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Plan to tackle poverty

By Nelson A. King

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has launched the second call for proposals for civil society organizations that carry out activities focused on poverty reduction and social inclusion and development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The announcement was made in Panama City, Panama by Yasuhiro Atsumi, the bank's executive director, for the government of Japan, at the IDB annual meet

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Water is key to tourism

By Peter Richards

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 24 2013 (IPS) - Tourism, widely regarded as the mainstay of Caribbean economies, is being challenged to remain sustainable in an era of climate change and its impact on beaches, rivers and other attractions.

Carlos Vogeler, regional director for the Americas United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), speaking at a four-day Sustainable Tourism Development conference held here last week, said that World Tourism Day on Sep. 27 will be dedicated to tourism and water.

"We have to pay close attention

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JACK WARNER UNDER FIRE



In this June 2, 2011 file photo, suspended FIFA executive Jack Warner speaks during a news conference held shortly after his arrival at the airport in Port-of-Spain, in his native Trinidad and Tobago.

AP Photo/Shirley Bahadur, file

Questions over his finances

By Bert Wilkinson

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said she decided to accept the resignation of controversial former National Security Minister Jack Warner after speaking with the U.S. State Department about a federal probe into his international financial dealings while he was a top world soccer executive during a recent trip to the U.S. capital.

Warner, 69, who until this week considered the second most powerful person in the Trinidad and Tobago government after the prime minister, quit his cabinet position and that of chairman of the ruling United National Congress (UNC) in disgrace less than a week after an international investigatory team released a damning report pointing to the alleged siphoning off of millions of dollars into private Warner family companies when he was a vice-president of the world soccer body, FIFA.

Warner who will now become

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

International Press Institute executive director will lead a six-party delegation to six Caribbean countries later this month as part of the institute's regional campaign for the repeal of defamation laws.

The institute will visit Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Curacao, the Dominican Republic and Antigua and Barbuda.

In a press release, the institute said it would seek to win support from journalists, editors, civil society organizations and government and non-governmental officials for the repeal of criminal defamation and insult laws, as well as discuss protection for journalists in Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and Suriname.



In Trinidad and Tobago, "the delegation will encourage further progress on efforts to modernize the country's defamation laws, as well as consolidate partnerships, including training initiatives, with both the Trinidad government and national media houses that began with IPI's 2012 World Congress in Port of Spain," the release said.

Antigua

The United States says despite recent improvements as a "significant" offshore center, Antigua and Barbuda "remains susceptible" to money laundering.

In its 2013 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report on money laundering and financial crimes, the U.S. Department of State said that Antigua and Barbuda's status stems from its offshore financial sector and Internet gaming industry.

"Illicit proceeds from the transshipment of narcotics and from financial crimes occurring in the United States are laundered in Antigua and Barbuda," the report stated.



Haitian squatters on the move

A woman carries her belongings as she is evicted from a camp that was set up for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake near the national stadium in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, April 22, 2013. See story on page 33.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

During the past year, it said the Office of National Drug Control and Money Laundering Policy (ONDCP) in Antigua had "compiled evidence that money laundering related to drug trafficking takes place through local financial institutions."

According to the State Department, the ONDCP's analysis shows that "criminals abuse the system and financial institutions in some instances, fail to apply sufficiently rigorous due diligence in relation to transactions that should be seen as questionable."

The report said the funds involved include Eastern Caribbean dollars "traced to the sale of local property by at least one person US authori-

ties identified as trafficking drugs through Antigua and Barbuda to U.S. territory."

The report said Antigua and Barbuda receives approximately US\$2.8 million annually from license fees and other charges from the industry.

Guyana

Authorities in Guyana say 10 citizens have been selected to form a panel charged with helping improve the South American country's police force.

National Security Minister Clement Rohee says the panel was created based on recommendations that civilians should administer certain police functions such as project coordination and strategic planning.

The selected panel includes former police officers.

The announcement comes amid criticism that the 3,500-strong police force is inefficient, overly bureaucratic and corrupt.

Rohee said Cabinet will review the selections and make a final announcement later this month.

St. Lucia

Officials from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) recently met in St Lucia to examine the issue of credible data from social development programs to fur-



ther inform policies for reducing or eliminating juvenile delinquency in the sub-region.

The OECS Secretariat's Juvenile Justice Reform Project, which is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is collaborating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNICEF hosted the four-day workshop which aimed to provide participants with the methodology and tools for measuring the effect of juvenile justice programs.

Project Coordinator of the OECS Juvenile Justice Reform Project Dwight Calixte believes the effective Juvenile Justice Information system can ultimately influence better resource allocation and management and with greater fiscal responsibility member states can create a better environment that may contribute to economic development.

Through a coordinated approach, Calixte said data from the juvenile justice information system will bring all such agencies together to allow them to look at where they have invested, what will be the ultimate outcome of the program that they are undertaking and how far they have reached those targets to help ensure that all juveniles are diverted away from the court system.

St. Vincent

Teenage pregnancy continues to be a major concern for the Ministry of Health, with eight girls between the ages of 11 and 14 years giving birth in 2012, Health Minister Clayton Burgin told Parliament recently.

He said that teenage pregnancy remains high even as the nation recorded a constant decrease in the number of



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Water erosion at Carriacou, Grenada.

Photo credit: Peter Richards/IPS

Water is key

Continued from cover

because it is our very success which can threaten our most valuable assets.” -- CTO Chair Beverly Nicholson-Doty

The goal is to shine a spotlight on water both as an asset and as a resource and on the actions needed to face up to the water challenge.

“Water is one of tourism’s main assets. Each year, millions of people travel around the world to enjoy water destinations both inland and in coastal areas and Caribbean destinations play a key role in this,” Vogeler said.

“Water is also one of tourism’s most precious resources, and as one of the largest economic sectors in the world, it is the responsibility of the tourism industries to take a leadership role and ensure companies and destinations invest in adequate water management throughout the value chain.

“If managed sustainably, tourism can bring benefits to the national and local communities and support water preservation,” Vogeler added.

In his message for World Tourism Day 2012, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recalled that “one of the world’s largest economic sectors, tourism, is especially well-placed to promote environmental sustainability, green growth and our struggle against climate change through its relationship

with energy.”

Vogeler told IPS that UNWTO has been supporting better energy use in the tourism sector for years.

“We have been thrilled with the response we received from the international tourism community,” he said.

“The hotel industry accounts for 21 percent of the carbon emissions from tourism and in 2008, UNWTO launched the Hotel Energy Solutions Project for the accommodation sector and today we can provide hoteliers across the world with a free electronic software to assess their energy consumption and propose them the most profitable investment alternatives in terms of energy efficiency and renewable energies.”

The Sustainable Tourism Development conference was facilitated by the region’s tourism development agency, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO).

Chairman Beverly Nicholson-Doty says devoting resources to develop and maintain a sustainable tourism industry for the future has a very strong potential for a high return on investment.

She told IPS that as one of the most tourism dependent regions in the world, it is crucial to ensure Caribbean residents and visitors fully understand that the preservation of its natural resources will determine its success in the future.

Top Tourism award winners

By Johnson Johnrose

For the second consecutive year, Guyana has emerged as the biggest winners at the 2013 Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)/Travel-Mole Sustainable Tourism Awards, winning three of the six awards at the annual ceremony held recently at the Hatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The 2013 awards comprised six categories covering all aspects of sustainability; from overall excellence, to accommodation, community, heritage and biodiversity.

The Caribbean Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Award was won by Guyana’s Karanambu Lodge Inc., an eco-tourist destination providing guests with the opportunity to experience the wildlife of Karanambu.

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company copped the Destination Stewardship Award, with Conservation International Guyana receiving special mention in this category. Guadeloupe’s AQUARIUM de la Guadeloupe; Aruba’s Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort; and Sandals Resorts International were also commended in this category.

Winner of the Sustainable Accommodation Award was Tryall Club and Villas in Jamaica where members and guests enjoy the beauty of nature in its many forms: from lush hillsides and



Delegates and award winners at CTO 2013.

Photo Credit: Caribbean Tourism Organization

vibrant seascapes to abundant plant life and local species. Almost Paradise Cottages and Restaurant in Grenada; Community and Tourism Services Ltd., Guyana; and Accra Beach Hotel and Spa in Barbados received special mention.

The Community Benefit Award was won by Bowden Pen Farmers’ Association in Jamaica, a community-based organization in the Upper Rio Grande Valley in the eastern parish of St. Thomas with a membership of 27 people who are divided into two livelihood streams: agriculture and tourism. Guyana’s Aranaputa Community Based Tourism and The Bahamas Cape

Eleuthera Island School were also highly commended.

National Trust of Guyana took home the Heritage Protection Award for its work in preserving and promoting the nation’s patrimony so that present and future generations will access and enjoy the richness of Guyana’s heritage. The National Art Gallery and Educulture Bahamas Ltd. both of The Bahamas were also recognized in this category.

The Biodiversity Award went to the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society with the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust; Atlantis Paradise Island in The Bahamas and the Asso-

ciation Evasion Tropicale Guadeloupe all receiving special mention in the category.

In 2012, Guyana won the Caribbean Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Award, the Community Benefit Award and the Biodiversity Conservation Award.

The submissions were judged by an esteemed panel of tourism specialists: Ena Harvey, the hemispheric specialist for agro tourism at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Seleni Matus, the senior advisor on destinations at Sustainable Travel International and Gail Henry, the CTO’s sustainable tourism product specialist.

U.S. court limits marijuana deportations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled in favor of a longtime resident of the United States from Jamaica who was deported from the United States over possession of a small amount of marijuana.

The justices said in a 7-2 decision that Adrian Moncrieffe should have had the opportunity to contest his deportation.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in her opinion for the court that marijuana offenses must involve either the sale of the drug or possession of more than a small amount to count as serious



Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

enough to warrant automatic deportation.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented.

Moncrieffe had lived legally in the United States

since he was 3. In 2008, police pulled him over and found 1.3 grams of marijuana in his car, the equivalent of two or three marijuana cigarettes, Sotomayor said. He faced the charge of possession of marijuana with an intent to distribute, which under Georgia law encompasses a range of conduct from social sharing to distribution of larger amounts.

Moncrieffe accepted a plea with no jail time in which the charge would be expunged if he complied with his probation. Two years later, immigration agents jailed him and began deportation proceedings, citing the mari-

juana arrest. For deportation purposes, it was as if Moncrieffe had been a major drug dealer.

In the government’s eyes, Moncrieffe’s crime was serious enough to count as an “aggravated felony” and that it fell into a category that made his deportation automatic and deprived even the attorney general of the ability to step in and cancel it.

But Sotomayor said that under immigration law, a conviction that “fails to establish that the offense involved either remuneration or more than a small amount of marijuana” is not an aggravated felony.

Warner's departure

Continued from cover
 a governing party parliamentary backbencher, said this week he will give a full account of his dealings to the assembly when it meets on Friday and to his political constituency of Chaguanas a day before.

His departure from government was welcomed across the political divide and the business community in Trinidad as even the prime minister said that government was glad to see the back of him, as daily media reports about his financial dealings and the political fallout from such had become too tough a political cross the bear.

"After a careful, meticulous review of the facts brought before me, having just returned, you will remember I was in Washington and I met with the State Department, and having come back from that visit and meeting with my colleagues, counter-balancing the interest of the Cabinet and having considered all of this I accepted the res-

ignation of Minister Warner as Minister of National Security," Persad-Bissessar said.

The fact that the issue

Will he bounce back from his most recent humiliation?

was raised with the Obama administration appears to lend credence to local and international media reports that Warner is being investigated by the FBI and that his two older sons who are in Florida are also under federal probe and are cooperating with agents about their family's business connections with international finance connected to FIFA activities over decades.

The former works and transport minister and leading UNC financier, has hardly traveled out of Trinidad since he was forced to resign from FIFA two years ago apparently for fear of arrest by Interpol or U.S. agents.

Warner's His downfall

was triggered and hastened by the cash for votes deal that exploded in his face at home in Trinidad when he hosted then Asian soccer chief Mohamed bin Hammam in Port of Spain at a special regional congress where Hammam was known to have doled out brown envelopes with \$40,000 each to help them vote for him for the top FIFA position.

During recent UNC internal elections, Warner pulled in more than 16,000 votes, sealing his place as the UNC boss and reiterating perceptions that he is one of the island's most popular but not necessarily now, most respected politicians.

How he will bounce back from his most recent humiliation and whether he will face time in a jail overseas is left to be seen, but for now the nation is awaiting words from his mouth as to the history of his financial dealings.

Meanwhile Trinidadians expect "fireworks" in Parliament Friday, as Warner faces questions from opposition parliamentarians, according to one local news source.

Poverty reduction plan

Continued from cover
 ing, attended by about 200 delegates.

The call is for projects that support development through sustainable solutions in education, social protection, gender and rural community development in vulnerable communities in the 26 borrowing countries of the region.

According to the IDB, winning organizations will be awarded a total of US\$5 million in non-refundable technical cooperation; each project will receive between US\$500,000 and US\$1 million.

The funds come from the Japan Special Fund for Poverty Reduction administered by the bank. Proposals must be submitted before May 15, 2013 through IDB's website.

"We believe civil society organizations that have key technical capacity and community reach are natural operational partners for the IDB and in that they can provide innovative solutions and participative meth-

ods to solving development problems and in a sustainable manner", said Roberto Vellutini, vice president for countries at the IDB.

During the meeting, he said opinions were exchanged and presentations of experiences and proposals from civil society, governments, private sector and IDB were made regarding the creation and implementation of innovative partnerships for sustainable, inclusive development.

In their role of social leaders and public figures, the panelists discussed lessons learned and best practices in projects with high social impact.

The IDB said Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are key partners in the development of the region, adding that it "highly values" the contribution these organizations make as technical experts, knowledge generators, project implementors, defenders of vulnerable communities and promoters of transparency.

IDB said it works direct-

ly with CSOs in the execution of projects that impact development. In this regard, it said organizations have contributed greatly to IDB's work, and with their technical contributions.

The Japanese trust funds are the result of the cooperation and contribution efforts between IDB and Japan for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IDB said the resources of the Japanese Trust Funds have been directed to support small countries with few resources in social sectors, such as the environment, infrastructure, and productive activities.

The IDB said the call for proposals is specifically related to Community Development Programs of the Japan Special Fund for Poverty Reduction. "This fund has an ample trajectory in the implementation of community development programs in varied sectors of many countries with the contribution of many local community development organizations," it said.

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Grenada education system shows progress

By Nelson A. King

The World Bank says Grenada's educational system has significantly improved in recent years because of more classrooms and better trained teachers under an education initiative.

"Between 2004 and 2011, Grenada improved both the equity of access and quality of its secondary education program," said the Washington-based financial institution in a statement on April 17.

With its support, the World Bank said the "Grenada Education Development Project" "successfully expanded secondary schools, with the addition of 420 school places, increased enrollment in three underserved areas by an average of 10 percentage points, provided instructional materials, trained counselors and teachers, and helped to increase the Caribbean Examinations Council passes by 6 percentage points."

Before 2004, the World Bank said access to education in Grenada was "inequitable with transition rates to secondary education in the three underserved parishes averaging 51 percent.

"The quality of secondary education was deficient, teach-

ers' qualifications were poor, and instructional materials were not sufficient to support student-centered learning approaches," it said.

"Some secondary schools were overcrowded," it added. "Student violence in schools contributed to high dropout rates."

The World Bank said the "Grenada Education Development Project" supported priorities identified in the Strategic Plan for Education and Development, which sought to achieve universal secondary coverage.

It said the plan focused on improving the quality of learning, in particular in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

It also concentrated on school improvement, through construction and rehabilitation of education infrastructure following Hurricane Ivan, as well as student-led school improvement projects.

The bank said the project contributed to "improved equity of access and quality of secondary education." It said key outcomes include improvement of transition rates to secondary education in the proportion of students sitting Common Entrance Examinations in the three underserved parishes

by an average of 10 percentage points between 2004 and 2008.

The bank said there is also improvement in the proportion of students passing at least five subjects, including Mathematics and English, at the Caribbean Examinations Council, from 13 percent in 2004 to 19 percent in 2008.

It said introduction of a new curriculum policy, "which is better aligned with the Caribbean Examinations Council, and meets the diversified learning needs of students," is a key factor in the enhanced education system in Grenada. In addition, the bank said improvement of the availability of textbooks and other instructional materials for 3,000 students, and placement of trained counselors and education officers, contributed to improvements in education.

The World Bank said about 2,000 students benefited from the increased number of schools and set-up of school shades and canteens.

It said teachers also benefit-

ed from training in literacy and numeracy and the increased availability of resources, and that students developed a greater interest in mathematics and reading.

"The project reiterates government commitment to reforms and initiatives addressed under the project, many of which have been institutionalized under the strong leadership of the Ministry of Education," the statement said.

"Grenada continues to participate actively in the review of the Education Strategy by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which will guide future development of education in the region," it added. "Grenada is also addressing the challenges of school infrastructure maintenance through a monthly subvention to schools."

The World Bank said it provided funding to the tune of US\$8 million to the "Grenada Education Development Project" in 2004.

In 2008, it said an additional US\$1.9 million grant was provided to allow for implementation of activities that had been curtailed when funds were reallocated to address the emergency rehabilitation following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

Prez Maduro reshuffles Cabinet

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Newly elected Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro has shuffled his Cabinet, putting allies of late president Hugo Chavez in positions to tackle pressing problems including widespread power outages and double-digit inflation.

Maduro tapped Jesse Chacon to take charge of government initiatives aimed at upgrading Venezuela's power grid, which has been plagued with problems stemming from lack of investment and maintenance.

Many Venezuelans are fed up with blackouts that have been occurring for years around the South American country.

Maduro also announced late Sunday that Nelson Merentes, who had served as president of the central bank, would take the helm at the finance ministry.

Merentes will face the daunting task of reducing inflation, which reached topped 20 percent last year.

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Barbados establishes ties with Morocco

By Clyde Jones

Barbados and the Kingdom of Morocco formally established diplomatic relations on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at a ceremony at the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations.

The signing took place in New York at the Morocco Mission, 866 Second Ave., Manhattan.

A joint communiqué to this effect signed by the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, Joseph Goddard, and his Moroccan counterpart, Mohammed Loulichki.

During the ceremony, Ambassadors Goddard and Loulichki held talks on bilateral issues.

Ambassador Goddard welcomed the signing of the joint communiqué as the first step in developing closer cooperation between Barbados and the Kingdom of Morocco in areas of mutual interest.

The joint communiqué signifies the establishment of economic, trading (rum prod-



Morocco Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki (left) exchanges greetings with Barbados Ambassador Joseph Goddard after establishing diplomatic ties.

Photo by Clyde Jones

ucts, International financial business, ship registry, tourism and cultural industries) between the Kingdom of Morocco and Barbados.

In addition, said Ambassador Goddard: "It also entails improved multilateral relations as well as engagement in cultural exchanges and generally to deepen bilateral relations."

According to Joyce Bourne, deputy representative for Barbados, "The communiqué expresses the desire of governments of Barbados and Morocco to establish diplomatic relations in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, guided by the principles and objectives of the United Nations."

Election council to audit recent Venezuela vote

By Frank Bajak & Michael Weissenstein

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's electoral council announced Thursday night that it would audit the 46 percent of the vote not scrutinized on election night in a concession to opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, who said he believed the stolen votes that cost him the presidency are among the unaudited.

"We are where we want to be," Capriles, looking satisfied but wary, told a news conference after the announcement. "I think I will have the universe of voters needed to get where I want to be."

Capriles had demanded a full vote-by-vote recount

but said he could live with the National Electoral Council's ruling, an apparent turnaround for President-elect Nicolas Maduro, whose government had looked all week to be digging in its heels.

Maduro, the late President Hugo Chavez's anointed successor, is being inaugurated on Friday and was in Lima, Peru, on Thursday night for an emergency meeting of South American leaders to discuss his country's electoral crisis. "We know where the problems are," said Capriles, referring to the votes cast in the 12,000 voting machines that council President Tibisay Lucena said would be audited beginning next week and would take a

month to complete.

The 40-year-old state governor called on his supporters to back down from confrontation and play music, preferably salsa, instead of banging on pots, as they have been nightly all week since the council ratified Maduro's victory in order to protest what they considered a stolen ballot.

Venezuela's opposition had been battered for years by Chavez and many say political repression has only increased under Maduro.

Capriles said he will insist that every single vote receipt be counted and compared to voter registries as well as to voting machine tally sheets. In announcing the audit, Lucena did not say whether authorities would do that.

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Too much emphasis on high-stakes tests

By John Liu

This week, New York City students in grades 3 through 8, with their No. 2 Ticonderoga pencils nervously in hand, struggled through the math portion of the annual New York State tests. Once again, these scores -- along with their English Language Test results from last week, will determine crucial educational outcomes in their lives.

In this elementary- and middle-school equivalent of "who will live and who will die," these tests often decide whether a child can advance to the next grade, be held back or be required to attend summer school.

But this high-stakes testing has enormous implications for teachers and entire school communities as well. Mayor Bloomberg has repeatedly and publicly called for teachers to be evaluated based on these test scores. And his Department of Education has closed down more than 100 New York City public schools predominantly because their students did not perform well on the high-stakes tests. All this, despite the fact that high-stakes testing results have been criticized as unreliable.

Tests are an important measure of student knowledge and the success that a teacher has had in getting concepts across to his or her class. But they are by no means the only way to measure teacher performance. Report cards that cover an entire quarter's performance and sev-

eral month's worth of teacher commentary are also good evaluators.

High-stakes tests have become problematic because they now hold such a heavy sway in determining a child's, a teacher's and even a school's future. Yet they occur so infrequently as to be obviously susceptible to a bad day, a stomach-ache or getting up on the wrong side of the bed.

The New York State tests in Math and English Language Arts are given over a two-week period once a year. The New York City Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHAT), which determines which students get selected to attend one of the city's elite public high schools, is given on one day every winter.

The SATs have taken on too big a role in deciding whether a student will attend a good college. Too much power is invested in these tests and the price that our students, educators, and school communities pay because of their outsized influence is embarrassingly high.

I favor more frequent, low-stakes testing: the Friday spelling test with papers folded in half and a list of 10 words, five on each side, that are put on the black board the previous Monday; the history pop quiz that gets handed out as the high schoolers walk into their classroom. How about the impossible math problem up on the board that takes an entire period to unravel? These are all

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DREAM Act doesn't go far enough

By Bertha Lewis

"Today's Immigration Bill fails so many in the Black Immigrant population and we must make changes now, as history has taught us that once this Bill goes to the house, it is going to get worse not better," Bertha Lewis, President of The Black Institute said. "Our communities will not thrive under this new compromise because of the DREAM Act provision, backlogs and triggers, and the elimination of the Diversity Visa Program. This first attempt at Comprehensive Immigration Reform is a valiant effort. But, it is clear that there is a lot of work ahead. Immigration Reform cannot be comprehensive nor common sense if it is exclusive and unfair."

• The DREAM Act provision is a step in the right direction. However, the Bill states that one must enter the U.S. before the age of 16 and have completed high school in the U.S. to qualify for the Dream Act and be put on

What is most alarming is the total elimination of the diversity visa program.

an expedited pathway to citizenship. This leaves out many Black Immigrant youth dependents who came to the US with their parents after the age of 16 and who finished high school in their home countries before coming to the US. These undocumented individuals, many of whom came to the US legally with their parents and fell out of status, should also be put on an expedited pathway to citizenship.

• This bill proposes a 13-year wait to become a citizen. However, this is after the borders are secured, one of the three triggers imposed in the legislation by Senator Marco Rubio which will take at least five years; hence the path to citizenship will be

a minimum of 18 years. This is a multibillion-dollar task even though the White House has consistently argued 'our borders are more secure than ever.' This indefinite length of time is unacceptable and far too long especially for those who have been stuck in the backlog system for 10+ years. This is a call for efficiency and an expedient timeline; a heightened effort needs to be made to make the administrative process of our Immigration system just.

• However, what is most alarming is the total elimination of the diversity visa program. The United States makes available 50,000 Diversity Visas (DV) annually to individuals from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Immigrants from Africa benefit the most from this program, with over 25% of African immigrants entering the US through the DV program in 2010.

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Earth Day lessons for humanity

By Kathleen Rogers

If you have any sense of wonder or faith in humanity, you would have to agree that Earth Day is an extraordinary event. It combines the functions of educator, movement builder and the largest public service project in the world. More than 1 billion people from almost every single country on earth will take an action in service to our planet.

Hands down, Earth Day is the largest secular event in the world -- and more people join in every year. Men, women and children will haul garbage, clean up coral reefs and mountain trails, show movies, sign petitions, march to solve the climate crises, hold town

hall meetings to plan a better future, and rally to save the great apes, dwindling tigers, embattled elephants and other threatened species. More than 100 million schoolchildren around the world will learn about the importance of clean air and water; thousands of federal, state, and local governments will issue reports about their environmental achievements and records and make pledges to improve their environmental performance and invest in green technology; and tens of thousands of clergy members will give sermons about the importance of protecting God's creation.

In short, Earth Day participants not only get a lot done, they also

demonstrate that human beings everywhere are driven by their faith, their conscience, their sense of duty, or by a moral imperative to save the planet. It is staggering to think about 1 billion people working together in a collective action.

Much is being written these days about the first Earth Day and the need to replicate the power of April 22, 1970, when 20 million people in the U.S. took to the streets to protest the ravages of the industrial revolution, followed quickly by landmark environmental laws and regulations, and accompanied by a shift in political fortunes of those who stood in the

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PUBLISHER: Clifford Luster
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ralph D'Onofrio
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kenton Kirby
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams

Contributing Writers: Azad Ali, Roderick J. Broome, Fabian Burrell, Tangerine Clarke, Robert Elkin, Patrick Horne, Nelson King, Donna Lamb, Tequila Minsky, Vinette K. Pryce, George H. Whyte, Bert Wilkinson, Lloyd Kam Williams

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

Gun-rights bullies can't have the last word

“Not this time,” we confidently said here a few months ago, following the slaughter in Newtown that incredulously included those helpless young innocents. We were quite convinced that there was enough of a collective sense of decency in the legislative branch in Washington to take a principled stand against the madness that has surrounded the gun ownership issue in this country. So, a horror of horrors it was recently, seeing the disgraceful conduct in the Senate that brought about defeat of background checks and other measures, causing majority leader Harry Reid to suspend deliberations on the gun control issue.

What a commingling of mood swings wash over us, resulting from what's done or not done at the apex of power in these United States. A couple of outsize crazies create mayhem at the end of the Boston Marathon, and the marshalling of public and private resources nails them in a matter of days, bringing the nation to a comfortable place, somewhat at peace with itself and proud, after the initial revulsion. All of this, however, comes blended in, sharing calendar space, with folks wondering who are these characters in Washington who could so brazenly thwart the

wishes of an overwhelming majority of citizens supportive of such no-brainer items as background checks for firearms purchases and other common-sense measures?

Who votes against so self-evidently useful a provision as looking into the profile of anyone seeking to own a gun? And why? Is it simply because the NRA shells for the gun industry issue an edict which the supposedly independent-minded exemplars of the lawmaker elite countermand on pain of utter destruction? Charles Grassley, the Iowa Republican, came up with what he no doubt thought was clever rationalization for his “no” vote: criminals do not now submit to background checks; they won't submit to expanded checks down the road. So because of a perceived scenario in which “criminals” won't be willing participants, all other would-be gun owners of questionable status have earned themselves a pass. Give us a break, senator, that's just a crock. But probably good for another handsome campaign contribution, courtesy the gun lobby.

The United States Senate gets touted as the foremost deliberative body in the country, in the world, even. There are times, though,

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

when a quizzical reaction to this hype is much in order. As with the good old filibuster routine – someone's brainchild that, experience has largely shown over the years, should have been still-born. Debate on the gun control measures was a target for filibustering, but enough members apparently thought this was beyond-the-pale despicable to ensure clearing that hurdle. But almost as offensive as the filibuster move was agreement between the parties to designate the legislation as requiring 60 votes for passage. Such maneuvers, indicative of an embrace of gun-law reform that must be in many instances quite tepid, only serve to remind us that it wasn't too long ago, until Newtown, that gun violence as a matter of national concern was fixed in thumbs-down position in Washington.

With the Senate treating us to what the president called “a shameful day in Washington,” we cannot

but feel, anew, for the kin of Newtown victims who, even with last December's hurt still raw, bravely joined the front lines, determined to make losers of the gun-rights loonies. Others, too, who had suffered personal loss in earlier episodes of gun carnage, showed up to be counted. They would be present to hear a U.S. senator pretty much dismiss them with a rap about emotion having no place in making policy. The gun-rights bullies have office holders in tow, evidently programmed to spout the same hardline, insensitive rhetoric, in league with stuff out of the NRA playbook.

Those who have known the ravages of gun violence up close obviously have a true comrade-at-arms in Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The mayor gives every indication of being committed to spare no effort in pursuit of sensible laws governing the availability of firearms. Bloomberg's apparent readiness to reach into his deep pockets to whatever extent to neutralize the storm trooper tactics of the NRA and their ilk has to be reassuring to folks who, since Newtown, have been emboldened to crusade for sanity. Bloomberg has become arch enemy number one for the NRA. To which we say, it's about

time the good guys had some fat-wallet support on their side.

The NRA, for its part, hews to the well-worn script: Hit the bunkers, America. They're coming to take away your guns! For the recently concluded first-round debacle in the Senate, the NRA's ammunition included an ad imploring followers to listen to America's police, instead of Obama and Bloomberg. Which immediately invites speculation as to which police departments or organizations are on record as favoring widespread availability of guns in any given community. The smart money says the position of “America's police” on guns among the population isn't quite as portrayed by the NRA to its adherents. For stuff like this, presumably, the NRA's loose cannon leader Wayne LaPierre, wound up on some list recently as one of the most influential persons in America. Heaven help us.

Ultimately, though, what transpired in the Senate may have been just as well. It averted what probably would have been a more sickening scenario in the House. And it stiffened resolve, hopefully, that gun-loving maniacs must not have the last word.

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Exclusive and unfair DREAM Act

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The Gang of 8's proposal would cancel the diversity visa (DV) program, which would have a hugely disproportionate effect on natives of African countries.

Goals of The Black Institute for the Outcome of Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

- Comprehensive reform of Immigration policy to include protections for recruited immigrant professionals and their children (e.g. an expedited pathway to Green Card status, a special category that includes recruited professionals from non-STEM disciplines, etc.).

- Fulfill the promises of citizenship, education and job opportunity to recruited immigrant professionals and their families, including "aged-out" immigrant children.

- End the criminalization and detention of Black immigrants, and implement safeguards to protect against racial profiling and ensure due process for all immigrants.

- Reunite families torn apart by current Immigration policy by expanding benefits to include extended family, and altering the current DACA guidelines to allow children up to the age of 20 to enter the US.

- Lessen the economic burden caused by current Immigration policy by investing resources and decreasing processing fees.

- Expand the focus of the Immigration reform discourse to include the needs of Black immigrants and their children, who are often marginalized and ignored. This includes amending the language of the DREAM act to include children of immigrant professionals, and allowing the voices of Black immigrants to be heard.

Bertha Lewis is the former president of the Association for Community Reform Now.

Earth Day lessons

Continued from page 10

way of the environmental movement. The wonder of that first Earth Day, held in an era of social change and action, was that it wasn't a campus movement. Not one bit. Everybody was enlisted—from mayors to garden clubs to churches to labor groups to women's organizations. As a result, it became everybody's movement.

Dirty air, dirty water, and toxic exposure translated the same way for everyone. Confronted in their daily lives with smog, oil soaked rivers, and mounting evidence that their communities were being poisoned, people reacted when they were given a chance to

belong to something. Then they went home but before they left they struck fear in most legislators' hearts who saw that the guys in suits had joined forces with the people wearing tie dye.

These days, writers complain about the lack of ground troops that seem to be available for the almost daily climate change battles; others write about a sometimes real and sometimes phantom renaissance on college campuses; still others convince us that a seismic shift is taking place just beneath the radar. Maybe. In 2010, Earth Day Network held a massive climate rally in Washington, D.C., that attracted 250,000 people. Montreal followed last year

with more than 250,000 marching in the streets. An intense, dedicated and focused set of partners held a large rally this past February in Washington. And more frequently people are chaining themselves to pipelines in protest.

But the real key to a new environmental movement resides with the same sorts of people who took to the streets in 1970, the same sorts of people who pitch in each Earth Day, people with a vested interest in protecting the earth for themselves and their children. In short everybody. The ground troops for the new environmental movement are there: in the one billion people working this Earth Day in a community near you.

Rogers is president of Earth Day Network.

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Standardized tests

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good methods for discovering how much our students know and whether their teachers are effective.

We need to remember that tests are merely tools; tools that are best utilized by educators to get a handle on how to do their jobs better, on a day-to-day, week-by-week basis.

High-stakes tests should not shape the destiny for students, teachers or for



entire school communities.

It is high time we break the yoke of high-stakes testing and broaden the conver-

sation on public education in our city.

John C. Liu is New York City Comptroller



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Fallout for states rejecting Medicaid expansion

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting the Medicaid expansion in the federal health care law could have unexpected consequences for states where Republican lawmakers remain steadfastly opposed to what they scorn as “Obamacare.”

It could mean exposing businesses to Internal Revenue Service penalties and leaving low-income citizens unable to afford coverage even as legal immigrants get financial aid for their premiums. For the poorest people, it could virtually guarantee they remain uninsured and dependent on the emergency room at local hospitals that already face federal cutbacks.

Concern about such consequences helped forge a deal in Arkansas last week. The Republican-controlled Legislature endorsed a plan

by Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe to accept additional Medicaid money under the federal law, but use the new dollars to buy private insurance for eligible residents.

One of the main arguments for the private option was that it would help businesses avoid tax penalties.

The Obama administration hasn't signed off on the Arkansas deal, and it's unclear how many other states will use it as a model. But it reflects a pragmatic streak in American politics that's still the exception in the polarized health care debate.

“The biggest lesson out of Arkansas is not so much the exact structure of what they are doing,” said Alan Weil, executive director of the nonpartisan National Academy for State Health Policy. “Part of it is just a message of creativity, that they can look at it and say,

‘How can we do this in a way that works for us?’”

About half the nearly 30 million uninsured people expected to gain coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul would do so through Medicaid. Its expansion would cover low-income people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, about \$15,860 for an individual.

Middle-class people who don't have coverage at their jobs will be able to purchase private insurance in new state markets, helped by new federal tax credits. The big push to sign up the uninsured starts this fall, and coverage takes effect Jan. 1.

As originally written, the Affordable Care Act required states to accept the Medicaid expansion as a condition of staying in the program. Last summer's Supreme



Larry Walker, of Delaware, shows his support for Medicaid extension outside the Ohio Statehouse during a rally urging state lawmakers to extend Medicaid coverage under the federal health care law Thursday, April 11, 2013, in Columbus, Ohio. AP Photo/Jay LaPrete

Court decision gave each state the right to decide. While that pleased many governors, it also created complications by opening the door to unintended consequences.

So far, 20 mostly blue states, plus the District of Columbia, have accepted the expansion.

Thirteen GOP-led states have declined. They say Medicaid already is too costly, and they don't trust Washington to keep its prom-

ise of generous funding for the expansion, which would mainly help low-income adults with no children at home.

Concerns about unintended consequences could make the most difference in 17 states still weighing options.

A look at some potential side effects:

—The Employer Glitch
States that don't expand Medicaid leave more businesses exposed to tax penal-

ties, according to a recent study by Brian Haile, Jackson Hewitt's senior vice president for tax policy. He estimates the fines could top \$1 billion a year in states refusing.

Under the law, employers with 50 or more workers that don't offer coverage face penalties if just one of their workers gets subsidized private insurance through the new state markets. But employers generally do not face fines under the law for workers who enroll in Medicaid.

In states that don't expand Medicaid, some low-income workers who would otherwise have been eligible have a fallback option. They can instead get subsidized private insurance in the law's new markets. But that would trigger a penalty for their employer.

“It highlights how complicated the Affordable Care Act is,” said Haile.

—The Immigrant Quirk
Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, called attention this year to this politically awkward problem when she proposed that her state accept the Medicaid expansion.

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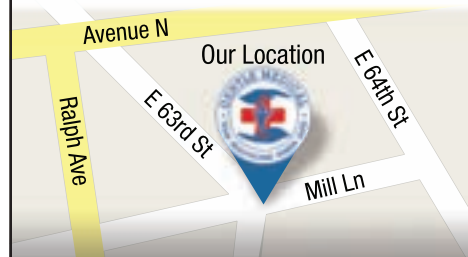
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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babies dying before birth, prenatal mortality. "The area that continues to worry my ministry is teenage pregnancy. The teenage pregnancy rate in 2012 remained high, standing at 17.9 percent, with eight girls between eight and 11 years giving birth," Burgin said.

The age of consent in St Vincent and the Grenadines is 16 years and a person having sex with a girl under that age can be charged with one of more several crimes.

Trinidad

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said she was very pleased with the historic legal victory for the state in the unprecedented Section 34 constitutional case.

In a press release, the prime minister said the ruling comprehensively dismissed the various grounds of challenge to the repeal of Section 34.

"As noted by the court, the government moved swiftly to repeal Section 34 and drafted the repeal in a manner that nullified any legitimate expectations and retroactively cleared the way for the defendants to be tried.

"The government has been vindicated by this judgment which highlighted and relied on the quick action taken to repeal Section 34.

"I was particularly pleased with the expedition in which this case was heard and determined as it was obviously in the public interest to have this matter dealt with very quickly," she said.

Two businessmen, Ishwar Galbaransingh and Steve Ferguson, reportedly to be financiers of the United National Congress (UNC) party (senior coalition partner in the People's Partnership Government), had challenged the constitutionality of the repeal of Section 34.

They were both charged with a series of criminal offences arising of the Piarco Development Project more than a decade ago. They argued through their constitutional motions that repealing of Section 34 deprived them of an assurance from the State that they could apply to have their cases dismissed, on the basis that they were older than 10 years, before it was revoked by Parliament, to their detriment.

Parliament had passed the Administration of Justice (indictable Proceedings Act) and was proclaimed by President Max Richards on August 31, 2012, which paved the way for persons, charged indictably with certain offences beyond a period of 10 years, to apply to a judge to have them dismissed.

Turks and Caicos

Sixteen Cuban migrants, who were held for illegally entering the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) on October 2012 and were released on a court ordered bail, have absconded and made their way to Florida.

The group reportedly left the TCI by speedboat and island-hopped through The Bahamas to make the approximately 650-mile trip to Miami. Among the group was the mother of U.S. baseball professional Yoenis Cepedes.

The controversial U.S. "wet foot, dry foot" rule favors Cubans who, while illegal

migrants, actually arrive on U.S. soil and are then classified as political refugees escaping from a communist country. However, if they are intercepted at sea, they are returned to Cuba.

The ruling party in the TCI, the Progressive National Party (PNP), has a poor record in dealing with illegal migrants. During a former PNP administration, some Haitian detainees died in custody from dehydration. The mistreatment of Haitian refugees in the TCI became a source of local and regional controversy recently when immigration minister Hon-Hue Gardiner called on residents to help track down illegal Haitian migrants and make their lives "unbearable."

Gardiner later tried to defuse his statement by claiming he was not referring to Haitians but to all illegal migrants.

St. Lucia

St Lucia is seeking to strengthen its existing diplomatic relations with Africa, according to Dr. Vaughn Lewis, the special adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Dr. Kenny Anthony administration.

"We believe that we need to re-engage with the African states many of which have and continue to emerge as important economic entities and we need in that context to engage them to assist with our own development," he said.

Speaking during a television program recently, Lewis a former prime minister said: "We have lost influence in persuading Britain and the European Union as to what we want and it is those emerging African countries that will have the influence."

He said the need to deepen relations with the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent is in keeping with a new policy direction to review and realign the country's foreign relations.

Dr. Lewis said while St Lucia may not be able to rely on aid from Africa, the island can engage the continent to stimulate investment and to lobby on St. Lucia's behalf in international circles.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago will sign the Arms Trade Treaty when it opens for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, June 3, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran.

On April 2, Trinidad and Tobago was among the 155 UN Member States who voted in favor of the treaty "which has as its central objective, the establishment of the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms."

In a statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Dookeran said government will be taking all necessary steps to sign the Treaty when it opens for signature on June 3. He also indicated that all issues relating to TT's ratification of the Treaty would be dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

Compiled by Azad Ali

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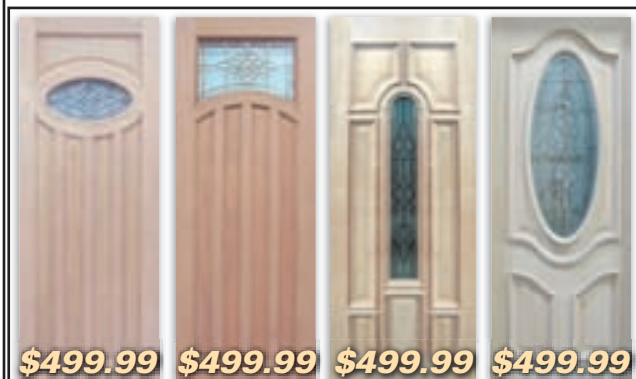
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Confidence and patience are the keys to success

By Paul LeJoy

America continues to be the world's largest economy and boasts the lion share of global billionaires. In fact, there were reportedly 442 billionaires in America in 2012 -- the nationality majority of the record 1,426 people who have earned this laudable distinction around the world. When considering the staggering success only an elite few attain in business, it begs the question: "What do these billionaires know that the rest of us don't?" And, as importantly: "How can we avoid failure as we aspire to achieve career success of any measure?"

To achieve a notable amount of success at anything and certainly a notable measure of wealth, you must become a specialist at what you do. And, you must "do what you do" better than anyone else. You must become indispensable—the go-to person because your results are superior. In working towards this objective it is important to employ a specific combination of essential elements that, combined, will make you a force to be reckoned with.

With this in mind, the achievement-minded would be wise to heed these 8 wealth strategies intended assist the proverbial 99% in their quest for success in any industry:

1) **Vision:** Every successful person at some point in their lives had a vision for

what "could be," and set out in relentless pursuit of their dream. From Thomas Edison to Steve Jobs and countless success stories in between, visionaries are filled with a passion and purpose that drives them every day. Those who are short-sighted and unmindful of future consequences of their efforts, both the good and the bad, are more likely to fail than those who are thoughtful and perceptive in their approach.

2) **Action:** Have a vision or a goal? The first step is to write it down along with objectives and action steps related thereto. Now you've taken the initiative, which is the critical first step to achieving success. Post your vision statement in your bedroom, bathroom, and office. Share it with others. And, be sure to follow your action steps. By taking these minor steps, you make yourself accountable and become the master of your destiny. Take quantum action and you will surely have a breakthrough. Or, find contentment with the status quo and, well, remain there.

3) **Passion:** You may have the vision. You may write it down. You may have shared it with others, but without passion, that vision will likely wither. Passion for what you seek to accomplish should be almost palpable to the extent that others can see and feel your drive. The key is to match your vision with some-



thing you can be truly passionate about. Something that will keep you engaged every moment of every work day to bring you one step closer to the measure of success that you personally desire. Or, approach your job with a lackluster attitude and suffer the inevitable ominous consequences.

4) **Discipline:** Many have vision and passion, but lack the self-discipline required to stay the course. The pain of living a life of discipline is less than the pain of regret for what "could have been if." Those who are self-disciplined motivate themselves to continue with their action steps and persevere amid adversity, asserting sheer willpower over their more base desires and instincts to give up or turn

attentions to something more enjoyable in the moment. This requisite self-control will channel emotions, behavior, and desires toward obtaining the reward of success and, as importantly, to avoid the punishment of failure.

5) **Determination:** You have the vision and you take action to write it down. You may even embellish that vision with passion and be quite disciplined in your approach. However, without the will to endure you may not get too far. Life and work can be hard and even cruel. Remember, the race is not for the swift but rather those who persevere. Rather than allowing doubt to seep in and poison the process, you owe it to yourself to remain confident in your vision and your

methodologies to get you there. Sure, you can adapt as needed along the way, but always know that success will ultimately be yours.

6) **Support:** No one is an island and there's strength in numbers. A mastermind group, coach or mentor is an excellent way to get motivated. Meeting regularly can be a great boost to your morale and provide new perspectives on your approach. The Internet makes it extraordinarily easy to find a coach or mentor and join a mastermind group that can help propel your vision to new heights and facilitate invaluable networking opportunities.

7) **Integrity:** While it sounds cliché, honesty is indeed the best policy in business. Integrity is of paramount

importance for those seeking to find and sustain long-term success. True success comes when you are a person of your word, when you have a pure conscience, and when you have not cheated others on your way to the top. Dishonesty has a tendency to sneak back up on you causing far more problems than the risk was worth taking in the first place.

8) **Humility:** Humility, like patience, hard work and integrity, is a virtue. So, when you finally reach your destination of success, when your vision becomes a reality, do not forget your humble beginnings and all those who helped you to get to the top of the hill. Extend an attitude of gratitude and thankfulness. There is no such a thing as a self-made millionaire. People get there because others helped them get there.

If you have a vision, passion, take action, are determined and disciplined; if you get a coach or mentor; get in the right environment; and are honest and humble you will be well positioned to achieve your dream...whatever that may be.

Paul LeJoy, www.LeJoySolutions.com, Pacific Realty Partners founder and principal, is a revered real estate investor and top business-building expert, has been lauded for helping others realize success and create wealth.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide_3135.pdf

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm

Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference

questions.

Start a Business in New York — Resources for New York Small Businesses

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm

Find resources and advice on starting a business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php

This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners —

and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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Stroke is a medical emergency and every minute counts



Each year, 780,000 Americans suffer a stroke. It is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of long-term disability in the United States. Yet, many Americans do not know the symptoms or what to do when they witness someone having a stroke.

“Stroke is an unmistakable event. Few other medical conditions come on so suddenly or are so noticeable to a bystander,” said Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, deputy director of the Institute. “For this reason, it is critical that people know to call 9-1-1 and get to the hospital to receive appropriate medical treatment immediately when a stroke occurs. Prompt treatment can dramatically decrease or even prevent long-term disabilities caused by a stroke.”

A stroke occurs when blood

flow to the brain is interrupted. Brain cells die when deprived of oxygen and nutrients provided by blood. Because stroke injures the brain, if you are having a stroke, you may not realize what is happening. But, to a bystander, the signs of a stroke are distinct:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

In treating a stroke, every minute counts. Knowing the

symptoms of a stroke, making note of the time of the first stroke symptoms, and getting to the hospital quickly — within 60 minutes if possible — can help you save yourself, or someone you know, from serious long-term disability.

Making changes in your lifestyle can help prevent stroke. Risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, heart disease, family history of stroke, high cholesterol, and being overweight. Talk to your doctor and let him know about the concerns you may have about the risk factors of stroke. Find out your risks and take action.

For more information, visit www.stroke.ninds.nih.gov.

Maimonides named a top hospital four years in a row

Maimonides Medical Center President and Chief Executive Officer Pamela Brier recently announced that Maimonides has been named a Healthgrades “Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence” four years in a row, and also is designated as one of “America’s 100 Best Hospitals” by Healthgrades for 2013. Maimonides is one of only three hospitals in New York State to be so designated, along with Albany Medical Center and New York Presbyterian.

“This is wonderful news for the patients and families we serve,” said Brier. “We strive for the best patient outcomes, so it is gratifying for our clinicians to be recognized at a national level for their continued dedication to providing excellent patient care.” Healthgrades is the nation’s leading independent health care quality review company, helping consumers make informed decisions when choosing a physician or hospital. The Healthgrades awards are based on evaluation of patient

outcomes at the nation’s 4,500 hospitals. According to the Healthgrades study, the risk of death is 58 percent lower at hospitals receiving these top awards compared to all other hospitals.

We strive for the best patient outcomes, so it is gratifying to be recognized at a national level.

In addition to these hospital-wide awards, Maimonides by Healthgrades was also one of America’s 100 Best Hospital for Cardiac Care; recipient of Women’s Health Excellence Award; five-star rated for spine, back, and neck surgery; and five-star rated for treatment of pneumonia, sepsis, and respiratory failure; among others.

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HDL cholesterol levels.

•Physical activity: Your physical activity level is less than a total of 30 minutes on most days.

•Carotid or other artery disease: You have been told you have disease in the carotid arteries (the blood vessels that supply blood to the brain) or you have

peripheral artery disease (primarily affects blood vessels of the legs).

•Certain blood disorders: You have been told you have a high red blood cell count or sickle cell disease (also called sickle cell anemia).

•Atrial fibrillation: You have a heart rhythm disorder called atrial fibrillation.

•Other heart disease: You have coronary heart disease or other heart condition(s), or you have had a heart attack.

If one or more of these choices apply to you, studies show you are at increased risk for stroke. See a health-care provider for a complete assessment of your risks.

Taking the time to answer a few questions may help to reduce your risk of stroke. Stroke is the number three cause of death of Americans and is a leading cause of disability.

This year, it will strike 700,000 Americans of all ages, genders and ethnicities. A member of your family, a friend or neighbor — or even you — could be a victim.

Many Americans are not aware of their stroke risk factors, many of which can be prevented or controlled. You can start to take control by knowing what factors put you at risk. Check all that apply to you.

•Age: For every decade after age 55, your chance of stroke doubles.

•Family history: Your mother, father, sister, brother or grandparent had a stroke, or your father or brother had a heart attack

before age 55, or your mother or sister had a heart attack before age 65.

•Previous stroke or transient ischemic attack: You have had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (“mini-stroke”).

•Blood pressure: Your blood pressure is 140/90 mm Hg or higher (high blood pressure), a healthcare professional has said your blood pressure is high, your blood pressure is 120/80 to 139/89 mm Hg (prehypertension), or you don't know what your blood pressure is.

•Tobacco smoke: You smoke, live, or work with people who smoke tobacco regularly.

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Some children who had employer-based health insurance coverage within the past six months may be subject to a waiting period before they can enroll in Child Health Plus. This will depend on your household income and the reason your children lost employer-based coverage.

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How to manage your seasonal allergies

(StatePoint) Unfortunately, beautiful flowers and warm weather can also mean itchy, watery eyes, sneezing fits and nasal congestion.

These days, pollen from plants and flowers typically are released earlier in the year than in the past, causing longer allergy seasons according to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, which noted that 2012 was one of the worst such seasons on record.

While there is no cure-all for seasonal allergies, popular over-the-counter (OTC) medications can provide relief for the most common symptoms. These guidelines can help you better manage your seasonal allergies:

Season for Sneezing

Popular OTC antihistamines can provide relief from sneezing, runny noses and irritated, watery eyes by blocking the action of histamine, a chemical in the body that triggers congestion and upper respiratory discomfort.

All Stuffed Up?

Decongestants like pseudoephedrine (PSE) relieve a stuffy

HEALTH

nose by actually narrowing the blood vessels in nasal passages so you can breathe more easily. PSEs are now located behind the pharmacy counter because they are an ingredient that can be used to make the illegal drug methamphetamine (meth). Rest assured though, PSE has been safely used for decades.

If you're congested, consider treating your symptoms and doing your part to keep your community safer at the same time. Ask your pharmacist about new Nexafed 30mg pseudoephedrine HCl tablets, the next-generation PSE that provides the same effective relief from nasal congestion as standard PSEs, but with technology that disrupts the extraction and conversion of pseudoephedrine into meth.

Itchy, Watery Eyes

Over-the-counter eye drops that are specifically designed to treat allergy symptoms can be found in any drug store and can be very effective at relieving

redness and washing away allergens.

Also consider using an air purifier or humidifier in your house to help clear the air of possible irritants.

Eat for Allergy Relief

According to experts, certain foods you may already be enjoying have allergy-fighting properties. For example, quercetin, found in oranges, broccoli and sweet potatoes, can help reduce your body's reaction to pollen. Or, try loading up on salmon and walnuts, as omega-3 fatty acids are thought to alleviate itchy eyes and a runny nose.

If you have questions or doubts about which medications may be best for you, talk with your pharmacist. And if symptoms worsen or last for more than two weeks, be sure to see your doctor.

Rest assured, relief for seasonal allergy symptoms does exist! Visit your local drugstore or the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's website for more information on how to treat seasonal allergies. You can check the daily pollen level in your area at National Allergy Bureau online.



Alleviate allergy symptoms with the right treatment this season.

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New treatment for coronary artery disease

HEALTH

(StatePoint) Whether you are at-risk for developing a heart condition or you're one of the 13 million Americans who suffer from coronary artery disease, arming yourself with the facts you need to stay healthy can help.

Learn about coronary artery disease, its symptoms and about the latest developments in treatment.

Coronary Artery Disease

Coronary artery disease is caused when plaque buildup creates blockages or narrowings in the arteries.

The blockages restrict blood flow and reduce the amount of oxygen delivered to the heart, potentially putting a person at risk for a heart attack.

Common symptoms of coronary artery disease include chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue and overall weakness.

Simple lifestyle changes can help prevent and manage coronary artery disease. These include managing obesity and high blood pressure, living an active lifestyle, making healthy dietary choices and stopping smoking.

Improved Treatments

Staying on top of the latest medical advances helps ensure you and loved ones secure the best treatment available.

One advancement in treatment is supported by new results from the FAME 2 Study funded by St. Jude Medical and published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study found that use of a blood-flow measurement technology, called Fractional Flow Reserve (FFR) during treatment of stable coronary artery disease will result in better health outcomes.

FFR technology offers physicians a better assessment of where blood flow blockages occur in the coronary arteries and whether treatment to open an artery narrowing, along with medication, can help lower a patient's risk of chest pain and heart attack.

From less likelihood of a patient being readmitted to the hospital for urgent care, to a reduction in health care costs, FAME 2 research demonstrates that



Cardiologist confers with his patient.

(c) Ryan McVay - Think Stock

patients who receive FFR-guided treatment experienced better outcomes than those treated with medication alone.

"The FAME 2 Study results offer further evidence that FFR should be considered the stand-

ard of care for treating patients with coronary heart disease," said Frank J. Callaghan, president of the Cardiovascular and Ablation Technologies Division at St. Jude Medical.

If you believe you have coro-

nary artery disease, consult your physician for additional information and to determine best treatment options.

More information on FFR is available at: www.sjm.com/ffr-fact-sheet.

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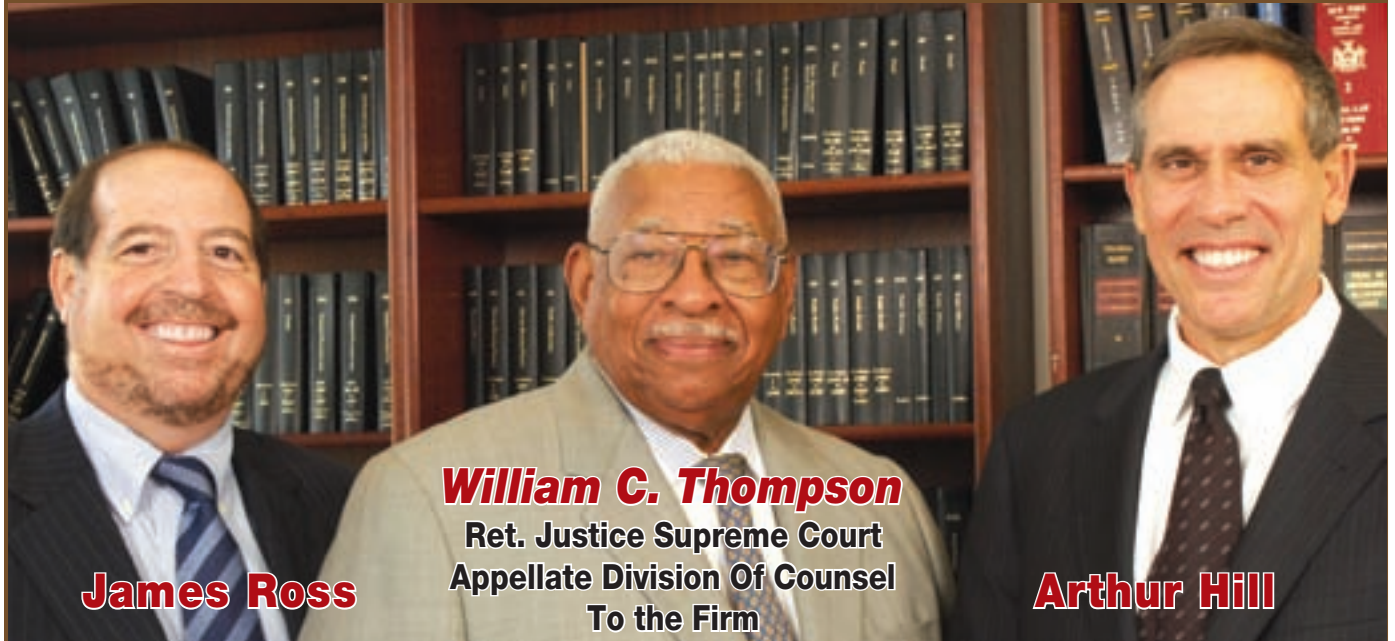


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Fritz Clairvil (left) of SIMACT, founded by Haitian professionals in the New York area over five years ago, spoke from experience about investing in Haiti while Maritza Archer, CEO of Leanna's Hair Products looks on.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

Investing in Haitian economic development

By Tequila Minsky

Two hundred-fifty Haitians, Diaspora, and earnest friends of Haiti met last month at Columbia University, hosted by the School of International and Public Affairs Earth Institute, for a full-day discussing "Investing in Haitian Progress."

Some participants are already doing business in Haiti; others have business projects in mind. Many came to gather information while others attended out of curiosity.

From agricultural production business to hopes of establishing an accounting firm, attendees were highly engaged during the day.

Co-sponsored by the Haitian Hometown Association Resource Group, (HHTARG), this was the first informational meeting for the Diaspora to learn about U.S. AID's matching fund for investment in Haiti. The panels are the first of an Informational Road Show also to take place in Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami and the Dominican Republic in May and June.

The investment program is called LEAD—Leveraging Effective Application of Direct Investments, developed with the premise that the Diaspora investor has multiple interests in seeing progress in Haiti.

Difficulty accessing capital limits business growth. The matching grant program addresses this obstacle, helping to activate investment monies from the Diaspora for small and medium size businesses. LEAD will provide 1:1 matching funds with grants ranging from \$50,000 to 200,000 to help capitalize small and medium businesses.

The geographic areas being targeted are Cap-Haitien, St. Marc, and Port-au-Prince with projects focused on the industries of tourism, agriculture, textiles/garment industry, construction, new technologies, alternative energy/renewables, and other productive sectors.

Starting off the day were greetings from sponsors including the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), the organization implementing the program on the ground.

Additionally, Minister of Haitians Living Abroad Bernice Fidelia emphasized how the Diaspora's investment is crucial to "positively contribute to Haiti."

Tatiana Wah of the Earth Institute reinforced the day's aims when she said, "Dependence on remittances to Haiti has serious limitations." (Monies to family members through remittances —up to

20 percent of the GDP—help with necessary day-to-day expenses and infuse cash into the Haitian economy but this form of Diaspora-input does little for economic growth and independence.)

A morning panel provided first-hand accounts (and challenges) from Diaspora entrepreneurs whose diverse businesses geographically span the country.

Fritz Clairvil of SIMACT spoke of the naysayers he encountered when in 1996, Haitian professionals started the New York-based company initially focused on real estate opportunities. Now, SIMACT has a range of investment interests. Its showcase project is the Jacmel Cap Lamandou Hotel.

Panel participants, seven-teen-year-old Leanna Archer with mom Maritza discussed Leanna's Hair Products that sources oils from Haiti for their all-natural line. One current challenge: since the earthquake, they haven't been able to find the original source who provided the avocado, rosemary, hibiscus, and almond oils, forcing them to buy in smaller volumes from pharmacies in Haiti. These oils can be sourced from other countries but that defeats the goal of Leanna's Haiti Products, to provide jobs in Haiti.

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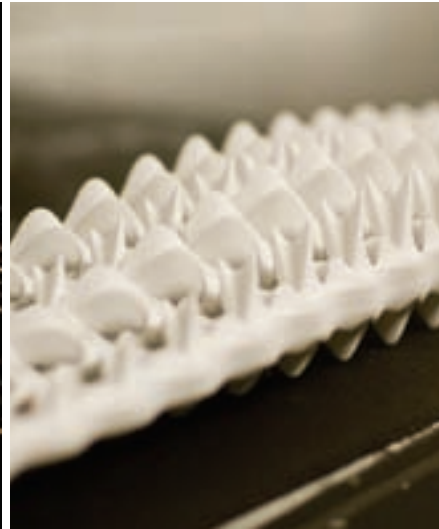
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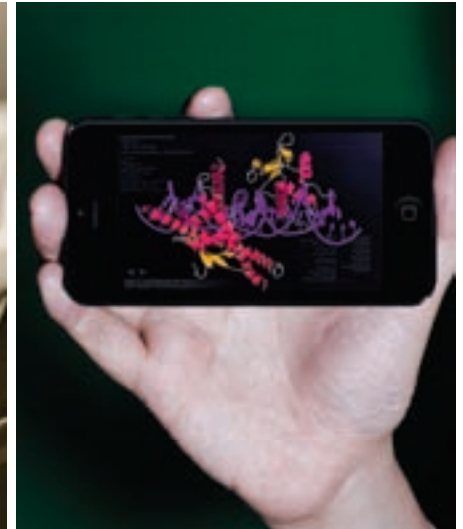
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Misick to stand trial

By Nelson A. King

The head investigator in a British government probe of corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands says that former Premier Michael Misick will stand trial.

Helen Garlick, the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and Prosecution Team, said Misick will join 10 others, including four of his cabinet ministers, in defending allegations that they illegally sold government lands for profit and cut other sweetheart deals to enrich themselves during their tenure in office.

The trials could commence as early as September pending further appeals to the British Privy Council, said Garlick in a statement.

She had previously said that the team only wanted Misick to return to the British Overseas Dependent Territory for questioning in a criminal investigation of government cor-

ruption.

But Garlick has acknowledged that British investigators, who are receiving help from the U.S. Department of Justice, have combed through about 100,000 pages of evidence,

Garlick has acknowledged that British investigators have uncovered suspicious land deals, unpaid government bills and possible fraud.

uncovering suspicious land deals, unpaid government bills and possible fraud, bribery and money laundering by former leaders.

Misick is currently in Brazil, where he was arrested last week after the South American country rejected his claim for political asylum. He is now subject to extradition proceed-

ings by the British.

The Turks and Caicos Islands is one of two overseas territories where the British are actively probing corruption. The other is the Cayman Islands, where former Premier McKeever Bush was formally charged last month with corruption.

Misick was first elected as chief minister in 2003 but resigned in 2009 during his second term amid the corruption allegations.

He gained international notoriety when he married US actress LisaRaye McCoy in a lavish hilltop ceremony. But McCoy later testified against her estranged husband during a 2008 British government commission of enquiry.

The corruption probe is entering its fourth year. A law firm hired to recover the land recently reported to the governor that it had recovered about 2,500 acres of land valued at about US\$100 million.



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LET SPRING BRING THE WINDS OF CHANGE AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME

Did you ever notice that when you paint a room of your home in a different color scheme as opposed to just freshening up the room with a new paint job, your attitude about that living space changes as well — usually for the better? With spring upon us, a great recipe to make those dreaded spring outdoor chores more palatable is to add the flavor of a little eye candy to your plate. Not only is it simple pride of ownership, it also increases “curb appeal” and value when selling your home.

Take into consideration that first impressions can add up to lasting and sustainable benefits. Past surveys have shown that buyers value a well-landscaped home as much as 11.3% higher than its base price. In a recent Gallup research project, homebuyers also revealed they think landscaping adds 14.87% to a home's selling price. Real estate agents agree: of the members of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers, 95% concur that landscaping adds to the dollar value of real estate.

Whether you are selling or staying, consider hardscaping in your plan. Like home improvement



Pavers, walls and a fire pit, all from Cambridge, are integrated into a backyard design to create a compelling outdoor ambience.

products in general, hardscape products have also come a long way. Cast stone products such as staircases, stair treads, stepping stones, columns, column caps and column mailboxes, veneer stone,

water features, and outdoor living room components such as outdoor fireplaces and fire pits, open air kitchens, grill islands, pizza ovens have been added to the category.

The choice to go with hardscaping products is often a solutions-based decision. For example, products like a permeable pavement can help manage storm water runoff on properties with high water tables. A heating

system installed beneath a maintenance-free driveway of interlocking concrete pavers will eliminate customary winter care such as snow removal and the need for deicing salts.

Building a retaining wall made of manufactured wall units can make good sense when dealing with a sloped front or backyard. Cast stone wall caps, steps and stepping-stones are just a few examples of how other hardscape materials can save money when compared to natural stone such as bluestone. If you are thinking about re-facing part of your home's façade or facing a column, custom outdoor kitchen or refreshment bar, consider manufactured veneer stones such as the ones from Cambridge.

It's also easy to design straight, curved or serpentine walls, a raised patio or a tree ring using the manufactured wallstones from Cambridge because they utilize advanced laser technology for professional-grade fit, enabling you to achieve optimal results in hundreds of style and pattern designs.

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one hardscape manufacturer like Cambridge as a single source for products, you can be confident that style and color relationships are assured. Cambridge Pavingstones, Wall Systems and products from the outdoor living line match or coordinate with each other and are likely to complement architectural characteristics of your home.



Charles H. Gamarekian is Chairman/CEO of Cambridge Pavers Inc., manufacturers of Cambridge Pavingstones

with ArmorTec®, Cambridge Wallstones and a full line of products for outdoor living. He is one of the founders and a current board member of the Interlocking Pavement Institute. Organized in 1993, ICPI is the North American trade association representing the interlocking concrete paver industry. Mr. Gamarekian is recognized worldwide as an expert in his field and is a frequent speaker on the proper installation of pavingstones, wallstones and many outdoor living products.

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2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995	2005	Chevy Impala, 148k	62653	\$3,995	2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2001	Honda Civic, 87k	73406	\$2,995	2004	Nissan Sentra, 53k	UC16122	\$3,995	2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	SAVE
2003	Hyundai, 63k	H1088	\$2,995	2002	Ford Escape, 97k	67450	SAVE	2003	Ford Mustang, 99k	63795	SAVE
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2006	Dodge Stratus, 74k	67483	\$5,995	2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995	2006	Scion XB, 50k	76958	\$7,995
2003	Jeep Cherokee, 136k	70605	\$5,995	2003	BMW x5, 110k	68755	SAVE	2007	Mazda 3, 5k	JU13340	\$7,995
2003	Cadillac CTS, 145k	70281	\$5,995	2006	Chrysler Town & Country	JU14877	SAVE	2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995
2000	Mercedes C240, 126k	66680	SAVE					2006	Cadillac CTS, 67k	JU12013	SAVE

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2007	Chevy Impala, 28k	42370	\$7,995	2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$11,795
2005	Nissan Quest, 60k	63458	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$9,495	2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
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Amnesty criticizes Haiti over evictions from settlements

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti has violated international human rights obligations by failing to protect people who have been forced to leave the impromptu settlements that sprang up in the Caribbean nation after the 2010 earthquake, a global advocacy group said Tuesday.

A report by Amnesty International said it found that thousands of displaced people have been evicted from public spaces and private properties. People kicked out of settlements find themselves “further marginalized and driven deeper into poverty,” it said.

The government of President Michel Martelly has condoned the evictions led by mayors, police officers and others, the report



A young girl jumps rope inside the Jean-Marie Vincent camp for people displaced by the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, April 22, 2013.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

charged.

“They are tolerated by the state and carried out in total impunity by state agents and private individuals or groups (non-state actors) alike,” it said.

Amnesty said it wrote to Martelly, the prime minister and mayors of two cities that have seen evictions in an effort to arrange meetings with them, but the requests were declined or

went unanswered.

Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe told The Associated Press Monday night that there were “some” landowners who were responsible for forced evictions but it was not something the government endorsed.

“We don’t believe in forced evictions,” Lamothe said by telephone. “There are some private owners that do it, but the government itself does not condone that.”

Lamothe cited a government-led effort that pays rental subsidies to camp residents. He said it has “relocated over 1.2 million people and has respected their lives and in a peaceful matter. Our policy is respecting their lives and relocating them in a peaceful manner.”

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Dr. Bill Cosby speaks out on family values

By Laura Andrews

Dr. William Henry "Bill" Cosby Jr. demonstrated that family matters in an enthralling preacher-lecture style performance where family value was the centerpiece of his comedic act before a packed house at Queens College's Kupferberg Center for the Arts.

"Whenever there was a beating you would follow," said the producer and star of "The Cosby Show," the number one sitcom for five consecutive years, which captured Black life with professional parents – was making reference, of course, to his childhood days.

The veteran stand-up performer, raised in a humble working-class family in the projects of Philadelphia, explained that beatings during his childhood was an effective act of disciplining children, without recourse and no outside intervention.

"The social worker would beat you too," asserted Cosby, to applause from a diverse throng in the Colden Auditorium in Queens, N.Y.

The producer of "A Different

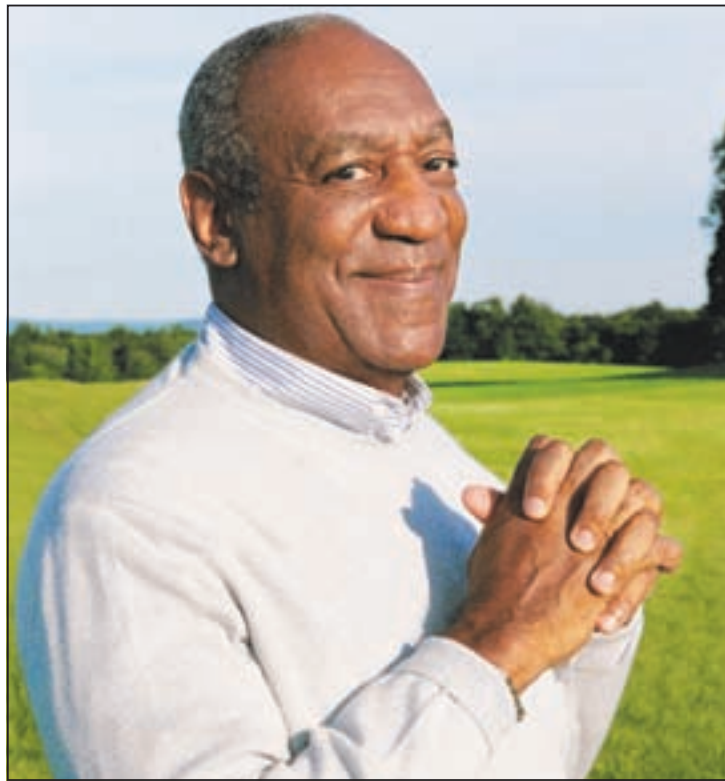
World," jokingly explained the use of instruments such as a broom, an ironing cord and a switch utilized on disobedient children. Not surprising, there was a wave of support for this current prohibited act.

Even the beloved philanthropist and father of four (a fifth child, Ennis, was brutally murdered) revelation of the standard threat by parents to children of, "I am going to beat the daylight out of you," was embraced by the evening's patrons in attendance with young children.

An engaging and intelligent family moment, where likely excerpts of Cosby's dissertation on "Fat Albert" and the "Cosby Kids," as educational tools, seemed to unfold during the extended one-night attraction.

Much of the excitement generated throughout the smart and lively first-rated one-man act were first-hand accounts of portraits of God-fearing stable families striving for a better life.

"Children did not talk back to their parents," Cosby reminded



Dr. William Henry "Bill" Cosby Jr.

the delighted cheering contingent, as he was seated on the stage donning a Queens College ensemble and looking like a president of a university. "There was never time out," he added to nods of approval. "You were not sent to your room

to think about it without help."

As anticipated, the Kennedy Center honoree and the Presidential Medal of Freedom Awardee's inspiring humor struck a chord with the multi-ethnic and multi-generational group.

Dominica football coach, player die in crash

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP) - Football officials in Dominica say the national team's coach and a player have died in a traffic accident on the eastern Caribbean island.

Dominica Football Association spokesman Gerald George says coach Kurt Hector and player Norran Jno Hope died early Friday while traveling to the capital to prepare for a game in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

George tells state-owned DBS radio that Hector was driving a car that fell into a large hole in the community of Pond Case following days of heavy rains.

He says the team will no longer play in the upcoming Windward Islands Football championship.

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Seaga to be inducted in Reggae Hall of Fame

Former Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga will receive two superlative honors on May 4 when the 32nd annual International Reggae & World Music Awards rewards him with a lifetime achievement award and also inducts him to the Hall of Fame during their gala celebration in Florida.

Although four administrations removed from leadership of his country, the nations' fifth leader is acclaimed for his early embrace and support for reggae music during its infancy. In the early 1950's established West India Records Limited (WIRL) a company which promoted local talents. The label emerged the most successful record company in the West Indies. Seaga is also credited with establishing most of the institutions that build cultural awareness and national identity, as well as develop arts, crafts and national heritage on the island. A chronology of his accomplishments include:



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

1963 -- Jamaica Festival
1964 -- Promotion to launch Jamaican music (ska) abroad

1964 -- Return and interment of Marcus Garvey's body to Jamaica

1964 -- Order of National Heroes - Garvey first named hero

1964 -- National Heroes Park

1965 to 1969 -- Museums -- Arawak, Port Royal

1967 -- The Institute of Jamaica's publication, Jamaica Journal

1967 -- Research and recording of folk culture

1967 -- Refurbished Devon House -- home of Jamaica's first millionaire

1968 -- National Heritage Week

1971 -- Design of the Cultural Training Centre (Arts, Drama, Music, Painting &

Sculpture)
1972 -- Jamaica Racing Commission and Jockey School

1986 -- Establishment of the Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC)

1988 -- Planned development of heritage sites (Port Royal, Spanish Town, Seville)

1988 -- Media Divestment Program, to establish several small private radio stations and church television

Prior to winning a seat in parliament, Seaga sought out and invested in talent in western Kingston by promoting local talent shows. When he ran for political office the region became his constituency. There he helped launch the talents of many singers and musicians. He has been credited



Former Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton

with launching the careers of Ken Boothe and others. He also is regarded as the champion to mentor the political career of Olivia "Babsy" Grange who was elected to parliament and also served as the island's minister of sports, culture and entertainment.

Retired from politics, Seaga is now steeped in research at the University of the West Indies.

Last year, he released a

four-disc collection of Jamaican music titled "Reggae Golden Jubilee -- Origins of Jamaican Music" which he compiled over 16 years. The recording spans music from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s.

Seaga is credited with having built more institutions and initiated more far reaching policies than any other political leader in the growth and development of Jamaica.

Also named to receive similar acknowledgement are: original Black Uhuru member Derrick "Duckie" Simpson, radio personality, Denver "Jamusa" Silvera, and Lloyd Campbell of Joe Frasier Records.

Another segment of the program will distinguish three state residents with the South Florida Special Award for Extra-Ordinary Contribution to the music industry. Producer Willie Lindo, artist manager Vonnie McGowan and radio personality and Caribbean music promoter, Winsome "Lady C" Charlton are the recipients.

Slated for May 4 at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts in Florida -- the gala promises live performances from top Caribbean names who have distinguished themselves in numerous categories of the recording industry. Nominated in six categories dancehall deejay Vegas is slated to perform. Double nominees.

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Irie Fashion Rave and Hair Show

By Dave Rodney

Jamaican-born international male model Oraine Barrett has a big assignment in New York this month. The Pulse model, best known for appearing in campaigns for Ralph Lauren, Baby Phat, Liz Claiborne and GQ will join reality TV star Yandy Smith of VH1's "Love and Hip Hop" at the sixth annual Irie Fashion Rave (IFR) and Hair show at the Resort World Casino in New York on Saturday, April 28, 2013.

This is a Barrett's second appearance at the Diaspora's premier fashion event. Last year he graced the runway with super model Carla Campbell and NY models wearing clothing by local fashion designers John Paul Peirre, Rep Ja, Jewel Shannon, VP's Riddim Driven, Houz Designs, Hope Wade, Original Stush and Romeich Wear.

Barrett's career is lit-



Yandy Smith.

tered with many significant accomplishments. In 2010 he received international acclaim as the front man for Ralph Lauren's Polo Winter Olympic campaign in Vancouver, Canada. The following year he won a starring role in Rihanna's controversial 'Man Down' video which received a stunning 11 million hits on YouTube in just five days.

"This year is Irie Jam
Continued on Page 38

Wendy heads to Broadway

By Vinette K. Pryce

Wendy Williams is headed to Broadway. And fans of the popular personality will probably queue the 49th St. block to mimic her "How you doin'?" mantra when she enters and exits the Ambassador theater.

The self-proclaimed 'queen of all media' will hike her title a notch by joining the cast of the hit Broadway musical, "Chicago."

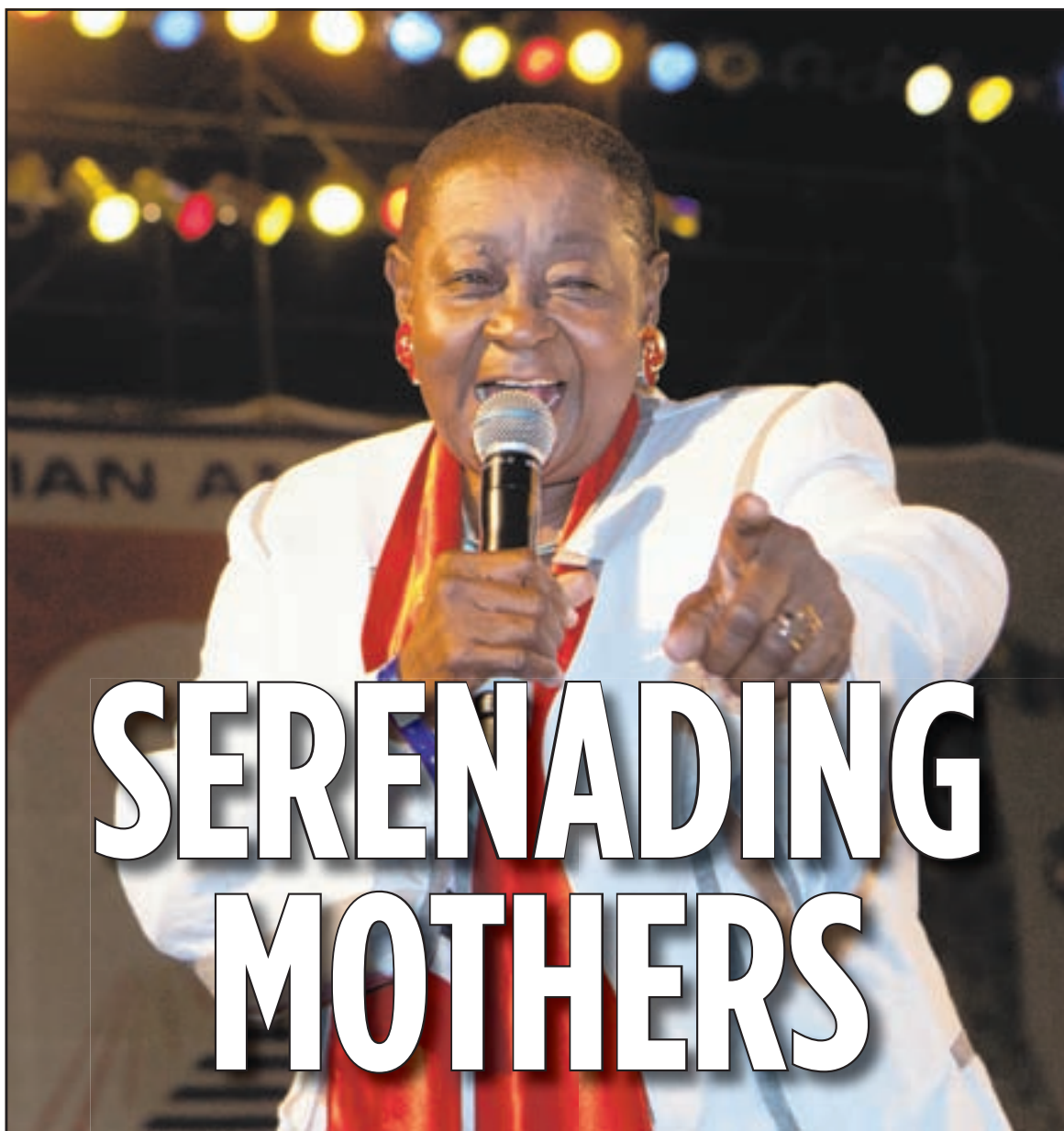
The 23-year veteran talk show host and reputed best-selling author will make her Broadway stage debut in



Wendy Williams.

AP Photo/Charles Sykes

the role of "the mistress of murderer's row" -- Matron
Continued on Page 38



SERENADING MOTHERS

Calypso Rose to toast mothers on their special day.

Photo by William Farrington

Three women to liven Mother's Day

By Vinette K. Pryce

Three women are billed to celebrate this year's Mother's day Caribbean Concert on May 11 at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

Calypso Rose is the top-billed talent to toast mothers and their role in nurturing generations.

The twin island native of Tobago is the first woman to win the

two highest titles in calypso -- the National Calypso Monarch and the Road March of Trinidad & Tobago -- and is the principal performer with Heather Mac Intosh, a runner-up in the 2013 National Calypso Monarch of Trinidad & Tobago and Jermaine Simons.

The latter is the 2013 Groovy Soca Monarch of Carriacou, Grenada. She also emerged as 1st run-

ner-up in the World Soca Monarch competition.

The women will join Lord Relator, Iwer George, Mikey Mercer, Tal Pree, Yankey Boy and Short Pants. "I am serenading all mothers at the concert," George said.

The roster of talents represents various islands of the Caribbean. Due to super storm Sandy, New

Continued on Page 38

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **When I Was Your Man**
Bruno Mars
- 2 **Stay**
Rihanna Feat. Mikky Ekko
- 3 **Suit & Tie**
Justin Timberlake Feat. Jay-Z
- 4 **Just Give Me A Reason**
P!nk Feat. Nate Ruess
- 5 **Feel This Moment**
Pitbull Feat. Christina Aguilera
- 6 **Thrift Shop**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis...
- 7 **Daylight**
Maroon 5
- 8 **I Knew You Were Trouble**
Taylor Swift
- 9 **Sweet Nothing**
Calvin Harris Feat. Florence Welch
- 10 **Ho Hey**
The Lumineers

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Paramore**
Paramore
- 2 **Wheelhouse**
Brad Paisley
- 3 **The 20/20 Experience**
Justin Timberlake
- 4 **Hotel California**
Tyga
- 5 **Caught In The Act: Live**
Eric Church
- 6 **Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies**
Volbeat
- 7 **Based On A True Story ...**
Blake Shelton
- 8 **The Heist**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- 9 **Device**
Device
- 10 **Night Visions**
Imagine Dragons

Presented by
verizon wireless

Annual Mother's Day Concert

Continued from page 37

Yorkers were deprived of seeing Mercer, the Barbadian soca champion. However, there he won four titles last year during Barbados Crop Over carnival scoring with the Pick-O' de Crop Tune (Road March). He was also named Groovy Soca Monarch, People's Monarch and Party Soca Monarch.

Grenadian Tal Pree will make his first performance in New York since dazzling crowds with a performance at the 2013 Trinidad & Tobago Power Soca finals.

Yankey Boy distinguished himself last year winning the title of World Soca Monarch. But this year he upped his reputation during this year's Trinidad & Tobago carnival. Currently booked to tour with Machel Montano this summer, he is poised to follow the same path Montano took by making his international debut and taking the world stage at the Mothers Day Caribbean Concert in NY. "Our objective is to make the Mother's Day Saturday Concert a happy spectacle for

mothers," Herman Hall, publisher/producer said. "New talent is introduced and it is a showcase of today's superstars, vintage artists and emerging stars."

The annual Mother's Day Caribbean Concert started in 1976 at the former Felt Forum (now known as The Theater) adjacent to Madison Square Garden.

Founded by Isaac McLeod, John Marcelin and Granville Straker, the weekend concert forum introduced and inspired numerous calypso and soca talents including 9-year old Machel Montano in 1984 who debuted there. Throughout the decades an alluring lineup annually yielded standing room only crowds who travelled from various locations to attend the Caribbean fete. However, with high over-head and a growing number of competitors, the festivity was forced to move to Brooklyn. Allegedly, the passing of McLeod in 2002 also lessened the appeal to revelers who previously traveled from many boroughs and states to share the tribute concert. Calypsonian Short Pants will emcee.



Barbadian soca champion Mikey Mercer.

Photo courtesy of Everybody's Magazine

Fashion Rave

Continued from page 37

Media's 20th anniversary, so we are very excited to have the Caribbean's leading male supermodel join us for this very important assignment" said Syntyche 'Syn' Dawkins, VP of Irie Jam Media and co-producer of IFR. "Oraine is a huge name in the fashion industry. He is a Vogue favourite and a Baby Phat poster boy. Last year he was extremely popular with our female fans and we are happy to have him again this year."

Yandy is an entertainment powerhouse who has represented high profile music clients like 50 Cent, Missy Elliott, LL Cool J, Jim Jones and Juelz Santana. She's a force in the industry, merging both beauty and brains into one irresistible package. She joined the cast of the VH1 TV hit show "Love and Hip Hop" in its second season. In 2008, she was recognized as one of Billboard Magazine's Top 30 executives under 30. Her appearance at IFR includes both a meet and greet and a showing of her popular lifestyle brand 'Everything Girls Love,' for which she is the President and Brand



Oraine Barrett.

Photo by MYFLASH Photography

Manager.

"I am truly excited to be associated with this year's Irie Fashion Rave that will showcase some of the hottest designers and models from the Diaspora" Yandy gushed. "Fact is that music, entertainment and fashion have all played such an integral part of my life. I truly look forward to be a guest host and the opportunity to meet my many fans from the Caribbean."

Wendy Williams

Continued from page 37

"Mama" Morton. She has committed to a seven-week limited engagement, which will begin on June 25.

Williams is well-known as the gossipy afternoon radio personality whose HOT-97/KISS-FM broadcasts attracted huge listening audiences. After a brief hiatus, that show resurfaced as a nationally-syndicated, afternoon program which aired on the competitor Black-owned, WBLS-FM. While there, Williams penned books, produced her biopic (which stars Robin Givens but to date has not been released) and hosted party events. Currently the host of her own daily, television show, producers claim "The Wendy Williams Show," airs in 52 countries. Now in its fourth season, it has been renewed on Fox through 2014.

Reportedly, the New York Post described her as "daytime TV's favorite guilty pleasure," due to her interviews with A-list celebrity guests, frank advice to fans and candid perspective which seems to appeal to her studio

audiences. She was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame - one of only a handful of women with that honor. Williams could not be accused of being timid, despite limited skills in athletics, she competed on "Dancing With The Stars."

To her credit she has hosted Game Show Network's original series "Love Triangle," and appeared as a featured guest on the soap opera "One Life to Live" and Lifetime TV's "Drop Dead Diva."

Last year, Williams made her major motion picture debut in Steve Harvey's release of "Think Like a Man."

And for two consecutive years, trade publication The Hollywood Reporter listed her one of their "35 Most Powerful People in Media."

Williams is the author of The New York Times best sellers - "The Wendy Williams Experience" as well as several novels including "Ritz Harper Goes to Hollywood" and will release her sixth book titled "Ask Wendy" on May 7.

'Kon-Tiki' an Oscar-nominated seafaring epic

"Kon-Tiki"
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for violence
In English, Norwegian,
Swedish and French
with subtitles
Running time:
118 minutes
Distributor: The Weinstein
Company

By Kam Williams

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the conventional wisdom was that Polynesia had been settled by Asians arriving from the Far East. But it's one thing for a pompous professor to simply sit in an ivory tower and speculate about who might have discovered the island group some 1,500 years ago, and quite another to go about proving a theory correct by attempting to replicate the putative pioneers' perilous feat.

While doing research in the

Marquesas on the Isle of Fatu Hiva in the mid-Thirties, a Norwegian anthropologist named Thor Heyerdahl (Pal Sverre Hagen) came up with a novel idea about the roots of the natives. After studying the local fauna and flora, watching the flow of the tides, and listening to aborigine folklore about their ancestors' arduous trek towards the setting sun, he reasoned that the region must have been settled by tribes migrating there from South America.

Then, when his iconoclastic notion was roundly ridiculed by scholarly colleagues back in academia, Thor decided to prove his detractors wrong by mounting a 5,000-mile expedition from Peru to Polynesia. And although he knew nothing about sailing and couldn't even swim, he did have the sense to assemble a team capable of assisting him in the dangerous endeavor.

The plan was to build a balsa wood raft identical to the type



A scene from the movie "Kon-Tiki."

used by indigenous people in pre-Columbian times, painstakingly following their methods of construction down to the smallest detail. And since they would not be able to steer this vessel christened the Kon-Tiki, Thor estimated it would take about three months for the currents and winds to take them to their destination.

His intrepid crew was comprised of four fellow Norwegians and a Swede, including childhood friend, Erik Hesselberg (Odd Magnus Williamson), the navigator; radioman Knut Haukland (Tobias Santelmann), a decorated World War II veteran; Torstein Raaby (Jakob Oftebro), another radio expert; Herman Watzinger (Anders Baas-

mo Christiansen), an engineer; and Bengt Danielsson (Gustaf Skarsgard), the Swedish steward.

Co-directed by Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg, "Kon-Tiki" faithfully chronicles their historic, transoceanic voyage. Despite the fact that most of the picture's dialogue is English, it somehow earned a well-deserved Oscar nomination in the Best Foreign Language Film category earlier this year.

The men set sail in the spring of 1947, encountering storms, shark attacks, ship rot, insubordination and a host of other challenges en route. The deliberately-paced production repeatedly harks back to a bygone era when much of the Earth's surface was yet to be explored. Replete with breathtaking Pacific panoramas shot on location, "Kon-Tiki" is worth watching for the captivating visuals alone. However, the storytelling is solid, too, with all adding up to a fitting tribute to the enviable exploits of the legendary Thor Heyerdahl.

Independent & Foreign Films

Arthur Newman (Unrated) Midlife crisis dramedy about a depressed, recently-divorced man (Colin Firth) who fakes his own death and assumes a new identity before taking to the road where he becomes beguiled by a kleptomaniac (Emily Blunt) he finds passed out at a seedy motel. Support cast features Anne Heche, Autumn Dial and David Andrews.

At Any Price (R for profanity and graphic sexuality) Prodigal Son saga about the rebellious offspring (Zac Efron) of a struggling farmer (Dennis Quaid) who'd rather pursue his dream of becoming a race car driver than try to save the family business by following in his father's footsteps. With Heather Graham, Maika Monroe and Red West.

Graceland (Unrated) Filipino crime thriller about a corrupt politician's (Menggie Cobarrubias) chauffeur (Arnold Reyes) forced to take the law into his own hands after ruthless mobsters kidnap his daughter (Ella Guevara) for ransom. With Leon Miguel, Dido De La Paz and Marife Necesito. (In Tagalog with subtitles)

King's Faith (PG-13 for violence, drug use and mature



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

themes) Christian-themed morality play about the challenges faced by a former gang member (Crawford Wilson) when his troubled past comes to threaten his newfound commitment to faith, family and a better future. Support-ing cast includes Lynn Whitfield, James McDaniel, Kayla Compton and Kristen Royal.

Midnight's Children (Unrated) Screen adaptation of the Salman Rushdie best-seller, set in Mumbai on Independence Day in 1947, following the contrasting fates of babies switched at birth, one (Satya Bhabha), born to a lowly beggar, the other (Siddharth Narayan), to a prominent family. Featuring Shohana Goswami, Rajat Kapoor and Ronit Roy. (In English, Hind and Urdu)

Mud (PG-13 for violence, profanity, sexual references, smoking and mature themes) Mathew McConaughey stars in this fugitive drama set on an uninhabited island in the Mississippi River about

a couple of 14 year-olds (Tye Sheridan and Jacob Lofland) who try to help a man wanted for murder elude bounty hunters so he can reunite with his the love of his life (Reese Witherspoon). With Sam Shepard, Michael Shannon and Joe Don Baker.

An Oversimplification of Her Beauty (Unrated) Animated romantic comedy revolving around an optimistic artist's reaction to being stood up by an intriguing young woman he was hoping to date. Voice cast includes Terence Nance, Namik Minter, Chanelle Pearson and Shante Cozier.

Paradise: Love (Unrated) First installment of a trilogy directed by Ulrich Seidl revolving around a 50 year-old, Austrian sex tourist's (Magarete Tiesel) trip to Kenya where she plans to spend her vacation sleeping with young African men. Co-starring Peter Kazungu, Inge Maux and Dunja Sowinetz. (In German, Swahili and English with subtitles)

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

MUSIC: The Riverside Theatre will honor Grammy award-winning soul and gospel singer Cissy Houston during its 4th Annual Women of Excellence in the Arts event. During the program, Houston will speak about her career and experiences in the arts, and discuss her book "Remembering Whitney." Tickets to attend The Women of Excellence in the Arts event honoring Dr. Cissy Houston are \$45, with limited availability. The ticket price includes a copy of Cissy Houston's book, "Remembering Whitney." For more information and tickets, please visit www.TheRiversideTheatre.org or call (212) 870-6784.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

ELDER CARE CONFERENCE: Join us as we discuss elder care, dementia and Alzheimer. The focus will be on maintaining a healthy brain, care givers needs, financial and legal issues. Kings County Hospital Center and the Alzheimer's Association will be present. This will be at St. Gregory the Great RC Church, corner of Brooklyn Avenue and St. John's Place in Brooklyn, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. This event is free. For further information and reservation, call (718)773-0100. Senior citizen groups and Community Centers are welcome.

DIABETES AWARENESS: Join us for a discussion on: metabolic syndrome, living healthy after diagnosis, resources and where to get help, and early warning signs in children and adults. St. Gabriel Episcopal Hall 331 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn (Between Nosstrand and New York Avenues) From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration starts 9:00am Continental breakfast will be served. For more information please contact Lion Jeromane Berger-Gaskin 347 232-0851 Lion Beverly Campbell 917 355-5392, Lion Bernice Fraser 347-718-2814.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

MUSIC: Rev. Anthony Trufant and the Emmanuel Baptist Church invite you to their next Jazz Vesper from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. 279 Lafayette Ave. (near St. James Place) Brooklyn.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

BUSINESS: Learn what you need to start and succeed in business from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.. Discover how to use social networks to connect with customers daily, evaluate salon style and decor ideas to help you create an ideal pampering experience, learn new tips on how to reward customer loyalty, and explore some of the latest techniques and styles. Seating is limited, to RSVP: email info@mynacc.org, visit our website at www.mynacc.org, or call us at (718)722-9217. This event is free. 26 Court St., Suite 701 Brooklyn, NY 11201.

BUSINESS: Join the New American Chambers of Commerce for the Digital Distribution, Marketing & Branding the Artist Seminar. The seminar will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Seating is limited. To RSVP: email info@mynacc.org,



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visit our website at www.mynacc.org, or call (718)722-9217. This event is free. 26 Court Street, Suite 701 Brooklyn, NY 11201.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

HEALTH FAIR: Join us for free health screenings and information from 11:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m. Free health screenings for Asthma, blood pressure, BMI measurements, cholesterol, hearing test, height and weight, sleeping disorder, HIV test, prostate, glaucoma, vision, clinical breast exam, pap test, pregnancy, etc. Free refreshments will also be available. 445 Lenox Road (E.35th-E.37th streets, Brooklyn, NY 11203. For more information, please call (718)270-3739 or (718)270-2020.

ONGOING UNTIL- SATURDAY, MAY 11

CELEBRATE NURSES: Help us honor nurses by submitting their names and related information. As the selection is made we will forward the names of the nurses who will receive an award and the invitation to the nurses ball. Please submit names to jacobshyatt@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 - SATURDAY, MAY 11

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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.



IMMIGRATION SERVICES: Free immigration services. Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 67 Hanson Place, Office of Council Member James. Call (718) 260-9191.

mind/body/spirit approach to diabetes management was developed by Stanford University and offers research-proven success for those who complete it. Take control, renew your sense of well-being and lead a healthy, fulfilling life. You'll learn how to: manage symptoms, better understand your condition, reduce stress and boost confidence, problem solve and better manage everyday tasks, gain control of your diabetes and have more energy to devote to feeling healthy, content and nourished. This event is free. All who plan to attend must pre-register by calling 1-646-476-1294, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, Queens.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Are you looking to improve your life? Take a class at Community Learning Center: How to Write a Book or Script, Create a Resume, How to Create Wealth, Get/Keep a Spouse, Start a Business. Classes for everyone. Community Learning Center 147-12 Archer Ave., Queens. For more information/RSVP, call (718) 291-1094.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES: Free immigration services. Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 67 Hanson Place, Office of Council Member James. Call (718) 260-9191.

DONATIONS: St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Dioceses of Trenton to bring relief to victims in the hardest hit areas. The church has organized a sorting sub station in the parish and will

be delivering donations to various locations shortly. The church is seeking donations of cardboard shipping boxes for packing or rubber bins for storage for victims. Donations are tax deductible and the church will provide you with a receipt upon request. Feel free to contact St. Robert Bellarmine Church at any time Attn: SRB Hurricane Relief Effort, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728 or srbwelcome@gmail.com, Pam Stengel (732) 580-0075, Linda Altini (917) 578-4852. Phone: (732) 462-7429 or Fax: (732) 409-3496.

QUEENS SICKLE CELL: The Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, 207-08 Hollis Ave., Queens Village, N.Y., presents a Parent to Parent Support Group meeting every first Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. For directions and registration, call (718) 712-0873 or email Qscanorg@verizon.net.

FAIRWAY MARKET SHUTTLE: Fairway Market is now offering a free group shuttle bus to its Red Hook, Brooklyn store at 480-500 Van Brunt St., Mondays thru Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. For pick-up reservations for groups of 10 or more, within a five-mile radius of the store, call Viola Williams or Marcy Rosenblum at (347) 750-1251. There will also be pickups on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 589 Prospect Ave., between 11 and 10 avenues. All seniors get a five percent discount in the store. Each group will have an hour and a half to shop and/or enjoy a bite to eat in the picturesque cafe by the waterfront.

FARMERS MARKET: Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including calaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT, WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Lefferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit www.seedsinthemiddle.org.

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING: Are you a senior homeowner struggling to make ends meet? A reverse mortgage may be an answer. NHS can help determine if this is the best option for you. All programs discussed are backed by the federal government. For information, call (718) 469-4679.

MORTGAGE AND REFINANCE SERVICES: If you're interested in obtaining a mortgage modification due to loss of income or other reasons, come in for free services and assistance. Referrals for other free assistance are also available. To make an appointment or for more information, call 718-469-4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, not-for-profit organizations. NHS is a HUD approved counseling agency.www.nhsnyc.org.

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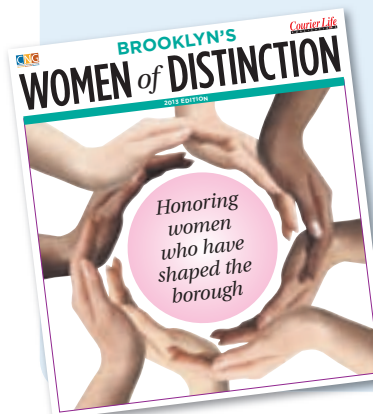
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Keynote Speaker

Jeanine Ramirez

Brooklyn Reporter



Jeanine Ramirez joined NY1 News in October 1996 and covers Brooklyn's schools, politics, religions and neighborhoods. She also is the lead reporter on many Latino issues. A native Brooklynite, Ramirez majored in communications both at Brooklyn Technical High School and Fordham University.

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Something different for your plate

"Decadence"
by Eric Jerome Dickey
ISBN 9781101609668
368 pages
23 April 2013, Dutton

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You'll try anything once. You're daring when it comes to a new restaurant, new clubs, new fashion, pretty much anything. Something different for

your plate? Bring it on. An activity you've never done before? You head the line. New technology? They call you First-Adopter.

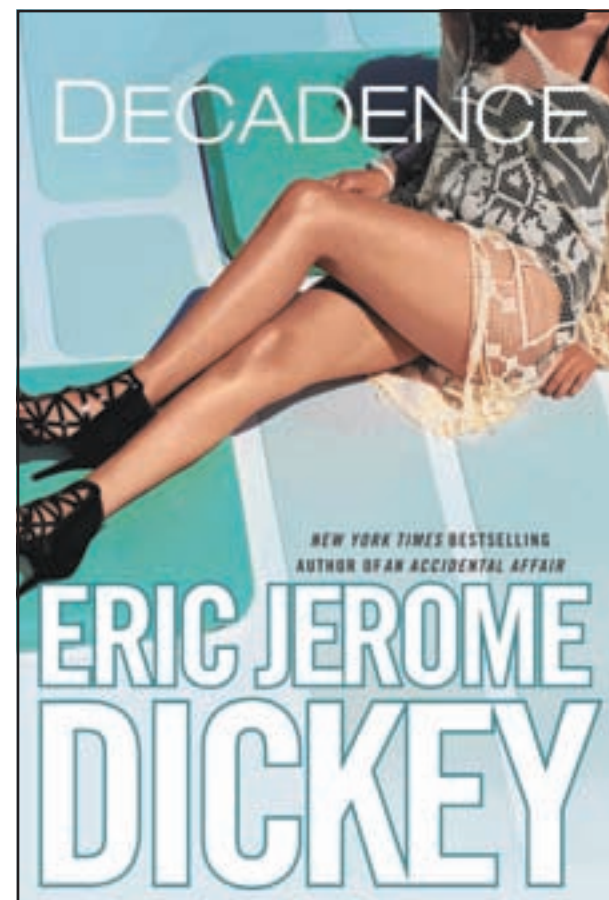
Being open to new adventures keeps life fresh and exciting. And, as you'll see in the new novel "Decadence" by Eric Jerome Dickey, embracing new experiences can also fulfill fantasies.

BOOK REVIEW

Nia Simone Bijou was feeling restless.

It had been six weeks since she last saw her lover, Prada, and though their weekend together left her sated, it wasn't for long. She had hoped that her friendship with the soldier, Bret,

would turn into a repeat of their one-night stand, but friendship was all he seemed interested in. And so, filled with desire, Nia Simone applied for membership to Decadence, a very exclusive and private swinger's club four hours away from her



Smyrna townhouse.

Decadence fees were astonishing, the medical process was thorough, and the interview was long and deeply personal, but Nia Simone had nothing to hide. She was used to being naked in front of others and she wasn't afraid to describe her fantasies. She wanted new experiences, club rules were simple, and very little was off-limits.

On her first visit, she turned from Watcher to Doer. Decadence was a lover's playground and she wished she could bring Prada with her, though she knew he'd never share her. And since monogamy was boring, sharing was what Nia Simone really desired.

But while Decadence was everything she needed it to be, it wasn't as anonymous as she'd hoped.

Years before, when Nia Simone was in college, her heart was broken by her first love, a man who cheated on her with her pupil. It was still a fist to her gut when she thought about him – so seeing him in the club, watching him please that woman, brought white-hot anger to Nia Simone, and a

need for revenge.

Looking for a different Shade of Gray? You might find it here, so bring your oven mitts.

Yes, indeed, "Decadence" is hot with a capital "H." It fairly blisters with explicitness – but it's also relentless. Author Eric Jerome Dickey starts the action literally on the fourth word of this novel and he barely lets up until the end of the book. Alas, that relentlessness sometimes made me lose interest, which is when I started noticing a handful of words that are overused to the point of silliness, and a main character that speaks in tedious, faux-poetic metaphors.

To the good, though, there's a thin plot in this book – which is better than some I've read in Dickey's erotica collection. But really, let's be honest: the plot isn't why you'd want this book in the first place, right?

In case you didn't catch on, this book is for adults only and shouldn't even be kept in the same room with kids. If you've got that covered, then go ahead and give "Decadence" a try.



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Aaron Ormon, a junior at St. Dominic's High School in Nassau County won two events in the Cougar Invitational at Bellmore Kennedy High. Photo by Robert Elkin

Ormon posts double win

By Robert Elkin

Anthony Atkinson grew up in Jamaica, West Indies, where his specialties were the 200 and 400 meters on the track. Anthony has a son Kevin Atkinson, who is a member of the track and field team at Baldwin High School. Kevin used to compete at a young age in the 100-meter dash on a travel team.

Kevin advanced himself to longer distances. He and his teammates from Baldwin High School took part in the Bellmore Continued on Page 44

Digicel sponsors CPL

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) has signed global telecommunications company and long-term West Indies Cricket sponsor Digicel as a major sponsor of the newly-formed CPL, which will host its inaugural tournament in July and August this year.

"We are thrilled to have Digicel as our partner in this venture," said CPL founder Ajmal Khan of Venus International.

"Its wealth of experience in the region and in West Indies cricket will be an invaluable asset to the CPL, ensuring its initial and long-term success," he said.

Digicel has been the main sponsor of West Indies Cricket since 2004.

Continued on Page 44



Devon Smith bats during a ICC Cricket World Cup league match between South Africa and West Indies.

AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe, file

Team wins Regional Super 50 Tournament

By George H. Whyte

The Windward Islands won the Regional Super 50 Tournament by defeating Combined Campuses and Colleges by 5 wickets. In a rain affected match schedule for day/night at Kensington Oval, Barbados, Windward Islands won the toss and

sent CCC to bat first. The CCC team found themselves in trouble early at 31 for 4 in the eleventh over during a rainy overcast condition. The team was bowled out for 174 runs in 49. 2 overs. Kenroy Peters 4 for 32 and Shane Shillingford 3 for 29 were the wicket takers for the Windward

Islands.

Duckworth Lewis Method

With the overs reduced, the Windward Islands team had a revised total to reach. Openers Devon Smith and John-

Continued on Page 44



Windward Islands Andre Fletcher was named Man of the Match.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton, file

Cougar Meet

Continued from page 43
Kennedy Cougar Invitational Meet last Saturday. Atkinson almost came out victorious but Joe Miller of Seaford High School had a better kick toward the end and won the event in 2:02.54. Atkinson finished second in 2:03.81 in this 800-meter exciting race. Anthony helps to train his son on the track when time and (school) practice time permits.

"Anthony trains with me on the track on technique," the runner-up said. "On days I don't have school practice, he would go with me on the track."

Last fall, Kevin Atkinson didn't go out for the school's cross country team, because he didn't like long distance running, trained on his own and concentrated on his academics. He played basketball during the winter, gave this sport up, and concentrated on track.

Over his two years plus of running, he improved a great deal. He can run the 600 and 800 meters on the track and should be one of the stars of the future at his school.

In another event of the Cougar Invitational, Aaron Ormon, a junior at St. Dominic's High School, pulled off a double on Saturday April 20 in Long Island. Ormon captured the 100 meters in 10.8 and 200 meters in 23.2, in respective events to become the only double winner in the track meet, consisting of 21 schools for boys and girls, from Nassau and Suffolk counties.

A resident of Hempstead, he felt extremely good in winning both events.

"I came out good and had a strong start," assessed Ormon, about his events. "I trained all season and the effort I put in is working out. This is my first time on this track. I enjoyed the races."

"Aaron is a gifted sprinter," said St. Dominic's coach Bob Mittleman. "His specialties are the 100 and 200 meters. He has a lot of natural talent. Now I'm trying to get him to do the 400. He is the fastest kid in the Catholic Schools Athletic Association for his races."

"My parents wanted me to go to a private school because it would be better for me," Ormon said. "Track wasn't my only sport, for the last two years I was on the baseball team."

"At first I wanted him to go to a private school, because he liked its baseball program," said Aaron's father Jeff Ormon. "But he is no longer competing in baseball. He gave it up for track." This year he decided to concentrate on one activity. He does any race between the 55 meters to the 300 meters both indoors and outdoors."

During the fall he trains for the winter.

"My favorite event is the 200. But I'm better in the 100," the student athlete added.

Both Atkinson and Ormon are concentrating now on the team and individual championships.

Regional Super 50 Champions

Continued from page 43

son Charles blasted 100 in 98 balls before Charles fell for 46. Smith scored 67 not out as the Windward Islands closed at 134 for one from 29 overs.

Note: Devon Smith and Kenroy Peters were both named Man of the Match.

First Semi-Final CCC Defeats T&T By 140 Runs

Combined Campuses and Colleges defeated Trinidad and Tobago by 140 runs in the first semi-finals of the Regional Super 50 Tournament. CCC batted first and scored 232 for 7 in a day/night affair with opening batsman Anthony Alleyne scoring 99. For Trinidad and Tobago, Rayad Emrit 23 and Jason Mohammed 14 were

the main contributors as their team was dismissed for 92 off 31.2 overs.

St. Vincent Fast Bowler got Early Wickets

St. Vincent fast bowler Keswick Williams bowled with speed and accuracy on the Kensington Oval field. Lendl Simmons, Adrian Barath and captain Denesh Ramdin all fell cheaply. Williams picked up 3 for 16 from 7 hostile overs, spinner Akeem Dewar 2 for 14 and Raymon Reifer 2 for 11 were the main contributing bowlers.

Second Semi-Final Windwards Defeats Jamaica by 5 Wickets

Some spectacular performances from three Wind-

ward Islands batsmen led their team to victory. Earlier on, Jamaica won the toss and decided to bat in the Kensington Oval. Some fine batting from Brenton Parchment 82, Nkrumah Bonner 74 and Dave Bernard 32 boosted Jamaica to 242 for 8 from their 50 overs. Windward Islands captain Liam Sebastian picked up 2 wickets for 43 runs from 10 overs and Kenroy Peters 3 wickets for 60 runs from 9 overs.

Devon Smith 59, Keddy LesPoris 61 and Andre Fletcher 68 Guided Windwards to Victory

A splendid partnership of 78 find from 68 balls between Devon Smith and Tyrone Theophile for the second wicket, a fourth wicket part-

nership of 91 runs between Andre Fletcher and Keddy LesPoris, all contributed significantly for Windwards Islands' success. All-rounder Dalton Polius slammed 2 boundaries from 3 balls to seal the victory for the Windward Islands. Smith, the batsman with the most runs in both the super 50 and the four-day competition scored 59 runs with 10 boundaries off 44 balls.

Note: Andre Fletcher was named Man of the Match.

Indian Premier League Hat-Trick Takers

1. Lakshniphy Balaji, 2. Amit Mishra (three times), 3. Yuvraj Singh (two times), 4. Makhay Ntini, 5. Rohit Sharma, 6. Praveen Kumar, 7. Ajit Chandila, 8. Sunil Narine.

Premier league

Continued from page 43

The sponsorship will be a multi-year deal and represents a significant investment from Digicel.

Digicel Marketing Director Kieran Foley said the company brings a wealth of other benefits to the CPL, including its integral and long-term involvement in the regional sport which has created

invaluable relationships with the West Indies and regional players.

"The CPL is a perfect fit for Digicel, We're huge fans of West Indies cricket and this is a great opportunity for us to invest not only in what will be an amazing event, but also in the young cricketers who will benefit from around the region," Foley said.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly in soccer

By Patrick Horne

Last week was an eventful one in world soccer. It demonstrated the Good, the Bad and the Ugly in the sport and reiterated the old adage that soccer is a sport of glorious uncertainties; unfortunately, all was not glorious the past week.

The Good - It was wonderful to see the reaction of the fans at Tottenham Hot-spurs last Sunday, April 21, when the London team rallied from a 1-0 deficit at home to beat northerners and last year's English Premier League champion Manchester City, 3-1. The win carried much importance because Tottenham edged closer to finishing in the top four of the English league in order to participate in next year's European Champions' League, the wealthiest and most prestigious club tournament around.

Tottenham was trailing well into the second half with just about 20 minutes left in the game; the fans were on

the edge of their seats anxiously awaiting the equalizer; as hope began to fade, Tottenham produce probable the most memorable seven minutes in the club's recent history. Fifteen minutes for the final whistle, American captain Clint Dempsey scored the equalizer as Tottenham Stadium erupted in a frenzy of joy; just minutes later, the much underrated Jermaine DeFoe scored the go-ahead goal after coming on as a substitute and it sent the maddening crowd wild with screams of joy, hugs and laughter; Tottenham superstar Gareth Bale later sealed the victory with one of the best goals scored in the English Premiership this season as he chipped the ball over the on-rushing City goal keeper Gary Hart. The fans, players and all watching experienced a most exciting and memorable moment that the game is meant to produce. It was a moment that the fans will never forget - a moment of glorious uncertainty.

On Monday, the day after

Tottenham's wonderful win, Manchester United, the other northern city dwellers, beat Aston Villa, 3-0, to win its 13th English Premier League title and its 20th English league championship in front of its home crowd of 75,000 at Old Trafford Stadium. Robin van Persie, whom manager Alex Ferguson bought from London club Arsenal FC last summer, scored a hat trick (83rd, 12th and 33rd minutes) to lead the team. "It is a great feeling," said the Dutch forward, who has a league-high 24 goals. "It is a fantastic team and fantastic players. It is a championship for every single one of them."

Manchester United (27-4-3, 84 pts.) now have won 13 of the 21 English Premier League titles and with four games to play could finish on 96 points to eclipse Chelsea's record of 95 points set in 2004-05. United also bettered its record by being the club to win the Premier League at the earliest since it did it in 2001. "It is sweet. It doesn't matter

when you win it."

United manager Ferguson said. "The consistency has been phenomenal. We have lived up to the expectation." Ferguson also praised Van Persie's second goal, a volley shot. "As far as I'm concerned, it's the goal of the season," said the coach. "Technique, head over the ball. Magnificent strike." Other good happenings last weekend was New York Red Bulls' 4-1 over the New England Revolution at Red Bull Arena Saturday night, and Mexico's 2-1 win over Panama to capture the CONCACAF Under-17 title.

The Bad - The chickens finally came home to roost for former CONCACAF president and FIFA vice president, Trinidadian Jack Warner. On Sunday, Warner resigned his position as minister of national security in the ruling UNC government of Trinidad and Tobago and also stepped down as chairman of the UNC (United National Congress).

After years of accusations of misappropriation of mil-

lions of dollars as head of the regional body, the CONCACAF Ethics and Integrity Committee confirmed what it termed as "corruption" by Warner and former CONCACAF secretary general, American Chuck Blazer, in a 113-page report presented at last weekend's 28th Congress of CONCACAF, held in Panama City. The Committee found that the two "enriched themselves through fraud during their terms with the organization."

Among the Committee's findings, as stated by Committee head David Anthony Cathcart Simmons, is Warner's misappropriation of at least \$15 million by compensating himself with CONCACAF funds without authorization and the mismanaging of nearly \$1 million in FIFA funds slated for a reconstruction project in Haiti. Warner resigned from FIFA in June 2011 after it was found out that he initiated a cash-for-votes bribery scandal to influence the FIFA presidential election. Warner was banned

from any involvement with soccer.

Warner for years was an embarrassment to the regional body, more specifically to the Caribbean and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. He was in charge of the national soccer team's successful World Cup qualification in 2006 and did not compensate the players after an agreement to pay the team a percentage of the World Cup income. The FBI and the U.S. Internal revenue Service are contemplating further investigations into the actions of Warner and Blazer. Regional soccer is better off without this pair. This may also be the beginning of the final chapter for Jack Warner

The Ugly - Liverpool Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez bit a Chelsea defender during last Saturday's English Premiership game. The player was only fined by Liverpool and is awaiting action from the English F A. Suarez has a history of bad conduct in soccer.

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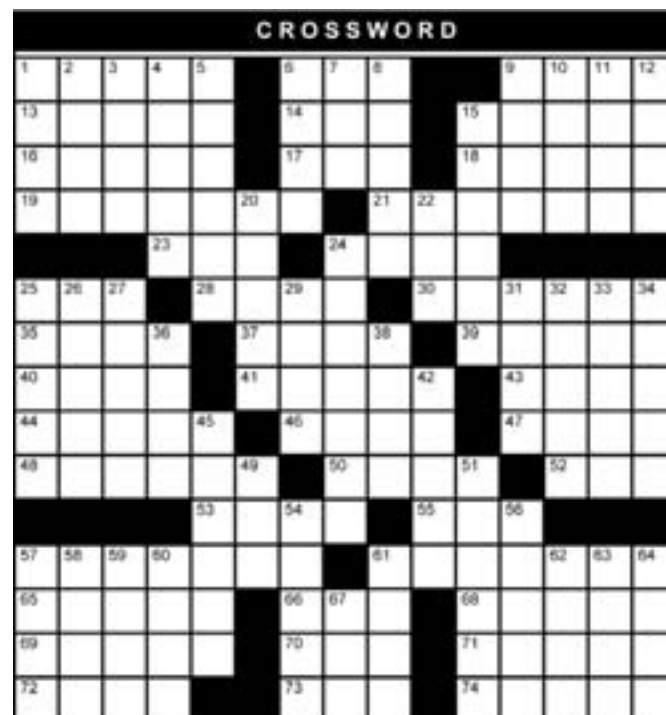
ACROSS

1. The final frontier?
6. It's between generations
9. Seconds, as in food
13. Man-made stone pile
14. A try
15. Locomotive hair
16. Assistants
17. Big Island necklace
18. Twig of a willow tree
19. **"Oh, the places you'll go!"
21. **"A house divided against itself cannot stand."
23. Pod dweller
24. Continental currency
25. Male child
28. Bohemian, e.g.
30. Knapsack for a soldier
35. Extraterrestrials' rides
37. Show horse type
39. "Downton Abbey," e.g.
40. Capital of Latvia
41. Interior designer's focus
43. Newton, e.g.
44. **"Life was a funny thing that happened to me on the way to the grave."
46. Sign of a saint
47. U2 guitarist
48. TV variety show classic
50. Shining armor

52. Morse code signal
53. A car usually has one to spare
55. Type of dance
57. Don't dwell on it
61. **"And yet it moves"
65. Muse of love poetry
66. Bubble source?
68. Eye opener
69. Colorado skiing destination
70. American chant
71. Viking, in the kitchen
72. Regard
73. Even, to a poet
74. Klondike river

DOWN

1. A large number or amount
2. Batman and Robin, e.g.
3. Gives a hand
4. Do like ivy
5. Comes next
6. "Buffalo _____, won't you come out tonight..."
7. To go gray?
8. WWI French soldier
9. Catchall abbr.
10. Assortment
11. Cambodian money
12. "_____ your keep"
15. Cone shape
20. Tossed starter
22. Rub the wrong way
24. One moved from a dangerous place
25. **"You rang?"
26. Flamb 
27. Motherless calf in a herd
29. Equal to side squared for a square
31. T on some tests
32. Wedding _____, pl.
33. Spanish friend
34. **"Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one."
36. Around a window
38. **"I wanted to win, even in practice."
42. Indian restaurant yogurt staple
45. **"America loves a winner and will not tolerate a loser."
49. Head cover
51. Pay or earnings
54. Scoundrel
56. Pilaff, to some
57. Old paint hazard
58. Gaelic
59. VHS, e.g.
60. A distinct part
61. F.B.I. operative
62. Long and thin
63. "Cogito _____ sum"
64. A sign
67. Consume



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GUITAR

\$59

STUDIO MIXER

\$159

GEMINI NUMARK MIXTRACK

\$239

TURN TABLE

\$69

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