

Caribbean Life

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**A Knight
of Soul**
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Appeal for Western loans, grants

By Bert Wilkinson

The 15-member Caribbean trade bloc Wednesday said it had asked the U.S., Canada, Australia and other countries to help change the rules at multilateral agencies like the World Bank to help its poorer members qualify for concession loans and grants because current rules have "graduated many" island nations from preferential treatment.

Regional leaders lobbied President Barack Obama, Canada's Stephen Harper, Mexico's Felipe Calderon and Brazil's Dilma Rousseff at last weekend's summit of the Americas in Colombia to have the rules changed at the upcoming G-20 meeting in Mexico in June, as the global financial crisis, the collapse of the banana industry and reduced numbers of visitors to the region have left many bloc members in dire economic straits, the grouping said in a statement Wednesday.

Current World Bank and
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"This should be the last regional summit without Cuba" declared President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, host of the Summit of the Americas.
AP Photo/Fernando Llano

LIVID OVER CUBA

Upset over exclusion from Summit

By Nelson A. King

While Cuba was not invited to the Summit of the Americas that opened in Cartagena, Colombia, on Apr. 14, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country loomed large over the meeting of 30 leaders from the Americas, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), some of whom failed in an eleventh-hour push to invite the communist country.

"It would be remiss of my del-

egation if it did not express its profound disappointment that all member States of this hemisphere were not afforded the opportunity to attend and participate in this Sixth Summit," said Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer in his opening remarks.

"Antigua and Barbuda would wish to make clear that it fully supports and looks forward to the attendance

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Caribbean

Travel and tourism stakeholders from the wider Caribbean diaspora recently attended a meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to discuss the critical importance of regional tourism.

The USVI Department of Tourism held a breakfast presentation for industry stakeholders and the general public which was chaired by Tourism Organization (CTO) Chairman Senator Ricky Skerritt, who is also the St. Kitts and Nevis minister of Tourism and International Transport.

Theme of the conference was "There's Never Been a More Crucial Time in Caribbean Tourism" which was held at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Resort.

The high-level talks come on the heels of the Department's Strategic Visioning Retreat, one of the steps in developing a rolling five-year tourism development plan.

Antigua

Antigua Civil Aviation Minister John Maginley has indicated that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to leave the door open for low-cost carrier REDjet to resume flights to the island.

He was speaking against the backdrop of reports that the Trinidad and Tobago government has revoked the licenses it granted to the Barbados-based airline,

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United States of America's President Barack Obama is photographed at a multilateral meeting with Caribbean Leaders during the sixth Summit of the Americas, Sunday, April 15, 2012, in Cartagena, Colombia. AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

CARICOM leaders meet with Mexican counterpart

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders held a special meeting on the margins of the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, on Sunday, with President of Mexico Felipe de Jesus Calderón, in which they discussed a wide range of issues, including mechanisms for further bilateral and hemispheric cooperation, and strategies to prevent further financial fallout from the global economic crisis.

One of the key issues discussed was the need to develop a plan of action to address poverty and to avert a further decline of regional economies, according to Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

"There is need for immediate intervention to address the negative effects being experienced as a result of the financial crisis," said Spencer after the meeting.

"Without direct intervention, there is increased risk of economic decline and concomitantly social disintegration," he added. "We cannot sit by and allow our people and our economies to suffer."

Spencer said he and his colleagues also sought the assistance of the Mexican president in raising the concerns of Antigua and Barbuda and the CARICOM sub-region at the G20 meeting.

Some CARICOM member states are characterized as middle income by most of the Group of 20 (G20) of the world's richer countries and are, therefore, not able to access certain sources of financing.

"CARICOM member states are not members of the G20. We must, therefore, rely on our allies to bring our issues of concern to the wider G20 membership, and the government of Mexico has readily agreed to assist in this regard," Spencer said.

In a separate meeting, the Antiguan leader held talks on Sunday with U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk on Antigua's Internet Gaming case against the United States.

Spencer said he expressed disappointment that, although the case was first adjudicated in 2003, Antigua and Barbuda and the United States are yet to find a "mutually agreeable solution to settle the case."

The prime minister noted that Antigua and Barbuda had put forth several options to settle the case but that "there has been no fairness in the proposals received from the United States to date.

"Antigua and Barbuda's Internet gaming sector has been decimated by the actions of the United States, and we believe that we must be fairly compensated for those losses," Spencer said.

Continued on page 8

Suriname immunity disturbs U.N. chief

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said on Apr. 13 she was "disturbed" by the recent decision by Suriname to pass an amendment to an existing law that grants immunity for human rights violations committed during the 12-year period in which the country was, for the most part, under military rule.

"The High Commissioner believes this amendment to the law will deny most families of victims their rights to justice, truth and reparation," said Pillay's spokesperson, Rupert Colville, told reporters.

The new law extends the brief period covered by an earlier amnesty law to include any offences that took place between Apr. 1, 1980 and Aug. 19, 1992 "in the context of the defense of the State," preventing

any future investigations on gross human rights violations committed between those dates.

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), one case which involves the former and current President Desi Bouterse may be affected, and could potentially be halted altogether.

Bouterse, along with 24 other

Continued on page 8

CARICOM faces 2017 financial collapse

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) could collapse by 2017.

This is according to the CARICOM Secretariat based in Georgetown, Guyana, which has submitted a troubling report indicating that the regional bloc could collapse in five years.

The report was submitted recently at the 23rd Inter-Sessional Meeting of the CARICOM heads of government conference, which took place in Suriname.

In the report, the Secretariat warned that the regional integration movement could come to an end because of poor financing, dissatisfaction and ongoing world economic crisis.

The report contends that if CARICOM and other regional institutions continue to struggle for funds, they could collapse in another four to five years.

The operating budget of the CARICOM Secretariat has remained stagnant at just under US\$20 million for the past four years.

The report says this is despite inflation and an increasing workload of international travel, commissioned studies and other assignments from leaders.

Requests for additional funding have been denied as member governments blame harsh economic times.

But the report notes there is a significant risk that CARICOM could be brought down quickly if the international economic situation deteriorates.

It further says many member countries are highly indebted and are struggling to meet domestic and international commitments.

But the report says all is not lost as a turnaround could be made if the nature of the current crisis and its seriousness are fully appreciated.

The CARICOM review was commissioned by leaders more than a year ago to examine the state of the regional bloc after 39 years in existence.



Five-time Olympian, Grace Jackson, is flanked by team member Tricia Douglas; Devon Harris, '88 Bob Sled Team captain and Irwine Clare, Team Jamaica Bickle CEO. Photo by Donovan Gopie

Jamaican Olympians receive U.S. Awards

By Nelson A. King

Two of Jamaica's most prolific Olympians, Grace Jackson and Bertland Cameron have been honored with proclamations from U.S. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-Brooklyn).

The proclamations were presented at the Team Jamaica Bickle annual reception and awards ceremony in Manhattan, Thursday, hosted by fellow Olympian and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Devon Harris. Harris captained Jamaica's 1998 Winter Olympic Bob Sled Team.

Other Olympians on hand were Alfred Daley, 400m specialist, who shared the stage with Lennox Miller, Donald Quarrie and later, a younger Bertland Cameron; Andria Lloyd, who represented Jamaica in the 1996 Olympics 4x100m relays; and Danny McFarlane, silver medalist in the 4x400m. Olympic games.

Leroy Comrie, the Jamaica-born Councilman, who represents the 27th Council District in Queens, and Grenada-born Councilman Jumaane Williams, who represents Brooklyn's 45th District, presented citations to the honorees.

"Both Bertland and myself are extremely grateful to be recognized by an entity, who like ourselves, are working hard to make a difference in sports," Jackson said.

"To do something that you love and be hon-

ored by your peers is an extraordinary feeling," she added.

In a special recorded message to the honorees, on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica, Sports Minister Natalie Neita-Headley, said she was delighted in joining Team Jamaica Bickle and the Diaspora in "celebrating Jamaica's best assets, her people, against the backdrop of Jamaica's 50th Anniversary of Independence."

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, and we thank the community whole-heartedly," said Irwine Clare, founder and president of the New York-based Team Jamaica Bickle.

The nonprofit organization provides "much needed support" for Jamaican athletes who compete at the annual Penn Relays Carnival, held at the University of Pennsylvania. This year's event starts from Apr. 26-28.

Team Jamaica Bickle has supported athletes and athletic programs for the past 17 years. Currently, its services extend to a delegation of about 750 athletes, coaches and volunteers from Jamaica; other Caribbean countries, which includes Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and the U.S.

In 1999, Team Jamaica Bickle became the first Jamaican organization to be a participating sponsor at the Penn Relays.

Black Dragon tops 'em in Spanish marketing contest

LIU students win international competition LIU Brooklyn student wins Spanish competition

Stephanie Persaud, a marketing and management major at LIU Brooklyn, was a member of the winning team at an international marketing competition held at the Universidad Europea de Madrid in Valencia, Spain.

More than 50 students from Germany, France, Belgium and other European countries and the United States participated in International Marketing Week. The object of the competition was to create a marketing strategy for a wine label.

Persaud, 20, of Guyanese heritage, a junior at LIU Brooklyn and her successful teammates had an ambitious plan: They chose the label "The Black Dragon," invented three wine products and developed marketing for a Hong Kong market.

"We were the only group to do three wines and the only group to create an ad, as well as a product label and bottle design," said Persaud.

The South Ozone Park, Queens, resident added, "It was a great networking and learning experience. I got to meet students I would never have met in my lifetime from all over Europe and learned about the culture of Spain."

In addition to Persaud, two other LIU Brooklyn marketing majors - seniors Wayne Lawson and Amanda Pokhan - participated in the event, which was held the first week of March.

"We develop global perspectives in our students, and this is a tes-



Stephanie Persaud.

Photo Credit: LIU Brooklyn Campus

tament to our internationalization initiatives at LIU Brooklyn," said Mohammed Ghriga, dean of LIU Brooklyn's School of Business, Public Administration and Information Sciences. "Stephanie has shown leadership in interdisciplinary teams and a multicultural context. We are very proud of the quality of her work and her representation of our school."

Persaud, who plans to attend grad school and go on to a career in international marketing, has been very active in her campus and personal life. Her activities include volunteering with Students for Humanity to help renovate houses in Costa Rica.

She is a member of an education club that helps bring awareness

to youths about college, as well as the president elect of the Marketing Society. She has been named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, is on the Dean's List and has earned the Jim Moody Internship Award.

She has interned with BRIC Arts Media Center and with Island Def Jam Records, in marketing and event planning.

She also works with America Reads, tutoring young children, and at Broadway Suites, a company that rents office spaces to small businesses.

A Dynamic Curricula

The Brooklyn Campus is distinguished by its dynamic curricula reflecting the great urban community it serves. Distinctive programs encompass the arts and media, the natural sciences, business, social policy, urban education, the health professions and pharmacy, and include the Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, the Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics, the D.P.T. in Physical Therapy and the Pharm.D. in Pharmacy. A vibrant urban oasis in downtown Brooklyn, this diverse and thriving campus offers academic excellence, personalized attention, small class size and flexible course schedules. In 2006, a \$45-million Wellness, Recreation and Athletic Center was opened to serve the campus and the surrounding community. In 2007, the Cyber Café was launched, providing a high-tech hot spot for students and faculty members to meet and eat.

New board in place for New York's West Indian Day Carnival 2012

By Kenton Kirby

Members of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) say are pleased to announce the election of its new board of directors and officers who were duly "nominated, voted in and installed" on Wednesday April 11, 2012

The election was "overseen and conducted by two experienced attorneys" the board added, in a statement released Monday.

Members elected to office are:

Thomas Bailey, president; Bryan Block, vice president; Deborah Benjamin, vice president; William R. Howard, vice president; Eric Gibbs, chairman; Angela Sealy, treasurer; Jean P. Alexander, secretary.

Other Board members are: Yolanda L. Clark, Calvin Collins, Karen Williams, Michael Greaves, Larry Allahdua, Randolph Brewster, Godfrey Jack, Randolph Babb.

"Members have been busy at work for the past three months handling many areas that needed attention," Bailey said.

"There's much hard work ahead. The new board is determined to hit the ground running.

"WIADCA asks the community for their continued support as the organization makes an all-out effort to tackle and overcome all obstacles and meet all obligations head-on." Bailey added.

Cuba's presence looms large at Summit of the Americas

Continued from cover

of the Republic of Cuba at the next Summit of the Americas, and will work with those delegations committed to this cause," he added.

"Equally important, Antigua and Barbuda and, indeed, the CARICOM region, calls upon this august body to clearly and unequivocally urge the United States to bring an end to the economic blockade," Spencer continued.

Calling the near half-century-old U.S. embargo on Cuba anachronistic, host President Juan Manuel Santos said this should be the last of the regional summits without Cuba.

"Isolation, embargo, indifference and looking the other way have shown their inefficiency," he said to resounding applause. "It is anachronism that keeps us anchored in a Cold War era."

Santos, who is considered a moderate and among the United States' closest allies in the region, said future summits without Cuba would be "unac-

ceptable." Colombia's president "We cannot be indifferent to a process of change within Cuba," he said.

The United States and Canada remained adamant in their opposition to Cuba's participation, saying that the summit mechanism was reserved for demo-

This should be the last summit without Cuba.

Juan Manuel Santos

cratic nations and that Cuba did not meet that standard.

But regional leaders say Cuba should be brought into the democratic fold by including it, rather than excluding it from such gatherings.

Pre-summit negotiations among foreign ministers concluded with the United States and Canada blocking wording in the draft Presidents' declaration

that would call for Cuba's inclusion in future summits.

Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timmerman announced that a proposal had been made Friday to extend a last-minute invitation to Cuban leader Raúl Castro, but consensus on the proposal was not reached.

Obama, speaking at a business leaders meeting parallel to the summit, did not mention the Cuba issue but said that the media was in a "time warp" focusing on controversies that "date back to before I was born."

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa had announced beforehand that he would not participate in the summit, in an act of protest over Cuba's exclusion.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez also stayed away, saying the Cuban doctors who were treating him for cancer had called him back to Havana for more radiotherapy. And Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega, who had been expected, simply did not show up.

Caribbean seeks help with concession financing

Continued from cover

International Monetary Fund (IMF) rules use a country's gross domestic product and *per capita* income levels to determine which nations should get concession financing and soft loans, but the bloc said that these need to be reviewed to keep pace with current-day reality.

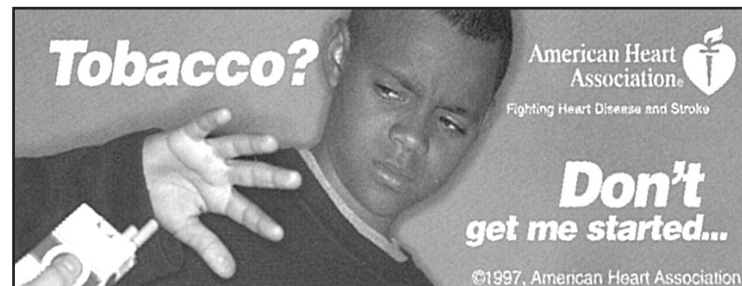
Caricom said "a number of countries have been graduated out of the concessional financing arrangements because they have been classified as middle-Fernando Llano income countries," a development it said that has nothing to do with the situation on the ground.

"That is the main thing we want them to discuss at the

summit as far as the region is concerned," spokesman Leonard Robertson said at the beginning of the Summit. "We are specifically pleading with them to do so, as many countries have been graduated out of the concession financing category and really need the help. That is the help we want from these countries," Robertson said.

Leaders met Obama on Sunday, Harper on Saturday and Calderon on Friday.

Caricom also said that Calderon promised to get the issue on the agenda of the G-20 Summit and that further discussions on the issue will be held in Barbados when Mexico and Caricom meet for routine discussions.



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Ninth regional win for Monroe SIFE

Advances to the National Exposition

By Gary Axelbank

On Wednesday, April 11 the Monroe College SIFE Team won a regional competition and as a result will advance to the SIFE USA National Exposition on May 22-24 in Kansas City, MO.

This will be the ninth consecutive year that Monroe will participate in the Nationals. In 2005, the Monroe College SIFE team was a National SIFE Champion and they were featured on the Kellogg's Corn Flakes box.

SIFE, which stands for Students in Free Enterprise, is an international organization that encourages students to apply what is learned in the classroom toward making communities better. SIFE teams from participating colleges present their projects in an inter-active multi-media format to be judged by corporate executives.

In 2012 for the first time, the Monroe SIFE team merged members from the college's two New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle to maximize the resources on community projects and create a more unified presentation. The results were obvious to all who were on hand for the team's multi-media performance that took place at the N.Y. Hilton on the Avenue of Americas in Manhattan.

"We felt strongly that we could serve our communities more efficiently if we got the students from both campuses on the same page," said Sam Walton Fellow Professor Stacy Crawford, who serves as the SIFE team's primary faculty advisor, "and we're thrilled with the results. The projects were better focused and were quite effective. Also our team members developed the art of compromise having to work with a diverse group. We're very

proud of what we've been able to do with SIFE this year."

Former Monroe SIFE Presidents Cecil Wright and Sherman Browne and Sam Walton Fellows Karian Wright and Oral Seymour helped the current team develop its presentation and guided them through the competition.

This year's Monroe SIFE projects are published in an annual report called, "Architects of Hope." They include:

Youth Empowerment Program - To empower youth by teaching loan management and financial aid awareness, encourage them to harness social media productively for entrepreneurial ventures, introduce positive role models, and enhance social and academic skills. To help accomplish these goals the SIFE team secured a grants from Lowe's and TIAA-CREF.

Community Empowerment Program - To fight hunger, equip women in shelters with the necessary tools and skills to earn personal income with an eye toward self-sufficiency, and provide career readiness training. The SIFE team collected more than 3,000 lbs. of non-perishable goods, delivered meals and groceries to more than 150 families and provided extensive job and career development support.

Entrepreneurial Empowerment Program - To provide fledgling and struggling entrepreneurs with the skills and tools to launch and manage their businesses, promote environmental awareness among local businesses and create 'green' business plans, and to help business owners increase efficiency and productivity. To accomplish these goals the SIFE team secured grants from Capital One Bank and HSBC.



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Last Summit of the Americas without Cuba

By Constanza Vieira

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, Colombia, Apr 15, 2012 -- "What matters at this summit is not what is on the official agenda," said Uruguayan analyst Laura Gil, echoing the conventional wisdom in this Colombian port city, where the Sixth Summit of the Americas ended Sunday without a final declaration.

The Fifth Summit, held in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, in 2009, had a similar outcome.

At the Sixth Summit, which opened Saturday Apr. 14, the foreign ministers failed to reach prior agreement on a consensus document.

Key points of discord were the continued U.S. embargo against Cuba and Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands, a British overseas territory in the

South Atlantic.

Gil, an expert on international relations who lives in Colombia, told IPS that "a consensus on drugs seems to be forming among the countries of Latin America."

"These three issues are precisely the ones that are dividing the hemisphere in two, or confronting the countries of Latin America with the United States and Canada," she said.

"The Summit of the Americas process is in crisis. What the Sixth Summit clearly shows is that certain issues cannot be put off any longer, particularly that of Cuba," excluded from the Americas summits due to pressure from the United States, she added.

In Gil's opinion, "there will not be another summit without Cuba. Either Cuba is included, or there will not be a summit at all. The absence of (Ecuadorean

President Rafael) Correa is a red alert," she said, referring to the Ecuadorean president's promise not to attend any further hemispheric meetings to which Cuba is not invited.

According to the expert, "Colombia positioned itself as a bridge, able to facilitate relations between contrary ideological blocs. But from this position, Colombia cannot work miracles.

"This summit reminds us that ideologies are still a force to be reckoned with. The limitations are plain to be seen," she said.

The Venezuelan ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), Roy Chaderton - a former Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia and the U.S. - told the Colombian radio station RCN Radio: "This is a rebellion by Latin American democracies against U.S. and Canadian hegemony."

Canada and the United States were left in isolation in a vote on a resolution to put an end to Cuba's exclusion, which was split 32 against two, at a meeting of foreign ministers that was to approve documents to be signed by the presidents.

In addition to Correa, Haitian President Michel Martelly and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega were also absent, having sent last-minute cancellations. Ortega led a rally in Managua in solidarity with Cuba Saturday Apr. 14.

On Saturday morning it was announced that Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez would not be attending the summit, due to the treatment for his cancer.

At the end of the first day's meetings, the countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) released a declaration in Cartagena stating that they would not attend any further summits without the participation of Cuba.

ALBA is made up of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela.

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Denial of victims' rights

Continued from page 2

people, is accused of taking part in the arrest of 15 prominent opposition leaders, including journalists, lawyers, and a trade union leader, in December 1982, and their subsequent summary execution.

"The High Commissioner sincerely hopes that steps are taken to reverse this legislation as soon as possible, since it clearly conflicts with Suriname's international obligations and very much runs against the positive trend in many other

Latin American countries of prosecuting and, in many cases convicting, individuals responsible for serious crimes that took place during military dictatorships," Colville said.

According to international law, amnesties are not permissible if they prevent the prosecution of individuals who may be criminally responsible for international crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and gross violations of human rights.



Navi Pillay.

UN Photo

Regional leaders meet

Continued from page 2

In an effort to bring a fresh perspective to the case, Spencer said he urged the United States representative to accept Antigua and Barbuda's recent proposal to take advantage of a "good offices" mediation effort by the World Trade Organization (WTO) direc-

tor general.

Spencer said Kirk acknowledged that a solution to the case had been elusive but assured him that "the United States remained committed to working with Antigua and Barbuda in finding a solution to the case."

The Antiguan leader said

Kirk "expressed the willingness of his office to review the latest proposal from Antigua and Barbuda and to hold further discussions with Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador in Washington, D.C. over the next few days so that a strategy for further action could be discussed."

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More education doesn't close pay gap for women

By Donna Seymour

Talk about being between a rock (the pay gap) and hard place (the cost of more education), the average American woman can not catch a break. And in today's tough economy that has more and more families in trouble, this situation is putting women and their families in an even more precarious position.

Nearly 50 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women continue to earn only 77 cents on the dollar. In this recession, with women now making up half of the workforce and more and more families relying on a women's paycheck to make ends meet, ensuring that women are paid fairly is more important than ever.

The American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Behind the Pay Gap research shows that just one year out of college, a woman working full time already earn less than her male colleague, even when they work in the same field. Ten years out, the wage gap is even larger.

Even more unfairly, a 2009 U.S. Census Bureau report has found that in every field, at every level of education, women earn less than men. This is the case even in professions typically dominated by women, such as education and the liberal arts. Furthermore, as men and women achieve higher levels of education, the pay gap widens.

According to that report, women are required to seek increasingly higher degrees if they hope to equal the pay of their less-educated male peers. And we know that the cost of education has skyrocketed in recent years, far beyond the pace of inflation. And this is even more true for higher education degrees.

We know from recent data that public and private colleges alike are increasingly dependent on tuition. A recent Government Accountability Office report found that net

tuition and fees rose from 16 to 22 percent of total revenue at public colleges and universities, and to jumped 11 points from 29 to 40 percent at private nonprofit institutions in the 10 years from 1999 to 2009.

That money is coming right out of the pockets of women and their families, as they attempt to increase their education level and upgrade job skills. And that task is getting even harder as many states, facing difficult budget decisions, are electing to cut back on support for public colleges. Expensive programs are being cut, like those in STEM fields that lead to better-paying jobs that could actually be filled, if there were enough qualified applicants.

According to a recent report from the Center for the Study of Education Policy, state appropriations for colleges fell on average by 7.6 percent in 2011-12; the cuts in some states were much higher. Funding cuts for state schools disproportionately affects those at the bottom of the economic ladder who need the training the most, often women trapped in "pink ghetto" jobs.

President Obama has proposed an \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund to address this problem. It would train two million workers for well-paying jobs in high-demand industries like health care, transportation and advanced manufacturing. The proposal, however, needs Congressional approval, which seems unlikely in this increasing divisive and scorched earth election year, given how ineffective our political process has dealt with other major challenges in recent months.

By some accounts, the student loan debt is a ticking time bomb set to go off in a variety of ways. The 3.4 percent interest rates on federal student loans for the current school year are set to double this sum-

Continued on page 29

Fragile voting system at democracy's core

By Lee H. Hamilton

You would think that after more than two centuries of practice, we'd know all about running efficient and accurate elections. Voting, after all, is the great shared ritual of democracy.

Elections make real the consent of the governed and provide legitimacy to our government. Registering to vote should be convenient and voting itself should be efficient and pleasant, with machines operating properly, registration lists accurate and current, fraud minimized and disputes handled fairly. Citizens should see their votes as both a right and a privilege and be proud they are citizens in a democracy.

Yet as the November elections approach, the systems by which they're run seem more beleaguered and fragile than ever. Recently, the Pew Center on the States found that about 51 million eligible citizens aren't registered at all and roughly one in eight voter registrations in the U.S. — that's 24 million — are either no longer valid or are inaccurate.

Voter rolls are riddled with errors. Some voters are registered to vote in two or even three states simultaneously, and voters are unable to cast their ballots because of some unresolved — and usually unwitting — problem with their registration.

Since 2011 began, 16 states have passed new laws that for the most part have made voting more difficult. Some now require government-issued photo ID; some have restricted early voting; others have placed hurdles in the way of registering to vote. The results will make it harder to vote this year for some five million Americans, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School.

The disagreements over our election laws are genuine and long-standing. Some officials want these new restrictions on voting to prevent fraud. Others counter that fraud rarely happens and argue that new restrictions are making it harder for the young and minorities to vote. Some believe that higher voter turnout is undesirable; others that government ought to do everything it can to boost turnout.

Voter fraud is no joke. The integrity of the ballot is critical to the legitimacy of democracy. But while there is disagreement over the extent of fraud, two things about it seem to be clear: yes, it occurs; and no, there's no epidemic of it. Treating fraud seriously and giving legitimate vot-

ers access to the ballot are equally important.

Much of the debate today on election laws centers around whether voters should be required to show photo identification at the polls. For most voters, producing a driver's license is no big deal, but roughly one in 10 Americans don't have identification — they don't drive or travel by plane and don't have a passport, but they're still citizens who are qualified to vote.

Can we ensure that those who vote really are entitled to do so, while at the same time making it as convenient as possible for all who are entitled to cast their ballots?

Many officials who favor a photo ID pay scant attention to making identification easily available. It needs to be free of charge and readily obtainable for everyone who's eligible. States that impose photo IDs need to take the next step of reaching out to voters through more offices, including mobile offices, and other affirmative efforts. This would help assuage the concerns of minority groups that voter ID laws are aimed at blocking them from voting. Some civil rights leaders believe that after a few election cycles, voter IDs might actually boost minority participation because they'll give voters confidence that they won't be challenged.

Requiring voters to identify themselves with a photo ID is a safeguard that helps build confidence in the system. But it has to be accompanied by an aggressive effort to reach qualified voters.

Improving elections will be neither easy nor inexpensive. States need to make elections administration a top priority — updating systems and eliminating errors, doing more to register citizens, making voting convenient and promoting information on registration and the voting process.

Surely it's worth it. The legitimacy of our system of voting is strengthened by increased access for citizens and their confidence that votes are counted accurately and securely. Elections are contests over power. Ensuring that Americans have no reason to doubt the results is vital to our system's health.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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The silliness about Cuba continues

By Les Slater

The continuing nonsense of denying Cuba entry to hemispheric blocs or gatherings like the OAS or the Summit of the Americas has gotten to beyond ludicrous. At the Summit of the Americas meeting recently in Colombia, the host country's president, Juan Manuel Santos, was so right in calling the Cuban embargo, "a cold war anachronism." What's dastardly about this enduring vilification of Cuba, spearheaded by the U.S. and supported at last week's meeting by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (difficult to imagine Pierre Trudeau going the same route today), is that all the participants at these gatherings, the U.S. and Canada included, know full well that the characterization of Cuba's sidelining as a relic that has no place in today's world, is dead-on accurate.

But the political games have to be played. So of course President Obama disavowed any election-year shenanigans influencing his decision not to sign a statement that the next summit meeting would include Cuba. Election-year stuff like arousing the ire of Cuban-Americans in a key swing state like Florida. Indeed, not just Florida's Cuban enclave but the president's opposition overall would do cartwheels for such an electioneering bonanza were he to bring an end to this inane policy hatched when the Soviet Union and the U.S. locked horns over military/nuclear supremacy.

Cuba, the president said in defense of his stand, has not moved toward democracy. Well, heck, neither has China so why shouldn't we do some playing field leveling and impose a trade embargo on China as well? The absurdity of going there is matched, although you wouldn't hear it from the perpetrators, by perpetuation of this silly charade that is the Cuba policy. When America finds herself supported in the UN General Assembly only by Israel in a vote to end the

Viewpoint

embargo, coming out on the losing end of a 188 to 2 vote when last the matter was addressed, there can't be much of a chance America's position holds some sort of merit.

The Cuban-American influence being exercised on this front is a tail-wagging-dog phenomenon and totally reflective of politicians, even if they privately hold views at variance with the Cuban lobby, opting for the spineless path to survivability. Look, we know the chances are slim to none of finding Americans willing to trade places with Cubans resident on the island. On the contrary, there's been all this documented history over the years of immigrant waves onto American soil. Contrasting with the latter was the one banner occasion when, with the U.S. government apparently ready to grant asylum and maybe a whole lot more to him and his son, Elian Gonzalez's father chose to return to his native country. The famous Gonzalez episode, if nothing else, scored one for the Castro regime – that things within Cuba weren't necessarily all bad for all people, as the naysayers would have it portrayed.

We wouldn't find out by checking the typical American newspaper or television news report, but they've done a remarkable job in Cuba in the healthcare field, for instance. At least there seems to be somewhat of a global consensus to that effect, judging from the deployment of Cuban health professionals to places far and wide. And as reflected in international statistical indicators. Cuba continues to have one of the lowest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world and continues to post impressive numbers that compare favorably with or best those of the U.S. in such areas as life expectancy and infant mortality rates. The point being that

even in the vice grip of the decades-long embargo and the end of subsidies following the Soviet Union collapse, Cuba has apparently managed to do a few things well, daunting economic challenges notwithstanding.

As for the go-to line about democracy, when will there be politicians with principle enough to retire this over-used old saw? When did the absence of democracy ever stand in the way of the U.S. coddling regimes all over the globe, once it was in America's interest to do so? Persisting with the rationale that Cuba's not being democratic is the reason this punitive policy remains in place is the kind of red meat some in the political arena thrive on, but is pathetic emanating from others...even given our awareness of the required political two-step that comes with the issue.

What's been annually taking place in the UN, with those near-unanimous votes demanding the U.S. end the embargo, is one thing. It was America's way, back in the early 60s of making an example of Castro, justified or otherwise as it was at the time. The Summit of the Americas action is a whole other ball game. For starters it's an entirely different forum, with no reference whatsoever to the U.S.-Soviet-Cuba drama of yesteryear. And it's about a legitimate hemispheric state being included in discussions about hemispheric matters. American obstinacy in having Cuba excluded from these meetings is sick stuff and shames those who are purveyors of such might-is-right belligerence. What's next? Are we to see a move made to suspend, for example, the leftist governments of Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Bolivia from the organization until they mend their ways?

An Obama second term, should he have one, will hopefully see some bold moves that in this term might have been seen as too politically prohibitive. Surely a candidate for such agenda tinkering is the outdated Cuba policy.

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African-American men shortchanged

By Dr. Chiledum Ahaghotu

Prostate cancer continues to remain the leading cause of cancer in men in the United States. Over 30 thousand men are estimated to die of prostate cancer this year alone. Also, for reasons that are not completely understood, African-American men are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 2.5 times likely to die of the disease.

The PSA test is a blood test that measures prostate-specific antigen (PSA), a protein produced by the prostate gland. An increase in the PSA level is often the only sign of early prostate cancer. The PSA test is also valuable in following patients after treatment.

A recent report published in *The Annals of Internal Medicine* by a U.S. Preventative Services Task Force Committee stated that PSA testing should no longer be performed routinely on men in the United States. The task force came to this decision based on studies performed in the United States and Europe suggesting that prostate cancer screening does not appear to improve survival in patients with this disease.

The two principal studies quoted in the report are the prostate, lung, colon, and ovarian screening study (PLCO) and the European randomized prostate cancer screening study. Both studies compared men who were screened to those who were not screened over a seven-to 10-year period. The European study actually revealed an improvement in survival whereas the American study did not, thus reporting conflicting results.

One of the many concerns raised by prostate cancer

experts and advocates is related to the fact that most of the studies cited in this report had a notable lack of representation of African-American men. Additionally, in the absence of PSA-based early detection strategies, the incidence of advanced disease would certainly increase. In

None of the task force committee members have specific clinical expertise in treating prostate cancer.

the pre-PSA era, most men who presented with prostate cancer were symptomatic at diagnosis and had evidence of metastatic disease (in other words the cancer had already spread). Although the overall death rates associated with prostate cancer have begun to decline, African-American men still carry a disproportionately higher death rate. Those under the age of 60 are four times more likely to have metastatic disease at diagnosis. The report minimizes the impact of metastatic disease stating that it is

unlikely to result in death. However, metastatic disease can have tremendous impact on quality of life including chronic pain, pathologic fractures, paralysis, bleeding, and other tragic consequences.

It is also striking that none of the task force committee members have specific clinical expertise in treating prostate cancer. This attempt to apply a broad-sweeping policy to a very complex disease affecting populations disproportionately is very short-sighted. The bottom line is that fewer men are dying of prostate cancer and it is very likely that early detection has played a role in this outcome. Although the PSA test cannot take all the credit, it has been the cornerstone for early detection over the last two decades. There is ongoing research to find better screening strategies. However, until these tests have been confirmed, PSA is an important part of early detection and should not be blatantly discarded, especially as it applies to high-risk populations such as African-American men. Any man interested in having a PSA test should have meaningful dialog with his health-care provider to understand the details of the test, its value, and possible shortcomings. That should have been the message from the report. I hope that health-care providers involved in prostate cancer care will respond strongly to these recent recommendations.

For more info on prostate cancer go to <http://cancer.howard.edu>

Chiledum Ahaghotu is an associate professor of surgery and chief of urology at Howard University Hospital.

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Dr. Eva's advice on herpes infection

By Dr. Eva Hersh

Dear Dr. Eva,

Years ago I had one herpes outbreak, and I've never had another. I didn't think I needed to tell sex partners about this, since I got over it so long ago. Recently, this came up in a conversation with a friend and sometime sex partner, and she was really upset that I hadn't told her. I think she is overreacting. We agreed to ask you.

Over It

Dear Over It,

Your friend and sometimes partner is right. No one completely gets over herpes infection. Once a person is infected with the herpes simplex virus (HSV), that person becomes a chronic carrier of the virus. Even though they may not be aware of having any outbreaks, on average, people with herpes shed herpes virus through the skin in the area of infection more than one day a week. Herpes suppressive medications, which include once daily doses of valacyclovir or twice-daily doses of acyclovir or famciclovir, decrease

this shedding to one day in 30. That represents a much lower risk, but it is important to realize that there is some risk of herpes infection to the partner of a person with herpes even if the infected person is taking herpes suppressive medication. So, difficult as it is, I do think your partners have a right to know.

You didn't mention your HIV status, so I am guessing you are HIV negative. You should be aware that using condoms and/or dental dams is an important protection for people who have herpes as well as for their partners. This is because the HSV virus causes chronic inflammation in the skin of the penis, anus, or vagina, even when there are no visible outbreaks. This inflammation makes a person who has HSV more vulnerable than others to becoming infected with HIV. This is true even for people who are taking herpes suppressive medication—the medication decreases the viral shedding but does not decrease the inflammation.

Dr. Eva

Dear Dr. Eva,

How do herpes and HIV affect each other, if a person is infected with both? I have had herpes for many years and a couple of years ago became infected with HIV as well. So far my CD4 count has been over 500 so I have not needed to go on HIV medication. But it seems as if I have been having more herpes outbreaks since I became infected with HIV. Can I expect the herpes outbreaks to be less frequent if I get started on HIV medication? Or would taking herpes suppressive medication help more?

Double Dose

Dear Double,

Because of your frequent outbreaks, many HIV experts would suggest that you start on both HIV medications (antiretrovirals) and herpes suppressive medication.

The herpes and HIV viruses affect each other in several ways.

Herpes outbreaks are more frequent in people with HIV. Also, outbreaks are more severe and last longer. This gets worse as the CD4 level drops, but

more frequent and severe outbreaks can occur even in people with high CD4 counts, as in your case.

Herpes can worsen HIV. Proteins produced by the HSV virus cause increases in the blood levels of the HIV virus. Because of this, people who are infected with both viruses have more HIV virus in their blood than HIV-positive people who do not have HSV.

Herpes sores or rashes shed high concentrations of HIV virus as well as HSV virus, so people with both HIV and HSV are more likely to pass on HIV to others. High levels of HIV virus are present in the rectum, penis and vagina of HIV/HSV infected people even when there is no apparent outbreak.

In addition to protecting their partners, suppressive treatment for HSV has benefits for people with HIV and HSV who are not yet taking HIV medications. When herpes is treated, progression of HIV disease is somewhat slower.

Dr. Eva



Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

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

How will I know my stream is slow?

When a man looks down and sees that he's urinating with two streams instead of one, he struggles to get both streams to go into the toilet bowl without making a mess. He laughs when he tries to explain the bodily gyrations required to accomplish this feat but too often he is laughing with tears in his eyes. This problem is not uncommon. Sometimes, after a few seconds, the two streams come together and form one more forceful and manageable stream. Unfortunately, the stream can break into a spray that goes in all directions and over which, there is no control. The only way to confine urination to the toilet bowl and keep the floor and your shoes from getting wet is to sit down to urinate. All this is related to enlargement of the prostate causing a partial obstruction to the outflow of urine. Many men don't realize their flow is slow but every man can easily see a split or spraying stream.

Once it is understood that the split stream is a prime indicator of a weak flow, it becomes crystal clear that something is wrong. The underlying problem is enlargement of the prostate, which sits like a gatekeeper connecting the urinary bladder, located just above the prostate to the upper end of the urinary passageway in the penis just below the prostate. Urine on leaving the bladder must pass through this connecting passageway in the prostate to get to the upper end of the urethra in the penis. As the prostate enlarges,

it does so in all directions, inwardly and well as outwardly, compressing the urinary passageway within. This compression increases resistance to the outflow of urine. As the resistance increases, the stream flows more and more slowly, eventually becoming so weak that it cannot coalesce into one stream but breaks up into two or more streams and it is this split or sometimes spraying stream that is instantly recognizable by the patient as the first indication that his stream has slowed.

If your stream splits or sprays, it's past time to seek help. When the diagnosis of symptomatic prostate enlargement has been established, attention turns to selection of the most appropriate treatment for this condition. The first line of therapy is medication and there are drugs that can over time, actually shrink the prostate and relax the muscles within the prostate. If medication can't be used for any of a variety of reasons, the second line of defense is to consider TUMT, Trans Urethral Microwave Thermotherapy, such as TherMatrx, which avoids surgery, is done in the office and requires no hospitalization or anesthesia. Most often, after microwave treatment, the medication used to treat the patient for his prostate condition can be reduced in dose or discontinued altogether. Surgery should be reserved only as the court of last resort.

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

CityParks Seniors fitness program

City Parks Foundation welcomes all New Yorkers, 60 and over, to participate in CityParks Seniors Fitness. The Spring 2012 season of Seniors Fitness programs will begin the week of April 30, 2012, and will offer free tennis lessons, yoga instruction and fitness walking in 14 parks across the city.

All activities in this eight-week fitness program take place twice a week at each location through June 22. Participants are encouraged to maintain regular attendance to maximize health benefits.

CityParks Seniors Fitness has served more than 3,400 participants since it began in 2006 and aims to keep neighborhood parks a great place for community activity.

The program encourages

New Yorkers to maximize the health benefits of staying active at all ages. Even in moderate amounts, exercise can help participants feel better, maintain or lose weight, reduce risk of heart disease and diabetes, and minimize the symptoms of arthritis.

For more information about City Parks Foundation's free Seniors Fitness programs, please call the Sports Department at (718) 760-6999. All equipment and instruction is provided free of charge. Sessions are one hour, twice a week.

The following is a detailed schedule for CityParks Seniors Fitness for Spring 2012 in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Brooklyn
Kaiser Park



Tennis - Tuesdays/
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. -
Neptune Ave. & W 28th St.
Marine Park
Tennis - Tuesdays/
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. -
Tennis Courts Ave. S and E
32nd St.

Yoga - Mondays/
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.-
Nature Center- Ave. U & E
32nd St.
South Oxford Park

Tennis-Wednesdays/
Fridays at 10:00 a.m.-
Atlantic Commons between
S Oxford St. & Cumberland
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Yoga - Wednesdays/
Fridays at 11:00 a.m. -
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S Oxford St. & Cumberland
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Staten Island
Greenbelt Park
Yoga - Wednesdays/
Fridays at 9:00 a.m. - Brielle
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- Brielle Ave. between
Rockland and Wolcott

As in all of its programming and activities, City Parks Foundation partners with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to improve neighborhood parks and the communities they serve.

Immigrant businesses thrive in New York City

— But City Support is needed to grow, add jobs



Bill DiBlasio.

Office of the NYC Public Advocate

By Kenton Kirby

A Feb. 17, 2012 landmark report by the Fund for Public Advocacy and ACCION USA released a landmark report on how immigrant-owned businesses are making ends meet in New York City, and the ways City government can help them grow and add jobs. The survey of 625 immigrant-owned firms across the five boroughs found a staggering 92 percent of owners started and sustain their businesses without outside help with financing, counseling, marketing or applying for licenses and permits.

“Nearly four in five business owners voiced a desire for help in these areas; the most often reason cited for not seeking help was a lack of knowledge about the programs available,” the report states.

The Fund for Public Advocacy -- a non-profit entity within the office of Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, has announced a series of pilot projects to reach immigrant business owners with technical help and financial services, with the goal of transforming them into official NYC policies.

“The strength of immigrant communities is their entrepreneurship and self-reliance, but these businesses still need City help to grow and add jobs,” said Reshma Saujani, executive director of the Fund for

Public Advocacy.

“We did something government seldom does—we walked through the front door of immigrant-owned businesses and asked them what they needed. What we heard made clear the need to bring City services door to door, instead of waiting for these owners to come to us,” Saujani added.

Mr DeBlasio says immigrant businesses are an economic blind spot for New York City.

“We set out to solve the data deficit so we can start tailoring City programs to also suit the specific needs of immigrant entrepreneurs,” he said, adding:

“This is one of the most dynamic and resilient parts of our economy. If they actually received help from the City commensurate with their weight in the economy, they could add thousands more jobs right in their own neighborhoods.”

After serving New York City immigrant entrepreneurs for 20 years, ACCION chief executive, Paul Quintero, says, “We believe this study underscores three important public policy lessons:

“First, that there is a huge need for creating awareness about micro-lenders and the numerous government support services that are available for entrepreneurs.

“Second, that access to capital remains one of the three highest priorities for immigrant entrepreneurs.

“And third, that operational collaboration between the public and non-profit sectors can achieve greater outcomes than individual efforts.”

The survey, developed in consultation with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, identified a significant disconnect between City-sponsored programs and immigrant businesses in need of assistance. It found:

~ 92% of the businesses surveyed reported not

receiving services to start, sustain, or grow;

~ 51% of businesses that did not receive services were unaware help programs existed;

~ Of those few businesses who received services, 69% reported them as helpful:

~ 79% of business owners wanted support services including financial assistance (33%), legal guidance (25%), and marketing (23%);

~ 87% of immigrant businesses did not have websites, compared to 51%

of small businesses nationally.

The report urges City agencies to dispense existing business services such as credit counseling, marketing support and help navigating the permitting process through community-based non-profits and organizations that can interact with immigrant

entrepreneurs at their place of business and in their own languages.

In order to help support these small businesses and create jobs, the Fund for Public Advocacy will launch a series of pilot programs which, if successful, will give the public advocate a green light to press for the

Continued on page 29

“I started off with small jobs but in no time I bid on a big project—and won.”



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The location is currently being converted for use as our fifth location so that all of our products can be displayed. Since Unified sells windows, doors, siding, roofing, stone work, attic insulation and awnings, there is quite a bit of work to be done but the doors were opened on April 1st, nonetheless.

Having been in business since 1989, our entire office staff of more than 50 employees and our approximately 60 installers have helped to make our company one of the largest and fastest growing companies of its kind in the Tri-State region. With over 150 jobs being completed each week, we are also quite proud of our A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

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Written by: Steven J DiMare
Chief Executive Officer
Unified Window Systems, Inc.



Continued from page 2

effective March 30, 2012. Reports indicate that the Barbados Civil Aviation Department also sent correspondence to REDjet recently in which it disclosed plans to suspend the Air Operators Certificate it had issued to the airline.

"We have not withdrawn it (nor) have we considered doing it," Minister Maginley said in a short statement on the matter to the Observer Media.

REDjet's decision to suspend its operation announced on March 16 affected its Antigua to Guyana service that was introduced last November as well as its Antigua to Barbados service that was due to start in June.

The Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority said its decision was based on the actions of Barbados.

National Democratic Party (NDC), Kenrick Fullerton, recently appeared in a Grenada court on four fraud charges.

He has been charged with two counts of forgery and two counts of uttering forged documents one week after he returned from the United States.

Fullerton was elected NDC chairman during the party's 2011 convention despite protests from political leader, Tillman Thomas, who felt that his role as a contract civil servant did not allow him to hold a political office. He has since resigned as adviser to the minister of sports.

Fullerton made his first court appearance at the Grenville Magistrate Court and the matter was adjourned until next month.

Guyana's commissioner of police.

Chief Justice Ian Chang gave the ruling recently saying prosecutors did not have sufficient evidence for the case against Henry Greene to go forward.

Greene had previously obtained a court order that temporarily barred the police from charging him with the offence.

He was sent on leave in December after a 34-year-old woman accused him of raping her at a hotel in late November and said officers refused to take her complaint.

The police chief has denied the allegations and said the sex was consensual.

Chang said prosecutors could file new charges if they found more evidence in the case.

not filing taxes.

And the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) intends to crack down on these tax evaders.

GRA Commissioner Khurshid Sattaur said categories of professionals guilty of this practice included doctors, lawyers, accountants, pharmacists, land surveyors, dentists, civil engineers and architects.

He said that there were more than 530 people in such professions required to pay practicing and serving fees which were due at the end of February.

According to reports, of the more than 300 doctors, less than 35 comply and less than 20 of the over 105 lawyers comply in taking out a practitioner's certificate.

Sattaur warned that the commission will be putting steps in place to deal with defaulters this year.

session in Haiti is worried that a scarcity of resources will prompt a further scale-back on services to Haitians who were made homeless after the 2010 earthquake.

UN official Nigel Fisher said in a statement that a request last year to international donors for US\$382 million only brought in 55 percent of that amount. That has led to the withdrawal of services in the camps that house thousands of people displaced by the earthquake.

The world body is now hoping to receive US\$53.9 million for the upcoming rainy season, which has begun to soak Haiti's capital at night.

The Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake devastated Port au Prince and other cities in the south.

possession of 472 pounds of marijuana and attempting to export the illegal drug on May 24, 2011.

Desmond Pavy, 42, Jovel Espenoza, 22, and Terry Bannister were found guilty by Justice Frederick Bruce-Lyle in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in Kingstown recently.

The men were held after their pirogue was intercepted by the Coast Guard in the north of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Coast Guard officers retrieved the marijuana, which was thrown overboard.

In passing sentence Justice Bruce-Lyle said, "the appropriate sentence I see is nine years on each count, to run concurrently."

The court also ordered that the boat engines and other items attached to or found inside the boat be forfeited.

Grenada

Chairman of the ruling

Guyana

A judge has dismissed rape charges against

Guyana

Doctors and lawyers are among those in the higher income bracket guilty of

Haiti

The United Nations mis-

St. Vincent

Three Trinidadians were each sentenced to nine years in jail on charges of

Compiled by Azad Ali

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Prostate Cancer: Stop It Before It's too Late.

Reading newspaper articles can be fun, interesting, and entertaining, but can it save your life or the life of your loved ones?

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2012, about 241,740 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and about 28,170 men will die of prostate cancer. About 1 in 6 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men.

Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.*

In this article, we seek advice from two award winning urologic surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykhman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists of 2009 and 2010. They will tell us how to detect prostate cancer in its earliest stage and successfully fight it.

Doctors, what are the symptoms of prostate cancer? Can a man diagnose himself for this disease?

Unfortunately, prostate cancer will usually not exhibit outward symptoms in its early stages, so the patient is often not aware of the presence of a tumor. Because it is important to diagnose this disease before any symptoms occur, men over age 45 are strongly encouraged to undergo an elective urological examination at least once a year.

How do you diagnose prostate cancer?

The first step in diagnosing prostate cancer is analyzing PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in blood.

If cancer is suspected, a biopsy will be advisable, since it is the only test that can fully confirm the diagnosis of prostate cancer. At NYUI, doctors can perform a biopsy under anesthesia directly on premises.

NYUI's in-house specialized laboratory enables our certified and astute pathologist to quickly and accurately study prostate cells, shortening your diagnosis and treatment time.

Given the complexity of the diagnosis and of prostate cancer in general, we urge readers to be tested only using modern equipment at the most up-to-date clinics, such as NYUI.

What is the most effective method of treatment offered at the New York Urologic Institute?

When choosing a method of treatment, we take into account the stage of the cancer, the patient's age, risk of complications, as well as the wishes of the patient. There are a number of proven treatment options available, including radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and surgical treatment.

To date, the most effective method of combating prostate cancer is radiation therapy. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is a unique type of radiation therapy offered at NYUI which involves the use of computed tomography (CT) to carefully pinpoint and map the exact 3-Dimensional shape of the tumor. The software carefully calculates the dose intensity pattern that will best conform to the tumor shape. IMRT allows for more effective radiation to the prostate, while minimizing exposure to adjacent normal tissues. With a radiation oncologist with over 30 years of experience and the most modern treatment and diagnostic tools, The New York Urologic Institute is a leader in the fight against prostate cancer.



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What would you say to men suffering from prostate cancer?

Being diagnosed with prostate cancer doesn't mean you should give up and stop fighting. The New York Urologic Institute can successfully treat this type of cancer if it is diagnosed in its early stages. Our treatment can prolong the lives of prostate cancer patients for many years.

We recommend that all men be more attentive to their health and to seek professional medical help when symptoms first develop.

*Information via the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org

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NYC Transit depot named for Tuskegee Airmen

By Vinette K. Pryce

The 100th St. transit bus depot in Manhattan was officially renamed recently in honor of the famed Tuskegee Airman, the African-American fighter pilot of World War II.

During a ceremony on March 23, a bronze plaque was installed in the entryway of the depot, summarizing the accomplishments of the airmen and listing the names of the 12 airmen who formerly worked for the transit system.

Additionally, the façade now bears the facility's new name as well as a medallion featuring iconic images of the Airmen.

Reportedly, 12 of the airmen began working for NYC Transit after the war, creating an unbreakable bond that was formally recognized at a ceremony at the facility.

Reginald T. Brewster, Victor A. Collymore, Conrad A. DeSandies, Harry R. Dickerson, John R. Freeman, Noel R. Harris, Oscar W. Hawkins, Austin

D. McKenzie, Maury M. Reid, Jr. Percy E. Sutton, Victor W. Terrelonge and Fred O. Wilson are the distinguished men.

Only two – Brewster and Harris are alive to witness the historic honor.

"In renaming this state-of-the art facility, the Tuskegee Airmen Bus Depot, we pay homage to all of these former transit workers and to the memories of all of the trailblazing Tuskegee Airmen who broke through racial barriers at home just as they outthought and outfought America's enemies overseas," NYC Transit President Thomas F. Prendergast said.

The Tuskegee Airmen, named for Tuskegee, Alabama where they trained, were the first African-Americans permitted to fight in America's segregated military of World War II.

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the controversial "Tuskegee Experience,"

which approved the Army Air Corps' program to train African-Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The airmen included navigators, bombardiers, instructors, maintenance and support staff, as well as ground crew personnel

is understood that 'after many delays due to blatant and shameless discrimination, the 332nd Fighter Group, comprised of the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, was finally allowed to participate in the war fol-

craft. A testament to the skill of the mechanics and other ground crew members is the success of the pilots. In fierce aerial combat over Europe and Africa, the Tuskegee Airmen pilots experienced minimal loss of the bombers to enemy aircraft fire, an achievement unmatched by any other unit.

The impressive combination of courage and exemplary performance in combat eventually generated requests from all-White bomber units for the "Red Tails" to escort their bombers over the dangerous Axis territory in Europe.

In a documentary released earlier this year, "Red Tails" spotlights the heroics achieved by the pioneering men of color.

The achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen are particularly noteworthy because they occurred during a time when the adversity and injustice of racial discrimination were not only tolerated, but encouraged and, in fact, institu-

tionized by the US Armed Forces.

The Tuskegee Airmen's faith in the ideals expressed in America's Constitution was so great, that first and foremost, they fought for the right to fight.

Then they fought selflessly in combat for the country despite the racial discrimination encountered during the war and the knowledge that discrimination awaited them upon their return home.

As a direct result of the dynamics set in motion by the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen, racial discrimination was banned in 1948 in all U.S. Armed Forces via President Harry Truman's Executive Order No. 9981.

Moreover, their trailblazing efforts are credited with contributing toward the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On March 29, 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award.

The Tuskegee Airmen's faith in the ideals expressed in America's Constitution was so great, that first and foremost, they fought for the right to fight.

responsible for supporting the pilots and maintaining the aircraft.

There were individuals and groups opposing the effort. They argued that it would take years to train mechanics to service the planes. They contended that a waste of money and training would surpass the war. The recruits proved them wrong and the enlisted trainees completed their training in record time. It

lowing an impassioned endorsement from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.'

The Tuskegee Airmen far exceeded expectations for airmen of any race. With respect to the mechanics, it is worth noting that the Tuskegee Airmen were initially assigned hand-me-down aircraft considered insufficient for other units.

Reportedly, it often took several surplus planes to make one flight-worthy air-

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Gloria Gaynor appearing at Lehman Center

By Deardra Shuler

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts will be experiencing the ultimate dance party on Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 p.m., when singer Gloria Gaynor performs at the venue before a full orchestra. She will also be sharing the stage with the Hitmen and Colonel Abrams.

Part of the disco dance era, Gloria was born in Newark, NJ, and only 19 when she was signed to Columbia Records by Clive Davis. She recorded the single "Honey Bee" for Columbia Records in 1975. Later she recorded her hit song, "I Will Survive" in 1978.

Gloria has proven she has the stuff to survive in an industry that can be pretty tough sometimes. Little did she realize when she initially recorded "I Will Survive," she would garner a Grammy, the song would become the greatest disco anthem of all time and be inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

"I Will Survive" has sold over 14 million copies and has been translated into over 20 languages. Then she recorded the first disco record to be played on AM radio, her hit "Never Can Say Good-bye" for MGM. The album went gold. Hit albums "Experience Gloria Gaynor" and "I've Got You (Under My Skin)" followed.

I recorded "I Will Survive," while wearing a back brace. While performing at the Beacon Theatre I fell backwards over a monitor while doing a skit with my background singers. I jumped up, finished the show, went out to breakfast, went home and went to bed and when I woke up, I was paralyzed from the waist down. I ended up getting surgery on my back. That was scary. The surgery was in March and I came out of the hospital in July. I then recorded "I Will Survive" in October, but I was wearing a back brace when I did" said the enduring singer.

"When I first read the

lyrics to "I Will Survive," I saw it as timeless lyrics. The song is now over 35 years old. It contains the type of lyrics that everyone can relate to. The song was about unrequited love. However, I saw it as something related to survival. I thought I would never survive my mother's death, being in a back brace and getting surgery on my spine. Yet, I survived," said Gloria.

She toured to Italy and Croatia as part of a Christmas symphony tour, returning to ring in the New Year with a concert in Las Vegas. Her upcoming gospel CD is entitled "He Gave Me Life (I Will Survive)." Later this year, Gloria plans to release a single entitled "All The Man That I Need."

Gloria appeared in Smokey Joe's Café on Broadway. She appeared on "Don't Forget the Lyrics," "Donnie and Marie," "The Wayan Brothers," "The 70s Show" and "Ally McBeal" on television. "I am look-

ing forward to going on "Who Do You Think You Are?" This show searches out your ancestry. I am trying to arrange my schedule around it so I can go on. I know I have Native American Blackfoot Indian and Jamaican ancestry, so I am really looking forward to the show to see what else may be in my origins," said the singer who also wrote a book called "I Will Survive."

Gloria holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and plans to eventually open a nurturing recreation center for teenage parents in her hometown of Newark, NJ. "I wanted to open up a nurturing recreation center to work with teenage parents and their families here in America. I want to partner with other learning organizations to help the children continue their education. I want them to learn to follow their passions so they can earn money while supporting themselves while being happy doing it," explained Gaynor.



Gloria Gaynor.

"I used to love to dance when younger and wore these three-inch heels while doing deep bends as part of a dance. Now I have knee problems and back problems and other things I have had to overcome. The song "I Will Survive" has been important as I have overcome challenges. I have survived the death of my four brothers, my mother's death, a divorce, and illness, so I have survived and "I will survive," claims the enduring performer who is quite the

humanitarian.

Gaynor lends her support to numerous charities including the Susan G. Comen Breast Cancer Foundation (North Jersey Affiliate), the Hellenic Times Foundation, The Revlon Walk For Women and the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Ms. Gaynor is a member of the United Cerebral Palsy Hudson County Board of Directors. She financially supports Save the Children, sponsors four children through the Christian Children's Fund, is a chair holder for the New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center, was 2008 Honorary Chair for the New York Diabetes Association and supports Denise Rich's Angel Ball, a foundation for Melanoma research.

In addition to these charities, Gloria also supports Bailey House New York Restoration Project, WomensLaw.org, Miami Children's Hospital and the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

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Jamaica 50 budget slashed by millions

The government of Jamaica recently unveiled a new and revised budget to fund their 50th anniversary celebration of independence.

Slashed from the billions proposed by the previous administration, the three-month old decision-makers justified a more modest proposal to spend millions on marking the island's milestone achievement.

Instead of the J\$2.5 billion presented by the Jamaica Labour Party's financial advisors, the three-month old administration governed by minister of the People's National Party will now spend a modest J\$688 million.

The new amount signals a radical trimming of the budget submitted by the previous government before they were voted from leadership last December.

With reductions from \$30 million to about eight million in U.S. currency, the government also suggested that private sector help in the cost-cutting venture by supplementing approximately J\$200 million to bolster the historic celebration.

According to Robert Ryan, director of the project, further cutting could be imminent if the private sector does not co-operate fully with the proposed plan.

Lisa Hanna, minister of culture said the new budget is in keeping with what Jamaica can afford.

She said that the festivities, which will go into high gear from Aug. 1 can "stimulate a rebirth in the minds and hearts of all Jamaicans."

Jamaican Launches Men's Summer Fashion Collection

Jamaican designer Demaro Brown is ahead of the fashionistas deciding how fashion-forward males should step out for the summer.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Last week with his D'Maro collection, Brown launched a line he said will appropriately suit men of all ages.

Showcasing head-to-toe vibrant designs and trendy styles, the 2012 collection introduced his men's summer wear at the midtown, Manhattan offices of Finn Partners where a capacity sized crowd was on hand to witness the event.

Fashion media, buyers, stylists and industry representatives formed runway-like vantage to see models who donned bold designs comprising tanks, blazers, harem pants and jump suits.

Using cool fabrics and bold colors, Brown impressed buyers from retail specialty Bergdorf Goodman and other leading department stores.

His designs "seek to satisfy the needs of the chic, trendy and sociable professional man," a guest said.

'The Best Man' Wins

James Earl Jones is back on Broadway.

This time he returns to the Great White Way as President Arthur "Artie" Hockstader, a former commander-in-chief.

In his role, Jones is a principal character in Gore Vidal's "The Best Man."

While Jones is revered for delivering superlative performances in films, television and on stage, at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theater he cast among a stellar ensemble.



Jamaican fashion designer Demaro Brown (center) with some of his models. Photo by Ernie Green

Candice Bergen, Angela Lansbury, John Larroquette, Eric McCormack, Kerry Butler, Jefferson Mays and Michael McKean are among the elites boasting Broadway's most celebrated and revered assembly.

The candidates, a former Secretary of State William Russell (Larroquette) and Senator Joseph Cantwell (McCormack), their wives Alice Russell (Bergen) and Mabel Cantwell (Kerry Butler) along with women's advocate Sue-Ellen Gamadge (Lansbury) guarantee a politically-correct outing.

Directed by Michael Wilson, the play is scheduled for a limited engagement that ends on July 8.

That the run ends days after Independence Day might be an orchestrated aspect of the red, white and blue presentation which focuses on the behind-the-scenes campaign strategies taken during a Philadelphia convention.

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‘Wrath of the Titans, the graphic, high body-count bloodsport born of man’s imagination, deserves three stars.’

Kam Williams – Page 27

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A Puddin’ Jazz Jam with Rome

By Sheryl Renee

In Numerology, the number nine represents attainment, satisfaction and accomplishment. All words easily attributed to Rome Neal, as he celebrated the ninth anniversary of his popular Banana Puddin’ Jazz series on April 7.

The Banana Puddin’ Jazz Jam and Open Mic was launched by Rome on April 7, 2003 at the Nuyorican Poets Café. Neal wanted to create something of his own, that would spotlight seasoned and up-and-coming talent.

“During my research for the play ‘Monk’ I was frequenting jazz clubs and I wanted to bring that energy to the Lower East Side,”



Rome Neal performing at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Photo by Lem Peterkin

said Neal.

“There was a spot on 125th St. that made the best banana pudding. They inspired me to make my own, and I made it a part of my theme. I offer it along with the ticket price, and it’s been a huge hit with my

Continued on next page

Rebecca Stirm wins Mission Catwalk

Drawing on the Hispanic and Mayan influences in her country, 18-year-old Belizean fashion designer Rebecca Stirm emerged the winner in a culture-inspired challenge in the second episode of Caribbean fashion designer reality series Mission Catwalk, filmed in Kingston, Jamaica on April 10.

Stirm and 14 other designers were instructed by host and executive-producer Keneya Linton-George to “create an outfit that reflects the style and culture” of their individual countries joined by “the common thread of independence.” The designers, who were given pointers from Season One winner Shenna Carby, had to apply



Rebecca Stirm (right) poses in the Singer Sewing Room with model Abenah Gonzalez.

Photo by Alty Benjamin Jr.

their creativity within a short time frame and on a US\$20 budget.

“I wanted a lot of material, so I looked in the curtain section,” said Rebecca. “I was able to get a lot of this very, very light airy fabric for a little bit of money

Continued on next page



KNIGHT OF SOUL

Velvet-voiced Smokey Robinson to perform at Lehman

Smokey Robinson performs during the Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Party in Beverly Hills, California.

By John Marrast

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts continues its tremendous 31st season with a superstar of popular song – the GRAMMY Award-winning “poet laureate of soul music,” Smokey Robinson, on Saturday, April 28

at 8:00 p.m.

The velvet-voiced singer/songwriter, whose \$60-million-plus in record sales helped turn Motown into the largest Black-owned corporation in the world, recorded 37 Top-40 Motown hits between 1960 and 1987, including mega-

hits “Tears of a Clown,” “Ooo Baby Baby,” “Shop Around,” and “The Tracks of My Tears.”

Pronounced by Bob Dylan as America’s “greatest living poet,” Smokey’s countless honors have included the Grammy Living

Continued on next page

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



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

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded**
Nicki Minaj
- 2 **My Head Is An Animal**
Of Monsters And Men
- 3 **Changed**
Rascal Flatts
- 4 **Up All Night**
One Direction
- 5 **Boys & Girls**
Alabama Shakes
- 6 **Tuskegee**
Lionel Richie
- 7 **21**
Adele
- 8 **Making Mirrors**
Gotye
- 9 **MDNA**
Madonna
- 10 **The Hunger Games**
Soundtrack

Presented by

verizon wireless

Poet laureate of soul

Continued from previous page

Legend Award, the National Medal of Arts Award, Kennedy Center Honors, NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, and inductions into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

For this special night, concertgoers will have the opportunity, for an additional cost to attend a post-concert "Meet & Greet" with Smokey and take photos with him.

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

Smokey Robinson, born and raised in Detroit, began writing poems in elementary school and founded The Miracles while still in high school. The group was Berry Gordy's first vocal group, and it was at Robinson's suggestion that Gordy started the Motown Record dynasty. Their single of Robinson's "Shop Around" became Motown's first #1 hit on the R&B singles chart.

In the years following, Robinson continued to pen hits for the group including "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "Ooo Baby Baby," "Going to a Go-Go," "More Love," "Tears of a Clown" (co-written with Stevie Wonder), "I Second That Emotion" and the group's all-time classic, "The Tracks of My Tears." As The Miracles dominated the R&B scene throughout the 1960s and early '70s, releasing 15 albums in 15 years, Smokey became vice president of Motown Records,

serving as in-house producer, talent scout and songwriter.

As the premier songwriter in America, he churned out dozens of hits for Marvin Gaye, Mary Wells, and the Temptations, including their hit "My Girl." His other triumphs included "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "Get Ready," "You Beat Me to the Punch," "Don't Mess with Bill," "Ain't That Peculiar" and "My Guy."

Smokey left the Miracles for a solo career in 1972, releasing another 16 hit albums, and continued to serve as Motown's vice president, shaping the label's success with friend and mentor Gordy until it was sold to MCA in 1988. Smokey's album of romantic ballads, "A Quiet Storm," spawned the format that



Smokey Robinson.

would dominate nighttime black radio in the '80s.

In the late '70s a new audience was introduced to Smokey as "Cruisin'" shot up to #1 on the charts, followed by such '80s hits as the #1 "Being with You." In

1987 he released the smash album "One Heartbeat," and in 1989, his autobiography, "In My Life," was published by McGraw-Hill.

In 2004, Smokey released his first Gospel album, "Food for the Spirit," and launched a line of soul food. Two years later he released "Timeless Love," an album of his impeccable renditions of standards. A guest judge on "American Idol" in 2007, he performed a medley of his hits with the top six male contestants on the season finale.

During the course of his 50-year career in music, Smokey Robinson has accumulated more than 4,000 songs to his credit and continues to thrill sold-out audiences around the world with his lovely high tenor voice, impeccable timing, and profound sense of lyric. His latest release of new material is 2009's "Time Flies When You're Having Fun."

Banana Puddin' jazz and open mic'

Continued from previous page audience!"

This show kicked off with a set of "Nothin' but Love Songs" rendered by the host and backed by some of NYC's top musicians, Lafayette Harris, Paul Beaudry and George Gray Jr.

In the house on this anniversary production, besides the grateful audience of music lovers were Cobi Narita, pianist Frank Owens, choreographer Mickey Davidson and entertainer Eric Frazier.

Those who signed up for the open mic includ-



Sheryl Renee.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

ed professionals such as Frank Senior and Michal Oversteet and novice Wendell, (who was promoted to sing by his cousin.)

And though only the musicians are compensated, the chance to work with and meet the caliber of people in the room, makes it all worthwhile!

Each session includes the "Banana Puddin' Jazz Poem" in which all audience participants write a short thought and all are combined and read to the audience.

Rome's recent e-blast listed more than 100 sponsors since the jam's inception, which included individuals, friends and corporations.

Vying for \$\$ in Prizes

Continued from previous page

since we were on a tight budget. I added embroidery to give it some detail and intricacy."

"Beautiful, dramatic, tasteful, stylish-I can feel the culture," said Linton-George about Rebecca's dress, which also impressed judges -Jamaica Observer Lifestyle Editor, Novia McDonald Whyte; menswear designer Carlton Brown and guest judge, Trinidadian actress Nadia Khan.

Rebecca (who calls her label Fancy Purple Paint) was the first of the show's designers to

win a challenge as no winner was declared in the previous episode where five contestants went home.

The next best design came from Barbadian Kerin Scott's skirt and top combo which reflected the laid back beach culture of her island and the blue and yellow of the national flag. Jamaican Janel Jolly created an African-inspired chic casual dress while Trinidadian Ryan Chan delivered his version of a modern sari.

Jamaicans Crystal Powell, Keshon Hawthorne, Maria King-

Beadle, Natalie Rochester as well as Barbadian/Trinidadian Janelle Forde and Ryan Berkeley of Guyana were given the opportunity to continue to next week's show for what Hawthorne aptly described as a "second chance."

In the bottom four were Trinidadian Shannon Kwong and Gregory Williams, Shellane McFarlane and Kimbally Smith of Jamaica. The final two came down to Shellane and Kimbally and the latter was cut for his



Episode 2 designs at panel with with model Abenah Gonzalez (left) wearing a Rebecca Stirnm outfit.

Photo by Alty Benjamin Jr.

poor interpretation, which according to McDonald-Whyte failed to impress.

Rebecca and the remaining 13 contestants are vying for JA\$3 million in prizes including the chance to show at London Fashion Week.

Spectacular showdown of the Gods

"Wrath of the Titans"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG-13 for
action and intense
violence.
Running time: 99
minutes
Distributor: Warner
Brothers

I wish somebody would help me understand why the characters in movies set in ancient Greece invariably speak with British accents, since the English language didn't even come into existence until centuries later. Other than that glaring anachronism, I have no complaints about

"Wrath of the Titans," a 3D sequel, which is a rarity in that actually eclipses the original in quality.

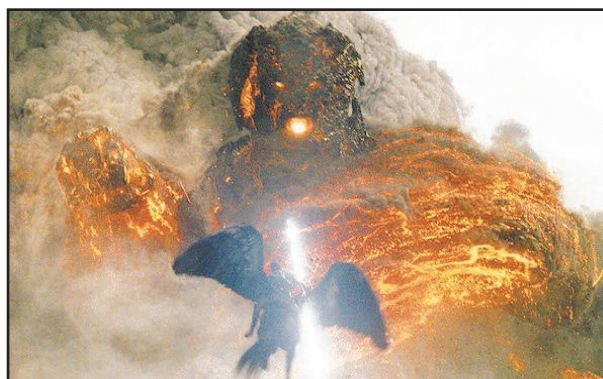
Directed by Jonathan Liebesman (Battle: Los Angeles), this visually-captivating action-adventure revolves around another epic battle between the forces of good and evil. Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Danny Huston and Ralph Fiennes have returned to reprise their lead roles as Perseus, Zeus, Poseidon and Hades, respectively.

The story unfolds a decade after the initial installment which ended with hero Perseus' defeat of the Kraken. Since slaying the monstrous sea monsters,

the widowed demigod has been passing an unassuming existence as an ordinary fisherman, quietly raising his now 10-year-old son, Heli�s (John Bell), in obscurity.

But Perseus suddenly has a good reason to take his mighty sword back out of its scabbard when he learns that Hades and Ares (Edgar Ramirez) have imprisoned his father, Zeus, in an underworld dungeon. For, after killing Poseidon, the two renegade titans entered into a diabolical pact with world domination in mind.

Accompanied by the lovely Andromeda (Rosamund Pike) with the goofy Agenor



A scene from "Wrath of the Titans."

(Toby Kebell) tagging along for comic relief, altruistic Perseus and an intrepid band of warriors descend into a subterranean hell on behalf of humanity. While searching for Zeus, they

encounter a host of mythological creatures, including one-eyed Cyclops (Martin Bayfield), half man-half bull Minotaur (Spencer Wilding), an addepleted fallen god (Billy Nighy) and

fire-breathing dragons.

Of course, the quest inexorably culminates in a spectacular showdown, which takes full advantage of advances in 3-D technology. Be prepared to find yourself frequently ducking or squinting to avoid boulders or flaming embers which appeared to be aimed straight at your head.

Graphic, high body-count bloodsport born of man's imagination, harking back to the days before modern science provided plausible explanations for thunder, lightning, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and other seemingly-supernatural phenomena. The gods must be on steroids!

Independent & Foreign Films

Darling Companion (PG-13 for profanity and sexuality) Midlife crisis comedy, set in the Rockies, about a neglected housewife (Diane Keaton) who enlists the assistance of a psychic gypsy (Ayelet Zurer) and the local sheriff (Sam Shepard) after her narcissistic husband (Kevin Kline) loses track of their dog during a walk while talking on his cell phone. With Dianne Wiest, Richard Jenkins and Mark Duplass.

Downtown Express (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama about a Juilliard student (Philippe Quint) who's torn between following in his overbearing father's (Michael Cumpsty) footsteps and abandoning classical entirely to join his girlfriend's (Nellie McKay) rock band. Support cast includes Ashley Springer, Carolyn McCormick and Declan Bennett.

Fightville (Unrated) "I coulda' be a contender" documentary following a stable of aspiring Southern Louisiana fighters' as they attempt to move up the Mixed Martial Arts ranks.

Inventing Our Life (Unrated) Israeli documentary examining the rise and decline of the country's 100-year-old Kibbutz Movement.

Jean Gentil (Unrated) Unemployment saga about a recently-fired, French pro-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

fessor from Haiti (Jean Remy Gentil) whose faith is tested while he looks for another job in Santo Domingo. With Lys Ambroise, Nadal Walcott and Paul Henri Presume'. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Marley (PG-13 for violent images, mature themes and incessant cannabis consumption) Reverential biopic chronicling the musical career and spiritual philosophy of Bob Marley (1945-1981), the lead singer/songwriter/guitarist of The Wailers, the legendary Rastafarian reggae group from the island of Jamaica. Featuring archival concert and interview footage, plus present day reflections by friends and family, including his widow Rita, son Ziggy and contemporary Jimmy Cliff.

The Moth Diaries (R for sexuality, profanity, drug use and graphic images) Psychological thriller about the descent into insanity of a grieving student (Sarah Bolger) at an exclusive boarding school in the wake of the arrival of a mysterious new classmate (Lily Cole) she thinks is up to no good. Cast includes Scott Speedman, Sarah Gadon and Ann Day-Jones.

My Way (R for graphic violence) World War II drama about a young man (Dong-gun Jang) from occupied Korea who has to put his dream of running the marathon in the Olympics on hold when he is drafted into the Japanese army. With Jo Odagiri, Bingbing Fan and In-kwon Kim. (In Korean, Japanese and Russian with subtitles)

Snow on the Bluff (R for violence, brief nudity, alcohol abuse, pervasive profanity and incessant drug use) Bad boy biopic about notorious Atlanta crack dealer/armed robber Curtis Snow who shot this documentary with a camera he acquired in a holdup. With Cat Erickson, Adrienne Lockett and Frank Ringer.

To the Arctic (G) Meryl Streep narrates this 3-D documentary highlighting a mamma polar bear's attempt to raise her two cubs while adjusting to the challenges posed by climate change.

Whore's Glory (Unrated) Prostitution documentary exploring the world's oldest profession as practiced at ports of call all over the world. (In German, French,

English, Thai, Japanese, Spanish and Bengali with subtitles)

Big Budget Films

Chimpanzee (G) Tim Allen narrates this Disney documentary about a three-year-

old chimp named Oscar who finds himself adopted by an adult male from another clan after being separated from his own family in the wilds of the Ivory Coast's jungle.

The Lucky One (PG-13 for violence and sexuality) Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling

co-star in this screen adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' best-seller about a Marine sergeant's search for the woman whose photo he credited with saving his life while serving in Iraq. With Blythe Danner, Riley Thomas Stewart and Jay R. Ferguson.

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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 27
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Luv My Pet is holding low cost dog and 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 and 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.

Cultural Salute BCA, a national non-profit foodservice, hospitality and educational networking organization is hosting its 19th Annual Cultural Awareness Salute Gala emceed by Dan Bowers of Fox 5 along with special guests, highlighting the effort needed to impact the future leaders of foodservice. The gala, being held at Guastavino's NYC, 409 E. 59 St., begins at 7:00 p.m. w/a VIP & Cocktail Reception, followed by a multi-course dinner, ending with a Viennese reception and after party beginning at 10:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.bcaglobal.org and to purchase tickets, call (212) 643-6570.

Comedy/Variety Local blues favorites Renee and The Derelicts (Redux) perform two sets of the classic and original blues and soul tunes, 10:00 p.m. at 78 Below (formerly the P&G Cafe), 380A Columbus Ave. at 78 St. No cover. For information, call (212) 787-5150 or visit www.reneean-dtherelictsredux.com/.

Concert Jammins Entertainment presents Firerama: Capleton Performing Live and hosted by DJ Noah Wid Di Powa and Vibezman Redman, at Pulse 48, 1020 East 48 St. and Farragut Rd., Brooklyn. Doors open 10:00 p.m. Showtime 12:30 a.m. For tickets and information, call (718) 282-8041 or (646) 434-5390.

Community Gardening The High School for Public Service Youth Farm is holding a free community gardening workshop focusing on direct seeding and transplanting techniques and how to choose the appropriate technique for your garden, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Youth Farm, 600 Kingston Ave., between Rutland and Winthrop, Brooklyn. You can volunteer your service from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Come to volunteer and stay for the workshop. For information, visit www.hspfarm.blogspot.com or www.bkfarmyards.com.

Jazz for Young People J@LC presents Jazz for Young People, a family concert exploring "What is New Orleans Jazz?" featuring classics such as "Audubon Zoo" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" will be held at The Rose Theater at



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.



Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60 St., N.Y. at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. and featuring pre-concert educational activities beginning at 12:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., respectively. For tickets, call CenterCharge at (212) 721-6500, or visit jalc.org or the J@LC Box Office.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Hat Show An Easter Hat Show Extravaganza will highlight The Organization for Social & Health Advancement for Guyana and the Caribbean annual fundraising tea party at the Rose Garden, 4224 Church Ave., Brooklyn. Teatime is 3:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Medical Mission to Guyana. For tickets, call (646) 522-8005, (347) 901-0009 or (917) 385-6409.

Fashion Rave DJ Roy and the Fluffy Diva Miss Kitty are hosting Irie Fashion Rave at LQ, 511 Lexington Ave., between 47 and 48 streets, Manhattan, featuring live performances by Singing Melody, Alphonso and Express. Cocktail hour, 6:00 p.m. Showtime, 7:00 p.m. For information, call (888) 474-3692 or visit iriejamradio.com.

Earth Day Brooklyn Center for the Performing

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.



Arts, 2900 Campus Rd., presents the Fifth Annual National Grid Earth Day Celebration focusing on families and how they can play a role in caring for the earth and creating a more sustainable future. The event features live music, arts and crafts, street performers as well as interactive family activities and educational displays. Free event for all ages, general admission, no tickets issued. For information, call (718) 951-4600.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

Networking Breakfast The Greater N.Y. Chamber of Commerce presents an Open House Networking Breakfast with special guest Under Secretary Eric Hirschhorn, Bureau of Industry & Security, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at the Greater N.Y. Chamber, 20 W 44 St., between 5 & 6 avenues, N.Y. Please RSVP to (212) 686-7220 or register online at www.ny-chamber.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

NHS of East Flatbush, UHAB & NYC Partnership Housing Development is holding a free information seminar regarding the 320

Sterling St. Co-op Development in Crown Heights featuring 50 government subsidized apartments focusing on the application process, layout and eligibility, 6:00 p.m. at the Crown Heights Library, 560 New York Ave., between Maple St. & Lincoln Rd., Brooklyn. To register, call (718) 469-4679 or email infoef_01@nhsnyc.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Public Meeting Radical Women presents feminist poet and writer Amber Stewart discussing "Literature & Revolution," 7:30 p.m. at Freedom Hall, 113 W 128 St., Harlem, between Malcolm X Blvd. & Seventh Ave. Admission free. A Spring supper will be served at 7:00 p.m. for a donation. Childcare provided. For information, call (212) 222-0633.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

The Dove Musical Soaring Higher Musical Theater and Ambassadors of Entertainment presents "The Dove Musical," a musical drama about a self-destructive stripper who struggles to overcome abuse from the past and searches for her lost dream, 9:00 p.m. at The Triad NYC, 158 W 72 St., N.Y. For tickets and information, call (914) 960-0818 or visit thedovemusical.com.

Jazz New York Cool brings free music to the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, N.Y. featuring Jay Leonhart, His Family and Friends performing an electrifying program of music from some of New York's finest jazz composers, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (212) 873-3400.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Scholarship Luncheon The Girls High School Alumnae Assn. is holding their Annual Scholarship Luncheon celebrating 25 years of "Sharing The Legacy" and will award honors and scholarships to graduating seniors, 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church, 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd., Brooklyn. For tickets and information, call (718) 789-3996 or (718) 778-0677. Vendors welcome. Call for information.

ONGOING

USA Soccer The T&T USA Soccer Assn. is now running the T&T Caribbean Cup Team to be played May - September 2012. Training will be held at Hamilton Field in Brooklyn, between Albany & E.N.Y. avenue on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. All interested parties contact (347) 424-3235 or (347) 365-7537.

USA Soccer T&T USA Soccer Assn. is holding a national trial for U-17 and U-20 for the T&T National Youth Teams. The U-17 tournament is to be held in T&T on July 3-11, 2012. For more information, call (347) 365-7537 or email gthotto1@optonline.net

Compiled by Ida Eisenstein

Sally and Tom (The American Way)

The Castillo Theatre is re-opening "Sally and Tom (The American Way)" due to popular demand with an additional seven performances on April 20, 21, 28, 29; May 4, 5, 6.

Fred Newman and Annie Roboff's musical revival, "Sally and Tom (The American Way)" examines the 30-year relationship between Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings, a relationship that produced six children and embodies the wrenching conflict between democracy and slavery, and its legacy of racism that continues to shape America to this day.

In this polarizing presidential election year, the meaning of "the American way" is itself being hotly contested.

Under the direction of Gabrielle L. Kurlander, the play is performed on three stages in its own surreal "history museum." The audience is seated throughout the performance space, among the exhibits and is encouraged to interact with this performance of the conflicted history of our nation.

The cast for "Sally and Tom (The American Way)" features AUDELCO Award-winner Ava Jenkins and Thaddeus Pearson in the title roles, as well as David Nackman as James T. Callendar, the muck-raking journalist who exposed Tom and Sally's affair in the press; Brian D. Hills as Madison Hemings, one of Sally and Tom's children and independent political strategist, Jacqueline Salit as James Madison.

Musical direction is by David Belmont with Michael Walsh, choreography by Lonnie Moreton; sets by Joseph Spirito and costumes by Emilie Charlotte Knoerzer.

The Castillo Theatre (Dan Friedman, artistic director, Diane Stiles, managing director) is located at 543 West 42nd St., between 10th and 11th avenues.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. April 20, 21, 28, 29, May 4, 5, 6. Tickets can be purchased through the Castillo Box Office or at www.castillo.org.



From left, Brian D. Hills, Ava Jenkins and Adam Kemmerer.

Photo by Ronald L. Glassman

Pay gap for women

Continued from page 10

this summer unless Congress acts soon. Given that extending the 3.4 percent rate will cost \$5.6 billion a year, getting this Congress to act may be problematical.

Two-thirds of college seniors who graduated in 2010 had student loan debt, and the average balance was more than \$25,000, according to the Project on Student Debt. They find the average debt

for students at public universities is about \$20,000, but grows to between \$27,650 and \$33,050 for students at private schools.

A woman pays exactly the same for her college education that a man does. That debt load is especially hard on women. They make less at work, they have just as much, if not more, in student loan debt for the extra degrees they need to keep up, and they will

probably have to work longer in order to meet their financial obligations and save for retirement.

Equal pay for equal work is not only an issue of fairness, but would go a long way toward helping women - and their families - break even.

Donna Seymour, Potsdam, N.Y. is the communications director for AAUW-NYS, a member of the national AAUW-Voices Project and the St. Lawrence County Branch, AAUW.

Immigrant Business

Continued from page 15

City to adopt them as official policy.

The Fund will:

~ Develop a program with micro-lenders to provide 200 businesses with credit counseling, debt management, legal assistance and budgeting help.

~ Partner with tech firms to expand online marketing and social media presence for 200 immigrant small businesses.

~ Create and distribute a tool-kit of existing support programs directly to 5,000 immigrant-owned businesses.

~ Host a five-borough listening tour with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Center for a New Urban Future, and other local community-based organizations to help City programs maximize job creation at immigrant firms.

"Immigrant small business owners move neighborhood economies across the city," said. Yet, opening and running a small business is difficult."

Coates added:

"Many do not access NYC services or communicate well with the city for a variety

of reasons including lack of technological savvy, language, time constraints, and other cultural barriers.

"Dealing with and accessing city services should not be an impediment to running a small business."

To address this issue, Coates said it's "important for NYC to partner with community based organizations who have relationships with owners and have built the trust of the community, to facilitate these businesses' connection to City support services.

Read the full report at: <http://advocate.nyc.gov/immigrant-business>.

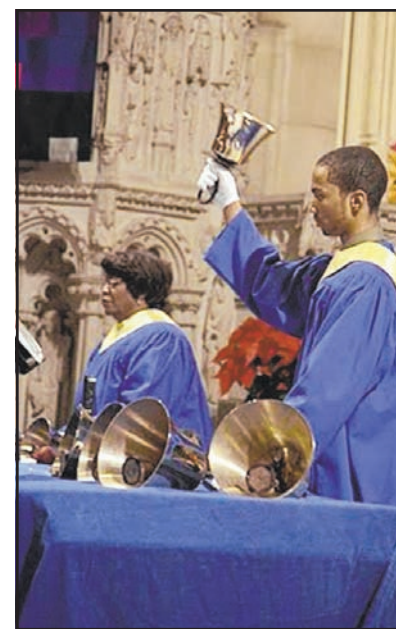
Handbell Festival at Riverside Church

One hundred handbell ringers from New York and Virginia will descend upon historic Riverside Church to toll handbells during its 34th Annual English Handbell Festival at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22 in the Church's Nave, at 490 Riverside Drive (bet. 120th & 122nd St.), Morningside Heights.

Guest conductor Kathleen Ebling-Shaw will direct 100 handbell ringers as they perform a variety of compositions by composers from around the world.

Participating choirs include: The Riverside Ringers (NYC), The Emanuel Ringers (Pleasantville, N.Y.), The Katonah Celebration Ringers (Katonah, N.Y.) and Mitchell Ringers (Annandale, VA).

Preceding the handbell concert, at 3:00 p.m. carillonneur Dionisio A. Lind will give a recital on the church's world famous carillon; and at 3:30 p.m. Riverside Church Organist, Christopher Creaghan, will perform an organ recital on Riverside's 206-rank Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, the second largest instrument in New York City with more than 12,000 pipes.



Handbell Choir.

To get to The Riverside Church by subway take the 1 to 116th St. and walk to 490 Riverside Drive (bet. 120th & 122nd St.) two blocks west of Broadway.

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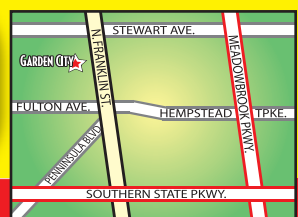
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'West Indies cricketers need to improve their catching skills. The number of balls spilled on the field is creating a setback for the team.'

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 33

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Morency shines in Uniondale

By Robert Elkin

Kevin Morency has been on sports teams almost all through his days at South Shore High School, located in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

He has been a member of the track and field and soccer teams during the fall with the latter activity and track during the winter and spring. He became part of the booter squad, which captured the Public Schools Athletic League championship.

"It was awesome that our team won the title," Morency said. "Everybody was happy-my coach and my teammates. After the championship game we went out to dinner, and we tried to focus on the next season coming up."

Winning that soccer title was the biggest moment in his career.

Originally from Haiti, where he lived for his first 15 years, Morency eventually came to the United States and landed at South Shore to get a better education, good job and a scholarship to college.

He played soccer for all four years as a schoolboy athlete. The two-sport athlete has not made up his mind on the sport

Continued on next page

Kieron Pollard's ODI career best

By Azad Ali

West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard jumped 17 places to a career best 33rd in the latest ICC One-Day International Batting Rankings following his Man-of-the-Series earning performance in the recent five-match series against Australia.

Pollard scored 222 runs at an average of 55.50 throughout the rubber to become the regional team's joint highest rated batsman, going even with Chris Gayle, while Lendl Simmons (35th),



West Indies' Kieron Pollard bats as his teammate Dwayne Bravo looks on during a practice session in Kingstown, St. Vincent.

Continued on next page



Sporting Kansas City's CJ Sapong leaps high to attempt to head the ball into the goal against Real Salt Lake during an MLS soccer match, Saturday, April 14, 2012, in Kansas City, Kan. Sporting Kansas City won 1-0.

By Patrick Horne

Sporting Kansas City (6-0) is the only undefeated team in MLS after six games. So why is Sporting so successful? The names that come to mind for the club's success start with head

coach Peter Vermes, then goal keeper Jimmy Nielsen, forwards Kai Kamara and C.J Sapong and midfielder Graham Zusi - none of whom are high-priced European imports with designated player status.

Former U.S. national team forward Vermes, a New Jersey product, has put together a group of players, mostly from U.S. colleges, that have responded well to him. Last Saturday night,

Continued on next page

Winning ways in MLS

Continued from previous page

the Eastern Conference leader racked up its six straight victory, a 1-0 win over Western Conference leader Real Salt Lake (5-2). The latest win was courtesy of Aurelien Collin's second goal of the season in the 63rd-minute off a Graham Zusi assist, Zusi's league-leading sixth.

To get to this point took stalwart defense, led by goalkeeper Nielsen, the league's leading goal keeper. Nielsen leads MLS in most goal keeping categories: he is tied for first in minutes played (450) with Jon Busch of San Jose Earthquakes; his goals-against-average (.20) tops the league, making his defense the stingiest by allowing only one goal so far; and he leads MLS in shoot-outs (5). The stingy defense of Sporting Kansas City enjoyed an MLS record of 335 minutes without allowing a shot on goal, a credit to the four defenders in front of Nielsen, but that streak ended Saturday night when Nat Borchner managed a header in second-half stoppage time.

Although defense may be where it starts, a team has to produce goals to win. Sporting's nine goals don't make it the highest scoring team in MLS, an honor rested with the New York Red Bulls (16), but forwards Kamara and Sapong have been an efficient duo who has shared the bulk of the scoring. Each has two game-winning goals among each of their three goals so far.

The scoring duo is supported by strong midfield led by Zusi, the league's assist leader. Among his six assists, three are of the game-winning kind. Zusi has taken a league-leading 17 corner kicks, a statistic that reflects his accurate passing and his team's success in forcing the opponent into turnovers in their part of the field.

Vermes has created a productive environment with good chemistry. While Sporting Kansas City hasn't had an outpouring of goals from its forwards, its defense has allowed only one goal against and this balance resulted in the club's success. An old soccer adage is at play here: if you don't allow goals, you can't lose. Sporting Kansas City hasn't lost.

Red Bulls, Earthquakes Tie

Anything you can do, I can do better! Anytime you score, I can score also! This seems to be the theme that prevailed at Red Bull Arena last Saturday night when the New York Red Bulls (3-2-1) and the San Jose Earthquakes (4-1-1) battled to a 2-2 draw.

The Earthquakes played catch-up ball all night and came away with a point. The visitors fell behind twice in the contest and each time successfully rallied to tie the score. In the fifth minute, the Earthquake defense failed to mark Kenny Cooper, who waltz in from between two defenders to give the New York Red Bulls a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute with his seventh goal of the season, off a Thierry Henry pass. At the other end, San Jose's Rafael Baca equaled New York's effort by equalizing in the ninth minute from an assist by Jamaican international Khari Stephenson.

Dax Mc Carty helped New York to forge ahead in the 22nd minute; the midfielder latched onto a short pass in the penalty area from Cooper, who flicked on Dane Richards' cross after the speedy Jamaican international beat two Earthquake defenders on the right wing to make his cross. Again, the Earthquakes responded when

Chris Wondolowski headed in Shea Salinas' short cross from the left side to tie the game for the last time at the 35th minute; the goal was Wondolowski's seventh on the season.

The second half was dominated by the Earthquakes midfield, but staying true to the theme of the day, it seemed as though it would take a Red Bulls score to facilitate one from the Earthquakes, and that didn't happen. The Red Bulls return to Red Bull Arena on Saturday, April 28 to face Eastern Conference rival New England Revolution in a 3:30 PM contest.

Galaxy Wins

It was like old time for the Los Angeles Galaxy last Saturday night as the defending champion got goals from its go-to players to halt a two-game losing streak. Landon Donovan and David Beckham teamed with Brazilian Juninho to score three goals for a 3-1 victory over the Portland Timbers, which lost its fourth straight game. Tied at 1-1 after goals by Donovan and Kris Boyd for Portland, Juninho came up with the winner in the 83rd minute and Beckham extended the lead just minutes after.

In other MLS games, the Philadelphia Union recorded its first win of the season by defeating the Columbus Crew, 1-0; DC United travelled to New England Revolution and came away with a surprising 2-1 victory against the rejuvenated Revs; the Seattle Sounders keeps rolling along and knocked off the Colorado Rapids, 1-0; Chivas USA topped hosts Toronto FC, 1-0; and hosts FC Dallas bettered the expan-



Real Salt Lake's Sebastian Velasquez fights for the ball with Sporting Kansas City's Roger Espinoza during an MLS soccer match, Saturday, April 14, 2012, in Kansas City, Kan.

AP Photo/The Kansas City Star, Andy Lundberg

sion Montreal Impact, 2-1. In the only games last Sunday, hosts Chicago Fire and the Houston Dynamo played to a 1-1 draw.

Costa Rica, Honduras Draw

Hosts Costa Rica and Honduras played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly on Wednesday in the capital city of San Jose. The game was part of the teams' preparation for the

CONCACAF third round World Cup qualifying campaign which gets underway in early June.

David Suazo scored in the 25th minute to give Honduras the lead, but the home team recovered to tie the contest Olman Vargas tied the score for Costa Rica at the 50-minute mark. Suazo's goal was his 17th international tally; Honduras is now unbeaten against Costa Rica in their last five games.

Highest rated batsman

Continued from previous page

Shivnarine Chanderpaul (39th) and Ramnaresh Sarwan (45th).

Captain Darren Sammy and allrounder Andre Russell also achieved the highest batting positions in their career. Sammy (160 runs, ave.: 53.33) went up 44 spots to 72nd while Russell (113 runs, ave.: 28.25) jumped nine places to 64th.

The leading ODI batsman in the world is South African Hashim Amla with his teammate AB De Villiers and Indian Virat Kohli in

second and third, respectively.

Meanwhile, offspinner Narine (11 wickets, ave.: 14.45) jumped 78 places to 58th after his stellar series while Kemar Roach (11 wickets, ave.: 20.45) gained eight places to move to 17th after the third ODI before conceding 74 runs off 9.3 overs in the fourth match.

Sammy is West Indies' top rated allrounder in 16th, with Russell (18th) and Pollard (19th). That list is headed by Bangladesh's Skakib Al Hasan.

Big moment in the life of a star

Continued from previous page

that he wants to pursue while in college. He did say that he would like a scholarship to do both sports.

"I think that I'll get it," he recently said. "I already was offered a scholarship for track to go to Monroe College. Since I could accept only one scholarship, it'll be track, because it's fun and I enjoy running. I'll get my teammates to help me and make sure that they motivate me."

Morency's track coach

is Paul Schneider, who has helped him a great deal. Morency will be graduating in June. Representing his high school he has been competing and winning in track.

For instance, he recently had a good start and captured the 100-meter-dash in the varsity final in a time of 11.32 in the Knight Time Invitational conducted at Uniondale High in Long Island. He won the semi-final section of the same event in 11.24.

Actually, Morency is in his

third year of track and field.

"In my first year I wasn't on the team, because I was focusing on soccer and more on academics," he went on. "(Then) I set the outdoor school record of 11.20 in the 100. Last year I did very well."

Soccer helps him for track and vice versa.

"Track increases my (speed) and soccer builds up strength," said Morency, who has been running for three years. "I do a lot of lifting so I can get stronger for track."

Gayle set to return to West Indies

Almost a year has passed without Chris Gayle representing the West Indies because of a highly charged radio interview with a Jamaican radio station in which he criticized Head Coach Ottis Gibson.

Chairman of CARICOM's Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, announced recently that the matter had been resolved.

Negotiations went on for weeks in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in having the matter resolved. Prime Minister of St. Vincent Ralph Gonsalves facilitated the concerned parties Gayle and the WICB.

The statement of resolution on the impasse, signed by both Gayle and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), sees both parties expressing regret for their actions and pledging to move forward in the spirit of reconciliation.

In the light of all this,



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

the WICB and Gayle agree that the way is now clear for his active return to West Indies cricket subject to all necessary fitness considerations.

Gayle Will Be Available For Twenty20 World Cup This Year

Because of Gayle's Indian Premier League (IPL) commitments he would not be available to participate in the England series starting May 5 to June 24.

However, he may be able to participate in the One-Day and Twenty20 aspects of the series because his IPL contract finishes May 27 in India and he should be available after May 29. The West Indies is scheduled to play three Test matches, three One-Day

Internationals and a single Twenty20.

Windies Need The Force Of Chris Gayle

It is quite clear that the West Indies cricket team needs the striking force of Chris Gayle to regain some respect and assist in the rebuilding of West Indies cricket. It is necessary to have an experience player such as Gayle return to the team. He brings an abundance of experience from which the younger players will benefit greatly. Presently, the West Indies team lacks muscle.

Spinners Will Contribute Significantly

Sunil Narine, Narsingh

Deonarine and Shane Shillingford should create a bowling force for the West Indies in the spinning department. Windies will always need two reputable spinners for the Test matches along with two pacers.

The West Indies catching will have to be improved because too many catches were spilled on the field creating a set back for the team.

Wicket keeper Carlton Baugh has been too faulty with the gloves. It is about time the selectors look to groom other young wicket keepers in the region.

Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Chris Gayle watches after hitting a six during their Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket match against Pune Warriors in Bangalore, India, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi



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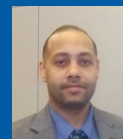
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Caribbean Crossword by StatePoint Media, Inc.

Across

1. Jacobs and Chagall, e.g.
6. Lake in Provence
9. Angelina's partner
13. Seize or take over
14. Boxer Clay
15. Grease another's palms
16. Lord's estate
17. For every
18. Painter's helper
19. *Endangered _____ Act
21. *Re-purpose
23. Traveler's destination
24. Evade payment
25. End of a fuse?
28. *Quickly spreading desert
30. Island famous for bears
35. Faubourg Saint-Honore and Rivoli, e.g.
37. Where batters practice
39. Neatly smart in dress, dapper
40. Gaelic
41. Acquired behavior pattern
43. Freezing temperature in Celsius
44. Colorado national park
46. ____ Lee
47. *What most cars do with pollutants
48. Type of engine
50. Beaks
52. ____ Paolo
53. Like a painting on a wall
55. Top seed in tournament

57. Because of that

61. *Gaylord Nelson to Earth Day
65. Group of wives
66. Sea in Spain
68. Garden dweller
69. *Diminishing layer
70. One who plays for pay
71. Harry's Professor of Defence Against the Dark Arts
72. R in RIP
73. Bottom of pants, e.g.
74. Triangular road sign

Down

1. "____ the word"
2. As quickly as you can
3. Ancient Germanic alphabet character
4. Cash Return on Capital Invested
5. *Rachel Carson's "Silent _____"
6. 200 of these in Daytona 500
7. Type of brew
8. Type of clouds, pl.
9. Make like a donkey
10. Reduced instruction set computer
11. Cain's victim
12. Mark for omission
15. Appear inviting
20. Steve Buscemi's character on "Boardwalk Empire"
22. Bugling ungulate
24. Beginning of universe?
25. *An objective is to save these
26. _____ Ratched from "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
27. *Outer layer of seeds
29. Sheep cries
31. Fog or stupor
32. Milk and bread on a grocery list, e.g.
33. Courtyards
34. * _____ Protocol, a framework for climate change
36. Nostradamus, e.g.
38. Irish name of Ireland
42. Something best not mentioned
45. "In the grand _____ of things"
49. Center of activity
51. Cozy and warm
54. Usually depicted as beautiful maiden
56. Boredom
57. God of thunder
58. *Atmospheric dust, vapor, smoke and moisture
59. Aphrodite's son
60. Popular rock opera
61. "____ Russia with Love"
62. Ignorant person
63. Male version of Emily
64. Tear violently
67. "____ we there yet?"

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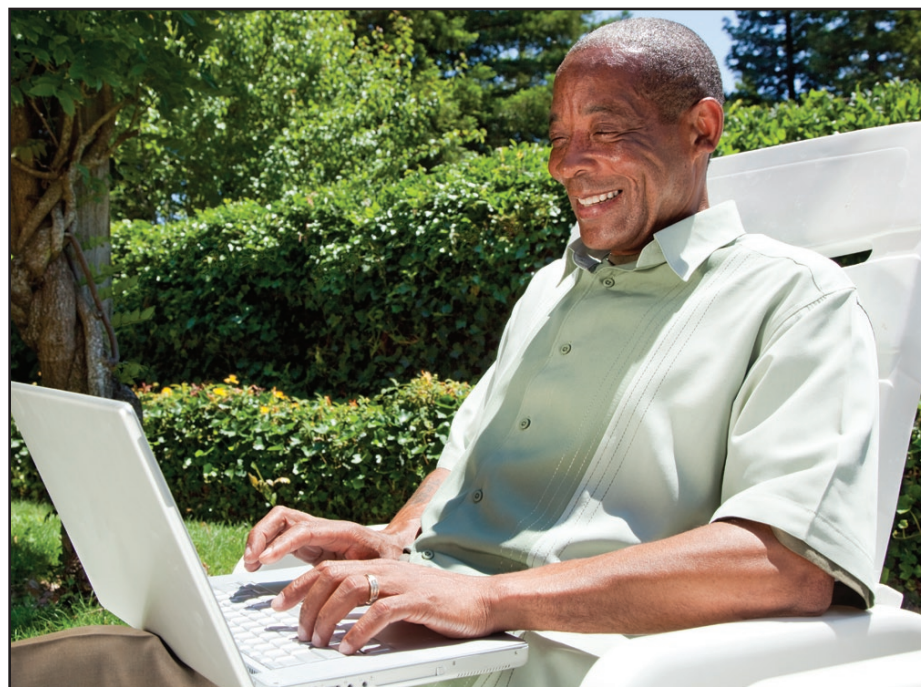
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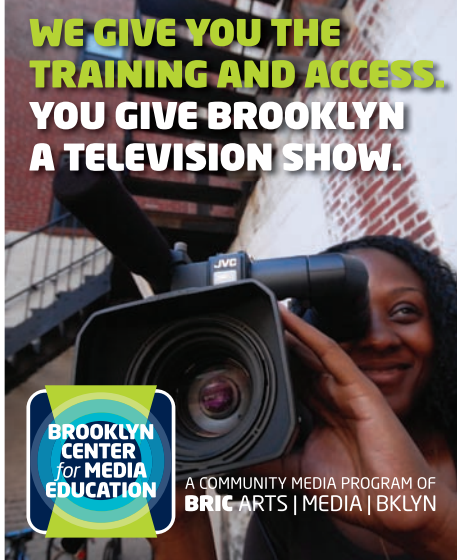
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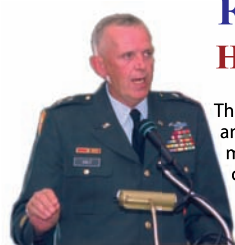
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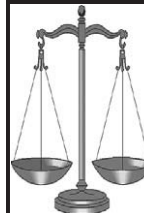


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Navy Green R1 LLC aka 7 Clermont is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 111 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 7 Clermont Avenue in the Fort Greene/Wallabout neighborhood of Brooklyn. 7 Clermont is a NON SMOKING COMMUNITY. This building is being constructed through the Low Income Rental Program (LIRP) of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), The Low Income Affordable Marketplace Program (LAMP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation, and the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (SLIHC) of New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). The size, rent, and targeted income distribution for the apartments are as follows:

# of Apartments Available	Apartment Size	HH Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Minimum Annual Income	Total Maximum Annual Income ***
5	Studio	1	\$474.00	\$18,206	\$23,240
7	1 Bedroom	1	\$511.00	\$19,509	\$23,240
		2	\$511.00	\$19,509	\$26,560
9	2 Bedroom	2	\$623.00	\$23,451	\$26,560
		3	\$623.00	\$23,451	\$29,880
		4	\$623.00	\$23,451	\$33,200
2	3 Bedroom	3	\$715.00	\$27,154	\$29,880
		4	\$715.00	\$27,154	\$33,200
		5	\$715.00	\$27,154	\$35,880
		6	\$715.00	\$27,154	\$38,520
11	Studio	1	\$751.00	\$27,703	\$34,860
15	1 Bedroom	1	\$808.00	\$29,691	\$34,860
		2	\$808.00	\$29,691	\$39,840
24	2 Bedroom	2	\$979.00	\$35,657	\$39,840
		3	\$979.00	\$35,657	\$44,820
		4	\$979.00	\$35,657	\$49,800
5	3 Bedroom	3	\$1127.00	\$41,280	\$44,820
		4	\$1127.00	\$41,280	\$49,800
		5	\$1127.00	\$41,280	\$53,820
		6	\$1127.00	\$41,280	\$57,780
3	Studio	1	\$898.00	\$32,743	\$58,100
5	1 Bedroom	1	\$1135.00	\$40,903	\$58,100
		2	\$1135.00	\$40,903	\$66,400
6	2 Bedroom	2	\$1371.00	\$49,097	\$66,400
		3	\$1371.00	\$49,097	\$74,700
		4	\$1371.00	\$49,097	\$83,000
2	3 Bedroom	3	\$1580.00	\$56,811	\$74,700
		4	\$1580.00	\$56,811	\$83,000
		5	\$1580.00	\$56,811	\$89,700
		6	\$1580.00	\$56,811	\$96,300
3	Studio	1	\$1136.00	\$40,903	\$75,530
5	1 Bedroom	1	\$1432.00	\$51,086	\$75,530
		2	\$1432.00	\$51,086	\$86,320
7	2 Bedroom	2	\$1728.00	\$61,337	\$86,320
		3	\$1728.00	\$61,337	\$97,110
		4	\$1728.00	\$61,337	\$107,900
2	3 Bedroom	3	\$1992.00	\$70,937	\$97,110
		4	\$1992.00	\$70,937	\$107,900
		5	\$1992.00	\$70,937	\$116,610
		6	\$1992.00	\$70,937	\$125,190

*Subject to occupancy criteria **Includes gas for heat, hot water and cooking - resident pays electricity
***Income guidelines subject to change.

Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria to qualify. Applications may be requested by regular mail to: Navy Green R1 LLC c/o PO BOX 1157, Triborough Station, New York, NY 10035 or by visiting our website www.7clermont.com. Please be sure to include a self-addressed envelope with your request for an application. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only to a post office box number that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by June 13, 2012. Applications postmarked after June 13, 2012 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applicants will be selected by lottery. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Eligible applicants currently residing in Brooklyn's Community Board 2 will receive preference for 50% of the units. In addition, there will be a 5% preference for Municipal Employees of the City of New York, 5% preference for mobility impaired and 2% preference for the hearing/visually impaired. Applicants residing in New York City will receive a general preference over Non-City residents. Limit one application per household.

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	2	\$798-\$879	\$26,370 - \$40,140
1 Bedroom	1	\$941	\$28,230 - \$35,160
	2	\$941	\$28,230 - \$40,140
	3	\$941	\$28,230 - \$45,180
2 Bedroom	3	\$1,129	\$33,870 - \$45,180
	4	\$1,129	\$33,870 - \$50,160
	5	\$1,129	\$33,870 - \$54,180
	6	\$1,129	\$33,870 - \$58,200

*Rental charges are subject to change

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- Preference will be given to documented veterans.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- Applicant must be financially responsible.
- Applicant must meet all eligibility requirements.

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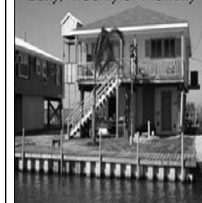
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