



March with Selma

Protesters in Brooklyn take to the streets in solidarity with the March in Selma, Alabama. **See story on page 18.**

Photo by Tequila Minsky

GUYANA ACTIVIST KILLED

Hint of violent election acts

By Bert Wilkinson

Just two days after former Guyanese president Bharrat Jagdeo openly played the race card to rally Indo supporters of the governing party, unidentified gunmen on Tuesday night executed a prominent opposition activist as he campaigned in a sprawling residential suburb outside the city in what is widely being regarded as the first major election violence in the 2015 electoral season.

Courtney Crum Ewing, 40, a businessman and former military officer was shot at least five times as he was using a loud hailer urging people in the Diamond-Grove community to vote out the People's Progressive Party in general elec-

tions set for May 11.

His death has come as no surprise to people who had been paying attention to Crum Ewing, a maverick political activist who had rattled school mate and Attorney General Anil Nandlall by staging nearly 80 days of a one-man protest outside Nandlall's chambers to protest alleged ills of the governing administration.

His protest also had much to do with an audio recording that the daily Kaieteur News Newspaper had released late last year in which the attorney general was heard threatening violent mayhem on the paper for daring to link him and a relative to a duty free vehicle

Continued on Page 5

Combating illegal home conversions

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Democratic Council Members Jumaane D. Williams and Vincent Gentile have tabled a bill in the City Council to combat illegal home conversions.

Williams, deputy leader

and chair of the Council's Housing and Buildings Committee, stood with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Gentile, deputy leader and chair of the Council's Oversight and Investigations Committee, and others to

announce legislation sponsored by the council members at the request of the borough president.

Williams said often times illegal home conversions do not have fire escapes and

Continued on Page 5

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McCray calls for women's equality

By Tangerine Clarke

First Lady of New York Chirlane McCray fired up thousands at a demonstration rally in the shadow of the United Nations in New York City, calling for women's equality on International Woman's Day, Sunday, March 8.

McCray, a self-professed feminist while addressing the crowd, said, "you are marching in the footsteps of generations of feminists, many who called New York City their home."

"International Women's Day started right here in 1908, 15,000 women marched through these streets, demonstrating for better pay, voting rights and shorter working hours," said the wife of Mayor Bill De Blasio.

"A lot has change since 1908, but New York is still a pioneer of women's rights," said McCray. She added, "Last November New York became the first U.S. city to join the safe cities global initiative of keeping all of our public spaces free from harassment."

Noting that Mayor De Blasio is a true believer of women power, McCray also called the rest of her family feminists.

She noted the mayor's groundbreaking initiatives including universal Pre-K, paid sick leave and an office to combat violence. This office, she added, served more than 36,000 people last year.

"This march started a century ago, but we still have a long way to go for equality, but we are going to get there, I know it," added McCray.

McCray who later joined the march, said, "Today we made history, tomorrow we start making a brighter future for our mothers, our sisters, our daughters and for our families." She shared the platform with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

Ban Ki Moon in turn shouted, we need global action, action! "Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder to demonstrate our commitment and solidarity," he said.



Caribbean women march at UN Women's Day Rally.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke



Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene (fourth from left) with members of the School Construction Authority and community leaders during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Miam Fayyaz School.

Photo courtesy of Council Member Mathieu Eugene

Groundbreaking ceremony for new school in Brooklyn

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene and the School Construction Authority (SCA) on Wednesday hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for P.S./I.S. 338 in Brooklyn.

The event was held at the construction site of the new Miam Fayyaz school on 510 Coney Island Avenue.

Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District, was joined at the ceremony by Lorraine Grillo, SCA president; Alvin Berk, chair, Community Board 14; District Manager Barry Spitzer, Community Board 12; Jacob Gold, district leader; Mohammad Razvi, executive director, Council of People's Organization; Shahid Khan, president, National Youth of Pakistan; Matthew Wolf, general manager, Kings Theatre; and Miam Fayyaz, director, Royal Community Care Center Director, as well as many

other government officials and community leaders.

The construction of P.S./I.S. 338 will begin in the spring of 2015, with a projected opening in September of 2017, Eugene said.

He said the school will be housed in a newly-constructed five-story building, with a seating capacity for 757 children ranging from pre-kindergarten through the 8th grade.

The facility will include two pre-kindergarten and three kindergarten classrooms, in addition to 29 standard classrooms, Eugene said.

He said P.S./ I.S. 338 will have a cafeteria and kitchen, medical office, library, gymnasium, guidance office and a parent/community room.

Additionally, Eugene said there will be specialized instructional spaces that will include a musical suite, art class-

room and an art workroom, as well as a science room with work stations for primary students and a science lab for intermediate students.

There will also be outdoor recreational spaces that will include an early childhood playground and a schoolyard for older students.

"I am so excited that there will be a new school in my district for primary and intermediate school children," Eugene said. "I am confident that the teachers will have the resources they need to provide their students with a fine education that will lead to academic achievement."

"There is nothing more important to a child than being in a setting that fosters educational and intellectual growth, and I believe that P.S./I.S. 338 will provide such an environment for its students," he added.

Bichotte endorses Richardson for 43rd A.D.

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Assemblymember Rodney Bichotte has endorsed Diana Richardson for the 43rd Assembly District of New York State special election.

The special election has been announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo for May 5, 2015. The 43rd Assembly District covers Crown Heights, Lefferts Gardens, Wingate and East Flatbush.

"Diana Richardson is the right candi-

date to replace outgoing Assemblymember Karim Camara," said Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn. "Diana is a lifelong resident of the 43rd Assembly District. She will work tirelessly on behalf of her constituency because she knows firsthand the economic and personal hurdles an individual can face and how to persevere in order to overcome."

"We need another legislator in Alba-

ny who will bring fresh ideas, the courage of her convictions and an unwavering devotion to her constituents and borough. And in Diana, we have just that," added the first Haitian American to be elected to the State Legislature. "The district will have dedicated, competent and compassionate leadership. I am eager to lend my time and efforts to helping Diana win the special election."

Caribbean

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) says it will form a commission to analyze the social, economic, health and legal impact of decriminalizing marijuana use. The announcement comes as CARICOM awaits a report on how medical marijuana could help boost the region's economy. The report will be released in February 2016. Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart said recently that leaders would not be rushed into a decision. He spoke at a two-day CARICOM Summit held in the Bahamas. Recently, Jamaica's parliament approved a bill that decriminalizes small amounts of marijuana and establishes a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry. Activists in St. Lucia and other Caribbean islands have been pushing to legalize marijuana use.



Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government says it has declined a request to grant visa-free entry to nationals of Taiwan. The government said the request had been made on Feb. 24 through the Secretariat of the St. Lucia-based Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Prime Minister Gaston Browne in a letter to OECS Director General, Dr. Didacus Jules, said Antigua and Barbuda is committed to a one-China policy and has "enjoyed unbroken and beneficial relations with the Peoples Republic of China." Therefore, the government of Antigua and Barbuda "respectfully declines the request." Director General of Communications in the Prime Minister's Office Maurice Merchant said the prime minister's statement as outgoing chairman of CARICOM does not dilute in any way the ongoing commitment of Antigua and Barbuda to a one-China policy and its relations with the People's Republic of China." The prime minister thanked Taiwan as well as China for their assistance to the region.



Bahamas

A Jamaican woman has filed a civil lawsuit in the Bahamas Supreme Court against senior government officials. The woman, who claimed that a Bahamian immigration officer raped her, is seeking damages for battery, assault, false imprisonment and the breach of her constitutional rights. In the writ, the attorney general, minister and director



Chic-V in the Caribbean

The recent epidemic of chikungunya in the Caribbean has been attributed in part to indiscriminate dumping of household garbage, as in this street in Curepe, Trinidad, thus providing breeding ground for mosquitoes that thrive under hot and wet conditions. **See story on page 24.**

Inter Press Service / Jewel Fraser

of immigration, as well as the commissioner of police, have been accused of being liable for the alleged unlawful conduct, committed by police and immigration officers in the incident. In her claim, the woman describes a crowded and filthy detention center with menstruating females left to bleed out on the floor and no sanitary napkins or washing facilities. Immigration officer Norman Bastain, who is facing rape charges, was named as the fifth defendant. The matter is set for preliminary hearing in May and June. The alleged incident occurred in December last year when the woman was detained and released after an immigration raid on a bar in Nassau. It is alleged that Bastain took the woman to his house, where he raped her before releasing her two days later.

Barbados

Barbados has placed a ban on the importation of all live birds, hatching eggs and on fresh, frozen and chilled poultry meat and products, including table eggs, originating from the North American states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California. It said this follows the confirmation of an outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 and H5N2 in backyard and commercial poultry



farms in the United States. The Ministry of Agriculture said the import restriction does not apply to commercial imports of products originated from the affected states that were produced before Jan. 1, 2015; nor to processed poultry products and by-products processed (heat treated) to ensure the destruction of the avian influenza virus. "Personal passenger imports of all fresh or cooked poultry products, with the exception of fully-cooked products in hermetically sealed packages are restricted from the United States as a whole," the ministry said.

Grenada

JetBlue has announced that its New York-Grenada service is officially out for sale. The twice-weekly service between New York's John F Kennedy Airport and Grenada's Maurice Bishop International Airport is slated to start on June 1, 2015. That will make JetBlue's 90th city. Umang Gupta, director for JetBlue Getaway and leisure sales said, "Grenada attracts travelers seeking a variety of activities, whether for adventure, family holiday or romance and we are excited to provide a new way for more travelers to discover this hidden Caribbean gem." In a statement, Grenada Tourism Minister Yolande Bain-Hors-



ford said the new service would "surely expand the opportunities for bringing travelers to our shores to discover and enjoy all that our beautiful islands have to offer."

Guyana

A Guyanese mother was arrested shortly after boarding a flight to New York after a search revealed she was allegedly carrying more than two kilos of cocaine. Head of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU), James Singh, said two other persons were arrested from an East Coast Demerara village in connection with the discovery of the drug. Singh said the 26-year-old mother of a seven-year-old child was nabbed before boarding a Fly Jamaica flight to the United States. She appeared in court recently and was remanded in custody until next week. Meanwhile, drug enforcement agents are said to be concerned that the High Court has granted GUY\$1 million bail to a Jamaican woman who excreted 49 pellets of cocaine that she was hoping to take back to her homeland. Alkeshia Anderson, 34, a hairdresser of Portmore, Kingston was arrested on Feb. 6, 2015 and charged with being in possession of 606 grams of cocaine. She was granted bail by a High Court two



Continued on Page 14

Illegal home conversions

Continued from cover

other emergency exits, which was the case in a recent two-alarm fire that occurred in an illegally converted unit above Eglise Baptiste Clarte Celeste Church on 1434 Flatbush Ave. in East Flatbush.

The press conference was held in front of the building's remains, where one of the victims said he was still displaced from the fire and was living on the street.

According to reports, the fire claimed the life of one community member, injured five and displaced 16.

After discussing the legislation to combat such fires, elected officials and activists encouraged community members to "change their clocks and change their smoke detector batteries," in an effort to protect tenants by passing out batteries provided by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) for daylight savings time.

"Illegal home conversions have been putting New Yorkers in harm's way for decades, especially in my district, where we have seen two major fires in converted apartments this past year alone," Williams said. "Our bill aims to comprehensively end this housing issue once and for all by introducing a number of penalties on bad-actor



From left: Council Member Vincent Gentile with Council Member Jumaane D. Williams and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

NYC Council / Ernest Skinner

landlords and gives building inspectors more resources to do their jobs efficiently and effectively."

"This bill is not aimed at homeowners with basement apartments, but at those who egregiously slice and dice units with no regard to the safety of their tenants," he added. "I would like to thank the Borough President and Council Member Gentile for working with me to combat illegal conversions, and look forward to getting this legislation through the Council quickly."

Opposition activist killed

Continued from cover

scandal that had thoroughly embarrassed the cabinet.

Crum Ewing had also beat a few breach of the peace criminal charges by police for staging the protest and had lodged formal complaints with cops about threats to his life.

It all ended in a hail of bullets as he moved around the district using his loudhailer.

News photographs sprawled across newspapers and social media showed him lying in a pool of blood on the roadway, the loud hailer just a yard away and blood flowing in various directions.

National Security Minister Clement Rohee ordered a full and immediate probe into his death but Nigel Hughes, the attorney and leading opposition figure who had stood by Crum Ewing during his criminal trials and had represented him free of cost, called for external investigators to probe his execution, fearing local sleuths would not do a good job and would take orders from politicians.

The APNU-AFC opposition alliance that is likely to defeat the PPP and has threatened to jail all corrupt officials and those with links to professional hitmen, immediately condemned the execution calling it an attempt by government to trigger reactionary protest that it would exploit to its benefit.

Some of the group's members railed

on Facebook and other outlets about a sinister PPP plan to trigger confusion to give it an excuse to postpone the elections.

And in a bizarre twist to all this, Minister Rohee said in his statement that he wondered if the murder had anything to do with the earlier Tuesday swearing in of Police Chief Seelall Persaud.

What the confirmation of a new police chief had to do with the political execution hours later left many baffled as it implied that the opposition would have killed one of its own and most fearless campaigners.

What the confirmation of a new police chief had to do with the political execution hours later left many baffled as it implied that the opposition would have killed one of its own and most fearless campaigners.

Still, the two major party groups are in full campaign mode and Tuesday night's execution will certainly raise the stakes just as Jagdeo openly played the race card to rally the 39.5 percent Indo population, some of whom will vote for the coalition and force the PPP to reach out to other groups to win a sixth consecutive term.

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New Vincentian group seeks to assist hometown

Former Kittian PM cries foul

By Azad Ali

Former Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas has blamed acts of sabotage for the defeat of his St. Kitts-Nevis Labor Party (SKNLP) in the Feb. 16 general election.

Dr. Douglas in his first news conference since Team Unity, a coalition of three political parties won seven of the 11 seats at stake in the general election, said that the sabotage had also extended to the flights carrying SKNLP supporters back to the twin-island federation to cast their ballots.

The former prime minister told reporters that the St. Kitts-Nevis constitution permits nationals residing overseas to return home to vote and that all political parties had encouraged their overseas supporters to do so in the past.

"The 2015 election was no exception," he said, noting that while every single plane bringing supporters of Team Unity had arrived on the island with no complications, "a series of highly concerning and downright creepy developments repeatedly botched the arrival of our planes."

He said the passenger lists changed "mysteriously and repeatedly right before the eyes of Labor supporters as they were waiting to board various flights home.

By Nelson A. King

A new group launched recently in Brooklyn is determined to uplift the image of the town of Calliaqua in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to help residents as much as possible.

The Calliaqua United Diaspora Organization (CUDO) was formally launched two Saturdays ago amid much fanfare at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

At that time, the group also held its first fund-raising event, with a "Back in Time" party.

"The event was well attended, and many of the individuals expressed future support for the Calliaqua United Diaspora Organization," said Garnes Byron, a popular Vincentian community advocate in New York, who heads the new group and is one of its founders, in an exclusive Caribbean Life interview.

"Calliaqua has always been at the forefront of the thoughts of 'Calliaquarians' in the Diaspora; and, for years, we had unsuccessfully tried to form a group," he added.

But Byron said the opportunity came last summer when a prominent Calliaqua native died, "and we seized the



Executive and members of the recently-formed Calliaqua United Diaspora Organization (CUDO). Photo courtesy of Calliaqua United Diaspora Organization

opportunity at her home-going celebration to acquire names of people to form an organization".

In November, he said their "dreams were finally realized when 18 enthusiastic citizens of Calliaqua came together, and the Calliaqua United Diaspora

Organization was formed."

Byron said the group's primary mission is to assist the southern most town and the surrounding community of East St. George through scholarships, health and elderly care, and cultural activities.

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Cumbo addresses district

By Tequila Minsky

Laurie Cumbo hit the ground running after she was installed as Council Member for the 35th District, last year. Cumbo followed Letitia James who is now the public advocate. Embedded in the community as founder and director of MOCDA (Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts located within the BAM Cultural District), Cumbo serves with an extensive background in the arts.

Her passionate supporters came out to the Brooklyn Museum, March 1, on a very snowy Sunday to celebrate her first year and hear her progress and vision.

Fort Greene resident Edna Grant was one of the many seniors who braved the weather. "She's doing a lot in the community. She comes by to see how the programs (in the senior centers) are going," she



Councilmember Laurie Cumbo talks about issues close to her heart, legislation at City Council and projects in the pipeline.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

said. Her friend Celina Lynch reiterated those sentiments, adding, "You see her face in the community and she does a lot with the youth."

After the welcome by National Blue Ribbon school

P.S. 11 student Mya Reed and the National Anthem was sung by firefighter Regina Wilson, an introduction was offered by Najay Royal who is a veteran workshop participant with the New York Writers Coalition.

CARICOM yet to decide nominees

By Azad Ali

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders have failed to agree on a single candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said.

The leaders, who met in the Bahamas recently for their 26th inter-session summit, said no agreement had also been taken regarding the position of Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

CARICOM Chairman and the Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie said the Community continues to review its position on that and "we know there are a number of candidates who have had their names put forward but we have not yet determined whether or not there will be a single candidate."

Prime Minister Browne told reporters that the failure to agree on a single candidate does not mean there is disunity

within the 15-member grouping on the issue or otherwise. It shows we have a large cadre of qualified candidates within the region. I believe of the three candidates that they all have the capacity of serving as Commonwealth Secretary General.

Antigua and Barbuda has named its High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Sir Ronald Sanders as its candidate, while Dominica has named the former British Attorney General Baroness Patricia Scotland as its choice.

Trinidad and Tobago has named its Planning and Development Minister Dr. Bhoewarie as its candidate to replace Kamalesh Sharma the former Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, who is ending his term as the Commonwealth Secretary General. The last Caribbean national to serve as Commonwealth Secretary General was the Guyana-born Sir Shiridath Ramphal.

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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A legally-binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons

By Ray Acheson

NEW YORK, March 6, 2015 (IPS) - Five years after the adoption of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) Action Plan in 2010, compliance with commitments related to nuclear disarmament lags far behind those related to non-proliferation or the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Yet during the same five years, new evidence and international discussions have emphasised the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the unacceptable risks of such use, either by design or accident.

Thus the NPT's full implementation, particularly regarding nuclear disarmament, is as urgent as ever. One of the most effective measures for nuclear disarmament would be the negotiation of a legally-binding instrument prohibiting and establishing a framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Not everyone sees it that way.

In fact, ahead of the 2015 Review Conference (scheduled to take place in New York April 27-May 22), the NPT nuclear-armed states and some of their nuclear-dependent allies have argued that any such negotiations would "undermine" the NPT and that the Action Plan is a long-term roadmap that should be "rolled over" for at least another review cycle.

This is an extremely retrogressive approach to what should be an opportunity for meaningful action. Negotiating an instrument to fulfill article VI of the NPT would hardly undermine the Treaty.

On the contrary, it would finally bring the nuclear-armed states into compliance with the legal obligations.

Those countries that possess or rely on nuclear weapons often highlight the importance of the NPT for preventing proliferation and enhancing security.

Yet these same countries, more than any other states parties, do the most to undermine the Treaty by preventing, avoiding, or delaying concrete actions necessary for disarmament.

It is past time that the NPT nuclear-armed states and their nuclear-dependent allies fulfill their responsibilities, commitments, and obligations—or risk undermining the very treaty regime they claim to want to protect.

Their failure to implement their commitments presents dim prospects for the future of the NPT. The apparent expectation that this non-compliance can continue in perpetuity, allowing not only for continued possession but also modernisation and deployment of nuclear weapon systems, is misguided.

The 2015 Review Conference
Continued on Page 12

Let's grant women land rights and power our future

By Monique Barbut

BONN, March 4, 2015 (IPS) - Women are not only the world's primary food producers. They are hard-working and innovative and, they invest far more of their earnings in their families than men. But most lack the single most important asset for accessing investment resources – land rights.

Women's resourcefulness is astonishing, but they are no fools. They invest their income where they are most likely to see returns, but not in the land they have no rights to. Land tenure is the powerful political tool that governments use to give or deny these rights. We are paying a high price for the failure to grant land rights to the women who play a vital role in agriculture.

Women produce up to 80 per cent of the total food and make up 43 per cent of the labour force in developing countries. Yet 95 per cent of agricultural education programmes exclude them. In Yazd, the 'desert capital' of Iran, for example, women have invented a method to produce food in underground tunnels.

In Asia and Africa, a woman's weekly work is up to 13 hours longer than a man's. Furthermore, women spend nearly all their earnings on their families, whereas men divert a quarter of their income to other expenses. But most have no rights to the land they till.

Land rights level the playing field by giving both men and women the same access to vital agricultural resources. The knock-on effect is striking. Granting land rights to women can raise farm production by

Women spend nearly all their earnings on their families... but most have no rights to the land they till.

20-30 per cent in developing countries, and increase a country's total agricultural production by up to 4 per cent.

This is critical at a time when we are losing 12 million hectares of fertile land each year, but need to raise our food production by up to 70 per cent by 2050 due to population growth and consumption trends – not to mention climate change.

But what is land tenure exactly? Land tenure works like a big bundle of sticks, with each stick representing a particular right. There are five important sticks in the bundle; the sticks to access, to use, to manage land independently, to exclude and to alienate other users. The more sticks a land user has in the bundle, the more motivated they are to nourish and support the land.

The failure to grant these rights, not just to poor, rural land users, but to women as well, means fertile land is exploited to barrenness. With rising competition over what little is available, conflicts are inevitable.

In rural Latin America, only 25 per cent of the land holdings are owned by women. This drops to 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and to less than 5 per cent in western Asia and northern Africa. These are shocking figures, and yet they may be even more optimistic than the reality.

A recent study in Uganda, for instance, shows that even when men and women nominally jointly own land, the woman's name may not appear in any of the documentation. If a husband dies, divorces or decides to sell the land, his wife has no recourse to asserting her land rights.

Women are grimly aware that without land rights, they could lose their land to powerful individuals at any moment. Where, then, is the incentive to invest in the land; especially if you're hungry now? Instead, those without rights take what they can from the land before they move to greener pastures. This adds to the unfortunate, yet preventable, spiral of land degradation.

At least 500 million hectares of previously fertile agricultural land is abandoned. And with less than 30 per cent of the land in developing world under secure tenure, there is little hope that these trends will change. The lack of secure land tenure remains a vital challenge for curbing land degradation in developing countries.

Among the rural poor, men are often the main beneficiaries. But granting land rights to both men and women will narrow inequalities and benefit us all.

In Nepal, women with strong property rights tend to be food secure, and their children are less likely to be underweight. In Tanzania, women with property rights are earning up to three times more income. In India, women who own land are eight times less

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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CEO: Les Goodstein
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER: Jennifer Goodstein
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ralph D'Onofrio
EDITOR EMERITUS: Kenton Kirby
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams

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

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In home stretch, the president shifts gears

The political calculus always made a GOP-dominated Congress an even possibility following the 2014 mid-term elections. Republicans saw where tapping into the historic pattern of malaise among the Democratic base in off-year elections could produce dividends, and they did just that. The president, no political neophyte by any means and very much aware of those dynamics, began sporting a new mojo even before the GOP-dominated face of Capitol Hill became reality. There was a bold, muscular tone when he spoke to issues like raising the minimum wage or immigration or education or equal pay for women.

The president seemed to speak with conviction when asserting that people who were willing to work full-time should not be paid a wage that left them below the poverty line, as he made the case for increasing the federal minimum wage from the current \$7.25 per hour. Likewise was there evidenced a determination we weren't quite used to when he announced plans for

the executive order on immigration to remedy a situation that caused families to be separated. And in education, when he proposed tax relief for the families of students attending community college, it was another instance of Obama directing his attention to the concerns of people on the lower economic rungs that frankly did not hitherto much get to center stage in the vistas defined by this president.

The emphasis clearly was, with Obama, on continued strengthening of the middle class, reflecting a belief that a buoyant middle class is one of the most important drivers for the American economy remaining viable. This seemingly low-grade highlighting of issues relative to the poor had earlier taken some flak from the president's side of the tracks, notably from Princeton University's Cornel West, who has accused Obama of being too beholden to Wall Street for economic change to take place that positively impacts the society's most vulnerable.

Whether or not that projection of seeming short shrift

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

paid to problems affecting the poor was something forced onto his radar by blowback coming from West and a few others, we don't know. But we suspect that when, for instance,

The president knows one thing for sure: there is precious little, if anything at all, emanating from the White House on which he is likely to get cooperation from the twin-headed monster that is Capitol Hill.

an event comes around like last week's 50th anniversary of the Selma march, that provides Obama with an opportunity to identify massively with the Black experience in America, it's hard to imagine

him not being conscious of what's at stake, in terms of his relationship with the Black community. This, after all, is a president who for six years has had but one frontline African-American cabinet officer (Eric Holder) in his administration. But, no surprise, he did deliver an excellent address in Selma. And here too, the speech, while duly acknowledging the sacrifice made during the civil rights struggles, also wasn't short on swinging for the fences. Like imploring his audience to get on their Congressional representatives to renew the voting rights legislation that was passed over such brutal opposition back in the 60s and which so many states have lately gutted. Or when he spoke eloquently about African Americans' love of this country, in a not-too-veiled reference to Rudolph Giuliani's idiotic remark questioning the president's patriotism. But it was, again, Obama picking certain spots in which to be robustly presidential. And evidently loving it.

The president knows one thing for sure: there is pre-

cious little, if anything at all, emanating from the White House on which he is likely to get cooperation from the twin-headed monster that is Capitol Hill. A raised minimum wage will bust the economy, say Republicans. The Chamber of Commerce, ritual supporters of the GOP, sees the president's action to give legal status to thousands of undocumented immigrants as a positive economic move; not so the GOP, in its strident opposition. And given the hardliners that now constitute the GOP mainstream, good luck with any current-day voting rights action.

As his thoughts turn in the home stretch of his tenure to legacy, President Obama has apparently decided that Republicans arrayed in numbers he has not previously seen in Washington will be no impediment to burnishing his image. That the opposition will continue attempting to thwart him every step of the way is a given. As a tactic, though, this is hardly sufficient to compromise the Obama legacy.

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OP-EDS

Treaty to ban nuclear weapons

Continued from page 10

will provide an opportunity for other governments to confront and challenge this behaviour and to demand concerted and immediate action. This is the end of a review cycle; it is time for conclusions to be drawn.

States parties will have to not only undertake a serious assessment of the last five years but will have to determine what actions are necessary to ensure continued survival of the NPT and to achieve all of its goals and objectives, including those on stopping the nuclear arms race, ceasing the manufacture of nuclear weapons, preventing the use of nuclear weapons, and eliminating existing arsenals.

The recent renewed investigation of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is a good place to look for guidance. The 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons."

Since then, especially at the series of conferences hosted by Norway, Mexico, and Austria, these consequences have increasingly become a focal point for discussion and proposed action.

Governments are also increasingly raising the issue of humanitarian impacts in traditional forums, with 155 states signing a joint statement at the 2014 session of the UN General Assembly highlighting the unacceptable harm caused by nuclear weapons and calling for action to ensure they are never used again, under any circumstances.

The humanitarian initiative has provided the basis for a new momentum on nuclear disarmament. It has involved new types of actors, such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and a new generation of civil society campaigners.

The discussion around the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be fully supported by all states parties to the NPT.

The humanitarian initiative has also resulted in the Austrian Pledge, which

commits its government (and any countries that wish to associate themselves with the Pledge) to "fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons."

As of February 2015, 40 states have endorsed the Pledge. These states are committed to change. They believe that existing international law is inadequate for achieving nuclear disarmament and that a process of change that involves stigmatising, prohibiting, and eliminating nuclear weapons is necessary.

This process requires a legally-binding international instrument that clearly prohibits nuclear weapons based on their unacceptable consequences. Such a treaty would put nuclear weapons on the same footing as the other weapons of mass destruction, which are subject to prohibition through specific treaties.

A treaty banning nuclear weapons would build on existing norms and reinforce existing legal instruments, including the NPT, but it would also close loopholes in the current legal regime that enable states to engage in nuclear weapon activities or to otherwise claim perceived benefit from the continued existence of nuclear weapons while purporting to promote their elimination.

NPT states parties need to ask themselves how long we can wait for disarmament. Several initiatives since the 2010 Review Conference have advanced the ongoing international discussion about nuclear weapons.

States and other actors must now be willing to act to achieve disarmament, by developing a legally-binding instrument to prohibit and establish a framework for eliminating nuclear weapons. This year, the year of the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is a good place to start.

Edited by Kitty Stapp

Ray Acheson is the Director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Granting women land rights

Continued from page 10

likely to experience domestic violence. The social gains from secure land tenure are vast.

For years, women have dealt with land degradation and fed the world

without the support they need. Imagine how granting them land rights could power our future. Let's mark this year's International Women's Day by shouting the loudest for the land rights of rural women.

Edited By Kitty Stapp

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

weeks later. Authorities observed that the woman was granted pre-trial liberty although she is not a permanent resident in Guyana or had other ties to the country. Law enforcement agents are unsure whether she is still in the country.

Jamaica

There have been 14 notifications of chikungunya (Chick-V) related deaths to the Ministry of Health. Two were confirmed positive, one confirmed negative, and the others remain under investigation. This was revealed by the Ministry of Health recently following a report in *The Gleaner* on growing public concerns about Chik-V related deaths.



Doctors and the public have been reporting that a considerable number of persons have died after contracting Chik-V then developing complications due to pre-existing medical conditions.

The public has been expressing concern that the ministry has not been revealing the true data on the impact of Chik-V, which has rocked Jamaica over the last eight months. In a media release, acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marion Bullock Ducasse said the ministry is aware of reports in the press indicating that persons had died

of Chik-V. He said the cause of death would have to be looked at. Some people may have had a chronic illness and Chik-V would cause more severe symptoms, but not necessarily cause their death," he said.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia police say they are investigating a scam that resulted in at least 16 people from Nepal and the Philippines falling prey to an Internet scam. A member of the group, Niranjan Neubana from Nepal told reporters that he had traveled to St. Lucia with dreams of acquiring an education in hospitality management and a promise of a job in the United States upon completion of a one-year course at an academy in St. Lucia. Instead, he and his group have been left stranded at a guesthouse at Gros Islet north of Castries. They were promised by an agent in their homeland of an education at Lambirds Academy in Gros Islet. Members of the group each paid US\$13,000 to get to St. Lucia, in addition to US\$9,000 to an individual claiming to represent Lambirds to secure their place at the academy. Neuban said when they turned up at the Lambirds Academy they found the place closed. They were told by the police that they had been duped.



— compiled by Azad Ali

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Bichotte endorses Richardson for 43rd A.D.

Richardson is a Crown Heights native from Brooklyn's West Indian community. Her work has focused on community organizing and local empowerment to help her neighbors and their neighborhoods develop the means to advocate on key issues.

She is the strategic partnerships and education director for Boys Town, and previously served as the director of constituent affairs to State Sen. Kevin Parker, representative for the 21st Senatorial District.

A proud graduate of New York City's public schools and public universities, Bichotte said Richardson's campaign will focus on several issues that she identified as critical to the lifeblood of the 43rd Assembly District: Senior services and resource provision; youth services; housing; economic development and zoning; and healthcare.

From past campaigns, her time as Sen. Parker's constituent services director and her involvement with Community Board 9, particularly her land use and rezoning work, Richardson has dealt with the impact each issue has on the well-being of the 43rd Assembly District, Bichotte said.

"She brings all of this experience to



Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte (left) and Diana Richardson for 43rd Assembly District.

Photo courtesy of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte

bear and intends to focus on the key issues that will ensure that all communities experience a better quality of life," said Bichotte, who represents the Brooklyn communities of Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood.

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Lady Day induction to Apollo Walk Of Fame

By Vinette K. Pryce

It's hard to imagine the inimitable Billie Holiday at 100 years of age.

Images of a fresh gardenia in her hair, a sassy sway of her hips; smooth, sensuous sounds from her jazzy repertoire and the Diana Ross film "Lady Sings The Blues" makes it difficult to perceive the talented singer a centenarian.

However, had she survived past age 44, the legendary singer might be now planning her 100th birthday fete.

In her absence, the April 7 birth date will be marked at the Apollo Theater by two significant events slated to laud the achievements she accomplished during her short-lived career and also herald the landmark showplace she performed 23 times.

"It is an honor to celebrate Billie Holiday and her many contributions to the jazz and blues world, on her centennial birthday," Mikki Shepard, executive producer for the Apollo Theater said.

On the eve of the late singer's special day, Holiday will be inducted into the Apollo Walk of Fame joining the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Louis Armstrong, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Little Richard, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Michael Jackson, Etta James, Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Quincy Jones, Aretha Franklin, Celia Cruz and other legends

"The Walk of Fame is our way of paying tribute to the Apollo Legends who have transformed the American entertainment landscape. Billie Holiday without a doubt is the personification of this. Her voice and presence permeated mainstream culture which lead to her becoming the most influential jazz singer of her day and among the most esteemed vocalist of the century. These initiatives serve as part of the Apollo's mission to use its legacy to inform and support contemporary artists."

Born Eleanora Fagan, Holiday had a special relationship with the Harlem landmark theatre dating back to the founding year of 1934. The then, 19-year-old performed "If the Moon Turns Green" and "The Man I Love" to an entranced crowd.

Over the course of her career, Lady Day would go on to perform at the iconic venue at least 23 times.

In the late 1940s, after she lost her New York City cabaret card, the Apollo remained one of the few NYC ven-

Continued on Page 27



It's a family affair when it comes to activism. Mom (center) Mercedes Narcisse with daughters Samantha (left) and Britnee. These Brooklyn residents hold their Selma march signs. Photo by Tequila Minsky

New Yorkers march in solidarity with Selma

By Tequila Minsky

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, civil rights activist Norman Siegel, Karen Daughtry and State Senator Jesse Hamilton walked arm in arm over the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday along with hundreds of others. Those who couldn't make it to Selma, Alabama to mark the historic 50th anniversary of "Sunday Bloody Sunday" marched symbolically on Saturday.

"We're fighting now for not just civil rights but human rights," said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams at the rally at the Manhattan foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, prior to the march.

Mayor Dinkins, New York's first Black mayor reminded the crowd what courage it took for the marchers to take that walk. "We think it's important that people not forget Bloody Sunday. You'd be surprised how many young people don't know."

Fifty years ago on March 7, 1965, John Lewis, SNCC and SCLC activists and other supporters of Black voting rights — a total of 600 — peacefully walked two-by-two on the sidewalk of the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River.

The march was a response to the shooting death of Jimmy Lee Jackson by a state trooper at an earlier protest for voter rights at the Dallas County Courthouse and a continuing commitment to the voter rights' cause. State troopers and police waited at



A bass and snare drum band kept the beat while walking over the Brooklyn Bridge. Photo by Tequila Minsky

the end of the bridge. Refusing to turn back, the marchers were subjected to tear gas and brutal beatings, all recorded by the media.

The violence televised around the world and the continued pressure on politicians led to the federal Voting Rights Act passed Aug. 6, 1965.

A brilliant sun shone on the marchers who walked four abreast on the bridge. Their signs read: "Selma is everywhere" and "We March With Selma." Many local politicians and activists were among those of all ages walking. A bass and snare drum band provided youthful rhythms for the march.

On the Brooklyn side, marchers walked to Brooklyn Borough Hall, where they congenially waited for almost two

hours to hear President Obama's address projected over TV monitors.

John Lewis, who has been a congressman from Georgia since 1987, spoke before the president. He evoked the sacrifice of Jimmy Lee Johnson and how the people were inspired to do what they were called to do resulting in their vicious beatings.

The gathering of New Yorkers was clearly moved. "The country will never be the same from what happened on this bridge," he said, recounting how eight days later President Johnson made the speech how this was a time when history and fate were meeting together. Five months later, the Voting Rights Act was passed.

President Obama began his speech. "It is a rare honor in this life to follow one of your heroes. And John Lewis is one of my heroes."

"The air was thick with doubt, anticipation, and fear," he said of the time just before the marchers began to walk.

The president took us through the civil rights heroes of those days and how we were celebrating them and the ordinary Americans who marched and led the nation and who were just seeking equal treatment.

The president's oratory was so moving that audience members were brought to tears at times, to shouts and applause at other times.

As voting rights are at risk in some

Continued on Page 27

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Vincentians get tips on US immigration

By Nelson A. King

At a time when immigration reform is on the front burner of the Obama administration's agenda, Vincentians and other Caribbean nationals in the New York metropolitan area last Saturday received extraordinary advice on burning immigration issues from a United States immigration official.

The official, Shyconia Burden, community services relations officer at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), at 26 Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan, spoke at a "Vincylime" forum at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

Burden told participants that, while U.S. President Barack Obama has made immigration reform the centerpiece of his second and last term in office, the United States Congress has the ultimate say in shaping the nation's immigration laws.

"In order for immigration law to take effect, the U.S. Congress has to approve [it]," said Burden, who was invited to



Attorney Curlina Edwards (L) reads questions from audience while Shyconia Burden, USCIS community services relations officer, listens at the immigration forum.

speak at the event that was organized by the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers in conjunction with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines New York Consulate General, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Diaspora Committee of New York, and the Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO), the umbrella Vincentian group in the U.S.

"I can't specify what on immigration the president can

do and what Congress can do," she, however, added.

But Burden took pains to address in detail participants' concerns on myriad immigration matters.

Though the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is primarily responsible for deportation, an immigration judge makes the final decision on an immigrant's removal from the U.S., she said.

"I can say no one can be

removed from the U.S. without an order from an immigration judge," Burden said.

She said that while U.S. citizen children, who are unemployed, can sponsor a relative, USCIS requires a joint sponsor in doing so.

"Someone has to show that they have 120 percent income above the poverty level," said Burden, adding that the immigration law also allows one to get a green card if he/she presents US\$500,000.

She dismissed suggestions that the immigration process could be discriminatory to Blacks and other minorities, saying: "We have never been accused of approving a case based on race."

In filing to regularize one's immigration status, through marriage, "the burden of proof is that the marriage is bona fide," the USCIS official said.

She said the applicant must furnish sound evidence to prove that the marriage is bona fide, such as a joint bank account, place of abode and life insurance policy.

If a discrepancy arises in the course of an interview, to regu-

larize one's status, Burden said a more "in depth" one will be scheduled.

"There are safeguards to ensure interviews are [well done]," she said. "If you [interviewee] felt you did not get anywhere, speak with the supervisor. If you're denied, we'll tell you to appeal."

Burden said the names of one's children must be listed when initially filing for a green card, warning that an application can be denied to children if they were omitted from the parent's original application.

"If the name is not on the birth certificate, we ask for DNA," she said, stating that USCIS keeps record of all applicants dating back to over 100 years.

Newly-elected Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson has also warned immigrants about fraudulent activities by those posing as licensed attorneys or accredited immigration assistance service providers.

"Be careful with scam artists that would do what it takes to take your money," said Thompson in a leaflet distributed at the forum.

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Public Advocate Letitia James is expected to deliver one of the keynote addresses. Photo by Cate Dingley

Black Women's Empowerment Conference

By Nelson A. King

As part of Women's History Month celebrations, the Caribbean Research Center (CRC) at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College will on March 21 host its Fourth Annual Black Women's Empowerment Conference.

The all-day conference, which will be held under the theme, "Preserving the Black Family of New York City," takes place in the college's S Building on Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn.

The event honors the legacy of late U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, whose parents were from Barbados and Guyana, and whose husband was Jamaican.

"This is our fourth year in looking at issues that impact Black women in Brooklyn, especially Central Brooklyn, especially at a time when so many turbulent issues are affecting our community, such as immigration," Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, a former City Councilwoman who chairs the center's Advisory Board, told Caribbean Life.

Clarke will be among a host of distinguished speakers at the conference that, besides the CRC, is sponsored by Black Women for Fairness, Justice & Equity; Health First; Emblem Health; the School Construction Authority; and the National Association of University Women.

Dr. George Irish, co-founder and CRC chair center, who is also dean in the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Medgar Evers College, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Dr. Augustine Okereke, provost at Medgar Evers College, and Clarke will deliver opening remarks.

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James and City Council Speaker Melissa Marks will also deliver the morning's keynote addresses.

A forum on Sustainable Development, Economic Development and Affordable Housing will be co-moderated by Dr. JoAnne Rolle, dean of Medgar Evers College's School of Business, and Dr. Waldaba Stewart, a CRC co-founder and professor at Medgar Evers College.

Panelists at this forum include Alicia Glen, Deputy Mayor, Housing and Economic Development; City Councilman Jumaane Williams, chair of the Council's Housing Committee; Tracey Capers, executive vice president, Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation; Councilman Robert Cornegy, chair, City Council Small Business Committee; and Attorney Tremaine Wright, chairwoman of Community Board 3.

Other forum topics comprise: Immigration Reform, Civic Engagement and Census 2020; Black Women: Criminal Justice, Domestic Violence, Health and Mental Health; The UPK to College Pipeline; and Employment and Economic Empowerment.

Luncheon keynote speakers include Dr. Rudolph Crew, president of Medgar Evers College; US Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke; and New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Travis Bassett.

New York City First Lady Chirlaine McCray and Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson will be among other panelists.

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District and nominee for U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina will deliver closing remarks.

Newly-elected Haitian American Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bischoffe and Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, who was also recently elected, will be honored at a reception following the event.

Prostate Cancer: Stop It Before It's too Late

Reading newspaper articles can be fun, interesting, and entertaining, but can it save your life or the life of your loved ones?

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2014, about 233,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and about 29,480 men will die of prostate cancer. About 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men.

Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.*

In this article, we seek advice from award winning doctors at Prostate Center of Accord Physicians, general urologist Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe and two urological surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two are recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists since 2009.

They will tell us how to detect prostate cancer in its earliest stage and successfully fight it.

Doctors, what are the symptoms of prostate cancer? Can a man diagnose himself for this disease?

Unfortunately, prostate cancer

will usually not exhibit outward symptoms in its early stages, so the patient is often not aware of the presence of a tumor. Because it is important to diagnose this disease before any symptoms occur, men over age 45 are strongly encouraged to undergo an elective urological examination at least once a year.

How do you diagnose prostate cancer?

The first step in diagnosing prostate cancer is analyzing PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in blood. If cancer is suspected, a biopsy will be advisable, since it is the only test that can fully confirm the diagnosis of prostate cancer. At Prostate Center of Accord Physicians, doctors can perform a biopsy under anesthesia directly on premises.

Prostate Center of Accord Physicians's in-house specialized laboratory enables our certified and astute pathologist to quickly and accurately study prostate cells, shortening your diagnosis and treatment time.

Given the complexity of the diagnosis and of prostate cancer in general, we urge readers to be tested only using modern equipment at the most up-to-date clinics, such as Prostate Center of Accord Physicians.

What is the most effective method of treatment offered at the Prostate Center?

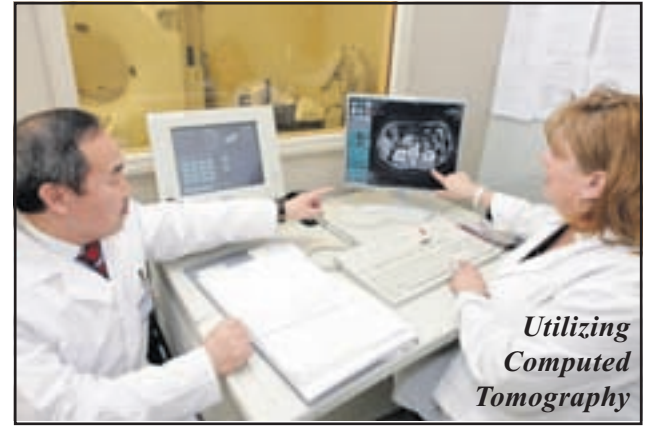
When choosing a method of treatment, we take into account the

stage of the cancer, the patient's age, risk of complications, as well as the wishes of the patient. There are a number of proven treatment options available, including radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and surgical treatment.

To date, the most effective method of combating prostate cancer is radiation therapy. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is a unique type of radiation therapy offered at Prostate Center which involves the use of computed tomography (CT) to carefully pinpoint and map the exact 3-Dimensional shape of the tumor. The software carefully calculates the dose intensity pattern that will best conform to the tumor shape. IMRT allows for more effective radiation to the prostate, while minimizing exposure to adjacent normal tissues. With a radiation oncologist with over 30 years of experience and the most modern treatment and diagnostic tools, Prostate Center of Accord Physicians is a leader in the fight against prostate cancer.

What would you say to men suffering from prostate cancer?

Being diagnosed with prostate cancer doesn't mean you should give up and stop fighting. Prostate Center of Accord Physicians can successfully treat this type of cancer if it is diagnosed in its early stages. Our treatment can prolong the lives of prostate cancer patients



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We recommend that all men be more attentive to their health and to seek professional medical help when symptoms first develop.

*Information via the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.



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Chikungunya thrives with climate variability

By Jewel Fraser

TRINIDAD, Feb. 20, 2015 (IPS) - Jenny had gone to bed feeling well, but an hour into her sleep she suddenly awoke with a "stiff, cramping pain" behind one knee. Within the next hour the pains had multiplied and both knees began to lock, followed by stiffened fingers and pains in her chest, along with a fever.

Jenny Gittens, 61, described her experience with chikungunya over the next two weeks as marked by excruciating pain. "If I had a choice between chikungunya and having to deliver a baby I would go for the baby pains, it was that bad," Gittens, a mother of two from Trinidad, said.

Over the following days she developed a rash that lasted for a few days and pains in her collar bone that left her bent over. "I just could not straighten up...You can't turn, you just lie there. It was really excruciating," she told IPS.

Though Gittens' case

was unconfirmed, it fit the description of chikungunya, the mosquito-borne disease whose name comes from an African word meaning "bent over with pain."

According to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), as of Feb. 7 this year, there were a total of 4,485 confirmed/probable cases of chikungunya, and just over 87,000 suspected cases in CARPHA's 24 member states comprising Caribbean nations.

Throughout the Americas, with the exception of the U.S., there were more than 800,000 suspected cases. There were 21,000 confirmed or probable cases including figures for the United States.

The illness, which is borne by two types of mosquitoes, is transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito in the Caribbean, said Dr. Dave Chadee, an entomologist and professor of environmental health at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, in Trinidad.

BOOK REVIEW

Josephine Baker's many faces

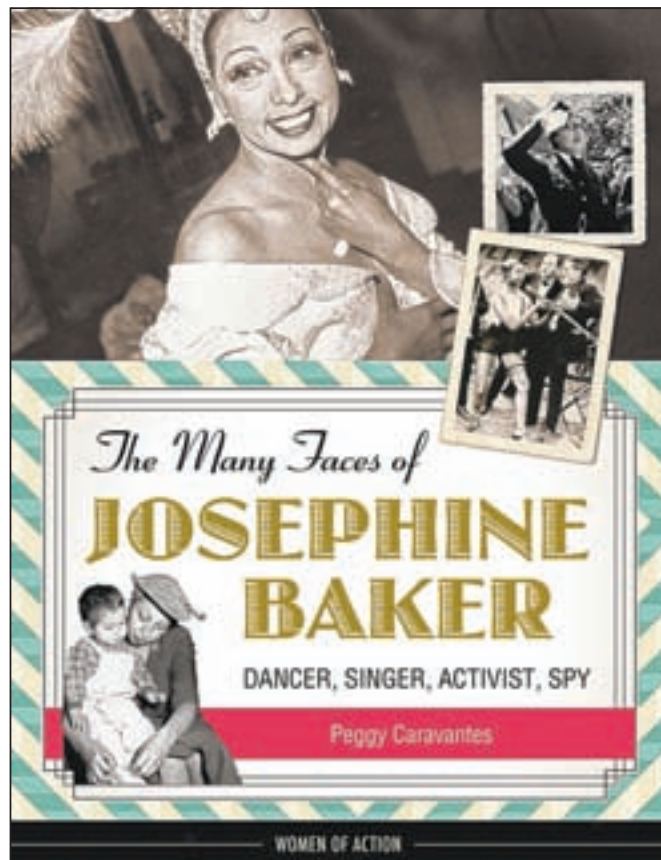
"The Many Faces of Josephine Baker" by Peggy Caravantes c.2015, Chicago Review Press \$19.95 / \$23.95 Canada 195 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You are a kid with determination.

You set your sights on something, and it's done. You don't waste any time, don't mess around — you want it and you'll have it, one way or another.

For one little girl back in the early 1900s, it was the same: she knew she was going to be somebody, no question. And in the new book "The Many Faces of Josephine Baker" by



Cover art for the book "The Many Faces of Josephine Baker." Photo courtesy of Chicago Review Press

Peggy Caravantes, you'll read When Freda Josephine Continued on Page 26

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US firm to aid Jamaican cannabis market

By Nelson A. King

A communications and marketing firm in Denver, Colorado says it is ready to provide services to the “newly-minted” Jamaican cannabis market.

Claiming to be advisor for cannabis reform in Jamaica, the Cannabis Global Initiative (CGI) said it is now offering a “full suite of services” to assist companies wanting to be among the first to do legal cannabis business in the Caribbean, and has opened a second office in Kingston, the Jamaican capital.

Legislation to make provisions for ganja reform was approved by the Jamaican Cabinet and tabled in the Senate in January 2015.

This Bill, the Dangerous Drugs Act 2015, and popularly called the Ganja Bill, opened the door to the emergence of new financial and commercial opportunities for companies who want to do business in Jamaica, CGI said.

“We work with businesses, municipalities, policymakers, and other cannabis-related entities in local, national, and international markets,” it said.

“Our team is highly specialized in all aspects of cannabis and have expert inside knowledge and experience on the regulatory framework which can be customized for most municipalities,” it added.

Since 2009, CGI said it has worked to bring regulation, decriminalization and retail sales to Colorado, and has been “at the forefront of creating the laws and regulation surrounding medicinal, edible and now legal cannabis.”

“With the opening of its second office and CGI’s longstanding relationships with the Jamaican government, policy stakeholders and the growing community, CGI is prepared to advise companies with placing their products and/or services in the first Caribbean country to legalize marijuana for medicinal use,” the statement said.

TessMaria Leon, director of client services for CGI’s Caribbean team, heads CGI’s Kingston office.

“We’ve created a robust offering to ensure the best companies are being represented and positioned correctly to do business in the Caribbean,” said CGI President Wanda James. “CGI has created a number of packages with several levels of service designed to introduce cannabis-related businesses to Jamaican culture, lifestyle and business infrastructure.”

For example, she said CGI’s “Genesis Package” offers businesses a comprehensive, highly-personalized introduction to Jamaica including meetings with key industry representatives.

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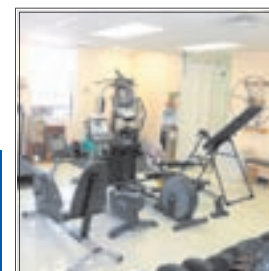
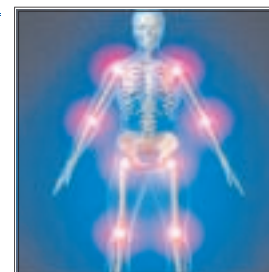
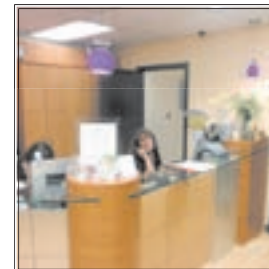
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Jamaican teen wins Pan-Am Fencing Championship

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaicans can claim another victory.

Their 15-year-old, Tia Simms-Lynn snatched the gold at the Cadet Junior Pan-American Fencing Championships in Toronto, Canada and is now the first of her gender from the island to be crowned a Pan-American champion.

Prior to the 20-nation contest, the teenager was ranked number seven in the women's duel which requires command of a specific sword technique in fencing known as epee.

Competing against the best fencers from 20 countries from the region, Simms-Lynn beat Canada's best – Alexanne Verret to claim the title.

A release from the Jamaican Fencing Federation said Tia first faced the 10th ranked fencer, Catalina Leiva of Chile.

She beat her 15-6 to advance to the next round.

Next she defeated Monica

Lubczynski of Puerto Rico 15-13.

It was that win at a close margin that secured her a place in the final.

From there, she dashed all hopes for Canada retaining the coveted top position by beating the number one seed by an impressive 11-9.

Executing "a mature display of craftsmanship and artistry," the young champion made history for her tiny island.

Now ranked number two in England where Simms-Lynn was born, in Jamaica she is number one, pioneer, role model and champion.

The JFF statement said the organization was encouraged by the gold and will continue to introduce the sport in schools.

It added that they will move "aggressively to inaugurate a school competition in the last quarter of this year."

"There are also plans to engage an overseas expert as



Fifteen-year-old Tia Simms-Lynn crowned Pan-American champion. Photo courtesy of www.plymouthherald.co.uk

the national coach by the end of March, but funding remains a challenge."

"Interest, however, in the sport in Jamaica is steadily growing and with fencing role models such as Tia, it may very well be one of the disciplines that will blaze the trail in the future."

Other potential winners on the horizon to represent the island include: Caitlin Chang, Allison Miller, and Donovan Deans.

Baker

Continued from page 24

McDonald was born in June 1906, her family had almost nothing.

They lived in "a succession of run-down, rat-infested dwellings" and her mother took in whatever work she could find to make ends meet while she took her frustrations out on her daughter. When she was just seven years old, Josephine's mother decided that Josephine had to go find a job.

At age 13, Josephine was married for the first time and was single again a few months later. Around that time, she met some traveling musicians and their fame seemed awfully appealing. Josephine decided to go with them on their next tour.

On the few days that she actually attended school, Josephine was a "class clown" who loved to act goofy. That's what she did in on her stage debut and audiences loved her. It was what eventually gave her the stardom she craved.

From St. Louis to Philadelphia (where she married Willie Baker at age 15) to New York, Josephine became such an attraction that she

was hired for a major production in Paris. She wasn't sure she wanted to go, but racial issues were nearly nonexistent in France. In the end, she went to Paris. It was the best decision she ever made.

Parisians loved Josephine Baker, and she loved them back. Even as she traveled the world (including back to Missouri, where racism was as fierce as ever), she always returned to France. That was where she made her home, where she raised her "Rainbow Tribe," and it was where she put herself in danger during World War II...

In her note at the open of this book, author Peggy Caravantes says that that few know the truth about Josephine Baker's life. Caravantes admits that she "struggled" in researching this memoir — and that admission, right from the beginning, sets the tone of "The Many Faces of Josephine Baker."

Add in the many references to Baker's sexuality, and parents of 10-to-13-year-olds may want to use caution with this book. Look through "The Many Faces of Josephine Baker" before you hand it to your child. You may determine that it's not for her.

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BOOK REVIEW

author Angella Ricot follows a beautiful heroine through the political intrigues of the 1990s and early 2000s as she finds herself in the center of a political scandal that threatens to consume her.

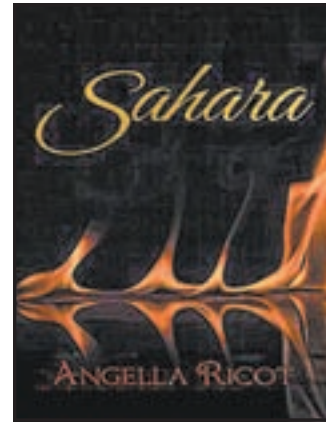
When Sahara and her two sisters overhear their father sell them into prostitution, they realize they must take their fates

into their own hands. Before they can escape, a terrible fire breaks out, killing two of the sisters. The only survivor, Sahara, leaves the exotic Caribbean island of Labadee for New York.

The beautiful and beguiling Sahara becomes a successful gold thief who soon finds herself caught up in a political power play. Her path crosses with those

of President Bill Clinton, drug lord Giovanni Buccellini and the al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, but Sahara’s wits and charms might not be enough to save her from the scandal about to engulf the country.

Packed with romance and mystery, “Sahara” weaves an enthralling, sensual tale that captures the politics of the 1990s and 2000s. Ricot hopes to force readers out of their comfort zones and realize that they are masters of their own destinies.



Induction

Continued from page 18
ues where Holiday could perform.

Steven Salm, a managing partner with handlers of her legacy will accept the honor on behalf of The Estate Of Billie Holiday.

Musician / singer Cassandra Wilson and Apollo president and CEO Jonelle Procope will present the legendary singer’s Walk of Fame plaque during a ceremony prior to its installation underneath the Apollo’s marquee on 125th street.

Coinciding with the induction, Wilson, a two-time Grammy winning jazz and blues singer will release her new album “Coming Forth By Day” on the actual April 7 birthday.

“This record is a vehicle for the re-emergence of Billie’s songbook in the 21st century,” Wilson

said.

Featuring original interpretations of 11 songs that Holiday recorded over the course of her career and an original by Wilson called “Last Song (For Lester)” the album “is an homage dedicated to the beauty, power, and genius of Billie Holiday. A collection of musical spells, prescriptions for navigating the dubious myths surrounding her life and times.”

On April 10, “Cassandra Wilson: A Celebration of Billie Holiday” will continue the revelry at the theater with Wilson headlining a tribute concert there for the first time.

Later this month, on March 31, “The Centennial Collection” — a newly curated single disc anthology showcasing 20 of Billie Holiday’s finest recordings will be released by Legacy Records.

For more information, visit www.apollotheater.org.

Selma

Continued from page 18
states, the president called on members of Congress to pledge to make it their mission to restore the law this year.

“We honor those who walked so we could run. We must run so our children soar,” President Obama said, wrapping up his almost 40-minute speech.

Brooklyn-resident Jamaican-born Dr. Elaine Duvall was among those who listened to the broadcast. “I’m here to participate in this his-

toric event. It’s historically significant with the first Black president,” she said, acknowledging the racial issues absorbing the nation right now. She spoke of how important it was to reflect on the meaning of the Selma march, the sacrifices and prices paid and to honor and carry on the mission and dream.

The civil rights protest, the reactionary violence, pressure put on the federal government and President Johnson’s speech is the subject of the acclaimed film “Selma.”



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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	A72885	\$3,995	2004	Toyota Sienna, 121k	2571	\$6,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995
2007	Kia Rondo, 69k	5U3219	\$5,495	2008	Lincoln MKZ, 177k	J1656	\$7,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995
2007	Honda Civic, 14k	8519	\$5,995	2009	Toyota Sienna, 93k	391451	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995
2006	Chrysler Pacifica, 97k	12632	\$5,995	2005	Infiniti G-35, 125k	10471	\$8,995	2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888
2003	Honda Accord Coupe, 91k	021636	\$5,995	2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2010	Ford Focus, 73k	11853	\$6,595	2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2006	Toyota Camry, 106k	10431	\$6,995	2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
2008	Nissan Altima Coupe, 136k	8314	\$6,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2012	Nissan Murano, 12k	5822	\$16,995

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YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$7,995	2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995
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
2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$11,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400

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EDUCATION



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Does the cost of higher education scare you? If so, you're not alone. College tuition prices have skyrocketed. Over the past 30 years average tuition and fees at public four-year institutions rose by 225 percent, according to The College Board. Factor in room and board, books and living expenses, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to afford the hefty price tag of higher education.

For many, applying for scholarships is essential. Valuable scholarship dollars are available to any and all kinds of students - artists, athletes, writers, mathletes and more. With a little digging you can find the perfect opportunities for you and your talents.

Here are five unique scholarships examples:

Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest

Students who enjoy art and fashion design, or just happen to be duct tape enthusiasts, should enter the annual Duck brand Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest.

With more than \$50,000 in scholarship prizes up for grabs, this one-of-a-kind opportunity emphasizes originality and imagination by challenging students to create their own unique Duck Tape prom wear.

Duck brand has a history of "sticking" by students, awarding more than \$300,000 in scholarships over the last 15 years.

The contest is open to high school students in the U.S. and Canada attending prom in 2015. For more details and full contest rules visit StuckatProm.com.

Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

Trivia talent and knowledge of random facts have probably always impressed friends, but now those skills may finally "pay" off - college costs that is. Students (and parents too) can simply register for one of the Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation, Inc. online schol-



arship quizzes. Throughout the year, the foundation offers quizzes that test general knowledge across a variety of subjects - music, books, movies, etc. - with prize amounts ranging from \$250-\$2,500.

These scholarships are available to high school, undergraduate and graduate

students in the United States. Visit cksf.org for full details and how to register.

Tall Clubs International

It's a "tall task" to enter this scholarship. In fact, that's it - you just have to be tall. The Tall Clubs Interna-

tional Scholarship is available to students of above-average height, who plan to start college in the fall. Tall Clubs International (TCI) identifies "above-average height" as at least 5 feet 10 inches tall for women and at least 6 feet 2 inches tall for men. Those of
Continued on page 30

Spring cleaning helps school classrooms, too

The start of the spring semester in the classroom is a great time for teachers to refresh the room so all learning goals can be accomplished before the end of the year. Sometimes a refresh involves disinfecting everything to help students stay healthy. Perhaps this year's refresh even involves incorporating some new decor and bright colors.

This semester, help your students stay energized all spring long, right up until the final bell rings for summer break:

- Give the classroom new decorations to celebrate the upcoming spring events - The calendar is full of great educational moments during the winter and spring months. From St. Patrick's Day in March to Memorial Day in May, you can decorate the walls in your classroom with educational materials to help students look forward to each celebration.

Melissa Taylor of the blog *Imagination Soup* recommends you ask parents to help you out by bringing in old magazine articles celebrating the different holidays. You can find great quotes and photos inside to pin on bulletin boards, helping students understand each holiday's importance.

Another idea includes posting colorful posters with fun facts about each of the holidays or events. These teaching decorations will be a hit with the students and aid you in presenting the importance of events.

- Ask students for decorating help by assigning them educational projects related to the time of the year. For



Now is a good time to refresh learning spaces at home and school.

example, set up a reading corner of the room and have each student create and decorate a flower to turn the corner into a cozy garden space. Your crayons and colored pencils are probably well-used from the fall semester, so use a reward program to refresh your stock. With scissors, glue sticks and Scotch tape all restocked, your students won't have any roadblocks to keep them from expressing their

creativity with the classroom work you assign.

- Add some cozy factors in the classroom to brighten the last few months of winter. Taylor recommends bringing in rugs, pillows and lamps for extra warmth to help energize the students and make the room feel warm and friendly.

- Between the winter weather, childhood illnesses and glitter that is so prevalent during the holiday season,

your classroom may need help getting rid of the germs. Be sure to restock all your supplies, like instant hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. Both help you quickly attack germs and help your students stay healthy throughout the year. Make it fun for your students with games, like singing the song, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," while washing hands with soap and water, or challenging your students to

see who can clean their desk-top the fastest using a wipe.

There are only a few short months of school left, which means you have limited time to help students learn everything they need to so they can advance to the next level. If energy is falling in the new calendar year, do what you can with classroom supplies and decorations to revive them for an awesome classroom experience

FUNDS

Continued from page 29

elevated stature could win a \$1,000 prize.

To apply, contact the local TCI Member Club to request sponsorship or visit www.tall.org.

Create-a-Greeting-Card Scholarship

Have you ever searched for the perfect holiday or birth-

day card only to be left unsatisfied in the greeting card aisle? Now students with a knack for finding the perfect words or design can capture the moment, while also creating the opportunity to win a \$10,000 prize. The annual Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship from The Gallery Collection not only offers funds to the winner, but the art photo or graphic design piece will also be produced and sold as a real greeting card.

Greeting card designs must be appropriate for business and consumer use. Visit www.gallerycollection.com for more information.

Vegetarian Resource Group scholarships

If you're passionate about the food you eat, you're already winning with a healthy body and now you could win scholarship dollars, as well.

Every year, the Vegetarian Resource Group (VRG) awards

\$20,000 in scholarships to students who are active in promoting vegetarianism in school or the community. If you can demonstrate a strong commitment to being a vegetarian and to making the world a better place through diet and lifestyle — this scholarship is for you. The application requires an essay that addresses various challenges and successes experienced as a vegetarian.

The group offers a \$10,000 scholarship as the top prize,

and two additional \$5,000 scholarships. Application details can be found at www.vrg.org.

Ready to get creative with your college costs? All these original scholarships, and more can be found on resource sites, such as Fastweb.com

If you meet the requirements, it can't hurt to apply.

Just remember, any scholarship helps reduce college costs in the long run and every little bit helps.



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Tutors can help fill educational gaps



Many parents realize their children can benefit from a tutor offering personalized lessons.

Many parents choose to hire a tutor for a child who is struggling with a portion of his school work. Finding the right tutor involves some research. That's because, in addition to the tutor being well versed in her area of expertise, she should have a connection with the tutored child. Otherwise the child may struggle.

The role of standardized testing has increased in recent years, and a child's test scores are now subject to heightened scrutiny during his academic career. No longer just for admittance to college, standardized tests now play a bigger role earlier on in a child's academic career. Tests taken during elemen-

tary school may be used to determine where a child attends middle school. Some schools are prepping students strictly for what will be on tests. The resulting gaps in the curriculum can leave students clueless about routine lessons, such as spelling or grammar.

The combination of these factors has led many parents to hire tutors to ensure their children receive a more well-rounded education. According to Eduventures, an educational market research firm, tutoring is now a \$4 billion industry, with revenues increasing by 15 percent each year since 2001. With so many people getting into the tutoring business, the average parent may not know where to

look to hire someone for her child's needs.

There are a few steps you can take to hire a tutor:

- Contact your child's teacher or teachers, some of whom may tutor outside of the classroom. If your child responds well to a teacher's methods, consult that teacher about the possibility of your child receiving private tutoring.
- Visit the guidance department and find out if they recommend tutors who have successfully worked with students at the school in the past. This can help narrow down the number of prospects.
- Talk to other parents about their experiences with tutors. Those who have been in the same situation may

recommend a tutor or point you in the right direction. tutoring businesses available in the neighborhood. Most, *Continued on page 38*



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!!!

Lefferts Gardens Charter School (LGCS) is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year 2015-2016. LGCS is a free public charter school serving grades K-5. We are located at 601 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226. We are co-located with PS 92 and our main office is room 315.

Our Mission is to utilize an environmental science program to develop academically motivated and civic-minded students to succeed in competitive high school and college programs. **Environmental Science** lies at the core of LGCS's academic program. The natural world – and its opportunities for inquiry – provides the centerpiece for the LGCS curriculum.

How to apply: go to <http://leffertsgardens.org/> click on the **Admissions tab** and choose: **2015-2016 New Student Application**, print and mail your application to the school, fax application to 718-284-2166, or visit the school to apply in person. The lottery will be held at the school on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 6pm. Families are welcome to attend but not required to do so. Applications received after the deadline will be added to the waitlist.

Application deadline April 1, 2015.

Upcoming Open Houses

Daytime Sessions @ 9am	Evening Sessions @ 6pm
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Bronx Community College: Inspiring Students, Building Careers

Adults of any age seeking to acquire the skills and knowledge they need to get hired by the fastest-growing industries in the Bronx need look no further than the Bronx Community College Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education. Each year approximately 1,000 students pursue vocations from Information Technology to Culinary Arts and Hospitality, taught by professionals who have succeeded in their fields and are passionate about opening up new career opportunities for their students.

With the 2015 semester begun in February, the school offers an array of 130 courses including 23 focused on the two highest-employing industries in the Bronx – Healthcare and Building Trades. In all classes, teachers prepare students to tackle the challenges in their fields today while adapting to the marketplace needs of the future.

This pays off for student and their families. As BCC Interim President Eduardo J. Marti, Ph.D., said, “There is no better time than now to transform your life and the lives of your loved ones by acquiring the skills that can help you get ahead.”

One fast-growing business is Health Information Technology (HIT), which uses data to improve the efficiency of health care organizations and the quality in patient care. This interests a variety of students, from nurses and health care practitioners interested in understanding how the patient data is used, to technology experts who want to know how their knowledge of data can work in health care.

One of the teachers in HIT is Mia McCroskey, a software designer who specializes in the use of data to achieve better results for health care providers and patients. Her class teaches students project management, coding and data mining. It also shows how these skills are used at the Bronx RHIO (Regional Health Information Organization), which runs a data exchange that makes critical patient in-



(Clockwise from top) Robert Edwards, Building Trades instructor, with Juan Baez-Hernandez, with his new certificate from electricity class in the Hall of Fame. Robert Edwards and Mia McCroskey, Healthcare Information Technology instructor. Mia McCroskey and Jovan Francis, former student and current instructor.

formation available to hospitals, visiting nurse organizations and clinics.

Jovan Francis, a former student in McCroskey's class and now a supporting instructor, has worked at the Bronx RHIO since 2012, the same year he took the course.

Together, they show students how well-documented and organized data is making a big difference in anticipating health risks that patients face and preventing illness. For example, it can help hospitals pinpoint patients who are at risk for relapse and treat them so that they don't return to the hospital. Not only does this benefit the patient, but it also helps hospitals become more efficient and frees up resources for other patients.

“By teaching students how to ask the right questions to get the data they need, we help them solve healthcare prob-

lems,” McCroskey said.

Their collaborative work with students also helps them test and discover ideas that can be used in real life. “The classroom is a living laboratory,” Francis said.

Building Trades – including electricity, plumbing, construction and the new HVAC course – is another concentration of courses that prepare students for high-demand, well-paying jobs. Teaching all these courses with tireless dedication is Robert Edwards, a retired contractor of 20 years.

Edwards knows that these courses need to be learned hands-on. His construction class students literally build a room and dismantle it as a classroom project. For HVAC he brought in a water boiler that was sawed in half so his students could see how it worked, and a special refriger-

ator that fit onto a table so they could practice repairing it. For plumbing the classroom has sinks and toilets with running water.

These courses carry with them NCCER (The National Center for Construction Education and Research) certificates, helping students get the assistant positions and hours that lead to licenses.

Juan Baez-Hernandez is a recently-minted certificate holder from the electricity program. An 18 year-old graduate of Lincoln High School in Yonkers, he and his family had moved to the Bronx from the Dominican Republic years earlier. He was exposed to the trade through his father; and now the class has given him “a head start” on his career and the confidence to go out and get a job. He wants to be a role model for his eleven-year-old younger brother.

Edwards serves as a mentor to Baez-Hernandez and other students, offering ideas on where to pursue job opportunities. This interest in his students' success started early at BCC as part of Project H.I.R.E (Help in Reentering Employment) where he taught building trade skills to those who had been released from incarceration. The program ran for four years in 20-week segments, Edwards recalled, “We taught them how to build an apartment – from framing, sheet rock, plumbing, electricity, heating.”

Inspiring new beginnings and contributing to a better workforce, BCC's Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education prepares Bronx citizens for a brighter future.

For more information, see <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/continuing-education/>

Establishing a positive homework environment

Though it might not be something students look forward to, homework is an essential element of the learning process. Homework allows kids to apply the lessons they learned in the classroom while giving educators a chance to determine if students are grasping the concepts discussed in class or if certain lessons need to be re-visited.

Students often seek their parents' help when doing their homework, but parents can start helping even before their children bring any assignments home. Creating a homework environment where kids can concentrate and put forth their best effort is a great way to help them throughout the school year. The following are a few tips for parents who want to ensure that home is as conducive a place as possible for students to do their best on homework assignments:

Find a quiet space with little or no



Many students need a quiet environment that's free of noise and distractions to perform their best on homework assignments.

distractions

A quiet place in the home where kids can concentrate is essential when they are doing homework. While a youngster's bedroom might have

sufficed years ago, today's children tend to have bedrooms that mimic the showroom floor of an electronics store. If kids have televisions, video game consoles, and ste-

reos in their bedrooms, then that's likely not the best environment for them to do their homework. Kids can too easily grow distracted, so find a quiet area where kids can focus on

their studies without being tempted by television, video games, or other distractions not conducive to studying.

Designate a time each day when kids do their homework

Another way to make your home more amenable to homework is to designate a time each day when kids will study. Let other members of the household know that this is a quiet time in the house so kids aren't distracted. Once kids get comfortable in this routine they likely won't need much prodding to do their homework, and this designated quiet time in the household can be a relaxing time for other members of the household as well.

Have healthy snacks available

Few people do their best work on an empty stomach, so if kids will be doing their homework immediately af-

Continued on page 38

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How to help young boys become better readers



Conventional wisdom has long intimated that girls are more adept at language arts and reading than boys of the same age. A recent study indicates there may be some merit to the assumption that boys tend to lag behind girls in reading. In order to bolster interest in books and reading comprehension, parents and educators can look to many successful literary series that tend to draw the attention of boys.

Boys and reading

A 2010 study by the Center on Education Policy that looked at trends beginning from 2002 to 2008 found boys have been lagging behind girls on standardized reading tests in all 50 states. According to Jack Jennings, president of the Center on Education Policy, "We found no state in

which boys did not lag behind girls in reading at the elementary level, the middle school level and the high school level. So it's pretty clear: Boys are not doing as well as girls in reading."

There are many theories as to why boys seem to eschew reading for other things. Some say that boys in general are always on the defensive, and reading — which often calls to mind emotion and vulnerability — is not something that boys would like to admit to doing. Furthermore, schools heavily push classics full of fictional characters as the mainstay of literary curricula. However, research points out that boys tend to gravitate toward nonfiction. Others argue that boys do not have enough male literary role models. The majority of adults involved in shaping boys' in-

terest in reading are women, and boys might not view picking up a good book as a masculine activity.

Another theory as to why girls perform better on standardized reading tests revolves around brain function. Girls' brains tend to be more verbally oriented, which can make reading skills easier. Boys are more visually oriented. It stands to reason that boys are more physically restless than girls as well. Sitting for long periods of time reading can be challenging, even for an otherwise well-behaved male student. This was discovered as early as 1986 in an analysis of more than 100 studies by psychologist Warren Eaton and his colleagues at the University of Manitoba in Canada. The findings revealed that the average boy is more active

Continued on page 36

A recent study indicates there may be some merit to the assumption that boys tend to lag behind girls in reading.

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READERS

Continued from page 35
than about 69 percent of girls.



Choosing reading materials

Finding reading material to which boys will relate can be challenging. There is no blanket approach to finding the right books. Boys may need to be approached individually to find subject matter that will interest them and take them out of their comfort zones. Should schoolmates be viewed reading frequently, it may help other boys surpass their own reading fears and hurdles.

Here are some titles boys can explore.

“2095” by Adam McCauley: Children on a field trip to New York’s Museum of Natural History travel 100 years into the future.

“Adventures of Captain Underpants” by Dav Pilkey: Fourth-grade boys get into trouble with their principal and decide to hypnotize him into the superhero “Captain Underpants.”

“Babe & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure” by Dan Gutman: Main character Joe wants to discover the legend of Babe Ruth and his home run predictions.

“The Beast in Ms. Rooney’s Room” by Patricia Reilly Giff: Ms.

Paris, the reading teacher, helps Richard get serious about reading and win a contest for best class.

“Encyclopedia Brown” series, by Donald Sobol: Readers solve the cases and explore adventures through the stories.

“Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen: A boy must learn to live in the wild alone after the plane he was traveling in with his father crashes.

“Lunch Money” by Andrew Clements: Greg is a sixth-grader who is good with money. He begins creating and selling comic books at lunch until a rival cuts into his business.

“Rufus and Magic Run Amok” by Marilyn Levinson: Rufus discovers he has magical powers, but this special talent isn’t what he expected.

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TUTORS

Continued from page 32

if not all, tutoring companies have a website where you can research options. A quick browsing of the Internet may also yield reviews of particular companies, so you will get a better idea of their track records.

- Check the newspaper for advertisements. Independent or freelance tutors may advertise their services in the classifieds or even in a church bulletin. The newspaper also may provide information on former teachers or educators acting as volunteer tutors.

- Visit the library and see if they have a relationship with any local tutors. Or see if any tutors are using the library as a meeting place for tutoring sessions. This way you can make a connection and find out more information.

Once you find the right tutor, be sure to have all policies spelled out in a contract. Make sure the tutoring rate and duration of services is listed as well as any guarantees of student improvement. It is a good idea to do a background check on the tutor to ensure your child's safety. When the student meets with the tutor, make sure it is in a quiet, private location that will facilitate learning



without any distractions.

Many parents realize their chil-

dren can benefit from a tutor offering personalized lessons.

HOMEWORK

Continued from page 34

ter school, make sure you have some healthy snacks on hand. Elementary and high school students tend to eat lunch earlier than adults, so they're liable to be hungry when they arrive home from school in the mid- to late-afternoon. Have plenty of fresh fruit on hand so kids can satisfy their hunger. Less healthy snacks might satisfy youngsters' hunger pangs, but such snacks may also make kids drowsy, negatively affecting their ability to concentrate and indirectly hindering their schoolwork as a result.

Let kids know their work will be checked nightly. Parents who want to create an environment where their children approach homework seriously should let their kids know their work will be checked each night, and they will need to redo any assignments that were not completed correctly. This prevents kids from rushing through assignments without giving their best efforts.

Few youngsters look forward to homework. While parents might not be able to change their kids' attitudes toward homework, they can change their home to make it as positive an environment for kids to pursue their studies as possible.



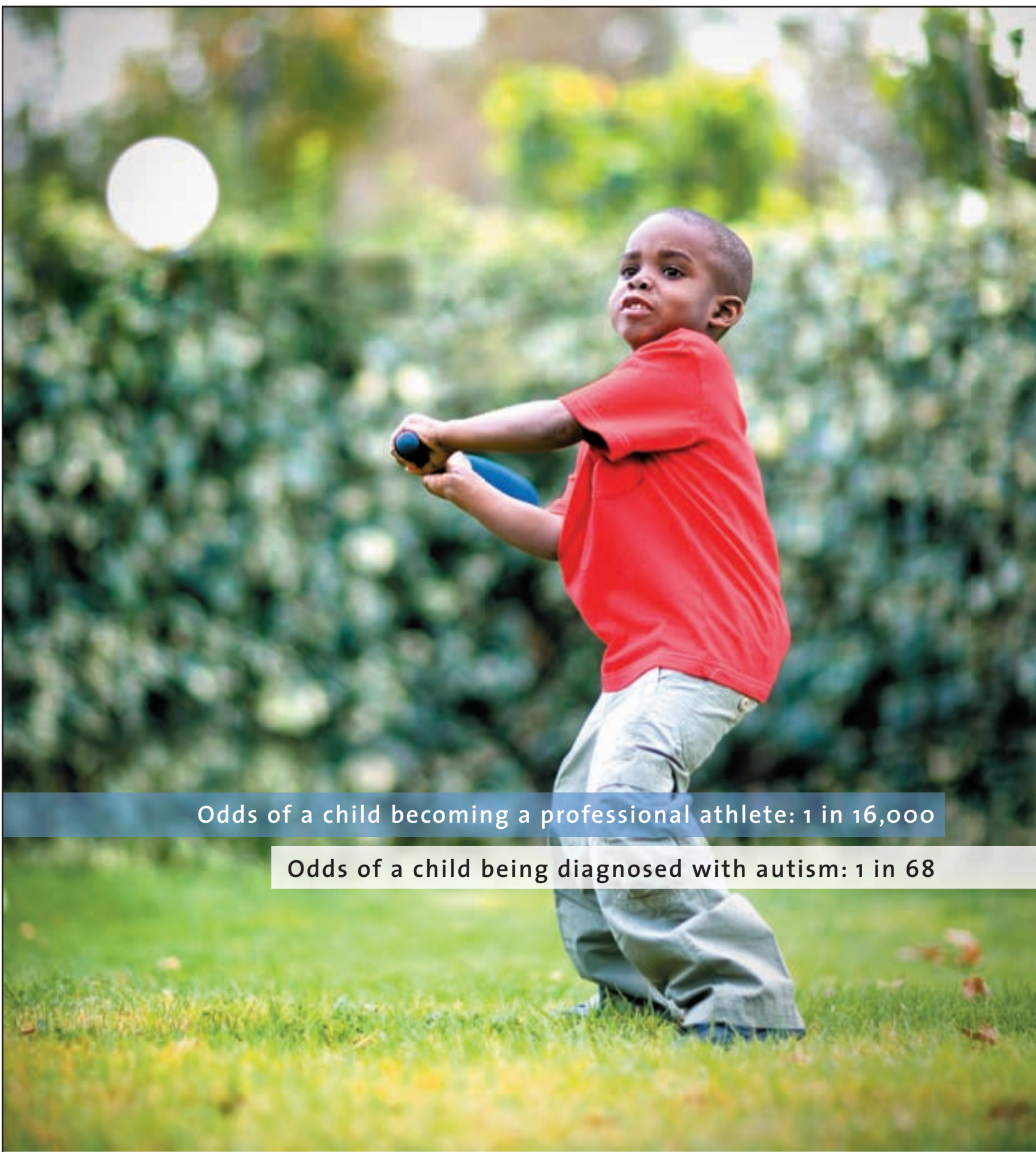
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2005	Toyota Highlander, 127k	11850	\$7,995	2006	Jeep Commander, 104k	12357	\$8,995	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
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Eisaku Selecta A. Yamaguchi.
Photo by C. Harrison

Selecta A takes on Haile Selassie I

By C. Harrison

Japanese reggae producer Eisaku Selecta A Yamaguchi is paying tribute to Haile Selassie I in his latest compilation "Reggae Loves Jah."

His last compilation, "Reggae Loves Africa," is doing very well in Europe and in Belgium and it is also number two on the iTunes Reggae Chart. This time

Continued on Page 46

Phagwah celebration

By Tangerine Clarke

Indo-Guyanese Americans immersed themselves in vibrant Abeer (colored powder) and the playing of Phagwah, to welcome the spring season on the Hindu calendar.

The highly-spirited festival that celebrate good over evil, came together after spiritual blessings were rendered by swami Shiveshwarandaji Maharaj at the American Sevashram Sangha Mandir, in Jamaica Queens.

March 6 marked the end of the winter and the beginning of spring on the Hindu calendar that was observed by scores of religious devotees who welcomed Holi, or Phagwah, a spiritual and most beloved festival in the religion.

Continued on Page 46



REGGAE FOCUS

In this Feb. 18, 2015 photo, Jamaican singer Jah Bouks, whose given name is Warin Smith, entertains the crowd at a show organized by the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association during the island's "reggae month," in Kingston, Jamaica.

Associated Press / David McFadden

Jamaica moving to reclaim status

By David McFadden

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — For decades, the sound of Jamaica has been reggae, the infectious, uniquely syncopated music that transformed the small Caribbean island into a cultural powerhouse.

But the genre's success has taken it far beyond its roots, and now many in Jamaica worry that reggae-lovers abroad are forgetting the motherland where it was born.

"Reggae was given to the world by Jamaica so nobody can or ever

should discourage anyone overseas from making this music. But we think there should be acknowledgment that reggae was created in Jamaica," said Michael "Ibo" Cooper, a musician who is chairman of the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association.

Around the world, music festivals celebrating the sounds made famous by reggae patron saint Bob Marley and followers who developed the faster, brasher derivative of dancehall are more likely to be headlined by bands

from places like California or France than by native-born Jamaicans. Aside from albums by the late Marley or his progeny, few of the top-selling reggae CDs or downloads come from Jamaican artists.

To get a stronger foothold in the information age, Jamaican officials and reggae industry insiders are brainstorming ways to better capitalize on Jamaica's exuberant music culture and help protect what some claim is local intellectual property.

Continued on Page 46

Caribbean twins beat million-to-one odds

Once again, another story about racially diverse twins has emerged.

The ironic aspect of this repetitive storyline is that virtually all of the reports involve one Caribbean parent.

Although one Jamaican parent seems to factor in a majority of the one-in-a-million phenomenon, there have been reports of a Barbadian, Grenadian and Africans from Nigeria and Ghana who have beaten the odds to produce divergent twins.

From Gloucester, England, where Lucy and Maria Alymer's births were first reported 18 years ago, each are now speaking out about their ebony and ivory appearance and how they respond to disbelieving individuals who often challenge their claim and reality.

The twins — one white one Black — reflect on their very different experiences growing



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

up as siblings borne to mother, Donna, a Jamaican and Vince, their white father.

"It was such a shock for her because things like skin color don't show up on scans before birth," Lucy explained about her mother's first reaction.

"So she had no idea that we were so different. When the midwife handed us both to her she was just speechless."

Of their lifelong encounters, she explained: "No one ever believes we are twins. Even when we dress alike, we still don't look like sisters, let alone twins. Friends have even made us produce our birth certificates to prove it."

"We were in the same class,

but no one had a problem telling us apart. Twins are known for swapping identities. But there was no way Maria and I could ever do anything like that. Most twins look like two peas in a pod — but we couldn't look more different if we tried. We don't look like we have the same parents, let alone having been born at the same time."

Comparing her image to three other siblings, Lucy added: "Our brothers and sister have skin which is in between Maria and I. We are at opposite ends of the spectrum and they are all somewhere in between... But my grandmother has a very fair English

Continued on Page 49



Twins Lucy and Maria Alymer of Gloucester, England.

Photo courtesy of Worldwide Features

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Back to the subcontinent for pleasant sequel

“The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”
Very Good (2.5 stars)
Rated PG for mild epithets and suggestive material
In English and Hindi with subtitles
Running time: 122 minutes
Distributor: Fox Searchlight

By Kam Williams

When we last saw Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel), he had just proposed to his thoroughly-modern girlfriend Sunaina (Tina Desai), much to the chagrin of his meddling, more traditional mother (Lillete Dubey). The ambitious young entrepreneur had also landed the funds to renovate his ramshackle hotel with the help of Muriel Donnelly (Maggie Smith), one of the residents of the retirement community.



A scene from “Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.”

Photo courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

At the point of departure, we find Sonny (accompanied by Mrs. Donnelly) en route to San Diego where he hopes to interest an executive (David Strathairn) with the Evergreen Corporation in investing in the second old

folks home he hopes to open. After all, the first is now flourishing and practically filled to capacity.

Meanwhile, back in India, Sunaina is squarely focused on their impending engage-

ment ceremony, also known as a Sagai. In the groom-to-be's conspicuous absence, she's asked Kush (Shazad Latif), a friend of the family, to fill in as a dance partner, so she can practice the elaborately-choreographed rou-

tine she plans to perform at the party with Sonny. It is subtly hinted that this handsome hunk might pose a threat, given Sonny's continued preoccupation with business matters upon his return to the subcontinent.

That is only one of several storylines in a romance-driven sequel which unfolds more like a daytime soap opera than a fully fleshed-out feature film. Scene after scene is simply a setup for another transparent love triangle.

As she checks into the hotel, Lavinia Beach (Tamsin Grieg) has her head turned by a fellow new guest (Richard Gere), but Guy only has eyes for Sonny's widowed mom. Madge Hardcastle (Celia Imrie), a pretty British pensioner, can't decide between the two, filthy-rich Indian suitors she's dating simultaneously. And Doug (Bill Nighy) has grown fond enough of Evelyn (Judi Dench) to commit, though he hasn't yet divorced his estranged wife (Penelope Wilton) waiting in the wings. And so forth.

Independent & Foreign Films

3 Hearts (PG-13 for sexuality, brief nudity, mature themes and pervasive smoking) Romantic romp revolving around an incestuous love triangle that arises when sparks fly between a newlywed tax inspector (Benoit Poelvoorde) and his bride's (Chiara Mastroianni) sister (Charlotte Gainsbourg). With Catherine Deneuve, Andre Marcon and Patrick Mille. (In French and Chinese with subtitles)

Champs (Unrated) Boxing biopic revisiting the exploits in and out of the ring of a trio of world champions: Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield and Bernard Hopkins. Featuring commentary by 50 Cent, Denzel Washington, Mary J. Blige, Spike Lee, Mark Wahlberg and Ron Howard.

The Cobbler (PG-13 for violence, profanity and partial nudity) Adam Sandler handles the title role in this escapist fantasy, set in NYC, as a shoe repairman who manages, metaphorically, to step into the lives of his customers. With Dustin Hoffman, Steve Buscemi, Ellen Barkin, Method Man and Melonie Diaz. (In English and Yiddish with subtitles)

Cymbeline (R for violence) Ed Harris portrays the title character in this adaptation of the Shakespeare classic reimagined as a latter-day showdown between crooked cops and a gang of outlaw bikers. Ensemble includes Ethan Hawke, Dakota Johnson, John Leguizamo, Milla Jovovich, Delroy Lindo and Bill Pullman.

Earth's Golden Playground (Unrated)



Kam's Kapsules

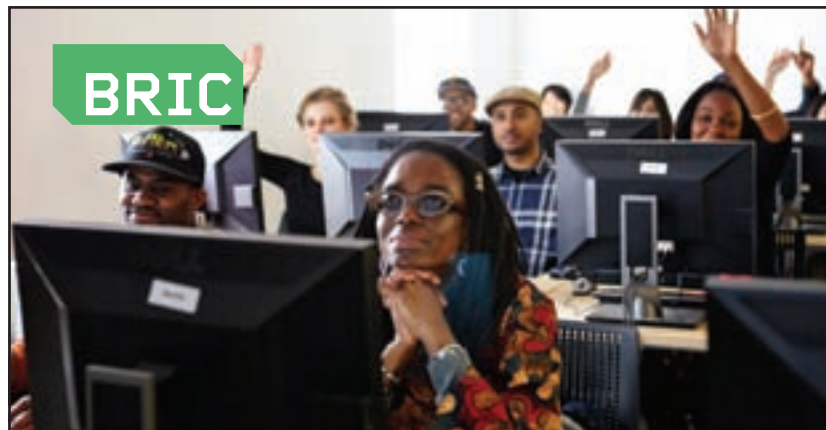
By Kam Williams

Gold Rush documentary highlighting the present-day resurgence of mining among prospectors searching for the mother lode up in the Yukon.

Home Sweet Hell (R for violence, profanity, sexuality and drug use) Dark comedy about a vengeful suburban housewife (Katherine Heigl) who hires a couple of thugs (Kevin McKidd and A.J. Buckley) to knock off her husband's (Patrick Wilson) pregnant mistress (Jordana Brewster) in order to preserve her marriage. With Jim Belushi, Bryce Johnson and Alyshia Ochse.

It Follows (R for sexuality, profanity, graphic nudity and disturbing violence) Horror thriller about a 19-year-old (Maika Moore) who finds herself plagued by an evil curse following a one-night stand with a demonic date (Jake Weary) harboring a hidden agenda. With Keir Gilchrist, Daniel Zovatto and Olivia Luccardi and Lili Sepe.

Like Sunday, Like Rain (R for profanity) Coming-of-age drama revolving around a melancholy, 12 year-old musical prodigy (Julian Shatkin), neglected by his parents, who unexpectedly forges a friendship with a new nanny (Leighton Meester) offering the attention he needs. Supporting cast includes Debra Messing, Billie Joe Armstrong and Olivia Luccardi.



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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 2 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **Style**
Taylor Swift
- 4 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 5 **Sugar**
Maroon 5
- 6 **Time of Our Lives**
Pitbull & Ne-Yo
- 7 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 8 **FourFiveSeconds**
Rihanna & Kanye West...
- 9 **Lips Are Movin**
Meghan Trainor
- 10 **I Don't Mind**
Usher Feat. Juicy J



TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Dark Sky Paradise**
Big Sean
- 2 **If Your Reading This...**
Drake
- 3 **First Kiss**
Kid Rock
- 4 **Fifty Shades of Grey**
Soundtrack
- 5 **Fan of a Fan: The Album**
Chris Brown & Tyga
- 6 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 7 **Just Kids**
Mat Kearney
- 8 **Of Beauty & Rage**
JRed
- 9 **Smoke + Mirrors**
Imagine Dragons
- 10 **x**
Ed Sheeran



Reggae on the move

Continued from page 43

ty. After years of only piecemeal support, the government increasingly is viewing reggae and other cultural enterprises as a hoped-for economic engine on the island.

Officials are hashing over the creation of a certification mark to designate "authentic reggae" — a sort of "Good Housekeeping Seal" — to encourage the use of Jamaican musicians, producers and merchandise. They also hope to defend Jamaican reggae by having the U.N.'s culture organization add it to a global list of "intangible cultural heritage" such as Argentina's tango and China's Peking opera. The Paris-based agency says the island's government has yet to apply for inclusion on the list of more than 280 cultural traditions.

Rob Bowman, a music professor from Canada's York University who has researched intellectual property and Jamaican music, said that while population numbers mean reggae's biggest markets always will be overseas there's no reason why more revenue streams from foreign commerce shouldn't flow back to Jamaica.

"With few exceptions, these styles of music cannot be authentically replicated by non-Jamaicans. As such, these styles of music represent intellectual property that is, for all intents and purposes, already a part of Jamaica's branding," Bowman asserts in a World Intellectual Property Organization consultancy report for Jamaica.

A country of fewer than 3 million people, Jamaica has had remarkable success originating influential musical forms such as ska, rocksteady, reggae, dub and dancehall. Musicologists say production innovations and the discovery of "toasting," reggae deejays chanting over a beat, directly inspired hip-hop.

A cross-pollination of Afro-Caribbean folk music and American R&B, reggae first was introduced to Europe by Jamaican migrants settling in Britain in the late 1960s. Its popularity exploded in the 1970s with the rise of Marley and other Jamaican Rastafarian stars, whose music influenced British groups like The Clash, UB40 and The English Beat. Jamaican music later shaped U.S. bands like No Doubt and Sublime.



In this Feb. 18, 2015 photo, Jamaican singer R.C., whose given name is Ryan Campbell, performs at a concert organized by the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association during the island's "reggae month," in Jamaica.

Associated Press / David McFadden

Eric Smith, CEO of the New York-based reggae label Easy Star Records, said American bands are succeeding now due to their strong "do-it-yourself" ethos and online marketing, a key to making it in independent music. Unlike some earlier non-Jamaican reggae artists who adopted island patois and themes, they use the genres to

highlight their own U.S. culture, not Jamaica's.

"While we certainly need to respect, understand and celebrate the unique and rich history of Jamaican music and do whatever we can to support it, there is no practical way to stop anyone else from tapping in and drawing something from the culture," he said.

Phagwah

Continued from page 43

The nationals participated in a chowtal — a session of singing of spiritual songs, while playing instruments, during four hours of festivities, in the temple that was decorated with jeweled idols.

Devotees sat on the floor to pray over an urn of fire, before the Swami Maharaj prayed to the almighty Lord Shri Krishna and deliver an inspiring sermon that called on worshipers to embrace each other in the true sense of brotherhood and sisterhood during the religious holiday.

Enjoyed with great fanfare, the Hindus feasted on sweet meats and vegetarian roti and curry, after which, they danced to the rhythms of the Recklez Riddimz Tassa band, and in merriment threw colored powder and liquids at each other. The greeting was, "Happy Holi," in the true spirit of friendship, joy, merriment and love. Gifts were also exchanged among family members.

During the joyous time, devotees were told to think good, speak good and do good and be



Organizer Vijay Bisram with follower at the Phagwah festival in Queens.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

strong, brave and confident. Holi celebrates the power of the truth and the ultimate victory of good over evil. Let your lives be colored with all that which is noble were the wishes for the flock.

According to Swami Maharaj, Holi derives from the name Holika. Prahlada was born to Hiranyakashipu, the king of demons. Unable to tolerate Prahlada's devotion to Lord Vishnu, Hiranyakashyap attempted to kill his son several times by poisoning him and throwing him from the top of a mountain but failed each time.

'Reggae Loves Jah'

Continued from page 43

around, the music compiler wants to do his part on the world stage by feathering this latest album.

According to Selecta A, he compiled this new album of reggae artists, who he claimed have paid homage to Haile Selassie I. And because Selassie I and Marcus Garvey said that we should go back to Africa, to him, it was the natural step to take. Explaining the reason why he was producing this album now, he said, "It was my idea to do a compilation of music appreciating Selassie I. I did it because I have a lot of friends and neighbors, who I was trying to give something to. I am using the concept in a way to show my support to the community."

The quiet spoken Japanese contended that what he knew of Selassie I, is what he saw him (Selassie) do. He saw Selassie I, touching a lion and combined that with Garvey's opinion, is really why he got interested in Selassie I, he confessed. He said the other reason was because

when Selassie I, returned from England, all of the African nations came together.

"Jamaican Rastas know the history of Ethiopia, and where they came from. Selassie I may not know Reggae, but Rastas and Reggae are forever linked to Selassie I and Ethiopians. Also, Rasta themes and captions are linked through Selassie's messages. Moreover, through Reggae music, Selassie messages' are carried-on," revealed the Selector. "Basically, there are no journals respecting Selassie I besides Reggae music via Reggae artists, Rasta music is educational music," he further explained.

In addition, Selecta A, noted that he was not doing these compilations because he thought they could sell. Most of the songs he had put together were already on the market since the 1980s. He conceded that he had never seen anyone put this type of music together before. And lamented that what he did, was put a bible together for people and a generation to come.

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SUN KULCHA COMMUNITY EVENTS



LONG-RUNNING

“STATIONS OF THE CROSS”: The Episcopal Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew, 520 Clinton Ave. between Fulton St. and Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn; (347) 515-4044; Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sundays, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Now – Monday, March 16; Free. Fourteen Brooklyn artists exhibit their interpretations of the Christian tradition of the Stations of the Cross.

IDENTIFICATION ENROLLMENT: The Bronx; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Now – Friday, June 26; Free. 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.

“THE AFRICAN DRUM”: PS 3 The Bedford Village School, 50 Jefferson Ave. at Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn; (212) 724-0677; www.shadowboxtheatre.org; Monday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, March 10, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.; Friday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.; \$10 in advance (\$15 at the door; \$8 group rates). Listen to the wit, wisdom, and humor of traditional folk tales and learn how the turtle got its shell, and three more African fables woven into an interactive shadow puppet adventure of little Kjana and her animal friends. Presented by the Shadow Box Theatre.

WINTER FLEA AND HOLIDAY MARKET: Brooklyn Flea, 1000 Dean St. between Classon and Franklin avenues, Brooklyn; www.brooklynflea.com; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Now – Tues, March 31; Free. A hundred vintage, antique, and other vendors, plus 25 vendors selling food.

THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: Cameo Gallery, 93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, Brooklyn; (718) 302-1180; www.cameony.net; Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.; Free. Standup comedy, hosted by Max Silvestri.

FRI., MARCH 13

COMEDY VARIETY SHOWS: Otto’s Shrunken Head, 538 E 14th St, New York, NY 10009, Manhattan; (212) 228-2240; NoNameNYC@hotmail.com; www.ottosshrunkenhead.com; 7:00 p.m.; Free. “No Name... & A Bag O’ Chips” comedy / variety show will have a special Women’s History Month show featuring author/ radio personality Ophira Eisenberg (NPR’s “Ask Me Another”), author/ pundit/ comic Leighann Lord (DICT Jokes), comedian Subhah Agarwal (New York Comedy Festival), and singer / songwriter Emily



LONG-RUNNING: PS 3 The Bedford Village School, 50 Jefferson Ave. at Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn; (212) 724-0677; www.shadowboxtheatre.org; Listen to the wit, wisdom, and humor of traditional folk tales and learn how the turtle got its shell, and three more African fables woven into an interactive shadow puppet adventure of little Kjana and her animal friends. Presented by the Shadow Box Theatre.

FLEA MARKET

LONG-RUNNING: Brooklyn Flea, 1000 Dean St. between Classon and Franklin avenues, Brooklyn; www.brooklynflea.com; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Now – Tues, March 31; Free. A hundred vintage, antique, and other vendors, plus 25 vendors selling food.



ZUMBA

MAR. 16: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd, Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Free. Join us for a dance-fitness class that’s friendly and fun. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Miele (animated web series “Damaged”). “No Name” house band The Summer Replacements” including Carl (BabyFreak) Fortunato) and Fernando (Dr. Sandman) Morales Gonzalez will be featured at both shows which begin at 7:00 p.m. No cover, no minimum.

SAT., MARCH 14

HIGH IMPACT FALL WORKOUT: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Free. Join EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care for a cardio workout that can enhance your overall health and improve circulation and endurance. We’ll also work on building muscle with strength training. Please let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class.

OUGENIKON: THE ROLE OF THE SINGER IN HAITIAN VODOU: The Great Room, South Oxford Space, 138 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, NY; 7:30 p.m.; Free. The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and its Haitian Community Cultural Initiative, Verite Sou Tanbou, invite you to “Jete

Dlo (Libation),” Part of a three-part series, “Ougenikon: The Role of the Singer.” In honor of women’s history month, five New York-based Haitian Vodou songstressess -Rozna Zila, Riva Precil, Taïna Ligondé, Jocelyn Gay, and Ms. Zile will come together to perform and discuss what it means to be a singer in their families and communities. Introduced and hosted by singer/researcher Georges Vilson, author of the Kandelab anthologies of Haitian folk and Vodou songs, the program features drumming by Jean-Mary Brignol, Renald St. Juste, and Jean Emmanuel Blanchard, with special guests Michel Ligondé on drums and Regine Romain (duet vocals). Performances will be followed by an audience question-and-answer session and light refreshments. You must RSVP to attend this event econdon@ctmd.org.

MON., MARCH 16

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd, Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Free. Join us for a dance-fitness class that’s friendly and fun. It uses

the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class.

TUES., MARCH 17

INSURANCE REVIEW WORKSHOPS: Neighborhood Housing Service, 9715 Avenue L, Rockaway Parkway, 2nd floor, Brooklyn; (212) 519-2571; www.nhsnyc.org; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Free. Are you covered adequately by your homeowner’s insurance? Are you paying too much? Neighborhood Housing Services will review your policy free of cost. We also speak to community groups about how the changing flood maps will impact your policy and flood insurance.

FRI., MARCH 20

ONE ON ONE CAREGIVING SUPPORT: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Call to make an appointment to meet one-on-one with Greg Johnson, EmblemHealth’s Director of Community Outreach and creator of the Care for the Family Caregiver Program. Greg has received numerous awards and recognition within the fields of health care, family caregiving and service to others. Family caregivers are welcome to meet with him for support and advice.

EQUINOX CELEBRATION: Grand Army Plaza, Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West, Brooklyn; www.donnahenes.com; 6:15 pm; Free. Join with the urban shaman Mama Donna Henes and put an egg on its end at the 40th annual Egg-Balancing ceremony. This year’s performance features Batala NYC, an all woman Reggae percussion band. 360 eggs will be supplied.

COMEDY VARIETY SHOW: Otto’s Shrunken Head, 538 E 14th St, New York, NY 10009, Manhattan; (212) 228-2240; www.ottosshrunkenhead.com; 7 pm; Free. No Name... & A Bag O’ Chips” comedy will feature Megan Sass (NY Funny Songs Festival), comedian Charles McBee (FOX5-TV’s “Laughs”) and a few surprises. “No Name” house band The Summer Replacements” including Carl (BabyFreak) Fortunato) and Fernando (Dr. Sandman) Morales Gonzalez.

SAT., MARCH 21

BLUES & SOUL: LURA Restaurant NYC, 949 Columbus Ave between 106th & 107th Street, Manhattan; (212) 866-7500; 9:00 p.m.; Free. 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.

Compiled by Natalie Henry

Mystery of the black and white twins

Continued from page 44

rose complexion, just like me.”

The twins' looks are different but so are their career goals and choices.

Lucy currently studies art and design at Gloucester College and Maria studies law at Cheltenham College.

Maria is known as the outgoing twin while Lucy is described as the shy one.

“Maria loves telling people at college that she has a white twin and I'm very proud of having a Black twin.”

After the birth of Miya and Leah – two girls – Fleet, Hampshire, England residents Alison Spooner and her Caribbean partner Dean Durrant outscored all others when they parented a second set of racially differing children.

That interprets to four children identified by two different races – Black and white.

“It was a real shock to the system when I found out we were having twins again., Dean, 33 reportedly said.

From south-east London, an even more astounding scientific report revealed Jamaican Errol Kelly and his wife Alyson as newsmakers. Parents to two very obviously different boys named James and Daniel born March 27, 1993, Alyson said, “When James was born he was the spitting image of Errol, and I remember seeing his curly hair and thinking – he's just like his

dad. It was another two hours before Daniel was born: and what a surprise he was! He was so white and wrinkly, with this curly blond hair.”

Add intrigue to that miracle and the Guardian Newspaper reported, “It wasn't the first time nature had shocked Alyson and Errol. Daniel and James were the family's third set of twins: Errol and Alyson each already had a set with a previous partner.

“At least life was made a bit easier by the fact that we always had two of everything.”

Errol's first set are fraternal boys, Shane and Luke, who are 21; Alyson's are identical boys, Charles and Jordan, 20.

The only singleton in the house is the couple's youngest child, and only daughter, 14-year-old Katie.

“Apart from her, it's twin city,” Alyson told the British newspaper.

“At least life was made a bit easier by the fact that we always had two of everything.”

According to Dr. Jim Wilson, population geneticist at Edinburgh University, Errol's heritage might offer a basic explanation.

“It wouldn't really be possible for a

Black African father and a white mother to have a white child, because the African would carry only Black skin gene variants in his DNA, so wouldn't have any European DNA, with white skin variants, to pass on,” the specialist explained.

But nothing is ever black or white, that explanation was challenged July 11, 2009 with the birth of Ryan and Leo, two boys born to a German couple – white German Stephan Gerth and Ghanaian Florence Addo-Gerth.

Prior to that in 2006, Nigerian Kerry Richardson defied the contention by welcoming two boys she bore with her English, white spouse.

Explanation from the geneticist contended that: “most Caribbean people, though black-skinned, have European DNA because in the days of slavery, many plantation owners raped female slaves, and so introduced European DNA into the Black gene pool.”

He said: “The thing about skin color is that even a bit of African DNA tends to make a person's skin color black – so to be white, the child must have inherited more of the father's European DNA with its white skin variants. Added to the mother's European DNA, this led to a child with white skin – while his brother, who is black-skinned, inherited more of his father's African DNA.”

The Caribbean father will have less

European DNA than African DNA, so it's more likely he'll pass on African DNA – but rarely, and I've worked it out to be around one in 500 sets of twins where there's a couple of this genetic mix, the father will pass on a lot of European DNA to one child and mostly African DNA to the other. The result will be one white child and one Black.”

Identical twins often claim double the fun by having a sibling able to fool others with their cloned existence.

Scientifically, they share the mother's placenta; are the same gender and were fertilized from the very same egg and the same sperm.

More often than not, their personalities are identical.

Not so much with fraternal twins.

While, the fun might be reduced, each twin can either be same sex or vary in gender.

Fraternal twins are not necessarily the same gender, because each egg-sperm set will create a different set of genes.

Also, fraternal twins do not share the same placenta and can have two different protein and hormones expressed during development.

But even rarer is another combination called “semi-identical twins.”

Reportedly that is explained that there is one egg and two sperms.

In this case, the genes from the mother are the same, but the genes from the father are different.

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New York Cosmos' Hunter Freeman controls the ball against the New York Red Bulls during a U.S. Open Cup soccer game in Hempstead, N.Y., last year.

Associated Press / Kathleen Malone-Van Dyke, File

Cosmos to play Cuban squad

HAVANA (AP) — The New York Cosmos will face off against Cuba's national team in June, an official said Tuesday, making it the first professional U.S. soccer club to play on the island in 37 years.

The match comes after Washington and Havana announced Dec. 17 that they would negotiate the restoration of diplomatic relations that were severed shortly after the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

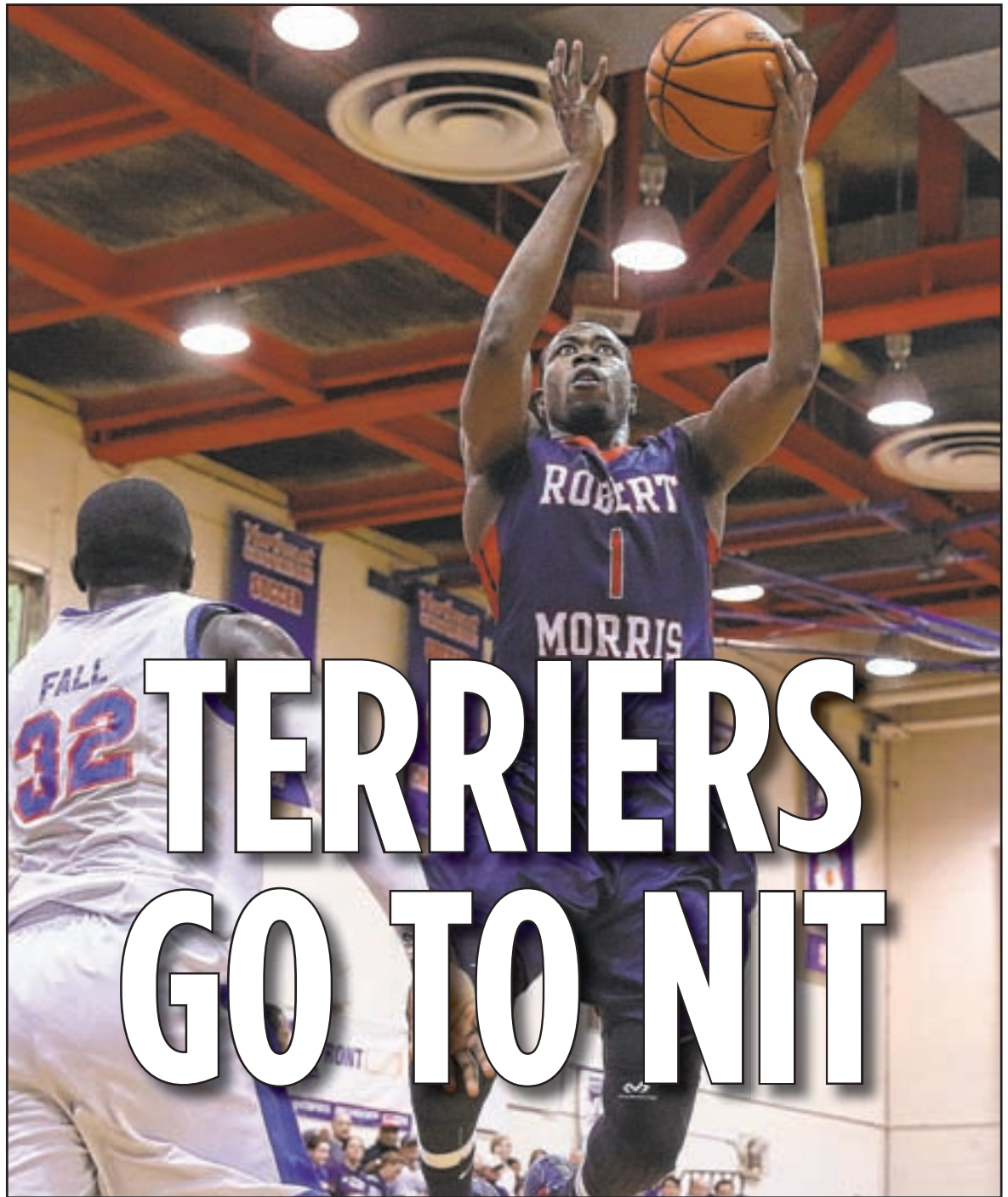
"The shift of last Dec. 17 is a great step, very beneficial for our soccer," said Cuban Soccer Association vice president. **Continued on Page 52**

Windies missing mystery spinner

By Azad Ali

Clive Lloyd speaking in Perth, Australia said: "Sunil Narine is one of the best One-day bowlers in the world and with him not here he is sorely missed. Look at the scores we have been posting, 300 runs pretty consistently. If he was here, people won't be able to chase that down. We miss him, we miss his wicket-taking ability and his economy rate. All these are reasons why we miss Sunil but he is not here so we have to do without him."

Lloyd, chairman of the West Indies **Continued on Page 52**



Robert Morris forward Lionel Gomis (1) shoots over St. Francis forward Amdy Fall (32) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the championship of the Northeast Conference tournament, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in New York. Robert Morris won, 66-63. **Associated Press / John Minchillo**

TERRIERS GO TO NIT

Falls short of an automatic bid

By Robert Elkin

What a year for the Terrier basketball team at St. Francis College of Brooklyn. At the beginning of the season their eyes were set on going all the way and earning an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament. And

they almost did it but fell four points short of the miracle.

Congratulations to Head Coach Glen Braica and his staff for a job well done.

First, for the season ending awards as voted upon the coaches in the

Northeast Conference. Jalen Cannon was named Player of the Year in the Conference. Then Amdy Fall was named Defensive Player of the Year. And finally Bracia was named Coach of the Year in the Northeast

Continued on Page 52

Cosmos

Continued from page 51
dent Antonio Garces.

He said the Cosmos are expected to play in Havana on June 2. It's the first such visit by a club team since the now-defunct Chicago Sting came here in 1978, though the U.S. national team played a World Cup qualifier in Havana in 2008.

Cosmos officials are expected to visit beforehand to discuss the match.

"The United States plays excellent soccer, so for us it will be great preparation for the knock-out phase of 2018 World Cup" qualification, Garces said.

Cuba is to play a series on June 8 and 16 against the winner of a series between Curacao and Montserrat.

The Cosmos compete in the second-tier North American Soccer League. The team's roster includes Raul Gonzalez, a longtime star with Spain's national team and club powerhouse Real Madrid.

Sports exchanges between Cuba and the United States increased in recent years, including several visits by U.S. college baseball players.

Baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba, but soccer has made strides in recent years with many young people sporting jerseys of Real Madrid and Barcelona.



Robert Morris guard Kavon Stewart (3) loses the ball as St. Francis forward Jalen Cannon (5) and guard Brent Jones (1) scramble towards it during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the championship of the Northeast Conference tournament, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in New York. Roger Morris won, 66-63.

Associated Press / John Minchillo

National Invitation Tourney

Continued from page 51
Conference.

The Terriers captured first place in the league during the regular season with a league record of 15-3. In the Conference tournament, at the end of the season, they fell in the final game of the playoffs to Robert Morris, 66-63 in a real thriller down to the closing seconds. Now they enter into the National Invitation Tournament with a 23-11 record. Depending upon the field of the NIT, the Terriers could be a favorite to be a serious challenger if they get 'it' all together.

The combination of guard Brent Jones feeding the ball to Cannon - and what a year that he turned in - earned the duo first team honors on the all-league team. This duo will be graduating in June and will certainly be missed.

What an exhibition they put on during the season and even in the deciding game of the playoff tournament, which

they turned in 2-1 record. They tried to hang in there during the finale of the tourney, but too many mistakes and turnovers hurt them in the second half when Robert Morris dominated action.

"They (Robert Morris) did a very good job in the zone of adjusting and gave us trouble of getting the ball into the zone; and gave us trouble of getting getting the ball to Jalen," the veteran coach said. "They did a good job of taking away our inside game. That's our strength."

The coaching staff was still very proud of themselves and of the players.

"We had a nice streak of wins (during the season)," Braica said after the three point loss. That's what those guys can take with them. They put their stamp on the program. People will respect (the program.)"

Led by the all-around team of offense, defense, back court play, and rebounding, the Terriers put together one of the best rebounding teams in the league

during the season, but they didn't show it during the in the setback at the hands of Robert Morris.

As for the attendance a capacity crowd of 1013 fans combined from both colleges turned out for a televised game. And the crowd was just 'electric.' They were cheering on almost every play.

And on their effort in the setback, it was very disappointing at the end result. "We're all down," continued the head coach. "But I'm also proud of the guys as we've had a great run. We won 23 of 34 games and we are proud of their record. We fell short of our ultimate goal."

The play of the Terriers were the talk of the basketball season during the spring and winter. They surprised many of the fans and basketball followers.

Now it's the National Invitation Tournament when capacity crowds will be following the Terriers.



West Indies' Sunil Narine prepares to bowl in the nets during a training session ahead of their ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup match against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi

Windies

Continued from page 51

Cricket Board (WICB) selection panel is at the current World Cup being played in Australia and New Zealand.

The Trinidad and Tobago player was selected for the tournament but decided against touring, saying he was not comfortable with his bowling action just yet. Narine was called for an illegal bowling action during the 2014 Champion League Twenty20 tournament in India and has to remodel his action.

Lloyd added that he thinks Narine's problems with his bowling action are over.

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STK P1447

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2013 Toyota RAV4 LE



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Dave Cameron re-elected WICB president

Dave Cameron was re-elected president of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) for a second term, eight to four, by the panel. Vice President Emmanuel Nathan also was re-elected. The WICB Annual general meeting was held at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica on March 7.

Former West Indies fast bowler Joel Garner ran against Dave Cameron and lost. Garner is the president of the Barbados Cricket Association.

INDIA, NEW ZEALAND ON TOP IN WORLD CUP

India won four games from four matches and the team is on top of Pool B in the World Cup followed by South Africa and Pakistan. New Zealand leads Pool A by winning five games from five matches followed by Australia and Sri Lanka.

TOP BATSMEN IN WORLD CUP

AB de Villiers scored 318 runs from five matches for South Africa while his fellow batsman Hamish Amla scored 295 runs from five matches. Zim-



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

babweans Brendan Taylor and Sean Williams scored 295 and 289 runs respectively from five matches. West Indies batsman Chris Gayles scored 279 runs from five games.

WORLD CUP'S TOP BOWLERS

New Zealand's Jim Southee picked up 13 wickets from four games, Josh Davey, 11 wickets from four games for Scotland, West Indies Jerome Taylor 11 wickets for five games and South Africa's Morne Morkel, 11 wickets from five matches.

SRI LANKA STILL STRONG

Kumar Sangakkara and Jim Dilshan showed their strengths against Australia in spite of their team losing to the Aussies. Sangakkara and Dilshan scored a partnership of 134 runs for the third wicket with some intelligent batting. San-

gakkara scored 104 runs from 107 balls and Dilshan 62 runs from 60 balls. Captain Ad Matthews and LD Chandimal can turn a game around. Chandimal retired hurt on 52 off 24 balls with eight fours and one six, at this stage Sri Lanka was 281 runs for four in the 42nd over, chasing 377 to win. Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand and India seem to be the teams that might be in the quarter finals. These are the teams that have performed reasonably competitive at a high level so far in the World Cup.

India defeating South Africa shows strength on behalf of India. The advantage India carries presently is their senior players are performing well and captain in Mahendra Singh has five unique bowlers doing a splendid job. The bowlers are: Shami, Ashwin, Yadav, Sharma and Jadeja.

Note: This World Cup win-



West Indies batsman Chris Gayle plays the shot from which he was out caught for 21 runs during their Cricket World Cup Pool B match against India in Perth, Australia, Friday, March 6, 2015. Associated Press / Theron Kirkman

ner must be able to keep the opposition calm for the last 15 overs of the allotted 50. Bat-

ting depth is essential, the middle order carries the burden of stability.



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
A debate forces you to reconsider some long-held opinions. Use this time to reflect on your point of view and if there is anything you might want to change.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Life gets better and better as the week goes on, Taurus. Expect a few obstacles, but remember there's nothing you cannot tackle, especially when you get some help.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21
A situation arises at work that evokes strong emotions among your coworkers. Stay neutral on the issue until you have had enough time to gather more information.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
A recently started relationship is going great, Cancer. Now might be a great time to take the next step with your special someone. Expect this person to share your feelings.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
A rush of adrenaline this week will help you sail through any projects that need completion, Leo. Take a break every now and then so you don't burn out.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you and a superior at work are seeing eye-to-eye this week. This could mark the beginnings of a great partnership, so continue to work hard.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you will sort out a complex problem in due time. Don't let any initial struggles to find a solution keep you down. Continue to focus on the bigger picture.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, use this week to address an unresolved issue. Tackle every project thrown your way head-on and with vigor. Others will notice your efforts.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, try not to over-think things this week. Sometimes the simplest solution to a problem is the best solution. Keep this in mind at the office.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a distraction this week proves so fascinating that you neglect other responsibilities. While you may like a challenge, don't let it consume your life.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
You yearn for privacy this week, Aquarius. Make the most of any opportunity to seek out a quiet corner and spend some time deep in reflection and thought.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Chores are completely unappealing this week, Pisces. But they must get done one way or another. Delegate some tasks.

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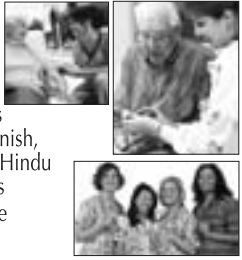
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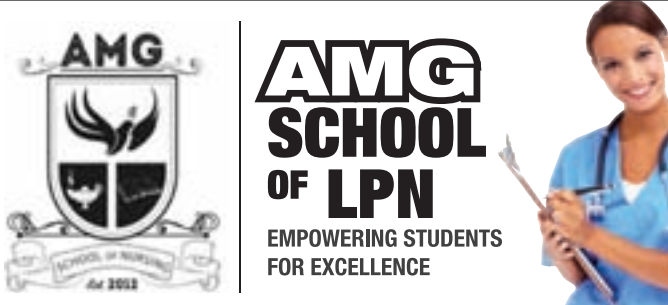
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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Alternative Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-ALT1, Plaintiff, against Showkat Ara Rahman, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 7/15/2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 04/16/2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 14 Tehama Street, Brooklyn, NY

LEGAL

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 WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore,

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2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 727 Bedford Ave., Unit S9, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Section 3, Block 01715, Lot 1010. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$11,068.57 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. ROBERT GERSHON, Referee. SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC, Attys. For Pltf., 105 Maxess Rd., Suite N109, Melville, NY. File No. 09-081039 - #85681

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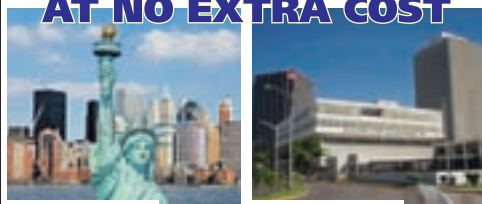
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