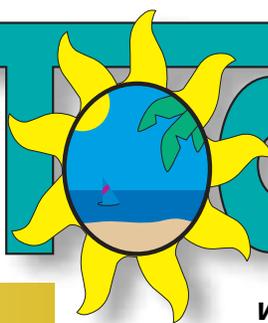


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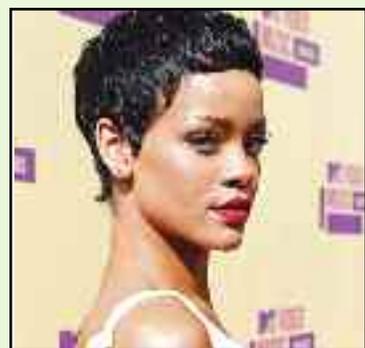
THE MULTI AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED



Is there a power struggle for the leadership of Rastafari? One brethren believes entertainer Sizzla Kalonji is unilaterally trying to impose himself as 'president' of the movement in Jamaica, and thereby seize control globally, page 7.



Controversy has been sparked over a televised advertisement that features a white actor speaking Jamaican and urging his co-workers to get happy. Is it racist, as some suggest, or a positive image boost for the Caribbean island? page 10.



Barbadian-born pop star Rihanna is making headlines again. She is scheduled to sing at the Grammy awards – and possibly collect a few – plus her controversial romance with American entertainer Chris Brown is on again, page 18.

CULTURE CONFLICT

~ History traces most of their roots to the same continent. But, despite some mutual admiration, why do many Caribbean people in the United States not fully embrace the same culture as African Americans? Caribbean Today explores, page 3.



- Cover photograph from artwork done by Raw Pencil titled "Mama Africa". An exhibition of his work is on display in South Florida, page 12.



Time Is Now

~ United States President Barack Obama has given the green light for American lawmakers to again pursue immigration reform and a bipartisan group is pushing for an agreement. Documented and undocumented Caribbean people support their efforts, which they believe are long overdue. Yet some are cautious about the final product, page 2.

INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

News	2	St. Lucia Independence	15	Tourism/Travel	21
Feature	7	Grenada Independence	17	Sport	22
Viewpoint	9	Arts/Entertainment.....	18	Classified.....	23
Black History Month	11	Local/FYI	20		

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Caribbean nationals welcome latest push for U.S. immigration reform

Caribbean immigrants, many with relatives and friends who are undocumented and scared, were among those welcoming the news of a bi-partisan immigration reform measure that was introduced into the United States Senate late last month.

While Latino immigrants - who make up most of the undocumented population in the U.S. - stand to profit most, undocumented Caribbean immigrants who stay largely in the shadows, will also benefit if the legislation passes both U.S. houses of Congress.

U.S. President Barack Obama, beginning his second term, has promised to sign the measure into law.

For Caribbean undocumented immigrant Mervyn (real name changed to protect his identity), the measure is "very good news." He told news agency NAN that he's happy members of the two major U.S. political parties - Republicans and Democrats - are finally coming together over something.

"It's a very good thing for the 11-plus million people who are illegal in this country and who have no chance of being legal," said Mervyn. "Although the economy is tough, illegals are finding work because we do jobs Americans don't do."

LIFE LINE'

Irwine Clare, head of the Caribbean Immigrant Services, who has spent close to two decades lobbying for immigration reform, embraced the measure.

"It's welcome news for the 11 million persons trapped in the system, including Caribbean nationals," the Jamaican immigrant told NAN.

"We have for many years called for a pathway to citizenship for all law abiding, undocumented immigrants and this bipartisan measure is very much appreciated," he added. "It's a real life line for our community and can also bode well for the economies of the Caribbean since the many thousands of Caribbean nationals who are undocumented will get a chance to travel home finally."

"While we are applaud President Obama for standing with immigrants, it is important that Caribbean nationals (documented or not) support this new push for immigration reform," added Caribbean American Pastor Gilford T. Monroe. "By our community mobilizing in huge numbers, this will send a strong signal to Congress and the White House that our community is serious about reforming our laws to give undocumented immigrants a pathway to citizenship."

Minna Lafortune, president of the Society For The Advancement Of The Caribbean Diaspora, also welcomed the news for all communities of immigrants, including Caribbean. But, she noted: "We are hopeful for a quick passage and we are also hopeful that terms will not be too burdensome."

Rickford Burke, president of the Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy, told NAN that he is "cautiously



U.S. lawmakers are seeking relief for undocumented residents.

optimistic" that a group comprising Republican and Democratic senators have reached a compromise. Caribbean nationals also welcomed President Obama's announcement he intends to pursue immigration reform measures that could grant millions of undocumented immigrants, including thousands of Caribbean nationals, immediate, provisional status to live and work in the U.S. and ultimately an opportunity to become citizens.

But, Burke said, "the devil of the plan is in the details. Hence, as Caribbean Americans we'll have to fight for what we want," especially, he added, since there are aspects of the proposals that many are still unsure of, including the time frame which legalization will be accomplished

before a path to citizenship could be granted.

"While the policy to grant immediate legal status to undocumented is commendable, we should viciously oppose making a path to citizenship contingent upon interminable or unending conditions concomitant mandates imposes on the federal government, as those seeking legal status will have no possible control of the government's execution of or performance in implementing the proposed mandatory benchmarks," said Burke.

LEADERSHIP

Burke also called on "the leadership" of the Caribbean American community to join the discussion, get engaged and fight for "our common position so that ultimately we would be at the table when a decision is

made."

Like Burke, Caribbean America activist Chuck Mohan was cautiously optimistic, insisting: "Let's hope it real immigration reform and not like the immigration deform that was introduced in the past."

Guyanese national Leroy Nelson, too, warned caution in celebration, but said the measure is "a useful step."

Several political and immigration leaders weighed in on the measure. Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Illinois), chairman of the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, called the measure a "momentum" boost.

"We are on track to pass a bipartisan bill this year that legalizes millions of immigrants, keeps families together, strengthens our country, and eventually allows immigrants to apply for citizenship. All of the pieces are falling into place," the congressman said in a statement.

But he warned: "We have not signed on the dotted line and some important details are yet to be resolved, but what we have now is momentum. Momentum, plus encouragement from the American people, the president, and immigrant and Latino communities, will get an immigration bill across the finish line this year."

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, took to social network

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

U.S. spends big on Caribbean immigration enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new study has found that last year the administration of United States President Barack Obama spent more on immigration enforcement affecting the Caribbean and other countries than on all the other major federal law enforcement agencies.

The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research group, in its report, said the U.S. government spent nearly \$18 billion on immigration enforcement. It stated that immigration control has become "the federal government's highest criminal law enforcement priority",

based on the vast resources devoted to monitoring illegal Caribbean and other immigrants and to detaining and deporting them.

"The 'enforcement first' policy that has been advocated by many in (U.S.) Congress and the public as a precondition for considering broader immigration reform has *de facto* become the nation's singular immigration policy", the report stated.

COURT ACTION

The report added that the two main immigration enforcement agencies under the U.S. Department of

Homeland Security have referred more cases to the courts for prosecution than all of the Justice Department's law enforcement agencies combined. The report said total spending on those agencies was \$14 billion, compared to \$18 billion on immigration enforcement.

The report also noted that deportations "increased dramatically" as a result of massive increases in spending, with more Caribbean and other immigrants removed in expedited proceedings that do not involve any formal proceeding before an immigration judge. The budget for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has increased by 87 percent since 2005, to nearly \$6 billion, and the number of illegal immigrants that ICE detains annually increased to 429,247 in 2011.

In December, ICE reported that it deported 410,000 immigrants in 2012.

- Edited from CMC.

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CULTURE CONFLICT: Caribbean roots tangle with African American in U.S.

DAWN A. DAVIS

Do black Caribbean Americans identify with their African American counterparts in the United States?

As a citizen or resident of the U.S., how do native islanders fit in?

Turns out Caribbean Americans, a small share of the total foreign-born population in the U.S., may feel the need to establish their own voice.

According to the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute, Caribbean nationals reached nine percent of the total immigrant population in 2009. However, this group has seen a relative decrease in growth each decade since 1970. The largest number of Caribbean Americans reside in the state of Florida, at 40 percent, followed by New York's 29 percent.

But while some Caribbean Americans have embraced the African American categorization, others have not. For Caribbean Americans like 28-year-old Tara Wollaston, who was born in the U.S. to Jamaican parents, the distinction is clear-cut, with the strong bond of family a key deciding factor.

"I consider myself Caribbean American," Wollaston told *Caribbean Today* recently. "Yes I am black, but to only identify myself as an African American would be a betrayal to my upbringing, my culture and my ancestry."

"It is instilled in me. I am more than just an African American. If I am born to Caribbean parents, but only see myself as African American what does that say about where I came from or who I came from?"

Jamaican-born Dr. Deborah Thomas, professor of anthropology at the

University of Pennsylvania with research interests in race and gender, trans-nationalism, Caribbean culture and identity, said second-generation children's experience and internal tug-of-war places them in a unique position.

"Second generation kids are really talented at code switching, moving back and forth between the two communities," Thomas explained. "...On one hand they differentiate, but there is so much circulation in terms of music, fashion, style. It's not like they are not part of the African American culture anyway or that Jamaica (and the Caribbean) is not part of the U.S. popular culture. There is so much overlap."

Dr. Andrea Queeley, assistant professor of anthropology and African and African diaspora studies at Florida International University (FIU), agreed.

"There has been circulation and exchange in terms of music, performance, and also political activism," she said, "the exchange among artists, intellectuals."

DILEMMA

Thomas also sees divergent history as part of the dilemma between the cultures of most Caribbean Americans and African Americans.

"To come from a majority black society that has a colonial history that is still very evident in the present, gives you a much different sense of yourself, sense of how you measure difference than in the U.S. where African Americans are a minority with



Thomas

a very different history of racial segregation and oppression," Thomas explained.

"The people who migrate are never the worst off economically," she added. "...It requires a certain savviness. And once you have been able to do that you don't want to be positioned with others who they see are being treated like the bottom of the barrel."

"So, African Americans see Caribbean people as denying their blackness. But Caribbean people feel that they came to this country not to be black, but to get ahead. This is sometimes where the tension arise."

Dr. Queeley had a similar view.

"So much of it, with all immigrants not just Caribbean immigrants, is distancing themselves from what they perceive to be the lowest category in the social hierarchy," she explained.

"So, the idea is you don't want to be confused with being African American...If you come here from the Caribbean and are perceived to be African American, depending upon the context, that could be seen as being a real step down."

Wollaston's perception bears out the positions of both academics.

"African Americans have been taught how to survive or how to get by; whereas Caribbean Americans have been taught to always want more for themselves, to be prideful in the work that they have accomplished, and strive for more without forgetting yourself," she said.

DEFIANCE

Guyanese-born Miami resident John Morant (name changed to protect identity) takes a stronger stance.

"I refuse to be characterized as an African American because, as a result of my findings, I can safely conclude that they are no longer ambitious

and devoted to any cause," said Morant.

"This quality is very predominant among the males. The cooperative struggle to soar above the normal expectations of idealism among African Americans is rapidly becoming extinct."

Dr. Queeley, whose grandparents came from Montserrat, attributed these strong feelings to fear of feeling dehumanized.

"Some people may be resistant to homogenizing black people because they come from the perspective of knowing that part of the white supremacist project is to say that we are all the same, all disposable, and it's dehumanizing," she explained.

"So by saying 'I am from Jamaica, I am from Trinidad, I am from Barbados, I have a very specific cultural history', it's different. What is potentially destructive is when that becomes a way to place oneself above."

"Personally I feel demoralized when other black people are so ignorant about African Americans and have this need to divide that comes from wanting to be better than."



Wollaston

COMPRO-MISE

Although Phillip Grant, a 24-year-old college student who migrated to the U.S. from the Caribbean five years ago, does not see himself as African American, his views are not as damning as Morant's.

"I went through culture shock because of the significant differences you encounter on a daily basis," explained Grant. "Certain standards and values I would expect, say in the school environment, is so different from what I am used to. The disrespect I've seen toward elders and parents goes against everything I know."

Asked how African Americans and others reacted to his 'difference', Grant said: "When I first came the reaction to me was both negative and positive. Because people don't know the difference between the islands, many would assume I was from a particular country, or even from Africa. Sometimes there were attitudes, but most people appreciated my accent and even tried to mimic the way I speak."

"I am strictly Jamaican. It doesn't matter how long I am here, I will hold on to who I am. I try my best to keep my Jamaican values and morals, I don't see myself as African American."

A seven-year U.S. resident, 25-year-old Jamaican-born Tafari Plummer also holds fast to his regional roots.

"I identify as Caribbean," said Plummer. "Normally if I am filling out an application form and there is 'African American' and 'Other', I will choose 'Other' because I am not African American."

Like Grant, Plummer has had good and bad reactions to his obvious non-U.S. accent.

"A lot of people in my age range, when they hear my accent they start to question," he said. "But they are positive questions. So, I try to open up and teach people about the Caribbean way of life. But there have been times when people, who don't understand the immigrant's desire for a better life and opportunity, see me as another immigrant who is stealing precious resources. In fact, I have had comments like that directed at me. So, it's a double-edge sword."

Plummer noted that he has had to adapt to the American way of life and has had no problem "fitting in." He takes pride in the fact that many Caribbean leaders are black and is also encouraged by the progress blacks in the U.S.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Online petition to exonerate Marcus Garvey targets U.S. Congress

MIAMI, Florida - A Miami-based group spearheading an initiative to exonerate Jamaican Marcus Garvey has expanded its online petition to the United States House of Representatives.

The Coalition for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey, Jamaica's first National Hero, said it is urging the U.S. Congress to clear his name once and for all.

Geoffrey Philp, a spokesman for the group, said the drive for the exoneration of Garvey has been going on now for at least 80 years and that on Jan. 10, 2007, Harlem

Congressman Charles Rangel introduced a bill to the 110th Congress. The bill had urged the U.S. president to "grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted".

OPPORTUNITY

Philp said the current "113th Congress and the Black Congressional Caucus in particular will have an opportunity to correct this historic injustice" and that the group had begun the "drive" with a series of lectures, enti-



Garvey

tled "Rethinking Garveyism in the Twenty-First Century".

On Jan. 12, 1922, Garvey, founder of the United Negro Improvement Association

(UNIA), was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and charged with mail fraud. In 1925, Garvey began serving a five-year sentence in a U.S. penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. After several appeals, his sentence was eventually commuted by President Calvin Coolidge and he was deported back to his homeland Jamaica.

POLITICS

Observers and political and legal analysts say that while Garvey did not commit any criminal acts, "his politics

were on trial."

As a Jamaican political leader, writer, entrepreneur, orator and thinker whose philosophy supported the "Back to Africa" movement of the 1920s, Garvey advocated that members of the African diaspora return to their ancestral lands. He is remembered for his influence on black nationalism and pan-Africanism.

Garvey, who was born on Aug. 17, 1887, died on June 10, 1940.

- Edited from CMC.



Crime takes heavy toll on Caribbean economies

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) says several commissioned studies have revealed that crime and violence have had a dramatic impact on women, youth and the economic wellbeing of families in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The new studies “underscore the more hidden dimensions of the cost of crime” on regional economies, by looking at issues such as women’s health and property values”, declared a statement issued by the organization.

The studies were the result of a call for proposals to academics and other experts to use innovative and appropriate methodologies to measure the cost of crime and violence in the region, the IDB stated. Out of a total of 117 proposals received, eight were presented by their authors at last month’s seminar at the IDB headquarters here.

“The children of women who have suffered from domestic violence have a greater risk of being born underweight, and grow up with more feeble health, with less chance they will be vaccinated and more likely to suffer from diarrhea”, stated the

IDB about one of the studies.

TOP CONCERN

The Washington-based financial institution noted that Latin American and Caribbean citizens cite crime and violence as their top concern, above unemployment, healthcare and other issues. It stated that the region suffers from some of the world’s highest homicide rates, noting that 20 of the world’s most violence cities are located in Latin America and the Caribbean.

“Crime has tangible direct costs, such as the cost of funding a private and public security infrastructure to prevent and combat crime,” said Ana Corbacho, sector economic advisor of the IDB’s Institutions for Development (IFD) Sector, which covers citizen security at the IDB.

Gustavo Beliz, an IDB specialist, said “a better understanding of the economic costs of violence and crime is vital for public-sector decision-making in the citizen security sector.”

- Edited from CMC.



Ex-U.S. pastor pleads guilty to two counts of illicit sexual conduct in Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A former church minister in Haiti has pleaded guilty in a North Carolina court to engaging in illicit sexual conduct in the French Caribbean island of Haiti.

The United States Department of Justice said that Larry Michael Bollinger, 67, of Gastonia, North Carolina, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David S. Cayer last month to two counts of “engaging in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign place”.

Bollinger was charged in an indictment filed on May 15,

2012. According to filed court documents and court proceedings, he was a former Lutheran minister who performed missionary work in Haiti. Court records show that Bollinger regularly travelled to Haiti and served as the Haiti director for a Lutheran charity.

CONFESSION

The U.S. Justice Department said that Bollinger admitted that from about Aug. 2009 to Oct. 2009 he sexually molested four Haitian females, between the ages of 11 and 16. One of the

victims said that Bollinger offered to give her food and money in exchange for sexual acts.

Bollinger has been in federal custody since he was charged in May 2012. Each count of engaging in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign place carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

A sentencing date for Bollinger had not been set up to press time.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean nationals welcome latest push for U.S. immigration reform

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Twitter to insist that “immigrants have come to this nation in search of the American Dream.” As such, she noted: “After delaying for years, we must replace a system that does not work in the Twenty-First

Century with comprehensive #immigration reform.”

Benjamin Johnson, executive director of the American Immigration Council, lauded the measure as the “beginning (of) an honest, bipartisan effort to confront the many dif-

ficult issues that must be resolved for immigration reform to become a reality.”

- Edited from an article written by Felicia Persaud of News Americas Network (NAN).



...Senators lay out bipartisan immigration plan

The measure— called the “Bipartisan Framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform” - proposed by U.S. senators, including Charles Schumer (D-New York), John McCain (R-Arizona), Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey), Michael Bennet (D-Colorado) and Jeff Flake (R-Arizona), will: create a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants already in the country allowing for immigrants can register with the government, pass background checks and pay fines and back taxes in order to earn “probationary legal status;” increase border security efforts including adding unmanned drones, surveillance equipment and more border agents; require completion of an entry-exit system to track whether people in the U.S. on temporary visas have left as required and create a commission of

lawmakers and community leaders living along the southwest border to make a recommendation about when the border security measures have been completed.

Once security measures are in place, immigrants on “probationary legal status” could apply for permanent legal status behind other immigrants already in the system. People brought to the U.S. as children, and farm workers, would have a quicker path to citizenship.

The bill also aims to improve the legal immigration system; reduce backlogs in family and employment visas; award green cards to immigrants who obtain advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering or math from American universities; create non-forgable electronic system for requiring prospective workers to demonstrate legal status and identity and enforce stiff fines and criminal

penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Employers could hire immigrants if they can demonstrate they were unsuccessful in recruiting an American and the hiring of an immigrant will not displace American workers.

The bill also calls for the creation of an agricultural worker program to meet the needs of the nation’s agriculture industry when American workers are not available; allow more lower-skilled immigrants to come to the country when the economy is creating jobs, and fewer when it is not and permit workers who have succeeded in the workplace and contributed to their communities over years to earn permanent residence or “green cards”.

- Edited from News Americas.



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Bahamian admits to smuggling undocumented migrants into U.S.

MIAMI, Florida – A Bahamian national faces up to 10 years in prison after she pleaded guilty last month to smuggling undocumented migrants to the United States for private financial gain.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division said 66-year-old Irene Mildred Janette Burrows, and 37 year-old Jessie Katherine Gonzales Urquizo of Peru pleaded guilty to the charge and will be sentenced next month.

Breuer said Urquizo pleaded guilty to three counts and Burrows pleaded guilty to two counts of bringing and attempting to bring aliens to the U.S. for commercial advantage and private financial gain before District Court Judge Kenneth A. Marra in

the Southern District of Florida.

According to the plea documents, Urquizo and her mother-in-law Burrows "facilitated the illegal smuggling of Brazilian nationals into the United States by working for a known alien smuggler in Brazil". It said the two women provided lodging and transportation to undocumented migrants waiting on a boat to take them to the U.S. and charged between \$100 and \$125 per day.

Urquizo faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Burrows faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when they come up for sentencing on Mar. 22.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S., Haiti agencies launch anti-corruption hotline

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Agencies in the United States and Haiti have teamed up to launch an anti-corruption hotline in the French-speaking Caribbean nation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG) and La Fondation Heritage pour Haiti (LFHH), the Haitian chapter of Transparency International (TI), have been operating the hotline in Haiti. The aim is to help fight corruption and promote accountability in aid programs in Haiti. It is being advertised on radio, television and vehicles used by USAID's implementing partners.

The 24-hour hotline accepts allegations in English, French and creole and has been receiving complaints since it launched in Dec. 2012.

Developed as part of USAID OIG's ongoing partnership with LFHH, the hotline models the approach of the Pakistan Anti-Fraud Hotline run by Transparency International-Pakistan and the OIG. Both hotlines cover not only USAID projects and implementers, but also receive complaints across the spectrum of international and local assistance programs in their respective countries.

According to USAID Deputy Inspector General Michael G. Carroll, "this new hotline gives the Haitian people a way to help fight corruption in the programs and services meant to benefit them. OIG remains firmly committed to rooting out fraud and corruption in assistance programs across the country, and to help improve donor assistance in Haiti."

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad - Convicted soca star Machel Montano has lost his endorsement deal with Trinidad and Tobago's cellular telephone brand bmobile.

The Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited dropped Montano on a directive from its board of directors.

"TSTT wishes to advise at this time, that it is suspending all existing arrangements with Machel Montano and the company," the company said in an e-mailed statement on Jan. 30.

It also dropped Montano from the week-long "Soca in bSquare" concert line-up at Woodford Square here.

Montano had been endorsing TSTT's bmobile brand for close to eight years.

The lost deal is the latest in the ongoing Montano saga since his Dec. 10, 2012 conviction by Magistrate Maureen



Montano

Babo-olal-Gafoor. Montano was found guilty of five criminal charges of assault and using obscene language during a fracas five years ago, outside the Zen nightclub here. He faces jail time, but sentencing has been delayed.

BACKLASH

Following his conviction, there have been numerous calls by interest groups for the company to stop sponsoring Montano with taxpayers' money because of his conviction, but the company held off

until late last month.

Up to press time Montano still had a commercial deal with state-owned airline Caribbean Airlines Ltd., which is a sponsor of his "Machel Monday" concert. He had so far not commented on the debacle.

'LESSON'

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago Soca artiste, Dexter "Blaxx" Stewart, called the turn of events, "a lesson...(for) everyone in public life."

"As a regular man on the street, you can get away with many things," Stewart said. "People like Machel Montano, Destra, Blaxx, Fay-Ann Lyons - there's no room for slip-ups. That's the reality of the business. I'm sorry that it has taken one man's dilemma, to draw focus to this- at least for me."

- Edited from News Americas.



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Jamaican jailed for identity theft, faces deportation

TAMPA, Florida – United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has reported that an illegal Jamaican immigrant has been jailed for identity theft.

Last month, ICE said Lynval Thompson was sentenced to two years in a U.S. federal prison and one year of supervised release for "aggravated identity theft." He will be deported to Jamaica after he completes his prison sentence, officials said.

ICE said that after comparing arrest records and fingerprint samples, U.S. Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) special

agents determined that the Thompson had impersonated another man, Cory Howard, who was living in North Carolina in 2011. According to ICE, while reviewing his credit report, Howard realized that an unknown person in the state of Florida had opened a Wells Fargo bank account using his personal information. After doing some investigating, Howard learned that the bank account was associated with a Tampa, Florida address. He contacted the Tampa Police Department for assistance.

The immigration agency said a Tampa Police

Department detective then embarked on an investigation. Using ATM transaction videos and the address associated with the Wells Fargo bank account, the detective tracked down Howard's impersonator via a traffic stop.

Tampa's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents on searching immigration records and working with law enforcement entities in Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands eventually identified the impersonator as Thompson.

- Edited from CMC.



WARNING: U.S., Antigua head for copyright showdown over online gambling

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States is warning Antigua and Barbuda about plans to break copyright laws by getting legal retribution over its refusal to let Americans gamble at online sites based in the Caribbean island.

The Geneva, Switzerland-based World Trade Organization (WTO) on Jan. 28 allowed Antigua and Barbuda to suspend certain concessions and obligations it has under international law to the U.S. in respect of intellectual property rights.

Trade analysts speculate that Antigua and Barbuda's action may involve offering downloads of American intellectual property, like Hollywood films, network television shows or hit pop songs.

"We are disappointed with Antigua and Barbuda's decision to abandon constructive settlement discussions,"

said Nkenge Harmon, a spokeswoman for the U.S. trade representative.

"As recently as (Jan. 25), our two countries held high-level discussions on possible settlement options that would have brought real benefits to Antigua's businesses and people," she added.

TRADE DAMAGE

The U.S. administration of President Barack Obama also warned Antigua and Barbuda that the proposed plan might further hurt trade relations between the two countries.

"If Antigua does proceed with the unprecedented plan for its government to authorize the theft of intellectual property, it would only serve to hurt Antigua's own interests," Harmon said, adding "government-authorized piracy would undermine chances for a settlement.

"It also would serve as a



Lovell

major impediment to foreign investment in the Antiguan economy, particularly in high-tech industries," she said.

Antigua and Barbuda said it was seeking final WTO approval of its sanctions in order to compel the U.S. either to comply with the rulings in the island's favor in the gambling dispute or to negotiate a "fair and reasonable solution" with the Antiguan and Barbuda government.

The government said the remedy is "expressly provided" for under WTO law, adding that contrary to what

the US has publicly stated, its proposed action will not constitute piracy or theft of intellectual property rights.

Rather, the Antigua and Barbuda government said it will be a "lawful suspension of intellectual property rights, conforming to the judgment of the relevant WTO tribunal".

DISPUTE

For nearly a decade, the Baldwin Spencer government said it has sought to resolve the dispute with Washington over the U.S. failure to abide by American treaty obligations with regard to remote gaming.

"The economy of Antigua and Barbuda has been devastated by the United States government's long campaign to prevent American consumers from gambling online with offshore gaming operators," said Harold Lovell, Antigua's finance minister in a statement issued last month.

"These aggressive efforts to shut down the remote gaming industry in Antigua have

resulted in the loss of thousands of good paying jobs and seizure by the Americans of billions of dollars belonging to gaming operators and their customers in financial institutions across the world," he added.

Lovell said at its height, the remote gaming industry in Antigua and Barbuda was the country's second largest employer, with leading international gaming economists estimated that the industry was worth over \$3.4 billion to the Antiguan economy.

"This economic devastation has been caused by the direct actions of the U.S.," he said, stating that fees paid by the gaming industry helped fund public education, health-care and the country's infrastructure.

Lovell also said the income-boosted consumer spending and other economic activity associated with "a vibrant, high-tech industry."

- Edited from CMC.






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Popular Cuban dissident gets passport to travel

HAVANA, Cuba - After being denied a passport for a decade, a popular Cuban has been granted the opportunity to travel overseas.

In what has been described as the first real test of Cuba's new migration laws, blogger Yoani Sánchez late last month confirmed she received a passport after

denied permission for 10 years to travel abroad.

"Incredible! They called me at home to tell me that my passport was ready. They have just handed it to me," Sanchez told reporters here, stating that she had been denied several permits to travel abroad since around 2003.

However, another has

been denied that opportunity. Former political prisoner Angel Moya said his passport application was denied because he did not serve all of his 20-year jail sentence.

'PUBLIC INTEREST'

Moya, 49, who spent eight years in prison and is married to Berta Soler, leader of the dissident group, Ladies in White, said a passport office employee told him she could not accept his application because he "is regulated for the public interest."

On Jan. 14, the Raúl Castro administration lifted the requirement for the exit permits, known as "white cards". According to the new migration laws, Cubans can make personal trips abroad with just valid passports and visas from other countries.

But the laws also state that passports can be denied for "national security" or "national interests".

Cuban State Security had repeatedly denied Sanchez permission to leave the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island to pick up international awards for her blog, Generación Y and to take part in seminars.

- Edited from CMC.





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Sanchez

POWER PLAY: Rastafari reject Sizzla as their 'president'

**RAS I. JABULANI
TAFARI**

An attempt by reggae entertainer Sizzla Kalonji to unilaterally impose himself as the 'president' of Rastafari in Jamaica, and thereby seize control of the movement globally, has been vehemently rejected by a broad cross section of Rastafari organizations and individuals in Jamaica and internationally.

Miguel Collins, popularly known as Sizzla Kalonji, publicly announced himself to be the leader of the Rastafari movement following his 'inauguration' as 'president' on Oct. 21, 2012, at the Lion's Club in Old Harbour, St. Catherine, Jamaica. Some are hailing this development as a great step forward for the Rastafari movement. But over the past two years the entertainer has been attempting to leverage control over the Nyahbinghi Ancient Council using a combination of money and influence. He finally influenced six of the 24 elders on the Ancient Council to back his power play to become a 'Rasta president'.

Sizzla claims to have been elected 'president', but the 'election' was only a media announcement. There were no other candidates and no vote was conducted. Further, Collins, despite claims to the contrary, does not have the official endorsement of the three major mansions of the Rastafari movement - the Nyahbinghi Theocracy Reign Order, the Boboshanti and the 12 Tribes of Israel.

AGENDA

The disturbing thing about Sizzla's 'Presidential Inauguration Speech' was that

it indicated the wide scope of his agenda. His prepared script included the following telling sentence: "We are now putting in place ourselves as the true Indigenous Government of Ras Tafari with a President Elect for the Black people in the Diaspora".

This statement indicates what his long term goals are: Collins is seeking to become the legal/constitutional representative of the 'indigenous' people and culture of Jamaica - and he's talking about Rastafarians and Maroons, not Arawaks. And, after he 'conquers' Jamaica, the Caribbean and the African diaspora are next.

Clearly there is a problem. The Rastafari movement is out of control of its own loyal, sincere and genuine members. And the leadership of the movement is up for grabs to the highest bidder, the power-hungry or the most dominant and intimidating. Some of the leadership of the movement can even be bought out for monkey money by foreign hip-hop artistes like Snoop Whatever.

VACUUM

What is undeniable is that there is a leadership vacuum in the Rastafari movement. That void is now being filled unilaterally by Sizzla Kalonji in an attempt to give him added credibility in his power grabbing crusade in Jamaica, and in his land grabbing crusades in Africa.

The Rastafari movement as a whole has never had a president, so for an entertainer with no qualifications other than fame and fortune to be unilaterally propelled into supposed leadership of the entire movement by devious and strong-arm means, is absolute-



Is Sizzla making a grab for Rasta's leadership?

ly ridiculous.

Rastafari and reggae are two separate entities, although many people mistakenly believe that they are one and the same. Even more important, money, fame and popularity do not qualify anyone for leadership of the Rastafari movement.

So for those saying that Sizzla is popular and rich - so what?! Rastafari business is not conducted by popularity contests and is not influenced by intimidation, bribery or fraud. True Rastafari are not

thugs or terrorists and do not disrespect the principles of the tradition as these would-be usurpers have.

NO CONTROL

Reggae maestro Bob Marley never controlled the Rastafari movement. Peter Tosh never controlled the movement. They left the serious organizing and the diplomatic and governmental representation of the movement to those better qualified to do so.

The current dilemma facing Rastafari is how to deal with this determined attempt to seize arbitrary control of the movement. Make no mistake about that: Collins is determined to get his way, so nothing ends here yet. Undaunted by the reproach and derision his actions have caused throughout the movement, the entertainer is moving ahead with his agenda full speed.

Does the Rastafari movement need to be controlled by a deejay with an ever present paramilitary entourage always at his back? Does the movement need to be represented by an entertainer who gives mixed musical messages -

roots and culture sometimes, and slackness and badness other times? Does the movement deserve to be led by someone who operates as a dictator and resorts to intimidation and threats of physical violence to get his way? No, of course not!

Over the past two months, Sister Mitzie Williams, chairperson of the Theocracy Order's Administrative Council in Jamaica, has been receiving threatening phone calls urging her to support the new 'Rasta president'. That has never happened before in the movement's history.

So if you really love Rastafari culture, don't go jumping blindly on the Sizzla bandwagon. His agenda and methodology may not be in the best interest of the movement. As Bob Marley said: "...I don't want my people to be tricked by mercenaries!"

- Edited from an article submitted to Caribbean Today by Ras I. Jabulani Tafari. The contents represent his opinions only.



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LASTING LEGACY: Doris Ison builds health care movement for needy

Thomasina Simpson smiled as she looked at a photograph of her late mother, Doris Ison. The picture seemed to conjure up proud memories of the Florida City visionary and activist.

Simpson is 86. Her recollection of her late mother's health care legacy comes and goes. But when it is there, she comes alive.

"She was never satisfied," said Simpson.

That dissatisfaction was warranted in the 1960s. Back then in the United States, African Americans living in the

South, in places like Florida City and South Miami Dade, did not have access to local health care facilities. James Archer Smith was the closest hospital in Homestead. But blacks were turned away. The journey to Jackson Memorial in Miami was sometimes fatal for those seeking medical help.

"It was a struggle," said Carolyn Taylor-Pates, Ison's niece and board member of Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI). "Kids were dying on the way to Jackson Hospital."

That struggle, and the mounting death toll, were the matches that ignited a flame inside of Ison. Even though she only had a third grade education, Ison compelled doctors and legislators to create a health care center in South Miami Dade. In 1971, the Doris Ison Health Care Center was born in two trailers and a few volunteer doctors Ison recruited from her church. It was a beacon of hope for a community that had long suffered without adequate health care.

ACTIVISM

That heroic act of activism snowballed into a top ranking non-profit health care company that has grown.

Ison wanted to make sure that the migrant workers also received proper medical care.

"She was walking down the street one day and found a group of Mexicans in the field," recalled Simpson. "One of the children had whooping cough and she wanted to know why they hadn't seen a doctor."

Ison discovered migrants shared the same lack of access to health care that blacks were experiencing. She began to make sure that their needs were addressed as well.

"My grandmother was a champion for all people," said Toni Rogers-Manning, Ison's granddaughter.

GROWTH

When Ison died in 1989 CHI had grown out of its trailers and was operating four health care centers in buildings throughout South Miami Dade.

"I never envisioned it to be this big," said Rogers-Manning. "So for me, I'm overwhelmed that my grandmother, her dream could be ongoing."

Today Ison's legacy continues to grow. By March, CHI plans to open three new health care centers, adding to the seven currently in operation. What was once the only place that blacks in America's South could go for health care is now an all inclusive health care center. People of all ethnicities and income levels go to CHI for a

host of health care needs. Patients who can't afford it are taken care of and others are given a sliding fee scale to work with in their budget.

The operation has grown from a few volunteers, including doctors, to a staff of more than 600 offering with a wide variety of specialties, including pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology services, family medicine, radiology, mental health and dental.

"I think that they did a great job," said Simpson with a smile.

Ison's daughter gleams with hope for the future of her mother's legacy - one born out of meager beginnings.

- Article and photographs submitted by Tiffani Helberg, vice president of communications and development at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. Turn to Caribbean Today's Black History Month feature, pages 11-13.



CULTURE CONFLICT: Caribbean roots tangle with African American in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) have made.

"I might not be African American, but we are all of African descent," Plummer explained. "This country has never seen a black president before. I take pride in President (Barack) Obama because if a minority can get this far in life it shows that if you put your mind to something and work hard you can achieve greatness regardless of your skin color. It's a milestone for the American black community."

BEST FIT

Yet there are Caribbean Americans who embrace the African American category.



Muir

For some, it's picking from the best fit the U.S. has to offer.

"I do consider myself African American," Jamaican-born photographer and author David Muir said. "I am born Jamaican and will never lose that grouping, but have no issue with choosing to belong to a larger grouping here in the country of my residence."

"...The other choices are far less representative of who I am and I am unlikely to choose 'other'. I only verbally describe myself as African American to people with a box to check if I believe the person I am addressing is likely to want one

of the major categories used in this country, and I am aiming to make it clear that I am not Hispanic."

Blacks of Hispanic background also grapple with the African American category, according to artist Sonia Baez-Hernandez, who was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Puerto Rico.

"I identify myself as Puerto-Dominican," Baez-Hernandez said. "I speak English with an accent and African Americans and caucasians identify me as the other."

"It is important to celebrate the different histories, cultures, identity formations, experiences of blackness," she added. "However, to affirm blackness from a universal category of African American denies the vast experiences of blackness, the multiplicity of social voices, memories, language narratives, appropriation practices in the African diaspora living in the Caribbean, South and Central America, or those who immigrated to the United States."

Celebrating cultural uniqueness is important, according to Thomas, who noted that blacks from all over the world, including the Caribbean, who moved to the U.S., benefited because of the political and cultural struggles of African Americans.

"There have been moments when Afro Caribbean and African American populations have come together in order to support political and social causes," she said.

So, what will it take to bridge the divide?

"We have to be more open, less attached to these binary categories so we can be Caribbean and black American, and whatever other category," said Queeley.

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



Spring Health

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Moving on immigration reform

The following is the edited version of the 13th in a series of 'letters' written to United States President Barack Obama.

Dear Mr. President,

They say 13 is a lucky number and I am now a believer!

I never thought that at letter number 13 I, like so many immigrants and rights advocates in this country, would be celebrating an immigration reform bill that could become law and impact the lives of so many who desperately need relief. Finally hope we can believe in!



FELICIA PERSAUD

But now the real battle begins – getting this measure past the U.S. Congress and on to your desk so it can become law. Particularly, if it is to become a reality by the first half of this year as you say, for so many millions of hard working immigrants who desperately need it.

CAUTIOUS

But having been down this road before, too many times, I'm also only cautiously optimistic, especially since the right wingers have already begun ratcheting up their fear mongering, insisting that the 11-plus million people, who could benefit from this measure, will add a burden to the social welfare system.

Interesting isn't it? Yet according to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Commerce and the CATO Institute, more whites in this country are on welfare than any immigrant group – Hispanic, Asians, Africans or West Indians. Almost 39 percent of whites out of 4.3 million people in the U.S. are on welfare, compared to 15.7 percent of Hispanics, 2.4 percent of Asians and 3.3 percent, other.

Aviva Chomsky, a professor at Salem State College, states: "Early studies in California and in the

Southwest and in the Southeast...have come to the same conclusions. Immigrants, legal and illegal, are more likely to pay taxes than they are to use public services."

Further, according to the Immigration Policy Center, nearly half of all long time undocumented immigrants are homeowners, while another 50-plus percent aged 25-64 have at least a high school education or a college degree.

HELPING

Many too are already paying taxes via tax identification numbers or as sole proprietors of businesses and their Social Security and Medicare contributions – about \$11.2 billion – went into the Social Security Trust Fund in 2007, while \$2.6 billion went into Medicare. This means they are helping to support older Americans as undocumented immigrants are not eligible to receive these services.

Research reviewed by the non-partisan Congressional

Budget Office also indicates that between 50 percent and 75 percent of unauthorized immigrants pay federal, state and local taxes.

Additionally, UCLA research indi-

cates that nearly approximately eight million U.S. jobs are dependent upon economic activity produced by undocumented migrants within the U.S.

Mr. President, these are the facts you, Democrats and the gang of eight senators must speak about in this dialogue. It is not enough to tell sad stories of the undocumented and act like you are

It is not enough to tell sad stories of the undocumented and act like you are giving a hand out to these immigrants, but you must sell the story in dollars and sense...

Additionally, UCLA research indicates that nearly approximately eight million U.S. jobs are dependent upon economic activity produced by undocumented migrants within the U.S.

giving a hand out to these immigrants, but you must sell the story in dollars and sense so that the right wing fear mongering machine does not drive

a nail into the heart of this bill and send it down the path it has gone before under a Republican president.

Respectfully,
Felicia Persaud

The writer is founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



COLOR CODE: How black is black enough?

I suddenly find myself concerned about my blackness.

It had never occurred to me to worry about it before. Then came the recent incident on ESPN's "First Take" program that initially got commentator Rob Parker suspended and then fired outright.

It seems Parker, who is African American, analyzed what he saw as the insufficient blackness of Robert Griffin III, rookie quarterback for the Washington, D.C., football team that is named for a racial slur. Having returned their team to relevance for the first time since the Bill Clinton era, "RG3", as he is known, can do no wrong in the eyes of Slurs fans. But Parker, saying that the young man's fiancé is (gasp!) white and that he himself is rumored to be - cover the children's ears - a Republican, found him lacking in the area of authentic blackness.

"My question," he said, "which is just a straight, honest question: is he a brother, or is he a cornball brother? He's not really...O.K., he's black, he kind of does the thing, but he's not really down with the cause. He's not one of us. He's kind of black, but he's not really like the guy you really want to hang out with..."

EXPLOSION

That explosion you hear is the sound of my mind, blown. I'm left second-guessing my own blackness.

I mean, I listen to Bruce Springsteen, for crying out loud! There's even a Dixie Chicks album on my iPod. Should I download more James Brown and Al Green to save my, ahem, soul?

And I read books sometimes, man - even when no one's making me do it. Some of them are thick as bricks. Some aren't even about African American themes.

It gets worse. I have no natural rhythm, no criminal record and can correctly pronounce the word "ask". I don't curse nearly as much as I ought to. Oh, and I went and married my baby mama.

Obviously, my blackness is on life support.

DEMEANING

Many of us have been taught that it is demeaning and delimiting when someone presumes to say who you are, how you will behave, what you think, what you like, and how intelligent you are, from the color of your skin. We have been taught that such

behavior abridges the other person's individuality.

But apparently, that's only when white people do it to black people. When black people do it to black people, it's called assessing your blackness, making sure you aren't some "cornball brother".

How enlightening to learn that. It is even more enlightening to discover that we have such easy-peasy rubrics to go by. You can't be black if you are a Republican? That means Colin Powell isn't black. Neither, if published reports are to be believed, are rappers LL Cool J and 50 Cent. Who'd have thought?



LEONARD PITTS

other...wow. There goes - what? Half? 90 percent? - of all the brothers in the NBA.

Poor Frederick Douglass has a double whammy. He was a Republican and had a white wife. Who'd have thought this former slave, one of the towering heroes of African American history, wasn't black enough?

It is this kind of bold insight and trenchant analysis ESPN loses in sacking Rob Parker. What is the network thinking? Parker, who also contributes commentary to WDIV television in Detroit, defended himself in an interview with the station that aired just before ESPN dropped the ax. He pronounced himself shocked by the fallout and suggested his comments were taken out of context.

"You can't be afraid to talk about race," he said.

He's exactly right. In discussing race, we must be fear-

DOUBLE WHAMMY

And if you can't be black and have a white significant

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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SUPER DUPES: The real discrimination behind a TV advertisement

FELICIA PERSAUD

Much ado was made last month on the televised VW advertisement that was scheduled to air on Super Bowl Sunday. If you missed the hoopla, the advertisement features a white actor who speaks Jamaican and urges his co-workers to get happy.

Several media and so-called experts have slammed the advertisement as racist, while Jamaicans themselves have largely embraced it, calling it funny and saying they are thrilled at the brand exposure it's given to their island.

But while the **New York Times'** Charles Blow calls it "black face with voices" and

the Wall Street Journal described it as the "Jar Jar Binks of 2013", lost in the entire brouhaha is not the advertisement, but the underlying 'real' discrimination that persists.

SCRUTINY

1) When I looked at the advertisement initially, I first assumed it was a white Jamaican. Upon further investigation, I found out he was simple a white American actor, hired to play the part, which to my mind is the real discrimination.

Why couldn't VW find themselves a real Jamaican or an actor, to do this advertisement, even a white one? And is this simply a way for VW to



A scene from the much talked about televised VW advertisement.

compete with Nissan, which has Usain Bolt as its advertisement spokesperson, and benefits from Brand Jamaica without paying a Jamaican? (Yes there are white Jamaicans who speak like that guy! Just ask Butch Stewart of Sandals!)

2) The mainstream media in America sees everything in black and white, so the so-called expert opinions being quoted and sought are African Americans. Why? Where are

the Jamaican and Caribbean experts on this subject or where are the Jamaican voices in the United States being quoted on this? Or don't the producers of these talk shows or newspaper articles know any? That then is the real racism!

IGNORANCE

They could have walked down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn or found many on

Jamaica Avenue in Queens, New York or Gun Hill Road in the Bronx and asked their opinion. But they did not. Why? Because they don't really matter!

How can an African American, whose socialization is largely black and white, relate to a cultural identity that is multi-racial and multi-dimensional, and truly understand and have an informed opinion on an ad such as this one? They cannot!

Blow's "black face with voice comments" speaks to this ignorance. The assumption that all Jamaicans are black could not be further from the truth.

That my friends' is the real discrimination!

- Edited from a column from News Americas written by Felicia Persaud, founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



Ethnic media call for immigration reform in 2013

The White House and United States Congress must move quickly to enact just and humane comprehensive immigration reform.

In the wake of the 2012 elections in the U.S., both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have expressed the need to act on the issue. The window for bipartisan legislation is now open.

Ethnic media have a high stake in the future of immigration policy in the U.S. That's why we are joining together to take an editorial stand to urge Congress and the White House: Make 2013 the year of immigration reform.

This is not merely a question of politics. We are calling for comprehensive immigration reform because it is the morally right, economically wise and pragmatically sensible thing to do.

Our country is a nation of laws, and it is clear that U.S. immigration laws need to be overhauled. The immigration system is broken, not only for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, but for the thousands of immigrants who are unable to get visas to work in the U.S.; for American businesses that can't hire the workers they need; for the families who wait for years to get visas to join their relatives in the U.S.

We need comprehensive immigration reform that will reunite families, reinvigorate the economy, and revive our identity as a nation that thrives on the contributions of hard-working immigrants.

It's clear that our federal immigration laws are not working. Federal inaction on immigration has led states from Arizona to Alabama to write their own legislation. Even the recently announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is a temporary band-aid that does nothing to solve the larger problem of a broken immigration system.

Immigration has been portrayed as a divisive issue. In reality it's not. All of us would benefit from an effective immigration system that responds to the needs of the market, protects all workers from abuse and exploitation and puts an end to the practice of separating parents from their children.

We need an immigration system that reflects the best traditions of our history - our belief in justice, equality, and economic opportunity.

And as we look to the future, we must make sure that we remain competitive in an increasingly globalized world. We need to continue to attract the best and the brightest, to be the destination of the world's most innovative workers.

We must act now. Our economy and our future depend on it.

Editor's Note: The above editorial was produced in association with New America Media (<http://www.newamericamedia.org>), a national association of ethnic media, and was published by ethnic media in the United States to bring attention to the urgency of immigration reform.



COLOR CODE: How black is black enough?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

less. We must also be thoughtful. And informed. And exact. And alive to the ramifications of what we say.

Surely, Rob Parker knows this. Or if he didn't before, he does now.

As for being black enough, he is proba-

bly a greater expert than he was before. He is, after all, a man out of work. It doesn't get much blacker than that.

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<p>SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2013 FAMILY CHRISTIAN CENTER 2500 S. HIGHWAY 77 CLERMONT, FL 34711</p>	<p>SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2013 THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION MIRIAM DEAN PRATT COMM. CTR. 11201 SOUTHWEST 100TH ST MIAMI, FL 33157</p>

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DISCUSSION: Racial violence the focus at AARLCC

The history of racial violence in Florida will be the focus of a discussion this month at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in Fort Lauderdale.

At 6 p.m. Feb. 25, author and educator Dr. Marvin Dunn will discuss his latest book "The Beast in Florida: A History of Anti-Black Violence", which addresses a century of racial violence in Florida. Dunn calls a symbolic embodiment of racial violence and hatred "The Beast", which openly prowled the nation between the Civil War and the civil rights movement. According to him, the reasons it appeared, were varied - with psychological, political, and economic dynamics all playing a part - but the outcome was always brutal, if not deadly.

From the bombing of Harriette and Harry T. Moore's home on Christmas Day to Willie James Howard's murder; from the Rosewood massacre to the Newberry Six lynchings, Marvin Dunn is expected to offer a catalogue



of The Beast's rampages in Florida.

CONTEXT

Dunn is expected to provide context for a century's worth of racial violence by examining communities over time. Insights from interviews with descendants of both perpetrators and victims shape his study of Florida's racial history.

Dunn is a retired chairman of the Department of Psychology at Florida International University and the author of "Black Miami in the Twentieth Century". He was born in DeLand, Florida, and educated in the Florida public school system. His family moved to Miami in 1951. In 1961, he earned a bachelor

of arts degree in psychology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He began his career as a naval officer, serving from 1961 to 1967. He also studied at Roosevelt University in Chicago and received a master's degree in education administration and supervision in 1965. In 1972, Dunn earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

CULTURE

In 1999 Dunn designed and traveled a photographic history of blacks in Florida with a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. He has also developed Florida black history photographic exhibits for Florida International University and for Camillus House's Brownsville Christian Community Center.

Dunn's book "Black Miami in the Twentieth Century" was published in 1997. "The Beast in Florida: A History of Anti-Black Violence" is due for publication this month by University Press of Florida.

Dunn has directed three (CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

Entertainment, education to mark Miami-Dade libraries' celebration

Music, dancing and poetry will be among the tools used to recognize black history in presentations at South Florida public libraries during February.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System will celebrate the event with a variety of events, open to the public, including a program of Reggie Paul's music which explores the many styles of African American song.

Persons ages 12-19 are invited to participate in the fifth Annual Teen Photography contest, which runs from through Feb. 9. The contest challenges participants to get behind the lens to capture some aspect of African American culture in Miami-Dade County. Categories include architecture, art and lifestyle. Prizes will be awarded for the top three finishers.

For more information about these programs and for a complete listing of events, visit www.mdpls.org and click on Calendar of Events. Among the Black History Month highlights are:

The African American Experience with storyteller Tamara Green - Green pres-

ents African American tales of diversity, encouragement sharing and success Feb. 8 at the following times and library branches: 10:30 a.m. - North Central; 1 p.m. - Model City; and 3:30 p.m. - Lemon City. Feb. 9: 11 a.m. - Sunset; noon - Concord; and 1:30 p.m. - Country Walk.

African Dance and Drum Circle - Participate in drumming and dancing from West Africa 3 p.m. Feb. 9 at North Shore; noon Feb. 16 at Virrick Park; and 4:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Allapattah.

Read Along, Sing a Song with Florida Grand Opera - Follow the story of Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat: Ella Fitzgerald by Roxane Orgill at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 12 - Arcola Lakes.

Children ages five to eight can sing, dance and play an instrument. Registration required. Contact Cerise Sutton at 305-854-1643 Ext. 1100 or csutton@fgo.org.

The Jams of Jimi Hendrix and other Infamous African American Rockers - Listen to the music of Jimi Hendrix, Lenny Kravitz and others of African American descent. Live music played by teens.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY | AFRICAN PRESENCE 2013 | TENTH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

BENIN

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Five Centuries of Royal Court Art

February 1-26, 2013

Nova Southeastern University Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center Adolfo & Marisela Cotilla Gallery—Second Floor Admission is free. For more information, call (954) 262-5357.

For a complete listing of events for Black History Month at Nova Southeastern University, visit www.nova.edu/blackhistory.



Sponsored by Nova Southeastern University's Office of University Relations in Collaboration with the Florida Africana Studies Consortium

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



www.caribbeantoday.com

Artist Raw Pencil makes his mark in South Florida exhibitions

“Daddy Marcus” and “Heights” will be among the works of Caribbean-born, Florida-based artist Raw Pencil on display in two exhibitions during Black History Month. A “Faces of Africa”, showcasing 25 acrylic-on-canvas paintings including images of prominent figures such as the late reggae star Bob Marley and Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I, are mounted in the WDNA Jazz Gallery, at 2921 Coral Way, Miami, Florida. The exhibit continues there through Mar. 16 and is open for public viewing Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Howard Duperly at 305-662-8889 or at hduperly@staff.wdna.org.

Raw Pencil’s works will also be on display from Feb. 20 through Mar. 18 at the City of Pompano’s ArtHall Exhibition, at the CRA Business Resource Center, 50 N.E. First St., Pompano

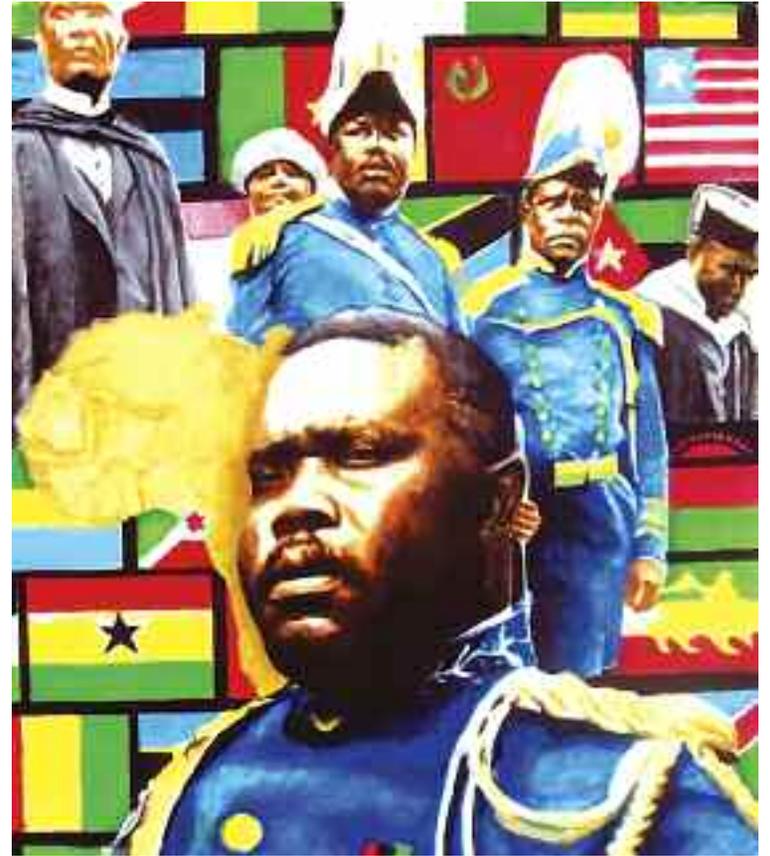


“Heights”

Beach, Florida. Raw Pencil, real name Ras David Williams, was born in St. Mary, Jamaica. He is scheduled to be present at the opening reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20. His art will be open for public viewing Mondays to Fridays from 8:30

a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Susan Kores at 954-586-1199 or at susan@iedfl.com.

The Raw Pencil art exhibitions were arranged by the Rootz Foundation Inc. Entry to both exhibitions is free.



“Daddy Marcus”

SWEET AUBURN: Atlanta’s historic library celebrates black culture

JASON WALKER

Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia is where noted American civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther Kings Jr. was raised. It’s a shrine to black history in that southern United States city.

The street is where the historic Royal Peacock, instrumental in launching the careers of musical legends such as Ray Charles and Gladys Knight, is located. The Royal Peacock also became the launching pad for entertainment in the city’s Caribbean and Ethiopian communities.

Now it’s also a location which stores much of America’s black history. In May 1994 the Auburn Avenue Research Library (AARL) opened “and was the first

public library of its kind in the southeast to offer specialized reference and archival collections for the study and research of Africana cultures,” according to the Sharon E. Robinson, manager of the AARL’s Reference and Research Division and an associate administrator.

“Its mission is to promote specialized research library services, archival resources, and culturally/educationally related activities essential for study and use by the general public, students and scholars.”

AARL is a standard bearer in Georgia for showcasing and educating about the African diaspora in the Caribbean and Central, South and North America. The Caribbean alone represents 35 countries and numerous cultures and languages.

“For nearly 19 years, the library has presented over 1,000 programs that strive to highlight and interpret our various collections, as well as offer a wide range of free educational services and programs of special interest to the public,” said Robinson, a native of Harlem, New York with African and Caribbean heritage.

CELEBRATION

In February, the AARL is celebrating Black History Month with a series of activities. Scheduled events include a photo exhibition, film screenings and discussions. According to Robinson, attendance at the annual programs has grown over the years.

“A contributing factor may be the Research Library’s outreach efforts to actively engage a variety of communities, and to form collaborative programming partnerships with local and regional culturally-based organizations,” she said.

The Caribbean community has not been left out.

“The response from the Caribbean community and community-at-large has been very positive,” said Robinson.

“Recognized as a leading national and international institution supporting the study and research of the culture and history of Africana cultures; the community-at-large views the Research Library as an immensely valu-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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Italian-American musician Daniel Bernard Roumain, innovative composer, performer, violinist and band leader, teams up with members of Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, a unique Detroit-based all black and Latino orchestra, and the Harlem Chamber Players. Together they will play a mixture of classical works and urban contemporary music.



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In this enjoyable autobiography, Jamaica-born Enoch Samuels looks back on the first 27 years of his life – an eventful period in which he traveled extensively between the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and the USA, spending a few of his formative years in each location.

In common with many of their fellow Jamaicans during the 1940s, Enoch's parents became migrant workers, leaving their Caribbean island home in search of better paid work elsewhere. To begin with they took Enoch with them to England, where he lived for a few years, but the damp British climate did not agree with him, so he was sent home to Jamaica, along with his younger brother, to live with his grandmother.

Here he lived for the remainder of his childhood and teenage years, being raised by his grandmother as a 'barel' child. Although benefiting from the money and presents his parents were able to send home from abroad, he missed them terribly and consequently much of his young life was tinged by the feelings of loneliness and abandonment he felt.

Perhaps because of this he underachieved at high school, after showing early promise, and it was only after leaving school and trying a number of unsatisfying jobs that he decided to improve his employment prospects by obtaining a university education in America.



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Entertainment, education to mark Miami-Dade libraries celebration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Feb. 9, 3 p.m. - South Dade Regional; and Feb. 16, 2 p.m. - West Dade Regional.

Teen Open Mic - Sing, read, do stand-up comedy, play an instrument or just come for the show. You may perform original or cover material celebrating Black History Month and African American culture. Feb. 16 3 p.m. - Arcola Lakes; Feb. 19 5 p.m. - North Dade Regional; Feb. 20, 3 p.m. - Allapattah; Feb. 20 3 p.m. - Edison; Feb. 26, 7 p.m. - Golden Glades; and Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m. - International Mall.

RAP: Rhyming, Producing & Publishing Workshop - Participants will be able to share their skills and points of view, listen to music, watch videos, write poems and songs; rap, blog or talk about what's hot versus what's not with professionals from PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hip-Hop. Registration required. For ages 12-18.

Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m. - California Club; Feb. 13, 3:30 p.m. - Edison; and Feb. 19, 4 p.m. - North Dade Regional.

The Evolution of African American Music with Reggie

Paul - Musician Reggie Paul will let participants explore various styles of African American music. Feb. 16, 2 p.m. - Opa-locka; and Feb. 23, 11 a.m. - North Shore.

The Dream Weaver, the Poetry of Langston Hughes - The words and world of Langston Hughes, poet and leading light of the Harlem Renaissance, as performed in a one-man show by New York-based writer David Mills. Feb. 21, 7 p.m. - Pinecrest; Feb. 23, 11 a.m. - Kendall; and Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m. - Coral Reef.



DISCUSSION: Racial violence the focus at AARLCC

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

documentary films, "Black Seminoles in the Bahamas: The Red Bays Story", "Murder on the Suwannee River: The Willie James

SWEET AUBURN...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

able institution that all of metro Atlanta can be proud and supportive of.

"...Our programs and events give us an opportunity to connect our resources and services to our local, national and global communities."

EVENTS

Below is a listing of activities for 2013 Black History Month at the AARL:

Feb. 1-24 - Photo exhibit: Beneath the Bridges of Atlanta.

Feb. 7, 7 p.m. - Community lecture: "The Global Currency of Whiteness - The Psychology of Beauty in the African Diaspora".

Feb. 16, 3 p.m. - Film screening with discussion: "High Flyin' with the Tuskegee Airmen".

Feb. 17, 3 p.m. - Community discussion: "Black Herman: An Extraordinary Life of Magic & Mystery".

Feb. 23, noon - Community discussion: "Revitalizing the Voices of Domestic Workers: The Ongoing Struggle for Dignity and Respect".

Feb. 23, 3 p.m. - Film screening and discussion: "Lesson Before Dying".

Feb. 24, 3 p.m. - Community lecture: "You Can't Steal My Soul: African Cultural Influences in the United States".

The AARL is located at 101 Auburn Ave. N.E., Atlanta. For more information, call 404-730-4001, Ext. 210.

Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Howard Story" and "Rosewood Uncovered". He is currently serving as scholar-in-residence for Camillus House of Miami and is also founder of the non-profit organization Roots in the City, which hires indigent people to

develop community gardens in Miami inner-city areas.

The AARLCC is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. For more information, call 954-357-2810.



BRIEFS

• FAU to host events at three campuses

Florida Atlantic University will celebrate Black History Month with a series of events throughout February at its Boca Raton, Jupiter and Broward campuses.

The events, which include lectures and film screenings, are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. For more information, call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 561-297-2959 or visit www.fau.edu.

• Chess tournament in Pembroke Pines

A new "Youth Chess Tournament/Black History Month" edition will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 9 at Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan St. in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Children ages six to 19 are invited to participate in this free event.

For more information and to register, call the Youth Services Department at Teen Services, 954-357-6733.

• 'Ankara Miami 2013'

African heritage fashion will be the focus of the "Ankara Miami 2013" show to be held Feb. 23 at the Kovens Conference Center in Miami, Florida. Showtime is at 9 p.m.

For more information, call 305-924-2071.

• Miramar's arts and crafts fest

The City of Miramar in Florida will celebrate Black History Month with a "Black History Celebration and Arts & Crafts Festival" from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Miramar Town Center, 2300 Civic Center Place.

For more information, call 954-602-3319 or visit www.ci.miramar.fl.us/communitieservices/events.

- Compiled from various sources.



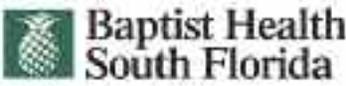
In the Spirit of *Diversity*



JESSIE COLLINS TRICE, BSN, MPH (1929 - 1999)

Nurse. Visionary. Administrator. Mother. Humanitarian. Champion for the underserved in healthcare. Jessie Collins Trice held many roles throughout her lifetime, which will never be forgotten. As we celebrate Black History Month, we celebrate her career in healthcare. Ms. Trice was the first African-American graduate of the University of Miami School of Nursing and the first African-American director of Miami-Dade County Department of Public Health. She was also founder of the Miami chapter of the National Black Nurses Association. A renowned community leader, Ms. Trice served as the president and CEO of the Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, which grew from one to 11 sites during her tenure.

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA defines BLACK HISTORY MONTH as a special time to reflect on our beloved history. In recognition of this momentous occasion, we salute leaders of our past who have made a huge difference in the community.



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An independent jewel of the eastern Caribbean

JASON WALKER

On Feb. 22, 1979, St. Lucia became an independent state of the Commonwealth of Nations associated with the United Kingdom.

Sir John Melvin Compton became the first prime minister of the eastern Caribbean island. He is referred to as the "Father of St. Lucia".

The island that is known for its great beauty also produced great laureates Sir Arthur Lewis (first Nobel laureate for economics) and Derek Walcott (Nobel laureate for literature). This year it is celebrating 34 years of Independence in the island and throughout the diaspora.

Caribbean Today caught up with the representatives of St. Lucian organizations in the United States - Denis Ishmael, president of the St. Lucia Association of Georgia and Monica Victor, vice president of the St. Lucia Association of South Florida, Inc. Ishmael and Victor work with members of the St. Lucia diaspora to celebrate, promote and support St. Lucia.

According to Ishmael "the St. Lucia Association of Georgia was formed in 2008 with the following objectives: Help relieve poverty, sickness and distress. The



Derek Walcott at age 80.



The majestic Pitons of St. Lucia.

organization strives to advance the education of the inhabitants of St. Lucia and the St. Lucian community within Georgia and other states."

Victor noted: "The St.

Lucia Association of South Florida Inc. is dedicated to keeping our traditions and heritage of our island home alive and well wherever we roam."

St. Lucians have had a major impact nationally and internationally. In addition to Lewis and Walcott, H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy, for example, was the first female governor general, appointed in Sept. 1997. Victor also explained "since our

Independence the tourism industry has blossomed. There has been expansions in education, our healthcare services, and our infrastructure for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

FACTS ON ST. LUCIA



St. Lucia is a sovereign island country in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean.

The capital is Castries. It is located north/northeast of the island of St. Vincent, northwest of Barbados and south of Martinique. It covers a land area of 238.23 square miles. Population, as of 2010, was 174,000.

St. Lucia was named after Saint Lucy of Syracuse by the French, the island's first European colonizers. They signed a treaty with the native Carib people in 1660. England took control of the island from 1663 to 1667. In ensuing

years, it was at war with France 14 times and rule of the island changed frequently.

In 1814, the British took definitive control of the island. St. Lucia has a legal system based on English common law. The judiciary is independent.

Representative government came about in 1924 (with universal suffrage from 1953). From 1958 to 1962, the island was a member of the Federation of the West Indies.

On Feb. 22, 1979, St. Lucia became an independent state.

- Information edited from Wikipedia.

St. Lucian chairs Miami-Broward carnival

St. Lucian-born Joan Hinkson has been elected chairperson of the Miami-Broward One Carnival by the board of directors of the organization's host committee.

Hinkson is the first woman and first St. Lucian to hold the post.

A successful businesswoman, Hinkson has been a part of Miami Carnival at all levels, including masquerader (competing for the Queen of Carnival title), and band-

leader of "D' First Dimension". She served on the Bandleaders' Board which produced the carnival in 1990, and became a director of successive carnival boards, including Caribbean American Carnival, Miami Carnival Inc. and Miami-Broward One Carnival Host Committee.

She has also served as chair of the St. Lucia Association of South Florida. The Miami Broward Carnival is scheduled for Oct. 13.



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Love Line For Your Valentines Contest

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Caribbean Today's "Love Lines for Your Valentines Contest" offers you a chance to thrill the one you love with words.

Just write to us, in NO MORE THAN 100 WORDS, expressing the sweetest thoughts you can think of for your special Valentine.

Entries must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. Each writer is allowed one entry. Look out for the name of the winner and the winning composition, which will be published in the March 2013 issue of Caribbean Today.

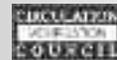
DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FEB. 15, 2013

Send entries via email to: sales@caribbeantoday.com

or address them to:
CARIBBEAN TODAY
9020 S.W. 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33157, USA



ST. LUCIA INDEPENDENCE



www.caribbeantoday.com

Island launches new brand campaign

The St. Lucia Tourist Board has unveiled a new brand campaign, themed "Lift Your Senses", which it hopes captures vacation moments in a fresh, journalistic style.

Designed to evoke an emotional response, the campaign aims to portray the essence of St. Lucia as an island that lifts visitors' five senses - sight, taste, hearing, feel and smell.

The campaign was created by ISM, the Boston-based travel and lifestyle marketing firm, in collaboration with the board.

"From strategy development through to execution, the 'Lift Your Senses' campaign truly captures what sets St. Lucia apart from other Caribbean destinations in a way that we believe will differentiate our island in an extremely crowded competitive set," Louis Lewis, director of tourism for the St. Lucia Tourist Board, said in

making the announcement last month.

CAMPAIGN

Presented in a series of vignettes, the campaign aims to bring the reader or viewer closer to the on-island experience through a combination of close-up shots and experiential imagery.

Headlines tie each of the five senses to the variety of ways to stay and play on the Caribbean island to reach romance/bridal, family, adventure/dive, yachting and other key markets. Conversation ties to the central idea that St. Lucia "lifts" all the senses.

"St. Lucia is such a rich destination of natural beauty, symbolized by the majestic



Lewis

Pitons, exceptional hospitality and commitment to service and mix of hotel product," Nerdin St. Rose, vice president marketing and sales for the tourist board said in a recent press release.

"Lift Your Senses taps a variety of experiences to provide an ideal platform to connect with diverse groups of travelers in each of our target markets."

The new campaign opened last month with online advertising initially followed by print placement in major consumer publications. Television advertising is scheduled to be launched later in the year.

For more information about St. Lucia as a destination, visit <http://stlucianow.com>, call **1-800-4STLUCIA** or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SaintLuciaTouristBoard.



NEW AND IMPROVED: St. Lucia jazz and arts fest April 30 to May 12

More than 50 artistes are set to perform across several locations on the Caribbean island during The St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival set for April 30 to May 12.

The festival's new listings of artistic activities will incorporate drama and dance, steel pan music, spoken word presentations and fashion shows at venues stretching from the northern town of Gros-Islet to Vieux Fort in the south. Specific locations include Pigeon Island National



Rudder

community celebrations, like the Friday night street parties, culturally rich fish-fries, our creole music and the like will be woven in the fabric of the redefined Jazz and Arts Festival and showcased in a fresh and exciting way," said Deputy Director of Tourism Tracey Warner Arnold.

Scheduled performers include Trinidadian-born trumpet player Etienne Charles; Cuban jazz pianist Roberto Fonseca; contemporary jazz bands from the French Antilles and The John Scofield Uberjam Band. Music family group The Jacksons is also slated, along with fellow Americans R. Kelly and the legendary group O Jays.

Caribbean star David Rudder, bandleader and mambo musician Tito Puente Jr., guitarist and singer Ronald "Boo" Hinkson and Senegalese American hip-hop star Akon are also on the roster of performers.

For more information, visit www.stlucijazz.org or call 1-800-4STLUCIA.



Akon

Landmark, Fond d'Or HeritagePark in Dennery, Rudy John Beach Park in Laborie, and the Port Castries waterfront setting of the Pointe Seraphine Duty Free Shopping complex.

This year's event will also feature the return of "Jazz on the Square" in the capital city Castries, and a return to the picturesque open-air venue of Balenbouche Estate in the south.

CULTURE

"Several of our traditional

BRIEFS



Anthony

• Visa sharing pact with U.S., Canada concerns P.M.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Kenny Anthony has expressed concern over the impact of the new visa information sharing agreement between Canada and the United States.

The agreement, signed in December, allows both countries to share information about third country nationals who apply for a visa or permit to travel to either the U.S. or Canada. The prime minister said the new visa information sharing pact between Canada and the U.S. represents another blow to St. Lucia.

• Mixed signs for tourism markets in 2012

Tourism officials say there was

significant improvement in some key St. Lucia markets during 2012, including the United Kingdom, despite the recession and increase in the Air Passenger Duty (APD).

However, they lament a decline in arrivals in the United States market primarily because of a 20 percent loss in airlift from North America. The officials expect the matter to be addressed with the impending arrival of a new carrier here by the mid-year.

• E.U. provides funds for St. Lucia projects

The European Union (E.U.) is providing more than Euro 1.7 million (one Euro = US\$1.33 cents) for two projects in St. Lucia.

Ambassador Mikael Barford, head of the E.U.'s delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, and Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony last month signed the agreements providing for

the funds which will facilitate the completion of the New National Hospital, provide access to safe drinking water, support the National Housing and Development program to provide infrastructure.

• Insurance body names St. Lucian CEO

The regional governments-owned Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) has appointed St. Lucian Isaac Anthony as its first full time chief executive officer.

Anthony, a former senior public servant, has served on the boards of key regional financial institutions, including the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). He took up his new appointment from Jan. 1.

- Compiled from various sources.



An independent jewel of the eastern Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15) instance our air and sea ports."

INDEPENDENCE

Victor reminisced about Independence in St. Lucia.

"As a child I remember participating in the national parade dressed in my beautifully ironed school uniform," she said. "I also remember dignitaries from all over the world being in attendance. The older folks who were there talk about the pride they felt in waving their own flag, the St. Lucian flag, instead of the Union Jack (the British flag); and singing our own national anthem 'Sons and daughters of St. Lucia' as opposed to England's 'God Save the Queen'. They also

recall the landing of jets from around the world and the docking of warships. All in all it has been, and continues to be, a proud moment for all St. Lucians."

Ishmael believes the principles associated with Independence are: "The land, the people and the light". St. Lucians around the world, he added, are upholding those principles. To celebrate Independence in South Florida, according to Victor "we (in Miami) often start the day off with a church service, after which we celebrate with a picnic. St. Lucians always look forward to this day and show up in large numbers adorned in blue, yellow, black and white-the colors of our flag."

"...In St. Lucia, Independence Day is celebrat-

ed with a national parade where civil servants and school children partake in a national festivities," Victor added. "We are a very patriotic people and look forward to Independence Day."

In Georgia, Ishmael said those in the city of Atlanta will be able to attend a "celebration of our 34th anniversary of independence on February 23rd."

For more information about the St. Lucia Association of South Florida, Inc., e-mail floridalucians@gmail.com. For more information on the St. Lucia Association of Georgia dishmael@comcast.net.

Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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ELECTIONS: Grenadians to vote Feb. 19

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Grenadians will go to the polls in general elections on Feb. 19.

Prime Minister Tilman Thomas made the announcement last month as he addressed supporters at a rally of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC).

The NDC will be seeking

a second term, while the Opposition New National Party (NNP), which was voted out of office in 2008, will be seeking to re-take the control of gov-



Thomas

ernment.

Last month the prime minister, in an address to the nation, advised the governor general to dissolve Parliament, paving way for general elections. There are approximately 55,000 registered voters on the list.



James is Grenada's sports personality of 2012



James

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Reigning World and Olympic 400 meters champion Kirani James is Grenada's sports personality of 2012, copping his fourth consecutive title late last month.

James easily defeated a field of 13 other male nominees for the national award during a ceremony at the Grenada Grand Beach Resort. He previously won the titles in 2009, 2010, and 2011, but was the clear favorite after securing the island's first Olympic medal when he won the men's 400 meters gold in London, England last summer.

The selection panel of sports journalist Trevor Thwaites, Raymond Roberts and Michael Bascombe also selected another track athlete,

Neisha Bernard-Smith (formerly Bernard-Thomas), as the female sports personality for her competitiveness in 2012.

Bernard-Smith attained a "B" Standard qualifying time of two minutes 01.21 seconds in the Women's 800 meters for the London Olympics. She eventually reached the semi-finals of the event with a season's best 2:00.68.

IMPACT

Among factors the panel used to determine the awardees were the impact of their performances locally, regionally and internationally.

"Kirani James's historic achievement at the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London is unsurpassed by any other Grenadian in the year

under review and Neisha Smith made a remarkable come-back in 2012 to qualify for the London Olympic Games," said Bascombe in his submission to the panel.

Guest speaker at the ceremony, organized by the Grenada Olympic Committee, was former Bahamian Olympian Pauline Davis-Thompson, who noted the remarkable respect Grenada gained as the smallest nation with a World and Olympic champion. Davis-Thompson won two gold medals at the 2000

Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

Also securing top honors at the ceremony were track and field athlete Anderson Peters and swimmer Oreoluwa Cherebin, who were named junior sports personalities for 2012. Peters won the under-17 boys' jJavelin throw at the Junior CARIFTA Games in Bermuda in a championship record of 60.50 meters and later picked up bronze at the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Junior Championships in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Cherebin took the gold medal in the girls' 13-14 years old 50 meters breaststroke in 35.90 seconds and silver in the 50 meters butterfly in 30.12 seconds at the Caribbean Islands Swimming Championships (CISC).



Olympic champion is guest at Feb. 9 dinner dance

Olympic champion Kirani James is the scheduled special guest for The Grenada Cultural Association of Florida's 25th annual dinner dance on Feb. 9.

The event, which starts at 7 p.m., is part of the celebration of the Caribbean country's 39th anniversary of Independence. It will be held at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Hotel.

This year's event will focus on youth, with the association aiming to assist organizations and efforts in Grenada, including support for a boys' youth soccer program.

The association also announced it will be supporting initiatives by the YWCA Transition Project for girls and young women in Grenada, as well as awarding the annual academic scholarship to a Grenadian student in the South Florida area.

James won the 400 meters gold medal at the Olympic Games in London, England last summer.

The hotel is located at 1825 Griffin Road, Dania Beach. For more information, call 954-920-3500.



FACTS ON GRENADA



Grenada is an island country and Commonwealth realm consisting of the island of Grenada and six smaller islands at the southern end of the Grenadines in the southeastern Caribbean Sea. Grenada is located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, northeast of Venezuela, and southwest of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Known as the "Island of

Spice", because of the production of nutmeg and mace crops of which Grenada is one of the world's largest exporters, its size is 133 square miles, with an estimated population of 110,000. The capital is St. George's.

Grenada gained Independence from Britain Feb. 7, 1974.

- *Edited from Wikipedia.*



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SAY A LITTLE PRAYER



American R&B star John Legend, right, joins reggae singer Gramps Morgan in a musical rendition of the Lord's Prayer during last month's Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival in the Caribbean island. Several international and local stars performed at the 17th annual event.

Calypso Rose for 'Live at Knight'

Legendary Caribbean singer Calypso Rose is expected to bring Trinidadian carnival flavor to the next in the series of "Live at Knight" concerts in Miami, Florida.

The concert, presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, will be staged at 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 9 at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall.

The acknowledged "Queen of Calypso" is most noted for her hit song "Fire in Meh Wire", which has become a nationally recognized calypso anthem in Trinidad and Tobago. Calypso Rose's 50-year career includes her latest album "Calypso Rose".

TRAILBLAZER

Born McCartha Lewis in Tobago, she started singing at 15 and has been a trailblazer. Calypso Rose was the first woman to win the "Calypso King" crown in T&T. Organizers then changed the title to "Calypso Monarch", which Rose then won five consecutive years.



Calypso Rose

Calypso Rose has taken the Caribbean-flavored music all over the world with her witty lyrics and lively tempo. Her personal life, musical achievements and commitment to defend women's rights were captured in "Calypso Rose - The Lioness of the Jungle", a documentary which aired on United States public television in 2012.

For more information, call 305-949-6722 or visit www.arshtcenter.org.



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Bajan star Rihanna to perform at Grammys Feb. 10

LOS ANGELES, California - The Caribbean will have its own diva on the Grammy stage this month.

Barbados-born star Rihanna, a five-time Grammy winner who has earned three nominations this year, is set to perform at the 55th annual show in honor of music's biggest night, set for Feb. 10. Rihanna is up this year

for Best Pop Solo Performance for "Where Have You Been", Best Rap/Sung Collaboration (featuring Jay-Z) for "Talk That Talk" and Best Short Form Music Video (featuring Calvin Harris) for "We Found Love".

Also set to perform are The Black Keys, Mumford & Sons, Taylor Swift and Fun.

Two-time GRAMMY winner LL Cool J will return as host of the event at the Staples Center here. It will be broadcast on the CBS Television Network from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

- Edited from News Americas.



...Re-kindles romantic affair with Chris Brown

Barbadian-born Rihanna has confirmed her reconciliation with fellow pop star Chris Brown although the American was found guilty of assaulting her four years ago.

According to an interview published in the latest issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine, which hit stores late last month, Rihanna is willing to take another chance on a relationship with Brown, even if other people do not support that decision.

"I decided it was more important for me to be happy," she reportedly told the magazine's Contributing Editor Josh Eells.

"I wasn't going to let anybody's opinion get in the way of that. Even if it's a mistake, it's my mistake. After being tormented for so many years, being angry and dark, I'd rather just live my truth and take the backlash. I can handle it."



Rihanna and Brown are a couple again.

room for a similar error.

"When you add up the pieces from the outside, it's not the cutest puzzle in the world," she told *Rolling Stone*. "You see us walking somewhere, driving somewhere, in the studio, in the club, and you think you know. But it's different now. We don't have those types of arguments anymore. We talk about s.... We value each other. We know exactly what we have

now, and we don't want to lose that.

"...He doesn't have the luxury of f..... up again," she said. "That's just not an option. I can't say that nothing else will ever go wrong. But I'm pretty solid in the knowing that he's disgusted by that. And I wouldn't have gone this far if I ever thought that was a possibility."



ODD FIT

Less than four years ago, the night before the 2009 Grammy Awards, Brown assaulted Rihanna. He plead guilty to the charge and performed community service. He is still on probation. Rihanna admits the reconciliation may not look like a perfect fit, but argued that Brown has changed. If he hasn't, she added, then he will have no

Michelle A. Delaney, Esq.

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'Caribbean's Next Top Model' airs Feb. 18

Former Miss Universe Wendy Fitzwilliam of Trinidad and Tobago will host "Caribbean's Next Top Model" when the competition airs in countries across the region beginning Feb. 18.

The televised show will feature contestants, including Xiea from Antigua and Barbuda; Sedia from Barbados; Jenelle and Kendra from The Bahamas; Treveen from The Cayman Islands; Stephany from Curacao; Treicy from The Dominican Republic; Ashley from Guadeloupe; Lisa and Trudy-Lee from Jamaica; and Semoy, Ornella, Anna-Rosa, Davia, Julianna, Athaliah, Candace, Susan, Sheriza; Rachel, Kim-Marie and Tinnitia from T&T.

Fitzwilliam, who won the global title in 1998, will be one of the judges, along with pho-



Fitzwilliam

tographer Pedro Virgil and runway coach and creative director of T&T's Fashion Week Richard Young. Fashion experts, who created a model "Boot Camp", offer the girls lessons on what it takes to be an international model.

The show, which was shot in T&T, will run for 11 episodes and air on various

free-to-air stations, WSEE TV in Puerto Rico, One Caribbean Television and CaribVision, in Caribbean territories during primetime on Mondays, with repeat airings on Saturdays.

International stylist and fashion pundit, Freddie Leiba is also set to appear on the show as a featured guest, along with music producer Bryce Wilson, photographer Matthew Jordan-Smith, fashion designer Claudia Pegus, reigning Soca Monarch Machel Montano and Factor Model Management's Bridget Halanski.

For a sneak preview to the show, visit www.caribeansnexttopmodel.com.

- Edited from CaribPR Wire.



U.S. denies making request for change of T&T carnival route

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The United States said it did not request any change to the parade route for this year's carnival celebrations here, even as it "appreciated" the Trinidad and Tobago government's commitment to security for diplomatic missions.

Carnival celebrations will climax with the street parade Feb. 10-11 and, in a brief statement, the U.S. Embassy here said recently that it had seen "reports about a request that the 2013 Carnival Parade route not pass by the U.S. Embassy".

The National Carnival Commission (NCC), in a statement, said during a Dec. 27 meeting, members of the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Bands Association (TTCBA) had raised concerns about the

U.S. Embassy's proposed "ban" on bands passing outside its building on Queen's Park West, on the outskirts of the capital.

CONCERNS

Media reports quoted Neville Wint, chairman of the National Carnival Bands Association (NCBA)'s Parade of the Bands route sub-committee, as indicating that because of security concerns, the carnival parade would not be allowed to pass alongside the U.S. Embassy.

But in its statement, the U.S. Embassy said it "made no request to alter any parade route."

"Our entire staff looks forward to a safe, secure and enjoyable carnival for everyone", the statement noted.



Top Caribbean artistes for Miami's '9 Mile Music Festival' on Mar. 2

Some of the biggest names in Caribbean entertainment are scheduled to perform in South Florida early next month at the 20th annual "9 Mile Music Festival".

The festival, featuring artistes such as three sons of late reggae legend - Stephen, Damian and Julian, plus Movado, Capleton, Machel Montano, Patrice Roberts and



STEPHEN MARLEY



DAMIAN MARLEY



JULIAN MARLEY

Konshens, will be held Mar. 2 at Virginia Key Beach Park.

The park is located at 4020 Virginia Beach Drive in Miami. Gates open at 2 p.m.

The show ends at 10 p.m.

For more information, call 305-740-7344 or visit www.9milemusicfestival.com.



MOVING ON UP: Jamaican joins Oprah's OWN staff

Jamaican-born Tameika "Tammy" Dorman recently joined the staff of television personality Oprah Winfrey's OWN network.

Dorman is a former associate producer at BET TV (BET Networks) in New York, where she worked on programs including "Rap City", "Black Carpet", "Spring Bling" and the BET Awards. She joined OWN as an associate producer.

Her first assignment at the network was assisting the production of a new program called "O List", which offered viewers a behind-the-scenes look at Winfrey selecting her favorite gifts for her Christmas television special. The program premiered last month.

"Working for Oprah is one of the most fulfilling experiences," said Dorman. "I must say financially, she pays much better than any other entertainment production



Dorman, left, Winfrey

company hands down.

"(Winfrey) is warm, passionate, very caring and very concerned for others," Dorman added.

"Even though she is a billionaire, you would never know. Her number one con-

cern in life is giving back.

Even though I have only been there for a short time, I have learnt a lot and aspire to be like her one day. Bottom line with Oprah...whatever you see is what you get."



Spring Shipping

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

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TAX ALERT: Free preparation services for South Florida residents

Low-income persons can have their 2012 taxes prepared and filed electronically for free at select Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) Service Centers beginning this month and running through April 15.

Individuals may also file their taxes online by visiting www.myfreetaxes.com/cahsdtax.

Tax preparation is available at the following community service centers in Miami, Florida:

- **Accion Community Service Center**, 858 W. Flagler St. Mondays and Thursdays



8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Fridays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 305-547-4892.

- **Joseph Caleb Center**, 5400 N.W. 22nd Ave., Miami. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. By appointment only. Call 305-636-2200.

ment only. Call 305-636-2200.

- **Frankie S. Rolle NSC**, 3750 S. Dixie Highway. Tuesdays and Thursdays. By appointment only. Call 305-446-3311.

- **Isaac A. Withers Community Service Center**, 21300 S.W. 122nd Ave. Mondays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Fridays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment. Call 305-233-2121.

- **Hialeah Community Service Center**, 300 E. First Ave., Hialeah. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment. Call 305-884-4801.

- **Miami Gardens Neighborhood Center**, 16405 N.W. 25th Ave. Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment. Call 305-623-6500.

- **Perrine Community Service Center**, 17801 Homestead Ave. Mondays

and Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Fridays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment. Call 305-254-5804.

For more information about free tax preparation and others services provided by Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department, call 786-469-4600 or visit www.miami-dade.gov/socialservices.



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www.miamidade.gov/parks or call 305-947-3525.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

The United States Department of the Treasury is urging Social Security recipients that, with the new electronic payment law coming into effect Mar. 1, they should switch to the direct deposit or Direct Express Debit MasterCard card to receive federal benefits.

Up to last month, according to the department, some five million Social Security payment checks were still being mailed to federal beneficiaries each month.

“Choosing direct deposit or the Direct Express card makes it easier, safer and more convenient for beneficiaries to receive their payments. Switching to an electronic payment is not optional – it’s the law,” David Lebyrk, commissioner of the Treasury Department’s Financial Management Service, said in a recent press release.

“If you or a loved one still receive paper checks for your benefit payments, now is the time to switch. It’s free and easy – just call 1-800-333-1795 or visit www.GoDirect.org.”

Since May 1, 2011, all people newly applying for federal benefits, including Social Security, SSI, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement

Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits and other non-tax payments, have had to choose direct deposit or the Direct Express card at the time they sign up for their benefits. Mar. 1 is the final deadline by which all remaining federal benefit check recipients must receive their money electronically.

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

A sneak peek at the 2013 summer camp being offered by the South Florida City of Miramar, home to a large Caribbean American community, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Miramar Town Center, 2300 Civic Center Place.

Participants will be able to meet some of the camp’s staff and get information on camps being offered. The city will be offering four different camps:

- **Summer Camp** – For participants in Kindergarten through fifth grade;
- **Sports Camp** for ages six to 12;
- **Teen Camp** for ages 13 to 16; and
- **Little Broadway Summer Camp** for ages seven to 14.

For more information, call 954-602-3343 or visit www.ci.miramar.fl.us/communityservices/events.



KITE FESTIVAL

“Kites of the Caribbean”, an exhibit representing the styles and traditions of kite flyers from countries such as Cuba, Haiti and Trinidad, will be in the spotlight at this year’s “Kite Day” presented by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and Skyward Kites.

The event, from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 17, will be staged at Haulover Park.

Visitors will be able to see a returning display of colossal kites, including a 150-foot rainbow, a 100-foot squid, a 30-foot scuba man and a 30-foot “Nemo” fish.

The family-style event will also feature free kite competitions and kite-building classes for all ages. Food and refreshments will be on sale.

Event-goers are encouraged to come out to fly their kites and make their own paper kites for free. Kites will also be available for purchase.

Kite competitions will include prizes for the best homemade kites, highest flying kites, prettiest kites, and kites with the longest tails.

Haulover Park is located at 10800 Collins Ave., Miami. Admission to the festival is free. Parking is \$6. For more information, call Dan Ward at Skyward Kites, 305-893-0906. For directions and information about the park, visit

Concerned Bahamians appoint new executive director

Former City of Tequesta, Florida Mayor and Councilman Calvin Turnquest was recently appointed executive director of The Council For Concerned Bahamians Abroad (CBA).

Turnquest replaced Dr. Harlington Hanna Jr., who served as chairman of the CBA’s Board of Trustees and interim executive director. Dr. Hanna will continue as chairman of the board.

Turnquest was born in a long line of public servants

and government officials in Nassau, The Bahamas. He arrived in Florida in 1989 to attend the University of Miami where he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and met his future wife Dr. Sheryl Thompson. He has been appointed to he Palm Beach League of Cities and the



Turnquest

Florida League of Cities.

Turnquest’s first area of focus as CBA’s executive director is the continued credentialing of the foundation with various national state departments and international organizations as an interested party in the protection and representation of the economic, family and other interests of more than 50,000 Bahamian Americans, and other expatriate Bahamians around the world.



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Jamaica earns 'Top Travel Destination' award

Jamaica was recently voted "Top Travel Destination" at the 2012 Leisure Travel Leaders Awards hosted by travAlliancemedi, a travel trade media group.

The survey encouraged travel agents to vote for their top suppliers and destinations in multiple categories and incorporated a sampling of readers from travAlliancemedi industry publications, including Agent@Home, Vacation Agent and Travelpulse.com.

"The unyielding efforts of our travel agents lend greatly to the success of our destination," said John Lynch, Jamaica's director of tourism.

"We're honored that agents have chosen Jamaica as the top travel destination. We plan to continue to offer incentives such as Jamaica's One Love Rewards Program to engage them as we look to increase awareness on all that the island has to offer."

SUPPORT

"Jamaica has long supported the travel agency trade with its marketing and training programs, so we were not sur-



Lynch

prised our readers selected the destination as having the top tourism office in the Caribbean region," said James Shillinglaw, editor in chief and editorial director for travAlliancemedi.

"Our travel agent readers voted for Jamaica among all Caribbean destinations. And since our readership base with our three publications is the largest of any trade group, we believe this is indicative of just how important Jamaica is regarded in the trade."



Dominica's calypso contest revs up without 'The Hunter'



St. Rose

Carnival fans are expected to flock to the climax of Dominica's national competition this month.

However, the final of the event will be missing three times calypso monarch Derrick "The Hunter" St. Rose, who announced his withdrawal from this year's competition amid allegations that he cheated during the semi-final.

"Given the veracity of the public concerns and in the best interest of the art form I

wish to forego my place in the upcoming calypso final," St. Rose said on the state-owned DBS radio. "I hereby formally announce my withdrawal from the said competition."

DENIAL

St. Rose, however, denied allegations that he wrote the lyrics for his tunes on the palm of his hands during the semi-finals.

"For the thousands who continue to place their confidence in me and even for the benefits of those who doubt it, I wish to deny having used any lyrical inscriptions on my hands in unfair advantage during the semi-finals as has been reported," he said.

St. Rose said he would welcome any decision by the Dominica Calypso Association (DCA) on the issues. DCA president Kelvin "Ras Kelly" Williams told DBS radio that Hunter has the support of the DCA.

The calypso competition is scheduled for Feb. 9 as part of Dominica's carnival activities that climax on Feb. 12.

- Edited from CMC.



Seaborne Airlines adds flights to USVI

SAINT CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands - Seaborne Airlines, a carrier based in St. Croix, has announced its capacity plans for travel to and from the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) for spring 2013 and beyond.

Starting this month, Seaborne plans to introduce new equipment to the USVI on select flights - the 34-seat Saab turboprop - to both Cyril E. King Airport at St. Thomas and Henry Rohlsen International Airport at St. Croix from Luis Munoz Marin International Airport at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Saab operates with two pilots, a

flight attendant, in-flight service and a lavatory.

Effective April 1, 2013, more flights will be added between Cyril King International Airport and Henry Rohlsen International Airport with 17-seat Twin Otter aircraft. Combined with existing Twin Otter Seaplane service between the seaplane bases in Charlotte Amalie and Christiansted, Seaborne plans to operate 300 weekly flights with over 10,000 seats into and out of the USVI - becoming the Virgin Islands' largest carrier in terms of capacity.

"We are extremely pleased about Seaborne

Airlines plans to increase service to the territory and between our islands," said USVI Tourism Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty.

"The added capacity and equipment upgrades encourage more inter-island travel and ensure that travelers enjoy improved access to the territory, better connections, and greater comfort. This news is especially welcome from a locally-based airline that is uniquely positioned to bring additional employment and revenue to the territory."

- Edited from PRNewswire.



Website names St. Maarten airport approach 'most stunning' worldwide

St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) has been named the most stunning airport approach by travel fans around the world in PrivateFly.com's recent Airport Approaches Survey.

The survey was conducted last month on PrivateFly.com, an online booking platform for private aviation charters. SXM airport was selected from a group of airports chosen by a panel of high-profile travel industry experts with travel

enthusiasts voting for their favorites.

"We are incredibly proud of our airport in St. Maarten and are appreciative that travelers from around the globe enjoy the one-of-a-kind views that both spectators on the ground and passengers in the sky are



A plane approaches SXM airport.

afforded at Maho Beach and the Princess Juliana International Airport," Edward Dest, interim director of tourism for the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, said in a recent press release following the announcement of the survey result.

SXM airport, located on the shores of Maho

Beach, offers passengers on incoming flights views of turquoise waters and white sand beaches, while spectators looking to get a unique view of low-flying incoming planes frequent Maho Beach daily.



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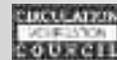
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SPORT



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'Penns' non-profit support group questions relays' benefit for Caribbean region, athletes

On the heels of a meeting between The Penn Relay Carnival and the Caribbean Consular Corps, the founder of the group that spearheads the care of Caribbean athletes at the annual track meet in the United States is questioning whether the benefits to the Caribbean community will improve.

Irwine Clare, founder of the 18-year-old non-profit group Team Jamaica Bickle (TBJ), which raises funds to feed and house Caribbean athletes participating in the event in Philadelphia, popularly called "Penns", said while he applauds the meeting, he is hopeful that the consular corps will now make sure the benefits to the Caribbean community in the diaspora is reciprocal.

"Will Penn Relays be



Clare

advertising in the Caribbean media, where so many travel from to support this event?" questioned Clare. "Will they be opening up opportunities for Caribbean vendors to participate and will Caribbean athletes be given scholarships, housed or fed for free?"

HARDSHIP

TJB was the first Jamaican organization to be a participating sponsor, which led to the Jamaican flag being flown at the Penn Relays - the first foreign flag to make an appearance there. Yet each year, the group has to beg for donations from Caribbean small business owners and diaspora nationals to help fund the cost for hotel accommodations, travel, food and telephone calls that many Caribbean athletes at the relays cannot afford.

Olympians Usain Bolt, Veronica Campbell-Brown and Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce are among the many Caribbean athletes who have benefited

from the volunteer service provided by TJB.

Dave Johnson, The Frank Dolson, director of relays, said he is "hopeful this meeting with representatives of CARICOM helps strengthen our relationship with the Caribbean schools which come annually to the relays and forges new relationships with schools which want to come this year and in the future."

Penn Relays, in a statement, added that the meeting on Jan. 30 was done with the "hopes of strengthening the bond that already exists." The session was hosted at the Jamaican Consulate General Herman LaMont. Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti and St. Lucia were also present.

The 2013 Penn Relays will take place April 25-27 at Penn's historic Franklin Field.

- Edited from News Americas.



Jamaica's 'True Blue' soccer rivalry returns to South Florida next month

The soccer rivalry between the alumni of two of Jamaica's top high schools continues in South Florida next month as part of the ninth Annual True Blue Weekend.

The three-day event, hosted by The St. George's College Old Boys Association of Florida, Inc. (STG-COBAFL) and The Jamaica College Old Boys Association of Florida, Inc. (JCOBAFL), will take place **Mar. 15-17**.

"We are excited about this year's True Blue especially with the addition of the All Alumni Over-40 soccer tournament and the live broadcast of Jamaica's 2013 Inter-Secondary Schools Boys and Girls Championship at the event," Rudy Kameka, president of the STGCOBAFL, said in a recent press release to announce the event.

"The Dennis Ziadie memorial cup match between Jamaica College and St. George's has been very competitive the past few years and will be the highlight of the True Blue weekend."

The True Blue weekend is an expansion from the annual Ziadie Cup soccer match between the "old boys" of both schools. Dennis Ziadie coached both schools to championships in Jamaica's top Corporate Area competition.

Ziadie was killed in a motor vehicle crash in Mexico while attending soccer's 1986 World Cup.

HIGHLIGHTS

The True Blue 2013 weekend includes:

- **True Blue Party – 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Mar. 15** at the Miramar Cultural Center-Artspark, 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar.

- **True Blue Soccer Fest – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mar. 16** at Vizcaya Park, 14200 S.W. 55th St., Miramar. Admission is free.

- **True Blue Brunch – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mar. 17** at The Poolhouse Grill, 4198 S. University Dr., Davie.

For more information, visit <http://www.trueblue-weekend.com>.



Four Caribbean teams in soccer's Gold Cup

Four Caribbean nations will journey to the United States this summer to play in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Cuba, Haiti, Martinique and Trinidad and Tobago will be among 12 nations to participate in the top soccer competition for the Caribbean, North and Central American region.

The 2013 edition of the Gold Cup runs July 7-28.

Eight new venues in the United States are among 13 which have been selected for the tournament. They are the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Sports Authority Field in Denver, Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Compass Stadium in Houston, Sun Life Stadium in Miami, JELD-WEN Field in Portland,

and Rio Tinto Stadium in Salt Lake City.

The tournament will also return to five venues from its previous editions - Cowboys Stadium in Texas, Soldier Field in Chicago, Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Red Bull Arena in New Jersey and CenturyLink Field in Seattle.



Jamaica's sports minister to visit South Florida

Natalie Neita-Headley, Jamaica's minister without portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for sports, is scheduled to visit South Florida this month.

On Feb. 15 Neita-Headley will address the Reggae Girlz Awareness Conference at the Sheraton Suites Hotel in Plantation, where she is expected to outline Jamaica's new sports policy.

According to organizers, the conference will offer the opportunity to raise awareness and support for Jamaica's

women's soccer program - the Reggae Girlz. The event is being sponsored by the Jamaica High School Alumni Sporting Network (JHSASN) and affiliates.

ISSUES

The conference will highlight the issues and struggles of the Girlz since their inception in 1990, showcase successes, including Jamaica being the only Caribbean country to have teams qualify for the CONCACAF World Cup final round at Under-17 and Under-20 and how the women's team

will impact Jamaica's future.

The Jamaican delegation scheduled to travel to South Florida also includes Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) President Captain Horace Burrell and Technical Coordinator of Jamaica's National Women's Football Vin Blaine. Winston Chung-Fah, former technical director of the JFF, is also among the invitees.

- Edited from information submitted by Riddims Marketing.



BRIEFS

• Chanderpaul's son to make first class debut

Tagenarine Chanderpaul, the 16-year-old son of West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, is set to emulate his father this month by making his first-class cricket debut.

Tagenarine will open Guyana's batting in the Caribbean's four-day competition. His father, currently the world's second ranked Test batsman, made his first class debut for Guyana at age 18.

• British cops kill Caribbean sprinter's brother

Police in England shot and killed the 40-year-old brother of the St. Kitts-born world champion sprinter Kim Collins last month, after they were called to a housing project after his estranged wife was found stabbed.

Police said the wife of Callustus Collins had taken a restraining order out on her husband. No other details were

released up to press time. Kim Collins won the 100 meters title at the 2003 IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

• Fraser-Pryce makes successful season start

Two-time Olympic 100 meters champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce marked her first outing of 2013 with a comfortable victory at the Queen's/ Grace Jackson Track and Field Meet in her home country Jamaica late last month.

The sprinter clocked 11.47 seconds to easily dismiss the field. Fraser-Pryce successfully defended her Olympic title in London, England last August. The 26-year-old is expected to start as one of the favorites at the World Championships in Athletics from August 10-18 in Moscow, Russia.

- Compiled from CMC and other sources.



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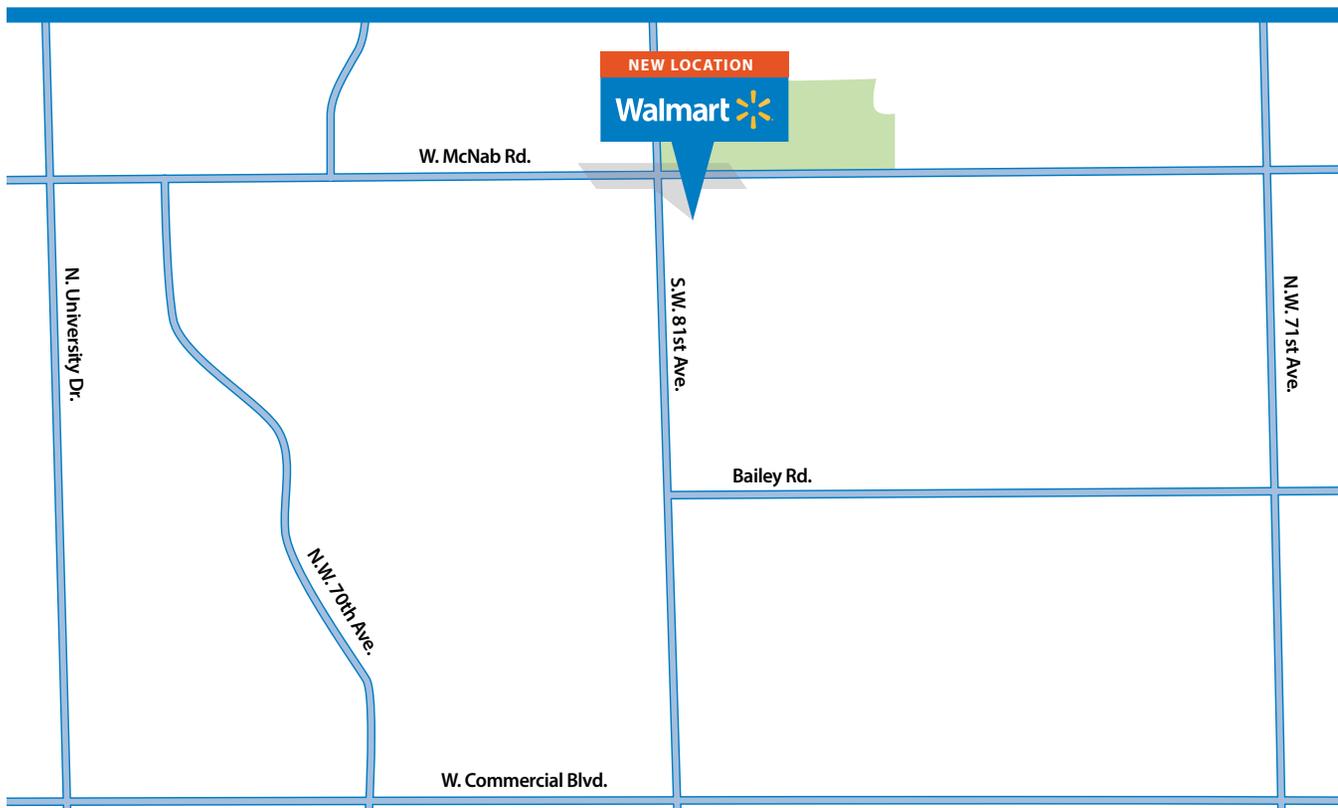
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