



Nurses honored

Award recipient Jamaican-born Dr. Illouise Murillo-Tucker, Senior Associate Director of Nursing for Psychiatry at Woodull Center with Pamela Charles, President of CANA and Claudette Powell, past president of CANA. See story on page 3.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

Suriname's economy struggles to stay afloat

By Bert Wilkinson

Battered by low oil and commodity prices including gold, one of the Caribbean Community's most resource rich countries is headed to the international capital markets to raise funds to keep its economy afloat.

Suriname, the Dutch-speaking republic neighboring community headquarters, Guyana, is experiencing one of its worst

financial crunches since the 1980s when the country's military dictatorship ran the economy into the ground.

Low international prices for oil, gold, bauxite and rice, the country's main exports and foreign exchange earners have pushed the economy on the back foot, leading to a devaluation of the Surinamese dollar, several spending cutbacks

Continued on Page 6

Rally, march on proposed CUNY cuts

By Nelson A. King

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC / CUNY), the union representing staff and faculty at City University of New York (CUNY) colleges says New Yorkers are mobilizing to defend their university.

PSC/CUNY said on Tuesday that a coalition of 25 community, student, religious and labor groups has been formed in response to the proposed cuts to CUNY, the planned tuition increase and the failure to resolve CUNY contracts.

The coalition, CUNY Rising Alliance, was organizing its first public action for Thursday: a protest, march and meeting, starting at 5 p.m. at Governor Cuomo's Manhattan office.

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Successful ways to stretch retirement savings

Many budding retirees plan to travel, relax and enjoy the company of their spouses when they officially stop working. But such plans only are possible if men and women take steps to secure their financial futures in retirement.

According to a recent survey by the personal finance education site MoneyTips.com, roughly one-third of Baby Boomers have no retirement plan. The reason some may have no plan is they have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement. Successful retirees under-

stand the steps to take and how to live on a budget.

- Have a plan. Many people simply fail to plan for retirement. Even men and women who invest in an employer-sponsored retirement program, such as a 401(k), should not make that the only retirement planning they do. Speak with a financial advisor who can help you develop a plan that ensures you don't outlive your assets.

- Set reasonable goals. Retirement nest eggs do not need to be enormous. Many retirees have a

net worth of less than \$1 million, and many people live comfortably on less than \$100,000 annually. When planning for retirement, don't be dissuaded because you won't be buying a vineyard or villa in Europe. Set reasonable goals for your retirement and make sure you meet those goals.

- Recognize there is no magic wealth-building plan. Saving comes down to formulating a plan specific to your goals, resources, abilities, and skills. Make saving a priority and take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement

programs if they are offered.

- Don't underestimate spending. You will need money in retirement, and it's best that you don't underestimate just how much you're going to need. No one wants to be stuck at home during retirement, when people typically want to enjoy themselves and the freedom that comes with retirement. Speak to a financial planner to develop a reasonable estimate of your living expenses when you plan to retire.

- Pay down or avoid debt while you can. Retiring with debt is a

big risk. Try to eliminate all of your debts before you retire and, once you have, focus your energy on growing your investments and/or saving money for retirement.

- Start early on retirement saving. It's never too early to begin saving for retirement. Although few twenty-somethings are thinking about retirement, the earlier you begin to invest the more time you have to grow your money. Enroll in a retirement plan now so you have a larger nest egg when you reach retirement age.



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Dr. Una Clarke: Jamaicans should exercise their democratic right

By **Tangerine Clarke**

CUNY Board Member, Dr. Una Clarke, a Jamaican-American, called on Jamaican nationals to harness the country's natural resources by returning to the soil to make their produce marketable, while feeding themselves.

"Our farmers must go back to the soil and produce, this is the only way we would be able to feed our nation," adding that Jamaicans must not see farming as a profession that is beneath them, but instead be educated about the importance of the soil that should be used to produce."

Clarke was at the time responding to an invited comment from this newspaper, recently, to address the just concluded election to vote-in a Prime Minister for Jamaica.

Despite the outcome that she never predicted — the unseating Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of the PNP — Clarke, one of Jamaica's most influential citizens in New York, said that Jamaica is the first in the region to become an independent nation, and as such, citizens must understand the role they have to play in the democratic process.

The first Caribbean national to hold a position in the NYC Council as representative for the 40th District in Brooklyn, Clarke, who, was attentive to the election poll returns during a Feb. 25, African-American History month celebration at Medger Evers College, said every Jamaican who is eligible to vote, must at all times do so.

"Voting is the only way we will grow, and be respected by the world. We are a small nation with good food, and we are great in many ways, but in order to speak of Jamaica as a great Caribbean country we must be able to say we are leaders when it comes to voting. This process works well as a democracy," said Clarke.

"Whether you are a member of the People's National Party, or the Labor Party, everyone must become engaged so that our country work for everybody, from the smallest to the greatest," she added.

She noted that Jamaicans expressed the desire to vote in the Diaspora but said the legitimacy of the process would be in question, and added that Jamaicans instead influence the vote. She called on citizens back home to hold steadfast, in choosing a leader who will work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to move the agreement forward to boost the economy.

In 2013 under PM Simpson Miller, the country agreed to a four-year International Monetary Fund loan package in exchange for swapping its debt.



Award recipients: Beatrice Goodman-Russell, RN, Dr. Donna Cil, Monique Prince, RN, and Henry J. "Hank" Carter recognized for their contributions to health in NY and the nursing profession. Photo by Tequila Minsky

National Black Nurses honored

By **Tequila Minsky**

It was a collegial gathering last Friday of fellowship, inspiration and recognition when more than 200 nurses converged at Kingsbrook Medical Center for the 28th National Black Nurses Celebration.

"We do this every year and it's a great way for us to recognize those in the community who contribute so much," said former president of the Caribbean American Nurses Association (CANA) Claudette Powell.

Following greetings, a panel presented "Perspectives on Self-Care for Nurses."

Leading off the presenters, Information Technology Specialist Angela Jourdain, MSN and doctoral student, nurse administrator at Northwell Health Long Island Jewish Hospital conveyed a strong message about social media — be attentive to what you're putting out there and only put constructive posts of who are. "Don't post what you did on your night on the town," she cautioned. On social media you want to "reflect positively your professional image." These things can come back to you and it is professionally important to be aware, she emphasized.

Financial Consultant Andrea Owen-Boyd spoke about savings and planning, and that it is never too late to begin.

Next to speak, Dr. Kamila Barnes (DNP) suggested to "keep your gym bag in your car so you go directly to the gym" understanding that once at home, it's hard to get out.

Dr. Barnes spoke about the need to physically take care of yourself, which includes healthy food and keeping active. "If you can't get to a gym, there



are many workout programs on-line," she encouraged, "or just turn on music and dance for 30 minutes!"

Nurse Educator Dr. Rita D. Strickland and certified healing touch practitioner added a spiritual dimension to the panel sharing her SELF-Care acoustic that emphasizes, God, a positive environment, living with love, and "embracing life with enthusiasm, excitement and enlightenment."

Then the awards were presented.

Beatrice Goodman-Russell, community health worker supervisor for Maternal & Infant Community Health Collaborative was recognized as a mentor, motivator and an agent for change.

Educator Dr. Donna Cill (DNP) assistant dean for academic affairs & assistant professor at Columbia University, RN Care Manager, Emblem Health, preceptor and mentor Monique Prince, and Dr. Illouise Murillo-Tucker, senior associate director of nursing for Psychiatry at Woodhull Health Center were presented with awards for their stellar contributions to the profession.

Mildred Norman, Harlem Hospital Class of '46 picked up the award for Dr. Yanick Joseph, who could not attend

due to an emergency at Harlem Hospital where Dr. Joseph is chief nurse executive. Arlene Cudjoe, RN (not present) also received an award for her professional contributions.

The final recipient on the program Henry J. Carter received a Community Award for his steadfast concerns for patients with profound physical disabilities. Through Wheelchair Charities, "Hank" has donated more than \$25 million to the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) for manual and motorized wheelchairs and other equipment and devices. HHC's Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility in Harlem bears his name.

This annual Black nurses celebration was sponsored by New York (NYBNA) and Queens County (QCBNA) chapters of the Black Nurses Association; two chapters — Kappa Eta and Theta Chi — of the 84-year-old national sorority of professional nurses and nursing students Chi Eta Phi, as well as the 15-year-old Caribbean American Nurses Association (CANANA).

Placards displayed around the ballroom provided historical information on Black women nursing pioneers — 20th century Black nurse leaders in New York. Two of the many who were profiled were: Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne, president from 1934–1939, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and first Black nurse to receive a Masters in Nursing — Columbia U, 1931 and NYU faculty member and Mabel Keaton Staupers, RN, who led a movement to integrate Black nurses into the Armed Services in World War II, who authored in 1961 "No Time for Prejudice."

Caribbean

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is advising Caribbean countries to focus on increasing flights from a small pool of airlines to attract more tourists, rather than seeking to attract ever-growing list of carriers.

This, Washington-based financial institution says, is a better use of scarce resources.

The report, "Flying to Paradise: The role of Airlift in the Caribbean Tourist Industry," states that if given the option to increase the frequency of flights from carriers already servicing a destination, the IMF recommends that Caribbean states do so, as opposed to initiating flights from new carriers.

The reason given is that government will make significant savings when negotiating with a smaller group of carriers.

The study, described as an IMF working paper, is a research in progress, but has made the recommendations as part of its preliminary conclusions.



Barbados

A group of some 35 persons, including police officers, community activists, educators, business persons and social workers recently revived training as community mediators under the Canadian government-funded, Improved Access to Justice in the Caribbean (IMPACT) Project.

IMPACT Justice is a five-year regional justice sector reform project which is being implemented from within the Caribbean Law Institute, University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Campus, Barbados.

The training which took place in Grenada falls under IMPACT Justice's broader alternative dispute resolution (ADR) component. The goal is to build the capacity for community mediation services around the region in an effort to reduce the burden on the courts.

The regional justice reform project is slated to develop or increase the pool of community mediators in 13 CARICOM member states and assist in the development of a legislative framework within which mediations may be conducted.

Impact Justice has already conducted community mediation training in Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

IMPACT Justice regional project director said, "We are seeking to increase the number of individuals who are available to assist in solving disputes at the community level before they escalated and



Prisoners riot in Guyana

Prisoners break walls and complain to people on the outside. See story on page 8

Photo by Bert Wilkinson

have to be taken to the court. The idea is using mediation is to redirect some cases away from the courts."

Bahamas

The Bahamas Bar Association (BBA) has joined calls for the attorney general to provide answers to questions regarding the release into the general population of two Cubans previously held for three years at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services without being charged.

BBA President Elsworth Johnson is questioning why the Department of Immigration is now seeking to re-arrest Carlos Pupo and Lazaro Seara Martin, who had no legal status in the Bahamas.

He said the government is subject to the rule of law but is not empowered to hold persons beyond the reasonable time without charges.

In a statement recently, Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell said the men are "a national security risk" and ordered an investigation to take place into how the court was convinced to release them.

But Johnson said if the men were a risk to national security the government could have charged them with sedition, espionage or sabotage, for example. Mitchell said in Parliament recently



that he was "shocked" to find that lawyers did not offer any objections to the writ and claimed instructions were left for them to do so.

Guyana

CARICOM is moving ahead to explore new measures in the fight against youth crime and violence in the region.

Its most current initiative was a two-day forum in Georgetown, Guyana recently, which was funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the government of Spain, — an outcome of the two-year CARICOM / Spain Project: Youth on Youth Violence in the Caribbean.

This project which aims to reduce youth on youth violence, particularly in schools, is now being piloted in member states: Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Approximately 100 participants from across the region engaged in interactive sessions centered on four main topics/issues: violence against children; school violence; youth gangs and violence, together with cross-cutting themes of gender, culture and other social determinants.

According to CARICOM Eye on the Future Report of 2010, the number one concern of youth is crime and violence. About 60 percent of CARICOM's popula-

tion is under the age of 30. The main perpetrators as well as the victims of crime are young people. Moreover, violence is the lead cause of death among males aged 15 – 24 in the Caribbean.

CARICOM's Community Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 identifies Deepening Crime Prevention Initiatives and Programs as an area of focus to build the social resilience of the Community.

Jamaica

Jamaica has blocked some 50 tons of rice from Suriname after the shipment was found to be contaminated with rodent faeces.

The shipment valued at over J\$4.6 billion (US\$37, 952), was seized by the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID) of the Industry, Investment and Commerce Ministry and will soon be disposed.

Acting deputy food storage officer, Tamara Morrison said the contaminant was confirmed following tests conducted at the FSPID's Rodent Biology and Control Laboratory, on samples collected by the agency's inspectorate.

Morrison advised that the contamination was determined to have occurred prior to the arrival of the rice and further indicated that this was the first time that rice imported by that con-



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Financial crisis



President of Suriname Desi Bouterse. Associated Press

Rally against cuts

Continued from page 1

PSC/CUNY said the action was expected to begin at 5 pm with a rally outside the governor's office, 633 Third Ave., between 40th and 41 streets in Manhattan.

It was expected to continue with a march to the Community Church of New York (40 E. 35th St.) where New Yorkers were expected to hear about the crisis at CUNY and plan next steps in the campaign.

"Reports indicate that the Senate and Assembly will print their one-house bills this week. The bills aren't binding, but they establish negotiating positions for the rest of the budget season," PSC-CUNY said.

"Send a message today to Albany, before the bills are printed. Tell your legislators to fund the PSC contract," it added.

PSC-CUNY said students, led by the University Student Senate, will march across the Brooklyn Bridge this Sunday, March 13 "to demand state investment in their university, an end to tuition hikes and a fair contract for CUNY

faculty and staff.

PSC-CUNY said the students are mobilizing other CUNY students, alumni, faculty and staff, and elected officials to join in the march.

The crowd will assemble Sunday at noon at City Hall Park before heading to the bridge.

"Members of the PSC will be marching with the CUNY students to keep the momentum going after Thursday's #CUNYrising event," the statement said.

PSC-CUNY wants the public to join CUNY Rising Alliance "as hundreds of students, education activists, union members and others rally and march to defend the right of all New Yorkers to an affordable, high-quality college education."

The union said "the crisis at CUNY affects all working people in New York City, especially low-income communities and people of color.

"With music, protest, analysis and testimony, we will demand an end to the fiscal starvation of CUNY," it said.

racy of such an institution will mean that Suriname won't draw down its desired soft loan for several months yet.

This is as bauxite and oil prices remain depressingly weak, while gold from the two mega mines in the interior has been showing signs of a decent and steady improvement in recent weeks. Rates for rice remain unspectacular.

But while officials look for immediate solutions amid rising commodity prices and a continuing weakening of the currency, Central Bank Chief Glenn Gersie is setting his face against the borrowing of such a large sum by an economy that is already tanking.

The result is that top officials are now reported to be looking for a compromise route to source the money while an effort is being made to push the IMF into acting faster.

Last November, the country devalued its currency by 20 percent, sending up prices and increasing tensions among labor unions.

Back in 2012 when prices were better for its exports, Central Bank foreign reserved had

topped a billion dollars. At the beginning of this year, it was headed to less than \$400M hence the level of panic among officials.

Like Guyana, Suriname is a major exporter of gold, bauxite and rice. Its economy has also raked in hundreds of millions from oil when prices were more decent than today.

In the 1970s, engineers drilling on shore water wells on its west coast across from Guyana stumbled on wells gushing black gold, pushing Guyanese officials to begin drilling on the other side of the border Corentyne River, albeit without success.

Continued from page 1

by the administration of President Desi Bouterse and growing hardships among its nearly 500,000 residents.

This week, authorities floated the idea of borrowing \$100M from international capital markets to keep things afloat but the move is being opposed by some at high levels of government.

The cabinet has already roped in the Oppenheimer Fund (OF), a U.S.-based international investment group to help it raise the money.

De Ware Tijd, the leading daily newspaper reports that the measure is an immediate move of desperation because approaches to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for bridging finance will take too long so the recommendation is for the money to be sourced from major financial institutions.

"The loan will have a term of 18 months with an interest rate of eight percent per year," the paper said.

An IMF team is in Paramaribo, the country's capital for talks with top officials but there are real fears that the bureauc-



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Brooklyn Champs



Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams presented trophies and words of praise to the Engineers girls varsity badminton, girls cross-country, girls varsity volleyball, and boys cross-country teams of Brooklyn Technical High School from Fort Greene.

Brooklyn Borough President's office / Erica Sherman

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Thursday hosted his second annual "A Night Honoring Brooklyn Champions," which celebrated the success of the borough's recent academic, artistic and athletic championship teams.

Students and coaches from local elementary, middle schools, high schools and colleges accepted trophies and

words of praise Adams during the ceremony in the courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall.

"You have achieved success in the fourth-largest city in the United States," Adams said. "From all those who played the game, you emerged victorious. I urge you to continue to excel, to care for your body — eating right and staying away from drugs.

Continued on Page 13

Growing concerns over terrorist activity in T&T

By Azad Ali

Financial transactions are suspected to be linked to more than 100 persons participating in terrorist activity in Trinidad and Tobago over the past year.

This is according to the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) Susan Francois, who noted that suspicious transactions linked to terrorism, had tripled.

This was revealed in the FIUTT's 2014/2015 report, which was laid in the Senate recently by the Minister of Finance Colm Imbert. It covered the period Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

Francois said there were five financial transaction reports that were suspected to be linked to terrorist activity in the year 2013 / 2014, but that number increased significantly within the next 12 to 16 months.

The FIUTT director said while there were 16 reports "the number of suspects identified in these reports, suspected terrorists and their financiers, exceeded that amount."

"The FIUTT has received and ana-

lyzed information from other local and international sources on over 100 persons who are suspected of participating in terrorist activities," she said.

Francois said based on reports of suspected terrorist activity, the FIUTT contributed to the Egmont Group, ISIL project on Western Hemispheric Regional Financial Intelligence Profile on ISIL, foreign terrorist fighters.

She said once disclosure was authorized, the FIUTT "will share the regional profile and underacted global assessment with domestic government partners."

Francois lamented the fact that terrorist groups were "bent on destabilizing communities, and causing loss of life; activities which are likely to have a global impact around the world, including the Caribbean."

"The FIUTT will recommend that the authorities give serious consideration to instituting limits to the use of cash for the purchase of goods and services, as well as in the collection of revenue from government offices," she said.

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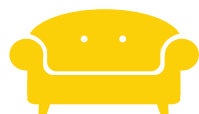
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Officers overcome by tear smoke while guards use ladder to climb walls of the main prison in Guyana.

Deadly prison riots in Guyana, 17 dead

By Bert Wilkinson

Inmates who rioted at Guyana's main prison facility for the past three days Friday signed off on a gentleman's truce with authorities to cease rebellious activities following an unprecedented meeting with cabinet members who have pledged to deal with several decades-old grievances including delays in trials, better food, and officer brutality.

A visibly rattled Public Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan and State Minister Joseph Harmon Friday met with a group of more than a dozen handcuffed prisoners to hear reasons for the riot at the Georgetown Prisons that led to the deaths of 17 inmates, injuries to eight others as well as several guards during a fresh round of unrest Friday.

The riots began on Wednesday night with inmates setting nine fires to beds and furniture and causing a serious disturbance at the prison in the heart of Georgetown City, the capital.

Authorities called in the riot squad, soldiers and other armed security personnel to quell the blaze and restore order. By Thursday morning, fires were again set this time it consumed 17 inmates after colleagues had barricaded doors with bed frames and pelted guards with objects as they tried to get to them. The inmates also accused officers of severely beating them and pushing some of them back into burning cells.

Early on Friday, a single fire was lit and inmates erupted again, forcing riot police to lace them with tear smoke but the eight officers rushed to hospitals

for treatment appear to have suffered the brunt of smoke inhalation and were spirited away from the facility while colleagues battled to quell the rebellion.

Mid morning Friday as well, ministers Ramjattan and Harmon agreed to meet with a representative team of inmates and said after a hour-long session that a truce had been agreed on while irritants would be fixed by government immediately.

Minister Ramjattan said some of the measures to improve conditions at the prison would include better quality food, an increase in the twice per week number of telephone calls to families, while authorities plan to lobby the judiciary to speed up trials for inmates on remand for misdemeanors and felonies. Some inmates are awaiting trials for up to five years.

In turn, the prisoners have agreed to cease rioting, setting fires to beds, hurling rocks and objects at guards and generally causing unrest at the facility, built for about 500 but now housing twice the number.

"We have agreed to keep our end of the bargain and they have agreed to keep theirs," Harmon said.

Ramjattan said a board of inquiry into the deaths of the 17 on Thursday will be established to probe reasons and to deal with some of the deeper problems at the facility including the need for increased physical space.

"This was a very useful meeting with the prisoners," said Harmon. "A prison is not a five-star hotel but we have to have some minimum standards."

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Who is Donald Trump?

By Wayne Kublalsingh

Just under one score years ago a core of U.S. fundamentalists got together to plot one of the most egregious and ill-fated crimes of human history. The plot was hatched under the rubric: Project for a New American Century. The plotters collaborated to destroy seven governments in the Middle East and North Africa: Iraq, Libya, Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan. They, and media corporations in the U.S. and Britain, called this war “the War on Terror”; and advertised it as being conducted by “the international community.” These plotters are also referred to as the neo-Cons, right wing extremists, state terrorists.

Today the planet is reaping the whirlwind of the plot: two million men, women and children killed; the assassination, murder and attempted murder of the leaders of sovereign states; the massive destruction of the economic and social assets of independent nation states; humungous destabilization and the spawning of genocide leading to a massive refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe; the reckless militarization of North Africa and the Middle East, and a corresponding surge in profits by U.S. military corporations; enhanced U.S. terror, drones, waterboarding torture, and the spread of terror to outlying nations like Pakistan, Turkey, Kurdistan.

Additionally, the emergence of a new proxy war between Russia and the U.S. in Syria; the growth of terrorist extremism; increased polarization between religious ethnicities, and between the Palestinians and Israelis; putting under clear and present danger entire populations in Europe and the United States; and an oil war between the Saudis on the one hand, and the

Iranians, Iraqis and shale gas on the other, leading towards diminished oil and gas prices.

Into this melee of terror jumps Donald Trump. With the exception of his promise to smash ISIS, he promises not military war, but war by trade. He likes Putin, who might be “a genius;” he could talk with Putin. And he loves China, Mexico, Viet Nam; but he would have to negotiate, conduct trade war with them, to get a better deal for America. The ploughshares of several international trade pacts would be beaten into swords. What cat has dragged this in? Neo-conservatives and conservative Republicanism are befuddled. America seems ready to vote him in; and they can do nothing about it.

Meanwhile, in Latin America, four of the most committed leftist (in the U.S. dictionary) leaders have fallen or had permanent setbacks: Chavez, Maduro, Morales, Kirchner; without a shot being fired. Ironically, as the right digs its heel into the Latin American left, the left digs its heel into the American extreme right. Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. These two are a challenge to the worst forms of Republican right-wing terror, and to Hillary Clinton, a masked version of it.

But will Donald Trump, the Trump deal, save the U.S. from its fate? Will his formula, the pre-eminence of trade brawl over military embattlement, work? No. His version of talk, negotiation, trade war, will lead inexorably to war. There are just too many goods, corporations, trade pacts, chasing too few markets. Markets are rubbing into each other creating the friction for war. And Trump’s wall is not a wall at all; it is the wolf of terror created by the neo-cons. It is the self-fulfilling prophesy based on a self-fulfilling plot.

Women empowerment central to sustainable development

By Mary Robinson

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, (1990-1997) and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997 to 2002).

DUBLIN, March 4, 2016 (IPS) - “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality” — the theme of this year’s International Women’s Day serves as a timely reminder that, despite incremental progress of recent years and the ambition of the new global development agenda, we must redouble efforts to achieve a world underpinned by gender equality. All women must be empowered to realise their full and equal rights. But what does it actually mean to step it up for gender equality?

For me, this requires targeted approaches to ensure that all women have a voice in the formulation of decisions that impact upon their lives. This is particularly important when it comes to facilitating the engagement of grassroots women. To realise the “leave no-one behind” approach called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment “to reach the furthest behind first”, grassroots women must be recognised as key actors in global sustainable development.

Grassroots women around the world hold a wealth of knowledge which we will need to manage the impacts of climate change and accelerate sustainable development. However, in order to properly value this knowledge and put it to use, women must be allowed to participate meaningfully

Grassroots women around the world hold a wealth of knowledge which we will need to manage the impacts of climate change and accelerate sustainable development.

in the design, planning and implementation of policies and programmes that impact on their lives. Ensuring women’s voices are heard and their needs acted upon is central to advancing climate justice.

The impacts of climate change are different for women and men.

Grassroots women are more likely to bear the greater burden in the face of climate change, particularly in situations of poverty. Climate change exacerbates existing patterns of inequality, including gender inequality. Grassroots women have limited access to productive resources; restricted mobility and little voice in decision making. Climate change leaves them highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate policy, to be effective, must understand these underlying inequalities in order to address the different ways in which climate effects grassroots women.

Enabling the meaningful participation of women is not just the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do. The global development sector has learned, sometimes the hard way, that programmes designed for vulnerable communities, without

engaging with the women of the community, rarely achieve their desired outcomes. This important lesson is reflected in the Sustainable Development Goal 5 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) which includes a target to: ‘Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life’. This need is particularly acute in the case of grassroots women. Unfortunately, the importance of including women in decision making and promoting women’s leadership is less well understood by the climate regime. Yet the majority of those on the front lines of poverty and climate change are women.

Some progress has made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2012 the Parties to the Convention adopted the Doha Miracle (Decision 23/CP.18), a decision to enhance the participation of women in climate change negotiations. Parties will review progress against the ambition this decision at COP 22 in November. When they do, however, they will see that only slight gains have been made in terms of equality of representation at negotiations. For instance, the latest UNFCCC Gender Composition Report highlights that only 36 percent of delegates were women at COP 20, and this figure drops to 26 percent when

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Caribbean Life

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Will their standards sink even lower?

Is this stuff real, that would-be Republican presidents are serving up for public sampling? It's difficult to resist the conclusion that the mud-wrestling bouts featuring what's left of the field of GOP seekers of White House occupancy is too bizarre not to be an act — a sick promotional ploy concocted by party operatives. You want to think that the so-called debate a few days ago, of which the lasting takeaway and headline maker was Marco Rubio and Donald Trump sparring over the respective sizes of their genitals, was the lowest possible point of descent for these encounters. But you would be well advised to hedge your bets on that. There could well be even more barbaric goings-on in the pipeline.

It's been long known that one guy, Trump, is as classic a rendering of repulsiveness in the public eye as there's ever been. Troubled as they surely are that such a despicable character has been leading the pack in GOP primary voting, even-keeled observers of the process, Republicans as

well as others, can't be too thrilled that among the last men standing in the struggle to be the party's nominee, there's more than one committed to bottom-feeder tactics.

We've said here often enough that if the others now going to the mat with Trump were truly serious about not having their party represented by this blowhard — which is to say, if their disgust with him had been informed by principle above all else — an agreement among the concerned objectors would have settled on one of them as the Trump foil. But, principle be damned. This bunch, none of whom has anything resembling presidential cache, wasn't about to embark on a party and / or country first path. Rubio in fact hurled at Trump the hard truth on support numbers during the recent slime-ridden snarling match: "Two-thirds of Republican voters don't support you." So do the elementary math, stupid! You and the other egomaniacal bozos who would rather see your party rent asunder than reach common ground on who among

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

you should be the designated anti-Trump.

Of course, the narrative would not have gotten to these extremes of clown-car adventurism, had the party as a whole in the first place taken, again, a principled stand against Trump's racist bilge and general hate mongering, and told him to take a hike. You wind up where Republicans are today when you prove yourself too gutless to employ condemnation and commensurate action where you know they're clearly warranted.

The Trump-led circus atmosphere that has enveloped the GOP's nominee search this time around has turned the spotlight on party structures, as they exist here in the U.S., as distinct, for example, from national parties as we know them to operate in Caribbean democracies. The ease with

which Trump has been a tail wagging the GOP dog, even in the face of strenuous objection from party headliners far and wide to his being the potential brand representative, begs the question: Who or what constitutes the "establishment" of the Republican party? One analyst, when asked this after the circus had been underway for a while, proceeded to list an informal mix of major donors, governors, etc. One imagines that there are other interpretations of what the GOP establishment is.

Fitting into the party leadership bubble somewhere is that Republicans (as do Democrats) have a national committee. The post of chairman of the Republican National Committee is one whose sphere of influence one might wonder about, if not before, certainly as of the time that African American Michael Steele served as chairman a few years ago. The current chairman is a man named Reince Priebus, who was busy declaring to assembled conservatives at their annual gathering in Washington

recently, that whoever the GOP nominee turns out to be would be guaranteed the party's full backing. This, even as Mitt Romney at the very gathering, and assorted other GOP power players across the board were sounding off about how embarrassing and utterly undesirable Trump would be as the party's standard bearer.

Republicans have at certain times in the past indicated having arrived at some point of self-examination that would supposedly be leading to some kind of substantive directional shift. Their much ballyhooed intention to undertake serious outreach to minorities comes to mind — an effort whose fruits seem none too visible. But this scrambling of the nomination process precipitated by one guy's toxic presence has to be the GOP's most important cautionary tale to date. It's left to be seen if that elusive party "establishment" fails to take preventive action against getting similarly trapped down the road.



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Sustainable development

Continued from page 10

considering heads of delegations. In Lima Parties agreed to commence the Lima work programme on gender, a two-year exploration of the gender dimensions of climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change recognises the need for gender equality and women's empowerment.

These are all signs of progress, but a lot more needs to be done to be done in order for women's voices to be thoroughly included in the formation of climate action. A key next step is investment in training and capacity building for grassroots women in order to enable full and effective participation. This is captured in SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) which includes a target which calls on States to promote capacity building mechanisms in small island developing states and least developed countries to assist women, youth and local and marginalised communities to take part in climate change-related planning and management. Operationalising this target will be critical to achieving a harmonised and people centred approach to both the sustainable development agenda and the new climate agreement.

In 2015, the global community laid a foundation upon which we can build a safer world with opportunity for

all. In concluding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, world leaders signalled a willingness to change course – to leave behind the unequal and unsustainable traditional development models and move towards a future free from poverty and want, with abundant clean energy and a healthy environment.

In 2016 we begin to plan and implement these two ambitious, universal international processes; we must ensure that women's voices, and human rights, inform our actions. Grassroots women must not be seen simply as passive recipients of climate assistance. They are key actors in achieving their right to development. By acknowledging grassroots women as agents of change within their communities, valuing their knowledge and building their capacity to adapt, decision makers can develop sustainable, long term climate solutions at a local level which will strengthen whole communities.

As we "step it up for gender equality," I call on all those in positions of influence to provide the platforms for grassroots women to speak to for themselves. Listening to, and valuing, their knowledge and experience will help to shape progress towards 2030 that is good for people, the planet and gender equality.

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Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams presented trophies and words of praise to the Engineers girls varsity badminton, girls cross-country, girls varsity volleyball, and boys cross-country teams of Brooklyn Technical High School from Fort Greene.

Brooklyn Borough President's office / Erica Sherman

Brooklyn Champs

Continued from page 7

"And I want you to remember that the relationships you build in sports will always remain a part of your life," he added. "I still know people who played football with me in high school, and we still support each other to this day."

Honorees included the Bedford Stuyvesant Crusaders adult amateur minor league football team, as well as the National Society of High School Scholars award winners of Bedford-Stuyvesant Preparatory School from Bedford-Stuyvesant; the flag rugby team from IS 392K The School for the Gifted and Talented from Brownsville; and the Brooklyn Chiefs dance team from Canarsie; a student from IS 239 Mark Twain for the Gifted and Talented from Coney Island who contributed voiceover work to "The Peanuts Movie."

Others were: The spelling bee team from PS 289 George V. Brower; the Brooklyn United Marching Band from Crown Heights; the Wolves football team from Grand Street Campus High School from East Williamsburg; and the Engineers girls varsity badminton, girls cross-country, girls varsity volleyball, and boys cross-country teams from Brooklyn Technical High School from Fort Greene; the Bonnie Youth Organization baseball league from Flatbush.

The Orange Wave indoor and outdoor track

and field team of Thomas Jefferson Campus High School from East New York; the Cougars boys badminton team of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School from Mapleton; the Young Poets Society Contest winner of IS 240 Andries Hudde from Midwood; the girls soccer team of Sunset Park High School from Sunset Park; and the debate team of MS 50 El Puente Community School from Williamsburg, were the other honorees.

"Be inspired," said Ryan Hamilton of the City University of New York Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, a program that helps students from underserved neighborhoods to succeed in college. "Be inspiring."

School administrators and coaches whose students and teams were honored by Borough President Adams also celebrated the achievements of the extraordinary young men and women.

"The Bedford Stuyvesant Crusaders use football as a vehicle to carry young men to better places in their lives," said Tywan Anthony, founder of the Bedford Stuyvesant Crusaders. "Football is the point of entry for many — from that point they learn so many skills: team building, management, time management, hard work, and the list goes on. Football is not just a sport — it's a way of life that helps transition our youth and young adults into better lives."

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Continued from page 4

signee was found with contaminants.

She told the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) that the implications of the findings, including health risks, were discussed with the importer, adding that "these factors formed the basis for our decision to dispose of the commodity."

St. Kitts

There is no Zika case in St. Kitts and Nevis to date, This is according to Minister of State, Senator Wendy Phipps, who has responsibility for health.

She has confirmed that presently there are no suspected or laboratory confirmed cases of the Zika virus on the twin island federation.

The minister made the claim during a statement in the National Assembly recently concerning the Aedes aegypti mosquito-borne virus that has been identified in some islands of the Caribbean region.

She said visitors to St. Kitts and Nevis should not be afraid to travel to the island.

Owing to the economic impact of Zika, the World Bank has provided US\$150 million in financing to Latin America and the Caribbean region to help combat the virus outbreak.



a candidate for the ruling Progressive National Party (PNP).

Misick has submitted his name to the party he led for two general election victories, for consideration in the constituency of North and Middle Caicos- the constituency where he was born and which is currently represented by his nephew, Donhue Gardiner, who is also Minister of Immigration and Labor.

He and several other former government ministers and their associates are facing charges of conspiracy to accept bribes in public office, conspiracy to defraud and money laundering, brought by a special investigative team set up by the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2011.

The case is currently being heard before Justice Paul Harrison.

Trinidad

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago is "objectionable" and continues to get the attention of the Cabinet.

In a new release following the killing of a prison officer who was gunned down outside his home and two other murders, the prime minister stated

government acknowledges the level of criminal conduct in the country was unacceptable and the National Security Council and all other arms of the state, whose duty it is, must work assiduously "to ensure that we return, in the shortest possible time, to good order, peace, safety and security in Trinidad and Tobago."

Government, he said, will continue to focus and redouble its efforts to protect, secure and ensure an environment that is not conducive to fear and terror aimed at those citizens whose job it is to provide all aspects of security to the population," Dr. Rowley added.

The murder rate has climbed to 85 so far for the year.

— compiled by Azad Ali



Turks and Caicos Islands

Former Turks and Caicos Islands premier Michael Misick is throwing his hat again into the political ring in the British Overseas Territory's upcoming elections, despite being in the midst of a corruption trial.

Elections must be held no later than February 2017. And Misick, who led the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) from 2003 to 2009, before resigning, said he intends to put forward himself as



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Cuba announces first case of Zika, imported from Venezuela

By Michael Weissenstein

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba announced Wednesday that it had detected the first case of the Zika virus on the island, which had been one of the last nations in the Western Hemisphere free of the disease.

The Ministry of Health said in state media that a 28-year-old Venezuelan post-doctoral student in gastroenterology arrived in the country Feb. 21 and a day later came down a high fever and rash. The government says the woman was under medical quarantine in Artemisa province outside Havana with other newly arrived doctors when her symptoms were detected.

An initial test for Zika was negative but a second test on Feb. 28 was positive, health officials said. The woman remains hospitalized in good condition at Cuba's main tropical disease hospital in Havana, officials said. The woman's husband and brother-in-law had both come down with Zika in Venezuela in recent weeks. The medical professionals who had entered Cuba alongside the sick woman remain in quarantine with no sign of Zika,



People make their way through fumigation fog, sprayed to kill Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes, in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Authorities are fumigating in an attempt to prevent the spread of Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue.

officials said.

The Health Ministry made no mention of any case of Zika transmitted inside Cuba.

President Raul Castro announced Feb. 22 that the country was militarizing its fight to kill disease-carrying

mosquitoes, assigning 9,000 soldiers to spray for the insects nationwide. Since then, soldiers, police and health workers have launched an intense door-to-door effort to fumigate for mosquitos.

Gaps had been increasingly

obvious in the effort to spray homes and businesses for the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which has infected thousands of Cubans with the dengue virus and dozens with chikungunya, a disease that causes fever and severe joint pain. Cubans

frequently claimed allergies or asthma to put off fumigation crews composed of public health workers and teenagers completing obligatory military service.

Those days appear to be ending as troops deployed across the country with hand-held foggers are now armed with the threat of fines for anyone who resists fumigation and fog-spraying trucks and small airplanes are blanketing the capital and other cities with white clouds of pesticide.

In Cuba's airports and cruise ship terminals, crews of white-clad doctors are monitoring incoming travelers for high temperatures or other signs of illness. Medical officials said the fight against Zika had taken on increasing urgency as Cuba's hot, humid spring and summer draw near.

Cuba earns billions of dollars a year from programs that dispatch doctors to allied countries like Venezuela and Brazil and bring medical students to Cuba. Wednesday's report appeared to imply that those medical professionals were now being quarantined on return.

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Haitian airline accepts delivery of first ATR aircraft

By Nelson A. King

Haitian-owned airline Sunrise Airways says it has accepted delivery of its first ATR 42-320 aircraft, saying it is “an important next step in its efforts toward establishing a hub in Port-au-Prince,” the Haitian capital.

With the new ATR, Sunrise Airways said on Friday that Haiti will “better serve gateways throughout the Western Caribbean.”

The 46-seat aircraft last week began operating its inaugural flights between Port-au-Prince and Camaguey, Cuba, as well as its ongoing service to/from Santiago de Cuba.

“The new flagship of the Sunrise fleet is here, marking a bright new beginning for our company and valued passengers,” Philippe Bayard, president and owner of Sunrise Airways, told reporters in Port-au-Prince. “Our investment in this aircraft underscores our commitment to expanding our route network and providing the traveling public with the very best.”

Sunrise Airways said it is leasing its new ATR 42-320 under a comprehensive ACMI agreement with Danish Air Transport.

The two parties are currently engaged in discussions toward adding a second ATR to the Sunrise fleet in 2016.

Sunrise Airways is the first and only Haitian-owned airline to be awarded a Part 129



The new Sunrise Airways ATR 42-320.

Sunrise Airways

Operating Permit (Dominican Republic).

The airline said it is “rising to meet the progressively expanding demand for safe, reliable, and affordable air travel throughout the Western Caribbean, operating daily

scheduled passenger service connecting key gateways across the region with the world.”

From its hub in Port-au-Prince, the carrier currently serves Santo Domingo (JBQ); Santiago de Cuba (SCU); Cap Haitien (CAP); and, new for

2016, Camaguey, Cuba (CMW).

Additional new flights connecting Port-au-Prince with Kingston, Jamaica (KIN); Providenciales, Turks & Caicos (PLS); and Nassau, The Bahamas (NAS) are planned for 2016.

In line with the expansion of its route network, Sunrise Airways said it will also augment its fleet in 2016, adding new 46-seat ATR 42-320 aircraft to serve alongside its pre-existing cadre of 19-seat Jetstream 32 EP turboprops.

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2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide_3135.pdf

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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Eugene: Expand Summer Youth Employment Program

Dominica Public Works and Ports minister resigns

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene, chairman of the City Council's Youth Services Committee, on Wednesday dispatched a letter signed by 40 of his colleagues asking Mayor Bill de Blasio to expand the funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and to add more job opportunities for disconnected youth.

Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District in Brooklyn, said the letter, which has bipartisan support, highlights the need for the expansion of SYEP.

He said the program provided jobs to less than half of the young people who applied last year.

In 2015, more than 130,000 teenagers and young adults sought positions in the program but only about 54,000 individuals received jobs, Eugene said.

"We must do everything possible to make sure all of our young people who want to work are able to do so," Eugene said. "An investment in our youth is an investment in our city."

"When our young people are unable to find jobs, they may be forced to pursue other alternative lifestyles in



Council Member Mathieu Eugene.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

order to make a living," he added. "By intervening early with positive opportunities, we may be able to change the course of our young people's futures."

Last week, Eugene held the Committee on Youth Services Hearing, "Oversight: The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)."

He said he was joined by youth advocates who also shared his vision for the expansion of "this

important program."

As a long-time advocate for SYEP, Eugene said he has continually pushed for the program's expansion.

In past years, Eugene said there were enrollment slots for only approximately 36,000 young people.

He said because of his effort and collaboration with his colleagues, under the leadership of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and with the support of Mayor de Blasio, "the program was expanded to include more than 50,000 positions for young people."

Eugene said he wants SYEP to continue increasing "until every applicant receives a job."

In addition to the expansion of SYEP, the councilman also supports year-round jobs for the youth, especially disconnected ones.

He said a year-round job program, "Work, Learn, Grown (WLG)," currently offers 6,000 jobs for students only.

Eugene said he wants the program expanded "so that youth who are not enrolled in school would have an equal opportunity to apply for this program."

By Azad Ali

Dominica Public Works and Ports Minister Ian Pinard has tendered his resignation amid allegations of inappropriate conduct with an underage girl.

Police have started an investigation into allegations of unlawful and inappropriate conduct made against three men.

Pinard on Wednesday tendered his resignation to Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, (which took effect immediately), saying that stepping down would allow him to "more appropriately" address the allegations against him and "focus on other very important personal matters."

In a statement issued after he stepped down, Pinard said: "In recent days, allegations of serious inappropriate behavior have been made against me in the media and elsewhere, in relation to matters which the public rightly is and has been most concerned about. I believe I have a moral and fiduciary responsibility to you to address you on this matter."

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KCH gets nearly \$5M for expanded medical care

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene, a long-time advocate for health, on Friday presented King's County Hospital (KCH) with a \$4,912,000 check for expanded medical treatment.

Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District that encompasses KCH, said health will always be a top priority for him, adding: "This multimillion-dollar allocation will help ensure that millions of New Yorkers can continue to receive phenomenal care right here in Brooklyn."

"On behalf of the New York City Council and the residents of Brooklyn, I'm proud to present a check of \$4,912,000 to King's County Hospital," said Eugene at the handing-over ceremony. "All New Yorkers deserve quality care, and I'm pleased to be your advocate for health."

"It is our moral obligation to make sure that our men, women, children, and senior citizens receive the care they are entitled to, and I will

continue to support important health initiatives," the council member continued.

Eugene said he had previously allocated funding for a variety of health projects. In December, he celebrated the ribbon-cutting ceremony at KCH for the new Linear Accelerator (LINAC), a state-of-the-art machine that provides radiation therapy for cancer patients by destroying cancerous cells while leaving healthy tissue intact.

He had also allocated funds to support nearby SUNY Downstate Medical Center's Advanced Biotechnology Incubator and recently celebrated its completion, "which helps guarantee that Brooklyn will be a leader in the bio-tech industry."

In addition to allocating funds to help ensure quality care for New Yorkers, Eugene said he is also working on legislation that will raise awareness about dangerous health ailments impacting residents.

In February, Eugene introduced Res 0978, which



Councilman Dr. Mathieu Eugene (L) presents nearly \$5 million to Kings County Hospital.

recognizes the first week of every February as Heart Disease Awareness Week in New York City.

He said this was "especially crucial because heart disease is the leading cause of

death for men and women in the United States, according to the [Atlanta, Ga.-based] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Eugene has also introduced Res 0162, which

declares the first Tuesday in May as World Asthma Day in New York City, and Res 0254, which declares the fourth Wednesday in May as Stroke Awareness Day in New York City.

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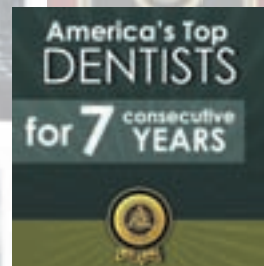
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Haitian-American Joyce Azor and Dominican-American Clarivel Ruiz collaborated to produce a heartfelt evening of poetry and music bringing Dominican and Haitian word and performing artists together at the famed Nuyorican Poets Café.

Dominicans and Haitians – bridging the gap

By Tequila Minsky

The Dominicans Love Haitians Movement has joined the ranks of creative Dominicans in artistic collaboration with Haitians reaching across the contentious boundary that separates the two populations of the one island, Hispaniola.

Held at the Nuyorican Poets Café, in late February, four Dominicans and five Haitians came together in poetry, music and inspiration to celebrate commonalities.

The evening was organized by filmmaker and Borinqua College (Bushwick Campus) communications professor Clarivel Ruiz, a Dominican-American who went to the Dominican Republic for the first time in 2009. While she might have been aware of animosity between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, it really hit home on that first family trip to the DR when her father revealed that one of his grandmothers was Haitian.

Ruiz tells this story as an intro to a packed Nuyorican Café in this Lower East Side performance venue on that blustery rainy night.

At the point when her parents had been married for 45 years, her mother said, “If I had known that, I wouldn’t have married you.” She was sharing this deep-seated prejudice.

A poet herself, Ruiz speaks about a personal journey of self-reflection. “I was looking for why this (Dominican mind-set) is the way it is, particularly Dominicans not honoring their African ancestry.” She acknowledges how Dominicans have internalized the colonial attitude and denial of self.

The conversation of “the other” had also previously been with her; she had been having this discussion for several years.

“I asked myself how could we harness power on how we live our lives? How can we live without being hateful? I thought how poetry and music are great forms of expression of what we feel as people.”

Inside the creative community, Ruiz found others with whom it resonated to bring Dominican and Haitian performing artists together. She discovered Afro-Latina poet Amanda Alcantara who “lives in the intersections of gender and race,” who grew up in the DR and lives in between many identities. She found poet Roberto Carlos Garcia who knew Dominican poet YuBelly Rodriguez.

Ruiz’s friend Joyce Azor immediately wanted to collaborate. Her husband Steve Azor, founder of Ayiti Deploge, reached out to Haitian talent, bringing in newly arrived Anie Alert Joseph who sang during the evening. On acoustic guitar, Mikaelle Cartright sang in French Manno Charlemagne’s “Bam Yon Ti Limye” that asks: Why must the Black race suffer? Why are they treated so unfairly?

Others who performed were Haitian rapper singers Rossini Celestin and also D’eithchy & and Tre Issacs.

The 40-year-old multicultural and multi-arts Nuyorican Café, a perfect venue for these spoken words artists to perform together, has a history of giving voice to diverse groups of rising poets, actors, filmmakers and musicians who have not yet found consistent havens for their work.



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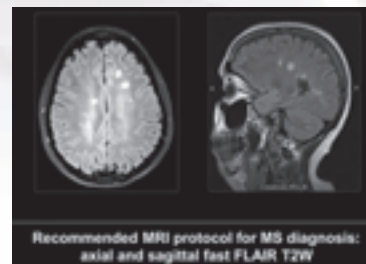
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'Soul Serenade' takes a spin

"Soul Serenade" by Rashod Ollison
c.2016, Beacon Press
\$25.95 / \$30.00 Canada
230 pages



Rashod Ollison.

as he was bullied in school for "actin' like a woman."

He denied feminine gestures and a tender heart, but by age 13, he could no longer ignore that he was gay.

School, by then, had joined music as a thing of refuge; Ollison excelled at his lessons, achieved good grades, made friends, and expanded his playlist. As he grew, he also wondered about his father sometimes but was largely indifferent, even as the man lay dying.

And then an aunt told Ollison something that made him change his tune.

"Soul Serenade" starts where many good memoirs do: with a faded picture of a time that barely seems possible. From there, we're surprised by a death that promises to taint much of what's to come, all wrapped in family lore.

But don't get complacent. Author Rashod Ollison doesn't allow any lingering. Soon enough, his story becomes angry yelling, a smack upside the head, profanity, TV-as-babysitter, fists and sore feet. We're taken from neighborhood to neighborhood as the lights are shut off, the rent isn't paid, and he's taunted with words that his sister has to

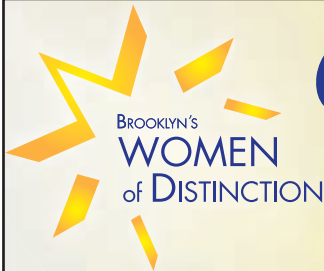


Rashod Ollison.

explain. It's chaos — but it's also a darn good tale that it doesn't dissolve into whining or poore-ing, testament to Ollison's storytelling skills.

"Soul Serenade" is one of

those books that sticks in your brain — not only for the suggested music, but because the memoir itself leaves its mark. And if that sounds like solid gold to you, then give this book a spin.



Congratulations to Brooklyn's 2016 Women of Distinction

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Our Honorees will be celebrated
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46 state legislators endorse Clinton

By Nelson A. King

In a strong showing of support from her home state, Brooklyn Assemblyman N. Nick Perry, chairman of New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, announced on Tuesday that 46 members of the Caucus, including Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, and Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, declared their endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president.

This announcement follows a recent meeting between Caucus members and Secretary Clinton in Harlem, during which they had direct discussions about her campaign and her agenda as president to break down barriers that hold back Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian communities in New York State and across our nation.

Other specific topics discussed at the meeting included: MWBE initiatives at the federal level, comprehensive immigration reform, the school-to-prison pipeline, criminal justice reform; how her administration would take a comprehensive approach to tackle the long-standing systemic racism still very potent in America today; and how state legislators can be a partner in these efforts.

"The clear choice to lead our nation is Hillary Clinton, and I support her wholeheartedly," said Speaker Heastie. "She has the experience and leadership qualities we need to help guide our country and build on President Obama's legacy. Hillary Clinton has long been a strong advocate for New York, and I look forward to her continuing that legacy as our next President of the United States."

"Hillary Clinton has the drive, experience and passion to continue the progress President Obama has made and move our country forward. Hillary has served our country with distinction and has repeatedly proven that she has what it takes to achieve results," said Stewart-Cousins. "She has been clear that she wants to make America whole again and is committed to breaking down barriers and building a stronger, fairer country."

The Jamaican-born Perry, who represents the 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, said Clinton has "a sustained and trusted relationship with the Black, Hispanic, and Asian communities.



Assemblywoman Pamela Harris, founder of the popular youth organization Coney Island Generation GAP, a representative, honoree Jamilah Lemieux, senior editor at Ebony Magazine, Hon. Scott M. Stringer, honoree Faith Williams, student body president, and Mike Muse, co-founder of Muse Recordings. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

NYC comptroller honors trailblazers

By Tangerine Clarke

Three Brooklyn citizens and one organization were honored and called "Trailblazers" on Thursday, Feb. 25 in the Dining Hall at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer hosted the award ceremony celebrating African-American History Month, in collaboration with Congressman Yvette D. Clarke, State Senator Jesse Hamilton, Assemblymember Walter T. Mosley and Councilmember Laurie Cumbo.

The distinguished honorees presented with commendations included: Mike Muse, co-founder of Muse Recordings, political expert and commentator on XM Radio, and pop culture expert on VH1, BET NBC and ARISE; Faith Williams, student body president and a member of the Youth Leadership Council; Coney Island Generation Gap, a Future Focus Project / Arts and education program for low-income youth with a 100 percent graduation rate; and Jamilah Lemieux, senior editor at Ebony Magazine and champion of Black women and girls, and a fierce advocate for racial, social justice and LGBT rights.

President of Medgar Evers College, Dr. Rudolph F. "Rudy" Crew in his introduction, thanked Comptroller Stringer for his contribution to African-American Heritage month and for honoring trailblazers in the community.

In his address to the audience, Stringer said, "It is great being at Medgar Evers celebrating our trailblazers. I want to welcome you to this campus with amazing history," adding that the college was named for the great Twentieth Century Civil Rights Leader Medgar Evers, who was fearless in his fight for equality, and left an inspiring legacy for everyone, especially the youths who attend the college.



Students of Coney Island Generation Gap poses with NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Naming Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American elected to Congress, Dr. Una Clarke, the first Caribbean-American elected to the New York City Council and Lena Horne, who was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Stringer said he honors people in the community who work everyday to lift everybody up.

"We respect the trailblazers," adding, "It is time to recognize the new frontier of the Civil Rights Movement, a true struggle for economic justice. Here in New York City we are using the fiscal power in the Comptroller's office for opportunity for all New Yorkers. We don't only talk diversity, we are taking action," he said.

Stringer praised his office for electing Carra Wallace, the first chief diversity officer, and Deputy Wendy Garcia, as he continues his fight to end inequality practices in services where only just five percent of contracts go towards women and minority business.

The politician spoke passionately about creating jobs for the millions of New Yorkers and empowering neighborhoods to be competitive to drive down prices and save taxpayers dollars.

The NY City agency report card on minority / women-owned businesses failed with a grade D, said Springer who argued that the agency must do better. "I am also holding Wall Street accountable because billions of our pension money are invested in these firms but the firms do not look like our city," he said. He quipped they are pale, male and stale, adding that 97 percent of hedge fund managers are white males.

As such, the Comptroller's office has launched a new initiative to make diversity a factor when choosing investment manager firms. "This should be the national model," said Springer, calling for boardrooms to be opened to minority so that the young African American males who work hard at Medgar Evers College to complete a degree in business, have a great chance to work on Wall Street.

"We have to make sure that everyone rise through the ranks and sit on corporate boards that manage the largest companies in the United States of America, and when it comes to diversity, we have to change America's corporate landscape, one board at a time. It is not just about dollars and cents, it's the human part, of what we do."

Springer blasted NYCHA for the 50,000 people he said are in shelters, 3000 of whom are children who sleep in rat-infested, un-protected environment and called on the agency to protect the city's children.

"It is time to honor our great African-American leaders in our communities who are working everyday to make our city better," he told the audience which included Dr. Una Clarke, newly elected Assemblywoman Pamela Harris, founder of the popular youth organization Coney Island Generation GAP, and Daniel Abrahamson of the Mayor's Office.

Symposium to examine Sparrow's career

By Les Slater

The storied career of the artist who has been the most renowned name ever in the field of calypso, Mighty Sparrow, will be examined in a symposium presented by the Trinidad & Tobago Folk Arts Institute, in collaboration with the Medgar Evers College School of Professional & Community Development, on Friday evening, April 8. Titled "Just Like That, Sparrow Turned 80," the symposium will be held in the Mary Pinkett Lecture Hall on the Medgar Evers College campus in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The symposium's title hints at the unlikely reality for veteran watchers of the inimitable "Birdie," regarded by many as calypso's enduring evergreen, that he has indeed joined the octogenarian class as of last July. It's not difficult to imagine that some who recall Sparrow when he was fresh out of the blocks in the 1950s — and followed his remarkable career, through those frequent portray-

als in song of himself as the embodiment of male prowess — would probably not be adjusting readily to his becoming an 80-year-old.

Featuring presentations from a specially selected roster of participants, the symposium will explore various aspects of Sparrow's career, one that is without parallel in the history of the calypso art form. He has been the most prodigious producer of calypso material, with a staggering number of recordings released over the years, and he has been, as well, the foremost global ambassador for calypso.

Sparrow burst on the national scene in Trinidad in 1956 when, not yet 21 years old, he won the Calypso King and Carnival road march titles with what would become one of his legendary hits, "Jean and Dinah." Slinger Francisco was born in Grenada, and migrated with his mother to Trinidad when he was a child. Blessed with a good voice, he

sang in the school choir but soon developed a love for calypso, which intensified when he was in his teens. With his natural flair for performing, the youngster felt convinced he was destined for a career as an entertainer. The "Sparrow" sobriquet was bestowed when he became a regular at one of Port of Spain's calypso tents.

Sparrow proceeded to prove himself a master of calypso like no other and dominated the genre from the time he won his first title. He clearly was without peer as a performer, displaying a singular ability to wow audiences, whether in live performances or recordings, with his flawless command of material in any topic category. And his choice of topics ran the gamut: political discourse, social commentary, male-female relationships, humor, tributes...would typically have measurable impact, once given the deft handling of a Sparrow delivery.

Fan favorites from the enor-



Calypsonian The Mighty Sparrow performing at Dimanche Gras held behind the Brooklyn Museum in 2011.

Photo by William Farrington

mous library of material introduced by Sparrow also covers the spectrum. Lovers of commentary on the social condition or world affairs might favor "Capitalism Gone Mad," "Slave," "Education," "Crown Heights Justice," "Wanted Dead Or Alive." For those partial to Sparrow in party or good-times mode, preferred choices might include "Drunk and Disorderly," "Going Home Tonight," "Sa Sa

Yea," "Margarita." His paeans to heroes like "Kennedy," "William the Conqueror," "I Will Not Apologize," (tribute to Nelson Mandela) and "Memories" (tribute to departed fellow artists) would be sentimental favorites as well. And no listing of what has most delighted fans is complete without ribald hits like "Congo Man," "Mae Mae," "BG Plantain," "Wood In the Fire," "Sixty Million Frenchmen."

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Obama's heir to address Sharpton's confab

Two presidential candidates in the race for nomination by the Democratic Party are confirmed to attend the 25th anniversary convention commemorating the beginning of the National Action Network (NAN).

Recently confirmed by Rev. Al Sharpton who founded the Civil Rights organization, Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state and Senator Bernie Sanders will attend the annual convention slated from April 13 to April 16.

The two contrasting candidates now locked in a campaign to win the approval of the political party that named then Senator Barack Obama, the best choice to defeat any Republican in 2008 are slated to headline NAN's 25th silver anniversary event in Manhattan.

"One of them is going to be the nominee," Sharpton said during a recent radio broadcast where he urged potential voters to register and attend the principal meeting of any national Black organization to convene this year.

According to the activist / leader, on the first day of the convention, Clinton, a former first lady and now presidential hopeful will lead a special plenary address at noon.

The Vermont representative will do the same at 10 am on the third day of the convention.

Annually attended by a myriad of local, state and nationally elected officials, this year's gathering significantly spotlights personalities and issues that could impact the outcome of the November elections to decide a successor to America's history-making first Black president.

Prior to his first election before beating Clinton, Obama attended NAN's 2008 confab.

There he was met with



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

warmth and assurance by a crowd certain of his impending and historic victory.

Three years later, President Obama returned to deliver the keynote remarks during an awards ceremony named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There at the signature event known as the Keepers of the Dream Awards, the president addressed a gathering lauding leading names in politics, entertainment, civil rights and business. The awards, given each year in April to mark the anniversary of Dr. King's death, honor those who have continued to advocate for the principles for which the Nobel Peace Prize winner gave his life.

This year's honorees have not been announced however, in addition to the two Democratic frontrunners that will attend the annual event, Sharpton said five cabinet members of the Obama administration are also confirmed to attend the four-day convention.

Among them, Broderick Johnson, White House cabinet secretary and assistant to the president; Julian Castro, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Thomas Perez, secretary of Labor, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator of the Small Business Administration.

This year with Clinton making a second bid to be elected America's first female leader she is poised to win the same favor from NAN loyalists and mem-

bers of the Democratic Party who may perceive her as the most electable-Democrat to win against a fierce conservative field of Republicans.

While no member of the Republican slate of candidates were announced to attend NAN's proving ground ceremony, it must be noted that since 1991 when the organization formed, Democrats have dominated the plenary sessions and panel discussions which focus on topics related to civil rights, criminal justice, voter protection, education, gun-violence, immigration, jobs, healthcare, women's rights and police brutality.

Already Sharpton has had meetings with the two leading candidates.

He first met with Sen. Sanders at a Harlem restaurant.

Together, they discussed issues confronting the Black community — Flint, Michigan's water crisis, pervasive police brutality meted out to Blacks and other minorities throughout the nation and joblessness.

After the meeting he said he would also meet with Clinton but would not endorse either of the candidates until he was convinced of the sincerity of each candidate to keep promises to the Black community.

He has since met with Clinton and is yet to announce a choice Democrat.

NAN's convention will bring together influential national leaders in the areas of civil rights, government, labor, religion, business, politics, media and activism to assess progress.

There will be a special tel-



Rev. Al Sharpton speaks to the media in Detroit.

Associated Press / Paul Sancya, File

vised forum at the end of the convention entitled "Measuring the Movement" which will be hosted by Rev. Sharpton. It will feature leaders from the legacy civil rights organizations and reviews by some of the legends of the civil rights movement.

NAN was formed in response to the onslaught of racial murders throughout New York. Prior to its formation the brutal murder of Trinidad & Tobago native Michael Griffith in Howard Beach galvanized activists and concerned citizens to confront the growing tragedies. Following that tragedy which mobilized national attention, The Bensonhurst Murder case and The Central Park Jogger Trial also created tensions with polarized reactions from a divided New York.

When businessman Donald Trump placed his full-page opinion in four daily newspapers that may have led to the indictment of the five Black teenagers, it seemed as if the city became even more divided.

Despite the fact, the youths pleaded not guilty and denied being in Central Park at the time of the assault of jogger Patricia Meile, they were found guilty.

During their prison term, an inmate confined at the same facility confessed his guilt and gave detailed accounts of his involvement in the brutal attack of the jogger.

The youths who had aged to men were eventually freed but Trump never apologized for his egregious and hasty conviction of the Black Harlem residents who lived across from the park and claimed a coerced confession by police to be their only crime.

NAN forcefully embraced that case and many of the unjustified accusations and murders of minorities and since then has rallied in support of the Cato family from Guyana, (whose seven-year-old son was killed in Crown Heights, Brooklyn) the Sean Bell family — who lost a son to police killing on a Thanksgiving eve that also marked his pre-wedding date, the family of Trayvon Martin (who grieved after the teenager was shot in Florida by a security guard who was acquitted for the shooting) and most recently, the family of Eric Garner, a Staten Island resident who was choked to death by police.

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Finalists of the Young Scientist Challenge solve a problem using the elements of STEM – science, technology, engineering and math.

Here's to our future scientists

Middle school is a make-or-break time for budding scientists. The subject matter gets more difficult, test anxiety often occurs and other interests emerge.

U.S. students rank 27th in math and 20th in science out of 34 countries scored, according to the latest research from the Organization for Econom-

ic Cooperation and Development.

That lagging interest in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — is contributing to an ongoing shortage of highly skilled workers that in the United States may reach 3 million by 2018.

Technology business 3M understands the need for the

next generation of science innovators, inventors and leaders.

For decades, 3M scientists and engineers have developed products that solve problems and improve lives. A shortage of STEM-savvy workers will slow innovation across all industries.

If your child has a passion for science, encourage their

curiosity.

Here are some ideas from 3M science experts on how to further foster a love of science:

- Find an after-school program or STEM mentor.

A high-quality STEM after school program leads to improved attitudes toward STEM fields and careers. It can also lead to increased

STEM knowledge and skills, and the higher likelihood of pursuing a STEM major in college, according to a study from the Afterschool Alliance.

Another option is to find a mentor. Teachers, college students and working professionals are often eager to share their knowledge with budding young scientists. Many

Continued on Page 36

Science

Continued from Page 35

universities and businesses encourage mentorship, and your school's science teachers might have some suggestions on where to find one that is right for your child.

- Plan at home experiments.

Taking science out of a book and applying it to real life is one of the best ways to spark an interest in science. You can find plenty of science experiments to conduct inside your home.

A great resource is www.scienceofeverydaylife.com, which features fun activities that explain science principles, like how solar energy works by cooking a pizza with the sun or how chemical reactions function by making homemade ice cream.

- Encourage exploration.

As interest grows, students are eager for more challenges. For instance, with the Summer Olympics on the horizon this year, a sports-loving student may want to explore more about the forces that im-



A young visitor uses a computer at last fall's Maker faire at the New York Hall of Science in Corona.

pact gold medal-quality swimming, running or cycling. Linking science to another interest can further their passion.

- Give them a challenge.

A range of opportunities exist for interested students at science-based summer camps, after-school programs or fairs.

If your child is already on a path of science experimentation and innovation, consider encouraging him or her to enter science challenges and

competitions. Each year 3M and Discovery Education partner to develop the Young Scientist Challenge.

Students in grades 5-8 can enter the contest by creating a 1- to 2-minute video on a proposed solution to solve an everyday problem.

All video entries must be submitted online at www.youngscientistchallenge.com by April 20.

- Hit the road.

Going to an observatory or space museum is fun, but also a major learning opportunity. Before taking the trip, view the destination's website with your child and identify areas of particular interest. That will build anticipation and really amplify the visit.

Over its nine years of involvement in the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge, 3M has seen the tremendous impact a parent, family member or mentor can make in a child's curiosity and confidence in science.

That foundation yields strong critical thinking skills and opens the door for rewarding career opportunities with lasting benefits.

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EDUCATION



Help children learn how to love reading

Children are energetic learners, trying to make sense of the world around them. One of the most important activities to help a child stretch his mind, especially in the early years, is reading. From birth to age 5, development in all areas of the brain is rapid, so it is especially important during this time that parents make an intentional effort to integrate reading into a child's daily routine. This practice helps mold your child into an active reader and establishes the foundational literacy skills he needs for future success in school and life.

"The first five years of life offer a critical window for brain development and learning," said Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, executive Director of Reach Out and Read, a national nonprofit whose pediatricians promote

early literacy and school readiness to 4 million children nationwide. "By reading aloud and talking to their children from birth, parents can play a key role in helping their little ones develop essential foundational language skills and eventually, arrive at kindergarten ready to read, learn and succeed. Learning does not begin on the first day of school, it begins in the home with engaged parents who take the time to share stories, words and a love of reading with their children."

The economic impact of literacy

While picking up a book and reading to your child may seem like a simple act, many children miss this benefit. A 3-year-old child's vocabulary should span about 600 words with 80 percent intelligibility. This means that a person

who has not previously heard this child speak can understand eight out of 10 words. Providing children with a solid foundation in literacy skills not only equips them to thrive in the 21st century, it also affects our country's ability to compete in the global workplace.

"The future of our children and our country depend on coordinated community efforts to prepare all students in the U.S. to excel in a dynamic, global society," says Jo Kirchner, president and CEO of Primrose Schools, a group of more than 270 private preschools across the country. "Together we have a responsibility to step up to the challenge by pooling our knowledge, time, expertise and ideas to improve early literacy and education outcomes."

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High School Graduates, Build Skills in Fields That are Hiring Through Affordable, Short-Format NYUSPS Diploma Programs

This summer, the NYU School of Professional Studies (NYUSPS), a leader in professionally focused education, will offer an affordable option of study that will provide individuals who have earned a high school degree with the opportunity to acquire industry focused skills that will prepare them for jobs in fields with growing levels of employment. New Diplomas, offered through NYUSPS Professional Pathways, are designed as immersive programs of study that can be completed in as little as one semester. During Summer 2016, six Diplomas will be offered. They include:

The one-semester **Diploma in Basic Project Management**, which prepares you for a career in this growing field by gaining a hands-on understanding of the essential terminology and the application of the basic tools, techniques, and practices required to become an effective and con-

tributing member of a project team.

The **Diploma in Bookkeeping**, a one-semester, blended program, which imparts the knowledge and skill sets to perform functions within the bookkeeping cycle, manually and with QuickBooks and Xero. Ground yourself in accounting ethics and best practices, while exploring basic concepts including debits, credits, "T-accounts," journal accounting, GAAP concepts, accrual and double-entry record keeping, and more.

The **Diploma in Construction Administration** is a one-semester, blended program that provides the skills to secure an entry-level position within the commercial or residential building sectors of the real estate industry. Learn about the construction process and document administration. Gain an introduction to construction methods and materials, building systems,

drawings, estimating, and scheduling.

The one-semester **Diploma in Introduction to Programming with Python** provides students with the knowledge and the applied skills needed to pursue careers as junior software engineers or developers in one of the fastest-growing and most in-demand languages in the industry. The Diploma equips students with the basics of Python for web development (front- and back-end). It explores Python's standard library, advanced features, and powerful coding techniques, which include procedural, object-oriented, and functional programming.

The one-semester **Diploma in Restaurant Operations and Guest Service** will prepare students with a comprehensive understanding of front-of-house and back-of-house restaurant operations, and what it takes to succeed in

the food and beverage industry. Benefit from site visits to NYC restaurants and from the invaluable experiences of seasoned industry veterans.

The one-semester **Diploma in Retail Operations Management** trains nonretail associates, retail associates, and retail department managers with the enhanced knowledge, expertise, insights, and skills required to become a retail buyer, a retail merchandiser, or a retail operations management trainee. From reading financial statements, to building efficient teams, to exploring in-store and online merchandising techniques, students will gain the skills necessary to excel in this growing field.

All Diplomas will provide industry specific career modules presented online in a self-paced format, which help students to better understand the job market. Upon completion of your diploma, you also will have access to an online portal

featuring job postings and a resource library. Annual networking events will provide opportunities to meet with peers and employers in the field. Each program of study provides students with a tangible take-away project that can be added to their résumé and presented to prospective employers.

Attend an in-person information session on Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m. or an online session on Tuesday, March 22 at 10 a.m. to learn more about our summer diploma offerings. Visit sps.nyu.edu/ce/events03 for further details and to register.

For more information about NYUSPS Diploma Programs, visit sps.nyu.edu/diplomas07 or call 212-998-7068.



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How to ensure college debt is not a drag

With each passing year, student loan debt is digging a deeper hole for more young Americans. Over a nine-year period, the average student loan balance among 25-year-olds grew 91 percent, from \$10,649 in 2003 to \$20,326 in 2012. More than 38 million Americans have outstanding debt amounting to nearly \$1 trillion. This figure has nearly quadrupled over the last four years, surpassing both credit cards and auto loans as a leading source of personal debt, according to Pew Research and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

While the statistics are startling, some of today's young people are prepared to take on the financial challenge. Younger generations (those in their mid-20s to early-30s) are showing signs of taking their finances seriously, according to a MassMutual 2013 State of the American Family Study. Nearly two-thirds want to be actively involved in all decisions regarding their finances, and almost half are actively

seeking ways to educate themselves about personal finance, a rate significantly higher than older generations. For young people looking to take control of their future, there are ways to ease the strain of student debt. MassMutual offers the following tips to help graduates manage their loans:

Seek out scholarships

College is expensive, and taking out student loans is often inevitable. If you are still in college or considering getting your degree, be sure to research and apply for a range of scholarships to help lower your education costs.

"One of the most powerful steps young people can take to mitigate educational debt is to aggressively seek out scholarships to help fund college," Michael Fanning, an executive vice president with MassMutual, said. "Graduating from college with less debt can help take the financial worry out of the equation when making 'grown up' decisions like home ownership, starting a family and

saving for retirement."

Make a budget that includes all expenses

Expenses fall into three categories: fixed, flexible and discretionary. Sit down and review all of your monthly costs, from meals to rent payments, and identify which category they fall in. From there, you can allocate funds to each area. It's critical that you have a full understanding of all expenses, debt and assets in order to not only stay on top of fixed expenses — like your student loans — but also build a realistic financial plan.

Borrow or swap

Before making a purchase, ask a friend or relative if you can borrow or swap for a similar item. This especially holds true for items you may use only once or very few times. Going on a backpacking trip abroad? See if you can borrow a friend's backpack rather than buying a new one. Looking to update your wardrobe? Ask a friend to swap outfits, doubling each other's wardrobes instantly. Buying something with

Continued on Page 42



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EDUCATION

Debt

Continued from Page 40

your money isn't the only way to get it.

Keep living at home

Rent is a huge expense. If you're moving away from your hometown to work, it's unavoidable. But if your first job is close to home, consider asking if you can move in with your parents for the first year or two to save on expenses. Use the money you're able to save during that time to make larger payments toward your student loans to pay them down quicker. That will also allow you to bolster your savings for when you do move into

a place of your own.

Avoid credit card debt

Post-graduation is a crucial point that will help determine your credit-score for years to come. Younger generations have close to \$5,000 in credit card debt, according to MassMutual's study. To keep credit card debt in check, only use one or two cards at a time with limits that aren't high, and pay your balance in full each month to avoid interest. Missteps could affect the rate you pay on big purchases down the road, like a car or home loan.

Ask for a raise

Once you have established a solid foundation at your job, usually around the one-year

mark, raise your hand and ask for a raise. Be sure to approach your supervisor prepared, both with how much more you want and why you deserve it. Highlight how you've demonstrated value to company over the year and how your work merits a raise. Even if you don't get it right away, you've started the conversation.

Taking steps today to manage your finances and get out of debt will help ensure a successful, debt-free financial situation in the future.

For more tips and information regarding smart money management, check out www.massmutual.com/myfuturenow.

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how work is done this time we learn about the Launch Habits of Heart and

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To apply: visit our website www.launchschool.org or visit our school - 1580 Dean Street Brooklyn NY 11213.

EDUCATION



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

Spring cleaning helps school classrooms, too

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

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

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

Melissa Taylor of the blog Imagination Soup recommends you ask parents to help you out by bringing in old magazine articles celebrating the different

holidays. You can find great quotes and photos inside to pin on bulletin boards, helping students understand each holiday's importance.

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

- Ask students for decorating help by assigning them educational projects related to the time of the year. For example, set up a reading corner of the room and have each student create and decorate a flower to turn the corner into a cozy garden space. Your crayons and colored pencils are probably well-used from the fall semester, so use a reward program to refresh your stock. With scissors, glue sticks and Scotch tape all restocked, your students won't have any roadblocks to keep them from expressing their creativity with the classroom work you assign.

- Add some cozy factors in the classroom to brighten the last few months of winter. Taylor recommends bringing in

rugs, pillows and lamps for extra warmth to help energize the students and make the room feel warm and friendly.

- Between the winter weather, childhood illnesses and glitter that is so prevalent during the holiday season, your classroom may need help getting rid of the germs. Be sure to restock all your supplies, like instant hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. Both help you quickly attack germs and help your students stay healthy throughout the year. Make it fun for your students with games, like singing the song, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," while washing hands with soap and water, or challenging your students to see who can clean their desktop the fastest using a wipe.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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Terry Gajraj.

The Terry Gajraj story

By Roshan Shiwcharran,
Guyanachunes.com

Heart pounding, butterflies out of control, Terry Gajraj paced back and forth nervously backstage at the Brightstar Productions “Indo-Caribbean Show” in Toronto, Canada. He was about to share the stage for the very first time with many of his idols to sing in front of 8,000 hungry fans. This moment forever changed his life.

“When I stepped on that stage, I felt

Continued on Page 48

Tackling identity by using art

By Alley Olivier

Conversations of identity, culture, and what it means to be an American intersect in private amongst cultural groups. There are those who cling to their roots, ignoring their ties to being an American, and those who navigate the various layers of what comprise their identity.

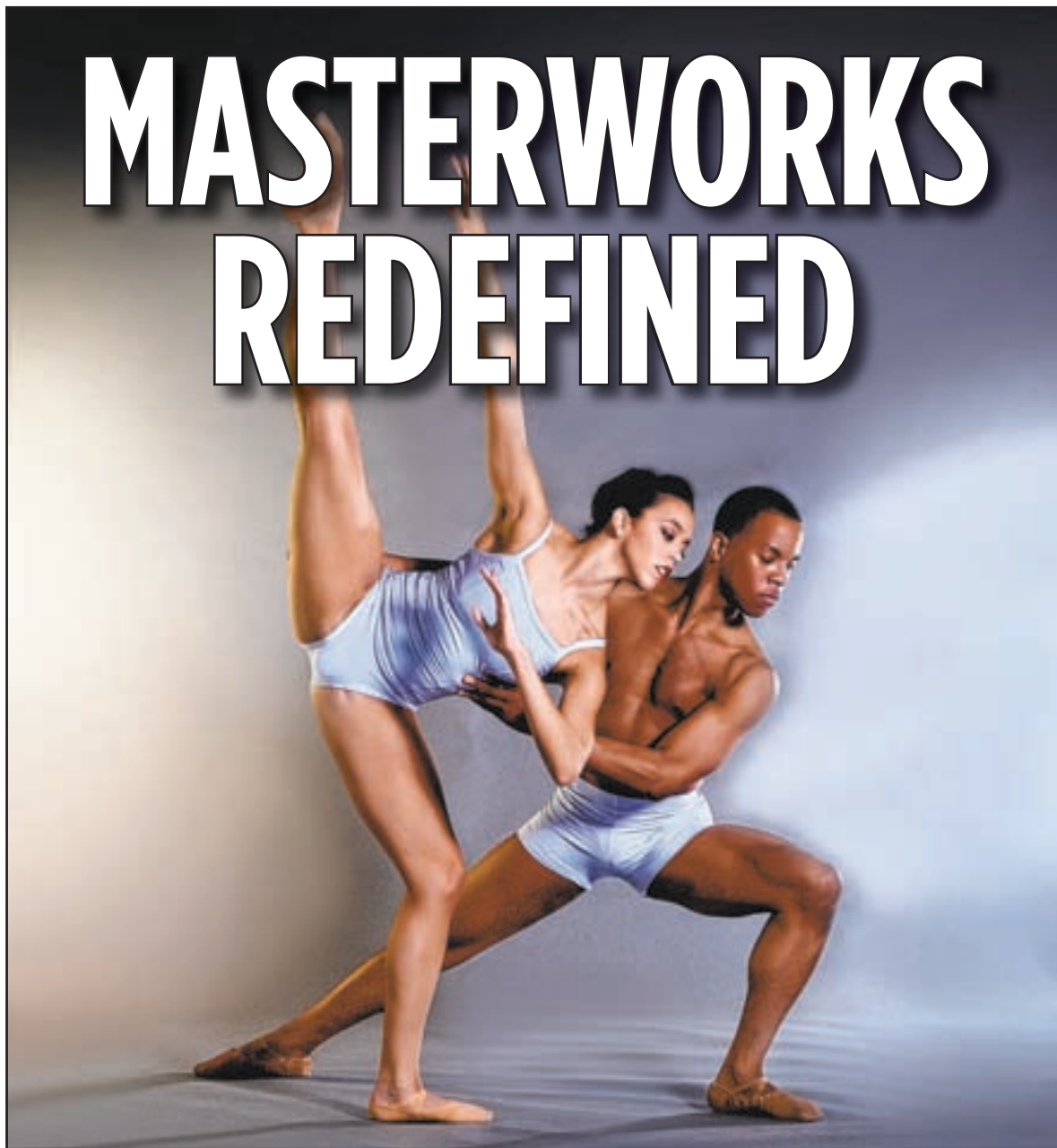
Art continues to be the funnel drawing these diverse groups out of private to broaden the conversation.

Clover’s Fine Art Gallery aims to do just that with their Culture and Heritage exhibition, featuring contemporary artwork reflecting and expressing different aspects of African heritage and culture throughout the diaspora.

Belizean-American artist Dianne Smith, along with nine other artists of Caribbean and African heritage, hopes

Continued on Page 48

MASTERWORKS REDEFINED



DBDT dancers Alyssa Harrington (left) and Claude Alexander III in the dance “Furtherance” by choreographer Kirven Douthit-Boyd.

Brian Guillaux

Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents four NY premieres

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns to New York for its fifth season of self-produced performances on April 22–23, 2016 at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, located at 405 West 55th St., New York, NY 10019. The “Masterworks Redefined – New York” series will showcase the energetic dance artistry of the repertory dance company that is turning 40 in its 2016-2017 season. The National Endowment for the Arts designated Dallas Black Dance Theatre as an

“American Masterpiece Touring Artist.”

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Harper began her career as a choreographer in Germany where she choreographed a full evening of work for the Holland Dance Festival. She was also the dance consultant for the feature film “Black Swan,” starring Natalie Portman, who went on to win an Oscar for her work. Ms. Harper has her own dance company, The Francesca Harper Project.

Princess Grace Foundation Choreography Fellowship Award recipient

Continued on Page 45

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Womanizing playboy finally meets his match

"The Perfect Match"
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated R for nudity,
sexuality and perva-
sive profanity
Running time: 96
minutes
Distributor: Lions-
gate Films

By Kam Williams

Confirmed bachelor Charlie Mack (Terrence J) is always up-front with women about his dating philosophy, simply, "I don't do relationships." The shameless playboy's almost 30, and his womanizing ways have become an embarrassment to his family and friends. They feel it's high time for him to mature, especially after he brought his latest conquest (Chantel Jeffries) along on a blind date set up by his sister, Sherry (Paula Patton).

Besides, his BFFs, Ricky

(Donald Faison) and Victor (Robert Christopher Riley) have both already settled down. The former is married and doing his best to impregnate his desperate for a baby wife, Pressie (Daschia Polanco). And the latter is engaged to Ginger (Lauren London) who's worried that Charlie's going to ruin her impending wedding by "bringing one of those floozies" to the reception.

Meanwhile, therapist Sherry is willing to see her brother as a client, if that would help him figure out why he's such a pathetic case of arrested development, at least when it comes to romance. Otherwise, Charlie's actually rather well-adjusted. He's a well-paid executive at Premier Edge, a leading L.A. PR firm where he's proven to be quite adept at



Terrence J and Cassie Ventura in "The Perfect Match." Rottentomatoes.com

attracting lucrative new accounts to the company.

The plot thickens one evening when he's out having drinks with the guys and they challenge him to remain faithful to the same woman for the next month... Charlie

takes the dare, and settles on Eva (Cassie Ventura), a gorgeous stranger he just met at a coffee shop, as the object of his affection.

However, he still gets involved with the express understanding that theirs will be a "no strings, no

expectations" relationship. She agrees, despite the fact that she's only used to being in committed ones. So, they're both ostensibly operating in uncharted waters.

Will this libidinous liaison turn into love, now that Charlie has

grudgingly agreed to give what would ordinarily be a one-night stand a chance to blossom? That is the burning question at the center of "The Perfect Match," an intriguing romantic romp directed by Billie Woodruff (Addicted).

Fair warning: this character-driven escapade is certainly not for the prudish, as it contains frontal nudity and some fairly frank dialogue. That being said, it's also funny, engaging, unpredictable and visually-captivating, courtesy of a constant parade of eye candy across the screen.

Overall, this delightful ensemble dramedy is reminiscent of a couple of other great urban classics, "Love Jones" (1997) and "The Best Man" (1999). That's good company!

Independent & Foreign Films

About Scout (Unrated) Unlikely-buddies drama about a 15-year-old Goth girl (India Enninga) who embarks with a suicidal stranger (James Frecheville) on a road trip across Texas in search of her missing little sister (Onata Aprile). Featuring Danny Glover, Ellen Burstyn, Jane Seymour and Nikki Reed.

The Automatic Hate (Unrated) Tale of forbidden love about long-lost cousins (Joseph Cross and Adelaide Clemens) who become attracted to each other while digging up the deep secret that tore apart their families ages ago. With Ricky Jay, Deborah Ann Woll and Richard Schiff.

Backgammon (Unrated) Adaptation of the R.B. Russell novella "Bloody Baudelaire," a whodunit about two couples invited by a mysterious host (Christian Alexander) to spend the weekend in an isolated mansion. Co-starring Noah Silver, Alex Beh, Brittany Allen and Olivia Crocicchia.

Barney Thomson



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

(Unrated) Robert Carlyle plays the title character in this dark comedy, set in Glasgow, about a barber-turned-serial killer's attempt to elude apprehension by the detective (Ray Winstone) heading the murder investigation. Support cast includes Emma Thompson, James Cosmo and Ashley Jensen.

Boom Bust Boom (Unrated) Cautionary documentary examining the stock market collapse of 2008 while issuing a clarion call to reform an economic system marked by alternating cycles of record highs and devastating crashes. Featuring commentary by Terry Jones, John Cusack and Professor Paul Krugman.

Creative Control (R for profanity, drug use, nudity and graphic sexuality) Sci-fi romance drama, set in Brooklyn, about a jaded tech exec (Benjamin Dickinson) who uses a state-of-

the-art invention to sleep with his BFF's (Dan Gill) unsuspecting girlfriend (Alexia Rasmussen). With Nora Zehetner, Reggie Watts and Gavin McInnes.

The Dog Wedding (PG-13 for drug use and suggestive content) Romantic comedy about a German businesswoman (Rosalie Thomass) who falls in love with a pro wrestler (Matt Bloom) she meets at a dog park in Arizona. Featuring Bernhard Schutz, Dee Booher and David Casillas.

Eye in the Sky (R for profanity and violent images) Drone warfare drama about a military commander (Helen Mirren) based in Great Britain who finds herself facing an ethical question when she is informed by a pilot (Aaron Paul) that a nine-year-old girl (Aisha Takow) has just entered the kill zone of a targeted terrorist cell. Cast includes Alan Rickman, Barkhad Abdi

and Phoebe Fox.

Hello, My Name Is Doris (R for profanity) Sally Field stars in this romantic dramedy as a shy spinster inspired by a self-help guru (Peter Gallagher) to pursue the young co-worker (Max Greenfield) she has a crush on. With Wendi McLendon-Covey, Stephen Root and Beth Behrs.

LOLO (Unrated) Romantic romp revolving around a 40-year-old fashionista (Julie Delpy) who falls head-over-heels for a computer nerd (Danny Boon) she meets while vacationing at a trendy spa with a girlfriend (Karen Viard). Supporting cast includes Vincent Lacoste, Antoine Louguine and Christophe Vandeveld. (In French and English with subtitles)

Me Him Her (Unrated) Out-of-the-closet comedy about a young slacker (Dustin milligan) who ventures to L.A. to help his TV star friend (Luke Bracey) find the courage to let the world know he's gay. With Haley Joel Osment, Geena Davis, Alia Shawkat and Casey Wilson.

Remember (R for violence and profanity) Cat-and-mouse thriller revolving around an adleprat-

ed Auschwitz survivor's (Christopher Plummer) attempt to track down the Nazi fugitive (Jurgen Prochnow) who'd slaughtered his entire family during the Holocaust. Featuring Martin Landau, Dean Norris and Bruno Ganz. (In English and German with subtitles)

Yalom's Cure (Unrated) Prestige biopic about Dr. Irvin Yalom, a best-selling author considered by many to be the most influential, American psychotherapist of the 20th Century.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

10 Cloverfield Lane (PG-13 for frightening sequences, mature themes, violence and brief profanity) Suspense thriller revolving around an accident victim (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) who comes out of a coma to find herself imprisoned in a subterranean bunker by a survivalist (John Goodman) claiming that the Earth's surface has been rendered uninhabitable by a chemical catastrophe. With John Gallagher, Jr., Mat Vairo, Cindy Hogan and Jamie Clay.

The Brothers Grimsby (R for violence, profanity,

coarse sexuality, drug use, crude humor and graphic nudity) Action comedy about a British spy (Mark Strong) forced to rely on his feeble-minded, long-lost brother (Sacha Baron Cohen) to foil a global terror attack. Featuring Rebel Wilson, Penelope Cruz, Gabby Sidibe and Isla Fisher.

The Perfect Match (R for nudity, sexuality and pervasive profanity) Romantic comedy revolving around a confirmed bachelor (Terrence J) who finally meets his match when he takes a dare to date the same woman (Cassie Ventura) for an entire month. Supporting cast includes Paula Patton, Kali Hawk, Brandy Norwood and Lauren London.

The Young Messiah (PG-13 for violence and mature themes) Adaptation of Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt, Anne Rice's best seller chronicling the year in the life of seven-year-old Jesus (Adam Greaves-Neal) when the Christ child was informed of His divine destiny by Mary (Sara Lazzaro) and Joseph (Vincent Walsh). With Sean Bean, Christian McKay and Jonathan Bailey as King Herod.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Love Yourself**
Justin Bieber
- 2 **Stressed Out**
twenty one pilots
- 3 **Sorry**
Justin Bieber
- 4 **Work**
Rihanna Featuring Drake
- 5 **My House**
Flo Rida
- 6 **Hello**
Adele
- 7 **Me, Myself & I**
G-Eazy x Bebe Rexha
- 8 **Cake By The Ocean**
DNCE
- 9 **Roses**
The Chainsmokers feat. Rozes
- 10 **Stitches**
Shawn Mendes

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **I Like It When You...**
The 1975
- 2 **This Unruly Mess...**
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- 3 **25**
Adele
- 4 **Piece By Piece**
Kelly Clarkson
- 5 **Traveller**
Chris Stapleton
- 6 **ANTI**
Rihanna
- 7 **Dig In Deep**
Bonnie Raitt
- 8 **Purpose**
Justin Bieber
- 9 **Meat And Candy**
Old Dominion
- 10 **Youth Revival**
Hillsong Young & Free



Dallas dancers hit New York City

Continued from page 48

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DBDT dancers Claude Alexander III (left) and Sean J. Smith in the dance “Unearthed” by choreographer, Bridget L. Moore.

Brian Guilliaux

Princess Grace Foundation Choreography Fellowship Award recipient Bridget L. Moore created “Unearthed” which reflects the collective power of the community. The dance is set to the music of Wynton Marsalis, James Horner and Sweet Honey in the Rock, Nina Simone, and José James. She is currently a visiting professor at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, South Korea and was recently invited to speak at the Korean International Symposium of Arts Education. Moore earned her MFA

from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. Ms. Moore is a former dancer with Ronald K. Brown’s Evidence.

After dancing with Madonna and being dance captain for Cher’s Dressed to Kill Tour, Jamal Story sends Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancers skyward in an aerial duet featuring DBDT’s most powerful dancers. His aerial work What to Say, has a storyline revolving around the Greek myth of Echo and Narcissus. Story, a former DBDT dancer, has also danced

on Broadway in “The Color Purple” and “Motown: The Musical on Broadway” serving as dance captain on both productions. Jamal sits on the board of the SAG-AFTRA New York Local as co-chair of the union’s National Dance Committee.

Furtherance, choreographed by former Alvin Ailey dancer Kirven Douthit-Boyd, takes the audience on a journey from anguish to bliss amid the backdrop of a Japanese taiko drum musical score with additional sound effects of Asian gongs and bells. Douthit-Boyd is the co-artistic director of Dance for the Center of Creative Arts in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre for 11 years.

In addition to its fifth season in New York, Dallas Black Dance Theatre has also performed at the Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. DBDT is known worldwide, performing on five continents and in 14 countries. DBDT II will be performing in the Fintdaz Festival in Iquique, Chile May 6-14, 2016. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed worldwide for 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students, grades K-12, and annually serves more than 100,000 people, including more than 20,000 youth. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a founding company of the International Association of Blacks in Dance.

Guyana’s music star

Continued from page 45

like I was struck by lightning,” recalls the artist who was representing Guyana at the All Star Concert. “I had that aha moment of OMG! This is what I want to do for the rest of my life!” Gajraj never stopped.

He has dominated the Guyanese music scene for the past 25 years. He released his debut album “Soca Lambada” in 1990 but it was “Guyana Baboo” in 1994 that established him as a household name and propelled him to International acclaim. As a son of the soil, Terry is the most toured artiste to emerge out of Guyana and whose success in promoting Guyanese music and culture around the world remains unmatched.

Here are some brief highlights of an eventful career:

1- Guyana’s most recorded artiste with more than 30 albums and hundreds of songs.

2- TerryG is the only singer from Guyana who has been performing globally every single week, every single month, every single year for over 20 years, non-stop (since his monster hit “Guyana Baboo” in 1994). Guyana’s most consistent artiste.

3- Performed off Broadway in “West Indian Dreams” in Manhattan, NY.

4- Guyana’s most toured singer (performs in all the major cities and countries including the Caribbean, Suriname, Holland, India, UK & Spain). One of his most prestigious shows was at Wembley Stadium in London, England. Gajraj consistently adds a new country & new city every year to his touring circuit.

5- He is the first singer from the Caribbean to perform at the BOLLYWOOD Music Awards, the Indian equivalent of the Grammys.

Identity art exhibit

Continued from page 45

her pieces including “Hidden Beauty” connect to those attending the exhibit.

“That aesthetic for me, more than anything, is something for me that speaks specific to the diaspora because of the knotting, the tying – I remember being a little girl and my granny would knot and tie my hair up because I had natural hair,” she explained.

Specifically, Smith’s work focuses on the migrant experience and viewing the world through a lens of hyphenated identities.

“All of my work, although it is about a human experience, it is predominantly focused on the people of the African diaspora and the concern, joy, triumph, and pain of what makes us who we are,” Smith said.”

Aside from Smith, other artists will tap into specific instances and experiences as it relates to those in African communities such as carrying water in Tamara Natalie Madden’s piece “The Water Carrier” or Lehna Huie’s figurative works linking Jamaica with the African diaspora.

“I hope there is a diverse intersection of people coming into the gallery to view the work, not just as an aesthetic exploration but an exploration of self and community, and life beyond the lens,” Smith said.

Culture and Heritage takes place at 338 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Downtown Brooklyn from March 8–April 24. For more information, call 718.625.2121 or visit cloversfineart.com. Free admission.

SPORTS

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Brandon Valentine-Parris is seen competing in the 4x400m relay.

Brandon Valentine-Parris

Vincy track star continues winning ways

By Nelson A. King

Vincian national track star Brandon Valentine-Parris continues his winning ways in track meets in the United States, tracking up victories in the past two weeks in events in North Carolina and Georgia.

In the UCS Invitational in Winston Salem, N.C. two Saturdays ago, Valentine-Parris, running for Claflin Univer-

Continued on Page 50

Sir Curtly makes his pick

By Azad Ali

West Indies bowling legend Sir Curtly Ambrose has picked the West Indies team to win the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Twenty20 set to bowl off later this month in India.

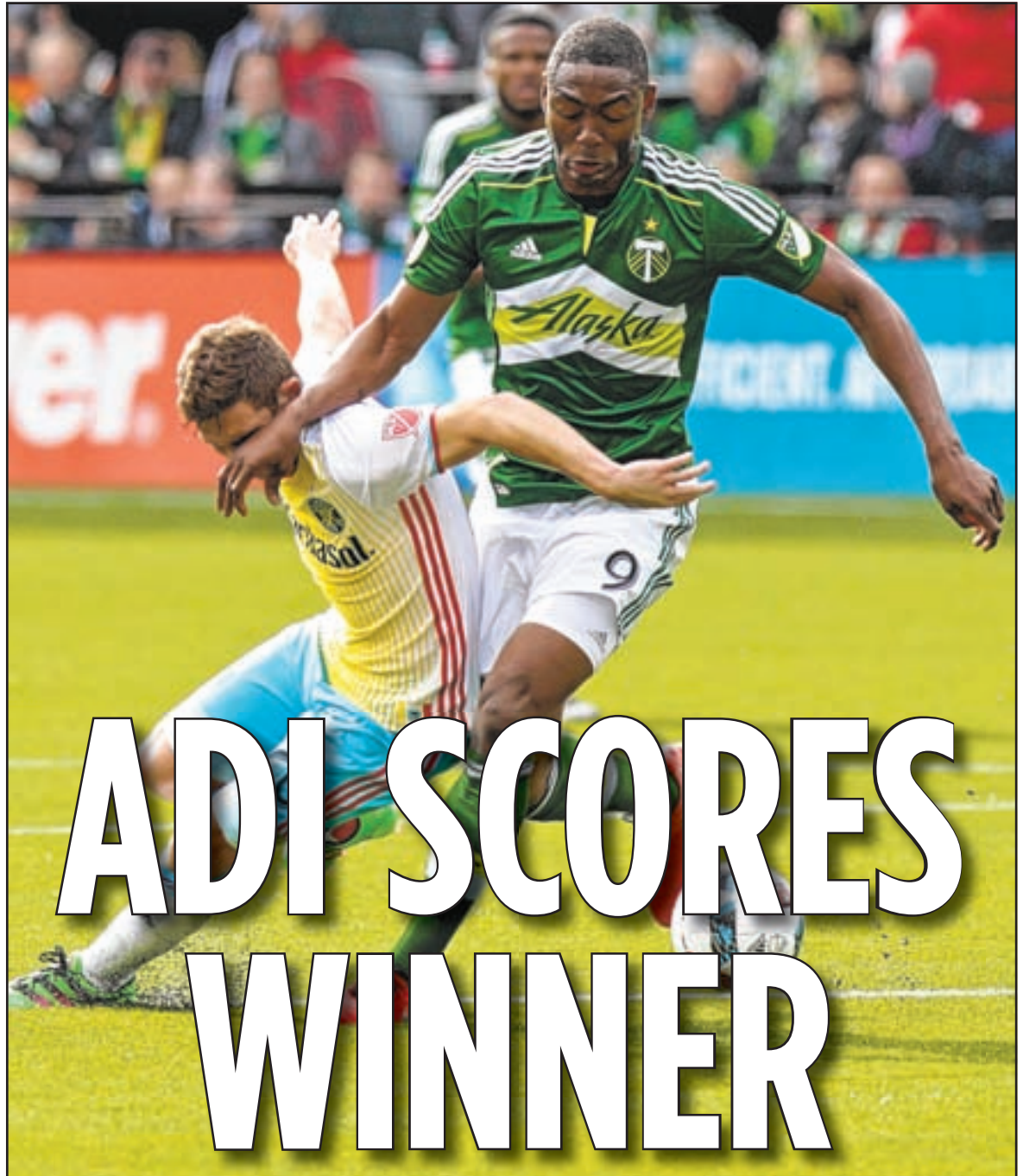
Sir Curtly who is the current bowling consultant said that senior players must, however, deliver on their performances.

“Look at the team that we have, half of them are in demand across the world for different T20 leagues, so we have a great chance of winning this T20 tournament, just look at our squad,” he said.

Senior players such as Marlon Samuel, Chris Gayle, Andre Russell, Captain Darren Sammy and all the others have to lead from the front.

Three senior players of the original

Continued on Page 50



ADI SCORES WINNER

Portland Timbers forward Fanendo Adi (9) and Columbus Crew midfielder Will Trapp (20) battle for the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Portland, Ore., Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Associated Press / Steve Dipaola

Portland Timbers beat Crew 2-1

By Anne M. Peterson

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) _ New season, same result.

Fanendo Adi scored in the 79th minute and the defending champion Portland Timbers defeated the Columbus Crew 2-1 on Sunday in a rematch of last year's MLS Cup

final.

The Timbers won that one 2-1, too.

All 20 MLS teams opened the league's 21st season on Soccer Sunday. Portland kicked off the season by unveiling a championship banner hung in the rafters of the north end

of Providence Park.

Diego Valeri's first-half goal gave the Timbers the early lead until Federico Higuain's highlight-worthy bicycle kick drew the Crew even in the 68th minute. Adi's goal gave Portland its first March win since 2012.

Continued on Page 50

Track star

Continued from page 49

sity in Orangeburg, S. C., broke the St. Vincent and the Grenadines national record for the 200 meters by clocking 21.36 sec. in a race that involved five other athletes.

The previous record was set by Valentine-Parris himself in late January when he ran the 200 meters in 21.48 sec. for the Clafin Panthers, his university's athletic team, at the Emory Crossplex Invitational in Birmingham, Ala. In that event, Valentine-Parris simultaneously broke the Emory Crossplex Invitational record.

Valentine-Parris, 20, was again in winner's row last Saturday at the Savannah State Tiger Relays in Savannah, Ga. The Clafin Panthers relay team, of which Valentine Parris is an integral member, won the 4x800m relay in 8 min. 20 sec. Other members of the team were Odou Hazel, Christopher Hudson and Sixto Ramos.

Though triumphant in the last event, Valentine-Parris said it was "more so of training, just to keep fit. Because of the cold weather [in South Carolina], I couldn't train properly."

Valentine-Parris is expected this Friday and Saturday to compete in the 200 and 400m in the U.S. National Indoor Championship in Kansas City, Kansas. He said he is the only male athlete from Clafin University to qualify for the two-day track meet.

"According to my performances in past meets, I'm on par to winning the championship," Valentine-Parris told Caribbean Life in an exclusive interview Sunday night. "I thank God I'm still healthy, and I'm going to go out there to win the championship."

"Hopefully, I'll be fast enough to qualify for the World Indoor Championship to take place in Portland, Ore. on March 17," he added.

Valentine-Parris, who is currently ranked 6th in the United States in the 200 and 400m, was among the first athletes to represent the Thomas Saunders Secondary School (TSSS) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in its initial bid in the prestigious Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 2011. He also represented TSSS at the Penn Relays a year later.

The nation's participation in the Penn Relays is coordinated by James Cordice, a former president of the Philadelphia-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania (SVGOP).

Valentine-Parris, who is on an athletic scholarship at Clafin University, majoring in Sports Management and Business Administration, was St. Vincent and the Grenadines' National Under 14 and Under 15 Male Champ.

Among other events, he has competed in, over the years, are: The World Youth Champs, (France 2011); World Junior Champs (Barcelona, 2012); World Junior Champs (Eugene, Oregon, 2014); Commonwealth Games (Glasgow, Scotland, 2014); and NACAC Senior Champs (Costa Rica, 2015).



Columbus Crew goalkeeper Steve Clark, left, clears the ball as Portland Timbers midfielder Diego Valeri, right, closes in during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Portland, Ore., Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Associated Press / Steve Dipaola

TIMBERS OFF TO A GOOD START

Continued from page 49

"It's good to get off to a good start. Three points. The sooner the better," Timbers coach Caleb Porter said. "Now we've got to get three points in the next one. I'm looking forward to being with these guys for the next 11 months, and 33 more games. There's going to be ups and downs, but if we play like we did today, there will be more ups than downs."

Last season, the Timbers defeated the Crew in Columbus for the title. Valeri scored in the opening 27 seconds, Rodney Wallace added a second goal some seven minutes later and Portland held on for the win.

It was Portland's first title since joining the league in 2011.

"We showed today how hungry we

are. We showed today that we picked up right where we left off, that last year wasn't an anomaly," Porter said. "We showed today that we can be even better. And I'm confident that we can."

The Timbers took the early lead on Sunday on Valeri's free kick in the 23rd minute that was misjudged by Crew goalkeeper Steve Clark, who was also in goal for Columbus for the MLS Cup match. Valeri had an earlier chance in the 19th minute but he was offside.

Columbus star Kai Kamara charged the goal in the 60th minute but keeper Adam Kwarasey made a diving save. Higuain's stunning goal came eight minutes later off an assist from Ethan Finlay.

"He's talented, I'll tell you what," Columbus coach Gregg Berhalter said

about Higuain. "He's a special player."

This is the only regular-season meeting between the two teams this season. Portland now leads the series 3-2-2.

"We knew it was a special game, the first time after the trophy," Valeri said.

The Timbers went 15-11-8 last season. Most of the team's starters are back with the exception of Wallace, who is now playing with Arouca in the Portuguese Premier League.

The Crew also went 15-11-8 to finish second in the Eastern Conference, led by Kamara with 22 goals. Kamara's total matched Toronto's Sebastian Giovinco for the league lead, but Giovinco earned the league's Golden Boot award with more assists.

No MLS player has had back-to-back 20-goal seasons.

There was no announcement from the Timbers about the reported signing of young wing Jack Barmby from Leicester City's system. The Oregonian this week reported the signing of the 21-year-old, who played for England's Under-20 national team.

It was the 86th consecutive sellout for the Timbers at Providence Park. The Timbers Army supporters group sang the national anthem, per tradition.

"For us, it was a good opportunity," Berhalter said. "If you play in a hostile environment, you get to see where you are right away. Like I said, we had intentions to come and control the game, and, for the most part, we accomplished that. I think we could have done a better job of controlling defensive transitions, limiting some of the damage there. But it's a good mindset."

Windies players in demand

Continued from page 49

squad, Sunil Narine, Kieron Pollard and Darren Bravo, have all pulled out of the tournament for various reasons.

The first round matches in the men's event will take place in Dharamsala and Nagpu from March 8-13. The group winners will join Australia, England, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and host India in the Super 10 stage, which will be played alongside the women's event from March 15-28.

West Indies won the event in 2012.



Sir Curtly Ambrose. Associated Press

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Brown's big night powers Lincoln back to Garden



Playing through pain: Lincoln's Klay Brown, who was cramping late in the game, made the two biggest hustle plays of the game and scored 14 points in a win over George Westinghouse. Photo by Robert Cole

By Joseph Staszewski

Klay Brown didn't start Abraham Lincoln's semifinal game against George Westinghouse, but he sure did finish it.

The Christ the King transfer fought back cramps, scored 14 points, and made two of the game's biggest hustle plays in the fourth-seeded Railsplitters' 59-50 win over No. 8 George Westinghouse in the Public School Athletic League's Class AA boys' basketball semifinals on March 5. Railsplitters coach Dwayne "Tiny" Morton chose to sit the junior guard after he was late arriving to St. John's University because of a mix-up with his ride, but the punishment only fueled Brown.

"I knew I had to perform," Brown said. "My team needed me."

Lincoln was without star guard Rakym Felder, who suffered a broken bone in his foot in the quarterfinals. Without Felder — who may also miss the title game against No. 2 Thomas Jefferson at Madison

Square Garden on March 12 — it was Brown's time to shine on both ends of the court.

He scored six points during Lincoln's game-changing 17-3 spurt in the third quarter, helping to put the Railsplitters up 50-34 going to the fourth after it held Westinghouse without a field goal for nearly 7 minutes.

Brown blocked shots and hustled down a huge rebound with 2:15 to play in the game and Lincoln (23-7) up seven. Morton fully understands how important Brown's night was to the team.

"I got to praise the kid from Queens," he said. "He came late. I didn't start him, but I think he is probably the reason why we are at the Garden right now."

If Brown is the primary reason, his club's defense is the second — the Railsplitters forced turnovers in key situations and fended off multiple Warriors' runs in the backcourt.

Westinghouse (17-7) was

within two points after a Gerald Williams (13 points) put-back with 6:53 to play in the third. The Warriors never got closer — mistakes led to Lincoln transition points each time Westinghouse crept close.

Warriors coach Everett Kelly was particularly upset his boys committed errors at half court or above the free throw line, giving his team little chance to get back on defense.

"Every time we made a run to try to get the game down to one-possession or so, we'd just turn it over," Kelly said. "Where we are making them, it leads to transition baskets. It gave them an opportunity to attack us without being able to defend the transition."

Akeem Tate chipped in 11 points for the Warriors, and Damarri Moore had seven.

Kelly's team was able to limit its turnovers and withstand an early 13-2 Lincoln run. The Warriors got a big lift off the bench from Saheem Ferguson, who connected on

his first three shots and scored eight points in the first quarter. A Ferguson trey with three seconds left brought Westinghouse within three at the end of the frame.

The Warriors came as close two more times in the second quarter, but the Railsplitters met the surges head-on each time. Brown kept Lincoln up 33-27 at half with a jumper and then a steal that led to a hoop from Donald Cannon Flores (10 points).

"Defense is out main priority," said teammate Cahiem

Brown (17 points), who is not related to Klay. "It gives us easy baskets on offense. We get out there on defense, and offense just comes naturally."

Lincoln is back in the final for the first time since it last won it all in 2013. And the task gets much tougher in the title game against Jefferson, even though the Railsplitters recently beat the Orange Wave 87-77 in the Brooklyn borough final. Lincoln, which finished third in the division, still feels like underdogs — especially with Felder likely out.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
A recent development may bring you luck and turn out in your favor, Aries. If financial deals seem lucrative, go ahead and trust your instincts to move ahead.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, maintaining a long-distance relationship or friendship can be challenging, but you have what it takes to make the most of the situation.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21
Gemini, fun is ahead if you are willing to take some risks. Take a chance and hang out with a new crowd this week. These might be just the people to add some hop to your step.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
This is a terrific week to sit down and talk with someone you have not seen in a while, Cancer. Enjoy this reunion and all the laughs that come with strolling down Memory Lane.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Your love life may take an exciting turn, Leo. Prepare for what's ahead by letting someone else take control for a little while. Expect something to happen out of the blue.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may feel a bit more free now that you have unburdened yourself of some debts. Enjoy this newfound financial freedom but remember to watch your spending.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
You are feeling helpful and generous this week, Libra. Spread that spirit to others who may be less fortunate than you by volunteering at a soup kitchen or pitching in elsewhere.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, joint ventures are the way to go this week. Pooling your resources provides the chance for you and a friend to go bigger and better on something you both want to do.


SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Unresolved issues might crop up this week, Sagittarius. However, you can tackle anything that comes your way if you think out all of the angles.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, it is important to speak your mind, even when you are not sure how your opinions will be received. Share your opinions and ask others for theirs.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, communication is your best bet this week. Make an effort to speak openly with loved ones and you will be glad for having made the extra effort.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Now is a great time to work on new relationships, Pisces. Pay extra attention to a newfound friend or love interest.

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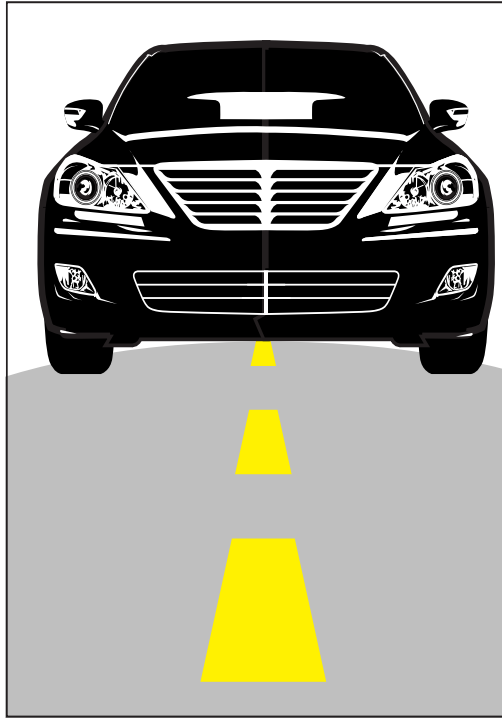
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