

Caribbean Life

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**Rudisha's
U.S. debut**
Page 40

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The long arm of the law

By Bert Wilkinson

GEORGETOWN, Guyana -- Rape allegations brought by a 34-year-old married woman five months ago have finally forced Police Chief Henry Greene from office, with authorities announcing his widely expected resignation at the weekend saying he will leave office immediately.

Greene, 58 this month, had been on administrative leave since late last year after the woman who had asked the top cop for help in recovering a stolen mobile phone, alleged he had pressured her into having sex at a city hotel owned by a close buddy. It lead to an official probe into the incident and calls for his departure from political parties, women and other civil society groups.

A terse announcement from the office of President Donald Ramotar stated that Greene, an attorney, had "offered to retire as the commissioner of police of Guyana" and that Ramotar has accepted his offer with immediate effect."

Greene narrowly escaped being formally charged
Continued on page 4



Jumpstarting New Business

President Obama signs the JOBS Act, making it easier for small businesses to thrive. See page 3. AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

MONEY IN THE BANK

Carib eyes boost from G20, IMF funds

By Nelson A. King

The Group of Twenty (G-20) advanced and emerging market economies, along with the broader International Monetary Fund (IMF) membership, agreed on Apr. 20 to boost the IMF's lending capacity by more than US\$430 billion to the Caribbean and other developing countries.

After a meeting during the IMF-World Bank Spring Summit in Washington, the G-20 and the IMF's policy-setting International Monetary

and Financial Committee (IMFC) said there are "firm commitments to increase resources available to the IMF by more than \$430 billion."

The statement said these resources will be available for the entire membership of the IMF.

"This effort, together with the national and regional structural, fiscal, and monetary actions that have been put in place in the past months, shows the commitment of the international community to safeguard global

Continued on page 4

Barbados

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart is expected to discuss the state of the Barbados economy when he meets with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington later this month.

The Stuart administration is grappling with a growing fiscal deficit, significant unemployment and foreign and domestic debt, all of which could result in the downgrading of the country's investment grade rating to junk bond status by rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

Stuart will also address the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, and will open a symposium of the Caribbean Sea Commission.

Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Premier McKeever Bush said that negotiations with China Harbor Engineering Company on the construction of cruise berthing facilities for Grand Cayman would have to be extended for a few more months.

Bush said the government was looking into the terms of the "definitive agreement" with the Chinese-owned developer, which has proposed to build cruise berthing facilities in George Town as well as constructing cruise facilities in West Bay and making improvements to the Spotts dock area. The proposal also

Continued on page 18



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Against Suriname Amnesty Law

By Nelson A. King

The influential Washington-based Human Rights Watch on April 17 urged Suriname to immediately revoke the amnesty law approved on April 5 by the National Assembly and "prosecute people accused of committing grave human rights violations."

It became the second rights group to call for the repeal of the Suriname ruling, echoing a similar call last month by the London-based Amnesty International.

The National Assembly of Suriname amended an existing amnesty law to extend its coverage to offenses "in the context of the defense of the state" between April 1, 1980, and Aug. 19, 1992, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights said.

Among those who will gain immunity are President Desi Bouterse and 24 others who were on trial for the alleged abduction and murder of 15 prominent political opponents, including journalists, lawyers, and a trade union leader, in December 1982, the U.N. said.

The law also covers the killing of 19 soldiers by rebels during the 1986-92 civil, Bouterse said.

"These international crimes are too serious to be amnestied and forgotten," said José Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch.

"Bouterse's self-amnesty blocks justice for gross human rights violations, which Suriname has the obligation to



Suriname's President Desi Bouterse. AP Photo/Edward Troon

investigate and prosecute," he added.

According to reports, Bouterse accepted "political responsibility" for the December 1982 killings but said that he was not present when they occurred.

But Human Rights Watch said witnesses have allegedly disputed those claims during the trial, which began in 2007, but had been repeatedly stalled.

Reported also indicated that the governing coalition in the National Assembly included language in the law to establish a truth commission to investigate the December 1982 killings, and excluded from the amnesty the massacre of at least 39 ethnic Maroons by soldiers during the country's civil war.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have expressed deep concern regarding Suriname's amnesty legislation, saying that it violates

the State's obligations to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses, and to ensure that abuse victims have access to justice, truth, and reparations.

Last month, Amnesty International urged Suriname's parliament to reject a proposed amnesty law that would allow the country's president to escape investigation for past gross human rights violations.

"The long-delayed trial of President Desi Bouterse, who is accused of abducting and killing opponents in December 1982 while he was military leader, could be scrapped if the amnesty law is passed," Amnesty International warned.

Bouterse, who was elected president in 2010, is accused of human rights violations committed during his two previous stints in power, between 1980 and 1991.

"This is a flagrant attempt by President Bouterse to evade investigation for human rights abuses committed during his rule and deny justice to his victims and their families," said Javier Zuñiga, special advisor at Amnesty International.

Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said 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

Continued on Page 8

U.S. considers more regional trade benefits

By Azad Ali

The United States has agreed to consider granting unilateral trade benefits for Caribbean Basin countries and dependent territories that currently do not receive those benefits.

This was one of the key results outlined in a joint statement by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the U.S. following the conclusion of the recent meeting of the Trade and Investment Council (TIC) in Georgetown, Guyana.

Over the last three years, bilateral trade between the U.S. has grown from US\$15.7 to US\$21.8 billion, an increase of 39 percent.

Since 1983, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) has granted unilateral duty-free treatment for imports of certain eligible articles from CBI beneficiary countries. The participants discussed the operation of the CBI and how to better take advantage of the opportunities available under the initiative.

Currently, 17 countries and dependent territories receive benefits under the CBI Recovery Act (CBERA). Seven of those countries and dependent territories receive benefits under the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTA).

The meeting also discussed replacing the 1991 Agreement Establishing a Trade and Investment Council with a 21st century trade and investment framework agreement and it was agreed to aim to complete negotiations as soon as possible.

It was also agreed that the U.S. would host the next meeting of the Trade and Investment Council in 2013.

State-of-Art cancer center for Eastern Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

Regional health leaders and government officials were expected to gather in Antigua Thursday, April 26, for the official ground-breaking ceremony for the Eastern Caribbean's first cancer center.

An Antigua and Barbuda government statement said the center, brainchild of Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, is a joint venture between Global Health Partners, Ltd., the governments of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the MEI Healthcare Corporation.

In 2009, during a regional symposium on services in Antigua, Spencer expressed the desire for a state-of-art cancer centre to serve the islands of the OECS, with high quality medical, radiation and surgical oncology services, markedly discounted for



Artist rendering of The Cancer Center for the OECS.

Photo courtesy: Government of Antigua

government-supported patients.

The center will enhance cancer services at government hospitals in the region by hosting regular oncology clinics, developing

cost-effective and safe chemotherapy services, providing oversight and expertise in the various islands, thereby providing major cost-saving advantages for part-

ner governments, Spencer said.

He said the government of Antigua and Barbuda will play a "regulatory role in the con-

Continued on Page 8

Inflation poses big problems for small businesses

By Joyce M. Rosenberg

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't be misled by reports that inflation is tame. For small business owners, it's a threat to profits and expansion plans.

An 8 percent increase in the cost of eggs over the past year is eating away at restaurants and bakeries. Cotton's 14 percent increase is hurting clothing manufacturers and retailers. And any business that sends somebody on a sales trip is bearing the brunt of an 8 percent increase in jet fuel or 7 percent rise in gasoline.

If this were a "normal" economy, companies could pass along the cost of doing business to customers. But these days, customers are demanding to pay less, not more. As a result, small businesses are often left with no options.

"You have to absorb a lot," says Celeste Hilling, whose skin-care company has seen travel costs rise 30 percent in the past year after a 20 percent gain the year before. Rising fares, baggage fees and hotel bills are to blame.

Many companies have to adjust the way they operate. Hilling's Carlsbad, Calif.-based Skin Authority is doing more training through online seminars rather than in person.

The kind of numbers that Hilling deals with may surprise anyone who believes that the government's Consumer Price Index tells the story of inflation. In the 12 months that ended in March, the CPI rose 2.7 percent. Subtract food and gas as some economists do, and what's left is called "core" inflation. It rose 2.3 percent. That's close to the target of 2 percent set by the Federal Reserve, which sets monetary policy so inflation doesn't get out of hand.

But prices that businesses pay for energy, raw materials, supplies and services have gone up

much more sharply. And they're expected to keep rising because demand for many goods and services is soaring in countries like China and India. That offsets slower demand in the U.S. and Europe and sends prices higher worldwide.

Raymond Keating, chief economist with the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, an advocacy group, expects inflation to keep rising as the economy improves and the Fed eventually lets short-term interest rates rise from their current levels near zero. He says of small business owners, "a lot of people are worried about how high it (inflation) will go in the future."

Martin Regalia, chief economist with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, says that while overall inflation "is not a real problem," the components of inflation that matter the most to small businesses — such as energy — are troubling.

The impact of rising energy prices may not always be obvious. Regalia noted that airlines' baggage fees, typically \$25 per bag per flight, are the result of rising fuel prices. And energy costs factor into the prices of all goods and services.

Chad Moutray, chief economist with the National Association of Manufacturers, says small businesses are at a disadvantage because they can't buy in bulk like larger companies can. That means a small cosmetics manufacturer can't negotiate the lower prices that a company like Revlon can. And, he said, "they're less likely to pass along their higher prices to customers."

Lorne Campbell, president of Occasionally Cake, two upscale bakeshops outside of Washington, D.C., has refrained from raising prices since his company was launched in 2009.

Albany touts housing plan

The New York State Assembly last week introduced a package of bills intended to further expand tenant protections that would ensure everyone has access to decent and affordable housing.

Building on last year's success in strengthening the state's rent laws for the first time in nearly two decades, State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) and Assistant Speaker Rhoda Jacobs (D-Flatbush) also called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to swiftly enact rules and regulations as required by last year's rent agreement to provide tenants with vital protections.

"While we have made progress, the facts are that we still are faced with an affordable housing crisis in New York," said Jacobs. "The package we are announcing

will help ensure that New Yorkers have a strong supply of rent-regulated housing in the future and that tenants are protected."

The bills in the package will help ensure the economic security of more than one million households and the stability of neighborhoods throughout New York. They include:

~ A.1364-A - *Preferential Rent*

Disallows the practice of increasing preferential rent to the legally allowed rate when the lease is renewed; it would allow such increases only upon vacancy. The rent may not be increased, however, if the vacancy is caused by the landlord's failure to maintain a habitable residence. Some landlords attract tenants with a low preferential rent and then increase the price beyond the tenant's means, forcing them out and allow-



Assemb. Rhoda Jacobs.
NYS Assembly

ing the landlord to push units out of rent regulation.

~ A.1892-A - *Rent Control Increases from MBR system to RGB*

Requires DHCR to use the same formula in determining rent increases for rent-controlled apartments that the Rent Guidelines Board uses to determine rent increases for rent-stabilized apartments. Many rent controlled tenants face a regular 7.5 percent increase to

their rent every year. An increase of this amount is consistently higher than those experienced by rent stabilized tenants and tenants in market rate units.

~ A.2459-A - *Major Capital Improvements*

Requires rent surcharges authorized for major capital improvements to cease when the cost of the improvement has been recovered. Current law grants landlords permanent rent increases for making major capital improvements to their buildings that are necessary to keep them habitable.

~ A.2593-A - *Vacancy Rent Increase*

Reduces the amount of rent increase after a vacancy from 20 percent to 10 percent of the rent. High vacancy increases encourage landlords to strive for higher turnover in their rental units.

~ A.2750-A - *Protecting Former Mitchell Lama*

Jumpstarting small businesses

By Joyce M. Rosenberg,
AP Business Writer

Finding investors is probably the biggest challenge that business startups and small companies face. But small businesses are looking forward to a new way of attracting investors now that President Barack Obama has signed a law known as the JOBS Act.

The law, Jumpstart Our Business Startups, eases the requirements that small companies must meet to raise money. One of the most intriguing parts of the law for many businesses is crowdfunding. The new rules make it legal for companies to solicit money from millions of investors without having to go through the lengthy process of filing registration documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The law dramatically streamlines the paperwork that companies must complete. Obama signed the bill into law last week.

"It will make it easier for

small businesses to attract investors, to gain access to capital, to become the next big thing," said Tom Quaadman, a vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Small businesses probably won't be able to start seeking investors until at least the end of this year, said David Scileppi, an attorney with the Gunster Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., which specializes in business law. That's because the SEC must put together rules to govern how crowdfunding will work within nine months of its becoming law.

What Is Crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding is a method of raising money from a large number of people and it's generally done online. Charities have been using it for years — the Internet and social networking sites such as Facebook have made it possible for them to reach millions of donors.

Companies in India have also used crowdfunding to raise money.

Using crowdfunding to find investors has been illegal in the U.S. because of laws that were designed to protect the public from scams or bad investments.

There are crowdfunding websites in the U.S., but they tend to be fundraisers for individual products or inventions or projects like plays and art exhibits. And people who give money toward these projects aren't investors. As one site, Peerbackers.com, puts it, "the money contributed is not a loan or investment — they are goodwill contributions." Typically, people who give money get something in return such as T-shirts or samples of the products that a budding company is trying to sell.

Profounder, a website that did aim to bring together entrepreneurs and investors, shut down earlier this year before the JOBS Act was passed. It

cited "the current regulatory environment."

Crowdfunding Under The Jobs Act

The JOBS Act allows companies to raise up to \$1 million a year from individual investors. It aims to protect investors by limiting how much they can kick in. For example, people who have an annual income or net worth under \$100,000 can invest no more than \$2,000 in a company that's using crowdfunding.

Under the law, investors and companies will be brought together by a middleman, either a broker or an Internet website. The brokers and websites will have to register with the SEC. Companies seeking funding will need to provide financial records, business plans and other information that will help potential investors decide whether they want to take chance on a particular company.

Boost in G20, IMF lending

Continued from cover financial stability and put the global economic recovery on a sounder footing," the statement said.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the G-20 pledges signal "the strong resolve of the international community to secure global financial stability and put the world economic recovery on a sounder footing."

"These resources are being made available for crisis prevention and resolution and to meet the potential financing needs of all IMF members," she said. "They will be drawn only if they are needed; and, if drawn, will be refunded with interest."

IMFC Chairman Tharman Shanmugaratnam told reporters that the agreement to build a "firewall" to contain further crises by boosting the IMF's resources arose from a broad consensus that spanned European and non-European countries, and advanced and emerging economies.

"We all agreed that it was absolutely essential to have the firewall built up at this time. It's not a day too early to be building up the fire-

wall," he said.

"But we also felt that the real solution to the crisis does not have to do with firewalls," he added. "The firewall is a necessary but far from sufficient condition to resolving this crisis."

"The real solution has to do with the fiscal and structural reforms that address the real causes of this crisis, particularly in Europe, but also elsewhere," continued Shanmugaratnam, stating that "having the firewall in place gives us the confidence to go about these real solutions."

Mexican Finance Minister Jose Antonio Meade noted that the bulk of the G-20 members had chosen to contribute to the group's commitment to augment the IMF's lending resources.

He said this showed that "the whole of the community is very comfortable with the way we have moved forward."

Lagarde told reporters that formal and specific pledges from IMF member-countries to boost IMF resources amounted to more than US\$360 billion.

She said the balance, taking the total to more than US\$430

billion, comprised commitments that still had to be ratified by pledging countries.

The IMF chief said the G-20 commitment shows the resolve of the international community to have available the tools to defend against crisis.

"We shall make use of it wisely, in accordance with the rules, with due regard to making sure that the creditors' interests are well protected, with the appropriate risk mitigation strategy in place," she said.

The joint G-20-IMFC statement said the agreement to boost the IMF's resources "shows the commitment of the international community to safeguard global financial stability and put the global economic recovery on a sounder footing."

"This broad-based response to our request for additional resources will help strengthen global economic and financial stability in the interests of all our members," Lagarde said.

She said the Washington-based financial institution has been advocating the need to build a stronger global firewall of additional resources to



IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

contain any further financial crises.

On Apr. 19, Lagarde said the global economy has entered a "timid" recovery and still faces high risks, adding that the IMF needs to participate in the international recovery effort by building additional firepower to promote global economic stability.

Since the start of the global economic crisis in 2007, the IMF said it has committed more than US\$300 billion in loans to its member countries, many of whom are in the Caribbean.

The IMF said it has also reformed its policies toward low-income countries and quadrupled its concessional lending.

Henry Greene

Continued from cover with rape after Chief Justice Ian Chang in a landmark ruling, stated last month that the state prosecutor's office was wrong to recommend charges but called his conduct "immoral." That ruling has widely been criticized by local and regional jurists, women, lawyers and other groups.

The alleged victim's lawyer has said that he is contemplating private criminal charges against Greene and wants the umbrella, Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to pronounce on the matter, as his critics pile on even more pressure on the embattled former chief, at a time of "great personal stress" close associates say.

Greene's departure brings to an end a colorful 30-plus year career for Greene who

over the years had been granted accelerated promotion after long being tapped as a possible top cop from his early days as an enlisted beat-duty officer. He has offered no comment and has largely stayed out of the limelight while politicians and women's groups were calling for his head.

His resignation -- or retirement, as the official announcement stated, came hours after his 83-year-old mother died in the U.S. It is unclear whether Greene will be allowed to travel to the U.S. or whether his mother's remains will return to her native Guyana, because the U.S. had revoked his travel visa on the same day he became police commissioner in July 2006, for alleged links to the narco trade; charges he has denied.

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Film Fest spotlights Jamaican thespian

By Vnette K. Pryce

Leonie Forbes, Jamaica's first lady of stage and screen is the spotlight and main attraction of a one-day film festival slated to be held on May 5 at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College.

Caribbean Classics, a daylong presentation will feature performances in which the thespian has either starred or featured on television or in full-length feature films.

Scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. four films will highlight the presentation with a conversation -- perhaps explaining each -- by the actress.

Forbes has garnered an impressive list of international theatre, television and film credits in Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, India and the United States.

She has consistently enthralled audiences in her native Jamaica and throughout the Caribbean.

Her film and television credits include "A Winter Tale," "Shattered Image," "Milk and Honey," "The OrchidHouse," "Passion and Paradise," "Club Paradise," "Children of Babylon," "Going to Extremes," "Lord Have Mercy" and "Small Island."

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, her accolades include a Gemini Award nomination in Canada, a life time achievement medal from El Centro Mexicano



Leonie Forbes.

de Teatro, the Institute of Jamaica Gold Musgrave Medal and the Order of Distinction (Officer) from the Government of Jamaica.

Schedule

This is a schedule of the day's presentation:

2:00 -- "What My Mother Told Me" -- directed by Frances Ann Solomon (Trinidad & Tobago).

A journey towards self-discovery forces a young woman to meet her mother, whom she thought had abandoned her as a child.

3:00 -- "Children of Babylon" -- directed by Lennie Little-White (Jamaica).

Love, lust, race, and class collide on a hedonistic pleasure dome as life on an old plantation is confronted by a changing society. The film features reggae singer Bob Andy

5:15 -- "Guttaperc" -- directed by Andrew Millington (Barbados).

A storied past and the yearning for development creates conflicts for the feature of a village and family.

7:00 -- Tellin' We Own

Story -- In Conversation with Leonie Forbes

8:45 -- "A Winter Tale" -- directed by Frances-Anne Solomon.

Families struggle to reconcile their immigrant dreams after a bullet meant for a drug dealer kills a ten-year-old boy. The film features funnyman Dennis "Spragalang" Hall.

A project of the Brooklyn-based Caribbean Cultural Theatre, the Caribbean Classics Stage & Screen Series highlights the work of some of the region's most illustrious pioneering practitioners of stage and screen and celebrates their role as social commentators, their struggles with cultural identity and in fashioning a Caribbean voice.

The series previously featured the work of Jamaican dramatist and filmmaker Trevor Rhone. His classic contribution to films were visually amplified by screenings of "The Harder They Come," "Smile Orange," and "One Love"

Guyanese novelist E. R. Braithwaite's "To Sir With Love," and Jamaican novelist and screenwriter, Anthony Winkler's "The Annihilation of Fish" and "The Lunatic" also complimented the annual film series.

For additional information: 718-783-8345 / 718-270-6218 / 917-202-0696 or via info@caribbeantheatre.org

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Unsolved murder clouds kingpin's sentence reduction

By Nelson A. King

A letter to a United States federal judge in Miami by the former brother-in-law of imprisoned Haitian cocaine kingpin Jacques Ketant, claiming that Ketant had ordered the "assassination" of his mother, has stalled the U.S. government's request to cut Ketant's 27-year prison sentence by half.

Rene Joseph alleged that Ketant, 49, was behind the February 1997 killing by a masked gunman of his mother, Claudie Adams, 48, as she chatted on a cellular phone, leaving her dead in the parking lot of a busy West Kendall shopping center in Miami.

Joseph claimed that the masked assassin had jumped out of a black Toyota and shot her mother twice.

U.S. prosecutors said Ketant has helped them convict a dozen fellow traffickers, senior police officers and a politician from Haiti.

Miami-Dade police, the FBI and the US Attorney's

Office declined to discuss the murder of Adam, 48, who had owned a Little Haiti travel agency in Miami.

But a U.S. federal prosecutor has asked U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno, who put Ketant's planned sentence reduction on hold in February after receiving Joseph's letter, to meet privately to talk about the case.

"This information concerns an open and ongoing investigation and would potentially address what evidence, if any, the investigation has uncovered with respect to the defendant [Ketant] and other individuals linked to the homicide," Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Kirkpatrick wrote in a court filing.

The judge granted her request for the private meeting in his chambers, leaving out Ketant's lawyers, who challenged Moreno's decision.

But, in court filings, defense attorneys Ruben Oliva and Paul Petruzzi have called the allegation



The mansion of convicted drug kingpin Haitian Jacques Beaudoin Ketant looks out over a neighborhood in Petion-ville, Haiti.

AP Photo/Daniel Morel

against Ketant "false and absurd", saying their client's due-process rights would be violated if they don't have "full access" to any information shared with Judge Moreno.

Moreno is yet responded to their filing.

"In short, and without any evidence or fac-

tual basis whatsoever, Mr. Joseph accuses the defendant of 'assassinating' [Ketant's] ex-mother-in-law," the defense attorneys wrote, noting the Drug Enforcement Administration investigated the murder following Ketant's arrest in 2003.

The defense attorneys

also said they recognized the judge's "obvious need" to review the status of the murder case, "to move beyond the equally unsupported speculation and rumor that continues to dog" their client.

They have, however, agreed to the prosecution's request to let Miami

police detectives and the FBI question Ketant about Adam's murder, according to court filings.

Ketant was married to Adam's daughter, Sybil, at the time of the mother's killing 15 years ago.

U.S. federal prosecutors are seeking Ketant's sentence reduction because of his cooperation in the conviction of several fellow traffickers, senior police officers and a politician from Haiti. Ketant's release date from an Arkansas federal prison is in 2026.

Judge Moreno has delayed his decision on reducing Ketant's sentence, insisting that he wants more details about Claudie Adam's murder.

In addition, the judge said he wants current information about the U.S. government's attempt to recover US\$15 million in drug profits and other assets identified when Ketant was convicted in 2003 of smuggling 30 tons of cocaine into South Florida and New York.



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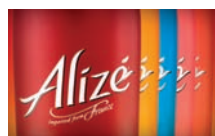
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St. Lucia tops region in economic freedom

By Nelson A. King

A major United States think tank says that St. Lucia has the most economic freedom in the Caribbean.

In its 2012 Index of Economic Freedom, in partnership with the *Wall Street Journal*, the Heritage Foundation ranked St. Lucia 24th in the world, ahead of Barbados (37th).

The index looks at a series of factors, including the rule of law, limited government, regulatory efficiency and open markets.

"St. Lucia's economic freedom score is 71.3, making its economy the 24th freest in the 2012 Index," the Heritage Foundation said.

"Its score is 0.5 point better than last year, with improvements in monetary, investment and labor freedom offset by deterioration in the control of government spending and business freedom," it added.

The foundation said St. Lucia is ranked 2nd out of 29 countries in the South and Central America/Caribbean region, and its overall score is above the world average.

"The St. Lucian economy has long benefited from a well-developed legal and commercial infrastructure and a tradition of entrepreneurial dynamism in the private sector," it said.

"The business environment is generally efficient

and transparent, and the regulatory framework has become more streamlined," it added.

"The small financial sector has not suffered any serious impact from the global financial turmoil, but the recession has hurt the tourism sector," it continued.

The Heritage Foundation, however, said that St. Lucia's open-market policies are not firmly institutionalized, adding that trade freedom is limited by tariff and non-tariff barriers, and the investment regime lacks efficiency.

"Greater access to financing opportunities remains critical to private-sector development," it said.

Against amnesty for Bouterse

Continued from Page 2

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 here.

The new law extends the brief period covered by an earlier amnesty law to include any offences that took place between April 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 Bouterse may be affected, and could potentially be halted altogether.

"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 pos-

itive 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.

Eastern Carib Cancer Center

Continued from Page 2

struction and management of the facility and also provide a safety net for the less fortunate who are required to utilize the services of the facility."

Dr. Conville Brown, director of The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean and a member of the management team of Global Health Partners, said the model of "partnered care" with an element of gov-

ernment ownership, "may well be utilized in several other areas of medicine, and in other industries, such as agriculture and fisheries for moving the region forward."

The estimated EC\$13.5 million cancer center "will feature equipment similar to The Cancer Centre Bahamas, Varian's Unique Linear Accelerator, and will be capable of intensity-modulated radiation

therapy and image-guided radiation therapy," the statement said.

The board of directors of The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean is chaired by Sierra Leone-born Dr. Arthur Porter, professor of medicine and oncology. Former superintendent of the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Benefits Scheme, Cothrilie George, is deputy chairman of the board, the statement said.

Are You Suffering With Severe Constant Pain?

New Laser Light Breakthrough Treatment May Reduce Or Even Eliminate Pain Of The Worst Kind In Just Minutes

If you are suffering with severe pain despite all the treatments, that may have failed you in the past, you may now have some hope of reducing or even eliminating your pain with a new non-surgical, painless laser treatment now available in Brooklyn.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment is an innovative, scientifically based, therapeutic modality. This new technology offers advanced pain relief and expedited healing times through a process known as photobiostimulation.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment delivers, deep, penetrating, photonic (light) energy to bring about profound physiological changes. ATP (Adenosine-triphosphate) production is increased, inflammation and pain reduced and circulation increased at the site of pain. These changes in cellular chemistry are triggered by the deep tissue laser making it a true healing modality.

Deep Tissue Laser Therapy does not require the use of drugs or surgery, and there are no known side effects or risks that may occur with other forms of treatment. In addition, it can often achieve results faster than other treatment modalities. During the treatment the patient will feel a deep soothing warmth. This pleasant sensation reassures the patient that the laser is stimulating cellular activity.

Lasers have made a remarkable contribution toward healthcare, allowing practitioners to treat a variety of conditions with the speed of light. As a non-invasive tool, the laser is particularly effective for the efficient treatment of soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, and a variety of other ailments and pain.

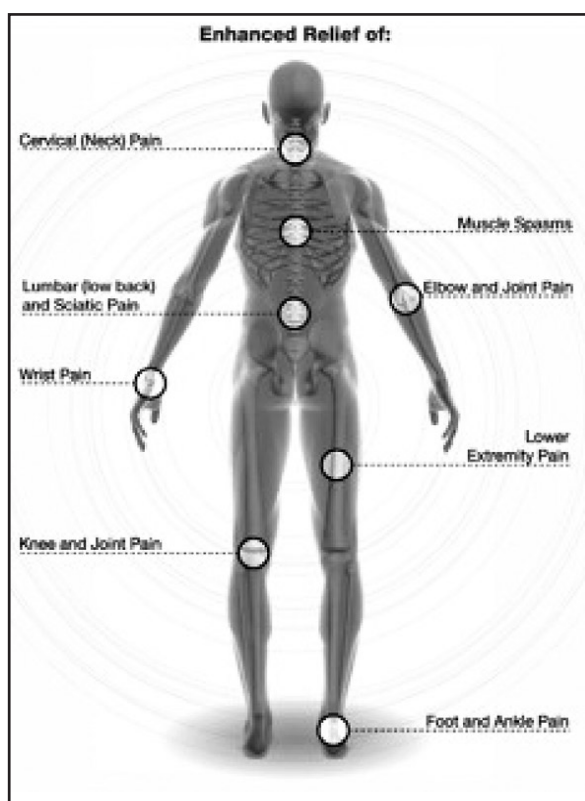
Low Level Laser enhances metabolic activity at the cellular level, without generating tissue-damaging heat.

Some of the benefits of laser treatment include:

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- Reduction of inflammation, swelling and scar tissue formation
- Pain reduction immediately

The Class IV laser, approved by the FDA in 2006, packs a punch while remaining non-invasive. The Class IV laser is capable of reaching depths of 6 to 9 inches, with a treatment beam of up to 3 inches.

Because the Class IV laser reaches deep into the tissues, it is ideal for treating sprains and strains, arthritis, calcified muscles and fibrotic adhesions, as well as intra-articular tissues inside of the joints. Its far-reaching capabilities also allow the Class IV to achieve results in less time than most cold lasers currently used today. With treatment times of as little as 5 to 15 minutes, the Class IV laser allows many conditions to vastly improve within a few visits. Oftentimes, patients find immediate, soothing relief that improves with each treatment.



A partial list of the kind of conditions that can be helped...

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- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
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- Plantar Fasciitis
- Sports Injuries
- Sprains & Strains
- Knee Pain
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- Arthritic Pain

If you are tired of living with pain and would like to see if you qualify for deep tissue laser treatment call **718-559-6992** for a **FREE CONSULTATION** right now. Dr. Keller has seen such dramatic fast pain relief with Deep Tissue Laser Treatment, that she offers one **FREE** treatment to see if you respond and if you are a candidate for this revolutionary new non surgical pain relieving treatment. Due to the overwhelming response to this type of offer, this offer will be good for the first 25 callers. If the lines are busy, keep trying.

Listen to what patients are saying:

"I had been suffering from knee pain for many months before I tried laser treatments using Deep Tissue Laser. After just a couple treatments, my knee pain was reduced to the point where I can finally live a more normal life again. These treatments are simply remarkable!"

- Jennifer C.

"I started treatments with Deep Tissue Laser after I had injured my neck in a car accident. The treatments allowed me to return to work much more quickly than anyone had expected, considering the pain I was in. During the treatments, all I felt was a warming sensation as the laser was moved across the injured area where all my pain was. After just three short treatments, my pain was almost totally gone. Thanks, Doctor!"

- Jason B.

"The Deep Tissue Laser treatments I received dramatically helped my recovery from a broken leg. Not only did it help reduce the swelling, the pain relief I experienced was nothing short of miraculous. My orthopedic doctor was amazed with the results."

- John M.

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Let the sun shine in on SUNY foundations

By Phillip H. Smith

You would expect an organization created for public benefit that is largely led by government officials would be obligated to report to the public about its activities. Yet the Research Foundation of the State University of New York (SUNY) and its many campus foundations are not required to do so and apparently feel no such compulsion to share information with the public. Instead, these organizations often cloak their activities in secrecy.

As president of United University Professions – the union representing academic and professional faculty at SUNY's state-operated campuses – I think it's time to let the sun shine in. It's time to require the SUNY Research Foundation and campus foundations to be held accountable and to be more transparent.

For years, these foundations have behaved much like shadow government agencies. They typically refuse to provide detailed answers about what they are doing regarding hiring and pay practices. For example, the Research Foundation handles nearly \$1 billion in research grants annually from both government and private sources. The campus foundations have become vehicles for the distribution of millions of dollars in funds that should be directly targeted to improving the University's academic mission.

The SUNY Research Foundation says its mission is to "...support research and discovery at SUNY...and sharing of intellectual property for public benefit and economic growth." But how do we know the foundation is properly fulfilling that noble-sounding mission? That's a legitimate question, in the wake of critical news reports, investigations and remarks

by some public officials questioning the spending practices and clandestine activities of the foundations.

Then there was last year's 90-page study commissioned by SUNY and conducted by a consultant for a Washington D.C. law firm about the relationship between SUNY and the Research Foundation last year. The study determined the foundation did not act solely as a service organization devoted to SUNY's priorities. "Rather, it aspires to and increasingly does chart its own independent course, regardless of SUNY's views," the study found.

I believe the time has come for the Legislature to intervene. A bill that would require greater accountability and transparency for the SUNY Research Foundation has been introduced in both houses of the Legislature (S.5797/A.7789-E). The legislation would expand the definition of a state agency to include entities such as the Research Foundation and SUNY's campus foundations that are affiliated with SUNY or its institutions. That designation would make them subject to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

Passage of this legislation would ensure that the Research Foundation – which administers more than \$1 billion in research each year – is more open and transparent, thereby serving the best interests of the public as its mission defines.

SUNY has indicated that it, too, supports such a bill in principle.

I encourage state lawmakers to approve this vital piece of legislation.

The writer is president of United University Professions, the union that represents 35,000 faculty and professional staff at SUNY's state-operated campuses.

End tax handouts for giant corporations

By Doug Pibel

When I file my tax return and look at the amount of income tax I pay, I can't help but think of those who don't pay any taxes at all. Some of them—even though they make money during the year—not only pay nothing but actually get money back. According to one estimate, they cost every single taxpayer \$481 a year. And I, for one, am tired of carrying them.

If you agree, I'd like you to join me in working to get these deadbeats to pony up their fair share. I refer, of course, to General Electric, Boeing, Wells Fargo, and a whole list of other major corporations.

That's right: According to a recent study by Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ), in the three-year period from 2008 through 2010, 30 Fortune 500 companies made a profit each year and yet paid zero or less in taxes. Their average tax rate was negative 6.7 percent. They made billions and then, when tax time rolled around, U.S. taxpayers gave them billions more.

We gave the most money to GE. In the three years studied, GE showed a profit just shy of \$10.5 billion. Its tax bill...well, you can't really call it a bill...was negative \$4.7 billion. That's 4.7 billion of the dollars we paid in taxes going into the pockets of GE. The corporation's tax rate was negative 45.3 percent.

In all, from 2008 through 2010, 78 different companies paid zero or less in taxes in at least one of the three years studied. In a single banner year, Wells Fargo got almost \$4 billion from us. Verizon's two-year take was \$1.3 billion.

There's been a lot of talk in the presidential primaries about cutting the supposedly crippling 35 percent corporate tax rate. President Barack Obama wants to take it down to 28 percent. Mitt Romney aims for 25. Rick Santorum thinks 17.5 percent is the right number. They'll pay for this tax cut, they say, by closing loopholes.

But since companies routinely pay so much less than the official rate, only Santorum's proposal would actually

represent a tax cut, on average, for the 280 companies Citizens for Tax Justice looked at. True, they found 71 companies that paid more than 30 percent per year. But the average for all 280 was 18.5 percent.

If you think that corporations are going to stand by quietly as their taxes are raised, you haven't heard about Super PACs and lobbying. "Representation Without Taxation," a report from U.S. PIRG and CTJ, lays out the facts about corporate spending to influence tax policy. The 30 companies that paid no taxes 2008 to 2010 spent half a billion dollars in the same period on lobbying. Of course, they lobby on any number of issues. But even if every penny of that half billion went for tax lobbying, they saw a return of 21 to 1. There aren't many investments out there that pay better than that.

And all of us make up for it. In 1955, corporate taxes made up 27.3 percent of federal revenue while individuals paid in 58 percent. By 2010, the corporate share had dropped by two-thirds, to 8.9 percent and the individual contribution had increased by half, to 81.5 percent.

There's a lot of resentment over taxes. Most of it gets directed at poor people who, the story goes, are dragging the rest of us down by refusing to pay their fair share.

But who, after all, are the real drags on society? People who don't pay income tax because they're barely scratching out a living? Or corporations that make billions in profits and then come to us with their hands out?

Last fall, the Occupy movement brought the idea of the wealth divide into public awareness. Politicians and pundits expressed puzzlement over this class warfare. You can help them understand the problem by letting them know that it's time to end welfare as we know it: It's time for corporations to pay their fair share.

Doug Pibel wrote about corporate taxation in the current issue of YES! Magazine where he is managing editor.

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

Democratic right to buy influence

By Les Slater

It doesn't take long, does it, after some trumpeting of the virtues of democracy, for our attention to get drawn afresh to certain ills that have become integral to this allegedly best of all systems of government so far devised. In the news, just days after President Obama had offered Cuba's not going democratic as rationale for its being ostracized from the Summit of the Americas, were details of the obscene amount of cash being earmarked by conservative sources to fund Republican campaigns in a full-court press to give the party majority control of the Senate. Unabashed buying of political influence; there's your democracy in action.

Campaign finance reform, as a concept, was in truth dead on arrival in Washington, despite the presumed good intentions of a few hardy souls who thought to be advocates for a high-road prerequisite for political office. The appetite in Washington was unequivocally not (and isn't about to be) for placing clamps on how campaign coffers were to be filled. And when even the Supreme Court (or, rather, its conservative bloc) acquiesced in letting the deep pockets hold sway in funding campaigns, politics as a blood sport became at once that much greener as well.

So here's this New York Times report, via Jeremy Peters, detailing the plans of conservative outfits to surpass the massive spending effort undertaken in 2010 to help facilitate the GOP's regaining control of the House. To be sure, in 2010 Democrats found themselves back on their heels, a result of that initial rush of Obama backlash whose public face was purported to be healthcare overhaul but whose racial overtones were hard to miss. It's a bit of a different dynamic in 2012, with Republicans having now been a majority party in one of the chambers on the Hill and having some pretty bothersome stuff to defend. Stuff like a rigid determination not to work with the other side, or a cavalier attitude about

Viewpoint

bringing the people's business to the brink of shutdown because of intransigence, or pointedly favoring big business interests over the hoi polloi whenever the twain collide.

Those big business elements tend to be well represented in the groups reportedly committing more than \$100 million for television advertising for Republican candidates in targeted Senate races. The Chamber of Commerce is very front and center. Also in the mix, Crossroads GPS, masterminded by Karl Rove, whose reputation precedes him, and Americans for Prosperity, bankrolled by the stridently right-wing Koch brothers.

The state of the economy, as everyone knows, will likely be the overriding determining factor for the electorate in November, and not only the presidency but other races as well could turn on this issue. Should there be, by election time, a reasonably good feeling among Americans that their economic outlook isn't as dire as it once appeared, it would be interesting watching whether the big-money push from the right enables them to dominate and neutralize the fairness and justice cries of the now famous 99 percent.

Ever since Obama's election, clear, clinical analysis of behavior among the (white) voting public has made for a particular complexity. There's no doubt that a goodly chunk of white voters willing to align with the big business point of view would do so not because of compatibility with such territory, but a visceral hostility toward the president. Middle and working class whites are very much included in the plurality of the overall public shown in polls to favor increased taxes on the wealthiest Americans or ending big-business subsidies such as the one enjoyed by the major

oil companies. There's a not easily resolved contradiction in middle and working class whites getting on board with those advocating that kind of decidedly pro-business, anti-worker plank.

True to form, that's the blueprint being followed, according to the Times report, in the mega-bucks campaign the assorted conservative groups have so far unleashed and plan to maintain through the election. The well-known Republican/conservative talking points are sprayed all over the airwaves. Like criticism of a Democratic opponent for supporting "business-smothering regulations." Just fascinating to see how "regulations" has been transformed, in Republican parlance, to a downright dirty word! Quite cute, too, (brazen, really) in one of the spiels, is the inclusion of a caution that a Democratic incumbent "will cut your Medicare." This, from a Republican camp which has engendered serious fears surrounding what they seem poised to do to entitlement programs!

All of this is democracy, the purists would say...including the very rich having every right to put to use their largess in the process of garnering support for self or cause or candidate. To that one is tempted to say, with Dickens' Mr. Bumble, "If that is the law, then the law is a ass."

It looms as a not very good day for democracy – however we care to be expansive about what true democracy entails – if big money in this election cycle manages to obscure the king-size con job being undertaken here. Others in the fray might look for some guidance to Missouri's Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill, who has been bombarded by the right side attack ads, reported the Times, and chose a tack of excerpting some of the virulent stuff in her own counter advertisement, with this line by the narrator: "What they're doing to Claire McCaskill is nothing compared to what their special interests agenda would do to you."

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Invest in youth, or country suffers

By Riane Eisler

We're being told that fiscal responsibility requires big cuts in education, nutrition, and health care for millions of children. This shortsighted and uncaring thinking is not only a nightmare for those directly affected; it is an imminent threat to America's economic future.

We have to let our policy makers know that fiscal responsibility requires caring economic policies. Here's why.

Experts agree that a nation's most important asset is what economists call "high quality human capital" – flexible, creative, educated people who can adapt to our globalized knowledge-service economy. Brain science shows that the years from zero to five are critical for healthy brain development. An overwhelming body of research shows that to ensure that we have this high quality human capital we must invest more in care and education for our children. Indeed, studies have long shown that this is the most cost-effective investment a nation can make.

Other developed nations are investing heavily in early childhood education because it is an investment in their economic success. But our nation has gone in the opposite direction – despite all the evidence that not making this investment will lead to an economic calamity.

A substantial body of research shows that high-quality pre-K education prepares children to succeed in school and enroll in college or career training. It further shows that this not only prevents the enormous financial costs of

remedial work, delinquency, crime, and other problems, but also leads to better jobs, higher incomes, and greater contributions to our tax base and our economy.

Yet the State of Preschool 2011 study found that rather than increasing our national investment in these essential programs, real spending on state pre-K education declined by about 15 percent in the past 10 years. This means that spending per child nationally is \$715 lower than even the 2001-2002 level.

"A decline of this magnitude should serve as a wake-up call for parents and policy leaders about how well we are preparing today's preschoolers to succeed in school and later find good jobs in a competitive market," said Steve Barnett, director of the nonpartisan National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University, warned.

We must see to it that our policy makers heed this warning. They need to know about this report. They need to know about the proven success of hundreds of small programs across the country, such as the early childhood education pilot programs supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

They also need to know about the need for new economic measures that are more accurate and inclusive than the much touted GDP or Gross Domestic Product: measures such as the Social Wealth indicators now being developed. When GDP keeps rising at the same time that joblessness is dangerously high and childcare and educa-

tional budgets are slashed, it is clear that we urgently need better measurements that give policy makers and the public a more accurate picture of the true economic health of the country and our citizens, of what really counts for long-term national economic competitiveness.

Social Wealth indicators show the enormous economic value of care and education for children. They identify low-cost, high-value investments for developing our people's capacities – our human capital -- so that our country can achieve a healthy economy, a better quality of life, and a strong democracy through caring business and government policies and practices across the board.

The federal \$500 million Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge that is providing grants to nine states for improving quality is a step in the right direction. But we urgently need more -- and it is up to us to demand that local, state, and federal governments invest in our most precious national asset: our children.

There's an old saying that a stitch in time saves nine. This is a time-tested wisdom. Our policy makers must adopt it in light of the enormous costs of not investing in care and education for our nation's future workforce. The proven benefits of this and other truly fiscally responsible investments are overwhelming.

Riane Eisler is president of the Center for Partnership Studies and the best-selling author of "The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future" and "The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics."

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New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance

The Affordable Care Act created the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) program to make health insurance available to millions of Americans denied coverage by private insurance companies because of a pre-existing condition.

Coverage for people living with such conditions as diabetes, asthma, cancer, and HIV/AIDS has often been priced out of the reach of most Americans who buy their own insurance, and this has resulted in a denial of coverage for millions. The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is designed to address these challenges by offering comprehensive coverage at a reasonable cost.

The PCIP program, which is administered by either your State or the Federal government, will provide a new option for you have been uninsured for at least six months, have a pre-existing condition, and have been unable to obtain health coverage because of your health condition.

What Does the PCIP Mean For You?

The PCIP program may be able to help you, if you've been locked out of the insurance market, with a temporary program that will be in place until 2014. In 2014, all Americans will have access



to affordable health insurance choices, either through their employer, or through a new competitive marketplace called an Exchange, where insurance companies will no longer be allowed to discriminate based on your medical condition.

The PCIP will be available in every state—but the program will vary depending on your state. Many States run programs – often called “high risk pools” – to offer insurance to people who have a pre-existing condition.

The program:

Will cover a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. All covered benefits are available to you, even to treat a pre-existing condition.

Won't charge you a higher premium just because of your medical condition.

Doesn't base eligibility on income.

Eligibility:

Different States may use different methods of determining whether you have a pre-existing condition and whether you have been denied insurance coverage. Specifically, a PCIP may determine that you have a pre-existing condition based on providing documented evidence that you meet any one or more of the following criteria:

An insurer has refused, or has provided clear indication that it would refuse, to issue you coverage based on your health;

You been offered individual coverage but only with a rider that excludes coverage of benefits associated with your pre-existing condition; or

You have a medical or health condition specified by the State and approved by the Secretary of HHS.

You satisfy another test applied by a State with the approval of HHS.

These criteria vary by state, so you need to check on how to establish eligibility in your state. For a list of State programs go to www.healthcare.gov, the compre-

hensive website and portal for the Affordable Care Act.

Benefits:

The PCIP program will cover a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. All covered benefits are available for you, even to treat a pre-existing condition. The regulation specifies the required benefits that all PCIPs must cover. Required benefits include:

Hospital inpatient services
Hospital outpatient services

Mental health and substance abuse services

Professional services for the diagnosis or treatment of injury, illness, or condition

Non-custodial skilled nursing services

Home health services
Durable medical equipment and supplies

Diagnostic x-rays and laboratory tests

Physical therapy services (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy)

Hospice care
Emergency services, and ambulance services

Prescription drugs
Preventive care
Maternity care

*Source: HealthCare.Gov
Courtesy of Healthy Living News*



Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

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

Microwave treatment effect on prostate

A recent column was devoted to answering a question posed by a caller regarding the effect of transurethral microwave thermotherapy on the prostate. He wanted to know whether or not having such a treatment would in some way alter the cellular nature of the prostate so that at some future time, a pathologist, examining a biopsy of a prostate so treated might not be able to properly make a diagnosis of prostate cancer in a timely fashion. A thorough search of the literature left no doubt that there need be no such concern.

One article however, jointly conducted by the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona, and Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina brought to light some interesting points on the effect of microwave thermotherapy on prostate cancer.

This article entitled “Does Transurethral Microwave Thermotherapy Have A Different Effect On Prostate Cancer Than On Benign Or Hyperplastic Tissue?” was reported in *UROLOGY* 54: 67-72, 1999. In this study, patients with known cancer of the prostate, proven on biopsy and who were considered good candidates for radical prostate cancer surgery were first treated with microwave thermotherapy and thereafter underwent the radical prostate cancer surgery. The time interval between the thermotherapy and the surgery varied mostly from four hours to four days and a small number of patients had the radical surgery performed 12 months after the thermotherapy. The entire pros-

tate specimens removed at surgery were analyzed to evaluate what effect the thermotherapy had on the cancer contained within each prostate.

The conclusion was that microwave thermotherapy was equally effective in destroying benign prostate tissue, hyperplastic tissue and cancer tissue. Where the microwaves reached the cancer, the cancerous tissue was destroyed. Since in four out of five cases, cancer occurs in the periphery of the prostate and microwaves are mostly effective in the interior portion of the prostate near the urethra, thermotherapy cannot reach cancerous tissue located in the peripheral regions of the prostate. However, when the microwaves did reach cancerous tissue, that portion of the cancer that was reached was destroyed.

In the patients who underwent radical prostate surgery a year after the microwave thermotherapy, the cancer found in the surgical specimen was identical to the cancer found in the pretreatment biopsy. There was no significant change in Gleason Scores from before microwave thermotherapy to after microwave thermotherapy. The Gleason Score is the pathologist's way of describing the degree of malignancy of a particular prostate cancer and that will be the topic for a future column. Of particular interest was their conclusion that transurethral microwave thermotherapy may, in selected patients have palliative value in shrinking or debulking prostate cancer that obstructs the outflow of urine. This should not be considered a curative therapy for cancer.

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

Recognizing the signs of alcoholism

By Susan Beane, MD

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, combining a very serious condition with what is also a very sensitive subject. Many people don't understand that regular and/or heavy drinking can lead to dependence on and abuse of alcohol. People often don't notice the slow changes in their own behavior until they're unable to control their desire to drink—which is the No. 1 signal of an addiction to alcohol. If you or someone close to you is in danger of abusing alcohol, seek treatment as soon as possible.

If you think there's a problem, you may have to ask yourself—or a loved one—some difficult questions: Do you drink alone? Does your

drinking affect your work schedule and relationships with family and close friends? Do you forget what happens while you're drinking? Do you get headaches or a hangover after drinking?

If you need help cutting back on or stopping the drinking, don't be ashamed—your health matters. Try taking the following steps:

·Track your drinking and set a limit for yourself

·Avoid places where drinking occurs

·Keep no alcohol or a limited supply of alcohol in your home

·And most importantly: Seek help!

Help can come from those close to you, your family and friends, or by seeking out



community treatment centers through places of worship, doctors' offices, or city centers. Recognizing that you or a loved one needs help and reaching out for it is the first important—and courageous—step toward recovery.

This health observance for April has been sponsored by The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) since 1987. The NCADD works to increase public awareness of the dangers of alcoholism and encourage families and individuals to seek the help they need to overcome the addiction. Visit their website, www.ncadd.org, for more information on alcohol dependency and abuse.

Dr. Beane is vice president and medical director at Healthfirst. For more tips on leading a healthier lifestyle, visit the Healthfirst Healthy Living website at www.hfhealthyliving.com.

Clarity is key for business start-ups

By Christine M. Coley

Everyone at some point or the other has envisioned themselves calling all the shots; especially when you'r boss asks you to stay later than usual, or asks you to spend your week-end finishing up a project. Or, maybe the economy hasn't been very good to you, and you were laid off to increase your company's bottom line.

So, today a new feeling is burning inside of you -- the desire to take control of your future and start your own business. You've probably always had the thought deep down inside, but just didn't think business ownership was realistic for you, or simply don't know how to go about it.

After all, there's a lot to consider: a solid business idea; a business plan; in many cases a location; and of course funding. Then there are even more challenging questions to answer, such as: How do you know your idea will work? How do you know you will even be good at it?

In just over two years, Anthony Lolli, founder and CEO of Rapid Realty, grew his Brooklyn firm from one boutique location, to

51 franchise locations in New York City and two more additional franchise locations slated to open in Boston and Philadelphia in June 2012.

With over 800 agents affiliated to its many franchise locations, Rapid Realty is New York City's fastest growing real estate firm, and that's no easy accomplishment in the most competitive real estate market in the United States.

In my recent interview with Lolli, we got down to the basic core of his success. When asked what is his strongest recommendation to an aspiring business owner, Lolli said, "Many people have a passion, but don't know enough about it. It's similar to someone being in love with love, but not knowing enough about the actual person.

"One must be willing to become a student of the practice of business from top to bottom, first. You have to do a lot of research, subscribe to industry magazines, become a member of that community, go to networking events, and fully immerse yourself in that industry. Having an idea is not enough." Realistically, this is the only way to truly



Anthony Lolli.

understand what's required to succeed in any given business."

Fifteen years ago, Lolli got started in the Real Estate industry as a sales agent, just as he requires all new recruits starting in his firm today. He became a major student of the Real Estate industry before opening his own office, and throughout his evolution from broker to franchiser, he is still a student of the industry. Lolli begins each day with staying in tune with industry news and trends, and researching the next level of growth for his company.

He cited *The Real Deal Magazine* in which he's been featured numerous times, as his favorite real estate publication; *Inc 500*

Magazine as his favorite Business 101 resource, *Google* as his favorite information resource, and various social media outlets like *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Linked In*, and *YouTube*, among others, as the tremendous resource tools he uses to engage his consumers and understand his competitors.

My conversation with Lolli unveiled how truly common it is for aspiring business owners to get swept up in the false allure of business ownership. Many have a fantasy business in mind, in which you simply open the doors, have employees who handle the day-to-day activities, and the money rolls in, while you sip umbrella drinks in Montego Bay.

While this may be somewhat of a reality for a fully-matured, completely established business which takes years to accomplish, this couldn't be any further from reality for a start-up. You have to go into business with clarity to prepare you for long days, blood, sweat, and ... yes, tears.

Being an entrepreneur myself, owning your future is a beautiful thing. You literally have the power to change yourself and your succeeding generation's lives, forever. However, in business there are absolutely no guarantees, and sure, experimentation leads to acquired wisdom. However, it's probably not very wise to blindly experiment with your life savings, home equity, and your

credit score.

In fact, great gains are accomplished by taking great risk; however, understanding the risks could only do one of two things: help you avoid investing time, resources and effort into something you're not very passionate about, or something that's not what it seems from the outside looking in. You've got to ensure that you prove your business instinct to be on target, and fuel your fire to conquer the identified challenges head-on.

Christine M. Coley is a Brooklyn-based, multi-market business owner in areas of Real Estate, Public Relations and Direct Sales. She may be contacted at christine.coley@gmail.com or twitter@chrisintheapple.

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Region

Guyana mulls floating police stations to fight jungle crimes

By Bert Wilkinson

Local security authorities in Guyana are to construct floating police stations in Amazonian jungle rivers to help curb a spate of murders, armed robberies and other acts of violence in the nation's interior where surging world prices for gold have attracted millions in investments and thousands of new miners to bush communities hoping to earn get-rich-quick dollars or die trying.

Legislators currently going through the financial estimates for the 2012 national budget have so far approved nearly a million dollars for an undis-

closed number of fully-equipped pontoon-based stations that will provide police and military services to far-flung areas, where large multitudes of miners either pan for gold with traditional pick-axes and shovels or work high-tech, three-storeyed vessels to search for gold.

National Security Minister Clement Rohee said Monday that experts have agreed that the floating stations might be the most innovative way of policing the gold- and diamond-rich western and northern interiors which recorded 45 murders last year, about 35 more than normal and saw a number

or armed raids on mining camps by large groups of rifle-toting gangsters. Both miners and gangsters died during raids.

Police say reports of many acts of violence too often do not reach them because the nearest police station could be many days and a few mountains away. They also say they are probing seven gold bush murders for this year so far, including that of 29-year-old dredge owner Travis DeSouza who was stabbed to death on Saturday in a row over stolen mining equipment.

"We have already designed this facility together with the Guyana

Defense Force and believe it will help tremendously in bringing the crime situation under control in the interior division," Rohee said. "We recognize that with a gold shout, the population moves from one area to another," he added.

Gold has in the past four years surged past sugar, rice and bauxite as the country's top foreign exchange earner. Nearly two dozen Canadian and American companies are exploring large mines with Canadian Guyana Goldfields set to begin production at a mega mine in western Guyana in the next two years.

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#60

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ACNE Eczema Psoriasis Rosacea Rashes

By Dr. C. Hammoud Ph.D.

■ **I had terrible Acne** for 3 years and tried products with Benzoyl Peroxide, Aloe Vera and others. After 4 days taking the Bell natural product #60 it started to clear up my skin. My skin changed from terrible to beautiful. *Mylene Theriault, 19, Sorel-Tracy, QC* ■ **In 2 days** my son's face completely cleared up of acne. My son is 15 and suffered for 3 years. We used many products like laser, Neem that did not work or burned his skin. *Veronica Marden, Seminole, TX* ■ **Unbelievable acne free beautiful skin** Last couple of years I had acne and tried every product and antibiotics. Results with #60 were unbelievable. Thanks for giving me beautiful skin and my self-esteem. *Nelisa Royer, 28, Doral, FL* ■ **Within 6 days eczema cleared** up completely. I believe #60 addresses the cause internally instead of the symptoms. *Latifia Boutshik, 43, North York, ON* ■ **I had severe psoriasis** over 95% of my body. Last 5 years I have stunned every doctor and dermatologist. I spent tons of money on remedies. After I got Bell #60, I've never seen anything work as fast in my life. Within 2 days I saw my skin clearing up. I'm speechless. It was inexpensive compared with what I spent before. *Jessica Shantz, 25, Dawson Creek, BC* ■ **All statements** made on the Bell website are sent by delighted users. All are real people. Most have listed phone numbers and can be called for advice. No money is paid to them. Their reward is the relief they are getting. All say #60 works within days not months, not years. It's more effective than what they used before. It is less expensive (some acne suppliers ship monthly and charge monthly, which may amount to large sums yearly). No side effects were reported on #60. **TRUE EVIDENCE that we are helping people.**

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■ **Doctor said** to keep on drinking the tea. Prescribed prostate drugs did not help. *Leonard Pearcey, Wassis, NB*
 ■ **I cancelled my prostate surgery.** Get up once a night. I'm so happy not to have to face the torment of a prostate operation and incontinence or impotency. *Albert E. Blain, 74, Schumacher, ON* ■ **Even after TURP prostate surgery** and microwave therapy had to get up many times. Now down to 1-2 times. Tea is 100% better than drugs. *Robert G. Stocker, Eustasis, FL* ■ **After 1st year drinking tea** my PSA went down to 4.5; after 2nd year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA* **People's phone numbers on our website.**

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Dr. C. Hammoud M.H., Ph.D. recommends this effective fish peptide blood pressure natural product. So does **Dr. Julian Whitaker M.D.** ■ **I was on 3 blood pressure drugs** that did not work well. After starting Bell #26 my readings are generally well below 120/80. *Dona A. Anderson, 76, Sooke, BC* ■ **My blood pressure was 157/90** and I had side effects from prescription drugs. I bought a monitor. After 6 months on Bell #26 I was down to 120/80. *Toni L. McCuiston, 52, Elizabethtown, PA* ■ **At work my driver's medical test** was too high at 170/100. After taking Bell #26 for a few days I went down to 128/84 which allowed me to pass my work medical. *Kris Geier, 48, Windsor, ON.* **All products guaranteed to work.**



#26



#14

Cholesterol Control

■ **Cholesterol and triglycerides under control!** For the last 5-6 years I have been told that my cholesterol and triglycerides were out of line. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 my doctor said he was amazed about the change. This is a good product. *Jerome Nettles, 51, Monroeville, AL* ■ **All statin drugs gave me pain!** My doctor tried them all on me. So he said to try a natural product. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 I have no more pain. I'm so happy about this. *Deanna O'Neil, 63, Tecumseh, ON.* ■ **I had great success with all Bell health products!** In the last 2 years I had relief with Bell Prostate Ezee Flow Tea, HDL Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Combo and Stem Cell Activator. I love your products. They all work for me. Great results. That's all that matters. *Basil Richards, 49, S.W. Ranches, FL* ■ **20 years of high cholesterol alleviated!** I had high cholesterol for 20 years and drugs didn't agree with me. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 for 6 months I had a check-up and was surprised about the big improvement. I was delighted and extremely happy and so was my doctor. *Norma Hrysió, 65, Lac Du Bonnet, MB.* **We supply TRUE EVIDENCE.**



Continued from page 2

seeks a study a Cayman Brac cruise tourism.

However, the premier said government is awaiting the completion of a financial review by KPMG and would have to present the proposal for the definitive agreement to cabinet members, the central tenders committee and the auditor general.

Grenada

Grenada's Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Mitchell says he is deeply concerned that, in addition to the high rate of unemployment, those who are lucky enough to have full time or part time employment are often forced to work for starvation wages, while a very select few continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the fat of the land.

Mitchell noted that under the National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration, public workers are now being forced to live on 2006

wages in 2012, while workers in the debussing program had to suffer the indignity of seeing their daily rates significantly reduced.

He said that these actions can only be described as unconscionable at a time when so many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet and are suffering the effects of increasing levels of poverty.

Mitchell said that while all this is happening, the government continues the practice of awarding highly paid contracts to members of a small privileged group, many of who do not produce in accordance with the level of their salaries and perks.

Guyana

More companies and investors are showing interest in investing and expanding their operations in Guyana.

The Bauxite Company of Guyana Inc. (BCGI/RUSAL) has invested more than \$21

million in additional equipment for its operations at Aroima, Region 10.

Prime Minister Samuel Hinds was on site recently to join the management and staff of the company as they commissioned more than 130 pieces of heavy-duty and light machinery, adding to its current fleet. The equipment was brought in from the company's Jamaica operations.

Hinds said the government is committed to working with the company to ensure that a profitable bauxite operation continues in the area.

The company plans to expand its operations into new areas and mining and this the prime minister said will definitely be a plus for Guyana, since it will create more economic opportunities and jobs.

Guyana

A flight by Suriname's national air carrier recently

touched down in Guyana for the first time in six years.

The flight by Suriname Airways stopped in Guyana enroute to Miami and was welcomed by Guyana's President Donald Ramoutar and a team of government officials.

On board the flight was Suriname President Desi Bouterse, who met with Ramoutar after the plane arrived at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

The flight marks another step in improved interaction between the two South American neighbors, with 33,000 visitors from Guyana to Suriname in 2011.

The president said more access to regional destinations is as important as travel between Paramaribo and Georgetown.

Guyana is currently building a 14,000-square-meter, multiple-terminal complex at its airport.

Ramoutar and Bouterse also held bilateral talks at CARICOM headquarters in

Georgetown.

Haiti

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recently announced the approval of a US\$2 million subordinated loan to Alternative Insurance Company (AIC), the leading locally based insurer in Haiti.

This is the first IDB non-sovereign guaranteed operation approved for a Haitian corporate borrower.

The financing, arranged by the IDB's Opportunities for the Majority Initiative (OM), will catalyze resources for the Haitian-owned AIC to carry out a visionary strategic growth plan that will expand its services to low-income clients.

Haiti's insurance industry suffered devastating losses due to the 2010 earthquake. AIC, however, honored all its claims. That effort solidified the company's reputation and prompted stronger

demand for its traditional products, which include auto, property, commercial, health and life insurance.

Haiti

At least 27 people were killed in a major road accident recently in Haiti when a truck carrying people overturned on a highway south of Haiti's capital, hospital officials said. About 40 others were injured.

The accident occurred when a truck carrying small retail traders, many of them women, tipped over on National Highway 2, near a community known as Morne Tapion.

In addition to passengers, the vehicle was overloaded with bags of food and other merchandise, a typical way to transport goods in Haiti.

A local judge who witnessed the accident said the truck was climbing a steep incline when it lost balance and went tumbling down.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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N.Y. State farm workers still denied rights

By Donna Lamb

Every time a New Yorker bites into an apple grown in New York State – one of the top three apple growers in the United States – little do they know that the apple

they are enjoying was likely picked by a worker from Jamaica or Haiti who is in this country on the Guest Worker Program.

Nor would the apple eater have any idea of the

colossal hardships these workers and other migrant workers face as they play a crucial role in providing us all with fresh fruit and vegetables.

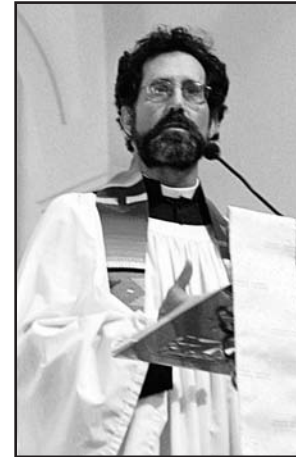
Parishioners at the Holy Apostles Church in Manhattan were fortunate to learn about these issues from Episcopal priest Richard Witt, executive director of the Rural and Migrant Ministry, when he preached a sermon and gave an educational presentation at the church earlier this month.

Father Witt explained, for example, that guest workers, such as those from Jamaica and Haiti, are here officially on a visa so they don't have to worry about being deported. However, once the job is done, they are required to go back home. It is not a path toward citizenship.

Furthermore, guest workers have no right to self-determination: they can only work on the farm they've been assigned to for a specific amount of money

and for a specific length of time. If they have any problems, they can't just leave and go work for another farmer. "And frankly," Witt stated, "there are a couple of farms in New York State that are notoriously bad places to work. There is verbal and physical abuse to the point that the owners have trouble finding workers, but they've been able to get guest workers sent to labor on their farms."

As Father Witt also noted, theoretically, guest workers have a few more rights than other farm workers. They are supposed to be entitled to a pay level that is slightly higher than the prevailing migrant worker wage and they are entitled to some medical coverage. Meanwhile, most of the guest workers are afraid to use the coverage for fear they will be labeled sickly, and they are scared to raise any other concerns for fear they will be branded a troublemaker and not allowed back in the future. They feel they must toe the line or



Father Richard Witt speaks from the pulpit about the plight of New York State farm workers.
Photo by Donna Lamb

days of rest and the right to collective bargaining. It was during the Jim Crow era, however, and segregationist Southern Congressmen simply could not bear to give African-Americans – who then made up most of the farm and domestic labor force – equal treatment in the workplace as whites. Roosevelt caved in to the racists and wrote farm and domestic workers out of the legislation.

This exclusion of farm workers from federal labor laws put the responsibility on individual states to right this wrong. Unfortunately, New York State has not seen fit to do so. It continues to exempt "service on a farm" from the definition of what constitutes an "employee."

The State Legislature has addressed a few exclusions in recent years, namely, granting farm workers the same minimum wage standard and requiring the provision of drinking water and toilets in the fields.

Continued on page 23

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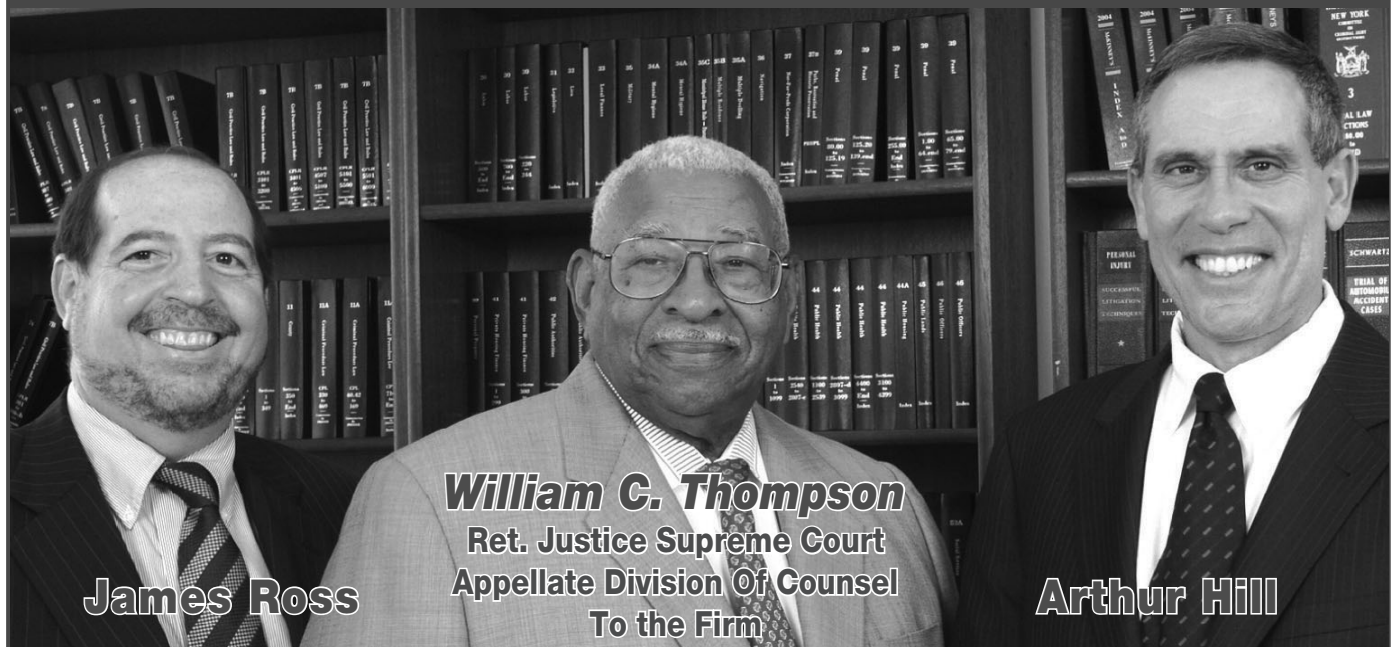
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Dr. Steven C. Tawil: Colon Cancer Screening & Prevention

By Camille Sperrazza

Stop postponing your colonoscopy.

Everyone age 50 and over needs one, but African-Americans are at an especially high risk of developing colon cancer, says Dr. Steven C. Tawil, gastroenterologist and internist.

"It is recommended that they be screened for colon cancer at age 45," says the doctor.

The reasons the mortality rate is higher for African-Americans is not known, says Dr. Tawil, but the good news is that having this simple procedure "can improve the numbers."

It has never been easier or more convenient to undergo this procedure. It can be done right in Dr. Tawil's Brighton Beach office, with an anesthesiologist present.

"This means it is an 100 percent painless procedure," says the doctor.

The administration of the anesthesia is quick, so patients feel no pain, he assures. The presence of the anesthesiologist also means that a patient's vital signs are constantly being monitored.

"It's another pair of hands in the room, another doctor checking oxygen, heart rhythms, and pulse," says Dr. Tawil. "It's all about the comfort and safety of the patient."

Dr. Tawil's office is recognized by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery. Facilities accredited by this organization must meet rigorous standards of cleanliness and other criteria that assures the highest standards, says the doctor. This feat is not an easy achievement, and he takes pride that his practice is held in such high esteem.

The Brighton Beach Avenue facility, at the same location since 1991, recently moved from the second floor to the third floor, securing a new 6,000 square foot office. Among the highlights is an endoscopy suite with a private changing room, a recovery room, and a private bathroom in the recovery room. Such a set-up makes screening easy for the patient, as there's no running down a hall to find a toilet. Everything is convenient and private.

Make an appointment to see him if you have rectal bleeding. This could be a sign of colon cancer, and should never be ignored, says the

doctor. A change in bowel habits or unexplained weight loss are other reasons to undergo an exam. If there is a history of polyps in the family, being screened is a must, he says. Polyps are small growths that occur on the wall of the colon, and if they are not removed, some may eventually turn into cancer, says Dr. Tawil. The removal of polyps can be done right after the colonoscopy is performed, while the patient is still under anesthesia. That way, patients don't have to return to get another procedure.

Patients can also come to him to get their blood pressure checked and their sugar levels monitored. He also treats heartburn, ulcers, constipation, liver issues, and stomach ailments. He specializes in the treatment of hepatitis, particularly hepatitis C.

"We have the latest treatment, available right in the office," he says.

Dr. Tawil's credentials are impeccable. He is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, which means a "double certification," he notes. In addition, he is re-certified every 10 years, which involves undergoing a seven-hour test. It all proves he is at the top of his game, aware of the most recent developments in the field.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Dr. Tawil trained at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for five years. He is on staff at the New York Methodist Hospital, and is a member of the American College of Physicians; the New York State Medical Society; the American Medical Association; and the American College of Gastroenterology.

The office accepts most major health plans, including Medicare and Medicaid. For the convenience of his hard-working patients, the office is now open on Sundays. It is handicapped accessible, and convenient to bus and trains. The doctor sees patients by appointment.

Dr. Tawil [130 Brighton Beach Ave. between Ocean Parkway and Coney Island Avenue in Brighton Beach, (718) 946-7557]. Open Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm; Mondays, 9 am to 4:30 pm; and Wednesdays, 9 am to 6:30 pm. Procedures are performed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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State farm workers denied rights

Continued from page 20

While these are important first steps, the overall exclusion remains, despite the consistent efforts of many dedicated activists to get a bill passed in Albany that would give farm workers the same rights as employees in other industries.

One such activist is the world-renowned folksinger, Pete Seeger, who has long stood for justice for migrant workers through his songs and actions. On April 17 at Riverside Church in Harlem, this soon-to-be 93-year-old icon hosted Voices of Hope in Concert, sponsored by Rural & Migrant Ministry to benefit the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign.

After warmly greeting the assembled crowd Seeger said, "I don't have much voice left, but if you'll help me out, I think we can make some nice music together." He then led the audience in a spirited rendition of his enduring hit "Quite Early Morning."

Among the other out-

standing performers were Kim and Reggie Harris, two consummate musicians and storytellers who combine a strong folk and gospel legacy. Mr. Harris said he himself is a descendant of farm workers – enslaved Africans who were forced to work the land. "While people are not held in slavery in the same way they were during the time of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, the mental attitude as a nation has not changed much," he declared. "Labor is still not valued, and people in authority are still unwilling to give farm workers the rights they deserve."

During the event, Gina Figueroa, a Sal/Soul R&B singer and actress, brought down the house with her vocal numbers, accompanied by Valerie Kelley, Edwin Lugo and John Quilty. Respected stage performers Tyrone Aiken and Larry Marshall each gave stunning renditions of gospel classics, while Jeannine "Jahneen" Otis, emma's revolution (Pat Humphries and

Sandy Opatow), and Andres Chamorro also thrilled the crowd with their dynamic performances.

Rounding out the

evening were spoken word artist Maria Christina Martinez and migrant worker Sostenes Uribe, who moved everyone deeply with

his heartfelt message.

On May 21, activists are heading to Albany for Farmworker Albany Day. For more information,

please contact Justice for Farmworkers Campaign coordinator Gerardo Gutierrez at (845) 485-8627.

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Job training program for unemployed youth

By Kenton Kirby

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has signed a bill creating "NY Youth Works," an inner city youth employment program that will combat high unemployment in the state's metro areas. The new law includes \$25 million in tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed and disadvantaged youth and \$6 million to support job training programs. The governor was joined by his colleagues from the State Legislature at a bill-signing ceremony last week at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

"We are giving young adults in our cities the skills and the opportunity to build a career," Cuomo said. "With four out of every 10 inner-city young adults looking for work, our state faces an unemployment crisis within an unemployment crisis that needs to be immediately addressed."

Through the N.Y. Youth Works program, the governor said, young people would be placed on a career path aimed at preventing a cycle

of poverty. Not only would it be "an investment in our youth, but an investment in the collective future of our state," Mr. Cuomo added.

The N.Y. Youth Works program provides \$25 million in tax credits to benefit employers that hire unemployed youth over the first six months of 2012, with the ultimate goal of permanent, unsubsidized employment.

N.Y. Youth Works will function in three phases:

Phase 1: For up to six weeks before a youth is placed in employment, youth providers, like not-for-profits and workforce investment boards, will prepare eligible youth with skills such as work readiness, occupational training, and digital literacy.

Phase 2: Businesses will be offered a \$3,000 wage subsidy in the form of tax credits to hire disadvantaged youths for six months. Preference will be given to employers in demand industries such as clean energy, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and conservation. Priority will

be given to employers that provide on-site occupational skills training during this period. During Phase 1 and Phase 2, participating youth will be provided with up to three monthly stipends of \$300 to cover costs associated with transitioning into the workplace.

Phase 3: An additional \$1,000 tax credit will be available to employers that retain the participating youths for an additional six months.

Under the new law, \$62 million in funding will be provided to critical job training and support programs for inner city youth, including basic education programs, summer youth employment, job search and placement initiatives, and child care.

Eligible participants for the jobs program include unemployed, low-income youth aged 16 through 24 who are located in one of the following areas: Albany, Brookhaven, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, New York City, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, and Yonkers.

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Unexplained miraculous phenomena arrives in New York

By Kingsley Doyle

A survey from the Pew Forum on Religion in February 2010 showed that a vast majority of

Americans, nearly 80 percent, believe in miracles. Such is the driving force behind the sudden popularity of "Braco", a European

figurehead for over 16 years that is becoming an overnight sensation in the U.S. where sellout crowds are gathering to experience

his "silent, healing gaze" -- something that thousands claim has miraculously changed their lives for the better; either physically, emotionally or mentally.

Now, over 5,000 New Yorkers in search of their own miracles are expected to gather for Braco's inaugural visit to Manhattan, taking place Saturday, April 28; and Sunday, April 29 at the Pennsylvania Hotel, 401 Seventh Ave. in Manhattan. Braco gazing sessions are scheduled to take place from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily; beginning each hour. Each session lasts 30-35 minutes.

Braco does not take any money for his help; he does not accept donations and the sessions are always free at his Center in Zagreb, Croatia where millions from throughout the world visit annually. However, U.S. tour organizers charge a minimal \$8 fee per-person to cover event facility and organizational expenses. Tickets for this event may be purchased in



Braco.

advance from the web site, or at the door.

Why The Mass Popularity

Some experience radical healings that are medically verifiable -- cancers disappearing, walking after years in wheelchairs, eyesight or hearing restoring, addictions vanishing, chemical issues re-balancing, and more -- but for others, it's a subtle but profound feeling of well-being, hope, or a rare peace that draw people to experience this

humble man's gaze. The impact can sometimes be felt in repaired relationships or improved financial matters.

Braco is no guru or religious leader. He has no philosophy or dogma nor wants any to worship him. In fact, well-known leaders around the world applaud Braco and his aid to all, no matter what creed, race, social strata, or sex. Leaders like Rev. Winifred Gaines, former chaplain to the California State Senate and Rev. Michael Bernard Beckwith of the Agape Int'l Spiritual Center and "The Secret," are two of many who wrote letters to the U.S. government helping win Braco the Extraordinary Talent Visa, the most challenging of all visas to obtain in the U.S., after experiencing phenomenal shifts in their own lives or that of their communities. They have been joined by countless other leaders heralding Braco's gift to the world as significant.

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St. Lucians salute their outgoing UN ambassador

The Saint Lucia House Foundation, Brooklyn, the umbrella group of Saint Lucian organizations based in New York City, Connecticut and New Jersey, has thanked Saint Lucia's outgoing UN Ambassador Dr. Keith St. Aimee for his remarkable stewardship and unflinching support of the organization.

During an event on April 20, the foundation expressed its appreciation to Amb. St. Aimee for his dedicated leadership, his humble personality, his open door policy, his readiness to always listen to Saint Lucian Community and praised his remarkable work ethic.

The Foundation's President Mathias Wilkie credits Amb. St. Aimee "for the establishment of the Saint Lucia House Foundation and the improved relations between the office of the Consulate General in New York and Saint Lucians in the Diaspora, which I hope



From left, (women) Victoria Bousquet, Mavis Francois, Natasha Monchery, Gertrude Hippolyte, Neva Jean, Sherlina St. Bernard and Mary Reynolds-Bowden. From left, (men) Bryan Henry, Mathias Wilkie, Cecil St. Jules, Jeremiah Hyacinth and Amb. Keith St. Aimee.

will continue to flourish with the incoming ambassador."

"The foundation believes Amb. St. Aimee, who also served as Saint Lucia's Consul General in New York, will be most remembered as the representative who addressed everyone equally, and made time for everyone.

"He was not only a skilled diplomat, but was also someone that went to great lengths to serve and strengthen the Saint Lucian Community. He was always available at almost every community event, always there to offer his help in resolving issues," said Wilkie.

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Haitian-Americans seek cultural connection

By Tequila Minsky

Children of the past generation of Haitian immigrants are firmly planted in American culture with ties and culture also rooted in Haiti. These first-generation Americans are young adults up through their 40s or more.

As they get older, many of these Haitians, born here, feel an increasing need for a deeper connection with their heritage. Some realize they have a limited facility with their parents' native tongue. Others are seeking more cultural connections.

First-generation Haitian-American Patricia Phillipe fits into this category. She began to feel she wanted more culture contact and decided to do something about it. Mid-June last year, Phillipe started a Kreyol-speaking meetup group (organized online for those with shared interests to form offline clubs). Phillipe's meetup is: Ann Pale Kreyol, "Let's Speak Haitian Kreyol"



Language teacher Wynnie Lamour challenging the students with the next fun exercise.

<http://www.meetup.com/Ann-Pale-Kreyol/>.

By now, more than 75 are registered. Those who have joined post their interests on the site—wanting to learn, to strengthen, and speak Kreyol. Others express interest in wanting to explore roots, connect with people of Haitian descent, network or be more involved with the Haitian community.

"We, up to 12 people, meet about twice a month, usually at a restaurant for dinner and we speak Kreyol," Patricia said. "Sometimes, we meet at Haiti events, frequently, those that are organized by Haiti Cultural Exchange."

Canarsie-resident Wynnie Lamour studied Spanish and linguistics as an undergrad and got a Masters degree in urban affairs and community development. When she isn't teaching college mathematics at Hostos Community College, Wynnie teaches Haitian Kreyol.

Her one-hour group class of five to eight persons in Clinton Hill has been meeting since August. "I have 25 lessons," she said that include games, I-spy, crossword puzzles and conversation. She also gives private lessons. She has Haitian-American students.

Lamour began to share Haitian culture at the Brooklyn Brainerie, a center for inexpensive classes in

Carroll Gardens, where she first taught Kreyol cooking." We made "boulet", meatballs, and "diri djon djon", black rice, Lamour extols. "The Brooklyn Brainerie was a great supporter when I was first starting out."

In addition to her language classes, Wynnie wanted to try something different, an afternoon of culture and language.

Partnering with Patricia Phillipe, who brought some of her "meetup" compadres, and Haiti Cultural Exchange that spread the word, last month, Wynnie conducted a three-hour "Haitian Kreyol Workshop."

Thirteen, mostly women, showed up in lower Manhattan at the Park51 Community Center, which is open to all kinds of community activities, for a taste of Haitian cultural immersion. Starting with a snack of Haitian herring and cassava, varied activities kept things lively and the anxiety of learning a new language to a minimum. At



Students had to talk in kreyol about their partner. Patricia Phillipe (right) is the founder of the Ann Pale Kreyol-Let's Speak Haitian Kreyol-meetup.

Photos by Tequila Minsky

times, participants worked with partners, a chance to get to know someone new while sharing the learning challenges. Speaking was not effortless for the "advanced beginners," but everyone was pretty much in the same boat and the exercises were fun.

The afternoon workshop ended with a short

slideshow on Haitian art before the students got to eat Haitian meatballs and black rice. Haitian and Haitian-Americans made up one-third of the cross-generational group.

Lamour wants to expand this into an intensive experience and is now developing a full day workshop for June or July.

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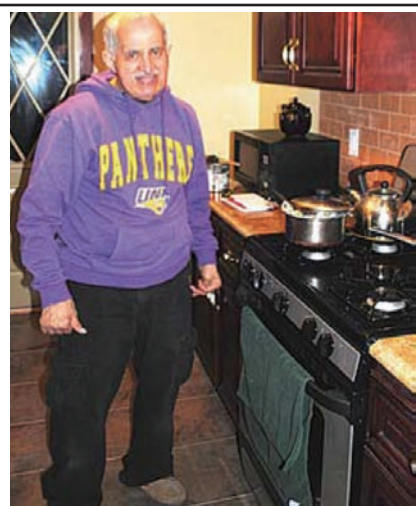
Transit retiree gives his home a makeover, thanks to Housing Rehabilitation Assistance

Tito Soto likes to see people working, especially in these difficult times. So when he decided it was time to renovate his entire home, he was glad to hire a crew of construction workers who were hungry for new work.

"They're...very hardworking guys," said Soto, who learned plenty about hard work during his 32-year career with the MTA. "I'm happy to be putting people to work with the way the economy is. I told them every day, 'I'm glad to see you guys working.'"

Soto didn't select the crew from New York Construction all on his own. The company was pre-screened for him by the group that helped make the entire project — and the jobs it created — possible: Housing Rehabilitation Assistance (HRA).

HRA is helping homeowners all over the city and Long Island to complete the home renovations of their dreams. The HRA succeeds by not only screening for the best contractors but by working with banks to get the loans and by finding extra financial assistance for clients who qualify. They also use tax breaks that come with energy-efficient door and window treatments, and new insulation to save. Most importantly, they ensure the job is always done right by holding contractors' payments in escrow until clients certify that



Rich wood cabinets, granite countertops and ceramic brick make Tito Soto's kitchen more inviting than it's ever been.

they're absolutely satisfied.

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

Soto's home, built in 1920 in the Bronx, provides a perfect example of how utilizing HRA can help any homeowner. For years, the house had a roof that leaked, a drafty foyer, some bad floor joists and a small kitchen that needed a modern makeover.

Soto wasn't looking to upgrade the home he's lived in for 27 years just for himself. Following his daughter and grandchildren's move to the suburbs, he's decided it's getting near time to sell. So, he needed more curb appeal and a more inviting interior.

"I'm fixing it up for the next owner," he said. "It's cozy and I love it, and if it wasn't for the snow and the grass and everything else, I'd stay here. But I don't need a house. It's just me; the kids are gone, and it's time to move on."

The HRA-approved workers began by replacing the roof to fix those pesky leaks. Inside, the kitchen now features new granite countertops and complementary floor tiles in soft, eye-pleasing earth tones, real-wood cabinets, a gleaming stainless steel stove and a new door, amongst other new amenities.

It's not just the parts you see that have been upgraded. The HRA-approved crew removed and replaced all the walls, the floor, the joists below it and the ceiling. Because the home had settled over the years, when they replaced the rafters they

also raised the floor. They then lifted the ceiling a little, allowing those new wood cabinets to fit.

That's how it is with the contractors HRA supports — they respond to whatever unique needs a client has.

In the foyer, the crew removed the old ceiling, walls and front windows. They replaced any rotted beams because of the leak and put in a beautiful new bay window that gives the home's curb appeal a major boost.

"It's a tremendous difference," Soto said. "Without a doubt, just seeing it adds value to the house."

Like many HRA clients, Soto found out about the program through a card that came in the mail. Deciding it was worth checking out, he called and met with HRA representatives, who explained how the program works.

"They were very amiable," he said. "They make you feel comfortable, because it is a big investment."

He received financial assistance for the window treatments and help with getting the loan that covered most of the project, and has remained in touch with his HRA representative as the work continues.

"I would recommend them to anybody," Soto said.

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

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Commissioner

Mick Jagger rocks T&T Queens Park Oval

It would have been nice to report that Mick Jagger batted a thousand runs or that the front man for Britain's most popular music group rocked the twin island of Trinidad & Tobago when he visited recently.

Fact is, the Rollingstones' lead singer yielded to athletics competing in the West Indies vs. Australia Digicel 2012 Series by taking a front seat at Queens Park Oval in the capital city where a one-day cricket match highlighted the Caribbean schedule.



From left, Digicel CEO, Niall Dorrian, former President of WIPA Dinanath Ramnarine; cricketing legend, Lance Gibbs, Mick Jagger, West Indies cricket legends, Clive Lloyd and Desmond Haynes.

Photo courtesy of Digicel

The rock legend joined Niall Dorrian, Digicel CEO and fans of the sport to watch the game on the first day of the Test match in Port-of-Spain.

The first leg of the series kicked off last month in St. Vincent before going to St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Dominica.

The second half of the series pits the West Indies against New Zealand.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

The tentative dates for the New Zealand tour begin July 1 through to Aug. 2.

Visit <http://cwc.digicelcricket.com/matches>

African Film Fest Spotlights Barack's Sister 'Auma Obama' & 'Mama Africa'

The African Film Festival continues to project enlightening and compelling images from the continent until May 28.

Presenting films from South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, Nigeria, The Congo, Morocco, Niger, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Algeria, Cameroon and Kenya, the festival has premiered numerous features and documentaries foreign to the Hollywood industry and alien to patrons who frequently visit cinemas. Among the offerings already screened -- "Mama Africa," a musical foray with Miriam Makeba, the singer acclaimed to be the nurturer from South Africa and mother who represented the entire continent.

A second highlight features "The Education of Auma Obama."

Making its New York debut, the 79-minute documentary spotlights the older, half sister of President Barack Obama for an up-close and personal expose she fully participated in presenting. The thrust of the film focuses on the Kenyan homesteader following her to Germany where she studied and lived for 16 years before moving and marrying in England.

However, the film also devotes time to establish her family, which comprises many aunts, cousins, nieces, a father and her world-famous half brother.

Auma met her brother for the first time in the 1980's when he was an activist in Chicago. They had been corresponding through the mail and she expressed a desire to meet. He accepted her initiative and invited her for a visit.

It was after that first encounter that Auma decided she would mount her own overseas campaign to help elect her younger brother to serve in the Illinois senate.

Americans will be surprised to see the celebrations which ensued after the son of a Kenyan spoke at the 2004 Democratic Convention and even more jubilant Nov. 2008 when he was elected the first Black president of the United States.

The star spangled banner seemed to be raised highest throughout Nairobi and cardboard images of Barack Obama gave presence during ceremonial rituals and campaign watch sessions monitored on television.

And while the focus is Auma, her dedication to her family and the country she seems to incorporate any relative that impact her active lifestyle.

Auma exhibits strength, ambition and perseverance despite gender inhibitors.

Auma defied her father's dominance to pursue education.

Similarly, Makeba defied her nation by speaking out against its atrocities to explain apartheid to delegates at the United Nations. Reportedly, she was the first to do so.

Mostly regarded as a singer who recorded "Pata Pata" and the "Click Song," Makeba was also acclaimed for fashioning African garb, exotic performances and banding with Harry Belafonte to promote cultural diversity and appreciation of African music.

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Photos by Michael J. Lurch



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238 Flatbush Avenue at Bergen Street in Brooklyn

‘Marley is a wonderfully-revealing, warts-and-all tribute to the human spirit of a Rasta rock god!’

Kam Williams – Page 33

FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENT, GO TO CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Tribeca Film Fest in its 11th year

The Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) which began April 19 with more than 85 full-length films, programs of shorts, panels and related events runs until April 29. As the Festival nears its end, the free community family festival will be held Saturday, April 28 from 10:00-6:00 p.m. on Greenwich Street, north of Chambers St. The day will be filled with street games and activities, live Broadway performances, arts and craft, storytelling, free screenings for all the family to enjoy.

For all to enjoy and free, the outdoor “Drive-In” films at the World Financial Center are part of the Festival, with live music at 7:00 p.m. and film screen-



A scene from “Baseball in the time of Cholera.”

Photo courtesy of Tribeca Film Festival

ings at about 8:15 p.m., with particular perks for the kids such as giveaways and contests.

Along with the narratives and docs theatrical screenings, for the third year, four terrific films from the TFF schedule of films are streamed online free fol-

Continued on next page

Absentee fathers

By Deandra Shuler

Filmmaker Mariette Monpierre recently showcased her first feature film “ELZA” at the Walter Reade Theatre in Lincoln Center in Manhattan as part of the African Film Festival.

A French Guadeloupean filmmaker, producer and director, Monpierre was born in Guadeloupe but raised in Paris. Educated at the Sorbonne at the University of Paris, Smith College in Massachusetts and NYU in N.Y., she later worked at the renowned ad agency, BBD&O, before venturing into the world of filmmaking. Byron Lewis, chairman of the African American owned Uniworld advertising agency acted as a consultant on Ms. Monpierre’s film.

“ELZA” is the first narrative by a Guadeloupean female director and thus

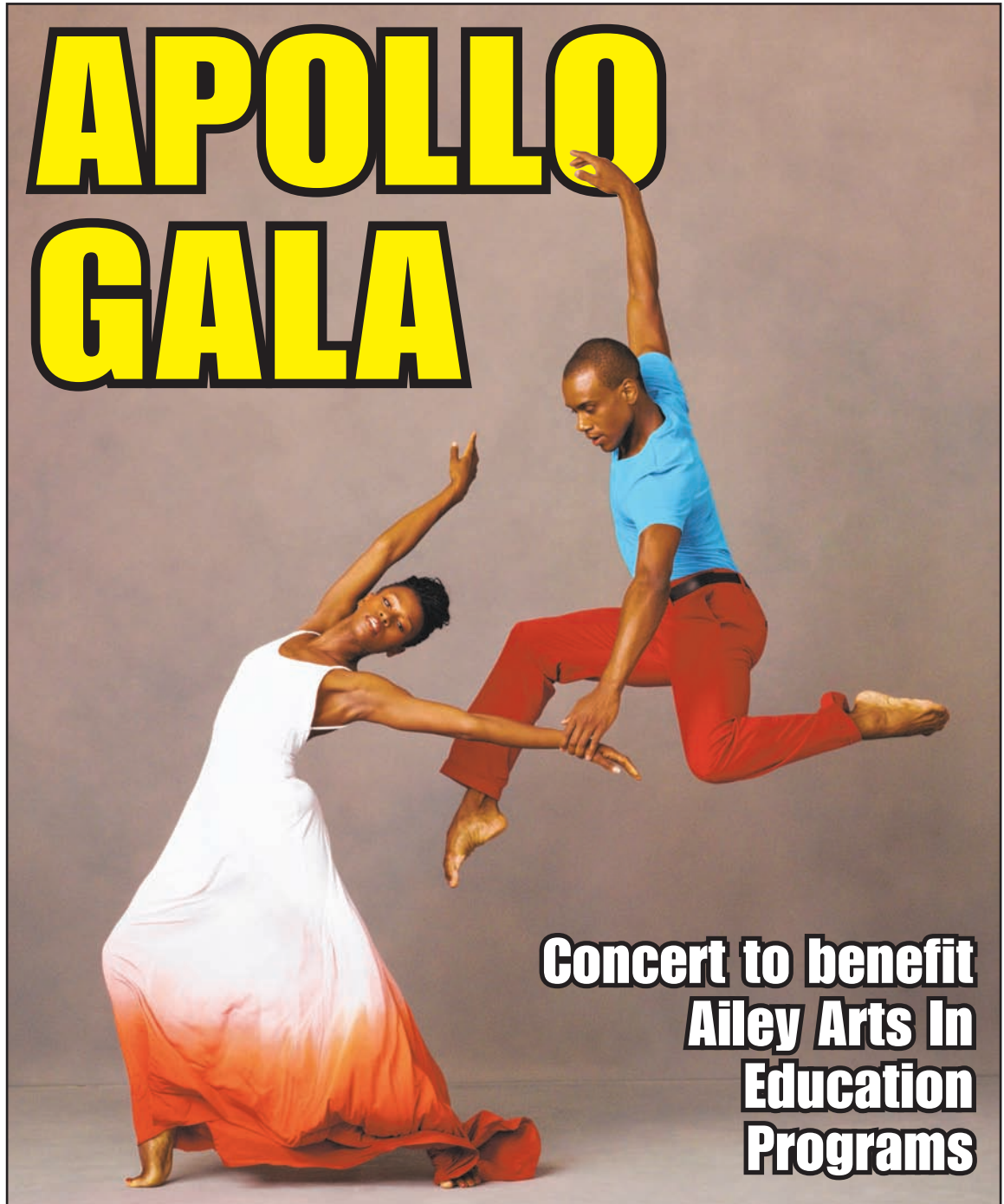


Mariette Monpierre.

it is noteworthy that Ms. Monpierre’s film won three awards at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles. Ms. Monpierre won The Best Director First Feature: Special Jury Recognition – Feature Narrative at PAFF/LA; The Festival Choice Award at the Pan African Film Festival-British Academy

Continued on next page

APOLLO GALA



Concert to benefit Ailey Arts In Education Programs

AAADT’s Rachael McLaren and Kirven James Boyd.

Photo by Andrew Eccles

By John Marrast

Stars of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, gifted young dancers from The Ailey School and, for the first time ever, talented students from AileyCamp will come together for a spectacular one-night performance on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

on the Apollo stage.

Led by new Artistic Director Robert Battle, the Spring Gala Benefit performance will be at the Apollo Theater (253 W 125th St., between 7th & 8th avenues). A gala party with festive dress, décor and dancing to music by DJ Ruckus will conclude

the 10th annual celebration.

“Ailey At The Apollo” will honor Leslie Maheras, a member of Ailey’s Board of Trustees, and her husband Tom Maheras for their support and commitment to the Ailey organization, and for their leadership in the

Continued on next page

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **We Are Young**
Fun. Feat. Janelle Monae
- 2 **Glad You Came**
The Wanted
- 3 **Stronger**
Kelly Clarkson
- 4 **Part of Me**
Katy Perry
- 5 **Take Care**
Drake Feat. Rihanna
- 6 **Wild Ones**
Flo Rida Feat. Sia
- 7 **Set Fire To The Rain**
Adele
- 8 **Somebody That I Used to Know**
Gotye Feat. Kimbra
- 9 **Turn Me On**
David Guetta Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 10 **Starships**
Nicki Minaj

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Tuskegee**
Lionel Richie
- 2 **Making Mirrors**
Gotye
- 3 **Up All Night**
One Direction
- 4 **All American**
Hoodie Allen
- 5 **Slipstream**
Bonnie Raitt
- 6 **Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded**
Nicki Minaj
- 7 **Boys & Girls**
Alabama Shakes
- 8 **My Head Is An Animal**
Of Monsters And Men
- 9 **21**
Adele
- 10 **New Life**
Monica

Presented by
verizon wireless

Ailey's fund raising concert

Continued from previous page

broader cultural and educational community.

The honorary chair is R&B sensation and six-time Grammy winner, Toni Braxton. With more than 40 million albums sold worldwide, Braxton is recognized as one of the most outstanding voices of this generation. Today, she is



Event honorees Leslie and Thomas Maheras. Photo by Julie Skarratt

enjoying huge success with her Braxton Family Values reality show on the WE network.

Sponsored by FedEx Corporation, gala co-chairs are Lynne and Anthony M. Carvette, David E. Monn, and Almaz and Marc Strachan and vice chairs are Judith Byrd, Catherine Davis, and Pamela Zilly and John Schaefer.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform highlights from "Home," hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' bold new work inspired by stories of people living with or affected by HIV; Artistic Director Robert Battle's "Takademe," which mixes humor and high-flying movement in a savvy deconstruction of Indian Kathak dance rhythms; and reper-

tory classic, "Escapades," by Alvin Ailey.

Students, ages six to 23, will also showcase their talents and the breadth of The Ailey School's program in performance excerpts before they join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the finale of Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, "Revelations."

Gala proceeds will support The Ailey School's Scholarship Program, for promising young students who would otherwise be unable to pursue professional training, and Ailey Arts In Education and Community Programs, which annually serve more than 100,000 young people, including AileyCamp- the innovative, full-scholarship program that uses the art of dance as a means to help young people stretch their minds, bodies and spirits.

In celebration of the 10th annual Spring Gala Benefit, attendees will witness the impact of their charitable donations firsthand through a special performance by AileyCamp. Youthful talent from AileyCamp Washington Heights and Newark will move guests with a performance inspired by Robert Battle's explosive work, "The Hunt," complete with live drums and original choreography.

After the performance, the present and future stars of Ailey will join guests to dine and dance at a festive gala party with music provided by DJ Ruckus - America's most in-demand celebrity deejay. A superstar deejay for the better part of a decade, DJ Ruckus has routinely performed at private parties hosted by the world's biggest stars, including Diddy, Kanye West, Christina Aguilera, Magic Johnson, and Steven Tyler.

Mariette's semi-autobiography

Continued from previous page

of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA/LA); and The Festival Programmers' Award - Narrative PAFPA/LA.

"I was so surprised when I heard my name called during the Awards Ceremony. I went up, accepted the award and returned to my seat. Then I heard my name called again. I started to cry. I couldn't believe it! Once again, I accepted my award and went back to my seat and then unbelievably, I heard my name called for yet a third time. I was so happy. I couldn't thank everyone enough for their involvement in the making of "ELZA." It really was a labor of love and I am so delighted that my films won awards and were nominated in various movie categories," said the ebullient filmmaker.

Through her film, "ELZA," the story of a young Caribbean woman in search of her father, filmmaker Mariette Monpierre speaks out on behalf of young children whose fathers, for whatever reason, are absent from their families. Ms. Monpierre reveals through her character "ELZA," the impact not having a father in the home has on children. A semi-auto-

biography, Mariette's film speaks on behalf of the many fatherless children and the fantasies they conjure about the fathers they never knew. "Elza" seeks to make her deep desires, fantasies and dreams about the shadowy figure who occupies much of her thoughts a reality. Thus, she journeys to the lush island of Guadeloupe in the French West Indies to find the most important man in her life.

"I was very anxious to meet my absentee father," explained the producer of her own experience. "Guadeloupe is a small island where everyone knows one another, so I was able to find him. I was very excited and young, so perhaps I didn't handle it in the best way. I called my father. His wife answered the phone. I blurted out that I thought her husband was my father. She was very nice and said she understood. She invited me to meet her children and my father. I guess I had many expectations. However, when I finally met my father, he looked at me and said he didn't think he could be my father because my hair was too kinky," recalled the petite artist of her only in-person encounter with her father.



Untrained actors play the main characters in "Una Noche" filmed in Cuba by American writer/director Lucy Malloy. They will be present at the screenings.

Photo courtesy of Tribeca Film Festival

Family festival

Continued from previous page

lowing their premiere screenings.

Two captivating documentaries taking place in foreign lands shouldn't be missed in the theater or free online. "The Russian Winter" that premiered April 20 at Loews Village, is about Brooklyn-born John Forte's two-month concert tour, which takes place in a very snowy Russia. The singer/songwriter's backstory including his contribution with the Fugees and 16-year prison sentence for drug possession (he served half!) is woven into the film.

"Town of Runners" that premiered April 19 at the Clearview is free, streaming on-line. It is a fascinating documentary about a small rural town in Ethiopia, home to numerous Olympic champion long-distance runners and the struggles of two teenage-track hopefuls. For on-line info: <http://www.tribecafilm.com/tribecafilm/about.html>

Films on the schedule run the gamut of subject and locale and are local, urban, national and international.

Of special note is "Una Noche," filmed entirely in Cuba with untrained actors playing the leads. The writer/director, American Lucy Malloy spent years in Cuba researching the subject for this film, her first feature, and seeking out those who would play the characters. "Una Noche" is about the energy of youth and their

desperation living in Cuba. Mentored by Spike Lee, the director received many production awards and grants that helped enable her to make the film. Three actors are traveling from Cuba for the screenings. There will be four screenings at Clearview Cinema.

New York-based Haitian-American filmmaker Patricia Benoit's long-awaited first feature "Stones in the Sun" had its world premiere on Sunday, 4/22 at the Clearview Cinema in Chelsea. The filmmaker's intention was to go beyond the headlines reflecting Haiti and present the complexities of the Haitian experience. The film is named for the Haitian proverb that translates "stones in the water don't know the suffering of stones in the sun."

Another Haitian film included in the "Help Wanted" program of Shorts, the 27-minute documentary, "Baseball in the Time of Cholera," premiered April 21 at AMC Loews. The film is the story of Joseph, a young baseball player, and Mario Joseph, the Haitian lawyer fighting for compensation from the U.N. for the victims of Haiti's cholera epidemic. The two stories intersect as the epidemic spreads in the struggle for survival and justice.

The website tribecafilm.com lists the entire schedule of films, venues, panels, outdoor activities and other events related to the Festival.

Revealing biopic of revered Reggae icon

"Marley"
Excellent (4 stars)
Pated PG-13 for violent images, mature themes and cannabis consumption.
Running time: 145 minutes
Distributor: Magnolia Pictures

By Kam Williams

When most people think of Bob Marley, what probably comes to mind is reggae, Jamaica and marijuana. But how did a street urchin raised by a teen-mom in a country shack with no electricity manage to become a beloved icon admired all over the world?

That little-known side of Bob's life story is the sub-

ject of "Marley," an intimate biopic produced by his son, Ziggy, and directed by Scotsman Kevin Macdonald. Because of the participation in the project of so many relatives, friends and colleagues, the picture paints a fascinating portrait, which fully fleshes out its subject, thereby resisting the temptation of merely placing him on a pedestal.

At the point of departure we learn that Robert Nesta Marley was born in 1945 to Cedella Malcolm, a young local gal, and Captain Norval Marley, a British plantation overseer already in his 60s. Bob never really knew his father or the rest of the Marleys, a prominent family with a construction business on the island. In fact, his request for financial help

to kickstart his career was rebuffed out of hand by his relatively-rich white relations.

Rejection was a recurring theme during Bob's formative years, when he was teased as a "half-caste" by other boys for being mixed. And he was equally unpopular with the opposite sex, since "Every girl's dream in Jamaica was to have a tall, dark boyfriend." He was even abandoned by his mom who moved to America while he was still in his teens.

Fortunately, Bob eventually found salvation through a love of music and the embrace of the Rastafarian community. Seeing his guitar as a way out of poverty, he let his hair grow while writing popular songs about equality, world peace, and

cannabis, which is considered a sacred herb by the dreadlocked adherents of his pot-smoking religion.

After struggling to make it for over a decade while getting ripped-off by unscrupulous producers and promoters, Marley finally landed his big break in 1973 when he and the Wailers signed with Island Records. The group went on to record such hits as "One Love," "Jammin'," "No Woman No Cry," "I Shot the Sheriff," "Redemptive Song," "Get Up, Stand Up," "Stir It Up" and "Is This Love?" to name a few.

The 2½ hour combination concert/interview flick allocates a decent portion of time to archival footage of The Wailers' performing many of the aforementioned anthems. Attention is also



Bob Marley in a scene from "Marley," a Magnolia Pictures release.

devoted to the reflections of folks like Bob's widow, Rita, who talks about how she was really more his guardian angel than his wife.

After all, he had 11 children by seven different

women and often needed help juggling his groupies and baby-mamas. As Bob's attorney, Diane Jobson, explains it, her client considered himself faithful to God, if not his spouse.

Among Marley's many lovers was gorgeous Cindy Breakspere, Miss Jamaica 1976, who went on to win the Miss World title. Not so lucky was Pascaline Odimba, the daughter of the African nation of Gabon's prime minister. She recounts how Bob had called her "ugly" because she straightened her hair, and had encouraged her to cultivate and appreciate her natural beauty.

A wonderfully-revealing, warts-and-all tribute to the human spirit of a Rasta rock god!

Independent & Foreign Films

96 Minutes (R for violence and pervasive profanity) Fact-based crime thriller about a couple of college coeds (Brittany Snow and Christian Serratos) who find themselves carjacked and kidnapped by a wannabe gangster (J. Michael Trautmann) with a reluctant accomplice (Evan Ross). With David Oyelowo, Sylvia Jeffries and Hosea Chanchez.

The Broken Tower (Unrated) James Franco stars in this bittersweet biopic recounting the abbreviated life and career of Hart Crane (1899-1932), a celebrated gay poet who took his own life by jumping off an ocean liner right after being assaulted for making a pass at a crew member. Support cast includes Michael Shannon, Stacey Miller and Vince Jolivette.

Citizen Gangster (Unrated) Diminished dreams saga, set in the wake of World War II, revisiting the real-life exploits of Eddie Boyd (Scott Speedman), a decorated Army veteran who began robbing banks to support his family when his fledgling acting career failed to pan out. Featuring Kelly Riley, Kevin Durand and Brian Cox.

Dolphin Boy (Unrated) Overcoming-the-odds documentary, set in Israel, about an Arab teenager left mute



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

by a brutal beatdown who makes a miraculous recovery after his therapist prescribes a rehab regimen that involves swimming with dolphins in the Red Sea for four weeks. (In Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles)

Elles (NC-17 for explicit sexuality) Juliette Binoche stars in this midlife crisis drama about a Parisian journalist inspired to reevaluate her own sexuality while researching an article about college coeds who enjoy supporting themselves by moonlighting as prostitutes. With Anais Demoustier, Joanna Kulig and Louis-Do de Lencquesaing. (In French and Polish with subtitles)

The Giant Mechanical Man (PG-13 for sexuality and brief profanity) Quirky romantic comedy about a soft-spoken zookeeper (Jenna Fischer) who falls for a struggling street performer (Chris Messina) in spite of pressure from her domineering sister (Malin Akerman) to date a pompous, self-help guru (Topher Grace). With Lucy Punch, Bob Odenkirk and Rich Sommer.

Headhunters (R for nudity, graphic sexuality and gruesome violence) Multi-layered mystery, set in Norway, about a corporate headhunter (Aksel Hennie) who risks his career to steal a priceless painting by Rubens from a well-heeled client (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). With Julie Olgaard, Eivind Sander and Synnove Macody Lund. (In Norwegian and Danish with subtitles)

The Highest Pass (Unrated) Fate-tempting documentary about Adam Schomer, a defiant 27-year-old who takes to riding a motorcycle around the Himalayas without a helmet after an Indian guru predicts his imminent, untimely demise in an automobile accident.

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

Payback (Unrated) Screen adaptation of visionary Margaret Atwood's game-changing rumination of the same name explores various forms of debt: not only eco-

nomie, but societal, spiritual, environmental, personal and criminal.

Restless City (R for drug use and brief sexuality) New York City tale of survival

about an African immigrant (Sy Alassane) who sells bootlegged CDs on the street of Manhattan while trying to make it as a musician and encouraging his hooker girl-

friend (Sky Grey) to find a respectable line of work. With Herve Diese, Ger Duany and Danai Gurira. (In English, French, Wolof and Yoruba with subtitles)

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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

Push 4 Peace Hot 97 Street Soldiers, Bronx Boro President Ruben Diaz, Jr. & Norman Seabrook, COBA, presents The Bronx Push 4 Peace Festival and Hot 97FM Live Show, featuring Live Hot97 DJ, artist open mic competition, information fair, Street Soldiers Town Hall live show, free prizes and refreshments, celebrity guests including hip hop artists and sports stars, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at The Hostos Arts Center at Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse at 149 St., Bronx. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Dance/Happy Hour Dancewave is hosting the Bhangra Dance Happy Hour featuring a free, 45-minute Bhangra demo class followed by mango lassi drinks and an informal talk with instructor Roshani Thakore about the social tradition and Bollywood influences behind The Massal Bhangra Workout, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Dancewave, 45 Fourth Ave. and Dean St., Brooklyn. Regular classes are held every Sunday. For more information, visit dancewave.org/school_adults.php.

Street Fair The Church Avenue BID and the 70th Precinct Community Council presents the 2012 Church Avenue Street Fair, Church Ave. from E 10 St. to Argyle Rd., 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. featuring a children's corner, Z Spot Salon, Pawssitive Veterinary Clinics, magic show, great shopping, good food and more. For information, call (718) 282-2500 ext. 63237.

Thanksgiving Concert Fine Art Singers of N.Y. in thanksgiving for 25 years of Music Ministry presents "Matanatha!" featuring conductor Dr. Verna Green along with solo performances as well as performances on the pipe organ, strings, timpani, and trumpet, 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 3714 Ave. D, between E. 37 & 38 streets, Brooklyn. For tickets and information, call (718) 209-2439.

Empowerment Sunday Bridge St. Development Corp. and the Coalition for the Improvement of Bed-Stuy announces the third Annual Empowerment Sunday featuring 50 participating churches who, after worship services, will provide information on foreclosure prevention, financial counseling, employment services, homebuyers' assistance, legal aid and



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.



more. For information on participating churches and schedule of worship services visit www.bsdcorp.org/events/empowermentsunday2012.

Jazz Band Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, 2900 Campus Road, presents The West Point Military Academy Band's Jazz Knights featuring the best in big band favorites, popular music, and original compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble, 2:00 p.m. A free event for all ages. General admission, no tickets issued. For information, call (718) 951-4500.

THURSDAY, MAY 3

Waterfront Musum The antique barge that houses the Waterfront Museum will travel by tugboat to Tribeca's Hudson River Park Pier 25 for two weekends of fun maritime activity featuring free open barge tours, a pirate show, a teen comic book launch, folk music, school visits and two "tug and barge" fundraiser cruises. For schedule of events and more information, visit www.waterfrontmuseum.org/events or call David at (718) 624-4719.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

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.



Blues and Rock & Roll The N.Y. Historical Society Museum and Library, 170 Central Park West, Manhattan presents a free concert, "The London Souls," featuring Tash Neal and Christ St. Hilaire performing an exhilarating fusion of blues and rock and roll, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (212) 873-3400 or visit www.nyhistory.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Teddy Bear Clinic Area children are invited to bring their injured and sick teddy bears and other stuffed animals to our Teddy Bear Clinic to learn not to fear the Emergency Room experience and to decrease stress of visiting the ER. The toys will undergo mock triage, medical exams and x-rays by doctors, nurses and other clinical staff, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Montefiore Medical Center, North Hospital, Emergency Department, 600 East 233 St., between Bronx River Pkwy. and White Plains Rd., Bronx. For information, call (718) 920-9000.

Film Festival Community Access and NYAPRS present the eighth Annual NYC Mental

Health Film Festival featuring Burning Blossom, Mental Illness is Not a Crime, The Interventionists, Georgia Crises Intervention Team, Voices of Hope and Recovery and Crazy and Proud, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at St. Francis College, 182 Remsen St., Brooklyn Heights. For information and to purchase tickets, call Carla at (212) 780-1400 ext. 7726.

Benefit Concert Daddy Rocker Rocks for Autism, a benefit concert to raise money for Autism Speaks, featuring the Meyer Rossabi Band, Off the Record, and Daddy Rocker and The Brooklyn South Band, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Tamaqua Marina Bar & Grill, 84 Ebony Court, Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn. Donation: \$20 Adults; \$10 Children 12 & under (for safety reasons children must be supervised). For group rates and questions, contact John at tdrna@verizon.net.

A Garden Party The Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107 St., Corona, Queens, is throwing a Garden Party on May 5 and 6 featuring Mona's Hot Four with vocalist Tamar Korn on Saturday and the Queens College Hot 5 on Sunday. The free event will also offer house tours, live jazz, sample red beans 'n rice, swing dancing and raffles. For information & schedules, visit www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org.

ONGOING

Bullying Contest District Attorney Charles J. Hynes presents the second Annual Legal Lives Video Contest open to all Brooklyn students, grades 4-9. Create a 90-second video on the topics of "Bullying" and "Cyberbullying" answering one of the following questions: What is Bullying?; What does a bully look like?; What should you do if you are being bullied?; How does being bullied make you feel?; and How can you stop a bully?; using pictures, music, skits and interviews then upload your completed video to YouTube. For complete details and instructions visit <http://youtu.be/Y0dZH-Pc1PyM>. Deadline for all video submissions is June 1, 2012, 5:00 p.m. The winner will star as the Brooklyn DA for a day! For questions, email GRIPPOE@brooklynda.org or call the DA's educational hotline at (718) 250-3395.

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 and E.N.Y. avenues 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



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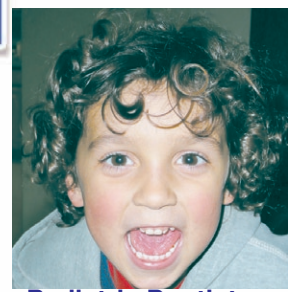
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Cruising the Caribbean on a MSC Italian ship

By Nikki Sylvester Shelton

Explore these gems on land and in their incomparable underwater vistas. A cruise ship is more than a means of seeing these islands – it's a floating island itself.

This famous Italian line features nine ships, sailing all over the world, each appropriately boasting a musical name. However, one of the newest masterpieces cruising the Caribbean is MSC Poesia, which means poetry in Italian. She is truly a poem of the ocean as she sails with powerful majesty across the iridescent Caribbean waters. For many passengers with Caribbean roots, this is a perfect opportunity to revisit their homeland and be proud.

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Along with the popular, famed music themes, MSC brings special events as classic comedy, festival at sea, holiday cruises, acrobatic geniuses, Italian, jazz, slow, Latin, easy-listening music, etc. One of the most outstanding is MSC Hall-of-Famers lineup of baseball greats. While the first cries of "play ball" were echoing in fields and diamonds across the nation, fans of the game found unique insight into the national pastime of this popular baseball theme cruise. People fans, admirers from all over the world come to meet these players, get their autographs

both on photos and on baseballs purchased aboard, attend clinics, even play baseball with them on an improvised field on deck.

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Combining the Winemaker Experience with an interactive group dining event, guests make a minimum of two bottles of wine – one to take home and one to share in a blind tasting during the group dinner.

MSC Cruises has positioned itself as the consummate Italian cruise line. It's a subsidiary of Mediterranean Shipping Company whose vessels have earned top honors for value and quality among cruise lines.

Although the ship has Italian officers and managerial staff, a great majority of the crew is international, including employees from the Caribbean, hence giving the cruise Italian and international ambiance.

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Stan Bahnsen, the host and organizer of MSC baseball theme cruises. Photo by Nikki Sylvester Shelton

seem to have lasting qualities. No philosopher gives us the answer, but we believe the enormous expanse of the blue waters, star-studded skies cement these friendships. Many poignant songs are sung by performers and passengers but there is never an "Arrivederci" (goodbye) for the pleasant memories will last forever.

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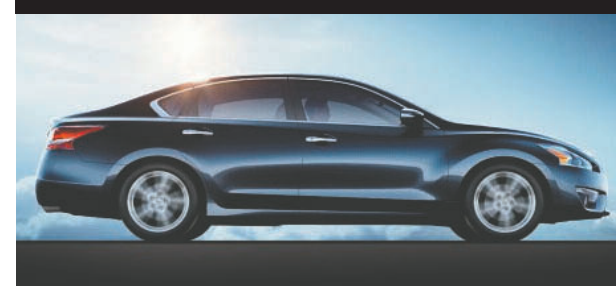


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'West Indies batting lacks the experience and attack mode to defy the Australian team. Some players are getting good starts for the West Indies but unfortunately, they are getting out in the thirties and forties.'

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 41

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Jamaican eyes L.I. Marathon

By Robert Elkin

Originally from Jamaica, West Indies, Arthur Vendryes is aiming to do well in the Long Island Half Marathon set for Sunday, May 6. He does not have a time goal but he did say that he would like to break 1:25 in the 13.1-mile race.

Usually Vendryes does most of his training on the track at Roy Wilkins Park in South Jamaica, Queens. He is one of many runners who work out in the evenings after working hours on the track, which is quite busy at times.

He recently used the JFK Rotary Race at the John F. Kennedy Airport as a training run or prep for the Long Island Half Marathon. He was clocked in 19:28 for the 14th annual race on a recent Sunday morning and was satisfied with his performance.

Last Sunday, Vendryes competed in the Alley Pond Five-Mile Challenge in Queens Village. He was timed in 31:41 for the five mile course, which earned him fourth place overall in an annual road race that usually draws a great deal of runners. The race was very hilly, according to Vendryes.

Continued on next page

Bishoo wins top awards

By Azad Ali

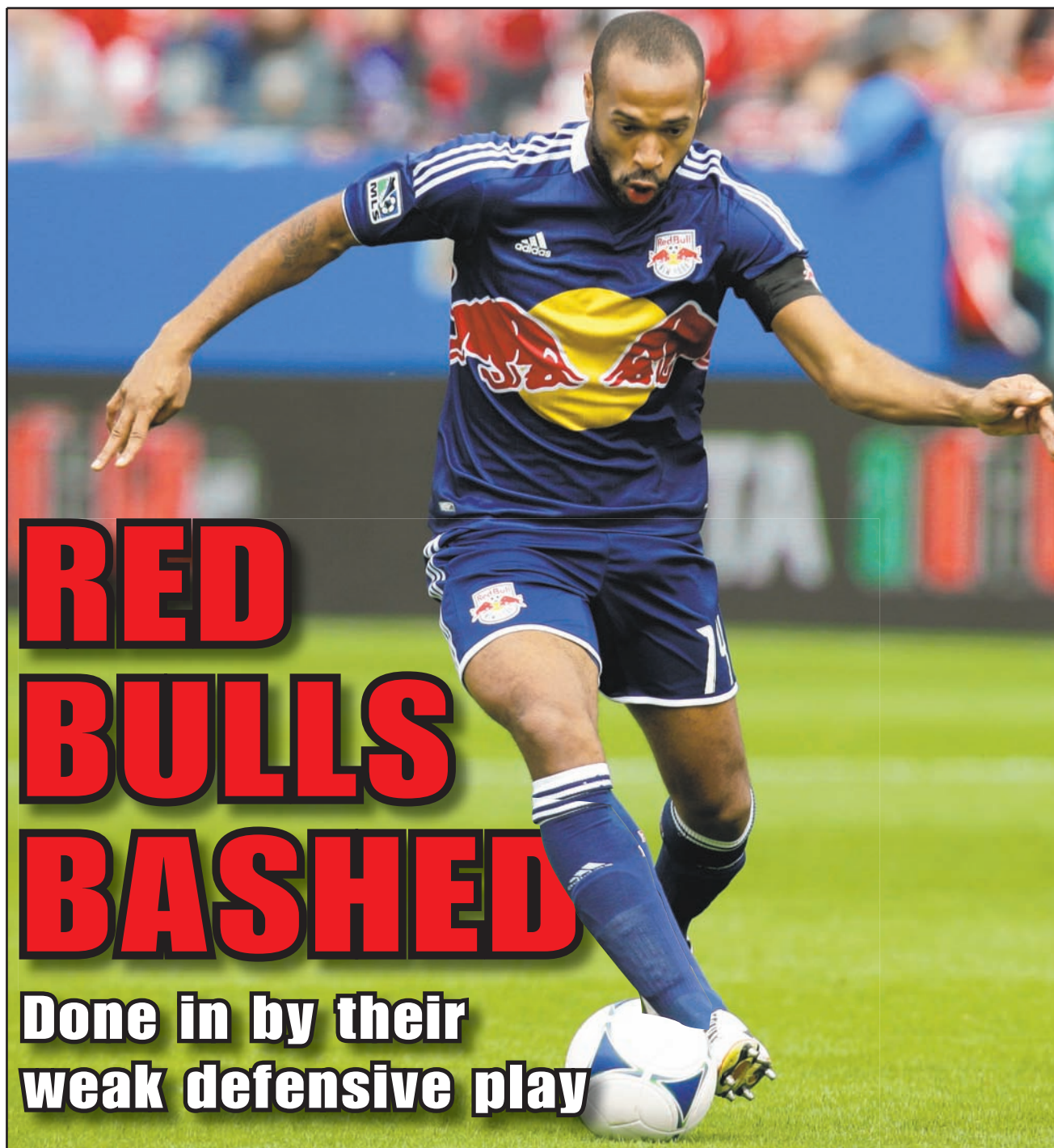
West Indies leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo was named the "West Indies Man's Cricketer of the Year," at the ninth annual West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) Awards last week at the Port of Spain, Trinidad Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The Guyanese bowler was also named the prestigious "Test Match Cricketer of the Year" to cap an astounding 2011.

Bishoo has taken 40 wickets since his Test debut last May at home against Pakistan and gave good performances on tours to India and Bangladesh as well as the current Australia series. But he was dropped from the second Test at the Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad.

Jamaica all-rounder, Stefanie Taylor, was named the "West Indies Women's Cricketer of the Year" for the fifth consecutive time

Continued on next page



RED BULLS BASHED

Done in by their weak defensive play

New York Red Bulls Thierry Henry scored his eighth goal of the season during the DC United match.

AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez

By Patrick Horne

The New York Red Bulls (3-3-1), still suffering from poor defensive play, were clobbered to the tune of 4-1 at DC United on Sunday night. When Thierry Henry lost the ball at midfield and no one stepped up quickly enough to stop Chris Pontius'

30-yard shot in the eighth minute to put DC United ahead, 1-0. New player Victory Palsson was goal-side of the play and just watched, instead of reacting to the loss of possession.

In the 32nd minute, the Red Bulls' weak defensive play was evident again as Maicon

Santos swiveled his way around three Red Bulls players – Jan Gunnar Solli, Stephen Keel and Palsson – and sent a low, hard pass across New York's goal, but rookie Connor Lade failed to clear the ball and Pontius made use of the gift from inside

Continued on next page

David Rudisha to make U.S. debut

Bulls

Continued from previous page

World record-holder David Rudisha, the IAAF Male Athlete of the Year in both 2010 and 2011, will make history at the Adidas Grand Prix on June 9 when he competes in the United States for the first time, organizers announced Wednesday.

No 800-meter world record-holder has run in this country since Sebastian Coe won two medals at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. Coe held the record from 1979 to 1997.

"We are ecstatic to have an athlete with the star power of David Rudisha coming to New York," said meet director Mark Wetmore. "Since we began in 2005 we've had almost all of the world's best athletes here, and now our fans will get yet another chance of a lifetime."

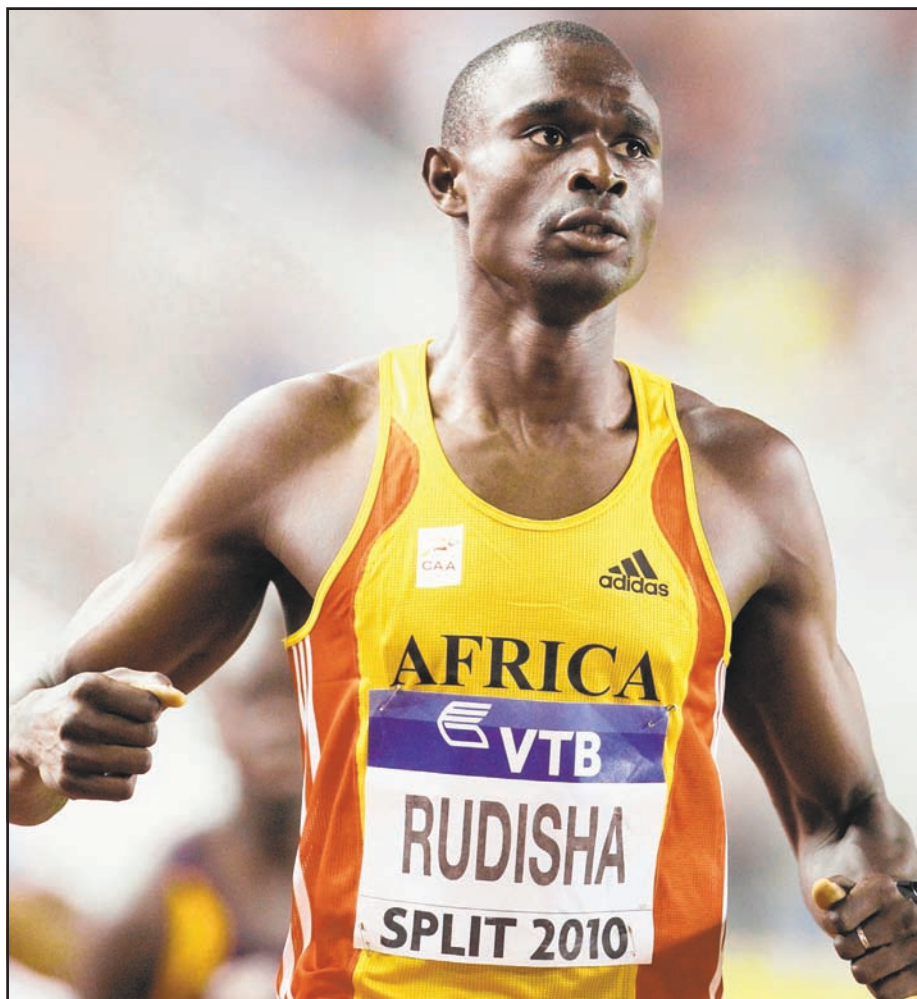
In its eighth year as one of the premier track-and-field events in the world, the Adidas Grand Prix, at Icahn Stadium on Randall's Island, will feature dozens of Olympic medalists and World Champions, including the two reigning World Champions at 100 meters, Jamaica's Yohan Blake and American Carmelita Jeter; 2008 Olympic gold medalist Shelly-Ann

Fraser-Pryce; and three-time Olympic gold medalist Jeremy Wariner. It will again be the sixth stop on the international Samsung Diamond League circuit, and is part of the Visa Championship Series.

The 23-year-old Rudisha, also the reigning World Champion, has been almost unbeatable the last three years, with his only loss since 2009 coming late last season in Milan. In 2010, he broke Wilson Kipketer's 13-year-old World Record when he ran 1:41.09 on Aug. 22 in Berlin. Just a week later, on Aug. 29, he lowered that mark to 1:41.01. In 2011, the young Kenyan recorded the three fastest times for the year, including a world-leading 1:41.33, and he owns four of the six fastest times in history.

"I've run in many great cities and countries, and to finally come to New York is exciting for me," said Rudisha. "I've been sponsored by Adidas all my career and am very happy to run at the adidas meet in New York."

The adidas Grand Prix will begin at 1 p.m. at Icahn Stadium on June 9. All of the latest news, photos and additional information on the event



Kenya's David Lekuta Rudisha.

AP Photo/Darko Bandic

can be found at adidas-grandprix.com, and on the event's pages on Facebook at [GrandPrix and on Twitter at \[twitter.com/adidas-GrandPrix\]\(http://twitter.com/adidas-GrandPrix\). When tweeting, use #agpny.](http://facebook.com/adidas-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Courtesy of Images Newsletter www.imagesnewsletter.com

the six-yard box for a 2-0 lead.

Nick De Leon - son of former Trinidad and Tobago and NASL midfielder, Leroy De Leon - made it 3-0 in the 35th minute; again, another turnover at midfield, this time by Palsson, and a late reaction by Red Bulls players as Lade was ridden off the ball by DC United forward Danny Cruz for the three-goal half time deficit.

Pontius completed his hat trick in the 69th minute when he danced around defender Markus Holgersson and penetrated the defense. Thierry Henry scored his eighth goal of the season in the 72nd minute from a 23-yard free kick. DC United and Montreal Impact played to a 1-1 on Wednesday, three days before it hosted the Red Bulls.

New York Red Bulls coach Hans Backe made a strange substitution when he replaced midfielder Mehdi Ballouchy with Joel Lindpere early in the second half; Palsson should have been the player replaced because he was lost throughout the game. His reaction to cover fellow midfielders was slow and his lost of possession in front of the Red Bulls goal led to DC United's third goal. St. John's University's Jhonny Artega and defender Tyler Ruthven made their MLS debuts for the New York Red Bulls.

Bishoo

Continued from previous page

to add to her 2011 International Cricket Council (ICC) "Women's Cricketer of the Year."

Trinidad and Tobago opener Lendel Simmons copped the "West Indies T20 Cricketer of the Year" and "Caribbean T20 Cricketer of the Year" awards.

The "West Indies One-Day International Player of the Year" went to Andre Russell, with a batting average of 32.07, while grabbing 27 wickets at 28.18 apiece since his ICC World Cup debut last year against Ireland.

The "First-Class Four-Day Cricketer of the Year" award went to Marlon Samuels, who scored 853 runs at an average of 65.61.

Barbados Captain Kirk Edwards, was named the "Emerging Player of the Year" after an impressive start to his West Indies career. He



West Indies' Devendra Bishoo.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

slammed a century against India in Dominica last year and subsequently garnered a Test average of 5063 with two centuries and four fifties in just seven matches.

Marathon

Continued from previous page

He was also satisfied with his performance in this race.

"This was the first time I ran on the airport runway," he said. "But I ran this race two years ago when it was contested on the other side of the runway. The weather was windy for the airport race while it was just threatening for the Alley Pond race. Now I am training for the Long Island Half Marathon."

When he goes into a race he does not have any particular strategy. He tries to do the best that he can possibly do.

Because he was satisfied with both performances, he feels that he is getting better and better with each race as he is doing the best that he can.

Vendryes is planning to

compete in the Brooklyn Half Marathon later on in May, another busy month for the running sport.

Another member of the Renegade Running Club who will be competing in the Long Island Half Marathon is George Brown, a resident of Springfield Gardens. His main objective is to turn in a two-hour performance in the 13.1 mile event that should draw a capacity crowd of people of all ages and from Long Island and the metropolitan New York City area watching it. watching it.

He, too, is coming off competing in the Alley Pond Park Five-Mile Challenge. He was clocked in 53:11 for 129th place.

"This five-mile race is a great challenge," said Brown, who is 50 years old and started racing when he was 35 years of age. "We ran in a beautiful park and a beau-

tiful atmosphere. The upcoming Long Island Half Marathon is very flat where as the Alley Pond Park race was very hilly."

Brown expects to be competing in some local races in the community during the year.

Meanwhile, Manuel Plascencia took the lead two miles into the race and went onto capture the Alley Pond Park Five-Mile Challenge in 29:29 last Sunday morning before the cloudy weather turned into rain in a field of 174 finishers.

The threatening weather along with the many different races going on the same weekend kept the number of competitors down. Runners from the metropolitan New York City area and Long Island belonging to clubs and those competitors running unattached took part in these races and are looking ahead to the future.

Inconsistent batting hampers Windies

West Indies' batsmen are not performing at their top levels in the test series against Australia, and Head Coach Ottis Gibson needs to push harder for them to implement strategies to get better scores. West Indies' bowlers, on the other hand, have been doing a fine job, but the batting is disappointing.

Too many batsmen have been falling short of reasonable scores needed to enhance the team's totals. Both openers have failed miserably in the first two Test matches, causing havoc for the team.

Better performances were expected from West Indies' batsmen, having played cricket throughout the Regional Four-Day Tournament. What is mostly worrying about the West Indies batsmen is that both pace and spin bowling have been problematic for them. West Indies' batting lacks the experience and attack mode necessary to defy the Australians. Some West Indies players are getting good starts but unfortunate-



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

ly, they are getting out in the 30s and 40s.

West Indies' bowlers, on the other hand, have been doing a fine job, but the batting is disappointing.

Michael Clarke is Aware of Windies Batting Flaws

Australian Captain Michael Clarke is fully aware of the West Indies' batting flaws and as such applies the necessary pressure. Aussie bowlers are capitalizing on the weaknesses of the West Indian batsmen.

Darren Bravo has been deprived of his free-scoring style because the bowlers are not feeding him deliveries to his likeness. Bravo's aggressiveness had been dampened by the Australians' very accurate bowling. He will now

have to modify his strategy in order to be successful. He has the ability to get on top of the bowling but he will have to do some skillful adjusting.

Bravo needs to improve on his footwork in order to better position himself for certain stroke plays. At times he is too flat-footed causing him to stretch too far to play edges and mistimed shots to the fielders. He remains a fine batsman and it is hoped that he would overcome those blunders.

Narsingh Deonarine Must Not be Underestimated

Batting all-rounder Narsingh Deonarine has the capability to develop into a fine all-rounder, representing the West Indies particularly in Test cricket.

Deonarine understands his role in the team and he is the type of player who makes useful contributions to the team. West Indies need a player of Deonarine's calibre to be in the middle-order of the batting and allowed to make his useful bowling contributions.

West Indies Continue to Play With a Specialist Bowler Short

In Test cricket the best 11 must always be chosen. This clearly means a balanced squad with a minimum of four specialist bowlers and seven quality batsmen, which includes the wicket-keeper. Fidel Edwards, Ravi Rampaul and Kemar Roach belong in the same final 11. Because these three players have not often played together, this has lessened the strength of the Windies bowling attack. Three pacers would create havoc for the Aussie batsmen by unsettling them and giving the Windies a huge advantage.



West Indies' Darren Bravo, front, defends his wicket as Australia's wicket keeper Matthew Wade watches the ball during the third day of their second cricket Test match in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Tuesday April 17, 2012.
AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco

Edwards, Rampaul and Roach would have easily disabled the Aussie batsmen. It is beyond my imagination that Head Coach Ottis Gibson cannot recognize

certain talents that can be so useful to the conditions in the Test arena. Edwards should have been included in the third and final Test match.



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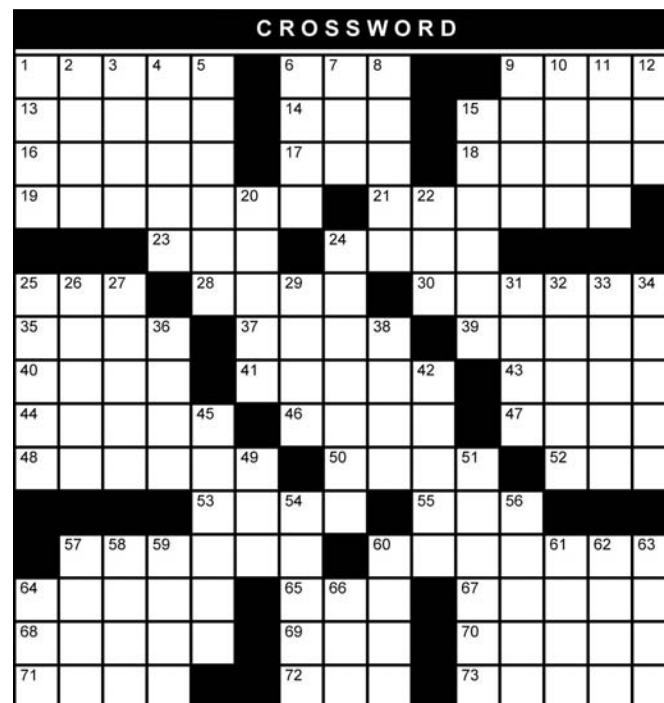
Across

1. Landing road
6. *The ____ cage protects the heart and lungs
9. Slang for heroin
13. Billy Joel's "____ Man"
14. International Labor Organization
15. Formed by running water
16. Imitating
17. Santa's helper
18. King's domain
19. *Ca or K, e.g.
21. Nightmare character
23. He played Opie on "The Andy Griffith Show"
24. Disdainful, pouting grimace
25. *When exercising, you get ____
28. Between mini and maxi
30. Metamorphic rock
35. Makes a mistake
37. Bart Simpson's sister
39. Saint in Mexico
40. Miners' passage
41. Swamp plant
43. Yelled to shoo a cat
44. Puzzle in pictures
46. "Smells Like ____ Spirit" by Nirvana
47. *A focal point in workouts
48. Type of coat

50. Dame ____, Australian celeb
52. Christian Chi-____ symbol
53. The upper one is used for ruling
55. Coffee pot
57. Allegiance
60. *E or D, e.g.
64. Former French currency
65. Ring of flowers
67. Singer Cara
68. *Some need more of this than others
69. Be in debt
70. What a jazz singer does
71. Bear lairs
72. Not pre-owned
73. Commotions

Down

1. Junk e-mail
2. Cone-shaped quarters
3. Often asked to "go away, come again another day"
4. Like a special circle
5. Organized persecution of ethnic group
6. Cambodian money
7. *Not well
8. Very successful
9. What victim did in court
10. Armor-____
11. USSR to USA during WWII
12. *Usually busy after the holidays
15. *Leafy edibles
20. Indigo dye-yielding shrubs
22. Where bugs are snug?
24. Improper act
25. *Ventricular beater
26. Superior's command
27. Cherokee or Hopi, e.g.
29. *Regimented eating
31. *Where green tea tradition comes from
32. Bring upon oneself
33. Cache of money, e.g.
34. Official language of Lesotho
36. Nonlethal gun
38. Wine and cheese descriptor
42. Tedium
45. Carry, as in heavy bag
49. Ladies' Easter accessory
51. 2012 Oscar-winner "The ____"
54. Stocking fiber
56. Those in organized crime relating to narcotics
57. *Your doctor usually keeps one on you
58. Like never-losing Steven
59. Greek god of war
60. "The ____" talk and entertainment show
61. Known for notebooks
62. Keen on
63. Loch ____
64. Psychedelic drug
66. Female sheep



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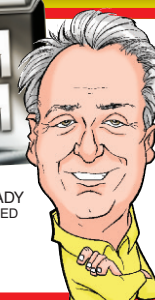
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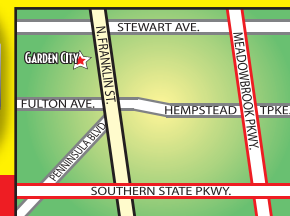


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taurant for on premises
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Education for a better career

(NAPSI) — If you've ever wondered whether more education would change things for you and your family, you're not alone. More than 38 million Americans over the age of 25 have some college credit, but no degree.

For many, now is the time to start moving. Research suggests that in less than 10 years, 60 percent of U.S. jobs will require a degree beyond high school.

Dr. Mary Hawkins president of Bellevue University offers the following tips to help you get started:

- Decide if you want to advance within your current field or change fields completely. Research job growth forecasts from the U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov). Search on "industry focus" to see top job growth and top-paying industries by state.

- Once you determine two or three areas of interest, look into schools that offer degree programs in these areas. Check their websites; look for a school that continually re-evaluates its programs to ensure course offerings meet the needs of employers.

- Think about how going to school will fit into your life and what works best for the way you learn. Many schools offer in-class and online options. Some students prefer to attend a class one night each week to fully focus without distraction. Others find that online is the only way to fit school into their busy lives. Determine what works for you.

- Figure out how you'll pay for your degree. For many, this is the most frightening aspect of the journey, but there are many sources of help. First, determine whether your employer offers educational benefits and any caveats that may apply, such as studying a particular major, working for the company for a certain amount of time after completion, or earning a minimum grade in courses. Second, don't assume you're beyond financial assistance — millions of scholarships exist for everything from ethnic origin to essay-writing skills—and not just for recent high school graduates. Next, compare tuition rates at the schools that interest you.

- Finally, look into credit transfer policies. Many schools offer free credit evaluations and some offer credit for work and life experience. See what credit you can earn for your previous coursework — an associate's degree may satisfy your entire general education core. Ask about any corporate or military training and College Level Examination Program tests you have completed — these may also qualify for credit, saving you time and money.

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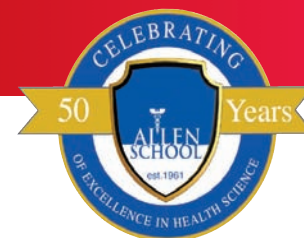
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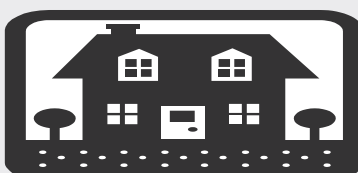
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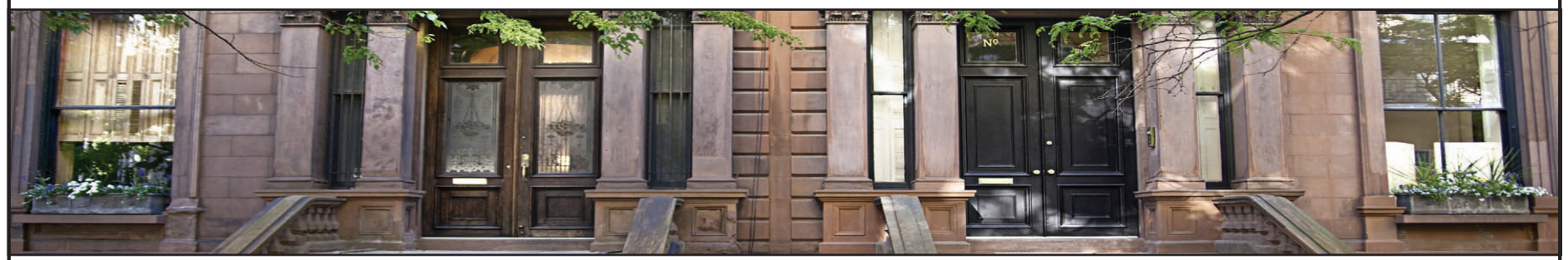
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<p>hp  INTEL CORE-DUO 6 GB MEMORY 640 GB HD DVD RW MONITOR OPTIONAL 20" Mon \$239</p>	<p>DELL  INTEL CORE-DUO 6 GB MEMORY 750GB HD DVD RW MONITOR OPTIONAL 20" Mon \$229</p>	<p>\$249</p>	<p>\$169</p>	<p>\$349</p>	<p>TABLET  \$129</p>	<p> \$79</p>
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<p>SAMSUNG  50" SAMSUNG \$369</p>	<p>Panasonic  50" 3D \$459</p>	<p>SAMSUNG  60" SAMSUNG \$599</p>	<p>COMBO PACKAGE  TV + DVD \$169</p>	<p>MICROWAVE COFFEE MAKER BLENDER JUICE EXTRACTOR  \$49 \$10 \$15 \$8 \$29</p>
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<p>PIANO  \$99</p>	<p>GETAR  \$69</p>	<p>STUDIO MIXER  \$199</p>	<p>Hercules  \$275</p>	<p>NUMARK DUAL CD  \$39</p>	<p>TURN TABLE  \$39</p>	<p>COMPLETE DJ SYSTEM  \$499</p>
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