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His high, rich tenor resonates in auditoriums across South Florida, a staple at numerous events in the Jamaican community. His mega-watt smile has lit up hundreds of faces. Steve Higgins – soloist, public speaker, actor, director and producer - is again ready to take the stage, page 7.



Former Haitian dictator Jean Claude Duvalier surprisingly returned to the French Caribbean country last month. Now another ex-leader wants to return. All this while the nation struggles to recover from an earthquake and election turmoil in "Eye on Haiti", page 8.



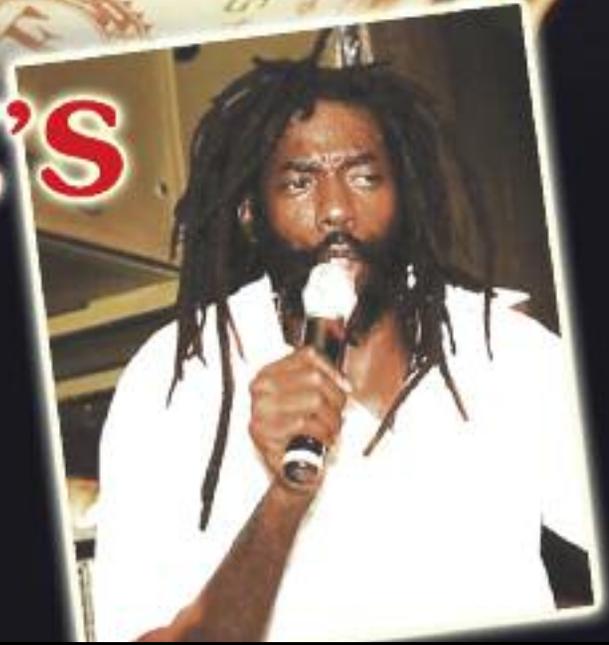
Jamaica's National Dance Theater Company (NDTC) performers will hit the stage for a "Caribbean Dance Celebration" this month in Florida, offering not just entertainment, but honor to the group's founder and artistic director Professor Rex Nettleford, page 15.

TIME TO PAY

~ The United States plans to announce a new amnesty program aimed at encouraging America's residents with hidden offshore bank accounts in the Caribbean to come forward, declare the funds, and pay the necessary taxes. Or else, **page 2.**

VALENTINE'S DESTINY

~ Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton received plenty love when he performed in Florida last month. But he will need a lot more from the state's federal court when his second trial on drugs and weapons charges begins on Valentine's Day, **page 3.**



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U.S. to offer amnesty for owners of hidden Caribbean offshore bank accounts

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States says it plans to announce a new amnesty program aimed at encouraging wealthy Americans with hidden offshore bank accounts in the Caribbean to come forward, declare the funds and pay the necessary taxes.

Late last month, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spokesman Frank Keith said that the program would be formally announced “very shortly” and would not offer terms as generous as those put forth in a similar initiative last year.

Senior tax lawyers say the announcement will most likely come within several weeks, ahead of the 2011 tax filing season.

“The government wants to encourage people not to lie on their upcoming returns,”

said Robert Katzberg, a criminal defense lawyer in New York with offshore bank clients in the Caribbean and Switzerland.

The previous so-called voluntary disclosure program, which ended last October, was carried out amid a crackdown on Swiss private banks and their clients who hid money from the government. The program was used by more than 15,000 Americans with hidden accounts, some holding hundreds of millions of dollars, the IRS said.



The IRS wants U.S. residents to declare Caribbean accounts.

It said an additional 3,000 with accounts at various offshore banks, including the Cayman Islands, came forward after the Oct. 15 deadline.

Some taxpayers disclosed their smaller accounts at UBS, the Swiss giant that was at the

center of the crackdown, but did not disclose their larger accounts at smaller Swiss banks, Katzberg said. He said that if caught, the omission could leave them exposed to criminal penalties for lying in addition to fines and penalties for taxes owed.

WIDER PROBE

The U.S. Justice Department said it is conducting a widening investigation into the smaller Swiss banks, known as cantonal banks that may have allowed wealthy Americans to evade taxes, sometimes working with larger banks based in Switzerland.

U.S. prosecutors said they focused on a technique in which American clients were encouraged to open a small account and declare its contents to the IRS while keeping

the bulk of their money elsewhere in undeclared accounts.

Steven Miller, the IRS deputy commissioner for service and enforcement, said that the new initiative would be “somewhat similar” to the October program.

Under the previous program, taxpayers who came forward before Oct. 15 were subject to a reduced penalty of five percent to 20 percent, depending in part on whether their wealth was inherited. They were also penalized just once, on the highest balance in their affected accounts over the previous six years, instead of for each of the six years, a level that can leave account holders owing more in taxes than they have in the account.

CMC



U.S. deports 1,268 to Jamaica

The number of deportees from the United States to Jamaica continues to fall.

The Jamaica Observer newspaper reported last month that 1,268 Jamaicans were sent home from the U.S. in 2010. That represents a drop from the 1,480 in 2009 and 1,603 the year before.

According to the report, which quoted a security attaché at the Jamaican Embassy in Washington D.C.,

“more than 300 other Jamaicans have exhausted deportation proceedings and have been given final removal orders, while orders are pending against another 488”.

It noted that many 2010 deportees had “not committed what would be considered a serious crime,” and that most had had overstayed their “entry permits”. Some were deported for drug-related offenses and murder.



Former gov't minister is St. Vincent's new consul general in New York

NEW YORK – After 15 months without a consul general in New York, the Ralph Gonsalves administration in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has filled the post with the appointment of a former government minister.

Former Member of Parliament Selmon Walters, who represented the South Central Windward constituency, has been approved by Cabinet to take up the post, effective Feb. 1.

United States Ambassador La Celia Prince confirmed Walters' appointment without elaboration.

Walters – who held the portfolios of minister of social development, co-operatives, the family, gender and ecclesiastical affairs, and rural transformation, information, postal services and ecclesiastical affairs – did not contest the December poll. He replaces Cosmus Cozier, the first official consul general in New

York. The former banker retired in Aug. 2009. Cozier, an ex-Parliamentarian, had held that post from Dec. 2001.

When the incumbent Unity Labor Party (ULP) first assumed power, following the 2001 elections, it created a separate consulate general, splitting the Mission to the United Nations. Previously, the mission was also responsible for consular affairs.



Deportations concern Haitian legislator in N.Y.

NEW YORK – A Haitian-born legislator here has expressed concern over the decision by the administration of United States President Barack Obama to resume deporting natives of the French Caribbean country back to their homeland.

Dr. Mathieu Eugene, the first-ever Haitian to be elected to the New York City Council, said that he is appalled that the deportations have resumed despite a lingering cholera epidemic, the “unforgiving misery” caused by the devastating

earthquake a year ago and a political crisis of unpredictable consequences.

“Haiti has gone from tragedy to tragedy, and this is a very difficult moment in its history,” Eugene told reporters late last month, adding “the country is going through so many hardships and struggles that it's hard to believe we are sending people back, knowing how terrible conditions are.”

Dr. Eugene said more than 100 Haitians from the New York area had been sent back since U.S. immigration

authorities resumed deportations in mid-January. The medical doctor, said he was horrified by the health crisis he found in the French-speaking Caribbean country during a recent visit.

“I saw a devastated country, where thousands of people are still sleeping in tents in very inhuman conditions, terribly poor sanitary conditions. Senior citizens, sick people, pregnant women and children all together and all in need of the most basic necessities: food, clean water to drink, medicine,” Dr. Eugene said.

“This is not an appropriate time to send anybody back,” he added.



Eugene



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TPS TIMETABLE

After the massive Jan. 12, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

New Buju Banton trial begins Valentine's Day

Buju Banton will be hoping he gets some love from the United States justice system when his re-trial on drug and gun-related charges begins on Valentine's Day.

The Jamaican reggae/dancehall star, coming off an inspiring stage performance on Jan. 16 in South Florida after more than a year in lock-up, is scheduled to face more serious business beginning Feb. 14 in the Sam M. Gibbons Federal Court in Tampa, Florida.

Late last month Judge James Moody set the date for Banton's second trial after a scheduled December date had to be postponed.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, remains on \$250,000 bail, but is under house arrest.

"February 14 is Valentine's Day," Banton's attorney David Markus told the **Jamaica Observer** newspaper late last month. "We hope the jury gives us some love."

During last month's "Before The Dawn: Buju

Banton and Friends" concert at the Bayfront Amphitheater in downtown Miami, Markus said the entertainer was appreciative of the near-capacity crowd that turned up



Buju Banton

to support his near-two hour performance. He also said Banton had handled the stress of his legal troubles well, and believed he would be acquitted of the charges.

During the show Banton said he was not "bitter," but "better" because of his legal ordeal. He entertained with many of his long list of hit songs, some which appeared

to indirectly reflect on his legal dilemma. Banton also repeatedly questioned why he was still facing prosecution.

"Why do you wish to see the Banton cry? Is it because I said Boom Bye Bye?" he asked. "Is it because I say Rastafari? Is it because I'm black and I'm not shy?"

Many people in the audience showed their support for the artiste by waving flags and wearing T-shirts and buttons, some which read "Free Buju".

In September, Banton faced charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine. He was also accused of aiding and abetting the possession of a firearm during a drug-trafficking offense. But jurors could not reach a verdict after the weeklong trial.

Banton, who was arrested in Dec. 2009, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Two other men arrested in connection with the case pleaded guilty.



U.S. provides millions to fight human trafficking in Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States said its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is providing grants totaling \$4.75 million to strengthen Haitian institutional and civil society capacity.

The agency said the office will identify and respond to human trafficking, with funding from the U.S. Congress under the Supplemental Act, 2010.

"The award of 10 additional grants signifies the United States' continued commitment to rule of law and the protection of children in Haiti, as well as strengthening law enforcement responses against traffickers taking advantage of vulnerable persons in a post-disaster situation", the U.S. State Department noted.

It said the organizations receiving the grants will work with local partners to help draft anti-trafficking legislation, support direct services for victims' recovery, and prevent human trafficking and gender-based violence in the internally displaced persons camps.

Additionally, it said those organizations will increase the capacity of targeted law enforcement agencies to "investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and social welfare agencies to recognize human trafficking and make referrals for services.

'HIGH PRIORITY'

"As the issue of involuntary child domestic servitude under the 'restavek' (child

labor) system continues to be a high priority, grantees will also increase public awareness about it", the statement added.

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report estimates 225,000 children were enslaved before the Jan. 2010 earthquake. Anti-trafficking experts were part of the emergency response and the planning to rebuild in Haiti, the State Department noted.

Following the earthquake, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons funded nearly \$1 million in new grants to respond to the heightened risk of trafficking of Haitian children.

- CMC



Cuba blames U.S. anti-terrorism measures for mail ban

HAVANA, Cuba – Cuba has suspended delivery of mail destined for the United States, stating that letters were being turned back because of anti-terrorist measures in the U.S.

"Until further notice, we cannot continue to accept any type of delivery," said Cuba's mail service, Correos de Cuba, in an announcement read on state television late last month.

It added that it was forced to suspend service because the airlines that it uses to ship mail through third countries "have returned all of the correspondence" as a result of the new security measures in the U.S.

The U.S. Postal Service confirmed that there are "some issues" connected with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that it said has caused mail to "accumulate." Postal Service spokesman Dave Lewin said the U.S. is still accepting mail from Cuba, but, as airlines that carry the Cuban mail were attempting to meet the TSA requirements, the mail piled up.

"Air carriers ran out of space and began returning mail to Cuba," he said.

RE-ROUTE

Since there is no direct

mail service between the two countries, Cuba sends mail through Canada and Mexico.

"There have been some issues regarding some TSA initiatives implemented in November," Lewin said, describing those initiatives as "post cargo bomb threat" requirements.

Many Cubans use the traditional postal system to send messages to relatives in the U.S., in part because phone calls are prohibitively expensive and the Internet is not readily accessible.



Stanford unfit for trial ~ judge

HOUSTON, Texas – A United States federal judge has ordered disgraced financier Allen Stanford to remain in federal custody while undergoing treatment for drug addiction and further evaluation of his competence to stand trial.

Late last month, U.S. District Judge David Hittner ruled that Stanford, who owned businesses in Antigua, cannot be tried until he undergoes detoxification from addictions to medications he's received in jail. He recommended the government send Stanford to a federal Bureau of Prisons medical facility.

Hittner also admonished prosecutors and defense attorneys to "diligently prepare this case to proceed to trial."

Stanford and other officers of his Houston-based Stanford Financial Group are accused of defrauding investors of \$7 billion in a scheme based largely on certificates of deposit issued by his Antigua-based Stanford International Bank.

Stanford's trial had been scheduled to begin last month, but it was delayed after the Jan. 6 hearing in which attorneys debated his ability to assist in his defense. Three psychiatrists, including one hired by the government, testified then that Stanford takes heavy doses of anti-anxiety and antidepressant drugs that render him incompetent to stand trial.

Defense attorneys had requested mental evaluations after Stanford was injured in a Sept. 2009 altercation with a fellow inmate at a detention center in Conroe.

Stanford has been held without bail as a flight risk since he was indicted in June 2009.



Stanford

Guyanese gets 15 years in jail for U.S. airport terror plot role

NEW YORK - A 60-year-old Guyanese national will spend the next 15 years of his life in jail for his role in a plot to carry out a bombing at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

Abdel Nur was last month sentenced after pleading guilty in 2010 to providing support to the plot. Nur pleaded guilty in June shortly before trial to providing support for the plot. Daniel Nobel, a lawyer for Nur, said his client was "disappointed but not surprised" by the sentence.

Nur is being treated for lung cancer and will likely be designated to a federal medical center with the ability to provide treatment while he serves his sentence. He faces deportation after completing his sentence.

Nur was part of a plot that federal prosecutors in Brooklyn said was masterminded by another Guyanese, Russell Defreitas. Defreitas, a former air cargo worker, was accused of being behind the plot to blow up aviation fuel tanks and a pipeline at JFK in 2006. He sought Nur's help in connecting with a Trinidad militant group.

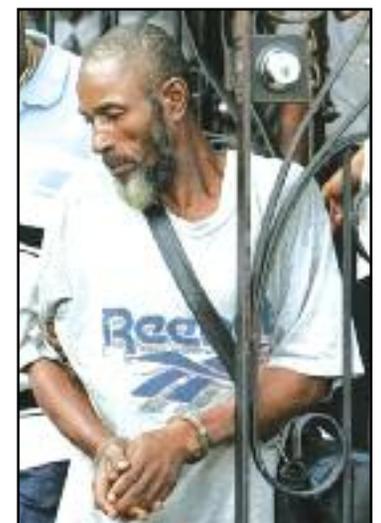
'MAJOR LOSS'

Defreitas, 67, was hoping to "cause major economic loss in the United States," prosecutors said. He and Abdul Kadir, 59, a former member of

Guyana's Parliament, were convicted of criminal charges in the plot last August. Defreitas is awaiting sentencing, but Kadir was sentenced to life last December for his role.

A fourth defendant, Kareem Ibrahim, 65, a citizen of Trinidad, was granted a separate trial, slated for April, due to a medical condition.

The JFK plot members' ultimate goal was to reach Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, a



Nur being arrested.

wanted in connection terrorist and who is a member of al-Qaeda, the Muslim terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden, prosecutors said.

- CaribWorldNews



Groups petition U.S. to stop Haitian deportations

MIAMI, Florida – Six human rights groups in Miami and Washington D.C. have filed an emergency petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to halt the deportation of Haitians by the United States.

The petition – submitted by the University of Miami School of Law Human Rights and Immigration Clinics, the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Alternative Chance and the Loyola Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice – argues that deporting people at this moment to Haiti will result in serious human rights violations.

“The U.S. government is violating important human rights obligations,” said Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law.

“These deportations will compound a catastrophic public health and humanitarian crisis in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere,” she added.

“It is simply unconscionable to resume deportations to Haiti on the one-year anniversary of one of the most devastating natural disasters in world history, especially as a cholera epidemic rages across the country.”

PRECAUTION

The petition asks the IACHR to order the U.S. to adopt precautionary measures to prevent “irreparable harm” to the Haitians subject to imminent deportation. Specifically, it asks the U.S. to continue its stay of deportations, release the petitioners and grant “deferred action” status to all people facing removal.

Last year the USCIS announced that it would give Haitian nationals another six months to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The initial deadline for applications was July 2010.



Bettinger-Lopez

But last month, she said it was resuming the deportation of Haitians who have finished serving time for violent crime. It also said it is becoming more strict on granting Haitians humanitarian parole, which is used sparingly to bring in someone otherwise inadmissible to the U.S. temporarily due to a compelling emergency.

The U.S. had typically extended TPS to immigrants from countries – such as El Salvador, Honduras, Somalia, and Nicaragua – where sudden conflict or disaster has prevented them from returning safely.

- CMC

More, including ‘Baby Doc’ Duvalier’s presence in the country, the possible return of another exiled former president, Jean Bertrand Aristide, and lingering problems from last year’s earthquake, in Caribbean Today’s “Eye on Haiti” feature, page 8.



Jamaican pastor indicted for allegedly raping congregant

NEW YORK – Prosecutors in New York have indicted a Jamaican-born pastor at a Bronx church for allegedly repeatedly raping a teenaged girl in his congregation.

Prosecutors charged that Michael Clare, the 38-year-old married leader of the Harvest Worship Center in the Wakefield section of the Bronx, repeatedly raped the girl since she was 12 years old.

Prosecutors said at his indictment on Jan. 28 that Clare has impregnated the girl, who is now 15.

Authorities said they learned of the alleged abuse in June, when the girl told her parents and police that Clare had sexually preyed on her for years. DNA evidence implicated Clare, prosecutors said.

Clare was arrested on June 14 on second-degree

rape charges, but the grand jury on Jan. 28 upped the charges to first-degree rape.

BETRAYAL

“He betrayed everyone’s trust,” one congregant, who identified herself only as Kimberly, told reporters. “What he’s accused of doing is sick.”

“I trusted my kids with him,” she added. “A lot of people did.”

Clare, who is also the principal of Harvest Prep, a school run out of the church, began preaching when he was 11, and became a pastor at 26, according to court documents. Clare is being held in lieu of \$50,000 bond. He faces up to 25 years in state prison if convicted of first-degree rape.



British lord found guilty of fraud

LONDON, England - Lord John Taylor of Warwick, whose parents were born in Jamaica, has become the first parliamentarian in the United Kingdom to be found guilty by a jury of expenses fraud.

The jury at the at the Southwark Court in South London found the 58-year-old guilty of six charges of claiming falsely for £11,277.80 (\$17,877) worth of expenses between Mar. 2006 and Oct. 2007, after deliberating for five hours.

Taylor, son of Derief Taylor, a Jamaican left-handed batsman who played cricket professionally for Warwickshire, took advantage of the law which permits members of the houses of Parliament to claim expenses for work-related travel between London and their home by claiming that he had a house in rural Oxford when, in fact, he lived in London itself.



Deportations concern Haitian legislator in N.Y.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

2010 earthquake, the U.S. halted deportations to Haiti, and Haitians who were in the U.S. were granted Temporary Protection Status. TPS is given to citizens of a foreign country due to conditions that temporarily prevent its nationals from returning safely or when the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

TPS for Haitians is set to expire on July 22, and U.S. immigration officials have said those who were granted the special status won’t be deported.

Although the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has stated that only people with criminal records will be deported, many Haitians are worried that wider deportations could be imminent. The ICE turnabout came as a surprise to New York immigration activists and civil rights groups.

“The situation in Haiti has not improved, and may be even

worse now than when the deportations were halted in the weeks after the devastating earthquake of January 2010”, three prominent non-profit groups here – the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti and Alternative Chance – noted in a joint statement issued recently.

Eugene said he wrote to President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Janet Napolitano in December, asking them to review their decision to deport Haitians.

“I urged them to consider the situation Haiti is in right now,” he said. “If they send back criminals, life will be more difficult for (earthquake) survivors.”

“Right now, Haiti is like a war zone. There is no security, no resources. Now, those people (sent back) can be even more dangerous. I keep asking myself how much more can Haiti endure.”

- CMC



Elba Silva, cancer survivor with son Caus.

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President Jagdeo leaving 'tattered legacy' in Guyana ~ U.S. think tank

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A leading United States think tank believes Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo will leave a "tattered legacy" when he steps out of office later this year.

"Stagnation, violence, corruption, arch-sectarianism, and unfettered crime – this is the heritage that President Bharrat Jagdeo will bequeath to his country", the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) noted in a statement issued late last month.

"Now that Jagdeo has announced that he will not seek a third term in the

upcoming August election, he may well ask, as a New York mayor once did, 'How did I do?' The answer, in this instance, must be: 'terribly'", it added.

Chosen by former President Janet Jagan to succeed her in office, COHA said Jagdeo could only receive the lowest of marks from any independent evaluation.

"Through his tolerance of crime, racism, and dismal social progress, President Jagdeo has turned in a fifth-rate performance as president of one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere", it

stated.

"As the Guyanese use every strategy, legal and illegal, to flee the dysfunctional country, Jagdeo will go down in history as a man who did almost nothing for his nation while in office", it added.

CREDIT

But COHA noted that, to his credit, Jagdeo has led Guyana on a path of "consid-



Jagdeo

erable economic growth" in the last 10 years, despite a devastating flood in 2005. It said the Guyanese economy, which is heavily dependent on the export of six main commodities - rice, timber, gold, bauxite, shrimp and sugar - has expanded at an average rate of three percent over the past decade.

"Sadly, however, despite this incremental improvement in the Guyanese economy, government officials have been either unwilling or unable to share this modest prosperity with average Guyanese citizens", COHA

noted.

Indicative of this trend is that the allocation for education as a percentage of government spending is significantly lower than it was 10 years ago, it stated. COHA also noted that public spending on education dropped to 6.1 percent of total gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007, down from 8.5 percent in 2000.

Because of this "lack of adequate spending on public education," the think tank noted, the percentage of pri-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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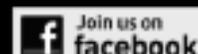
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Hosted by Calvin Hughes
Evening News Anchor, WPLG-TV Local 10



Jamaican is new Broward County Diversity Advisory Council chairman

Jamaican national Michael Everett was recently appointed chairman of the Diversity Advisory Council of the Broward County Board of Commissioners in Florida. Everett had been serving as a member of the council since 2000.

The objective of the 18-member body is to identify and focus attention on the needs and issues of the diverse communities of Broward County, which reflect various religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The information

is disseminated to the Broward County Commission for necessary action.

The council also works with the local police, identifying ethnic needs and concerns.

Everett is the only Jamaican to serve on the council, which was formerly known as the Multi Ethnic Advisory Board, since its inception 1990.

He is a graduate of Excelsior High School and the Jamaica School of Drama and has worked in the media, theater and in the education field in Jamaica.

Everett migrated to the United States in 1980, first settling in New York before relo-

cating to Florida. He pursued a career in banking and public service, working in state, coun-

ty and municipal offices.

Jagdeo leaving 'tattered legacy' in Guyana ~ U.S. think tank

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

many school entrance-age children enrolled in such schools dropped from 91.8 percent to 62 percent.

COHA warned that there could be "pernicious social consequences if education continues to take a back seat on the Guyanese agenda".

On healthcare, it noted there have been "some positive results" including an increase in life expectancy and a notable decrease in infant mortality. But, it added, "many exigencies, however, remain unaffected", stating, for example, that about a fifth of the Guyanese population still lacks access to clean sanitation facilities.

The World Health Organization estimated that Guyana has one of the highest prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean.

COHA said Jagdeo's tenure will also be remembered for the "spike in violent crimes experienced throughout Guyana.

"The violence in Guyana is all the bitterer for the ethnic undertones that color it. Guyana's motto - 'One People, One Nation, One Destiny' - only seems a cruel joke in the face of the stark division that has long seized

the country - a division that Jagdeo has done almost nothing to address", it added.

On balance, COHA noted that Jagdeo has "failed during his presidency to advance the freedom and fairness of

Guyanese public life, or the inequities of the Indo-Guyanese-dominated society".

- CMC



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FEMALE FOUNDATION



Three Caribbean women holding leadership positions in Florida shared the spotlight at the recent inauguration of the newly elected state Governor Rick Scott. New Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, center, who is of Trinidadian descent, is flanked by two Jamaicans. At left is Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers. On the right is Jamaica's Consul General to the Southeast USA Sandra Grant Griffiths. The ceremony was held last month at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee.

On Jan. 20, Detective Roger Castillo and Detective Amanda Haworth lost their lives in the line of duty.



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Steve Higgins: 'Dat' Jamaican tenor brings post-Valentine romance

SONIA MORGAN

The sound of his high, rich tenor resonates in packed auditoriums across South Florida. His singing is a staple at numerous events in the Jamaican community. And, his mega-watt smile has lit up hundreds of faces as he serenades entranced women.

Steve Higgins – soloist, public speaker, actor, director and producer – is as talented as he is humble. His sole “power-trip” is the crescendo of his voice when he belts out anything from soft classical music to Jamaican folk songs.

Higgins, along with internationally renowned artist Cecil Cooper and one of Jamaica's best voices David Reid, make up Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors, a group that has been preparing for two post-Valentine Day shows this month in South Florida. The first is slated for 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Kendall Community Church of God, and the second at 5 p.m. the following day at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie.

Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors has not performed in South Florida for two years, but played in New York last September at the Park Plaza Hotel and the year before as a part of the York College Concert Season. However, Higgins said, he is often asked when the trio would have another show in South Florida. This month's shows will be the first time the group will be doing a Valentine's performance, he added.

According to Higgins, the shows will seek to dispel the opinion of many Jamaican women that Jamaican men are not romantic and also disprove the notion held by some non-Jamaicans that Jamaicans only

enjoy reggae music.

“When most people think of Jamaican music they think of reggae and dancehall,” he told *Caribbean Today* recently. “My purpose is to show that we have this other side, a lot of flavor with a lot of style and humor and so that is how we keep the audience very engaged.”

Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors intends to show a gentler, more romantic side to the Jamaican man.

“This show is going to be a much different show than the last ones we've had,” Higgins said. “We have a brand new repertoire that we're going to present in superb delivery.”

ENDURING TALENT

For those who know Higgins only as a performer in South Florida in the 10 years he's been a resident of the area, there is so much more to know about this musical and theatrical talent. His career in the performing arts spans decades and involves many top class Jamaican acts.

Higgins has shared the stage with celebrated actors and actresses like Leonie Forbes, the late Charles Hyatt, Fae Ellington and Dr. Olive Lewin. He said he learned from those stalwarts, who influenced not only his performances, but his ability to produce and coordinate top quality shows.

In 20 years as a member of The Jamaican Folk singers, Higgins traveled widely inside and outside Jamaica. Under the tutelage of musicologist Dr. Lewin he said he “learned the rudiments of putting on a show and gained invaluable experience.” He recalled performances with the group in Westminster Abbey in London and in Drummondville, Quebec, Canada where he said



Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors on stage, from left, David Reid, Cecil Cooper and Steve Higgins.

he “learned very quickly that our (Jamaican folk) music is appreciated all over the world.”

Although Higgins described himself as “the least of the apostles” when he spoke about Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors, he has been called on to perform or arrange music for significant occasions, including funerals of prominent Jamaicans.

“I sang at the lying-in-state of (former Prime Minister) Michael Manley and with the choir at his funeral,” Higgins said.

He was in charge of arranging the musical tributes at the funeral of the late Governor General Sir Florizel Glasspole in 2000 and sang at Lady Glasspole's funeral a year earlier. When Dr. Wesley Powell, the founder of Excelsior High School, died, Higgins was asked to arrange the choir.

“Mrs. Powell thanked me for that,” he said.

Higgins was also tapped to put together the music when two other important figures, Sir Phillip Sherlock, a scholar and educator, and Hugh Sherlock, the author of the

Jamaican National Anthem, died.

“Hugh Sherlock instructed me that whenever the anthem is being sung, we should always sing both verses,” Higgins explained. “... It was very important to him. He was very specific about it, and that's something I share with all the consulates I come in contact with.”

DEM TENORS

In 2003 and 2004 Higgins produced the romantic musical “The Best Time of Your Life” which had performances in Jamaica, United States and London. But, he said, it was costly at times with a cast of 14. When he heard about Spanish singers Plácido Domingo and José Carreras and the Italian singer Luciano Pavarotti, known as The Three Tenors, he thought about a Jamaican equivalent. Dem 3 Jamaican Tenors was born.

In 2004, then Jamaican Consul General to Miami Ricardo Allicock asked Higgins to form a group to officiate and sing at Jamaica's annual Independence service.

“We now have members from some 20 churches in the group South Florida Caribbean Chorale. The group has been extended to include other nationals from the Caribbean and we are 100 strong,” Higgins said.

The chorale stages Christmas concerts. The last two were held at the Plantation United Methodist Church. Last year the group gave most of its proceeds from Easter and Christmas concerts to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which went to Haiti. The group has also performed at Holy Family Episcopal, Holy Sacrament and Miramar United Methodist Church.

“The group decided to stay together and continue doing regular concerts,” Higgins said.

Higgins also has a day job. He is the Caribbean regional manager for Moneygram International, which is responsible for money transfer business

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

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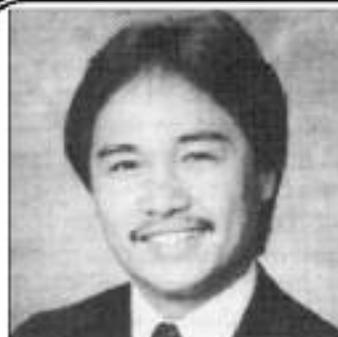
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I came home to help in Haiti's reconstruction ~ Duvalier U.S. will not stop aid to Haiti ~ Clinton

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, - Former Haitian dictator Jean Claude Duvalier has told nationals that he decided to end his 25 year exile in France and return home to help in the reconstruction of the country following the Jan. 12 earthquake last year that killed an estimated 300,000 people and left more than a million others homeless.

But less than 48 hours after he made a surprise return to Haiti last month, "Baby Doc" Duvalier was slapped with several charges, including corruption, theft and misappropriation of funds that were allegedly committed during his 15 year rule.

Under Haitian law, the charges must now be investigated by a judge, who will decide whether a judicial case should go ahead.

In a prepared statement last month, Duvalier, who

returned here on Jan. 16, also expressed condolences to the families of those killed.

"When I made the decision to come back to Haiti to commemorate this sad anniversary with you, in our country, I was ready for any kind of persecution," Duvalier said in a soft-spoken voice.

"But I believe that the desire to participate by your side in this collaboration for the national reconstruction far outweighs any harassment I could face," he said, in apparent reference to the allegations made against him by Haitian authorities including embezzlement, fraud, and crimes against humanity.

The 59-year-old former



Duvalier

leader ruled Haiti from 1971 to 1986 through terror and the regime he inherited from his father.

Human right groups said thousands of Haitians were imprisoned, tortured or killed, during his rule. His brief statement was followed by explanations from a team of American lawyers, including Bob Barr, a former United States congressman and presidential candidate, who said he was assisting Duvalier with his international public image.

One of the lawyers, Edwin Marger, denied that Duvalier harbored any political ambitions. But he said Duvalier does want access to funds frozen in a bank account in Switzerland to contribute to the reconstruction.

Compiled from CMC reports.



...Aristide too wants to return

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - Less than a week after deposed Haitian leader Jean Claude Duvalier made a surprise return to Haiti, another former head of state is eyeing a return to the French-speaking Caribbean country.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who now lives in exile in South Africa, last month sent a letter to his former foreign press liaison Michelle Karshan indicating that he is "ready" to return home.

Aristide, a former Roman Catholic priest, was swept out of office in 2004 and he has consistently blamed the United States and France for his downfall.

Karshan told reporters that she received the letter

"directly" from Aristide, 57, and his spokeswoman Maryse Narcisse.

"The purpose is very clear: To contribute to serving my Haitian sisters and brothers as a simple citizen in the field of education", wrote Aristide in the letter dated Jan.19.

"The return is indispensable, too, for medical reasons: It is strongly recommended that I not spend the coming winter in South Africa's because in six years I have undergone six eye surgeries",



Aristide

he added.

Seven months after he was democratically elected in 1990 for his first term, Aristide, who fought the Duvalier regime in the mid-1980s, was ousted by a military junta. Three years later, a U.S. invasion restored him to power. But he went into exile a second time in 2004 amid a violent rebellion.

Aristide has been a research fellow at the University of South Africa in Pretoria, where he has been teaching and presenting research papers, such as "Why African descendants are still facing poverty in Haiti".



European Union, have made it explicit that they also support the OAS's recommendation.

Despite the OAS report and international pressure, Celestin, a government technocrat and Preval protégé, had not withdrawn from the race up to press tiem, despite



Clinton

prodding from his own INITE or Unity coalition to do so. Washington has also revoked the US entry visas of several Haitians officials linked to INITE and Celestin's campaign.



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, CMC - United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ended a one-day visit here on Jan. 30 promising that Washington will not suspend aid to the impoverished French speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country even as the disputed presidential and legislative elections results remain unresolved.

Late last month, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice hinted that the administration of President Barack Obama may cut off aid to Haiti if the René Préal administration did not adopt recommendations by the Organization of American States (OAS) to resolve the impasse. But, after meeting with Haitian leaders, Clinton rejected that notion.

"We're not talking about any of that," she told reporters. "We have a deep commitment to the Haitian people.

"That goes to humanitarian aid that goes to governance and democracy programs that will be going to a cholera treatment center," she said.

THREAT

But Clinton pressed Haiti's leaders to adopt the internationally-backed solution to the elections' dispute. The continuing stalemate threatens to further undermine the fragile peace in the impoverished, French-speaking Caribbean country.

"We've made it very clear we support the OAS recommendations, and we would like to see those acted on," Clinton said.

"We want to see the voices and votes of the Haitian people acknowledged and recognized," she added.

In early January, the international experts revised the disputed preliminary results from the chaotic Nov. 28 elections. Citing widespread irregularities in voting tallies, the experts recommended that presidential candidate and popular musician Michel "Sweet Mickey" Martelly be included in the Mar. 20 second-round runoff vote in place of government-backed candidate, Jude Celestin. Former Haitian First Lady, Mirlande Manigat, has already been confirmed for the run-off.

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DR. JOHN WILKERSON

What Haitians can do for to help themselves

JOHN KERRY

On Jan. 11, 2010, things were looking up for Haiti. United Nations peacekeepers had cracked down on Haiti's notorious gangs and reduced urban violence. Dangerous slums, like Cite Soleil, were safer than they had been in years. President



JOHN KERRY

Rene Prével had begun, albeit haltingly, to enact political reforms. Foreign investment and economic growth, spurred by United States trade benefits and Haiti's active diaspora, were ticking upwards.

In what passes for optimism in Haiti, Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive observed that the country was moving "to get out of misery to get into poverty." We know the tragic next chapter to this story. On Jan. 12, literally and figuratively, it all came tumbling down. An earthquake killed upwards of 300,000 people and left over 1.5 million without shelter. The quake set in motion a series of events, including a cholera epidemic, that still has Haiti reeling.

After the quake, we witnessed many noble, generous and courageous efforts by Haitians and outside donors. Together, they prevented the catastrophe from exploding into something worse. Widespread famine, looting, and violence did not occur. Vital health indicators remained stable. Even if just under plastic or canvas, over a million displaced Haitians had protection from wind and rain, and they had access to clean water and latrines.

OPPORTUNITY

The once-in-a-generation opportunity to "build back "re-imagined" Haitian future, the country has reverted to the same dysfunctional political culture that has tormented its past. Foot-dragging and petty squabbles have precluded solutions to even the most compelling of humanitarian problems.

As a result, 1.3 million Haitians are still living in tents. The cholera epidemic has intensified and unemployment and poverty rates have reached epic proportions - unemployment rates in the formal sector are up to 90 percent.

With ministries demolished and thousands of govern-

ment employees killed, the Haitian national leadership had good reasons for its slow response in the early months of the crisis, but President Prével and his government have lagged in coordinating rebuilding efforts. Even when the international community has developed plans and identified funding, the Haitian government has been slow to give the green light to these projects. Major policy priorities, such as creating decentralized clusters of economic activity outside the crowded capital, have had no significant follow-up.

BLAME

The donor community is not without blame. Haitians have complained, often rightfully, that they have been left out of meetings and decision-making, that approved projects do not conform to agreed priorities, and that the non-governmental community often pursues duplicative projects without buy-in or support from the government. The U.S. has provided valuable assistance and leadership, but we have yet to articulate a strategy for contributing to rebuilding.

While there are no magic solutions to these immense challenges, the elements of a way forward are clear.

First, the impasse that has delayed the presidential runoff election that was supposed to occur last month must be resolved. Haiti needs a legitimate leader to take office and appoint a skilled team to implement a development vision for the country. The international community must work to change the elites' traditional calculus that a crisis is an opportunity, and we must make clear that alleviating the suffering of the Haitian people is our first priority. Any candidate sabotaging the ongoing efforts by the Organization of American States to solve the election crisis should be disqualified.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Bling this, bling that

On my most recent travel to the United States I was amazed and amused at the new types of "bling" that the kids were wearing. I even saw boys wearing teeth with flashing lights on them.

We scoff and deride, but is bling really new? It seems as if even in days gone by there was bling, albeit called by a different name. People then adorned themselves with baubles bangles and beads, plus fancy hairstyles or wigs to cap off the ensemble. But aha, the new generation rolled it, skewed it, improved it and took it to a different level.

We now are the proud owners of bling. Bling is a state of mind, an attitude, a way of life that decrees. If you got it flaunt it, and even if you haven't got it, flaunt it anyway. Bling is not real wealth, but the appearance of real wealth, giving true meaning to the saying, all that glitters is not gold - just bling.

For some people, from they have a child, the poor kid is subjected to bling. From before the youth can walk or talk, he or she is festooned like a Christmas tree with earrings, toe rings, finger rings, nose rings, big chains (cargo) multi-colored hairstyles, designer clothes and expensive track shoes to match. Bling Baby.

TO IMPRESS

As they grow older, the bling becomes even more pronounced as the gold and silver chains hang from their necks like when ships drop anchor. It's amazing the neck strength of those wearers, as those chains must carry a good weight. Or are they hollow?

The clothes must be baggy, with the pants hanging down way below the waist and with the underpants, usually boxer shorts, showing above the belt line. The shirt is big, billowy, flowery like curtain cloth and always open, unless it's a mesh tank top that hugs the mighty bling belly. The



TONY ROBINSON

boy's hair-styles rival that of any woman, as it's either cornrows that are so neat you could take metric measurements off them, or they have all sorts of multicolored beads and trinkets twisted in.

Many times I have had to take a second look to deter-

mine whether it's a male or female that's dressed up so.

Bling does have a veneer of androgyny. Men with plaited hair and earrings, sometimes in both ears, that's bling. Let's not forget the teeth, as no one has a toothy grin as a man who is truly bling. Each tooth must have on a different character, usually from a deck of cards, with gold being the metal of choice. Sometimes it's a gun or a bullet that makes the tooth the whole tooth.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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CARIB Comments

• **“Duvalier has raped Haiti”** – St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas last month making it clear what he thinks of the return to Haiti of former dictator Jean Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier.

• **“We have not really focused on whether or not what Jamaica wants going into the future is a situation where for you to be a Member of Parliament, you must be a citizen of Jamaica only, or whether**

we want to recognize our reality that there are citizens of Jamaica and of other countries who manage their loyalty to each country” – Jamaica’s Prime Minister Bruce Golding weighs in on the issue of dual citizenship.

• **“I looked around and saw men with guns, they looked like ruffians to me. I thought they had come to stop the debate”**

– former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister ANR Robinson last month describing his reaction to the storming of T&T’s



Parliament by members of the radical Jamaat-Al-Muslimeen group during an attempted coup in July 1990. Robinson was a witness called by the five-member Commission of Inquiry into the incident.

• **“Why, you might ask, is what happens thousands of miles away in Arizona relevant to anyone in the Caribbean? More specifically, why is it relevant to us here in St. Kitts and Nevis? Because of what it has to teach us”** – St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr.

Denzil Douglas warns Caribbean nationals that there are lessons to be learnt from the attempted assassination of

United States Congresswoman Gabriella Giffords last month.

• **“There are major issues surrounding Mr. Duvalier and the considerable range of human rights abuses that took place in Haiti during the 15 years that he was in power”** - Rupert Colville, spokesperson for the United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, voices his organization’s concern over Jean Claude Duvalier’s return to Haiti last month..

• **“I just wanted to finish on a high”** - West Indies batsman Chris Gayle after blasting 92 runs from 40 balls in his final

innings for Western Australia in the “Twenty20 Big Bash” cricket tournament Down Under. Gayle, recently named Jamaica’s “Sportsman of the Year”, smashed seven fours and eight sixes. He then left to join the West Indies for its three-match one-day international tour of Sri Lanka ahead of this month’s Cricket World Cup.



Compiled from CMC and other sources.



Bling this, bling that

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

But it’s the women of bling who are the real eye catchers. Oh for Versace, Donatelli, Ferrucci, Calvin Klein, Fubu, to pass by and check out our futile femme fatales. Their eyes would pop.

ON SHOW

Even in the pouring rain they’ll line up to get into night-clubs, as the bling outfit shall not go to waste. They’ll merely cover the fancy hairdo, kick off the boots and bling out in the club, as it has to be shown off. Bling must also ring, as no Bling outfit is complete without the cellphone ensemble, with multi colored instruments that glow in the dark and ring to the tunes and tomes of the

classical melodies.

The ultimate bling is to have two or three cellphones even though no call can be made, as it’s the old familiar refrain, “My phone card run out.”

The choice drink of bling is champagne, preferably Dom Perrier or Moët.

To complete the uniform, to be truly bling, the vehicle of choice has to be an SUV, preferably the Avalanche or Escalade. The H2Hummer carries bling, and you have to really fix it up extra, accessorize it with blue, purple or green running lights that glow under it, 10 million watt fog lamps, plus lights in the exhaust tail pipe, and rims that continue spinning long

after the vehicle’s parked and the owner’s gone to bed. That’s bling.

Superior Bling is when there’s a television or even two embedded in the headrest of the vehicle. If you check out most of those bling guys with the fancy wheels, they live nowhere, but those that do, really live stylishly. They inhabit houses that would rival Buckingham Palace, complete with lions on the fence post, gold plate on the toilet seat and marble from Italy.

NOT SIZE

A truly bling house is usually huge, palatial. But bling is not necessarily about size. Just drive through inner cities and you’ll truly see some bling

boudoirs, if you dare to enter the portals.

To be bling, you have to talk the language of bling. No Standard English, but the babble of bling. I overheard this guy talking on his “bling-phone” and listened in marvel and awe as I heard the language of bling. I could only hear his side of the conversation, which went something like this: “Yow, fi real, loop me, yu dun know, get jiggy, slam it, pon der corner, represent, yu dun know, yu waan see, yu dun know, yow, bus me, yu dun know.” Fi real folks, fi real.

Bling continues even after the dearly bling has dearly departed. There is nothing as fabulous than a bling send off, the mother of all funerals. The

stretch limos, the Escalades, the fancy fandangles, finery, fashion fusion. The cacophony of the ever-present bling-phones, the gold chains, gold teeth, gold diggers. Few tears are shed, as the bling make-up cannot be ruined.

What is also true is that bling is usually short lived. Bling is not real wealth, but merely conspicuous consumption. Real wealth lasts for generations, as the great families of the world have proven. Bling may last until the person departs, but usually he out-lives it.

“Investment? Wah dat? Is bling I bling boss, just blinging out.”

seido1@hotmail.com



What Haitians can do for themselves

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Second, the donor community must communicate a clear and coherent rebuilding vision and strategy with time lines and benchmarks. The U.S. can play an important role by publicly articulating an overarching development policy to guide the allocation of over \$1 billion in assistance appropriated by the Congress last July. Haitian ownership of any plan is key, but the obstructionism and unwillingness to lead cannot be tolerated any longer.

Third, we must recognize and reinforce the remarkable success of the U.N. peacekeeping operation and the newly trained Haitian National Police, both of which have been critical to stability and the rapid decline in crime.

Fourth, Haiti must take better advantage of the experience and know-how of its highly skilled and wide-ranging diaspora. The government has many vacancies that émigrés can fill - at a minimum through

a fellows program - to provide critical support to ministries as they attempt to stand up and reorganize.

Finally, we must recognize that rebuilding Haiti will require a sustained commitment and a long-term partnership. The U.S. and the international community have done good work in Haiti in the past, and Haiti is better for it today, but the work was piecemeal and short-term.

Partnership entails commitment and maturity on both sides. Haitians across society - from the economic and political elite, to the nascent and unsteady civil society, to the masses of poor - have to realize that our concern for their welfare does not give them leverage to shun our demands for progress. We cannot do the tasks that only they can do.

Democrat John Kerry is a United States senator from the state of Massachusetts.



Spring Shipping

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

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Historic photographic exhibit honors MLK, highlights NSU's celebrations

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout February and March as part of its ongoing Black History Month celebrations.

Among the highlights is the photo documentary "And Freedom For All", which captures King's defining "I Have A Dream" speech and his participation in the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom". The photographs were taken by **LOOK** magazine's Stanley Tretick, who was John F. Kennedy's presidential photographer.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, is on view through Mar. 31 in the Second Floor Gallery of NSU's Alvin Sherman Library.

Other highlights of NSU Black History Month celebrations include talks from "The Strengths of the Black Family" series, including one on "Black Love" on **Feb. 14**;



Stanley Tretick photograph

King leads protest march.

an African dance class on **Feb. 15**, and an urban funk workshop on **Feb. 18**; plus a one-man show about Langston Hughes on **Feb. 19**, and a journey toward natural hair on **Feb. 20**;

For more information, about the photo exhibit, call **954-262-4637**. For a full program of NSU's Black History Month events, visit www.nova.edu/blackhistory.



Spotlight on 'African Awareness' at Feb. 19 fundraising banquet in Lauderhill

Dr. Umar Abdullah-Johnson is the scheduled keynote speaker at a Black History Month fundraising banquet on Feb. 19 in Lauderhill, Florida.

His presentation is entitled "African Awareness 101", which will focus on the detrimental effects of special education on students of color attending public schools and on what parents need to know to safeguard their children.

Dr. Abdullah-Johnson is a school psychologist from Philadelphia. He is a blood relative of Frederick Douglass, the great black abolitionist and orator.

The banquet will be in aid of the establishment of a Marcus Garvey Multi-Purpose Community Center in Fort Lauderdale. It will be held at the Warehouse, 3500 N.W. 15th St. in Lauderhill, Florida, beginning at **7 p.m.**

The program will include audio-visual presentations, live music, an African fashion show staged by the Liberian Association of South Florida, cultural performances and the Lalibela Muzik sound system.

For more information, call **954-981-1176** or **954-297-8593**.



FMU offers variety during BHM

The Black History Month Committee at Florida Memorial University (FMU) will offer several events during February, including film screenings, workshops, panel discussions, stage readings, concerts and spiritual worship services.

Some of the activities are listed below:

• **Feb. 10, 10 a.m.** – Homecoming Cultural Pride Extravaganza on the front lawn.

• **Feb. 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** – Black Pioneers in Aviation at the Lehman Auditorium.
7 p.m. – Homecoming Greek Step Show and Concert, including performances by Gyptian, Jagged Edge and

Slim at the A. Chester Robinson Athletic Center.

• **Feb. 16, 5:30 p.m.** – Oscar Micheaux Film and Discussion at the Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts (LRCPA).

• **Feb. 18, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** – Melton Mustafa Jazz Festival Workshops at LRCPA.

• **Feb. 19, 7 p.m.** – Melton Mustafa Jazz Festival Concert at LRCPA.

• **Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m.** – View "Contextualizing Black Europe", Sedat Pakay's film on James Baldwin: "From Another Place" at LRCPA.



Blacks can learn from Jews, when it comes to history

Six years ago I went to Auschwitz. I remember being surprised at the number of Israeli school groups there, some literally wrapped in their national flag.

Israeli school kids, it turns out, often visit the death camp as a means of understanding the genocide that decimated their people. Learning this left me, not for the first time, impressed with the way Jews have institutionalized Holocaust education. A subject that was considered largely taboo into the 1970s has since become the object of manifold museums, memorials and oral histories.

As Maryla Korn, a survivor from Washington, once told the Washington Jewish Week newspaper, "Maybe by talking and telling our stories,

we can restrain another little monster from coming up. How can you not talk?"

CONTRAST

Her words stand in stark contrast to the responses I once received from two black women when I asked them to describe a lynching they witnessed in 1930.

"I try and put that behind me," said Sarah E. Weaver-Pate. "I'd just rather forget that."

"Why bring it up?" snapped Clara Jeffries. "It's not helping anything. People don't want to hear it."

Every January we hear Martin Luther King's great speech. Every February, school kids dress up as black inventors or social leaders. But there is in us - meaning the African American community - a marked tendency to avoid the grit, gristle and grime of our history. The telling of those stories is neither institutionalized nor even particularly encouraged.

It is time for that to

change.

I sat down intending to write a different column. I was going to blast Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour for his remarks about the so-called "Citizens Councils", which were popular in the American South beginning in the 1950s.

"Up north they think it was like the KKK," he said in an interview with The Weekly Standard. "Where I come from it was an organization of town leaders. In Yazoo City they passed a resolution that said anybody who started a chapter of the Klan would get their a.. run out of town."

MISLEADING

It's a benign, misleading picture sharply at odds with the historical record. The Citizens Councils - originally the "White" Citizens Councils - served the same purpose social conservatism often does today: to give racism intellectual and moral cover and provide a camera-friendly alter-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Caribbean community joins BHM celebrations

The Caribbean community in South Florida will be celebrating Black History Month with a familiar flavor in February. Below are a couple of activities scheduled for the month:

• **Feb. 13, 7 p.m.** - Caribbean Dance Celebration presented by Jamaica Awareness Inc. at Coral Springs Center for The Arts, 7855 Coral Springs Dr. Program to honor life and work of Jamaican Rex Nettleford.

For more information call: **305-405-2712** or visit www.jamaware.org.

• **Feb. 19** - Have A Heart Gala - "A Stroll Down Memory Lane" - presented by the National Association of The Bahamas at Miramar Cultural Center, 2300 Civic Center Pl., Miramar. To reserve tickets, call **954-888-1113/4** or e-mail Rgomez@Bahamas.com.



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Nova Southeastern University Celebrates Black History Month

Enjoy a month of art, music, food, lectures, and discussions.

African Presence 2011 | Eighth Annual Art Exhibition

And Freedom for All: The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom



© Estate of Stanley Tretick from the exhibition *And Freedom for All*

February 4–March 31, 2011

Second Floor Gallery at the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center

Photo documentary of the historic 1963 march on the capital led by Martin Luther King, Jr., captured by award-winning *Look* magazine photojournalist Stanley Tretick.

For a complete listing of events, visit www.nova.edu/blackhistory.



NSU's Main Campus
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Soul Food Twist

Saturday, February 5 from 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center

Traditional soul food of African Americans will get a new twist as resident chef Bill Mitchell of the Publix Apron's Cooking School will demonstrate poached shrimp over hominy grits cakes with serrano jelly. Sample goodies and learn about new soul food choices.

To attend, please call (954) 262-5477.

Black Love: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Issues in African American Romance

Monday, February 14 from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Carl DeSantis Building, Knight Auditorium

Facilitated by family therapy professor Debra Nixon from NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, this event will feature film clips, discussion, and debate.

For more information, call (954) 262-3008.

Langston Hughes Show by Actor/Writer David Mills

Saturday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Mailman Hollywood Building Auditorium

New York-based actor and writer Don St. Clair brings the life and work of Harlem Renaissance icon Langston Hughes in his one-man show, *Langston Hughes*. The show combines theatre, poetry, and song! Space is limited; reservations are required.

To RSVP, call Chetachi Egwu, (954) 262-8073.

Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

The Seventh Annual Carrie P. Meek Outstanding Education Leadership Achievement Award Ceremony

Thursday, February 24 from 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Signature Grand in Davie

The Black Heritage Council of the Fischler School of Education and Human Services at NSU will feature keynote speaker Salome Thomas-EI and special guest speaker Dennis Bega, senior adviser in the U.S. Department of Education, as well as youth saxophonist Chris Cummings. The dinner will be followed by speaker presentations, recognition of leaders, and awarding of the scholarship.

To purchase tickets call (954) 262-8519.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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*peace kindness acceptance goodwill,
enrichment tolerance harmony
balance learning respect*

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Publix.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

www.caribbeantoday.com

Blacks can learn from Jews, when it comes to history

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

native to the brutish ignorance of the Klan. But their mission was never in doubt.

“The Citizens’ Council is the South’s answer to the mongrelizers,” crowed one pamphlet. “We will not be integrated. We are proud of our white blood and our white heritage of sixty centuries...We are certainly not ashamed of our traditions, our conservative beliefs, nor our segregated way of life.”

Which is hardly consonant with the impression Barbour leaves, but let that slide. The governor, after all, is hardly unique. Like Glenn Beck saying conservatives authored the civil rights movement and Civil War apologists claiming slavery did not cause that conflict, he is part of an appallingly audacious conservative effort to rewrite African American history.

Jews have endured a simi-

lar experience, as seen in their struggle against Holocaust deniers. African-Americans must respond as the Jews have.

We must bear witness.

The energy spent blasting Haley Barbour could more productively be spent starting an oral history project at church. Or bringing elder

speakers into schools to share segregation memories. Or encouraging children to visit and mark the crucible places of their ancestors. Or...?

We must

claim our remembered passages. It is in those passages that a people define themselves. And Barbour’s sugar-coating of African American history offers a stark reminder: If we don’t tell our stories, someone else will.

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



Jews have endured a similar experience, as seen in their struggle against Holocaust deniers. African-Americans must respond as the Jews have.

T&T launches ‘International Year for People of African Descent’ pledge in 2011

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Trinidad and Tobago has launched the United Nations “International Year for People of African Descent, pledging to develop a national program comprising a series of activities befitting the importance of the occasion.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar said that given the country’s multi-ethnic society and historical legacies, the International Year for People of African Descent assumes even greater significance for T&T. She said that her coalition administration intends to develop a program of activities through partner-

ship with various key stakeholders that would include an art competition reflecting the history of the African presence.

She said there would also be documentation of African oral traditions, such as folk tales as well as an exhibition to highlight historical sites and artifacts.

The prime minister said there would also be a mural to be done by young artists from T&T, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda and public lectures by leading researchers and civil right leaders on topics appropriate to this occasion.

In adopting the resolution

proclaiming 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, the U.N. noted that it is aimed “at strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.”



Lemon City Cemetery ceremony to honor Bahamians

A dedication ceremony for the memorial garden and monument at the site of the recently discovered Lemon City Cemetery in Florida, where 523 blacks are buried, many of who were Bahamian and early founders of Miami, will be held on Feb. 15.

The event will begin with a procession at 9:30 a.m. led

by The Progressive Cornet Band, directed by Donnie Brown, and the Singing Angels directed by Dr. Richard Strachan.

In April of 2008 human bones were discovered at the construction site for the YMCA of Greater Miami’s affordable housing project in Miami, Florida. It was revealed that the bones were

from black people, many Bahamians and early founders of Miami.

On Feb. 16, 2010 the Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation, the developers and the Y celebrated the local historic designation of the cemetery.

For more information, call 305-448-3425.



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Jamaica's NDTC to celebrate Caribbean culture, dance in Coral Springs

~ Show to honor Rex Nettleford, support his foundation

SONIA MORGAN

When Jamaica's National Dance Theater Company (NDTC) performers hit the stage for "Caribbean Dance Celebration" on Feb. 13 in Coral Springs, Florida they would have already marked the one-year anniversary of the death of the group's founder and artistic director Professor Rex Nettleford.

Yet the evening's proceedings will honor the life and work of the cultural and academic icon, who died Feb. 2, 2010, and the net proceeds from the event will be donated to the Rex Nettleford Foundation.

According to Sydney Roberts, president of Jamaica Awareness Inc., presenter of the show, the importance of the NDTC and Nettleford's contribution to dance in Jamaica and the Caribbean cannot be understated and should be continued. He said that is why it's important to support the Rex Nettleford Foundation, which aims to continue the work of the late professor in culture, education,

research, trade unionism, diaspora building and philanthropy.

Although Nettleford was known for his cultural influence, his philanthropy is prob-



Nettleford

ably his "best kept secret," according to Roberts.

"Throughout his life he has sent many students through college with his own money," he said, "because it was important to him that they get the opportunities he was afforded as a young man from a humble background."

Roberts explained that most of the people who danced with the NDTC were poorer kids attending university, many of whom could scarcely afford the tuition.

"For the ones who could not afford it, he (Nettleford) used his influence to get them into different dance schools throughout the world because he valued the totality in education in every genre of dance," he added. "He supported kids who weren't able to support themselves at the tertiary level, without fanfare. Many NDTC dancers get scholarships...the company sponsors them and pays their tuition while they are away."

DANCE MASTER

There is no question as to why the NDTC among Nettleford's primary legacies, and why Jamaica Awareness is dedicated to its continuance.



NDTC's Kerry-Ann Henry performs "Life After Death".

- Contributed

"The importance of what we are doing is in an attempt

to keep the work that he did alive," said Roberts, highlighting Nettleford's impact on dance in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Roberts called Nettleford "the master of Caribbean dance.

"Most of the steps that are considered Caribbean dance were developed by the NDTC under his tutelage," he said. "Dance companies in Jamaica mirror the NDTC and there are many other groups throughout the Caribbean doing these same dances."

NDTC alumni have not just branched out to form their own dance companies in Jamaica, they have also had success internationally. Two prime examples are Jackie Guy, one of Britain's leading lecturers in Afro Caribbean dance, who choreographed "The Harder They Come", and Garth Fagan, who choreographed "The Lion King".

Roberts said one of Jamaica Awareness's goals for the Feb. 13

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Caribbean stars among nominees for 2011 NAACP Image Awards

NEW YORK - Two top Caribbean-born singers are among the nominees for this year's NAACP Image Awards.

Barbadian Rihanna and Nicki Minaj of Trinidad and Tobago both made the list, joining notables such as Tracy Morgan, Vanessa Williams, LL Cool J, Jay-Z, Usher, Kanye West, Black Eyed Peas, Tyler Perry, Denzel Washington, Justin Timberlake, Jaden Smith and Selena Gomez.

Minaj is among nominees in the "Outstanding New Artist" category, while Rihanna joins Mary J Bilge and Sade among others in the "Outstanding Female Artist" category. Rihanna is also nominated, along with Eminem, in the "Outstanding



Nicki Minaj



Rihanna

Duo, Group or Collaboration" category.

The nominations were announced last month in Beverly Hills, California by stars including 50 Cent, Kimberly Elise, Sanaa Lathan and Smokey Robinson.

The Image Awards celebrates the accomplishments of people of color in the fields of television, music, literature and film, as well as honoring individuals or groups who promote social justice through creative endeavors.

The 42nd Image Awards will be aired live on Fox television net-

work on Mar. 4.

- CaribWorldNews



T&T calypsonian Mighty Conqueror killed

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Veteran calypsonian Mighty Conqueror, real name Leroy Paul, was killed a few yards away from the calypso tent he was due to appear in as part of the 2011 calypso season which opened here late last month.

Paul, 71, was hit by a car

as he tried to cross the highway near the Calypso Revue Tent that features popular calypsonians such as Sugar Aloes (Michael Osuna), Crazy (Edwin Ayoung) Mighty Chalkdust (Dr. Hollis Liverpool) and Baron (Timothy Watkins Junior).

Colleagues said that Paul,

whose popular tunes include "Trinidad Dictionary" and "Fresh Water Yankee", was on his way to rehearsal when the accident occurred.

The calypso season opened as Trinidadians get ready for the annual carnival celebrations that end on Mar. 8



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Dominica's 'jump up' blasts off St. Lucian Walcott wins top British literary prize

Dominica's carnival celebrations are already underway. Here's a look at some of the highlights from the most festive season in the eastern Caribbean island:

• **Through Mar. 5** - Calypso featuring dozens of carnival musicians, or calypsonians, who compete for the "Dominica Calypso Monarch" title. The competition begins in the weeks before the grand finale on **Mar. 5**.

• **Feb. 12** - Opening parade featuring carnival queen and princess contestants, popular bands, dancers in colorful costumes, stilt walkers (also called moco jumbies) and cheerleaders.

• **Feb. 20 and 27, Mar. 4** - Princess Show/Teenage Pageant/National Queen Show which showcases the talents and beauty of Dominica's women and culminates with the crowning of "Miss Dominica" on **Mar. 4**.

• **Mar. 7 and 8** - "Jump-up" featuring two days of costume bands and street dancing. In addition to events that take place in the capital of Roseau, several small villages across the island also participate in the local pageantry.

For information about Dominica's carnival, visit www.discoverdominica.com or call Discover Dominica Authority toll-free from the United States and Canada at **1-866-522-4057**.



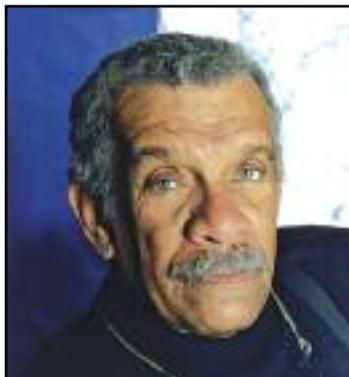
LONDON, England – Nobel laureate Derek Walcott has won the T.S. Eliot Prize for the best new collection of poems published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

The St. Lucian born Walcott, 81, took the prize against competition from an eclectic group of poets, including fellow Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, Iraq war veteran Brian Turner, and Sam Willetts, whose debut collection came after 10 years lost to addiction to and recovery from heroin.

He received the £15,000 (\$23,651) from Valerie Eliot, widow of T.S. Eliot, during a ceremony at the Wallace Collection, London late last month.

The winning collection, "White Egrets", was described by poet Anne Stevenson, the chair of judges, as "moving

and technically flawless. "It took us not very long to decide that this collection was the yardstick by which all the



Walcott

others were to be measured. These are beautiful lines; beautiful poetry," she said.

PRAISE

Stevenson praised Walcott's technical mastery,

saying: "It is a complete book from first to last; each poem belongs completely.

"He is a very great poet – one of the finest poets writing in English."

The collection – described by the Guardian newspaper reviewer Sarah Crown as a "superb meditation on death, grief and the passage of time" – sees Walcott in elegiac mood, the egrets of the title become a shifting metaphor. According to Stevenson, the collection "sees a return to his Caribbean setting after sojourns in England and America and he is, as it were, blessing the world instead of complaining about it."

- CMC



Steve Higgins: 'Dat' Jamaican tenor brings post-Valentine romance

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

across the region, including French, Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean countries, as well as some South American nations. His job takes him to the Caribbean weekly, but he finds a way to balance work and his music.

"I do believe my job is very fulfilling, because I'm able to point a lot of Caribbean people to a very reasonable passageway to send money to their loved ones through money transfer," Higgins explained. "When I go Haiti, for example and I do a Habitat for Humanity home dedication, I end up singing there...Same thing in Guyana."

'WOW MOMENT'

Higgins's "wow moment" came at the International

Music Festival in Drummondville, which featured performers from all over the world.

"We did our 10 minute routine - singing in Jamaican patois - and when we finished performing and we froze, there was deafening silence," he recalled. "Then, the stadium erupted there was a sustained applause for about 15 to 20 minutes. It was a tear-jerker for me, but that was a moment in time that I will never forget. That was my wow moment."

Higgins also gives back to the community through performing solo, with the choir or emceeing for various events, without compensation. He is the father of two, a daughter, Simone, who is a final year student at Florida International University, and son Jonathan,

who attends Wolmer's Boys School in Jamaica.

While living in Jamaica, Higgins appeared in leading roles in television and radio commercials and plays staged at places like the Ward Theatre, The Little Theater and the Philip Sherlock Center for the Performing Arts. He also appeared in musicals and the Lorimar television series "Going to Extremes".

"My mantra is if I have two people in the audience, I'm going to do my best and leave an indelible impression on them," Higgins said, "because you're only as good as your last performance."

Sonia Morgan is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Jamaica's NDTC to celebrate Caribbean culture, dance in Coral Springs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15) event is to have "our commu-

give thanks to the people who put in the work." The NDTC will also hold master dance



- Contributed

"Kumina", featuring a young Nettleford as "King", left, and Pansy Hassan as "Queen".

classes on Feb. 11 for persons who are interested in learning Caribbean dances.

The show, slated for the Coral Springs Center for the Arts, will feature a tribute section and a performing section. The NDTC was co-founded by Rex Nettleford and Eddy Thomas in 1962, the same year Jamaica became Independent. It presents Jamaican culture through the performing arts – focusing on dance, music and theater.

Sonia Morgan is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



nity come out and represent, so that people can understand the work and know that we

CAN WE TALK?



Peter A. Webley, Publisher

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Wikileaks revelations will change U.S. diplomacy ~ Guyana pres

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – President Bharrat Jagdeo hopes the recent revelations on whistle blowing website Wikileaks will help reshape diplomacy of the developed world, particularly the United States.

“It will change American diplomacy and hopefully it will make diplomacy from the developed world more transparent,” he told officers of the Guyana Defence Force at the opening of their annual conference late last month.

Jagdeo said he was hoping for more Wikileaks revelations that would include Guyana because it would expose how policies are made by developed nations. The Guyanese leader said the Western world has been making policies for developed countries based on people’s personal and domestic matters and information picked up at cocktail receptions by their diplomats.

RETHINK

Jagdeo said the Wikileaks revelations would force a rethink of diplomacy or the creation of secure connections



Jagdeo

so that people like Wikileaks founder, Julian Assange would not “get their hands on it.”

Heo reiterated that cable messages between the U.S. and United Kingdom, and the then British governor prior to Independence, had helped to foment racial riots because of fears that a Cheddi Jagan-led administration in the 1960s would have created another communist country in the hemisphere, second to Cuba.

“It never originated here,” he said. “We were pawns in a bigger scheme.”



Wife of late Barbados P.M. takes seat in Parliament

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – Mara Thompson, the wife of the former Barbados Prime Minister David Thompson, took her seat in Parliament late last month, less than 24 hours after she was sworn in as the parliamentary representative for the St. John constituency which her husband represented for decades until his death last October.

Accompanied by her daughters Misha, Oya and Osa-Marie, as well as her mother, Monica Giraudy and sister Jeannine, the 48-year-old legislator was also greeted by supporters and well-wishers crowding the public gallery of the House of Assembly.



Thompson

Mrs. Thompson, a St. Lucian national, last month whipped Hudson Griffith of the main Opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to maintain the ruling Democratic Party (DLP) hold on the seat. In her maiden address she said she was overwhelmed by all

the support she received from her constituents and the country as a whole.

“Mr. deputy speaker it is truly an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to represent the people of St. John here in this extreme House of assembly,” she said. “I wish to recognize the work of our late prime minister and my beloved husband.”

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart told reporters that he was looking forward to working with Thompson in Parliament.

“She is no longer an unfettered politician she is now in the thick of it...and she realizes that,” Stuart said.



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Moving Forward



Jamaicans dominate marquee events at 2011 Millrose Games in New York

NEW YORK – Sprint darling Veronica Campbell-Brown led the Jamaican invasion of three marquee events at the Millrose Games late last month.

The reigning women's World Indoor sprint champion opened her season in reassuring style, when she extended herself in the last 20 meters and clocked 7.11 seconds to win the 60 meters dash at Madison Square Garden.

"It's early season, and there's lots of room for improvement," said Campbell-Brown, who endured a 36-hour travel delay from her home in Atlanta.

"I believe track is 90 percent mental, and if you're mentally weak, you cannot win. I'm always mentally prepared."

Campbell-Brown was just behind Lauryn Williams out of the blocks, but overtook the American by halfway and cruised to the finish. Williams took second in 7.22 seconds, while fellow American Lisa Barber ran 7.23 to take the other podium position.

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne and Vonette Dixon, two other Jamaicans, finished at the back of the field.

Earlier, Dixon covered herself in glory when she posted the fastest time in the world this season with a surprise victory in the women's 60 meters hurdles in eight seconds flat. American Danielle Carruthers, who ended the 2010 season ranked ninth in the world, was the runner-up in 8.03 seconds, and Canadian star Perdita Felicien was third in 8.05. Trinidad and Tobago's Aleesha Barber brought up the rear in a time of 8.35.

Unity-Jamaica among entrants in Copa Latina soccer tourney

FLORIDA – Unity-Jamaica is one of 32 teams selected to participate in the El Nuevo Herald Copa Latina soccer tournament, scheduled to kick off this month.

Unity-Jamaica, along with Universitario, were the top two teams from a qualifying tournament held in December. The rest of the teams for this year's Copa Latina were taken from 75 names submitted.

"This year's tournament, the 19th anniversary of the



Campbell-Brown wins the women's 60-meter dash at the Millrose Games. American Lisa Barber, right, finished third.

"I could see Danielle out of the corner of my eye," said Dixon, "...and I wanted to get in front of her.

"It's my first race of the season, and I just wanted to see where I was. I wasn't expecting to be this fast."

ENHANCEMENT

Nesta Carter continued to enhance his resumé with a world-leading time of 6.52 seconds to win the men's 60 meters. Carter held off a late-race challenge from the American pair of Mike Rodgers and Trell Kimmons, who ran 6.56 and 6.57, respectively, to ensure that the U.S. won the two-way duel with the Jamaicans 23-17.

Two other Jamaicans,

Lerone Clarke and Oshane Bailey, were the back markers with times of 6.67 and 6.71, respectively.

"I tend to think Jamaica is still the sprint capital of the World," said Carter about losing the U.S. versus Jamaica duel.

"I thought it was a good race. I stumbled at the start, and I was a bit confused at the finish, but I'm happy to come out with Mike and Trell, and be ready to go."

T&T's Renny Quow also distinguished himself, when he won the rarely contested 600 yards with a time of one minute, 11.82 seconds. It was the second time he has won the event at the Millrose Games.

- CMC



T&T's 'Red Force' wins Caribbean 20/20 cricket title

Trinidad and Tobago was last month crowned the new Caribbean Twenty20 cricket champions, following a resounding 36-run victory over Hampshire.

Playing the final without injured captain Daren Ganga, the "Red Force", as the T&T squad calls itself, bowled with discipline to follow-up gutsy batting, and limited Hampshire to 111 runs for eight wickets, after setting the English Twenty20 champions 148 for victory in the grand final at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Darren Bravo had led the way for T&T with 41 runs from 28 balls, which earned

Williams holds little hope to win protest against Holyfield

MIAMI, Florida – Sherman "The Tank" Williams feels that his protest of the result in his World Boxing Federation (WBF) title fight with American Evander Holyfield will come to nothing.

Williams, a 38-year-old Bahamian, failed in his bid to capture the WBF heavyweight belt owned by Holyfield last month when the fight was stopped after the third round and called a no-contest. The 48-year-old Holyfield suffered a cut over his left eye in the second round after an accidental head butt from Williams.

After the boxers retreated to their corners at the conclusion of the third round, the fight was stopped, when Holyfield told the referee he could no longer see from his left eye. The fight was ruled a no contest because it did not reach four completed rounds

to be considered official.

"We are protesting it (the decision) with the WBF, and God willing they will overturn it, even though, to be honest with you, I am not to optimistic that they will change the ruling," said Williams late last month.

"To be honest with you, my manager, and my team, they are going through the formalities."

NO CONFIDENCE

He added: "Do I have confidence in the WBF overturning the no-contest decision into a knockout – no. On (fight) night they could have done that, but they didn't."

Williams, whose record now stands at 34 wins, 11 losses, and two draws, controlled most of the opening rounds and shook Holyfield in the third round a flurry of body shots in the closing minutes.



Grenada advances in Caribbean soccer

Grenada is now the third best team in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) region, following a shake-up in the world rankings.

The Grenadians have benefited from a strong performance in December's Digicel Caribbean Cup (DCC), where the Spice Boyz finished fourth, and the sport's world governing body FIFA recently moved Grenada up two places in the world rankings to 92nd.

Grenada has overtaken eight-time Caribbean champions Trinidad and Tobago, which slipped seven places

and is now the region's fourth-best team, with a world ranking of 94th.

DCC champions Jamaica continue to lead the CFU with a world ranking of 59th. The rankings have offered the Reggae Boyz some breathing space at the top, with CFU number two Cuba six places behind in the world at 65th.

Haiti clung to fifth place in the CFU, following a six position drop – the second highest behind T&T – that places it 96th in the world.

There were no significant changes in the rest of the CFU top 10.



him the "Man-of-the-Match" award, and Lendl Simmons, later named the "Most Valuable Player", supported with 31.

But it was left to stand-in captain Denesh Ramdin with an enterprising 33 from 19 balls to beef-up T&T's total to 147 for seven from their 20 overs, after they seemed to lose their way in the closing stages.

In the field, Jason Mohammed was the pick of



Bravo

the T&T bowlers with two wickets for six runs from 2.1 overs, and Kevon Cooper captured two for 15 from 3.5 overs.

This is the second time that T&T can call itself T20 champions of the Caribbean, following its capture of the 2008 Stanford T20 Cup, which was the forerunner for this West Indies Cricket Board official tournament.

T&T will be the region's representative in India later this year, when all the best T20 sides from the leading cricket nations meet for the Champions League Twenty20.



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