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His cheek wet with tears, President Barack Obama recalls the 20 first-graders killed in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School, while speaking in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016, about steps his administration is taking to reduce gun violence.

Associated Press / Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Obama's new executive actions

By Nelson A. King

U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) and Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams on Tuesday welcomed President Obama's new executive actions to reduce gun violence and make communities safer.

"With this historic action, President Obama

has taken a significant step toward making America a safer place," said Jeffries, whose 8th Congressional District includes parts of Brooklyn and Queens.

He noted that, over the past decade, more than 100,000 Americans have been killed as

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GUYANA TO PUMP OIL SOON

Exxon to drill second well for newest Latin producer

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyana, the Caribbean trade group nation which has long been known to be the one blessed with the most natural resources of its regional neighbors, is setting to become Latin America's newest oil and gas producer sooner than most people would dare to think.

Back in May, Exxon Mobil, which has had a large offshore concession declared a humongous oil and gas find in a field about 120 miles offshore Guyana triggering jubilation in the country of less than a million people, a nation that will soon be very rich from all appearances.

In the past week, officials from Exxon's Houston, Texas headquarters, flew by private jet to

Georgetown for talks with President David Granger and other top officials.

The American delegation included Stephen Greenlee, the president of Exxon who Guyanese government officials had said late last year that they are very happy to see.

This is because they wanted to discuss the issue of Guyana drawing down up to \$2B even before a drop of oil is pumped to fund a string of development projects across the country — roads, rural and hinterland electrification and an asphalted 350-mile jungle road to Brazil.

Officials this week were reluctant to talk about the frontload-

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Agnes M. Abraham.

Medgar Evers College

Medgar Evers mourns death of activist

By Nelson A. King

The predominantly Black Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, which boasts a high percentage of Caribbean students, is mourning the passing of Dominican-born community activist Agnes M. Abraham.

Abraham, a former student of the school, died on Dec. 22. She was 56. No reason was given for her death.

The college said in a statement on Wednesday that Abraham, a “long-time community leader,” died at her Brooklyn home. “Ms. Abraham was not only a friend to those who knew her but was a fierce and dynamic advocate for many she never met,” said the statement, stating that Abraham served as chairperson of the Council of Community Advisory Boards of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), now NYC Health and Hospitals, the largest public healthcare system in the United States.

She was also chairperson of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) at the sprawling Kings County Hospital Center in Central Brooklyn. CABs are the public’s direct connection to the planning, program development and service delivery at HHC facilities around the New York City, the college said.

Before graduating from Medgar Evers College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration, Abraham served for three years on the Student Government Association (SGA): Two-terms as SGA president (2002-2004) and one-year as Senior Class President (2004-2005).

“As a student-representative in the SGA, she was a change agent that worked tirelessly to support the growth of the institution,” the college said.

Additionally, Abraham served as the chairperson of the University Student Senate and, by virtue of this role, sat on the City University of New York’s (CUNY) Board of Trustees as an ex-officio student trustee.

Kelly’s comments on crime ‘a low blow’: Bichotte

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte has described as “a low blow” recent comments made by former New York Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner Raymond Kelly that the department, now under new leadership, is engaged in falsifying crime statistics.

Kelly claimed that the lower crime rates reported by the de Blasio administration have “some issues.”

“In fact, New York is becoming a safer place to live because of our current Mayor and our current Police Commissioner [William J. Bratton],” said Bichotte, the first ever Haitian American from New York City to be elected to the State Legislature, in a Caribbean Life interview.

“I applaud the current administration’s efforts to lower crime,” added the representative for the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn. “Such comments by former Commissioner Kelly are a low blow to our police officers who make our streets safe.”

Bichotte said the Mayor’s report that crime was lower by 4 percent this past year “is a statistic that I feel personally as a NYC resident.

“The fact that the unconstitutional use of stop, question and frisk is down, along with overall crime is something to celebrate,” she said. “Also, while I am not intimately familiar with the data, I am confident in the Mayor’s integrity, and stand by him.”

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, a former NYPD sergeant, said it was “patently offensive” for Kelly to suggest that the NYPD is in any way involved with falsifying crime statistics.



Rodneyse Bichotte.

Rodneyse Bichotte

“The fact that there is no proof to this spurious charge is fitting with his history of lobbing rhetorical bombs behind the shade of tabloid covers, while falling silent under the scrutiny of truth,” said an outraged Adams.

During the Floyd trial, Adams said

Kelly had a chance to testify under oath, “in front of the world, in response to his regime’s use of stop and frisk.

“Instead, he ducked,” said Adams, adding that “the evidence shows that when Ray Kelly had the chance to back up his media bloviating, he didn’t take it.”

City Council passes Heights Library project

By Nelson A. King

The full New York City Council has approved the plan to build a new Brooklyn Heights Library.

“The City Council’s approval of the Brooklyn Heights Library project is a victory for the thousands of Brooklyn residents who rely on their public libraries for essential programs, services and resources,” said Linda E. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Brooklyn Public Library (BPL).

The Brooklyn Heights community will now have the largest branch library in the borough, with robust programming, extended hours, enhanced business and technology services, and a new library in the neighborhoods of DUMBO / Vinegar Hill / Farragut,” she added.

Johnson said the benefits extend to

communities throughout the borough, “as BPL will now be able to deliver much-needed funding for other branches in disrepair.

“We are grateful for the leadership of Council Member Steve Levin and the support of the entire City Council, and we look forward to bringing this important development to fruition,” she added.

Johnson said the new Brooklyn Heights library will be 26,620 feet, expanded 24 percent from 21,500 square feet.

The library, which will be open seven days per week, will be one of the largest in Brooklyn, providing more usable space for the neighborhood than the existing branch, she said.

She said a brand new 5,000 square foot library will be created to serve the

DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, and Farragut Houses communities, representing the first expansion of the Brooklyn Public Library system since the Cortelyou branch was added in 1983.

Johnson said an interim library will be built out at 95 Remsen St. just five blocks from the existing branch.

Designed by renowned architecture firm Leven Betts, the library will include robust programming and regular hours to ensure that Brooklyn Heights experiences uninterrupted library service in a facility that meets its needs, Johnson said. She disclosed that 9,000 square feet in the new building at Cadman Plaza West will be set aside for dedicated STEM education labs administered by the NYC Department of Education and serving students in Community School District.

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who was under pressure to report on the nation's Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP), has revealed CIP passports "sold" has surpassed 800.

Speaking in Parliament recently, he failed to deliver the report as stipulated under the CIP, but committed to doing so in January 2016 as he gave a limited update on the program and the first since his last statement in June.



"June to Dec. 16 this year saw 194 applications and the granting in excess of 300 passports under the program" according to the prime minister.

"We have actually had 194 applications and these are applications as opposed to passports, as in some instances you may have one individual that forms part of an application, or it may be four individuals, it could be a family, husband and wife and two children," he said.

Bahamas

A major drug bust by Drug Enforcement Officers in The Bahamas has netted a stash of 1,449 pounds of cocaine on the island of Bimini.

The seizure was made two days before Christmas and a 41-year-old American man was arrested and charged.

Jose Ramon Diaz, of Miami, Florida was remanded in prison when he appeared in court on Christmas Eve and pleaded not guilty to possession of dangerous drugs with intent



to supply, importation of dangerous drugs, conspiracy to import dangerous drugs and conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

Police say that a team of officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) assisted by their counterparts from the U.S. Drug Enforcement (DEA) conducted a search of a yacht moored in Bimini — the closest Bahamian island to the U.S., located about 50 miles off Florida's coast- and found the huge stash of drugs.

Diaz, who was on the boat, was subsequently arrested. He faces a maximum of seven years in prison.

Barbados

The Barbados government is moving to pass legislation to amend the Value Added (TAX) to allow for a 22 percent tax on voice and other transmission from cell phones.

Finance Minister Chris Sinckler told legislators recently that the tax, which goes into effect from Jan. 1, 2016 will raise BDS\$14 million (US\$7 million) annually that would go towards funding



Citizenship by investment

Prime Minister Gaston Alphonso Browne of Antigua and Barbuda addresses the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press / Jason DeCrow

university scholarships.

Sinckler said the proposed changes are meant to "increase the efficiency of tax administration, provide for the imposition of Value Added Tax on certain mobile services and enhance the enforcement provisions in the act and for related matters".



He said the range of services to be covered by the new levy included use of Internet and other transmissions that facilitate email, Whatsapp, Skype and much more.

The finance minister explained that despite the recognized need to fund education, government was cautious in approaching taxation on mobile services.

Cuba

Cuba ended 2015 with an encouraging development in the tourist sector, which was able to inject more than two billion dollars a year into the economy.

According to preliminary data, from January to November, 3,139,837 people traveled to the communist country, equivalent to a 17.6 percent growth compared to the figure recorded for the same period in 2014.

That figure exceeded the total amount of foreigners who arrived in the island last year (3,002,745). And this



confirms the possibility of breaking, for the second consecutive time, the record in international visitors to Cuba.

There has been a determination to convert Cuba into a major tourist destination in the Caribbean, with promotional campaigns and measures to raise the quality of the tourism product.

A year ago, the presidents of Cuba and the United States announced their intention to move towards normalization of relations. Since then, the flow of tourists to the island has not stopped growing.

In summer, (May to September), considered the low season for international tourism on the island, average arrivals increased by nearly 22 percent. In fact, traditional winter markets also grew during this period.

Grenada

Grenada is on alert in light of confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) virus in Trinidad and Tobago, including three deaths and 29 confirmed cases up to Dec. 15, 2015.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. George Mitchell said the country's disease surveillance system is on alert for the Influenza A (H1N1) virus — also known as swine flu in Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh confirmed 29



cases of the swine flu in T&T with four deaths.

Mitchell said the ministry had no choice but to keep its response and surveillance systems heightened to protect Grenadian citizens.

"Our choice at this time is the best choice — that is, to implement all necessary measures that are legal and in keeping with International Health standards to protect our citizens as best as we can," he said.

H1N1 symptoms include cough, fever, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, body aches, chills and fatigue.

Guyana

The Guyana government is not in favor of extending the time allocated for the Chairman of the Walter Rodney Commission of Enquiry to complete and submit its reports.

Governance Minister Raphael Trotman told a post-Cabinet briefing that President David Granger was not in favor of granting an extension.

Recently, the chairman of the Commission of Enquiry (COE), Dr. Sir David Richard L. Cheltenham wrote to the president seeking another adjournment to submit the report of the Commission's findings.

According to Trotman, the president, in his best judgement and taking every-



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Guyana readies for oil, gas production



Guyana's President David Arthur Granger addresses the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. Headquarters, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015.

Associated Press / Richard Drew, File

Continued from cover

ing of money from the global oil giant but one thing was clear from interviews with delegation members who met with Greenlee and his team.

They say that Exxon has given local authorities every indication that actual production of oil and gas could begin in what industry officials say would be record time — 2017, less than two years after the confirmed discovery of a commercial find.

“There is every reason for optimism on this issue,” said Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo. “My impression from the discussions is that oil will be extracted well, long before the next general elections in 2020,” he said, responding to a specific question about a timeline.

When, not if, Guyana begins to pump and export oil and gas, it will join Trinidad and Suriname as major oil producers among the 15 nations in the Caribbean Community group of nations. Barbados has a small developing on land producing industry and others such as the Bahamas and Grenada are waking up to the very real possibility that oil and gas might be nearer than they think as these countries are surrounded

by oil and gas producers.

In the case of the Bahamas, it is near the Gulf of Mexico, while Grenada is neighbor of Trinidad, which has been pumping oil for more than 100 years and has large gas deposits as well.

The company is forging ahead despite soft international prices per barrel of oil

“My impression from the discussions is that oil will be extracted well, long before the next general elections in 2020.”

because it is now cheaper to lease equipment, drilling and exploration rigs as many companies around the world have either scaled back production or closed off for the while, freeing up equipment at cheaper than normal rates.

The declaration by Exxon has sparked worldwide interest in a basin that the U.S. Geological Surveys had long said was one of the largest virgin areas in the world. Several other companies including Repsol of Spain have applied for concession blocks adjacent to that of Exxon.

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Jeffries, Williams back Obama



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., walks down the House steps on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

Associated Press / CQ Roll Call / Bill Clark

Continued from cover

a result of gun violence.

“Many of these crimes were committed by people who never should have been able to purchase a gun in the first place,” said Jeffries, a key member of the House of Representatives’ Judiciary Committee and Congressional Black Caucus leadership.

“The overwhelming majority of Americans agree that every single person who purchases a gun should undergo a thorough background check,” he added. “House Republicans have done nothing to advance gun safety legislation, and continue to function as wholly-owned subsidiaries of the gun lobby.”

“Enough is enough,” Jeffries continued. “It’s time for Congress to act.”

Williams, deputy leader of the City Council, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, commended the president for taking action to reduce the supply of illegal guns throughout our country.

“It is clear the president has a difficult task and is working against a Republican Congress owned by the NRA (National Rifle Association),” he said. “Still, he must move even further.”

As co-chair of the City Council’s Task Force to Combat Gun Violence, and as convener of the National Network to Combat Gun Violence, Williams said he knows “there are immediate steps we can take at all levels of government to actually address the demand for guns and violence.”

“The city can, and must, continue and increase its efforts to tackle the conditions that lead to violence,” he said. “Our young people need access to jobs, and we need increased funding for programs, such as the Crisis Management System, proven effective at combating violence and creating safer, supportive communities.”

“We have a responsibility to confront gun violence and take meaningful and immediate action, our city and our families depend on it,” Williams added.

Hope for stranded Cubans

By Nelson A. King

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, has welcomed the agreement reached by Mexican and Central America authorities allowing the passage of thousands of Cuban migrants to the United States.

“The humanitarian situation of the Cuban migrants required a quick and integral solution, and this agreement facilitates that,” said Almagro on Tuesday.

“We have to congratulate the diplomatic efforts made by the countries involved,” he added. “They have taken a giant step forward.”

Almagro, who had followed the process closely, also recognized the role played by Pope Francis in urging a solution to the crisis.

He stressed that “migrants have the same rights as other citizens,” adding that those rights are “valid regardless of the administrative situation of the migrants.”

The secretary general offered the support of the OAS to protect migration in the hemisphere against human trafficking, and to develop the agreement reached on Monday in Guatemala by Mexico and six Central American countries.

Almagro also reiterated the need to protect migrants throughout their route, according to the OAS.

Meantime, as Cubans continue to arrive in South Florida in droves, a deal that allows thousands stranded in Costa Rica to complete their journey to the U.S. has relatives scrambling to come up with more money to help, according to Local 10 TV News in Miami.

Under the U.S.’ “wet foot, dry foot” policy, Cubans reaching U.S. shores are allowed to stay in the country but those caught at sea are repatriated.

The new deal will allow Cuban migrants to travel to Mexico and ride a bus to the U.S., Local 10 said.

“We are very, very happy with the news,” said Cuban migrant Reynier Garces in Spanish.

He was among the now estimated 8,000 who were stuck after Nicaragua closed its border on Nov. 13.

Some 250 Cubans were expected to fly from San Jose, Costa Rica to San Salvador, Salvador, before the year ends, according to Local 10.

The television station said they will ride a bus from Guatemala through Mexico, “which has been aggressively trying to stop Central Americans on their way to the US.”

Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador and Guatemala were among the signatory nations in the new deal, Local 10 said.



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Foreign Direct Investment: Myths and realities

By Yilmaz Akyüz

Yilmaz Akyüz is the chief economist of the South Centre, Geneva. <http://www.southcentre.int/>

GENEVA, Dec 29 2015 (IPS) - Foreign direct investment (FDI) is perhaps one of the most ambiguous and the least understood concepts in international economics. Common debate on FDI is confounded by several myths regarding its nature and impact on capital accumulation, technological progress, industrialization and growth in emerging and developing economies.

It is often portrayed as a long term, stable, cross-border flow of capital that adds to productive capacity, helps meet balance-of-payments shortfalls, transfers technology and management skills, and links domestic firms with wider global markets.

However, none of these is an intrinsic quality of FDI. First, FDI is more about transfer and exercise of control than movement of capital. Contrary to widespread perception, it does not always involve flows of financial capital (movements of funds through foreign exchange markets) or real capital (imports of machinery and equipment for the installation of productive capacity). A large proportion of FDI does not entail cross-border capital flows but is financed from incomes generated on the

existing stock of investment in host countries. Equity and loans from parent companies account for a relatively small part of recorded FDI and even a smaller part of total foreign assets controlled by transnational corporations.

Second, only the so-called greenfield investment makes a direct contribution to productive capacity and involves cross-border movement of capital goods. But it is not easy to identify from reported statistics what proportion of FDI consists of such investment as opposed to transfer of ownership of existing firms (mergers and acquisitions). Furthermore, even when FDI is in bricks and mortar, it may not add to aggregate gross fixed capital formation because it may crowd out domestic investors.

Third, what is commonly known and reported as FDI may contain speculative components and creates destabilizing impulses, including those due to the operation of transnational banks in host countries, which need to be controlled and managed as any other form of international capital flows.

Fourth, the immediate contribution of FDI to balance-of-payments may be positive, since it is only partly absorbed by imports of capital goods required to install production

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2016: The forthcoming adjustment shock

By Isabel Ortiz

Isabel Ortiz, is the director of the Social Protection Department at the International Labour Organization (ILO).

GENEVA, Dec 10 2015 (IPS) - Analysis of the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) expenditure projections for 187 countries between 2005 and 2020 reveals that there have been two distinct phases of government spending patterns since the onset of the global economic crisis.

During the first phase (2008-09) many countries introduced fiscal stimulus and expanded public spending as a countercyclical measure to cushion the impacts of the global crisis on their populations. Overall, 137 countries (or 73 per cent of the world) ramped up expenditure, with the average annual expansion amounting to 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). About 50 high and middle-income countries announced fiscal stimulus packages totalling US\$2.4 trillion, of which approximately a quarter was invested in social protection measures.

The second period of crisis (2010 onwards) is marked by fiscal adjustment. In 2010, premature budget cuts became widespread, despite the ongoing and urgent need of vulnerable populations for public support.

This phase is characterized by two major contractionary shocks, the first occurring in 2010-11 and the second expected to hit in 2016 and continue at least until 2020.

According to IMF projections, 2016 marks the beginning of a second, major period of expenditure contraction globally.

According to IMF projections, 2016 marks the beginning of a second, major period of expenditure contraction globally. Overall, budget reductions are expected to impact 132 countries in 2016 in terms of GDP and hover around this level until 2020. Developing world will be the most severely affected. Overall, 81 developing countries, on average, are projected to cut public spending during the forthcoming shock versus 45 high-income countries. Expenditure contraction is expected to impact more than two-thirds of all countries annually, affecting more than six billion persons or nearly 80 per cent of the global population by 2020.

A review of recent IMF reports indicates that governments are weighing various adjustment measures, as summarized below.

Eliminating or reducing subsidies: Overall, 132 governments in 97 developing and 35 high-income countries are reducing subsidies, predominately on fuel, but also on electricity, food and agriculture. The Middle East, North- and Sub-Saharan Africa are the regions being hardest hit.

Wage bill cuts/caps: as

recurrent expenditures like salaries of teachers, health workers and local civil servants tend to be the largest component of national budgets, an estimated 130 governments in 96 developing and 34 high-income countries are considering to contain the wage bill, often as a part of civil service reforms.

Rationalizing and further targeting social safety nets: overall, 107 governments in 68 developing and 39 high-income countries are considering rationalizing their spending on welfare, often by revising eligibility criteria and targeting to the poorest, reducing social protection coverage. IMF country reports generally associate targeting with poverty reduction, as a way to reconcile poverty reduction with austerity; however, targeting risks excluding large segments of vulnerable and low income households. Rather than targeting and scaling-down to achieve cost savings over the short term, there is a strong case for scaling up social protection for all.

Reforming old-age pensions: approximately 105 governments in 60 developing and 45 high-income countries are discussing changes to their pension systems, such as through raising contribution rates, increasing eligibility periods, prolonging the retirement age, lowering benefits, sometimes structural reforms of contributory social security pensions. As a result, future pensioners are expected to receive lower benefits.

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Caribbean Life

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They knowingly suppressed economic reality

Trinidad and Tobago's petro-driven economy, having been traditionally regarded as a Caribbean gold standard, recent news of very troubling jitters on the economic front cannot but generate real concern, even well beyond the country's borders. In truth, the fact that the nation, so used to a buoyant economic climate, needed to brace itself for some shockwaves, was a caution that should have been sounded well before the government changed hands last September. With the precipitous decline in oil and gas prices on the world market, negative impact on the country's economic well being was a given. Leave it to the Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration, before it was ousted, to have barefacedly insisted that everything would be just fine.

The record of the Bissessar government was so chock-full of iniquitous conduct, there would probably be many willing to cite actions taken during the five-year term that were as reprehensible, if not more so, as deliberately misleading the populace on worrisome economic developments. Still, there's no trivializing how dastardly is withhold-

ing the real deal about major energy sector changes adversely affecting people's livelihoods. What's even more preposterous, though, is Bissessar's continuing, even today, to maintain that there was nothing wrong with her government's handling of the reversed economic fortunes her government came to face. And that included no relent in the government's profligate ways, clearly indifferent to what the changing times dictated.

In our several well-deserved jabs at the Bissessar administration, while it prolonged its orgy of recklessly abusing the privilege of governance, we regularly settled on "brazen" as most aptly defining the moral tenor of the regime in power. Perhaps it shouldn't surprise us that "brazen" is no less evident in the M.O. of Bissessar and her minions after having been shown the door by the Trinidad and Tobago electorate. Errol Pilgrim, columnist for Trinidad and Tobago's weekly Mirror, summed up Bissessar's election aftermath behavior as pressing on "with one inanity after the other." One of which being her peculiar conclusion that a recent Standard &

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

Poor's rating downgrade for the country, from stable to negative, was a vindication of her government's economic policies. And if that's not brazen, heaven only knows what is. The Standard & Poor's action, by the way, coming after Moody's had also announced a downgrade, while Bissessar and company were still calling the shots.

It had become well established fairly early in the life of the Bissessar government, that scruples were in very short supply. Touted as reflecting the government's adherence to moral high ground, the firing of one cabinet member in the regime's infancy for an alleged conflict of interest indiscretion was soon recognized to have been all the way a farce, given the wall-to-wall corrupt practices that became business as usual. Moral failings were indeed overwhelmingly why voters deemed the incumbents unfit to any long-

er walk the corridors of power. The taint of unprecedented corruption had rested heavily on the Bissessar crew since midway through their tenure, and the results of a series of local elections had underscored the disenchantment in the public square. With a gauge of popular sentiment about her administration that was so crystal clear, a strategy of concentrated focus on Bissessar personally and somehow selling her as disconnected from her government's enormous baggage was pretty strange as a campaign tactic, hardly becoming the homerun it was crafted to be. Likewise has Bissessar been baffling, in this post-election frame, still seemingly wedded to the idea that her very presence is up to the challenge of reconfiguring ingrained public perception of her unflattering stint at the helm. Her nonsensical response about the bond rating downgrade being "a vindication" classically illustrates the alternate universe she has inhabited before and since her election defeat.

Wherever in the political arena gracelessness is readily identifiable in the package

anyone presents, who aspires to standout achievement as a player, the chances of attaining such heights are markedly diminished. On the American scene, for the past seven years we have seen gracelessness in spades, in the disrespect shown President Obama by many in the Republican / Tea Party ranks. In Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar has "distinguished" herself as capable of gracelessness comparable with anyone, anywhere. A telling indicator of how she would treat with the administration that replaced hers was her refusal to congratulate incoming Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley on election night...not to mention a refusal to address even her own party supporters.

Trinidad and Tobago's new economic challenges — to which, beyond energy sector problems, the Bissessar administration's policies ably contributed — would, in the best of worlds, require of Bissessar, in the national interest, perhaps her finest demonstration of statecraft. No one is fool enough, though, to entertain those expectations.

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Bilateral investment treaties

Continued from page 10

capacity. But its longer-term impact is often negative because of high import content of foreign firms and profit remittances. This is true even in countries highly successful in attracting export-oriented FDI.

Finally, superior technology and management skills of transnational corporations create an opportunity for the diffusion of technology and ideas. However, the competitive advantage these firms have over newcomers in developing countries can also drive them out of business. They can help integrate developing countries into global production networks, but participation in such networks also carries the risk of getting locked into low value-added activities.

These do not mean that FDI does not offer any benefits to developing and emerging countries. Rather, policy in host countries plays a key role in determining the impact of FDI in these areas. A laissez-faire approach could not yield much benefit. It may in fact do more harm than good.

Successful examples are found not necessarily among countries that attracted more FDI, but among those which used it in the context of national industrial policy designed to shape the evolution of specific industries through interventions. This means that developing countries need adequate policy space vis-à-vis FDI and transnational corporations if they are to benefit from it.

Still, the past two decades have seen a rapid liberalization of FDI regimes and erosion of policy space in emerging

and developing countries vis-à-vis transnational corporations. This is partly due to the commitments undertaken in the World Trade Organization as part of the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures.

However, many of the more serious constraints are in practice self-inflicted through unilateral liberalisation or bilateral investment treaties signed with more advanced economies – a process that appears to be going ahead with full force, with the universe of investment agreements reaching 3,262 at the end of 2014.

Unlike earlier bilateral treaties, recent agreements give significant leverage to international investors. They often include rights to establishment, the national treatment and the most favoured-nation clauses, broad definitions of investment and investors, fair and equitable treatment, protection from expropriation, free transfers of capital and prohibition of performance requirements.

Furthermore, the reach of bilateral investment treaties has extended rapidly thanks to the use of the so-called Special Purpose Entities which allow transnational corporations from countries without a bilateral treaty with the destination country to make the investment through an affiliate incorporated in a third-party state with a bilateral treaty with the destination country.

Many bilateral investment treaties include provisions that free foreign investors from the obligation of having to exhaust local legal remedies in disputes with host countries before seeking international arbitration.

Progressive tax

Continued from page 10

Labour market flexibilization is being discussed by 89 governments in 49 developing and 40 high-income countries. Reforms include revising the minimum wage, limiting salary adjustments to cost of living benchmarks, decentralizing collective bargaining, and easing firing and compensation arrangements at the enterprise level. Labour market reforms are supposedly aimed at increasing competitiveness and supporting businesses during recessions. However, available evidence suggests that labour market flexibilization will not generate decent jobs. On the contrary, in a context of economic contraction, this approach is likely to generate labour market “precarization,” depress domestic incomes/demand and ultimately hinder recovery efforts.

Reforming health systems: 56 governments in 34 developing and 22 high-income countries are discussing

reforms to their healthcare systems, generally through increasing fees and co-payments as well as by introducing cost-saving measures in public health centres.

Increasing consumption taxes on goods and services. Some 138 governments in 93 developing and 45 high-income countries are considering options to boost revenue by raising VAT or sales tax rates or removing exemptions. However, increasing the cost of basic goods and services can erode the already limited incomes of vulnerable households and stifle economic activity. Alternatively, progressive tax approaches should be considered, such as taxes on income, inheritance, property and corporations, including the financial sector.

Privatization of public assets and services: according to IMF reports, this revenue generation approach is being pondered by 55 governments in 40 developing and 15 high-income countries.

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A municipal identification for all New Yorkers

By **Tequila Minsky**

You've got another year to get your free municipal I.D.

The City is extending its sign-up schedule for its City municipal I.D. program—IDNYC—into 2016, a second year.

The I.D. provides official identification for those who previously do not have government issued identification and enables the holder to get into government and other buildings including public schools that require an I.D. Instituted in 2015, the program is an initiative of the Mayor's Office.

Mayor deBlasio said at the original launch, "This I.D. addresses substantially the notion that we all matter and everyone has an identity." The I.D. is open to all New Yorkers including undocumented, elderly, homeless, vets, and transgender.

Enrollment centers have been set up in some libraries and many other sites around the city.

While proof of New York residency is a requirement, immigration status is not information that is asked. Knowing someone has a municipal I.D. would not indicate they are

undocumented immigrants, since the I.D. is available to all New Yorkers.

"If you're calling about a municipal I.D., call 311" is the first thing a caller hears on the voicemail of immigrant advocacy group Make The Road New York, proof that getting the IDNYC is encouraged. Twenty percent of applicable residents in Corona Park, a richly immigrant neighborhood, have IDNYC. One out of 10 Queens residents have IDNYC.

Rosemary Boeglin from the Mayor's Office said, "We know that immigrant New Yorkers have been some of the first and most eager applicants across the five boroughs."

As of Fall 2015, 52 percent of the 311 inquiries in regards to IDNYC were in non-English: Spanish accounts for 88 percent of the non-English, with Mandarin next (4.6 percent of non-English) followed by Cantonese, Russian, Korean, Haitian Creole, Hindi, and other languages.

More than 700,000 New Yorkers across the city have thus far received one. There are many other benefits beyond just identification that are

attached to the card, which adds to its popularity.

The perk that attracts a large swath of New Yorkers is a free membership package at the City's leading cultural institutions, an added seven more than last year.

The American Museum of Natural History, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Flushing Town Hall, the Staten Island Zoo, and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens are among the 40 cultural institutions offering free memberships. Metropolitan Opera, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art are also on the list.

Joining at each individual institution, cultural memberships redeemed through IDNYC will be good for one year from the date the membership benefit is redeemed. Institutions have different protocols for enrolling members—check with the participating institution.

The IDNYC Card also enables one to open a bank or credit account at more than a dozen financial institutions across New York City. The card can be integrated with your



IDNYC, the City's municipal ID, is delivered by mail (two to three weeks after you apply) with a brochure that describes some of the benefits.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

library account at the New York, Brooklyn and Queens Public Library Systems. Additionally, the cardholder can receive special entertainment eg. movie or Broadway show on-line offers. Also there are discounts with Citi Bike and the NYC Parks Dept. recreation centers. www.nyc.gov/idnyc/benefits.

Good for five years, IDNYC is a permanent program, written into City Law.

On his visit to New York, on September 15, 2015, the Pope, Pope Francis Bergoglio was issued an honorary IDNYC.

For an appointment to sign up: <https://idnyc.appointment-plus.com/>.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

thing into consideration, said the COE had been "an agonizing and to some extent painful."

He said the country could not just keep giving extensions for something that has gone on for over two years and that was instead meant to last for several months.

Dr. Rodney, a Guyanese historian was killed in his brother's car outside the Georgetown Prison on June 13, 1980 when a bomb in a walkie talkie exploded.

The enquiry has cost Guyanese taxpayers Guy\$400 million.

The previous Bharath Jagdeo administration had said the inquiry was necessary to allow Guyana to heal after some 30 years of uncertainty concerning Dr. Rodney's death and to give his family closure.

St. Kitts

Former depositors of the defunct Bank of Commerce that went into bankruptcy in 1985 have started recovering their money.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris who said depositors will get what they put in, plus a 2.5 percent on their balances, through the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla National Bank.



In wrapping up the 2016 budget in the National Assembly last week, Dr. Harris said the bank is expected to pay out EC\$18 million (US\$6.7 million) to former clients. Between 5,000 and 6,000 people are expected to benefit from the payout.

The prime minister said that after three decades, he is pleased that the resolution could come under his Team Unity Government.

The Bank of Commerce has been in Liquidation since May 9, 1985, following a court order granted in response to a petition filed on Feb. 2, 1985, by the Social Security Board (SSB), one of the financial institutions creditors.

Earlier this year, Harris said that a court settlement had finally been reached.

As a result, the SSB will receive about EC\$1.4 million (US\$518,518) and the government, which had a substantial investment in the bank, will get EC\$1.2 million (US\$444,444).

Trinidad

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley wants to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago does not have to govern under conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said the government wanted to avoid "the final option, where decisions are made for you by the lender of last resort." "We don't want that at all," he said during an interview on a local radio station recently.



"We want to ensure that we are not governing by austerity measures and restrictions (that) equals IMF. And if we don't manage our affairs properly, we could end up in a situation where we don't have options," Dr. Rowley said.

"When our revenues have collapsed in the way oil and gas revenues have collapsed in this country, we have to respond to these circumstances," he added.

Rowley warned that countries in our situation that don't make the economic adjustments themselves and "postpone the day, hoping that the next sunrise would change things on its own" end up having to accept "the final (IMF) option."

-compiled by Azad Ali

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Hand-knit with love by NY grandmothers

By Tequila Minsky

Fort Greene resident, Yvonne is a 96-year-old grandmother from Jamaica and the first knitter who is part of the knitting team that creates hand-knit winter accessories with the company named Wooln.

Learning to knit in Jamaica when she was 14, she has continued to knit for 82 years. With a preference to knit in bright colors “because she makes less mistakes,” she works on three to four projects at a time so she does not get bored. She did confess, however, that for two weeks she worked in the dark after eye surgery. Her specialties are chunky cowls and slouchy hats.

The 15-item Wooln line is the brain-child of two French social entrepreneurs Faustine Badrichani, 31, and Margaux Clermontel, 32, both mothers and lovers of grandmothers.

In its first season, items are high-end trendy accessories that include caps and hood / scarves for babies, and snoods commonly known as a cowls-cozy infinity scarves created on circular needles. All are hand-knit in New York by talented grandmothers.

Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 25 percent of the United State’s workforce will be age 55 or older by 2020, with more and more older Americans electing to keep working.

“I don’t think Americans appreciate their seniors,” says Faustine, who brings her French sensibilities toward elders to this business.

Most of the knitters but not all are grandmothers. A few are younger who want to supplement their income.

Harlem-resident Charmaine Jones admits to not being a grandmother. A musician and the owner of a high-end custom cake company, she loves to knit and discovered a call for knitters on Craigslist. This is a perfect fill-in as it gets slow during the holidays, she says.



Jones says of the visionary Wooln founders, “They hire people with great skills usually overlooked because they’re of a certain age. Previously grandmothers would make these things for free. They respect grandmothers.”

There are 12 women and one man, self-taught knitter Brooklyn-resident Phillieo, knitting and purling for Wooln. Knitters are given patterns, yarn and needles.

This year’s fashion collection is in



Left: Hollis Hillhouse, who found out about the “call for knitters” from a posting at a local senior center, casts on as she starts a new cap for Wooln. **Above:** Finished hand-knit caps from ultra soft alpaca yarn comes with a tag that identifies the knitter. Bios of all the knitters are on the website Photo by Tequila Minsky

more than 20 colors, each finished item labeled with the knitter’s name.

Items are available for sale from www.wooln.com and have been sold at some local holiday fairs.

The Wooln website reads: WOOLN strives to act for the benefit of society at large. We welcome retirees back into the active work force, value forgotten talents, and foster intergenerational exchanges.

The knitters are paid when the items are collected.

Knitter Jones meets up with the founders in mid-town to exchange finished products for more yarn and get paid \$10 to \$30 depending on the size. Faustine and Margaux might meet up with Yvonne at her neighborhood senior center, at times interrupting her bingo, to “conduct business.”

Senior centers — they visited 60 — were one of their first recruiting resources when they began this project, just last spring.

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www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.
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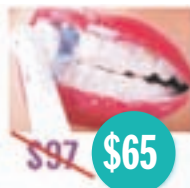
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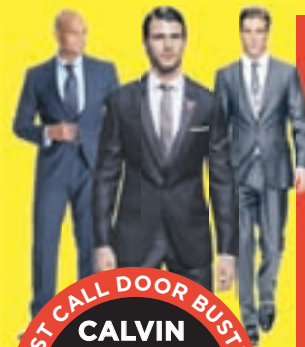
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Above: D'Lorice Banquet Hall in Irvington, New Jersey.
Left: Linden and Victoria Branche proudly showcase their pictorial journey to owning D'Lorice Banquet Hall in New Jersey.
 Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Guyanese entrepreneurs open D'Lorice Banquet Hall

By Tangerine Clarke

When Guyanese-American Linden Branche and his wife Victoria moved to Irvington, New Jersey — a predominately Afro-American deprived neighborhood, back in 1982, Mrs. Branche told her husband “if you decide to made a life here you had better do something to

improve the community.”

Those emotional words brought back fond memories for the couple, who recently opened the doors to D'Lorice Banquet Hall, an exquisite three-level facility at 665 Stuyvesant Ave. in the heart of East Orange.

The entrepreneurs proudly showcased a collage in the

lobby of the 13000 sq. ft. banquet hall as it was being built, and later appraised at \$1.3M.

With the roof garden / balcony set to open in the summer of 2016, the owners in the meantime, will welcome patrons to the top floor and lower level where the seating capacity is 173 and 103 respectively.

D'Lorice, named for the couple's mothers Delores and Clorice, is open for business with catering by the banquet hall's finest international chefs. Private catering with the space is also available to clients.

The brick structure is beautifully designed with dance floors, three bars and comfortable seating for weddings, sweet-sixteen, anniversary, and all other special functions.

The diverse community of Hispanic, Caribbean and Afro-American said Mr. Branche would enjoy the amenities that D'Lorice has to offer.

Victoria Branche's vision to feature the seven continents of

the world giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy what he or she loves with tailored music is still being fine-tuned.

However, the owners said they will work with clients to meet their budget needs, taking into consideration the responsibility of the facility, added the duo that is committed to offering a very high standard of service to the community.

In addition to a parking lot on the premises, the Branches are willing to assist any parking company to acquire space in the surrounding area for such a business. The building is also wheelchair accessible.

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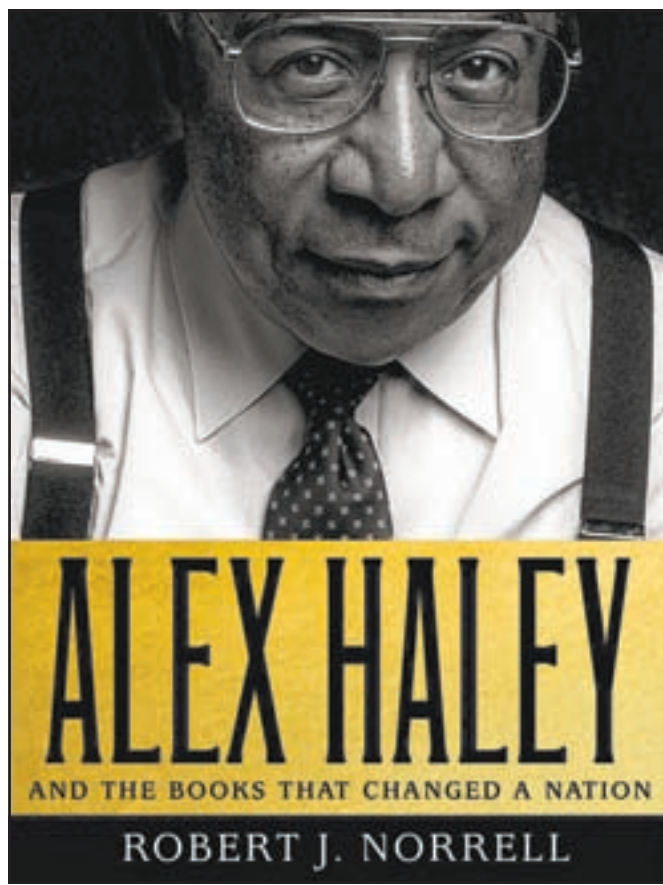
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The real deal about author Palmer Alexander Haley



Book cover of "Alex Haley and the Books That Changed a Nation."

The process of writing "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" was long and, for his publisher, frustrating but Haley never forgot stories from his grandmother's porch. Encouraged by a distant cousin, he toyed with a few versions of them and explored the origins of specific words he remembered.

"Alex Haley and the Books That Changed a Nation" by Robert J. Norrell c.2015, St. Martin's Press \$26.99 / \$31.50 Canada 251 pages



Author Robert J. Norrell.

the Coast Guard. Because of racial mores of the time, few onboard jobs were open to African American men, so he worked as a steward while also searching for assignments as a magazine writer. Ultimately, he came under the command of a "boss" who demanded help with letter-writing; his skills honed, Haley landed a job as a press officer for the Coast Guard.

By 1960, Haley left the Coast Guard and a wife, and focused "intensively" on magazine writing. Just two years later, his reputation as an author was set, "linked in part to the growing notoriety of the Nation of Islam (NOI)." An assignment he had accepted allowed him to become good friends with Malcolm X and they began working closely together on a book, even as Haley simultaneously wrote articles against the NOI.

Irish-African American family, Palmer Alexander Murray Haley was raised mostly by his grandmother, who instilled in him a love of storytelling. As an adult, Haley would recall hiding behind rocking chairs on his grandparents' front porch, listening to tales of "the African" and of slavery.

In 1939, after rejecting his professorial father's ideal of an education, Haley (by now, calling himself "Alex") joined

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The gardening catalogs started arriving this week — right on time.

In the gray of winter, they represent so much promise, whether you have six acres or six inches of dirt. This time of year, it's fun to imagine what will come from the soil months from now — but in the meantime, read "Alex Haley and the Books That Changed a Nation" by Robert J. Norrell, and see how a career can grow.

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2016 CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HEALTHCARE AWARDS June 17, 2016 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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At a gala on June 23, 2016, Caribbean Life will present its third-annual Healthcare Awards, recognizing Caribbean Americans' essential contributions as caregivers and practitioners in New York.

Nominate a Caribbean healthcare professional who has shown outstanding achievements in his or her field. Fill out and submit the form, or submit your nomination online at CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate before January 22, 2016.

We will contact you before February 26, 2016 if your candidate is selected.

Nominate an Outstanding Caribbean American Healthcare Professional

Your name: (Please print clearly) _____

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee's country of origin: _____

Your relationship to nominee: _____

Nominee's occupation: _____

Where does your nominee currently work? _____

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

Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): _____

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

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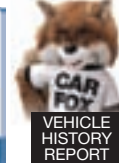


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A vision of audacious political transition, by a future president

By Laura Andrews

I bemoaned the effect of Reagan's policies toward the Third World: his administration's support for the apartheid regime of South Africa, the funding of El Salvador's death squads, the invasion of tiny, hapless Grenada.

— President Barack Obama

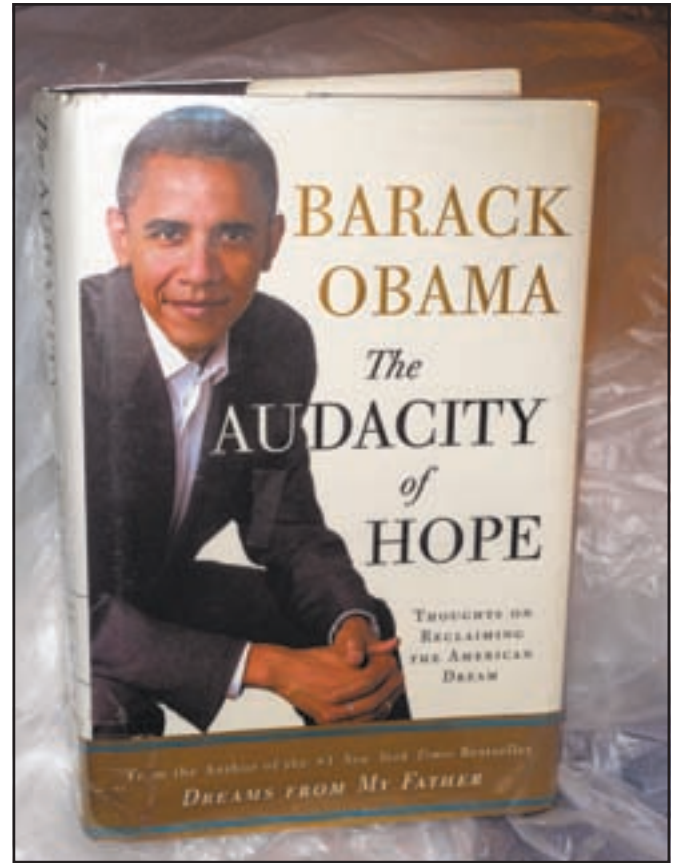
clairvoyant, honorable disposition and inclination to stand away from the elected-public figures on issues not in the public's best interest.

What was strikingly absent to the public knowledge was the fragile details of well-oiled public support for the invasion of Iraq, premised on unsubstantiated evidence that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, held weapons of mass destruction. A tactic Obama deciphered was strategic maneuvering in anticipation of the midterm elections. Although a legislator at the time, Obama admits disappointment in the shrewd cover up used by President George W. Bush to obtain the authority to use force in Iraq.

"The Bush Administration resuscitated a brand of politics not seen since the end of the Cold War. As the ouster of Saddam Hussein became

the test case for Bush's doctrine of preventive war, those who questioned the administration's rationale for invasion were accused of being 'soft on terrorism' or un-American."

Undoubtedly, Obama is a man of integrity. He is unwilling to shield the wealthy or politically powerful from their unscrupulous-destructible behavior and execution of authority. Ironically, on a risky tour of Iraq, with a U.S. delegation, Obama identifies Ahmed Chalabi, the interim government of Iraq's acting oil minister, at the home of Iraqi interim President Jalal Talabani, with other members of the Iraqi government. According to Obama, Chalabi, "the Western-educated Shi'ite who, as a leader of the exile group the Iraqi National Congress, had reportedly fed U.S. intelligence agencies and Bush policy makers some of the pre-



President Barack Obama's book "The Audacity of Hope."

war information on which the decision to invade was made — information for which Chalabi's group had received millions of dollars, and that had turned out to be bogus. Since then

Chalabi had fallen out with his U.S. patrons; there were reports that he had steered U.S. classified information to the Iranians, and that Jordan still

Continued on page 37

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EDUCATION



HOW TO PAY FOR IT

Families should be prepared to pursue multiple options to cover higher education costs

Families who have children heading off to college are likely navigating an array of options when it comes to actually paying for higher education.

A new white paper by Prudential Financial titled “Paying For College: A Practical Guide for Families,” seeks to dispel some of the misconceptions surrounding loans, grants, scholarships, and available tax benefits. If the bad news about financing a college education is that it can be complex and time-consuming, the good news is that families willing to educate themselves on the process (and familiarize themselves with the potential pitfalls) can develop a strategy that does not break the bank for students or the parents.

“It can be a daunting process, but well worth the effort, especially if it means avoiding large amounts of debt or not dipping into retirement savings,” said Caroline Feeney, president of Prudential Advisors. “If it seems too intimidating, don’t be afraid to

seek guidance because there is a good chance you’ll be able to put the right payment strategy in place that works for your family.”

Creating a Plan

While earning a college degree is certainly a worthwhile pursuit, the skyrocketing costs of college tuition can leave many students laden with burdensome levels of debt. Parents can also struggle, often sacrificing retirement savings to help their children.

“We urge families to tap in to school resources, guidance and financial aid counselors, as well as the experience of a financial professional who can help them make critical decisions with respect to leveraging existing financial resources in a way that helps protect longer-term financial security.”

The report provides a road map for financing a college education. It provides basic, foundational information about qualifying for undergraduate financial aid, taking out public and

private education loans, and taking advantage of potential tax deductions and credits. It also offers targeted advice for single, as well as divorced parents.

Seeking Aid

One of the primary goals when researching college payment options is identifying all of the sources that do not result in long-term debt. For families who lack the resources to save in advance or to fund that education on a pay-as-you-go basis, seeking all types of financial aid is essential.

Some considerations include:

- Becoming familiar with the application deadline and requirements for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- Learning the pros and cons of aid sources available, including grants, scholarships, work-study programs, tax credits, and tax deductions.
- Researching the variables that affect a student’s access to financial aid,

including choice of school, how much and in what form the family has saved for college, and how adept the family is at working through the process of applying for help.

Once they do their homework, families may be surprised to learn about more effective ways to qualify for grants and scholarships, and if student loans must be taken out, how to navigate the new repayment options that have become available.

Divorced and single parents also have special provisions available to them that are worth looking into.

“Every family has unique circumstances to consider. Investing time with a financial professional who can help guide them through resource planning can help alleviate some of the stress associated with understanding the process and making sure that the family’s finances are well handled,” Feeney said.

To learn more, visit www.prudential.com/payingforcollege.

Don't underestimate power of mentorships

Growing up in Florida, Whitney Stewart never thought at any point in her life she would climb a mountain. That changed when she was 13 and took a trip with her local Boys & Girls Club to Colorado. At first she thought the mountains were just there to look upon, but then one of her Club staff members informed her she would be climbing one of those mountains.

"I was thinking, I'm a Florida girl, I don't do mountains," Stewart recalls.

Hours later, she was at the summit where she recalls a staff member telling her, "Today you climbed a mountain, if you can do that you can do anything."

"That was said to me at one of my lowest points," Stewart notes, "and I really took that to heart."

Through the direction given to her by her Boys & Girls Club mentors, Stewart became a leader in both her school and community. Currently enrolled as a freshman at Univer-



Whitney Stewart became a mentor after receiving guidance from Boys & Girls Clubs of America leaders.

sity of Pennsylvania, Stewart was recently given the honor of being named Boys & Girls

Clubs of America's 2015-16 National Youth of the Year.

It's hard to overestimate

how much a mentor can impact a child's life. Through guidance and a simple unwavering belief in young people, mentors can provide the guidance so many young people like Stewart need. In fact, a recent study showed that among Boys & Girls Clubs alumni, around two-thirds remember a specific staff member who made a positive impact on their lives.

With nearly 4 million school-aged kids in more than 4,100 Clubs across the country, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's vision is that through providing a safe place for kids to go during out-of-school hours, all its members will graduate from high school with a plan for the future that is built on good character, citizenship, leadership skills, academic success and a healthy lifestyle.

Today, it is estimated that one in every 16 Americans is a Boys & Girls Clubs alum. This has created a network of successful community leaders and professionals in every field, from lawyers and doc-

tors to engineers, artists and entrepreneurs.

In an effort to draw on the collective strength of this large network of alumni, Boys & Girls Clubs' Alumni & Friends Club has been established in order to give former members an opportunity to reconnect, work together and give back to kids and families in need.

It is estimated that there are more than 11 million kids in the United States who have no place to go after school. These kids lack simple, yet important things like safety and the guidance a mentor can provide. In response, thousands of alumni have taken the opportunity to help make a change by joining the Alumni & Friends Club. The goal of this alumni network is to keep former members connected and give them a way to foster hope and opportunity in a new generation.

To join your fellow Club alumni, visit www.bgcalum.org and learn how you too can impact a kid's life forever.

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An 'Unforgettable' 2015



In a Monday, March 2, 2015 photo, singer Natalie Cole performs at "An Evening of SeriousFun Celebrating the Legacy of Paul Newman," at Avery Fisher Hall, in New York. Cole, the daughter of jazz legend Nat "King" Cole who carried on his musical legacy, died Thursday night, Dec. 31, 2015, according to publicist Maureen O'Connor. She was 65.

Associated Press / Invision / Evan Agostini, File

Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



"It's heartbreaking, she's fought a very long battle and she's at peace now," Casey told the Daily Mail.com

"My twin sister Timolin and I were with Natalie at Christmas time as a family. She told us that she loved us all," Casey explained.

"We're all heartbroken. I'll miss my sister very much. We're suffering but she's not. She's in heaven now and she's ringing in the New Year in ways we don't know."

Pop fans will recall her many hits including the best-selling "This Will Be" and the collaboration she technically orchestrated with her famous father singing "Unforgettable," a timeless song he executed during an illustrious recording career that ended when he died in his sleep in 1965 from cancer.

The end to a year that provided a mixed-bag of nostalgia

ranging from the glee of discovery of water on Mars, Olympian Bruce Jenner's gender-transition to Caitlyn, a Greek debt crisis, the absurdities of political campaign rhetoric from presidential candidates; mass shootings and over-proliferation of gun violence, a terrorist's attack on Paris, France, the warmest December in recorded history and the reality of global warming, a joyous Papal visit with Pope Francis, revelations about terrorism — Boko Haram, ISIS, Al Qaeda — and a myriad of good and bad news proved unforgettable.

Notwithstanding, on the lighter side of the music spectrum in Jamaica, a turn-around lifestyle change announced reggae, dancehall's raunchiest purveyor Lady Saw cutting ties with secular music to only perform the gospel.

Saw's fans were stunned by

the Christian conversion she revealed to subscribe to going forward but many say they will embrace the new Marion Hall with the same fervor that endeared them to rally to the once provocative and often erotic performer.

Through it all in 2015, controversy brewed, peaking before disappearing from the headlines.

One that still lingers into the New Year is the decision by Billboard Magazine to name

British soul singer Joss Stone, the best reggae artist of the year. The news triggered loud grumbles in Jamaica that the choice was an insult to local recorders on the island.

The music Bible crowned the Brit following sales of more than 27, 500 copies of her "Water For Your Soul" CD.

The album also copped kudos as the best album of the year.

That the British singer

Continued on page 37



Raisa Chernina
HONORED 2011



Rene McClure
HONORED 2013



Nicole Robinson-Etienne
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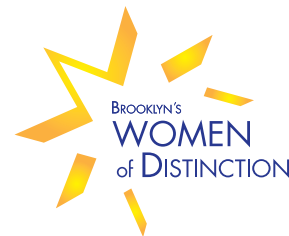
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Monique Letamendi wants to be spokesperson for the people residing in urban neighborhoods worldwide.
Monique Letamendi

Activist poet seeks change

By Alley Olivier

Despite a new year emerging with a sense of a clean slate, there are many still feeling upset and unsettled following clashes between African Americans and police across the world.

Activism has taken many forms in 2015, many using the Internet as a resourceful tool to build community and ensure their messages are received beyond their neighborhoods.

For Ecuadorian poet and teaching

Continued on Page 34

Barriers can be broken

By Alley Olivier

How many times have you had an incredible idea to only forget about it? Artists often jot down notes, create full scripts, or even songs to only forget about them while pursuing another venture.

Rummaging through documents, Crown Heights native Jamila Brown uncovered a forgotten short story, titled "GoFish," that immediately captured her.

With a plan to bring the story to life, Brown sets out to take her words off the page and onto the screen.

According to Brown, "It wasn't until I was going through papers and found it. I felt really passionate about making it come to life, because it was a story that I connected to."

Continued on Page 34



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims and Yannick Lebrun.

Photo by Andrew Eccles

Caribbean dancer shines at Ailey's show

By Laura Andrews

An evening of an Alvin Ailey's American Dance Theater annual performance at Manhattan's City Center without the incomparable "Revelations," with lighting by Nicola Cernovitch and costumes by Ves Harper and Barbara Forbes, seemed an impossible mental adjustment.

However, with the entrance of Outstanding Performance at the 2014 New York Dance and Performance Awards ("The Bessie") Linda Celeste Sims (Mrs. Sims) in Chris-

topher Wheeldon's "After The Rain Pas Deux" — segments of "Revelations" surged through my memory. I immediately entertained thoughts of AAADT dazzling me with "Revelations" opening with Hal Johnson's musical arrangement to 'I Been 'Buked'. And, of course, experiencing transfixed periods with the arrival of the sections, 'Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel' and 'Fix Me, Jesus.'

As I began to explode with a cathartic-purification moment, recalling the grandeur of additional

sections to "Revelations" like 'Processional/Honor, Honor,' 'Wade in the Water,' and 'I Wanna Be Ready' — the master AAADT dancer, Linda Celeste Sims stole my attention with pizzazz and striking agility.

Clearly, I was not alone. There were thunderous roars and applause, as Mrs. Sims, the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts Award recipient, demonstrated the authentic feeling of romance in turns, twists and splits with ease

Continued on Page 34

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Hello**
Adele
- 2 **Sorry**
Justin Bieber
- 3 **Like I'm Gonna Lose You**
Meghan Trainor...
- 4 **Here**
Alessia Cara
- 5 **Same Old Love**
Selena Gomez
- 6 **Stitches**
Shawn Mendes
- 7 **Hotline Bling**
Drake
- 8 **On My Mind**
Ellie Goulding
- 9 **Wildest Dreams**
Taylor Swift
- 10 **Ex's & oh's**
Elle King

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **25**
Adele
- 2 **Purpose**
Justin Bieber
- 3 **Blurryface**
twenty one pilots
- 4 **Made in the A.M.**
One Direction
- 5 **TRAPSOUL**
Bryson Tiller
- 6 **When It's Dark Out**
G-Eazy
- 7 **Traveller**
Chris Stapleton
- 8 **Royalty**
Chris Brown
- 9 **Vessel**
twenty one pilots
- 10 **1989**
Taylor Swift

Presented by
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BALLET

Continued from page 33

and fun — only a marriage of the arts and partnership could deliver. With Glenn Allen Sims (Mr. Sims), in the duet, the couple teased then served the audience with their brand of exemplary body bends, drawing compliments and admiration. School-age children and adults were captivated by the crafty unlocking of Mrs. Sims body parts by Mr. Sims.

Once engaging the audience in this memorable-ballet thriller there was no turning back. The audience was eager to see more. And the artistic-entertainment service was delivered in elegant high-style Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater fashion. Of course, seeing Mrs. Sims's flawless contours in advertisements and as a guest star on 'So You Think You Can Dance,' 'Dancing with the Stars,' and 'The Today Show' is no comparison to seeing a live performance of the Bronx, NY certified Floor-Barre instructor lifted into a statuesque beauty on Mr. Sims' thigh and return a mega-watt smile, during an AAADT live engagement.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Glenn Allen Sims.
Photo by Andrew Eccles

For information on the preeminent dance institution, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater programs, classes and tour schedule, log on to: www.alvinailey.org.

Barriers

Continued from page 33

The 24-year-old set out to bring "GoFish" to life, working with a small team that felt and understood her passion.

The short-film was inspired by the 1991 Crown Heights Riots — race riots that occurred from Aug. 19 to Aug. 21 between African American residents and Orthodox Jews following the death of two Guyanese children accidentally hit by a car.

"Growing up in Crown Heights, hearing stories about the 1991 riots and having friends from different walks of life, whether it be culture or race — it is a narrative piece which has some elements of truth," she explained.

The process to create the 16-minute short film may appear easy while watching the end product, but editing the scenes — scrapping some all together — proved to be Brown's biggest challenge as a first-time director.

"There were times where it was hard for me to let go of scenes and times where I wanted to let them all go and start over. But I had a great



'GoFish' explores an inter-cultural relationship following the 1991 Crown Heights Riots.
GoFish

editor who really helped me to accept the process," she said.

The film follows two young girls, one an African American and the other Jewish, who are friends despite the violence and hatred occurring at the time between the two groups.

"One of the many goals for this film is to influence people to break those social barriers that they may have — if children can do it then we as adults can do it too, and that's what I hope for audiences to take away from the film."

"GoFish" has already started 2016 with a great start, taking part in the Brooklyn

Museum's First Saturday event Jan. 2.

Moving forward, Brown has already set her sights on other projects and has entered the film into over 20 festivals, still awaiting verdict.

"We're also teaming up with an educational developer to create curriculum based on the film in the near future. We believe that it would be a great teaching tool for children," Brown said.

Follow "GoFish" Facebook page to find out where the next screening of the film would be.

ACTIVIST

Continued from page 33

artist, Monique Letamendi, her strategy is to capture audiences with her poignant lyrics — whether delivered as a song or in spoken word.

According to Letamendi, "I use my poetry for activism because not only do I have an unconventional way of performing my poetry but a lot of people sound the same and play with similar topics but I really want to use what I have to tell a story that everyone needs to hear."

As a teaching artist for theater nonprofit viBe Theater Experience, Letamendi connects with girls — ranging in ages 13-18 — who attempt to make sense of the viral stories such as Sandra Bland and Tamir Rice.

As a 24-year-old, Letamendi guides the teens to utilize their poetry, songs, dance, and even plays as a method to help them understand the police brutality seen in their schools and neighborhoods.

"When I work with the girls it's weird because I'm supposed to give off this professional image of someone who is put together but we are — no matter the age range — are experiencing and feeling the same things in response to these events," she explained.

It is through the various writing exercises she leads with the girls birthed from their conversations that she feels a particular need to utilize her lyrics to invoke some sense of change or hope to her neighbors in her Bushwick neighborhood and beyond.

Often performing at open mics and other shows, Letamendi's "Overseer" poem has particularly struck audiences for its delivery and detailed descriptions.

"Overseer, afraid of my talent n***a tongue," Letamendi opens in the poem. "Don't treat my arrest like a hunting game."

Like most Americans, Letamendi is hopeful that 2016's clean slate will come with more justice, less death, and peace to those living in the urban neighborhoods such as hers that see themselves in tragedies as in that of Trayvon Martin.

"I hope to achieve a better state of understanding when it comes to people of color. I want my work to be the mouthpiece for the people I see living in the projects like I do," she said. "I just want their stories to be heard."

Michael Moore mounts faux invasion

“Where to Invade Next”
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for profanity,
drug use, violent
images
and brief graphic
nudity.
In English, Italian,
French, German,
Finnish, Norwegian,
Portuguese and
Arabic with subtitles.
Running time:
10 minutes
Distributor: Dog Eat
Dog Films

By Kam Williams

Oscar-winner Michael Moore (for *Bowling for Columbine*) has been challenging the power structure ever since releasing *Roger & Me* way back in 1989. That groundbreaking expose’ indicted General Motors for the outsourcing of jobs which devastated his beloved hometown



A scene from the movie “Where to Invade Next.”

of Flint, Michigan. Over the intervening years, Moore has exhibited a knack for tackling a variety of hot-button topics from a leftist perspective,

including the Iraq War (Fahrenheit 9/11), the healthcare industry (Sicko), and the global financial crisis (Capitalism: A Love Story), to name a few.

With “Where to Invade Next,” the inveterate rabble-rouser sets his sights on the subject of American imperialism. You may remember that

the Bush Doctrine, as espoused by President George W. Bush in 2002, asserted the United States’ right to wage preemptive war whenever deemed in the national interest. Well, relying on that dubious notion, Moore proceeds to play agent provocateur as he circumnavigates the globe visiting countries with cultural and social constructs supposedly worth emulating.

So, instead of conquest with intent to plunder, the focus here is merely on borrowing ideas which might improve our quality of life. For instance, in France, he asks public school cafeteria chefs how they manage to serve their students such fine cuisine compared to the slop American kids are forced to settle for. And his mission in Finland is to discern why its educational system is far superior to ours, while in Italy he learns about the generous employment benefits not only for maternity leave but for hon-ey-moons as well.

Independent & Foreign Films

Anomalisa (R for profanity, graphic sexuality and frontal nudity) Adult-oriented animated adventure about an author (David Thewlis) who is unable to connect with other people until he hits it off with a stranger (Jennifer Jason Leigh) he meets on a business trip. Additional voices supplied by Tom Noonan.

Anesthesia (R for profanity, sexual-ity, drug use and brief violence) Crime thriller about several strangers whose lives intersect serendipitously in the wake of the mugging of a Columbia University philosophy professor (Sam Waterston). With K. Todd Freeman, Corey Stoll and the film’s director, Tim Blake Nelson.

Diablo (R for violence and brief profanity) Post-Civil War Western, set on the American frontier, about a revenge-minded veteran’s (Scott Eastwood) desperate search for his wife (Camilla Belle) abducted by a ruthless gang of Mexican outlaws. Featuring Danny Glover, Walton Goggins and Adam Beach.

Lamb (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama about a middle-aged man (Ross Partridge), grieving the death of his father and the disintegration of his marriage, who saves a suicidal 11-year-old (Oona Laurence) by taking her on a sightseeing sojourn across the country. With Jess Weixler, Tom Bower and Scoot McNairy.

The Masked Saint (PG-13 for vio-



Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams

lence and mature themes) Adaptation of the Chris Whaley best seller of the same name chronicling the real-life exploits of a professional wrestler-turned-pastor (Brett Granstaff) who decided to not only return to the ring but to moonlight as a crime-fighting vigilante. Cast includes Diahann Carroll, Rowdy Roddy Piper and Lara Jean Chorostecki.

Sweaty Betty (Unrated) Inner-city saga, set in Washington, DC, about a Redskins fan (Floyd Rich) who raises a pig in the ‘hood with hopes of turning it into the team’s mascot. With Seth Dubois and Rico S.

Troublemakers: The Story of Land Art (Unrated) Counter-culture documentary about a cadre of iconoclastic artists who plied their trade in the Sixties and Seventies on the deserts of the American Southwest.

Wazir (Unrated) Unlikely buddies drama, set in Mumbai, revolving around the twist of fate which inspires an Anti-Terrorist Squad officer (Farhan Akhtar) to join forces with a wheelchair-bound chess master (Amitabh Bachchan) to crack a conspiracy. With Aditi Rao Hydari, John Abraham and Anjum Sharma. (In English and Hindi with subtitles)

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OBAMA

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had a warrant out for his arrest after he had been convicted in absentia on 31 charges of embezzlement, theft, misuse of depositor funds, and currency speculation," Obama expresses.

With intelligence and the importance of history at stake, Obama delivers haunting, devastating and unimaginative true stories of the behind the scenes in our government. Remuneration for stirring gang violence is shown to be done with as much ease as paying two or three dollars to a child in Iraq to willingly plant bombs.

Disenchantment with government is not the intellectually-brilliant first modern-day black president of the Harvard Law Review mission. As a husband and

father of two girls, his noble objective is to inform and illuminate the truth. In this mesmerizing, interesting must-possess and read book, we are shown a dedicated public servant uninterested in the speedy elevation to wealth but who spends 12 to 16 hours serving his constituents and wanting quality time with his children and wife. After reading "The Audacity of Hope," your political portrait of those in government or those who are interested — at any cost to venture into this political pool — and have significant resources, will likely to be altered. More importantly, Obama leaves a sweetened responsibility in the hands of chronically-dependent governments to take charge and citizens of the U.S., to work with reputable international organizations and to make "hard choices and live up to our own ideals," in this book marked with comforting optimism of structured in change, repair and hope.

INSIDE LIFE

Continued from page 32

nabbed the title outselling Bob Marley's retro release by a two to one margin also proved disquieting to more than a few.

Bob Marley and the Wailers ended with a second place finish in 2015 for a live recording titled "Easy Skanking in Boston '78."

After the announcement, dancehall deejay Bounty Killa asked: "What measures are implemented for a genre birthed

on the island which is widely celebrated elsewhere, giving others the chance to benefit more than us?

"How many more Matisyahus, Eddy Murphys and Josh Stones will there be to benefit more than our people who do not fall short on talent?"

Billboard responded saying that Stone's "Water For Your Soul" sold the most of any reggae composition. The fact for eight weeks the album occupied the number one position on the weekly Reggae Albums Chart during 2015 also contributed to her prized win.

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West Indies' batsman Darren Bravo bats as Pakistan's wicket keeper Mo-hammad Salman, left, and Taufeeq Umar look on during a match in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton, File

CPL cricket boosts St. Kitts' economy

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) matches which were played at Warner Park last year (2015) have boosted the St. Kitts and Nevis economy to the tune of US\$20 million, the government reported.

The government in St. Kitts is also reporting that the CPL organization also increased its direct operational spending to the local economy by 2.4 percent to US\$1.3 million last year (2015) generating 243 jobs.

A government statement said the figures had been independently verified

Continued on Page 40

Australia defeats West Indies

By Azad Ali

Host Australia retained the Frank Worrell Trophy, which they held for 20 years, after beating West Indies 2-0 in the three-match series.

West Indies, which put up a better showing suffered a 177-run defeat in the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) last week on the fourth day.

Captain Jason Holder and Denesh Ramdin scored half centuries to lead a brave fightback, but the Aussies pre-

Continued on Page 40



Toronto FC's Sebastian Giovinco (10) stretches to bring the ball under control during first-half MLS soccer match action against the Montreal Impact in Toronto, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015.

Associated Press / The Canadian Press / Chris Young

Foreigners who add to MLS

By Patrick Horne

The signing of foreigners labeled 'Designated Players' who came to MLS last season certainly helped to heighten the awareness of MLS around the world, but in most cases that's all that it did; few amongst the high-priced players helped their

teams substantially on the field.

Kudos now to Italian Sebastian Giovinco of Toronto FC, Ivorian Didier Drogba of the Montreal Impact and Brazilian Kaka who played for Orlando City FC — a trio who proved their worth to their teams many times over and justified the top dol-

lars spent to secure their services.

Conversely, a thumbs down to New York FC's trio of Andrea Pirlo, David Villa and Frank Lampard, along with Steven Gerrard of the La Galaxy — a group that miss-kicked last season.

Giovinco joined a failed franchise

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and are contained in an independent study carried out by SMA Insight.

Sports Minister Shawn Richards said the hosting of the CPL games in St. Kitts and Nevis continues to yield positive gains for the beautiful twin-island federation.

"These gains extend to our economy, the development of our local cricketing talent, our sporting facilities and the development of the island's human resources.

The government says the report showed a total incremental expenditure by spectators and tourists to almost US\$4 million in 2015.

This, it says, has resulted in occupancy of 4,461 hotel room nights on the twin islands, an increase of 39 percent on the 2014 figure.

AUSTRALIA WINS

Continued from page 39

vailed to secure the series and retain the Frank Worrell Trophy.

All seven frontline batsmen got good starts as West Indies showed determination (compared to the First Test) before they were bowled out for 282 in their second innings after Steve Smith's overnight declaration on 179 for three.

West Indies faced the monumental task of scoring 459 runs to win the match in two days.

Holder says he is proud with the fighting spirit displayed by his team despite the loss.

However, he was disappointed that his side was not able to put up a better all-round batting display, but was overpowered by the Australians who also convincingly won the first Test by an innings and 212 runs in Hobart.

Final scores were: Australia 1st innings 551 / 3 declared. West Indies 1st innings 271 all out; Australia 2nd innings 179 for 3 declared. West Indies 2nd innings 282 all out.



West Indies' Jason Holder takes off for a run against Australia during their cricket test match in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015.

Associated Press / Andy Brownbill



Brazil's Kaka, right, and David Luiz attend a training session in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Nov. 9, 2015. Brazil will face Argentina in a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match on Nov.12 in Buenos Aires. Associated Press / Andre Penner

FOREIGN PLAYERS IMPACT MLS

Continued from page 39

and immediately gave it life as he led Toronto to its first MLS playoff appearance. Giovinco was the 2015 MLS MVP after scoring a league 22 goals, tied with Columbus Crew Kai Kamara, and also won the Golden Boot award. He registered 16 assists to lead the league in both categories and set an MLS season record for his combined goals and assists (38). His assist record gave him the edge over Kamara in the Golden Boot voting.

Accomplishments in MLS is certainly respected in world soccer because Giovinco's MLS performance earned him a re-call to the Italian national team. The Italian became the first player to score more than 20 goals and register more than 10 assists in one season.

Like Giovinco, Drogba came to Montreal from Chelsea FC (English Premier League) and immediately made an impact in Montreal. The former Ivory Coast international scored 12 goals in his 12 starts and made the Impact a formidable team in 2015; he led Montreal into the playoffs as it registered its first postseason win, versus Toronto FC.

The Impact, though, may have problems re-signing Drogba for the 2016 season since Chelsea is eyeing him as a future assistant coach. According to newspaper reports in Montreal, the fans have threatened to abandon the team if Drogba is not re-signed for the 2016 campaign.

Montreal's public relations department released this statement on the Drogba situation: "We are currently in contact with Didier Drogba and Chelsea

FC," the club tweeted. "We are doing everything we can to have him back with the Impact in 2016..."

"...But our objective is to have him back for another season, as agreed in his contract. This situation is out of our control. We would like to thank our supporters for their understanding and their patience."

Kaka thrived in the Orlando sunshine and he too was re-called to his national team when he played for Brazil against the USA last fall in an international friendly. Kaka helped to draw 62,510 fans on opening day of this new MLS franchise as the team continued to attract large crowds throughout a successful season.

The Brazilian midfielder is credited with having a positive influence on the young players in the new team, and an example of this is Canadian forward Cyle Larin, who won the 2015 MLS Rookie of the Year award after scoring 17 goals, the highest for an MLS rookie.

The thumbs-down group disappointed many; Pirlo may have tried his best but his production didn't help his team much since his high-priced supporting cast in Yankee Stadium of Villa and Lampard, for all intents and purposes, did not really show up.

Villa clearly has not lived up to the hype of being former Spain international striker and performer for famed Barcelona FC of Spain. Villa was hampered by injury, seemingly cause by the lack of top level fitness; Lampard, a former England international arrived late in the season injured and got off to a slow start. It seemed that the English Premier League took its toll on Lampard,

who was clearly ineffective in Yankee Stadium. Lampard's former England teammate Gerrard, who also arrived at midseason, seemed lost in the Galaxy midfield for much of the second half of the season and was unimpressive in his much publicized MLS debut.

Galaxy Re-organizing

The LA Galaxy is retooling its on-field personnel for the 2016 season after missing out on the MLS Cup appearance for the first time in the past three seasons. The club sold 26-year-old Brazilian midfielder Juninho to Club Tijuana of the Mexican Clausura (top league) last Wednesday. Juninho signed with the LA Galaxy in 2010 and had been its top midfielder since; he played 187 times for the Los Angeles club and helped it win three MLS Cup titles.

"It has been a privilege and an honor to have worn the LA Galaxy jersey for the past six seasons," Juninho said in a statement released by the Galaxy. "I have worn it with pride, however, it is time to for me to trade in my Galaxy jersey for a new one. I've always welcomed the opportunity for growth and change. To play for Club Tijuana in Mexico is a tremendous opportunity for me."

The retooling didn't stop with Juninho; American international central defender Omar Gonzalez was sold to Mexico's Pachuca of the same league. The moves reportedly were to free up salary cap monies after high-spending on Englishman Gerrard and Mexican international Giovanni Dos Santos, both of whom were signed late last season.

Windies Women's captain cops Twenty20 title

By Azad Ali

West Indies Women's Captain Stafanie Taylor was named the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Twenty20 International Player of the Year recently.

The 24-year-old Jamaican, presently in Australia campaigning in the Women's Big Bash for Sydney Thunder, has been the leading batsman in world cricket in recent years and is currently installed sixth in the ICC Twenty20 rankings and number four in One-Day Internationals.

Taylor, who won the ICC One-Day Internationals Players of the Year award in 2011 and 2012, said the honor was a surprise and she was elated to win it.

"Winning an award is an added motivation to do better. We were dominant in our two series this year against Sri Lanka and against Pakistan and that is something to build on," she said.

"Next year (2016), we will face South Africa and then on to India for the ICC World Twenty20. Those are two "big" series and I am fully geared

up for what is to come," Taylor added.

"Winning an award is an added motivation to do better. We were dominant in our two series this year against Sri Lanka and against Pakistan and that is something to build on."

Taylor is the most successful women's cricketer in West Indies history. She made her debut as a 16-year-old in 2008 and since then, has made more than 4,000 runs.

She is also a clever off-spinner and had taken 108 wickets in One-Day Internationals and 56 in Twenty20s.

She took over as West Indies captain last September and led by example with a Player of the Series performance as the West Indies beat Pakistan 3-0 in the Twenty20s and 3-1 in the One-Day Internationals, in a series in the Caribbean.



West Indies' Stafanie Taylor plays a shot during their ICC Women's Twenty20 Cricket World Cup semifinal match against Australia in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, April 3, 2014.

Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, finding time to get everything done can be challenging. Fortunately, you have quite a few friends willing to spare some time and lend you a helping hand.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Difficult decisions can take time to work through, Taurus. Although you want to address all situations, this week isn't a good one for making big decisions.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, something keeps nagging at you and you can't get it out of your head. Trust your intuition and be on guard. With some careful thought, a solution will present itself.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
A hectic schedule may have you feeling some pressure, Cancer. Keep in mind that all of your deadlines are self-imposed, so just factor a little more time into your week.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, sometimes you have to make a few mistakes before you get things right. Don't let this worry you, as trial and error is all a part of the learning process.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may suspect what's around the corner, but you are not ready to take the plunge just yet. Give it a little more time until you feel ready and secure.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Work with your doctor to develop a plan for meeting some healthy resolutions, Libra. It is important to make your health a priority this week.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, it may prove impossible to escape all of your responsibilities right now, but you can let a few slide for the time being. Tackle the most daunting projects first.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
You cannot avoid a complex issue forever, Sagittarius. Come clean with the person you may have been hiding from, and work with this person to reach a resolution.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, it may be frightening to reveal your true feelings about something, especially when the truth might change your life in a dramatic way. Muster your courage.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Others appreciate all that you do for them, Aquarius. But sometimes they have to do for themselves to learn valuable lessons. This week is a time to step aside.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, while you are busy helping other people, you may discover that it's time to take a step back and tend to your own needs.

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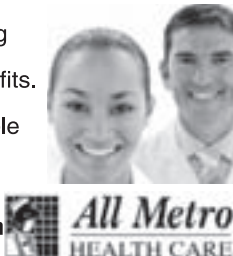
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Index No. 507901/2015
Date of Filing: June 25, 2015
Premises Address: 105-16 FLATLANDS 2ND STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11236
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF KINGS
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE") A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,
-against-
ALISON BALFOUR SENATE AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF SHARON MORGAN; SHAQUANA CHERISE DYANN MORGAN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF SHARON MORGAN; BALVIN JOHNSON AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; DANIEL PETERS GRIFFITH AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LLOYD PETERS SR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; DAPHNE BROWN AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR AT LAW NEXT OF KIN OF THE ESTATE OF OWEN MCDONALD BROWN HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; EGBERT WHITE AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; IONA ROSE BROWN AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; LLOYD PETERS JR. AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LLOYD PETERS SR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN

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OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; OWEN BROWN JR. AS HEIR AT LAW NEXT OF KIN OF THE ESTATE OF OWEN MCDONALD BROWN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF LENA THORPE A/K/A LENA VIRONA THORPE-BROWN; JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 50; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 50, INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DISTRIBUTEES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF THE ESTATE OF AUDLEY MORGAN A/K/A AUDLEY NORMAN MORGAN WHO WAS BORN IN 1954 AND DIED ON OCTOBER 20, 2003 A RESIDENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS 181 WESTFORD CIRCLE SPRINGFIELD, HAMPDEN, MA 01109 THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK ACTING BY & THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises and corporations, other entities or persons who have, claim, or may claim, a lien against, or other interest in, the premises, Defendant(s).
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days

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after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.
NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.
PLEASE BE AWARE:
(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to:
(i) the use or threat of violence;
(ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and
(iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.
2) Debt collectors must also provide the following written notice:
"If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:
1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
2. Social security;
3. Public assistance (welfare);
4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
5. Unemployment benefits;
6. Disability benefits;
7. Workers' compensation benefits;
8. Public or private pensions;
9. Veterans' benefits;
10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days."
TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.
TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your

LEGAL NOTICES

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liability for this debt, this law suit is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: June 25, 2015 Eric P. DeBarba, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803

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516-741-2585 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit

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organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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Miscellaneous No. 1968648 UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES LAW - OFFICE OF TITLES - P.O. BOX 494 KINGSTON November 19, 2015 WHEREAS I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of TWICKENHAM in the Parish of SAINT

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CATHERINE being the Lot numbered ONE HUNDRED And SEVENTY-FIVE on the Plan of Twickenham aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on the 11th day of June 1968 of the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the Plan and being the land registered at Volume 1108 Folio 353 of the Register Book of Titles in the names of CARMEN

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CORINE THOMPSON and WALDIMAN JAMES THOMPSON - HAS BEEN LOST:- I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to DISPENSE with the production of the duplicate Certificate of Title and to endorse on the original

LEGAL

Miscellaneous No. 1972609 to note the fact of death of the above named CARMENCORINE THOMPSON and thereafter cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof. S. MacLean, Acting Senior Deputy Registrar of Titles

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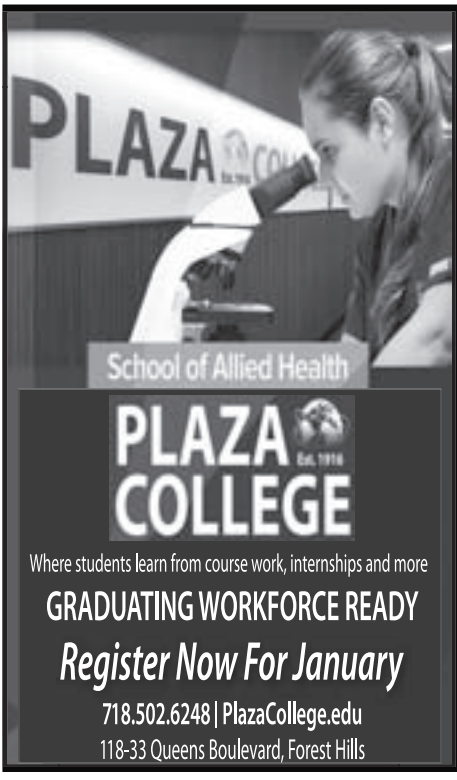
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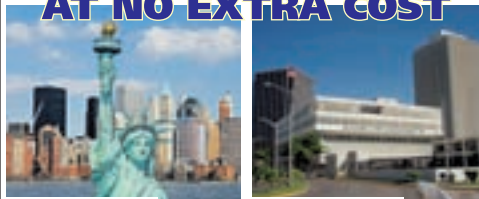
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