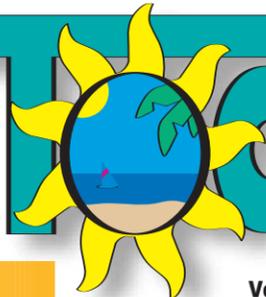


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Vol. 21 No. 2

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



An American Airlines flight with more than 150 passengers and crew aboard overshot the runway in Jamaica while landing during a heavy rainstorm last month. No one died in the near-disastrous Christmas season tragedy, [page 4](#).



He has a new lawyer confident in his innocence, but Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton is still in a Florida jail following his arrest last month in the United States on a drug charge, [page 11](#).



The works of prominent literary voices with Caribbean roots, such as Edwidge Danticat, have grabbed the attention of one scholar who looks at the interrelationships between spirituality and eroticism, and the empowerment of women, [page 14](#).

LIFE SUPPORT



~ Two Caribbean Americans are tackling serious health issues head-on in the United States. One, Barbara Gordon, is rallying support for cancer patients while herself battling the disease. The other, Dr. Wentworth Jarrett, runs a practice promoting wellness by blending modern medicine with traditional Caribbean remedies, [pages 7 & 8](#).

IN 2009 THE CARIBBEAN...

...Excelled in sport

~ Led by outstanding performances at the IAAF World Championships by the Jamaicans, the region again forced the world to sit up and take notice, [page 18](#).



...Struggled with the economy

~ There were mixed reviews on the region's handling of major issues such as crime and politics, but no doubt about the 'annus horribilis' brought on by the world economic crisis, [page 17](#).



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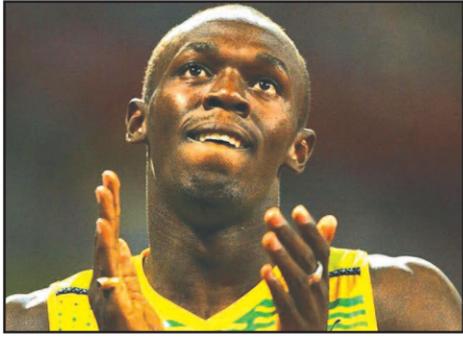
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Bolt loses TIME race to U.S. Fed Reserve boss

The world's fastest man finally lost a race in 2009.

Jamaica's multiple Olympic and World champion Usain Bolt was last month among the nominees for **TIME** magazine's "Person Of The Year", but the honor eventually went to Ben Bernanke, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve.



Bolt

Prior to **TIME**'s announcement, Bolt had won every

award he has been nominated for in 2009. He finished fifth among the nominees, which included U.S. President Barack Obama.

Bolt was recently honored by the IAAF as the male Athlete of the Year. Bolt set three world records at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and then went on to break his records in the 100 and 200 meters at the World Championships in Athletics in Berlin in 2009.



U.S. congrats Haiti on 206th Independence

WASHINGTON – The United States has paid tribute to a number of persons who "stood up for their rights to live as free people" as Haiti celebrated its 206th year of Independence on Jan. 1.

"This is an occasion to honor the history and heritage of Haiti and to remember the heroes who founded the first independent black republic," said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a statement.

She identified those "icons" as Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines and

Alexandre Petion, plus "the countless men and women who stood up for their right to live as free people and gave a legacy of freedom for future generations.

"Their accomplishment changed the face of our world, and their story continues to be an inspiration today," she said.

Clinton also saluted what



Clinton

she described as "the many contributions" made by Haitian Americans to the "culture and prosperity of the United States." She said the two countries were united "by strong bonds of friendship and family" as well as "our shared history and our common hopes for the future."

The secretary of state noted that the U.S. stood with Haiti after the "tragic hurricanes of 2008," adding that it remains "committed to being a partner and a friend."



U.S. lawmakers warn Antigua to cooperate in Stanford probe

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government has been warned not to disregard recent attempts by United States legislators to punish the island until it cooperates with U.S. authorities investigating an alleged multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme by disgraced financier Allen Stanford.

Last month, U.S. Senator Richard Shelby and seven other lawmakers introduced a resolution urging Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner to direct the U.S. executive directors to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to oppose any new loans to Antigua and Barbuda, which is alleged to have accepted an \$85 million loan from Stanford.

"It is absurd that the government of Antigua and Barbuda is standing in the way of helping victims, while also holding out its hand for funding," said Shelby. "This resolution makes clear that the United States will not accept such behavior."

CO-OPERATION

Sen. Colin Derrick said the Baldwin Spencer government should cooperate with the U.S. authorities and also help persons recover their

hard earned cash that had been invested with Stanford.

"We have a situation here where if it is that a few persons conspired with or stood by and allowed particular actions by Mr. Stanford which have caused this debacle, we should not put the nation at ransom for those few greedy persons," Derrick said.

"We should do what we can to assist the United States government in dealing with those individuals."

Derrick, a government legislator, said that the Spencer administration had a responsibility to expose anyone who may have been involved in Stanford's alleged Ponzi scheme.

Stanford, who is now in a U.S. jail awaiting trial, has consistently denied the allegations made against him and his group of companies that also included a bank which operated in Antigua.



Shelby

Guyanese woman indicted for smuggling foreigners into U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A 52-year-old Guyanese woman was last month indicted by a Texas grand jury for her role in smuggling four Indian nationals into the United States.

Annita Devi Gerald, also known as Annita Rampersad, was charged in a nine-count indictment by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Texas. Gerald was arrested by ICE special agents in Houston on Nov. 17, 2009, and has been held without bond since that time.

According to the indictment, from approximately April 2009 to Nov. 17, 2009, Gerald and others conspired to smuggle four Indian nationals into the U.S. Allegedly, Gerald and her co-conspirators fraudulently obtained Belizean visas for the Indian nationals and escorted them from India to Belize, moving through various countries in Central and South America. Gerald allegedly provided lodging for all four Indian nationals in Belize while further smuggling arrangements were made.

In Aug. 2009, Gerald allegedly arranged transportation for one of the Indian

nationals to cross the border from Belize into Mexico where he met with Gerald's co-conspirator, who escorted him through Mexico. In Monterrey, Mexico, Gerald's co-conspirator paid a Mexico-based smuggler to illegally transport the individual across the Mexico-U.S. border to Houston, Texas.

PAYMENT

After making these arrangements, Gerald's co-conspirator allegedly flew to Houston where the co-conspirator received the Indian national at a motel approximately 10 days later. The smugglers who delivered the Indian national to Gerald's co-conspirator in Houston allegedly demanded and received a smuggling payment prior to releasing him.

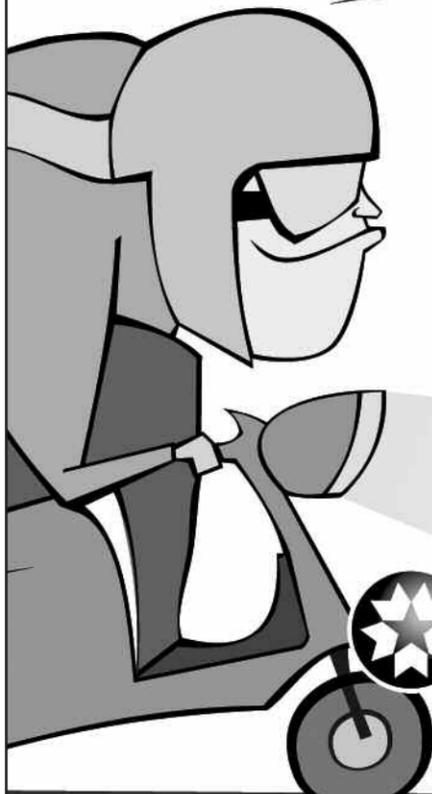
If convicted, Gerald faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison for conspiracy and 10 years for each of the four counts of encouraging and inducing aliens to come to the U.S. for profit.

- *CaribWorldNews*



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AA flight from Miami crashes in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – An American Airlines flight with more than 150 passengers and crew aboard overshot the runway at the Norman Manley International Airport while landing during a heavy rainstorm last month.

Officials said there were no deaths, but 40 people were injured.

“There are no reports of fatalities,” Jamaica’s Information Minister Daryl Vaz said.

Eyewitnesses said that flight 331 skidded across a road at the airport on a rainy night and stopped at the edge of the Caribbean Sea. The plane’s fuselage was cracked, its right engine broke off from the impact and the left main landing gear collapsed.

In a statement, American Airlines said it was in direct contact with officials from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration and was co-operating fully with the appropriate authorities.

The Boeing 737-800, which originated at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., had taken off from Miami International Airport at 8:52 p.m. on Dec. 22 and arrived in Kingston at 10:22 p.m. It was carrying 148 passengers and a crew of six, the airline said.

Vaz, who along with Transport and Works Minister



A Jamaican soldier stands guard at the site of the wreckage.

Mike Henry and National Security Minister Dwight Nelson were at the airport shortly after the incident, told reporters that most of the passengers were nationals returning home for the Christmas season.

PASSENGERS SHAKEN

“The plane crashed and broke almost in front of me,” said a shaken Naomi Palmer who was in seat number D8.

“The pilot couldn’t stop the plane,” another passenger told reporters.

A third, Verona Hall, said: “The plane landed and people started clapping. We saw the lights of Kingston.”

Then all of a sudden we didn’t see the lights anymore.

“I looked through the window and I saw white lines, so I felt I was on the tarmac, but it was actually a rough touchdown. The plane broke and we began to smell fuel,” she said.

Many people who were at the airport to meet their loved ones coming in on the flight said they saw passengers emerging from the Customs hall bloodied and shaken. Some of the injured passengers were placed under a permanent tent outside the arrival hall and were seen nursing their wounds with towels and shirts.



Investigators question flight passengers

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Passengers on the American Airlines flight that crashed on landing at the Norman Manley International Airport here last month are recounting their stories to local and international investigators probing the circumstances that caused the plane to overshoot the runway injuring nearly 100 people.

Colonel Oscar Darby, director general of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA), said the investigators are hoping that the interviews with the passengers would shed more light on what caused the incident involving Flight 331 from Miami with more than 150 passengers and crew on board.

JCAA Director of Flight Safety Nari Williams-Singh, is leading the investigations, and American Airlines said it is working with United States authorities, including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), to determine the cause of the accident.

“Well mainly what will be done...is a lot of interviews of passengers and eye witnesses in order to gather that data,” Williams-Singh said.

Darby said that the inves-

tigators were not ruling out the possibility that the malfunctioning approach lights at the airport may have been a factor.

“We are not saying that it could or could not have been the cause of the crash, we are



Rear of the plane, showing a detached engine.

saying that it could be a possible contributory factor and we are not ruling it out as such,” he said. “The extent to which it contributed we will be able to make that determination once we get into the analysis.”

He said the JCAA had informed international airlines about the malfunctioning approach lights, a problem noted since November.



Crash could intensify debate about pilot fatigue

DALLAS, Texas – A leading aviation expert has said that the overshooting of runway at Jamaica’s Norman Manley International Airport by American Airlines flight 331 could intensify calls for new policies on pilot fatigue.

“You really have to look at how long these guys are on duty,” Sam Mayer, a spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association, which represents 9,000 American pilots, told the *Dallas Morning News* late last month.

Mayer said Flight 331’s pilot and co-pilot had been on duty nearly 12 hours, approaching the maximum allowed. He speculated that fatigue may have played a role in a botched landing of an American Airlines jet on Dec. 13, in Charlotte, North Carolina, where pilots clipped one of the MD-80’s wing tips on the ground and the wheels briefly left the runway. No one was injured in the incident, which is under investigation.

Mayer said American

Airlines doesn’t pay pilots whose trips get interrupted and who can’t complete the flying they signed up for.

COST
He explained that the pilots of Flight 331 were on their first day of a multi-day sequence of trips that, had they diverted the plane to another city, would probably have jeopardized their ability to fly out the rest of the sequence. Not completing trips can cost pilots thousands of dollars in lost income, Mayer said.

The United States Federal Aviation Administration is expected shortly to issue formal guidelines that change pilot rest rules, probably cutting the maximum time they can be on duty in a day or over several days.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) dispatched a team of investigators to assist the government of Jamaica in its investigation of the accident.



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More Caribbean nationals become U.S. permanent residents in 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - More Caribbean nationals became United States "green card" holders or permanent residents in 2009 compared to the previous year, a **CaribWorldNews** analysis has revealed.

Latest U.S. State Department data analyzed show more Caribbean nationals were able to adjust their status to legal residents last year, compared to 2008. They include all immigrants sponsored by family and employers.

For 2009, the total was 44,417, according to State Department statistics, compared to over just 32,000 in 2008. The most permanent visas went to immigrants from

the Dominican Republic, who collected more than of the total at 24,496.

Haiti was second with 7,199 while Jamaicans secured 5,493 visas. Guyana ranked fourth, with over 3,000 nationals adjusting their status or becoming permanent residents this year. Of that number, the majority of Caribbean nationals who became green card holders did so through family sponsorship – spouse or parent – while a smaller percentage did so through employer sponsorship.

- **CaribWorldNews**



U.S. indicts ex-Haiti gov't officials on bribery, money laundering charges

WASHINGTON – The United States Department of Justice says two former Haitian government officials have been charged for their alleged roles in a foreign bribery, wire fraud and money laundering scheme.

The department also said two Florida executives of a Miami-Dade County-based telecommunications company and the president of Florida-based Telecom Consulting Services Corporation have been charged in the alleged scheme.

The authorities said that the defendants participated in the scheme to commit foreign bribery and money laundering

from Nov. 2001 through Mar. 2005.

"During which time the telecommunications company paid more than US\$800,000 to shell companies to be used for bribes to foreign officials of the Republic of Haiti's state-owned national telecommunications company, Telecommunications D'Haiti (Haiti Teleco)," the Justice Department claimed in a statement.

CHARGES

It noted that Haitian Robert Antoine, 61, a Miami resident and former director of international relations for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Home intruders kill Jamaican man in Georgia

ATLANTA, Georgia - A Jamaican-born businessman was killed by an intruder or intruders at his home late last month.

On Dec. 29 Derrick "Ricky" Balin, 53, a longtime resident of the Lithonia area here, reportedly went to inves-

tigate noises in his house around 2:30 a.m. while his wife Pamela called 911. He was attacked and later died.

Balin, 53, who owned a landscaping business, was found in a downstairs bedroom by the police. He was taken to Grady Hospital suf-

fering from severe head injuries.

Up to press time the police had made no arrests or had determined a motive for the killing.



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N.Y. gala to honor Bolt, four Caribbean leaders

NEW YORK – The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) will honor four Caribbean prime ministers and Jamaica's track star Usain Bolt at its annual fundraising gala here this month.

AFUWI said Barbados's Prime Minister David Thompson, Belize's Prime Minister Dean Barrow, Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning will be honored at the event on Jan. 28.

"The annual gala is the AFUWI's premier fundraising event in the United States at which the prestigious Legacy Awards are conferred on notable individuals who represent high levels of achievement within their respective

fields of industry and enterprise", AFUWI stated in a recent press release.

"This year, the four Caribbean prime ministers will be presented with the Legacy Awards", it added.

AFUWI said Bolt, the Jamaican-born triple champion at the 2008 Olympics and 2009 World Championships in Athletics, will be presented with a special award "in honor of his record-breaking performance in the 2008 Olympics and 2009 World Championships."



NEW YORK – Caribbean American legislators last month paid tribute to Percy Sutton, the pioneer of Caribbean radio programming here, describing him as a trailblazer and business titan.

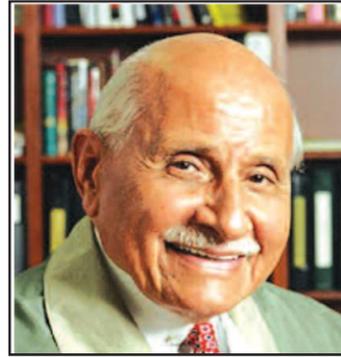
Sutton, whose popular radio station WLIB, 1190 AM focused primarily on Caribbean music and news from the late 1970s to 1990s, died on Dec. 26. He was 89. The cause of death was not released to the public.

New York State Governor David Paterson, the grandson of Caribbean immigrants, and Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaicans, said the death has left a void in the Caribbean and African American communities.

"We say farewell to one of New York's and this nation's most influential African

American leaders – a man whom I am proud to have called a friend and mentor throughout my entire career," said Paterson.

"Percy Sutton was a trail-



Sutton

blazer," added the governor, recalling that he had started his career as a lawyer for the late black activist Malcolm X. Paterson said it was

Sutton, one of the founders of the New York-based Inner City Broadcasting Corporation (ICBC), which owns WLIB and WBLS radio stations, who talked him into running for office and "who had continued to serve as one of my most valued advisors ever since."

Clarke told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that Sutton's passing marks "an end to an era of political influence," and that his contributions to America were "endless." She noted that Sutton served as an officer with the Tuskegee Airman during World War II and that he was also a civil rights activist, New York State assemblyman, Manhattan borough president and entrepreneur.



U.S. indicts ex-Haiti gov't officials on bribery, money laundering charges

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

telecommunications at Haiti Teleco, had been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Jean Rene Duperval, former director of international relations for telecommunications at Haiti Teleco, 43, has been slapped with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and 12 counts of money laundering. Duperval currently lives in southern Florida.

Others charged in the alleged scheme are: Joel Esquenazi, 50, of Miami, the former president of the telecommunications company; Carlos Rodriguez, 53, of Davie, Florida, the former executive vice president of the telecommunications company; and Marguerite Grandison, 40, of

Miramar, the former president of Telecom Consulting Services Corp., and Duperval's sister.

"The telecommunications company executed a series of contracts with Haiti Teleco that allowed the company's customers to place telephone calls to Haiti", the indictment noted, stating that the alleged "corrupt payments were authorized by the telecommunications company's president and vice president and were allegedly paid to successive Haitian government officials at Haiti Teleco".

'BUSINESS ADVANTAGES'

"The purpose of these bribes was to obtain various business advantages from the Haitian officials for the telecommunications company, including issuing preferred

telecommunications rates, reducing the number of minutes for which payment was owed, and giving a variety of credits toward sums owed, as well as to defraud the Republic of Haiti of revenue", the indictment added.

"To conceal the bribe payments, the defendants allegedly used various shell companies to receive and forward on the payments", the Justice Department noted.

In addition, it charged that the defendants "created false records claiming that the payments were for consulting services, which were never intended or performed".

- CMC



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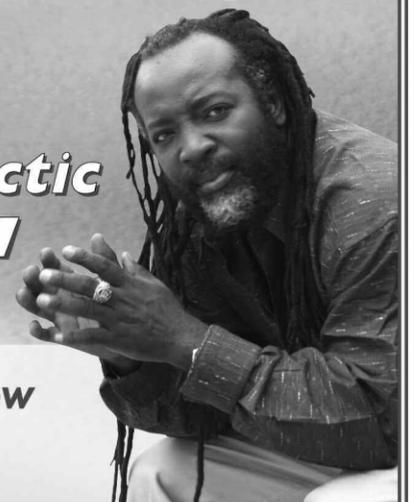
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HEALTH

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Brave heart: Jamaican American carries fight to leukemia in U.S.

DAWN A. DAVIS

Imagine being diagnosed with leukemia - cancer of the bone marrow blood characterized by an out-of-control accumulation of blood cells. Like most cancers, these leukemic cells are so strong they quickly and easily out-strip normal cells, severely compromising one's health.

Can't imagine? Well, Barbara Gordon knows this malignant disease inside out, she has been living with it for nearly 20 years. Diagnosed in 1990, Jamaican-born Gordon, now 70, is a retired nurse, a survivor, an advocate for awareness and change.

"I am an Anglican and several years ago attended a Episcopal Church Women's convention. At the end of it, I said to my dear friend Carmen Chang, I have lived seventeen years with leukemia, and I am now in my twentieth year. I think I would like to do something that will heighten the awareness of the importance of bone marrow for people who have leukemia," Gordon told *Caribbean Today*.

"I had the thought and

she took up the gauntlet and ran."

That conversation was the catalyst that started the Leukemia Bone Marrow Awareness, Inc. in 2006, a non-profit organization to educate and nudge the healthy to donate bone marrow for those in need.



Gordon

The organization started with walks to raise funds and awareness, the most recent on Dec. 5, 2009. The seed that Gordon planted in her friend's heart has grown into a serious movement.

So, how exactly did Gordon discover she had leukemia?

"I was in Jamaica on vacation," she recalled. "One Sunday night about midnight I

felt like someone used a hot poker and went through the bone of my right thigh. I also had shortness of breath. I ran to my friends who were in the other bedroom and said I think I am gonna die tonight. I lived on aspirin until I returned to the U.S., but by then the pain has subsided.

"I went back to work at Lennox Hill Hospital in New York, where I worked as a nurse. About two weeks after I got back, this particular Sunday I went to church. I did feel a little feverish, but went anyway. When I got home, I went to sleep and elevated the leg. I woke up with the same stabbing pain."

Gordon went into Lennox Hill Hospital that evening. After a series of tests and blood work, it was ascertained that her white blood cell count was 105,000. The normal count ranges between 4,500 and 11,000. The diagnosis was officially confirmed - leukemia. Her doctor, head of oncology/haematology Dr. Shirley Brown, conducted a bone marrow test and discovered that Gordon has the type of leukemia that can be treated

if no bone marrow match is found.

Her five siblings were tested for matching bone marrow, but none matched her own. She has since been on medication to control her white cell count, although it is not a cure.

Successful bone marrow transplant cures the disease, which is either acute, a more serious form, or chronic. Gordon has the chronic form, which is slow growing and

more easily treated.

"I know it was hopeless, because if your siblings don't match, it's difficult for us black folks to get," she explained, "because we don't give, so we can't get."

Gordon, through the Leukemia Bone Marrow Awareness, Inc., is active in the South Florida community including churches, social clubs such as Kiwanis,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

LEARNING ABOUT LEUKEMIA

Incorporated in 2006, the Miami-based Leukemia Bone Marrow Awareness, Inc. is a non-profit organization created to educate and offer heightened awareness about the critical need for bone marrow donations. Board members include Barbara Gordon (founder), Carmen Chang, Lorna Feanny, Michael Herrod, Ruby Henry and Yvonne Parchment.

The organization's website will be available soon.

However, Gordon can be contacted via email at bgbma.org@bellsouth.net.

Information about treatment, clinical trials, research, and statistics are also available through the National Cancer Institute at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/leukemia>, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at http://www.leukemia.org/hm_ills, and the Mayo Clinic at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/leukemia/DS00351>.



January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

BELLEVILLE, Illinois - January is "Cervical Health Awareness Month" and a prime time to highlight the importance of routine Pap tests.

Raising awareness among women with disabilities is especially important because, as a group, they are less likely to get the life-saving test, according to Allsup, a United States provider of Social Security disability representation and Medicare services.

In the U.S., 11,000 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed in 2010 from human papillomavirus (HPV)-caused tumors. HPVs are sexually transmitted via skin-to-skin contact. Recent research indicates the virus also causes some cases of cancers of the mouth, anus, head and neck in men and women, according to the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (NCCC).

PREVENTION

Cervical cancer is the easiest female cancer to prevent with regular screening tests and follow-up. The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if not treated appropriately. The HPV test looks for the virus that can cause these cell changes.

"It's important to remem-

ber that cervical cancer is a preventable disease - as long as it's caught early enough," said NCCC Executive Director Sarina Araujo.

When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life. Unfortunately, six out of 10 cervical cancers occur in women who have never received a Pap test or have not been tested in the past five years. This problem is especially pronounced among women with disabilities. Research shows that women with disabilities are less likely to get Pap tests than women without disabilities.

"There is a wide range of reasons for this disparity," said Allsup Manager Tai Venuti, MPH. "The disability may make the exam itself more difficult, as in the case of spinal cord injuries or disorders, or special equipment may be needed. Another barrier could be as simple as not having adequate transportation to the doctor."

In addition, healthcare facilities may be inaccessible and ill-equipped to serve people with disabilities, so preventive services like Pap smears are overlooked.



Spring Health

The April issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community.

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DEADLINE IS MARCH 26TH, 2010

Hopes of health spring from Caribbean roots at Florida wellness center

DAWN A. DAVIS

MIAMI - Combining alternative and traditional therapies is not a novel idea. However, embracing such a practice is not the norm by most western/traditional-trained physicians.

Jamaican-born, Florida-based Dr. Wentworth Jarrett is not the norm.

The University of the West Indies and University of Miami-trained family physician has developed a practice based on his Caribbean background, experiences and traditional medical training. Dr. Jarrett's Wellness Center, located here, is a welcoming destination for mind, body and soul.

"Growing up as a Caribbean person, and more importantly, seeing all the natural remedies at work and interacting with diverse people Chinese Jamaicans, Indian Jamaicans, Jamaicans of African descent, that's where it all starts," says Dr. Jarrett, who is from Kingston.

"We decided to focus on evidence-based recommendations and try to incorporate it into a wellness perspective, where our office becomes not just a sickness destination, but a wellness destination. So the concept of wellness is the core."

The experience begins as soon as clients enter the space. Doors are oversized, as are the rooms, with high ceilings. Calming colors, non-glare light-

ing, engaging artwork, and a colorful fish tank in the waiting area add to the center's tranquility.

HOLISTIC

This inviting space and Dr. Jarrett's holistic philosophy attract a variety of patients. The doctor sees patients/clients from all over the world, including Vietnam, India, Pakistan,



Jarrett

Britain, South America, Jamaica and Cuba. And, according to Dr. Jarrett, many are already using alternative therapies such as acupuncture, herbal medicines like sour sop leaf, noni.

"Holistic doesn't just mean drinking bush tea and taking noni," he says. "Holistic means addressing the total mind and body, and realizing that they are not separate entities. In my

practice, I don't treat your heart and ignore your toes. I don't treat your psychological issues or your marital issues and ignore the fact that your belly pain might be related."

For Dr. Jarrett, taking care of the mind and body also involves the practice of yoga and pilates. The spa's certified yoga and pilates instructors guide clients through the art and "heart" of meditation, flexibility and strength through classes held several times per week. A massage therapist, acupuncturist and aesthetician are also integral to the practice.

"We offer nutraceuticals, vitamins that are evidence-based, meaning there is some evidence that taking these things make a difference," Dr. Jarrett says. "In fact, Vitamin C in appropriate doses, various lipid-lowering agents and niacin products are being recommended now in mainstream medicine. So, this

is just the beginning of what we are trying to do."

COMPLEMENTARY

Practicing medicine in South Florida for more than 20



Pilates room

years, Dr. Jarrett treats issues such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. He also performs pap smears, digital rectal exams and colorectal screenings, and also orders mammography and gives vaccinations.

His wellness center has been in operation for more than a year and the number of patients seeking traditional and alternative approaches is rapidly growing. Dr. Jarrett believes that's a healthy trend.

"I would certainly not suggest to anyone that they abandon traditional medical treatment," he explains. "However, I view western-style medicine and alternative therapy as complementary.

"For example, a patient of mine with lung cancer has incorporated acupuncture in addition to traditional medicine for pain, and is doing very well. For nausea I recommended the use a crystalline ginger herb and it worked very beautifully. The patient is doing quite well. That's an example of how non-traditional perspectives can help."

'NO MYSTERY'

Part of the wellness center offering is nutritional counseling.

"A vegan diet is absolutely wonderful, if you can do it," says Dr. Jarrett.

"We know that the average Seventh-Day Adventist, who is a vegan, lives an average of seven years longer than the regular population. The best nutritional diet in terms of longevity and cardiovascular health known in the world is the Mediterranean diet, which is high in vegetables and low in animal fats and chemical preservatives.

"There is no real mystery as to why we have so many health issues among our Caribbean people and those in the Western world; it's because we eat so much synthetic foods and animal fats. Overall, it is about reduced stress, activity and nutrition."

The family physician explains that people in the United States with cardiovascular or heart disease frequently get catheterizations, stents and so on. However, what they really need, he stresses, is proper diet and lifestyle, and medical management focusing on weight reduction, decreasing animal fats, exercise, possibly daily aspirin and/or nitrates.

"They do not need to have the chest split to have angioplasty," says Dr. Jarrett. "In reality they have been inflected \$100 to \$200,000 worth of expenses, pain and misery."

Treating the whole, therefore, is key to health and balance.

"People realize we are paying attention to more than just what insurance they have or the disease process," says Dr. Jarrett. "Rather, we look at the entire person and body. I think people appreciate that."

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

LEUKEMIA: STATISTICS, SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

According to the United States National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute, the estimated number of new cases of leukemia each year is more than 40,800 adults and 3,500 children. The institute also estimates that the number of deaths in 2009 was 21,870.

Some symptoms of leukemia could include bone pain or tenderness, shortness of breath, swollen lymph

nodes, loss of appetite, frequent infections, weakness or fatigue.

A routine blood test can detect chronic leukemia. Further testing, which may include bone marrow sampling, is more definitive.

Depending on the type of leukemia, treatment involves therapies such as chemotherapy or radiation to stop the growth or kill leukemia cells. Anti-cancer drugs are also an option, as is

biological therapy to boost the immune system.

Bone marrow transplant, if a match is found, is a good option because the procedure replaces the cancer-producing marrow. The goal is to reach complete remission. Many with leukemia today are living relatively healthy lives with aggressive and novel drug therapies.

Although there is no specific data on the incidence of leukemia in Caribbean

nationals living in the U.S., the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society reports that a certain kind of blood cancer that originates in the lymphatic system, T-cell lymphoma, is associated with Caribbean, South American, African and southern Japanese populations. The society reports that about 74,490 people in the U.S. were stricken with lymphoma in 2009.

Brave heart: Jamaican American carries fight to leukemia in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Caribbean events and universities, advocating for survivors and underscoring the importance of bone marrow donations. She and her colleagues educate the fearful on the ease and painless procedure of bone marrow testing and donation.

"Testing for a match is just a cheek swab where a tongue depressor is used to slightly scrape for a sample," she said.

"So, it's painless. Then

you go through a deeper tissue test and blood work. You can then qualify to be added to the registry. So, when there is a patient that requires bone marrow, if you are a match your marrow is used."

Gordon said the response has been positive. She noted that the partnership with Miami-Dade College of West Kendall has resulted in many students signing up to volunteer for donor testing. The non-profit's annual walks are held on the college grounds.

With plans to award grants to leukemia patients who lack insurance and other financial support, Gordon is optimistic about the continued growth and future of the Leukemia Bone Marrow Awareness, Inc. And, although diagnosed with breast cancer about a year ago, which has been brought under control with lumpectomy and radiation, Gordon remains strong, positive, and optimistic about life and the organization.

"The organization is in the

embryonic stage in comparison to others," she said. "But we see the importance and we see the responses... Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, so you get up in the mornings and you say 'thank God, I can put one foot in front of the other'. Don't give up, although when He is ready you have to go, but, don't give up."

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

Is Caribbean media being shut out of expensive census push in U.S.?

The United States Census Bureau is kicking off a \$340 million media campaign to persuade people to fill out their census forms, but how much of that money will the Caribbean American media see?

That's the question CaribID, the movement formed in 2008 to get Caribbean nationals accurately counted by the U.S. Census through their own origin category, want answered. CaribID founder Felicia Persaud said while Steve Jost, associate director of the U.S. Census Bureau, is claiming that "little more than half the money will go towards local advertising in order to reach harder-to-count communities," several Caribbean media houses are yet to be approached on advertising.

"It is an outrage and a shame," said Persaud. "How are Caribbean media houses supposed to push the message without a dime in advertising or support?"

In New York City alone, where as Mayor Mike Bloomberg pointed out at the Jan. 4 Time Square mega launch of Census 2010, there are more people of Caribbean ancestry outside the region than anywhere else on earth, no Caribbean American media houses have received a single insertion order. Worst, of the hundreds of millions being spent, not a single Caribbean American company has received a slice of the sub-contracting dollars.

'BLACK' BUY

Instead, the Caribbean ad buy may be a mere sliver of the overall "black" buy that has been handed off to an African American agency completely unfamiliar with the Caribbean American media landscape and one that has been marred in controversy. This despite the fact that officials like Mayor Bloomberg and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

agree that the Caribbean American demographic is definitely a hard to count segment of the American population.

"Caribbean nationals across the country should be outraged and insulted by the continued dismissal by the U.S. government," said Persaud, who advocated for the introduction of the Caribbean Count bill by Congresswoman Clarke and senators Chuck Schumer and Kristin Gillibrand in the U.S. Congress and Senate in April and May of 2009.

"The fact that every other group, especially Asians and Latinos, are being addressed while the Caribbean segment remains ignored shows the exact level of respect that is being given to this community. We too have our own identity and not all Caribbean nationals are black. Its not about division but facts."

Persaud is urging the Caribbean media to use their voice to speak out on this disregard and to send a clear message to the White House, the census and congressional officials through letters, e-mails and op eds, that the continued dismissal will not be tolerated.

"That's the power that's really in our hands," added Persaud, while reiterating the importance of the movement to the future empowerment of Caribbean nationals across the U.S.

The above article was submitted by CaribPR Wire on Jan. 5. CaribPR Wire is part of Hard Beat Communications, Inc., a Caribbean-focused advertising, public relations and news agency based in the U.S. Felicia Persaud is also founder/executive editor of CaribWorldNews, a service offered by Hard Beat Communications.



Growing pains of boys to men linger a long time

Human beings have a difficult task as they traverse the social landscape. We have to learn as we go along, follow examples set by others, or if we're lucky, get taught by a parent or older sibling.

But even as we learn, they keep changing the rules. Girls are supposed to live a certain way, and should be treated in the right manner. They say it's a man's world, but women seem to have so much going for them. When they marry and divorce, they get the lion's share of the assets, plus the man has to keep on paying and paying.

Alimony or Allthemony? The children are usually left in their care. Men take them out, wine and dine them and always pay the bill. A woman can leave her house with no money and still have a wonderful evening on the town. For the man though, it's a different story, and he better follow the rules or he'll be a very lonely hombre.

This can pose severe problems for young men, for people just expect them to know what to do all the time. Sadly, they don't, and make silly mistakes. It can be traumatic, as boys make this transition from boys to men. The world can be unforgiving, and so can some women.

But luckily many young boys get a little help along the way. Others who don't can be scarred emotionally for life, and sadly take it out on society or on some hapless women. When they examine the history of many sex offenders, they will have found some emotional scarring as the young lads entered into the realm of puberty, when they turned from boys to men.

BLAME

Boys do eventually turn into men, but the process can be a painful and emotionally troublesome journey. Many eminent psychologists have had the theory that a young man's future is molded by how



he connects with his mother.

Boys who have no fathers also have certain problems that manifest themselves later in their lives. It's usually handed down through generations, as a boy who grew up with his father beating his mother, usually ends up being an abuser himself. Alcoholic fathers spawn alcoholic sons, and fathers who abandon their sons usually have the sons doing the same thing to their family.

It's a cruel cycle that follows boys as they turn to men, and so many people are not aware of the serious problems and pitfalls that young men encounter as they make this important transition.

So it's not really a man's world after all, at least not entirely. Even during the sex act a young man is nervous, resulting often in performance anxiety, which turns into a self fulfilling prophecy, leaving the woman unfulfilled. He's nerv-



TONY ROBINSON

ous about failing, so he fails. Women have no such problem, as they just lay back and expect a good showing from the man. He better come good too, or his reputation will be at stake.

UNDER PRESSURE

From a boy enters this world he is put under pressure. The first thing that his mother does is count his fingers and toes, while the first thing that his father does is check out the size of the infant's penis. Yes folks, the size of that prized organ will shape and determine the emotional state of that boy/man until the day he dies.

Most men are obsessed by the size of their organ, with the majority thinking that theirs is too small. Every man wants to know if his woman's previous lover was bigger or smaller than him. But the ladies are smart, and no previous lover in the history of mankind has ever been bigger than the current one. And that's a statistic that will last forever.

This penile obsession leads to a feeling of inadequa-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

DR. LENWARD McCALLA

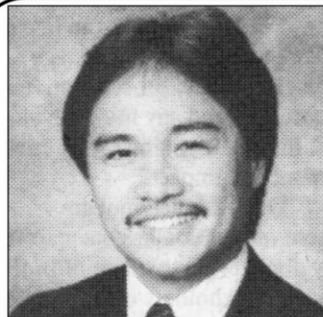


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U.S. racial hope fades with painful realities, despite Obama's appeal

In my favorite "Star Trek" episode, Captain James T. Kirk and the crew of the starship Enterprise encountered humanoids from a planet embroiled in war over an issue as clear as black and white. Literally. The planet Cheron is locked in a race war. This astonishes earthlings. To us, all Cheronians look alike. Their skin is evenly divided, half-black and half-white, down the middle of their faces and bodies.

A perplexed Captain Kirk asks, what is the difference that Cheronians are fighting about? "Isn't it obvious?" says

a Cheronian who is white on his left side, "All of his people are white on the RIGHT side."

The episode, like all good fiction, helps us come to grips with painful realities. It first aired in 1969, a time when our country's racial differences were erupting in riots and assassinations. The black-white planet was doomed by its inhabitants' inability to deal even with the slightest diversity. Could we earthlings do better?

SCARCE HOPE

Flash forward 40 years. A year after two-thirds of Americans polled expressed

high hopes for a post-racial future, Gallup says, "there is scarcely more hope" for a solution on race than there was before.

If so, I am not surprised. In fact, I am somewhat relieved that we Americans are showing ourselves to be optimistic but also realistic. We know one election is not going to solve our racial challenges. We still have hope. We have only raised our standards for how we define our long-sought "solution".

Since 1963, Gallup has been asking Americans whether we think relations between blacks and whites "will always be a problem for the United States, or that a solution will eventually be worked out". The optimistic view that a solution will be worked out surged to an all-



CLARENCE PAGE

time high of 67 percent the day after Obama's election, but a year later only 56 percent express that belief. That's statistically the same as the 55 percent who felt that way back in Dec. 1963, when Gallup first asked the question.

"In short, despite all that has happened in the intervening decades", says Gallup, "there is scarcely more hope now than there was those many years ago that the nation's race-relations situation will be solved".

REALISTIC

But Gallup should not sound so gloomy. The Americans in their survey are being realistic. Americans might want to be post-racial, but I think we also know in our heart of hearts that we're not ready yet.

After all, it was not that long ago that Gallup found our racial optimism at an all-time low of 29 percent. That was in Oct. 1995, shortly after O.J. Simpson's acquittal of double murder dramatically revealed the nation's racial divide on national television. Seldom has our state of race looked so bleak. Yet, Tiger Woods was becoming a new cultural hero across racial lines, Oprah Winfrey already was, and Colin Powell was seriously being urged by high-powered fans in both parties to run for president. Change was in the air. Hope was being

kept alive.

It is a sign of our progress that racism has been driven underground, if not eliminated. But racial suspicions rise to fill the gap. For example, it is hard for me to read about church pastors like the Reverend Wiley Drake of Buena Park, California, or Pastor Steven Anderson of Tempe, Arizona - who have proudly prayed for Obama to die soon - and not wonder how much race might be a motivating factor in their prayers.

But race is such a touchy topic these days that you can be accused of being a racist just for bringing it up. Obama's thoughts on racial profiling led Fox News star Glenn Beck to call the president "a racist" who "hates white culture." When Katie Couric later asked him, "What is 'white culture'?" Beck looked surprised. He accused Couric of trying to "trap" him and refused to answer. That's too bad. I, too, would like to know what he means by "white culture." By understanding my differences with people who come from other cultures, I hope to gain a better understanding of what I have in common with them - even with Glenn Beck.

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Growing pains of boys to men linger a long time

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

cy and low self esteem, as their net worth is determined by the gross weight, length and girth of their organ. They sing the blues. This perceived problem haunts young boys and grown men for as long as they live.

As the boy grows older, he's now faced with the daunting prospect of approaching females he may fancy. Sounds simple, right? But if you're a gangly, pimply, gawky teenager it can be as difficult as facing a hungry lion.

Rejection can be like a dagger through the heart of a male teenager and can shatter his self esteem for years.

UNCERTAINTY

Then he approaches manhood, the period when he's no longer a boy, but not yet quite a man. Now confidence is paramount, so he has to have the latest "bling" stuff, the phone, car, good job, the works. If he's fortunate enough to be educated and has all the trappings of the young up-and-coming-man, then it's not so bad, not so much anxiety, although he

can't be sure if the ladies want him for himself, or for his position in life. After all, women are drawn to wealth, so take that away and where does that leave him? More anxiety, as he's now in a dilemma, a quandary, a pool of despair as he sings the blues.

Then he grows older, takes himself a bride and proceeds to live happily ever after. No one told him that happily ever after only occurs in the fairy tales. He laments the loss of his freedom, and even though he loves his wife and children, he feels like a caged animal, pacing in his enclosure, longing to have a whiff of the freedom that he once had. But it's gone forever and the laments are recited.

So as you can see, the path of boy to manhood is accompanied by a symphony of blues, and the blues are usually songs of melancholy. So ladies, don't believe that you have a carte blanche on problems, for boys to men do have their share of problems too.

seido1@hotmail.com



Beyoncé's T&T concert sparks uproar among promoters, entertainers

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – A group of promoters and entertainers say they plan to write the state-owned Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) asking it to withdraw its sponsorship of the Feb. 18 concert featuring the American singer Beyoncé.

Gregory Fernandes, former chief executive officer of the Caribbean Prestige Foundation, who is among those involved in the effort to get TSTT to rescind its decision, planned to

submit the letter to the company's Chief Executive Officer Roberto Peon early this month.

Fernandes, speaking on local radio here recently, said that TSTT has already indicated that it would be reducing its funding to activities for the carnival celebrations this year.

"Bringing Beyoncé at this time puts more pressure on the industry," he said, adding "carnival activity is a very high risk and a lot of bands suffer high losses."

Fernandes said that the

group of promoters and entertainers "want to discuss with TSTT the position they have taken to present Beyoncé in concert so soon after carnival and their decision to cut back and even pull sponsorship of carnival events."

COST

Fernandes also said according to media reports, the production cost for the Beyoncé concert is in the vicinity of TT\$10 million (\$1.4 million).

The Recording Industry Association of Trinidad and Tobago (RIATT) said it was also raising objection to the concert.

"The state making a \$10 million investment to stage an artiste like Beyoncé in Trinidad



Beyoncé

and Tobago is a very large investment", noted RIATT

General Secretary Fabien Alphonso in a press statement.

"Not using this occasion to initiate discussions on collaborations between Beyoncé and any of our local flagship artistes would be considered a wasted opportunity as the Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company Ltd (TTENT) was established for this exact purpose.

"Furthermore, it's unfortunate that TTENT is not engaged in the planning process of an event of this magnitude. This would have ensured an opportunity to position local music internationally via the current largest female performer in the world", he added.

But Lisa Agard, executive

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Buju Banton denied bail in U.S.; reggae star to fight drug charge

FLORIDA - A United States magistrate has ordered Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton be held without bail on drug charges.

Magistrate Anthony Porcelli made the ruling earlier this month after the dance-hall artiste's new defense attorney David Oscar Markus said he would not oppose the government's request that the singer be detained.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, pleaded not guilty to U.S. federal charges that he conspired to buy cocaine from an undercover law enforcement officer in Sarasota, Florida, last month.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) charged that Banton had contacted a "confidential informant" about a possible cocaine purchase. The DEA said in an affidavit that Banton and "other men met with the informant at Sarasota's La Tropicana de Havana restaurant, where the DEA and local police had set up surveillance."

"Eventually, the group went to a warehouse to make the cocaine deal", the affidavit stated.

NO DEAL

Markus said there was no



Buju Banton

sense in seeking bail when immigration authorities had placed a detainer on Banton, 36, who is in the U.S. on an entertainer visa. Markus said his client will fight the charges and will not enter into any plea deal with prosecutors.

"We will be going to trial. He did not commit the crimes he's charged with. He was not in any conspiracy," Markus told reporters, adding that with regards to the immigration detainer, there should be a "presumption of innocence."

"Instead there is a presumption of guilt in immigration," he said, disclosing that the criminal case against Banton is scheduled for a status conference in next month and tentatively set for trial in March.



Calypsonian among five Grenadians honored by Britain's Queen Elizabeth

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC – Calypsonian Elywn "Wizzard" McQuilkin is among five Grenadians named on Queen Elizabeth II's 2010 honors list.

He has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his contribution to culture.

McQuilkin, who marked 40 years of calypso singing in 2009, is well known for his hit song "IMF".

Other Grenadians being honored by the queen are Carriacou businessman Franklyn Theodore St. Bernard Bullen, for service to the business community; Faith Jessamy, for public service training and farming; Susanna Antoine for her contribution to education; and footballer Jason Roberts for his service to the sports industry.



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Powerful voices, online band quest among Jamaica's jazz fest attractions

The powerful voices of some of America's top soul singers, among them Erykah Badu, Babyface and legend Gladys Knight, are among the main attractions at this month's Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival.

The event, set for Jan. 24-30, will also feature American act Hall and Oates and British vocalist Joss Stone, fused with a local blend such as jazz Monty Alexander and reggae artistes

Marion Hall and the Third World band.

The 2010 festival will also feature small concerts, with select artistes performing at various hotels in Jamaica, including Sunset Jamaica Grande, Iberostar, RIU, Sunset Resort Montego Bay, and the Jamaica Pegasus in Kingston from Jan. 24 to 27.

The main stage event will be hosted on the final three days from Jan. 28 to 30 at the

Greenfield Stadium in Trelawny.

The newest addition to the program is "JJ&B Band Quest" – an online audition of undiscovered talent vying for a chance to perform at the festival. Contestants must join the JJ&B Fan Zone and the JJ&B Band Quest Group at <http://jamaicajazz.com> to create a profile and upload a picture and video of their band or group. The number of votes and points from the online audience will determine who is chosen to audition live in Jamaica and



Knight

U.S. cities such as New York, Fort Lauderdale and Atlanta.

A team of judges will select the final three. The winners will be added to the line-up of the festival and their auditions, as well as interviews, will be uploaded to the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival website, along with interviews from the judges.

Patrons at the festival will be asked to choose their

favorite act via text message.

The winners of the 2010 Jamaica Jazz and Blues Band Quest will be awarded prizes and

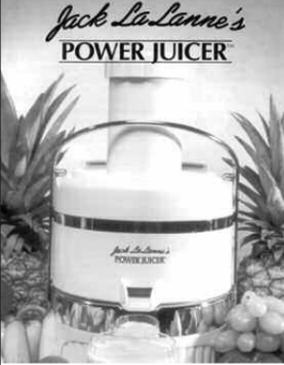


Stone

secure a booking to perform on the festival's main stage in 2011.

For more information on the festival, including ticket information, visit www.jamaicajazzandblues.com.

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- Applications will also be available for download at: www.miamidade.gov/district01

There will be a mandatory information/workshop meeting explaining the application and requirements held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at the North Dade Regional Library at 2455 NW 183 Street. Businesses not in attendance will not be considered for funding, please be on time!

Return 1 original and 1 copy of the completed application in person, to one of the above listed locations between February 18, 2010 - February 23, 2010, 5:00 pm
(We suggest you keep a copy also for your records)

For more info, contact: Larry Gardner at Commissioner Jordan's District Office at 305-474-3011
Or
Neighbors And Neighbors Association (NANA)
Ms. Lawanza Finney at: 305-756-0605 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All applications will be subject to selection committee review.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• Calypso king spends Christmas in jail

Antigua and Barbuda's reigning king of calypso Leston "Young Destroyer" Jacobs, who is facing gun-related charges, reportedly spent Christmas behind bars after a high court judge denied his application for bail.

Jacobs, 27, was arrested in November after two firearms and more than 100 rounds of ammunition were allegedly found at his home. He was jointly charged with Ceylon Howe, 19, whose bail application was also denied.

• Jamaica addressing violent songs

The Jamaica government is taking a multi-pronged approach to solving the problem of explicitly sexual and violent songs and their wide accessibility in the public space.

Information Minister Daryl Vaz recently said this approach would continue until successful outcomes were achieved and sustained.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



CARNIVAL GROOVE



- Photograph by Roland Hyde

Jamaican American Tyson Beckford, right, host of Bravo television's "Make Me a Super Model", recently joined Trinidadian ambassadors at Antilia Carnival to rev up New Yorkers' interest in Trinidad and Tobago's 2010 carnival. Former Miss Universe, Trinidad and Tobago's Wendy Fitzwilliam, left, assisted Beckford in educating enthusiastic attendees about carnival culture. Soca artiste Machel Montano performed for New Yorkers who had gathered in Tribeca. The event was produced by Caribbean-owned entertainment brand Antilia Inc. and featured stilt walkers, live steel pan music and premium Caribbean hors d'oeuvres. T&T's carnival is set to culminate in the streets of Port of Spain Feb. 15 and 16.

Beyoncé's T&T concert sparks uproar among promoters, entertainers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

head of Mobile and Legal Services at TSTT, said the company would be in breach of its contract with Beyoncé if it discloses the cost for the concert.

"I can't give you exact numbers, particularly with regard to what she is costing," Agard reportedly told a local newspaper. "Not because we have any reluctance to disclose it, but there are confidentiality provisions in her contract with us."

SPENDING

But she insisted that her company's involvement in other activities for the carnival would not suffer as a result of the show.

"I can tell you that when you

look at all of the things we are involved in whether in culture, sports or in the community generally in Trinidad and Tobago our expenditure on those far exceeds the expenditure we are going to incur as a result of this concert.

"We have spent, we will spend and will continue to spend millions of dollars sponsoring many carnival events. That commitment remains," she said.

Meanwhile, TSTT has confirmed that a company owned by West Indies cricket icon Brian Lara and star footballer Dwight Yorke was one of the main contractors for the concert. TSTT spokesman Grame Suite said that LAY Management has been retained

by TSTT to help in the coordination and logistics associated with the event, and Agard said the company would assume responsibility for the venue minus stage, sound and lights when the country's largest telecommunications provider signs the contract.

Public Utilities Minister Mustapha Abdul-Hamid was quoted in a publication of the **NEWSDAY** newspaper as ordering TSTT to produce a report over its expenditure for concert.

"On the matter of the expenditure, I have asked for the facts and for a report on what the facts are," Abdul-Hamid reportedly told the newspaper.



Caribbean tourist arrivals from U.K. up in 2010, airline official predicts

LONDON, England, CMC - Caribbean countries are likely to record an increase in visitor arrivals from the United Kingdom this year, a senior British Airways official has said.

"Compared to the same period of last year, we are really pleased with the early bookings that are taking place," said the airline's corporate sales manager, Simon Brooks.

"We are talking double digit growth as far as early bookings. We are reasonably optimistic in a very tough environment about the situation in the Caribbean (in 2010)."

Brooks, speaking after the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)'s European Marketing Forum here recently, declined to give details, but said there was reason to be positive. Brooks represented

B.A.'s chief executive officer, Willie Walsh, at the pre-World Travel Market (WTM) event.

But in a recorded presentation, Walsh expressed a desire to strengthen the carrier's relationship with the Caribbean, adding that the holiday travel from the U.K. to the region remained strong.

"The leisure market, particularly the market between the Caribbean and the U.K. is a very strong market," Walsh told delegates, including tourism ministers, directors of tourism and other stakeholders.

"Leisure business from the U.K. has grown relatively strong and it's one of the reasons we've seen British Airways grow its presence in this market and we see further opportunities for expansion in the years ahead."



Exploring Jamaica made easier via GPS

Exploring Jamaica just got easier with the creation of the Caribbean's first GPS navigation map data known as JAMNAV.

The Mona GeoInformatics Institute of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica has developed and released JAMNAV, which it claims offers turn by turn, voice assisted navigation across Jamaica.

The technology includes over 9,300 miles of roads and 15,000 points of interest, including petrol stations, hotels, restaurants, shopping places and attractions.

"JAMNAV has been created by Jamaicans that have an intimate knowledge of its terrain, and is the first of its kind in the Caribbean," said

Jamaica's Director of Tourism John Lynch in a recent press release.

According to the release, JAMNAV is based on the Garmin platform, a worldwide leader for personal navigation devices. The Mona GeoInformatics Institute worked as the local developer ensuring local complexities were taken into consideration, such as one-way streets and parochial roads.

JAMNAV is currently available from Avis Car Rental at both of Jamaica's international airports in Kingston and Montego Bay, and is available with or without a rental car. The technology has been available since summer 2009.



Cuba attracts record two million tourists

HAVANA, Cuba, CMC - Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero believes visitor arrivals to Cuba should reach 2,425,000 for 2009, a new record for the country.

In a report presented to Parliament late last month, Marrero said that if the island achieves this figure it would represent a 3.3 percent increase in arrivals compared to the previous year.

Cuba's tourism minister said Canada was Cuba's largest market followed by Great Britain and Spain.

He explained that the increase in tourist arrivals has been bolstered by the completion and use of new accommodations that include another 2,000 rooms at the main tourist resorts.

Before outlining his development strategy for the 2010-2015 period, which includes investments with Cuban capital, Marrero said that 60 percent of what the island markets comes from local production.



Delta resumes service between Atlanta and Tobago

Delta airlines last month resumed service from Atlanta, United States to the Caribbean island of Tobago.

The Tobago House of Assembly (THA) announces the reactivation of nonstop service between Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and Tobago's Crown Point International Airport.

The Atlanta-Tobago non-stop service will be seasonal

and will operate once a week, departing Atlanta on Saturdays at 4:05 p.m. and returning from Tobago on Sunday mornings at 9:05 a.m. until April 24, 2010.

The flight will be operated on a Boeing 737-800, with 144 seats in economy class and 16 in first class. The service, that will complement Delta's existing service between Port of Spain and Atlanta, and Port of Spain and New York-JFK,

allows travelers from the U.S. to by-pass the previously required stop-over and possible overnight in Trinidad.

"Our guests will be able to plan their vacation to the island with greater ease," said Assemblyman Oswald Williams, Secretary for Tourism and Transportation at the Tobago House of Assembly, in a recent press release.



FIRST IN LINE



Jamaica officially kicked off its Winter 2009/2010 Travel Season on Dec. 15 by welcoming a couple visitors to the island from the Washington, D.C. area of the United States who that traveled to Montego Bay onboard an Air Jamaica flight. Edward Neufville and Bahia Akerele were greeted by several representatives of the island's tourism industry at Sangster International Airport. Photograph shows, front row from left, Godfrey Dyer, chairman of the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF); Carrole Guntley, director general in the Ministry of Tourism; Akerele; Neufville, Owen Campbell, regional airport manager, Air Jamaica; and back row, from left, John Lynch, Jamaica's director of tourism; Danville Walker, commissioner of customs; Rosie Johnson, regional manager, Jamaica Tourist Board; and Ian Neita, executive director of the TEF.

Canadian airline pulls out of four Caribbean destinations

RAWLE TITUS

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Less than a month after its inaugural flight to Grenada, the Canadian based airline Sunwing is ending its relationship with the island and three other Caribbean destinations, industry officials confirmed last month.

They said that from Jan. 6 the airline would no longer operate flights to Grenada, Trinidad, Jamaica and Guyana.

The Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO), in an exclusive interview with the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)**, said that Sunrise, the travel agency which contracted the airline,

had violated the Travel Industry Act 2002 resulting in the voluntarily termination of its registration.

"They didn't have sufficient financing to continue operating the charters they were committed for. They are committed to a risk program and they did not have sufficient funds," said TICO's Chief Executive Officer Michael Pepper.

"They have commitments to pay Sunwing on a rotation basis to Kingston, Port of Spain and Grenada and also they have another program with sky services to Guyana. So they were committed to paying those carriers in advance for each of the flights and they did not have suffi-

cient funds," said Pepper, who is also the registrar for the Travel Industry Act.

TICO employees were at the Toronto airport late last month informing Sunwing's Caribbean bound passengers about the problem and giving them the option of withdrawing from the flight.

Sunrise's decision to voluntarily terminate its registration follows a meeting last month between its Chief Executive Officer Ramnarine Tiwari and TICO officials.

The departure of Sunwing will be seen as a major blow to Grenada following an increase in visitor arrivals from Canada in recent months.



Black womanhood's link to spirituality, sexuality and the past

• **TITLE:** *Eroticism, Spirituality, and Resistance in Black Women's Writings*

• **AUTHOR:** Donna Aza Weir-Soley
• **REVIEWED BY:** Dawn A. Davis

Many literary scholars have analyzed the the works of black women writers. However, oftentimes the "voices" are the same, offering no novel interpretation or new way to look at these works. Dr. Donna Aza Weir-Soley, on the other hand, has stepped outside the box, offering fresh perspectives on four literary voices of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The author, through her book "Eroticism, Spirituality, and Resistance in Black Women's Writings", looks at the interrelationships between spirituality and eroticism, and the empowerment of women through these portals in works by Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Opal Palmer Adisa and Edwidge Danticat.

The characters searching for identity and dealing with the suppression or awakening of their sexual spirit in Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God", Morrison's "Beloved", Palmer Adisa's "It Begins with Tears" and Danticat's "The Farming of Bones", leap off the page in Weir-Soley's study. Her analysis is warm and sensitive, yet pushes the boundaries of con-

ventional academic writing. But, be warned, her introduction could be intimidating for the casual or non-academic reader.

Not to worry, the meat of the book is an easy read. It is not necessary to read from cover to cover.

WEAVE

Weir-Soley deftly reveals how the four writers weave traditional West African spirituality into their stories of modern-day women. For example, Hurston, through her female characters, forces the reader to look at christianity and the powerful role it plays in black consciousness, the remnants of slavery and racial stereotypes thrust upon black women of the era.

Morrison's "Beloved" has both puzzled and intrigued readers. But Weir-Soley brings the story into perspective with her explanation of the role of female goddesses, the significance of African deities, spirits, loa and Haitian Vodoun goddesses. The sexual, spiritual, and emotional violence experienced by the characters in "Beloved" culminates in healing spiritual energy; the author helps lead the reader

to this understanding.

The author also nudges the reader, perhaps unconsciously, to look at his/her own position in society.

Weir-Soley's view of Jamaican writer Palmer Adisa's "It Begins with Tears" is highly erotic, yet laced with African and Caribbean traditional spiritual thought.

COMMON THREAD

The writer-poet identifies the common thread connecting these four important literary works: Personal struggles, African spiritual practices, sexual energies that spark violence and healing, denial, identity and community transformation.

African/Caribbean-centered practices are at the heart of the stories.

Resolution is not always the conclusion, nor should it be. But certainly readers are forced to think about black womanhood and the intense link between spirituality, sexuality and the power of the past.

Publisher: University Press of Florida.

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



Jamaica to host Jewish Diaspora of the Caribbean confab

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica will be the host destination for the inaugural Jewish Diaspora of the Caribbean International Conference this month.

The event, which will be held from Jan. 12-14 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, will feature experts from the United States, Jamaica, France and Israel addressing a range of topics, from cultural history including architecture, music and religion, to Caribbean Jewish identity and heritage.

"Jamaica has a respected and vibrant Jewish movement that has aided in the develop-

ment of the country," said John Lynch, Jamaica's tourism director.

Ainsley Henriques, director of the United Congregation of Israelites, Kingston and co-chair of the conference, said: "This conference is long overdue. We are pleased with the tremendous support that we have received from our partners, and those participating in the conference. This conference will be an avenue to educate, enlighten and enrich the lives of the Caribbean and International Jewry and introduce other individuals to the rich culture

and history of our people."

Following the event, from Jan. 15-16, participants can engage in a post-conference program including tours of prominent sites in Kingston that are of significant and historic value to the Kingston Jewish community. Those include a trip to the University of the West Indies, Mona campus where Jewish refugees from the Holocaust were housed during World War II to kiddush and dinner with Kingston's Jewish community.



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Commissioner Sorenson's District Office
South Dade Government Center
10710 SW 211 Street, Suite 204, Miami, FL 33189

Online at: www.miamidade.gov/district08

For all applicants, there will be a **Mandatory Information/Workshop Meeting** explaining the application and requirements on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m.** (Please be on time) at the South Dade Government Center 10710 SW 211 Street, **Conference Room 203.**

Applicants **not in attendance will not** be considered for funding.

After attending the **Mandatory Information/Workshop Meeting**, submit 1 original and 1 copy of the completed application in person to Commissioner Sorenson's District Office, **Suite 204**, from **February 9, 2010 to February 12, 2010** (last day by 5:00 pm)
(We suggest you keep a copy for your records)

For more information, you may contact:
Commissioner Sorenson's District Office at 305-378-6677
Or

Neighbors And Neighbors Association (NANA)
Ms. Lawanza Finney at: 305-756-0605 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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B U S I N E S S

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Caribbean group seeks to revitalize Bob Marley Boulevard in Brooklyn

NEW YORK - A Caribbean American group in New York is hoping to inject economic



Marley

vitality into the Bob Marley Boulevard corridor in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The West Indian American Progressive Action

Council (WIAPAC) plans to unveil several Caribbean flags along the strip from East 98th Street to Flatbush Avenue while hosting a series of community events and projects in collaboration with the merchants and residents to include the "Caribbean Week" celebration in June 2010.

"We must bring back the economic vitalization of Church Avenue - Bob Marley Boulevard - to help our merchants. We cannot afford to see businesses closed as these businesses create jobs and fuel the stability of our community," said Michael Russell, president and founder of WIA-PAC.

Russell, who was one of the creators of the proposal to rename Church Avenue Bob Marley Boulevard, said he will also be meeting with various

City Council members representing the districts, which include the new City Councilman Jumani Williams, to move on the project and complete his portion of the renaming of Bob Marley Boulevard, which was not supported by the former City Councilman Kendall Stewart.

"We know that many

businesses are suffering due to the economic downturn and high unemployment, but we must be creative and innovative to find avenues that will grow businesses and retain and create employment for our community," said Esther Haynes-Tross, public relations director of WIAPAC.

Tross, a professional

events planner and public relations/marketing consultant said she will be working with the various business owners and the community to plan events that will aid in the revitalization of the shopping strip.

- *CaribWorldNews*



IDB offers \$10M loan to support B'dos business, climate reforms

WASHINGTON - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is providing a \$10 million loan to Barbados to support productive development policies and business climate reforms aimed at improving the competitiveness of the private sector.

The IDB said the loan would support the expansion of private sector participation in the economy and increase government effectiveness by reducing transaction costs, modernizing trade logistics and trade facilitation services and providing a sound environment for private sector development.

"It will lead, for example,

to a more expeditious and equitable processing of investment applications; and a substantial reduction in the time businesses spend on complying with import/export regulations", the IDB noted, adding that the loan would also support the restructuring of institutions that provide financial and non-financial business development services.

The project will finance new tools for tax policy analysis, enabling the government to improve the efficiency and transparency of its business taxes, an essential pre-requisite to an improved business climate.



BUSINESS OF EDUCATION



Suzette Rochester, standing far left, manager of Victoria Mutual Building Society's (VMBS) Florida representative office, reads to students during a recent visit to the Parkway Baptist Church Wee Care. The VMBS office made a donation of books and school supplies as part of its community outreach project in Florida. VMBS has opened an office in Miami Gardens and operates with a mandate to promote its varied products and services to Jamaicans and friends of Jamaicans in the United States diaspora. VMBS offers financial services geared to towards savings and investments for retirement, vacation, education and mortgage loans for residential and commercial purposes.



Building Better Communities A Snapshot of Our Progress

The *Building Better Communities* bond program has reached the five-year mark with a long roster of work completed or in various phases of planning, design or construction. Here are some of the projects leaving an imprint on our community.

County Parks

A. D. Barnes - Aquatic Facility
Amelia Earhart - New Facilities
Black Point & Haulover - Marina Upgrades
Crandon - Tennis Courts Re-surfaced
Redland Fruit & Spice - Landscaping
Greynolds - Facility Repairs
Matheson Hammock - New Access Road
Miami Metrozoo - Amazon & Beyond Exhibit
Tamiami - Improved Sports Fields
Tropical Equestrian Center - Phase 1

Neighborhood Parks

Coral Reef in Palmetto Bay
Dominoes in Sweetwater
Doral Park and Sportsfields
Grapeland Waterpark
Little Haiti Soccer
Lumms Park
Miami Springs Recreation
Milander Sports Fields
Perrine Park
Royal Oaks Activity Center
South Pointe Park
Sunny Isles Active Park
West Miami Recreation

Healthcare Facilities

Jackson Memorial Hospital Emergency, Pediatric & Radiology Units
Jackson South Community Hospital
University of Miami Ear Institute
Miami Beach Primary Healthcare Clinic
Mental Health Diversion Facility
Citrus Health Network

Branch Libraries

South Miami Renovations
Miami Springs Upgrades
Shenandoah (City of Miami) Improvements
Northeast Regional Library - Design

Community & Human Services

Allapattah YMCA
ASPIRA of Florida
Caleb Center Upgrades
Daily Bread Food Bank
Habitat for Humanity
Hialeah Affordable Housing
Homeless Trust Housing Complex
New Victims' Assistance Center Building
Pierre Community Center
Sunrise Community Training Center
United Way Center for Early Education
Wynwood/Allapattah Service Center

Culture

Cuban Museum
Hispanic Ballet Theater
Historic Hampton House
Jewish Museum
Lyric Theater
South Dade Arts Center
Vizcaya Museum & Gardens Restoration

Public Works

Bridge Repairs & lighting repairs
Beach Renourishment - various locales
Drainage Improvements - 87,196 LF (17 miles)
New & Repaired Sidewalks - nearly 90 miles
Road Re-surfacing - more than 50 miles

Major Infrastructure

Port of Miami Tunnel - Design
Marlins Ballpark - Construction
Miami Beach Convention Center - Pre-Design
Museum Park - Design
Countywide Water/Sewer Improvements

Environmentally

Endangered Lands

Acquisition of more than 2,600 acres as part of Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

The projects listed above are funded wholly, or in part, by the County's Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program as approved by voters in a November 2004 referendum. The ambitious building program, launched in 2005, is scheduled to continue over the next 15-20 years.



Canada appoints T&T-born Hart senior national men's soccer coach

TORONTO, Canada, CMC – The Canadian Soccer Association has appointed Trinidad and Tobago-born Stephen Hart as head coach of the country's senior national men's team, lifting the interim tag he previously held.

Hart will be in charge of Canada's qualification efforts as the country works toward the 2014 FIFA World Cup Finals in Brazil.

"He delivers an exciting brand of football that has proven to be successful against our CONCACAF opponents," Canada's Soccer Association President Dr. Dominic Mastracci announced.

Hart, 49, embraced his appointment and pledged to build a successful national outfit.

"I am honored to be chosen for this prestigious and very important position," said Hart, who will be in charge of the team when Canada plays Jamaica in a friendly international in Kingston on Jan. 31.

EXPECTATION

"I am fully aware of the

expectation and look forward to the challenge of building a team for the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and beyond,"



Hart

added Hart, who made the T&T national squad as a player in 1980 before migrating to Canada.

Hart most recently served as Canada's interim head coach for the 2009 season, including a quarter-final finish at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. He had also been interim head coach between 2006 and 2007 after Frank Yallop resigned.



Caribbean cricketers in U.S. squad for World 20/20

MIAMI, Florida - Several Caribbean American cricketers have been called up for the United States of America Cricket Association's senior men's team, selected to compete in the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier beginning next month.

The team will be captained by Steve Massiah and will include fellow Caribbean Americans Timroy Allen, Orlando Baker, Lennox Cush, Kevin Darlington, Sudesh Dhaniram, Glen Hall, Rashard Marshall, Clain Williams and Carl Wright. It will be coached by ex-Guyana and West Indies batsman Clayton Lambert.

The senior men's U.S.

team has been selected to compete in the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier and World Cricket League Division 5 tournaments in Dubai, UAE and Nepal, respectively.

The full squad is Allen, Baker, Cush, Darlington, Dhaniram, Hall, Marshall, Massiah, Williams, Wright, Sushil Nadkarni, Imran Awan, Usman Shuja, Aditya Thyagarajan and Saurabh Verma.

Officials are Lambert, Imran Khan (manager) and



Lambert

Akhtar Masood Syed (physiotherapist).

The team will travel from New York to Dubai on Feb. 1 and return from Nepal on Mar. 1. In Dubai, the round-robin of matches in the World Twenty20 Qualifier runs from Feb. 9-11, with the semi finals and finals set for Feb. 12 and 13.

The U.S. squad will leave Dubai for Nepal on Feb. 14 to participate in round-robin matches between Feb. 20 and 27. The squad returns to New York on Mar. 1.

- *CaribWorldNews*



SPORT BRIEFS

• Caribbean sprinters get Olympic medal upgrade

Bahamian Pauline Davis-Thompson and other Caribbean sprinters are the beneficiaries after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally re-allocated Sydney 2000 medals from drug disgraced Marion Jones last month.

Davis-Thompson is the new holder of the women's 200 meters gold medal. Sri Lanka's Susanthika Jayasinghe moves up from bronze to silver and Jamaica's Beverly McDonald from fourth to the bronze medal third spot.

Jamaican Tanya Lawrence, Sydney's 100 meters third place finisher in the, moves up to second and becomes the duplicate silver medalist with Greece's Ekaterina Thanou, who was denied the gold by the IOC for "moral" reasons. Jamaican Merlene Ottey is promoted from fourth to third, securing a sixth career Olympic bronze medal to go with two silver.

• Jamaican gets lifeline to world boxing crown

Veteran light heavyweight boxer Glen

Johnson is scheduled to fight a title eliminator bout against American Yusuf Mack late this month.

In November Johnson suffered a damaging defeat against American Chad Dawson in a world title fight. But the Jamaican-born fighter's career appears to have been given a lifeline as the International Boxing Federation (IBF) booked him for the eliminator on Jan. 30 in Las Vegas.

• Former Windies pacer Grayson Shillingford dies

Dominica's former West Indies fast bowler Grayson Shillingford died late last month at age 65.

Shillingford had been ailing for some time with cancer and succumbed to the disease in Salisbury, located on the island's west coast.

He had recently returned to Dominica from his adopted homeland of Canada where he had been receiving treatment. The fast bowler played seven Test matches for the West Indies between 1969 and 1972. He took 15 wickets at an average of 35.80, with his

best returns being three for 63 off 26.5 overs against New Zealand at Sabina Park in Kingston in Feb. 1972.

• Ex-Jamaican soccer star Syd Bartlett dies

Jamaican soccer legend Syd Bartlett died in the United States last month. He was 70.

Bartlett, known for his outstanding dribbling skills, was a member of Jamaica's first World Cup qualifying squad.

• Windies lose cricket to Aussies, but earns respect

The West Indies cricket team showed marked improvement in the final two Test matches against host Australia last month, but still lost the series 2-0.

After a devastating innings defeat inside three days in the first Test in late November, the Caribbean cricketers turned in two creditable performances in the remaining games.

Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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International cricket bowls off in Lauderhill Jan. 23

at meets ball again in the exciting 20/20 format when the Ninth Annual Lauderhill MAQ T20 International Night Cricket Tournament bowls off this month at the Lauderhill Sports Park in Lauderhill, Florida.

The opening ceremony for the tournament is scheduled for 4 p.m. Jan. 23, followed by a double header - Barbados versus Windwards an hour later and Pakistan against Leewards at 8 p.m.

The tournament has become part of Lauderhill's Family Sports Night at the Lauderhill Sports Park - which includes netball and soccer tournaments. The cricket tournament will run through June, with games played on Saturday evenings.

The schedule excludes holiday weekends.

Team Jamaica has been dominant in the tournament, winning in 2009, as well as seven of the previous eight years.

"The tournament, growing in popularity, has been expanded to twelve teams, with the inclusion of Team USA and World XI," Lauderhill Mayor Richard J. Kaplan said recently in a press release.

The City of Lauderhill and the Cricket Council USA Inc. have reportedly signed a five-year agreement to continue the promotion, growth and development of the game of cricket

For information, visit www.cricketcouncilusa.com.



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Economic crisis, crime force Caribbean to endure 'annus horribilis'

In 1992, Britain's Queen Elizabeth used the term "annus horribilis" to describe the year in which the marriages of her two sons - Charles and Andrew - broke down and Windsor Castle caught fire.

Seventeen years later, Caribbean countries experiencing their own "annus horribilis", joined the rest of the world in seeking to come to terms with a global economic crisis that has led to significant job losses, visits to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the use of the dreaded "R" word - "recession" - to describe the negative performance of their economies.

Jamaica led the way to the Washington-based financial institution and by year-end was still negotiating a \$1.3 billion Standby Agreement, which the Bruce Golding administration said was necessary to offset the shortfall in foreign exchange earnings being experienced by the country. Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines also entered into agreements with the IMF by utilizing either the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) or the Exogenous Shocks Facility (ESF).

But on the surface these appeared less onerous than the IMF agreement reached with Antigua and Barbuda, which called for significant cutbacks to government spending - including the public sector wage bill, a more efficient tax collection regime and outsourcing of some government services.



Carrington

PROMISE

As the year drew to a close, the region's chief public servant Edwin Carrington, secretary general of the Guyana-based Caribbean community (CARICOM), said regional countries were yet to benefit from a promise made by the world's industrialized countries to restore credit, jobs and growth in the world economy.

The G-20 countries had pledged \$1.1 trillion, including an allocation of \$750 billion for an emergency resources account at the IMF, which is used to help nations in financial crisis, and \$250 billion for new Special Drawing Rights. By year-end, the Caribbean was among developing countries calling for the establishment of a fund to assist small-island developing states (SIDS) combat the effects of climate change. In their Port of Spain consensus, the 53 Commonwealth leaders welcomed Britain's offer of a proposed Copenhagen Launch Fund starting this year "to a level of resources of US\$10 billion annually by 2012".

SHAKE-UP

The demise of the Trinidad-based regional conglomerate CL Financial shook the entire region and, despite a multi-billion dollar rescue package announced by the Patrick Manning government, the company, along with its flagship enterprise - Colonial Life Insurance Company (CLICO) - rode into a strong wave of discontent from policyholders and Caribbean stakeholders, including governments.

In Barbados, the David Thompson administration easily defeated a motion of no confidence after the Opposition Leader Mia Mottley sought to

condemn the prime minister in his capacity as minister of finance, charging that he had misled the public and had failed to take "urgent and immediate action" to protect the almost 40,000 local policyholders in CLICO.

Ironically, towards the end of the year, Mottley was herself fending off attempts to undermine her position as leader of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). But while Mottley was able to survive, others were not so lucky in 2009.

FALLEN

In a year when the mighty Texan billionaire Allen Stanford fell from grace, Grenada's Attorney General Jimmy Bristol was also forced to resign after admitting that he made an error in judgment when he wrote United States prosecutors on government stationery seeking clemency for his relative. In Stanford's case it was an alleged multi billion dollar Ponzi scheme that secured his demise and at year-end he remained cooped up in a U.S. federal prison.

Haiti's Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louise was ousted and replaced by economist Jean Max Bellervie. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, businessman Galmore Williams, who was sworn in as the second premier of the British Overseas Territory, also found himself out of a job after London announced a partial suspension of the constitution of the island. In the Cayman Islands, general elections were won by the United Democratic Party (UDP). In Montserrat, Reuben Meade led his Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP) into office.

Politically, it was a good year for Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer of Antigua

and Barbuda and his Dominican counterpart Roosevelt Skerrit.

Skerrit was returned to office in convincing style on Dec. 18, but Spencer was just able to hang on to the government in the Mar. 12 general elections. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves suffered a major setback in



Golding

November after voters overwhelming rejected a new constitution in an historic referendum.

MIGRATION FEVER

Migration also emerged as a major talking point in the Caribbean during 2009, with the Barbados government reiterating its commitment to the regional integration process while announcing a six-month amnesty for CARICOM nationals who have been living in the country illegally. The move was bitterly opposed by some regional governments. In the end, regional leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the free movement of nationals across the region, consistent with the provisions contained in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the 15-member grouping. However, they also recognized the right of member governments to pursue domestic immigration policies.

The migration issue highlighted the arguments in 2009 over the need for closer political and economic integration in the region, particularly after T&T warmed to the idea of a political and economic union

with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) by 2013.

In December, the nine-member OECS grouping signed on to a new treaty establishing an economic union among themselves.

PROBLEMS

A novel influenza named after an animal quickly reached a pandemic, resulting in the death of many citizens across the region. Swine flu, which is also known as H1N1, first emerged in Mexico and spread quickly.

Murders continued unabated in several Caribbean countries such as Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas and T&T, whose situations proved most worrisome. In Jamaica, the Bruce Golding government parted ways with Commissioner of Police Rear Admiral Hardley Lewin.

In T&T, while law enforcement officials were pleased with a reduction in the record 545 murders recorded last year, the number of people killed still surpassed 500 in 2009.

The region bade farewell to a number of its nationals in 2009, including Janet Jagan, the former Guyanese president, the prominent Barbados businessman and Independent Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, Bermuda's Health Minister Nelson Bascome, the distinguished Caribbean linguist Dr. Richard Allsopp, the women's world boxing champion Jizelle Salandy, the veteran Trinidadian calypsonian Mighty Duke (Kelvin Pope), the Antiguan cultural icon Reginald Knight, and the prominent Jamaican playwright Trevor Rhone.

- Edited from CMC story written by Peter Richards.



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Peter A. Webley,
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St. Kitts and Nevis elections on Jan. 25

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC - Voters on this small Caribbean twin-island federation of just over 40,000 people will go to the polls on Jan. 25 to elect a new government.

After keeping the nation guessing for many weeks, Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, leader of the ruling St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP), finally rang the election bell earlier this month.

"Fellow citizens, the Labour train is now moving forward and it will not be stopped by anything," said Douglas.

"In accordance with the writ issued by His Excellency the governor general, Nomination Day shall be on Friday, 15th January 2010...and

general elections in the federation of St. Kitts and Nevis on Monday, January 25th, 2010."

During his speech, Douglas, who is going for a fourth straight term in office, also announced that regional and international observers from the Commonwealth, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean community (CARICOM) will be monitoring the polls.

In the 2004 elections, the ruling SKNLP claimed seven of the eight seats on St. Kitts, with PAM picking up the other one, while on Nevis, the Concerned Citizens Movement claimed two seats and the Nevis Reformation Party one.



Track and field glory, cricket chaos dominate mixed year

Astonishing achievements in athletics once again shot the Caribbean to international prominence, but a bitter, divisive cricket dispute between the region's major stakeholders marred the year and propelled the sport to the brink of collapse.

Not even the intervention of respected former diplomat Sir Shridath Ramphal could broker a solution to the bruising impasse which saw the region's leading stars refusing to play and forcing the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to pick a second string team for two international assignments.

It took phenomenal Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt to lighten the depressing mood in the region and restore some pride to the sporting fraternity. For the second successive year Bolt stunned the world, recording mind-boggling times at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin last August. Bolt ignited the championships with performances that bettered his already stunning times at the Olympics in 2008. He lowered the 100 meters world record to 9.58 seconds, and the 200 meters mark by clocking 19.19 seconds. He also helped Jamaica win the men's sprint relay title, repeating the triple gold he had secured a year earlier in Beijing while inspiring a 13 medal haul - seven gold - for the Jamaicans.

Only the U.S. won more medals than Jamaica in Berlin. Shelly-Ann Fraser and Melaine Walker also reproduced the fine victories they had in Beijing in the 100 meters and 400 meters hurdles, respectively, and Jamaica's other gold medals in Berlin came from Brigitte Foster-Hylton (100 meters hurdles) and the women's sprint relay.

An eighth gold medal for the region in Berlin was celebrated by Ryan Brathwaite, who clocked a new CARICOM record 13.14 seconds in the 110 meters hurdles to win historic gold for Barbados, the first for the country at a global senior track meet.

In June the 23-year-old from Trelawny in northern Jamaica was named as the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year. Bolt was also accorded Jamaica's fourth highest national honor, the Order of Jamaica, and retired Bahamian Pauline Davis-Thompson had her Sydney Olympics 200 meters medal

officially upgraded to gold arising out of the disqualification of drug-disgraced American Marion Jones.

Among the juniors, the IAAF labeled Grenadian Kirani James "the next Usain Bolt" after the 16-year-old delivered majestic sprint double success at the IAAF World Youth Championship in Italy in July. James ran a brilliant championship record 45.24 seconds to win the 400 meters.

TOPSY TURVY

There was no such cause for jubilation in West Indies cricket, in a topsy-turvy year which saw the full-strength



Brathwaite

regional team recapture the Wisden Trophy in March after a nine-year drought only to surrender it two months later following a whitewash in a return series in England.

The contracts dispute erupted virtually without warning in July as West Indies prepared to take on Bangladesh in two Tests and three one-day internationals in the Caribbean, following a 2-1 loss to India in a four-match one-day home series. Players affiliated with the West Indies Players Association (WIPA), believing their contractual demands were being overlooked by the WICB, took the unequivocal decision to withdraw their services, sparking a rancorous three-month period where West Indies cricket experienced perhaps its most shameful hour. However, the West Indians' female counterparts continued to make huge strides.

FOOTBALL FOLLIES

There were hardly any bright spots for regional football as Trinidad and Tobago failed in its bid to reach their second successive FIFA World Cup, scheduled for South Africa this year. The CONCACAF Gold Cup also proved barren for the English-speaking Caribbean as both Jamaica and Grenada failed to advance beyond the first round in the United States.

However, in horse racing, Caribbean jockeys sustained a

prominent profile in North American, mainly through Barbadian Patrick Husbands and Jamaican Rajiv Maragh, both finishing among the top 12 jockeys - in all of the U.S. and Canada - in mounts' earnings.

Jamaica men's basketball side thrust itself into the spotlight in July when they beat the British Virgin Islands in the final of the Caribbean Basketball Championships. In August, their netball counterparts, the Sunshine Girls, captured bronze at the World Youth Netball Championship in the Cook Islands.

Motorsport, too, brought Jamaica headlines in November as

David Summerbell clinched the regional title for the fourth time. Barbados drove away with team honors.

Trinidad and Tobago, meanwhile, reigned at the Caribbean Table Tennis Championship in French Guiana, and also covered themselves in squash glory as they dominated the Caribbean Area Squash Association (CASA) Senior

Championship staged in Cayman Islands in August.

Trinidadian golfer Stephen Ames also experienced success internationally when he captured the \$4.7 million Children's Miracle Network Classic in November, to claim his second Disney title in three years and the fourth PGA Tour win of his career. The victory catapulted him 22 places up the rankings to 49th and pushed him to 37th on the official money list but most importantly, it provided a fairy-tale finish to an otherwise extremely disap-

pointing year.

written by Kevin Pile.



- Edited from CMC story



Olive Chung-James, M.D.

Olive Chung-James, M.D.

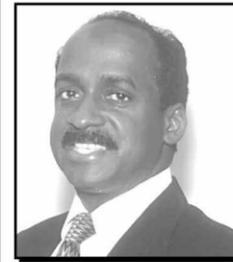
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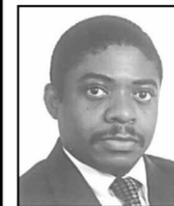


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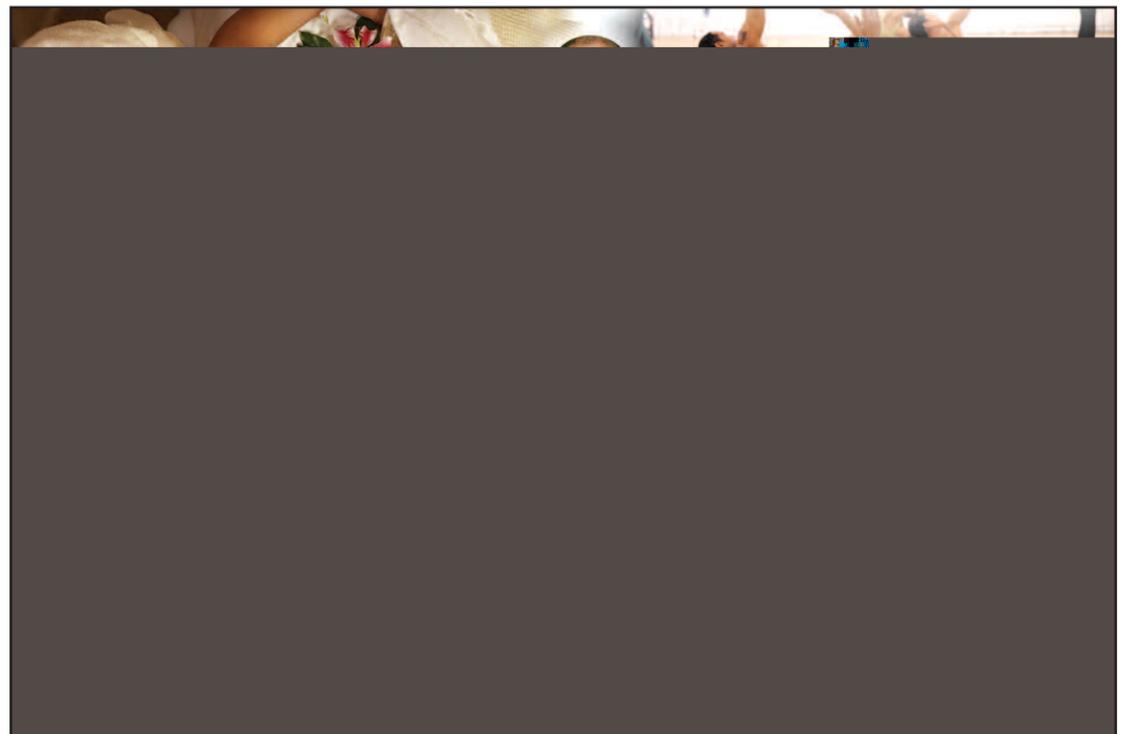
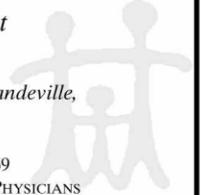
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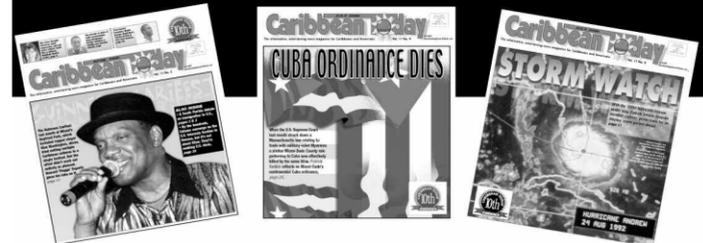
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