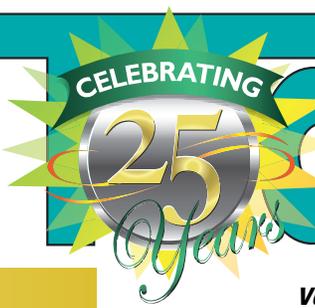


# Caribbean Today

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# BAD VYBZ



~ Jamaican dancehall star Vybz Kartel, has been sentenced, along with three co-accused, to life in prison for murder, page 6.



For the fifth time since he took office in 2011, Haiti's President Michel Martelly has reshuffled the country's Cabinet. The latest move is seen as part of a political deal to help build confidence in upcoming elections, page 3.



The girls of Edwin Allen and boys of Calabar dominated Jamaica's 2014 "Champs", among the biggest and most competitive high school athletic events in the world, page 11.

# TIME TO SHINE

~ Franz Hall, Jamaica's consul general to Miami, is urging compatriots in the diaspora to become a political force in the United States, page 7.



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# U.S. Coast Guard rescues record number of migrants

MIAMI, Florida - The United States Coast Guard says it rescued a record number of migrants late last month in the Caribbean Sea.

The Coast Guard said more than 200 migrants were rescued and repatriated after a busy week of illegal migration attempts from Cuba, Haiti, The Bahamas and the Dominican Republic.

It said as of Mar. 30, the Coast Guard had repatriated 88 Cuban migrants to Cuba, 82 Haitian migrants to Haiti and 41 Dominicans and two Cubans back to the

Dominican Republic over the period of a week.

In addition, the Coast Guard said 17 migrants suspected of various crimes were brought to Miami and Puerto Rico for further investigation.

The 210-foot Coast Guard Cutter Dependable rescued the largest group of migrants, when an overloaded 30-foot sail freighter with 82 Haitian migrants aboard was discovered south of Great Inagua, The Bahamas, the Coast Guard said. It said two cruise

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

# U.S. Congress honors T&T, Barbados born judges

NEW YORK - Two Caribbean-born women judges have been honored by the United States Congress.

Justices Sylvia G. Ash, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbadian-born Sylvia Hinds-Radix, received the award from prominent Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke at the culmination of the third annual Shirley Chisholm Women's Empowerment Conference.



Ash

Clarke's mother, the Jamaican-born Dr. Una Clarke, the trail-blazing, former New York City Councilwoman and head of the conference's organizing group the Brooklyn-based

Black Women for Fairness, Equity and Justice, presented the Congressional citations.

"I am very honored to receive this award during Women's History Month from the congresswoman," Justice Ash, a judge of the Kings County (Brooklyn) Supreme Court in the 2nd Judicial District of New York, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

"The congresswoman and her mother have paved the way for Caribbean American woman, such as me, and they are true role models for women whom I admire for their accomplishments," she added.

**TERM**

Justice Hinds-Radix, an administrative judge for civil matters in the Second Judicial District in Brooklyn, also told CMC "it's always important

when the community honors us.

"(The late) Shirley Chisholm would have been so proud about who is toiling in the vineyard. Every day I sit on the bench, I thank God, because it could have been someone else," she added.



Hinds-Radix

Justice Ash was elected to her current position on Nov. 2, 2010 for a 14-year term, while Justice Hinds-Radix was elected to the Supreme Court, Kings County in Nov. 2004 and served as a New York City civil court judge from 2002 through 2004, spending her first year in the Criminal Court of Kings County.



# Haitian placed on U.S. 'Most Wanted' list

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A 41-year-old Haitian immigrant is the latest to make the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency's "Most Wanted" list.

Pierre Rodolphe Marcelin, who was born in Port-au-Prince, has been on the lam since he was ordered deported on Oct. 20, 1995.

On July 07, 1994 Marcelin, who lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts and worked as a waiter, was convicted of possession to distribute a controlled substance

- cocaine, a felony conviction - and sentenced to seven years in prison. Prior to that, he was convicted on multiple occasions for assault and battery.



Marcelin

Marcelin, who also goes by the name Rudolphe Marcelin, was placed into deportation proceedings for having been convicted of mul-

tiples crimes. He also has an active arrest warrant from Cambridge, for failure to appear on a drug charge from 1996.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Marcelin should contact the local U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office or call the national hotline at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE.

- Edited from News Americas.



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## Haiti reshuffles Cabinet for fifth time under Martelly

PORT-AU-PRINCE – The Haitian government has reshuffled its Cabinet for the fifth time since President Michel Martelly assumed office in 2011.

The latest Cabinet reshuffle is seen as part of a political deal to help build confidence in upcoming elections.

The changes include several new faces in the government, and the return of a familiar one – that of former Minister of Economy and Finance Marie-Carmelle Jean-Marie. She returns to the job a year after abruptly resigning amid frustrations over how the country's shoestring finances were being handled.

Duly Brutus, Haiti's long-time ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), and Miami Consul General Francois Guillaume have also joined the Cabinet. Brutus, who celebrates 10 years at the OAS this month, will serve as foreign minister, replacing Pierre-Richard Casimir.

Guillaume has been appointed minister in charge of Haitians Living Abroad. His appointment comes 10 months after fellow South Florida resident Bernice



Martelly

Fidelia resigned after a Senate investigation into her nationality.

### CRISIS

The Cabinet is part of a package of agreements the executive, Parliament and some Opposition parties signed off on after two months in negotiations mediated by the Roman Catholic Church. According to a report in the

Miami Herald newspaper, the ongoing crisis had triggered anti-government protests and discontent in the country, which is still struggling to recover from its devastating Jan. 2010 earthquake.

On April 1, Haiti's Chamber of Deputies took a pivotal step towards elections by unanimously passing a draft electoral law setting the ground rules for balloting in the fall.

The Senate will now vote on the draft, but the Herald said six of the 20 members have objected to the political deal.

Deputies also agreed to remove a requirement that 30 percent of the slate be female, instead they agreed that the government provide financial incentives to political parties to encourage female participation.

- Edited from CMC.



## Dade County teacher arrested for enticing Belizean minors

FLORIDA - The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says a Dade City middle school teacher in southern Florida has been arrested for enticement of minors from Belize.

ICE said that special agents from its Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) nabbed David Wendel Thompson, 48, of Seffner, Florida last month. If convicted, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted.

According to the criminal complaint, Thompson used the social network Facebook "to attempt to knowingly persuade two minor females from Belize to engage in sexually explicit conduct".

The complaint said that, in Feb. 2014, Thompson had "sexually explicit conversations with a 13-year-old and a 15-year-old female in Belize.

"In those conversations, he discussed flying to Belize to meet the minors and to engage in sexual activity with

them," it said.

### 'OPERATION PREDATOR'

On Mar. 14, Thompson took a flight from Tampa, Florida to Belize City, with a layover in Miami, according to the complaint, but he was refused entry into Belize. He was arrested at the Miami International Airport on his return.

ICE said the investigation was conducted under HIS's Operation Predator, an international initiative to protect children from sexual predators.

Since the launch of Operation Predator in 2003, ICE said HSI has arrested more than 10,000 individuals for crimes against children, including the production and distribution of online child pornography; traveling overseas, including the Caribbean, for sex with minors; and sex trafficking of children.

- Edited from CMC.



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## Cruise ship rescues 41 Cuban migrants

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard said 41 Cuban migrants were last month rescued by the Carnival Ecstasy cruise ship in the Florida Straits.

The Coast Guard announced that crew members aboard the 855-foot Carnival Ecstasy located the “grossly overloaded vessel”.

“The vessel was unseaworthy, was taking on water, and did not have any life saving or navigation equipment on board,” the Coast Guard noted in a statement.

“The migrants were

pulled to safety by crew members aboard the Ecstasy and were transferred to a Coast Guard cutter patrolling in the area,” it added.

According to Captain Todd Lutes of the U.S. Coast Guard, “these 41 individuals are very lucky to be alive.”

There were no reports of injuries following an evaluation by the medical personnel aboard the Ecstasy. Last month, the Coast Guard repatriated 21 Cuban migrants to Bahia de Cabañas, Cuba.



## Lawyers want U.S. case against Bouterse dropped

NEW YORK – Lawyers representing the son of Suriname's President Desi Bouterse are moving to have the case against him dismissed.

The lawyers late last month filed a 30-page affidavit in the Court of the Southern District of New York arguing that United States law enforcement authorities misrepresented their case when they had Dino Bouterse, 41, extradited from Panama where he had been arrested.

The lawyers claim that Washington also unlawfully added terrorism charges to his indictment on illegal gun running charges.

The younger Bouterse was arrested in Panama on Aug. 29 2013, initially on drugs and weapons charges, and later on charges that he was forging ties with terrorist group Hezbollah.

According to U.S. authorities in their terrorism indictment on Nov. 9 last year, Dino Bouterse had been caught on tape offering his services to purported members of Hezbollah in return for an initial \$2 million pay-off he expected to come from Iran.

Prior to indictment, the U.S. said Bouterse shipped 10 kilograms of cocaine from Suriname to the U.S. and brandished firearms. It turned out later that the purported Hezbollah members he had been meeting were agents of the US Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Bouterse could face up to life in prison if convicted on the charges.

- Edited from CMC.



## Haitian wanted by FBI for sex crimes against children

A Caribbean national is among several men wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for committing crimes against children.

Most of the sex offenders are from Mexico, one from El Salvador and Frantz Dieudonne from Haiti.

The FBI said it is willing to pay upwards of \$20,000 in one instance for help in finding the alleged offenders.

The \$20,000 reward is on the head of Dr. Emilio Luna. Dr. Luna, a Mexican-born pediatrician who lived in Phoenix, Arizona. He was identified as allegedly sharing child pornography on a peer-to-peer (P2P) network and was under indict-

ment for five counts of distribution of child pornography in 2010, but fled house confinement in Sept. 2010 after he was granted a pretrial release which stipulated house confinement with electronic monitoring.

Dieudonne made the “Wanted List for Crimes Against Children” and is being sought for his alleged involvement in sex-related crimes with a minor, after being indicted in Illinois on Oct. 1, 2002, and in Utah on Feb. 26, 2003.

From Nov. 2001 through May 2002, Dieudonne allegedly traveled across state lines from Pennsylvania to Utah to engage in sex with a 15-year-old minor. On June 1, 2002, he was arrest-

ed in North Aurora, Illinois, for allegedly transporting a minor in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in sex and was released on bond one week later.

Dieudonne was scheduled for a pre-trial motion on Sept. 22, 2003 in the Northern District of Illinois, but failed to appear, and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. Dieudonne also failed to appear for trials, which were scheduled for Oct. 20, 2003, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Nov. 3, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, but never showed up. He's been on the lam since.

- Edited from News Americas.



## Caribbean nationals settle with N.Y Fire Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) last month said it reached an agreement in principle with the City of New York and intervening plaintiffs to settle an employment discrimination lawsuit involving the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) over its discriminatory hiring practices for Caribbean nationals and other minorities.

Under the agreement, in principle, the DOJ said New York will pay an estimated \$98 million to resolve allegations that the FDNY “engaged in a pattern or practice of employment discrimination” against African American and Hispanic applicants, including Caribbean nationals, for the entry-level firefighter position by using two discriminatory written tests in 1999 and 2002.

The DOJ said the parties' agreement in principle will be incorporated into a consent decree that is subject to a fairness hearing and must be approved by the district court.

“This resolution will help ensure that those who seek to serve as firefighters in New York City have an equal opportunity to do so, regardless of their race,” said Associate Attorney General Tony West.

“The agreement we are announcing ... which is the result of the collective efforts of the Justice Department, the private plaintiffs, and the city of New York, not only will compensate victims of discriminatory hiring practices, it will also put in place an entry-level hiring process that should more accurately identify firefighter candidates who are best qualified to do the job,” he added.

### RELIEF

Acting Assistant Attorney General Jocelyn Samuels, for the Civil Rights Division, said the agreement will provide “significant and long-awaited relief” to minority applicants for employment with the FDNY, who were harmed by the FDNY's discriminatory hiring practices.

“We applaud the city of New York and Mayor de Blasio for their efforts to bring this important matter to a resolution,” she said.

“The Department of Justice stands committed to ensuring justice and compensation to those who are victims of unfair employment practices.”

The DOJ said the lawsuit originated in 2007 when the department filed its complaint alleging that the FDNY's use of

two written tests violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by disproportionately screening out African-American and Hispanic applicants, including Caribbean nationals, for the entry-level firefighter position.

### BEST QUALIFIED

The DOJ said the FDNY was unable to show that these screening devices identified the candidates who were best qualified to perform the job of firefighter, as required in order to keep the tests in place.

Under the terms of the agreement in principle, the FDNY will pay \$98 million to those minority victims of discrimination who filed claim forms and who have already been found eligible for relief by the court. The method of distribution has not yet been determined and must be approved by the court before any money is distributed, the DOJ said.

In addition to the agreement in principle, the DOJ said the court has already ordered several changes to take place within the FDNY to remedy the city's discriminatory hiring practices.

- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. Coast Guard rescues record number of migrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ships, Norwegian Pearl and Carnival Ecstasy, last week rescued 65 Cuban migrants from “unseaworthy rustic vessels” in two separate incidents in the Florida Straits.

### NARROW MISS

“Although there were no reported deaths in any of these cases, all of them could have ended tragically,” said Todd Lutes, chief of incident management for the Coast Guard Seventh District.

“Not one of the boats had lifesaving or navigation equipment and nearly all of them were experiencing signs of distress and taking on water,” he added.

The Coast Guard said one of its helicopters had also rescued 12 Cuban migrants, who were stranded on an uninhabited island in The Bahamas.

“Make no mistake about it, we will aggressively go after the individuals who knowingly put other people's lives at risk,” said Commander Timothy Cronin, deputy chief

of enforcement for the Seventh Coast Guard District.

“Human smugglers are ruthless, profit-seeking criminals who have no regard for human life,” he added.

Since Oct. 1, 2013, in fiscal year 2014, the Coast Guard said it has interdicted 682 Cuban migrants, 559 Haitian migrants, and 217 Dominican migrants in the Caribbean Sea.

- Edited from CMC.



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# PRICE FIT: Caribbean offers vacation spots for variety of incomes

If you are in the United States and planning a Caribbean family vacation on a budget this spring, you may want to avoid on the Leeward Islands.

That's according to Tripadvisor TripIndex, which says the most expensive islands are in that Caribbean group, with St. Barthelemy (St. Bart's) being the priciest.

The island tops the Caribbean as the most expensive vacation spot at \$12,486, for one week for a family or group of four. The costs include the average round-trip airfare from the continental U.S., a seven night hotel stay, dinner for six nights and a half-day snorkeling excursion for four. In St. Bart's, the average nightly hotel rate is \$844, more than two times the average for the region.

St. Bart's is also 17 percent more expensive than the second priciest on the list, Anguilla, where the same deal can cost \$10,709. Airfares to and from Anguilla are also the most expensive, at an average fare of \$1,316. Round-trip tickets for a family of four – \$5,263 – cost more than a one-week vacation to the three least expensive destinations



Life on the beach isn't always cheap.

on the TripIndex.

The British Virgin Islands rounded out the top three costliest Caribbean spots at \$9,712 for the week.

The Turks and Caicos Islands came in at fourth with \$8,811.92, followed by St. Kitts and Nevis at \$8,668.05 and the Cayman Islands at \$8,081.53.

Antigua and Barbuda was dubbed the seventh most expensive Caribbean vacation

spot at \$7,972.30 followed by St. Lucia at \$7,627.14.

The U.S. Virgin Islands and Barbados rounded out the top 10 at \$6,781.76 and \$6,710.30, respectively.

## OPTIONS

Overall, Tripadvisor found it's more expensive to vacation in United Kingdom Caribbean territories, with the average cost close to \$8,600 compared to about \$5,600 for

U.S. territories, 20 percent less expensive than the average Caribbean vacation cost.

Savvy spenders can find the least expensive rooms in the Dominican Republic, where a one night stay is around \$177. Travelers could stay nearly five nights in a Dominican Republic hotel for the cost of a single night in St. Bart's, according to

Tripadvisor.

Puerto Rico, meanwhile, was found to offer the most affordable airfare for travelers

flying from the continental U.S. That's less than a one-night hotel stay in the six priciest spots for lodging on the TripIndex. Puerto Rico is also the least expensive destination on the TripIndex, with a total cost of \$4,609. Jamaica ranks as the second best value at \$4,631, followed by the Dominican Republic at \$5,315.

The average nightly rate for a Caribbean hotel during March to April is \$396.

TripIndex Caribbean looks at 20 popular Caribbean destinations, based on spots with the most visits on TripAdvisor from U.S. travelers between Nov. 15, 2013 and Jan. 15, 2014. Cuba was excluded due to limited direct travel from the U.S.

- Edited from News Americas.



## Cuba aims to encourage foreign investors

HAVANA, Cuba – Cuba's National Assembly has passed a new foreign investment law that aims to bring badly needed capital to the island by offering steep tax cuts and promising a climate of investment security.

The assembly voted unanimously in a special session to approve the law that will become valid within 90 days.

The new law halves the profits tax from 30 percent to 15 percent and exempts investors from paying it for

eight years.

Analysts and diplomats have expressed skepticism over the law, uncertain whether the one-party state has undergone a genuine change of heart, and truly wants to attract foreign investors on international terms.

Areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, sugar, nickel mining, building renovation and real estate development are considered ripe for investment.

According to Minister for Foreign trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca the country needs to attract \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion dollars in foreign direct investment per year, to reach its economic growth target of seven percent.

Cuba is cut off from U.S. investment by the trade embargo; and has failed to meet its investment targets for each of the past five years.



drug trafficking, Carlson said.

- Edited from CMC.



## U.S. Coast Guard seizes \$23M of cocaine in Caribbean Sea

FLORIDA – The United States Coast Guard says it has seized an estimated 1,500 pounds of cocaine in the Caribbean Sea.

The Coast Guard said the drugs, offloaded here last month, had a wholesale value of \$23 million.

Coast Guard Cutter Tampa's commanding officer Clinton Carlson said the seizure on Mar. 12 "highlights the hard work and dedication of our crews in stopping the illegal flow of drugs in the Caribbean.

"This interdiction demonstrates the effectiveness of our federal and interdiction partnerships to keep dangerous drugs off our streets," he added.

Carlson said the interdiction was part of Operation Martillo, which is one component in the United States government's "whole-of-government approach" to countering the use of the Central American littorals as transshipment routes for illicit drugs, weapons and cash through the Caribbean Sea.

Operation Martillo is an international operation focused on sharing information and bringing together air, land and maritime assets from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and Western Hemisphere and European partner nation agencies to counter illicit

## Cuban migrants rescued after vessel sinks at sea

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard says an aircrew with its Air Station Clearwater, Florida rescued 12 Cuban migrants after their vessel sank late last month in the Caribbean Sea.

The Coast Guard said it received a report of migrants who were stranded and suffering from dehydration on Lobos Cay Island, in The Bahamas their vessel sank.

The Coast Guard said Air

Station Clearwater HC-144 Ocean Sentry and an MH-60 aircraft were launched to conduct a search.

Crew members aboard the Cutter Legare located a "rustic vessel" about 23 miles southeast of Vaca Key, Florida "and safely embarked the four Cuban migrants." The Cubans were later transferred to the cutter Nantucket.





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## Vybz Kartel gets life in prison for murder conviction

Popular Jamaican dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel was sentenced to life in prison for murder on April 3.

Kartel, whose real name is Adidja Palmer, must serve 35 years before he becomes eligible for parole.

Three co-accused, also found guilty on Mar. 13 in relation to the death of Clive "Lizard" Williams, were sentenced to life in prison by Justice Lennox Campbell. They are Shawn "Shawn Storm" Campbell and Kahira Jones, who will be eligible for parole in 25 years, while Andre St. John will be eligible in 30 years.

Lawyers representing all the convicted said they planned to appeal the verdict.

### LONG TRIAL

The conviction of Kartel and his co-accused came after a 65-day trial, when the jury voted 10-1 against them. Shane Williams, another accused, was freed by the jury at the time.

The sentencing was first scheduled for last month, but



Kartel

was pushed back to April.

The trial of Kartel and the co-accused sparked heated public discussion in Jamaica. Many on the Caribbean island believe the dancehall star is guilty as convicted, while others are adamant he is not.

"Lizard" Williams, a 27-year-old dancer, was allegedly killed on Aug. 16, 2011 over a missing gun belonging to Kartel. His body has not been found. The accused had been in custody since Sept. 2011.

All pleaded not guilty to the charge.

### PLOT

During the trial, the prosecution argued that "Lizard" Williams was taken to Kartel's home in Havendale, St Andrew, a parish in Jamaica, where he was stabbed and beaten to death. Jamaica's Director of Public Prosecution Paula Llewellyn said the trial proved a vindication of Jamaica's judicial system.

"Our system was on trial," she said last month, "but I would like to think that what Jamaica and the international arena has been reminded of is that, notwithstanding all the challenges, there are persons in the system ... who have integrity and who are committed to public service above self.

"It's not that we are striving for a winning situation, we strive to put up the best evidence that is available."

- *Compiled from various sources.*



## Entries open for Jamaica's reggae dance championship

Entries are now being accepted for the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's (JCDC) 2014 World Reggae Dance Championship.

The competition is open to dance groups comprising three to six persons, ages 16 years and older who reside in and outside Jamaica.

"In an effort to give national and international exposure to the talents that exist in reggae/roots dance, entries are accepted in the categories of roots reggae, dancehall, reggae contemporary/classic, reggae dancehall and dance narrative," Juliet Cowan-Morgan, competition coordinator, said in a recent press release.

Cowan-Morgan said the World Reggae Dance Championship is expected to see improved performances from the Jamaican groups as the JCDC will provide regional workshops for dancers prior to the start of the first round of eliminations.

The JCDC is inviting other countries to purchase the World Reggae Dance Championship franchise to host an elimination show in their country and send the winners to participate in the international final in Jamaica.

Entry forms for the competition is available online at [www.jcdc.gov.jm](http://www.jcdc.gov.jm).



## Actress, wife of Hollywood legend dies in Jamaica at 87

KINGSTON, Jamaica, - Patrice Wymore Flynn, the widow of Hollywood legend, Errol Flynn is dead.

Flynn, 87, died from natural causes at her home in the eastern parish of Portland last month. She had starred in a least 15 movies alongside famous stars, including Kirk Douglas, Randolph Scott, Frank Sinatra and her late husband.

Member of Parliament for West Portland Daryl Vaz said



Wymore Flynn

the former movie star and philanthropist will be long remembered by residents of the parish.

"Mrs. Flynn was loved and respected by all in Portland for her tireless efforts to put the parish on the world map," said Vaz.

Flynn made her debut in a singing role in the nostalgic Doris Day/Gordon MacRae tune "Tea for Two" in 1950.

She met Errol Flynn on the set of the movie "Rocky Mountain" and became his wife in Oct. 1950.

- *Edited from CMC.*



## Tessanne Chin for Memorial Day N.Y. festival

"The Voice" winner Tessanne Chin will perform for fans in the tri-state area of northeast United States when the Jamaican signer headlines the "Oracabessa Festival - A Celebration Of Caribbean Culture" on May 26 at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, New York.

Other Caribbean performers scheduled include Beenie Man, Konshens and Assassin.

"We are just thrilled to have the opportunity to present Tessanne to her fans in her very first, full length performance in the tri-state area," said event organizer Bobby Clarke, chief executive officer of Irie Jam radio.

### U.S. STOPS

Chin has made regular



Chin

appearances on U.S. television since her first appearance on "The Voice" last September. Shortly after her victory, she was interviewed in New York on NBC's Today Show. She also appeared on the Kathie

Lee & Hoda show, Live with Kelly & Michael, Access Hollywood and New York Live. On New Year's Day she made an appearance at the Rose Bowl parade in California.

On Mar. 6, Chin performed in Washington D.C. as a special guest of U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle at the "White House: Women of Soul" concert, where she sang the Donna Summer classic "Last Dance". The program, scheduled to be broadcast April 7 on PBS, included performances by Melissa Etheridge, Aretha Franklin, Ariana Grande, Janelle Monáe and Jill Scott.



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## BRIEFS

### • JWOF's jazz brunch, fashion show

The Jamaican Women of Florida, Inc. (JWOF) celebrates its first anniversary on **April 19** with a "Reggae/Jazz Brunch and Fashion Show" at the Broward Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale.

Patrons will be entertained by Jamaica's Eugene Grey and his five-piece band. Also performing will be singers Sabrina Williams and 11-year-old Soleil Rowe. Jamaican American designer Hope Blake-Wade, of Hope Wade Designs, New York, will introduce fashion from her 2014 line.

For more information, call **561-320-1391** or e-mail [jwoflorida@gmail.com](mailto:jwoflorida@gmail.com).

### • St. Lucia jazz fest

The St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival will feature some 50 enter-

tainers and artisans over a dozen days from April 30 to May 11.

### • 'Best of the Best' for Miami

Some of the biggest names in Caribbean entertainment have been announced for next month's "Best of the Best 2014" concert in Miami, Florida.

Among the scheduled entertainers are Beres Hammond, Barrington Levy, Cocoa Tea, Tarrus Riley, Chronixx, Elephant Man, Singing Melody, Bunji Garlin, Edwin Yearwood and Nature.

The concert will be held **May 25** at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami. For more information, visit [www.bestofthebestconcert.com](http://www.bestofthebestconcert.com).

- *Compiled from various sources.*



# Jamaica's consul general urges diaspora to become political force in U.S.

On the job since Oct. 3, 2013, Franz Hall, Jamaica's consul general to Miami and the southern United States brings crucial experience in international relations and investment. His passion for growing the debt-strapped Caribbean island beyond mere economic stability is evident. *Caribbean Today* freelance writer Dawn A. Davis recently had a chance to learn more about Hall's strategies and why he is so enthusiastic about Jamaica's future. Below is an edited version of that conversation.

**Question: You have represented the Jamaican government in Washington D.C., New York and Geneva. Now that you are consul general for the southern United States is your mandate any different?**

**Answer:** While the duty station might be different in terms of the core responsibilities and core focus of that station, at the heart of it is to represent the government and people of Jamaica wherever we are. Most of our assignments have a consular component. So, even while at the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the U.N. in Geneva, we still had to provide consular services to Jamaican nationals, as well as persons wishing to visit Jamaica ...

The fact that I am here at the Consulate General Miami means we focus primarily on providing those consular services. But we also have a wider mandate in promoting trade and investment and ensuring that we have good relations with our hosts. It's a very interesting point in my career. This position sort of brings my previous experiences in various areas together.

**Q: Are there any specific strategies that you will employ here in this position to enhance trade between Jamaica and the southeastern U.S.?**

**A:** Interestingly, Miami accounts for just about a third of Jamaica's exports to the U.S., a significant percentage of our exports ... In terms of strategies, I think it's important to make connections, to reach out to various groups. Initially we will target a lot of the chambers of commerce that are located in the region to get some interest going in Jamaica. I think a lot of the trade we have between Miami



Hall

and Jamaica is driven by the food industry. And, in fact, there is also a heavy trade in gold. What I would hope to do is to stimulate investment.

I think where the consulate is located, we are standing on a potential goldmine of investment. A lot of the capital is coming from South and Central America, so if we can stimulate interest in that segment of the market ... We have similar opportunities that will

be available in Jamaica.

One of the major focuses of the government right now is the logistics hub and the spin-off industries and sectors that that will lead to. There is also revitalization of downtown Kingston that has been long talked about.

So, we have the opportunity here to try and interact with some of those players to see if they would be interested in looking at Jamaica as a viable option. We've seen an increase in Chinese investment, but that does not mean that the market is saturated. Certainly there is room for investors from other countries, and the diaspora.

**Q: Some Jamaicans in the island have complained that the increasing numbers of Chinese investors are in effect locking them out of local investment opportunities. What's your response?**

**A:** A lot of our major companies, our rum industry, our beer, are owned by European companies. So in that same vein, the ownership really should not matter. I think what's important is ensuring

that the government and people are able to derive benefit from the activities of those companies, through employment, payment of relevant taxes, etc. And of course, they would have an important role to play in increasing our exports, which is how we earn most of our foreign exchange.

To those people who complain about the Chinese, I would say that they are stepping up to the plate. They are recognizing the opportunities in Jamaica. Of course, they have their own particular cultural ways and interests, but what is important is that we recognize what those are, but recognizing too that we have our own interests and ensuring that our interests are met. So, it's a trade-off ...

I think it's important to recognize that they are coming in to invest in our country, to put in place the appropriate infrastructure that would allow us to hopefully reach levels of sustainable economic development ... If Jamaicans are concerned about the Chinese investments, the government is looking at people with serious bids, with the resources and ability to implement these projects. If members of the diaspora and persons in Jamaica have those skills, cer-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

# Caribbean set for June showdown with Europe over slavery reparations

Caribbean community (CARICOM) leaders are hoping to hold talks with Europe in June on the issue of reparations for slavery and native genocide, according to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

"I would say that we made good progress on that issue, and, before the end of June, some approach is going to be made to the European countries in relation to this matter of reparations," Gonsalves told journalists attending last month's CARICOM inter-sessional summit.

The main focus of the regional leaders was a budget for the regional commission on reparations for African slavery and native genocide. The leaders had also adopted a 10-point reparatory justice framework, presented by Professor Sir Hillary Beckles, head of CARICOM's

Reparations Commission. He said the framework comprises "basically issues relating to things which have been talked about all the time like an apology, the question of organizing with African countries and those persons who want to have reparations, matters relating to health, education and literacy, building the cultural institutions and matters concerning a special program for the development of the indigenous people ..."



Beckles presented reparatory justice framework.

have set up national reparations commission even as some European countries,

Gonsalves, who is also an attorney.

against which claims are being made, have said that they will not pay compensation for slavery and native genocide.

"We believe we have the law and the facts on our side in relation to addressing the legacy of native genocide and African slavery and we will make our case," said

"It is a serious proposal, with serious issues, within the same context of not fighting anybody," he said of Beckles' presentation.

**RIGHT ROAD**

"These things never come easy, but these are 14 sovereign countries representing 16 million people with a huge diaspora in the United States, in Canada, in Europe," Gonsalves added.

"I think we have some influence. I am satisfied and we are satisfied that we have the law on our side, and we

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Caribbean demands a price for being put in chains.

**CONCERNS**

He said the issues touch and concern the post 2015 Millennium Development Goal discussion and that CARICOM would continue its research even as it seeks the conference with Europe.

At least 14 CARICOM member states



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## EPIDEMIC: U.N. wants Marshall Plan to tackle cholera in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations official tasked with coordinating the response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti says the country is not receiving the international attention it deserves and is calling for the implementation of a Marshall Plan in order to allow donor countries to beef up its support for combating the disease.

The Marshall Plan (officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was the American initiative to aid Europe in which the United States gave economic support to help rebuild European economies after the end of World War II in order to prevent the spread of Soviet communism.

The plan was in operation for four years, beginning in April 1948. The goals of the United States were to rebuild war-devastated regions, remove trade barriers, modernize industry and make Europe prosperous again.

### LACK ATTENTION

"Haiti is not receiving the attention of the international community, particularly the donor community," said Pedro Medrano, as he reported on a recent trip during which he met with officials in Canada, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.

"It is clear that this epidemic is not on their radar screen," added Medrano, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's senior coordinator for

the Cholera Response in Haiti.

The U.N. said the cholera outbreak, which has affected Haiti since Oct. 2010, is still considered the largest in the Western Hemisphere, with more than 700,000 cases and over 8,500 deaths.

Medrano had travelled to the donor countries to try and raise their understanding of what the U.N. is attempting to do to eliminate cholera in Haiti.

"I think that it is clear that any country with the number of people suffering last year, 65,000 new cases, and we have more than 700,000 cases in total, would consider this an emergency," he said.

### SUPPORT

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the U.N. said it has initiated a system-wide effort to support the government of Haiti in the fight against what the senior coordinator referred to as "a silent emergency".

In Dec. 2012, the U.N. Secretary General launched an initiative for the elimination of cholera in Haiti and the Dominican Republic that focuses on prevention, treatment and education. The U.N.



'Haiti is not receiving the attention of the international community'.

said it has worked with partners in the community and international groups to launch a series of actions, including establishing/upgrading cholera treatment facilities, constructing wastewater treatment plants, purchasing oral cholera vaccines, and supporting community-based hygiene campaigns.

According to Medrano, less than 17 percent of the population in the earthquake-ravaged, French-speaking Caribbean country has access to sanitation; while about half of the population has access to safe drinking water.

"It's impossible to stop the transmission of cholera and other water-borne diseases without urgent interventions in water and sanitation," he stressed.

This has prompted him to call for a Marshall Plan for the impoverished Caribbean

nation.

The U.N. said its system in Haiti has developed a two-year, \$68 million initiative in support of the government's 10-year National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera.

In addition, the U.N. said it is finalizing with the Haitian government the creation of a "high-level committee" that will oversee the coordinated implementation of the cholera response measures as contained in the national plan.

### PLAN

The U.N. noted that Haiti's Ministry of Health has a plan, with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), to vaccinate 200,000 people in the next couple of months and another 300,000 before the end of the year.

But the U.N. said the issue of money, along with the availability of vaccines, is a

major challenge, adding that the global stockpile is not sufficient to meet the needs of 500,000 people.

The U.N., however, said countries have indicated they will consider allocations to this program in the near future.

"There is no doubt that we have made substantial progress. Today, we have fewer cases of cholera than we had in previous years. The figures from January and February 2014 show that there were 1,400 new cases, the lowest number of new cases since the epidemic began," Medrano said.

But he said there was no room for complacency, warning: "even if we are making progress, and we have a lower number of cases today, we are not out of the woods."

- Edited from CMC. *Caribbean Today's special "Spring Health" feature is on pages 13-17.*



## Caribbean set for June showdown with Europe over slavery reparations

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

have the acts on our side."

CARICOM has said that it will opt for litigation if Europe refuses to negotiate and Gonsalves, who is also

chairman of the 15-member regional grouping, said the conference in June will be "a mature conversation with the Europeans" and that CARICOM is hoping that the Europeans will agree to the

conversation.

"And then after that conversation, we will make a formal claim," he said.

A British law firm Leigh Day is expected to lead the region's legal battle against

Europe.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaica's consul general urges diaspora to become political force in U.S.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

tainly I think they should jump into the fray and see what contributions could be made.

**A:** Some see Jamaica as a developing country, others see otherwise. How is Jamaica officially classified?

**Q:** In terms of the international ranking, Jamaica is classified as an upper middle income country, which means per capita incomes are above US\$1,500 per year. But, when you look at the sorts of disparity and income gaps, you realize that there is a serious problem. And the fact we've been classified as a middle income

country has created certain problems where we can't access certain donor funds to assist with the most vulnerable segments of society

When you look at the wider population there is a problem with lack of skills, lack of access to employment. So, there is some real challenges where that is concerned. Also, while there may be personal wealth, the government is heavily indebted. So that also creates added burden on the infrastructural development and social services that can be provided by the government, which are taken as indicators of developed status.

There seem to be a contradiction, but the reality is we are a developing country and we have been put in a limiting position where we can't access certain funds because of the international ranking. But that ranking is usually seriously undermined by the extent of debt in the country.

**Q:** What can we in the diaspora do to make your job easier, to help 'build' Jamaica?

**A:** Specifically, whenever we have events, for example our Independence activities and church service, or any other major event to celebrate Jamaica, we would like to see

full support. Beyond that, I think it is important for us to continue the dialogue on how we can help each other.

It is important for the diaspora here to become U.S. citizens. What that would lead to is visibility and a greater voice for Jamaicans here in the U.S., which will then translate into them becoming a political force to advocate for matters that are of interest to them and also matters that are of interest to Jamaica ... Beyond that we would certainly encourage persons to take an interest in investing in Jamaica.



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# Reparations at what price?

On Mar. 10, behind closed doors in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 15 CARICOM leaders reportedly adopted a 10-point plan prepared by a British law firm that calls for reparations for slavery inflicted by former European colonizers.

According to Martyn Day, of the Leigh Day law firm, Caribbean leaders at the 25th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM signed off on a plan calling for a formal apology for slavery, debt cancellation from former colonizers such as Britain, France, Spain and the Netherlands, and reparation payments to repair the persisting “psychological trauma.”



**FELICIA PERSAUD**

Psychological trauma is largely defined as “a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a severely distressing event.

“This can be a single experience, or an enduring or repeated event or events, that completely overwhelm the individual’s ability to cope or integrate the ideas and emotions involved with that experience,” according to psychologists.

## TRAUMA

This type of trauma can be delayed by weeks, years or even decades, as the person struggles to cope with the immediate circumstances, and can lead to serious long-term negative consequences that are often overlooked even by mental health professionals, experts say.

Applying this definition to the reparation call and the 10-point plan prepared by CARICOM leaders means that we are admitting that slavery caused slaves, and are still causing descendants of slaves today across the Caribbean and the black diaspora, severe trauma. Trauma so deep, that the great Marcus Garvey, quoted by Bob Marley in song, called it “mental slavery.”

Mental slavery according to several black academics, cripples its victim, making them ineffective, self destructive, self hating, and dangerous.

“Mental slavery may cause the victim to sell out family members, coworkers, and anyone else who possess a different mindset. A mental slave will not investigate nor research history or current

events. They have a nasty habit of accepting and believing what is told to them, whether it’s true or not and are filled with envy, self hate, ignorance, intolerance, and maliciousness.”

## NO INPUT

These exact characteristics persist in the Caribbean and the black diaspora today. So how will the Day law firm measure this cost in order to seek reparation? What figure do you put on slavery that persists in generations who continue to tear each other down and cannot see the bigger picture? And why has no one consulted the black Caribbean diaspora for its input on this?

Day and the governments want European “aid” in strengthening the region’s public health, educational and cultural institutions, such as museums and research centers; assistance to boost the region’s technological know-how since the Caribbean was denied participation in Europe’s industrialization and confined to producing and exporting raw materials such as sugar; and the creation of a “repatriation program”, including legal and diplomatic assistance from European governments, to potentially resettle members of the Rastafarian spiritual movement in Africa.

Day, who has waged a successful fight for an award compensation of about \$21.5 million for surviving Kenyans who were tortured by the British colonial government during the so-called Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s and 1960s, called the plan a “fair set of demands on the governments whose countries grew rich at the expense of those regions whose human wealth was stolen from them.”

## ‘AID’

No figure has been released on an upfront award to the Caribbean and the people of the diaspora, but the words “aid” and “assistance” in the call tells us don’t expect much more than hand outs even as the Caribbean Reparations Commission Chairman Hilary Beckles, a scholar who has written several books on the history of Caribbean slavery, said he was “very pleased” that the political leaders adopted the plan. Seems to me like slavery all over again.

Are we as Caribbean leaders really content to continue to seek hand outs for damages that enslaved some four mil-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

# Jamaican looks to take health care home

## LORNA OWENS

Every 90 seconds a woman dies as a result of complications of pregnancy. Every year over a million babies die in their first day of life. We have an international crisis, but the world does not care.

Two and half years ago I saw a CNN piece called “War on Women, Rape as a Weapon of War”. It told the story of the over two million women who have been raped in the D.R. Congo. The numerous and the viciousness of the rapes have earned the Congo the name the “rape capital of the world” or “the worst place on earth to be a woman”.

Twice per year I close my law practice and travel to the Congo with a team of doctors and nurses. We see rape survivors, rebel soldiers and war up close and personal.

Every March and October, Dr. Mary Jo O’Sullivan, professor emeritus obstetric and gynecology at the University of Miami, one other health professional and I take the trip to an area of the eastern Congo called Bukuva to train doctors, nurses and traditional birthing attendants on best midwifery practices. The work is hard, our hours are long but

rewarding.

Our favorite group is the traditional birth attendants. We find them in an area called Mwenga, a three hour drive outside of Bukuva. This is often the most dangerous part of our travels as we have to pass through rebel territory. We pass mines controlled by rebels. Most westerners blame the mining of minerals for the six million deaths and



Owens, center, is greeted by Bukuva women after arriving from Goma.

the 20 years of war in the D.R. Congo. Coltan is a mineral found abundantly in the D.R. Congo. This same mineral is used in many electronics, such as our cellphones, hence the documentary “Blood in our Mobile”.

It is in this area we find a group of traditional birth attendants. They cannot read and write. They have never been trained to deliver babies

and they have no supplies - not even scissors to cut the umbilical cord. Instead they use sticks and stones. So we train them and we give them clean birth kits.

## GOING HOME

Then I started thinking charity begins at home. What about my own country Jamaica? I realized my own country needed me. The truth is mothers and babies die in Jamaica who don’t have to die. So we went to Jamaica on a fact finding mission, met with Minister of Health Dr. Fenton Ferguson and his team. They are open and eager to reduce maternal and infant mortality. They need help and they need it now.

Sadly, they will not reduce maternal and infant mortality by two thirds by 2015, as most countries around the world is striving to do, in keeping with

Millennium Development goals.

We met with Dr. Minevra Thames, head of the neonatology and her team at University of Hospital of the West Indies. We also met doctors at Victoria Jubilee and Bustmante hospitals. Jamaica need neonatologists. We will help the doctors and nurses fill

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



• **“I believe that President Obama has heard our call to review his administration’s policy on deportation”** -



Yvette Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, commends United States President Barack Obama for ordering a review of deportations to the Caribbean and other countries.

• **“Before the end of June, some approach is going to be made to the European countries in relation to this matter of reparations (for slavery)”** - St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves at last month’s CARICOM inter-sessional summit.

• **“Europe is going to entertain the dialogue, but they will not pay”** – Dutch historian Professor Gert Oostindie doesn’t expect Caribbean leaders will get much from their reparation claims against Europe.

• **“I think it is something which we really should do; it is something that we are, more or less, forced to do ... I am not sure that there is going to be any success down the road, because it is a question of power. We don’t have the power, and they (Europe) will simply neglect us and they probably feel that once they do that (pay reparations), it is going to open a can of worms”** - Dr. Adrian Fraser, historian and retired head of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, casts his doubts on the Caribbean’s efforts to get reparation for slavery.

• **“The report must go beyond mere study, mere scholarship, mere education and information. (It) must serve to provide tangible lessons for the people of Trinidad and**

**Tobago with the objective of ensuring that such a a grievous and heinous assault on our democracy must never happen**



**again”** – Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar last month urging citizens to read the report of a commission of inquiry that probed the events leading to the 1990 attempt by a group of Muslims to overthrow the government of Prime Minister ANR Robinson.

• **“Chris to me is the most destructive T20 batsman in the world”** - West Indies cricketer captain Darren Sammy praises teammate Chris Gayle ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup.



- Compiled from various sources.



## BLOOD DIAMONDS: Dismissing myths about 'a girl's best friend'

**I. JABULANI TAFARI**

Love is blind and there are none as blind as them that refuse to see.

Even after the movie "Blood Diamonds" highlighted the human suffering and social fragmentation involved in smuggling African diamonds, lovers still fall prey everyday to the ongoing scam by the diamond industry. It's time for lovers and us to wake up to the rip-off that diamond marketing represents.

Spring is here. Soon it will be June, the favorite month for lovers to get married. Love makes us do foolish things. So too does De Beers, which targets lovers with marketing campaigns designed to make them spend what they can't afford, buying overpriced diamond engagement and wedding rings.

Far too many confuse true affection with the giving of expensive gifts and opportunistically "play nice" when given expensive diamonds.

The De Beers syndicate,

one of the last transnational business cartels, controls 80 percent of rough diamonds. Monopolizing both the production and supply of stones, De Beers manipulates markets and prices. During the 20th century, De Beers successfully increased consumer demand for diamonds by enlisting the help of Hollywood and Madison Avenue. De Beers gave out free diamonds for movie producers to use in films and propagated the illusion of extremely rare, high valued diamonds by a sustained advertizing blitz.

### STRATEGY

This strategy was designed to make diamonds a cultural imperative that brings back customers. It's the most financially successful advertising campaign in history.

Another effective strategy has been marketing diamonds as a symbol of love and commitment. The famous advertising line "A Diamond is Forever" was coined in 1947 and is reportedly the best



Diamonds come at a high price.

advertising slogan of the 20th century. The concept was reinforced globally by the 1971 James Bond movie "Diamonds Are Forever".

While diamonds are durable, the concept that "Diamonds are Forever" is used to convince ordinary people not to sell their diamonds, but to hoard and keep them forever - thereby allowing De Beers to sell more diamonds.

Diamonds are supposedly rare gemstones which are scarce in supply and are therefore deemed to be extremely valuable as personal possessions. That's the lie behind the

big con because there is an overabundant supply of diamonds that is in no danger of running out.

### 'BEST FRIEND'

Another famous De Beers advertising line promoted by Hollywood is "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend", which was a 1949 Broadway song performed by Marilyn Monroe in the 1953 film "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes". Directed at male buyers, this campaign promoted the sentiment that if you want to make a woman speechless - for a change - buy her a diamond.

Consumer diamonds are worth far less than the industrial diamonds used in a variety of commercial manufacturing processes. Industrial diamonds have additional strategic importance because they are used to manufacture military weaponry.

Blood diamonds and most consumer diamonds are literally worth a dime a dozen. Three quarters of the world's cheap raw diamonds are cut in

western India, where they are turned into gemstones to be used in overpriced jewelry in developed countries.

An estimated 100,000 children under 13 years old working 12-hour days, six days a week, are paid four cents U.S. per cut stone. This is why a \$90 ring might have only \$1 worth of diamonds in the design. They say you can't fool all the people all the time, but De Beers has been fooling the majority of people for a long time.

The best rip-offs don't just require brazenness, but heartlessness. So people, wake up. The price paid in blood, sweat and tears by exploited African mine workers, added to the exploitation of Indian child workers, far outweighs the value of cheap diamonds at the jewelry store.

*I. Jabulani Tafari is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. The opinions expressed above are not necessarily those of Caribbean Today.*



## SAYS WHO?: 'Good looking' depends on the eyes of the beholder

I'm sure you've seen old friends and marveled at how good they still look. And I know that you've also seen other old friends and can't believe how "mashup" they look.

It's relative though, as beauty really is in the eyes of the beholder. But we all have our objects of beauty. For me, it's a beautiful woman and for some women it's a handsome man.

The mere fact that your wife is looking at other men and referring to them as good looking may be cause for concern for some men who are not secure, especially if she's not only admiring them, but verbalizing it too.

What makes a man good looking? I would not know,

but I can spot a beautiful woman from a mile away.

Narcissus from Greek mythology was the guy so in love with his looks he kept staring at his reflection in a stream until one day he fell in and drowned. Hence the word narcissistic - people obsessively in love with their looks.

### ROLE PLAY

Looks do play such an important part in people's lives though, even as many try to downplay it and say that it's



**TONY ROBINSON**



not all that important. In this day and age, when women and men too are so "into looks" as they parade around with hair weaves, false eyelashes, tattooed eyebrows, skin creams and anything else that enhances their beauty.

To actually say an ugly woman is to be desired is beyond me. I haven't seen an ugly woman in years, as either our gene pool is improving or

beauty products are doing their job.

We can spot a beautiful woman easily, but what makes a man good looking? Women say that he has to be fairly tall, but not too much, well built, with adequate muscles - but not like the bodybuilder-

type masculine features - nice smooth skin and a nice mouth with kissable lips.

Many wives say their husbands are good looking, but take that as words from women in love. Plus you all know the old saying, "Every country fowl thinks that he and his family are peacocks."

### DILEMMA

So, can we find other peo-

ple good looking, even though we're involved or married?

Should my friend be nervous because his wife finds other men attractive and even calls them good looking? Should a wife feel threatened if hubby admires other women, and looks, stares, drools and calls them gorgeous?

Should love and commitment blind us from admiring others? What is strange is that a woman will point out a knockout looking woman to her man, saying, "look, she's your type of girl." But when he looks, she gets miffed and says, "Okay, you're looking too long now."

I guess you can look, but don't linger too much.

So, other people can be good looking, but should you express it to your significant other? Ask your partner.

- seido1@hotmail.com



## Reparations at what price?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

lion West Africans between 1600 and 1870 and have ruined generations and continue to destroy us? And what about the damages caused to the people of the black diaspora who are from the Caribbean but live outside the region? Do we get nothing at all?

Maybe it is time CARICOM and Day pay a visit to the Caribbean diaspora for their input on this and try again to find an exact per person figure that may help to ease the pain not just of slavery but help us to begin to

love ourselves and each other as black people and unite.

Only then will reparation matter; only then will it make sense as it will finally change the lives of generations to come. Only then will we truly achieve emancipation and freedom from mental slavery.

*Felicia Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now. She lives in the United States.*



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

that need with a training program put together by our global faculty.

We found that Jamaica has been able to reduce direct maternal deaths from hypertensive disease in pregnancy, hemorrhage by 47 percent, but indirect deaths from cardiovascular disorder, obesity

and sickle cell remain high.

We also found a heart-breaking trend - teenage pregnancy - amounting to 15 percent of all live births. We will be starting an aggressive campaign against this trend. It takes a village. We need the help of the government, schools and churches.

We are committed to work in Jamaica. We will

hold a fundraiser 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 17 at the Ritz Carlton Coconut Grove in South Florida.

For ticket information, visit [www.footprints-foundation.org](http://www.footprints-foundation.org).

*Jamaican Lorna Owens is an attorney and registered nurse.*



# CHAMPS' STARS: Calabar, Edwin Allen dominate Jamaica's high school athletics

KINGSTON - Jamaica unwrapped another impressive Boys and Girls Athletics Championships late last month, spiced by scintillating performances, particularly in the male sprints, and flavored by a special Caribbean presence which further enhanced the region's reputation as a powerful force in track and field.

Calabar (305 points) and Edwin Allen (337.5) emerged comfortable overall team champions in the boys and girls sections, respectively. However, arguably the most impressive high school sporting event in the world was raised to even more incredible heights by stunning individual performances

sure to make many senior global stars take notice. More than 20 records – some dating back a decade or more and held by world famous names in the sport – fell.

Two 100 meter marks formerly held by Jamaica's 2011 world champion Yohan Blake were vanquished in minutes on the penultimate day of the five-day championships, which

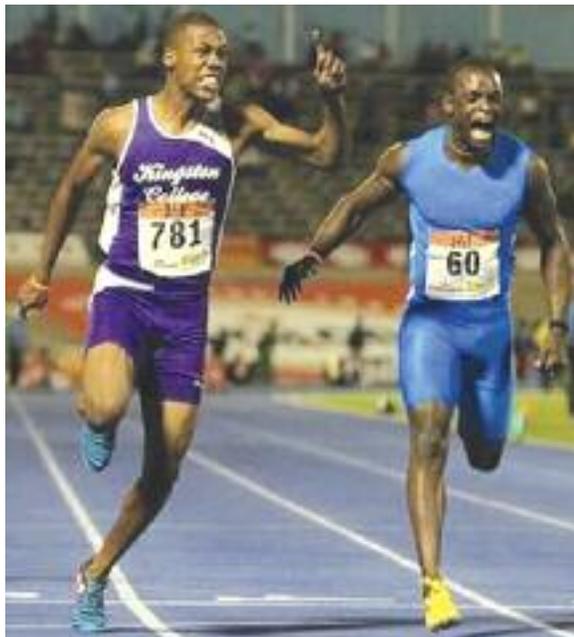
brought together some of the world's best youth athletes.

## TEEN TITANS

In the Class II race for boys ages



Francis breaks Bolt's mark.



Hughes, left, edges Minzie.

14-15, St. Jago's Raheem Chambers clocked 10.29 seconds to smash Blake's mark of 10.34 set in 2006. He was fol-

lowed home by Jhevaughn Matherson of Kingston College, who was timed in 10.37. The K.C. sprinter would turn the table on Chambers in the 200 meters the following day.

The frenzied crowd had barely settled down after the Class II 100, when K.C.'s Zharnel Hughes, who is from Anguilla, stunned them again with 10.12 seconds in the

Class I event for ages 16-19. He emerged victor from a stirring battle with Jevaughn Minzie of Bog Walk High, whose 10.16 also bettered Blake's 2007 mark of 10.21.

"I was focusing on execution, on winning, and not on the record but it came and I am happy," Hughes, who stamped his authority as the Caribbean's fastest junior athlete, told reporters after the race.

Earlier that evening, Wolmer's Boys' Jaheel Hyde claimed his own meet standard in the Class I 400 meters hurdles, clocking a national junior record 49.49 seconds. Hyde, World Youth 110 meters champion, rolled past

the previous mark of 49.98 set last year.

## MORE SHINE

Champs' final day offered even more record shattering performances in front a capacity National Stadium crowd of roughly 35,000, with hundreds more locked outside. Calabar's Javon Francis, a medalist on Jamaica's 4x400 meters team at the 2013 senior World Championships in Athletics, toppled the Class I 400 meters set by Jamaica's current super sprinter Usain



Edwin Allen's Christania Williams.

Bolt in 2003. Francis clocked 45 seconds, erasing Bolt's mark of 45.35.

In the Class II 200 meters, Calabar's Tyreke Wilson

broke the meet record with a time of 21.72 seconds. When the reportedly injured Hughes pulled from the Class I event, Minzie captured gold.

The girls also set several new standards, breaking seven meet records, starting from the youngest group. In the Class IV 70 meters hurdles, St. Jago's Mellicia Gordon smashed the 21-year-old mark with a time of 10.49 seconds.

In front of international media coverage and a live audience that included the current and former Jamaica prime ministers, "Champs" once again underlined the deep core of athletic talent in the Caribbean. With so many impressive performances by, especially, the younger athletes, the future standard of this prestigious event seems destined to rise.

Many of the "Champs" medalists are scheduled to perform at the Carifta Games, April 19-21 in Martinique.

Below is a listing of the top three finishers in the boys and girls points standings:

## Girls

Edwin Allen – 337.5  
St. Jago – 263  
Hydel – 229

## Boys

Calabar – 305  
Kingston College – 208.5  
Jamaica College – 190

## G. Williams



# Jamaica leads Caribbean medal charge at IAAF World Indoor Championship

Jamaica again led the Caribbean's medal haul at an international track and field event by finishing fifth at the IAAF World Indoor Championship last month in Poland, with super sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce earning one of the region's two gold medals by winning the 60 meters.

Cuba, seventh, and The Bahamas, 20th, were the other Caribbean nations which claimed places on the medal podium.

Jamaica won five medals overall, including two silver

and two bronze. Kalise Spencer finished second in the 400 meters and was a member of the island's women's 4x400 meters team which also secured silver.

## STAR

Kimberly Williams earned bronze for Jamaica in the women's triple jump. Her countrymen won a similar

medal in the 4x400 meters.

But Jamaica's star was Fraser-Pryce, who brushed back a quality field, which included countrywoman Veronica Campbell-Brown, to win the short sprint.

"I was surprised, I knew I could do well here and I was more focused on getting that start so I just relied on past experience in the final and I

think I got it right," Fraser-Pryce said after the race.

Cuba's Yarisley Silva claimed the Caribbean's other gold by winning the women's pole vault. Teammates Ernesto Reve and Pedro Pablo Pichardo won silver and bronze, respectively, in the men's triple jump to propel the Spanish-speaking nation to a top 10 finish in the medal standing.

The Bahamas finished 20th after Chris Brown won silver in the men's 400 meters and Shaunae Miller earned bronze in the women's event.

"Thank God for this result," the 19-year-old Miller said.

Brown also relished his accomplishment.

"It was great fun to come here and take part, racing these younger guys," said the 2010 World Indoor champion. "I guess I'm like fine wine, getting better with age. My medal collection indoors is complete now."

The United States topped the medal table with 12 medals, including eight gold, two silver and two bronze.



# Top stars for 2014 CPL 20/20 cricket

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL), the regional Twenty20 cricket tournament scheduled for July and August, has announced the availability of West Indies stars Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo return for the tournament.

Gayle will play for the Jamaica Tallawahs. Pollard will join the Barbados Tridents. Bravo will lead Trinidad and Tobago Red

Steel. Narine will feature for the Guyana Amazon Warriors. Sammy will spearhead the Zouks and Samuels will play for the Antigua Hawksbills.



Gayle

# JA tackles Serbia May 26

Jamaica's senior men's national soccer team will play Serbia in a friendly international on May 26 at the Red Bull Arena in New Jersey.

The match against Serbia forms part of head coach Winfried Schafer's strategy to rebuild the Jamaican team

after its excruciating exit, in its bid to qualify for the 2014 World Cup. Jamaica defeated Barbados two-nil and cruised to a five nil victory over St. Lucia during a mini tour of the eastern Caribbean last month.



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## 'TWO SISTERS AND A MEAL'



Jamaican chefs Suzanne and Michelle Rousseau, better known as "Two Sisters and a Meal", were the celebrity guest chefs at The New York Times café last month, courtesy of the marketing efforts of the Jamaica Tourist Board. The restaurateurs and caterers prepared a menu that added some island spice to the Times' staffers lunch hour. The midday fare included creamy roasted tomato and Scotch Bonnet soup, smoked marlin and cream cheese sandwich with caper and onion pickle, grilled chicken with spicy West Indian salsa verde, sweet potato gratin with parmesan panko crust, creole spiced slaw with sesame, mango, spiced jerk cashews, plantain tarts and Blue Mountain Coffee. Michelle and Suzanne's first cookbook, entitled Caribbean Potluck, is scheduled for release May 15.

## 'Taste of the Caribbean' returns to Miami June 28

Taste of the Caribbean, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) culinary event of the year, will return to Miami for its third consecutive year June 28 to July 2 at the Hyatt Regency.

The event brings together experts and food and beverage professionals to discuss and share the latest trends and techniques through educational seminars while enjoying some of the best Caribbean food and drinks the region has to offer.

"Food and beverage professionals, managers and staff will benefit from the educational component offered at



Forstmayr

Taste of the Caribbean," Josef Forstmayr, chairman of CHTA who oversees the event, said in a recent press release.

"Chefs and bartenders will learn about the latest trends in food and beverage preparation, while managers can get operational tips for improving the bottom line in their department."

### OPPORTUNITIES

At Taste of the Caribbean, food-related companies can exhibit at the tradeshow where they demonstrate the latest industry tools to registered culinary professionals. The tradeshow provides a one-stop

forum for gathering practical information, sampling, purchasing, strengthening supplier relationships and meeting new vendors.

A highlight of the event is head-to-head competitions between Caribbean culinary teams vying for top honors in Caribbean cuisine and beverages. There are currently nine culinary teams registered for the event from Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Honors will be awarded for "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 Caribbean has a unique food culture that enhances guests' vacation experience," said Richard J. Doumeng, president of CHTA. "Taste of the Caribbean provides a platform for showcasing the best of our region's cuisine to professionals and consumers attending the event driving awareness for the Caribbean brand in one of our priority markets."

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.



## Water holds key to Caribbean food security ~ study

**COSTA RICA** – A new report released here has found that water used for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is of key importance to global food security.

However, countries in the region have yet to make improvements to ensure access by their populations to clean water, and to meet the environmental and economic challenges of increased water demand.

The report, entitled "Water and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional and Global Implications", states that virtual water exports from LAC, that is, the calculation of water used in the production of agricultural exports, was some 250 km<sup>3</sup> in 2010, approximately 44 percent of the global virtual water trade.

The report by the Spanish-based Botin Foundation was

presented at a recent technical forum organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Water Resources Center for Central America and the Caribbean (HIDROCEC-UNA).

The document reveals that the majority of virtual water exports from this region involve the trade of oilseeds and grain, basic commodities for human and animal sustenance.

"The region faces huge challenges, but there is hope as well: in recent years, agricultural yields have grown faster than the acreage and water used in production, which attests to the sustainable intensification of agriculture," said Barbara Willaarts, coordinator of the Water Observatory of the Botin Foundation.

- Edited from CMC.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## Lupita Nyong'o celebrates black is beautiful

Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o is shedding light on a dangerous issue that remains largely hush-hush in many poorer Caribbean and Latin communities – skin bleaching.

Many black females are using creams with heavy chemical substances in an attempt to lighten their skin tone or provide an even skin complexion by lessening the concentration of melanin.

Nyong'o was a guest speaker at the recent Essence Women in Hollywood Luncheon, opened up about the importance of loving your skin complexion. She shared her own journey toward accepting her dark skin and revealed that a fan wrote her a letter thanking her for influencing her decision not to purchase a skin-bleaching cream.

In some Caribbean countries, women and men bleach their skins. In Jamaica, it's called becoming a "brown-ing". Many reggae songs have been sung about bleaching.

Skin bleaching is also common in Haiti and even in the Dominican Republic, despite warnings by health ministries and various doctors regarding the serious health

risks, including skin cancer.

### DANGER

Many of these skin-whitening products use active



Nyong'o

ingredients, such as mercurous chloride and hydroquinone, which can be harmful. Hydroquinone is banned in Europe and skin lightening creams available in Nigeria have caused mutations in bacteria.

The dangers associated with the use of some bleaching creams include blood can-

cers, such as leukaemia, and cancers of the liver and kidneys, as well as a severe skin condition called ochronosis, a form of hyper-pigmentation which causes the skin to turn a dark purple shade, according to senior researcher at the University of Cape Town, Dr Lester Davids.

A Facebook page has sprung up calling for an end to bleaching and declaring: "Black is beautiful."

Yet the global market for skin lighteners is projected to reach \$19.8 billion by 2018, based on sales growth. In Jamaica, some of products cost as much as \$9.

So what's the obsession with being lighter? Dr. Yaba Blay, a professor and scholar, believes that the value bestowed on light skin in its presumed connection to whiteness reflects a larger framework.

"It reflects the extent to which the entire society continues to privilege whiteness. So if there is such a thing as a 'colonial mentality,' our society undoubtedly engenders it," she wrote recently.

Media advertising world-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

## Caribbean can benefit from medical tourism

The Caribbean region can boost its bottom line by developing a medical tourism product that takes advantage of its brand as a great vacation destination, its proximity to North America as well as its tourism facilities, beaches and of course, the year-round warm weather of the region.

That's according to Dr. Paul Angelchik, founder of American World Clinics, and Collin Childress, chief executive officer of Global MedChoices. Both are preparing to discuss the potential of medical tourism for the Caribbean at Invest Caribbean Now (ICN) 2014 on June 4 in New York City.

"The opportunity for the Caribbean in general is that it carries a positive connotation in the view of many for having friendly people, natural beauty and a reputation as an enjoyable, upscale destination with great visitor amenities in many locations," Dr. Angelchik was quoted as saying in a press release to promote the event.

"I have no doubt that the Caribbean can be a major

region for MT activities if there is follow through on the initial buzz of enthusiasm that has defined the industry to date."

### LEVERAGE

"Creating the opportunity for economic diversification through introducing a sustainable development and growth industry, such as medical tourism, to the Caribbean can help soften the impact of cyclical North American economic downturns in tourism on the Caribbean market and leverage the supply and demand issues that are driving patient flow offshore from Canada and the U.S.," added Childress.

In 2011, the total impact of the medical tourism industry contributed nine percent of global GDP (over \$6 trillion) and accounted for 255 million jobs in the world, the release stated. In the next decade, medical tourism is expected to grow by an average yearly of four percent, contributing up to 10 percent

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



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# SPRING HEALTH



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## 'AH-CHOO!': Wacky weather leads to surprise early allergy attacks

The rollercoaster weather of record low temps and sudden warm spells is catching allergy sufferers off guard this year and could lead to a severe spring allergy season.

Below are some facts on allergies obtained from the AFC/Doctors Express:

- Some 40 million Americans have indoor/outdoor allergies. The most common triggers are tree, grass and weed pollen; mold spores, dust mite and cockroach allergens; and cat, dog and rodent dander.
- The Asthma and

Allergy Foundation of America reports allergies account for more than 17 million outpatient office visits each year – primarily in spring and fall.

- You can develop allergies at any age. You're most likely to develop allergies if

there is a history of allergies in your family.

### SYMPTOMS

- **Red, itchy, watery eyes** – common colds don't cause eye irritation.
- **Sneezing** – can be cold-related but is usually triggered by an allergy.
- **Dark circles under eyes.**
- **Only lasts a week** – allergy symptoms can persist until you take medicine.
- **Fever** – allergies don't cause a fever.
- **Aches and pains** – allergy sufferers may feel weak, but aches and pains are typically signs of a cold.

### CHILDREN

- Approximately 40 percent of children in the U.S. suffer from allergies.
- Nasal congestion can lead to sleepless nights for kids, resulting in fatigue and poor performance at school.
- Congestion can also lead to mouth-breathing in kids, causing dental problems.
- Untreated allergies can lead to ear and sinus infections.

### PROTECTION

- If you've been outside, take a shower before you go to bed and change into fresh clothes so you don't bring



Allergies can cause sneezing.

pollen onto your sheets that may have clung to your skin, hair or clothes.

- Limit outdoor activity to late afternoon – pollen counts are highest in the morning.
- It's best to go outside after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air.
- Keep car and home windows closed and opt for air condition at night to keep pollen out.
- Change your bedding and pillow covers often.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter.

*- Edited from a release submitted from American Family Care and AFC/Doctors Express, a national chain of urgent care centers in the United States.*



## Two cities emerge Florida 'Health Weight' champions

The Florida Department of Health has recognized the City of Doral and Miami-Dade County as Healthy Weight Community Champions.

Between Nov. 2013 and Feb. 2014, local governments were invited to submit best practice policies implemented to promote physical activity and improve nutrition in their jurisdictions. These policies are exemplified by the champions.

The following are among the best practices for the City of Doral and Miami-Dade County:

### DORAL

The City of Doral adopted a Bikeway Network Plan in 2007, including on-street and shared use off-street bike paths that provide connectivity to residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, shop-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

## Caribbean can benefit from medical tourism

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

of future global GDP (\$10 trillion). Eventually, by 2022, it is estimated that 328 million jobs will be created in the medical

tourism industry: equal to 10 percent of jobs in the world.

*- Edited from News Americas.*



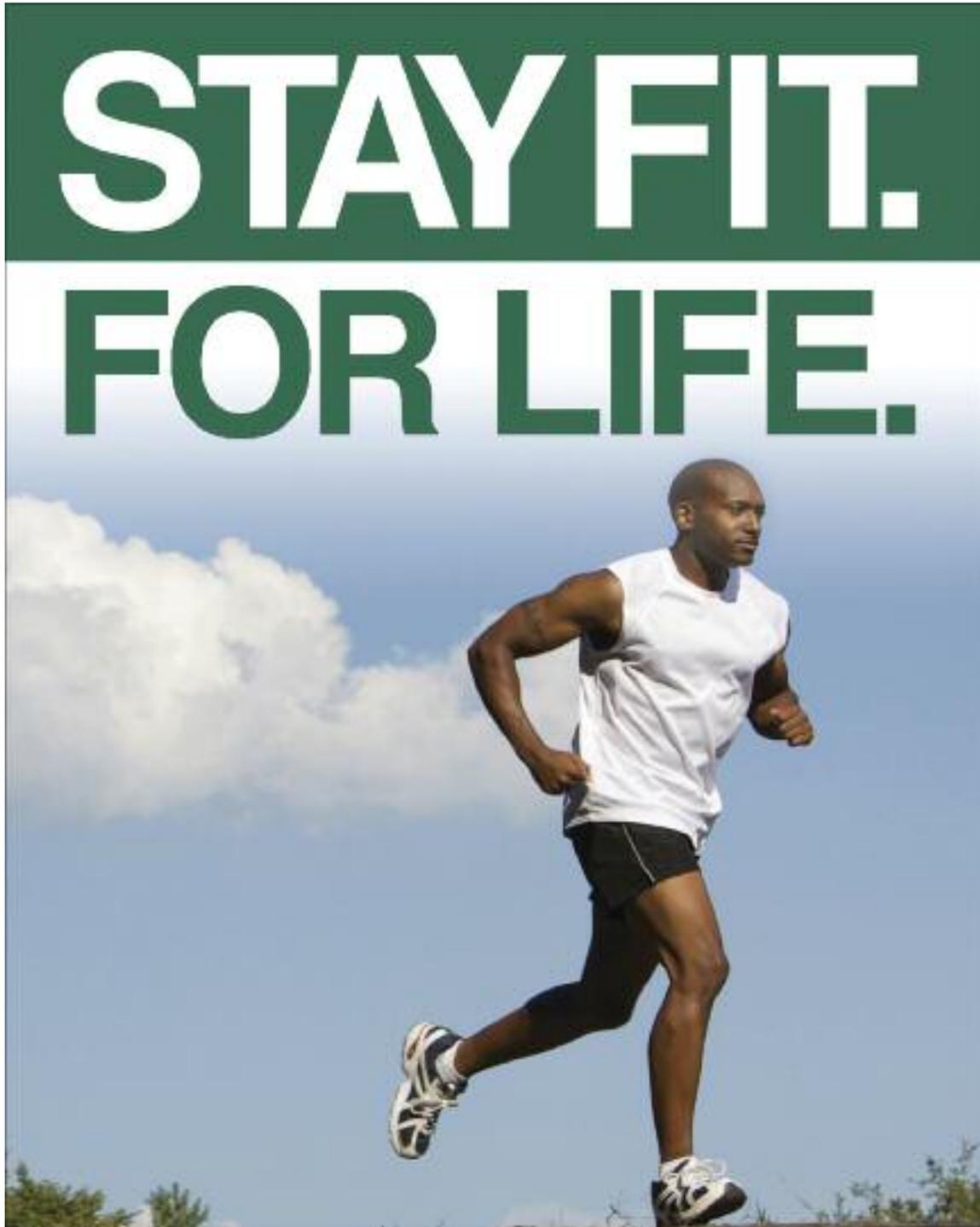
## Lupita Nyong'o celebrates black is beautiful

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

wide greatly enhance the stereotypes that light skinned people are advantaged. Nyong'o has dispelled that myth. Now she hopes that her

success will help black girls and women truly embrace their beauty.

*- Edited from News Americas.*



When it comes to healthy living, sometimes the little things can make the biggest impact. Whether you're running, walking, swimming or taking the stairs, it's important to keep your body moving. Such activities increase mobility, relieve stress and contribute to your overall well-being.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

# CHECK-UPS: What to ask the pediatrician about your child's health

Between buying new school supplies and meeting your children's teachers, back to school season is a busy time. But parents should not forget to prep for the school year by considering health and wellness.



It's important doctors know what to look for.

Experts say the first step is to schedule a visit to the doctor.

"The start of a new school year is an excellent reminder to take kids to the pediatrician for their annual checkup," says Dr. Thomas K. McInerney, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

To prepare for a healthy,

safe and happy school year, the AAP is offering these tips for parents:

• **Doctor's visit** - Make the most of your visit to the pediatrician by making a list of issues to discuss.

• **Immunizations** - Whether you're the parent of a young child, a teen or a young adult heading to college, ask your pediatrician what immunizations your child is due to receive. Vaccines save lives and keep kids and adults healthy.

• **Nutrition** - Talk with your child's pediatrician and school about healthful food choices. You can ask the school to stock the cafeteria and vending machines with nutritious food, such as fresh fruit, low-fat dairy products, water and 100 percent fruit juice. If you don't like the options the school offers, pack lunch and snacks at home.

Limit soda consumption. Each 12-ounce soft drink contains approximately 10 teaspoons of sugar and 150 calories. Drinking just one can of soda a day increases a child's risk of obesity by 60 percent.

• **Exercise** - Make sure your kids are getting plenty of

exercise. Turn off the television and make time for sports teams, gymnastics classes and bike rides. Aim for at least an hour a day.

• **Backpacks** - Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back or a rolling backpack. Backpacks should never weigh more than 10 percent to 20

percent of your child's body weight.

• **Getting there** - Make sure your child has the necessary gear for getting to school. Whether your child is biking or walking, teach him or her about traffic safety. For bikers, ensure helmets fit properly. Those who take the bus should be instructed to stay

seated and listen to the bus driver. If the bus is equipped with seat belts, children should wear them.

• **Sleep** - Children and adolescents need plenty of sleep to be alert. A regular bedtime can help your child get on a healthy sleep sched-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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# SPRING HEALTH



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

## HANA to hold nursing convention, gala

The Haitian American Nurses Association of Florida's (HANA) third annual leadership convention will be held at **8 a.m. April 10** at the Chapman Auditorium, Miami Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus.

The convention is scheduled to include lectures, abstract presentations and mentoring sessions. The goal

is to mobilize nurses as change agents to analyze and integrate the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report on the Future of Nursing Leading Change, Advancing Health.

HANA will also be celebrating its 30th Annual Scholarship Fundraising and Awards Gala on April 12 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Brickell Avenue. This year's

theme is "HANA: Celebrating 30 years

of Collaboration, Excellence, Service, and Commitment".

To register for the convention or reserve tickets for the gala, visit [www.hanaofflorida.org](http://www.hanaofflorida.org) or call **305-609-7498**,



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## PARADOX: Making good health from bad situations

They say that a good book provides therapy for the soul and that after you've read one your view of life is forever changed.

Outside of the Bible, I had never experienced such a feeling until I picked up author Jim Collins's "Good to Great".

Collins and a team of researchers spent several years studying companies that have made the leap from good to Fortune 500 greatness and, more importantly, how they maintained their level of greatness. The book's relation to healthcare is simple - it lies in the "Stockdale Paradox", based on former United States military Admiral Jim Stockdale.

Stockdale was captured during the Vietnam War and spent eight years as a prisoner. While imprisoned, Stockdale realized fellow prisoners, who held high expectations of being freed, were the same ones who would die of despair when summer or Christmas arrived and they were still behind bars. The paradox, however, was that the prisoners who held onto their faith and belief that they would one day be free needed to com-

bine that belief with the realization of their circumstances.

Recognizing the potential mental devastation he too could face, Stockdale did that, choosing not to solely focus on freedom, but, instead, accepting the reality of the situation and absorbing the harshness of imprisonment while still believing he would see his family.

In order to have hope for the unknown, he would have to surrender to what destroyed hope.

### HOPE

This is the heart of a paradoxical situation: By attempting to cure one ailment you knowingly (and sometimes unknowingly) exacerbate or create another. I often discover this in patients challenged by health issues.

I am an absolute proponent for hope. It's important to believe you will prevail. However, simply holding on belief that your health will improve isn't enough.

In addition to believing you will get better, you must also accept the circumstances of where you are. The way you win and, more important-

ly, maintain control over your health, is not through passively believing that you will, but actively putting effort to effect change. This shift in thinking requires patients to add action to hope in a way that they are not seen as mutually exclusive, but a winning combination.

Achieving this winning combination includes: regular exercise, increasing water in-take, eating smaller meal portions, getting ample rest/sleep, and avoiding stress. When patients see me it is standard for them to leave with a customized treatment plan that contains a clear diagnosis and details that surround their condition.



Exercise, proper nutrition help solve health issues.

Through this understanding patients become empowered and are able to take a firm stand in gaining control over their health.

**Dr. Fidel Goldson, Jr., practices at Goldson Spine Rehabilitation Center in Florida.**



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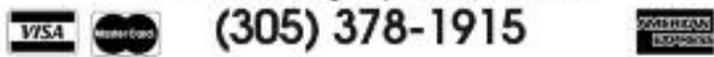


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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

# SILENT DANGER: Caribbean largely unaware of tuberculosis ~ PAHO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) says one in five people infected with tuberculosis in the Americas, including the Caribbean, remains unaware of the disease.

PAHO said this is due to “failure to access health services or because they are not properly diagnosed.”

In 2012, PAHO said

regional countries reported 220,000 cases of tuberculosis, and an estimated 19,000 people died from the disease. But it said an additional 60,000 people are believed to have TB, who have not yet been diagnosed.

**DANGER**

“This situation not only endangers their lives, it also facilitates further transmission

of TB, producing more disease and generating socioeconomic costs for individuals, families and communities,” PAHO warned.

It issued the statement in commemoration of World TB Day on Mar.



21 that sought to raise awareness on the tuberculosis burden in the world, as well as the efforts made for

tion has offered the opportunity to mobilize the political, economic and social commitment for the prevention and control of TB in the countries.

For the 2014 campaign, PAHO said it will follow the worldwide focus on TB diagnosis and case detection of those still not reached, “with emphasis in the Americas on vulnerable populations, social determinants and large cities.”

its prevention and control. Throughout the years, PAHO said this commemora-

## CHECK-UPS: What to ask the pediatrician about your child's health

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)   
 ue.

• **Bullies** - A bully can pose a true threat to a child's physical and mental well-

being. Your pediatrician is well equipped to answer questions about mental health, too. Teach kids how to respond confidently to bullies and

encourage them to tell an adult when there's a problem. Remember, bullying can occur online too. So keep tabs of your children's social media use.

• **College health** - For kids heading to college, ask your pediatrician about coordinating health care with the school.

More back to school health tips can be found at [www.HealthyChildren.org](http://www.HealthyChildren.org).

*Edited from StatePoint.*

## Two cities emerge Florida 'Health Weight' champions

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)   
 ping areas and other community facilities.

The City of Doral Trolley was launched on Feb. 1, 2008 to provide public transportation to residents, improve mobility within and outside the city, decrease the need for specialized transportation services and connect with the existing Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) services.

The city also created Get Fit Doral, a health and wellness initiative aimed at creating awareness of health-related issues that affect the community. A city ordinance was also created in 2012 requiring food and beverages sold in Doral vending machines and at city-owned concessions to meet specific nutritional

requirements. Within the vending machines, there are “Fit Pick” choices that meet the 35-10-35 nutrition standards (less than 35 percent fat, less than 10 percent saturated fats and less than 35 percent of total weight from sugar).

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

Miami-Dade participates in the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade where the county brings together representatives from the community to promote physical activity through active design relating to “walkability”, safety, building codes, zoning, diversity of recreational activity, accessibility, infrastructure, housing, schools, bicycles, transit and mixed use zoning.



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*Bruce Janku, MD, Medical Director of the Joint Replacement Center & Steven Noble, MD, Medical Director of Orthopaedic Trauma.*



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## Caribbean to establish Center of Excellence for Financial Services

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The third Caribbean Conference on the International Financial Services Sector ended here recently with an agreement to establish a Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Financial Services.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Bahamas Institute of Financial Services (BIFS) have agreed to work towards establishing the center that Bahamas Minister of Financial Services Ryan Pinder said was necessary for the continued development of the financial services in the region.

“Based upon over three decades of experience in providing professional certification and expertise in the financial services sector, the Bahamas Institute of Financial Services is eminently placed to provide the level of international credibility to the center’s offerings.

“This in conjunction with the University of the West Indies places the region in an extremely advantageous position to strengthen and advocate on behalf of a sector so critical to the region’s overall economic development,” he said.



Pinder

Dr. Don Marshall, UWI deputy dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Cave Hill campus, said the regional tertiary institution has been committed to providing institutional and research support into the activities of international financial service centers. He noted that for too long the area has been under researched.

### ATTENTION

“While the UWI has been serving the region well in relation to building up skills and so on, we have not paid enough attention as a university in producing sufficient knowledge that would assist in defending the sector, setting quality benchmarks and responding in a much more proactive way to

the kinds of pressures that we face as we are asked to undertake a treadmill of ever changing regulations,” he said.

Pinder told a news conference that the accord had been endorsed by the conference.

“To be able to bring our talents to a regional level for human capital development, is certainly a paramount goal of the region through the leadership and direction of the Caribbean Export

Development Agency, for me I am very proud to make this announcement today,” he said.

Pinder told reporters that the Center of Excellence had also received the backing of regional governments.

### COMMITMENT

Donville Innis, Barbados’s Minister of Industry, International Business Commerce and Small Business Development, said the agreement symbolizes a new level of commitment to facilitating growth in the sector.

“Our meetings have highlighted the importance of the financial services to our various economies and the need for us to work in a stronger collaborated manner. Many of these challenges that confront

us, emanate from outside the region, but we have a wonderful opportunity now to seize the opportunities that present themselves and to run forward with them.

“I’m sensing a renewed level of energy and a renewed level of energy and commitment to work across the



Marshall

Caribbean Sea to ensure that we fully understand the challenges,” Innis said.

Dr. Clarence Henry, Antigua and Barbuda’s ambassador to the Caribbean community (CARICOM), said the center will allow all IFC’s to further develop their products.

“For Antigua and Barbuda this marks a hallmark of something that has been long looked for, the establishment of a school of excellence – an institute that can provide enhance training in financial service disciplines.

“It will allow all IFC’s in the region to further develop their products and this bodes well for the economies of the individual territories,” he added.

Pinder said details relating to the funding of the center were now being fine-tuned.

“We will look to a variety of sources. We have been speaking and have cooperation we think with the European Union. A planning committee will also be put in place as we continue to build on the work being done and hopefully we will be in a position in the very short term to finalize the plans,” he said.

The creation of a regional center of excellence in financial services has been touted as the only way forward if the region is to face the challenges and volatility of the global world of financial services.

At the start of the conference late last month, Pinder said the Caribbean must commit to developing a platform of education and training regionally as international financial centers, particularly those in the region are being forced to re-assess their positions, their products and service offerings.

- Edited from CMC.



## Jamaican women entrepreneurs opportunity driven ~ study

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A recent study analyzing the characteristics and challenges facing women entrepreneurs in Jamaica and eight Latin American countries has found that they are opportunity driven rather than necessity driven.

The study also found that these women mention economic independence, passion and creating jobs as their main reasons for launching their business ventures.

The study, titled “WEGrow: Unlocking the Growth potential of Women Entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean”, was commissioned by the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), a member of the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) Group and produced by Ernst & Young. It analyzes high-growth women entrepreneurs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay, whose businesses have experienced growth rates of more than 20 percent for at least three years and compares them to those of their male counterparts, as well as those who reach lower growth rates.

### AMBITION

It is based on interviews with over 400 entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the region’s entrepreneurial ecosys-

tems in the nine countries.

According to the study, 85 percent of high-growth women entrepreneurs have the ambition to keep growing their business.

The IDB said that these high-growth businesses belong



- File photograph

More Caribbean women starting own businesses.

to traditional or non-mature sectors, such as food and beverages and services, which tend to have lower rates of potential growth than sectors like software and Internet, which are preferred by high-growth men entrepreneurs.

“These women can be an important source of growth because they create jobs, promote innovation and reduce the gender gap,” said Nancy Lee, MIF’s general manager.

“But until now, there has been very little research on

who they are and how they see their successes and challenges. We believe that this study will be very valuable in helping them grow their businesses, which will not only benefit women entrepreneurs themselves and their families, but will also have significant economic impact.”

### BARRIERS

According to the study, several barriers related to the sex of women entrepreneurs lessen or disappear as their business grow.

“Although many women mentioned that they had more difficulties than men when they started, 88 percent of high-growth women entrepreneurs stated that being a woman was not an obstacle to growing a business,” the IDB said.

It noted that women entrepreneurs initially imagine their businesses to be more restricted in reach. However, once the business grows their ambitions match those of male entrepreneurs.

Only 40 percent of women’s businesses have international reach, while 71 percent of men’s businesses cross borders.

- Edited from CMC.



## Growing wealth is next step to American Dream

Ever since the financial crisis of 2008, many pundits and experts have openly doubted the viability of achieving the American Dream.

Stephen Ng, founder and president of Stephen Ng Financial Group, ([www.stephennfg.com](http://www.stephennfg.com)) recommends three tips the every pre-retiree and retiree should know to help preserve their wealth:

- **Go to an independent retirement-planning advisor** - Financial planning can be confusing. An independent advisor, who is licensed in multiple products – insurance, annuities and more – allows for a higher degree of objectivity, tailoring options for a client’s specific needs. He or she will not be bound to a corporate agenda or limited in their knowledge.

Also, talk to the person who will be the architect of your financial future. Find out his or her values. How do they feel about their job? Are they patient in explaining your options? Do you trust your advisor?

- **Pre-retirees** - Know your start-date options for retirement. Be aware that in most cases, withdrawals from tax-deferred retirement plans

before age 59-and-a-half may be subject to a 10 percent federal income tax penalty.

The latest date to begin required minimum distributions is usually April 1 of the year after you turn age 70-and-a-half. In most cases, withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income.

- **Make sure you feel good about your annuity** - An annuity is a contract with an insurance company in which you make one or more payments in exchange for a future income stream in retirement. The funds in an annuity accumulate tax-deferred.

Fixed annuity contracts are issued with guaranteed minimum interest rates. Although the rate may be adjusted, it should never fall below a guaranteed minimum rate specified in the contract.

Keep in mind that annuity guarantees are subject to the claims-paying ability of the insurance company and contain fees and charges. All withdrawals of tax-deferred earnings are subject to current income tax.

- Edited from News and Experts.



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## PAYING TOO MUCH?: Avoid common causes of tax mistakes

Whether you've filed for an extension on your taxes this year or have waited until the last minute to complete paperwork, or want a better strategy for the future, chances are you could be doing a better job throughout the year to save on income taxes, says seasoned investment advisor Paul Taylor, a member of the National Ethics Bureau.

Forty-nine percent of United States taxpayers think they personally pay more than their fair share in taxes, according to 2013 Rasmussen reports.

"Come tax time, many of the other half could be doing more to legally and strategically save money," says Taylor, an architect-turned-founder and owner of Capital Advisory Group & Tax Planners of Lake Norman and Capital Investment Advisors, Inc. ([www.CapitalAdvGroup.com](http://www.CapitalAdvGroup.com)).

### ERRORS

He cites mistakes that many taxpayers are liable to make now and in future years.

• **Not knowing which tax deductions are available** - Tax reform measures are enacted frequently by Congress, which makes it hard for U.S. taxpayers

to know which deductions are currently available for maximizing savings. One of the most overlooked deductions is state and local sales taxes.

Taxpayers may be able to take deductions for student-loan interest, out-of-pocket charitable contributions, moving expenses to take a first job, the child care tax credit, new points on home refinancing, health insurance premiums, home mortgage interest, tax-preparation services and contributions to a traditional IRA.

• **Misunderstanding deduction value for medical expenses** - The Affordable Care Act has altered the guidelines for tax-deductible medical expenses. Effective Jan. 1, 2013, the new policy increased the threshold for the itemized deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses from 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income to 10 percent of adjusted gross income for regular tax purposes. The increase is waived for individuals age 65 and older for tax years 2013 through 2016.

• **Confusing when taxes**



Getting good advice is important.

**must be paid on IRA and employer-sponsored retirement funds** - Traditional IRAs and most employer-sponsored retirement plans are tax-deferred accounts, which mean they are typically funded with pre-tax or tax-deductible dollars. As a result, taxes are not payable until funds are withdrawn. Exceptions are the Roth IRA and the Roth 401(k) and Roth 403(b). Roth accounts are funded with after-tax dollars. That's why qualified distribu-

tions - after age 59½ and the five-year holding requirement has been met - are free of federal income tax.

• **Overlooking tax-advantaged investments** - Tax-advantaged investments can include real estate partnerships, oil and gas partnerships and suitability, which refers to how appropriate an investment may or may not be to an investor.

Two of the most common types of real estate partnerships, for example, are low-income housing and historic rehabilitation. The federal government grants tax credits to those who construct or rehabili-

tate low-income housing or who invest in the rehabilitation or preservation of historic structures.

• **Uncertainty when accounting for gift taxes** - The federal gift tax applies to gifts of property or money while the donor is living. The federal estate tax, on the other hand, applies to property conveyed to others, with the exception of a spouse, after a person's death.

There are several exceptions to gift taxes, including gifts of tuition or medical expenses that you pay directly to a medical or educational institution for someone else, gifts to a spouse who is a U.S. citizen, gifts to a qualified charitable organization and gifts to a political organization.

*Edited from News and Experts*



## Team Jamaica Bickle to mark 20 years service at Penn Relays

Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB) will mark 20 years of service to Jamaican and other Caribbean athletes at the 2014 Penn Relays.

TJB has provided hospitality for the athletes since 1994. The idea was based on a desire to provide a "home-away-from-home," atmosphere at one of the most prestigious track and field meets in the United States.

The effort started with the provision of meals. It expanded to include transportation, medical and chiropractic care, plus negotiation of favorable hotel rates resulting in what is essentially a team hotel for most of the Caribbean contingent at the event in Philadelphia.

"The idea to provide some creature comforts for the athletes was not met with widespread enthusiasm," according to TJB official Irwine Clare, Sr. "It was scoffed at; maybe the name was not so endearing as 'bickle' is not universal language. But (we) Jamaicans get it, so that familiarity appealed to us.

"It was grassroots. We are happy we were persistent and are proud of what we have been able to accomplish."

### GROWTH

Twenty years later the

program has grown from providing for dozens to (now) hundreds of athletes.

Additionally, the TJB umbrella now covers several other Caribbean nations and (some) U.S.-based Jamaican athletes who compete for various colleges.

"They see the Bickle tent, the familiar colors, hear the sweet strains of the music and it says 'home' to them," said Clare.

TJB's sponsorship and presence at the relays has also opened the door for several Jamaican brands which were introduced to an event with one of the largest gatherings of Jamaicans in the diaspora. Chief among the sponsors is Vincent HoSang, through his entities Caribbean Food Delights, Royal Caribbean Bakery and the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation. He embraced the vision then and now anchors the operations in Philadelphia.

TJB plans to honor Jamaican Olympian Dennis Johnson at its annual reception on **April 17** in New York. Johnson has devoted his life to track and field development and helped to raise the profile of Jamaica.



*My Dad, My Hero*  
True Stories of Loving Caribbean Fathers

Caribbean Today invites the public to share positive stories of Caribbean American fathers who are answering the call of duty. Fathers who, like mothers, are involved with their family and setting high standards and principles for young men and women to follow.

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DEADLINE FOR STORIES IS JUNE 12TH.

## Florida businessman dies

Joy Sawh, who along with his wife Sheila created the Caribbean business "Joy's Roti Delight" in South

Florida, died last month. Sawh was 61.



## St. Vincent and the Grenadines launches internship program

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent - The St. Vincent and the Grenadines government has launched its Supportive Education and Training (SET) program that it hopes will result in more than 100 graduates from post secondary and tertiary institutions completing a one-year internship at central government and statutory agencies.

The EC\$1.5 million (one EC dollar = US\$0.37 cents) initiative will be funded by Petrocaribe, the Venezuela oil alliance with several Caribbean governments.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who is also minister of finance, said that intern who have advance level and associate degree qualifications will receive a stipend of EC\$1,100 per month, while those with university degrees will receive EC\$2,200. He said that while the stipend could have been higher, this would have been that fewer persons would have been allowed to participate.

"So, I have to balance it between the money that I have and how I can be reasonable to you," Gonsalves told the interns at last month's launch.

### QUALIFIED

He said that the interns have a wide range of qualifica-

tions, including in computer science, water resources management, linguistics, law, divinity, accounting, information systems and technology, life sciences, and biology.

"Among this 106 persons, you are a vindication of the



Gonsalves

government's policy and your parents' sacrifice and investment," Gonsalves said, adding that public servants had selected the interns.

"All I said to them, make sure ... you select ... competitively, and make sure there is a widespread, from Union Island coming up all the way from North Leeward to North Windward, and every place in between, so that there is no geographic discrimination," Gonsalves said.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

## Florida rewards college collaboration with grants

As part of an ambitious effort to align university and college degrees with the state's workforce needs, Florida's Board of Governors recently awarded \$15 million in grants to four collaborative university projects.

A newly formed consortium among Florida International University, the University of Central Florida and the University of South Florida led the way, receiving \$8.5 million for two projects.

The Targeted Educational Attainment (TEAm) grants, funded by the Florida Legislature and approved by Governor Rick Scott, are designed to produce more graduates for careers in the state's highest-need areas, as identified by a Board of Governors gap analysis.

The awards mark a major accomplishment for FIU, UCF and USF, which collec-

tively received the grants to address gaps in the areas of information technology and accounting, respectively. The two proposals were:

- UCF, USF and FIU will receive \$4.9 million for an urban university coalition response to Florida computer information technology workforce needs.

- USF, UCF and FIU will receive a combined \$3.6 million for an innovative and collaborative approach to increasing the supply of quality accounting graduates in Florida.

### SHARE

The universities, located in Florida's three largest metropolitan areas and collectively serving about half of the students in the state university system, have recently formed the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Universities. Through this consortium, the

universities will share best practices, policies and programs to provide maximized career-readiness, particularly among under-represented and limited-income students.

Examples include enhanced predictive analytics to better track students' degree progress, more targeted support through mentors and advisers, and closer partnerships with local companies to open up more internship or practicum opportunities.

The universities will also explore ways to maximize efficiencies by sharing things like software programs or student tracking systems to continue upward trends in student retention, completion and career placement.

The universities will use the shared knowledge to tackle the projects funded through these TEAm grants.



## Jamaican educators in Miami-Dade mark 20th year

The Jamaican Association of Miami-Dade Educators (JAMDE) will celebrate its 20th anniversary as a service and professional organization at its annual awards banquet

on **May 3** at Miami Marriott Dadeland Hotel.

The main purpose of the banquet, which begins at 8:30 p.m., is to award scholarships to high school graduates.

The Marriott Dadeland Hotel is located at 9090 S. Dadeland Blvd.



## HIGHEST HONOR



Bahamian Carey Cole, right, a student at the Vanguard School in Lake Wales, Florida, receives his golden National Honors Society pin from the Vanguard School President Dr. Cathy Wooley-Brown at a special ceremony during the school's annual family weekend recently. Carey, who has Asperger's - the high-performing form of autism, was admitted into NHS, the highest academic organization in United States high schools. He is the son of Mario and Venita Carey of Nassau. Carey was one of two students honored, the other recipient's family requested anonymity.

## Successful Caribbean Women In Business



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

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

If you would like to nominate someone please send your nominees to [editor@caribbeantoday.com](mailto:editor@caribbeantoday.com) or [peter.webley@caribbeantoday.com](mailto:peter.webley@caribbeantoday.com)

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## Alcohol, marijuana drugs choice of by Grenada's secondary students ~ survey

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – A survey on the use of drugs by secondary school children in Grenada has found that alcohol and marijuana were among the main substances of choice for students and that almost a third would try a substance if given the opportunity.

Overall, the substance of choice with secondary school students is alcohol (72 percent), followed by cigarettes (27 percent), marijuana (20 percent) and inhalants and solvents (16 percent). Fewer

than 10 percent of the students reported using other substances.

The report on the third Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey was released here recently.

The survey involved 1,493 second, third, fourth and five form students in Grenada and was carried out in April last year. It involved 17 secondary schools selected randomly from the public and private sectors.



Students turn to pot.

### OBJECTIVES

In her report, Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Young, professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine at St. George's University, noted that the objective of the survey was to determine the prevalence and incidence of drug use among secondary school students in Grenada.

It was also intended to establish comparisons with the results of the first and second

secondary school drug prevalence surveys conducted in 2002 and 2005 as a means of informing policy makers of changes in prevalence and incidence and new findings.

"The limitations of the results of this study reflect the reliance on self-reporting drug use. In general, self-reporting of adolescents provides an under-estimate of the prevalence of drug use because of the under reporting.

"People are prone to under report use or some people might report things they are not doing. Because the survey was very long, there is a possibility that participants were fatigued and did not take time in reading and responding to questions," Dr. Hagamin-Young wrote.

The survey found, overall, the prevalence of substance use in Grenada has decreased in 2013 when compared to 2002 and 2005. But it found that alcohol is the number one

drug among adolescents. In addition, overall there is a reduction in alcohol use among secondary school students in Grenada with the current and past year use going back to pre-Hurricane Ivan levels.

However, the results show among that the proportion of students consuming alcohol, males had a larger proportion reduction than females; possibly because there were more efforts in alcohol reduction directed toward males. The results also showed that the reduction of alcohol consumption varied based on form level with second form students having the highest level of reduction.

The survey found that prevention programs and health awareness forums were having a positive impact.

### CURIOSITY

The report also found that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

## 'Discover' series at AARLCC

Two in a series of "discover" class sessions conducted by educator Joyce H. Clark will be held this month at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The sessions, designed for families, adults and young people, will be held from 3:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 12 and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 26. The topics are "Discovering My

Sexuality" and "Discovering My Spirituality", respectively.

Dr. Clark is a retired Chicago Public Schools educator with more than 40 years of experience in the field of education in the areas of teaching, counseling, and administration in public schools, postsecondary education and educational management consulting to local, state

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

## Confab to address mental health of black male youth

Providing mental health professionals with information on best practices to equip them with tools to produce positive outcomes in the lives of black male youth will be the focus the "Black Male Youth Mental Health Conference" from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 18 in Miami, Florida.

The conference, to be held at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., will include discussions on education, emotional health, community and family engagement.

Dr. William Lawson, a Howard University professor, author and speaker, is the

scheduled keynote speaker. He will be joined by several other speakers and panelists.

### FOLLOW-UP

The conference is the first of a three part series that will include two post event forums for parents, caregivers and youth. Those forums will take place on May 13 at the North Dade Regional Library, and on May 15 at the South Dade Regional Library. Events are free and will take place from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, visit MDEAT's website: [www.miamidade.gov/economicadvocacyt.rust](http://www.miamidade.gov/economicadvocacyt.rust).



## St. Vincent and the Grenadines launches internship program

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

### NO JOY RIDE

He warned the interns that the program is "not a joyride.

"Laziness is an absence of virtue. You must work. A progressive society has never been built anywhere in the world on leisure pleasure and nice time," Gonsalves said.

"Please have a good work ethic and produce," he further stated, adding that the public service has "its own peculiari-

ties" to which interns might have to adjust.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary, Kattian Barnwell explained that the SET program is a pilot in a project expected to become an annual program. She said the aim is to provide recent graduates of the community college and university with the opportunity to gain work experience.

- Edited from CMC.



## MDC to host 40th FCSA Leadership Conference

Some 700 college students of Caribbean descent from across the United States are expected to attend the 40th Florida Caribbean Students Association (FCSA) Leadership Conference this month.

The conference is scheduled for April 4-6 at Miami Dade College's (MDC) North Campus.

Florida Congresswoman Frederica Wilson is scheduled to give the welcome remarks.

The conference, titled "Empowering the Next Generation of Caribbean Leaders, will feature lectures, leadership and professional development workshops, a tal-



Montano

ent show and family picnic. It will explore cultural, leadership and civic engagement in the Caribbean community and showcase student talent.

Caribbean music ambas-

sador Machel Montano is the scheduled keynote speaker.

FCSA provides a statewide platform of leadership development, civic engagement, community service and cultural awareness among college and university students of Caribbean descent.

The conference is being held in collaboration with MDC's Tropical Beat Caribbean Student Association.

The MDC North Campus is located at 11380 N.W. 27th Ave. in Miami, Florida.



## FIRST IN CLASS



Barry University's first graduating cohort of Bahamian social work students received their degrees at a recent commencement ceremony in South Florida. Guest of honor Melanie Griffin, third left, minister of social work for The Bahamas, is joined at the event by graduates, from left, Jenny Lain, Julita Ingraham, Phyllis Scott, dean of Barry's School of Social Work, Ettamae Jones and Andrea Newbold.

## LEARNING CURVE: Why college students should also run a business

These days, it seems as though Americans are spending more for college while getting less value in return – a trend research validates, says entrepreneur Matt Stewart.

“The average cost for an in-state public college is \$22,261, and a moderate budget for a private college averaged \$43,289 for the 2012–2013 academic year; for elite schools, we’re talking about three times the cost of your local state school,” says Stewart, a spokesperson for College Works Painting, (www.collegeworks.com), which provides practical and life-changing business experience for college students who have shown potential for success.

Interns operate their own house-painting business with hands-on guidance from mentors.

Making matters worse, adults in their 30s have 21 percent less net worth than 30-somethings 30 years ago, according to a new Urban Institute report.

“More students are being saddled with long-term debt while getting less value for their education,” Stewart says. “Because of the difficulty recent college grads are having finding jobs in today’s tough economy; today’s stu-



Photograph obtained from Triangle Business Journal.

Painting houses is good business for students.

dents may have even less worth in their 30s than 30-somethings today.”

### OUTSIDE-THE-BOX

To add value to their professional career, Stewart encourages students to seek outside-the-box avenues for increasing their career stock while in college. Running a business is a great way to do that; he explains why.

• **Employers love ambition** - A college degree is the minimum qualification employers are seeking. What hiring managers are looking

for is that something extra when reviewing a stack of qualified resumes. At the heart of the economy is innovation; it’s the difference between simply existing in a market, and thriving in one. Employers know they need people with creativity and gumption for innovation.

• **Real-world management of time and money** - College is a time when young adults learn to live autonomously. It’s the rare student, however, who learns to manage his or her own affairs and the most precious resources in the busi-

ness world – time and money. Managing employees, driving sales, developing specific skills for a real market and building strong customer relationships are best learned with hands-on experience.

• **Learn where they need help** - What do you do well and where do you need help? The best way to know with any certainty is through experience. Running a business while attending college allows students to circle back to their education and focus on their trouble areas by adjusting their curriculum in future semester.

• **Develop meaningful bonds** - One of the most meaningful aspects of the college experience is the relationships students develop with each other, which often have professional consequences after college. Enlisting the help of fellow students for a common business purpose tends to have a powerful bonding effect.

• **Immediate ROI – finding phenomenal success** - Most students who run a business during college will not prove to be the next Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg or David Geffen, which is precisely why students should not drop out of college like those pioneers did. However, a student doesn’t have to be the

next Zuckerberg to experience amazing success as an entrepreneur. College Hunks Moving Junk is just one recent example that began in an entrepreneurial student mind.

- Edited from News and Experts.



## ‘Discover’ series at AARLCC

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

and national agencies.

### RESEARCH

She is recognized for her research in factors that influence the identity development and self-concept of youth of African descent. She has initiated and facilitated innovative programs including INROADS, High School Health Clinics, Teen Moms: Pregnancy Intervention Programs and Seminars, Sister/Friend IMP, Intergenerational Mentorship Program and is President, EM CO Educational Management Consulting, LLC.

Dr. Clark is a founder and past national president of The Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development - a Division of The American Counseling Association. She also is a member of The National Council of African Women (South Africa), BISA-Black Women In Sisterhood for Action, The Association for The Study of Classical African Civilizations, The National Council of Negro Women, The National Association of Pupil Services Administrators, The Chicago Prairie Tennis Club and South Shore Ladies Golf League.

The AARLCC is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. For more information, call the Welcome Desk at 954-357-6210.



## MDC student is ‘Miss Black Florida U.S. Ambassador’

Kiana Rouchon, a sophomore at Miami Dade College’s (MDC) Wolfson Campus who was born to parents of Haitian descent, was recently crowned “Miss Black Florida U.S. Ambassador 2014”.

Rouchon will compete for the title of “Miss Black U.S. Ambassador” in July.

The Miss Black U.S. Ambassador Scholarship Pageant serves as a platform for women of color to express viewpoints, demonstrate talents and showcase not just looks, but also their mind.

Rouchon is expected to embark on a journey to encourage, empower, and



Rouchon

enlighten communities by raising awareness about major issues plaguing African Americans in Florida, and

provide educational forums and events that focus on health disparities, poverty, violence, among other concerns. She is expected to serve as a role model not only to young African American women, but to women around the world and partner with key political figures and national initiatives to bring support to their efforts and platforms.

### CAREER GOALS

The psychology major has been active in community service before her reign, dedicating more than 450 hours to young girls as a mentor of “Strong

Women, Strong Girls”.

She is planning on using this experience to advocate for mentorships and empowering girls to become strong women. Last year, she was honored with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award and the Outstanding Chapter Mentor Award.

Rouchon served as president of the inaugural graduating class of 2012 at Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School. She is currently completing her associate in arts degree at MDC and hopes to become a counselor.



## Alcohol, marijuana drugs choice of by Grenada's secondary students ~ survey

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

marijuana use is the second most popular drug that is presently being used among secondary school students with the data showing that the majority of students currently not using any substance were curious to try marijuana.

“The results show though that marijuana use has decreased drastically in 2013. Nevertheless, it is noted that there is more decrease in males than females and that the issue of use is after 3rd

form,” the survey found, noting also a drastic reduction in cigarette smoking.

“As it relates to access, the ease of access reduces with harder drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and crack. Moreover, marijuana is accessed more through friends while harder drugs are accessed at social events. The results show though that overall the majority of students see drugs at or around school.

“The data also shows that of the students not using sub-

stances, almost a third would try a substance if given the opportunity,” the report noted, adding that the data shows an increase in inhalant use, particularly among the fourth form students with males reportedly having higher rates of use.

### CONCERN

The report noted that the major areas of concern regarding drug use among secondary school students in Grenada include low level of drug pre-

vention education, the potential for peer motivated drug use, accessibility of illicit drugs, the significant consumption of alcohol, marijuana and cigarette, and inhalants and solvents among secondary school students.

It has recommended the development and implementation of tobacco legislation for the state as a means of dealing with the situation. In addition, the report calls for increasing the awareness of national school policy on drugs and link

the policy to the Education Act.

The formulation of a national alcohol policy, amending the Liquor Dealers’ License Act, increasing drug prevention and awareness programs as well as targeting specific forms, are among the recommendations outlined in the report.

- Edited from CMC.



# LITERATURE



## 'Power Game' shines spotlight on Jamaica's turbulent '70s

**TITLE: POWER GAME**  
**AUTHOR:**  
**PERRY HENZELL**  
**REVIEWED BY:**  
**MARIE GREGORY**

Mention the name Perry Henzell and the film "The Harder They Come" probably springs to mind.

Born in Annotto Bay, St. Mary, Henzell was versed in the nuances of Jamaican society. By the time he wrote "Power Game", he had seen Jamaica survive the upheaval of the 1970s and the rejection of the democratic socialism experiment. The book, first published in 1982, can be read and enjoyed today by everyone.

Those with limited or no knowledge of Jamaica can read it as fast paced adventure, almost like a James Bond novel. Jamaicans under age 40 will enjoy the pace and the

sounds of home, especially with the skilful use of patois and the power of reggae. Highest impact of all will be on those readers who lived through the '70s.

### THIN DISGUISE

The island in the book is not identified as Jamaica, but the disguise is thin. Add to the mix bauxite, ganja, reggae and ambitious men and women and you have the makings of a convincing action packed story.

The main characters are fascinating. The Bernard brothers, Mark and Winston, are powerful. Winston's wife Michelle controls the media through her radio station; her brother Eddie the ganja trade cash. The prime minister is their cousin. Zack controls the streets.

The prime minister is "in power because ... he was a star

orator ... playing one of the most glamorous roles imaginable."

Society is shown at all levels and the interactions reveal deep divisions. As the climax approaches, the ambitions of the protagonists are revealed. Loyalties and family ties are challenged. The poor suffer most.

Henzell, who died in Jamaica in 2006, provides much to ponder - personal or national ambition, the power of music and the media, family relationships and failings of elected leaders. He clearly understood the workings of Jamaica.

"Power Game" is entertaining and thought provoking work. Highly recommended.

*Marie Gregory is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.*



## AARLCC to host 'National Poetry Month' contest

BROWARD COUNTY, Florida. - To celebrate April as National Poetry Month, the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) here will host an event at 2 p.m. April 19.

There will be four categories of poetry awards. The

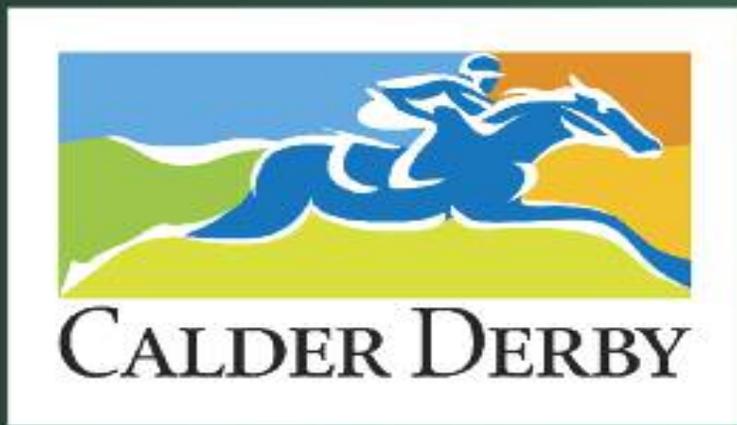
age categories are as follows: Group A: 13 to 16; Group B: 17 to 19; Group C: 20 to 24; and Group D: 25 and over.

Participants can recite original poems or choose others. The event is free and open to the public.

Registration is required.

Call Desmond Hannibal at 954-357-6224, Steve Vinik at 954-357-6190 or Larry Holland at 954-357-5950.

The AARLCC is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

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