the tournament, which matches teams from the Caribbean, Central and North America.

Not much was settled last month, however, despite the improved performance by the Jamaicans.

"It was much better (than the Haiti match)," said Barnes. "...For most of the

time, we kept the ball. We probed, we created chances."

Both teams missed some scoring opportunities as well. But the game was highlighted by a fine performance from Jamaica's Jermaine Johnson. His speed and skill troubled El Salvador all night at the RFK stadium, as he rallied a largely inexperienced Reggae Boyz unit.

"I'm the senior player on the team so I just tried to do my thing," Johnson said. "So I tried to make the other players base off me."

Johnson and the Boyz were scheduled to host Panama in another friendly international on June 7 in Kingston.

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



## Rhyme and reason: Haitian American eyes big time on field, in classroom

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

state level in the 100 meters and is making a name for him-

self in the event.

Asked how he keeps it all in perspective and does well both academically and athletically, the Telfort admitted that he is not much of a partygoer, but instead has his mind set on making something of himself.

"I am definitely focused and I really appreciate my parents for being totally supportive and steering me in the right direction," he said. "They are very proud of me and want to see me succeed in life."

With a 3.3, and when weighted a 3.9 grade point average, Telfort has set his sights on staying among the top of his class at USC. His quiet confidence should keep him at the top of his game. However, don't count out his academic side. Telfort intends



Telfort

to make a mark in the literary and medical field. And part of his strategy is to "put God first and use my brain."

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



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## South Florida launches summer job program for young people

In an attempt to mitigate the impact of youth unemployment, the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) recently launched its Summer Youth Employment Program to assist youth between the ages of 14 and 24 gain an understanding about careers, the workplace and appropriate employment skills by linking them to employers for work experience and career exploration.

The program is a public/private partnership between the South Florida Workforce Investment Board, the businesses community, and the public sector.

The initiative is being supported pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The program's concept is to encourage local employers (both public and private) to provide career exploration opportunities to young people within their

organizations during the summer months. The SFWIB will cover the youth participant's wages for the hours worked.

According to Rick Beasley, executive director of South Florida Workforce, "the Summer Youth Employment Program is a great opportunity for local employers to make a contribution to their community and help create a simulative economic impact on the local economy; at the same time providing career exposures to our future workforce. I encourage anyone who is in a position to provide a placement opportunity to contact us for information about the program. It's a great investment in our youth."

For more information about the SFWIB's Summer Employment Program, visit the agency's website at [www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com).



## Put some summer job money in stock market

STEVE ROSEN

It can be painful watching your young worker fritter away a summer's worth of lawn-mowing or baby-sitting income on video games, music downloads and frequent fill-ups of gas.

Might I suggest an alternative to summer spending? Invest the money in the stock market.

Terrible timing? Hardly.

Despite the stock market's choppy waters, socking away money in stocks when you're young is always a timely idea. It's a great way to beat inflation and build wealth. Besides, children have a long time to watch current losers turn into winners.

As you consider investment options with your son or daughter's summer-job money, watch out for fees that could eat away at returns and minimum investment requirements that may be too restrictive. Start by putting your youngster's investing on automatic pilot by having a set amount withdrawn from his bank account or paycheck every payday. That way, for example, you could put away 10 percent each month for college, another chunk in a long-term investment plan, and leave plenty left over for spending.

### MUTUAL FUND

One approach for small investors is a mutual fund with a low minimum investment. For example, the Monetta Young Investor Fund can be opened with a minimum deposit of \$100 if you commit to investing at

least \$25 a month. The fund invests in kid-friendly stocks such as Disney, Apple and Google and offers educational materials geared to novice investors.

Also, Vanguard, Fidelity, T. Rowe Price and other large fund companies have choices suitable for small investors. Plus, they offer a heavy dose of online investment-education tools.

Another way for beginners to invest small amounts in stocks is through ShareBuilder.com, an online brokerage firm. Choose from three low-cost pricing plans that allow you to buy shares for as little as \$4 a week through automatic purchase plans in more than 7,000 companies, exchange-traded funds and mutual funds.

Similarly, [MyStockDirect.com](http://MyStockDirect.com) allows small investors to bypass brokers and buy from companies' direct stock purchase plans. Dividends are automatically reinvested.

Remember, young workers can contribute up to \$5,000 annually in earned income in a Roth individual retirement account. Though contributions are taxable, the money can be withdrawn decades from now tax-free.

Finally, if you'll be shipping off a new high school graduate to college in a couple of months, an investment in a couple of hours' worth of time with a financial planner may have a longer shelf life than the latest video game or iTunes download.

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## SERVICE SPECIAL



Kaye Chong, right, Air Jamaica's manager of community and special markets, accepts a special community service award from actress Sheryl Lee Ralph. Chong was among six Jamaicans to receive the honor from Jamaica's Consul General Sandra Grant-Griffiths for her significant contribution to community development in her adopted homeland during a recent ceremony at Jungle Island in Miami, Florida. Ralph served as patron of the event.

## Program offers help for Miami's homeowners

The City of Miami's Department of Community Development "Foreclosure Prevention Program" has announced the availability of money to assist eligible, low-income homeowners, within city limits, who are facing foreclosure.

According to information released last month by the city, the program offers eligible homeowners up to \$7,500 in assistance towards late fees and delinquent payments associated with their home loan.

To be eligible, the homeowner must meet the following qualifications: have received a foreclosure notice from their mortgage lender; be

80 percent average median income or below as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; the property must be located in Miami, be single-family, and owner-occupied (have a homestead exemption); the property's maximum tax assessed market value cannot exceed \$300,000; the homeowner must prove that delinquency on their home loan was due to a significant loss of household income, sudden medical illness, death in the family, predatory lending practices, etc.; and the homeowner must demonstrate

their ability to make future mortgage payments after the assistance is received and provide a revised monthly budget.

Applications are available at the Department of Community Development, 444 S.W. Second Ave., 2nd Floor, Miami, FL 33130; and on the web for downloading at [www.miamigov.com/communitydevelopment](http://www.miamigov.com/communitydevelopment).

Applications will be accepted at the department. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-ready, first-served basis. For more information, call 305-416-2016 or 311.



## CAN WE TALK?



Peter A. Webley,  
Publisher

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves. If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well? We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.

If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business? If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and... dress your company well in...

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## Fish with buttery yucca serves up Caribbean seafood lovers' delight

Most Caribbean people are from countries surrounded by the sea and they love seafood.

This month **Caribbean Today** is serving up a sumptuous feast of fish and buttery yucca, courtesy of Publix Apron's Simple Meals. Enjoy!

### Caribbean fish

#### Ingredients

- 2/3 cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons diced pimientos
- 2 tablespoons sliced black olives
- 2 teaspoons lemon pepper seasoning salt
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish
- 1 1/2 pounds white fish fillets such as snapper, grouper, or orange roughy (thawed, if needed)
- plastic wrap
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 cups frozen pepper stir-fry (sliced bell peppers and onions)
- 1 cup shredded green or

red cabbage

#### Method

Combine orange juice, in microwave-safe baking dish, with pimientos, olives, lemon pepper, cornstarch, and horseradish.

Cut away any dark red flesh on fish (for mildest flavor); cut into four portions. Place fish in sauce mixture; turn to coat (wash hands).

Cover dish tightly with plastic wrap; microwave on HIGH 8–10 minutes or until fish is opaque and separates easily with fork.

Meanwhile, preheat large sauté pan on medium-high two to three minutes. Place butter in pan; swirl to coat. Add remaining ingredients; cover and cook five to seven minutes, stirring often, or until tender.

Serve fish and sauce over vegetables.

#### Buttery yucca

#### Ingredients

- 4 cups water



- 1 (16-ounce) bag frozen yucca
- 1 tablespoon minced onions
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

#### Method

Place medium saucepan on high. Add all ingredients; cover and bring to boil.

Reduce to medium-high; cook 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until tender.

Drain and serve. Note: For a richer flavor, melt additional butter on yucca after draining.



## No harm done from a very fishy diet

**Question: Dr. Bruce Bistrian, I read in an earlier issue that one of the nutrition experts eats five servings of fish a week. Why so much? And isn't there a risk from the contaminants?**

**Answer:** I believe research has shown that eating fish has a variety of benefits, but for me, the science came much later than my love of fish did.

Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), the two omega-3 fats found in fish, have been shown to reduce the risk of death from coronary artery disease by about 35 percent when consumed in modest amounts. Modest means a daily average of about 500 milligrams (mg) of EPA and DHA together (not each), which you can get by eating two servings of fish a week — provided, of course, it's oily fish.

Two servings provide from 3.0 to 4.5 grams of EPA and DHA, and because much of it is stored, that's equivalent to ingesting about 500 mg daily. There's less definitive evidence from epidemiologic studies that omega-3 fats in that amount will reduce risks of such widely disparate disorders as depression, metabolic syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, and some kinds of cancer. The American Heart Association recommends a daily average of 500 mg for prevention of coronary artery disease, and twice that much — a gram a day — for people

with established heart disease.

In even greater amounts — three grams a day — fish oil can significantly lower elevated triglyceride levels, another risk factor for coronary artery disease. If you're taking prescription-strength fish oil — Lovaza is a brand name — for triglyceride lowering, then physician monitoring is indicated. Intake at the multi-gram level has shown promise as a treatment for inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease. And research I've been involved in shows that it helps people who are critically ill from conditions like adult respiratory distress syndrome or because they're recovering from major surgery.

#### CONCERN

As for contaminants, methyl mercury and toxic organic compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxin are the ones that have caused the most concern. (Meat and dairy products also contain methyl mercury and toxic organic compounds). In 2006, Harvard researchers Dariush Mozaffarian and Eric Rimm wrote a comprehensive review about the risks and benefits of eating fish that was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, and some of the following information is taken from their review.

Methyl mercury is found in highest concentrations in four types of fish: swordfish, shark,

king mackerel, and tilefish (sometimes called golden bass). Because methyl mercury can impair neurologic development and function, these species should be avoided by pregnant women, those who may become pregnant, those who are breast-feeding, and infants.

However, it's still important for the people in these groups to consume two servings of fish per week with high EPA and DHA content, because DHA is an essential nutrient for optimal brain development, which occurs during gestation and early infancy. The dangers of methyl mercury aren't an issue for adults unless they eat more than five servings of fish a week. Even then, the risk can be managed by limiting intake of the four species with high mercury levels.

The risks of PCBs and dioxin are essentially below the level of detection when consuming store-bought fish, and because these compounds are also found in similar amounts in meat and dairy products, there doesn't seem to be any disadvantage from swapping one good protein source for another. However, there may be advisories about contamination of freshwater fish in certain areas, and these local recommendations should be heeded.

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## Caribbean reports 'swine flu' cases

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The Trinidad-based Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) has confirmed that three Caribbean countries have reported positive cases of the deadly Influenza A (H1N1), which is commonly referred to as "swine flu".

"A total of four confirmed cases have been reported - two from Jamaica, one from Bahamas and one from Bermuda. All four cases had a recent travel history to affected areas in the USA," CAREC noted in a statement on its official website.

CAREC warned that with an increase in travel between affected areas and the Caribbean, particularly during the school vacation period "countries should continue enhanced surveillance for fever and respiratory illness".

The center stated that several affected countries were "now only testing severe cases and as such reported numbers are no longer a complete description of burden of disease".

#### VISITOR

The Ministry of Health in The Bahamas said that the reported case occurred in a young adult visitor who came from New York to that country on May 25 and returned home the next day to recover.

"Due to heightened sur-

veillance activities by the Department of Public Health necessary tests were done that same day. The results were received on the evening of May 29. All necessary precautions were taken at the facilities where the visitor stayed for the brief period and there



Cases of swine flu are affecting children and adults.

are on-going surveillance activities at other contact sites", the ministry stated.

The Bahamas said that as there continues to be widespread global occurrence of the virus it would continue to monitor the influenza trends, "which at present do not indicate any increase in cases at this time".

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that as of June 1, 62 countries officially reported 17,410 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 115 deaths.



**Health Matters**

### Beyond straight

*When the knee extends more than its normal fully straightened position, it can become injured and stress other parts of the body.*

**Normal**

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**Hyperextension**

Ligaments, tendons too long; allow bones to bow back

Muscles Overly strong quads can push knee too far

**Problems**  
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- Put excess pressure on heel, front of shin
- Weaken quadriceps muscle
- Stress front of knee joint
- Strain, tear ligaments

Source: Yoga Journal, Mayo Clinic, Graphic: Lee Hwang, Judy Trebbe

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REGION

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# Caribbean's gender, diversity issues to benefit from IDB multi-donor fund

WASHINGTON - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved the creation of a multi-donor fund to support initiatives geared towards tackling gender and diversity issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The new fund will provide grants for initiatives that advance gender equality, reduce discrimination and support equitable development in the IDB's 26 borrowing member countries.

Women and men affected by gender-based inequalities, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendant communities are the three main target populations to be served by the fund.

The IDB said that up to \$10 million from its ordinary capital will help finance the fund's operations, including an initial \$4 million allocation

approved for 2009.

"The fund's long-term objective for these resources is the integration of gender and diversity perspectives in the development plans of bank

member countries throughout the region", the IDB stated.

"This is an important opportunity for the bank to establish itself as a leader of gender and diversity issues in

Latin America and the Caribbean," said Kei Kawabata, manager of the IDB Social Sector, in charge of the program's activities.

"It enhances our role as a

partner for this region and it improves our capacity to promote equitable development," Kawabata added.

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