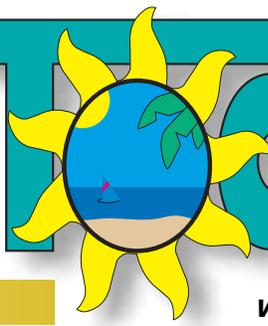


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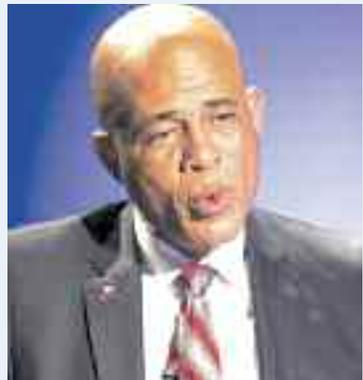
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Vol. 23 No. 6

THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



The United States has lowered some immigrant visa processing fees and immediate relative and family preference and employment-based applicants are among the big winners, page 5.

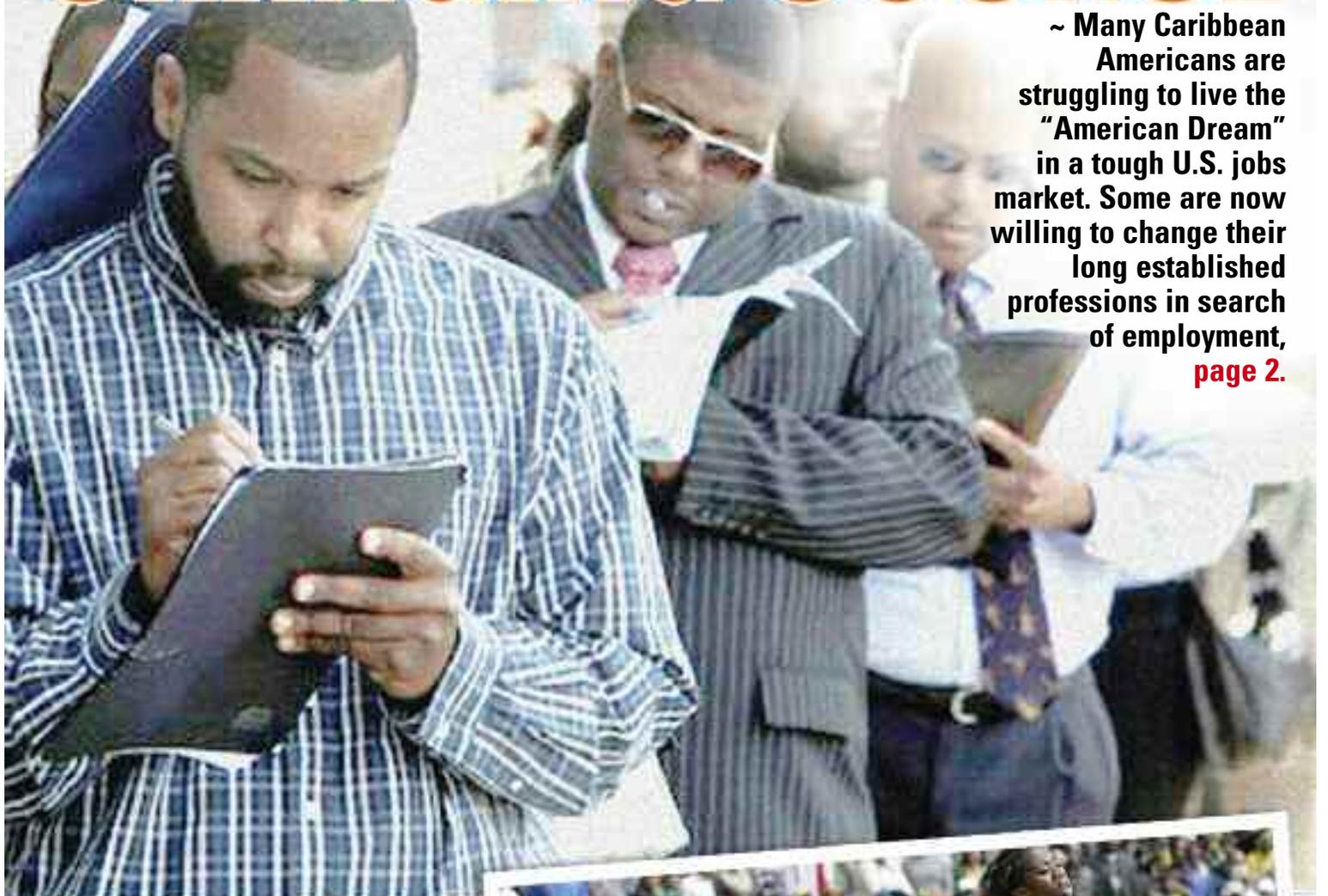


Haiti's President Michel Martelly is among Caribbean leaders who have shown willingness to co-operate with the United States in security and drug trade matters. Despite the progress, however, the U.S. still has room for concern, page 7.



Not just another musical history documentary, "Marley The Definitive Story" takes the path not followed by earlier film productions, highlighting late reggae superstar Robert Nesta Marley's personal tale, page 11.

## CHANGING COURSE



~ Many Caribbean Americans are struggling to live the "American Dream" in a tough U.S. jobs market. Some are now willing to change their long established professions in search of employment, page 2.

## RED HOT RIVALRY

~ Caribbean athletes took on their American counterparts at the international and school levels during the 118th staging of the prestigious Penn Relays late last month in Philadelphia. The rivalry offered a peak of what's to come at this summer's Olympics, page 18.



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# CHANGING COURSE: Caribbean Americans explore options in tough U.S. jobs market

**DAWN A. DAVIS**

While some Caribbean Americans are still struggling to live the “American Dream”, many are exploring different careers in the United States as others plan to return to their native homes, even as a recent uptick in the U.S. labor market suggests an improving U.S. economy and better times ahead.

Increasing employment numbers usually means manufacturers and the service industry are hiring and those joining payrolls have more money to help stimulate the economy. These indicators may also stimulate investment, key to a healthy economic environment.

According to statistics from the Department of Labor, the U.S. continues to add jobs each month. However, the 120,000 gained in March was a lower number than each of the previous three months, when an aver-

age of 246,000 were hired. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 8.2 percent, unchanged from the prior month.

Among the industries gaining the most jobs in March were leisure and hospitality at 37,000; manufacturing, which also picked up 37,000 jobs; professional and business services at 31,000; and healthcare at 26,000. However, employment in the retail trade fell by 34,000.

**STRUGGLE**

Although the numbers are generally trending positively, some in the Caribbean American community are still struggling to carve out their piece of the American pie. Many are exploring drastic options. Sharon Bookal, a South Florida native of Caribbean descent, lost her job as an interior design executive in a large Florida-based agency at the beginning of the economic meltdown a few years ago. She worked as a



The recent downturn in the American economy has magnified the job search.

consultant for a few months, but the contracts eventually dried up. She is pursuing career options.

“Going back to school

and getting my nursing license is not just about learning” said Bookal. “It will also give me credibility and make me more marketable.”

She didn’t abandon her previous job after developing a distaste for it. It’s just that the industry is still reeling from lower consumer demand and continuing job loss.

“Leaving interior design was not a choice,” explained Bookal, who worked as a registered nurse years ago, but gave it up to pursue her passion for design.

“It happened because of the downturn in the economy. In fact, people are still losing their jobs in the industry or giving up their businesses and going into other fields, which is what I did.”

**OPTIONS**

Bookal is taking online courses. She believes the nursing sector is one of the best options for future employ-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

## ICE captures ‘most wanted’ Jamaican fugitive in nationwide U.S. immigration operation

WASHINGTON, D.C., CMC – United States immigration authorities say they have captured a Jamaican fugitive in a major nationwide operation.

As part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) “ongoing commitment to prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens and egregious immigration law violators,” the agency said that Carlington David Richards, 34, a national of Jamaica, “is a recent border entrant and an international fugitive from justice.”

ICE said Richards is wanted in Jamaica for murder.

“ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) officers received an INTERPOL lead, which subsequently led to his capture,” it said, adding “he was placed into ICE custody pending removal proceedings.”

**‘CROSS CHECK’**

ICE said Richards’ arrest was part of a six-day national “Cross Check” enforcement operation where more than 3,100 convicted criminal immigrants and fugitives were held.

“The results of this targeted enforcement operation underscore ICE’s ongoing

commitment and focus on the arrest and removal of convicted criminal aliens and those that game our nation’s immigration system,” said ICE Director John Morton.

“Because of the tireless efforts and teamwork of ICE officers and agents in tracking down criminal aliens and fugitives, there are 3,168 fewer criminal aliens and egregious immigration law violators in our neighborhoods across the country,” he added.

Morton said the six-day operation, the largest of its kind, involved the collaboration of more than 1,900 ICE officers and agents from all of ICE’s ERO 24 field offices.

He said ICE also received assistance from US federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

**ALL STATES**

Morton said the arrests occurred in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. He said ERO officers arrested 2,834 individuals who had prior criminal convictions, including at least 1,063 immi-

grants, who had “multiple criminal convictions.”

Of those arrested, Morton said 1,477 had felony convictions including murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon, armed robbery, terroristic threats, drug trafficking, child abuse, battery on a child, sexual crimes against minors, and aggravated assault.

He said of the total 2,834 criminal immigrants arrested, 50 were gang members, and 149 were convicted sex offenders. In addition to being convicted criminals, Morton said 698 of those arrested were also immigration fugitives, “who had previously been ordered to leave the country but failed to depart.”

Additionally, he said 559 were “illegal re-entrants,” who had been previously removed from the country.

Apart from Richards, Morton did not identify the nationalities of Caribbean immigrants arrested in the sweep nor did he reveal the number of Caribbean nationals detained.

“ICE is focused on smart, effective immigration enforcement that targets serious criminal aliens who present the greatest risk to the security of our communities, such as those charged with or convicted of homicide, rape, robbery, kidnapping, major drug offenses and threats to national security,” Morton said.

*Edited from CMC.*

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**Publix.**

## No solution to outstanding U.S., Antigua Internet gaming dispute

CARTAGENA, Colombia – Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer has expressed disap-



Spencer

pointment that the United States has not done enough to settle a long outstanding Internet gaming dispute with Antigua and Barbuda.

Spencer met with the U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk on the issue while here last month, but expressed disappointment that, although the case was first adjudicated in 2003, Antigua and Barbuda and the U.S. are yet to find a “mutually agreeable solution to settle the case.”

He said Antigua and Barbuda had put forward several options to settle the case but that “there has been no fairness in the proposals received from the United States to date.

“Antigua and Barbuda’s Internet gaming sector has been decimated by the actions

of the United States, and we believe that we must be fairly compensated for those losses,” Spencer said.

### ‘GOOD OFFICES’

In an effort to bring a fresh perspective to the case, Spencer said he urged the U.S. representative to accept Antigua and Barbuda’s recent proposal to take advantage of a “good offices” mediation effort by the World Trade Organization (WTO) director general.

Spencer said Kirk acknowledged that a solution to the case had been elusive, but assured him that “the United States remained committed to working with Antigua and Barbuda in finding a solution to the case.”

The Antiguan leader said Kirk “expressed the willingness of his office to review the latest proposal from Antigua and Barbuda and to hold further discussions with Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador in Washington, D.C. over the next few days so that a strategy for further action could be discussed.”

In 2005, the WTO ruled that the U.S. had violated international trade agreements by prohibiting operation of offshore Internet gambling sites. Antigua claimed that it has lost \$3.4 billion a year due to the U.S. action, but the WTO ultimately awarded \$21 million in damages against the U.S.

- Edited from CMC.



## PORTIA ON U.S. TOUR



- Photograph by Sharon Bennett

Jamaica’s Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, left, receives a proclamation from Sophia Jones, special assistant to the Brooklyn Borough president during her visit to New York late last month. Simpson Miller attended several engagements in New York and Pennsylvania while in the United States. The prime minister was the recipient of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Persons Award at a reception at the Lincoln Center in New York. She also addressed Jamaicans at a town hall meeting held at the Lennox Road Baptist Church in Brooklyn and on April 28 attended the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before returning to Jamaica the following day.

## U.S. sorry over arrest of St. Vincent diplomat

Susan Rice, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, has expressed regret over the arrest of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves by an officer of the New York Police Department.

Gonsalves was reportedly handcuffed by an overzealous New York City cop on Mar. 28

after he stepped out of his official car and went through a barricade in front of the Vincentian mission building in midtown Manhattan.

Rice, who is a member of Cabinet of the U.S. government, visited Gonsalves at his office in the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the U.N. last month, the first time that a Cabinet-level U.S. official vis-

ited the Vincentian mission.

### APPRECIATION

Rice informed Gonsalves, during the 30-minute meeting, that the New York Police Department (NYPD) would undertake a thorough internal examination of what took place on Mar. 28. Diplomatic agents have immunity from arrest or detention in the exercise of their functions.

Rice said she intended to discuss the incident with both CARICOM and the 33-member Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, which sent formal letters of protest to the U.S. mission in solidarity with Gonsalves.

The CARICOM Consular Corps in New York slammed the NYPD following the arrest, calling it “a pattern of conflict developing between the NYPD and the Caribbean community.”

- Edited from News Americas.



Gonsalves

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## No Mega Millions for Haitian woman

MARYLAND - Lottery officials said last month that all the winners of the biggest lotto in the United States history have claimed their prizes, ending claims by a Haitian woman that she had a \$218.6 million Mega Millions ticket.



Wilson

They said a trio of public school employees claimed their share of the \$656 Mega Millions prize.

Mirlande Wilson, the Haitian-born McDonald's employee, had claimed she had won part of the lottery, but her story changed last month when she said that she had lost her ticket.

"I did not make up no story to get no attention," she told reporters, even as her

lawyer said he was unsure whether or not she had won.

### 'TRUE WINNERS'

Maryland Lottery Director Stephen Martino told reporters last month that "these are the only winners," without identifying them.

"We're just glad the true winners had the ticket. I don't know why someone would claim one of the largest jackpots in the history of the world (and not have the ticket)," Martino said, adding "but people have their own way of doing things."

Martino said the winners, who elected to remain anonymous, all had a good laugh as Wilson's tale unraveled.

The other winning tickets in the record-breaking draw were sold in Illinois and Kansas.



## U.S. hospital releases Haiti's president after treatment for blood clot in his lung

MIAMI, Florida - Haiti's President Michel Martelly was released from a Miami hospital last month, three days after undergoing medical treatment for a blood clot in his lung.

Martelly was discharged following a round of tests for pulmonary embolism, or the blockage of an artery in the lung as a result of surgery to his right shoulder early in April.

The 51-year-old Martelly checked into the undisclosed Miami hospital on April 16 after cancelling plans to attend the Summit of the Americas in Colombia.

While here, he was forced to issue a statement condemning former soldiers who stormed and briefly occupied Haiti's lower chamber of Parliament. The gunmen, some of whom wore military uniforms and carried hand grenades, have been calling on legislators to restore Haiti's disbanded army.

Martelly has appointed a panel to study reviving the military in the impoverished Caribbean country after it was disbanded in 1995 following a series of coups.



## U.S. lowers processing fees for immigrant visas

The United States last month lowered some immigrant visa processing fees.

The lower rates became effective on April 13 and immediate relative and family preference and employment-based applicants are among the big winners.

According to the U.S. State Department, spouses, children and relatives filing for their immigrant relatives will now pay a processing fee of \$230, a savings of \$100.

Employers filing for employees will also pay \$405, saving them \$315.

Others saving will be winners of the Diversity Visa Program and applicants who are filing to have their residency status returned. Those fees were lowered from \$440 to \$330 for the diversity program and from \$380 to \$275 for the returning resident status applications.

All other immigrant visa application fees will be lowered from \$305 to \$220.

The decrease in fees will also apply to K or fiancé (e) visa applicants and those seeking treaty investor and trader



Some U.S. visas have become cheaper, others cost more.

visas - or the E visa as they are commonly called. The K visa application fee has been lowered from \$350 to \$240 while the E visa fee will cost \$270, down from \$390.

### FEE HIKE

However, there is no such good news for tourists and others seeking to travel to the U.S. As of April 13, applicants for tourist, business, transit, crew member, student, exchange visitor and journalist visas will

have to shell out more per application.

The fee will increase from \$140 to \$160, while applicants of petition-based visas will now pay an application fee of \$190 instead of \$150. These visa categories include H (for temporary workers and trainees), L (for intra-company transferees), O (for aliens with extraordinary ability), P (for athletes, artists and enter-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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- See registration information below

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## U.S. seizes billions of dollars in drug busts across Caribbean Sea

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard says it has confiscated billions of dollars in cocaine as a result of submarine and boat busts in the Caribbean so far this year.

It said last month that in three separate incidents over a seven days period in the Caribbean Sea, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) aircraft helped “run down” three vessels carrying almost nine tons of cocaine worth about \$1.3 billion.

The huge haul came only two weeks after two more boatloads of the drug worth over half a billion U.S. dollars were intercepted by CBP aircraft in the same region, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

In March, the Coast Guard said CBP interdiction aircraft, helped intercept a Self Propelled Semi-Submersible (SPSS) carrying close to 14,000 pounds of cocaine, and two go-fast vessels carrying more than 4,400 pounds of cocaine. The Coast Guard estimated the combined cargo was worth more than \$1.3 billion.

### ASSIGNMENT

On Mar. 29, the Coast Guard said two interdiction aircraft operating in the Western Caribbean assisted the Joint Interagency Task Force-South in finding and tracking a SPSS off the coast of Nicaragua.

“The crew scuttled the SPSS, but authorities recovered 13,889 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$1 billion,” the Coast Guard said.

On April 4, the Coast Guard said 2,200 pounds of cocaine, worth about \$164 million, were seized and four crewmembers arrested after an interdiction aircraft spotted an open-hull go-fast vessel carrying rectangular bales in the Caribbean Sea, off the coast of Panama.

The Coast Guard said its fleet seized or disrupted more than 148,000 pounds of cocaine, valued at more than \$11.1 billion so far this year.



## Bahamians vote on May 7

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has announced May 7 as the date for general elections in The Bahamas.

In a nationwide radio and television address last month, Ingraham, the leader of the ruling Free National Movement (FNM), said: “I have the honor of informing you that, I have...advised His Excellency the Governor General to dissolve Parliament.

“General elections will be held for the 38 constituencies of The Bahamas on Monday, May 7th, 2012. The new Parliament will meet on May 23, exactly five years from the first sitting of the present Parliament,” he said, but gave no date for Nomination Day.

In the last general elec-



Ingraham

tions, the FNM won 23 seats with the Progressive Liberal party (PLP), headed by former Prime Minister Perry Christie, winning 18 seats.

Ingraham told voters that he wanted them to “to commit themselves to an election that is truly fitting of this great democracy of ours.”



## Caribbean gets \$77M from U.S. to develop crime-fighting projects

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – The United States is to pump \$77 million into the Caribbean next year as the region develops projects to fight crime and violence.

The funds will be dis-

bursed through the security partnership between Caribbean community (CARICOM), the Dominican Republic and the U.S. under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) launched last year.

Julissa Reynoso, deputy assistant secretary for Central America and the Caribbean, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, said the 2012 budget would be used in part to sup-

port greater coordination and control of border and maritime routes, training and capacity building for law enforcement and justice sector.

### EQUIPMENT

She told a CBSI commission meeting here that her country would be delivering high-speed interdiction boats and relevant equipment to the Eastern Caribbean as part of the U.S. Secure Seas Effort to complement those already provided to The Bahamas, Dominican Republic and

Jamaica.

Guyana and Suriname will also receive Riverine patrol boats and related equipment this year.

Reynoso said automated fingerprint identification system equipment were being purchased for six states, and, in accordance with a CBSI agreement, a regional legal advisor will develop a task force to address critical crime issues including homicides and to advise on legal reforms.



## U.S. lowers processing fees for immigrant visas

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

tainers), Q (for international cultural exchange visitors) and R (for religious occupations).

The State Department said the fee adjustments are necessary since it is required to recover, as far as possible, the cost of processing visas through the collection of application fees. The non-immigrant visa fee increase, officials explained, will support the addition and expansion of overseas facilities, as well as additional staffing required to meet increased visa demand.

### COST-OF-SERVICE

The U.S. Embassy said the fee adjustments are the result of a Dec. 2011 worldwide cost-of-service study conducted by the Bureau of Consular Affairs in the Department of State.

More information on the fees can be found at fee on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

Meanwhile, the U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services has begun accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year (FY) 2013 cap. The congressionally mandated numerical limitation on H-1B petitions for FY 2013 is 65,000.

Additionally, the first 20,000 H-1B petitions filed on behalf of individuals who have earned a U.S. master's degree or higher are exempt from the fiscal year cap.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields, such as scientists, engineers, or computer programmers.

For more information on the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program and current Form I-129 processing times, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or call the National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283.

– Edited from NewsAmericas.



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# Despite some progress, U.S. worries over drug trade in Caribbean

NELSON A. KING

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States says while some Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries have done a lot to deal with the illegal drugs trade, there is still room for much concern.

In its 2012 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), released here recently, the U.S. Department of State said some countries, like Belize and Jamaica, still have a long way to go in dealing with all aspects of the trade.

Washington said that Belize, in 2011, took "incremental steps" in addressing the growing threat of narcotics-related crime within its borders, but "it must make greater strides toward improving citizen security and disrupting the flow of illegal drugs if it is to reverse the new wave of corrosive criminal activity."

"Without action and redress, Belize's security environment will continue to deteriorate", it warned, stating that reports indicate that drug trafficking and drug-related violence rose in Belize, and that those figures will continue on an upward trend.

"The United States encourages Belize to strengthen its public security and law enforcement institutions through more effective anti-corruption legislation, comprehensive background checks and vetting for new and existing personnel, and better training and continuing education programs", The State Department report noted.

It stated that Belize should strengthen its border security through better management and leadership, increased training, and augmenting the border management staff. The INCSR noted that Belize's criminal justice system will be more effective when the government provides adequate funding and training for prosecutors in the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP) office, as well as for police prosecutors.

"Belize will be more capable of successfully confronting illegal drug trafficking by placing a greater emphasis on institution and capacity building", it stated, adding that the U.S. will "maintain its strong partnership with Belize" and assist in its drug fight.

## 'STEADY PROGRESS'

Washington said that through essentially solid democratic institutions and the efforts of strong leaders within the government Jamaica is "making slow, but steady

progress" in combating the criminal scourges that plague the country's political, economic and social well-being, namely the illicit trafficking of narcotics and firearms, violent crime, corruption, gangs and organized crime.

It said "carefully targeted" U.S. support, combined with efforts from other international partners, in particular Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union, is helping to make a difference in that battle in Jamaica.

The report stated that success stories can be found in the Jamaica Constabulary Force's (JCF) efforts to root out corruption through its Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), by its initiative to inoculate communities from crime and gang influence using community-based policing, and with specialized JCF vetted units attacking narcotics and gangs.

In addition, the report noted, "successes are found" within other drug enforcement offices, such as the Financial Investigation Division and the Contractor General, "where competent, dedicated and vetted personnel are struggling with limited resources to turn the tide against police killings, financial crime and government corruption".

## 'ILL-EQUIPPED'

But the report stated that despite "encouraging signs" within Jamaica's law enforcement agencies, "progress is less evident within Jamaica's criminal justice system as a whole," stating that the judicial branch "remains ill-equipped to handle a large number of criminal cases and prosecutorial efficacy is also lacking".

As a result, the INCSR noted there are "large number of government corruption cases for awaiting prosecution, and convictions are few as the cases may be put off for years without result."

"Future U.S. efforts should continue to sustain the momentum gained within Jamaica's law enforcement agencies, particularly in the areas of maritime security, corruption, gangs and organized crime", the INCSR noted.

"The United States should focus enhanced support and pressure for demonstrable progress by prosecutors and the courts in moving criminal suspects through the criminal justice system", it added.

The U.S. urged Suriname to continue its efforts to pursue major narcotics traffickers, to dismantle their organi-



Haiti's President Michel Martelly has shown willingness to co-operate with the U.S.

zations, and to build and strengthen its regional and international cooperation. It said the government of Suriname should continue to strengthen its focus on port security, specifically seaports, "which are seen as the primary conduits for large shipments of narcotics exiting" the country.

"A concerted effort by the Government of Suriname to increase the number of police and military boats and to create an operational Coast Guard, capable of patrolling the border rivers and coastal areas would also enhance counter-narcotics efforts", the report stated.

Similarly, the US urged Suriname to continue capacity-building efforts for its counter-narcotics-focused units, as well as to "monitor and protect its porous borders and interior with a radar detection system and adequate air support."

"To enhance its interdiction capabilities at the principal airport and border crossings, the Government of

Suriname should invest in an automated exit and entry system to identify and record people travelling to and from Suriname".

The report said the U.S. and The Bahamas "remain steadfast partners in the fight against drug traffickers," adding that the strong working relationship between law enforcement agencies in both countries "serves as an example for other joint operations in the region".

It said the recently-launched Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) framework will further improve this relationship.

"Reducing the long delays in extradition requests will help transition the success of operations through to prosecutions and address the continuation of traffickers' activities when they are out on bail", the INCSR stated.

"The overburdened Bahamian legal system may receive a reprieve once a newly announced expansion of the Prosecutors Office takes effect. More aggressive

investigation and prosecution of money laundering will weaken drug trafficking networks and defend against the corrosive influence of drug money".

## IMPROVEMENT

The State Department said while Trinidad and Tobago's 2011 drug-control performance has "improved in some areas," better surveillance coordination and increased maritime patrols could reduce drug trans shipment.

It said improving passenger and cargo screening, including targeting and automating inspections, could increase seizure rates and that continued legislative reform and implementation should improve detection and conviction rates.

"Implementation of this year's anti-gang legislation could discourage gang activity if strategically implemented," Washington said, adding "plea bargaining, dedicated drug courts and better utilization of forensic evidence could streamline judicial processes and improve the credibility of the criminal justice system."

"Increased resources for investigating fraud and bribery could serve to enhance public confidence in law enforcement institutions", the report added.

The INCSR urged the seven nations of the Eastern Caribbean - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - to "participate proactively" in the CBSI and to fulfill their monetary commitments to sustain the Regional Security (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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## Despite some progress, U.S. worries over drug trade in Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

System (RSS).

### ENCOURAGEMENT

It also encouraged sub-regional governments to make full use of the RSS vetting program "to ensure the integrity of personnel in sensitive positions and promote confidence in information sharing".

In addition, the U.S. recommended that the seven nations pass legislation in their parliaments to implement "modernized criminal codes" that makes use of regional best practices in fighting transnational organ-

ized crime.

"The U.S. draws special attention to the need to implement civil forfeiture provisions to turn the proceeds of crime into a weapon against traffickers.

"The U.S. is also encouraged by the commitment of the Government of Barbados in securing resources to complete the integrated coastal radar system and invest in both maritime and air assets to achieve a new level of domain awareness that will benefit the entire region", it stated.

The State Department, which, over the years, has been highly critical of the

Guyana government's efforts in addressing narco-trafficking, said Georgetown has shown "strong interest in furthering collaboration under CBSI, and the United States encourages the Government of Guyana to deepen these mutual efforts.

"U.S. agencies look forward to tangible progress on extraditions, security sector and judicial capacity enhancement, the engagement of at-risk communities, and enforcement of laws against money laundering and financial crimes", it added.

On Haiti, the INCSR noted that the new adminis-

tration of President Michel Martelly has "demonstrated a willingness to work with the U.S. government on improving structural weaknesses in the HNP ((Haitian National Police) that impact its effectiveness on the counter-narcotics front".

It described as a "positive step" the presence of new leadership at la Brigade de Lutte contre le Trafic de Stupéfiants (BLTS), the HNP's dedicated counternarcotics unit, as US officials have pressed the HNP to be "more proactive and independent regarding drug enforcement.

"Another positive devel-

opment is the presidential appointment and parliamentary approval of a new Supreme Court President, a step that could energize Haiti's chronically stressed judicial sector and result in a greater number of convictions of those accused of trafficking and other narcotic related crimes", the report stated.

"Other institutional challenges will require considerable time, effort, and resources to resolve", it added.

- Edited from CMC.



## CHANGING COURSE: Caribbean Americans explore options in tough U.S. jobs market

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ment. Adjustments, like relocation to another state or country are also on the table. That is what David Major (not his real name) did. A South Florida resident, he lost his job as a copier technician in 2010. After two years of searching for work without success, Major decided to open a business in his native Jamaica. He takes regular trips to the island to check on the progress of his information technology operation that supports him and his family in Florida.

"There is a lot of opportunity in Jamaica," said Major. "I know I made the right decision."

Judith Johnson (name changed to protect identity) migrated in 2008 to South Florida from Jamaica seeking employment. A former civil servant, university educated and holder of a residency or "green" card, Johnson did not expect the difficulty she faced in the U.S.

"I was over 50 trying to settle in a country that was going through recession...and often experienced age discrimination when I showed my grays, my age, etc.," she said.

"I also experienced prejudice because I had no experience in U.S.A. and no qualifications from that country. The jobs that would be available to me in Jamaica at the time were just not available to

me in the U.S.A."

### SLUGGISH

Dr. Anita Davis Defoe, a workforce development expert who has been involved with the Caribbean community for more than a decade, believes Caribbean Americans have been hit particularly hard – financially and emotionally – by the strained U.S. economy.

"Employment for

economic quagmire although the evidence suggests the rate of that recovery is still slow.

"The one factor that I have consistently seen that in some cases improves employment numbers for people of Caribbean descent and serves to separate people of Caribbean descent from U.S-born African Americans is that Caribbean people are highly entrepreneurially-minded and will find a niche to create a micro-enterprise or small business, thus reducing their reliance on a volatile shifting jobs economy," Defoe said.

"Regardless, re-employment trends for people of Caribbean descent are insufficient and the rebound in the Caribbean community is yet to fully come," Defoe added.

Se said the major concern for unemployed

Caribbean Americans is how to pay for re-training and advanced education. They also worry about the implications of relocating to another state, while others bemoan discriminatory employment practices they have experienced. Some, she noted, simply give up.

### FRUSTRATION

Johnson returned to Jamaica last year in frustration, but is required to visit the U.S. every six months to maintain her status as a resi-

dent. During a visit in Jan. 2012 she noted a slightly more positive air, but friends in similar circumstances still downgrade their expectations.

"Everyone had some idea of jobs that were out there and places to apply," said Johnson.

"The energy was different. People were trying new things, getting new ideas, after that long drought of nothingness...I found that all of my friends had to change careers to make it there, especially if they arrived illegally.

"Others took jobs way below their educational and experience levels to get by or make a start. Most had to study and find another career."

Acknowledging that many who came to the U.S. and secured nursing and teaching careers did well, Johnson, however, tempered the optimism with the huge debt many are still paying back.

"My friend studied hoping to find a job and didn't and got landed with loans to pay off and no job in that area of work ever!" she said.

"It was a waste...Many women started and ended in a domestic working situation with nothing to show for it in the end...Professional Jamaicans will not be running to the U.S.A. to find jobs as they did in (the 1980s)," Johnson emphasized.

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



Hard choices face some Caribbean Americans.

Caribbean people from entry level to professional is sluggish, as is the case widespread among people of color.

Depending on where people of Caribbean descent live greatly impacts their access to opportunity," explained Defoe, who has been an advisor to corporations in Florida, New York, Minnesota, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica and Barbados.

She has dealt with increasing numbers of unemployed Caribbean Americans and insisted they have skills to pull themselves out of the eco-

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# The horse is out of the barn

A recent headline on an e-mail caught my attention as it declared: "Congressional Redistricting Proposal Would Reduce African-American Representation in Congress, and Divide Up Brooklyn's Caribbean Community".

The story came on the heel of United States Magistrate Roanne Mann's proposed Congressional district map that would eliminate two of New York's 29 congressional districts. Mann, appointed to study the issue and make recommendations after failures by Albany's legislative body to come to an agreement, has recommended that the number of Congressional districts in New York, with 50 percent or more voting age black adults, should be reduced.

Consequently, a delegation of local politicians, community organizations and other groups from central Brooklyn organized a press conference and rally on Mar. 8 to call on Judge Mann to preserve communities of interest in central Brooklyn.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, currently representing the historic 11th Congressional District, contends that the proposed change is a violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

## MISSING

True! But the reality is that many black politicians were missing from the push to get their communities truly counted in 2010 and the fight to get the U.S. Census to more effectively fund the count in traditionally under counted communities of color.

Where were the press conferences to wage that battle in 2010? I know that many looked simply at what jobs the census could bring to their district or what kind of funds could be secured for their friends before lifting a finger

to help spread the message of the census.

New York State itself gave funding to organizations that to date cannot really show how they used the funds secured through the help of their political connections, to educate or help count the under served.

Further, while the census doled out millions to one agency to handle both the hispanic and black media promotion, little money was spent in the real ethnic media of these communities – especially in the Caribbean and African pockets of New York City, including Brooklyn.



FELICIA PERSAUD

## DISCRIMINATION

Congressman Major Owens, who sits on the census sub-committee, had a hearing after the fact on this issue in Brooklyn with the census director, but nothing came of it. What did occur was that the traditionally under counted communities of color were again discriminated against on advertising and promotion dollars and the same folks now holding press conferences, sat by and did nothing.

Of course, many choose to have tunnel vision and to forget that two years down the line, the count would mean redistricting and the possibility of losing their seats. In 2008, some three years after Caribbean American Heritage Month became a reality, I asked the census why no facts for features was being done in June about this important immigrant population that traced their contribution in this U.S. back to slavery.

I was told simply that the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

# Feminine influence and the great power shift

Could it be that some men secretly want to be women?

They say that most women suffer from penis envy, ergo, and secretly yearn to be men. Well, it just may be that many men suffer from vagina envy, although being a man's world, we never hear that term.

Still, even if men don't want to be women, it is a certainty that they are strongly influenced by females. Combine this with the female hormones and chromosomes that all men have, and there is no escape, the feminine influence affects our lives.

It's said that when a man dies, he often utters the word 'mom' as his last. So the female influence on men is powerful. Some may deny this, while others aren't afraid to admit that they're in touch with their feminine side. How can this influence be disputed, when for the first years of his life, all that a boy does is suck on breasts and fall asleep afterwards?

What a way to start a life. And that is why most men seek women who remind them of their mothers. But usually if he finds one, he's in for a rude awakening, for she isn't going to let him suck on her breast for hours on end for years.



"Say what, you want to fondle and suck my breasts and fall asleep afterwards...every night...you think that I am your mother?"

Listen, I am your wife...and the honeymoon is OVER!"

Oh, how Oedipus must be having quite a laugh right now. What is true is that some



TONY ROBINSON

grown men still live with their mothers and succumb to this influence from that alpha female from their birth to their grave. The sad thing is that they see nothing wrong, and neither do their mothers.

"So he's my 50 year old son and still living with me...what is the problem?"

Just watch the T.V. show Momma's Boys and see.

## PREY

But the feminine influence has been pervasive throughout history, and many

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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## Feminine influence and the great power shift

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

men have fallen prey to it, or suffered the brunt of it. This influence has brought great men to their knees, and giant figures in mankind's great past have fallen and wilted under the wiles and guile of the feminine influence.

Is it because of their early upbringing and the influence of females in their lives why these men buckled to the ways of women? Just look at the men who grew up in the company of women only, especially sisters, with no father figure around to balance the equation. Those men simply turn into another sister and think that their effeminate behavior is normal. It's not until he hits high school that the reality of the feminine influence on him slaps him in the face and calls him Suzy. His mother doesn't see it, neither does his aunts and sisters, but those tough boys in first form will certainly make it clear to him.

"Should we call you Earl

or Pearl? Who you grow up with, your granny, your mother and five sisters?"

What's sad is that many mothers still take this influence further and will even visit the boys in school more than they should.

More and more this influence is apparent, and an evolution has taken place that Darwin would have been shuddered at. Suddenly the modern male has taken on the persona of the female, which is alarming.

This does not occur in nature, apart from a few species of fish that change sexes if one gender becomes scarce. Where in nature have you seen a lion acting like a lioness? He's called the king of the beasts, not the queen of the beasts, and he eats first...sleeps a lot...and has sex as often as he wants.

### CROSS DRESSING

But androgyny is not the issue, neither is cross dressing, which incidentally is what

many of those boys who grew up with too many females are inclined to do.

"Norman, how many times I must tell you, stop put on your sister's underwear."

Poor thing, it's what he knows, plus he didn't know that he could pee standing up until he went to school and saw other boys doing it. That's often the case with these modern day marvels of men who are so influenced by females that they adopt all the traits of feminine pulchritude and don't even know that they have morphed into a she. Now it's the era of men spending hours getting their 'manipedi', having a facial, getting their eyebrows plucked and styled, having their hair braided, their skin waxed to remove unwanted hair, and looking quite the lady as they spend more time at the spa than a movie starlet.

And don't tell me that it's the era of the metro sexual either. Next thing they'll be asking to use the bidet or tak-

ing bubble baths with shower caps on.

When did the feminine influence become so powerful? Is it because fathers are not stepping up to the plate, or washing too many plates? But absentee fathers are not new, and in fact this has been the status quo in our culture for a very long time. But even so, the feminine influence was not as powerful as it is now.

### SHE RULES

The men have abdicated their role as men, and whether they are absent or present in the household, it's the female who rules. Do you remember this phrase, "Just wait until you father get here...he will fix your business?!" That died. Now many mothers resent it when fathers try to have any impact at all. We have witnessed families where the wife's influence is so great, that even the daughters handle the father like he is a boy, for they simply follow mommy's lead, and speak to him and treat him exactly as she does. We also know of families where it's the female who dictates the when, the where, the how, and the why of sex. Oh yes, it's a sore topic and often mentioned in advice columns.

Just recently I learned of yet another husband who has not had the pleasure of his wife for seven years now. "One day she just said, that's it, she's tired of sex now...and stopped."

You ask many couples nowadays, who dictates sex in the bedroom, and you'll see the power of the female influence. The women will also give you a plethora of reasons why it's so and yadda yadda yadda, but the plain truth is, if you really love something you're going to want it and love doing it.

### TRUTH

This filters into the broader society, for nothing happens by chance, and the truth is, the feminine influence has affected many of our men. Like it or not, it's women who define men, make them who they are, mould their personalities and create the little darlings that we see strutting around now. And yet they say it's a man's world.

And don't think that it's confined to our culture, for I recently read where many mothers in China actually move in with their sons for the first few weeks of university...just to ensure that he's settled in and cozy.

Sometimes it backfires, and this strong feminine influence creates a resentment, and the men become women beaters...abusers.

So the feminine influence is strong, and the effects are evident. Sometimes we have to take a long hard look to see who is who. Is it fish or fowl, Francis or Francesca?

seido1@hotmail.com.



## The horse is out of the barn

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

census could not, since they did not have the data to do so. This comment, which I deemed as insulting and one that told me I and Caribbean immigrants did not matter, led to my push – with no money and little resources – for the Caribbean community to lobby for their own origin category on census forms, to accurately allow them to self-identify like Hispanics, beyond race.

### BACKLASH

While some folks, including Congresswoman Clarke and senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, saw the wisdom in this, many, including in the Caribbean community, bashed me for trying to "divide" the black count. Well the last time I checked, Caribbean nationals are of every race, country and culture under the rainbow and the one identifier and unifier

is their region of birth.

As such, many Caribbean nationals choose to ignore the census leading to the undercount experienced and the redistricting we now face in New York City and in Brooklyn.

This is a battle that should have been waged years ago and the bigger fight has to be for funding for education and ongoing promotion on the importance of the census to this demographic.

The reality is that in the black and Caribbean communities our politicians and so-called leaders are almost always reactive instead of proactive. And now it's too late – the horse is out of the barn!

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



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# Sensitive Marley film reveals strength of Jamaican reggae icon

DAWN A. DAVIS

Not just another musical history documentary, “Marley The Definitive Story” takes the path not trod by earlier film productions, highlighting Robert Nesta Marley’s personal tale.

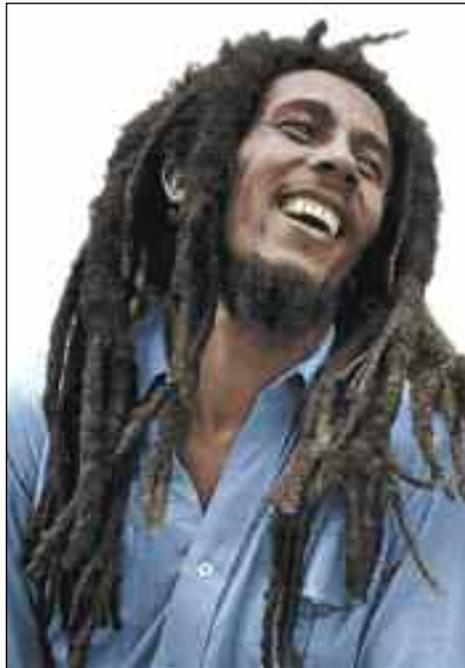
Through the eyes, voices, and images of close friends, family, and a ‘half’ brother and sister, viewers are taken on a journey from Nine Mile in St. Ann, Jamaica to Germany where Marley received treatment for his cancer in his last bid for life.

Sensitively done, viewers hear from the two famous women in his life, Rita Marley and Cindy Breakspere, who recount their personal relationships with the man who almost single-handedly put Jamaica on the world stage with his music and philosophy.

Without allowing any facet of Marley’s life to dominate the story, director Kevin McDonald, along with executive producers Ziggy Marley and Chris Blackwell, expertly weave his many stories to give viewers a complete picture of the man, not just the icon. The mix of historical footage, rare photos, and unexpected interviews add authenticity to the film.

### UNKNOWN SIDE

It is through the snippets of personal stories told by those who were closest to him that reveal the sides of Marley not many knew. Viewers grow up with him - his teen years, the



Marley

struggle to break into the music business and formation of the early Wailers band

paint a real picture of his life in the bustling ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica. The film shows Marley’s shyness, spoken about by Rita, Neville Garrick and others, which goes against the image of womanizer he was ‘celebrated’ to be.

Raw clips of Kingston streets erupting in gun violence, the embrace of party stalwarts from both sides of the political field, throngs of people mesmerized by Bob and his music, fittingly show the adoration and respect he attracted. Yet, it could have been either of these groups that were responsible for the still unresolved assassination attempt on his life in the 1970s.

Ziggy and Cedella, two of Marley’s 11 children, paint poignant pictures of their father - a dad who provided

well for them, but was certainly not a ‘lovey-dovey’ type. Photographs of Marley with his young children humanize the man so many venerated.

Would Marley have been different had he been accepted by his white father and his side of the family? His siblings, Peter and Constance (his father’s children) speak almost with regret about not having known him. Bob, however, moved on matter-of-factly after being rejected by his father, creating a song – “Cornerstone” - out of the experience. It is these small details that give the film more ‘body’.

### STRAIGHT TALK

No fuss, just straight talk and clips from some of his iconic concerts, viewers walk

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

# ‘Are You Ready? We’re Ready’ for Orlando Carnival on May 26

JASON WALKER

If you’re ready, Orlando’s waiting to jump up and wave - Caribbean-style.

Orlando Carnival steps into its 25th year of celebration this month with promises to inject the public with

fever has caught on. In 1980, Grenadian Johnson Gilbert approached Trinidadian Johnson with the idea of having a carnival in Orlando, although the state of Florida already had one in Miami. Gilbert, Johnson and others collaborated to kick off the first Orlando Carnival in 1987.

10,000” are expected to attend.

“Half of this number line the streets of the parade don’t come into the park for the live show,” she added. “People come in from all over the

world for carnival, both Caribbean/American and other cultures.”

### HIGH, LOWS

Over the past 25 years,

explained Johnson, there have been highs and lows executing the carnival.

“My high is seeing thousands of people have a good

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)



- Photograph by Kenny Bobb

Revelers enjoy Orlando Carnival.

excitement...if it’s ready.

The May 26 Caribbean cultural event in the major Florida tourist city will feature the theme “Are You Ready? We’re Ready” and organizers claim they are ready to spread the fun worldwide.

“2012, this Caribbean-style Mardi Gras will be celebrating 25 years of sharing the culture of the Caribbean with, not only the Orlando community, but the rest of the world,” explained Gloria Chandler Johnson, head of the Orlando Cultural Association (OCA).

“...We are so excited and would like to share that excitement with the community.”

For a quarter century, the

According to Johnson, this year’s carnival will include a costume parade and steel pan bands. The parade is scheduled to march along streets in Orlando and then into Festival Field (opposite to the Citrus Bowl). A live show, set to run until midnight, is also scheduled.

Orlando’s carnival is not as large as those in Brooklyn, New York and Miami, but those in attendance will be able to purchase Caribbean food and souvenirs. Among the entertainers scheduled to be present are Machel Montano, Patrice Roberts and Karma. According to Johnson, “anywhere from 5,000 to

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## Caribbean Today

# 'Mas and Music' flavor set to infuse 25th Atlanta Carnival on May 26

**JASON WALKER**

"Atlanta Caribbean Carnival is Mas and Music!" will be the theme of the 25th year of region-flavored jump up celebrations in the southern United States city.

The Atlanta Carnival, featuring a parade, music, costume masquerades and bands, all showcasing the Caribbean's special culture, will be staged May 26 – Memorial weekend in the U.S.

The Atlanta Carnival has had ups and downs, including being moved to different locations throughout the city. It has also overcome financial, political and community difficulties to arrive at 25 years.

Now thousands of people come to Atlanta every year to take part in the carnival, bringing big revenue to the city. The carnival has grown into a major family gathering event for the Caribbean community and those interested in the Caribbean culture.

In 2005 the bands took over the planning of Atlanta Carnival, calling themselves the Atlanta Caribbean Band Leaders Association (ACCBA). That year two carnivals were held on the same day, at the same time in Atlanta. This activity has continued. One year there were three carnivals.

According to Junia Blackburn, public relations officer for the carnival, more than 30,000 attended the event last year, up 30 percent from 2010.

"We expect to see an increase in attendance this year," said Blackburn.

The Atlanta Carnival



Atlanta Carnival promises to bring out the smiles and styles.

year there will be more than 25 masquerade, steel and marching bands and color guards, and other groups and organizations participating in this year's parade. Following the parade the celebration will continue inside the Festival Village, which features vendors selling Caribbean food, arts and crafts and souvenirs. There will also be a stage show with Caribbean artistes such as Kerwin Dubois, Burning Flames, Edwin Yearwood, and Tanto Metro & Devonte

Carnival bands have been in the mainstream media spotlight, promoting their growing appeal. Prizm, for exam-

ple, was featured on the Monique show on the television channel BET. We Kinda Ting has won the Atlanta Carnival Band of the year title for five years in a row.

"We attract like minded people who enjoy doing this," said Francine Bethune, one of the leaders and founders of the champion band in explaining its success.

"We really enjoy what we do...Carnival is a great hobby and past time for us. We make it fun, if you take the fun out of it, then it will feel like a job. We enjoy designing costumes and we have great friends that support us every year."

For more information on Atlanta Carnival, visit [www.atlantacarnival.org](http://www.atlantacarnival.org).

*Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



kicks off the Caribbean carnival season in the U.S. This

ing appeal. Prizm, for exam-

## 'Are You Ready? We're Ready' for Orlando Carnival on May 26

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11) time, renewing old acquaintances, making new friends and knowing that I had such an important role in planning the event," she said. "Our members are so dedicated, that they have gone into their own pockets to help fund carnival over the years.

"The lows are that we're not getting the help from the city, especially since the even brings in so many people into Orlando. Also, I think that with a professional fund-raiser, we might be able to get more corporate sponsorship, but most that have approached us,

ask for up-front money, which we cannot afford."

Johnson is also hoping to build on the relationship with Disney, the company which is a major player in Orlando's entertainment industry.

"If we have the connection to approach Disney, maybe we'll be able to get assistance from them," she said.

"In the past, Mickey and Minnie (Mouse) appeared at our Kiddies Carnival and one year we even got some financial assistance from Disney."

The Caribbean flavor is a key selling point.

"Orlando Carnival has had

a positive effect in many ways," Johnson said. "It brings not only people from the Caribbean together (as they look forward to this event), but it also exposes the Caribbean culture to other nationalities. Also, it is a great release for everyone – time for us to just let our hair down and enjoy ourselves and relieve stress!"

For more information on the Orlando Carnival, visit <http://www.orlandoculturalassociation.com>.

*Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



## Sensitive Marley film reveals strength of Jamaican reggae icon

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11) with Marley through his travails and success, through the hills of St. Ann, on stages in Kingston, New York, London, Japan, through Kingston streets, and finally through the last months of his life.

"Marley The Definitive

Story" shows viewers that Bob made no apologies. He lived the life he wanted, as Rastafari, music maker, friend, father, lover and philosopher.

In the final days he never gave up hope. It was this strength that carried him home for the final time through the mountains of St.

Ann, the strength that so many felt, the strength that this film manages to reveal, definitively.

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



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## Cuban wins top film acting honor, fails to show

NEW YORK – In a case of life mirroring art, a Cuban actor starring in a critically acclaimed film about defecting to the United States – who has himself defected along with a co-star while coming here for a film festival - has won a top acting award.

Javier Nunez Florian, who disappeared at Miami International Airport with his co-star, Anailin de la Rua de la Torre, did not show up to accept his award, at the Tribeca Film Festival, for their work in *Una Noche* (One Night). Representatives for the film said they have had no



Florian, left, and de la Rua

contact with the missing Cubans.

Late last month, Florian and de la Rua appeared in Miami, home to Cuba's burgeoning émigré community, saying they have an attorney and will file for political asylum "based on possible persecution if they return to Cuba."

The jury split the best actor prize to Florian and another co-star, Dariel Arrechada, who play Cuban friends risking everything for a new life in Miami.

*Edited from CMC.*



## Multicultural UNIFEST set for May 20 in South Florida

The 18th annual staging of UNIFEST, which claims to be the oldest Caribbean multicultural event in Broward County, Florida, will be held from **11 a.m. to 11 p.m. May 20** at the Vincent Torres Park in Lauderdale Lakes.

The event offers an array of cultural mix and creativity designed to unify people and showcase their diverse cultures through various activi-

ties, including a business expo, health fair, immigration corner, mini carnival costume parade and parade of countries by South Florida Band Leaders Association, arts and sports, Caribbean foods.

The festival will culminate with a concert featuring reggae singer Luciano, soca star Iwer George and Leon Coldero and Code 868 band. Trinidadian comedian Paul Keens-Douglas and Jamaica's

'Blakka' Ellis are also among the scheduled performers.

This year UNIFEST will also celebrate the 50th Independence anniversary of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Vincent Torres Park is located at 4331 N.W. 36th St.

For more information, call **954-730-8886** or visit [www.unifestlive.com](http://www.unifestlive.com).



## 'Islands of the World Fashion' returns to Bahamas May 11-12

After a one-year hiatus, the re-branded Islands of the World Fashion Showcase is set to re-launch **May 11-12** at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort in The Bahamas.

Ten designers, representing five countries are scheduled to participate. They include Chelsea Johnson, Courtney McIntosh, David Rolle, Hari Taylor Bag,

Latoya Hanna-Moxey and Theo Sealy from The Bahamas; plus Carol Fraser, Guyana; Sharleen Logan, St. Lucia; Kimon Baptiste, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Darcel de Vlught from Trinidad and Tobago.

For more information, e-mail [press@islandsfashionweek.com](mailto:press@islandsfashionweek.com).



## 'Best Of The Best' music festival on Memorial weekend in Miami

Top names from Caribbean music will be on the front burner for this month during the "Best Of The Best" concert on Memorial weekend in South Florida.

The event returns on **May 27** to Bicentennial Park in downtown Miami.

The scheduled line-up of performers includes Shaggy, Mavado, DJ Khaled, Marcia Griffiths, Fabulous, Admiral Bailey, Iwer George, Frenc Montana, Frankie Paul, T-Vice, I-Octane, Ace Hood,

Ghost, Brianna, Tony Matterhorn, Meek Mill, Demarco, 2 Chainz, Wayne Marshall, Laza Morgan, Serani, Khago and Christopher Martin.

Most of the artistes will be backed by New Kingston Band or Ruff Kut Band.

"Best Of The Best" is being produced by XO Management and Rockers Island Entertainment, in conjunction with Massive B of New York City.



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## South Florida celebrates Haitian Heritage Cultural Month in May

MIAMI, Florida – Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime, District 2, has released Miami-Dade County's official 2012 Haitian Heritage Cultural Month Event Calendar.

The calendar lists events being held in Miami-Dade County in May to celebrate Haitian Heritage Cultural Month.

The theme for the month is "Rediscovering the Pearl of the Caribbean: Celebrating an Explosion of Culture".

The month-long celebration of the arts, culture and cuisine of Haiti features a Haitian American art display in the lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center in downtown Miami. The display is sponsored by the Center for Haitian Studies.

"During this special

month, Miami-Dade County will pay tribute to the many contributions the Haitian people have made to our community, our state and our nation," said Jean Monestime, the first Haitian American elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

"These events will increase public knowledge and appreciation of the Haitian culture in America.

"These events will increase public knowledge and appreciation of the Haitian culture in America.

### EVENTS

Events include the Haitian History Bee; a Young Artist Showcase; a Haitian Flag Day Celebration in the



Monestime

City of North Miami; and a Women In Production Trade Show highlighting Haitian women entrepreneurs.

The month's celebrations will conclude with a closing reception on May 29, at the City of North Miami Beach McDonald Center, 17051 N.E. 19th Ave., North Miami Beach, Florida.

Locations, dates and times of all events are listed on the calendar.

"Haitian Heritage Cultural Month is an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful cultural tapestry that makes Miami-Dade County a great place to live," said Monestime.

This year marks the 12th year that Miami-Dade County celebrates Haitian Heritage Cultural Month.



## Florida lawmaker gets 'Friend of Haiti Award'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Congresswoman Frederica Wilson has received the Friend of Haiti Award for her work on behalf of the Haitian community - both in the Caribbean nation and South Florida.

The award was presented here during Haiti's "Week of the Diaspora" last month.

"It is a humbling honor to be recognized for my work on behalf of the Haitian people, and I will continue to be there for them as they rebuild," said Wilson.

The award recognizes a non-Haitian who has made significant positive impact on the Haitian people.

Wilson has supported Haitian causes. In 1982, she advocated for fair treatment of Haitian women refugees who were incarcerated at the Krome Detention Center in

Miami. Her activism led to a change in policy and improved living conditions for women at the center.

Wilson has traveled to Haiti numerous times, including soon after the devastating 2010 earthquake and worked to extend and expand temporary protective status

(TPS) for Haitians, and to get the U.S. State Department to add Haiti to the list of countries eligible for the H-2A and H-2B non-immigrant visa program, and introduced H. Res. 521 – a resolution to combat gender-based violence.



Wilson



## Gil Noble dies

Gil Noble, a legendary television broadcaster of Jamaican parentage, died last month in New York.

The former host of New York WABC Television's award-winning, public affairs program "Like It Is", a show dedicated to showcasing black leadership and the African, Caribbean American experience, was 80.

Noble was the son of Jamaican immigrants Rachel Noble, a teacher, and Gilbert R. Noble, who owned an auto repair shop in Harlem, New York.

In 1975, he began hosting "Like It Is" until a stroke last year forced him to quit the program. He received seven Emmy Awards for "Like It Is".



## 'One Love' in West Palm

South Florida's diverse cultures will have a chance to unite through the "One Love, One Heart and One Music" festival this month.

The event, featuring some of the stalwarts of reggae/dancehall music, including Cocoa Tea, Nadine Sutherland, Leroy Sibbles, Spragg Benz and Capleton, is scheduled for **May 13** at the Cruzan Amphitheater in West Palm Beach.

For more information, call 561-379-6888 or 772-245-6888.





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# Seven simple words can save a business discussion gone wrong

Has this ever happened to you? You're talking to a client, or perhaps your boss, and you realize the conversation has gotten off on absolutely the wrong foot. What do you do next? You have three options:

- **Continue trying to make your point** - The tension and awkwardness will likely escalate, and you'll find that you and the other person are farther and farther apart.

- **Bring the conversation to an abrupt end and exit stage left** - Both of you will be left with a bad taste in your mouth.

- **Salvage the situation with the judicious use of seven magic words** - Do you mind if we start over?

Try it yourself. The next time a conversation gets off on the wrong foot or veers off track, reset with this powerful



Sometimes the best way forward in a business discussion is going back.

question. Here are a few pointers:

- **If you're in the wrong, apologize** - Take responsibility

## Job fair success: Making the opportunity work for you before, during, after

*Jobs fairs can be intimidating. By reviewing the following tips and techniques for job fair navigation, you'll be prepared for a successful experience before, during and after a job fair.*

### THE GOOD

- **Knowledge is power** - Take the time to thoroughly research the job fairs you attend. Find out what companies will be on the premises and decide which companies are of interest to you. Then read as much as you can about favorite companies. When you arrive at the job fair, have a short list of companies you want to make personal connection with.

- **Demonstrate aptitude** - Focus on how your experience benefits the company and offer tangible insight on how the skills they have garnered translate to on-the-job benefits for the employer.

- **Presentation counts** - If you are going to a job fair, you want to stand out from the crowd in a positive, professional manner. Savvy recruiters look for long term potential. Dress for the position you would ultimately like to have.

- **Manners matter** - Successful job fair applicants are generally conservative when interacting with hiring personnel. Never assume that Mr. Fred Johnson wants to be called Fred. Reference him as "Mr. Johnson" until he says otherwise.

- **Link up for best results**

- LinkedIn, which was created for the business community, is an ideal online network for job hunters.

- **Traditional paper resume still rules** - Most recruiters would prefer an old-fashioned paper resume that they can read on the spot. Applicants should bring plenty of one-page, concise and informative resumes.

### THE BAD

- **How much does this job pay?** - Asking about salary and benefit immediately is a turn-off to recruiters.

- **Failure to differentiate** - An applicant who arrives at the job fair with no advance information on what companies will be on-site, and who they want to impress, runs the risk of waiting in endless lines to talk to recruiters at companies that aren't the right fit.

- **Resumé has typos** - It is important to proofread a resumé for typos and misspellings.

- **Twittering away to irrelevance** - While a professional, updated LinkedIn profile is always a plus to human resource professionals, a Facebook page "gone wild" with postings about raucous nights at the casino or a Twitter account detailing compromising personal information, can be a liability.

### THE UGLY

- **Gum chewing** - There is no place for gum chewing or any other manner of food consumption on the job search

circuit.

- **Hygiene matters** - Meeting with recruiters is not the time to forget to brush your teeth, take a shower, or groom your nails.

- **Employment stalker** - While appropriate follow up is important, harassment will not land you your dream job.

*The above article, edited for space, was written by Brent O'Bryan, vice president of AlliedBarton Security Services.*



for the conversation's derailment. You might say something like "I've gotten off on the wrong foot and I'm really sorry. Do you mind if I begin again? I haven't done this justice."

- **If you're not in the wrong, and the conversation has simply strayed into unproductive territory, ask in a way that doesn't place blame** - Try: "Can we step back from this? What should we be talking about?"

- **Either way, smile** - It goes a long way toward smoothing any ruffled feathers.

- **When you start over, really start over** - You don't

have to actually leave the room and come back in, but draw a sharp dividing line between the bad conversation and the new one. A good way to reset is to ask the other person a question and draw them back into the conversation as an active participant. Of course, starting over isn't just for the workplace. It can work just as well to defuse a budding argument with your spouse or any family member or friend.

*- Edited from information provided by Andrew Sobel and Jerold Panas, co-authors of "Power Questions".*



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## 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.

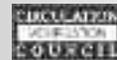
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# HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT



## LOVING LIFESTYLE: Jamaican celebrates 100th birthday in Miami

DAWN A. DAVIS

Catherine Mitchell has lived for 100 years.

Born April 27, 1912, she celebrated her special day on April 27, 2012 with a birthday gathering at her Miami, Florida home.

The great-great grandmother sat among family and friends with a smile that showed the wisdom and experiences of a life lived with joie de vivre.

Born in Mannings Field, Clarendon, Jamaica, Mitchell migrated to the United States in 1982 a year after her husband Obadiah died. Living between the home of her son Hubert Mitchell in New York and her daughter Evadne Mitchell Beckett in Miami, she eventually settled in the southern state and built her life around the church with family and close friends.

Although her speech has been affected by health issues, Mitchell's message is clear - life

is about laughter, a loving family and healthy living. Last year, at her 99th birthday celebration, she attributed her longevity to "living a quiet life, eating healthy and always drinking my pot water."

### CAREGIVER

Evadne cares for her mother full-time with pride, love and responsibility.

"As a caregiver to my mom, it's 24/7," she said fighting back the tears at last month's birthday celebration.

"And yes, my lifestyle has changed drastically, but she's my mom and I love her dearly. Thank God for my mom, thank God for keeping me and giving me the strength to be here for her and to celebrate her 100th birthday. It's a blessing from God. I can't even find words to say how much I am proud of my mom."

Hugging her mother, Evadne reminisced about growing up in Jamaica with her parents as her mom smiled broadly and listened intently.



Catherine Mitchell is 100.



Mitchell is flanked by her children Hubert, left, and Evadne.

still proud and honored that my mom gave it to me."

### LOVE FOR MOM

Hubert also spoke lovingly about his mother.

"In our family there is nobody that has ever lived to 100, so we have to celebrate," the son said.

"She did so much for my sister and myself. When my father passed in 1981 we decid-

said Beckett. "She always strived for us to have a better life, to be peaceful, to be healthy and be better for ourselves and others."

### CHURCH GAINS

As a long-time member of the Miami-based Church of the Ascension, and an integral part of its Affirmative Aging Ministry, Mitchell's active involvement became part of her daily life. She is still highly regarded by the church and a special mass and communion was performed with her church family embracing her.

Veronica Bascom, her sister in faith, said Mitchell welcomed her to the church when she first joined, as she did with all new members.

"She greeted me like a friend," said Bascom. "She held my hand and said 'come here dear let's sit down and talk'. And that I will never forget."

The centenarian smiled and raised her clasped hands to her lips in appreciation.

But it was the kiss from family friend Monty Hunt, who travelled from Port St. Lucie, Florida to celebrate with Mitchell, which elicited a short tune from her. The centenarian ended her night with a song on her lips, friends and family by her side, and a prayer of thanksgiving.

*Story and photographs submitted by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



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## Expert urges Caribbean to prepare for tsunami

PARIS, France, CMC – A leading expert at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is urging the Caribbean's 40 million people to be prepared for a tsunami, two years ahead of a planned early warning system for the region.

Wendy Watson-Wright, assistant director-general and executive secretary of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, said the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System, coordinated through UNESCO-IOC, saved lives in that region following an 8.6 magnitude earthquake off northern Indonesia.

Despite the withdrawal of the United States from U.N. body, which threatened to delay the introduction of an early warning system for the Caribbean, "emergency funds" were diverted to the project which is expected to be completed by 2014.

### ‘WHEN, NOT IF’

Scientists researching and

following tsunamis have said that is a case of "when, not if" the region would be struck by the giant waves triggered by earthquakes and volcanic activity, Watson-Wright noted.



Watson-Wright

"Lurking beneath the azure waters that wash up on countless coastal and island beaches and vacation spots is the potential for a devastating tsunami," she added.

In addition to the 40 million people living in the region, she said 22 million people annually visit the

Caribbean, making the region "extremely vulnerable to the impacts of tsunamis."

Since 1498 there have been at least 94 tsunamis with run-ups reported in the Caribbean region, causing 4,652 deaths, Watson-Wright said. She said most of these tsunamis were associated with underwater, or what are called submarine earthquakes, although the Caribbean Sea region has all of the potential tsunami-generating sources, such as submarine earthquakes, sub-aerial or submarine landslides and volcano activity.

Scientists and disaster management officials have said that models predict a tsunami wiping out vast areas in several island nations where most people live in around capitals and low-lying coastal areas.

- Edited from CMC.



## TAKING FLIGHT: jetBlue celebrates new Ft. Lauderdale-Kingston service

DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaica's black, green and gold flew high at jetBlue's Fort Lauderdale counter on April 30.

Celebrating its inaugural flight from the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport to Kingston Jamaica, jetBlue executives and ground staff alike worked to make passengers feel the Jamaican spirit. The airline claims it is addressing a need.

"When we look at the destinations and the demonstrated needs, there is a gap in serving the Jamaican community," explained Albert Ruiz, the airline's marketing manager for the United States southeast region.

"We can't ignore the fact that we have 70,000 Jamaicans in the Broward County area and another 50,000 in Miami-Dade. So there are 120,000 Jamaicans that need reliable service and what better way than for us to start servicing these customers from Fort Lauderdale."

The airline offers the first checked bag free, which is also a plus for jetBlue.

"We know that everyone going back home is bringing something for someone, so why would we want our customers to pay for that," Ruiz added.

### St. Martin hosts 'SMART 2012'

"SMART 2012", an annual trade show which highlights Eastern Caribbean tourism products, will be held **May 16-18** in St. Martin.

The event, to be hosted by Radisson Blue Resort, Marina & Spa, offers an opportunity for the region to support, interact and work together to promote tourism.

This year, tourism entities from St. Maarten, St. Martin, Anguilla, Antigua, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saba, St. Barth's, St. Eustatius, and St. Kitts and Nevis are expected to



JetBlue's counter in Fort Lauderdale was decorated for its flight to Kingston

"That's how we differentiate ourselves from the pack."

### GROWTH

The airline now offers two scheduled flights daily from Fort Lauderdale to Kingston: at 7:20 a.m. and 4:50 p.m., with return legs leaving Jamaica at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Travelers can fly into Kingston in the morning, conduct business then return to Fort Lauderdale in the evening.

Asked if the airline will expand its Fort Lauderdale service to Montego Bay, Ruiz said that jetBlue has grown gradually in markets depending on customer need and response to existing cities. For example, the airline expanded its service to the Dominican

Republic, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica.

The U.S.-Jamaica route has also expanded. Originally service was out of New York's John F. Kennedy Airport to Kingston. Then jetBlue added legs from Boston, then Orlando, to Montego Bay.

"We are happy," said Ruiz. "We hope this turns out to be a success. We are ready

### New website touts Dominica's potential

Dominica has unveiled a new website that offers information, including photographs and videos, on the Caribbean island.

The site has the latest activities and promotions in Dominica, plus available accommodations. Social networks Facebook and Twitter are also playing a larger role on the new site.

The address is [www.discoverdominica.com](http://www.discoverdominica.com).

Visitors can view the island's new "I Am Dominica" marketing campaign. Fans of Dominica are also encouraged to share their memories of the island or join in conversations about the many reasons to visit.

and willing to listen to the Jamaican community."

### COST

A web search of airlines puts jetBlue in an advantageous position in regard to fares.

"When we enter a market we always have introductory rates," said Ruiz. "But, you are not just paying for a seat, you are paying for an experience."

"Your vacation, your coming back home starts from the moment you get to our airport. Actually, from the moment you call in to make that reservation you will find that our customer service is, bar none, one of the best, which is why we have won the J.D. Power & Associates Award so many times."

Rick DeMarco, the company's general manager, said about 25 percent of jetBlue's workforce is from Jamaica and their passion for the island was one of the motivating forces behind the company's decision to fly into Kingston.

"Of course there were a number of different factors that went into the decision," said Ruiz. "But the fact that our crew members were passionate about it also helped...We had to look at what makes sense, what will differentiate us and make us grow. Kingston was a logical solution."

Pilot Ricardo Williamson couldn't be happier. The Jamaican-born captain made his first flight into Jamaica as part of the airline's inaugural service to Kingston. He left Jamaica 23 years ago and, although he has visited over the years, Williamson had never flown an aircraft to the island. April 30 was a special day for him and co-pilot Brian Luke, a first-timer to the island.

"It was very emotional for me," said Williamson.

The airline plans to operate up to seven flights daily to Jamaica from various U.S. cities.

*Photograph and story submitted by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



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### T&T hikes departure tax 100 percent

The Airport Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) recently approved a 100 percent increase in the departure tax here that Transport Minister Devant Maharaj said was justified because of increased security demands.

As a result, the departure tax, which is normally included in the price of a ticket, is now TT\$200 (\$33.3).

"Management's recom-

mendation that in order for the authority to fulfill its mandate to provide safe and secure aviation facilities and to generate additional revenue to meet increased salaries and maintenance costs that the passenger service charge be changed from \$100 to \$200 per international passenger was accepted and approved by the board," Maharaj told the **Sunday Express** newspaper.



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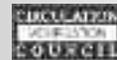
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# SPORT



## Caribbean schools shine at 118th Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Teams representing the United States swept the international events on the track, but Caribbean schools continued to chalk up success at the Penn Relays.

The U.S., featuring a couple Caribbean-born athletes, won all six relays it contested at the 118th annual staging of the meet at Franklin Field here.

In the USA v. The World series of events, a huge attraction at "Penns", the Americans won the men's 4x100 meters, 4x400 and the distance medley. The U.S. women claimed the 4x100, 4x400 and sprint medley races.

The best Caribbean finishers among the men included Jamaica, third in the men's 4x100, and The Bahamas second in the 4x400. For the women, Jamaica was second in both the 4x100 and 4x400, and third in the sprint medley.

### SHIFT

The Caribbean did better at the high school level. For boys, Wolmer's won the 4x100 Championship of America (CoA) title, followed by Jamaican schools Jamaica College and Herbert Morrison.

Munro College captured the CoA in the boys' 4x400, with Jamaica's Kingston College and Lodge of Barbados second and third, respectively.

However, K.C. and

Holmwood Technical had to settle for second and third, respectively, in the boys' 4x800 won by American high school Westfield.

Jamaica's Edwin Allen won the 4x800 girls' Championship of America (CoA), with island



Jamaica's Wolmer's Boys won the 4x100 Championship of America.

rivals Holmwood Technical finishing third. In the sprint relay, 4x100 meters for girls, Herbert Morrison and Edwin Allen finished second and third in the CoA race won by U.S. Long Beach Poly. But Jamaican high school girls took the top three places 4x400 CoA with Edwin Allen in first, followed by Holmwood and Vere Technical.

### FIELD SUCCESS

Jamaican schools excelled in field events as well.

Chanice Porter of Manchester High and Alpha Academy's Kimberly Golding finished first and second,

respectively, in the long jump championship for high school girls. Vere's Sherika Lawrence won the girls' triple jump, while Jamaican girls took the first five places in the high school discus, with Dannel Thomas of Edwin Allen emerging champion.

Jamaican girls also secured the top two spots in the high jump, with Edwin Allen's Kimberly Williamson first, followed by Wolmer's Shanice Hall.

For high school boys, Clive Pullen of K.C. won the high jump championship, while Christoff Bryan of Wolmer's and Damar Robinson of Calabar finished one-two in the high jump.

Ashinia Miller of Calabar and Munro's Emmanuel Onyla earned Jamaican high schools second and third places, respectively, in the shot put championship won by Braheme Days Jr. of Bridgton High in the U.S.

College athletes from Caribbean schools also won. University of the West Indies claimed the 4x100 title for men, while Carrie Russell of the University of Technology in Jamaica won the women's 100 meters dash.

- Gordon Williams



## St. Lucia teen signs with top flight Italian soccer club

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Teenaged St. Lucian midfielder Zaine Pierre has signed a four-year deal with Italian Serie A club Genoa for an undisclosed sum.

The 18-year-old has been in Italy for the last six months and from reports, has already created a big impression.

Pierre, a member of Trinidad and Tobago Pro League club W Connection, is the first St Lucian to sign a professional deal with a major Italian club. He joined W Connection's youth academy as

a 16-year-old, but quickly progressed into the senior squad.

Club owner David John-Williams said Pierre's success was a testament of the quality of W Connection's program.

"The move has again reinforced the strength and potential of W Connection's youth system and program," he said.

### COMMITMENT

"The club remains committed to the development of young talented players from T&T, as well as the wider Caribbean."

John-Williams said that if

all went well for Pierre, he could become the most valuable transfer ever for a teenager from the Caribbean.

Pierre previously had unsuccessful trials at English Premier Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspurs, Manchester City, Liverpool and Stoke City. He has four caps for St. Lucia in World Cup qualifying action after making his debut two years ago.

Genoa are currently battling relegation from Serie A.



## Windies' Chanderpaul world's best

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, CMC - Veteran West Indies left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul is the new number one-ranked batsman in the world, following his prolific series against Australia last month.

The 37-year-old amassed 346 runs to be the leading run-getter in the three-Test series, which the Windies lost 2-0.

He averaged 86, scored a century at Kensington Oval in the first Test that put him second - with 25 - on the all-time West Indies list behind Sir Garry Sobers and became only the second West Indian to surpass 10,000 Test runs.

The performance has pushed him six rating points clear of South African AB de Villiers who slipped to second place.

"It feels good to be back in the top spot in Test cricket," said Chanderpaul.

"I am batting well at the moment, and when things are going well for you at the crease you try to keep going and building and look to make the most of every innings you play."

### READY

Chanderpaul is in the West

Indies squad to face England in three Tests starting this month. The Caribbean team plays May 17-21 at Lord's, May 25-29 at Trent Bridge and June 7-11 at Edgbaston. Chanderpaul said he is ready for the challenge.

"I'm feeling confident as



Chanderpaul

we get ready for England and, like everyone else in the team, my eyes are fixed on the next few weeks and what we want to achieve," said the veteran of 140 Tests covering 18 years. "The conditions there are quite different to what we saw (in the Caribbean in the recent series) against Australia. You have to stay focused and use all your skills to get the right results."



## Fifth cricket title for Jamaica

Captain Tamar Lambert has described Jamaica's fifth straight regional first class cricket title as a massive achievement, especially coming in the same year as the country's 50th anniversary of its Independence.

Last month Jamaica, playing at home, crushed Barbados by 139 runs on the last day of the Regional Four-Day final, to complete a dramatic come-from-behind victory and lift the trophy again.

"It is a great feeling. This is a truly remarkable achievement," said Lambert. "To win here and create history is something to be proud of and as captain I am extremely happy. We have now made it five straight and it feels great.



Lambert

"This is the 50th year of Independence for the nation of Jamaica, so that makes it an extra-special achievement as well. Before a ball was bowled this year, we said we wanted to win every match and we did just that.

"We went out and did what was required and here we stand as champions!"

Jamaica seemed to have lost its grip on the game on Sunday when it surrendered first innings points to Barbados.

Despite trailing by 18 runs, Jamaica batted purposefully to reach 133 for two at the close before accelerating their scoring on the final day to declare at 247 for five and set Barbados 230 to win.

Barbados could not withstand the assault from Jamaica and crumbled for 90 all out an hour after lunch.

Edited from CMC.



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