Justice Sylvia Ash creates history

By Nelson A. King

In breaking the boardroom glass ceiling and creating history, Caribbean American justice Sylvia G. Ash has become the first female to chair the board of the \$2.1 billion, New York-based Municipal Credit Union (MCU).

Justice Ash, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago to Vincentian and Grenadian parents, was recently elevated to the new position from first vice chair. She's the first woman to hold the position of chair in MCU's 99-year history.

"I'm so pleased and honored to be elected Board Chair," said Ash, a current justice in Kings County Supreme Court in Brooklyn. "Municipal Credit Union has done a wonderful job of serving its members for nearly a century, and I look forward to helping MCU do more great things for its members and the New York community."

Justice Ash, who was vice chair of the oldest credit union in New York and one of the oldest and largest in the United States, replaces attorney Mark S. Brantley, who will continue to serve on the board as a director.

Brantley was chair of the MCU board of directors for five years, and Ash was a member of the board since May 2008. She was also chair of MCU's Coordinating Committee.

"I want to extend my congratulations to Sylvia Ash on her appointment as our board chair and my sincere appreciation to Mark Brant-

Continued on Page 6

UNITY PARTY CLAIMS VICTORY



Presidential Candidate of the A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) David Granger displays his inked finger after voting at the Enterprise Primary School Georgetown Guyana, Monday, May 11, 2015. A party in power for over two decades in Guyana faced off in general elections Monday against a new coalition of opposition parties that seeks to challenge a tradition of racial politics and accuses the government of mismanagement and corruption.

Associated Press / Adrian Narine

Controversy surrounds Guyana elections

By Bert Wilkinson

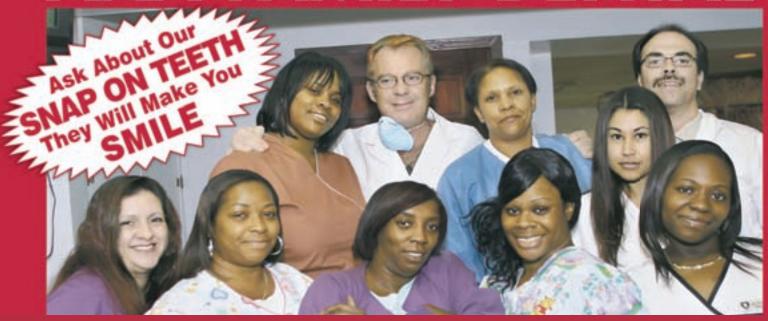
GEORGETOWN, Guyana-When Guyanese last voted in general elections in late 2011, the main opposition A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) had made some glaring administrative and logistical mistakes that they corrected on Monday and the results are different this time much to the chagrin of a hapless People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Instead of being confined to the opposition benches for the next five years, presidential candidate David Granger, 69, will sometime during this or next week be sworn in as the country's next president, replacing the lackluster Donald Ramotar as head of state of the Caribbean Community's largest member state three years into his five-year term.

Nearly 570,000 people were eligible to vote in the polls that had pitted the Indo-dominated PPP against an energized, seemingly well funded and confident multiracial coalition that this time included the upstart Alliance For Change party.

The two now call themselves
Continued on Page 6

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SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet.

Associated Press / Evan Vucci, File

Clarke welcomes business administrator

By Nelson A. King

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke last week welcomed Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator of the federal Small Business Administration to Brooklyn to celebrate National Small Business Week.

Contreras-Sweet met with small business owners and discussed opportunities to support diversity in entrepreneurship, said Clarke, representative for the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

Clarke and Contreras-Sweet visited Miti Miti Taperia, a restaurant whose owners have worked with government agencies and nonprofit organizations to secure low-interest loans and assistance in building their business. Their company has become renowned for offering all its workers a living wage with full benefits and a retirement plan.

"The business of Brooklyn has always been small business, as generations of people from around the world have joined this community and started small businesses in their pursuit of the American Dream," said Clarke, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as a member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She is also a member of the Committee on Ethics and the Committee of Small Business.

"These businesses often become the foundation for a family to enter the middle class – to accumulate the resources required to send children to college, buy a home, or save for retirement," she added.

WBAI moves to Brooklyn

By Vinette K. Pryce

New York's only "progressive and independent" radio station — WBAI-FM — is making Brooklyn its home.

Broadcasting at the 99.5 FM frequency in the middle of the radio dial, the predominant talk, radio station started broadcasting from 388 Atlantic Ave. on May 1 after years of sharing studio space with Harlem's WHCR when the station lost its anchor at Wall Street during the Hurricane Sandy debacle.

The move marks the Pacifica-owned WBAI's relocation from 120 Wall St. to uptown in Harlem and now allegedly to a permanent home in Brooklyn.

A go-to outlet for information pertaining to the Black community, Africa and the Caribbean, WBAI-FM provides commercial-free programming that spans news, arts and music due to its listener-supported status with audiences in search of alternative radio.

Jamaicans hosting programs include "Lister Hewan Lowe," host of the fiery "Burn Baby Burn," Habte Selassie who has been with the station for almost four decades with "Labbrish" and Ian Forrest's Monday dawn program titled "Connections."

Among the variety of programming that emanates from that frequency is the "Global Black Experience" hosted by Imhotep Gary Byrd.

Byrd who is celebrating 50 years in radio, began his inaugural Brooklyn May Day show by kicking off programming with a salute to "African Liberation Month."

To celebrate the month and his first broadcast from WBAI-FM's new Brooklyn location, Byrd discussed the rebellion in Baltimore, non-violent demonstrations and the unprecedented indictment of the six police officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray with Brooklyn's New York State Assem-



Imhotep Gary Byrd.

blyman Charles Barron.

He also lauded the belated approval of Attorney General Lorretta Lynch and talked about the health plight of Philadelphia jailed activist-journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"During the month of May, we will celebrate African Liberation Month with a series of programs reflecting the African Diaspora from politics to health and culture," Byrd said.

"Whether we're covering the impact of police brutality in Ferguson, Staten Island and Baltimore or confronting the healthcare crisis in urban communities, and the challenges of the African Diaspora, The GBE is on the frontline of giving vital information and giving our tri-state and global Black community a voice."

His show begins at 6:00 p.m. on Frilays.

EOM commends Guyana on high voter turnout

By Nelson A. King

The Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) has congratulated the citizens of the Guyana for their participation in the electoral process as reflected by the high voter turnout on Monday.

The OAS said on Tuesday that the EOM team of 22 observers from 13 countries was present from the opening of the polls up to the counting of the votes in all 10 regions of the country, visiting a total of 379 polling stations on Election Day.

The mission, led by Senator Lisa Shoman from Belize, will remain in place until the final results are tallied, and will make a public report once they are announced, the OAS said.

"The Mission recognizes the significant improvements made by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM)

since 2011 to plan and prepare for the 2015 electoral process, specifically in the areas of transparency, logistics and inclusiveness of political parties in the process," the statement said.

"The Observation Mission highlights the extraordinary commitment of presiding officers, returning officers, poll clerks, party agents and security officials in the exercise of their duties and commends voters for their determination to fulfill their civic responsibility, despite facing long lines in some cases," it added.

"The mission expresses its concern over the reported incidents of violence in some areas, which temporarily affected the planned progress of the tabulation exercise," it continued.

With the purpose of strengthening the electoral system in Guyana, and based on the observations and informa-

tion gathered by direct observations of the OAS team, as well as in meetings with a wide range of stakeholders, the EOM issued a number of recommenda-

It said while the process of transmitting results in Guyana contains safe-guards to reinforce the accuracy of the electoral outcome, the manual nature of the process is "inherently time-consuming."

Given the particular geographical and logistical challenges of Guyanese elections, the mission urged the GECOM to consider implementing a system to issue preliminary results for national elections.

"The use of technology might serve to defuse tension and avoid incidents of violence on election night," the EOM said.

Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifenews.com CARIBBEAN ROUND

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Bahamas

Bahamas police have launched a manhunt for the killers of a British national last weekend.

Police said the man, whose name was not given, was at his home, when two men armed with handguns accosted him and demanded cash.

"The men fired two shots hitting the victim before fleeing on foot. The victim

was pronounced dead at the scene. Police are searching for four men in connection with this incident," the police said in a statement.



Meanwhile, investigators acting on a tip-off said they went to a cruise ship moored at Prince George Wharf, where they detained a 26-year-old American after he was found in possession of a

quantity of marijuana.

The suspect was taken into custody and appeared in court.

Cayman Islands

Police in the Cayman Islands say they are trying to find out who installed a secret video camera in the office of a senior manager at the troubled prison on the British Caribbean territory's main island.

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service said a correctional officer at HMP Northward prison on Grand Cayman Island has been suspended pending further investigations.

They say investigators found the camera "covertly recording" in the manager's office. The motive was unclear.



Prison Director Neil Lavis says he is "committed to uncovering the parties involved" in installing the camera.

The names of the manager and the suspended officer were not disclosed by police.

In 2013, British inspectors found that conditions at Northward prison were decrepit and "meaningful accountability almost non-existent."

Grenada

Grenada has reached an agreement with its creditors to restructure US\$262 million it defaulted on in 2013.

Bondholders have agreed in principle to a 50 percent cut in the bond's original value. In exchange, Grenada's

government will issue new bonds due in 2030 to existing bondholders carrying an annual coupon of seven percent.



It will also share with bondholders a portion of revenues generated by its Citizenship by Investment Program.

The deal ends a lengthy negotiation viewing him.



CARICOM discusses climate change

French President François Hollande and President of the Regional Council of Martinique, Serge Letchimy at a climate change meeting in Fort-de-France, Martinique. See story on page 16. Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

between the government and its creditors, including Franklin Templeton and Acadian Asset Management.

Despite Grenada's small size, the agreement is being closely watched by international investors, as Greece and Ukraine are striving to sort out their debt problems with creditors.

The agreement could provide a road map for other countries.

The deal is likely to provide the island with a significant reprieve. The country still has a US\$907 million public-sector debt.

Guyana

Guyana Health Minister Bheri Ramsarran has been fired after verbally abusing a social rights activist and threatening to have government supporters strip her naked.

President Donald Ramotar said in

a statement recently that he was outraged by the minister's verbal outburst and insults.



Some government officials and activists had been calling for Ramsarran's resignation.

Ramsarran apologized for his actions that were caught on video and posted on social media following an April 20 election campaign rally.

He said he lost his temper when activist Sherlina Nageer repeatedly interrupted as reporters were inter-

Ramotar himself was caught at the end of last year telling a man he was "stupid" and deserved a slap after he made comments about former President Bharath Jagdeo.

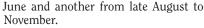
Haiti

Haitian officials have reported a spike in cholera cases late last year and into the first three months of 2015 as an early rainy season has public health workers worried.

As of March 28, the Haitian Ministry of Health confirmed 11,721 cases of cholera, more than a 300 per cent increase from the

same period last year.

Haiti has seen two rainy seasons that tend to generate spikes in cholera: April to



In March, the UN mission to Haiti requested US\$36.5 million for cholera programs for the next two years. The figure is based on assumption that only 28,000 people will be infected this year, a fraction of the peak of the epidemic in 2011 when more than 350,000 were infected.

There had been no record of cholera in Haiti before the 2010 outbreak, believe to have been caused by human waste from a Nepalese-staffed UN base seeping into a river used for bathing, laundry and drinking.

Jamaica

Jamaica's most prominent human rights organization has closed its legal department and lay off staff after losing its long-standing status as a charity, leader of the group said.

Barry Wade, chairman of Jamaicans for Justice, said the government rejected the watchdog's application to renew its charity status, forcing it to dramatically cut its operations and turn down certain grants from international

It now also faces some US\$100,000 in back taxes.

Wade said the denial came due to concerns about the group's advocacy for



legislative change, a reason he said is "puzzling."

He also asserts the decision is "contrary to international norms."

Over the years, police officials have portrayed Jamaicans for Justice as being sympathetic to criminals and some politicians have accused it of trying to make the island look bad. But the group is widely respected among many.

In 2008, one of its founders received the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for her work against police slavings.

Last year, the organization's reputation took a hit in Jamaica when it

Continued on Page 14



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Justice Sylvia Ash breaks glass ceiling

Continued from cover

ley for his many years of tremendous service leading our board," said Kam Wong, MCU's president and chief executive officer, in a statement.

"I know that MCU will continue to reach great milestones and meet the financial needs of our growing membership as we move forward", he added.

In March 15, 2014, Ash was among five Black female justices to receive a United States Congressional Honor during the all-day 3rd Annual Shirley Chisholm Women's Empowerment Conference at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

Ash, who sits on the bench in the 2nd Judicial District in Kings County Supreme Court, was honored by United States Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

Clarke's mother, the trail-blazing Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman to ever hold elective office in New York City, presented the award to Ash and the other honorees at a special ceremony at the culmination of the conference.

The other honorees were Justices



Justice Sylvia G. Ash (L) receives Congressional honor, on behalf of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, from her mother, former New York City Councilwoman Una S.T. Clarke last year.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Barbadian-born Sylvia Hinds-Radix, L. Priscilla Hall, Cheryl E. Chambers and Sharen D. Hudson.

Prior to her election to the Supreme Court, Justice Ash was the first Caribbean-American woman to be elected as a Civil Court Judge in New York City.

In 1984, immediately after graduating from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., and being admitted to practice law in the State of New York in 1985, Justice Ash accepted a position as a judicial law clerk in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division. She was the first person of color to serve in that position.

Alliance declares victory

Continued from cover

the APNU-AFC coalition that was ironically consummated only on Valentine's Day 2015. It leaders campaigned across the country as well as in the North American Diaspora to overwhelming support from Guyanese of all race groups culminating with a 71.5 percent turnout on polling day that ensure it crossed the line.

Together, the two have vanquished the PPP after 23 consecutive years in office, marked by the most glaring and persistent allegations of corruption, graft and nepotism possibly ever made against a CARICOM trade group member in recent decades.

But even as the alliance is preparing to form a brand new umbrella government, the PPP is demanding recounts in some key administrative regions saying it is unprepared to concede defeat to the opposition until verification.

On Tuesday afternoon, Granger, Moses Nagamootoo, his prime ministerial candidate and other key coalition leaders called a press conference to declare victory and put pressure on the elections commission, contending that with 88 percent of the statements of polls from voting centers already tallied, it had amassed 182,000 votes to the PPP's 157,000 giving it a comfortable 24,000 vote lead or about four parliamentary seats.

Granger, a retired army general and

respected historian, suggested that even if the PPP were to win all the remaining votes, it will still be unable to surpass the coalition's lead as some of those votes will also come from coalition strongholds.

"There is no way that the PPP can close this gap that we have opened up," he said, flanked by other leaders. "We have a comfortable lead."

The coalition is banking on the fact that unlike 2011, when some of its polling day agents had failed to transmit close of polling results back to party command centers in a timely manner, that aspect was covered comprehensively this time allowing APNU-AFC to confidently declare victory less than 24 hours after.

If its declaration holds true, it would mean that this is the third CARICOM member state or associate member whose electorate has kicked out a government this year. Those in St. Kitts and Anguilla have done so already. Suriname votes on May 25. Trinidad is expecting an announcement anytime now and St. Vincent must be held before year end. On June 8, electors in the British Virgin Island will vote in an unusually heavy year of polling in the region.

Ramotar has lost his presidency only three and a half years into his tenure because the AFC and the APNU had dared to call for a parliamentary vote of no confidence knowing they had a oneseat majority.

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From Communist to Catholic

By Vinette K. Pryce

After a 50-minute meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican recently, Cuban President Raul Castro admitted that the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church may have reconverted him to believing in faith.

"If the Pope continues to speak like this, sooner or later I will start praying again and I will return to the Catholic Church – and I'm not saying this jokingly," the Communist leader said in Rome.

"I promise that I will go to all of his Masses – and with satisfaction."

After his first-ever meeting with the pope, President Castro said he would be among the throngs flocking to see the pontiff speak when he makes a visit to Cuba in September.

Of the visit with the papal leader, the brother of Fidel, Cuba's most revered leader said, "I left the meeting this morning impressed, very impressed by his knowledge, his wisdom, modesty, and by all the virtues that we know he has."

"As I've already told my council of advisers, I read all of the Pope's speeches."

Those praying for change were heartened in January when officials announced that the first Catholic Church under the Castro administration would be built in Sandino, a town of



Pope Francis exchanges gifts with Cuban President Raul Castro, second right, during a private audience at the Vatican, Sunday, May 10, 2015. Cuban President Raul Castro has been welcomed at the Vatican by Pope Francis, who played a key role in the breakthrough between Washington and Havana aimed at restoring U.S.-Cuban diplomatic ties.

L'Osservatore Romano/Pool Photo via Associated Press

39,000 in the west of the country.

"I am a communist of the Cuban Communist Party," Raul Castro added.

"The party never allowed the believers. Now we are allowing that believers also be part. This is an important step."

The president indicated that he is Jesuit "to a degree" because of the schools

he attended in his youth.

And although prayer has not been on his itinerary, the president said the teachings of Pope Francis had persuaded him not only to take a softer line on religion, but perhaps to return to the faith he grew up in as a student at Jesuit schools.

T&T opposition leader suspended from Parliament

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley was suspended from Parliament for the rest of its sittings on Wednesday night.

The suspension comes some six weeks before Parliament will be dissolved on June 17 to make way for the next General Election.

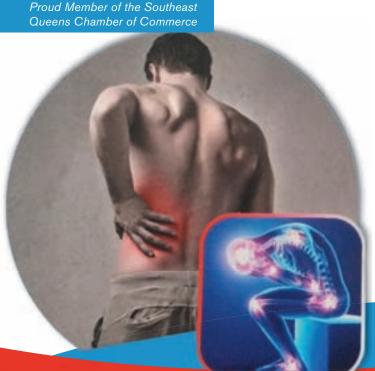
House Speaker Wade Mark announced the suspension after a vote was taken with 24 government saying "yes", while the lone opposition MP Jack Warner voted against the motion.

The opposition members staged a second walkout of the House of Representatives when the debate on a no-confidence motion started.

It was a double whammy as hours before, Dr. Rowley, was sent to the Privileges Committee over a motion brought by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar against the PNM political leader for his reference to a document which he alleged to be a legal opinion, authored by Sir Henry Forde, Barbadian QC, which the prime minister claimed was fraudulent.



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Healthy diets for healthy lives

By José Graziano da Silva

ROME, May 5, 2015 (IPS) - In the last half-century, people's lifestyles have changed dramatically. Life expectancy has risen almost everywhere, but this has been accompanied by an increase of so-called noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases, and diabetes – causing more and more deaths in all corners of the world.

My distinguished colleague Dr. Margaret Chan, directorgeneral of the World Health Organization (WHO), has called the worldwide rise of NCDs a "slow-motion catastrophe." If NCDs were once considered the scourge of the developed world, this is no longer true; they now disproportionally affect lowand middle-income countries where nearly three-quarters of NCD deaths – 28 million per year – occur.

Much of the rise of NCDs can be attributed to unhealthy diets. WHO estimates that 2.7 million deaths every year are attributable to diets low in fruits and vegetables. Globally unhealthy diets are estimated to cause about 19 percent of gastrointestinal cancer, 31 percent of ischaemic heart disease, and 11 percent of strokes, thus making diet-related NCDs one of the leading preventable causes of death worldwide.

In other words, diet determines health – just as bad diets can lead to disease, healthy diets can contribute to good health.

But what exactly is a healthy diet? This is a difficult question.

Generally, a healthy diet must provide the right nutrients in the right balance and with sufficient diversity, limiting the intake of free sugars to less than 10 percent of total energy requirements, and keeping salt intake to less than five grams per day.

"There is no one-size-fitsall healthy diet. A healthy diet must be affordable, based on locally available foodstuffs, and meet cultural preferences"

However, there is no one-size-fits-all healthy diet. A healthy diet must be affordable, based on locally available foodstuffs, and meet cultural preferences. For over 20 years, FAO, together with WHO, has worked with governments on national Food-Based Dietary Guidelines: short, science-based, tips on healthy eating, in accordance with local values, customs and tradition.

Healthy meals do not always taste or look the same. Take, for example, the Mediterranean and Japanese diets: very healthy and completely different.

The Mediterranean diet revolves around the consumption of legumes, cereals, fruits and vegetables, olive oil, fish, and moderate consumption of dairy products (mostly cheese and yogurt). It emphasises unprocessed, plant-based foods, such as fruits and vegetables, in addition to the consumption of beans, nuts, cereals and other seeds; olive oil is the main source of (unsaturated) fat.

Japanese cuisine, on the other hand, is often associated with sushi (raw fish with rice),

Continued on Page 12

Working together to end campus sexual violence

By Lisa M. Maatz

Campus sexual violence has been the subject of an intense national conversation recently, but that dialogue often lacks critical input from schools that are already taking steps to improve their campus climates. Colleges and universities, it's time for you to lead on this issue.

So far, and with good reason, most of the attention has focused on schools that are under investigation for violating federal laws about sexual violence and on the survivors bravely sharing their stories and calling for action. Yet there are a number of schools that are working hard to address these challenges and to make real progress on this issue, and we need to hear from schools that are prioritizing prevention, response, and transparency and including students and survivors in all related initiatives on campus.

Rampant sexual violence

Rampant sexual violence creates a campus climate that is hostile to students, and students can't learn when they aren't safe.

creates a campus climate that is hostile to students, and students can't learn when they aren't safe. Because campus sexual assault happens everywhere, everyone benefits when schools worry less about public relations and more about making campuses safe. Part of the solution is for schools to create an environment where students feel comfortable reporting sexual violence.

Schools can also lead by understanding and complying with Title IX, the 1972 federal law that prevents sex discrimination in federally funded education pro-

grams. Unfortunately, under the scrutiny of the national spotlight, some schools have criticized or even blamed the law for problems on campus. But Title IX is not the reason schools mishandle campus sexual assaults. Smart schools recognize that it is their all-important guide for upholding students' civil rights in campus proceedings and preventing future violence on campus. Title IX works, and it must be protected

Title IX requires schools to have a role in addressing sexual violence because they are best equipped to provide accommodations such as class schedule or housing changes, critical pieces of the sexual assault response that survivors may need to be able to complete their education. Schools must also figure out in an administrative setting what occurred and then handle it according to their estab-

Continued on Page 12

'How stupid is stupid?'

To The Editor:

To my fellow New York Liberty supporters, just when you thought you might go back and see a Liberty women's pro basketball game, James Dolan, the chairman of Cablevision. the parent company of Madison Square Garden and the NY Knicks, names Isaiah Thomas to be the new president of the NY Liberty of the WNBA. Thomas is also being offered the option to buy a part of the NY Liberty team at some point in the near future. [NY Times, May 5, 2015, Sports, "James Dolan Gives an Executive Another Shot, Deserved

or Not"l

This is the same Isaiah Thomas who a Federal District Court jury ruled had sexually harassed then NY Knicks President, Anucha Browne, a woman. She was awarded \$11.6 million in punitive damages paid by MSG and James Dolan.

This is the new president of the NY Liberty of the WNBA?

budget and away from women's pro basketball all together.

I can't wait till the NY Liberty sales rep calls saying they have a great season subscription for me. I am gladly going to tell them to buzz off. Don't ever call me again. Any company that would hire a convicted sexual harasser to oversee the women's team is too stupid to receive any of my support and money.

Ugh. Disgusting. All done, again.

Gail A. Marquis, USA Olympic Champion & former NY Liberty season ticketholder

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

Running amok with power in Trinidad & Tobago

Given where it ranks on the scale of international concerns, we have never before found it necessary to devote consecutive columns to political goings-on in Trinidad and Tobago. Alas, a deplorable and deteriorating state of affairs there has beckoned us to step onto this untraveled terrain.

So after commenting, last time around, about the high probability of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her corruption-smeared administration embracing any and all avenues of deviousness in their determined effort to remain in office, we got slammed last week by yet another power-abuse wallop from them. And this pattern of using the privilege of a governing majority to ulterior effect, each time seemingly more sinister than the last, has set off alarm bells in the society, as well it should. Were it not so farfetched, one might be tempted to suggest that in the hierarchy of Bissessar's party is to be found a small knot of devotees of "Can You Top This?" which had its day on American radio back in the 1940s-50s. But Bissessar and her party masterminds competing to see who proposes the most outlandish and offensive course of action isn't all that unlikely a scenario, in light of what their collective fondness for the seamy side of government and politics has so far laid bare.

When the government brought to the country's Parliament a few weeks ago, notwithstanding the very ludi-crousness of it, a motion of no confidence in the Leader of the Opposition Dr. Keith Rowley, Bissessar and company ran into a buzz-saw of condemnation after one of their members reduced the Parliament to a place of unprecedented moral decrepitude in a presentation that personally vilified Rowley with unfounded, scandalous allegations — allegations which, if made outside of Parliament, would have landed the perpetrator in court to answer serious slander and defamation charges. Bissessar, feigning surprise at what went down, talked about accepting an apology from a supposedly "atoning" transgressor, all of which was of course scripted nonsense which, we suspect, bamboozled no one. More importantly, had

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

there been even a remote hint of principle resident within the government caucus, the unflattering fiasco that came to be the "no-confidence" exercise in bull-headedness would have been cue enough to dump the idea. But as Raffique Shah noted in the Trinidad Express, even at the risk of a pursuit of vengeance that ultimately strangles them, Bissessar and her cohorts would not allow their "Get Rowley" fixation to go unfulfilled.

So last week, trampling all over constitutional parameters and parliamentary protocol, the Bissessar government voted to censure Rowley and suspend him from Parliament. Justifiably so, from the opposition side, before the members all walked out, came charges of the government giving itself "kangaroo court" license. For starters, that move by the governing party seems curiously lacking

in political savvy, for a group desperately trying to hold on to power. Bearing in mind the bottomless pit of resources we keep hearing about, to which Bissessar and her minions now reportedly have access, was a "Throw out Rowley" strategy the best counsel those deep pockets could buy? It doesn't require Rhodes Scholar brains to recognize the back-fire potential in going that route. Which encourages the conclusion that maybe blind vengeance is indeed playing a role in the unfolding saga.

The government's bull's eye on Rowley has to do with his revealing in Parliament a couple of years ago what purportedly were copies of incriminating emails that came into his possession, that involved members of the government, including the prime minister. Supposedly under investigation by the police and other outside interests all this time, the so-called "Emailgate" has remained a bone of contention, with Bissessar predictably insisting that the emails were bogus — a claim that no official source has yet supported. But Bissessar's punitive recourse in the "Emailgate" flap mirrors behavior for which she has come to be known and points up her propensity for demeaning opponents while conveniently ignoring similar or worse shortcomings of her own.

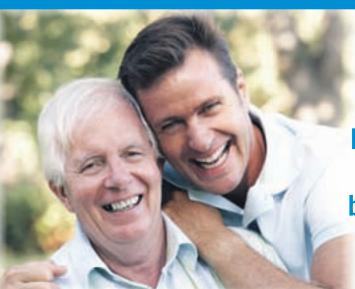
The prime minister should be told that the guise she so readily assumes - paragon of unswerving uprightness is one that doesn't sit well on her. It didn't sit well long before she became prime minister and continues to be a misfit today. In the wake of her vitriolic putdown of Rowley for entering those emails into Parliament's records, there's been a revisiting of Bissessar's going on the record in Parliament years ago with trumpedup charges made against two members on the opposite side, with nary a peep from Bissessar even after the courts cleared the men and their accuser recanted.

She's that type of operator. She has shown that she will stop at nothing to retain her perch. And the need has intensified for an electorate perhaps more attentive than ever before.



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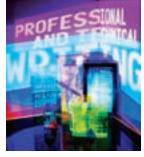
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OP-EDS

Healthy dietary practices

Continued from page 10

and sashimi (fresh raw seafood). The Japanese diet emphasises at least seven ingredients: fish as a major source of protein; vegetables including daikon radish and sea vegetables; rice; soya (tofu, miso, soya sauce); noodles; fruit; and tea (preferably green).

The Japanese and Mediterranean diets are examples of healthy diets. They use a great variety of ingredients; they are rich in plant foods including vegetables and fruit, legumes and fibres; they are modest in red meat; and they utilise many natural herbs and spices instead of salt to flavour food.

Both diets are linked to peoples and cultures as much as to their natural environment: it therefore comes as no surprise that both the Mediterranean diet and the Japanese diet have made it onto UNESCO's World's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The health benefits of the Japanese and Mediterranean diets are promising. Japanese enjoy one of the longest average life spans in the world - 87 years for women and 80 for men. In Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Spain, women have a life expectancy of 85 years. The figure for Italian men is 80 years, the same as their Japanese counterparts. All of them are above the average of high-income countries: 82 years for women and 76 years for men.

Medical research also indicate that that the Japanese diet leads to the lowest prevalence in the world of obesity only 2.9% for Japanese women – and other chronic diseases like osteoporosis, heart ailments and some cancers. On the other hand, the Mediterranean diet, if followed for a number of years, is known to reduce the risk of developing heart disease, cancer, hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzhe-

In sum, adhering to a healthy diet helps you to not only to live longer, but also to have a better quality of life. Conversely, a bad diet causes malnutrition and can expose you to a range of NCDs.

A modern paradox is that many countries - including developing countries - suffer from undernourishment on the one hand, and obesity and diet-related diseases on the other. And while FAO's chief concern is to eradicate hunger in this world, we cannot separate food security from nutrition. FAO - together with our U.N. agencies - considers food and nutrition security a basic human right.

In all cases, the cost of malnutrition goes beyond the health of the individual: it affects society as a whole in terms of public health costs and loss of productivity, and, therefore, is an issue that must be addressed through public and coordinated action.

Last year's Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), organised jointly by FAO and WHO, sent a clear message in that direction. The two outcome documents of ICN2, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action that commit world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and making nutritious diets available to all.

A key message from ICN2 is: governments have a central role to play in creating a healthy food environment to enable people to adopt healthy dietary practices. Yes, it is consumers who choose what to eat, but it is the government's role to provide the enabling environment that encourages and makes healthy choices possible.

José Graziano da Silva is the directorgeneral of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),

Campus sexual assault

Continued from page 10

lished codes of student conduct, antidiscrimination policies, and federal civil rights law.

These responsibilities under Title IX do not require schools to serve as police officers, prosecutors, or judges. Schools do not decide whether a felony or misdemeanor occurred for purposes of prosecution, and they cannot make plea agreements or impose criminal punishments. Those roles are, appropriately, left to the criminal justice system and can take place simultaneously if the survivor chooses to involve law enforcement. Title IX guidance clearly delineates between schools' role and law enforcement's role.

If school officials truly don't see how these separate paths can work together, many helpful resources are available Association of University Women

through the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice and online at notalone.

The current national dialogue will be more productive if institutional leaders join the conversation — along with survivors, advocates, and policy makers — and help end the epidemic of campus sexual violence. Many schools are missing the chance not only to keep students safe but also to impress on students, faculty, prospective students, and parents that their institution is part of the solution. In the coming months, we expect to have the opportunity to highlight and learn from schools that are proactively addressing campus sexual assault and embracing Title IX. We look forward to hearing from them.

Lisa M. Maatz is vice president for Government Relations at American



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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

introduced a sex education program for children's group homes that it acknowledged was not properly vetted.

In a statement, Jamaicans for Justice said a new board elected recently will focus on getting the group's charitable status back and hopefully reach a settlement with the government regarding back taxes.

St. Lucia

The Caribbean Association of Banks (CAB) says it fully supports the view of Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne that there is a very real and grave threat to the Caribbean banking industry.

In his remarks at the meeting of CARI-COM heads and United States President Barack Obama in Jamaica last month, Browne said



there had been an unfair and unsubstantiated labeling of the region as a high-risk area for financial services by some U.S. organizations. As a result there is a threat of loss of correspondent banking relationships to banks in the region.

CAB said in a statement: "Correspondent banks use the risk rating of countries, in assessing the risk profile of banks, to determine whether to continue existing or establish new

relationships. The present trend is that some correspondent banks have discontinued some of the services provided to regional banks and are also not establishing new relationships particularly with small size financial institutions."

The association said correspondent banking relationships are critical in enabling key economic and financial transactions, such as, remittances, foreign direct investments and international trade in goods and services, key drivers for sustaining the region's growth and development. It warned that the loss of these vital relationships can render the Caribbean unbankable and ultimately destabilize all sectors of economies in the region.

St. Vincent

The Islamic State (IS), an Islamic rebel group claiming religious, political and military authority over all Muslims worldwide, has hacked the official website of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines

government (www.gov. vc), a message appearing on the website recently suggested.



Visitors to the website were greeted by a message saying "Hacked By Moroccanwolf - Islamic State" and a photo of a man firing a high caliber machine gun from the back of a pick-up truck.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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Carib looks to Paris Climate Summit for its very survival

By Desmond Brown

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique, May 9, 2015 (IPS) -Caribbean leaders on Saturday further advanced their policy position on climate change ahead of the 21st Conference of Parties, also known as COP 21, scheduled for Paris during November and December of this year.

The position of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), 14 independent countries, was put forward by the group's chairman, Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie, during a meeting here with French President François Hollande.

"The evidence of the impact of climate change within our region is very evident. Grenada saw a 300 percent loss of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) as a result of one storm," Christie told IPS

"We see across CARICOM, an average of two to five percent loss of growth due to hurricanes and tropical process which occur annually.

"For the Bahamas, which the nations of the region. has 80 percent of its land mass within one metre of mean sea level, climate change is an existential threat to our land mass. Indeed, that is the story across the region. And as I have said from place to place, if the sea level rises some five feet in the Bahamas, 80 percent of the Bahamas as we know it will disappear. The stark reality of that means, we are here to talk about survival," Christie added.

The Caribbean Community comprises the Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the member states of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union — Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Saturday's summit gathered more than 40 heads of state, governments and Caribbean organisations to discuss the impact of climate change on

The president of the Regional Council of Martinique, Serge Letchimy, said the summit goal is to give a voice to Caribbean nations on climate change through a joint statement, to be called "The Martinique Appeal," to be heard at

"Caribbean Climate 2015 is a push," said Letchimy, "to vigorously encourage the international community to reach an agreement at COP21 to keep global warming below 2 degrees C. This is a crucial goal for Caribbean island nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change and which only contribute 0.3 percent of global greenhouse emissions."

Letchimy said Martinique is addressing the climate issue by aggressively implementing the Climate, Air and Energy Master Plan developed in cooperation with the French government.

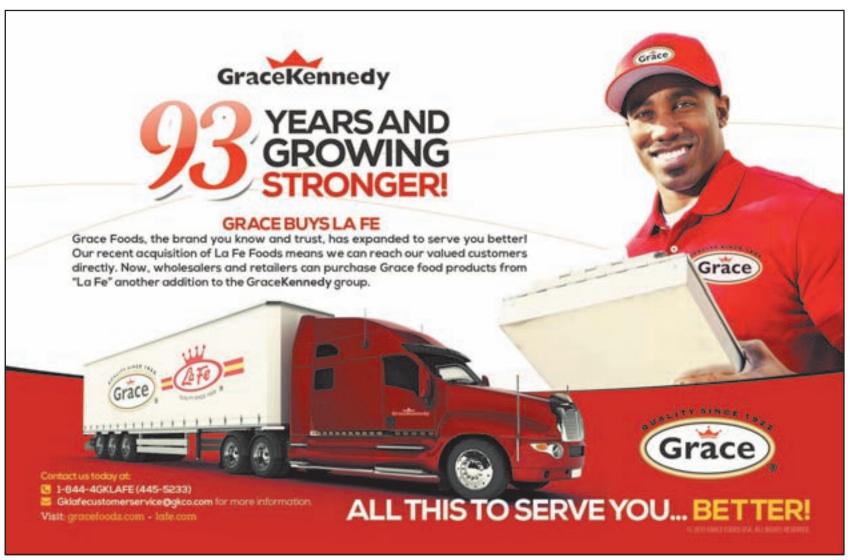
In order to promote a more circular economy that consumes less non-renewable

OECS Director General Dr. Didacus Jules.

Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

resources, the Regional Council of Martinique has also decided to go beyond the Master Plan with a programme called "Mar-

tinique - Sustainable Island." The goal is to achieve a 100 percent renewable energy mix by 2030.



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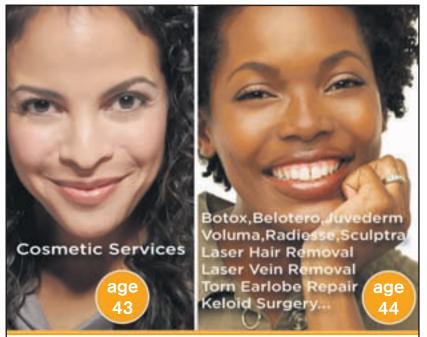
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Western Union expands educational programs

The Western Union Company (NYSE: WU), a leader in global payment services, announced the expansion of its educational programs for Caribbean-born or second generation of Caribbean Americans residing in the United States by pledging US\$50,000 through the Western Union Foundation in educational scholarships and extending the program from nine to 19 Caribbean countries.

The commitment was announced in Brooklyn as Western Union and GraceKennedy Limited kicked off their first annual town hall meeting series at Medgar Evers College on May 4.

Staged under the theme "Caribbean Diaspora - Borderless Possibilities," and featuring as keynote speaker, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable P.J. Patterson, the event was the first in a series of three town hall stops. The meeting series is intended to connect the Caribbean diasporas in the United States and Canada with their home countries, while providing them with an opportunity to actively discuss issues relating to the diaspora and its advancement. The second event took place in Toronto at the CBC Atrium and the last event was held at the Miramar Cultural Centre in Miramar, Florida on May 8.

During the event which brought together hundreds of members of the Caribbean community, Western Union and GraceKennedy explained the details of their educational programmes for diaspora youth: the 'Pride of the Caribbean' and the 'GraceKennedy Birthright' Programmes.

"As Caribbean families pursue their educational dreams, the sheer cost continues to be a barrier, especially for those who are unable to meet the criteria for federal loans. As an expression of gratitude for the continued support of our Caribbean customers, several Western Union Agents throughout the Caribbean have donated to The Western Union Foundation Gift Match Program in support of the Pride of the Caribbean Programme. Our goal is to elevate our outstanding future leaders as members of the Caribbean community," said Sean Mason, regional vice president & general manager, Western Union Caribbean.

"If you or someone you know qualifies for the 2015 Pride of the Caribbean Scholarship Program, we encourage them to visit www.PrideoftheCaribbean. com to review eligibility requirements and apply directly until June 3," Mason



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LIU Brooklyn Honors Class of 2015 with Commencement Celebration

graduates celebrated their educational success in a momentous occasion at LIU Brooklyn's Commencement ceremony on May 12 at the Barclavs Center.

The LIU community recognized Brook- munities. lyn cultural leader and President of Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Karen Brooks Hopkins, and awarded her an LIU Honorary Doctorate. Hopkins has played a transformative role in broadening and redefining Brooklyn's cultural landscape through premier performing arts programming at BAM and its affiliates in Downtown Brooklyn.

Political Science Major Named Valedictorian

Navil Infante, an Honors student and Political Science major, was named valedictorian of the 2015 graduating class and presented the student address during Commencement ceremonies. Infante was awarded New York City's prestigious Jeannette K. Watson Fel-

organization and a leading multinational law firm. Infante will spend her last Watson Fellow internship in Costa Rica teaching English to children from impoverished com-

Distinction and Scholarship

A crowd of nearly 10,000 graduates, proud families, guests, and university officials gathered at Commencement 2015 to celebrate the achievements of 291 doctoral candidates, 1,068 master's degree candidates, 88 dual bachelor's/master's candidates, 825 baccalaureate students, 20 associate's degree recipients, and 67 who have completed advanced certificates.

Geographically, the class represents 35 states and 40 nations from 6 continents around the world. It included 235 international students, decorated service veterans, and award-winning student athletes. A large

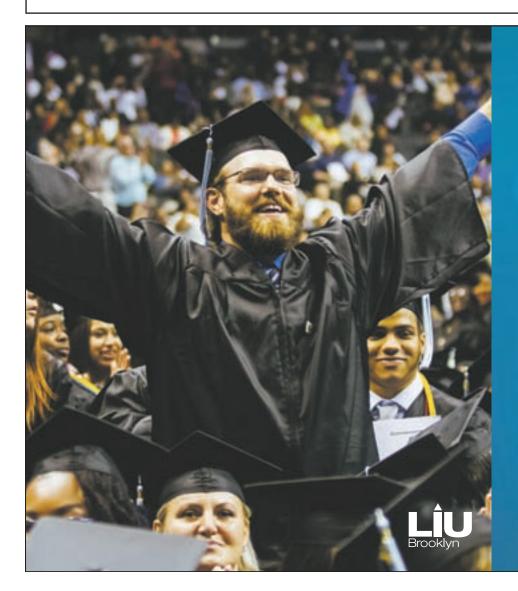
Brooklyn's newest generation of young lowship and worked at a national nonprofit number of students graduated with honors: 8 with distinction in honors: 61 with honors designation; 78 Summa Cum Laude; 62 Magna Cum Laude; and 146 Cum Laude.

> Degrees and certificates were conferred to graduates of LIU Brooklyn, LIU Global, LIU Pharmacy, and LIU Hudson.

> For more information on the LIU Brooklyn Commencement ceremonies, visit www.liu. edu/brooklyn/commencement.

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

LIU Brooklyn congratulates the graduates who were awarded bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees, as well as associates degrees and advanced certificates, at this year's annual Commencement. The university community proudly welcomes our newest graduates to a global network of over 200,000 alumni.

Learn more at LIU.edu and stay connected with the LIU Brooklyn alumni community at LIU.edu/Alumni.

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- 88 dual bachelor's/master's degree recipients
- 67 advanced certificate recipients
- 20 associate's degree recipients



Raising up the flag in celebration at Parkside Pla-Photo courtesy of Haiti Culture Exchange

Annual Haitian Flag Day

May is a month full of celebrations and aside from high school proms and graduations, it is also Haiti Heritage Month.

Various organizations clamor together to create various events in celebration of the month including Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX) http://haiticulturalx.org/ with their annual outdoor Flag Day event at

Parkside Plaza on Ocean and Parkside avenues.

"We had seen in New York a number of different festivals happening,' Regine Roumain, executive director of HCX, said. "Because Haiti Cultural Exchange has been working to promote and present Haitian culture since 2009, we were like 'let's try to have this festival that would really group all of our programs and test out some new and innovative programs in a six-week kind of festival.' To raise the profile of our artists, our culture and to allow for diverse audiences to experience Haitian culture. The Flag Day event was part of the kick-off weekend."

Now a stand-a-lone, annual event, HCX includeded this flag day celebration as part of a six-week festival entitled Selabrasyon. Selabrasyon will operate as a bi-annual event allowing for the organization to focus on other pillar events including the upcoming Haiti Film Fest on May 16.

Last year, Haitians spent

the day celebrating Haiti's culture through live dance and drumming performances, arts and crafts, and even face painting in front of the Parkside Avenue Q Train stop. "It's going to follow a lot of the same model. We're going to have vendors, face painting, we're expanding our arts activities for youth. It will still be a similar format with live music performances, live drumming, the vendors," Roumain said.

Grab your friends, family and flag - no matter what country you represent - and enjoy a day of outdoor fun with HCX and their vendors Sunday, May 17 from 12 noon - 6:00

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Photo contest for Caribbean youth

By Nelson A. King

International The Monetary Fund (IMF) has launched a regional photo contest entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: Through the Eyes of its Youth" for Latin American and Caribbean vouth.

The Washington-based financial institution said on Wednesday that the contest, which is open to citizens of Latin American and Caribbean countries age 18-30, "provides an opportunity for youth in the region to communicate visually the economic and social challenges facing their countries, as well as ideas about how best to build a better future for the region."

"It's always enlightening and refreshing to engage with young people to learn more about the challenges they see and aspirations they have for the future," said Carla Grasso, IMF deputy managing director, in launching of the photo contest Wednesday during a roundtable event with university students in Lima, Peru.

"The photo contest will be a fantastic opportunity

to visualize their perspectives on the region's economic and social situation and how to improve it," she added.

The contest will accept photo submissions from May 6 to Jun. 30, 2015. Each photograph must include a short description — no more than 150 words — to explain how the image captures a contest theme in one of the three regional languages: Spanish, English, or Portuguese.

Online voting will run from July 1 to July 31, the IMF said.

It said the top 20 finalists will be evaluated by a panel of judges composed of IMF staff and regional partners.

The selection will be based on originality, technical excellence and artistic merit.

In addition, the IMF said the panel will consider the country of origin and gender of the photographer.

Six finalists will be selected and invited to the 2015 Annual Meetings in Lima, Peru, where the winners will be announced, the IMF

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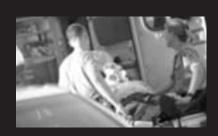
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THE CARIBBEAN BUSINESS REPORT

Woman's work—Birthing Caribbean entrepreneurs

By Gerard Best

You really don't know what to expect when you put a dozen-plus Caribbean entrepreneurs in one room for a week.

But one thing was clear when 15 entrepreneurs — all women — came together in Port of Spain in April. It was the start of something good.

The ladies gathered to share experiences and build strategies for future collaboration. Besides their Caribbean heritage and passion for productivity, these go-getters had something else in common. Each had been competitively selected to take part in the firstever facilitators training for the Women's Innovation Network of the Caribbean (WINC) program. The initiative is a World Bank project to support woman entrepreneurs in the region. It is funded via the Canada Development Bank.

The one-week workshop focused on teaching participants how to run courses targeted at other goal-oriented women in their home territory. Up to 10 of the 15 would receive funding to run the course for one year. For Nerissa Golden, though, the big win wasn't in the funding but the friendships.

"This has been an incredible opportunity to connect with other women who share this same passion for entrepreneurship and empowering others to launch and grow a business," she said.

Goldenmedia, the company that she started 12 years ago in Montserrat, is a small business rooted primarily in the cultural and technology industries, and specialising in publicity and multimedia content creation for brands and entrepreneurs.

"The other ladies and I decided even before arriving in Port of Spain that the greater



Fifteen Caribbean woman entrepreneurs taking part in the first-ever facilitators training for the Women's Innovation Network of the Caribbean (WINC) program, a World Bank project funded via the Canada Development Bank and coordinated by the Enterprise Hub, take a photo call at the Kapok Hotel on April 21. Front row, from left, are Nerissa Golden (Montserrat), Simmone Bowe (The Bahamas), Donna Every (Barbados), Barbara Innocent-Charles (St. Lucia), Cecile Watson (Jamaica), Jenni Headlam (Jamaica), Sandra Baptist (Antigua & Barbuda), Glenda Joseph-Dennis (Trinidad & Tobago), Aine Brathwaite (Grenada). Back row, left to right, are Telojo Onu (St. Kitts & Nevis), Reina Kolf (Suriname), Danalyn Myvette (Belize), Virginia Riviere (Dominica), Georgina Terry (T&T), Valrie Grant (Guyana), and Ashley Mitchell (Head of The Enterprise Hub. T&T). Photo by Gerard Best

gift was in having this new connection and awareness that we weren't alone in our desire to serve our communities with business growth programmes. We're already exploring ways that we can work together to help each other achieve our business goals long after the project funding runs out. Each woman is a professional in various disciplines and so the opportunity to learn from them has been quite a gift. We've all been strengthened by being able to connect and find common ground on which we want to build future collabora-

BREEDING ENTERPRISE

WINC is part of the Entrepreneurship Program for Innovation in the Caribbean (EPIC), which is being implemented by infoDev, a global multidonor program in the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice of the World Bank Group, with support from Canada's Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

The program is being implemented across the region by Enterprise Hub a T&T-based company specialising in providing support services to a wide range of start-ups and established entrepreneurs.

lead consultant Ashley Mitchell, himself an entrepreneur, said that "intermediary agencies," such as the World Bank's infoDev, can be a significant source of financial support for budding businesses.

Beyond simply acting as a bridge to start-up financing, Enterprise Hub works alongside the business owners to open their eyes to fresh opportunity, enhance their ability for innovation and increase their tolerance for risk-taking. Encouraging people to take initiative and challenge received wisdomeven within the constraints of a full-time job—is crucial to

Enterprise Hub founder and unlocking the region's entrepreneurial potential, Mitchell

> "Our young people have been conditioned and sheperded over time to simply get on a track of academic pursuit. There's nothing wrong with that but it's not for everyone. Some of our Caribbean people are very willing to take entrepreneurial risks but that ability is not being harnessed in a constructive way by our formal education systems.'

Entrepreneurship, Mitchell, is a mindset. And you can act entrepreneurially even without ever leaving your job, he said.

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There's something for every kid at Aviator's Summer Camps

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

School will be out soon. and the kids will be looking for something to do.

There's no better place for family fun than at the Aviator Sports and Event Center.

Here, kids can go rockwall climbing. They can even go ice skating in the vear-round ice skating rink. What a great way to cool off and get some exercise at the same time.

Spend the entire day here. The 175,000-squarefeet of recreational space is designed to keep families entertained all summer long. When everyone gets hungry, visit the food court for some burgers, hot dogs, pizza, sandwiches, wraps, salads, and French fries.

Aviator Sports and Events Center is the perfect place to celebrate a family reunion or a birthday party. It isn't just kid stuff. Adults can celebrate special occasions here, too. There is a newly renovated outdoor area, with a bar and two pools. Parties here can be customized any way you wish. For example, have an outdoor barbecue picnic with burgers, hot dogs, French fries, corn on the cob, potato salad, coleslaw, and watermelon. Or maybe some baby back ribs, barbecue chicken, and pasta salad. It's all up to you. Indoors, imagine the excitement of a rock climbing, ice skating, or a gymnastics party.

For sure, the kids won't be bored this summer if they're enrolled in Aviator Sports' Day Camp. Instead, they'll be enthusiastic about attending every day. At the same time, they'll be socializing, and learning skills that develop leadership qualities, self-confidence, moral character, and healthy living habits.

Part of the program includes learning about the environment and developing an appreciation for culture, arts, and sports. A dedicated and highly trained staff ensures each









(From top clockwise) Kids will love cooling off in the pool or rock climbing this summer. What kid doesn't love an arcade? Aviator even offers a skating camp in its year-round rink. Photos by Steve Solomonson

camper a safe and fulfilling summer experience.

Adventure Camp is for ages 5 to 13. Children will enjoy activities such as gymnastics, swimming, rock climbing, arts and crafts, and field trips.

Aviator Camp at the Aviator Sports and Event Center has a 35-foot high rock climbing wall, among the tallest in New York City. Plus, it has camps for every interest and age:

- •Gymnastics Camp for ages 5 to 13 will emphasize balancing, stretching, tumbling, and the trampoline.
- Instruction Skate Camp for ages 5 to 13 will focus on developing ice skating skills.

Camp for ages 5 to 13 concentrates on instruction in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and flag football.

- Dance Camp for ages 7 to 13 will teach students a variety of dance skills.
- Theater Camp for ages 5 to 13 will instruct in theater arts, and include a live performance.
- There's a Junior Camp for youngsters age 3 to 5, too.

The goal is to provide fun and learning, through diverse experiences. The camps are housed at the Aviator Sports and Event

The outdoor space is so huge, it hosts festivals, fairs, concerts, and community events. The Kings •Sports and Fitness Country Fair will take

place May 14 to 25. There will be rides and games for children of all ages, including a Ferris wheel, roller coaster, and kiddie rides. Food like corn dogs, cotton candy, and funnel cakes will be on the menu. People from all over the area are expected to attend.

When the fair is over, **Aviator Sports and Events** Center will host New York City's largest Native American Celebration, on June 5, 6, and 7. There will be singers, dancers, artists, and educational presenters. Participants can experience the jewelry, crafts, and food created by Native Americans from across the Americas.

Many other exciting events are scheduled for the upcoming season. See them listed at the website, www.AviatorSports.com.

Summer will end — but the fun doesn't go away. When school is in session, there are after school programs to keep kids content all year long.

Aviator Camps at the Aviator Sports and Event Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. at Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 758-7500, www.AviatorCamps. com, www.AviatorSports. com]. For information about the camps, call Mondays through Fridays, 11 am-6 pm. The Sports and Event Center: Mondays through Fridays, 5:30 ammidnight; and Saturdays and Sundays, 6 am-midnight.



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New book armed with lessons in civic education

By Alley Olivier

What does it mean to be a "good citizen?"

Typically, we'd assume being a good citizen in any society refers to abiding to the laws but what about giving up your seat on the bus to a pregnant woman or children entering a room and greeting those in the space with a simple "good afternoon" or "good morning?" Not to mention, volunteering for the sake of volunteering and not for

These simple nuances all contribute to being a good citizen within any community and Jamaican Lawman Lynch has published "Adventures of Kiko" a new children's book with an underlying message urging the reader to be the best you.

"I observed that a lot of our young people, our children, can be a little disrespectful without knowing they are being disrespectful because they were not taught basic civic knowledge. I decided, along with the staff members in the after-school

program, to focus on civic education. The importance of respecting self and respecting others, of celebrating one's accomplishments, of being patriotic. The book in itself is about bringing awareness to civic education and understanding the core values of being civil in a society where everyone might not think alike, or dress like, or act alike but at the end of the day we need to have basic respect and appreciation for people," he said.

During his keynote address, Lynch, the center director and GAINS after-school program director at the Bedstuy Salvation Army, first described various scenarios describing instances where it appears a sense of morality has disappeared from our communities like a passenger boarding a bus from the back door exit and subsequently threatening the driver.

"A staff member told me the story of being on the B44 when a passanger got on the bus through the backdoor, so technically he wasn't a passanger he was actually stealing a ride," he said. "If you're entering through the backdoor, you didn't pay your way to ride the bus. Our staff member said this person literally threatened the bus driver to move the bus saying: 'you better move the bus because that's how we do it in the Stuy."

He utilized his real-life observations of the students he works with everyday to write "Adventures of Kiko." Witnessing children walk into the building and ignore the adults as they walked to their respective classes, Lynch and his staff members saw a need to instill in the students the importance of respect - starting with a simple

Impacting nearly 150 kids ranging in the ages of five to 19 years old daily, Lynch saw Kiko in a combination of his students. "Kiko came into being based on my observation of the children I have to work with on a daily basis," he said.



awman Lynch, author of newly released children's book, "The Adventures of Kiko: Be the best you," posing with student Imani Banbury of Bedford Salvation Army after school program and Antonette Bovelle, where Lynch also serves as director. Photo by Kevin Bollers

With students from the afterschool program, parents and Salvation Army majors all in attendance for his book launch, Lynch delivered a call to action to all those in the room. He believes teaching civic education to children has to start in the early developmental stages between the ages of five and 12, by the time a child enters their teens they have entered another cycle of their development that relies on the making of their

own choices.

Unpacking civic education to a young child can appear daunting but the book is written in a relatable sense as it follows Kiko and his classmates through different scenarios in Bedstuy equipped with various lessons. Jenny Dorsey, director of middle school at the Salvation Army, mentioned her favorite chapter of the book to be when Kiko encourages his classmates to volunteer and serve.



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Summer Stages will sizzle with free shows

After the freeze of winter, an uncertain spring; a definitely hot summer line-up has been announced to compensate for the seasonal frost, chill and rain New Yorkers endured since last fall.

Boasting schedules that get hotter as the summer progresses, Central Park Sumnmerstage offers a sure-fire treat on June 6 when Meschell Ndegeocello takes center stage for a free afternoon presentation which begins at 3:00 p.m.

Joining her on that eventful outing are Roy Hargrove, and Gabriel Garzon- Montano. The following afternoon, Benin superstar Angelique Kidjo headlines a concert to feature Emmanuel Jai and Rich Medina.

With a diverse offering of theatrical presentations, films, Yiddish Soul, Met opera, hiphop, jazz, poetry and dance, VP Records promise a 35th anniversary concert on June 27 to spotlight Caribbean music. Bunji Garlin, Maxi Priest and Gyptian are the names to provide the June 27 delight.

"Invincible" Michael Jackson Tribute is slated for East River park on Aug. 9 from 4:00 to



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

And "Magmanus" offers a circus inside Brookklyn Bridge Park on June 27 & 28.

This City Parks Foundation presentation spills over into Staten Island, the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn with family day presentations, a myriad of neighborhood concerts and other features to complete 200 presentations.

In addition the series also encompass the CharlieParker Jazz Fest at Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem.

For more information, check www.summerstage.org.

To celebrate the 37th annual Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival in Prospect Park, 29 performances span dates from June 3 - Aug. 12. Here again a program reflective of the city's eclecticism and diversity will feature a wide array of free, world-class performances in the environs of the Prospect Park Bandshell.

Kicking off the series on June 3, the free evening presentation offers Chaka Khan, the Queen of Funk.

Krosfyah featuring special guests Lead Pipe & Saddis and Something Positive dance troupe are slated for June 11. Barbados' legendary Krosfyah band members are expected to deliver exhilarating soca. And Lead Pipe & Saddis — whose smash hit "Ah Feeling" brought them to the finals of the International Groovy Soca Monarch Competition in Trinidad this vear will add to the high-energy performance.

The following evening at 7:30 p.m.; Esperanza Spalding presents Emily's D+Evolution with Jose James. The free concert will showcase the captivating bassist and singer's "sprawling collage of jazz fusion, Brazilian, and even a touch of hip-hop" will recall the critical acclaim, universal love and inevitable



Benin superstar Angelique Kidjo performs at the Newport Jazz Festival in Newport, R.I. Associated Press / Joe Giblin

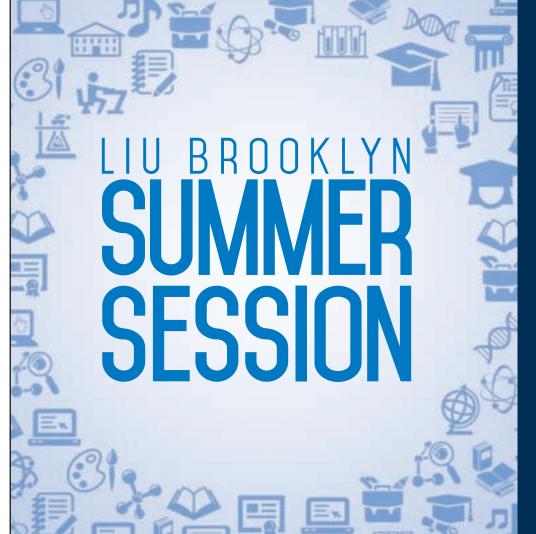
four Grammy awards - including Best New Artist in 2011 that launched her to the unprecedented position of being the first ever jazz artist nominated in the category.

Spalding will introduce her latest project of all new material to the Bandshell. Opening

act and fellow free-thinker José James who will deliver samplings from his hit 2013 album "No Beginning: No End."

DanceBrazil is also sure to warm the program with a June 20 free presentation at 7:30

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Jamaican reggae artist Christopher Martin.

Christopher Martin releases new EP

By Alley Olivier

Are you well sharp?

Music has the ability to help tap into any part of yourself you may want to keep dormant and Christopher Martin exudes confidence and swag in his latest EP "Steppin' Razor."

The Jamaican born reggae artist released the five-track project April 21 led by the lead single "Hide Away" — the first-ever project he has recorded that he did not write.

"As I heard the track I fell in love with it. I fell in love with the instrumental

Continued on Page 38

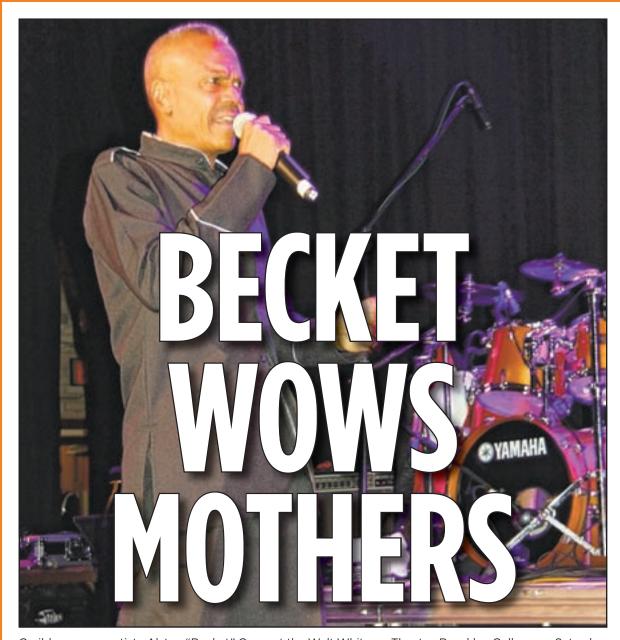
JAVAA USA to laud Jamaican vintage artists

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaica Association of Vintage Artists & Affiliates (JAVAA) will hail the contributions of pioneering artists — singer Doreen Schaffer, saxophonist Roland Alphonso, dancer Alphanso Castro and singer Prince Buster — during their third annual vintage awards dinner gala in Brooklyn.

The only consistent organization devoted to the preservation of "Jamaica's rich musical heritage" is already in full throttle gearing for a rousing evening of tributes to trailblazing

Continued on Page 38



Caribbean soca artiste Alston "Becket" Cyrus at the Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Photo by Nelson A. King

At 'Mother We Love You Concert'

By Nelson A. King

Legendary Vincentian-born, Caribbean soca artiste / composer Alston "Becket" Cyrus on Saturday night wowed the huge audience and serenaded mothers at a major concert in Brooklyn.

Becket, renowned as the "ABC of Calypso," was among a cast of Caribbean artistes and cultural figures at the New York-based Everybody's Magazine annual "Mother We Love You Concert" at the Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College.

Among others who serenaded mothers and the four honorees at the gala event were Trinidadian Calypso Monarch Chucky Gordon, Lyrikal, Kaci Fennell, Miss Universe Jamaica, Biggie Irie, Delcita, Nikki Crisby and Batingua Dancers.

"Nice to be in New York again; greetings from St. Vincent and the Grenadines," exclaimed Becket, as Vincentians in the audience proudly hailed back: "Yeah, yeah, yeah!"

"We're going to stand up and chap for all the mothers all over the world,"

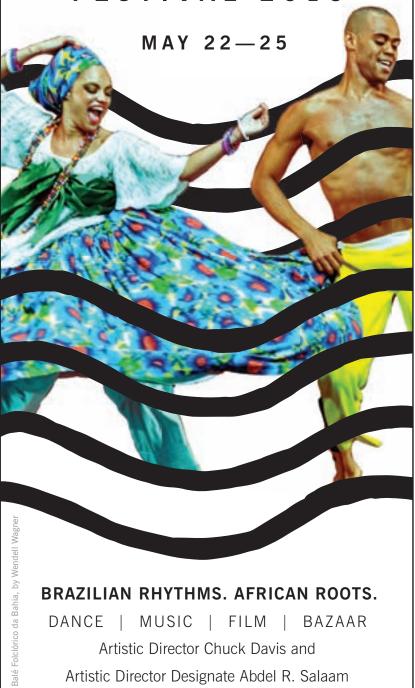
Becket asked the crowd – who approvingly, and instantly responded, with a standing ovation – while rendering "Mama", which partially goes: "Your love like coconut water/it sweet fo so."

The Vincentian Goodwill Ambassador then struck up "President Obama," urging the audience to chime in with "Obama, Obama, Obama." At the end of the song, Becket distributed free CDs to some patrons.

"President Obama" was requested
Continued on Page 38

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Cop and mob widow make unlikely bedfellows

"Hot Pursuit" Very Good (3 stars) Rated PG-13 for sexuality, profanity, violence and drug use In English and Spanish with subtitles Running time: 87 minutes Distributor: Warner Brothers

By Kam Williams

Vincente Cortez (Joaquin Cosio) has orchestrated over a hundred hits as the notorious kingpin of a drug cartel terrorizing Texas. However, he's always beaten the rap, because the prime witnesses invariably disappear mysteriously before they have a chance to testify.

Therefore, the authorities decide to take special precautions with the Rivas, the Cortez confederates set to turn state's evidence in the latest case against him. But then, when the police escort arrives



Sofia Vergara and Reese Witherspoon in the film "Hot Pursuit."

Rotten Tomatoes

to place them in the Witness Protection Program, the husband perishes in an ambush, while his widow Daniella (Sofia Vergara) and a policewoman (Reese Witherspoon) barely escape with their lives in a hail

of bullets.

As the two drive away in the Rivas' classic Cadillac convertible, they figure out that they've been targeted not only by vicious mobsters but by crooked cops to boot. So,

with no one but each other to lean on, the officer and outlaw grudgingly join forces to survive the drive to a safe sanctuary in Dallas.

Of course, sharing space proves easier said than done,

given how they're polar opposites in almost every way. Daniella is a striking, statuesque chatterbox as compared to Cooper's relatively plain, diminutive and straitlaced presence. Nevertheless, the pair gradually bond over the course of a rollicking road trip where they have a close brush with death every five miles or so.

Directed by Anne Fletcher (The Proposal), Hot Pursuit is a mindless diversion chock-full of the staples of the unlikelybuddies genre, like car chases, and accidental drug use. Though the action romp fails to break cinematic ground, it certainly provides enough laughs to recommend, most coming courtesy of the overenunciating, larger-than-life Vergara at the expense of costar Witherspoon in her capacity as a straight man.

Sofia successfully stakes her claim as the heir apparent of Brazilian bombshell Carmen Miranda. All she needs now is a fruit-filled sombrero.

Independent & Foreign Films

By Kam Williams

Absolution (R profanity, drug use and graphic violence) Steven Seagal stars in this action thriller as a contract killer who comes

to the assistance of a woman (Adina Stetcu) on the run from a politicallyconnected mobster (Vinnie Jones). With Maria Bata, Byron Mann and Josh Bar-

Childless (R for profanity, sexual references and drug use) Otherworldly dramedy about a recently-deceased teen (Natalie Dreyfuss) who tries to set the record straight from the grave after the adults in her life (Joe Mantegna, Barbara Hershey, Diane Verona and James Naughton) start reciting selfserving accounts of the family dynamic. Cast includes Jordan Baker, Scott F. Anderson and Trevor Trout.

Dark Star (Unrated) Reverential biopic about H.R. Giger (1940-2014), the Oscar-winning special f/x wiz best known for his work in the Alien and Species film franchises. (In Swiss German with subtitles)

Every Secret Thing (R for profanity and disturbing images) Adaptation of Laura Lippman's novel of the same name starring Elizabeth Banks and Nate Parker as detectives playing a game of cat-and-mouse with a couple of recently-paroled child killers (Dakota Fanning and Danielle Macdonald) and one's overprotective mother (Diane



By Kam Williams

Lane). With Colin Donnell, Common, Amy Tribbey and Jaden Michael.

Forbidden Films (Unrated) Holocaust documentary analyzing 40 Nazi movies still banned because of their offensive and inflammatory content, including such anti-Semitic pictures as The Eternal Jew, The Rothchilds and Jew Suss. (In German with subtitles)

Good Kill (R for violence, rape, profanity and sexuality) Afghan War drama examining the toll that bombing the Taliban by drones takes on a former fighter pilot (Ethan Hawke). With Zoe Kravitz, January Jones and Bruce Greenwood.

I'll See You in My Dreams (PG-13 for sexuality, drug use and brief profanity) Romantic dramedy revolving around a retired widow in her seventies (Blythe Danner) who gets another shot at love when she meets a velvet-voiced gentleman (Sam Elliott) at a speed-dating event. Support cast includes Martin Starr, Rhea Perlman, June Squibb, Malin Akerman and Mary Kay Place.

Know How (Unrated) Musical-driven drama relating the real-life plight of five teens being raised in the NYC foster care system. Co-starring Deshawn Brown, Niquana Clark, Michael Dew, Gilbert Howard and Gabrielle Garcia.



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

TOP OF THE **CHARTS**

TOP 10 SINGLES

- Earned It (Fifty Shades..) The Weeknd
- Love Me Like I Do Ellie Goulding
- **Uptown Funk!** Mark Ronson
- Sugar Maroon 5
- Style **Taylor Swift**
- Somebody Natalie La Rose
- Shut up & Dance Walk the Moon
- Thinking Out Loud Ed Sheeran
- Want to Want Me Jason Derulo
- **One Last Time** Ariana Grande





- **Sound & Color** Alabama Shakes
- **Love Story** YelaWolf
- **Tomorrow We Live**
- Cama Incendiada
- **Furious 7** Soundtrack
- **Kindred** Passion Pit
- Montevallo Sam Hunt
- 1989 Taylor Swift
- If You're Reading This...
- IHold My Beer, Vol. 1 Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen



SOCA CONCERT

Continued from page 35

by Herman Hall, the Grenadian-born publisher of Everybody's Magazine, Becket said.

"President Obama" is one of four new tracks that appear on Becket's latest CD, "The Singles File" — a mixture of hit singles that were never on an album.

Obviously, "President Obama" is considered one of the better among many songs written in commemoration of Barack Obama becoming the first black president of the United States.

In a world in which there is so much strife, conflict and schism, Becket, a U.S. Army veteran, reminded patrons that "Love is The Answer," a song that was remade in 2001 featuring post-911 lyrics.

Then, as the audience began winding up, the veteran soca artiste/calypsonian blasted "Coming High" — a 1977 break-out hit that earned him gold.

"We changed the name, and we call it something else,' Becket said.

"What did we call it?" he proceeded to ask, as patrons roared back: "Marijuana."

Suddenly, some, who were initially hesitant to whine, formed throughout the Car-

sprang into action with the monster 1990 hit "Teaser' for which Becket, a year later, received the Record of the Year and Best Party Tune awards, at the first ever Caribbean Music Awards, at the world famous Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

Becket also copped an award from the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Houston, Texas for "Teaser."

In 1994, Ella Me Vacila, the Spanish version of "Teaser," earned Becket a BMI Latin Award and a Billboard/Univision Award for the Salsa/Tropical Song of the Year. Cover versions of "Teaser" have been translated into several languages, Becket said.

The dynamic, versatile artiste has had a distinguished 39-oddyear career, producing a record 26 albums; numerous awardwinning singles; one movie soundtrack, "Disco Calypso," in The Deep motion picture; and five compositions, featured in four American TV programs the sitcom Full House and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno among them. The calypsonian par excellence has also earned eight Road March titles.

Becket — who has per-



A cross-section of the audience at the Mothers Day con-Photo by Nelson A. King

States, Spain, England and Columbia — made history in 2000 when he became the first Caribbean artiste to perform at the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament in Flushing Meadows,

Additionally, he was listed as one of the 17 Outstanding Caribbean Personalities of the 20th Century.

In 1976, Becket began work-

ibbean, Canada, the United ing with calypso and soca's arranger extraordinaire, Vincentian-born Frankie McIntosh, a union that still exists today.

> After striking gold with "Coming High" in 1977, Becket has produced equally successful singles, including "Wine Down Kingstown" (1978); "Cocoa" (1980); "Calypso Noel" (1982); "Ooh La La" (1983); "Teaser" (1990); and "Small Pin" (1999).

Javaa

Continued from page 35

Jamaican recorders who left an indelible imprint on Jamaica's music and culture.

All of the four honorees either performed with or recorded with the legendary pioneering Skatalites jazz band.

The founders of the Skatalites were Tommy McCook (died 1998), Roland Alphonso (died 1998), Lloyd Brevett (died 2012), Lloyd Knibb (died 2011), Don Drummond (died 1969), Jah Jerry Haynes (died 2007), Jackie Mittoo (died 1990), Johnny Moore (died 2008) and Jackie Opel (died 1970).

Beginning May, 1964, the group started performing in Jamaica and backed all the major acts on the island including Toots & The Maytals, Bob Marley & The Wailers and Prince Buster.

Tenor, saxman Alphonso – who lived in Brooklyn until he died in 1998 — was an integral part of the group that toured and recorded during the heydays of the band.

executing dance steps that per- in 2008.



Singer Doreen Schaffer on the album cover of "Sugar Sugar.'

sonified the music will probably inspire a new generation to continue the legacy.

Castro regularly performed on the sixties era Teenage Dance Party (TADP) television show that regularly showcased talented youths dancing the latest steps to popular music. Patterned after the Dick Clark hosted "American Bandstand," "TADP" created a national platform for Castro and other talented teens.

New Yorkers were able to witness Castro's "legs" action when the Skatalites performed And Castro, acclaimed for at Central Park Summerstage

Martin EP release

Continued from page 35

before I even heard the lyrics. It was just like fire. When I got the lyrics and the melody of the song it was like a marriage, a match made in heaven — one of those vibes." Martin said. "It was a pleasant surprise because I always wrote my own songs but when I heard this, I liked it and that's how I do music if I like it I'm going to do it."

Inspired by the 1977 original "Steppin Razor" record by Peter Tosh, Martin put his own twist on the record he love to make his own. Switching the militant focus to center around self-confidence, Martin's version refocuses the meaning of being sharp to being synonymous with having a high self-esteem and pride in yourself.

"I just feel like I'm a totally different person than anybody else. I view things from a very

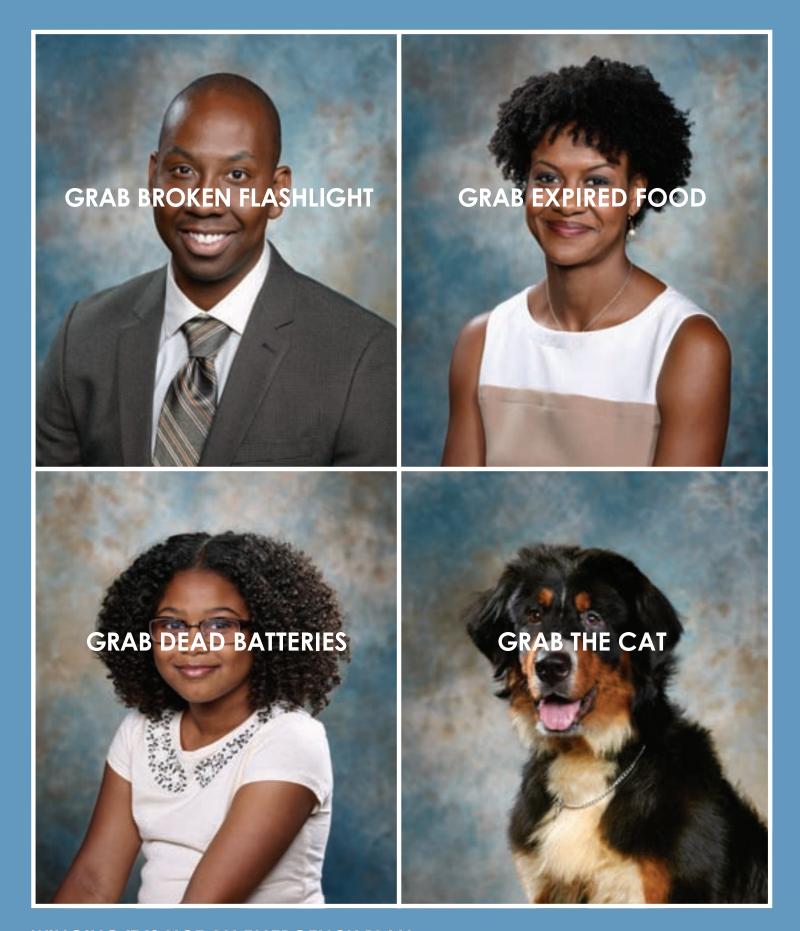
" I want when someone hears a song and the content is so confident I want people to say 'only Chris could do that song."

confident standpoint. I want when someone hears a song and the content is so confident I want people to say 'only Chris could do that song,' Martin said.

Look out for Christopher Martin in the coming months as he promises a full album to arrive "very, very soon."

"This EP is like a tease of what's to come and it's a wonderful thing to see how the people have gravitated to this EP. I'm just gearing up and ready for the album," he said.

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WOMEN ARTISTS IN PLACE: Jamaica Center for the Arts & Learning, 153rd St. and Jamaica Ave., Queens; (718) 658–7400; www.jcal.org; Daily, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Now – Thursday, May 28; Free. is an exciting exhibit featuring the works of 10 women.

"KEHINDE WILEY: A New Republic": Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638–5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Now – Sunday, May 24; \$16 suggested. The first museum survey of Brooklyn artist Kehinde Wiley's prolific career.

"BASQUIAT: The Unknown Notebooks": Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638–5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays - Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Now - Sunday, Aug. 23; \$16 (students and seniors \$10, 19 and under free). Brooklyn-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat filled numerous notebooks with poetry fragments, wordplay, sketches, and personal observations ranging from street life and popular culture to themes of race, class, and world history. The first major exhibition of the artist's notebooks, Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks features 160 pages of these rarely seen documents, along with related works on paper and large-scale paintings.

YOUTH MADE MEDIA (Y2M2): Hunts Point Recreation Center, 75 Manida St. at Spofford Ave., The Bronx; (212) 360–3327; jheffler@ciyparksfoundation.org; www. cityparksfoundation.org; Weekdays, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Now – Sunday, May 31; Free. Students 11 to 15 years old receive instruction in Media Arts linked to Environmental Science. In addition, children receive homework help, go on field trips, watch movies and so much more. Registration is required.

THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: Cameo Gallery, 93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, Brooklyn; (718) 302–1180; www.cameony.net;



MAY 16: Piquant Restaurant, 259 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217, Brooklyn; 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Admission \$25 & Brunch \$35. Discovering My Natural Hair event series is an advanced, unique natural hair inspired series created with Brooklyn in mind. Full course brunch + unlimited mimosas + tax + tip is \$35 per attendee. Please bring \$35 cash as the fee for brunch will be collected at check-in. Hennadready will be onsite and available for henna art tatoos for an additional fee. \$10 for a finger and \$20 for full hand. Please bring cash for this service.



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MAY 20: How to Make It in Fashion Meetup: Space 530, 530 7th Ave., New York, NY 10018, Brooklyn; Contact Fashionista.com; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; \$20. It's time to mark your calendars. We're hosting our thirdNew York City meetup with designer (and former Fashionista columnist) Chris Benz to discuss his fascinating career, from interning at Marc Jacobs to his new role as creative director of the iconic American clothing label Bill Blass.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; Free. Standup comedy hosted by Max Silvestri.

FRI., MAY 15

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 10:00 am - 3:00 pm; Free.A workshop to help eligible lawful permanent residents prepare their N-400 Application for Naturalization to become U.S. citizens. This workshop will use interactive online interviews from CitizenshipWorks.org to determine eligibility and help prepare forms. Immigration experts will be available to review applications and answer legal questions related to applying for citizenship. Registration is not required, but strongly encouraged. Assistance will be provided on a first-come first-served basis, but pre-registered attendees will have priority. To register visit: citizenshipworks. org/register.

COMEDY NIGHT: Otto's Shrunken Head, 538 E 14th St, New York, NY 10009, Manhattan; (347) 885–3466; NoNameNYC@ hotmail.com; www.ottosshrunkenhead.com; 7 pm.No Name... & A Bag O' Chips"

comedy / variety show will feature Ophira Eisenberg (NPR's "Ask Me Another"), author/ pundit and veryfunnylady.com Leighann Lord (National Geographic Channel's "Star Talk" w Neil DeGrasse Tyson) and Charles McBee (Laughs on FOX).

SAT., MAY 16

FINANCIAL COUNSELING:Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Free. Take a step toward financial stability--make a confidential appointment with a counselor from Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation's Financial Empowerment Center. A counselor can advise you on budgeting and money management, establishing and improving credit ratings, analyzing your credit report, finding affordable banking services, financial planning, and reducing debt. Please call (718) 636-6994 for an appointment.

MY NATURAL HAIR EVENT SERIES: Piquant Restaurant, 259 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217, Brooklyn; 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Admission \$25 & Brunch

\$35. Discovering My Natural Hair event series is an advanced, unique natural hair inspired series created with Brooklyn in mind. This is an event for the naturalistas who are looking for more in-depth conversations on main stream standards of beauty and natural hair. The host, "The Notorious Kia" will lead an interactive panel discussion with young men and women from Brooklyn over brunch and mimosas, geared toward Black Empowerment. RSVP is for admission only and does not include brunch. Brunch is mandatory when attending this event. Full course brunch + unlimited mimosas + tax + tip is \$35 per attendee. Please bring \$35 cash as the fee for brunch will be collected at check-in. Hennadready will be onsite and available for henna art tatoos for an additional fee. \$10 for a finger and \$20 for full hand. Please bring cash for this service.

BUTTAH NOIRE:Brunch Beauty Bar: Therapy Wine Bar, 364 Lewis Ave., Brooklvn, NY 11233, Brooklyn; (718) 513-0686; 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Free. Ladies, grab your girls and plan for a day of pampering and unlimited mimosas! Meet independent beauty brands, mingle with certified makeup artists - maybe even get your face done, the opportunities are endless. Mimosas. MakeUp. Threads. Please take note that tickets are not required to attend this event. Rather, these tickets provide those who purchase with certain incentives. Ticket link: http://www.eventbrite. com/e/buttah-noire-brunch-beauty-bartickets-16432977478?aff=eac2.

MEET WRITER TRACY K. SMITH: Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238, Brooklyn; (718) 230-2100; 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Free. Tracy K. Smith is the author of three collections: "The Body's Question," which received the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, "Duende," which received the James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets, and "Life on Mars," which received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. She has received a Whiting Writers' Award and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. She currently teaches creative writing at Princeton University and lives in Brooklyn. She joins series host Rob Spillman for a discussion of her work and in particular her new memoir, "Ordinary Light." To RSVP for this event, visit: http://tracyksmith.brownpapertickets.com.

SUN., MAY 17

RISD NYC X DESIGN WEEK RECEP-TION: WantedDesign at Industry City, 274 36th St., Brooklyn, NY 11232, Brooklyn; 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Network with fellow design professionals, view a broadcast of work by exhibiting RISD alumni and hear from RISD President Rosanne Somerson [76 ID]. Attendees are also welcome to explore the WANTED Design exhibitions held concurrently during the reception. Light refreshments will be available upstairs. — Compiled by Natalie Henry

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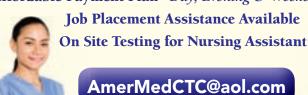
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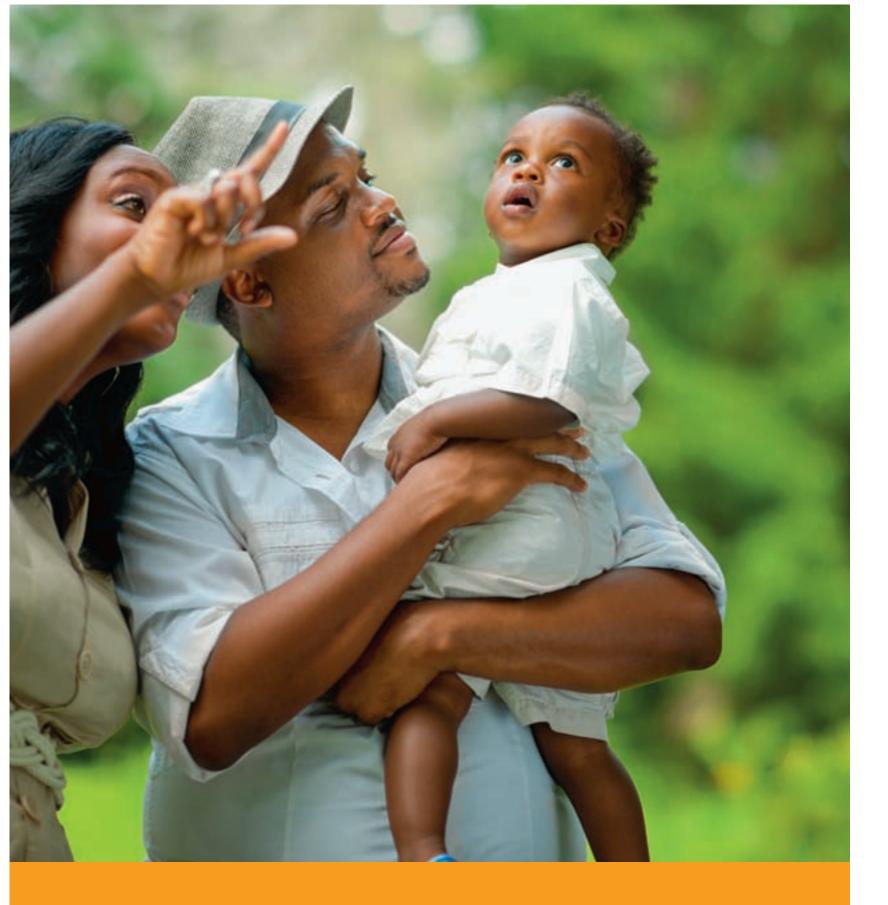
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Harris wins Boro title

By Robert Elkin

Townsend Harris High School of Queens scored well, prevailed, showed its strength in some events, and Tuesday captured the Queens Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) outdoor borough championships. Harris picked up 118 points and host Bayside High scored 94 for second place, almost 30 more than Springfield Garden's third spot of 63 in a field of 18 scoring schools on a delightful, slightly windy afternoon.

A few athletes did extremely well by posting doubles with their parents cheering them on.

"We had some fast times during a good meet," said Garrett Lynch, in his fourth year as director of the PSAL for track and field. "It was a very competitive meet and had exciting performances," said Lynch.

In particular, the 400-meter run was very exciting and close with four athletes going under 50 seconds in a field of 48 competitors, in six heats.

Franklin K. Lane's Dan Villaman in an exciting finish won the 400-meter

Continued on Page 44

West Windies Women Squad

By Azad Ali

The experienced duo of Stacy Ann King and Afy Fletcher, as well as rookie all-rounder Chinelle Henry have been recalled to the West Indies Women's cricket squad for a tour of Sri Lanka later this month.

King, Fletcher and Henry have been named in the 14-member squad, which is currently in a training camp Colombo, Sri Lanka.

King, a 31-year-old left-handed batsman and left-arm medium fast bowler, has made 53 One-day International and 61 Twenty20 International appearances for the West Indies Women. Her previous international appearance was at the Women's World Twenty20 semi-final against World champions Australia last year in Bangladesh.

Continued on Page 44



New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips (99) in action against the D.C. United during the first half of an MLS playoff soccer match, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, in Harrison, N.J. Associated Press / Adam Hunger, File

In exciting inaugural Cross River Derby

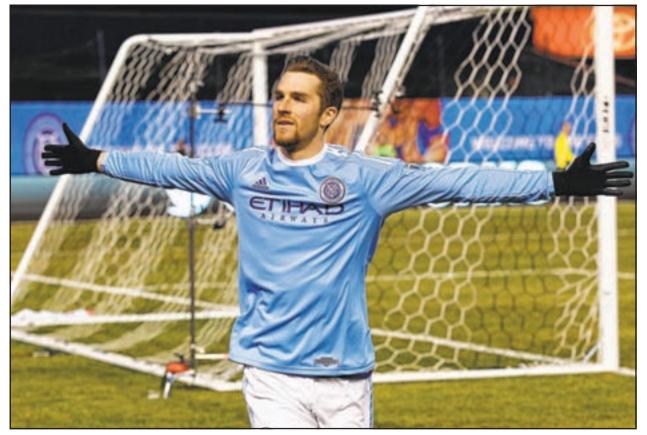
By Patrick Horne

If there are any doubts as to whether there is a legitimate New York/ New Jersey MLS Derby, you can now put those doubts to rest. Last Sunday night's New York Red Bulls-New York City Football Club MLS match-up at Red Bull Arena, the first of three this season, had all the trappings of an intense local derby brewing. Amidst all the intense trappings, which ignited players and fans alike, the New York Red Bulls got the all-important first dibs on area bragging rights as it outplayed New York City FC, 2-1, for a victory on two goals from Bradley

Wright-Phillips.

NYCFC (1-6-3, 6 pts.) was greeted by a very intense atmosphere at Red Bull Arena. The Red Bulls (4-1-4, 16 pts.) fans, the majority that made up the 25,217 fans that was the seventh largest crowd at Red Bull Arena and

Continued on Page 44



New York City FC's Patrick Mullins celebrates after scoring the team's second goal against the New England Revolution in an MLS soccer game in New York on Sunday, March 15, 2015. New York won the game 2-0.

BULLS CELEBRATE VICTORY

Continued from page 43

the 15th sellout there, showed no mercy to the first-year MLS team: Red Bulls fans, donned their famous red jerseys and red flags, greeted the NYFC players and their blue-and-white clad visitors with a 50-foot banner that signaled the start of a major rivalry and stated: "20 Years Late and a Stadium short!" Beneath the headline was a cartoon character dressed in a NYCFC uniform that was imprinted with the line, "Man City Lite" a reference to the owners of NYCFC, Manchester City FC in English. Everyone in the stadium could sense that a long and competitive derby is in the making: The Red versus The Blue!

The New York/New Jersey Derby, the Hudson River Derby or the Cross River Derby, call it what you may, was in full glow and it showed, especially on NYCFC, because they seem the nervous visitors who couldn't shoot straight, while the hosts seemed determined to make a statement of dominance. And they did by playing a man short and dominating the proceedings from the outset. At the fourminute mark, Wright-Phillips combined with midfielder Lloyd Sam to put the Red Bulls ahead, 1-0; and despite Red Bull defender Matt Miazga's red card in the 36th minute for his second dangerous, the hosts managed to maintain its dominance for the 1-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Wright-Phillips combined this time with Sam and midfielder Sacha Kljestan to put the hosts ahead, 2-0, on the stroke of the 52nd minute. NYCFC showed some fight and pressured New York and eventually pulled a goal back in the 76th minute through

second half substitute Patrick Mullins, but this was too late. The Red Bulls were all business and bragging rights were theirs, at least until Sunday, June 28, when the Red Bulls come across the Hudson River for a Yankee Stadium showdown.

The Red Bulls clearly were the better team; they knew that they were in an important game and came out in highintensity mode to make a statement. The Red Bulls pressured the ball early and forced NYCFC mistakes; when the hosts lost possession of the ball, they tried immediately to win it back and were very successful. Fast and furious fullbacks Chris Duvall on the right and Jamaican Kemar Lawrence on the left were excellent throughout the contest and were the main reason that the Red Bulls survived a late onslaught.

New York City FC failed to make use of the man advantage that they had for most of the game: coach Jason Kreis should have changed NYCFC's formation and put an extra man in midfield to take away the advantage that the Red Bulls enjoyed; he chose instead to stay with the regular four-man backline. The visitors were overwhelmed in the first half and showed their lack of playing experience as a team. Kreis could have helped his squad with some creative thinking and daring.

David Villa, the former Spain international from whom much is expected, was out of form and ineffective; he was coming off injury and Kreis would have helped his team by starting midfielder Ballouchy, who had been scoring recently for the team, ahead of Villa.

Wright-Phillips, five goals on the season after his double strike on Sunday, was

voted MLS Player of the Week. He is now 5th on the Red Bulls all-time scoring list with 33 goals, and he is tied in third place with seven multi-goal games. The Red Bulls next play Friday night, May 15, at Sporting Kansas City

MLS Round-up

Mauro Diaz had an assist and a goal to lead host FC Dallas to a 2-1 comefrom-behind win over the Los Angeles Galaxy; Los Angeles took the lead in the 60th minutes through Gyasi Zardes in the 60th minute, but Panamanian Blas Perez got help from Diaz for the equalizer the 70th minute, and so did Tesho Akindele on his winner late in the game. The Columbus Crew pulled off an upset when it beat the Seattle Sounders, 3-2. Kie Kamara gave the host Crew a lead in the game before Clint Dempsey tied the game; Kamara scored again and Federico Higuain extended the Crew's lead to 3-1, before a Dempsey goal mad the score close. Meanwhile, DC United and Sporting Kansas City played to a 1-1 draw. Jairo Arrieta scored for United in the first half and Dom Dwyer equalized for Sporting in the second.

RLS (Real Salt Lake) beat host Chicago Fire, 2-1. Alvaro Saborio and Luke Mulholland tallied for RSL while Jeff Larentowicz got the love goal for Chicago; Portland Timbers topped the Montreal Impact, 2-1, on Diego Valeri's two goals. Montreal defender scored for the home team and it was the host Vancouver Whitecaps over the Philadelphia Union, 3-0. Pedro Morales, Octavio Rivero and Jamaican international Darren Mattocks scored for the Whitecaps.

Athletics

Continued from page 43

run in a time of 48.60 to 49.10 in the sixth and fastest section.

Villaman posted a double as he captured the 400 hurdles in 56.50.

Turning to the field, Syed Rahman of Townsend Harris also posted a double winning the discus throw with a heave of 129 feet 10 inches and by tossing the javelin in 136-4.

Back on the track, Carl Anderson, one with a great deal of potential during his athletic days at Springfield Gardens High School took the 110meter high hurdles in 15.4.

"Running here is a very good experience," said Anderson. "And the race was very competitive."

The father of the student athlete and mother originally hailed from Jamaica, West Indies.

Carl, Sr. is not into running but is involved in another sport, for he is a trainer of horses in both Jamaica, West Indies and ere in New York, as well.

"Most of his work is in Jamaica," the runner said. "I started running at the age of five in Jamaica, and lived in Jamaica until I was 15 years of age. I entered school in my sophomore year at Springfield Gardens.'

The PSAL, along with the coaches and athletic director at Bayside High, made the event possible as they do annually. It is the only facility in Queens where is is possible to stage all the events.

Now the athletes are waiting for the City championships of all five boroughs later this month.

Some of these student athletes have already signed letters of intent for a college while others still have to prove themselves for such an offer. This will all come possibly in the City Championships.

Windies

Continued from page 43

Fletcher, 28, will be making her first trip with the women's side in six years. She has appeared in 13 ODIs and two Twenty20s between 2008 and 2009, with her last international, a Super Six match against England Women in the 2009 ICC Women's World Cup in Australia.

Henry, 19, has appeared in two ODIs and four Twenty20s between October 2013 and February last year before losing her place on the side.

The tour comprises three Twenty20 Internationals and four ODIs, the last three of which will count towards the ICC Women's Champi-

The ICC Women's Championship is a multi-year, bilateral competition between the top eight international women's sides that will lead to qualification for the 2017 ICC World Cup to be hosted by the England & Wales Cricket Board.



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Sports psychologist needed for WI team

It is time that the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) see the need to have a full time sports psychologist with the West Indies squad. An examination of the team which has suffered many losses show not only a lack of talent but primarily low self esteem among individuals. Manager and coaches are not experts in this field and it is necessary to have someone lecture and have constant sessions with the players to help build their self esteem. I urge the WICB to see this as important for the team's development.

SIMMONS MUST REPLACE CHANDERPAUL

Trinidad and Tobago batsman Lendl Simmons should be the player to replace Shivnarine Chanderpaul and this is the time to make the change. Simmons is experienced and widely exposed and he is capable of batting in the middle order in a Test match. He bats too late in the Limited Overs matches. Although he is an opening batsman, he has the skills and knowledge to



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

should be batting at number four or three in the Limited Overs because his attacking style and stroke play can propel the West Indies to competi-

Chanderpaul must be replaced by a seasoned player who understands the highest level of competive cricket. A middle order with batsmen such as Denesh Ramdin, Jermaine Blackwood and Lendl Simmons must bring dividends to the team.

RECALL HAYNES AS BATTING COACH

It is important and quite necessary to retain former West Indies opening batsman Desmond Haynes as batting coach. The skills of the former opener can be passed on to his fellow Barbadian, Kraigg Braithwaite, who is one of the West Indies opening batsmen.

bat in any position. Simmons A few of the West Indies batsmen are not keeping their bats close to their bodies and many of them are getting caught

> During the three-Tests series with England, at one stage five batsmen were caught at the wicket in one innings, thus showing the flaw of the team. West Indies batsmen continue to make errors that should have been corrected long ago.

The batting strength is just as important as the bowling. The senior players cannot get much help from any coach because they have been around long enough to study their cricket and boost their efforts to be better at their game.

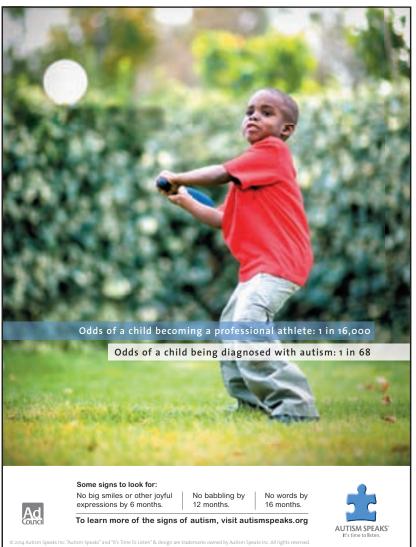
Captain Denesh Ramdin ought to do much more with the bat. Captaincy is leading from the front and showing other members of the team what should be done.



West Indies' batsman Lendl Simmons plays a shot during their ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup match against India in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi





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hildren sometimes must be separated from their families due to crisis or abuse. More than 510,000 children are in foster care in the United States alone. That's a troubling figure, especially when one realizes there aren't enough foster families to take them in nor is there enough money to provide all of the necessities that every child needs.

Child abuse, substance abuse and criminal behavior can be difficult to discuss, and that may be one reason why foster care does not get much attention. Individuals looking to help young people in their communities may want to become a foster parent.

According to The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, of the thousands of children in foster care in the United States, the majority fall into two age groups: very young children five years old or younger and older children between the ages of 13 and 18. Many kids have to live in group care or institutional settings, and some children spend so much time in the foster care system that they simply age out and are forced to care for themselves upon turning 18.

Foster care families can change the lives of youngsters forever by



opening their homes to children in need. The rewards of becoming a foster parent are numerous, not the least of which is the chance to connect with a child who may have lost a connection to others. Foster parents and families can provide for a child's physical, emotional and social needs while helping children and adolescents to feel safe and loved. A foster family may be a child's only experience with a positive family dynamic, and that can help pave the way to a better life. In addition, foster parents may add a beloved member to their family.

Laws vary depending on where

the fostering will take place, but typically an adult with a steady source of income and his or her own means of transportation can be considered as a foster parent. A foster parent will become part of a team working collectively to ensure a child's wellbeing. It is the hope that a foster family and a birth family can work together for the best interests of the children involved.

The length of time a child will stay in a foster home depends on the situation. Some are there only a few days, while others may be with foster parents for weeks or months as social workers and courts work to determine what is in the best interests of the child. A foster home may be the bridge between moving back in with a birth family, being relocated to a relative's home or instituting the adoption process. Some foster parents choose to adopt foster children, but such willingness is not a prerequisite for becoming a foster family.

The most important quality potential foster parents must possess is a love of children and a willingness to help a youngster. Being a foster parent is not easy and may require a strong measure of patience. But the rewards of making a difference in a child's life can make any hardships well worth it.

Foster parents typically receive a monthly stipend from their state, county or province to reimburse them for the child's basic living expenses. Medical insurance may be covered by birth parents, or government assistance may be available to cover such costs.

Sometimes foster relationships stretch on well after the child has been reunited with his or her birth parents or placed in a new home. Strong attachments between foster children and parents can develop, and some kids even visit their former foster parents.



ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20 Aries, your sign pulls back this week and you may focus more on the artistic or spiritual. It can be a highly intuitive time of self-reflection for you.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21 Taurus, if you have been backtracking over past decisions, it's time to look at things again with a clear perspective - even if that means you need some advice from a third party.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you achieve some financial stability this week and enjoy the opportunity to breathe easy. Don't go overboard, but reward yourself for your financial discipline.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22

CANCER: Jun 22/Jun 22
There is much career energy coming your way, Cancer. You may find yourself with more job offers than you ever thought to entertain. This is not a time to sit back and let things slide.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23

Beauty and balance are brought into your life, Leo. Use the opportunity to brighten up your space with some decorating or a welcome change of scenery.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may have more energy than you know what to do with this week. Find a way to funnel it

into a creative or worthwhile endeavor, like volunteer

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23

LIBRA: Sept 23/OCI 23
Relationships will be a major high point for you this week, Libra. Every friendship or romance you have is irresistible and compelling at the present time.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, your health and career continue to

be your top priorities. You have a sense of urgency to get in better shape. It may be possible to combine

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21 You are beyond magnetic this week, Sagittarius. If someone didn't want to be your friend before, they certainly do now. Expect to be swarmed with attention.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20 Capricorn, others describe you as feisty and fun this week. With boundless energy, you bring your own party to each and every situation. Enjoy the rush.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18 Communication doesn't seem to be coming easily for you, Aquarius. You know what you want and can't voice it successfully. Take some time to plan what

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, a major financial event is on the horizon, but you're not sure if it is a windfall or a burden. Only

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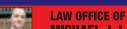
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