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August 21-27, 2015 CNG



Deporting Dominicans of Haitian-descent is believed to be a type of ethnic cleansing.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

New Yorkers rally against DR deportations

By Tequila Minsky

The rally began early Friday morning at Grand Army Plaza, held on a weekday so local politicians would attend. There were people of conscience, mainly Haitians, some Dominicans, and other supporters protesting the policies in the Dominican Republic leading to denationalization of Dominicans of Haitian ancestry and their deportations.

Three generations of the St. Vil family, Jessica, her baby in

a stroller and her mom, came from Long Island to the rally. They marched with 200 others over the Brooklyn Bridge.

Lionel Legros, an avowed long-time activist said, "We are here to raise the issue of Haitians being expelled from the Dominican Republic—and also dark-skinned Dominicans who thought they were Dominican for a longtime."

He explained, "The court ruled that since 1929, those of Haitian ancestry born in

the Dominican Republic are no longer Dominican. They're being expelled to a country they don't know, and (they speak Spanish) to a language they don't know. They worked in the sugar cane fields and then they say, 'Oh! We didn't now you are here. And, they deport them.'

"Until 2010, most people born in the Dominican Republic considered themselves Dominican," he said.

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SEAWEED INHIBITS TOURISM

Caribbean hotels faced with visitors cancelling bookings

By Bert Wilkinson

The umbrella University of the West Indies and some high officials in the region this week scrambled together academics and tourism industry experts to discuss the seaweed invasion of beaches across the region, to what extent it has disrupted activities in the summer peak season and how best to tackle this unwanted scourge of nature.

The Cave Hill, Barbados Campus was the venue for the parley and officials even suggested that more than \$100M will be required in grant aid or concession financing for affected nations and hotels to deal with the invasion of the Sargassum seaweed that has washed up on some of the most pristine beaches in the region in recent months.

The problem with the invasion and its threat to the life-line tourism industry is that it has arrived during the summer holiday season when experts at places such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the CARICOM Secretariat are away from the desks on annual vacations.

The region's top brass is also distracted by the latest edition

of the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (Carifesta) which Haiti is hosting this week until the end of the month.

So people like UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles took it upon themselves to raise the alarm bells about the effects of the invasion and sought to raise public awareness about a problem that appears not to have attracted attention at the very highest echelons of Caribbean life.

"This is the greatest single threat to the Caribbean. This is a threat not only to our tourism product. It is also a threat to our regional economy," Beckles argued." But since this is an international crisis I am therefore calling upon the international community to see this as such. Here in is an endemic and systemic threat to the resilience and development of these nations and therefore we must have an international response to this."

The number of countries affected by the invasion of the dirty and smelly mass of brown vegetation washing up on beaches continues to grow with nations from Trinidad to Antigua to Puerto Rico and

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Kamilah Brock fights City



Former NAACP chairman Julian Bond takes part in the “Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement” panel during the Civil Rights Summit on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press / Jack Plunkett, File

Julian Bond ‘A Man of Courage’: Clarke

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has described Julian Bond as “a man of courage and moral vision who insisted on his right and the right of all African Americans to participate in the politics” of America.

Julian Bond, a charismatic figure of the 1960s civil rights movement, a lightning rod of the anti-Vietnam War campaign and a lifelong champion of equal rights, notably as chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.), according to the New York Times, died on Saturday night in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He was 75.

Among other things, Bond was a founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, noted that when Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives at 25 years of age, his colleagues refused to admit him because of his work as a civil rights activist.

“But he was soon vindicated by a unanimous Supreme Court decision, and became a distinguished member of the legislature, where he established the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus,” Clarke told Caribbean Life.

As a founder of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the congresswoman said Bond was “on the front lines of protests that led to

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By Alley Olivier

Approaching a precinct or hospital has just become scarier for one New Yorker.

Labeled delusional, pumped with a cocktail of drugs and discharged without explanation — the array of events seems perfectly carved out of some horror movie.

Unfortunately, there were no actors adhering to a script or Ashton Kutcher to pop out of the bushes to yell “punked” at Kamilah Brock.

Brock endured eight days in Harlem Hospital’s psychiatric ward following what should’ve been a simple point in the right direction to reclaim her seized BMW.

“I knew I had to go to the 151st precinct but I wasn’t sure how to get there,” Brock explained. “I asked the locals for the closest precinct and they directed me to Service Area 6. I went in there and I told them my car was confiscated yesterday and I’m trying to find the precinct. I don’t have any money, can you guys just take me there and they completely denied me.”

Previously working as a banker at Citibank and Astoria Bank, the unfortunate series of events alienated Brock from corporate America. Now, the Jamaican American works for herself doing life insurance.

Prior to her visit to Harlem’s Public Service Area 6, Brock’s car had been confiscated by the authorities who suspected she was high on marijuana.

The bizarre experience continued with over an hour of back-and-forth as Brock attempted to be taken to where her car was. Instead of help, Brock says she was met with suspicion. “They asked me my name, my address, I gave them everything and then they asked me what kind of car I had and I told them it was a BMW and then after that it was ‘how old are you? Are you sure it’s your car? Are you sure it’s not your parent’s car?’ They started badgering me and I was like ‘look, I just need to get the 151st precinct can you take me there’ and they wouldn’t take me there,” she explained.

Unwilling to leave PSA6 without knowledge of where her car was located, Brock was placed in handcuffs and led into an ambulance. The officers assured her that she would be taken to



Kamilah Brock and lawyer Michael Lamonssoff in his office.

Photo by Alley Olivier

where her car was located.

“EMS approached me and I said ‘I’m going to my car in an ambulance?’ and they said yeah, ‘we’re going to take you to your car in an ambulance.’ So I said whatever so long as I get to my car I didn’t care how I got there,” she said.

Brock was then transported to Harlem Hospital’s psychiatric ward where she grew more and more skeptical of the situation. She approached the officers and doctors to attempt in gaining some understanding of why she was at the hospital and not with her car.

At this point, the situation took an insane turn as Brock claims she was then restrained and sedated — the start of her forceful stay. “I spent eight days at Harlem Hospital in the psychiatric ward,” she recalled.

While in the psychiatric ward, Brock remained on a cocktail of drugs with the belief that if she complied she would be released sooner rather than later. She also attended group therapy sessions.

Brock believes that what helped her leave the hospital was her conversations with the nurses about the entertainment side of her life.

“I think the reason why they let me go is because I started showing the

nurses that was monitoring the floor and the people my entertainment side to my life because I do music. I started showing my videos and my pictures with celebrities I know and things like that and they were like ‘wait a minute.’ I think that’s when they finally realized they made a mistake but they never owned up to it at the end when they discharged me. They never said I’m sorry or anything,” Brock said.

A year later, Brock has discovered that despite telling the truth to both the authorities and hospital staff she was diagnosed as having “grandiose ideations” of herself.

“I didn’t know the reason why I was there for so long was because they thought I was having grandiose ideations of being a banker and I had grandiose ideations of owning a BMW,” she said.

Now, the 32-year-old is waging a lawsuit against the City of New York. Her attorney, Michael Lamonssoff, believes there was a definite racial component that played a part in the way Brock was treated. “There’s a racial component to this too. I think if she was a white woman and she said I am a banker and I own a BMW, I tweet with the president because I’m political, do you think she would be hospitalized for it,” Lamonssoff said.

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Bahamas

Authorities in the Bahamas recently detained 143 migrants from Haiti on a crowded sailboat at the southern edge of the island chain.

The Royal Bahamas Defense Force says a patrol boat stopped the vessel west of Ragged Island.

Among the migrants were 23 women and three children. All were taken to a military base in Nassau for further investigation. The Bahamas usually repatriates migrants who are detained at sea.



A Defense Force statement says eight Cubans were also apprehended earlier this month in a vessel off Grand Bahamas.

The force has detained about 1,000 migrants so far this year.

Barbados

Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB), Dr. Leslie Worrell, says the country's fiscal adjustment program since 2013 offers a textbook demonstration of an effective framework for managing the local economy in the face of adverse circumstances.

Addressing the recent 35th CBB annual review, Worrell said that because foreign exchange is crucial, economic policy makers check the balance of inflows and outflows every day, so that any pressure on foreign exchange may be detected immediately.

He said, in May 2013, the authorities noticed a persistent decline in foreign exchange reserves.

"We understood that total spending in the economy would have to cut, to reduce the demand for imports in line with the available foreign inflows.



"The tool used to adjust spending was fiscal tightening. The first budget adjustment, in August 2013, proved insufficient. The reserves continued to fall, but the December measures did the trick, by bringing the fiscal deficit down from 12 percent to under seven per cent and the country's foreign reserves have since reverted to the normal pattern seen in the years prior to 2013," he said.

Worrell said Barbados also has lessons to teach the world about how to grow the foreign exchange-constrained economy that depends on foreign exchange growth.

Dominica

The Dominica government says it will soon announce a new visa system for Haitians wanting to enter the island.

Despite being a member of the 15-nation Caribbean Community



Bahamas detains Haitian migrants

A Bahamian Immigration officer, wearing a face mask and gloves, guides Haitian immigrants off a Royal Bahamas Defence Force vessel at the Prince George Wharf in Nassau, Bahamas. Associated Press / Donald Knowles, File

(CARICOM) grouping, Haitians nationals require visas to enter most if not all CARICOM countries.

Immigration Minister Rayburn Blackmore said over the past six months there has been a review of the issuance of visas to Haitian nationals.

"We have reviewed the system and in due time we will be making an announcement as to the way forward," he said, while speaking on state-owned DBS radio.

"The intention is to have a system whereby it can be more transparent. We are just waiting to have the administrative system put in place and also out intention is to have a proper vetting system," he added.



Blackmore said under the new system Haitian nationals could apply in person for visa rather than rely on an employer.

Guyana

Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo has confirmed media reports that ministers and other top level government officials will be getting bigger pay checks, saying they need to be paid "respectable salaries" to reduce the risk of them getting involved in corruption.

However, he said no 100 per cent increase had been decided on, as some reports had indicated.

Nagamootoo sought to explain the reasons for the pending salary hikes saying there has been a reduction in the number of ministries, and also it would be used as a method of preventing ministers from putting their hands in the cookie jars,' he said.

"They need to be paid respectable salaries, same as the police ranks and other persons, so as to avoid the temptation of stealing, accepting bribes and indulging in corrupt practices,' the prime minister said.

Jamaica

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) has announced that some of its members will stop doing cash transactions with cambios as of Sept. 8, 2015.

In a release, the Central Bank said this is due to a decision by the Bank of America to stop accepting cash transactions from Jamaican banks.

According to the BOJ, it will now allow the affected cambios to purchase and surrender foreign currency bank notes directly from its headquarters as of Aug. 17. This arrangement will end on Feb. 17, 2016.



However, cambio dealers are concerned about the implications.

President of the Cambio Association of Jamaica, Heather Ferguson, says this will affect some areas of the members' operations.

Several cambios use cash facilities to surrender to the Central Bank, so when this happens, what will occur is that the sector's ability to surrender to the Central Bank will be impeded.

She said it is too early to determine the impact the changes will have on customers.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia is set to become the fifth Eastern Caribbean nation to introduce a Citizenship by Investment program.

The country's attorney general has suggested a regional body be established to constantly examine these types of initiatives.



The Senate passed the Citizenship by Investment Bill recently, paving the way for St. Lucia to join Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda in offering citizenship to the wealthy in return for substantial investment.

Minister for Legal Affairs, Home Affairs and National Security, Senator Victor Phillip La Corbiniere told the Senate that the program would bring tremendous benefits to the country.

"We know that the Citizenship by Investment program has the potential to generate significant sums of money, and it is important particularly at this time in terms of the economic realities

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City Council passes Williams' pro-tenant bill

By Nelson A. King

New York City Council this week passed Intro. 700, a bill sponsored by Council Member Jumaane D. Williams (D-Brooklyn), deputy leader and chair of the Council's Housing and Buildings Committee, which is part of a Tenant Protection Package that aims to address the poor business practices of unscrupulous tenant relocation specialists, or as they are more commonly known, tenant relocators.

"Our city cannot stand by while tenants are being harassed out of their homes," Williams told Caribbean Life. "There are too many unscrupulous owners of rent stabilized buildings who will do anything to have a tenant vacate their apartment, including hiring a tenant relocater to get the job done.

"Tenants don't deserve to be intimidated out of their homes, and should be informed of their rights to refuse buyout offers," added Williams, representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn. "I am proud to sponsor this legislation which will combat such egregious



New York City Councilman Jumaane Williams speaks to protestors and other pro-tenant activists at Foley Square to call on the state legislature to strengthen rent laws this year Thursday, May 14, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press / Frank Franklin II, file

tenant harassment behavior, and thank Speaker Mark-Viverito and my Council colleagues for pushing these important reforms."

Williams said that in New York City, there has been a long history of owners offering

tenants money to vacate their apartments.

In recent years, however, he said there have been complaints from tenants that buyouts have become a form of harassment.

Williams said this issue aris-

es most frequently when building owners have hired tenant relocation specialists, many of whom receive a fee for each vacancy, to try to convince tenants, many of whom are rent-regulated, to leave their apartments.

He said Int. 682, Int. 700, and Int. 757 are intended to address this issue.

Int. 700, sponsored by Williams and Councilmember Daniel Garodnick, would amend the Housing Maintenance Code's definition of "harassment" to make it unlawful for a dwelling owner, or an owner's agent, to make a tenant buyout offer without first notifying the tenant that they have the right to refuse the buyout offer, without disclosing that the person making the buyout offer has been hired by the tenant's landlord.

Int. 757, sponsored by the Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, would amend the administrative code to include repeated buyout offers, made after a tenant has asked for them to stop, as part of the definition of harassment under the Housing Maintenance Code.

Int. 682, sponsored by Council Members Garodnick and Williams, would create a licensing scheme for tenant relocation specialists. Under this legislation, the relocators would have to become licensed by first passing an exam, furnishing a surety bond, and paying a licensing fee.

"All of these laws will protect tenants and keep the process of buyout offers by land lords fair and honest," Mark-Viverito said. "New Yorkers who live in rent-regulated housing have the right to stay in their homes, and no one should feel pressured, intimidated or coerced to accept an offer they don't want to take. With this legislative package, we will ensure that rent-regulated tenants are protected from harassment and coercion."

Garodnick said these relocators "can't have a business built on tenant harassment and the city needs to step in."

"Tenants should feel safe and secure in their homes," he added. "That is impossible if they're being pursued relentlessly by someone pushing them out of their home."



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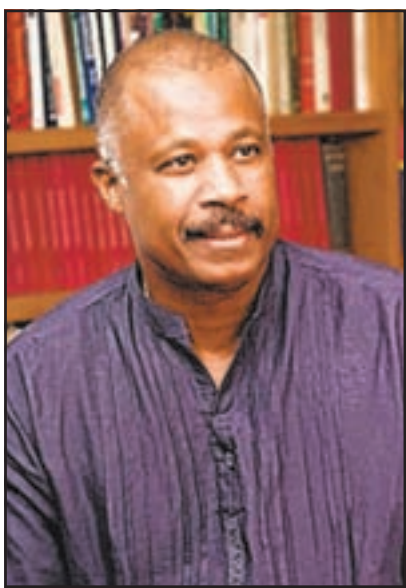
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SEAWEED COSTLY CLEAN UP



UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles. University of the West Indies

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as far north as Mexico complaining about it.

Officials argue that nations would need about \$120M in funding to clean up beaches, lease heavy duty equipment and hire large brigades of manual labor to confront and fix the issue.

"We probably would have to deploy over 100,000 people to carry out a similar strategy across the Caribbean space to make our beaches available to those who wish to use them for their multiple purposes," Beckles suggested.

While most of the countries have not reported large scale cancellations, Tobago has indicated that it is among the worst hit with hundreds of cancellations.

Various officials had called for a special summit of Caribbean leaders to discuss the issue but prime ministers Kamla Persad Bissessar of Trinidad and Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent who are usually the most supportive to these kinds of calls, are both in the middle of general election campaigns and are

likely to barely hear much less heed such requests.

As if the battle by tourism officials against the invasion is not providing enough headaches, health officials in Barbados are monitoring the situation as people in some areas are complaining about respiratory infections and other illness associated with the mass on beaches near homes as well.

As well in Barbados, the tourism sector there has warned about the use of heavy duty equipment on beaches to clean up as these have damaged beaches causing additional expense.

Rally against DR deportations

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In 2010, a constitutional reform eliminated birthright citizenship in the Dominican Republic, denying for the first time the nationality of children born in the country to undocumented parents.

The September 2013 Constitutional Court resolution— TC0168/13— retroactively denied Dominican nationality to anyone born after 1929 without one "Dominican" parent. The Court ordered meticulous review of the civil registry.

LeGros explained that next year there will be an election in the DR and President Danilo is "running on an anti-Haitian platform."

The deadline for registration in a "regularization process" passed on June 16 with the majority of Haitians facing deportation. Since then, round-ups and forced deportations, and self-deportations have taken place.

Sophia Contave from the International Campaign to End Apartheid in the Dominican Republic reiterated, "They have generations of families there."

What the Dominican government is saying is, 'Even though you've been here, you speak the language, you've been going to the school system, we're going to rescind your birth certificate.' They changed their constitution to take people out of their legal status in

their own country."

Arelis Figueroa representing the Latino Ministry of Riverside Church handed out a flyer that read: "We join religious leaders and denominations in the Dominican Republic, United States and around the world, among them the World Council of Churches (WCC) and its 345 member churches, who have denounced this grave human rights violation."

At the rally, Representative Yvette Clark took the megaphone. "What we're confronting in the Dominican Republic is a human crisis. This is not a Haitian problem, this is a Dominican problem with a nation turning on its own people and rendering them stateless."

She continued, "We must speak out and keep pressure on the Dominican Republic to do the right thing."

Clarke called for a public vote to overturn their constitutional ruling or a fair regularization process without coercion or violence. She suggested that there could be economic sanctions.

Jumaane Williams addressing the protest said, "We are not against the Dominican Republic. We want all Dominicans to stand up with us, for everybody who loves human rights to stand up with us to say: Do not strip people of their citizenship who were born in a country!"

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Haiti to host 12th edition of CARIFESTA

By Azad Ali

CARIFESTA, the Caribbean Festival of Arts, which is the largest cultural and artistic event in the Caribbean, will be staged in Haiti from Aug. 21 and Aug. 30, 2015.

CARIFESTA has become a major multicultural and international event that increasingly attracts countries from other continents.

The 12th edition of Carifesta will be held in five cities across the island: Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Cap-Haitien, Gonaives and Cayes.

All disciplines will be featured — dance, cuisine, fashion, cinema, visual arts, literature, music, theater, arts and crafts.

The 14-member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Haiti, have taken all the necessary



Official logo of CARIFESTA XII designed by artist Ralph Penel. The logo represents a synergy of multiculturalism, pride and joyful unity.

steps to ensure that his 12th edition in Haiti continues to fulfill the legacy of CARIFESTA being a great cultural and artistic event since 1972.

Haiti is able to accommodate its many guests and agreements have been made with the hotels for special packages and attractive rates by CARIFESTA season.

Government funding has been allocated to make this

great international event possible in Haiti. The event will also be supported by private sector sponsors.

The Great Market is a giant space for exhibitions from a variety of artistic categories as well as a center of activities for the youth, which will take place in Champs de Mars for 10 days throughout the event will be among the flagship activities of CARIFESTA.

T&T opposition leader faces death threat

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago police have uncovered a murder plot against Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley as the Sept. 7, 2015 General Election heats up.

And this was confirmed by the island's National Security Minister retired Brigadier Carl Alfonso, who said he was officially informed of the threat by the Deputy Commissioner of Police Glen Hackett.

Security has now being increased around the People's National Movement (PNM) political leader.

The minister said the threat against Dr. Rowley and any politician or public official at this time — a heated election season, was a cause for concern.

Reports in the PNM have been circulating that a TT\$15 million (US\$2.3 million) "hit" has been put on the head of Dr. Keith Rowley.

This comes on the heels of sexual harassment claims

against him by former investigative journalist Anika Gumbs, who said that the opposition leader had made sexist comments to her when she visited his home on two occasions some six months ago to interview him.

After making the revelation public, Gumbs resigned her job at the Express newspaper last week.

Dr. Rowley told supporters at a recent PNM rally in the Sister Isle, Tobago, that persons linked to the government want to have him killed and assassinate his character.

Pointing to scandals in the People's Partnership (PP) administration such as Section 34, Emailgate and Prisongate, and saying that Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and former attorney general (Anand Ramlogan) are under various police investigations, the PNM leader alleged the Government has created and fueled crime, and then expresses his personal fears.

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Presidential candidates need to address racial inequality

By Prem Calvin Prashad

The next Presidential election is 15 months away and none but the most ardent political enthusiasts are paying attention to the sideshow that is campaigning before the primaries and caucuses. Yet I'll be the first to admit that as a casual observer, I felt pangs of annoyance as I watched "Black Lives Matter" protestors upstage Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders — first at Netroots Nation, and then recently at his own event celebrating Social Security and Medicare.

This move left many, including myself, to wonder, why target Sanders — an unabashed liberal who was certain to be "on their side"? Why not, perhaps, another presidential candidate from New York, known for his ostentatious displays of privilege and flamboyant denunciations of immigrants and women?

After some thought, I recognize that the protestors make a salient point.

Both parties believe, in their own ways, that the solution to racism is through economic opportunity — in that your purchasing power and home ownership will raise you to the vaunted "middle class" and overcome discrimination. Immigrants are a useful tool in this regard, as their successes in America are touted as a success of this country's economic parity. Yet, candidates spend so much time speaking about the middle class that it's no

surprise that according to a recent Pew poll, nine out of 10 Americans believe themselves to be some level of middle class.

Sen. Sanders, whose platform strikes populist chords railing against the "billionaire class," has the backing of organized labor and the grassroots of progressive organizing. This is a message that resonates for a large sector of the population — over 72 percent, according to Pew, believing that policies since the recession have benefited "banks, corporations and the wealthy." It's for this reason that his supporters insist that he would be the candidate best suited to tackling institutional racism.

Yet, history has shown that even the most revolutionary changes to the economy — replacing plantations with sharecropping, the New Deal's massive public works projects or sending returning veterans to college through the G.I. Bill — have all failed to end racism as we know it. In the 1992 election, candidate Clinton won the presidency on a vow to reform welfare, encouraging Americans to view recipients through the heavily racialized "welfare queens" meme, despite the broad spectrum of American households — elderly, veterans, single parents and so on — that rely on public assistance. These attitudes about food stamps, public housing and other benefits persist today.

Yet, can any economic pol-
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Women's rights and gender equality

By Lakshmi Puri

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 14, 2015 (IPS) - If there is any idea and cause for which the United Nations has been an indispensable engine of progress globally it is the cause of ending all forms of "discrimination and violence against women and girls, ensuring the realization of their equal rights and advancing their political, economic and social empowerment.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women has been featured prominently in the history of the United Nations system since its inception. The ideas, commitments and actions of the United Nations have sought to fundamentally improve the situation of women around the world, in country after country.

Twenty years after its adoption, the Platform for Action remains a gold standard of international commitments on strategic objectives and actions on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Now, as we celebrate the United Nations' 70th anniversary, the U.N. continues to be the world leader in establishing the global norms and policy standards on women's empowerment, their human rights and on establishing what we at U.N. Women call the Planet 50 / 50 Project on equality between women and men.

Equality between men and women was enshrined in the U.N.'s founding Charter as a key principle and objective. Just a year after, in 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was set up as the dedicated intergovernmental body for

Gender equality and the empowerment of women has been featured prominently in the history of the United Nations system since its inception.

policy dialogue and standard setting and monitoring gender equality commitments of member states and their implementation.

Since then, the Commission has played an essential role in guiding the work of the United Nations and in setting standards for all countries, from trailblazing advocacy for the full political suffrage of women and political rights to women's role in development.

It also gave birth to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, adopted in 1979. Often called the international bill of rights for women, and used as a global reference point for both governments and NGOs alike, the Convention has been ratified by 189 states so far.

These governments regularly report to the CEDAW Committee which has also become a generator of normative guidance through its General Recommendations, apart from strengthening the accountability of governments.

As the torch-bearer on women's rights, the U.N. also led the way in declaring 1975 to 1985 the International Women's Decade. During this period the U.N.

held the first three World Conferences on Women, in Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985) which advanced advocacy, activism and policy action on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights in multiple areas.

In 1995, the U.N. hosted the historic Fourth World Conference on Women, and adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, one of most progressive frameworks which continues to be the leading roadmap for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

Twenty years after its adoption, the Platform for Action remains a gold standard of international commitments on strategic objectives and actions on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights in 12 critical areas of concern including poverty, education, health, economy, power and decision making, ending violence against women, women's human rights, conflict and post conflict environment, media, institutional mechanisms and the girl child.

Since 1995 gender equality and women's empowerment issues have permeated all intergovernmental bodies of the U.N. system.

The General Assembly, the highest and the universal membership body of the United Nations, leads the way with key normative resolutions as well as reflecting gender perspectives in areas such as agriculture, trade, financing for development, poverty eradication, disarmament and non-pro-

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Their 2016 campaign headache endures

One should not discount Barack Obama's election as president as a factor in the field of 2016 GOP presidential contenders having become so insanely crowded. The non-person to which so many on the right have shamelessly and fiercely sought to reduce this president, a feeling among one or more of the aspirants that if an Obama can be a White House guy so could they, doesn't stretch the imagination much. It follows, if we surmise correctly, that the president, despite not being a candidate for any political office, could well influence how things play out with that loaded boxcar of Republican gladiators.

By which we mean simply this. If Obama as president hadn't turned light bulbs on over so many Republican heads, maybe there's a markedly smaller candidate lineup and poll numbers among them don't give prominence to a bozo steadily holding the support of the wacko sector among Republican voters. We know that sector to be a very real piece of GOP turf. Even

so, nothing in recent GOP history would suggest a majority of its voters favoring the kind of clown act now leading their poling. For party honchos, steadfastly right wing is fine; a circus is a whole other thing. Unfortunately for them, the clown act, having now been given reason to take himself more seriously than ever, if his bid for the nomination falls short, has given every indication of making a third-party run — a nightmare scenario for Republicans. All of it possibly tracking back in some measure to Mr. Obama's having had the audacity to run for and become president, and in the process swelling an inordinate number of heads on the other side to presidential wannabe dimensions.

The possible effect of Obama as president on the almost surreal Republican nomination scramble is but one of the many morsels of food for thought in this real-time developing saga. No way was this foreseen by the GOP brass. Probably the only aspect of the 2016 nomination process they figured to warrant

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

special attention was avoidance of the tiring contenders' marathon they rolled out for 2012. The theater-of-the-absurd buffoonery that has overtaken this season's best laid plans couldn't spell exactly happy times for party masterminds.

But there's some poetic justice happening here. The GOP's robust identification with far-right values, the systemic sidelining of any vestiges of a moderate ideological strain within the party that saw a deliberate re-branding of Republicanism since the 1970s-80s period, now holds the party hostage. And, horror of horrors, calling the shots is a self-absorbed caricature whom no one in the party leadership could possibly be thinking to be a top-of-the-ticket winner. The "Y'all come" they eagerly extended to the far-right fringe has now become the bull in the GOP

china shop. One of the contenders polls show trailing in the dust, super hawk Sen. Lindsey Graham, said about the guy leading the pack, that if the party doesn't repudiate his brand of demagoguery, "We will lose and we will deserve to lose." The smart betting says he's got it right.

Between a rock and a hard place. That's where Republican heavyweights must think they've been placed by the antics of Donald Trump, as he continues to make a sham of this run-up to electing the so-called leader of the free world, making of the process the equivalent of another real estate huckstering gambit. Not that the Republican leadership hasn't done some pretty lame stuff before. There were influential party voices pulling the strings, we heard, in John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin as running mate in 2008, for heaven's sake. Maybe it was all his doing when George H.W. Bush put Dan Quayle on that ticket in 1988. The difference here is that the party has a nemesis

who can really inflict a hurting.

The third-party threat is of course one GOP leaders dare not ignore. So that although it couldn't possibly be the considered opinion among GOP bosses that this bozo is the party's ablest standard bearer, who knows what strange deal(s) might result when the threat of a third-party challenge is dangled?

The third-party effort, though, if it comes to pass in 2016, is nothing more than spoiler tactics. Ross Perot may have thought he was making a big enough noise to upset the status quo when he jumped onto center stage in 1992. As did George Wallace before him. They needed to take note that if a titan like Teddy Roosevelt couldn't make the third-party thing happen way back then, who could?

Who knows, maybe by the time we get not too far into 2016 much or all of the GOP-injected circus atmosphere would have exited the process. The American electorate deserves that much.



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Women's rights and gender equality

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liferation, and many others. Among the MDGs, MDG 3 was specifically designed to promote gender equality and empower women apart from Goal 5 on maternal mortality.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has also been a strong champion of gender mainstreaming into all policies, programmes, areas and sectors as the main strategy in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

Progress achieved so far has been in part possible thanks to ECOSOC's strong mandate for mainstreaming a gender perspective and its support to the United Nations system-wide action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP) which constitutes a unified accountability framework for and of the U.N. to support gender equality and empowerment of women.

Strongly addressing the impact of conflict on women and their role

in peacebuilding, the U.N. sent a strong signal by addressing the issue of women peace and security in the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) which asserted the imperative of women's empowerment in conflict prevention, peace-making and peace building apart from ensuring their protection.

This resolution was seen as a must for women as well as for lasting peace and it has since been complemented by seven additional resolutions including on Sexual Violence in Conflict. This year as the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 is commemorated, a Global Study and Review on its effective implementation is underway.

It is expected to renew the political will and decisive action to ensure that women are equal partners and their agency and leadership is effectively engaged in conflict prevention, peace-making and peace-building.

Presidential candidates need to address racial inequality

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icy, no matter how necessary or revolutionary, end racism?

The dilemma in burying racial divisions in high-minded rhetoric about inequality is that it makes the basic assumption that wealth is the only form of inequity in this country — discounting how race and discrimination affect neighborhood policing, the administration of criminal justice and urban planning. By now, we've heard the statistics — that one in three black males born today will go to prison in their lifetimes, that one in nine black men have spent time in prison — and

this is not just because there is poverty in America. Nine innocent people were not gunned down in Charleston because the shooter had grievances about tax policy.

Yes, it is true that policies such as expanding insurance coverage or raising the minimum wage help minority households and improve their quality of life. Yet, the argument made by Black Lives Matter is not an economic one — no amount of education or gainful employment protects African Americans from being treated differently than whites by law enforcement. No amount of benevolence from a candidate with their

economic interests at heart changes the stunning disparity in incarceration rates. By now, the incidents of shockingly excessive force by law enforcement against African Americans are too numerous to recount and it does a great disservice to both activists and law enforcement to subsume this conversation into a broader argument about economics.

Not everyone will agree with the activists' methods, their target, or the inelegance of their actions, but at this early stage, the conversation has entered the 2016 presidential race and for that reason, it is welcome.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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of St. Lucia,” he said. The minister said a board would be established to deal with matters related to the program.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony assured that the integrity of the country would be maintained and the introduction of the program would not mean that citizenship would be “available to the highest bidder at any price, at any cost”.

St. Kitts

The St. Kitts-Nevis government says an agreement has been reached under which people who lost funds when the Bank of Commerce closed its doors more than three decades ago.

Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said the agreement would allow for the payment of EC\$15 million to depositors.

Speaking in Parliament recently, Harris, who is also finance minister, said the court settlement would bring “tremendous relief to the many suffering depositors in the Bank of Commerce.”



He told legislators “a fresh start has now come to the depositors.”

The Social Security Board (SSB) had begun legal proceedings against the Bank of Commerce on Feb. 2, 1985 and the court delivered an order on May 9, 1985 in response to the Social Security Board petition, enabling the first resolution of the matter this month.

It was further revealed that the SSB, which is a creditor to the Bank of Commerce, should be receiving approximately UC\$1.4 million, and the Nevis Philatelic Bureau was in line for just over a quarter of a million dollars.

The government said it would be providing more details on the settlement to depositors and the general public at a later date.

St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines parliament has given the green light to the Ralph Gonsalves government to borrow a further EC\$13 million towards

the construction of the EC\$700 million Argyle International Airport.

Prime Minister Gonsalves told parliament that the airport, which has missed several completion deadlines since 2011, would be completed this year.

“The government of the Republic of China has already agreed to provide this sum of money between the embassy here and official in the Ministry of Finance, all the arrangements are being put in place to have these monies brought to use to assist in the completion of the airport before the end of the year,” he said.



Gonsalves said the urgency of securing the parliamentary approval in respect of the sale of land in Canouan were yet to be received after a falling out between the investors on the southern Grenadine island.

Trinidad

The Caribbean development Bank (CDB) has pledged US\$120 million to Trinidad and Tobago’s Energy Fund for the Caribbean Sustainability.

This promise follows a recent US\$600 million pledge by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which will now push the Energy Co-Financing Facility for Caribbean Sustainability up to US\$720 million.

The CDB’s pledge is expected to assist the government as it moves closer to its target of mobilizing US\$1 billion for the fund.

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) President Warren Smith, in a letter to T&T’s Planning Minister Dr. Bhoë Twea-rie, projected an annual demand of at least US\$30 million “for bank resources to finance projects in the energy sector over the next four years” and made a commitment of US\$120 million over the four-year period.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar proposed the Multi-Donor Energy Summit of CARICOM and the United States in January this year.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Clarke pays tribute to Julian Bond

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the nation's landmark civil rights laws as we know and continue to fight for to this very day."

"His activism continues to inspire generations of activists dedicated to social justice," Clarke said. "His contributions to the Southern Poverty Law Center and the NAACP remain invaluable to protecting the civil rights of every American."

"Julian Bond was a man of history whose legacy will continue in our work to secure for all people the full blessings of American life," Clarke added.

The Southern Poverty Law Center announced Bond's death on Sunday, according to the Times. His wife, Pamela Sue Horowitz, said the cause was complications of vascular disease.

Bond was one of the original leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee while he was a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

"He was the committee's communications director for five years and deftly guided the national news media toward stories of violence and discrimination as the committee challenged legal seg-

regation in the South's public facilities," the Times said.

"He gradually moved from the militancy of the student group to the leadership of the establishmentarian N.A.A.C.P.," it added. "Along the way, Mr. Bond was a writer, poet, television commentator, lecturer and college teacher, and persistent opponent of the stubborn remnants of white supremacy."

The paper noted that Bond also served for 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly, "mostly in conspicuous isolation from white colleagues who saw him as an interloper and a rabble-rouser."

"Mr. Bond's wit, cool personality and youthful face — he was often called dashing, handsome and urbane — became familiar to millions of television viewers in the 1960s and 1970s," the Times said.

"On the strength of his personality and quick intellect, he moved to the center of the civil rights action in Atlanta, the unofficial capital of the movement, at the height of the struggle for racial equality in the early 1960s," it added.



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Labor Day party for Dragon Stout, D & G Rum

By Dave Rodney

A section of the Door Restaurant in Queens, New York was jam-packed on Thursday, Aug. 13 with supporters of the Caribbean communities in New York who came out to hear about Labor Day plans to promote two popular Jamaican brands — Dragon Stout and the new D & G white over proof rum.

Riviera Imports, the distributors of both products in the New York region, hosted the sizzling four-hour party. Although the company has been distributing the smooth and rich flavor of Dragon Stout for nearly 10 years in New York, the D & G over proof rum is making its grand entrance to the area market for the first time, and party attendees had ample opportunities to sample both.

Executives from Riviera Imports were eager to show off an exciting new line of Dragon Stout and D & G over proof promotional materials including caps, men's and women's t-shirts, bottle collars, shelf talkers and posters that will be generously distributed over the Labor Day weekend of Sept. 3 to 7 at key events in Brooklyn. All the promo items have been inspired by the trademark colors of Jamaica — black, green and gold. There will also be a strong brand presence at mas camps and at all the concerts and parties happening behind the Brooklyn Museum for four consecutive nights. Additionally, there will be on



Executives of Riviera Imports announcing plans for Dragon Stout & D & G white over proof rum at the Door Restaurant in New York on Thursday, Aug. 13. From left, Juan Reyes, director of sales, John Hartwig, company executive, Una Clarke, former New York council member and Dan Rosenfeld, brand development vice president. Photo by Dave Rodney

site promotions at designated events in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx where the stout and the rum will be sampled and showcased.

“We at Riviera Imports have had a long relationship with the Caribbean communities in New York, and we are thrilled that this year we are saluting the community and participating in the carnival in a big way, bringing two iconic Jamaican products to you,” Brand Development Vice President Dan Rosenfeld told the happy throng. “We also want to extend our special thanks

to former New York City council member Una Clarke who is here with us this evening, and who has been our avid supporter since day one,” he added.

Juan Reyes, director of sales for Riviera pointed out that the winning formula for the Jamaican-brewed Dragon Stout has remained unchanged for almost a 100 years, and that several generations of residents from the Caribbean look forward to their holiday celebrations with this year to year favorite.

The D & G white over proof rum has only been in the New York market for a few weeks but

it has already been creating a buzz. “The consumer response to the white Jamaican rum has been phenomenal, people love the smooth taste, it is perfect for making cocktails and we think it’s a much better product than the competition,” Reyes added.

Here is a recipe for Mandeville Cool Breeze, an easy-to-make cocktail utilizing the D & G rum created by this writer.

Ingredients

- 2 oz. white over proof rum
- 2 oz. pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup diced cubes of water

melon

- I slice fresh green lime
- 4 to 6 cubes of ice

Method

Place ice cubes in a cocktail glass, then add cubes of water melon. Pour rum over the ice and water melon, then add pineapple juice. Jiggle with a spoon then garnish with green lime and serve.

For an alternative cocktail, just add 2 oz. Ting Jamaican grapefruit drink to 2 oz. D & G white over proof rum on ice, stir and serve

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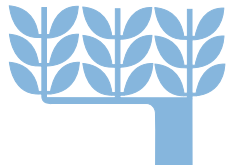
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Artist aims to capture Lauryn Hill in 'STILLMiseducated'



Artist, Imani Shanklin Roberts, channels Lauryn Hill in her upcoming art exhibit. Imani Shanklin Roberts

By Alley Olivier
 Inspiration can come from anywhere.

A calming breeze, the sound of rustling trees and the lyric of a song can propel an artist to create a striking piece of visual art.

Washington, D.C. native and Jamaican descendant, Imani Shanklin Roberts is conveying the powerful messages of Lauryn Hill in an upcoming art exhibit entitled "STILLMiseducated."

"The work is directly inspired by the 'MisEducation of Lauryn Hill' album. It's an album that is incredible and she's a phenomenal artist so really capturing that artistically has been kind've difficult in that it's such an incredible album," Roberts explained.

The new Brooklyn resident crafted the upcoming exhibit through a true collaborative process. Hosting a listening party along with The Culture LP – an art collective – with other minds, attendees jotted

down notes and images they saw and provided it to Roberts. "We had a listening session where we had people draw images and make notes about how they felt about the album," she said. "I have taken that on and have been more so the vessel to be ensure my artistic message is seen and felt, but I think this body of work is super collaborative in that I'm relying on the people who were there at the listening session and then combine my personal view of the work."

This isn't Roberts first time putting on an art show. The Pratt Institute graduate tested the New York City market last November following her graduation.

Though she is no rookie to planning and executing shows, Roberts feels this particular exhibit will be at a larger scale compared to anything she has done in the past.

"I was actually approached by a collective that brought on this idea to me last year and

now we're making it come to fruition which is super exciting. I think it will be will be larger than anything I've ever done before," she said.

Handling the creation of her art with care, Roberts is hopeful that she will not only convey the beauty of Lauryn Hill's lyrics but that she will also capture her own thoughts alongside the attendees at the listening session.

This particular pressure has opened a new path for Roberts who feels the stress from completing this exhibit is only making her a stronger artist.

"It is a lot of pressure to create this but for my artistic career it is very rewarding," she said. "Being able to present her body of work in a visually artistic format would be challenging for anyone because she is so phenomenal. I feel like I'm emerging so it's kind've difficult but I'm excited by it to and very humbled at the end of the day. It's some stressful days but overall, I'm really excited to

present it." Get lost in Roberts' visual interpretations of Lauryn Hill, Aug. 30, 2-7 pm at Studio 301 located at 301 Ten Eyck St., New York, NY 11206, near the intersection of Ten Eyck and Bogart streets. Tickets are available for \$15. For more information, visit www.thecultureelp.com.

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Jamaican launches Jar of Joy Body Soufflé

By Tangerine Clarke

The beauty of Heather Elliott-Whitehead runs deep in her Jar of Joy. The Jamaican-born impresario, recently launch her luxurious line of fruit based Body Soufflé at the Annual Beauty conference in New Port Beach, California, to grand fanfare.

With her eyes now set on dominating the estimated \$64 billion beauty care and cosmetics industry, Whitehead said she expects to see the growth of her product line in the next 10 years.

Joy in a Jar Body Soufflé is a paraben-free lotion, infused with extracts from super fruits, Acai, Noni and Goji, and formulated with essential pro-vitamin B5, which experts categorize as a powerful anti-aging agent with exfoliating properties used to fight free radicals and promote new skin cells.

Whitehead, an astute entrepreneur, CEO of Jar of

Joy Body Products, and marketing and publicity expert is excited about her product that she says offers a more youthful, fresh appearance.

"Apart from the healthy benefits of the line, users of the soufflé have likened the eight to that of their favorite fruity desserts. The brand offers Goji Berry and Orange, Pomegranate Puree and the Lush Almond Vanilla to name a few," said Whitehead.

According to Whitehead, the New York-based company bets on its attractive line up to win customers. She added that one unique approach taken by Jar of Joy is the decision to omit standard ingredients label on their packaging.

She is fully committed to international environmental and manufacturing standards and is honoring its corporate commitment towards a greener world by reducing the amount of paper and plastic used in its manufacturing.

Jar of Joy, expected to retail between \$18.00 and \$20.00 for an 8 oz or 238 ml jar, is only available in the United States with advanced negotiations for the product to be sold in the giant pharmacy chain – Walgreens, and in Canada. In addition, some varieties of the line will be available through Amazon fulfillment and Esty.

Whitehead, a passionate businesswoman, said that event though her luxury brand will be competing for market share with well-liked body care brand Bath & Body Works, and described as an in-between brand by some industry insiders, her company will use this status to its advantage to rank high among others such as Aveeno and Moroccan Oil.

With plans in the pipeline to distribute the sumptuous lotion in Jamaica and Trinidad by the first quarter of 2016 where requests for the product is high, the moder-



Heather Elliott-Whitehead displays two of her beauty products.

ately priced beauty enhancer will prove it has what it takes to be a successful product line.

"We just have to prove to

consumers that we have a brand they will love, and we are ready to do so," said the 41-year-old optimistic businesswoman.

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Naomi Jackson pens a coming to the Carib story



Naomi Jackson blends her own experiences into her novel, "The Star Side of Bird Hill."
Photo by Lola Flash

By Alley Olivier

There are an infinite number of coming to America stories.

Tales that detail an immigrant's journey to assimilating, fitting in and their own self-discovery are popular identity topics to write about.

Providing another layer to the complicated story of identity politics, Naomi Jackson ushers in "The Star Side of Bird Hill" – a story following two girls who journey from America to Barbados.

"I grew up going home to the Caribbean for the summer," Jackson said. "I wanted to write a story about Caribbean American life that was a little bit different than the coming to America story that we usually read. I wanted to write about what it was like to be a Caribbean American kid in the Caribbean — thinking that you're Caribbean and then not feeling that you're Caribbean enough."

A familiar feeling many Caribbean American children

face, Jackson recalled visiting her father's country Antigua and having the children tease her for her American accent and her attempted Antiguan accent.

Also of Bajan descent, Jackson embodies a mixture of West Indian culture as well as her home of Brooklyn. "My mother is from Barbados and my father is from Antigua and my stepmother is Jamaican. So I claim Brooklyn and a little bit of all those places," she said.

Digging deep into her own experiences shared visiting her Caribbean home and learning of the privilege associated with it, Jackson was able to craft her first published novel.

"I think that now that I'm older, I understand the privilege and also the loss about being a Caribbean kid in the United States. I think that it's a privilege to have the freedom of travel, just for what an American passport allows you if you have papers because that's not everybody's experience in our

community. I think that what used to be a childhood yearning for belonging and acceptance has gotten more complicated but I've grown up and come to understand a little bit better about the politics of travel and of migration," she explained.

With her book available for purchase, Jackson actually completed "The Star Side of Bird Hill" back in December of 2013 but waited 18 long months before actually seeing it on shelves.

With the summer nearly over and fall quickly approaching, Jackson plans to continue promoting her book at various events including the AfroPunk Festival on Aug. 22, a panel discussion at Medgar Evers College Sept. 19 and during the Brooklyn Book Festival Sept. 20.

Ultimately, Jackson hopes "The Star Side of Bird Hill" leaves an impression on Caribbean readers to have important conversations around topics such as sexuality and also see

themselves in the pages.

"I would say that the book for me is really a love letter to West Indian families everywhere. I am so happy to dig deep into the well of my own experience

and the well of the experiences of my family members to write this book," she said.

Purchase your copy of "The Star Side of Bird Hill" on Amazon.



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Caribbean seeks funding for renewable energy mix

By Desmond Brown

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique, Jul 21 2015 (IPS) - A leading geothermal expert warns that the small island states in the Caribbean face "a ticking time bomb" due to the effects of global warming and suggests a shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy is the only way to defuse it.

President of the Ocean Geothermal Energy Foundation Jim Shnell says to solve the problems of global warming and climate change, the world needs a new energy source to replace coal, oil and other carbon-based fuels. OGEF's mission is to fund the R&D needed to tap into the earth's vast geothermal energy resources.

"With global warming comes the melting of the icecaps in Greenland and Antarctica and the projection is that at the rate we are going, they will both melt by the end of this century," Shnell told IPS, adding "if that happens the water levels in the ocean will rise by approximately 200 feet and there are some islands that will disappear altogether.

"So you've got a ticking bomb there and we've got to



St. Kitts and Nevis has launched a 1-megawatt solar farm at the country's Robert L Bradshaw International Airport. A second solar project is also nearing completion.

Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

defuse that bomb and if I were to rate the issues for the Caribbean countries, I would put a heavyweight on that one."

It has taken just eight inches of water for Jamaica to be affected by rising sea levels, with one of a set of cays called Pedro Cays disappearing in recent years.

Scientists have warned that as the seas continue to swell, they will swallow entire island nations from the Maldives to the Marshall Islands, inundate

vast areas of countries from Bangladesh to Egypt, and submerge parts of scores of coastal cities.

In the Caribbean, scientists have also pointed to the likelihood of Barbuda disappearing in 40 years.

Shnell said countries could "essentially eliminate" the threat by turning to renewable energy, thereby decreasing the amount of fossil fuels or carbon-based fuels they burn.

"The primary driver of cli-

mate change is greenhouse gasses and one of the principal ones in terms of volume is carbon dioxide," he said.

"For a long time a lot of electricity, 40 per cent of the electricity produced in many countries, would come from coal because it was a very inexpensive, plentiful form of carbon to burn.

"But now countries have seen that they need to move away from that and in fact the G7 just earlier this month got together and in their meeting, the leaders declared that they were going to be 100 percent renewable, that is completely stop burning carbon, coals and other forms of fossil fuels by the end of this century. The only problem is that for global warming purposes that's probably too late," Shnell added.

Shnell was among some of the world's leading renewable energy experts who met here late last month to consider options for renewable energy development in the Caribbean.

The Martinique Conference on Island Energy Transitions was organised by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the French

Government, which will host the United Nations International Climate Change Conference, COP 21, at the Le Bourget site in Paris from Nov. 30 Dec. 11 2015.

Senior Energy Specialist at the World Bank Migara Jaywardena said the conference was useful and timely in bringing all the practitioners from different technical people, financial people and government together.

"There's a lot of climate funds that are being deployed to support and promote clean energy...and we talked about the challenges that small islands, highly indebted countries have with mobilising some of this capital and making that connection to clean energy," Jaywardena told IPS.

"They want to do it but there isn't enough funds and remember there's a lot of other competing development interests, not just energy but non-energy interests as well. Since this conference leads to the COP in Paris, I think being a part of that climate dialogue is important because it creates an opportunity to begin to access some of those funds."



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The Leader of Healthcare in East Brooklyn

Brooklyn shipping company initiates free Kids Fair

By Nelson A. King

A prominent Vincentian shipping company in Brooklyn on Saturday, Aug. 8 collaborated with some “friends” in starting a very successful free Kids Fair on the block where the company is located.

Standard Shippers, owned by Gideon “Fessy” Yorke, spearheaded the event that attracted many Vincentian and other Caribbean children, and volunteers.

The event took place on Clarendon Road, between 31st and 32nd streets.

“Last year, we had a very successful Christmas Party, so we wanted to do something for the kids,” Yorke told Caribbean Life, as the event began to wind down. “Everything was free [for the kids].

“The day was very good, very successful,” he added. “The kids enjoyed themselves. We’re going to make it an annual thing.”

Besides free food and drinks, the children participated in face-painting exercises, rides, dances and games.



Gideon “Fessy” Yorke (back row left), volunteers and supporters pose for our camera.

“It was a great success,” said Atiba Williams, who coordinated the event. “That’s the most important thing.

“The organizations I reached out to responded well,” he added, stating that a large number of Vincentian groups, businesses, supporters and friends heeded the appeal. “It’s a way of giving back.”

Gailene Windsor, a former

St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ national netballer, said she had contacted the Mayor’s Office, Community Board 17 and the 67th Police Precinct Community Board in Brooklyn in securing the block.

“For the first year, it was very good,” said Windsor, who is also a member of 67th Police Precinct Community Board. “I am very happy.



Gideon “Fessy” Yorke (back row left), volunteers and supporters pose for our camera. Photos by Nelson A. King

“I am looking forward to the event being bigger and better next year,” she added. “What good about it (Kids Fair) is that the community was very cooperative.”

Maxwell Haywood, chair of the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Diaspora Committee of New York, Inc., one of the groups that collaborated in the initiative, brought

along his wife, Sherrill-Ann, also a member of the group, and their two kids — Ngeri, 12, and Makeda, 5.

“It’s a good effort to bridge the first and second generation of Vincentians in the Diaspora,” Haywood said. “In the next decade, we’ll have a good number of young people to take over from us, and it’s good to see them happy.”



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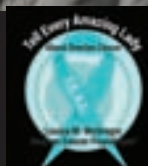


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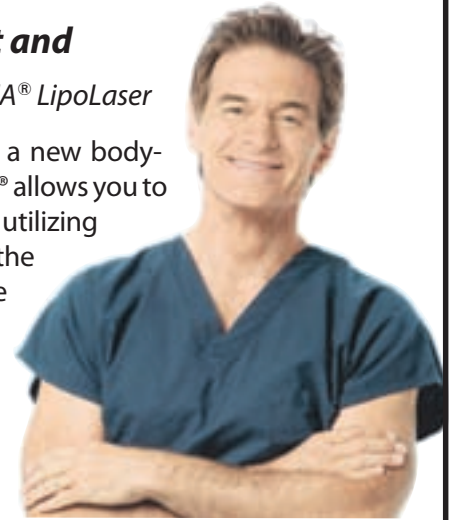
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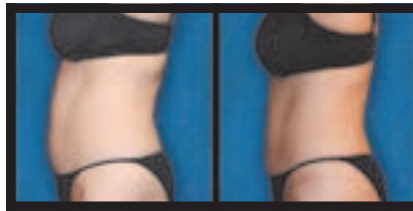
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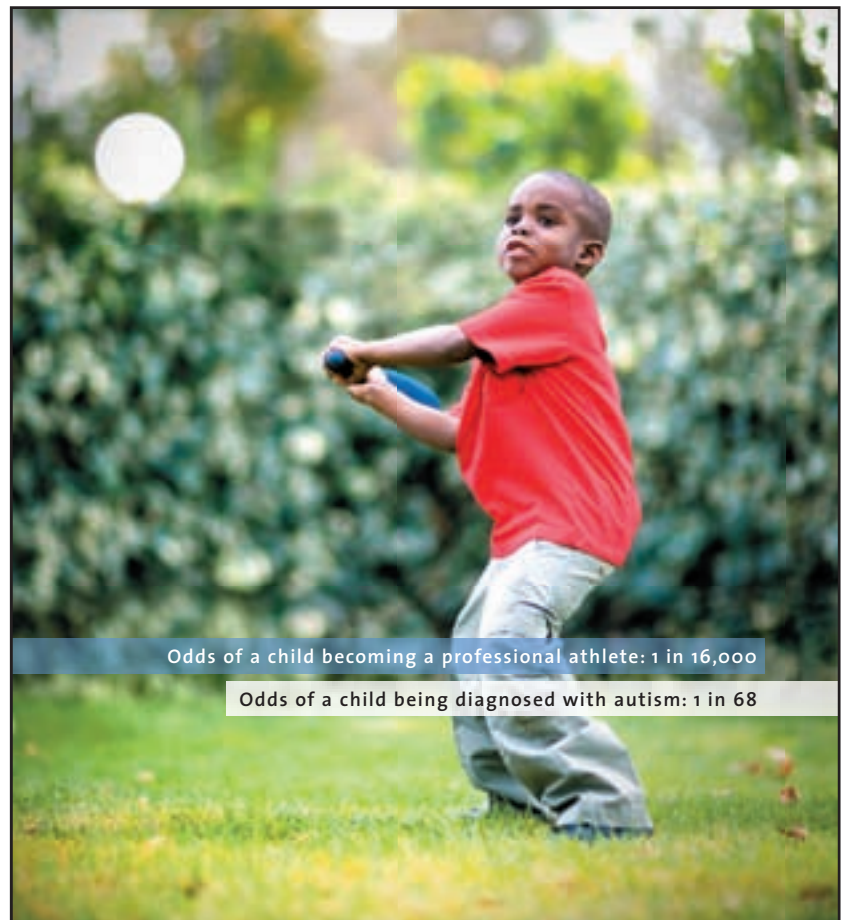
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Garlic Shrimp	\$80	\$150
Fried Shrimp	\$80	\$150
Escovitch King Fish Nibbles	\$40	\$75
Cocktail Patties	\$65	\$100
Mini Quiches	\$35	\$70
Swedish Meatballs	\$45	\$90
Chicken Spring Rolls	\$35	\$70
Chicken Fingers	\$40	\$75
Sweet & Sour Chicken	\$40	\$80
Sesame Chicken	\$40	\$80
Franks-in-a-Blanket	\$35	\$75
Sausage & Peppers	\$40	\$70
Veggie Platters	\$40	\$75
Cheese & Crackers Platters	\$40	\$75
Stuffed Shells	\$40	\$75
Chicken Wings		
BBQ, Jerk, Buffalo or Fried	\$45	\$85
Phoulorie	\$25	\$50
Fried Plantains	\$25	\$45
Fresh Seasonal Fruits	\$25	\$45
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Side Dishes

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Vegetable Medley	\$40	\$75
String Beans & Carrots	\$40	\$75
Roasted Red Potatoes	\$30	\$60
Baked Macaroni Pie	\$35	\$70
Potato Salad	\$30	\$60
Pasta Salad	\$30	\$60
Baked Ziti	\$30	\$60
Vegetable Lasagna	\$35	\$70
Beef & Turkey Lasagna	\$45	\$85
Spinach	\$40	\$75
Grilled Vegetables	\$40	\$75
Squash & Zucchini	\$40	\$75

Rice

	HALF TRAY	FULL TRAY
Rice & Peas	\$30	\$55
Yellow Rice	\$30	\$55
Spinach Rice	\$30	\$55
Okra Rice	\$30	\$55
White Rice	\$20	\$35
Parsley Rice	\$30	\$55
Vegetable Fried Rice	\$30	\$55
Spanish Rice	\$30	\$55

Entrees

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B.B.Q. Chicken	\$45	\$85
Stew Chicken	\$45	\$85
Curry Chicken	\$45	\$85
Fried Chicken	\$30	\$55
Baked Chicken	\$30	\$55
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Grilled Salmon	\$80	\$150
Vegetable Lo Mein	\$40	\$75
Chicken, Beef or Shrimp Lo Mein	\$45	\$85
Stew Oxtail	\$75	\$150
Stew Beef	\$70	\$140
Stew Cowfoot w/ Lima Beans	\$45	\$85
Curry Beef w/Potato	\$70	\$140
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2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$12,995	2011	Mercedes ML350, 25k	5589	\$21,888
2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995	2011	Acura MDX, 48k	1321	\$21,995
2012	Nissan Murano, 43k	17044	\$14,750	2013	BWW 328i xDrive, 18k	3881	\$24,995
2013	Mercedes C300, 47k	16502	\$19,995	2011	Mercedes GL450, 17k	6101	\$32,888

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YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$8,995	2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2013	Dodge Gr Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2013	Toyota Corolla, 19k	2595	\$9,995	2011	Toyota Sienna, 15k	1034	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2014	Ford Fusion, 10k	10024	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2012	Toyota Sienna, 23k	1070	\$14,995
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995

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2003	Honda Pilot, TMU	534295	\$3,995	2014	Mazda 3, 55k	15906	\$9,995
2003	Honda Accord Coupe, 91k	021636	\$3,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995
2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$5,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995
2007	Nissan Pathfinder, 126k	601699	\$6,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995
2010	Toyota Corolla, 37k	1042	\$7,500	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2009	Toyota Sienna, 93k	391451	\$8,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2012	Honda CRV, 57k	13914	\$14,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995				

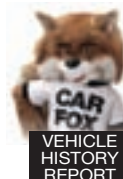
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From left, Jamaica's Consul General, Herman G. Lamont; Sacha A. Comrie - Future Leader Honoree; Tahira Francis-Future Leader Honoree; Mrs. Paulette Smart-Willoughby-JICFI Chair; Mrs. Sabrina HoSang-Jordan - Future Leader Honoree; Yvonne Biggs Rubie - JICFI Honoree; Paula Williams Madison - JICFI Honoree and Guest Speaker, Erin Lue-Hing-Future Leader Honoree; Marlon Samuda-Future Leader Honoree.



From left, Kecia Chin (wife of V.P. Records executive, Randy Chin), Faye Rodney - Carib News Executive, Karl Rodney - Carib News Executive, Mrs. Paulette Smart-Willoughby, Chair JICFI., Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, New York Assemblyman Nick Perry, Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, Paula Williams Madison - Honoree, George Hulse, V.P. External Affairs-Health-First.

Young and gifted among Jamaican honorees

By Lorraine Muir

Jamaicans in the diaspora exuded with ethnic pride at the 53rd annual Independence Ball. The premier event held in honor of Jamaica's Independence in the Northeast U.S.A, inaugurated in fine style at the New York Hilton, New York City, last Saturday.

The Jamaican Independence Celebration Foundation Inc., (JICFI) recognizing "future leaders" debut at this year's event.

Young and gifted individuals in New York of Jamaican descent were recognized as "Future Leaders."

Sabrina Ho Sang-Jordan, chief operating officer of her family owned business, Caribbean Food Delights and director of the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation; Erin Lue-Hing, current Future Leader of the Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board, Northeast U.S.A; Sacha Comrie, litigation, real estate, and family attorney / litigator, daughter of Dr. Millicent and Teddy Comrie; Tahira Francis, financial advisor with Merrill Lynch's US Global Wealth and Investment Group; Jordan Wright, and Marlon Samuda, burgeoning actor, graduate of New York Film Academy

burgeoning actor, now member of Sky Pilot Theatre Company, were honored as Proud and Free Jamaica-53 "Future Leaders."

Mrs. Paulette Smart Willoughby, chairperson for JICFI asserts: "We have to showcase our people. It's our duty to recognize the trailblazers; past, present and future leaders who have paved the way for our personal growth and our nation's advancements."

Ms. Paula Williams Madison, Chairman and CEO of Madison Media Management LLC., former NBCUniversal executive, journalist, producer of Finding Samuel Lowe: China, Jamaica, Harlem; Ms. Yvonne Biggs Rubie, MPH, Creator of Huggy Bean Doll, photographer and healthcare advocate were awarded for exemplary leadership.

Popular Anchor, Queens Reporter, and TV Talk Show Host of NY1-News and native of Jamaica Ruschell Boone emceed the event.

The Jamaican Independence Celebration Foundation Inc.'s, (JICFI) mantra remains to promote, further, and support selected charities to the benefit of needy communities in Jamaica and here in the United States of America.

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Caribbean art educator earns top award

Trinidadian born artist and educator Daniela Fifi has been awarded the prestigious Samuel H. Kress Interpretive Fellowship Award, which she will pursue at the esteemed Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University, in New York.

The Samuel H. Kress Fellowship at Art Museums Award is valued at approximately \$30,000 and is offered to American art museums to host fellows in a professional environment. The fellowship provides mentored professional development opportunities within American art museums and encourages fellows to explore interpretive careers in art museums, whether as museum educators or future curators, and to expand the range of promising career options available to students of art history and related fields.

Ms Fifi, who is pursuing her doctorate at Teachers College, Columbia University, beat out a competitive field of artists, museum educators and future museum curators from across the United States to earn the highly coveted fellowship, which began on Aug. 1.

During the period of her fellowship, Ms Fifi will work closely with Deborah Cullen PhD, Director and Chief Curator of the Miriam and Ira D Wallach Art Gallery, to develop and implement the gallery's museum education plan towards its move to The LenFest Center of the Arts in 2017. The education plan will focus on developing programming towards audiences in Harlem and its environs, at the gallery's new home in Manhattanville.

Prior to her arrival in the United States Ms. Fifi worked at the National Museum and Art Gallery of Trinidad and Tobago for three years and has been awarded numerous professional and academic honors throughout her career including the Presidents Scholar Award from the Pratt Institute, the Museum Education Research Fellowship at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Columbia University Teachers College International Student Merit Award.

Her current doctoral research examines the sustainability and longevity of museum-community relationships and she is particularly



Trinidadian born artist and educator Daniela Fifi.

interested in communities that are underrepresented in museums, specifically Caribbean populations.

"I feel truly blessed to be selected as a 2015 Kress Fellow at the Miriam and Ira D Wallach Art Gallery. It's such a privilege and deep honor to be working with and learning from Deborah Cullen," stated Ms Fifi on receiving word of her award. "This opportunity will not only allow me to truly engage our youth and larger community at the gallery's new location, but it will also enable me to continue my research into the strengthening of the links between art institutions and underserved parts of the community, through innovative art education and interactive awareness programs. This has been my passion in the arts as an educator, and consequently, this award is truly an extraordinary opportunity."

Among Ms Fifi's recent publications is *Doing and Undergoing-A Site Specific Multi Media Art Exhibition* at Teacher's College, Celebrating its 125th Anniversary, (2015).

She is co founder of the Scarlett Project, a nonprofit organization based in Trinidad, which promotes Caribbean Art education through art education workshops and annual theatrical productions.



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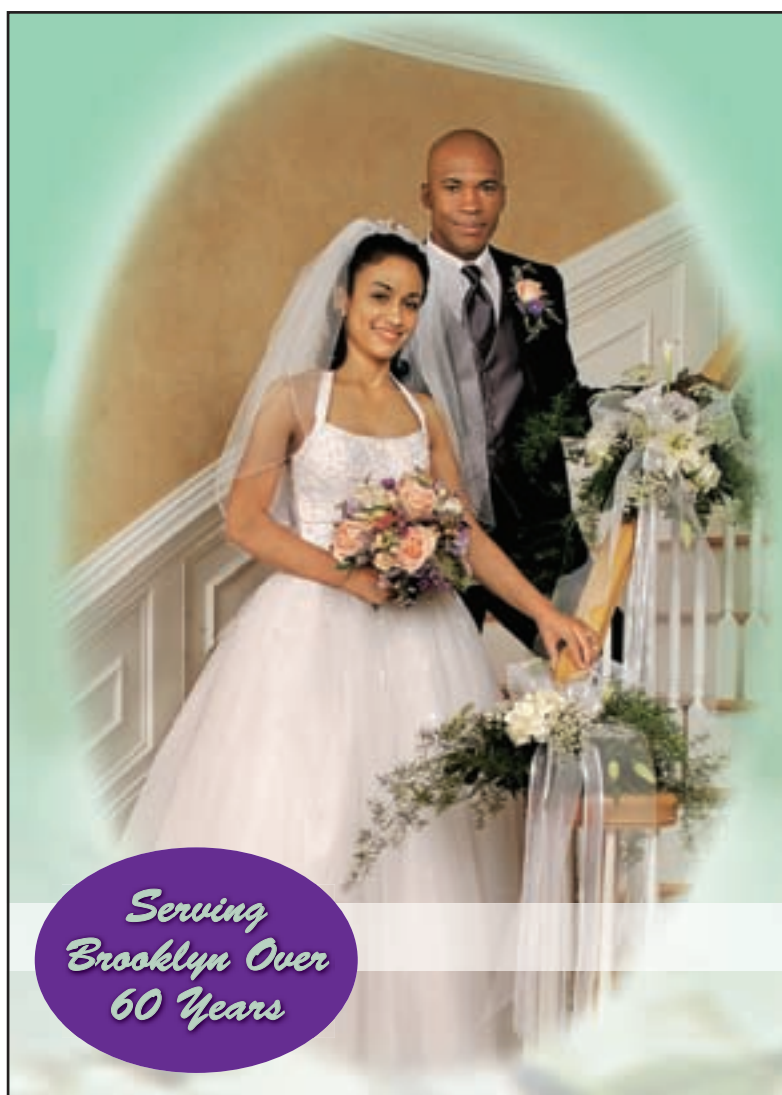
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Repossessed Cars To Be Sold Off Banks Forced To Cut Their Losses

Brooklyn, NY – High repossession rates can be a crisis for many banks. When the bank repossess' a vehicle they are forced to incur the cost of repossession of the vehicle and the cost of getting these vehicles to auction in order to sell them off. If the vehicle does not sell at the auction the bank has to return the vehicle to the storage lot and then attempt to sell at the next auction. Enormous transportation, storage and security expenses are incurred with this process. It has become harder for the banks to keep up with the repo rate due. Making it harder for the banks is the fact that dealers now have access to the tremendous amount of low mileage lease returns coming back every month. Additionally rental car companies now sell their rental car fleet directly to dealers. It is easier for a dealer to take a lease return or off rental vehicle and re-sell it rather than to deal with a repo and the title complications that can be associated with repo vehicles. This is what has created a crisis for the banks; too many repos, no one to buy them. The longer these cars sit, the bigger the losses are for the banks. "Well that is all about to change now" according to Richard Cappetta, General Manager at Kings County Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM.

"The auctions and banks have asked us to help by making these vehicles available to us

and I think we can," says Cappetta as he sits in his office at Kings County Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM on Flatbush Ave, "we will be selling repossessed, auction bought trade-in cars and even some rental fleet vehicles. This is a bargain hunter's dream come true. You can come in and take on payments on over 100 late model used vehicles, at bargain basement prices. Vehicles can be sold for their outstanding balance to the banks. You can save up to 50% off of original MSRP^ prices. These savings are absolutely incredible. No haggling; each vehicle is clearly marked for quick sale, first come, first sold."

A Real Bargain

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in and get a real bargain," adds Richard Cappetta. "Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local churches and charities to come down as well to take advantage of these low prices. We want to make sure the local community benefits from this event. You'll find all kinds of cars, trucks, vans and sport utilities from 6 months old to 6 years old."

"We will also be offering Car-Fax History Reports on every vehicle. You can drive home with confidence. If I were in the market for a quality pre-owned certified vehicle, I would definitely come down early for the

best selection. I may not have bargains like this ever again."

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Top Dollar Paid for Your Trade

Wholesale representatives will be on hand for this event. Wholesalers have been authorized to offer very liberal trade-in allowances toward the purchase of one of these vehicles. This is a perfect opportunity to trade in and trade up at unheard of savings. Trades can be your down payment and can also be used lower monthly payments. Your trade will be your down payment. In most cases you can just sign and drive with a trade, just add tax title and DMV processing fees. Just bring your title and pay-

ment book if any, and Kings County Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM will make the deal happen for you. Any trade can be paid off with approved credit.

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Friday, August 21st through Monday, August 24th. This event is open to the general public only!
No dealers please.

All purchases exclude tax, title & registration fees. *2010 Dodge Charger, Stk #T01515, 4 cyl, auto, 65k mi. \$275 per mo., 60 mo. finance with \$49 down pymt @ 6.9% APR. Ttl Pymts \$16,500. ^Discount vehicle ex. 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4WD, Stk #T01528, 4 cyl, auto, 25k mi., Original MSRP: \$28,110, Sell Price \$12,500 or 2009 Honda CR-V EX 4WD, Stk #702387, 4 cyl, auto, 79k mi., Original MSRP: \$25,405, Sell Price \$12,702. Subject to approved Tier 1 Credit. Severity of credit will affect down payment and APR. Bankruptcies must be discharged. Offers expire 8/24/15. NYS DMV FAC #7114167, NYC DCA #1435478

THE FOLLOWING INVENTORY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT:

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2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Charger	2014 Dodge Journey	2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Charger	2013 Ford Fusion	2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Charger	2012 Honda Accord	2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee
2015 Chrysler 200	2013 Dodge Dart	2012 Honda Accord	2005 Jeep Liberty
2015 Chrysler 200	2013 Dodge Dart	2012 Honda Civic	2015 Jeep Patriot
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2014 Hyundai Sonata	2014 Jeep Patriot
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2012 Hyundai Sonata	2014 Jeep Patriot
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2005 Hyundai Tucson	2014 Jeep Wrangler
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2014 Jeep Cherokee	2011 Kia Sorento
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2014 Jeep Cherokee	2011 Nissan Rogue
2015 Chrysler 200	2014 Dodge Durango	2014 Jeep Cherokee	2014 Nissan Versa
2014 Chrysler 300	2015 Dodge Grand Caravan	2014 Jeep Cherokee	2015 Ram 1500
2015 Chrysler Town & Country	2015 Dodge Grand Caravan	2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee	
2013 Chrysler Town & Country	2014 Dodge Grand Caravan	2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee	
	2015 Dodge Journey		

Haitian folklorist publishes music book, CDs

By Tequila Minsky

Georges Vilson's passion is collecting Haiti traditional music and also the musical interludes that are part of some Haitian folktales. His passion is dedicated to acquiring the fabric of Haiti's musical folk culture before it disappears.

The avocational folklorist went to parochial school in Port-au-Prince and his mother, who recently passed, was a church-going Catholic, but she had reverence for folk traditions.

"My mother was aware; she knew we must love the culture," he says. "She was always singing traditional songs." Though he didn't grow up in the Vodou tradition, there was respect.

"Cousins from the countryside in the Nippes department visited us all the time and told us lots of stories," he says of his own connection to traditional culture.

He elaborates that the role of the folktale is entertainment and education. "Most of the time there is a moral. They help you grow up."



Holding the second volume of Kandelab, Georges (Mous) Vilson's passion is preserving Haitian traditional music culture.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

For the songs that are part of folktales, "It's like a Broadway musical," in this case, a very short song, part of the story as the teller spins the yarn. Integrated into the folktales and easy to catch on, listeners often sing along at

the appropriate point.

"When I tell stories to kids, I always teach the song first," he says, and the children take his lead to join in.

Vilson, affectionately known by his friends as Mous, makes research trips to Haiti during his vacations as a Brooklyn high school music teacher.

He never goes into a place without an introduction. A friend who might be a Vodou priest or mambo — a trusted reference — opens the door. Then, with a recording device in hand and accompanied with other friends, he's ready.

On a recent visit to the Plateau Central, in the center of the country, he was in for a surprise. The chief storyteller greeted him, "We'll talk about the stories, but we won't tell them until the sun goes down." Explaining, "It's bad luck; we don't want anything to happen to our family."

With no accommodation arrangements, his group of four drove back to Port-au-Prince. "We returned the next week," he said, having

secured hotel reservations in a nearby city. And, recording all, the visiting group along with town folk listened from 6 - 10 pm. "I never knew stories aren't told until the night," he said, still learning the nuances of his cultural heritage.

In this second volume of 102 songs, 80 percent are Vodou or rara origin. The rhythms or dances are identified: petwo, chayopye, woumble, nago, kongo, yanvalou, and banda rhythms. Traditional songs make up the rest of the collection.

The music is notated, one song per page that looks like sheet music with the words printed.

Who uses the books? In addition to young musicians looking for the words or actual music of traditional songs, teachers in schools in Haiti use his book as a source. The size of the volume, with occasional full-page black and white photographs, is not bulky, a perfect carrying size.

Having amassed quite a few songs in 20 years of informally collecting, his research

trips add to the archive. He sees himself, in total, notating 2000 songs.

The next and third traditional music volume in the Kandelab series — named for a thick many-branched cactus in Haiti that serves as a natural fence — will be "103 notated Haitian Folk and Vodou Songs."

Accompanying the book and sold separately, Vilson recorded a set of CDs where he sings with a percussionist in Haitian kreylol, each song with its proper rhythm.

In the recording, sometimes you hear multiple voices or a choral background. "That's me," he says, of the multi-layered songs. The CD set also includes the songs played to a metronome on a piano, the notes from the sheet music slowly articulated. "It's so people can follow along who don't read music," he says.

The Kandelab book or set of CDs can be purchased at Haiti Cultural Exchange's office, Five Myles Gallery, 558 St. Johns Place or on Amazon.

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Jamaicans named for Heroes Day Ceremony

One of the anticipated pluses to celebrating Jamaica's independence is the announcement of distinguished nationals to be acknowledged by the government on Heroes Day in October.

Established in 1968, they were first awarded a year later and annually on Aug. 6, the Jamaica Information Service quelled all anxieties by naming the 2015 awardees considered worthy of distinguished and honorable mention.

One hundred and 67 individuals were named to receive the national honors and as always for a wide variety of service to the island.

Among those to be conferred with The Order of Jamaica (OJ) — the country's fourth-highest national honor — eight distinguished citizens were acknowledged.

Former New York Consul General Derrick Heaven is among the chosen few and will be rewarded for service to the public sector.

Nationals residing here when he was tasked to represent the diaspora community will recall



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

CG Heaven as the public servant willing to extend himself beyond the routine diplomatic realm. Some may remember how he supportively sat in a Queens' county courtroom with a Jamaican family dogged by media scrutiny after one of their own — a student at St. John's University was drugged and raped by a group of athletes.

Afterwards, Heaven was dispatched for service in London, England as the island's High Commissioner and later returned home to head the Sugar Industry Authority.

"I'm very pleased that I have been considered to receive this honor," Heaven said. "It's nice to know that my efforts on behalf of the country have been recognized. I am really deeply honored"

Joining the ambassador is Bronx resident Vincent Getchun

HoSang for philanthropic and dedicated service to Jamaica and the Diaspora in New York.

Others in that category include contributors in education, religion and voluntary service.

The sixth in order of national honors bestows the Order of Distinction (CD) in the commander class to names more familiar to the local Jamaican community due to their political and diplomatic affiliations.

They include Members of Parliament, Phillip Paulwell, Wykeham McNeill, former health minister, John Junor, former Senator Trevor Munroe, Ambassador Stephen Vascianie and Olivia 'Babsy' Grange.

Ironically, Grange is being heralded for contribution to the music industry and cultural development.

The former minister of culture has had a long history



Olivia "Babsy" Grange, former minister of culture (left), interviewed by Vinette K. Pryce in Kingston, Jamaica.

Photo by Leroy "Dreamy" Riley

with the reggae fraternity, promoting and managing numerous artists.

In New York City along with Clifton "Specialist" Dillon, helmed Shang Records, a label that spawned the successful careers of Shabba Ranks, Patra, Damian Marley, Bounty Killa, and a long roster of recording artists.

Grange will be hailed in the rank of commander class.

Reggae Sunsplash co-found-

er, Ronald 'Ronnie' Stafford Burke will also receive his due and the Order of Distinction in the rank of officer class on Oct. 19.

Burke is perhaps best-known for his alluring effort to boost tourism and promote Jamaica and its music industry by joining forces with colleagues for a Synergy that created one of the island's most successful summer reggae festivals.

Catch You On The Inside!

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

Moving Sept. 11 concert at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

This Sept. 11 Brooklynites will remember — and they will find comfort in music.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help will host a 9-11 tribute in its auditorium, featuring the original work of Brooklynite Rosalie Commentucci O'Hara and her new song, "United As One — Ode to September 11th."

Appearing on the same venue with her are singing sensations Jay Siegel's Tokens and Stan Zizka's Del-Satins. With a line-up like this, even The Lion won't sleep that night.

O'Hara, an artist who has written hundreds of songs, watched the horror of 9-11 unfold from her downtown window.

"I cried with the rest of the city," she says. She'd wipe the daily dust that somehow entered her home through closed window. But there was nothing she could do about that horrible burning smell that lingered. Driving along the highway to her day job at Elmhurst Hospital, she would glimpse



(Left) Stan Zizka's Del-Satins and (right) Jay Siegel's Tokens perform their hits on Sept. 11.



at the empty hole in the skyline where the Towers once stood. She would think of her cousin, firefighter Carl Bini of Staten Island's Rescue 5, one of the heroes who lost his life that day.

And O'Hara was inspired to write about all of it. She recorded a song that was put on the back burner for a while until she perfected it. Sometimes, when things are that raw, it does take a while. On Sept. 11, 2015 she will sing that original piece, a song with background music that includes two trumpets, a piano, saxophones, an organ, drums, and more. Her two sisters — Janet

Pascale, who also lives in the borough, and Lily Bifone, who is making her way here from Kentucky — will perform on stage with her. Joining the ladies will be their brother, Gabe Commentucci, commuting from Queens. In addition, O'Hara will perform five other original songs. One, she hints, is about the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

One of the evening's other performers, Jay Siegel, grew up in Brighton Beach, and attended Lincoln High School. It was there that he met Neil Sedaka, one of the original members of The Tokens.

"I had the best childhood,

growing up in Brooklyn," says Siegel, who remembers fondly many good meals at Lundy's. The doo-wop singer married a Brooklyn girl, and they've been together for 53 years.

On Sept. 11, he plans to perform hits like, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," transporting the audience back to a time of innocence, long before the word "terrorism" was part of our vocabulary.

"We want people to come away smiling," he says. "We want them to feel young again."

Stan Zizka and The Del-Satins are remembered for their hit, "Teardrops Follow

Me," as well as their harmonies that were featured on hit records for Dion and other famous artists.

Tickets for the show are \$55. VIP seating is \$80, and includes an after-party, during which you can meet and mingle with the performers, pose for photos, and ask for autographs. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Sept. 11 Tribute at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (5902 Sixth Ave. between 59th and 60th streets in Bay Ridge). The show starts at 7pm. Tickets may be purchased at september11tribute.brownpapertickets.com, or call (888) 540-8880.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Sister Carol's album cover.

Reggae's Black Cinderella scores triple treat

By Vinette K. Pryce

Believe it when you see and hear it. Reggae's Black Cinderella gets the last word in the latest Meryl Streep flick "Ricki and the Flash."

To end the movie, it is the voice of the popular deejay AKA Sister Carol sounding the lyrics from her 1996 Grammy-nominated "Milk & Honey" single from the 1996 "Lyrically Potent" CD that signals conclusion.

The song echoes three times throughout the attraction before the credits roll.

For more than a year, the respected foundation deejay has remained hushed since filming a cameo role with her

Continued on Page 46

'The Wiz' wows with anniversary tribute

By Vinette K. Pryce

Forty years after winning seven Tony Awards — Broadway's highest theater honor — the first Black musical to claim the distinction eased into two New York City parks for three, free, nights of celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of its historic trailblazing achievements.

"The Wiz: A celebration in Dance and Music" delighted a new generation of music-loving, theater fans on Aug. 12 with a free presentation at Rumsey Playfield at Central Park Summerstage from 8 pm to 10 pm.

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VINCY SPIRIT

Calysonian John Dougan entertains the crowd at Vincy Day held at Heckscher State Park in East Islip, Long Island. Photo by Nelson A King

Gospel, soca calypso artistes entertain the massive crowd

By Nelson A. King

Organizers have described as a "phenomenal success" the 4th annual Vincy Day U.S.A., a massive picnic last Saturday, primarily comprising Vincentian nationals, at Heckscher State Park in East Islip, Long Island.

Vincy Day U.S.A. Committee, the organizing group, said in a "Thank You" statement that 10,000-odd nationals and friends converged on the sprawling park's picturesque campground for the spectacle.

"The day was a phenomenal suc-

cess — from the beautiful weather to the wonderful spirit of our people coming together to peacefully fellowship," the statement said.

Separately, Camille English-Darling, the group's secretary, told Caribbean Life that "overall the event was a huge success.

"The parking lot was filled to capacity one hour earlier this year than last year; and a majority of cars already had their permits, which helped to make entrance more seamless," she said.

Vincintians from all walks of life trekked, mainly by car and bus, from as far as Toronto, Canada and Miami, Fla for the extraordinary picnic.

"It's a great experience to meet people I've not seen in a very long time," said Sophia McKenzie-Bowman, picnicking with her husband, Charles Bowman, and Mr. Bowman's elder brother, Lenford "Brother B" Bowman, and his wife, Sandra Roberts-Bowman.

"It looks like all the Vincintians

Continued on Page 46

Diamond Entertainment & Crew's 'Wings of Love'



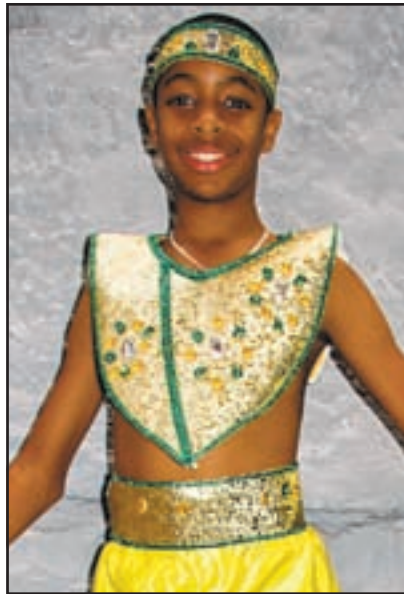
Mas Productions masquerader Ajani Liverpool portrays "Oriental Onyx." Photo by Nelson A. King



Aaliyah Richardson portrays "Peacock." Photos by Nelson A. King



Keoia Richardson portrays "Blooming in the Garden."



Ta'zyah O'Connor portrays "Terrence."

Mas Productions Unlimited lures 'International Treasures'

By Nelson A. King

There may not be any specific reason, but the Brooklyn-based Mas Productions Unlimited is luring "International Treasures" for this year's West Indian American Day Carnival Parade.

"There is no special reason; it's something we came up with," band leader Vincentian Wesley Millington told Caribbean Life about the production.

With the annual participation of the Belizean New York community, Millington said "International Treasures" comprises four sections – three girls and one boy – with about 15 masqueraders in each section.

The girls sections are: Pacific Pearls, Spanish Splendor and Southwest Treasures. Oriental Onyx is the lone boy section.

"We expect the kids to come out and have fun, and enjoy the carnival," said Millington, as he worked

By Nelson A. King

After placing second for the last two years for medium-sized bands in the Junior Carnival, Diamond Entertainment & Crew is hoping to snatch the top prize this Labor Day with "Wings of Love."

Band leader Trinidadian Avril Alexander told Caribbean Life that "Wings of Love" comprises 11 sections.

They include: Terrence, Peter Pan, Raining Happiness, Fairy Goddess, Firey Desire, Swan Lake, Butterfly Catcher, Wings of Passion, Midnight Fairy and Peacock.

Alexander, who has been participating in the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade for the past five years, said about 15-20 masqueraders will comprise each section.

She said masqueraders are from

several nations, including: Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Egypt and the United States.

"My masqueraders can expect to have fun, with unlimited food and drinks on the road," said Alexander, adding that when the band was

Continued on Page 44

Rise and demise of legendary gangsta' group

"Straight Outta Compton"
Good (2 stars)
Rated R for violence, drug use, pervasive profanity and ethnic slurs, graphic sexuality and frontal nudity
Running time: 147 minutes
Distributor: Universal Pictures

By Kam Williams

Back in the Eighties, the CIA began orchestrating the introduction of crack-cocaine to African-American communities all across America, starting with the South Central L.A. By the middle of the decade, the epidemic had turned Compton into a godforsaken wasteland rife with drug addiction and crime.

Thus, it should come as no surprise that when a young Ice Cube (O'Shea Jackson, Jr.) teamed up with MC Ren (Aldis Hodge) to write songs, they'd reflect the reality of what they'd



O'Shea Jackson Jr. (Ice Cube), Cory Hawkins (Dr. Dre), Jason Mitchell (Eazy-E), Aldis Hodge (MC Ren), and Neil Brown Jr. (DJ Yella) play N.W.A. in film "Straight Outta Compton."

Photos courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

witnessed growing up in the 'hood. In 1988, together with Dr. Dre (Corey Hawkins), Eazy E (Jason Mitchell) and DJ Yella (Neil Brown, Jr.), they released

"Straight Outta Compton," the debut album of N.W.A., aka Niggaz with Attitudes.

The controversial group pioneered a seminal sub-genre of

rap revolving around black-on-black violence, misogyny and police brutality. While detractors criticized their glorification of ghetto dysfunction, pro-

ponents countered that N.W.A. was merely telling it like it is.

Despite that first CD's going double platinum, Cube soon departed to embark on a solo career, ostensibly after being ripped off by their manager, Jerry Heller (Paul Giamatti). In fact, he subsequently threatened to "put a bullet to his temple" in a tune where he also suggested his former bandmates "get rid of that devil" because they couldn't be gangstas "with a white Jew tellin' you what to do." Meanwhile, his abandoned homeys promised Cube via lyrics that they would "f*ck you with a broomstick."

Ironically, they would all eventually wise up and come around to agree with Cube, most notably, Dre, who finally left Ruthless Records in 1991 to sign with his bodyguard Suge Knight's (R. Marcus Taylor) new label, Death Row Records. Eazy E would remain loyal to Heller the longest, leaving not long before he died of AIDS at just 31 years of age.

Independent & Foreign Films

6 Years (Unrated)

Romance drama about a couple of childhood sweethearts (Ben Rosenfield and Taissa Farmiga) whose long-term relationship is tested when he's offered a dream job with a record company. With Joshua Leonard, Lindsay Burdge and Peter Vack.

After Words (Unrated) Romantic romp revolving around a lonely librarian (Marcia Gay Harden) having a midlife crisis who travels to Costa Rica where she gets her groove back with the help of a handsome young hunk (Oscar Jaenada). Support cast includes Jenna Ortega, Ron Canada and Jackie Torres.

Beltracchi (Unrated) Amusing expose' about con man Wolfgang Beltracchi, the art forger who fooled museums and collectors for decades, passing off his fakes as originals by a variety of different masters. (In German, French and English with subtitles)

Digging for Fire (R for profanity, drug use, sexual references and graphic nudity) Mumblecore movement maven Joe Swanberg directed and co-wrote this intriguing whodunit about a young couple (Jake Johnson and Rosemarie DeWitt) with a toddler (Jude Swanberg) whose marriage is shaken by the discovery of a gun and a bone buried in their backyard. Ensemble includes Anna Kendrick, Orlando Bloom, Sam Elliott and Brie Larson.

Guidance (Unrated) Out-of-the-clos-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

et comedy about an alcoholic guidance counselor (Pat Mills) deep in denial about his sexuality whose unhealthy coping mechanisms prove popular with students seeking his advice. Featuring Alexandria Benoit, Jen Goodhue and Tracey Hoyt.

Grandma (R for profanity and drug use) Lily Tomlin handles the title role in this road comedy about a heartbroken lesbian who drives around town to help her cash-strapped granddaughter (Julia Garner) come up with some urgently-needed cash before sundown. With Marcia Gay Harden, Judy Greer, John Cho, Sam Elliott and Elizabeth Pena.

The Iron Ministry (Unrated) Infrastructure documentary chronicling the recent transformation of China's railway system into the largest locomotive network in the world. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

Learning to Drive (R for profanity and sexuality) Romantic dramedy, set in Manhattan, about the unlikely friendship which blossoms between an acerbic book critic (Patricia Clarkson), just dumped by her husband (Jake Weber), and the patient cabbie (Ben Kingsley) she hires to teach her to drive. With Grace Gummer, Sarita Choudhury and Samantha Bee.

Kids will spend 11 minutes dressing Spike up like a princess.

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Charlize Horizon kiddies have ‘Mystical Illusions’



Masquerader Chelsea Smith portrays “Southwest Treasure.”

‘International Treasures’

Continued from page 42

on a section at the mas camp, located in the basement of David’s Bakery on Avenue H in Brooklyn. “That’s what it’s all about.”

Millington said he was very grateful to the owner of David’s Bakery, his compatriot Don McBarnett, for giving the mas camp the space to build costumes free of charge.

“We had a hard time finding camp space, and Don offered this, which we decided to go with,” he said, disclosing that McBarnett had given him the space for free on two previous occasions, adding that McBarnett usually rents the basement for social events.

“We hope some the people who come to us can give him (McBarnett) some business,” Millington added.

As he and a handful of band members and volunteers worked feverishly on costumes, Millington, who has been participating in the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade for the past 23 years, said Mas Productions will be ready for Labor Day.

But he could not withhold his emotions, saying he was “feeling tired,” adding, “This is a lot of work” and a labor of love.”

DJ Whiz Kid will supply soca music for masqueraders.

Millington can be reached at (718) 759-7766. David’s Bakery is located at 3405 Ave. H, between East 34 and 35th streets, in Brooklyn.



Laniece Hofflie showcases individual costume ‘Illusion’ from Charlize Horizon.

By Tangerine Clarke

Charlize Horizon Junior Mas is ready for Kiddies Carnival on Saturday, Sept. 5, as was clear recently, when high spirited youngsters in colorful costumes put on a display reveling to carnival music at the band’s 898 East 95th St. (between D & Foster) camp in Brooklyn.

Costume designer Charlene Norgriff a San Fernando, Trinidad, native has put her heart and soul into the radiant collection to bring to life her themed - “Mystical Illusions.”

Now in her second year of competition as an individual bandleader, Norgriff, the owner of Neya’s Daycare, is inspired by carnival, and as such will dazzle the judges with sections to showcase “Sensational,” “Circus Girl,” “Butterflies,” “Fairies,” and cartoon characters to bring to life

Continued from page 42

her daughters and a team of volunteers helping with the production. Masqueraders will sway to the soca beat of DJ Armani.

She said preparations are going “pretty good” so far this year, with



Charlize Horizon band leader Charlene Norgriff extreme right, with kids from the band.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

her fantasy concept.

The whimsical designs include a polka dot dress paired with rainbow tights, fish net tutus in purple designed with sequins and glitter, glamour girl.

The cute fairytale costumes and cartoon characters for boys, created from metallic fabric, the designer said, will tell a thousand tales.

Laniece Hofflie, the designer’s daughter will present the ‘Illusion’ individual costume to lead the teenage section of the posse. The black and silver ensemble features a feathered headpiece and is accentuated with a jeweled half mask.

Norgriff, focused on the children living their culture and being a part in their culture. As such, she emphasized keeping cost down, making the costumes attractive and

affordable to parents.

The toddler costume prices start at \$65, while the teen outfits go up to \$140.00.

With lots of help at the Mas camp to complete the impressive, comfortable designs, Norgriff said her band is a place where all can come and take part as a family.

Norgriff brings a wealth of experience in this category after presenting sections with “Hawks International,” “Ramajay Mas,” and “Antoine International.” She hopes to put forward an impressive presentation when her children masquerades in front of the judges on Labor Day weekend.

Charlize Horizon Mas Camp is open daily with extended weekend hours, and could be reached by calling 347-365-6402, 347-586-3388

Diamond Entertainment & Crew’s ‘Wings of Love’

her daughters and a team of volunteers helping with the production.

Masqueraders will sway to the soca beat of DJ Armani.

Diamond Entertainment & Crew is located at 245 East 34th St., between Church and Snyder avenues

in Brooklyn.

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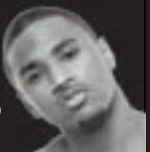
TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Can't Feel My Face**
The Weeknd
- 2 **Cheerleader**
OMI
- 3 **Bad Blood**
Taylor Swift Feat. Kendrick...
- 4 **Lean On**
Major Lazer & DJ Snake ...
- 5 **Shut up & Dance**
Walk the Moon
- 6 **Fight Song**
Rachel Platten
- 7 **Photograph**
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **See you Again**
Wiz Khalifa Feat. Charlie Puth
- 9 **Where Are U Now**
Skrillex & Diplo With Justin B.
- 10 **Good For You**
Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Compton**
Dr. Dre
- 2 **Kill The Lights**
Luke Bryan
- 3 **This Is Not A Test**
tobyMac
- 4 **NOW 55**
Various Artists
- 5 **Descendants**
Soundtrack
- 6 **X**
Ed Sheeran
- 7 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 8 **Trigga**
Trey Songz
- 9 **DS2**
Future
- 10 **Blurryface**
twenty one pilots



VINCY SPIRIT

Continued from page 41
are up here," added McKenzie-Bowman, who resides in Passaic, North N.J. "It'll come back and bring the rest of the family (next year)," who resides in Florida.

Roberts-Bowman said she was attending the picnic for the first time.

"You meet a lot of people," she said, relaxing under a tent. "Everybody is together. I'm enjoying it, and I'll come back again."

Further up the campground, Cecelia Beach, a public school teacher in Brooklyn, gathered some members of Trinity Methodist Church on Eastern Parkway, near Utica Avenue, in Brooklyn, for a photo shoot.

"It's a nice time for us to come together and fellowship with our brethren and sisters," she said. "Most of the time, you see people (Vincentians) at funerals; and to come together like this is wonderful."

Local gossip columnist and author Earl "Ole George" Daniel said he'd yearned to attend the spectacle in New York.

"Every year before, I couldn't come because of work," said Daniel, drinking sorrel beer. "I

wanted to come here because I felt left out.

"Every year, it's Canada, Canada, Canada (for the Vincy Unity Picnic in 1,000 Is., Ontario, Canada," added Daniel, who travelled from Montreal, Canada. "So I brought a couple of friends, showcasing St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As many events you have showcasing St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it's better for St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

Arlene Peters attended the picnic with close relatives for the second successive year.

"I love it!" exclaimed the Brooklyn resident. "It's cool. You get to meet people you have not seen in years — people you went to school with. I'm enjoying it."

Philadelphia resident Tracy Walker-Ince, an expectant mother, brought along her husband, Michael, and their five-year-old son, Aaron, as well as Walker-Ince's mother, Pamela Mornix, vice president of the Brooklyn-based group Club St. Vincent.

"I'm feeling good," said Walker-Ince, a nurse practitioner. "It's the first time for



A section of the massive party crowd in Long Island.

Photo by Nelson A King

me. It's nice to be among family and friends."

Brenda King travelled with nationals on one of two buses organized by the Philadelphia-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Organization of Pennsylvania (SVGOP).

"I liked it so much the first time that I decided to come a second time," said the South N.J. resident. "It's a good time for Vincentians to come together. I'm seeing people I've not seen in years. I like the camaraderie — everybody coming together."

Local taxi driver Crispin "Trevor" Charles was a first-time picnic-goer.

"I look at it as a big opportunity for me, and friends and relatives," said Charles, who was also visiting New York, with his wife, Thelma, and their daughter, Cristal, for the very first time.

"I'm seeing friends I've not seen in 20-30 years," he added. "It's a good opportunity for Vincentians to come together, and meet and discuss, and have fellowship."

The picnic was a grand opportunity not only to feast on Vincentian delicacies and have fun but also to meet long-seen relatives and friends, and to establish alumni associations.

Black Cinderella



Meryl Streep, left, Rick Springfield and Mamiie Gummer pose during the "Ricki and the Flash" cast photo call at the Ritz Carlton Central Park on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015, in New York.

Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/Associated Press

Continued from page 41
husband. Together they portrayed a couple at the airport

Born Carol Theresa East in Kingston, Jamaica, the cultural griot not only sings the last notes in the Tri-Star Pictures' release which opened two weeks ago, she was also tapped for a role.

"They first wanted me to be a TSA agent," Sister Carol told Caribbean Life "But I don't wear pants so that was it for me."

Next she was asked if along with her husband / manager Dean Wauchope she would portray a couple at the airport waiting on a line.

The script demanded Ricki (Streep) jump the line.

At that point Sister Carol's "hey my girl, join the line" would cast the deejay as a player.

The line did not make it for the director's cut but three times, Sister Carol's distinctive voice interjects a presence for credit.

That the film opened on her mother's Aug. 7 birthday is another source of pride for the

deejay, known internationally as Mother Culture.

"My mom would have been so happy for me," she said.

Fact is as only one of three females to receive a Grammy nomination in the Best Reggae Album category, during her lifetime Sister Carol's mother had many reasons to be proud of her achieving daughter.

Through some of her successful years, she managed to take her mother to Africa for the first time when they both visited Cote d'Ivoire.

'The Wiz' wows with anniversary tribute

Continued from page 41

There, beneath the stars, amidst a slight breeze, a production starring Andre De Shields as the Wiz, Dee Dee Bridgewater, (Glinda) Inaya Day, Ebony Jo-Ann (Addaperle) and brief narrations from Phylicia Rashad, Broadway's 1975 stunning attraction reprised the groundbreaking theatrical production in song and dance.

The outdoor performance arena seemed ideal for staging but much too small to accommodate guests intent on witnessing the return of the Black wizard inspired by Judy Garland's classic film adaptation about a little girl and her adventures along 'the yellow brick road' in search of the mysterious transformational individual.

The musical won a first for Charlie Smalls in the category of composer and lyricist emerging the most Tony Awards won by a Black musical.

Nominated eight times, the

legendary production hauled seven wins and accolades 40 years ago for its direction by Trinidad & Tobago native Geoffrey Holder.

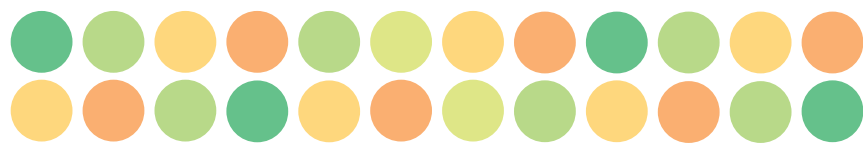
It was so acclaimed for its retelling of the classic tale of "The Wizard of Oz" using an all-Black cast that he was lauded with a Tony win for his direction and the distinction of being the first of his race to claim the honor.

After four decades "The Wiz" maintains the distinction of remaining the only Black musical to claim such an honor.

In addition, Holder was doubly delighted winning another Tony in that same production and triply for being named the premiere recipient of theater's high honor in the costume design category.

The six-foot-six champion died last Oct. 6 at age 84.

His trailblazing presentation starred a teen-aged Stephanie Mills who later emerged a rhythm and blues multi-Grammy winner.



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Neil Goldberg: BRIC, 647 Fulton St. (Enter on Rockwell Place) Brooklyn, NY 11217; (718) 683-5600; Daily, 10 am – 6 pm; Now – Wednesday, Sept. 9; Free. Neil Goldberg's Wind Tunnel is an intimate portrait of the New York City subway system capturing the movement of people's hair thrown by the powerful blast of air that precedes an oncoming train. Goldberg creates quietly intense videos of the often overlooked everyday actions of New Yorkers. Repeated and looped, these actions gain a poignancy that Goldberg has come to be known for.

"BASQUIAT: The Unknown Notebooks": Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11 am – 6 pm, Thursdays, 11 am – 10 pm, Now – Sunday, Aug. 23; \$16 (students and seniors \$10, 19 and under free). Brooklyn-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat filled notebooks with writing and sketches ranging from street life to themes of race, class, and world history. "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks" features 160 pages of these documents.

THE RISE OF SNEAKER CULTURE:

Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11 am – 6 pm, Thursdays, 11 am – 10 pm, Now – Sunday, Oct. 4; Adults \$16, Students \$10, Adults 62+ \$10, Ages 19 and under free, and members free. The Rise of Sneaker Culture is the first exhibition to explore the complex social history and cultural significance of the footwear now worn by billions of people throughout the world. The exhibition, which includes approximately 150 pairs of sneakers, looks at the evolution of the sneaker from its beginnings to its current role as status symbol and urban icon.

FRI., AUG. 21

COMEDY & VARIETY SHOW:

Otto's Shrunken Head, 538 E 14th St., New York, NY 10009; (347) 885-3466; NoNameNYC@hotmail.com; www.ottosshrunkenhead.com; 7 pm; No cover, no minimum. "No Name... & A Bag O' Chips" comedy / variety show will feature Frank Conniff (Mystery Science Theater 3000), Marie Faustin (New York City MOTH Story Slam), Dean Massello (Laughing Skull Comedy Festival) and Menuhin Hart (NBC's Stand Up for Diversity). No Name house band "The Summer Replacements" including Carl (BabyFreak) Fortunato and Fernando (Dr. Sandman) Morales Gonzalez. will perform a full set of old school R & B, rock covers and original tunes following this show, beginning at 8:30 pm.



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CAREER EXPO

OCT. 7: The career & resource exposition is a great opportunity to connect with employers that are looking for qualified staff, community resources and opportunities to advance your career. The exposition will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (1368 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11216). For more information, contact Gail Mason at (718) 636-6996 or GMASON@RESTORATIONPLAZA.ORG.

SAT., AUG. 22

HEALTHY EATING, HEALTHY YOU

NUTRITION CLASS: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 – 11:30 am; Free. Each month this class will focus on a different area of nutrition. Topics will include: portion control, managing hypertension, quick meal strategies and cutting the sugar habit.

CHARLIE PARKER JAZZ FESTIVAL:

Marcus Garvey Park, W. 122nd St. and Mt. Morris Park West, New York, NY; 3 pm – 7:00 pm; Free. The jazz festival will feature Dr. Lonnie Smith an unparalleled musician, composer, performer and recording artist, Andy Bey's whose silky baritone has become one of the finest instruments in jazz, Jeff Watts, the drummer they call "Tain, Camille Thurman, a multi-talented saxophonist, flutist, vocalist, composer and educator, and Norma Miller one of the creators of the acrobatic style of swing dancing known as the Lindy Hop.

HAITI CULTURAL EXCHANGE

PRESENTS: "PWEZI ak Mizik Anba Tonèl" (A night of poetry and music): Shapeshifter Lab, 18 Whitwell Pl., Brooklyn; (646) 820-9452; info@haiticulturalx.org; www.shapeshifterlab.com; 6 – 9 pm; \$10 Suggested Donation. Haiti Cultural Exchange will host their fifth annual Pwezi ak Mizik Anba Tonèl, featuring a night of Haitian poetry and music at Shapeshifter Lab. A tribute to the pioneers of Haitian creole poetry, presented in collaboration with the Haitian Creole Language Institute of New York. Featuring poetry by Delianov, Melissa Beauvery, Jean-Pierre Richard Narcisse & Schneider Laurent and music by Jean Raymond "Sanba Kebyesou" Giglio, Markus Schwartz, Gerald Dalestin and Pauline Jean.

MON., AUG. 24

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 – 11:30 am; Free. Join us for a fitness class that's friendly and fun. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and

those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be participating in an exercise class. RSVP by calling (866) 539-0999.

SITTING ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; Noon – 1 pm; Free. Join us for a sitting Zumba workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile. It is designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. Increase stamina and develop strength in upper and lower body. Use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know that you will be participating in an exercise class. RSVP: (866) 539-0999.

TUES., AUG. 25

HOMEOWNER & FLOOD INSURANCE CLINIC: Neighborhood Housing Services (Canarsie), 9715 Ave. L (on the corner of Rockaway Pkwy., 2nd fl) Brooklyn, NY 11236; 6 pm. Do you have questions about your homeowners policy or flood insurance? Come to our free monthly clinics to get some answers? To RSVP, please call (212) 519-2571 or email elizabeth_malone@nhsnyc.org.

WED., AUG. 26

MORTGAGE HELP OPEN HOUSE: NHS at Canarsie, 9715 Ave. L (near the corner of Rockaway Pkwy) Brooklyn, NY 11236, Brooklyn; 4 pm – 7pm; Free. Do you have concerns about your mortgage? Come in and get some answers. Free consultations. Certified counselors will be available. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services, a not for profit housing organization. Please bring last mortgage statement and one month of pay stubs. RSVP, call (718) 469-4679.

SAT, AUG. 29

QUEENS JAZZ: A Living Tradition: Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th St.; Corona, NY 11368, Queens; (718) 478-8274; www.louisarmstronghouse.org; 2 pm; Free concert at Louis Armstrong House to celebrate Queens Jazz Heritage. Dennis Lichtman and his Queensboro Six will perform a concert celebrating the rich jazz heritage of Queens. The event will feature music associated with famous jazz pioneers who resided in Queens, as well as original compositions by Lichtman. The concert takes place outdoors. In case of rain, concert will re-locate to the Queens Library at Broadway, 40-20 Broadway, Long Island City, NY 11103.

Compiled by Natalie Henry

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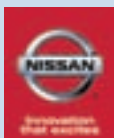
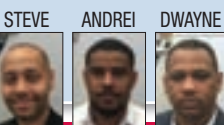
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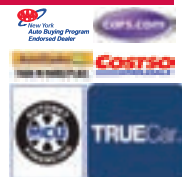


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Serena Williams, of the United States, returns to Belinda Bencic, of Switzerland, during the Rogers Cup semifinal tennis tournament, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2015 in Toronto.

Frank Gunn/Canadian Press via Associated Press

Players set for US Open

By Robert Elkin

While Serena Williams did not live up to expectations to be the winner of the recent Rogers Cup in Canada, she still feels confident that she will enter the upcoming women's singles event of the United States Open Tennis Championships. The top ranked player in the world on the distaff side is set to perform at her best in the tournament that starts a week from Monday in New York.

Continued on Page 50

Windies team fails to qualify

By Azad Ali

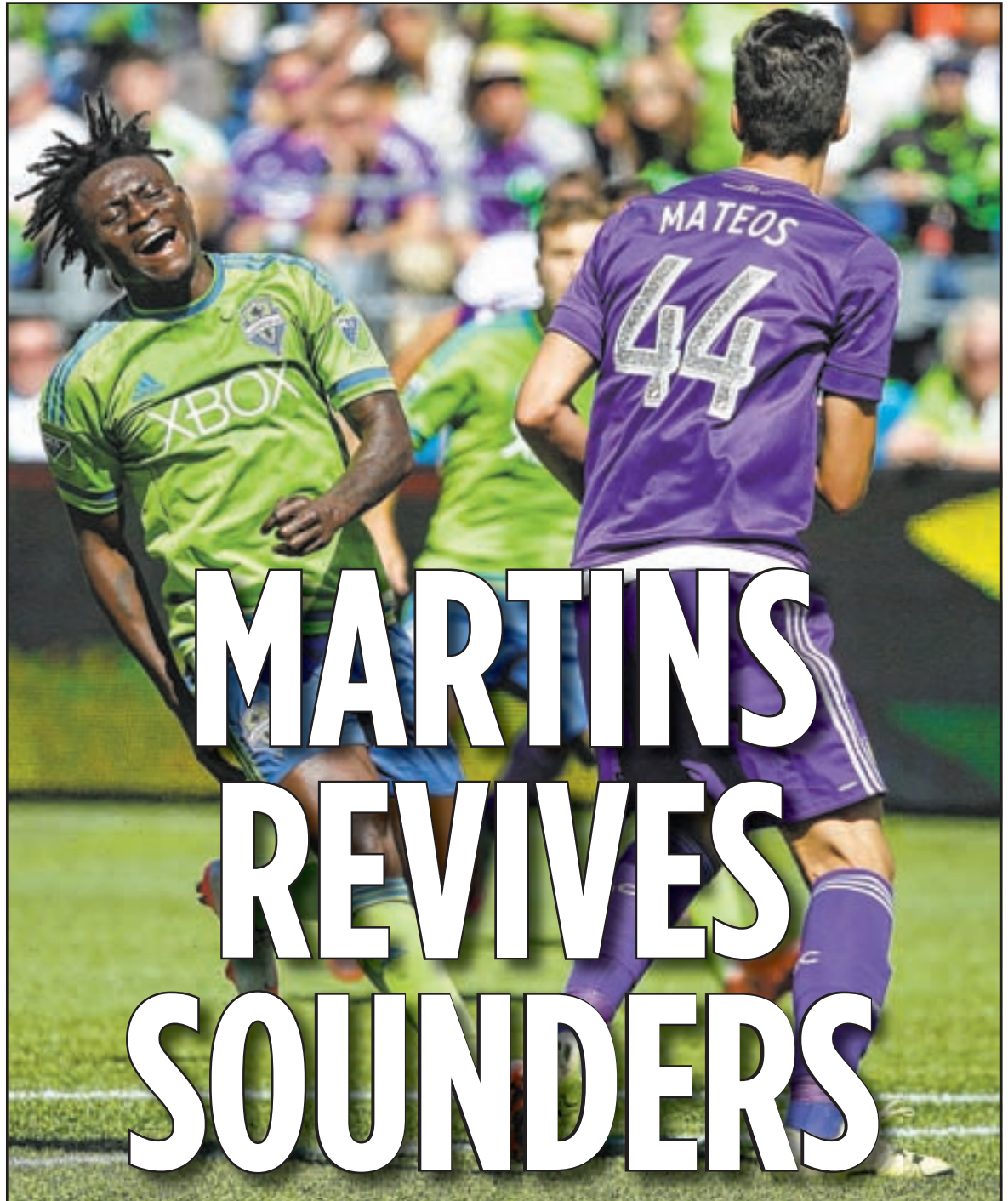
The West Indies team is officially out of the Champions Trophy in 2017 after the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) was unable to convince any other Test playing nation to provide an opening to allow the regional team to qualify for the tournament.

As a result, the West Indies team is out of the tournament, after failing to be in the top eight ICC rankings that qualify teams for the tournament.

The ICC has set a cutoff date of Sept. 30, 2015 for the top eight teams in the world to earn places in the prestigious event, which will be played in England.

However, West Indies are ranked ninth and have been engaging other teams in discussions aimed at a chance to earn points that could take them past

Continued on Page 50



MARTINS REVIVES SOUNDERS

Seattle Sounders' Obafemi Martins, left, reacts to a play as Orlando City's David Mateos (44) looks on in the second half of an MLS soccer match, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015, in Seattle. The Sounders won 4-0.

Associated Press / Ted S. Warren

In a Seattle thriller against Orlando City Lions

By Patrick Horne

Two of the most successful MLS clubs, the Seattle Sounders and Orlando City Lions, with sellout crowds of more than 30,000 fans at every home game, met last Sunday in Seattle and gave fans a thriller. The Sounders were in the doldrums

after losing star forwards Obafemi Martins, the Nigerian international, and American national team member Clint Dempsey through injury. The team lost eight of its last nine games in a seven-week period, without the scoring pair, but Martins' return last week from his groin injury changed

all that, and the Sounders were in the win column again.

Martins scored twice (17th, 62nd) in the 4-0 thriller over Orlando City (7-11-7). His eighth and ninth goals, best on the team, coming at an opportune time for the Sounders

Continued on Page 50

Players set for US Open

Continued from page 49

Should she live up to expectations in what is expected to be a tough tournament where any upset can occur at any given time, all indications are that she should successfully defend her title during a decent season that she is having.

The two-week tournament that actually begins with a qualifying tourney next has all-day action beginning in the late morning and going under the lights. Separate sessions are during the day and in the evening. Some sessions are already sold out. And all the construction that was done to the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center has been completed. But the roof won't be open until 2016.

Williams' main concern is to do well at the U.S. Open, where all tennis buffs will be focused on her and what she has accomplished this season. She is a definite crowd pleaser here in Queens.

According to reports she is fit, happy and most important healthy.

The only question now is her goal to capture another U.S. Open title, which if she does, will mark her fourth straight one and once again defend her title. She turned in a decent summer, highlighted by her victory at Wimbledon.

"Hopefully, the fans will be cheering me on," she added.

Besides the main draw of each of the five tournaments, that include men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, the National Tennis Center will host its annual Arthur Ashe / Kids' Day on Saturday, Aug. 29. It all begins bright and early at 9:30 am with interactive games and family activities for the entire morning. Then the program goes into the afternoon when there will be a show, which should last for about two hours. The fans will be able to watch the professional players practice on the entire courts, including those on Louis Armstrong Stadium, and Court 17.

The following day is an off day as the staff will be getting ready for the entire tournament.

Next week begins the qualifying tournament for both men and women. During this time, the fans will be able to see the future stars in action and up close. These players, an international field, could produce the future professionals, including U.S. Open players. This is where it all begins.

Turning away from the actual competition that offers prize money, there will be a day for the Elm-Cor Center's Day Camp, which has a summer program. ElmCor is known more for basketball with a year-round program under new personnel. The camp date at the United States Tennis Association National Tennis Center has not as yet been determined.



Columbus Crew midfielder Ethan Finlay (yellow) attacks the Chicago Fire goalkeeper Sean Johnson (black) during the first period of play in an MLS soccer match Wednesday, July 15, 2015, in Bridgeview, IL.

Associated Press / Warren Wimmer

MARTINS REVIVES SOUNDERS

Continued from page 49

(11-12-2), which last won on July 3, in a 1-0 victory over DC United. Martins got help from recent signing Nelson Valdez, who scored in the 51st minute. The Sounders fourth goal came in stoppage time. Sounders goalkeeper Stefan Frei recorded his ninth shutout this year; Orlando was unfortunate to have Tyler Turner red carded and played with 10 men in the second half. Brazilian international Kaka plays for the Lions and was recently called to his national team for a game against Costa Rica in September at Red Bull Arena in Harrison (NJ).

Meanwhile, Orlando City Purple is the favorite color in central Florida. The team, playing its first year in MLS, announced that the club sold out its 18,000 season ticket allotment for the 2016 season. The club's success this inaugural season is reflected in its aver-

equalizer from forward Kennedy Igboananike in the 92nd minute, when all seemed lost for the visitors; meanwhile at the other end, Johnson was doing his thing to the tune of eight saves in a span of 20 minutes in the second half to keep his team in the game. Philadelphia (6-13-5) got goals from Fernando Aristeguieta, Fabio Alves and substitute Sebastian LeToux.

The New York Red Bulls took its unbeaten streak to six games with a 3-0 victory over visiting Toronto FC last Saturday evening at Red Bull Arena. Bradley Wright-Phillips scored off a Mike Grella pass for a tap-in from inside the 12-yard area. Defender Anthony Wallace played a good game and topped it off with his second MLS goal; he unleashed a left-footed drive from about 20 yards that ended up in the left side of the net, and newcomer Gonzalo Veron registered his first MLS goal in only his second game.

scored twice. Keane's winner came in the 55th minute, assisted by newcomer and Mexican international Giovanni do Santos. It was Keane's 13th goal of the campaign and 66th in 100 MLS games. Michael Barros gave Dallas (11-7-5) the lead in the 33rd minute then Keane and company went to work.

The Galaxy on Tuesday night beat Comunicaciones of Guatemala, 5-0, in a CONCACAF Champions League game at the StubHub Center in Los Angeles. Alan Gordon and Robbie Keane scored twice and Mika Väyrynen got the other to seal the win in this Goup D encounter.

Host Sporting Kansas City (11-4-7) edged Western Conference leader Vancouver Whitecaps (13-9-3), 4-3, as Paulo Nagamura scored twice for the winners; and Real Salt Lake (7-10-8) squeezed past Portland Timbers (11-8-6), 1-0, on a goal by Nat Borchers; New England Revolution topped Houston Dynamo, 2-0.

Caribbean Cup

In quarter final action in the Caribbean Cup tournament at Jefferson Sports Complex in Flatlands, Brooklyn last Sunday, Team Haiti defeated Team Trinidad and Tobago, 2-1; Evans Jean and Johnny scored for Haiti and Jumol Harewood tallied for Trinidad and Tobago.

In the second game, the surging Team St. Kitts and Nevis walloped Team Dominica, 4-0, behind two goals from Travis Merritt and tallies from Alister Warner and Tyquan Terrell. In this Sunday's quarterfinal games starting at 3 pm, Team St. Vincent & the Grenadines takes on defending champion Team Jamaica and Team St. Lucia meets Team Guyana.

No way in for Windies team

Continued from page 49

ings and booted them out of the tournament. Earlier this year, talks broke down with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union as the West Indies attempted to initiate a tri-series which included Pakistan.

Unfortunately, Pakistan declined the offer as anything but victory in the tournament would have potentially put them at risk of losing their eighth place in the rank-

ings and booted them out of the tournament.

It is understood that talks with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) fell through, as a last ditched effort was made to have the West Indies fly to India to play a three-match series. Winning that series would have put them into the Champions Trophy.



West Indies captain Dinesh Ramdin smiles after a press conference in Roseau, Dominica, Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

Associated Press/Arnulfo Franco

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Liberty honors 'disqualified' boys hoops team

By Doug Feinberg

NEW YORK (AP) — Kymora Johnson just wanted to play basketball.

The 10-year-old girl was thrown into the spotlight earlier this month when her youth team from Virginia was disqualified from a basketball tournament because she played in it. Johnson's the lone girl on the boys' team, the Charlottesville Cavaliers. The tournament had a rule, put in place this year, that girls couldn't play on a boys' team because there was also a girls' competition. Johnson had been playing with the Cavaliers for the last few years because there was no girls' team in her area until recently.

After the Cavaliers were disqualified from the tournament in South Carolina, her teammates came to watch the semifinals in pink uniforms in a sign of support for Johnson.

When the WNBA's New York Liberty heard the story, they wanted to do something for

Johnson and her teammates. So they brought the Cavaliers to Saturday night's game.

"In this day and age it really is unheard of. Kids at this age, boys and girls, they play together," Liberty president Isiah Thomas said. "Mo'ne Davis, she was pitching against the boys. I think these are the type of moments where you continue to break down barriers and shine the light and expose. A moment like this and a night like this for the kids in terms of basketball it's everlasting. What was a bad moment turned into memories that last forever."

The Liberty honored Johnson and her team during a timeout Saturday night. The young squad received a warm long ovation from the crowd. Johnson spent the second half sitting behind the Liberty bench.

"It's been overwhelming, but exciting," Johnson said.

New York originally was going to fly the team up, but

the Cavaliers' bus broke down on the way to the airport so they ended up taking the train instead. The Liberty also set up a game for the Charlottesville team against a local group that was played on the Madison Square Garden court after the Liberty lost to the Tulsa Shock 81-76 on Saturday night.

About 1,000 fans and the Liberty players hung around to watch the exhibition game. Johnson, who along with her teammates were wearing t-shirts saying "girls don't sit on the bench," started for the Cavaliers. She didn't score in the 20-minute contest, but still had a lot of fun. She'll tour New York on Sunday before heading back to Virginia on Monday.

New York guard Candice Wiggins said she could relate to Johnson's plight. When she was younger, she played on an all-boys team and there were tournaments she wasn't allowed to play in because she was a girl. Wiggins was disappointed to see things haven't progressed



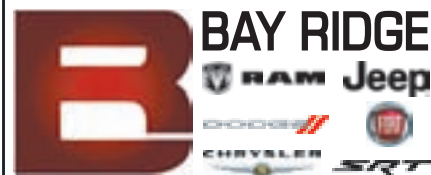
Kymora Johnson, right, of the Charlottesville Cavaliers, passes the ball during an exhibition basketball game against Mount Vernon Recreation, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2015, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

much in the 15 years since she played.

"I think it's crazy," she said. "I think the perception that people in society have of girls playing with boys, I never

understand it. It didn't make sense to me. It doesn't make sense to me now. It shows the sexism we face in sports. All we can do is bring awareness to it."

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your mind is racing a mile a minute. Although it may be challenging, you have to find a way to slow down and focus on one thing for the time being.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, put some thought into your long-term financial goals. Planning now will help you realize your goals down the road. Don't put off a meeting with your advisor.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you will get another crack at an opportunity that recently passed you by. Just be patient and prepare for the chance that awaits you in the near future.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You need to find ways to relax, Cancer. Schedule time to unwind, whether it is dancing, listening to music or practicing yoga. Make the most of your elevated energy levels.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you have a lot on your plate at the moment, so shelve some immediate plans you had. Right now you don't have the time to devote to them.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, continue to work hard and rewards will come to you in the professional arena. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and soon this will be made clear to you.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you are anxious to announce plans for a new chapter in your life. But you might want to table your enthusiasm for the time being until these plans are confirmed.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Your ideas carry a lot of weight at your job and within your circle of friends, Scorpio. This week you may be called on to come up with a few new thoughts on getting things done.


SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, understand that others do not necessarily have your thick skin. Consider your words carefully before delivering some constructive criticism to a friend or loved one.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, your attention to detail can make your projects take much longer than others', but that's what separates you from the pack. If it's worth doing, it is worth doing right.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Words come easily to you this week, Aquarius. It may be worth your while to negotiate a raise or debate an issue that has been bothering you lately. Your point of view will be heard.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you may know how someone close to you is feeling even before they confide in you. Your intuition is on fire this week.

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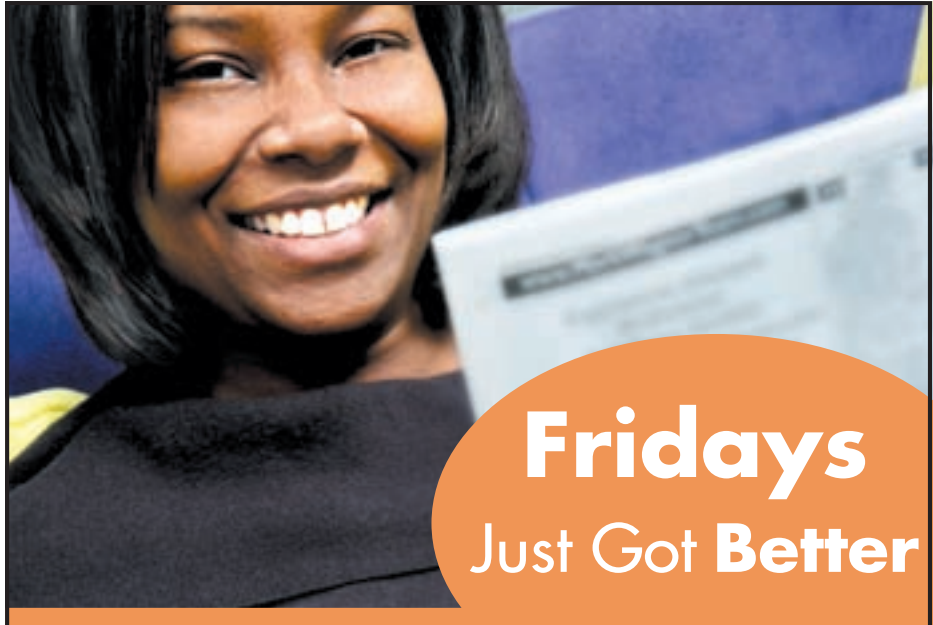
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LEGAL

LEGAL

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