

Caribbean Today

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TANGLED WEB

~ The Caribbean has found itself caught up in a political firestorm engulfing the probe into Russia's meddling in the 2016 United States presidential elections, with criminal charges filed against suspects doing business in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, page 2.



Some 60,000 desperate Haitians are facing the possibility of being sent back to the Caribbean. So President Jovenel Moïse's government is pleading with the U.S. to extend temporary protected status for nationals who came to America seeking shelter after hurricane disaster, page 5.



Eric Holder, the former U.S. attorney general with Barbadian parents, is voicing serious concerns over what he believes is President Donald Trump's "unprecedented" penchant for clouding the lines of justice in America, page 7.

HARRY'S LAST STAND

~ Legendary Caribbean American entertainer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte recently made what he called his final public appearance. But the 90-year-old didn't go quietly, branding Donald Trump's election as U.S. president "a mistake" which could have dire consequences, page 7.

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Caribbean lands in firestorm as U.S. probes Russia's election interference

GORDON WILLIAMS

The Caribbean has been dragged to the center of one of the fiercest political firestorms to hit the United States in decades.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) was last month listed by United States prosecutors among countries used by former senior advisers to the 2016 election campaign of President Donald Trump to launder millions of dollars.

Paul Manafort, who served as campaign chairman for Trump, and Richard Gates, were last month indicted on multiple criminal charges, including illegally trafficking more than \$18 million which was hidden overseas in locations like SVG.

However, the Caribbean nation has pushed back against allegations it is a haven for criminal activities. The National Anti-Money Laundering Committee, Financial Services Authority and Financial Intelligence Unit, in a joint statement, called "descriptions linking St. Vincent and the Grenadines with money laundering ... uninformed, outdated, erroneous and inaccurate," adding "there is no basis for such descriptions."

INDICTMENTS

According to the indictments, which were unsealed in U.S. Federal Court on Oct. 30, Manafort and Gates "generated tens of millions of dollars of income" doing work for the Ukraine government

and its former President Victor Yanukovich, who eventually sought refuge in Russia, "between at least 2006 and 2015".

The indictment filed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who was assigned earlier this year to investigate Russian interference and possible collusion in the 2016 elections, stated that "In order to hide Ukraine payments from United States authorities, from approximately 2006 through at least 2016, Manafort and Gates laundered the money through scores of United States and foreign corporations, partnerships, and bank



Manafort

accounts.

"... Manafort and Gates funneled millions of dollars in payments into foreign nominee companies and bank accounts ... including Cyprus, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines (Grenadines), and the Seychelles".

The indictment listed two companies in SVG – Global Endeavour Inc. and Jeunet Ltd. – as being owned by Manafort. More than \$908,000,



Gates, left, and Trump

a total compiled from multiple wire transfers, was allegedly rinsed through those companies for Manafort between Aug. 2013 and Sept. 2014 and used for home improvement and landscaping in New York and Florida.

HIDE

The income was not disclosed to the U.S. as required under law and the government claimed the defendants deliberately tried to conceal the money and sources of transfer.

"Manafort and Gates hid the existence of the foreign companies and bank accounts, falsely and repeatedly reporting to their tax preparers and the United States that they had no foreign bank accounts", according to the indictments.

The indictments also claimed "Manafort used his hidden overseas wealth to enjoy a lavish lifestyle in the United States", including

spending more than \$1 million at an antique rug store and \$820,000 on landscaping at one of his U.S. properties.

Gates, the prosecutor said, also used money laundered from overseas to "pay for his personal expenses, including mortgage, children's tuition, and interior decorating of his Virginia residence".

More than \$75 million "flowed through the offshore accounts" of Manafort and Gates, according to the indictment. The former campaign chairman "laundered more than \$18,000,000" and "Gates transferred more than \$3,000,000 from the offshore accounts to other accounts that he controlled".

CHARGES

Charges against Manafort and Gates include conspiracy against the U.S., conspiracy to launder money, failure to file reports of foreign bank and

financial accounts, being unregistered agents of a foreign principal and making false and misleading statements.

If found guilty, Manafort and Gates "shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, involved in such offense, and any property traceable to such property", according to the indictment. They would also face possible imprisonment and fines.

Both Manafort and Gates have pleaded not guilty, but their connections to the Ukraine and Russia have raised alarm in the U.S. Trump has denied any collusion between his campaign and Russia.

However, on the day Manafort and Gates were indicted, prosecutors made public that George Papadopoulos, who worked with the Trump campaign as an adviser, had pleaded guilty of lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and is co-operating with the agency's investigations.

Papadopoulos has reportedly revealed that members of the Trump campaign, including Manafort and Gates, knew he had been in contact with Russian operatives during the campaign. Papadopoulos was reportedly encouraged to maintain the Russian link as the campaign sought damaging information on Hillary Clinton, Trump's main opponent in the presidential election.



U.S. orders extradition of Guyanese accused of murder

NEW YORK – A court in the United States has ordered the extradition of businessman Marcus Bisram, a Guyanese national who is wanted in connection with the murder of a carpenter in the town of Berbice.

On Oct. 13, the court ordered that Bisram, who was fighting the Guyana extradition request, be committed to the custody of U.S. marshalls to await extradition to Guyana.

A few months ago, when the case was mentioned in court in Guyana, Bisram was charged in his absence with the murder of Berbice carpenter Faiyaz Narinedatt. Five other persons in Guyana are already facing charges in connection with the same murder.

It is alleged that in Nov. 2016, Narinedatt was beaten after he allegedly rebuffed Bisram's sexual advances. The

carpenter was allegedly dumped in the trunk of a car belonging to an acquaintance of Bisram, driven to a public road in Berbice and the scene made to look like a hit-and-run accident had taken place.

The police reported that shortly after the incident, Bisram fled Guyana and, after charges were filed in the case, he went into hiding in the U.S. He was eventually arrested by U.S. authorities, following an international wanted bulletin, and moves were quickly made to seek his extradition.

Bisram's attorneys in Guyana have been attempting to get the court to dismiss the charges against him. Up to press time the court had not ruled in that matter. Based on that, the extradition was granted.

- Edited from CMC.



DELIVERED



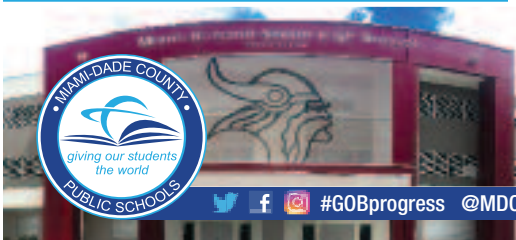
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DESPERATION: Haiti makes last ditch plea for U.S. to extend TPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Haiti has formally written to the United States government seeking an extension of the temporary protected status (TPS) for nationals residing in the U.S.

The request, which has come seven years after the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country was devastated by an earthquake, is contained in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last month.

Haiti said the island had not fully recovered from the 2010 earthquake that killed an estimated 230,000 people and left more than a million others homeless. In addition, Haiti has pointed to the extensive damage caused by the passage of two hurricanes in recent years.

Haiti estimates that at least 60,000 of its nationals are living in the U.S. under the TPS and that a look at the Caribbean nation “would offer you (an) insight on the challenges that we continue to face,” Haiti’s U.S. Ambassador Paul Altidor wrote to acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke.

“The detrimental impacts of the recent hurricanes have complicated our ability to recover from the 2010 earthquake ... resulting in major disruptions of living condi-



Moïse

tions in the short term,” Altidor added.

BENEFIT

A TPS designation grants a temporary immigration benefit to certain nationals of designated countries, allowing them to live and work in the U.S. for a limited time. TPS is typically granted to citizens of developing countries affected by natural disasters.

In May, then DHS Secretary John Kelly approved a six-month extension of TPS for the Haitian refugees, the fifth such extension since the original designation following the earthquake. Kelly urged Haitians living in the U.S. without another immigration status other than TPS to “prepare for and arrange their departure” before the revised expiration

on Jan. 22, 2018.

“This six-month extension should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian gov-

ernment with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients,” Kelly declared in a statement announcing the extension.

But the Jovenel Moïse administration in Haiti said it is unable to handle the repatriation of its citizens,

largely because of damage and flooding caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The DHS is expected to make a decision on TPS for Haitians this month.

- Edited from CMC.



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Caribbean-born ‘Game of Thrones’ actress claims sexual harassment

Bermuda-born actress Lena Headey has described being sexually harassed by Harvey Weinstein — the latest in a string of complaints about the American movie producer.

Headey, 44, best known for her role as Cersei Lannister on the popular HBO show “Game of Thrones”, has also appeared in films including “300” and “The Purge”.

She described two encounters with the 65-year-old Hollywood mogul and former studio head in a series of social-media posts recently. Weinstein has been accused of rape, sexual assault and harassment, but has “unequivocally denied” any allegations of non-consensual relationships.

According to Headey, the first encounter occurred at the Venice Film Festival in 2005. Headey wrote on Twitter: “At one point Harvey asked me to take a walk down to the water.

“I walked down with him and he stopped and made some suggestive comment, a gesture, I just laughed it off, I was genuinely shocked.”

Headey said she next saw Weinstein in Los Angeles years later. She said she accepted an invitation to breakfast. She said Weinstein asked her personal questions “about the state of my love life.” A short time later, Headey said, he invited her upstairs to get a script.

“I said to Harvey, ‘I’m not interested in anything other than work, please don’t think I got in here with you for any other reason, nothing is going to happen,’” she explained.

Headey described feeling “completely powerless” as he was “marching me forward” with “his hand on my back” towards his room. She said Weinstein became angry after his key card did not work. Headey said she was walked back through the hotel by Weinstein “grabbing and tightly holding to the back of my arm.”

“I got into my car and I cried,” she said.

- Edited from CMC.



For more information, visit AfricanAmericanAchievers.com, call 866-516-2497 or join us on [Facebook.com/AfricanAmericanAchievers](https://www.facebook.com/AfricanAmericanAchievers).

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U.N. urges aid for hurricane-devastated Caribbean countries

UNITED NATIONS – The United Nations has called on the international community to assist Caribbean countries devastated by recent hurricanes, so they can “build back better.”

It is also calling for more action at all levels to manage disaster and climate risk, and to prepare for future extreme weather events.

Several Caribbean countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, as

well as St. Martin, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, were devastated as hurricanes Irma and Maria, category five storms, killed scores of people and left damage estimated at billions of dollars.

MEETING

Last month, the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) organized a special meeting on the “Aftermath of recent hurricanes: Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030

Agenda” to discuss the current situation, along with the economic, social and environmental impacts on those affected.

“These disasters led to tragic loss of lives, displaced people, damaged infrastructure and homes, and disrupted livelihoods in both developed and developing countries,” said Marie Chatardová, ECOSOC president, in her opening remarks.

“We have seen how inequalities exacerbated people’s exposure to the impact of disaster,” she said, noting how easily development gains can be erased if a risk-informed,

resilient 2030 agenda is not pursued.

CONCERNS

Stating that the impending cost of recovery and reconstruction in affected communities raises concerns over long-term sustainable development, Chatardová said “we must help affected states get back on the path towards sustainable development.”

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said “the international community has a responsibility to support affected countries to become more resilient; to promote a

risk-informed approach to reconstruction; and to strengthen their financial systems so that they can cope with such large-scale shocks.

“Investing in disaster-resilient infrastructure and housing pays off over the long term by reducing economic losses and loss of life,” she added. “We must harness the power of technology, innovation and partnerships to move towards a green, clean, sustainable energy future.”

- Edited from CMC.



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Tiger chooses The Bahamas in comeback bid

Golf legend Tiger Woods has chosen The Bahamas for his long awaited competitive return after a nine-month absence from the sport due to injury.

Woods, for a long time rated the top golfer in the world and listed among its all time greats, is scheduled to play in the 18-man Hero World Challenge on Nov. 30.

He had not been entered in a tournament since February’s Dubai Desert Classic, from which he eventually withdrew. In April, Woods underwent back surgery, his fourth in three years.



Woods is hoping to recapture his swing in the Caribbean.

The 41-year-old American, who has won 14 of golf’s major tournaments, said he was “excited to return” and called the Albany course in The

Bahamas a “perfect setting” for his return.

Woods’s competitors will include Dustin Johnson, currently the top ranked player in the world.

“It will be great to join this outstanding field,” he was quoted as saying.

T&T, the Caribbean’s last hope of a spot in World Cup 2018, is eliminated from soccer’s biggest tournament, but not before shocking the United States. More sports on page 16.



U.S. congrats SVG on Independence anniversary

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Donald Trump administration in the United States has congratulated St. Vincent and the Grenadines on its 38th year of political Independence from Great Britain.

“On behalf of the United States, we offer our best wishes to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as you celebrate 38 years of Independence,” U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson noted in a statement issued Oct. 27, SVG’s Independence anniversary.

“The United States enjoys our partnership with the peo-

ple of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in advocating democratic principles, economic opportunity and regional security cooperation,” he added.

“Today we celebrate our strong people-to-people connections and look forward to working together towards shared goals stated in Caribbean 2020, for a more secure and prosperous future,” Tillerson added.



Tillerson

I. Rhonda King, SVG’s ambassador to the United Nations, listed the opening of the country’s first international airport, the Argyle International Airport (AIA) on Feb.14, among “just a few” of the multi-island state’s “recent blessings.”

SVG Independence activities in the U.S. culminate on Nov. 4, with St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania’s (SVGOP) Annual Independence Dinner and Dance at Penn’s Landing Caterers in Philadelphia.



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ICE nabs Caribbean nationals in five-day immigration raid

NEWARK, New Jersey – Caribbean nationals were among 36 people arrested by law enforcement authorities in the United States during a five-day operation as part of an ongoing “public safety efforts” campaign.

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said the operation targeted criminal immigrants who were previously incarcerated at the Middlesex County Jail (MCJ) in New Jersey and who were subsequently released to the community by MCJ, without honoring the ICE detainer or advising ICE of their release.

An immigration detainer is a tool used by ICE and other US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials when the agency identifies potentially deportable individuals who are held in jails or prisons nationwide, according to the American Immigration Council.



- File photograph
U.S. clamps down on criminal immigrants.

Typically, it said detainees are issued by an authorized immigration official or local police officer designated to act as an immigration official under section 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

TARGETS

ICE said the operation also targeted other criminal immigrants residing in Middlesex County.

The Caribbean immi-

grants arrested as part of the operation were nationals of Anguilla, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

ICE said those arrested ranged in ages from 19 to 62 years old. All were previously arrested or convicted of a variety of offenses.

Some of the arrests and convictions included sexual assault of a minor, child abuse, criminal restraint of a minor, domestic violence, possession of narcotics, distribution of narcotics, robbery, receiving stolen property, theft, aggravated assault, hindering apprehension, resisting officer, driving under the influence (DUI), unsworn falsification, possession of a weapon, burglary, prostitution and illegal re-entry into the U.S.

ICE said among those arrested during the operation included a Trinidadian citizen arrested for “hindering apprehension and unsworn falsification.”

- Edited from CMC.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS



- Photograph by Derrick Scott

Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks, left, is greeted by Daniel Mariaschin, chief executive officer and executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, on her arrival at the organization's headquarters in Washington DC to deliver the keynote address at a luncheon. Marks urged members of B'nai B'rith in the U.S. to explore investments in Jamaica in areas such as information, communication technology, agro-processing, medical tourism and infrastructure. “Ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica is open and ready for business,” she said. B'nai B'rith International is the world's oldest Jewish service organization, founded in New York in Oct. 1843 by German Jewish immigrants.

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Caribbean Today

Barbadian American doctor to receive CARAH Award

Barbadian American transplant surgeon Dr. Clive Callender will be the recipient of the "Excellence in Medicine Award" at this month's Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Awards in Washington, D.C.

Other 2017 CARAH Awards honorees include Dr. Glendon Archer, Dr. Henry Lowe, Jennifer Carroll, Nneka Norville, Karl Racine and Bevil Wooding.

The CARAH Awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals of Caribbean descent who have made extraordinary contributions to their fields of expertise.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) will present the awards on Nov. 17 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel.

Dr. Callender, whose parents are from Barbados, is professor of surgery at Howard University College of Medicine.

COMMITMENT.

"Dr. Callender has committed his life's work to not

only to saving lives and shaping young minds," Dr. Claire Nelson, founder and president of ICS, the CARAH Awards and White House Champion of Change, stated in a release announcing the event. "He demonstrates that the Caribbean is home to world's most innovative and best talent and we're honored to celebrate him and his great achievements at this year's CARAH Awards."

Dr. Callender completed his surgical training at Freedmen's Hospital in 1969 and received transplant surgical training at the University of Minnesota and the University of Pittsburgh. Since returning to Howard University Hospital in 1973, Dr. Callender helped develop the first minority directed dialysis and transplant center and histocompatibility and immunogenetic laboratory in the United States.

HONORS.

In 1991, Dr. Callender conceptualized and founded the National Minority

Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) using the joint Howard University Hospital and Dow Chemical Company efforts that targeted the black community and applying the methodologies to all ethnic minority populations. National MOTTEP is the first national organization to identify a two-fold solution to the donor shortage - disease prevention and increasing donation rates.

From 1995 until 2008, Dr. Callender served as the chairman of the Department of Surgery and in 1996, he was appointed as the first LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. Professor of Surgery at the Howard University College of Medicine. He received honorary doctor of science degrees from Hunter College, Meharry Medical College and Howard University in 2014.



Callender

DACA renewals rush as phase-out begins

The phase-out of the five-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in the United States, known as DACA, began at midnight Oct. 5.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump will no longer accept or process new or renewal applications for DACA protection, even if they were mailed before the deadline. The renewed applicants are known as "Dreamers".

Thousands of Caribbean nationals are believed to be DACA recipients.

Of the estimated 154,000 people who were eligible to apply for renewals, about 118,000 had sent in applications to the three federal processing centers in Phoenix, Dallas and Chicago by Oct. 4, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Officials will only process applications received by the end of the day Oct. 5, and will not consider forms postmarked on Oct. 5 but arriving later,



Many in U.S. support DACA.

said David Lapan, spokesman for the Homeland Security Department.

CLASS ACTION.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of beneficiaries, alleging that, even before its DACA phase-out, the Trump administration had been revoking beneficiaries' protections for minor offenses, like traffic infractions, or charges for which they are ultimately cleared.

Lorella Praeli, director of immigration policy at the

ACLU, said the Oct. 5 deadline was "both cruel and arbitrary."

Last month, a U.S. federal judge in Brooklyn described as "heartless" the Trump administration's refusal to extend its deadline for "Dreamers" to apply to stay in the U.S.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced last month that immigrants shielded from deportation by DACA would have until Oct. 5 to re-apply for their two-year protected status. Reports indicated the Trump administration stuck with the deadline.

U.S. Justice Department lawyer Brett Shumate said the decision to stick with the deadline was "not made lightly," adding that the purpose was to kick off an "orderly wind down" of the program.

But Judge Garaufis said DACA's end would not only affect its estimated 800,000 recipients - it would affect their families, employers and communities as well.

- Edited from CMC.



Former Barbados GG Sir Clifford Husbands is dead

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Barbados's sixth and longest serving Governor General Sir Clifford Husbands died at his home on Oct. 11.

He was 91.

Sir Clifford served as Barbados head of state from

1996, succeeding Dame Nita Barrow, until his retirement in Oct. 2011.

A lawyer by profession, Sir Clifford also served as deputy registrar, director of public prosecutions and Supreme Court judge.

In recognition of his legal and judicial service to Barbados, Sir Clifford received the country's highest national honor in 1995 and was made a Knight of St. Andrew.



SALUTING SERVICE



Jamaican-born Irwine Clare, left, a New York-based immigration advocate, was recently honored at the American Chamber of Commerce of Jamaica's AMCHAM Awards Gala in Jamaica. Clare is the founder and chief executive officer of Team Jamaica Bickle, a non-profit organization known particularly for its support of Caribbean athletes at the annual Penn Relays in the United States. He was presented with the Global Spotlight Award in recognition of his work with Team Jamaica Bickle and the Jamaican diaspora.

Lee-Chin will be CCAA's keynote speaker Nov. 15

Jamaican-born entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael Lee-Chin is the scheduled keynote speaker for the 41st Annual Conference on the Caribbean and Central America to be held this month in the United States.

The conference, slated for Nov. 15-17 in Coral Gables, Florida, will be attended by representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society and multi-lateral organizations.

Lee-Chin is founder and chairman of Portland

Holdings. He has a diversified business portfolio that spans multiple sectors. His address is scheduled to be the closing event for the "Caribbean Prosperity Roundtable" on the afternoon of the opening day.

The event is being hosted by the U.S. Department of State.



Lee-Chin

MDC to host black male symposium

"The Gateway to Success" will be the theme of a black male symposium hosted this month by Miami Dade Colleges (MDC) in South Florida.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. Nov. 8 at MDC's North Campus, Science Complex, 11380 N.W. 27th Ave. MDC's North Campus spearheaded the inaugural symposium for high school seniors two years ago. This year, according to a press release from the organizers, the event will expand college-wide to include 500 black male high school seniors. They are scheduled to take part in motivational seminars ranging from networking for success to building a personal brand.

The scheduled keynote speaker will be Dr. Steve Gallon, District 1 School Board member for Miami-Dade County Schools. City of Miami Assistant Police Chief Dennis Jackson will also serve as a special guest speaker.

High schools expected to attend include: North Miami Beach Senior High, Booker T. Washington Senior High, Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High, Miami Carol City Senior High, Miami Central Senior High, Miami Norland Senior High, Miami Northwestern Senior High, Miami Palmetto Senior High, Miami Southridge Senior High, Miami Sunset Senior High, North Miami Senior High, Stellar Academy, and William H. Turner Technical Arts High School.

The black male symposium is an initiative that concentrates on motivating and empowering black males to pursue educational avenues beyond high school. It is also an effort to connect young men with mentors who are positive influences and inspirational figures.

For more information, call Shantelle Maxwell at 305-237-1673.



LAST STAND: Belafonte blasts Trump, calls his election 'a mistake'

GORDON WILLIAMS

Harry Belafonte, a legendary American entertainer and civil rights activist with strong Caribbean ties, last month used what he called his "last" public appearance to brand the election of Donald Trump as United States president "a mistake," which could have dire consequences.

"Nobody has brought us as close to the kind of tyranny that I see created in the war I fought in, which is the Second World War, as we've done with Trump," the 90-year-old Belafonte was recorded as saying during a recent talk at the Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Belafonte fears Trump could eventually steer the U.S. towards atrocities that were witnessed during WWII if Americans don't put a stop to his actions.

"I think the next mistake might very well be the gas chamber and what happened to Jews (under) Hitler is not too far from our door," said the man who was born Harold George Bellanfanti Jr. in New York, but spent many years in Jamaica where his mother Melvine Bellanfanti was born.

The cultural icon, whose father Harold Sr. was from Martinique, became a popular actor and singer, with "The Banana Boat Song" - and its "Day O!" line - among his most popular hits.

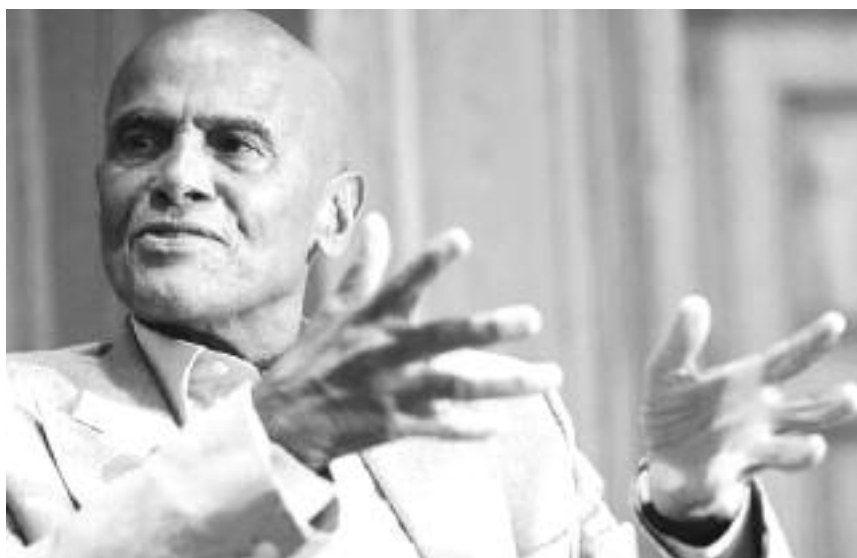
SOUR NOTE.

But Belafonte sounded an increasingly sour note while discussing Trump and the lack of more public opposition to the president and his brazen agenda.

"I don't understand how (Trump) can say what he does about women ... It's not codified. It's right there in your face for you to see and hear," Belafonte explained, possibly referring to Trump's admission of abusing women.

"... Where is that voice ... to answer this tyranny? Why has this man (Trump) been permitted to come this far? What is America doing to itself before he gets away with this? They're prone to repeat this mistake."

Belafonte, who was an active participant in the U.S. civil rights movement and marched with icons such as Martin Luther King Jr., was disappointed in the response of Americans of color to



- File photograph

Belafonte says he won't be silenced.

Trump.

"It's up to each and every one of us to ensure that they don't get away with it," Belafonte said, before adding later in his talk, "... How black people in this country can let this president get away with what he's doing."

DISBELIEF.

Belafonte, who admitted to failing health, said he still can't believe Trump has become president after the years he witnessed Americans struggle for equal rights and

still needs to be counseled."

Belafonte, who praised his mother's Caribbean roots, "strength and dignity," still believes the U.S. has accomplished plenty during his own "remarkable journey" and more positives will come.

"We have achieved a lot in my lifetime," Belafonte said. "Dr. (Martin Luther) King was not about nothing. (Former U.S. First Lady) Eleanor Roosevelt was not about nothing.

"I think in the final analysis that we shall overcome because what we did is ... we left a harvest that generations to come (will) reap. That they have not yet plowed. That they have not yet harvested."

NO FEAR.

Known as the "King of Calypso", Belafonte was the first African American to win an Emmy Award. He also won Grammy and Tony

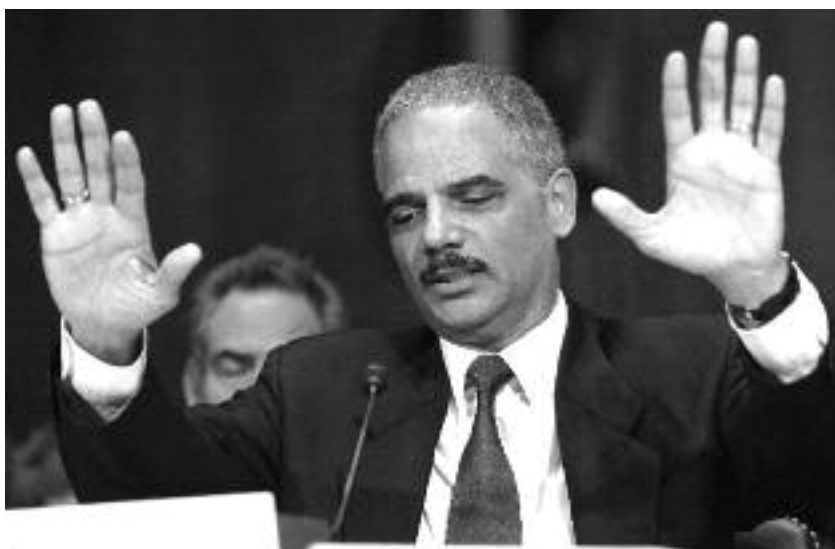
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Ex-Attorney General Holder voices concern Trump blurs U.S. justice lines ~ Barbadian American labels president's actions 'unprecedented'

Eric Holder, a former United States attorney general with deep Caribbean roots, has voiced concern over what he believes is President Donald Trump's "unprecedented" penchant for clouding the lines of justice in the U.S.

In an interview on "The Rachel Maddow Show" aired Oct. 23 on the MSNBC television network, Holder, whose father Eric Sr. was born in Barbados, said he's worried over Trump's attempts to muddy the distinct boundaries between the White House and the Department of Justice (DOJ), where he served as the first African American U.S. attorney general between 2009 and 2015.

Holder, in his first live television interview since last November's presidential elections, called Trump's interest in personally interviewing potential U.S. attorneys in certain states "unprecedented." He also viewed the president's recent public attacks on current AG Jeff Sessions as "unprecedented, unwise" and accused Trump of "lack of understanding" about the role



- File photograph

of the attorney general. Trump, he believes, should know the AG works for the DOJ, not the president personally.

CLEAR LINES.

Holder said during his tenure as AG, under the presidency of Barack Obama, there was clear understanding of boundaries the White House and DOJ were not allowed to cross in their relationship with each other. Holder believes Obama's background as a lawyer made it easy for the former president to recognize

the importance of the AG's office to be perceived as not being influenced by political bias.

"It wasn't difficult with Barack Obama," explained Holder, who returned to private law practice after leaving the Department of Justice. "... There were a whole range of law enforcement issues I didn't share with him.

"There has to be a wall (between the White House and the DOJ)," Holder also said during the interview with Maddow.

Trump, however, has

applied a different tactic, especially in interviewing potential U.S. attorneys, including those who would work in states that Trump has personal business and political interests. Holder is "hoping" the successful candidates will still be able to do their job fairly, but he blasted Trump's approach.

"It's just not the way things are done," Holder said, adding that Trump's actions "gives me concern."

Holder, now 66, also sees "inconsistent ways" between the way Sessions has dealt with the White House when compared to other AGs.

'UNDER ATTACK'.

The former AG didn't rule out running for political office in the future, but said he's currently working with Obama to fix some problems in the U.S. electoral system, including re-districting and gerrymandering of constituency lines which they believe corrupt the system.

"I think our democracy is under attack," explained Holder, adding that re-districting and gerrymandering has helped cause "dysfunction" in Washington.

Holder also weighed in on the current investigations over

Russia's involvement in U.S. political process. He expressed "confidence" that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's months-long probe, which has turned some of its focus on current White House occupants, including Trump, will be "conclusive" and allowed to be scrutinized by the public.

"My hope is that he'll (Mueller) do a thorough investigation," said Holder, "... and share with the American people."

During his tenure as AG, Holder, a former judge, was the target of heated backlash from political interests, especially in the Republican Party. He was at the center of a some highly controversial issues, including the "Fast and Furious" probe, which led to Holder being held in contempt of Congress.

Still, Holder, a native of the Bronx, New York, who was succeeded as AG by Loretta Lynch, expressed surprise at hatred towards him while he served as the top U.S. law enforcement officer.

"It's something that kinda baffled me," he told Maddow. "... I never quite understood that."



FEATURE



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'Welcome To America' turns musical spotlight on Caribbean migration

GORDON WILLIAMS

It's possibly life imitating art, vice versa or several degrees in between.

But "Welcome To America", a Caribbean-flavored musical made for the United States stage is aiming to throw a mega-watt spotlight on those who have come to the U.S. hoping to make home and fortune, according to its Jamaican-born creator.

"Immigration is the core focus," playwright Karl O'Brian Williams told **Caribbean Today** last month, weeks before the musical was scheduled to play in – ironically, coincidentally or intentionally – the U.S. capital Washington, D.C., hub of the heated discussion over what America should do about foreigners.

"The focus is on someone coming to the U.S. and trying to live a dream."

Less than a year into Donald Trump's presidency, when some immigrants are already feeling trapped in a nightmare over their place in the U.S., Williams is confident he's striking the right chord with his latest effort. That's because he has personally been at the center of the storm, tossed by a whirlpool of raging debate that has whipped the U.S. into a frenzy.

"For a period I was undocumented," admitted Williams, who is currently artistic director at Braata Productions in New York, one of the musical's producers.

He also teaches at Borough of Manhattan Community College as theater coordinator. It's the passion he follows.

"Everything I've been doing involves theater," Williams said.

UNCERTAINTY.

He received a bachelor's degree and post-graduate



"Sabrina", center, played by Fitgi Saint-Luis shows off her talent.



"Elijah", right, played by Andrew Clarke, makes a point to "Sabrina", during the musical.

diploma from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, then left for the U.S. on a student visa in 2008. After completing a master of arts in educational theater in 2010 at New York University's Steinhardt School of Cultural Education, he received a renewable U.S. visa, granted to aliens with extraordinary ability, including in the arts, which allowed him to teach and practice his craft.

He had already started work on "Welcome To America" late 2016 – after Trump's campaign and election – when he realized his visa was expiring. For the first three or four months in 2017, Williams said, he found himself firmly



Williams

in the grip of uncertainty.

"It directly impacted me," he explained. "For the first time in life I realized what it was to be in the U.S. without papers.

"You're constantly wor-

ried. You're worried how you eat. Everything is under the table."

The Trump administration's ramping up its opposition to undocumented immigrants was unnerving. But Williams said he was confident his musical could help influence the debate.

IMPACT.

"If the arts didn't have any impact, the president wouldn't be tweeting about people in the arts," he explained. "... People in power are always aware of the power of the arts ... I'm not doing anything new."

So Williams, who said he has been involved with more than 10 plays, including two – "The Boys on the Hill" and "The Black That I Am" – focused on immigration, wrote "Welcome To America". The story focuses on "Sabrina", a woman "on the cusp of 30" who left Jamaica determined to become a successful actress. The gender of the musical's lead was significant.

"I think the stakes are higher for a woman of her age – to give up the comfort of her home in Jamaica and try to make it in New York – an exciting but dangerous city," Williams said.

"These things I thought about. I thought a woman would face more obstacles ... There's a difference coming to the U.S. ... You're never fully prepared."

So Sabrina's "immigrant

story," according to Williams, means coming to grips that her training in Jamaica won't be enough in New York and she won't be the next instant superstar. Harassment, unfamiliar accent, skin color and other issues pose obstacles. So she fights to overcome.

"The moral of the story is not giving up, following your dreams," said Williams.

"You have to broaden your concept of what it is to make it. You give up a whole lot to be here."

It's the Caribbean immigrant's story in America. Welcome.

Karl O'Brian Williams said he's "shopping around for producers" so he can take the musical to other locations next spring.



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LAST WORD: Belafonte blasts Trump, calls his election 'a mistake'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

awards. He also received the honorary Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Academy Awards in 2014.

He said he had no fear of repercussions speaking out against Trump and he yearns to continue as a spokesman for justice.

"After 90 years old there is very little they can do to me for speaking the truth; the greater truth to power," Belafonte said. "... The reward for having done what I've done is so stunning ... I've become greedy for more of that experience."

Belafonte, however, does

have regrets. He said he sacrificed many aspects of his life during years of activism, including career and relationships with family and friends, but yet feels the mission is incomplete as he witnesses crimes against African Americans and influence of "greed" on a broken system in

the U.S. He said the "system" needed repair, including the parts which allowed Trump to be elected president despite getting three million votes less than his political opponent Hillary Clinton.

"The task is yet to be fulfilled," Belafonte said.



Trump 'direct threat' to Caribbean community

NEW YORK – A United States legislator is warning that President Donald Trump may be “a direct threat” to the Caribbean American community as his administration moves to implement draconian immigration policies.

Without calling Trump by name, but referring to him as “Number 45”, meaning the 45th U.S. president, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants, said there were “critical perspectives we need to incorporate into the debate on immigration; for example, the perspective of people from the Caribbean.”

Clarke, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, said there are more than three million immigrants in the New York City area who are members of the Caribbean diaspora. She said more than 400,000 of these immigrants currently lack legal status.

“Today, we are confronted with an enormous challenge from a man, whose name I will not say at this celebration – number 45,” said Clarke as she addressed the 34th anniversary luncheon of the Brooklyn-based group Vincentian American Independent National



Clarke

Charities, Inc. (VINCI). “He represents a direct threat to this community – a white supremacist who has surrounded himself with other individuals who share his bigoted and wicked ideology,” Clarke said to cheers from patrons.

NO BACK DOWN.

“But our community will not back down,” she added. “It’s not in our blood to do so. We will not step aside, or sit down.”

“Just like our ancestors did, we will resist. We all know from our own personal experience that immigrants and their children and grandchildren, from every part of the world, are not only the foundation of Brooklyn, but,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Mr. President: This isn't what we signed up for

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean nationals in the United States are mired in a deeply pensive mood. Some are confused. Others already hit the panic button. A few want to flee.

They're convinced that America, contrary to what President Donald Trump allegedly told family of a U.S. serviceman killed in action overseas last month, is not what they “signed up for.”

In Trump, the U.S. is strapped with a president who has stopped a program that benefits immigrants brought to the country as children without their consent, or in some cases knowledge, but are striving to become productive participants in the American Dream. Thousands of Caribbean nationals are in that group. They face the possibility of being deported to a “home” they don't know if Trump finally dumps the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

TIP.

But the DACA dilemma is only the tip of their concerns. The Trump administration is monitoring foreigners' social media communication, which means that Caribbean nationals – in the U.S. and elsewhere – are subject to the intensified glare of Uncle “Peeping Tom” Sam.

Haitians, who fled their homeland for the U.S. and were offered shelter under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program as they recovered from a devastating 2010 hurricane, are now being shown the door.

Caribbean nationals of color wince when they hear Trump talk about “fine” people on “both sides” of a public protest, which included white supremacists. They're horrified as more minorities are killed by law enforcement without due process. The Trump administration is now shrinking the options for Caribbean nationals wishing to migrate to the U.S.

'FIRE'.

Is this the America many risked everything to come to and some are willing to die for?.

Now they, those who fled poverty and hardships in the Caribbean, and survived polit-

ical violence and discrimination in search of a better life, wonder if they are now in the proverbial “frying pan” after escaping the “fire”.

The reality is that most Caribbean nationals didn't favor Trump in the first place. Amused by his antics? Maybe. But some did support his election. The state of Florida, home to millions of voters with Caribbean roots, helped Trump become president.

It wasn't only the Hispanics with Cuban background either. Not just those

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



Trump

Woman, take a hard look at yourself

Maybe you have heard some women say “I have no luck with men, and just can't manage to keep one.” The sad reality, though, is that there are people exactly like that; people who are so miserable and cantankerous with bad ways to boot, that they just turn everybody off, especially men.

Don't be fooled or misled, they will attract men, for beauty on the outside will achieve its purpose. But take a look at how many beautiful movie stars cannot keep their men.

While chit chatting with a friend, she mentioned her daughter who lives overseas. “Oh she's fine,” she said, “But she always seems to have man problems and can't seem to keep a man.”



TONY ROBINSON

Clearly it's a situation that bothers this lady. All mothers want to see their daughters settle down with a man and show some sort of emotional stability.



ty. It's one thing never to have had a man, but to get involved with different men over and over but can't even hold on to one is an indictment on that woman.

FLAW.

And yet, this is the fate of many women. It has to be some flaw in their character or personality that just turns men off.

The best person to ask why is certainly not the woman, for in most cases she is oblivious to her flaws and will always blame the men for her

situation.

“Oh, he couldn't keep up with my high standards, so I'd rather go it alone.”

Not once would these women look inwards and see their ugly insides.

So it's best to ask the men. Remember, for every beautiful woman out there, there is some man, or even men, who just can't stand her.

Why? One reason is misery. For some reason, there are some women who are always angry. Every little thing both-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Woman, take a hard look at yourself

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

ers them. They have no sense of humor, don't laugh and spend most of their time sulking and feeling sorry for themselves.

No matter how beautiful she is, no man is going to put up with that sort of temperament for long. Men feel a sense of relief when they leave these women.

Another reason why some women can't hold a man is due to their narcissistic self-absorption. Everything is only about them, and it's I, I, I, me, me, me. No thought is given to any other person.

Sexlessness is another factor why some women cannot keep a man. Many women are

built like sex goddesses and yet, they are as cold as a wet blanket on a chilly rainy night.

In many cases it's not their fault, as they were born with the right equipment, but sadly not with the oils and lubrication to keep the machine running efficiently. These women have no feelings or passion, no sensuality, no sexuality and no libido. They're packaged for passion, but hollow inside.

So woman, take a hard look at yourself. "The fault Dear Brutus, lies not in the stars, but in ourselves," said Julius Caesar.

seido1@hotmail.com.



Trump 'direct threat' to Caribbean community

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

indeed, are Brooklyn itself.

"Washington, D.C. needs to hear the voices of Brooklyn," she told the ceremony. "The renewal of our commitment to the best traditions of this nation – instead of the worst – will come from us.

"Your voices will sound the alarm for a renewal of purpose, a restoration of faith in ourselves as a people who believe that every person

should have an opportunity to participate in the American Dream."

Recently, the Trump administration began unraveling a program from former President Barack Obama shielding from deportation Caribbean and other nationals brought to the U.S. illegally as children. However, a split in the U.S. Congress has made no progress on writing similar protections into law as Trump has asked.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

who left that Caribbean island and became infuriated when former President Barack Obama embraced Cuba. Others rejoiced at Trump's ascendancy too. Just check social media sites like "Haitians for Trump".

Now they've watched Trump threaten to cut off assistance to "apocalyptic" hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico – a U.S. territory with U.S. citizens by birth.

'GREENER PASTURES'

Leaving the Caribbean for the U.S. was supposed to be a journey to "greener pastures". Yet there are rumblings that permanent residents, meaning "green card" holders, are feeling more and more under siege. Any slip, they fear, and they too could be booted out.

It isn't what they signed up for when they decided to make the U.S. their home. The "five flights a day", which roared out of Jamaica during the 1970s when the island seemed destined for a communist make-over, were not filled with people anticipating an even worse scenario in the U.S. Now some, along with more recent U.S. arrivals, are

re-thinking their optimism.

Caribbean people still want to come to the U.S. But "yard" suddenly seems sweeter. As a Jamaican said recently: "If you have a visa and money, why leave?"

PERPLEXING.

"Why would you still want to live in the U.S. under Trump?" a friend asked. It's become a perplexing question. Jobs lost in the recent economic depression started coming back under Obama and continued with Trump.

But now Trump threatens to start a World War with North Korea. He's dismantling a healthcare system, designed by the Obama administration, which benefits thousands of Caribbean nationals.

Trump's threatening to crash his own political party, causing some members to publicly revolt against him. He has furiously attacked celebrities and professional athletes demanding equal justice for all in America.

But they've fired back. Greg Popovich, successful coach of the National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs, called Trump a "soulless coward" and "pathological liar ... unfit intellectually, emotionally, and

psychologically to hold this office." Ouch.

Meanwhile, rumors of chaos in the White House intensify. Sources told **Vanity Fair** Trump has become "increasingly unfocused, consumed by dark moods", "unstable" and "unraveling".

Ten months into his presidency, a **Quinnipiac** poll showed 56 percent of Americans believe the man with authority to launch nuclear weapons is not "fit to serve as president". Another survey last month determined Trump had outright lied or misrepresented facts more than 1,300 times since being sworn in Jan. 20. Some of his core supporters – the infamous 35 percent "base" – no longer believe he tells the truth.

It's hard to be sure where the U.S. is heading under Trump. Clouds of doubt get more ominous as his Twitter tone gets more menacing and the Russian heats up with mounting indictments of Trump campaign advisers.

Caribbean Americans sense uncertainty. They worry. It's not what they signed up for.



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FCC hits Haitian pirate station Touche Douce with big fine

MIAMI, Florida— A popular Haitian pirate radio station here, known for playing a variety of Caribbean music, has been hit with a hefty fine by the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

According to a report in the **Miami Herald** newspaper last month, Radio Touche Douce was described as “the pulse of the Haitian music industry in Miami, organizing some of the most popular big-ticket parties while promoting bands and guiding konpa music fans to the next hit.”

However, the U.S. federal government has accused the underground operation of illegally broadcasting from a shed in a North Miami backyard. Fed up with the station’s “egregious, intentional and repeated violations,” the FCC hit Touche Douce - and owner Fabrice Polynice, also known as DJ Paz - with a proposed \$144,344 fine, the largest amount allowed under FCC regulations, the Herald

reported.

Two commission officials told the newspaper they can’t recall the last time a station was hit so hard.

‘NOTHING FUNNY’

“There’s nothing funny about pirate radio, which interferes with the lawful use of the airwaves and can disrupt public safety communications,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai in announcing the decision against Touche Douce, which broadcasts in English and Haitian creole.

“The FCC won’t tolerate the unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum,” Pai added.

Miami, Boston and New York lead the U.S. in pirate radio transmissions. The stations are illegal because their owners haven’t bought or leased the frequency or been granted a license to operate on the public airwaves.

All three cities boast large Caribbean populations who listen for the konpa, soca and dancehall tunes missing from

mainstream radio’s play lists, the Herald noted. It reported that Touche Douce featured regular DJs and shows in the evenings and on weekends. Its signal came from a backyard shed with a very “visible antenna,” according to FCC Enforcement Chief Rosemary Harold, but its studio is located in a North Miami storefront, where the on-air programs were sometimes live-streamed over the Internet, the Herald stated.

Harold said she is surprised that the underground operators didn’t just stick to streaming, a way that many radio operators without licenses can broadcast legally, according to the Herald.

Polynice has denied he operated an illegal radio station, the report stated, though agents noted that in 2015 he admitted that he was “DJ Paz” and had developed the Radio Touche Douce brand.

- Edited from CMC.



Jamaica’s first entertainment zone in Port Royal

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica’s Entertainment Minister Olivia “Babsy” Grange has named Fort Rocky in Port Royal as the island’s first entertainment zone.

Grange, who made the announcement at the recent launch of Carnival in Jamaica 2018, said the area had been endorsed by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Town and Country Planning Authority.

Entertainment zones are

areas where any legal entertainment and sports activity can be staged any time of day or night unhindered, as long as the organizers are mindful of the historical value of such sites.

While fuelling the entertainment industry, these zones are expected to neutralize the problem of noise nuisance.

Grange also called on pri-



Grange

vate business operators to take advantage of the opportunity to use the declared space, adding that two other entertainment zones will be declared outside of the Corporate Area soon.

- Edited from CMC.



Bahamian filmmaker wins Amnesty prize

Bahamian director Kareem Mortimer landed the Amnesty International Human Rights Prize for his film “Cargo”, which focuses on human trafficking, at the recent trinidad+tobago film festival (tfff).

The Amnesty award is usually given to a Caribbean filmmaker whose work best highlights the human rights as it believes film to be a vital tool in raising awareness about the issue.

Mortimer’s “Cargo” looks at the issue through the story of trafficker “Kevin”, an American in The Bahamas whose money problems leads him to smuggling Haitians to Florida.

“Caribbean filmmakers

have been fearless in crafting powerful stories of human struggle, sacrifice and triumph – reaching across cultures and countries, transcending language barriers to speak eloquently on the issues of human rights and social justice,” noted Amnesty International’s Pamela Carmona.

Amnesty International is a non-political organization committed to opposing human rights violations.

“Caribbean filmmakers



Mortimer

JAMAICA'S JENAAE



Jenaae Jackson, representing Jamaica at last month’s Miss Grand International 2017 in Vietnam, shows off her elaborate outfit during the pageant’s “Best National Costume” segment. The annual beauty contest is run by Miss Grand International Organization based in Thailand.

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HEALTH



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PREVENTION: Getting flu shots 'significantly' reduces risks ~ DOH-Broward

The winter flu season is approaching and a new study shows that getting a flu shot "significantly reduced" the risk of children dying from influenza virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The vaccine was 65 percent effective in preventing deaths among children, researchers reported in the journal Pediatrics. The number could be higher if more adults were vaccinated, so they don't bring the virus home with them.

"The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications,"



Flu shots help ward off illness.

the CDC wrote in a summary of the research.

The CDC recommends flu vaccine for everyone ages six months and older. Flu causes hundreds of thousands of illnesses every year and thousands of deaths.

RISK

People at higher risk include children under five, adults over 65, pregnant

women and people with existing medical conditions such as asthma.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for a person's body to develop protection against the flu. So it's best to get immunized early.

Flu season typically peaks from December through February, but can be unpredictable.

Other common sense pro-

tections: Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds; stay home when you're sick; clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces in your home and other locations; avoid touching your face; and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) recommends getting a flu shot from your private physician. If that is not possible, a person can also find it at health centers and retail outlets.

Like last year, nasal spray vaccine is no longer recommended due to concerns regarding its effectiveness.

PLENTIFUL

Supplies of shots are plentiful, including newer "cell-based" versions that grow the vaccine in a lab instead of in eggs, as has been the practice for decades. The new versions will help a small number of people who skip vaccine because they are allergic to eggs.

"Consult your doctor about which vaccine is right for you," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward.

Last year, just 59 percent of children in the United States and 42 percent of adults received flu shots. Florida ranked 12th lowest among states, with 43.3 percent vaccinated.

Most versions of this year's vaccine protect against four strains of flu – A-type H1N1 and H3N2 and two strains of B-type flu. If you can't find the four-strain vaccine, the CDCP recommends taking the three-strain vaccine rather than wait.

For more information, call DOH-Broward at **954-467-4705** or visit <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>;

DOH-Palm Beach at **561-625-5180** or visit <http://palm-beach.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>; or visit CDC at www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.html.

Story and photograph submitted by Bob LaMendola, Florida Department of Health in Broward County.



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St. Kitts and Nevis on track to end mother-to-child HIV

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts – Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris has announced that St. Kitts and Nevis is on track to become the first country in the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), CARICOM and the Americas, outside of Cuba, to bring an end to mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

That assertion was validated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in a communiqué addressed to the government of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The WHO describes mother-to-child transmission of HIV as the spread of HIV from an HIV-infected woman to her child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding. The PAHO/WHO communiqué stated that during a meeting of the Global Validation Advisory Committee (GVAC), St. Kitts and Nevis was validated as achieving the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

St. Kitts and Nevis became one of the first English-speaking countries to be certified in that regard, with Cuba being the first coun-

try in the world to do so.

'POSITIVE NEWS'

Harris, who is the lead spokesman in the CARICOM quasi Cabinet with responsibility for human resources, health and HIV/AIDS, described this "positive news" as a significant achievement for his nation.

"I feel a sense of personal pride and satisfaction that St. Kitts and Nevis is a leader in this aspect," he said.

In July, Harris, accompanied by Senator Wendy Phipps, minister of state with responsibility for health, attended a forum in New York City aimed at promoting partnership and support for the "Every Caribbean Child" initiative, which seeks to reduce teenage and adolescent pregnancy, cervical cancer, mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and violence against women and children, including human trafficking.

- Edited from a release submitted by the Press Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister, St. Kitts and Nevis.



KITCHEN TOOLS: Great holiday gift ideas for foodies ready to cook

The upcoming holiday season is the perfect opportunity to outfit foodies with all the tools they need to make cooking more efficient and delicious.

Not sure where to start? Here are a few smart ideas:

Promote precision - A good kitchen scale will help chefs get more precise when measuring solids and liquids in baking and everyday meal prep. But a great kitchen scale will go beyond that.

For example, the IQ Smart Wireless Nutrition Scale, when used with the KitchenIQ Food App, lets users count calories, carbs, fat, fiber, protein, sodium and other nutritional elements.

While pre-packaged food labeling lays out nutritional data, it can be a lot harder to track these specifics in home cooked meals. Whether your gift recipient is dieting or simply wants to more accurately track the nutrition of the foods he or she cooks and eats, this can be a useful kitchen tool.

Personalize accessories - Cooking is more fun in a kitchen that truly feels like one's own.

Help personalize the space of your gift recipient. Monogrammed kitchen uten-



New high-tech kitchen scales can help you count calories and track nutrition.

sils and baking trays make wonderful gifts, as do personalized aprons, oven mitts and kitchen linens.

Remember that a personalized order may take more time to reach its destination, so order these items with time to spare. Get inspired on Pinterest and craft your own items, or seek out the handiwork of independent artisans on a site like Etsy.

Save space - No matter what size kitchen you're out-

fitting, the best items are those that are space-saving, because they are multi-functional. Consider gifting an all-in-one kitchen tool, such as the Kitchen IQ 3-in-1 Prep & Measure Tool, which is at once a measuring cup, a citrus reamer and a gravy separator. Its stackable design further saves on storage space.

Sharpen up - When knives and scissors grow dull, simple kitchen tasks can become a big hassle, and in some cases,

even dangerous.

Help keep tools sharp and highly functional with a knife sharpener designed to sharpen and maintain both straight and serrated knives, as well as scissors. One versatile model that works for both left- and right-handed sharpening is the Diamond Pro 2 Stage Knife and Scissor Sharpener, which

features a non-slip bottom for stability in use.

This holiday season, give your favorite home chefs great tools that add form and function to their kitchens.

- Edited from StatePoint, which also provided the photograph.



Food, fun at Jamaican jerk fest

Feast on Caribbean food and entertainment at the annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival this month in South Florida.

The event, presented in association with Publix Supermarket and featuring live music and cooking contests, is scheduled for **10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 12** at Markham Park.

Activities will include a celebrity cook-off, kids fun zone, cultural stage and street party zone.

Scheduled performers include Morgan Heritage, King Yellowman, Tarrus Riley, Leon Cordero, Ken Boothe and Code Red Band.

Markham Park is located at 16001 W. State Rd. 84 in Sunrise.

For more information,



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Royal Caribbean prepares return to Puerto Rico, St. Maarten

MIAMI, Florida – Royal Caribbean International has announced the cruise line's return to San Juan, Puerto Rico and Philipsburg, St. Maarten in the aftermath of the devastation left behind by recent hurricanes.

On Nov. 30, "Freedom of the Seas" will be the first ship in the fleet to call on San Juan, scheduled to arrive with approximately 3,782 visitors to the island.

"Grandeur of the Seas" is scheduled to follow suit on Dec. 17 as the first cruise ship to sail into St. Maarten since Royal Caribbean's "Majesty of the Seas" arrived to provide humanitarian relief in September.

The announcement came on the heels of Royal Caribbean's recent news that "Adventure of the Seas" will be the first ship to call on St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands on Nov. 10.

PROGRESS

"Royal Caribbean is encouraged by the commendable progress that has been made by the governments of Puerto Rico and St. Maarten towards the recovery of these destinations and it means a lot



"Oasis of the Seas" will again make stops in hurricane-hit countries.

to us that we are heading back home," said Michael Bayley, president and chief executive officer of Royal Caribbean International.

"We have been part of the Caribbean community for almost 50 years, and for all of us it has been paramount that we focus on supporting our long-standing partners – who feel more like family after so many years.

"Supporting these destinations that are so reliant on tourism is key to the future of the islands and the best thing we – as travelers and businesses – can do for the islands."

Bayley added that Royal Caribbean has been working closely with the governments of Puerto Rico and St. Maarten, and local businesses, to offer destination experiences that will allow guests to enjoy the natural beauty, his-

toric landmarks and culture of the islands.

SERVICE

As of Nov. 30, all scheduled calls to San Juan and St. Thomas across 10 ships in the Royal Caribbean fleet will operate as planned – including calls from the world's largest cruise ships each sailing with nearly 6,000 new visitors each week – "Oasis of the Seas", "Allure of the Seas" and "Harmony of the Seas".

The scheduled visits to St. Maarten will operate as planned starting on Dec. 17 with the exception of "Oasis of the Seas", which will make its first call to the island on Jan. 1 during the New Year's Eve cruise.

Additionally, the global cruise line will return to St. Croix, also in the U.S. Virgin Islands, on Jan. 8 with the arrival of "Jewel of the Seas", which will sail from San Juan.

However, all calls to Dominica have been cancelled through June 2018.



NAACP warns African Americans traveling on AA

One of the leading social advocacy organizations for people of color in the United States has cautioned African Americans considering travel on the largest airline in the U.S.

The NAACP is warning African Americans about their safety and well being when patronizing American Airlines or traveling on American Airlines flights.

AA is regularly used by Caribbean nationals in the U.S. and worldwide.

In a statement issued last

month, the organization noted: "The NAACP for several months now has been monitoring a pattern of disturbing incidents reported by African-American passengers, specific to American Airlines. In light of these confrontations, we have today taken the action of issuing national advisory alerting travelers - especially

African Americans - to exercise caution, in that booking and boarding flights on American Airlines could subject them disrespectful, discriminatory or unsafe conditions. This travel advisory is in effect beginning today, October 24, 2017, until further notice".



Major SVG hotel resort to re-open 2018 ~ minister

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – Tourism Minister Cecil "Ces" McKie says the financially troubled Buccament Bay Resort could reopen in early 2018, after a full year of closure.

The resort, which began operating in 2011, closed in Dec. 2016 after its electricity was disconnected. The state-owned power company severed the resort's connection over non-payment, amidst weeks of protest by workers over the non-payment of wages and complaints by guests about the declining quality of the service.

After the closure of the

resort, Dave Ames, a British-born businessman who is a naturalized St. Vincent and the Grenadines citizen, and the main person associated with the resort, fled the island as the government moved against him on tax evasion charges.

McKie told legislators that when it was operational, the resort had 80 percent occupancy right up to its closure, the loss of which has impacted negatively on the tourism sector, particularly from the United Kingdom.

- Edited from CMC.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Caribbean bracing for visitor arrivals decline after hurricane damage

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – The Caribbean is predicting a slowdown in the growth of tourist arrivals for the remainder of the year as the region comes to grips with the destruction caused by three hurricanes that left trains of death and destruction when they made their way through the Lesser Antilles recently.

Joy Jibrilu, chairwoman of the board of directors of the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), addressing a news conference at the recent State of the Tourist Industry Conference (SOTIC 2017), told reporters that the Caribbean had been performing at a healthy growth rate of 5.2 percent between January and June, when compared to the same period last year.

She said the growth during that period reflected economic stability in the market, expansion and inauguration of flights by major carriers, and

new marketing and product development initiatives.

“During the first six months, the region recorded 16.6 million international tourist arrivals, some 800 thousand more than in the first six months of 2016. Growth was recorded in all major source markets except South America, which contracted by 14.3 per cent,” Jibrilu said.

She said up to June, the European market had grown by 7.9 percent, Canada by 6.4 percent and, despite the weak sterling currency, the United Kingdom had registered 4.8 percent growth. Jibrilu said the half-year outcomes reported by STR Global showed that average hotel occupancy increased marginally by 0.2 percentage points to 70.8 percent, while the average daily room rate rose slightly by 0.2 percent, moving from \$220.84 in 2016 to \$221.38 in 2017.

POSITIVES



Tourists arrive in St. Lucia.

- File photograph

“Like tourist arrivals, growth in the cruise sector also remained positive and stronger than the expected performance in the first half of the year,” she said. “At the end of the first six months of 2017, it is estimated that cruise passenger arrivals to the Caribbean region had reached

15.3 million, 4.0 percent more than in the corresponding period of 2016. This performance represented the largest number of cruise passengers in the region at this time of year.”

However, with the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the growth rate is expected to slow down in the remaining

quarters of the year. As a result, the expected growth rate of tourist arrivals will range between one percent and two percent in 2017, with the 2018 performance expected to be similar she said.

Jibrilu said while being sensitive to the impacted members of the CTO family, “we were also challenged to consider ways to tell the world that most of the Caribbean remains open for business” following the storms.

“We recognized that there is a need by consumers, the media and even travel industry professionals, of a greater understanding of the geography of the region,” she said, adding that there was general agreement that the Caribbean – both public and private sectors – must find the funds to get the message out.

- Edited from CMC.



ASIAN CONNECTION: Lucrative market for Chinese tourist beckons Caribbean

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – Officials in the Caribbean's tourism industry have been urged to undertake initiatives that will directly target China's outbound tourism market.

Addressing a session on the “Who are the New Explorers”, at the 2017 State of the Tourism Industry Conference here recently, Chris Spring, of the United States-based China Ni Hao marketing company, said chief among the recommendations is for websites and other marketing activities to be in the Chinese language.

“If there is nothing about



Chinese tourists have come to love the region.

you on the Internet you will not be known,” said Spring, who is recommending that all tourism promotional agencies, including the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), install Chinese language con-

verters on their websites.

He said presently, the Chinese know little or nothing about the Caribbean.

“There is very little information on the websites in China on the Caribbean,” he said when asked to share his opinion on the reason why more Chinese are not choosing to vacation in the region.

COMMUNICATION

Spring is also recommending that the various sectors within the industry ensure they can communicate with Chinese

nationals in their own language and at the same time conduct business efficiently with the use of technology.

“The important reason for them to visit, the thing that will make their trip attractive, is if there is somebody who can show them around and who can do that in Chinese,” he said.

Spring confirmed that more Chinese tourists are booking cruises that take them to the northern Caribbean and Mexico.

“And more and more of them will want to come back,”

he added. “... Cruising was the thing that developed United States tourism in the Caribbean and so the same thing is what we (are) going to see happen with the Chinese.”

Spring said a significant number of Chinese students are studying in the U.S. and that should be the gateway for attracting those young professionals who are seeking vacation outside of the North America.

- Edited from CMC.



St. Lucia records fast hike in tourist arrivals

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – St. Lucia's tourism sector recently recorded the second fastest growth in the region among Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) member countries.

Figures released by the CTO indicated that Bermuda leads the member countries as at August with 11.9 percent increase in stay-over arrivals over 2016, followed by St. Lucia at 9.2 percent.

The island also recorded the third highest percentage increase for August at 11.4 percent, followed by Belize at 19.1 percent and Grenada at 16.9 percent.

August marked the third consecutive month of double-digit growth for St. Lucia and fourth for the year, a feat surpassed only by Bermuda with five double-digit increases so

far for the year.

U.S. LEADER

The United States continues to be the market leader with total stay-over visitor arrivals of 12,922 in August 2017. The United Kingdom showed a marked increase of 36 percent - a significant jump - after a difficult year for the U.K. market in 2016.

In August, cruise sector visitor arrivals were 20,341, a 6.3 percent increase over the previous year, contributing to the sectors strong performance. This sector is poised for greater increases in 2018 as the port expansion at Pointe Seraphine Berth No. 1 is scheduled for completion next month.

- Edited from CMC.



VIRGIN ENCOUNTER



- Photograph by Derrick Scott

Sir Richard Branson, center, business magnate and founder of the Virgin Group and co-founder of the Caribbean and International Partners Action Dialogue on Hurricanes, greets Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service Audley Shaw, left, and Minister of Tourism Ed Bartlett during the 2017 meeting of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund last month in Washington, D.C.

SPORTS



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BOOTED: T&T out of soccer's World Cup, but takes U.S. down too

GORDON WILLIAMS

No Caribbean country will play in next year's World Cup in Russia.

Trinidad and Tobago, the region's last chance of participating in soccer's greatest showcase, was officially boot-ed from qualification last month.

However, the Soca Warriors did not leave with a whimper. T&T scored a stunning victory over the United States that knocked the Americans out of the World Cup as well.

Playing at home in Couva on Oct. 10, T&T beat the U.S. 2-1 in the final qualifying game for countries in the Caribbean, North and Central America (CONCACAF) region.

A 17th minute own goal by U.S. defender Omar Gonzales opened the scoring for T&T. Fullback Alvin Jones's thunderous 40-plus yard shot made it 2-0 after 37 minutes.

The Americans pulled one back in the 47th minute through teenager Christian Pulisic, but their successful



T&T players celebrate a goal against U.S.

run of World Cup qualifications ended at seven in a row.

DISAPPOINTING

For the U.S., it was a hugely disappointing result, especially since it started the day third in the hexagonal group of six teams. A win would have secured one of three automatic CONCACAF qualifying spots for the World Cup. A draw guaranteed a play-off spot and another chance to earn a place in the tournament.

T&T, however, had already been eliminated from

World Cup contention following a 3-1 defeat to Mexico on Oct. 6.

The U.S. loss to T&T, coupled with wins by Panama over Costa Rica (2-1) and Honduras (3-2) over Mexico, dropped the Americans to fifth, just ahead of T&T, which earned its six points from two

wins in 10 hexagonal games

The U.S., shocked following the T&T loss, slumped into a state of disbelief.

"We should not be staying home for this World Cup," exasperated U.S. coach Bruce Arena told reporters after the game.

REWARD

For T&T, the result was just reward against a U.S.

team that seemed over-confident they could dismiss the Warriors. In 1989 a late goal secured a U.S. win and 1990 World Cup place while shattering T&T's tournament dreams.

The Warriors viewed last month's victory against U.S. as a fresh start.

"I would like everyone to look at (the) match and understand that this is the beginning of our new era," T&T coach Dennis Lawrence told reporters.

"We've had a rough time, everyone knows we've had a rough time and taken a few punches. (Against U.S.) we punched back."

Last month, many observers sensed the Americans believed they would easily win, despite an unimpressive roller-coaster qualifying campaign. T&T's win created another perception.

"In my experience this is the worst U.S. national team I've seen in 20 years," Shaka

Hislop, a former T&T goalkeeper who played in the 2006 World Cup, said on **ESPN FC** "... The most arrogant U.S. team I've seen in 20 years."

Hislop's view was reflected in Arena's version of why the U.S. failed.

"There's nothing wrong with what we're doing," the losing coach said. "... Nothing has to change."

Hislop said U.S. arrogance gave a young T&T team "something to prove... because U.S. soccer looked at Trinidad and Tobago as a little back water nation," especially after photographs showed a rain flooded Ato Boldon Stadium days before the game.

The Warriors proved better on the day. Now both countries, the one with just over a million in population, the other with more than 300 million, will watch the 2018 World Cup from the sidelines.



Jamaican Kelly is USL 'Golden Boot' winner

TAMPA, Florida – Jamaican Dane Kelly has collected the first United Soccer League (USL) "Golden Boot" award of his career.

The striker is the leading all-time scorer in the USL, the second-tier competition in the United States. Kelly grabbed the award following another successful season of scoring for the Western Conference's third-best side Reno 1868 FC.

He scored 18 regular season goals in USL.

Kelly's won one of three statistical awards that the USL announced on Oct. 16 following the conclusion of the regular season.

"This is a tremendous honor," said Kelly. "I have to give a lot of credit to my teammates for putting me in a position to score 18 goals this year.

"This is a great accomplishment for me in my career, but also the Reno fan base,



Kelly

who has been with us from the beginning. Our mission isn't over yet, but it is nice to be recognized like this."

The 26-year-old Kelly recorded a career-high scoring season as Reno set a USL sin-

gle-season record with 75 goals in its inaugural campaign. He also became the first player to surpass 50 goals in the USL since the league's inception six years ago.

Kelly has scored 66 goals in the USL regular season in the last five years. This year, his performance led to his first selection to the Jamaica national senior team in September.

- Edited from CMC.



Haiti, Jamaica T&T lead Caribbean soccer ranking

Trinidad and Tobago's emotional World Cup qualifying victory over the United States last month has propelled the Soca Warriors to third in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) soccer ranking, according to the game's governing body FIFA.

T&T also earned a significant jump in the world ranking issued by FIFA, moving up 16 places to 83rd, the biggest movers in the Caribbean.

Haiti is the Caribbean's top ranked nation, although the country dropped eight places in the world to 56. Jamaica sits second in the CFU, 59th in the world.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda and Suriname have held onto their places in the

CFU top 10, but have swapped places, being sixth and seventh, respectively. The Antiguans, however, were the biggest losers in the region, dropping 19 places in the world to 136th.

Grenada and Barbados have been the beneficiaries of the slide out of the top-10 by Guyana. They are now eighth and ninth, respectively, ahead of the 10th placed Dominican Republic. Barbados has made a notable 10 place jump in the world ranking to 160th. The Guyanese dropped to 165, 11th in CFU.

Germany holds the number one spot in the world.

- Edited from CMC.



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MIAMI BOOK FAIR



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

'ReadCaribbean' at Miami Book Fair Nov. 12-19

Dozens of authors from the Caribbean are scheduled to participate in this year's Miami Book Fair (MBF) in South Florida.



Danticat

The MBF is set to run from **Nov. 12-19** at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami.

Among the highlights will be "ReadCaribbean", dubbed the official Caribbean literature program of the fair. It will feature Caribbean-specific events, including readings and panel discussions, children's writers to

inspire young readers, storytelling and music, plus publishers at the street fair.

When appropriate, author events will take place in creole or French, with simultaneous translation into English.

Among the Caribbean authors scheduled to participate in the fair are: Alfred Alexandre, Indran

Amirthanayagam, Bayyinah E. Bello, Devyn Spence Benson, Edwidge Danticat, Fritz Deshommes, Anne Eller, Aliyyah Eniath Hosein, Robert Fatton



Taylor



Lahens

Jr., Kaiama Glover, Mireille Jean-Gilles, Helen Klonaris, Yanick Lahens, Jose "Stonko" Lewest, Shara McCallum, Kei

Miller, Raoul Peck, Andrea Queeley, Mervyn Taylor and Chantalle F. Verna.

For more information, call **305-237-3258**.



Miller

Fair guides available

Persons interested in the Miami Book Fair are being offered an easier way to navigate this year's event.

The "Fair Guide", containing 88 pages, can be accessed online at miamibookfair.com.

For those who prefer the hard copy publication, they'll be available throughout the South Florida community, including at Books & Books



locations, Miami Dade College campus libraries, Student Life locations and computer labs, Miami Dade and Broward County public libraries, select Palm Beach County libraries, Publix supermarkets between downtown and South Miami; most Starbucks in Miami-Dade County; FIU Frost Museum, and at cafes and art galleries in Wynwood.



Book drive in Miami

A countywide book drive to help the Miami Book Fair place more books in the hands of children will run through Nov. 19.

Gently used baby books, first readers and other kids' books are needed. Whole Foods is accepting book donations at its following locations in Miami, Florida:

- Pinecrest, 11701 S. Dixie Hwy.
- Coral Gables, 6701 Red Rd.
- Downtown Miami, 299 S.E. 3rd St.
- South Beach, 1020 Alton Rd.
- North Miami, 12150 Biscayne Blvd.
- Aventura, 21105 Biscayne Blvd.



Journalist, author, filmmaker kick off MBF

Journalist Dan Rather, Spanish author Maria Dueñas and filmmaker/writer Jimmy Sierra are scheduled among the main presenters when the Miami Book Fair (MBF) opens Nov. 12 at Miami-Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus in South Florida.

The following is a list of author programs on opening day:

• **2:30 p.m.** - MBF presents "Diccionario cultural dominicano", written by

Sierra. Former Dominican Republic President Dr. Leonel Fernandez, who wrote the prologue, is expected to be in attendance. The book offers an overview of the Dominican Republic's culture, exploring music, dance, literature, painting, architecture, sculpture, cinema and folklore.

• **4 p.m.** - The opening session of the Ibero-American Authors Program features Dueñas. The conversation will be moderated by journalist

Mirta Ojito. Admission is free.

• **5:30 p.m.** - MBF and Centro Cultural Español de Miami invite fairgoers to celebrate the 30th anniversary El Nuevo Herald.

• **6 p.m.** - "A Conversation with Dan Rather Dan Rather", one of the world's best known journalists. His latest book is "What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism".



'Publishers Weekly' to highlight authors

For the second year in a row "Publishers Weekly" has produced a magazine that includes articles about authors attending this year's Miami Book Fair.

Copies will be distributed during the street fair. However, subscribers to Publisher's Weekly will receive it



stitched into their magazines and locally Biscayne Times will insert it into the their November issue. It will be available wherever Fair Guides are dropped.

Featured articles will include

coverage of some of the special ticketed events, such as those with Dan Rather, Patti Smith and the National Book Award finalists. Information on other authors, including Armistead Maupin, Khizr Khan, chef Lydia Bastianich and graphic novelist Tillie Walden will also be available.



'Looking Back', love for Jamaica shines through

- **TITLE:** Looking Back
- **AUTHOR:** Joan Williams
- **REVIEWED BY:** Dawn A. Davis
- **PUBLISHED BY:** Yard Publications

Joan Williams's "Looking Back" is not a memoir. It's a story of Jamaica coming of age - the way it was, is and has become.

It's the story of pain, tragedy and rebirth.

Yes, it's partly Williams's personal story, but the events of an era that shaped Jamaican politics and its collective psyche

gives this book its edge. The turbulent period of the 1970s is highlighted as Williams charts her path from activism to would-be politician to popular radio commentator.

She claims to write the truth for those who were not there; those still in the dark. Her telling of the sometimes

"toxic" environment that bred (CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

TALENT RISE: T&T author makes finals for IDB's book award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A Trinidad and Tobago writer is the lone Caribbean entry into the finals of the annual award recognizing the early-childhood education improvement and innovation champions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Washington, D.C.-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which is collaborating with international artist and educa-

tion activist Shakira and the ALAS Foundation for the annual ALAS-IDB Awards, said that Jeunanne Alkins had emerged as one of the finalists in the "Best Children's Book" category.

"Jeunanne shows children in Trinidad and Tobago



Hatch

that science not only can be fun, it can happen in your own garden," the judging committee noted.

The other finalists are from Chile and Guatemala.

BEST

The IDB noted that since 2012, the award brings together the most relevant educators, children's book writers, educa-

tion centers and innovators who every year submit their nominations to the prestigious award, which consists of four categories, namely "Best Teacher", "Best Center", "Best Children's Book" and "Best Innovation in Early Childhood Development".

"In this fourth edition of the ALAS-IDB Awards, more than 1,200 high-quality nominations from 20 of the region's 28 countries were received.

This year's finalists list was put together after a highly competitive process that included rigorous evaluations by a panel of experts in education, field visits and face to face interviews," it added.

The winners of each category are scheduled to be announced on Nov. 9 here.

- Edited from CMC.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

troubled communities in Jamaica post-Independence is palpable.

"The 'garrisonisation' of the country had reached the point where even a separate 'independent state' was established within one constituency, with a President to boot," Williams stated.

The quote describes the West Kingston community that was headed by the infamous Christopher Coke, also known as "Presi" and "Dudus" who, according to Williams, was protected by the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) although he was a known criminal and wanted by the United States. The author chronicles the happenings in garrison communities like Tivoli Gardens, run by Dudus's father Lester Lloyd "Jim Brown" Coke for decades. She also addresses the overflow of criminality that reached the U.S. via the notoriously violent "Shower Posse" gang, which adds to the macabre picture Williams paints.

WRONG ROAD

The author's distrust of the Michael Manley-led People's National Party (PNP) of the time is evident in her comments about the PNP's "dance" with socialism that she and others thought would lead Jamaica down the wrong road. So, Williams changing party alliances was no surprise.

It is well known, based on World Bank statistics, that Jamaica is among the top five murder capitals of the world. Williams tells the readers why, based on her own experiences. She names politicians and other "upstanding" Jamaicans involved in what she calls "civil war", especially during the run-up to Jamaica's 1980 general elections.

"As the undeclared civil war raged at the local level, almost every constituency in Jamaica saw some form of violence coming from either the JLP, the PNP or the Trevor Munroe led WPJ, which supported the PNP. By the end of 1980, murders had doubled to almost 900 from 440 the previous year for there was no shortage of weapons or ammunition

'Looking Back', love for Jamaica shines through

on either side," Williams wrote.

WORTHY READ

The author records the plight of the poor, especially those who lived in garrisons - "in the line of fire". She compares their daily lives to those of the political rulers who were

amassing wealth and status at their constituents' expense. It is these types of juxtapositions that makes this work a worthy read.

Williams's personal journey as a businesswoman, farmer, activist, wife and mother brings Jamaica's reality closer to the

reader. The loss of her son in 1995 to a gunman is not just heart-wrenching, it is a sad metaphor for what Jamaica had become.

In spite of all the violence and personal loss, Williams's story leaves one with a sense of hope. For no matter what her

beloved Jamaica is going through or is labeled her 'umbilical' connection and unconditional love for her country shines through.

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



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GIVE MIAMI DAY is November 16th.

Help Caribbean Today to educate our children, and thereby providing a leg up for all.

Caribbean Today has established "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" which will provide scholarships to students attending Miami Dade College. Donations can be made in the following way:

- Via Check: Make checks payable to "The Miami Foundation" and include the Fund name "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" in the memo line of the

check. Mail checks to, The Miami Foundation, 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 505, Miami, FL 33131

- Via Credit Card: miamifoundation.org/givenow. Choose the Fund from the dropdown menu and submit payment. Please look for the Fund name Caribbean Today Foundation.
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THE OFFICIAL CARIBBEAN LITERATURE PROGRAM OF MIAMI BOOK FAIR

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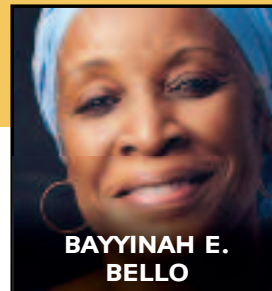
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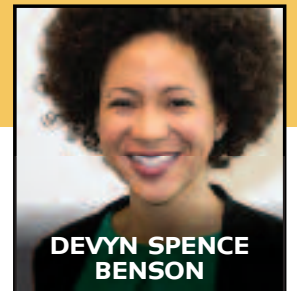
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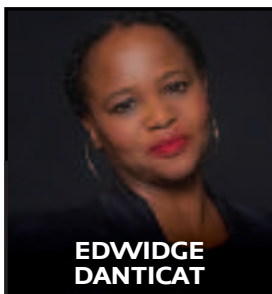
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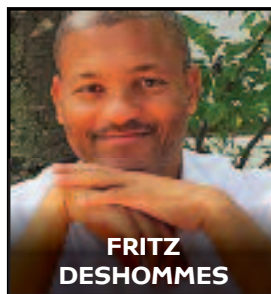
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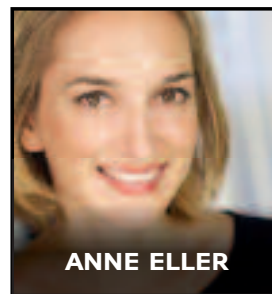
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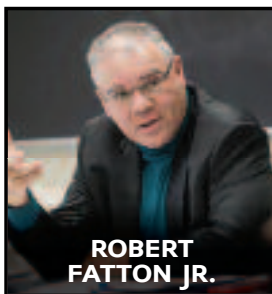
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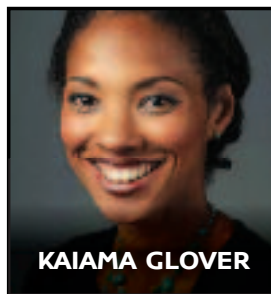
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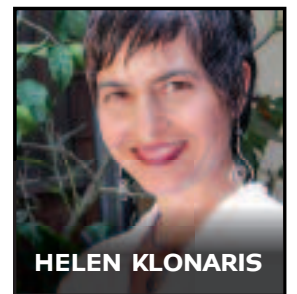
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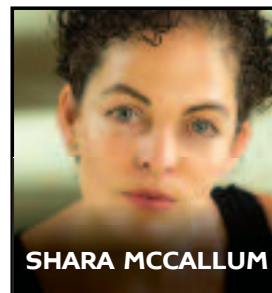
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