



President Barack Obama.

Associated Press / Jeff Chiu

US postpones immigrant plan

By Nelson A. King

A day before hundreds of thousands of illegal Caribbean and immigrants were to begin applying for work permits and legal protection, the United States has jettisoned sweeping executive actions on immigration indefinitely.

White House officials said President Barack Obama decided to postpone the plan in order to comply with a federal judge's last-minute order Monday night in halting the programs.

In his 123-page ruling, Judge Andrew S. Hanen said Obama administration officials had provided "perplexing" misrepresentations of the scope and impact of the president's actions.

He said the new programs were "a substantive change to immigration policy," and that they were, "in effect, a new law."

The judge dismissed the argument that those changes were a proper exercise of prosecutorial discretion, ruling that

the administration had engaged in "a complete abdication" of enforcement.

Hanen said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security cannot "enact a program whereby it not only ignores the dictates of Congress, but actively acts to thwart them."

According to the New York Times, the judge's ruling was a "significant setback for the president, who had asserted broad authority to take executive

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CARIB TIDE TURNS

New gov't in St. Kitts & Nevis

By Bert Wilkinson

The first of three general elections which are expected to produce new governments in the Caribbean Community this year was held in St. Kitts on Monday with the opposition Team Unity Party led by disgruntled former members of the outgoing administration winning a clear majority of the parliamentary seats and unseating a controversial cabinet that had run the country for the past 20 years.

Prime Minister Denzil Douglas who until Monday had been the most senior and longest serving leader in CARICOM conceded defeat to incoming Prime Minister Timothy Harris who had been his one-time foreign affairs and finance minister but who grew increasingly unhappy about the level of corruption on the twin-island Federation with St. Kitts, a controversial dollars for citizenship scheme and the general lack of accountability in governmental affairs.

Team Unity walked away with seven of the 11 seats that were up for grabs, giving it an easy parliamentary majority to pass new or amend existing legislation.

In all five general elections are scheduled in the regional bloc this year with St. Kitts-Nevis being first out of the bloc. Guyana's which is scheduled for May 11 is likely to be next unless Ralph Gonsalves in St. Vincent or Kamla Persad-Bissessar in Trinidad decides to name a date before May 11. Suriname has already scheduled this for late May, almost five years to the date of the previous election.

Like Gonsalves, President Desi Bouterse is likely to win a second five-year term. Polls show that Guyana and Trinidad will likely have new administrations.

Harris and Team Unity cabinet ministers are expected to be sworn in to office late this week. The holding of island

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Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

Associated Press / Haraz N. Ghanbari

Clarke honors African-Americans

By Nelson A. King

As part of African-American History Month celebrations, Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives, with several of her congressional colleagues, honoring the “enormous contributions” of African-Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States.

“From the Revolutionary War and the Civil War to World War II and the War on Terrorism, African-American women and men have been dedicated members of our armed forces and decorated for their excellence in battle,” said Clarke, Democratic representative for the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

“Yet, in the not-so-distant past, when many of these soldiers returned from their military service, they faced discrimination back home, here in the United States, the nation to which they swore their allegiance,” she added.

Clarke noted that, after World War I, the 369th Infantry, known as the “Harlem Hellfighters,” was awarded the Croix de Guerre, the highest military honor in France.

However, because they were African-American, their heroism was not acknowledged here at home, Clarke said.

Before breaking the “color barrier” in Major League Baseball, the congresswoman said the legendary Jackie Robinson was court martialed by the Army for refusing to sit in the back of the bus while he was stationed in Fort Hood, TX.

When Medgar and Charles Evers returned from World War II, both veterans were not allowed to register to vote, she also noted.

“The contradiction between the battle for freedom in Europe and Asia and the legacy of segregation

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Brooklyn group honors 7 during Valentine’s event

By Nelson A. King

The East Flatbush, Brooklyn group Action, Performance, Commitment (APC) Community Services, Inc. on Sunday honored seven members of the community during its annual Black History Month-Valentine’s Day Celebration.

The gala event, despite the extremely frigid weather, took place at Grace Christian Center Ball Room on DeWitt Avenue in East New York.

Grenada’s Ambassador of Humanitarian and Diaspora Affairs Derrick James was among the honorees, which included four registered nurses.

Besides James, who was the keynote speaker, the other honorees, all Guyanese-born, were: RNs Dawn Caesar, Conrad Forsythe, Sherry Cockfield Lawrence and Caroline Howell; Dr. Giddel Thom; and Dr. Franklyn Rodney, a Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, who worships at St. Alban’s Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists.

James was Counsel General of Grenada in New York from October 2008 to December 2012, and was appointed ambassador of Humanitarian and Diaspora Affairs by the new Keith Mitchell administration last year.

For 19 years, James was employed by IKON Office Solutions in New York, where he was the recipient of numerous citations and awards for excellence – leading up to a managerial position before he exited the company to assume his role as counsel general.

Prior to holding the position as counsel general, James had established himself, over the years, as a community-minded individual.

Dr. Giddel Thom, who received his medical training at University of Montemorelos in Mexico, did his internship at St. George’s Hospital in Grenada.

He then did his residency in pedi-



Grenada’s Ambassador Derrick James flanked by Dr. Janice Emanuel-Bunn (R) and Dr. Yvonne Peters, board member.

Photo by Nelson A. King

rics and a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx and New Orleans Children’s Hospital, respectively. He worked at Davis Memorial Hospital in Georgetown, Guyana for several years.

Dr. Thom, a researcher who has published many papers in the area of cancer in children, has conducted many workshops and training programs.

He has also participated in many medical missions, the most recent being the APC Medical Mission to his homeland and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Thom currently serves as a pediatrician at New Mexico Medical Clinic.

Caesar is a registered nurse/ nurse supervisor at the city’s Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) / Renaissance Health Care Network in ambulatory care.

Caesar attended the Georgetown Adventist Academy and went on to become a licensed practical nurse at the Georgetown Hospital School of Nursing in November 1977. In 1986, she graduated with her midwifery certificate.

After passing the State Board and was licensed as a Registered Nurse in 2005, Caesar joined the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, where she worked as a

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Fly Jamaica starts non-stop Guyana service

By Tangerine Clarke

Guyanese Jamaican carrier, Fly Jamaica Airways will commence its non-stop flights from John F. Kennedy Airport to Cheddi Jagan Airport beginning on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The airline management, which waited more than two years to be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation for the direct route, made the announcement recently to overjoyed Guyanese passengers, who were forced to travel three hours to Jamaica, for a connecting flight to New York.

The carrier, operated by Guyanese-born Captain Ronald Reece and Manager Roxanne Reece, celebrated its second

anniversary last month with a celebration in Queens to thank loyal customers, travel agents and special guests.

Fly Jamaica, which now has routes to Canada, plans to expand to other countries around the world.

In a recent interview with Caribbean Life, Captain Reece had indicated that he was hopeful that the application would be approved in the very near future.

The flights will depart from JFK’s Terminal 1 at 9:00 a.m. and arrive in Georgetown at 3:30 p.m. The airline is offering a special one-way fare costing \$199.00 to celebrate Guyana’s 45th Anniversary and Mashramani costume

parade.

The airline will allow passengers two pieces of luggage at 50 pounds each and a carry-on weighing less than 22 pounds.

Reece, who also operates Wings Aviation, a local charter service in Guyana, recently unveiled its newly acquired Boeing 767 wide-bodied aircraft that accommodates 245 passengers.

The fleet, said Captain Reece, is not subsidized by any government or country and has not been receiving any subsidies like some other airlines that ply the Caribbean. The planes are owned and operated by the group.

www.fly-jamaica.com

Caribbean

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission is now calling for the removal of roaming fees within its nine-member grouping.

Roaming fees are additional charges attached to mobile phone calls made or received beyond a specified geographical jurisdiction.

"We're not talking about the fancy marketing glitz of something called roaming or anything like that. We want the removal of roaming," said OECS Director Dr. Didacus Jules.



The countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) form a single economic union, but citizens still pay roaming fees between Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

Antigua

Eleven convicts who were serving time for various "minor" offences at Her Majesty's Prison on Antigua and Barbuda were recently freed.

This was disclosed by Minister for Public Safety, Stedroy "Cutie" Benjamin.

The 11 comprised one woman, Wendy Tavanier and 10 men.

The passage in parliament of the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act 2014, in November, paved the way for the convicts to be released.



Under the Act, those with convictions dating back to 2003 and onward would have the time spent on remand awaiting committal, trial and/or sentencing, discounted from the jail sentence imposed by the court.

Those released were serving time of offences ranging from larceny to possession of marijuana and use of threatening language.

Bahamas

The Court of Appeal in the Bahamas has once again dealt a blow to attempts by legislators to define which offenses are eligible for death.

In its recent ruling in the case of Anthony Jerome Clarke, the Court of Appeal said that a contract killing does not necessarily fall in the category of the worst of the worst.

Last year, the case of Mario Flowers, the court ruled that the murder of a policeman acting in the execution of his duty was not a death eligible offense.



The former government in 2011 passed legislation that designated the murder of a policeman and contract killings as



Haitians protest

Demonstrators burn tires in the street during an anti-government march in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015. Several thousand protesters marched through Haiti's capital to demand lower gas prices and the ouster of President Michel Martelly.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

death eligible offenses.

Murders committed during a felony were also defined as death eligible.

Clarke killed Aleus Tilus in September 2011 after luring him to an establishment in Gambia under the guise of having a sandwich with him.

Clarke was paid \$5,000 by Tilus's former employers, according to evidence. Tilus was shot three times.

The court upheld Clarke's conviction and he is waiting resentencing.

Flowers was resentenced to 29 years in prison for the murder of Constable Ramos Williams.

Barbados

The Barbados government says it is hopeful that the island's economy will rebound by 2016.

A government statement reporting on a meeting between Prime Minister Fren-duel Stuart and former President of the Republic Of Chile, Sebastien Pinera in Bridgetown said that economic growth will allow Barbadians who made the necessary sacrifices to reap the benefits.



"During the discussion on the global economic crisis and its impact on Barbados, Pinera said Chile was following what was happening here and the country, seemed to be doing well," the statement said. Prime Minister Stuart said his administration is working on getting its fiscal

deficit down to manageable levels, pointing to a 19-month stabilization program put in place.

But he said it has now been extended by one year so as to ensure that the gains the country had been making were not reversed.

Stuart was quoted in the statement as saying that the island was beginning to feel the effects of the falling oil prices.

He said that the Barbadian economy was expected to grow by two percent this year with the Central Bank reporting that fiscal adjustment measures have reduced the deficit by two percent. The Central Bank reporting that fiscal adjustment measures have reduced the deficit by nearly one percent of gross domestic product (GDP) so far this fiscal year.

Cayman Island

Cayman Islands Premier Alden McLaughlin said recently that while overall unemployment appears to be tapering off, particularly among the Caymanian labor force, the number of work permits held by non-Caymanians has begun to grow.

According to McLaughlin, total unemployment in Cayman is expected to fall from 6.3 percent in the mid 2013 to 5.9 percent in mid-2015 and eventually shrink to 4.9 percent in mid-2018.



Meanwhile, the total number of work permits held in Cayman as of January 2015, including government contracts

and workers awaiting word on permanent residence applications, was 21,403. That's up eight percent from January 2014 and up five percent.

"All data indicate that unemployment is falling and is projected to continue to fall over the next few years as projects come on stream and as we get more people into jobs, He said at the recent annual State of the Nation address adding "an increase in work permits is a clear indication that the economy is rebounding, that employers are hiring".

Haiti

Protestors clash with police last week over high fuel costs that left several people injured.

The clashes follow the decision by the police to remove roadblocks in the capital set up by the anti-government protestors.

Earlier, newly installed Prime Minister Evans Paul had said the government would move to assure the safety of law abiding citizens after the protestors had warned people to remain off the streets.

Paul said the government cannot lower the price of gas. It's not that we don't want to, it's because we are not able to," he added.

Recently the government announced a reduction in fuel prices, reducing gaso-



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St. Kitts prime minister dethroned

By Nelson A. King

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, whose St. Kitts and Nevis Labor Party (SKNLP) had ruled the twin-island federation for four consecutive five-year terms, was dethroned in Monday's general elections.

Team Unity, an amalgam of three opposition parties, headed by Douglas's former Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Timothy Harris, 51, won the elections with seven of 11 Parliamentary seats, according to Supervisor of Elections, Wingrove George.

George, who had suspended the vote count on Monday night amid uneasiness in the State, made the announcement on Tuesday.

While not giving figures for each seat contested, prom-



Dr. Denzil Douglas, former prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Associated Press / Jason DeCrow, File

ising to do so later, George said the remaining four seats were won by the SKNLP and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP), which had joined forces to contest the elections.

The newly-launched People's Labor Party (PLP), the

Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) of Nevis' Premier Vance Amory and the long-standing opposition People's Action Movement (PAM) comprised Team Unity.

Successful Team Unity can-

Another T&T minister under investigation

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago Police are investigating an allegation against another Cabinet minister in connection with the witness tampering scandal made by fired National Security Minister Gary Griffith in the defamation case brought by former Attorney General Anand Ramlogan against Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley.

Ramlogan, who was also sent packing by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar recently, is under a police probe.

Griffith has named Trade and Industry Minister Vasant Bharath as the minister who allegedly tried to influence him not to speak out in the witness tampering matter involving Ramlogan and Police Complaints Authority (PCA) Director David West.

Griffith said the move to

silence him took place at the Diplomatic Centre, St. Clair, Port of Spain on Jan. 29.

The allegation levelled against Ramlogan is that six days before West was appointed PCA director, he (Ramlogan) telephoned him and asked that he withdraw his witness statement in a libel case relating to the failed extradition involving Section 34 applicants Steve Ferguson and Ishwar Galbaransingh (two United National Congress (UNC) financiers) in exchange for him being selected for the job.

Ramlogan has denied the allegation, which is now subject to a police probe.

Police sources say that the former National Security Minister has reportedly implicated two other Cabinet ministers in the chain of events in the alleged witness tampering matter.

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Wednesday, February 25, 2015 | 11:30 am

Greene Medical Arts Pavilion, 8th Floor
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3400 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 | 2:00 pm

Bartow Avenue Office, Reception Area
Montefiore Medical Group, Co-op City (Bay Plaza)
2100 Bartow Avenue, Bronx, New York 10475

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Monday, February 23, 2015 | 1:30 pm

Family Health Center, Reception Area
Montefiore Medical Group, Family Health Center
360 E. 193rd Street, Bronx, New York 10458

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 | 11:30 am

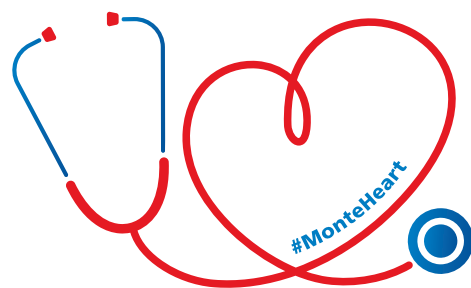
Comprehensive Family Care Center (CFCC), Reception Area
Montefiore Medical Group, Comprehensive Family Care Center
1621 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10475

Thursday, February 26, 2015 | 1:30 pm

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Montefiore Medical Group, Family Health Center
360 E. 193rd Street, Bronx, New York 10458

Thursday, February 26, 2015 | 6:00-7:30 pm

Foreign Language Academy of Global Studies High School
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If you are interested in attending a heart month event, simply show up to the event. To download the 2015 calendar with our heart care locations, for the latest information on other events, or to find out more about Heart Month at Montefiore, please visit www.montefiore.org/HeartMonth.



IMMIGRATION GUIDE

REMOVING IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARES

There are solutions to problems immigrants frequently experience. Among the problems and solutions are the following:

1. GETTING MARRIED TO A US CITIZEN OR GREEN CARD HOLDER AND BEING ABUSED OR ABANDONED BY THE SPOUSE:

If you are married to a US Citizen or green card holder who is abusive or has abandoned you, you may be entitled to a work permit and green card even if you are divorced or have a criminal record. You do not need your spouse to file for you or sponsor you or attend the interview with you. This relief is also applicable to child (including step child), fiancée and parent of US citizens or green card holder. You can also get relief if you are married to a citizen or green card holder who was already married but did not divorce before marrying you, that is, a bigamy or polygamy situation.

2. PARENTS OF US CITIZEN WANTING TO WORK AND MAINTAIN THEIR CHILDREN:

Are you a parent of a US Citizen Child or Green card holder? You may be administratively approved for a work permit to enable you to maintain your family. This is an administrative relief subject to discretion of the government officials.

3. ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US:

This is a major problem but there is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder or those who have US citizen children. You may still get a work permit and green card.

4. ILLEGAL REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION:

Did you enter the US after being deported? This is a crime. There is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder. Hurry to talk to us before you are arrested. You may be entitled to relief?

5. WORK PERMIT AND GREEN CARD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS:

- Are you less than 21 years old?
- Are you living in the US dependent on someone other than your parent?
- Is your natural parent dead or lack viable means to take care of you?
- Do you think it is not in your best interest to return to country of birth or citizenship now?

You may be entitled to work permit and or green card whether you entered with visa or not. You may still be approved even if you entered without inspection, entered with fraudulent document or overstayed your visa or have certain criminal record.

6. CRIMINAL RECORDS: WAIVERS AND PARDONS:

If you are convicted or pled guilty to a crime in the past it can generate complexities and be a nightmare but waivers and various special actions and legal procedures are available to relieve immigrants with past criminal records.

7. REMOVING 2-YEAR CONDITIONAL GREENCARD:

Many immigrants have found it difficult to remove conditions on their 2 year green cards either because they are not able to convince

the government that their marriage is genuine or because they are not getting cooperation from their spouse. We can help remove conditions on your greencard, even if your spouse is not filing with you and even if you have been denied and placed in a removal proceeding. You need not wait for 2 years if you are abused by your spouse or if your spouse died.

8. ASYLUM PROBLEMS AND DEPORTATION ORDERS:

Do you have deportation order on you that makes you a fugitive? Hurry to talk to us before you are picked up by Detention and Removal Office (DRO).

Your deportation may be suspended and get work permit & green card.

9. APPROVALS AND VISA BULLETIN PROBLEMS:

Do you have an approved petition filed by your brother or sister, parents etc and you were unable to apply for a green card because you overstayed here in US? Call us now. We might be able to assist you.

10. NOTICE TO APPEAR (NTA) IN IMMIGRATION COURT AND IMMIGRATION COURT PROCEEDINGS:

Did you receive NTA from the government or are you currently in immigration court? Consider speaking to us for a great first or second opinion and resolution of your case. You will not regret calling.

11. DO YOU NEED A WORK PERMIT, IDENTIFICATION CARD AND FOREIGN TRAVEL PERMIT?

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12. CBP AND TSA PROBLEMS:

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13. CITIZENSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP DELAYS OR DENIALS:

Did you apply for citizenship and you are being denied or unnecessarily delayed? Call us to enforce your rights in Federal Court.

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15. WE PROCESS CHANGE AND EXTENSION OF STATUS.

16. WE PROCESS ORPHAN AND ADOPTION PETITIONS.

17. VICTIMS OF CRIMES RELIEFS:

Are you a victim of Domestic Violence, Sex, Assault, Trafficking and other crimes? You may be entitled to relief?

18. UNCONTESTED

DIVORCE- FROM \$399.

19. FEDERAL COURT ACTIONS.

By Azad Ali

Former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning has bowed out of politics after serving as a Member of Parliament (MP) for 43 years.

Manning's history-making tenure as the longest serving MP for the constituency of San Fernando East in the Southern City of T&T came to a premature end when 36-year-old attorney Randall Mitchell was named as his successor and the candidate for the 2015 general election following the screening of candidates at the People's National Movement (PNM) San Fernando East constituency last week.

The former prime minister sent a letter to Dr. Rowley indicating that if his health had improved and he is healed he can face the screening committee.

"In the foregoing context it is now clear that although there has been some improvement of my condition, my health has not improved sufficiently. I therefore bow out of politics under the circumstances. It is for this reason that I did not face the screening committee," he said.

Manning, 69, was the fourth prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago from December 1991 to 1995 and again from December 2001 to May 2006.

He was also political leader of the PNM from 1987 to 2010 when he called a snap general election and his party lost to the Kamla Persad-Bissessar led coalition People's Partnership Party (PP).

The PP won 29 seats in the 41-seat House of Representative. Manning



In this Thursday Nov 26, 2009 file photo, Trinidad and Tobago former Prime Minister Patrick Manning attends a news conference ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, CHOGM, in Port-of-Spain Trinidad.

Associated Press / Martin Cleaver, File

resigned as political leader of the PNM a few days later.

But, Manning retained his San Fernando East seat, which he held for 27 years. His nemesis Dr. Keith Rowley was voted as the new PNM leader last year.

Two years ago Manning suffered a stroke and had to seek treatment in the United States.

He was leader of the opposition from 1986 to 1990 and again from 1995 to 2001.

When the PNM lost the General Election in 1986, Manning was one of three PNM candidates who retained their seats. He became leader of the opposition and within two months he was elected to the post of political leader of the PNM.

Caribbean on measles watch

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations says its health agency has called for "stepped-up" surveillance to prevent the spread of measles in the Americas, including the Caribbean.

The U.N. said on Wednesday that the recent outbreaks of measles – one of the leading causes of deaths among young children – in the United States and Brazil suggest that immunization rates in some areas have dropped below levels needed to prevent the spread of imported into the Americas.

The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), based in Washington, D.C., have reported that there were 147 confirmed measles cases in four countries of the Americas this year, as of Feb. 8.

"Of that total, 121 cases were in the United States, linked primarily to an outbreak that began at Disneyland in California last December," said the PAHO/WHO statement, adding that a single case in Mexico was also tied

to that outbreak. Of the remaining cases, 21 were in Brazil and four were in Canada.

"Thanks to high levels of immunization, the Americas have been on track for more than a decade to be formally declared free of measles," said Dr. Cuauhtemoc Ruiz, head of PAHO/WHO's immunization program. "Maintaining high levels of vaccine coverage is key to preventing and halting outbreaks and to protect our populations from the constant threat of imported cases."

Measles had been considered eliminated from the Americas since 2002, due to the absence of endemic transmission of the disease as the result of the region's success in achieving high levels of immunization, the U.N. said.

Now, measles elimination "is facing major challenges, with several ongoing importations of measles in some countries," said PAHO/WHO in an epidemiological alert distributed Tuesday to member-countries across the region.

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Team Unity Party wins elections



New Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis Timothy Harris.

Associated Press / Richard Drew

Continued from cover

elections came just three days after the two main opposition parties in Guyana said that they are so determined to effect change in the country that they had formed a united coalition to oust the governing People's Party (PPP) from office after almost 23 years in office.

Like St. Kitts, leaders of A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) and the Alliance For Change (AFC) in Guyana say they can take no more of the widespread level of greed and graft of PPP ministers and top players, many of who openly flaunt the wealth they have acquired from wheeling and dealing with investors or from skimming millions from numerous local and foreign-funded projects. They want the PPP out.

They also plan to set up an investigative tribunal that could likely bring criminal charges against top officials for their years of association with the narco trade, private hit squads which executed dozens of criminal suspects and the criminalization of nearly every layer of Guyanese society.

Until the pre-election agreement was announced Saturday evening, the

two parties, the AFC in particular, had vowed never to team up with APNU for fears it would have killed its election chances but the AFC said it did so in the interest of the country and at the behest of groups and individuals who think it is the surest way of ousting the PPP.

They have already given the nation a modus as to how cabinet and other positions will be shared, with APNU's Leader retired army general David Granger being the presidential candidate and journalist turned attorney Moses Nagamootoo of the AFC being the nominee for prime minister.

Immigration

Continued from cover

tive actions in the face of congressional Republicans' refusal to overhaul the immigration system."

White House officials, however, said Obama's action is "legal and proper," according to the Times.

Judge Hanen, of Federal District Court for the Southern District of Texas, in Brownsville, ruled in favor of Texas and 25 other states that had challenged the president's immigration plan.

Hanen said that the administration's programs would impose significant burdens on states, unleashing illegal immigration and straining state budgets.

He added that Washington had not followed required procedures for changing federal rules.

But President Obama vowed on Tuesday to appeal the court ruling, expressing confidence that he would prevail in the legal battle to defend his signature domestic policy achievement.

"The law is on our side, and history is on our side," he said.

White House officials said the government would continue preparing to put Obama's executive actions into effect but would not begin accepting applications from illegal workers until the legal case was settled, according to the Times.

In the interim, Obama urged Republican legislators to return to negotiations on a broader overhaul of immigration laws.

"We should not be tearing some mom away from her child when the child has been born here and that mom has been living here the last 10 years minding her own business and being an important part of the community," he said.

But White House officials and some legal scholars noted that another federal judge had dismissed a different challenge to the president's executive actions, and they predicted that Judge Hanen's decision was likely to be suspended by the appeals court, according to the Times.

"Federal supremacy with respect to immigration matters makes the states a kind of interloper in disputes between the president and Congress," said Laurence H. Tribe, a professor of constitutional law at Harvard. "They don't have any right of their own."

Immigrant advocates, at the same time, derided Hanen's ruling, saying he had failed to consider the benefits to national security and the economy of having millions of unauthorized immigrants begin taking background checks and paying taxes.

Advocates said they would continue to prepare immigrants to file applications, assuming that the programs go into effect soon.

"Detractors of these programs may try to paint this as a fight with the president, but make no mistake: Attempts to dismantle these programs are attacks on American families," said Janet Murguía, president of NCLR, also known as the National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Latino organization.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's Affordable Housing Policy:

- April 2013: Then-Public Advocate Bill de Blasio criticizes former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's annual increases in water rates as a "hidden tax."
- February 2014: Mayor de Blasio increases water & sewer rates 3.6%.
- June 2014: Mayor de Blasio calls for Rent Freeze (landlords wind up with 1% rent increase, lowest ever on record).
- November 2014: Mayor de Blasio calls for stricter rent regulations.
- January 15, 2015: Mayor de Blasio announces a 13% increase on real estate tax assessments.

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Don't take Black History Month for granted

By Ron Isaac

Black History Month is almost over. Why do we celebrate it anyway? Because we must. We owe it to ourselves, regardless of where we fit among the Census Bureau's categories. Awareness of the contributions of Black men and women to the betterment of civilization should be embedded in every educated person who is sensitive to the world around us. And those who are not as well.

Blacks in America and abroad are and have been far greater donors in all areas of human achievement that has been credited in textbooks, films, newspaper...

People should not need to be reminded that Blacks in America and abroad are and have been far greater donors in all areas of human achievement that has been credited in textbooks, films, newspaper archives and family conversations over dinner tables. They are represented, though largely unacknowledged, in the pantheon of luminaries in every field.

Yet every February, our school bulletin boards and television mini-spots always fea-

ture the same superstars. We should study and admire them, but we should also expand the scope of eminence and spread the word about these dignitaries whose notability extends beyond sports, entertainment, community organizing and civil rights/social justice activism. There must be none of the restrictions on sectors of praise as there have historically been to access to society's playing fields.

The general absence of a more panoramic view of Black excellence may subconsciously imply doubt of its legitimacy. That's why it's important that Black History Month not be merely a reference on a wall calendar but an internally-felt commitment to analysis.

Celebration of Black History Month shouldn't be begrudging or half-hearted. What we glean from it is part of the common inheritance of all communities and omitting it from our collective ancestral memories would amount to a pathetic assertion of supremacy on our part.

So let's look into ourselves during Black History Month and neither take the commemoration for granted nor view it as separate and apart from the creativity of the rest of humanity. The exemplars of Black culture must be fully integrated, not merely at the lunch counters, but in our shared hearts.

People power, the solution to climate inaction

By Rob McCreath

BRISBANE, Feb. 10, 2015 (IPS) - Nothing is more important to farmers like me than the weather. It affects the growth and quality of our crops and livestock, and has a major impact on global food supply.

The world's weather is being messed up by global warming, mainly caused by the burning of fossil fuels, which releases heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere.

If your bank lends money to coal, oil and gas projects, then take your business to one that doesn't. It will put a smile on your face.

Every national science organisation in the developed world agrees that global warming is real and caused by human activities. That's good enough for me.

If we keep on burning coal, oil and gas at 'business as usual' levels, our grandchildren will inhabit a planet some 5 degrees Celsius hotter by the end of the century - rendering large parts of it uninhabitable, including many currently densely populated areas, which will be under water due to melting glaciers and ice caps.

The impacts on farming in Australia (and everywhere else) of such a rise in temperature would be very severe indeed.

To avoid such a bleak future, we simply must stop putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. If our politicians had any common sense, they would change

The global movement to divest from fossil fuels is gaining momentum, and the more people that take part, the better it works.

quickly to renewable energy, but sadly they are captives of the fossil fuel industry that funds their re-election campaigns.

Just look at the Nationals, who in spite of claiming to represent farmers, this month declared donations of 30,000 dollars from oil & gas company Santos, 25,000 from coal miner Peabody, and 50,000 dollars from prominent climate change denier and coal & oil company director Ian Plimer.

So, for the sake of future generations, we have to make this change happen ourselves, and the best way to do this is to disrupt the business model of companies trying to make money from fossil fuels by pulling the financial rug out from underneath them.

It's called divestment, which is simply the opposite of investment. Here's how it works. If you've got shares in fossil fuel companies, then sell them and invest in something that won't wreck the planet.

If your super fund invests in fossil fuels, then transfer your money to a fund that doesn't. If your bank

lends money to coal, oil and gas projects, then take your business to one that doesn't. It will put a smile on your face.

The global movement to divest from fossil fuels is gaining momentum, and the more people that take part, the better it works. Share prices (just like wheat and cattle prices) are set by supply and demand, so as more people sell, the price falls.

When a company's share price falls far enough, it finds it more difficult to borrow money, with which to fund its next coal mine. Take oil and gas company Santos, for example. Due mainly to the recent plunge in oil prices, in the past six months its share price has dropped by almost 50 percent.

As a result, the company has announced plans to cut back on expenditure and reduce its operations.

On the flip side, the more money that flows into companies involved in renewable energy, energy efficiency and green technology, the faster they will grow and the sooner we can put a lid on runaway climate change.

A brave new world awaits. Let's divest together and change the future!

Edited by Kitty Stapp

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, IPS-Inter Press Service.

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams



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

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An utterly un-presidential 2016 contender

The findings of a Rutgers-Eagleton survey on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie released last week showed the governor's favorability numbers taking a nosedive, 42 percent of NJ voters approving and 52 percent disapproving of his performance in office. A far cry, this, from those salad days when, back in 2013, he was seeking a second term and, he would later admit, was looking to "run up the score" against his opponent as he and his retinue tried to bolster what they saw as presidential credentials in the man. True, the Bridgegate scandal that erupted in early 2014 wasn't exactly what Christie needed while trying to enhance his presidential prospects. But, as we've previously said here, with or without Bridgegate, realizing those grand ambitions was always going to be more challenging than Christie and his cheering section imagined.

It's amazing that one quality in a guy could at once be regarded as cute and saleable by sycophants and recognized by a more objective gaze as a deal killer in any quest for widespread public affection. After he first became gover-

nor, a major piece in what the Christie camp thought to be their route to bigger things was a calculated marketing of their guy via his famous town hall meetings across the state. That the much touted videos of these "performances" invariably included boorish and/or insulting Christie putdowns of common or garden variety Jerseyites evidently contributed, in the view of the Christie promoters, to how special the governor was. In the real world we watched, dumbstruck, these recurring poor-taste displays. And we knew full well that the idea of offering this unseemly stuff as prelude to a presidency could only come from wackos.

The Rutgers poll reported that 20 percent of respondents cited Christie's personality as an important factor framing their negative rating for the governor. Respondents were quoted as having used terms like "arrogance," "rudeness" and "abrasive" in forming their judgments. We don't know whether either in the earlier elected position of county legislator or later in the role of U.S. Attorney for New Jer-

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

sey, to which George W. Bush appointed him, Christie demonstrated the churlishness that would be so front and center as governor. Perhaps by the time of his run for governor in 2010, anti-Jon Corzine (the incumbent) sentiment was so deep-seated with the electorate, it trumped any off-color vibe Christie emitted. Whatever, Christie certainly seems to have found his assumption of gubernatorial office a dandy time, if not before, to unleash the full personality package.

It bordered on surreal. Christie in full flight, via those town hall videos, might give us a "Shut up and sit down" leveled at some poor slob wishing to engage the governor about some matter. We might hear him tell a questioner that where the governor's children went to school was none of her business. We might see the guy get hot under the collar or on

his high horse when someone attempted to raise an issue, maybe already making news, about which any resident of the state was perfectly entitled to inquire. Or we might see Christie, in town halls and elsewhere, warming to what seemed one of his favorite things – spewing remorseless hostility toward, of all people, the state's educators.

It's difficult to come up with rationale for why masterminds of the Christie marketing operation didn't see the derailment potency of these ongoing exhibitions. For that matter, it's mystifying that Christie himself, who reportedly had his eyes on a political career from quite early, would consider the patented rudeness and abrasiveness mentioned in the polling data useful assets as he charged forward. That's some major hubris, if Christie and his minions felt he had enough going otherwise to neutralize the highly toxic element in the package.

Then of course there was the Bridgegate mess. Again, one can't fathom why Christie would be convinced that his mere insistence of non-

participation in or planning of that insidious closure of Washington Bridge lanes was enough for his accusers and the public to "move on." Folks in the very inner sanctum of his office operation being evidently involved in that episode of political dirty tricks unbeknownst to him, even if true, is hardly flattering to the governor's hands-on, take-care-of-business creds. A politician hoping to take the ultimate career leap can't realistically expect to not be tarred by rivals as incompetent or worse, in the face of a Bridgegate type plot hatched right under his nose.

The crystal ball picture may not have changed with dramatic quickness after the porous nature of Christie's so-called ascent became exposed, but with time his 2016 White House viability has settled into where it rightly belongs. On the personality thing, Christie denies being a "bully" whenever that discussion comes up. And in his understanding of the term, he honestly may not think himself a bully. Just as honestly should he concede that he's definitely not presidential.

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IMMIGRATION

What Obama's executive immigration order will do for you

By Gertrude Onuoha Esq.

On Nov. 20, 2014, President Obama announced a series of executive actions to enable undocumented immigrants remain in the United States. According to USCIS, Some important highlights are:

- Extending the deferred action period and employment authorization to three years from two years, and allows young people be considered for deferred action if they:

- Entered the United States before the age of 16;

- Have lived in the United States continuously since at least Jan.1, 2010, rather than the prior requirement of June 15, 2007;

- Are of any age (removes the requirement to have been born since June 15, 1981); and satisfy all the other requirements.

Obama's executive order allows parents to request deferred action and employment authorization if they:

- Have lived in the United States continuously since Jan. 1, 2010;

- Had, on Nov. 20, 2014, a son or daughter who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;

- Are not an enforcement priority for removal from the United States, under the Nov. 20, 2014.

It is very important to note that all the conditions must exist in order for the application to be successful. If an undocumented immigrant has resided in the United States for over five years and has no son or daughter who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, he/ she cannot get benefit under this category. If an undocumented immigrant has a son or daughter who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent, but has not resided in the United States continuously since Jan. 1 2010, he/she cannot benefit from this.

It is also pertinent to note that the executive order merely gives a differed

action status and work authorizations. It does not confer or lead to Green card. The concept of deferred status has been very confusing to so many. According to Merriam Webster dictionary, the word "Deferred" means withheld for or until a stated time. It also means to postpone, put off, delay, or hold over. A deferred action status therefore enables the government to make a determination not to pursue removal or deportation of an undocumented or unlawfully present individual for a certain period of time.

Before the President Obama's announcement, illegal aliens who satisfy the requirement stated above would be required to leave the country. An individual who has been granted deferred action is eligible to receive employment authorization for the period of deferred action. Applicants will be required to go through a background check. An applicant with criminal history should speak to an attorney prior to submitting the application to avoid deportation.

The content of this write up is intended for general information purposes only, and is not legal advice. Those seeking specific legal advice should contact Gertrude Onuoha Esq. at 575 Lexington Ave., 4th Floor New York, New York 10022 (PHONE) 212-971-9704 (cell 7326421604) (FAX) 866-823-6996.

Gertrude Onuoha Esq. is the founder of the law offices of Gertrude Onuoha, P.C. located in Manhattan, New York. She has practiced law for more than 17 years. She is admitted to practice law in the state of New York and has a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer, the New York Bar Association and a New York State Certified Mediator.

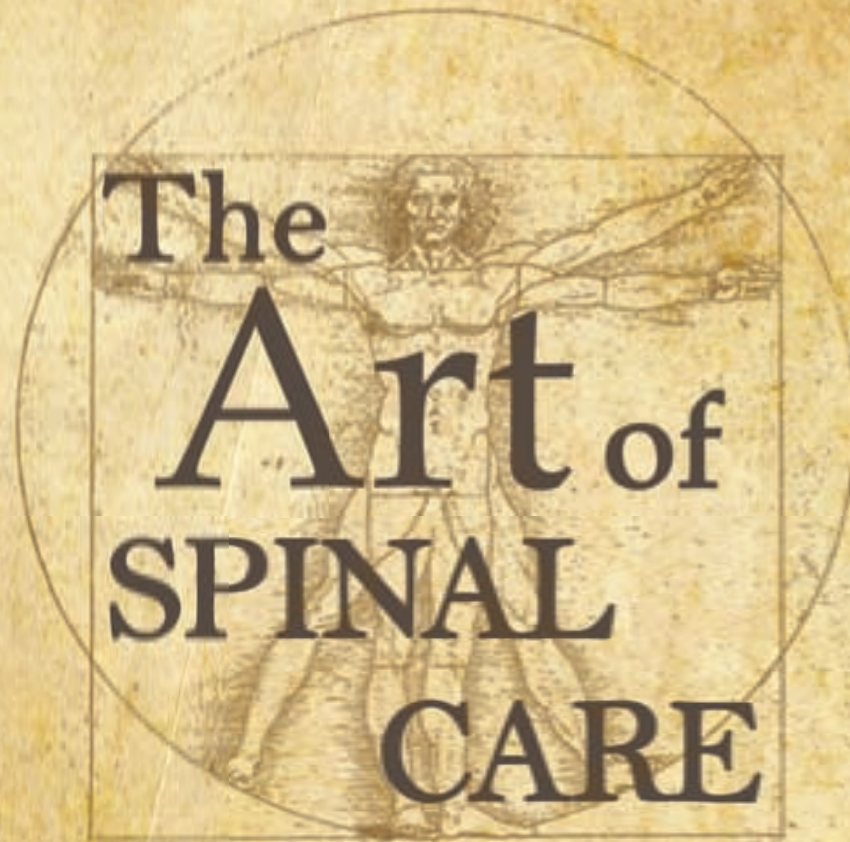


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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

line to 95 gourdes (US\$4.25) per gallon from 215 gourdes (\$4.62).

The government said the protests would damage the country's economy and create "devastating consequences for the most vulnerable people in our population."

Jamaica

A 28-year-old Jamaican man from the western parish of St. James was recently ordered extradited to the United States for lottery scamming activities.

U.S. prosecutors alleged Damion Bryan Barrett is part of a criminal network that fleeced millions of dollars from U.S. citizens in the lottery scam.

The extradition order was handed down after Barrett waived his right to challenge his extradition.

Barrett, who was arrested recently, will stand trial on two counts of wire fraud. Each count carries a maximum prison sentence of 30 years.



St. Lucia

The French overseas department of Martinique will become an associate member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), according to an official statement released in Castries.

The St. Lucia-based OECS Commission said Martinique signed the nec-

essary agreement earlier this month, increasing the nine-member sub-regional grouping to 10.

"Martinique's pending membership of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States follows a period of negotiations after the Regional Council of Martinique submitted a formal application for associate membership in the OECS with full support/endorsement of the French government," said the OECS Commission.

In November 2013, the Regional Assembly voted unanimously in favor of the island's membership of the OECS.

OECS Director General Dr. Dida-cus Jules describes as "historic" the island's pending membership of the sub-regional grouping.

Trinidad

In the midst of a police investigation into allegations of witness tampering by former Attorney General Anand Ramlogn, a fourth Cabinet reshuffle just a few months before a general election, and the firing



of two People's Partnership (PP) ministers, a recent poll has shown that if a general election were called now, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar would be the top choice for Trinidad and Tobago's next Prime Minister.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Jamaican Father of Hip-Hop



Tenants of 1520 Sedgwick Ave. walk through the lobby of their building in the Bronx section of New York, in this July 23, 2007, file photo. A Bronx building where a young DJ pioneered hip-hop in the 1970s has been saved from a plan that would have moved it from affordable to market rate housing, Sen. Charles Schumer said Monday, March 3, 2008. Associated Press / Seth Wenig, File

By Vinette K. Pryce

On any given day, tourists and curious individuals stop at 1520 Sedgwick Ave. in the Bronx to take selfies and snap photos of the façade of the apartment building.

At a glance, there is nothing distinctive about the 102-unit, residential, high rise. But for those in the know, it is the birthplace of hip-hop.

According to Wikipedia: "in the summer of 2007, New York state officials declared 1520 Sedgwick Avenue the "birthplace of hip-hop" and nominated it to national and state historic registers."

How the landmark achieved its status is no mystery, as a matter of record, it was at that location that the "father of hip-hop" lived, honed his skill and propelled the underground sound from New York to become a worldwide phenomenon.

It all started with Jamaican immigrant Clive Campbell.

Born in Kingston, April 16, 1955, Campbell was the first of six children born to Keith and Nettie Campbell.

November 1967, at the age of 12, the family migrated to



DJ Kool Herc speaks at a news conference to launch "Hip-Hop Won't Stop: The Beat, The Rhymes, The Life," the first ever hip-hop initiative at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006.

the Bronx. Their address is now history.

Campbell attended Alfred E. Smith High School and although he did not know it, he quickly responded to a different moniker. Because he was tall, played basketball and

spent a lot of time in the weight room his colleagues called him Hercules.

Although he loved the basketball court, he also loved music. Reportedly his early influence of sound-systems in Jamaica lingered causing him to develop a habit of listening to the dominant rhythm and blues of his new home-base.

From his own account, Campbell aka Hercules convinced his father to buy him a copy of James Brown's "Sex Machine."

He not only listened to the 45 rpm record, he discovered technicalities about the track that caused him to secure a second copy. He regularly purchased two copies of the same record and played them on separate turntables next to each other.

"He would play the break beat on one record then throw it over to the other turntable and play the same part. Doing this over and over, he could rock any house in N.Y."

His love for music endeared him to imitate the soundmen he saw in Jamaica.

Soon he started deejaying

in the recreation room of his building. While he played he realized that crowds on the dance floor responded most to the break section of the song.

"At this point in a song, the vocals would stop and the beat would just ride for short period," he recalled.

Inside the recreation room of his building, the self-made

deejay played music at his sister's birthday party.

In order to sustain the momentum for a longer period of time, Hercules combined portions from two records -- a smart move that dubbed him Kool and proved a defining birthing for hip hop. It was that evening Kool DJ Herc became the originator of break-beat.



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Coalition celebrates Garifuna-American Heritage Month



Dame Ruth Nita Barrow.

Barbados' first Gov. General Dame Nita Barrow

By Nelson A. King

Dame Ruth Nita Barrow, (Nov. 15, 1916 – Dec. 19, 1995) was the first and only female Governor General of Barbados.

She was a nurse and humanitarian activist, serving as governor general from June 6, 1990 until her death. She was also the sister of Errol Barrow, first prime minister of Barbados.

Dame Nita was born in Barbados, the second of her parents' five children. Trained as a nurse, midwife and health care administrator, she held several nursing, public health and public administration jobs in Barbados and Jamaica in the 1940s-1950s.

She was a member of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons that visited South Africa in 1986.

During that mission, she successfully thwarted South Africa's military restrictions, through entering the restricted area of Alexandra Township disguised in African garb and head-dress, according to her biographical sketch.

Barrow studied nursing in Barbados, the Universities of Toronto and Edinburgh, and at Columbia University, New York City, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

In 1964, she became an adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) and rapidly gained international stature as nursing adviser (1967-71) to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); medical commissioner (1971-80); and a president (1983) of the World Council of Churches.

She was president (1975-83) of the World Young Women Christian Association (YWCA); health consultant (1981-86) to WHO; president (1982-90) of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE); and Barbadian ambassador (1986-90) to the UN.

By Nelson A. King

The Bronx-based Garifuna Coalition, U.S.A., Inc. says it is collaborating with the Garifuna Afro-Latino Entertainment in celebrating the 7th Annual Garifuna-American Heritage Month in New York City.

The Coalition said the March 11 – April 12 celebration is being held in observance of the 218th anniversary of the “forcible deportation of the Garifuna people” by the British from St. Vincent and the Grenadines on March 11, 1797 and their settlement in Central America on April 12, 1797.

“Garifuna-American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of Garifuna’s contributions to the quality and character of life of New York City, and, through many events and activities throughout the month, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Garifuna history and traditions, and of the role Garifuna-Americans have played, and will continue to play, in New York’s society,” the group said.

This year, the Coalition said it will pay tribute to the legendary Aurelio Martínez, who the group described as “the greatest international exponent of the Garifuna Culture and tradition, selected as the 2008-2009 Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

“Garifuna-American Heritage Month has uplifted the Garifuna Community from obscurity to the pinnacle of recognition by raising awareness and appreciation of the Garifuna Community and its contribution to the culture and society of New York City,” the group said.

“We look at 2015 as the turning point to advance the integration of the Garifuna Community of New York, with the aim of promoting its advancement and economic development,” it added.

New York City is regarded as the home of the largest Garifuna population outside of Central America, with over 200,000.

In the spirit of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 -2024), the Coalition said it is also launching a “cultural economic development strategy around culture, creativity and sustainable development, with the aim of positioning New York City as the epicenter of the Garifuna arts and culture economy.”

As part of that strategy, the group said a musical tribute in honor of Martínez will be launched on March 14 during Garifuna-American Heritage Month. The event takes place at the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx.

“This will be the premier Garifuna event in the U.S.A., and we invite you to be a participant in this historic moment,” the Coalition said.

It also said New York City Council’s District 16 member Vanessa L. Gibson



A row boat filled with Garifuna arrives at the shores of Punta Gorda, in the island of Roatan, Honduras, April 12, 2004 during Ayumenhanin, a reenactment of the Garifuna landing on the island in 1797. The Garifuna, who are native Caribbean islanders and slaves put together by the British in 1797, are watching their language and their traditions disappear as Honduras, and the rest of the world have reached into their seaside community.

Associated Press / Thomas Tomczyk, File

will present a proclamation, declaring March 1 - April 12 Garifuna-American Heritage Month, on March 11 at the City Council Chambers, City Hall, lower Manhattan.

“Garifuna-American Heritage Month celebrates the great contributions of Garifuna-

Thanks to the support of elected officials, such as Ms. Gibson, the Garifuna Coalition U.S.A., Inc. has uplifted the Garifuna Community from obscurity to the pinnacle of recognition as it celebrates the 7th Annual Garifuna American Heritage Month in New York.

funa-Americans to the fabric of New York City and New York State, and pays tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Garifuna’s countries of origin – Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines,” the statement said.

A lifelong resident of New York City, Gibson has a “strong commitment to serving her Bronx community and has established a strong working relationship with many community-based

organizations throughout much of the Bronx, including the Garifuna Coalition, U.S.A., Inc.,” the Coalition said.

It said the Garifunas have been migrating to New York City in search of a better life since the 1930s.

The Coalition said the community in New York was “virtually obscured until the Happy Land Social Club fire on Mar. 25, 1990,” with the majority of the victims being Garifunas.

“Thanks to the support of elected officials, such as Ms. Gibson, the Garifuna Coalition U.S.A., Inc. has uplifted the Garifuna Community from obscurity to the pinnacle of recognition as it celebrates the 7th Annual Garifuna American Heritage Month in New York – a tribute to the Garifunas survival and resiliency,” the statement said.

In 2015, it said the Garifunas celebrate 192 years of the “Garifuna Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage’s contribution to New York City’s vibrant cultural life”.

The Coalition said that, in 1823, William Henry Brown, reportedly the first American playwright of African descent, wrote “The Drama of King Shotaway,” recognized as the first black drama of the American theatre.

Browne had as the drama’s subject the 1795 Black Caribs (Garifunas) defense of mainland St. Vincent, led by paramount Garifuna Chief Joseph Chatoyer, “against colonization by the British,” the Coalition said.

Small Orlando sandal business attracts big attention

By Kate Santich, Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — In a small concrete-block office in downtown Orlando, Julie Colombino — a former Cirque aerialist turned disaster-relief worker — is trying to change the world through sandals.

Colombino, 35, is surrounded by scores of them: simple, hand-crafted sandals of Haitian goat leather and recycled tires — sandals whose creation has caught the attention of both the United Nations and New York fashion mogul Kenneth Cole.

He's now selling them. "It's crazy," Colombino says. "When I started, I never fathomed it would be like this."

In January 2010, a week and a half after a catastrophic 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, Colombino left her Winter Park home and caught a flight to the epicenter of the disaster. An estimated 160,000 people were dead; two million people were newly homeless.

She soon found herself sta-

tioned in a first-aid camp, irrigating gaping wounds and handing out expired Tylenol to those who really needed morphine.

"I had no medical expertise, and we had no real pain medication to give them," she says.

At times, surrounded by the sights, sounds and stench of agony, it was all she could do not to pass out.

Yet a month into her mission — a month of sleeping in a tent, sometimes without fresh water or food, each night worrying she would be raped — she returned to Central Florida only to resign from her job, sell her belongings and take her \$7,000 in life savings back to Haiti.

"I know it sounds lofty," she says, "but the truth is that I was just called to it."

"Julie is fearless," says Robert Brown, president and CEO of the Heart of Florida United Way, where Colombino worked a day job. "I mean, she used to swing on those curtains they have at Cirque. I figured if she could

do that, she could do just about anything."

Those initial, chaotic months are now largely a blur, save for one lasting impression: Once people moved beyond the basics of food, water and medical care, what they wanted most was a job. Even before the earthquake, Haiti was the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

In the devastated capital of Port-au-Prince, Colombino used her tiny nest egg to hire four Haitian workers and launch REBUILD Globally, a nonprofit, in a lean-to covered by a tarp. Together, the five would sit on the floor, using razor blades to cut sandal soles from discarded tires that would otherwise be burned as rubbish.

"They were horrendous," Colombino says of the early results. "They were heavy and ugly. But we were really proud of them, and people were actually starting to buy them, which blew our minds."

They sold for \$20 a pair, mostly to foreign aid workers.



In this photo taken on Jan. 27, 2015, Julie Colombino poses with a pair of her sandals at her office in Orlando Fla.

Associated Press / Orlando Sentinel, Red Huber

Colombino then hired a Haitian cobbler to train her workers on the finer points of shoe-making, and with each prototype, the sandals grew more attractive and comfortable. A team from Nike showed them how to incorporate arch support, and, in 2012, the United Nations team in Haiti granted REBUILD \$30,000 to help the operation has never been just about selling sandals. In Haiti, REBUILD's social enterprise

is considered revolutionary. Colombino's organization pays the workers a decent salary — an average of 225 percent above the Haitian minimum wage of \$5.11 a day — allowing them to buy their own homes and, often, to "adopt" their own children back from orphanages. Many of the parents, Colombino learned, had been forced by extreme poverty to surrender their sons and daughters to someone who could feed and shelter them.

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Inequality fuels HIV epidemic in the Caribbean



Outspoken artist Edison Liburd, in St. John's, Antigua.

Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

HEALTH

By Desmond Brown

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb. 10, 2015 (IPS) - At 49 years old, Edison Liburd has established himself as one of Antigua and Barbuda's most recognisable artists. But Liburd was not always in the spotlight. In fact, you could say he was a man in hiding.

"I have been infected with the HIV virus for about 24 years. I got my first HIV test done in February of 1993 at the Allen Pavilion Hospital in Manhattan New York," Liburd told IPS.

"I can remember that day vividly. I felt like the earth had been removed from beneath me when I was handed the results of the test."

HIV/AIDS first emerged in the 1980s, and now, more than three decades later, stigma associated with the disease has persisted. Liburd pointed to that stigma as the main reason why he concealed his HIV status for as long as he did.

"I hid my status for years from family. I told a few friends, but most people who I knew did not know anything about my health condition. It was fear of being ostracised that kept me from disclosing my status," he said.

"In Antigua, HIV infected individuals

still have to face job insecurity – first to be fired and last to be hired. Stigma and discrimination is still high because many still think themselves superior to individuals who are infected.

"Somehow they think themselves better than, but I believe that it is when infected individuals become empowered by taking hold of their health and indispensable to nation building that this will take a huge bite out of discrimination. People will begin to see you differently," Liburd said.

The Caribbean is one of the most heavily affected regions in the world, with adult HIV prevalence about one percent higher than in any other region outside sub-Saharan Africa.

The HIV pandemic in the Caribbean is fuelled by a range of social and economic inequalities and is sustained by high levels of stigma, discrimination against the most at-risk and marginalised populations and persistent gender inequality, violence and homophobia.

HIV in the Caribbean is mostly con-

centrated in and around networks of men who have sex with men. Social stigma, however, has kept the epidemic among men who have sex with men hidden and unacknowledged. There is also a notable burden of infection among injecting drug users, sex workers and the clients of sex workers.

The main mode of transmission in the Caribbean is unprotected heterosexual intercourse – paid or otherwise. Sex between men is also thought to be a significant factor in several countries, although due to social stigma, this is mainly denied.

The level of stigma and discrimination suffered by those infected and affected by the virus in the Caribbean helps drive the epidemic underground. This makes it difficult to reach many groups.

After facing the worst of his fears, being hospitalised and getting close to death's door, Liburd has "resolved to fight back against the discrimination by increasing my capacity to help others in every way through my gift of art and my voice on and in the media, in church and otherwise.

"This has really been a powerhouse for me. I have become more confident and

bold when faced with opposition. It has and is still more than ever being a source of inspiration and encouragement for many who hear my story, both infected and non-infected alike."

Executive director of the Antigua and Barbuda HIV/AIDS Network (ABHAN), Eleanor Frederick, said individuals living with HIV face many challenges such as unemployment, homelessness, and in some cases, they are abandoned by their families.

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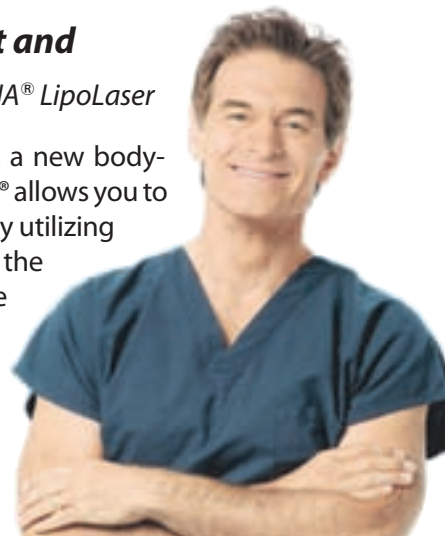
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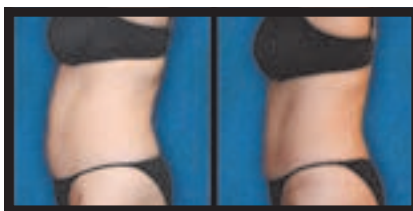
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Valentine

Continued from page 3

staff nurse, assistant Head Nurse and Interim Manager on a telemetry unit.

She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in December 2012 from St. Joseph College.

Forsythe attended the Academy of Aeronautics in Queens; but, in order to supplement his income, he worked as a Home Attendant, thus beginning his love affair with nursing.

He was first a Certified Nurses' Aide then pursued an Emergency Medical Technician's Certificate. Later, he studied at Long Island College School of Nursing, completing the RN program in 2000.

Since receiving his license, he has functioned in several areas of nursing – from the Emergency Room to the lab to nursing homes and Volunteer Ambulance Services.

Cockfield Lawrence received her B.S. in Nursing with honors from St. Joseph's college and, shortly after, graduated from SUNY Downstate University Hospital as a clinical nurse specialist with a M.S. in Nursing.

Cockfield Lawrence is currently employed as a nurse case manager at Interfaith Medical center.

She travels with two medical teams, Dorcas Medical Mission & APC Medical Team.

Her volunteer services have taken her to Guyana, the Caribbean and Africa. In February 2014, she travelled with a missionary team to Kenya.

With a passion for preventive health, Howell pursued nursing at New Amsterdam Hospital School of Nursing in Guyana, where she received the Registered Nurse and Midwifery certificates.

On migrating to the United States, Howell pursued studies in anesthesiology, and became a certified nurse anesthetist, a field she remained in for 40 years.

She holds a B.S. degree in Health Education and a M.A. degree in Higher Adult Education.

Howell's studies paved the way for her current role as a natural health nutrition and fitness educator and family life facilitator. She has participated in a number of medical mission trips with APC Medical Team.

At age 19, Dr. Rodney joined the

Guyana Corrections / Prisons Service, where he served as an assistant prison officer. Three years later, he was promoted to the positions of Prison Officer and Spiritual Advisor.

In 1988, he graduated from Oakwood University with a double major in Theology and Communications and, a year later, joined the Psychiatry Department of Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn as a substance abuse counselor. He worked at Interfaith for 18 years.

Simultaneously, Rodney was assigned assistant to the pastor/ elder in charge of the Shiloh Mission of SDA, now Stuyvesant SDA Church in Brooklyn.

During the 2001 World Trade Center Disaster, Rodney served as a first responder Red Cross chaplain and a mental health specialist at Ground Zero. He is also a New York City licensed marriage officer and notary public.

Rodney is employed with the New York City Department of Education as a guidance counselor.

Last November, Rodney was conferred the Doctor of Divinity degree from CICA International University and Seminary.

"APC Community Services, Inc. is grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of Brooklyn," said Janice Emanuel Bunn, the group's Guyanese-born president and founder. "I wish to thank all our supporters for helping us to fulfill our goals the past 19 years."

She said the group has "successfully" sponsored the Caribbean Health Summit, Caribbean Heritage Celebration and the Caribbean Wellness Day for the last five years, adding that these events have impacted our community in a "positive way."

Additionally, Dr. Emanuel-Bunn said APC Community Services, Inc. has conducted seven medical mission trips, with "thousands benefited from our services."

"To everyone present this evening at this gala, we welcome and thank you for sharing this special occasion with us," she said. "APC Community Services is committed to providing quality services to our community. We serve with compassion and a deep appreciation for the people in our neighborhoods."

Clarke

Continued from page 3

and Jim Crow at home in the United States contributed substantially to the moral imperative of the Civil Rights Movement, in which many veterans of the armed services participated," Clarke said.

"I am extremely proud to highlight these American heroes and commemorate their contributions to the well-being of our nation during African-

American History Month 2015," she said.

"Today, we honor their sacrifices, both on the field of battle and all across our country as their example continues to fill us with pride, and we reflect on what their endeavors have done on behalf of the greater good for all of humanity," she added.

"Today we honor the African-Americans whose commitment, patriotism and courage will remain forever an inspiration to the American people," she continued.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news.

Marine Park Funeral Home there for Brooklynites in difficult time

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Marine Park Funeral Home has been serving the Brooklyn community for four generations.

John Pavone is the owner of the business, which was started by his grandfather. His daughter, Nora E. Pavone, a recent graduate of mortician school, is proud to carry on the family tradition of providing dignified funeral services at affordable pricing.

Marine Park Funeral Home, in existence all these years, has serviced more Brooklynites than any other funeral home in the borough, says manager Michael Horkan. The company believes in doing everything possible to honor the memories of loved ones by offering multicultural services that take place at grave sites, churches, temples, or other locations. In addition, arrangements can be made with authorities to transport the remains of the deceased to destinations throughout the world.

The facility offers a peaceful, home-like setting, where the goal is to make everyone feel comfortable. The grounds are beautiful; filled with lush greenery. The inter-

rior is continuously updated so rooms remain clean and people can feel more relaxed. The large parking area offers ample space for cars. Small conveniences like these can mean so much when people are heartbroken with grief.

The staff of 10 full-time employees and numerous part-time workers strives to meet the needs of every family.

"Professionalism is mandatory," says Horkan. "That's our strong point." The staff is dignified and dresses respectfully.

While much has remained the same about funerals, in recent years, some changes have been observed. One is that more people are opting for cremation. As a result of this growing need, Marine Park Funeral Home has built a special viewing room for families.

"Dignity is not sacrificed," says Horkan. "We still dress the deceased and lay out the body." Families can spend time with the deceased and then accompany staff to the cremation, if desired. There are no additional fees.

"It's all done at the same cost of what a simple cremation would be," says Horkan.

Ceremonies are becoming more agnostic, too, says Horkan. They are more personalized, to reflect the lifestyle of an individual.

"Clergies are not as popular," he says. Instead, family and friends want to speak about special remembrances, and the funeral home can help with planning this. Sometimes, the staff acts as "master of ceremonies," he says, introducing speakers, and saying a few words about the deceased as well. The company can make arrangements for flowers, limousines, cemetery plots, monuments, and more. Caskets are on display at the premises, allowing the opportunity to see what is being purchased.

Another developing trend is that people want to make their own funeral arrangements while they are still alive, and Marine Park Funeral Home invites those who do to come in to discuss the details, without any cost or obligation on their part. The specific requests will be kept on file, and those who have planned them can tell their loved ones where to find this relevant information. Then, when these details are needed, Marine Park Funeral



Marine Park Funeral Home offers a peaceful, home-like setting, where the goal is to make everyone feel comfortable.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

Home will share them.

"It's a way to make wishes known," says Horkan. It offers peace of mind, and doesn't leave loved ones second-guessing during a difficult time of grief.

Marine Park Funeral Home turns no one away because of cost. It accepts life insurance assignments, and will contact insurance companies to verify that funds are there.

"We would be paid just

the cost of the funeral," says Horkan, and will wait to receive this payment directly from the insurance carrier which usually takes at least a month, again easing the burden of loved ones.

Marine Park Funeral Home [3024 Quentin Rd. between E. 31st Street and Marine Parkway in Marine Park, (718) 339-8900, www.marineparkfh.com]. Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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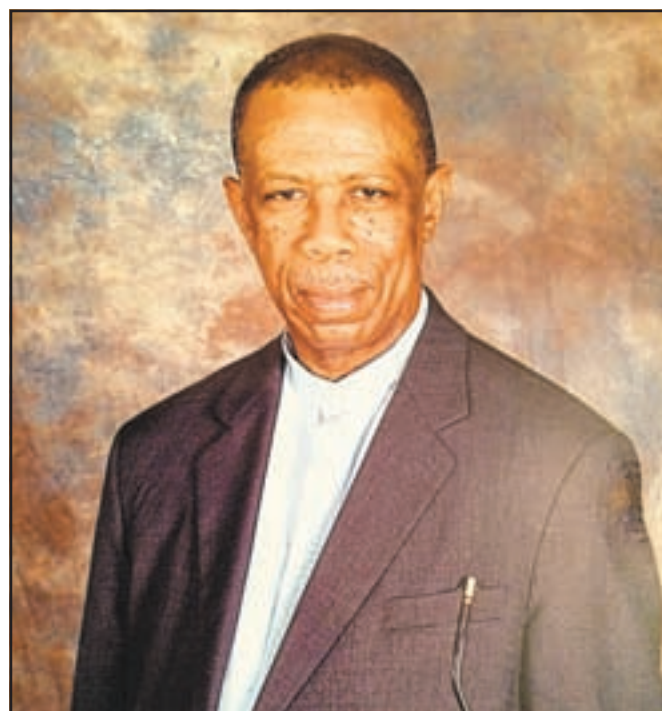
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Leading community figure passes at age 70



The late Selwyn Cumberbatch.

By Nelson A. King

Selwyn Cumberbatch, a leading Vincentian community figure in New York and a former staff sergeant in the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, died on Feb. 9. He was 70.

Relatives did not state the cause of death but said Cumberbatch, originally from Richmond Hill, Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, was “engaged to be married on September 2015 to Barbara Capers, of New York.”

Cumberbatch, affectionately known as “Compo” – who migrated to New York in 1980 with his late wife, the former Elva Alves – had resided in Brooklyn ever since “and soon became an icon in the community,” relatives said.

He was a member of – and supported – many Vincentian and Caribbean organizations in the New York metropolitan area, relatives said.

Cumberbatch was a former president of the Brooklyn-based

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association of New York, Inc. and the Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO), the umbrella Vincentian group in the United States, which is also based in Brooklyn. Additionally, up to his death, he was a lay speaker at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

Parishioners said he officiated at the church’s worship service the day before he died.

Relatives said Cumberbatch had “an extensive career” in the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, where he also served as a detective and “person-in-charge at the Windward district in Biabou.

“There, many still [who] revere him as the person instrumental in establishing the soccer league,” said relatives, stating that he was an “outstanding long distance runner in his youth, and excelled in cricket and soccer in St. Vincent [and

the Grenadines].”

Cumberbatch began his career in New York as a security officer at the then Manufacturers Hanover Trust bank, now Chase Bank, while pursuing a degree in banking at Pace University.

Relatives said he “survived” several banking mergers, finally retiring in 2011 from the Bank of New York Mellon.

He inspired his children and grandchildren to achieve degrees in chemical engineering, accounting, finance, business administration, sociology, criminal justice, marketing and development administration, relatives said.

In devoting his spiritual life to St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, relatives said Cumberbatch “spent countless hours in private study of the scriptures.

“He became in fixture at Wednesday night meetings and regular church service,” they said. “More than anything else, Selwyn excelled in fellowship.”

“He had a knack for extend-

ing himself to all, with great charisma, charm, a quick wit and extreme dedication,” they added. “You can count on him to prepare [ing] food, supporting events [and] lend [ing] personal assistance.”

He “just made everyone feel beloved, no matter the occasion,” relatives continued. “His smile and kindness will survive him into all eternity. He will be

missed by all.”

Cumberbatch – who was born on Dec. 15, 1944 to the late Vincent and Mary Cumberbatch, of Richmond Hill – was the father of five: Colin, La-Ferne, Petrona, Laurie and Curtis (who predeceased him).

His siblings include Kenrick, Noel, Brian, Bertram, Leroy (deceased) and his only sister, Yvonne.

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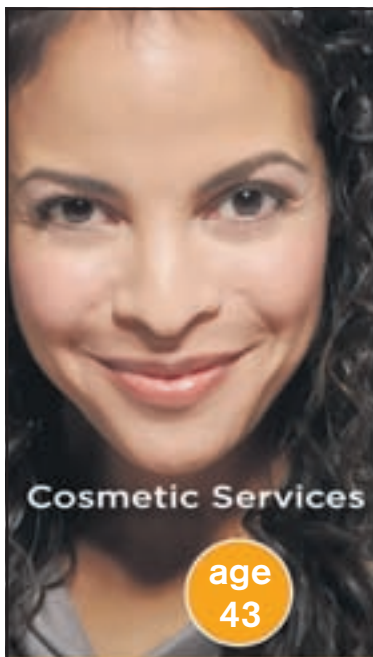


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Trinidadian expat Horace L. Morancie succumbs

By Vinette K. Pryce

A pall fell on the city Tuesday, Feb. 4 with news of the death of Horace L. Morancie.

The painful reality of the passing of the 85-year-old, Trinidad & Tobago expatriate resonated with nostalgia as Brooklyn residents recalled the relentless effort made by the immigrant who dedicated time and effort to the improvement of housing conditions of less privileged city dwellers.

"He was one of the most powerful technocrats of the 60's and 70s," Herman Hall, publisher of Everybody's Magazine said.

According to the Caribbean documenter of historic achievements, Morancie worked tirelessly "during the civil rights era of the 1960s when white liberal political leaders in New York City sought to place qualified Blacks in high profile administrative positions."

At the time, President Lyndon B. Johnson banked on advancing his war on poverty campaign. With support for the anti-poverty plan, the city's then Mayor John Lindsay, a Republican chose Morancie, a fellow party supporter to tackle social issues in the borough and primarily the urgency of

residents living in Central Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant community.

Morancie reportedly met the criteria both academically and politically.

Educated at Brooklyn Polytechnic University, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Cornell University and Brooklyn Law School he qualified for an appointment to lead the charge in Brooklyn for reform of housing conditions. Soon afterwards, he was named director of the Model Cities Program, the principal advocacy agency for fair and affordable housing, improved social services, sports and culture.

Morancie's accomplishments and reputation became a positive for the party so much so that he was chosen to rival the almost-invincible Shirley Chisholm, a strong Democratic candidate.

Allegedly, T&T Prime Minister Eric Williams was enamored by his countryman's dedication to improving the lot of others and on occasion encouraged Morancie to return to his birthplace to contribute with nation building of the newly-independent republic. In addition to advocating for the needy, Morancie was admired for his patriotic dedication to T&T.

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St. Kitts PM dethroned

Continued from page 5

didates were Harris, an economist; Amory; Shawn Richards; Eugene Hamilton; Ian Patrick Liburd; Lindsay Grant; and Mark Brantley, opposition leader in the last Parliament.

Victors for SKNLP/NRP were Douglas; Marcella Liburd, former health minister; Conrad Maynard and Patrice Nisbett.

In conceding defeat, Douglas, in a nationwide radio and television address, extended "sincere congratulations" to Team Unity, adding that it was a "sacred honor" to lead the nation for two decades.

"To the friends and members of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labor Party, you have my undying gratitude," he said. "We, in St. Kitts and Nevis, are among the blessed of the earth. And we are among the blessed of the earth because our governments are chosen, not by force, not by decree, not by the whim of any force or interest, but by the will of the people."

"I shall forever cherish having been given the opportunity to lead the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis," Douglas added. "The elections are now over, and although we still await the announcement of the preliminary results, I wish our newly elected government well."

Meantime, the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOM) in St.

Kitts and Nevis, led by Ambassador Frank Almaguer, congratulated the citizens of the country for their "active participation" in the general elections.

The EOM said there was high voter turnout and that citizens demonstrated "civil and peaceful exercise of their franchise on Election Day."

The Mission, however, noted that the counting and transmission of results was "extremely slow, stemming from a series of procedural difficulties."

"More than 12 hours after the closing of the polls, there was no information on the outcome of the election, leading to speculation and uncertainty among Kittitians and Nevisians," it said, adding that the delay in the dissemination of results was related to two main issues.

First, it said counting started late due to instructions given to returning officers with regard to the transportation of the ballot boxes of the early voting, carried out on Feb. 14 for essential services personnel and security forces.

Second, the Mission said challenges were presented during the counting process, and that some of the results were being contested.

But despite the problems encountered after the closing of the polls, the EOM said it was pleased to observe that in general, Election Day was carried out in an "orderly and pacific manner."

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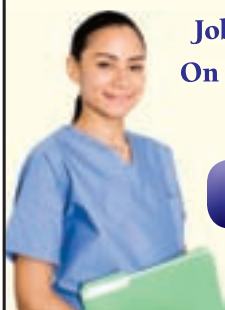
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2006	BMW X3, 128k	11286	\$6,995	2006	Honda Ridgeline, 135k	4629	\$9,595	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
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2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
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2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
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JA diaspora urged to nominate honorary citizens

Candidates for awards of Jamaica's annual national civil honors are urged to submit nomination forms in order to meet the March 13 deadline set by the Jamaica Consulate for appointments to the Order of Merit, the Order of Jamaica, the Order of Distinction – in the rank of commander class (CD) and officer (OD).

Individuals interested in seeking consideration for the island's highest national honors must act quickly to complete the guidelines set for the 2015 presentation.

Along with the top three honors, awards of the badge of honor for gallantry, meritorious service and for long and faith service entitles Jamaicans and foreign-born nominees worthy of recognition to apply for consideration.

Conferred by the governor general with advice from the prime minister of the island, the prestigious honors can be conferred posthumously to any individual of distinction that has achieved excellence in the field of arts, science, literature or any other endeavor distinguished.

If the nominee is a citizen of



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

a country other than Jamaica, the government of Jamaica is required to obtain the approval of the relevant commonwealth or foreign government prior to the awards of any order of decoration to the nominee.

In order to present a total description of the nominee and also aid in adding pertinent information that could enhance the selection process, a current biographical outline should accompany the submission.

One of the principal details should include valuable service to the island that could be considered worthy of recognition.

For more information, contact the Jamaica Consulate, 767 Third Ave. 2nd & 3rd Floors, New York 10017.

Two Weeks Braata Reveal "The Black That I Am"

As Black History Month

merge with Women's History Month, a theatrical production billed "The Black That I Am" will "explore Black-ness and identity from the perspective of a Caribbean immigrant pursuing the American Dream in New York City."

Influenced by an original poem written by Karl O'Brian Williams, the play will have its U.S. premiere for two weekends beginning in Queens on Feb. 25, 26 and 27 ending the following weekend, March 8 in Manhattan.

Using monologues to punctuate specific issues, the poignant piece "take the audience on a personal yet political journey that goes back and forth between borders, and barriers, celebrating and questioning the notions of 'place' and 'position' in society."

The poem and production is a response to this realization. It



Karl O'Brian Williams

Photo courtesy of BRAATA

weaves through the production highlighting issues of inequality, misplaced nationalistic fervor, gender, sexuality, and a racial perspective he described as "colorism."

The playwright said he was "never more aware or concerned as much with race until he left the island of Jamaica and came to the United States."

Currently, a lecturer in the speech and theatre department at The Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), in addition, Williams proudly boasts his position as the

artistic director for Braata Productions. Along with founder Andrew Clarke, together they collaborate to "provide entertainment and education to our patrons, and give voice to our diverse issues, performers, writers and directors."

"We aim to represent with creative authenticity the folk culture of the Caribbean islands."

Williams' particular interest revolves around pursuing artistic projects that interrogate socio-political issues.

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This year's Power Soca Monarch Machel Montano. Photo by Azad Ali

FANTASTIC MONTANO

By Azad Ali

Machel Montano showed once again he is the boss of soca when he copped the International Power Monarch for the fifth straight year on "Fantastic Friday" night at the Hasley Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain, Trinidad, to kick off of the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago.

Montano successfully defended his crown, for what he says is the final time before passing the reins to new Groovy Soca Monarch Olatunji Yearwood.

His soca composition, "Like A Boss" backed by his band A-Team was way ahead of his 11 competitors.

Iwer George took second place with "Play Ah Mas" and in third position was Nicki "Granny" Crosby with a song "Go Granny."

Montano speaking after he won the title said he is bowing out of competition but remains a source of support for all local artistes of all genres who are seeking his advice and direction. He has set his sights on his lifelong dream of winning a Grammy award and taking music to mainstream international.

"I want to make soca music now to touch the world," he said.

The five-time Power Soca monarch and two-time Groovy Soca monarch said the time was right to change lanes and step away from the competitive arena.

In the Groovy monarch category Olatunji Yearwood took the title with "Ola," while Farmer Nappy (Darryl Henry) was second with "My House" and in third place was Ricardo Drue singing "Vagabond" and Destra Garcia placed fourth with "Lucy."

Roderick "Chucky" Gordon retained his Calypso Monarch title beating 12

Continued on Page 38



READY FOR MASH

"Eruption" frontline section costume is designed by Preston Paul.

Photo courtesy of Honest Illusions

'Honest Illusions' to parade in Guyana

By Tangerine Clarke

New York mas band "Honest Illusions" is ready to capture the crown in the medium band category when revelers take to the streets of Georgetown to celebrate Guyana's 45th Republic Anniversary and Mashramani Parade on Feb. 23.

With an impressive showing last year, Brian Roberts, CEO and founder of "Honest Illusions" is ready for a showdown with his themed "Evolution of Carnival" band that will showcase "Chameleon" and "Eruption."

Roberts said the two sections "Fly Jamaica Airways" and "Honest Illusions" would emphasize the way change takes place through the natural environment and in life.

Fly Jamaica, he explained, listened to its customers and implemented positive change that will be reflected in the band's presentation.

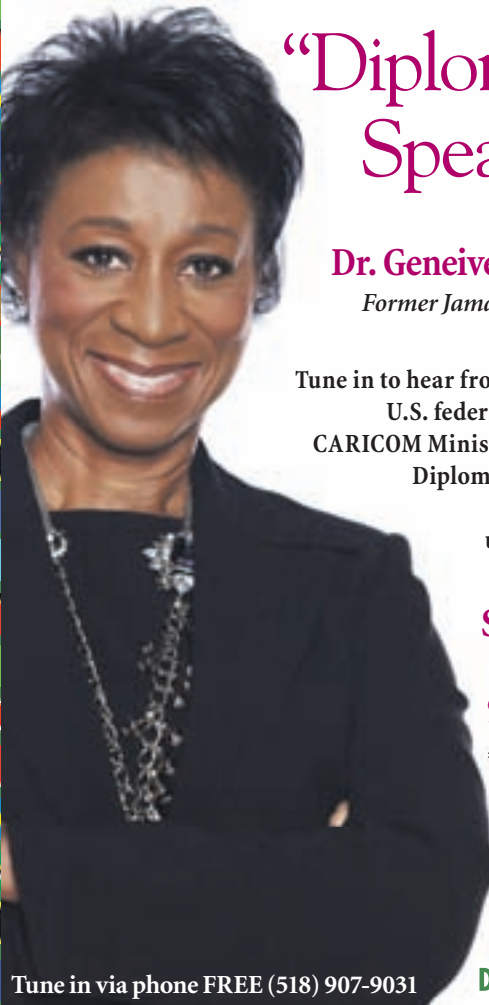
Such developments are the airline's recent announcement of direct scheduled roundtrip flights from New York to Georgetown and its

successful two-year anniversary in the aviation industry.

Noted costume designer Preston Hall will celebrate the band's second foray at Mashramani with a dazzling array of costumes in bold green and a blend of colors consistent with Fly Jamaica's brand.

The bikini costumes are designed with embellished headpieces made of quality feathers and a dazzling array of colorful jewels that will be sure to sway the judges, and delight specta-

Continued on Page 38



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A scene from the movie “Wild Tales.”

Independent & Foreign Films

Accidental Love (PG-13 for profanity and sexuality) Romantic comedy adapted by David O. Russell from the best-seller “Sammy’s Hill” by Kristin Gore (Al’s daughter). Principal shooting began in 2008, but Russell abandoned the troubled project a couple years later, and subsequently refused to take a directing credit. The plot revolves around a small-town waitress (Jessica Biel) who turns into a nymphomaniac after being shot in the head by a nail gun. With Jake Gyllenhaal, Tracy Morgan, Bill Hader, Kirstie Alley, James Marsden, Catherine Keener and James Brolin.

Approaching the Elephant (Unrated) Alternative education documentary chronicling year one at the Teddy McArdle Free School located in Little Falls, New Jersey, where classes are optional, challenging authority is encouraged, and conflicts are resolved by majority rule.

Blackbird (Unrated) Bittersweet coming-of-age drama revolving around a black choir boy’s (Julian Walker) struggle with his sexuality while a member of a tight-knit, Southern Baptist community. With Mo’Nique, Isaiah Washington and Kevin Allesee.

The Business of Disease (Unrated) Holistic medicine expose’ warning about how physicians have conspired with the pharmaceutical industry to hypnotize the masses into forgetting the body’s natural ability to heal. Featuring commentary by Sonia Barrett, Brad Bartholomew and Brian David Anderson.

A Convenient Truth (Unrated) Politically-incorrect mockumentary about a

camera crew which chronicles a California assemblyman’s (Alan Berman) solution for a host of societal ills, including climate change, unemployment, obesity and illegal immigration. With Kevin Hauver, Elise Rovinsky and Gilli Lesser.

Drunktown’s Finest (Unrated) Navajo drama examining a promiscuous transsexual (Carmen Moore), a college-bound Christian (Morningstar Angeline), and her absentee baby-daddy (Jeremiah Bitsui) as they attempt to escape their harsh lives on the reservation. Cast includes Loren Anthony, Shauna Baker and Pierre Barrera.

Gloria (R for profanity, sexuality, graphic nudity) Musical biopic chronicling the meteoric rise and ultimate disgrace of Gloria Trevi (Sofia Espinosa), the politically and sexually provocative salsa singer popular in the Nineties when she was celebrated as the Mexican Madonna. With Osvaldo Rios, Ricardo Kleinbaum and Marco Perez. (In Spanish with subtitles)

Queen and Country (Unrated) John Boorman wrote and directed this semi-autobiographical drama, a sequel to *Hope and Glory* (1987) revolving around a patriotic Brit (Callum Turner) who enlists in the army to serve his country in the Korean War. Featuring Caleb Landry Jones, David Thewlis and Pat Shortt.

Wild Tales (R for violence, profanity and brief sexuality) A half-dozen discrete dramedies, exploring the very destructive effect of stress, depression, deception, inequality, infidelity and injustice on different individuals. Cast includes Liliana Ackerman, Luis Manuel Altamirano, Damian Benitez and Cristina Blanco. (In Spanish with subtitles)

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Fetish flick fails to match erotic best-seller hype

“Fifty Shades of Grey”
Fair (1.5 stars)
Rated R for profanity,
violence, sexuality
and graphic nudity
Running time:
125 minutes
Distributor:
Universal Pictures

By Kam Williams

“Fifty Shades of Grey” marked the remarkable writing debut of TV executive-turned-romance novelist Erika Mitchell. Publishing under the pen name E.L. James, the British author has enjoyed unparalleled success, selling over 100 million copies worldwide in just a few years.

Her erotic thriller chronicles the kinky relationship of a college coed and a handsome, young billionaire with a sordid sexual appetite for sadomasochism. Unfortunately, this relatively-tame screen version, directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson (Nowhere Boy), teases more than it titillates, as it devotes plenty of time build up



Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) and Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) together in a scene from “Fifty Shades of Grey.”
Photo courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

prior to petering out in terms of delivery.

At the point of departure, we meet vestal virgin Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) as she’s about to drive from Vancouver to Seattle to the

corporate headquarters of Grey Enterprises to interview CEO Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) for her college newspaper. The English major’s only been allotted 10 minutes with the busy captain of industry slated to

deliver the keynote commencement address at her school’s upcoming graduation.

Upon being introduced, obviously intimidated Ana awkwardly asks “To what do you owe your success” and “Are you

gay?” before her subject confesses to being a control freak. Turning the tables, Christian proceeds to pose probing personal questions to the nervous journalist, as a palpable sexual tension between the two starts to simmer just beneath the surface.

He reveals his fondness for a particular fetish, however nothing is consummated for a long stretch. Instead, the first half of the film is devoted to a frustrating Kabuki dance where foreplay invariably leads to coitus interruptus.

In lieu of the whips, chains and other staples of bondage debauchery, we’re treated to cautious exchanges during which a whimpering, wide-eyed Ana repeatedly says how scared she is of Christian while he insists she sign a non-disclosure agreement allowing him to torture her. Yes, they eventually do get around to entering his dungeon but, by then, their bland, anticlimactic sessions prove to be a classic case of too little-too late.

A monochromatic misfire featuring only one shade: blushing pink.

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"We pulled from the realm of extreme sports and competitive acrobatics and brought them into the world of the circus, making this the most contemporary show we've ever created," - Producer Alana Feld.

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"We've also pushed the limits of all of our amazing artists and performers to create new and different exhilarating elements, providing audiences with extreme family fun." - Producer Alana Feld.

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The Circus Pre-Show Party starts an hour before the show, which is free with your ticket purchase. You and your family can meet our international cast of performers and get up close to our menagerie of animals. Try on custom costumes, learn circus skills - like juggling and walking the low wire - from the famous Ringling Bros.® Clown Alley and even have the opportunity to win a one-of-a-kind masterpiece created by one of our very own Ringling Bros. painting pachyderms.

For the national tour schedule and to find out more about Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Circus XTREME, visit Ringling.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube-@RinglingBros. Follow Producer Nicole Feld on Twitter @NicoleFeld.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Circus XTREME will be in the New York Metro area for five weeks beginning February 19. For ticket information, visit Ticketmaster.com



TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 2 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 4 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 5 **Lips Are Movin**
Meghan Trainor
- 6 **I'm Not The Only One**
Sam Smith
- 7 **Jealous**
Nick Jonas
- 8 **Time of Our Lives**
Pitbull & Ne-Yo
- 9 **Style**
Taylor Swift
- 10 **I Don't Mind**
Usher Feat. Juicy J

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Reflection**
Fifth Harmony
- 2 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 3 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 4 **Full Speed**
Kid Ink
- 5 **In The Lonely Hour**
Sam Smith
- 6 **Wallflower**
Diana Krall
- 7 **NOW 53**
Various Artists
- 8 **Shadows in the Night**
Bob Dylan
- 9 **The Red Balloon Proj...**
Skizzy Mars
- 10 **American Beauty...**
Fall Out Boy



MASH

Continued from page 33
tors on Mashramani day.

Sesame Flyers expert designer Zellena Joy will make her debut with "Honest Illusions" to showcase "Eruption," which mimics a volcanic transformation from emission to growth.

This is in keeping with Honest Illusions' commitment to building its capabilities from quality design and production, multimedia services, website, graphic design image, as well as photography and videography.

Revelers in this section will be dressed in yellow to represent the hot smoldering volcanic lava motif.

Masqueraders will choose from a collection of bikini creations to revel in the front line sections of the band, or colorful spandex outfits.

Guyana's sweetheart and diva, Lisa Punch, finalist in the hugely popular ABC TV show, Rising Star, will be the face of the band.

Punch and sensational Soca singer Jumo Prino will perform with legendary string orchestra Mingles along the parade route.

Costumes could be pur-



The frontline section costume for "Chamelon" designed by Preston Paul.

Photo courtesy of Honest Illusions

chased from the Mash camp, located at the Sleep-Inn International Hotel in Georgetown

where the band was launched. For more information, and to view costumes, go to www.honestillusions.com or www.facebook.com/honestillusion-smultimedia.

Montano

Continued from page 33
other competitors.

He sang "Believe and The Rose" a composition about how Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar does not smell like a rose again because of all the missteps of her government.

In second place was Devon Seale singing "My Humble Plea" calling on the prime minister to "Go Nah" and "Soul Judges."

No one expected the brutal assault against the prime minister and the scathing rebuke she received over her poor governance. Some of her ministers also came in for some heavy fire from all of the competitors, including those who were recently fired.

Massy Trinidad All Stars captured the National Panorama title for the ninth time at the Panorama finals held at the Queen's Park Savannah on Saturday night.

Playing in position No. 4 in the Large Band category, members dressed in black and gold, gave a highly spirited performance of "Sweet 50", a



song the arranger composed in celebration of the band's 50th anniversary. The composition was named "Unquestionable."

In second place was Petrotrin Phase 11 playing "Happiness" and Republic Bank Exodus tied for third place with PSC Nitro-

gen Silver Stars. Ten bands faced the judges in the Large Band category.

Roland St George was crowned King of Carnival 2015, while Stephanie Kanhai took the Queen of Carnival title with her portrayal of "The Sweet



Above: Calypso Monarch Roderick "Chucky" Gordon.

Left: Queen of Carnival Stephanie Kanhai portrayed "The Sweet Waters of Africa," from the band "Crossing the River" organized by Touchdsky. Photo by Azad Ali

Waters of Africa"

St. George won with his portrayal of "Ahtwaje, with 433 points to defeat his nearest rival Teddy Eustace, who paraded as "Saramanga-D World Bat" (429 points).

The competition was held by the National Carnival Band Association at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain on Friday night.

St. George last won the title in 2012.



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At a gala this June, Caribbean Life will present its second annual Healthcare Awards, recognizing Caribbean Americans' essential contributions as caregivers and practitioners in New York.

If you would like to nominate a Caribbean healthcare professional who has shown outstanding achievements in his or her field, fill out the form here and fax or mail it to us before **April 10, 2015**.

You can also submit your nomination online at CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate.

We will contact you before April 24, 2015 if your candidate is selected.

Nominate an Outstanding Caribbean American Healthcare Professional

Your name: (Please print clearly) _____

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee's country of origin: _____

Your relationship to nominee: _____

Nominee's occupation/profession: _____

Where does your nominee currently work? _____

How many years has your nominee been working in healthcare? _____

Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): _____

What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or less): _____

How can we reach you?

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Fax completed form to (718) 260-2579 Attn: Caribbean Life Healthcare Awards
 or Mail to: Caribbean Life

Attn: Healthcare Awards
 One MetroTech Center North, 10th Floor
 Brooklyn, NY 11201

Online nomination submissions at
CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate.



FRI., FEB. 20

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": Fourteen Brooklyn artists exhibit their interpretations of the Christian tradition of the Stations of the Cross. Free. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Episcopal Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew [520 Clinton Ave. between Fulton St. and Atlantic Avenue in Prospect Heights, (347) 515-4044].

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: Make your appointment today - NYC is offering a free ID Card for all city residents. Enrollment in the program provides access to services and programs offered by the City as well as by businesses. Holder may gain access to all City buildings that provide services to the public and is an accepted form of identification for accessing numerous City programs and services. Benefits also include a free one-year membership at many of the City's leading museums, zoos, concert halls, and botanical gardens. Free. 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": Brooklyn Museum's exhibit "Killer Heels" explores fashion's relationship the high-heeled shoe, from its history to place in popular imagination. Museum admission. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": This collection exhibits candid photographs and interviews with African Americans and Latinos residing in NYCHA housing, taking a different look at the stereotypes surrounding them. \$10. Noon – 5:00 p.m. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklyn-history.org.

SAT., FEB. 21

PERFORMANCE: Music, Renee & The Derelicts Present Live Blues & Soul: New York-based blues favorites Renee & The Derelicts perform classic and original blues, rock and soul tunes. Featuring the vocals of the multitalented actress/playwright Renee Flemings, the band Sal Carolei (blues harp), Paul Bauman (guitar) Bernard Devlin (drums) and bassist Trevor Brown. Free. 9:00 p.m. Lura Restaurant [949 Columbus Ave. between (106th & 107th streets) in Upper West side, (212) 866-7500].

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, TAX PREPARATION: The first step toward homeownership begins with education. Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) is having a free homebuyer seminar. Learn about grants, affordable mortgages, closing cost assistance and building your homeownership team and



ZUMBA STYLE

FEB. 27: This is a dance fitness class that's lively and fun. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those with well-managed asthma. These simple movements are designed to strengthen upper body muscles and support lung functions. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Free. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care [206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, (866) 539-0999], www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx.

BLACK HISTORY

FEB. 28: In celebration of Black History children read "I am Rosa Parks," and "I am Jackie Robinson." Free. 11:00 a.m. Barnes and Noble [23-80 Bell Blvd. in Bayside, (718) 224-1083], www.barnesandnoble.com.



LUCIAN CELEBRATION

FEB. 28: Caribbean, Night of Saint Lucian culture: Free. 7:00 p.m. Saint Lucia House [438 E 49th St. in East Flatbush, (212) 697-9360], <mailto:sluconsulateny@govt.lc>.

more. 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Ridgewood Bank [4101 White Plains Rd., 229th St. in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 882-0440].

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": Noon – 5:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, CITIZENSHIP CLASS REGISTRATION: Sign up for a free Citizenship Preparation Class. Classes meet 3-6 hours per week for 11 weeks. Free legal assistance with Catholic Migration Services. Learn about the application and interview process, improve your English and review naturalization test topics. Free. 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. Bay Ridge Library [7223 Ridge Blvd., 73rd St. Brooklyn, NY 11209 in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-5709].

SUN., FEB. 22

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": Noon – 5:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

MON., FEB. 23

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a sitting Zumba workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile. It is designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. Use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class. Free. Noon – 1:00 p.m. Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care [206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, (866) 539-0999], www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx.

TUES., FEB. 24

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

WED., FEB. 25

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": Noon – 5:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

TALK, TOLD IT FIRST HAND: Conversations with Hip-Hop's "Do-ers": Brooklyn Bodega's Wes Jackson sits down with Albert Johnson, author of "K'wan," and Johnny Temple of Akashic Books to talk about hip-hop in the literary world. \$10. 6:30 p.m. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

THURS., FEB. 26

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "WE THE PEOPLE: The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures and Words": Noon – 5:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 5:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

FILM, FILM SCREENING: "Nana's Paradise": Directed and produced by Saint Lucian Mathurine Emmanuel. Free. 6:00 p.m. Taipei Economic and Cultural Theater (1 E. 42nd St. New York, NY in Midtown).

FRI., FEB. 27

ART, "STATIONS OF THE CROSS": 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

ART, "KILLER HEELS: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe": 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. See Friday, Feb. 20.

CARIBBEAN, LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Free. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care [206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, (866) 539-0999], www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx.

LIU's Esteemed Polk Awards for Journalism Centered in Brooklyn

The prestigious George Polk Awards are regarded among the most highly sought honors in journalism.

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"The George Polk Awards recognize outstanding contributions from the most respected communicators of our time," said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, president of LIU. "Their standards are re-

flected in LIU's journalism teaching and training that emphasize ethics, journalistic inquiry, entrepreneurial skills, and professional practice in a fast-changing news media."

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Independent research, discovery, and impeccable communications define the George Polk Awards and LIU Brooklyn's Department of Journalism and Communications Studies. LIU Brooklyn's faculty of award-winning journalists and media leaders bring their experience and expertise from the newsroom into the classroom, preparing students to become industry leaders. Among them:

- Julia Talanova, associate producer at CNN. As journalism major, Julia received a scholarship to intern at the Moscow bureau of The New York Times.

- Justin Grant, digital content editor at Fidelity Investments. Grant has reported for ABC News' investigative unit, Good Morning America, National Public Radio, and Reuters as well as The New York Times and Washington Post. He was editor of the campus newspaper Seawanhaka.

- Debra Lewis-Boothman reported and wrote for People magazine where she interviewed celebrities and politicians and covered the music beat. She now teaches a course in entertainment journalism at LIU Brooklyn.

- Curtis Stephen, adjunct pro-

fessor for news reporting and advisor to the campus newspaper Seawanhaka, is a regular contributor to the urban affairs magazine, City Limits, and has worked for Newsday, Newsweek, CNN in Atlanta, and WNBC-TV in New York.

- Rocco Parascondola, police bureau chief at the New York Daily News, is one of New York City's top crime reporters.

Educators and communications professionals who are members of LIU's faculty and alumni comprise the Polk Awards Advisory Committee. Winners are named each year from among hundreds of entries.

The 2014 awards will be conferred at a luncheon held in spring 2015. For more information visit polk.liu.edu



LIU Brooklyn's Department of Journalism and Communications Studies emphasizes ethics, journalistic inquiry, entrepreneurial skills, and professional practice while a faculty of award-winning journalists and media leaders bring their experience and expertise from the newsroom into the classroom, preparing students to become leaders in the industry. LIU Brooklyn students graduate ready for the fast changing news media ahead of them.

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U.S. Team's Mason Plumlee, of the Brooklyn Nets, scores against the World Team during the first half of the Rising Stars NBA All-Star Challenge basketball game.

Associated Press / Julio Cortez

All-star a success

By Robert Elkin

Basketball of a different caliber and organisation was on display in New York City during the all-star weekend, culminating with the National Basketball Association all-star game, hosted by Madison Square Garden, home of the New York Knicks, on Sunday night.

Continued on Page 44

Simmons to 'bat' in court

By Azad Ali

West Indies opening One-Day batsman Lendl Simmons is now faced with a legal battle after he was sued for allegedly sharing intimate photographs of a woman with whom he was involved in a brief romantic relationship.

Simmons is in Australia with the West Indies team participating in the International Cricket Council World Cup (ICC).

The accountant executive, Therese Ho is seeking substantial damages from Simmons for breaching the common law principle of confidence after he allegedly shared the intimate photos of her.

According to her witness statement filed in the High Court, Port of Spain, Ho is claiming that she started the

Continued on Page 44



New York Red Bulls' Dane Richards (19) and Colorado Rapids' Luis Zapata (21) go up for the ball in the second half of an MLS soccer game in Harrison,

Associated Press / Julio Cortez, File

New faces hunt for a roster spot

By Patrick Horne

The New York Red Bulls are in Bradenton (Fl.) readying for the upcoming season with new coach Jesse Marsh, his staff and several new trialists. According to news from the club, among the new faces in the hunt for a roster spot is a very

familiar one in Jamaican international and former Red Bull, Dane Richards. The speedy Richards was a fan favorite here and many rued his transfer to the Vancouver Whitecaps at mid-season in 2012 after several eventful years as a Red Bull, for forward Sebastien Le Toux, who

was a flop and didn't last beyond a year. Marsh, though, seems to have an open approach to fielding the best team possible and is leaving no stone unturned in his efforts.

Richards, who is second in appearances all-time for the Red Bulls with

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Basketball buffs were also treated to two previous days festivities, hosted by Barclays Center in Brooklyn, home of the Brooklyn Nets.

At both sites, fans from all over the world, including the Caribbean were treated to some tremendous play by individual stars, with three-point shooting, skills competition, dunking, a celebrity game, NBA Developmental league all-star play, and a rising stars challenge. The latter and the development league game showcased the stars of the future.

While the Brooklyn Nets have an excellent chance of making the playoffs, maybe, not winning the Eastern Conference title, the Knicks have suffered for most of the season with injuries especially to star players, and inconsistent good play, still have a slim shot at making the second season.

One of the Nets' players among the future super stars was second-year center Mason Plumlee who competed on the USA Team against the World Team. His Nets' teammate Bojan Bogdanovic of the same Nets, played on the World Team roster in the Rising Stars Challenge over the weekend. Plumlee did his best in the Slam Dunk competition.

"It's an honor to be in the dunk contest," Plumlee said. "We all had a good time."

All the fans in the stands were very impressed with the way they demonstrated the game, or exhibition, as one would say. They demonstrated skill, speed and strategy in the three-point shooting contest.

"As we get into the second half of the season, we are looking to win more games (and move up in the Conference standings)," the 24-year-old Plumlee said about the remaining two months of the 2014-15 season. "I'm trying to enjoy it (my stay with the Nets). We are headed in the right direction."

Looking to their remaining games especially down the stretch drive, and from their own conference, the Nets must be ready and on top of their game, and must find ways to win.



Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri, left, fights for the ball with Jamaica's Kemar Lawrence during the international friendly soccer match between Switzerland and Jamaica at the Swissporarena in Lucerne, Switzerland, Friday, May 30, 2014.

Associated Press / Keystone, Peter Klauzner, File

Red Bulls prepare for season

Continued from page 43

147 from 2007-12, bounced around European clubs the past two years. After a free transfer from the Whitecaps in 2013, he made stops at English League club Burnley and Norwegian club Bodo Glimt.

"Dane has qualities that could fit into the way we want to play," said Marsh. "Obviously he has experiences here - I think his time here was good for him and the club. We're taking a look at him and knowing there's potential for him to be available and how it might fit."

Richards played an integral part in the club's most successful year, in the 2008 MLS Cup run, and scored 21 goals and 24 assists as a Red Bull. "My mind is not on a contract my mind is on playing well and eventually things

will fall into place. Right now I'm just focused on training hard," Richards told the Red Bulls media.

The team will lay play four matches at the IMG Suncoast Pro Classic in the next two weeks, which would be the last looks for Richards and other invitees, including defenders Jhon Kennedy Hurtado, previously with Chivas USA, Canadian international Karl Ouimette, Jamaican international Kemar Lawrence and Anthony Wallace, previously of the Colorado Rapids.

Local boy signed

Meanwhile, the Red Bulls on Tuesday announced that the club signed local product Mike Grella of Glen Cove (LI), a former Duke University All-American, who was drafted by Toronto FC in the 2009 MLS SuperDraft.

"Mike has come into camp and earned this contract," said Marsh in

a statement. "He showed up and has worked hard since day one. His form has been great, but his attitude and work ethic have been even better."

Grella, now 28, made 40 appearances for Leeds United in the English League Championship and also appeared for Danish SuperLiga side Viborg and last April signed with the Carolina RailHawks of the NASL.

"We're very pleased with what Mike has shown us," said Red Bulls sporting director Ali Curtis. "He embodies attributes we're looking for in terms of character and effort. We feel that he will add value to our roster and be a positive presence for our club on the field and in the locker room."

The Red Bulls also signed recently retired defender Ibrahim Sekagya, who played for the club since 2013, as a member of the technical staff.

Simmons faces legal battle

Continued from page 43

relationship when they met at a party in 2013.

After about 18 months, Ho said she broke up with Simmons after she discovered that he was engaged to be married while involved with her.

She then contacted Simmons fiancé at the time, now his current wife, to inform her of the situation.

In response, she claims that Sim-

mons allegedly used several mobile apps, including Viber, to send photos of sexual acts they took while together to her former boyfriend and to several of his friends, including his local and regional team-mates Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollar who are expected to be summoned as witnesses in the trial expected to take place on March 23, 2015.

Besides damaging her reputation, Ho is claiming the release of the images

also caused her significant distress.

The 30-year-old cricketer has denied ever being involved with Ho but admitted that the two had a brief singular sexual encounter.

Simmons has played for the West Indies in eight Test matches, 61 One-Day Internationals and 34 Twenty20s. He made his Test debut in 2009.

West Indies' Lendl Simmons hits a six off Sri Lanka's Shaminda Eranga during their Tri-Nation Series cricket match in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton, File



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Stk #1640, 31,363 mi., V6, auto, air,
alloys, 3 rows

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lthr, heated sts., back up cam, Bluetooth.

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Stk #1688, 6 cyl, auto, all power, leather, alloys,
50,254 mi.

2012 NISSAN JUKE SL AWD



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Stk #1567, 25,770 mi., 4 cyl, auto, air, nav,
sunroof, lthr, Bluetooth, back up cam.

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Stk #U4902, 14,154 mi., 4 cyl, auto, air, navigation,
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lthr, htd & memory power sts., Bluetooth.

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Stk #U4773, 44,478 mi., V6, auto, air,
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Bluetooth.

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Stk #U4832, 42,787 mi., V6, auto, air, moonroof, leather,
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2013 INFINITI G37X

NAVI



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Stk #U4907, V6, auto, AWD, all power, cd/mp3, Blue-
tooth, htd/cooled sts., 18,241 mi.

2012 INFINITI G37X AWD



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\$27,995

Stk #U4758, 13,484 mi., V6, auto, air, nav,
leather, moonroof, Bluetooth, htd/cooled sts.

2012 INFINITI FX35



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Stk #U4878, V6, auto, all power, moonroof,
cd/mp3, htd/cooled sts., 42,331 mi.

2011 INFINITI FX35 AWD

NAVI



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Stk #U4834, 25,165 mi., V6, auto, air, moonroof,
leather, back up cam, memory & htd sts.,

2012 INFINITI FX35 AWD



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Bluetooth, memory sts.

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Stk #U4841, 15,762 mi., 6 cyl, auto, air, nav,
moonroof, leather, heated/cooled memory sts.,
Bluetooth, back up cam.

2013 INFINITI FX37



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Stk #1650, V6, auto, all power, moonroof, leather,
htd/cooled sts., Bluetooth, 15,041 mi.

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Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte



West Indies's Denesh Ramdin, left, catches the ball edged by Ireland's Paul Stirling, right, during their Cricket World Cup pool B match at Nelson, New Zealand, Monday, Feb. 16, 2015. Associated Press / Ross Setford

WICB elections set for March 7

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) will have its elections on March 7, 2015. President of the WICB Whycliffe Dave Cameron will be running for re-election and his running mate is Emmanuel Nathan. Former West Indies fast bowler Joel Garner will be challenging Cameron for the position. Garner is also the president of the Barbados Cricket Association. His running mate will be Baldath Mahabir, Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board's representative. Elections will take place at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica.

Election participants and votes

1. Guyana Cricket Board - 2 votes 2 reps.
2. Barbados Cricket Association - 2 votes 2 reps
3. Jamaica Cricket Association - 2 votes 2 reps
4. Leeward Island Cricket Association - 2 votes 2 reps
5. Windward Islands Cricket Board - 2 votes 2 reps
6. Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board - 2 votes. 2 reps

West Indies must modify their World Cup strategy

Several changes should be made to the West Indies batting order. Chris Gayle along with Dwayne Smith must do some bowling. Batting order should be as follows:

1. Chris Gayle
2. Denesh Ramdin
3. Andre Russell
4. Darren Bravo
5. Dwayne Smith
6. Marlon Samuels

7. Jonathan Carter
8. Darren Sammy
9. Jason Holder
10. Kemar Roach
11. Jerome Taylor

Change Of batting order will create stability

The reshuffling of the West Indies batting order for the World Cup should cause players to be more responsible and take their roles seriously. West Indies stand-in Head Coach Stuart Williams must encourage players to play their roles. It is necessary to have a batting shift and only the West Indies team stays with one order all the time.

ICC World Cup 2015 update

Ireland won the toss and sends the West Indies into bat. West Indies found themselves into early trouble after Dwayne Smith, Chris Gayle, Darren Bravo, Marlon Samuels and Denesh Ramdin fell cheaply and West Indies were five wickets down for 87 runs. Darren Sammy and Lendl Simmons stroked away at the crease and carved up a partnership of 154 runs before Sammy fell for 89 runs from 67 balls. Simmons scored 102 runs from 84 balls, hitting nine fours and five massive sixes, Andre Russel scored 27 runs from 13 balls. West Indies ended their 50 overs scoring 307 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

Ireland thrashes West Indies by four wickets

Ireland defeated the West Indies quite easily with three of their batsmen scoring half centuries. Ireland scored 307 runs for 6 wickets from 45.5 overs.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Your fears are the only things holding you back this week, Aries. Confidence is all you need to move forward, so take some initiative and you will be glad you did.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
You cannot outmaneuver karma, Taurus. You will reap what you sow this week, so remain positive and things will ultimately work out in your favor.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, do your best to prevent distractions from getting to you or affecting your performance at work. You can overcome these distractions if you just stay focused.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Certain responsibilities require all of your attention this week, Cancer. Set aside some time to tackle these tasks one at a time, and you will be done before you know it.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Circumstances may shift without warning, Leo. It pays to have a backup plan available so you can make any necessary adjustments. Think on your feet.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may be emotionally invested in a cause or a belief, but you cannot expect everyone to share your passion. Give others room to form their own opinions.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Your ambition takes you on a few adventures this week, Libra. Keep an open mind, and these excursions will prove all the more valuable down the road.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
This week may mark a turning point in your love life, Scorpio. Enjoy taking this next step and make the most of all of the new experiences you share together in the days to come.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Take charge of your goals this week, Sagittarius. Many of your goals are worthwhile endeavors that can be achieved through a combination of commitment and hard work.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, plan an excursion or a get-together with friends before boredom sets in. This will give everyone a chance to reconnect and engage in some lighthearted fun.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, it will be very easy to get pulled off course this week. All you have to do is daydream for a while and time will fly. Make a to-do list so you can maintain your focus.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Stay put for a while, Pisces. Now is not a good time to make changes. Stick with what has been working for the time being.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 02/18/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000167-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Arthvr (Last) Alleyne. My present name is (First) Ronald (Middle) A (Last) Alleyne AKA Ronald Arthur Alleyne AKA Ronald Alleyne. My present address is 795 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203. My place of birth is Trinidad & Tobago. My date of birth is April 01, 1965.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Alternative Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-ALT1, Plaintiff, against Showkat Ara Rahman, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 7/15/2014 I, the under-

LEGAL

signed Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 03/05/2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 14 Tehama Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 5307, LOT: 62. Approximate amount of judgment \$591,459.86 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6101/09, Stephen V. Barbaro, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISSWEISMAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706 1127165 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 02/20/2015

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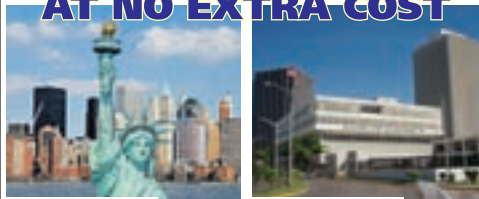
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