

Caribbean Life

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Queens/Long Island/Bronx/Manhattan Edition

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**Man City
Wins EPL**
Page 31

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Hold on Jagdeo's pension bill

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyana's major opposition coalition has withdrawn a court case challenging a hefty pension package for Bharrat Jagdeo, to allow the Caribbean Community nation's parliament the privilege of chopping the former president's remuneration to a more reasonable sum; but the work of the opposition could be stymied in the long run if Jagdeo's successor refuses to assent to the bill, making it law as is widely expected.

Filed earlier this year in the name of opposition legislator Desmond Trotman, of A Partnership

Continued on page 4



Public Advocate Bill de Blasio denounces the Fed plan at a City Hall news conference.

Photo courtesy NYC Public Advocate

TOP POL RIPS FED I.D. PLAN

Proposal a public-safety risk

By Nelson A. King

On the eve of expansion of a federal immigrant fingerprinting program, New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio has urged the federal government to halt

expansion of the controversial plan that targets Caribbean and other illegal immigrant suspects.

Despite strong opposition from the

Continued on page 4

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Barbados

Barbados is poised to create history this month, when it becomes the first Caribbean island to take over the chairmanship of the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to reports, Barbados taking over the chairmanship will mean that citizens from small island states will have a greater presence within that body.

Minister of Health, Donville Innis, said he wanted to see more West Indians working in international organizations.

"Barbados is a member of the executive board of the World Health Organization. We are tipped to take over as chair of the World Health Organization," he said.

Grenada

Grenada Finance Minister Nazim Burke has remained optimistic that an agreement could be reached with Taiwan regarding the repayment of a multi-million dollar loan to Grenada.

Burke said Taipei remains receptive to a new proposal presented to the Tillman Thomas government regarding the US\$30 million loan.

"We believe that some kind of resolution is present," he told reporters.

Grenada has proposed the consolidation of the Taiwanese loans and a new schedule of payments that starts with the first down payment of what is called a substantial part of the loan.

Until now, Taiwan's Import-Export Bank

Continued on page 18



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Billions of foreign dollars flowed into Caribbean in 2011

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says that the region received US\$153.448 billion from foreign direct investment (FDI) last year.

In a new report, "Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2011," released in Santiago, Chile on May 3, ECLAC said the new figure represents 10 percent of the global total flows.

It said this is about the largest amount of FDI received by the region so far.

In 2010, ECLAC said the region received US\$120.880 billion, whereas in 2009, due to the international economic crisis, investments decreased to US\$81.589 billion.

Until then, the highest record had been registered in 2008, when investments amounted to US\$137.001 billion, ECLAC said.

In 2011, the main foreign direct investment recipients in the region were Brazil (US\$66.660 billion, representing 43.8 percent of the total of flows into

the region), Mexico (US\$19.440 billion), Chile (17.299 billion), Colombia (US\$13.234 billion), Peru (US\$7.659 billion), Argentina (US\$7.243 billion), Venezuela (US\$5.302 billion) and Uruguay (US\$2.528 billion).

Of these countries, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay reached "historic records," ECLAC said.

In Central America, ECLAC said FDI incomes increased by 36 percent compared to 2010, where the amounts received by Panama (US\$2.790 billion), Costa Rica (US\$2.104 billion) and Honduras (US\$1.014 billion) stand out.

In the Caribbean, flows soared by 20 percent compared to the previous year, with the Dominican Republic at the head with US\$2.371 billion, ECLAC said.

"In spite of the prevailing uncertainty in global financial markets, Latin American and Caribbean economies attracted important amounts of foreign direct investment during 2011," said Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's executive secretary.

"These amounts should remain

high in 2012," she added.

In 2011, ECLAC said 46 percent of the net income deriving from FDI was due to profit re-investments, whilst the remaining percentage was due to capital contributions and loans among companies.

According to the organization, this denotes the "trust of transnational companies in the region and important business opportunities within it."

As shown in the report, ECLAC said this tendency, which started in 2002, is a result of the amount of assets accumulated by transnational companies in the region and an increase in their profitability due to the good economic performance of the countries and to high international prices of exported raw materials.

Nevertheless, ECLAC identifies a current phenomenon that is increasingly relevant since 2004: the growing repatriation of profits by transnational corporations investing in the region, "a fact that reminds that FDI is not a unidirectional flow."

Continued on page 5

Jamaican gets the ok to sue Barbados

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has granted special leave to 24-year-old Jamaican, Shanique Myrie, to begin proceedings against the Barbados government after she alleged she was sexually assaulted by a female immigration officer, insulted and then denied entry to Barbados on March 14 last year.

The five-member panel of the CCJ, headed by its president, Sir Dennis Byron, approved the application during a special sitting in Barbados, the first time the regional court, which was established in 2001 to replace the British Privy Council, sat outside its Trinidad-based headquarters.

Attorneys for the Jamaican will now have 21 days to file the necessary documents.

She wants the court to determine what is the minimum standard of treatment to be given to CARICOM nationals moving within the region under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) allowing for the free movement of skills, labor, goods and services across the community.

Earlier, Myrie's attorney Michelle Brown, told the court her client was subjected to "forceful brutish language" by immigration officials at the Sir Grantley Adams International Airport on her arrival.

She said they were attempting to get Myrie to agree "she was doing something illegal, like having drugs" and had even threatened to have her jailed and twice made her bend over in order to carry out a cavity search.

The attorney argued that there was "no justification for the increasing level of the intrusion that she faced," noting that "initially Barbados claimed she (Myrie) was a victim of human trafficking."

But she told the court that if that was the case "then the role of the government was to protect her" and not brutalize her.

The Jamaican-born attorney said her client is "still not certain what laws of Barbados she broke" resulting in her being refused entry into a CARICOM country that had signed on to the 2007 declaration allowing for the free movement of people within the region.

Call him Dr. Baldwin Spencer

By Nelson A. King

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer on May 12 received an honorary doctorate degree from Mid-Continent University, Kentucky.

"President of Mid-Continent University, Dr. Robert Imhoff says that they are delighted to have Prime Minister Spencer in Kentucky and to honor him for his work in the development of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, the international community, sports and culture," according to a statement from the Antiguan government.

Spencer also had the opportunity to address the more than 200 graduates and hundreds of parents and supporters, following which he received a standing ovation, the statement said.

In his address to the graduates, Spencer urged them to be shining lights in their communities and to make positive contributions to the development of their nation.

"For some of you this is a new beginning, an opportunity to explore new pathways and examine new horizons in life; for others, it is a continuation of advancement in a particular field



Antigua and Barbuda PM Baldwin Spencer receiving his honorary doctorate degree from Mid-Continent University officials.

Photo courtesy of government of Antigua and Barbuda

of work," he said.

"But for all of you, this graduation ceremony is a testimony of your desire to continue a life journey of service and stewardship to your community," he added.

"It is a major step towards seeking and acquiring the tools, skills and wisdom that will foster confidence, goodwill and pride in life," Spencer continued.

He said the occasion was historic, because it was the first time a prime minister from Antigua and Barbuda had addressed a graduation ceremony at Mid-Continent University.

Spencer said the relationship between the institution and Antigua and Barbuda is due, in large part, to the efforts of the university's

Continued on page 5



Tamika Mallory with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Trailblazer Awards from Manhattan Borough President

By Tequila Minsky

Borough President Scott Stringer presented awards recently at the seventh annual Trailblazers Program and Award Ceremony of Manhattan that recognizes members of the community that have blazed a trail for others to follow.

This year's recipients reflect civil rights activism and two very different areas in criminal justice. One of the youngest female champions of the civil rights movement, Tamika Mallory of the National Action Network (NAN), founded by the Rev. Al Sharpton, received the first award. Introduced to the world of advocacy through rallies, marches, vigils and protests by her parents, founding members of NAN, Mallory rose through the ranks of responsible positions in the organization.

At the age of 30, she is the national executive director and Rev. Sharpton's second in command. She has worked closely with the Obama Administration as a civil rights advocate in areas of education, women's rights, health care reform, gun violence and police misconduct.

Thirty-year veteran *New York Times* journalist (now retired) Shelia Rule's volunteer work with Riverside Churches

Prison Ministry led to correspondences with people in prison, which eventually led to her founding Think Outside the Cell Foundation and its publishing arm, Resilience Multimedia.

"Spotlighting on their humanity can make a difference," Rule said at the ceremony after receiving the award. The foundation, co-founded with her husband Joseph Robinson, seeks to end the stigma of incarceration and help those who've been in prison and their families.

"Trailblazer, no!" said third recipient Norman Seabrook, labor activist and president of the New York City Corrections Officers Benevolent Association since 1995.

"I stand on the shoulders of those before me. We have to continue to make strides for those who follow." He pointed out the eradication of representation with the Wisconsin unions and how the South is working to take away voting rights. "It's coming, a tsunami that will affect all of us," he said as he spoke of the importance of staying vigilant and being awake and aware.

Seabrook said of Rev. Sharpton, "We don't agree on everything, but we agree that the struggle continues."

NYABJ honors Naylor and Noble

By Vinette K. Pryce

The New York Association of Black Journalists paid tribute to the late Gil Noble on May 15 during their 24th annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.

The event honored the legacy of the veteran television journalist and long-time host of WABC-TV New York's public affairs program "Like It Is" who passed away last month at the age of 80.

Noble, a four-time Emmy Award winner was born in Harlem and joined WABC-TV in 1967 as a reporter and later became an anchor of the station's weekend newscasts.

Former diversity advocate Robert Naylor was also recognized with a lifetime achievement honor.

"From News 12 Westchester's coverage of the Danroy Henry killing to CNN's coverage of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. monument dedication to recording artist Beyonce Knowles' Essence magazine article about how a nine-month break changed her life, we congratulate everyone," said NYABJ President



Gil Noble. AP Photo/WABC-TV

Michael J. Feeney.

"Robert Naylor, who spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor, and news executive for newspapers, television stations-and most recently The Associated Press-is the recipient

of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award for his tireless efforts as a diversity advocate to helping other minorities break into the news industry," said Feeney.

Naylor spent most of his career at the Associated Press where he became the second Black bureau chief and later chair of the AP Diversity Council.

Naylor is a long-time member of the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, and a founding member of the LGBT Task Force.

He is also member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, and has been a member of the Asian, Hispanic, and Native American journalist associations, as well as the National Association of Multicultural Media Executives and the Media Diversity Networking Group.

The work of more than 40 journalists was also recognized.

The event, hosted by WNBC's Pat Battle and Black Enterprise Magazine's Shannon Lanier, benefits the NYABJ's college scholarship fund.

Developing states commit to reduce reliance on fossil fuels

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations said on May 9 that 20 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have announced new actions to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and end poverty, as they wrapped up a sustainable energy conference in Barbados, organized by the U.N. and the Barbados government.

The "Barbados Declaration" calls for universal access to modern and affordable renewable energy services, while protecting the environment, ending poverty and creating new opportunities for economic growth, said the U.N. Development Program (UNDP).

The declaration – adopted ahead of next month's U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) – includes an annex with voluntary commitments of 20 SIDS to take actions toward providing universal access to energy, switching to renewable energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

It emphasizes that there are commercially feasible options in many SIDS for providing energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, and oceans energy.

"However, these technologies must be made accessible, affordable



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. AP Photo/Nasser Nasser

and adaptable to the needs and particular circumstances of SIDS communities," declaration said.

"In this regard, we strongly urge the international community, par-

ticularly developed countries, to ensure the provision of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building to SIDS," it added.

The U.N. said Barbados also announced its plan to increase the share of renewable energy in the country to 29 per cent of all electricity consumption by 2029.

Among other commitments, the Maldives plans to achieve carbon neutrality in the energy sector by year 2020, while Seychelles will seek to produce 15 per cent of its energy supply from renewable energy by 2030.

The declaration also recognized the importance of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last September, which seeks to ensure universal access to modern energy services, double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, all by 2030.

The two-day conference, which ended on May 9, brought together more than 100 heads of state, ministers, leading development experts, civil society activists, business executives and U.N. officials from 39 SIDS.

Fingerprint program

Continued from cover

governors of New York and Massachusetts and immigrant groups, the Obama administration was expected to extend Secure Communities this week.

In a letter sent over the weekend to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, de Blasio warned of the risks Secure Communities poses to public safety.

"The Secure Communities program takes fingerprints of suspects in jail and sends them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which, in turn, shares the information with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)," he wrote.

"The program has resulted in the deportation of thousands of people accused—but never convicted—of committing a crime," he added.

"As a law enforcement strategy, Secure Communities has backfired, eroding the trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement—making our communities less safe," de Blasio continued.

He said local law enforcement requires the "active and sustained cooperation of immigrant communities to effectively fight crime."

"The implementation of this program intimidates immigrants, reducing the likelihood that they will report crimes or come forward as witnesses for fear of risking deportation," de Blasio said.

"The Secure Communities program sends exactly the wrong message to our immigrant communities, at the expense of public safety. For the sake of our security, I urge you to stop the expansion of this program at once," he told Holder, the son of Barbadian immigrants,

In e-mails dispatched late last week to officials and the police in Massachusetts and New York, ICE officials said Secure Communities would be activated "in all remaining jurisdictions" on May 15.

"Secure Communities has proven to be the single most valuable tool in allowing the agency to eliminate the ad hoc approach of the past and focus on criminal aliens and repeat immigration law violators," said Barbara Gonzalez, an ICE spokeswoman, in a statement.

"At the end of the day, this is a federal program," she added. "We have to make our own decisions based on our law enforcement operational needs."

Last June, Massachusetts Gov.



Public Advocate Bill de Blasio.
AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams

Deval Patrick refused to sign an agreement with ICE to expand Secure Communities beyond a pilot program in the Boston area since 2006.

At the same time, New York's Gov. Andrew Cuomo, said he wanted to suspend the program, which had already been initiated in a number of counties in his state.

Critics say Secure Communities is an "overly wide dragnet" that seeks to deport a significant number of illegal Caribbean and other immigrants with no criminal record.

They also say these immigrants were arrested for minor infractions, and that the policy fosters racial profiling.

Jagdeo's Pension bill

Continued from cover

For National Unity (APNU), Trotman's lawyer Christopher Ram filed papers withdrawing the court writ, after parliamentary Speaker Raphael Trotman ruled during debate last week that the House could not debate the pension package while matter is in the court.

Opposition parties APNU and the Alliance For Change (AFC) have a one-seat majority in the 65-seat assembly and have vowed to cut Jagdeo's pension package worth \$15,000 a month, to just over a third of that amount, saying that at age 48, Jagdeo is able-bodied and has a long work life and earning possibilities ahead of him. Both had made the issue major campaign themes, and are under pressure to deliver, given public abhorrence to the bill.

The PPP had used its simple majority in the last parliament to approve the humungous pension for Jagdeo, but legislators remind constituents that the shoe is now on the other foot.

Debate on the APNU motion was suspended until the house meets again on May 30, by

which time the court case would have been withdrawn, allowing for debate of Jagdeo's controversial package, which includes tax-free salary plus benefits. However, Donald Ramotar who succeeded Jagdeo as president and is as well from the East Indian-dominated governing party, has to assent to any amended bill to make it law.

The party has already signaled in the negative. Trotman said that if he fails to sign, the bill will be returned to the house for a two-thirds vote, meaning it will never become law, as government legislators won't back the opposition.

"Therefore I will have to go back to the court for a ruling as parliament would be tied up," said constitutional expert Raymond Gaskin.

Public anger at the remuneration package is directly linked to the widespread belief that the former head of state is already well off and is widely believed to have a hand in several businesses run by close associates; charges that he has denied. Critics have identified EZ Jet as one, but its front owners so Jagdeo is not linked.

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Billion\$ flowed into Caribbean

Continued from page 3

"FDI revenue transferred back to the countries of origin has increased from US\$20 billion per year between 1998 and 2003 to US\$84 billion between 2008 and 2010 per year," Bárcena said.

The document also points out that FDI strengthens the specialization of production in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2011, it says 57 percent of foreign direct investments received by South America (except Brazil) were directed to the natural resources sector, 36 percent to services and 7 percent to manufacturing. In exchange, 7.8 percent of FDI received by Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

were oriented to natural resources, 39.7 percent to manufacturing and 52.5 percent to services.

Meanwhile, 46.4 percent of foreign direct investments received by Brazil were directed to manufacturing, 44.3 percent to services and 9.2 percent to natural resources, the report says.

"In this context, it is urgent to promote policies to guide FDI and leverage its potential benefits, among which are the knowledge and technological exchange and the increase of local capacities by strengthening national innovation systems, creating production chains, building human capacity and fostering local entrepreneurial development,"

Bárcena said.

Investments made by Latin American and Caribbean transnational corporations -also known as trans-Latins- decreased to US\$ 22.605 billion in 2011 - having amounted to US\$44.924 billion in 2010, ECLAC said.

In spite of this decrease, ECLAC underlined that these corporations are still in an expansion phase.

The ECLAC report shows that the European Union (EU), as a bloc, is the largest investor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the last decade, the EU invested an average of US\$30 billion per year in the region, representing 40 percent of the total received, ECLAC said.

PM receives honorary doctorate

Continued from page 3

President Dr. Robert Imhoff, "and his encounter over the years with Antiguan and Barbudans, who have contributed in a significant way to the growth and development of the game of soccer in some colleges in the Mid West, U.S.A.

"My government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, particularly persons from the Wesleyan Holiness Church Community, the Villa Lions Soccer Club and the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, recognize with profound gratitude the efforts made by Dr.

Imhoff and his team, over the past 25 years in building a solid and fruitful relationship that has impacted on the lives of so many young Antiguan and Barbudans," the prime minister said.

On May 11, Spencer was hosted at a reception by Mayor

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Bronx residents respond to racial profiling in schools

Bronx residents are protesting the current New York City Department of Education (DOE) disciplinary policies that have moved children from school directly into the criminal justice system.

On Thursday, May 10, the New Settlement Parent Action Committee assembled more than 100 Bronx parents, students, educators, faith leaders, community organizations, and advocates in a large community march entitled "Education, Not Incarceration!"

The stops of the community march itself illustrated the trajectory of the school-to-prison pipeline: an early childhood education center; elementary, middle, and high schools; the Bronx Suspensions Hearing Center, and finally Horizon Juvenile Detention Center, all within blocks of each other.

Aminata Sillah, a 15-year-old freshman at local high school Green Dot, reflected on how close to home the issue of youth criminalization hits for her:

"Sometimes from school, I can hear the orders given on the bullhorn at Horizon where students like me are jailed, and it makes me think what it would be like to have them in classes here with me instead."

The Bronx-based groups argue that harsh and punitive disciplinary measures that remove children from the classroom for minor incidents only exacerbate the problem of school pushout, and differentially impact youth of color.

In the last school year, there were more than 73,000 suspensions, with Black students receiving over 50 percent of all suspensions, a rate nearly double their enrollment figures within New York City public schools.

Similarly, in just three months of the current school year, there were 279 school-based arrests made citywide, with an average of more than five arrests of school children per day. The Bronx tops the list, possessing the highest rate of both school-based arrests

and summonses.

The DOE's subcontracting of school safety under the New York Police Department (NYPD) has drawn serious questions about the relationship between the two city agencies as it relates to matters of student discipline.

It is important to understand the magnitude of the NYPD's current jurisdiction over school safety. The DOE has allotted \$300 million annually to the NYPD's School Safety Division; with more than 5000 agents, the School Safety Division alone is the fifth largest police force in the country.

The prioritization of resources towards school policing as opposed to student social and emotional support, and the most current set of statistics from the Student Safety Act depict the disproportional impact of school-based arrests upon youth of color.

"I think there's a bit of racism in here – a rose by any other name is still a rose, and in this case, it's



Bronx parents, students, educators, faith leaders, community organizations and advocates participate in a march entitled "Education, Not Incarceration!"

called racism. The DOE needs to get the message that we as parents and community members are responsible for the welfare and the future of our children, and we're not going to sit back and allow them to be pipelined to prison," noted Joseph Ferdinand, a leader with the New Settlement Parent Action Committee.

The Bronx-based groups are demanding that the DOE take seriously the urgency around disciplinary practices that are leading students towards incarceration instead of graduation. They are calling on the DOE to do the

following:

- Fund and implement positive discipline programs like conflict resolution and peer mediation in all Bronx public schools.
- Invest in social and emotional supports for students by having a sufficient number of guidance staff – at least one guidance counselor per 100 students – as well as a licensed, full-time social worker in all Bronx public schools.
- Reduce the number of suspensions and arrests by 50 percent by September 2013.

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Supporters celebrate Project Sunshine

More than 500 Project Sunshine friends and supporters gathered at the Hilton New York for the Ninth Annual Project Sunshine Benefit "Sunshine in the City" honoring Michael J. Dowling, president and CEO, North Shore-LIJ Health System on May 1.

Project Sunshine, a New York City-based charity, celebrated its annual week of service, Project Sunshine Week, from April 24 – May 1.

Starting with proclamations from Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the week focused on raising funds and awareness for the organization, culminating with the Annual Project Sunshine Benefit.

"Sunshine in the City" kicked off as Dionne Warwick, N.Y. Giant David Diehl, Sports Illustrated model Chrissy Teigen and many other celebs walked Project Sunshine's "Yellow Carpet" and enjoyed cocktails before dinner. Maurice DuBois of WCBS and Meredith Vieira of NBC News were the Masters of Ceremonies for the evening.

Guests enjoyed entertainment from Ace Greenberg and his Merry Magicians, the Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance, and noted solo artist and Grammy-winning lead singer of Hootie and The Blowfish, Darius Rucker.



Project Sunshine Benefit Honoree Michael J. Dowling, president and CEO of North Shore-LIJ Health System and Project Sunshine Founder Joseph Weilgus.

Photo by Hal Lyman



Miss Teen USA Danielle Doty, Miss Universe Leila Lopes and Miss USA Alyssa Campanella.

to bring programing – recreational (arts), educational (tutoring and mentoring) and social service (HIV and nutritional counseling) – to more than 60,000 children facing medical challenges and their families in 150 major cities across the United States, and in five international satellite sites: Canada, China, Israel, Kenya, and Puerto Rico.

Project Sunshine is dedicated to bringing a ray of hope to these hospitalized children.

tion for his innovative initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles.

For more information, please visit www.project-sunshine.org.

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Letters

Our failing education system

To The Editor:

I am a guidance counselor at one of the 24 New York City schools unjustly slated for closure at the end of the school year. We are very frustrated with the censorship on this topic. There is only one perspective being perpetuated in the media on every channel except NY1. Newspaper articles are repeating the facts of the case from the perspective of the DOE. When mentioning the hundreds of thousands in opposition, the commentary stops at just that. "Teachers are upset" or "the UFT is upset" or "Students are protesting", etc... No one is pointing out the obvious.

Twenty-four schools, four distinct boroughs, 24 distinct bodies of students in

need of extra support in immigrant and minority neighborhoods, 1000's of talented and dedicated educators and ONE FAILING SYSTEM. There are two things that they all have in common: The DOE's failed policies and the demographic of students. You do the math.

What has happened to democracy in NYC? Local and state politicians across the state are up in arms. The borough representatives, the community, students and parents. No real commentary on that from the media. All they hear is Bloomberg and his puppets saying, teachers are failing students, the UFT is mad.

No mention of the city's ineffective

Continued on page 13

Same-gender partnerships and President Obama's support

To The Editor:

The following is LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent's response to President Barack Obama's public statement in support of same sex marriage:

"As the public battle over President Obama's public statement in support of same sex marriage unfolds, we find that the box is open.

The veil of "Don't ask, don't tell" is lifted. Clergy and congregations have revealed who they really are and have exposed the authentic truths about their feelings and beliefs.

We, as same-gender loving people, have sat in our houses of worship and silently heard messages of condemnation. Others have taken a defense of their pastor with the words: "I know that my pastor does not approve of my lifestyle but he never says anything hateful in his sermons." Now, the box is open and the truth is revealed.

My concern is for the young people and the children sitting in those pews that now get the message loud and clear, "You are not a child of God, but you are an abomination!"

The message is not confined to the status

of marriage; it becomes extended and the message is more deadly.

What do these children now believe about themselves? Are we to hear of more trauma, bullying and possibly suicides?

I ask our clergy to think of the consequences of their public statements. The story is not only of denying equal rights, but it makes the story of the civil rights the personal property of one group of people. Justice and equal rights belong to all people, but especially to those that have been disadvantaged and excluded from equal protections. Our understanding of our basic constitutional pledge of equality for all people is under attack. When we can legislate into our Constitution clauses that undermine the rights of all people, our future is in danger... not just the future of same-gender-loving people ... but the future wellbeing of all of us.

LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent

LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent is a membership organization formed to educate and advocate for the rights of LGBT people in the Black community.

Op-Ed

Exports from hell

By Bruce Ferguson

Anyone who has witnessed the coal extraction process known as mountaintop removal (MTR) has been shocked. The name is perfectly descriptive—tops of mountains are blasted away and bulldozed into valleys to expose underlying coal seams that can be cheaply and efficiently extracted. MTR is violence and destruction on a scale we associate with war, not industrial activity.

As in any war, there are lots of explosions—every day in central Appalachia thousands of tons of high explosives are detonated. And there are casualties—dozens of people have been killed by floods, mudslides, and overloaded coal trucks. One three-year-old boy was crushed in his bed when a boulder from an MTR site crashed through his home as he lay sleeping. The mining company called the death an "act of God" and paid a \$15,000 fine for illegally operating the equipment that dislodged the boulder.

These are the obvious casualties. It's much harder to count the number of premature deaths from cancer, kidney failure, liver failure and birth defects caused by breathing the polluted air and drinking the contaminated water that are the natural byproducts of MTR.

By the end of this 2012, it's estimated that more than 1,200 square miles of Appalachian forests will have been wiped out by MTR—that's an area the size of the state of Rhode Island. The impact on human health, biodiversity, air, and water quality is so extreme that you have to assume that the U.S. is permitting MTR only because we simply cannot keep our utilities and factories running without it. But in fact, the acceleration of MTR over the past two decades has accompanied a robust coal export market that has expanded rapidly in the past five years. It turns out that we are destroying entire regions of our country to meet the energy demands of other nations. Welcome to America, the new third world.

It's astonishing that the tragedy of MTR continues to be ignored by our political leaders and the press. If more than a thousand square miles of America had been laid waste by a foreign enemy, or some cataclysmic act of nature, it would be the media story of the century. But coal corporations are systematically obliterating central Appalachia, and it's as if the destruction is invisible, or is happening somewhere else, not in our own backyard.

Now, rather than moving to stem MTR,

the U.S. is about to embark on another ruinous enterprise, one that will also pollute the air, poison drinking water, and may trigger an unprecedented health crisis. And once again, it's all about exports. That is to say, it's all about money.

High-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF, or fracking) is a relatively new technology first tested in the Barnett Shale fields of North Texas in the late 1990s. The basic principle is simple—and frightening. Inject millions of gallons of toxic fluids underground and create enough pressure to pulverize the rock that contains the deposits of oil or gas. In MTR, the rock is smashed in the open air; in HVHF, it's smashed thousands of feet below the surface.

The underground injection of vast quantities of toxic fluid has obvious risks, and HVHF has already been linked to over a thousand instances of water contamination around the nation. A peer-reviewed scientific study has shown that the extraction and transmission of shale gas releases so much methane into the atmosphere that it actually has a greater greenhouse emissions footprint than coal. Another peer-reviewed study has shown drinking water wells near shale gas wells are seventeen times more likely to be contaminated with methane than other wells in the area.

The industry is waving the flag of energy independence to get Americans to overlook the risks and buy into fracking, but the rush to produce shale gas has little to do with domestic energy needs. At the same time, the industry is sounding patriotic themes, it is also planning to build the infrastructure that will allow it to ship huge quantities of shale gas to overseas markets, where it will command prices that are five, or six, or seven times higher than they are here at home.

In a few years the U.S. will go from being an importer of natural gas to being a major exporter. In fact, we may end up exporting shale gas to countries, such as France, that have decided that fracking is much too risky to be permitted. But France doesn't have to worry, it can always protect public health and its environment by relying on shale gas from that sacrificial energy colony across the Atlantic—the United States of America.

Bruce Ferguson works with Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, an all-volunteer grassroots organization based in New York State.

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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.

Obama, bin Laden and Mitt Romney

By Sheldon Richman

The partisan squabbling over the killing of Osama bin Laden is a typical election-year distraction, effectively squelching discussion of more important matters one year after the execution of the al-Qaeda chief executive.

Aided by cable-TV talking heads, Americans are spending too much time speculating over whether presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney would have given the order to get bin Laden, and also issuing paeans to President Obama's "courage." (We have a strange notion of courage. Did Obama risk his own life? Of course not. He was safe in the White House Situation Room. Perhaps he "risked" his political career, but even that isn't certain. A failed operation might have won him sympathy for a good try. On the other hand, the men under his command were ordered to risk their lives and the lives of others.)

While the commentators are engaged in trivialities, big foreign-policy questions are ignored.

For instance, although bin Laden is dead, his strategy of sucking the United States into bloody, expensive imperial wars in the Muslim world has worked like a charm. In a video released in 2004, bin Laden said, "We are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah." He compared what was happening in Afghanistan then to the previous Soviet debacle there. "We, alongside the mujahideen, bled Russia for 10 years until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat."

Viewpoint

Ironically, President Jimmy Carter's national-security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, has bragged that he helped draw the Soviet Union into Afghanistan in 1979 precisely to mire the Russians in their own "Vietnam." That experience failed to deter President George W. Bush from blindly following in the Soviets' footsteps; nor did it keep Obama from redoubling this futile effort, including a major expansion of drone attacks in Pakistan, which have killed at least 1,400 people since Obama took office. The U.S. government has been fighting the same people it helped fight the Soviets.

"All that we have to do is to send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al Qaeda, in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving anything of note other than some benefits for their private corporations," bin Laden said.

Right he was. The Obama administration ruthlessly drone-bombs Yemen and Somalia to eradicate the "threat" from real or potential al-Qaeda affiliates in those countries. Even American officials are aware that this policy creates anti-American militants. This is not rocket science. Bomb people, and they will dislike you — and perhaps seek revenge.

Bin Laden got his wish. America's fiscal house couldn't be more disorderly. The debt is over \$15 trillion, larger than the GDP. The Congressional Research

Service says that from 2001 to 2011 the Afghan war cost \$443 billion. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed, and many more maimed. American deaths total more than 1,800, with well over 15,000 wounded. The number of survivors whose lives have been effectively destroyed is uncountable. And that leaves the Iraq war out of the account. Al-Qaeda wasn't even in that country until George W. Bush invaded in 2003.

The point is that we let bin Laden take our eyes off the ball. He and al-Qaeda were creatures of American policy, though not in the sense that U.S. agents funded him or set up his organization. Rather, he turned his wrath toward America (and away from U.S.-backed Middle Eastern oppressors) as it became apparent that so much of the misery inflicted on the Muslim world had its origins in Washington, D.C.

The sources of misery include the decade-long economic sanctions on Iraq, which killed half a million children — a price pronounced "worth it" in 1996 by President Clinton's then-UN ambassador and later secretary of state Madeleine Albright; the stationing of U.S. troops near holy places in Saudi Arabia; and the continuing subjugation of Palestinians by U.S.-backed Israel. In the absence of those and related policies, bin Laden would have had no interest in seeing U.S. territory attacked.

To be sure, bin Laden is gone. But the abominable foreign policy goes on.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) and editor of The Freeman magazine.

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Justice for Black farmers realized

By Ralph Paige

The 180-day period for monetary claims by Black farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expired on May 11.

When these farmers filed their class-action lawsuit in the mid-1990s (Pigford vs. Glickman), they were but acting on what had been known for decades. Namely, that Blacks had always been systematically discriminated against by the USDA.

The history has been bleak. When Congress created the USDA's Farmers Home Administration in 1942, it was supposed to be the "lending institution of last resort" for farmers. It was created to save America's family farmers as they struggled after the devastating 1930's depression. But Black farmers then and up to now have never been able to access the loans and other program services at the USDA in an equitable fashion. In fact, in 1982 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that the primary reason Blacks had lost land was because of the USDA itself and lack of services.

In the USDA regulations, in fact, it states that the USDA offices are supposed provide loan applications and assistance to farmers in filling out the applications. The USDA is supposed to offer loan servicing advice and opportunities for farmers who are having trouble making their payments. If approved for a loan, the payments are supposed to be provided in a timely fashion. These are just some examples.

For Black farmers, however, in most instances the USDA office would not even provide a loan application. And if the farmer did receive an application and was approved for a loan, in many instances the loan came too late to plant that year's crop. Black farmers were also in many instances given a "supervised account" where they

Op-Ed

did not receive the money outright but were required to go to the USDA for the loan officer or supervisor to write the check for supplies, etc.

The consequences of all of this has been costly for Black farmers because invariably they would have to get loans from supply houses or banks at exceptionally high interest rates or they went without and sought other jobs to make a living. Often land was lost and marriages destroyed.

A settlement agreement for the class action lawsuit was approved on April 14, 1999, and the deadline for submitting a claim as a class member was October 12, 1999.

Because it became clear that many Blacks were not aware of the settlement, on July 14, 2000 Judge Paul Friedman in the U.S. District Court ruled that individuals could file a petition explaining why they missed the 1999 deadline. Close to 90,000 individuals filed a late petition up until June 18, 2008.

Further, thanks to the Congressional Black Caucus a provision was inserted in the 2008 Farm Bill permitting individuals who had submitted a late-filing request under Pigford to submit a claim form. This portion of lawsuit for the "late" claimants became known as Pigford II.

Thankfully, in November 2010, Congress appropriated \$1.25 billion for those Pigford II claims.

Like the original Pigford case, the Pigford II settlement provides both a fast-track settlement process and higher payments to potential claimants who go through a more rigorous review and documentation process. A moratorium on foreclosures of most claimants' farms will remain in place until after claimants have gone through

the claims process.

In some states, there are meetings being held suggesting, unfortunately, that it's still possible to get into this lawsuit. This has led to considerable misinformation circulating around the South about who is entitled to seek an award. One thing's for sure: No one should have to pay money to be part of the Pigford lawsuit. Class counsel lawyers will help fill out claims at no cost. There is also assistance from community advocates, like the staff of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and other farmers' groups in the Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates.

Many original claimants are now deceased. There are provisions in the settlement for their next of kin or heirs to file a claim on their behalf. Persons filing on behalf of a deceased relative must furnish a death certificate for the claimant and must know the details and circumstances of their farming operation and USDA loan or non-loan program denial.

As there is a finite sum of money for the settlement, which has to be used to pay all legal, notice and administrative expenses, as well as pay the farmers, the judge has ruled that no funds for successful claims will be distributed until after the claims period and the evaluation of all claims. This means that funds won't be distributed until late 2010 or early 2013.

If you're an African-American farmer and have questions about whether you're in the lawsuit, call EPIQ, the lawsuit administrator, at 877-810-8110.

For years African-American farmers were denied access to USDA funds and services. Now we have an opportunity to correct this wrong.

Paige is executive director of the Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund.

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Our failing education system

Continued from page 10

policies on discipline and the joke that suspensions have become.

No mention on how difficult it is to have dangerous/disruptive and even violent students in the schools involuntarily transferred.

No mention of how the systems in place to deal with truancy have failed and the government agencies in place to address them are ineffective (ACS on Education Neglect, PINS petitions at Family Court).

No mention on how the DOE has failed to implement remediation programs at the junior high level to help to produce high school ready students.

No mention of the fact that English language acquisition may mean students take longer to graduate. We are all being rated on our four-year graduation rates but the City is not taking fairly enough into account the fact that truancy, suspensions, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, literacy level, socio-

Letter

economic status, social-emotional issues, etc., are harsh realities in all these neighborhoods and that the majority of these students will need extra time to meet NYC graduation requirements.

Changing the names of the school and playing musical chairs with teachers are not going to solve the problem of low achievement. There is a happy medium out there. Fund the schools, support them, use demographics sensitive criteria to rate these schools, adjust the city's failing policies and develop a teacher evaluation method that is more accurate and thorough so that the 10 percent of low performing educators can be identified and either supported or dealt with accordingly.

This "turnaround model" is disregarding and disrespectful of the students and the relationships they have formed with their teachers,

counselors, coaches, club and team leaders, mentors in their second home and in some cases, their only real sense of family. The senior and junior class of students will be thrust into the chaos and uncertainty that this "turnaround model" promises and it is not fair. This is not the time for them to be experiencing any form of uncertainty. Not with college applications, scholarship applications, SAT and ACT exams to take, letters of recommendations, guidance and mentorship through the process and even the celebration of their achievements. They deserve better consideration.

Is there anyone out there that will help us get this message across? The current problems will be perpetuated in the new schools if the city fails to address these issues. We need your help in bringing the public's attention to these issues. Our hope is to effect change in these areas. Please help.

*Ms. S. Williams,
Guidance Counselor*

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Give us (*in 150 words or less*), the full name of your nominee, the achievement(s) that qualify them as **OUTSTANDING** in their field (*e.g. education, science, the arts, medicine, business, entertainment, politics, sports, music, dance, etc.*), their Caribbean connections (*2nd and 3rd generations also count!*), and your contact information. The selections by the editors are final.

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Asthma sufferers: Get informed!

If you're one of the estimated 25 million Americans who suffer from asthma, you know what it's like to experience symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. To raise awareness and understanding of this serious and growing health problem, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation and Genentech have joined with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) to launch The Asthma Express, an educational awareness program to help bring allergic asthma to the forefront.

The program highlights the increasing number of people suffering from the disease and how it affects them. The program encourages people to get screened to help determine if their asthma is uncontrolled and to talk with an asthma specialist, like an allergist or pulmonologist, about their results and if they should be screened for allergic asthma. The Asthma Express

is stopping in selected cities across the U.S., educating people at community health fairs about asthma, allergic asthma and some available testing options.

In each city, the educational experience features:

- Interactive iPad stations where people can learn more about allergic asthma.

- Free testing options to see if your asthma is uncontrolled and if allergens may play a role in your asthma.

- A take home educational kit to help people talk with their healthcare provider about the disease.

Many things can trigger or worsen asthma symptoms, leading to uncontrolled asthma that may vary and recur over time. Of the different types of asthma, allergic asthma is the most common form affecting approximately 60 percent of all asthma sufferers in the U.S. Allergic asthma is caused by sensi-



tivity to year-round allergens in the air that trigger an allergic reaction that can lead to asthma attacks and symptoms. It is also associated with IgE, a type of antibody responsible for most allergic reactions. Typically your healthcare provider will use a skin or blood test to see if your asthma is caused by allergens in the air.

"It is important to understand what could trigger your allergic asthma to help better control your disease," says Dr. Travis Stork, ER doctor and host of the

Emmy award-winning talk show "The Doctors." "Many people living with asthma and allergic asthma have triggers. Identifying your triggers can help you work with your doctor to determine the most appropriate course of action. The one thing I always tell patients: 'Empower yourself.' When it comes to asthma, find out if your asthma is allergic asthma."

Only your healthcare provider can tell you if you have allergic asthma. Be sure to talk to your doctor.

To find out more about allergic asthma and when The Asthma Express may be coming to a city near you, visit www.AsthmaExpress.com.

Dr. Stork is being compensated for his participation in this educational campaign, which is sponsored by Genentech and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

Courtesy of State Point Media

Tips for women to prevent common health problems

You may not realize it, but your lifestyle could be putting you at risk for common health problems that afflict women. National Women's Health Week, observed May 13-19, is a great reminder to brush up on some facts that can help you stay healthy.

Breast Cancer

The causes of breast cancer are complicated, but some significant risk factors are preventable. Obesity is one such risk, and even moderate weight loss helps protect you. Cutting down on alcohol will also improve your chances of staying breast cancer-free.

It's impossible to eliminate your risk entirely, but early detection will improve your prognosis. Conduct regular self-breast examinations and let your doctor know if you detect anything unusual. Follow the National

Cancer Institute guidelines and get a mammogram annually when you turn 40.

Toxic Shock Syndrome

You may regard Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) as rare, but one in 700 women will experience tampon-related TSS, according to You ARE Loved, a non-profit working to educate girls and women about the disease. TSS is a bacterial infection characterized by sudden high fever, diarrhea, rash, muscle aches and headache. You can significantly reduce your risk of this life-threatening disease with a trip to the drug store.

"Historically, tampon use has been linked to half of all TSS cases, so simply switching to a safer product is a terrific safeguard against this disease," says Dr. Christine Ko, an expert in women's health.

You likely are familiar

with pads, but there are alternatives you may find more convenient. For example, Softcup is a flexible cup worn internally around your cervix. It's hypo-allergenic, latex-free and has never been linked to TSS. There's an added benefit too: products like Softcup can be worn for up to 12 hours and don't leave behind the residual fibers and traces of bleach, dioxins and other residues that tampons can. It won't change your body's natural pH or bacteria levels either, reducing your risk for infections.

More information on reducing TSS risk can be found at www.softcup.com.

Heart Disease

Many people think heart disease is an exclusively male risk. But women also need to protect their hearts. While severe chest pain is a symptom often associated



with heart disease in men, women need to watch for different signs. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience neck and shoulder pain, dizziness, fatigue and sweating.

You're never too young to take steps to prevent heart disease, particularly if it runs in your family. You can keep your heart healthier by reducing saturated fat, cholesterol and salt in your diet, and getting regular exercise.

While depression and smoking can adversely affect anyone's heart, The Mayo Clinic reports these risk factors are greater in women. So cut out cigarettes and take steps to treat mental stress right away.

Courtesy of State Point Media



Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

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

Swelling of the feet and legs

Most people, when they notice swelling of their feet and legs are keenly aware that something is wrong. The problem is that there are so many medical conditions that can result in such swelling, the average person is at a loss to understand the specific cause of their problem. Often the first thing that comes to mind is the salt content of the food they ate at the Chinese restaurant the night before.

Leg swelling is a fairly common symptom of both heart or kidney failure, which can be considered central causes as opposed to local causes, such as venous insufficiency of the legs, where, the swelling is limited only to the legs and feet. In other words, the mechanism is local and not central. With venous insufficiency, the edema decreases by the morning, but does not move elsewhere.

Diuretics (water pills) are often mistakenly prescribed for the treatment of edema of venous insufficiency. The mistake is that in venous insufficiency, there is not an excessive amount of water trapped in the body, such as might occur in cardiac or renal failure, but rather an abnormal distribution of a normal amount of water due to leaking venous valves.

A third type of edema, fortunately rare but often confused with the edema of venous insufficiency of the legs is lymphedema. Lymphedema is retention of lymphatic fluid in the soft tissue. To understand this, you must first be aware that arteries and veins are

not the only fluid carrying conduits or vessels in our bodies.

There is another complete system of conduits known as the lymphatic system. If you could measure all the arterial blood pumped into the legs over the course of a day and at the same time, measure all of the venous blood being returned from the legs during that same day, you would find that the volume of the blood being pumped into the legs daily through the arteries was greater than the volume of blood being returned through the veins. The reason the legs don't inflate like balloons is because the extra fluid, known as lymph is constantly being drawn off by the lymphatic system. This complex system of lymphatic vessels passes through many lymph nodes and ends up re-depositing the lymphatic fluid into the venous system high in the chest close to the heart.

Obstructions to the flow of lymph may occur as a result of scarification from surgery, radiation, cancerous obstruction to lymph nodes, and vascular injuries. Further there is another broad group of people who suffer with leg swelling related to a lack of protein, specifically albumin in the blood. This is by no means a complete description of all the conditions that can cause swelling of the legs. Should your legs become swollen, see your doctor for guidance as to the best way to proceed.

Have a Question? Call Dr. Okun at 718-241-6767

Free training for entrepreneurs

By Tequila Minsky

Jessie Lee is the director of Small Business Services, a program of Brooklyn-based CAMBA, a multi-service non-profit agency. The Business program offers free business training and counsel to the community.

This division sees 2000 individuals a year, helping them start businesses that range from food-based, to childcare, to retail products, to services (like photography and graphic arts). CAMBA serves primarily low-income, minority persons and women.

Often, those that come to CAMBA have difficulty getting a living-wage job because they may have children at home or struggle with English. Many who turn to the program have a good skill or an idea, and they say, "I want to be my own boss."

"One of the biggest issues for a potential business," Lee explains, "is targeting your market, knowing and finding your niche. For example, you might have a product, a tee shirt that lights up at night." Lee asks, "but who are you going to sell this to?" She mentioned that a number of other good ideas come through the door with out planning how to market the item. CAMBA helps all kinds of businesses.

It's not just about having a good idea. Says Lee, "A business is more than just a good idea. It takes management."

Lee recommends seeking business counseling before putting your savings into the business idea. An experienced business counselor can guide you through the business process.

And where do you find a business counselor? CAMBA has three counselors in its economic development division.

Counseling services are also available at the SBA (Small Business Administration—a federal government program) (archive.sba.gov/services/counseling/index.html) and

the New York State Business Development Center (www.nyssbdc.org/). The organization SCORE provides free local mentoring from experienced "older" business people who volunteer their time (www.score.org).

CAMBA's free start-up workshop series includes business basics (and choosing a business legal structure), planning that gets funding, marketing, access to capital, credit repair, how to start and operate a home based business and how to become a licensed childcare provider.

Each course is offered every month.

Business practices the novice might be unaware of are how to create a profit/loss (cash flow) statement or which necessary business licenses are needed (e.g. business registration or incorporation).

Its three-session series offered each month called "entrepreneurial finance module"—the beginner, learning Basic Excel spreadsheets, or intermediate level—is intended for existing or startup businesses with a need to develop, manage and understand basic financial statements. Skills learned at these sessions are essential if applying for a loan.

Also, the third Thursday of every month, CAMBA offers a two-hour course in writing a business plan.

Lee says that a high percentage of CAMBA's small business clients turn to them only after problems arise "when they need help and want to revamp the business" and often when it's too late to rescue the business.

One successful, but challenging client was a woman who had started a business making party favors. She had a small store and taught classes. When the economy plummeted, her retail business followed suit.

By the time she came to CAMBA, she was two months overdue on rent and facing possible eviction.

CAMBA encouraged her to put the retail on hold, give up the physical store and concentrate on giving classes, which required little overhead. CAMBA enrolled her in its social media business courses and taught her how to market her classes online -- thus lowering

her marketing expenses and growing her teaching income.

She is now getting back on her business back on its feet.

CAMBA works closely with local banks, and many referrals come through the banks' small business serv-

ices, typically when a bank client can't qualify for a conventional loan. CAMBA will work with the clients to create business plans, and then provide small loans.

Succeeding in business, starting and running a small business, takes hard work, planning and a strong

knowledge of the nuts and bolts of solid business practices.

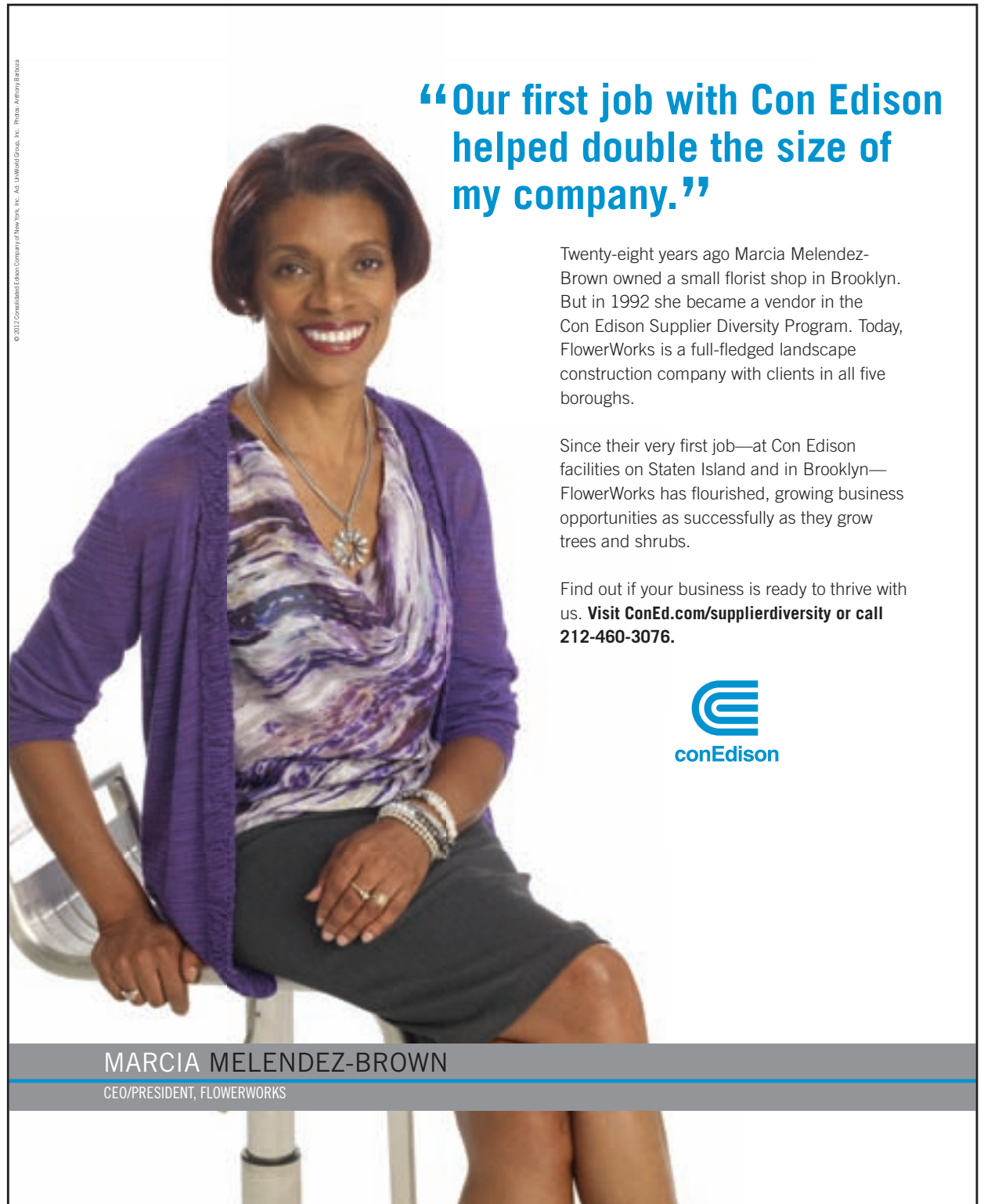
CAMBA's Small Business Services programs aim at helping individuals start and manage their own businesses. For more info: 718-282-2500, <http://www.CAMBA.org>

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De Blasio to City Hall: Don't privatize parking meters

Ed Note:

In a letter to Mayor Bloomberg, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio warned that privatizing the City's 40,000 parking meters could lead to higher parking costs and wasted taxpayer dollars. De Blasio called on the Mayor to halt privatization plans announced earlier this week, citing Chicago's costly experience.

The full letter follows:

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I write to oppose your Administration's plan to privatize nearly 40,000 parking meters across New York City. As we have seen in cities like Chicago, privatization can lead to higher costs for drivers and small business owners at a time when they can ill afford it. The pitfalls of this proposal far outweigh its benefits—and we must prevent it from advancing any further.

Privatization risks exposing out small businesses and residents to:

Higher Costs: I am particularly concerned by your Administration's refusal to come clean about potential rate hikes accompanying privatization. Given the experiences of cities across the country, struggling business owners and residents in New York have every right to worry about higher costs--and no reason to trust

in the current process to protect their interests.

Disruption and Waste: Given the City's poor track record with CityTime, the overhaul of 911, NYCHA's "NICE" computer software and malfunctioning water meter readers, I fear that the ill-considered roll-out of yet another new technology could lead to significant disruption and spiraling costs for taxpayers. Current oversight of these projects is simply not sufficient.

Loss of Accountability: Ceding authority over parking spaces and meters to a private company would place a matter of City policy into the hands of a private company, and reduce the system's accountability to the people who use our streets every day. If achieving better performance from our streets and parking are the objectives—and they should be—privatization is not the way to achieve them.

Our streets are not assets to be sold, nor are parking spaces simply a revenue tool. They are an essential public good that millions of New Yorkers rely upon. I urge you to halt this process now, before walking any further down the path of privatization.

Sincerely,
Bill de Blasio
Public Advocate
City of New York

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Continued from page 2

has been demanding the full payment, arguing that Grenada, which a few years ago dumped Taiwan in favor of China, defaulted on the loans.

Taiwan has been successful in a United States court to get companies operating withhold the payments of fees to the statutory bodies. However, Grenada contends that the ruling is illegal since the statutory bodies operate independent of the Central government.

Guyana

Guyana is looking to assist cash-strapped low-cost carrier REDjet.

REDjet's Chief Executive Officer Ian Burns met recently with Guyana's Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Ministry of Tourism to discuss financial assistance to get back into the air.

REDjet's proposals are now on the desk of President Donald Ramoutar.

While acting Tourism

Minister Irfaan Ali declined to comment on how much money the Barbados-based airline has requested, he confirmed that their recommendations would be engaging the attention of Cabinet.

Ali said that government officials had indicated that the issue of the airline not having a valid Air Operator's Certificate also needed a resolution.

The certificate was suspended by the Barbados Civil Aviation Department recently following the March 16 suspension of services announcement.

Jamaica

In a statement, Caribbean Airlines Ltd. (CAL) said it informed the Jamaican Airline Pilots Association and the pilot body of its intention to offer contracts of employment with CAL.

"The employment of the pilots to CAL will see the company using a transparent process to ensure a smooth and seamless transi-

tion. All benefits remained unchanged," it said.

CAL's acting chief executive offer Robert Corbie said the pilots will be offered contracts under CAL, but it was too early to say if all 55 would apply for the jobs.

Jamaica

Human rights lobby group Jamaica for Justice (JJJ) was joined recently by other civic organizations to stage a peaceful protest outside the Ministry of National Security to bring attention to the increasing number of police killings this year.

Since the start of the year 47 civilians have been killed by members of the Jamaican Constabulary Force.

The latest victim was a 16-year-old Immaculate High School student Vanessa Kirkland. She was shot and killed in what police claim was a confrontation with criminals. However, residents say Vanessa and four friends were on their way to a party in Greenwich Farm

when police opened fire on the vehicle.

Jamaica

Police in Jamaica have arrested six persons accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars from U.S. citizens through a lottery scam.

Investigators said in a statement that one of the men had more than US\$60,000 in an account believed to belong to the victims. Police also seized computers, information on the lottery scam and lists of U.S. victims with their addresses and other personal information.

The arrest came after police contacted a U.S. victim they say lost \$120,000 through the scam.

Jamaica has long operated as a center for international telemarketing frauds that target elderly Americans and rake in more than US\$300 million a year.

St. Lucia

A St. Lucian boutique

hotelier has made an Earth Day appeal to the Caribbean to lead the world in climate-friendly practices and attract more visitors because of it.

Eroline Lamontagne, general manager of Fond Doux Holiday Plantation, a restored plantation house in Soufriere, said in statement to mark the global environmental awareness day recently that environmental protection and conservation were not only imperative for the Caribbean, but also made "very good" business sense.

Lamontagne recalled the 1994 United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Barbados when the international community examined the specific needs of small islands on the frontline of climate change impacts from sea level to natural disasters.

"The Barbados Program of Action, agreed by the countries of the world at that conference should be our Bible," said Lamontagne, urging Caribbean hotels to "use Earth Day to highlight what

sustainable programs they initiated or enhanced during the year.

She said Fond Doux Holiday Plantation, which carried a Green Globe certification as an environmental friendly tourism plant, "adheres closely to the spirit of eco-building and cultural preservation."

St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines opposition senator, Anesia Baptiste has confirmed that the leader of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) Anhim Eustace, has revoked her senatorial appointment.

"He called in to Nice Radio and read a letter that he had sent to the governor general to that effect. He also indicated that he will say more on Nice Radio," Baptiste said.

Baptiste said she has decided to wait on Eustace's comments before she makes any public statement on the matter.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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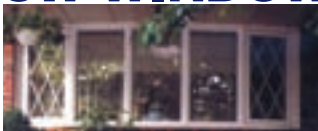
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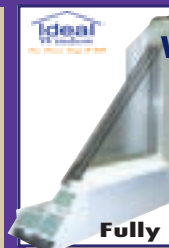


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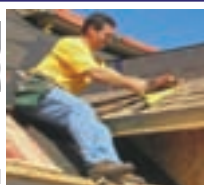
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Written by: Steven J DiMare
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Omega Chi celebrates National Nurses Week

By Donna Lamb

On May 11, the Omega Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, a national sorority of registered nurses and nursing students, held its National Nurses Week celebration at Brooklyn's highly respected Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (DSSM).

The gala, which was emceed by Patricia Baptiste, began with welcoming remarks by Karen McNeil, followed by an invocation by Dr. Audrey Sealey-Dupree.

In her greetings on behalf of DSSM, Executive Director Peola Small emphasized the fact that nurses play a pivotal role in the center's effort to provide quality care to its residents because the nurses are closest to them on a daily basis.

State Senator Eric Adams was also on hand to congratulate Omega Chi members on their unwavering dedication to their motto "Service for Humanity."

The evening's featured speaker was Grenadian-born DSSM Assistant Medical Director Dr. Lucia Nixon. With great charm, warmth, and humor, she told of how two nurses really saved her bacon on her first night shift,

when she was an inexperienced intern, trying to appear confident but petitioning the Gods for an uneventful night.

Realizing Dr. Nixon's incompetence, two nurses on duty who were supremely experienced and confident took charge of the situation, retrieving the medication and directing her on what to do.

"Actually, the nurse administered the medication while I merely held the patient's hand," Dr. Nixon declared. "After the patient was stabilized, they even handed her the doctor's order and instructed her what to write."

The Member of Year Award went to Pearline Okumakpeyi, Omega Chi's immediate past president and one of its most senior members, who, despite her many family commitments and graduate school studies, always finds time to commit to the sorority.

Carol Walkin received the Unsung Hero Award. An active member of the chapter for over five years, she is always one of the first members to be called upon to assist when needed, and she does so without hesitation or fanfare.

Other highlights of the evening were two beautiful gospel solos by



Omega Chi Chapter honorees Pearline Okumakpeyi and Carol Walkin (center) with sorority president Jacqueline Gulstone (far left) and vice president Karen McNeil (far right). Photos by Donna Lamb

Bernadette St. Clair and a special dedication to the nurses by vocalist Angela Cooper who stirred and inspired everyone with her gorgeous rendition of "Go Light Your World" with its chorus of "Carry your candle, run to the darkness" which everyone joined

in on while holding up their candles.

Closing remarks were delivered by Phyllis Payne Dublin who told the nurses to go forth knowing that "the light we shine may not necessarily be a candle but our smiles, our touch, and our

voices that can mean so much to those in our care, bringing them strength."

The evening concluded with delicious refreshments, which were enjoyed by all along with the enlivening music provided by deejay Jerry Gabriel.



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Erectile Dysfunction? You may be at risk of a stroke or heart attack!

Did you know that the same diseases that affect the blood vessels which lead to the heart and brain also affect the delicate vessels that supply blood to the genital organs. Careful evaluation of erectile dysfunction can uncover these problems years before critical damage occurs.

According to the Male Aging Study on sexual dysfunction, Erectile Dysfunction (ED) can first emerge in a man at age 40. In addition, an estimated 30 million men in the United States are affected by ED. What causes this dreadful condition and what must one do to prevent it?

In this article, we seek advice from two award winning urologic surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykhman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists of 2009 and 2010.

What Is Erectile Dysfunction?

Erectile dysfunction (ED) is the constant or periodic, recurring inability of a male to get or maintain an erection. An erection occurs when blood fills the chambers of the penis, causing it to expand and stiffen. This is controlled by impulses from the brain and genital nerves. Despite the fact that 95% of ED cases can be easily treated, only 10% of men seek medical attention when ED first begins.

What causes erectile dysfunction?

The root causes of ED are either physical, psychological, or hormonal. Most men experience erectile dysfunction as a result of another chronic disease, such as diabetes, or as a result of poor lifestyle choices, such as smoking, drinking, and drug abuse. 10-20% of men suffer from ED as a result of psychological factors such as stress, depression, low self-esteem, and performance anxiety. ED can also occur as a result of damaged nerves from a

previous surgery or as a side-effect of your current medication.

Diagnosis

The main premise in diagnosing erectile dysfunction is determining what it is caused by, whether it is physical, psychological, or hormonal. Men who cannot get or maintain an erection at least 75% of the time are considered to have erectile dysfunction. Our advanced diagnostic capabilities include:

- **Comprehensive testing for hormonal complications**
- **Penile blood pressure measurement**
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- **Testosterone exam**
- **Neurological exam**

All of these tests are conducted within the pristine New York Urologic Institute. This relieves patients of the need to go back and forth between medical offices to obtain final diagnosis.

Treatment

In the last few years, there have been significant advances in medicinal therapies. At NYUI, we take advantage of a full range of cutting-edge technologies that allow our patients to live healthier and happier lives.

Therefore, we utilize medications such as Viagra, Cialis, and Levitra, which are guaranteed by the FDA to increase potency. In order to minimize the risk of undesired side effects, we urge patients who suffer from erectile dysfunction to see an experienced urologist, who will determine which medication is right for them.

If medication therapy does not produce desired effects, there is sometimes no choice other than surgery. Some patients come to our clinic seeking penile surgery, and are very satisfied with the result.



A Serious Affliction

It's well known that Erectile Dysfunction significantly lowers affected male's quality of life. Among other problems, most men agree that ED causes stress, inability to enjoy sex, and problems at work. Despite the seriousness of this affliction, many men don't choose to seek professional medical attention. It's very rare that ED goes away by itself, but it does worsen and get more difficult to treat over time.

While the onset of ED becomes more likely as you age, this does not mean getting older means the end of your sex life, since ED can be treated at any age. We advise men who have not been affected by ED to avoid smoking and drinking, and begin exercising regularly.

However, if your life has been impacted by erectile dysfunction, come visit the award-winning urologists of the New York Urologic Institute and

see how we can restore your comfort and quality of life.

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Jimmy Cliff to launch Celebrate Brooklyn Series

Jimmy Cliff, one of reggae's most celebrated musicians and recording artists will premiere the 34th annual Celebrate Brooklyn concert series at the Prospect Park Bandshell on June 5.

The legendary entertainer who emerged an alluring actor when he starred in a film entitled "The Harder They Come" 40 years ago will kick-off the popular summer concert series that honors Kings County and a diverse assembly of global talents.



Reggae legend Jimmy Cliff performs during the first weekend of the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Friday, April 13, 2012, in Indio, Calif.

AP Photo/Chris Pizzello

More than 32 acts are billed for the predominantly-free season of music and multimedia presentations.

Twenty-five events are free and include performances by Dirty Projectors, Ghostface Killah, Calle 13, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Gang Gang Dance, Hot Chip, Sigur Ros, Mission of Burma, Wilco, Yo La Tengo and Lyle Lovett.

Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding will collaborate with



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

pianist Geri Allen and photographer and video artist Carrie Mae Weems to present a work that explores race and gender called, "Slow Fade to Black."

Benin's Angélique Kidjo, Chicago-native Laurie Anderson, South Africa's Sibongile Khumalo and Somi (of Rwandan and Ugandan parentage) will premiere "Women Waging Peace."

The work pays homage to the late Kenyan activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai.

Ballet Hispanico and Complexions Contemporary Ballet are also slated as well as movie screenings of "Saturday Night Fever," Franco Zeffirelli's "Romeo & Juliet" and "The Muppet Movie," which will be accompanied by a sing-along.

For more information, visit www.bricartsmedia.org.

Triple Reggae Treat

Reggae fans will likely feast on the triple treat line-up slated for Central Park Summerstage later this summer. But Jamaicans will probably "sweat" to the irie, reggae sounds of Inner Circle when the band takes center stage to headline a special musical tribute to Jamaica's golden anniversary.

The "Bad Boys" of reggae will join the Mighty Diamonds and Israel Vibrations on Aug. 19 to mark the milestone achievement of a nation that gifted reggae to the world.

The three super groups billed for the free, showcase at the Rumsey Playfield will perform from their vast repertoire of hits spanning a total of combined eighty years of presenting the island's musical legacy.

Inner Circle's infectious recording of "Bad Boys" won them a Grammy and international notoriety landing a theme for television's "Cops" crime show.

Their follow-up "Sweat" also enjoyed longevity on top 40 radio playlists during the 1990s.

Also accomplished in the genre, The Mighty Diamonds – Donald "Tabby" Shaw, Fitzroy "Bunny" Simpson, and Lloyd "Judge" Ferguson -- released "When The Right Time Come (I Need A Roof)" in 1976 and their hits followed and remains a constant in 2012. Their recording of "Pass The Kutchie" in 1981 motivated a second generation of reggae recorders named Musical Youth to remake a version a decade later. The Youths called their updated version "Pass The Dutchie." The song charted to pop appeal in England and made them international favorites.

The story of reggae group Israel Vibration's success starts out with their humble beginnings as children battling polio in a Jamaican rehabilitation center. Cecil Spence (Skelly) and Lascelle Bulgin (Wiss) bonded through music while in the clinic and quickly became friends.

As the duo got older, they found the faith of Rastafari and created songs which expressed their spiritual beliefs.

Since then, the duo's music has been spellbinding audiences for over two decades with their mix of traditional roots reggae and deeply spiritual messages such as the critically acclaimed album, "On The Rock" and its follow-up "Free To Move," which reached number one on the CMJ New World charts.

In addition to this significant tribute to Jamaica, Summerstage will feature a number of reggae concerts in parks in all five boroughs.

Bushman and Midnite are among the groups set to deliver the pulsating, reggae beat.

For more information, visit www.summerstage.org.
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'The Avengers is a remarkable treat which only serves to ramp-up audience expectations for the vaunted franchise's next offering, *Iron Man 3*.'

Kam Williams – Page 27

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Resurgence of Haiti on film

Community2Community (C2C) presents "Up from the Rubble," a gallery exhibition and auction featuring photographic depictions and documentation of life and the vibrant resurgence taking place in Haiti on Thursday, May 31.

The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Bed Vine Wine, 370 Tompkins Ave., Brooklyn, and will include sample tasting.

In partnership with Our Time Press and Bed Vyne Wine, this inaugural fundraiser will include original works of art from Haitian-American photographer Ocean Morisset, as well as images taken by members of the C2C team revealing the natural beauty of Haiti and its people.

Proceeds from the event will go directly towards C2C's



Photographer Ocean Morisset.

Continued on next page

Intimate with the Dub Master

By Vinette K. Pryce

Dub pioneer Lee "Scratch" Perry will perform a rare and intimate show at Gramercy Theatre in Manhattan.

The Bob Marley producer and reggae giant will hit the stage on May 17 at 9:00 p.m.

Acclaimed a trailblazer of Jamaican music, "Scratch" helped shape the sound of dub and reggae music, as an artist with songs such as "People Funny Boy," and as the formative producer for reggae's iconic group, Bob Marley and the Wailers.

His music is regarded as an important influence on artists of generations, particularly on Marley, and the famed dub scientist, The Mad Professor.

Notably, non-Jamaican acts such as The Clash and The Beastie Boys have credited the producer with enhancing their pop and hip-hop recordings.

In 2002, after more than 40 years in the music business, Perry won a Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album, for his recording, "Jamaican E.T."

The Gramercy is located at 127 East 23rd St.



Lee Scratch Perry

BLUES MUSIC FEST

Tranquil Marie-Galante island comes alive



Cape Verdean Lura will sing traditional music of her homeland at Terre de Blues on Marie-Galante, May 26. Photo by William Farrington

By William Farrington

Festival Terre de Blues returns to the tranquil Caribbean island Marie-Galante, May 25 - 28. Blues in the music, skies and sea make the island, just off the coast of

Guadeloupe a destination for both music lovers and travelers who enjoy getting off the beaten track.

The grounds of Chateau Murat, an 18th century sugar plantation, now a park, is the site that will host

this year's artists: David Murray's Blues Heritage Orchestra, Richie Spice (Jamaica), Lura (Cape Verde), Alpha Blondy (Cote d'Ivoire), Triple Kay (Dominica), Albita (Cuba),

Continued on next page

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1** **We Are Young**
Fun. Feat. Janelle Monae
- 2** **Somebody That I Used to Know**
Gotye Feat. Kimbra
- 3** **Glad You Came**
The Wanted
- 4** **Wild Ones**
Flo Rida Feat. Sia
- 5** **Starships**
Nicki Minaj
- 6** **Stronger**
Kelly Clarkson
- 7** **Part of Me**
Katy Perry
- 8** **Rumor Has It**
Adele
- 9** **What Makes You Beautiful**
One Direction
- 10** **Take Care**
Drake Feat. Rihanna

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1** **Blown Away**
Carrie Underwood
- 2** **Strange Clouds**
B.o.B.
- 3** **...Little Broken Hearts**
Norah Jones
- 4** **Blunderbuss**
Jack White
- 5** **Up All Night**
One Direction
- 6** **Licensed To Ill**
Beastie Boys
- 7** **21**
Adele
- 8** **Avengers: Assemble**
Soundtrack
- 9** **Smash**
Soundtrack
- 10** **Born Villain**
Marilyn Manson

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Terre de Blues Festival

Continued from previous page

Kwaxicolor (Martinique), Traditional Guadeloupe Lewoz, Christian Lavisio, FM Laeti and others.

Sugar cane plays a prominent role in the history of Marie-Galante, called the island of a hundred windmills at one time. Today, for the most part, untouched by tourism development, it offers much to visitors who are interested in that history. Many argue the rum made here is the best in Guadeloupe or the pink sand beaches that ring the island.

Terre de Blues, the name suggests roots music, and implicitly acknowledges the African slaves who labored in the sugar plantation and left a rich musical legacy. Friday will be an evening of Lewoz, the Guadeloupe music that is a direct descendant of these roots. Passions rising and falling with the collective rhythm of the drums and the swirl of the dancers' skirts, it brings listeners into the rural village an unforgettable experience for those who have not experienced it.

Lura opens Saturday's show with a set of batuku, funana, coladeira, and morna, the folk rhythms of the Cape Verdean islands,

When Lura walks into the spotlight she embodies the beauty, strength and vulnerability of the small chain of islands in the Atlantic. She delivers these local songs with a succinct directness of a country girl when she does a Batuku, such as "Rabolta Ruben Manuel." The music came about as a way for women to sing and dance during the colonial period when drumming was banned. She sits and pounds out the rhythm on a tightly rolled tchabeta (loincloth) just as women did in a circle while pounding laundry.

We jump to the contemporary era when FM Laeti takes the stage. Born into a musical family, the Guadeloupe native has also lived in Europe, Canada, and the USA. Her distills her global experiences into a powerfully simple soulful approach as expressed on "Rise in the Sun" and "Out of My Hands" from her sparkling debut album "It Will Come Around," released in October. As a soul singer on the rise, she makes a triumphant return to her Caribbean roots.

Richie Spice headlines the evening featuring

music from "Book of Job" his 2011 release. The title signifies his commitment to Rastafarian values and roots reggae culture. The album is an expression of these beliefs delivered in the mellow easy listening style for which he is known.

Jazz to Blues to Reggae is the musical journey, Sunday, beginning with a robust set of Kreyol Jazz from Guadeloupean jazz guitarist Christian Lavisio. Christian will be joined by saxophonist David Murray. Murray returns to Guadeloupe, he has also performed there with the Gwo Ka masters, follows with his latest project the Heritage Blues Orchestra, a twelve piece ensemble playing traditional and original blues, featuring James "Blood" Ulmer on guitar. Capping the show will be a set of high energy hard hitting Ivorian Reggae from Alpha Blondy. Blondy whose 30 year career speaking out on issues of injustice carries forward Bob Marley's enormous influence on the African continent.

Monday, begins with Albita, the Grammy-winning Cuban vocalist, followed by Martiniquan Zouk artists Kwaxicolor and Dominica's Triple



Dominica's Triple Kay. Photo by William Farrington

Kay.

Triple Kay explodes onstage with a heavy metal attack and revolving trio of vocalists that keep the energy high, driving the tempo is a complex keyboard generated bouyon rhythms that evolved from Cadence Lypsio. Kwaxicolor unites members of two of greatest Zouk bands Kwak and Taxi Creole into a supergroup that features a front line of five vocalists and backing musicians, Albita the renowned vocalist

has credits include a role Broadway's Mambo Kings, eight albums and appearances worldwide.

Accommodations, hotels, homes or room rentals are updated daily in English or French on the Marie-Galante tourism website www.ot.mariegalante.com

Ferry service to Marie-Galante leaves from Pointe-à-Pitre, Air Caraïbes also flies there. Guadeloupe is also served by L'Express des Iles from Dominica.

Images from Haiti

Continued from previous page

Restoration and Transformation Pilot Project taking place in Petit Goâve, Haiti.

"Up From the Rubble" continues C2C's ongoing mission to serve as an umbrella organization that mobilizes people and resources to help build self-sufficient international communities by working with the community.

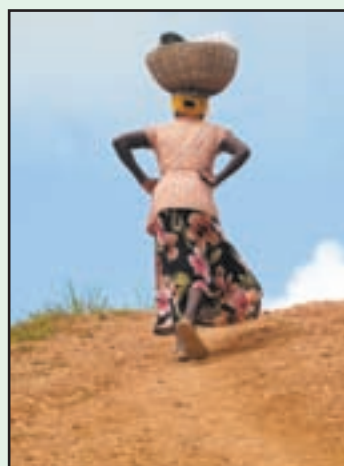
This initiative brings local Brooklyn-based businesses and institutions together in a collective effort to pool resources in support of C2C's Restoration and Transformation Pilot Project and the completion of its first initiative, a water distribution system bringing clean potable water to over 16,000 people.

"This exhibit truly captures the passion and vibrant colors that is Haiti," said Marie-Yolaine Eusebe, CEO and FireStarter of

C2C. "It is a visual journey that celebrates the spirit of a people."

Ocean Morisset is a self-taught and published photographer specializing in photojournalism and documentary photography. Ocean fancies himself a humanitarian and enjoys exposing those hidden subject matters that somehow capture the viewer's own self-reflection. A Veteran of the United State Air Force Reserve, Ocean has taught photography to youth in Havana, Cuba and in 2004 traveled to Gonaives, Haiti post Hurricane Jeanne, capturing provocative images for his photo essay "The Aftermath of Hurricane Jeanne." Images from this collection were used to launch fellow Haitian countryman Wyclef Jean's Yele Haiti foundation.

In 2010 Ocean returned to Haiti on a medical relief mission



One of the images taken by members of the C2C team revealing the natural beauty of Haiti and its people.

which afforded him the opportunity to record his experience in yet another photo essay. Earlier this year his work appeared in "A Choice of Weapon: New Renaissance Artist," a photo exhibition celebrating the 100th

anniversary of Gordon Parks.

Founded in 2010, Community2Community (C2C) is a non-profit, service organization whose focus is helping to build self-sufficient communities by working with the community. Their mission is to serve as an umbrella organization working and collaborating with individuals, agencies and other organizations to facilitate broad-based initiatives that mobilize resources to recovering international communities in support their transformation into healthier, sustainable, self-sufficient communities.

C2C has a dedicated team in Haiti supporting efforts on the local level in the coastal town of Petit Goâve, just 42 miles from Port-au-Prince.

For more information on C2C and the Haiti Restoration and Transformation Pilot Project, visit www.Community2Community.info.

Courtesy of Keith L. Forest

Superheroes unite to save the planet

"The Avengers"
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for intense violence and a drug reference.
Running time: 142 minutes
Distributor: Walt Disney Pictures

By Kam Williams

"The Avengers" is the sixth installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise launched in 2008 with "Iron Man," and followed by "The Incredible Hulk," "Iron Man 2," "Thor" and "Captain America." What makes this adventure unique is that it's the first in the series to revolve around a team of comic book superheroes.

The actors playing those

title characters reprise their roles with the exception of Edward Norton who has been replaced as The Hulk by Mark Ruffalo. Otherwise, we again have Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Robert Downey, Jr. as Iron Man, and Chris Evans as Captain America. The film also features the return of Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye and of Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, who appeared in Thor and Iron Man 2, respectively.

Since we've already met all the members of "The Avengers," director Josh Whedon doesn't have to waste time familiarizing us with their unique abilities. Instead, the plot unfolds right on the heels of the post-closing credits scene of the previous sequel which



had Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) ominously enlisting the assistance of Captain America for a dangerous mission with global ramifications.

So, it's no surprise that, at this picture's point of departure, we find Fury assembling "The Avengers." After all, as the director of the top secret espionage agency,

S.H.I.E.L.D. (an acronym for Strategic Home Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division), it is his job to protect humanity, especially from a diabolical villain bent on world domination.

In this case, that would be Thor's evil, presumably-exiled brother, Loki (Tom Hiddleston), who has managed not only to escape from

an outer space abyss on Asgard but has gotten his hands on the Tesseract, a cosmic cube containing the key to limitless, sustainable energy. With Loki en route to Earth, it falls to Fury to plan a coordinated defense of the planet.

That task proves easier said than done, since it calls for cooperation among individualistic superheroes with fragile egos who aren't used to sharing the limelight. Thus, we are treated to pre-showdown posturing when Iron Man teases Thor about both his accent and costume by asking, "Doth mother know thy wear her drapes?" Or when he sarcastically compliments Dr. Bruce Banner (aka The Hulk) by saying, "I'm a big fan of how you lose control

and turn into a giant green monster."

Of course, such witty banter subsides in favor of camaraderie once Loki arrives with his army of alien warriors called Chitauri. Each Avenger's talent comes in handy, of course, during the ensuing, eye-grabbing fight sequences, including Hawkeye's bow-and-arrow, Thor's hammer, Captain America's shield, and so forth.

Between a sophisticated script and thrill-a-minute special effects, "The Avengers" easily adds up to the best Marvel Comics screen adaptation yet. A remarkable treat which only serves to ramp-up audience expectations for the vaunted franchise's next offering, "Iron Man 3."

Independent & Foreign Films

American Animal (Unrated) Dark comedy about a terminally-ill young man (Jimmy D'Elia) who loses his sanity when he learns that his slacker roommate and constant companion (Brenda Fletcher) has just found a job. Support cast includes Mircea Monroe and Angela Sarafyan.

Beyond the Black Rainbow (R for profanity, drug use, disturbing images, sexuality and graphic violence) Futuristic sci-fi fantasy about a heavily-sedated, mute woman's (Eva Allan) attempt to escape a mind-control compound being run by a deranged doctor (Michael Rogers). With Scott Hylands, Marilyn Norry and Rondel Reynoldson.

The Color Wheel (Unrated) Dysfunctional family comedy about the sibling rivalry, which surfaces during a road trip when a just-jilted, young woman (Carlen Altman) enlists the assistance of her obnoxious brother (Alex Ross Perry) to move her belongings after a bad break-up with her college professor boyfriend (Bob Byington). With Kate Lyn Sheil, Anna Bak-Kvapil and Ry Russo-Young.

Elena (Unrated) Revenge drama about a trophy wife (Nadezhda Markina) who resorts to desperate meas-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

ures to protect her inheritance when she learns that her ailing, Sugar Daddy hubby (Andrey Smirnov) has decided to leave his entire estate to his daughter (Yelena Lyadova) from his first marriage. With Aleksey Rozin. (In Russian with subtitles)

Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story (Unrated) Bittersweet biopic about the brother of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a lieutenant colonel who died leading the 1976 raid in Entebbe, Uganda, which resulted in the successful rescue of 103 hijacked airplane passengers being held hostage by Palestinian terrorists.

Hysteria (R for sexuality) Romantic comedy, set in Victorian London, recounting the sexploits of Dr. Mortimer Granville (Hugh Dancy), the inventor of the vibrator, who landed in a love triangle with a colleague's (Jonathan Pruce) daughters (Felicity Jones and Maggie Gyllenhaal) after prescribing a regimen of pelvic massages for his

stressed out patients. With Rupert Everett, Gemma Jones and Ashley Jensen.

Lovely Molly (R for nudity, graphic sexuality, drug use, profanity, disturbing violence and grisly images) Haunted house horror flick about a newlywed (Gretchen Lodge) who finds herself spooked by ghosts after being left alone by her truck driver husband (Johnny Lewis) in the home she inherited from her late father. Support cast includes Alexandra Holden, Ken Arnold and Dan Franko.

Mansome (Unrated) Testosterone-level documentary, directed by Morgan Spuirlock, taking a penetrating look at what it means to be a man in today's less macho age marked by manscaping and metrosexuality. With commentary by Judd Apatow, Jason Bateman, Paul Rudd and Zach Galifianakis.

Never Stand Still (Unrated) Happy feet documentary, shot at the annual Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the Berkshires, interweaving inspired per-

formances with interviews conducted with legendary choreographers like Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor and Judith Jamison.

Polisse (Unrated) Cannes

Film Festival Jury Prize-winner, set in Paris, about a high-strung cop (Joey Starr) who embarks on a steamy affair with an attractive photographer (Maiwenn)

assigned to cover his Child Protection Unit. With Karin Viard, Marina Fois and Karole Rocher. (In French, Romanian, Italian and Arabic with subtitles)

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Artists Studio Tour The 2012 Flatbush Artists Studio Tour will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, noon to 6:00 p.m. in Ditmas Park, and will feature artists welcoming visitors into their homes and studios showcasing their works ranging from acrylic and oil paintings, carved sculpture, drawings, mixed media, collages, and more. Victorian Flatbush is located a few blocks south of Prospect Park. For information, visit www.flatbushartists.org.

Comedy/Variety New York based blues favorites Renee and The Derelicts (redux) will perform classic and original blues tunes at Dinosaur BBQ, 700 W 125 St., Harlem, 10:00 p.m. For information, visit www.reneandthederelictsredux.com.

Bollywood Comedy Flat Tire Productions presents a Those Indian Guys production of "D'Arranged Marriage" starring Rajeev Varma, Saturday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 20 at 5:00 p.m., at the Moka Lounge, 130-35 91 Ave., Queens. For tickets and information, call (347) 777-FLAT. Free admission to Moka Night Club after show with ticket stub (must be 21+).

Jamaica Ball QSCAN, Queens Sickel Cell Advocacy Network, Inc. invites you to the "The Jamaica Ball," proceeds from this event to benefit children and families that are affected with Sickle Cell Disease, 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. at The Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica, Queens. Tickets available at thejamaicaball.com and for information or to make a donation, call QSCAN at (718) 712-0873.

Fashion Show Madison Square Boys and Girls Club and Thomas S. Murphy Club House, present the 22nd Annual Fashion show at the Kings Plaza Shopping Center, 5100 Kings Plaza, Brooklyn, 12 noon - 3:00 p.m. For information, call Ms. Sapp at (718) 462-6100.

Garifuna Culture Celebrate the motherland (Yurumein) at Casa Yurumein, 1184 Fulton Ave., Bronx, with authentic Garifuna food for sale, music by Paula Castillo, James Lovell and other Garifuna musicians, view the Habinaha Garinagu Yurumein 2011 documentary and help support the cultural rebirth in Yurumein and be a part of the effort to make Habinaha Garinagu 2012 a reality for the children of St. Vincent. Food and music 2:00 p.m.; video 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Donation for food and video. For information, call (347) 488-4395 or (917) 714-9225.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Bronx Week Parade The 41st Annual Bronx Week Parade will feature marching bands, community groups, schools, sports teams and civic groups marching along Mosholu Parkway



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



celebrating the best of the borough, 12 noon. Reviewing stand located at Mosholu Pkwy. East at Van Cortlandt Ave. After the parade, enjoy food, arts, crafts, games and activities for kids along with a health pavilion offering free health screenings and information. For information, visit ilovethebronx.com.

Cinderella Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College, 2900 Campus Road, presents "Cinderella," 2:00 p.m. Tickets available online at www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org or at the Box Office, (718) 951-4600 ext. 22.

Cabaret N.Y. native Lionel Shockness presents songs celebrating life and every joy it brings at the legendary piano bar/restaurant Don't Tell Mama, on Restaurant Row, 343 West 46 St., Manhattan, on Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are recommended and for additional information, visit www.donttellmamanyc.com or call (212) 757-0788.

Malcolm X The N.Y. Chapter of the Nat'l. Assn. of Kawaaida Organizations presents the 43rd Annual Malcolm X Awards honoring Larry Hamm, Ali Lamont, and the late poet Louis

Reyes Rivera, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton St., Brooklyn. For information, call (718) 789-3264 or (718) 523-3312.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Jazzy Mondays Jazzy Mondays presents Sharyn Hinson and Trio. Is she the next Billie Holiday? 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at For My Sweet, 1103 Fulton St. at Claver Place, Brooklyn. RSVP to jazzymondays@gmail.com or for information, call (718) 857-1427, (917) 757-0170 or (718) 753-3302.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Film/Discussion Series The Idlewild Park Preserve presents an environmental film/discussion series featuring "PlanEat," a film focusing on excessive dependence on foods of animal origin, particularly meat and dairy and how cancer, diabetes and heart disease are related to diet, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Eastern Queens Alliance's Idlewild Park Science Learning Center Trailer, 149-20 Springfield Lane, Springfield Gardens, N.Y. Seating is limited. To pre-register, call (347) 824-2301.

Wills & Trusts NHS of East Flatbush, 2806 Church Ave., between Nostrand and Rogers avenues, Brooklyn, is holding a free seminar on wills, trusts and reverse mortgages, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To RSVP, call (718) 469-4679.

Dance Party Celebrate Brooklyn! presents the Brooklyn Bridge Park free Dance Parties at Pier 1, 2 Old Fulton St., featuring Mardi Gras in New York Harbor with Terrance Simien and The Zydeco Experience along with Jesse Lege and Bayou Brew with their traditional, foot-stomping Cajun dance hall music, 7:00 p.m. For information, visit www.streetsofnewyork411.com.

ONGOING

Journalism Intern CNS (Cole Network System, Inc.) is looking for a college student journalism intern for a paid, temp position, for Aug. 27 - Oct. 5 and Dec. 7 to Dec. 10, 2012 to work with The CNS Newsletter: The Gazette. Flexible hours, Metro-Card provided, must have excellent writing and verbal skills and the ability to work alone. To apply, mail cover letter and resume to Norman Cole, CNS, 545 Eighth Ave., Ste. 401, New York, N.Y. 10018 (this is a mailing address only).

Arts and Culture Fest The Creative Side presents an arts and culture festival featuring artists, crafters, designers and vendors with fashion items, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, home decor, ceramics, photography and crafts, Saturdays thru Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Parkside Plaza, intersection of Ocean and Parkside avenues, Brooklyn. For information, visit www.artsculturefest.com or call (347) 224-4295.

Computer Training Mount Carmel Worship and Outreach Center is holding adult and children computer training programs, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (917) 609-0909 for registration details.

Home Improvements Warmer weather is home repair weather. Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? NHS of East Flatbush can assist you. For more information on home improvement programs, call (718) 469-4679.

Foreclosure Services The Flatbush Development Corporation, NHS of East Flatbush and the Center for N.Y. City Neighborhoods are offering free foreclosure intervention services and referral for legal assistance. To schedule an appointment, call (718) 469-4679.

Financial Coaching The NHS of East Flatbush is offering The Financial Capabilities and Coaching Program focusing on help reaching goals such as paying off bills, saving for a home, improving credit scores and more. For more information, call (718) 469-4679.

Colombia's premier group at Lehman

The legendary Salsa group from Colombia, Grupo Niche, will perform at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, May 19 at 8:00 p.m.

Grupo Niche on its 30th Anniversary Tour is led by songwriter Jairo Varela. The band continues to tour the world, bringing their hot sound and celebrated rhythms to international audiences.

This concert will feature the band's signature song, "Cali pachanguero," in addition to many hits from their 10 gold, three platinum and two double platinum records.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468.

Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway.

Grupo Niche was formed in Bogotá in 1980 by songwriter, vocalist, arranger,



Grupo Niche.

and producer Jairo Varela, who began his music career at age eight with the group La Timba.

Comprised of young musicians from the state of Chocó, Grupo Niche was conceived as new, alternative Salsa with a more international style and flavor. Their first album, 1980's "Al pasito," put Colombia on the map of the world of Salsa.

As Varela broke away from existing musical structures, he also took on Afro-centric issues in all their social and ethnic implications, singing to his homeland, Chocó -- its problems, its marginal-

ity, and its poverty. 1984's No hay quinto malo featured their signature song, "Cali pachanguero."

The critically acclaimed Se pasó! was released the following year on the New York Latin Records label. After much success in Colombia, Grupo Niche soon earned international fame and in 1986 became the first Colombian orchestra to perform at Madison Square Garden, playing at the World Salsa Festival along with the world's top acts.

Beginning in the late '80s, Grupo Niche turned to romantic lyrics, leaving behind their songs about social issues. The

release of 1989's Tapando el hueco coincided with Puerto Rico's salsa romántica movement.

In March 1989, they played for more than one million people at a concert in Peru, and in September of that year they staged their first European tour, playing in France, England, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain. In 1990, the group embarked on its first Mexican tour, playing 16 concerts at large venues including the mythical Salón Tropicana.

The band has visited the United States more than 100 times, playing for hundreds of thousands of fans, and has performed all over the world.

Grupo Niche has released more than 30 albums, receiving numerous international music awards, including a 2001 nomination for a Latin Grammy Award for Album of the Year for Propuesta. Among its best known hits are "Gotas de lluvia," "Una aventura," "Han cogido la cosa," "Sin sentimiento" and the famous cumbia, "Canoa rancha."

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Crossword *by StatePoint Media, Inc.*

ACROSS

1. Felipe _____, Formula One racer
6. Holiday helper
9. *This Harvard team rows on Boston's Charles River
13. "Get _____ job!"
14. Be a witness
15. *East side of Jersey
16. Catherine Middleton's new accessory
17. ____ capita
18. *Native of Des Moines
19. Like a black-tie event
21. *In the middle of the U.S.
23. Often comes before "out"
24. 8 to Caesar
25. Rudyard Kipling novel
28. ____-de-camp
30. To produce within
35. Black tropical cuckoos
37. Elton John and Bono, e.g.
39. Lined with crystals
40. Anything half-moon shaped
41. Brother of a certain secret order
43. Largest continent
44. It usually wafts
46. Farmer's storage
47. Short for "dictionary"
48. Navy rank
50. Like #44 Across, this also wafts

52. ____ degree

53. Birdbrain
55. Small protuberance
57. *Steamboat and Old Faithful, e.g.
61. PBS street
64. German submarine destroyer
65. Philosophical system
67. "On a ____ of 1 to 10"
69. Averages
70. Water in Paris
71. Tiny amounts
72. Bent when genuflecting
73. Decay
74. Beside, archaic

DOWN

1. Dojo pad
2. *Like Mohave Desert
3. Popular cooking method for Ahi tuna
4. Hindu woman's dress
5. *Mount McKinley state
6. Oscar of sports
7. ____ Harvey Oswald
8. Nobel-winning physicist
9. Grub
10. U.S. furniture maker
11. Time periods
12. Moved or exited
15. Building side

20. Temblor or quake
22. Mad King George, or George ____
24. Particular rendering
25. *Southernmost point of U.S.
26. Contain the ashes
27. King of ancient Crete
29. Buenos ____
31. Necklace pearl, e.g.
32. Violinist's pine resin
33. Court order, e.g.
34. End of the road?
36. 18-wheeler
38. Auctioneer's exclamation
42. Not a soul
45. Ends of shoe laces
49. And not
51. *Western neighbor to #5 Down
54. Twig of a willow tree
56. Comes in bits for salads
57. Thick messy substance
58. Jet black
59. Yesteryear
60. Equal
61. Plant fungus
62. Friend from Down Under
63. Distinctive elegance
66. ____ Paolo
68. *Three ahead of PST



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'The Windies specialist one-day players will be available and are ready to make meaningful contributions during the upcoming tour of England.'

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 33

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Athletes shine at Loucks

By Robert Elkin

The 45th Annual Glenn D. Loucks Memorial Track and Field Meet, the largest in the New York met area, for high school athletes drew entries from all over the Metropolitan area, mostly from New York State with more than 150. But one can not count out the 21 schools from Connecticut, four from Maine, 10 from Massachusetts, six from New Hampshire, five from New Jersey, six from Rhode Island, and 10 from as far north as Canada.

These marked the cream of the crop from the schools, both boys and girls, competing for individual honors, and school teams vying for team honors in separate categories. Competition for the most part was so tense, exciting and close. The weather fully cooperated for the three days with athletes making both team and individual headlines on the field, as well as on the track in one of the largest meets ever assembled. Some marks broke into the all-time career list.

Some of the athletes have one or more years left in high school, and, therefore,

Continued on next page

Concerns about Test cricket

By Azad Ali

Test cricket in the West Indies is boring, according to a recent study.

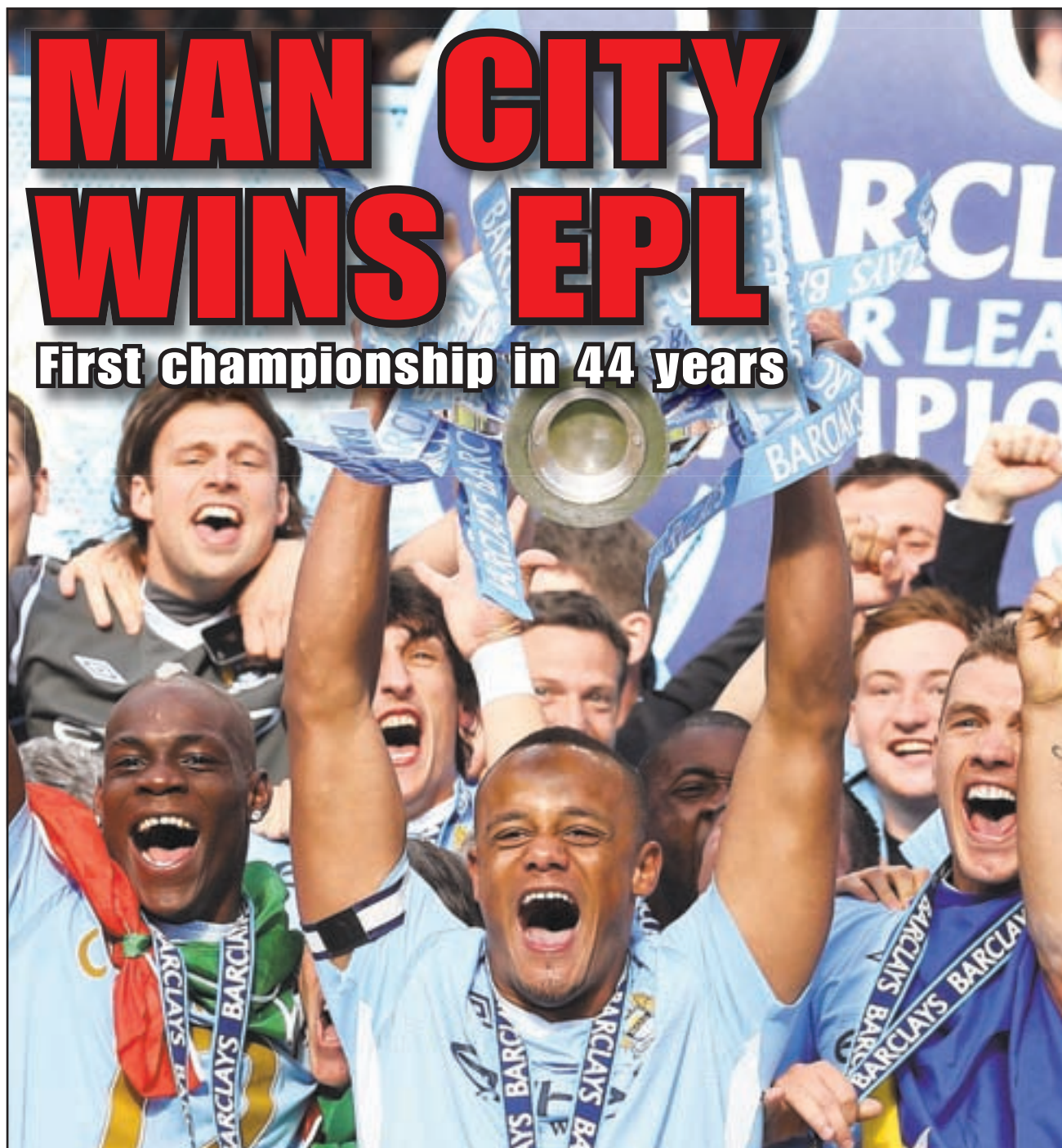
Test matches played have produced the fewest percentage of results and lowest scoring rates in world cricket since the beginning of the 2000s.

This was revealed on the website Cricinfo.com recently.

According to the research, there have been 37 results in 61 Tests in the region during the period, making for a rate of 60.65 percent is marginally lower than India (63.16 percent), New Zealand (68.63 percent) and Pakistan (68.75 percent).

Meanwhile, at the top of the list (excluding minnows Bangladesh and Zimbabwe) are Australia (86.11 percent) and England

Continued on next page



Manchester City's captain Vincent Kompany lifts the English Premier League trophy after their match against Queens Park Rangers at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England, Sunday, May 13, 2012. AP Photo/Jon Super

By Patrick Horne

There was soccer-fan euphoria in Manchester, England last Sunday, the last day of the English Premier League, but this time the excitement was created by the other Manchester team as Manchester City F.C. won the Premier

League and its first championship in 44 years. City defeated Queen's Park Rangers, 3-2, in a most nerve-racking game for City fans who sat on pins and needles throughout, coming to the edge of their seats by the last 10 minutes of the contest.

City, playing at home in the Etihad Stadium, started the game tied for first place in the League with local rivals Manchester United, but had the edge because of a superior goal difference;

Continued on next page

Man City Wins!

Continued from previous page

United was a shoo-in to beat Sunderland, which it did, 1-0, so City needed victory to lift the Cup. It struggled to penetrate the QPR defense and found itself losing, 2-1, with three minutes to play and United already secured victory.

The faces of defeat were evident throughout Etihad Stadium, and for about three minutes, United was the champion until the last two minutes when Edin Dzeko headed in the equalizer two minutes into stoppage time and with practically no time left on the clock, Sergio Kun Agüero pounced on an assist from Mario Ballotelli to crash home the winner and send the fans and everyone in Manchester into a frenzy. Pablo Zabaleta scored the first goal the contest to give City a 1-0 lead early; Gabriel Cisse and Zamora tallied for QPR.

Despite the loss, QPR, which was fighting to stave off relegation to the lower, Championship League, will remain in the Premiership, while Bolton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers and Wolves were the three teams relegated. Reading FC and Southampton were promoted to the Premiership for next season and West Ham United and Blackpool FC will meet at Wembley Stadium in London on Saturday, May 19, for the third spot to the Premiership.

Red Bulls Win

The Red Bulls (7-3-1) continued their winning ways at PPL Park in Chester (PA) with a

3-2 result over the Philadelphia Union last Sunday afternoon; the win was the New York team's fourth straight and put it atop the Eastern Conference. Goals from Joel Lindpere (17th minute), Marcus Hogersson (68th) and Kenny Cooper in the dying stages gave the visitors victory.

Lindpere continues to be productive coming out of the midfield, this time he latched onto a pass from Mehdi Ballouchy and cracked a left-footer into the upper left side of the net.

Hogersson tied the game in the second half after Lionard Pajoy (31st, 46th) gave Philadelphia the 2-1 lead early in the second half. Pajoy scored the Union's first goal to neutralize Lindpere's tally. Cooper scored his ninth goal of the season when he took advantage of mixed signals between Union goal keeper Zac MacMath and his defender, and was able to place the ball, which dropped to him, in an open net.

Philadelphia was unfortunate to have U. S. international Freddy Adu sent off in the 43rd minute after a second yellow card; Adu was the best player on the pitch for Philadelphia with his dangerous passing that sent balls through and over the Red Bulls defense. Trinidad and Tobago midfielder Keon Daniel also had a very creditable outing for the Union. Meanwhile, Ryan Meara had his rookie record snapped as his 324 minutes of goalless playing time ended. New York Red Bulls return to Red Bull Arena on Wednesday, May 23 when they host Chivas USA at 7:00 p.m.



New England Revolution forward Saer Sene (39) threads the ball past Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder Gershon Koffie (28) during their MLS soccer match in Foxborough, Mass., Saturday, May 12, 2012.
AP Photo/Stephan Savoia

MLS

The Los Angeles Galaxy's (3-5-2) struggles continue as it tied the hosts and expansion team Montreal Impact (3-5-3), 1-1, on Saturday night. It took a David Beckham free kick in the 62nd minute for the tie. A crowd of 60,860 fans witnessed the game at Olympic Stadium, the largest crowd for a professional soccer game in Canada. Davy Arnaud scored for Montreal.

Houston Dynamo christened

its new stadium Saturday night with a 1-0 win over DC United and Real Salt Lake secured a win over host Seattle Sounders by the same score line. The New England Revolution pounded the Vancouver Whitecaps to the tune of 4-1; Columbus Crew, which recently signed Trinidad and Tobago international defensive midfielder Chris Birchall, knocked off FC Dallas, 2-1; and the Chicago Fire scored a 2-1 over Sporting Kansas City.

Loucks Games

Continued from previous page

will return next spring to better their performances. Other high school athletes are still awaiting the call from colleges trying to recruit them and offering them scholarships.

Interscholastic action is not over as yet, for the schools are staging championships in their schools coming up within the next few weeks.

What a performance turned in by junior Ed Cheserek, one of the top athletes in the met area. He competes for St. Benedict's High School in New Jersey.

Cheserek put on a tremendous race and crossed the finish line in 4:09.90, the fifth fastest time in the history of the meet going back

to 1968. Cheserek's performance in the mile thrilled the fans. The meet record of 4:09.19 was not threatened, for Greg Herzog of the host school still holds it.

Three days earlier on opening day, Thursday, Cheserek anchored St. Benedict's distance medley relay team to a first place performance with a total time of 10:08.92. Cheserek's performances earned him the Outstanding Male Athlete of the Meet Award in a meet named after a former head coach at White Plains High School.

Another junior, Dan Jamieson of Windsor (Connecticut) captured the 200-meter dash in 21.31 and finished first in the semifinals (10.71) but dropped to third in 10.89 in the shorter 100-meter race. Dan is the son of Radcliff

Bowen, who was a soccer player in his native land of Jamaica, West Indies.

The 200-meter clocking for Dan, one of the top sprinters around, marks a personal best one for him.

"My start was good (in my sprints)," Dan said. My father helps me out by encouraging me to do well (in the meets).

In the 400-meter hurdles, Bay Shore's senior Kadish Roberts, whose father Michael and mother Maryann come from Trinidad, crossed the finish line first in 52.85 in a very impressive performance for the Long Island runner. This time was the fourth fastest recording in the history of the Loucks Games, behind Olympian Derrick Adkins (51.40), Rodrigues Pfister (52.41) and James Manigault, who was timed in 52.70.

"I'm happy with my win," said

Roberts, who finished second in the Penn Relays earlier in the spring. "The meet (today) was fun and good and gave us experience going against other athletes (besides our own in league meets)."

The meet drew some past outstanding athletes who were introduced during ceremonies after the morning portion of the activities or on the final or third day's action. The class of 1982 was recognized during that time. There were many officials and political and school leaders on hand and were introduced to the athletes and spectators during the course of the events.

Many of the colleges would have had some representatives on hand but they were more occupied with their own meets, as their season was coming to a close with championship events.

Concerns about Test cricket in the W.I.

Continued from previous page

(77.65 percent).

The West Indies is the only nation in which the average run rate in Tests has been less than three per over, in contrast to the 1980s during which it was the only country in which batsmen scored at a three-plus rate.

With a Rate Per Over (RPO) of 2.98, they trail Zimbabwe (3.03) and Sri Lanka (3.10) at the bottom of the list while England (3.44), Australia (3.36) and South Africa (3.30) again occupy the three top spots.

The West Indies is the only nation in which the average run rate in Tests has been less than three per over

The website was unflattering in its assessment of Caribbean wickets.

"There used to be a time when cricket in the West Indies used to be about quick pitches, which encouraged bowlers to bowl fast and batsmen to score quickly – in the 1980s the West Indies was the only region in which the average scoring rate in Test cricket was more than three runs per over.

Those were the golden days of West Indian cricket, when most of the batsmen were aggressive and bowlers bowled fast, according to the research.

"Now, cricket in the West Indies is often characterized by slow pitches and slow outfields, which means batsmen do not get value for their shots, fast bowlers don't get much out of it, and bowlers in general struggle to get batsmen out quickly."

The website noted that the recent series marked the first time since 2000 that Australia's run rate in a series was less than three runs per over.

Windies will be very competitive in ODI

The three One-Day Internationals between the West Indies and England from June 16 – 22 in England are expected to be very competitive.

The Windies specialist one-day players will be available and are ready to make meaningful contributions.

Former captain Chris Gayle will be back, along with Sunil Narine and Dwayne Bravo. Marlon Samuels is already in England. These are among 12 players from which the West Indies should have a strong final 11. Players selected to tour are: Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Bravo, Marlon Samuels, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Darren Bravo, Adrian Barath, Darren Sammy, Denesh Ramdin, Ravi Ram Paul and Kemar Roach.

The bowlers, Kemar Roach, Sunil Narine, Dwayne Bravo, Ravi Ram



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Paul and Marlon Samuels are expected to do a reasonable job.

There is a strong lineup in the batting department. Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, Dwayne Bravo, Chris Gayle, Marlon Samuels and Darren Bravo should be able to score many runs. Adrian Barath will be getting the luxury of an experienced, swash-buckling opener, which should improve his confidence.

Kieron Pollard Should Be Given A Stint At Test Cricket

Trinidad and Tobago all-rounder Kieron Pollard should be given the opportunity to play Test cricket.

Pollard is internationally known for his hard-hitting batting and brilliant fielding. Although he is well known as a One-Day International player and a Twenty20 specialist, that does not mean that he cannot play Test cricket and be successful.

Pollard should be tested in Tests because the West Indies is in need of two attacking batsmen in the middle order. West Indies batsmen in the middle order are too defensive, thus causing the opposing bowlers to stay on top.

Some form of aggression must be used by the middle-order batsmen to help the West Indies reach winning totals. Pollard will be an asset to the West

Indies cricket team and a great boost to the batting. He has sufficient experience to make the necessary adjustments for Test cricket.

The selectors cannot have such a fine cricketer sit idle when he should be meaningfully participating in Test cricket. The selectors must make the call to Pollard. It is for him to accept or refuse.

Australia's David Warner who many thought was only a Twenty20 and One-Day player has turned out to be a valuable player for his Test team, with two Test centuries already.

The selectors ought to do what is correct and beneficial to the team. Apart from the return of Chris Gayle, the Windies batting needs a boost.

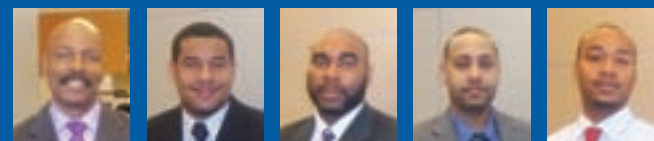
Former West Indies Captain Chris Gayle returns to the team.

AP Photo/ Eranga Jayawardena



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Make a splash at Mount Vernon YMCA

The USA Swimming Foundation, in conjunction with Mayor Ernest D. Davis of Mount Vernon, N.Y., the Mount Vernon YMCA, and the Mount Vernon Department of Recreation, will hold "Make a Splash: Mount Vernon," on Saturday, May 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mount Vernon YMCA.

Hosted by Olympic Silver Medalist Maritza Correia, the community-oriented street fair and swimming instruction event will be held during Memorial Day weekend, a time in which many pools around the country will open to the public.

Correia will promote the important message of water safety education and accessibility of learn to swim programs with a focus on what programs are available in the greater Mount Vernon area.

A member of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team, Correia is the first African-American female to make a U.S. Olympic swim team, and the first to earn a medal in swimming at the Olympic games.

"Events like 'Make a Splash: Mount Vernon' further the pri-



Maritza Correia.

mary goals of USA Swimming and the USA Swimming Foundation, which is to grow the base of the sport of swimming and promote the importance of water safe-

ty education," said Talia Mark, USA Swimming's Multicultural Marketing Manager. "Because of this country's sobering drowning statistics—that 10 people drown

every day in the U.S. and that 60-70 percent of African American and Hispanic children don't know how to swim—it is of the utmost importance to hold events like this that not only expose these facts but aim and lay the groundwork to change them."

All Mount Vernon and surrounding community-area families are encouraged to attend "Make a Splash: Mount Vernon" on Saturday, May 26, 2012. On this day, a street festival will feature local and national vendors (U.S. Army, Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon, Golden Krust, Top Apple Fruit and Juice Bar, Mount Vernon Hospital, among others), several interactive displays for children of all ages, and will also give families an opportunity to get in the water and learn from swim instructors and Olympian Correia in the pool at the Mount Vernon YMCA.

"This is such a great opportunity for the residents of Mount Vernon," said Mayor Ernest D. Davis. "Our young people will have an opportunity to meet a person who through hard work and dedication was able to be a part of history."

The following statistics demonstrate the need for action and the importance of "Make a Splash: Mount Vernon":

Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children between the age of one and 14. (Centers for Disease Control, 2003)

60-70 percent of African-American and Hispanic kids do not know how to swim (USA Swimming Foundation / University of Memphis 2010)

Ten people drown in the United States every day. (CDC)

Two-thirds of all drownings occur between May and August. (Orange County California Fire Authority)

Approximately 75 percent of child drownings occur because of a lapse of adult supervision of less than five minutes.

Children in the ethnic minority are nearly three-times more likely to drown than their Caucasian peers. (CDC, 2003)

For more information, and to get connected in your area with one of the over 520 Make a Splash partners across the country, please visit www.makeasplash.org.




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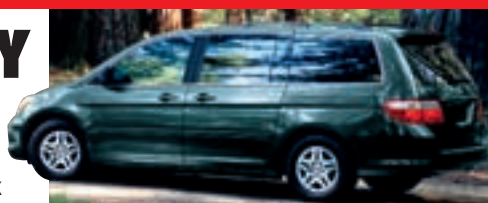
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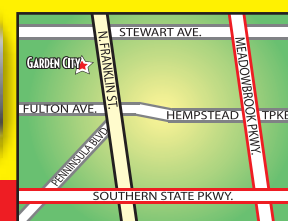
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All children deserve a safe, happy life — including the more than 400,000 American youth in foster care. Young people in foster care especially need nurturing adults on their side because their own families are in crisis and unable to care for them.

Each May, we salute the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers. Thanks to these unsung heroes, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will either safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families.

But some children in foster care are less fortunate. Most communities across the country are urgently seeking more everyday people to help these youth overcome their troubled childhoods and realize their full potential. No matter what their age, every young person in foster care benefits from a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in his life.

The number and diversity of people who were once in foster care might surprise you. In fact, there are an estimated 12 million foster care alumni in the U.S. representing all walks of life. Behind this startling statistic are countless stories of children who grew up to be thriving adults, while others struggled with life's challenges all alone. The difference between triumph and tragedy is very clear. Success stories come about when someone takes the time to offer comfort, provide support, give advice, or simply share a milestone moment with a youngster enduring a difficult family situation.

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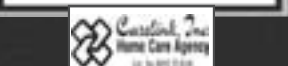
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The market for certification is larger than ever, with employers placing continued emphasis on advanced skills in global business management, project management, information technology, skilled trades, and other traditional fields to more modern credentials in sustainable and green energy or next generation design.

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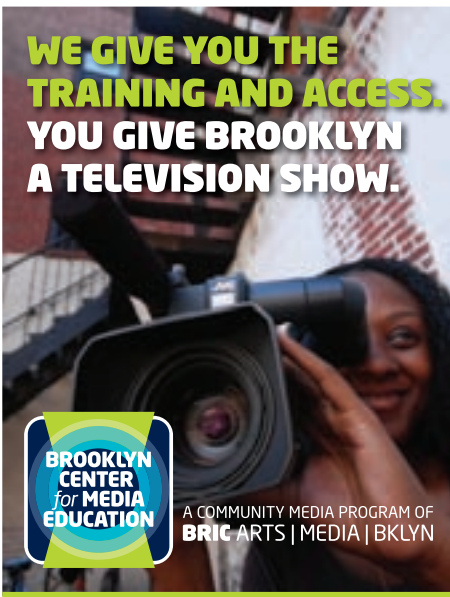
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