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Nicki offers an apology

Taken to task for using an inappropriate image on her new album cover, Trinidadian singer, Nicki Minaj says she's sorry. See story on page 31.

Photo by Brad Barket

Strong earthquake shakes Barbados

By Danica Coto

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - A magnitude-6.5 earthquake struck northeast of Barbados early Tuesday, jolting thousands from their sleep but causing no reported damage or casualties.

It also was felt in the nearby French Caribbean island of Martinique.

Barbados Police Constable

Chris Greg told The Associated Press by telephone that the earthquake was felt throughout the island.

"It was strong," he said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the temblor struck at a depth of 17 kilometers (10.5 miles) at 5:27 a.m. (0927 GMT) and was centered some 106 miles (170 kilometers) northeast of Bathsheba, Barbados

Dennis Connell, a 55-year-old security supervisor at a local country club, said in a phone interview that he was just starting to wake up when the earthquake struck.

"I felt like the place was spinning," he said, adding that he didn't realize it was a temblor. "I thought I was going sick."

Continued on Page 4

LET THE BUYER BEWARE

NY Attorney General warns of cold call computer scam

By Chudi Chukwudi

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman on Tuesday issued a warning to New Yorkers based on numerous complaints received by his office from consumers who have been contacted recently by scam artists posing as representatives of Microsoft or an organization allegedly affiliated with Microsoft, such as P.C. Solutions, who try to gain access to their computers

In some cases, the callers will even spoof the telephone's Caller ID to identify the source as "Windows Support."

The scam artists attempt to gain remote access to consumers' computers by claiming that their units are running slowly because they are infected with malware or viruses or need additional software, which the scam artists offer to remedy.

After gaining access, scammers are able to extract a fee – as much as \$300 – by obtaining credit card information over the phone, or by directing consumers to enter Pay-Pal, bank or credit card information on a website the scammers control.

"Consumer fraudsters come in all shapes and sizes, from false advertisers and illegal pet sellers, to identity thieves and predatory lenders. Unfortunately, we can now add scammers posing as computer experts to that list," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "There are simple, easy steps New Yorkers can take to identify these calls and avoid becoming victims of this increasingly prevalent scam."

The scammers first walk consumers through various steps on their computers to display Micro-

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Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifenews.com CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government recently averted losing some of its shares in regional carrier, LIAT by paying up US\$2.5 million to the cash-strapped airline.

If Antigua and Barbuda had failed to meet the payment last month, shareholding would have dropped below 30 percent and the country would have lost one director on LIAT's board.

The country was required to pay US\$2.8 million to LIAT for outstanding equity participation due in respect to the ongoing US\$100 million

fleet renewal. Minister of Finance Harold Lovell confirmed that only US\$2.5 million was paid.



Due to the late disbursement from the government, Liat was in arrears of lease payments and faced the possibility of having six of its nine aircraft grounded.

Currently, Antigua and Barbuda has 30.75 percent shares in the airline, while Barbados has 50.30 percent; St. Vincent and the Grenadines 11.83 percent and Dominica 0.98 percent.

Barbados

Barbados can capitalize on what appears to be a growing interest in Caribbean markets by Chinese visitors.

Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Richard Sealy, said figures outlined in a recent United Nations report indicated that one out of every five tourists would come from China.

"Over the next five years there will be over 500 million Chinese looking to go outside. These will

be people who are looking for a destination and Barbados should be one of those



destinations," he said.

Sealy was at the time speaking during a recent courtesy call with Chinese Ambassador Wang Ke at the ministry's office.

During the discussions the minister suggested that matters related to convenience and facilitation be given to Chinese visitors, as they represented a very large segment of the market.

Wang said Chinese people were looking at retirement facilities in



Push for pot

In this Feb. 6; 2013 photo; a Rastafarian named Bongho Jatusy smokes a pipe of marijuana outside a museum dedicated to the memory of late reggae icon Bob Marley in Kingston; Jamaica. See marijuana laws, page 8. AP Photo/David McFadden; File

the Caribbean for their elderly citizens because the weather was favorable.

Grenada

Former Grenada Finance Minister Nazim Burke has been elected leader of the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

He easily defeated former Education Minister Frank Bernadine during elections held recently at the party's convention.

Burke replaces former Prime Minister Tillman Thomas who did not seek reelection as the NDC leader.

It was the NDC's first convention since the expulsion of 10 members includ-



ing former general secretary Peter David in September 2012.

Party infighting and dissatisfaction led many members and supporters to abandon the NDC which suffered a humiliating 15-0 defeat by the New National Party (NNP) led by Dr. Keith Mitchell one year ago.

Burke, who lost his seat in the election, says the NDC is now a

different party with different persons.

Many former NDC supporters and members, including David, are now aligned to the ruling NNP.

David, a former foreign minister, is now an advisor to Prime Minister Mitchell and accompanied him to a recent regional meeting in Cuba.

Haiti

Police in Haiti are investigating the slaying of a human rights activist and his wife recently.

Haitian police spokesman Gary Desrosiers told Radio Caraibes that Daniel Dorsainvil and Girldy Lareche were killed recently by a lone gunman as they walked through a residential neighborhood in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Desrosiers held back on cita motive ing for the killing,



though he acknowledged reports that they were either killed in a robbery or targeted.

Dorsainvil was the coordinator for the Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations. The administration of President Michel Martelly has condemned the killing in a communique issued from its press office.

Jamaica

The Office of The Children's Advocate (OCA) is condemning the rape and killing of an eightyear-old girl recently.

The OCA is urging anyone with information about the rape and murder of young Selena to tell what they know to the police so that those responsible can be held accountable.

Children's Advocate, Diahann Gordon Garrison, says absolute-

ly no parent or guardian should have to endure the agonizing pain of having to



bury their child under such gruesome and heart-rending circumstances.

She says the communities must rise and put an end to child abuse, as their silence is costing the lives of children.

Garrison said that the OCA will be embarking on a new media campaign to sensitize persons about the ill-effects of child abuse.

The National Parent-Teachers

Association of Jamaica has joined the OCA in condemning the killing of eight-year-old Selena Edmond.

President of the Association Everton Hamman says parents are to break their silence and report on individuals who continue to prey on the nation's children.

St. Lucia

President of the St. Lucia Bar Association Rickey George has described as unjustified the government practice of employing attorneys from the region to provide legal services in high profile

He said it is astounding that lawyers from other parts of the region are being employed at astronomical fees to carry out the

same functions that can be carried out by lawvers staffed at the Attorney General's Office.



He was commenting on the decision of Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony to acquire the services of Dominican-born Queen's Counsel Anthony Astaphan to lead the civil cases brought against two former government ministers.

Former Tourism Minister and leader of the main Opposition United Workers Party (UWP), Allen Chastanet, and the party's chairman, Ezekiel Joseph, have been accused by the government of allegedly misusing funds provided by Taiwan.

St. Vincent

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Electricity Company (VIN-LEC) says consumers will not be asked to pay the increased fuel surcharge resulting from lower electricity generation by its hydro power plants.

VINLEC's chief executive officer, Thornley Myers, said that the higher fuel surcharge would not be used to repair

damage to the company's hydropower plants during the passage of the trough sys-



tem on Christmas Eve.

Myers said that VINLEC spent just over EC\$72 million on fuel and the hydro plants saved the company over EC\$13.7 million in fuel last year.

VINLEC's five hydro plants were

Continued on Page 16



Members of Jamaican Olympic team, including bobsled brakeman Marvin Dixon, third from left, and coach Paul Skog, second from left, pose with the Choir of Siberia after a welcome ceremony at the Mountain Olympic Village prior to the 2014 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

ICE OLYMPIANS WIN GLORY

Akin To Bolt As "Most Popular"

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaica's two-man bobsled qualifiers to the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia did not win a medal or even make the Top 20 list of competitors. However, after their appearance at the winter games, the Caribbean's only competitors are considered golden. Dubbed rock stars in the Olympic Village, brakeman Marvin Dixon and driver Winston Watts received cheers, and perhaps the most overall international attention and acclaim of all the nations represented.

"I wouldn't say rock star," Watts said. "I'm from a poor family, so I try not to think that I'm above people, because when you think you're a rock star, you walk around like a macho man. I'm not like that. I walk around like a normal person, like everyone else. That's why people love us."

Humble but charming, Watts has been in demand for photo opportunities, interviews and even a dance-off with U.S. bobsled brakeman Lolo Jones. In



Marvin Dixon of Jamaica carries the national flag during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Friday, Feb. 7, 2014.

AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

fact, the summer Olympian who is making her winter Olympic debut in the sport maybe among the biggest names in Russia. Instead of boosting her image, Jones posted a video of her American teammate dancing with Watts recently. Similar to the recurring media notice Usain Bolt received at the Beijing, China and London, England summer Olympics, on social media, Watts and Dixon have dominated.

Prior to the start of the games New Zealand snow-boarder Rebecca Torr tweeted: "Just wanna match with the Jamaican bobsled team."

Reportedly other athletes have acknowledged using a meet-up app called "Tinder" to track the Caribbean team.

"All the people here like us," Watts said, "No, that's not correct. I should say all the people here love us. We are a caring people and we love them too."

After placing 30th out of 30, Watts was interviewed by reporters on NBC-TV.

Continued on Page 24

'Hate Crimes in the Heartland'

By Amun

"Hate Crimes in the Heartland" a film by Rachel Lvon and co-produced by Pi-Isis Ankhra had it's New York premiere on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Aaron Davis Hall, City College of New York. It is a very important film which examines hate and race prejudice in America by looking at two distinct hate crimes, which took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the genocide, which took place in 1921, when the Black community was attacked by the white population of Tulsa and decimated. The Black community was virtually self-sufficient and thriving to the point of being called, "Black Wall Street." It was an American Economic success story. The white community invaded the Black community of Tulsa with government assistance, wiping out what had been a thriving economically successful community of Black businesses and families, burning it to the ground and killing thousands of people, and running the survivors out of town. It is reported that the first time any government used aerial bombing as a tactic of war, was in 1921 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when the United States government used airplanes to drop bombs on the Black community in Tulsa. It is a terrible tragedy of American history, which has been kept hidden and buried in the annals of American history. The other is the Good Friday Murders, which happened in 2012. Two white men shot and killed black residents of Tulsa at random out of hate and race prejudice.

Genocide was employed by the United States government against Native American people to seize and settle the land that is now western United States and the heartland of the country. Lynching was used as a tactic to terrorize and subjugate the Black population of the United States. Hate crimes continue today throughout the United States. The Department of Justice reports that approximately 250,000 hate crimes take place a year with that number doubling since the election of Baraka Obama as President of the United States. We look back at the decimations of Black communities such as Rosewood, Florida and the Black Wall Street of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the lynching and brutal murders of Emmitt Till, James Byrd, Bobby Clark, William Allen, Trayvon Martin and others, and have no solution in sight.

The efforts of the film-maker, Rachel Lyon and her co-producer, Pi-Isis Ankhra are not just to expose, but also to heal by opening up the conversation, and moving the agenda towards hope and reconciliation. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with a

Continued on Page 24



Pi-Isis Ankhra (R) responding to a question from the audience while Dr. Marta Mareno Vege looks on.

Photo by Amun

Scam artists up to no good

Continued from cover

soft's event viewer log, which contains a log of red-marked "errors," yellow "warnings" and other events that have occurred on the computer. Such events are usually inconsequential notifications and are not evidence of a virus. However, the con artists claim that they dem-

Update or download legitimate security software and scan your computer.
Delete any files that are identified as problematic.

onstrate that the PC is corrupted and will sustain further damage or be susceptible to "hacking" if additional action is not taken.

The consumer is then given instructions that ultimately allow the scam artist to access the computer remotely. Once the perpe-

trators gain access, they typically advise consumers that they must pay a fee, which can be as much as \$300, to have the problems corrected or their Microsoft warranty extended. The scammers collect payment by obtaining consumers' credit card information over the phone, or by directing consumers to fraudulent websites to enter credit card, PayPal, or other personal or financial information online. In some cases, if consumers balk at making the payment, the scam artists begin deleting consumers' files and disabling their computers. The scammers may also steal sensitive personal data, adjust security settings to leave computers vulnerable, or install software that can harm computers and/or allow the scammers to continue to access them remotely. The perpetrators appear to be operating from overseas and often speak with heavy foreign accents.

What to do if you get



New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

such a call:

Hang up the phone.

Do not give out your password. No legitimate organization will ever request this information.

Do not provide any billing infor-

What to do if you allowed someone access to your computer:

Change your computer and email passwords.

Update or download legitimate security software and scan your computer. Delete any files that are identified as problematic. Some service providers offer free tools that can help detect and remove viruses.

If you were charged for "services," dispute the charges with your credit card company.

If you gave out your billing information, you might want to consider closing your account.

File a complaint with the New York State Attorney General's Office. You can obtain a complaint form by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline (800) 771-7755 or visiting the Attorney General's website, www.ag.ny.gov.

Early morning Bajan scare

Continued from cover

Connell lives at Barbados' most northern point, and said there was no damage to his home or his neighbors' houses.

Judy Thomas, director of Barbados' Emergency Management Department, said that thousands of people felt the quake but that it didn't last very long. She said she has received no reports of injuries or damage to infrastructure, and that there is no threat of tsunami.

"We're advising people to go about their business as usual," she said.

The eastern Caribbean was last struck by a powerful earthquake in 2007, when a magnitude-7.4 quake centered just northwest of Martinique's coastline severely damaged some buildings on the island.

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Former Jamaican PM to work for UWI

By Azad Ali

The University of the West Indies (UWI) recently announced the appointment of former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding as an honorary distinguished fellow.

UWI has in the past also named former Prime Minister Michael Manley and Edward Seaga to similar posi-

It said the five-year nonsalaried appointment came into effect on Feb. 1, 2014 and would provide Golding, 67, the island's eighth head of government who stepped down in October 2011, an opportunity to undertake empirical research and offer recommendations emphasis on public administration and economic development.

The region's premier university with campuses in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago said the appointment would also allow Golding, the former leader of the main



Former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding.

AP Photo/Collin Reid

opposition Jamaica Labor Party (JLP), to develop linkages between the public and private sectors with a view of identifying and promoting practical areas for dynamic collaboration.

UWI said that an un-

named group of corporate citizens had committed to underwrite expenses associated with Golding's work.

Golding's personal papers including speeches and presentations are also to be archived at the UWI.

SVG recalls deputy New York consul general

By Nelson A. King

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recalled Deputy New York Consul General Edson Augustus.

In a brief statement, the ministry said that on Wednesday, Feb. 5, it received reports "suggesting that Mr. Agustus, while posted in New York, was involved in activities outside the scope of his employment and inimical to interests of the Consulate General and the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

"Having subsequently received sufficient confirmation of those reports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acted promptly in recalling Mr. Agustus, with

immediate effect," it said.

"All matters touching and concerning the said activities are under further review," it added.

Top government officials, including Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Foreign Affairs Minister Camillo Gonsalves and New York Consul General Selmon Walters, Augustus's immediate supervisor, did not return repeated calls and email requests by Caribbean Life, up to press time, seeking comment or elaboration on the matter.

La Celia Prince, the ambassador to the United States, whose Embassy in Washington, D.C. has jurisdiction over the New York Consulate General, also declined to comment, saving it was a matter for the

Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, to address.

But Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace, a former prime minister, has called on the government to be more transparent on the issue.

"This kind of diplomatic letter is good to send to an embassy or a government - not to send to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines," he said on his New Times radio program soon after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the release about Augustus' recall.

"People need more information than this, otherwise the information would be given otherwise, you know," he added, disclosing that he already has "certain information" in his possession.

T&T bids to host UN Arms Trade Treaty secretariat

Bv Azad Ali

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has made a formal bid for Trinidad and Tobago to host the next secretariat for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

She made the announcement after her return from the recently-concluded Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) meeting in Cuba.

She cited several reasons why Trinidad and Tobago should host the secretariat.

"Our geographic location has made us very vulnerable to illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. We do not manufacture guns or ammunition, we do not manufacture cocaine and other hard drugs, yet we are a transshipment point and, of course, the guns are creating havoc and great sadness in our country," she said.

"All the major institutions of the UN should not be located in one region," she argued.

The ATT is intended to regulate



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo

the trade in small arms and light weapons, particularly in territories affected by the illegal drug trade.

Persad-Bissessar said the discussions also turned to control of the drug trade within the region.

"This is a major challenge that we all in the Caribbean and Latin American states encountered. We found it necessary to refine policies that deal with this," she said.

The prime minister said those policies deal with not just control, but treatment and rehabilitation of users.

She said proposals to tackle poverty, illiteracy and inequality were also discussed during the summit.

Caribbean concerned about high energy costs

By Nelson A. King

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) says that Caribbean finance ministers have expressed concern about the high energy costs in the Caribbean that "constrain living standards and growth."

The region's finance and planning ministers voiced their concern in Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago capital, at the just-concluded Third Annual Meeting of the IDB's Caribbean Governors.

The IDB said it recently launched the Caribbean Energy Initiative, "which seeks to create a regional energy market that creates sufficient critical mass to enable countries to take advantage of the reduction in the cost of natural gas and its increased supply."

The Caribbean Energy Initiative will be complemented by the IDB's ongoing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, "which have proved to offer significant fiscal and foreign exchange benefits," the IDB



IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno. AP Photo/David Adame

sai

"The region is looking for a new paradigm," said IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno. "Both the larger, resource-based economies and the smaller, servicebased economies face the same challenge.

"New products and new trading partners will have to be cultivated," he urged. "This calls for a willingness to embrace change."

Moreno said the IDB is "committed to support that process."

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US drug policy fuels push for legal pot worldwide

By Gene Johnson

In a former colonial mansion in Jamaica, politicians huddle to discuss trying to ease marijuana laws in the land of the late reggae musician and cannabis evangelist Bob Marley. In Morocco, one of the world's top producers of the concentrated pot known as hashish, two leading political parties want to legalize its cultivation, at least for medical and industrial use.

And in Mexico City, the vast metropolis of a country ravaged by horrific cartel bloodshed, lawmakers have proposed a brand new plan to let stores sell the drug.

From the Americas to Europe to North Africa and beyond, the marijuana legalization movement is gaining unprecedented traction — a nod to successful



This Oct. 23, 2013 file photo shows Mexican lawmaker Fernando Belaunzaran taking a photo with his phone while touring a legal marijuana grow-room, at River Rock dispensary, in Denver.

AP Photo/Brennan Linsley, File

efforts in Colorado, Washington state and the small South American nation of Uruguay, which in December became the first country to approve nationwide pot legalization.

Leaders long weary of

the drug war's violence and futility have been emboldened by changes in U.S. policy, even in the face of opposition from their own conservative populations. Some are eager to try an approach that focuses on public health instead of prohibition, and some see a potentially lucrative industry in cannabis regulation.

"A number of countries are saying, 'We've been curious about this, but we didn't think we could go this route," said Sam Kamin, a University of Denver law professor who helped write Colorado's marijuana regulations. "It's harder for the U.S. to look at other countries and say, 'You can't legalize, you can't decriminalize,' because it's going on here."

Continued on Page 26



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LETTERS

One-To-World **Openhouse**

To The Editor:

In honor of Black History Month, Bushwick families will host university students from around the world for a two-day cultural and educational exchange experience.

Members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bushwick will welcome Fulbright grantees and other international university students for a Feb.22-23 overnight weekend visit with the twin goals of providing international students with an inside view into the richness of this Afro-Caribbean neighborhood, and to give the Bushwick community a keener awareness of New York City's inextricable links with the rest of the world.

"In the current political climate, this person-to-person diplomacy is more important than ever," the organizers explained in their letter to Caribbean Life.

The weekend exchange "will move participants beyond stereotypes to provide an experience rich in family, religion, food, music and friendship," organizers say.

"The One To World program brings together the future leaders from around the world together with Americans to share similarities and appreciate differences to build cultural understanding across the globe," organizers explained. "Through One To World programs, Americans and international students learn from one another and together they become active citizens in a global

One To World is designated by

the U.S. Department of State as the official coordinator of Fulbright enrichment programs in the greater New York area. In addition to working with Fulbright grantees, One To World promotes connections with the 65,000 selfsponsored international students studying in the greater New York

St. Thomas Church leaders, of predominantly Afro-Caribbean origin, are organizing the exchange with the non-profit organization One To World. Throughout the weekend local artists, St. Thomas Church congregation members. and local politicians will join the Fulbright grantees and international students and their Bushwick hosts.

The two-day program includes: Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014:

11:30 a.m. - Tour of Wyckoff Farmhouse

1:00 p.m. - Lunch at St. Tho-

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Tour of St. Thomas Church archives

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Cultural Extravaganza at St. Thomas

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014:

10:00 a.m. - Church Service at St. Thomas

12:00 p.m. - Festival of World Cultures in Church Hall

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1405 Bushwick Ave, Brooklyn, NY

To learn more about One To World, please visit our website at www.one-to-world.org

Alessandra Fiorenza

Caribbean Life

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OP-EDS

By Dr. Jacqueline Del Rosario

Relationships often collapse because couples are not prepared to withstand the inevitable conflicts or even the humdrum and monotonous plateau period that's nearly certain to present as the years go by. A relationship can feel more like "boot camp" when trying to acclimate to each other's personality differences and habits-frustrations, tensions, and resentments that can persist well into a long-term love affair and undermine the ability to feel happy and content. For other couples, it's shear boredom that can wreak havoc-if the partnership doesn't continue to stimulate and enrich their lives, the doldrums can be a relationship death knell!

"When couples do not understand these are anticipated and natural events in the course of a relationship, they may start looking for the exit door thinking that they have made a grievous mistake," notes Dr. Jacqueline Del Rosario, "America's Marriage Coach." "But, many people don't realize the extent to which their relational health and happiness is under their own control. That power lies in one's ability to self-assess and foster quality communication with their partner."

Below Dr. Del Rosario has identified 10 relationship wreckers. Turning these faults around can not only help a relationship survive, but also thrive so that both partners can actualize their dreams of "happily ever

- 1. Not putting your best face forward. People dress up in their best clothes, make sure their hair is done, and put on makeup for the outside world. Do you put forth the same effort to impress and excite your mate?
- 2. Not continuing to grow. You must come to a relation-

No degrading; no name-calling; no using your tongue as a weapon.

ship, willing to continuously improve who you are so that your relationship can continue to evolve. Consider trying new things together. Exploration and adventure can go a long way to keeping things fresh and appealing and will help you understand and appreciate who your partner is today. Continue to date and experience new things as a couple.

- 3. Not continuing to invest the time and effort to maintain a strong foundation. All good things take work, and both parties must roll up their sleeves and commit to doing their part to add value to the union. This includes continually stoking the flames of passion. Are you as proactive or even adventuresome in the bedroom, or are you relegated to business as usual? Break the routine here and watch the magic ensue.
- 4. Not knowing the relationship 'anchors.' What are the things that keep you rooted and well-connected with your partner? Why are you together in the first place? Identifying and nurturing similar values, goals, and expectancies in your relationship are fundamental and will help you endure during the tough times.
- 5. Not ensuring an effective communication style. It is essential to learn how each party in the partnership prefers to communicate. You must then make the conscious effort to deliver and receive messages from your mate according to their personal style, which may differ from yours. Knowing when and how to disseminate

information is a key relationship skill that can be a saving grace unto itself. And, during an argument, always fight fair and with respect—no name calling, no degrading one another, and no using your tongue as a weapon of mass destruction.

- 6. Not addressing unmet expectations. Unfortunately, unmet expectations are often not shared and, instead, they can fester within and result in resentment and bitterness. How can you expect your mate to meet vour expectations if vou don't voice them? It's unfair of you to feel that your partner "should know" or be able to decipher passive aggressive cues that something is wrong. Met expectations equal relational bliss, so be honest with what vou need from your partner for a real chance that those needs will be met, or even exceeded.
- 7. Not resolving emotional triggers that might be adversely affecting the relationship. Triggers link back to past traumas and can hinder the way we respond to or even perceive present day issues. Were you lied to or cheated on in the past? It doesn't mean vou cannot trust vour current mate. Did vour past partner drink too much? It doesn't mean this partner can't enjoy a cocktail responsibly. Put your old baggage aside and experience your current partner on their own merits and actions.
- 8. Failing to stop, look, and listen. Take the time to listen to and validate your mate. Couples often decrease their talk time once they have been together awhile and feel comfortable. Keep the channels of communication open—chatter about the day's events, current events, family matters and similar. It bonds the heart and

Continued on Page 12

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

Conspiring about complexion in T & T politics

In commenting on some distasteful chatter that broke into the news concerning Opposition Leader in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley, Trinidad Express columnist Martin Daly recently committed an error of attribution that incorrectly tagged a party colleague of Rowley's as subscriber to the alleged buzzing. Both as columnist and attorney, Daly ought to have been more circumspect and portraved former Senator and Member of Parliament Fitzgerald Hinds as reporting the off-color (in a manner of speaking) stuff being whispered about Rowley, not that Hinds was party to it. In this preamble phase of what will be a pivotal general election next year, Hinds had said publicly that there was supposedly a sentiment in some quarters that an impeding factor in Rowley's chances of becoming prime minister will be

his being "too black."

Daly's reference wasn't the first time this particular maligning of Rowley had become a media nugget. Notably, another Express columnist, Selwyn Ryan, had regurgitated the "too black" indictment ascribed to some folk in an earlier piece. Curiously, Ryan qualified "black" in his initial mention of this anti-Row-

ley undercurrent as not "biological" but more pertaining to Rowley's social/political outlook. By the time the issue was addressed again in a subsequent Ryan column, there was no such qualification. For his part, aside from his column's misleading context for Rowley's party mate. Daly was very much on point in his insistence that this business of an Afro-Trinidadian being considered too dark-skinned to hold the country's highest elective office wasn't a topic to be dismissed, as some had contended, but very much one to be squarely confronted.

To the unsuspecting, discussion surrounding the pigmentation of an Afro-Trinidadian political figure in a country where Afro and Indo-Trinidadians are the dominant demographic sectors might seem off-the-wall bizarre. More so when the discussion is allegedly being generated among Afro-Trinidadians, who happen to form most of the support base for Rowley's party, the People's National Movement (PNM). Afro-Trinidadians who care to be honest about social mores in the country know full well this isn't the least bit unusual. And hardly are they (not everyone, heaven forbid) singular in employing an

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

imaginary but ingrained "complexion scale" in the litmus test process. As Daly says, quite correctly: "Preference for lighter complexions and prejudice against darker ones is a worldwide phenomenon and exists even among people of the same race."

Worldwide phenomenon indeed. African Americans, we know, are no strangers to light/dark differentiation permeating much of their experience. Daly in fact notes that writer-activist Alice Walker coined the term "colorize" for the complexion preference syndrome. Along the way of African Americans' journey, both pre and post-civil rights era, there's been many a hint, if not outright suggestion, of "colorizing" having played a role, minimal maybe, as far as some leadership figures who emerged. Not to mention the frequency with which we've seen, in entertainment and media, individuals whose arrival in the spotlight, more likely than not, the "colorized" bit aided substantially.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the calvpsonian can always be counted on to size up issues bedeviling the social landscape. Years ago, calypsonian Chalkdust, ever perceptive in such observations, addressed the halting embrace of their African-ness he often found among his African brethren. As when, he sang, mothers would zero in on one of their baby's physical features to make linkage with some strand of non-African ancestry -- a greatgrandparent, perhaps, who was part Chinese or part Portuguese: "De baby black like a voodoo doll/But they ain't see Africa at all." Chalkdust was telling no tales out of school with his commentary. But predictably, folks could get somewhat antsy when called out.

Which likely explains opposition voiced against drawing public attention to those hideous sentiments supposedly making the rounds about Rowley. What's perplexing, even for those well hip to the light/dark nonsense that factors into social interaction in the country, is that there have previously been Afro-Trinidadian prime ministers. And should we for a moment deign to indulge the crud about a dark

complexion ensuring confinement to the margins, what then explains the succession of prime ministers including two, A.N.R. Robinson and Patrick Manning, with complexions not a whole lot different from Rowley's? Is it that this anti-Rowley whispering, to the extent it exists, is programmed to be not just contemptible beyond words, but illogical as well?

As complementary deal-breaker talk with the "too black" stuff, some have apparently advanced Rowley's being a native of Tobago, introducing yet another sick dimension to this pursuit of divisiveness. For whatever it's worth, Robinson more than 30 years ago debunked any wild notion of Tobago birth being a prime ministerial non-starter. Which just might formally qualify the alleged brouhaha over Rowley's fitness to be prime minister as a proverbial tempest in a teapot. And makes hawkers of this trash ideally suited for our "Get a life!" reaction.

Not that we should ignore the teachable moment here...which there is. Still lingering out where it ought never to have been is a sense that the more African you look, the more modest should aspirations be.



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Community group honors 8 at Black History Month gala

By Nelson A. King

The Brooklyn community group, APC (Action, Performance, Commitment) Community Services, on Sunday honored eight outstanding Caribbean nationals during its gala Black History Month/Valentine's Day celebration at Grace Lifestyle Center in Brooklyn.

The honorees comprised: Drs. Aletha Maybank and Yvonne McCallum-Peters, and Wayne Johnson, Nell Darnley, Cheryl Gerrard, Phyllis Herbert, Stephen Isaac and Illouise Murillo-Tucker.

They also received citations from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Councilman Dr. Mathieu Eugene.

Patrons also observed a moment's silence in honor of the late Guyanese-born educator Dr. Walter Kyte, who served as the first board chair for APC Community Services.



Cheryl Gerrad displays City Council citation from Councilman Dr. Mathieu Eugene. She's flanked by Drs. Janice Emanuel-Bunn and Gordon John.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, whose parents are from Antigua and Barbuda, is a highly proficient physician with demonstrated excellence in public health, policy development, health communications/media, preventive medicine, leadership, and management per-

formance.

Dr. Maybank said her expertise is in preventive medicine, nutrition and fitness, maternal and child health, cancer, HIV/AIDS, community health, and health inequities.

Currently, Dr. Maybank Continued on Page 14

Exploration and adventure can help

Continued from Page 10

abates the feeling of growing apart. Should a concern be expressed along the way, it's imperative to hear your mate and try to empathize with how they feel.

9. Allowing outside interference. There is a reason "interference" is a penalty in most sports. It is because someone is getting involved where and when they do not have a right. This can result in focusing on

the wrong issues and reinforcing dangerous and emotional conclusions that can be detrimental to your relationship. Your partner may also be very angry to find out that others are now involved in your private life. Instead, go directly to your partner to resolve relationship problems. However, if things are critical and seemingly out of both of your control, qualified assistance can come from marriage coaches and counselors

who are there to help get the dialogue between the two of you on the right track.

"America's Marriage Coach" Jacqueline Del Rosario, an internationally regarded relationship expert, is President and CEO of Recapturing the Vision International, an organization dedicated to promoting healthy marriages and family strengthening. Also a published author, speaker, and nationally regarded media personality, Dr. Del Rosario has been a certified pre and post-marital counselor for more than 20 years. Her cutting-edge series, Marriage Solutions and The Marital Constitution™, help couples successfully work through problems and find healthy solutions. She has two children and currently resides in Miami, Florida with her husband of over 20 years. Dr. Del Rosario may be reached online at www.DrJacquie.



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APC Community Services Gala

Continued from Page 12

is an assistant commissioner in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and serves as the director of the Brooklyn District Public Health Office, located in Central Brooklyn since April 2009.

Dr. McCallum-Peters was born and raised in Guyana. She has a doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University.

She began her tour of duty at Medgar Evers College (MEC) in the fall semester of 1994. She worked as a part-time Basic Education/GED instructor in the Continuing Education Department, now known as The Department of External Programs.

In the fall of 1998, Dr. McCallum-Peters became a full-time faculty member of the Post Secondary Readiness Center, now renamed Academic Foundations Division.

Dr. McCallum-Peters is a member of the National

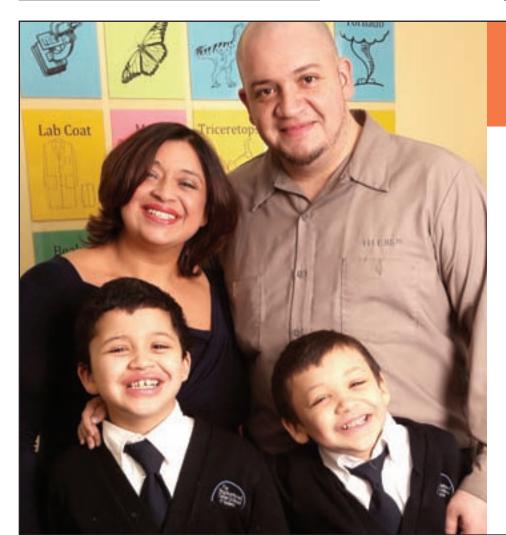


Dr. Aletha Maybank receives proclamation from Kai Feder, director of capital budget and economic development, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, flanked by Dr. Janice Emanuel (R).

Photo by Nelson A. King

Council of Teachers of English and the New York College English Association.

Wayne Johnson is a native of Trinidad and Tobago. He has been a fulltime gospel artiste for over 25 years. He is a graduate of Nariva High School in Trinidad.



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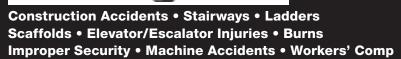
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

damaged during the storm, and consumers saw on their January this year bill an increase of EC\$0.07 cents month to-month increase per unit in the fuel surcharge.

Myers said that based on the production of its hydro plant last year, the company will assess monthly how much fuel would have been saved had the plans been in operation last year.

Suriname

Guyana says it has sent letters in support of efforts by Suriname for China to fund the construction of a bridge linking the two Caribbean Community (CARI-COM) countries.

Foreign Affairs Minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett said, "Guyana, at the request of Suriname, have informed the Chinese Government that we are supportive of the bridge across the Corentyne River."

She said the government has sent two letters of "no-objection" to the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Suriname and China for the construction of the bridge.

The Donald Ramotar administration said that the "bridging of the Corentyne River that will link Guyana and Suriname remains a key area of focus for the government of both countries and at present the structure's design is being formulated."

It said the bridge will be funded by the Chinese government.

Trinidad

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has warned doctors, nurses, teachers and employees they can face seven years in jail and a fine of \$15,000 if they have reason to believe a minor is sexually active and fail to report it to the police.

The warning came during a press conference in the Parliament Chamber, Port of Spain last week following reports that there are more than 2,500 teenage pregnancies each year for fathers in the

25-40 age group. The startling statistics were revealed recently by Minister of Education Dr Tim Gopeesingh in the

Senate.

Persad-Bissessar said, according to the law any sexual act against an unmarried child under the age of 16 is considered

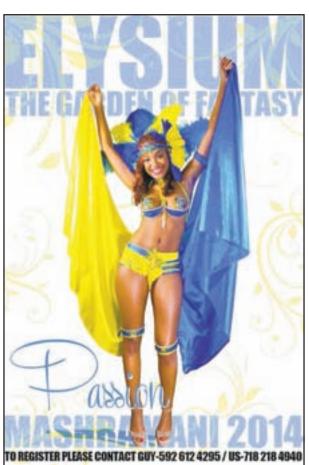
She described rape of minor as "heinous" and said no excuses should be tolerated.

Persad-Bissessar said the Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development has been mandated to embark on a public education program in order to reduce statutory rape and teenage pregnancies.

Compiled by Azad Ali



Battle for the Mashramani Crown



By Tangerine Clarke

New York production company Honest Illusion will set the streets of Georgetown ablaze with a kaleidoscope of colorful costumes when the band vies for top honors at the 44th Republic Anniversary Mashramani celebration, which began recently with a Children's Costume Competition.

Costume designer Preston Paul will showcase "Elysium – The Garden of Fantasy" — a Greek garden of mythical creatures that will feature eight sections — Desire, Ecstasy, Passion, Betrayal, Lust, Temptation, Love, and Seduction.

The medium-sized band will be 500 strong when it hits the streets on Mash Day, Feb. 23.

Honest Illusion Multimedia Production Director

A model displays the costume for the "Passion" section of the band "Elysium - The Garden of Fantasy."

Photo by Honest Illusions

Brian K. Roberts said he was excited about putting on a great show as a first time contender, and worked tirelessly with the designer to ensure the presentation was unique and artistic.

During the recent launch of the band at the Monaco Night Club in Georgetown, the crew showcased both male and female ensembles designed with dazzling headpieces. The skimpy two-piece outfits are lavishly trimmed with beads and feathers to impress the judges.

Roberts, a music video and photography professional expressed his love for his country and added, " I love my culture from within and I want to showcase it in a big way. National pride will be our focus as we showcase the beauty of our women and men."

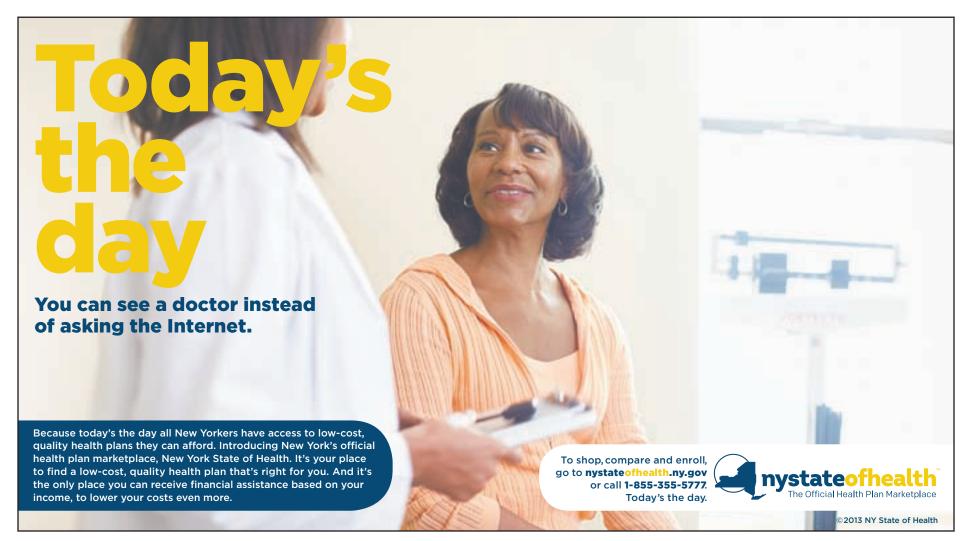
"We worked with the Guyanese people because we wanted to give back to the community, this is the reason we launched the band in Georgetown," said Roberts.



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THE CARIBBEAN BUSINESS REPORT

Is Jamaica poised for an economic turn-around?

By Robert Looney

(c) 2014, Foreign Policy. MONTEREY, Calif. -It's easy to be pessimistic about Jamaica. The country has the world's highest debt burden, and its economic growth has been at a near standstill over the past several decades. It has been plagued by rising levels of violence and crime, with one of the highest murder rates in the world -- 1.200 murders or 44.2 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2013, a 9.4 percent increase over 2012.

Consequently, it's refreshing to hear some good news about the country. After Jamaica's two-man bobsled team announced that it had qualified to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics but could not afford to travel to Sochi, Russia, thousands of people contributed to an Internet crowdfunding campaign. In just three days, the campaign raised \$129,587 -- more than 12 times the amount needed to fund the team's travel.

And the bobsled story may not be Jamaica's only good news. The country's approach to its current International Monetary Fund (IMF) stabilization/debt-reduction program is a welcome ray of hope, suggesting the long-troubled



In this Jan. 25, 2014 photo, fisherman Tony Chambers cleans a small snapper on a beach in the fishing town of Old Harbor in southern Jamaica. A Chinese engineering company is expected to develop a \$1.5 billion transshipment port on cays less than a mile off the fishing beach as the Caribbean island joins a regional rush to lure the bigger, deeper-drafting boats expected to cross through an expanded Panama Canal by mid-2015.

AP Photo/David McFadden

nation may at last be on track for a turn-around. This news is an especially pleasant surprise, given Jamaica's and other countries' history of unsuccessful attempts to meet the goals of numerous IMF programs in the past.

Jamaica's IMF programs are the consequence of the serious underperformance of its economy since the early 1970s. As a result, Jamaica suffers from high public debt and unemployment, deteriorating physical infrastructure, failing social services (such as health, education, and the justice system), and violent crime -- all this in a country that possesses a well-educated, English-speaking labor force, magnificent beaches, fertile soil, a near-

perfect climate for farming, abundant deposits of bauxite, and proximity to the United States market and major commercial shipping routes.

There is plenty of blame to go around for Jamaica's present plight. Failed socialist programs in the 1970s were followed by oil shocks, and the boom-and-bust of the bauxite market. Jamai-

ca's popular press attributes the country's problems to a 40-year string of short-sighted (and perhaps incompetent) politicians, who regularly overspent to bolster the standard of living and, thereby, secure votes. Opinion polls identify rampant corruption as Jamaica's most serious problem.

Between 1973 and 1996, Jamaica signed 12 loan IMF agreements. In each instance, the country appears to have approached the IMF program with passive acceptance.

Rather than approaching the IMF's goals in good faith, the country's government simply cut expenditures and raised taxes until it reached a point where further program compliance was perceived to be politically impossible. Each time, the fund responded to the unmet goals by suspending its financial support.

Not surprisingly, as of 2000, Jamaica ranked 11th out of 35 countries classified as "prolonged users" of IMF resources. Despite the number of loans it had received, a 2002 IMF assessment concluded that progress in resolving Jamaica's economic difficulties was disappointing. The country still faced substantial economic challenges,

especially with regard to tax and public sector reform.

Seeming forever programmed to fail, and suffering from "adjustment fatigue," Jamaica chose to forego IMF borrowing for a period after 1996. Instead, the government began its own efforts to achieve stability and growth. These efforts focused on accumulating sufficiently large primary surpluses to reduce public debt, while ensuring adequate financing and exchange rate stability through interest rate pol-

Unfortunately, the country's go-it-alone strategy failed to correct the economy's many deep-seated weaknesses, such as the pervasive lack of competitiveness in the country's main industries. Between the mid-1990s and 2012, the economy grew by less than 1 percent annually, with significant increases in poverty, unemployment and outward migration of many of the country's most talented workers, managers and entrepreneurs. Public debt rose to some 150 percent of GDP. The cost of the high debt burden was readily apparent in the 37 percent of government revenues allocated to interest payments.

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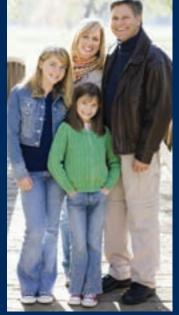
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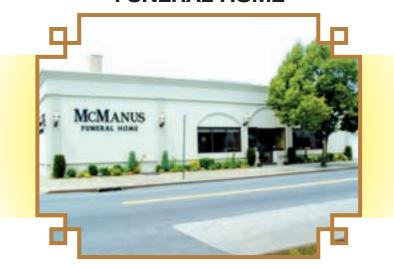


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Natural ways to stay healthy during this winter season

(StatePoint) While you're probably already accustomed with conventional ways of looking and feeling your best, this winter, consider more natural approaches to health and wellness.

Here are several good-for-you and good-for-the-planet steps you can take to help stay strong and healthy this winter:

HERBAL REMEDIES

Feeling under the weather? Before turning to your medicine cabinet, take a look at your kitchen cabinet. Herbs are not just a low-calorie flavor booster of meals, they're said to also contain healing properties. Many herbs have been used for centuries as remedies for common ailments.

For example, according to the National Institutes of Health, sage may help ease your headache, hoarseness or cough, and is an effective remedy for a sore throat. Try infusing tea with sage, or using it to add flavor to your sauté or roast at dinner. Running

HEALTH

a fever? Rosemary has been used to treat fever and headache. So the next time you hit the grocery store, fill your cart with organic herbs that heal.

CHECK THE LABEL

Where natural ingredients are concerned, the focus is often on our plates. It's easy to forget the range of items we put into our body daily. Given how often we use them, it's worth a closer look at their ingredients.

Toothpaste, for instance, is something that goes in your mouth twice a day. Have you ever wondered what was on the label, where the ingredients are sourced or their purpose? Ingredients contained in some conventional toothpaste are unnecessary or offer no health benefit. When choosing your next tube of toothpaste, consider a natural

oral care option free of artificial colors, flavors, sweeteners and preservatives.

For example, Tom's of Maine, a natural products company focused on oral and personal care, offers information about the purpose and source of every ingredient they use. This winter, try their seasonally-inspired Cinnamon Clove Whole Care natural toothpaste, made from real cinnamon leaves and bark.

Depending on your needs, Tom's of Maine offers personal care products that are vegan and gluten free as well as kosher and halal-certified To learn more about their sustainable practices and cruelty-free line of products, visit www.TomsOfMaine.com.

BOOST IMMUNITY

Help stay cold and flu-free this winter with some natural lifestyle tweaks. Proper hydration and nutrition are important for good health and your skin. In addition to drinking plenty of alcohol-free



Try that yoga class to help relieve stress. Photo by Kzenon - Fotolia.com ©

liquids, look for soaps and skin care products that have natural olive oil as a primary ingredient. Natural oils help lock in mois-

Also, take steps to reduce stress from your life -- which studies have shown can take a mighty toll on your body's ability to fight infection, according to the American Psychological Association. When you're feeling tense, try products infused with lavender or chamomile, both of which can help relieve stress, or use the opportunity to finally try that yoga class.

If you're interested in achieving the best health possible this season, making positive lifestyle tweaks and exploring natural health alternatives are two great places to start.

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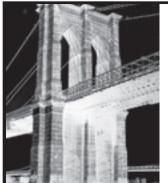
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A cleric prays with Colleen James in Cane Grove, St. Vincent hours before it was confirmed that James' sister had died in the Christmas Eve floodwaters. Her two-year-old daughter was still missing.

IPS/Desmond Brown

Gender counts in the aftermath of disaster

By Jewel Fraser

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan 31 2014 (IPS) - The rise in natural disasters in the Caribbean due to climate change has led to increased suffering for both men and women, much of it as a consequence of socially constructed roles based on gender, experts say.

So although women typically suffer more during natural disasters, gender policies that specifically focus on helping men when disasters strike are also needed, according to a disaster management official in the Caribbean.

"In the Caribbean region, discussions on gender are relegated to conversations on women," Elizabeth Riley, the deputy executive director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), told IPS.

However, she said, experience of natural disasters in the region show that there is a need for psycho-social support programmes for males following a disaster.

A report prepared for the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Enhancing Gender Visibility in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Caribbean" noted that men often lacked coping skills in the aftermath of a hurricane and were prone to alcohol abuse, stress, and anger.

Riley said reports from regional disasters showed women, on the other hand, responded to such events "by connecting to the whole concept of social capital – relying on each other, family connections and friends."

She said women in these disasters occupied themselves with consoling children through story-telling, communal cooking and "encouraging people toward a place of recovery." Other reports showed that men did show some resilience in tackling the reconstruction of their homes.

Reports of natural disasters in the region highlight other male vulnerabilities.

Riley said other reports show that "elderly men are abandoned and incapable of fending for themselves."

"It is very closely connected to a culture where men have multiple partners and when they reach old age they do not have social capital for support," she said.

"That is the result of the socially constructed role of

men being macho" by having children with several women, she said. "It puts a level of burden on the state because the support for older men is significantly less than that for women," she said.

In its 2004 macro-economic and social assessment of the damage wrought by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States noted that "69 percent of the victims were males, and 70 percent of all deceased were over 60 years old"

Men may be more likely to suffer physical harm in a natural disaster, said Dr. Asha Kambon, a consultant who worked for 20 years with UN-ECLAC, specialising in natural disasters and their impact on small island developing states. "We women are not as prone to risk-taking as men," she noted.

Though women typically die in greater numbers than men in a natural disaster, Kambon told IPS the ratio of male to female deaths depended very much "on the environment, on the circumstances."

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Olympics

Continued from Page 3

Following the interview, the station showcased a video and song celebrating the team and island. The song and video were commissioned by the Jamaica Tourist Board in celebration of the country's only athletes competing at the Winter Games.

Written by Sidney Mills, Jon Notar and Groove Guild "The Bobsled Song" was written to match the course at the Sochi Games. During the two-man bobsled races, the shouts of "to the right" and "to the left" matched

the turns on the icy track.

The team's popularity probably stems from "Cool Runnings," the 1993 Disney movie loosely based on Jamaica's 1988 Olympic bobsled team.

U.S. bobsledder Aia Evans said she first learned about the sport from watching "Cool Runnings" as a child. Now she is considered one of the top brakemen in the world. "Like everybody else, Cool Runnings was my history class in the sport of bobsledding," Evans added.

"I actually grew up with that movie, so it's a classic. I love it," Steven Holcomb of the U.S. team said.

This year, the Jamaican team didn't even qualify

until mid-January. They had little time and even less money to travel to the Olympics. Allegedly, they had little recourse but to turn to social media to raise money. In less than a day they raised more than enough funds to make the trip. They encountered another obstacle when bad weather caused them to miss a connecting flight to Sochi. On arrival to Sochi they were told that their gear and luggage did not make the flight. That setback caused them to miss out on one day's training.

They finished next to last in one heat and last in the second. The team didn't qualify for the fourth and final heat.

Hate Crimes

Continued from Page 3

Q&A with the panel and the audience. The hope is to support a dialogue, which will move the agenda towards peace and the elimination of hatred and these terrible crimes that hatred and fear have wrought.

The filmmakers have been

touring "Hate Crimes in the Heartland" around the United States and holding panel discussions with local social activists with Q&A following in an effort to stimulate a dialogue that addresses hate crimes and their deep rooted causes. Their Black History Month schedule has included screenings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, New York City, Cambridge, Massachusetts and Boca Raton, Florida. Coming

up are screenings in Cincinnati, Ohio on Feb. 24; Chicago, Illinois on Feb. 25 and in Jersey City on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Jersey City University, Margaret Williams Theater, 2039 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey at 5:45 p.m. RSVP: www.hchnewjerseyscreening.eventbrite.com, visit: www.hatecrimesheartland.com for information.

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Pot craze gains momentum

Continued from Page 8

That's due largely to a White House that's more open to drug war alternatives.

U.S. President Barack Obama recently told The New Yorker magazine that he considers marijuana less dangerous to consumers than alcohol, and said it's important that the legalization experiments in Washington and Colorado go forward, especially because blacks are arrested for the drug at a greater rate than whites, despite similar levels of use.

His administration also has criticized drug wardriven incarceration rates in the U.S. and announced that it will let banks do business with licensed marijuana operations, which have largely been cash-only because federal law forbids financial institutions from processing pot-related transactions.

Such actions underscore how the official U.S. position has changed in recent years.

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it wouldn't target medical marijuana patients. In August, the agency said it wouldn't interfere with the laws in Colorado and Washington, which regulate the growth and sale of taxed pot for recreational use.

Government officials and activists worldwide have taken note of the more open stance. Also not lost on them was the Obama administration's public silence before votes in both states and in Uruguay.

It all creates a "sense that the U.S. is no longer quite the drug war-obsessed government it was" and that other nations have some political space to explore reform, said Ethan Nadelmann, head of the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, a prolegalization group based in New York.

Anxiety over U.S. reprisals has previously doused reform efforts in Jamaica, including a 2001 attempt to approve private use of

marijuana by adults. Given America's evolution, "the discussion has changed," said Delano Seiveright, director of Ganja Law Reform Coalition-Jamaica.

Last summer eight lawmakers, evenly split between the ruling People's National Party and the opposition Jamaica Labor Party, met with Nadelmann and local cannabis crusaders at a luxury hotel in Kingston's financial district and discussed next steps, including a near-term effort to decriminalize pot possession.

Officials are concerned about the roughly 300 young men each week who get criminal records for possessing small amounts of "ganja." Others in the debt-shackled nation worry about losing out on tourism dollars: For many, weed is synonymous with Marley's home country, where it has long been used as a medicinal herb by families, including as a cold remedy, and as a spiritual sacrament.

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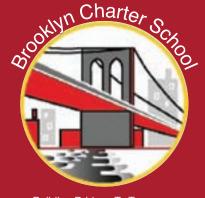
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2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
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The forgotten Freedman's Village

BLACK HISTORY FACT:

Hallowed grounds in downtown Manhattan marks the site of the African Burial Ground where an entire community of Black Americans lived and were buried. In Virginia, just across from the Potomac River, the much revered Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for brave and honored Americans - including President John F. Kennedy. And like in NYC, the sacred place is where an entire Black community lived and died 150 years ago. Known then as Freedman's Village, the only trace of Freedman's Village left on the grounds are the lonely graves in Section 27 near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Until the Associated Press published this revelation four years ago, few knew the historical facts about this sacred burial ground.

"Arlington charter buses roll up to Arlington National Cemetery every day, depos-



iting tourists who scramble uphill to see the eternal flame on President John F. Kennedy's grave. People stream in all directions, toward the Tomb of the Unknowns or to remember at tombstones of loved ones lost to war.

Few, however, head downhill to a quiet corner near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Down here, there are no memorials to ancient battles, no ornate headstones honoring long-dead dignitaries. There are only rows of small unassuming white tombstones, many engraved with names like George, Toby and Rose.

They are the only visible reminders that part of the nation's most storied burial ground sits atop what used to be a thriving Black town -- "Freedman's Village," built on

land confiscated from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Milton Rowe recently made his way slowly around the famous grounds with Wayne Parks. There's nothing here now to tell visitors that freed slaves once lived here, but the two men say they feel a connection with this land because they can both trace their ancestors to Freedman's Village.

Parks said he remembers his grandfather repeatedly bringing him to the cemetery as a child to explain the bond. Parks' great-grandfather, James Parks, lived in Freedman's Village and other locations around the cemetery after being freed from servitude to the Lee family.

"I was sitting on this wall gazing out over the cemetery, and all of a sudden, I got it," Parks said. "Our DNA



The African Burial Ground in downtown Manhattan.

Photo by Donna Lamb

is intrinsically intertwined in this property, integrated in this property. The spirits of my ancestors continue to exist here in this property, so I find like my grandfather, I now come here for strength, I come here to commune with them."

Arlington National Cemetery was established on land confiscated from Lee and his family in 1861 after the general took command of the Confederate forces.

The Civil War leaders of the Union buried soldiers' bodies on the property in hopes that Lee would never want to return, and Parks' ancestor dug the very first grave near the Freedman's Village burial site.

The federal government turned some land about a half-mile north of Lee's mansion into a town specifically for freed slaves who had nowhere to go.

At its height, more than 1,100 former slaves lived in a collection of 50 1½-story duplexes surrounding a central pond.

Although the town was supposed to be temporary,

the freed slaves put up churches, stores, a hospital, mess hall, a school, an "old people's home" and a laundry -- to make a life for themselves.

"I think it would have very much resembled a town anywhere in America today with that population. They had the same needs as anywhere, and they sustained themselves by working," Thomas Sherlock, a historian at Arlington National Cemetery said.

Eventually, the village site, with a spectacular view of the nation's capital and the Potomac River, became desirable for development. Despite impassioned protests from the freed slaves, the federal government paid the residents \$75,000 for the buildings and property, and tore down the town in 1900.

Saving the city would have been a "gift to the American people to remember the struggles which seem like was a long time ago, but 150 years is not that long ago," Sherlock said.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Minaj uses Malcolm X pose in cover art

By Mesfin Fekadu

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicki Minaj has apologized for using a famous photo of Malcolm X with a rifle in his hands and juxtaposing it with a racial slur for her new song.

Minaj posted the photo Wednesday on her website and Instagram page, and received criticism for how she used the Malcolm X image. It's for her new song "Lookin (Expletive) (Expletive)." The title uses the N-word.

After she was roundly criticized on social media circles and beyond for what many saw as disrespect to a revered icon, she offered an apology Thursday on Instagram to the estate of Malcolm X — who was assassinated 49 years ago this month at age 39.

She also said that the song's artwork "is in no way to undermine his efforts and legacy."



Nicki Minaj is being criticized after using a photo of Malcolm X with a gun in his hands, juxtaposed with a racial slur, for her new single.

Photo by Brad Barket/Invision/ AP, File

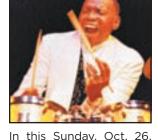
"That was never the official artwork nor is this an official single. This is a conversation. Not a single," she wrote. "I apologize to the Malcolm X estate if the meaning of the photo was misconstrued. ... Continued on Page 34

Jazz musicians in Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Betty Carter, guitarist Wes Montgomery, drummer Elvin Jones and bandleader Fletcher Henderson have been voted into Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame.

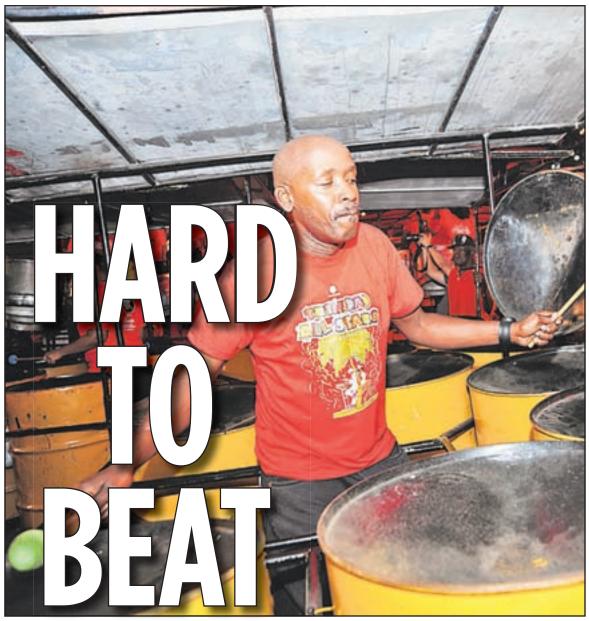
JALC announced the 2014 inductees Monday after tallying votes by jazz fans worldwide from a list of 10 nominees selected by a committee of musicians and scholars.

Montgomery influenced countless modern jazz gui-Continued on Page 34



In this Sunday, Oct. 26, 1997, file photo, Elvin Jones, the legendary drummer that played with John Coltrane, plays at the San Francisco Jazz Festival.

AP Photo/Susan Ragan, File



Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars bassman playing Leon Edward's "Excitement" at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Photo by Trainer

With "Excitement" on the bass pans

By Trainer

PAUSE...Take a bow.

Talk about excitement along with an energetic and winning performance by the Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars players playing Leon 'Smooth' Edwards's arrangement of Clive Telemaque's "Excitement" had patrons in the North and Grand Stands jumping and bawling for Polished and sounding clean, All Stars is way out front of the pact. In the coming days the band will go through hard drills. The title is All Stars to win.

From the time Witco Desperadoes hit the drag, supporters and pan lovers really enjoyed Robbie Greenidge's arrangement of SuperBlue's "Spankin." Despers is the outsider in the top five to win the title. Robbie

wants it bad. "One player said, you can feel it, come in the yard and you will see."

Make way for Duvonne Stewart, who needs a title to "rank with the "big boys." Renegades playing a jumpy rendition of "In De Minor" had both stands supporting the band and calling for more. Tobago's best crackshot has a very good chance to

Continued on Page 34

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Kevin Hart in raunchy remake of romantic romp

"About Last Night"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for profanity,
sexuality, nudity and brief
drug use
Running time:
110 minutes
Distributor: Screen Gems

By Kam Williams

Released in 1986, "About Last Night" revolved around the yearlong effort of a couple of Chicago yuppies (played by Rob Lowe and Demi Moore) to forge a solid relationship on the shaky ground of a one-night stand. The movie was adapted from "Sexual Perversity in Chicago," a dialogue-driven drama by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Mamet (for Glengarry Glen Ross).

Loosely based on the original, this raunchy remake is a romantic comedy ostensibly serving as a vehicle for popular comic-turnedactor Kevin Hart. After all, his character, Bernie, the sidekick in the source material, is now the leading man. Furthermore, the setting has been shifted to L.A., where much of the humor caters to the African-American palate, since the principal cast members are now all black.

The film happens to be at its best when over the top Bernie's talking trash. For instance, he brags about leaving a recent sexual conquest's "edges nappy," an inside joke insinuating that the session was so steamy it had literally uncurled his partner's straightened hair.

Directed by Steven Pink (Hot Tub Time Machine), the picture costars Regina Hall opposite Hart as his love interest, Joan. Rounding out the principal cast are Michael Ealy and Joy Bryant as Danny and Debbie, the aforementioned two-some who decide to give serious commitment a go.

At the point of departure we are introduced to Bernie and Danny,



Kevin Hart and Regina Hall star in "About Last Night."

Photo courtesy of http://www.rottentomatoes.com

best friends and co-workers at a restaurant supply company. The former recounts a purely lustful escapade he shared with Joan, prior to introducing the latter to her roommate. Danny goes gaga over Debbie, and the cinematic table is set.

Bernie and Joan remain incessantly in heat, and can't keep their

hands off each other. By contrast, Danny and Debbie prove to be introspective enough to move in together, buy furniture, adopt a pet, and generally map out a future.

The plot thickens when Danny loses his job and ends up tending bar at Casey's, a saloon frequented by his stalker ex-girlfriend (Paula Patton). It doesn't help that Bernie's already been pressuring his suddenly-domesticated pal to revert to sowing his wild oats.

Regardless, the resulting relationship tensions still take a back seat to lighthearted banter in this superficial adventure laced with one-liners like, "If this bitch were any dumber, you'd have to water her." Look for quickie cameos by NFL great Terrell Owens as well as by Rob Lowe and Demi Moore courtesy of a clip from original.

ALN 2.0, a bawdy variation on the theme establishing Kevin Hart as a bona fide box-office attraction.

Independent & Foreign Films

Almost Human (Unrated) Sci-fi horror flick about a guy (Josh Ethier) who disappears in a flash of bright light only to return to town just as mysteriously two years later right before the start of a string of grisly murders. With Graham Skipper, Vanessa Leigh and Susan T. Travers.

Barefoot (PG-13 for violence, sexuality, partial nudity and brief profanity) Romantic dramedy about a family's Black Sheep (Scott Speedman) who brings his charming, free-spirited girlfriend (Evan Rachel Wood) home to prove that he's turned a new leaf. Costarring Kate Burton (Richard's daughter), Rex Baker and Ashleigh Borman.

Bethlehem (Unrated)
Middle East drama about
an Israeli Secret Service
agent (Tsahi Halevi) who
induces a Palestinian teenager (Shadi Mar'i) to snitch
on his terrorist brother
(Tarik Kopty). With Hitham Omari, Michal Shtamler and George Iskandar
(In Hebrew and Arabic with
subtitles

Black Out (Unrated) Shades of The Hangover in this Dutch crime comedy



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

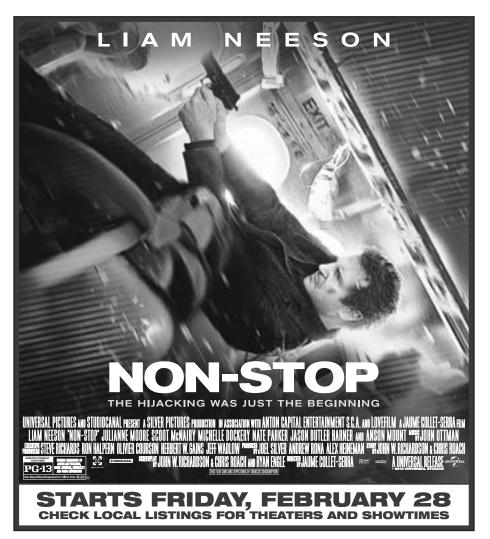
about a groom-to-be (Raymond Thiry) who becomes the prime suspect in a murder case when he wakes up with amnesia on the eve of his wedding lying in bed next to a corpse. Cast includes Kim van Kooten, Bas Keijzer and Renee Fokker. (In Dutch for subtitles)

Child's Pose (Unrated) Crime drama about a wealthy socialite's (Luminita Gheorghiu) attempt to manipulate the legal system to prevent her son (Bogdan Dumitrache) from being brought to justice after he's arrested for manslaughter. With Vlad Ivanov, Florin Zamfirescu and Natasa Raab. (In Romanian with subtitles)

Highway (Unrated) Bollywood abduction drama about an engaged couple (Randeep Hooda and Alai Bhatt) who suddenly find themselves kidnapped four days before their wedding. (In Hindi and Nepali with subtitles)

Holy Ghost People (R for violence, profanity and drug use) Psychological thriller, set in the Appalachian Mountains, about a 19 year-old (Emma Greenwell) who enlists the assistance of an ex-Marine (Brendan McCarthy) to save her sister (Buffy Charlet) who has come under the spell of the charismatic cult leader (Joe Egender) of a snake-handling, Pentecostal congregation. With Roger Aaron Brown, Cameron Richardson and Don Harvey.

In Secret (R for sexuality and violent images) Romance drama, set in Paris in the 1860s, about a young woman (Elizabeth Olsen) forced by her domineering aunt (Jessica Lange) into a loveless marriage with her own cousin (Tom Felton), who embarks on an illicit affair with a friend (Oscar Isaac) of her husband. With Mackenzie Crook, Matt Devere and Lily Laight.



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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- OneRepublic

 Dark Horse
- Katy Perry Featuring Juicy J ..
- Team Lorde
- Timber
 Pitbull Feat. Ke\$ha
- Story Of My Life
 One Direction
- The Monster Eminem Feat. Rihanna
- **Burn**Ellie Goulding
- 8 Let Her Go Passenger
- 9 Say Something A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera
- 10 Happy Pharrell Williams

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 2 Frozen Soundtrack
- After The Disco
 Broken Bells
- Love, Marriage & Divorce
 Toni Braxton & Babyface
- 5 Salute Little Mix
- 6 NOW 49 Various Artists
- 7 Beyonce Beyonce
- 8 Pure Heroine Lorde
- 9 Doo-Wops & Hooligans Bruno Mars
- Night Visions
 Imagine Dragons



Steelband preliminaries



Katzenjammers play a Boogsie Sharp arrangement.

Continued from page 31

win the crown as the Charlottle Street band gets ready for a week of hard practice. Go for it Duvonne.

Do not count out Exodus playing Pelham Goddard's arrangement of "Pan is Carnival." Talk about a race having two dark horses. Well Pelham knows what he is doing. The "little genius" has a well polished song and as usual during the coming days will put in his new passages for the final. Nice song Pelham.

Enter champions Phase II Pan

Groove playing Len "Boogsie" Sharpe's arrangement of "Jump High". The band got a very fast start but eventually flowed with the song with the free passages of the tenors and bassline. "Boogsie" finished the song early Sunday morning. Do not underestimate Phase II, 11 points off All Stars and "Boogsie" still wants it. "I working real hard for this, I want it bad, I will make up the points," said "Boogsie." Also playing were Silver Stars, Airlines Invaders, Tropical Angel Harps, Skiffle, Solo Har-

monites and Birdsong.

Starlift performed "Happiest Man Alive" but did not make it.

Photo by Trainer

In the medium band category Pan Elders won playing "All Ah We Is One Family" arranged by Duvonne followed by Tobago's Buccooneers. The band played a Sieon Gomez's arrangement of "Madness." Buccooneers won last year.

Katzenjammers played a wicked "Spankin" arranged by "Boogsie" and has an outside chance of pulling it off.

THE FINALISTS:

LARGE BAND

- 1. Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars - "Excitement" (274)
- 2. **Republic Bank Exodus**Pan is Carnival (271)
- Witco Desperadoes "Spankin" (263)
- 3. Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove "Jump High" (263)
- BP Renegades "In De Minor" (263)
- 6. **CAL Invader**s "Jam It" (262)
- 7. **PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars** "The Reason" (257)
- 8. Skiffle
- "The Wedding (Shaadi)" (255)
- MLCB Fonclaire -"Big In De Dance" (254)
- 10. **T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps** "In De Minor" (253)
- 10. **NGC La Brea Nightingales** "Pan In The Atmosphere" (253)

MEDIUM BAND

- 1. **Pan Elders** "All Ah We Is One Family" (278)
- 2. NLCB Buccooneers "Madness" (272)
- 3. **Petrotrin Katzenjammers** "Spankin" (270)
- 4. Valley Harps
- "Happiest Man Alive" (269)
 NGC Steel Xplosion
- "Dust In Dey Face" (269)
 6. NGC Couva Joylanders
- "Free Up" (267)
 7. **Arima Angel Harps**"In De Minor" (264)
- 8. **Carib Dixieland** "Dis Is It" (263)
- 9. Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille - "Poison" (262)
- 10. Melodians "The Hammer" (259)

In this June 1978 file photo, singer Betty Carter is captured in this multiple exposure at New York's Avery Fisher Hall.

AP Photo/File

Inductees

Continued from page 31

tarists, including George Benson and Pat Metheny. Jones was the driving force propelling saxophonist John Coltrane's classic quartet.

Henderson's big band helped create swing music, and his arrangements were used by Benny Goodman's orchestra. Carter was a masterful scat singer known for her adventurous improvisations.

JALC has inducted 45 members into the Hall of Fame since 2004.

Nicki and the "N-word" album cover

Continued from page 31

I have nothing but respect (and) adoration for u."

Still, she sounded exasperated that people were even upset over the issue.

"What seems to be the issue now? Do you have a problem with me referring to the people Malcolm X was ready to pull his gun out on as Lookin (expletive expletive)?" the 31-year-old asked in her post. "I am in the video shooting (the song) and there happened to be an iconic photo of Malcolm X ready to do the same thing for what he believed in!!!!"

"Lookin" is a male-bashing song. The photo of Malcolm X holding the rifle was taken when he was trying to protect his family from death threats (his home had been firebombed). Grammynominated Minaj said in a radio interview Thursday with Hot 97's Angie Martinez that she wrote the song to empower women because

there are too many songs that attack women.

"It was almost parallel in my opinion because he has this big gun ready to shoot at a lookin (expletive) bleep, and that's how I looked at it," she said. "I looked

"I looked at it as this is one of the most memorable people in our history, in black history, who voiced his opinion no matter what, and I definitely didn't want to offend his family or his legacy."

at it as this is one of the most memorable people in our history, in black history, who voiced his opinion no matter what, and I understand how my intent was overlooked and I definitely didn't want to offend his family or his legacy."

She added that the song was made "to have fun," not "to be disrespectful."

A Change.org petition posted online that encouraged the rapper to change the cover artwork had reached more than 1,500 supporters Thursday evening.

Minaj's personal representative declined to comment and a rep for her record labels, Republic and Cash Money Records, didn't return emails seeking comment. A lawyer for Malcolm X's children also didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

The picture was deleted from Minaj's Instagram account, but was still on her website Thursday. "Lookin" will appear on Minaj's next album and a compilation album featuring Lil Wayne, Drake and others.



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SAT., FEB. 22

TAX PREPARATION: All Bronx residents are eligible for free tax filing if they are single with no dependents and earn less than \$25,000 or file with dependents and earn less than \$52,000. Since space is limited, qualifying taxpayers must call the Ridgewood Savings Bank in Bronx, NY that is hosting the session in advance to schedule an appointment from 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Held at the bank's Allerton Avenue branch – 711 Allerton Ave.; (718) 882-2220.

TAI CHI AND QIGONG: Join us to experience the healing benefits of tai chi. It's easy on the joints, helps reduce stress and can improve flexibility and balance. While tai chi is generally safe for all ages and fitness levels, please let your doctor know you'll be taking an exercise class. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes. Space is limited and reservations are required. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th St. in Harlem. RSVP: 866-469-0999.

MON., FEB. 24

SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a DVD work-out that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. It is designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. Learn how to increase stamina, develop strength in upper and lower body, improve balance and use of hand weights is optional. Please 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 206-20 Linden Boulevard in Cambria Heights, Oueens. RSVP: 1-646-476-1294

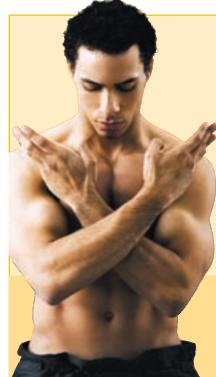
WALK THE POUNDS AWAY: Join us for a fun walk-in-place workout! No complicated steps and no equipment needed. This DVD workout is safe for all ages and fitness levels, so lace up your walking shoes and join us! Wear comfortable shoes and workout wear. We'll provide plenty of water. We'll ask you to fill 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. RSVP: 866-469-0999.

WED., FEB. 25 & THURS. FEB. 26

HOME REPAIR: Build it! Fix it! Do it yourself! Learn carpentry, basic electrical, tiling, wood framing and much more in this fun six-week course. The Electrical & Plumbing course starts Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:00 p.m. and the Basic Carpentry course on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization. For more details, call 718-469-4679. www.nhsnyc.org.

ONGOING Mon., Jan. 6 - Sat., Mar. 22

WINTER WORKSHOPS: Registration has



FARMER'S MARKET

FEB. 8-Mar. 7: Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including callaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT, WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Lefferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit www.seedsinthemiddle.org.

TAI CHI & QIGONG

FEB. 22: Join us to experience the healing benefits of tai chi. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 215 West 125th St. in Harlem. RSVP: 866-469-0999.

FREE TAX PREP

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already started but it is not to late to get in on the action. Registration for classes and workshops is ongoing throughout the term. Families, adults and children can choose from a variety of classes and workshops running morning, afternoon, evening and on weekends. Pelham Art Center Members receive 10 percent off classes. Need-based scholarships and payment plans are available. The Winter Catalog can be found on the Art Center's website, pelhamartcenter. org/education, or call (914) 738-2525 ext. 111 to request one by mail or email. Students may register online, in person, mail, email, phone or fax. Pelham Art Center administrative hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FRI., JAN. 31 – SAT., MAR. 29, 2014

MIGRATION NARRATIVES: Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce a group exhibition of kinetic sculpture, installation, drawing, painting and video narratives by seven contemporary artists. There will be an opening reception and all age hands-on workshop from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. This multi-media exhibition relates stories of individual transitions from one state of being to another. Independent Curator Lisa A. Banner is an art historian and

visiting associate professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Additional free public programming will include a Curator Talk on Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:00 p.m.

SAT., FEB. 8 - FRI., MAR. 7

ART EXHIBITION: This body of work is described by the artist as "interpretizm" - paintings on canvas along with various elements of wood and masonite. In the spirit of "cabinet de curiosités," inspired by the surrealistic boxes by Joseph Cornell, Man Ray and Marcel Duchamp. many of Al Johnson's works utilize found objects and collages. Through his rich tonal palette he creates gestural and chromatic allegories, which open the gates to the magic of dreams. His profound connection to the quintessential rhythms of jazz strongly resonate in his work in a frenetic way; yet he has a placed and controlled style as if his paintbrush was dancing with drips, dots and strokes to the rhythm of an African drum. Al Johnson's art is inspirational to the spirit. When you look once you will want to look again. As the artist says, "A part of my life is based on dreams. I dream of things that are unseen. I create these dreams and bring them to life." As an exceptional colorist, Al Johnson creates the magic and invites the public to experience

moods, personalities and love in his "Room of Wonders." La Maison D'art Private Gallery is located at 259 W 132nd St. (Between 7th & 8th avenues) in Manhattan. Call (718) 593-4108 or go to: www.lamaisondartny.com.

FLOOD RELIEF: Donations are being accepted at the Friends of Crown Heights Center located at 671 Prospect Place, 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 Colon 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: Brook-

lyn 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. - 3:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. The Center is currently closed on Saturdays until further notice. The library is located at 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-forprofit housing organization can assist you. For more information on the Home Improvement Programs, call (718)469-4679 or visit www. nhsofeastflatbush.org.

FORECLOSURE: Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? Come in for free services and assistance. We will help you as much as possible to keep your home. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (718) 469-4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, not-for-profit organizations. www.nhsnyc.org.

HOME HELP FOR DISABLED: If you are a disabled homeowner living in Brooklyn or have someone disabled living in your household, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 in home repair grants. Repairs must be geared toward making the home accessible and convenient for the disabled person. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization, and the New York State Housing Trust Corporation. For more information, please call (718) 469-4679.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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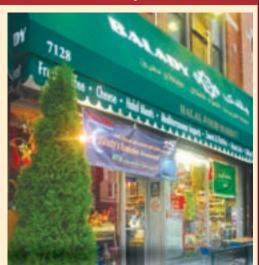


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Bastien advances to state champs

By Robert Elkin

One field event performer who is capable of doing several events on a track and field team is headed to upstate New York to represent his high school against the top teams and individuals from the state in what is known as the New York State Championships.

Pascal Bastien, a senior at Baldwin High School in Long Island, turned in a decent season during the winter on the indoor track and field team. He won both the long and triple jumps with leaps of 21-10 3/4 and 45-6 1/2, respectively in helping his high school to score 33 points and as a team Baldwin placed fourth in the Section VIII Class 'A' team championships at St. Anthony's High School in Suffolk County.

There were 19 scoring schools in the boys meet which took about four hours in the evening.

He then advanced himself to compete in the same two events of the State Qualifier also at the same venue, but instead Continued on Page 40

WICB supports ICC plans

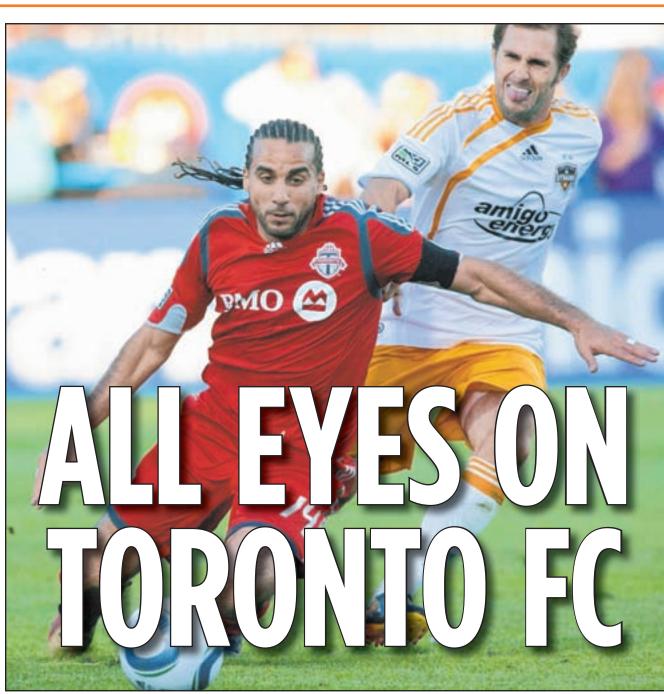
By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has supported a new proposal from the International Cricket Council (ICC), which was approved at the board's meeting in Singapore recently.

The revamped plans for the ICC, piloted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Australia (CA), won the support of eight full members. The cricket boards of Pakistan and Sir Lanka abstained from voting.

Among the decisions taken were the replacement of the World Test Championship with an ICC Champions Trophy in 2017 and 2021 and greater financial rec-

Continued on Page 40



Toronto FC's Dwayne DeRosario, left, is pulled back by Houston Dynamo's Brian Mullan during first-half MLS soccer game action in Toronto. AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Chris Young

Desperate effort to make the franchise

By Patrick Horne

All eyes are on Toronto FC and MLS this season! There is a desperate effort on the shoulders of both entities to make the Toronto FC franchise a success. And rightly so! Toronto has been one of the MLS successes in terms of fan support;

BMO Field in Toronto has its share of capacity crowds, so it is the responsibility of all concerned to help the franchise to succeed, which is good for the game and the city, whose committed fans deserve a successful franchise.

To ensure a success story in Toronto,

the team shelled out millions of dollars to bring top European players and recall a former Toronto FC star who is also a local hero. Dwayne DeRosario, who grew up in Toronto and started his career with the franchise before leaving for fame an

Continued on Page 40

BOBSLED'S SLIPPERY SLIDE

By Jon Krawczynski

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Members of the Jamaican bobsled team appeared at a press conference on Tuesday to talk about their appearance in the Sochi Games. They have also filmed a fauxdocumentary with team sponsor Samsung, and a movie poster that hung behind them certainly caught some

Jamaican sprinting superstar Usain Bolt is pictured in the corner with the quote, "I'll try out for Pyeongchang."

With 46-year-old pilot Winston Watts at the end of his Olympic career, the Jamaicans are looking for younger athletes to take over. Bolt would certainly spice up the roster and bring in the sponsorship dollars the team has had to scrounge for every year. He's probably just kidding. But Bolt has been a supporter of his countrymen, something that means a lot to the less-heralded athletes. "He's the star of the show," bobsledder Marvin Dixon says. "And the star of the world. To get him on board, man, it means a lot to us. More people follow us if Usain Bolt's on board."



The team from Jamaica JAM-1, piloted by Winston Watts and brakeman Marvin Dixon, start their third run during the men, two-man bobsled competition at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

AP Photo/Michael Sohn

USA Women's Soccer

Continued from page 39

fortune with San Jose Earthquakes, the Houston Dynamo, New York Red Bulls and DC United is now back in the Toronto fold.

U.S. international midfielder Michael Bradley, who established himself as probably the most valuable U.S. player with the World Cup on the horizon and has extensive experience with European clubs in Germany and Italy, was bought for approximately US\$10 million from Lazio of the Italian League; English international forward Jermaine DeFoe was brought in from Tottenham Hotspurs of the English Premiere League; and last Friday, Toronto FC added to its star-studded lineup by signing Brazilian goalkeeper Julio Cesar from QPR on loan. Cesar was a star at Italian powerhouse Inter Milan.

Toronto previously acquired Brazilian forward Gilberto, and has mainstays, goalkeeper Joe Bendik and defender Bradley Orr, among a nucleus of returnees from last season who must come together with the new faces to create a cohesive unit. Head coach Ryan Nelsen, who was brought in last year with no previous coaching experience, must now justify the millions



United State's Heather O'Reilly (9) gets past Russia's Elena Kostareva (16) as she scores a goal in the second half of a soccer match Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014, in Atlanta. United States won 8-0.

AP Photo/John Bazemore

spent by turning this group into a successful team.

Nelsen has a few things going for him. DeRosario has come full circle and is in the twilight of his career; he

would want his legacy to include his effort to establish his hometown team as a mainstay in MLS. Bradley savors his reputation as one of the best ever American players and would appreciate the opportunity to enhance that reputation, especially in a World Cup year. DeFoe is in the England World Cup pool of players, so his motivation to would be intense; he knows that nothing but outstanding performances would ensure his place on the World Cup team, especially since MLS is considered a league well below the level of the Premier League.

USA WOMEN SWEEP

The U.S. women's national team swept a two-game series versus Russia with an 8-0 bashing of the visitors in the second game last Thursday at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The U.S. won the first game, 7-0, at FAU (Florida Atlantic University) in Boca Raton on Feb.8 and now won its last 80 home games.

Scorers in the second game included Amy Rodriguez, Abby Wambach, Megan Rapinoe, Lauren Holiday, Heather O'Reilly and Christen Press, each with a tally in the second half. The USA will play in the annual Algarve Cup tournament in Portugal. They play Japan (March 5), Sweden (March 7) and Denmark (March 10) in the preliminary round.

Track and Field

Continued from page 39 concentrated more on the triple jump than on the long. He won the triple jump with a leap of 45 feet 2 inches to earn a berth in the State Meet, the highlight and most prestigious meet of the year.

Bastien who originally comes from Haiti where he played some soccer moved with his family to Baldwin.

He turned in some tremendous performances during the course of the indoor season to light up some of the college coaches' eyes.

"His performances are fantastic considering that he hasn't been able to jump in about a week and a half because of the weather," said Head Coach Rich Carroll after the senior won both events in the Class County meet.

"He's a winner and prevailed tonight (in the Class 'A' Meet.) He won the triple jump and did a great job in the long jump. He's a great kid and a great athlete. (And most important he qualified for the State Meet)."

Bastien is a two-sport athlete at Baldwin. He is also on its soccer team during the fall. He really likes soccer, but after the booter sport is finished, he switches over to indoor and then outdoor track.

"The adjustment from soccer to track works well for him, because there is a lot of running," said Carroll, who doubles as a football coach during the fall. "When he does the triple and long jumps (in a meet), he works a lot.

And he works out a lot in November and December on his steps."

His strategy for both the long and triple jumps is form. "Form means speed," said Bastien whose brother Richard did both events.

"Pascal is a very good athlete and can probably do the hurdles and throws, and the shot put and discus," continued the coach. "He's that good. He doesn't know about college (as yet). He won't continue with soccer, but will (stick) with track and field in college. He would like to go to a Division I college. His brother Richard went to LSU."

Bastien has been playing soccer since he was a kid and is still doing it especially with his school team. Pascal and his family came from Haiti after the earthquake, but he is living with his aunt and uncle. He is four years on the team.

"We have a lot of good athletes who work hard and when you get a kid like Pascal, that's once in a life-time because he's a very, very easy kid to coach," added Carroll, in his second year as head track and field coach at Baldwin. In addition to the jumps last week at St. Anthony's, Pascal ran the second leg of the 4 x 400meter relay and led the quartet to a second place close finish in the Class County 'A' meet, and the first leg of the 1600-meter relay in the State Qualifier. Baldwin won this event.

ICC Proposal

Continued from page 39

ognition of full members based on their contribution to cricket, particularly in terms of finance, their ICC history and their on field performances in the three formats.

WICB vice-president Emmanuel Nathan, who represented the regional board at the meeting, said that the proposals will ensure that none of the full members will be worse off than they are at present and all will be significantly better off.

West Indies will play Indian, Australia and England more than we played them in the last eight years. It's savior for West Indies cricket, not a letdown at all," he said.





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Barbados crowned Super 50 champion

The Barbados senior cricket team defeated Trinidad and Tobago by 17 runs at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad in the final match of the Nagico Super50 Caribbean tournament on Sunday, Feb. 16. Some outstanding batting and bowling performances by the Barbados team won them the crown.

BARBADOS SCORED 252 RUNS IN 48.4 OVERS

Dwayne Smith and Kraigg Brathwaite did a remarkable job for their team by putting up a partnership of 127 runs for the first wicket. Dwayne Smith was the attacker in swashbuckling style, scoring 83 runs from 77 balls with 10 fours and two sixes. Jonathan Carter, 49; Kraigg Brathwaite, 36 and Sulieman Benn 22.

Kevon Cooper picked up four wickets for 62 runs from 9.4 overs; Sunil Narine 2 wickets for 18 runs from 10 overs and Lendl Simmons 2 for 23 from 5 overs.

TRINIDAD AND



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

TOBAGO SCORED 235 RUNS ALL OUT IN 45.5 OVERS

Denesh Ramdin, with 68 from 76 balls and Ravad Emrit 27, stood up for their team while the other batsmen failed miserably as Barbados bowlers kept the pressure on. Carlos Brathwaite penetrated the Trinidad and Tobago batting, getting 4 wickets for 44 runs from 10 overs; Sulieman Benn 2 for 29 off 9 overs and Jason Holder 2 for 30 off 8 overs. Barbados won the Clive Lloyd trophy. Dwayne Smith was named Man of the Match and Best Batsman of the Nagico Super-50 tournament.

NAGICO SUPER-50 TOP PERFORMERS:

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Rayad Emrit - Best bowler Dwayne Smith - Best bats-

Dwayne Smith - Best batsnan

Tamar Lambert - Best all-

rounder

Denesh Ramdin - Best wicket-keeper

Evin Lewis - Best fielder

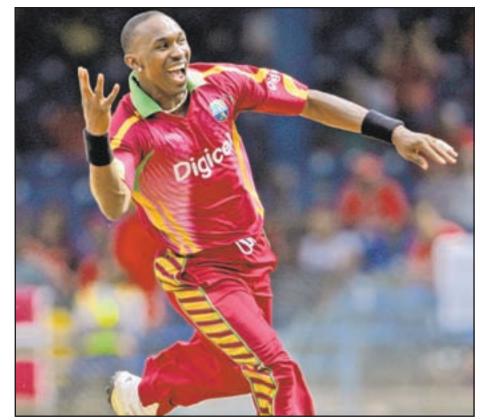
WINDIES SQUADS TO FACE IRELAND IN JAMAICA

One-Day Squad:

Dwayne Bravo, Miguel Cummings, Kirk Edwards, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Nikita Miller, Sunil Narine, Kieran Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy, Lendl Simmons and Marlon Samuels.

Twenty20 Squad:

Darren Sammy [captain], Samuel Badree, Dwayne Bravo, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Sunil Narine, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuel, Krishmar Santokie, Lendl Simmons and Dwayne Smith.



West Indies' Dwayne Bravo celebrates after taking the wicket of South Africa's captain Graeme Smith during the fifth and final One-Day International cricket match in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton, File



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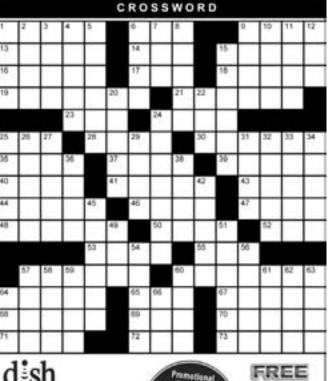
- 1. Hesitates
- 6. Cranberry habitat
- Cola
- 13. Tropical vine
- 14. Hole punching tool
- 15. " 's Heroes"
- 16. Type of window
- 17. "Young" prefix
- _ warning system for tsunamis
- 19. *Twists around an eye
- 21. *Polar _
- 23. To boot
- 24. Long, long time
- 25. Communications regulator
- 28. *Like frostbitten fingers
- 30. Snake, usually
- 35. Porcine fat
- 37. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
- 39. Japanese animation
- 40. Popular three-layer cookie
- 41. Delivery bird?
- 43. Singles
- 44. Out in the open
- 46. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- 47. Poverty
- 48. Joseph Stalin, e.g.
- 50. Julia Louis-Dreyfus' show
- 52. Dog tags, e.g.

- 53. Solomon-like
- 55. H+, e.g.
- 57. *Tornado visual
- 60. Swell
- 64. Japanese-American
- 65. Victorian time, e.g.
- 67. Mountaineer's tool
- 68. Mountain ridge
- 69. "Swan Lake" steps 70. Fossil fuel rock deposit
- 71. Chipper
- 72. CafÈ alternative
- 73. Christian virtue, pl.

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- 3. Flock member
- 4. Genuflected
- 5. Old West hangout
- 6. Misery cause
- 7. Be obliged
- 8. *Stops wind from nipping fin-
- 9. *Wear a heavy one in winter
- 10. Princess Fiona, at night
- 11. Mineral residue
- 12. Take your pick
- 15. Lifting injury
- 20. People, places and things
- 22. Goes with "aah"
- 24. Let off the hook

- 25. *Spring threat
- 26. Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lan-
- 27. Native American people in parts
- of Canada
- 29. Boundary line
- 31. *Winter bank matter
- 32. Biblical mount
- 33. Make corrections
- 34. The defense
- 36. Small town or hamlet
- 38. Test choice
- 42. Designing Calvin
- 45. Local in a college bar
- 49. Black event
- 51. Type of sausage
- 54. Slumbered
- 56. Jack Black's Libre
- 57. *Lightning can cause this
- 58. "Breaking Bad" victim
- 59. Profit
- 60. Facilitate
- 61. Cut the crop
- 62. *Outburst
- 63. Donald and Ivana, e.g.
- 64. Siesta
- 66. Repeated at rallies



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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE FOR FEBRUARY 14TH TO MARCH 2ND

ARIES: *Mar 21/Apr 20* Don't feel a need to take charge of others, Aries. People will respond to your cues even when such hints are subtle. Step back from the dictator's podium.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you should be able to accomplish your objectives this week, in spite of some early distractions. Things will right themselves before long.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, concern about those closest to you might be foremost on your mind this week. Shift that focus to your own life

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CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22

Your professional life takes precedence this week, Cancer. Allow yourself ample time to tackle all the things on your plate at the office, and you will be glad you did.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23 Use the power you have carefully, Leo. Sometimes it surprises even you just how great an impact you can make and the wide-sweeping consequences of some of your actions.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22 Virgo, uncertainty about your priorities arises over the next few days. Take time to think things through, but don't be idle

for too long. Do your best to stay motivated.

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LIBRA: *Sept 23/Oct 23*

Long-term career goals are on your mind, Libra. Make time to develop a plan that can make those goals a reality. Consult with colleagues for advice or guidance.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, there is always room for compromise. even when compromise seems unlikely. Don't be too quick to assume there is no room to work out an agreement.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21 Your focus is at an all-time high this week, Sagittarius. Now is a good time to establish clear objectives at the workplace

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CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20 CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20 Friends and family bring you a sense of well-being, Capricorn. Surround yourself with plenty of people in the days to come. Open your heart, and you will get much in return. AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18 Aquarius, coworkers turn out to be a source of much-needed support when you receive some unexpected news. Thank

them for their support and kind gestures.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20 Pisces, expect others to seek your help in the coming days. Do your best to help, and those around you will greatly

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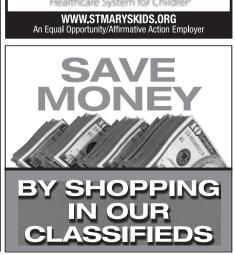
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lawful purpose.

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agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Suite Avenue. 202 11228. Brooklyn. NY Purpose: any purpose.

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SUPREME

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SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff, against- OSVALDO ACOSTA, ET AL., Defen-Pursuant to a dant(s). Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed OC-TOBER 2, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in ROOM 224 OF KINGS COUNTY **SUPREME** COURT. ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NY on the 6TH DAY OF MARCH, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. premises known as SOUTH 2ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11211 further described as follows: Block: 2416, ALL that certain plot,

piece or parcel of land,

with the buildings and

and being in the Borough

of Brooklyn, County of

thereon

situate, lying

improvements

erected,

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Avenue, 75 feet; THENCE Easterly parallel with the South 2nd Street, 50 feet:

erly parallel to Wythe

THENCE Northerly again parallel to Wythe Avenue, 75 feet to the Southerly side of South 2nd Street; THENCE Westerly along the Southerly side of South 2nd Street, 50 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING.

SAID PREMISES known

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as 74-76 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY. Approximate amount of lien \$973,828.71 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index 14712/2008. SILVERSMITH, LYLE ESQ., REFEREE DOONAN, GRAVES

LONGORÍA, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 100 Cummings Center Suite 225D Beverly, MA 01915

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PROBATE CITATION

File No. 504-2009 SURROGATE'S COURT _KINGS__ COUNTY CITATION

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and Independent TO any and all unknown person whose name or parts of whose name, and whose place or places of residence are unknown, and cannot after due diligent inquiry, be ascertained. distribute. heirs at law and next of kin of said MILLIAN MORGAN and if any of the said distributes, heirs at law of next of kin of deceased, be dead, their representatives, their husbands or wives, if any, distributes and successors in interest whose names and/or places of residence and post office addresses are unknown.

A petition having been duly filed by Lucille Mor-

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gan who is domiciled at Ryder Street, 1280 Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319 Brooklyn, New York, on March 11, 2014, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Millian Morgan lately domiciled at 3215 Avenue H, Apartment 2C, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210 admitting to probate a Will dated September 6, 2008 as the Will of MILLIAN MORGAN deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that [x] Letters Testamentary issue

Dated, Attested

to: Lucille Morgan.

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Sealed January 03, 2014 López 👼 Hon. Margarita Torres Surrogate Attorney for Petitioner: 27 Rochelle Prashker, Esq. Rochelle Prashker, Esq. Number 跉 Telephone (347) 204-0390 Address of Attorney: 1231 West Broadway, Hewlett, N.Y. 11557

[Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will Q be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.1

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