

## Gig carving workshop at the National Gallery

A BLEND of old and new artistic works bridges the gap between Cayman's past traditions and modern aesthetics in the current exhibition at the National Gallery, "21st Century Cayman," sponsored by Butterfield Bank.

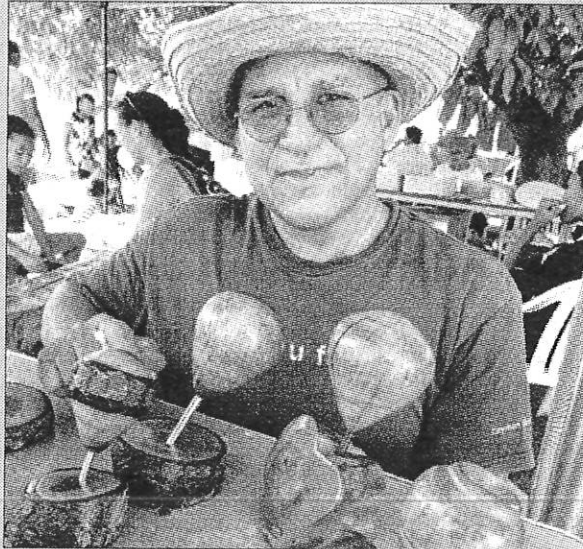
Expanding on that theme is a gig-carving workshop on Saturday, 24 April, from 11am to 4pm that will make Cayman's traditional crafts more accessible and interesting to today's youth, say organizers.

The workshop will be led by Deal Ebanks, artisan and member of the Cayman Islands Traditional Arts Council, who has been creating gigs and traditional game pieces professionally for six years.

"I received my first pocket knife at seven years old," he says, "and began creating my own toys ever since."

Ebanks will demonstrate and teach the skills of choosing, cutting, carving and smoothing wood in order to make a gig. Each participant will take home his or her own gig and will have the opportunity to decorate and spin the gigs as well.

"I grew up in a time where we had to create our own entertainment," he adds, "and I'd like to share these skills with others and especially with the younger generation".



Deal Ebanks with his gigs at Art@Governors 2009.

He saw a need to create, not only for entertainment purposes, but to pass on a long-time tradition to his children. "After Hurricane Ivan I began carving gigs more and more because when the electricity was off, I enjoyed sharing and playing with my children," he says. "With no TV or video games, they needed something to occupy them."

Mr Ebanks wants to get young people involved and hopes to have many participants attend.

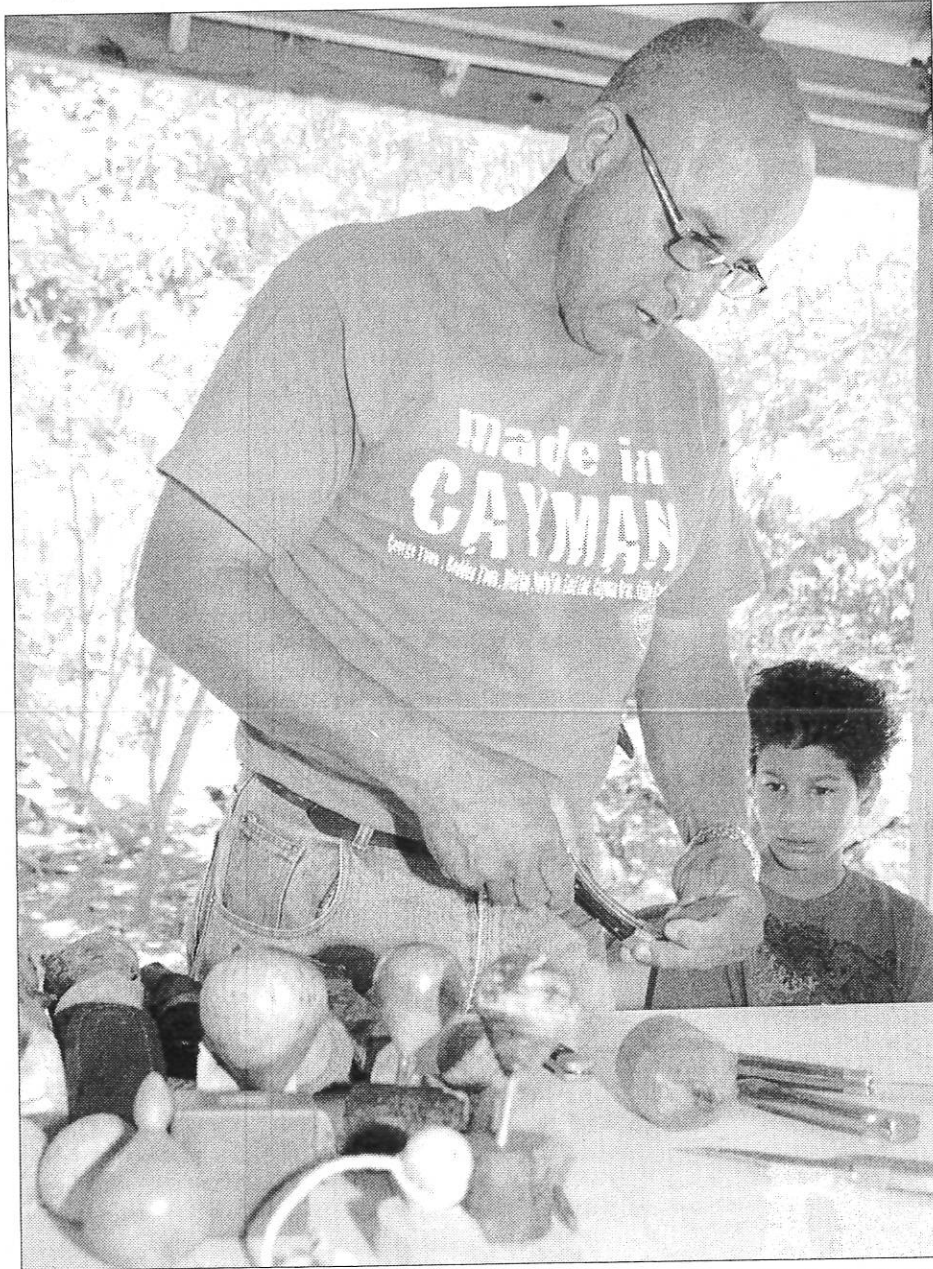
"I'm not a TV-watching kind of guy and was 14 before I even touched a television set," he says. "We've lost the connection to our past in this

electronic age and our children are the 'electronic generation'. I want to see them enjoy the simple things in life, so I hope that parents will bring their kids out to the workshop."

The workshop is open to anyone aged 13 and up and will be held at Miss Lassie's Duplex off South Sound Road. The cost to register is C\$25.00 and all materials are included.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the website [www.nationalgallery.org.ky](http://www.nationalgallery.org.ky) or picked up from the National Gallery in Harbour Place. For more information on the workshop or to register call Mona on 945-8111.

## Gig carving workshop at Dart Family Park



A Gig (spinning top) Carving Workshop took place at Dart Family Park, South Church Street on 24 April. The workshop, facilitated by local craftsman Deal Ebanks, expands on the theme of the National Gallery's '21st Century Cayman,' exhibition, and was attended by 12 year old Asher Francis, 17 year-old Thomas Decou, 15-year old Khalid Munruddin and eight-year old John-Matthew Haylock. Mr. Ebanks demonstrated the skills of choosing, cutting, carving and smoothing wood in order to make a gig. Each participant took home his or her own gig, and also had the opportunity to decorate and spin their creations. (PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER.TOBUTT@GMAIL.COM)