

TROPICAL LIFE

## HEART BURN

DIVORCE LAWYERS SHARE 10 EASY WAYS TO BREAK UP YOUR MARRIAGE AND LAND IN COURT



SPORTS

## HEAT HAMMERS OUT A WIN

DWYANE WADE HELPS FINISH OFF THE GAME WITH 18 POINTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER

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### OBAMA: FAITH NOT KEY ISSUE

HIS 'VALUE SYSTEM,' NOT RELIGION, WILL BE WHAT'S VITAL TO VOTERS, SEN. OBAMA SAYS

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### HAIRCUTS AND CAMARADERIE

EXHIBIT ON BLACK BARBERSHOPS SHOWS ROLE THEY PLAYED IN THE PAST- AND STILL DO

BUSINESS MONDAY



### SHE'S A MODEL BUSINESSWOMAN

IRENE MARIE HAS BECOME 'THE MODELING INDUSTRY DIVA' OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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BREEZY; SHOWERS LIKELY HIGH 77 | LOW 70  
● Bryan Norcross' forecast, back of Section B  
● Online: MiamiHerald.com

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GRAMMYS | VIDEO, WINNERS' LIST AT MIAMIHERALD.COM

# SHINING STARS

■ The Dixie Chicks and Mary J. Blige were destined to be big winners Sunday at the Grammy Awards.

BY EVELYN McDONNELL  
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The Dixie Chicks made a remarkable comeback from controversy, and Mary J. Blige and the Red Hot Chili Peppers proved that endurance can lead to triumph, at the 49th annual Grammys on Sunday.

Early in the show, the Dixie Chicks defiantly sang they were "still waiting" to make nice after the uproar that greeted Natalie Maines' negative comments about President Bush in 2003 on the eve of the war in Iraq.

"We're ready to make nice," a choked-up Maines said a little over three hours later, as the all-female trio picked up their final and fifth award, for album of the year for *Taking the Long Way Home*. The singer thanked Grammy voters for making a statement about freedom of speech by honoring the group. "I think people were using their voice in the same way this loudmouth did."

It was a vindication for the Chicks, who have been largely shut out of country radio since '03 and were completely passed over in recent Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music Awards: Two of the three Grammys the Chicks won came in country categories. They also took home trophies for song and record of the year.

The evening also belonged to a woman whose 15-year wait to be not just the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul, but the queen of music's biggest awards night, was over — a difficult, street-tough diva who, as she said in her acceptance speeches, has learned to make nice: Mary J. Blige.

"I want to use this success to build bridges, not to burn them," Blige said as she accepted the award for best female R&B vocal performance, one of three trophies

•TURN TO GRAMMYS, 10A



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

AT LAST: The Dixie Chicks, from left, Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines and Emily Robison, accept best country album award, one of their three awards. They had been shut out of recent country music awards shows.



### GRAMMY HIGHLIGHTS

**RECORD OF THE YEAR**  
*Not Ready to Make Nice*, Dixie Chicks

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**  
*Taking the Long Way*, Dixie Chicks

**COUNTRY ALBUM**  
*Taking the Long Way*, Dixie Chicks

**POP VOCAL ALBUM**  
*Continuum*, John Mayer

**NEW ARTIST**  
Carrie Underwood

**SONG**  
*Not Ready to Make Nice*, Dixie Chicks  
Songwriters: Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines, Emily Robison and Dan Wilson

**LATIN POP ALBUM**  
*Limón Y Sal*, Julieta Venegas

**R&B ALBUM**  
*The Breakthrough*, Mary J. Blige

**MORE WINNERS, 10A**

### ANNA NICOLE

## Media await Smith's baby as questions multiply

■ Members of the press descended on the Bahamas over the weekend to cover the aftermath of Anna Nicole Smith's death.

BY ALDO NAHED  
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The Anna Nicole Smith saga moved Sunday to the Bahamas, where a swarm of journalists sought a glimpse of Smith's baby — an infant who could inherit a fortune.

Smith's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn Hope Marshall Stern, is said to be inside the gated Nassau waterfront mansion known as "Horizons," which Smith shared with her companion-lawyer, Howard K. Stern — one of four possible fathers of the child.

Stern is believed to be with the baby in the home.

Hanging in the balance: Who owns the Bahamian mansion? Who is Dannielynn's father? And will DNA from the former reality star's body be used to expedite the ongoing paternity battle?

•TURN TO SMITH, 4A

MIAMIHERALD.COM: CLICK ON TODAY'S EXTRAS FOR A LOOK AT SMITH'S LAST DAYS

### RADIO

## VOICES VS. VIOLENCE



PATRICK FARRELL/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

ON THE AIR: On her radio show, Queen Brown stresses community involvement to stem the rising tide of street crime in South Florida.

### A MIAMI-DADE MOM WHOSE SON WAS SLAIN HOSTS A RADIO SHOW TO CREATE A DIALOGUE ON CRIME

BY ANDREA ROBINSON  
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Queen Brown lost her youngest child in a senseless slaying. Evitton Brown, 24, a Florida A&M student, was murdered in October, his body found in front of a Northwest Miami-Dade car dealership. No one has been arrested in the case.

It was a ruthless blow for a divorced single mom who had pulled her family off welfare, taken night classes, kids in tow, to earn two degrees, and moved from the Miami

projects to a Miami Gardens suburban neighborhood.

Brown still grieves. But she's turning tears and anger into action. Brown hosts a weekly anti-crime radio program called *What's Going On*, urging listeners to share information about crimes. Her

•TURN TO RADIO SHOW, 2A

MIAMIHERALD.COM: CLICK ON TODAY'S EXTRAS FOR A RADIO REPORT ABOUT QUEEN BROWN'S STORY

### WAR IN IRAQ

# Militias get Iran aid for bombs, U.S. says

■ U.S. officials claimed that Iran gives bomb parts to Shiite Muslim militias that attack Americans in Iraq, but said they didn't have a 'smoking gun.'

BY LEILA FADEL  
McClatchy News Service

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. defense officials accused the Iranian government Sunday of providing Shiite Muslim militias in Iraq with parts for sophisticated armor-piercing improvised bombs that they said have killed 170 coalition troops.

"We need Iran to stop doing what they're doing," one of the officials said. "It's a force-protection issue."

The officials accused the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds force of providing the devices, but one of them acknowledged that there was no "smoking gun" against Iran.

The three officials refused to let their names be used, and although the briefing was filmed for government use, reporters were not allowed to have recorders, cellphones or cameras. The officials said they were releasing the information to get the Iraqi government to pressure the Iranians to stop.

The new allegations came amid escalating tensions over Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program and new evidence that many of the Bush administration's claims about Saddam Hussein's weapons programs and links to al

•TURN TO IRAQ, 10A

INTELLIGENCE: A FORMER PENTAGON OFFICIAL DEFENDS IRAQ ANALYSIS, 20A

### VENEZUELA

## Venezuela a hot spot for drug trafficking

■ Venezuela's outgoing drug czar is included in a large dossier connecting high-level officials in the country with drug trafficking.

BY GERARDO REYES  
AND STEVEN DUDLEY  
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CARACAS — A Boeing DC-9 can carry as many as 90 passengers or, as one recent drug case showed, about 128 suitcases of cocaine.

Last April, Mexican authorities seized 5.1 tons of cocaine aboard a DC-9 coming from Venezuela. The traffickers had removed the seats in the airplane and packed the drugs in identical suitcases that somehow got past security at Caracas' principal airport, Maiquetía.

The case was a watershed, illustrating the brazen attitude with which drug traffickers seemed to be operating in Venezuela and apparent cover they could expect from high-level Venezuelan government officials.

Following the bust, officials from three governments who were tracking the shipment, said the traffickers

•TURN TO DRUGS, 2A

FOOD SHORTAGES: VENEZUELA COULD ASSUME CONTROL OF FOOD SUPPLY, 12A



# FIND THAT NEEDLE



## VENEZUELA

# Drug trafficking on the rise

• DRUGS, FROM 1A

loaded the suitcases at Maiquetía. But Venezuela's then-drug czar Luis Correa claimed the cocaine had been loaded in the northern Colombian city of Barranquilla. When confronted directly with more evidence — flight path, fuel used by the aircraft, time of the flight — by other officials, Correa held his ground.

The Venezuelan government announced last week that Correa had been removed as head of the National Antidrug Office, but gave no reason, and there is no official investigation into his strange declarations. The DC-9 case nevertheless remains part of a growing dossier on high-level Venezuelan officials possibly involved in an increasing amount of drug trafficking in this country.

### MYSTERIOUS ESCAPES

The dossier includes mysterious escapes of wanted drug traffickers who were in Venezuelan custody, documents seized from right-wing Colombian paramilitaries and testimony of accused drug traffickers in jail.

Authorities from Colombia and the United States also say that top traffickers from Colombia and Haiti have made Venezuela their home in order to avoid detection from Colombian and U.S. authorities.

The rise in drug trafficking in Venezuela has coincided with crackdowns in neighboring Colombia, part of a \$7 billion effort to fight the illegal drug industry in that country, and the rule of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

A former army lieutenant colonel who became president in 1999, Chávez has banned U.S. surveillance air-

craft in Venezuelan airspace and effectively ended cooperation on drug matters with Washington.

Prior to Chávez, Venezuela was a transit point; now it appears to be a sieve: Since 1999, seizures are up fourfold, just one of many signs investigators use to measure the permissiveness of the environment for traffickers.

Another measure is the size of the loads decommissioned.

One trafficker, who allegedly took part in the five-ton DC-9 deal and is now jailed in Colombia, told Colombian authorities that the huge load was split between three organizations, including one that he called "the generals," a reference to the high-level Venezuelan officers involved in the trafficking.

The trafficker, Feris Farid Domínguez, told authorities he worked as a "coordinator of aerial routes."

He told El Nuevo Herald in a jailhouse interview that he had regular contacts with top-level officials in the Venezuelan government's investigative police, National Guard, the national registry and anti-drug office, including Correa. He added that officials issued him a Venezuelan diplomatic passport, which he showed to El Nuevo Herald, designating him as a Finance Ministry advisor, and they provided him with government bodyguards.

### 'CARTEL OF THE SUNS'

Domínguez also had said, according to records of his declarations to Colombian investigators obtained by El Nuevo Herald, that he had met personally with Correa and that Correa had helped coordinate drug shipments for the so-called "Cartel of the Suns," allegedly run by top

Venezuelan National Guard officers. The suns are insignia of rank worn by Venezuelan generals, as U.S. generals wear stars.

It's not clear whether Domínguez's declarations, some of which were published last month in El Nuevo Herald, led to Correa's departure last week.

Correa has denied Domínguez's allegations, but did not grant repeated Miami



DOMINGUEZ

requests for an interview. The Venezuelan government has made strides in recent months to crack down on drug trafficking. Authorities captured two high-level traffickers this year and five last year, including Domínguez, which President Chávez himself trumpeted as a triumph of anti-drug authorities.

### OPENING UP

The Venezuelans also have begun to work more openly with foreign governments, most notably the British and the Dutch, which are working closely on intelligence matters with a vetted 15-man Venezuelan police unit.

"We have the impression that they are serious about [combating drug trafficking] at all levels," Holland's ambassador to Venezuela, Hinkius Nijenhuis, told The Miami Herald in an interview.

But U.S. authorities have a decidedly different impression. The Venezuelan government cut relations with the Drug Enforcement Administration last year and has yet to sign an addendum to a bilateral cooperation agreement that establishes the guidelines for how

U.S. counter-drug officials can operate in Venezuela.

Colombian authorities are also troubled.

Many large-scale drug traffickers have simply moved their operations to Venezuela, a top official at the country's investigative police told The Miami Herald on the condition of anonymity given the sensitive nature of relations between the nations.

### OUTGOING SHIPS

The official said that police had detected an increasing amount of drugs on outgoing Venezuelan ships in a manner that he described as "blatant" and "wanton."

In October last year, the head of a Venezuelan counter-drug unit captured, then released, Hermagoras González Polanco, a Colombian man with a \$5 million reward and an Interpol red alert attached to his name. The Interpol report said that González, who is wanted in the United States and Colombia, told the Venezuelans that "he had dedicated his whole life to farming."

Other evidence of Venezuelan officials' complicity in drug trafficking is piling up at the Colombian attorney general's office as its investigators sift through computer files confiscated during an arrest of a member of a right-wing paramilitary group.

Both paramilitary units and their leftist guerrilla foes have financed their fight by delving into the profitable drug trade.

In one of the files obtained by The Miami Herald, investigators worked through a "commander general of the National Guard." The file does not identify the general, but goes on to say that the "general" facilitated drug trafficking through Venezuela.

## RADIO

# Host discusses 'what's going on'

• RADIO SHOW, FROM 1A

slogan: "Being silent promotes violence."

The show's title was inspired by a 1970s Marvin Gaye hit:

*Mother, mother, there's too many of you crying; Brother, brother, brother, there's far too many of you dying.*

"You don't expect to bury your child. Something is wrong with that picture," she says softly during an interview, her eyes brimming with tears.

A photo of a smiling Eviton, his fiancée Saudia Ali and their infant daughter Saidah dominates a nearby coffee table.

"I'm hanging by my fingernails, but I'm still here," she said.

Every Sunday afternoon, Brown and her family sit in WTPS 1080-AM's cramped midtown Miami studios, urging listeners to report crimes and dispensing advice for those who have lost loved ones.

"This is something we can change," she says. "This is something we are doing to ourselves. We started it and we can stop it."

On the air, Brown's daughter, Elizabeth Thompson, asks Miami police spokesman Delrish Moss why people won't come forward with information about crimes, even when there's a reward.

Fear, Moss responded. "Some people are afraid. Some people don't feel they have ownership in their community."

Brown, Thompson, another daughter, Monique, and son Ewan Brown select each week's topic based on the latest news. It could be the Crime Stoppers program, or alternatives to incarceration so preteen boys don't get an early arrest record.

"We're fired up because we just suffered a loss," Ewan says. "Our goal is to save lives, to save people from making the wrong decisions."

Kervin Clencane, WTPS-AM's station manager, gushes about the show.

"Listen to the tonality in her voice. Her content. She



PATRICK FARRELL/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

**INVOLVED MOTHER:** Miami talk-radio host Queen Brown, who lost a son to street violence, chats with her other children, Liz, left, Ewan and Monique.

brings another dimension that I'm happy to have," Clencane said, adding that he wouldn't mind the show expanding to a full hour so Brown can take more calls.

One week, mom sits at a mike next to guest Carlos Martinez, Miami-Dade's chief assistant public defender. Ewan's to the left. Liz and Monique share a mike on the opposite side. Hand gestures fly as they help each other with questions.

What happens to kids whose records show an arrest, but the charges either are not filed or are dropped, Elizabeth asks.

"Their lives are ruined," Martinez says. "Employers only see an arrest — not the disposition of the case."

The idea for the show came to Brown one morning as she lay in bed, in tears, silently searching for answers to Eviton's killing. She thought about other families suffering similar grief.

Brown and her family want to give other families a voice beyond the funerals and courtroom proceedings.

"I want the community to feel us, to hear us and to help us," she said.

People are listening.

Shortly after the third show, a woman called for help. A family friend's 15-year-old was killed; with no money for burial, they asked Brown what to do.

Brown directed them to the state victim's assistance program — which offers counseling and financial aid for burials. "I felt honored. I did something to make a person feel good," she said.

Brown learned about the program while visiting Eviton's grave at cemetery near Opa-locka. Another grief-stricken mother visiting a nearby grave approached her.

"During a time like this you are in need of so much. You feel like you're helpless. You need people to remind you to sleep, eat, drink," Brown said. "I've never felt so fragile in my life."

Longtime friend and mentor Jacqui Colyer, a community activist and social-service consultant said Brown is doing what she needs to do to heal. Colyer lost a son in a

murder-suicide years ago and knows the struggle to recover.

"We belong to a sisterhood that no mother should ever have to join. One of the most difficult things you can do is bury a child," Colyer said.

Daniela Levine, executive director of a human-services coalition and mentor, watched as Brown rose above the stereotype of welfare mother to motivational speaker.

"Queen is an extraordinary human being. She's comfortable with public speaking, so the radio is natural," Levine said.

Brown's labor of love comes with a cost. Each half-hour show costs \$250. They have no sponsors, so each family member chips in at least \$50 a week.

*What's Going On* began in January and is contracted for 13 weeks. Brown hopes to have a sponsor soon. But she vows to continue if she doesn't.

"This is a form of healing for me. I feel like I'm on the case," she said. "You have to fight back. I'm fighting back with information."

*What's Going On can be heard Sundays from 12:30 to 1 p.m. at WTPS 1080-AM.*

# IN A HAYSTACK

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