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Finding the right credit card is about understanding your personal spending habits and financial history. Learn more about that and other money matters in our Financial Planning section, page 11.



Delicious chicken salad served with plantain pie is on the menu this month, along with a sizzling sample of pineapple salsa salmon with rice combination, page 13.



Barbadian-born pop star Rihanna was among the winners at this year's Grammy awards, which also offered a sweet treat to a bitter month for another Caribbean music icon, page 15.

BROKEN PROMISE

~ Teachers from the Caribbean are accusing New York's Department of Education of luring them with lies about offering "green cards" in exchange for hiring them, page 2.



WAITING IN VAIN?

~ Buju Banton may have waved goodbye to his freedom. The Jamaican reggae star sits in a Florida jail cell awaiting sentencing after being found guilty of weapon and drugs charges, page 3.

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DECEPTION: Caribbean teachers claim N.Y. made false 'green card' promises

NEW YORK – Hundreds of teachers from the Caribbean claim that New York's Department of Education (DOE) lured them to city schools with false promises of green cards and financial aid.

In a massive rally on the steps of City Hall in lower Manhattan on Feb. 27, the teachers, supported by the New York-based Association of International Educators (AIE) and the Black Institute, demanded immediate action and response to what they described as "the lack of sup-

port from the DOE, which has resulted in the 10-year uphill battle to get on the right path to permanent residency."

AIE Chairperson Judith Hall said the teachers have been treated as "indentured servants."

"How is this possible when we were chosen because we were the best and brightest our countries had to offer?" she asked.

"This is an egregious situation, and we are demanding redress on the city, state, federal and international levels,"

she added.

A report released on Feb. 27 by the Black Institute on behalf of the AIE, entitled "Broken Promises: The Story of Caribbean International Teachers in New York City's Public Schools", claimed that the Caribbean teachers were first lured to New York by promises of continued educational opportunities, housing assistance, and a path to permanent residency in the United States. It noted that the teachers "uprooted their families in the hopes of

redefining a better future."

'VICTIMIZED'

Recruited by New York City Public Schools, beginning in 2001, the AIE said it was formed by Caribbean teachers, "who continue to feel victimized."

The association provides them with a support group, as well as the opportunity to combine efforts to find a solution.

The AIE said in early 2001, when the U.S. economy was booming and there was a teacher shortage, more

than 500 teachers from the Caribbean came to New York City schools to work. After almost 10 years, the AIE said most of the teachers still lack "green cards" or permanent residence, adding their immigration status "makes it impossible for their spouses and children to work."

The teachers are, therefore, demanding a meeting with Schools Chancellor Cathie Black and legal assistance from the Education Department.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Judge sets April 4 date for 'Dudus' Coke's return to U.S. court

NEW YORK – A United States federal judge has set

alleged Jamaican drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke.

Manhattan, said the new date is necessary for prosecutors and defense attorneys to review discovery materials and file possible motions.

Coke, 40, who last June was extradited to the U.S. from Jamaica, has pleaded not guilty to drug and weapons charges.

He was taken into custody in Jamaica and waived his right to an extradition hearing there.

According to a superseding indictment filed in Manhattan federal court here, Coke has led a criminal organization known as the "Shower Posse" since the early 1990s, with members in the U.S.,

Jamaica and other countries.

"At Coke's direction and under his protection, members of his criminal organization sold marijuana and crack cocaine in the New York area and elsewhere, and sent the narcotics proceeds back to Coke and his co-conspirators," said the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York in a statement.

"Coke and his co-conspirators also armed their organization with illegally trafficked firearms," it added.

CONSPIRACY

Coke is charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana and conspiracy

to illegally traffic in firearms.

If convicted on the narcotics charge, prosecutors said he faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, as well as a fine of up to \$4 million.

He also faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on the firearms trafficking charge and a fine of up to \$250,000, prosecutors said.

Attempts to arrest Coke sparked four days of gun battles between security forces and his supporters in West Kingston, Jamaica, that left 76 people dead.



Coke arrives in New York after extradition from Jamaica.

April 4 for pre-trial conferences in the case against

Judge Robert Patterson, of the federal district court in

U.S. offers new amnesty deal for American residents with bank accounts in Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States' Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is offering a new incentive to offshore bank tax evaders, urging them to come forward and declare their hidden accounts in the Caribbean and other countries.

The IRS said last month that while it will provide stiffer penalties there will be no risk of prosecution.

IRS Commissioner Douglas H. Shulman said under the initiative, American residents with hidden offshore accounts in the Caribbean, such as the Cayman Islands, have until Aug. 31 to come forward voluntarily and report

the accounts in exchange for penalties.

He said while the penalties will be below what the tax evaders would ordinarily pay, they are still higher than those offered in an earlier amnesty program.

Shulman said the additional carrot in the new program is a continued promise by the IRS not to prosecute those who come forward for tax evasion.

HIGHER RISK

"The risk to individuals hiding assets offshore is clearly increasing," said Shulman, disclosing that the IRS created the latest program amid a

widening crackdown by U.S. federal authorities on offshore accounts sold to wealthy Americans by Swiss and Swiss-style banks.

The crackdown, which began with the Swiss giant UBS, has since spread to other banks, including HSBC.

Shulman said the previous program required extensive disclosures about the network of banks, financial advisers, trust executives and other intermediaries involved in helping to hide a client's money offshore. He said the authorities are "data-mining" those roadmaps to further root out tax cheats, adding that while it is legal for Americans to own foreign banks accounts, not declaring their contents to the IRS constitutes tax evasion.

The IRS commissioner said the new program requires individuals to pay a penalty of 25 percent of the amount in their foreign bank accounts in the year with the highest aggregate account balance over eight years from 2003 through 2010.



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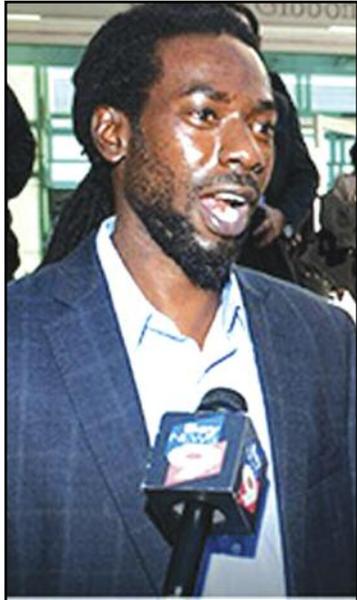
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Buju Banton faces prison term in U.S. on drugs, weapon conviction

Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton is now waiting to find out how much of his future will be spent in a United States prison cell after being found guilty of drugs and weapon charges last



Buju Banton faces reporters outside a Tampa courthouse.

month in Florida.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, was convicted in a Tampa court last month of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine, possession of a firearm in fur-

therance of a drug-trafficking offense, and using the wires to facilitate a drug-trafficking offense.

He was cleared of the charge of attempted possession with the intent to distribute cocaine.

Banton's lawyer has since filed a motion in a Florida District Court calling for acquittal and a new trial for the 37-year-old, who won a Grammy award in the reggae category last month for his album "Before The Dawn", but is facing a sentence between 15 years to life imprisonment. David Oscar Markus also wants his client to be released from lock-up pending his appeal.

Banton is currently in a Pinellas County jail awaiting sentencing. Up to press time no date had been set for his sentencing.

The artiste had earlier rejected a two-year plea deal, which was offered to him by the prosecution, claiming his innocence.

SUPPORT

Prior to last month's trial, which began on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Banton received a warm show of support from fans attending his mid-

January concert in downtown Miami. During his performance, he again proclaimed his innocence and, along with Markus, expressed confidence that he would be exonerated.

Banton spent two days testifying on the witness stand during the trial, claiming that he was guilty of nothing more than talking too much. But

the jury stunned Banton's supporters with the guilty verdict.

"We are all devastated," Markus said to reporters covering the case at the Sam M. Gibbons Federal Court following the verdict.

An earlier trial, following his Dec. 2009 arrest, ended with a hung jury.

The prosecution claimed that Banton helped orchestrate the drug deal. He was arrested in connection with an attempted cocaine purchase.

BRAGGED

It all began when Banton met U.S. government inform-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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Trinidadian babysitter guilty of letting toddler drown in bucket

NEW YORK – A jury last month found a Trinidadian-born babysitter guilty of letting an 11-month-old baby drown in a bucket of water while she nodded off on a cold medicine.

Kristal Khan, 30, who lives in the Richmond Hill section of Queens, was found guilty of reckless assault and endangering the welfare of a child in the Queens Supreme Court.

She faces up to four years in prison at her sentencing for the death of James Farior.

The infant died June 15, last year, after crawling into a mop bucket Khan had left out in a Richmond Hill home that doubled as a daycare center.

Prosecutors said Farior fell into the bucket while reaching for a yellow rubber ducky bobbing in six inches of water.

Farior's mother, Chrisann Josiah, wept as she heard the verdict.

"Guilty, guilty, guilty," Josiah screamed. "If I saw the bucket and knew that she was taking NyQuil, I would never have left him there."

The jury of eight women and four men reached their decision in less than a day of deliberations.

Two jurors said the most damning evidence was a videotaped statement Khan gave to investigators hours after the drowning.

CONFESSION

"On the video, she admitted all that she had done," a male juror told reporters. "She drank the NyQuil. She didn't do what she was supposed to do while caring for children. She should not have left out a bucket of water."

Justice Richard Buchter ordered Khan held in lieu of a \$100,000 bond while she awaits her Mar. 28 sentencing.

Prosecutor Leigh Bishop also urged the judge to bar Khan from seeking work as a daycare provider. He cited an Internet advertisement in which Khan, posing with her two young children, promotes her services as a tutor. The judge said he would take up the issue at the sentencing.

Khan also faces deportation back to her native Trinidad and Tobago upon completion of her sentence.

- CMC



Guyanese gets life sentence for role in plot to blow up New York's JFK Airport

NEW YORK – A United States federal judge has sentenced to life in prison the Guyanese-born leader of a plot to blow up fuel lines and tanks at John F. Kennedy International (JFK) Airport in New York.

Judge Dora Irizarry of Federal District Court in Brooklyn imposed the stiff sentence on Russell Defreitas, 67, a former cargo worker at JFK, who is also a United States citizen.

"The defendant was a mastermind, this was his baby, this was his idea," said the judge before handing down the sentence last month.

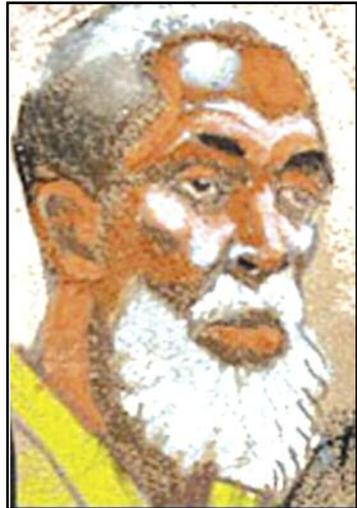
"The offenses that were contemplated here, that the jury found Mr. Defreitas guilty of, are extremely serious," she added.

Defreitas was convicted in August of conspiracy to commit a terrorist attack after a trial in which prosecutors played secretly recorded conversations in which he planned the attack and expressed his abhorrence for the U.S. The recordings were made by convicted drug dealer Steven Francis, who

worked as an informant and contributed some financial and logistical support to the conspirators.

OTHERS

Besides Defreitas, three other Caribbean-born men were also charged in the plot, including Abdul Kadir, who



Defreitas

once served as mayor of Linden, Guyana's second largest city, and a former member of Guyana's Parliament. Kadir was convicted of conspiracy and sen-

tenced to life in prison in December.

Another defendant, Guyanese Abdel Nur, pleaded guilty to providing material support for terrorism and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The fourth man, Trinidadian Kareem Ibrahim, is yet to be tried.

Prosecutors said Defreitas devised the sinister plan intending to cause a chain reaction of explosions along a pipeline that runs between the airport and other parts of New York City. The plotters hoped to destroy the U.S. economy, prosecutors said, and tried to contact Adnan G. el-Shukrijumah, a Qaeda operative with explosives training.

"It will take out the whole entire area," Defreitas told Francis on the tape recording. "The whole of Kennedy will go up in smoke. A few people might escape, but escape to where? The Jamaica Bay?"

'SMALL MIND'

At the trial, Defreitas's lawyers portrayed him as more disagreeable than dangerous. One of his lawyers, Mildred Whalen, described

him as "a man with a small mind, a big mouth and an ugly imagination".

Last month, Whalen pleaded unsuccessfully with Judge Irizarry to sentence her client to no more than 15 years.

"This was a group of people who were aspirational

"The defendant was a mastermind, this was his baby, this was his idea" - judge

rather than operational," she said of the plotters. "Until the government got involved, this was talk."

But prosecutors disagreed, presenting a wide array of evidence during the trial, including hours of recordings. They showed

Defreitas had traveled to Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago to seek support for the plot and had pushed it forward on numerous occasions, sometimes speaking with clear relish about his desire to cause death and destruction.

Marshall L. Miller, one of the prosecutors, said Defreitas had masterminded the conspiracy and that Francis had merely followed.

"The group took significant steps toward committing this offense," he said. "They were acting not at the suggestion of the government, not at the behest of the government."

"Not only was the plot his [Defreitas] idea, he explained that he'd been thinking about for years," added Miller at the sentencing.



Buju Banton faces prison term in U.S. on drugs, weapon conviction

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

ant Alexander Johnson in mid-July 2009 and reportedly bragged that he financed drugs and wanted to expand his operations. During his testimony, Banton denied he was a participant in any drug deal.

During an undercover law enforcement operation in a Florida warehouse last year, Banton was seen on videotape tasting cocaine.

The guilty verdict stirred a wave of emotion among the

Caribbean community, both in the U.S. and the region. Some claimed Banton was being targeted because of anti-gay sentiments he expressed in his song "Boom Bye Bye", which he recorded years ago.

But others believe Banton's involvement showed that he was not totally innocent and he should be punished for his association with illegal drugs.



DECEPTION: Caribbean teachers claim N.Y. made false 'green card' promises

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Bertha Lewis, president and founder of the Black Institute, said the 'Broken Promises' report highlights the "hidden nexus of education and immigration reform."

"These teachers were recruited to teach in some of the most difficult and poorest school districts. They did what was asked of them, and they deserve to be treated fairly and humanely," she said, adding "promises were made, promises were broken; this report calls upon the DOE to keep its promises."

FRUSTRATION

Trinidad-born Antoinette Nesbitt, who came to New York in August 2001, said, she is frustrated and outraged by the lack of respect shown to Caribbean teachers.

"Teachers are professional role models for school

children every day in the classroom, yet this process of our teachers obtaining green cards has been drawn out over many years because the Department of Education chosen attorneys have classified us as unskilled workers," said Nesbitt, who has been teaching special education at Public School 276 in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn ever since her arrival here.

"This classification is costing us financially. We have to pay visa-related fees annually, and we experience lost income because our spouses and dependents are unable to work," she added, fearing that she and her colleagues would be deported back to the Caribbean if they are laid off because of a lack of a green card.

- CMC



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-Donna Zappin

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FRIENDSHIP BOND: U.S. renews commitment to St. Lucia

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States has renewed its commitment to the Stephenson King administration.

“The United States remains committed to strengthening the ties of friendship between our two nations,” said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a statement issued here last month as St. Lucia prepared to mark its 33rd Independence.

“As you celebrate your Independence, know that the United States stands with you as a partner and friend as we work toward a more peaceful and prosperous future for all our people,” she added.

Clinton said the U.S. and St. Lucia are united by their shared values and commitment to democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

“We are working together through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to reduce illicit trafficking, crime and violence and promote social justice,” she said.

“We are reducing the incidence of HIV and AIDS, treating those infected and slowing the spread through the Partnership Framework for HIV and AIDS.



Clinton

“And we are partnering to expand clean energy as part of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas,” she added.

INDEPENDENCE

After granted home rule in 1967, as one of the West Indies Associated States, St. Lucia, on Feb. 22, 1979,

achieved full Independence from Great Britain in ceremonies boycotted by the Opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP). The SLP had advocated a referendum

before cutting ties with Britain.

The late Sir John Compton, head of the United Workers Party (UWP), became the country's first prime minister.

The UWP, then in power, called for new elections and was defeated by the SLP.

The UWP, with Compton

as its leader, was returned to power in the elections of 1982, 1987, and 1992. Compton resigned in 1996, and Vaughan Lewis took over as prime minister.

Kenny Anthony became prime minister in 1997, when his St. Lucia Labour Party won 16 of the 17 parliamentary seats.

In 2006, Sir John, referred to as the “Father of St. Lucia”, returned to politics five years after retiring, and his UWP swept the elections.

Sir John became prime

minister once again, at age 82, but died in office in 2007 and was succeeded by King.



U.S., Canada co-operate in \$33M Caribbean cocaine bust

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia – Canada's Defence Department says the Canadian military has completed a month-long deployment to the Caribbean Sea, where it helped intercept \$33 million worth of cocaine.

The Defence Department said Canadian forces were part of a multinational team focused on stopping overseas drug trafficking in the Caribbean and East Pacific.

It said the HMCS Toronto and two CP-140 aircraft were part of a United States-led task force that intercepted more than 1,650 kilograms of cocaine during its month-long deployment.

The Defence Department said about 250 Canadians also participated in the mission. It said it was the first time the U.S. Coast Guard's law-

enforcement detachment has used a Canadian navy ship to conduct operations.

“I'm very proud of the part played by the men and women of HMCS Toronto, and our aircrews, in keeping drugs off Canadian streets,” said Canada's Defence Minister Peter MacKay in a statement.

“Our sailors and air personnel are a key component of international efforts to interdict cocaine destined for North America,” he added.

Canada has been part of multinational operations to combat drug smuggling in the Caribbean Basin and East Pacific since 2006.

- CMC



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Abe Lincoln tried to deport slaves to Caribbean ~ *British academics*

LONDON, England – Two British academics say former United States President Abraham Lincoln wanted to send many American slaves to British colonies in the Caribbean.

Phillip Magness and Sebastian Page claim in their forthcoming book, "Colonisation After Emancipation: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement", that documents uncovered in British archives show that Lincoln was rather less enamored by the prospect of a racially-united America than is often

assumed.

The 16th U.S. president is revered for winning the American Civil War (1861-65) and bringing an end to slavery.

Historians have earlier conceded that Lincoln proposed sending some of the freed slaves to new colonies, but they have dismissed it as a ruse designed to placate racist voters in the unified America.

But, according to Magness and Page, evidence shows that Lincoln was serious about black colonization until his assassination in 1865.



Stanford sues U.S. gov't for \$7.2 billion

HOUSTON, Texas – Texas billionaire banker Allen Stanford, accused of masterminding a \$7.2 billion Ponzi scheme, involving his Antigua-owned Stanford International Bank (SIB), is suing United States government agents who built the case against him for a similar amount.

The suit, filed in federal district court here last month, says the agents - including federal prosecutors, FBI agents and regional officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) - conspired to deprive Stanford of his constitutional rights.

The lawsuit says the agents violated Stanford's rights to due process and effective counsel, as well as constitutional prohibitions against unreasonable search and seizure and excessive fines.

"Mr. Stanford alleges that agents of the United States, known and unknown, combined, agreed and conspired to deprive Mr. Stanford of his civil rights by and through tactics taken under the color of law, but which violate basic constitutional principles", the

complaint read.

INDICTMENT

The SEC sued Stanford on Feb. 16, 2009, and won a court order freezing his assets and placing his companies in



Stanford

receivership.

The Justice Department followed in June with a 21-count criminal indictment. As a result, Stanford turned himself in to authorities. He has been held without bail ever since, with a judge ruling he is a flight risk.

The trial was scheduled to begin last month, but has

been postponed indefinitely after Stanford became addicted to prescription anti-depressants while in government custody.

In Sept. 2009, Stanford was severely beaten by another inmate at the privately run federal detention center where he was being held. Stanford underwent surgery, but the lawsuit says authorities ignored a hospital physician's recommendation that he be given an MRI.

The lawsuit claims Stanford was rendered incompetent due to untreated traumatic brain injuries, as well as being "overmedicated by government doctors" over a 13-month period.

Stanford alleges in the lawsuit that the government's misconduct did not begin with his treatment behind bars. It says the SEC and the court-appointed receiver effectively began prosecuting Stanford long before he was ever charged criminally, working in concert with Justice Department officials.

- CMC



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CCJ rejects applications from three Bajans wanted in U.S.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has dismissed applications from three Barbadian men wanted in the United States.

The men, Sean Gaskin, Frederick Christopher Hawkesworth and John Wayne Scantlebury, had filed separate applications for an extension of time within which to seek special leave to appeal to this court, as well as special leave to appeal.

They also filed an application for leave to appeal to this court as a poor person.

The CCJ, in a ruling late last month, said that while the appeals were filed separately they were heard together.

“Given that the circumstances surrounding each of them are almost identical it is accepted that they would either all succeed or all be denied,” the court said.

The CCJ said that it heard the applications by audio conference on Jan. 28 and dismissed the applications, promising to give a written judgment at a later date.

EXTRADITION

The men were arrested in 2004 in connection with extradition proceedings initiated by the U.S. government. The CCJ noted that the matter had been heard in the courts and, in July 2008, the Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal to the CCJ “as of right to an intended appellant in any civil or criminal proceedings which involve a question as to the interpretation of the Constitution”.

It said that the Court of Appeal imposed two conditions in granting leave to appeal to CCJ including that

the applicants provide security for costs in the amount of BDS\$15,000.00 (\$7,500) within 60 days from the date of the making of that court’s order.

The CCJ noted that the applicants did not comply with the Court of Appeal’s order and that no security for costs was provided. It said instead they filed a notice of appeal in Dec. 2009 and took no further step until June 2010 when they filed an application to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal in relation to the pending appeal.

But the Court of Appeal dismissed this application for failure to comply with the rules and last December they filed an appeal before the CCJ.

‘IMPOVERISHED’

In their case, the applicants claim they are impoverished and unable to provide security and, secondly, that the matters raised by his appeal involve a question as to the interpretation of the constitution.

But in its ruling the CCJ said “we are wholly unimpressed by these submissions”, listing also a number of breaches the applicants made in getting the matter before the Port of Spain based regional court, which serves as Barbados’s final court.

“This is a case where repeated and egregious breaches of the rules have served only to prolong the final disposition of a hearing before the Chief Magistrate that is still to be completed. There is no cogent explanation for the several breaches.”

- CMC



U.N. chief demands ‘concrete results’ from Caribbean

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for “concrete results” in the quest for self-determination by the world’s 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including many in the Caribbean.

Remaining on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean are Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, and the United States Virgin Islands.

In addressing the first meeting of the 2011 substantive session of the Special Committee on Decolonization, Ban said these “concrete results” could only be achieved through the “concerted efforts” of all stakeholders, including the special committee, the administering powers and the peoples of the territories.

“On a case-by-case basis,

those territories have to be given the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination in order to take the interests of their peoples fully into account,” he said.

“Colonial situations are completely outdated and must



Ban Ki-Moon

be addressed with renewed vigor and creativity,” he added.

WAY FORWARD

In his report last year to the General Assembly on the

“Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”, Ban recalled that the assembly had requested the special committee to continue to seek suitable and full implementation of the Decolonization Declaration.

“In practice, this would mean that the committee could assess its past work and achievements in order to chart a way forward, together with the administering Powers, for the ultimate benefit of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,” he said.

“...It is my hope that difficulties encountered in the recent past will gradually be overcome, thereby strengthening the committee’s determination to develop effective formal and informal modalities that would help it accomplish its mandate.”



U.S. prosecutors reject grounds for mistrial in Cuban militant’s tourist bombings case

EL PASO, Texas– United States federal prosecutors have accused the lead attorney for Luis Posada Carriles of trying to mislead the court by claiming the U.S. government delayed delivery of documents that could exonerate the Cuban exile militant of responsibility in a string of Cuban tourist site bombings in 1997.

In a written motion last month, the prosecutors said that Posada’s attorney, Arturo V. Hernandez, is seeking a mistrial by raising issues that have “no direct bearing” on the current case.

Posada is also alleged to be the mastermind behind the bombing of a Cubana Airliner off Barbados in the mid 1970s. The case, in a federal district court here, centers on whether Posada lied about his alleged role in the bombings and how he sneaked into the U.S.

Hernandez alleges that the prosecution failed to advise the jury that a key Cuban government witness against Posada, state security Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Hernandez Caballero, was also a counterintelligence agent in Havana.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone, who is presiding over the trial, halted the case last month, saying she needed more time to consider the mistrial motion.

FINGERPOINTING

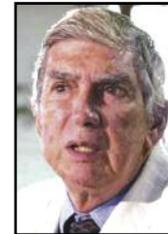
A declassified FBI report is at the heart of the complaints filed by Posada’s attorney. It quotes an unidentified informant inside Cuba’s

Ministry of the Interior as saying in 1997 that the bombings were the work of Cuban intelligence services. But prosecutors called that “an attempt to point the finger away from Posada and toward the Cuban government,” labeling it “conjecture.”

Posada’s attorney also wrote that the FBI report was included in an envelope of records delivered only a few days after the trial began Jan. 10.

Hernandez said he was too busy with jury selection and preparing his own opening statements to examine the envelope immediately.

In their written response, the prosecutors said they delivered the 12 pages of documents soon after they obtained them and that if Hernandez did not read them right away it was his own fault



Carriles

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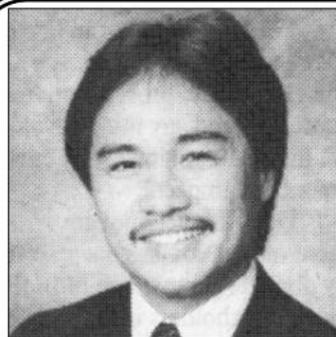
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TPS immigration program for Haitians successful ~ U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A top United States immigration official says a year after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the administration of President Barack Obama has received more than 53,000 applications from Haitians seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the U.S., disclosing that it has approved the vast majority.

Alejandro Mayorkas, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said his agency's response to the disaster showed that it could handle a much larger immigrant legalization program like the proposal known as the DREAM Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young illegal immigrants.

January was the deadline for Haitians to apply for TPS,



Mayorkas

which gives most Haitians who were in the U.S. on the day of the earthquake, Jan. 12, 2010, the right to stay and work legally for 18 months while Haiti tries to recover.

"I think our performance and our execution of the TPS program serves as a model of our ability to execute immigration reform programs,"

Mayorkas told reporters here. "How quickly, effectively and efficiently we responded to the disaster is a standard for us to adhere to," he added.

EXTENSION

Though TPS for tens of thousands of Haitians living illegally in the U.S. is scheduled to expire on July 22, Haitian immigrant advocates say they expect the U.S. to extend the status, as it has for immigrants from other countries crippled by war or natural disaster.

Mayorkas said at least 46,000 Haitians have already been granted TPS, adding that his agency is still processing applications that arrived before the deadline. He said he expects the total number of approvals to exceed 49,000.



Group records asylum victories for Caribbean nationals in U.S

NEW YORK – Immigration Equality, an organization which works to secure asylum for individuals persecuted in their home country based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV-status, said it won dozens of cases for clients from the Caribbean in 2010.

The organization said that it won a record 101 cases last year.

"An overwhelming number of the victories, 38, were for clients from the Caribbean, with 28 of those for individuals from Jamaica," it said. There were four successful cases from Grenada.

"Other cases included 24 asylum seekers from Central and South America; 16 from Eastern Europe (including seven Russian clients); nine from the African continent and five from the Middle East."

The organization, which maintains the largest network of pro bono attorneys, in addition to its in-house legal staff, is dedicated solely to seeking asylum for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers.

Immigration Equality said that it has 97 additional cases, filed in 2010, which are awaiting a ruling, as well as several cases filed prior to 2010.

"For too many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, the world remains a dangerous place," said Rachel B. Tiven, the group's executive director.

"In many cases, the clients who turn to Immigration Equality for help are literally running for their lives. They have been mistreated and beaten by authorities in their home country, disowned by their families and ostracized by society. By offering them safe haven, the United States is not only saving their lives, but benefitting from the talent, skills and service these asylees bring to our country. We are proud, and honored, to help them begin life anew here in their adopted homeland."

VULNERABLE

Since the mid-1990s, the United States has recognized persecution due to sexual orientation and gender identity as a basis for seeking asylum.

In the past five years, Immigration Equality and its partner law firms have represented more than 500 LGBT people fleeing persecution abroad. Clients have hailed from some of the most notori-

ously homophobic countries in the world, including Uganda, Syria and Egypt.

"Every day, we hear from vulnerable LGBT people who desperately need legal help and have nowhere else to turn," said Victoria Neilson, Immigration Equality's legal director.

"Our in-house legal staff maintains an average open case load of more than 100 cases at any given time. It is our generous network of pro bono firms, which donate so much time and energy to our clients that make the breadth of our work possible. With their help, we are able to tackle some of the most complicated, heart-wrenching cases and ensure that we help as many people as possible."

- CMC



HIGH FLYING CELEBRATION



Jamaican-born aviator Barrington Irving, left, joins Miami-Dade County Vice Chairperson Audrey M. Edmonson, center, and Didier Fabien, chair of Miami-Dade's Black Affairs Advisory Board, for the opening of the Stephen P. Clark Center's Black History Month Exhibit, which ran throughout February. Irving is a pilot and founder of Experience Aviation Inc. He is the youngest African American to fly solo around the world.

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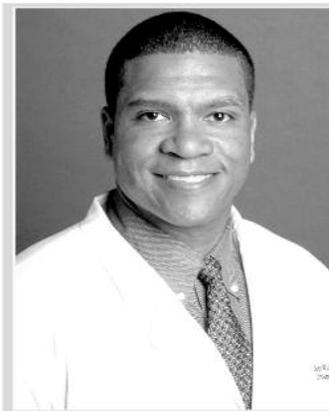
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Doing multiculturalism right

Among their other headaches, some of Europe's biggest leaders are troubled by the lukewarm state of their countries' melting pots.

As in the United States, a combination of economic recession, terrorism fears and electoral politics has made scapegoats out of immigrants and government multiculturalism policies. Unlike the U.S., they don't have a melting-pot tradition. Instead they've tried a brand of multiculturalism that's getting bad reviews.

State multiculturalism has had "disastrous results," says British Prime Minister David Cameron. It has "totally failed," says German Chancellor

Angela Merkel. "Clearly yes, it is a failure," agrees French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Has "multi-kulti," as the Germans call it derisively, indeed failed Europe's great leaders? Or are they simply not doing it right?

RESPECT

Multiculturalism means different things to different people. On its best days, it is a salad bowl or mulligan stew alternative to the melting pot. In this country, it means a respect for cultural differences while remembering that, most of all, we're all still Americans, part of a cultural mainstream that is worth assimilating into, even if our leaders sometimes make mistakes.

Cameron, Merkel and Sarkozy, among others, are recognizing that their multiculturalism policies have brought respect for cultural diversity, but have failed to integrate and assimilate diverse ethnic communities, particularly Muslims, into the mainstream. When Merkel says Germany's experiment has failed, for example, she is talking about her country's "gastarbeiters," or guest workers of mostly Turkish, Arabic and Kurdish stock. Invited since the early 1960s to fill labor shortages, they have stayed longer and grown larger in population than expected without fully integrating or assimilating.

Now Merkel is facing a tough re-election campaign, with voices on the right grumbling about immigrants while German industrialists want even more immigrant workers. As a result, Merkel took pains to say that all immigrants are

still welcome, but she also asks, among other requests, that they please try to learn some German.

Cameron called for a "more active, more muscular liberalism" in a recent Munich speech to counter the current "doctrine of state multiculturalism" that has led to alienation and even jihadism among young British Muslims. Instead he called for the active promotion of democratic values, the rule of law, freedom of speech and equal rights.

AMERICAN MODEL

That begins to sound like the American model. Our debate has centered in various ways on how cultural differences can be respected without causing our melting pot to boil over.

Sometimes we have panicky outbursts of xenophobia, like Arizona's recent legislation to outlaw ethnic studies. The state's new Attorney General Tom Horne wrote the law when he was the state's superintendent of schools. He thought the Mexican-American studies classes offered in Tucson's schools encouraged too much separatism and resentment toward mainstream American culture. Unfortunately, his remedy probably alienates immigrant communities even more.

So does Oklahoma's referendum that voters approved in November to outlaw Shariah law, even though there was no known effort to impose the Islamic legal code in their state. At least a dozen other states are reported to be considering similar legislation, despite its distinct aroma of Islamophobia.

In short, there's a thin line between efforts that encourage full participation in mainstream American culture and those that punish one particular culture. We can oppose arranged marriages, animal sacrifices, speech censorship and other cultural practices that conflict with American laws and freedoms without disrespecting the home cultures of those who sincerely want to be Americans.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Mind games: The task of emotional servicing

We often acquire stuff on a whim, or maybe even take great thought before we actually buy the product.

But what many people do not take into consideration is the future life and efficiency of the product.

So one factor that's important after you acquire anything is the after-sales service.

The same goes for people, especially women, who seem to constantly need servicing of the emotional kind in order to function, or even exist with a modicum of normalcy. You can't just get a woman, have her in your life and not do any preventative maintenance.

But how do you service emotionally? Well, first you have to bear all her burdens with her. Hey, never mind yours, as they do not matter. Hers take utmost priority. You must understand and appreciate that she has mood swings, why she runs hot and cold, and that it's as a result of a traumatic childhood. You must know when to approach and when to back off, and you had better listen keenly to every word as she relives her tales of woe with her ex-husband or past lovers who did her wrong.

You better not see their perspective either, but take her side always.

You must understand and don't dare mention your past either, for her grief is more important than yours. You had better shoulder her burdens even as you bear hers too and be stoic about it with none of that lower deck economy class sentimentality either.

SHARED PROBLEMS

Well, in the case of emotional servicing, not only do you take your bag of burdens, but you have to take and bear hers as well. Then, if the past isn't bad enough, you also have to provide servicing for the current burdens too. All the problems of her family become your problems too.



Now don't get me wrong, as in a relationship that's how it's supposed to be. The only problem is the one sided nature of the equation, as your family problems don't mean a hoot to her or are way down on her list of priorities.

To provide emotional servicing you have to be a therapist, even though you may not have the qualifications, the patience or the

wherewithal to provide such a service. You have to be a master mechanic and fix all the complicated problems that come with the complex emotional machinery.

Worse yet, there are no diagnostics, as you have to also be clairvoyant and know exactly what's bothering her. Plus you have to be like Hercules, Atlas, Samson - strong, be like a rock and never buckle under the weight of what she brings to the table.

ONE-WAY

What often happens is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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Turning points: Miami-Dade's defining moments of the past decade

CARLOS ALVAREZ

The tumultuous economy is bringing out the pessimist in all of us. And while it is hard to see beyond the challenges of today, Miami-Dade County is moving forward. We are a vastly different place than just 10 years ago, with a lot more to offer our residents and visitors.

Here are a few turning points of the past decade in Miami-Dade:

Sept. 2002 – We begin the long journey toward restoring voter confidence. Three voting systems, two directors, unprecedented poll worker training and dozens of suc-

cessful elections later, we have demonstrated that the most fundamental mechanism of our democracy works.

Nov. 2004 – Voters overwhelmingly approve the Building Better Communities Bond Program. The program has touched every neighborhood.

Sept. 2005 – Hundreds of phone numbers became obsolete with the introduction of three numbers – 311. The 311 Answer Center is the first multi-jurisdictional call center in the United States. Find a park, report illegal dumping, or get up-to-date hurricane information.

Oct. 2006 — The Adrienne Arsht Center for

the Performing Arts puts us on the international cultural map, and proves public-private partnerships can work.

Nov. 2007 – Miami International Airport's South Terminal opens, expanding our gateway between Miami-Dade County and the rest of the world. Together with the renovated North Terminal, Sky Train, Miami Intermodal Center, improved retail and a renewed focus on customer service, a new, modern airport is evolving.



Alvarez

Nov. 2007 – Miami-Dade County gets a 20-year consumptive use permit from the state, and makes an unprecedented commitment to water conservation. The permit was the jumping-off point for a \$1.8 billion water supply plan. We will (eventually) be recycling nearly half of all the wastewater we use.

July 2009 – Ground is broken on a new Marlins ballpark. The project creates thousands of local jobs, stimulates our economy, expands our urban core and ensures the beloved sport of baseball remains in this community for generations to come.

Nov. 2010 – Crime reaches a new low in Miami-Dade.

June 2010 – Construction begins on the Port of Miami Tunnel, the most significant investment at our port since the creation of Government

Cut. The tunnel will improve port access, increasing container cargo traffic, and alleviate traffic congestion in downtown Miami and surrounding neighborhoods.

Nov. 2010 – Just in time for Art Basel, Museum Park breaks ground. Anchored by a new Miami Art Museum, the project proves Miami-Dade is emerging as one of the world's great cultural communities.

We continue to advance. We will continue to provide services that address our community's needs and enhance the quality of life of our residents. It's not about today or tomorrow. It's about the day after tomorrow.

Carlos Alvarez,
Mayor
Miami-Dade County



Doing multiculturalism right

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

BALANCE

Doing multiculturalism right calls for striking a balance between a respect for diverse cultures and a respect for the common culture we all share. Regardless of their origin, immigrants to this country tend to be driven by a desire to find opportunity and stir themselves into our melting pot. Even if

the first generation resists, their children tend to embrace the America of "Sesame Street" and Big Macs with great enthusiasm.

By contrast, Europe has allowed large communities of immigrants to grow in little ethnic enclaves that endure from one generation to the next with remarkably little assimilation, compared to their American

counterparts. Each side accuses the other of refusing to mingle and assimilate.

Don't blame multiculturalism for that failure. Blame people. People will have to fix it.

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Mind games: The task of emotional servicing

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

that it's a one-way street, where the woman's needs are so demanding that it literally drains the man of all that he can give. No wonder many men choose a car that hardly needs servicing, and a woman who fits into that same category.

I'm not saying that men don't need emotional servicing also, but you hardly hear women complain that men are constantly in need of emotional massaging. Except of course for the occasional ego boost. But, all in all, men are pretty much self-maintaining.

It's the demands of the female that wears down the man. And many men, in trying to meet these demands, end up wearing out themselves. Speak to any couple and hear who has more complaints. Isn't it usually the man who always rolls his eyes and says? "My wife is never satisfied, I have to be careful what I say and even how I say it. She needs constant servicing and reminds me of those early high powered, delicate Italian cars, high performance, but have to be serviced every weekend." Mama mia.

MEN'S NEEDS

Very rarely do you hear women speak that way of their men. The truth is, things bother men too, but they don't need constant servicing to soothe their feelings or bring them back to a good mood. Most men are self-servicing, but women, with their vast array of moods, need constant servicing to keep them purring.

Servicing her emotionally is not easy, and not many men

have mastered it, hence the huge turnover of spouses and the increasing divorce rate. You also have to be a clown and make her laugh. But who cheers you up when you are down, who drags you up from your doldrums?!

Women do need to be constantly told how beautiful they are, and you simply cannot say it often enough. And let's not forget the reassurance of your undying love either, as his has to be said with more regularity than the chants of the monks during Vespers.

Unlike servicing motor vehicles, this constant servicing can take its toll, as some people never let go of their past, and invariably it impacts not only on their present and future, but on yours also. Every man who they meet suffers with them, shares their pain, absorbs their grief and has to constantly service her, and may get broken himself if he's not careful.

The truth is, women never seem to let go, but hold on to memories of their past like an ancient scribe. Men on the other hand are expected to be skilled sailors in this emotional storm, plus be master fixers of emotional stress.

Men seem to bounce back faster, be able to cope with the problems of their past better than women and perhaps that's why it seems that men have very little worries.

Emotional servicing, what a task. No wonder men die earlier than women. Survived by his wife...all because of the toll taken by emotional servicing.

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U.N. wants cheaper costs for Caribbean remittances

GENEVA, Switzerland, CMC – The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has called for cheaper ways for Caribbean and other migrant workers to send money back home so as to maximize the economic impact.

Noting that money sent home by economic migrants working in foreign countries exceeded \$300 billion in 2010, UNCTAD said that “this vast and growing tide of income needs to be safeguarded and channeled so that it does the most good for families and economies in the world’s poor nations.”

It said experts at a recent two-day meeting here, entitled “Maximizing the development

impact of remittances”, agreed that “remittances are now a major economic force, and they must be better understood and harnessed for development.”

They stressed that less of this money should be lost in transmission, and more should be invested in the “stable, broad-based social and economic growth of economies that originally were weak enough for citizens to feel compelled to leave and work elsewhere.”

POVERTY

UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Petko Draganov said though the effects across countries are (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

How to shop around for the credit card that suits you

ANYA KAMENETZ

Finding the right credit card is about understanding your personal spending habits and financial history.

If you’re looking to start your credit history or re-establish credit, or if your credit score is currently on the lower end, below 650, you might find it easiest to start with a store card from a department store or anywhere you shop often - even Costco or Amazon.com.

Or you can try a secured card, where you put down a set amount of cash as collateral, say \$500, and that becomes your credit limit. If you already belong to a credit union - and



Picking the right card is important.

there are lots of good reasons to do so - this should be your first stop for a secured card. If not, **Bankrate.com** lists secured cards from Applied Bank and Public Savings Bank.

After a year making regular payments on a secured card

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

A better use for your tax refund

STEVE ROSEN

A few family celebrations are perfect for buying United States savings bonds - the birth of a baby, birthdays, confirmations and high school graduations. Now, add filing your taxes.

It’s part of a push by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) this tax-filing season to help put your refund money to work for college education or other long-term savings needs rather than recycling the cash back into your wallet.

If you receive a refund, you can buy Series I savings bonds for yourself or you can share the wealth as a gift for up to two children, grandchildren or other loved ones. A pilot program found that the overwhelming majority of people

used their refund to buy savings bonds for their children or grandchildren.

The IRS officially launched the program last year, and the agency said nearly 100,000 savings bonds worth about \$11 million were purchased.

Uncle Sam has more to promote this year. The IRS added the gift purchase option in time for the start of the tax season, and it changed provisions for designating co-owners and beneficiaries.

The Series I bonds must be purchased in \$50 increments up to \$5,000, and will be delivered by mail in paper form either to you or the person you designate. Interest accrues every six months at an inflation-adjusted

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

IRS showdown: Tips for filing your U.S. tax return

ELLIOT RAPHAELSON

Most individuals find that the federal tax code is too complicated for them to prepare their own taxes. If you decide to hire someone to prepare your federal return, make sure that your preparer has the proper background and experience. Some of the most important considerations follow:

• **If you have a complicated return, you should consider using a CPA, enrolled agent or attorney** - Such preparers will likely be more expensive than others; however, they are also required to demonstrate continued education in order to maintain their credentials. I no longer prepare federal taxes for clients, but I once was an enrolled agent, and I can assure you that in order to become one, you have to pass a rigorous four-part examination.

• **If you have a relatively straightforward return - even if you itemize - you should consider using AARP volunteer preparers** - This program is available throughout the United States. I have volunteered for AARP preparing taxes for the general public.

The IRS monitors the training of AARP volunteers, and none of them can prepare taxes unless they undergo the proper training and pass a comprehensive test prepared by the IRS.

Moreover, AARP uses sophisticated software that



ensures consumers that all proper deductions and credits are taken into consideration.

There is no cost for this service. You do not have to be an AARP member, and there is no age limitation. The only disadvantage is that because the program is so popular, you may have a long wait during the day to have your return prepared.

Call your local AARP

chapter to find out where and when you can use this service. Ask them what restrictions apply. You don’t want to wait all day and find out your return cannot be prepared by AARP.

• **You should make sure that there are no complaints made against your preparer** - Check with the Better Business Bureau.

• **If your preparer is not a CPA, enrolled agent or lawyer** - You should ask whether he has any professional designation, and what the requirements are for that designation.

• **Avoid any preparer who bases his compensation on the size of your refund** - Don’t be afraid to ask how he computes his fee. Is it a fixed price based on the type of return? You should not employ a preparer without having a pretty good idea as to what the cost will be. Don’t hesitate to ask for references.

• **Ask the preparer if he has a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN)** - This is a new IRS requirement. Do not use a preparer without one.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Successful Caribbean Women In Business



In September Caribbean Today will spotlight Ten Successful Caribbean Women In Business.

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Rainy day risks: How to wisely invest to boost income

ELLIOT RAPHAELSON

If your investment advisor tells you he can get high income or high rates of return without risk, it's time for you to obtain a new advisor.

There are no high rates of return without risk.

Moreover, in today's market, even investments that once were considered conservative are fraught with risk, which makes investing to generate high income especially tricky.

The biggest challenge under current market conditions is that the most conservative investments return almost nothing, so any investor interested in income has to take some risk.

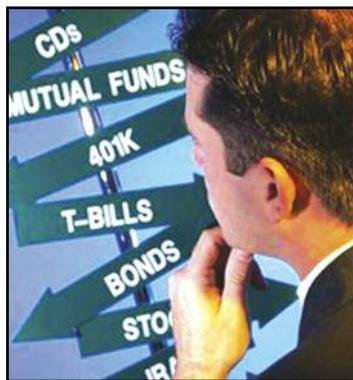
Below are some investment alternatives that can

provide higher income, but, while conservative, are not risk-free:

- **Conservative investments** - Typically conservative investments - namely, Treasury bills, money market accounts, money market funds, and short-term certificates of deposit - now pay investors very low rates of return, generally less than one percent. To obtain a rate of return above two percent, you would have to commit your funds to something like a five-year certificate of deposit. If you require funds on a short-term basis, then you should use these conservative investments in order to avoid any possible capital loss.

- **Common stocks that pay high dividends** - Many investors are now skeptical

about investing a significant portion of their portfolio in the stock market. But unfortunately, most people can't



The right choices are harder to make.

afford to rely solely on conservative, low-return investments.

In 2009 and 2010, investors poured money into individual bonds and bond

mutual funds. Until the last quarter of 2010, these investments did very well. However, in the last quarter of 2010, and so far in 2011, individual bonds and intermediate and long-term bond funds have lost a great deal of their value.

Bond experts like Bill Gross of Pimco, a leading investment company, have been warning investors to lessen their exposure to bonds, and especially to avoid long-term bonds of any kind. I have heeded his advice, and I suggest you do the same.

ALTERNATIVE

One alternative to consider is investing in common stocks that have a history of both high dividends and frequent dividend increases. You should know, however, that

corporations are under no obligation to pay any dividends regardless of prior history.

Because of changing economic conditions, no one can predict with certainty which corporations will be able to maintain their dividend and/or increase it regularly. For that reason, it is important to have a diversified portfolio. The easiest way to do that is through a "no-load" mutual fund such as Vanguard or Fidelity. Both have funds that concentrate on corporations with an excellent history of maintaining or increasing dividends.

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How to shop around for the credit card that suits you

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

or store card, you should be able to transition to an unsecured card.

OPTIONS

If you are paying down debt, you should aim for zero-percent introductory interest rates and no annual fees. These

will allow you to transfer your current balance and pay no interest for up to 21 months while you make your debt shrink. Current offers that look good are the Citi Platinum Select MasterCard and the Chase Freedom Visa.

If you pay off your bill every month, without fail, it could make sense to look for a rewards

card - airline miles cards, like the Escape by Discover Card, and cash-back cards like Blue Cash by American Express are among the most popular.

However, recent research shows that belonging to a rewards program tends to increase both spending on the card and credit card debt. If you don't want to fall into that pattern, limit your use of plastic to certain predefined expenses - like business travel, or your cell phone bill.

BEST DEALS

There's a world of sites out there to help you find the best deals and most up-to-date offers for both the cheapest cards and the most generous reward cards. Among the general guides, *Creditcardguide.com* and

Cardhub.com are especially clear and comprehensive.

NerdWallet.com and *BillShrink.com* are a little more sophisticated. They customize their recommendations as much or as little as you want, based on your average bill, biggest spending categories, and other details of your current spending habits. These sites can estimate exactly how much you'll save by switching.

Also check out *AskMrCreditCard.com*, which publishes annual lists of the best cards.

Keep in mind that most people don't need more than one or two credit cards - one for personal use, say, and one for business use. Having too many makes them hard to keep track of and can put you in dan-

ger of overspending.

Also, if you apply for multiple credit cards at the same time, your credit report can be dinged by having too many inquiries. So shop carefully before you choose.

Keep in mind: Not all credit card companies are equally fair in their dealings. According to the website Consumer Affairs (www.consumeraffairs.com), three credit card issuers made it to the list of companies overall that attracted the most consumer complaints: Chase, Bank of America and Capital One.

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A better use for your tax refund

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

rate. The interest is exempt from state and local - but not federal - income tax.

Bonds bought between now and April's filing deadline will earn 0.74 percent.

STARTING OUT

The starting point is IRS Form 8888. This Allocation of Refund form must be included when you file your federal income tax return. If you are scheduled to receive a refund, follow the instructions on Form 8888 to instruct the IRS that you are using part or all of your refund to buy savings bonds. The money can also be channeled into your bank account, mutual fund or retirement account.

You can designate anyone to receive a bond and also designate the co-owner or beneficiary.

Generally, the bonds must

be held at least one year. But after that, the bond owner can redeem them, though there is a penalty of three months' interest if the bonds are held less than five years. After five years, no penalties apply for early withdrawals.

The puny returns on Series I bonds are competitive with certificates of deposit and some money market accounts, but that's about it. Still, I'm for anything that encourages you to sock away a few bucks for the future.

BOND INFORMATION: To check the status of a savings bond purchase request, go to the refund section of the IRS website, www.irs.gov, or call 1-800-829-1954.

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U.N. wants cheaper costs for Caribbean remittances

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

varied, remittances have reduced poverty at the household level in many developing

countries. A recent UNCTAD study found that, in countries where remittances make up five percent or more of GDP, on average a 10 percent rise

in remittances leads to a reduction of 3.9 percent in the poverty headcount ratio.



IRS showdown: Tips for filing your U.S. tax return

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

- **Before you meet with the preparer, you should be well organized** - Have all your records specifying income, amounts withheld, brokerage statements, deductions, past year return (if applicable), and the Social Security numbers of all your dependents. The less organized you are, the more it will cost to have your return prepared, and the result is much more likely to be inaccurate.

TAX CHANGE

One important tax change for 2010 is related to tradition-

al IRA conversions to Roth IRAs. There are no longer any income limitations for this conversion, starting in 2010.

The entire amount of the conversion you made in 2010 has to be reported as taxable income; however, you can elect to report half the income in 2011 and half in 2012. In order for you to make a conversion for 2010, you would have had to make it by Dec. 31, 2010.

However, you should consider making conversions in the future. Roth IRAs provide significant long-term advantages. Specifically, after a five-

year holding period, and after age 59 1/2, all withdrawals, including earnings, are tax-free; moreover, you have no restrictions on when you can make withdrawals.

Roth IRAs have significant advantages for retirement and estate planning. You should discuss these options with your financial planner or attorney.

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Caribbean fix: Delicious chicken salad served with plantain pie



Chicken salad with plantain pie.

A quick, delicious fix with a Caribbean flavor. That's what **Caribbean Today's** recipe is this month, compliments of

Publix Apron's Simple Meals. It features some of the region's favorite ingredients coming together for a delightful meal.

Chicken salad

Ingredients

- 1 lemon (for juice, rinsed)
- 1 (10-ounce) package roasted, diced chicken
- 1 (8-ounce) can pineapple tidbits in juice (drained)
- 1/3 cup light mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup diced pimientos (drained)
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 12 to 16 Bibb lettuce leaves (rinsed)

Steps

Squeeze juice of lemon into medium bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients (except lettuce) until well blended.

Chill salad (or may be served at room temperature).

Arrange lettuce leaves on serving plates; mound chicken salad in center and serve.

Plantain pie

Ingredients

- 1 prepared nine-inch pie crust
- 2 well-ripened plantains (rinsed)
- 1 (24-ounce) jar mango slices in light syrup (drained)
- 2 eggs (or 1/2 cup egg substitute)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Steps

Preheat oven to 450° Fahrenheit. Arrange pie crust in nine-inch pie plate; pinch or fold edges of dough to finish.

Cut ends off plantains; slice through peel lengthwise for easy removal. Remove and discard peels; place plantains in blender (or food processor). Add remaining ingredients and process 20–30 seconds, scraping sides down as needed, or until smooth and fully blended.

Pour mixture into pie crust. Bake 30 minutes or until center of pie is set and crust is golden. Cool completely and serve.

Makes eight servings.



Sizzling sample: Pineapple salsa salmon combines with rice treat

Fish and fruits are always healthy and often delicious. Combined, they can make a great meal with a Caribbean flavor.

Take this pineapple salsa salmon and rice meal being offered by Publix Apron's Simple Meals. It's Caribbean Today's special treat this month:

Preparation

- Chop pineapple into small pieces.
- Check fish for bones (wash hands).

Steps

Combine pineapple, salsa, honey mustard, cornstarch, and horseradish; set aside. Cook rice following package instructions.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high two to three minutes. Coat both sides of fish with cooking spray; sprinkle with lemon pepper. Place fish in pan; cook three minutes.

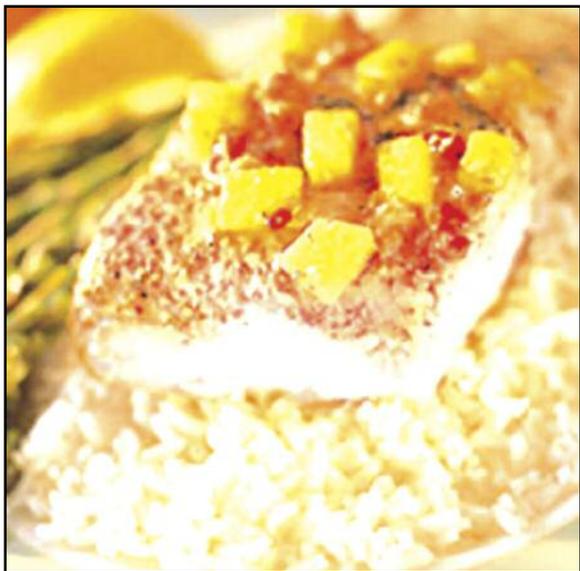
Turn fish and

add salsa mixture. Cover and reduce heat to medium; cook five to seven minutes or until 145°F (or flesh separates easily). Serve fish and sauce over rice.

Complete the meal with fresh steamed (or microwaved) asparagus, crusty French bread, and key lime pie or fresh cut fruit for dessert.

Also, try this recipe with peach salsa for a sweeter flavor.

Total time: 25 minutes. Makes four servings.



Salsa salmon and rice

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb fresh pineapple chunks
- 4 salmon fillets (skin removed; 1 1/2 lb, thawed)
- 1 cup refrigerated fresh salsa (from Produce)
- 1 tablespoon honey mustard
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish
- 2 cups instant rice
- cooking spray
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper seasoning

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Region praises U.S. help in AIDS fight

The Caribbean has praised the efforts of the United States towards reducing the high incidence of the disease in the region.

During a recent meeting of the Caribbean Regional Framework for HIV/AIDS (PEPFAR) St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas said that since 2003, Washington has provided \$48 billion towards a global fund for dealing with HIV/AIDS, adding the U.S. "has been the largest contributor by any nation to combat a single disease in world history."

The meeting was aimed at strengthening the health partnership between the U.S. and the Caribbean. Organizers said it would also provide an opportunity to build a strong partnership to combat HIV and AIDS with the entire Caribbean.

Dr. Douglas, who has

responsibility for HIV/AIDS in the quasi-Caribbean community (CARICOM) Cabinet,



Douglas

told the meeting that while some Caribbean countries had initially benefited from the U.S. global fund, recent U.S. legislation meant

that countries other than Haiti and Guyana were beneficiaries of the program.

SIGNIFICANT

"The act is of very extreme significance to us in the Caribbean," he said. "It accords with the spirits of CARICOM response to these diseases (tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS) and the position to which CARICOM

leaders articulated to the then (U.S. President George W.) Bush administration during what has been described as the celebrated U.S.-Caribbean dialogue held in Washington D.C. in June 2007."

Dr. Douglas said that the U.S. fund "is a lesson to the other partners in the developing world because nowhere is this better illustrated in the consistently high contribution of the United States Global Fund for HIV/AIDS at a time when other countries are wavering in their support." He warned that stopping funds to developing countries in the battle against HIV/AIDS "would reverse the gains of the past decade that has resulted in the modest but surely steady decline in prevalence rates."

- Edited from CMC



Shape up: P.M. warns citizens about health care

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas says almost half of the population of St. Kitts and Nevis is obese and urged citizens to get involved in physical exercises.

"The first thing we have to do is get up and move. We all know the old physical fitness rule: Never lie down if you can sit; never sit if you can stand; never stand if you can walk; and never walk if you can run. First thing, again, then, is move," said Dr. Douglas, who is also a medical practitioner.

Speaking on his weekly radio program "Ask the Prime Minister", Dr. Douglas said 45 percent, almost half, of the people in the twin island federation are obese.

"Men, women, make those annual check-ups a pri-

ority. People today get very nervous about their cell-phones breaking, but they can be very laid back and indifferent, really, about what is happening with their bodies.

"It is wrong, wrong, wrong to go to the doctor only when we are sick."

CHECK-UPS

He urged women to do their pap smears, which the government has made available at every health clinic on this island free of charge.

He also urged men to check for prostate checked once a year.

"Everybody knows that there are aspects to the examination you will not like," Douglas said. "But however strange you may find the examination, no physical examination can begin to

compare with the pain, confusion, and trauma of serious illness. If it is of any comfort, just remind yourself that all men get this procedure done – not only you."

"...Forget about what you do or do not like. Stand up. Step forward. Protect yourself. Prolong your life. Avoid pain and suffering the smart way."

With breast cancer the leading cause of cancer in women in St. Kitts and Nevis, the government is taking a targeted response. He said the Ministry of Health has been organizing sessions to teach women how to examine their breasts properly and urged women to master this technique, and to perform it regularly because prevention is far better than cure.



Caribbean educator supports call for condom distribution in schools

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - A regional educator has thrown her support behind calls for the distribution of condoms in schools as part of the battle against the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Virginia Albert-Poyotte, coordinator of Castries-based Education International, says the issue must be tackled since advocating that students exercise safe sex or abstinence could not be considered a guarantee. She said the responsibility to formulate policy on such issues is that of the authorities.

"We are promoting abstinence for students as best as we can, but given the situation with our young people it is one thing to preach, but another thing to practice, and therefore we have to give them the alternative which is the use of condoms," Albert-Poyotte said.

"But we need to make it clear that we do encourage students to stay away from sexual activity."

Albert-Poyotte said that at a recent workshop in St. Lucia representatives of 12 regional teacher trade unions

did an evaluation of a five year project on HIV and AIDS and education for all. She said it was discovered during the evaluation exercise that research and policy development are two critical tools which are yet to be employed in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

DEFICIENCY

"The unions have recognized the deficiency...and as a result of their evaluation they have decided that they need

to give priority to research to ensure they have their data correct, which they will use to develop policy," Albert-Poyotte said.

"The unions need to have policy to guide



them in dealing with issues related to educational for all and HIV and AIDS and they need to influence government policy in terms of what kinds of regulations are in place to help, and treat people and prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, and generally how do we work towards improving the quality of education in our schools."



St. Lucia launches program to fight AIDS discrimination

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - A regional health program aimed at reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean was launched here late last month.

The PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit (RSDU) said other launches are planned for Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, Belize, Jamaica and Guyana.

The RSDU project, established in Jan. 2009 with funding from the Department for International Development in the United Kingdom, is based on the theme "Breaking Down the Walls of Shame and Blame".

Project Director Dr. Sonia Alexander told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that the two-year program, managed by the Barbados-based Associates for International Development

Incorporated (A.I.D. Inc.), will seek to decrease stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and other vulnerable groups.

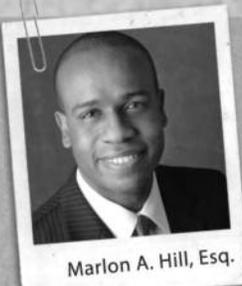
PARTNERSHIPS

"The RSDU project will be implemented in St. Lucia and other OECS islands, Belize, Jamaica and Guyana through partnerships with the National AIDS Program (NAP), civil society, non governmental organizations (NGOs), faith based organizations (FBOs), and the community.

"The objectives are to build capacity in country and to further encourage and empower people living with or affected by HIV and marginalized or vulnerable populations to participate in the struggle against stigma and discrimination," she said.



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Lauderhill to host 'Pieces of Jamaica' exhibition

LAUDERHILL, Florida – Jamaica's beauty and culture will be on display during March at the Lauderhill Art Center Gallery (LACG) in South Florida through the "Pieces of Jamaica" visual and performing arts exhibition.

The event will showcase Jamaica as seen through the lens of photographer David I. Muir. It will also feature the works of guest artists Shurnett Haughton-Cole and Niki Lopez.

According to Muir, "This is an excellent way to highlight Jamaica's beauty and culture; my photography and the works of Shurnett and Niki, while promoting the LACG," Muir explained in a recent press release.

"It will be a great opportunity for people to come out and see different aspects of Jamaica and experience the culture that will be on display throughout the exhibition."

CULTURE

The exhibition will show-

case various cultural aspects of the island in dance, music, poetry, culinary and other expressions, as it explores the complexity of Jamaica's culture and people.

On Mar. 12, the youth can



Muir

enjoy "Family, Fun and Frolic", by learning Jamaican ring games, such as "dandyshandy", and hear "Anancy" stories.

The exhibition will feature eight events overall – each focusing on a different theme – with the grand open-

ing set for Mar. 10 and the "Professionals Night Out" on Mar. 17, which will include poetic expression along with visual art.

On Mar. 19 there will be a screening of the docu-film "Why Do Jamaicans Run So Fast?", which will be hosted by the Jamaica Arts Development Foundation (JADF). The final event of this exhibition is on Mar. 31.

"Pieces of Jamaica" is being presented under the patronage of Sandra Grant-Griffiths, consul general of Jamaica to the southern United States. Broward County Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness and Jamaica Diaspora representative Marlon Hill are also scheduled to be part of the opening event.

The gallery is located at 1713 N.W. 38th Ave. in Lauderhill.

For more information, call Muir at 954-200-5110 or e-mail info@dauidphoto.com.



Rihanna, Buju Banton take Grammy awards

Caribbean entertainers were again among the winners at the 2011 Grammy awards held last month.

Barbadian Rihanna won a Grammy for "Best Dance Recording" for the song "Only Girl (In the World)", which is featured on her album "Loud".

It was Rihanna's third Grammy. She previously won twice in the "Best Rap/Sung Collaboration" for her feature on Jay-Z's "Run This Town" in 2009, and her hit single "Umbrella" in 2007.

Troubled Jamaican star Buju Banton. Banton won the award for "Best Reggae Album" for "Before the Dawn". Banton did not

attend the ceremony and later in the month Banton was found guilty of weapon and drug charges.

Other Grammy winners from the region included Chucho Valdés and the Afro-Cuban Messengers, who won for



Rihanna

"Best Latin Jazz Album" for "Chucho's Steps", and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, which won in the "Best Tropical Latin Album" category for "Viva la Tradición".



WOMAN TO WOMAN



Cheryl Lee Ralph, left, Jamaican-born actress and founder of the Diva Foundation, greets Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks, as she arrives at the Annual Diva Foundation Fund Raising Reception held recently at the Jamaican Embassy in Washington D.C.

Big names set for Miami's 'Jazz in the Gardens'

Some of the biggest names in American R&B music are scheduled to take the stage at the sixth annual "Jazz in the Gardens" set for Mar. 19 and 20 in South Florida.

Members of the New Edition group - Bobby Brown, Johnny Gill and Ralph Tresvant - have been added to a line-up that already includes Lauryn Hill, Charlie Wilson, Al Jarreau and Jazmine Sullivan. Brown, Gill and Tresvant will perform under the name Heads of State.

Also listed for the show

are Gladys Knight, En Vogue, El DeBarge, Lalah Hathaway and Branford



Wilson



Hill

Marsalis.

The music festival will be staged at SunLife Stadium in Miami Gardens.

For more information about "Jazz in the Gardens", call the 877-640-5299 or visit www.jazzinthegardens.com



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Peter A. Webley,
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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

U.S. slaps new measures for mail, cargo from Barbados

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – The Barbados government says it has been advised by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other United States agencies that they have implemented a number of measures “to enhance existing security procedures for screening inbound airmail and cargo to the U.S.”

A Barbados Government Information Service States (BGIS) said the local postal agency has been informed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that all mail intended for dispatch on passenger and cargo aircraft to the U.S. must be screened and mail will encounter a predetermined “cooling” period prior to its dispatch.

“In addition, it is the airlines’ responsibility to ensure the security measures mandated by the DHS are implemented. Toner and ink cartridges will be prohibited on passenger aircraft; and all cargo identified as high-risk will go through additional and enhanced screening, including inbound international mail packages, which must be screened individually and certified to have come from an established postal shipper”, the statement noted.

NEGATIVE IMPACT

The Barbados Postal Service said the action by the

TSA has impacted negatively on mail services worldwide and as a result “all classes of mail to and from Barbados would encounter delays and would continue to do so indefinitely.

“With regard to our Express Mail Service to the USA, it will continue to be given priority treatment but we can no longer offer our customers guaranteed delivery times as a result of the above. Therefore, it will inevitably be delayed”.

The Postal Service is reminding customers that as a result of the U.S. directive and in order to expedite local mail going through foreign customs, each item must have a completed customs declaration form or commercial invoices for items containing merchandise.

“Furthermore, counter staff personnel must make sure that vague entries such as ‘\$0 value’, ‘Household Items’, ‘No Commercial Value’, and ‘Personal Effects’ are not used as they do not reveal the exact nature of contents”, the statement noted.

“These measures come in the wake of a failed terrorist attack to conceal and ship Improvised Explosive Devices on an aircraft destined for the U.S. on October 28, last year”, BGIS added.



CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC – St. Lucia has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the United States that allows for further protection of the island’s coastal borders.

Prime Minister Stephenson King said that the Secure Seas Program (SSP) will not only provide assistance to the local police, but that it also had a very strong social component. “We believe that the fight against crime, the fight to protect our borders can be done in a number of ways, there must be a multi-faceted approach from the social angle and also at prevention and protection level,” King said.

U.S. signs secure seas agreement with St. Lucia

The SSP is intended to assist St. Lucia and other Eastern Caribbean states combat drug trafficking. It is an integral part of U.S. President Barack Obama’s Caribbean Basin Security initiative first announced at the U.S. Caribbean summit in 2009.

Under the program, Washington will provide assistance to St. Lucia and other Caribbean nations in strengthening their capacity to better combat drug trafficking.

BENEFIT

National Security Minister Guy Mayers told the signing ceremony Monday that marine unit of the St. Lucia Police Force will benefit

from the project.

“The countries where the demand is to have a responsibility to assist this region in combating the trafficking of drugs and I am therefore very pleased that the USA has realized this and are cooperating with us in providing the assets that will help us protect our porous borders, because all of the members of the Regional Security System (RSS) have similar problems,” Mayers said.

In addition to signing the MOU, the U.S. also handed over the refurbished Ganter Bay Pier that serves as a base for the marine unit.



Dominica announces new date for night-landing by LIAT

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC – Six months after a paid inaugural night flight, the Dominica government announced that LIAT would begin scheduling night operations to Dominica in mid-April.

Public Works Minister Rayburn Blackmore said that based on discussions between LIAT and the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), new developments are underway for the commencement of night-landing here.

“Based on the discussion with the ECCAA, LIAT will be able to come to Dominica

sometime in mid-April, 2011 pending the approval of the publication of the Instrument Approach Procedure,” Blackmore said.

“I want to say (that) we have gotten the actual approval for the publication of the chart because all the information has to be contained in a graphic form by way of a chart so that it can be used by the various airmen.”

DELAY

LIAT made its inaugural night flight into Dominica on Sept. 20, 2010, a chartered flight by the Dominica government. However, since then, the carrier has not included Dominica on its night itinerary.

Last December LIAT said it was still awaiting an approved instrument approach

in order to commence scheduled night operations into the Melville Hall Airport.

The airline’s Director of Flight Operations Captain George Arthurton noted then that LIAT has repeatedly emphasised that although it would like to commence scheduled night operations into Dominica as soon as possible, it is unable to do so until an instrument approach has been approved by the ECCAA.

“LIAT’s operating standards require that an instrument approach is available for scheduled night operations,” Arthurton explained. “The current ECCAA Phase One approval only permits visual approaches into Dominica at night.”



Cops seize \$1M in cocaine from cruise ship in Jamaica

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, CMC – Officials of the Customs Department said police seized a large quantity of cocaine from a cruise ship from Colombia, docked at the Freeport Cruise Shipping Pier in this tourist resort town.

The department said 50 pounds of cocaine valued at J\$100 million (\$ 1.1 million) was seized during a five-hour operation late last month.

A quantity of the cocaine (22 pounds) was found strapped to a man who was identified as Ricardo Chin, a passenger on the cruise ship, while another 28 pounds was found in a suitcase in a cabin occupied by another passenger.

Chin was taken into cus-

tody and will answer to charges of breaching the Dangerous Drugs Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act as well as the Customs Act.

Following the drug find, scores of passengers, who had just returned from excursions, were forced to wait in long lines and were searched prior to re-boarding while local shipping agents, who had transactions on the ship, were not allowed access.

Last month a cruise passenger was held at a newly opened port in Falmouth in the northern parish of Trelawny after attempting to board a vessel with cocaine.



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Ban lifted: Jamaica blames possible hoax for suspension of cargo to U.S.



Air Jamaica plane was target in U.S. probe.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – The Jamaica government said the bomb scare that caused American authorities to immediately

introduce a 72-hour suspension of commercial cargo to the United States may have been as a result of

an elaborate hoax.

“Preliminary investigations conducted by the National Intelligence Bureau suggest

that the report is a hoax, maliciously created to defame an employee of an airport concessionaire,” Transport Minister Mike Henry told Jamaica’s Parliament. “Investigations are continuing to confirm, beyond a doubt, the preliminary findings as well as apprehending those who may be responsible for this disruption to international civil aviation,” Henry said, adding that Jamaica is maintaining a high level of security screening for both passengers and cargo on all outgoing flights.

Administration (TSA) in the U.S. said it was suspending all air cargo to and from Jamaica for a 72-hour period after receiving what it termed a credible threat that an explosive device could be placed on Air Jamaica plane.

Officials from Jamaica’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said they were advised of the emergency measure after an Air Jamaica plane was delayed at the Fort Lauderdale Airport in Florida as a precaution ahead of the implementation of the three-day suspension of cargo on flights.

Several persons, including a policeman, were detained as investigations involving local police and FBI agents intensified.

- CMC



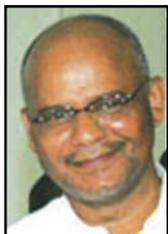
THREAT

On Feb. 27, the Transportation Security

Guyana wants fair assessment on human trafficking from U.S.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Guyana has told the United States that its inaugural talks between the two countries will result in Washington delivering a fair assessment of the human trafficking situation in the country.

The Bharrat Jagdeo administration has been critical of the reports published by the U.S. on human trafficking in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) country and recently Home Affairs Minister Clement Rohee led a delegation that had talks with officials from the U.S. embassy here on the issue.



Rohee

In a written submission, the local delegation said that Guyana last year conducted five investigations of Trafficking In Persons (TIP). The submissions also showed that there were four TIP reports with six victims- three below age 18, leading to three prosecutions and one offender convicted and sentenced to three years jail, according to a Guyana government statement.

“Given all the measures that have been put in place by Guyana and the frank and cordial engagement with the U.S. Embassy Chargé d’ Affaires, the Guyana team expects that the US 2011 Report on TIP would be a fair and accurate representation of the situation

in Guyana”, the statement added.

U.S. GUIDE

Guyana said its submission was framed on the benchmarks set out by the U.S. Congress in Sections 108 and 110 of the US Trafficking and Victims Protection Act.

“Guyana reiterated that it did not accept the findings of the 2010 Report and the ranking of Guyana for the second year as a Tier 2 Watch List country and made it very clear that it expected a fair and accurate assessment in 2011.

“For the first time, in keeping with the understanding adumbrated at previous engagements with the U.S. administration, the Government of Guyana was consulted and invited to submit its responses for the year ending April 2011 in relation to its efforts to combat TIP”, noted the statement.

Guyana also urged the U.S. to provide information about suspected TIP cases at any time, rather than restricting it to the time of preparing the U.S. Annual Report.

“Acknowledging that there might be information that has not come to the Government’s attention, the members of the Guyana Government indicated that in the interest of combating the scourge of TIP that it was prepared to receive and investigate any information that the US Embassy officials may have received in relation to TIP”, the statement read.



ROYAL WELCOME



Royal Caribbean’s “Voyager of the Seas” made its inaugural call to Jamaica’s Falmouth Cruise Port last month. Cruise-goers were welcomed by Jamaican government officials, entertainers and artists as they disembarked the ship. After a day of festivities and adventures, the ship departed Falmouth. The port is a \$220 million project under development by Royal Caribbean Limited (RCCL) in partnership with the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) for the berthing of the cruise line’s Genesis class ship, the newest and largest class of cruise ships. The grand opening ceremony of the Historic Falmouth Cruise Port will take place on Mar. 22, when Oasis of the Seas makes her maiden call into the port. Other Royal Caribbean ships that will be calling at Falmouth include “Allure of the Seas”, which debuts in Falmouth on Mar. 30.

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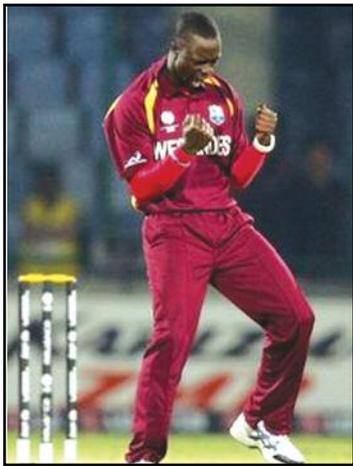
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Roach grabs 'hat-trick' as Windies win at CWC

NEW DELHI, India, CMC – Kemar Roach snared the Netherlands' last three wickets to capture a rare Cricket World Cup (CWC) hat-trick in a dramatic finish, firing West Indies to a crushing 215-run victory over Netherlands late last month.

Roach got palpable leg before wicket verdicts to dismiss Pieter Seelaar for one, and Bernard Loots for a first-ball duck before he bowled Berend Westdijk for another first-ball duck, as the Netherlands, chasing a target of 331 for victory, were demolished for 115 with 111 balls remaining in the Group-B match at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium.

Bowling typically fast, full-length, and gaining appre-



Roach celebrates.

ciable reverse swing, Roach was virtually unplayable, and outgunned the Netherlands batsmen to finish with his best one-day international figures of six wickets for 27 runs from 8.3 overs to earn "Man of the

Match" honors.

"Hat-trick was not on my mind, but then captain (Darren Sammy) pointed out to me I was on a hat-trick, and it worked out," said Roach.

He became the second West Indies bowler to take an ODI hat-trick, but the first from the Caribbean, and sixth overall, to claim it at CWC. Jerome Taylor was the first West Indies bowler to take an ODI hat-trick five years ago, at the ICC Champions Trophy in India at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium.

West Indies ended last month with a win and a loss – to South Africa – in two CWC matches during February. The CWC continues this month. ✪

Caribbean high schools to play cricket in Lauderhill 'Spring Break' championship

Two leading high school teams from the Caribbean are scheduled to compete as special guests in the 2011 American College Cricket Spring Break Championship in South Florida this month.

Jamaica's Excelsior High and Presentation College Chaguanas of Trinidad and Tobago will play against university teams from North America at the cricket stadium in Lauderhill.

It will be the second year in a row that teams from the Caribbean will make appearances at the stadium. The University of the West Indies participated in the 2010 championship.

"(Former and current West Indies players) Courtney Walsh, Chris Gayle, Patrick Patterson and Uton Dowe

attended Excelsior High School, and its cricket program continues to be of a high standard with two students currently in the Jamaican under 15 and under 19 teams," Excelsior Principal Deanroy Bromfield told the championship's website. "We have made the semi-finals every year since 2006, and eight of the players have Senior Cup experience."

According to the website, Presentation College Chaguanas has also produced West Indies cricketers, including Adrian Barath, Ravi Rampaul, Dinesh Ramdin, Theo Cuffy, Dinath Ramnarine and Suruj Ragoonath.

According to a press release from the school, "Presentation College is pleased to have been invited to Lauderhill, Florida to

participate in the 2011 American College Cricket Spring Break Championship and we see this as an opportunity to 'blood' some of our talented young players. Additionally we are eager to exercise our civic responsibility as ambassadors by partnering with the Borough of Chaguanas (our hometown) in deepening the sporting and cultural ties with its recently twinned city of Lauderhill, Florida, the championship hosts."

The two Caribbean high schools will play games against U.S. and Canadian universities. On Mar. 19 they will play a feature game against each other under lights at the stadium.

For more information, call 954-732-5527. ✪

'True Blue' alumni soccer kicks off Mar. 26 in South Florida

The seventh annual True Blue Weekend/Dennis Ziadie Cup soccer competition will be held this month in South Florida.

The event, which features alumni teams representing popular Jamaican high schools, including Jamaica College and

St. George's College, is scheduled for Mar. 26.

The competition is being staged in honor of Dennis Ziadie, a former Jamaica national player who coached both high schools. The 2011 event will mark the 24th year of Ziadie's death in a motor vehicle crash at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

This year Grace Kennedy Remittance Services/ Western Union will donate two cash prizes: \$100 to the winning school and \$50 to the second place.

Camperdown High School Past Students'

Association will defend its title as champions of the All Girls/Co-Ed Schools Alumni Penalty Kick-off.

The soccer events will be held starting noon at the Ansin Sports Complex, 10801 Miramar Blvd. in Miramar.

Other "True Blue" weekend festivities scheduled for South Florida include:

- The True Blue Mixer, from 7 p.m. to midnight on Mar. 25 at the I.T. Parker Community Center, 901 N.E. Third St. in Dania Beach;
- True Blue After Party, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. Mar. 26 at Cocomo's Bar & Grill, 4519

T&T's John aims at MLS return

CARSON, California – Stern John may be on the verge of a return to Major League Soccer (MLS).

Chivas USA coach Robin Fraser disclosed late last month that the Trinidad and Tobago international has joined the club's preseason training camp.

"He's coming off an injury, and he's looking for an opportunity to get on with a club," said Fraser.

"But when a guy has scored goals like he has in the places he has, you take a look at him. He is one of [the best MLS goal-scorers] I know."

The 34-year-old John is currently battling back from a knee injury that helped cut short his stint with English side Ipswich Town last year. During his career in the MLS, John played for the Columbus Crew from 1998 to 1999. He was the Golden Boot winner in his first year with 26 goals, while he tied for the MLS



Stern

lead in goals scored with 18 in the second year.

John spent extensive time in England with a number of clubs including Nottingham Forest, Coventry City, and Sunderland.

He also help the Soca Warriors reach the 2006 World Cup, where he appeared in all three group stage matches. ✪

SPORT BRIEFS

• Fort Lauderdale Strikers signs Jamaican

The Fort Lauderdale Strikers soccer club has signed Jamaica international defender Lance Laing for the upcoming North American Soccer League (NASL) season.

Laing, 22, is a native of Trelawny. He began his professional career with Harbour View F.C. and Village United. He has also represented the national team at the under 17 level.

The Fort Lauderdale Strikers, formerly Miami F.C., is South Florida's only professional soccer team.

• Reggae Boy joins MLS's Dynamo

Defender Jermaine Taylor has been acquired by Major League Soccer's Houston Dynamo from the Jamaican club St. George's.

The 26-year-old has appeared 37 times for Jamaica's senior national team and, along with current Dynamo midfielder Lovel Palmer, helped the Reggae Boyz win last year's Digicel Caribbean Cup.

• Jamaica reaches U-17 soccer World Cup

Jamaica beat Honduras 2-1 in the quarter-final of the CONCACAF Under-17 Boys' Championship last month to become the lone country from the Caribbean to reach the 2011 Boys World Cup finals, which

will be held in Mexico this June.

Jason Wright scored for Jamaica in the 13th and 46th minutes. Brian Roches scored the lone goal for Honduras in the 65th minute.

• Bishoo replaces Bravo at CWC

Guyanese leg-spinner Davendra Bishoo replaced injured all-rounder Dwayne Bravo in the West Indies squad at the 2011 Cricket World Cup being staged in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Bravo suffered a knee injury bowling in the Windies' first match against South Africa.

• Jamaican signs two-year USL deal

Orlando City have fortified their central defense with the signing of Jamaica international Demar Stewart.

The club announced late last month that it had reached terms with Stewart for a two-year agreement that links Stewart with compatriot Kieron Bernard in the heart of the defense of Orlando City, which plays in the United Soccer League (USL).

"We are delighted to have a player of Demar's quality joining us," said Phil Rawlins, owner and president of Orlando City.

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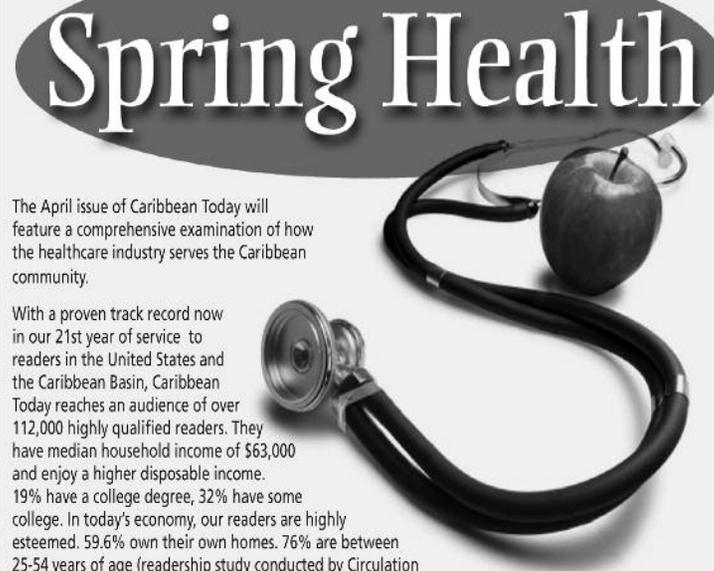
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Aristide's return to Haiti stalls; Miami lawyer accuses U.S., France of political interference

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, CMC – Weeks after the Haitian government gave a diplomatic passport to former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, his planned return appears to have stalled amid unresolved security and logistical concerns, according to his lawyer.

Aristide's Miami-based lawyer Ira Kurzban has accused the United States and France of interfering with his client's efforts to return home since he was forced into exile in 2004.

"The idea that Aristide can simply get on a plane and come back to Haiti ignores the fact that he's not just a Haitian citizen returning home," he told reporters.

"There are security concerns and powerful governments that have already expressed a desire to keep him out of the country," he added.

Determining when or if Aristide might return from his exile in South Africa continues to be difficult. American officials have clearly stated that they oppose efforts to bring him back before Haiti's Mar. 20 second round presidential elections, arguing that Aristide's presence would cre-

ate instability - a charge his supporters deny.

PRESSURE

Supporters regard Aristide, a former Catholic priest, as a true democratic leader, who could pressure the



Aristide

government and international donors to help the poor. But Kurzban said international opposition is a concern, because all commercial flights from South Africa fly through countries allied with the U.S.

He also said it is not clear whether a private flight would be held on the ground by the South African authorities, or if it would be allowed to land in Haiti.

While Haiti's top officials - including the president and prime minister - have said

Aristide has the right to return, they have failed to outline specific plans for it, especially in terms of security. Kurzban said a letter he dispatched to the Haitian foreign ministry requesting that the government work with South Africa to ensure Aristide's return has received no response.

"This country needs to be rebuilt and that needs to be the priority right now," said Alice Blanchet, a special advisor to Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, when asked about Aristide's return.

WAIT

Some of Aristide supporters, acknowledging disappointment, have even begun to think that it might be better for him to wait. That may mean trying to return under a new president who would be less friendly than the current president, René Préval.

But Patrick Elie, a political activist who has served in the Aristide and Préval governments, blamed Aristide's own political organization, Fanmi Lavalas, for failing to build widespread support and to "prepare the return of somebody who is a living symbol."



Opposition thwarts death penalty in T&T Parliament

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – The Trinidad and Tobago government suffered a major blow to its attempt to have the death penalty carried out on convicted murderers after Opposition legislators banded together late last month and refused to provide the necessary special majority vote for the successful passage of the amendment to the country's constitution.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar, in a last minute bid on Feb. 28 to save the amendment to the constitution, had sought to suspend the sitting of Parliament and hold a meeting with Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley, who declined the offer.

But Persad Bissessar said her administration regarded the measure "as an important measure," adding that "it was most unfortunate (for the position adopted by Rowley) because at the end of the day it will be the innocent people of this land who will suffer."

Earlier Rowley had called on the government not to interfere with the constitution and that executions could be carried out without the amendment.

'RANSOM'

But Attorney General

Anand Ramlogan said that expert advice from prominent attorneys did not support the Opposition's position. Later, in winding up debate, Ramlogan urged the Opposition to seriously consider the ramifications of their position.

"I beg of you don't hold this nation to ransom," Ramlogan said, adding "I ask my friends to consider the innocent and not to stand with those who murder them."

The nine-month-old Persad Bissessar government needed a special three-fourths majority to ensure passage of the legislation that would have categorized murder in T&T. But when the matter was put to the vote, all 29 government legislators supported the measure while 11 from the Opposition benches voted. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Paul Gopee Scoon was not present when the vote was taken in the 41-seat Parliament.

According to government figures, 3,335 murders were committed here between 2002 and 2010 and, so far this year, more than 70 people have been killed.



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