



—Photo by Marco Dominos

A man throws water towards a fire engulfing stores in a marker area in downtown Port au Prince, Haiti was rocked by a massive earthquake, Tuesday January 12, devastating the city and leaving thousands dead.

Local Haitian reflects on Jan. 12th earthquake and the recovery efforts

By Mecca Grimo Marcelin

I was conducting a tutoring session when my phone started to vibrate nonstop. I tried not to pay attention to it because teaching and answering text messages didn't mix. But the text messages and calls continued to pour in from my brother so I excused myself and responded to the missed calls.

My brother was shaken up and told me that a terrible catastrophe had occurred in Haiti. I was numb and I couldn't believe it when I heard the news. I never imagined in my life to hear that Haiti would get hit by an earthquake. I didn't know what to expect. I feared the worst but still could not imagine the magnitude of the disaster until I arrived home and turned on the TV.

My immediate reaction was that a bomb had hit Haiti. The images displayed on my television screen exceeded 3D visuals. I was saddened by the amount of lives lost and people stuck under collapsed buildings.

Every news channel on television was focused on Haiti. My family tirelessly waited to hear if any loved ones survived the 7.0 earthquake.

After this 7.0 magnitude quake, people from all over the world were flying into Haiti to aid the Haitian people. Doctors and nurses from other countries were volunteering their services and soon after the intense relief efforts would start.

Knowing rapper Wyclef Jean personally, I got myself involved in assisting his non-profit organization, "YeLe-Haiti." I

felt like I was doing what I could from a distance.

Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti was closed to civilians because gathering medical supplies and non-perishable items were priority on the list.

For months, we worked diligently to create fundraisers and food drives for the already poverty-stricken country. Slowly, news coverage of Haiti became less and less.

We lost many lives underneath the rubble of what was once homes, market places and restaurants. Everyone was helping financially but where was the money going? After several months of relief efforts and aid to the country, we have yet to see what has been done to improve the living conditions in Haiti. Families are living in tent cities and hurricane



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Frantz Michel, his brother Mike, singer Ne-Yo and Judeline Pierre-Saint.

R&B singer visits "Reel to Real" students

A summer of learning the aspects of producing a show resulted in more than what Little Haiti students expected. On Sept. 3, the cast of the "Reel to Real" show and their instructors gathered to thank one artist who helped make their experience possible.

Grammy Award winner and producer Ne-Yo spent some time with Little Haiti Optimist youth. The singer presented a \$10,000 check to the Optimist Club. He was then awarded an appreciation plaque, Honorary Board member certificate, Reel2Real Youth TV show DVD, LHOC T-shirt and button.

Haitian teen killed in Colorado crash

By Sandra J. Charite
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Playing football is perhaps every boy's dream, especially 19-year-old Ruben Narcisse.

"Ever since we were a couple of months old, our mothers have been friends and since then we have never been apart," said Jeffrey Lenescar, Narcisse's lifelong friend. "We have played every sport including basketball, football, baseball and he even ran track."

But on Sept. 6, dreams of future gridiron runs would be crushed. Narcisse, 19, was killed in a car accident when the pickup truck he was riding in sped off a Colorado highway. Three other students, Trey Fox, 19, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., Christian Morgan, 18, of Aurora, Colo., and J.J. Quinlan, 19, of Everett, Wash., were injured and treated at area hospitals.

Lenescar defined his childhood friend as a man who was "honest, loyal and loved his family." The news of his death is still devastating and his family continues to mourn.

"He was very special," said Lyonel Narcisse, Ruben's father. "The memories are going to stay with me forever. He was on Facebook from Miami to Africa. Everybody loved him. He was respectful and showed so much responsibility. I'm so proud he was my son."

Daphnee Dalexis-Louis, who attended church with Narcisse at Shalom Community Church, was also saddened by the news of Narcisse's death.

"He was such a wonderful kid who never got into trouble," she said. "He was a blessing to his parents."

Narcisse, a Haitian-American, was a freshman linebacker at the University of Wyoming.

The four students were riding in a Toyota Tundra pickup and were about six miles south of the Wyoming-Colorado state line when the driver of the truck apparently fell asleep at the wheel, according to the Colorado State Patrol. Colorado State Patrol spokesman Sgt. John Hahn said there was no evidence that drugs or alcohol were a factor in the crash.

Narcisse was a graduate of Hollywood's Cham-inade-Madonna College Preparatory and was named a 2009 All-Broward County linebacker. He earned a scholarship to the University of Wyoming.

UW President Tom Buchanan released the following statement: "The loss of any student saddens us immeasurably. . . . My condolences go out to Ruben's family and friends. The entire university community grieves his loss."

His coach, Dave Christensen, said team members will wear decals with Narcisse's initials on their helmets for the rest of the season and players will rotate wearing his No. 12 in his honor. A memorial service, open to the public, was held for Ruben Narcisse on the Wyoming campus Monday afternoon.



RUBEN NARCISSE

Little Haiti Patriots shine on the field

Football program opens doors for youth

The Miami Times Staff Report

The Little Haiti Optimist Club's Patriots Super Pee Wee football team played their first home game Thursday against the Little River Saints at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School.

The Little Haiti Patriots, four- and five-years-old, are from the Little Haiti and neighboring communities. This is their first experience playing football and many parents say they are excited to

have the game played right in their own backyards.

"Youth football in Little Haiti is long overdue," Rene Marie Maurice said. "Thanks to Little Haiti Optimist Club, I am thrilled my son is part of history."

Seven of the NFL's current or former NFL players were well-groomed in the very same neighborhood. These players include Louis Delmas, safety with the Detroit Lions; Elvis Dumervil, linebacker with the Denver Broncos;



Davin Joseph, offensive guard with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Marc Dile, offensive lineman of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Max Jean Gilles, offensive guard with the Philadelphia Eagles; Ricky Jean-Francois, defensive lineman with the San Francisco 49ers; Jocelyn Borgello, corner formerly with the Detroit Lions; William Joseph, defensive tackle with the Oakland

Raiders; and Carlos Joseph, offensive lineman formerly with the Jacksonville Jaguars and San Diego Chargers.

After years of playing in the league, the players have also given back to their community.

Former NFL player and University of Miami player Carlos Joseph has chosen to coach the young Patriots.

