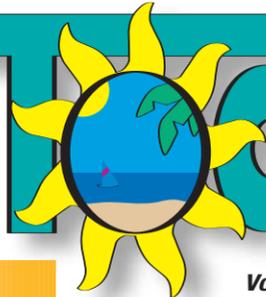


# Caribbean Today

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Vol. 20 No. 10

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



The Caribbean, as home to so many races and cultures, is always welcoming a variety of dishes. So this month, Caribbean Today is serving up Oriental-style chicken, flavored with familiar coconut and ginger, page 8.



Jamaican reggae star Bujaru Banton has had to cancel his performances in the United States following protests by gay and lesbian groups, page 15.



A study has found massive collapse of coral reefs throughout the Caribbean, a big tourist attraction in the region, and is blaming climate change for the situation, page 21.



~ Jamaican Usain Bolt's world record sprint double led the Caribbean's whopping 26-medal haul and stamped the region's top class quality on the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, page 2.

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# Bolt, Caribbean shine bright at World Championships in Athletics

GORDON WILLIAMS

BERLIN, Germany – The Caribbean once again flexed its muscles as a global track and field power by capturing 26 medals at last month's 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics (WCA) here.

Led by Jamaica's record WCA haul of 13, including seven gold, four silver and two bronze, which placed the country second overall to the United States in the medal table, the region produced some of the most dazzling moments of the meet, which ran from Aug. 15-23.

None were brighter than the wildly popular Usain Bolt's world record sprint double, and the Jamaican's three gold medals overall. Bolt shattered his own 100 meters mark of 9.69 seconds, set at last year's Olympic Games in China, with a stunning 9.58 on the second night of the WCA. Tyson Gay of



Bolt, right, wins the 100 meters ahead of Gay, center, and Powell.

the United States finished second in an American record 9.71, and Jamaica's Asafa Powell third in 9.84.

"I was definitely ready for the world record and I did it!" Bolt said after the final. "I am proud of myself. This is a big moment in history."

days later to the Olympic Stadium track to clock 19.19 in the 200 meters and break his other individual world mark set at the '08 Olympics. That result took Bolt more by surprise.

"The world record, I did not really have it on my mind," he said.

**REPEAT**

Bolt's countrywomen Shelly-Ann Fraser (100 meters in 10.73) and Melaine Walker (400 meters hurdles in a championship record 52.42), who also won in China, repeated at the WCA in their pet events, while Brigitte Foster-Hylton won the 100 meters hurdles.

Jamaica won both 4x100 meters relays to complete the country's gold haul.

The men's team of Steve Mullings, Michael Frater, Bolt and Powell, clocked 37.31 seconds to beat Trinidad and Tobago (37.62) into second place. Jamaica's women, featuring Simone Facey, Fraser, Aleen Bailey and Kerron Stewart, who won 100 silver in 10.75, romped to the relay win in 42.06 seconds. The Bahamas placed second in 42.29.

Jamaicans who journeyed to the WCA were happy with their country's performance. They also soaked in the admiration it brought from other nations, including the host.

"On a whole it was just excellent," said Ann Mair, who came here from New York. "I enjoyed the whole

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

The 6' 5" sprint star, who celebrated his 23rd birthday during the WCA, returned

## Caribbean American leaders take census case to Washington

A delegation of Caribbean American leaders, along with other nationals from across the United States, is scheduled to attend the Congressional Black Caucus annual conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 23-26.

While in the U.S. capital, the leaders will meet with members of the Unity Coalition, a group of over 50 Black organizations, to solidify support for "Question 9", which addresses the issues of self identification and country of origin on the 2010 census.

The delegation will support Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, co-chair of the weekend activities and representative of New York's 11th congressional district, which has the largest number of people of Caribbean descent in the U.S.

Representatives of the Caribbean American Cultural Coalition Census Committee

in South Florida are encouraging Caribbean nationals to get an early start in the 2010 census process. Acting on a challenge issued by the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) in Washington D.C. to engage the Caribbean community in the process, the coalition deployed representatives to the Broward County Complete Count Committee.

**AWARENESS**

The effort, led by Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers and others, began an early public awareness campaign at UNIFEST during the recent Caribbean Heritage Month. The group also convened a strategy meeting in North Lauderdale of invitees to a census department-sponsored conference in Orlando, Florida.

"My motivation is to increase the number of partic-



Clarke

ipants in my district and the immigrant community at large in the 2010 count to ensure that they understand the full benefits from an accurate count," said Rogers in a recent press release.

A delegation of South Florida Caribbean leaders attended the 11th Annual Legislative Conference sponsored by the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) June 24-26 in Washington, D.C. The group, which included Rogers, State Rep. Yolley Roberson, Councilman Aster Knight, North Miami City Clerk Alix Desulme, attorney Marlon Hill, Hulbert James, Roxanne Valies, and Maria Kong, also attended a White House census briefing that focused on Question 8 and 9. James, chair of the South Florida census committee, was selected as one of three national co-chairs of the National Caribbean Community Census Committee.

"We will intensify our efforts to ensure a complete count by working with census staff and complete count committees at the local, state, and national level," said James in the release.



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# Investors blame U.S. regulators for Stanford 'Ponzi' scheme

LOUISIANA - United States regulators failed to act on reports that Texas financier Sir Allen Stanford was operating an alleged multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme, a United States Senate Banking Committee has been told.



Stanford

Investors appearing before the committee last month said that they had provided information to the U.S. regulators about the alleged \$7 billion Ponzi scheme by Sir Allen that involved his Antigua-based Stanford International Bank (SIB).

"These agencies, along with Stanford, have robbed me of my American dream," said 55-year-old Craig Nelson. "I feel the U.S. government is responsible for my loss."

Leyla Wydler, an ex-Stanford Group financial adviser, said that regulators at the National Association of Securities Dealers ignored her when she alleged in 2003 that the financier was conducting a Ponzi scheme. Wydler - who

made a similar charge to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which charged Stanford of engaging in the "massive" Ponzi scheme in February - said she was fired in 2002 because she declined to offer the "high yield" certificates of deposit (CDs) to clients.

"The financial advisers who sold CDs were praised and compensated for doing so, and those who did not sell the CDs were fired," she testified.

### 'TOO SLOW'

Many of the investors said the SEC, the U.S. financial regulatory agency, was also too slow in responding to allegations levelled against Sir Allen.

"The system absolutely failed us; and now, we are left destitute, defrauded and dependent on others," said

Troy Lillie, a retired Louisiana refinery worker.

But Rose Romero, regional director at the SEC's

Fort Worth office in Texas, said it was difficult to build a case against Sir Allen because of the clandestine nature of

his operations.

"Stanford built a veil of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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- James Swain, loyal viewer of WLRN Channel 17

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wlrn.org

# U.S. seeks to extradite suspected drug kingpin

NEW YORK, CMC - The United States has asked Jamaica to extradite Christopher "Duddus" Coke, the alleged leader of the "Shower Posse" gang, who is facing weapons and drug-trafficking charges in New York.

In the indictment, unsealed in the U.S. Southern District Court of New York late last month, Coke, 40, also known as "President" and "Shortman", is charged with "conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana" and "conspiracy to illegally traffic in firearms".

The indictment further alleged that members of Coke's "Shower Posse" trafficked in marijuana and cocaine in the New York metropolitan area and elsewhere, funneling the profits back to Coke, who the U.S. Justice Department has labeled as "one of the world's most dangerous drug kingpins."

The indictment said Coke, a "businessman" in Jamaica's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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# Court hears of 'blood oath' between Stanford, Antiguan financial regulator

HOUSTON, Texas – A United States federal court has been told that the relationship, between indicted Texas financier Sir Allen Stanford and the former Antigua and Barbuda chief financial regulator Leroy King, had been sealed through a so-called "blood oath."

Former chief financial officer of the Stanford Group, James M. Davis, in a plea agreement filed in the Federal District Court in Houston, said that Sir Allen and King took the "blood oath" at a meeting in 2003.

Davis told the court that the oath "promoted an elaborate scheme" to hide the \$7 billion Ponzi scheme, of which Sir Allen, King, Davis and other Stanford Group top

associates are accused of running through Stanford-owned the Stanford International Bank (SIB) in Antigua.

After the pact, David said that King called Stanford "Big Brother", telling the court that King received \$8,000 in American Football Super Bowl tickets for himself and his girlfriend. In addition, Davis alleged that King accepted regular bribe payments from a secret Swiss bank account that Davis said Sir Allen told him to handle.

### TWIST

The unusual twist to the Stanford case came as Davis pleaded guilty late last month to fraud and conspiracy in the federal court.

Davis, who oversaw the

movement of vast sums of money at SIB, also said in the plea agreement that Sir Allen ordered him to "report false revenue and false investment portfolio balances to banking regulators" as far back as 1988, when Sir Allen ran an offshore bank in Montserrat.

"I did wrong. I'm sorry. I apologize. And I take responsibility for my actions," Davis said after the hearing.

Sir Allen was also scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 27, but was hospitalized after his pulse rate soared, his lawyer said.

While he has repeatedly denied accusations that he ran a Ponzi scheme involving certificates of deposit issued by SIB, Sir Allen has also insisted that if anything illegal did

happen, it must have been Davis's fault. Davis, who had been a friend of the accused financier since they were roommates at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, now faces up to 30 years in prison.

### PLEA

The plea agreement and a court presentation on Aug. 27 by prosecutors repeated many facts that were outlined in June in an indictment of Sir Allen, several Stanford Group officials and King.

They are accused of defrauding 30,000 investors of \$7 billion, filing false reports to regulators and investors, diverting more than \$1.6 billion into undisclosed personal loans to Stanford, and con-

spiring to obstruct an investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the financial regulator.

Davis told the court that he, Stanford, King and others had proposed various responses designed to mislead the American regulators, which King was expected to transmit back to the SEC.

The plea agreement also stated that King "helped mislead regulators" of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) when it began raising questions about the SIB operations.

King is awaiting extradition to the U.S. to face the charges.

## Investors blame U.S. regulators for Stanford 'Ponzi' scheme

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

secrecy around him," she testified.

Sir Allen is being held in a Houston jail awaiting civil and criminal trial for what prosecutors said could begin in about a year's time. He has repeatedly denied any wrong-

doing.

Ralph Janvey, the court-appointed receiver for Stanford's assets, was not present at the hearing, but said in a letter that his testimony would impair the criminal case against Sir Allen.



## U.S. seeks to extradite suspected drug kingpin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

inner city, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

Rohan Powell, a spokesman for Jamaica's Justice Ministry, told reporters late last month the

extradition request is "under review" and that an arrest warrant is yet to be issued.

Coke's lawyer, Tom Tavares-Finson, described the allegations as "hype," adding that his client is perplexed.

"He can't understand

what it could possibly be," Tavares-Finson said. "We'll wait and see. I don't know what's going to happen with the Jamaican government."



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## 'DOCTORS' IN THE HOUSE



Broward County politicians put down their gavels and picked up stethoscopes and white coats as part of "National Health Center Week" last month, celebrating the quality accessible care provided to underserved populations by community health centers. Among those who showed up at the Broward Community Family Health Center (BCFHC) were, left to right, Jamaican-born Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers; West Park Vice Mayor Thomas Dorsette; and BCFHC President and Chief Executive Officer Rosalyn Frazier. "National Health Center Week" included health fairs, tours, screenings and educational events at the three Florida locations of BCFHC - Hollywood, Pompano and West Park.

## Bisphosphonates effective in fighting osteoporosis

DR. ROBERT SHMERLING

**QUESTION:** For many years, I took Aciphex and then learned it may have been a factor in giving me osteoporosis. I do not want to take bisphosphonates for mild osteoporosis. My naturopathic healer suggests calcium aspartate, along with a high dose of vitamin D and weight-bearing exercise, as well as eating dark, leafy greens. Can this regimen, as well as stopping the Aciphex, reverse osteoporosis?

**ANSWER:** Supplemental calcium and Vitamin D and weight-bearing exercise are routinely recommended to maintain bone health, especially for postmenopausal women or those who do not get enough of these nutrients in the diet.

What's enough? For most adults, 1,200 milligrams/day of calcium and 800 international units of Vitamin D are recommended. Green, leafy vegetables are a good dietary source of calcium, but dairy products (such as milk and yogurt) are even better. Vitamin D can be found in fish (especially salmon and tuna), eggs and fortified milk.

Increasing your intake of calcium and Vitamin D and increasing weight-bearing exercise may slow bone loss, especially if intake of calcium and Vitamin D are low.



However, the evidence is mixed on the ability of calcium, Vitamin D and exercising more to actually reverse osteoporosis (that is, increase bone density, not just slow its decline) and lower fracture risk. If they can, the effect seems to be small.

### REVERSING

The most effective way to reverse osteoporosis and reduce the risk of fracture is by taking a bisphosphonate (such as alendronate/Fosamax or risedronate/Actonel). Raloxifene (Evista) and estrogen therapy also increase bone density and reduce fracture risk, but their side effects and lower effectiveness (compared with bisphosphonates) make these less appealing options.

Rabeprazole (Aciphex) is a "proton-pump-inhibitor" (PPI) which reduces acid in the stomach. It can treat ulcers, heartburn and other

acid-related stomach disorders. Before blaming rabeprazole for your osteoporosis, keep in mind that in extensive studies of its effectiveness and safety, no link between rabeprazole and osteoporosis was identified.

While it's possible that PPI use increases the risk of osteoporosis, it's also possible that people taking PPIs have more risk factors for osteoporosis than those who don't take PPIs. For example, people taking PPIs may be sicker and more likely to have been admitted to the hospital (where PPIs are often prescribed). Or, they may take less calcium or vitamin D, drink more alcohol, or take corticosteroids more frequently than people who don't take PPIs.

Even if PPIs are found to increase osteoporosis risk, it's possible that some PPIs (including rabeprazole) have little effect on bone density, while others weaken bone more.

*Dr. Robert H. Shmerling, M.D. is associate physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.*

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## U.S. scientists warn of coral bleaching in the Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. - United States scientists have warned that conditions are favorable for significant coral bleaching and infectious coral disease outbreaks in the Caribbean.

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) made their forecast in the July Coral Reef Watch outlook, released here recently. They cautioned that their forecast will be particularly felt in the Lesser Antilles in view of continued high water temperatures through October.

"Just like any climate forecast, local conditions and weather events can influence actual temperatures," said Dr. Mark Eakin, NOAA's coral reef watch coordinator.

"However, we are quite concerned that high temperatures may threaten the health of coral reefs in the Caribbean this year."

Eakin said he is concerned that bleaching may reach the same levels or exceed those recorded in 2005, the worst year of coral bleaching and disease in Caribbean history.

He said in parts of the Eastern Caribbean, as much as 90 percent of corals were bleached and over half of those died during that event.

### 'CORAL DEATH'

Eakin said prolonged coral bleaching of more than a week can lead to coral death and the subsequent loss of coral reef habitats for a range of marine life. It also affects local economies and tourism.

Scientists have said that coral bleaching is associated with a variety of factors, especially increased ocean temperatures. This causes the coral to expel symbiotic micro-algae living in their tissues - algae that provide sustenance for coral.

They also said that the loss of algae leaves coral tissue devoid of color, making it appear bleached.

Eakin said the bleaching risk may be higher in certain regions in the Caribbean than in this initial forecast.



## Social Security benefits and your health

To help readers understand more about Social Security in the United States, **Caribbean Today**, with the help of the Social Security Administration (SSA), is offering the following questions and answers:

### DISABILITY

**Question: I was disabled for a while several years ago. My health has since improved. Can I receive disability benefits for the time I was disabled?**

**Answer:** If you were disabled "several years ago", but are not disabled now, you probably can't get benefits at this point. Whether or not you are entitled to what we call a "closed period of disability" depends on:

When you became disabled; and

When you apply for Social Security disability benefits.

You may be entitled to a "closed period of disability" when medical evidence establishes you were unable to engage in substantial gainful work activity for a continuous period of 12 months, but by the time the disability decision is made, you have medically recovered. You must also meet the following requirements to be entitled to a closed period of disability:

You must file an application within 14 months after the disability ended; or

You must have filed an application between 15 to 36 months after the disability ended and you must show that your failure or inability to file a timely application was due to your physical or mental condition.

If you meet the requirements for disability benefits, there is a five-month waiting period before your first monthly benefit can be paid. You can receive up to 12 months of retroactive benefits from the date you file an application with Social Security. Learn more about Social Security disability benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability)

### MEDICARE

**Question: It seems difficult to figure out what plan to get for Medicare prescription drug coverage. What is the easiest way to compare plans?**

**Answer:** The easiest way to get a handle on Medicare prescription drug plans is to use the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). There you can find and compare plans in your area. Or, you may find it better to get personalized counseling about plans in your area by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



## FEATURE

www.caribbeantoday.com

# Britain determined to revamp politics in Turks and Caicos Islands

PETER RICHARDS

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos Islands, CMC – At the end of their annual summit in Guyana in July, Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries reiterated their opposition to moves by Britain to suspend the constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI).

The end of summit communiqué noted that the leaders of the 15-member bloc, while “deeply disturbed” by the findings of a commission of inquiry into possible corruption into the former Michael Misick government, still felt London had an obligation to find an alternative solution rather than suspending the constitution and imposing direct rule.

In March, the leaders from countries that were once British colonies – the French country of Haiti being the exception – said that the plans by London were “not the most effective tools to bolster good governance and effective administration in the territory”.

In May, CARICOM used the United Nations Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism conference in St. Kitts to push for support for its position.

“The CARICOM position on this matter calls for deeper reflection by all involved in order to arrive at a solution that will minimize constitutional disruption,” said Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Astona Browne.

She noted that given the geographical proximity and cultural ties of the people of the Caribbean, it should not be surprising that CARICOM continues to regard the decolonization process of the remaining overseas territories as fundamental to Caribbean regional integration.

Galmo Williams, who took over the leadership of the TCI government in March from Misick, also addressed the U.N. conference and later travelled to London at the head of a two-member delegation in a bid to get the British government to accede to his request for the citizens of the island to have a say in their future.

## ONLY OPTION

But a dejected Williams, upon his return, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that political Independence seems to be the only option now available to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“It is our only way out, self determination. It is our only way out to nationhood. They are determined we must be ruled by one man (governor) and I think it is unfair. I think I have to continue speaking out

against it. Independence has to be the only way that we in this country must look...it is our only way for our long term growth,” he told **CMC**.

Britain had said its action would last at least for two years and follows the conclusion of a one-man commission of inquiry, which reported that it had found “clear signs” of corruption in the government. At the center of the corruption claims is Misick, who is alleged to have amassed a multi-million-dollar fortune since he was elected in 2003.

According to the inquiry team’s document, the corruption appears to have consisted of “bribery of Ministers and/or public officers by overseas developers and other investors, so as to secure Crown Land on favorable terms”.



Misick

The commission also discovered “serious deterioration - from an already low level - in the territory’s systems of governance and public financial management and control”.

The contributing factors to this decline include “the potential and encouragement in the system of governance for abuse of public office, concealment of conflict (of) interest at all levels of public life”. Another factor was the lack of effective constitutional checks and balances “to protect the public purse, the inefficient from scrutiny, the dishonest from discovery and the vulnerable from abuse”.

Sir Robin Auld, the head of the commission, has recommended criminal action against Misick and other politicians who are accused of enriching themselves.

Britain’s Overseas Territories Minister Gillian Merron said that the investigation had discovered a “high probability of systemic corruption or serious dishonesty” in the TCI. CARICOM had hoped that London would have used the period during which the final report would have been submitted and the legal challenges to “more profitably find solutions that would avert the threatened constitutional and democratic dislocation.

“In this regard, the rejection by the governor of the proposal of the new premier to allow the people of TCI to elect a new government which could have adopted and implemented the measures required to improve the administration of the territory and strengthen integrity in public life was, regrettably, a lost opportunity,” the regional leaders said at the

end of their summit in July.

“The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and their ability to govern themselves in the long run will benefit far more from strengthening their administrative and good governance processes through their own efforts than by the administrations through the governor under direct rule.”



Wetherell

## NOT IMPRESSED

Britain was not impressed. London delivered its verdict on the island that enjoys one of the more dynamic economies in the Caribbean.

In 2002 Turks and Caicos was removed from a list of countries and territories considered to be uncooperative tax havens by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which seeks to end harmful tax practices around the globe.

However, by 2009 it remained on the OECD’s grey list of countries that have promised to comply with rules on sharing tax information. Tourism is also a major revenue earner.

Governor Gordon Wetherell said that he has since signed the necessary proclamation suspending the constitution of the island that was once a dependency of Jamaica and became a crown colony upon Jamaica’s Independence in 1962.

The final hurdle to Britain’s move came last month when the British Court of Appeal dismissed arguments by Misick that the TCI Constitution Order - that allows for suspending the constitution - contravenes European Union laws. The three-member panel also ruled

that there was little evidence to support the case going any further.

The governor said that with “immediate effect, ministerial government and the House of Assembly are suspended...and the House of Assembly is dissolved and Members’ seats are vacated.

“The constitutional right to trial by jury is also suspended with immediate effect. In accordance with the Order in Council, this will be for a period of two years, subject to extension or abbreviation as necessary,” Wetherell said.

## ‘COUP’ CONDEMNED

The governor said that during the two-year period, he would be responsible for the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and that he has appointed British-national Martin Stanley as chief executive to head the TCI public service. But Williams condemned the “coup” by London.

“...As the grand children of slaves, left abandoned on these barren shores centuries ago, we, together with those who came later on, have turned these Islands into something that we can all be proud of, and indeed something that our once delinquent masters, have stated that they will do anything except a return to slavery to repossess,” Williams stressed.

“As the legitimately and duly elected leader of this country,” Williams said that he was “strongly” objecting to the recommendations outlined in the Report of the Commission.

“But I am convinced that this coup d’état committed against the legitimate government of our Turks and Caicos Islands by the United Kingdom puts them on the wrong side of history, for I can assure you that this action which they have taken against us was not done because it is the right thing to do nor because it is necessary, but rather it is being taken because they are able to do such things in a country of our size and status.”

But the British governor has dismissed the talks of a “take over,” telling citizens “we can finally move ahead together towards a fresh start for the Islands.

“Our guiding principles will be those of transparency, accountability and responsibility,” Wetherell said. “I believe that most people in the Turks and Caicos will join with me in welcoming these changes.” “This is not a ‘British takeover,’” he insisted. “The British government and I are committed to working towards holding free and fair elections by July 2011.”

- CMC



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## FOOD

www.caribbeantoday.com

# Mix up, mix up: Sweet and sour chicken with coconut and ginger rice



'Simple touches are among the secrets to steak success'.

A little sweetness, a little spice are always nice to Caribbean people. As home to so many races and cultures, the region is always welcoming a variety of dishes.

So this month, **Caribbean Today** is serving up Oriental-style chicken, flavored with familiar coconut and ginger. Try it nuh!

#### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 (8-ounce) can pineapple

- chunks in juice (drained)
- 1 (7-ounce) box coconut ginger rice
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 4 cups frozen popcorn chicken bites
- 1 (16-ounce) bag frozen broccoli stir-fry
- 1 (16-ounce) jar sweet and sour dinner sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey

#### Method

Place water in medium saucepan. Cover and bring to

boil on high heat for rice. Stir rice and seasoning packet (from rice) into boiling water. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 20 minutes.

Preheat wok on high for two minutes.

Place sesame oil in wok and swirl to coat. Add chicken and cook three minutes, stirring frequently to prevent burning.

Add pineapple and broccoli stir-fry. Stir, cover and reduce heat to medium-high. Cook seven minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add sweet and sour sauce and honey. Stir, cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer eight minutes.

Remove rice from heat and let stand four minutes. Serve chicken and vegetables over rice.

#### Oriental salad

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup cherry tomatoes
- 1 yellow squash
- 6 cups romaine lettuce leaves
- 1/4 cup Oriental salad dressing

#### Method

Wash tomatoes, squash

and lettuce. Tear lettuce into bite-size pieces and place in salad bowl.

Slice tomatoes in half and squash into half-inch cubes. Add to lettuce.

Add dressing, toss and serve.

- *Recipe obtained from Publix Apron's Simple Meals.*



## Grace Kennedy is new sponsor of 'Jamaican Jerk Festival'

Grace Kennedy Limited, a leading Caribbean food manufacturer and distributor, has announced it is the new title sponsor of a large Caribbean food festival in the United States.

The Jamaican Jerk Festival, now named the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, will be held Nov. 8 at Markham Park in Sunrise, Florida.

"To have Grace Kennedy, the foremost producer of authentic Caribbean food products as the title sponsor is just a natural fit," Eddy Edwards, chairman of the board of Jamaican Jerk Festival USA, Inc., said in a recent press release. "The company has been a supporter and participant in the festival since our launch in 2001..."

"Grace Kennedy has always considered this festival to be one of our most important annual events in the region, allowing us to connect with the large Caribbean community here in South Florida as well as the expanding audience of jerk lovers," said Joy Thomas, market manager, southern U.S.

"Being the title sponsor presents us an opportunity to do more than just showcase our brand. We will be able to play a part in all of the day's entertainment and activities, really interact with the festival goers and serving up dishes made primarily with our jerk line of products."



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VIEWPOINT

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# More than miles separate us

Our story so far:

Last year, Barack Obama was elected president, the first American of African heritage ever to reach that office. If this was regarded as a new beginning by most Americans, it was regarded apocalyptically by others who promptly proceeded to lose both their minds and any pretense of enlightenment.

These are the people who immediately declared it their fervent hope that the new presidency fail, the ones who cheered when the governor of Texas raised the specter of secession, the ones who went online to rechristen the executive mansion the "Black" House, and to picture it with a watermelon patch out front.



**LEONARD PITTS, JR.**

In the debate over health-care reform, they are the ones who have disrupted town hall meetings, shouting about the president's supposed plan for "death panels" to euthanize the elderly.

Now, they are the ones bringing firearms to places the president is speaking.

**MYTH**

It remains unclear, once you get beyond the realm of Internet myth, alarmist rhetoric and blatant lie, what the substance of the president's supposed tyranny might be. "Socialized health care"? Given that our libraries, schools, police and fire departments are all "socialized", that's hard to swallow.

When and if the implied violence comes, perhaps its author will explain. Meanwhile, expect those who stoked his rage - i.e., the makers of Internet myths, alarmist rhetoric and blatant lies - to disclaim any and all moral responsibility for the outcome.

These are strange times. They call to mind what historian Henry Adams said in the mid-1800s: "There are grave doubts at the hugeness of the land and whether one government can comprehend the whole."

Adams spoke in geographical terms of a nation rapidly expanding toward the Pacific. Our challenge is less geographical than spiritual, less a question of the distance between Honolulu and New York than between you and the person right next to you. Such as when you look at a guy who thought it a good idea to bring a "gun" to a presidential speech and find yourself stunned by incomprehension. On paper, he is your fellow American, but you absolutely do not know him, recognize nothing of yourself in him. You keep asking yourself: Who "is" this guy?

**OLD MARKERS**

We frame the differences in terms of "conservative" and "liberal", but these are tired old markers that with overuse and misuse have largely lost whatever meaning they used to have and with it, any ability to explain us to us. This isn't liberal vs. conservative, it is yesterday vs. tomorrow, the stress of profound cultural and demographic changes that will leave none of us as we were.

And change, almost by definition, always comes too fast, always brings a sense of stark dislocation.

Round and round we go and where we stop, nobody knows. And it is an open question, as it was for Henry Adams, what kind of country we'll have when it's done. "Can" one government comprehend the whole? It may be harder to answer now than it was then.

The distances that divide us cannot be measured in miles.

*Tribune Media Services Inc. Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald.*



There is a time in every woman's life when she is most dangerous, and indeed, it is a wise man who knows that the female of the species is more deadly than the male.

Usually it's the nearest thing in her proximity, her man, who feels the brunt of this rage and gets burnt, scalped and scarred by the inferno. No man can match it. Many men don't even know it by name, but all they know is that at a certain time, they better not argue, say anything, or even suggest touching her, but just hold their corner and let her be.

It goes by the name PMS, and some men know it and fear it, while others haven't a clue. But it comes in many forms, many shapes, and is in all women.

Now I know that you're thinking of the traditional cyclical PMS, where like the lunar cycle, emotions and actions are affected. No, it's not that one, for there are many other sorts of PMS that exist.

**MOOD SHIFTS**

One of them is Perpetual Mood Shifts. Any man knows that he is in big trouble if he doesn't bend and sway to those mood shifts. A woman will be in a perfectly good mood, having a great time, then suddenly it's like the moon has covered the face of the sun and everything goes dark.

Not even she can explain it. Ask no questions, make no queries, step away if you can, walk away to another room. If you live elsewhere, go home. Sometimes, if you're lucky, it will shift back to normal as suddenly as it had changed.

Then there is the Puffy Mid Section, yet another PMS that affects women. For some strange reason, a man with a puffy mid section is acceptable. A woman with a puffy mid-section is looked upon with derision. They like it not.

Still, I saw a woman with a huge mid section, wearing an impy skimpy outfit that showed off her fat. When I commented quietly to my

# PMS explained



friend, the response was, "Yu nuh know what a gwaan, is belly a wear now."

Yes folks, belly is in season.



**TONY ROBINSON**

**'MEN SUCK'**

Plainly Men Suck. No, no, no, not in the way that you're thinking. There are women who every now and then go through a phase where, as far as they're concerned, all men suck. They are bitter, angry women. As far as they are concerned, there is not one good man in existence, and all men in her life, past, present and future, are the scum of the earth, worthless vagabonds. They usually preface their sentences with the words, all a "unoo", as in, "All a unoo worthless."

From you hear those words, back off and retreat, for that PMS is deadly. Those women usually end up alone, or in the arms of other women. A few who have made that switch, after a while, the same problems that they had with men are the same ones they have with women.

**FAULT FINDING**

Hot on the heels of that PMS is the other more general one, People Make me Sick, or

PMMS. These women find fault with everything and everyone, even their own children whose lives they interfere with. After a while everyone avoids them.

The lighter type of PMS includes, Provide Me with Sweets, Perpetual Munchie Spree, Pimples May Surface. In those, the woman has those cravings for chocolate or munchies until invariably they break out in pimples.

Those you can live with. What you don't want to hear is the deadly PMS, Pack My Stuff. That has left many a grown man weak-kneed and sobbing, begging her not to leave.

But how do you counter all these various types of PMS in women? Well, there is, and it's quite simple. It's all in the approach. If a man suspects any form of PMS in his woman, he should not go home and just ask her "What's for dinner?" Also, don't ever ask her, "Are you really wearing that?" Instead, look on her and say "Wow that outfit looks great." Or even better, "Wow you look fabulous."

Also, no matter what she's eating, don't ever ask, "Should you be eating that?" as it implies that she's fat. So you thought you knew what PMS was, well now you know the different types.

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# 'The Harder They Come' - a delightful, nostalgic Caribbean experience

DAWN A. DAVIS

If South Floridians didn't know about "nine night" (aka setup), they certainly learned about the Jamaican tradition late last month at Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

A rousing "send-off" of the deceased on the ninth night after death, the ritual is truly a last hurrah party in honor of the departed. This lavish ritual was the opening scene of the much anticipated musical "The Harder They Come".

On its North American tour, the United Kingdom production opened at the Arsht Center to enthusiastic audiences hungry for the much loved music from the 1972 movie produced and directed by Perry Henzell and co-written with Trevor Rhone.

Like the film, the musical production tells the story of Ivanhoe Martin, an aspiring reggae singer who comes to

town (Kingston, Jamaica) to make his mark, but is cheated by crooked music industry bigwigs. Hurt and bent on revenge, Ivan gets caught up in a world of violence and criminality that leads to his ultimate end. The audience walks in on the in-progress "nine night" with mourning, singing, domino playing, rum drinking, dancing, and wailing. The packed theater vibrates with energy as the superb cast of London-based actors brings Ivan's story - incidentally based on true events - to life.

Ivan, played by Rolan Bell, a British citizen born of Jamaican parents, brings authenticity to the role, deftly portraying the innocence of a country boy who comes to town with "stars" in his eyes. Ivan transforms into a hardened Kingstonian as he navigates the harshness of life on the road to infamy.

### 'CHURCHIFIED'

The one constant in his miserable life, Elsa, played by Jamaican-born Joanna Francis, tempers his existence. The 'churchified' Elsa is drawn out of her religious stupor by the charismatic, handsome Ivan to the chagrin of the lecherous preacher, played by Victor Romero Evans. The main characters' rough ride is supplemented by first-class performances by Chris Tummings who plays the corrupt police detective Ray Pierre; Marcus Powell, the thieving music industry executive Mr. Hilton; the warm-hearted Pedro played by Lain Gray; and Susan Lawson-Reynolds in the role of the sexy city girl Pinky.

But it is the music that makes this stage production unforgettable. Indeed, Jimmy Cliff's recordings are what



"Ivan" lives again in 'The Harder They Come'.

transformed the film into a cult classic. The world-renowned songwriter, who also played Ivan in the film, penned the haunting words to "Many Rivers to Cross" and of course the instantly recognizable title song "The Harder They Come". With a clearly visible on-stage band, the production is more like getting a two-for-one deal - a live music concert and a stage play at the same time.

By the end of the per-

formance, the overwhelming comment is: "It is nostalgic". Indeed, with classic hits from the movie soundtrack such as "You Can Get It If You Really Want", "The Bigger They Come The Harder They Fall", "Johnny Too Bad" and "By the Rivers of Babylon", the musical production brings back memories of Jamaica's turbulent, but nationalistic '70s.

### TALENT

Francis, besides being a talented actress, wows the audience with her incredibly melodious and controlled voice. It's a pity we didn't get to hear more of her. Gray, too, should also consider a singing career based on his soulful delivery. And, although Bell is a good fit for the leading role, he does not have the strongest voice.

An opening night after-party that allowed guests to mingle with the actors and dignitaries allowed fans to continue reminiscing about a time in Jamaica that helped shape them. With footage from the movie and other

noteworthy clips featuring Bob Marley, Barrington Levy, Inner Circle, Black Uhuru, and wicked music by DJ Tom La Roc, the musical production never stopped.

A surprise appearance by Jamaica's Minister of Information and Culture Olivia "Babsy" Grange was a fitting cap to a night of Jamaican musical culture. Bursting with pride, the minister lauded the actors for their stellar contribution to a strong tradition that has helped put Jamaica on the world stage. Also on hand were some of the Henzell clan representing their father who died in 2006.

"The Harder They Come" produced by Jan Ryan, Robert Fox, and Michael White and directed by Dawn Reid and Kerry Michael, will be at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts through Sept. 13. It's the play's only North American run.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer.



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## Teens learn about finances during Miami workshops

MIAMI - With teenagers accounting for approximately \$125 billion in spending each year, the Miami-Dade County 4-H Youth Program has been working with local teens to help them budget their finances and teach them what it takes to make it in life.



A teen participates in Miami-Dade 4-H Youth Program.

the United States and made it harder for teens to find part-time jobs, causing some to rethink their shopping habits and scrimp on purchases like concerts, movies and restaurants.

The workshops, titled "On My Own: Challenge for Living", simulated real-life experiences in day-to-day and long-term financial planning that teens can expect to face as adults. Participants were assigned careers, salaries and family situations. They were tasked to stay within their budget as they shopped for household supplies, and paid for transportation, housing, food, utilities, insurance, child-care and entertainment.

Teens also learned the difference in gross and net pay, how to write a check while avoiding check fraud and the importance of keeping a balanced checkbook to prevent overdraft fees.

For more information on the 4-H program, visit <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/4h> or call 305-888-5010, ext 107.



## Miami winners in essay contest

Three Miami students emerged winners in this year's annual Jamaica Independence Essay Competition in Florida, United States.

They were 15-year-old Trevon Chambers, nine year-old Druscilla Daley, and eight-year-old Deianeira Hoffenden, all residents of Miami.

The winners were selected from a group of some 23 entries, each entrant detailing his or her experiences from a wide range of topics relating to the history and culture of Jamaica and its diaspora.

### CELEBRATION

The competition, organized by the Jamaica Information Service in Miami, is part of the annual festivities celebrating Jamaica's Independence in Florida. It is open to Jamaican children, first and second generation, who reside in the U.S. state.

Hoffenden, a fourth grade student, wrote a story about her two favorite places in Jamaica, which earned her first place in the five to eight age group category.

In her essay, Daley discussed the "Significance of Jamaica's Six National symbols", which won in the age category nine to 13.

In the 13-18 category, Chambers won for his essay about an outstanding Jamaican in the diaspora and paid tribute to Jennifer Grant, director of the Sierra Norwood Church Children's Choir.

Hoffenden, a second generation Jamaican, said she was inspired by her love for travel, especially places she visited during her trips to Jamaica.

Daley was born in Jamaica and migrated to South Florida in April. She was motivated by Jamaica's rich culture and heritage.

Chambers is also second generation with an interest in his Jamaican heritage. He is active in his church's Music Department at the Sierra Norwood Calvary Baptist Church, where Grant is the music director.

- Information provided by the JIS.



## Getting answers about Social Security benefits

To help readers understand more about Social Security in the United States, Caribbean Today, with the help of the Social Security Administration (SSA), is offering the following questions and answers:

### Question: Can a widow receive Social Security benefits on her husband's record?

**Answer:** Yes. When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, certain members of the family may be eligible for survivors' benefits. Social Security survivors' benefits can be paid to: A widow or widower — full benefits at full retirement age, or reduced benefits as early as age 60;

A disabled widow or widower — as early as age 50;

A widow or widower at any age if he or she takes care

of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and the child gets Social Security benefits;

Unmarried children under 18 (or up to age 19, if they are attending high school full time);

Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled; and

Dependent parents age 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you may still qualify for survivors' benefits.

### RETIREMENT

### Question: How do I qualify for benefits as a divorced spouse?

**Answer:** You can receive benefits as a divorced spouse on a former spouse's Social Security record if you:

Were married to the former spouse for at least 10 years;

Are age 62 or older;

Are unmarried; and

Are not entitled to a higher Social Security benefit on your own record.

In addition, the former spouse must be eligible to receive his or her own retirement or disability benefit. If the former spouse is eligible for a benefit, but has not yet applied for it, you can still receive a benefit if you meet the eligibility requirements and have been divorced from the former spouse for at least two years.

Generally, the SSA won't continue to pay benefits if you remarry someone other than your former spouse.

Learn more, and determine what your benefit might be by visiting our online Benefit Calculators at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/benefitcalculators.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/benefitcalculators.htm).



## FYI

**VOLUNTEER FEST**  
The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Florida will open its doors to the public for a free volunteer festival from **noon to 6 p.m. Sept. 11**.

The center's first-ever "United We Serve Volunteer Miami Day" will feature seminars covering topics in energy conservation, arts education programs, personal and career advancement and community involvement. Live musical performances and a preview of the Arsht Center's 2009-2010 season will also highlight the program.

The Adrienne Arsht Center is located at 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami.

**MIAMI CARNIVAL**  
The 25th annual Miami Carnival is scheduled for **Oct. 11** at Bicentennial Park in downtown Miami, Florida.

The year's event is being sponsored by the Broward and Miami carnival committees.

**DIVALI CELEBRATION**  
South Florida will host the East Indian celebration of "Divali", "Diwali" or "Deepavali"

over three days next month.

The Divali Nagar Inc. will be the celebration, also known as the Hindu Festival of Lights, **Oct. 14-16** at the new Central Broward Regional Park, State Road 7 and Sunrise Boulevard in Lauderdale.

Ethnic foods, refreshments, live entertainment, cultural seminars, kids' workshops will be among the activities.

For more information, visit [www.divalinagar.us](http://www.divalinagar.us), e-mail [info@divalinagar.us](mailto:info@divalinagar.us) or call 954-846-9895.



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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Singer Chris Brown sentenced for assaulting Bajan pop star**

LOS ANGELES, California - A Los Angeles judge has sentenced singer Chris Brown to five years probation and ordered him to do 180 days of community labor for assaulting his former girlfriend, the Barbadian pop star Rihanna.

Los Angeles County

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg last month also ordered Brown to stay clear of Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, for the next five years - or face a stay in California state prison. She also ordered Brown to attend a year of domestic violence counseling.

The sentencing was part of the plea deal that spared Brown any jail time in the Feb. 8 brutal beating that left the singer with bruises and a black eye. The judge said she was aware of reports that Brown, 20, and Rihanna, 21, were close to crossing paths and demanded it stop.

"Even though you have probation, this is a felony, and it does come with the potential of prison if you violate it," she ruled.

Schnegg ordered Brown to stay 100 yards away from Rihanna except at industry events where the distance is 10

yards. She also forbade telephone and written contact.

**NO EASE**

Rihanna's lawyer Donald Etra said the judge wasn't interested in hearing an expected request to ease the protection order.

"Rihanna knows what her legal options are if she wishes to seek a modification of the order," he said.

The probation pre-sentencing report included a rundown of prior fights Brown had with Rihanna. It

noted "he has already apologized to the victim on a few different occasions" and that "he is uncertain of the status of their relationship."

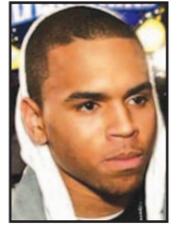
"Since the incident occurred, he has been very 'depressed,'" the report noted.

Rihanna, did not attend the sentencing. Brown was accompanied by his mother.

He admitted guilt to felony assault in June, and issued a public apology for the attack.



Rihanna



Brown

**Fall**

**Shipping**

October is the start of the Christmas shipping season to the Caribbean. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is over a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's Black Household income for 2000 was a Whopping \$32 Billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent nine years. C.T. will spotlight the various shipping services available to them, via Land, Air and Sea to get their goods safely home in in time for the season.

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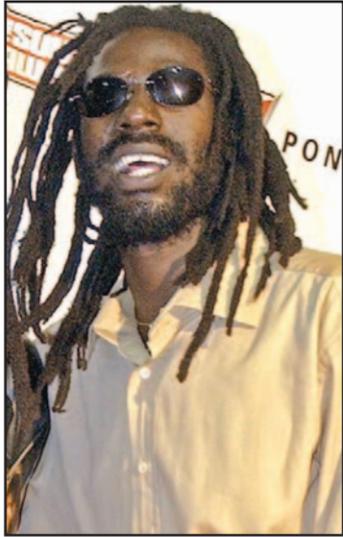
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# Gay, lesbian groups force cancellation of Banton's U.S. tour



Buju Banton

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton has had to cancel his performances in the United States following protests by gay and lesbian groups.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, was due to perform in Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas and Houston, beginning early this month. But promoter "Live Nation" said the performances had been cancelled and that ticket holders would be refunded.

Gay rights activists have been campaigning against Banton since his 1990 hit "Boom Bye Bye", which they said incite violence against gay

people. More than 600 people complained to Live Nation, who owns the "House of Blues" venues where the Jamaican would have performed during his U.S. tour.

In Oct. 2006, Banton was forced to cancel two of his concerts as a result of pressure from the gay activist group.

Two years ago, Banton was reported to have signed up with the Reggae Compassionate Act, promising not to perform songs that advocate homophobia, in a deal brokered by British-based gay activist group Stop Murder Music. The singer later denied making any such commitment.

# Labor Day Carnival: Where Caribbean culture takes center stage in New York

NEW YORK - Caribbean residents in New York are gearing up for one of the biggest events on the American cultural calendar - the West Indian American Day Labor Carnival - to be held on Sept. 7.

At a reception last month at Gracie Mansion - the official residence of New York City's Mayor Michael Bloomberg - Caribbean Americans joined the mayor and his staff to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the parade, which attracts millions of revelers and onlookers each year to Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway.

"Labor Day in New York is where Caribbean culture takes center stage and Caribbean nationals - from Guyana to Grenada - display solidarity

wonderful celebration of the diversity that makes New York the greatest city in the world."

**AWARENESS**

Carnival association President Yolanda Lezama-Clark said that while the association fulfills its mission of celebrating Caribbean heritage and culture on the world stage, spotlighting social and economic issues was also extremely important.

"This year we have chosen cancer awareness and Census 2010," she said, announcing "Jump for the Cure, Jump Up and Be Counted!" as the theme of this year's carnival.

The association is partnering with the American Cancer Society in a social awareness campaign to get people tested, while the alliance with the U.S. Census Bureau will spread the message of the importance of being counted in the upcoming 2010 Census.

"This is a particularly important issue for Caribbean people who have traditionally been undercounted. But more so, being counted is about our economic power. (It is) important in order to ensure increasing community resources in the areas of housing, (healthcare), and education," she said.

Six Caribbean personalities were honored at the mayor's reception, including five Trinidadians: mas designer Clyde Bascombe, community leader Gemma Bidjou, steelband founder Cyrus Busby, costume maker and educator Monica Carrington, and one of the earliest supporters of the carnival Horace Morancie. NYPD Detective Nivrose Duncan, from Haiti, was also recognized for playing a key role in making sure the parade runs smoothly and safely.



Mayor Bloomberg, left, with St. Jules.

and diversity as well as the creativity of one of the most remarkable regions of the world," said Lorine St. Jules of the St. Lucia Tourist Board in New York.

"The West Indian American Day Carnival and Parade (is) the city's big end-of-summer party, and it brings millions of people to Brooklyn from all over the United States, Canada, and certainly from the West Indies," said Mayor Bloomberg as he addressed Caribbean Americans at Gracie Mansion. "The parade is a

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

## Belize offers multiple cultures from Caribbean, Central America



A panoramic view of Belize City.

**B**elize, formerly British Honduras, is located on the Caribbean coast of northern Central America.

Culturally, Belize considers itself to be both Caribbean and Central American.

Belize has a diverse society, composed of many cultures and speaking many languages. Although Kriol and Spanish are also widely spoken among the populace, Belize is the only country in Central

America where English is the official language.

It is bordered by Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the south and west, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. With 8,867 square miles of territory and 320,000 people, the population density is the lowest in the Central American region and one of the lowest in the world. However, the country's population growth rate, 2.21 percent is the highest in the region and one of the highest in the western hemisphere.

The origin of the name Belize is unclear, but one idea is that the name is from the Maya word belix, meaning "muddy water", applied to the Belize River.

Before the arrival of Europeans, the Maya civilization spread itself over Belize beginning around 1500 B.C. and flourished until about A.D. 800. In the late classic period of Maya civilization (before A.D. 1000), as many as 400,000 people may have lived in the area that is now Belize. Some lowland Maya still occupied the area when Europeans arrived in the

1500s. By then the primary inhabitants were the Mopan branch of the Yucatec Maya.

Spanish colonists tried to settle the inland areas of Belize, but Maya rebellions and attacks forced them to abandon these efforts.

### BRITISH INFLUENCE

English and Scottish buccaneers known as the Baymen first settled on the coast of Belize in 1638, seeking a sheltered region from which they could attack Spanish ships. The settlers turned to cutting logwood during the 1700s. The wood yielded a fixing agent for clothing dyes that was vital to the European woolen industry. The Spanish granted the British settlers the right to occupy the area and cut logwood in exchange for an end to piracy. Historical accounts from the early 1700s note that Africans were brought to the settlement from Jamaica to work as slaves and cut timber.

The British first appointed a superintendent over the Belize area in 1786. The Spanish, who claimed sovereignty over the whole of

Central America, repeatedly tried to gain control by force over Belize, but were unsuccessful. In the early 1800s, the British sought greater control over the settlers. A series of institutions were put in place to ensure the continued presence of a viable labor force.

In 1836, after the emancipation of Central America from Spanish rule, the British claimed the right to administer the region. In 1862, Great Britain formally declared it a British Crown Colony, subordinate to Jamaica, and named it British Honduras.

### INDEPENDENCE

Demonstrations and riots in 1934 marked the beginning of an Independence movement. Economic conditions improved during World War II (1939-1945) when many Belizean men entered the armed forces or otherwise contributed labor to the war effort. Following the war, the colony's economy again stagnated. Britain's decision to devalue the British Honduras dollar in 1949 worsened eco-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

# 'Belize – We are Free', 'Jump 4 Belize' win song competitions

“September Celebrations 2009” got off to an early start in Belize with the announcement of the winners of the patriotic and carnival song competitions last month. “Belize – We are Free”, done by Bea Armstrong, Alexander Evans and Herchel Armstrong of Belize City, won the patriotic song competition. The winners earned a prize package that included \$3,000 and a trophy. “Take Me Back to Belize”, a song by Nello Player (Kernel Parks), also of

Belize City, was second. Barrington Castillo of La Isla Bonita, San Pedro, captured third place for his song “Shout Belize”. The runners-up each received a cash prize and a trophy.

Mervin Budram of Belmopan won first place in the carnival song competition with “Jump 4 Belize”. He received \$3,000 and a certificate. Salus Magana, of Corozal Town, was second with “Belizean United”. “Fayaah in the Streets” earned Capt. Roby, of Orange Walk

District, third place. Magana and Capt. Roby each received a cash prize and certificate.

Some 17 entries were received for the patriotic song contest, while 11 entries were submitted for the carnival competition. All entries had to be original and the competitions were open to nationals of Belize, home and abroad.

The winning songs were announced at the House of Culture.



## National symbols of Belize



• **Black Orchid**  
The national flower of Belize is the black orchid (*Prosthechea cochleata*), also known as *Encyclia cochleata*.

• **Mahogany Tree**  
The national tree of Belize is the mahogany tree (*Swietenia macrophylla*). British settlers exploited the Belizean forest for mahogany, beginning around the middle of the 17th century. It was originally exported to the United Kingdom in the form of squared logs, but shipments now consist mainly of sawn lumber. The motto “Sub Umbra Florero” means: Under the shade (of the mahogany tree) I flourish.

• **The Keel Billed Toucan**  
The Keel Billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) is the national bird of Belize. It is noted for its great, canoe-shaped bill, brightly colored green, blue, red and orange feathers. Toucans are found in



open areas of the country with large trees.

• **Baird's Tapir**  
Belize's national animal is the Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), the largest land mammal of the American tropics. It is also known as the mountain cow, although it is actually related to the horse and the rhinoceros. It is protected under the law.



## Youngsters get tourism program scholarships

As a part of the Belize Tourist Board's commitment to the growth and development of young Belizeans, the BTB has announced this year's scholarship recipients for tourism degree programs at various educational institutions throughout the country.

Galen University extended to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture one full tuition scholarship per year for the

bachelor's degree program in hospitality and tourism. The recipient of this year's scholarship is 22-year-old Lorenzo Gonzalez, a graduate of Sacred Heart Junior College.

The Jean Shaw Scholarship is awarded yearly to a young Belizean woman who wants to pursue a career in tourism. This year's recipient is 20-year-old Andrea Usher, who has been accepted into the bachelor of science in hospitality and tourism management program

at Galen University.

Jovita Requena, a recent graduate of Toledo Community College, was awarded an associate's degree in tourism scholarship to San Pedro Junior College, while Judith Vidal and Ida Castillo were awarded scholarships to SJC School of Professional Studies to pursue an associate's degree in hospitality and tourism management.

Roberto Guerra, a recent

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)



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# September is always a time to remember in Belize

## What to see in Belize

### Belize District

- Altun Ha
- The Great Blue Hole
- La Isla Bonita Ambergris Caye
- Hol Chan Marine Reserve
- Museum of Belize
- Fort Street Tourism Village
- The Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts
- Old Belize Museum and Cucumber Beach.
- The Belize Zoo (called "The best little zoo in the world").
- Caye Caulker
- Belikin Beer Brewery
- San Pedro Town
- Numerous Cayes (islands)

### Stann Creek District

- Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Jaguar Reserve
- Placencia
- Hopkins
- Victoria Peak
- Tobacco Caye
- Numerous Cayes

### Orange Walk District

- Lamanai
- San Estevan (Maya site)
- Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area

### Cayo District

- Caracol
- Xunantunich
- Cahal Pech
- El Pilar
- Blue Hole (park)
- Guanacaste National Park
- Chiquibul National Park
- Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve
- Barton Creek Cave and Actun Tunichil Muknal (cave)
- 1,000 feet Falls
- Chaa Creek
- Big Rock Falls
- Belize Botanic Gardens
- Victoria Peak, Belize's second highest point at 1,120 meters (3,675 ft) • Doyle's Delight, Belize's highest point at 1,124 meters (3,688 ft)

September celebration in Belize is one of the most exciting times for the country, which obtained its Independence during the month.

Below are some of the highlights scheduled for this

year's celebrations throughout September:

• **Sept. 5 - 2 p.m.**, Opening ceremonies/band fest at People's Stadium, Orange Walk Town; **7 p.m.**, "Queen of the Bay Pageant", Sports Complex, Punta Gorda and Belize Civic

Center, Belize City;

**7 p.m.** "Miss

Glamour Queen",

Methodist School

Grounds, Dangriga;

**8 p.m.** "Miss San

Pedro Pageant",

Old Football Field,

San Pedro; **11 p.m.**

Kriol Dance

Concert, Malibu

Beach Club,

Dangriga.

• **Sept. 6 - 10**

**a.m.** Sports Day,

Andres Campos

Civic Center,

Corozal District;

**6 p.m.** "Culture

Sunday", Drums of

Our Father

Roundabout,

Dangriga.

• **Sept. 7 - 7**

**p.m.** "Evening of

Patriotic Songs and

Poems", Wesley

Church, Belize

City.

• **Sept. 8 - 6**

**p.m.** "Youth

Explosion", Why

Not Island,

Dangriga.

• **Sept. 9 - 9**

**a.m.** "Kriol

Cultural Promotion

Day", Central

Park, Punta Gorda;

**6 p.m.** "Fire

Engine and Bicycle

Parade",

Corozal Town; **7 p.m.** "ACC

Pageant and Dance",

Royal

Orchid Hotel, Belize

City; **8**

**p.m.** "Free Jump

Up", Miami

Beach, Corozal

District; **8 p.m.**

motorcade parade,

Benque

Viejo; **9 p.m.** "Battle

of the

Bands", Arthur

Street, Orange

Walk Town; fireworks

displays,

**11 p.m.** Marshalleck

Plaza,

Benque

Viejo and **11:59 p.m.**

Miami

Beach, Corozal

District.

• **Sept. 10 - 6 a.m.**

"Sounding of the

Sirens",

Corozal District

and Punta

Gorda; "September

10th

Ceremony", **9 a.m.**,

BTL Royal

Princess

Park, Dangriga,

**10 a.m.** Central

Park, Punta

Gorda and Corozal

District;

**11 a.m.** multi-cultural

fair,

Belize

City; **11 a.m.** "Miss

San

Pedro"

coronation, Old

Football

Field, San

Pedro;

"Jump

Up", **5 p.m.**

Independence

Park, Belmopan

and **7 p.m.** Benque

Viejo.

• **Sept. 11 - 7 p.m.** "Pan

Yard - Steel

Pan

Concert",

House of

Culture,

Belize

City.

• **Sept. 12-13 - 9 a.m. to 5**

**p.m.** "Expo Belize",

SJC

Gymnasium,

Belize

City.

• **Sept. 13 - "National**

Day

of

Prayer".

• **Sept. 14 - 7 p.m.** "Tribute

to Belizean

Patriots",

Sports

Complex,

Punta

Gorda.

• **Sept. 15 - 6 p.m.**

"Children's

Night",

Corozal

District;

**6 p.m.** "Kriol

Cultural

Storytelling",

BTL

Princess

Royal

Park.

• **Sept. 16 - 6 p.m.** "Festival

of Arts",

Central

Park, Punta

Gorda.

• **Sept. 17 - 7 p.m.**

"Education

Forum",

Town

Hall,

Dangriga;

**7 p.m.** "Tribute

to Belizean

Patriots",

Bliss

Center

for the

Performing

Arts,

Belize

City.

• **Sept. 18 - Children's**

raillies

in

Orange

Walk

Town,

Punta

Gorda,

Belize

City,

Belmopan,

Dangriga

and

Corozal

District;

**6 p.m.**

"Schools

Talent

Night",

Orange

Walk

Town; **8 p.m.** "Hollywood

Drug

Free

Teen

Dance".

• **Sept. 19 - 4 a.m.**

"Carnival

Jouvert",

Belize

City

streets;

**1 p.m.** "Carnival

Road

March",

Belize

City; **7 p.m.** rock

concert,

Orange

Walk

Town;

**7:30 p.m.** "Battle

of the

Bands",

Corozal

District.

• **Sept. 20 - 1 p.m.**

"Carnival

Parade",

Santa

Rita

Hill,

Corozal

District;

**8 p.m.**

"International

Marching

Band

Display",

Benque

Viejo; **9 p.m.**

flag

raising

countdown;

**10 p.m.**

Independence

eve

ceremony,

San

Pedro;

flag

raising

ceremonies

and

fireworks

displays

in

Orange

Walk

Town,

San

Ignacio/Santa

Elena,

Corozal

District,

Punta

Gorda

and

Dangriga.

• **Sept. 21 - 9 a.m.** Belize

City

Independence

Day

ceremony;

**9 a.m.** Independence

Day

Thanksgiving

Mass,

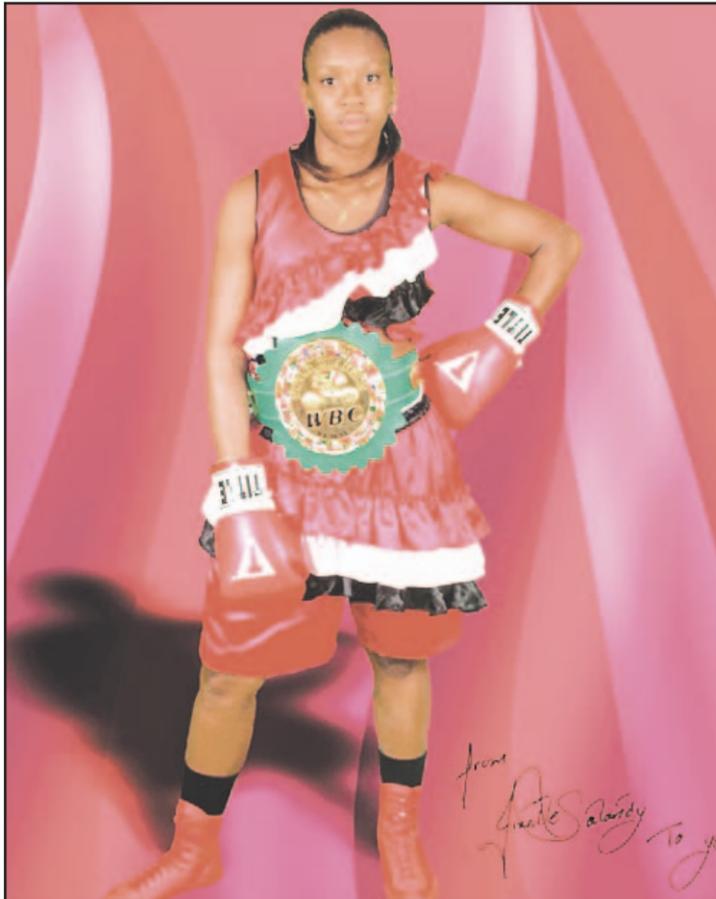
Benque

Viejo; **9 a.m.** Official

Independence

Day

# Deceased champion boxer gets highest honor at T&T's 47th Independence



Salandy

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Trinidad and Tobago observed its 47th year of political Independence from Britain on Aug. 31 with the traditional military parade and bestowing its highest national award on a female world champion boxer killed in a motor vehicular accident earlier this year.

Jizelle Salandy, who died on Jan. 4, was the lone recipient of Order of Trinidad and Tobago for distinguished and outstanding national service in the field of boxing.

The 21-year-old, who held eight world titles, including the World Boxing Council (WBC), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the Women's International Boxing Association (WIBA) belts, was killed when the car she was driving crashed into a pillar on the Beetham Highway on the outskirts of the capital.

In 2007, she was given the country's second highest award - the Chaconia Medal (Gold) and after her death Sports Minister Gary Hunt described her as an icon, a great contributor and a motivator.

Veteran journalist Keith Smith was among 20 persons honored this year. He received the Hummingbird Medal (Silver) for his contribution to journalism, while 41-year-old housewife Dianne Avolone Baptiste, who disarmed a bandit, struck him with a flower pot and kept him in an arm lock until the police arrived, received Hummingbird Medal (Gold) for gallantry.

Pannist Len "Boogsie" Sharpe also received the Humming Bird (Gold) for culture while ethnomusicologist Dr. Geraldine Conner received the second highest national award, the Chaconia Medal (Gold).

Diplomat Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, who was a member of a committee examining a political and economic award between Trinidad and Tobago and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), received the Chaconia Medal (Silver).

## MIXED MESSAGES

As expected, the message from the two main political figures here differed with Prime Minister Patrick Manning urging discipline and production to help the country emerge from the global economic crisis, while Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday said the sovereignty that the country's Independence was under threat.

Manning said the country has made great strides in its last 47 years and urged citizens to rededicate themselves to the national watchwords of discipline, tolerance and production, which he said were "enduring concepts that contributed to producing the best of human civilization."

"Productivity is more critical than ever as we face the serious challenges from an economic slowdown. We must all work harder and become more efficient, creative and resourceful. Trinidad and Tobago needs to maintain a

satisfactory momentum in this extremely competitive, globalized environment," he said.

Manning called on citizens to ensure that the country emerges from the economic slowdown occasioned by the global economic situation, adding "that is our inescapable responsibility as citizens of this country."

The prime minister also said it was every citizen's responsibility "to continue practicing the tolerance that has been an important part of our society since Independence... particularly our leaders at all levels, have a special responsibility in strengthening the fabric of our society."

"Let us always remember the powerful words of the psalmist reminding us of how good and pleasant it is for



Manning

brethren to dwell together in unity," Manning said.

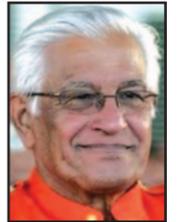
But Panday called on citizens to revive their patriotic spirit and stand up against the efforts of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) administration to undermine democracy in the country.

"The sovereignty that our Independence pioneers fought for and achieved in 1962 is now under threat as Prime Minister Patrick Manning in a megalomaniac haze, charges ahead with plans for the country's political union with Eastern Caribbean countries, completely disregarding the citizens' opinions," said Panday.

The Opposition leader said the prime minister has been consistently battering the checks and balances in the current constitution while the draft constitution "seeks to eliminate the distinction between the legislature and the executive, putting under

political control and direction, the very institutions which are required to be independent."

Panday said the Judiciary, Integrity Commission, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Police Service and the service commissions have all come under attack by the present government.



Panday

"Even as we celebrate our nation's Independence today, the very foundation of our freedom is under attack. Not from foreign invaders or colonial masters but from those charged with the governance and care of Trinidad and Tobago, as they continue the onslaught to destroy the safeguards imprinted in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago," Panday said.



## CARIBBEAN TODAY

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# Caribbean American athletes strike gold

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

BERLIN, Germany – Athletes born in the Caribbean, who competed for countries outside the region, shared at least four gold medals between them at last month's 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics (WCA).

Sanya Richards and Kerron Clement, natives of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively, won two gold each for the United States at the meet, which ran from Aug. 15-23 here.

Kingston-born Richards took the women's 400 meters in a world leading time of 49 seconds, ahead of Jamaica's Shericka Williams, 49.32. She credited her Jamaican bloodline for the final victory push, which gave her a gold medal in a major meet – the Olympic Games or WCA – for the first time after several previous disappointments.

"I've never tried to deny my Jamaican roots and I'm very, very proud of Jamaicans," an elated Richards told *Caribbean Today* after the Aug. 18 final. "Even today I think I pulled on some of my Jamaican strength and speed to be able to finish that race."



Richards

Also running for the U.S. was Jamaican-born Debbie Dunn, who finished sixth in the race. Novlene Williams-Mills, another Jamaican, was fourth in 49.77.

## BOLT OF INSPIRATION

Richards admitted that she took inspiration from the performances of Jamaica's 100 and 200 meters world record holder Usain Bolt, who won the double at the WCA.

"In the last 100



Clement

(meters) I wanted to channel Usain and run as fast as I could," she said.

"I really admire Usain,"

she added. "He's an amazing athlete; very humble. I think he's so great for our sport. So I'm happy to be in the same time with him."

Also embracing the WCA was Port of Spain-born Clement, who clocked a world leading time of 47.91 to win the 400 meters hurdles ahead of Javier Culson of Puerto Rico. It was Clement's second

consecutive win in the event at the WCA. Jehue Gordon of T&T was fourth with Jamaican Danny McFarlane sixth in 48.65 and Dominica's Felix Sanchez eighth in 50.11.

Clement, like Richards, said he chose to run for the U.S. partly because the country represented a better chance to succeed in his sport and most of his family resided in the U.S. However, he said he still has a soft spot for the land of his birth and was confident T&T backed him as well.

"I represent a lot of things," Clement told *Caribbean Today* here. "I'm from Trinidad, of course. A lot of people in Trinidad also support me. I guess I go both ways as far as Trinidad and the U.S.A."

Richards and Dunn would later run as part of the U.S. victorious 4x400 meters relay team. Clement, who said he once contacted T&T with the hope of representing that country but "it didn't go through," was also a member of America's men 4x400 which won gold.

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



# Jamaica holds Ecuador to soccer draw

**GORDON WILLIAMS**

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey – Caribbean soccer champion Jamaica, in a bid to revitalize its senior national team, suffered from the same flaws which haunted it in the past despite a creditable 0-0 draw with Ecuador last month at Giants Stadium here.

The Reggae Boyz, without their quota of English-based professionals, held the World Cup 2010 hopeful from South America in their first international since disappointingly bowing out of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in July. In that tournament Jamaica scored one goal in three games and failed to advance to the second round. Against Ecuador, the Boyz couldn't find their scoring touch either.

"If we keep going over the chances, from the Gold Cup, that's been haunting us," Jamaica's coach Theodore Whitmore told *Caribbean Today*. "I think that's the most important part of our game where we need to get organized."

Despite the lack of efficiency in front of goal, Jamaica matched a quality Ecuador team step for step. Jamaica, the top team in the region, is ranked 69th in the world by soccer's governing body FIFA. Ecuador is ranked 36th.

## EVEN

Yet the gap in ratings did not show on the field. Both teams played fast, open soccer. That created scoring opportunities, but Jamaica and Ecuador could not find the back of the net.

Jamaica squandered the best early chances. Dane Richards, who plays for New York Red Bulls in U.S. Major

League Soccer, slipped a defense-splitting pass to Devon Hodges, but the striker stumbled before hitting his shot straight to Ecuador's goalkeeper José Francisco Cevallos. Minutes later Richards was sent clear by Hodges, but he failed to score from a tight angle.

From then the tone was set.

Cevallos and Jamaica's goalkeeper Dwayne Miller were both forced to make several saves during the game. Ecuador hit the crossbar twice, but was also guilty of poor marksmanship.

Ecuador, which is competing in the CONMEBOL region for a place in next year's World Cup alongside powerhouse teams such as Brazil and Argentina, complimented the Boyz' performance.

"Jamaica is a good team," said coach Sixto Vizuete. "They really got into the game."

Whitmore, meanwhile, said he was pleased with Jamaica's showing, especially because the Boyz have initiated a rebuilding plan for the team and included mostly players based in the Caribbean island.

"It was an excellent performance from the players," the coach said. "You saw effort, commitment and the whole balance."

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



Richards

# Bolt, Caribbean shine bright at World Championships in Athletics

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

championships and every time I see a Jamaican out there I feel good. You get nuff respect here."

Yet Caribbean gold was not restricted to Jamaica. Barbados's Ryan Brathwaite won his country's only medal at the WCA in the 110 meters hurdles for men. Brathwaite timed 13.14 seconds to nip Americans Terrence Trammell and David Payne, who both clocked 13.15, at the line.

"This is just great!" said Brathwaite. "It did happen. I am very happy."

## CUBA SECOND

Cuba, meanwhile, secured a gold among its six medals for the meet from triple jumper Yargeris Savigne, who leapt 14.95 meters to finish ahead of countrywoman Mabel Gay (14.61). Cuba also earned four silver and a bronze to finish second best



Barbados's Brathwaite celebrates victory.

Caribbean country on the medal table.

T&T managed three medals, a silver and two bronze, while The Bahamas

won two, a silver and bronze. Puerto Rico earned a silver.

The gold medalists aside, the Caribbean also placed several athletes in finals, especially on the track. Including Fraser and Stewart, Jamaica accounted for four of the eight women in the 100 final. Overall, the Caribbean featured six of the finalists for that event, among them Bahamians Chandra Sturup and Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie. In the men's 100, five of the eight were from the Caribbean.

Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown, who finished fourth in the short sprint, returned to capture silver behind American Allyson Felix in the 200, with Ferguson-McKenzie third. Two more Jamaicans, Anneisha McLaughlin (fifth) and Facey (sixth) also made the 200 final. Shericka Williams finished second to Jamaican-born Sanya Richards of the U.S. in the



Fraser took gold in the 100 meters.

women's 400 meters.

Jamaica's Delloreen Ennis-London earned a bronze in the 100 meters hurdles, while Josanne Lucas did the same for T&T in the 400 hurdles.

In the women's 4x400

relay, Jamaica's team of Rosemarie White, Novlene Williams-Mills, Shereefa Lloyd and Shericka Williams finished second to the U.S. A silver was also earned by Cuba's Yarelis Barrios in the women's discus, while T&T's Renny Quow won bronze in the 400 meters. His country's team of Darrel Brown, Marc Burns, Emmanuel Callander and Richard Thompson, captured silver in the 4x100.

Puerto Rico's Javier Culson won his country's only medal of the WCA by placing second in the men's 400 hurdles.

"I know I am going to be a hero at home," Culson said after the final.

The same could have been said for many of the Caribbean athletes who competed here.

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



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

## Miami International opens multi-purpose airport business center



A passenger uses one of the five computers in the new ICE Business Center in MIA's South Terminal.

MIAMI, Florida - Passengers traveling through Miami International Airport now have a one-stop location where they can fax or photocopy documents, rent a mobile phone for use in the United States or abroad, or hold a business meeting in between flights - all without leaving MIA.

Located past security between concourses H and J, in the South Terminal, the International Currency Exchange (ICE) Business Center features five computers with Internet access and printing capability; a fax machine with domestic and international service; a photocopy machine; a conference room that can accommodate up to 10 people; currency exchange service; pre-paid domestic and international calling cards; cellular phone

rentals; and pre-paid SIM cards for passengers to use with their existing cell phones.

Also available for purchase are travel insurance plans to cover medical expenses and other costs associated with a flight accident, car rental accident, lost or delayed baggage or a cancelled or interrupted trip. Plans are available at per-trip or annual rates.

### ADDITION

The business center is the latest addition to the two-year-old South Terminal facility, which serves passengers from 20 domestic and international carriers. Clothing retailers Hugo Boss and Cubavera opened a joint location in May in the 1,000-foot long concession hall past security that features several stories, including 10-Minute Manicure; Bijoux

Turner; Brookstone; Duty Free Americas; Island Styles clothing boutique; L'Occitane; Havana To Go gift shop; Navarro pharmacy and gift shop; Rosetta Stone; Sunglass Hut; Sunglass Icon; Sweet Factory; and a Taxco Sterling jewelry store.

Opening in May as well in the 8,900-square-foot South Terminal food pavilion that overlooks the MIA airfield were Gilbert's Bakery and McDonald's, which joined six other food pavilion options: Bongos Cuban Café; Famous Famiglia Pizzeria; Haagen Daz; Island Chicken Grill; Italian coffee shop Illy; and La Pausa Restaurant.

The South Terminal features more than 30 retail, dining and duty-free concession locations pre- and post-security for travelers and visitors.



## Jamaican diaspora urged to invest

Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service Audley Shaw has urged members of the diaspora to look for investment opportunities in overseas markets to meet unfilled demands for Jamaican food products.

Shaw was the guest speaker at the annual Independence worship service held recently at the Kendall Community Church of God in Miami, Florida.

The minister said that nationals overseas have a crucial role to play in the island's efforts to recover from the effects of the global recession.



Shaw

"We have a unique opportunity to grasp victory and success out of crisis," Shaw said.

Jamaicans, he explained, are a resilient people, noting accomplishments in sports, entertainment, academia, corporate leadership and public service.

- Information obtained from the JIS



## Ask high in salary negotiation

**JOYCE LAIN KENNEDY**

**DEAR JOYCE: Only looking for two months and am a finalist for a job I want. I have research showing that my salary should be way bigger than what I think they'll offer. But I'm worried that if I tell them my real desired salary, they'll pick someone else. What's your advice? - C.H.**

**ANSWER:** Guest columnist Jack Chapman, author of the best-selling strategy guide "Negotiating Your Salary, How to Make \$1,000 a Minute" (Mt. Vernon Press), says go for it - with two caveats. Chapman recommends you'll do better negotiating down from a high number than up from a low one. Because you are correct in fearing that a big number might prompt employers to skip over you for a lower-priced candidate, here's what to do:

**Establish value** - Name your ideal (big) compensation number only after you've laid the groundwork by explaining how you can make or save money for them. Explain how your skills will nurture the organization and how your past accomplishments will translate to your future accomplishments. Make them anxious to hire you. Any time before that point is too soon.

If money comes up earlier in the interview, say - with confidence - that you anticipate no difficulties working out a salary if you're the candidate they want to hire.

Your best advantage is gained by not disclosing any numbers at all. Not past earnings, nor future expectations. Just remain open on the subject. But many employers and almost all recruiters will insist on knowing your salary parameters. Your answer then: Give info that is in a range that won't screen you out.

**Verify firm offer** - Once they

extend an offer or say that they'll be putting one together, it's almost time to share your research.

Before you do, when you're still worried that they'll abandon you for a lower-priced candidate, do a "lockdown" move, which is my term for getting an agreement that they'll hang in with your negotiations until you get an agreement from upstairs on you and your price tag.

This lockdown move gives away a little negotiating leverage, but that's the price of safety. It doesn't guarantee they won't talk to an interloper, but it has the strength of a "handshake deal" if they agree.

**Make your move** - Now it's time to shoot for the moon. Let them know your ideal compensation number or range; "ideal" means the absolutely biggest package you can possibly imagine getting. Tell them the number or the range. Share as many indicators as possible that validate your ideal amount: salary surveys, other offers you're entertaining or applying for, projected earnings or savings you'll create on the job, past earnings, recruiters' estimates - and anything else you can think of to corroborate your number.

**Talk specifics** - Imagine their offer of \$80,000 when you want \$95,000. Instead of trying to split the difference, lock down the \$80K, then share an ideal compensation plan that would pay you \$125,000 made up of salary, bonus and commissions. Justify your reasoning and then say, "So while the \$125,000 is not unreasonable, it's more than you planned on. Can we discuss how we can start to approach that number?"

This tactic is much more likely to reach the \$95,000-or-higher level than starting with the \$95,000 figure.

- Edited from Tribune Media Services



dedicated.



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## 24 candidates for Montserrat's Sept. 8 elections

BRADES, Montserrat, CMC - Twenty-four candidates have registered to contest the nine Legislative Council seats up for grabs at the Sept. 8 general elections, the supervisor of elections here has confirmed.

The Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP) is the only party fielding a full slate, while the Montserrat Labour Party (MLP) and the Montserrat Reformation Party (MRP) each have three representatives on the ballot. Nine independent candidates are also contesting the poll.

"Things have gone smoothly and there were no objections," Supervisor of Elections Claudette Weekes told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** at the end of the Nomination Day exercise last month.

Chief Minister Lowell Lewis, one of the independents contesting the poll, was the first to confirm his participation with electoral officials. He earlier expressed his confidence that he would win a seat at the election despite failing to present a team from his Montserrat Democratic Party.

"It is important for me to make myself available to the people of Montserrat. I am a trained legislator, I have had the experience of working as Chief Minister, I know how government work, I know

how to get things done," Dr. Lewis said in an interview on local radio the day before Nomination Day.

### OPTIMISTIC

Meantime, MCAP leader Reuben Meade said he was optimistic about his party's chances, especially since it is the only one to present a complete ticket to the electorate.

"We're extremely confident that we will be the government. We are the only organized grouping on the ground, we're the only one that has a full slate of nine," he told **CMC**.

However, Meade said his party was guarding against complacency in the weeks ahead.

"In politics everything could be a surprise. So what we are saying to our candidates is 'go out there and continue doing the hard work'...and we will work as hard as possible until September 8th. We will not let up on the amount of work that we have been doing," the MCAP leader said.

Former legislator Chedmond Browne said the goal of the MLP, on whose ticket he is running, is to

ensure that Montserratians have proper representation in the Legislative Council.

"Even if we can't carry a majority we can definitely represent the people to make sure that they know what is going on...and that we can speak on their behalf," Browne said.

Newspaper editor Bennette Roach was among the last candidates to register for the election. He told **CMC** that based on his interaction with the public it is unlikely that any party would secure an outright majority and therefore independent candidates stand a good chance of being elected.

"This election is hardly about parties. I'm talking about the mode of the people and what they are talking about," Roach said.

Just over 3,500 voters are eligible to vote in the general elections, the third to be contested under the new at large system introduced following widespread devastation caused by eruptions at the Soufriere Hills Volcano.

Since the volcano began erupting in 1995, most of the seven former constituencies have been evacuated and there has been mass migration of overseas.



Lewis

## Legislation for new St. Vincent constitution reaches Parliament

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, CMC - Legislation aimed at providing a new constitution for St. Vincent and the Grenadines was scheduled to be presented to Parliament this month, less than three months before citizens vote whether to accept or reject the new document in a referendum.

In recent weeks there have been meetings involving legislators and members of the Constitution Review Committee on possible amendments to the bill.

Citizens will be asked to vote on the new constitution in November to replace the one that came into effect when the island gained political Independence from Britain 30 years ago.

Both the government of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves and the main Opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) have announced differing positions on the issue. Gonsalves has promised "a spirited campaign" as the government seeks to secure the necessary two-thirds majority required for the new constitution.

"You are going to see a spirited campaign for a 'Yes' vote as you would see for any election," he told reporters last month.

### NO SUPPORT

But NDP Leader Arnheim Eustace has pledged to

embark on a campaign to get citizens to vote against the proposed constitution.

"We will campaign against it fully like if we are running an election campaign," Eustace said.

The NDP has withdrawn its support for the proposed constitution, saying that it does not advance the 1979 document.

The legislation for proposed new constitution will be tabled after six years of consultations with Vincentians at home and in the diaspora.

Meanwhile, the People's Movement for Change (PMC), a local pressure group, is calling for a postponement of the referendum until after the next general elections. The PMC said that "years of effort and scarce financial resources expended so far can be saved if the referendum is depoliticized" by delaying the referendum until "a time when both major parties will have the opportunity to think in the national interest rather than from a partisan vantage point".

General elections are not due here until the end of next year, but the grouping said rescheduling the referendum "would effectively minimize the current partisan approach to the proposed constitution Bill 2009".



## Guyana's president not interested in third term

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - President Bharrat Jagdeo has brushed aside suggestions that he would seek a third term as head of state despite a recent opinion poll that indicated more than half of the population would support such a move.

"Let me tonight clear this up. I have no intention, no desire, nothing to run for another term so all of this speculation out there; it's just that, speculation," Jagdeo told a function here on Aug. 28.

President Jagdeo's constitutional two term ends in 2011 and there has been speculation that the country could vote in a referendum allowing the Russian trained economist to contest as the People's Progressive Party (PPP) presidential candidate in the 2011 elections.

But Jagdeo, insisting that he is not interested in another term, also dismissed as "speculation" that he might find a way to maneuver himself into a third term.

Jagdeo, however, gave no indication whether he would support an amendment to the



Jagdeo: "It's just that, speculation."

legislation after he steps down from office.

Jagdeo was appointed head of state in Aug. 1999 after then President Janet Jagan stepped down due to health reasons. He contested and won the 2001 and 2006 general elections as the PPP presidential candidate.

A mid July 2009 poll con-

ducted by the North American Teachers Association (NACTA) revealed that Jagdeo is the most popular politician in Guyana and if he contests for the presidency in the next elections he would win outright.



## P.M. ponders civil action against former St. Lucia administration

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - Members of the former St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) administration could face civil action as a result of the findings of a recent commission of inquiry, Prime Minister Stephenson King has announced.

Up to late last month the final report of the commission headed by Guyanese jurist Sir Fenton Ramsahoye was still in the hands of the government and Cabinet ministers had been receiving briefings from their legal counsel on the document.

Although the commission set up to investigate questionable activities of the SLP administration under the watch of former Prime Minister Kenny Anthony cited no instances of criminal liability, King said it did establish a strong case for mismanagement that cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

"The outcome of the com-

mission of inquiry may very well result in amendments to certain bits and pieces of legislation that will bring even more stringent measures in as far as the conduct of ministers of finance and ministers of government generally," he said.

King served notice last month that he planned to table the report of the commission of inquiry in Parliament as soon as the next sitting. He confirmed that the report is being studied by Cabinet ministers with "a view to determining an appropriate course of action to address any incidents of wrong doing identified by the commission."

The Opposition has accused the government of wasting taxpayers' money on a probe, which did not come up with the indictable information that the ruling party was hoping for.



## Caribbean's major attraction in decline

~ *Collapse of reefs blamed on climate change*



A diver explores the Caribbean's coral reefs.

LONDON, England - A study has found massive collapse of coral reefs throughout the Caribbean, a big tourist attraction in the region, and is blaming climate change for the situation.

The study by researchers from Simon Fraser University in Canada and the University of East Anglia in England was recently published in the

Royal Society's journal, "Biology Letters".

Referring to what it termed "reef flattening", the study found that not only were the reefs dying faster and on a wider scale than previously thought but that they were quickly crumbling after death.

"Probably, the most stark finding of our result is that

this isn't just a flattening in one patch, one area the size of Vancouver, or even an area the size of British Columbia, the whole Caribbean has been flattened in the past decade, mainly as a result of climate change," said Dr. Nicholas Dulvy, one of the researchers at Simon Fraser's department of biological sciences.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

## Sandals buys Bahamas Four Seasons

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Sandals Resorts International (SRI) says it has bought the Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma in The Bahamas. It said that the 500-acre property, which features a championship Greg Norman golf course and world-class marina, is to be renamed Sandals Emerald Bay, Great Exuma, Bahamas.

SRI gave no details of the purchase price, but said that the resort will open on Jan. 22, next year.

"This is a remarkable moment in the history of Sandals Resorts. We are acquiring one of the most spectacular pieces of real estate in the Caribbean, which was operated by one of the world's most highly regarded hotel companies," said Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, Sandals Resorts founder and chairman.

"This is a reflection of all that Sandals Resorts has accomplished and a tremendous opportunity to further demonstrate our commitment to providing the very best vacation in the Caribbean.



Stewart

We look forward to bringing our Luxury Included experience to this special property, which has been kept to impeccable standards."

Stewart said the all-suite resort will offer a selection of 190 luxury accommodations and SRI said that the "fully-protected, deepwater marina offers 133 slips and is equipped to accommodate and service yachts up to 300 feet in length."



## Travelers beware Wi-Fi hackers

A Wi-Fi hotspot is a convenient tool for travelers who want to keep in touch with friends, family or the office while away from home. It is a wireless Internet network that can be found just about anywhere,

such as airports, hotels, coffee shops, parks and school campuses.

However, Wi-Fi hotspots are vulnerable to hackers who set up what's known as "evil

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)



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## Travelers beware Wi-Fi hackers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

twin" networks, or phony Wi-Fi hotspots, to steal your personal information.

### RIP-OFF WARNINGS

**Watch out for fake login pages** - Hackers set up fake pages that look like the real thing to trick people into typing their login information and passwords. Glance at the address bar to verify that you are at the authentic webpage.

Check for typos on a login site - They are usually a giveaway that the site is not authentic.

### Check for security symbols

- While you're on the login page, if your browser doesn't display the lock symbol in the bottom right corner indicating that the connection is encrypted, disconnect immediately.

### CONSUMER SMARTS

**Avoid logging into financial accounts of any kind** - Never enter sensitive

data such as Social Security numbers, bank account or credit card information.

Don't e-mail or instant message unless your workplace or other institution has given you access to a virtual private network, or VPN.

**Keep the security on your electronic Wi-Fi devices up-to-date** - Make sure you have firewall, antivirus and antispyware software installed.

Don't use the same password for all your online accounts so that if it is stolen, hackers won't be able to use it on more than one webpage.

Make sure your computer does not automatically log on to wireless networks by adjusting the Internet security settings on your computer.

Turn off the computer when you're not around to ensure that it's not picking up a wireless network signal.

- Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department

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## Caribbean's major attraction in decline

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

"There are no detectable complex reefs (left)," he added.

### RAPID DECLINE

Dulvy said the team of international researchers looked at nearly 40 years of data compiled in 500 surveys of 200 reefs. He said that for the first time researchers were able to piece together the big picture of what has been happening throughout the Caribbean, famous for its thousands of beautiful reefs, including one second in size only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Dulvy said wherever they looked, they found signs of rapid and devastating decline, adding that reefs were dying and then collapsing on themselves, filling in the nooks and crannies that provide shelter for a myriad of species.

"We've lost 80 percent of the living coral cover in the Caribbean over the last four decades," Dulvy said.

He said it was known that many individual reefs were dying from disease outbreaks, the impact of hurricanes and climate change, which heats shallow waters so much that reefs become bleached by sunlight.

### RECOVERY

But he said he had thought the process was slow enough that reefs had a chance to regenerate before the tall branches of "stag horns" that protrude up to two meters from the reef bed collapsed.

"What this study is showing is that reefs are collapsing pretty much as the coral is dying," he said.

In addition to losing biological diversity, Dulvy said the process is robbing the Caribbean of thousands of natural sea breaks, which could have devastating results when rising sea levels and increasingly violent hurricanes combine. Dulvy said "reef flattening" is so widespread in the Caribbean that it is probably a phenomenon happening globally.

Lorenzo Alvarez of the University of East Anglia said the importance of this is going to increase, warning that many scientists think there will be more hurricanes in the future.

"In future, we'll need to change our behavior and reduce the stress on the reefs," he said.

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