

Caribbean Life

email: caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com

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Billion\$ sent home last year

By Nelson A. King

A report released on Mar. 8 by the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) group, said that Latin American and Caribbean migrants sent US\$61 billion in remittances to their home countries last year.

The report said the latest figure represents a 6 percent increase from US\$57.6 billion in 2010, confirming the upward trend in migrants' money transfers that started in mid-2010.

The IDB said there was a "double digit drop" in remittances in 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis.

"In 2011, nearly every country in this region received a greater dollar amount in remittances than the previous year," the report said.

"For the remittance market in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2011 was a year of renewed growth after the 2008-2010 period, despite persistent economic uncertainty in Europe," it added.

For 2012, the MIF expects Continued on page 4



Indo-Carib celebration

Young Hindus participate in the 24th Annual Phagwah Festival in Richmond Hill, Queens. See page 6.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

ANGUILLA FEARS U.K. TAKEOVER

Leaders sense a London coup

By Bert Wilkinson

By the time Easter rolls around, a delegation of Caribbean Community prime ministers should be in Anguilla on a mission to show support to the government and its people who say they fear that "mother country" Britain, is preparing to retake full control of the colony and impose direct rule from London, in much the same way it has done in the Turks and Caicos islands.

As an associate member of the 15-nation trade bloc, Anguilla does not have full voting rights in Caricom but Chief Minister Hubert Hughes used the opportunity at last week's two-day summit in Suriname to sound alarm bells about

what he termed as ominous signs from London that it wants full control of daily life on the island of less than 17,000 people.

He said Britain has already made it clear that it has no plans to grant greater executive autonomy like self-governance to the island, much less full independence as some islanders seem to want, because "they believe we have an abundance of oil, gas and fish life. They have deemed Anguilla now to be a valuable British asset that should not be let go, and that is the problem," he told *Caribbean Life* in Paramaribo.

His lobbying of the meeting has result- Continued on page 4

Caribbean

International leaders will give US\$65 million in concessionary loans to 18 Caribbean nations to help the islands defend their coasts and fragile economies from the impact of climate change.

The European Investment Bank will channel its lending through the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank, which recently announced the initiative.

The program will provide low-cost funds for public and private sector projects that deal with climate change adaptation or help reduce carbon emissions.

The U.N. network of climate scientists projects that seas might rise as much as 1.924 feet (0.59 meters) by 2100, expanded by heat and runoff of melting land ice. Few regions in the world are as threatened from rising seas as the Caribbean.

Bahamas

The Bahamas unveiled a national stadium that China built for more than US\$50 million as the Asian country ramps up investment in the Caribbean region.

Government officials from both the Bahamas and China recently inaugurated the 15,000-seat Thomas A Robinson stadium. Sports Minister Charles Maynard said the stadium was a gift, with no strings attached.

The stadium was built using only Chinese
Continued on page 18



News from back home
updated daily at

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Disaster Relief Clusters

Groundbreaking for emergency operations center in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Haitian officials say the earthquake-ravaged, French-speaking Caribbean county has received a significant boost with the Mar. 6 groundbreaking ceremony for a new emergency operations center, disaster relief warehouse and fire station.

Haiti's Ministry of Interior said the center, in Fort-Liberte, is the first of 10 such emergency operations centers and disaster relief warehouses, eight community clusters and 14 fire stations to be constructed throughout the country.

The Fort-Liberte facility marks the beginning of the next phase of construction under the auspices of the U.S. Southern Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program in partnership with the Government of Haiti, the statement said.

Haiti's Minister of the Interior, Thierry Mayard-Paul, who presided over the ground-breaking ceremony, said that functional emergency operations centers and disaster relief warehouses "are not only critical in saving lives and minimizing damage during disasters, they also enhance institutional capacity throughout Haiti so we can increase safety in all parts of the country."

Daniel Foote, deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy, representing the U.S. Southern Command, said Haiti's civil preparedness projects have entered construction phase and are one step closer to helping the government of Haiti provide vital services to communities in the Nord-Est Department.

"This emergency operations center will allow local emergency response personnel to collect and

analyze reported information, make decisions, and manage Haiti's collective response to emergencies or natural disasters," he said.

By providing additional fire-fighting and emergency service capabilities to the Fort Liberte area, Foote said the fire station facility will play a "significant role" in the event of a larger-scale emergency within Haiti.

"The new facilities will also enable us, through the Civil Protection Agency (DCP), to improve the quality of life of our communities, providing vital safety services," Mayard-Paul said.

"We could not do this without the unwavering support of our friends in the United States who, through Southern Command, the embassy and USAID (United States Agency for International Development), along

with the United Nations Development Program, World Food and others in the international community, help us turn necessities into plans, and plans into reality," he added.

Mayard-Paul said the new facilities will be used as soon as available, with plans to hold community first aid trainings as part of the DPC's recently-launched annual campaign, "Civil Protection is Everyone's Responsibility."

"At the Ministry of the Interior, we are following through on our commitment to identify the most pressing needs of the Haitian people, and turn those needs into plans that materialize into actual infrastructure, tools and programs that will benefit communities across the country," he said. "That is the essence of our community-based decentralization program."



Amb. Gillian Bristol.

Photo courtesy OAS

G'da raises alarm over cyber terror

By Nelson A. King

Grenada has called for international collaboration and cooperation to effectively combat "cyber terrorism."

In addressing the Washington-based Organization of American States' (OAS) 12th annual meeting of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), on Mar. 7, Grenada's Permanent Representative to the OAS, Gillian Bristol, the outgoing chair of the CICTE, stressed the need for such collaboration.

"The question is no longer whether our system will get attacked, but rather when," she said. "We must be prepared."

"Responding to cyber threats does not require one government, agency or department, but cooperation and communication between entities domestically and internationally, and both in the public and private sectors, and at home, and in schools, and in centers of recreation," the envoy added.

"We must, therefore, unite in our assessment of risk and vulnerability in order to determine the potential impact of an attack on critical infrastructure, and ensure that such infrastructure is properly protected," she continued.

Bristol said the theme of the 12th regular session "encompasses priorities, action and collaboration necessary to face this terrorist threat at the national and hemispheric levels."

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, who inaugurated the meeting to discuss and adopt a declaration on "Strengthening Cyber Security in the Americas," underscored the power of rapid technological advances to provide new and valuable services to citizens. But he noted that they also offer criminals new ways to attack.

Royalty still a hit in Jamaica

By Vinette K. Pryce

Simultaneous to the visit of Britain's Prince Harry to Jamaica, in St. Kitts, a royal couple delivered sentiments from Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee and 60th year of reign.

While her grandson tested his mettle against Usain Bolt, the fastest man on earth, her youngest son and his wife, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Prince Edward and Princess Sophie visited the former British colony in the eastern Caribbean.

Greeted by the twin-island federation's Governor General, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian, and Prime Minister, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, the royal pair toured historic sites including Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park.

A cultural performance brought to life the island's heritage with a calypso rendition composed specifically for the Queen's jubilee celebration.



Britain's Prince Harry follows the signature victory gesture of Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt, Tuesday, March 6, 2012 following a mock race at the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica.
AP Photo/John Stillwell/PA

Hundreds of visitors and nationals gathered to watch the royal couple.

In Jamaica, Prince Harry honored his challenge to the Olympic sprinter and technically beat him twice at his race. In actuality, Bolt yielded to the crown prince when an

ignored false start allowed him to forge ahead as Bolt watched, laughed and clapped the young monarch.

During a second attempt, Bolt coasted slowly allowing the prince victory and at least a story for the BBC to tout in his

homeland. The prince also visited the headquarters of the Jamaica Constabulary Forces, the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (named for Queen Victoria) and King's House, the residency of the -- governor general -- the queen's representative on the island.

Vincies pay tribute to favorite son

By Nelson A. King

A large number of Vincentian calypsonians in New York were among the general population of expatriots in shock and sorrow over the sudden passing of Gerard "Rasum" Shallow, on the night of March 4.

Shallow, a school teacher, former calypsonian and parliamentarian, was reportedly found dead in the yard of his home in the Marriqua Valley on mainland St. Vincent.

Reports indicate that the erstwhile senator died of a heart attack. He was 52.

"It's very sad to hear about his passing," said John Dougan, president of the Dynamite Calypso Tent, the lone Vincentian calypso tent in New York, in a *Caribbean Life* interview.

"He was a very good writer and singer," added Dougan, who also hails from the Marriqua Valley. "Everyone was surprised about his death. He was a young fellar (fellow) and very friendly, too."

Dougan disclosed that the Dynamite Calypso Tent will pay a special tribute to "Rasum" during the preliminary round of the calypso competition in New York on June 1.

Another calypsonian, Franklin "Supadex" Richards, a former president of the Dynamite Calypso Tent, said "Rasum" was one of the better calypso writers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"The only person next to him is 'De Man Age' (former national calypso monarch, whose real name is Errol Winston Rose)," said Richards, who currently serves as public relations officer of the Dynamite Calypso Tent.

"His song, 'Perseverance,' is one of those songs that'll never die," he added. "The guy was a visionary."

"He'll be a great loss to St. Vincent and the Grenadines," Richards continued. "He spent most of



Gerard Rasum Shallow.

Courtesy of The Vincentian newspaper

his life in public service — giving back one way or the other."

"De Man Age," who, like "Rasum," was also a school teacher, said "Perseverance" was one of the better calypsos to be produced in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"He ('Rasum') will be remembered for that song," he said. "It's just unfortunate that a calypsonian, like him, passed so quickly. He was one of the best we had. He could sing. He had a good voice. He could deliver."

"Even though he stayed out (of the calypso arena for a while), he was still a top calypsonian," 'De Man Age' told *Caribbean Life*. "He must be remembered for his contributions in teaching and calypso."

Another calypsonian, Earl "Exposer" Isles, said he had looked up to "Rasum."

"It's sad to hear about his death," he said. "It's a great loss. He was still a young man."

Ainsley Primus, another former president of the Dynamite Calypso Tent, said "Rasum" succeeded him in becoming a member of the defunct, popular band, X-adus.

"It's a great loss," said the organizer of the New Sound Calypso Competition for the Brooklyn, New York-based entertainment group, Level Vibes.

"He 'Rasum' was an intelligent guy who wrote conscious lyrics," Primus added. "When you look at 'Perseverance', it's a heavy sound.

Guyanese on humanitarian mission to war-torn Syria

By Tangerine Clarke

U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos scored another first on March 9, on a mission to the war-torn central Syrian city of Homs to negotiate uninterrupted entry of aid workers to evacuate the injured.

The Guyanese small town girl who excelled in her adopted home of Britain, said her aim was to urge all sides to allow delivery of the essential supplies and evacuation of the wounded.

The British Independent reported that the Syrian regime had denied an earlier request by the U.N. But with persistence, and sanctions by Russia and China she finally was allowed entry on humanitarian grounds.

Amos who is the first major international figure to visit Baba Arm since the government launched its latest assault on Homs.

Amos who became Baroness Amos in 1997, when then British Prime Minister Tony Blair appointed her as a life peer, is the first Black woman ever to serve in that capacity.



UN Humanitarian chief Valerie Amos seen during a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, unseen, in Ankara, Turkey, Friday, March 9, 2012.

AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici

During this bold undertaking, Amos reaffirmed her commitment to taking on challenges that have charted her career since

migrating to Britain at the tender age of 12 with her parents and two siblings.

Her work as a researcher for local Labor Party coun-

cils in London, as well as serving as women's issues and relations officer, are just important roles Amos took on after co-founding Amos Fraser Bernard, an international consultancy business.

Her breakthrough and historic accomplishments, as the first black woman ever appointed to the British House of Lords, and the her appointment as new secretary of state for international development, made Amos one of the most influential individuals in Britain society.

As the British Foreign Office officer for international and domestic aid agencies and foreign governments, Amos is credited for raising the standard of living in developing countries around the world.

An online biography quoted Amos as saying that her achievement was the harbinger of a new, 21st Century era. She told a South African audience that the last vestige of colonialism had vanished and the fact "it is me standing here as a British minister, a descent of those colonized, is surely demonstration of this."

Samuel Walton tribute

By Gideon Manasseh

Samuel (Sam) Walton was born on Dec. 13, 1948, to Symera and Joshua Walton, in Harlem and raised on 137th St. and 8th Avenue (also known as Frederick Douglass Blvd.). He died of a kidney infection at Mt. Sinai Hospital on Fifth Ave. on Feb. 21, 2012.

Sam's life passion was documentary filmmaking and oral history of the Harlem community. He and his friend Sam Gaynor started a program called, "We Care for Self Help" in 1968 by young people who were mentored by Ken and Mamie Clark, directors of

Northside Center for Child Development.

Its mission was to foster community solidarity by bridging the inter-generational divide among Harlem residents. Over the years, he renamed the incorporation, "We Care Media Arts" and partnered with Columbia University, through its internship program in film and oral history, to record the memories of Harlem's local leaders and its older generation with Columbia film students.

His work includes a documentary celebrating the past 100 years of *Crisis Magazine* (2010); a docu-

mentary celebrating the work of Mamie and Ken Clark regarding Brown v. Board of Education (2004), a documentary honoring Ella Baker, civil rights leader (2000), and many wonderful interviews with Harlem's elite leadership over the past 30 years.

Sam also worked for the New York City Human Resources Administration for over 30 years helping others attain housing, welfare and Medicare, but his passion and reason for existence was documentary filmmaking and oral history of his beloved community of Harlem -- a craft he mastered so well.



Sam Walton.

He is survived by his loving wife Sonia, his son Songhai A. Walton of Fort Myers, Florida; two brothers, James Walton of Columbia, South Carolina and Joseph Walton of New York City; three nieces, one nephew and a host of very special family and friends.

Barbados removes visa restrictions for select Haitians

By Neson A. King

Barbados has become the latest Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-member country to remove visa restrictions for Haitian diplomats and business people seeking to travel to the island on business, according to media reports.

To date, 10 of the CARICOM-member states have signed the agreement with Haiti, aimed at helping the earthquake-ravaged country, French-speaking Caribbean country rebuild by growing its economy.

"Haiti is a member of CARICOM, and we, as members, have to facilitate our regional people," the *Miami Herald* quoted Barbados' Foreign Minister Maxine McClean as saying.

"Certainly, a good place to start is with businessmen, especially at this time," she added. "It is important that they be able to move around the region."

The paper said McClean signed on behalf of Barbados, while Haiti's CARICOM Special Envoy John P. Alexis, signed on behalf of his country, during the just-concluded CARICOM summit in Paramaribo, Suriname.

It said the agreement is part of a larger one by CARICOM in aiding Haiti rebuild by allowing free movement of diplomats and business people with a United States, French or United Kingdom visa seeking to do business.

According to the *Herald*, Alexis said, overall, the summit was a success for Haiti, stating that in addition to the visa waiver agreement with Barbados, Haiti received an extension for the Haiti-CARICOM Office to stay open for the next six months.

More money flowing into the Caribbean

Continued from cover

remittances to this region to grow at a similar rate as last year.

The report said most of the money continued to be sent from traditional host countries, such as the United States and Western Europe.

In the United States, source of about three-quarters of remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean, foreign workers saw improving employment and wage levels, the report said.

As a consequence, it said migrants made more transfers for higher amounts than the previous year.

In contrast, the report said uncer-

tain employment prospects in Europe resulted in drops in remittance flows to the region in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The report said remittances remain a major source of income for many countries in this region.

"In several of the smaller and poorer nations, they far exceed external aid and net foreign direct investment," it said.

"The importance of these flows lies in the vital role they play for millions of recipient families that depend on remittances for basic needs, even in countries with higher GDP (Gross Domestic Product) levels," it added.

"In the absence of this regular source of income that these families receive from their family members abroad, many would fall below the poverty line," the report continued.

The IDB said, in recent years, as regional economies improved, remittances have become a smaller share of the GDP.

It, however, said that, in several countries, remittances are still more than 10 percent of GDP.

For example, in Haiti, which last year received nearly US\$2.1 billion, remittances represented more than one quarter of the national income, the report said.

Fear of London coup in Anguilla

Continued from cover

ed in leaders agreeing to send a fact-finding delegation in early April to sound out the situation for themselves. Hughes said Britain recently banned his cabinet and legislature from naming high-ranking officials like permanent secretaries and heads of department" as it gradually takes control of our daily affairs."

Heargued that Anguilla's geograph-

ic position allows it to be the only island with enough marine space to have a 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), because "there is nothing else north of us until Bermuda. So other than Guyana, we have the largest fishing grounds available to any island in Caricom and that is another reason the Brits want to take full control."

Roosevelt Skerritt, the prime min-

ister of Dominica says that the leaders are serious on the issue, having seen London retake full control of daily life in the Turks (and Caicos Islands), "so a delegation of heads of government will go to Anguilla in the first week of April, because our fear is that we will have another TCI in Anguilla.

"We want to send a clear message to the governor that we are serious."

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Queens residents celebrate Phagwah

By Tangerine Clarke

The sunny warm weather on Sunday 11 certainly complemented the arrived of spring in the Hindu calendar, that was celebrated at the 24th Annual Phagwah Festival in Richmond Hill, Queens.

Also known as Holi, the festival attracted an estimated 25,000 Indo-Caribbean nationals who lined Liberty Avenue to witness beautifully decorated floats, and revelers who danced to the sound of recorded Indian music, and tassa drumming.

Many on foot were dressed in traditional Indian regalia, carrying banners and flags that represented their rich cultural heritage. Young and old got into the merriment of throwing colored dyes on each other to celebrate the colorful flowers in bloom in the spring season.

The white clothes, and faces of the festivalgoers were covered in the "Abrac" powder in red, yellow, blue green and pink.

Traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday after the first



Executive Director of Guyana America Business Council Shanie Persaud, (left center) and Council member Peter Vallone Jr. during the Phagwah parade on Liberty Avenue. Albert Baldeo is pictured at far left.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

full moon on the Hindu calendar, Holi also celebrates the triumph of good over evil and the welcome of the New Year.

The festival culminated with a spectacular cultural presentation in Smokey

Oval Park in Richmond Hill. Elected officials, John Liu, David Weprin and Peter Vallone, who attended the celebration, complimented the community on their achievement.

Guyana's Ambassador to Washington Bayney Karran who was one of the Grand Marshalls, praised the parade organizers for putting on the festival and parade in what he called an efficient and peaceful

manner.

"People are having a good time," said Karran who noted that Phagwah was the biggest festival in Queens.

"This is a tremendous celebration for the community,"

said Karran who recalled that the first festival 24 years ago was only attended by 70 persons.

"It is a blaze of color; culture, fun and frolic said the ambassador excitedly. I am happy to be here," he added.

Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to New York, Dr. Neil Parsan in turn, used the season of renewal and commencement of spring, as a way to make a positive contribution, and acknowledge this festival in particular as it coincides with the 50th Independence Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago.

A representative from the office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg complemented the Hindu Parades and Festival Committee before handing over a proclamation to member Pandit Ramlall.

Others in attendance were Consulate General to New York, Brentnold Evans, Executive Director of GABPC, Shanie Persaud, politician Albert Baldeo, and prominent businessmen Herman Sing and Romeo Hitall.

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Chowtal, Phagwa at T&T Consulate

Mageeras, dhantals, and drums accompanied chowtal singers featured in the Phagwa celebration on March 7 at the Consulate headquarters in New York.

The Phagwa or Holi festival, which celebrates the advent of Spring and the destruction of the demoness Holika, coincided with a welcome rise in temperatures in New York.

Consul General Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam exhorted the audience to beware of “bringing up a child without culture and religion as this was an opportunity to create rogues” and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Rodney Charles praised nationals for their love of culture and passion, which he described as unique in the world.

Pundit T. Samaroo Ramayan & Chowtaal Group of New York, Shiva Mandir and Shiva Mandir Affiliates Chowtaal group with singers of all ages gave



Consul General Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam (left) makes a presentation to the Shiva Mandir Chowtaal group.
Photo courtesy of T&T Consulate

exuberant performances while U.S. #1 tassa band had members of the audience on their feet “dancing the tassa.” Vegetarian fare provided by Trinidad Golden Palace, Nio’s West Indian Restaurant and Ali’s Trinidad Roti shop were

enjoyed by all.

While the city landscape still wears the grey of winter, the Consulate headquarters, draped in colourful fabric and the sarees and shalwars of the attending ladies were evocative of the aber, which were thrown

on participants on Sunday, March 11 when the festival was celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago and New York. Celebrations in New York traverse Liberty Avenue, a hub of the Indo-Trinidadian Diaspora, and culminate in festivities in Smokey Park in Queens, NY.

The Phagwa celebration is the second in a series of events co-organised by the Interfaith committee comprising spiritual leaders of different faith under the auspices of the Consulate.

Upcoming events include Shouter Baptist Day, which will be celebrated on March 29 and an Interfaith and Thanksgiving Service to commence the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on April 14 at York College, Performing Arts Center, Jamaica, N.Y.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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Health disparities and financial burdens

By Kimberly N. Alleyne
America's Wire

Health disparities are creating economic burdens for families, communities and the nation's health care system. Across the country, infant mortality and chronic diseases continue to affect people of color at rates far higher than those for whites. In recent years, the focus has increased on the impact of disparities on minority communities, with public officials, community activists, civic leaders and health care experts proposing ways to improve access to medical care and raise awareness of positive benefits of preventive care. But health experts say the economic toll of health disparities and substantial costs associated with lost productivity are being overlooked.

"Racial and ethnic groups have higher incidences of diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer, et cetera," says Brian D. Smedley, vice president and director of the Health Policy Institute at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. "That prevalence [of chronic diseases] comes with a price tag in terms of excess direct medical costs, nearly \$230 billion over a four-year period that we studied."

The study found that between 2003 and 2006, 30.6 percent of direct medical care expenditures for African-Americans, Asians and Hispanics were excess costs



Thomas A. LaVeist (left) and Brian D. Smedley.

due to health inequalities. The study estimated that eliminating health disparities for minorities would have reduced direct medical expenditures by \$229.4 billion and slashed indirect costs associated with illness and premature death by more than \$1 trillion for those years.

The 2010 National Healthcare Disparities Report documented that racial and ethnic minorities often receive poorer care than whites while facing more barriers in seeking preventive care, acute treatment or chronic disease management. The report is produced by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

According to the report, minorities also experience rates of preventable hospitali-

Continued on page 12

Women leading the green economy

By Kathleen Rogers

Optimistic environmentalists believe that future generations will view the first half of the 21st century as the birth of a global green economic revolution. Indeed, investment and advances in technology, coupled with anxiety regarding climate change, are already pushing global leaders to embrace a sustainable future. Unfortunately, that optimistic vision is clouded.

The stark fact is that almost all green-revolution investors and decision-makers – those who are defining and designing the green economy – are from a single demographic: men. International Women's Day presents a timely and important opportunity to examine why women should be leaders in the green economy.

Like any revolution, a substantial risk exists that the green revolution will move in unpredictable or wrong directions. All economies are stronger when the people leading them bring diverse points of view. Certainly, creating a sustainable economy and breaking habits of over-consumption and fossil-fuel dependency are difficult tasks. Let's examine some of the reasons why including women in the construction of the green economy is a good idea:

- Women make the vast majority of consumer choices. Stimulating women's enterprises is critical to taking advantage of this important commercial opportunity.

- Women are driving economic growth. The increase in women's employment in rich nations of the world has contributed more to global GDP growth in the past two decades than new technology or new economic giants China and India.

- The proportion of women in a country's legislature significantly reduces the level of corruption in the country. Less corruption benefits not only women entrepreneurs but also all businesses.

- Women are better at putting resources back into the community. Women usually reinvest a much higher percentage of their earnings in their communities than men, accelerating development.

- Women's repayment rates are higher. When women are direct beneficiaries of credit, their repayment rates are higher throughout all regions of the world.

Despite these facts, real barriers to women's full participation in designing and developing the green economy exist. For example:

- Women-owned companies face problems in bringing their businesses to

scale, including lack of access to capital and business networks. While women own about 30 percent of U.S. businesses, only about 5 percent of all equity capital investments go to businesses headed by women, and just 3 percent get investments from venture capital.

- Women have less access to the global supply chain. Only a fraction of governments and large corporations actively source from women-owned businesses.

- Women entrepreneurs face discriminatory laws in many places around the world.

How do we fix this? To start, corporations, governments and international institutions should adopt quotas for participation – from board rooms to national forums to multilateral negotiations.

Once the initial problem of representation is taken care of, we can get down to the business of breaking down legal barriers to women's full participation in the green economy. We need a comprehensive examination of national and international law and protocol dealing with the economy, energy and environment for bias against women. Then, we need to alter the language to promote inclusiveness.

Once problems in the system are fixed, we can go further. For example, formal policies and legal mechanisms should be adopted to support preferential treatment for loan guarantees; promote women's full participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; and create investments and market incentives to enhance women's entrepreneurship.

In the meantime, we also have to fix how women as leaders of the green economy are perceived. We need training for journalists that includes heightened awareness of the gender gap. And we have to make gender, development, the green economy and climate change "hard" issues – and not perceived as "soft" issues only for women journalists.

As the world tries to recover from its financial crisis and, at the same time, recognizes the lack of sustainability of the existing economy, we cannot afford to let barriers to women's participation stand. The facts are clear: Bringing women into the design and development of the green economy will result in a better, more sustainable, more just economy. Let's ensure that happens.

Rogers is president of Earth Day Network and leads the Women and the Green Economy (WAGE®) campaign.

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to Kenton Kirby, Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglobal.com All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and the individual's verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Keeping the wackos where they are

By Les Slater

A few years ago, his stint as secretary of state in the Bush administration behind him, Colin Powell's status in the Republican Party was given a no-holds-barred review by the unfailingly detestable Dick Cheney, after Powell had the chutzpah to criticize one of the zillion trashy and/or repugnant bits of commentary out of the mouth of Rush Limbaugh. Limbaugh's place as a leader of the GOP, Cheney said, was well beyond wherever Powell stood in that regard. So there!

We've always found curious Powell's devotion to a party from which he received such shabby treatment after he exited his military career and poked his head into politics. Being told that he couldn't hold a candle to a Rush Limbaugh ought to have been the last straw. Limbaugh's on-air content is predictably the kind of sick stuff that, for most of us outside of that nether universe over which he exercises dominion, any episode would presumably elicit a "What else is new?" reaction. Like clockwork, though, we get, every so often, this outsize creep outdoing himself, as happened when he chose to call that Georgetown University law student "a slut" because of her support for insurance-covered contraceptives. All of the hullabaloo in the aftermath of that nugget – sponsors bailing out on the show, a phony "apology" from Limbaugh, etc – will pass into oblivion in short order, clearing the way for the ongoing diet of crud to be ladled out to the loonies salivating for it.

No matter the extent of mainstream outrage when Limbaugh comes up with one of these hoof-deep-in-mouth performances, you get a sense of Limbaugh's influence among the yahoos. Worse, some politicians whose calculations cater heavily for support from that element, do all sorts of balancing acts for Limbaugh and his flock to avoid the doghouse. As if Mitt Romney didn't already look pathet-

Viewpoint

ic enough in his full-court press to suddenly be Mr. Ultra Conservative, there was the pasty declaration from him that Limbaugh's ignoramus rant was "not the language I would have used." Behavior so obviously demanding strong condemnation but which gets instead this pussyfooting nonsense is indicative of the stranglehold Limbaugh types have on poor saps like Romney.

As is so frequently the case, the real reaction was to be found well beyond the arena where political mind games are the offered fare. David Letterman called applause received from his studio audience, "as sincere as a Rush Limbaugh apology." Following which he quipped that Limbaugh was opposed to contraceptives, "but Vicodin is okay?"

Which only further dramatizes how secure these far-right screamers are in the feeling that they have a whole mess of actual and would-be political heavy hitters over a barrel. Given his well documented past on the drug abuse front, you would think abuse of any drug -- of which he was suggesting the victim, Sandra Fluke, was guilty -- was a designated "off limits" area for Limbaugh. Not a chance. Kowtowing politicians make that kind of brazenness possible.

President Obama, meanwhile, displayed admirable statesmanship in reaching out to the young woman whose concept of freedom of expression, one imagines, had suddenly been so crudely attacked, the source notwithstanding. There can be little doubt about this having been a moment to take a stand for decency.

What we cannot allow to become too deflating about these poison darts hurled by Limbaugh and kindred spirits

is that instances, such as this latest, of pushing the envelope well past the outer limits of taste and class aren't about to change the order of things. Provocateurs they are, after a fashion, and the mission guidelines evidently don't include any hint of hewing, for instance, to a model akin to the PBS commentary of Mark Shields and David Brooks. Shields is supposedly the more progressive of the pair, Brooks the conservative. Yet these guys manage to uniformly have a discourse on matters mainly political, that is marked by a striking civility. So, okay, replication of the Shields and Brooks formula is too pie-in-the-sky. But does the alternative have to be the Limbaugh type screamer?

And what of the Republican Party establishment? Does that assessment of Limbaugh's strength in GOP circles that Cheney made still hold? In wake of the latest Limbaugh crash-and-burn imitation, David Brooks was suggesting that Limbaugh's juice isn't what it used to be. The tepid response to Limbaugh's crock this time around hardly would suggest influence on the wane...unless Romney perhaps just can't avoid walking that particular road these days.

Too much of a focus on what kind of influence Limbaugh still has within the corridors of GOP power probably shouldn't be option one for those of us concerned that these periodic meltdowns of his are apparently destined to be part of the business-as-usual package. Limbaugh is paid oodles of cash to do these performances of his that obviously resonate with a hard core of benighted souls. Attempting to process what renders a Rush Limbaugh appealing to anyone might well be the ultimate brain teaser for many on this side of the sanity line. Better to just thank our lucky stars that Limbaugh (and others like him) junkies aren't representative of the American whole. And do our utmost to keep the equation from any further tilt in the direction of wacky.

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Financial burdens for the health care system

Continued from page 10

zation that, in some cases, are almost double that of whites; African-Americans have higher hospitalization rates from influenza; and black children are twice as likely to be hospitalized and more than four times as likely to die from asthma as white children.

Thomas A. LaVeist, director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, says increased health risks for minorities are directly related to where they live and work.

"The fact is that we have an inequitable distribution of opportunity," he says. "Where you live determines what schools your children get to attend. It determines if your house will appreciate or de-appreciate and whether you can create wealth. It also determines whether you are exposed to environmental inequalities and the type of health care facility that is available to you. Where you live, work,

play and pray affects quality of health care."

Jennifer Ng'andu, deputy director of the Health Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza in Washington, speaks even more pointedly: "If we look at communities of color, we see that many racial and ethnic groups live in unsafe environments, there is poor housing and there is loss of productivity because of illness.

"Essentially, every time a person of color goes to the doctor, 30 percent of their bill is due to health disparities so they end up paying more in the doctor's office because over time they receive health care that is not appropriate or effective," she says. "They become needlessly sicker and are more likely to die prematurely, so they end up paying more medical expenses."

Health experts and civic leaders say financial strains are adversely manifested in varying ways in communities and have a huge impact

on children, often involving academic performance.

"There are direct biological consequences in that a child who does not have good access to health services will experience developmental setbacks because they are sick or their parents are sick," Ng'andu says. "It makes it harder for them to achieve in school and can have serious consequences on their future. We have to invest in children early, their health early, their education, making sure they have healthy communities to grow in."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the percentage of children and adolescents with a chronic disease swelled from 1.8 percent in the 1960s to 7 percent in 2004. The increase has an adverse impact on childhood education. For example, a report by the American Lung

Op-Ed

Association says asthma is a leading cause nationwide of youngsters missing school. Asthma affects Puerto Rican and African-American children more often, perhaps because they often live in communities with poor air quality.

"Studies show a spread of diabetes among children, but particularly among black and Latino children," says Sinsi Hernandez-Cancio, director of health equity at Families USA in Washington.

"There are long-term effects. You are more likely to lose a limb, have a heart attack or lose a kidney, and the longer you have the disease, the greater the toll on life quality. We can expect to see this as these children grow older. There is also an impact on children when other family members have a disease because they sometime miss school to care for an ill family member."

Because racial and ethnic health care disparities can hinder a breadwinner's earning capacity, the entire family is often affected adversely.

"Kids are forced to be translators at the doctor's office," Hernandez-Cancio says. "That has an enormous toll, so they see firsthand all this information on how mommy or daddy is not doing well. We have had stories of children staying home to take care of their parent or another sibling. Stresses such as these affect their ability to develop into an independent, productive individual in the future."

Ng'andu agrees. "When kids are hungry, when they are exposed to serious nerve stress and environmental stresses," she says, "it affects them and their ability to learn and perform well academically. Investment in their health is very important to their future success and achievement and also their ability to work and contribute to

their communities."

Hernandez-Cancio says disparities in infant mortality rates also take a toll on minority families. While the 2010 rate for whites was 5.63 per 1,000 live births, it was 13.31 per 1,000 live births for African-Americans, 9.22 for American Indians or Alaska Natives and 7.71 for Puerto Ricans, according to the CDC.

The infant mortality rate is considered a very basic measure of how a country's health care system is working, and it is an indication of other symptoms," she says. "We rank 41st globally. As an advanced, wealthy nation, we are not doing well."

America's Wire is an independent, nonprofit news service run by the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information, visit www.americas-wire.org or contact Michael K. Frisby at mike@frisbyassociates.com.

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HIV among Black MSMs

Dear Dr. Eva,

Can you tell me whether it is true that more Blacks, and especially Black gay men, are infected with HIV than whites? If it is true, what do you think are the reasons for this? I'm a young Black guy who wants to stay negative. From what I've seen, I don't think that Black gay men have more risky sex than white gay men, in fact I think Black guys may be more conservative (have fewer partners). BJ

Dear BJ,

Despite some spread in the heterosexual population, HIV remains mainly a disease of men who have sex with men (MSM). MSM make up about 2 percent of the United States population, but they have 61 percent of all new HIV infections. MSM in the United States are 19 times more likely to have HIV than people in the general population.

African-Americans in general (not just gay and bisexual men) also have a disproportionate burden of HIV infection. Although only 14 percent of the



United States population is African-American, African-Americans make up 44 percent of all people newly diagnosed with HIV.

Unfortunately, it is true that young African-American MSM have the highest rates of HIV infection of any group, and it is even worse in Baltimore where I practice than in the rest of the country. A 2008 Johns Hopkins study in Baltimore showed that 45 percent of a sample of Black MSM were HIV-positive. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced last August that more than 25 percent of all new cases of HIV are in young black MSM, even

though this group makes up less than 0.5 percent of the population.

Nationally, 28 percent of African-American men (one in 3) who have sex with men (MSM) are positive, and 59 percent of these HIV positive African-American men do not know they are infected. By comparison, 16 percent of white MSM (one in 6) are positive and 26 percent of them do not know that they are positive. Among HIV-positive African-American MSM under age 30, the most sexually active group, 71 percent do not know they are infected.

As far as the reasons for the higher rates of infec-

tion in African-American MSM:

You are correct that African-American MSM do not have more risky sex than white MSM. Some studies show that African-American MSM have fewer sexual partners than white MSM. African-American and white MSM have the same rates of unsafe sexual behaviors, such as failure to use condoms and having anal intercourse.

Gays and bisexuals, like heterosexuals, most often choose sex partners (and life partners) of their own ethnic group. African-American MSM make up a smaller group than white MSM. Infections spread more quickly in small groups.

There is (still) greater stigma related to being gay or bisexual in the African-American community than in the white community. The General Social Survey, a survey that asks people their opinions about homosexuality, found in 2008 that 72 percent of Blacks thought "homosexuality is always wrong" as compared with 52 percent

Continued from page 16

Falling in love with your health

By George Hulse

Healthfirst recently co-hosted "Sweetheart Luncheons" for seniors married 50 years or longer. Fifty years! What an amazing accomplishment!

Reaching a milestone like that—especially as a couple—requires not only dedication to love but also to health and well-being. It is so important to take an active role in and be accountable for your health, at all ages. However, as we get older, appropriate care often involves medications and prescriptions for different conditions that may develop in later years—most notably heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S.

A big part of taking good care of yourself is following your doctors' orders. Your doctors are there to help, and adhering to treatments they prescribe—medications, exercise, diet restrictions—will only help you become the healthiest you can be. One of the biggest complaints doctors have



is patients not following their advice—not filling prescriptions, not making the necessary lifestyle changes, not doing their part to take care of themselves.

If you haven't done so already, begin to develop a relationship with your doc-

tor. Those who are in touch with their physicians are more likely to become educated on what they need to do to be healthy, to understand why they take the medications prescribed, and to understand how the doctor's orders will help them. A patient's willingness to follow and understand a doctor's directions is just as important as the orders themselves. And doctors want to educate patients about the importance of taking their medication and being proactive about their health.

Taking an active role in your health—before serious problems arise—is one of the most important things you can do to live a long, healthy, love-filled life. Love yourself, love your health—and we'll all make it to 50 years or more!

George Hulse is vice president of External Affairs at Healthfirst. For more tips on leading a healthier lifestyle, visit Healthfirst Healthy Living, www.hfhealthyliving.com.



Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

By Herbert Okun, M.D.
Diplomate American Board of Urology

Diagnosing prostate problems correctly

Most men, arriving at the urologist's office for the first time do so because they're convinced that they have a prostate problem. In many, probably most cases, they are right. However, the doctor's job is to evaluate their problems by classifying their symptoms into one or more of three major categories to definitively establish a complete diagnosis, essential to selecting the most appropriate treatment.

The first category of symptoms are those related to the storing of urine in the bladder and these include frequency and sleep interruption caused by the need to urinate as well as urgency causing that sudden rush to the toilet, not always in time to avoid embarrassing incontinence.

The second category of urinary symptoms are those involving voiding. These include a slow, often split intermittent stream with hesitancy in starting, sometimes requiring pushing to maintain a continuous flow but still ending in dribbling that seems to go on forever.

The third category of symptoms are those that occur soon after our man leaves the toilet, which require him to make a bee line right back because instead of feeling satisfied and empty, he feels that he has to urinate again and unfortunately, urine will very often run down his trouser leg before he can make it back in time. What often happens is that an enlarged and obstructive prostate can cause these symptoms as can an overactive bladder and what's more is that both conditions may be present at the same time. Furthermore, the pros-

tate obstruction can lead to bladder wall thickening and irritation causing the symptoms of an overactive bladder.

The medications that have been developed to treat over-activity of the muscles of the bladder, bladder neck and urethra don't work only where we want them to work. They also have an effect on various other parts of the body far away from the urinary tract. For example, the muscles in the wall of the arteries throughout the periphery of the body, which have a strong effect on blood pressure.

In addition, the spinal cord, and the nasal passages can all be affected by the same medication that might be used to relieve the symptoms of the urinary tract. If it relieves the symptoms of prostatic obstruction, it may stuff up your nose and the medicine that unclogs your nose may very well make it more difficult to urinate. Retrograde ejaculation can also be expected to occur in about one of five men using such medication.

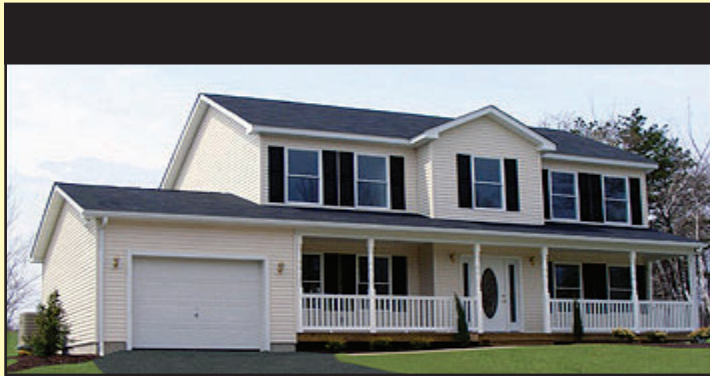
Proper diagnosis can be accomplished by careful history, physical examination, time and amount records, uroflowmetry, sonography, and urodynamic studies. Surgery is best reserved for cases complicated by any of the following: bladder stones, persistent heavy bleeding, complete urinary retention and renal failure. Otherwise the appropriate medications will be chosen and if necessary, a minimally invasive procedure such as TUMT, transurethral microwave thermotherapy.

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In search of a bone marrow donor

In 1981, Sandra Holder came to the United States from the island of Grenada in search of the American dream. She has worked as a nurse at Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center for almost 30 years, but her greatest joy has always been her family, especially her only child Nigel.

In April, 2010, Mrs. Holder was diagnosed with Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma, which is a rare



Victim of Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma.

form of cancer. Her doctors say her best chance for recovery is a bone marrow transplant, but right now Sandra can not find a matching donor. You may be the match she has been searching for!

Every day thousands of patients search for a bone marrow donor match. Only four of 10 patients are lucky enough to receive a transplant.

"We need you!" stated

Katharina Harf, COO, DKMS Americas. "We need your help so we can save more lives."

"I lost my mother to leukemia when I was 14, and I have made it my mission to recruit more donors so that other families don't have to go through the pain we did," Harf added.

Registration for bone marrow donors takes place Saturday, March 24, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at The Church of St. Mark, 370 Union St. in Brooklyn.

Registering to become a bone marrow donor is more than a cheek swab," DKMS says. "It is a commitment to help save a life."

Donors must be between 18 and 55 and in good general health. When someone registers with DKMS, they can be found as a donor match for any patient in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Registering one potential bone marrow donor costs DKMS \$65. Because DKMS does not require new donors to pay the registration fee and does not receive government funding, DKMS must rely on donations from the general public to fund donor registrations. 100% of one's financial contribution is used to register new

potential donors, DKMS states, adding: "Every dollar counts!"

About DKMS

DKMS' mission is to fight blood cancer and save lives by registering bone marrow donors for patients in need. They are the world's largest bone marrow donor center, with over three million registered donors.

"More than 29,000 of our donors have helped save lives by donating their bone marrow," DKMS Americas, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, states.

For more information about DKMS and to learn more about registering as a bone marrow donor, visit www.getswabbed.org or contact Erika Toto, DKMS, at 212 209 6737, erika@dkmsamericas.org

DKMS means Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei in German; Bone Marrow Donor Center in English

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Michael Mulgrew
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Black MSM

Continued from page 14

of whites. Even MSM often agreed that "homosexuality is always wrong." Fifty-seven percent of African American MSM and 27 percent of white MSM agreed with that statement. People who believe their sexuality is wrong are likely to have low self-esteem, especially related to their sexuality, and less likely to take precautions to protect themselves and their partners.

There is (still) greater stigma attached to HIV infection in the African-American community than in the white community. People who may be cut off from family and friends if they become infected with HIV are less likely to get tested.

Perhaps because of the stigma, African-American MSM get tested for HIV less frequently than white MSM. Because of this, African-Americans find out about their HIV positive status later in their disease. Once people are aware that they are HIV-positive, they take more precautions to prevent transmitting the disease to their partners. If

they do not know until later in the disease that they are HIV-positive, infected people go on transmitting the virus to others for a longer period of time.

Once they are aware of being infected, African-Americans with HIV tend to wait longer to start on HIV medications. Once on a successful HIV medication regimen, people have far fewer HIV virus particles in their bodies and so are much less likely to pass on the virus. The longer a person with HIV goes untreated, the more their virus count (viral load) rises and the more likely they are to pass infection on to others.

A May 2011 interview study of young African-American MSM, done by researchers from Johns Hopkins, found that these young men preferred masculine partners and believed that masculine appearing men were most likely to be free of HIV.

Ask Dr. Eva is distributed by Healthy Living News. Email comments and questions to dreva@healthylivingnews.org.

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Continued from page 2

materials and labor and further cements the growing relationship between the two countries. China also expects to build a US\$50 million sports and recreational village around the stadium.

China's state-owned Export-Import Bank is building the US\$2.6 billion Baha Mar resort complex in New Providence and has agreed to provide a US\$41 million loan to build a new port and bridge in the Bahamas.

Barbados

The Sunday Sun newspaper in Barbados has reported that forensic auditors are seeking a second investigation in the failed Clico insurance giant's Eastern Caribbean operations in a bid to find millions of dollars in missing funds.

The paper said it had obtained a 37-page audit report, dated Dec. 5, and

at the end of the eight-month-long probe found unexplained dead-ends in the company's money trail.

The report revealed "shocking inter-company" transactions amounting to 376 million Barbados dollars involving the Barbados-based Clico International Life's and the Barbados subsidiaries of CIL's parent, CL Financial, in addition to further details of the employment contract of its former executive chairman, Leroy Parris, the Sunday Sun said.

The paper said the auditors reached the conclusion that the insurance company had become the "banker" for its related companies. The auditors, Deloitte Canada, said their valuation of CIL's assets did not hold out much hope for a full recovery of the insurance company's assets.

Guyana

Suriname's President

Desi Bouterse recently headed a three-member Bureau of CARICOM leaders and the bloc's special envoy to Haiti PJ Patterson on a two-day mission to Haiti, the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana said.

Bouterse was joined by immediate past CARICOM chairman and St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas and St. Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre, who stood in for Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony.

The three leaders, together with CARICOM Secretary General Irwin LaRocquemake, make up the Bureau of Heads of Government, a special super-committee of CARICOM leaders.

Also on the mission was former Jamaica Prime Minister PJ Patterson, CARICOM's special representative of the heads of government to Haiti,

"The purpose of the visit is to engage with the government of Haiti with respect to its priorities, which would assist in determining the nature of assistance required of the Community to that member state," the statement said.

The delegation met with Haiti's President Michel Martelly and cabinet ministers.

"The visit also served to emphasize continued support for the country in its reconstruction and development efforts following the 2010 earthquake and explore ways for strengthening Haiti's participation in CARICOM, the secretariat said.

Jamaica

Jamaica is developing a new policy to battle crime as gang violence drives the homicide rate higher, the country's National Security Minister Peter Bunting

said.

He noted that 165 killings have been reported by police so far in 2012, compared to 135 slayings for the same period last year.

Violent gangs are deeply entrenched in Spanish Town, just west of Kingston, and in some residential sections of the northwestern parish of St. James, which includes the resort city of Montego Bay.

Fighting between gangs for control of drug trafficking and extortion rackets have long been blamed for the majority of Jamaica's killings.

Police Commissioner Owen Ellington said at a news conference that much of the security forces' resources are now focused on trying to contain 42 active gang conflicts.

Nevis

Premier of Nevis Joseph Parry has reassured its people and visitors that the

island was still "very safe" in the wake of the home robbery of a United States Supreme Court justice and his family who were holidaying there recently.

Parry said he personally visited Justice Stephen Breyer the day after the robbery in which the judge was robbed, along with his wife and guests.

Nevis, the tiny Leeward Island southwest of St. Kitts, its federal partner, has been the Breyer's vacation home for the last 16 years.

"I want to reassure everyone that it is very safe on the island of Nevis, and the police and government have taken as many steps to ensure security of our people and our visitors," Parry, who is also the island's tourism minister said.

He said the Nevis Island administration will now offer "the highest level of protection" to visiting dignitaries in the future.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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GWIM honors DJ, Methodist pastor

Great Women In Music (GWIM) will present two events for Women's History Month.

On Saturday, March 17, GWIM and Chedda Ent. will host the award winning, featured house DJ from 98.7 KISS FM, Lady D. Wells. This renowned mix master, will appear with her special guest, the legendary DJ Hollywood. This event will be held at the Doug Out, 800 River Ave. in the Bronx. Doors open at 10:00 p.m.

On Sunday, March 25 GWIM will salute Rev. Dr. Theresa Oliver of Mt. Zion Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in the Bronx, with a special guest gospel performance from Natasha C. Coward.

This event will be sponsored by Healthfirst, which offers free and low-cost health insurance plans to



Rev. Dr. Theresa Oliver.



DJ Lady D. Wells.

eligible seniors, adults and families.

Now in its 12th season, GWIM is an ongoing celebration of the many contributions women have made to music and the world.

"GWIM will celebrate the powerful message that the

gifted Pastor Oliver brings to her congregation and community. Her ongoing commitment to teach and preach the benefits of healthy living, education and unity is a lesson to us all," said Roz Nixon of GWIM.

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MEC celebrates Black History movers, shakers

On Wednesday, Feb. 29, Medgar Evers College held its inaugural Black History Month corporate luncheon honoring four African-American trailblazers in the corporate arena whose work and dedication contribute to the vibrancy of the nation's economy.

"The triumphs of these remarkable men and women serve as powerful symbols of progress for our community as well as a sign of great things to come," said Medgar Evers College President William L. Pollard.

Hosted by the talented Sade Baderinwa, co-anchor of WABC-TV's top-rated *Eyewitness News*, the event celebrated individuals who embodied the meaning of success. The honorees included: D.A. Abrams, chief diversity & inclusion officer, United States Tennis Association; Sandra Thomas, vice president, community affairs, WABC-TV; Henry Beards, New Jersey district human resources manager, UPS, and Paulette Proverbs, long-time banking professional.

The event was attended by corporate movers and shakers like Byron Lewis, chairman and founder of Uniworld, Inc., the nation's first black owned advertising agency and Kelly Smith Beaty, former contestant on NBC's *The Apprentice* and



Mistress of Ceremony Sade Baderinwa of WABC TV's Eyewitness News.

current vice president of marketing and communications at Dress for Success, as well as Medgar Evers College School of Business top students Brittney Dorsette and Ron Clark.

The luncheon was sponsored by United Parcel Service and the United States Tennis Association – Eastern Section.



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What an anniversary present!

Happy couple is remodeling their home and saving money too, thanks to the HRA program

Iris Escobar is a coupon clipper, proud to be frugal. But you don't usually clip coupons for home improvement, so when she and her husband, Victor, decided to remodel their home, she had to find another way to save.

But Iris didn't have to look far. The answer arrived in her mailbox one day last summer: a card advertising the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance program.

Thanks to the HRA, the Escobars are getting a world-class makeover to their kitchen, dining room and downstairs bathroom, along with a new roof and energy-efficient windows — all without spending a dime in cash, and without increasing their mortgage payments a penny. Taking advantage of the program is letting them save thousands of dollars on a project that would have cost \$103,000, and thanks to refinancing, they're making the same monthly payments they were before on their Baldwin home — but now \$200 each month is going toward the principal.

They couldn't be happier — not about the savings, not about the work that's being done, and especially not about the full range of services HRA is providing as their home is transformed.

"It's been a great ride," Victor said. "I can't say enough about the HRA program. I can't say enough about everybody involved with the program."

His wife agrees. "I'm excited, I'm very excited," she said. "I'm glad I met this team; they're great!" Speaking to Carlos Fontanez, the couple's HRA representative, she added, "I told my sister about you, I told my coworkers about you — I tell everyone about you."

What Iris is telling everyone is how the HRA guides clients through every step of the home remodeling process, from helping

decide what work should be done to how it will be financed, from securing financial assistance to overseeing the work and making sure the contractors are not paid until the homeowner is satisfied.

A fan of "The People's Court," where she sees a lot of irresponsible contractors sued over jobs that weren't done correctly, Iris said she was especially glad that the HRA holds clients' money in escrow until they certify that they're satisfied.

Carlos described how he starts a project with clients like the Escobars: "I explain to them what HRA does and show them the different options for how we can accomplish what they want to do to reach their goals, help them get financing and a reduced interest rate on their mortgage."

"After the first 10 minutes speaking to him, I was sold on the program," Victor said. "All through this, he's been great."

An HRA administrator explained the program's basic approach: "The services offered by the HRA extend beyond just financial assistance for home improvement projects. We have implemented numerous processes to ensure that projects completed by HRA-approved contractors are done so to the homeowner's satisfaction."

Just take a look at some of the program's requirements for contractors. They all must be:

- licensed, bonded and insured for at least \$100,000 per incident;
- registered with the Better Business Bureau, with a rating of an A or higher;
- in business for at least 10 years;
- able to provide the names and addresses of eight clients they have done home improvement projects for in the past year; and
- able to perform four test projects for the HRA prior to work-

ing for any clients.

With that kind of screening, it's no surprise that only the best contractors get to do HRA-sponsored jobs.

At the Escobars' house, it's a big job that's underway. First the roof and windows were replaced, and new gutters and leaders installed. The couple is thrilled with the result. There's a stunning new bay window in the dining room that measures about 8 feet wide by 5 feet high. The kitchen features a garden window, an especially deep one with a glass shelf so her plants can be surrounded by light from all sides.

Next the interior of the kitchen and bathroom were completely gutted, with everything from new gas lines and plumbing to new sheetrock and insulation going in. The door to the basement was moved from one wall to another to make room for all the cabinetry surrounding the garden window.

The new kitchen is going to feature only the best equipment and materials, including a six-burner stove with a pot-filler faucet, double sink with pullout faucet, beautiful real-wood cabinets, granite countertops and floor tiles.

A new two-level peninsula with a granite top will serve as a bar, or just another place for family and friends to gather.

There will even be a tilt-out drawer for sponges and brushes in front of the sinks.

"I'm a hoarder," Iris said. "They're giving me lots of drawers and shelves to put away my stuff."

Even more of her and her husband's "stuff" will go in the new pantries that will be built in an area just off the kitchen. Those will be done in the same deep finish as the kitchen cabinets, and feature modern conveniences like pullout drawers behind the doors.



Iris Escobar shows off the new tiling that will be going in her bathroom.

The bathroom also will be all-new. The shower will feature a bench and a modern rain shower head. The tile walls will be accented by a mosaic design running around the whole room. The hardware will be bronze, and the contractor even found a toilet in Mexican sand, a cream-like color, that will complement the decor perfectly.

In the front of the house, the contractor replaced all the windows in the foyer and added insulation. Not only will the Escobars earn tax credits for energy efficiency, but Iris says she felt the difference immediately. Drafty for years, the foyer is now cozy, she said.

After all the interior work is

done, the project will go back outside, as a new deck and patio get installed.

Iris likes to entertain, but for the last three years hadn't bothered because she wasn't happy with how the house was looking. But now she's looking forward to holding a big bash in June, to show off the renovations made possible by the HRA program and to celebrate the couple's 10th anniversary. The timing couldn't have worked out better.

To find out if you qualify for the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance program, just call the HRA toll-free at 866-791-6302. Tell them you read about the Escobars' job, and they'll give you the same level of excellent service. ■



Iris and Victor Escobar are getting rich wood cabinetry in the kitchen and bathroom, and got to see how various colors would look on their walls before choosing. The bathroom will get a carved stone sink. Carlos Fontanez, the couple's HRA representative, has become a friend as well — he's invited him to a party they're planning to celebrate their 10th anniversary — and their newly remodeled home.

Queens small business owners support paid sick days

A group of local small business owners, City Council members and community leaders stood together Tuesday, March 13, to announce their support for paid sick days at Terraza 7 Live Music, a restaurant and music venue in Jackson Heights, Queens.

The group launched a "Conscious Consumer Initiative" to highlight and promote local businesses that already provide paid sick days.

Supporters are calling on City Council to pass the Paid Sick Time bill, which would ensure that 1.5 million New Yorkers without access to paid sick days are able to take time off when they or their families are ill. In addition to the support of small businesses, the bill has 35 Council sponsors and is supported by a diverse coalition of labor unions, women's rights organizations, healthcare providers and community organizations.

"I know how important it is to take time off when you are sick to prevent disease from spreading," said Freddy Castiblanco, owner of Terraza 7 Live Music, who was trained as a physician in his native Colombia before immigrating to Queens. "As a business owner I believe giving paid sick

days is not only the right thing to do, it also builds a stronger business."

Leni Juca, owner of the Oxium Copy Shop in Jackson Heights, which provides paid sick days, left his job at a large chain to start his own business. "I left corporate America to start a small business because I wanted to be treated like a full human being, not a number," said Juca. "In my business I treat my employees like family. Everyone gets sick, and that's why I provide paid sick days. People come back to work more committed because they know I'm there for them."

Juca and Castiblanco are both members of Small Business United. They joined with Make the Road NY, which has over 4,000 Queens members, to announce the creation of a "Conscious Consumer Card" and a grassroots mobilization and education campaign to highlight and promote responsible businesses in the community such as Terraza 7 and Oxium that provide paid sick days to their employees.

Council Member Julissa Ferreras, representing Jackson Heights, Corona, Elmhurst and East Elmhurst, is a sponsor of



City Council Members, small business owners and coalition members rallied in support of paid sick days and launched their Conscious Consumer, Conscious Business initiative at a local business in Elmhurst.
Courtesy of Make The Road New York

a proposal in the New York City Council to guarantee paid sick days, joined the rally to announce her support for the initiative.

"Make the Road's Conscious Consumer initiative is a great way to let the community know which businesses offer paid sick days to their workers," said Council Member Ferreras. "Paid sick time is a small measure that can have an immediate, positive impact on business productivity, reduce

unemployment, and strengthen financial security for families who desperately need relief."

"I'm proud to stand with small businesses that support their communities and their workers by providing paid sick days," said Wilfredo Larancuent, a leader in Workers United and in the Working Families Party. "All working New Yorkers should support the businesses that support our communities."

"I have suffered as a result of not having paid sick days. Thousands of other workers in Jackson Heights and Corona have as well," said Rocío Loyola, a Make the Road member and Jackson Heights resident. "Today we're coming together to show the economic power we have as a community. We're here to educate consumers to support businesses that provide paid sick days with their dollars. That's what this is all about."

Other Council Members also expressed their support for the small business led "Conscious Consumer Initiative," including Gale Brewer the lead sponsor of the paid sick days bill, Margaret Chin, Annabel Palma and James Sanders Jr.

The NYC Paid Sick Days Campaign is a coalition of low wage workers, women's rights advocates, healthcare providers, small business owners, labor unions and community organizations who believe New York cannot afford to wait for paid sick days. Paid sick days is a commonsense policy for our city and our economy that protects family economy security and public health.

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Definitive 'Marley' flick premieres

"I think what's great about the film is though there have been a lot of things done on Bob, I think this one will give people a more emotional connection to Bob's life as a man – not just as a reggae legend or a mythical figure, but his life as a man."

Bob Marley's eldest son Ziggy describes the new documentary about his iconic, musician, father as "the most definitive."

Credited as co-executive producer with Chris Blackwell, Ziggy along with his sister Cedella are among a long list of insiders who offer reflections on their associations with the musician.

Through a much-too long 145-minute documentary, the collaborative feature unites Magnolia Pictures, Tuff Gong Productions, Shangri-La Entertainment and Cowboy Films for a biopic on Jamaica's most celebrated musician/singer.

Marley's adult life is relayed by his widow, lovers, associates, collaborators and individuals who associated with the legendary Rastafarian, songwriter, singer, musician, husband, father and son.

Much of the reflections are recycled interviews or restated comments by his widow Rita, lover Cindy Brakespeare, Island Records label head Blackwell, back-up singers Judy Mowatt and Marcia Griffith, and music partner, associate producer Neville "Bunny Wailer" Livingston.

Allegedly more than 60 individuals were interviewed.

However, most engaging, refreshing and new are statements made by relatives Constance and Peter, who are identified to be a half sister and cousin from Bob's paternal side.

Of the interview, his cousin Peter said, "Nobody had thought to speak with me before."

And Constance after listening to her brother's record-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

ing of "Cornerstone" was informed the significance of the lyrics to her family.

McDonald may have scored a winner with interviews by African Princess Pascalene, the daughter of Gabon's President Omar Bongo.

Her revelations about Marley and his band performing in the renowned African dictatorship is perhaps one of the most interesting of the document.

Along with reflections from a nurse who tended to the ailing musician while he sought treatment in Germany; 'baby mother' Pat Williams, who birthed a son named Robert Marley; and Dudley Sibley, a studio janitor whose exclusive in the film reflected on his friendship with Marley during a one-year period they shared a room living in a back space at Studio One Recording Studios.

"Nobody had ever interviewed him before," McDonald said.

Others include Marley's eldest child, Cedella, his mother Cedella Booker, graphic artist Neville Garrick and attorney Diane Jobson who gleaned revealing nostalgia that may enlighten fans of the acclaimed first Third World superstar.

Ziggy spoke candidly about his childhood memories of his famous father.

He was able to impart a human aspect to the individual most regard as a prophet, revolutionary, superstar, legend and iconic personality.

How Marley relentlessly tested his mettle against his youths'; that he fiercely engaged his children in competitive athletic practices by racing or playing soccer and how he rarely portrayed the compassionate, 'daddy' perhaps more prevalently projected.

His sister Cedella lauded her mother for the tolerance and grace she exhibited despite her husband's flagrant disregard for their marriage vows.

"I said to her, 'mom they don't make women like you anymore,' Cedella said. "I guess, back in the 60's, when you fall in love like that, you fall in love, you know?"

None of the reported 20 offspring or nine legally acknowledged are featured in the film.

However, a notation that Bob Marley had 11 children by seven different women punctuated details not included in the biopic.

Fans will enjoy the concert footage, imagery, music and dialogue. Subtitles provide interpretation to the Jamaican patois that prevails throughout.

Snippets of Lee "Scratch" Perry in his studio, the One Love peace concert and the arrival of Ethiopian Emperor HIM Haile Selassie to Jamaica are vividly repeated.

Initially announced in February 2008 for production by director Martin Scorsese, the documentary arrives two years later than its initial release date and without the effort of the famous filmmaker. At that time Scorsese said the document would be completed in time for release on Marley's 65th birthday anniversary in 2010.

But Scorsese bowed out of the project and was replaced by Jonathan Demme.

That association also proved short-lived when reportedly, Demme cited creative differences with producer Steve Bing during the beginning of editing.

Catch You On The Inside!

America's Best HS Chef winners

By Gary Axelbank

On Saturday, March 3, 31 high school students from throughout the N.Y. Metro area competed for the distinguished titles of America's Best High School Chef and Pastry Chef in the fourth annual competition sponsored by the Monroe College School of Hospitality Management and the Culinary Arts.

The prizes were academic scholarships to attend Monroe College. First place prize was a full academic scholarship to the Monroe College School of Hospitality Management, second and third place prizes were partial academic scholarships worth \$3,500 and \$2,500, and prizes for all competitors were partial academic scholarships worth \$1,500. Monroe awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to the contestants.

Yocary Luna of Food and Finance HS in Manhattan was crowned America's Best HS Chef for her Stuffed Chicken - Teriyaki

Style with sauté fingerling potatoes and string beans.

Laura Sanchez of Passaic County Technical High School, Passaic, NJ was named America's Best HS Pastry Chef with her White Coating Chocolate Raspberry Tower, consisting of double-chocolate chip brownies filled with cannoli cream and sided with French vanilla ice cream.

"I was impressed with all of the entrants, not just the winners," said Dr. Frank Costantino, dean of the School of Hospitality Management and the Culinary Arts. "They have bright futures in culinary. It's interesting to note that the students who are currently among the leaders on the Monroe College Culinary teams are former winners of this competition."

Here's a list of the winners:

America's Best High School Chef

First place – Yocary Luna, Food & Finance High School, NYC

Second place – Nashali Rivera,



Dean Frank Costantino (Center back row) with Yocari Luna and Laura Sanchez next to him and the rest of America's Best High School Chef winners. Photo by Gary Axelbank

Food & Finance High School, NYC

Third place (tie) - Rossella Cangialosi, East Meadow High School, L.I., N.Y.

Rondy Mendoza, Truman High School, Bronx, N.Y.

America's Best High School Pastry Chef

First place – Laura Sanchez, Passaic County Technical High School, Passaic, NJ

Second place – Chelsea Taylor, Frankford High School,

Philadelphia, PA

Third place (tie) - Mikea Rivers, Frankford High School, Philadelphia, PA

Laura Szanto, Paul D. Schreiber High School, Port Washington, N.Y.

'The Lorax is an action cartoon featuring typical kiddie fare plus a timely message about conservation..'

Kam Williams – Page 27

FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENT, GO TO CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

High priestess of R&B returns

The Carlyle Hotel is pleased to welcome back R&B legend Bettye LaVette - who the *Huffington Post* has dubbed "the high priestess of R&B"- to the legendary Café Carlyle in a return three-week engagement playing through March 31. Ms. LaVette will once again showcase her inimitable style, gut wrenching vocals and songs from throughout her five decade career in a soul-shattering evening. She'll be accompanied by a band led by her musical director Alan Hill.



Bettye LaVette.

Cited as "the last great vernacular black singer" by *The New Yorker*, Bettye LaVette has been honing her skills since her first single was released at the tender age of 16 in 1962. Yet it wasn't until four decades later when she was signed to Anti-Records in 2004 that Bettye began to garner a wide audience.

Before that, she seemed to be the best kept secret in the world of rhythm & blues.

With the release of *My Own Hell to Raise* in 2005 and the follow-up, *Scene of the Crime* out in 2007, public awareness of Bettye began to grow. As a result,

Continued on next page

Salsa pioneers

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts continues its spectacular 31st season with the return of legendary salsa pioneers La Sonora Ponceña on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

With more than 40 albums, La Sonora Ponceña has entertained audiences for nearly 60 years. Led by founder Enrique "Quique" Lucca and his son, piano virtuoso "Papo" Lucca, the group is known for such classic hits as "Hachero pa' un palo" and "Fuego en el 23." Enrique "Quique" Lucca recently celebrated his 99th birthday.

Also appearing at this unforgettable concert will



La Sonora Ponceña.

be one of the hottest bands to burst onto the Latin music scene, 8 Y Mas, a collaboration of some of the best musicians in NYC and beyond who have taken salsa back to its original flavor as they play "La música

Continued on next page

SHOWCASE JAMAICA



USA concert series to celebrate island's Golden Jubilee

Paulette Bellamy.

By Aubrey Campbell

Undaunted by the political stalemate, resulting from the recent change in administration, Jamaicans in the Northeast USA are going ahead with plans to

celebrate the country's 50th anniversary of self government.

One such organization is Hempstead, Long Island-based Jamstar Enterprises which will stage a concert event at the end

of March, showcasing some of the best concert performers from Jamaica and the USA.

"Showcase Jamaica USA," the concert series, will open at the

Continued on next page

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Set Fire To The Rain**
Adele
- 2 **Stronger**
Kelly Clarkson
- 3 **We Found Love**
Rihanna Feat. Calvin Harris
- 4 **Good Feeling**
Flo Rida
- 5 **Turn Me On**
David Guetta Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 6 **Domino**
Jessie J
- 7 **Take Care**
Drake Feat. Rihanna
- 8 **International Love**
Pitbull Feat. Chris Brown
- 9 **It Will Rain**
Bruno Mars
- 10 **Young, Wild & Free**
Snoop Dogg & Wiz Khalifia

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **21**
Adele
- 2 **WZRD**
WZRD
- 3 **Some Nights**
fun
- 4 **Black Radio**
Robert Glasper Experiment
- 5 **Project X**
Soundtrack
- 6 **The Best Of The Monkees**
The Monkees
- 7 **Careless World**
Tyga
- 8 **Take Care**
Drake
- 9 **Making Mirrors**
Gotye
- 10 **Live Is A Four Letter Word**
Jason Mraz

Presented by
verizonwireless

Yesterday's music today

Continued from previous page

de ayer, con el sonido de hoy" (yesterday's music with today's sound).

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway. Low-cost on-site parking is available.

La Sonora Ponceña was formed in Puerto Rico in 1954 by Enrique "Quique" Lucca, who named the band after the famous Cuban band Sonora Matancera and his home city of Ponce, thus Sonora Ponceña. By 1956 the group included pianist Vicentico Morales, with Quique's ten-year-old son, Enrique "Papo" Lucca Jr., already at the piano writing arrangements. Papo recorded his first piano solo at age 12.

The band's early recordings featured various popular vocalists of the time, until Tito Gomez joined the band, staying until 1974. By 1960, the band had performed in New York, catching the attention of Fania/Inca Records owner Jerry Masucci. After studies at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, Papo was an accomplished pianist and arranger, and in 1968 Quique stepped down as musical director.

Under Papo's direction, the band's sound became a fusion of traditional Cuban and modern Latin styles. In 1969 they released their first Inca LP, with all arrangements by Papo, Hachero pa' un palo, whose hit title song established them as salsa pioneers. They recorded 30 more albums for Inca and by 1980 were a huge success. As salsa romántica became popular, they adjusted to commercial forces without deserting their trademark sound. The band's most recent albums are 2011's *El gigante del sur* and *A Band and their Music*.

8 Y Más is the cooperative effort of internationally recognized Latin musicians/producers Bobby Allende and Marc Quiñones, who have embarked on a mission to preserve the genre of hard-core salsa music as well as to expose new generations to the music which is a staple of the Latin culture. In addition to Bobby and Marc, the band includes Eddie Rosado (lead vocals), Victor Baro, Samuel



Ocho Y Mas.

Barretto, Arturo Ortiz, Jose Tabares and Manuel Ruiz. The members have played individually, and collectively, with a "who's who" of greats from many genres of music including Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Rubén Blades, Ray Barretto, Tito Nieves, Marc Anthony, La India, Ricky Martin, Dave Valentín and Willie Colón. In November, 2006, the band released its first CD *Juega Billar*, which rose quickly to the top of many "best of" lists, including the *Descarga Review* and *Salsa Picante*. With their astonishing renditions of compositions by Lalo Rodríguez, Ismael Miranda, Rubén Blades and Ray Barretto, the band rapidly gained attention worldwide. In August 2011 the band released its follow-up CD, *Que Mas*, which includes collaborations with Eva Ayllón ("Saca la mano") and Herman Olivera ("Llanto de cocodrilo"). The album has already been featured on Sirius XM's three-hour salsa program, *Caliente*.

Return of Bettye Lavette

Continued from previous page

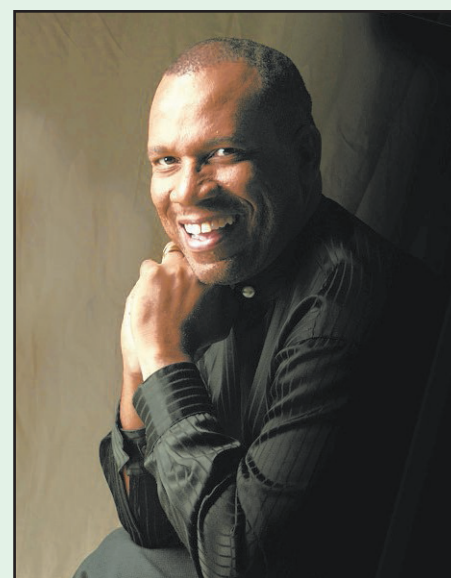
she was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2008. Hers was such a riveting performance the producers of the show proceeded to ask Bettye to sing at President Obama's Inaugural Celebration in front of the world.

Meanwhile, since the release of last year's *Interpretations: the British Rock Songbook*, Bettye "now rivals Aretha Franklin as her generation's most vital soul singer," according to *The New York*

Times. With two Grammy nominations under her belt and performances to sold-out venues all over the globe, Bettye is an undisputed world class interpreter of any genre of song.

Café Carlyle is located in The Carlyle Hotel, 35 East 76th St. at Madison Avenue.

"An Evening with Bettye LaVette" plays Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8:45 p.m. Call (212)744-1600 for additional information or visit www.thecarlyle.com.



Jon Williams.

Overseas Jamaicans

Continued from previous page

Calvary Tabernacle Auditorium, 78 North Franklin Street, Hempstead, LI, 11550, at 6:30 pm., on Sunday, March 31, with headliners Paulette Bellamy, Jon Williams, Alex Martin-Blanken, The Greater Jamaica Chorale Ensemble and folklorist Teddy Crawford, among others.

Tagged "The Jamaica We Know, but Rarely See," the series will go cross state and then cross country, making stops in communities with a decidedly Jamaican demographic.

"Having Paulette, Jon, Alex and company under the same roof and on the same stage will provide a rare display of musical virtuosity, that is somewhat endemic in Jamaica's musical culture," noted Patrick Payne, head of Jamstar Enterprises.

Payne is the mastermind behind the concert event, being used to jump start a series of events, marking 50 years since Jamaica won the right to self government from the then colonial masters of Great Britain (England).

"Paulette, Jon and Alex will combine their love for the stage in a performance befitting a golden jubilee," according to Payne, adding that the concert series will also incorporate the newly introduced Overseas Jamaican Academy Awards, the "OJA," in an "Oscar-like" presentation highlighting the achievements of outstanding Jamaicans overseas, and Jamaica's impact on the U.S. and world history.

Four Jamaicans and six prominent church organizations will receive the first Overseas Jamaican Academy Awards, (OJA).

For information, including tickets to the concert series, contact the presenters at 516-564-5103 and via e-mail at: Patrickpyn@aol.com.

Dr. Seuss classic delivers timely eco message

"The Lorax"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG for mild epithets.
Running time: 86 minutes
Distributor:
Universal Pictures

Twelve-year-old Ted (Zac Efron) has such a big crush on the girl next-door (Taylor Swift) that he makes up lame excuses to ring her doorbell just so he can see her. He finally realizes he actually has a chance with adorably-cute Audrey the day she mentions that she'd marry on the spot the first boy to bring her a real, live tree.

She's never seen one, since their hometown of Thneed-ville is an artificial environment where everything is plastic except for the citizens. What the kids don't know is that their idyllic community is also walled-off from a contaminated outside world which has been turned into a vast wasteland as a result of pollution.

Intent on impressing Audrey, Ted asks his Grammy Norma (Betty White) where he might find a Truffula, the species of tree that once thrived in Thneed-ville. She, in turn, suggests he meet with the Once-ler (Ed Helms), a reclusive elder who resides way past the city limits.



"The Lorax."

So, Ted hops on his scooter and ventures out of town for the first time, and is shocked to see the widespread blight he's been shielded from his whole life.

Worse, it's apparent that the desolation is due to the smog and sludge being spewed by an operation owned by Thneed-ville's avaricious Mayor O'Hare (Rob Riggle).

That discovery conveniently dovetails with Ted's consulting the wise, old Once-ler who, in a series of sobering tete-a-tetes, proceeds to teach the idealistic lad a valuable lesson about the importance of protecting the environment from greedy corporations. And the Once-ler even fesses up about the role he played in the destruction of the forest when, over the objections of a tiny, planet-protecting creature called the Lorax (Danny DeVito), he harvested all the trees to make a quick buck.

Loosely-based on the Dr. Seuss children's classic of the same name, *The Lorax* is an eco-friendly

parable about the urgency of preserving the Earth's natural resources. The animated adventure is blessed with a sweet story of puppy love, too, although Ted and Audrey's budding romance tends to take a back seat to the picture's primary agenda of indicting big business for putting profits ahead of people and the planet.

While the movie's dire, apocalyptic scenario might scare some impressionable young'uns, most members of the target tyke demo are likely to take it all in stride, especially given the film's fairy tale ending. An action cartoon featuring typical kiddie fare plus a timely message about conservation.

Independent & Foreign Films

Casa de Mi Padre (R for profanity, sexuality, drug use and graphic violence)

Crime comedy about a couple of siblings (Will Ferrell and Diego Luna) who land in a turf war with a Mexican mobster (Gael Garcia Bernal) when they take desperate measures to save their father's ranch. With Efren Ramirez, Genesis Rodriguez and Adrian Martinez. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

Delicacy (Unrated) Romantic romp about a French widow (Audrey Tautou) who finds herself courted by a Swedish co-worker (Francois Damiens) while still mourning the loss of her husband. Support cast features Bruno Todeschini, Melanie Bernier and Pio Marmai. (In French and Swedish with subtitles)

Detachment (Unrated) Romance drama about a jaded substitute teacher (Adrien Brody) who becomes less blasé about life after getting emotionally involved with a colleague (Christina Hendricks), a teen prostitute (Sami Gayle), and a troubled student (Betty Kaye). With Lucy Liu, Marcia Gay Harden and Blythe Danner.

The FP (R for sexuality, nudity, pervasive profanity and brief drug use) Musical comedy about a couple of rival gangs vying for control of a local park who decide to



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

settle their differences in a deadly dance competition. Cast includes Jason Trost, Art Hsu, Caitlyn Folley and Lee Valmassy.

Free Men (Unrated) WWII saga, set in German-occupied Paris, revolving around an Algerian immigrant (Tahar Rahim) who becomes inspired to join the Resistance after being befriended by a Jewish singer (Mahmud Shalaby). With Michael Lonsdale, Lubna Azabal and Farid Larbi. (In French with subtitles)

Jeff, Who Lives at Home (R for profanity, sexual references and drug use) Late bloomer comedy about a 30 year-old slacker (Jason Segel), still living in his parents' basement, who discovers his destiny while running an errand for his mother (Susan Sarandon). With Ed Helms, Judy Greer and Rae Dawn Chong.

The Kid with a Bike (Unrated) Bittersweet drama about an abandoned 12-year-old (Thomas Doret) who is rescued from a beggar's farm by a hairdresser (Cecile de France) performing a random act of kindness. With Jeremie Renier, Egon Di Mateo and Olivier

Gourmet. (In French with subtitles)

Natural Selection (R for profanity, sexuality, violence, drug use and brief graphic nudity) Baby-daddy dramedy about a barren housewife (Rachael Harris) who tries to fulfill her dying husband's (John Diehl) last wish by tracking down his long-lost, illegitimate son (Matt O'Leary). With Jon Gries, Billy Blair and Berna Roberts.

Reuniting the Rubins (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) Dysfunctional family comedy about an uptight attorney (Timothy Spall) who reluctantly postpones a vacation to reunite his estranged offspring at Passover for the sake of his ailing mother (Honor Blackman). Featuring Rhona Mitra, James Callis, Hugh O'Connor and Loo Brealey.

Saviors in the Night (Unrated) Holocaust drama, set in Westphalia in 1943, based on the memoir of Marga Spiegel (Veronica Ferres) recounting how her family was saved from Hitler's concentration camps by neighbors who hid them on a farm. With Armin Rohde, Luisa Mix and Lia

Hoensbroech. (In French, German and English with subtitles)

Seeking Justice (R for violence, profanity and brief sexuality) Nicolas Cage stars in this revenge thriller about a man who enlists the assistance of a vigilante group to settle the

score with the creep who had brutally raped his wife (January Jones). With Guy Pearce, Jennifer Carpenter and Harold Perrineau. (In English and Italian with subtitles)

The Wise Kids (Unrated) Coming-of-age comedy set in Charleston, South

Carolina where we find three high school seniors, a closeted gay (Tyler Ross), a devout Christian (Allison Torem), and a Baptist minister's (Rodney Lee Rogers) daughter (Molly Cunz), doubting their faith. With Matt DeCaro, Sadieh Rifai and Stephen Cone.



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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Birthday Bash Jammins Entertainment presents live performance by Jamaica's hottest sensation I-Octane & the official return of Tony Matterhorn to the U.S. Celebrity Birthday Bash, 10:00 p.m., at Pulse 48, 1020 East 48 St., corner of Farragut Rd., Brooklyn. Tickets available at tix4me.com or call (718) 282-8041.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Vaccination Clinics Luv My Pet is sponsoring low cost dog & cat vaccination clinics at Petland Discounts in Queens on Sat., 3/17, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at 143-40 Springfield Blvd., Pathmark Center, Springfield Gardens & 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at 171-33 Hillside Ave., between 171 & 172 streets in Jamiaca; Sundays, 3/18 & 25, 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., at 71-39 Kissena Blvd., between Aguilar & 70 St., Kew Garden Hills; Sat., 3/24, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at 43-10 Ditmars Blvd., Laguardia Center, LIC & Sun., 3/25, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at 8989 Union Turnpike, Stop & Shop Center, Glendale. For information, call Amy Eisenberg at (631) 273-6363.

Health & Wellness The Greater Brooklyn Health Coalition presents Women's Health & Wellness Day, featuring guest speakers, refreshments for sale & vendors, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Masjid Abdul Mujhsi Khalifah, 120 Madison St., Brooklyn. Admisson free. For information, call (347) 789-3064; (718) 783-0238; (718) 735-7750.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Spay/Neuter Clinics The ASPCA Mobile Unit is holding Spay/Neuter Clinics at Petland Discounts in Queens on Sun., 3/18 at 37-55 82 St., W 37 & Roosevelt, Jackson Heights; Mon., 3/19 at 91-08 Altantic Ave., Pathmark Center, Ozone Park; Tues., 3/20 at Metropolitan Ave., Rentar & Plaza, Middle Village; & Sun., 3/25, 134-40 Springfield Blvd., corner Merrick Blvd., Springfield Gardens. All clinics begin at 7:00 a.m. For information, call Amy Eisenberg at (631) 273-6363.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Storytelling Showcase Author/storyteller Michele Carlo hosts the "No Name @ Word Up" Storytelling Showcase at WordUp Community Bookshop, 4157 Broadway at 176 St., Washington Heights, N.Y., 7:00 p.m. For information, contact info@wordupbooks.com or call (347) 885-3466.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Obesity Conference The Greater Brooklyn Health Coalition presents Obesity Conference: Mobilizing for Change Throughout the Lifespan, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Health Science Education Building Alumni Auditorium, 395 Lenox Rd., Brooklyn. For information, contact Office of Continuing Education at (718) 270-2422.



Food Stamp Outreach

Find out if you are eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits! A representative from the NYC Human Resources Administration will be available to assist you with eligibility pre-screening & to answer any questions every Tues. & Wed., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Community Board 12, 4101 White Plains Road at 229 St., Bronx. For more information, call (718) 881-4455.



Financial Coaching

We all have goals - paying off bills, saving for a home, improving our credit score, etc., etc. The Financial Capabilities & Coaching Program is a personal approach to help reach goals. For more information, call the Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush at (718) 469-4679.

Cancer Detection The Greater Brooklyn Health Coalition presents New Health Lectures at Brooklyn Public Library, Kings Highway Branch, 2115 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, on Colorectal Cancer, Prevention, Early Detection & Treatment, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For information, call (718) 375-3037.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Homebuyers Seminar NHS of East Flatbush is sponsoring a Free Homebuyers Seminar focusing on first-time homebuyers, assistance with closing costs, & more, 6:30 p.m. at Chase, 1462 Nostrand Ave., between Church Ave. & Erasmus Place, Brooklyn. To reserve space, call (718) 469-4679.

Refinancing NHS of East Flatbush, 2806 Church Ave., between Nostrand & Rogers avenues, is sponsoring a free seminar on The Refinancing Dos and Don'ts focusing on refinancing the pros & cons & when is the best time to refinance, 6:00 p.m. To RSVP, call (718) 469-4679.

Afternoon of Wellness Baltic Street AEH Inc.'s Bronx Peer Advocacy Center & Bronx

Children's Program

The Mount Carmel Worship & Outreach Center, 788 East 46 St., between Clarendon & Ave. D, Brooklyn, is offering a children's tutoring/computer training program, standardized test preparation & job skills training program, Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. For registration details, call (971) 609-0909.



Psychiatrics' White Plains Road Clinic present an afternoon of wellness honoring Women's Heritage Month & featuring World Beat with "Drum Diva" Dale, African drums, bongos, congas, shakers & more along with dancing, singing, healthy lifestyle tips & fun games, 1:00 p.m., - 3:30 p.m., at 3050 White Plains Rd., between Burke & Adea avenues. Lunch will be served. To reserve your place, call Marlene at (718) 562-6712.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Jazz Night I Stand for Hope Production presents "Jazz Night, Bringing Souls Together," CD Release & Fundraiser, featuring Paul Engram & The Band, Big Mac, Rapping Rev. Miller, Lady Sheryl & more, at 525 Waverly Ave., between Fulton St. & Atlantic Ave. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Showtime 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. For tickets, call (347) 984-2106, (917) 407-7581, (917) 620-6277 or (917) 751-6202.

Book Signing Author Kevin Sabio will speak on his two works "Raise Your Brown Black Fist", Books 1 & 2, dealing with issues of history, race, politics and Afro-Latino issues & affairs, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at The Marcus Garvey Center, 5105

Church Ave., Brooklyn. For information call the Center at (718) 363-8043.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Health Workshop The Health Guild of St. Alban's Church presents a community workshop "Empower Yourself to Heal Your Body and Ward Off Diseases" at the church, 9408 Farragut Rd., between East 94 & East 95 streets. Registration 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Workshop begins at 10:00 a.m. For information, call (718) 444-4351.

ONGOING

Dinner Dance The Meadowbrook High School (Kingston, Jamaica) Alumni New York Chapter presents its Third Annual Dinner Dance at The Elegant Rose Hall, 4848 White Plains Rd., Bronx, on Saturday, March 24, 8:00 p.m. For tickets & information, call (732) 874-3788 or (347) 414 4284.

Free Tax Preparation The Bethex Federal Credit Union is offering free tax preparation every Wednesday, 12 noon - 7:00 p.m. & Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Bronx Independent Living Services, 4419 Third Ave., Ste. 2C, Bronx. For more information & necessary paperwork, call (718) 515-2800 ext. 111 or for an ASL interpreter, call & make appointment with Ms. Saldana at (866) 882-3244.

Free Tax Help The Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union & the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be offering free tax help to low- to-moderate-income residents of Bedford Stuyvesant & Bushwick. In addition to providing free, high-quality tax preparation, the program gives Central Brooklyn residents an opportunity to open credit union accounts. For more information, call (212) 505-EITC (3482).

Adoption "You Gotta Believe!," a community based older child adoption agency is looking for families (regardless of age, marital status, gender or income) who would be willing to provide love & nurturing to a child in the foster care system. Classes held on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 2801 W 8 St., in Coney Island & Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. at Church of the Holy Redeemer, 2424 Linden Blvd. in East New York. For information, call (718) 372-3003.

Winter Aches & Pains Jamaican Fountain Pimento Oil is an all natural, chemical & preservative free herbal medication that relieves sore muscles, stiff joints, nerve damage, circulation issues, fluid retention amongst a host of other ailments. Call Sandra at (866) 223-2414 to book a free massage appointment for your place of worship, senior citizens group or nursing home. For more information, visit www.pimentooil.com.

Tai Chi Stop. Breath. Relax. Join Tai Chi Easy, a wellness practice combining Tai-chi, Qigong, meditation & Chinese healing, taught by Daniel Weicher, certified teacher in Integral Qigong & Tai Chi, every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Moore Street Market, 110 Moore St., entrance on Humbolt St., Brooklyn. Donations are appreciated. Call (914) 673-6016 for information.

Compiled by Ida Eisenstein

You May Have An Enlarged Prostate and Not Know It!

Pain and disturbance in urination?

Suspect that you may have prostate problems?

According to the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, one in every two men over age 50 suffers from an enlarged prostate, and at age 75, about 80% of men suffer from this condition. Are you part of this disturbing statistic? If you are a male and experience painful urinary symptoms that make life difficult, it's time to talk to a urologist.

Symptoms and Testing

BPH (Benign prostatic hyperplasia or enlarged prostate) occurs when the prostate gland becomes enlarged due to an excess growth of healthy cells. The presence of an enlarged prostate can be identified through the prevalence of the following symptoms:

- Increased frequency and difficulty urinating (especially frequent urination at night)
- Weakening of the stream of urine
- Feeling of incomplete emptying of the bladder
- Difficulty holding in urine

These symptoms emerge gradually, often growing and worsening. For a long time, an enlarged prostate (non-cancerous) may be present as a result of any one of these hardly noticeable symptoms. Such conditions are often mistakenly blamed on age, stress and other factors, which is absolutely not the case.

In order to rule out prostate cancer and alleviate symptoms, it is important to see a urologist as soon as any of these symptoms occur. While BPH

does not cause prostate cancer, both afflictions may be present at the same time, so it is important to continue screening for prostate cancer even if you already have BPH. The New York Urologic Institute is home to a unique laboratory and certified pathologist, who can quickly and accurately study PSA (prostate specific antigen) in blood and, if necessary, take a painless biopsy (sampling of cells) of the prostate. This eliminates the possibility of prostate cancer, which is identical with BPH in its symptoms.

Treatment

There are various treatments for an enlarged prostate, including minimally invasive and surgical treatments. If symptoms begin affecting your daily life, treatment options such as minimally invasive procedures, medication, or surgery may help. The New York Urologic Institute offers a wide range of possibilities for the treatment of an enlarged prostate, including applied therapeutic and physiotherapeutic methods.

Minimally Invasive Procedures

Minimally invasive procedures usually allow patients to recovery quickly after treatment with little to no complications. These procedures involve using microwave therapy to eliminate portions of the prostate.

Medication & Drug Therapies

Medications and drug therapies are commonly used to relieve moderate symptoms of an enlarged prostate. The goal of these medications is to relax the muscles in the prostate and bladder in order to reduce bladder obstructions.



Surgical Procedures

Surgical procedures involve removing the inner part of the prostate through a special instrument inserted into the urethra. If the prostate has greatly enlarged, an open prostatectomy is necessary, where an incision is made in the abdomen from which the inner layer in the prostate is removed.

Because BPH and prostate cancer can coexist, urologists at the New York Urologic Institute are meticulous in diagnosing BPH and highly recommend regular screening for prostate cancer. If you experience excessive discomfort from your symptoms, do not hesitate to discuss your treatment options with one of the award-winning urologists at the New York Urologic Institute. If your life has

been impacted by BPH, come visit NYUI and see how you can restore your comfort.



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'Aryè' tells a tale of three women

By Deardra Shuler

Women's History Month tailing behind Black History Month finds the Hadley Players winter production and contribution of "Aryè," featured at the Harlem School of the Arts, located at 647 St. Nicholas Avenue (off 142nd Street) in Manhattan, ended March 11.

I wish it could run longer so that everyone can see this play and feel the pride, joy and sorrow of a family as it existed in Africa, endured slavery in America and later American apartheid, only to prevail in current time, remembering its history and family tradition.

Although I have reviewed several plays, I cannot recall in some time feeling the excitement I felt after viewing "Aryè," a play written by actress Louise Mike. Ms. Mike's play takes the viewer through three generations of women, all telling the familial tale of the warrior Aryè. Aryè was a proud son of Africa, strong and vital, a leader who was raised by his culture and mother to respect women, nature, family, tradition, and his God.

This play is a true light in the darkness and performed with warmth, passion and great skill by actress Kimberlee Monroe, who does a superb job depicting each generation of woman: grandmother, mother and daughter within their historic era. The performance is uplifting in spirit and truly a play for the heart.

Ms. Monroe carries her audience back to Africa through the grandmother who serves as a griot since it is through her, we come to know her son, Aryè, and along the way get to know her as well. She was the healer in the family as was her mother. She knew the ways of the land and of nature and how the birds were the foretellers of death. We feel the link to our ancestors in Africa and learn of a people who understood the earth's rhythms, and their soul connection with the animals, the land, and nature. In fact, so connected were they that oftentimes it was by observing nature and taking heed of nature's warnings, that Africans saved their own lives.

Via the play "Aryè," viewers are

reminded of a time when we as a people combined our forces and worked together as one, sharing what we had with one another, so that no one went without. And, through this tradition of unselfishness our ancestors built a strong and united community. It was a time when men hunted and provided for the family, took pride in their women and led with strength and purpose. Mates were equal partners. The women cared for the home, the sick and wounded, and even became warriors if need be, putting the family community survival first and foremost. Ms. Monroe weaves the fabric of this lifestyle with such agility that one doesn't even need to close their eyes to be taken back as witness to our ancestral past.

Through a simple change of costume we are transported to a plantation wherein the daughter of Aryè continues the tale of his life, introducing the lives of Aryè's children under the rigors of slavery. Audiences feel the pride Aryè held, the suffering he endured, having to take on a chained life

after having lived a free life in Africa. We realize the cruelty of having to endure another man's rule, Will and heartlessness, yet find a way to live throughout it all and still believe in God. Still hope, still rise. This play shows us that although at times we falter we have always found a way to go on.

The director, Ward Nixon, who also did the set designs, made each time period realistic. The symbolism of the tree and flowers was a brilliant indicative of the branches of family and the blossoming of each lifetime that continued the tradition of keeping Mother Africa alive. Through Ward's efforts and that of everyone involved in this production, the line of African American descent is brought to life. Via the women storytellers in this play, each generation passes down an enlightened culture via the male line of Aryè. In so doing, the importance of knowing who we are as a nation and people and the origins of our beginnings, is instilled in each child inculcating a common bond.

There is something we as a people of color here in America and

throughout the Diaspora need to remind ourselves of in modern day -- That is, the line of Africa exists in each one of us and should not be negated, disrespected or discarded because others malign us and try to instill in us a sense of self-revulsion. We are not inferior because others say so, nor are we powerless. Only by ingesting the rhetoric and condemnation of the fearing others, have some among us swallowed the negative programming hate-filled groups systematically enforce. Let's stop the violence toward one another, and lack of appreciation of our race. Attempting to be a mirrored reflection of Euro-culture only brings about the extinction of our own. Think about it!

Kimberlee Monroe is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and has performed with the Hadley Players in the productions "Nobody Knows Where They Was" and "The Winter View." She appeared in Layon Gray's award winning play "All American Girls," about a team of African American women baseball players set in the 1940s.

Black tie gala at PS 15

PS 15Q in Springfield Gardens held their first Gala Black Tie Affair on Friday, March 9 to celebrate children and school parental and community involvement.

The school gymnasium was transformed with the use of table cloths and ribbon tied cloth chair covers. More than 60 PS 15 students attended dressed in special occasion dresses and dark suits. Dancers from the school provided entertainment.

Awards were presented to community leaders. The honorees included all the local elected leaders, Hon. Archie Spigner, Bill Briggs, executive director and founder of Youth and Tennis, officers Patt Kahan and Tasia

Jordon of the 113th Precinct and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Brewer. Students who showed the most improvement and parent and staff leaders as well as educational leaders were honored.

Keynote Speaker Assemb. William Scarborough talked about cut backs at all levels of government. The money that the state was ordered to pay NYC in 1996 as a result of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Law Suit was supposed to run from 2008 - 2013, but because of the economic recession and budget shortfalls, was pushed up to 2011 - 2013. School budgets have been decreased while class size has grown. He urged parents to

demand more from their legislators, so that as legislators we can demand more.

Scarborough also talked about the push by this administration for charter schools. "Charter schools will never educate more than 20 percent of our children," he said. We need to support and strengthen our public schools. "We need to create smaller class sizes in public schools," he added.

He raised another point of disension - forcing schools together in an existing school facility. The administration, parents and children are adversarial to the schools that are there. The Dept. of Education needs to put together a better way of doing this.



At the PS 15Q first Gala Black Tie Affair, Principal Antonio K. ÆTori with PS 15 students and honorees (from left) Hon. Archie Spigner, Councilmen Leroy Comrie and James Sanders and Keynote Speaker Assemblyman William Scarborough.

Photo by Juliet Kaye



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From left, Hon. Archie Spigner, Mom Erica Carr holding pictures of missing 15-year-old daughter Jassmyn Carr, Assemblyman William Scarborough and retired NYPD undercover detective Joe Mazzilli, who hunts for and rescues runaway children. Photos by Juliet Kaye

Runaway children in Southeast Queens

Runaway and missing children are a major problem in the U.S. Statistics vary. According to the U. S. Department of Justice, 1.7 million children run away from home each year.

According to the National Runaway Switchboard, between 1.6 and 2.8 million minors run away every year. There are one to three million runaways living in the streets. The dangers children face as runaways include the risk of being kidnapped, sold into sex trafficking, being physically abused. Each year 50,000 runaways die.

Southeast Queens resident Erica Carr's 15 year old daughter went missing on Jan. 13 in Southeast Queens. She never came home from school. Erica Carr has been worried sick and contacted Assemblyman William Scarborough and D.L. Archie Spigner for help.

Scarborough, who has passed Safe Harbor legislation to help runaways involved in prostitution, has been able to help reunite other mothers with their missing teens by involving Joe Mazzilli. A retired NYPD detective and now a private investigator, Mazzilli created his own team to find and rescue endangered runaways and bring them home safely. The team is called the Runaway Squad and actually became a reality show on A & E TV.

Mazzilli believes in acting quickly when search-



Have you seen 15-year-old Jassmyn Carr?

day. Unless police suspect foul play is involved, they don't have the resources to get involved with finding runaways. Mazzilli said they get so many cases a week and many could be solved quickly if they had subpoena power.

Erica described her daughter Jassmyn as 5' 8", weighing 175 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. She went to H.S. of Community Leadership at Jamaica H.S. There have been reports she has been seen in the community. Mother Erica Carr is extremely worried and misses her. She wants Jassmyn to know she loves her and begs her to come home. There will be no questions asked.

If you have seen Jassmyn Carr, please call the Runaway Squad Hotline at 1-877-4ARUNAWAY, or 718-599-5915, or email at Runaway@RunawaySquad.com or Missing Persons Squad at 212-694-7781 or the nearest police officer.

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Caribbean Crossword *by StatePoint Media, Inc.*

ACROSS

1. Frosting on a cake, e.g.
6. Heat or energy unit
9. *School with most championships
13. Love intensely
14. Dr. Cornelius in sci-fi movie classic, e.g.
15. Like dragon after knight's conquest
16. Copperfield's domain
17. Eating of forbidden fruit, e.g.
18. Total amount
19. *Game tracker
21. In an open way
23. Not vertical, abbr.
24. Be sick
25. Emergency responders
28. Home to Stags Leap and Wild Horse
30. Superlative of "yare"
35. Reluctant, usually followed by "to"
37. A tall one is not true
39. The present occasion
40. U.N. civil aviation agency
41. Rossini's opus, e.g.
43. It travels through air
44. Pulsating pain
46. At a great distance
47. *Final _____
48. Some give this when upset
50. Drug abuser
52. Dry, as in humor

DOWN

53. Eagerness
55. Clinton ____ Rodham
57. Famous for its coffee
60. *Goes with March
64. NBC's "The _____"
65. "____ to Joy" by Friedrich Schiller
67. Become one
68. On the move
69. Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music"
70. Holy See's administering body
71. *Ranking
72. Apollo to ancient Greeks
73. Levels

20. Muse of love poetry
22. Be nosy
24. Deadly or sinister
25. *Like last eight
26. Sweet coffee drink
27. A Beatle
29. Daddy
31. Over your head?
32. To give an income or property
33. Scrub or purge
34. Towel cloth
36. Ungulate's foot
38. Victorian or Elizabethan ones, e.g.
42. *Kentucky's Rupp _____
45. *_____ beater
49. "Big Island" flower necklace
51. Simplify
54. Movie "_____ Came Polly"
56. Boredom
57. Speaker type
58. Baptism, e.g.
59. Important battery component
60. "Cobbler, cobbler, _____ my shoe"
61. Republic of Ireland
62. Done in a pot
63. Ligurian one and Adriatic one
64. Military hospitals
66. Simon & Garfunkel, e.g.

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Answers in Classified Section

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'The West Indies selectors and the West Indies Cricket Board will have to take full responsibility for whatever takes place in the Digicel series in front of Caribbean spectators.'

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 35

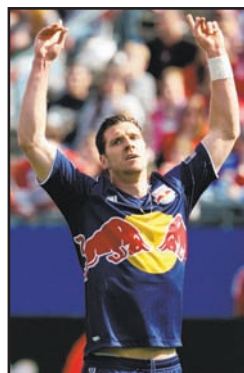
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Red Bulls fall in the MLS opener

By Patrick Horne

The 17th MLS season got underway last Saturday, March 10, and the hope is that this may be the year that a New York franchise brings the MLS Cup here. Seventeen seasons without a championship team for the New York/New Jersey area put much pressure on the New York Red Bulls – one of the richest MLS franchises and the first New York area soccer team with its own soccer specific stadium in Red Bull Arena.

The Red Bulls lost its season opener, 2-1, at FC Dallas Stadium in an NBC televised game with a sellout crowd of 20, 906 last



New York Red Bulls' Kenny Cooper.

AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez

Continued on next page

Call for change

Two CARICOM prime ministers - Jamaica's Portia Simpson-Miller and Trinidad and Tobago's Kamla Persad-Bissessar - have called for "great change" to West Indies cricket.

They are standing in solidarity with each other over what Persad-Bissessar is calling the disrespect shown to Simpson-Miller in her battle with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

Their main grouse centers around a statement issued by the WICB last month in which the board accused the Jamaican



Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller.

AP Photos/Ramon Espinosa

Continued on next page

BLACKBIRDS SOAR

LIU turns in exceptional year



LIU's Julian Boyd (#42) who scored two of his game-high 21 points, plus 10 rebounds, was named MVP.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

By Robert Elkin

Honors, including some major ones, have been piling up for Long Island University's center-forward Julian Boyd during his three year varsity career. With one more year left to go in his four

year career, Boyd could be headed in the right direction on the next level.

Boyd began his college basketball days as a freshman when he was named Northeast College Conference Rookie-of-the-Year for 2008-2009. After sitting

out the following year with heart problems, he came back all recovered for his sophomore season and saw no affects as he started all 33 games, scored and rebounded very well.

Continued on next page

NY midfield lacks creativity

Continued from previous page

Sunday afternoon, and although it may be foolhardy to speculate on the Red Bulls' chances of reaching the MLS Cup final after only one game, a contest certainly is enough to spark questions about aspects of the team that will have a direct impact on a successful season.

New York's defense was a major worry last year during a season in which the Red Bulls drew a record number of games before backing into the playoff via a wild card berth. It was this Dallas team that the New Yorkers knocked out of the 2011 playoffs to advance to the short-lived first round series versus eventual champion Los Angeles Galaxy.

In this season opener, it seemed as though the defense continued its error-filled ways as two defensive mistakes led to the Red Bulls' downfall. Dallas' Zach Lloyd's 11th minute goal came when new defender Markus Holgersson failed to clear the ball from the goalmouth; the

Swedish Holgersson was brought in to shore up a defensive unit that lost stalwart defender Tim Ream to Bolton of the English Premier League. Ricardo Villar's 61st minute goal was the result of another defensive error.

Also added to the defensive lineup was Colombian Wilma Conde, a past MLS all-star player with the Chicago Fire, but Conde seems injury prone and was absent from the game. Second-year player Stephen Keel made a credible showing teamed at central defense with Holgersson and left defenseman Roy Miller and Soli complete the starting defense, which, except for Holgersson, were there last year. This defense should have done a much better job at protecting newcomer goalkeeper Ryan Meara, who was one of the bright spots in the game. Another bad omen for New York is Mexican international defender Rafael Marquez, who was suspended for the first two games of this season as a result of an incident at Red

Bull Arena in the last game there versus the Galaxy. Will Marquez continue to find ways to be absent from the defense? Will Conde stay healthy throughout the season? How improved, really, is Keel?

New York's midfield lacks creativity. There are too many defensive journeymen and not enough skill to maintain possession for substantial periods and dictate the tempo in the game. Estonian Joel Lindpere and Jamaican international Dane Richards manned the flanks, while Dax McCarty and Teemu Tainio were the central tandem that were supposed to control the middle of the pitch, which did not happen. McCarty and Tainio are defensive players who lack the necessary creativity to be effective schemers; Lindpere is a tireless worker and Richards, coming off his most productive year as a professional, uses his speed effectively to get behind defenses. The Red Bulls need a creative midfielder in the middle of the park who can spray accurately weighted and timely



FC Dallas midfielder Ricardo Villar (11) scores past New York Red Bulls goalkeeper Ryan Meara, left, as Roy Miller (7) looks on during an MLS soccer match Sunday, March 11, 2012, in Frisco, Texas. FC Dallas won 2-1. AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez

passes to dissect defenses.

Thierry Henry, who adds much scoring experience to the frontline, and Juan Agudelo started for New York, but it took new acquisition Kenny Cooper, a veteran MLS forward, to put New York on the score sheet late in the contest. A more effective midfield would have solved some of New York's scoring problems. The

talented Agudelo came into the league last year with much promise; he did exceptionally well for the U.S. national team last year, but Red Bulls coach Hans Backe has slowed his progress by using the talented player sparingly. Agudelo should have been much further ahead in his development had he been credited with the playing time that he deserved.

Blackbirds sing

Continued from previous page

Last November he was named Pre-season Player of the year in the circuit by the member coaches and committee. He lived up to his expectations by being named Most Valuable Player of the regular season in the league as a junior and in addition he was a member of the all-league team. He paced the Blackbirds of downtown Brooklyn to the regular season championship and a top seeded position in the league's post season tournament. With three victories in the playoff tourney, including a 90-73 victory over Robert Morris, at the Wellness Center, the Blackbirds won the whole thing and received an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. A capacity crowd of about 17,000 spectators turned out for the three games.

Coach Jim Ferry went with practically same starters all during the campaign and had a three guard offense of sophomore Jason Brickman, and junior C.J. Garner and senior Michael Culpo, Jamal Olasewere at forward and 6-7 Boyd at either forward or center.

All five players were on the same page throughout the season and started almost

every game. There are only two seniors on the roster. This means that almost every player returns in tact for 2012-2013 season.

"We had the same line-up in every game," said Boyd, who has a tremendous inside-outside game which has been working well all season long.

Brickman is a fantastic point guard, one of the best around. Olasewere is a very physical front court player who looked exceptional at times. The duo plus Boyd has a three deal of potential for the future.

Every body is high on Brickman.

"Having a point guard like Jason is amazing," said Jamal. "He makes the team go. He knows how to push the ball 'out.'"

"We are lucky to have a point guard like him leading us," Ferry added.

They got the home court advantage for all three tournament games because of the final standings which gave them an advantage in the playoffs.

These players gave the team the needed confidence throughout the season that was truly needed especially over the last eight weeks. The team members made some tough plays during their wins



The Northeast Champions 2012 LIU Blackbirds.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

and victory streak. They played very well.

Using the same line-up for every game certainly paid off in the long run., as they captured 10 of their last 11 encounters starting February 2 games going into the championship game of the Northeast Conference tournament playoff contest that gave the winning team a spot in the prestigious tourney, a dream that any team wants to achieve.

"It was always good to win; nobody wants to lose," said Boyd, after the game that put them into the prestigious tourney.. "Coach Ferry doesn't

call the plays all the time. He knows what we could do. He lets us do it."

Overall, the Blackbirds turn in a tremendous year.

"After we started out 0-3, people thought that we were done," Ferry went on. "We knew that we weren't and found our weaknesses early (in the season). We got better from that point."

The players all agreed that Ferry has been a terrific coach as the Blackbirds turned in one of their best teams record wise in many years. Some of the starters are capable of going to the next level.

Unified against WICB

Continued from previous page

prime minister of not having "the benefit of the full information pertaining to the matter of which she spoke."

The WICB also said it was "further disappointed that the relevant officials in Jamaica did not, or do not properly brief the newly-elected prime minister."

The WICB did so after Simpson-Miller said Jamaica was not granted a Test match in the upcoming Australia tour as she also complained about continued exclusion of Jamaican cricket star Chris Gayle from the West Indies cricket team.

The two leaders expressed their unified stance on the matter while speaking to reporters at the opening of the 23rd Inter-session Meeting of the Conference of the CARICOM heads of government, which was held last week at the Royal Torarica Hotel in Paramaribo, Suriname.

"I think it is very disrespectful of the WICB in the statements made following upon that made by the prime minister," Persad-Bissessar said.

Persad-Bissessar and Simpson-Miller met for the first time in their respective roles as prime minister since Simpson-Miller won her country's general elections last year. Their meeting occurred on International Women's Day.

Windies bowlers must halt Aussies batsmen

For the West Indies to give Australia a huge challenge in the upcoming Digicel Series, their bowlers have to do extremely well in order to restrict the opposition to small totals.



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

West Indies bowlers have dominated the Regional Four-Day Tournaments so far after the fifth round. Sunil Narine the right-handed spinner from Trinidad and Tobago has been the highlight of the series.

Other bowlers: Veer Sammy Permaul, Jino Best, Odean Brown, Narsingh Deonarine, Brandon Bess and Dave Bernard, along with Nikita Miller, have done very well so far in the competition.

Windies Batting Very Thin And Out Of Form

Apart from injuries and discarded players, the few batsmen that are around to participate in the Test matches, One-Day Internationals and Twenty20s are not in the best of form.

To add more bad news to the West Indies team, the most inform batsman in the regional four-day competition this year, Denesh Ramdin has been ruled out of the three One-Day Internationals because of an injury. Carlton Baugh Jr. has been called to replace Ramdin.

Windies Batting Lacks Depth

The weakness in West Indies batting and lack of capable batsmen down in the order to carry through in the three-match, One-Day series, will be

the core reasons for Windies collapse.

West Indies selectors and the West Indies Cricket Board would have to take full responsibility for whatever takes place in this series in front of Caribbean spectators.

The 13-man squad named is filled with bowlers but insufficient batsmen. A cricket team must be balanced. The first ODI begins in St. Vincent on March 16. The 13 players named are as follows:

Darren Sammy (Captain), Jino Best, DeVendra Bishoo, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Sunil Narine, Kieron Pollard, Kieron Powell, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Carlton Baugh.

Regional Four-Day Standings After Fifth Round

Jamaica; Points - 60; Games - 5;
 Guyana, Points - 36; Games - 5;
 Trinidad/Tobago Points - 28; Games - 4;
 Barbados; Points - 24; Games - 4;
 Windwards; Points - 16; Games - 4;
 Combined Campuses and Colleges; Points - 12; Games - 4;
 Leewards; Points - 12; Games - 4.



West Indies bowler Narsingh Deonarine.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

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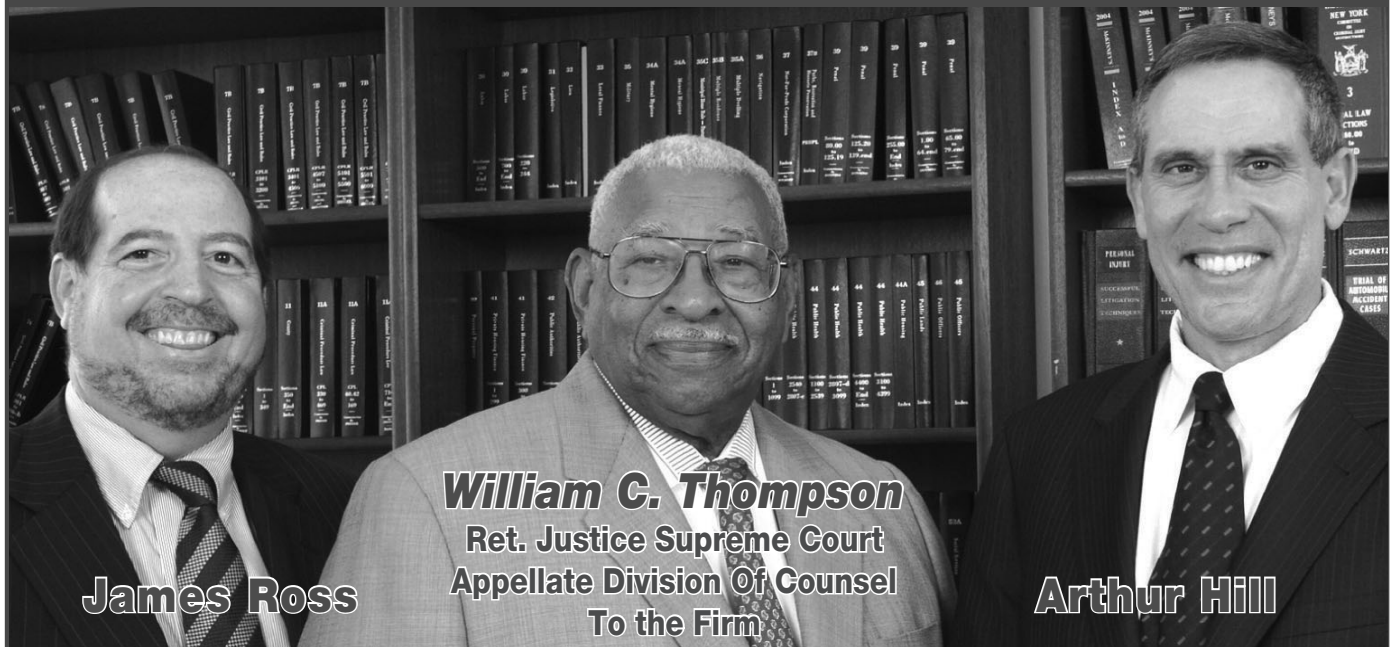


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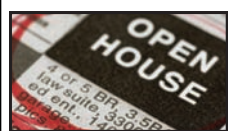
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347-586-0347 (fax)

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

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school year ends on
Monday, 4/2/2012 at 5
p.m. Applications are
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and can be obtained at
the school, at
www.NHAschools.com or
by calling NHA at 866-
NHA-ENROLL. Should
the number of applica-
tions received during
open enrollment exceed
available seats, a ran-
dom-selection drawing
will be necessary. The
drawing, if needed, will
be held on Wednesday,
4/25/2012 at 4:00 p.m.
at the school. Applica-
tions received after open
enrollment will be ac-
cepted on a first-come,
first-served basis for re-
maining open seats.
Waiting lists will be
formed accordingly.
**NOTICE OF NONDIS-
CRIMINATORY POLICY
AS TO STUDENTS**

Brooklyn Dreams Charter
School admits students
of any race, color, and
nationality or ethnic ori-
gin to all the rights, privi-
leges, programs, and ac-
tivities generally accord-
ed or made available to
students at the school. It
does not discriminate on
the basis of intellectual or
athletic abilities, meas-
ures of achievement or
aptitude, disability, status
as a handicapped per-
son, homeless status,
English proficiency, reli-
gion, creed, race, sex, col-
or, or national origin in
administration of its edu-
cational policies, admis-
sions policies and athletic
or other school-adminis-
tered programs.

Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School

2635 Linden Blvd
Brooklyn, NY 11208
718-348-9360 (phone)
718-348-9362 (fax)

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school year ends on
Monday, 4/2/2012 at 5

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p.m. Applications are
available for grades K - 8
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the school, at
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NHA-ENROLL. Should
the number of applica-
tions received during
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available seats, a ran-
dom-selection drawing
will be necessary. The
drawing, if needed, will
be held on Thursday,
4/19/2012 at 4 p.m. at
the school. Applications
received after open en-
rollment will be accepted
on a first-come, first-
served basis for remain-
ing open seats. Waiting
lists will be formed ac-
cordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDIS- CRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

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dents of any race, color,
and nationality or ethnic
origin to all the rights,
privileges, programs, and
activities generally ac-
corded or made available
to students at the school.
It does not discriminate
on the basis of intellectu-
al or athletic abilities,
measures of achievement
or aptitude, disability,
status as a handicapped
person, homeless stat-
us, English proficiency,
religion, creed, race, sex,
color, or national origin in
administration of its edu-
cational policies, admis-
sions policies and athletic
or other school-adminis-
tered programs.

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718-348-9360 (phone)
718-348-9362 (fax)

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tions received during
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drawing, if needed, will
be held on Thursday,
4/19/2012 at 5:00 p.m.
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tions received after open
enrollment will be ac-
cepted on a first-come,
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maining open seats.
Waiting lists will be
formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDIS- CRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Brooklyn Scholars Char-
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origin to all the rights,
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corded or made available
to students at the school.
It does not discriminate
on the basis of intellectu-
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plied for by Bizarre, LLC
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been applied for by Mini-
car, LLC d/b/a Nuovo Fi-
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liquor at retail in an on
premises establishment.
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sumption under the ABC
law at 284 Grand Street
Brooklyn NY 11211.

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**FAMILY COURT OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX
AMENDED SUMMONS
Docket No.:
F-10074-11/11A In the
Matter of GEORGE
NURSE, IN THE NAME**

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL

OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: ALLISON ALEXANDER. A Petition under Article 4 of the Family Court Act having been filed in this Court, and annexed hereto; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before the Family Court at 900 Sheridan Avenue, Lower Main Floor/Room Part 22, Bronx, NY, Continued Trial/Hearing, on the 13th day of April, 2012 before the Hon. Harold E. Bahr III at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day to answer the petition and to be dealt with accordance with the Family Court Act. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you are entitled to be represented by an attorney, and, if you cannot afford to retain an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you by the Court free of charge to you. Dated: BY ORDER OF THE COURT s/ Michael J. Williams Clerk, Family Court, Bronx County.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS INDEX NO. 4281/09 NYCTL 2008-A TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK as Collateral Agent

LEGAL

and Custodian for the NYCTL 2008-A Trust, Plaintiffs, - against - ESTATE OF GLADYS PEELES, ESTATE OF BARBARA RUTH COFIELD, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY BUREAU OF HIGHWAY OPERATIONS, and "JOHN DOE No. 1" through "JOHN DOE No. 100", inclusive, the names of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the lien premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the lien premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants. ADDRESS: 636 HAN-

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COCK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY BLOCK: 1661 LOT: 37 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty days after service is completed if the summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT OF the above entitled action is to foreclose a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of KINGS on the 15TH day of JULY, 2008 and bearing County Register File N u m b e r / C R F N 0008000280709 covering premises described as follows: ADDRESS: 636 HANCOCK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY BLOCK: 1661 LOT: 37 COUNTY: KINGS The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy

LEGAL

the debt secured by the tax lien described above. Plaintiff designates KINGS County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county where the Property being foreclosed upon is located. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Dated: February 9, 2012 New York, New York WINDELS MARX LANE & MITTENDORF LLP ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS NYCTL 2008-A TRUST, and The Bank of New York As Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2008-A Trust MICHAEL H. RESNIKOFF, ESQ. 156 WEST 56TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019 PHONE: (212) 237-1102 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Court dated February 9, 2012 and filed along with the supporting papers in the KINGS County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien. SCHEDULE A - DESCRIPTION ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

LEGAL

ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET, DISTANT 168 FEET 9 INCHES WESTERLY FROM THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF HANCOCK STREET AND REID AVENUE; RUNNING THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET, 16 FEET 3 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE SOUTHERLY PARALLEL WITH REID AVENUE AND PART OF THE DISTANCE THROUGH A PARTY WALL, 96 FEET 11 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE EASTERLY PARALLEL WITH HANCOCK STREET 16 FEET 3 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE NORTHERLY AGAIN PARALLEL WITH REID AVENUE 96 FEET 11 INCHES TO THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. SAID PREMISES BEING KNOWN AS 636 HANCOCK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, BLOCK: 1661, LOT: 37 Reference #: 700777.017

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EDUCATION & CAREER TRAINING

How to survive in an uncertain job market

Frustrations in your job, industry, or life may make you feel like jumping ship some days, swimming toward whatever job seems the most promising at the moment. Not so fast. If you want to improve your situation long term, you need to step back, take a breath, and approach a career change thoughtfully and deliberately.

"Switching careers takes some effort," said Dr. Mary Hawkins, president of Bellevue University. "You need to figure out what experience and skills you need and the level of education required to enter and excel in a new field."

Determine where the jobs are

Hawkins suggests starting with a website that provides data about expanding and contracting industries. The Monster Employment Index is another good resource that provides a monthly gauge of U.S. job demand.

Earn a relevant degree

According to Education Dynamics, 60 percent of U.S. jobs will require much more than a college degree by 2018.

"If you want to qualify for the jobs of tomorrow, completing a bachelor's degree is a wise move," Hawkins said.

Instead of enrolling in a degree program because you find it interesting, Hawkins recommends choosing a field of study that will translate into a job in a growth industry. She shared the following tips:

- Check job sites to see how many jobs are available in specific industries.
- Use listed educational and skills requirements for these positions as guidelines for researching degree programs.
- Figure out what you will actually be learning in individual courses and how you can apply this.
- Call schools directly and ask directors of the programs you've identified if you'll be engaged in hands-on experience while you learn.

"If you are one of the 38 million Americans with some college credit, finding a school with generous transfer policies may significantly decrease the time required to complete your degree," she continued.

Specialize to stand out

As bachelor's degrees become more the norm, job seekers will need more specialized expertise to stand out. For example, adding a concentration in logistics management or marketing will take you much further than a general business degree sans concentration.

"Employers are looking for people who have relevant skills that are specifically tailored for the job," said Hawkins. "Job seekers must find the degree and learning environment that enables them to develop the specialized skills they will need to get that job."

The workplace is changing and by starting now, you'll have achieved the education you'll need to succeed in the next decade.

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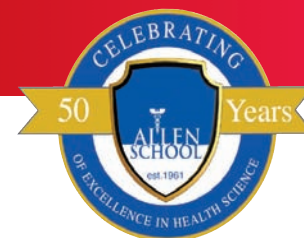
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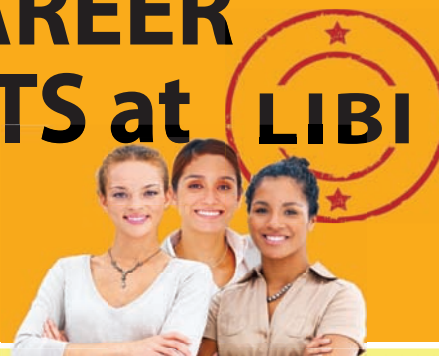
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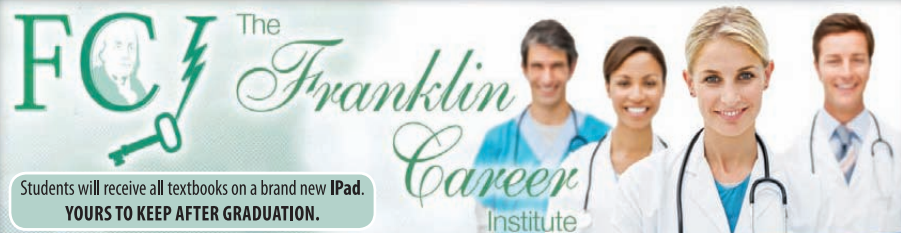
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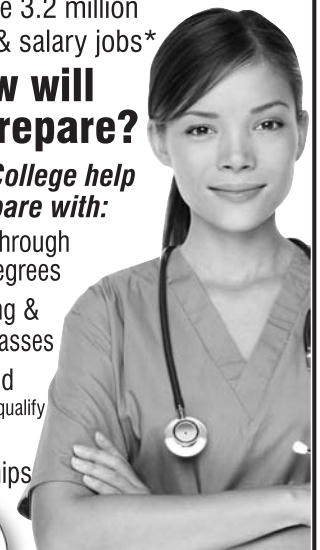
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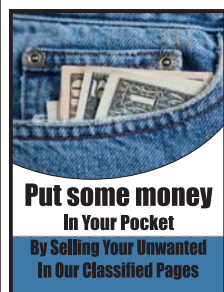
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