

Caribbean American Weekly

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NEW PM KAMLA SAYS: THE T&T ATM IS CLOSED!



The new Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar is making waves. Speaking at a first Caricom summit as her country's prime minister since leading her coalition People's Partnership to victory in May elections, Mrs Persad-Bissessar left no one guessing as to her policy on her oil and gas rich country's largesse to her less well-off Caricom partners.

Not mincing words, the first female leader of the twin-island republic stated, "Each time there is a shortfall we cannot continue like Trinidad & Tobago is an ATM card ... you come in you put the card there and you come back out with cash."

"It just cannot happen anymore", she declared. She has also lamented that "a lot of money has been shelled out by Trinidad and Tobago with no accountability, no transparency".

Persad-Bissessar's comments came in the wake of her concerns about the funding and management of two regional funds in which her country is the main regional benefactor: the Caricom Development Fund and Trinidad and Tobago's own Petroleum Fund which was set up to assist other Caricom partners.

The long-established supportive role of Trinidad and Tobago to its Caricom neighbors was further emphasized under the previous People's National Movement government of then prime

continued on page 2

Keep Pushing For Comprehensive Immigration Reform



BY SETH HOY

In front of more than 2000 progressive bloggers and activists Saturday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Harry Reid and several other keynote speakers urged progressives to "finish what we've started" and keep beating the progressive drum for change. After enumerating major Democratic legislative victories this year (health care, financial regulation, and an economic stimulus plan to name a few), Congressional leaders acknowledged the legislative priorities that lie ahead—especially immigration.

continued on page 2

DIASPORA ISSUES:

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More on pg 5



Brian Figeroux, Esq.



Jamaica celebrates 40 years of Independence ... see pg 4

How to Get A Green Card... see pg 7



Senator Adams' Stop & Frisk Legislation Safeguards Civil Liberties ...see pg 10

Let's Talk About Sex, Seriously... See Carib Village pg 1

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Keep Pushing for Immigration Reform

continued from page 1

While Republicans continue to stall immigration reform efforts in Congress and with harsh anti-immigrant legislation brewing in other states, immigration has emerged as a national hot button issue. And with mid-term elections around the corner, progressives want to know that Democratic leadership is actually going to lead.

At the fifth annual Netroots Nation conference in Las Vegas this weekend, Democratic leadership rallied the progressive voice to keep doing what they're doing—holding Congress accountable and moving the progressive agenda forward. A large part of that progressive agenda is immigration reform—an issue that many progressives feel the Administration has yet to throw its full weight behind. In a Q&A forum, progressive bloggers and activists held Speaker Pelosi's and Sen. Reid's feet to the fire on the immigration front. With Congressional Republicans blocking comprehensive immigration reform (CIR), many wondered about the viability of passing the DREAM Act this year. Here's what Democratic leadership had to say:

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): There is a difference of opinion on how we go forward on [the DREAM Act]. We are committed to comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). We don't want to take one piece and leave the rest of the

undocumented behind. We need to secure [the] border, enforce laws, stop the exploitation of workers, and provide a path to legalization. If we take off rosier pieces, it will diminish the prospect for CIR. Others have a different view, but that's a debate we're having. Arizona also shouts out for the need for CIR which supports all the things I mentioned. We know what our values are as a country. We continue to meet with business and evangelical communities, not our usual allies, but who both understand the need for CIR. We need to keep the heat on for when the time is right to pass CIR, which will be soon. We're all cosponsor of DREAM Act, but we don't want to diminish the support for CIR.

Senator Harry Reid (D-NV): We're still working on CIR. We're not finished after this work period before Congress goes out. We still have a lame duck session, so we're not giving up. No one has worked harder on immigration than me. I've got the stars to show it. We spent more time last session on immigration than any other issue.

Those people screaming the loudest, the Senators from Arizona, won't let us move on immigration. I believe we need CIR. We need to take care of our borders, get a guest worker program that includes more than just AgJobs, bring people out of the shadows, get right with the law, pay taxes, and get to the end of the line...which for some is thirteen years long. Remember, more than half of these undocumented immigrants have American children. We can't do what

Rush Limbaugh wants us to do. There's no way we can ship them back to somewhere else. This is not amnesty, it's fairness.

I've worked really hard to push for CIR. I'm working with Durbin and Lugar. But I'm not going to the DREAM Act unless I've got the 60 votes. I won't disappoint all those young men and women if I don't have the votes. So that's the story.

So where does that leave us? A dose of political reality is never fun to swallow, but both leaders paint a pretty clear picture of an uphill battle for immigration reform of any kind this fall. The upcoming recess and elections, the lack of votes for CIR, and the questionable number of votes out there for the DREAM Act are all sobering reminders that the work isn't over. The difficulty of immigration reform is also a strange reminder of just how much Congress has accomplished this year, despite overwhelming obstacles. That Republicans and some Democrats are digging their heels in on immigration could mean that progressives haven't yet found a way to make this issue click for other political interest groups. Despite more and more involvement by conservatives, evangelicals, and law enforcement officials, immigration remains an issue that doesn't get a lot of bipartisan support. While progressives may chastise their leaders for not doing enough, it was probably pretty fair of Pelosi and Reid to challenge progressives as well. ♦

T&T ATM Closed

continued from page 1

minister Patrick Manning.

Opposition Reacts

Speaking for the now-opposition party, its new leader Dr Keith Rowley, decried the "ATM" comments as insulting to the rest of the region.

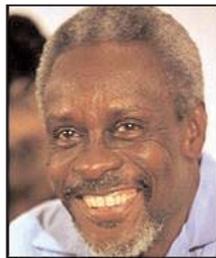
He suggested that Mrs. Persad-Bissessar could have been more diplomatic in her comments while at the same time alerting regional partners that her country too was feeling the economic squeeze.

Dr Rowley admitted to a view held by many Trinidadians that former leader Patrick Manning "was trying to be Caricom's godfather", and might have been "excessive" in his regional outreach.

But, reminded the new PNM leader, Caricom is Trinidad and Tobago's largest market — sounding a warning that this could some lead some Caribbean countries to do business elsewhere with the resulting implications for jobs for Trinidadians.

"Our jobs here are largely dependent on what they spend on our products over there," he said.

Adding that: "Those of you who travel will know that when you go to Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua, (and) Jamaica, all the shelves are stocked largely with products that say 'made in Trinidad and Tobago'."



PJ Paterson

Muted Response?

Reaction from her Caricom leadership colleagues has been muted, to say the least.

While there have been no

direct governmental reactions from across the region, the former Jamaica prime minister PJ Patterson, sought to take his country out of Mrs Persad-Bissessar's firing line.

"I can only speak for Jamaica and I would have to say that we did not line up or benefit from any ATM machine and I confine that remark to Jamaica," he said.

Gonsalves Speaks

The St Vincent and Grenadines leader, Dr Ralph Gonsalves, who did not attend the Caricom Summit, has been quoted as speaking of 'confusion among some people in government ...and in some governments, about the (two) funds,' to which the Trinidad and Tobago prime minister referred.

Gonsalves has had close ties to former Trinidad and Tobago leader Patrick Manning.

Dr. Gonsalves has been quoted as saying that while he was not referring to Trinidad and Tobago in particular, "it

would be out of order for any head of government who speaks in relation to the Caricom Development Fund in a manner to suggest that they have no obligation to be participating in such a fund, or that they are tired, or that they are weary."

Former Caribbean Diplomat Reacts

A more unequivocal reaction to the Trinidad and Tobago prime minister's comments has come from former Caribbean diplomat, Sir Ron Sanders.

Sir Ron, a syndicated public affairs commentator, writes in his current column: "Such statements would not endear Trinidad & Tobago to the rest of the Caricom countries, nor would it encourage citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to regard other Caricom citizens with anything but contempt."

He went on to state: "In reality, the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and other Caricom countries, particularly the smaller nations of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), is far more mutually beneficial than is conveyed by the analogy of the ATM machine".

Other Caricom countries are lucrative and protected markets for Trinidad & Tobago's manufactured products and financial services under the Caricom Treaty.

"Were it not for their Caricom membership, he adds, "these countries could purchase most of what they buy from Trinidad and Tobago, at cheaper prices elsewhere in the world." ♦

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN WEEKLY TEAM

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. —Hosea 4:6

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NEWS FROM THE CAPITALS OF THE CARIBBEAN

The Nutmeg Booth attracts thousands at Expo 2010 in Shanghai

Grenada's Booth continues to be the centre of attraction in the CARICOM Pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai. The Expo, which opened to the public in May, will run through the end of October 2010.

Grenada is participating in the global event along with 13 other Caribbean Countries who are all converged in a joint pavilion under the leadership of CARICOM.

The World EXPO in Shanghai also commemorated CARICOM day where all Caribbean participants celebrated a joint national day. Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, accompanied by Mrs. Thomas, was among CARICOM leaders in Shanghai to commemorate this event. The Government of China says that more than 70 million visitors are expected to converge on the 3.28 sq Km park which was specially constructed for the stellar event. The Grenada Nutmeg Booth continues to draw thousands of spectators who are attracted to the unique design and desirous in getting to know more about Grenada and its nutmeg.

— Reported by Michael Bascombe in Shanghai

Haiti's displaced begin building on their own

With the hurricane season underway, plans for the transitional shelter of 2.3 million Haitians have yet to be finalized. According to the United Nations Inter Agency Standing Committee's six-month report on Haiti, the "Safe Shelter Strategy" has been stalled as UN and Haitian officials identify settlement sites for those who will be unable to return to their homes.

"The process of rebuilding is a complicated one," says Jim Kennedy, CARE's Shelter Coordinator in Haiti. Speaking to MediaGlobal from Port-au-Prince, Kennedy explained that while plans for large scale settlements have been stalled, there is some building underway at a local level:

"Without being too blunt, CARE isn't waiting. We took a decision in February that our approach would be a community approach...to help each family, individually. We've spent a lot of time in the communities asking where they came from, but also where they want to go. So, our policy has been to provide transitional shelter or other support to families as they leave the camp."

In its report, the United Nation's Inter Agency Standing Committee warned that unless the situation is addressed, living conditions "may well become one of the major causes for social unrest and public disturbances in the near future."

Due to deforestation in Haiti, much of the lumber needed for shelter must be imported into the country. Although unfulfilled aid commitments remain an issue in terms of purchasing, Kennedy says that NGOs are not idly waiting.



Shanghai_Caricom_Tour78: From left to right, PM Thomas, Foreign Affairs Minister of Barbados Maxine McClean and President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana touring the China Pavilion. Photo By Michael Bascombe.

"Of course we'd all love to magically have all the materials we need right here right now, but I think we have to accept this is an emergency of enormous scale," said Kennedy. "The rubble clearing alone is literally clearing out a city. Bringing in the materials to build will be bringing in a city."

In his last day as UN humanitarian chief, Under-Secretary-General John Holmes said that the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was working as quickly as possible to get the Safe Shelter Strategy off the ground before unrest in the camps worsened. But he wanted to reassure Haitians that the shelters would be structurally sound.

"If building back Haiti better means anything, it means making sure its people are never again as vulnerable as they were on January 12th," said Holmes.

— By Leslie Pitterson, MediaGlobal

Guyana and Norway establish REDD + Investment Fund Norway to contribute up to US\$ 250 million, \$30 million this year

Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo and Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg recently announced the establishment of the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), and stated that they have invited the World Bank to act as the fund manager.

Norway will be the first contributor to the GRIF, and will pay US\$30 million into the fund when it is established, planned at the end of this month. The payment is in recognition of Guyana's efforts to protect its 16 million hectare rainforest, and follows the memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries in November last year.

Norway intends to pay up to US\$250 million into the GRIF between 2010 and 2015, based on Guyana's performance in avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as

well as Guyana's on-going and planned strengthening of inclusive and transparent forest management. Guyana will invest GRIF revenues to implement the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

— Source: GINA Bulletin Georgetown, Guyana

Castro silent at rally

Mr Castro did not address Monday's Revolution Day rally. For the first time since Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba in 1959, neither of the Castro brothers has addressed the nation at the annual 26 July Revolution Day rally.

Raul Castro took over as president because of his brother's ill-health in 2008; but while he attended the rally, in the central city of Santa Clara, he didn't speak.

Instead he allowed the Vice President, Machado Ventura, to address the crowd.

Bermuda Premier to step down

Bermuda's Premier Ewart Brown bade farewell to the House of Assembly on the weekend of July 24, saying he regrets the island has not achieved independence.

Dr Brown is due to step down as an MP and leader of the Progressive Labour Party in October.

He described his tenure as successful, saying that much had been achieved during that time.

On the issue of independence, he said that the veil of affluence had numbed the people's senses, causing them not to understand the psychological freedom that would accompany independence.

Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Paula Cox is the front-runner in opinion polls to replace Brown as Premier.

But former cabinet minister, Terry Lister, one of several dumped by Brown, launched his campaign for the party leadership.

Dual citizenship debate continues

There's been a new twist to the debate in St Kitts over the issue of dual citizenship.

Under the country's constitution, any national who has sworn allegiance to a foreign country is not allowed to contest the election.

A former government minister, Cedric Liburd, claims that his rival, Eugene Hamilton, should have been disqualified from the last election in January, because he holds a green card.

While that does not make him a U.S. citizen, Mr Liburd says that Mr Hamilton has divided loyalties.

The matter is now being settled in court.

Abu Bakr blames gov't for coup

Yasin Abu Bakr, the leader of the Trinidad and Tobago Muslim group, the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen, has been talking 20 years on about the attempted coup.

The Jamaat leader explained to BBC Caribbean why he and 113 followers stormed the Trinidad parliament and the state TV station in what became a six-day hostage crisis.

Two decades later, Abu Bakr said government pressure had been the underlying cause.

U.S. State Department commends Jamaican gov't for swift transfer of Christopher Coke

The Government of Jamaica has been highly commended by the US State Department for what it described as the swift and safe transfer to the US of Christopher 'Dudus' Coke. At a recent press briefing at the White House, US Assistant Secretary of State, Philip Crowley, commended the Government of Prime Minister Bruce Golding and the Jamaican authorities for their work to support Coke's transfer to the United States.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding appealed to G8 countries for greater assistance to countries like Jamaica in the fight against organized crime. This assistance, he said, must be broad-based and must recognize that rooting out crime is not just a law enforcement exercise but must be seen as a major development issue.

"When we go into communities and dismantle the criminal organizations that are embedded there, we leave a huge space which, if not quickly filled by meaningful programmes that empower people, provide training and jobs, create opportunities and offer hope, will shortly thereafter be filled by a new, smarter generation of criminals. The kind of social intervention that is needed requires resources that we don't have. We need your help....lots of help," Mr. Golding said. ♦

—Source: BBC Caribbean

Kingston Crisis: An Opportunity For Jamaica?

BY BEVAN SPRINGER

Out of every crisis, there's an opportunity, and Jamaicans — while clearly unhappy with the recent "Dudus developments" that brought chaos to a section of the capital, Kingston — are finding a silver lining in the clouds of chaos that negatively impacted the nation over the past several weeks.

Hindered by travel advisories following the civil unrest and tragic loss of life in West Kingston, before the eventual arrest of Tivoli Gardens don and alleged drug dealer Christopher "Dudus" Coke, Jamaica has embarked on the tough assignment of restoring the image of a destination known for peace, love and a tourism experience that has earned top ranks in the Caribbean.

While tourism marketers work hard to comfort travelers that the tourist centers of Montego Bay, Negril and Ochos Rios and even the capital of Kingston were unaffected by the brief bout of inner city neighborhood violence, they have reasons to be assured that their efforts will bear fruit.

As well as the millions the Government has added to the tourist board's marketing arsenal to help restore the image of Jamaica, the island has natural consumer appeal, not just because of its beauty, but because of its friendly people, not the least, the late Bob Marley, whose lyrics and melodies continue to featured in Jamaica's television commercials.



Springer

Following my recent visit to Kingston to "check out the vibes," I was asked by a Trinidadian colleague whether it was safe to confirm travel plans to visit Kingston for Caribbean Fashion Week last month. I assured him that everything was indeed "cris" and that the Jamaica that the world loves, is that same Jamaica today.

Every Caribbean island or metropolitan city for that matter has had to deal with one public relations nightmare or another, but the negative news and sometimes sensational reporting should not deter travelers from visiting.

Besides the fact that we know Jamaica will recover, what are some of the immediate opportunities for this island whose economy is expected to lose hundreds of millions of dollars from the fallout from the "Dudus" affair?

It's an opportunity for both the public and private sector players to rethink, refocus, and reposition marketing strategies.

It's an opportunity to sharpen social

media messages to the millions who get their information from Facebook and Twitter.

It's an opportunity to deepen linkages with the Jamaican Diaspora — the media, community leaders, the business community and the clergy — and equip them with the tools to promote their homeland to world audiences.

It's an opportunity to hit the road and renew relationships with travel agents and tour operators who sell the destination.

And it's an opportunity to introduce travel agents, tour operators, the media and influencers in the Diaspora to refreshed resorts and new attractions that have been recently unveiled on the island.

The good news is that Jamaica's tourism executives and public relations representatives have in fact spared no energy seizing these opportunities.

So, all things being equal, in the months ahead, thousands of travelers should in fact "come to Jamaica and feel alright." ♦

Bevan Springer, a New York Amsterdam News columnist who writes frequently on travel and tourism issues, is the President of the New Jersey-headquartered Marketplace Excellence, Inc. — a full service, integrated marketing agency committed to excellence in the fields of public relations, marketing and media coaching. He also produces the Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism — CMEX.

Queen's Chaplain, a Jamaican to Preach at Independence Service

New York will be in for a special treat as Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin Chaplain to Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth, addresses what is expected to be a full house at the upcoming Consulate Independence Church Service, Sunday, August 8.

Rev. Hudson-Wilkin, a Jamaican priest, is the first black woman to hold the position of Chaplain to the Queen and to the Speaker in the United Kingdom Parliament's House of Commons. she is currently Vicar of the United Benefice of Holy Trinity with St. Phillip, Dalston, and All Saints, Haggerston, in London, England.

Consul General Brown Metzger first met Rev. Hudson-Wilkin in 2009 at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in Manhattan. "We had a great chat and I knew then that I would ask her to be our guest preacher at an Independence Service," noted Consul General Brown Metzger.

"I can't imagine a more wonderful opportunity than to address the Jamaican community in celebration of Jamaica's Independence in New York," said Rev. Hudson-Wilkin.

The Independence Service will feature the Independence Choir led by acclaimed organist, Lloyd Ching. The Consul General will deliver the Prime Minister's Independence message. The offering will go towards supporting a youth initiative in Tivoli Gardens.

The Services will be held at the Beaulah Church of Nazarene, located at 1250 Saint John's Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213. ♦

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Worried About Debts? Let Bankruptcy Be Your Personal Bailout!

BY PEARL PHILLIP

Every day millions of Americans wake up from long, restless, sleepless nights of tossing and turning, trying to come up with a solution to their mounting debts. Of these millions, a large percentage are African-Americans and Caribbean-Americans who have been feeling the brunt of economic woes long before the announced recession. For those persons it's been an uphill battle; struggling to meet their mortgage payments, pay their credit card bills, send their kids to school, pay doctors' visits and medical bills and at the same time put food on the table. At the same time that those persons are fighting hard every day to keep the dollar alive, large corporations with their bonus-padded CEOs are given a way out by the United States government with bailouts. It seems like added insult to injury, doesn't it? What can a struggling Black man and woman do? The answer lies in bankruptcy. You can let bankruptcy be your personal bailout.

So what really is bankruptcy? Bankruptcy is a federal court process designed to help consumers and businesses eliminate their debts or repay



Your home is in your hands. You can save your property from foreclosure. Bankruptcy can help.

them under the protection of the bankruptcy court. Bankruptcies can generally be described as "liquidations" or "reorganizations."

Chapter 7 bankruptcy is the liquidation variety: If you own property that isn't exempt under your state's laws, it may be taken and sold ("liquidated") to pay back some of your debt.

Chapter 13 bankruptcy is the most common type of "reorganization" bankruptcy for consumers: You get to keep all of your property, but you must make monthly payments over three to five years to repay all or some of your debts.

Both kinds of bankruptcy have numerous rules — and exceptions to those rules — about what kinds of debts are covered, who can file, and what property you can and cannot keep.

file for bankruptcy? Also, filing for bankruptcy does not affect any immigration petitions. The two matters are separate and distinct. Some employers may "frown" at one filing for bankruptcy. But we are in a recession. There is no better time.

The Bible & Bankruptcy

Another major factor preventing one from filing bankruptcy is their religious belief that they will not go to heaven and that it is a sin. There are the laws of the state and the laws of the Bible. You are not breaking the law. God is a forgiving and loving God, remember? The Bible states that, "Every seven years we will let our fields rest, and we will cancel all debts." (Nehemiah 10:31b) *Contemporary English Version*. You can also look up Deuteronomy Chapter 15 and Luke Chapter 7.

It is possible to take control of your financial destiny and your life. To get the facts regarding filing a chapter 7 or 13 bankruptcy call 718-834-0190 or 718-363-7788 for a free consultation. It's time to start living your life. You need a fresh start. You deserve it. ♦

Who Can File?

Bankruptcy doesn't work on some kinds of debts. Though bankruptcy can eliminate many kinds of debts, such as credit card debt, medical bills, and unsecured loans, there are many types of debts, including child support and spousal support obligations and most tax debts, that cannot be wiped out in bankruptcy.

Holding Back

One of the factors holding persons from filing for bankruptcy is the perceived stigma. Listen here, you are not the first person to file for bankruptcy and you certainly won't be the last. There is no reason to feel shame or guilt. You are entitled to file for bankruptcy. It is your right as a resident of the United States. Donald Trump has filed for bankruptcy and look at him now. Who are you not to

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Home Owner Alert:
Beware of Loan Modification Scams!




Watch Out for Loan Modification Scams!

Thousands of NYC homeowners have been targeted for scams by companies promising to negotiate loan modifications — changes to the terms of mortgage loans — on their behalf.

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Steer clear of loan modification outfits that promise to get you a loan modification and ask for money up front.

Do not agree to a loan modification unless you are sure you can afford the monthly payments going forward.

She Said, He Said... Heard Around the Caribbean

"We need to remind our own people that tourism business means jobs, not only in the hotels but for taxis, restaurants and the farmers and fishermen who fill the restaurants. Tourism means work for the seamstresses, craftspeople, shopkeepers and manufacturers and the deliverymen and trash collectors. We must continue our efforts so that everyone understands that the tourism industry feeds the economic chain and builds strength in the human resource development of our youths."

— **Josef Forstmayr, President, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (Travel Weekly)**



"You can set standards for a hotel operation, but the standards need to be carried out by a team that wholeheartedly embraces them and has the ambition to excel in everything they do. We do not only want to meet guest expectations with our service, we want to exceed them every step of the way, and our team shares this philosophy."

— **Karolin Troubetzkoy, Executive Director, Marketing and Operations, Jade Mountain, Saint Lucia**



trained, competent and efficient work force so that the Caribbean tourism sector can attract the best and brightest minds."

— **Bonita Morgan, Director of Human Resources, Caribbean Tourism Organization**



"I am glad that the gentleman from American Airlines can express so easily what many of us feel like when we get to our destinations within the Caribbean area...and have to face immigration and customs...and guess what? I am Caribbean! Shameful and quite frankly tired of it!"

— **Rosemary Parkinson, Author**



"Doing things halfway is a waste of time, since it might be the other half that counts."

— **Josea Browne, Revenue and Catering Manager, Mango Bay Group of companies (Barbados Nation)**



"It is important that the entire nation knows what the Mighty Sparrow has done for us, so we have entered him in The Congressional Record."

— **Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (Jamaica Gleaner)**

"The CTO (Caribbean Tourism Organization) is steadfast in its commitment to developing the region's human resource capacity and supporting a well-

Quotable Caribbean is compiled by Marketplace Excellence, a full service, integrated marketing agency committed to excellence in the fields of public relations, marketing and media coaching.

POLITICS WITH TONI

Have you ever flipped the channel and landed on MSNBC, CNN, or FOX NEWS, and decided to maybe check out what's going on in the world? When voting in a local or national election, do you really understand the platforms provided by these politicians? The average American has no in-depth knowledge of politics. Besides the American Government class taken in high school, politics is not something we are interested in, until problems hit home. With a broad knowledge of how our nation is run, many problems that affect our community can be solved. The most important thing that every American should know about politics is that a politicians main goal is REELECTION. In order to get reelected, politicians need your vote.

Knowledge of politics is something that we as Americans take advantage of. In order for policy to come into effect, citizens must demand action from their local representatives.

Although politics may seem boring and uninteresting, knowing how our country is run can prevent representatives, who don't have the communities' best interest at heart, to be elected.

All in all, picking up a newspaper or watching the news, is a great way to learn how our legal system is run. Remember that politicians only work for their constituents; their main focus is to get reelected, so if you are not happy, they are not happy. Learning what you can do to ensure that platforms proposed by these politicians are not just false hopes can really ensure that you get the best representation for your community.♦

Politics with Toni is written by Toni Hinds a student of Florida State University majoring in political science.

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Him
Her
Couple
A family
Pet/pet lover
by age & occasion

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PORCELAIN DOLLS GARDEN POTTERY DESIGNER CLOTHES COMPUTER CASES CAMERA CASES

Political Leadership

Beats me. Do you have any bright ideas?

Yes, he **did** get the ice cream. In later life the lessons he learnt that day helped him become a senior minister.

Carib Village

Caribbean American Weekly's Lifestyle Magazine



Let's Talk About Sex, Seriously



The month of June is celebrated as Caribbean-American Awareness month. June 8 is celebrated as Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. HIV/AIDS is a serious epidemic devastating Caribbean nationals and second-generations both in the Caribbean and the Diaspora.

The latest epidemiological

trends in the Caribbean show that:

■ In 2008, an estimated 240,000 people were living with HIV in the Caribbean region, while an estimated 20,000 people were newly infected and some 12,000 died of AIDS-related illnesses.

■ The Caribbean has been more heavily affected by HIV than any region outside sub-Saharan Africa and has the second highest level of adult HIV prevalence (1.0% [0.9–1.1%]).

■ The Caribbean has a mix of generalized and concentrated epidemics. Women account for about half of all infections in the Caribbean. HIV prevalence is especially high among young women.

According to the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, New York City remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. More than 100,000 New Yorkers are living with HIV, but thousands don't know they're infected. New York City has the highest AIDS case rate in the country, with more AIDS cases than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, and Washington DC combined. HIV is the 3rd leading cause of death below age 65 in New York City. HIV is also the health problem with the largest racial disparity; 80% of new AIDS diagnoses and deaths are among African Americans (including Caribbean-Americans) and Hispanics. The statistics are alarming:

■ As of June 30, 2009, 107,177 persons had been diagnosed and reported in New York City and were presumed to be living with HIV/AIDS.

■ 75% of all persons presumed to be living with HIV/AIDS are aged 40 years or older, and nearly one-third (32.5%) are known to be men who have sex with men (MSM).

■ In the first half of 2009, there were 1,823 new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS in New York City. Of these, 418 (22.9%) were diagnoses of AIDS concurrent with HIV, and 45 were acute HIV infections.

■ 75% of the 1,405 new HIV (non-AIDS) diagnoses were among men; 44% were among MSM; and 22% were among persons reporting heterosexual transmission risk. The proportion of new HIV diagnoses among injection drug users fell from 6.7% in the first half of 2008 to 4.6% in the first half of 2009.

■ Manhattan and Brooklyn had the highest proportions of HIV (non-AIDS) diagnoses, followed by the Bronx and Queens. Of those areas, the highest population of Caribbean-Americans live there.

Experts involved in the fight against AIDS in the Caribbean say one of their biggest challenges is getting people in the region to have a serious and open discussion about sex and sexuality. Director of the United Nations Caribbean Aids program, Ernest Massiah, has said that curbing the rate of infection of HIV and AIDS in the region is not helped by the attitude towards sex and sexuality. Allyson Leacock, Director of the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS agrees. She says: "We now have to engage people about their perceptions about men having sex with men, sex workers, drug users etc. All of them are at risk — but because of the societal discrimination we find it very difficult for some of these people to be open."

The epidemic is getting worse as you read this article. The epidemic is increasingly affecting women, who now constitute a third of new AIDS cases — up from 1 in 10 at the start of the epidemic. More than 80% of new AIDS diagnoses and deaths are among Blacks and Hispanics. Black men in New York City are 6 times more likely to die of AIDS than white men; black women are 9 times more likely to die of AIDS than white women. Hispanic men and women are 4 times more likely to die of AIDS than white men and women.

It's time to talk. Time to talk about sex, seriously. Time for action. Time to take up arms against HIV/AIDS. Time to have protected sex. Time to get tested. Time to be careful. Time to use condoms. Time to be honest. Time to be tested. Time to take sex seriously as your life is at risk. Are you serious about sex? HIV/AIDS is. ♦

Simple Summer Skin Tips

■Exfoliate

Your body sheds skin cells daily and over time they can build up making you look dull and scaly. Use a salt or sugar based scrub to exfoliate flakey skin two or three times a week.



■Ditch Your Razor for Waxing

Ingrown hairs are a hassle (not to mention painful and unattractive) and summer is the time hair removal goes into overdrive. Instead of shaving get your legs and bikini areas waxed.

■Use Heavy Moisturizing Lotion

Apply a thick lotion or rich oil after your shower while your skin is still damp to lock in moisture. Organic cocoa and shea butters have healing properties and help fade marks and discolorations on the skin.

■Drink Plenty of Water

Have a steady and abundant supply of drinking water. It keeps you hydrated from the inside out and helps give your skin a healthy glow. Water flushes toxins and other complexion spoilers out of your system. Drink a glass of water every hour that you're awake and you'll see results.

■Eat Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and vegetables have vitamins, minerals and enzymes that help your skin look its best. Try smoothies and juicing as well. ♦

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Fit Matters If You Want To Flatter

BY FAITH COLEMAN

Many females tend to focus more so on whom they wear than on whom they wear. On the contrary whom you wear is more important than who you wear. Many fail to realize that length, fabric, shape and style all play a major role in the world of fashion but it should also play a big role in everyday life.

Ever heard of the expression, it's not what you wear but how you wear it? Well that is a key rule when it comes to the fashion industry. A person can wear a \$300,000 dress from a top designer with all the right accessories, the right hair style and stunning shoes, but if the fit of the garment is all wrong that top designer dress, with all the right styling accessories along with the stylish hair and loving chic shoes can easily turn into a fashion don't, the second it is spotted.

Fashion is all about fit no matter what shape or size you are. The clothing is always suppose to compliment one's body in order to flatter. However, you should always strive to obtain your unique, sassy, classy, polished look and style that makes you who you are. Just make sure that the clothing you desire to wear always shows off your beautiful physique and not hide it.

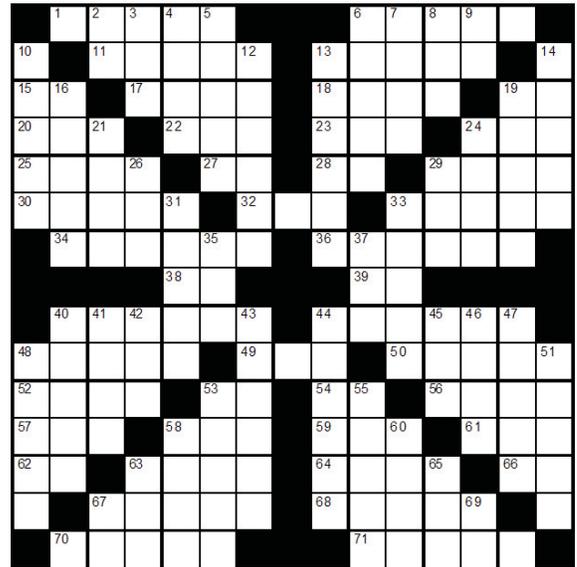
As a woman, a garment should always flatter your body whether it's from jeans and a simple T-shirt, to a very elegant night on the town dress. Your clothes should always be the right fit to flatter and show off your body, but most of all, compliment the wonderful curves that women have in all wonderful shapes and sizes.



Halter Neck Wrap Front Short Bubble Dress, \$168 @ Donna Ricco

For more fashion tips, listen to Fashion with Faith every Saturday from 11am to 12 noon on ABR 90.3FM Community Radio and www.allblackradio.com ♦

Caribbean Puzzle



Puzzle created by Rod Broome. Copyrighted 2010.

Across

1. Inexpensive
6. Indian drum
11. Muslims collectively
13. Acted out
15. Likewise
17. 'Bank' among friends
18. Eastern region
19. Gleaner's Proute (initials)
20. Limited shortened
22. Marine
23. British title
24. Take (slang)
25. Mango type
27. Alternative
28. Female Bajian bard
29. Guyana's 1st GG
30. Fully ready
32. Paternal grandma (indic.)
33. Outmoded
34. Being
36. Dress
38. Indicative of motion
39. Indefinite article
40. Hat type
44. Emerge
48. Satan-like
49. Sound of blow
50. Black
52. Thief
53. Mother
54. Ex-PM Patterson
56. Tops
57. Was in hiding
58. Little one
59. An atom
61. Spiritual leader
62. Popular verb
63. A Belize PM
64. Jamaica tabloid
66. Neutral pronoun
67. The pumpkin eater
68. Of a Jewish sect
70. Women's tennis star
71. Davis of 'Rat Pack

'Down

2. Hello
3. 19th letter
4. Alumnus in short
5. Leisurely stroll
6. A cat's illness
7. Moslem prince
8. Ocean
9. South Dakota (abbr.)
10. Deep-sea fish
12. Deryck or David
13. Tall forest tree
14. 'Guinep' in Guyana
16. Not fresh
19. Jackson of PUSH
21. Spirit of deceased tot
24. Reggae's main Peter
26. Subway in NYC
29. Cat food
31. Strong person
33. District in Puerto Rico
35. Sir Grantley's son
37. To fold
40. Round
41. In the middle of
42. Egg-mixed beverage
43. Hindu advent
44. Deliberately rude
45. A Bajian sprint king
46. Sky light
47. Boredom
48. Doctor of Philosophy (abbr.)
51. One who meddles
53. Small boat
55. Spanish dances
58. Archbishop Desmond
60. US space agency
63. All male
65. Brink
67. Peru in short
69. Dominica (abbr.)

Look out for the answers in next week's edition

Summer Concert Series



**August 2, 2010
OLD SCHOOL
NIGHT**
Salt-N-Pepa
Naughty By Nature
Slick Rick

**August 9, 2010
AN EVENING WITH
Aretha Franklin**



**August 16, 2010
GOSPEL NIGHT**
Bebe & CeCe Winans



**August 23, 2010
CARIBBEAN
NIGHT**
Sean Paul
The King of
Calypso:
The Mighty
Sparrow



The 28th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series performances are held Monday nights 7:30 pm at Wingate Field, which is located on Brooklyn Avenue between Rutland Road and Winthrop Street opposite Kings County Hospital. The public is encouraged to bring their own chairs because seating is limited. Performers are subject to change without notice. Call the concert hotline for updates at 718-222-0600. ♦

**Sister DuBong's
Horoscope**

Week Wednesday July 28 to
Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Aries: Lucky Numbers: 971 6778
Lotto 1 3 6 45 9 43
Trust your instincts. Last week's moon eclipse had a lot of surprises for you. Be careful when listening to gossip; change the subject or walk away.

Taurus: Lucky Numbers: 789 2855
Lotto 31 20 9 5 21 16
Love is in the air. Brush up with your dance steps and bring out the dancing shoes. You never know, there may be opportunities at the office for advancement.

Gemini: Lucky Numbers: 256 6619
Lotto 40 13 34 38 20 46
Your gift for communication will work well for you in every phase of your life during this time.

Cancer: Lucky Numbers: 701 7129
Lotto 34 9 21 46 29 2
Life may have surprises for you today. You may decide to start a new adventure or even move to a new town. Your energy is better than you think!

Leo: Lucky Numbers: 768 4991
Lotto 27 42 24 10 3 18
Have a positive attitude and the world is yours. Money concerns will be temporary.

Virgo: Lucky Numbers: 405 1200
Lotto 33, 24, 38 11 47 34
Stay focused on your goals. If you reach for the top of the world you can make it happen. Don't forget to take pictures.

Libra: Lucky Numbers: 651 8000
Lotto 34 45 7 31 16 10
You are very attractive to the opposite sex so take advance of your opportunities to find a mate. Don't spend all of your funds at this time; find things to do that are inexpensive. Remember, some of the best things in life are free!

Scorpio: Lucky Numbers: 212 1572
Lotto 8 10 22 33 35 39
Actions speak louder than words. Watch what is going on and then act appropriately. You are very clever and can make great decisions.

Sagittarius: Lucky Numbers: 974 7524
Lotto 28 34 33 21 24 42
Don't make a fuss at the office right now. Make sure to follow up on your employees' responsibilities.

Capricorn: Lucky Numbers: 105 5402
Lotto 38 49 41 10 6 43
Discuss business matters with a trusted advisor if needed. Starting a new business could be what you need now.

Aquarius: Lucky Numbers: 019 4465
Lotto 34 41 5 10 12 49
You are a great person. Take the time to do something nice for yourself. Your skills are sharp this week and it will be easy to pick winners if you want to gamble a bit.

Pisces: Lucky Numbers: 391 6178
Lotto 24 37 1 49 36 41
The solar eclipse moon can send your emotions to the moon. Keep a tight watch on your emotions. Money can flow your way. Keep your eyes open. ♦

Listen to Sister DuBong every Tuesday morning from 1am to 3am on WVIP 93.FM; ABR

Family Therapy

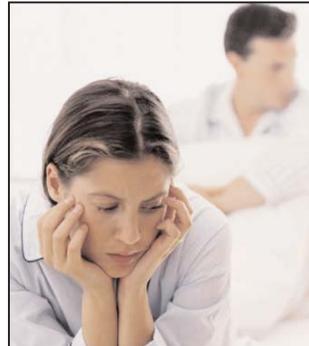
BY KATHY ROUGIER, B.Sc.

The family unit is defined in several ways including the traditional one comprising parent(s) and children; the extended family including grandparents and other family members; and a relationship between people who may or may not be related by blood. Irrespective of the variants, it may be argued that most families operate at some level of dysfunction.

In an effort to promote ideal functioning among family members, family therapy was developed as a distinct professional practice in the mid -19th century in the United States, having origins in Social Work and roots traced to Psychotherapy. Intervention to assist families involves formal or informal procedures and may include based on cultural norms, the extended family who may not be resident within the household, and/or members of the community — religious or otherwise.

Through the decades family therapy evolved to enhance change and promote development and psychological health of members within the family unit. Today, therapists strongly endorse and incorporate the experiential approach which focuses less on the theoretical approach but more on the subjective feelings and experiences of the family members.

Regardless of the origin of the problem, and whether clients consider it an individual or family issue, problem-solving is



best addressed by the entire family. Direct participation by all family members in therapeutic sessions prove to be most beneficial.

Various clinicians began to integrate parts of different theories — psychoanalytic, behavioral and learning — to present a model for treatment. Underlying tenets used by therapists include sensitivity and genuine concern for the members of the family unit, warmth, acceptance without judgment, empathy and understanding. After working through resistance, establishing a working alliance and gaining the trust of family members, through a series of steps, the therapist determines what syntheses are best suited for maximum results.

Communication too is particularly

important. During the therapeutic encounter, each member expresses his or her views for the understanding of family members' actions. During this period, members allocate blame and report their effect and responses. A distinct advantage in conducting family therapy is that as members interact, the therapist has an opportunity to view first-hand the interactions of family members to make deductions, address certain concerns and prompt alternative responses.

Family therapists tend to be most interested in the maintenance of the family unit and assisting in resolving troubling issues. For a modification in affect, effective communication and healing in familial relationships, new coping strategies are identified during therapy which can range from 5 to 20 sessions. These coping strategies and alternative responses offer the impetus for change, resolution of conflict and positive affect among family members.

One drawback to family therapy is that there may be a scheduling problem. With family members having conflicting schedules some compromise must be made to have all members engage in the therapeutic session to bring about comprehensive change and alleviate dysfunctioning. The benefits of therapy for the family are sometimes underscored, but is clearly evident from reports of families who sought and obtained help. ♦

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Restaurant Review: The Negril Village

Negril is a privately held, family run, full service restaurant and caterer inspired and founded by Marva Layne. The Negril mission is to service our guests with the best quality Caribbean Cuisine using the best possible ingredients, products, inputs of service, unmatched hospitality, atmosphere, and culinary excellence. Additionally, we strive to be an accurate representation of Caribbean food and culture.

Negril Story

For the past 15 years, husband and wife team Marva Layne and Carlton Hayle, along with Peter Best and Sim Walker have brought the flavors of the Caribbean to the island of Manhattan. The group pride themselves in producing the best quality Caribbean cuisine. Negril Village is located at 70 W. 3rd Street. It is easy for patrons to feel as if they have been trans-



jerk Salmon

ported to the tropics with style. Rich in all the flavors of the Caribbean, everything is carefully prepared, well seasoned, and bursting with flavor. So good in fact, Zagat's Restaurant Survey voted Negril's Jerk Chicken the best in New York. The celebrity clientele is vast and ever growing. When you can't make it to the Caribbean it's no wonder why Negril Village restaurants is the next best thing. ♦

ISLAND SPOTLIGHT: Barbados

The Government of Barbados will convene the Inaugural Barbados Diaspora Conference at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, from August 5th – 7th, 2010.

Themed, "Strengthening the Bonds that Unite Us" the conference and consultation will explore ways to realize national objectives pertaining to the Diaspora, which are under the remit of the Council for Investment, Exports, Foreign Exchange and the Diaspora (CIEX). It will also give Barbadians and Friends of Barbados residents abroad the opportunity to discuss ways

in which they can make tangible contributions to the development of our island and will catalyze efforts to have a pool of resources at the country's disposal.

One of the highlights of the Consultation will be a Town Hall styled meeting, at which Barbadians will have the opportunity to present and discuss matters of importance to them. For further information on this, send an email to John Blackman, Ministry of Foreign



Affairs and Foreign Trade at barbados@foreign.gov.bb.

For more information visit www.investbarbados.net. ♦

Recipe of the Week

Guinness Bottle Chicken Stew

Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Cooking Time: 10-15 minutes
Country: St Vincent and the Grenadines

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. chicken breast clean cut into bite sizes
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 10 oz. or 1 cup bottle Guinness
- 1 cup chicken broth or 2 chicken bouillons dissolved in 1 cup water
- 1 onion diced
- 2 cloves garlic finely chopped
- 1 bell pepper deseeded and sliced
- 1 tbsp. tomato paste
- 1 tsp. parsley
- 1 tsp. chili powder

METHOD / DIRECTIONS:

Combine flour, salt and pepper in a large ziploc bag, then add chicken and shake to coat. Meanwhile in a large skillet or wok, heat oil, then add chicken and fry for 3 minutes on each side. Place on paper towel after fried. Reduce oil to approximately 2 tablespoons. Add onion and garlic. Sauté for about 4 minutes. Add Guinness then reduce by half, then return chicken to skillet along with broth paste and remaining ingredients. Let cook for 10-15 minutes.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS:

3 Servings

Submitted by:
Vinciecutie
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**Summer Green Tip:
Wet & Wise**

Water usage levels are a big deal throughout much of the U.S. and the summer drought season can really make things tough. Be certain to watch what you use, water plants only when necessary, and take a few minutes to install a low-flow shower head. They're simple steps that can make a big difference.

Non-Immigrant Employment Options For Nurses

BY BEVERLY WINT

Although the United States has one of the best educational systems, we continue to have shortage of professionals in the Health Care Sector and this has led employers to aggressively seek filling the demand with foreign workers.

Despite the current economic crisis; while many are losing jobs in most other industries there still remains the need for health care workers. The need for registered nurses tends to grow faster than all other occupations.

In this area, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and licensed practical nurses represent a significant portion of the health care profession. Foreign nationals who want to work in the United States as licensed practical nurses or licensed vocational nurses must meet certain requirements.

These positions require advanced practice: registered nurses (APRN), including Clinical Nurses, Specialists, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Certified Nurse-Midwives.

Consideration are given to persons who are qualified in this field and are able to



provide certificates indicating their education, training, experience and other supporting documents and have met certain English language skills.

To qualify, nurses both male and female, must be employed as professional nurses and must either hold a commission as graduates of foreign nursing schools (CGFNS) certificate, full and unrestricted (permanent) license to practice nursing in the state of intended

employment or have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)

Health care treatments are on the rise and emphasis is being placed on technological advancement and preventive care to the aging population, which in turn fuels the need for more nurses. Currently domestic nurses continue to be in short supply, therefore, demands for foreign nurses will also continue to rise.

Green cards can be issued to foreign nurses with the following requirements:

- A full and unrestricted professional nursing license in the state of intended employment.

- Certificates of passing the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) exam (the exams is not the CGFNS Visa Screen Certificate)

- Certificate of passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and a

letter that the nurse cannot get a state nursing license due to lack of a social security number.

A foreign nurse seeking an employment-based green card must have an employer sponsor. Nurses are also eligible to get green cards through a family relationship.

The CGFNS exam is offered several times a year at locations internationally. The exams measure an applicant's nursing knowledge and is based on what nurses must know and do when they practice in the United States.

These are divided into different areas such as practicing nursing for children, infant, mental health and community health nursing.

Immigrant and nonimmigrant visas for professional nurses and certain health care workers are issued.

Legal immigration services are provided by the Law Firm of Figeroux & Associates to assist employers as well as individuals who are seeking their career in the health sector.

To schedule an appointment, please call 718-834-0190 or 718-363-7788. You can also visit www.falaw.us for more information. ♦

Remember the lawyer you hire does make a difference.

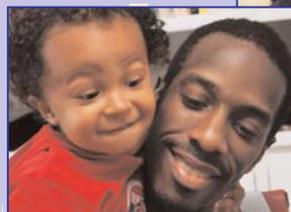
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- ▶ J-1 Exchange Visitor Trainees
- ▶ O-1 Extraordinary Ability
- ▶ R-1 Religious Workers
- ▶ U.S. Citizenship

- ▶ Family-sponsored Permanent Residence
- ▶ Green Cards/Labor Certification (RIR)
- ▶ Immigration Visa Petitions: Employment Based
- ▶ Temporary Work Visas
- ▶ Naturalization Derivative Petitions
- ▶ Labor Certifications
- ▶ Application for Asylum
- ▶ Petitions for Writ of Habeas Corpus
- ▶ Appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals
- ▶ Lawsuits involving Eligibility and Processing for Citizenship



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Court Demands That Attorneys Must Warn Clients About Immigration Consequences When Taking A Plea

BY RHADAMES A. ULLOA, ESQ

Oftentimes, individuals who are convicted of a crime, have served time, and paid their fines, still face collateral consequences of their conviction, such as deportation. Undocumented immigrants and permanent residents risk being deported and/or becoming ineligible for relief under immigration laws if they plead guilty to a deportable offense under the Immigration and Naturalization Act.

Post-conviction relief is a term used to describe the many laws that can help an individual after he or she has pled guilty or has been convicted of a crime. A successful post-conviction relief application may result in a new trial, a modified sentence, or such other relief as the court deems just and proper.

Post-conviction relief proceedings are often referred to as a "collateral appeal" because the normal appellate review process has become final. Post-conviction relief is governed by federal and state laws, and the proceedings vary from state to state. However, generally, these proceedings are available to any person who

has been convicted of a crime and claims that the underlying conviction or sentence was obtained in violation of the state or the U.S. Constitution.

Recently, in *Padilla v. Kentucky*, the Supreme Court of the United States held that the Sixth Amendment right to counsel requires that non-citizen defendants be advised of the deportation risks of a particular plea.

Likening deportation to the punishments of banishment and exile, Justice John Paul Stevens, writing for five justices, said the Constitution guaranteed competent legal advice on at least some collateral consequences of guilty pleas.

"It is our responsibility under the Constitution to ensure that no criminal defendant — whether a citizen or not — is left to the mercies of incompetent counsel," Justice Stevens wrote.

Justice Stevens added, "Where the relevant immigration law is succinct and straightforward, the defense lawyer must explain the consequences of a guilty plea. Otherwise, the lawyer 'need do no more than advise a noncitizen client that pending criminal charges may carry a risk of

adverse immigration consequences."

"The importance of accurate legal advice for noncitizens accused of crimes has never been more important," he wrote. "Deportation is an integral part — indeed, sometimes the most important part — of the penalty that may be imposed on noncitizen defendants who plead guilty to specified crimes."

The case involved Jose Padilla, a native of Honduras who has lived in the United States for 40 years, served in the Vietnam War and is a legal permanent resident. Mr. Padilla, a commercial truck driver, was arrested in 2001 after the authorities in Kentucky found more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana in his truck.

Mr. Padilla pleaded guilty to marijuana trafficking, a felony, and received a five-year sentence. He later said he had agreed to the plea based on his lawyer's incorrect advice that it would not affect his immigration status. In fact, the plea made it all but certain that Mr. Padilla would be deported once he served his time.

Prior to Padilla, state laws would vary. However, after this monumental decision,

each state now must recognize that where an attorney fails to advise their non-citizen client of the deportation risks of a plea, this amounts to ineffective assistance of counsel and the client may apply for post-conviction relief pursuant to the Padilla decision. The Court noted that deportation is inherently part of the punishment for non-citizen defendants and where deportation will result after entering a particular plea and the accused is not informed of this reality, then said plea was not knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently made as required by the U.S. Constitution.

If you are a non-citizen or know of someone who entered a plea without being advised of the immigration consequences and are now facing deportation, you may qualify for post-conviction relief. ♦

Rhadames Ulloa is an attorney at Figeroux & Associates and can be contacted at 718-222-3155 for a consultation.

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Seven Keys to Growing Your Business

BY KANETTA BAPTISTE

Your ability to think, analyze and decide is the key determining factor of your profitability. To help enhance this ability, there are some key principles for business success that are relevant and important at every stage of your business life. In order to help you gain successful results from your business, here are some keys points to consider:

1. There must be a Need for the Product

When selecting a new product or service, the first key to consider is whether it fills a genuine or existing need that customers have at that time. A new product or service must solve a problem of some kind for the customer or make the life or work of the customer better in a cost-effective way. You must be very clear about exactly what your product or service does to improve the quality of the life or work of your customer.

2. Offer Good Quality at a Reasonable Cost.

The second key to consider for business growth with any product or service is that it must be of good quality at a reasonable



cost. If it's in competition with other similar products or services, it must carry a Unique Selling Proposition.

3. Safeguard Your Money

In order for successful business growth one must have firm financial controls and good budgeting. Successful companies use accurate bookkeeping and accounting systems. These systems are put in place at the very beginning and every penny is carefully accounted for.

4. Cash Flow is Imperative

As a small business, you must hold on to your cash since it is the lifeblood of the business. Cash flow is a critical measure and determining factor of business success. Most successful entrepreneurs install careful financial controls and monitor them every day. Only spend money to earn money.

5. Guard Your Cash Carefully

One important key to business survival,

with regard to your operations is prudence. One of my former employers, who is now a multimillionaire in her country, carried her lunch to work every day and despite the speedy rate of success of her company, she still drove a used car. She made very strict money saving decisions.

6. Dynamic Marketing

Another important key for business success is strong momentum in the sales department. This requires strong emphasis on marketing that streams through the entire company. Every staff member must have a workable marketing technique as his/her disposal.

7. Effective Selling Skills

The keys to business success are simple. With regard to the product, the keys are to "Sell! Sell! Sell!" One of the most important simple skills you must develop for succeeding in your own business is the ability to sell yourself and your product to your target market. ♦

Kanetta Baptiste is the V.P. of Small Business Solutions, NACC Chamber of Commerce and be contacted for a free consultation at 718-722-9217.

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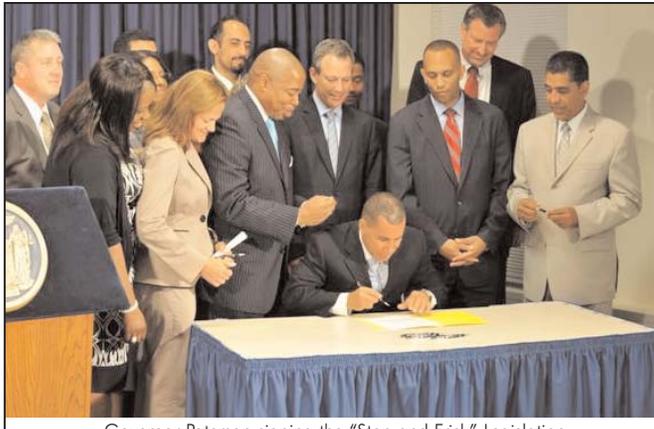
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Governor Paterson Signs "Stop and Frisk" Bill into Law

Governor David A. Paterson on July 16, signed into law A.11177-A/S.7945-A, or the "Stop and Frisk" legislation, which prohibits the retention, in an electronic database, the personal information of individuals who are stopped, questioned and frisked by police, but are not charged with a crime or violation. The "stop, question and frisk" technique is used when a police officer reasonably suspects that an individual has committed or is about to commit a misdemeanor or felony. While this law does not prohibit the use of that technique, it ends the practice of storing the personal information that is collected in the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) database. The bill applies only to stops in New York City. The bill was introduced by Senator Eric Adams.

Currently, the NYPD retains personal information to be used, if applicable, in further investigations. Under this new law, personally identifiable information — such as names, addresses and social security numbers — will be prohibited from being entered into an electronic database for those individuals who have been stopped and questioned, frisked, or both, and released without any further legal action. This bill will not prevent police from entering generic information such as the gender or race of a suspect, or the location of a stop. Additionally, the bill does not prevent



Governor Paterson signing the "Stop and Frisk" Legislation

the use of the stop-and-frisk technique, which is legal and constitutional, where the officer reasonably suspects that the person stopped has committed or is about to commit a felony or a misdemeanor as defined in the penal law.

Data compiled by the NYPD indicates that the vast majority of those stopped since 2005 have been black or Hispanic. Additional data shows that in 2008, 88 percent of the individuals stopped were released without further action. It is not

unreasonable that these individuals could be targeted in future investigations even though no evidence of wrongdoing was found during the initial stop that warranted further legal action.

The following statements were provided in support of the Governor signing A.11177-A/S.7945-A into law:

Senator Eric Adams said: "The NYPD has maintained a database of people who have been stopped, questioned, and frisked, even

if those persons are innocent of any wrongdoing. This is an unconstitutional, un-American invasion of privacy. People of color are especially victimized: 80-90% of those stopped are black or Hispanic. The police must cease compiling a database of those not even arrested or given a summons after being stopped, questioned, and frisked. I am extremely gratified that my bill to amend criminal procedure law in relation to the temporary questioning of persons in public places (commonly referred to as 'stop, question, and frisk') has been passed in the State Senate, and that Assemblyman Jeffries' bill has been passed am proud to look on as Governor Paterson signs the legislation into law."

Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries said: "This is a tremendous victory for all fair-minded New Yorkers who believe that in a democracy, aggressive law enforcement techniques must be tempered by a healthy respect for civil liberties. There must be a balance between law enforcement activity and the privacy rights of innocent, law-abiding citizens. There is no compelling reason to permit the NYPD to maintain an electronic database with the personal information of more than one million New Yorkers who have done nothing wrong, the majority of whom are black and Latino. The NYPD has repeatedly refused to end this practice. Today I am thankful that Governor Paterson has stepped forward to sign this bill into law and protect the integrity of our democracy here in New York State." ♦

Source: New York State Office of the Governor

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The 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa: Hope?

BY RHADAMES A. ULLOA, ESQ.

Like any other soccer fan from around the globe, I too was fixated with June 11, 2010. On this date of course, South Africa and Mexico kicked off the 2010 FIFA World Cup at Soccer City, Johannesburg. No other sporting event can match the electric ambience that engulfs a stadium during soccer games, especially during World Cup games.

Thanks to the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) bigwigs, almost eighty years after the inauguration of the quadrennial World Cup in Uruguay, South America on the 13th of July 1930, an African nation finally played host to the tournament. But as I eagerly waited for Africa's first World Cup to officially kick off, I felt a certain ambivalence about the tournament, not about who I was rooting for — that was decided long ago, but as to what this will mean for Black South Africans.

Yes, a World Cup on African soil was long overdue. But why South Africa? The country of Apartheid; the country



Former President of South Africa, Hon. Nelson Mandela at the recent 2010 FIFA World Cup held this month in South Africa.

Photo: fifa.com

that saw one of the continent's great intellectuals, Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years because he wanted to emancipate his brothers and sisters from the racist grip of the National Party. A majority of the population of South Africa — like many of the inhabitants of the "Dark Continent" — is mired by famine, AIDS, and crippling poverty. But these social ills disproportionately afflict Black South Africans. And by

anyone's account, it is not these marginalized natives who reaped the benefits of the tournament. The big winners of the publicity and throngs of visitors that flocked to South Africa were corporate sponsors like McDonalds, Adidas and Coca Cola that benefited greatly from having their brands showcased to close to a billion people. The CEOs of these large conglomerates do not and cannot

empathize with the plight of the natives and are only concerned about their golden parachutes, not public works.

My passion for sports undoubtedly had me cheering for my favorite teams throughout the games, but at times I was reminded of the tragedy that is South Africa. For although the World Cup was finally hosted by an African nation, in all likelihood Black South Africans that have been historically persecuted and deprived of the riches and resources of their own land did not benefit from this momentous gathering.

One hopes that a generation from now, the games will be seen as the catalyst for much needed change for Black South Africans. Change can come in many forms. But for the native South Africans, hopefully it means that some of the revenue generated from the World Cup will expedite their access to health care, education and the redistribution of land that rightly belongs to them. On the other hand, the World Cup may just have been a diversion for the masses. Only time will tell. ♦

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