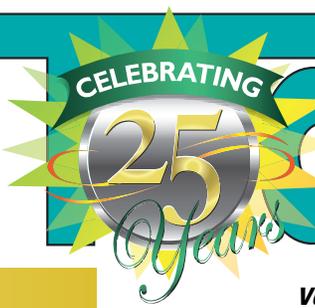


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Vol. 25 No. 6

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LOST AND FOUND

~ For more than 50 years, Caribbean-born, United States-based musician Delvon "Bulby" Campbell believed he had no family. Then a chance encounter in South Florida started him on an incredible road to discovery of relatives he never knew existed, page 7.



A significant number of Caribbean nationals were deported after committing minor infractions, including traffic violations, since President Barack Obama assumed office, according to an analysis of internal United States government records, page 3.



The Florida Senate has voted to allow undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities, bringing to an end a fight that spanned more than a decade, page 5.

TAX BACK TRACK

~ Last month Jamaica's government, led by Portia Simpson Miller, announced its intention to tax bank withdrawals starting June 1. Now public outrage from account holders in the Caribbean island and the diaspora has forced the government to scrap that plan, page 2.



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PRESSURE POINT: Jamaica scraps plan to tax bank withdrawals

Plans to impose a tax on bank withdrawals, as part of revenue measures for the 2014/2015 financial year, have been scrapped by the Jamaica government.

Faced with intense opposition to the proposed tax, from Jamaicans at home and in the diaspora, the administration of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller decided late last month to look elsewhere to collect revenues for the budget.

Finance Minister Dr. Peter Phillips, who made the announcement as he closed the Budget Debate on April 30, said the gap will be filled by the life insurance industry.

“The first being the introduction of a 15 percent withholding tax on all insurance premiums paid by Jamaican residents to non residents, premiums paid by Jamaican residents to registered Jamaican insurance companies will be exempt,” Phillips said.

“The objective of this measure is to assist us in improving compliance while we strive to protect the most vulnerable.”

Jamaicans had staged various forms of protest on the Caribbean island to voice their disapproval of the bank tax, which was originally scheduled to come into effect June 1. Overseas, where many

of the diaspora still hold bank accounts in Jamaica, the news of the new tax was equally disturbing.

MODIFICATIONS

Phillips also announced a modification of the tax relating to imported service. There has also been a delay to the tax regime on alcoholic beverages in the tourism sector.

“This is in response to a request from the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association for additional time to look at implementing this measure,” said Phillips. “This will result in a revenue loss of approximately J\$36 million.”

Citizens Action for



Phillips

Principle and Integrity (CAPI) welcomed the government's decision to reverse the bank withdrawal tax, which its

says was widely perceived to be unjust. CAPI said going forward it is urging the government to recognize the value of consultation in crafting future budgets and its usefulness in facilitating consensus on national issues.

According to the group, it is hopeful that this signals a new era of governance, in which passive protest and resistance are enough to dissuade the government, instead of resorting to radical and disruptive methods of protest.

- Edited from CMC and other sources.



Jamaican at Barry University receives prestigious honor

MIAMI, Florida - Barry University freshman John Powell, a resident of the parish of St. Elizabeth's Parish in Jamaica, has received the Jamaican Prime Minister's Youth Award for Excellence in 2014.

Powell was one of 23 Jamaicans to receive the award from Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller during a ceremony on last month in Kingston.

The Jamaican Prime Minister's Youth Awards for Excellence are presented each year to Jamaicans between the ages of 15 and 24 for outstanding achievement in agriculture, arts and culture, entrepreneurship, international achievement, journalism, youth in service, leadership, and sports and youth work.

Powell, 20, is a recipient of the Stamps Leadership Scholarship. Founded by South Florida philanthropists Penny and E. Roe Stamps, the scholarship is awarded yearly to the best and brightest students and the most promising future leaders at 39 universi-

ties throughout the country. The Stamps Leadership Scholars Program provides full tuition and room and board over four years, plus funds for study abroad, undergraduate research, and other exceptional learning experiences.



Powell

STANDOUT

Powell is the first Jamaican to be named an international Stamps Leadership Scholar. He previously served as a representative of the Stamp's Leadership Program at the Undergraduate Scholar's Programs Administrator's Conference in San Antonio, Texas in Nov. 2013.

Powell was selected as the youngest and only Jamaican to represent Jamaica and the Caribbean at the United Nations Alliance of Civilization's 5th Vienne Youth and Global Forums in

Austria in 2013. Fluent in both Spanish and French, Powell was selected as the winner of the LabCitoyen French competition in Jamaica, to represent Jamaica and the English speaking Caribbean in Paris and Nantes, France.

In addition, Powell is the current president of Barry University's Model United Nations organization, which he recently helped re-organize after a five-year hiatus; and the treasurer of Barry's All-Nighter for the Poor Initiative. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi Society for Leadership and Success, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, M.A.L.E.S, Caribbean Students Association (CSA).

In 2014, 94 youth were nominated for the Jamaican Prime minister's Youth Award for Excellence. Powell is among 23 individuals and two organizations that were recognized for the award.



2014 Caribbean remittances to remain robust despite deportations ~ World Bank

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The World Bank says remittances to the Caribbean are expected

to remain robust this year, despite increased deportations of migrant workers.

The Washington, D.C.-based financial institution said that migrants from developing countries, including the Caribbean, are expected to send \$436 billion in remittances to their home countries this year.

According to the latest issue of the bank's Migration and Development Brief, this year's remittance flows to developing countries will increase by 7.8 percent over the 2013 volume of \$404 billion, rising to \$516 billion in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Reality Check: Caribbean nationals deported for minor crimes ~ U.S. records

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A significant number of Caribbean nationals were deported after committing minor infractions, including traffic violations, according to an analysis of internal United States government records since President Barack Obama assumed office.

The figures showed that two-thirds of the nearly two million deportation cases involve Caribbean and other immigrants.

The study, conducted by the **New York Times** newspaper, found that 20 percent, or about 394,000 of the cases involved immigrants convicted of serious crimes, including drug-related offenses. The paper said an examination of the Obama administration's record shows how the disconnect evolved between the president's stated goal of blunting what he called the harsh edge of immigration enforcement and the reality that has played out.

Obama came to office promising comprehensive immigration reform, but lacking sufficient support, the



Obama pensive

administration took steps it portrayed as narrowing the focus of enforcement efforts on serious criminals.

GROWTH

Yet the records show that the enforcement net actually grew, said the newspaper, adding that its analysis is based on government data covering more than 3.2 million deportations over 10 years, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

According to the records, the largest increases were in deportations involving illegal immigrants, whose most serious offense was listed as a traffic violation, including

driving under the influence.

"For years, the Obama administration's spin has been that they are simply deporting so-called "criminal aliens," but the numbers speak for themselves," said Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center.

"In truth, this administration, more than any other, has devastated immigrant communities across the country, tearing families away from loved ones, simply because they drove without a license, or re-entered the country desperately trying to be reunited with their family members," she added.

But Obama administration officials say the deportations are a result of a decade in which the U.S. Congress has passed tougher immigration laws, increased funding for enforcement and stymied efforts to lay out a path to legal residency for the bulk of nation's 11.5 million illegal immigrants.

- Edited from CMC.



Haitian boy survives shooting in N.Y., returns to school

BROOKLYN, New York - A Haitian family watched their horror turn to joy last month as their son not only survived a shooting, but returned to school.

Gama Droiville, 13, was shot in the head as he stood waiting for the bus to take him home last month, after a 21-year-old gunman opened fire on a Brooklyn street. Police say the boy was not the intended target and the shooting was gang related.

For a while, his family, who sought temporary refuge in New York after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, did not know if he would make it. Droiville underwent emergency surgery and spent over a week in the hospital. Throughout it though, he displayed tremendous courage and has inspired many with his calm demeanor, which he credits to his unwavering faith in the Lord.

THANKS

On April 28, Droiville walked back into his school assembly at IS 285 with his family and several New York City Council members wear-

ing a patch over one eye. He took the time to thank people for their support.

"I just want to say thank you for all the support and prayers and to still keep me in prayers and hope I get better," said the teenager, who has already undergone extensive surgery and doctors say he will need much more medical care.

Droiville has been left with a life altering injury, the loss of use of his right eye. He and his family are reaching out for financial help needed to pay bills their Medicaid may not cover.

"Kings County (hospital) sent a bill to the family for some of the services," said Grenadian American City Councilmember Jumaane Williams. "We hope it was erroneous, but if it wasn't they're going to need assistance."

- Edited from News Americas.



Droiville

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U.S. congressman to re-introduce legislation studying Caribbean slavery reparations

CHICAGO, Illinois – A prominent United States lawmaker says he will re-introduce legislation in the Congress to study reparations for African Americans as Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries push ahead with plans for reparation from Europe.

“It is the most important piece of legislation I have ever introduced, and I will re-introduce HR40 in the 113th Congress,” John Conyers, a Democrat, told an audience at the recent “Revitalizing The Reparations Movement” conference at Chicago State University.

The event was organized by the New York-based Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), in collaboration with the U.S. Center for Inner City Studies and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference.

MOVEMENT

Conyers, who is also dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, said the actions of CARICOM countries in demanding reparations from Europe over slavery will revitalize the movement in the



Conyers

U.S. **‘SPRINGBOARD’**

“I think it is going to be a springboard for reparations,” he said as CARICOM countries say they are prepared to go as far as the Hague-headquartered World Court on the issue.

To date, Sweden is the only country that has indicated willingness to negotiate reparations.

Conyers first introduced the measure, titled “Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act”, in 1989 during the 101th

Congress. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, where he is the ranking member. The eight-page legislation, which was co-introduced by U.S. Congressman Bobby Scott, said four million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the U.S. and colonies that became the U.S. from 1619 to 1865.

The bill claimed that the U.S. government sanctioned slavery from 1789 through 1865, enabling it to flourish.

Conyers said he wants to hold hearings in Washington about reparations for African Americans, adding: “If the Republican Congress blocks the hearings, I will hold them throughout the country.”

LESSON

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, principal and pro-vice chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, told the

conference that the British government paid the slave-holders 40 percent of the empire’s national expenditures, which was 20 million



British pounds and now estimated at \$200 billion.

Sir Hilary, a professor of economic history and author of “Britain’s Black Debt: Reparations for Caribbean Slavery and Native Genocide”, delivered the keynote address in the absence of St. Vincent

and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the CARICOM chairman, who was unable to attend.

Sir Hilary gave his audience a history lesson about slavery in the Caribbean that observers say would never be taught in US classrooms or appear on movie screens. He said British slave ships transported 3.3 million Africans to the plantations in the New World, where slaves were worked to death as a form of genocide.

Rhonda King, St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ ambassador to the United Nations, who also addressed the conference, noted Gonsalves’s insistence that “we must continue to advocate for reparations in all international fora that it must be a centerpiece of our region’s foreign and domestic policies.”

- Edited from CMC.

Caribbean remittances to remain robust despite deportations ~ World Bank

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

2016. The document noted that global remittances, including those to high-income countries, are estimated at \$581 billion this year, from \$542 billion in 2013, rising to \$681 billion in 2016.

KEY

The World Bank said remittances remain a key source of external resource flows for developing countries, far exceeding official development assistance and more stable than private debt and portfolio equity flows.

For many Caribbean and other developing countries, the bank said remittances are “an important source of foreign exchange, surpassing earnings from major exports, and covering a substantial portion of imports”.

Kaushik Basu, senior vice

president and chief economist of the World Bank, said “remittances have become a major component of the balance of payments of nations.

“There is no doubt that these flows act as an antidote to poverty and promote prosperity,” he said, noting that remittances and migration data were also “barometers of global peace and turmoil, and this is what makes World Bank’s KNOMAD initiative to organize, analyze, and make available these data so important.”

RISKS

The Migration and Development Brief noted that while the medium term outlook for remittances is strong, downside risks loom mainly from migrants’ return to their home countries as a result of conflict or deportation from host countries.

According to the brief,

last year saw an “intensification of deportations”, over 368,000 people deported from the U.S. to their home countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The World Bank said remittance flows to countries in the Caribbean and Latin America grew slightly by 1.9 percent in 2013 to reach \$61 billion. Following a 13-month decline, the bank said remittance flows to the region began recovering in the second half of 2013. It said the positive impetus from the American economic recovery was “partly offset by removals of migrants from the U.S.”.

In the medium term, the World Bank said improving employment conditions in the U.S. “point to stronger growth in remittances” which are expected to reach \$81 billion by 2016.



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Florida Senate approves in-state tuition for undocumented Caribbean students

TALLAHASSEE, Florida – The Florida Senate has voted to allow undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities, bringing to an end a fight that spanned more than a decade.

“The eyes of America are

on us,” said Republican Senator Jack Latvala, co-sponsor of the bill after the 26-13 vote. “I think we’re setting an example. I think we’re doing the right thing.”

However the bill must return to the house for final passage, due to slight changes. But both House

Speaker Will Weatherford and Florida Governor Rick Scott said the new language wouldn’t hurt the controversial bill’s chances of becoming law.

“I look forward to signing this bill,” Scott said on May 2. “This is a historic day. Just think children that grew up in our state will now get the

same tuition as their peers.”

The measure would make Florida the 21st state in the United States to offer in-state tuition rates to undocumented students, but only young adults who attended a Florida high school for at least three years would qualify.

The Senate estimates

about 1,300 students would be eligible annually, noting that undocumented Caribbean and other students currently pay the out-of-state rate, which is three to four times the rate offered to Florida residents.



SUM OF FEARS: Dramatic rise in remittance costs to Caribbean

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The World Bank has voiced concern about what it described as the exorbitant cost of sending remittances to the Caribbean and other places, saying that forcing migrant workers to pay as much as \$50 to send \$200 is “wrong.”

The Washington-based financial institution said this is especially so when workers are “sending salaries they have earned in the hope of supporting their families back home.” It said \$200 often is a significant sum for migrants’ family income.

“There was little price transparency and no global effort to address this problem until the World Bank helped form a coalition to monitor the process and create a ‘one-stop shop’ information system



High charges hurting regional families.

include a lack of transparency and consumer protection, legal and regulatory obstacles, a lack of payment system infrastructures and access to payment systems, a weak market environment without a proper competition, and weak risk-management and governance practices.

PROBLEMS

These problems were discussed as the World Bank-led coalition joined in creating a new international standard called the General Principles for International Remittance Services, published in 2007. The World Bank noted that, in 2009, heads of state of the world’s industrialized powers made a commitment to reducing the global average cost by five percentage points in five years – the so-called “5x5 objective”. In addition, the World Bank said it has provided a “variety of effective solu-

tions” to addressing a high cost of sending remittances at the global, country, and municipality levels.

It said the Global Remittances Working Group, that it has established, has provided technical inputs and advice to partners to achieve the objective, together

with monitoring the global remittance costs through RPW.

At the country level, the World Bank said it provided technical assistance to client countries to improve their remittance markets by

addressing problems and obstacles through implementing the General Principles for International Remittance Services.

CUTBACK

As a result, the bank said the cost of sending remittances has been reduced to about \$42.48 billion from 2009 to 2013 at the global level. It said the global average of sending a remittance of US\$200 came down from 9.81 percent to 8.95 percent, in the normal average, and from 8.58 percent to 6.62 percent in the weighted average from 2008.

“Remittances are proven to be essential for the poor not only for their income but also for financial inclusion,

education, health, and investments,” the World Bank said. “A reduction of remittance costs means more money is kept in the hands of migrants and their families.”

The World Bank has also said that remittances to the Caribbean and other developing countries are expected to remain robust this year, despite increased deportations of migrant workers.

The bank said migrants from developing countries, including the Caribbean, are expected to send \$436 billion in remittances to their home countries this year.

- Edited from CMC.



“A reduction of remittance costs means more money is kept in the hands of migrants and their families”

– World Bank

to help remittance-senders compare services and costs,” the statement said.

The World Bank said the high cost of transferring remittances internationally has typically been caused by a combination of obstacles in each local market, both in sending and receiving countries. These



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South Florida counties to host Haitian Heritage Month events in May

Haiti's history, culture and contributions to the United States and the world will be marked in May with several events in South Florida. Haitian Heritage Month was first celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts in 1998. Tele Kreyol, one of the Boston Haitian Access Television programs, marked it with a series of programs. This year, Broward and Palm Beach counties in Florida plan to host the following:

May 8 - Documentary presentation and debate "Aristide and The Endless Revolution", **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at West Boynton Beach Branch Library, 9451 Jog Rd., Boynton Beach.

May 10 - Piti, Piti, zawzo fe

nich li - Little by little, the bird makes its nest, a lecture on Heritage Cultural of the Haitian Diaspora, **2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**, North Regional/Broward College Library, 1000 Coconut Creek Parkway, Coconut Creek.

May 13 - Haitian Heritage Month essay contest winner prize presentation, **4:45 p.m.**, Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center, 3300 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach.

May 16 - Community Reception, **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, Toussaint L'Ouverture High School, 301 S.W. 12th Ave., Delray Beach.

May 17 - Afro-Caribbean Festival, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Delray Beach Tennis Center.

Haitian Heritage Book Festival and Essay Presentation, **2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Greenacres Library, 3750 Jog Rd., Greenacres.

May 20 - Documentary and discussion "Aristide and the Endless Revolution", **6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, Main Library, 3650 Summit Blvd West Palm Beach.

May 22 - Haitian Heritage History and Culture Presentation, **2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**, West Boynton Beach Branch Library.

May 28 - Haitian Heritage History and Culture, **6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**, Main Library, West Palm Beach.



FYI

Di Angel, Mad Cobra, Papa San, Wayne Marshall and Tarrus Riley are among those listed to appear at the event, which will also feature a celebrity soccer game.

For more information, call **857-232-0095**.

HAITI'S REP

Francois Guillaume, II has been appointed minister of Haitians living abroad.

Guillaume served as the executive director of the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida from Nov. 2006 to Dec. 2011. From 2009 to 2011, he represented the chamber on the board of the Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC). He has been active in South Florida's Haitian community.

In Jan. 2012, Guillaume was nominated to serve the consul general of Haiti in Miami.

"Mr. Guillaume is a friend of HAPC. We are looking to work with him in order to move forward for the best interests of the Haitian community in South Florida," HAPC Chairman Sevigne

Castor noted in a recent press release.

COMMUNITY BASH

The Miriam Dean Pratt Community Center, in conjunction with the Ascension Community Development Corporation, Inc. will host the first Ascension Community Day Bash this month.

The event, a celebration of the community center's multicultural activities and outreach ministries, will be held at **11 a.m. May 31** at 11201 S.W. 160th St., Miami, Florida.

Entertainment will be provided by WZAB-880 AM radio DJ Cleve Osborne. Local talent, including steel pan, reggae, calypso and junkanoo music, will be provided. A variety of prizes will also be available.

For more information, including tickets, call **305-283-0343**.

AFRICAN HERITAGE

Registration is now open for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center 39th Annual Summer Arts Conservatory in Miami,

Henry Gates is keynote speaker at USVI graduation

Harvard University Professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., a noted American literary historian, activist and filmmaker, is the scheduled keynote speaker for the University of the Virgin Islands' 2014 Commencement Ceremonies on **May 17** in St. Thomas, and **May 18** in St. Croix.

Prof. Gates is well known for his PBS documentary presentations, the most recent being the six-part, 2013 series "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross". He wrote, executive produced and hosted that award-winning effort.

Gates is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard, a post he has held



Gates

since arriving there in 1991. Before joining the Harvard faculty, Gates taught at Yale, Cornell and Duke universities. He will also receive an honorary degree from UVI.

Joining Gates in receiving UVI honorary degrees at the 2014 commencement will be the Virgin Islands' first elected delegate to Congress Ron de Lugo and St. Croix baseball legend and youth mentor Horace Clarke.

"These individuals represent the highest level of their professions," said UVI President Dr. David Hall.



Florida.

The 10-week program, which runs June 9 to Aug. 15, offers youth ages five to 16 the opportunity to engage in cultural experiences through dance, drama, media, fashion and visual arts, and music. The program culminates in a fashion show on Aug. 1, summer arts festival on **Aug. 9** and recital on **Aug. 15**.

It will be conducted at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 N.W. 22nd Ave.

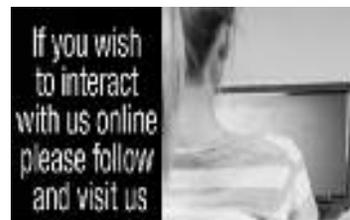
Registration applications can be obtained by visiting the center, e-mailing ahcac@miamidade.gov or by calling **305-638-6771**.

WEALTH SUMMIT

The racial wealth gap in Florida will be the focus of a summit on **Sept. 5** in Tampa.

The summit will address the long term impact of that gap on the state's economy. It will feature experts in education and finance.

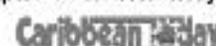
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REUNION: 'Given away' Jamaican-born Florida resident finds family after 53 years



Campbell, seated front row right, is joined by members of his family for the first "union" dinner.

DAWN A. DAVIS

As a child growing up without knowing his parents, or even if he had a family, Delvon "Bulby" Campbell got used to life being alone.

Born in St. Mary, Jamaica in the late 1950s, Campbell was given away as an infant. He was among many children born to parents on the Caribbean island who, for a variety of reasons, just couldn't cope.

"I was given to a couple who never had kids," Campbell explained.

Whatever joy that may have sparked was short-lived.

"The woman died when I was one year old," said Campbell. "The man drowned when I was four or five."

"I was then taken by the woman's sister whom I lived with until I was 13 years old before going into the juvenile orphanage system."

Living a life moving from family to family, then on to a social system that creates anonymity and carries a stigma in some societies, often creates bitterness and a hardened heart. But, Campbell did not become trapped in that negative cycle. Deep down there was something missing, and life eventually steered him in the right direction to find the missing pieces.

Campbell eventually left the orphanage system and attended Alpha Boys' School. He excelled in music education, eventually mastering the trumpet. He later joined the Jamaica Defence Force and, after six years, migrated to the United States. Today he is a business owner and a professional musician sharing his

skill on the trumpet, the family he cultivated as a youngster.

ACCIDENTAL REUNION

Two years ago, almost by accident, Campbell stumbled upon his real family, one he never knew he had. The pieces began falling into place.

"I have 25 brothers and sisters," he revealed smiling. "I found my family."

"My mother was Icilda Wallace. She was 16 years old when she had me. And I know my father was Oswald Campbell. My mom was a domestic helper who worked for my father at the time, so when I was born the decision was made to give me up ... It was my father's wife who named me."

Campbell's discovery of all this - after 53 years - was just by chance. He and his wife Marsha were visiting the Florida Keys when they stumbled upon a Jamaican novelty store called Natural Vibes.

"When I entered the store and started speaking to the owner there was a feeling of familiarity," he said.

Campbell recounted how the young man, Andrew Roberts, also thought he knew him.

"He said I looked just like his grand-uncle," he explained. "So, while I was still in the store he called his mom who said that I may be the son of her uncle who had gone in search of his two children he left in Jamaica. I was shocked and excited at the same time."

SEARCH

That was the beginning of the family search that would eventually bring Campbell and his "lost" family together for the first time in more than five decades. Campbell found out that when his father Oswald went to Jamaica in search of his children, he

found Delores, an older sister who was also given up at birth, but Delvon had already migrated to the U.S.

Of the 25 siblings, three died. However, Campbell has connected with the rest of them in person, via Facebook or Skype. They are scattered around the world - in Jamaica, St. Maarten, Trinidad and England.

"One of my sisters, Lorna

Campbell, is an elected councilor for a large borough in London called Lambeth," a proud Campbell said while discussing his new-found family.

"The other, Barbara Campbell, also in the U.K., is a writer/ journalist. My two brothers Verol and Speed are also in the U.K. Another brother Trevor lives in Trinidad. My sister Marlene is a CPA in St. Maarten. Pauline, another sister, works in the hotel industry in St. Maarten and my other sister Tolla Johnston works with an airline, also in St Maarten."

There was sad news too. "... Unfortunately my mother died the Christmas before the family connection, and my dad died the year before," Campbell added softly. "... I did not get the opportunity to meet them."

REUNION

The chance meeting in the Florida Keys not only cleared up his past, it brought together the Campbell clan for an emotional reunion or, more fittingly, a first union. Just

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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Campbell

FATAL ATTRACTION: Do criminal elements gravitate towards dancehall events?



Rowe

David Rowe, a Jamaican attorney based in South Florida and adjunct professor of Caribbean law at the University of Miami School of Law, recently spoke to Dave Rodney on the recent murder trial of Jamaican dancehall star Adijah Palmer, better known as Vybz Kartel. Palmer and others were sentenced last month. The following is an edited version of that interview first published in Images Newsletter.

Dave Rodney: What is your view on the notion that there is a link between criminality and dancehall music?

David Rowe: There is a

strongly held notion that dancehall performers are also engaged in criminal misconduct including sale of narcotics and distribution of guns. The criminal element gravitates in large numbers at dancehall events.

Rodney: I know you followed the Vybz Kartel case closely in Jamaica and you were at points present at the court. Were you surprised by the verdict?

Rowe: I was not surprised by the verdict. There is a large amount of circumstantial evidence introduced against Mr. Palmer. I had expected that verdict, particularly as Mr. Palmer did not take the stand in his own defense.

Rodney: Some people say that in light of all the problems that are faced by the criminal justice system in Jamaica, this case was a litmus test for the system itself. Is this your view and are there grounds for a celebration party?

Rowe: No celebration party. The scrupulously careful method that we expected the police to demonstrate, in

preserving evidence, was not apparent. An identifiable evidence technician in the police force must always have physical custody of the evidence representing in court.

Rodney: What were the strengths of the case presented by the prosecution?

Rowe: The case against Mr. Palmer is very circumstantial. However, the strength in the case was the large amount of evidence presented and the number of eye witnesses that took the stand.

Rodney: What were the weaknesses of the arguments presented by the defense?

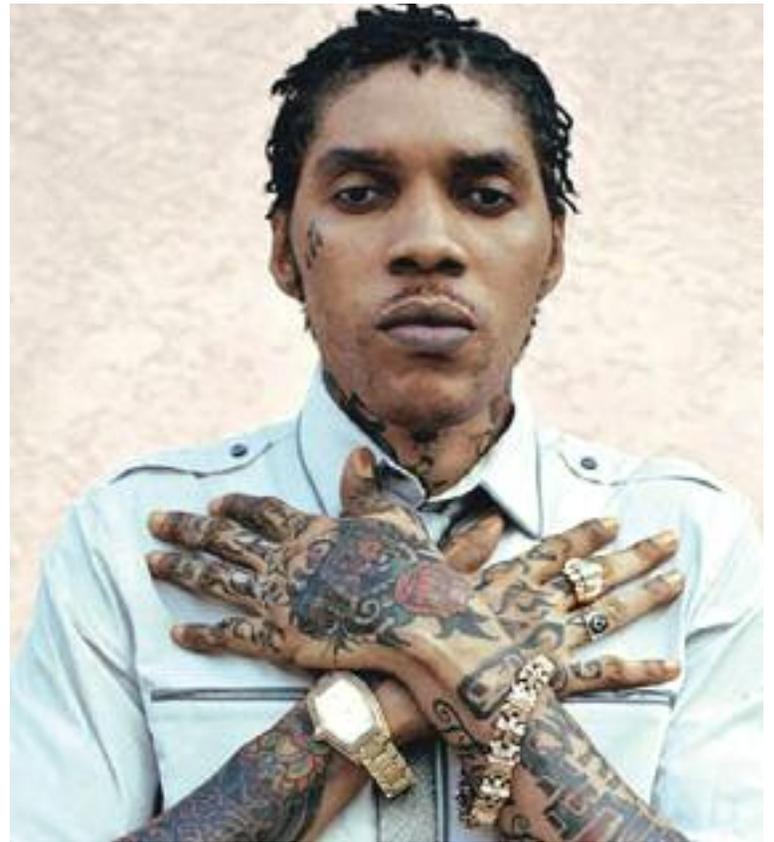
Rowe: The defense was weak. It failed to prove a conspiracy against Mr. Palmer.

Rodney: How do you feel about the integrity of the forensic evidence presented in this case?

Rowe: I believe that the forensic evidence may have been tampered with.

Rodney: How does evidence preservation in the United States compare with Jamaica?

Rowe: In the United States, evidence preservation



Vybz Kartel

is sophisticated and must meet the evidentiary standards set by the Bench and the Bar. Most of the exhibits admitted in Mr. Palmer's case in Jamaica would not have been admitted as evidence in the United States due to tampering. In the United States, in cases relating to forensic evidence, the evidence collected must utilize tamper proofs basin.

Rodney: What is the significance of one juror being charged for offering bribes? Could this lead to a stunning revelation?

Rowe: We have had great amount of corruption in Jamaica, involving jurors and bribes. Some Jamaican attorneys are known as "jury doctors" because of their capacity to bribe jurors. This could lead to another conviction for Mr. Palmer.

Rodney: Do you think there are any significant grounds for an appeal?

Rowe: I think that there is significant grounds of appeal because of the unprofessional maintenance of evidence by the police.

Rodney: You have been a defense attorney in several murder trials. How does the level of brutality here compare to other cases you have seen?

Rowe: This was a vicious and brutal murder.

Rodney: How does the Vybz Kartel case compare with the Buju Banton case that you are also familiar with?

Rowe: These two cases do not compare. Mr. Palmer allegedly participated in a brutal murder. Buju was linked to co-conspirators.



REUNION: 'Given away' Jamaican-born Florida resident finds real family in U.S. after 53 years

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

weeks after finding his family, his sister Lorna Campbell flew to Miami for an emotional meeting with her long lost brother.

"We hugged, we talked for hours on end," Campbell reminisced. "We asked many questions, and we cried."

Together they connected with the other living siblings and a gathering was planned. It was Christmas Day 2013 and Campbell received the most important gift of his life. He and his wife hosted 20 of his family members for a holiday dinner. It was filled with

tears and, most of all, love.

"Family is very new to me, never seen one before year before last," Campbell said. "... The most important lesson I have learnt is sometimes family is not all what it seems to be, which is very sad. But for me, no matter what issues there are or might be, it doesn't matter. The fact of having family is enough for me and I will always love them unconditionally."

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



Jamaica at 52

On August 6, 2014, the island of Jamaica marks the 52nd Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

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Caribbean Today

Which path will Obama choose?

Dear Mr. President,

I just visited Valencia, Spain and was stunned at two things. First off, being “Americano” or a holder of a non-European Union passport placed me in an entirely different immigration category upon arrival.

Secondly, no one bothered to cater to the fact that neither I nor my colleague spoke Spanish well.

And so we spent most of the time piecing together and trying hard to remember the “poquito” Espanol we had learnt in school many years before or running around asking: “Habla ingles?”

To say we felt like outsiders and never truly welcomed is an understatement. But for the first time I felt like how many Latino immigrants must feel – like outsiders - even though America, unlike Spain, has largely become a multi-lingual nation.

It is why I applauded the “cozones” showed by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on April 10 as she finally



FELICIA PERSAUD

addressed the real elephant in the GOP’s room. Finally, Pelosi said what we all know to be true – it is skin color and race that is to be blamed for the GOP House Republican’s refusal to act on comprehensive immigration reform.

“I think race has something to do with the fact that they’re not bringing up an immigration



Kids born in the U.S. risk losing parents to deportations.

bill. I’ve heard them say to the Irish, ‘If it were just you, this would be easy,’” Pelosi told reporters.

FEAR

The statement summed up exactly what many have said for years – if the millions of undocumented immigrants in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Doing without it and surviving to tell the tale

More and more, some people seem to be avoiding sex and are proud of doing so too.

Sexuality is powerful. It comes in different dimensions, practices, sizes and shapes. There is bisexual, transsexual, homosexual, heterosexual.

But there is also the person who does without - the asexual. It’s the person who has no interest in sex at all and it’s not that they have anything against sex. They simply do not care for it.

Some may have tried it at least once in the past and decided that it wasn’t for them. Others have never tried it, but have decreed that it is not their cup of tea.

Don’t think that these are ugly people who can’t get anybody either. Far from it. Many are attractive, young, vibrant people.

I’m not talking about people who desire passion but can’t get it either. No one forced them into that state and, no, they didn’t join any religion that forced them into taking vows of celibacy.

PROOF

This was corroborated by a documentary that featured these folks. They openly flaunted their lifestyle. They acted quite normal and even went on dates. It seemed to work for



them. They liked it.

To me, it’s like going into a restaurant, ordering your favorite meal and having it locked away behind a cage. You can see it, you can smell it, but you can’t touch or taste it.

I tried to examine the pros and cons of doing without it. First, no man/woman can fool or woo you. He/she has nothing to get, because you have



TONY ROBINSON

nothing to give.

Some men may not believe her, and still bide their time, hoping for a breakthrough. But there are others who do believe, but still go along for the ride. In the documentary, there were asexual women who went on repeat romantic dates with sexually active men. Pointless, I thought, but they did seem to have a good time.

When you take sex out of the equation, it does release much of the stress and anxiety that goes with dating. But there will come a time when the piper will play the tune, and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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Caribbean Today gives to MDC students through newspaper foundation

DAWN A. DAVIS

Caribbean Today (CT) is going beyond the headlines. Marking its 25th anniversary, CT's owner and publisher Peter Webley has decided to give back to the 'voices' that helped shape the publication's first quarter century.

"My dad, before he passed said to me one day, 'win, lose or draw, we need to set up something for those people coming behind us, primarily the kids', who, like me, can benefit. Scholastically," declared Webley. "I never paid for college. Whatever money I paid I got it back, in grants and scholarships."

Honoring his father's wishes, Webley has created a foundation. Launched in Dec. 2013, during CT's 25th anniversary celebration, The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence will give scholarships to Miami-Dade College students

to further their studies and careers in journalism and healthcare.

"Miami-Dade College was such a cocoon for people like myself," explained Webley. "When I came here (to the United States) in 1979, it was the perfect place to touch ground. They nurtured us and provided a fertile environment for us to succeed."

LOGICAL

As a newspaper publisher, recognizing journalism students is logical. But why healthcare? Webley said his sister, a registered nurse, is currently battling stage-3 lung cancer.

"I am very close to my sister, and it is for this reason why I want to include the healthcare field in this scholarship," he explained. "We need to do as much as we can to find a cure for cancer and other deadly diseases."

Open to second and third-year students, scholarships will be based on merit and need, but



Webley

students must maintain a certain grade point average to qualify. Initially, the aim is to provide two scholarships per year with a minimum \$1,250 for each student.

Miami-Dade college attracts students with Caribbean backgrounds. However, the scholarship is available to students of all nationalities. The scholarship and foundation will be managed by The Miami Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1967, connecting philanthropy with communities in need. With more

than \$150 million in grants and scholarships awarded throughout its 47-year history, the Miami Foundation "is a natural fit for us," said Webley.

SOBERING

Funding non-profits could be a sobering activity as it depends on financial generosity in a squeezed economy. Historically though, these kinds of non-profits raise the majority of their funding from individual and corporate contributions and hope that they will be lucky enough to get the usually larger donations from charitable trusts and other donor foundations. With many foundations vying for donor dollars, it will take persistence and patience. Webley believes he's up for the task.

"We will appeal to the Caribbean community," he said. "And, we plan to start running ads in the paper asking people to contribute directly to The Miami Foundation ... Where other foundations have failed is lack of promotion, lack of man-

agement, and lack of interest because of lack of knowledge. We have thought of each of these elements and so we won't fail."

Potential donors will be able to contribute financially by check or credit card sent directly to the managing foundation. There will also be a portal on CaribbeanToday.com where donations can be made electronically.

"We have to take responsibility for ourselves, our future, our kids," said Webley. "We need to have a stake in the equation. ... We need to start doing for us."

"That's why the Caribbean Today Foundation is important. And using a credible, accountable, proven charity organization like The Miami Foundation gives us a good chance of succeeding, of creating sustainability."

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



Doing without it and surviving to tell the tale

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

someone will be asked to dance.

The person doing without

it will not have any children. There are people who do not want kids. There is also no question of contraception.

Doing without it is healthy, as there is no way they can contract any sexually transmitted diseases.

People who abstain may still have urges, but they don't act on them.

PASSIONLESS

I knew a man who never had any intimate contact with any other human. He was not gay or hetero, but passion just wasn't part of his life. But it was his choice and, as far as I know, he was contented.

I have known women who lived without it too. One even

got married in an attempt to change her ways and be "normal", but quickly lapsed into her comfort zone.

So when you look around and see some people who have no partner, and have no desire to have one, don't be quick to judge. Perhaps it's their choice. They are simply doing without it.

seido1@hotmail.com



Which path will Obama choose?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

the United States were not largely brown and black, then immigration reform would have been a non-issue long ago.

The fear of the Republican Party conservative block of becoming a minority in a nation where caucasians have always been the majority is palpable. It is little wonder that Representative Mo Brooks, Republican-Alabama, recently had the gall to say that "all hell will break loose" if Rep. Jeff Denham tries to promote his bill that would allow immigrants who were brought to this country on or before Dec. 31, 2011, and were younger than 15 years old, to become legal, permanent residents - the first step toward citizenship - through honorable service in the military. And it is why former Florida Republican Governor Jeb Bush has had to defend his "act of love" immigration comments.

If the immigrants he was referring to were all white then he would have been lauded as a

hero among his base. Instead, his push for immigrant families who "crossed the border because they had no other means to work to be able to provide for their family" to be treated with love has made him, like Denham, an outcast in the party of largely old white men.

Mr. President, the legacy of your presidency can be the most deportation by a U.S. president ever or an "act of love" through prosecutorial discretion that grants temporary residency to all upstanding undocumented immigrants whose only crime was they came here for a better life.

Which one will you choose?

*Respectfully,
Felicia Persaud*

Edited from News Americas. Felicia Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now.



My Dad, My Hero
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Multi-cultural UNIFEST marks 20th year in May

UNIFEST, the oldest Caribbean multi-cultural festival in Broward County, Florida, will mark its 20th



Gyphtian

year with a series of activities this month.

The Greater Caribbean American Cultural Coalition is celebrating UNIFEST in the City of Lauderdale Lakes and is joining forces with VP Records, a leading record label that represents Caribbean music. The partnership is aimed at growing the event and adding creative ideas to attract more attendance and increase benefit to corporate sponsors and local businesses.

"I'm excited about this

20th year and the fact that the organization is teaming up with VP Records, the right partner to help take UNIFEST to the next level," said founding member and former Lauderdale Lakes City Commissioner



Iwer George

Representative. Hazelle Rogers.

"The new platform is just the start of what is to come of this event," said Richard Lue, VP director of business development. "We are focused on transforming the event by providing a superior family oriented experience that would encourage support for years to come."

This year, UNIFEST takes place 11a.m. to 11 p.m. May 18 at Vincent Torres Park in Lauderdale Lakes.

A special Teen Talent Competition is on the agenda. Cultural activities, bounce house and games for the kids, marching band parade, mini carnival costume parade, display of cultural artifacts, business, expo, health fair, consular village, immigration corner and food from across the Caribbean will also be available. The Evening of Stars concert is scheduled to include performances by Gyphtian, Sanchez, Iwer George, Leon Coldero and Code 826 band, Gabel, Code Red, Marcia Ball and Screw Driver.

UNIFEST 2014 sponsored in part by Broward County Cultural Division, MoneyGram, Bank of America, Enterprise Holdings, City County Credit Union, Sunshine Health, FPL, Comcast, WAVS 1170 AM and JN Money Transfer.

For more information, including the month-long line-up of activities, visit www.unifestlive.com.



'BadgirlRiRi' bares it all in magazine photo shoot

Barbadian pop star Rihanna was not afraid to showcase naked shots of her body to her nearly 13 million followers on Instagram, where she is known as "BadgirlRiRi",

The Grammy-winning singer decided to let her Instagram fans see her in all her glory – well almost – after she dropped most of her clothes for French skin magazine Lui.

But within an hour of the posts last month, Instagram promptly deleted the shots, claiming their rules did not allow such postings because it violated their rules against nudity. Instead all that's left of the Lui photographs on Instagram is an advertisement of Rihanna wearing a string bikini and posted on a bus advertisement.



Rihanna

That, however, did not stop the singer and actress from posting the photographs on Twitter, which apparently had no problem showing RiRi to the world, including her 35 million followers there.

- Edited from News Americas.



A.J. Brown heads Ardenne's Toronto Mother's Day show

Reggae balladeer A.J. Brown, a prominent figure in Jamaica's popular music for the past 30 years, is scheduled to headline the Ardenne Alumni Association (Toronto Chapter) Annual Mother's Day Concert and Luncheon on May 11 in Toronto, Canada.

"The luncheon is our marquee event for the year that provides important funding for the students welfare program" at Ardenne High School in Jamaica," said Mark White, vice president of the Ardenne Alumni Association.

"Over the years these funds have provided valuable contributions to the Joyce Britton Music Room, Global Leaders Program for Students

and the Lunch Feeding Assistance. The event also honors the mother's in our community and provide stellar entertainment."

Brown, who recently assumed the role of lead vocalist of reggae group Third World, began his career on the Jamaica's north coast in the 1970s. He was then recruited by the Jamaican Tourist Board to promote the island in North America and Europe. In 1984, he released his debut single "Love People" that was featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Club Paradise". His vocals were also featured in "The Howling III" and "The Fourth Protocol" movies.

Brown was also a regular performer in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA and has released songs like "We Need To Learn", "Beautiful Lady" and "Words Of Wisdom".



Brown

Reggae, pop icons Beres Hammond, Air Supply to share 'Groovin' stage in New York on June 29

Jamaica's reggae's icon Beres Hammond will join Australian pop duo Air Supply as headline acts at the annual "Groovin' In The Park Concert" on June 29 at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, New York on Sunday.

Hammond, a star at "Groovin'" the last time he performed in 2012, has had a string of hits over several decades, includ-



Hammond

ing "Rockaway", "In Love With You", "What One Dance Can Do", "She Loves Me Now", "Step Aside",

"Double Trouble" and "Putting Up Resistance".

Air Supply is no stranger to Caribbean audiences, performing at shows such as the Jamaica Jazz and Blues festival.more. The duo's hits include "Even The Nights Are Better", "Just As I Am", "Chances Are", "Power Of Love", "Lost In Love" and "Here I Am".

Hammond and Air Supply are scheduled to be joined by dancehall star Chronixx and reggae singers Marcia Griffiths, John Holt, Judy Mowatt and Bob Andy.

For show information, visit to www.groovininthepark.com.



CARIBBEAN TIES: T.V.'s Mowry twins trace roots to The Bahamas

NEW YORK - Tia Mowry and her identical twin sister Tamera Mowry first gained for their teen roles on the ABC/WB sitcom 'Sister, Sister'.

The two were born to Darlene Renee Mowry (née Flowers), who was born in The Bahamas. She managed her children's careers even when they were in the group

Tamera Darvette Mowry-Housley starred in the Disney Channel Original Movie "Twitches" and its sequel "Twitches Too". She has also made a break into dramatic television, and is also known for her role as Dr. Kayla Thornton on the medical drama "Strong Medicine". Beginning Aug. 2011, the Style Network began airing "Tia & Tamera".



Tamara, left, and Tia Mowry

She is one of the hosts of "The Real" talk show, along with Tamar Braxton, Jeannie Mai, Adrienne Bailon and Loni Love, which premiered on July 15, 2013.

Tia Dashon Mowry-Hardict portrayed medical student Melanie Barnett Davis on the CW/BET comedy-drama series "The Game" from

2006 until 2012. She is also noted for starring in the television movie "Twitches" and its sequel "Twitches Too". In 2013, Mowry became the main subject of the Nickelodeon's Nick at Nite show "Instant Mom".

- Edited from News Americas.



'The Roving Tree' bears fruit untangling complex branches of culture

• **TITLE:**
THE ROVING TREE
• **AUTHOR:**
ELSIE AUGUSTAVE
• **REVIEWED BY:**
MARIE GREGORY
• **PUBLISHER:**
**AKASHIC BOOKS/OPEN
LENS**

Many writers from Africa, the West Indies and other parts of the world find their true voices when free to depict their homelands from a distance. Elsie Augustave's "The Roving Tree" is no exception.

Her novel deals with a poor woman who wants a better life for her child. The opportunity comes when she meets a white American couple visiting Haiti to learn about voodoo and other cultural practices. They already have an adopted child and are willing to add Iris to their family believing that an interracial family can succeed in the United States.

The move to the **United States** - from a deeply rural village to New York occurs when Iris is five years old -

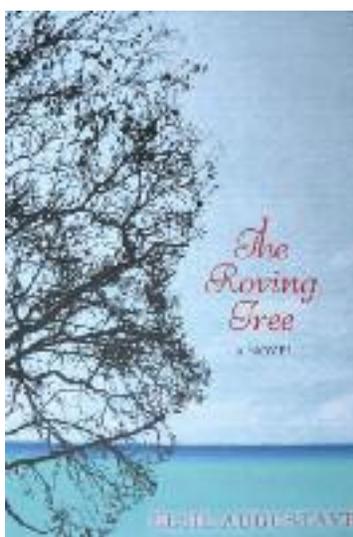
was a huge shift. The house was like a palace, making the bemused child wonder why a home of such a size was necessary for only three people. In her words: "A world of magic opened to me. Everything seemed so vast, open and clean."

When the novelty wears off, homesickness sets in. Iris yearns for "the smoke from my great grandmother's pipe, the warmth of my mother's dark eyes and the taste of mangoes that had fallen from the trees."

RACISM

The child's hair causes comment, especially from adults. Worse follows in school when children tell Iris to go back to Africa. The kind parents, whom she calls mom and dad, explain the "disease called racism," which Dr. Martin Luther King is trying to cure. By the time Iris is eight, her mom describes her as "fully Americanized."

As the years move on, recollections of Haiti recur. Iris's godfather arranges for her to attend Haitian dance classes. The response to the



drumbeat brings a connection to her roots. She excels and this helps to forge her future movements.

Her college education fulfils the dream of her dead mother. Iris visited Haiti when her mother died, bringing her into contact with the mixture of Catholic and cultural beliefs of rural Haiti. The spirit world is vividly portrayed. The beliefs of the people are strong. The sections of the novel dealing with the spirit world are described sympathetically in great detail and make fascinating reading.

It is perhaps inevitable that after college Iris, who considered a return to Haiti to teach for a year, should instead respond to an invitation to go to Zaire to train dancers at Zaire Arts Institute. She had been told by her grandmother that she had an African water spirit dancing in her head and that "Africa is where your soul belongs."

LOVE

It is in Zaire that Iris finds love. Cultural differences again intrude. The powerful politician is married, but doesn't see that as a problem. Iris can be his second wife. The Americanized Haitian cannot

accept this.

Where does she really belong? Readers will decide for themselves which of the three cultural influences are the strongest. Can someone so transplanted ever take root?

This novel is definitely worth reading.

Marie Gregory is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today. Elsie Augustave was born in Haiti. She graduated from Middlebury College and Howard University, earned a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Senegal and France, and choreographed a production for the National Dance Theatre of Zaire.



Actress Anna Maria Horsford boasts Caribbean background

NEW YORK - Anna Maria Horsford is perhaps best known for her roles as Thelma Frye on the NBC sit-

com real estate broker. Her parents are from Antigua and the Dominican Republic.

She attended Manhattan's School of Performing Arts, where she studied and perfected her acting abilities.

Though she is known today for her work in front of the cameras, her first major role in television was as a producer for the PBS show "Soul!", hosted by Ellis Haizlip, which aired between 1967 and 1973.

Horsford made guest appearances on such sitcoms as "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air", "Sparks", "Moesha", "The Bernie Mac Show", "The Shield", "Girlfriends" and "Everybody Hates Chris".

She also appeared on the drama "Judging Amy". More recently, she was seen in the first season of "Grey's Anatomy".

Horsford returned to the big screen in the 2013 film "A Madea Christmas", from Tyler Perry, playing Madea's relative.

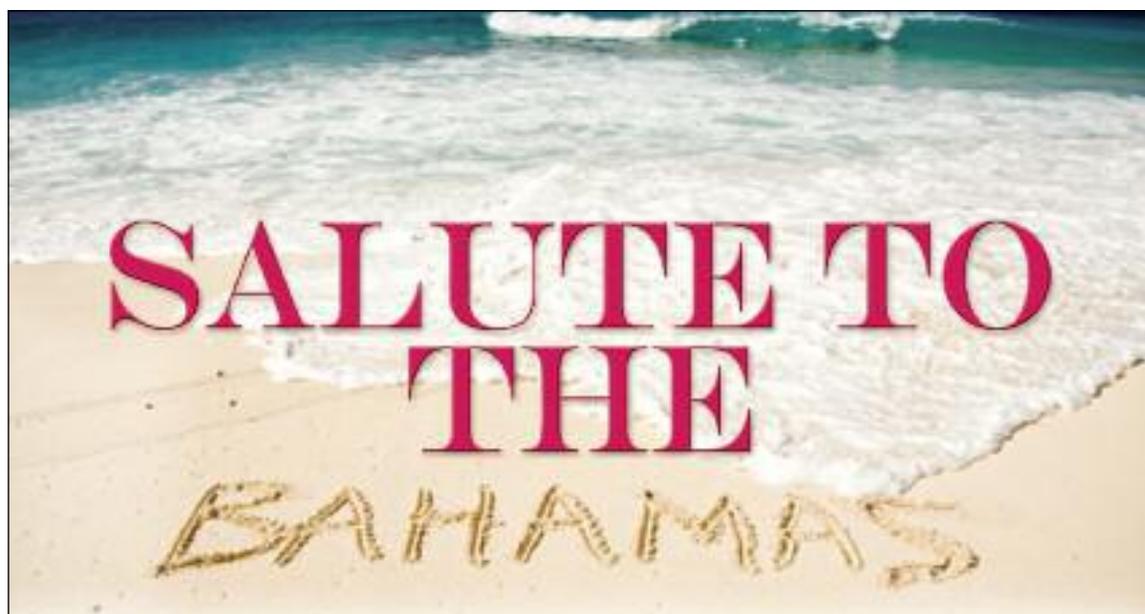
- Edited from News Americas.



Horsford

com "Amen", as Dee Baxter on the WB sitcom "The Wayans Bros." and as Craig Jones's mother Betty in the comedy films "Friday" and "Friday After Next".

Horsford was born in Harlem, New York, the daughter of Lillian and Victor A. Horsford, an investment



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

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BRIEFS

Sean Paul, Iglesias duet

Jamaican dancehall star Sean Paul is featured on Enrique Iglesias's version of the song "Bailando". The song is on the Spanish-born singer's album "Sex + Love".

'Sumfest' in July

Long-running "Reggae Sumfest", dubbed "The Greatest Reggae Show on Earth", will be held this year **July 13-19** at Catherine Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Vegas in Miami

Mr. Vegas, the Jamaican dancehall star currently on tour in the United States, is scheduled to make a stop in South Florida at the Miami Urban Radio 103.5 The Beat's 2014 "Beat Down Concert" on **June 12** at BB&T Centre in Miami.

Compiled from various sources.



National DISH DIS': U.S. recommends blocking ackee imports

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- While many Jamaican nationals may look forward with longing to ackee and salt-

Florida.

It contains the toxin hypoglycin A, which drops to negligible levels in the edible por-

symptoms that range from some vomiting to severe vomiting with profound hypoglycemia, drowsiness, muscular exhaustion, prostration and, possibly, coma and death.

'GUIDANCE'

In issuing final guidance on enforcement criteria for ackee, the FDA said its district offices may detain, without physical examination, all ackee products offered for import.

The exception will be for those firms that are identified on a "Green List", which according to the FDA have demonstrated that they have food safety controls in place to ensure that only properly ripened ackees, without seeds or rind, are included in finished products.

They are Fruit Processors Ltd. of Belize, Antillean Canning S.A. of Haiti and from Jamaica: Ashman Food Products Ltd., Canco Limited, Central Food Packers Ltd., Double Deuce Jamaica Ltd., Exotic Products Jamaica Limited, Island Packers, Southern Fruits & Food Processors Ltd., Stanmark Processors Company Limited, Tijule Company Ltd. and West Best Foods Limited.

Canned, frozen and other ackee products are marketed in the U.S., largely to people from Caribbean cultures, and most of the products are

imported from Jamaica, Belize and Haiti.

- Edited from News Americas.



Ackee is favored by Caribbean people.

fish, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is recommending seizure or import refusal of canned, frozen and other ackee products.

The ackee fruit, which is harvested from the ackee tree (*Blighia sapida*), is native to West Africa, but is also found in Central and South America, plus many Caribbean countries including Jamaica, and southern

tion of the fruit when it is fully ripe, making it safe to consume. However, the rind and seeds still have high levels of hypoglycin A when the fruit is fully ripe and should not be consumed.

When the product is improperly processed, concentrations can rise above 100 parts per million (ppm) and pose a health risk. The ingestion of hypoglycin A may result in no symptoms or

'Taste of the Caribbean' comes to Miami in July

Taste of the Caribbean 2014 will host a series of culinary competitions and educational workshops between June 28 and July 2 at the Hyatt Regency in Miami, Florida.

Sponsored by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, the annual event offers a mix of entertainment, hands-on demonstrations and seminars to attendees, ranging from food-loving consumers to top culinary connoisseurs.

Attendees will get a first-hand look at Caribbean culture and cuisine and will be able to gather information about their favorite Caribbean destinations and sample gourmet cuisine while listening to music from the region.

Staff members from the Florida International University Institute for Hospitality and Tourism Education and Research will

offer demonstrations and an educational session.

"Taste of the Caribbean" not only brings the flavors of the Caribbean to consumers, it also serves as a platform for food and beverage professionals to network, polish professional skills and witness the expertise of talented Caribbean chefs and bartenders in action. This year, teams from Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Suriname and the United States Virgin Islands will compete for honors. Competition titles include: 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.



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HEALTH



Tackling headaches: The solution to pain may be in prevention

Headache is the number three reason women ages 18 to 44 go to emergency rooms, and the fifth-leading cause of emergency room visits among all Americans, according to a 2013 National Institutes of Health report, which calls headaches a major public health problem.

“The key to preventing headaches is, of course, to figure out what’s triggering them,” says Dr. Romie Mushtaq, www.BrainBodyBeauty.com, a neurologist and mind-body

physician.

“While migraine and stress headaches can both be triggered by stress, migraines have many other possible triggers and they vary from one individual to the next.”

Dr. Mushtaq has counseled thousands of headache sufferers and recently launched a six-week online seminar, titled “Heal Your Headaches”. She guides participants through ruling out various triggers, and shares traditional and holistic treat-

ment options, among other information.

“It’s so important to educate people who suffer from headaches, especially migraines. There are many misconceptions about them,” she says.

“I’ve had patients tell me they don’t have migraines because their headache isn’t accompanied by vomiting. Or they’ve been told they just have a low threshold for pain, even that they have no willpower!”



Got a headache? You’re not alone.

she says. “It may quickly become apparent what’s triggering your headaches.”

If not, she shares other possible triggers people are not aware of:

- **Are you getting enough sleep?** - Migraines can be triggered by sleep deprivation. A lack of sleep can actually lead to structural changes in the proteins of the brain that make the trigeminal nerve

more sensitive to pain. The trigeminal nerve supplies sensation to the face, head and meninges – the membranes surrounding the brain - and it is the nerve pathway that is the foundation of the where migraine headaches start.

When we are stressed, our sleep gets disturbed, and headaches are often one of the first signs. Creating a routine at night to reduce stress prior to bedtime is a key. If you can’t sleep because of headache pain, talk to your doctor about the temporary use of sleep-aid medications. Also, avoid caffeine after 12 p.m.

- **Are you drinking enough water?** - If you start feeling pressure or a dull headache at work, especially in the afternoon, it may be that you’re not drinking enough water

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

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ELIMINATION

Dr. Mustaq advises patients to begin ruling out possible triggers.

“Start eliminating common food triggers from your diet, such as wine, chocolate and gluten, and if the headaches become less frequent or go away altogether, slowly add each item back,”

Breast cancer seminar in Miramar

A health seminar, titled “Breast Cancer: The Alternative Road to Prevention”, will be held from **6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 8** at the Multi-Service Complex, 6700 Miramar Parkway in Miramar, Florida.

The event, sponsored by Miramar Vice Mayor Davis and Pansy’s Garden of Eden Breast Cancer Foundation, will feature guest speakers Stacy

Roberts-Davis and Maxine Chong, both with the Memorial Cancer Institute, and Claudia Barrington from South Florida Thermography. Speakers will discuss alternative prevention as a means of self-health care. Discussion topics will include holistic and alternative medicine.

“While western medicine has made great strides in treat-

ing cancer, we must avail ourselves under the supervision of a healthcare provider, to any and all methods of treatment to constantly improve our chances in the fight against breast cancer,” Davis said in a press release announcing the event.

For more information, call **305-788-3668**.

PROTECTION: Guarding against HPV virus

BOB LAMENDOLA

If you’re sexually active, you have a 50-50 chance of getting the cancer-causing human papillomavirus (HPV) during your lifetime. The risk is even higher for people of color and Hispanics.

The good news is that the sexually transmitted virus can be prevented with simple steps and a vaccine. Also, free screening tests can detect HPV-related cancer early,

when treatments can be successful.

“We urge everyone to protect themselves and those they care about,” said Dr. Paula Thaqi, health officer at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

HPV spreads during sex, even when the infected man or woman appears healthy. About 79 million Americans now have HPV. Most of the time, the virus goes away on its own without causing any harm. But in females, the virus can affect the cervix, the lower portion of a woman’s uterus.

Every year, HPV causes 21,000 cases of cervical cancer (1,000 in Florida) and kills 4,000 women – and causes other genital cancers and warts.

PROTECTION

Here’s how you can protect yourself and others:

Get vaccinated. Vaccine is available for girls and boys at age 11, through age 26 for women and men who have sex with men, and through age 21 for straight men. Covered free by insurance.

Use latex condoms every time you have sex.

Have only one sex partner.

Get a pap test. The test detects signs of cervical cancer in women. From ages 21 to 65, get tested every three to five years. Ask your doctor how often you should get the pap test and an HPV test. Covered free by insurance.

Uninsured women ages 50 to 64 with low to moderate incomes can get free pap tests (and mammograms) from the Florida Department of Health. Contact DOH-Broward at **954-762-3649** or www.browardchd.org/HealthS_breast.aspx, or DOH-Miami-Dade at 305-470-5634 or www.dade-health.org/women/WOMENscreen.asp.

For more information, visit the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical.

Bob LaMendola is a representative from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

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Kidney disease rises among Caribbean seniors with diabetes, hypertension

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has expressed deep concern about the rise in kidney disease among seniors with diabetes and hypertension in the Caribbean.

Noting that diabetes and high blood pressure, together with aging, are “the main risk factors for developing chronic kidney disease (CKD), which affects an estimated one in 10 adults globally,” the Washington-based health care organization recently called on Caribbean healthcare providers to test high-risk patients for signs of kidney disease.

PAHO said this should be particularly done for those with diabetes and hyperten-

sion. It also called on individuals to maintain healthy lifestyles.

Chronic kidney disease and aging was the theme of this year’s World Kidney Day, celebrated on Mar. 13 and promoted by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations.

PROGRESSIVE LOSS

PAHO said CKD is the progressive loss of kidney function over months or years. In its early stages, the disease produces no symptoms and is treatable. But, in more advanced stages, it said patients can require dialysis



and even kidney transplants.

In the last half-century, PAHO said life expectancy in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased more than 20 years.

“People are living longer, including those with one or more chronic diseases and risk

factors,” said Enrique Vega, PAHO regional advisor on aging and health.

“This allows the effects on organs such as the kidney to accumulate in older people,” he added. “So we need to pay more attention to the problem.”

In Latin America and the Caribbean, one in three older adults suffers from one of the six most common age-related chronic diseases: hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, arthropathy (joint disease), or chronic lung disease.

DETECTION

To detect CKD, experts recommend blood and urine tests, and blood pressure checks, especially in high-risk

groups, including people with diabetes or hypertension; those over 65; people who have suffered a heart attack; those with relatives who have had kidney disease; smokers; and sedentary people.

“Simple, low-cost treatments are available that can slow the progress of kidney disease and reduce the risks of heart attack and stroke, while improving quality of life,” PAHO said.

PAHO said it is working with its member-countries in the region to reduce premature deaths from these diseases by 25 percent by 2025.

- Edited from CMC.



PAHO warns Caribbean people at risk of insect-carrying diseases

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has warned that about 50 percent of people living in the Americas, including the Caribbean, are at risk of one or more diseases carried by insects.

The Washington, D.C.-



Mosquitoes among dangerous insects.

based PAHO said these insects include mosquitoes, ticks, flies and other vectors which carry diseases such as the West Nile virus, dengue, malaria and most recently chikungunya.

In a “call to action” for World Health Day 2014, top health experts from North and South America and the Caribbean urged greater efforts by governments, communities and individuals to

control the spread of these and other vector-borne diseases.

“Our region has achieved many successes in controlling vector-borne diseases,” said PAHO Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne.

“However, this success is being threatened by the expansion of mosquitoes and other vectors into new habitats and by the emergence of insecticide and drug resistance,” she added.

‘STEPPED-UP’

Etienne said PAHO and its partners are, therefore, calling for “stepped-up” action in the fight against vector-borne diseases in the Americas.

“We as a world are in some ways more vulnerable than ever,” said Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

The most recent vector-borne disease to establish itself in the Americas is chikungunya, a mosquito-borne viral disease that first appeared in Tanzania in the 1950s. In Dec. 2013, two cases of locally acquired chikungunya were reported on the island

of St. Maarten. By the end of Mar. 2014, more than 3,000 cases had been confirmed in 10 Caribbean countries, PAHO said.

PAHO has called on governments, communities, individuals and donors to take action toward further progress

and to face future threats from vector-borne diseases.

“Everyone has a role to play,” said Etienne.

PAHO, founded in 1902, is the oldest international public health organization in the world. It works with its member countries to improve

the health and the quality of life of the people of the Americas. It also serves as the regional office for the Americas of World Health Organization.



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: AUGUST 27TH, 2014

Tackling headaches: The solution to pain may be in prevention

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

during the day. Dehydration can cause fatigue, loss of focus and mid-day stress, which can trigger headaches, including migraines. Be sure to drink water throughout the day. While these tips may help you gain control over your

headaches, remember – anyone who has recurring headaches should see a physician, Dr. Mustaq says.

- Edited from News and Experts.



St. Lucia to launch \$30M village resort

A \$30 million resort is slated for the Village of Dennery in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

The Caribbean Market Village, (CMV) is the brain-child of Antiguan-born, United States citizen Sheila Newton Moses, of the Manhattan International Group, and is set to be built on the island of the Pitons.

Newton Moses is scheduled to showcase the all-inclusive, inter-generational tourist project at Invest Caribbean Now (ICN) 2014 on June 4 in New York.

The CMV, which will be marketed as “The Happiness Place To Be”, is expected to feature an organic garden and learning center, the “St. Lucia Heritage & Legends Trail”, a spectator sports bar, day spa, lounge and aquarium, outdoor pavilion, children’s activity center, clubhouse and pool,



New resort planned for St. Lucia.

art gallery row, clothing and textile row, restaurant row and an island services row.

The design is also expected to showcase Caribbean cultural elements, such as

thatched roofs and round benches, that are original to the Amerindians of the region.

- Edited from *CaribPR Wire*.



Caribbean, Central America team up for disaster response

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The World Bank says Caribbean and Central American countries are teaming up for seismic and climate catastrophe risk coverage.

With the annual hurricane season set to begin June 1, the Washington-based financial institution said that when the 2010 earthquake struck Haiti, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility’s (CCRIF) was the first institution able to mobilize emergency funds within the first two weeks of the disaster to respond to the immediate needs of the government.

Since its creation seven years ago, the bank said CCRIF has made eight payouts amounting to \$32 million to help countries manage budget volatility in the aftermath of recent natural hazards.

“This mechanism has successfully leveraged capital and insurance market capacity to strengthen climate resilience in these countries,” it said.

“As individuals, we are used to paying relatively small premiums to protect our families in case our houses were threatened by natural events,” it added, noting that small island states in the Caribbean have been applying a similar model to protect themselves against “far more likely and more devastating risks caused by tropical storms and earthquakes.”

and the Caribbean experienced a disaster, which had an economic impact above 50 percent of their annual gross domestic product (GDP) since 1980. It said the impact of Haiti’s earthquake was estimated at 120 percent of GDP.

For the first time, the bank noted that finance minis-



United effort for hurricane relief.

ters from Central America and the Caribbean met during the recently concluded World Bank Group and IMF spring meetings to draw lessons from the CCRIF.

Hasan Tuluy, World Bank vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean, who chaired the meeting, said the CCRIF was a “true example of both a regional public good, where collective action has clear financial benefits, as well as a private-public partnership that can help countries address the adverse impacts of a changing climate.”

- Edited from *CMC*.



DISASTER

The World Bank said nine countries in Central America

Haiti to launch craft village

BERLIN, Germany – Haiti has announced plans to construct a craft village that will serve as a center for the exhibition of its culture as well as provide a market for the display and sale of Haitian craft and foods.

Tourism Minister Stephanie Balmir-Villedrouin, who attended Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB-Berlin), the world’s largest tourism trade fair, held here recently, said the village would be established in the north of the country. It is being funded by the European Union and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

“It is a way to integrate the community in the tourism development. It is a way to promote our artists, the different value chain of the tourism sector,” she said.

“It will be an interesting project that we will be launching this year and by February

next year we will be ready for visitors to come.”

ATTRACTION

Balmir-Villedrouin said the site of the village is known for its historic values to Haiti “and the idea is to create another form of attraction and give a value to the visitors when they go to the destination”.

UNWTO Secretary General Taleb Rifai described the initiative as “a very, very important project.”

“It’s important for three reasons. Number one, it announces the rebound and rediscovery of Haiti ... secondly it is very important as a product on its own, and thirdly and most importantly it is important of the energy it creates to the local community around it and the value chain of benefits to the local economy,” he said.



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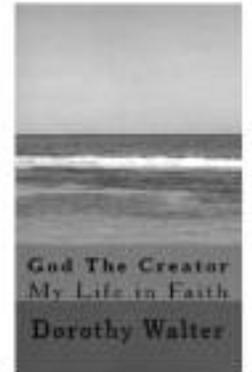
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TOP GUNS: Caribbean scores big success at 2014 Penn Relays

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania – Jamaican high schools again led the Caribbean's charge at the annual Penn Relays here last month, winning several Championship of America (COA) events.

Many outstanding performances highlighted the 120th staging of the prestigious relay meet at Franklin Field, which also marked the 50th year of participation by Jamaican schools starting in 1964 with the entry by Kingston College.

This year attracted a three-day crowd of 108,669 and Jamaican schools' didn't disappoint, dominating the boys 4x100 COA. Led by Jamaica College winning in record time, they swept the top six places in the event. St. Jago's boys took the boys 4x400 COA for Jamaica, ahead of St. Elizabeth Technical and Calabar, which won the 4x800 championship.

Jamaica's high school girls were outstanding as well. Edwin Allen won the 4x100 COA, with Holmwood Technical and Wolmer's taking second and third. Edwin Allen returned to win the 4x400 COA, again leading home Holmwood Tech, with St. Jago



Jamaica College, second right, led the high school dominance of the sprint relay.

and St. Elizabeth Tech rounding out Jamaica's top four finish.

U.S. CHALLENGE

The Caribbean didn't fare as well in the USA v. The World series. Jamaica won the women's 4x100 meters, beating the U.S. into second with Trinidad and Tobago third. The Bahamas team of Michael Mathieu, Demetrius Pinder,

Chris Brown and Ramon Miller won the men's 4x400, beating the U.S. into second. Jamaica finished fourth.

However, the U.S. swept the men's 4x100 (Jamaica second) and women's 4x400 and sprint medley, in which Jamaica finished second and a Caribbean All-Stars team third.

At the college level, Jamaica's University of

Technology won the men's 4x100 COA. UTech also won the men's college championship in the 4x200.

In individual events, Vere Technical's Andrenetta Knight gave Jamaican high school a solid start by winning the girls 400 meters hurdles.

Compatriot Jaheel Hyde of Wolmer's won the boys section. Second was Marvin Williams of St. Elizabeth Technical. Hyde's teammate Christoffe Bryan won the boys championship high jump for a record third year.

FIELD

In the field, Edwin Allen's Rochelle Frazer won the discus for high school girls, beating fellow Jamaican high school athlete Shadae Lawrence of Hydel. Frazer's teammate Claudette Allen won the long jump, while Krista-Gay Taylor, of Convent of Mercy Alpha Academy, won the high school girls high jump. Jamaica College's Clayton Brown won the triple jump for high school boys.

Devaughn Baker of Jamaica College was named the 2014 Penn Relays High School Boys Athlete of the Meet for Relay Events. Baker anchored his team to a Penns record 39.72 seconds in the 4x100. Baker also clocked a 46.81 seconds split in the heats

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Jamaica wins Headley/Weekes Trophy in regional cricket

Jamaica secured first innings points from a draw with the Windward Islands late last month, but it was enough to win the final of the Headley/Weekes Trophy and a claim to the title of best four-day cricket team in the Caribbean.

Led by batsman Jermaine Blackwood, who narrowly missed a hundred in the first innings and scored a maiden first class century in the second and spinner Damion Jacobs, who took eight first innings wickets, Jamaica won the trophy which was inaugurated five years ago in honor of the late Jamaica and West Indies batting legend George Headley, and living Barbados and West Indies batting legend Sir Everton Weekes.

Blackwood, who made a half century in Jamaica's first



Jamaica's captain Tamar Lambert, right, and his deputy David Bernard Jr. pose with the trophy.

innings score of 392, scored 118 in the second innings,

propping up the Jamaicans' batting, as they were dismissed for 200 in St. Lucia. The Windward Islands could only muster 215 in its first turn at bat. Faced with a massive target of 376 to make in the second innings to secure an outright win, the Windwards reached 204 for six wickets.

Sunil Ambris and Devon Smith scored centuries for the Windwards in the match. Blackwood, a graduate of the Sagcor West Indies High Performance Centre, was named man of the match.

Dominica returns to Windwards tournament

Dominica has returned to the senior Windward Islands Football Championships after withdrawing from the soccer tournament last year following the tragic death of its head coach and a national player.

Dominica pulled out in 2013 after vehicular accident claimed the lives of coach Kirt Hector and player Norran Jno Hope while on their way to the airport to represent the

island at the tournament in St. Vincent. The vehicle in which they were traveling plunged more than 200 feet after the road collapsed due to hours of heavy rain.

This year's competition in Dominica is being held in honor of Hector and Jno Hope. Grenada is defending champion.

Jamaican American Chamber to stage charity golf tourney

The Jamaican American Chamber of Commerce will host the second annual Jamaica Diaspora Golf Open May 29 to June 2 at Montego Bay's Cinnamon Hill Golf Course on the Caribbean island.

It has been announced that the tournament will benefit the Jamaica Children's Project.

The three-day event offers an opportunity for chamber members and non-members to network and forge business relationships while enjoying golf. Players participating in the tourna-

ment have the chance to win prizes.

"The Jamaican American Chamber of Commerce founded the Jamaica Children's Project charity in 1993 and this golf tournament is our premier fundraising event," said George Patsalos, chamber president. "This year we expect to double the number of players and our contribution to the charities we support in Jamaica."

For more information on the tournament, visit www.jamaicagolftournament.com.

Ex-sprint great honored in U.S.

Former Jamaica track and field great Dennis Johnson was honored last month during Team Jamaica Bickle's (TJB) annual reception in New York.

Johnson received TJB's Pioneer Award and was recognized by the United States government as a Caribbean icon. He was presented with a U.S. House of Representatives



Johnson

Proclamation from the office of Congresswoman Yvette D Clarke; a New York State Assembly citation from the office of Assemblyman Nick Perry; and a New York City Council citation from the office of Council Member Jumaane D. Williams.

Johnson was a star the San Jose State University and one of the fastest men in the world over 100 yards in the 1960s. He is known as a driving force behind Jamaica's success in track and field.

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JUST SHORT: Caribbean jockeys come close in Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky – Jamaican jockey Shaun Bridgmohan has praised the performance of his horse Commanding Curve, despite coming up short in the 140th Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 3.

The 34-year-old brought the 37-1 long shot with a thunderous late run to finish second behind eventual winner, 2-1 favorite California Chrome ridden by Victor Espinoza. Afterward, Bridgmohan said Commanding Curve had given him everything over the mile-and-a-quarter trip.

“All I had to do was just ride him hard and he gave me everything,” he said. “I was starting to get him geared up when he turned for home, and I had half the field beat at that point.”

“I just was looking somewhere for him to go. Once I got him down the lane, man, he



Bridgmohan

lengthened his stride and really dug in for me.”

OFF PACE

Bridgmohan and Commanding Curve were close to last after the half-mile as Uncle Sigh and Chitu set the pace throughout the early run-



Maragh

ning, with California Chrome staking in third. Once the race turned for home, however, California Chrome sprang to the front and swept away from the field to reach the finish 1-1/4

lengths clear. “We tried to catch California Chrome,” Curve’s trainer Dallas Stewart said. “He wouldn’t slow down the last 20 yards. Shaun was riding him for everything.”

“Sometimes those horses come from the West Coast or wherever and haven’t had a work over the track, and I thought that

might help us. I thought we might get him, but he outran us.”

Commanding Curve and his connections collected

\$400,000 for their efforts.

Wicked Strong, the second favorite in the field at 6-1, finished a disappointing fourth with Jamaican Rajiv Maragh aboard. Many pundits had tipped the Wood Memorial champion to win the event.

“He ran well,” said Maragh, who finished third in the 2011 Derby with Mucho Macho Man. “... He came on at the end. He broke really sharp and was well behaved. He was just fourth best.”

- Edited from CMC.



Top Caribbean sprinters for Grand Prix in N.Y.

Two of the Caribbean and world’s fastest sprinters will be on show at next month’s adidas Grand Prix meet in New York.

Jamaicans Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Yohan Blake are expected to face the starter on June 14 at the Icahn Stadium.

Fraser-Pryce, 27, has won the past two Olympic gold medals at 100 meters, and is a six-time world champion. Three of those world titles - at

100 meters, 200 meters, and the 4x100-meters relay - came in 2013, earning Jamaica’s sprint queen the title of “2013 IAAF Female World Athlete of the Year”.

Blake is a double 2011 world champion (100 meters, 4x100-meters relay) and 2012 Olympic gold medalist (4x100-meters relay).

For more information on the meet, visit www.adidas-grandprix.com.



TOP GUNS: Caribbean scores big success at 2014 Penn Relays

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

of the 4x400.

Meanwhile, Olivia Baker of Columbia High School in New Jersey, who traces family roots to Jamaica, was named the 2014 Penn Relays High School Girls’ Athlete of the Meet for Relays. Baker anchored her school’s winning

4x800 team by running 2:02.55, the fastest high school split in Penns history. Baker returned to run 52.93 seconds to anchor Columbia’s fifth-place team in the 4x400.

- G. Williams



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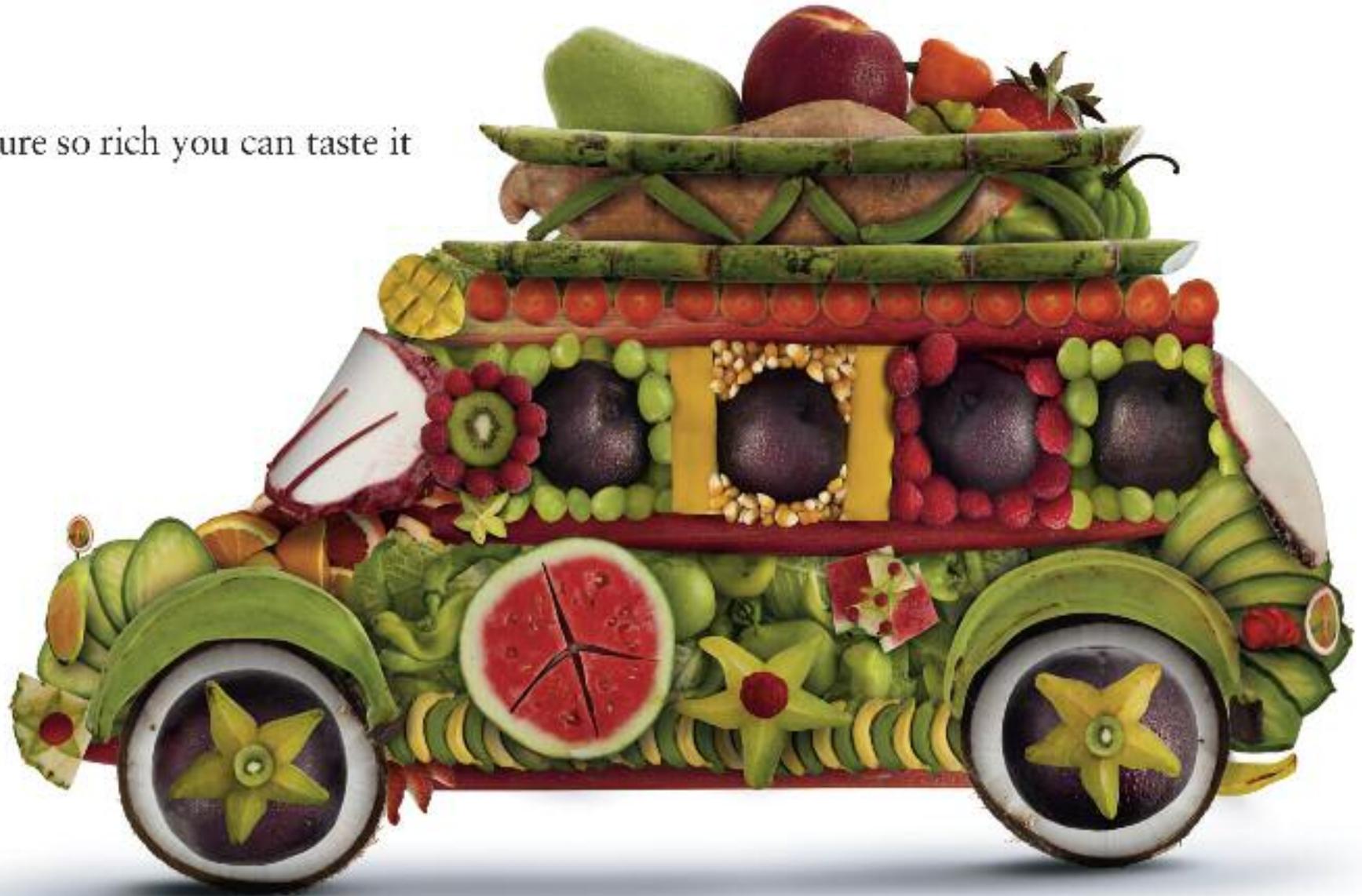
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