



Garifuna celebration

'Lively' entertains the audience at the SVG National Heroes Day event in New York. See story on page 22.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Eugene, de Blasio talk affordable housing

By Nelson A. King

Mayor Bill de Blasio came to Brooklyn on Monday evening to host a town hall meeting with local Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene to discuss with residents the mayor's affordable housing plan.

Hundreds of residents, who

had initially expressed concern about the plan, attended the meeting that was initiated by Eugene, representative of the 40th Council District.

While many residents agreed with the premise of affordable housing, Eugene said there was concern that

the original plan did not provide enough housing for lower-income residents.

As an advocate for vulnerable residents, Eugene was very vocal about wanting to expand the affordable housing plan to include a deeper level

Continued on Page 8

US MEGA BANKS CUT TIES

CARICOM to lobby US officials to save regional banks

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean Community nations are preparing to step up a lobbying campaign in the U.S. to prevent the mega American banks from completely severing operating relations with those in the region because of unrelenting pressure from U.S. regulators.

The bloc of nations said this week that regional financial institutions remained under severe pressure because the big tier one banks such as JP Morgan Chase, Citibank and Bank of America are continuing to sever what industry officials usually refer to as correspondent banking relations with the Caribbean.

As U.S. regulations seek to tighten and bloc money laundering and other loopholes in the financial sector, the region is being left behind and even punished for allegedly not being up to speed to shut avenues that terrorists could take advantage of. The region has therefore been deemed an area of "high risk" so the big banks are "de risking" and severing ties, making it difficult for Caribbean institutions to complete transactions originating in the region.

The developments have even led to talks about the possibility of some of the victim banks either finding alternatives to

Continued on Page 8

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FOR DETAILS



Did You Know?

An individual retirement account, or IRA, is a type of account men and women who meet certain eligibility requirements can open to save money for their retirement.

Unlike a 401(k), a type of retirement account that is provided by an employer, an IRA must be opened by an individual.

Another difference between a 401(k) and an IRA is that men and women can withdraw money from their IRAs before they reach retirement age to pay medi-

cal expenses without incurring the penalties that apply when 401(k) account holders prematurely withdraw money from these accounts. One similarity between 401(k) accounts and traditional IRAs concerns taxation. Account holders of both types of accounts do not pay taxes on their contributions to those accounts until they begin to withdraw money in retirement (prematurely withdrawing money from a 401(k) will incur taxes and fees). But men and women who open a Roth IRA pay their taxes up front, mean-

ing they won't be paying taxes down the road when they withdraw money in retirement.

Each type of IRA comes with its own set of rules and restrictions, including contribution limits and eligibility requirements based on earned income.

In addition, men and women with a traditional IRA must begin to withdraw their money by the time they reach age 70.5, while those with a Roth IRA can leave their money in their accounts as long as they please.



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Commission hails resolution on slavery reparations

By Nelson A. King

The U.S. National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) has applauded and supported a resolution sponsored by Illinois State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford calling on President Obama to set up a commission to study the legacy of slavery.

Ford also proposes reparations for the descendants of African slaves in America.

The resolution passed unanimously in the bi-partisan House Restorative Justice Committee and is scheduled to go before the full Illinois House of Assembly in April.

If it passes the full house, Rep. Ford and a group of his colleagues plan to deliver the resolution personally to President Obama.

Ford characterizes the resolution as a call from a state to the federal government for reparations for the crime of African enslavement in the United States, according to NAARC.

"HR 1011 is a measure that comes as a result of many coalitions of fighters working to help make America great," Ford said. "America can never begin to reach its fullest potential until it breaks completely from the chains and legacies of slavery by making every American whole."

In June, 2015, NAARC said it wrote to Obama calling on him to use his executive powers to establish the John Hope Franklin Presidential Initiative and Commission on Reparatory Justice for People of African Descent in America.

NAARC argued that this commission could lay out the full scope of reparatory justice, utilizing the international human rights standard of full reparations; that is, the creation of policies programs and projects that would address key aspects of repair—cessation and guarantees of non-repetition, restitution, compen-

Continued on Page 13

Poet laureate to be among black writers' honorees

By Nelson A. King

The Center for Black Literature at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College (CUNY) says former U.S. poet laureate Rita Dove and literary pioneer Charles Johnson will be among honorees at the 13th National Black Writers Conference (NBWC) at the college.

The center said on Wednesday that the four-day event takes place from March 31–April 3 at the Bedford Avenue campus.

Since the first conference in 1986, the center said this public gathering of literary personalities and scholars "continues to recognize renowned authors and poets for their extraordinary achievements."

"Black American literature is at its most exciting ever," said Dove, this year's honorary chair. "I had dreamed but never imagined it possible that in my lifetime I would be witness to such a glorious panoply of Black artistic expression."

"From lyric to polemic, confessional to experimental, page to stage and everything in between, Black American literature today celebrates the beautiful complexities of racial identity," she added.

The center said that the honorees of the 13th National Black Writers Conference represent the spectrum of the energy and imagination that comprise the richness of Black literature.

Besides Dove and Johnson, whose momentous novel "Middle Passage" won the National Book Award in 1990, also comprise best-selling author Edwidge Danticat, writer and history scholar Michael Eric Dyson, and Woodie King Jr., founder of the New Federal Theatre.

"I remember the first National Black Writers Conference I attended as a young writer," Danticat said. "I was so incredibly moved by the amount of talent and inspiration and fellowship there. I felt supported. I felt guided. I felt that I could possibly have a future as a writer."

"It's hard to express what an incredible honor it is to be part of the conference again, this time as an honoree," he added. "The National Black Writers Conference honors the past, present and future of Black writing. I am incredibly honored to be part of that legacy."

The center said that the theme of the 13th National Black Writers Conference, "Writing Race: Embracing Difference," places the issues of race and difference at the forefront of literature produced by Black writers.

Through dynamic and spirited panel discussions, roundtables, readings, films, workshops and performances, writers, scholars, literary professionals, students and the general public will



U.S. poet laureate Rita Dove.

Associated Press

gather over four days to examine Black literary texts, the center said.

It said they will discuss the state of Black literature and raise questions related to how and whether Black writers "write race"; that is, whether Black writers write texts with the acknowledgement that they are writing out of a space that is socially constructed by race.

Delegates and the public will also discuss ways in which Black writers embrace difference in aesthetics, thoughts, beliefs, politics, religions, among others, in the texts they compose, the center said.

"This year's conference continues the tradition and legacy of ensuring that the texts produced by Black writers in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa are known and read by the general public and are represented in our schools and libraries," said Dr. Brenda M. Greene, executive director at the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College.

"Today, we cannot ignore the fact

that 'race' shapes the texts we produce, the themes we focus on and the conversations we have about literature," she added.

She said several important issues pertinent to Black writers and their work will be addressed and discussed throughout the Conference: "Afrofuturism: Reimagining the Past, Present, and Future;" "Decoded: Hip-Hop and Youth Culture;" "Creating Dangerously: Courage and Resistance in the Literature of Black Writers;" "The Politics of Race and Gender in the Black Literature;" "Black Writers in the Digital Age;" "Shaping Memories: The Odyssey to Adulthood;" and "Creative Writing Programs and Writers of Color: Current and Future Trends."

For more information about the 13th National Black Writers Conference and a full list of events and participants, visit the website www.centerforblackliterature.org, or call the center at 718-804-8883, the NBWC hotline at 718-270-4811, or email writers@mec.cuny.edu.

Caribbean

The European Union (EU) is providing 400,000 euros to implement a new project on preventing domestic violence in the Caribbean.

The funds have been given to a team of Caribbean and European experts, headed by Professor Adele Jones from the University of Huddersfield, London, in partnership with The Sweet Water Foundation of Grenada.

The experts say that data will be used to develop interactive, role-playing computer games designed to empower victims and change attitudes that have been linked to aggressive and violent behavior.

It is often claimed that computer games encourage violence, therefore the idea is to create computer games that can be used in schools to reduce negative attitudes developed in childhood and which can fuel domestic violence in later relationships.

The two-year project, titled "None-in-Three" has been derived from the finding that one in three women and girls experience violence in their lives.

The None-in-Three project, which will be implemented in Barbados and Grenada was launched on March 8 to coincide with celebrations making International Women's Day.



Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda recently announced another major project, called Gravenor Bay — a significant addition to the island of Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Asot Michael said the \$450 million project on the southern tip of Barbuda will be built in seven phases, providing a total 1,100 jobs in the construction and permanent phases.

He said the project will be "fully environmentally sustainable" that means a total reliance on solar energy.

The project will begin with a phase called "Genesis," with ground-breaking set to begin as soon as government receives the necessary approvals.

The Genesis phase is slated for completion within 18 months.

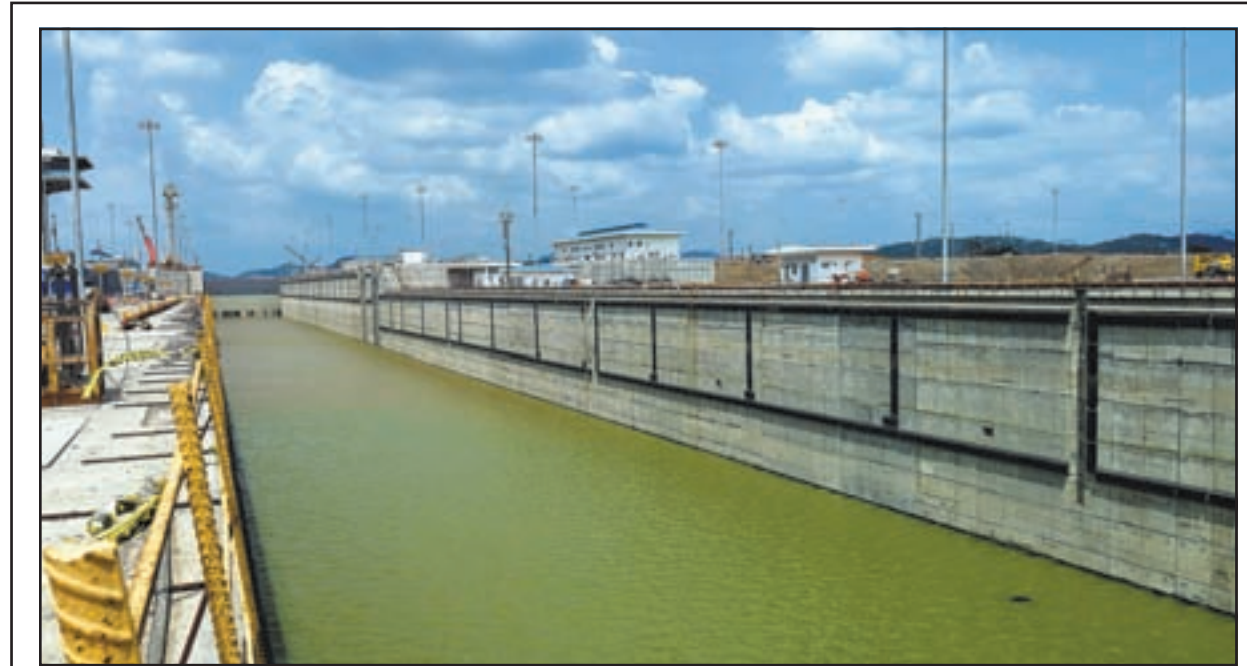
The second phase of the project will include two hotels; one with 160 rooms and a smaller, boutique property with 80 rooms.

Gravenor Bay's third phase will include an additional 140 villas.



Barbados

Barbados Attorney General has claimed that Barbadians can take comfort in the fact that the island's crime situation is nowhere as that



Panama Canal challenges

The new locks in Cocolí, on the Pacific Ocean, have 16 rolling gates. Each chamber is 427 metres long by 55 metres wide and 18.3 metres deep. The expanded Panama Canal will be able to handle New Panamax vessels with a capacity of up to 13,000 tons, up from the current 5,000 ton limit. See story on page 32.

Inter Press Service / Iralis Fragiel

of neighboring Trinidad and Tobago, which recorded close to 90 murders in more than two months.

"There is an acceptance and / or recognition in Barbados that crimes are solved," Braithwaite said as he made reference to a video circulating on social media of an incident in Trinidad where two gunmen in broad daylight jumped out of a car and fired several shots at a man sitting on a bicycle near a shop. He died on the spot.



He said: "You will not see that in Barbados and part of the reason was we in Barbados solve crimes. We lock up our people for breaking the law, but if you live in a country that people believe that that they can with impunity break the law and take life and there will be no consequences, that's part of the reason why in some countries you see that kind of behavior that you see."

"But in Barbados you know that we solve 90 to 95 percent in particular of our homicides. So people don't get away with the most egregious crime in the country," he noted.

Last year Barbados recorded 39 murders.

Bahamas

History was made in The Bahamas recently when Parliament passed four amendments to the country's 1973 Independence Constitution, effectively

removing the remaining vestiges of discrimination against all Bahamians from the country's law books.

Prime Minister Perry Christie, speaking after passage of the bills, underscored the historic significance within the context of the rights of women to vote, a franchise granted to them in 1962, more than half a century ago.

The first bill grants the legal rights to a Bahamian woman to automatically pass on her Bahamian citizenship to her child in a foreign country with a non-Bahamian spouse, just as a Bahamian male married to a non-Bahamian woman currently has the legal right and privilege of doing under the current constitution. All MPs voted in favor of the bill.



The second bill enables a Bahamian woman who marries a non-Bahamian man to secure for her foreign husband the same access to Bahamian citizenship that a Bahamian man married to a non-Bahamian woman currently enjoys under the constitution.

Under the third bill, an unmarried Bahamian man is given the legal right to pass on his Bahamian citizenship to a child he fathered with a non-Bahamian woman. Under the constitution, only an unwed Bahamian woman enjoys that legal right and privilege.

The final bill seeks to eliminate gender discrimination by inserting the

word "sex" into Article 26 of the Constitution to make it unconstitutional to discriminate against anyone on the basis of being male or female.

Guyana

The Guyana government will host the Caribbean Community and Common Market's annual summit next July because Dominica is still reeling from the impact of Tropical Storm Erica that killed more than 30 people and damaged infrastructure last September.

Guyana government officials said recently that Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt will still chair the three-day CARICOM Summit.

The conference is expected to focus on legalizing medical marijuana, suing European countries for slavery reparations, climate change and the impact of low oil and commodity prices on exports from member nations.

Guyana has been the 15-nation group's headquarters since it was founded in 1973 and had previously filled in as host for Dominica in 1995 when it was also hit by storm damaged. It is to host the summit in 2017.



Haiti

Cholera is said to be killing about 37 people a month in Haiti and has sickened more than 6,000 people so far in

Continued on Page 14



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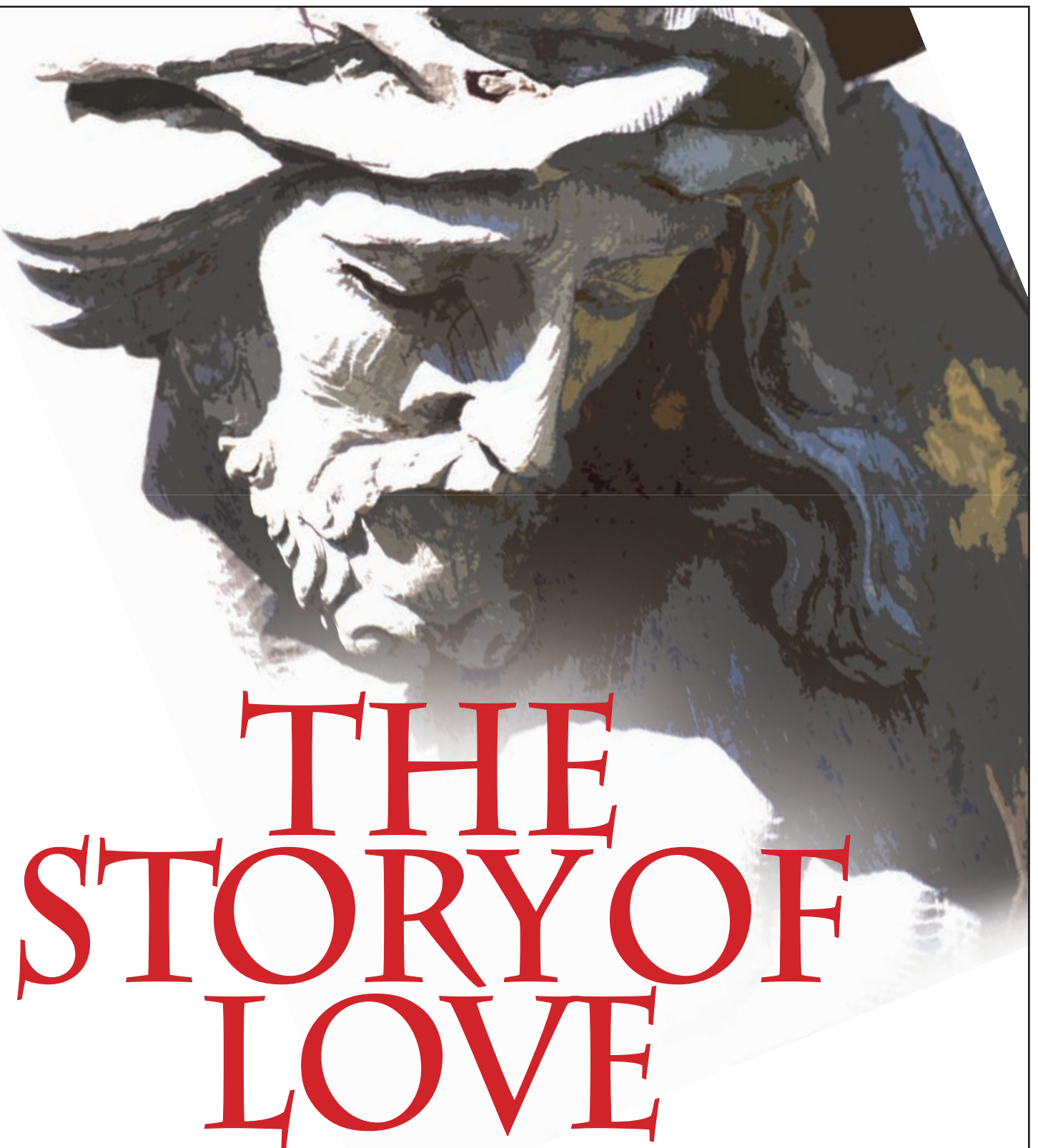
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Gda's new consul general puts community first

By Alley Olivier

Grenada's New York Consulate office has a new face: Rosemarie Welsh.

Taking office Nov. 2, 2015, Welsh comes to the Consul General position with a wealth of experience. A career foreign service officer, she has also served in a number of responsible capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including: protocol officer, first secretary at the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations, and most recently counselor at the Embassy of Grenada in Washington, D.C.

At her new post, Welsh plans to strengthen ties within the community.

Welsh says, "I am assured with the confidence placed in me by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the high regard for our citizens of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, no effort will be spared to look out for those in need of consular services."

At her perch, Welsh is responsible for information regarding passports, travel documents, visas, and other appropriate documents to those wishing to travel to Grenada, and deportations.

Her aim is to show those in the diaspora that the office is there to be utilized, whether it is for a question of passports or new ways to strengthen the Grenadian American community in New York.

"We are opened for business and 'service' is our watchword, I welcome the cooperation of our nationals," she said.

Since taking office, working with established community leaders and committees has been on Welsh's to-do list. She is working with various leaders and organizations to discover what is already available to the community and how it can be improved.

While looking at improvements, Welsh has also been open to any feed-



Grenada Consul General Rosemarie Welsh.
Grenada Consulate, New York

back provided through these meetings.

"I had a meeting with some of the heads of the community and it was very successful," she explained. "I got a lot of feedback from them, structures that need to be put in place that I'm going to work on, and I need to organize a wider meeting with the entire community as well."

Along with improving structures, Welsh plans to build a community outreach program and boost youth involvement within the diaspora.

"I would also like to have the youths more involved in more activities in the diaspora. If you haven't noticed, we are an aging population and we need to prepare our youths to take on the leadership role later on," she said.

The Grenada consulate office is located at 800 2nd Avenue, Suite 400K in Manhattan.

Major money laundering countries in the region

By Azad Ali

The United States Department of State has listed 20 Caribbean and Latin American countries as "major money laundering" territories.

The countries were identified in the 2016 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCRS) by the U.S. State Department last week.

A major money laundering country was defined by statute as one "whose financial institutions engage in currency transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from international narcotics trafficking."

The top 20 countries on the list were: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Panama, St. Maarten, Uruguay and Venezuela.

According to the U.S. State Department, "Every year, U.S. officials from agencies with anti-money laundering responsibilities meet to assess the money laundering situations in 200 jurisdictions."

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Saving Caribbean regional banks

Continued from cover

cash checks and complete transactions or to try to open branches in U.S. cities themselves to get around the problem.

Joseph Cox, assistant secretary general for trade at the Guyana-based bloc secretariat said this week that banks in the region have been hard hit by moves to cut, dubbing it unfair to the region.

Leaders who discussed the issue as a main agenda item at their mid-year summit in Belize last month have said the de risking by the banks because of alleged risky transactions flowing from the Caribbean could lead to the collapse of some in the bloc.

"Several banks have been affected in a number of jurisdictions," Cox said, noting that the American institutions have been reacting to increased pressure from regulators about the integrity of transactions, money laundering and related issues.

"So many of the American banks have chosen to terminate correspondent relations with some in the Caribbean. The volume of transactions from the region is large but the amounts are small so they have said it is just not worth it to continue doing business



Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Associated Press / Diego Azubel

with the Caribbean with so much pressure from regulators."

Antigua and Belize are among the hardest hit while regulators have also been eyeing the level of legal compliance by several other countries including Guyana.

The result of all this is that the leaders have nominated Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne to be the lead fighter for the region on this issue, heading missions to Washington D.C to lobby lawmakers, the White House and others of influence in the U.S.

He has already mounted at least one mission and plans to lead several more in the coming weeks.

Affordable Housing

Continued from cover
of affordability.

Eugene said many of his colleagues worked with him to push for these new measures, adding that they were all pleased when they learned that changes were made to increase affordability for lower-income people.

"I'm so pleased that Mayor de Blasio heard our community's concerns and has agreed to include a level of deeper affordability so that more families and individuals will be helped by this plan," said Eugene, who moderated the event.

In addition to discussing affordable housing, the mayor took questions from residents regarding homelessness, transportation problems, and a variety of other local issues.

"The evening was a great way for community members to connect with Mayor de Blasio and learn about the proposed benefits of his affordable housing plan," Eugene said.

"Housing is a basic human right, and everyone in our city deserves to have a place to call home," he added. "I am pleased that Mayor de Blasio accepted my invitation to discuss his affordable housing plan with our community, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that everyone in our city receives the housing they deserve."

Earlier on Monday, a proposal by

the Mayor Bill to rezone parts of the city to build more housing cleared its most important hurdle.

Legislators at a City Council meeting made sufficient revisions to satisfy some of their colleagues and major critics who had opposed the plan for not doing enough to provide housing for the poorest New Yorkers.

The plan would now ensure that any new housing built would include units affordable to more of the city's lower-income residents, including rental apartments in some developments for those making an average of 40 percent of the New York City area median income, or about \$31,000 a year for a family of three, according to the New York Times.

It said the proposal is expected to pass the Council when it holds its next full session on March 22.

"Our work has resulted in a plan that addresses the magnitude of our city's affordability crisis by encouraging smart, sustainable affordable housing production," said Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito in announcing details of the deal at City Hall.

"The focus of these changes is to provide affordability, one, and two, economic integration."

"Years from now, we will look back on this as a watershed moment when we turned the tide to keep our city a place for everyone," de Blasio said.

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Is American society coming of age?

By Wayne Kublalsingh

Who would have thought that the U.S. political class is now feverishly distancing itself from the Iraq war? After years of a genocidal, unethical and illegal war, everyone is now anxious to claim that he / she voted against it, spoke out against it. How times have changed. Hillary Clinton is continually having to fend off a barrage of attacks for her support for this war. Who would have believed that someone would have the guts to stand up and publicly call out George W Bush? For "lying," creating a pretext for war?

Who would have believed that no politician wants to be part of the Washington "establishment," is proud to be an "outsider." The Republican establishment is reeling to control a rampant and victorious outsider, Donald Trump. The Democratic establishment is, likewise, watching wearily the advance of the "democratic socialist" Bernie Sanders. And, to top it all, proverbial Evangelicals are voting against the Republican establishment.

Who would have believed that there is a dawning recognition that it is U.S. war — in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, its Assad Must Go campaign, its part in killing the leaders of Iraq and Libya — that has created ISIS and brought terrorism closer to home? After years of denial?

Who would have believed that, now, the popular wisdom is that all those trading blocs, NAFTA, CAFTA, TPP, have

been / would be ruinous to U.S. manufacture and trade; and the wages and survival of the American worker? And the populists are rushing like lemmings to disown, contradict and repeal them? And opting for protectionism?

Who would have believed that the corporate owners of the American government would have come under such vicious attack? Proclaiming independence from corporate ownership, Bernie Sanders is raising small donations, averaging \$27 dollars; and Donald Trump is using his own money; to fund their campaigns. Former presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, in a speech endorsing Republican Tex Cruz, has called the U.S. government the "Washington Cartel."

Who would have believed that the corporate media of the U.S. could have been called out? It has been called the most "dishonest" institution by Donald Trump, "more dishonest than politicians." And for once, this media, with its panoply of well-placed pollsters, experts, pundits, spin doctors has not been able to force the agenda; has been, at each turn, wrong in its forecasts.

And who would have believed that everyone, business, president and commoner alike, are now rushing to get into Cuba? After branding this island state a terrorist nation, dictatorial and murderous? After a 50-year embargo, scores of attempts to destabilize it, starve it, and assassinate its leader? Who

Continued on Page 13

Taking a closer look at anonymous companies

By Frank Knapp, Jr.

The threat from the misuse of anonymous shell companies is real, and routine. Criminals use them to scam consumers, defraud the government, and launder money.

They also use them to cheat small businesses.

For example, from 2004 to 2012 a large Virginia-based security firm used a shell company to fraudulently obtain \$31 million in federal contracts — contracts that should have gone to minority-owned small businesses under the SBA's section 8(a) set-aside program.

In a second case, a Maryland woman used multiple shell companies to win contracts to supply the government with paint and other goods. She got subcontractors to supply the goods, billed the government, and then walked away with \$2.3 million in payments she owed the subs.

The first crime used one shell company; the second, more than a dozen, incorporated in six states.

Law enforcement is routinely stymied in its efforts to see and stop these crimes. That's because the companies' anonymity keeps them from knowing the real people who control and benefit from the shells, in legalese, the beneficial owners.

Anonymous companies are also used to poison our politics. Last year more than 200 limited liability companies (LLCs) donated \$11 mil-

The use of LLCs – whose owners can be hidden – defeats federal election rules that require super PACS to identify most of their contributors.

lion to presidential candidates super PACs, according to the Wall Street Journal. The use of LLCs – whose owners can be hidden – defeats federal election rules that require super PACS to identify most of their contributors.

Anonymous companies are also used to fund terrorism. Last July, Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. told a House terrorism hearing that identifying shell companies' beneficial owners would vastly improve law enforcement's efforts to stop terrorism funding.

All of this is possible because our states rank among the world's easiest places to create anonymous shell companies. To protect our small businesses, defend our democracy and to ensure our security, that must change.

The solution is to require every corporation and LLC to disclose its beneficial owners, when it is formed. The states won't do this alone, in part because states are afraid that if they act unilaterally, they will lose incorporation fees to states that do not act.

As a result, Congress must

force them to do this by passing the bipartisan Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act (ITLEAA) -- which requires all states to identify the beneficial owners of the companies they create. Taking this action would create a level playing field for all states, and make it harder for criminal and corrupt actors to exploit company formation law to conduct business that no state truly wants within its borders.

Complying with the act would not burden small businesses. Rather it would help to level the playing field between them and large businesses – for example, by providing them with better information when they negotiate with larger partners.

Our presidential campaigns have been dominated by security concerns and yet no candidate has called on Congress to pass the ITLEAA. It's a straightforward, low-cost way to stop the misuse of anonymous companies and the crimes they enable.

By passing this Act, Congress can take a common sense step to boost our security on multiple fronts – and our presidential candidates who care about small businesses, our democracy and our security, should call on Congress to do so.

Knapp is the co-chair of the American Sustainable Business Council and president & CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community News Group
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Finding a saving grace, after this

As it begins to look more or less unavoidable that the GOP will be hoisting Donald Trump as its candidate for the U.S. presidency, the true dimensions of America arriving at such a sorry pass should hopefully be sinking in concurrently on those who've maybe gone the escapist route with the freak show narrative. The search for a nominee that winds up, as it appears right now, in whatever semblance of a battle there is between Trump and Ted Cruz is, one would think, as worrisome a place as a national party in this country could possibly be. There shouldn't be any, but to dispel lingering doubt, could there be a more unequivocal declaration as to what has befallen the so-called party of Lincoln?

One now former GOP contender, Marco Rubio, obviously had a skewed take on history when he invoked Lincoln in his berating of Trump as a defiler of the conservative legacy of onetime GOP stalwarts. Lincoln as right-wing role model? Really? With Trump, though, ideological branding is hardly the foremost consideration.

Try, instead, repugnant narcissist whose presence in any election scenario, let alone a presidential one, insults the intelligence of the electorate... or at least the portion of it that, thank heavens, still works out to be a considerably greater mass than the ignorami outpouring who hail Trump as the cure for whatever ails America.

One TV analyst recently made a particularly salient analogous reference concerning the consistent one-third or thereabouts of the Republican electorate that has been supportive of Trump. Bob Schieffer noted on CBS that polling among Republicans had shown a similar percentage of approximately one-third being of the view that President Obama isn't an American, is a Muslim, etc. Such findings, of course, starkly define whence comes the Trump appeal. No one ought be surprised at what values predominate where Trump most finds favor.

We can't feign shock, either, at the progression to raw hate and violence that lately has come to surround the Trump road show. Not when, from

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

the clown-suited character at center stage himself, there's no shortage of exhortation to deal in aggressive, vengeance-is-mine fashion with anyone singing, or even hinting at singing a different tune. The top clown all the while intoning how much he too would like to personally administer punishment to "wrongdoers" who dare invade the space he and fawning imbeciles share. The clear message: there's more to come like the now infamous Florida sucker-punch action.

The absurdity of a presidential campaign in which the persistent headline grabber and probable GOP nominee is, by every measure, the most unpresidential choice imaginable, hasn't escaped the scrutiny of rational observers of the fiasco, both within these borders and abroad. We have previously referenced here the descent into international laughingstock

territory that ensues with a Trump candidacy, never mind presidency.

There surely must be others around the world who echo the British Parliament's sentiments a while back in pretty much calling Trump's candidacy a joke. Some strange political turns have been made elsewhere, but generally in the Western world, they're not in the habit of accommodating odd-ball politicians to the extent Republicans have made it possible for Trump to be part of the current conversation. In Britain in the 1960s and 70s when conservative and rabidly anti-immigrant Enoch Powell made clear how polarizing a figure he intended to be, they moved to blunt his effectiveness. Ditto, firebrand Jean-Marie Le Pen in France who, even at an advanced age, hasn't given up xenophobic rants. Trump, in his GOP hot-shot status, is the conspicuous Western exception.

Then there are the Trump endorsements, some of which have been true to the farce and follies nature of his campaign. The about-face embrace

of Trump by Chris Christie, which one commentator called the "endorsement that backfired," has been so pathetic, it probably has generated sympathy for the New Jersey governor. Ben Carson's endorsement served only to remind us he ought to have remained in the medical field and not taken himself so seriously. As for Trump's endorsement by former Yankees outfielder Paul O'Neill, always perceived as the quintessential good-guy, even-tempered jock, he probably became as big an advertisement as there is for staying in your lane.

So after this process toward representation at the highest level has plunged to these forbidding depths of ugly, where does redemption lie? Where to find a saving grace after the hellish interlude? What perhaps looms as the best bet for the country exiting the nightmare with some dignity is Trump being dealt the finest drubbing he never thought possible...by a woman, yet!

BUSINESS PROFILE

John C. Kim a lawyer with your best interest in mind

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Few people anticipate that they will go into debt.

But life often brings unexpected twists and turns.

The Law Office of John C. Kim can help smooth the path.

"We provide competent legal advice when you need it," says John C. Kim, attorney.

Kim has heard many heart-wrenching stories during the 15 years he has been practicing law. Basically, it comes down to this: Life circumstances change, and often these changes are beyond anyone's control. People get laid off from work; family members become sick; couples divorce.

"These events happen to be the main causes of why people find themselves in financial distress," he says.

If you are among those who have suffered financial setbacks, know that you are not alone.

"In 2005, 1.6 million Americans sought financial relief by filing for bankruptcy," says Kim.

Bankruptcy laws allow people to get a fresh start, but laws have become tougher, he says.

"Credit card companies have been



Attorney John C. Kim has been helping clients turn their lives around for years.

allowed to increase minimum payments. Interest rates are also up."

That's why it is so important to seek the right representation. The Law Office of John C. Kim knows the law, and has the experience to provide effective solutions.

The two fully-staffed offices — one

in Brooklyn and another in Queens — provide personal service to all clients. Staff knows that the work they are doing changes lives. Kim says he has seen clients come in, weighted down by huge burdens of debt. They become different people when they leave bankruptcy court, relieved by the opportunity to start anew.

"It gives me great satisfaction to provide this care," he says.

He works closely with immigrant populations like the West Indian community in Brooklyn and the Asian community in Flushing, many of whom are unfamiliar with American law. He provides them with competent legal care to address their specific needs, returning all phone calls, and seeing that all questions are answered.

"We use good judgment, based on solid experience, to obtain workable solutions," he says.

The firm also provides counsel for divorce, real estate, and immigration. They can advise about matters pertaining to green cards, citizenship, and work issues. They assist first-time home buyers and seasoned investors with selling and purchasing real estate, a process that often involves many parties. Each party will

be looking out for its own interest.

"The only person at the table watching out for your interest is your own attorney," says Kim, so make sure it's a lawyer you can trust.

The Law Office of John C. Kim can draft, review, and negotiate contracts, coordinate the closing, make final adjustments, and work out all details before the closing date. Particularly for first-time buyers, a transaction like this can be among the most important one of your life.

"Be sure it is handled with great care and a high degree of professional expertise," Kim says.

Kim is Korean-American, and has lived in Brooklyn for 20 years. He attended law school at Boston University. He has had his own practice in Brooklyn for more than a decade, and has expanded into Queens.

The Law Office of John C. Kim [50 Court St. between Joralemon and Livingston Streets in Downtown, Brooklyn (718) 210-4794, www.JCKimLaw.com; and at 163-10 Northern Blvd., Suite 201, in Flushing, Queens (718) 539-1100]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am-6 pm, by appointment; and on Saturdays, 10 am-5 pm, by appointment.



Candidate for Constituency 9, Mia Ritchie-Comacho (right) with farmer Winston Johnson who lived in the squatting area for seven years.
Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Guyanese woman campaigns

By Tangerine Clarke

March 18 will be the defining moment for Mia Ritchie-Comacho when voters go to the polls to elect a counselor in Constituency 9 which encompasses Durban Backlands, Lodge Meadow Brook where the Guyanese-American hopes to win the seat in Local Government Election, which was not held for more than 20 years.

As an independent candidate who is supported by the APNU AFC Coalition she promises to develop a disciplined community and reinvigorate self-help groups to return pride to the community. Her empowerment and job opportunity initiatives are intended to enrich the lives of youth and the more than 200 squatters who are urging the government to develop their community.

Ritchie-Comacho, who is a youth development organizer, educator, and humanitarian, said many of the residents occupied the area after the disastrous floods of 2005 forced the citizens to move to the farming area.

Many said they were offered the opportunity to till the Burnham land at the request of then First Lady Viola Burnham who is now deceased, while others moved into the area and built shacks without permission from the government.

Four years ago when the qualified esthetician and nursing assistant returned to Guyana, she probably never envisioned the important role she would play in the development of this deprived area occupied for more than 10 years.

However, Ritchie-Comacho admits due to lack of infrastructure it would be no easy task to make the squatting area livable, since the residents would have to be relocated to facilitate construction of roads, running water,

Continued on Page 18

Jamaican named to run Home Depot

By Vinette K. Pryce

Orange is the new Black? Ann-Marie Campbell might readily agree and with a myriad of good reasons.

Last month at age, 50, the Kingston, Jamaica-born native was appointed the executive vice president of all Home Depot stores in the United States.

She began working at the home improvement department store in 1985 while in college. The start date was actually April 1, but it was no joke when she was hired as a cashier to wear the orange apron that identifies every employee.

Her part-time position in the North Miami Beach, Florida branch helped pay her way through college where she studied medicine.

As fate would have it "one day in 1989, vice president Lynn Martin came to the branch for a "store walk" with the employees, and when he asked a question, Campbell volunteered the answer."

"It was a chance meeting in a store. He asked a question, and I was in the group accompanying him on the 'store walk,' and I answered the question. He took a particular interest in finding out who I was and he felt I added some value. I probably didn't think I did at the time, but he did!"

She said, Martin was "impressed by her assertiveness" and became her mentor.

Allegedly, the store boss encouraged the young immigrant to pursue every opportunity for promotions in various store operations encompassing merchandising, sales and marketing.

Since then there was no stopping the ambitious employee.

"I loved the culture of the company, which was a very personal family atmosphere — our founders treasured that — and a company that was listening to employees' opinions," Campbell added.

"I was moving, I was growing, I was being challenged, I was given opportunities, and it just kind of worked out for me. That's how I decided early on that it could go from a job to a career. And when you make that decision in your mind, you operate a little differently. You realize the sky is the limit, and what else you could do if you could accomplish that next step."

Campbell's advancement in the company included positions as department manager, store manager, district manager, regional vice president, vice president of operations, vice president of merchandising and special orders, vice president of retail marketing and sales and vice president of vendor services before being named president of the



Jamaican-born Ann-Marie Campbell was appointed as the executive vice president of all Home Depot stores in the United States. Georgia State University

southern division in 2009.

In 2010 Black Enterprise Magazine named Campbell one of the 75 Most Powerful Women in Business.

Two years later, she was named one of Atlanta, Georgia's 100 Top Black Women of Influence.

Ranked number 38 on Fortune Magazine's list of 50 Most Powerful Women in Business in 2014 Campbell was well on her way to the pinnacle of success. In the latter position, she was in charge of 690 stores and 100,000 employees in 15 states, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, Virgin Island.

With the most recent promotion to executive vice president of U.S. stores, she is tasked with responsibility for 2,000 stores and most of the company's nearly 400,000 employees.

Campbell is the youngest of four children and the only girl.

Her father died in a car accident at age 26, when she was just one year and six months.

According to Campbell, her inspiration and source of business acumen is her grandmother in Jamaica who developed a roadside business into a multi-million dollar company.

"I had a strong business lineage, so I

was really able to understand and associate the business practices I was learning in class with my environment," she said.

"School gives you the theoretical knowledge, but the practical knowledge is so important. So when you can apply that in real time and real life, it just makes sense."

Her grandmother, although a divorced mother of 10, owned Phidd's Furniture and Appliances in Portmore, Jamaica and was able to help her mother raise her.

As a youth Campbell worked during the summer and school breaks at her grandmother's store. During the school year, she boarded at Kingston's Holy Childhood High School, a Catholic institution for girls.

After graduating high school in 1981, she, her mother and brothers immigrated to the United States, settling in Miami.

There she enrolled at Florida International University, initially studying medicine and later majoring in philosophy.

In 2007, she graduated with a B.A. She furthered her education at Georgia State University to earn an MBA.

Reformation

Continued from page 10

would have believed?

Who would have believed, that after decades of wars against Socialism, in Latin America, South East Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the left is gaining ground in America? As the right digs in its heels in Latin America and senior cadres decline — Chavez, Maduro, Fernandez de Kirchner and Morales — the left is pilgrimaging its way into the mecca of global capitalism.

Who would have believed that Donald Trump says he intends to take a neutral position on the bloody historical Israel / Palestine imbroglio? For the sake of making a negotiated deal? It would be most difficult he says, but he would give his best shot. Ted Cruz scoffs at him and calls him unpatriotic, a liberal Democrat. Donald Trump is trumping him in the polls.

Is American society coming of age? Or is America in the throes of a false dawn? If America continues to deal recklessly, bloodily, in trade and war, with the world, it would be defeated, to put it euphemistically. If it reforms, there are enormous possibilities.

Reparations

Continued from page 3

sation, satisfaction and rehabilitation.

The John Hope Franklin Commission would set up an inter-agency working group to coordinate government resources directed toward these measures, according to NAARC, which comprises 15 prominent scholars, attorneys, historians, health care professionals, journalists and racial justice activists from across the U.S.

Dr. Ron Daniels, the New York-based convener of the NAARC and president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), commended Ford and his colleagues in the Illinois State Legislature for their “bold, courageous and innovative” resolution.

He described the legislators’ action as “a major advance” for human rights in America.

“HR 1011 complements the NAARC’s call for establishment of the John Hope Franklin Commission and, most importantly, it recognizes the urgent need to address the lingering social, economic, biological, psychological and cultural injuries inflicted by the monstrous crime of slavery in this country,” Daniels said.

“We call on other State Legislatures across the country to follow the example of Illinois and pass similar resolutions,” he added.

Kamm Howard, a member of the NAARC and leader of the National Coalition of Blacks in America (NCOBRA) Chicago Chapter, in presenting testimony supporting Ford’s resolution said that HR 1011 could assist the nation in synchronizing with international human rights standards and social justice norms.

He also noted that in 2001 at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) the international community declared that slavery, the slave trade, colonialism and apartheid were crimes against humanity and that since 2001 many reparatory justice actions have taken place across the US and the world.

In its January, 2016 visit to several cities in the United States, NAARC said the UN’s Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent expressed in its initial report “serious concern” about the contemporary human rights situation of African Americans.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

the poverty-stricken Caribbean island. Since the disease started in Haiti in October 2010, it has affected more than 770,000 people and killed more than 9,000 persons.

Public health officials fear that much needed resources to combat the spread of the disease have been diverted to the regional spread of the Zika virus.

Cholera is now considered "endemic" in Haiti — an illness that occurs regularly.

St. Lucia

Barbados and St. Lucia are negotiating a maritime agreement between the two Caribbean countries.

A government statement said that officials from the two countries ended four days of talks in Barbados recently and has "prepared a draft text of a maritime boundary delimitation agreement."

The statement said officials from St. Vincent and the Grenadines had recently concluded similar negotiations with Barbados.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados signed a Maritime Boundary Delimitation Agreement on Aug. 3, last year.

The statement said that the two delegations were supported by a team from the Commonwealth Secretariat and that the heads of delegations underlined "that these negotiations and, in particular, the provisional agreement between Barbados and St. Lucia bear testimony to the spirit of cordiality and good-neighborliness that has characterized all of these discussions."

"The United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, to which both countries are party, entitles them to claim an Exclusive Economic Zone of up to 200 nautical miles.

As a result of the proximity of these states, there is the necessity to delimit their maritime boundaries," the statement noted.

"The delimitation of maritime boundaries facilitates the governance of these maritime spaces and creates certainty for users," the statement added.



St. Vincent

A German national was murdered and another injured when masked gunmen boarded their yacht anchored in Wallaibou, south-western St. Vincent in the early hours of the morning last Friday. The captain of the yacht was injured during the ordeal. The attack took place at a sheltered cove that was part of the set for "Pirates of the Caribbean" film and is popular with "yachties."

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said the incident has shattered "our sense of peace and tranquility" in our country and in this case using violence, adding, that those on board had praised the Coast Guard, which arrived within 20 minutes of being called.

He said his government is making all the necessary arrangements to have the other persons, including the captain, flown to the neighboring French island of Martinique, from where they will fly to Europe.



Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago is facing a downgrade by the international credit ratings agency Moody's Investors Service — the second time in two years.

It could impact on T&T's ability to attract foreign investment if the government's bond and issuer ratings are downgraded at a time when the country is facing an economic downturn. Last week the New York-based ratings agency, announced it had placed T&T's Baa2 Government bond and issuer ratings on review for downgrade. Moody's signaled this approach ahead of a two-month review on T&T to assess the extent of the impact of the further sharp fall in oil and gas prices on the country's economic performance and the balance sheet of its government in the coming years.

"Moody would downgrade Trinidad and Tobago's Baa2 rating if its rating review were to conclude that the government's plans are unlikely to be adequate to sustain Trinidad and Tobago's economic or government balance sheet strength."

— compiled by Azad Ali



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*Past Results Do Not Guarantee Future Outcomes

Barbados continues to spend more, earn less

By George Alleyne

The Barbados government is set to enter a new financial year showing another gaping difference between its spending and the money it expects to take in, with a projected shortfall of Bds\$1.6 billion.

"It is estimated that government's total expenditure for the financial year 2016 – 2017, on the accrual basis, will be \$4,394.5 million...current revenue for the next fiscal year is projected at \$2,737.6 million," the administration stated this week.

According to a government release, the administration's projected fiscal imbalance for the April 2016 to March 2017 period is marginally better than the Bds\$1.7 billion (Bds\$2 = US\$1) hole it estimated for the previous financial year, 2015 – 2016.

The continued gap between money spent, and to be spent, and money coming into the national treasury might represent a lack of success of

the Prime Minister Freundel Stuart government, that has been trying since 2014 to rein in expenditure and bring the national deficit to a manageable size.

With some prodding from the International Monetary Fund, government had over the last two years introduced a 19-month economic stabilisation and recovery plan, imposed new taxes, cut tuition fees support for Barbadians at university, and sent home almost 3,000 public employees, but it is now going into another financial year with the same burden of bloated government and a higher public service wage bill, pitted against below par revenue.

"Wages and salaries are expected to increase over the revised amount for 2015 – 2016 by \$17.8 million or 2.4 per cent to \$758.7 million. The increase is mainly due to increments," government stated.

According to the statement, "expenditure on goods and

services is expected to increase by \$106.9 million to \$459.9 million".

Sometime this month Finance Minister, Chris Sinckler, is expected to present the 2016-2017 budget, in which he should be explaining in that policy document how its drive towards a leaner government and smaller wage bill measures up against these areas of projected increased expenditure.

Last year Sinckler also spoke of measures towards stabilisation of the revenue situation, boasting, "the beginning of the turnaround in the Barbados economy which started from around the last quarter of 2014 has begun to have some impact on the outturn of the fiscal figures".

But in this month's budget presentation, Barbadians will be keen to hear an explanation on how revenue figures continue to fall so far behind projected spending, despite this 'turnaround.'



Barbados Minister of Finance Chris Sinckler.

Photo by George Alleyne

Another notable feature of this year's estimates is that the money set to go to the island's only public health care institution, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, has been reduced from \$150 million for 2015 to \$146.3 million this year.

This reduction comes against a backdrop of poor and failing health services because of shortages of supplies at the institution. Government last

year had to rush emergency funding for QEH through parliament because providers of medical supplies had cut off the hospital as its debt to them piled up.

In last year's budget, Sinckler, had talked of plans for a private/public partnership on a Health Care Capital Expenditure Fund, which would grow and meet QEH's financing needs.

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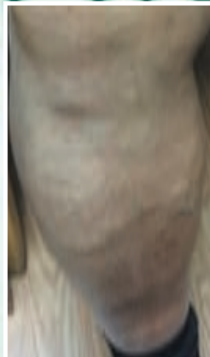
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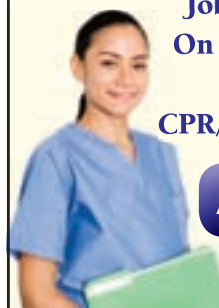
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Guyana

Continued from page 12

and electricity.

She invited Mayor of Georgetown, Hamilton Green to address the concerns of the squatters. He assured them that the Central Housing and Planning Ministry would liaison with them to provide better living conditions for them and their family.

Ritchie-Comacho, a mother of five children Rhea, Georgia, Hill, Mekhi, and Breann, returned to her homeland to capitalize on the many opportunities she said are available. She has become quite popular within the Georgetown environ, galvanizing groups into action of self-help and community development through her facebook wall and causes she is passionate about such as youth empowerment.

With the catchy slogan, "Vote Love Care and Strength — Vote Mia Richie As Your Representative — One Love," Ritchie-Comacho is focused on creating a healthy living environment for the youth, extra-curricula activities, a community center and an effective healthcare system. In addition, her plan is to pair the youth with the elderly for

a disciplined upbringing.

The remigrant, who resided in New Jersey for 21 years, said she is a people's-person and despite her family's concern for her returning home, she said being able to join clean up campaigns working alongside the Georgetown City Council to return the habitat to its garden city status, and engaging the youth, set her alight with excitement to make a difference in her homeland.

One Love," Ritchie-Comacho is focused on creating a healthy living environment for the youth, extra-curricula activities, a community center and an effective healthcare system.

Now assigned to the newsroom of the National Communications Network (NCN), Ritchie-Comacho flashes a welcoming smile and greets voters with enthusiasm along her campaign trail.

She is hopeful of winning the seat to carry on the work she is passionate about.

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Prostate Cancer: Stop It Before It's Too Late

Reading newspaper articles can be fun, interesting, and entertaining, but can it save your life or the life of your loved ones?

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2014, about 233,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and about 29,480 men will die of prostate cancer. About 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men.

Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.*

In this article, we seek advice from award winning doctors at Prostate Center of Accord Physicians, general urologist Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe and two urological surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykhman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two are recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists since 2009.

They will tell us how to detect prostate cancer in its earliest stage and successfully fight it.

Doctors, what are the symptoms of prostate cancer? Can a man diagnose himself for this disease?

Unfortunately, prostate cancer will usually not exhibit outward symptoms in its early stages, so the patient is often

not aware of the presence of a tumor. Because it is important to diagnose this disease before any symptoms occur, men over age 45 are strongly encouraged to undergo an elective urological examination at least once a year.

How do you diagnose prostate cancer?

The first step in diagnosing prostate cancer is analyzing PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in blood. If cancer is suspected, a biopsy will be advisable, since it is the only test that can fully confirm the diagnosis of prostate cancer. At Prostate Center of Accord Physicians, doctors can perform a biopsy under anesthesia directly on premises.

The Prostate Center of Accord Physicians's in-house specialized laboratory enables our certified, astute pathologist to quickly and accurately study prostate cells, shortening your diagnosis and treatment time.

Given the complexity of the diagnosis and of prostate cancer in general, we urge readers to be tested only using modern equipment at the most up-to-date clinics, such as Prostate Center of Accord Physicians.

What is the most effective method of treatment offered at the Prostate Center?

When choosing a method of treatment, we take into account the stage of the cancer, the patient's age, risk of complications, as well as the wishes of the patient. There are a number of

proven treatment options available, including radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and surgical treatment.

To date, the most effective method of combating prostate cancer is radiation therapy. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is a unique type of radiation therapy offered at Prostate Center which involves the use of computed tomography (CT) to carefully pinpoint and map the exact 3-Dimensional shape of the tumor. The software carefully calculates the dose intensity pattern that will best conform to the tumor shape. IMRT allows for more effective radiation to the prostate, while minimizing exposure to adjacent normal tissues. With a radiation oncologist with over 30 years of experience and the most modern treatment and diagnostic tools, Prostate Center of Accord Physicians is a leader in the fight against prostate cancer.

What would you say to men suffering from prostate cancer?

Being diagnosed with prostate cancer doesn't mean you should give up and stop fighting. Prostate Center of Accord Physicians can successfully treat this type of cancer if it is diagnosed in its early stages. Our treatment can prolong the lives of prostate cancer patients for many years.

We recommend that all men be more attentive to their health and to seek professional medical help when symptoms first develop.

*Information via the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.



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Cook makes a difference at Queens Library

By Laura Andrews

With correspondence and photographs linked to President Barack Obama, the two-term history-making highest-public official worldwide, is highlighted in the legislative office of Assemblywoman Vivian Cook.

Cook, an independent-thinking highly-respected major supporter of Queens Library eases through her Albany, NY workspace, as Queens Library's advocates lined her office and the area outside of her office. After greeting noticeable constituents, as she makes her way to her desk, Cook humbly asks the standing-room only group how she can serve them.

Queens Library, the largest library advocates at Library Legislative Day 2016, are not forgetful of Cook's continuous contributions to Queens Library. Notably, Queens Library at Rochdale President Emily Banks expressed her gratitude to Assemblywoman Cook. Banks recognized Cook for acting as the library's life boat and ushering in recent major construction at her Rochdale Library.

The gathering, representing Queens Library's more than 62 community libraries, are aware they are afforded a rare opportunity to meet with a public official and not a public official's intern or other staff members. A priority for Queens Library is to receive full funding at the amount of \$102.4 million.

On this annual Library Legislative Day, Queens Library is asking New York State for \$17.2 million for the Adult Literacy Education (ALE) program. Through the New York State Education Department ALE sustains English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and High Schools Equivalency Preparation (HSE) classes.

Inclusive on this list is an after-school program built into the Queens Library's STACKS curriculum. Of equal importance, is maintenance of Queens Library's 1,900 computers where three million sessions were logged. Queens Library's internet and computer training tend to be heading in the direction of President Obama's agenda for internet accessibility for everybody.



Assemblywoman Vivian Cook with Queens Library participants.

Photo by Laura Andrews

According to Queens Library, "Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State and Queens Library

is among the borough's leading providers of free, job seeking information, workshops, online training and job preparation."

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Jamaican nurse receives 2015 Mentor Award

Merle Fearon Warren of Jamaica, West Indies, a registered nurse at Mount Sinai / Beth Israel Medical Center as well as the NYU Lutheran Medical Center was awarded the 2015 Mentor Award from the International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA) for her continued volunteer work educating the public about addiction.

The IntNSA Clinical Mentoring Award is presented yearly to a member of the association who has demonstrated extraordinary mentorship. In 2015, Merle Warren was nominated by her daughter, Brittanica Fearon.

Fearon said, "My mother has aided in the battle against drug addiction for over 13 years. From since I was a young girl in junior high school, to a young woman now in my early twenties in college, my mother has attended Career's Day every year consecutively. The students and faculty at Lenox Academy look up to her with the utmost respect, for all her knowledge on the dangers of drug use, and how much she encourages them to stay away from it. Even the patients at her job find my mother to be an inspiration. They constantly thank her for all her efforts in helping them overcome their struggles with addiction. My mother was successful in forming a women's group at her work place, in which the majority of the women that attended are now in recovery, and have since had their pick-up schedule reduced. She has received both the Caribbean Health Award in 2014 and the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in 2011.

"My mother not only serves as an inspiration to those around her, but to me as well. I am currently taking a course this semester that focuses



Merle Fearon Warren with her 2015 Mentor Award.

solely on drug use and abuse, and I work in the admissions department at a drug detox and rehab facility in Queens, New York. Merle Warren is the light at the end of a deep and dark tunnel, and the beacon of hope when it seems that all is lost. She makes me proud to call her my mother, and that is why she deserves to be nominated for this award."

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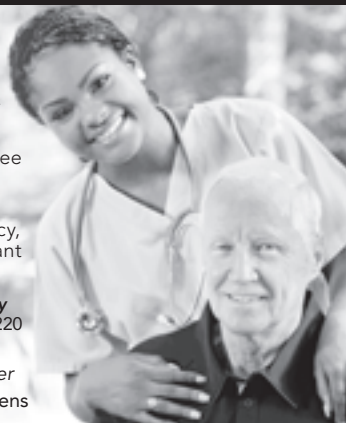
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SVG Garifuna group hosts National Heroes Day

By Nelson A. King

Marsena Ballantyne, the Sandy Bay-born president of the one-year-old, Brooklyn-based Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Incorporated (GIPSVG, Inc.), has described as very successful last Saturday's staging of the group's inaugural National Heroes Day celebration in Brooklyn.

"The event, being the first to be held in New York, is deemed a success," Ballantyne told Caribbean Life about the cultural variety show and dance that also marked the group's first anniversary.

"The main objective of the event was to bring together Vincentians in New York and surrounding areas to honor the heroism of the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chatoyer, paramount chief of the Garifuna and national hero of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and to celebrate that which is distinctly special about us as a people – our Garifuna heritage," she added about the event that was held at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center.

"I am of the view that we



Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance Company performs at the SVG National Heroes Day celebration in New York.

Photo by Nelson A. King

accomplished that objective," Ballantyne continued. "We had a great turn-out and the presentations by the artistes and performers were outstanding.

"The audience was interactive, which is usually a good

sign," she said. "It was great to see among the audience representations from the various Vincentian associations in New York and from the Garifuna community."

Additionally, Ballantyne said

the quality of the production was of "high standard."

Donnette Lewis, the group's vice president, also told Caribbean Life that, "when members first discussed the first anniversary and what will be

the ideal celebration, National Heroes Day came to thought.

"It was beyond expectation," she said about Saturday's event. "The crafts, the food, the performances, the drumming, the

Continued on Page 30

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Quilting for a good cause

By Tequila Minsky

The multi-purpose sanctuary of Church of the Holy Apostle in Manhattan was humming with activity — it was a modern day quilting bee. Groups of women and one man sat at circular tables in the hall, needles in hand stitching or knotting hand-made quilts of all sizes destined for others.

On Saturday, March 12, 80 quilts were finished during the Empire Quilters Guild's annual charity quilting day. From crib quilts to toddler and camp-bed size and larger quilts, the colorfully patterned, practical works of art will go to a variety of non-profits that serve the homeless, patients in hospitals, vets, domestic violence survivors and others in need of care and comfort.

A lot of the recipients are moved by this gift made with so much love. "It brings joy," says guild member Beverly Cheuvront.

Guild members come from all walks of life, the financial world, teachers, doctors, high stress jobs and more routine, those in the workforce and



Brooklynite Margaret Simmons, eight-year guild member, enjoys chatting with her friends and "making something for a good cause."

retirees. The artistic and craft challenges are inspiring and challenging. The camaraderie among members adds to many who glow when talking about quilting and the guild's monthly meetings — the second Saturday of each month at Holy Apostle.

Jamaica-born Lorna Spence-Ellis has been a guild member for 10 years. "I've always been a sewer," she said, introduced to sewing in primary school in the northeastern coastal Port-

land Parish in Jamaica. As a life-long seamstress, she sewed dresses for her daughters and herself and shirts for her husband.

Inspired by a quilt show held in the 1980s, decades passed before she finally had time to begin to quilt.

Spence-Ellis worked alongside Pamela Wexler who dedicated almost five months designing and sewing a full-size traditional scrappy nine-patch top as a charity quilt.

"Quilters are the ultimate upcyclers," says Wexler, who is so proud that her beautiful design was made from leftover end pieces and other donated fabric. The two spent the entire afternoon "tying" — a quilting technique to attach by knotting together at intervals the quilt's three layers—the back, the batting and the top.

Taking a break, Spence-Ellis brought out her Ipad to show off a 24-inch square art quilt she previously made entitled: "Wash Day," which depicts life in the Caribbean — washing clothes at the river.

Floraminda Balmaseda from



All afternoon, Pamela Wexler and Lorna Spence-Ellis "tied" the quilt, attaching at intervals the three layers, back, batting and top.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Puerto Rico, a retired teacher, started taking quilting classes provided by the teacher's union 13 years ago and is now known for her yo-yo—three dimensional circles—technique.

Her award winning quilts are all hand-quilted. "I love participating in charity day," she said. "All the quilts are going to people who really need the warmth and feeling these provide." And with needle and thread in hand she continued, "And, I like meeting my friends."

At another table, as guild

members chatted and sewed, Bronx resident Carolyn Berry summed it up, "It's a stress-free way to do good work."

Many of the members belong to more than one guild. Retired teachers, two sisters, brought their machines and sewed patches for tops during the day. Sandi Howell from Parkchester, Bronx is also the president of Quilters of Color. "We meet at Fulton Houses every fourth Saturday, she said of the smaller, more intimate quilting guild.



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Dr. Melinda Keller, who treats serious back pain without surgery explains how the DRX9000™ works... "Over 10 years ago, NASA began to notice an unexpected result of space travel: Astronauts that left with back pain would come back without it. After investigated this now phenomenon here's what they found: During the anti-gravity state of the mission there were decompressive forces on the intervertebral

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Senghor's hard-won redemption and afterlife

"Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison" by Shaka Senghor
c.2016, Convergent Books
\$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
269 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can't judge a book by its cover.

Even so, we do it all the time: we see someone's outside and think we know what's inside. We base it on his looks, or his youthful indiscretions — things, as in the new book "Writing My Wrongs" by Shaka Senghor, that he may deeply regret.

Little James White wanted to be a doctor when he grew up.

Enveloped by the love of his parents, he was secure in the idea that he could maintain his honors status and do good for people in his Detroit community. But then his parents split, reconciled, and split again; his



Book cover of "Writing My Wrongs."

mother took her frustrations out on him and she kicked him out of her house.

Jay was just "a little boy" of 14 then, but it didn't take long for someone to offer him a job selling cocaine at five dollars a "rock." He started earning big money, wearing cool clothes,

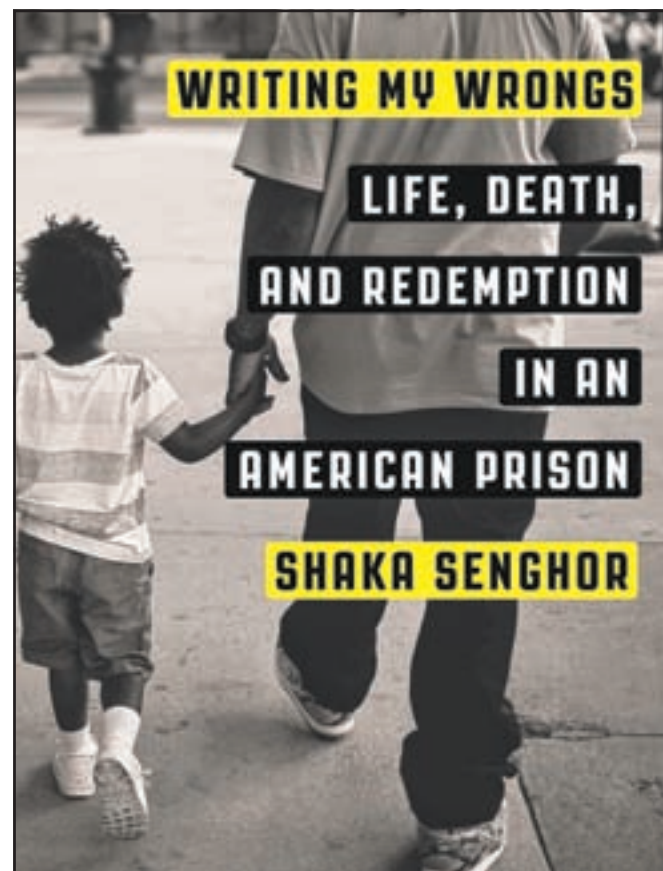
getting girls, smoking crack.

By 17, he'd been in trouble with the law and had been given many second chances. By 18, he'd been shot in the leg and foot.

By 19, he was in prison for shooting another man, killing him.

In his first six weeks in County Jail, Jay saw it all: rape, robbery, beat-downs, murder. He learned the "law of the jungle" and knew that he could never let small disrespects slide. It was a whole new world, but a sentence of up to 42 years for firearm possession and murder put him in another universe.

Years later, transferred to various prisons within the state and carrying a new name and a new assault charge, Shaka Senghor promised himself repeatedly that he would change, only to have it beaten back by prison life and the deep anger



Book cover of "Writing My Wrongs."

and guilt he carried. Finally, mid-way through a four-and-a-half year stint in ad-seg, he "took a long and painful look" at himself and equipped his cell "like a classroom," reconnect-

ing with the Black history he loved and the religious studies he craved.

"But the real changes," he says, "came when I started

Continued on Page 30

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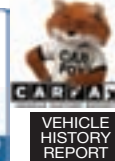
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Heroes Day

Continued from page 22

GAMA Dance Company, which filled in at the last minute, were extraordinary.

"The expressions on our guests' faces, as they looked on, and the bobbing of their heads to the music and their willingness to participate were overwhelming," Lewis added.

Besides the Greenburg, New Jersey-based GAMA Dance Company, led by Garifuna Eleanor Bullock, other artistes and performers included Belizean singer and songwriter James Lovell, a Garifuna; Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance Company; reggae artiste Afari Haywood; the United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn; Vincentian soca artiste Edson "Lively" McDowald; the multitalented Primadonna Bascombe; and cultural ambassador, soca and ragga soca artiste and calypsonian Shern "Skar-

pyon" Williams.

Primadonna, described as "the original first lady," wowed the audience with her diverse selections, including Bob Marley's "Redemption Song."

She even forced a reporter to "back his jacket", as patrons roared.

After performing a number of hits, Skarpyon brought the house down with the ever-popular "Hammer."

Local delicacies – such as cassava bread ("chokee bam bam"), farine, dukuna, and doughboy, breakfruit and saltfish, and callaloo soup – were on sale, as patrons washed them down with sorrel, mauby and fruit punch.

In addition, handicraft items such as placemats, coasters and baskets were on display and on sale; and artists conducted paintings.

Ballantyne said proceeds "will benefit the indigenous communities north of the Rabacca River" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Book review

Continued from page 27

keeping a journal."

I'm glad he did that. You will be, too, once you've started "Writing My Wrongs," but don't think for a minute that this is an easy book to read.

One expects passages of brutality in a book about prison, but author Shaka Senghor takes it a step beyond, to something of nightmares or movies. That he was moved from prison to prison makes the

chaos even keener; prisoners, says Senghor, sometimes lose track of time and readers could be forgiven for the same. Enter the maelstrom from the safety of your sofa, in fact, and the ending of this book — Senghor's hard-won redemption and afterlife — will remind you that you've been holding your breath awhile.

"Writing My Wrongs" may be right for a certain kind of book group. For sure, it's something every young person should absolutely read. It's uplifting, triumphant to the skies and, once you start it, you'll be sorry to reach its back cover.



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Panama's expanded canal faces challenges



Two ships go through the Miraflores locks on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal, which raise or lower vessels 16.5 metres and take 40 minutes to pass through.
Inter Press Service / Iralis Fragiell

By Iralis Fragiell

PANAMA CITY, March 4, 2016 (IPS) - When the new locks of the expanded Panama Canal begin operations, they will do so amidst numerous challenges, because of the storm clouds hanging over the global economy, especially China. But local authorities and experts are not worried about the possible

impact on the expanded canal.

The slowdown in the Chinese economy, the second largest client of the Panama Canal, transporting 48.42 million tons in 2015, is one of the factors causing concern regarding this motor of the Panamanian economy, which last grew six percent, the highest rate in Latin

America.

But the start of operations of the expanded canal, due in May or June, does not worry Luis Ferreira, spokesman for the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), an autonomous government agency.

"When there were economic problems in the past, we would lose basically two to three percent of the cargo; the same thing might happen this time, but we don't expect a substantial decrease, unless there is an all-out recession in China," he said in an interview with IPS.

In 2015, China's GDP grew 6.9 percent, compared to 7.3 percent in 2014, confirming the slowdown after years of double-digit growth.

The expansion of the 80-km canal, which turned 100 years old in 2014 and which handles approximately five percent of global trade, involved an investment of 5.25 billion dollars. Work began on Sep. 3, 2007.

With this megaproject, carried out by Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPEC), the consortium led by Spanish construction firm Sacyr, Panama hopes to increase daily ship traffic from 35-40 to 48-51.

The canal will also be able to accommodate larger vessels. Currently, it can only handle ships with a cargo capacity of up to 5,000 tons, but once the expansion is complete New Panamax vessels with a capacity of up to 13,000 tons will be able to go through the canal.

For Panama's productive sectors, the expansion of the canal holds out the promise of economic growth.

The ACP's team of experts in foreign trade told IPS that the weakening of the global economy in 2015 did not affect the canal, and that no impact is expected this year either.

"The volumes of raw materials heading for China for industrial use, such as coal and iron ore, are not significant (for

the canal), since there are closer sources in Australia and Brazil, which do not use the waterway," the ACP experts stated in their collective response to IPS.

Meanwhile, the volumes of grains, especially soy, grew at a strong pace in the last few years, due to the rising demand for food in China.

The experts also said the expansion "will open up new opportunities for trade flows of non-traditional products, such as liquefied natural gas, and will offer economies of scale that will make the Panama Canal route more attractive for segments such as container vessels and dry bulk cargo ships."

Cargo tonnage by origin and destination has remained steady over the last three years, according to the ACP. The United States remains the largest client of the canal, with a total cargo of 160.78 million tons in 2015.

The cargo traded between the two leading clients reflects this stability. From China to the United States, 10.37 million tons were shipped through the canal in 2013, 10.96 million in 2014 and 10.91 million in 2015. And from the United States to China, 24.95 million tons were shipped in 2013, 30.77 million in 2014 and 30.20 million in 2015.

Given the economic outlook in China and changes in the energy sources used, the ACP is also getting ready for traffic of liquefied natural gas carriers.

"An incursion into new areas of business that reinforce the transportation and logistics industries is being evaluated, such as the case of the Corozal port and the creation of a logistics park that would complement the operations of the expanded canal," the ACP experts said.

Canal revenue totaled 2.6 billion dollars in 2015, up from 2.5 billion in 2014, and equivalent to 5.61 percent of the country's GDP.

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Heart Attack Causes and Treatments

Dr. Dmitry Gorelik is a caring and concerned cardiologist serving the community of Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Gorelik attended the Sackler School of Medicine, where he received his medical degree. He then completed his residency in internal medicine at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at the State University of New York, Buffalo.

Dr. Gorelik is a part of NYC Medical Plaza, where he sees patients for cardiology consultations, hypertension, nuclear stress test, and stent consultations. He is certified in cardiovascular disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Heart Attack Causes and Treatments

Heart attacks represent a major coronary event where the heart muscle is unable to properly pump blood through the cardiovascular system. This strains the muscles and degrades the heart's ability to continue working properly.



Dr. Dmitry Gorelik, MD
Cardiologist

The Heart Foundation reports that one 720,000 people in the United States experience a heart attack each year. 515,000 of these cases are first-time heart attacks while less than half that number are repeat attacks.

Unless a heart attack is promptly treated with follow-up treatment from places like clinics in Brooklyn, this could represent the irreversible progression of cardiovascular disease.

What Causes a Heart Attack?

The majority of heart attacks are the result of blockages in the cardiovascular system. Plaque accumulates on the arterial walls, which in turn results in these passageways becoming increasingly narrower.

They become so narrow that the body forms a clot that blocks the artery. Blood is unable to circulate, which in turn is what causes the heart muscle to experience a heart attack.

What Happens During a Heart Attack?

When a heart attack occurs, the primary effect is the fact that blood flows through the body at a severely decreased rate. This will eventually lead to heart failure or ventricular fibrillation when left untreated.

The secondary effects revolve around this primary one.

The parts of your body relying upon your circulatory system for oxygen will begin to undergo deprivation. This is why you may feel light-headed

and notice that your veins appear blue.

You will likely experience a large amount of sweating. This is the "fight or flight" response of your body kicking into action. Your body is metabolizing energy stores at an accelerated rate in hopes you will seek treatment from a place like one of the clinics in Brooklyn.

The last major secondary effect is the presence of pain. This pain will travel from your heart and radiate outwards. You may feel it in your left arm, in your jaw, in your back or in your leg.

How Are Heart Attacks Treated?

The first step in treating a heart attack is to restore circulatory function. Vasodilators such as nitroglycerine, which expand the blood vessels, can help restore the body's ability to perform this task. Beta-adrenergic blockers can calm the heart. Anti-clotting agents may be used to reduce the risk of repeated heart attacks.

The next step is to begin

treating the conditions that led to the heart attack in the first place. Anti-clotting agents are usually prescribed for the aforementioned reason.

Angioplasty may be utilized to reduce the plaque that has accumulated within blood vessels. Stents, which are artificial structures designed to force vessels open, may be implanted in blood vessels to ensure that they remain open.

Coronary bypass surgery may seek to use transplanted blood vessels to route blood around blockages. The condition of the cardiovascular system will often dictate how viable this procedure is.

The last step is to make healthy changes in diet and exercise designed to reduce the risk of heart disease. Aerobic exercise, smoking cessation, and alcohol or drug recovery programs may be used in conjunction with medications to reduce the risk of repeated cardiovascular events.

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Third party proposes Green New Deal alternatives

Despite public opinion that the Green Party primarily and singularly focus on environmental issues while promoting an organic lifestyle — polarizing and controversial statements, violent outbreaks at political rallies and indecisive commentaries from front-runners representing the two major political parties have now infused interest and optimism in the independent party proposing a Green New Deal.

Offering an alternative to the two-party traditional options, they are winning converts to vote in large numbers next November if only to change the pattern of replacing one party with the other.

Among the list of issues they are now focused on are: Downsizing the military, rededicating to a new foreign policy, restoring the infrastructure, a green economy, stop supporting Israel's war machine and liberation of young people from predatory banks they believe are profiting from student loans.

"Forty three million young people are locked in debt from loans, the same way the gov-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

ernment bailed out the banks with a strike of a pen, student loans should be canceled," Dr. Jill Stein, Green Party presidential candidate said.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Stein believes that if her message is able to reach the masses in the mainstream voting demographic, the 43-million youth population alone could determine the next president of the United States.

While the medical specialist does not believe that will happen, the activist doctor believes her party's agenda could benefit with disenchanted supporters of the Democratic Party voting a third party candidate.

The 67-year-old physician and activist stated, "We are all realizing that we, the people, have to take charge because the political parties that are serving the top one percent are not going to solve the problems that the rest of us face."

The concept of a "Deal" is probably patterned after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, which he advocated when he accepted the Democratic nomination for president of the United States on July 2, 1932.

At the time, Americans were recovering from the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed and were ready to accept a different deal, anything better than the one they endured under Republican President Herbert Hoover.

The Democrat promised domestic reforms and economic relief in industry, agriculture, finance, waterpower, labor and housing.

Needless to say, his campaign won but it also increased involvement by the federal government.

According to Dr. Stein, like FDR would implement a policy



Ballot in hand, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein emerges from her polling station after casting her ballot for President of the United States at the Town Clerk's office in Lexington, Mass., Friday, Oct. 26, 2012.

Associated Press / Stephan Savoia, File

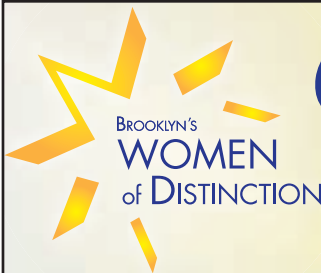
in which renewable energy jobs would be created to address climate change and environmental issues. The objective would be to employ "every American willing and able to work."

She noted the successful economic effects of the 1930s' New Deal projects, and said she would fund the start-up costs of any plan with a 30 percent reduction in the U.S.

military budget, returning U.S. troops home, and increasing taxes on areas such as speculation in stock markets, offshore tax havens, and multimillion-dollar real estate. In addition, she added that the multiplier economic effects of this Green New Deal would later recoup most of the start-up costs.

To devoted two-party sup-

Continued on Page 40



Congratulations to Brooklyn's 2016 Women of Distinction

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Pop star and actress Darlene Love.

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Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College continues its 2015–16 season on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 8 pm with Darlene Love. Darlene Love has been captivating audiences worldwide for decades with her warmth, grace, and electrifying performances. From her No. 1 hit, “He’s A Rebel,” to her induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, she continues to blaze a trail of success, proving why Rolling Stone magazine calls her “one of the greatest singers of all time.”

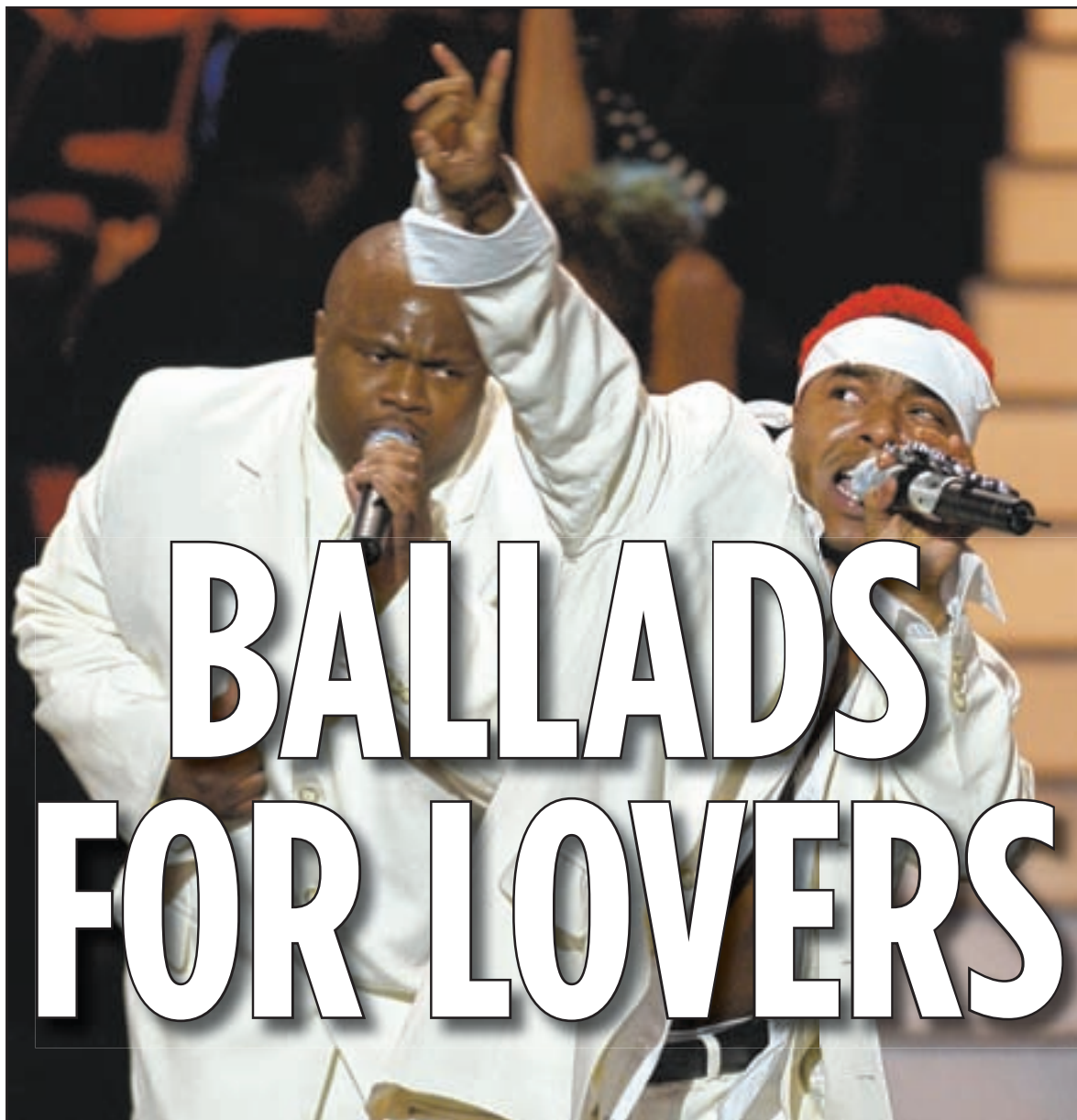
Continued on Page 38

The Robert Glasper Trio

The Robert Glasper Trio will be performing at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 8 pm. The group will perform selections from their 2016 GRAMMY Award-nominated album “Covered” along with some of Glasper’s original compositions.

Following the breakthrough commercial and critical success of his two GRAMMY-winning R&B-oriented Black Radio albums, Robert Glasper returns to his acoustic jazz roots with “Covered” (The Robert Glasper Trio recorded live at Capitol Studios). The album reunites Glasper with bassist Vicente Archer and drummer Damion Reid, reforming the trio that created his first two Blue Notes releases, “Canvas” (2005) and “In My Element” (2007).

Continued on Page 38



Sisqo, right, of the rap act Dru Hill, performs with his group at the 17th Annual Soul Train Music Awards in Pasadena, Calif., Saturday, March 1, 2003. Associated Press / Chris Pizzello, File

Dru Hill to bring hot music to the Bronx

By Deandra Shuler

Lovers of ballads, romance, R&B and red hot euphony will love the music of Dru Hill which is on tour celebrating its 20-year anniversary. As part of the tour, Dru Hill will appear at Lehman Center on Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is located at 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West in the Bronx. Dru Hill would not appear alone. The group will share the Lehman Center stage with artists Kenny Lattimore

and Jon B, so the venue may need to keep their fire extinguishers handy because the evening promises to be filled with hot, hot, sizzling hot music.

This writer had the opportunity to talk with the four-member Maryland bred group who make up Dru Hill. The talented singers consist of Tamir “Nokio” Ruffin; lead singer Mark “Sisqo” Andrews; Larry “Jazz” Anthony and Antwaun “Tao” Simpson, aka Nokio, Sisqo, Jazz and Tao.

“We were raised in Baltimore and

Annapolis. Some of us started off in the Church so the group began singing gospel songs under the name 14K Harmony. We sang in church and at talent shows, so the music started to have a blend of church and rhythm and blues. Our music was not churchy per se, it was more inspirational and featured what goes on in people’s lives. We all came together because of the music. Jazz and I went to performing art schools but we all had vocal training,” said Nokio,

Continued on Page 38

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12-year-old recovers from incurable illness

"Miracles from Heaven"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG for
mature themes
Running time:
109 minutes
Studio: Affirm Films
Distributor: Sony
Pictures

By Kam Williams

Annabel Beam (Kylie Rogers) was born in Burseson, Texas where she was raised by her parents on a farm surrounded by cats, dogs, goats, cows and a donkey. She enjoyed an idyllic childhood there with her sisters, Abbie (Brighton Sharbino) and Adelynn (Courtney Fansler), until the age of 10 when she started experiencing severe stomach pains.

Christy Beam (Jennifer Garner) rushed her daughter to an emergency room doctor who snap-diagnosed the malady as



Jennifer Garner, Kylie Rogers and Queen Latifah in "Miracles from Heaven."

rottentomatoes.com

a combination of lactose intolerance and acid reflux. But when his course of treatment for those conditions failed, the frightened mother next took

Anna to a gastroenterologist (Bruce Altman) who determined that she was suffering from an obstruction of the small bowel which called for

immediate surgery.

He referred them to a highly-regarded physician in Boston specializing in intestinal disorders. However, Dr. Nurko

(Eugene Derbez) had a nine-month waiting list which meant the little girl was likely to pass away before the appointment.

Frustrated by an inability to help her rapidly-deteriorating daughter, Christy began to question her faith when Anna asked, "Why do you think God hasn't healed me?" Of course, it didn't help the situation any when a couple of fellow parishioners had the nerve to suggest that the affliction might be punishment for sin. In response, Christy told her husband (Martin Henderson) she was through with church, at least until Anna was healed.

Desperate times call for desperate measures. So, Christy decided to show up at Dr. Nurko's office unannounced and thereby embarrass him into seeing Anna. While the ploy did work, an MRI, endoscopy and a battery of other tests essentially confirmed that Anna was not long for this world and should get her affairs in order.

Independent & Foreign Films

The Confirmation (PG-13 for mature themes) Dysfunctional family comedy about a cash-strapped carpenter's (Clive Owen) attempt to reconcile with his estranged, eight-year-old son (Jaeden Lieberher) who's been dropped in his lap while his ex-wife (Maria Bello) is away on a weekend retreat with her new husband (Matthew Modine). Support cast includes Robert Forster, Tim Blake Nelson, Patton Oswalt, Spencer Drever and Stephen Tobolowsky.

Ktown Cowboys (R for sexuality, brief frontal nudity and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of the hit web series of the same name revolving around the antics of a quintet of party animals hanging out in L.A.'s Koreatown. Co-starring Danny Cho, Steve Byrne, Bobby Choy, Herson Chavez and Lee Doud.

My Golden Days (R for profanity, graphic sexuality and frontal nudity) Flashback flick revolving around an anthropologist's (Quentin Dolmaire) reflections upon his adolescence while preparing to return to Paris from Tajikistan. With Mathieu Amalric, Lou Roy-Lecollinet and Dinara Drukarova. (In French, Russian and Hebrew with subtitles)

The Program (R for profanity) Adaptation of "Seven Deadly Sins," investigative journalist David Walsh's (Chris O'Dowd) best-selling book exposing the truth about bicyclist Lance Arm-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

strong's (Ben Foster) use of banned substances while participating in the Tour de France. With Dustin Hoffman, Lee Pace and Edward Hogg.

Sweet Bean (Unrated) Bittersweet drama about the unlikely friendship forged between the manager of a pancake stand and the lonely 76 year-old (Kiki Kirin) he hires as his assistant, half out of pity, half for her yummy jelly recipe. With Kyara Uchida, Miyoko Asada, Etsuko Ichihara and Miki Mizuno. (In Japanese with subtitles)

Take Me to the River (Unrated) Atmospheric mystery revolving around a gay teen (Logan Miller) from California who changes his mind about coming out of the closet at a family reunion in Nebraska when he is suddenly suspected of molesting a nine-year-old niece (Ursula Parker). With Robin Weigert, Richard Schiff and Azura Skye.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Allegiant (PG-13 for intense violence, mature themes and partial nudity) Third installment in the Divergent series finds heroine Tris (Shailene Woodley) forced to abandon the self-contained city of Chicago for a world where shocking revelations lead to an epic showdown for the salvation of humanity.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

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

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **untitled unmastered.**
Kendrick Lamar
- 2 **Collegrove**
2 Chainz
- 3 **Ouroboros**
Ray LaMontagne
- 4 **Remington**
Granger Smith
- 5 **25**
Adele
- 6 **Traveller**
Chris Stapleton
- 7 **American Idiot**
Green Day
- 8 **Purpose**
Justin Bieber
- 9 **Nine Track Mind**
Charlie Puth
- 10 **iii**
Miike Snow

Dru Hill

Continued from page 35

the group founder, in-house producer, songwriter, dancer, singer and rapper.

After switching to R&B from gospel, the group was discovered by Hiram Hicks who spotted them at a talent show and signed them to Island Records. Their first single was entitled "Tell Me," which rose to #5 on the R&B Billboard chart. Their first album, "Dru Hill" went platinum featuring the hits "In My Bed," "Never Make A Promise," and "Whatever You Need." They garnered the 1997 Billboard Music Award for Top R&B Song, Top R&B Artists and R&B/Hip Hop Song Artist of the Year. They also gained the 1998 Soul Train Best R&B/Soul Single and Best R&B/Soul Album Awards. Dru Hill went on to record "We're Not Making Love No More," written by Babyface and co-produced by Daryl Simmons and Babyface for the film "Soul Food." The song went multi-platinum. Following was their song "How Deep Is Your Love," which spent three weeks as #1 and was eventually featured in the film, "Rush Hour." The song was also part of their 1998 second multi-platinum album, "Enter the

Dru," climbing to the #2 spot on both the Billboard Top 200 and R&B album charts selling two million copies. The album also included hit songs "These Are the Times," "Beauty" and "You Are Everything."

When asked how the group came up with their name they mentioned a famous park in Baltimore. "When we first started, the record company was trying to think up a name for us. They had a few ideas including calling us 'The Together Brothers,' none of which fit. One day while on the phone I was asked the name of the famous park in Baltimore which is called Druid Hill. But all the locals call it Dru Hill. It was a perfect name to call ourselves because Dru Hill will always serve as a reminder where we came from," explained the group who have also created music and won awards individually.

Dru Hill talked about the need to understand the making of music as well as being astute about the business of music. "We were lucky to get into the music industry when we did. When we first started the first person we met was John McClain of Interscope Records. John went on to be Michael Jackson's manage-



Singer Kenny Lattimore entertains the crowd at the 50 Million Pound Challenge in Miami. He will also appear at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in the Bronx.

Associated Press / J. Pat Carter, File

ment. John told us that if all we did is sing we would not be in the music business long. So we were groomed to be self-sufficient. Therefore, it's been great to share with our fans all the talents that God has blessed us with. Artists can get cheated, robbed and worse make bad music. We were lucky that we came into the music business at a time when artist devel-

opment was really skilled and prevalent and labels invested money into the artists. These days, if someone has a hot song and enough people hear it, the label basically will add money to keep whatever recording artists are doing ongoing, but will put little work into developing the music. The attitude is, if the music has sales potential, everyone wins.

Love

Continued from page 35

This has been a banner season for Darlene. Her new CD, "Introducing Darlene Love," was released via Sony / Columbia / Wicked Cool Records and has been greeted with sensational critical reaction and numerous TV presentations. Produced by fellow musician and long-time friend Steven Van Zandt, it includes selections written for Darlene by Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Jimmy Webb, and many others, including two notable songs by Van Zandt himself.

At the 2014 Academy Awards, Darlene sang her powerful acceptance speech on behalf of all of the performers in the winning documentary film, "Twenty Feet From Stardom." As she raised the Oscar, the entire house stood with a cheering ovation lead by the wildly applauding Bill Murray. It was another special moment in a great career. A GRAMMY Award soon followed for the soundtrack of the film.

Since the early sixties, as part of Phil Spector's Wall of Sound hit factory, Love has done it all—from

major motion pictures like the highly successful Lethal Weapon series to Broadway hits such as "Hairspray" and "Grease." She also starred as herself in "Leader of the Pack" on the Great White Way, credited as Broadway's first 'jukebox musical.' Darlene has appeared on numerous television programs, running the gamut from her weekly appearances on Shindig! to a recent guest spot on the PBS special entitled Women Who Rock. An autobiographical film is currently on the drawing board with a development deal from Oprah Winfrey based on Love's book, "My Name is Love."

Darlene's early career as lead singer for The Blossoms (who sang background vocals for The Righteous Brothers, Dionne Warwick, Marvin Gaye, Frank Sinatra, and Elvis Presley, to name a few) set the stage for her emergence as a star.

Her Billboard hits include: "He's A Rebel," "The Boy I'm Gonna Marry," "Wait 'Til My Bobby Gets Home," "He's Sure the Boy I Love," and the #1 holiday classic "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)," a song that she performed annually with Paul Shaffer and the CBS Symphony Orchestra.



The Robert Glasper Trio.

Glasper

Continued from page 35

"Covered," which was recorded before an intimate gathering of invited guests in Capitol Records' historic Studio A, was designed to bring Glasper's newfound Black Radio fan base along as he returned to the jazz fold. The set list features songs by hip-hop and R&B stars like Kendrick Lamar, Musiq Soulchild, John Legend, and Bilal alongside the jazz standard "Stella By Starlight." Displaying his trademark eclect-

icism, Glasper also includes tunes by Radiohead and Joni Mitchell, along with a stirring collaboration with legendary singer / activist Harry Belafonte. The Glasper originals on the album include a re-working of "I Don't Even Care" which was a bonus track on Black Radio 2 featuring Macy Gray and Jean Grae.

"I missed the piano," Glasper says simply, explaining his return to the acoustic piano trio. For the past five years, he's focused almost exclusively on keyboards while recording and touring with his Experiment band.

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Walking tour of sculptures of women in New York

By Tequila Minsky

Artist, historian and activist Lulu Lolo has taken on the mantle of drawing attention to how few New York City statues and monuments are dedicated to women. In New York City, there are 150 public statues of men and five of actual women who are not symbols — Statue of Liberty or fictitious characters — Alice in Wonderland.

On March 12, in conjunction with the Municipal Art Society, Lulu lead a walking tour to three of the monuments of women plus the Firemen's Memorial, where she spoke about the celebrated model for its two statues.

When Jamaica-born and Bronx resident Vilma Nelson read about a tour of women's monuments, she signed up. "I'm disgusted that every public dedication for bridges, roads, airports are named for men," she said. She loved the tour "helped by the weather;" it was a beautiful day.

The walking tour group convened at the Harriet Tubman statue at West 122 St., St. Nicholas Avenue and Frederick Douglas Boulevard. One of the newest statues in New York City, it is an eye opener for most who have no idea of its existence.

Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) was born a slave in Maryland and escaped via the Underground Railroad in 1849. Sculptor Alison Saar, daughter of artist Betye Saar, created a powerful monument that depicts Tubman not as the 'conductor of the Underground Railroad but as the train itself... the roots of slavery pulled up in her wake."

Former Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields championed this monument project. Titled "Swing Low," it was dedicated in 2008. The New York Parks Department sign in the now Harriet Tubman Triangle offers background information on Harriet Tubman and the development of the

memorial.

The base of the statue has panels that alternate between events in Tubman's life and traditional quilting patterns.

At great peril, Tubman spent 10 years returning to Maryland to guide scores of family and friends to freedom.

The fact that the statue faces south became somewhat controversial. After all, Harriet Tubman traveled north bringing people to freedom. The artist opines, "What is most impressive to me are her trips south, where she risked her own freedom."

From there, the group continued to the Firemen's Memorial at Riverside Drive and 100th St. On the north and south side of the Firemen's Memorial (1913) are allegorical sculptures titled "Duty" and "Sacrifice" and attributed to sculptor Attilio Piccirilli. The model Audrey Munson is said to have posed for these sculptures, which are among more than 15 statues in NYC she is said to have been the inspiration for.

A brief walk to Riverside Dr. and 94th St. took the group to the Joan of Arc sculpture created by sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington. The sculpture was based on a model Huntington had submitted to the Paris Salon where she had received recognition despite the initial skepticism voiced by the jury that such an accomplished work could not have been a woman's creation. In this statue, Joan raises in strength her sword to the heavens. Both Joan of Arc and Harriet Tubman had dreams that envisioned their missions said Lulu in her commentary. This sculpture was dedicated 1915.

The group then hopped a bus traveling down Riverside Drive to 72nd Street to see the monument honoring humanitarian and First Lady Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962). The sculptor Penelope

Jencks modeled the upper body after Mrs. Roosevelt's great-granddaughter. The monument was dedicated in 1996 in the presence of sculptor Jencks and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Municipal Art Society

sponsors walking tours of New York that highlight architecture, history, and specifically focus on land-marked areas, unprotected areas vulnerable to inappropriate development, historic districts, and scenic landmarks.



The Harriet Tubman sculpture looks south from the Harriet Tubman Triangle at 122 St., St. Nicholas and Frederick Douglas Boulevard.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

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Inside Life

Continued from page 34

porters her plan may be perceived to be going back to the future in a green way.

However, her response is that "Americans should not have to choose between the lesser of evils."

The two evils, she offers are Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state and any one of the Republican choices — businessman Donald Trump, Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio.

While she spewed venomous descriptions of the three conservative GOP contenders, she had the harshest words for the "Apprentice" reality show host.

Describing recent statements he made to his supporters to evict disruptors at his rally as irresponsible, she said she fears the worst if Trump emerges the choice of the Republicans.

With regard to differences between the two party contenders, Dr. Stein said there was little that distinguished Trump's arrogance from Clinton's sense of entitlement.

It is a statement she has repeated during two previous campaigns but now more than ever believes that the discourse repeated by candidates representing the Republican and Democratic Party only give lip-service to their ambition to move into the White House but bodes little for any real change that would benefit the average citizen.

"We need people in Washington who will refuse to be bought by lobbyists and for whom change is not just a slogan."

She added that given the constraints within the Democratic Party, neither Clinton nor Vermont's Sen. Bernie Sanders could ever deliver on their promise.

She said no candidate representing the Democratic Party could.

"President Barack Obama had aspirations for change but adopted Bush policies when he got in the White House and even deported more people than any other president before him."

"They fake left but go right," Dr. Stein said about the party many African-Americans and other minorities claim to being most qualified to address their needs.

She also cited Jesse Jackson's bid for the presidency in 1988 saying "he won 12 primaries but they neutralized his campaign."

Stein's arguments against the popular party were stacked with disenchanting reflection on how the Dems had betrayed their supporters.

Not only does she believe her third party could provide a viable choice to express the opinions of the disfranchised but she also contends that a windfall of votes to the third party could boost the party's status to mainstream attention.

Dr. Stein is a resident of Massachusetts.

She is a Harvard University graduate and also fulfilled post-graduate studies in 1979 at Harvard Medical School.

Her foray into politics emerged when she combined a concern for health and the local environment.

Throughout she actively advocated for improvements to the environment.

Following community activism in 2002, she became the Green Rainbow Party candidate for governor of Massachusetts. She finished third in a field of five candidates, with 76,530 votes and received approximately 3.5 percent of the vote.

In 2008, she helped formulate a "Secure Green Future" ballot initiative that called upon legislators to accelerate efforts to move the Massachusetts economy to renewable energy and make development of green jobs a priority.

After receiving 456,169 votes in the 2012 election, she was named the most successful female presidential candidate in US history. Reportedly she received more than one percent of the popular vote in three states — Maine, Oregon and Alaska.

Stein is only the second Green Party presidential candidate ever to have qualified for federal matching campaign funding.

Ralph Nader was first when he became eligible in 2000.

"It's the usual difference between political rhetoric and political deed," Nader said of the current campaigns.

"I think a lot of people see that Bernie Sanders is more authentic in saying what he means and meaning what he says."

Nader who ran for the White House presidency on five different occasions added that Sanders has been more authentic on the topic of Wall Street than fellow Democratic presidential candidate, Clinton.

During this campaign season, Dr. Stein believes voters can change the trajectory of both parties' dysfunction by voting a Green agenda.

"People are waking up to the propaganda of fear and intimidation. They are demanding a coalition for justice."

With a potential to deliver 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 Dr. Stein said she would guarantee a green economy by producing clean energy that would not justify war for oil.

"We have to declare a national emergency," she said.

"America maintains 1,000 military bases in 100 countries," Dr. Stein explained, "military costs are spiraling..."

Alleged to cost more than \$1.7 trillion, in contrast with Russia's \$60 billion budget, Dr. Stein's proposal seems to resonate with citizens opposed to inflated military spending.

Dr. Stein seems to be softer on the Sanders positions. Although she does not nit-pick his bid remains determined that the Green Party is the best hope for change.

She did say that a coalition could be forged aligning a "Power to the People" alliance with Sanders that would defeat the Clinton candidacy.

"The biggest way people give up power is by not knowing they have it to start with," she quoted Alice Walker saying.

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Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell.
Associated Press / Bryan R. Smith

Grenada's Twenty20 tourney

By Azad Ali

Grenada plans to establish its own International Twenty20 cricket tournament because its Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell believes his country will face victimization from the West Indies Cricket (WICB) over CARICOM's call for the dissolution of the current governing structure and replace it with an interim body — a recommendation made in a special CARICOM report.

Dr. Mitchell was at the time speak-

Continued on Page 42

Barbados Tridents sold

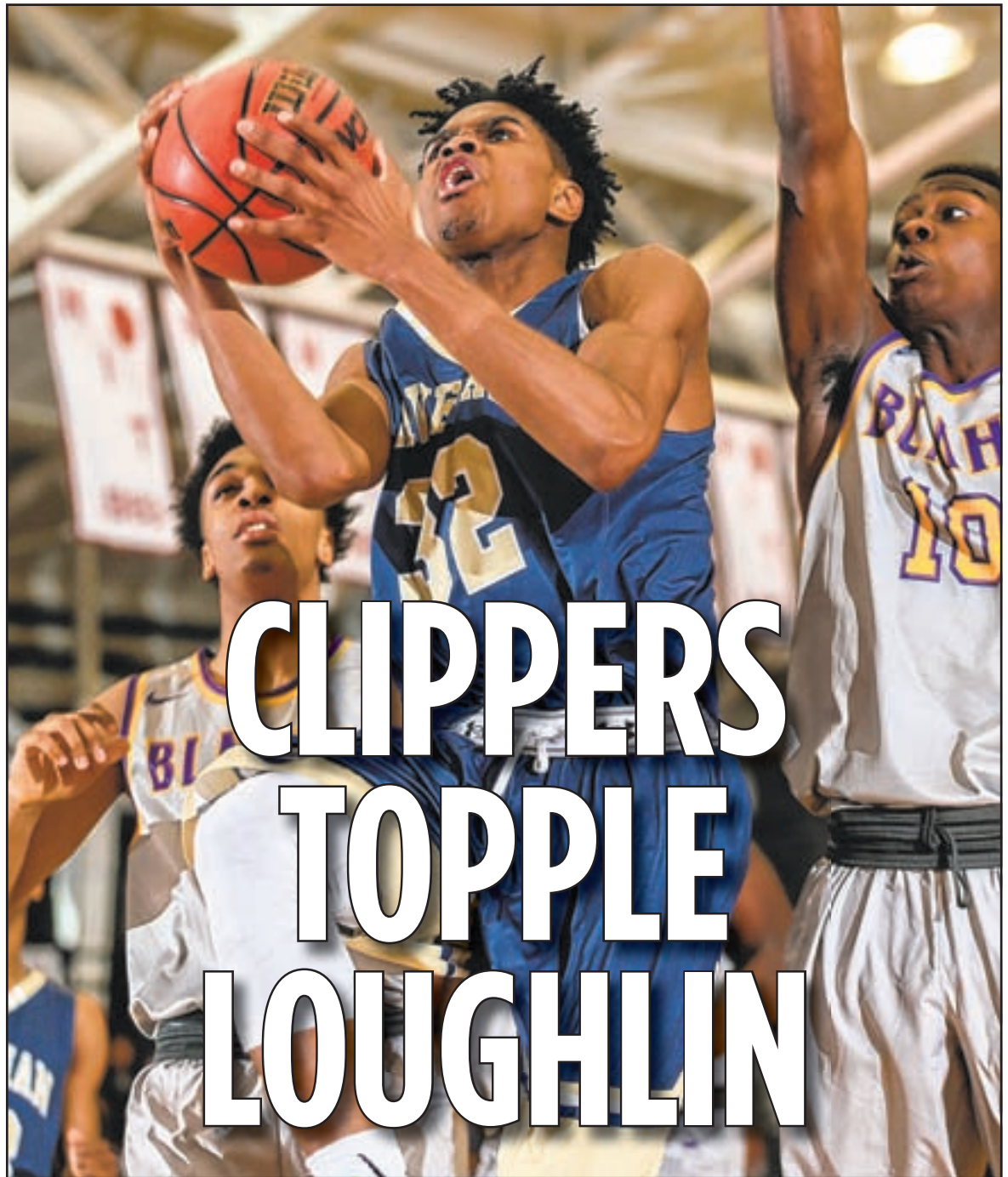
By Azad Ali

Indian millionaire Vijay Mallya has bought Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchise Barbados Tridents.

The 60-year-old said he met with Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart recently and secured government's support in the venture.

"I've acquired the team. It is a joint

Continued on Page 42



Xaverian's Nyonty Wisseh goes up strong to the hoop during the boys' basketball Class AA championship game against Bishop Loughlin.
Photo by Robert Cole

CLIPPERS TOPPLE LOUGHLIN

Underdogs become top dogs

By Joseph Staszewski

A game-sealing charge was a much more fitting end than any dramatic winning basket would have been for this Xaverian group.

It is exactly what the Clippers got when Zack Bruno made the last gritty play on an unlikely champion-

ship run by drawing an offensive foul on Loughlin's Tyrese Gaffney with nine-tenths of a second reaming in the game.

"I was able to take the most important charge in Xaverian history," Bruno said.

The play sealed Xaverian's 59-56

victory over Bishop Loughlin in the Catholic High School Athletic Association Class AA boys' basketball final at Fordham University on March 13.

Before Bruno could celebrate the program's first title since 2005 he had to shake off the pain of his

Continued on Page 42



Easy Rhodes: Xaverian's Khalil Rhodes drives to the basket.

Photo by Robert Cole

LOUGHLIN LOSES TO CLIPPERS

Continued from page 41

already injured hip smashing against the floor. It epitomized the whatever-it-takes approach that propelled this group from a fourth-place finisher to city champs. This team is about heart. "It tells you what that kid is," said long-time Xaverian coach Jack Alesi. "He's hurting. He's not 100 percent, hasn't been playing 100 percent. Season on the line, that's what he did."

The entire team showed that same desire to win after Loughlin (22-8) took a 44-32 lead on Idan Tretout's three late with 2:02 left in the third quarter. The Clippers (19-11) caught a break when a foul was not called for Keith Williams taking a three, but then Jordan Guzman was fouled down the other end on a similar play.

"That was huge," Lions coach Ed Gonzalez said. "We were up. We had momentum and it was not a great foul [by us]."

The game's momentum swung drastically after that. Xaverian went on a 16-1 run. Brandon Leftwich capped it with a

three-point play to put the Clippers up 49-45 with 5:20 to go in the fourth.

"Everybody makes their run in the game," said playoff most-valuable-player Nyonty Wisseh, who jumped on the scorer's table during the celebration. "They made their run, then we made our run to win the game."

Strong free throw shooting and some timely Lions' misses allowed Xaverian to hold on in the final minutes. A Bruno trey and two free-throws from Wisseh gave Xaverian a 56-52 advantage with 1:04 to play.

Loughlin, which missed 12 free throws and shot just 3 of 17 from three, had a chance to reclaim the lead late, but could not seize the moment. Tretout missed a long three and Gaffney could not get a layup to go with 25 seconds remaining. On the final possession Williams wasn't able to get a good look at three and had to settle for the drive by Gaffney to the rim.

Gonzalez saw his team's youth finally catch up to it after beating Xaverian all three of its previous meetings.

"We didn't have it," Gonzalez said.

"They wanted to take it upon themselves instead of sticking to the game plan all the way to the end."

Wisseh led Xaverian with 18 points and 10 rebounds and Bruno had 18 points. Leftwich chipped in 13. Markquise Nowell tallied 17 points and four assists to pace Loughlin and Williams chipped in 14 points. The Lions, with 12 rebounds from Jordan Thomas, never found a consistent third scorer.

The Clippers advance to the state Federation tournament to take on Aquinas in the semifinals on March 18 at the Times Union Center in Albany. It was an experience Xaverian missed out on after losing to Christ the King in last year's Catholic final with a senior-laden roster.

"Losing in the championship is one of the hardest things I've even been through," Bruno said. "Getting this championship win today means everything."

This time around the underdogs became top dogs.

"We were still under the radar until we won the city championship," Wisseh said. "Now we are above the radar."

Tourney

Continued from page 41

ing at the annual awards ceremony of the Grenada Cricket Association recently.

He said his government is taking measures as a contingency plan for the stance he and other regional leaders have taken.

The prime minister believes Grenada would be a victim of the WICB and he has already started holding discussions to establish a cricket tournament to utilize the cricket stadium.

"I expect because of the strong stance I've taken and the (CARICOM) leaders have taken with West Indies cricket... Because the change will come and I could assure you that change will come and that those who believe they can stand against the tide of the entire Caribbean people in a sport that defines who we are and believe that 12 men can sit in a room and decide the fate of the Caribbean region — joke they are making."

"It just can't happen. I know because of the strong stand, we may not see games in Grenada right now because they like to victimize people," Dr. Mitchell lamented.

He stressed that pettiness will not result in progress and will use Grenadian politics to get his point across.

"We have the stadium and lights and I think now we can work with the private sector and our friends regionally and internationally. We can establish our own T20 competition here to use our stadium. I want to sit and talk to the Grenada Cricket Association about this," he added.

Tridents

Continued from page 41

venture if not in the classical sense of the term. I will, of course taken a lead role and that is because I understand the Twenty20 competition," he told the Mumbai newspaper in India.

Mallya's acquisition of the Tridents follows a similar move by Indian businessman and movie star, Shah Rukh Khan who purchased Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel last year. The season will start in June.

Mallya will pay a US\$2 million franchise fee and also fund Tridents players' salaries but is confident of recouping the investment.

He said the money can be recovered as Kensington Oval Barbados is one of the best stadiums in the Caribbean.



India millionaire businessman Vijay Mallya. Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi

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\$5.6 million at stake in ICC World Cup finals

The International Cricket Council Twenty20 World Cup would be played across eight venues between March 8 to April 3, 2016. The first semi-final will be played in New Delhi on March 30 and the second on March 31 in Mumbai. The final match is scheduled for April 3 at the Eden Garden in Kolkata the winning team will receive \$5.6 million prize money.



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Nathan Coulter-Niles, Shane Watson, James Faulkner and Josh Hazlewood, create the strength of the Aussies squad.

TOP ORDER IS SUPER STRONG

Aaron Finch and Shane Watson are likely to start the innings for the Aussies. Captain Steve Smith will be coming in at number three followed by the dynamic David Warner. The batting has a tall order with the all rounders and Glenn Maxwell. Pakistani born Usman Khawaga who plays for Australia should find a place in the first game against New Zealand on March 18. He should be placed at number six in the batting order, coming in after Maxwell. Khawaga is a specialist opening batsman, but he can bat in any position.

Captain SSmith will have to be very skillful in his approach during this World Cup. Many

pundits of the game prefer all rounder Watson to captain the team in the Twenty20 ICC World Cup because he is much more experienced in this arena than Smith. Watson is a superb Twenty20 cricketer and captain who leads from the front. Smith will be fully tested during this World Cup for his captaincy skills.

AUSSIES BIGGEST CHALLENGE

Australian batsmen will face their biggest challenge during the 2016 World Cup with spinners. The challenging will be the bowlers from Team India in the likes of Ravindra Jadeja, Yuvraj Singh and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Note: Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Suresh Raina both have to perform remarkably well for India's efforts to be boosted.



Australia's Mitchell Marsh successfully appeals for a lbw decision on New Zealand's Brendon McCullum during their cricket test in Adelaide, Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015.

Associated Press / Rick Rycroft, File

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
A positive attitude may help you overcome any challenges that come your way this week, Aries. Maintain this positivity and things will ultimately work out for the best.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, offer others positive feedback when they deserve it. Your willingness to give credit where it's due is why others find you so easy to work with.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, others will be very receptive to your fresh ideas this week. Be prepared to explain these ideas in as much detail as possible and enjoy the fruits of your labors.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, some good news is just over the horizon. Resist the temptation to celebrate prematurely, but don't be surprised when Lady Luck breaks your way.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
A number of opportunities are coming your way in the near future, Leo. Just get ready to take advantage of these chances when opportunity knocks. It rarely knocks twice.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Relationships are on your mind, Virgo. You are anxious to show loved ones how much you care for them, and they will respond in kind.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you have plenty on your plate lately, but you also have to find a way to fit in some time for rest. Running at a frantic pace is a recipe for burn-out.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, let go of some of the responsibilities you have recently taken on. Trust that others around you can handle these tasks just as capably. Enjoy the extra free time. You earned it.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, even though the world has lately presented plenty of twists and turns, you can still enjoy the ride. Keep an open mind to all new opportunities.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a big project is yours to make work. This is a big responsibility, but you are up to the task. Keep forging ahead and you will be pleased with the results.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Focusing on one thing is a tricky proposition this week, Aquarius. You have a lot of things on your mind, but do your best to maintain focus. Take breaks, if necessary.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Someone's criticism may shock you, Pisces, but that could be for the best. It may just ground you and bring you back to reality.

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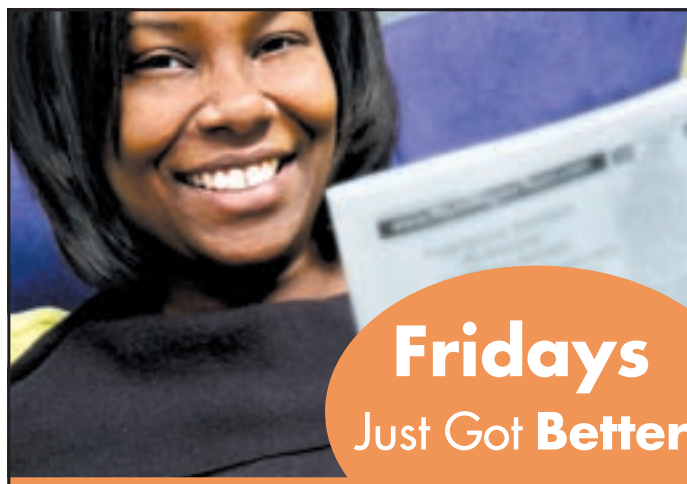
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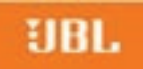


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