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The Antigua and Barbuda government has expressed disappointment at the decision by United States authorities to arrest and indict a number of individuals engaged in online Internet gaming, page 2.



Tons of rubble piled on the roadside, mass graves and disgruntled citizens burning tires in the street. The world has seen Haiti's desperation. But there are brighter images of the French-speaking Caribbean nation, page 9.



Jamaican singer Alvin James Brown, better known as A.J. Brown, is admired for his vocals. However, his expressions are not limited to his voice. Brown is also a fine artist trying to expose his "other side", page 11.

# CLASS IN SESSION



~ Dennis M. Walcott, New York City's deputy mayor for education and community development and a man who traces his roots to Barbados and St. Croix, has been named the city's new school's chancellor, page 14.

# COME ON BOARD

~ Haiti's President-elect Michel "Sweet Mickey" Martelly has called on his compatriots in South Florida and in the diaspora generally to help him rebuild the earthquake-ravaged, French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country, page 3.



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# U.S. cracks down on Antigua's Internet gaming

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government has expressed disappointment at the decision by United States authorities to arrest and indict a number of individuals engaged in on line Internet gaming.

Finance and Economy Minister Harold Lovell described the recent indictments as the latest efforts by Washington to shut off competition in remote gaming in violation of international law.

"I am concerned that at this point in time United States authorities continue to prosecute non-domestic suppliers of remote gaming services in clear contravention of International law," Lovell said.

"I am not aware of any other situation where a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has subjected persons to criminal prosecution under circumstances where the WTO has expressly ruled that to do so is in breach of an international treaty."

**LOGGERHEADS**

The two countries are at loggerheads over the issue of internet online gaming with

St. John's seeking to recover millions of dollars in lost revenue based on a WTO ruling that Washington has not yet fully accepted.

"The WTO ruled that these kinds of laws criminalizing the provision of remote gaming services are contrary to the obligations of the United States under the WTO agreements," said Mark Mendel, Antigua's legal

moral issue is now clearly nothing but economic protectionism at its worst. Rather than engaging with Antigua and the world gaming community to reach a reasonable accommodation on this relatively new but now globalized form of economic commerce, the United States has instead determined to protect its domestic gaming interests regardless of International legal obligations.

"This is very hard to reconcile not only with its pronouncements regarding the imperative of other countries to strictly observe their WTO trade obligations but also with stated official United States government policy of adherence to the rule of law."

**COMPROMISE**

A government statement said that having won a hard-fought dispute at the WTO against the U.S. of remote gaming services to American consumers, "Antigua has spent considerable time and effort trying to reach a compromise with American authorities that



Lovell



counsel in the WTO matter.

"The United States, being a very heavy user of the WTO rules to its own benefit, simply cannot continue to prosecute persons for engaging in legitimate International commerce."

He said there have been recent initiatives to authorize remote gaming in various American states and the proliferation of state sanctioned gambling in America generally.

"What the United States has attempted to cloak as a

# Bin Laden's death will demoralize al-Qaida ~ CARICOM chairman

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC – Grenada's Prime Minister Tillman Thomas believes the death of Osama Bin Laden could demoralize the Islamist group al-Qaida, which has been blamed for a number of terrorist activities around the world, including the Sept. 11, 2011 attack in the United States.

"One thing that is for sure, his death will demoralize the group and there is the likelihood of different factions emerging because the person they looked on as a leader is no more," said Thomas, adding "he was the person who guided the members and he will not be replaced very easily."

The U.S. confirmed that Bin Laden had been killed by a special American military unit in Pakistan on May 1 and at press time Thomas, who is chairman of the 15-member Caribbean integration grouping CARICOM, said he was still awaiting more information "before I officially make a CARICOM response."

"But I am sure his death will affect his followers and security around the world," Thomas told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

Thomas, who is also the national security minister, said that like every members of the international police organization (INTERPOL), local law enforcement officials have been put on high alert.

**WARNING**

INTERPOL has warned against possible reprisals from al-Qaida affiliated or inspired terrorist groups as a result of Bin Laden's death.

"The world's most-wanted international terrorist is no more, but the death of Bin Laden does not represent the demise of al-Qaida affiliates and those inspired by al-Qaida, who have and will continue to engage in terrorist attacks around the world," Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble said.

"We therefore need to remain united and focused in our ongoing co-operation and fight, not only against this global threat but also against terrorism by any group anywhere," he added.

*Caribbean American Congresswoman calls Bin Laden's death 'historic day of justice for U.S.', page 18.*



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

# Rights group backs decision to prosecute 'Baby Doc'

NEW YORK – A leading human rights group here says that the prosecution of the former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier represents a landmark opportunity for the Haitian justice system to address some of the worst crimes in country's history.

In a 47-page report released last month, Human Rights Watch examines the legal and practical questions surrounding the case, concluding "Haiti has an obligation under international law to investigate and prosecute the grave violations of human rights under Duvalier's rule".

The report, entitled "Haiti's Rendezvous With History: The Case of Jean-Claude Duvalier", also



Duvalier

addresses Haiti's capacity to carry out the trial, the question of the statute of limitations, and Duvalier's personal involvement in alleged criminal acts.

"The Duvalier trial could be the most important criminal case in Haitian history," said Reed Brody, lawyer for

Human Rights Watch.

**'VIOLATIONS'**

Duvalier returned to Haiti on Jan. 16, after nearly 25 years in exile, and was charged with financial and human rights crimes. The investigation is underway. Human Rights Watch said Duvalier's rule, from 1971 to 1986, was marked by "systematic human rights violations."

"Hundreds of political prisoners, held in a network of prisons known as the 'Triangle of Death,' died from mistreatment or were victims of extrajudicial killings.

"Duvalier's government repeatedly closed independent newspapers and radio stations. Journalists were beaten, in some cases tortured, jailed, and forced to leave the country", it added.

Human Rights Watch said Duvalier could potentially be held liable under Haitian law as an "accomplice" to crimes committed by his subordinates or as "a superior who failed to prevent or punish crimes under his command".





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## U.S. changes deportation rules for nationals from Caribbean

MIAMI, Florida – United States immigration authorities have changed the way thousands of Cubans facing deportation comply with immigration rules.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency now requires Miami residents to travel across county lines to a Miramar office for check-in.

ICE said that Caribbean and other foreign nationals with deportation orders, but not in detention, must now report to Miramar.

Before, they had to report their whereabouts at an immigration building in downtown Miami.

ICE officials said that the Krome Detention Center serves detainees, while Miramar serves non-detained deportees.

Though more than 30,000 Cuban exiles have been ordered deported from the



File photograph

Caribbean nationals to report to different locations.

U.S., fewer than 3,000 actually have been removed since the 1980s, officials said. The Cubans who have been deported are mostly Mariel refugees who arrived during the 1980 boatlift.

Under an agreement between the Cuban govern-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

## Middle East turmoil puts Libya's Caribbean projects under threat

For the Caribbean governments, particularly those in the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the events unfolding in Libya is more than just an attempt to remove an African leader from power.

For the nine-member OECS grouping who have adopted their own lines of engagement with Libya, much to the concern of some Opposition parties, their main concern is - what will become of Libyan investment projects in region?

As leaders of the OECS member states anxiously await the outcome of several negotiated agreements with Libya - including the opening of a Libyan embassy in St. Lucia and a bank in St. Kitts - Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer of Antigua and Barbuda admitted that he is nervously watching developments in the North African country.

In the midst of the unrest in Libya, leaders in the region have found themselves caught between the proverbial 'rock and a hard place'. Many of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' major development projects in recent years have benefited from Libyan funding.

### 'BLOOD MONEY'

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves defended his government's receipt of Libyan aid. According to the prime minister, the \$250,000

handed over to the Housing and Land Development Corporation (HLDC) by Libya's Ambassador to the OECS Ammat Ali in February are to aid with rebuilding the country after the damage wrought by Hurricane Tomas last year.

In nearby Dominica, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit reiterated his government's position that Dominica will not break ties with Libya because of the ongoing political turmoil.

"Why should we terminate relations with Libya?" said Skerrit.

The same stance has been taken by Prime Minister Stephenson King of St. Lucia, who said while his government is monitoring developments in Libya, the two countries are not severing diplomatic relations. St. Lucia's Foreign Minister Rufus Bousquet says the march to democracy in the Middle East and North Africa is likely to impact on investment projects in the OECS sub-region.

Grenada has also found itself in a similar position - that of anxiously awaiting financial aid. Last year, the government announced it was expecting a grant of \$1.9 million from Libya for public works projects, in addition to expecting Libya to forgive a six million dollar debt.

- CMC



## President-elect urges diaspora to help rebuild Haiti

Miami, Florida – Haiti's President-Elect Michel "Sweet Mickey" Martelly has called on his compatriots in South Florida and in the diaspora generally to help him rebuild the earthquake-ravaged, French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

"We need your help to accomplish all that we have planned for Haiti," he told nationals at the Little Haiti Cultural Center late last month.

"We need you to bring your talents back to Haiti. We need you to bring your skills and expertise back to Haiti," Martelly said as he urged the Haitian diaspora to help him honor his campaign pledge of free education for citizens. He proposed that one U.S. dollar on every \$100 wire transfer to Haiti and a small levy on every telephone minute would



Martelly addresses the media during his recent visit to Miami.

go towards an education fund to help him realize his goal.

### CONTRIBUTION

Martelly estimated that the phone levy would raise \$36 million annually, while the wire transfers would raise

about \$50 million. "The diaspora will be able to send 860,000 kids to school for free and change their lives," he said.

After the Jan.12 devastating earthquake last year, the Haitian government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have been working on a plan to transform Haiti's education system. The plan includes training teachers and the construction of new schools.

Martelly's trip here came less than a week after he visited the U.S. State Department, the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund (IMF), during which he also urged his compatriots to work together for nation building.



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# U.S. honors 'Ladies in White' Cuban dissidents for defending human rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The administration of United States President Barack Obama has honored a group of mothers and wives of Cuban dissidents, renowned as the “Ladies in White”, for defending human rights.

William Burns, a senior U.S. State Department official, said Washington “stands with the Damas de Blanco”, or “Ladies in White”, who have repeatedly called for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba.

The “Ladies in White” comprises female relatives of about 75 dissidents arrested in a Cuban government crackdown of dissidents in Mar. 2003. All have since been released, with most going into exile in Spain in an agreement brokered between Havana’s Catholic Archdiocese and the Cuban and Spanish governments.

Burns said the women are “a poignant reminder of the



Ros-Lehtinen

day-to-day repression that Cubans face.”

## BAY OF PIGS

The U.S. Congress recently saluted eight of the estimated 1,100 surviving members of a group of Cuban exiles who attempted to overthrow the Fidel Castro administration in the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion 50 years ago.

“Though the operation was not successful, the dedication and commitment that these brave individuals illustrated during the conflict was

exceptional,” said Miami Republican Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen on the floor of the House of Representatives.

“The men who fought courageously on that historic day came from many backgrounds, but all cared for the freedom and liberty of Cuba,” she added.

Observers say the Bay of Pigs would go down as one of the U.S.’s biggest strategic blunders, when more than 100 men were killed, including four U.S. pilots in the attempted coup. The Cuban exiles, who eagerly volunteered for the clandestine mission to topple Castro, were left largely abandoned in Cuba when U.S. support for the mission evaporated. The men were in their teens and 20s when they left Miami to fight Castro.

“These guys are ever at it, their fervor ever present,” said Ros-Lehtinen, adding that they are “proud patriots,” whose efforts have been placed in the Congressional Record. “The flame of liberty is still burning bright.”

## ‘SPECIAL’

The veterans usually mark the anniversary of the invasion on April 17 and honor those who died. But they said it’s the first time they’ve been



Nelson

so celebrated in the U.S. Congress.

“In 50 years, we’ve not had anything like this,” said Max Cruz, 73, “This one is really special.”

The veterans heard from Cuban American members of the U.S. Congress, including Miami Republican Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart and David Rivera, and senators Bob Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, as well as Florida Senator Bill Nelson and Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, who called them “an inspiration.

“I’m leaving the Senate in two years,” Lieberman noted. “And I’ll tell you, I’d sure like to see Castro go before I leave.”

Senator Marco Rubio, a Miami Republican who was born in the U.S. to Cuban parents a decade after the Bay of Pigs, credited the veterans for “keeping watch over this issue.

“Younger people, like

myself, who have never known Cuba, have never visited there, feel aligned with that cause because they kept it alive,” Rubio said.

Amado Cantillo, trained as a frogman for the assault, said he never expected the CIA-trained, U.S.-led exile group to lose to Castro, though, at one point, the 1,500 men faced 60,000 members of Castro’s military.

“Unfortunately, we all know what happened,” he said referring to the U.S. decision not to order more air raids. “I always thought we were going to go back.”

## HOPE

With the Castros still firmly in power, some said they’re pessimistic about changes to Cuba, but buoyed by the explosion of Cuban bloggers and activists taking on the government.

Several said they remain confident they’ll see democracy in Cuba in their lifetime – or that of their children and grandchildren.

“This event has given us hope that Washington is still wanting Cuba to be free,” said Julio Gonzalez Rebull Sr. “It’s late for us, but there’s another generation.”



# U.S. requests \$73M to help Caribbean fight crime

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States is requesting \$73 million to help The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative for fiscal year 2012.

Arturo Valenzuela, assistant secretary at the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, made the request to the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs last month.

Valenzuela said the funding is essential “to ensure that traffickers and transnational crime elements do not simply shift routes, we are also addressing citizen security in the Caribbean.”

The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative reflects the U.S. Administration’s effort to establish a sustainable security partnership with Caribbean countries – a region that comprises half of the southern border of the U.S., he added. Rising crime and violence, largely related to the drug trade, threatens regional security and stability, Valenzuela told the committee.

## ILL-EQUIPPED

He said individual Caribbean nations are ill-equipped to handle these issues on their own, and “we have agreed on a partnership

to develop national and regional capacities to address the myriad of transnational criminal issues throughout the region.

“This funding is essential to build on the work that we have begun with our regional partners,” he added.

Valenzuela also requested \$282 million for the Merida Initiative, which he said will continue the progress the U.S. and Mexico have made to fight organized criminal groups and associated violence at the border.

- Edited from News Americas.



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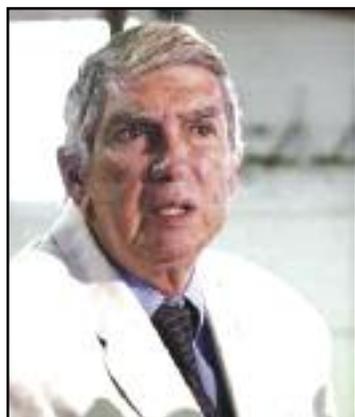
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## U.S. jury acquits accused bomber of Cuban airliner off Barbados

TEXAS - A 12-member jury has acquitted former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operative Luis Carriles Posada of lying about his role in the 1997 bombing of a Cubana airline off the coast of Barbados, killing all 73 people on board.

The seven women, five men panel deliberated for three hours last month before returning the not guilty verdict against Posada of all 11 charges of lying about his alleged role and about how he sneaked into the United States in 2005.

Posada, 83, was arrested



Posada

after the bombing of the airline, but after being acquitted by a military tribunal, he escaped from jail while facing a civilian trial.

Posada and his three lawyers embraced each other as soon as U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone read the unanimous verdict.

"Anytime a jury has a case, there's no telling what they might do," Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Reardo told reporters. "But we respect the jury's decision."

The decision culminates four years of efforts by the U.S. to convict Posada, who, for decades, allegedly worked to destabilize the Fidel Castro government in Cuba and other communist regimes in Latin America. After sneaking into the U.S. in 2005, prosecutors said Posada sought political asylum, then U.S. citizenship.

They alleged that he lied while under oath and during court hearings about how he entered the country and that he denied masterminding a series of hotel bombings in Havana in 1997 that killed an Italian tourist and wounded 12 others.

### 'THEATER'

In 1998, Posada admitted in a New York Times interview that he planned the attacks, but later changed his story.

Over the years, Cuba and Venezuela have sought Posada's extradition to face murder charges, but a US immigration judge has denied their request, stating that he would be tortured if sent back.

"The theater was worth more than the evidence in this case," said Jose Pertierra, a

Washington-based lawyer who represents Venezuela in its case against Posada.

"The evidence was strong. We heard the voice of Luis Posada saying he was the mastermind of the bombings," added Pertierra, who sat through the case.

But Pepe Hernandez,

head of the Cuban American National Foundation in Miami, who trained with Posada ahead of the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, hailed the verdict.

"The U.S. government had a very scant case. Obviously, it didn't have any evidence beyond that of Ann

Louise Bardach," he said, referring to the reporter who had interviewed Posada, during which he initially admitted to the 1997 hotel bombings in Cuba.



## Guyana, U.S. sign pact to counter narco trafficking

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - Guyana and the United States have signed an agreement aimed at dealing with money laundering and to counter narco-trafficking under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

The three-year accord was signed by Guyana's Foreign Minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett and U.S. Charge D'Affaires Thomas C. Pierce.

Under the agreement, the capability of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and the Guyana Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) to conduct counter-narcotics operations at Guyana's ports of entry would be enhanced, the embassy explained in a statement.

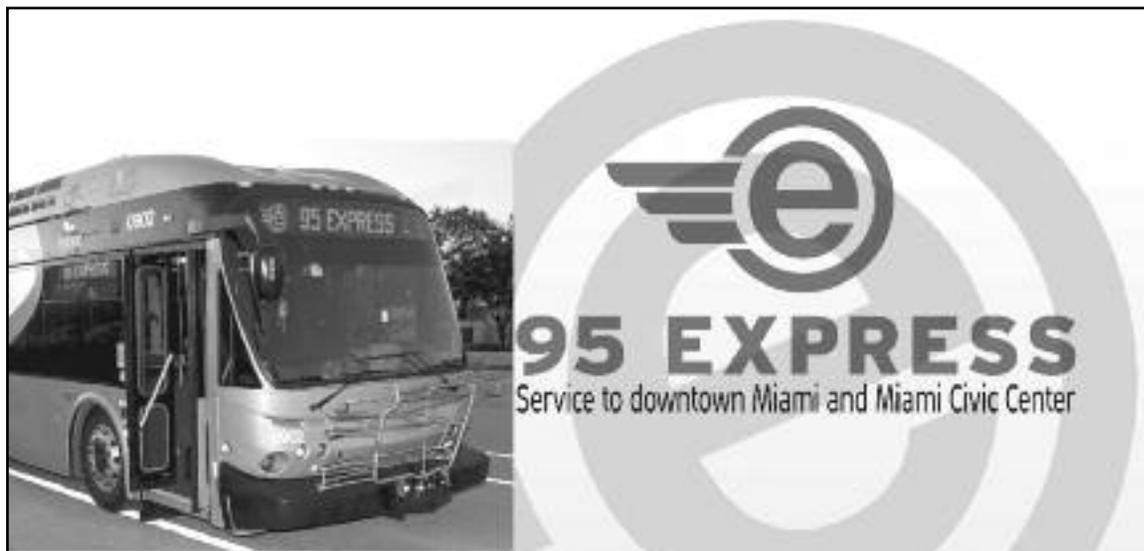
The program to counter money laundering will provide assistance to the Guyana Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and assist government entities to enforce anti-money laundering legislation.

This program is one ele-

ment of a Guyana initiative, a multinational effort to improve security in the Caribbean region. Guyana has partnered with the other nations of the Caribbean and the United States to combat the drug trade and other transnational crime that threaten regional security.

The CBSI is a partnership between the U.S. and Caribbean nations to advance citizen security in the region. Through the CBSI, Washington and the Caribbean have agreed to undertake cooperative efforts to reduce illicit trafficking, advance public safety and security, and promote social justice.

"The agreement signed...is part of a bigger program of assistance to the Caribbean region which will include more than US\$45 million in the first year," the U.S. Embassy added.



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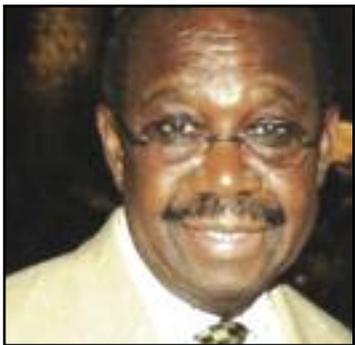
## Jamaican pleads guilty to misleading U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A leading Caribbean newspaper publisher and philanthropist, who for years arranged for members of the United States Congress to attend business conferences in the Caribbean, has pleaded guilty to misleading congressional staff about who paid for the travel expenses.

The U.S. Justice Department said Karl B. Rodney, who is also the chief executive officer of the weekly **New York Carib News** newspaper and its foundation, pleaded guilty to the charge in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia last month.

Rodney, 73, a Jamaican, is the only person to have been charged in the scandal, which prompted an ethics inquiry of several lawmakers, said Assistant U.S. Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer. The Justice Department said that Judge Emmet G. Sullivan will sentence Rodney on July 22.

Breuer said Rodney could face a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the false statement charge. However, federal prosecutors have apparently agreed not to seek a sentence of more than six months. A New York



Rodney

newspaper last month reported that the agreement is part of a deal struck by the government and Rodney's representatives.

Breuer said Rodney, through the Carib News foundation and Carib News, organized an annual conference for more than a decade in the Caribbean, called the Annual Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference. Conferences have been attended by members of Congress, he said.

### ADMISSION

In 2007, the House of Representatives modified its travel rules to require, among other things, that all privately-funded travel by members of Congress be pre-approved by

the House of Representatives Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee.) The pre-approval process required the private sponsor to submit a Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form disclosing, among other things, the source of funding for the member's trip, including transportation, lodging and meals.

"In pleading guilty, Rodney admitted that he made false statements on the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form submitted to the Ethics Committee in connection with the 12th Annual Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference held in Antigua and Barbuda from November 8-11, 2007", the Justice Department stated.

It said Rodney acknowledged several times in court on that he was guilty of the crime of false statements. At the end of the 45-minute hearing, Rodney blamed a "lapse of judgment" and said, "I regret that deeply," the Justice Department said.

- Edited from CMC reports.



## U.S. cracks down on Antigua's Internet gaming

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

would recognize the legitimacy conferred by the WTO judgment with respect to Antiguan remote gaming services, while addressing any material concerns United States authorities might have with respect to the provision of these services from abroad.

"Last (month's) indictments and other recent developments would seem to indicate that the United States is still unwilling or unable to tackle the issue of offshore remote gaming services in a

mature and legally compliant fashion."

Lovell said that in light of these developments "we are examining all of the options we have against the United States as a result of the WTO decision.

"We are confident that the WTO rulings have significant strength and we are now looking into ways to capitalize on that in order to achieve our objectives," Lovell said.



## U.S. changes deportation rules for nationals from Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

ment and the administration of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1984, some 2,740 Mariel Cubans can be removed. Less than 900 Mariel Cubans remain to be deported. All other Cuban exiles with deportation orders have not been removed because the Cuban government, in general, refuses to take them back, and the U.S. has in place an informal policy of not deporting Cubans.

U.S. officials have repeatedly said that removal of Cubans would begin once democracy reigns in Cuba.

### CRIMINALS

Cubans are ordered deported largely for the same reasons as other foreign nationals in the U.S., when they are convicted of a crime. ICE recently released a report revealing that more than 2,000 criminals have been deported to the Caribbean in the past six months. The figures show that from the start of the 2011 fiscal year in October last year to the end of March this year, 88,497 criminal "aliens" or migrants were deported to their country of birth in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

A "criminal alien" is defined under U.S. immigra-

tion laws as a migrant who is convicted of a crime.

The number deported to Latin America alone stood at 86,469, while 2,028 were sent back to the Caribbean.

For the Caribbean, 1,066 criminals were sent to the Dominican Republic followed by 528 to Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago with 125. Belize received 74, followed by The Bahamas with 65, and Guyana 64.

So far this fiscal year, ICE said 50 migrants have been sent back to Aruba and 31 to earthquake ravaged Haiti. Other Caribbean nations received far less criminal deportees.

Cuba received 20 in the past six months, Barbados 11, Dominica 10, St. Lucia seven and Antigua five. Four persons were sent back to Bermuda, while St. Kitts received three. Two each were sent to Suriname, the British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands.

The figures show that Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos, received one criminal deportee each.

The biggest receiver of criminal migrants was Mexico with 70,874 deported as of Mar. 28.

- CMC



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## KEYS TO RECOGNITION



Jamaica's Ambassador to United States Audrey Marks, right, receives the keys to the City of Fort Lauderdale from Broward County Mayor Sue Gunzburger during the monthly meeting of the city commissioners last month at the Commission Chamber. The ambassador was also presented with a proclamation for her accomplishments. Marks made her first official tour of South Florida as part of a national outreach since assuming office in May 2010. Broward County is one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. and home to a large population of Jamaicans.

## Obama names new U.S. ambassador to Guyana

United States President Barack Obama has named a career diplomat as the new ambassador designate to Guyana.

D. Brent Hardt, who served as chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, has been named to the post pending confirmation.

Hardt previously served as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau, Bahamas and at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Prior to that, he served as team leader for NATO Policy in the Office of European Political and Security Affairs in the Department of State and as Political-Economic Section Chief at the U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Hardt joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1988, and served as a consular officer in

Barbados, political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany during German unification, and political-military officer at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, where he also served as an exchange diplo-



mat in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He has a bachelor of arts degree in history from Yale University, and master's and doctorate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

- Edited from News Americas



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**PALM BEACH  
JERK FEST**

The taste of Caribbean cuisine will be the top attraction at the Palm Beach Jerk and Caribbean Culture Festival set for **May 30**. The festival will be staged from **2 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

ents and culinary skills. It also provides vendors the opportunity to market products.

This year's entertainment package is scheduled to include performances by reggae artistes Wayne Wonder, Pinchers and Assassin. The Fab 5 band

**WOMEN'S CAUCUS**

The annual Women's Power Caucus (WPC) Leadership Conference and Marketplace Expo will be held **May 13-14** at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The WPC aims to bring together established and emerging female leaders, achievers and women of action for events, workshops, panels, achievement awards, fashion and networking.

For more information, call **954-966-1233** or e-mail [woodielmg@gmail.com](mailto:woodielmg@gmail.com).

**DAY OF SERVICE**

The City of Miami Gardens has teamed up with T.R.I.P., a non-profit organization that helps to revitalize African American communities in need. for "Miami Gardens Day of Service", **8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 14** in Miami Gardens, Florida.

The project aligns with the city's Keep Miami Gardens Beautiful Program.

The "Miami Gardens Day of Service" will consist of repurposing an abandoned lot into a community park in the Vista Verde neighborhood. Volunteers will have the opportunity to

paint, garden and install equipment. No special skills or experience are required.

To register as a volunteer, visit [www.tripusa.org](http://www.tripusa.org).

**JAMAICA EXPO**

Products from the Caribbean will be on display at the "Jamaican Business Expo" scheduled for **May 20-21** at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel in South Florida.

The expo will feature keynote speaker Joe Matalon, chairman of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica.

For more information, call **877-528-7222** or **305-576-7888**.

**DIASPORA CONFAB**

Jamaican nationals are being invited to return to the Caribbean island for the Jamaica Diaspora Conference **June 15 to 17** in Ocho Rios.

The theme for the conference is "One Nation: Jamaica and its Diaspora in Partnership".

For more information, call Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Member Marlon A. Hill at **786-349-2584**.



**MAN OF THE YEAR**



Broward County Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness, left, receives the "Public Official of the Year" Award from Dexter Bridgeman, founder and chief executive officer of Legacy Magazine, which also named Holness one of the "50 Most Powerful Black Professionals in South Florida". A committee of community leaders and business executives choose the top 50 black professionals from nominations submitted by their peers. Legacy Magazine wrote that Commissioner Holness, who was born in Jamaica, is "motivated by change" and highlighted his efforts to strengthen Broward County's economy and create jobs.

at the Meyer Amphitheater in downtown West Palm Beach in South Florida.

The aims to celebrate Caribbean cultural awareness, showcasing artistic tal-

and the Stone Love sound system will also provide music.

For more information, visit [www.pbjerkfestival.com](http://www.pbjerkfestival.com) or call **1-800-232-0001**.

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## Exploring the other side of Haiti

ANIKA E. KENTISH

We've all seen the images: the desperate look of earthquake survivors, tons of rubble piled on the roadside, mass graves of the thousands of unidentified victims and the disgruntled Haitians burning tires in the street.

The international perception of Haiti is that it is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, it is a voodoo country populated by illiterate people who are clueless on the processes of democracy.

Yet from my travels I have witnessed a beautiful country with vast resources, including educated, driven people who are passionate about moving the country forward.

The dreadful truth is that over the years we have accepted these images and descriptions sold to us by the international media thereby perpetuating the negative perceptions of and attitudes towards this creole-speaking country.

On this my third and most insightful trip to this mysterious place, I found myself perplexed by two vastly different sides of Haiti. The differences could not have been more evident when we left the congestion of the city and headed north to see resorts and villages along the country's west coastline. We stopped at three resorts that sat on pristine beaches with gently rolling waves. Guests lounged around on the beach and near the pool reading a book or simply soaking up the sunshine. Surely this could not be the same country that has endured such hardship.

Outside of Port au Prince, I was able to breathe the crisp fresh air that was lacking in the city and view the rolling hills that overlooked the scattered tents and one-room houses. Our drive northward took us along the west coast to some beautiful beaches that would rival any other in the region.

### 'THE OTHER HAITI'

The journey to see "the other Haiti" took me on a short plane ride to Cap Haitien on the country's north coast. Driving along the fringes of the historic city was like a stepping back two or three generations to a simpler time where women were seen outside pressing clothes with a sod iron and children made music from bamboo pipes.

Cap Haitien was untouched by the Jan. 12

earthquake so it gave a reasonable picture of what life in Haiti would have been like

that remained hidden from the rest of the world. And while the international media



The world has seen Haiti's desperate cries for help, but there are brighter images of the French-speaking Caribbean nation.

before the devastation. I did not see an impoverished nation, but a country with potential for considerable economic development.

The pace in Cap Haitien was a sharp contrast to the hectic streets of Port au Prince, where pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and cars competed with "tap taps" for space on the congested streets. The "tap tap" is a bus or truck that has been converted for carrying a large number of passengers. They are known for their distinctive colorfully painted paneling and catchy names across the windshield. The name "tap tap" comes from the tapping sound made when passengers knock on the paneling to indicate they want to stop.

### ENDEARING

The most endearing quality about Haiti is the creative genius and warm hospitality of its people. They opened their doors and welcomed our group with open arms. Evidence of their creativity was on every other corner: woven place mats, vivid paintings, metal craft and hand-carved furniture and sculptures.

I marveled at the fact that so many Haitians spoke several languages, many self-taught, and were eager to learn new things about other cultures.

This was the side of Haiti worth seeing. It was the Haiti

remains transfixed on their Haiti - the tiny impoverished Caribbean nation, I will remain with the memories of my Haiti - a mysterious and often misunderstood country with a wealth of creativity and culture.

*Anika E. Kentish is CMC's Antigua-based correspondent, who was among international journalists who travelled to Haiti to cover the Mar. 20 presidential and legislative council elections.*



## Over-punishing Florida's real innocent victims

The DNA says he didn't do it. The prosecutor and victim still say he did, but DNA is definitive and tests found none of Derrick Williams's on the shirt the victim says her rapist wore when she was attacked in 1992.

Williams, of Palmetto, Florida, has always maintained his innocence; witnesses placed him at a family barbecue at the time of the assault and he offered blood and saliva samples to prove he was not the culprit, but the rapist had left no sperm samples they could be tested against and no means then existed to extract DNA from clothing.

So the case largely came down to the victim's word against his. On that basis, Williams spent 18 years in prison. He was freed last month, his conviction overturned thanks to a DNA test paid for by the Innocence Project of Florida.

And maybe you think this is the part of the story where Williams, 48, gets his life back, maybe with some financial compensation from the state that wronged him. You would be mistaken.

Williams is legally barred from even applying. Under a 2008 Florida law, no one who seeks compensation for wrongful incarceration can

have prior felony convictions on his record. Williams has several nonviolent felonies, including larceny. So the state takes 18 years of his life, says in effect, "Oops, my bad" and that's supposed to be the end of it? Incredibly, yes.

### SHORTSIGHTED

The worst part is not that the law is absurdly mean-spirited and punitive. No, the worst part is that it is also absurdly shortsighted.

It has that in common with laws and policies all over the country that impinge upon a former felon's re-entry into the mainstream. In some states, an ex-felon loses the right to vote for life. Ex-felons can also be denied work, housing, loans and the right to serve on a jury.

But here's the thing: if you pinch off every avenue by which a former offender seeks to better him- or herself, what route do you leave open? Only the one that leads back to prison.

Politicians love to posture about being "tough on crime". They compete to see who can impose the more Draconian punishment - from candidate Bill Clinton executing a retarded man to Sheriff Joe Arpaio serving prisoners green bologna and moldy bread. It's good politics to do so and politics, make no mistake, is what this is all about. So we toss aside the old ideal that once a convict paid his or her "debt to society", he or she was entitled to a second chance. Granted, not every

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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# CARIB Comments

mer prime minister and leader of the People's National Movement (PNM) political party, fears escalation of racial tension in Trinidad and Tobago similar to elsewhere in the world if authorities do not deal with the issue properly.

Organization matter, criticizes U.S. clampdown on the Caribbean country's internet gaming industry.

• **"It's not one of those situations (when one can say) it can't happen here. It can happen here and when it happens here we must be ready - National Security Minister Brigadier John Sandy says Trinidad and Tobago remains a soft target for terrorists.**

- **Compiled from various sources.**



• **"You know, that is blood money! That is blood money!"** -Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace strongly criticizes the acceptance of funds by St. Vincent and the Grenadines' from the Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi.



• **"What the United States has attempted to cloak as a moral issue is now clearly nothing but economic protectionism at its worst"** - Mark Mendel, Antigua's legal counsel in the World Trade

• **"Don't believe it cannot happen here, God is not a Trini"** - Patrick Manning, for-

## Cash for romance?

Some people will lay down with a witch for money, while others will do it with dogs. Such is their love and lust for cash.

I will never understand it. Cash for romance? That is the question. Rupee or ruble, that is the contention.

Money is the be all and end all of civilization. Yet they also say the most powerful force is love. So it is indeed a challenge when people are offered one, only to have the other taken away.



**TONY ROBINSON**

I recently heard a radio program that dealt with this subject. Almost three quarters of the women said that they got involved with men only for the money and little else.

What is even more amazing is how many men get duped, conned, fooled by these women. There is the man, in his 50s or 60s, worldly wise, experienced, master of his game, but stupid in matters of love. He genuinely believes that a 20-year-old hottie really loves him and not his cash.

### TEST

For a test, just take away all that the man has and see how fast those females flee. I have seen that happen.

Do another test, look hard at yourself, then look at your woman. With your looks, compared to hers, could you really get a girl like her without plenty cash?

What has brought on this epidemic of women dealing with men not for romance but for cash only? Was it always so but better disguised, or is this new generation of women just being more practical,

and know how to get exactly what they want? One thing is sure, they are more brazen. And the fish are biting.

Many poor saps will tell you how in love they are and how much the young girl loves him and how he's sending her to school and all that. But how can you tell if a woman really loves a man or if she only loves his cash? In some cases it's simple, as the looks department can be an indicator. If he is old and she is young, it's usually not love, but cash. No woman will be with a poor old man.

### GODFATHER TREND

The trend is growing and getting even more serious, as I even saw in the papers where mothers are actually coaching daughters, from as young as age six, in the art of getting money out of men.

But a large percentage of these women, who are in it for the money only, usually end up with nothing in the end. That's because cash will always buy a newer model.

Yet now even schoolgirls are in on it, and if you can't deliver the cash, then it's later for you Jack.

At least with a young-boy-older-woman scenario, the rules of engagement are clear. They both know exactly what they want from the outset, and know exactly what they're in for, with no illusions of love.

Not so with these gullible men though, with more available cash than brains. They say that the love of money is the root of all evil, but pity the poor man who knows not that she loves him not, but only his cash.

seido1@hotmail.com

## Over-punishing Florida's real...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

offender would take that chance. But to remove the chance from the equation altogether is to ensure that no one can. It is to put a thumb on the scales of rehabilitation. If that makes life hard for the ex-con trying to straighten out his life, it's also no picnic for the citizen who gets mugged when the con decides it's impossible.

Note that when a reporter from the Bradenton Herald tried to reach Derrick Williams for an interview recently, his sister said he was out looking for a job. The economy being what it is, his

resume being what it is, and the political climate being what it is, how would you assess his chances? They are poor at best. But we should never be so "tough on crime" as to make going straight impossible. At least, assuming our goal is to punish and rehabilitate.

Some days, it seems it's just to punish - and then punish some more.

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## 'Double Exposure': Jamaican singer shows off his other artistic talent

SONIA MORGAN

Jamaican singer Alvin James Brown, better known as A.J. Brown, is admired for his vocals and straddling musical genres from classical to reggae.

With songs like "All Fall Down", "My Father, My Friend" and a lucrative cabaret career on the Las Vegas circuit, he has accomplished much in the music world.

However, Brown expressions are not limited to his voice. He is also a fine artist who, in trying to expose his "other side", recently launched an exhibition of his work titled "Double Exposure" in Miami, Florida.

"I haven't given my art the attention it deserves," said Brown, "so I'm working at addressing that."

Every month he posts three pieces of art on his Facebook [ajbrownfanpage](#) and [www.jamaicaart.com](#) sites.

Brown attended the Jamaica School of Art, now Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts, where he honed his skills. His pieces draw on influences from the Renaissance period and are interwoven with his Caribbean roots. He said his influences in the art world are Jamaicans Barrington Watson and Albert Huey, plus European Renaissance artists like Monet, Manet and van Gogh.

### FASCINATED

Brown said he is fascinated with the collection of artists from the Renaissance period not only for their variety and diversity, but the way they commit themselves to the study and research "of light and atmosphere, perspective, the effects of the elements on the human body, the relationship between nature and people, the meanings and symbolism of human gestures, the interpretation and co-relation of spirituality and religion."



Brown entertains art lovers who come to view his paintings with his other talent – singing.

Although Brown enjoys painting, singing is his first love "because of the immediate gratification that it creates when I'm singing and performing." It also helps him

to release tension and feed off the reaction from audiences.

"More importantly," Brown said, "singing provides financial stability for me and my family."

Painting, he explained, takes more physical and mental energy because of the process. He prepares in several ways, including taking photos of the selected landscape, portrait or still life. He said, however, "the real satisfaction comes when you look at the piece and you know or decide that it is finished."

As for "Double Exposure", Brown thought it was groundbreaking the way WDNA Jazz Gallery fused music and art.

"Humans are intrinsically drawn by and to these creative processes," he said. "...I feel blessed to be given the creativity to be able to express both talents and it is great to be able to present both talents in one space simultaneously."

*Sonia Morgan is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*

## Shabba Ranks joins 'Best of the Best' line-up set for May 26-30 in Miami

Jamaican dancehall icon Shabba will join the likes of Chris Brown, Damian and Stephen Marley, Keri Hilson, DJ Khaled, Trina, Alison Hinds, Etana and Marsha Ambrosius for the "Best Of The Best Weekend 2011" from May 26-30 in South Florida.

Ranks joins a list of performers scheduled for the back-to-back blockbuster concerts jumping off on May 28 and May 29 at Bicentennial Park on Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami.



Shabba Ranks

The Jamaican music icon will perform on day two,

alongside some of the top acts in reggae, hip-hop, dancehall and soca.

Day one is dubbed "Spring Fest". It will feature contemporary R&B artistes and nationally syndicated radio host and comedian Rickey Smiley as host, along with Jabba of Massive B.

For more information, visit [www.Ticketmaster.com](#) [www.BestOfTheBestConcert.com](#)



## Rihanna gets 18 nominations for Billboard Music Awards

NEW YORK – Barbadian star Rihanna has secured nominations in 18 categories of the Billboard Music Awards.

The sexy 23-year-old singer is up for hot 100 artiste, top female artiste and R&B artiste. Rihanna's collaboration with Eminem, "Love the Way You Lie", has been nominated for six awards.

Rihanna is scheduled to perform at the awards ceremony this month.

Eminem has 16 BMA nominations, including rap artiste and top male artiste. Lady Gaga has 12.

There are 46 categories at this year's BMAs. The winners

are decided by Billboard chart rankings. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

Rihanna also secured her 10th number one hit last month. Her single "S&M" moved to the top spot of the Hot 100 chart in the United States spurred by the sales of its Britney-featuring remix.

Rihanna also eclipsed a record formerly held by Mariah Carey, then 25, as the youngest artiste to reach double figures in chart-topping singles.

*- Edited from News Americas stories.*



## Caribbean takes legal action against music pirates

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - The Eastern Caribbean Collective Organization for Music Rights (ECCO) Inc. has filed legal action against several major music users, accusing them of failing to adhere to copyright regulations.

ECCO said it is owed an estimated one million (EC) dollars (\$370,300) in outstanding royalties by three regional-

ly based companies based in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda.

ECCO said it was also taking legal action against two companies in Dominica.

"ECCO is unable to achieve its business objective due to the non compliance by businesses whose use of music is central to their operation,"

said ECCO's General Manager Steve Etienne

"By flagrantly breaking the law or attempting to circumvent their responsibilities as good corporate organizations they are prohibiting ECCO reaching its mandate and must either comply or stop using ECCO's repertoire of musical works," he added.



## 'Ole Time Sinting' comes to Miramar June 4

Jamaica's rich cultural tradition comes to South Florida next month with the presentation of the "Ole Time Sinting" with a pantomime flavor in Miramar.

The tribute to late Jamaican icon Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett will be staged at 7:30 p.m. June 4 at the

Miramar Cultural Center, 2400 Civic Center Place.

It will feature The Jamaican Folk Revue, Tallawah Mento Band, along with special guest artistes Leonie Forbes and Volier "Maffie" Johnson. Malachi Smith, Marie Gill, Dr. Sue, Deborah Pinnock, Steve

Higgins, Chris Gilchrist and the Carimer Theater Group are also scheduled to make appearances.

For ticket information, call 305-613-4365 or 954-257-0375.



## UB40's Ali Campbell for St. Kitts music fest in June

Ali Campbell, founding member of the world-renowned reggae group UB40, has joined the line-up for this year's St. Kitts Music Festival, scheduled for June 23-25.

As UB40's lead singer, Campbell has sold over 60 million records, toured the globe, cinched four number one singles, released 24 studio albums and received an Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement.

Classic UB40 tracks include "Red, Red Wine", "Can't Help Falling in Love", "Kingston Town" and "The Way You Do the Things You Do".

In Oct. 2007 Ali released

a solo album, "Running Free", which featured guest artistes including Smokey Robinson, Mick Hucknall and Sly and Robbie. The album made it into the top 10 on the United Kingdom charts and also achieved gold status.

In Jan. 2008, after 28 years with the band, he announced his departure from UB40 and was followed a few months later by keyboard player Mickey Virtue, who joined Campbell in his new band. His subsequent three solo albums, including his most recent release "Great British Songs" in 2010, have all been in the top 15 on the U.K. charts.



Kick off the sunniest time of the year with all the exciting events there are to attend and participate in — right here in your own backyard!

# Mark Your Calendar!

## FESTIVALS

### Redland Summer Fruit Festival

June 11-12

It's time to enjoy the fruits of the season! Fruit & Spice Park hosts its annual Redland Summer Fruit Festival to showcase these, as well as other rare fruits that can be enjoyed at this unique park. [www.fruitandspicepark.org](http://www.fruitandspicepark.org)

### American Black Film Festival

July 6-9

The American Black Film Festival returns to Miami Beach with an Opening Night Gala, the latest and best Black films from around the world, panels and symposiums and other special events. [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com)

## EVENTS

### Redland International Orchid Show

May 13-15

Truly the largest annual orchid show in the U.S. featuring over 50 booths of educational exhibits and orchid vendors. An American Orchid Society judged event showcasing various types of orchids, plants, and supplies for sale. [www.fruitandspicepark.org/friends](http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/friends)

### Greynolds Park Love-In

May 15

The Greynolds Park Love-In is a celebration of the 1960s with a retro concert, vintage clothing and plenty of memorabilia. A hangout of the "flower children" during the 1960s, Greynolds Park was the site in Miami for jam sessions, poetry readings and peaceful demonstrations. [www.miamidade.gov/greynoldslovein/](http://www.miamidade.gov/greynoldslovein/)

### Rain Barrel Workshops

June 11, July 23

Learn about water conservation issues and how to construct and install your very own rain barrel. [http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/natural\\_resources.shtml](http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/natural_resources.shtml)

### Coral Gables Restaurant Week

June 6 – June 20

Coral Gables Restaurant Week offers savings of over 20 percent off at more than 20 participating restaurants. [www.coralgablesrestaurantweek.com](http://www.coralgablesrestaurantweek.com)

### Blue Water Fishing Classic Tournament

June 11

The Blue Water Fishing Classic is a fishing tournament for amateur, professional and junior fishing enthusiasts. This annual event attracts anglers from throughout Miami-Dade County, offering a total of \$30,000 in cash and prizes. [www.miamidade.gov/parks/blueWater-home.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/blueWater-home.asp)

### Miami Spa Month

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## Bajan painter wants Caribbean visual art global, like music

The time has come to create opportunities for Caribbean artists on the world stage, asserts a leading regional artist.

Barbadian Ras Akyem-i Ramsay, director of the



Ras Akyem-i Ramsay

Barbados-based art-animMAL Inc., has lamented the under-representation of Caribbean visual arts across the world. This, he contended, offered creative visionaries an opportunity for leadership in this “virgin space.”

“I hope to be to Caribbean art what Bob Marley is to

Caribbean music,” asserted Ras Akyem-i, who has earned global attention for his art-work.

“We are creating a collective of contemporary, forward thinking regional visual artists to overcome global perceptions that limit us to traditional images of fishing boats and palm trees.”

### SUPPORT

Recently funded by local venture capital firm BIM Ventures, art-animMAL's chief executive believes he finally has the support system to fulfill such a grand vision. He pointed to support in the form of finance and shepherding (mentorship), which has given him the launch pad to grow his young and progressive art company.

The campaign to give Caribbean art global prominence took off in November with a presentation at the Liverpool Biennial, a contemporary visual arts event in the United Kingdom.



## Walcott wins Caribbean prize

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – St. Lucian-born Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott was awarded the \$10,000 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature at the inaugural Bocas Literature Festival which ended here late last month.

Walcott was cited by the judges for his “seemingly effortless flow of the language and imagery despite the poet’s stated premonitions of the loss of poetic power and inspiration.”

“Walcott is still writing great poetry, lovely cadences,

beautiful images,” the judges said of his work “White Egrets”.

They considered the book-length poem, that is divided into separate poems and is an exploration of bereavement and grief in one’s advanced years, to be “a book that tells of a period of life more usually talked at and talked about than heard from or listened to, which makes it a very important work.”

“White Egrets” is Walcott’s 14th book of poems.



## BRIEFS

### • Monty Alexander performs in Florida

Jamaica’s legendary jazz great Monty Alexander will continue the celebration of his 50th year in the music business this month with a **May 22** performance at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Florida.

For more information, visit [www.montyalexander.com](http://www.montyalexander.com).

### • T&T artist’s one-man show in Florida

A collection of works by Trinidad-born artist Sirju Seeharack Mohan will be on display in a one-man show, which opens this month at the Doreen Gauthier Library, 2200 N.E. 38th St. in Pompano Beach, Florida.

The exhibit, Mohan’s first in the United States, will feature at least 50 oil paintings, pastels, watercolors and pencil and ink drawings.

### • ‘Dr. Sue’ releases ‘Miss Lou’ CD

Dr. Susan Davis, also known as “Dr. Sue”, educator, poet and author, has released a compact disc called “Ode to Miss Lou”, which pays tribute to Jamaican cultural icon Louise “Miss Lou” Bennett, a well known folklorist, writer and educator who died in July 2006.

Compiled from various sources.



## ‘MR. LOVER LOVER’ SANDWICH



Jamaican entertainer Orville “Shaggy” Burrell, center, is flanked by two beautiful ambassadors of his country at the annual Peacock Soiree of the American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) held last month at Jungle Island in Miami, Florida. At left is Miss Teen Jamaica Florida Jessica Waite and at right Miss Jamaica Florida Shanice Cox. The international reggae artiste and philanthropist was awarded the 2011 International Humanitarian Award from the AFJ for his dedicated humanitarian efforts in the area of health-care through the Shaggy Make A Difference Foundation.

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# EDUCATION/YOUTH



## New N.Y. school's chancellor has Caribbean roots

NEW YORK - New York City's deputy mayor who traces his roots to Barbados and St. Croix has replaced the beleaguered Cathleen Black as the city's school's chancellor.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg last month appointed Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development Dennis M. Walcott in the post following what he termed the resignation of Black after just three months in the post.

Black was heavily criticized by parents and advocates alike for lacking educational experience to serve in the top post, which was vacated last year by Joel Klein. Following approval from the New York State Board of Regents, Walcott stepped down as deputy mayor.

Walcott served as deputy mayor since the beginning of the Bloomberg administra-

tion in 2002 and had been Bloomberg's City Hall point



Walcott

person on educational and youth policy. Prior to the mayor's election, Walcott served as president and chief executive officer of the New York City Urban League, as a member of the New York City Board of Education, as a kindergarten teacher, and as an adjunct professor of social work at CUNY's York College.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for this opportunity to serve New York City's 1.1 million school children," said Walcott last month.

"With my children and my grandson, my family now represents four generations of New York City public school children, and I am determined to ensure that we deliver what our parents expect and deserve - a higher quality education."

### CAREER

A graduate of New York City public schools - PS 36, JHS 192, and Francis Lewis High School - and a lifelong resident of southeast Queens, Walcott began his career as a kindergarten teacher after graduating from the

University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a bachelor's degree and a master of education degree. He later earned a master of social work degree from Fordham University and served as an adjunct professor of social work at CUNY's York College.

Walcott, for more than 12 years, helped to expand educational and youth service programs, including Jeter's Leaders and Bridge to Brotherhood programs, Healthy Start, Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, and the 140th Street Building Block Program. His work centered on academic excellence, promoting attendance, drop-out prevention, and developing college scholarship programs through effective public private partnerships, including with Wall Street.

Mayor David Dinkins appointed Walcott as a city-wide member of the New York City Board of Education in May 1993.

Walcott and his wife Denise have four children and two grandsons.

- Edited from News Americas

## Jamaica probes strategies to curb student suicides

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Ministry of Education says it is now examining several measures aimed at curbing the number of students committing suicide in Jamaica.

It said that the measures were discussed at a recent meeting of education stakeholders and among the decisions reached was the creation of a round-the-clock hotline for troubled students and persons concerned about students at risk of suicide.

The ministry said it would also review its standard operating policy in respect of suicides and other crises and see how these can be improved and strengthened.

"The existing partnerships with various governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other entities are to be strengthened to improve the response to suicides, attempted suicides and children at risk of committing suicide," the ministry stated.

Those attending the meeting, which was called by

Education Minister Andrew Holness, also agreed that there would be increased efforts at getting psychiatrists, psychologists and other service providers to be more closely linked in the provision of assistance to troubled, at-risk-of-suicide children.

"An instrument is to be developed to identify and track children at risk of suicide, thus giving the Ministry of Education a chance to intervene early, thus preventing any attempt at suicide," the ministry stated.

The meeting followed the recent suicides of 14-year-old St. James High School student Shaquilla Calame; Annalise Authurs, a Grade 8 student of St. James High School; and 15-year-old Tia Murray of Godfrey Stewart High.

There have also been reports of unsuccessful attempts by students to commit suicide, the Ministry of Education noted in a statement.



## Powell helps launch youth mentorship program in T&T

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Trinidad and Tobago has launched a national mentorship program with former United States Secretary of State Colin Powell stressing the need for young people to have proper role models in their lives.

"We got to find ways to keep our eyes on every single child who needs it, whether it is the United States or the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago you name it, throughout the world, because there is a horrible alternative to it," said Powell, who is also the founder of America's Promise - one of the largest partnerships in the U.S. focused on mentoring youths.

He told the launch ceremony last month that mentorship is not just about doing "something nice."

"It's a matter of national security, it's a matter of national economic growth, it's a matter of reducing crime...it's a matter of survival for all of us in society," Powell said.

Mentors, Powell said, must urge children to "believe in yourself, believe in your country, believe in your ability to go far with your dream and



Powell

ambitions." He said the U.S., "with all our wealth, we still have children who live in poverty and are hungry," urging business leaders to also get involved in the program.

business leaders to also get involved in the program.

### IMPACT

The program was established in October last year and T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said "the first phase of mentorship will begin on May 25 and 170 mentors already have been screened for the program."

She said mentors would be trained in a wide range of topics, including life skills and would help mentees with social problems.



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## PARENTAL GUIDANCE: Help teens overcome disdain for rebates

STEVE ROSEN

Would your teenager throw away a \$10 bill that you pressed into his palm? You've got to be kidding.

What about a \$10 rebate card?

Many teens would toss the card in the trash without giving it as much as a glance. It's too much trouble for your 18-year-old to mess with. But is that \$10 rebate really any different from the \$10 bill?

Toss out that question at the dinner table. You might find the conversation will help your son or daughter get a better grasp of your family values about money, spending habits and the financial ABCs. Recently, I received a \$10 gasoline rebate card from BP, a "reward" for being a credit card customer. All I needed to do was fill my tank five times with a minimum eight gallons at a time. Easy, especially with \$3-a-gallon gasoline eating into my wallet.

A friend, who also received the BP offer, bought just the minimum amount of gas to maximize her \$10 savings.

Would your teen go to all that trouble to save a few bucks? Probably not, unless you flash a \$10 bill to show him what he's throwing away. And even then, the lesson might not sink in, especially if Mom and Dad are paying for the fill-ups.

'ABSTRACT'

The rebate card, on its own, is "abstract and not concrete enough" to prompt many teens to take advantage of it, said Susan Beacham, who runs Money Savvy Generation, a Chicago area financial education company.

All is not lost, however. "One day, your (teen) will be in your shoes and will not throw it away," Beacham said.

So consider this a financial lesson for the future.

There's another teachable message from this example that involves shopping strategically. Taking advantage of rewards points can shave dollars off the total tab for airline tickets, restaurants and grocery stores. You might as well get something for your spending.

If you have a college-age student who wants a credit card, for example, look for one that provides rewards points for airline tickets and other merchandise and services. With younger children, require them to clip the coupons out of newspaper circulars or online sites for their favorite cereal, candy or ice cream. They'll see the savings connection at the grocery checkout line.

Take it one step further - give your youngster the money saved from the store coupons as a reward for being thrifty. There's nothing abstract about that experience.

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## FIU to honor business school alumni

The entrepreneurs behind Zumba Fitness, LLC and the Tortuga Rum Cake Company, both Florida International University College of Business Administration alumni, will be inducted into FIU's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame on May 19, 2011 at the Westin Colonnade hotel in Coral Gables.

Benjamin Leon Jr., chairman and founder of Leon Medical Centers, will receive the "South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year" award at the event, titled "The Magic of Entrepreneurship".

Alberto Aghion, co-founder and chief operating officer of Zumba Fitness, LLC, and Monique Hamaty-Simmonds, chief executive officer of the Tortuga Rum Cake Company, will be honored during the 12th annual

ceremony, presented by the College of Business Administration and the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center.

Hamaty-Simmonds will receive the "Builder Award", recognizing her achievements in growing Tortuga Rum Cake Company into a multi-million dollar company named by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest growing private businesses in the United States for four consecutive years.

Aghion will receive the "Founder Award" for his work with Zumba Fitness, LLC, which reportedly has a worldwide following of over 10 million people.

Leon has been involved in the healthcare field in Miami-Dade County for more than four decades.



## Goldman Sachs investment banker to address 'Invest Caribbean Power Breakfast' in N.Y.

NEW YORK - An investment banker at full-service global investment banking and securities firm Goldman Sachs, who was born to Barbadian parents in Toronto, Canada, is scheduled to deliver the key note address at the "2011 Invest Caribbean Power Breakfast" next month in New York City.

Wendell Dave Dowrich, vice president of risk and capital markets in the Financial Institutions Group at Goldman Sachs, will address Caribbean ministers of tourism and delegates of the June 9 event, set for 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the New York Marriott Marquis.

Dowrich, whose responsibilities at Goldman include providing risk management advice to insurance companies, with specific focus on capital markets reinsurance, will speak on the prospects for

international investment in the Caribbean region.

The event is being presented by the Caribbean Tourism Organization and digital media solutions firm Hard Beat Communications, Inc., in collaboration with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Before Goldman, Dowrich worked at Credit Suisse and, prior to that appointment, was the head of corporate planning and analysis for Swiss Re's life reinsurance business for North America. He began his career in employee benefits consulting in Toronto, Canada before relocating to Barbados to become a member of the

management team of the Barbados reinsurance operations of a Canadian insurance company.

Dowrich attended primary and secondary schools in Barbados and holds a bachelor of science degree from University of Toronto, with majors in actuarial science and applied statistics, as well as a master's of business administration degree, with a major in finance, from Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

For more information about the breakfast, call 646-820-5694 or visit <http://invest-caribbeannow.com/>.

- Edited from Carib PR Newswire



Dowrich

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Peter A. Webley,  
Publisher

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## HEALTH



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## Free clinic in Broward County for persons living with HIV/AIDS on May 10

The Broward County HIV Health Services Planning Council and the South Florida AIDS Network's (SFAN) Joint Client/Community Relations Committee will host a free public informational meeting for individuals living with HIV/AIDS from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 10 at the Mizell Center, 1409 N.W. Sixth St.

(Sistrunk Boulevard.) in Fort Lauderdale.

The purpose of the event is to link Broward County residents living with HIV/AIDS to treatment and support services made available through several Broward County Ryan White-funded programs and to reassure them they are not alone in their journey toward wellness.

The event will include presentations on Ryan White Part A Services, the South Florida AIDS Network, the State of Florida AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and HIV Health Services Planning Council. There will be ample opportunity for residents to meet with representatives from these organizations to learn more about the serv-

ices and programs that they are eligible for.

There will also be a Mobile Testing Van, sponsored by Care Resource, available to conduct free testing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, call Latoya Ball at Broward Regional Health Planning Council, 954-561-9681, ext. 250, or contact the Health

Care Services Ryan White Part A Program Office at 954-357-5390.

For public transportation, visit [www.broward.org/bct](http://www.broward.org/bct) and click ONLINE TRIP PLANNING or call Broward Transit Customer Service at 954-357-8400.




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## Deconstructing detox treatments: Myth or vital key for health restoration?

SHARON B. SALOMAN

“Snake oil,” declares Robin Bernhoft, M.D., president for the American Academy of Environmental Physicians, when asked what he thinks about over-the-counter diet detox kits.

Since Dr. Bernhoft offers detoxification treatments in his southern California clinic, his disapproval might seem out of place. But the medical detox his clinic offers is different from what consumers get from a detox kit purchased at a health food store.

This is the confusing landscape of the detox diet world, which ranges from books and kits to clinic regimes and protocols.

What is a “detox,” anyway? According to Phoenix homeopathic physician, Bruce Shelton, M.D., M.D. (H), a detox involves converting an insoluble toxin into something water-soluble so that it can pass out of the body.

But fasting, juicing, taking detox herbal supplements or following a restrictive diet recommended by one of the many detox books won't accomplish that, according to many health experts.

### BODY NEED

The mainstream medical establishment has turned up its nose at the idea that the body needs help in clearing out toxins. It contends that the body does a commendable job detoxifying itself without any help from the most commonly recommended detox regimens: special diets, herbal supplements and enemas.

In fact, our bodies are usually quite efficient at purging the toxins we produce during metabolism, as well as the ones we might ingest, inhale or get on our skin.

The regular detox channels - lungs, kidneys, colon, lymphatic system and most important, the liver - are all designed to detoxify our bodies. Yet there are medical professionals, like doctors Bernhoft and Shelton, who believe that there are instances when medical detox is necessary.

Detox advocates say that

our toxic load has increased beyond the body's ability to handle the burden. They cite increases in rates of diabetes, heart disease, autoimmune disease, autism, cancer, Alzheimer's and obesity as examples that the body is no longer able to keep its house clean. Detox experts believe that our regular detox channels



Herbal teas are among the most common detox methods.

were never meant to handle the tremendous number of toxins we are subjected to. Brenda Watson, C.N.C., author of “The Detox Strategy”, believes that everything from the flame retardant on your mattress to your shampoo adds to your toxic load.

### TOXIN OVERLOAD

It's hard to argue with the premise that we've been exposed to huge amounts of toxins. The question remains, however, whether the body can perform its own detox or whether we need outside help. Bernhoft believes that depends on genetics.

“Each person's genes are unique, which is why one person thrives on something that makes another person sick,” says Bernhoft, who believes people should be tested, especially if they have a chronic illness, work around toxic substances, or live in an area with a lot of air pollution.

Once he's found a patient's weakness, he strives to correct it by adding enzymes or enzyme cofactors to help the body do a better job of detoxifying itself.

Is there science to back up the theory of toxic burden and the need for detox? The Massachusetts-based organization Natural Standard, which analyzes and validates scientific data on integrative medicine, states that there is insufficient

evidence to support most of the claims made in favor of detoxing. The organization has found no studies to support the validity of detox procedures, nor proof that toxins stored in organs and fatty tissue can be released simply by altering one's diet. At present, there is one ongoing clinical trial sponsored by the National Institutes of Health purporting that dietary manipulation, coffee enemas and pancreatic enzymes can cure pancreatic cancer.

### COMMON SENSE

Since the benefits of detox have yet to be proven, you might be better off taking a common sense approach to health symptoms:

- Before you try a detox because you're tired, try sleeping more.

- Before you try a detox because you have chronic constipation, try eating more fiber, drinking more water and exercising.

If you have menstrual irregularities, bloating and gas, headaches, joint pain and memory issues, consult a medical professional because those might be signs of a serious illness unrelated to toxic buildup.

Self-prescribed, unsupervised detox regimens carry with them many risks: dehydration, nutrient deficiencies, depletion of carbohydrate stores, muscle loss, mineral imbalance, bowel perforation and metabolic abnormalities.

If you believe you're at risk because of a medical condition that might interfere with one or more of the body's natural detox systems, or because you've been exposed to high levels of toxic materials, consult a doctor for testing.

- Edited and reprinted with permission from *Environmental Nutrition*, a monthly publication of *Belvoir Media Group*.

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# Jamaica successfully defends sprint title at 2011 Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania – Usain Bolt and Tyson Gay were palpably absent, as Jamaica beat the United States in the men's 4x100 meters relay as the curtain came down on the annual Penn Relays late last month.

Former world 100 meters record holder Asafa Powell joined Michael Frater, Nesta Carter and anchor Steve Mullings to clock 38.33 seconds to prevail over the American team of Walter Dix, Wallace Spearmon, Trell Krimmons and Mike Rodgers, which clocked 38.46.

Powell ran an uncustomary lead-off position, after taking heed of a long-time suggestion made by Frater.

Carter took command on the third leg of the race, with Mullings holding off Rodgers for the victory.

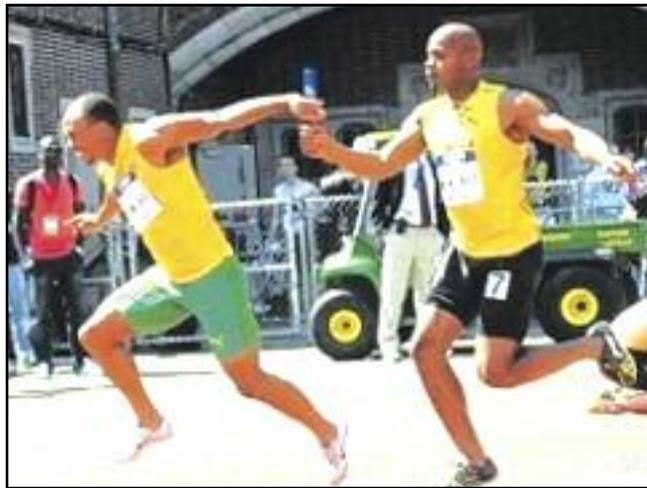
Jamaica's relay line-up created an intriguing opening

leg match-up with 2004 Olympic champion Justin Gatlin of the U.S. returning to action at Franklin Field. His squad finished third in 38.66.

"Over the years, (Frater) has been telling me that if I lead off, it will be a totally different race," said Powell. "I've always run the anchor leg. I just wanted to try something new."

### BRIGHTEST

More than 180 athletes from 16 nations took part in the relays. But Jamaica's men and America's women shone brightest. Kenia Sinclair anchored the Jamaica women's sprint medley relay



Asafa Powell, right, hands the baton to Jamaican teammate Michael Frater at the Penn Relays.

also on the anchor. The Jamaicans took the lead on the third leg, when Olympic and World 400 meters hurdles champion Melaine Walker ran 51.3, after opening 200 legs by Simone Facey and Kerron Stewart, to win for the fourth consecutive year.

Other highlights included Ristananna Tracey of Jamaica's Edwin Allen earning the "High School Girls Athlete-of-the-Meet" for relay

events. Tracey ran a 2:03.17 anchor in the 4x800 meters relay for the fastest split in meet history, and a 8:39.22 clocking for the number two time. She also turned in the

fastest split of 52.2 in the 4x400 meters relay.

At least half-dozen Caribbean countries participated in the relays. They were Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. With over 500, the Jamaicans had easily the largest contingent of athletes and officials at the event.

After years of explorations and negotiations, the leading athletic secondary school in SVG, the Thomas Saunders Secondary School, was finally able to compete in the prestigious meet for the first time. Though the school was not able to make it to the final in any of the events, it won its heats in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.



## Martinique's NBA star to host celebrity summer basketball camp

Ronny Turiaf, who plays for the New York Knicks in America's National Basketball Association (NBA), has announced he will host a celebrity summer basketball camp in his home island of Martinique this summer.

The event, scheduled for June 6-12, is expected to attract some 20 professional basketball players from the NBA and Euroleague Basketball to join Turiaf in Martinique where they will lead training clinics, visit sick and underprivileged children and participate in two exhibition games.

"All of Martinique is extremely proud of the many fine accomplishments our native son, Ronny, has achieved on the basketball court," said Muriel Wiltord, director Americas for the Martinique Promotion Bureau/CMT USA, in a recent press release.

"But, it is through charitable works like these that he really shines and shows the true warm and welcoming character of our country."

Among the basketball stars scheduled to join Turiaf in Martinique are: Boris Diaw (Charlotte Bobcats), Mickael Pietrus (Phoenix Suns) and Johan Petro (New Jersey Nets).

Turiaf was born and raised

in the small seaside town of Le Robert, centrally located on Martinique's Atlantic coast. He was originally drafted into the NBA by the Los Angeles



Turiaf

Lakers in 2005. He is also a former member of the Golden State Warriors. Turiaf plays for the French national team.



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Please note the office will be closed on Sunday, May 29, 2011 and closed in observance of the legal holiday, Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011.

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**FEATURE**



# Bin Laden's death 'historic day of justice for U.S.' ~ Caribbean American congresswoman

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke says the death of the leader of the al-Qaida terror organization responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks marks a "historic day of justice for the United States and the rest of the world."

U.S. President Barack Obama made the dramatic late-night announcement on May 1 from the East Room of the White House, ending the long, elusive international manhunt for Osama Bin Laden.

"On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of New York, we are grateful to the Obama Administration's leadership, the U.S. military, CIA intelli-

gence and the counterterrorism professionals who carried out this heroic operation," Clarke, who represents the largely Caribbean district in Brooklyn, New York, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

**'GRATEFUL'**

"I am grateful to hear that no military, CIA or counterterrorism officials were killed. We celebrate in the fact that this day may bring some solace to the many families affected by the heinous attacks on 9/11," added the daughter of Jamaican immigrants.

"To those who have lost a family member, loved one or a friend, know that your loss will not be forgotten," she said,

adding "as a representative of one of the most diverse districts in the nation, we must keep in mind that the death of Osama Bin Laden does not represent an attack on Islam but represents a key step in ending terrorism around the world."

A number of Caribbean people were killed when the terrorist organization bombed the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York.

Obama said a small team of U.S. operatives killed Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in a suburb about 35 miles north of Islamabad, in a helicopter assault on the massive, heavily secured compound where he had been hiding.



# Ugly race talk heats up in T&T

PETER RICHARDS

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – The former chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC) insists that he is no racist, but his recent statement regarding the hierarchy of the police force has once again brought to the fore the underlying issue of race relations in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mohammed, a former speaker of the local Parliament, had his appointment revoked by President George Maxwell Richards after he (Mohammed) told a joint parliamentary committee sitting that there were too many persons of African descent in the hierarchy of local police service and he intends to address the issue with assistance from the Parliament.

"Fifty per cent of this country are people of East Indian origin and you are asking them to support the Police Service," Mohammed added.



Persad Bissessar

But while Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar and Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley denounced Mohammed's "ethnic balancing" statement, former Prime Minister Basdeo Panday said the decision to revoke Mohammed's appointment "will further the consciousness of racism existing in Trinidad and Tobago."

Sat Maharaj, the secretary general of the Maha Sabha, the largest Hindu organization here, said that there was "no justification" for dismissing Mohammed since he "was only speaking the truth."

**NECESSARY**

However, Dr. Hamid Ghany, political scientist and senior lecturer in government at the University of the West Indies (UWI), said Mohammed's revocation was necessary.

"The ramifications of Mohammed's statements would have caused considerable damage to ethnic relations within the Police Service," he added.

The 2004 figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) show that of the 1.3 million population here, persons of African descent account for 39.6 percent, while East Indian descents total 40.3 percent. Those categorized as "mixed" total 18.4 percent, with Chinese, white and "others" making up the rest of the population. Patrick Manning,

who has been elected as prime minister on two occasions, has warned of social unrest in the country if differences among the population are not managed properly.

"You see all this talk about race, it gets us nowhere," he added.

But the issue of race made its way into the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament last month amid claims by Opposition legislators that the five-member coalition government had a "racist policy".



Rowley

**REFORM**

Rowley said that a report on the reform of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) submitted to Cabinet, recommended that SAUTT, in its restructuring, be mindful of a need to reflect the ethnic composition of the country.

"There is nothing wrong if the government has a policy with this objective," he said. "But come out with it in the open."

But the coalition government, whose leading partner is the Indo-dominated United National Congress (UNC), has moved quickly to quell any notion that it has a secret race policy. Works and Transport Minister Austin "Jack" Warner, who is also the UNC chairman, questioned the motive behind the Opposition motion.

"What they are trying to do is to put in people's heads that the People's Partnership is pursuing a racist agenda in a desperate bid to build up their crumbling support," said Warner, denying that the government also had a racist policy.

But as the oil-rich twin island republic observed the 41st anniversary of the "Black Power" uprising, Makandal Daaga, one of persons who led the movement for equality for Afro-Trinidadians in 1970, is warning that the issue of race could prove detrimental to the country's progress.

"We are playing with trouble if this thing continues," said Daaga, who has been appointed by the present government as the cultural ambassador to the Caribbean community (CARICOM).

Ordinary citizens have also weighed in on the race issue, with one writer to a local newspaper warning that with so many wars going on around the world, "this country is going down a path where we will have racial war".



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