

# Caribbean Life

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Farewell  
Season**  
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## Less storms to worry about

By Nelson A. King

Forecasters at Colorado State University have predicted a "below-average probability for major hurricanes" this year.

Meteorologists Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray said on Apr. 4 that their prediction makes landfall along the United States coastline and in the Caribbean less likely.

They forecast 10 named storms in the Atlantic Basin, stating that only four will become hurricanes and two will become major hurricanes. They said a major hurricane is a category 3, 4 or 5 storm.

In the period 1981-2010, Klotzbach and Gray said there were an average of 12 named storms, 6.5 hurricanes and three major hurricanes a year.

The meteorologists based their prediction on the cooling of the Atlantic Ocean over the past several months and the increased chances of an El Nino, or warming of Pacific waters, over this

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## Serena on Fed Cup team

Serena Williams hits a shot back to Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic during their finals match at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Sunday, April 8, 2012. Williams won 6-0, 6-1. She is on the Fed Cup team. See page 42.  
AP Photo/Mic Smith

# AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

## Preparing for ECLAC Summit

By Nelson A. King

The head of the United Nation's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says the forthcoming conference on sustainable development is an opportunity to redefine the vision of future development for the region.

"The establishment of common objectives based on sustainable development indicators could accelerate the transition to the full incorporation of environmental and social costs in the economy and a

shift to sustainable production and consumption patterns," said Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's executive secretary at a debate at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Chaired by U.N. Deputy-Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, U.N. high-level officials analyzed the progress achieved and deficiencies persisting since the Earth Summit in 1992 on the path towards sustainable development.

The debate took place a few  
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The latest Caribbean news and information at [www.caribbeanlifeneews.com](http://www.caribbeanlifeneews.com)

## Caribbean Roundup

### Bahamas

The United States Embassy in the Bahamas is warning Americans living in and traveling to New Providence, to be aware of recent reports of robberies tied to staged vehicle accidents in the capital.

The embassy said there have been reports in the Bahamian media of criminals using staged accidents as a "ruse to rob the driver and passengers of their possessions."

"There is no indication that U.S. citizens are specifically being targeted for these crimes. However, the U.S. Embassy would like to remind U.S. citizens to be extra vigilant when involved in a vehicular accident and to keep windows and doors locked until you are able to assess the situation.

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Erica Thibault said that the message was issued to provide timely, safe information to American citizens.

### Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands say it is expanding an airport to allow direct flights from Cayman Barc to the United States.

Airport Authority Marketing Manager Caren Thompson-Placio said the expansion of the Gerrard-Smith International Airport is expected to boost tourism on the archipelago's easternmost island.

She said that construction should start in the next couple of

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# Jamaica's food security challenges

By Zadie Neufville

KINGSTON, March 26 - Like its Caribbean neighbors, Jamaica is looking for outcomes that will address its food security challenges when world leaders meet in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development June 20 to 22.

World Trade Organization (WTO) rules have opened up Jamaica's small economy to cheap imports of everything from vegetables to fish, meats and juice concentrates, virtually crippling the island's agricultural sector.

Jamaica's position is outlined in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat's seven-page submission, conveying the challenges facing the 15-island nations it represents.

The document articulates the regional body's call for decisions that will address a slate of problems, including the erosion of markets caused by the application of WTO regulations and the difficulties of establishing green economies.

Due to their size, member states have had "severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy," the document stated.

The loss of preferential European Union markets for bananas, sugar and citrus has left Jamaica and other small regional producers struggling to prevent devastation of their local agriculture.

Severe weather, disease and pest infestation are also making it harder for this northern Caribbean island to cope.

In addition to severe dislocation in some agricultural sub-sectors, there are concerns that the Huanglongbing, also known as citrus greening disease, could wipe out local citrus.

And according to industry reports, infestation by the coffee berry borer slashed the 2010/2011 Blue Mountain Coffee crop by as much as 50 percent. Meanwhile, the black sigatoka virus is hampering the recovery of the banana industry.

A debt burden that runs at roughly 131 percent of its gross domestic product means Jamaica has no cash to provide the kind of bailout farmers need to solve their many problems.

CARICOM is looking for decisions in Rio that will prioritise the needs of small states in matters of trade, as well as provide assistance to adapt to climate change and achieve green economies.

There is need, the regional body noted, for a recommitment to the promises made to small island states to level the playing field of international trade.

Agriculture Minister Roger Clarke is aware of the challenges. But even as he engages the nation's farmers in a bid to increase production and reduce the food import bill estimated at 800 million dollars in 2011, Clarke is mindful of his government's limitations.

"We will do whatever we can, but whatever we do must be within the limits of the budget," he cautioned farmers at a recent

meeting.

Despite increasing demand, production in traditional crops continues a downward trend. In 2008, Jamaica ceased banana exports. This follows a 32-percent drop in banana production due mainly to the impact of adverse weather. In December, limited exports to the Caribbean began again.

Between 2002 and 2010, a combination of bad weather and diseases reduced citrus production by 14 percent. Over the same period, imports of subsidised milk solids from the European Union forced a 37 percent decline in milk production; and there were 45 percent fewer fishponds, causing a virtual collapse of the inland fish-farming sector.

Neglect means production of the coveted Blue Mountain coffee crop is at the "lowest since Hurricane Gilbert in 1998" despite an injection of 336 million dollars by government and rising prices, Director General of the Coffee Industry Board

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Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit. AP Photo

## Dominica looks to CCJ as final appeal court

By Azad Ali

The Commonwealth of Dominica is moving to join the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Appeal (CCJ) as its final court of appeal.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit who said that it has to iron out some constitutional matters affecting the wider Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECES).

"We have indicated several times our commitment to the CCJ and we have gone to the Parliament to recognize the court in its original jurisdiction.

"We have indicated publicly the government's intention of recognizing the court in its appellate jurisdiction. Clearly there is a procedure within the Constitution we have to follow. We have to go to Parliament and get the two-thirds majority but there is a process of the amendment," he said.

But Skerrit said there was still need for discussions with Britain "to allow us to go to the CCJ. If not we have to get a referendum."

The CCJ was established in 2001 by regional governments to replace the London-based Privy Council.

"We have to negotiate our accession to the CCJ with the British," he added.

However, while most of the 15-member CARICOM grouping are members of the CCJ's original jurisdiction, only Barbados, Guyana and Belize have signed on to the appellate jurisdiction.

Skerrit told reporters that the different constitutional requirements within the sub-region have also affected the ability of the OECES countries to move towards the CCJ as a single body.

## Dutch recall Suriname ambassador

By Mike Corder

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch prime minister denounced Suriname's decision to grant amnesty to President Desi Bouterse for crimes committed under his earlier military dictatorship as "totally unacceptable" and recalled the country's ambassador from its former colony in protest.

The amnesty, approved Wednesday night by lawmakers in the South American country, ended a long-running trial for Bouterse and 24 associates on charges of abducting and murdering 15 prominent political opponents in December 1982.

"We consider it totally unacceptable," Mark Rutte told reporters in The Hague. "The law must be allowed to run its course."

The Netherlands also is barring all suspects in the



Suriname's President Desi Bouterse.

AP Photo/Edward Troon

killings from entering the country and vowed to take more action.

"We will do everything, internationally together with France, the European Union and other like-minded nations, to ensure that there are consequences and that they are felt by Suriname," Rutte said.

Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal earlier called the amnesty "a slap in the face" for relatives of the slayings.

Suriname has long had a strained relationship with its former colonial master the Netherlands.

A Dutch court convicted Bouterse in absentia in

1999 of trafficking cocaine from Suriname to the Netherlands, but he has claimed his innocence and avoided an 11-year prison sentence because he can't be extradited under Surinamese law.

Bouterse seized power in a 1980 coup. He allowed the return of civilian rule in 1987 but staged a second coup in 1990. He stepped down as military chief in 1992, but has remained a powerful force in the nation of 500,000. Lawmakers elected him president in 2010.

Members of the military killed well-known journalists, lawyers and union leaders in the December 1982 killings. Bouterse previously accepted "political responsibility" for those slayings but said he was not present when the executions took place. Witnesses in the trial have disputed that claim.

# Caribbean Heritage Week celebration

By Kingsley Dougan

A series of stimulating and free events in recognition of Immigrant Heritage Week, April 17-24, is being hosted, for the first time by the newly formed Queens College (QC) Immigration Studies Working Group, in a joint effort with the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding and other QC sponsors.

Created in 2004 by the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Immigrant Heritage Week, celebrates the vibrant contributions, accomplishments and legacies of immigrants in New York City. Each spring, a variety of institutions, including universities and community groups, co-sponsor educational, cultural and artistic activities that honor the city's distinctive immigrant fabric.

"We hope to bring together the synergy of our fantastically diverse community for a week of celebration, discussion, and future planning," says Prof. Anahi Viladrich (Sociology), director of the Immigration Studies Working Group.

"Queens College is one of the most diverse colleges in the most diverse county in America. We as a nation have so much to be proud of, but at the same time we have many challenges. This week is a great opportunity to look at both our accomplishments regarding immigrants and what remains to be done."

The Immigration Studies Working Group, which is focused on developing a Center on Immigration Studies, has attracted a broad range of faculty and students whose expertise and interests comprise the political, economic, linguistic, and cultural dimensions of various immigrant communities.

"The center is meant to be a place to embrace the commonality among all the immigrant groups that have contributed so much and made New York what it is today," adds Viladrich.

This year, Queens College offers two stimulating panel discussions with national leaders, both on Wednesday, April 18. A luncheon session titled, "Democracy for all?"

The History and Revival of Immigrant Voting Rights" will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the President's Conference Room No. 2 (Rosenthal Library, 5th floor).

## Immigration Heritage Week

City Councilman Daniel Dromm and Dennis Redmond, chief strategy officer of the social service organization Queens Community House, will be participating at the session led by Prof. Ron Hayduk, Borough of Manhattan Community College (who will be joining QC this summer). QC event sponsors are the Immigration Studies Working Group, the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding, the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, and the Division of Social Sciences.

On April 18 at 6:30 p.m. (Rosenthal Library, Room 230), a panel, "Dreams, Realities, Future Scenarios: An Open Discussion About Immigration Policy at the Local, State and Federal Level" will take place.

Confirmed participants of Immigration Heritage Week are New York State Assembly Member Guillermo Linares (or his chief of staff, Rocio Cruz); Councilman Daniel Dromm; and Thomas Shea, director of training and technical assistance for New York Immigration Coalition, a policy and advocacy organization. This discussion will also be moderated by Professor Hayduk.

**Other QC Events:**  
**Tuesday, April 17, 12:15-1:30 p.m.** (Powdermaker Hall 351) -- Presentation on Latino Immigrants in the United States by John Jay College Professor Suzanne Oboler, editor of the journal *Latino Studies*.

**Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.** (King Hall Black Box Theatre), staged reading of *No Roosters in the Desert*, featuring a mix of professional actors and Queens College students. Performance will be followed by a discussion with playwright Hartzler and the cast, and a reception. *No Roosters in the Desert* is presented through the Manhattan-based TeatroStageFest's Staged Reading Series.

# Rice apologizes for arrest

By Nelson A. King

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ambassador to the United Nations, Camillo Gonsalves, says his United States counterpart has expressed regret over his Mar. 28 arrest by a New York police officer.

Amb. Susan Rice, "has expressed regret on behalf of herself and the U.S. government" over the incident, a statement issued by the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in New York Gonsalves said on Apr. 10, after Rice's visit to his midtown Manhattan office.

Gonsalves said it was the first time that a cabinet-level official of the U.S. government visited the Vincentian Mission.

"Recognizing that Ambassador Rice is currently serving as president of the United Nations Security Council, at a particularly busy period in the Council's agenda, Ambassador Gonsalves stressed his appreciation that Ambassador Rice had taken a personal interest in the matter, and had taken the time to visit him at his office," the statement said.

"The half-hour conversation took place in a friendly and positive atmosphere, befitting the longstanding history of excellent relations between the United States of America and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines," it added.

"The two ambassadors covered all of the issues surrounding the 28 Mar. incident. They discussed the facts of the incident, as well as the larger issues related to the interactions between sov-



**U.S. Amb. Susan Rice with St. Vincent and The Grenadines Amb. Camillo Gonsalves, after their meeting Tuesday at the offices of the St. Vincent Mission in New York.**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' UN Mission.

foreign countries and their diplomatic representatives," it continued.

Gonsalves said Rice told him that the NYPD would "undertake a thorough internal examination of what took place on 28 Mar., 2012."

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the relevant resolutions and agreements governing the interactions between the United Nations and the United States of America, diplomatic agents have immunity from arrest or detention in the exercise of their functions, Gonsalves said.

"Ambassador Gonsalves thanked Ambassador Rice for her personal concern, empathy, and sensitivity to all of

the relevant issues at play in this incident," the statement said.

"He also updated Ambassador Rice on developments that took place since the March 28 incident," it added.

"Ambassador Rice reiterated the seriousness with which the U.S. government views its obligations to ensure that the dignity and safety of United Nations' diplomats is respected," it continued.

Gonsalves said Rice "also indicated that she intended to discuss the incident with both the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the 33-member Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC)," which had sent formal letters of protest to the United States Mission in solidarity with Ambassador Gonsalves."

Gonsalves said he and Rice have agreed to "keep in touch to follow up on the matter."

"The very helpful and fruitful discussion between Ambassador Rice and Ambassador Gonsalves was indicative of both the seriousness with which the U.S. Government is treating the incident at the highest levels, and the successes of the Vincentian Government's sustained and principled diplomatic activity in defense of their sovereignty and international law," he said.

"The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes the visit by Ambassador Rice and her sensitivity in this matter to be useful first steps towards ultimate resolution of this multifaceted issue," Gonsalves added.

# Honoring Latina women in N.Y.

By Tequila Minsky

The Coalition of Latin American Consuls in New York (CLANY) and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer celebrated Latinas in New York City at an awards ceremony and discussion on empowerment and gender equality, recently.

To a packed auditorium at Baruch College, Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile (2006-2010), a long-time champion of women's rights, gave the keynote speech. Bachelet is now the first under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women, established in July 2010 by the UN General Assembly.

Bachelet's mandate is to lead, support and coordinate gender equality work and empowerment of women at global, regional and country levels.

"It's not acceptable, the phobia that excludes half the population," she said pointing out there are countries where women aren't allowed to vote. In her advocacy of gender equality she implored how women must be protected in areas



**Scott Stringer (left) with former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet of UN Women and Chile Consul General Julio Fiol.**

Photo by Tequila Minsky

of conflict and condemned violence against women.

"When women can participate fully, society can reach it's full potential," she said emphasizing that the

global crisis is no excuse to exclude women.

Bachelet also addressed local issues. Half of emigrants in New York

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# Sustainable development for Latin America and the Caribbean

Continued from cover

months before the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development, dubbed "Rio+20," to be held from Jun. 20-22 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Bárcena said that the current situation is very different from 1992, when the region was coming out from a "lost decade" of low growth, high inflation and balance-of-payments restrictions related to external indebtedness.

In comparing that epoch to the present, she said, despite the economic crisis, "the whole region has shown a relatively high level of growth for almost a decade; inflation is controlled in almost all countries and, in general, there is an economic stability that allows to assimilate the shift towards sustainable development in a better way."

Since the Earth Summit, Bárcena emphasized that, among other developments, "legislations and institutions related to environmental issues have been refined, sustainable development has been enshrined as a concept in the context of public policies, and significant progress has been made in terms of regulations on industrial emissions into air and water, as well

as on wastes.

"In almost all countries, programs on energetic efficiency have been implemented and, as of year 2000, a deployment of policies aimed at promoting investments in renewable energy has been observed in most of them," she said.

Nonetheless, Bárcena warned that, in spite of the valuable progress shown, Latin America and the Caribbean are facing great challenges in terms of social inclusion, equality, poverty eradication, deforestation and environmental protection.

"It is increasingly evident that environmental degradation affects disadvantaged groups more severely," she said, adding that other areas requiring attention are environmental statistics and assessing the value of the environment, as well as the economic impact of its degradation on national assets.

In order to ensure sustainable development in the region, Bárcena suggested that synergies be created among social inclusion and protection, human security, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection.

She also urged that synergies be created in measuring development sustainability; incorporating economic costs and benefits deriving from environmental and social damage or improvement into standard economic decisions; and increasing coordination of public action on policies.

During the dialogue, U.N. officials stressed the importance that countries be aware of sustainable development goals and their metrics, as well as the feasibility of reaching an agreement, accessing information and environmental justice, and sustainability indicators for urban areas in the region.

The final version of the document, "Sustainable Development 20 Years On from the Earth Summit: Progress, Gaps and Strategic Guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean," was distributed during the debate.

The U.N. said the draft version was presented, during the U.N. General Assembly debate last September, to ministers and representatives of governments in the region for comments during the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean at Rio+20.

# U.S. forecasters predict 'below average' hurricanes

Continued from cover

wetter than normal conditions in western coastal areas of South America.

There is a "fairly high" likelihood that an El Nino effect will develop this summer, they said.

El Nino is a warming of surface waters in the tropical Pacific that occurs every four to 12 years and has serious implications around the globe.

It creates wind shear that makes it more difficult for budding storms to develop into hurricanes in the Atlantic-Caribbean basin.

But Klotzbach and Gray said El Nino can produce drought and crop failure in parts of South Asia and

Coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted," they, however, warned.

In 2011, Klotzbach and Gray predicted 16 named storms and five major hurricanes. There were actually 19 named storms and three major hurricanes.

The 2012 Atlantic hurricane season begins on Jun. 1.

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# Amnesty as a means towards healing

By Bert Wilkinson

It's been barely a week now since Suriname's opposition-dominated parliament approved a controversial motion to grant amnesty to former soldiers and their civilian counterparts for a series of fatal missteps during military rule in the 1980s that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people in the Caribbean trade bloc nation.

Brought by seven pro-government legislators as an unprecedented mass murder trial of current President Desi Bouterse and several of his close aides was nearing an end after nearly a decade, the motion sought to pardon those responsible for the 1980 coup that toppled the elected administration, the December 1982 executions of 15 government opponents, the massacre of more than 50 women, children and elderly men at a southeastern Maroon village near French Guiana, the murders of 19 soldiers and catered to the hundreds who died during the 1986-92 so-called 'bush war'.

Less than a dozen opposition parliamentarians voted for the bill, while the majority of those on the government side voted in favor. Vice-President Robert Ameralli signed the amnesty and authorities moved very quickly to gazette it, bringing it into

law.

There are differences of opinion as to whether the amnesty will stop the trial. Bouterse's lawyer, Irwin Kanhai says it won't and that he is preparing for closing arguments in the landmark case that involved a sitting head of a Caribbean government and state being on trial for murder while running the country.

Parliament spent 12 heated hours debating the bill Bouterse flew to neighboring Guyana for the commissioning of a Suriname Airways new flight connection from his native Suriname to Guyana to Miami, Florida and remained holed up at the Pegasus Hotel until it was all over, sealed and delivered by supportive colleagues.

And once it was all done, he urged his countrymen to regard the amnesty as "a new start" for the Dutch-speaking republic suggesting that citizens should grab it with both hands.

"This is a new beginning," he said after resting lunching at his hotel. "This amnesty is intended to heal the whole nation, not just one part of it," the Surinamese head of state said, speaking through an interpreter as he prepared to leave Guyana.

He denied that his government had any direct involvement in prodding

a small group of pro-administration legislators to bring the issue to the floor of the assembly saying it nevertheless represented a chance to revise a 1989 amnesty to make it more comprehensive and to cover all atrocities and wrongdoings during the period of military rule.

He said the amnesty will also cater for the murders of 19 soldiers by anti-government, anti-military rebels in the southeastern regions near French Guiana in the 1980s, saying his critics have "conveniently forgotten to include that fact" in all the years they have fought to charge him, former civilian and military colleagues for the December 1982 murders.

He said that the pardon will not affect the outcome of the ongoing trial of which he and more than 20 others are charged with executing the 15 civilians at a colonial era fort just next to his downtown office.

Blaming the opposition New Front "and other interest groups" for not doing enough to bring an end to the situation after 30 years, he said they had allowed the unfortunate circumstances from the period to fester without solution. Western nations including the U.S. condemned the amnesty, while the country's former colonized, The Netherlands, recalled its ambassador.

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## Region

# Barbados greener future

*By Desmond Brown*

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr. 2 - When it comes to developing a "green economy," Barbados is leading its English-speaking Caribbean neighbours.

Last week, the government unveiled a Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS) outlining sectors on which the island, which depends heavily on tourism for foreign exchange, should focus as it builds its green economy.

"Given the importance of these sectors and the already existing legislation that supports behavioural change, it is likely that there could be spill-over effects to other sectors in the economy," the report noted.

The document presented to Prime Minister Freundel Stuart by the deputy principal of the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Professor Eudine Barriteau, notes there are "tremendous

opportunities" for greening agriculture, fisheries, building/housing, transportation and tourism.

"It will also be necessary to develop the supporting enabling conditions to facilitate the transition in the areas of financing, development access and transfer of clean technology, trade tariffs and investment, taxation, incentives and fiscal reform, education, training and capacity enhancement, standards and regulation, and government procurement," it says.

The launch of the GESS comes mere months after the island launched a Coastal Risk Assessment and Management Programme (CRMP) - another first for the region - which Stuart said would deliver a comprehensive evaluation of the risks and vulnerabilities of Barbados to sea level related hazards such as storm surges and tsunamis.

Stuart said that the

Caribbean needs a fresh model for development and a green economy is the best way forward, even as he lamented that the prevailing global financial and environmental crises pose severe challenges for small island developing states.

He said this raises serious questions about existing models of development and he challenged the Caribbean to pursue a resource-efficient green economy as a pathway to sustainable development.

"Given their high debt profiles, vulnerability to external shocks, their openness, limited capacity of their markets, and the need for institutional strengthening and capacity building, most of these countries - including Barbados and other CARICOM States - will require financing and technical cooperation to transition to a resource-efficient green economy," Stuart said.

"The overall objective of the Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study is to support and complement national initiatives towards achieving a green economy, through macroeconomic assessments and policy analysis.

"These will help us to better understand how government policies and public and private investment can help achieve the fundamental macroeconomic objectives, while following a path that also contributes to social equity and environmental management," he added.

Stuart listed the macroeconomic objectives as income growth (leading to poverty alleviation); economic development and or diversification; and job creation.

The Barbados prime minister said as the region prepares for the major sustainable development conference in June known as Rio+20 and, more importantly, as the world searches for new approaches for achieving sustainability, the adoption of green economic policies presents an integrated approach for pursuing Sustainable

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Microscopic  
Analysis

# Honoring Latina women

Continued from page 3

City are of Latino origin, she relayed. "They are in a most vulnerable situation. They have a lower education level; 37 percent do not have a high school diploma, which directly relates to the kinds of jobs they do (37 percent service industries) and salaries they receive (56 percent of that of white males).

The former president also spoke of the necessity for women to advance in leadership roles especially in the political and legislative areas. "With more women in these positions, we can advance labor laws and equality," she said. "It is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do" for women to participate fully in economic and cultural life of the city.

Following the inspirational address, honorees received their awards. Hailing from Monterrey, in Mexico, Leticia Alanis was honored for activism in the Immigrant Rights Movement and organizing in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. She is also a board member of

N.Y. Immigration Coalition and is the co-founder and executive director of La Union.

Cecelia Gaston, an outspoken advocate against violence against women is director of the Violence Intervention program. She was recognized for her track record of service to the Latino community and other disenfranchised groups.

Unable to attend, third recipient Elba Montalvo is the founder of The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, an organization that addresses the needs for services and information directed to the Latino community. Montalvo is involved with many organizations involved with the human rights and child welfare. Following the awards ceremony, an informative panel with the recipients discussed their work. Alanis fights for humane emigration policies, language access and advocacy for the Dream Act. Gaston spoke of how violence against women undermines every-

one and factors such as fear of deportation, keep women in a state of intimidation. She also spoke of how deportation often results in American-born children landing in foster care.

Vanessa Ramos and Danielle Guido discussed Montalvo's programs that include youth development, responsible fatherhood, dropout prevention and intervention. "Budget cuts leave scars, too," said Vanessa Ramos. "Where we put our money, reflects our values (as a society)."

Carol Delgado, consul general from Venezuela, spoke during the Q&A on the necessity of reporting deportations of foreign nationals and foster placements of their children to their consulates. "Kids of foreign-born parents have no rights," she said. "We've been working with Administration of Child Services (ACS) and have begun to meet with NYPD. It's an important education process," she said.



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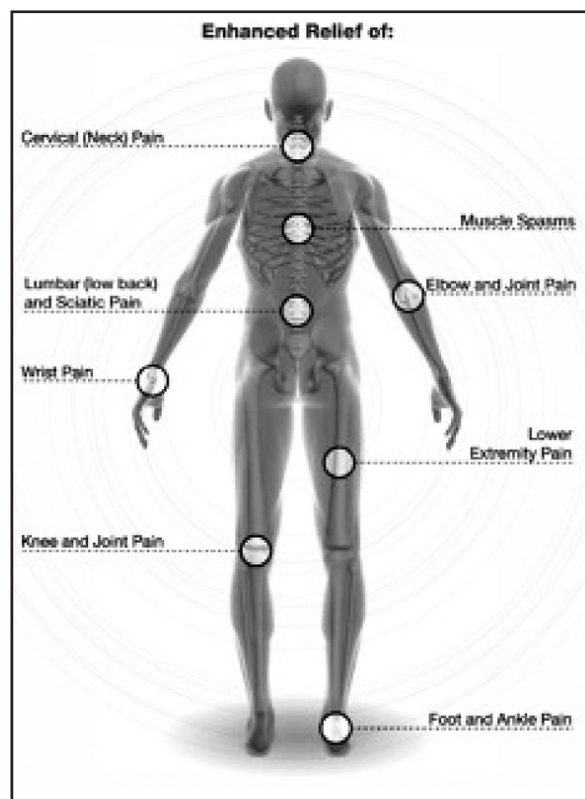
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# A better approach to discipline in schools

By Syda Segovia Taylor, Education Program Officer for LISC Chicago

On March 6, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights released data from a national survey of more than 72,000 schools, covering a range of issues that included school discipline. The data revealed startling racial disparities in suspensions, expulsions and arrests in districts and states.

Among the findings: Black students are 3.5 times as likely to be suspended as their white peers, and more than 70 percent of students involved in school-related arrests or who have been referred to law enforcement are Black or Latino.

The new data have attracted a great deal of attention in the press, including an editorial in the New York Times, a panel discussion on PBS Newshour, and articles in the Washington Post, Huffington Post and Los Angeles Times.

While the data suggest that harsh, inequitable approaches to school discipline are widespread, there are also many schools taking a different approach -- one that heads off disciplinary issues by offering students a range of positive supports. And these schools are seeing success in some of the nation's poorest neighborhoods.

The Elev8 initiative, for example, provides school-based health care and counseling, out-of-school activities, and outreach to parents and families in high-poverty middle schools in Baltimore, Chicago and Oakland and in five communities across the state of New Mexico. These Elev8 programs are being implemented in diverse urban, rural and tribal communities, and as such, they may serve as an important national model. There is compelling evidence that Elev8's array of services is making a difference for schools and their students:

\* According to annual surveys, students in Elev8 schools feel safer at school and in Elev8 communities than in their surrounding communities.

\* One Elev8 school in New Mexico reported a 50 percent decrease in disciplinary actions in the three years following Elev8's launch. Youth arrests in the surrounding neighborhood went from 60 to one in a single year.

\* Suspensions in one Elev8 Chicago school were down more than 80 percent in 2009-2010.

\* Across schools, Elev8 has substantially broadened student acceptance and use of counseling services, which school staff link to notable declines in disciplinary problems.

Other research confirms the value of more positive, preventive approaches to school discipline. For example, a recent report by the Research Alliance for New York City Schools highlighted the importance of positive approaches to discipline in efforts to turn around struggling middle schools.

The work being pioneered in Elev8 and other community schools around the country suggests that there is a clear alternative to the harsh, discriminatory approach to discipline that prevails in many school districts. Elev8 has joined with other organizations in calling for federal policies that will help schools adopt fairer and more effective discipline strategies, including positive behavior support, conflict resolution, and mediation programs.

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is long overdue, and many are hoping to see it passed this year. In this important piece of legislation, Congress should insist that school districts are required to collect and report better data about school climates and discipline. These climate measures should be incorporated into the legislation's accountability framework. Just as important, funding should be increased for interventions designed to improve student engagement and the larger learning environment. Such strategies are critical for creating safe and effective schools.

Taylor is Education Program Officer for LISC Chicago.

# The rotten Apple in the tax barrel

By Scott Klinger

Apple has gone on a very public tax strike. Months after reporting the second highest quarterly profits in U.S. history, America's favorite company is refusing to bring home more than \$60 billion of offshore funds in protest of the taxes it would have to pay.

Apple paints its predicament as unfair. Yet Apple's funds did not build up offshore because its iPhones, iPads and Macs are so much more popular overseas than they are at home. Though more than two-thirds of its retail stores are in the United States and Apple sells more product in the U.S. than in any other nation, it reports to shareholders that it made 24 cents in pre-tax profit for every dollar of sales in the United States, compared to 36 cents profit on every dollar of sales abroad.

Apple's profit margins are so much lower in the U.S. and billions of dollars of cash piled up offshore because Apple's accounting and tax staff is as clever as its engineers and product designers. They take some of their profits earned in the United States and through accounting hocus pocus transform them into foreign profits that are not taxed in the U.S. until they are returned here.

Here's how these tax avoidance strategies work. Apple conducts the bulk of its product and research development in the United States. This work is done largely by engineers educated in U.S. schools, often using basic research that was funded by U.S. taxpayers. Apple then takes the patents earned by its U.S. labs and registers them offshore in tax haven nations that impose little or no taxes on income on royalties from patents and other intellectual property. When Apple sells an iPod or Mac, it charges a lot for the use of the patents, telling the IRS that without this intellectual property, the product would be virtually worthless. By doing this, Apple transfers much of the profit from each sale to the tax haven, while retaining the costs of research, advertising and management in the United States.

Apple's transfer pricing shenanigans are legal, but drew criticism from tax justice advocates, particularly in Europe. Since then, Apple's tax disclosures are far more opaque, making it impossible to discern whether they have backed off from their

aggressive tax management, or whether they simply don't talk about it publicly anymore.

Tax haven abuse by corporations and individuals costs the U.S. Treasury \$100 billion a year. One way to begin to solve this problem is to require improved corporate tax disclosure. If Apple's customers and other taxpayers could see that Apple was booking the largest share of its sales in the United States, while it booked most of its profits in Ireland, the Netherlands and other tax havens, it would provoke important and necessary discussions. Another means of stemming the abuse would be to treat foreign subsidiaries managed and controlled from America as U.S. operations for tax purposes, a change proposed by Senator Carl Levin in the new CUT Loopholes Act.

When companies like Apple aggressively avoid their fair share of taxes, they shift the tax bill to their customers and other taxpayers. In the 1950s, corporate income taxes accounted for nearly a third of total federal government receipts. Last year, corporate taxes accounted for less than eight percent of Treasury receipts, an all-time low.

The deficits that result from corporate tax avoidance has increased pressure for the government to cut spending, including spending on the very sort of basic research without which Apple, Google and Microsoft would not exist. The first modern computers and the Internet were not invented by people named Jobs, Wozniak, Hewlett, Packard or Gates, but by unsung scientists working on government-funded research, paid for by taxpayers. That taxpayer-funded government support continues today: Google co-founder Sergei Brin, for example, received a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship promoting digital libraries while laying the foundation for what would become Google.

Apple's tax strike is shortsighted. By denying the government tax revenues, Apple is refusing to help plant the seeds from which the next great technological innovations will grow.

Scott Klinger CFA is tax policy director for business for Shared Prosperity. Readers can write to him at [scottklinger@businessforsharedprosperity.org](mailto:scottklinger@businessforsharedprosperity.org).

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# It's a High Court high on politics

By Les Slater

The president has taken some flak for comments he has made about the high court, in wake of the nine justices being asked to rule on the healthcare reform act's constitutionality. Obama has voiced his consternation about the justices, "unelected" as they are, as he made sure to stress, claiming the power to scuttle legislation passed by the Congress. The president had been all along insisting that the court would let stand the legislation that is generally seen as the pinnacle of his domestic agenda objectives to date. What prompted his barb at the Supreme Court is anybody's guess. But of course it wasn't the first time he has ventured there.

Obama famously used the occasion of a State of the Union address to chide the court after it had cleared the way for Super PACs to engage in unrestrained funding of political campaigns – an opening of the floodgates to the extremes of crass commercialism we've seen exhibited in campaigns of late and that will assuredly dominate the space when this fall's presidential and other jousts get going in earnest.

There's a case to be made, perhaps, for the president (who, as a former law school teacher of constitutional law, doesn't lack for bona fides in this area) having gone over the top in knocking decisions taken by the court. But such frustration by Obama or anyone else is not about the court per se but about the politicized institution the highest court in the land so often has come to be. In their wisdom the Founding Fathers devised a separation of powers document in which the judicial branch was ideally supposed to bring to heel the legislative and/or executive branch of government where necessary. Along the way, amidst charges of being "activist" from executive/legislative types holding opposing views, the court has asserted itself as to what is and isn't legislatively permissible under the Constitution.

## Viewpoint

For the most part, though, the court's membership being political appointees has been a reality impossible to ignore. When the opportunities arise the politicians occupying the presidency invariably nominate to the court individuals whose judicial philosophy they believe mirrors their own. Never mind any rhetorical slicing and dicing, that's just the way it is.

In living memory, perhaps the ground-breaking actions of the celebrated Warren court in the middle of the last century are the standout instance of justices confounding expectations of politicians to whom they owe their elevation. Beginning with Chief Justice Earl Warren, who was nominated by Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, the justices became known for a series of rulings that would fundamentally impact American society, *Brown v. Board of Education* the biggest game-changer of them all. No such luck with the current court, however.

The court as currently constituted pretty much reinforces the notion of political influence as an integral element of decision making by the justices. In the instant case concerning healthcare reform legislation, there's absolutely no mystery surrounding who would be voting to overturn the act. During the public phase of the proceedings last month, when legal arguments were presented, the non-participatory presence of Clarence Thomas was typical, as he continued his ignominious run as the biggest embarrassment to people of color in a role of major prominence in this country. Likewise will there be no surprise from Antonin Scalia whose reputed intellect evidently precludes anything but a strictly conservative ideological interpretation of every

matter before the court. Chief Justice John Roberts, too, is hardly expected to rock the boat on the conservative wing of the court. And predictably, the same could be said of the other George W. Bush appointee, Samuel Alito.

As so often happens, how this court rules comes to rest on where Justice Anthony Kennedy comes down on an issue. Small wonder it would be if Kennedy were by now pretty sick of the "swing vote" label that is continuously applied to him.

But so, very well, could it be with the president's healthcare legislation. If he has compromised its chances of passing muster with the court by speaking out about what he sees as overreach in the justices presuming to strike down the act, it would be further unsettling confirmation of this court's inability to soar above politics in its deliberations upon a given matter. Again, adhering to form, the progressive wing votes of Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor are a given.

To the idealists among us, there's no doubt a longing for justices with the mettle of the now retired John Paul Stevens, who came to the high court courtesy of Republican President Gerald Ford and evolved to be one of the anchors of its progressive wing. Or the brethren of the Warren court who in some instances took a pass on going the party line route in favor of doing what was thought to be the right thing.

President Obama may have lost his cool or been tactless or may even have felt it necessary to boldly assert his displeasure over what essentially would be a political imperative driving the court's decision on a piece of hard-fought, landmark legislation. Truth be told, the president, in so doing, was only expressing the sentiments of many in the body politic who feel that the highly political cast to today's Supreme Court is clearly not what this institution was intended to be.

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# Media ignores Black, Latino evangelical Christians

By Nadra Kareem Nittle

With state and national Republicans emphasizing religious wedge issues, such as health coverage for contraception and separation of church and state, the media have frequently reported on the demographic most aroused by these issues - evangelical voters. But have the media accurately portrayed these evangelical Christians?

For many, the answer is a resounding "no."

News reports often leave the impression that all evangelical Christians are white and usually support the most conservative Republican candidates. Totally overlooked is the fact that many African-Americans, Latinos and other people of color are evangelical Christians whose views are rarely cited.

With its narrow coverage of this demographic, the media may have an inadvertent impact on the political process. Evangelical Christians are portrayed as the most committed religious believers in America. Does this give the perception that God backs their positions on issues including abortion and same-sex marriage? Does that give an unfair advantage to candidates aligned with issues supposedly receiving divinesupport?

People of color, a growing segment of the evangelical community, and their positions on issues are rarely seen or heard in the media. Religion scholars and experts say it's critical that the media quickly adjust coverage to include all evangelical Christians or risk giving an unfair advantage to candidates supported by the largely conservative, white evangelicals.

An example typical of the media coverage appeared last Dec. 18 as the primary election season approached. The



Nadra Kareem Nittle.

## Op-Ed

Washington Post published a feature-length article suggesting that evangelicals were unsure about which candidate to support for president. All of them interviewed in the piece were white, and "the right to life" predictably surfaced among their top concerns. Such articles fuel the perception that evangelicals are a monolithic group politically and racially.

The Post could not be reached for comment.

Lisa Sharon Harper, author of the book "Evangelical Does Not Equal Republican or Democrat" and co-author of "Left, Right & Christ: Evangelical Faith in Politics," says the term "evangelical" has a meaning different than what is portrayed in the mainstream media.

"The media would do well not to call [the religious right] evangelicals," says Harper, also director of mobilizing for Sojourners, a Christian social justice organization in Washington. "They're really thinking about a political bloc. They're not thinking about theological evangelicals."

Harper notes that political evangelicals tend to be white, live in suburban or rural areas and have a history of supporting a conservative agenda over the past 30 years. In contrast, she says theological evangelicals have existed for hundreds of years and have challenged the status quo.

She points to William Wilberforce, the evangelical Christian, who led the movement to abolish slavery in Great Britain in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Wilberforce also worked to end poverty and cruelty to animals and to expand educational access.

Harper says contemporary evangelical Christians strive to raise awareness about similar issues. "What you're finding among theological evangelicals is there's such a broader

spectrum of issues that they care about," she says. "It won't just be abortion or same-sex marriage. It will also be the prison industrial complex and how that impacts the black community and the Latino community. It will be the issue of immigration."

Ron Sider, founder of Evangelicals for Social Action in Wynnewood, Pa., and author of "Fixing the Moral Deficit: A Balanced Way to Balance the Budget," agrees that the media should be more precise when using the term "evangelical."

Sider notes that evangelicals are a racially diverse group. The Latino evangelical population is growing thanks to rising numbers of Hispanic Pentecostal churches. He says that many African-Americans attend churches that also fall under the evangelical umbrella but that blacks may not openly identify as such.

"It's entirely understandable [blacks] don't like the term evangelical because for the past couple of decades evangelicals who've voted for Republicans don't seem to be concerned about racial justice issues," Sider says.

Views of the religious right, as evangelical voters are also known, concern Sider because he doesn't believe that their agenda is biblical enough. A biblical political agenda would also include economic justice and environmentalism, known in Christian circles as "creation care," he says.

Sider says he understands, for example, why conservative evangelical voters are concerned about the federal deficit, but he objects to solving the deficit by slashing benefits for the poor, a group for which Christ advocated.

"I say that isn't biblical. That's unjust."

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson II, director of public witness for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office, says the media have neglected to explore differences in political ideologies among evangelical Christians because journalists are under pressure to craft stories that will grab attention, a strategy that doesn't always allow for nuanced coverage.

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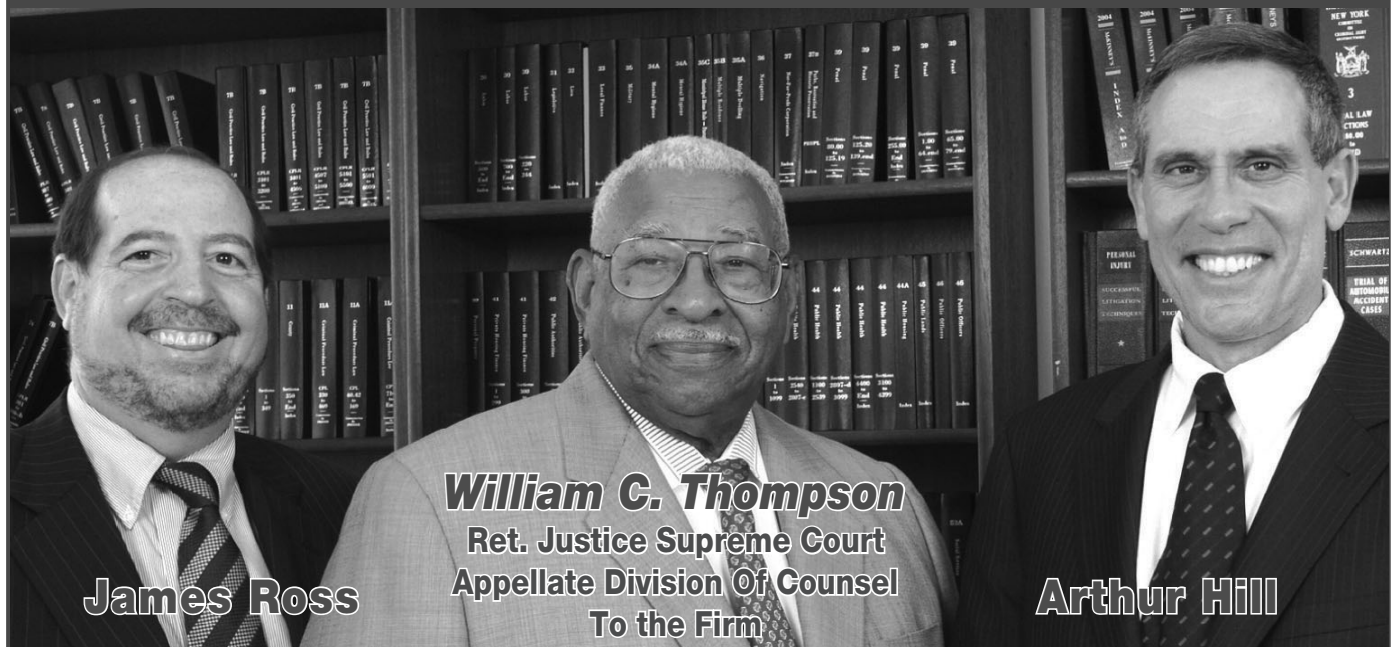
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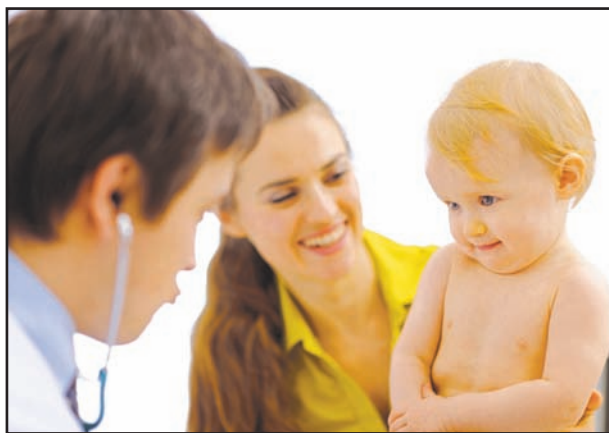
Most parents know that one of the most important steps they can take to protect their children is to vaccinate them against dangerous diseases. But knowing what to vaccinate against and when to do so can be a complicated process.

National Infant Immunization Week, observed April 21-28, is a great reminder to get in touch with your pediatrician and ensure you are up-to-date with your child's vaccinations.

"When children are not immunized, the results can be devastating," says Dr. Robert W. Block, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). "Making sure your children are properly immunized will give them up to a 98 percent chance of avoiding many diseases."

The AAP is offering these vital tips for parents to help sort out all the details:

- Ask questions. Remember, your pediatrician is ready and willing to partner with you on getting your children immunized. Use your child's doctor as a resource to help you sort



out the endless supply of information -- some good and some questionable -- on this topic. So prepare questions in advance, and take a note pad with you to your visit so you can jot down important advice and critical dates.

- Be on time. Your children's immunization schedule is not an area of parenting where you should feel free to get creative. There are scientific reasons, based on knowledge of children's immune systems, for why shots are recommended at certain ages. Updating your records and keeping a calendar can help you keep

it all straight. More information on recommended schedules and on how immunizations work can be found at [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org).

- Cocoon. One of the best ways to protect very young children -- who have not yet received the full range of vaccines for deadly diseases -- is to ensure that all family members and caregivers who come in close contact with the child are up-to-date on their own immunizations. This protective measure is called "cocooning."

- Smile. Most children won't enjoy getting vaccinat-

ed. You can make the process smoother by staying calm yourself, as young children can pick up on your feelings. Remember to cuddle with your child before, during and after the vaccination. Bringing along a favorite stuffed animal or blanket is a great way to provide some much-needed comfort. If your child is experiencing pain, ask your doctor if a non-aspirin pain reliever is safe to administer.

Consider your child fortunate to grow up in the U.S., where he or she will have easy access to lifesaving vaccines. Not all children around the world are equally protected, however. Parents can join one of several global campaigns, such as ShotatLife.org, to support the health of children all over the world.

You have more control over your children's wellness than you realize. If you're unsure of whether your children's vaccinations are up-to-date, do your little ones a favor and check with your pediatrician today.

*Courtesy of State Point Media*



## Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

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

## Yearly microwave thermotherapy

When a patient approaches the conclusion that Microwave Thermotherapy is the best choice to relieve his symptoms, very often, one of the first questions he asks is "How many treatments will I need and how often will I need them?" He is usually happy to hear that this treatment is never done more than once a year.

Most patients never require more than one treatment although a minority may require repeat treatment. This is similar to the requirements for repeat LASER or TURP surgery due to the recurrent growth of prostate tissue; about a third require retreatment. Prostate glandular tissue continues to grow throughout a man's life and this may require attention from time to time. It can be thought of as being somewhat similar to the growth of hair on the head, which requires periodic visits to the barber.

It should be remembered that in the majority of cases, whether the patient is treated with a surgical LASER or TURP or with a non-surgical Microwave Thermotherapy treatment, no repeat treatment is required. When, on occasion, it does become necessary to repeat the treatment, how much simpler and easier it is for the patient to repeat the non-surgical, in-office, anesthesia-free, 30-minute treatment where every patient is given the opportunity to go home free of an indwelling catheter. Compare this to what's involved in a repeat hospitalization and anesthesia for additional surgery.

So if you experience the familiar symptoms of a slow, weak, frequent, urgent, intermittent, hesitant, sleep-interrupting,

stream, which leaves you with a dissatisfied feeling of incomplete emptying despite the pushing and straining often required to start and maintain the stream, it's time to have a urological evaluation, which should include uroflowmetry, post-void residual determination, prostate sonography and possible urodynamic evaluation.

If and when benign prostate enlargement is determined to be the cause of the symptoms, attention then turns to selection of the most appropriate treatment, which in most cases will entail the combined use of two types of drugs; one to shrink the enlarged glandular portion of the prostate and the other to relax the excessive contraction of the muscular tissue of the prostate. This treatment works quite well in most cases although problems may arise, which cause the patient to discontinue the treatment. These problems may include such things as interactions with other drugs the patient requires for other conditions, the gradual loss of effectiveness after an initial success, adverse side effects, such as erectile and ejaculatory dysfunction, painful breast swelling, visual disturbances, allergic reaction to one or both medications, and increasing annoyance with having to obtain and pay for medication for a lifetime.

When these things become intolerable, another type of treatment is needed and Microwave Thermotherapy is the method I have recommended to my patients for the past nine years with great success.

*Have Questions? Call Dr. Okun at 718-241-6767*

## Natural ways to keep your skin healthy

Our modern lifestyles can take a toll on our skin. Lack of sleep, pollutants, and stress are all contributing factors to signs of aging, dryness, irritation and blotchiness.

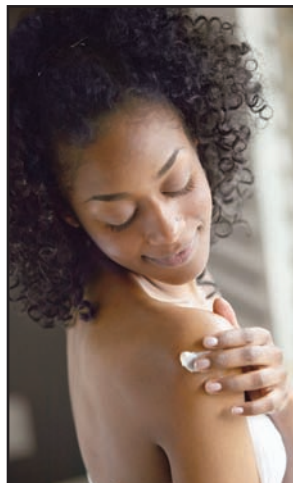
While makeup can reduce the appearance of such wear and tear, there are natural steps you can take to actually make skin healthier, rather than simply masking the problem.

"Time and the environment deplete necessary minerals from our skin and body," says Dawn Diorio, education manager for AHAVA, a cosmetics company that creates skin care products made of mineral-based compounds from the Dead Sea. "Restoring this balance will soften and hydrate your skin, and give you that coveted radiant glow seen in magazines."

Healthier skin can be attained naturally. Try incorporating these simple habits into your daily lifestyle:

**Protect:** Warmer weather means bathing suits, tank tops and shorts. It also means more skin exposure to the elements, which can break down your protective outer layer of skin. This season, avoid burns and irritation caused by harmful UV rays and wind by applying sunscreen daily, and stylishly limiting direct sun exposure with hats, sunglasses, and beach cover-ups.

**Go natural:** Sometimes nature provides the most effective skin care solutions. The Dead Sea for example, thrives with life-enhancing ingredients with regenerative properties, and has long been a mecca for wellness-seeking travelers. While a dip in these waters may not be



possible for everybody, you can use moisturizers and cosmetics that contain Dead Sea minerals to achieve the same benefits.

For example, AHAVA offers a product line of moisturizers, cleansers, cosmetics and bath salts that contain

an extract of Dead Sea water and are rich in minerals like magnesium, calcium, sodium and potassium. When applied to the skin, this mineral mix increases moisture levels, improves skin texture and elasticity, and reduces wrinkles. Dead Sea salt also possesses natural antiseptic properties and is therapeutic in helping topical infections.

**Eat right:** It's not only about what you put on your skin that makes a difference. What you eat can make a big impact as well. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, nuts and fish is not only great for overall health, it also will support glowing healthy skin. Be sure to stock up on Vitamin C, which can tighten skin and prevent wrinkles, and omega-3 fatty acids, which can reduce inflammation and dryness. Avoid excessive use of caffeine and alcohol.

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# A greener Bajan economy

Continued from Page 6

Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

"Greening the economy, once crafted as a policy to address our structural vulnerabilities like small market size, limited resource base, openness to trade, and vulnerability to natural disasters and external economic shock, can present a viable development model for reshaping and re-invigorating our factors of production, towards the pursuit of sustainability," he said.

The researchers also suggested that a successful shift to a green economy could give Barbados its first major economic transformation since the shift from sugar to tourism.

"To realize these potential opportunities, the country will have to address various sector specific challenges, for example, lack of research and development in agriculture, standards legislation in fisheries, lack of training programmes and regional experts in building/housing, public attitudes to green initiatives in transportation and the heavy dependence on imports as well as low

occupancy rates in tourism," they concluded.

The report said notwithstanding "the ongoing dialogue at the international level, the pursuit of a greener path of economic development is attractive to Barbados, especially given its limitations in relation to size and dependence on natural resources and fossil fuels.

"A green economy approach gives consideration to the level of its available natural resources and ensures that they are used in a sustainable manner, and contribute to the maintenance and rehabilitation of important ecosystems and ecosystem services," it stated.

Environment Minister Dr. Denis Lowe said the completion of the study was not the end of the journey, but another step along the way.

He said the study unearthed many useful opportunities for future collaboration which would be discussed during the two-day forum, hosted by government and the UWI in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

"I eagerly look forward to

the next phases of our work on the green economy," Dr. Lowe said, giving the assurance that his government would apply the same level of enthusiasm and dedication to further work to be done in the area as efforts are made to move Barbados closer to a green economy.

The GESS found that Barbados' transition to a green economy offers opportunities for further diversifying its economy, increasing resource efficiency and supporting the goals of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Among its recommendations were the establishment of an overarching institutional development programme to strengthen its agricultural cooperatives; adopting and promoting new energy and resource efficiency policies for hotels; and establishing new heritage and nature-based tourism sites.

In addition, the study has also recommended the development of an integrated public transportation policy and investment programme, and the establishment of a vehicle emission testing facility to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions. (IPS/GIN)

# Jamaican food security

Continued from Page 2

(CIB) Christopher Gentles told IPS.

"Farmers are neglecting the trees because of low prices and they are afraid there is no market for the crop," he said.

Gentles told IPS that the lack of enthusiasm is directly related to the global economic meltdown, which slashed farm gate coffee prices by half, and the intensive labor required to control the coffee berry borer.

Elsewhere, disease is creating shortages and pushing up prices.

According to Citrus Growers' Associations' (CGA) technical director Dr. Percy Miller, the price for orange juice concentrate has increased almost three-fold, and the price of solid fruits has gone up by more than

40 percent.

"Farmers are not able to take advantage of the higher costs because citrus greening is reducing the amount of concentrate and number of fruits on the international market. The closure of local citrus nurseries also means there are no replacements for dying trees," he told IPS.

Only 30 months ago, more than 220,000 gallons of juice concentrate remained in local warehouses awaiting buyers, while more than 150,000 gallons were imported, leading farmers to condemn import policies.

Food security means that a nation is able to provide sufficient food and related services in a way that is economically efficient, profitable and socially responsible. But even with increases in vegetable crop production,

current trends indicate that Jamaica's reliance on the soil could compromise its food supply.

Agriculture is Jamaica's single largest employer, providing more than 180,000 jobs. Traditional crops like sugar, coffee, bananas and citrus are not only major employers but also some of the largest foreign exchange earners.

Even with low costs loans and limited help from government and donor agencies, sector leaders concur that getting farmers to make significant reinvestments will depend on how effectively authorities are able to stimulate farmers' interests.

Assistance to small farmers to acquire new technologies, as well as access to affordable pest and disease controls are also crucial.



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Continued from page 2

months but officials do not yet have an estimated cost for the project.

## Dominica

The Dominica government says it is exploring the possibility of establishing a new fund to assist nationals seeking medical attention overseas.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, speaking on a government radio program recently said that families were spending a significant amount of money for medical treatment abroad.

His comments follow the controversy that erupted in Dominica after a 21-year-old cancer patient died in Trinidad recently.

Skerrit said he was prepared to discuss the possibility of imposing a levy on nationals to establish a special Trust Fund, insisting that it would not be done without the support of the public.

He said that Dominica

must also be able to 'stretch the money' it receives in funding from friendly governments, including the possibility of 'setting aside a physical project or two' in order to help people who travel overseas for treatment.

Prime Minister Skerrit said that when Shernel Prince traveled to Trinidad on the first occasion for medical treatment, the government contributed US\$30,800 towards her expenses.

He said when the patient left for Trinidad and Tobago a second time, she did so without government's knowledge and when she arrived in Port of Spain contact was made with the government seeking about US\$200,000.

Media reports in Dominica said that the woman had surgery to repair a leaking valve in her heart and that efforts to help fund the major operation had included a local radio station raising

US\$17,700.

## Grenada

A High Court judge has denied bail to an architect who was brought back from the African country of Botswana after skipping bail in 2010.

Justice Lyle St. Paul refused the application for bail, filed by attorney Derrick Sylvester on behalf of his client, Crofton Hannibal, on the grounds that he had violated his initial bail.

Hannibal is facing a charge of attempted murder after he allegedly shot an unidentified homeowner with whom he had an agreement to present an architectural drawing for a project.

The victim survived the incident and will be among witnesses to testify at the trial scheduled for May.

## Guyana

The Guyana Revenue

Authority (GRA) has seized a truckload of high-end liquor worth Guy\$15 million that was being transported across the country.

The GRA is probing the haul, which they suspect is made up of alcoholic beverages that authorities believed were smuggled into the country.

The expensive liquor include, Circo Vodka, Johnnie Walker (Black Label), Hennessy Brandy, Smirnoff Vodka, Heineken beers and Tequila.

The GRA said five persons were charged and placed on bail.

The alcohol beverages were seized from a truck recently at Mahaica, East Coast Demerara.

## Haiti

Haitian officials say that six people have died in recent strong rains that destroyed their hillside homes.

Nadia Lochard of Haiti's Civil Protection Office said

the five adults and one boy were killed when a mudslide crashed through their homes in the Morne Calvaire district above the capital.

The rainy season in Haiti traditionally begins in April, but this year, it has come early. The capital of Port au Prince has been soaked nightly over the past weeks with showers that have triggered flooding and rockslides.

The rains do little to comfort the 500,000 people who were displaced by the 2010 earthquake. They are living in hundreds of tent and tarp settlements that flood and leak in the rain.

## Jamaica

Trinidad and Tobago-owned Caribbean Airlines (CAL) is sending home about 150 employees from its Air Jamaica network.

The employees who are based in Montego Bay and Kingston will be sent home on April 30.

The Jamaica Gleaner reported recently that CAL confirmed that Air Jamaica's airport customer's services based in Kingston and Montego Bay, will be outsourced to a third party.

The reduction in staff comes on the heels of plans by the airline to reduce its Montego Bay to Philadelphia route to four trips per week as of the end of March, and its Fort Lauderdale flights to Kingston to two daily, down from three, the Gleaner reported.

CAL said in a statement from its Piarco's head office in Trinidad that meetings were held with employees of the customer experience and airports department based in Jamaica, led by Caribbean Airlines vice president of Human Resources and executive manager airports, to announce that the airline's Airport Customer Service operations based in Kingston and Montego Bay will be outsourced to a third party service provider.

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National LINKS, teachers and students at the UN fourth Annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Photo by Gideon Manasseh

# Transatlantic Slave Trade conference

By Gideon Manasseh

National LINKS, and NGO LINKS National Representative Hazel N. Dukes joined 500 metropolitan area students for The United Nations 4th Annual Transatlantic Slave Trade Video Conference at the UN on March 30.

During the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

students at video semi-cast sites in Gambia, Ghana, Dominican Republic and Bermuda discussed the event with students at the UN.

Christopher Moore from Schomburg Research Library moderated the event and the guest speaker was Metro Manhattan Links (Go To High School Go To College) Young Achiever Oratorical Winner Vaughn Mesquita.

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# News broadcaster Gil Noble passes at 80

By Vnette K. Pryce

Gil Noble -- perhaps television's best chronicler of Black achievements in New York City -- died at age 80. The WABC-TV reporter/documentarian had been ailing since last July when he suffered a stroke.

"It is with deep sadness to have to report that our father Gil Noble lost his fight," a statement said, "but he is with the angels."

Acclaimed for producing and reporting the diversity of distinguished Blacks throughout the world, Noble hosted the one-hour, weekly, Sunday, public affairs "Like It Is."

As the title implies, Noble detailed the raw and sometimes sobering state of affairs as they pertain to politics, sports, entertainment, government and corporate enterprises.

Providing a Black perspective, Noble spotlighted current and historic events otherwise unreported or under-reported by traditional media.

His focus on the Caribbean contribution to constructing the Panama Canal remains an unrivalled television presentation attributing to acknowledgment of West Indian heroes.

He did not seem afraid of exposing the warts often masked by mainstream media as they relate to racism, drug addiction, corruption and police brutality.

In documentaries Noble focused on what he perceived in the 70's as the drug epidemic in Harlem.

From an undisclosed location, the reporter met with drug dealers and addicts revealing ugly sores and previously unreported details of the drug and gun trade

that thrived in the predominantly Black community.

Similarly in an award-winning presentation, Noble interviewed a former government insider who admitted on camera to have infiltrated Black organizations in order to defuse their validity.

The COINTELPRO broadcast not only implicated the government with acts of misconduct but also helped to identify the Black face of a paid informer.

Noble's enlightening documentaries earned him seven Emmy Awards and 650 community honors.

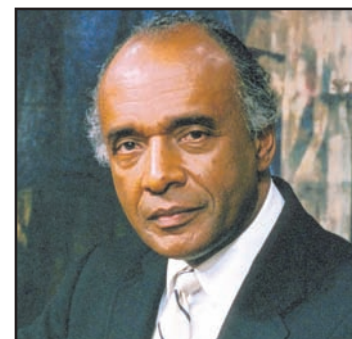
He was also bestowed five honorary doctorates and throughout the 43 years established the program as the longest running show if its kind.

Noble has interviewed and produced shows highlighting the accomplishments of reggae singer Bob Marley, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, boxing champion Muhammad Ali, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and NY's first Black Mayor David Dinkins, voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, Nation of Islam founder Louis Farrakhan, actor/singer/activist Paul Robeson, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a long list of established world-recognized Black achievers.

Throughout the years he maintained admiration and professed to be an avid admirer of Pan-African advocates Marcus Garvey Jr. and Malcolm X. He regularly spotlighted their aim and life's purpose to influence Black elevation.

Born Feb. 22, 1932 in Harlem to Jamaicans Gilbert and Iris Noble, he first made his broadcast debut working part-time at WLIB-AM radio.

His stellar broadcasts allegedly prompted WABC heads to lure him to television where he was hired to report for Channel 7.



Gil Noble. AP Photo/WABC-TV

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# Reflections on the life of Egerton 'Creech' Wood

In the Bible, Matthew chapter five verses four says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" while Mother Teresa said, "death is nothing else but going home to God."

Today, although we are mourning the loss of Egerton "Creech" Wood, we have also come together to celebrate his energetic, fruitful and productive life.

In the world of business, he was known as a shipper while in the world of sports he was known as a cricketer and a biker. Socially this son of St. Vincent was known for his many contributions towards nongovernmental and community based organizations in his country and throughout the Caribbean Diaspora.

"Creech" was the first of nine children born to the late Stephen and Inez Wood. Of Lodge Village. He acquired his secondary school education at the St. Martin's Secondary and accepted a job at the Ministry of Education upon completion. He taught at the Stoney Grounds Primary School for 10 years, then became a life insurance sales representative for two years before migrating to the United States of America in 1974 at the invitation of the Cavaliers

Sport Club to play cricket in Brooklyn.

Unsure of what career or profession to pursue in Brooklyn, he found himself exploring several jobs before he found his niche in the shipping business. In 1976, Mr. Carl Stephen at BWI Shippers on Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn employed him as a shipping clerk and taught him the business.

In 1977, with a goal of offering first class shipping service to the Caribbean and the rest of the world at a fair price, Egerton started Early Bird Shippers & Movers in partnership with Envoy "Boots" Pereira and one assistant Ruby – who was then his wife.

Like any new business venture, the challenges were numerous, but he persevered. In 1981, he started Square Deal Shippers & Movers Inc. at 925 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. A few years later, the operation outgrew the location and relocated to 4502 Church Ave.; which is now the present site of the company's head office and warehouse.

"Creech" not only built a successful business and provided jobs and security for others but he gave back to his homeland, the Caribbean islands, the Tri State

of N.Y., NJ and CT., by feeding underprivileged school children and the homeless; adopting several kindergarten schools in the rural areas of St. Vincent & The Grenadines and sponsoring youth events in the entire Caribbean.

As CEO of Square Deal Shippers, he contributed to the safe arrival of many medical types of equipment, refrigerated morgues for hospitals; Computers for rural primary schools as well as materials for building schools and churches worldwide.

The life of "Creech" was filled with great excitement and this was reflected by his involvement in sports and cultural events both in St. Vincent and in Brooklyn, New York. He and his company's name were synonymous with cultural and social events by the sponsorship of calypsonians for Labor Day and Vincy Mas. For many years on Eastern Parkway, Labor Day Parade "Creech" would drive one of his trucks in front of the Square Deal sponsored Vincy band, proudly displaying his Vincentian heritage.



health safety classes at schools and community centers, supplies schools and hospitals with numerous donations and continues to help numerous elderly persons throughout the country. Unfortunately, that love was so deep that it contributed to his tragic end.

One of his major achievements in biking; was not just the formation of a bikers club but was the heartbeat for the Pembroke motor bike dirt track Independence Bike Fest Moto Cross. Thousands gathered for the event, which brought together bikers from St. Lucia, Grenada, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Tortola, Dominica, and Antigua and Barbuda. Many can still recall the stunts, which had them screaming or praying.

Mr. Wood was the recipient of many awards and citations including a proclamation from the New York City Council.

Today we say goodbye to "Creech" who was a father, a brother and a friend to all. Goodbyes are not forever; Goodbyes are not the end, they simply mean I'll miss you! So until we meet again, we say good bye!

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**MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE**  
**EGERTON "CREECH" WOOD**

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Founder /CEO of Square Deal Shippers.

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***Gone but would not be forgotten!***

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Deepest sympathies at this  
sorrowful time to the  
management and staff of

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on the loss of your Founder

**Egerton "Creech" Wood**



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*May his soul rest in peace*



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During this sorrowful time, may you find peace and  
comfort in knowing how much we care.

**Arnold "Lydon" & Glemour Charles**

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE  
**EGERTON "CREECH" WOOD**

**To Ruby and family,  
and the staff  
at Square Deal Shippers**



*Although its difficult today  
to see beyond the sorrow,  
may looking back in memory  
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*As you comprehend this profound loss,  
let yourself cry knowing each tear is a  
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**Egerton "Creech" Wood**

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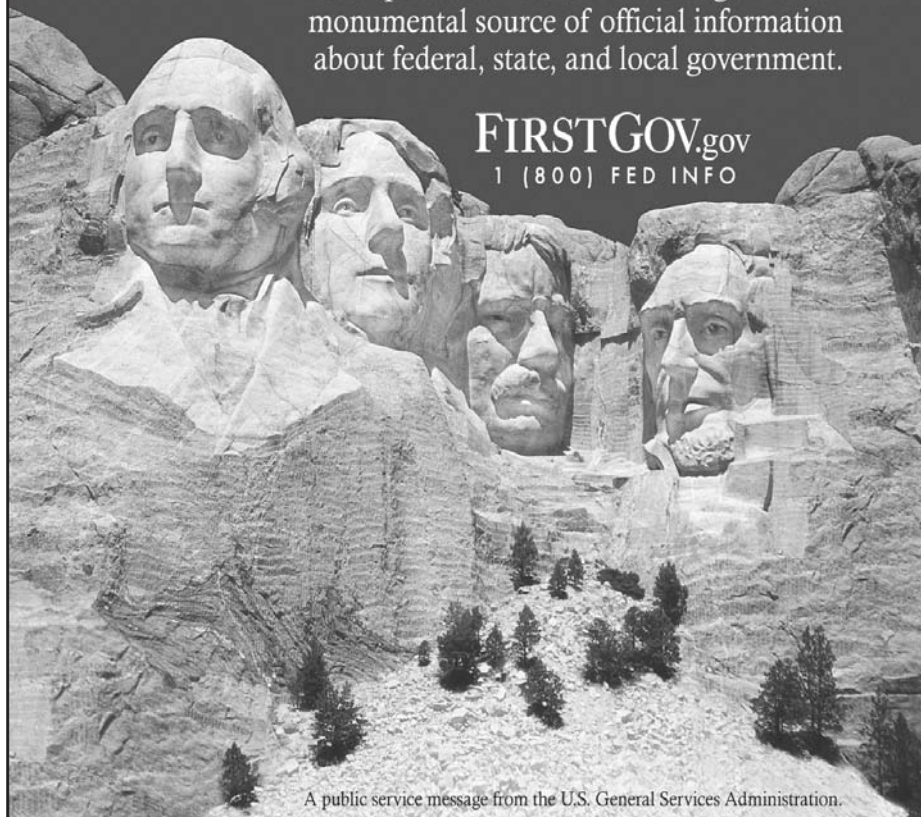
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# Jamaican fugitive captured in U.S. immigration sweep

By Nelson A. King

United States immigration authorities say they have captured a Jamaican fugitive among over 3,100 convicted

criminal immigrants and fugitives in a major nationwide operation.

As part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's

(ICE) "ongoing commitment to prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens and egregious immigration law violators," the agency said on

April 9 that Carlington David Richards, 34, a national of Jamaica, who was residing in Federal Way, Washington, "is a recent border entrant and an international fugitive from justice."

ICE said Richards is wanted in Jamaica for murder.

"ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) officers received an INTERPOL lead, which subsequently led to his capture," it said.

"He was placed into ICE custody pending removal proceedings," the statement added.

ICE said Richards' arrest was part of a six-day national "Cross Check" enforcement operation.

"The results of this targeted enforcement operation underscore ICE's ongoing commitment and focus on the arrest and removal of convicted criminal aliens and those that game our nation's immigration system," said ICE Director John Morton.

"Because of the tireless efforts and teamwork of ICE officers and agents in tracking down criminal aliens

and fugitives, there are 3,168 fewer criminal aliens and egregious immigration law violators in our neighborhoods across the country," he added.

Morton said the six-day operation, the largest of its kind, involved the collaboration of more than 1,900 ICE officers and agents from all of ICE's ERO 24 field offices.

He said ICE also received assistance from U.S. federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

Morton said the arrests occurred in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

He said ERO officers arrested 2,834 individuals who had prior criminal convictions, including at least 1,063 immigrants, who had "multiple criminal convictions."

Of those arrested, Morton said 1,477 had felony convictions including murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon, armed

robbery, terroristic threats, drug trafficking, child abuse, battery on a child, sexual crimes against minors, and aggravated assault.

He said of the total 2,834 criminal immigrants arrested, 50 were gang members, and 149 were convicted sex offenders.

In addition to being convicted criminals, Morton said 698 of those arrested were also immigration fugitives, "who had previously been ordered to leave the country but failed to depart."

Additionally, he said 559 were "illegal re-entrants," who had been previously removed from the country.

"Because of their serious criminal histories and prior immigration arrest records, at least 204 of those arrested during the enforcement action were presented to US attorneys for prosecution on a variety of charges, including illegal re-entry after deportation, a felony which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison," the statement said.

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# State-of-art health center in Bed-Stuy

By *Eulene Inniss*

The Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center is a \$26 million facility built on 38,000 square feet of property.

The ribbon cutting of this center on April 2 was a welcome long overdue service to the Bed-Stuy community, which ranks high in the percentage of residents with early deaths due to diseases.

The new center at 1456 Fulton St. is located on one of the busiest streets in Central Brooklyn. It is more than three times the size of the previous center, with more inviting spaces for learning, healing and the nurturing of healthy life styles. The expanded space affords comprehensive services such as internal medicine, dental care, diabetic care, pediatrics, eye exams, cardiology, family practice, clinical HIV/AIDS, behavioral health consultation and much more.

The level of patient

comfort allows for privacy between doctor and patient through individual counseling.

Funding for the new center was obtained through GE's multi-year, \$50 million program to increase access to health care in underserved communities. NBC News, a strong supporter of the Bedford Stuyvesant Health Center, donated technical support to ensure a smooth transition.

The center now has the capacity to increase its primary health care services to more than 20,000 Brooklyn residents.

Under the leadership of the CEO Patricia Fernandez and Medical Director Pascale Kersaint, opening day was one of total exuberance, pride and a sense of accomplishment by the staff and community residents.

The NBC-sponsored news conference was attended by community icons, politicians and professionals of

various walks of life. These included the Rev. Dr. Gary V. Simpson, pastor of the Concord Baptist Church;

Jean Black, BSFHC board chair; Nirav R. Shah, NYS commissioner of health; Brooklyn Borough

President Marty Markowitz; Ollie McClean, founder of Sankofa International Academy; President of NBC

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# Ensuring the job is done right

## Housing Rehabilitation Assistance program thrills another home improvement client

Neil Andrews and his wife, Althea Saunders-Andrews, bought their home two years ago knowing full well that it was a fixer upper. And fixing it up is just what they've been doing — nearly every inch of it.

It's a work in progress. All over the house, floors are covered by heavy paper or plastic as remodeling goes on. Outside, there is no facade on the first-floor front wall, and there's just dirt where the stoop should be. The contractor disappeared before the job was done.

But there's one room that's completely done, and one project outside that is too. Those are the projects that were handled through the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance program — so not only are they done, they're done right.

HRA is the organization that's helping homeowners all over the city and on Long Island do the home renovations of their dreams — using the best, most reliable contractors. Not only does HRA find the right company to do a project, it also works with banks to get the loans for major renovations, finds extra financial assistance for clients who qualify, explains the tax breaks that come with energy-efficient door and window treatments and new insulation — and ensures the job is always done right by holding contractors' payments in escrow until clients certify that they're absolutely satisfied.

Neil and Althea are quite happy with the work that HRA-approved workers did at their home in Levittown, LI, completely remodeling a second-floor bathroom and adding a concrete pad and walkway all around the outside of the house.

"You can accomplish your

dreams through Housing Rehabilitation Assistance, and I really appreciate that," Althea said. "It's a good program. The economy is not that great, things are expensive, and it's a good way to get things done. These people are reliable, and they went out of their way for me."

When she mentioned that HRA's representatives went out of their way for her, Althea was specifically talking about the time her car broke down — on the very day she had to get some important paperwork to the bank for her project. Her rep drove to Long Island from the Bronx to pick her up, take care of the paperwork and then bring her to her job in Manhattan.

**"You can accomplish your dreams through Housing Rehabilitation Assistance, and I really appreciate that."**

— Althea Saunders

That's how far above and beyond the call HRA will go for its clients. And the organization puts just as much care into its oversight of remodeling projects, giving homeowners the peace of mind that comes with knowing the job will always be done right.

For Neil and Althea, the HRA-approved contractors took everything out of the entire bathroom and gave them a modern, sparkling one with matching porcelain tile on the floor and walls, a granite sinktop, a curved vanity that maximizes usable space in the small room, real wood cabinetry, a solid wood door — and hot-tub jets in the bath tub for maximum comfort.

"They gutted everything and

put in real quality stuff," Althea said. Pointing out the builtin shelves in the shower walls, she added, "I like the little details."

Behind the tiled walls are new insulation and new pipes. One had been leaking — a major reason Althea and Neil wanted to do the project in the first place. The mechanicals for the hot-tub jets can be reached through a panel in the hallway.

The other HRA project was the outside concrete work, which the organization recommended to keep soil away from the house. It has totally transformed the couple's side yard.

"This was all mud," Althea said. "You couldn't do anything here. Now you can entertain, get a barbecue grill and get some friends over, or just put a couple chairs out and enjoy a summer breeze."

When they put down the concrete, the contractors made sure to leave one strip of soil against the fence, away from the house, as it was. That's where Althea has her roses.

One of the guys even made sure to tie one wandering limb to the fence to ensure it wouldn't get damaged. "It's the little things," Althea said.

It's no surprise that HRA-approved workers are that careful. Just take a look at 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, and on file with Consumer Affairs;
- in business for at least 10 years with no name changes on their corporate filings;
- able to provide the names and addresses of eight clients that they have performed home



One feature of her new bathroom that Althea Saunders really appreciates in the solid wood door.

improvement projects for in the past year such that we will be able to inspect these projects to ensure that they meet HRA standards; and

- able to perform four test projects for the HRA prior to working for any clients.

"The services offered by the HRA extend beyond just financial assistance for home improvement projects," an administrator with the program explains. "We have implemented numerous processes to ensure that projects completed by HRA-approved contractors are done to the homeowner's satisfaction."

While they continue to do the rest of the work on their house, Neil and Althea are staying at their apartment in Manhattan,

along with their 2-year-old son — whose arrival is what decided them on a house in the suburbs in the first place.

Like many HRA clients, Althea found out about the program through a card that came in the mail. Though skeptical at first, she checked it out and found that it was the right program for her. Now she's recommending HRA to her sister, who's planning some remodeling — and anyone else with home improvement work to get done.

To find out if you qualify for the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance program, just call HRA toll-free at 866-504-0624. Tell them you read about the great job they did for Althea and Neil, and they'll be sure to give you the same level of excellent service. ■



Althea looks forward to entertaining in her side yard, where HRA-approved contractors installed a new concrete pad, and were careful around the roses.



The new sinktop and curved vanity are made of granite and stone.



The bathtub-shower features glass doors and hot-tub jets.



Little details like built-in shelving in the shower mean a lot to Althea.

## R. Steven LeGall Home for Funerals

### -- Final Rites Under One Roof

By Fabian Burrell

R. Steven LeGall Home for Funerals provides the kind of dignity and funerary rites its owner observed as a 15-year-old friend of the owners of the legendary House of Hills Funeral Home in Brooklyn.

"Traditional funerals are very expensive and can run as high as \$10,000," says LeGall, president of the family-owned business, located at 169 Empire Blvd., near Bedford Avenue.

The most expensive funeral LeGall Home for Funerals has performed cost \$20,000, with "most of the cost going to the cemetery and the solid bronze casket in which the deceased was laid to rest," he added.

Mindful of its target population, LeGall Home for Funerals offers a one-stop shopping experience for bereaved family members who are most times too distraught to think clearly and make last-minute decisions.

Choosing a casket, understanding the need for embalming or casket liners can be overwhelming for bereaved families, so the well-trained staff which includes wife, Averille, vice president of the company, provides seamless guidance to a successful "home-going."

LeGall was raised in Brooklyn and attended



The R. Steven LeGall Funeral Home on Empire Boulevard and Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn.

High School of Music and Art, NYC Community College and American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. Their 17-year-old daughter, Daria, plans to study Forensics and Mortuary Science, as she follows in her dad's footsteps.

Daria works in the "home for funerals" at evenings after school and during her summer vacation. Steven also has two adult daughters; Ingrid and Courtney.

"Although we boast about being the largest African-American/Caribbean funeral home in Brooklyn," says Steven, an African American of Barbadian parentage, "we are proud to serve all eth-

nic groups" he said, adding: "Recently, we served two Asian families.

*Caribbean Life* wanted to know how far had he flown a body to its final resting place from his Crown Heights business. "Ghana," he proudly responded, where he also performed the final rites.

Thirty years in this industry has given LeGall a close-up view of the trends, including a recent request for a cremation, coming at a time when the present economic decline has many families seeking more cost-effective ways to honor their departed, loved ones.

LeGall's staff has also seen an 8 percent increase in military funerals and are equipped to help secure veteran's benefits, such as



R. Steven Legall, of Legall funeral home on Empire Blvd, with his wife Averille Legall, and daughter Daria Legall.

Photos William Farrington

burial flags, government markers, memorial certificates and burial plots. The LeGall Home for Funerals' website details all the services, including; pre-planning funerals, so when the time comes the prepared directions are honored to the letter, publishing the obituary in the newspapers, providing assistance with filling out the forms to notify the Social Security Administration of the demise, and a complete and appropriate menu for the repast.

One might think that employees at a funeral home are surrounded by gloom and doom, but LeGall regales his staff with funny stories and lots of teasing. He told *Caribbean Life*, through an emailed interview, about an amusing moment in his career. "While embalming, the body is positioned for maximum saturation of the embalming chemical. The hands of the deceased are positioned outright with palms facing up. Inadvertently, I backed into the deceased

hand. You can imagine my reaction!"

LeGall keeps his finger on the pulse of cutting-edge innovation in his industry by attending an annual funeral directors convention where eco-friendly alternatives as a way to lower costs and protect the environment are always being explored.

LeGall Home for Funerals can be reached around the clock, seven days a week, at: (718) 722 7800/ (800) 846 0489 or at [Legallfuneral@aol.com](mailto:Legallfuneral@aol.com)

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# 'Pon Di River' to celebrate Kingston's 140th milestone

Jamaicans are jubilant that the island is celebrating 50 years of independence from Britain. However, Kingstonians should be particularly elated that the capital city is also marking a milestone anniversary and 140 years since obtaining the status.

Founded in 1692, the largest city on the island was established the capital in 1872 when the British secured occupation from the Spanish. Prior to that when the Spanish ruled, Spanish Town identified the capital.

According to Janet Silvera, co-founder of the "Pon Di River" Literary, Arts & Music Festival, her river fest will pay homage to the historic milestone.

"Originally known as the 'Pon Di River' festival, this year it is the Kingston Pon Di River festival and we will be celebrating the city in all its glory," Silvera said.

Along with Kingston residents Dollis Campbell and Millicent Lynch, the second city resident launched the festival last year.

From her Montego Bay base on the western coast of the island, she has been promoting the April 27 to April 29 event.

"This year will be bigger and better because we have two major reasons to do so – one, we are back and two, we are back in the best city in the world."

In addition, Silvera claims with a "new, more intimate area pon di river to flaunt the best city in the world guests will discover Kingston as never before."

Staged at the scenic, pacific and organic Boone Hall location, adjacent to the crystal, clear Wag Water River, last year's outing offered patrons an opportunity to capitalize on massages, fresh fish, drumming, an evening bonfire and private reading areas along the banks. There, singer Diana King will be honored.

Among the specially invited guests are: poet Oku



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Onuora, award winning novelist Charlie Newton, New York Times best-selling author Jonathan Eig, UWI lecturer Carolyn Cooper, Jean Watson, the former mayor of Kingston, Desmond McKenzie, motivational speaker Alvin Day, Karen Gibson and some of the island's best literary authors.

"We have added a children's play area, a much bigger space for vendors to display their wares, expanded stage and all this amidst unrivalled horticulture," Silvera explained.

A senior reporter at the nation's oldest newspaper -- The Daily Gleaner, Silvera is also president of the Western Jamaica Media Association and a staunch advocate of her country's metropolis.

For more information, log on to [www.kingstonpondiriver.com](http://www.kingstonpondiriver.com).

### Displaced 'Harlem Music Shack' Reopens

Uptown music lovers recently rallied in support of the reopening of a Harlem landmark and witnessed the return of a local business that was forced to shut three years ago.

With all the accolades befitting those bestowed to a prodigal son, South African Sikhule Shange was welcomed to Harlem Music Shack, by former patrons, friends and well-wishers who reportedly lobbied for his return to the community.

"He never really left Harlem," Tyler Taylor explained, "ridiculously high rent forced him to close his shop but he sold CD's, records and other stuff on the sidewalks of 125th afterwards until now when he can greet customers and friends again in the way he used to."

During the grand opening, numerous African traditional rituals were performed.

A ceremony alleged "to evoke the African Ancestors to bestow blessings and good fortune for the new business" found well-wishers walking into 2361 Frederick Douglas Blvd. the new location of the former Record Shack. Renamed Harlem Music Shack, the new establishment relocates Shange who was reportedly evicted in 2009 evicted due to inability to pay the rent after 40 years of occupancy at the same location.

Unable to find reasonable space, Shange allegedly sold his wares along 125th St.

The new establishment opened on March 25th with traditional African drumming.

The reason some attribute the ceremony was "to bring attention to Record Shack's rising from the ashes."

Some claim another reason was to "let people know that with faith all things are possible" and also "to seek the continued support of all NYC music lovers to shop and serve Harlem owned businesses."

Customers were comprised of elected officials such as, Assemblyman Keith Wright, NYC Councilman Charles Barron, Leslie Wyche, community liaison for Councilwomen Inez Dickens and Geoffrey Eaton, chief-of-staff for Congressman Charlie Rangel.

Allegedly, jazz singer, Gloria Lynn phoned goodwill music notes singing her hit recording, "I Wish You Love."

Composer Onaje Allen Gumbs was also present.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

‘Mirror Mirror adds up to an enchanting update of a much-beloved classic guaranteed to delight kids of any age.’

Kam Williams – Page 33

FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENT, GO TO CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

## Brownsville to Broadway live

On April 19, Council Member Darlene Mealy-41st Council District, Brooklyn, in collaboration with Circuit Productions Inc./Susan Goldbetter, producer - will present “Brownsville to Broadway.”

This event includes Blues, Tap and Jazz, featuring the legendary Harlem Blues and Jazz Band and Brownsville’s own tap dancer, Calvin Booker at Van Dyke Community Center, 392 Blake Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. (between Powell and Mother Gaston Blvd.).

The program is scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. and is free to the public. For directions and information contact Van Dyke Community Center



Ruth Brisbane.

Photo by Circuit Productions

at 718.495.3719 or Mealy’s office at 718.953.3097.

The event is sponsored in part by discretionary funds from the 41st Council District, Brooklyn, the NYC Council and administered through the Department for the Aging (DFTA). Funding will sup-

Continued on next page

## ‘2+2’ Art Show

By Freida Menos

On Sunday, March 25 the Dorsey Art Gallery at 553 Rogers Ave. held its opening reception for their art show entitled “2+2” featuring two female and two male artists: Ramona Candy, Mary Chang, Joseph Bell-Bey and Dudley Vacciana.

The works include mediums ranging from oil on canvass, mixed media, chine colle, acrylic on canvass, monotypes and glass. During the reception, the featured artists were introduced and had an opportunity to meet, mingle and describe their work to the 60 gallery guests.

The participating artists had this to say on how they felt to be in the show and what they wanted to convey in their work exhibited:

Bell-Bey said, “I am simply



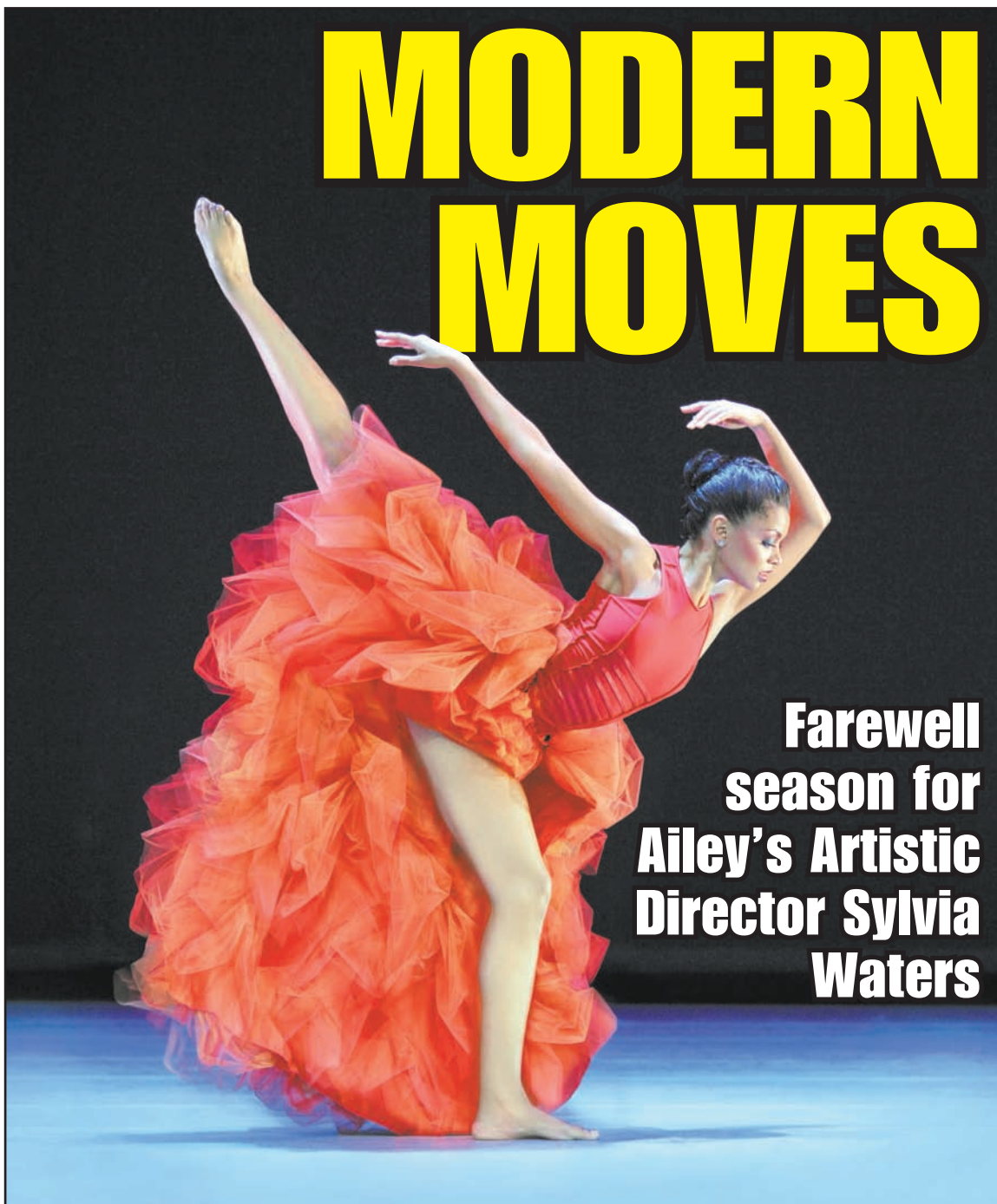
From left, Ramona Candy, Joseph Bell-Bey, Mary Chang and Dudley Vacciana.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

honored to be a part of this Dorsey event and the other brother-and-sister artists that are in the show are very, very talented people. It’s an honor to show my work along with theirs. The show is absolutely exquisite. Each artist has his or her own little niche that they’re feeling and I must say that did it very well. Dudley’s work is exquisite. Ramona’s work is

Continued on next page

# MODERN MOVES



**Farewell season for Ailey’s Artistic Director Sylvia Waters**

Fana Tesfagiorgis in Troy Powell’s “Reference.”

Photo by Eduardo Patino

By John Marrast

Ailey II, the youthful and gifted second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, will return to its home, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, from April 18-29 for a highly anticipated two-week season – the last led by 38-year

Artistic Director Sylvia Waters.

The 14 exciting performances experienced through two dynamic programs come on the heels of a successful North American tour to over 35 cities and an array of critically-acclaimed performances in Bermuda, Germany and Greece.

“Mr. Ailey gave me the greatest gift imaginable when he created a second company and asked me to direct it. Each year is filled with so much excitement, watching the dancers blossom and grow and perform their hearts out,” Sylvia Waters

Continued on next page

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 Stronger**  
Kelly Clarkson
- 2 We Are Young**  
Fun. Feat. Janelle Monae
- 3 Set Fire To The Rain**  
Adele
- 4 Glad You Came**  
The Wanted
- 5 Turn Me On**  
David Guetta Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 6 Part of Me**  
Katy Perry
- 7 Take Care**  
Drake Feat. Rihanna
- 8 We Found Love**  
Rihanna Feat. Calvin Harris
- 9 Ass Back Home**  
Gym Class Heroes
- 10 Thw Motto**  
Drake Feat. Lil Wayne

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 MDNA**  
Madonna
- 2 Tuskegee**  
Lionel Richie
- 3 Amaryllis**  
Shinedown
- 4 The Hunger Games**  
Soundtrack
- 5 21**  
Adele
- 6 Up All Night**  
One Direction
- 7 Vulnerable**  
The Used
- 8 Making Mirrors**  
Gotye
- 9 Some Nights**  
Fun n
- 10 Port of Morrow**  
The Shins

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**verizon**wireless

# Sylvia's successes

Continued from previous page

stated. "This season's beautiful bouquet of dynamic dancers and stunning premieres will not disappoint - they are making my final season a memorable one!"

Premiering on opening night, Wednesday April 18, "The Modern Moves" program begins with "Echoes" by Thang Dao. This work depicts the echoes of memories of his family escaping Vietnam and debuted on Ailey II in 2010. Next on the program will be the company premiere of Mina Yoo's "Boulevard," an athletic piece that references a neighborhood "on the boulevard," where young people of various cultures and backgrounds interact.

Originally created as an all-male work in 2006, "Boulevard" has been reconceived for Ailey II's cast of nine dancers and blends contemporary dance with the percussive sounds of Michel Macias, Hugues Le Bars, René Aubry, and Greetje Bijma. The program will close with Artistic Director Designate Troy Powell's seventh world premiere work for Ailey II, Reference Point. The cutting-edge full ensemble piece combines ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance and is set to music by Mio Morales.

Chosen by Alvin Ailey to guide and develop Ailey II following seven years as a lead dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Sylvia Waters has trained generations of outstanding professional dancers, opened the door for many of today's most vital choreographers (including Robert Battle, now the artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) and has brought Ailey II, which was founded in 1974, to prominence as one of the world's most popular and acclaimed touring companies.

"Like so many others, I began my connection with the Ailey organization through Sylvia Waters when she invited me to choreograph for Ailey II in 1999," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle said. "She has such a keen eye for identifying budding emerging artists and the works premiering this season are great examples of that sensibility. I owe Sylvia my deepest gratitude for all that she has done for me and I look forward to celebrating her during this very special season."

To lead the company forward, Ms. Waters named Troy Powell, the veteran Ailey dancer, teacher, choreographer and Ailey II associate artistic director since 2003, to be her successor effective July 1.

Troy Powell commented, "Working with Ms. Waters and Ailey II's marvelous dancers and touring the world with the Company over the past ten



**Stefanie Batten Bland**

Photo by Eduardo Patino

seasons has been truly amazing and humbling. It is a privilege to share the gift of Ailey with audiences and to continue delivering on the promise of keeping the Company fresh, exciting and soul-stirring—I feel blessed to have this opportunity."

Week 1

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices  
Friday, April 20, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices  
Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices

Week 2

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices  
Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Friday, April 27, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices  
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. – Contemporary Choices  
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. – Modern Moves  
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. – Modern Moves

## An American treasure

Continued from previous page

port Circuit Productions's (CPI) mission to inspire, entertain and educate underserved audiences in New York through performances, public classes, workshops, and arts education programs featuring senior and emerging artists who are living legends of the city's rich Tap, Jazz and World Music/Dance history.

"Brownsville to Broadway" with featured artists Harlem Blues and Jazz Band (HBJB), has performed nationally and internationally in venues from NYC's Lincoln Center, to countless Jazz Festivals and major venues in Europe, including; The American Embassy

and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, and throughout Japan in 2010. The band features original alumni players for legendary artists Louis "Pops" Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton and Mary Lou Williams to name a few.

HBJB, founded in 1973 by trombonist-blues singer Clyde Bernhardt, of 1920's King Oliver's Creole Jazz band fame, and jazz aficionado, Dr. Albert "Doc" Vollmer, a retired orthodontist, who has been the group's manager for 38 years, says his connection has been a labor of love, and therefore became instrumental in working with Congressman John



**Clyde Bernhardt.**

Photo courtesy of Circuit Productions

Conyers of Michigan to propose a resolution, which was ultimately approved by the 100th Congress of the United States in 1987, stating that "Jazz is hereby designated as a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood,

## Dorsey Art Gallery

Continued from previous page

off the top and very strong. Mary Chang's work is very spiritual... it draws you in."

Chang stated that she was "very pleased to be in the exhibit. What makes me the happiest is this institution. It is kind of like an underground gallery where artists come together and there is a support and authenticity among everyone.

"I selected some recent works because I think it is interesting to bounce off new things and not to have an expectation of whether it was good or bad, but to allow myself to be vulnerable and share

what I am doing. I have the kind of works that are colorful and bold with energy, also work that could be more mono in tonality but still have energy at the same time and the rest is left to interpretation."

Candy whose works are "choreography on canvass" enjoys "working with papers in collage and through chine collé in my (her) printmaking." She said that it was an honor to be asked to show at Dorsey's.

"I first knew of Mr. Dorsey when I was a teenager and he lived down the block from my family. He (and his dog Jackson)



**Dorsey Art Gallery guests meet and mingle at the art show.**

Photo by Lem Peterkin

were friendly neighbors known on the block for their kindness. Little did I know he was the art aficionado, because I was all about my dance. I only got to see and talk to him again just before he passed, but I'm thrilled my art is

frequently included in his legendary gallery," said Candy.

Fine artist Vaccianna was equally delighted to join fellow artists in the show and currently has on exhibit paintings and hand-blown glass vases and plates featuring bright Caribbean scenery.

The Dorsey Art Gallery, established in 1970 by the late owner Lawrence Peter Dorsey, is the oldest, continuously active, black-owned art gallery in New York City.

The Dorsey Art Club created in 2003 is a committee of long-time friends of the gallery consisting of artists and collectors committed to the mission of promoting artists from communities of color through the hosting of exhibitions and special events at the gallery.



# Snow White saves prince in refreshing classic

“Mirror Mirror”  
Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated PG for action  
and mild crude  
humor.  
Running time: 106  
minutes  
Distributor: Relativity  
Media

By Kam Williams

Everybody knows that the story of “Snow White” is about an expiring damsel-in distress who’s ultimately revived by a handsome Prince’s kiss on the lips. But the world has changed considerably since the Grimm Brothers first published the fairytale in 1812, so why not tweak it a tad to reflect 21st Century

sensibilities?

That is ostensibly the idea behind “Mirror Mirror,” a novel overhaul of the original into a female empowerment flick featuring a spunky heroine capable of saving herself rather than having to rely on a knight in shining armor. Directed by Punjabi-born Tarsem Singh, this incarnation even includes a Bollywood dance number during the closing credits.

Furthermore, it renames the seven dwarfs to Napoleon (Jordan Prentice), Half Pint (Mark Povinelli), Grub (Joe Gnoffo), Grimm (Danny Woodburn), Wolf (Sebastian Saraceno), Butcher (Martin Klebba) and Chuckles (Ronald Lee Clark). But before you suggest that it

might be blasphemous to take such a liberty with the supposedly-sacrosanct source material, consider the fact that the septet had previously been popularized as Blick, Flick, Glick, Snick, Plick and Whick by a 1912 Broadway production before subsequently being dubbed Bashful, Happy, Sleepy, Sneezy, Grumpy, Dopey and Doc in Disney’s 1937 animated version.

Here, despite several superficial changes, the essence and message of the fable remain intact. It revolves around the attempt of a wicked stepmother (Julia Roberts) to become queen by preventing her beautiful stepdaughter (Lily Collins) from ascending to the throne following



Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs.

the disappearance of the King (Sean Bean).

So, the evil Clementianna not only banishes the grieving orphan to the forest to die, but soon sets her sights on replacing her hubby with Snow’s suitor, Andrew Alcott (Armie Hammer),

a wealthy prince from a neighboring kingdom. However, after placing the young nobleman under a spell, the vain monarch still finds herself frustrated by her magical mirror’s answer to “Who’s the fairest of them all?”

For instead of perishing, the enterprising, exiled princess survives her ordeal by bonding with a band of diminutive men living in the woods. And, with their help, it’s just a matter of time before the rightful heir returns to reclaim her inheritance, flipping the script in the process by breaking the queen’s spell with a peck on the prince’s lips.

Between the elaborate costumes and splendid principal cast performances by Lily Collins, Julia Roberts, Nathan Lane and Armie Hammer, “Mirror Mirror” adds up to an enchanting update of a much-beloved classic guaranteed to delight kids of any age.

## Independent & Foreign Films

Bad Ass (R for violence, torture, sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity) Vigilante drama about a Vietnam vet (Danny Trejo) who decides to take the law into his own hands after the cops show no interest in solving the murder of his best friend (Harrison Page). With Charles S. Dutton, Ron Perlman, Joyful Drake and Winter Ave Zoli.

Deadline (PG-13 for mature themes) Crime drama, set in rural Alabama, recounting the real-life story of an idealistic newspaper reporter (Steve Talley) who, in spite of death threats, investigated the unsolved murder, 20 years earlier, of an African-American child. Cast includes Eric Roberts, Anna Felix and Jeremy Childs.

Detention (R for nudity, profanity, drug use, underage drinking, sexuality, violence and crude humor) Horror comedy about a sadistic serial killer (Carrie Wita) who starts stalking high school students stuck in detention on the day of the senior prom. Cast includes Josh Hutcherson, Dane Cook and Shanley Caswell.

Here (Unrated) Romance drama, narrated by Peter Coyote, about an American cartographer (Ben Foster) who falls in love with a photographer (Lubna Azabal) from a peasant family while



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

on assignment in Armenia. With Aren Vatan, Garik Chepchyan and Nerik Nersisyan. (In English and Armenian with subtitles)

The Lady (R for violence and bloody images) Michelle Yeoh stars in the title role of this biopic about Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi, the political prisoner recently-freed by the Burmese government after being kept under house arrest for 15 years. With David Thewlis as her husband, Michael Aris, and featuring Jonathan Woodhouse, Susan Wooldridge and Benedict Wong. (In English and Burmese with subtitles)

Last Will and Embezzlement (Unrated) Tarnished Golden Years documentary, narrated by Artie Pasquale, chronicling the epidemic of financial exploitation of the elderly by avaricious charlatans. Featuring commentary by Mickey Rooney, Pamela Glasner and Sandy Jolley.

Late Bloomers (Unrated) Relationship drama about a retired teacher (Isabella Rossellini) who pressures her architect husband (William Hurt) to make

concessions to age as they both turn 60. With Doreen Mantle, Kate Ashfield and Aidan McArdle.

Life Happens (R for sexuality) Baby-mama comedy about a wild party girl (Krysten Ritter) finally forced to mature when she ends up pregnant after a one-night stand. With Kate Bosworth, Jason Biggs and Rhys Coiro.

Monsieur Lazhar (PG-13 for mature themes, brief profanity and a disturbing image) Mohamed Fellag handles the titular role of this bittersweet dramedy, set in Montreal, about an illegal immigrant, grieving the murder of his wife and children, hired to replace a recently-deceased, elementary school teacher who committed suicide. With Sophie Nélisse, Emilien Neron and Danielle Proulx.

Post Mortem (Unrated) Romance drama, set against the backdrop of the overthrow of President Allende in Chile in 1973, revolving around a 55 year-old morgue attendant (Alfredo Castro) who embarks on a frantic search for a missing burlesque dancer (Antonia

Zegers) he has a crush on, following a raid on her family’s home by government soldiers. With Amparo Noguera, Jaime Vadell and Marcelo Alonso. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Touchback (PG-13 for mature themes) Redemption

drama about a second shot at glory given a former high school football star (Brian Presley) 15 years after the knee injury that ended his promising career. With Kurt Russell, Christine Lahti and Melanie Lynskey.

Unraveled (Unrated)

White-collar crime documentary about Marc Dreier, a Manhattan attorney sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of securities fraud for operating a Ponzi scheme which fleeced his victims of over \$700 million.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SATURDAY, APRIL 14

**Girls Empowerment** A Cause A Concern A Solution Network Inc. presents their fifth Annual Girls Empowerment Conference featuring continental breakfast, luncheon, workshops, giveaways, guest speakers, resource circle, session on bullying and special workshops for parents along with information on resources for college career choices, self empowerment leadership opportunities, living healthy & more, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at York College, 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, Queens. Girls ages 12 - 21 years, come out and be a member of ACACAS. Visit [www.acacas.org](http://www.acacas.org) or register at [docjune607@aol.com](mailto:docjune607@aol.com).

**Reunion Dinner** Comets Club Int'l., Subway Restaurants, Irie Jam Media Group & Dennis Shipping Co., presents The CCI Reunion Dinner & Awards Gala honoring Richie Stephens & Roland Brammer, & featuring music by DJ Cali-B & Soul Fire Muzik w/DJ Ras Myke along with a special video presentation of Jamaica 50, 9:00 p.m. at The Venetian Terrace, 86-15 114th St., Richmond Hill, Queens. For tickets, call (718) 207-0078, (917) 250-1022, (646) 996-1235.

**Dog & Cat Vaccinations** Luv My Pet is holding low cost dog & cat vaccination clinics at Petland Discounts at the Pathmark Center, 134-40 Springfield Blvd., Springfield Gardens, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; 171-33 Hillside Ave., between 171 & 172, Jamaica, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.; 71-39 Kissena Blvd., between Aguilar & 70, Kissena, Kew Garden Hills, 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. For information, call Amy Eisenberg at (631) 273-6363.

**Cabaret Benefit** Magee Hickey, news reporter is hosting a cabaret with her singing newscaster colleagues to benefit Astor's Lawrence F. Hickey Center for Child Development in the Bronx serving children ages 2.9 years to kindergarten with behavior & emotional needs. Reception 1:00 p.m. and performances start at 2:00 p.m. at One East 91 St. & Fifth Ave. For more information on tickets, contact Dana Valdez at [dvaldez@astorservices.org](mailto:dvaldez@astorservices.org) or call (845) 871-1171.

**Jazz Festival** The 13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival presents James Spaulding Expressions, 9:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. at Sistas' Place, 456 Nostrand Ave. at Jefferson St. For reservations and information, call (718) 3987-1766 or visit [www.sistasplace.com](http://www.sistasplace.com).

**Zorro** Visible Fictions & Traverse Theatre Company Production presents "Zorro," a mysterious character who arrives in town with a flurry of a cape, the glint of a sword and a flash of a mask - is he friend or foe?, 3:00 p.m. at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St., N.Y. For tickets and information, call (212) 220-1460.



### 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.

### Tai Chi

Stop. Breathe. 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.



### MONDAY, APRIL 16

**Jazzy Mondays** The 13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival presents The Last Poets Originators of Revolutionary Poetry, 7:15 p.m. & 9:15 p.m. at For My Sweet, 1103 Fulton St. at Classon Ave. For reservations and information, call (718) 857-1427 or visit [jazzymondays@gmail.com](mailto:jazzymondays@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY, APRIL 17

**Homebuyer Seminar** NHS of East Flatbush is having a free homebuyers seminar focusing on getting started, closing cost assistance, grants, affordable mortgages, advice from professionals and more, 6:00 p.m., at HSBC, 815 Flatbush Ave., near the corner of Caton Ave., Brooklyn. To register, call (718) 469-4679.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 19

**Jazz Festival** The 13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival presents Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra Brooklyn College Jazz Ensemble with Salim Washington,

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteer readers are needed for the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center Network Reach Out and Read Program at the Mount Vernon, Yonkers and Greenburgh Health Center locations. Bilingual readers are helpful, but not required. Just a few hours a week reading to a child can make a difference for the child, the family and the community. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Ms. Eneida Rivera, director of Reach Out and Read at (914) 699-7200 ext. 1048.



7:00 p.m. at Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Ave. Free. For information, call (718) 951-5655 or visit [www.depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/isam/](http://www.depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/isam/).

**NY Tech Day** NY Tech Day, a revolutionary one-day expo created specifically for New York City-based tech startups will be held in two parts: the Expo will run from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and the Award Ceremony from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at The Lexington Armory, 68 Lexington Ave. in the Flatiron District. Attendance is free. Space is limited. To register to attend and for general information, visit [NYTechDay.com](http://NYTechDay.com).

### FRIDAY, APRIL 20

**Jazz Festival** The 13th Annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival presents three performances: Lou Donaldson, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at JAZZ966, 966 Fulton St. at Grand Ave. For information, call (718) 638-8910; Frank Senior with Eric Lemon Trio, 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at BrownstoneJAZZ at Sankofa Aban Bed & Breakfast, 107 Macon St. at Nostrand Ave. For information, call (917) 704-9237; WMC

Allstars Jam Session, 10:00 p.m., - 2:00 a.m., at Williamsburg Music Center, 367 Bedford Ave. at South 5 St. For information, call (718) 384-1654.

**Symposium** HABNET & Boro President Marty Markowitz hosts the Toussaint L'Ouverture Symposium & Entrepreneur Recognition Award focusing on opportunities to learn more about Haiti and its people and to network with small businesses and professional leaders, local elected officials as well as win prizes and more, 5:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Boro Hall, 209 Joralemon St. Refreshments will be served. Event is free but space is limited. RSVP ASAP by calling (877) 278-9143 or email [Infor@HABNET.com](mailto:Infor@HABNET.com).

**Music** The New York Historical Society Museum and Library, 170 Central Park West, N.Y. presents free music featuring Missy Modell, a rising star who is bridging the gap between pop, rock and soul, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (212) 873-3400 or visit [www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org).

**Comedy/Variety** No Name & A Bag O'Chips presents comedy/variety performances including Chris Griggs from the New York Underground Comedy Festival along with the funky sounds of The Summer Replacements including Carl BabyFreak Fortunato, 7:00 p.m. at Otto's, 538 East 14 St., between Ave. A & Ave. B, Manhattan. No cover. No Minimum. For information, call (212) 228-2240.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Luv My Pet is holding low cost dog & cat vaccination clinics at Petland Discounts at 43-10 Ditmars Blvd, LaGuardia Center, LIC (Ditmars), 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. & on Sun., April 22 at 8989 Union Turnpike, Stop & Shop Center, Glendale, Queens, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. For information, call Amy Eisenberg at (631) 273-6363.

**Fund Raising Breakfast** The Annual Fundraising Breakfast to benefit the Health & Education Relief Organization, Inc. (HERG) will take place at the St. Stephens' Episcopal Church Hall, 2806 Newkirk Ave., Brooklyn, starting 9:00 a.m. For information and donations, call (718) 250-6805, (917) 631-0689.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 22

**Community Day** St. Francis College is hosting its 15th annual Community Day to celebrate the many cultures and ethnicities that make up the college. Students, faculty, staff and administrators as well as members of the Brooklyn community will participate in a spiritual mass, dancing, singing and spoken word performances. The event will also include a multicultural buffet featuring a variety of homemade dishes from around the world, 11:00 a.m., St. Francis College, Founders Hall, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn Heights. Free & open to the public - RSVP requested to [studentactivity@sfc.edu](mailto:studentactivity@sfc.edu) by April 20.

Compiled by Ida Eisenstein

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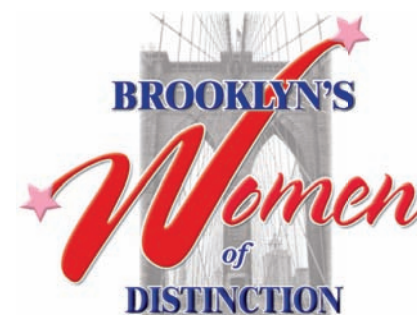
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# 'Star For a Day'

Thirteen-year-old Christy, who was diagnosed with a cardiac condition at age 12 and is currently listed for a heart transplant, was treated like a queen at Mount Sinai Hospital, 1184 Fifth Avenue and 99th Street in Manhattan, thanks to the nonprofit Project Sunshine's "Star for a Day" program on April 2.

Miss Teen USA Danielle Doty was among the volunteers who helped brighten Christy's day as she received treatment at Mount Sinai.

Project Sunshine's "Star for a Day" program brings volunteers into hospitals to help children feel like a king or queen. Children decorate crowns and tiaras, wands and scepters, and create their own storybook fairytales. The special attention from volunteers truly helps the child feel like a star!

Project Sunshine is celebrating its volunteers throughout April, Project Sunshine Month. The month is dedicated to raising awareness and support for the organization through a series of events and programs.

Project Sunshine is a nonprofit organization that empowers a dynamic and dedicated corps of more than 10,000 volunteers to bring programming – recreational (arts), educational (tutoring and mentoring) and social service (HIV and nutritional counseling) – to more than



**Project Sunshine, 'Star for a Day', Christy enjoys beauty treatments including a manicure by Project Sunshine volunteer Miss Teen USA Danielle Doty at Mount Sinai Hospital.**

60,000 children facing medical challenges and their families in 150 major cities across the United States, and in five international satellite sites: Canada, China, Israel, Kenya, and Puerto Rico. Project Sunshine is dedicated to bringing a ray of hope to these hospitalized children.

Project Sunshine Week is a week dedicated to raising awareness and support for the organization through a series of events and programs. For more information, please visit [www.projectsunshine.org](http://www.projectsunshine.org).

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*'In the test series against Australia in the West Indies, the local batsmen will have to perform very well for their team to have any chances of success.'*

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 41

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## JA's Jacobs plans for future

By Robert Elkin

Winthrop Jacobs is thinking about competing in back-to-back road races next week. First, the race on Long Beach Boardwalk and then on the following day or Sunday, April 22 the race in Alley Pond Park in Queens Village. At the same time, the two races could be a little too much for him.

Jacobs is coming off a 34:34.7 for 29th place in a field of 389 finishers in the Run Nassau Cedar Creek Park five-mile race during the fourth leg of the five-series event in Wantagh.

The 56-year-old Jacobs originally hails from Jamaica, West Indies, where the main sports are soccer and cricket. Jacobs at one time was involved in these two activities. In soccer, he played in the defence position.

Jacobs said that he came to Jamaica, New York at a age 13 and resided in New York most his life.

Of course, at that time cricket was not a sport here in New York; now it has grown immensely in the public schools and in outside leagues. At that time, he did not

Continued on next page

## Gayle signs brokered deal

By Azad Ali

West Indies hard-hitting opening batsman Chris Gayle has signed a CARICOM-brokered agreement with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), but with a 'side-letter' whose contents are yet to be disclosed.

The WICB said St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves provided a copy of Gayle's 'side-letter.'

"The matter was discussed and the board will respond to the prime minister shortly," the WICB said.

Continued on next page



Chris Gayle.  
AP Photo/Andres Leighton



# STARS NOT SHINING

Galaxy's poor play a cause for concern

Todd Dunivant #2 of Los Angeles and Kei Kamara #23 of Sporting KC in action during the MLS game between the LA Galaxy and the Sporting Kansas City at Livestrong Stadium in Kansas City KS. Cal Sport Media via AP Images

By Patrick Horne

The Los Angeles Galaxy, the second most storied MLS franchises in the league's 17 years that has won three MLS Cup championships, second only to DC United's four titles, captured four

Supporters Shield titles, the accolade for the best regular season record, and its two U.S. Open Cup championships is causing much concern because of its poor play so far.

The current defending MLS Cup and

Supporter's Shield champion has only one victory in four games this season and surprising, the three losses were at home, in the Home Depot Center where the team was undefeated last season.

Continued on next page

# Henry leads the Bulls charge

Continued from previous page

The Galaxy's latest loss came last Saturday night when Kei Kamara's goal carried the undefeated hosts Sporting Kansas City (5-0) to a 1-0 defeat of the mighty Galaxy (1-3). The defending champion returned most of last year's championship-winning performers and was expected to just pick up where it left off, but just maybe the contribution of the few absentees was underestimated.

When Jamaican international goal keeper Donovan Ricketts was hurt last year, Josh Saunders made credible showings in goal, which paved the way for a Ricketts trade to expansion franchise Vancouver Whitecaps, but Saunders reportedly has been much less than stellar this season. What compounds Saunders' average performances this season is the weakened defensive backline in the absence of Omar Gonzalez, who tore his right ACL while on loan to a German club in the off season and is still recovering from surgery; an adequate replace to team with A.J. De La Garza has not been found and Los Angeles' poor defensive performance was on display in the New England Revolution's 3-1 spanking of the MLS champion two weeks ago.

Defensive midfielder Chris Birchall was not re-signed and head coach Bruce Arena must rue the lost of Birchall as he oversees a Galaxy midfield that has lost some fight. The midfield was without English international David Beckham against Sporting Kansas City; both Beckham and U.S. international Landon Donovan have been injured and have seen limited action in the five games, and therein lies the tale of the midfield to date.

The offensive output has been another major disappointment;

when 2010 leading scorer Edson Buddle returned after a stint in Germany, it was expected that the U.S. forward's partnership with Irish international Robbie Keane would be productive. Keane, who played a major part in helping the Galaxy finish as champions last year, has scored three goals and Buddle has one.

The season has a long way to go, and knowing Arena, he'll do whatever it takes to try to turn the tide in Los Angeles; he'll have to do it quickly because losing is catching and it will be extremely hard to fall too far behind and catch-up in a very competitive Western Conference.

## Red Bull Henry On A Tear

The New York Red Bulls is riding the goal-producing wave of Thierry Henry and frontline partner Kenny Cooper. The Red Bulls (3-2) defeated the Columbus Crew (2-2), 4-1, last Saturday to get their third straight victory; Henry and Cooper each scored twice to carry the team victory and helped the team to lead MLS in most goals scored with 14; Henry has seven and Cooper six. Chad Marshall scored in the last minute of play for Columbus.

Cooper scored in the third and 13th minutes while Henry tallied in the 40th and 90th minutes; the duo has executed efficiently in the early goings of games, which helps the team to get good starts. Against the Crew, Medhi Ballouchy started his first game of the season and looks like he could be the creative spark that could help the Red Bulls create more fluent play in midfield. The ball moved well with Ballouchy in the middle, and this helped other midfielders Dax McCarty and Rafael Marquez as well. Jamaican international Dane Richards was

his usual hard-working self in midfield.

The Red Bulls defense was not as fluent in its play without Colombian Wilma Conde; there was miscommunication between goalkeeper Ryan Meara and his central defenders Stephen Keel and Marcus Holgersson, who fouled unnecessarily and still seems to have problems adjusting the MLS. The defensive unit is still a major concern for Coach Hans Backe, but luckily, Henry and Cooper are producing, which gives Backe some time to sort out his defensive unit.

## MLS

In other MLS results last weekend FC Dallas knocked off New England Revolution, 1-0, Montreal Impact topped Toronto, 2-1; the San Jose Earthquake was a 3-1 winner over the Vancouver Whitecaps; DC United and Seattle played to a goalless draw; Real



New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry. AP Photo/Mel Evans

Salt Lake topped Colorado, 2-0; and Chivas USA beat the Portland Timbers, 2-1

## Japan Wins

Women's World Cup champion Japan seems primed for the Olympics this summer. The Japanese beat the U.S. in last summer's Women's World Cup

final in Germany and has kept on with their winning ways. Last Thursday hosts Japan beat Brazil, 4-1, to win the three-team round robin Kirin Cup tournament by goal difference. The Japanese and the U.S. tied their game, 1-1, but U.S. only managed a 3-0 defeat of Brazil in that contest. Brazil was missing its top player Marta.

# Road racing in full swing

Continued from previous page

play any sports in high school, because Jamaica, more noted for basketball and track, did not field a cricket team. He did not go out for any teams.

"I started running when I was 25 years of age because I was working at the time and needed exercise," he recalled. "I think that running is a great sport but just for the exercise. It's good for me and I enjoy it."

Jacobs is a member of the Renegade's Running Club and along with some of the members of the club anticipate competing in one or both of those races.

The annual race at Alley Pond Pak is conducted by the Alley Pond Striders Running Club. It is an age group event that starts on Winchester Boulevard outside of the park and north of Union Turnpike. It finishes inside the park, itself.

For most of the prior years, including last spring, Jacobs

competed in this race when he clocked in at 35 minutes. Right now he is not in great shape.

"I also do speed workouts," said the second finisher from Queens to come across the finish line behind first finisher from this borough Ozone Park's Roberto Escobar, who was timed in 33:23.7. for 20th place.

Jacobs' best time for a 5K race was about 18:40; his fastest time for a five-mile race came when he ran a 31:30, a long time ago. He never did a marathon, but next month he will be making his debut in the Brooklyn Half Marathon in late May.

"It'll be interesting," he said. "I'm not especially good at (a 13.1 mile event). "In any half marathon event, my strategy is to take it easy because I'm not great in running fast. "I'll take it as it comes. In an easy (like a 5K or five-miler) I would start out slow and pick it up as I go

along."

In addition to running, Jacobs, a resident of Springfield Gardens, not far from Alley Pond Park, has a full time job as a computer programmer.

"I train about 20 miles a week for short distance races, but for longer runs and half marathons, I'd do more and try to do long runs on the weekend, eight to 12 miles on the weekend and I train at Alley Pond Park most weekend for my long runs."

Meanwhile, Shaun McGrath of Seaford, New York, easily captured the Cedar Creek Park five-mile run in 27:27.6. The first female to cross the finish line was Shari Klarfeld of Pranier, New York, who was clocked in 31:53.7 for 12th position overall.

The road racing scene is now upon us as there are events almost every weekend and all over the City as well as in Long Island.

# Gayle - WICB truce

Continued from previous page

The Jamaican Gleaner reported that the agreement, which was drafted by CARICOM in a bid to resolve the impasse between the former West Indies captain and the board had been signed by the WICB recently.

However, questions still remain over Gayle's comeback to the West Indies side.

He is contracted to represent Royal Challengers Bangalore in the upcoming Indian Premier League this month and Somerset

in England's domestic Twenty20 tournament later this summer.

A resolution to the year-long dispute between Gayle and the WICB was raised at a high-level meeting recently in Dominica but no decision could be reached.

Before the meeting, the Gleaner had reported that Gayle was likely to either submit an apology or retract his comments made against the board and Windies Coach Ottis Gibson during a radio interview.

Go to [www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com](http://www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com) for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.



# Windies batting falls apart during regional tourney

During the Regional Four-Day competition in the Caribbean it has been shown that the batsmen in the region have difficulties in achieving a high scoring rate. The competition has shown that the batting falls apart easily and the past high esteem of West Indies batsmen is not being maintained.

Most of the players who should be making significant contributions in their batting have been failing frequently. Kirk Edwards, Darren Bravo and Marlon Samuels have not scored many runs and their poor scoring may affect the West Indies' efforts in the test matches.

Adrian Barath returned from his injury and scored a century for Trinidad and Tobago against Guyana.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul has shown his top class as usual and Barbados opener Kraig Brathwaite is still to show that he is in top



## Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

form. In the start of the test series against Australia in the West Indies, the local batsmen will have to perform very well for their team to have any chances of success.

### Jamaica Defeats Guyana Inside Three Days

Nikita Miller and Odean Brown guided Jamaica to a 133-run win over Guyana at the Sabina Park ground in Jamaica in the semi-final.

Miller who was named man-of-the-match picked up match figures of 7 for 44 and leg spinner Odean Brown in the second innings picked up 3 for 32. Jamaica scored 196

and 189, and Guyana 126 and 126. Devendra Bishoo picked up 5 for 62 and Veersammy Permaul 3 for 51 for Guyana.

### Barbados Defeats Trinidad and Tobago in Semi-finals

Sulieman Benn got match figures of 9 for 63 as Barbados defeated Trinidad and Tobago at the Queen's Park Oval. Raviram Paul returned for Trinidad and Tobago and picked up 4 for 55 return from injury. Jamaica will face Barbados in the Regional Four-Day Final.

Jamaica has been playing some superb cricket this year and for the past four seasons also.



West Indies' Adrian Barath.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

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# WIPA prez resigns; Hinds takes over

By Azad Ali

West Indies Players Association (WIPA) President Dinanath Ramnarine has resigned, citing the need to refresh and reinvigorate the organization with new leadership.

A WIPA statement noted that the WIPA board of directors had announced the resignation and that it came "as no surprise since the long-serving president has always advocated and sought to refresh and reinvigorate the organization with new leadership."

Ramnarine, a former test spinner, assumed this position of WIPA president in 2002 at the same time that Wavell Hinds was appointed treasurer.

Ramnarine's resignation took effect from March 31 and Hinds, who has served on the WIPA's executive for the same period as Ramnarine, will assume the presidency of the players association until the annual general meeting later this year.



Dinanath Ramnarine.

AP Photo/Shirley Bahadur

# Serena Williams on U.S. Fed Cup team; Venus is not

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Serena Williams is on the U.S. Fed Cup roster for matches against Ukraine on April 21-22, but her sister Venus is not.

Joining the 13-time Grand Slam champion on the team announced by Fed Cup captain Mary Joe Fernandez on Wednesday are Christina McHale, Sloane Stephens, and Liezel Huber.

The best-of-five-match series will be on clay at Kharkiv, Ukraine.

The country that wins will be promoted into the main Fed Cup group in 2013 and be able to compete for the title. The loser will drop into World Group II.

Serena Williams is making her second consecutive Fed Cup appearance after winning twice against Belarus in February to improve to 6-0 in singles play in the team competition.



Serena Williams hits a shot to Lucie Safarova, of the Czech Republic, during the final at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Sunday, April 8, 2012. Williams won 6-0, 6-1.

AP Photo/Mic Smith

# 'Preservation Oscars' for N.Y. landmarks

Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Central Park Police Precinct, Hamilton Grange National Memorial, Rod Rodgers & Duo Multicultural Arts Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral Rectory are among the recipients that will be recognized at the April 25 ceremony at the New-York Historical Society.

The New York Landmarks Conservancy announced the winners of the 22nd Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards recently.

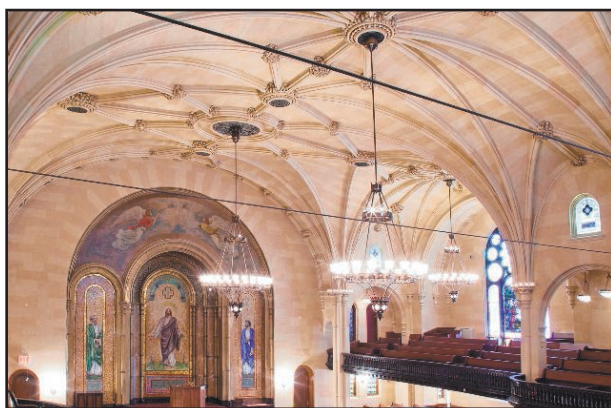
The coveted awards, called the "Preservation Oscars," are named after dedicated New Yorker Lucy G. Moses. They recognize individual leadership and outstanding preservation work. This work provides jobs, promotes tourism, maintains beloved institutions and protects the character of the City.

John Belle, founding partner of Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, will receive the Preservation Leadership Award for his role as one of the country's leading preservation architects.

New York City Council Members, Brad Lander and Steve Levin will receive the Public Leadership Award for facing down opposition and voting on the merits to affirm the designation of the Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District in Brooklyn.

The Lucy G. Moses Award project recipients are:

- 58 Hicks Street, Brooklyn
- Banner Building, 648 Broadway
- Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Brooklyn
- Central Park Police Precinct
- New York City Center
- Hamilton Grange National Memorial, Harlem
- New-York Historical Society
- Newtown High School,



Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

Photo by Trix Rosen



Central Park Police Precinct.

Photo by Peter Mauss



St. Patrick Cathedral Rectory.

Photo by Ty Cole

- Queens
- Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, Bronx
- Rod Rodgers & Duo Multicultural Arts Center, 62 East Fourth Street
- St. Patrick's Cathedral Rectory
- TWA Terminal, Queens

"The awards are a celebration of outstanding restoration projects

throughout the city as well as some extraordinary individuals," said Peg Breen, president of The New York Landmarks Conservancy. "The awards are a perfect reminder that preservation creates local jobs and encourages tourism. It's a joyous evening as we salute great work and great people."

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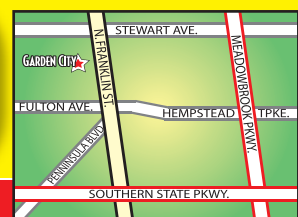


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# Caribbean Crossword by StatePoint Media, Inc.

## ACROSS

1. One who pretends to be something he is not
6. Cruise or Hanks, e.g.
9. A tropical South American monkey
13. Far beyond norm
14. Bleat
15. Floor covering
16. Slanted or listed
17. Bow shape
18. Tripod
19. \*Pinching crustacean
21. \*Underwater flower
23. Make lacework
24. Go cold turkey
25. International Monetary Fund
28. Holier than who?
30. A hand tool for drawing angles, pl.
35. "Yes, \_\_\_\_!"
37. "Layla" singer-songwriter
39. Roman king's abode
40. A fit of shivering
41. On fishing pole, pl.
43. "Coal Miner's Daughter"
44. Whatchamacallit
46. Relating to the ear
47. Caricatured
48. \*Octopuses
50. On top of
52. Put to the test
53. Duds or threads
55. Wound fluid

57. Ancient wind instrument
61. \*Daryl Hannah in "Splash"
65. Archeologist's find
66. Maiden name indicator
68. \_\_\_\_ Domingo
69. Kiwanis and Elks groups, e.g.
70. Even (poetic)
71. \_\_\_\_ Park, CO
72. Contributions to the poor
73. H1N1, e.g.
74. Crevice stuffers

## DOWN

1. Door sign
2. Margarine
3. Back wound?
4. German surrealist Max
5. Knocks on the door, e.g.
6. Ski lift
7. \*Rowboat propeller
8. Reverted to China in '99
9. Now Thailand
10. In addition
11. Type of eye?
12. \_\_\_\_ of Man
15. Move unsteadily
20. Olden days anesthetic
22. Writing point of pen
24. Eternal sleep
25. Idealized image
26. Ex-Laker Johnson
27. He sold his soul to Mephistopheles

29. Popular dunking cookie
31. A sails-shaped constellation
32. It borders Mediterranean and Red seas
33. \*The Titanic was one of these
34. \*Spongebob's air-breathing friend
36. Office communique
38. Paper holder
42. \*A peri \_\_\_\_ lets a submariner see above water
45. Light studies
49. Charged particle
51. Florence Nightingale and the like
54. Thief, Yiddish
56. New show with Debra Messing
57. \*Black and white killer?
58. Independent unit of life
59. Obama to Harvard Law School, e.g.
60. Barbequed anatomy
61. Carte du jour
62. Not in favor
63. Individual unit
64. Sleep in a convenient place
67. \*It can be electric

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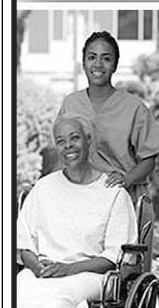
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## ► JOB INFORMATION

**DeBlasio Warns Consumers About Classified Ads**

Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

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Please bring photo ID for building entrance



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► **LEGAL NOTICES**

► **LEGAL**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN TREVOR ANTOINE Plaintiff**

**vs BERNADETTE FLOOD, Defendant**  
BERNADETTE FLOOD  
ADDRESS: 961 Eastern PWY, Apt. F5, Brooklyn, NY, 11213

CASE NO. ST-11-DI-208  
**ACTION FOR DIVORCE**

Within the time limited by law you are required to appear before the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action for divorce. In case of your failure to appear or answer, Judgment by Default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint for Divorce.

Witness my hand and seal of this Court this 2nd day of November, 2011.

Clerk of the Court  
Venetia H. Velazquez, Esq.

Address:  
Trevor Antoine, Pro Se  
19B Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, VI 00802

► **LEGAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A LICENSE 1261925 HAS BEEN APPLIED FOR BY PEKING ROAST DUCK INC. TO SELL LIQUOR AT A RESTAURANT FOR ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION UNDER THE ABC LAW AT 37-02 PRINCE STREET, flushing, ny 11354

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A LICENSE

► **LEGAL**

1261929 HAS BEEN APPLIED FOR BY LOVE HOUSE CAFE INC. TO SELL LIQUOR AT A RESTAURANT FOR ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION UNDER THE ABC LAW AT 35-28 FARRINGTON STREET, flushing, ny 11354

**Notice is hereby given** that an on-premise license, #TBA has been applied for by Mister Blue LLC d/b/a The Exley to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in an on-premises establishment. For on premises consumption under the ABC law at 520 Union Avenue aka 1 Jackson Street Brooklyn NY 11211.

► **LEGAL**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/10/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000357-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Kenneth (Middle) J. (Last) Callender. My present name is (First) Kenneth (Middle) J. (Last) Callender AKA Kenneth Callender. My present address is 1169 East 55th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-. My place of birth is Trinidad and Tobago. My date of birth is August 24, 1950.

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► **READERS AND ADVISORS**

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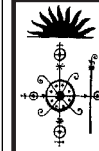
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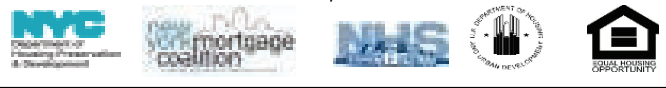
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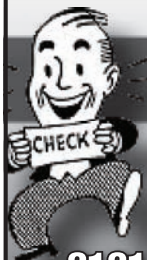
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# LEARN TO EARN! EDUCATION & CAREER TRAINING

## Conquering the fear, returning to the classroom

Once you have determined that completing your degree is the best way to achieve your life goals, you've probably done your research. You've figured out how to make the time, how to pay for school, and what degree to pursue. One thing, however, may still be holding you back — fear.

It can be scary walking into a classroom full of strangers. What if things are completely different from when you last set foot on a campus? What if everyone in the class is in their teens and you can't relate?

"Being nervous about returning to college is not necessarily a bad thing," said Dr. Mary Hawkins, president of Bellevue University. "Your apprehension shows your desire to do well. More than 2.5 million people over the age of 30 currently attend college in the U.S. Don't let fear take away the chance to accomplish the new goals you've set for yourself."

**Research the learning environment**  
 "Familiarizing yourself with the situation will help alleviate some of the tension," Dr. Hawkins suggests. A good place to start is the National Center for Education Statistics at [nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov). The site's College Navigator tool allows you to search more than 7,000 schools and view enrollment statistics, including age breakdown, on each. This will give you a good picture of whether the school you are considering attracts more adult learners or more traditional students.

**Speak with current students and alumni**  
 Next, call the schools at the top of your list and ask for referrals to students who have taken or are currently enrolled in the program you might enter.

"This is the best way to get a firsthand account of the experience you will have," Dr. Hawkins says. "Students and alumni have nothing to gain or lose by being honest about their experiences. Make sure to speak to more than one individual to get a more balanced view of the student experience."

If you feel more comfortable with an indirect route, you can pose your questions to any alumni groups the school may have on social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn.

**Give yourself a deadline**  
 Simply putting your plan in writing or talking about it out loud can give you the momentum and accountability to get moving. Give yourself as much time as you need, but set a firm deadline. Determine a specific date by which you plan to begin your coursework. Tell family and friends who, you feel, will be supportive.

"Remember, most of your classmates will be as nervous as you are," Hawkins says. "Much like going to the gym after years away or going to the doctor for your yearly checkup, the anticipation is often worse than the actual experience."

Don't let fear hold you back; once you overcome it, you are on your way to a more promising future. — NAPS

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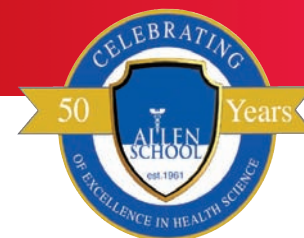
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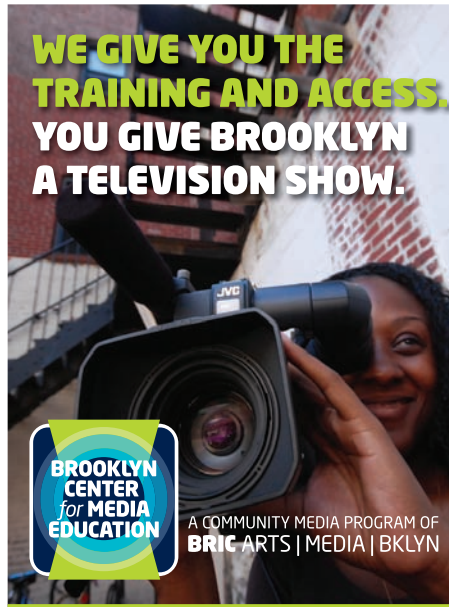


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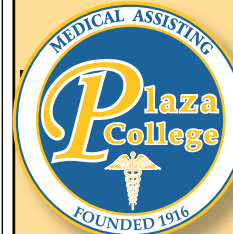
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