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## Vincentians support Vincy Heat

Just off the bus, Vincies gather outside Busch Stadium in St. Louis to support their team. See story on page 45.

Photo by Nelson A. King

# TRINI ISIS CRISIS

## Officials reviewing easy re-entry of ISIS fighters

By Bert Wilkinson

Most governments in the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are staying under the radar when it comes to commenting on international terrorism issues, preferring to leave it up to the larger and more powerful western nations, which are now targets of the Islamic State fighters.

But this is not the case in the region's largest economy, Trinidad, where memories are

still fresh about the July 1990 attempted coup by a group of 114 rebel Muslims that killed nearly 30 people and had also involved arson attacks in commercial Port of Spain, the storming of parliament, the state television station and other institutions.

Debate in the country's parliament as well as social media is currently hot on the issue, especially because authorities

Continued on Page 6

## Adams condemns terror attacks

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams has joined world leaders in condemning the terrorist attacks in France, stating that the borough "mourns the horrific brutality that has shaken Paris, and,

indeed, the entire world.

"I pray for the safety of Parisians in this terrible hour and for swift justice upon those responsible for these inhumane atrocities," he said.

"The global community will not allow the City of Light to

be darkened by the scourge of terrorism," he added. "We stand united in providing whatever support we can to our fallen brothers and sisters across the Atlantic" [Ocean].

In a separate statement, Continued on Page 6

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# Medgar Evers hails retired geography professor

By Nelson A. King

Professors at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn last Wednesday hailed recently retired Geography Prof. Levi Uzozie, Ph.D for his significant contribution to the college and the City University of New York (CUNY) on a whole.

Nigerian-born Dr. Uzozie had taught geography for over 57 years at the secondary and tertiary levels — both in his native land, the United Kingdom and the United States. He taught the subject for 18 years at CUNY.

“My philosophy is that we have to treat each other as famil,” said Dr. Owen Brown, chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, where Dr. Uzozie taught, at a gala reception at the college’s Bedford Avenue campus.

“It’s entirely appropriate that we celebrate Dr. Uzozie retirement,” Brown added. “We’re here to celebrate while he’s alive and all of us are here.”

Montserratan-born Dr. George Irish, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education, noted Uzozie’s “very significant contribution to this institution

“I had the privilege of knowing when you came,” he said of Dr. Uzozie. “Every course is like a tree that bears fruit.

“You created the courses and taught them,” Dean Irish added. “The legacy you created will be longstanding.”

Dean Richard Jones of the Accreditation Committee said was “an honor” to celebrate Dr. Uzozie’s retirement, describing him as a “courageous man.



Left, Dr. Levi Uzozie receives a plaque from Dr. Owen Brown, chair of Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Medgar Evers College.

Photo by Solwazi Afi Olusola



Room to grow: Academy of Urban Planning principal Kyleema Norman holds a photo of a classroom fitted out with a hydroponic garden.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

# Adams unveils ‘Growing Brooklyn’s future’

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Sunday unveiled “Growing Brooklyn’s Future,” an initiative with over \$2 million in initial investment from his Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) to create hydroponic classrooms to a dozen schools across Brooklyn.

Adams made the announcement in a classroom at the Academy of Urban Planning, a high school located in Bushwick, which will be transformed into a green learning space through a partnership with New York Sun Works, a non-profit organization that builds innovative science labs in urban schools.

The Brooklyn borough president highlighted the potential of urban farming to revolutionize the borough’s relationship with food and the environment, as well as to create thousands of jobs in the emerging agri-tech industry.

“Brooklyn is getting back to its roots as we move into a greener future, growing healthy food and talented students in the same classroom,” he said. “I am particularly excited that we are launching ‘Growing Brooklyn’s Future’ in communities like Brownsville, Bushwick and East New York, areas where our children have historically been left

behind.”

In the spirit of “One Brooklyn,” Adams said he is planting “seeds of opportunity” in every neighborhood, adding that innovation and progress will “flower across our borough from stems of success that are grounded in STEM education.”

Schools receiving \$167,000 each from Adams to build out hydroponic classrooms include: PS 21 Crispus Attucks in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Brooklyn Democracy Academy in Brownsville; Academy for Environmental Leadership, Academy of Urban Planning, IS 383 Philippa Schuyler, and PS 377 Alejandina B. De Gautier in Bushwick.

Others are: High School for Medical Professions, IS 211 John Wilson, and PS 279 Herman Schreiber in Canarsie; Brooklyn Lab School and Multicultural High School in Cypress Hills; and IS 292 Margaret S. Douglas in East New York.

“Public-private partnerships like these help us revitalize science and sustainability programming in New York City public schools,” said Sidsel Robards, director of development and events for New York Sun Works. “We are honored to be working with Brooklyn Borough Hall on this mission.”

“Chair Julie Dent and I were ecstatic to learn of the FY16 capital budget allocation that Borough President Adams allocated to four schools in Community District 4,” said Nadine Whitted, district manager of Community Board 4.

“Through this generous allocation, our youngsters will have an opportunity to learn first-hand about greenhouse technology and other science concepts which will propel them into the 21st century, thus equipping them with the required tools to become more competitive in the worlds of technology, science, and sustainability,” she added. “I thank him for his promise to educate and equip our students for a brighter future.”

Andrew Brown, principal of the Brooklyn Democracy Academy, said: “We have had a successful hydroponics program running for eight years and are elated to expand with the generosity of Borough President Adams.

“Our expansion will include aquaponics, which is a game changer for our students and community,” he added. “This truly has far reaching potential for our students and their families.”



### Antigua

Two Antiguan, Omarie Benjamin, 27, and Sheba Charles, 27 were arrested on arrival at London's Gatwick International Airport with cocaine concealed in their luggage.

The couple was held by Border Force Officers as they were proceeding through Immigration Control to retrieve their suitcases on Oct. 28, police said.

They arrived in London on a Virgin Atlantic flight from St. Lucia.

Prior to their arrival to the UK, the couple left Antigua to holiday in St. Lucia. Reports are the security officers examined each one of the suitcases they were carrying and found cocaine amounting to two kilograms in each luggage.

They were later arrested by UK authorities.

Reports are that Benjamin is a taxi driver in Antigua, while Charles is employed with a local restaurant in the capital.

On Aug. 26, an Antiguan police officer was caught with four kilograms of cocaine strapped to her body while attempting to board a British flight.

Sceneta Nanton, 36, was convicted and sentenced to four years in prison for drug trafficking.

British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Victoria dean said she is very concerned with the number of people who have been held attempting to take illegal drugs into the UK in recent times.

### Bahamas

The murder count in The Bahamas ties the record set in 2011 with the recent killing of two men in separate incidents recently.

This year's murder count stands at 127, a record set in 2011. Despite the rising murder count, Chief Superintendent Paul Rolle, head of the Central Detective Unit, said Bahamians should not feel threatened in their daily routines.

"We have our police force in full force," he said.

Rolle said gang violence is a major concern for police, especially turf wars where people fight over territories to sell drugs.

Minister of State for National Security Keith Bell recently said that the former Ingraham administration is to blame for the high level of crime occurring today.

He said more criminal gangs were formed between 2007 and 2012 than other point in Bahamian history.



## Jamaica faces serious drought

Cows take refuge from the sun under a tree at the Bodles Agricultural Station in Jamaica. The drought caused millions of dollars in losses for farmers who had no water. See story on page 16.

Inter Press Service / Zadie Neufville

### Barbados

A financing company based in Curaçao, FactorPlus is exploring avenues to expand its services to the wider Caribbean, including Suriname and Guyana by offering rice farmers a new opportunity to finance their business rather than to wait for delayed payment by millers and exporters.

Speaking to reporters at the recent Caribbean Pacific Agri-food Forum in Barbados, Paul Dijkhoffz, business development manager, said Factor Plus has a vast experience in trade financing. It is currently offering services to farmers in the region since most of them have difficulties to access traditional financing.

He said that, after farmers or producers sold and delivered their produce to buyers like supermarkets or hotels, his company buys the invoices, paying the sellers 80 percent of the amount due of the amount due upfront within 48 hours. The remaining 20 percent minus factoring fee is paid after that is collected by FactorPlus.

This type of financing, he explained, takes away the hassle for farmers to go after their monies while the financing company takes all the risks.

Dijkhoffz further noted that while traditional financing companies may offer loans for 30 and 40 percent interest to farmers, FactorPlus is very com-

petitive with fees ranging from four to seven percent.

FactorPlus provides services in Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Maarten and Miami and plans to expand services to the agricultural sector in the region.

### Grenada

The Grenada government has announced that the debt exchange offer launched on Oct. 5, 2015 has received the overwhelming support of the island's creditors.

Holders of 94 percent of the country's US dollar bonds due in 2025 and 100 percent of EC dollar bonds due 2025 have agreed to provide extensive debt relief to Grenada by tendering their bonds exchange for new Grenada US Dollar Bonds in 2030 (2030 Bonds).

Under the terms of the US dollar bonds due 2025 and Grenada's exchange offer, holders of not less than 75 percent of the US dollar bonds during in 2025 have given instructions to the Trustee for the entirety of the US dollar bonds due 20205 to be tendered in exchange for the 2030 bonds in accordance with the terms of Grenada's offer.

The results of the tender process which ended recently means that all bonds outstanding on the closing date will be exchanged for 20230 Bonds later this month.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitch-

ell, who is also finance minister said, "Today is a very important day for the people of Grenada, who are currently making sacrifices of their own in order to improve the prospects of our beloved country."

### Guyana

Guyanese rice farmers could soon benefit from the Mexican market as it is moving to fast-track arrangements with Mexico to buy Guyana paddy.

Prime Minister Moses Nagamotoo is seeking new buyers for local rice.

The Office of the Prime Minister said that Mexico's Agriculture Minister Jose Calzada has given the assurance that he will fast-track arrangements to buy Guyana's paddy. He also made a commitment to encourage the private sector to enter contracts with Guyanese millers.

Guyana has prioritized assisting farmers to find alternative international markets, in light of the country's continued production boom and in the midst of recent loss of a major market — Venezuela.

The Mexico market is one of several explored by the Granger administration.

Earlier this year Venezuela announced that it would stop buying rice from Guyana under the PetroCar-

Continued on Page 24







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# ISIS poses global threat

Continued from cover

had in the past week released figures showing that nearly 90 Trinidadian nationals have gone abroad in the past two years to fight religious and ideological causes in the Middle East.

But what happens to these fighters if they return home. What laws are there to ensure their arrest and detention, banishment from society and even criminal conviction?

Newly minted National Security Minister Edmund Dillon said this week there is precious little authorities could do to returning fighters as they had committed no crime on Trinidad's soil. They are free to return, unhindered and to resume where they had left off.

"As citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, there is no law in place to stop them from coming home. If they have committed an international crime, we will work with our international partners to bring them to justice but for now, they are still citizens of Trinidad and Tobago," said Dillon, a retired army general appointed as security minister after the early September general elections.

But asked directly what the situation should be giving events in France



Former Brig. Gen. Edmund Dillon.  
Associated Press / Shirley Bahadur

and other parts of Europe this week, Dillon was more forthcoming, admitting that authorities are reviewing the situation.

He said officials are talking with Attorney General Faris al Rawi about a new approach to returning fighters but he would not give details.

"This government wants to make it abundantly clear that it recognizes the global threat posed by ISIS and the horrific atrocities recently committed on the French people by the ISIS phenomena," Dillon said in the senate this week.

Still he said T&T is stepping up immigration and customs control systems, beefing up aerial and maritime surveys, improving intelligence sharing among agencies and collaborat-

**"There are big concerns in T&T... many are concerned we are exporting jihadists and that those people who are experienced in fighting... might return with their 'expertise' and we in T&T would be at greater risk once they return with foreign ideologies and skills."**

ing more closely with international partners.

But even as Trinidadian authorities remain alert and move to improve legislation regarding returning fighters, neighboring Caribbean governments are deliberately playing it low key, clearly keeping out of a fight that for now has nothing much to do with them. Most just issued statements condemning simply condemning the weekend attacks but it would not be surprising in the coming months if other governments move to follow TT's lead and amend local laws.

"There are big concerns in T&T about this. Many tell me they are concerned we are exporting jihadists and that those people who are experienced in fighting in such situations might return with their 'expertise' and we in T&T would be at greater risk once they return with foreign ideologies and skills," said opposition Senator Wayne Sturge.

# Fantasy sports

Continued from cover

the Brooklyn Borough supported New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's legal action against daily fantasy sports operators "that are illegally accepting wagers in New York."

"As the former chair of the State Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming, and Wagering, I understand the critical importance of regulation that determines how our state permits gambling," he said.

"The reality of daily fantasy sports is that its model is predicated upon outcomes of chance," he added. "Because of this, as well as various aspects of its marketing, it is different than traditional fantasy sports and should be treated under our current laws as gambling."

Adams said it is "important that we foster disruptive industries which create new opportunities in the marketplace, but it is equally vital that everyone plays by the rules."

He urged the New York State Legislature to address daily fantasy sports in its upcoming session "such as to determine any appropriate policy remedies, including measures to address the addictive components of gambling behavior."

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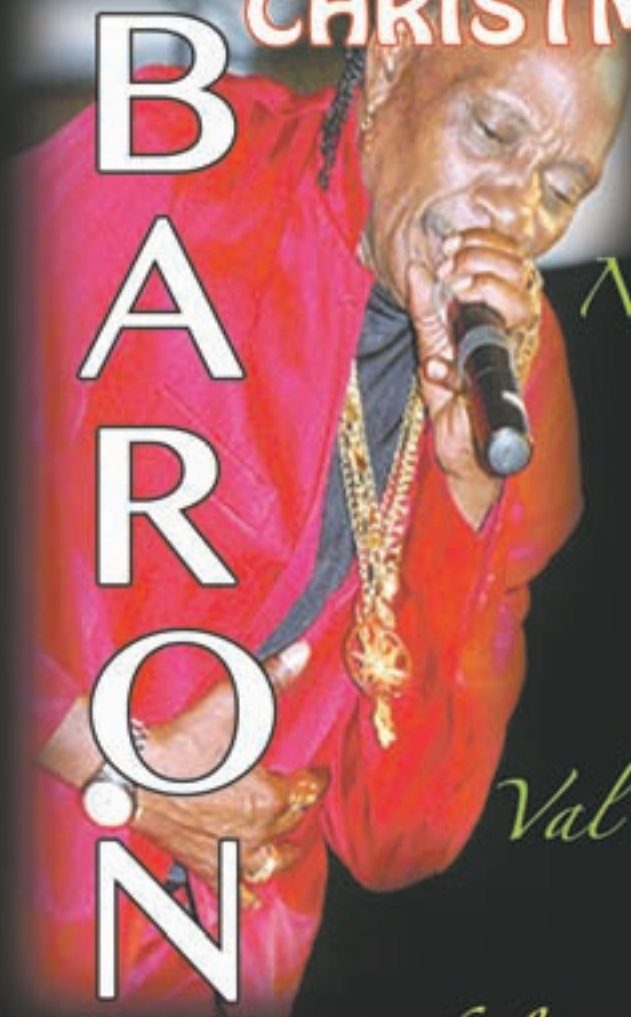
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# Shake-up in Jamaica's Cabinet

**By Azad Ali**

Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller has announced a shake-up in her Cabinet effective Nov. 9.

She has replaced the controversial Minister of Health Dr. Fenton Ferguson who has been transferred to the Ministry of Labor.

Dr. Ferguson has come under fire over the deaths of 19 babies from an outbreak of bacteria at two hospitals.

Prime Minister Simpson Miller has ordered Horace Dalley "to correct the shortcomings in the health sector."

Dalley will be assigned to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Fenton Ferguson has moved to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and Derrick Kellier will continue to lead the ministry of agriculture and fisheries.

In announcing the changes, the prime minister said she has listened to the recent discussions and expressions of concern, some of which could have the effect of distracting from the very important focus of economic and social reforms.

She said the country must be united in purpose so as to ensure that the positive path that Jamaica is on will not be disrupted in any way.

Dalley will continue the program of improved healthcare delivery at the ministry of health and has also been tasked by the prime minister to continue giving oversight to the remaining elements of the public sector wage negotiations.

Ferguson will give focus to the gov-



Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller.

Associated Press / Kazuhiro Nogi, Pool

ernment's priority of labor market reforms, which are essential.

The prime minister was responding to concerns expressed by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA) who said it is disappointed that those responsible for their actions and appealed to her to ensure that there's "substantive accountability and transparency" within the health sector.

In a statement the JMA commenting on the controversy within the health sector sparked by the deaths of 19 babies from an outbreak of bacteria at two hospitals, said the actions taken by the prime minister have not adequately addressed the situation.

## UNC leader faces challenge

**By Azad Ali**

Former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar is facing a strong challenge to retain her post as leader of the United National Congress on Dec. 5 from one of her deputy political leader and a former UNC senator.

Former Housing Minister Dr Roodlal in the previous Kamla-led People's Partnership (PP) administration said he is the longest serving member of the party's executive and the time has come for change.

He said his job is to rebuild the party after the UNC was defeated in the Sept. 7, 2015 general election by the People's National Movement.

Since then there have been calls from opposition UNC MPs for Persad-Bissessar to step down after having suffered five successive election defeats under her leadership since 2010.

There are 16 posts up for grab in the internal election, but Persad-Bissessar is only contesting the post of leadership,

while Dr Moonilal and the other contender Vasant Bharath each have a slate of candidates to contest the other positions.

Dr. Moonilal has resigned his post as chief whip in Parliament since he is going up against Persad-Bissessar who is the Opposition Leader.

The other candidate who has thrown his hat in the leadership race is former Trade and Industry Minister Vasant Bharath, who after he lost his seat in the last general election was made a senator by Persad-Bissessar.

He has since resigned his seat in the Senate to campaign for the election.

Bharath said the institutions in the party have broken down, some irretrievably so.

"If we have to present ourselves as a credible alternative for the people, we must rebuild. It'll be a long painstaking process, but I'm up for the task," he said.

Some of her opposition MPs say the former prime minister must take blame for the PP's loss of the general election.

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# How to ensure people get end-of-life healthcare they want

By Dr. David R. Grube

My mom paid a painful price for not completing an advance directive about her preferences for end-of-life medical care. She was an intelligent and organized woman who had everything in her and my dad's life planned out and written down. She even drafted her own obituary. Ironically, she never discussed her end-of-life care goals with my father or her physician son (me), preferring to talk about "more pleasant subjects."

As a result, after she developed colon cancer at age 86, my dad and I had to figure out how to treat her post-surgical medical complications of heart and renal failure. She died in hospice care after prolonged, unbearable and unnecessary suffering. It broke both my dad's heart and mine.

Unfortunately, my mother's story is all too common. Nearly one out of four older Americans (24 percent) say that either they or a family member have experienced excessive or unwanted medical treatment, the equivalent of about 25 million people, according to a poll conducted last year by Purple Strategies. A key reason for this problem is only about one out of six Americans (17 percent) say they've had discussions about their end-of-life healthcare goals, preferences and values with a doctor or other healthcare provider, according to a

recent Kaiser Health Tracking Poll.

Evidence-based research overwhelmingly shows the need for more and higher-quality doctor-patient conversations about the patient's healthcare goals, preferences and values. The report "Dying in America" by the Institute of Medicine noted that:

"Most people nearing the end of life are not physically, mentally, or cognitively able to make their own decisions about care ... The majority of these patients will receive acute hospital care from physicians who do not know them. As a result, advance care planning is essential to ensure that patients receive care reflecting their values, goals, and preferences."

One important step that should facilitate advance care planning is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) recent decision to reimburse doctors, starting Jan. 1, 2016, for communicating with patients about their preferences and values about end-of-life care.

As a next step, we urge CMS to stop reimbursing healthcare professionals for providing unwanted medical treatment that directly violates a patient's documented end-of-life care goals.

In addition, we encourage Congress to take additional

Continued on Page 12

# Economic slowdown threatening progress

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

ROME, Nov. 11, 2015 (IPS) - Slower economic growth since 2008, and especially with the commodity price collapse since the end of last year, threatens to reverse the exceptional half-decade before the financial crash when growth in the South stayed ahead of the North. From 2002, many developing countries - including some of the poorest - had been growing much faster after a quarter century of stagnation in Africa, for example.

But this has not been their delayed reward for sticking to policies prescribed by conventional wisdom as claimed by some latter-day apologists for the structural adjustment programmes of the last two decades of the 20th century. Instead, a more favourable international environment, including higher commodity prices, low interest rates and renewed aid flows, along with accelerated growth in China and India, have been the main reasons.

Recent trends need to be seen in a longer historical context if the right lessons are to be drawn. Economic growth in the 1980s and 1990s was generally slower than in the preceding two decades. But despite the spectacular growth of several developing countries, sub-Saharan Africa lost due to stagnation for more than two decades from the late 1970s and Latin America lost at least the 1980s.

Government policies from the 1980s - ostensibly to conform to 'market expectations' - often cut public spending on prima-

**Bitter experience has also shown that 'shock therapy' - often involving financial system 'big bangs' - has generally caused more harm than good.**

riarily social expenditures. As national-level inequalities grew in most countries from the 1980s, inter-national inequalities among countries continued to grow. Economic welfare in developing countries has been further squeezed by demographic pressures including rapid urbanization.

Nascent industrialization in many countries was aborted by structural adjustment and economic liberalization. Premature trade liberalization has thus exacerbated de-industrialization, unemployment and fiscal deficits without generating alternative sources of economic growth. Low income countries as well failed and failing states are generally characterized by modest industrialization which, in turn, retards structural transformation and more inclusive sustainable development.

The negative developmental implications of policies and programmes forced on developing countries, regardless of historical circumstance and economic context, are now well known. There is a world of difference between measured liberalization from a position of economic strength, as in newly industrialized East Asia from the 1980s,

and their forced adoption, to meet World Trade Organization or loan obligations. Despite pious official rhetoric claiming the contrary, multilateral rules are far from supportive of sustainable development and need to be reformed accordingly.

Since the late 19th century, adverse terms of trade movements - favouring manufactures over primary commodities, temperate compared to tropical agricultural products, or manufactures from developed countries against those from developed countries - have meant that many developing countries have been producing and exporting much more, but earning relatively less from doing so.

International financial liberalization was supposed to attract private capital to fill financing gaps. But instead, it has resulted in net capital flows from the 'capital poor' to the 'capital rich', increased financial volatility and slower economic growth. Bitter experience has also shown that 'shock therapy' - often involving financial system 'big bangs' - has generally caused more harm than good.

Considering their greater vulnerability to external vicissitudes, developing countries must have greater fiscal space to ensure countercyclical capacity as well as sustained public spending for needed investments in physical and social infrastructure and human resources. Strengthening the tax base, ensuring more reliable sources of international finance and channeling aid through national

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## Caribbean Life

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# A blame-game farce from T&T Opposition

There's a farce underway among some of the players who, until quite recently, strutted the Trinidad and Tobago landscape not only like they owned the place, but like they would continue to do so till kingdom come. The country's voters, to their eternal credit, had other ideas. And Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the former prime minister, is now being challenged for the leadership of her party, the United National Congress (UNC), in its upcoming internal election. Somehow, the matter of who is culpable for the party's defeat by the People's National Movement (PNM) in the Sept. 7 general elections seems to have become a bone of contention among aspirants for the party leadership. And what a sick joke that is!

Bissessar has never exhibited the kind of classiness that would have moved her, after leading her party into five electoral defeats since 2013, to voluntarily vacate the top-dog perch. No one ought to be surprised she thinks that's where she still belongs. So after doing some posturing, during her

five-year run as prime minister, that she wasn't of so-called "maximum leader" persuasion (for instance, brandishing a proposal to limit prime ministerial tenure), Bissessar's defiance about quitting as UNC leader renders her as "maximum" as the best of them.

But that being so, whither this tomfoolery regarding who is responsible for the party's recent defeat – indeed, for the string of defeats the party suffered in the last two-plus years of its time in office? Are we to interpret this mockery about affixing blame as, in truth, who orchestrated or was engaged in more skullduggery than any other contributing partner? Con games are par for the course with Bissessar and her crew. The difference here being, while normally they try to work the con on others not of their stripe, in the instant case some of the key slicksters are trying to out-slick each other. It's pretty safe to say the public, except for core party support, isn't buying and doesn't much care about these attempted sleight-of-hand maneuvers.

The average Joe is disposed

## Viewpoint

By Les Slater

to being dismissive about finger-pointing among UNC operatives because a pretty good chunk of the public bought what turned out to be a snow job in 2010, leading to the party's gaining a parliamentary majority. Back then, albeit facilitated by the super-arrogance of the then prime minister, PNM leader Patrick Manning, and a supporting cast fecklessly kowtowing to Manning's megalomania-driven M.O, the UNC landed itself the saleable trump card of Bissessar as the country's first female prime minister, and floated into governance on that history-making fantasy flight.

The bare, blunt reality concerning Bissessar and her confederates is that they steadily lost elections since roughly midway through their five-year term controlling the central government, because it wasn't long before the elec-

torate became wise to how steeped was the UNC-dominated government in immoral conduct of public affairs. Only one of the lesser parties in the mislabeled "People's Partnership" exited the fold, relatively early, presumably upon realizing wholesomeness to be more conspicuously absent than the euphoria of 2010 had intimidated. Later would come some mea culpa episodes, including from Jack Warner, as these few would claim belated awareness of the Bissessar bandwagon's disturbing underbelly. No such worries for the UNC core, though; they would stay put. They knew why.

Notwithstanding reports that have circulated of much pre-departure document shredding by Bissessar administration personnel, there's been a whole lot so far uncovered by the new government that conveys a sense of the scale of profligacy and wanton abuse of governmental authority over what will likely come to be seen as a five-year span for the ages. It was, by all appearances, routine behavior and rightly became the Bisses-

sar team's defining marker.

It is hubris perhaps on a level most of us can't conceive, for participants in this orgy of governmental malfeasance to be furiously dueling over who owns culpability for the defeat in September. If, during the five-year spree, there was any voice among them cautioning that the open door to the feeding trough needed to be slammed shut, we haven't heard of this person of conscience. And frankly, we don't believe, here, that such a one exists. "We're all in this together" was as good a mantra as any for the Bissessar team while they ran roughshod over the public trust they'd been given in good faith.

Much more than even mild interest in UNC tricksters' post-September charade, observers of a truly sorry pass in Trinidad and Tobago's political history are understandably curious about culpability and its consequences where they properly belong. Namely, will five years' accumulation of wrongdoing go entirely unpunished?

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# OP-EDS

## Healthcare in need of reform

Continued from page 10

steps to ensure that Americans get the end-of-life treatment they want. They include:

Establish federal payment for palliative care consultations with healthcare providers who will advocate for and support the values and choices of the patient with an advanced illness or nearing the end of life.

Ensure that there are enough trained palliative care professionals to provide this service.

Ensure advanced illness care encompasses access to an interdisciplinary care team, such as board-certified hospice and palliative care physicians, nurses and social workers.

Allow patients the option of enrolling in hospice while continuing to receive disease-specific and restorative treatments if patients still want them.

Absent these healthcare reforms, poor understanding of treatment options and/or lack of acknowledgment of the extent of the illness may lead to inadequate planning, dissatisfaction with the process, unnecessary medical treatment and loss of quality of life.

*Dr. Grube is a board certified physician in family medicine and is a national medical director for Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest and largest end-of-life choice advocacy organization.*

## Global economy faces stagnation

Continued from page 10

budgets can be crucial.

Instead of the current fetish with eliminating fiscal deficits, a more balanced and appropriate approach to macroeconomic stabilization is needed, to minimize disruptive swings in economic activity and external balances, while fostering a virtuous cycle of greater macroeconomic stability, investment, growth and employment generation. Developing countries need to strengthen their capacities and capabilities and to ensure sufficient 'policy space' in order to pursue appropriate reforms favouring sustainable development.

It has often been claimed that development could only be attained through retrenchment of the state. In much of the developing world, however, this has left choice-less illiberal democracies and frustrated disenfranchised citi-

zens. Instead, democratically accountable governments should consult widely among their citizens to promote investments for structural transformation and better employment.

The global economy now risks continuing its downward spiral into protracted stagnation. The International Monetary Fund's improved surveillance mechanisms have not led to better international macroeconomic coordination, as touted. Instead, the path to sustainable development remains blocked by self-imposed deflationary policy constraints and a refusal to provide needed aid or to cooperate to increase taxation for all.

*Jomo Kwame Sundaram is the coordinator for Economic and Social Development at the Food and Agriculture Organization and received the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.*

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# Scientists map genetic history of humans in the Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

In the island chain called the Lesser Antilles, stretching from the Virgin Islands south to Trinidad and Tobago, a team of United States researchers led by Theodore Schurr, an anthropology professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Arts & Sciences, is solving a generations-old mystery: Do indigenous communities still exist in the Caribbean region today?

"We're really trying to connect the dots and understand the migration, the flow of people in and out of the region," said Schurr, who has worked in the area since 2012 and on similar genetics projects for more than two decades. "Each island seems to have its distinct history."

According to the University of Pennsylvania, Schurr and his team, which includes Jill Gaiheski of Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, Miguel Vilar, a Penn postdoc at the time of the research and now at

the National Geographic Society, and Jada Benn Torres from Notre Dame University, focused their research on DNA samples from 88 participants in the First Peoples Community in Trinidad and Tobago and the Garifuna people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

By looking at mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosomes and autosomal markers, three parts of the genome known for containing what Schurr described as "signals" of indigenous ancestry, the researchers eventually detected 42 percent indigenous ancestry from the maternal side, 28 percent from the paternal side, the University of Pennsylvania said.

It said mitochondrial DNA comes from the mother only, regardless of the number of generations considered.

The Y-chromosome is the paternal correlate, or the complement to mitochondrial DNA, passed from fathers to sons, the statement said.

It said autosomes, only

recently included in this area of research, do not reveal specific details about maternal and paternal lineage but give an overall picture of the genetic contributions from ancestors traced through both the mother's and father's sides of the family.

"In the case of the mitochondrial DNA and the Y-chromosome," Schurr said, "we know the markers that define those lineages commonly seen in indigenous populations of the Americas."

During the past three years, the University of Pennsylvania said Schurr and his colleagues have done fieldwork in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

"These communities are not passive in this whole process; they're actively exploring their own ancestry," Schurr said. "They're also trying to establish the fact that they have indigenous ancestry, that they are the descendants of the original inhabitants. They're



Garfunas schoolgirls hold national flags of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Guyana, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the first Garifuna Summit on Corn Island, Nicaragua, 560km (360 miles) northeast of Managua.

Associated Press / Esteban Felix

reclaiming that history."

The University of Pennsylvania said the work began as part of the Genographic Project, which was started and initially funded by the US National Geographic Society.

It is a multi-institutional endeavor with the goal of mapping the globe genetically.

A dozen research labs around

the world analyzed DNA samples from indigenous and traditional communities, and a public participation component of the project allowed anyone to submit DNA for analysis in the database, the University of Pennsylvania said.

It said Schurr's contribution involved indigenous commu-

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# US, Jamaica sign immigration memo

By Nelson A. King

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) says it has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Jamaica's Ministry of National Security of Jamaica to enhance their ability to share records containing immigration and criminal histories of Jamaican nationals being repatriated from the United States.

U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Luis G. Moreno and Peter Murcott Bunting, minister of Jamaica's Ministry of National Security, participated in the signing ceremony at the Jamaica Ministry of National Security's headquarters.

ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Assistant Director Matthew Albence and Minister Bunting signed the Criminal History Information Sharing (CHIS) memorandum. ICE's Jamaica Attaché James Stitzel also



U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Luis G. Moreno.

attended the signing ceremony, ICE said.

"CHIS enhances the strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Jamaica and represents a milestone in our law enforcement partnership," said Moreno, also thanking Stitzel for his tireless work in Jamaica and his efforts with the CHIS agreement.

"The signing of the CHIS agreement signals increased levels of trust and cooperation between our two governments," Bunting said.

"This memorandum of cooperation further enhances our already strong bilateral relationship with the government of Jamaica," Albence said. "We

Continued on Page 32

# Jamaica's aging water systems falter

By Zadie Neufville

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov. 18, 2015 (IPS) - This past summer Jamaicans sweltered through their third consecutive year of reduced rainfall resulting in wild fires, a crop-killing drought and daily water cuts.

As temperatures exceeded 93.7 F (34.2 Celsius) in several areas, the Meteorological Service urged Jamaicans to "Wake up to the realisation that climate change is already a fact of life." Some of the hottest days on record had been recorded in July with even higher temperatures predicted for August.

With storage running low and an expectation that conditions would exceed the drought of 2014, the National Water Commission (NWC) began its annual restrictions and rolling lock-offs. In 2014, thought to be Jamaica's worst drought in more than 30 years, rainfall averaged 2 to 12 percent in the most affected areas.

Meteorologist Evan Thompson told reporters at the Gleaner's Editors Forum on July 1, "We are talking about climate change, sometimes thinking about it as something that is still coming, whereas it is something that is already here."

As the NWC scrambled to reactivate out-of-use wells to ease the shortages, many called for the dredging of dams and reservoirs to increase storage capacities. Environment, Water and Climate Change Minister Robert Pickersgill announced a 'prohibition notice' with a penalty of up to 30 days in jail for "anyone caught using the precious liquid for anything other than household and sanitary use." For the first time Jamaica had attached enforcement penalties to water restrictions.

Kingston, one of the areas most affected by lock offs, sits on an abundance of tainted water in underground aquifers. But the capital city's

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# Chimene Montgomery revolutionizing black tourism

By Alley Olivier

Brooklyn is its own planet in New York City, filled with a rich history celebrated by the locals and transplants within the borough's neighborhoods — but what about the visiting tourists?

Often barraged with tours and sight seeing in Manhattan, tourists rarely visit sights such as Spike Lee's mansion or the Weeksville Heritage Center, or even restaurants and cafes where prominent leaders and musicians broke bread.

Filling in this tourism void is Chimene Montgomery, originally from Cameroon, who is utilizing a wealth of experience to bring the tourists to Brooklyn.

This passion project is driven by Montgomery's love for history, her desire to uplift black culture in the borough and put Brooklyn on the map.

According to Montgomery, "My core goal and purpose is to really promote Brooklyn and Brooklyn tourism focusing on African American neighborhoods, districts, and communities."

With a resume including the Grand Hyatt hotel and the W New York Times - Square Hotel, Montgomery recognized an apparent need to build a tourism structure in the borough.

For Montgomery, creating a value for cultural tourism focusing on African, African American, and Caribbean culture in Brooklyn is a calling for her to pioneer as a way to ensure that



Chimene Montgomery (far right) speaking with two Caribbean restaurant owners in Crown Heights.

Photos by Tommy Thomas

the culture is respected with the appropriate value it demands.

"Who really owns this heritage and culture? If we don't get a hold on trying to bring visitation and creating value into our own communities and neighborhoods, we're going to miss out," she explained.

Over flowing with passion and an unwavering determination, Montgomery is prepared to face the obstacles head on. The biggest challenge is securing the right funding to provide instruction for tour guides, secure luxury busses for trans-



Chimene Montgomery outside one of her tour stops, the Weeksville Heritage Center in Crown Heights.

port, and partner with businesses.

In her efforts to secure funding, Montgomery has reached out to various local politicians and council members whose districts she is directly focusing on bring tourists – includ-

ing Bedstuy, Crown Heights and Flatbush.

"I just did a tour a few weeks ago in Robert Carnegie's neighborhood. I went to him, Laurie Cumbo and Eric Adams and told them I need a bus," she explained. "Nobody could

help or come through because there's so much politics. We can't get together and have a collective effort to promote black Brooklyn."

Focusing on Bedstuy, Crown Heights and Flatbush as her destinations, Montgomery aims to provide luxury tours equipped with experiences that go beyond the surface.

Aligning her tour schedule with community calendars, Montgomery plans to schedule each tour with a possible event, for instance, a concert or gallery that speaks to the ethos of the community.

"It's going to change all the time. It's going to include sounds of central Brooklyn from bebop to hip-hop, follow the different migration patterns from Harlem to Brooklyn, include food like visiting Ali's Roti Shop, and even visiting the mas camps," she said.

Montgomery plans to wrap 2015 with a tour of Crown Heights in December, and with the appropriate funding host eight tours per month at minimum starting in 2016.

"I'm looking to definitely increase tourist numbers by 30 percent," she said.

While she hasn't had the most luck with acquiring funding from local leaders, Montgomery is currently working with Microsoft and Google to create an app that will provide historical facts of things that occurred on a particular day in Brooklyn.

## SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

### Small Business Energy | SmallBusinessEnergy.com

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### NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

### Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

### Small Business - Business First - New York State

www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html

### 2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide\_3135.pdf

### Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm

Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

### Start a Business in New York — Resources for New York Small Businesses

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm

Find resources and advice on starting a business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

### Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/helppresource/smallbusiness/index.php  
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners – and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

### Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

Visit [www.nyfirst.ny.gov](http://www.nyfirst.ny.gov) to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

### Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

www.bfindapc.com/...business-resource.../resources-for-businesses-i  
If you operate a business in New York City, you are especially fortunate. The city has pulled together a wealth of resources for small business owners.

### Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm  
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# Find your perfect car at Brooklyn's Finest Motors

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Your morning commute will be a whole lot better if you're sitting behind the wheel of a Mercedes, Jaguar, Porsche, BMW, or a Bentley.

Driving one may be within your grasp when you zoom over to Brooklyn's Finest Motors, which opened in Bensonhurst just a few months ago.

This dealership specializes in pre-owned vehicles. The spacious indoor and outdoor showroom has more than 60 cars in stock.

"All are in great condition," says Ignazio Giuffre, who owns the business with his partners, Christopher Erato, John Celardo, and Peter Bellina. The four men are brothers-in-law, committed to providing exceptional customer service at a family-run business that can be relied upon.

"If you are looking for a particular pre-owned vehicle, we will go out and find it for you," says Giuffre. "We are one-of-a-kind when it comes to choosing only the highest-quality, one-owner, low-mileage, pre-owned cars, trucks, and SUVs."

A service department, located on the premises, assures that all cars sold here are inspected.

"Every vehicle goes through a rigorous certified quality inspection," says Giuffre. "Over 150 points must check out before it meets our high standards."

Cars can continue to be maintained and serviced, and customers are welcome to bring their automobile for service, whether it



(Clockwise from top) Zoom over to Brooklyn's Finest Motors, which opened in Bensonhurst just a few months ago. Co-owner Ignazio Giuffre of Brooklyn's Finest Motors is committed to providing exceptional customer service at a family-run business that can be relied upon. The spacious indoor and outdoor showroom has more than 60 cars in stock.

Photos by Jason Speakman

was purchased here or not. Brooklyn's Finest Motors expects to be around for a long time, and wants to see that customers are happy when they make their purchase, and that they stay that way, long after the sale.

There are no bumps in the road when you deal with the company's finance department. Brooklyn's Finest Motors works with 15 banks ready to provide low-interest auto loans,

with no payment down. If there is a credit issue, they will offer assistance through their relationships with lenders that specialize in auto loan programs.

"We say 'yes' when everyone else says 'no,'" says Giuffre.

The company specializes in vehicles that meet the required specifications for Uber and the Taxi and Limousine Commission. It will do all the financing, too.

To show its apprecia-

tion to veterans, Brooklyn's Finest Motors offers a "no hassle one-step" process for veterans looking to make a purchase. They receive military discounts when they present military identification.

Trade-ins are accepted on all makes and models.

"A reputation for honesty, integrity and reliability are the building blocks that support our dealership," says Giuffre. "Customers can al-

ways rely on some one here to help them."

*Brooklyn's Finest Motors [1626 86th St. between 16th and 17th Avenues in Bensonhurst, (718) 331-5800, [www.BrooklynFinestMotors.com](http://www.BrooklynFinestMotors.com)]. The showroom is open Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-9 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am-6 pm; and Sundays 11 am-6 pm. The service department is open Mondays through Thursdays, 7 am-10 pm; Fridays and Saturdays 7 am-5 pm.*



# Water systems

Continued from page 16

large untapped water source represents only a portion of the vast reserves that experts say remain under-exploited.

According to the Water Resources Authority (WRA), the island's water management and regulatory body, Jamaica uses only 25 percent of its available groundwater resources and 11 percent of its accessible surface water.

Head of the WRA Basil Fernandez told IPS that it would take "proper water planning to deal with non-revenue water and improve transmission and distribution efficiency," to solve the problem.

"There is need for a roadmap from the NWC and / or the ministry on water supply planning that will set out clearly the areas of deficit, areas of surplus and how and when we will move from surplus to deficit areas," he said.

Across the country households cleared their inventories of water tanks, manufacturers increased production and hoteliers tapped into their storage tanks. Fires and the unrelenting sun destroyed the rain-fed farms with prized Blue Mountain Coffee crops, vegetable crops and Christmas trees that are grown in the buffer zone of the Blue Mountain National Park.

Lower down the slopes, fires also destroyed mature trees and vegetation in the Hope River and Yallahs Watershed areas, which supply 40 percent of NWC's 600,000 customers in the Kingston Metropolitan region. Much of the area had been replanted between 2011 and 2013 as part of Jamaica's Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Under the project, the Forestry Department replanted more than 300,000 hectares of forests in degraded upper watershed areas to reduce runoff, erosion and silting of the waterways.

As water restrictions widened, farmers on the plains fared no better. The usually six-month long sugar cane harvest was over in less than a month after fires and drought decimated the crop. The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) reported that the drought was most severe in Manchester and St. Elizabeth the 'bread basket' areas that accounted for about 40 percent of domestic agricultural production. In other areas crops wilted in the fields.

Scientists are predicting that these episodes are expected to worsen as climate change increases the intensity of droughts across the Caribbean. Thompson agreed, noting that the unseasonably dry periods are happening in the midst of the Atlantic Hurricane season that runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Unless there is rainfall and constant

inflows of water, the volume of water will not significantly increase, Fernandez, told IPS, effectively dismissing calls for more dams and the de-silting of the Mona Reservoir and Hermitage Dam.

"There must be better coordination of climate change efforts and projects; better communication to get the public to buy into the these efforts as well as the inclusion of climate change scenarios and impacts in all policies and projects and maintenance and adaptation of systems rather than building new systems," he said.

As part of Jamaica's Vision 2030, to make the country more resilient to the impacts of climate change, government has begun work to protect and better manage the distribution of water. At risk are the nation's health, the tourism and agricultural industries and Jamaica's food security.

Vision 2030 is built into Jamaica's second national communication to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNCCC).

In the last year, 25 water and sewage projects were completed to upgrade then old, leaky infrastructure which when coupled with theft, costs the NWC about 53 percent or 108 million liters of its daily production in the Kingston Metropolitan Area alone.

A 3.9 million dollar Watershed Management project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is expected to, among other things, improve water resource management in the Yallahs and Hope River watersheds. The five year programme is to carry out work on 44,486 hectares of land including sections of the region's newest World Heritage Site, the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park.

An Artificial Aquifer Recharge facility to secure the sustainable abstraction of water from the aquifer by treating and returning excess water into natural underground storage is ongoing.

"This is a pioneering project, as it has never before been carried out in Jamaica or the Caribbean," Pickersgill said at the July 2014 launch.

In addition, government is also looking at plans to recover some of Kingston's water that has been polluted by faecal bacteria from soak-away pits, latrines and saline intrusion.

The key to making the country resilient Fernandez said is "the preparation of communities and agencies to manage and conserve the resources; efficiently moving water from the north to the south of the island and a move to larger more efficient and resilient distribution systems."

As Thompson explained, "So the droughts will be more severe, the rainfall episodes will be more significant, causing flooding. There will still be the need to work out how we manage the water resourced in between those episodes."

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# New SVG Diaspora sporting, cultural ambassadors elated



Stella Boyea-Ashby (r) with former netball and track and field athlete Margaret Hamilton-Fredericks at SVG Independence Luncheon in October at Grand Prospect Hall in Brooklyn.

Photo by Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

The newly-appointed St. Vincent and the Grenadines sports and cultural ambassadors in the United States have expressed elation, saying they are honored to accept the roles bestowed on them by the government.

In his independence address to the nation on Independence Day, Oct. 27, at Victoria Park in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves named Stella Boyea-Ashby and Gailene Windsor (netball), and Evangelist Bridget Blucher (gospel music), among 11 other “persons of merit and quality who have distinguished themselves in the fields of culture and sports.”

Boyea-Ashy and Windsor live in Brooklyn, while Blucher resides in Kissimmee, Central Florida, next to world-class theme parks, such as Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort and SeaWorld Orlando.



Gailene Windsor.

The other ambassadors of “merit and quality” are: Lance John (cricket); Ezra Hendrickson and Marlon James (football – soccer); Esther Robinson, Shirley Browne-Winsboro and Peggy Hull (netball); Adonal Foyle (basketball); and Wollis Christopher, James “Jamesy P” Morgan, Carlton “CP” Hall and Olson “Caribbean Pete” Peters (soca and / or calypso).

Gonsalves said the sporting and cultural ambassadors will “have the privilege, among other things, of carrying a diplomatic passport.”

“It’s an honor that I’m very appreciative of, and it shows that people recognize you before you pass away,” Windsor told Caribbean Life in an interview. “It’s better to receive it now, and it’s such a nice feeling.”

“I want to thank the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet for such an honor,” added Windsor, who played netball for the nation from 1973 to 1979 and was a netball administrator in the U.S. for most of the years after migrating to Brooklyn.

“I will continue to work – and will work with the other ambassadors – in the interest of getting things done for St. Vincent and the Grenadines,” she continued.

Blucher, renowned as the Caribbean’s foremost “Gos-

pel Diva,” also told Caribbean Life that she was “truly honored for the prime minister to award such a position.

“It’s a great honor to be recognized in such a capacity from your own,” she said, adding, “but I do what the Lord has appointed me to do in this aspect.

“I always see myself as a proud Vincentian,” she continued. “God has given me an opportunity to touch so many lives.”

In her acceptance letter to

Gonsalves, a copy of which was obtained by Caribbean Life, Boyea-Ashy wrote that it was with “a sense of pride and love for country that I accept the honor.

“As you so richly and rightly themed your message ‘Love for Country,’ I, too, have pledged continued support for all Vincentians both at home and here in the Diaspora,” wrote Boyea, who captained the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Netball team for 14 years.

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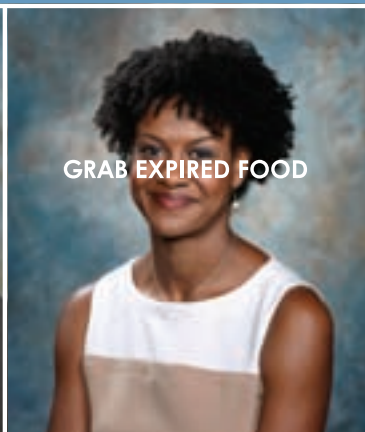
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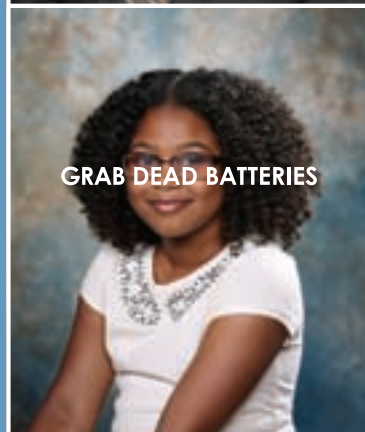
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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

oil arrangement.

The decision came amid escalating border dispute between the two South American neighbors.

## Jamaica

The main opposition Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) is preparing for general elections and is confident of victory.

JLP leader Andrew Holness told supporters recently to be prepared for a general election “very soon,” even as Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller has kept the nation guessing as to when she would announce the date.



Simpson-Miller recently addressed supporters of the ruling People’s National Party (PNP) in St. Ann, but she made no mention of an election date even as political observers say she is likely to do so before the end of the year.

The JLP leader said the government is not running the affairs of the country properly.

He said a JLP government would implement several new policies in taking the country forward.

In the last general election held in December 2011, the PNP won 42 seats with the remaining 21 going to the JLP.

## St. Vincent

Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro and a nine-member delegation recently paid a visit to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the governor general’s deputy, Susan Dougan, and other government officials welcomed the delegation at the E.T. Joshua Airport.



Maduro and his delegation later visited the Hugo Chavez Storage facility at Lowman’s Bay, then the Argyle International Airport.

Speaking at a press conference through an interpreter, Maduro outlined his country’s plans for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Venezuela.

He said that these investments are for the further development of SVG. He also made the promise of 7,500 tablets for primary school students.

After the two leaders held a bilat-

eral meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr. Gonsalves said the discussions covered several issues in the hemisphere.

Included in Maduro’s delegation were First Combatant Cilis Flores, Vice President and Minister of Finance, Rodolfo Marco Torres and Foreign Affairs Minister Delcy Rodriguez.

## St. Lucia

The St. Lucia government says it is waiving all import duties on barrels imported into the island as part of the annual Christmas celebrations.

It said the removal of the import duty under the “Christmas Barrel Trade” from Dec. 1 to Feb. 15 next year will be for personal items, food, clothing toys, and other household consumables contained in barrels. Electronic items are explicitly excluded.



The Ministry of Finance said the number of barrels for the concessions is limited to two per household and there is an upper limit of EC\$2,500 per barrel on the value of the items qualifying for the concessions.

The ministry warned that the items contained in the barrels must be for personal use only and not for commercial use, adding that the “usual penalties” and fines would apply if the goods are used for commercial purposes.

## Trinidad

The program to assist children in need of urgent medical attention which was the brainchild by former T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar who is now the Opposition Leader has been sent to the director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) by the police for action to be taken for alleged fraud in the fund.



Former ministers of her government used to donate 10 percent of their salaries to the fund. The Children’s Life Fund, is a charitable fund that was established by the PP government in 2010 by an act of Parliament.

The Fraud Squad was called in to probe 14 cases during the period September 2013 and April 2014 in which thousands of US dollars were allegedly embezzled.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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From left, Richard T. Greene Jr., Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Schomburg Center, Michael T. Pugh and Takisia Whites from Carver Bank. Carver Bank

## Carver Bank contributes \$50K to Junior Scholars

Carver Federal Saving Bank President and CEO Michael T. Pugh has awarded a \$50,000 gift to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture on behalf of the Carver Scholarship Fund last month.

“Carver is a long-standing supporter of arts and culture in the community and has a long history of working with local cultural institutions. We are pleased to join our partners in financing activities that will preserve and enhance the Schomburg Center for generations of scholars and researchers,” said Pugh.

The bank made the presentation in honor of the late Richard T. Greene, Sr.,

who enjoyed an illustrious career as a leading executive at Carver for more than 35 years and founded the Carver Scholarship Fund in 1983. Pugh presented the check during the Schomburg Center’s annual Fall Open House, wherein audiences and patrons access and engage with its collections, exhibitions and programmatic offerings in an evening of talks, performances, films and art.

Carver’s gift will be designated for the Schomburg’s Junior Scholars Endowment to support enrichment activities for young students including a Richard T. Greene, Sr. Leadership Talk.

## Rev Run joins AT&T’s Inspired Mobility

By Alley Olivier

Technology is a key component in any person’s daily life. Whether it be a tablet, cell phone, or laptop, often times individuals can be found scanning various apps for updates in the news, family’s lives, and even to be inspired. While frequent phone use can appear unhealthy, there are some positive aspects such as connecting to a virtual community to spread inspiration and faith.

Joining forces with popular cellphone carrier AT&T, hip-hop pioneer Rev Run is joining the company’s Inspired Mobility by taking inspiration and faith via mobile use to a whole new level.

“Sharing inspiration with mobility is so much a part of who I am,” Rev Run said in a press release. “I remember when I first set up my Twitter account, @RevRunWisdom. My sole mission was to inspire by sharing words of wisdom, and I’m happy to spread the word

about how others can share and connect around positive thoughts especially during the holiday season.”

According to AT&T, the need for a central mobile faith conversation is needed as “41 percent use a mobile device to connect to their faith or inspiration.”

The legendary rhymers connected with fans Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Midtown Manhattan AT&T store on West 57th Street as a way to promote this new collaborative effort.

“They called me and they wanted to join forces so I was like, ‘cool I’m already doing so many words of wisdom and putting things up on post why not join up with a bigger and more aggressive way to approach and reach people,” he said.

Rev Run posed for photos with fans and connected with press offering his words of wisdom.



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# Dance pioneer donates archives to Columbia University

By Zita Allen

Arthur Mitchell, the pioneer ballet dancer, artistic director and choreographer who, in the 1950s, became the first African American principal dancer with the New York City Ballet was celebrated at Columbia University Oct. 27 and 28.

The occasion marked Mitchell's donation to Columbia University of his archive — a treasure trove of photographs, posters, clippings, and correspondence with the likes of Igor Stravinsky, Josephine Baker, Alvin Ailey, Geoffrey Holder, Carmen de Lavallade, David Dinkins, Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela. The archive also includes film footage and other material documenting an amazing life, a stellar career, and the impact of a man whose life has helped change America's cultural landscape.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, the two-day event, entitled "The Arthur Mitchell Project Symposium," opened with a retrospective of the career of this self-described "political activist through dance."

The centerpiece was a conversation between Mr. Mitchell and friends, including icon Carmen de Lavallade, former NYCB ballerinas Barnard College dance professor Allegra Kent, and Kaye Mazzo, a founding member of The George Balanchine Trust. Barnard Professor and Dance Dept. Co-Chair Lynn Garafola moderated as Mitchell recalled how, as a young teen, dancer Mary Hinkson introduced him to the Katherine Dunham School where future mentor and DTH co-founder Karel Shook taught ballet. Mitchell also expressed heartfelt thanks to NYCB's founder and choreographer George Balanchine and co-founder Lincoln Kirstein when recalling his historic admission to NYCB and, years later, Balanchine's generous gift of his own masterpieces and more to Mitchell's fledgling company. Punctuating these and other moments were film clips of Mitchell partnering Hinkson in Balanchine's "Figure in a Carpet" or dancing with de Lavallade in Donald McKayle's classic "Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder."

There was also a clip of Mitchell partnering Allegra Kent in the "Agon" pas de deux that Southern TV stations refused to air because it featured a Black man partnering a white woman.

Sprinkled throughout the two-day event were similar historic facts, personal anecdotes and analytical insights that shed light on Mitchell's illustrious career and his tremendous impact on American arts and culture.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, three panel discussions also hinted at the key role Arthur Mitchell's archives would play in incorporating African Americans' stories and impact into the history of ballet. One panel tackled the role Mitchell and DTH played in creating opportunities for other artists of color. Moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, author and Columbia University Professor Margo Jefferson, that panel included former-DTH principle Karen Brown, one of the few Black women to serve as Artistic Director of an American ballet company (Oakland Bal-



Arthur Mitchell, left, founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, guides his student Danielle Sutton, 7, in a ballerina's pose during a news conference at the Dance Theatre of Harlem School in New York. Associated Press / Bebeto Matthews, File

let), Karyn Collins, Rutgers University journalism professor and dance critic, Robert Garland, DTH choreographer and former principal, DTH founding music director and composer Tania Leon and Vernon Ross, former

Continued on Page 32



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# Immigration

Continued from page 16

look forward to continuing to build our information-sharing capabilities to protect the people of Jamaica and the United States.”

The CHIS initiative is managed by ERO. Through the initiative, ERO provides its partners with criminal conviction information on foreign nationals being removed from the United States, and it receives information about foreign criminal convictions related to those individuals.

ICE said these records help ERO identify and classify individuals within the agency’s criminal removal priorities in support of national security.

ICE has similar agreements with Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

Through its International Operations, ICE said its Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has 62 operational attaché offices in 46 countries around the world.

ICE said HSI special agents work closely with foreign law enforcement agencies through a robust network of specialized, vetted units known as Transnational Criminal Investigative Units.

Additionally, ICE said HSI brings personnel from host countries to the United States to train at the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. Both HSI and ERO personnel work on issues of mutual interest with host governments.

ERO is responsible for coordinating the removal of criminals, foreign fugitives and others ordered deported, ICE said.

Since Oct. 1, 2009, ICE said ERO assistant attaches for repatriation have assisted with the removal of more than 1,200 foreign fugitives from the United States who were being sought in their native countries for serious crimes, including kidnapping, rape and murder.

In fiscal year 2014 alone, ICE said ERO removed 315,943 individuals from the United States. More than 85 percent had been convicted of a crime, ICE.

# Genetics

Continued from page 14

nities of the Americas, including the Caribbean.

“It was an opportunity to actually add new information about an area that is relatively well described archaeologically but not so much so genetically,” Schurr said.

Schurr said he has already completed a similar study in Puerto Rico and recently began a larger project in the Dominican Republic.

He said immersion in these communities has been eye opening.

“You don’t fully appreciate what’s happening on the ground until you’re there — not only meeting people and getting to know them and their perspectives, their history, but absorbing details about the environment, the climate, how people make a living, the current state of economic develop-

ment,” he said. “You learn about the early colonial history of these islands, as well as indigenous perspectives on this history.”

Research for the Genographic Project has been taking place since 2005. The first phase, funded by the National Geographic Society, IBM and the Waitt Family Foundation, ended in 2012 after completion of significant field research and laboratory analysis around the world.

The second phase, supported by the University of Pennsylvania, the Institute for Scholarship and Learning at Notre Dame and the National Geographic Society, has allowed for targeted field research and the expanded use of autosomal markers to help elucidate the genetic history of human populations.

Schurr and his collaborators published their recent work about genetic diversity in the Lesser Antilles in the science journal PLOS One.

# Columbia

Continued from page 29

DTH wardrobe master and designer now currently with the Metropolitan Opera and Radio City Music Hall.

Another panel looked at the importance of Mitchell’s creation of an institution that included not only the company but a school and an outreach component. Moderated by Columbia Professor of English and Comparative Literature Brent Hayes Edwards, it included former DTH principal ballerina and current Artistic Director Virginia Johnson, Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post critic Sarah L. Kaufman, Florida State University Professor, and former DTH dancer, Anjali Austin, and Barnard Professor and Dance co-chair Lynn Garafola,

The third panel discussed the political, cultural and socio-economic turmoil of the Civil Rights era and its impact on Mitchell’s decision to create DTH and debunk all the myths and buggaboos that plagued aspiring black ballet dancers for so long. In addition, this panel grappled with ways to build on advances into this once tabu dance territory by Mitchell and, more recently, Misty Copeland. Kendall Thomas, Nash Professor of Law and Director for the Center of Law & Culture at Columbia’s School of Law, moderated a panel that included Zita Allen, Amsterdam News writer and first Black critic for Dance Magazine, Harlem Stage Director Patricia Cruz, Columbia University English Comparative Literature Professor Farah Jasmine Griffin and Brenda Dixon Gottschild, author and Temple University Professor Emeritus.

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# Grenada apiary wins gold award

Eden Apiaries, a boutique organic apiary from the Caribbean island of Grenada, won the highly coveted Medal of Ukraine which is awarded to the best honey in the world outside of the British Isles at the 84th National Honey Show held in London from Oct. 29 - Oct. 31.

The winning beekeepers are environmental scientist Dr. Valma Jessamy and Jerry Edwin, an attorney. They own and operate Eden Apiaries located at the Grenville Vale Tropical Botanic Garden.

"I am stunned" said Dr. Jessamy, when she learned that she had been awarded the prestigious 2015 Gold Medal from among the international competitors. The winning honey was gifted to the head beekeeper at Buckingham Palace.

The international beekeepers at the 2015 NHS were from Mauritius, Oman, Cameroon, Morocco, Canada, Uganda, New Zealand, The Netherlands, the United States and Saudi Arabia among other countries.

The first Medal of Ukraine went to Mauritius in 2010, the second was not awarded and the third was won by honey from the Royal Apiaries of Oman. Eden Apiaries is the fourth winner of



The winning honey from Eden Apiaries in Grenada.

the Medal and the first from the Caribbean region.

In 2012 Eden Apiaries was awarded a Silver Award in the same category.

The National Honey show is held in London every October and continues the tradition established back in 1923. It's the oldest most sophisticated and the most rigorous beekeeping contest in the world.



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# Star-studded Steel Pulse documentary to aid Haiti

By Vinette K. Pryce

British reggae supergroup Steel Pulse is now ramping up efforts to complete “Dreadtown” a documentary, which chronicles their 40-year odyssey to promoting the Caribbean beat.

Members claim, the hasty catalyst to completing the video biography to be two-fold — in order to appease fans with their stellar contribution to the genre and to aid in the recovery of Haiti from the devastation of an earthquake five years ago.

According to lead singer David Hinds, a percentage of funds from proceeds of the movie will be donated to the “Hold On (4 Haiti)” campaign which aids Haitians by supporting solar energy solutions in hospitals and schools through Solar Electric light Fund and Partners In Health.

Slated to open in theaters next year, the film features the reggae band’s first-ever visit to Haiti and to the clinics which

have already benefited from the life-changing introduction of solar power.

“We wanted to make a difference on the ground,” Hinds explained.

They also recorded a song titled “Hold On (4 Haiti)” from which a portion of sales will be directed to the cause.

Hinds wrote the song immediately after the Jan. 12, 2010 quake that devastated the French creole-speaking republic.

The documentary will be a testimony to how the band’s message has empowered people from across the globe to fight against their own forms of oppression throughout the decades. Hinds believe that the same revolutionary thought can still continue to grow in the world.

However, despite the fact many of the songs intended for use in the telling screen showcase are songs recorded and sung by the group, many are

not owned by the group.

“We call upon the fans of Steel Pulse and music and movie fans alike to assist us in completing this movie and get it into cinemas in 2016. We are nearly there, but we need your help to get us over the line.

“We need to obtain licenses to include all the songs, outtakes, B-sides, dubs, and live versions that we have planned for the movie. We don’t want to take any shortcuts and unfortunately, music and archive footage licensing can be costly.

“There are so many treasures that we have unearthed and we know the movie just wouldn’t be complete without them, which is why we’re asking the fans to support the project now.

“Your contribution will be vital to get the tracks which we use in the film and not owned by Steel Pulse.”

The appeal to fans provides alluring perks to donors that include film screenings with



Member of music band Steel Pulse, David Hinds, performs during a concert at the Lollapalooza music festival in Santiago, Chile.

Associated Press / Roberto Candia, File

Hinds in Los Angeles and New York City.

Steel Pulse was formed by a group of first-generation Caribbean youths born into the harshness of 1950s Handsworth, a ghetto in Britain’s second city, Birmingham.

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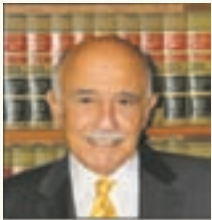
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# Haitian documentary portrays Brooklyn life in '80s

By Tangerine Clarke

A recent release of "The Haitian Polo Documentary" that chronicles gritty urban streets, discrimination, and a language barrier young Haitian faced when they arrived in Brooklyn with their parents back in the 1980s and 1990s, received rave reviews from a community audience.

The Red Carpet screening at the Kent Theater in Brooklyn, attracted a wide cross-section of moviegoers that applauded the compelling narration of events during the one-hour viewing of the flick.

Directed by Caged Cubez, and produced by DJ Scripz, the group of men recounted their journey through the violent streets and drug infested neighborhoods they had to endure while trying to fit into a society that was new to an influx of Haitian immigrants.

Showcasing images of schools they attended, and multilevel dwellings they called home back then, the

friends recalled fighting with street-wise youths who were not accepting of the way they lived and dressed. This led to volatile situations and in many instances weapon violence.

The documentary traces a rebirth of the Haitians who created their sense of style to fit-in. They embraced Polo designs, moving away from the conservative Haitian garments of which they were accustomed, to standout in the neighborhood.

"When you dress in slacks, a tucked-in button-down shirt, white tube socks, and black shoes, it wasn't hard to notice you were a Haitian, because the life of a young Haitian consisted of school, home and church," said DJ Scripz.

During this era, even though many other popular brands were appealing, the Ralph Lauren Polo collection put the young men a class of their own. They used their minimum wage earnings to purchase the high-end clothing they said carried

respect and admiration in the community.

One-of-a kind Polo by Ralph Lauren sweaters and jackets created a barrier from bullying on the streets of Crown Heights, Flatbush, and other parts of Brooklyn that became home to more than 600,000 Haitians in the '80s.

The documentary captures the generation that was determined to make their way in the community with inspired Ralph Lauren garments, one of the most recognized names in American fashion.

"Ralph Lauren managed to create an enduring empire, from the 'pony' to the 'crest' to the 'teddy bear' design, that the immigrants called his path to success and the American way," argues cast members.

Stating that Haiti is 'the pearl of the Caribbean' and the world's first Black Republic, and being Haitian carry a deep sense of national pride, it was their mission to shine, in Polo outfits.



Cast members pose at the Kent Theatre in Brooklyn after a screening of "Haitian Polo" produced by DJ Scripz.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

The history of Lauren, a poor Bronx-born boy who sold clothes on the streets and who became world-famous, struck a chord with the Haitians whose vintage pieces are worth thousands of dollars in today's market.

The stirring documentary film features cast members: Sadat X, Thirstin How III, Tyrone (Skeleton), Fabian Grant, Mesfin Tafari Savage, Kevin, Jean Rudy Masse, Prance-Lo, Dr. Ronelus, Wil-

son Jean, Adler Milord, Ed Michel, Ski-Black, Moise "Rafe" Vernau (From hit Web series Money & Violence), Par-nel, Saif Abdul-Hakim Rose (Quan), Ralph Etienne, Beauval Aristide, James, Lance Gee, Billy Augmin, Duke Da God!! Music by Eddie Cleverhands.

"The Haitian Polo Documentary" is now out on DVD. To learn more, go to <https://thehaitianpolodocumentary-bydjscripz.vhx.tv/> and follow the film crew on Instagram.



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## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



In this Nov. 22, 1963 file photo, seen through the foreground convertible's windshield, President John F. Kennedy's hand reaches toward his head within seconds of being fatally shot as first lady Jacqueline Kennedy holds his forearm as the motorcade proceeds along Elm Street past the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. Associated Press / James W. "Ike" Altgens, File

# Give thanks for good and not so good

Every year on Nov. 22, the tragic assassination of John F. Kennedy — the youngest American president ever elected — recalls the somber nostalgia of the 1963 event in Dallas, Texas that left the nation numb from shock.

Fifty-two years later, the memory of the 53rd leader of the USA resonates with reflections of his glamorous wife Jackie Bouvier, young and proud son, John and daughter Caroline. That in many of his speeches he promised a better America is already being replayed with frequency on progressive radio stations with broadcasters who list him among the most conscientious leaders of the country.

The popular, 43-year-old, Irish-Catholic was first of his religion to occupy the White House. He vowed to keep peace on earth and also planned to invest in a space program that would pioneer an era of discovery.

JFK was hardly past his first thousand days in office, when an assassin's bullets snatched his life as his motorcade wound through the streets of the southern city.

Unfortunately, he is also remembered as the youngest president to die.

His death offered a cautionary tale that has been indelibly inscribed since that tragic November that tragedy could lurk in the most unexpected places.

Once again, before the feast, our leaders, representatives, civil servants, friends, family, loved ones, military personnel and all well-meaning individuals will reflect and probably give thanks for the legacy JFK left during his brief time in office from 1961 to 1963.

### IF YOU CAN HELP THE HOMELESS

On the one day more than any other

— Thanksgiving affords a pause to consider the less fortunate.

It is the day friends and family ensure everyone in America enjoy a hot meal and is reputedly the most-traveled, most consuming and most paraded to usher in Christmas.

Nov. 23, Maria Cuomo Cole — the sister of Gov. Mario Cuomo and wife of Kenneth Cole, chairman of HELP USA will kick-start a special pre-Thanksgiving lunch with homeless men and women participating in the Culinary Arts Training Program.

Scheduled to be joined by renowned chef David Burke, together they will prepare a special pre-Thanksgiving lunch for several hundred other homeless men and women who live at the HELP USA shelters on Ward's Island (part of Randall's Island).

According to the excited hosts, during the festive event, the governor's sister will discuss a little bit about the highly successful holistic approach HELP USA employs to help the homeless regain their dignity.

While preparing the food, cooking expert Burke will demonstrate methods used while incorporating some produce and herbs grown at the one-acre farm at the shelters by the homeless residents in conjunction with a non-profit called Project EATS.

When the bird is done, Chef Burke will also give a very helpful lesson in how to properly carve a turkey.

Cuomo Cole is not just making a guest appearance she is an integral proponent of the pre-holiday festivity.

With help from the Culinary Arts Training program, she regularly trains homeless men and women to become line chefs and prepares many for other chef-related jobs.



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Lady Peachena.

## Brooklyn Gospel singer releases anti-gun song

By Vinette K. Pryce

Friends of Lady Peachena are giving her an “Amen!” every time she sings her latest recording.

Part of the reason for the religious appraisal to her rendition is attributed to her inimitable voice and another is that the lyrics of the song demand an ultimatum from its title “Not Another Child.”

Lady Peachena wrote and recorded the gospel-flavored musical plea with a challenge to stop rampant shootings.

Continued on Page 42

## Garfield Ellis tackles regret

By Alley Olivier

In your darkest hours, are you satisfied in knowing that the good memories you’ve created in your life outweigh any regrets?

The thought of dying could charge anyone with new energy to pursue righting a few wrongs before being laid to a permanent rest. Playing with this idea through a riveting novel is author Garfield Ellis in his latest published work, “The Angels’ Share.”

Ellis, commenting about the reason  
Continued on Page 42



# DIVERSITY ABSENT

Spike Lee accepts an honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards at the Dolby Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, in Los Angeles.  
Chris Pizzello / Invision / Associated Press

## Spike Lee calls for diversity in film industry

By Sandy Cohen

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Spike Lee told an audience of entertainment luminaries that it’s easier for a black person to become president of the United States than head of a Hollywood studio or network.

Lee made the remarks Saturday as he accepted an Oscar statuette at the film academy’s seventh annual Governors Awards dinner in Hollywood, where Gena Rowlands and Debbie Reynolds were also honorees.

“We need to have some serious

discussions about diversity and get some flavor up in this,” Lee said. “This industry is so behind sports it’s ridiculous.”

The filmmaker praised Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Cheryl Boone Isaacs for “trying to do something that needs to be done.” Earlier in the evening, Isaacs called on the industry powers in attendance to take action toward “recognizing and embracing a broad cross-section of talent.” She also announced the academy’s new five-

year plan to improve diversity in its staff and governance.

Isaacs opened the Governors Awards ceremony with condolences for France in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

“All of us here stand in solidarity and support of France and the French people,” she said. “Our connection with the film-loving French is especially deep.”

Lee offered “peace and love to people in France” as he received

Continued on Page 42



# Strahan's inspiration to boost your confidence

"Wake Up Happy" by Michael Strahan with Veronica Chambers  
c.2015, Atria  
\$26.99 / \$34.99 Canada  
197 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Every day, you make countless little choices.

Get outta bed or go back to sleep? What's for breakfast? Blue tie or black shirt? Which project first, what's for lunch, dinner, after dinner, what to watch, read, discuss? All day long, you choose one thing over another; in fact, Michael Strahan says that "the average American will [make] thirty-five thousand decisions" before bedtime. In his book "Wake Up Happy" (with Veronica Chambers), he explains how one of them can be a life-changer.

If you've ever seen Michael Strahan on-screen, you know how easy he makes his job look

He seems comfortable with stars and strangers alike, although he calls himself "a shy guy." He says he gets nervous, but he knows how to handle himself because that's the way he was raised.

Because Strahan's father was in the military, the family lived overseas when Strahan was still very young. "Mannheim, Germany," he says, "was an awesome place to grow up" because of its small-town feel and because children were truly raised by a village of stay-at-home mothers. Strahan's father was busy, but Strahan remembers the frequent one-on-one time he spent with his dad, and the advice that poured forth on those events.

"In a perfect world," Strahan says, "I'd have 92 [motivational] rules to match my jersey number. But in real life, I've found that you need only 18 to get and stay motivated."

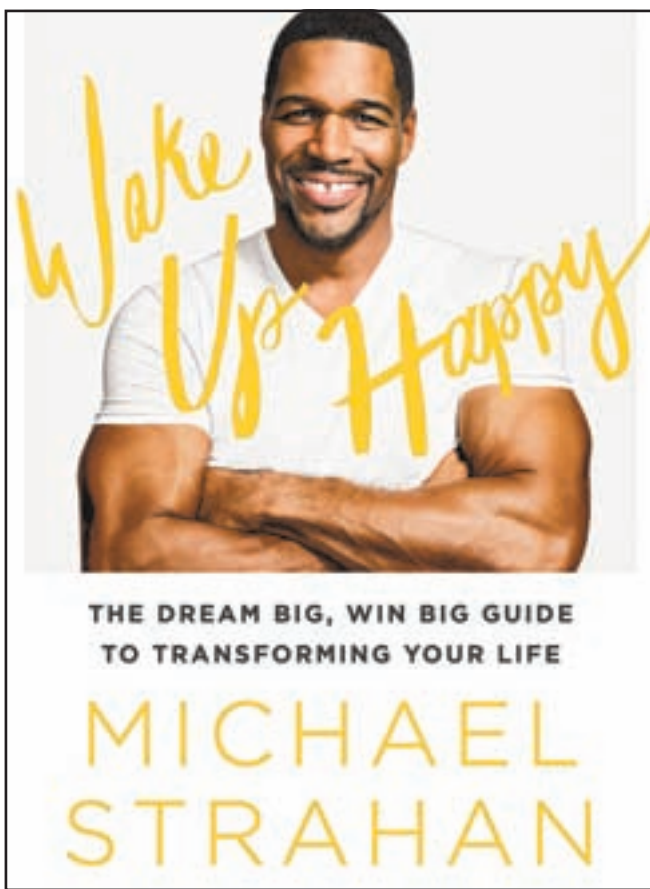
Rule Number One, he says is to "Be open to everything around you." What you need, and the help to get it, can "come from the most unexpected

places..." Pay attention, don't make assumptions, and never throw away a chance to see what comes.

Remember that the journey is joyful, too, so take pleasure in it. If you want something, let your determination power your actions and keep in mind that when you've given your all, there's still more to give. Know when to bow out gracefully but don't quit a tough road; instead, know when to "hit pause." Take the word "if" from your vocabulary. Listen to music that motivates you. Remember that "bad experiences... often teach you the most." Keep your sense of humor. "Be excellent."

So you're in need of some motivation, but you don't want something that sounds like a million bees in a hive. Instead, you'd like something fresh, and "Wake Up Happy" is what you want.

Readers who have come to love author Michael Strahan on the field or on TV will be glad to know that his writing is genuine:



"Wake up Happy" by Michael Strahan.

what you see on the small screen is what you get in this book. This personable style of motivation carries through Strahan's life story, his careers, and his love

life, which has been rocky and he's forthcoming on it all. That no-holds-barred attitude in storytelling lends trustworthiness to the lessons.

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# A tale of forbidden love set in the fifties

**"Carol"**  
Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated R sexuality,  
nudity and brief  
profanity  
Running time:  
118 minutes  
Distributor: The  
Weinstein Company



Marilyn Rooney Mara as Therese Bellivet and Cate Blanchette as Carol Aird in the movie "Carol."

## By Kam Williams

Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) is a socialite in the midst of a bitter divorce. Her husband, Harge (Kyle Chandler), is making it difficult, since he still loves her and can't quite understand why she wants out of the marriage. After all, she's been living in the lap of luxury in a mansion in suburban New Jersey, where the couple has been raising their young daughter, Rindy (Kk Heim).

But having a devoted spouse who's a good provider and a doting dad just isn't enough, given how Carol has been hid-

ing a dark secret for decades. That's because it's the early Fifties, and she's deep in the closet due to homosexuality's generally being considered scandalous, if not perverted behavior.

Consequently, the only hint Harge has that his wife might be a lesbian was the brief fling she admits to having had with her BFF, Abby (Sarah Paulson). So, he's remained optimistic about

changing her mind, and has even suggested that they vacation together over the upcoming holidays.

However, the plot thickens when Carol ventures into

Manhattan to do a little Christmas shopping. For, while buying presents for little Rindy in a department store, she makes the acquaintance of a pretty and polite, young clerk name Therese Belivet (Rooney Mara).

The two proceed to flirt with each other ever so subtly, so as to not arouse any suspicion among customers and employees. After purchasing an electric train set for her daughter, Carol accidentally leaves her gloves on the counter, which affords Therese an excuse to contact her again.

Despite the sizable age and class differences, the two strike up a platonic friendship with tremendous sexual tension simmering just below the surface. Their thinly-veiled desires are not lost on Therese's boyfriend, Richard (Jake Lacy), who accuses her of having a crush on the well-preserved cougar. Meanwhile, Harge develops his own suspicions when he drops in on Carol unexpectedly and she can't explain why she's entertaining a woman half her age.

## Independent & Foreign Films

**Censored Voices** (Unrated) Middle East documentary questioning the supposed heroism of Israeli soldiers who fought in '67 war won in just six days. Featuring long-suppressed interviews with veterans recorded by kibbutzniks. (In Hebrew with subtitles)

**Democrats** (Unrated) Power corrupts documentary chronicling Zimbabwe strongman Robert Mugabe's going through the charade of staging a presidential election in a futile attempt to fool the world into believing the country's a legitimate democracy.

**Frame by Frame** (Unrated) Free press documentary chronicling the efforts of four Afghan photojournalists to ply their trade following the fall of the Taliban who had made taking pictures a crime. (In Dari and English with subtitles)

**Kingdom of Shadows** (PG-13 for mature themes and disturbing images) Rio Grande documentary taking an unflinching look at the ever-escalating body count in the drug wars being waged along the U.S.-Mexico border. (In Spanish and English with subtitles)

**Legend** (R for sexuality, drug use, graphic violence and pervasive profanity) Mob saga revisiting the exploits of Reggie and Ronnie Kray (Tom Hardy), infamous identical twins who ran a powerful crime syndicate in London in the Sixties. Supporting cast includes



## Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Emily Browning, Paul Bettany and Chazz Palminteri.

**Mediterranea** (Unrated) Fact-based docudrama recounting the ordeal of a couple of refugees (Koudous Seihon and Alassane Sy) who make the perilous journey from Africa to Italy in search of a better life only to be met with hostility and violence. With Paolo Sciarretta, Annalisa Pagano and Pio Amato. (In French, Italian, English and Arabic with subtitles)

**Mustang** (PG-13 for mature themes and sexuality) Tale of female empowerment, set in Turkey, about five, freedom-loving sisters grounded by their parents after engaging in innocent hoesplay with boys on their way home from school. Co-starring Gunes Sensoy, Elit Iscan, Doga Zeynep Doguslu, Tugba Sunguroglu and Ilayda Akdogan. (In Turkish with subtitles)

**Secret in Their Eyes** (PG-13 for profanity, sexual references, mature themes and disturbing violence) Whodunit revolving around a tight-knit FBI unit, investigating a string of murders of teenage girls, that is suddenly torn asunder by the brutal slaying of a team member's (Julia Roberts) daughter (Zoe Graham). With Chiwetel Ejiofor, Nicole Kidman and Lyndon Smith.

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Justin Bieber
- 7 **Ex's & oh's**  
Elle King
- 8 **Here**  
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- 9 **Renegades**  
X Ambassadors
- 10 **Like I'm Gonna Lose You**  
Meghan Trainor...

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Ellie Goulding
- 4 **Damn Country Music**  
Tim McGraw
- 5 **What's Inside: ...**  
Sara Bareilles
- 6 **Get Weird**  
Little Mix
- 7 **Meat And Candy**  
Old Dominion
- 8 **Front Row Seat**  
Josh Abbott Band
- 9 **Art Angels**  
Grimes
- 10 **Down Home Sessions II**  
Cole Swindell



# FILM

Continued from page 39

his award. Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes and Samuel L. Jackson brought the filmmaker onstage for his Oscar.

“Spike Lee has put more African-Americans to work in this business than anyone else in this business,” Washington said in his introduction.

Cate Blanchett and Laura Linney each paid tribute to Rowlands, calling her a trailblazer and inspiration. The 85-year-old actress, whose career spans six decades, received her Oscar from her son, Nick Cassavettes, who directed his mother in 2004’s “The Notebook.” He noted that the award was “the first Oscar in the family.”

Looking lovingly at the golden trophy, Rowlands thanked the academy governors for “introducing me to this fine fellow.”

“He’s very handsome,” she said. “You know, he’s just so elegant... I think I’ll take him home.”

Reynolds received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep introduced the 83-year-old entertainer, who announced



Gena Rowlands, right, accepts an honorary Oscar from her son Nick Cassavetes at the Governors Awards at the Dolby Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Chris Pizzello / Invision / Associated Press

Friday that she would be unable to attend the ceremony.

Reynolds was recognized for her decades-long commitment to various charities, including the mental health organization she founded, the Thalians. Her granddaughter accepted Reynolds’ statuette.

A live band played through-

out the evening, and there were two musical interludes: Zoey Deschanel performed the Oscar-nominated song Reynolds sang in 1958’s “Tammy and the Bachelor.” Aloe Blacc sang “A Change is Gonna Come” as part of Lee’s introduction.

Other famous faces at the

starry dinner included Johnny Depp and wife Amber Heard, Daniel Craig and wife Rachel Weisz, Will Smith, Ice Cube, Mark Ruffalo, Quentin Tarantino, Saoirse Ronan and Michael Caine. Portions of the untelevised ceremony may be included in the 2016 Academy Awards telecast.



Kingdom Kid’s Choir.

Lady Peachena

## Peachena

Continued from page 39

“Almost every day our nation is being rocked with another shooting,” she said, “Another murder, another killing — There’s a war going in our streets, and something must be done about it.”

Like a majority of New Yorkers, she is bothered by the problem.

However, when tragedy visited a member of her Love Fellowship Tabernacle Kingdom Church she acted swiftly to act in her own way.

Reportedly, Andrell Daron Napper — a 21-year-old church member — was shot and killed

while waiting for his cousin at the Marcy Projects in Brooklyn. That tragedy prompted the singer to recruit her church’s children’s choir, Love Fellowship Tabernacle’s Kingdom Kid’s Choir, to join her in a musical campaign to save the children.

With hopes of persuading youth and adults not to resort to violence when there’s a misunderstanding, or a conflict, the song features a mournful plea at the beginning sung by Peachena’s granddaughter Jeniyah Eure.

Compiled with 11 other contemporary Caribbean-tinged, gospel tracks, on a CD titled “Divine Restoration” the first release amplifies her desire for a halt to the proliferation of guns throughout the nation.

## ‘The Angels’ Share’

Continued from page 39

he wrote the book, said, “I decided to write it because I wanted to look at the futility of regret.”

In a statement, Ellis describes a conversation he had with a friend who was in his late sixties recovering from a major surgery. He felt as though he was not going to pull through and when asked what regret he felt he immediately responded, “He wished, he said, he could have gone back over his life as a diplomat, an aristocrat, and a lawyer and undo every moment he had acted superior or aloof.”

This conversation prompted Ellis to craft a story where characters face regret and are offered the second opportunity to instead create a happier memory.

“The Angels’ Share” follows the story of a father and son set in Jamaica. Revolving around the father-and-son characters, “The Angels’ Share” revolves around themes of forgiveness, understanding and closure.

Though Ellis isn’t directly basing the characters on his own experiences, he does admit that through writing this book

he explored his own regrets and memories of those intimate moments he wished he could have had with his father.

“One of the things that I have always understood in my life and put in the story is when the father and son are having dinner and the father says ‘life is nothing but memories.’ Which is what it really is and I think that’s something that’s very close to my personal beliefs,” he explained.

This is Ellis’ sixth novel and the author, despite his busy work schedule, is already working on the third draft of his seventh work. Compared with “The Angels’ Share,” Ellis says the next novel will be more literary in that it requires much more research.

“I’m just finishing the final draft on a new novel. This is about the gang violence in Jamaica and it is about what happens in the communities that are covered by these guns,” he said.

“The Angels’ Share” is available at Akashic Books on Third Street between Third and Fourth avenues at \$15.95 a copy.



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# SPORTS

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## Windies head coach reinstated

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has reinstated Phil Simmons as head coach of the West Indies cricket team after he was suspended last month.

In a statement the WICB said Simmons, a former West Indies all-rounder, has accepted a reprimand from the board and publicly apologized for making inappropriate comments regarding team selection.



Phil Simmons.  
—Associated Press/  
Arnulfo Franco

His reinstatement follows a recent meeting with the WICB Human Resource Committee after a public outburst in which he questioned the make-up of the One-Day International Squad for the tour of Sri Lanka in October and November 2015 and claimed “outside interference” in the selection process. The former Trinidad and Tobago cricketer was upset that

Continued on Page 46

## Narine’s bowling action suspect

By Azad Ali

West Indies mystery off-spinner Sunil Narine has again been reported with a suspect bowling action during the third One-Day International (ODI) against Sri Lanka in Pallekele earlier this month.

Narine finished with figures of 0 for 24 in the Pallekele ODI, which Sri Lanka won by 19 runs based on the Duckworth-Lewis method. The match officials’ report, handed to the West Indies team management after the

Continued on Page 46



# US CRUSHES SVG TEAM

St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Gavin James, right, and United States’ DeAndre Yedlin chase after the ball during the first half of a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, in St. Louis. The United States won 6-1.

Associated Press / Jeff Roberson

## Vincy Heat loses qualifying match

By Nelson A. King

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines national football (soccer) team had some glimmer of hope of beating the mighty United States Friday night in the qualifying stage of their World Cup campaign, but

that hope quickly evaporated with a sound thrashing, 6-1, before over 43,000 fans at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Mo.

Vincian fans – who had trekked via bus, car and plane from the length and breadth of the United

States, but primarily from New York – had their hopes up early when midfielder Oalex Anderson, 20, who plays for Seattle Sounders 2 in the United States’ third division, stunned the massive crowd in just the fifth

Continued on Page 46



Continued from page 45

game, cited concerns about the legality of Narine's deliveries.

The Trinidadian player will need to undergo testing on his action within 14 days but will be permitted to continue bowling until the results of his testing are known.

This is the first time Narine has been reported in an international game, though he has undergone scrutiny of his action during the Indian Premier Leagues (IPL) and the Champions League Twenty20. He was reported twice in two matches during the 2014 edition of the CLT20 forcing him to miss Kolkata Knight Riders' final game against Chennai Super Kings.

Though he was free to bowl in international cricket, West Indies withdrew Narine from their tour of India to allow him "the opportunity to have his action assessed and plan his return to cricket."

West Indies left him out of all their subsequent international assignments until they picked him for the 2015 World Cup. Though he remodeled his action in the interim Narine, pulled out of the tournament, saying his return would be "a little too much too soon."

Narine endured further problems with his action during the 2015 IPL — he was first cleared to bowl in the tournament, but was reported and sent for a re-test, and was banned from bowling his off-breaks, and then cleared again with a "final warning."

The Sri Lanka tour was Narine's first international tournament since August 2014. He picked up four wickets at an average of 18.00 in the three ODIs, while conceding 3.34 runs per over.



West Indies' bowler Sunil Narine. Associated Press / Eranga Jayawardena



Vincy Heat players take a team picture before their battle with the U.S. team at Busch Stadium in Missouri.

Photo by Nelson A. King

## US OUTPLAYS VINCY HEAT

Continued from page 45

minute to give the team, renowned as Vincy Heat, an early lead.

The screams of frenetic Vincentian fans inevitably reverberated across the stadium, but it was short-lived, as the U.S. completely dominated thereafter.

Goals from Bobby Wood, Fabian Johnson and Jozy Altidore gave the U.S. a 3-1 advantage by the halftime interval.

Three more goals on the resumption — from Geoff Cameron, Gyasi Zardes and Altidore — made the U.S. clearly invincible by the final whistle.

Anderson, capitalizing on a poor clearance from Cameron, dribbled around DeAndre Yedlin and banged the ball to left of US goalkeeper Brad Guzan — to the utter consternation of the sell-out U.S. fans but to the delight of the flag-waving, screaming Vincy fans.

But the U.S. quickly composed itself, as Wood, appearing for the eighth time in 2015, ensured the equalizer in the 11th minute by taking advantage of Yedlin's cross, nodding past Vincy Heat's diminutive goal keeper Winslow McDowall.

The U.S. increased the lead in the 29th minute, to the cacophonous sounds of their fans, when Johnson sent a scorcher

low to McDowall's left off a free kick deflection 10 yards outside a the penalty box.

Two minutes later, Altimore headed past McDowall, off a right corner kick, to give the U.S. its third goal, sending the host to a comfortable 3-1 advantage by half-time.

With the U.S. continuing its occupation of Vincy Heat's half of the field, Cameron headed to McDowall's right in the 51st minute from Wood's assist, after Johnson's corner, to increase the lead by the U.S.

The match was now beyond Vincy Heat's grasp, when Zardes, in the 58th minute, slipped through McDowall's legs, putting the U.S. up, 5-1.

Sixteen minutes later, Altidore, scoring his 12th World Cup qualifying goal, sank the final nail in Vincy Heat's coffin, with a high shot to McDowall's right.

Despite their gallant effort, Vincy Heat was totally overwhelmed by the dexterity and fitness of the Americans, and the weather and magnitude of the U.S.' fan-support.

"I feel that we tried our best," striker Tevon Slater, 21, told Caribbean Life in a post-match interview. "The U.S. is more

experienced than us. We tried hard still.

"I think the coldness had a lot to do with it," he added, stating that Vincy Heat will do much better in the return leg in September next year, with better favorable weather conditions.

Still, Assistant Coach Ezra Hendrickson, former Major League Soccer (MLS) defender and current Seattle Sounders FC 2 head coach, said he was "very proud of the boys."

"We started very well," he said, adding, however, that "the lack of concentration cost us three soft goals. They (U.S.) didn't have to work very hard for their goals.

"The weather will always have a part to play," Hendrickson continued. "We never expected this margin [of defeat], because we came here to win the game. But, all said and done, I'm proud of the boys."

Hendrickson disclosed that three of his team's better players also missed the match — Emral George, and Myron Samuel and Cornelius Stewart through injury.

"I believe if we had a full squad, it would have been better," he said.

Former national football captain and Head Coach of Team SVG in the Brooklyn-based Caribbean Soccer Cup, Stanley "Luxie" Morris, told Caribbean Life that weather conditions also played a key role in the team's defeat.

He, however, said there were "three fundamental errors" that contributed to the heavy loss.

"Nobody backed the back post," said the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Ambassador. "Four of the goals were set pieces. The tallest players should be at the back post.

"We missed three players — Stewart, Samuel and George," Morris added. "That game was a ready-made game for Myron Samuel."

## Windies

Continued from page 45

all-rounder Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard, whose services are in high demand in Twenty20 leagues around the world, failed to make the West Indies One-Day International squad.

Simmons took over as West Indies coach following the 2015 World Cup. He is now expected to lead the Carib-

bean side in their series in Australia next month.

The WICB also announced plans to launch an investigation into the allegations made by Simmons and take the "necessary and appropriate action."

"Going forward, and as a separate matter, the WICB will immediately investigate the allegations made by Simmons, and take the necessary and appropriate action following this investigation," the statement said.



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# Erasmus back in business

By Brandon Mauk

This win was vintage Erasmus Hall.

The sixth-seeded Dutchmen put the struggles that plagued the end of their regular season behind them and recaptured a bit of their former glory when they routed No. 12 DeWitt Clinton 43-26 in the first round of the Public School Athletic League City conference playoffs at Sid Luckman Field in Midwood on Nov. 13. The team has turned over a new leaf after a weak ending to its regular season, its quarterback said.

"Everybody's back on board," Erasmus quarterback Aaron Grant said. "We're finally at full effect, offense and defense."

A series of injuries caused the Erasmus's offense to sputter towards the end of the regular season, and the team lost two of its last three games.

It scored just 12 points combined in its previous two home games against a pair of unbeaten squads — only beating Clin-

ton 25-14 on Oct. 10. The poor performance forced head coach Danny Landberg to be more hands-on with the offense, he said.

"I just had to put it on myself and call the game from now on," Landberg said. "I haven't been calling it this season. We were a little bit out of our sync and rhythm."

Clinton scored first after returning the opening kickoff to the 3-yard line. Edward Nunez capitalized on the good placement and ran in the touchdown. In the midst of this offensive funk, it was definitely not how Erasmus wanted to start the game, but it didn't matter.

The Dutchmen (8-3) offense clicked right away with a 10-play, 68-yard drive that Jahquel Webb capped with a 13-yard touchdown run, putting his team up 8-6.

Two possessions later, the game had taken a decided turn for Erasmus — a pair of sacks and a blocked punt by Daevon



In charge: Erasmus running back Dejouree Addison powered his way into the end zone for a three-yard touchdown, his first of three scores against DeWitt Clinton on Nov. 14.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Alvarez left Erasmus at the Clinton 25-yard line early in the second quarter. Running back Dejouree Addison took over the game after that.

Addison powered his way into the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown — his first of three scores — and a two-point conversion to increase Erasmus's lead to 16-6. Another 5-yard touchdown and a two-point conversion brought the score to 24-6 midway

through the second quarter.

Addison was motivated to prove that Erasmus's offensive struggles were in the rearview mirror, he said.

"It's playoff time," Addison said. "We're ready to get out of there and everybody keeps taking us as a joke, that was time to show the city we can play ball!"

Clinton (5-6) got back into the game before the end of the first half on a touchdown run by

quarterback Dashown Wilson Jr. to make it 24-12.

But Erasmus's Nelson Tyler reclaimed the lead cushion with a 14-yard run in the opening drive of the second half.

The Nunez tallied another for the Governors, but the Dutchmen responded by driving 95 yards and nailing a 38-yard touchdown pass from Grant to Sean Ryan to put Erasmus up 37-18.

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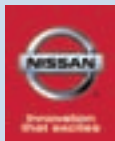
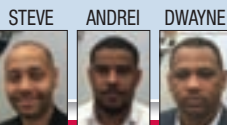
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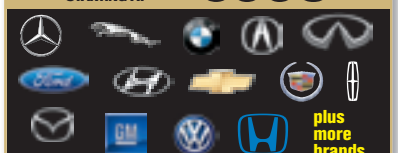
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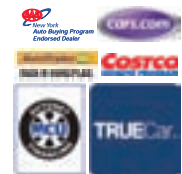
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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, things go well this week, but expect a few bumps along the way as well. Learn how to clear these hurdles and you will stay on track.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, keep your eye on the prize, resisting the temptation to get swept up in distractions. The longer you can maintain your focus this week, the more likely you are to be successful.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Luck puts you in the path of someone you have been anxious to meet, Gemini. Use this opportunity this week to ask all the questions you have been wanting to ask.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Persistence is your best ally this week, Cancer. When others give up early, you have the tenacity to continue. Don't be surprised if others notice your hard work.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Other people appreciate your ability to put a positive spin on things, Leo. Use that talent to help two friends overcome their differences in the next week.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Keep an open mind when someone comes to you with a suggestion, Virgo. Even though you are quick to dismiss it outright, give it a second thought.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, some big challenges are coming your way, but it's not anything you can't handle. However, you may need to bring in some reinforcements. Enlist some friends to help out.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, after many weeks of putting in your best effort at work and at home, it very well may be time to take a break. Here's a chance to book a vacation before the holiday rush.


**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, even though you are quite persuasive, you cannot always make miracles happen. If someone isn't moved by your call to action, don't take it personally.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, there's not much more you can pile onto your plate without it tipping over. This week lighten your load by asking family to help. They are more than willing.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Make an effort to restore some order to your finances, Aquarius. It may be time to curtail your spending, but a close examination of your finances won't cause much panic.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, some mysterious news has piqued your curiosity, and now you may not be sure which direction to go for a few days.

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