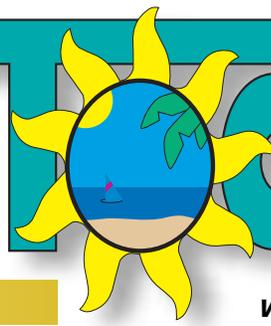


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Vol. 24 No. 6

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



A former Bahamian government minister believes proposed United States immigration reforms could positively impact not only Caribbean nationals living in the U.S., but also countries of the region, page 2.



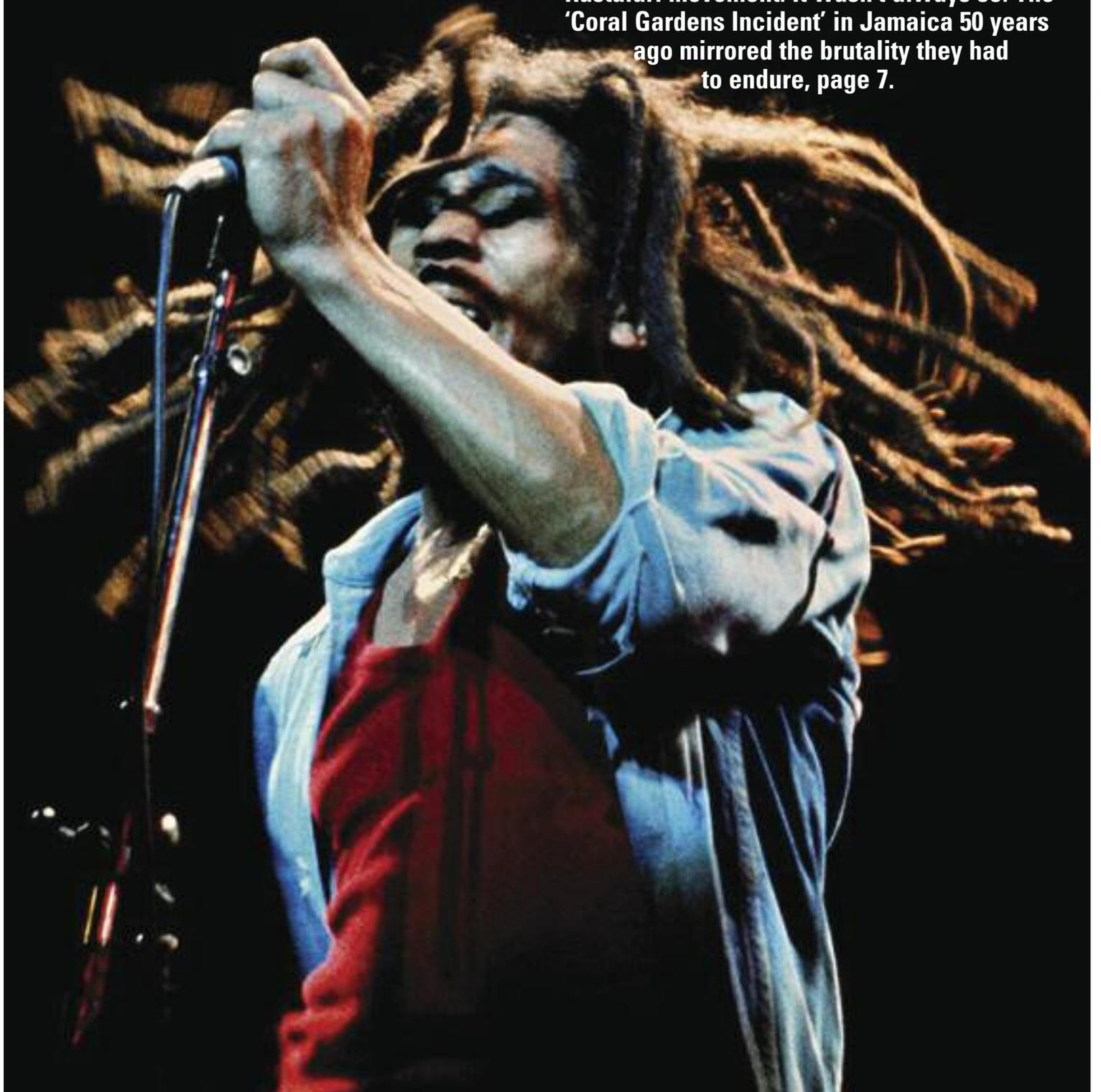
The Supreme Court has ruled in favor of a Jamaican national who was deported from the United States over possession of a small amount of marijuana. The court said the U.S. resident should have had the opportunity to contest his deportation, page 3.



Caribbean athletes, especially those representing Jamaican high schools, once again showed their power in track and field by winning several events at the 119th staging of the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, page 22.

GET UP, STAND UP

~ Through reggae and icons like Bob Marley, the world has come to admire and respect the Rastafari movement. It wasn't always so. The 'Coral Gardens Incident' in Jamaica 50 years ago mirrored the brutality they had to endure, page 7.



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Caribbean boost from U.S. immigration reform

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC – A former government minister says the proposed United States immigration reforms could have positive implications, not only for Caribbean nationals living in that country, but also for countries of the region.

“The reforms that offer a pathway to citizenship might be applicable to thousands of Caribbean nationals who have spent years living and working in the U.S. and might be deemed entitled to regularization as citizens,” said former Finance Minister Zhivargo Laing.

He said “the not insignificant Caribbean diaspora in the U.S., estimated at more than 20 million, can influence U.S. policymakers to take account of their realities in their reform efforts.”

PROCESS

If successful, a bipartisan bill, introduced by eight senators would allow people living in the U.S. illegally before Dec. 31, 2011 to become citizens after passing background checks, obtaining jobs and paying back taxes and penal-

ties. The process is estimated to take 13 years and estimates place the number of undocu-



Laing

mented immigrants in the U.S. at 11 million.

Laing, an economist, said “not only will the lives and livelihoods of Caribbean nationals be changed by the immigration reform in the U.S., but so will their home countries, as many of them rely on the repatriation of earned U.S. dollars to assist their foreign reserve earnings. For some, these remittances significantly aid economic viability.”

But he warned that “with the proposed crackdown on businesses employing undocumented immigrants, large numbers of undocumented Caribbean nationals may find their work prospects curbed by more than a tentative U.S. economy.”

EFFECTS

Laing also saw other effects.

“Policy changes do not have just legal consequences, but there are psychological ones as well,” he explained. “Any tightening of immigration law at the state level might lead businesses, educational institutions as well as medical facilities to take a more cautionary approach to dealing with foreign nationals.

“As such, Caribbean nationals who are employees and patrons of all of these institutions might also find a less accommodating environment going forward.

“Immigrants have demonstrated their power at the polls...and I think America is moving in the right direction on immigration reform.”



Jamaicans to repay millions from U.K. money laundering

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Two Jamaicans at the helm of a major money laundering network in the United Kingdom have been ordered to pay back nearly one million pounds (one British pound = US\$1.55 cents) of their assets to the British and Jamaican governments.

Burnett Morris, 50 and his 51-year-old wife Paulette were ordered to forfeit the sum following an April 23 Proceeds of Crime legislation confiscation hearing at the Crown Court in London, England.

Morris will be forced to pay back more than £700,000 with nearly £200,000 being payable within the next six months. His wife was ordered to pay back approximately £190,000, of which with £173,000 will be payable within the next six months.

The couple had been linked to a money-laundering network of seven people that led a lavish lifestyle from the proceeds of their criminal activities in the United Kingdom and Jamaica.

Investigations Division here, Justin Felice said the confiscation was part of the agency's bid to take the profit out of crime.

“This will result in – hopefully - substantial amounts of money coming back to Jamaica,” he said.

At their trial in May 2011, the court heard how Morris, along with other members of the network, used associates and family members to send small amounts of money, often £900 at a time. Over a six-year period, the network transferred more than half a million pounds.

The family is reported to own at least two luxurious houses on the outskirts of the Corporate Area. Members of the network were arrested May 14, 2009. They were placed on trial in May 2011. Burnett was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison, his wife four years and nine months. Five others were handed sentences ranging from 18 months to two years and three months.



CLAMPDOWN

Head of the Financial

U.S. push pays off for illegal Caribbean immigrants

WASHINGTON, D.C. - New United States federal data shows that President Barack Obama's immigration initiative has paid off for 454,000 young Caribbean and other immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally.

Under the “deferred action” initiative that took effect late last year, 26,000 New York residents were granted immunity from prosecution for at least two years, the third-highest in the country. The data shows that California has the most residents who received waivers followed by Texas.

The 26,000 deferments approved in New York, long a hub for immigration, represent about a third of the 79,000 people thought to be eligible.

The U.S. government said it has reviewed 470,000 deferred-action applications, an initiative announced during Obama's re-election campaign

to help young people get documented after the U.S. Congress failed to pass the Dream Act. The program lets people under 31, who came to the U.S. when they were under 16, to apply for a permit to avoid deportation. They will



Obama

then get papers allowing them to work or get a driver's license.

IMPACT

Those accepted can avoid deportation for two years and

can apply to get their status renewed, though there is no guarantee how long the program will last.

“The fact that Congress is poised to pass immigration reform in 2013 has had an impact on people's interest in applying for temporary relief,” said Jacqueline Esposito, of the New York Immigration Coalition.

Meantime, labor and business factions have reached an agreement on a proposed guest worker program for Caribbean and other immigrants. The deal between the key factions is seen as a triumph over one of the biggest hurdles to immigration reform, which might allow more than 10 million illegal immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens.

The agreement resolved differences over wages for new workers and over which industries would be included under parts of the program.

Analysts say the intense talks, and the willingness of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the A.F.L.-C.I.O. - two groups that have often found themselves deeply divided over the immigration debate - to reach an agreement, was an indication of how much the climate has changed.

- Edited from CMC.



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U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of deported Jamaican

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in favor of a Jamaican national who was deported from the United States over possession of a small amount of marijuana.

The court by a 7-2 decision, ruled that Adrian Moncrieffe, a long time U.S. resident should have had the opportunity to contest his deportation.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in her opinion marijuana offenses must involve either the sale of the drug or possession of more than a small amount to count as serious enough to warrant automatic deportation. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented.

Moncrieffe had lived legally in the U.S. since he was three years old and, in 2008, police pulled him over and found 1.3 grams of marijuana in his car. He faced the charge of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, which under Georgia state law encompasses a range of conduct from social sharing to distribution of larger amounts.

PLEA

Moncrieffe accepted a plea with no jail time in which the charge would be expunged if he complied with his probation. However, two years later,

immigration agents jailed him and began deportation proceedings, citing the marijuana arrest. According to government officials, Moncrieffe's crime was serious enough to count as an "aggravated



felony" and that it fell into a category that made his deportation automatic and deprived even the attorney general of the ability to step in and cancel it.

But Justice Sotomayor said that under immigration law, a conviction that "fails to establish that the offense involved either remuneration or more than a small amount of marijuana" is not an aggravated felony. She also dismissed the concern raised by Justice Alito in his dissent that, because about half the states have statutes similar to the one in Georgia, many people con-

victed of marijuana crimes will avoid deportation because the state laws are not specific enough.

"Escaping aggravated felony treatment does not mean escaping deportation...It just means that the deportation is not automatic," Sotomayor said.

Justice Thomas wrote that the Georgia law defines the crime as a drug trafficking offense, which should have resolved the case in the government's favor.

RETURN

Meanwhile, Angel Arias, one of the lawyers who represented Moncrieffe, said efforts will be made to have the Jamaican returned to the U.S., to reverse the deportation order.

"Well the next move that's going to happen is that we have to speak to the U.S. government to get Mr. Moncrieffe back into the U.S. so we can finish deportation proceedings," said Arias.

He described the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling, as a major decision for immigrants, who face deportation for petty crimes.

- Edited from CMC.



ICE arrests 20 for posing as Cuban migrants in Florida

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency last month arrested 20 people in

Officials said the case is the second most important in immigration fraud since January, when a U.S. federal judge sentenced four members of a network that sold fake Cuban birth certificates to undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants, posing as Cuban refugees, so they could obtain "green cards" (permanent residence).



- File photograph

southern Florida for allegedly attempting to defraud immigration authorities by posing as Cuban migrants.

ICE said the arrests resulted from an investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, in conjunction with Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.

MESSAGE

The ICE said detainees in the latest case include Caribbean and other immigrants, who live in South Florida cities such as Miami, Miami Beach, Miramar, Sunrise, Davie and Naples.

"These individuals came here seeking the freedom and benefits this country provides to Cuban nationals," said Alysa Erichs, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations Miami.

"These arrests by (the agency) should send a clear message that we will target (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Guyanese-born EZJet owner facing \$20M in fraud charges

TAMPA, Florida - The Guyanese-born owner of the now defunct airline EZJet, who is facing charges of embezzling \$20 million from his former employer, has had his trial date extended to later this year.



Ramdeo

Sonny Ramdeo, a Florida resident, last month had his trial date reset to Oct. 21. This is the second time Ramdeo's trial date has been reset. The first was to April 22 from Mar. 17.

Ramdeo is accused of embezzling the money in a payroll tax fraud scheme from as early as 2005 from Promise Healthcare Inc. and Success Healthcare Group, where he worked as the payroll supervisor. Working for both companies, Ramdeo managed the payroll for more than 3,500

employees in hospitals nationwide. Federal officials say Ramdeo incorporated PayServ Tax Inc. and told the hospital chains he would handle the transfer of local, state and federal payroll taxes to the proper agencies on their behalf. Instead, authorities say, he kept the money.

In October, Promise Healthcare filed a lawsuit accusing Ramdeo of embezzling more than \$5 million to keep his airline afloat.

Ramdeo, 35, who started EZJet last year, as the cheaper alternative to fly on the New York to Guyana route, has pleaded not guilty to the charge. EZJet collapsed last November. The Guyana government has since given Caribbean Airlines flagship carrier status for the South American nation.

- Edited from News Americas. ★

ICE arrests 20 for posing as Cuban migrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

anyone who tries to obtain immigration benefits fraudulently," she said.

Under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966,

Cubans arriving in the U.S., even without a visa, can stay and then apply for permanent residence after one year and one day in the country. ★

Haitian nominated for human rights award

Haitian lawyer Mario Joseph has been nominated among three finalists for the Martin Ennals Award (MEA) for human rights defenders.

The MEA is awarded annually to an individual who has demonstrated an exceptional record of combating human rights violations by courageous and innovative means, and whose work has put them at great personal risk.

Joseph, managing attorney of the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, a public interest law firm in Haiti, has represented victims of human rights abuses.

"The Martin Ennals honor not only recognizes Mario's historic contributions to justice in Haiti, it also validates his insistence that poor people have the right and ability to participate as equals in the fight for justice," Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners In Health, a non-profit healthcare organization, said in recent press release to announce Joseph's nomination.

ADVOCATE

Joseph has advocated on



Joseph

behalf of political prisoners and dissidents, survivors of sexual violence, and families seeking reparations from the United Nations following a deadly cholera epidemic.

"Mario is a driving force for justice for the tens of thousands who suffered grave abuses under one of the Americas' worst dictators," said Pamela Merchant, executive director of the Center for Justice and Accountability, a human

rights organization. The Martin Ennals Award is known as "the award of the human rights movement" because its jury consists of representatives of 10 of the world's leading human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Front Line, German Diakonie, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, HURIDOCs, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights, International Service for Human Rights and World Organization

Against Torture.

Also nominated for the 2013 award are Mona Seif of Egypt and Joint Mobile Group working in Chechnya, Russia. The award recipient will be selected among the three and announced at an awards ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland in October.

Caribbean Today celebrates Haiti this month, page 16. ★



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THE POWER OF WOMEN



Guest speaker Beverly Manley Duncan, center, is flanked by President Dahlia Walker Huntington, right, and board member Schuyler Smith during the launch of the newly formed not-for-profit organization Jamaican Women of Florida, Inc., (JWOF) last month at the Broward Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "The best is yet to come," said Walker Huntington. JWOF has a board of six directors, each scheduled to serve a two-year term. The organization's mission is to mentor, while providing avenues for youth education and career development. "JWOF will also focus on taking care of ourselves," said Walker Huntington, through networking and personal development on issues such as financial/retirement security, health and wellness, family enrichment, political empowerment and equally important, bonding and sisterhood. For more information, join JWOF on Twitter...@jwofflora and Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jamaican-Women-Of-Florida/517209604998545; or online at www.jamaican-womenofflora.com or jwofflora@gmail.com or 561-320-1391.

HOCUS POCUS: Haitian voodoo case heads to trial in Florida

MIAMI, Florida - A Miami judge has set a July trial date for a Haitian-born voodoo priest accused of placing a curse on his compatriot then drugging and raping her.

Last month prosecutors charged Pierre Jenty, 66, with sexual battery by drugging and third-degree grand theft.

Prosecutor Jessie Friedman told a Miami court that the alleged rape took place in Nov. 2006, but that Jenty had skipped his bond, escaped to Canada, then to Haiti for six years before

returning here late last year when he was re-arrested and jailed.

The unidentified Haitian woman, a New York resident, then 27, first called police from a pay phone telling them the "harrowing tale," prosecutors said. Prosecutors said the woman, believing she had been cursed, met Jenty through a friend in New York, and began paying him money, via Western Union wire transfers, for his spiritual work.

According to a Miami police report, "he told her if

she ever tells anyone about all the money she'd given him, then the spirits would kill her.

VISITS

In Oct. 2006, prosecutors said the woman flew to Miami to visit with Jenty and that the following month, she flew down to buy lottery tickets — without his knowledge. But she "accidentally" ran into him. Jenty claimed the woman now owed him \$60,000.

According to the prosecutors, not long after that encounter, she flew to Miami

again, this time to pay him \$1,000 to provide her with spirit-guided lottery numbers. However, it's alleged that he left her waiting at the airport for hours, and that she eventually took a cab to the hotel, where he was staying.

As part of an apparent ritual in the hotel room, he gave her a bottle of cola and "rubbed lotion on her arms." The prosecutors told the court that the woman became drowsy and fell into a deep sleep, and on waking up felt like she had been raped.

Tests showed her urine contained the powerful drugs hydrocortone and methadone.

Jenty, in his defense, told detectives that the woman was his girlfriend and that their sex was consensual.

Voodoo, which blends Catholic beliefs with the worship of deities, is deeply rooted in Haiti and also widely practiced outside of the country.

- Edited from CMC.



Many Caribbean nationals detained in U.S. not criminals ~ report

MIAMI, Florida - A new report has declared that the majority of Caribbean and other nationals detained for deportation in Miami-Dade County, through a controversial United States federal immigration enforcement program, are not dangerous criminals.

The conclusions of the 57-page report, titled "False Promises: The Failure of Secure Communities in Miami-Dade County", was released here last month.

They appear at odds with the stated objectives of Secure Communities, the federal program launched in 2008. Those goals are to detain and deport convicted Caribbean and other nationals who pose a threat to public safety and those who are repeat violators of immigration laws, such as immigrants who have returned to the U.S. after being deported.

"Contrary to these policy goals, we found that 61 percent of individuals ordered for removal from Miami-Dade County are either low-level offenders or not guilty of the crime for which they were arrested", noted the report, prepared jointly by Americans for Immigrant Justice, a Miami-based immigrant-rights group, and the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy at Florida International University's (FIU) Center for Labor Research and Studies.

CHECKS

Under Secure Communities, the names and fingerprints of immigrants arrested by police in a given county are turned over to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, whose Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency checks for nationals who might be subject to detention and potential deportation. ICE declined to comment on the report, but defend-

ed the Secure Communities program.

"Over the past three years, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has dramatically changed the way it conducts immigration



- File photograph

enforcement", the statement noted.

"ICE implemented clear priorities, enhanced the use of prosecutorial discretion, and implemented a sustained focus on the identification and removal of criminal aliens and other priority individuals".

ICE said that Secure Communities "has proven to be the single-most-valuable tool in allowing the agency to eliminate the ad hoc approach

to identification used in the past, and focus on criminal aliens and repeat immigration law violators".

DEPORTATIONS

Since its activation on Oct. 27, 2008, through Jan. 31, ICE said Secure Communities has helped deport more than 254,000 Caribbean and other foreign nationals who had been convicted of serious crimes, including more than 72,000, who had been found guilty of such crimes as murder, rape and sexual abuse of children.

"More than 95 percent of the 254,249 removals generated through Secure Communities clearly fell within one of ICE's enforcement priorities", the statement said.

To prevent abuses, ICE said, on Dec. 21 it issued new guidance limiting the use of detention to those who meet the agency's enforcement priorities, not those arrested for misdemeanors, such as traffic offenses and petty crimes. But the report disagrees with ICE's position.

"By ICE's standards, only

18 percent of the individuals ordered for removal represent high priority public safety risks, and that number drops to a mere six per cent when we apply local standards suggested by Miami-Dade County's Public Defender.

"Interviews with

detainees also reveal that often residents are stopped by police for no apparent reason and subjected to detention and deportation," it added.

- Edited from CMC.



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Miramar, Caribbean Bar to host town hall meeting on U.S. immigration reform May 9

A South Florida city with one of the largest populations of Caribbean Americans will this month host a town hall meeting on United States immigration reform.

Miramar Commissioner Wayne Messam, along with The Caribbean Bar Association, will hold the from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 9 at City of Miramar City Hall Chambers, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar.

"The demographic data of Miramar is reflective of the national debate on immigration reform," said Messam in

a recent press release to announce the event.

"With over 50 percent of our city's residency being of West Indian and/or Latin

American origin, the debate in Washington will impact a large number of our residents, their families and our business community.

"Educating the community on the issues and the political process empowers our resi-



Messam

dents to be informed and provides those impacted the most a forum to ask questions."

The meeting is scheduled to address the proposed changes to the U.S. immigration system, the impact on families and businesses and the expected legislative process.

To make reservations to attend or form more information, call Schuyler Smith, CBA president, at 305-416-3180, or e-mail caribbean-barassociation@gmail.com.



Guyanese-born attorney, sister on fraud charges in N.Y.

NEW YORK - A prominent Guyanese-born attorney has been charged with his sister and a former Wells Fargo bank officer, with mortgage fraud here.

New York-based attorney Michael Gangadeen, 47, was charged last month, along with his sister Savitri (also known as Savi) Gangadeen, 49, and former Wells Fargo loan officer/mortgage consultant Paul Constante, 38.

The three have been charged with first-degree grand larceny, first-degree criminal possession of stolen property, first-degree falsifying business records, fourth-

degree criminal facilitation, first degree scheme to defraud and fourth-degree conspiracy.

The three are accused of conspiring to commit mortgage fraud and larceny from Wells Fargo Bank by fraudulently obtaining mortgage funds in excess of \$3.3 million pertaining to the purchase of six properties - including four in Queens - during a six-month period in 2008. If convicted, they each face up to 25 years in prison.

"This complicated and devious scheme allegedly involved defendants who were so greedy that they pushed through more than \$3.3 mil-

lion in fraudulent mortgage loan transactions in just over six months by falsely inflating the income and assets of the borrowers," said Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

"As alleged, the defendants not only stole money out of these mortgages, but even worse they left their victims out in the cold and facing foreclosure," said New York State Department of Financial Services Superintendent Benjamin M. Lawsky.

- Edited from News Americas.



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Ex-Bermuda premier to stand trial on corruption charges

GRAND TURK, Turk and Caicos Islands - The head investigator in a British Government's probe of corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands says former Premier Michael Misick will stand trial.

Helen Garlick, of the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and

Prosecution Team, said Misick will join 10 others, including four of his Cabinet ministers, in defending allegations that they illegally sold government lands for profit and cut other sweetheart deals to enrich themselves during their tenure in office.

The trials could commence as early as September pending further appeals to the British Privy Council, said Garlick in a statement here last month. She had previously said the team only wanted Misick to return to the British Overseas Dependent Territory for questioning in a criminal investigation of government corruption.

But Garlick has acknowledged that British investigators, who are receiving help from the United States Department of Justice, have combed through about 100,000 pages of evidence, uncovering suspicious land



Misick

deals, unpaid government bills and possible fraud, bribery and money laundering by former leaders.

EXTRADITION TARGET

Misick was arrested in Brazil last month after the South American country rejected his claim for political asylum. He is subject to extradition proceedings by the British.

The Turks and Caicos Islands is one of two overseas territories where the British are actively probing corruption. The other is in the Cayman Islands, where former Premier McKeever Bush was formally charged in March with corruption.

Misick was first elected as chief minister in 2003, but resigned in 2009 during his second term amid the corruption allegations. He gained international notoriety when he married U.S. actress LisaRaye McCoy in a lavish hilltop ceremony. But McCoy later testified against her estranged husband during a 2008 British government commission of enquiry.

The corruption probe is entering its fourth year. A law firm hired to recover the land recently reported to the governor that it had recovered about 2,500 acres of land valued at about \$100 million.

- Edited from CMC.



Haitian businessman wanted in U.S. arrested in Dom. Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, CMC - A Haitian business man wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges has been arrested in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic's anti-drugs enforcement agency said Rodolphe Jaar was arrested at a luxurious hotel here late last month and was scheduled to be extradited to the U.S.

The agency said Jaar, who lives in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, was found with a Haitian passport and a temporary Dominican residence card. He is listed as an officer of several Florida-based businesses, including United Foam and Plastic, LLC.

also known as "Whiskey", was involved in business ventures in Haiti, serving as general director of an agriculture association that last year entered into a partnership with the country's agriculture ministry and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). U.S. officials said the goal of the WINNER project, is to help rehabilitate a river in Haiti's Cul-de-Sac Plain and that Jaar's group provides materials and workers for the dredging efforts.

U.S. officials in Miami late last month unsealed the grand jury indictment against Jaar, accusing him of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine in the country, court officials said. If convicted, Jarr would face up to life in prison.

'WHISKEY'

U.S. officials said Jaar,



TARGET RASTA: The Coral Gardens Incident - adding insult to injury 50 years later

JABULANI TAFARI

Easter 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of “The Coral Gardens Incident”, the dark 1963 chapter in Jamaica’s neo-colonial history when the state government unleashed a brutal week-long eradication campaign against the Rastafari movement.

A series of events, organized by the Coral Gardens Committee and IRIE FM Radio, were held in Jamaica recently to bring continued public awareness to the forgotten tragedy, and to raise funds for the survivors and the families of the victims.

Three days of activities climaxed on Saturday, Mar. 30, 2013 with a benefit stage show at Jarrett Park, Montego Bay, in aid of the victims and their families. After having already secured and paid for armed security, and having not requested any additional police presence, the organizers of the show were informed last minute that police security was mandatory. Accordingly,



- Photograph by Errol Mitchell.

A survivor of the Coral Gardens Incident at the 50th anniversary show.

Montego Bay police self-deployed – and then presented a bill for over 140,000 Jamaican dollars – and demanded payment on the spot. The accounting officers grudgingly took only J\$120,000 cash. Talk about highway robbery. Talk about boxing bread out of the mouths of the poor and needy. Talk about adding fuel to fire.

This is one time when the government and/or the police could have shown some compassion and waived any applicable fees for the unrequested police security – considering the symbolism of the occasion, the charitable nature of the event, and bearing in mind the Jamaica Constabulary Force’s complicity in the original crime against humanity. This fee should never have been charged, if even just as a token form of belated compensation. Talk about rubbing salt in a raw wound. Talk about adding insult to injury. Naturally, the Rastafari community is furious about this.



A Rastaman speaks at the Coral Gardens benefit show in Montego Bay.

- Photograph by Errol Mitchell.

THE INCIDENT

For those unfamiliar with the seldom talked about “Coral Gardens Incident” here is a refresher. In 1961 a “beard man” named Rudolph Franklin was farming on land adjacent to the Rose Hall Estate near Montego Bay. Overseers on the estate didn’t like him there and instructed the police to remove him. The police burnt down his farm and destroyed his crops three times.

The third time they came in Oct. 1961, the police shot Franklin three times in the stomach. He spent three months in hospital, before being tried and convicted to prison. He came out of prison a year and a half later as a sick and bitter man. His farm had been repeatedly destroyed. The Cornwall College graduate-turned-farmer had been shot, hospitalized, imprisoned and he was now sick and physically damaged. Franklin vowed to take revenge on the people whom he blamed for his misfortunes.

Therefore, on Holy Thursday” April 11, 1963, Franklin and five accomplices, in a personal vendetta, set fire to a gas station at Coral Gardens near Montego Bay, killing one and igniting “The Coral Gardens Incident”. The police responded quickly and Franklin and two others were shot dead. The other three accomplices were arrested and charged with murder. And that should have been the end of that.

However, in the early 1960s, anyone with a beard, much less dreadlocks, was viewed with fear and terror by the general public because of the prevailing negative propaganda portraying them as “black-hearted men” who sacrificed little children.

One of the MoBay police-

men who responded to the burning of the gas station at Coral Gardens, retired Detective Inspector Selwyn Reid, has admitted that Jamaican police officers in those days often used the image of a dreadlocked Rastaman as the target when taking target practice at the shooting range – giving Rastafari an automatic criminal profile in the minds of the

policemen. Tragically, the Jamaican government ended up believing its own lie: that Rastafari were dangerous religious cultists.

OUT OF CONTEXT

So within hours, the preceding events were blown totally out of context by the government and the media, which reported a Rastafarian uprising in Montego Bay. By

the end of Holy Thursday, over 300 Rastafari who knew nothing about Franklin’s vendetta, were already in jail. Over 300 innocent and uninvolved people were implicated in and paying for a crime allegedly committed by only six.

Of Franklin’s three arrested accomplices, two of them were eventually hung in 1964 and the other acquitted.

But the following day, April 12, 1963, turned into a “Bad Friday” for Rastafarians islandwide. Anti-Rasta propaganda and paranoia reached a crescendo. The Jamaica Labour Party government of Prime Minister Alexander Bustamante was extremely hostile to the Rastafari and it orchestrated what amounted to attempted genocide against members of the movement. Eye-witnesses say Bustamante, with two pistols tucked in his waist, came to Montego Bay himself, where he ordered that Rastafari be eradicated and publicly declared open season on Rastafari. The standing order

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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Guyanese doctor among TIME's 'Top 100' Influential People in 2013

NEW YORK - Guyanese-born HIV expert Dr. Deborah Persaud was last month named to the TIME magazine list of 2013 World List of "Top 100" Influential People.

Dr. Persaud, a researcher at Johns Hopkins Pediatric in the United States, was propelled into the spotlight in early March when she and doctors Hanna Gay, of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Katherine Luzuriaga, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, announced the first functional cure of HIV in an infant.

A virologist and an infectious disease specialist, Persaud is being recognized for her research and clinical work in pediatric HIV and AIDS.

TIME's annual list, now in its 10th year, honors scientists, writers, politicians, economists, activists, innovators and artists whose work has inspired, changed or challenged their fields, according to the magazine.

CURE

While Dr. Persaud and her colleagues cautioned the infant's unusual case requires further study and people with HIV should not discontinue

treatment, they also hailed it as a potential game-changer, supporting the notion that early treatment quashes the formation of the viral hideouts that make the virus impossible to clear. HIV's ability to form such hideouts shortly after infection is one of the virus's most vexing quirks and one that stymies cure.

The newborn was treated with antiretroviral therapy unusually early, which the experts believe prevented the development of reservoirs and led to the child's eventual functional cure.

"Debbie Persaud's work has sparked renewed interest in finding a cure for a disease that was some time ago chalked up as incurable," says Johns Hopkins Children's Center Director Dr. George Dover.

"Her perseverance and passion have paid off and illuminated some new strategies to improve both prevention and treatment of pediatric HIV."

ACTIVE

Although Persaud's work gained mainstream attention only recently, she has been active in the field of pediatric HIV for nearly two decades.



Persaud

Her research has focused on understanding some of HIV's most complex behaviors, including its ability to mutate and to develop resistance to drugs.

Dr. Persaud's other work has focused on strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission in underdeveloped countries, where children have been hit the hardest. HIV is a daunting, shape-shifting virus in its ability to mutate quickly, Dr. Persaud explained, and its tendency to form viral reservoirs and become impervious to both drugs and immune defenses not only hinder vaccine development, but also require periodic changes to the

life-long treatment to ensure the virus is kept in check.

The viral sanctuaries develop when HIV sets up camp in tissues and organs where the virus lies dormant for years. As soon as antiviral therapy is stopped, HIV emerges from hiding to reignite full-blown infection.

"Solving these challenges will require a far more precise and far more profound understanding of the basic biology behind HIV's most intricate maneuvers and the tricks it uses to hijack a child's immature immune cells and linger on - that is the focus of my work," said Dr. Persaud.

SPEARHEAD

She spearheaded much of the early research in this field in the late 1990s and early 2000s by conducting some of the first studies of viral reservoirs in infected babies, children and teens at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Persaud's lab at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center is a world leader in the

study of HIV reservoirs in children. She uses Hopkins-developed ultrasensitive molecular tests that help detect viral hideouts.

Dr. Persaud grew up in Guyana and came to the U.S. as a teenager. She received her medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine and completed a residency at Babies Hospital at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, where she also served as chief resident. She completed her fellowship at the New York University School of Medicine and is the scientific chair of the HIV Cure Committee of the International Maternal, Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical (IMPAACT) network, a consortium of researchers and institutions that led the earliest clinical trials of mother-to-child transmission and early treatment of infants 15 years ago.

- Edited from News Americas.



TARGET RASTA: The Coral Gardens Incident - adding insult to injury

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

given to the police was to "carry in all Rastas, dead or alive".

HUNT

As a result of such statements, starting on "Bad Friday" and continuing on throughout that Easter weekend, a coalition of police and large civilian vigilante groups patrolled the streets and countryside searching for anyone with a beard or dreadlocks. Rastafarians had to go into hiding as thousands were being hunted down like animals, not just in Western Jamaica or on the north coast, but all over the island. Ordinary civilians threw stones and bottles at every Rastafari they saw and beat them with batons, sticks, iron pipes, machetes and anything available. Rastafarians were kicked, stomped on, hogtied and beaten bloody. Finally, bruised and suffering broken bones, they were handcuffed and thrown in jail - where the beatings resumed.

When it was all over a week later, at least eight people were dead and many hundreds, maybe thousands, of Rastafarians had been brutally beaten, hospitalized and locked in jail. Those innocent Rastafari who had been incar-

cerated in this unjust manner were given sentences ranging from 30 days to three years. This whole Easter 1963 affair is known as "The Coral Gardens Incident" and it is the subject of an excellent 2011 video documentary entitled "Bad Friday" by the University of Pennsylvania's Dr. Deborah Thomas.

The annual commemorative event each Easter was devised to hold the Jamaican government accountable for the unwarranted victimization of the Rastafari community because of the actions of a few. It was also intended as a way to provide some financial assistance to the elderly survivors of the "Incident". So to have the meager funds collected at the recent 50th anniversary benefit show callously grabbed away by insensitive policemen only added a barefaced insult to gross injury. The Coral Gardens Committee should demand an immediate cash refund from the Ministry of National Security and Justice. It's the least the Jamaican government can do as an act of good faith.

I. Jabulani Tafari is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



SALUTE TO THE BAHAMAS

In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight *The Bahamas* - over 3,000 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of just 354,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and the United States mainland, Florida in particular. *The Bahamas* is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of *The Bahamas* and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S. Let us show you why the land of the conk thinks life is better in *The Bahamas*.

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21st Century Pan-African renaissance

I. JABULANI TAFARI

Fifty years ago, on May 25, 1963, 32 African heads of state came together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to establish the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the first modern framework for Pan-African - collective continental - action.

The OAU was brought together by the political foresight and diplomatic initiatives of Africa's elder statesman at the time, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I, who became OAU's first chairman.

The OAU was established



African Union emblem

with the primary objectives of promoting continental unity, political solidarity and the economic cooperation of African states to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa and to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of African states. Some of these aims have been achieved to varying degrees and others are works still in progress. But the OAU's greatest success was in its contribution to the struggle for the total liberation of Africa from the last vestiges of European colonialism and from apartheid in South Africa.

TRANSFORMATION

Just over 10 years ago, in light of globalization and the new world order, member states felt it necessary to transform the OAU into a new institution to accelerate Africa's move towards complete political and economic integration - a United States of Africa. Accordingly, the OAU was disbanded on July 9, 2002 by its last chairperson, former South African President Thabo Mbeki, and was replaced by the African Union (AU), consisting of 54 African states.

The African Union is the largest Pan-African organization in the world and it has accepted the African diaspora (including the Americas and the Caribbean) as the sixth region of the continent and the AU.

Trinidadian Henry Sylvester-Williams convened the inaugural Pan-African Conference in London,

England in 1900 and initiated the modern discourse about the liberation of African peoples globally and about the unity of all of continental Africa. The Fifth Pan-African Conference in Manchester, England in 1945 was attended by people like Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah; Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta; Trinidad's George Padmore and Eric Williams; Jamaica's Amy Jacques Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey and Dudley Thompson; and W.E.B. Du Bois from the United States. That conference set in motion the "winds of change" that led to the political independence of African and Caribbean states in the 1960s.

IDEOLOGY

The Pan-African ideology asserts that African peoples on the continent and in the African diaspora share a common history and a common destiny. Pan-Africanism is based on the concept that unity is vital to the economic, social and political progress of people of African descent. Such racial solidarity will enable economic self-reliance, allowing the continent's potential to independently provide for its people to be fulfilled. Geo-politically, an all-African alliance including the African diaspora will empower African peoples globally on the stage of world affairs.

Presidents Nkrumah of Ghana and Sekou Toure of Guinea went as far as to surrender their personal autonomy and merged their two countries politically in a practical and historic display of Pan-African collectivism in the early 1960s. Other Pan-African advocates have included leaders such as Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Kwame Ture (also known as Stokely Carmichael), Dr. Walter Rodney and, most recently, Muammar Gaddafi.

May 2013 marks the 50th anniversary celebration of the formation of the OAU-AU and the year-long 50th anniversary commemoration events will be focused around the theme "Pan Africanism and the African Renaissance".

The AU has reportedly scheduled a year-long series of events aimed at enthusing and energizing African populations internationally to use their constructive energy to accelerate a forward looking agenda for a Pan-African renaissance in the 21st century.

Serious discourse about Pan-African philosophy seemingly became politically incorrect for black people in the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Dog days in the doghouse

Men are always doing something, or not doing something, to upset women.

Men are always putting their feet in their mouths, oblivious to what effects it's having on the little woman. "Oh Lord, how you face so long...is what wrong with you now...what me do...what me say?"

And thus begins his lesson for the week, seven doghouse days, as she not only gives him a piece of her mind, but lashes him with her tongue, shows him the cold shoulder and makes sure that he sleeps on the far side of the bed.

Now I know how sensitive many women are, and have a kneejerk reaction when fingers are pointed in their direction, but I did my research before I put pen to paper. I also gleaned my information from various husbands who wanted their stories told - so that others would know.

DOG DAZE

The first chronicle dealing with the doghouse days begins with the man who's married for 25 years, and happily too. But in all this bliss, just like in hurricane season, he suffers a few weeks in the doghouse that are devastating.

It's always about the same issue - a past flame, an 'ex' who lives overseas and who he has not seen in over 27 years. But there is no statute of limitations where this ex girlfriend thing is concerned. No matter how many years have passed, the punishment that is to be meted out in the doghouse days shall be swift and without mercy. It matters not when the crime was committed or on what continent, the doghouse days shall run their course.

For that reason, any mention of that person's name, age, birthday, rank or serial number will send the wife into a rage fitting only for a wildcat. Even though that ex lives in Australia, has never visited the country where they now live, and has very limited contact with hubby on the odd birthday and such, she is persona non grata.

He will try his best to explain, but it's in the doghouse for the duration of her vitriol.

LONG MEMORY

Women tend to have very long memories and short fuses, and at times it seems that there is no rhyme or reason, or any logic to their behavior, but by Jove, there's method in their madness. The doghouse days will include, pots and pans banging louder



TONY ROBINSON

than usual when she's preparing dinner, her not speaking much, scowling, snapping if asked a question, and of course, no mating, the ultimate weapon of mass marriage destruction.

But jaded jealousy that spans distance and time is not the only catalyst for these doghouse days, as this other man told me.

"I learnt, much to my horror, that I should never compliment another woman in the presence of my wife, as is pure hell and powder house when I

got home."

Loose lips sink ships and torpedoes of terror sink them even faster. Nice things women love to hear, but there is a time and place for everything and his mistake was saying it in front of his wife.

There's this other gentleman who humorously refers to his wife as the "Taliban" - to her face. Throughout the years of so-called terror tactics from his wife, he keeps on going back for more and is either a sucker for punishment, or truly enjoys the bouts of verbal dog whipping.

FIX

Naturally, he only gives me his side of the story and offers no

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VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: An immigration bill, but too soon to celebrate

Dear Mr. President,

Finally we have a bill! But I think it's way too soon to celebrate anything, given the fact that a crop of undocumented immigrant will remain.

For now, at least the long overdue and talked about bipartisan immigration reform legislation – the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act” – has been introduced in Senate, a big first step towards the silver lining on a very long, dark road for many undocumented migrants.

At least the positive in this is that those undocumented immigrants, who arrived in

the United States before Dec. 31, 2011 and have no criminal record and do not have three misdemeanor convictions, including for offenses such as reckless driving, trespassing or vandalism, would be eligible for legal residency, according to the bill's summary.

Of course, this is as long as they cough up to \$500 in fines – for having come to the United States illegally – and pay back any back taxes. Once that is done they will receive temporary approval to stay.

Still, those eligible would become registered in a provisional immigrant status that will allow the applicant to travel outside the country and

return legally. This is great news for the many that have been living for as much as two decades in the U.S. without ever setting foot outside again.

COMPLICATED

But here's where the bill gets complicated – it would prevent undocumented immigrants from reaching full legal resident status until after the government takes steps to keep unauthorized workers from getting jobs in the U.S. and once borders with at least 30,000 illegal crossings a year are sealed off. Then after 10 years as provisional residents, immigrants could become lawful permanent residents by

following the same guidelines as immigrants who enter the country legally. That process includes a \$1,000 fee.

It's not perfect by any means, and while we all are optimistic, we hope you would also speak out and intervene for those we are leaving as undocumented still. And yes, call on your base to constructively engage lawmakers to make this bill a reality and amend the Congressional bill to include all undocumented migrants.

Those immigrants in the Caribbean and African communities too must be involved in this lobbying process, instead of sitting on the sidelines.

The battle has now truly begun – now it's time to clean this measure up so it benefits all not just some and kicks the can down the road by creating another crop of millions of undocumented migrants in years to come.

Respectfully,
Felicia Persaud.

The above is edited from the 24th in a series of 'letters' to U.S. President Barack Obama written by Felicia Persaud, founder of News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



21st Century Pan-African renaissance

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

last quarter of the 20th century. However, interest in the ideology seems to be returning to vogue presently. This 50th anniversary milestone offers a unique opportunity to pay special tribute to the founding fathers of the OAU, a great generation of Pan-Africanists who, in their wisdom and foresight, laid a solid foundation for the future Pan-African unity and solidarity of Africa. The anniversary also

offers an opportunity to enhance the awareness of the new generation of 21st Century Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism and African renaissance – ideals espoused and advocated by the brightest and best of our black heroes.

I. Jabulani Tafari is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the publication.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

hint of what may motivate his lady to have to resort to dog whispering/training tactics to keep him in check. What's terrible is that whenever I see her I automatically think of Afghanistan and can't even recall her real name.

What initiates doghouse days from some spouses? At times it takes the merest of triggers, like the husband not washing the dishes after he's

Dog days in the doghouse

used them. One wife even imposed doghouse days and nights on her husband because workmen came to the house early one morning and overnight dishes were left in the sink. Even if they have a helper who comes in the morning, she must not come to the house and see a dirty sink as that too will reflect badly on the wife.

Despite frequent doghouse days, men really do love their spouses or they wouldn't tol-

erate the tirades. It's a marked difference, though, between a week in the doghouse and living in permanent hell. Men who experience the latter rarely talk. Women do not see it as dog whipping, but perfectly justified actions. Until the next time...for old dogs have lots of new tricks to learn.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

GALE FORCE: FIU's Wall of Wind blows Category 5 hurricane

**MICHELLE CAWLEY
DRESERIS**

Why would anybody want to create Category 5 hurricane-force winds in Miami?

Researchers still don't know enough about hurricanes or how to mitigate damage caused by them through destructive winds, storm surges and rain.

However, in a blue trailer and a massive blue, hangar-like facility – made from reinforced metal sheeting – standing side-by-side in the suburbs of Miami, Florida, they are trying to find out. Inside, engineers, researchers, and scientists have been creating storm winds for years.

When the sliding doors on opposite sides of the hangar are opened, 12 fans, each six feet high, suck in massive volumes of air on one side of the building and blow hurricane-force winds through the testing area inside, then out the opposite side of the hangar.

The Wall of Wind (WOW) is located on Florida International University's (FIU) Engineering Campus, two miles from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Miami National Weather



Researchers Erik Salna, left, and Walter Conklin in front of their 12-fan Wall of Wind.

Service (NWS) Forecast Office.

ANDREW'S RESPONSE

FIU's WOW is the largest and most powerful university research facility of its kind. It is capable of replicating the wind speed of a Category 5 hurricane, like Hurricane Andrew. It can even supplement those winds with wind-driven rain.

"Andrew" slammed into South Florida on Aug. 24, 1992, causing death, injuries, devastation and billions of dollars in damage.

Category 5, the highest classification in the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, is

reserved for storms with winds exceeding 157 miles per hour.

"We exist because of Hurricane Andrew," said Erik Salna, associate director of FIU's International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC), during a media presentation last month.

Salna explained that FIU has added a flow management system to its 12-fan Wall of Wind, and researchers are excited.

"The new system uses spires and floor roughness elements to manipulate the wind created by the Wall of Wind," he said. "For the first time, researchers can now replicate the 'characteristic' of a real

hurricane wind – with turbulence, gusting and atmospheric boundary layer conditions.

"We test products for commercial applications. This is how we can serve businesses' needs, and the community's," added Salna. "Research is great, but we want this to be a facility that ultimately helps you, and I, as a homeowner."

Recommendations made as a result of the WOW's testing were published in the 2010 Florida Building Code, which went into effect on Mar. 15, 2012.

PRICE TAG

According to Salna, WOW's price tag, so far, is about \$8 million. FIU's wind research pays for itself by providing safer homes and structures.

"Every dollar we spend on mitigation saves four dollars in damages, and helps to make us safer," Salna said.

The Wall of Wind is a major research project of the IHRC, which was established,

in part, with funds from the Hurricane Andrew We Will Rebuild effort. Additional funding from the state, including a Center of Excellence grant, the federal government (National Science Foundation and Department of Energy) and other private sources have supported the project.

FIU believes its wind research facility will not only fill the void – where most other current wind-structure experiments fail – but also has the potential to be as influential to wind engineering as crash testing is to the automobile industry.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Creating hurricane force winds involves much more than simply turning on giant fans. That's where research and wind engineering, computer modeling, fluid dynamics and other variables become complicated. The Wall of Wind is controlled by two variable frequency drives

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

GEAR UP: Above average hurricane season prediction for Caribbean in 2013

COLORADO - The Colorado State University (CSU) meteorological team is predicting an above average 2013 Atlantic basin hurricane season.

The team says this is due primarily to "anomalous warming" of the tropical Atlantic and expected lack of an El Nino event. CSU is in its 30th year of issuing Atlantic basin seasonal hurricane forecasts.

The team calls for 18 named storms during the hurricane season, which falls between June 1 and Nov. 30. It said nine of those storms are expected to become hurricanes, four of which will be major hurricanes, with sustained winds of 111 miles per hour (MPH) or greater.

"The tropical Atlantic has anomalously warmed over the past several months, and it appears that the chances of an El Niño event this summer and fall are unlikely," Phil Klotzbach, who authored the forecast with William Gray of the CSU Tropical Meteorology Project, said last month.

"Typically, El Nino is



CSU says there's a 61 percent chance a hurricane will make landfall in the Caribbean this year.

associated with stronger vertical shear across the tropical Atlantic, creating conditions less conducive for storm formation," he added.

BEST ESTIMATE

The team said its annual predictions are intended to provide a best estimate of activity to be experienced during the upcoming season, not an exact measure. It said its forecasts are based on the premise that global oceanic and atmospheric conditions – such as El Nino, Atlantic basin sea and sea level pres-

ures – that preceded active or inactive hurricane seasons in the past provide meaningful information about similar conditions that will likely occur in the current year.

"All vulnerable coastal residents should make the same hurricane preparations every year, regardless of how active or inactive the seasonal forecast is," Klotzbach said. "It takes only one landfall event near you to make this an active season."

He said five hurricane seasons since 1900 exhibited

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Jamaica gets \$100G for 'Sandy' damage

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) says it is providing \$100,000 to Jamaica to support the island's post-disaster recovery and restoration initiatives following the effects of Hurricane Sandy in Oct. 2012.

In a statement, the CCRIF, which is a not-for-profit risk pooling facility, owned and operated by Caribbean governments, said Jamaica's hurricane policy with CCRIF did not trigger after Hurricane Sandy because losses were below the policy's attachment point or "deductible".

CCRIF Chief Executive Officer Isaac Anthony said that "when a CCRIF policy is triggered it usually represents severe impacts with much death and destruction, because risk transfer represents that component of a country's disaster strategy that comes into play when losses are so extreme that usual national budgets are not able to address the extent of losses."

AGREEMENT

CCRIF said that within a

month after the passage of Hurricane Sandy, it began discussions with the Jamaica government to explore ways in which the facility could provide assistance for the country's recovery efforts.

It said based on discussions with the various stakeholders here, an agreement was reached to use the funds to support the rehabilitation of two residential childcare facilities - Muirton and Summerfield - which were damaged by the hurricane.

Muirton and Summerfield Childcare Centres provide homes and opportunities to create successful, independent futures for 43 Jamaican boys between the ages of seven and 18. The funds will help to ensure that the facilities are rehabilitated in a manner that will enable them to withstand future hurricane impacts so that they will continue to provide the shelter and services that the boys need.

CCRIF said that similar donations were made to Haiti and The Bahamas, two other CCRIF member countries, which were badly affected by Hurricane Sandy.



Caribbean needs more funds for climate change stabilization projects ~ study

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new study is suggesting that nearly \$100 million would be required annually to implement key mitigation strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The study, released here last month, estimates net additional costs of reducing emissions related to land use, energy and transport - the three main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

It says a 97 percent decarbonization of the power sector by 2050 would require \$66 billion in net annual investments.

Furthermore, reducing agricultural emissions by 50 percent by 2050 would have an estimated annual cost of \$10 billion, whereas a widespread electrification of the transport sector during the same timeframe is projected to involve an additional expenditure of \$30 billion per year.

'COMPELLING'

Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said the analysis presents "a compelling argument" for prompt action on climate change in

Latin America based on the analysis of the high costs of non-action, the lower costs of action via both adaptation and mitigation, and the local co-benefits to be garnered.

Nobel Laureate and Chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Rajendra Pachauri indicated "a substantial contribution of this report is the outlining of specific paths toward the achievement of a footprint of two tons per capita per annum in the region."



GEAR UP: Above average hurricane prediction for Caribbean in 2013

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

oceanic and atmospheric characteristics most similar to those observed in February-March 2013: 1915, 1952, 1966, 1996 and 2004. Four out of the five years had above-average hurricane activity, he said.

The team predicts that

tropical cyclone activity in 2013 will be about 175 percent of the average season. By comparison, it said 2012 witnessed tropical cyclone activity that was 131 percent of the average season.

The hurricane forecast team's probabilities for a

major hurricane making landfall in the Caribbean in 2013 is 61 percent. The average for last century is 42 percent. The team said it will issue forecast updates on June 3 and Aug. 2.

- Edited from CMC.



GALE FORCE: FIU's Wall of Wind blows Category 5 hurricane

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

(VFDs) that can generate sustained wind speeds up to 157 mph.

As engineers in the control room - in the Operations and Control trailer next door - increase the wind speeds on the fans, they whistle loudly - like massive airplane jet engines waiting for take-off.

EFFECTS

Researchers observe the effects of varying wind speeds on electronic sensors attached to items in the hangar, via multiple television monitors in the trailer, and on computers.

"We started our research years ago - by going out into actual storms, and measuring wind fields so that we could better understand the characteristics of a hurricane," said Walter Conklin, lab manager and researcher at FIU's IHRC and WOW research facility, who has worked on the project since 2006.

"Later, we decided we wanted to bring the hurricane into our lab, so we wouldn't have to go out into storms all the time.

"We developed a two-fan Wall of Wind in 2005, and then a six-fan Wall of Wind with additional funding," he added. "We received funding to build this facility. These 12 fans enable us to achieve more of the characteristics of

a hurricane."

The 12-fan Wall of Wind runs on electricity.

"Each fan runs off 4,160 volts," said Conklin. "We had to get special approval from Florida Power and Light (FPL) before we even put out a bid to purchase the fans."

The Wall of Wind, however, cannot run on solar power. "No," said Conklin, "The Wall requires too much power to run on solar. It takes more than 7.5 megawatts to run all the fans at full speed.

"That's about equivalent to the electrical needs of 2,000 homes," said Salna. "The volume of air from the Wall, at full capacity, is about equivalent to the cubic volume of air from 7,500 leaf blowers!"

The 12-fan Wall of Wind hasn't sucked in any birds or animals.

"No, because we have screens on the fans," explained Conklin. "Bugs, yes. But not birds."

STRONG

Is the metal-hangar building housing WOW research hurricane-proof?

"It's strong. They put extra metal and strapping in the building to withstand 145-mph winds," he said.

FIU students are involved with the Wall project.

"Twice weekly, high school students study here said Conklin. "Undergrad,

grad and post-grad students also work on the WOW."

The 12-fan WOW doesn't use jet engines.

"They produce heat," said Conklin. "We don't want our test sections to be burned."

WOW's research is already being put to the test.

"We've tested roofing and other materials on model houses," said Salna. "An Italian construction company is building a tall, Green-building in Italy. They brought us a tree because they wanted to know how winds would affect the big trees in their giant planters. That was unique, but we did it!"

"NASCAR wants us to wind-test one of their cars. We're also working on a project to analyze water penetration in structures, and to keep water out of homes and buildings.

"We'll also be testing electronic signs for the Turnpike for the Florida Department of Transportation, FDOT, to find out how much stresses are exerted on their signs during high winds."

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on June 1.

Story and photograph by Michelle Cawley Dreseris, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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I love you so, with all my heart, I know I'll always will, you've given me a precious gift the love that you still instill!!

Caribbean Today



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

ALL FOR MOM: Caribbean Mother's Day tributes 2013

**MICHELLE CAWLEY
DRESERIS**

Mother's Day is special for Caribbean people.

This month, **Caribbean Today** features tributes to mothers from participants answering three questions.

We suggest readers write their answers to the last two questions on a card, or a pretty piece of paper, and deliver it to their mom on Mother's Day, May 12.

Let your mom, grandmother, or anyone who is "like a mother", know how much you love her.

- How will you celebrate your mother on May 12, Mother's Day 2013?

- Why do you love your mother?

- What have you learned from your mom?

**Gia Manrique Gressman,
Cuban American**

Gia and her mother Yolanda Manrique, 84, were born in Havana, Cuba, and live in South Florida. Yolanda has three children and three grandchildren.

"To celebrate my mom, Yolanda, we'll cook a big Mother's Day lunch at home, and invite as many members of our family as possible," said Gressman. "That's what she loves most – having her children, grandchildren, family and friends around her and watching us enjoying themselves.

"I love my mom because she has always been my best friend! She's always my greatest fan, and my life-support system. Mom is very selfless, very strong, and very loving!"

"What I have learned from my mom is that no sacrifice is too big to make for your children. She's always sacrificed for us, with a smile! Mom has always supported us to achieve and live the American Dream. She wants us to be happy, and enjoy our lives."

**Leslie Henry, Jamaican
American**

Henry, 73, is a father and grandfather living in South Florida.

"Ethel, my Jamaican mother, and my stepmother 'Nurse', died years ago. But, on Mother's Day, I remember them, and say prayers for them. That's how I celebrate them," he said.

"I loved my mother because she was my friend. She was quiet, but very kind and loving. She always took good care of me growing up.



My stepmother was a very strong woman with a big heart.

"What I learned from my mother, and my grandmother, was that I had to work hard and be kind. My mother sent me to learn a trade when I was a young man. She taught me to always take care of my children, be a good father and help people."

**Mark D'Aguiar, Canadian
with Jamaican parents**

D'Aguiar, an independent art director, web and print designer who lives in Toronto, is the son of Donald and Carmen D'Aguiar.

"On Mother's Day, I celebrate my mom, Carmen, by taking her out for lunch at one of her favorite restaurants and spending time with her. She loves her family.

"Why do I love my mom? Because she has always been



fiercely protective of me, my older brother and my two sisters.

"My parents moved to Canada, from Jamaica, before I was born. On Nov. 11, 1963, a drunken truck driver slammed into dad's car and killed him. I was seven. Dad was successful, a loving husband, and a great father. In an instant, our world changed. At age 34, mom chose to be strong because she had four little children whose lives depended on her. She was sad too, but she worked very hard for us, loved us, and was totally devoted to us. She held on to God and her Catholic faith. She always wants the best for us. But, she's also willing to let us be ourselves. Mom is an amazing mother!"

"I have learned from my mom that no matter what happens, or how devastating things seem to be, you have to go on with your life. Just don't give up!

"Mom taught me to cook. She still guides me through new recipes – like making Jamaican Christmas pudding last year. She cooks delicious Jamaican dishes and other creations.

"Mom has a strong faith in God. She also taught us to be very proud of our Jamaican families and heritage.

**Norma Rivera, Jamaican
American**



Rivera's dad was Colombian. Her Jamaican mom, Florita Henriques Rivera, died in Miami at age 92.

"On Mother's Day, I celebrate my mom by putting flowers beside her photo, and saying prayers for her," said Rivera.

"I love her because she was my best friend, and I was her world. She was my protector – in every way – throughout my life. She was always kind, not just to me, but to everyone. She had many obstacles during her life, but she lived life on her own terms. Mom loved to sing, to joke around, and to be happy.

"Mom taught me to be honest, loving and kind. She taught me to always try to help people, and not to give up – to be strong."

**Semoy Fraser, Jamaican
American**

Fraser, her sister Shannon, and their mother Sybil, 50, live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"On Mother's Day we'll bring her breakfast in bed and



presents, go to church with her, and take her for dinner at her favorite restaurant," said Fraser.

"We love her because she loves us unconditionally. She is caring and kind, and one in a million.

"Mom has taught us to put God first in our lives, to be compassionate and responsible, and that we can achieve anything."

*Story and photographs by
Michelle Cawley Dreseris,
a freelance writer for
Caribbean Today.*



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HELPING HAND: AFJ rallies support for Jamaica at annual gala in Miami

**MICHELLE CAWLEY
DRESERIS**

How much would you pay for two pairs of running shoes with handwritten notes from the fastest men on earth?

Both pairs – one red, white and blue, the other

green and black - were sold at an auction last month by Brian Roper from Sandals Resorts. He eventually fetched \$15,000 for the shoes.

Whoever won the bid proved they were a good “friend of Jamaica” and also secured a good investment.

The spikes were autographed by Jamaican sprinters Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake, who have both won the 100 meters at the World Championships. Bolt is also an Olympic 100 and 200 meters champion.

The shoes were among hundreds of items that helped bring in about \$100,000 at the 2013 American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) and Jamaica Committee’s Charity Gala last month at the Four Seasons Hotel in Miami, Florida.

AFJ’s Patron of Honor is His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales. One of his sponsored projects, through the Prince of Wales Foundation, is the rebuilding of the Rose Town Community outside of Kingston, in an area plagued by poverty and crime. This is also one of AFJ’s projects.

TRADITION
Brenda LaGrange Johnson, AFJ’s newly-elected



AFJ 2013 honorees Lyn, left, and Mills.

president, is the former United States ambassador to Jamaica (2005-2009). Service to the island – through the AFJ – is a 31-year tradition among U.S. ambassadors to Jamaica. Johnson lives in New York, where the AFJ’s headquarters is based. She and her husband fell in love with Jamaica on their honeymoon, 45 years ago.

“Jamaica is one of the most beautiful countries in the world,” the ambassador told **Caribbean Today** at the gala, “but the island needs help, because it has many problems, like drugs, violence, and crime.

“The educational system also needs help. And, every day Jamaicans struggle to make a living. Unemployment is high.

“But, Jamaicans are also doing wonderful things, and leaving an incredible, international heritage! There are so many famous Jamaicans, including: Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Ambassador Susan Rice of the United Nations, Bob Marley, and many others,” she said.

“This list includes our two honorees tonight: Thalia Lyn, O.D., CEO and Managing Director, Island Grill, and Glenn Mills, OD, Coach Racers Track Club,” said Amb. Johnson.

The Master of Ceremonies was Neki Mohan, WPLG TV’s Channel 10 anchor, and reporter. Mohan was born in New York, but raised in Trinidad and Tobago.

“It’s like getting an Oscar award, only better!” Lyn said in her reaction to receiving the honor. “This Humanitarian Award means so much to me because it is a tribute to my daddy and mommy. I’m tearing-up thinking about them! They would be so proud!”

Lyn’s parents are both deceased. Her father was a

first generation Jamaican, born to parents who emigrated from China to build a better life.

“My award means that my children and grandchildren can see that there is a lot of good to be done, and that they must do good too,” she added. “We can choose our friends, but not our family. I would not trade my family for the world!”

“When I see how much the AFJ is doing in Jamaica, I know that Jamaicans have to do more.”

SUCCESS

Mills has trained many successful athletes, including Bolt and Blake, and has been



Johnson

dedicated to youth development in Jamaica through sports for many years.

“In Jamaica, we do not have all the resources of other countries, yet, we have successfully managed to beat the United States of America, and take world championships,” Mills said. “How? Because we have some of the best coaches in the world, with tremendous minds, and the abilities to use whatever resources we have available to us.

“The AFJ does a wonderful job in Jamaica,” he added. “I hope that they will be able to do more in this ‘testing time’ in Jamaica, when the government finds it difficult to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

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CELEBRATING HAITI



www.caribbeantoday.com

~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Pre-Flag Day fest at Miramar library

A taste of Haiti, including music, dance and food, will be available at this month's pre-Haitian Flag Day celebration to be held in the South Florida city of Miramar, which is home to hundreds of Caribbean Americans.

The event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. **May 11** at the Miramar Branch Library, 2050 Civic Center Place.

It will start with the official launch of the video documentary "Vibrant Images, Pt. 2" by Le P'ti Club founder Jimmy Moise. Following the presentation, Lucrece Louisdhon will tell stories about Haitian history

and culture.

The library's lobby will feature "Writer's Row", where Haitian American authors will promote their latest books.

Yvette LdBlanc, Ernest Regis and Trio Calebass, plus Nicole Moretta and the Butterfly Dancers, will perform. Work by artist Felix Plaisir will be on display inside the library throughout May to celebrate Haitian American Heritage Month.

Haiti's Flag Day is on **May 18**.

For more information, call the library at **954-357-8090**.



Miami-Dade celebrates Haitian culture in May

A variety of events have been scheduled in May to mark Miami-Dade County's 13th year of celebrating Haitian Heritage Cultural Month.

Commissioner Jean Monestime released Miami-Dade County's official calendar listing the events under the month's theme: "Haiti: Beauty, History, Legacy, Heritage".

This month-long celebration of the arts, culture and cuisine of Haiti includes several exhibits of Haitian art around the county. The art displays will be located at

PortMiami, 1015 N. American Way; Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street; the Little Haiti Cultural Center, 212-260 N.E. 59th St.; the Center for Haitian Studies, 8260 N.E. 2nd Ave.; the Haitian Heritage Museum, 4141 N.E. 2nd Ave. and Miami International Airport, 2100 N.W. 42nd Ave.

Other events include "Zakafest" at the Little Haiti Cultural Center; a "Taste of Haiti", featuring Haitian cuisine; a Haitian History Bee and Young Artist Challenge; a Compas Festival; soccer tour-

naments and a gospel concert.

Locations, dates and times of all events are listed on the 2013 Haitian Heritage Cultural Month Event Calendar, which can be obtained by visiting www.miamidade.gov/district02.

"This year's events will celebrate the rich heritage of the Haitian people and Haiti's cultural contributions to the world," said Monestime, the first Haitian American elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, in a press release last month.



Broward County pledges support for Haitian Cultural Heritage Month

The Broward County Commission has voted to declare May Haitian Cultural Heritage Month in the South Florida community.

The resolution, passed last month and sponsored by Jamaican-born Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness, allows the commission to provide \$15,000 to the Community Access Center in Miramar and \$1,700 for in-kind promotional services for events celebrating Haitian Cultural Heritage Month.

"This is significant as it will be the inaugural celebration in Broward County that will recognize the vast contributions of the Haitian community, not only in Broward County, but across the globe," Holness said in a recent press release.

Broward County has the second highest Haitian population in South Florida's tri-county area, with more than 179,600 people by birth and ancestry from Haiti. In 2012 Haiti's trade with South

Florida accounted for \$1.27 billion.

The month-long Haitian Cultural Heritage Celebration will occur in cities across Broward County, including a youth sports and musical festival in Lauderdale, HERO-Family Day at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale, Haitian Women's Empowerment Day in Hollywood and CarnaFam in Coral Springs.



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Writers honor Haitian American

BAIE-MAHAULT, Guadeloupe – Haitian American author Edwige Danticat was honored by fellow writers recently for her book "Create Dangerously".

The pan-Caribbean awards panel, which convened at the third International Congress of Caribbean Writers held here last month, awarded Danticat its literary prize.

"The art of the description, the narrative that she displays in her work provides a sublime report of her journey back to her native land that has suffered from a terrible earthquake, which has marked her

deeply," panelist Roger Toumson, president of the Association of Caribbean Writers, said about Danticat's book in a press release issued following the event.

Toumson said Haitian literature makes an important contribution to the wealth of world heritage and provided hope to all people.



Danticat

FLAG DAY

Haiti celebrates Flag Day on **May 18**, a major national holiday.

The flag's origin is tightly linked to a history of struggle for freedom from the French in Haiti.

On May 18, 1803, the leaders of free slaves and the men of color in Haiti agreed on a flag, with blue and red bands placed vertically. The blue symbolized the mulattos and blacks, while the red symbolized their blood.

The design of the flag, including colors, changed in ensuing years. But on Feb. 25, 1986 Haitians requested the red and blue flag be brought back.



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Damian Marley exposes another side of Jamaica

Damian Marley has carved out a creditable career in music.

Caribbean Today's freelance writer Jason Walker recently caught up with the son of late reggae legend Bob Marley.



Marley

Jason Walker: Tell us about you performing and what you do onstage.

Damian Marley: That's how we got into doing music in the first place. Before we even started going into the studios I started off doing live shows and those days I used to do a lot of cover songs, other people's popular songs as a little kid. So being on stage was the first step for me in terms of doing professional music. Yuh get wha mi a sey?

So it's something we love to do of course. It is something that comes natural to us and it is something we look forward to. Sometimes we have to travel whole heap of hours to go to performances.

Sometimes the travelling we do not enjoy, but the show itself makes the travelling worth it, because we enjoy it to perform.

J.W.: Speaking of performances; do you remember your first live performance?

D.M.: Yeah, well my first live performance was at 56 Hope Road (Bob Marley's house in Jamaica). They had a Bob Marley celebration there and I performed at the Bob Marley Day celebration. Shortly after I performed in Gregory Park (in Jamaica), where there was a concert where I did a few songs. So those were the first two performances that I really remember that was public. Because originally we used to perform in my aunt's living room, which is how we started getting into music as kids and from there we went and started performing publicly. Bob Marley Day celebration at 56 Old Hope Road is what I would remember as my first performance.

J.W.: Tell us about the putting together of Mr. Marley the debut album.

D.M.: That was my first album which I started when I was in high school, (Hillel High School), produced by Steve (Marley), my first effort to put out music to the world. So it's a landmark to me.

J.W.: What about the jump from "Mr. Marley", the first album, to "Half Way Tree" the second album?

D.M.: Half Way Tree was more so like the growth, because as I said we started Mr. Marley when I was very young. By the time we started recording Half Way Tree I was a young man at the time, so that was reflected in the music. You could hear the maturity, not just in my vocals but the subject matter and the topics we were speaking about and the lyrics...That was one of the first albums I did a whole heap of lyric writing in that sense...

J.W.: Elaborate on your vocal style that captures 80's style of deejaying yet is still very relevant today.

D.M.: That is because that is the type of music I grew up to...The first type of music I started to purchase for myself was 80's dancehall - Peter Metro, Tiger, Super Cat, Shabba Ranks, people of this nature (including and not limited to) Professor Nuts. That reflects in my music because that's what I grew up on.

J.W.: Then came "Welcome To Jamrock". Tell us about that album.

D.M.: Well, it is from strength to strength. So far, thank Jah. So far, every effort we have put forward has been a step in building and reaching further heights, same as what we discussed earlier with Mr. Marley being a starting point, and we mature in terms of Half Way Tree, is the same way we were growing and maturing to Jamrock. After more years of touring, more years of practicing, more rehearsals, my vocal delivery is better, everything in that sense, you just hear the growth really.

J.W.: What was the inspiration for Welcome to Jamrock?

D.M.: The song "Welcome to Jamrock" was really inspired
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

BELAFONTE'S SONG



Photograph by Derrick Scott.

Veteran entertainer and United States civil rights activist Harry Belafonte, right, who is of Jamaican parentage, is greeted by Deputy Chief of Missions at the Embassy of Jamaica Marsha Coore Lobban on his arrival last month at the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington D.C. for the launch of his memoirs entitled "Harry Belafonte, My Song". At center is former Jamaican Ambassador to the U.S. Richard Bernal.

'Groovin In The Park' set for New York June 30

Some of the biggest names in reggae music will take the stage at next month's "Groovin In The Park" in New York City.

Legend Toots Hibbert will head the line-up for this year's event, scheduled



Toots

for **June 30** at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens. Organizer Groovin Inc., in launching the event last month at the Consulate General of Jamaica in Manhattan, confirmed he will be joined by Barrington Levy, Cocoa Tea and Queen Ifrica.



Queen Ifrica

Toots is the former lead singer of the group The Maytals, which did classic hits like "54-46", "Sweet And Dandy" and "Monkey Man".

"I am excited about performing at 'Groovin In The Park,'" said Toots. "It is gonna be a grooving event. I am encouraging families to come out early and enjoy the event."

For more information, visit www.groovininthepark.com.



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ROOTS ROCKED: Is Jamaica losing its grip on reggae music?

NEW YORK - The musical genre of reggae may have originated in the largely black country of Jamaica and with Rastafarians, but in the United States today there appears to be a gentrification of the genre.

Seven of 10 Billboard reggae chart toppers early last month were largely white Americans. At the top was Christafari, a Christian reggae band formed in 1990 led by a white singer named Mark Mohr, with "Reggae Worship: A Roots Revival".

At number two was Josh Heinrichs, the former lead singer of internationally known indie reggae band Jah Roots from Springfield, Missouri, with "Rooftop Session".

Rebellion's "Peace Of Mind", a white band from Santa Barbara, California, was number three, after peaking at number one and staying on the charts for dozens weeks.

Fortunate Youth, a group of young white guys who claim they are simply a group combined of South Bay reggae stand-outs from various bands on the west coast, were number four with their album "It's All A Jam". And in the



Christafari

number five spot was Jewish reggae singer Matisyahu's "Spark Seeker", which was on the charts for at least three dozen weeks.

Miska, a Bermuda-born white reggae singer signed to Matthew McConaughey's record label j.k. livin, was at fifth with "Ocean Is My Potion", while Soja, another white group based in Arlington, Virginia in the northern Virginia/Washington D.C. area., reached number 6 "With Strength To Survive".

EXCEPTIONS

Apart from "Marley: The Original Soundtrack" at num-



Heinrichs

ber six; a compilation of reggae singers on Reggae Gold from VP Records at number 9 and "Rebirth" by Jimmy Cliff at number 10, all the other singers on the chart were non-

Jamaican and largely white.

"Reggae is open to the world so I think personally Jamaicans' new focus on dancehall than reggae now is why you will see other people coming in and taking over this industry," is how Jamaican-born Shaun Walsh, of Whatz Up TV, N.Y. explained the new trend.

"Reggae is Jamaica's gift to the world and the Jamaican reggae community and Jamaicans all over can be proud of the acceptance of this gift and its dispersion throughout the world," added Sharon Gordon, another Jamaican national and founder of The Coalition to

Preserve Reggae Music, a global movement that unites reggae lovers in an effort to raise the bar in the creation, development promotion and presentation of reggae music.

But she stressed that the reality for Jamaica is that "there exists a troubling reality of inequity and inadequacy; inequity in access for Jamaicans to international markets and marketing and inadequate business practices in nurturing this cultural product."

- Edited from *News Americas*.



Jamaican producer 'Harry J' dies

Harry Johnson, the former insurance salesman who became one of reggae's top producers in the 1970s, has died. He was 68.

The Jamaica Observer newspaper reported that Johnson died at the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital in his native parish Westmoreland last month. He had been battling diabetes for years.

Popularly known as "Harry J", he had several big hits in the late 1960s and early 1970s, notably "Liquidator" by the Harry J All Stars and "Young, Gifted and Black" done by Bob Andy and Marcia Griffiths.

"Liquidator's" opening guitar riff inspired the Staples

Singers' classic hit "I'll Take You There".

HITS

Johnson also produced singer Lorna Bennett's sultry "Breakfast in Bed" and "Book of Rules" by the Heptones.

In the early 1980s, he produced Sheila Hylton's cover of the Police's "The Bed's Too Big Without You". The Harry J Studios in Kingston was also a popular recording spot in the 1970s. Bob Marley and The Wailers recorded their first four Island Records albums at the studio, the newspaper reported.



Damian Marley exposes another side of Jamaica

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

by a willingness to expose another side of Jamaica that a lot of people do not know about and I would hear a lot of American songs that would depict what is going on in the streets in America, and it struck me that in America a lot of people do not know what is going on in the streets of Jamaica. You think of

Jamaica you probably think of the beach, which is there also obviously, but you don't really know what is going on in the inner cities where the youths are concerned. So that was the inspiration for that song.

The entire interview can be viewed on www.caribbeantoday.com.



Jamaica at 51

On August 6, 2013, the island of Jamaica marks the 51st Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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JUMP UP: 'One big friendly rivalry parade' to mark Tampa Bay Carnival June 8

JASON WALKER

On **June 8**, Tampa Bay again joins cities around the world, including several places in Florida, by staging its annual carnival.

This year at The Florida State Fairgrounds will mark the eighth and Tampa Bay Carnival plans to put on a show highlighting regional spirit and culture, with the 2013 theme being "Joy of the Caribbean".

"The festival gives you a sense of home away from home," said Devon George who, along with his team, have been at the helm of the event in Tampa every year.

"The festival also gives us an opportunity to practice our culture and celebration of our heritage in the United States."

Nearby Orlando will also have a carnival around the same time, but George believes there is enough joy and benefits for everyone involved with the spirit of the Caribbean.

"(It has a) very good economic impact in all aspect of Tampa Carnival," he explained. "They are our closest neighbor in Caribbean carnival. We cherish their support."

Although there is a carnival so close and other carnivals throughout Florida, people go to Tampa in large numbers, according to George. An "estimated 3,000 to 4,000" attend the annual carnival.

"It's a weekend with a difference in Tampa Florida," George said. "Fun you can bank on."

PASSION

George recently travelled to Trinidad and Tobago to promote carnival and network with performers. Staging



Every year revelers step to the Caribbean beat at Tampa's carnival.

Tampa's event requires effort and resources, but George is passionate about the event.

"I love carnival," he said. "It's my job, My family has been promoting carnival type events all our lives."

George believes carnival is culturally important, especially mas, the lifeblood of the event.

"Mas brings the colors, glitz and glamour to carnival," he explained. "Masqueraders are the main ingredients to carnival."

"When you bring a band to the carnival it makes you a stakeholder instead of a spectator," he added. "A band demonstrates that groups of Caribbean American persons can come together and have social fun. A band strengthens

the carnival entertainment."

'BETTER'

Despite the struggles to

get the event going – due to lack of money sponsorship – George claimed every year "we get a better result."

"Carnival is a journey," he said. "Carnival is a once a year people's event and the people look forward to have a fun-filled family day."

Carnival events this year run through the June 9 week-end. New acts have been courted.

"For the first time we are highlighting a big band from Haiti called 'Twice' to bring the sweet taste of compa in the festival," George said.

An American marching band has also been tapped. But there will be no competition between mas bands in 2013.

"What we are having is one big friendly rivalry parade called the 'People's Band Parade' with many sections," George said.

For more information about the Tampa Bay Carnival, visit www.carnival-tampa.com or call **813-445-9010** or **813-325-5584**.

Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. Photograph courtesy of Tampa Caribbean Festival.



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You can also report a problem online if mosquitoes are causing a biting nuisance.

Fight the bite this summer!



In-state tuition rates for U.S.-born kids of undocumented passes Florida House

The Florida House of Representatives last month passed a bill that will allow legal residents of the United States born to undocumented parents to receive in-state tuition rates at colleges and universities.

The House, by a vote of 111 to four, passed HB 7051, In-State Tuition for Resident Purposes.

"Students who have grown up in Florida, attended school here, and now, only because they came to our

state at a young age and have undocumented parents should not have to pay out-of-state tuition," said Jamaican-born Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers in a press release issued last month.

This bill provides that a U.S. citizen who is a dependent child may not be denied classification as a resident of the state for tuition purposes based solely upon the immigration status of his or her parent. It amends the definitions of "dependent child"

and "parent" regarding establishing residency for tuition purposes.

RESIDENCE

The bill also allows, under certain circumstances, dependent students to establish residency for tuition purposes by submitting evidence of their own residency in Florida. In addition, institutions would not be required to re-evaluate the classification status of a student classified as a resident for tuition purposes

as long as there is no inconsistent information suggesting an erroneous classification and there is no break in the student's enrollment of 12 months or longer.

The bill provides that a student who resides in Florida may be classified as a resident for tuition purposes if he or she marries a person who qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes. It also allows a student who has been classified as a nonresident to reclassify as a resident upon subse-

quently marrying a person who already qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes.

The bill classifies, as residents for tuition purposes, individuals who receive certain tuition waivers and exemptions under Florida law and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, including reserve components, who physically reside in Florida while enrolled in a Florida institution of higher learning.

HELPING HAND: AFJ rallies support for Jamaica at annual gala in Miami

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

make things better for the poor."

Mills accepted his award on behalf of his club.

"It's organizations like the AFJ who are going to save Jamaica," Mills said. "Bob Marley said, 'Mi life no worth nothing, if I can't help somebody'. So, help somebody in need, and make this world a better place."

Master of ceremonies for the gala was Neki Mohan, WPLG TV's Channel 10 anchor and reporter. Mohan was born in New York, but

raised in Trinidad and Tobago.

DIGNITARIES

The event was attended by many dignitaries, including: former U.S. ambassadors to Jamaica Sue Mc Cobb, J. Cary Cooper and Glen Holden; Sandra Grant-Griffiths, Jamaica's consul general; Florida State Representative Hazelle Rogers; plus administrators and owners of Jamaican and multi-national companies and investment firms.

"The AFJ is a great organization! I am happy to

be part of it," Antonio Da Costa e Silva Neto, Brazil's ambassador to Jamaica, told **Caribbean Today**.

Founded in 1982 as a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, the AFJ was established to strategically connect resources from North America to charities in Jamaica. Its stated mission is to improve the lives of Jamaicans by supporting initiatives that advance self-sufficiency, promote healthy communities and strengthen the nation.

Fundraisers, staff and volunteers work to improve educa-

tion, health care and economic development in Jamaica.

AFJ fundraising events provide grants and scholarships that help Jamaicans, including children at risk, young mothers in need of medical care, elderly, infirm and the physically challenged.

In 2012, the AFJ provided grants in Jamaica of more than \$200,000. About \$100,000 was raised at the Miami gala, according to AFJ's Anika Omphroy.

Two days after the gala, Ambassador Johnson, members of the AFJ Board

and others visited Jamaica to award grants to several groups and organizations, including the University of the West Indies (UWI) scholarships, Cornwall Regional Hospital, Hope Gardens Nature Preservation Foundation, Bustamante Hospital for Children, St. Andrew Care Centre, and the Rose Town Foundation.

Story and photographs submitted by Michelle Cawley Dreseris, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

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— H.T. Smith, Community Leader and Miami First Co-Chair

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— Marlon Hill, Community Leader

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— Carole Ann Taylor, Small Business Owner

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Laurence Assam – our loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather – was a retired, Trinidadian military Major. He dedicated most of his life to his career of serving his country, but his family was always his most prized possession. Laurence leaves behind seven children, 18 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren who will forever love him, and miss him dearly.

A pioneer and philanthropist, Laurence was born on September 5, 1924, in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago (T & T). He died on April 8, 2013, at age 89. Laurence grew up in Boissiere Village, Maraval, in Port of Spain, and operated his family's business, Assam's Grocery and Bar.

Laurence always loved sports. He played football (soccer) for his schools – Tranquility Intermediate (TI), and St. Mary's College (SMC). He also won cycling championships at TI and SMC.

At age 18, Laurence joined the Trinidadian military. He was chosen, and trained, by the British Army during World War II to be a Training Officer. This was a historical achievement because he was the only minority in this position.

Laurence loved to box while he was in the military, and became known as the "King of the Square Ring". He was the undefeated boxing Lightweight and Welterweight champion, and won fights in Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados, and Cuba.

Years later, Laurence became a professional boxing trainer, judge, and promoter. He established a boxing gym in his hometown village of Boissiere, and devoted his time to helping mentor and train young Trinidadians in the sport. A successful promoter and producer, he was recognized in T&T for his boxing events, held at the prestigious Queen's Hall venue. His hard work and efforts elevated the sport of boxing in Trinidad and Tobago.

Laurence migrated to the United States of America in 1967. He returned to T&T for National Security Service in 1977, and an assignment from the Ministry of National Security. His mission was to help quell a revolt by some members of the T & T government. For service to his country, Laurence was appointed a Major. He met HRH Queen Elizabeth II in November 1985, on her Commonwealth visit to Trinidad and Tobago. He also met HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. After a dedicated career of service in T&T's military, Major Laurence Assam retired in 1986. He loved spending time with his family and friends until his death on April 8, 2013.

Grandpa, your life, your love, and your influence have shaped our lives, our characters and our souls. We will always remember you with great love because of your devotion to us, to your family, your friends, and to your homeland, the beautiful island of Trinidad and Tobago.

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE.

With love,

Your Grandson Andre Assam, and your entire family.

SPORT



DOMINANCE: Caribbean athletes shine at Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - Athletes representing Caribbean high schools, colleges and countries again carved out success at the annual Penn Relays here last month.

Jamaica earned the most titles for Caribbean nations, the biggest scalp being victory in the USA v. The World 4x100 meters for women. The team of Sherone Simpson, Kerron Stewart, Anneisha McLaughlin and World and Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce defeated a field that included arch rivals "Red" and "Blue" teams from the United States.

Holmwood Technical's Gleneve Grange was named "High School Girls' Athlete For Individual Events" after winning the discus with a throw of 178 feet, one inch - breaking the previous meet record of 167 feet four inches. That Jamaican high school also won the Championship of America 4x100 meters relay title.

Jamaican high school girls took the top three places in the 4x400 relay championship, with Vere Technical finishing first, followed by Edwin Allen High and Holmwood.

BOYS BONUS

Among the high school boys, Omar McLeod of Kingston College in Jamaica won the 400 meters hurdles.

Caribbean teams booted from U-17 World Cup soccer

PANAMA CITY, Panama - There will be no Caribbean presence at the soccer's Under-17 World Cup later this year after Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago suffered losses in the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Championship here last month.

Playing at the Estadio Agustín Muquita Sánchez, Jamaica were beaten 4-2 by



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, left, anchors Jamaica's team to victory at "Penns" ahead of Jeneba Tarmoh of the U.S.

Kingston College also won the 4x100 relay championship, a race Jamaican high schools took the top five places and occupied six of the eight lanes. Calabar won the boys championship in the 4x400 relay, finishing ahead of two other Jamaican high schools.

Calabar's Jevon Francis, who ran an impressive anchor leg in the 4x400, was named "High School Boy Athlete for Relay Events".

At the college level, University of the West Indies, Mona campus, Jamaica, won the sprint medley relay championship for men, while the men from fellow Jamaica-based school, University of Technology, won the 4x100

championship.

In the field events, Fedrick Dacres beat his Calabar High teammate from Jamaica Basil Bingham to win the discus. Christoff Bryan, of Jamaica's Wolmer's High, won the boys high jump.

Several successful athletes from United States high schools, colleges and international teams were of Caribbean heritage. The most outstanding was Olivia Baker of New Jersey's Columbia High, whose late grandfather was from Jamaica. She was named "High School Girls' Athlete For Relay Events".

- G.W.



Barbadian set to play in English F.A. Cup final

Barbados captain Emmerston Boyce will bring a Caribbean presence to one of soccer's most prestigious events when his club Wigan Athletic plays in the final on May 11 at

Wembley Stadium in London, England.

Wigan earned a place in the final, where it will face Manchester City, after beating Millwall 2-0 in last month's semi-final. It was the first time in 81 years that the north England club was reaching the final. City beat Chelsea 2-1 in the other semi-final.

"It's amazing, a dream come true for the club and the



Boyce

ture game, T&T also led early, but Panama rallied to win.

Cuba and Barbados were the other two Caribbean teams which played in the CONCACAF round, but both failed to make the quarter-finals. They winners of each quarter-final game gained an automatic place in the World Cup.



fans," said the 33-year-old Boyce who has made four appearances for Barbados. "People have said a lot about the fans but they were excellent.

"...The manager has been excellent. The whole team has been excellent."

Born in England to Barbadian parents, Boyce started his professional career at Luton before moving to Crystal Palace. The right back who has often played in central defense signed from Crystal Palace in 2006, in a four-year-deal worth one million British pounds.



Jamaican runner at terrorist attacked Boston Marathon

A Jamaican was listed among the runners at last month's Boston Marathon in the United States which was attacked by terrorists.

The **Jamaica Observer** newspaper reported that Wayne Levy ran the 116th staging of the event on April 15, completing the 26.2 mile course before two bombs exploded near the finish line. Three people were killed by the blast and more than 170 were injured.

Levy, 47, who was reportedly born in the parish of St. Elizabeth, finished 352nd of more than 27,000 runners who started the race. He clocked two hours 42 minutes and 38 seconds and told the newspaper he was leaving the area when the blasts occurred.

"It was loud enough that we heard it from about one and a half blocks away," Levy said. "We never thought it was a bomb, but when we heard the second explosion we knew something was wrong and we got out of there as soon as possible."

Last month's Boston Marathon attracted runners from more than 50 countries. Levy, who moved to the U.S. as a 12-year-old, won the Boston Half Marathon in 2001. He hopes last month's tragedy would not affect the Boston Marathon in the future.

"We can't allow evil to win," Levy told the newspaper. "The runners and the sport must prevail."



Gayle blasts world record century

Caribbean batsman Chris Gayle blasted a century off just 30 balls to set a world record for the fastest to reach that run mark in the history of professional cricket.

Playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) against Pune Warriors in the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 competition last month in Bangalore, Gayle reached his record 100 after hitting 11 sixes and eight fours.

He finished with 175 not out, the highest individual score in T20 cricket, in helping RCB to a win. He also had the most total sixes in an inning, 17.



Gayle

"Words can't explain how I feel," the Jamaican batsman said after accomplishing the feat. "...I'm grateful."

RCB won the match.



Caribbean reps get CONCACAF nod

MIAMI, Florida - Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) President Captain Horace Burrell has been selected to head a number of CONCACAF committees, including the Legal and Finance Group of Committees.

A statement issued last month by CONCACAF, which runs soccer interests in the Caribbean, North and Central America, noted that Burrell will also chair the National Associations Committee and the Statutes and Regulations Committee.

The Legal and Finance Group of Committees examine legal issues relating to football within the CONCACAF region, monitor the financial management, and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters.

Burrell chairs a 10-member

National Associations Committee, which deals with the relationship between CONCACAF and its members and includes Anton Sealy of The Bahamas and Nathania Rankin of Cayman Islands. The Jamaican football chief also leads the seven member Statutes and Regulations Committee, the Confederation's primary reference on football laws. Burrell has also been named as vice-chair of four other CONCACAF committees.

Anguilla's Damien Hughes, Barbados's Hally Haynes, Bruce Blake of the Cayman Islands and Margarita Echeverria of Costa Rica have also been named as members of that committee, among 21 announced by CONCACAF last month.



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'Taste of the Caribbean' culinary competition, festival set for June 26-30 in Miami

The distinct flavor of Caribbean culture will be on display at the annual "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary competition and festival next month in Miami, Florida.

Chefs and bartenders from the region will take center stage June 26-30 to compete for honors at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Presented by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), the event will host a gathering of culinary enthusiasts and experts.

"The Caribbean is united in the promotion of the region's indigenous flavors and products," Josef Forstmayr, chairman of CHTA and chairman of Taste of the Caribbean, said in a recent press release promoting the event.

"From the world's best spices to the best coffee, rums, beers and tropical fruits, our national cuisines are an important part of our destination marketing. Our distinct cuisines are part of our national identities and 'Taste of the Caribbean' showcases our region in a very powerful way."

PARTICIPANTS

Among the Caribbean culinary teams registered for the event are: Anguilla, The



Devon Joseph of Trinidad and Tobago was named "Taste of the Caribbean Chef of the Year" in 2012.

Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Virgin Islands. Each participating team represents a Caribbean country that has held individual competitions to select their national team, which is comprised of two senior chefs, a junior chef, bartender, a pastry chef and a manager.

The participating team members represent hotels, restaurants or educational institutions in the Caribbean which are members of CHTA. Teams are vying for honors including "Caribbean Culinary Team of the Year", "Caribbean Chef of the Year",

"Caribbean Pastry Chef of the Year", "Caribbean Bartender of the Year" and "Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year".

The annual food and beverage event is designed for culinary professionals to network, polish professional skills and support colleagues in competition. "Taste of the Caribbean" also provides education through seminars, workshops, tastings and demonstrations, created to enhance

performance, style and profitability in food and beverage operations.

FESTIVAL

This year's program is scheduled to include a June 29 "Taste of the Islands" festival for consumers featuring a pavilion of tourist boards where consumers can experience Caribbean culture through a variety of gourmet appetizers and desserts, sample signature cocktails, listen to Caribbean music and gather information about exhibiting Caribbean countries. It will also highlight street foods common throughout the region.

"Consumers participating

in 'Taste of the Caribbean' will be treated to a world-class experience as they sample the unique cuisines and beverages of our region," said Richard J. Doumeng, president of CHTA. "The participating teams have worked hard to hone their skills and are culinary ambassadors for their countries as well as the Caribbean region."

"Taste of the Caribbean" also includes an "International Caribbean Culinary Team Competition Lunch and Dinner", which features a three-course meal prepared by competing teams. Each team in the competition is given a "mystery basket" of ingredients which they must use to develop a three-course menu. The chefs have an hour to create and submit the menu and three hours to prepare and

serve an appetizer, entrée and dessert for luncheon or dinner attendees.

"Taste of the Caribbean" also features a trade show, for event participants, which provides a one-stop forum for gathering information, sampling, purchasing, strengthening supplier relationships and meeting new vendors.

Exhibitors will be able to promote their products and services to delegates by purchasing a tabletop display at Taste of the Caribbean.

For more information about "Taste of the Caribbean", visit <http://www.caribbeanhotel-tourism.com/events-taste/event-taste-about.php> or contact CHTA at 305-443-3040.



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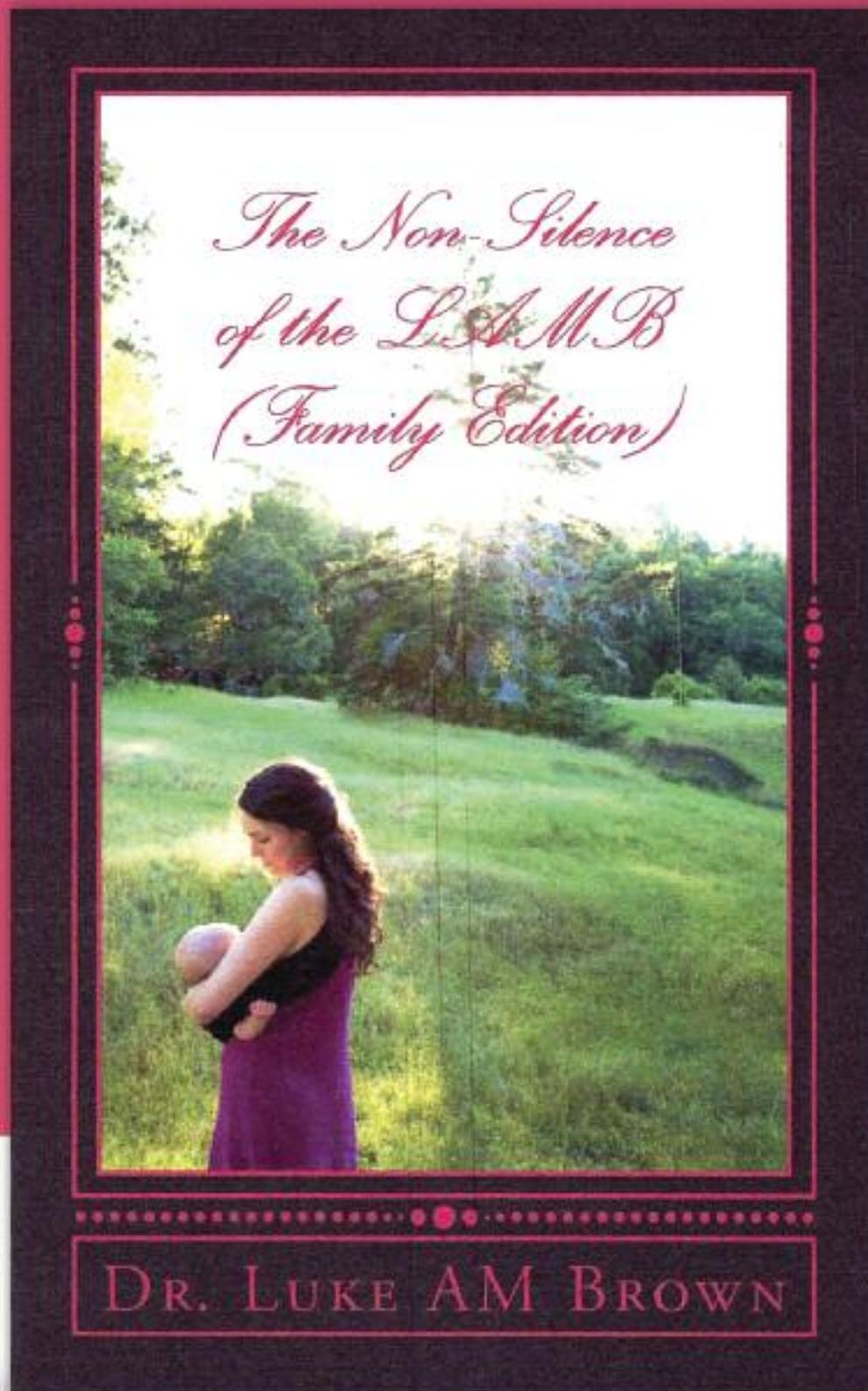
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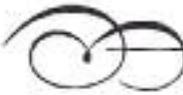
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