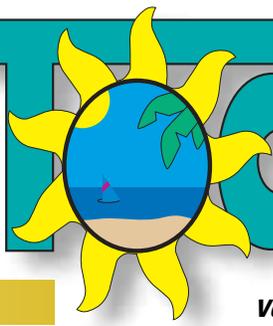


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Vol. 23 No. 4

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



An Antigua-born Margo Brodie has become the first Caribbean national to be made a United States federal judge after her nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn by President Barack Obama, page 4.

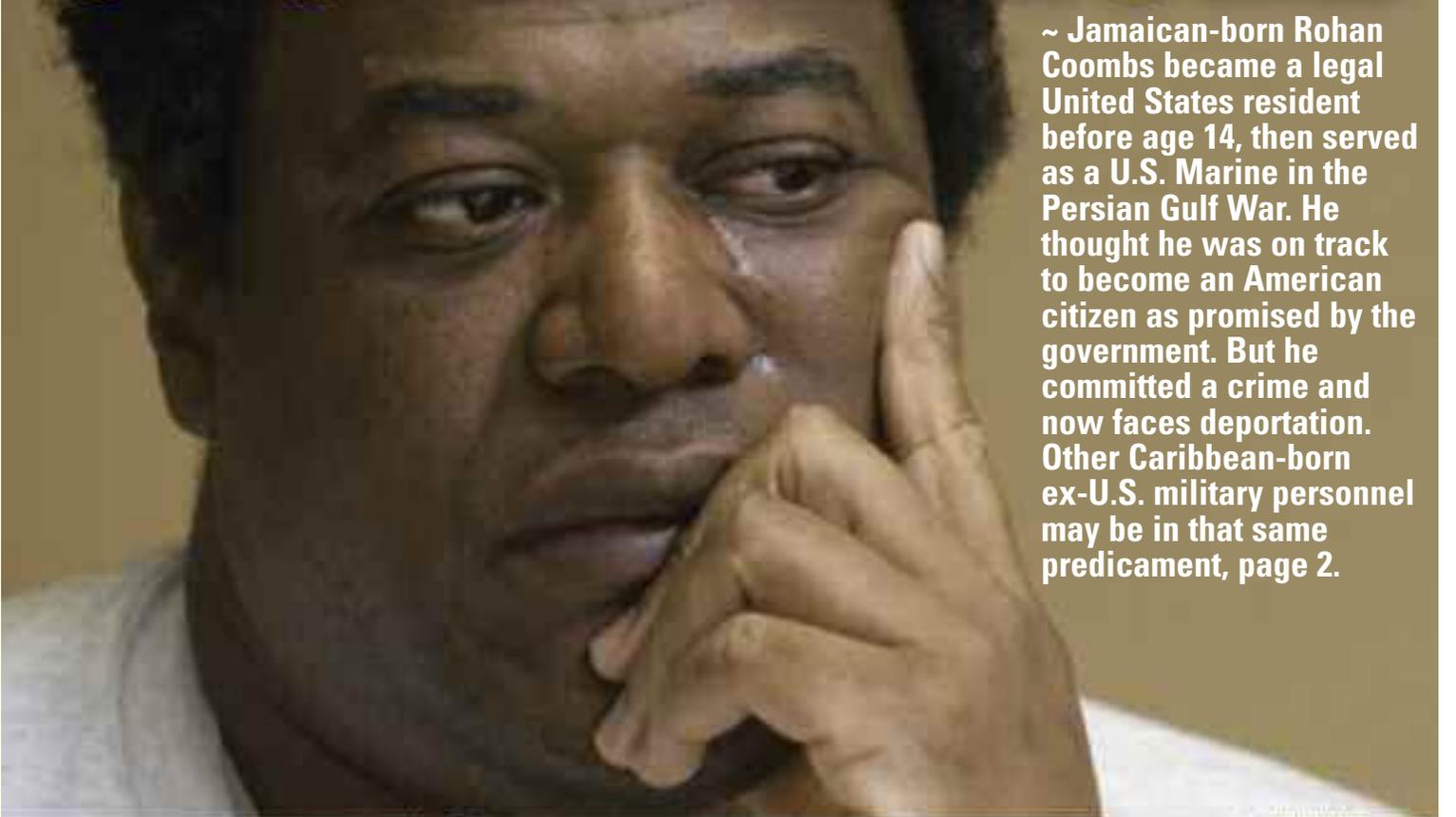


Imagine balancing in tree pose while facing the azure blue Caribbean Sea. Imagine emerging from savasana to the soft sounds of nyabinghi drums. A Caribbean yoga confab turned imagination into reality, page 15.



The globe's top ranked 100 meters runner is coming to the United States to compete this summer. Usain Bolt? No. It's his Jamaican compatriot, world champion Yohan Blake, who is down to race at the adidas Grand Prix meet in New York, page 22.

SYSTEM FAILURE



~ Jamaican-born Rohan Coombs became a legal United States resident before age 14, then served as a U.S. Marine in the Persian Gulf War. He thought he was on track to become an American citizen as promised by the government. But he committed a crime and now faces deportation. Other Caribbean-born ex-U.S. military personnel may be in that same predicament, page 2.

BROKEN DOWN

~ Life for the average person who lives in Port Au Prince is typically filled with uncertainty and frustration, more than two years after a cataclysmic earthquake rocked the core of the impoverished Caribbean nation of Haiti, page 7.



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CALL CARIBBEAN TODAY DIRECT FROM JAMAICA 655-1479



Accused U.S. spy 'in failing health' from hunger strike in Cuban prison

HAVANA, Cuba, CMC – A Cuban intelligence officer, imprisoned here 14 years ago for spying for the United States, is said to be in failing health after a three-week hunger strike to demand his release, according to Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Ortega.

Ortega's spokesman Orlando Marquez told reporters here on Feb. 29 that the cardinal met with Ernesto Borges Pérez for more than an hour the day before, but declined comment on what they discussed. He described Borges as a "Catholic convert" and said the two men had been in contact "for several years."

Observers here say the prison visit was a rare gesture for Ortega, who usually shies away from sensitive topics. He has, however, intervened with Cuban President Raúl Castro to halt harassments of some dissidents and arrange the release of about 115 political prisoners in 2010-2011, observers say.

PASSING SECRETS

Borges, a former captain in

the Interior Ministry's counter-intelligence section, was convicted in a one-day trial in 1999 and sentenced to 30 years on a charge of high treason for passing secrets to American diplomats in Cuba. His father, Raúl Borges, claimed Borges, a graduate of the former Soviet Union's KGB school, gave Washington the names of 26 Cuban intelligence agents who were about to infiltrate the U.S. and European nations, and asked for U.S. help in winning his freedom.

Raúl Borges told reporters here that his son launched a hunger strike in January at Havana's Combinado del Este prison to demand his release on parole. Raúl Borges said his son had halted the fast for a few days after prison officials promised to review his case, but started it again on Feb. 10 after he was denied early release.

Cuba's military criminal code allows for parole after one third of the sentence is completed.



Caribbean-born ex-Marine faces deportation from U.S.

DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaican-born Rohan Coombs, now 45, served in the Persian Gulf War as a United States Marine. A legal U.S. resident before age 14, Coombs enlisted in 1988 and was honorably discharged in 1991, but reenlisted to continue fighting for his adopted country.

Finding it difficult to cope based on his wartime experiences, he turned to using illegal drugs, which led to a dishonorable discharge in 1993. Like many war veterans, Coombs suffered from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Adding to his mental distress, his wife died in 2000.

For the past four years Coombs, who had been residing in California, has been held in El Centro Detention Center awaiting deportation to Jamaica following his arrest for possession of marijuana.

But, some feel it is unfair. Coombs is feeling the effects as well.

"He is getting tired, really tired," bemoaned Robyn Sword, his fiancé. "He served in the military, fought for this country. If he was a white man we would all be saying let's save our veterans."

"Rohan is a veteran. Just because he doesn't have U.S. citizenship doesn't make him any less of a person."

The past several years, according to Sword, have been focused on getting attorneys to represent Coombs, who is now fighting another battle.

"The fact is nobody knew about this kind of thing where U.S. veterans were being quietly deported for crimes that they had committed as a result of PTSD while serving for this country," she said.

"How do you go from fighting for your life for months or years and then not fighting for your life all of a sudden. Plus, there is no reintegration back into society when you come home. Why are we doing this (deportation) to our soldiers when life for them is so hard?"



Coombs

Details on Caribbean non-U.S. citizen veterans of American military are sketchy. There is no official tracking by federal or state agencies. Kathryn Mattingly, from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in the U.S. Department of Justice, said her office "does not maintain the statistics you are seeking."

NEGLECT

Caribbean countries are guilty of the same neglect. Jamaica's Ministry of National Security, for example, tracks persons deported to the country, but not specifics such as their military status. During the period Jan. 2005 and Nov. 2011, 20,874 persons were deported to Jamaica, with those from the U.S. representing the largest share at 47 percent or 9,840 deportees. The United Kingdom deported 5,274 (25 percent) while Canada sent home 1,482 (seven percent) and another 21 percent came from other countries. In all cases the majority were males.

Coombs's case is not unique. Trinidadian-born Anslem Ifill is also facing deportation after serving in the first Gulf War. Banished Veterans, an advocacy network made up of deported veterans and their supporters,

estimates there are more than 30,000 non-citizen veterans throughout the U.S. armed forces. Its mission is to advocate for changes to the Immigration and Nationality Act, inform and protect members of all branches of the U.S. military, and provide educational outreach services to all veterans' services across the nation.

By publicizing the stories of the thousands of U.S. veterans fac-

ing deportation proceedings, Banished Veterans hope to right the wrongs they feel are meted out to those that "fought for us." Other groups championing the fight for veterans and civilian immigrants include Detention Watch Network and Vetspeak.

International agencies, such as the Organization of American States' Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), have also expressed concern with the U.S. policy on immigration.

The rub is that the citizenship process for military personnel was made less cumbersome and even fast-tracked because of their service to the country. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website states:

"Generally, a person who has served honorably in the U.S. armed forces at any time may be eligible to apply for naturalization under section 328 of the INA". The military community sometimes refers to this as "peacetime naturalization."

APPEAL

Represented by legal counsels Robert Barton and Frank Lawrence, who are appealing Coombs's, deportation, it is unclear if naturalization would be an option even if he is exonerated.

"If he loses his appeal he will be deported, but if he wins his appeal any number of things could happen," said Barton.

The government could choose to appeal it to the Supreme Court, they could remand to the District Court to make a decision about the immigration order. But, what

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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Antiguan-born lawyer becomes first Caribbean American U.S. federal judge

NEW YORK – An Antiguan-born lawyer has become the first Caribbean national to serve as a United States federal judge.

The U.S. Senate on Feb. 29 confirmed President Barack Obama's nomination of Margo Kitsy Brodie, 45, as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn.

"This confirmation makes Brodie the first Afro-Caribbean-born federal judge to serve in the United States," said leading Democratic Senator Charles Schumer, who represents Brooklyn and Queens.



Brodie

"She is also the first judge of Afro-Caribbean descent to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York," he added.

Schumer said Brodie, who for over a decade has distinguished herself as a lawyer for the City of New York, in private practice and as a U.S. Justice Department prosecutor, won confirmation by a vote of 86-2. Schumer said he first recommended Brodie to Obama in Mar. 2011 and introduced her to the Senate Judiciary Committee that September.

"With Margo Brodie's confirmation, we are making history," he said. "Ms. Brodie's career and achievements embody everything this court strives to uphold, and I am honored that she has been confirmed as its newest member."

"The communities of

Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island are fortunate to have such an outstanding judge at their service," he added. "I look forward to even more extraordinary work from Ms. Brodie."

CAREER

Born Margo Kitsy Williams in St. John's, Antigua, she earned her bachelor's degree from St. Francis College in Brooklyn in 1988 and her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. She began her career in public service as assistant corporation counsel for the City of New York's Real Estate Litigation Division.

Afterwards, Brodie worked at the law firm of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn in Manhattan, participating in a variety of commercial cases. After five years at the firm, Brodie returned to public service and began working at the U.S. Justice Department, where she served as an assistant U.S. attorney representing the U.S. in a variety of cases, including those involving public corruption, money laundering, and narcotics and gun trafficking.

In 2007, Brodie became chief of the General Crimes Unit, where she supervised 25 assistant U.S. attorneys and three deputy chiefs. She was the counsellor to the Criminal Division before assuming her current role of deputy chief of the Criminal Division, overseeing more than 100 lawyers in all of the criminal cases that are brought in the Eastern District.

She is admitted to practice in a number of federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the U.S.

In addition to her extensive legal experience, Brodie has been involved in a wide variety of organizations outside of the courtroom and served as a legal advisor to countries around the world. An adjunct professor in law at Brooklyn Law School since 2009, she is a former president

of the Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Brodie is also a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, and the National Black Prosecutors Association.

From 2005 to 2006,

Brodie served as a legal advisor to the Nigerian Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, an anti-public corruption commission. In 2008, she served on a panel on financial crimes and intellectual property for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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Legislators want to make it easier for Haitians to join family in U.S.

FLORIDA - Legislators in this southern American state have asked the administration of United States President Barack Obama to make it much easier for Haitians to join family members in the U.S.

The Florida Senate has voted in favor of urging the Department of Homeland Security to create the Haitian Family Reunification Program, which would expedite the immigration process for Haitians seeking to leave the impoverished, French-speaking Caribbean country following the earthquake in Jan. 2010 that killed more than 300,000 people.

"Two years later, the damaged country is struggling to attain even the most basic standards of living for the thousands still displaced in makeshift camps," said Orlando Democratic Senator

Gary Siplin, who sponsored the measure, along with Miami Gardens Democratic Senator Oscar Braynon.

"Due to the substandard living conditions, many diseases, such as cholera, are spreading rampantly throughout the country of Haiti," Siplin added.

'FAST TRACK'

Siplin said while the memorial is largely symbolic and does not actually create or change any laws, it asks the U.S. federal government to offer Haitians "a fast track to U.S. residency as a result of the earthquake." He said the reunification program would allow Haitians with family members in the United States to come into the country prior to a visa becoming available. Waiting times for visas can range from three to 10 years after approval.



Siplin

The Florida Senate said there are an estimated 55,000 Haitian nationals with approved visa petitions waiting to receive authorization to come to the U.S. The Senate said that the proposed which

mirrors the Cuban Family Reunification reated in 2007, is aimed at discouraging Haitian migrants from attempting "dangerous and illegal" methods for coming into the U.S., often on boats

that land on Florida shores.

A similar memorial in the Florida House of Representatives, sponsored by Miami Democratic Representative Daphne Campbell is yet come up for a vote.

"Here in Florida, we are fortunate neighbors," said Campbell, who was born in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. And while the media attention to the earthquake has waned, these tragedies in Haiti still deserve attention."

Immediately after the earthquake, the Obama administration extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians currently residing in the U.S., and halted deportations for those illegally in the country.

- Edited from CMC.



Antigua adopting new strategy in U.S. gaming dispute

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government is expected to adopt a new strategy to deal with the United States over its long standing Internet gaming dispute, a senior government official said last month.

In 2005, the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled that the U.S. had violated international trade agreements by prohibiting operation of offshore Internet gaming sites. Antigua and Barbuda claimed that it has lost \$3.4 billion annually due to the U.S. action, but the WTO ultimately awarded \$21 million in damages against the U.S.

The dispute between the

two countries began in 2003 and now Antigua and Barbuda has indicated that it is going back to the WTO on the issue. Colin Murdoch, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Trade, speaking on radio here recently, said the Baldwin Spencer government will now argue that sanctions awarded by the WTO cannot work for the Caribbean island.

'TALL ORDER'

"That may work with the European Union, that may work with China, Brazil and big economies, but to ask Antigua and Barbuda to put economic sanctions on the United States is really a tall



Spencer

order," said Murdoch.

During the Caribbean community (CARICOM) summit in Jamaica in 2010, Prime Minister Spencer said that while his country has the right to impose sanctions

upon Washington in keeping with the WTO rules "we remain committed to exhausting all possibilities for a negotiated settlement.

Spencer said he did not believe that his country's membership in the Venezuela-led Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) was a reason behind the hardened U.S. position, telling reporters that during the Prime Ministerial Sub Committee on External Negotiations, "the Internet gaming case was cited as a clear example of the difficulties small countries encounter in getting justice from WTO rulings in their favor.



Antiguan-born lawyer becomes first Caribbean American U.S. federal judge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

law enforcement officials in Trinidad, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Embassy.

Brodie conducted training abroad for prosecutors and

other law enforcement officers, including Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Swaziland, Jordan, and the Bahamas. She also served as a panel member for the Federal Bureau of

Investigation's African and Middle Eastern National Academy Associates Conference in Ghana.

- Edited from CMC.



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New York crime chief orders review after cop kills unarmed Jamaican teen

NEW YORK – New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner Raymond Kelly has ordered an internal review of how police officers conduct low-level narcotics operations after a cop last month shot dead an unarmed Jamaican youth in the Bronx.

Paul J. Browne, the NYPD's chief spokesman, told reporters here that Kelly ordered the department's highest-ranking uniformed officer, Chief Joseph J. Esposito, to conduct an "overall review" of such teams, which exist in dozens of police precincts throughout the five boroughs of New York City.



Graham

The NYPD said officer Richard Haste, who fired the gun that killed Ramarley Graham, 18, in his Bronx apartment, and Sergeant Scott

Morris, were both placed on modified duty for the duration of an internal investigation.

The NYDP said both white officers were stripped of their guns and placed on desk duty.

HELPLESS

The NYPD said Haste was part of a team of officers who staked out street locations frequented by drug dealers, and make arrests after observing "hand-to-hand" drug sales. Patricia Hartley, Graham's grandmother, said police threw her to the ground and stuck a gun in her face after her grandson was killed inside the bathroom of the family's apartment. She said she looked on helplessly after cops killed him.

Graham was pronounced



Graham's mother Constance Malcolm, left, is comforted over the loss of her son.

dead at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx after police officers chased him from the street into the apartment and then into the bathroom.

Kelly and New York City

Mayor Michael Bloomberg had expressed concern about the circumstances of the shooting. Kelly said the fatal shot came after members of the NYPD's Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit, who had

pursued Graham based on a report that he was armed, broke open the door to the second-floor apartment.

"Show me your hands! Show me your hands!" Kelly said the officer yelled.

'GUN! GUN!'

Kelly said the first officer, who was in the hallway outside the bathroom, shouted, "Gun! Gun!" suggesting to the officers behind him that Graham was armed.

"The partner said he then heard a shot," Kelly said. "It is at that point we believe the shooting officer fired once from his 9-millimeter service firearm."

Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner, said the bullet hit Graham in the upper chest, striking a lung and his aorta, killing him.

Kelly said investigators are yet to find evidence that Graham was armed.

Instead, the police commissioner said a bag of mari-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

U.S. judge robbed in Nevis

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has confirmed it is assisting police in Nevis with the investigation of a knifepoint robbery last month of a U.S. Supreme Court justice at his Leeward Islands vacation home.

"We are assisting the local police with their investigation," said FBI spokesman Paul Bresson.

Police in Nevis said they were investigating the incident. Up to press time there were no suspects or arrests.

Justice Stephen Breyer, 73, his wife and several family

friends were the victims of a masked, knife-wielding robber on the night of Feb. 9. The robber got away with about \$1,000 in cash. No one was hurt in the incident.

The U.S. Marshals Service, which provides protection for travelling justices of the Supreme Court, "is aware of the incident involving Justice Breyer on the Caribbean island of Nevis and is assisting the Supreme Court Police and local law enforcement authorities with the investigation as needed," spokesman Jeff Carter said.



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Where is it? Southern Anchor is a secure, gated community of townhomes located at 12300 S.W. 152nd Street in southwest Miami-Dade County. This community is located next to Zoo Miami, and each unit comes with a fully equipped kitchen that includes a stove, refrigerator and dishwasher. This property is newly renovated and ready for occupancy by qualified families. Call 305-259-3407 for details on the application process.

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*Rent and Savings example (Rent amounts are subject to change)

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U.S. Coast Guard seizes huge shipments of cocaine, marijuana in Caribbean Sea

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard’s drug interdiction operations in the Caribbean Sea this winter have so far yielded two tons of marijuana near Jamaica and four tons of cocaine in a single seizure off Honduras.

Most of the contraband was offloaded at the Coast

Guard Sector Key West, Florida, last month, the agency said. The Coast Guard said the cutter Dallas, on patrol south of Jamaica, launched a small boat party to stop a speedboat.

“As those aboard the boat began to throw bales overboard, the small boat crew

recovered 16 packages of marijuana, preventing the trafficking of 940 pounds of pot worth roughly \$852,000 and turning over three suspects to the Jamaican Defence Force,” the Coast Guard said.

‘VALUABLE HAUL’
On Feb. 9, the Coast

Guard cutter Confidence pursued a 28-foot speedboat south of Cuba that collected 36 bales of marijuana weighing 1,100 pounds and detained six people.

The Coast Guard had seized its most “valuable haul” on Dec. 22, when the cutter Dallas spotted four

suspected smugglers aboard a 40-foot speedboat off Honduras throwing multiple bales into the water, it said.

The Coast Guard said it recovered 4,000 pounds of cocaine in 77 bales, with a street value of \$48 million.



New York crime chief orders review after cop kills unarmed Jamaican teen

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

juana was retrieved in the toilet, raising the possibility that Graham rushed to the bathroom to try to get rid of it.

“You killed him because he smoked weed!” angry neighbors had yelled at police, calling them “murderers.”

‘NOBODY IS SAFE’

The Grahams have retained lawyer Jeffrey L. Emdin, who said police should never have entered the apartment.

“When the police are above the law, nobody is safe,” he said.

Early last month, popular American Grammy Award-winning singer Roberta Flack, joined civil rights activist the Reverend Al Sharpton in kicking off a collection drive for Graham’s funeral. Flack donated \$500 when she stopped in front of Graham’s family home with Sharpton to join outraged friends and family.

Sharpton said his Harlem-based National Action Network also contributed \$500 to the drive and to fly his grandfather from Jamaica to attend the funeral.



Caribbean-born ex-Marine faces deportation from U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

that would do to his status given his conviction is unclear.”

Mattingly explained that “immigration judges adjudicate cases on a case-by-case basis in accordance with U.S. immigration law, regulations and precedent decisions...EOIR’s immigration courts decide whether foreign-born individuals whom the Department of Homeland Security has charged with violating immigration law should be ordered removed from the United States. EOIR’s Board of Immigration Appeals decides appeals of immigration judge decisions.”



Coombs, right, during his time in the U.S. military.

According to Coombs, as detailed on the Banished Veterans website, he thought he was a U.S. citizen because he took the military oath and was told by his superiors that he was U.S. property. All enlisted military personnel must take the oath, which reads:

“I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the president of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.” Coombs also noted that he applied for U.S. citizenship, but the papers were not processed because he was in Kuwait at the time.

U.S. President Barack Obama, in his Veterans Day message on Nov. 11, 2011, said the following, that would have helped bolster Coombs’ belief: “...When your tour ends, when you see our flag, when you touch our soil, you’ll be home in an America that is forever here for you just as you’ve been there for us,” said the president.

But, just one month later the Supreme Court started to hear arguments about imposing tougher immigration laws,

particularly in the state of Arizona, that would give law enforcement officers the right to question anyone they stopped about their immigration status.

‘ABSURDITY’

Coombs’ supporters have condemned what has happened to happened to him, despite his service to the U.S.

“Rohan loves this country,” said Barton. “I am hopeful we will prevail and someone will see the absurdity of deporting someone who served this country, who until these proceedings were initiated thought he was a U.S. citizen.”

The attorney noted that immigration laws are written so narrowly that judges have no discretion. Asked if change in immigration laws are possible, Barton argued it is a political issue that makes it difficult to reach any sort of compromise from either side of the floor, and unfortunately people like Coombs fall through the cracks.

Although Sword knows it will be an uphill battle, she is praying for a miracle.

“If he gets out he is not leaving my side,” she said.

Main cover photograph of Rohan Coombs courtesy of the Orange County Register.

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



Elba Silva, cancer survivor with son Caua.

CANCER CARE SO POWERFUL, IT SAVED TWO LIVES AT ONCE.

Imagine finding out you have not one, but two types of cancer. And then finding out you’re pregnant.

That’s what happened to Elba Silva. Diagnosed with a medulloblastoma brain tumor and thyroid cancer, she underwent surgery and intensive chemotherapy at a Broward Health North Broward Medical Center.

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It’s a powerful success story. But not an unusual one. North Broward Medical Center’s Comprehensive Cancer Center provides exceptional care right here at home, close to friends and family. And Elba Silva can tell you how important family is.



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TWO YEARS LATER: Haiti struggles to emerge from earthquake's rubble

KATHY BARRETT

The music blared from the old speaker boxes perched on sidewalks in the Haitian capital of Port au Prince. A woman emerged from her checkered plastic tablecloth that protected the entrance to the tent that she has called home for over two years. She then set up a depilated-looking stall on which she placed several goods ranging from toilet paper to charcoal and prepared to make the days first sale.

This is the life for the average person who lives in one of the many tent cities scattered across Port Au Prince. The days are typically filled with uncertainty and frustration.

It's been more than two years since a cataclysmic earthquake rocked the core of the impoverished Caribbean country that shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. A great portion of Haiti's already fragile infrastructure was destroyed when the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. Although the quake lasted only 10 to 20 seconds, buildings tumbled like stacks of cards, killing over 300,000 people and forever changing the lives of 1.5 million in and around the capital.

MOVING ON

Haitians are trying to move on with their lives, but the road is long and hard. In Port Au Prince, just across from the remains of the Presidential Palace, tents dot the landscape. On any given day men and women can be seen with craft items hoping



A woman is caught in a reflective mood in her Port au Prince home.

to persuade anyone to support them. It was here that we met Jean, a 32-year-old man who calls this tent city home.

"I was on the street, walking with my wife, when the shaking started...It was crazy," he said in broken English. "I have been sleeping in the streets ever since then."

The struggle remains difficult.

"We don't have any water, our life is so difficult, no one helps us," Jean added. "I came with my family. Eight family members now live under one tent. We have to walk a couple miles to get water and we have to pay for it."

According to Jean, just under 3,000 people live in this tent city that's surrounded by portable toilets.

"It's a life of misery," he said. "We have no help so we make these bags from candy wrappers. We make paintings for the white people, but we



This man has made the sidewalk his home, a familiar sight in Haiti's capital.

are still living in nothing but drama. Some people even sell their bodies just to survive."

HOPE

Despite his circumstances,

Jean, like many others, is hopeful. He is confident that President Michel Martelly will change the direction of the country. He heaped praises on Martelly, one of Haiti's most popular entertainers who was swept to power in May, 2011 as Haiti's 56th president and placed at the helm of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

"The president is good, he is very good," said Jean, echoing the sentiments of those who stood next to him. "But some of them in the Parliament are devils."

It's ironic that only a few hours later on Friday, Feb. 24, word came that the Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille

after the earthquake.

PROMISE

On the day of the surprise resignation, in a brief nationally televised address, Martelly promised to move swiftly to fill the political void and to implement critical reforms demanded by the international community. He disclosed that he had consulted parliamentary leaders and they were scheduled to meet soon to propose a new prime minister.

While progress has been made since the earthquake, Haitians and the international community had hoped that 2012 would have been a turning point for this nation. But, with this latest development, Haitian officials must return to the drawing board. The prime minister's resignation will undoubtedly set back



A little girl stands at the entrance to her home in one of Port au Prince's tent cities.

resigned after only four months in office. His departure has left Haiti in limbo once again, without an effective government.

According to reports, Conille, a 45-year-old gynecologist and former diplomat, stepped down amidst infighting within the Parliament concerning contracts for earthquake reconstruction. Political tensions between Martelly and Conille erupted recently after the prime minister announced plans to audit contracts amounting to millions of dollars that were awarded by his predecessor

Haiti's rebuilding efforts.

In the meantime, while government officials huddle behind closed doors to resolve this latest crisis, hundreds remain crammed in tattered tents, hoping and praying that things will get better.

However, most Haitians take pride in their resilience and according to Jean.

"We are strong people," he said. "We will continue to survive."

Story and photographs by Kathy Barrett, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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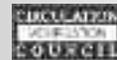
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FEATURE



Gang violence hikes death toll, threatens Caribbean economies ~ U.N. report

UNITED NATIONS – A leading United Nations’ agency has warned that violent crime linked to gangs has risen to become one of the Caribbean’s main challenges, threatening national economies and people’s livelihoods.

But the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) said the right mix of policies and programs could halt the problem.

The Caribbean Human Development Report 2012, “Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security”, launched in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad last month, stated, with the exception of Barbados and Suriname, homicide rates, including gang-related killings, have “increased substantially” in the last 12 years across the Caribbean, while they have been falling or stabilizing in other parts of the world.

Although murder rates are exceedingly high by world standards, the report noted that Caribbean governments can reverse the trend, calling on them to beef up public institutions to tackle crime and violence - including the criminal justice system - while boosting preventive measures.

THREAT

“Violence limits people’s choices, threatens their physical integrity, and disrupts their daily lives,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark at the report’s launch ceremony, with Trinidad and Tobago’s



The emergence of gangs has threatened the economic welfare of the region.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the UNDP’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean Heroldo Muñoz.

“This report stresses the need to rethink our approaches to tackling crime and violence and providing security on the ground. We need to follow approaches that are centered on citizen security and address the causes of this recent increase in violent crime, including social, economic, and political exclusion,” Clark, a former New Zealand prime minister, said.

The new study recommended that Caribbean governments implement youth crime prevention through education, as well as provide employment opportunities

that target the marginalized urban poor. A shift in focus is needed, it noted, from a state protection approach to one that focuses on citizen security and participation, promoting law enforcement that is “fair, accountable, and more respectful of human rights”.

The report reviewed the current state of crime, as well as actions and policies to address the problem in seven English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and T&T. UNDP said while Latin America and the Caribbean are home to 8.5 percent of the world population, it accounts for about 27 percent of the world’s homicides.

WORSENING

It stated that even though the total number of murders in Jamaica dropped after the report’s completion to 1,124 in 2011, a seven-year low, the country has the highest homicide rate in the Caribbean and the third-highest murder rate worldwide in recent years, with about 60 murders per 100,000 inhabitants.

“This is surpassed by only two Central American countries, El Salvador and Honduras with 66 and 82.1 murders, respectively, per 100,000 people,” UNDP noted, citing U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime figures.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the report stated that murder rates increased five-fold over a decade, to more than 40 per 100,000 in 2008, and then declined to 36 in 2010.

The report also noted that gang-related homicides in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are “substantial and increasing”. It stated that the number almost doubled in both countries between 2006 and 2009. In 2006, Jamaica experienced 1,303 homicides, of which 32.5 percent were gang-related. By 2009, the number of homicides had increased by 377; 48.1 percent were gang-related.

In 2006, the report stated that T&T experienced 371 homicides, 26.4 percent of them gang-related. By 2009 the country reported 506 homicides - 34.8 percent gang-related.

UNDP noted that Caribbean community (CARICOM) estimates reveal the cost of gang-related crime is between 2.8 percent and four percent of gross domestic product in the region through both the cost of policing and as a result of lost income from youth incarceration and reduced tourism. According to the study, crime costs Jamaica alone over \$529 million a year in lost income.

In Trinidad and Tobago, a one percent reduction in youth crime would boost tourism revenue by \$35 million per year, it noted.

For every additional “gang” in a community, homicide rates rose by about one-tenth, according to a recent research featured in the Caribbean Human Development Report.

LOW CONFIDENCE

“Crime erodes confidence in future development, reduces the competitiveness of existing industries and services, for example, by imposing burdensome security-and may deter investment”, UNDP noted.

“Education and health

care also suffer when resources are diverted to law enforcement”, it added.

The report recommended a turn-around in the high rates of violent crime by “achieving a better balance between legitimate law enforcement and preventive measures, with a stronger focus on prevention”. It also urged governments to create or invest more in units to address gender-based violence and adopt more preventive measures “to ensure that violence against girls and women is no longer tolerated”.

In addition, it stated, because crime harms social cohesion, Caribbean nations must better address youth violence and street gangs, “whose crimes are rarely prosecuted”.

The study also recommended that youth organizations and groups advocating for women’s rights, victims’ rights, and human rights become more active, and governments “commit to more actively engage citizens”.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.S. president under attack in debate over immigration

The term “piranha” is defined as any of several tropical American freshwater fishes that are voraciously carnivorous and often attack and destroy living animals. The word came to mind recently as I sought a description of what Republicans are really doing to United States President Barack Obama.



FELICIA PERSAUD

Of course, there were some other unprintable descriptions as well that surfaced immediately, especially after U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano faced the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee. But I decided for this article to stick to piranha over the much over-used vampire phrase. Because short of offering up his blood to be toasted on the GOP’s sacrificial altar, it’s unclear what exactly the president can do to actually gain any support from the Republicans.

Their latest attack to destroy him is by spreading the lie that he has granted “de facto amnesty to illegal aliens.” Yet, no other administration has done more on the deportation front – certainly not Republicans and the George W. Bush administration, which controlled the country for eight consecutive years.

FACING FACTS

So lies and emotions be damned and let’s face the facts. Since President Obama took office in 2009, removals of immigrants from the U.S. saw a spike. In 2009, the numbers passed 389,000, compared to just over 291,000 under President Bush in 2007 and

272,389 in 2006. In 2005, under Bush, the numbers were even lower – 208,521

U.S. Congress provides money for deporting 350,000 to 400,000 people a year among an estimated 10 million to 11 million who are in the country illegally, according to Secretary Napolitano, and the administration has decided to give priority to removing those who pose a danger or are national security threats.

Between 2010 and 2011, the numbers increased even further, to over 392,000 and 396,000, respectively. In fiscal year 2011 alone, the U.S. Immigration and Border Enforcement agency removed 45,938 recent border crossers and 96,529 migrants who were either repeat immigration violators or immigration fugitives.

Yet the lies and the blame game by Republicans continue to guise the real problems. The reality is they have no solutions to the issue, but can only play the blame game as they have failed miserably to solve the issue in all their years of running the country.

‘UNDEPORTABLE’

At the end of the day, the estimated 12 million undocumented are by their sheer numbers “undeportable”. The cost is not affordable, as Napolitano has pointed out. More important, they are already here – enmeshed in a healthy U.S. economy and making significant contributions in all sector.

Republicans must confess that there is a level of racism involved here, and if these were European immigrants we were talking about solely, there would be no issue. But the thought of 12 million largely brown and black migrants must be a daunting one, especially if they all one day become U.S. citizens and can

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

SURVEY SAYS: Everyone lies about extramarital sex

Let’s talk about the age-old pastime of people stepping out of the marital utopia and having a dabble, a nibble, a taste of the succulent fruit that is forbidden.

It’s not new, but is as old as time itself, or at least as old as the time when people decided to be couples forever, sworn to each other till death do they part.

That could be a mighty long time. So, before anyone died, they simply decided to have a little fun on the sly. In most cases it ends up in disaster, for various reasons, one of which is...someone may have a child for the wrong person, with the result being a child that’s not the offspring of the man who thinks that he’s the father.

Don’t be confused, it’s the old case of the jacket not fitting the man, but he still has to wear it and live under the illusion that he’s the father, when in reality he’s being cuckolded, given bun, cheated on, been the victim of extramarital sex.

It’s a subject that everyone lies about, extramarital sex. Those who are doing it lie about it. Those who have it being done to them, lie about it. And those who used to do it, lie about it. Few things are lied about more.

BLAME GAME

It goes for women as well as for men, and even more so for women, for somehow they cover their tracks better, as they think that they have more



to lose if they are found to be having extramarital sex.



TONY ROBINSON

Blame society for that. If a man is discovered, it’s almost like a badge of honor, a stripe, a gold star against his name. But let a woman step out and have an extramarital sexual liaison and witness the deluge of shame, horror and disgust that comes raining down on her. The names that she is called would make a madam blush and, back in the day, she’d be physically abused, imprisoned, whipped, stoned and pilloried by her peers. Even in this modern day, women who have extramarital

sex and are discovered are stoned or beheaded, depending on the culture and country.

So statistics have been difficult to come by. If a man came knocking on your door saying that he’s doing a survey on extramarital sex, and wanted to know if you stepped outside of your marriage, would you tell the truth?

Some folks may admit, under condition of anonymity, but most wouldn’t even take that chance, and so lie, with a few curse words thrown in for good measure, even berating others who dared to have had extramarital sex.

It’s like that.

EFFECTS

My research stated: “People have many reasons to lie when asked whether they have com-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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VIEWPOINT



CARIB Comments

• No words! Just tears” –

Barbadian pop star Rihanna tweets her emotions on hearing of the death of superstar

American singer Whitney Houston last month.



• “Let us not ignore the umbilical relationship between an underdeveloped economy, social vacuums and narco-traf-



ficking” – Jamaica’s outgoing Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks warns that difficult situations in the Caribbean can make the region an easy target for drug trafficking.

• **“We are going overboard. We are not ready for that. How will it change your life having sex? It is just a few minutes of gratification or pressure release, but how will that rehabilitate you?”** – Trinidad and Tobago attorney Subhas Panday argues against the value of conjugal visits for prisoners.

• **“Nobody should ever be held for years on end without being tried and convicted or released”** – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay

criticizes the United States’ failure to close its prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

• **“The minister must have been aware that his conduct was wrongful or was otherwise unconcerned as to his responsibility to the Cabinet”** – Grenada’s Prime Minister Tillman Thomas defends his decision to dismiss Environment Minister Joseph Gilbert as an attempt to maintain the country’s integrity. It is alleged that Gilbert, during his tenure as works minister, promised a United States gaming company he would get Grenada’s legislation regarding gaming changed so the company could begin operations



on the island.

• **“Blakey, forget the people, you do it for yourself when you step on that track”** – World 100 meters champion Yohan Blake reveals a tip given to him by Usain Bolt, fellow Jamaican, friend and chief rival in track’s glamour event.

• **“If you can push your body to that limit and compete just as well as the younger athletes, then I say ‘why not!’”** – 32-year-old Cayman Islands sprinter Cydonnie Mothersill dismisses thoughts of early retirement from the sport.

• **“I would be remiss not to mention Cuba. Just 90 miles from Florida, Cuba has the potential to be a major trans-shipment point for illicit drugs”**

– United States Senator Diane Feinstein last month.

• **“Let them write, when I want to talk I will talk. I have nothing to answer to anybody”** – Trinidad and Tobago’s Austin “Jack” Warner is defiant when asked about media reports that soccer’s world governing body FIFA is awaiting an explanation about the whereabouts of emergency aid money intended for earthquake ravaged Haiti, which had been sent to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation two years ago.



– **Compiled from various sources.**

SURVEY SAYS: Everyone lies about extramarital sex

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

mitted adultery. That’s why it’s notoriously difficult to get accurate scientific information about this important subject”.

Aha!

But science has ways of proving these acts of persons dancing to the beat of a different drummer. In Jamaica where over 35 percent of the

men tested are not the biological fathers of their children, there is the dreaded blood test, or the even more accurate DNA test. But there is even more scientific evidence that was not really geared to establish paternity, but did so nevertheless. It’s an unplanned spin off. So the side effects are even more important than the original intention.

Doctors have told me that the sickle cell test is also a very accurate test for paternity. When one parent has the trait, the trait may be passed on to the child. But when both parents have the trait, the child has a one in four chance to show full sickle cell symptoms and be a full-blown sickler. But when only one parent has the trait, yet the child is born a

full-blown sickler, then somebody else was playing in that man’s yard. And that somebody had sickle cell.

I was thinking that it was only our people that suffered from this result of extramarital sex malady. My research, that goes as far back as 1940, opened my eyes. In the 1940s a doctor was studying the genetics of human blood groups, which are molecules that we acquire only by inheritance. The research plan was simple, go to the obstetrics ward of a highly reputable United States hospital, collect blood samples from 1,000 newborn babies, and their mothers and fathers, identify blood groups in all the samples and then use standard genetic reasoning to deduce the inheritance patterns.

To the doctor’s shock, the blood groups revealed that nearly 10 percent of those babies were the fruits of adulterous extramarital sex.

SECRECY

Extramarital sex does hold untold pleasures...and pleasures that can never be told, hidden away under a veil of secrecy. But science has a way

of revealing and unraveling these mysteries.

Forensics can be a criminal’s worst nightmare, and also a cheaters ‘comuppance’. Blood samples, sickle cell tests and DNA can be the bell that tolls for those involved in extramarital sex. Gone are the days when a village had a slew of little blonde, blue eyed children (and no white man lived there) and people did an educated guess.

“But aha, the sailing ship docks here once every six months.”

Those were obvious results of extramarital sex. But what about the countless other cases, where children are the result of extramarital sex...on both sides...but no one knows, for it’s a closely guarded secret?

At times not even the mother knows for sure.

“Mr. Wilson...you are NOT the father of that baby.”

But science does not lie, even though the players of extramarital sex do.

The results are in.

- seido1@hotmail.com

U.S. president under attack in debate over immigration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

vote. Truly a scary thought to the GOP and Tea Partyites!

President Obama should not be afraid to call the Republicans out on their con game and state the facts. The fact is that the borders are secure – now we need a rational solution to dealing with the 12 million or less through comprehensive immigration reform that includes fast tracking sponsorship applications in the back logged system; more work visas added to different categories of employment, a

plan that would allow the young educated migrants to become part of the American Dream and their parents to pay a fine, learn English if necessary and obtain a work permit and travel document to legally live in this country.

That’s not de facto amnesty, it’s a real solution!

- Felicia Persaud is founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.

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Children from the Little Haiti chapter of the Miami Music Project Orchestral Academy will receive musical instruments, donated through the Pass It On! initiative by Ideal Fengling Group and community supporters, during an event beginning **5 p.m. Mar. 6** at the Toussaint L'ouverture Elementary School, 120 N.E. 59th St. in Miami, Florida.

The event will feature performances by students, open classes and family potluck treats, plus information on Miami Music Project.

For more information, call **786-468-2251**.

PARALYMPIC EXPERIENCE

A one-day Paralympic Experience and resource fair will be held from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mar. 10** at Tropical Park's community center, 7900 S.W. 40 St. in Miami, Florida.

As part of the festivities, children and adults with physical and visual disabilities will learn about and engage in adapted sports activities that include kayaking, wheelchair basketball and tennis, hand-cycling, Goal-ball, and more.

The event, being hosted by the Miami-Dade Parks Disability Services Division, is open to the public and admission is free.

"We encourage parents who have children with visual or physical disabilities to bring them out to the event, so they can be inspired to take up these wonderful adapted sports activities," said Lucy Binhack, manager of the Miami-Dade Parks Disability Services division. "By expanding their fitness opportunities, individuals with disabilities can develop greater control in improving their health and well-being."

For more information, call

Mayra Santana at **305-755-7848**, or e-mail her at Santana@miamidade.gov.

TRAINING DAY

The Professional Firefighters of Miramar will host several "Adult Heartsaver" and AED Classes on **Mar. 17** at Sunset Lakes Community Center, located at 2801 S.W. 186th Ave. in Miramar, Florida.

Classes are scheduled for **9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

The recommended donation for the class is \$20. For registration and more information, call **954-602-4801**.

SPRING CAMPS

Parents can enroll their children in one of several Spring Break Camps being offered by the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at its parks throughout the county from **Mar. 12-16**.

Camps will be open from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, and offer an early drop-off option at **7:30 a.m.** and a late pick-up option until **6 p.m.**

The cost for general camps ranges from \$40 to \$90 for the week, depending on the program. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify. General camps offer a recreational schedule, including fitness, sports, arts and crafts, nature encounters, games and field trips. There are also specialized camps, which focus on a specific interest or need.

For more information, call Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department at **305-755-7842**.

MEDICARE HELP

If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B medical insurance when you first became eligible for Medicare,

you now have an opportunity to apply - but time is running out.

The deadline for applying during the general enrollment period is **Mar. 31**. If you miss the deadline, you may have to wait until 2013 to apply.

Medicare Part B covers some medical expenses not covered by Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), such as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical supplies and services.

Learn more about Medicare by reading the electronic booklet, Medicare at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html, or visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. You may also call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048)**.

SPRING PICNIC

The South Florida city of Miramar, home to a large contingent of Caribbean residents, will hold its annual Spring Picnic for seniors from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 5**.

Scheduled activities include a picnic lunch at the Miramar Regional Park, and a day of outdoor games and music. Tickets may be purchased at either the Sunset Lakes Senior Center or at the Senior Center at the Multi-Service Complex.

For more information, including ticket prices, call **954-602-3347** or **954-889-2707**.

E-VERIFY

New laws in Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia require businesses to enroll in the federal E-Verify program to ensure that employees are eligible to work in the United States, the National Conference of State Legislatures says.

California, meanwhile, is prohibiting any state or local government office from

'EXPECT RESPECT'



Krystal Rodriguez, left, 19, and 18-year-old Tamaria Grace were among 30 young women in Florida who gathered for a special ceremony marking a milestone in their lives having completed a 13-week program designed to give them the skills to identify and avoid abusive relationships. The ceremony was a collaborative effort between Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) and the Miami-Biscayne Bay Chapter of The Links organization. The young women all attend the COPE North School and participated in the "Expect Respect" Program that is provided as part of the CAHSD's Violence Intervention and Prevention Services. The program is designed to instruct teens on the dynamics of a healthy relationship and the warning signs of dating and sexual violence. For more information on Expect Respect and other violence intervention and prevention services offered by Miami-Dade County, call the Department of Community Action and Human Services at 305-514-6000 or visit www.miamidade.gov/socialservices.

requiring that employers use E-Verify, unless it is required by federal law as a condition of receiving federal funds.

E-Verify is a program designed to check a prospective employee's citizenship or immigration status. Supporters say it helps businesses avoid unintentionally hiring illegal immigrants. Critics complain that it is expensive to operate, pushes undocumented workers further underground, and is not always accurate.

BROWARD RIGHTS

The Broward County Board of County

Commissioners has amended the Broward County Human Rights Act, designed to secure individual freedom from discrimination, to provide an enhanced level of service to residents.

For more information about these services, visit broward.org/intergovernmental and click HUMAN RIGHTS, call **954-357-7800** or visit Room 426 in the Broward County Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



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Peter A. Webley, Publisher

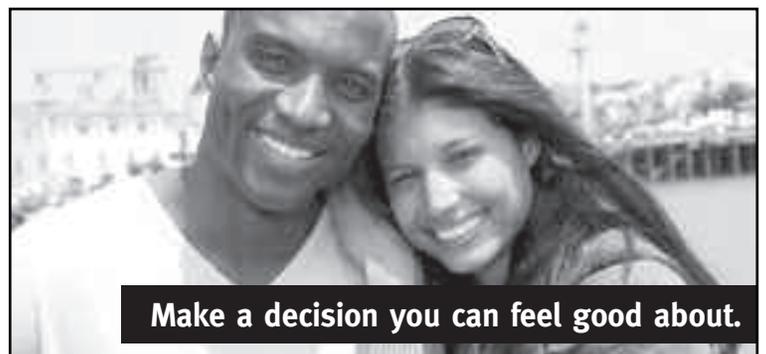
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AUNTIE ROACHIE SEH!



- Photograph by Dawn A. Davis

Dr. Susan Davis delivers the message of "Auntie Roachie", a legendary character created by Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett-Coverley, the late Jamaican cultural icon. The performance was part of an event, held last month at Fort Lauderdale's South Regional-Broward College Library, which underscored "Fifty Years A We Kulcha". Jamaica celebrates 50 years of Independence in 2012.

St. Lucia to implement new measures after no-shows by Caribbean artistes

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC – The St. Lucia government has warned promoters that it will be putting in place stringent measures to ensure that visiting artistes conform to the laws of the country.

The announcement followed a no-show by Jamaican artiste Mavado for the third consecutive occasion, as well as non-appearances by Jamaican performers.

Scores of patrons were left frustrated last month after several foreign artistes, including Gyptian of Jamaica and Peter Ram of Barbados, failed to show up for a show that would have featured the best of local reggae talent. Tourism and Creative Industries Minister Lorne Theophilus said that he was extremely concerned at what is becoming a regular occurrence, adding that while government does not want to place an extra burden on artistes, regulations must be put in place to ensure that St. Lucians are not short changed.

"It is something we have to do in any event not just for



Gyptian

promoters but for any persons coming to invest or part take in any activity in your country," Theophilus said.

CHECKS

"We need to do certain background checks to ensure that there is a certain measure of credibility so that at the

end of the day out people are not left holding the short end of the stick," he added.

"It is a move that has now become very necessary because the fact that it has happened on three occasions in the case of one particular artiste shows that some regulations are necessary so that we do not have another such instance as has happened in the past."

Teddy Francis, former executive director of the Cultural Development Foundation, said the authorities should vet promoters based on a criteria that includes financial stability before being allowed to produce any show on the island.



Jamaica's carnival season heats up

In recognition of Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence, the country is extending its carnival season through next month with a myriad of cultural festivities.

The capital city of Kingston, among other venues across the Caribbean island, will feature costumed parades, floats and the sounds of soca, reggae and calypso music.

"The carnival season is a celebratory time when visitors and locals alike take part in

Jamaican-style festivals," John Lynch, Jamaica's director of tourism said in a recent press release.

"As we commemorate our 50th anniversary of Independence this year, this carnival season takes on special significance in also honoring our heritage."

For more information, on carnival activities across Jamaica, visit www.allisland-carnivaljamaica.com.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

The following is a listing of some Caribbean entertainment events slated for this month in the United States:

Florida

Mar. 3 - 19th Annual 9 Mile Music Festival at Virginia Key Beach Park, 4020 Virginia Beach Dr. in Key Biscayne, Miami. Gates open **1 p.m.** Admission: \$50; VIP: \$166.50; plus four canned goods.

Scheduled performers include Stephen Marley, Damian Marley, Julian Marley, Burning Spear, Capleton, Cocoa Tea, Tarrus Riley, Collie Buddz, Kevens and Khev.

For more information, call **305-665-5379**.

Mar. 10 - The Haitian Women of Miami Awards Gala at Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay, 1633 N. Bayshore Dr., Miami. For more information, call FANM **305-756-8050**.

Mar. 11 - Icons of Reggae In Concert 2 p.m. at Central Broward Regional Park 3700 NW 11th Place, Lauderdale. Tickets: \$45; VIP \$100.

Scheduled performers include Ali Campbell of UB 40, Toots and the Maytals, Mykal "Black Uhuru" Rose, Wailing Souls, U-Roy, John

Holt, Ambelique, Mical Rustle, Code Red Band, Lady Saw, Etana and Glatma Wayne.

For more information, call **954-708-6717** or visit www.icon-sofreggae.com.

Georgia

Mar. 10 - Omega Pre-Spring Party at Tropical Sports Club, 1493 S. Hairston Rd., Stone Mountain.

Mar. 18 - Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities' Annual Gospel Brunch **12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the Atrium at Atlanta City Hall, 55 Trinity Ave. S.W., Atlanta.

Admission \$30 in advance; \$35 at door.

Mar. 31 - The United States-China International Investment Association (USCIIA), the International Association of Caribbean Organizations (IACO) and the International Center for Culture & Arts (ICCA) present The Global Fusion program, **2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**, recognizing the common goal of global peace through cultural understanding and economic development at Oglethorpe University's Lupton Auditorium.



7th ANNUAL Jazz in the Gardens MARCH 17th - 18th 2012 AT SUN LIFE STADIUM

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- LEDIS
- RODIE FARRAR
- RAMSEY LEWIS ELECTRIC BAND
- KEY

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SUNDAY LINE-UP

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- KEVIN EDWARDS
- KENNY G
- NICKOLE JERRY
- PATTI LABELLE

For more information visit jazzinthegardens.com or call 1-877-640-JAZZ (5274)

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Top stars in line for 'Jazz in the Gardens' in South Florida

Some of the biggest names in American music are scheduled to perform at the seventh annual "Jazz in the Gardens" festival in South Florida this month.

The two-day event - **Mar. 17 and 18** - will be staged on the grounds of the Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens.



Patti LaBelle



Mary J. Blige

Legendary Patti LaBelle, along with the talented Jill Scott and Mary J. Blige will head the line-up, which also includes Ledisi, Nicole Henry, Kenny G, Doug E. Fresh, Kevin Eubanks, Ramsey Lewis, the Jazz Crusaders and KEM. Veteran rapper MC Lyte will be the host.

For more information, visit www.jazzinthegardens.com or call 1-877-640-JAZZ.



Vybz Kartel remanded to lockup

Jamaican dancehall entertainer Adidja Palmer, better known as Vybz Kartel, was remanded to prison after he appeared in court last month on a charge related to the murder of a businessman.

He will return to court on Dec. 21 when the prosecution is expected to furnish all relevant documents to his defense lawyers.

Kartel, 35, has been accused of conspiring with other men to murder businessman and promoter Barrington Burton.

"The allegation is that on Monday, July 11, 2011, Palmer, along with other men, conspired to murder Barrington Burton...a 27-year-old businessman/promoter of a Gregory Park address in St Catherine. Burton was murdered while he was standing with friends along Walkers Avenue in Gregory Park", the police noted in a



Vybz Kartel

statement.

The dancehall entertainer is also facing charges of conspiracy to murder and illegal possession of a firearm.



ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

• **Richie Stephens to get award**

Veteran Jamaican reggae singer Richie Stephens, who is also head of the Pot Of Gold label, is slated to be honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the third annual Linkage Awards on **Mar. 11** at the Macedonia Center in Mount Vernon, New York.

Stephens recently received the an achievement award at the 16th annual Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival in Trelawny for his 27-year contribution to the reggae industry.

• **Teen is 'Miss Dominica' 2012**

Nadira Lando, a 19-year-old aspiring lawyer, has won the 2012 "Miss Dominica" pageant.

Lando won from a field of six competitors, with Ameka Cognet and Kimberly Jno Charles placing second and third, respectively. Lando also won six awards, including "Best Talent" and "Best Evening Wear".

- *Compiled from CMC and other sources.*



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BOOKS



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DESIGNING DETAIL: Oliver Messel's palladian Caribbean style

- **TITLE:** *Oliver Messel: In the Theatre of Design*
- **EDITED BY:** Thomas Messel, with introduction by Lord Snowdon
- **REVIEWED BY:** Dawn A. Davis

From stage and costume to interior, architecture and film designer, British-born Oliver Messel left a lasting legacy of creativity throughout Europe in the 20th century.

Internationally acclaimed for his magical creations on sets such as the ballet "The Sleeping Beauty" and the 1945 film "Caesar and Cleopatra", Messel also became sought after for his palatial, yet old world sophisticated interior design style, epitomized in the homes he designed, remodeled, and built on the islands of Barbados and Mustique.

"Oliver Messel: In the Theatre of Design" is a monu-

mental tribute to a man who touched the lives of many. In their own words, friends, colleagues and artistic associates praise the romanticism and wit of the man that left his creative mark on the world.

Influenced by Italian Renaissance artists Rembrandt, Van Dyke and Velazquez, Messel's architectural and interior designs took on the dramatic deep rich colors and intense light and dark shadows of the old masters. The Palladian-style Caribbean homes he designed in the 1960s and 1970s reflect the 17th century symmetry and classic Greek and Roman architectural style named for Venetian architect Andrea Palladio.

EXOTIC EDGE

Migrating to the Eastern Caribbean island of Barbados in 1966, Messel's classic style took on an exotic edge driven by the azure blue Caribbean Sea, warm tropical sunshine, and the kaleidoscopic colors of the foliage and flowers that surrounded him.

The grand entrances, with their columned verandas and stonework walls allowed the intense light and sea breeze to roam the interior of the house. Yet, as grand as the houses were, there was also playfulness, seen through the foliage and informal furniture that was unmistakably Caribbean.

The now fashionable West Coast of Barbados (known as the Platinum Coast), where European and American visitors flocked, was where Messel settled. His "indoor-outdoor living" style featured prominently in the homes he built for his European-Caribbean clients. Broad elliptical arches, grand entrance ways,

and front and back doors looking into each other while opening up to the sea and flowering gardens became his architectural signature.

Like his stage designs, Messel's attention to detail was



Messel structures exuded the handcrafted quality that followed him throughout his career. His theatrical imagination fueled his attention to detail, producing homes with doric columns, much like old Italian villas, while keeping the tropical cadence alive with the wide verandas, long walkways, and the mammoth shade trees left standing on the property.

No wonder he was sought after by celebrities who wanted their own piece of "paradise" on the exclusive island of Mustique. The island, known for its pristine beaches and elegant yet stress-free atmosphere, was and still is an escape for royals and movie stars. Messel's contribution to the island's architecture took all that into consideration, creating homes that hugged the coastline with elegance and Caribbean character.

Creating simple homes with palatial sensibilities, Messel's inventiveness still inspires architects today. The combination of his classic style, elegant and sensual touches, and the marriage of interior and landscape spaces can be seen in late 20th and 21st century homes throughout Barbados and beyond.

So, if one were to ask what is the definition of a Caribbean-style home, the answer would inevitably be "look no further than the architectural designs created by Oliver Messel".

• **PUBLISHER:** *Rizzoli International Publications, New York.*

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



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Start Time: 9:00 AM
Phone: (305) 477-1192

Broward County
May 5, 2012
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue
Davie, FL 33314
Registration Time:
7:00 AM
Start Time: 8:30 AM
Phone: (754) 300-2603

South Palm Beach County
April 21, 2012
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Registration Time:
7:30 AM
Start Time: 9:00 AM
Phone: (561) 684-0102

North Palm Beach County
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Lake Worth, FL 33461
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at the heart of all his creations. Elements such as a pineapple motif side table, wall textures that included cement mixed with coral stone, and the finish of natural wood all came together to create the architect/designer's Caribbean style.

Also key to his success were the relationships he fostered with master stonemasons, furniture builders, tile makers, and metal craftsmen. Being true to the tropics was important to Messel, seen in the thick stucco walls, shutters that mimicked the color of the sea, and sweeping verandas. Large open courtyards with water fountains and sitting areas among the foliage looking toward the sea was also essential elements in each home, taking living seamlessly from indoor to outdoor.

CADENCE

Ageless yet classic, the

Jamaican students get book scholarships in U.S.

Four students of Jamaican heritage, who attend universities in Washington D.C. and Virginia areas of the United States, were recently selected to receive 2011 Professor Gordon Shirley Book Scholarships, awarded by the Washington-based Jamaica Nationals Association (JNA).

The recipients of this year's grants are Howard University medical student Kimberly Curtis, Virginia University hospitality management student Tressan Gordon, Racquel Layne, a University of the District of Columbia student studying homeland security, and Howard University student Mica Thompson.

SUPPORT

Jamaica's outgoing Ambassador to the U.S. Audrey Marks, in delivering the keynote address at the

annual student reception and book scholarship award recently, lauded the JNA for bringing together annually students of Jamaican heritage who are pursuing higher education at various institutions in Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland.

"Your organization continues to be the support system for these students who are away from home", Marks said.

She said the conceptualizing of the Gordon Shirley Scholarship Award, named after former U.S. Ambassador Shirley, now vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies, is an outstanding tribute to his advocacy, commitment as well as his outstanding contribution to the diaspora and his support for students of Jamaican heritage in their quest to further their education.

She told the students that JNA's recognition of their efforts to be intellectually capable leaders through the annual reception and book scholarship award is worthy of the highest commendation and that the Jamaican embassy salutes the executive and members of JNA for the judicious choice in helping students further their education.

Ambassador Marks challenged the JNA to award 50 scholarships in 2012 in recognition of Jamaica's 50th anniversary.

JNA President Claudette Henry said that since the inception of the scholarship award in 2007, the organization has awarded 20 book scholarships.

- Edited from JIS report.



MIND AND BODY: Yoga's spirit descends on Jamaica

DAWN A. DAVIS

Imagine balancing in tree pose while facing the azure blue Caribbean Sea.

Imagine emerging from savasana (corpse pose) to the soft sounds of the nyabingi drums calling you back to the present.

Last month's inaugural Caribbean Yoga Conference, on the sand, under the stars, overlooking the majestic mountains of Jamaica, turned imagination into reality.

More than 300 yogis from Jamaica, Brazil, St. John, Canada, Trinidad, British Columbia, Japan, and as far away as Russia, took to their mats to Hilton Rose Hall resort near Montego Bay in celebration of pranayama (breath), love, and meditation. The resort took on a completely different calm as yogis chanted the sacred incantation om, the universal call for peace, love and light.

Noted yoga instructors Sean Corn, Nadine McNeil, Gaia Budhai, Simon Park and Sharon Feanny came together to bring the practice to the Caribbean in a big way during the four-day conference.

SANGHA

The brainchild of

American Kimberly Moon, owner and founder of Bella Luna Yoga that blends yoga practice and resort vacations, the conference was a celebration of sun, sadhana (ego-transcending practice), sand, seva (selfless service) and sangha (community with a common goal).

"I travel to the Caribbean and consult with different resorts to help them develop yoga programs, themes and retreats," said Moon. "...I realized that something has to exist here, something has to happen down here to bring together the community, to foster and help expand the reach of what's already beginning to develop."

She explained that currently yoga practitioners in the Caribbean have to travel to the U.S. or other non-Caribbean destinations to attend conferences and workshops, which is often inaccessible and expensive. The tide is changing direction.

"Everybody has been so receptive in terms of supporting the process," Moon said. "...So I collaborated with them and listened to their ideas and thoughts about what they wanted to do and here we are."



Stretching to reach inner peace.

Moon believes strongly in giving something back to the community touched by the spirit of yoga.

"I feel that any community that we go into, whether it's into in the States, another country, or an island like this, there is always need," she said. "...So, I wanted to make sure there was a platform for actually putting things into action."

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirteen scholarship recipients from non-profit organizations throughout Kingston and Montego Bay received full conference admission, complementary rooms at the resort and literature and tools to take home for continued practice. Among them were councilors, social workers and teachers from SOS Children's Village; Roktowa, residency program for artists that teaches the creative arts to downtown Kingston youth; and Mary's Child, a home for pregnant teens and their babies. These Shakti Love Scholarships offered restorative transformation and unique tools to fellows who were new to yoga.

"It is very interesting exercise and very informative," said Carmen McNaughton, a social worker from SOS and a first-timer to yoga.

MEDITATION

Each day started with an hour-long meditation session, followed by two-hour sessions that took the mind and body through kundalina movements to awaken the chi (energy), reggae yoga to the syncopated beats of the music of Jamaica, journey dance, African inspired asanas (postures or positions) and workshops that focused on teaching children, sustainability and the earth, the Africa Project (bringing

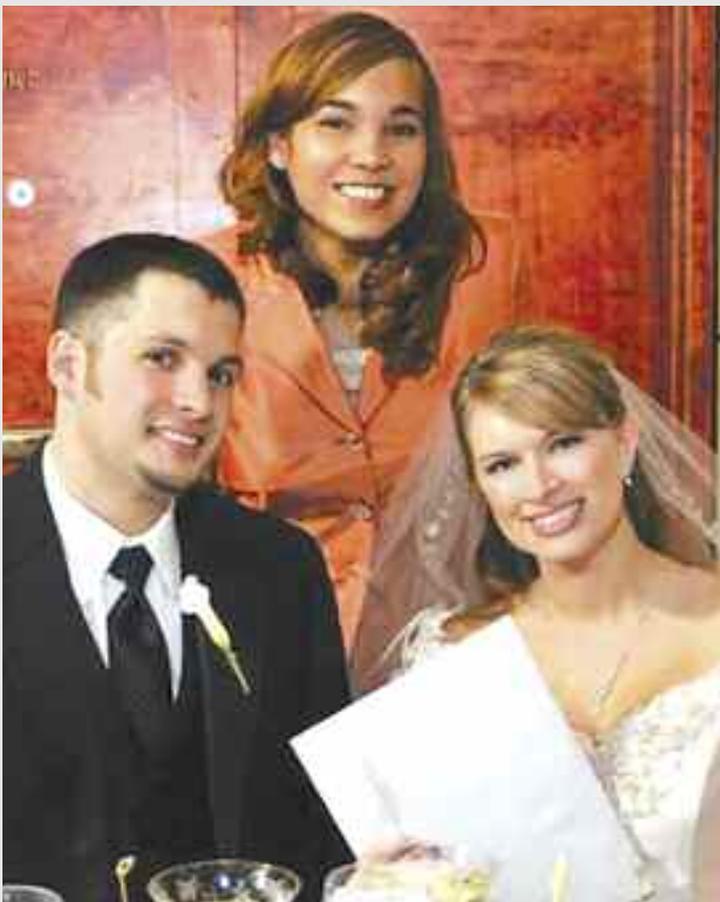
yoga to Africa), healing humanity, and living an inspired life one breath at a time.

Yogis also like to party, so

topping off each night with a bon fire sparkled beach party with the indie, reggae and kirt-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

BALTIMORE BLISS



- Photograph by Nizam Mohamed

Newlyweds Nick Stamathis, left, and Kristen Wrzesien, from Baltimore, Maryland in the United States, recently won a dream honeymoon package to the Caribbean courtesy of the Jamaica Tourist Board. Victoria Rogers, center, JTB's business development manager for the northeast region, presented the couple with the prize during the couple's wedding at the Pier 5 Hotel in Baltimore. They received thousands of votes from viewers as part of Fox 45 TV's "Wedding in a Week" promotion. The prize includes an all-inclusive six-day/five-night stay at the Jewel Dunn's River Beach Resort & Spa in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, plus roundtrip airfare from Baltimore. The Jamaica Tourist Board-sponsored promotion was also supported by Wedding Wire.com.

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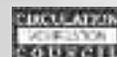
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FOODY'S PARADISE: Last lick in St. Croix, delightfully delicious

DAWN A. DAVIS

For a small island of approximately 55,000, St. Croix's wide array of tastes is impressive. So, topping off a trip to the amoeba-shaped isle with a last lick of Armstrong's Ice Cream is the perfect way to savor the array of culinary fare that reflects its multicultural population.

Just 28 miles long by seven miles wide, St. Croix is indeed a "foody's" paradise. It is the largest of the three islands that make up the United States Virgin Islands - St. John and St. Thomas the others. Its surprising culinary encounters complements tourism, the island's mainstay.

Celebrating the island's gastronomic arts, the 41st annual Agricultural and Food Fair last month showcased local-grown foods, provisions, herbs, fruits and the many tantalizing ways they can stimulate the taste buds. The three-day event, which drew massive crowds, put local and celebrity chefs onstage in a carnival atmosphere, featuring moko jumbies, indigenous



Fruits and seasonings spice up St. Croix.

music, dance, art, fashion and plenty to taste.

BELLY FULL

With neat rows of colorful vegetables, preserves, fruits, plants, and food stalls with mouth-watering johnny cakes, fungi (a semi-soft spiced cornmeal treat), roast goat, conch stew, broiled king fish, and veggie burger made from organic seeds, peas, carrots, potato, patrons left the fair with a belly full.

Some of the most popular

Cruzan dishes include a southern fried chicken dish from Blue Water Terrace, a quaint open-air restaurant with a New Orleans flavor overlooking the magnificent Caribbean Sea. Rivaling Blue Water's chicken is Reine Chicken Shack, a roadside spot with a cozy bar that offers a famous grilled chicken seasoned with a secret recipe.

Among the most unique eateries is Ploppy's, in historic Frederiksted, which offers organically sourced fruits and

vegetables. Befitting its multi-everything feel, St. Croix offers one of the best Italian restaurants. Tutto Bene entices with tasty bruschetta topped with local veggies, a delicious 'rasta pasta' (vegetarian of course), fish, seafood, and meat dishes flavored with locally-grown spices.

Cruzan rum is world-famous - from banana, guava, mango, coconut and citrus. Want to try them all? The bar at Divi Carina Bay All-Inclusive Beach Resort offers "Cruzan Confusion", a lively mix of rums and fruit juice. The sweet refreshing drink can be deceptive. Be careful too of the swashbuckler at the

Buccaneer Hotel's Mermaid Cafe, with its 'wicked' mix of champagne, lime and nuff Cruzan rum.

For a laid back, stress-free, meditative holiday full of herbal healing, massage, yoga and vegan fare, Kalima Wellness Center is the place.

POTPOURRI

So, what makes Cruzan fare such a potpourri of experiences? It could be the handful of countries that once colonized the island, among them France, England, Spain, Denmark, and finally the United States. Remnants of all these have left their mark on the traditions and culture of the largest of the three islands.

Even the closure of Hovensa, the largest oil refinery in the region and one of the largest in the world, has not dampened the people's spirit. The culinary arts is alive and well.

Look out for the St. Croix Food and Wine Experience set to entice world "foodies" come April 17.

Last lick has never been more delicious!

Story and photograph by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



MIND AND BODY: Yoga's spirit descends on Jamaica

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

tan fusion music of MC Yogi and local sensation Sezi completed the love circle.

Area residents were impressed.

"I think its a good thing that keeps you healthy and fit," said Donovan Carke of Montego Bay.

SKEPTICS

But, there are skeptics who question the motives of practitioners and the 'religion' of yoga.

"Most of these spiritual things end up in voodoo business that's how I feel about it," said Fitzroy Wilson, Jr. of nearby Content Gap. "...Too many new things coming in now. It might sound good, but if you can't reason within yourself, there is a problem."

The yogis have a different view.

"The practice is in your heart," said Moon. "...It's about tuning into what is this human body of mine, how does it work, am I breathing, am I aware of how I am treating other people."

In other words, the Caribbean Yoga Conference is about service, said Moon,

reaching out to those in need and getting practitioners off the mat and being of service to the community.



A participant balances in a tree pose.

Story and photographS by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



On August 6, 2012, the island of Jamaica marks the 50th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 50* - to be published in July 2012, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people.

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Miami workshops to help small businesses

The remaining two workshops in a series designed to help Miami-Dade County small and medium-sized enterprises cope with the challenges of international trade are scheduled for April and May.

The three-part "2012 Import/Export Workshop Series – Practical Tools for Trade", which kicked off last month, continues on **April 11** with a focus on "Importing Food Products: Complying with FDA and U.S. Customs Rules".

That workshop is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Miami International Airport Hotel, Concourse E, seventh floor conference center.

The final workshop, under the theme "Export Compliance for International Trade Professionals", will be held 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **May 23** at the same venue.

For registration information, call Adam Peters at 305-375-5420, or e-mail apeters@miamidade.gov.



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This year, we'll be paying more than ever for dinner.

Food prices jumped a whopping four to five percent in 2011 and are expected to continue rising in 2012, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

But you can have your chocolate cake and eat it, too, without breaking the bank, says Toni House, author of "Savvy Shopping: How to Reduce Your Weekly Grocery Bill to \$85 Per Week – or Less!" (www.SaveYourMoneySaveYourFamily.com).

A mom with executive-level experience in accounting and the restaurant industry, House offers these tips:

- **Be patient** – Wait for good deals. Save pricier purchases for double coupon days. If you're planning for a special occasion or celebration, save now so you can splurge a bit later.

- **Be detail-oriented** – There is a lot of fine print involved in being a savvy shopper, from expiration dates to special offers to asterisks. Know exactly when a coupon expires, how much it's for, how much more it will be worth on double coupon days and whether or not it's worth the price in the first place.

- **Plan ahead** – Plan a menu for at least three meals in advance; combined with leftovers; that should give you five days or more of meals, depending on the meal. This puts you in control of your shopping list; and not the other way around.

- **Instead of making expensive foods (meat) the centerpiece of each meal, design menus that use the most expensive foods less often** – For instance, from now on, at least twice a week, try using meat as more of a filler

than a main dish.

- **At the grocery store, buy only what you can eat** – That means no paper plates, toilet paper, plastic cups, toothbrushes, jar candles,



Patience can reduce shopping expenses.

greeting cards. Grocery store prices for non-food items are higher than you'll pay almost anywhere else.

- **Use coupons, but only for products you actually need** – Let's say you just bought twice as many hot dog buns as you needed last week and now you've run across a two-for-one coupon for...more hot dog buns? Do you really have room in your freezer for all those buns?

House's \$85-a-week budget does require tossing out some pricey products your family may have grown accustomed to (brand-name cereals, pre-packaged snack cakes) and changing the way you plan meals. But there are plenty of delicious, often healthier and less expensive substitutes.

- Edited from an article submitted by Toni House.

Use tax season to organize financial future

Many people are confused about what records they need to keep and for how long.

They hold onto tax returns, bank records, brokerage statements and other financial information simply because they don't know if they'll need it again.

Documents get packed in boxes that eventually take over valuable living or storage space.

Financial planner Rick Rodgers, author of "The New Three-Legged Stool: A Tax Efficient Approach To Retirement Planning" (www.TheNewThreeLeggedStool.com), says tax time is a great time to get organized.

"This is the time to get smart about what you need to keep and then set up a system to store it efficiently going forward," he says.

Rodgers suggests these five steps to help you effectively organize your finances for 2012 and beyond:

1. **Out with the old** – Discard the records you no longer need: Tax returns older than seven years; bank records and credit card statements that are not related to the tax returns you're keeping; brokerage statements that aren't related to purchases of current holdings. Be sure to shred all your old documents before throwing them out.

2. **Go digital** – Convert the documents you plan to save into digital images that are stored on your hard drive. Invest in a good scanner and scan as you go through your paperwork. On your computer, file by tax year, so your 2011 folder will contain your

tax return for 2011 and all pertinent bank records and receipts. Organize the previous six years the same way. Next year you can delete the oldest folder when you add the 2012 folder.

3. **Save a forest** – All of the financial institutions you deal with would prefer to send

written. Depending on your computer operating system, you may be able to continue adding data to a CD-R each year, until the CD is full. However, some operating systems won't allow that, so you'll need a new CD for each year.

5. **Go paperless** – Your



Computers have made it easier to go paperless when filing tax forms.

your statements electronically. Stop receiving paper statements. Instead, download your statements electronically and store them in your new filing system. Most banks and credit card companies keep at least a year's worth of statements available. You need to download these files only once a year to complete the year's file.

4. **Save backups in case of emergency** – Make backup copies of your files on a CD. Choose a CD-R (recordable) as opposed to a CD-RW (rewriteable), because CD-R cannot accidentally be over-

new electronic filing system can be expanded to include all your financial records, from car maintenance receipts to pay stubs. Wills and insurance policies can also be scanned and stored but, of course, keep the originals of those in a safe deposit box or fireproof safe.

Edited from an article submitted by certified financial planner Rick Rodgers, president of Rodgers & Associates, "The Retirement Specialists", in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Successful Caribbean Women In Business



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

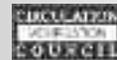
Join Caribbean Today as we showcase these hard working women from the Caribbean who have left their mark on the business community in South Florida.

If you would like to nominate someone please send your nominees to editor@caribbeantoday.com or peter.webley@caribbeantoday.com

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Miami International records fastest growth among U.S. airports in 2011

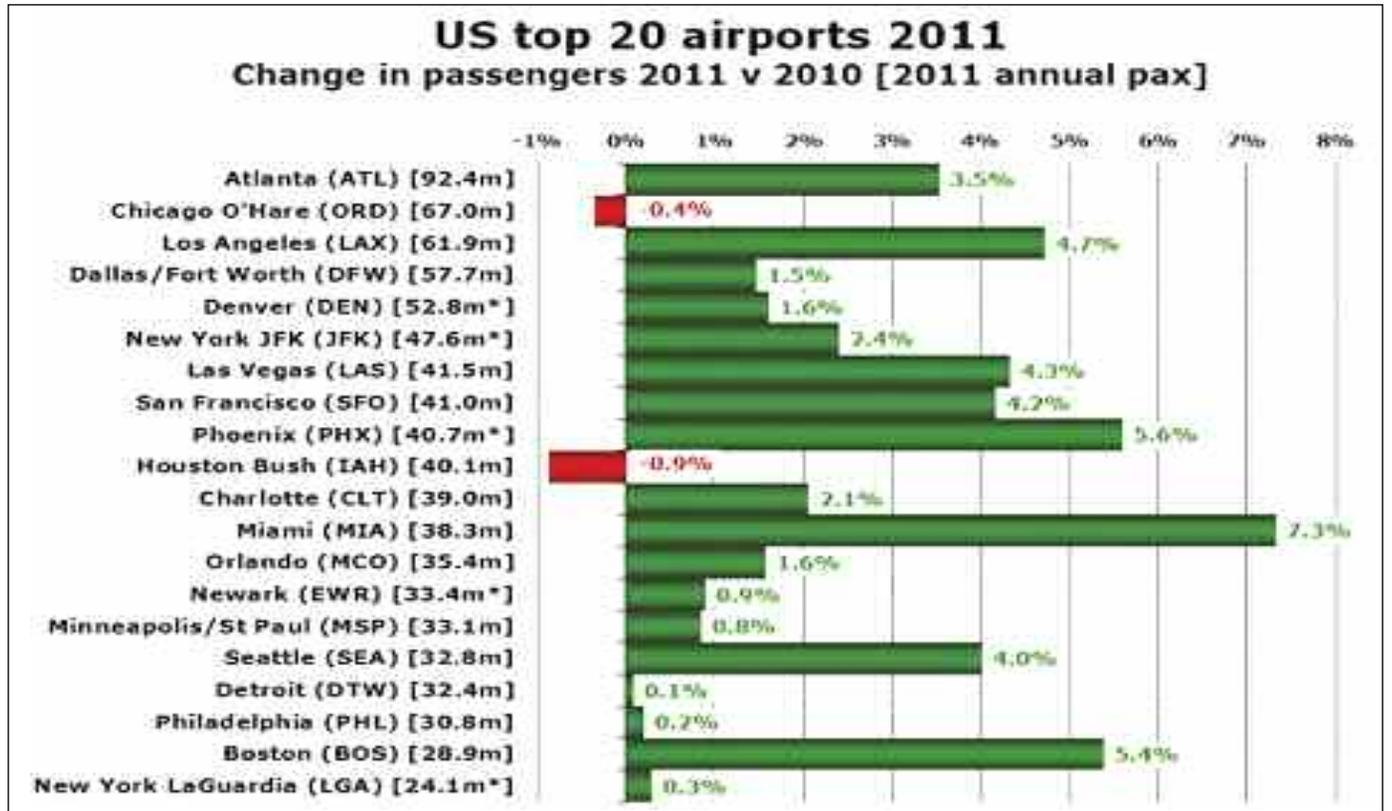
Miami International Airport (MIA) grew the fastest of the top 20 airports in the United States last year, with traffic up by 7.3 percent.

Traffic data collected by anna.aero in 2011 for the top 20 airports in the U.S. revealed that between them passenger numbers grew by an estimated 2.5 percent in 2011. From that group, only two (Chicago O'Hare and Houston Bush) failed to record year-on-year growth, while only MIA recorded passenger growth of more than six percent.

CHANGING RANKS

In terms of ranking, Houston Bush dropped from seventh to 10th. As a result, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Phoenix have all moved up a place. Further down, Seattle-Tacoma has overtaken Detroit for 16th place.

Among airports ranked between 21st and 30th, growth was on average under two percent, with Chicago Midway (up 6.8 percent) reporting the highest growth, and two airports (San Diego and Washington Dulles) reporting modest declines in traffic.



Florida State College student gets scholarship

A student attending Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)

is the latest recipient of the Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial Scholarship award-

ed by the shipping company. Crowley Maritime Corporation granted the schol-

arship to Al'Tonya Anderson for her strong academic record, interest in a career focused on safety and financial need.

Anderson, a junior year pursuing a bachelor's degree in public safety management and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, received \$1,500 for the spring semester.

"I greatly appreciate the opportunity to receive the Crowley scholarship," she said. "This is going to be such a huge help in achieving my goal."

FUNDING

Since 1984, Crowley has provided more than \$500,000 in scholarship funding for more than 200 students studying at maritime academies and other select institutions in the United

States and Central America. In 1994, Tom Crowley Jr., the company's president and chief executive officer, established the Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program in honor of his father. He has also donated more than \$2 million to support other educational programs.

To learn more about the Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial Scholarship program, visit www.crowley.com/scholarships.

Jacksonville, Florida-based Crowley Holdings Inc., a holding company of the 120-year-old Crowley Maritime Corporation, is a privately held family and employee-owned company.

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

PortMiami container traffic grows, cruise passengers top four million

PortMiami reported containerized cargo movements were up seven percent in fiscal year 2010-2011, with a total of 906,607 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) moving through the port during the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2011.

The result is that PortMiami continues to rank as the number one container port in the state of Florida.

"We are extremely pleased with our performance," Port Director Bill Johnson told more than 1,200 business and civic leaders who participated in the recent annual State of the Ports Briefing at the Miami Airport Convention Center.

"The seven percent increase in container volumes follows a five percent growth the previous year - solid performances in view of the ongoing uncertainties in the global economy."

Johnson joined Miami International Airport Director Jose Abreu in updating the community on developments in the maritime and aviation industries - Miami-Dade County's largest economic engines.

CRUSING ALONG

Meanwhile, 2011, for the fourth year in a row, four mil-

lion plus cruise vacationers traveled through PortMiami - more than any other port in the world.

"No other cruise port in the world comes close to matching our passenger traffic," Johnson said.

Johnson also said the port is adding three additional cruise lines, including Regent Seven Seas Cruise Lines, MSC Cruises, and Disney Cruise Line. Additionally, the port will welcome three new-build ships this year. The ships - now under construction in Europe - are the Celebrity Reflection, the Carnival Breeze and the Oceania Riviera.

"These new cruise ships will rank among the most exciting and innovative in the world adding to our already distinguished galaxy of cruise vessels," Johnson said.

"Globally only four new ships will be introduced in the U.S. this year - and three will



PortMiami is loading up on business, in both cargo and cruise shipping.

come here to PortMiami."

CARGO

Johnson also noted that over the last several years PortMiami has outperformed many large container ports in the U.S. due in part to the strength of Latin American economies. More than 50 percent of its trade is with South and Central American nations.

"The strength of the Latin American economies continues to benefit our port," he said. "Known worldwide as the Gateway to the Americas, PortMiami continues to grow as a logistical hub linking North and South America."

Johnson said that PortMiami has set an ambitious goal to double its cargo traffic over the next decade.

"Today, the state of Florida ranks number four in the U.S. for trade, but we can be number one," Johnson said. "Thanks to our trio of infrastructure projects - the port tunnel, on-port rail and the Deep Dredge - we are well-positioned to capture new trade with Asian markets."

He expects the growth pattern to increase significantly once the expanded Panama Canal opens in 2014 and trade patterns shift in favor of Atlantic ports, which meet depth requirements to accommodate the new, super-sized cargo vessels. PortMiami is scheduled to be at the required 50 feet depth to handle Post-Panamax ships at the

same time the canal expansion is completed.

"As the closest U.S. port to the canal, PortMiami will be the first port of call out of Panama for shippers seeking

all-water routes to East Coast markets," Johnson said. "This is our big win - but we must deepen our channel to a depth of 50 feet."



Grenadian chocolate aims to make pioneering shipping journey to N.Y.

NEW YORK - This spring, Mott Green, founder of the Grenada Chocolate Company, a Grenada-based tree-to-bar organic chocolate cooperative, will set out on a pioneering voyage to become the first chocolate maker to ship a mass quantity of chocolate sustainably.

Green has teamed up with Netherlands-based shipping company FairTransport to ship five tons of his organic dark chocolate from Grenada to New York City; Portsmouth, England; and Amsterdam on the trade wind-powered sailing vessel Brigantine Tres Hombres. The voyage, scheduled for this month and April, will mark the first ever carbon-neutral trans-Atlantic mass chocolate delivery.

Green, a former New Yorker who moved to Grenada in 1988 and founded the Grenada Chocolate Company in 1999, has built his own insulated cool room, powered solely by wind and sun, for the ship's cargo hold. He will store

five tons of his dark chocolate bars in the cool room and sail on the Tres Hombres as one of 10 trainees, monitoring the cooling system throughout the trip.

WIND POWERED

The Brigantine Tres Hombres is a 32 meter, 165 ton brigantine square-rigged sailboat that can hold up to 30 tons of cargo. The boat has no engine and follows the trade winds across the Atlantic. The crew of five is due to pick up Green and his chocolate from Grenada early this month and deliver the first batch of chocolate to New York City's Hudson River Park Pier 25 in early April (the exact date of arrival will depend on the trade winds).

Green is also the subject of Kum-Kum Bhavnani's new documentary film "Nothing Like Chocolate", which premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival last month.



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

MIA welcomes new Interjet low-cost carrier service

The inaugural flight by low-cost carrier Interjet from Mexico City to Miami International Airport (MIA) on February 23 was welcomed by officials from the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and the airline, with other local dignitaries and celebrities also in attendance.

The flight to MIA also received a water cannon salute from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. The six-year-old airline now provides daily non-stop service between Mexico City and MIA with Airbus A320 aircraft that seats 150 passengers.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to tour the plane and view its unique features, which include a private restroom for women; a "nose camera" in every seat that enables passengers to experience the pilot's live view from the cockpit during departure and landing; and, according to Interjet, more legroom than any other Mexican airline.

Cutting the ribbon at the inaugural ceremony for Interjet service at MIA are, from left, William D. Talbert,



president and chief executive officer of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau; Miguel Southwell, Miami-Dade Aviation

Department's (MDAD) deputy director; Ken Pyatt, MDAD deputy director; actress Lily Estefan; Emilio Estefan, producer and actor;

Miguel Aleman Velasco, chairman of the board of Directors at Interjet; Miguel Aleman Magnani, executive chairman of Interjet; former

Major League Baseball player Sammy Sosa; and actor Raúl de Molina.





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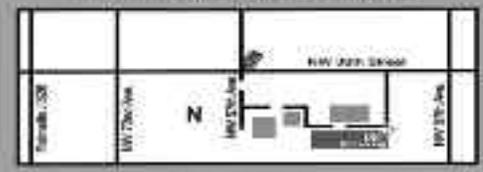
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Caribbean American women at risk for elevated mercury levels ~ study

NEW YORK - A new study has found that Caribbean women are at a higher risk for elevated levels of mercury in the blood.

The study, conducted by researchers at the School of Public Health at State University of New York

(SUNY) and published in the Journal of Environmental Monitoring, found the increased levels of mercury in pregnant women from dietary sources, such as large fish.

"Prenatal mercury exposure and its fetotoxic effects may be of particular concern

in urban immigrant communities as a result of possible contributing cultural factors", the study noted.

"The most common source of exposure in these communities is ingestion of fish and shellfish contaminated with methyl mercury".

The study found that other sources of exposure may occur in ritualistic practices associated with Hispanic and Caribbean-based religions.

FISH INTAKE

The study assessed total mercury levels in both random urine specimens from pregnant women, and in cord blood, and examined environmental sources of exposure from a convenience sample in a predominantly Caribbean immigrant population in Brooklyn.

A questionnaire, designed in collaboration with health professionals from the Caribbean community, assessed the frequency

of fish consumption, ritualistic practices, occupational exposures, and use of dental amalgams and mercury-containing skin and household products.

The study found that 16 percent of cord blood mercury levels exceeded the estimated equivalent of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Reference Dose. The researchers found that there were no reports of mercury use in ritualistic practices or in cosmetics. However, it found that some women reported use of religious medals and charms.

- Edited from CMC.

Miami-Dade highlights women's contribution this month

The accomplishments of Miami-Dade County's women will be on display in March in observance of Women's History Month.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women is installing a display in the first floor lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Center, in downtown Miami, Florida, which focuses on the theme "Women First - Miami Women Who Led the Way". The display highlights Miami women who were first in their field or profession or who otherwise were "first" in

the area local history.

At noon Mar. 6, the Commission for Women will hold a ceremony at the lobby display to showcase the display and recognize some of the women "living legends" who are featured in the exhibit.

The Stephen P. Clark Center is located at 111 N.W. First St.

The Commission for Women falls within the purview of Miami-Dade's Office of Community Advocacy, a division of the Chair's Office. It was created

in 1971 as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners, the county administration and the public about issues pertaining to the status of women. The commission also advocates for women in the community and strives to improve their quality of life.

For more information, call the commission at 305-375-4967, e-mail Morilla@miamidade.gov; or visit www.miamidade.gov/cfw.

Focus on business, health in Broward County

The Broward County Library in South Florida has scheduled several events during March to celebrate Women's History Month.

- Among the highlights are:
- A Black National

HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Workshop at 10:30 a.m. Mar. 10. Call 954-624-5213.

- Study group focusing on the book Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing by Joy Degruy Leary

at 2 p.m. Mar. 10 and 24. Call 954-357-5950.

- The Ultimate Business Seminar, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mar. 12 and 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mar. 13. Call 954-714-6607.

- National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Day, 5 p.m. Mar. 12, offers a look at HIV/AIDS and its effect on black women. Call 954-624-5213.

BRIEFS

• Etiquette, quilting, poetry workshops

The Miami-Dade County Public Library System has planned a series of events to celebrate March as Women's History Month, including "Etiquette for Teens" and quilting workshops, plus "The Big Read" focusing on American poet Emily Dickenson.

For more information about these events, call 305-375-2665 or visit www.mdpls.org.

• Miami to honor outstanding women

Miami-Dade County's outstanding women leaders will be honored during the 24th annual "In the Company of Women Awards" ceremony on Mar. 21 at the Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Ave. in Coral Gables.

For more information, contact Laura Morilla, executive director,

Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, at 305-375-4967 or morilla@miamidade.gov.

• Sisterhood of Support in Guyana

Stella Ramsaroop, women's issues columnist for Stabroek News, has launched Stella's Sisterhood of Support and Service (S4) Foundation to promote development of sisterhood in Guyana through the S4 Foundation and create a network of women who are committed to helping and supporting other women in the CARICOM country.

The S4 Foundation can be found at www.S4Foundation.org. Also visit the website or send an e-mail to Stella@S4Foundation.org.

- Compiled from various sources.



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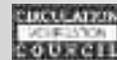
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SPORT



Blake bound for New York Grand Prix on June 9

World champion Yohan Blake of Jamaica has been confirmed to race in the 100 meters at the adidas Grand Prix meet set for June 9 in the United States.

The 22-year-old Blake, who successfully anchored a couple events for his track club at the Gibson Relays late last month in Jamaica to open his season, is anticipating an exciting time in New York.

"The Gibson Relays...were a great start for my 2012 season, he said. "I am already looking forward to that fast track in New York City on June 9th."



Blake

Blake won the 100 meters title at the World Championships in Athletics last year in Daegu, South

Korea. He competed at the New York Grand Prix meet in 2007 as a schoolboy, anchoring his St. Jago team to victory in the 4x400 meters high school relay. He also competed in the 100 meters at the 2009 and 2010 events.

He is currently ranked number one in the world in the 100 meters.

Caribbean gathers support for top CONCACAF post

Jamaica's soccer chief Captain Horace Burrell says he will support Cayman Islands FA head Jeff Webb for the presidency of CONCACAF, effectively ruling himself out of the running for the top post.

Burrell is a senior member of the confederation that governs soccer in North, Central American and Caribbean and he was once in line to contest the race for the presidency. However, he was hit with a three-month ban by the world game's governing body FIFA for his role in the cash-for-votes scandal which rocked the



Burrell

region last year.

"It is very important (for someone from the Caribbean

Football Union to lead CONCACAF)...and having a Caribbean person as head of CONCACAF would always be a great help to the enhancement of football throughout the region," Burrell told the **Jamaica Observer** newspaper in explaining his support for Webb.

CONCACAF will elect a new president on May 23 as it seeks to rebuild following the resignation of former football strongman Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago last year.

Narine is Windies' best ~ Sammy

West Indies cricket captain Darren Sammy has described wily off-spinner Sunil Narine of Trinidad and Tobago as the best bowler in the Caribbean at the moment.

Sammy was speaking after Narine destroyed the

Windward Islands with a match haul of 10 wickets for 127 runs, to set up a win for T&T in their fourth round Regional Four-Day match last month.

"Narine is really bowling well at the moment and he is the best bowler we have in the region at the moment," Sammy said.

Narine has emerged as a serious threat over the last year, especially after bowling superbly in the Regional Super50 last October to finish with 15 wickets at a miserly average of just under 12 runs each.

'True Blue Weekend' Mar. 16-18

Three prominent Jamaican high school alumni associations will

stage a weekend of soccer and fun this month in South Florida.

The St. Andrew Old Girls' Association Florida Inc., St. George's College Old Boys Association of Florida, Inc. and the Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida, Inc. (JCOBAFL) will stage their eighth annual "True Blue Weekend" **Mar. 16-18.**

The "True Blue Weekend" is an expansion from the annual Ziadie Cup soccer match between the St. George's College Old Boys and the Jamaica College Old Boys.

"This True Blue Weekend offers Jamaican alumni in South Florida an opportunity to rekindle relationships with their classmates and high school friends from Jamaica," said Xavier Murphy, president of the JCOBAFL, in a recent press release.

"The friendly soccer match allows us to honor the memory of coach Dennis Ziadie, who coached both boys' schools to Manning Cup victories."

This year will mark the 26th anniversary of Ziadie's

death in an automobile accident in Mexico at the 1986 World Cup.

ACTIVITIES

"True Blue Weekend" festivities include:

- "True Blue Party" starting 8 p.m. Mar. 16 at The Pavilion at The Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church, 2801 N. University Dr, Pembroke Pines.

- Ziadie Cup – Jamaica College Alumni vs. St. George's College Alumni Soccer Match, between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. Mar. 17 at the Ansin Sports Complex, 10801 Miramar Blvd., Miramar.

- True Blue Brunch between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mar. 18 at Irie Isle Jamaican Restaurant, 1480 S.W. 101st Terr. (Palm Avenue), Pembroke Pines.

For more information, visit <http://www.truebluweekend.com> or the Facebook Fan Page <http://www.facebook.com/truebluweekend>.

Caribbean hunts spots in girls U-17 soccer W.C.

MIAMI BEACH, Florida – Caribbean sides The Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are now aware of the teams they will face in the first of the CONCACAF Under-17 girls' championship from **May 2 to 12.**

Jamaica has been drawn in Group A of the tournament, along with Panama,

host Guatemala and defending champion Canada.

Last month's draw placed the Bahamians and T&T in Group B with the United States and Mexico. The full schedule for the event at Estadio Cementos Progreso.

The third edition of the championship will decide CONCACAF's three berths for the Under-17 girls' World

Cup in Azerbaijan from Sept. 22 to Oct. 13.

The CONCACAF will be the first appearance in the CONCACAF Under-17 girls' finals for both The Bahamas and Guatemala, which hosted the Under-20 girls' championship two years ago.

Reggae Boyz beat New Zealand in soccer friendly

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, CMC – Jamaica's Reggae Boyz held off a late challenge from New Zealand to come away with a 3-2 win in their friendly international soccer match late last month at the Mount Smart Stadium here.

Xavian Virgo opened the scoring six minutes before the half-time break before Tramaine Stewart doubled Jamaica's lead eight minutes after resumption.

The hosts hit back through Chris Wood just two

minutes later in the 55th minute, but Navion Boyd restored Jamaica's two-goal cushion in the 77th. Chris Killen scored two minutes from the final whistle to make things interesting, but Jamaica easily held on to come away with the positive result.

Ryan Nelson, New Zealand captain who plays for Tottenham Hotspurs in the

English Premier League, praised Jamaica's performance.

"You could tell Jamaica have had games under their belt," said Nelson. "They looked sharper."

Jamaica and New Zealand are preparing to play qualifiers for places in the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

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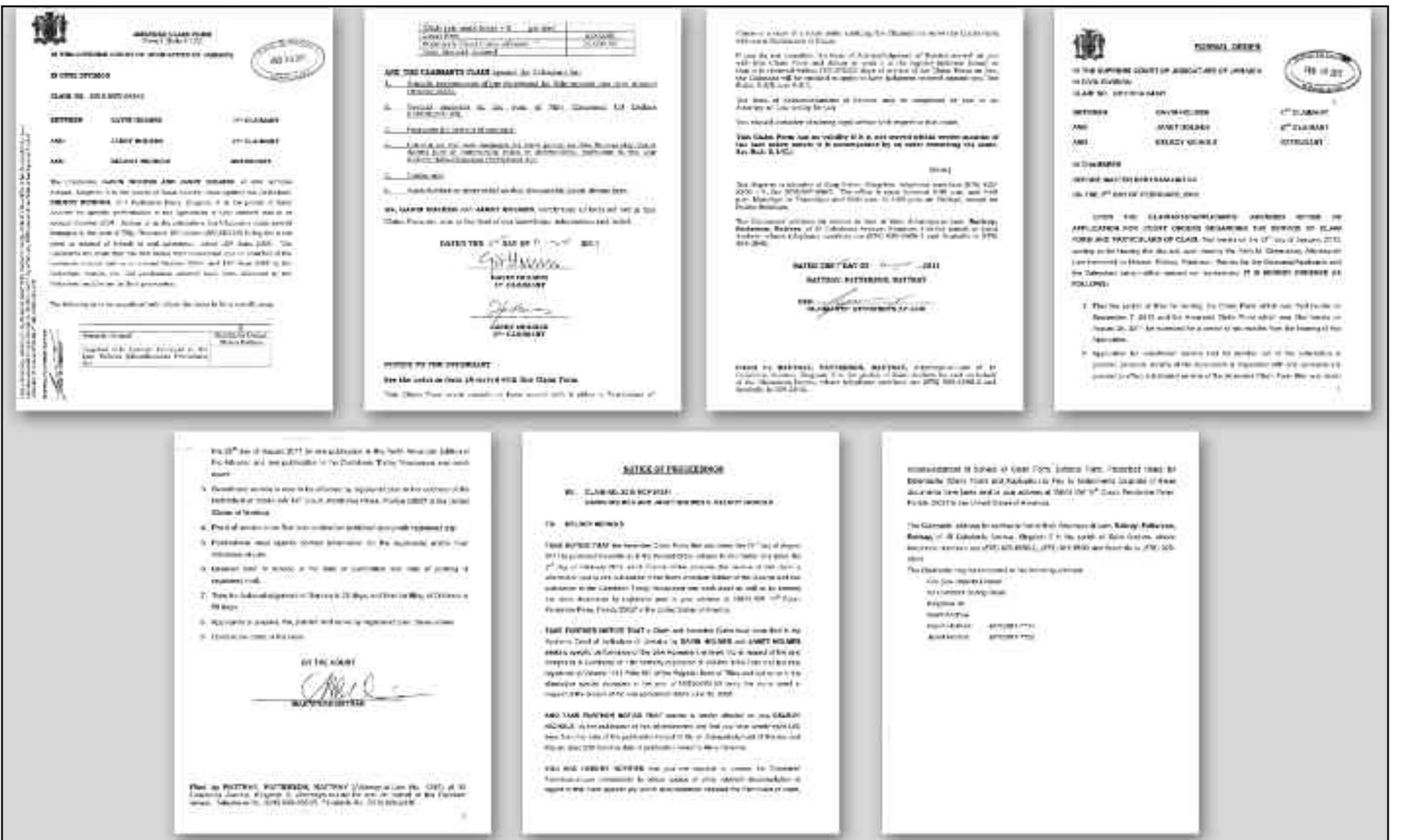
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Caribbean delights make mag's Top 10 list of world's national dishes



Ackee and dumpling

Two of the Caribbean's favorite meals have become popular with residents and are forming part of the country's identity, while becoming an essential experience for visitors.

Those are among the reasons Jamaica's ackee and saltfish, plus coo coo and flying fish from Barbados, were selected second and third, respectively, on **National Geographic's** Top 10 list of national dishes.

The magazine's book "Food Journeys of a Lifetime" listed United States' hamburgers its top choice.

Ackee was described as a "nutritious fruit with a but-

tery-nut flavor" which has overcome its "unhappy origins as slave food" to be "reclaimed" by Jamaicans "as part of their national dish".

Ackee resembles "scrambled egg when boiled", according to the book. "Jamaicans sauté the boiled ackee with saltfish (salt-cured cod), onions and tomatoes", it added. Bammy (deep-fried cassava cakes) and fried plantains are sometimes served with the dish.

Coo-coo and flying fish was described as a polenta-like cornmeal and okra porridge. "Coo-coo pairs perfectly with flying fish, which is either steamed with lime juice,

spices, and vegetables or fried and served with a spicy sauce", the book noted.

According to the book, "although the origins of the hamburger are disputed, there is no argument over the popularity of this classic dish", which is common in the U.S.

RUNNERS-UP

Also listed in the Top 10 are:

- **Bulgogi, Korea**

- A dish of thinly sliced, prime cuts of meat marinated in a mixture of soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, onions, ginger, sugar and wine and then grilled. It is often eaten wrapped in lettuce or spinach leaves and accompanied by kimchi (fermented vegetable pickle).

- **Kibbeh, Lebanon/Syria**

- A versatile confection of ground lamb, bulgur, and seasonings...often fried in torpedo or patty shapes, baked, boiled, or stuffed, but is tastiest raw.

- **Goulash, Hungary** - A "stew of beef, vegetables, red onions and spices".

- **Wiener schnitzel,**

Austria - "A dish of pounded veal cutlets breaded and lightly fried...Austrians typically eat wiener schnitzel garnished with parsley and lemon slices, alongside potato salad".

- **Pot-au-Feu, France** - "A warming, fragrant dish of stewing steak, root vegetables and spices. Traditionally,

for those who could afford little beef. Today, the two are usually eaten together alongside gravy-soaked roast potatoes, vegetables, and horseradish sauce".

- **Irish Stew, Ireland**

Originally a thick broth of slow-boiled mutton with onions, potatoes, and parsley,



Coo coo and flying fish

cooks sieve the broth and serve it separately from the meat".

- **Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, England** - "Puddings originally served as fillers before the main course

Irish stew nowadays often incorporates other vegetables, such as carrots, and many cooks brown the mutton first.



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