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Letters to the Editor

This is an open platform for all points of view, on any topic which concerns our readers. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Caymanian Compass.

Conch contest an insult

Like other Caymanians, we look forward to the 1 November opening of conch season and taking our legal catch of conch during the occasional weekend boat trip and sharing it with neighbours and friends.

As limited as Cayman's conch population is today, we were appalled by last Saturday's conch fritter eating contest at Macabuca only two days after conch season opened.

The organisers and host of this event, including 96.5

CAYROCK claimed it was "designed as a celebration of conch in the Cayman Islands." Shame on the organisers — and the media for its gratuitous support of such an event.

That contest was a merely gluttonous stunt that showed cultural ignorance. It practically mocked Caymanians' traditional use of this mollusk, once survival food and a staple of our diet.

Even worse, many Caymanians today, especially our senior citizens, would

give anything for a simple plate of stew conch with sea pie. Many can neither afford conch nor have the ability to provide their own supply during season.

If the organisers had so many mollusks to waste, why didn't they "celebrate" by treating residents of The Pines and other senior citizens residences and other senior citizens to a complementary conch lunch?

That's the kind of thing Suzy and Bob Soto, the original owners and their staff of the

Cracked Conch often did quietly in our community.

The Cracked Conch owners contend that Macabuca is the "Taino translation for "What matter to me?" Here at Macabuca nothing does." Perhaps they should read Caribbean history books. The indigenous Taino were this hemisphere's first custodians of the land and sea. Unlike the European invaders who enslaved, then eradicated them, everything mattered.

Jim & Barbara Dailey

Release lawyers in Pakistan

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association is a pan-Commonwealth professional association of lawyers. It exists to maintain and promote the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth.

The CLA is alarmed by the Proclamation of Emergency, the suspension of the Constitution and the imposition of emergency restrictions in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The CLA is particularly concerned about the dismissal and purported replacement of the Chief Justice and other judges on grounds that they have increasingly interfered with the functions of the executive and the legislature.

By virtue of its membership of the Commonwealth, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is committed to the fundamental values and principles of the Commonwealth, at the core of which is a shared belief in, and

adherence to, human rights and democratic principles including an independent and impartial judiciary.

The CLA notes with concern, the arrest and detention of Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and officers of other Bar associations, together with a number of other prominent lawyers, who gathered in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi to demonstrate against the state of emergency.

The CLA calls on the authorities to respect the independence of the legal profession and the right of lawyers to exercise freedom of opinion and conscience and urges General Pervez Musharraf to reinstate the Constitution and return the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to constitutional government as soon as possible.

The CLA expresses its support of members of the legal profession in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in their efforts to maintain the independence of the judiciary

and to promote democracy and the rule of law.

Ron Heinrich
President - Commonwealth
Lawyers Association

CAL tail design splendid

What a splendid idea with the new tail logo and congratulations on the manner in which the Sir Turtle logo is to be retained.

I am glad to see that more emphasis is to be placed on staff training!

My wife and I recently flew to Jamaica, Business Class, by Air Jamaica and the service was impeccable, with hot towels, welcome drink and a light meal, and friendly staff

The return was on Cayman

Airways, Business Class.

We were herded aboard like cattle and just managed an in-flight drink and a packet of 'something'.

I paid quite a bit extra for Business Class. What a pity we got what I would not really have found acceptable even in economy.

Need I say who I will fly with in future?

John Fleming