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MUSICAL CHEERS!

Inez Barron, a former State Assemblywoman takes the oath of office administered by the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, to fill the seat for the 45th Councilmanic District vacated by her husband Charles, the likely successor to his wife's State Assembly seat. See Page 3

Photo by Amun

Haiti, DR meet to discuss disputes

By Trenton Daniel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian and Dominican officials met Tuesday in an effort to resolve mounting tension between the Caribbean neighbors that was reflected in a recent court ruling that threatens to strip the citizenship of people of Haitian descent who were born in the Dominican Republic.

The talks are part of a new binational commission that aims to discuss issues including commerce, migration, the environment and border security. The countries share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

But the main topic under discussion was a September court ruling that threatens to revoke citizenship from thousands of

people living in the Dominican Republic who are mostly of Haitian descent. They could be sent to Haiti even though they weren't born there.

"The Haitian government is asking for concrete measures to be taken to protect the fundamental rights of people of Haitian origin," Prime Minister Laurent

Continued on Page 4

CRIME GONE AWRY

19 Murders in 7 Days

By Bert Wilkinson

The murder rate in Trinidad for much of the past decade has topped more than 400 per year and violent crime has had such a debilitating effect on politics on the island nation that Opposition Leader Keith Rowley said it had much to do with the heavy defeat of the then People's National Movement (PNM) in the 2010 general elections, and predicts that a similar fate awaits Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her cabinet with less than two years left for fresh polls.

By the middle of this week, police had recorded a staggering 19 murders in seven days for this year; a figure which has sent alarm bells through a society that has already lived through

two coup attempts, gangland violence of various types and other forms of unrest in recent years. And up to press time, police were also investigating reports of yet another gun murder near a taxi stand in the Arima area east of Port of Spain, the capital.

Clearly shaken up by the string of murders of infants, the elderly and the young and able-bodied, Persad-Bissessar called a meeting of her national security team to read the proverbial riot act and to indicate that no more excuses will be accepted by responsible ministers and other top officials in the sector.

"I have made clear to each member of the NSC that they would be held personally

Continued on Page 4

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

U.S. health authorities have issued a travel advisory for the French Caribbean dependency of St. Martin because of a mosquito-borne viral disease that is apparently being spread locally at the start of the winter tourist season.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it is closely following reports of the chikungunya virus among residents of the French side of a tiny island in the northeast Caribbean marketed as the Friendly Island.

It's the first time the disease, typically found in Africa and Asia, has been reported in the Western Hemisphere among people who have not traveled recently, suggesting that the virus is now being carried by infected island mosquitoes.

"Microbes know no boundaries, and the appearance of the chikungunya virus in the Western Hemisphere represents another threat to health security," CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a statement.

The World Health Organization has reported 10 confirmed cases in tourism-dependent St. Martin, which splits the island with the Dutch constituent country of St. Maarten.

Bahamas

Bahamas police were kept busy over the Christmas season having to deal with a murder spree, which left four dead in a drive-by shooting in Nassau, Bahamas and several robberies and stabbings.

Police said they are seeking the public's help for two suspects in the shooting deaths.

Police said a car approached a Nassau park on Friday Dec. 27, 2013 and those inside fired several shots before speeding off. Eleven people were wounded. Nassau's New Providence Island has experienced a surge of violent crime in recent years. The U.S. Department of State says the incidents are not directed at tourists but could place innocent bystanders in jeopardy.

Barbados

The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) is calling for a reduction in the Value Added Tax (VAT) as well as a 30 per cent



Meteorology holds the key to farming

Kenneth Kerr, climate meteorologist at the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service, explains how computer modeling is used to provide agrometeorology services to farmers.

IPS/Jewel Fraser

cut in the salaries of government ministers as it seeks to avert plans by the government to cut an estimated 3,000 public sector jobs in the New Year.

The Freundel Stuart administration said that the plan to cut public service jobs would result in the government saving as much as BDS\$143 million and that the government had also agreed to institute a "strict program of attrition" across the central public service, filling posts only where it is absolutely unavoidable, over the next five years, ending 2018-2019.

"This attrition is expected to reduce central government employment levels from approximately 16,970 to 14, 612 jobs – a projected loss of 2,358 posts; and savings of BDS\$121 million. Over the current 19-month adjustment period public sector employment will be reduced by an additional 501 jobs with a projected savings of BDS\$26 million," Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Chris Sinckler said earlier this month. The government said that the first 2,000 job cuts would take place

by Jan. 15, followed by others by March 1.

Dominica

Dominica would need approximately EC\$45 million to rebuild its infrastructure, following the passage of a low-level trough system recently that caused widespread damage and death in the Caribbean, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has said.

Skerrit, speaking to reporters after a special Cabinet meeting last week, said his administration had also agreed on several measures to ease the plight of citizens affected by the weather system that washed away bridges, damaged homes, business and roads.

"We are talking about a total sum, based on the advice on the Ministry of Public Works, to be in the area of EC\$45 million (and) for rehabilitation of infrastructure and mitigation and to clean up, we talking about a project cost of EC\$830,000." He said.

Skerrit said Cabinet had agreed people whose homes had been damaged by the storm would

receive 100 per cent assistance from the government. In addition, the government has also decided to pay rent for a limited period for some families who would have to be relocated, as well as provide school books and other educational material to students who suffered losses during the passage of the system.

Grenada

A High Court judge has ruled against admitting a former member of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to the local bar.

Justice Margaret Price-Findley recently ruled against the request by Ewart Layne, even though members of the Grenada Bar Association (GBA) had argued for his admittance during the hearing.

In her oral judgment, the judge made reference to Layne's role in the collapse of the Grenada revolution, his subsequent conviction for murder and the time served in prison as the basis for her refusal.

Layne is one of the so-called Grenada 17 who served 25 years

in prison for murdering then left wing prime minister Maurice Bishop and members of his PRG government. Others jailed were Bishop's deputy Bernard Coard and his wife, Phyllis. Layne said that he would appeal the court ruling to the OECS Court of Appeal.

Guyana

Guyana is seeking help from experts in Florida to help the South American country properly manage and develop its vast system of national parks. Environment Minister Robert Persaud said recently that he has held meetings with officials at the South Florida National Parks Trust.

Persaud said Guyana also wants to improve its environmental education campaigns and revise its policies to better protect and develop natural resources. Protected areas in Guyana include Kaieteur Falls, a scenic waterfall in the country's central region that measures about 741 feet (226 metres).

Haiti

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) says it is providing a US\$11 million grant to Haiti to assist the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country improve access to primary education and early childhood development.

The project, which will target poor children as well as enhance equity and governance of the education sector, will provide for tuition waivers, student nutrition and health, pre-service and in-service teacher training, school textbooks, multi-grade learning programs, and activities to improve student literacy skills.

It will also support community-based activities for school building and teacher training and will improve governance and enhance financial management and procurement skills within the ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, the CDB said in a statement. It said the project is an integral component of the National Education for All Strategy and would support the Operational Plan for Education articu-

Continued on Page 16





Deputy New York Consul General and deputy chair of the Relief Steering Committee, Edson Augustus, addressing volunteers, flanked by committee members.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Vincentian storm relief efforts continue

By Nelson A. King

Still very disheartened by the freak Christmas Eve storm that left nine people dead and an estimated EC \$150 million in damages, Vincentian nationals in the United States continue to work feverishly in sending relief supplies home.

"I cannot find words to express my feelings about the Diaspora – not only in New York but outside New York," Edson Augustus, Deputy St. Vincent and the Grenadines' New York Consul General, who is also deputy chairman of the Brooklyn-based Vincentian Relief Steering Committee, told Caribbean Life.

"They (nationals) gave sacrificially – not only of their time but also of the items requested," he added. "We worked as a family."

As relief operations on Sunday wound down at the center, which served as the chief operating venue, Augustus urged the community to bring supplies to Standard Shippers, 3116 Clarendon Rd., Brooklyn, for shipment home.

He said items needed include pots and pans, bed sheets, curtains, mops, buckets, soap, deodorant,

furniture and medical supplies.

Augustus said the first shipment of relief supplies, transported free of cost by Amerijet, arrived at E.T. Joshua airport in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Jan. 2.

That shipment of 77 barrels comprised, among other things, food items, clothes, medicine, water and toiletries.

Augustus said another shipment – a 40 ft. container – of the foregoing items, plus tools and shoes, was expected to arrive home later this week.

He also disclosed that St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, VA, has donated four, 400-lb pallets of medicine.

Douglas Howard, the newly-elected president of the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Progressive Organization of New York (SPOONY), an arm of the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), told Caribbean Life that his group on Sunday donated 10 barrels, a large box and a pallet of relief supplies to its homeland.

He said the pallet of canned milk and Milo was

Continued on Page 6

Inauguration Ceremony for the Brooklyn Barrons

By Amun

The inauguration ceremony for the Honorable Inez Barron, Council Member for the 42nd District was held on Friday, Jan. 3 at New York City Hall in the Council Chambers. It was a very festive occasion. Food was served for the first two hours from 5:00 till 7:00 p.m., giving attendees an opportunity to enjoy the cuisine, have lengthy conversations and recover from effects of the unpleasant weather. It was bitter cold and the streets and sidewalks were still covered with snow. In spite of the weather the hall was full when the ceremony started at 7:00 p.m.

Peggy Iman Washington, the Mistress of Ceremony welcomed the audience and proceeded to open the program. First there were the African drummers followed by the Rev. Eyesha Maribul Dance Ensemble, and the pouring of the libation. There was an acknowledgement of family, Council Member Barron's two sons, Jelani and Jawanza and their families were in attendance, elected officials, John Lui, Council Members Jumaane Williams, Benjamin Davis



Mrs. Inez Barron and her husband, Charles during her inauguration. Photo by Amun

and of course Charles Barron, special guest, Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, Mississippi, Viola Plum-

mer, Brenda Stokely, Andre Mitchell, Larry Hamm, Rev. Dr. Herbert and Rev. Karen Daughtry. Michael Tarif

Warren, Dr. James McIntosh and many more. There were remarks by Joyce Scott-
Continued on Page 9

Boehner open to immigration deal

By Nelson A. King

Even as Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has reiterated her call on United States President Barack Obama to suspend deportations to the Caribbean, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, John A. Boehner, has signaled his intention to embrace a series of limited changes to U.S. immigration laws.

Aides to Boehner say he is committed to "step by step" initiatives to revise the immigration laws.

In giving immigration advocates new hope for

2014, the House Speaker has reportedly hired Rebecca Tallent, a longtime immigration adviser to Sen. John McCain (R-Az.), a long-time advocate of immigration reform.

Immigration advocates also say Boehner has hired Tallent because of his penchant to make an "immigration deal" this year.

Additionally, advocates say Boehner's end-of-year criticism of Tea Party groups, accusing them of losing "all credibility", indicates his plans on immigration.

"The American people are skeptical of big, com-

prehensive bills, and frankly, they should be," Boehner told reporters recently.

"The only way to make sure immigration reform works this time is to address these complicated issues one step at a time," he added. "I think doing so will give the American people confidence that we're dealing with these issues in a thoughtful way and a deliberative way."

Obama, on the other hand, said he is open to the piecemeal approach on immigration favored by House Republicans only if it does not abandon comprehensive goals in legisla-

tion that passed the Senate last summer.

In the interim, immigration change advocates continue to demand an end to deportations.

"I have asked President Obama to suspend deportations of non-violent persons until we enact comprehensive immigration reform that permits these families to resolve their legal status in the United States," Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, told Caribbean Life.

"In each instance of deportation, families are

Continued on Page 6

Kamla gets tough on the security services

Continued from cover

accountable for any further failure to keep the peace and protect our citizens. And so once in charge, the respective arms of the respective security services, they must perform. No shades of grey, no excuses, no apologies. The government and people of Trinidad and Tobago are demanding results now. "Having given these mandates and effectively removed any room for excuses, I will myself be very closely monitoring and actively following the progress made by each arm of the protective and security services," she said.

The call to action came days after fellow Cabinet Minister Rodger Samuel called for a resumption of death-by-hanging for violent criminals, as he argued that it is possibly the only solution left to deter criminals. The head of government, how-

ever, said that there is division in Cabinet and in other halls of power as to whether hanging would serve as a deterrent in addition to the various levels of appeal criminals have at their disposal to delay executions.

"I can't recall any time in this country a bloodbath taking place like this week,"
The main issue was the PNM's failure to reduce the violent crime.

To deal with the situation, the police administration has cancelled vacation time for officers at every level and plans to deploy additional vehicles and intelligence officers to get a handle on crime.

Violent crime has led to a 'musical chair' of sorts for security ministers in the past 10 years with at least six serving in the capacity. Each had vowed to crush it only to be relieved on their appointments in a matter of months. Current boss Gary Griffith has to take note.

As an indication of how serious the situation is, Keith Rowley, the man touting himself as the prime minister-in-waiting not only predicts the fall of the government at the hands of crime but also said it had brought down the PNM at the mid-2010 polls.

"I can't recall any time in this country a bloodbath taking place like this week," Rowley said, attributing the party's heavy defeat to runaway murders. "The main issue was the PNM's failure to reduce the violent crime," he said.

Persad-Bissessar says: "Our nation has seen an unprecedented spike in violence and murder. This spike occurred despite increasing efforts in focusing resources, implementation, modified equipment, new technology and police visibility."

Finding a solution

Continued from cover

Lamothe said in a prepared statement following the talks at an industrial park in the Haitian border town of Ouanaminthe. "The Dominican government made this guarantee."

Then he added, his remarks broadcast live on national television: "The two parties recognize that this subject was not neglected" in the talks.

The closed-door discussions were the first of what will be monthly meetings to discuss trade, the environment, security and the court ruling, which has been condemned by the United Nations, Caribbean leaders and human rights groups.

Representatives from the U.N., Caribbean Community, European Union and Venezuela will serve as observers and lend advice, Lamothe said.

The Dominican Republic's National Office of Migration said it's going to provide temporary papers for Haitians who work in the country, Lamothe also said.

Details will be discussed further at the next meeting, scheduled for Feb. 3 in the Dominican Republic.

The Tuesday gathering was scheduled after a December meeting in Venezuela at which Haitian President Michel Martelly and Dominican President Danilo Medina agreed to try to resolve tensions surrounding the court decision and other differences.

Dominican officials had initially said they wouldn't discuss the court ruling, which they say cannot be appealed. Dominican and Haitian officials will have to find a creative way to annul the decision.

The decision from the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court states that people born in the country after 1929 to foreigners living illegally in the country are not automatically granted citizenship.

Human rights groups decried the plan and the ruling, saying that an estimated 200,000 people could lose their citizenship, the majority of them of Haitian descent. The government maintains that only some 24,000 would be affected.

Associated Press writer Ezequiel López Blanco contributed to this report from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

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Favorable climate for immigration reform

Continued from page 3
forcibly separated, leaving behind a husband or wife without a spouse or children without a parent," added Clarke, who is the Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies.

"These forced separations of families are excessive and has created a crisis that has resulted in more harm than good," she continued. "The exercise of excessive deportation is inhumane and flies in the face of the values and morals of a nation established by immigrants for immigrants. We cannot allow this exercise to continue."

In announcing the year-end removal numbers, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency said Jamaicans were among the top 10 nationals deported in 2013.

ICE said the top 10 deportees were from Latin



American and the Caribbean, with 1,119 from Jamaicans.

ICE also said that 2,462 nationals from the Dominican Republic were deported.

The immigration agency said Mexico continues to be the leading country of origin for those removed, followed by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

The figures for Mexico show 241,493 deportees;

Guatemala 47,769; Honduras 37,049; El Salvador 21,602; Ecuador 1,616; Brazil 1,500; Colombia 1,429; and Nicaragua 1,383.

ICE said 98 percent of the agency's total removals were convicted criminals, recent border crossers, illegal re-entrants or those previously removed "in line with agency's enforcement priorities."

Clarke said "many of these men and women have

lived in the United States for practically their entire lives.

"Many arrived here in their youth as children and, in many cases, entered the United States lawfully and were granted resident status," she said.

Immigration officials said the number of deportees this year was 10 percent fewer than in the previous year.

ICE said the government deported 343,020 immigrants, from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 7, 2013, who were in the U.S. illegally.

"I would bet money that it will be done before the presidential election of 2016," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), and one of the architects of the immigration legislation in the Senate, referring to possible passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

"But I think there's a very good chance it will get done considerably sooner than that — in 2014," he added.

Storm relief efforts find popular support

Continued from page 3
given, by a distribution outlet in the East New York section of Brooklyn, through the efforts of Allyson Seales, a member of the Relief Steering Committee.

UN Ambassador, I. Rhonda King, also commended the New York Diaspora in particular for "their response and the way in which they have stepped up to the plate."

"This is what nation-building is all about — working together," she told Caribbean Life. "This is what the prime minister had asked us to do in his Independence message (last October). "New York is certainly acceding to that call."

Meantime, the Brooklyn-based Vincentian American Adventist Association (VAAA), in collaboration with the New York Consulate General, next Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6:00 p.m., will stage a gospel concert to aid relief efforts.

The event, which takes place at the Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton St., in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, features leading Vincentian and Caribbean gospel artistes, including Trinidadians Wayne and Devon Johnson, Pastor Wendy Mitchell and Vincentians Theophilus Homer and Evangelist Ellsworth "Lifeboy" Quammie.

Popular, award-winning gospel artiste, Bridget Blucher, will be unable to perform since she will be at home at the time.

"We are our brother's keeper," said Beverly Regisford-Henry, the VAAA's president and event coordinator, quoting a popular biblical verse and repeating the theme of the concert. "Come and support a worthy cause."

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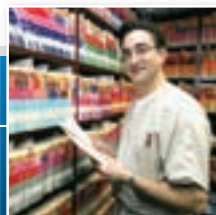
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Farm forecasts try to decode a capricious Trinidad climate

By Jewel Fraser

PORT OF SPAIN, Dec 31, 2013 (IPS) - In the southwest peninsula of Cedros, one of Trinidad's driest areas, Jenson Alexander grows the cocoa used for many years by the British chocolate giant Cadbury.

Dry conditions mean that he frequently faces bush fires, a challenge compounded by increasing climate variability that makes it difficult to predict when an extended dry season, and the fires that accompany it, are likely to occur.

"We are dealing with a science that has large uncertainties and 10 days ahead is very long in terms of how the atmosphere may or may not change." -- Kenneth Kerr

So in May, when the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) began issuing weather bulletins specifically to keep farmers updated on expected weather conditions, he found a

measure of relief.

"Before, it was difficult when you were expecting to have rain and [instead] you were having drought...and bush fires," Alexander told IPS.

The 10-day bulletins for farmers that the TTMS issues have considerably reduced the uncertainty, he said. "Now we have updates, we can plan better, if we are having an extended dry season. So bush fires won't affect us" as they did before, he said.

Kenneth Kerr, a climate meteorologist at TTMS, told IPS that "cocoa farmers have indicated that they found the bulletins very useful."

Trinidad boasts some of the finest cocoa in the world and the makers of Cadbury chocolate once owned and operated a cocoa estate in the island.

Kerr is one of two meteorologists in Trinidad and Tobago who produce 10-day forecasts geared specifically to the farming com-

munity. The other, Arlene Aaron-Morrison, is a trained agrometeorologist as well as a climatologist.

Aaron-Morrison explains that the work of a meteorologist differs somewhat from that of an agrometeorologist. "The focus is different," she said. "A meteorologist focuses on aviation meteorology while the agrometeorologist focuses on agriculture."

The decision to provide climate forecasts specifically for farmers came out of a joint initiative launched in 2010 by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, the World Meteorological Organisation, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of 10 Caribbean countries.

This initiative is known as the Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative (CAMI).

Continued on Page 29

Inauguration ceremony

Continued from page 3

Brayboy, Inaugural Committee; Andre T. Mitchell, Man-Up, Inc.; Viola Plummer, D12 and The Freedom Party, and the Charles Barron.

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, Mississippi was the keynote speaker and he gave a very uplifting speech with lots of anecdotes of confrontation with racist situations in Mississippi. He also laid out a guide for progressive political leadership indicating that a good leader is also a good follower and that you can't do anything without the support of the people. Mayor Lumumba is an attorney with a long history of Black radical activism. He shunned running for political office until 2009 when he was elected to City Council in Jackson. On July 1, 2013 he took office as mayor of Jackson, Mississippi.

The oath of office was administered by the Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry and assisted by the Hon. Charles Barron, the former Council Person for the 42nd Council District. Council Member Inez Barron not only took the official oath of office, but also one from the community pledging to continue to fight for affordable housing, better public education, opposition to stop and frisk, and to continue to represent the poor and working class of the district and their aspirations. Council Member Inez Barron was elected with 96 percent of the vote and she succeeds her husband, Charles Barron as Council Person for the 42nd Council District, which includes East New York and portions of Brownsville and Canarsie. She was formally State Assemblywoman for virtually the same district.

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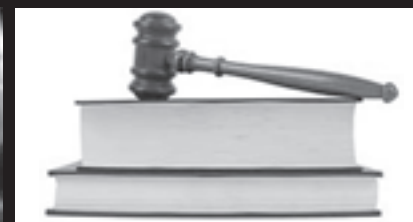
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**Past Results Do Not Guarantee Future Outcomes*

A business owner's case for raising the minimum wage

To the Editor:

What if we could create a program that would strengthen our tax base, make government spending more fiscally responsible and provide a powerful financial incentive to low-income workers? It sounds too good to be true.

But it already exists and dates back to 1938 – the minimum wage.

When wages are too low for even full-time workers to buy basic necessities, workers turn to taxpayer-funded programs like food stamps and Medicaid. A surprising beneficiary is the low-wage employer who is being subsidized by taxpayers.

It's a perverse incentive program. A corner business or giant retailer like Costco that pays a starting wage of \$11.50 an hour gets no government subsidy while a store across the street paying the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is actually getting a government handout because it pays a substandard wage. This does not make economic sense.

Unfortunately, the minimum wage has been eroding for decades. The minimum wage under Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 was actually 18 percent higher than it is today, adjusted for inflation. We can't progress as a nation this way.

Back in 1914, Henry Ford doubled the average autoworker's pay and reduced their workday to eight hours in order to cut turnover and enable them to afford to buy the Model T. He understood the crucial connection between worker wages and consumer demand.

Too many business people have unlearned this lesson and our economy continues to suffer as customers have less to spend on the products businesses have to sell. If cutting wages were the answer, our economy would be humming right now.

Raising the minimum wage is a great way to boost consumer demand because every additional dollar that goes into the hands of a low-income worker is very likely to be spent, thus spurring business sales and economic growth. Our economy needs this boost from the bottom up.

We employ hundreds of customer service and warehouse workers at Uncommon Goods. Our lowest wage for seasonal workers is \$12 – up from \$11 in 2012 and \$10 in 2011. Full-time workers earn more. We see higher productivity and lower turnover when employees are fairly compensated. And as we've raised our starting wage, our entry-level workers have become more financially self-sufficient.

Continued on Page 14

Women as a priority

By Patrina C. Jones, Ph.D.

When Leticia "Tish" James strut onto the podium to be sworn in as New York City's 4th Public Advocate, I was instantly reminded of Sojourner Truth's own strutting to the podium on another historic day in 1851 at a Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio to give her "Ain't I A Woman?" speech. Back then, Women, Black people, and Children lived enslaved to a system that did not consider them worthy of human dignity. On that date, Truth defined the reputation of a Black woman as a public advocate with a powerful voice. She also encouraged all women to see themselves as extraordinarily resilient. As the speaker remarked personally, "I could work as much and eat as a man – when I could get it – and bear the lash as well. And ain't I a woman?" Truth believed that this voice worked best as a public service for society's most vulnerable members. The public advocate, true to her word, used her voice, her power, to advocate for the human rights and dignity of her Black sisters.

Even before that, as early as 1831, Maria Stewart, the first Black woman to speak on women rights issues in the United States, suggested through her public speeches that the moral wellbeing of Black girls and women must be the priority of local states, and of the Nation. In one her most prominent speeches, Stewart argued that we should "let our girls possess what amiable qualities of soul they may; let their characters be fair and spotless as innocence itself." Stewart encouraged putting into place positive support systems, including customs and beliefs which reinforced respect and equality for all classes of women, safe and secure housing, educational opportunities, respectable employment without discrimination, and

Ms. James, I pray that you may be an advocate for Black women, for all women, regardless of class, sexuality, race or any other distinctive quality.

fair wages. Stewart used her reputation as a public advocate to platform the moral uplift of Black women as a national priority.

In this way, Ms. James is not the "first," woman of color to hold such a position, at least not technically. Her historic "first" relates to her 2013 city-wide election to replace Mayor Bill De Blasio. Created in 1993, the Public Advocate's office operates as a voice for New York City's citizenry. Section 24 of the city charter created this office to provide oversight of city agencies, and to listen to and address citizen complaints about city shortcomings. The P.A. also serves on the committee to select the director of the independent budget office. While the office has existed in our City for the last 20 years, Ms. James joins a legacy of female public servants who for the last two centuries used their voices to advocate for the legal, social and moral uplift of Black women. And so, as we begin a new administration, I encourage Ms. James to honor her heritage, and its blessings, but to also to continue to maintain this voice for women.

Ms. James, it is your duty to ensure that our women have access to healthcare, employment, education and housing. This must be a priority from day one. Ms. James, I hope that you may present the urgency of ending domestic violence and violent crimes against Black women, namely rape and kidnapping. Ms. James, please use

this moment to fight for the fair hiring of Black women in respectable jobs at excellent, fair pay, equal to their male counterparts. Please use your voice to give speeches signaling the intention of the City to prioritize the moral development of a key voting bloc and demographic. You have a proven record of getting the job done. Your outstanding work with the Legal Aid Society, and as an Assistant Attorney General for Brooklyn, ensured a champion for low income children and families. You've worked with the Civil Rights Division to address the NYPD's policy on Stop and Frisk. You were an important player in the council's passage of the Safe Housing Act (2007) which required accountability on the part of landlords to provide prompt and humane housing repairs. You also continue to fight for afterschool funding and services. This gives us high hopes about you.

Ms. James, I pray that you may be a voice for our young Black girls. I pray that you may be an advocate for Black women, for all women, regardless of class, sexuality, race or any other distinctive quality. This has to be the priority of your tenure and the test for which your legacy will be determined. Will you continue what your foremothers began of using voice to advocate a safer, healthier world for women? You are a product of Howard University, which I believe has done more if not the most to further the advancements of Black women in our world. I can name a few: Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Dr. Tracey Walters. These fantastic Black women remembered why God gifted them with a voice; they remembered why they were chosen to become celebrity; they remembered why they were called to election. I mean this both in secular terms and

Continued on Page 14

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A case of progressive or bust with Hizzoner

Whether or not he figured his taking the reins in New York to have such broad political reach, the new mayor has found himself almost immediately propelled into being the national face of progressivism. It is to Bill de Blasio's credit that he has all along not been the least bit shy about baring his progressive/liberal orientation and proclaiming his intention to pursue policies faithful to that identity. In so doing, the mayor comes off as somewhat of a maverick, bucking a trend that has seen so many players, even ones purportedly of liberal bent, shun the label as something toxic for quite a while now, clearly in the interest of political survival.

In his bold stand as an unreconstructed progressive, de Blasio has set himself up for a torrent of criticism of his every move, most assuredly from sources on the right. On the "Face the Nation" program on CBS last Sunday, conservative frontliner Peggy Noonan evidently couldn't contain her delight at being presented a de Blasio-bashing opportunity, taking it way over the top to describe the mayor as a "former Sandinista." Instant querying of that wild characterization from a startled host Bob Schieffer

elicited from Noonan some muddled modification of her original jibe.

If de Blasio's demeanor since winning the mayoralty is any guide, he's not about to be fazed by such thrashing of where he's coming from. He used the occasion of his inaugural address New Year's Day to reaffirm that his commitment to adhere to a progressive agenda wasn't just campaign rhetoric. "When I said I would be taking dead aim on the tale of two cities, I meant it," de Blasio reassured his audience, invoking the campaign theme that was the cornerstone of his pitch to voters, culminating in his lopsided victory last November.

A focus on income inequality and, with it, an objective of all New Yorkers earning a decent living wage; a tax on the city's wealthiest that would be specifically designated for extended Pre-K and after-school programs; reform of what de Blasio called "a broken" stop-and-frisk program; ensuring basic worker benefits like paid sick leave; addressing an alarming number of hospital closings that compromise healthcare services in vulnerable communities – those familiar talking points repeatedly enunciated by de Blasio during the campaign will

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

be priority issues for his administration, the mayor insists.

In using his inauguration to set the tone for the new direction he would be taking at City Hall, de Blasio pulled out all the stops, making sure that the optics, in particular, left no doubt as to how much of a break from the norm he intended to be. Helping to convey this were the presence of Harry Belafonte as an honored guest; rendition of a poem that emphasized underclass New York, as opposed to the gilded one the establishment favors; and hip DJ music supplanting the formal pomp and circumstance trappings of such occasions. It was a notable departure, too, for a young Latino Medgar Evers College student to be assigned the responsibility of introducing former President Bill Clinton, after telling her immigrant family's story of tenacity and determination.

Thanking Clinton, who administered the oath of office to him, de Blasio noted that the former

president "broke through" a couple of decades ago when a conservative wave seemed to be sweeping the country. Clinton did indeed strike a significant blow against the country's Reagan-led conservative thrust when he defeated Reagan's former vice president, George H.W. Bush, in 1992. But, sensitive to the backlash potential of full-throttle social and fiscal conservative messaging, Clinton skillfully refrained from going the in-your-face liberal route, choosing instead to accentuate the "new Democrat" model that had boosted his ascendancy in the party and secured his nomination. While, as president, Clinton undoubtedly pursued a center-left agenda, his term was not without actions that riled the liberal wing, his championing of welfare reform one policy item always cited by liberal detractors. Fast forward to today's Washington and the pattern doesn't change. President Obama clearly sidesteps any labeling of himself as dyed-in-the-wool progressive/liberal, notwithstanding policies that place him in that camp. Of course, not to be deterred, right-siders' frequent resort to the "socialist" tag for the president is also in today's tapestry, but we're well attuned to

the racist impetus driving so much of that.

Although the conservative cause suffered a deflating setback with Barry Goldwater's humiliating defeat by Lyndon Johnson in 1964, it was no knockout punch for the movement. There was no let-up in the promotion of conservative values, aided not insignificantly by the religious right's push to greater influence in the political tug-of-war. And at the top, Johnson's being succeeded by Richard Nixon, followed 12 years later by the start of Reagan's eight-year turn, made the liberal brand even more of a sideline oddity. At the state level, the country is now awash with governors and others unapologetically hewing to policies designed to appease a conservative base.

Against this backdrop comes Mayor de Blasio, gathering his troops under a banner that reads: "Proudly Progressive." There's no telling how much of the mayor's ambitious goal of transformative programming for the city culture will be do-able. There's no doubt that pushback will be formidable, even fierce. But for where he stands today, applause is already earned as a truly gutsy player in the arena.

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OP-EDS

“Ain’t I A Woman”

Continued from page 10

That’s what our government should be encouraging – not poverty wages.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act, introduced earlier this year in Congress, would gradually raise the minimum wage in three steps to \$10.10 and then annually adjust it for inflation to keep up with the cost of living. In addition, it would raise the minimum wage for restaurant workers and other tipped employees who have an even lower minimum wage of \$2.13, a figure that hasn’t changed in 20 years. The \$5.12 shortfall per hour between \$2.13 and \$7.25 is expected to be covered by customer tips – whether you work the slowest shift or at the lowest price truck stop. When that doesn’t happen, employers are supposed to pay the difference. Not surprisingly,

many don’t. The proposed legislation would gradually raise the base wage for tipped employees to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage.

As business owners, we have to deal with annual price increases in rent, insurance, utility bills and supplies. Our employees also feel the pinch of these higher costs and should see their wages increase to keep pace. Future more predictable 2 to 3 percent annual increases for inflation will be much easier for businesses to manage than the necessary situation now of bigger spikes after years of stagnation. And indexing the minimum wage to inflation has the great advantage of taking politics out of the issue.

Ten states currently index their minimum wage to rise with inflation: Ari-

zona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. And New Jersey voters recently passed a referendum making it the 11th state to do so. It’s time for the federal government to follow suit.

Public opinion polls show wide support for raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation. We should see the same broad bipartisan support in Congress.

It’s been over four years since our country’s poorest workers have gotten a raise. Let’s not let another holiday season pass them by.

David Bolotsky is founder and CEO of Uncommon-Goods, an online and catalog retail business based in Brooklyn, NY. He is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

Minimum wage increase

Continued from page 10

also in spiritual terms.

Ms. James, your election is a God-given sign with a specific purpose. Your pur-

pose in 2014 is to advocate for the voiceless, the poor, the suffering, the needy, and the vulnerable. As we jumpstart this new beginning, full of hope and moral

courage, I encourage you to remember the women. Ms. James, remember our girls.

The author is a Grenada-born SUNY, Afrocentric educator and author.



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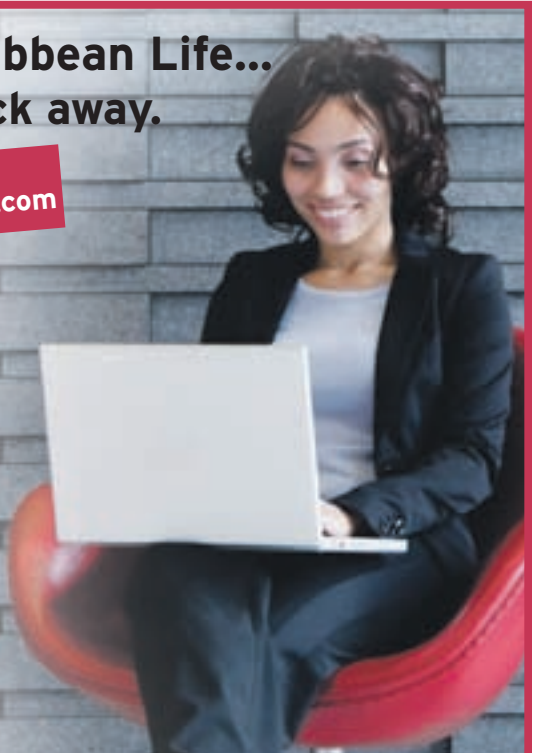
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

lated after the 2010 earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people and destroyed much of the country's infrastructure.

The project is the second phase of the Education for All Program and will be funded jointly with the World Bank, the CDB added.

Jamaica

Seven police officers in Jamaica have been arrested and charged with extortion. The Jamaica Constabulary Force says the officers were detained and later taken before a resident magistrate's court by detectives from the anti-corruption branch. The charges stem from allegations that the officers colluded to solicit money from a drug suspect. More specifics have not been disclosed.



The seven constables are free on bail. They are scheduled to appear in a Montego Bay court in early February on the extortion charges. It was not immediately clear if the accused have lawyers.

St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves recently met with Pope Francis, to discuss matters



of common interest, according to members of his family, who met with the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

The release said that the visiting head of government also met with the Vatican's Secretary of State, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, secretary for Relations with States.

"The colloquial discussions focused on matters of common interest such as the defense of life and the family, education and interreligious dialogue," the statement said, adding that "mention was made of various issues regarding the countries in the area and collaboration within the ambit of regional organizations."

Trinidad

Two Jamaican nationals, who were denied entry into Trinidad and Tobago in November, have filed an official complaint with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jamaica.

In addition, three of the 13 nationals who were also refused entry into Port of Spain on Nov. 19, 2013 are exploring the possibility of seeking redress. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said in order to conduct further investigations, those who were denied entry into Trinidad and Tobago had to submit a signed, written personal statement, outlining details of the incident.



Compiled by Azad Ali

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EDUCATION



PARENTING TIPS

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Children are energetic learners, trying to make sense of the world around them. One of the most important activities to help a child stretch his mind, especially in the early years, is reading. From birth to age 5, development in all areas of the brain is rapid, so it is especially important during this time that parents make an intentional effort to integrate reading into a child's daily routine. This practice helps mold your child into an active reader and establishes the foundational literacy skills he needs for future success in school and life.

"The first five years of life offer a critical window for brain development and learning," said Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, executive Director of Reach Out and Read, a national nonprofit whose pediatricians promote early literacy and school readiness to 4 million children nationwide. "By reading aloud and talking to their children from birth, parents can play a key role in helping their little ones develop essential foundational language skills and eventually, arrive at kindergarten ready to read, learn, and succeed. Learning does not begin on the first day

of school; it begins in the home with engaged parents who take the time to share stories, words, and a love of reading with their children."

While picking up a book and reading to your child may seem like a simple act, many children miss this benefit. A 3-year-old child's vocabulary should span about 600 words with 80 percent intelligibility. This means that a person who has not previously heard this child speak can understand eight out of 10 words. Providing children with a solid foundation in literacy skills not only equips them to thrive in the

21st Century, it also impacts our country's ability to compete in the global workplace.

"The future of our children and our country depend on coordinated community efforts to prepare all students in the U.S. to excel in a dynamic, global society," says Jo Kirchner, president and CEO of Primrose Schools, a group of more than 270 private preschools across the country. "Together we have a responsibility to step up to the challenge by pooling our knowledge, time, expertise and ideas to improve early literacy and education outcomes."

Tips on how to raise a reader

As you read aloud to your child, keep these tips in mind to maximize your reading time together:

1 Start early.

Begin reading and speaking to your child the day she is born — it is never too early to start.

2 Practice every day.

Make reading with your child a daily routine, reinforcing the development of language and literacy skills.

3 Serve and return.

A key part of language learning occurs in conversations with children. After a baby listens to people around her talking for a few months, she begins to respond with her own rendition of those sounds, starting with coos, babbles or shrieks. Dr. Jack Shonkoff of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University calls this back-and-forth interaction serve and return. As we serve words, children return sounds. Before we realize, the child is beginning to speak intelligibly and meaningfully — first with syllables and single words, then with phrases and complete sentences. Use serve and return when reading together as your child starts to learn about story background and context.

4 Play word games.

Letter puzzles, rhyming games, breaking words into sounds, and other phonological play helps your child build a foundation that will later be used to decode words.

5 Have a conversation.

While you are reading a book with your child, engage in conversation about the characters, the plot, the setting, and ask your child questions. This offers him an opportunity to build his vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Finding the true cost of a COLLEGE EDUCATION

A college education is a lifelong investment. College graduates are more likely to be employed and earn more throughout the course of their lives, according to a recent report by the College Board. While the benefits of a college education may be clear, figuring out the true cost and how to pay for it isn't always as obvious.

Today, college-bound students and parents face lots of questions in determining how to pay for college. An early step in the process should be determining the difference between the published cost of attending a particular school and the available scholarships or financial aid from the school. This is called the

net price of attending a university. Most colleges have a net price calculator on their websites to assist in this determination. Additionally, students and parents should try and forecast the true cost of college beyond courses and textbooks — including all the unforeseen costs, such as supplementary study materials, transportation, technology, extracurricular activities, any of which can push students and parents into unexpected debt.

Eighty-one percent of parents plan to help pay for their children's college education, but a willingness to pay doesn't always correspond to an ability to pay, according to an annu-

al survey commissioned by Discover Student Loans. Scholarships, grants and savings can help cover some expenses, but student loans can be needed to help cover the full cost of attendance. It's important for students and parents to understand their options and carefully compare federal and private student loans so they can choose the loans that best fit their needs.

Tips for paying for a higher education

A few additional tips students and parents should keep in mind when navigating the college financial aid process include:

- Maximize free money: Grants, scholarships and other free financial aid can

help students pay for some college costs. Resources such as StudentLoan.com and Studentaid.ed.gov can help students and parents identify and apply for important free money. When considering the full mix of financing options, families should compare federal and private student loans including interest rates and origination fees.

- Have a continuous and honest dialogue with each other: The financial aid process can be overwhelming. It's essential that college-bound students and their parents know their respective responsibilities and roles in paying for college. Parents should talk with their kids about what's



important, their financial limits and where the money is coming from, and then designate who will pay for what expenses.

- Know when to request a professional judgment: If a parent loses his or her job or has his or her wages reduced, then he or she can ask the university's financial office

for a professional judgment review. During this process, the financial aid office may consider the projected year income as opposed to prior year income, which could result in possible increases in financial aid awards and a reduction in the expected financial contribution from the parents and student.



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TL

TravelSpan saves the day for snow-bound Guyanese

By Tangerine Clarke

Eighteen-year-old aviation company TravelSpan took full advantage of the Christmas season to successfully resume airlifting hundreds of passengers from John F. Kennedy airport to Cheddi Jagan International Airport from Dec. 14 last year, ending a monopoly and high airfares that nationals faced over the last year. However, the carrier had to overcome the recent snowstorm that shut down area airports and crippled air travel across the U.S.

The 767-200 series aircraft operated by Dynamic Airways managed to depart JFK for Georgetown ahead of the storm on Jan. 2, only to be hit with criticism from the hordes of expats who blasted management for not calling them ahead of time for the outbound flight from Georgetown that was rescheduled from 3:00 p.m. to midnight.

Many passengers, who had trekked from across Guyana were turned away at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and asked to return at 7:00 p.m. to check in for the return to New York.

TravelSpan Marketing and PR Manager Vanita Jagnerain who was on hand to deal with the frustration



Travel Span Airline staff got an "A" rating from their guests.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke.

of passengers, vigorously defended the airline saying it was beyond their control.

"TravelSpan received late notice from JFK, so we were not responsible for the reschedule," said Jagnerain.

"All flights over the Christmas season were completely sold out. This is a testament that passengers are confident that the carrier is here to stay."

Jagnerain, who joined TravelSpan GT Inc. in 2009, went on to say "TravelSpan has been in the airline busi-

ness from 2006 to 2008 but we took a hiatus, waiting for the right time to return to the market, when there was a need for direct round-trip flights to the republic.

"All airlines have travel relates issues, but we promise that TravelSpan would work hard to make travelers' experience as pleasurable as possible," she added.

But despite the confusion, the airline prevailed, and departed on time, stopping in Trinidad to pick up additional passengers before

arriving at JFK in record time to become one of a few carriers that were cleared to touchdown on a snow-covered runway.

With offices on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn, and in Richmond Hill, Queens, the carrier is positioned to airlift passengers twice weekly on Thursdays and Saturdays to Guyana, and Wednesdays and Fridays to Trinidad.

However, the planned Vision airplane that seats 218 passengers will replace the wide-body Dynamic

232-seat aircraft currently in use. Vision will showcase the TravelSpan logo, and will fly add more flights at Christmas, Mashramani, carnival, Easter and summer. The carrier promises competitive fares depending on the time tickets are purchased.

The TravelSpan professional added that the company is a customer-friendly service that has maintained strong relationships with customers and the Guyana government. This is the rea-

son the airline was able to return to the market without any hassle to resume on-time competent service.

Passenger Deowadtie Tulsie from the Bronx who sat in seat 5C on the flight from JFK to Georgetown for the Christmas holiday, described her first experience on TravelSpan as a great one, and plans to continue using the airline, while Natalie Bishop, a member of a medical organization, said she was pleased that the airline is back in service and assures that her organization would use the carrier to fly to Guyana.

However, Bibi Kamadulin of Queens, who traveled with her ill mother, was unhappy with the layover in Trinidad.

"I was told my flight would be direct, round-trip. I like a straight flight," she complained.

Travel Span staffer Jagnerain explained that this was a temporary measure to accommodate Trinidad passengers during the Christmas season.

Overall, the TravelSpan crew did an excellent job in ensuring that travelers were comfortable, even providing courtesy warm, hand towels to those in the front section of the plane before their meals.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

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NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

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

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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.bcny.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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Use this crucial stay-safe checklist now to help your household prepare for blistering conditions all winter long:

MAKE A PLAN

Storm heading your way? Follow the news closely so you can make last minute preparations before the weather turns dangerous. As part of this process, create an emergency plan and review it with your family. The plan should also address specific scenarios, such as what to do if someone is separated from the group and is unable to call for help.

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HEALTH

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WINTERIZE

Ensuring that your home is pro-



Each family should have a well-stocked and up-to-date emergency kit.

Photo courtesy of Statepoint

tected from the elements can turn a bad situation into a life-saving scenario. Install storm windows and apply weather-stripping to help insulate your home. In the event the heat goes out, you'll be trapping warm air in and keeping cold air out. And remember -- you can never have too many blankets and warm clothes.

PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT

When extreme weather hits, it's

important to have essential supplies within an arm's reach. Be sure that you have a well-stocked, up-to-date first aid kit and an extra supply of all family members' prescription medications.

Your kit should also include several gallons of clean water, as well as enough non-perishable food to last three days, including formula for young children. Pick items that don't require cooking or preparation. The Federal Emergency Management

Agency recommends replacing these stores every six months.

Lastly, make sure you have a battery-operated radio and plenty of batteries on hand.

Unless you enjoy treacherous roads, panicked crowds and long lines, don't wait until that big storm comes your way to start preparing. For a safe and happy winter season, follow these steps to ensure your family is ready for any winter weather emergency that comes your way.

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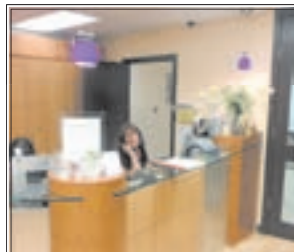
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Immigration debate ignores skilled Africans, Caribbeans

By Charles D. Ellison

As a two-year budget conjures up illusions of congressional comity and President Barack Obama is desperate for a legislative recharge, there is much hype about a big immigration deal on the horizon. But, despite the huge political, economic and cultural implications for the country, black folks have little skin in the game.

How did that happen?

It's no secret Democrats and Republicans view immigration as their default key to Latino-voter gold. The immigration conversation is the catnip that most political strategists assume will bag their candidates tons of brown voters for years to come. Hispanic elected officials also accept it, cynically, as political *raison d'être* and leveraging. Black voters, in case you missed it, are so 20th century — even though they consistently outperform in most election cycles.

But, perhaps more significant and less reported is Silicon Valley dropping obscene amounts of cash on Washington lobbying and campaign cycles to get immigration fixed. Soon after a 2012 election cycle in which the information-technology sector funneled more than \$200 million in campaign contributions to candidate coffers, immigration has started heating up as a major issue again. At same time, only 4 percent of Americans and 8 percent of Hispanics identify immigration as their “most important issue,” according to an Economist/YouGov poll.

The alignment of tech-industry dominance in politics, which now outspends defense contractors — with the emergence of immigration reform as a key Washington priority is no accident. Silicon Valley is pressed bad for an immigration fix. Through the government's H-1B visa program, highly skilled foreigners with digital talents can share their expertise with American companies. The problem, however, is demand outstripping

bureaucratic capacity: H-1B visas are capped at an annual 85,000 slots, with the latest Senate-passed compromise promising more than double that. That's not enough, apparently, considering H-1B visa workers fill more than half of all IT jobs in the United States.

So, when IT companies talk reform, the focus typically falls on Asian workers from far-flung places. And despite the current national fad pushing native-born Americans into technology careers, Silicon Valley kings don't have time for that: They need skilled labor now as the digital space grows rapidly.

But there's a missing piece in the political jigsaw puzzle that is immigration reform. It is black immigrants who, according to Pew, comprise nearly 10 percent of the total foreign-born population. You'd never know that based on the parameters of the current debate.

According to the Migration Policy Institute (among other studies), black Diaspora immigrants (especially African immigrants) are among the highest educated, English-proficient and highest skilled of migrant populations in the United States — with many highly qualified for those same tech jobs. An oft-cited State University of New York study concludes that African migrants are more educated than Asian migrants. That drops dynamite on rigidly held notions and stereotypes about race and intelligence. African migrants even out-degree white immigrants from Europe, Russia and Canada, 44 percent to 29 percent.

But while African and Caribbean migrants represent one of the fastest growing and most super-educated migrant groups in the nation, they are also a lost population, relying heavily on the fate of “diversity visas” in cluttered immigration-reform legislation to determine their future here. Granted, some of that is partly due to silence and lack of movement from many black immigrants themselves.

And, obviously, immigra-

tion reform is not high on the U.S. black agenda priority list. High unemployment and other bad stuff can easily distract an American black family. As a result, immigration is not receiving needed attention, despite the fast-growing share of the population that African and Caribbean migrants account for in major black communities in cities such as New York, Washington and Miami.

That makes the issue much more complex and multifaceted. And despite the enormous economic opportunities, the African-American political establishment finds itself sidelined in the debate like a bad NFL team shut out of the playoffs. Those on the state and local level are typically reactive to changing demographics, but black members of Congress are not getting called into this game.

So when House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, recently signaled an opening to revive immigration-reform prospects, there was little sense that Congressional leaders would be checking in with the Congressional Black Caucus to get their take on it. The tiny and informal bipartisan House “Gang of 8” that's tasked itself to craft a bill has tinkered along for a while now without any black members on it, save CBC input graciously channeled through fellow Democrats.

But, since out of sight is out of mind, their role is largely uncertain. Perhaps that calculus dramatically changes depending on what pressure, if any, black migrant advocates in predominantly black Congressional districts can bring. Something needs to change soon: Persuading the tech sector to include tech-skilled black diaspora migrants in the debate might be a good place to kick and push. *Ellison is a veteran political strategist and frequent contributor to The Root. He is also Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia Tribune and chief political correspondent for Uptown magazine.*

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The case for Haitians' Dominican Citizenship

By Chudi Chukwudi

The Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the Organization of American States (OAS), on behalf of CARICOM Member States, recently put on the table at the meeting of the OAS Permanent Council, the need to debate the ruling of Dominican Republic's (D.R.) Constitutional Tribunal which will retroactively strip hundreds of thousands of Dominican-born persons of their citizenship.

The ruling of the court, made on 23rd September 2013 will effectively "denationalize" persons born in the Dominican Republic to parents of foreign ancestry, dating as far back 1929. Such persons are now deemed to have lived in the D.R. in an "in transit" state and face the threat of being rendered stateless.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ambassador to the OAS, H.E. La Celia A. Prince set the stage for the discussion, speaking first on behalf of CARICOM and

then on behalf of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Ambassador Prince noted that while the ruling of the Constitutional court was a domestic one, CARICOM felt obligated to opine on the matter given the implications that the enforcement of the ruling would have on the human, civic, economic and social rights of the persons affected, most of whom are from the Caribbean Diaspora and in particular of Haitian descent.

The intervention pointed out the fallacies in the justifications proffered by the Dominican Republic for the ruling. Ambassador Prince cited references to the very Constitution of the D.R., as well as various instruments of international law that can impugn the court's ruling. She expressed solidarity with the persons affected by the ruling and called for the situation to be rectified in a manner that does not negatively impact upon the quality of life and the dignity of those affect-

ed by the court's decision. Ambassador Prince also stated that the matter was overdue for discussion at the OAS and expressed deep regret that the Secretary General of that important Organisation failed to pronounce on such an egregious court decision and its wide-reaching impact. She the acknowledged the criticism made in many international quarters that the ruling appears to be fuelled by xenophobia and racism, and lamented that in the this the Decade of the People of African Descent, the actions of the DR's court will leave hundreds of thousands of Afro-descendants dispossessed and without an identity.

In commenting on the issue on behalf of the government of Haiti, Permanent Representative Ambassador Pierre Duly Brutus stated that the implementation of the ruling will bring the region an outrageous number of cases of stateless persons, which

will ultimately leader to greater personal insecurity and regional instability. He cited one of the dissenting judgments in the case, advanced by Judge Isabell Bonilla that the court was wrongly interpreting the Constitution and inflicting a penalty on Dominican-born persons on account of their parents' migratory status. Ambassador Brutus referred to the significant contribution made by Haitians and persons of Haitian descent to the economic growth of the Dominican Republic and pointed our further that was Haiti was the second-most important trading partner of that country.

With high-level 7-man delegation sent from Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic reiterated its government's adherence to the Constitution of that country, and that the court's ruling is irrevocable and binding upon all organs of the state. They explained that from the beginning of the

20th century, their Constitution has maintained that birth in the Dominican Republic establishes nationality, except for the children of diplomats and those in transit. They further informed that in the coming weeks, they will present a plan to deal with every category of person captured by the court's ruling and expressed a desire to continue to enjoying amicable relations with its neighboring countries, especially Haiti.

The Dominicans noted that despite having challenges of their own as it regards economic and social development that they make every effort to treat fairly with their Haitian residents who are afforded access to educational institutions at the same rate as Dominican nationals. They reiterated their comprehensive efforts to uphold the human rights of all within their territory and find that the response by the international community to the ruling of the

Constitutional Tribunal to be unjustifiably hostile. They further articulated their desire to offer a definitive and humanitarian response to all the members of the hemispheric body, indicating their intent to invite the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in order to facilitate/ advise on the processes that will result from the inevitable implementation of the decision of the Court.

Strong expressions of support for the concerns raised by St. Vincent and the Grenadines were made by other CARICOM Member States who declared the DR's actions as incongruous with the principles of Caribbean Community, for which the DR is currently an applicant for membership. The delegations of Canada, the United States and Mexico also expressed their grave concern for the implications of the court's ruling and stated that they will be watching the development very closely.

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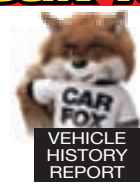
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Meteorology and farming

Continued from Page 9

Its objective is to increase and sustain farm productivity in the Caribbean region "through improved applications of weather and climate information using an integrated and coordinated approach."

CAMI's website states that support for agriculture is a priority since the sector not only contributes to food security but also helps to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth.

CAMI acknowledges that, "The Caribbean region is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, ranging from catastrophic events such as floods, droughts, and tropical cyclones to pests and diseases in plants, animals and humans.

"Especially in poor rural areas, these disasters cause much suffering, infrastructure and environmental damage, aggravate food insecurity and slow down or even reverse development gains.

"Climate variability, climate change and land

degradation are intimately linked and are generating unexpected effects, e.g., an increased occurrence of extreme weather conditions in the Caribbean region," states CAMI's website.

Against this background, a number of meteorologists around the region have been trained in agrometeorology. They now provide regular updates to farmers regarding the weather conditions expected in the days or month ahead.

"Those updates are very beneficial," Alexander said. "Now, we can plan our programme better in the field, whether it is harvesting or planting."

Kerr explained that the TTMS provides both a two to three-page Agromet Forecast and a four to five-page Agromet Bulletin. The forecast gives a 10-day prediction of rainfall and temperature for the north, south, east, west and central areas of Trinidad and for Tobago, with a brief summary at the end as to how these expected conditions will affect the

work of farmers.

The Agromet Bulletin discusses at length the preceding 10 days' weather, as well as the next 10 days' forecast. It includes data on wind speed and expected humidity. It also analyses in detail how farmers can best respond to the expected climate conditions.

Both the forecast and the bulletin provide the forecasts in terms of percentage probability.

"We are dealing with a science that has large uncertainties and 10 days ahead is very long in terms of how the atmosphere may or may not change. That is why we use probability," Kerr said.

The forecast and bulletin provide definitions of the terms used and of the likelihood associated with a particular percentage probability. A probability greater than 70 percent means there is a very good chance that the forecast will prove true.

Kerr added, "The further away from the day the forecast was made, the less accurate it is. Ten days is the maximum for any degree of credibility."

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Come 'Share The Dream' with Angela at BAM

The invitation is extended to everyone within the tri-state area but New Yorkers are especially encouraged to attend the 28th annual gathering in Brooklyn to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Acclaimed as the largest such gathering in New York City, BAM hosts the "Come Share The Dream" tribute on Monday, Jan. 20.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue) the celebration this year invites intellectual and revolutionary activist Angela Davis to deliver the keynote address.

"Her work as an educator—both at the university level and in the larger public sphere—has always emphasized the importance of advocating for economic, racial, and gender justice," a spokesperson stated.

Davis is the author of eight books and has lectured throughout the U.S. as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia,



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Australia, and South America. In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early '70s as a person who spent 18 months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List."

She has also conducted extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender, and imprisonment. Her most recent books are "Abolition Democracy" and "Are Prisons Obsolete?" both focusing on the abolition of the prison industrial complex.

She also authored a new

edition of "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass." Davis is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison. Like many other educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions.

Davis will be joined by jazz and soul singer Jose James, the Christian Cultural Center Choir with remarks from BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins and Medgar Evers President Dr. Rudolph F.



Revolutionary activist Angela Davis to deliver the keynote address at MLK tribute at BAM.

AP Photo/dapd/Berthold Stadler

Crew. Master of ceremonies will be Brooklyn's newly-sworn borough president Eric Adams. According to the organizers, the annual event "brings together artists and civic leaders to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Related weekend programming includes a screening of Shola Lynch's documentary "Free Angela and All Political Prisoners," a community art exhibition, "Picture the Dream," featuring works by students from New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Saratoga Village Community Center guided by the acclaimed artist and former graffiti writer Cey Adams, as well as music performances by Onaje Allan Gumbs & New Vintage as part of BAMcafé Live.

Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 8:00 a.m. For more information, log onto www.BAM.org.

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New York's best DOO WOP show featuring the timeless music's leading singers and legendary groups will be held at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

The all-star evening of classic hits will include Fred Parris & The 5 Satins ("In the Still of the Night"), The Belmonts ("Teenager in Love"), Shirley Alston Reeves ("Soldier Boy"), Larry Chance & The Earls ("Life is But a Dream"), Chiffons ("My Boyfriend's Back") and Danny & The Juniors ("Rock And Roll Is Here To Stay"). The show is being produced by Lehman Center and Sal Abbatiello of Fever Records.

Doo Wop emerged from the streets of New York City and Philadelphia and rose



Shirley Alston Reeves.

as a unique African American vocal style in the mid-1950's. Doo Wop's smooth harmonies spread to singing groups of other ethnicities, such as the Capris and The Belmonts. The term "doo wop" was taken from the ad-lib syllables sung in harmony in these songs such as the plaintive "doo wop" refrain featured in the bridge of The 5 Satins' "In the Still of the Night." "Doo

Continued on Page 32

Khan, Braxton for Jazz and Blues

By Vinette K. Pryce

Still on a high after an intoxicating year-end celebration after Tessanne Chin won the Voice contest on NBC-TV; a cheerful Christmas and blessings galore, Jamaicans are preparing for a rousing January and the Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival.

A lineup featuring rhythm & blues singer Toni Braxton, Chrisette Michele, Aaron Neville, Chin and several reggae names have been expanded to include

Continued on Page 32



Toni Braxton performs during half time at the NBA All-Star basketball game in Las Vegas on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill



MUSICAL FUSION

Jazz musician Christian Scott.

Photo by Amun

Christian Scott coming to the Blue Note

By Amun

Christian Scott and his band are setting stages on fire around the world and will soon be in New York to play their brand of fusion jazz. The Christian Scott Ensemble will play the Blue Note, New York, Thursday, Jan. 16 through Sunday, Jan. 19. Shows are at 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. nightly. The Blue Note is located at 131 West 3rd Street, New

York, NY 10012. For further information, call 212-475-8592 or visit their website: www.bluenote.net.

Guest musicians for the date include tenor saxophonist, Kenneth Whalum III; alto saxophonist, Louis Fouché III and trombonist Corey King.

Scott is from New Orleans, which in itself has a rich jazz history, from Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong

to Wynton Marsalis and before, New Orleans has been yielding great music and musicians since the first Africans were brought there to build an economy based on slave labor. Lauded as an experimental jazz musician, Christian Scott has blended musical forms: New Orleans Jazz/Blues, Afro-Cuban, West Africa and even Native American tradition

Continued on Page 32

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **The Monster**
Eminem Feat. Rihanna
- 2 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 3 **Demons**
Imagine Dragons
- 4 **Wake Me Up!**
Avicii
- 5 **Royals**
Lorde
- 6 **Timber**
Pitbull Feat. Ke\$ha
- 7 **Hold On, We're Going Home**
Drake Feat. Majid Jordan
- 8 **Let Her Go**
Passenger
- 9 **Stay The Night**
Zedd Feat. Hayley Williams
- 10 **Roar**
Katy Perry

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Beyonce**
Beyonce
- 2 **Frozen**
Soundtrack
- 3 **Midnight Memories**
One Direction
- 4 **The Marshall Mathers LP 2**
Eminem
- 5 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde
- 6 **Prism**
Katy Perry
- 7 **Night Visions**
Imagine Dragons
- 8 **Bangerz**
Miley Cyrus
- 9 **NOW 48**
Various Artists
- 10 **Native**
OneRepublic

Presented by
verizon wireless

American 'Oldies'

Continued from page 31

Wop" and a range of "oldies" music are celebrated by musicians and audiences worldwide as distinctive American sounds.

Fred Parrish & The 5 Satins had its origin in the band known as the Scarlets, which Parrish formed in 1953 while in high school in New Haven, Connecticut. The group had a New York hit in 1954 with "Dear One." The Scarlets disbanded in 1955 when they were all recruited into the army. At the end of 1955 Parrish formed a new band called the 5 Satins, recording "The Jones Girl" in a Church basement, which peaked nationally at #3 on the R&B charts and #24 on the Pop charts. In 2003 the 5 Satins were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

The Belmonts were formed by Angelo D'Aleo, Fred Milano and Carlo Mastrangelo, high school buddies from the Arthur Avenue section of the Bronx, naming themselves after the avenue Milano lived. Soon after Dion DiMucci, (also from the neighborhood) joined them, they had their first big hit "I Wonder Why" (1958).

Shirley Alston Reeves is the former lead singer of The Shirelles, the vocal group cred-

ited as the originators of the "Girl Group Sound." Hailing from Passaic, New Jersey, the group rose to fame with their 1960 single "Tonight's the Night." Their next recording, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," written by Carole King and Gerry Goffin, went on to become the first Billboard #1 hit by a girl group. Many more hit singles quickly followed including their cover of "Dedicated to the One I Love," "Mama Said," "Baby It's You" and the incredible classic "Soldier Boy." The Shirelles were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1996.

Larry Chance & The Earls were a group from the Bronx with a refined doo wop harmony sound that were literally discovered while singing on a street corner. Their first single, "Life is But a Dream" (1961) was a top 10 hit in New York and led to an appearance on Dick Clark's American Bandstand.

The Chiffons, one of the fabulous Sixties girl-groups, formed in 1960 when the girls were high school classmates in the Bronx. Their first hit, early 1963's "He's So Fine," with the now famous nonsensical "doo lang, doo lang doo lang" opening, reached #1 on both the R&B and Pop charts.



Larry Chance & The Earls.

That same year, they released three more hit songs: "One Fine Day," "A Love So Fine" and "I Have a Boyfriend". Known for their tight harmonies, "Tonight I Met an Angel" and "What Am I Gonna Do With You" soon followed. Their last big hit was 1966's "Sweet Talkin' Guy."

Danny & The Juniors started singing together with choreographed dance moves as young teenagers in Philadelphia, calling themselves "The Juvenairs." Discovered by a local record label that changed their name to Danny

& The Juniors, their first single "At the Hop" was released in November 1957, but appeared to be going nowhere. In a lucky break, they appeared in December on Dick Clark's American Bandstand as a last minute fill-in for an act that couldn't make it. By early January, "At the Hop" was the number one hit where it stayed for an amazing seven weeks and charted in the Top 100 for five months. The band soon followed up with the hit "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay" and 1960's "Twistin' USA."

R&B night

Continued from page 31

Crystal Gayle and Chaka Khan. Slated to be held at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium from Jan. 30, the 18th annual staging promises a stellar showcase of diverse local talent alongside a few international acts.

"Patrons will be in for a treat as Chaka and Crystal are phenomenal singers and performers and have a repertoire of music Jamaicans enjoy," a spokesperson for the festival said about the latest additions.

"They will deliver a musical experience like no other as they are part of a larger line-up with some really awesome talent and music."

He hinted that more acts will be added but did not confirm the names.

"I cannot give everything away so I encourage everyone to listen out for more names in the coming days," he explained.

The 10-time Grammy winner is a favorite of Jamaicans who have followed her career throughout the years and are familiar with the extensive catalogue she has



Chaka Khan performs during a tribute to Diana Ross at the 7th annual BET Awards on June 26, 2007, in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, file

amassed since being introduced with the group Rufus. Some her hits include "Through the Fire" and "I feel for You."

Gayle, known for her R&B-flavored brand of country music, captured a Grammy award with hit "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue."

Jazz and Blues

Continued from page 31

into what he offers as his contribution to the jazz scene.

Thirty-year-old Scott and his band members are young, and all accomplished musicians in their own right: Matthew Stevens, guitar; Jamie Williams, drums; Lawrence Fields, piano; Christopher Keith Funn, bass. Christian Scott plays a horn of his own design, a combination of coronet, flugelhorn and trumpet. His horn not only produces a sweet searing sound, but it is also a beautiful work of art, a metal or bass sculpture.

Christian Scott is a two-time Edison Award winning jazz trumpeter, composer, producer. His debut album, "Rewind" was nominated for a Grammy as well as his latest album or CD is "Christian aTunde Adjuah." In

between he recorded "Anthem," "Live at Newport," "Yesterday You Said Tomorrow" and "Ninety Miles."

At 13, Scott was given an opportunity to play with his uncle, jazz alto saxophonist, Donald Harrison and he has been playing and recording ever since. He received a full scholarship from and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts where he completed his undergraduate degree in Professional Music with a concentration in Film Scoring in three years. Scott is a phenomenal musician with a powerful "voice." He is breaking barriers and challenging the music world. He is a force to be reckoned with and to be recognized.

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Mark Wahlberg stars in 'Lone Survivor'

"Lone Survivor"
 Good (2 stars)
 Rated R for graphic violence and pervasive profanity
 Running time: 121 minutes
 Distributor: Universal Pictures

By Kam Williams

On June 28, 2005, a team of Navy SEALs based in Afghanistan were issued orders in accordance with Operation Red Wings to locate and terminate a Taliban leader whose militia had been targeting coalition troops in the Kush Mountains of Kunar Province. The four were then dropped by helicopter line into rugged terrain outside the tiny village suspected of harboring Al-Qaida sympathizers.

Soon, the soldiers crossed paths with several shepherds and, against their better judgment, allowed the seemingly innocuous civilians to continue on their way in accordance with the U.S. military's rules of engagement. Unfortunately, about an hour later, the SEALs found themselves ambushed by over a hundred Taliban fighters who had

apparently been tipped off as to their whereabouts.

The ensuing, epic battle is the subject of "Lone Survivor," a gruesome war flick based on Marcus Luttrell's (Mark Wahlberg) memoir of the high attrition-rate, harrowing ordeal. Adapted and directed by Peter Berg (Battleship), the picture is most reminiscent of Black Hawk Down, another grim film about an American, overseas helicopter operation gone bad.

Given this movie's title, there isn't any suspense about how the disastrous misadventure is going to end. Consequently, the viewing experience amounts to little more than squirming in your seat while watching members of Luttrell's unit perish, as well as over a dozen of the reinforcements sent to try to rescue them. A practically-pornographic tribute to fearless, fallen heroes strictly for patriots with a strong stomach for gratuitous violence, however accurate.

Taylor Kitsch, left, as Michael Murphy and Mark Wahlberg as Marcus Luttrell in a scene from the film, "Lone Survivor." AP Photo/Universal Pictures, Gregory R. Peters



Rolling Stone

"A POWERHOUSE."
Peter Travers

"UNFORGETTABLE, TENSE AND INSPIRING."
Pete Hammond, MOVIELINE

MARK WAHLBERG
LONE SURVIVOR

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STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Independent & Foreign Films

The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box (PG for violence, adventure, peril and brief smoking) Fantasy adventure about an intrepid teenager (Aneurin Barnard) who follows clues on a perilous trek inside a hidden realm after the members of his family mysteriously disappear. With Ioan Gruffudd, Michael Sheen, Sam Neill, Lena Headey and Keeley Hawes.

Banshee Chapter (R for violence, profanity, drug use, brief nudity and disturbing images) Found-footage suspense thriller, purportedly based on actual events, about an investigative journalist's (Katia Winter) search for a missing friend (Michael McMillian) rumored to have ingested a chemical being tested on civilians by the CIA. With Ted Levine, Monique Candelaria and Chad Brummett.

Black Coffee (PG for mild epithets, sexual references and mature themes) Romantic comedy revolving around a recently-fired and



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

just-dumped dude (Darrin Dewitt Henson) who subsequently meets his soul mate (Gabrielle Dennis) only to have her ex-husband (Lamman Rucker) and his ex-girlfriend (Erica Hubbard) resurface. Cast includes Tiffany Hines, Christian Keyes and Brely Evans.

Cold Comes the Night (R for profanity and violence) Seeing-eye thriller about a blind career criminal (Bryan Cranston) who forces the owner (Alice Eve) of a seedy motel and her daughter (Ursula Parker) to help him retrieve a stash of cash stolen by a crooked cop (Logan Marshall-Green). With Leo Fitzpatrick, Erin Cummings and Robin Taylor.

Divorce Corp. (Unrated) Legal system expose'

highlighting how more money flows through the divorce courts annually than through all other U.S. courts combined, thereby taking a toll on the litigants in the way of home foreclosures, bankruptcy, suicide and violence. Featuring Gloria Allred, Wendy Archer and Alexandra Borg.

Dumbbells (Unrated) Kitchen sink comedy about a former college basketball star (Brian Drollet) who forges an unlikely friendship with a guy (Hoyt Richards) trying to shoot a reality show in the gym where he works. Ensemble cast includes Jaleel "Steve Urkel" White, Tom Arnold, Mircea Monroe, Jay Mohr and Fabio.

The Great Flood (Unrated) Historical documen-



A scene from, "Black Coffee."

tary, featuring black-and-white archival images set to music, revisiting the 1927 flood of the Mississippi River which led to the Great Migration north by millions

of displaced African-American sharecroppers.

In Bloom (Unrated) Coming of age drama, set in Tbilisi in 1992, revolving around a couple of desper-

ate 14-year-old friends (Lika Babluani and Mariam Bokheria) who opt to ignore traditional social pressures in order to escape from their dysfunctional families.



PHOTO: JESSICA HILLS

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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., JAN. 10

CONCERT: In celebration of 40 years of Community Service, The Fort Greene Council, Inc. presents Wynton Marsalis. There will be two shows, 8:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. (Doors open at 9:45 p.m.). Admission: \$40 in advance (\$70 both shows), \$50 at the door (\$90 for both shows), and limited front-row reserved seating: \$60 (\$100 both shows). 966 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY (between Grand Avenue & St. James Place).

ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that is friendly and fun 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: 1-646-476-1294.

SAT., JAN. 11

PERFORMANCE: New York-based blues favorites Renee & The Derelicts perform classic and original blues, rock and soul tunes at popular Brooklyn nightspot The Branded Saloon (603 Vanderbilt Ave.). Featuring the vocals of the multitasking actress/playwright Renee Flemings, the band - Sal Carolei (blues harp), Paul Bauman (guitar) Jent LaPalm (bass) and Bernard Devlin (drums) - will kick things off at 9:00 p.m. No cover, great food and drink available. Located in Prospect Heights, the Saloon - on the corner of Bergen and Vanderbilt. For more information, call (718) 484-8704.

WINTER WORKOUT: January is Family Fit Month, which should catapult you and your family's drive to be healthier. It does not take a genius to realize the consequences of inactivity and loads of unhealthy foods, so why not use your family as support in becoming a more fit and active unit! The workshop is from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and will include information on the importance of staying healthy as a family through health and nutrition and a family exercise class. There will be give-aways and light refreshments. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: 1-646-476-1294

SUN., JAN. 12

PERFORMING ARTS: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (BCBC) continues its 2013-14 Target Storybook Series with Theatreworks USA's Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day at 2:00 p.m. The centerpiece of BCBC's 2013-14 family programming, the Target Storybook Series features performances based on classic and contemporary children's literature and aims to encourage the



CONCERT

JAN. 10: In celebration of 40 years of Community Service, The Fort Greene Council, Inc. presents Wynton Marsalis. There will be two shows, 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission: \$40 in advance (\$70 both shows), \$50 at the door (\$90 for both shows), and limited front-row reserved seating: \$60 (\$100 both shows). 966 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY (between Grand Avenue & St. James Place).

UPTOWN CABARET

JAN. 13: The multi-talented Alex DeSuze returns to the Indian Road Café to host the "No Name Uptown Cabaret Second Monday" monthly singers showcase. Indian Road Café, located at 600 West 218th Street. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. with sign up beginning at 6:45 p.m. No cover, no minimum and for additional information, call 212 942-7451.



WINTER WORKOUT

MONTH OF JANUARY: The workshop is from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and will include information on the importance of staying healthy as a family through health and nutrition and a family exercise class. There will be give-aways and light refreshments. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd., in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: 1-646-476-1294.

development of strong reading skills at home in children ages four to eight. Each performance is accompanied by a Parents' Guide, with literacy-based activity sheets, reading tips, and discussion topics, giving parents the opportunity to engage their children both pre- and post-performance. Brooklyn All tickets are \$7 and can be purchased by phone at 718-951-4500 (Tues-Sat, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.), or online at BrooklynCenterOnline.org.

MON., JAN. 13

CABARET: The multi-talented Alex DeSuze returns to the Indian Road Café to host the "No Name Uptown Cabaret Second Monday" monthly singers showcase. Indian Road Café, located at 600 West 218th Street, offers an excellent wine, beer and coffee selection as well as great food from paninis to lobster mac and cheese, all amidst a warm and casual atmosphere. The next Uptown Cabaret show starts at 7:00 p.m. with sign up beginning at 6:45 p.m. No cover, no minimum and for additional information, call 212 942-7451.

MOVEMENT MONDAY: Join us for a fun walk-in-place workout from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00

p.m. No complicated steps and no equipment needed. This DVD workout is safe for all ages and fitness levels, so lace up your walking shoes and join the movement! Wear comfortable shoes and workout wear. Water will be provided. Participants will be required to fill out an emergency form on the first day of class. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th St., in Harlem. For more information, please visit www.ehnc.com or call 866-469-0999.

TUES., JAN. 14

CITY STORIES: Author and storyteller Tom Pryor's next show "City Stories: Stoops To Nuts" is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Cornelia Street Café in Manhattan. Pryor has had articles published in The New York Times and has been featured on public radio's "This American Life" and PBS's "Baseball: A New York Love Story." This month's performers include: storyteller Melissa Caminacci, poet Annette Estevez, award-winning journalist / writer Natasha Gural and comedian

/ storyteller Maggie Nuttall. The \$8.00 admission includes a free drink. The Cornelia Street Café is located at 29 Cornelia St., New York, NY.

ONGOING MON., DEC.30 - WED., JAN.15

TREE COLLECTION: It may be time to take the tree down, but you can keep up the Christmas spirit by giving back to the city's "tree-cycling" program. The Department of Sanitation will collect any Christmas tree left out on the curb. The trees will be turned into mulch and will be spread among the city's fields, parks and gardens. Residents taking their trees to Mulchfest on Jan. 11 and 12, will be entitled to one bag of free mulch. Remember to take off any lights and ornaments. To find out more information about Mulchfest locations, visit nyc.gov/parks or call 311.

FLOOD RELIEF: Donations are being accepted at the Friends of Crown Heights Center located at 671 Prospect Place in Brooklyn. Donations will also be accepted by Mirtha Colon, a Garifuna from Honduras, who operates Hondurans Against Aids out of Casa Yurumein in the Bronx. Casa Yurumein is located at 874 Prospect Ave in the South Bronx, corner of Westchester Avenue. Checks and Money orders are welcomed and should be made out to "SVG Community INC." Anyone in the Long Island area who wishes to make a donation, but cannot drive to Brooklyn please call 347-488-4395 to arrange a drop off or to arrange for me to pick up the donation. Items needed include medical supplies, non-perishable food, clothes, shoes, candles. Monetary donations can be made in the form of checks or money orders addressed to "SVG Community INC."

PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTER: Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched a second Passport Application Center at the Kings Highway Library providing a convenient facility for Brooklyn residents and new immigrants to apply for passports. Hours are temporarily set for 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. Saturdays are currently closed until further notice. 2115 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11229. To make an appointment, call (718)230-2292 or (718)375-3037 ext. 128.

FEATURING HOME REPAIR: Is your boiler, water main or roof in need of fixing? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? Now is the best time to fix it. Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization can assist you. For more information on the Home Improvement Programs, call (718)469-4679 or visit www.nhsfoeastflatbush.org.

If you have an event that you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to Caribbeanlife@cnglobal.com. All submissions are up for review by the editor.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

CROSSWORD BY STATEPOINT MEDIA, INC.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: THE GRAMMYS

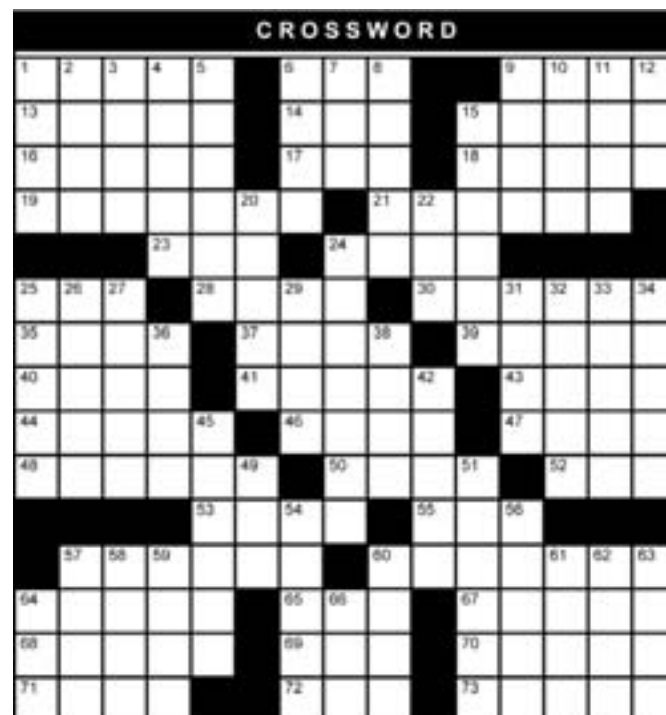
ACROSS

1. Leigh is to Scarlett as _____ is to Rhett
6. ____ de deux
9. "Through" in text message
13. "_____ fair in love and war"
14. Under the weather
15. Sand bar
16. Disturb
17. "New" prefix
18. Equestrian's attire
19. *Eminem's 2013 hit
21. *Rogers' duet partner
23. Driver's aid
24. Sub station
25. Acid
28. Often held on sandwich
30. *Girl on Fire
35. Creole vegetable
37. Poverty-stricken
39. Bank ware, pl.
40. Bit attachment
41. Israel's neighbor
43. Catch-22
44. Weight watcher's choice, pl.
46. Black cat, e.g.
47. First rate
48. Take to one's heart
50. Aquarium dweller
52. *"____ at Work," Best New Art-

- ist of '83
53. Conceited
55. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
57. *Macklemore's kind of shop
60. *This year's Grammy host
64. Song of praise
65. Shed tears
67. The _____, Netherlands
68. Take down masts
69. Clod chopper
70. Blatant
71. Gardener's storage
72. *"Owner of a Lonely Heart" band won one Grammy
73. Offends with odor

DOWN

1. Clothing of distinctive style
2. Medicinal house plant
3. Something that happens so fast
4. Famous Hungarian composer
5. High regard
6. *"Just Give Me a Reason" nominee
7. Barley brew
8. North face, e.g.
9. "____ does it!"
10. Tramp
11. *In '85 Prince won two for "Purple _____"
12. Final, abbr.
15. High-pitched
20. Gathers harvest
22. Chicken ____ king
24. Kind of security guard
25. *"Royals" nominee
26. Knitter's quantity
27. Often done to fruit
29. It goes up and down
31. Bit
32. Billiards bounce
33. Cuckoo
34. Ski destination
36. A chip, maybe
38. Cambodian money
42. Clarence in "It's a Wonderful Life", e.g.
45. Pinching pennies
49. Churchill's "so few"
51. Boat load
54. Nervous and ansty
56. Dry white Italian wine
57. Hyperbolic tangent
58. At this point
59. Police action
60. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
61. Curved molding
62. Lie in wait
63. *Multi-Grammy winner Elton's, "Bennie and the _____"
64. From a wound
66. Poor man's caviar



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Bishop Loughlin's Khadeen Carrington #11 in action against Christ the King during a high school basketball game in Brooklyn, NY. AP Photo/Gregory Payan

Carrington sets record

By Robert Elkin

History was accomplished last month at Bishop Loughlin High School, located in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn. It came on a Tuesday afternoon when the host school defeated St. Francis Prep High School of Queens.

No, it had very little to do with the outcome of a Catholic High Schools Athletic Association basketball encounter on the varsity level. It came in career total points

Continued on Page 38

Praise for Chanderpaul

By Azad Ali

President of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), Dave Cameron, has praised veteran middle-order-batsmen Shivnarine Chanderpaul for achieving several milestones in his career in 2013.

Chanderpaul played his 150th test match during the recent series against India and earlier this month became the seventh player to pass 11,000 runs in test cricket playing in the series against New Zealand.

In his Christmas message, the WICB president described the Guyanese batsman as 'durable.'

"I must salute Shivnarine Chanderpaul for achieving 150 Test appearances and 11,000 runs in Test cricket. Shiv continues

Continued on Page 38



DEATH OF A LEGEND

In his June 24, 2004 file photo, Eusebio gestures after Portugal defeated England in a Euro 2004 quarterfinal soccer match at the Luz stadium in Lisbon; Portugal. Portugal won 6-5 following the penalty shoot out after the match ended 2-2 following extra time.

AP Photo/Armando Franca; File

Portugal in mourning for Eusebio

By Patrick Horne

The soccer world has suffered a great loss! Eusebio da Silva Ferreira, who led Portugal to a third-place finish in the 1966 World Cup and is considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time, died of heart failure last Sunday at his

home in Portugal. The Mozambique-born legend, who became a Portuguese citizen, was 71. The Portuguese government declared three days of national mourning, with flags flying at half-mast.

Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho said in a statement: "A foot-

ball genius and example of humility, an outstanding athlete and generous man, Eusebio was for all sports fans and for all Portuguese an example of professionalism, determination and devotion to the colors of the national jersey and of

Continued on Page 38



In this March 13, 2003 file photo, soccer legends Eusebio, from Portugal, left, and Pele, from Brazil, embrace each other as they meet in Lisbon, during a promotional event ahead of the Euro 2004 European soccer championship to be held in Portugal.

AP Photo/Armando Franca, File

'Greatest player of all time'

Continued from page 37

Benfica."

Eusebio was a poor 18-year-old from Maputo, Mozambique who was brought to Portugal by one of that country's top clubs, Benfica. He spent the next 15 years at Benfica and went on to win 11 Portuguese League titles, five Portuguese Cups, capture the European Club Championship in 1961 and '62 and was the 1965 European player of the year. He won the Golden Boot as Europe's top scorer in 1968 and '73. All told, he scored 733 goals in 745 games on his way to making Benfica one of the most successful clubs in the world. He was declared a national treasure by the Portuguese government of the day and was forbidden to be sold by Benfica, despite many lucrative offers for the star.

Eusebio led Portugal to its best finish in World Cup competition when he scored a tournament-high nine goals in the 1966 World Cup in England. He became legend

when he led an astonishing Portugal rally from a three-goal deficit to a 5-3 win in the quarterfinal game against North Korea in Liverpool.

Portugal trailed North Korea, 3-0, after 23 minutes when Eusebio took over the game and scored four of Portugal's five goals and assisted on the other to complete one of the most remarkable comebacks in the history of the game. "That was the best game of my life in a Portugal jersey," Eusebio told reporters after the game. "It left its mark on me."

In the semi-final loss to eventual World Cup winner England at Wembley Stadium, Eusebio left the field in tears, which further endeared him to the Portuguese people and the soccer world. Eusebio scored 41 goals in 64 games for Portugal. His speed, agility, physical power and clinical finishing made him the legendary scorer that he was - the most dangerous forwards in the world at the time. He retired from Benfica in 1975.

In the 1960s, Eusebio rivaled the other legend, Pele of Brazil, as comparisons of the two as to who was greater dominated much of the narratives in world soccer at the time. I was also obsessed with the comparisons. I saw both on a number of occasions when Eusebio's Benfica and Pele's Santos of Brazil played games at New York's Old Yankee Stadium in the Bronx during the summers. Clearly, the two were the best in the world at the time - the Black Panther, Eusebio, versus the Black Pearl, Pele. I feel fortunate to have seen two of the greatest players to ever play the game.

As news of Eusebio's death became known, the tributes kept flowing in: FIFA President Sepp Blatter tweeted, "Football has lost a legend. But Eusebio's place among the greats will never be taken away." German legend Franz Beckenbauer also tweeted, "One of the greatest football players ever has passed away." Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portugal captain who plays for

Real Madrid, said on Facebook, "Always eternal Eusebio, rest in peace" and former Portugal captain Luis Figo, the 2001 FIFA world player of the year, tweeted, "The king!! Great loss for us all! The greatest!!"

"On this sad day of (Eusebio's) death ... I prefer to look upon him as immortal," Chelsea's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho said. French legend Michel Platini, the UEFA president, said: "Today football has lost one of its greatest players of all time. On the pitch Eusebio was a true legend, representing Portugal and Benfica. Off it he was a true global ambassador of Portuguese football. He was more than just a player though. A good and gentle person, Eusebio will be fondly remembered."

"In my opinion Eusebio will always be the greatest player of all time," ex-Real Madrid star Alfredo Di Stefano. Eusebio left behind his wife, Flora, two daughters and several grandchildren.

'Loughlin Lions'

Continued from page 37

scored by a Bishop Loughlin student athlete.

JayVaughn Pinkston, presently a senior at Villanova University, scored 1560 points during his four-year career at Loughlin wasn't too long ago. Pinkston hopes to compete in the National Basketball Association come next fall. Last month, Pinkston's record-setting mark was broken.

Khadeen Carrington's field goal near the basket with less than two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter enabled him to score his 1560 and 1561 markers to put him in first place at Loughlin and pushing Pinkston down one spot. Thus, Carrington became the all-time school record holder.

"I got the record points in the second half," he recently recalled. "It was on an ally-hoop dunk. And I like dunking."

Mark Jackson, who was a tremendous player at Bishop Loughlin, went on to St. John's University, and also played in the NBA, is now coaching the Golden State Warriors of the NBA. One of the reasons Carrington wanted to attend Bishop Loughlin was because of the tremendous amount of success of players, including Jackson, going on to become pros.



JayVaughn Pinkston.
AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File

Carrington ranks as one of the top players in New York City. Now one of the pressures is off him.

In addition, the pressure of choosing a college is also off him as he signed with Seton Hall University, located in nearby New Jersey, last October.

After his Bishop Loughlin 'Lions' had a tremendous second half against visiting Fordham Prep of The Bronx, he indicated to the Caribbean Life that he would like to follow Pinkston into the NBA, but he is not sure just when.

The 6'3" guard can certainly put the points through the basket and is more of a slasher than his teammate guard Michael Williams.

Last year he scored at an average of 24 points a contest.

Chanderpaul

Continued from page 37

to be a shining champion of whom we are all proud," said Cameron. "We have also seen several other players making strides in their world rankings even as our team performances have not always been as strong as we would all like them to be," he said.

Cameron, who was elected as president earlier this year, said his tenure has been tough so far but that WICB has made significant strides. The president said based on the work being done by the WICB, he is expecting more success in all for-



West Indies middle-order batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

AP Photo/A.M. Ahmad

mats for both men's and women's teams.

Windies players must learn from their tours

The thrashing that the West Indies received in India and in New Zealand should serve as a cricket lesson to the West Indies players, particularly the younger inexperienced cricketers. Being able to adapt quickly to different conditions is key to the success of any player. West Indies players must learn to develop their cricketing skills quickly. The international arena is very competitive and players must be prepared for the toughness of the sport. Darren Bravo, Kirk Edwards, Tino Best, Jason Holder and Veerasammy Permaul all have to perform much better.

India and New Zealand had home advantages with detailed knowledge of their wickets and fielding conditions. Realising that the home teams had those advantages, the West Indies should have been better prepared to deliver better performances.

India's players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shikhar



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Dhawan Cheteshwar Pujara and Jin Karahan have all blossomed with their talents.

LACK OF SENSITIVE CRICKET KNOWLEDGE!

West Indies batsmen and bowlers are lacking the knowledge and skill on how to play against their tough competitors.

The West Indies batsmen frequently succumb to top bowling and if one or two players make huge scores, it is often insufficient to allow the team to win games. Much more reliable performances are needed. Unlike the West Indies, India, South Africa and Australia have batsmen who can withstand pressure and serve their team well.

EXPLOITING BATSMEN FAULTS

The apparent inability of West Indies bowlers to fully exploiting the mistakes made by batsmen has often prevented them from picking up the necessary wickets to win. Sometimes West Indies bowlers bowl too straight and do not focus on moving the ball away from the batsmen to induce mistakes. Both Australia and South Africa wickets are quick and their bowlers do the trick by exploiting such advantage.

Dale Steyn and Mitchell Johnson, respectively from South Africa and Australia, never allow batsmen to settle in. These fast bowlers take over their turfs leaving top batsmen cornered.

Australian cricket has improved with both bats-



West Indies Tino Best attempts to take a catch on the boundary off the bat of New Zealand's Trent Boult on the second day of the second international cricket match at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, New Zealand, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013.

AP Photo/SNPA, Ross Setford

men and bowlers performing exceptionally well. A good series matchup would be South Africa vs Australia.

West Indies cricket is in disarray and what is more troubling is that nothing significant is being done to bring about real success.

Sometimes talented players come into the team but then there is little improvement in their skills and this leads to their early demise.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, though you are eager to plow through your to-do list, certain plans may have to be postponed due to circumstances beyond your control. Go with the flow.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, uncover the source of a disagreement with a friend and try to come to a resolution before the disagreement escalates. Handling things promptly will pay off.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, attention to detail this week will prevent delays down the road. Keep this mind when tending to personal as well as professional matters.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You may find your mind wandering this week, Cancer. You cannot seem to focus on the tasks at hand, but work hard to limit distractions and get your work done.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, respect a loved one's decision to keep a certain matter private. There's not much you can do other than offer your support and respect.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, carefully schedule your time this week. You cannot afford to get behind in work or miss any important appointments. Stay focused and leave some time free for the unexpected.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you are drawn to creative endeavors these days and have less patience for tasks that are not nearly as fun. Find a healthy balance between the two.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, expect to serve as a mediator for your loved ones this week. The issue that arises is relatively small, but your calm demeanor and cool head will be needed.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you may be floundering a little in the romance department this week. Stick to what your intuition is telling you, and you will come out just fine.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you are focused on your work, but distractions beyond your control figure to prove frustrating. Try to remain as patient as possible, and everything will work itself out.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, take a breather and stop to give some careful thought to your recent experiences and your expectations going forward. You will benefit from this reflection in the long run.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, expect some valuable insight on your future to arrive in the next few days. It won't be difficult to set plans in motion.

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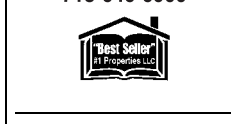
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