



Food champ

Evelyn Corona Ramirez displays her winning dish, "Pastel de Tres Leches," or Three Milk Cake, a Mexican dish she made with coconut milk. See story on page 20.
NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers

PORTIA FACES THREAT

Former Jamaican PM's uncertain leadership role

By Bert Wilkinson

The first woman to head a major political party and become prime minister of Jamaica is preparing for a major leadership challenge after steering the organization to a narrow but painful defeat in general elections held recently.

Portia Simpson-Miller, 70, is still widely considered as the single most popular politician in Jamaica and one who will be hard to beat in any straight race for leadership of the main opposition People's National

Party (PNP) but senior party leaders think the time is ripe for her to hand over to a new president who will take the party into the 2021 general elections or any held earlier.

Some think that Simpson-Miller has now become a political liability and a politician without a strong future after the narrow PNP loss to the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) by a single seat, 32-31.

The parliamentary configuration means that the assembly is effectively and functionally

Continued on Page 6

Housing discrimination ban now law

By Nelson A. King

Mayor Bill de Blasio on Monday signed two pieces of essential legislation into law, both sponsored by Brooklyn Council Member and Deputy Leader of the City Council Jumaane D. Williams.

The two bills are Domestic Violence Housing Discrimination Ban, or Intro 832, and Green Construction bill, or Intro 721.

Intro 832-A prohibits discrimination in housing accommodations on the basis

of an individual's status as a victim of domestic violence or stalking.

Specifically, the bill amends the Human Rights Law to make it an unlawful discriminatory practice for landlords

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Assemblyman Luis R. Sepúlveda.
Associated Press / Mike Groll

Garifuna history in schools

By Nelson A. King

A Bronx Assemblyman has proposed an amendment to New York State Education Law to include the history of the Garifuna people.

Assemblyman Luis R. Sepúlveda announced his plan during the 6th Annual Abrazo Garifuna in New York and in the New York State Assembly, according to the Bronx-based Garifuna group, The Garifuna Coalition U.S.A., Inc.

The Coalition said the Bill states that, “in order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities, which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, including... the history of the Garifuna People...to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state.”

The Coalition said the proclamation of March 11 – April 12, 2016, declaring Garifuna-American Heritage Month in the State of New York, is in observance of the 219th Anniversary of the “forcible deportation by the British of the Garifuna People from St. Vincent and The Grenadines on March 11, 1797, and their settlement in Central America on April 12, 1797.”

According to the study guide for “The Garifuna Journey” video, “the study of the Garifuna provides insight into a people whose history has been one of struggle and determination to survive at a time when very few people, or nations, were able to resist the onslaught of colonialism and slavery.

“Despite exile and subsequent Diaspora, their traditional culture survives today,” the guide says. “It is a little known story that deserves its place in the annals of the African Diaspora.”

CACCI expects greater community resource with new development project

By Nelson A. King

Since 2001, the Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) says the Flatbush-Caton Market has served as a “vibrant home to local businesses and micro-entrepreneurs.”

But, with more space, amenities and affordable housing, CACCI said the proposed BRP development project at the market “will soon become an even greater resource for the entire community in Brooklyn.”

In a special message, CACCI’s Grenadian-born president, Dr. Roy Hastick, noted that, recently, Martia Torres Springer, president, NYC Economic Development Corp. (EDC) announced the selection of the developer, BRP Development, “to make this vision a reality.”

Hastick complimented Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Dr. Una Clarke, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and NYC Department of Small Business Services for their “relentless support and assistance with bringing this project to fruition.”

Last year, CACCI celebrated 30 years of service to the small business community.

“We are continuing to provide small business and financial literacy business services to micro entrepreneurs at the Flatbush-Caton Market, and continue our collaboration with public and private sector partners to provide seminars and services for emerging businesses with CACCI.”

“It is hard to believe that 30 years has passed since our Chamber of Commerce and Industry was launched in New York State,” Hastick said. “We wish to express our gratitude to our network of members and contributors.

“And we are also pleased to report that, over the past 30 years, with support from its Board of Directors, members, partners in the private and public sectors, the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry has grown from a virtual fledgling micro-organism into a multi-dimensional institution,”



Dr. Roy Hastick.

Photo by Kevin Bollers

he added.

Over the years, Hastick said CACCI has conducted more than 800 seminars, workshops and clinics, helped to launch small businesses and assisted emerging businesses in their efforts to grow and expand.

Because of a wide range of support, Hastick said CACCI has “evolved into an entity, which continues to advocate on behalf of the small business community and is poised to serve as a vital link between the Caribbean region and the USA.”

He said CACCI continues to host networking seminars, power breakfast meetings, and is working with its partners “to expand the reach and the scope of our business services to MWBE’s and emerging businesses.

“We are continuing to provide small business and financial literacy business services to micro entrepreneurs at the Flatbush-Caton Market, and continue our collaboration with public and pri-

private sector partners to provide seminars and services for emerging businesses with CACCI,” Hastick said.

Additionally, over the years, he said CACCI have continued to promote trade and investment in the Caribbean by continuing to host business and trade delegations from the Caribbean region on visits to New York.

For over two decades, Hastick said CACCI have worked with the leadership of the City of New York and explored several options for a site that would be appropriate for the Caribbean American Trade Center.

He said the selection of the developer “will transform the site on which the current Flatbush Caton Market is located in Brooklyn into a commercial and cultural institution, expanded and renovated market that will support the long-term growth and vitality of dozens of local vendors and entrepreneurs, new space for CACCI and affordable housing.”

Caribbean

Four Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries have been chosen to conduct social marketing training and technical assistance to reduce daily salt intake.

The project in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica, is being led by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Salt Smart Consortium, acting as the secretariat, supported by Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC).

Technical support is being provided by the University of South Florida and World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Social Marketing and Social Change.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has formed the "SVG Salt-Smart Coalition," a multi-sectoral group, made up of various stakeholders from public and private sectors and NGOs that will be responsible for conducting the program.



Specifically, the aim of the project is to provide strategies to encourage mothers of primary school age children to cook with less salt, buy low salt products, so as to prepare their children to succeed in the 21st century free from the host of chronic diseases such as hypertension and stroke.

The project was officially launched at the Kingstown Health Center earlier this month during "World Salt Awareness Week 2106," under the theme "Reduce Salt Healthier Life."

Antigua

Commonwealth Secretary General designate, Baroness Patricia Scotland, will deliver the feature address at the 15th Conference of Presidents & Governors-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that will be held in, St. John, Antigua later this month.

The event will allow for discussions on a wide range of issues, including presentations by Sir Christopher Geidt the private secretary to Britain's Queen Elizabeth on the topic "The Crown and the Caribbean Realms - The Relationship."



The relevance of a National Honors System in an independent country will be presented by Retired Major David Ranking-Hunt, of the Norfolk Herald of Arms Extraordinary.

President of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), Sir Dennis Byron will also address the regional heads of state on the role and function of the court that was established in 2001 to replace the London-based Privy Council as the region's final court.



Caribbean Confab

Newly elected secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Baroness Patricia Scotland to deliver feature address at CARICOM's Presidents and Governors-General Conference. Associated Press / Alessandra Tarantino

Bahamas

The Bahamas government recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Miami to provide Bahamians with accessible and high quality health care and pave the way for the future of stem cell research in the Bahamas.

The signing took place at the Office of the Prime Minister between the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine Inter-disciplinary Stem Cell Institute (ISCI) and the Ministry of Health and the Public Hospitals Authority.

Prime Minister Perry Christie described the MoU as a great moment for his administration.

"The regulatory framework for the conduct of stem cell research was established thus giving The Bahamas the distinction of becoming the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean region to put such a legislative frame-



work in place," Christie said.

With the MoU, the University of Miami will engage in educating and training physicians and healthcare practitioners and scientists in finding new treatment and therapies for heart disease, neurological disease, bone disease, diabetes, cancer, eye disease and other chronic, debilitating or incurable diseases.

The MoU allows for collaborations with the University of the West Indies School of Clinical Medicine and Research.

Barbados

The Barbados government recently presented a Bds\$4.3 billion (US\$2.15 billion) budget to Parliament — an increase of nearly Bds \$93 million (US\$46.5 million) over the last fiscal package.

The Freundel Stuart government said of the amount approved for 2016-2017 fiscal year, US\$2.02 bil-



lion represents current expenditure, while US\$625, 000 represents capital expenditure.

It said wages and salaries are expected to increase over the revised amount for 2015-2016 by US\$8.9 million to US\$380 million, adding the increase is mainly due to increments.

The government is anticipating expenditure on goods and services is expected to increase by US\$53.4 to US\$229.9 million.

Debate on the budget is continuing.

Dominica

Former Attorney General of Dominica Bernard Wiltshire has criticized regional courts for their handling of election-related matters.

He said the courts within the region have failed to display a sufficient degree of independence in dealing with such matters.

The outspoken attorney was at the time addressing a national forum on campaign finance.

He said it is so difficult to challenge election irregularities by the opposition after an election. Wiltshire noted there is too much political interference in the process, with judges indicating their unwillingness to be dragged into the fray and such "narrow view affects the process."



The Dominican attorney said this problem also exists with the Trinidad and Tobago-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

"Even with the Caribbean Court of Justice we have the question of smallness of size, and where you have smallness of size and everybody knows everybody else and the cliques are small little cliques and they belong to the same elite, then there is a kind of self-censorship taking place for the judiciary," Wiltshire declared.

Guyana

A prolonged drought is taking a toll on food crops in Guyana. The government says it is creating a special task force to improve relief efforts.

The office of President David Granger said farmers reported losing more than 7,000 acres of rice fields and hundreds of acres of cassava and peanut fields.

Farmers have also complained that they have not received any water from the government's emergency irrigation canals. Rice is one of Guyana's main exports.

Granger has said there is a need to drill more wells because Guyana has not received significant rainfall for



Continued on Page 16

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Leadership challenge for Portia



Former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson-Miller.

Associated Press / Evan Agostini

Continued from cover

operating with a deadlock as Parnell Charles of the JLP moved from the government benches into the speaker's chair in early March, further complicating the situation.

Uncomfortable with the parliamentary set up, insiders say the JLP is hoping to go back to the polls sometime in the next year on the presumption that it could win a few more seats than the 32 seats which makes it hard to pass legislation.

PNP seniors say that the party must therefore get its house in order before it is caught off guard by fresh polls and a JLP that it desperate to wrestle itself away from the 32-31 arrangement handed to them by voters in elections held in late February.

The one-seat majority in Jamaica now means that three Caribbean trade bloc countries are functioning with similar set ups, the others being Guyana and St. Vincent.

For her part, Simpson-Miller is not necessarily unaccustomed to bruising internal party battles.

She had wrestled the leadership of the PNP back in 2008, surviving a feisty fight, ironically from Peter Phillips.

In 1992 she made her own party leadership bid, losing to PNP elder and Caribbean statesman Percival Patterson who would go on to run the country for 14 years.

Now the chatter is rising within the PNP ranks about the time being ripe for her to step down and hand over to a new generation of leaders who would reorganize in time for 2021. She is also being blamed for being the first PNP leader not to win a second consecutive term.

Newspaper Columnist Grace Virtue said in a recent piece that whether she had won or not her time had passed.

"Her career is over. The only question is how and when she will go. The elections would mark the end of Portia Simpson Miller's parliamentary career and leadership of the PNP," she said.

Housing discrimination

Continued from cover

and other agents of real estate to refuse to sell, rent or lease, or otherwise deny or withhold an interest in a housing accommodation, because of an individual's actual or perceived status as a victim of domestic violence or as a victim of sex offenses or stalking, said Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

He said victims of intimate partner violence frequently struggle with housing discrimination, including denial of new leases, refusal to renew leases, refusal of housing vouchers, evictions and being unable to temporarily leave their home to escape domestic violence.

Nationally, 11 percent of evictions involved discrimination against domestic violence victims," he said.

"We have a responsibility to do everything in our power to support and protect victims of domestic violence," Williams said. "Too often, victims of domestic violence are evicted or prevented from renting apartments simply because they have been abused — this is not only wrong, it's horrifying.

"Today, I am proud to stand with Mayor de Blasio as he signs intro 832 into law, making housing discrimination against victims of intimate partner violence and stalking illegal," he added.

Williams said the New York City Human Rights Law is one of the most expansive human rights laws in the

nation.

Now, he said, the Human Rights Law is stronger, more comprehensive and protects more New Yorkers.

"Leveling the playing field for domestic violence survivors in the highly competitive NYC housing market is critical," said Judy Harris Kluger, Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families.

"Today's legislation sends a strong signal that discrimination will not be tolerated," she added. "We are grateful to Council Member Williams and Mayor deBlasio for their leadership in making housing affordable and accessible for all New Yorkers."

Williams said Intro 721-A, updates and strengthens the green building standards for certain city capital projects.

He said the bill increases the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, green building rating which certain capital projects are required to achieve.

Intro 701-A generally requires that certain city-owned buildings be designed and constructed to meet energy reduction targets, Williams said.

He said the bill applies to city-owned buildings undergoing capital projects that involve the construction of a new building or an addition to an existing building or substantial reconstruction of an existing building, where the project involves substantial work on the building envelope.

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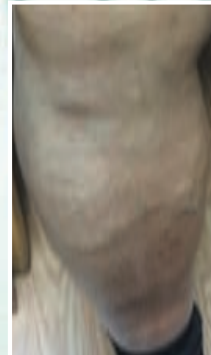
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Una Clarke calls for a 'hand up' for the poor, uneducated

By Kevin Bollers

Former NYC Council Member Una S. T. Clarke speaking on crime and violence says society needs "to find a way to provide for the poor and uneducated by giving them not a handout, but a hand up."

Clarke was one of the panelists at the Dialogue Between Democracies: Security and Good Governance forum which took place at the New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Ave. of the Americas on Thursday, March 24, 2016. This event was the fourth in a five-part dialogue held with Jamaicans locally and overseas.

"I want to stress the fact that not only in Jamaica, but in any area where there is poverty and need for educational growth, it breeds crime because at the heart of it, people want to provide for their families and sadly there are times when they will do this by any means necessary," she said.

The other panelists were Dr. Damien King of the Caribbean



General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society, Earl Jarrett discussing security and good governance at the Dialogue between Democracies forum.

Policy Research Institute, former Ambassador to the United Nations (Security Council Affairs) Curtis Ward and General Manager of the Jamaica National Building Society, Earl Jarrett. Joshua Polachek, counsellor of Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica moderated the discussion.

Dr. Damien King, executive director of CaPRI, believes that

the forum serves to explore practical measures to strengthen civil society and enhance its impact as an agent for improving governance in Jamaica. In that regard, the purpose of the discussions was to address policymaking, accountability, transparency, access to information and the development of informed public opinion.

"What we hope to achieve from these discussions are feasible ways to advance security cooperation in areas, such as defense and maritime security; as well as, identify ways in which we can strengthen Jamaica's social institutions," Dr. King indicated.

Ward added, "Both countries need each other. The relationship between the United States and Jamaica span centuries. We in the diaspora have been great advocates for Jamaica / U.S. relations. Forums like Dialogues Between Democracies provide us with the opportunity to highlight areas of cooperation and collaboration between



From left, Dr. Damien King of the Caribbean Policy Research Institute, former NYC Councilmember Una S. T. Clarke, and Ambassador Curtis Ward. Photo by Kevin Bollers

the United States and Jamaica, primarily in the areas of security from national, regional and global threats."

Moderator Polachek pointed out, "Through this international relationship, Jamaica now has the largest civilian maritime law enforcement presence in the Caribbean."

This transitioned into the topic of job creation to which Dr. King warned, "We need to be very careful with the idea of governmental responsibility to create jobs because what we have seen in the past is that this has been used as an excuse to divert public resources that ought to have been invested

in facilitating business activity, but instead ended up being more of a waste of community resources."

However Ward pointed out that government does have a role to play. "While government may not have the responsibility to create jobs, they do have the responsibility to create an environment for job creation. That responsibility includes removal of bureaucratic red tape, graft from the political, public and private sectors and prosecuting graft at every level so that business in the country can be done seamlessly. Those are some of the ways that jobs can

Continued on Page 29

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Barbados workers wield their power, shut ports

By George Alleyne

Barbados' largest labour union flexed its muscles last Thursday, crippling air and sea ports for hours, and squeezed from a state-owned corporation, wage benefits for workers in a prolonged dispute with government.

Demonstrating that there is still workers power on the island, the Barbados Workers Union called out air traffic controllers at the Grantley Adams International Airport and all non-management workers of Barbados Ports Inc, effectively shutting down any movement by people or goods in or out of the island for over six hours before government agreed to talk.

The union's action followed a strike it had called at the state-owned Barbados Water Authority on March 16 demanding settlement of a more than decade-old dispute over payments of increments that had been stopped since 2006.

That back pay money

amounted to an estimated Bar\$33 to \$36 million (Bar\$1 = US\$0.50)

Minister with responsibility for Water, Dr. David Estwick, said government did not have the money to meet that demand, and described the initial strike as 'spurious.' He further said, "we have inherited a complex situation that will defy any specialist in logic or any mathematician to solve."

Estwick and government colleagues made no arrangement to meet the union, but following Thursday's shutdown of the airport and the sea ports, accompanied by howls of outrage by stranded air and cruise passengers, and demands for an immediate settlement of the dispute by the powerful private sector, the officials quickly agreed to meet and that 'complex situation' was resolved.

BWU General Secretary, Toni Moore, emerged victorious out of the six-hour talks after 7 pm Thursday night declaring, "we have reached an agreement

which we are sure will satisfy our constituent. Increments will be honoured as the union had requested."

Labour Minister, Dr. Esther Byer-Suckoo, who mediated at the talks, said, "I was concerned, as the entire government has been concerned as well. We intended to address the issue urgently anyhow."

Details of the meeting have yet been released, but Barbadians are left to wonder how their cash-strapped government will come up with the workers' over-due money, of which reports indicate \$16 million has to be paid soon as the first installment, according to the agreement.

But the first indication of fallout from the union's victory in the dispute is newspaper speculation Monday that heads will roll, with the first being that of Chairman of the Water Authority, Dr. Atlee Brathwaite.

The Barbados Nation newspaper's Monday edition car-



BWU General Secretary Toni Moore. Photo by George Alleyne

ried a front page story quoting unnamed sources, saying that Government was unhappy with the way Brathwaite and his board of directors handled the increments dispute, leading to the crippling strike.

Nothing is yet confirmed but Brathwaite was quoted as saying that he is ready to leave the

job if the government wants his head.

"I assume ... they know what is best for the country and feel we have not really managed the thing properly, and they think it can be better managed, then I will welcome them to find an alternative," Brathwaite is quoted as saying.



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Cancer kills even those who fight

By Barbara Coombs Lee

Last week, a New York man living with brain cancer, J.J. Hanson, held a news conference in Albany to talk about why he opposes medical aid in dying as an end-of-life option for terminally ill adults.

Fortunately, Hanson has responded well to surgery and chemotherapy treatment. On a recent appearance on CBS Sunday Morning, his wife, Kristen, said: "The reason that we felt we needed to speak up and share our story is ... we've seen that you can beat the odds." They want to save people who would "just accept" a dire prognosis.

For the first time, lawmakers in Albany are giving serious consideration to bills authorizing medical aid in dying as an end-of-life option in New York. Pending bipartisan legislation would allow terminally ill, mentally capable adults to request and receive medication to die gently in their sleep, if their dying process became unbearable. The bills set standards for the medical practice and stipulate safeguards, including that the terminally ill person must drive the eligibility process and take the aid-in-dying medication themselves, if they decide to do so. Legislative backing and popular support among voters (77 percent) for the End of Life Options Act are great enough that opposition has become vocal.

Unfortunately, the mainstream media tend to present emotional issues in black-and-white terms, and end-of-life

options certainly fall into this category. People hear two simplified "sides" of a question: either "this" or "that." Listening to the Hansons, you would think a person either chooses to fight cancer and win, as Hanson apparently has done, or they choose to give up and die, as he and his wife incorrectly suggest Brittany Maynard did in November 2014. The message is that treatment and survival is for fighters, medical aid in dying is for quitters.

But Brittany was no quitter. At 29 years old, she moved her family from California to Oregon to gain control over her approaching death from brain cancer. As the tumor took its toll of excruciating headaches, seizures, and imminent loss of sight, speech, movement, consciousness, and life itself, Brittany decided to stop this cruel devastation and die peacefully while she still could. Far from giving in to her disease, she refused to allow its vicious destruction of every shred of her life's meaning.

Cancer comes in many forms, with many degrees of ferociousness and velocity. Sometimes modern medicine can beat it back. Stories like Hanson's are, indeed, joyous celebrations. But often, and sadly, cancer continues a relentless course in spite of every effort to cut it out, irradiate it, or poison it into remission. People die of cancer, and not because they didn't try hard enough to cure it.

Brittany did not make a different decision from Hanson.

Continued on Page 12

Understanding terrorism

By Roberto Savio

Roberto Savio, is founder and president emeritus of the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency and publisher of Other News

ROME, March 28, 2016 (IPS) - The recent Brussels massacre has created a short term reaction, which ignores a long term projection. All the debate is now about security, police reinforcement, new military strategies, as if terrorism can be solved just as a matter of public order.

It is of critical importance to take a more global and comprehensive approach, and accept that we are facing a problem that needs to be approached from various angles. Given the usual restrictions on length of articles in media outlets, a real analytical piece must wait for another occasion. I therefore request readers to refer to the links to some of my previous, in order to have detailed information on points that I am not able to address adequately in this article.

1) Lack of a political debate. We see the European political leadership mobilized after every incident, making rhetorical declaration of solidarity and expression of horror, but without any effort for a unified, specific response. It is astonishing to see that the French and Belgian authorities have not even tried to link the actions of the terrorists with their backgrounds and previous actions, when clearly a sociological and cultural analysis is fundamental beyond just police's measures. While this is of critical importance, it is nowhere in the political debate.

2) No effort is made to explain that Muslim terrorism is, before anything, an

It is of critical importance to take a more global and comprehensive approach. We are facing a problem that needs to be approached from various angles.

internal battle in the Muslim world, and Europe is just conveniently used as the playground. Some 88 percent, of Muslims are Sunnis, the main branch of Islam. But no terrorist has been found beside the so called Wahabism or Salafite branch, born in Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh has constructed more than 1.600 mosques, staffing them with Salafist Imams, and every year more than 80 million dollars is spent to support Sunnis. For Salafis, the other groups in Islam are infidels, like Sufi or Yadhzites. And the Shias are the main enemy. So Iran, where the majority of Shias live, is the main enemy of Saudi Arabia, and they fight each other through proxy's wars, from Syria to Yemen, with the number of victims much larger than all the Europeans victims of attentates. To make Islam as the promoter of all terrorism, is therefore a dramatic mistake.

3) The fight between Saudi Arabia and Iran, until and unless controlled by Russia and United States, will continue, until the time when Saudi Arabia enters into a serious crisis, due to the fact that its present level of expenditure is not any longer supported by the price of petrol. The International Monetary Fund has already indicated to Riyadh that bankruptcy is imminent within a decade, unless

expenditure levels are brought down. Until now, Saudi Arabia has been supported by all the Western powers, especially the United States of America, for its position of importance as the main oil exporter.

The United Nations panel of experts on Yemen has documented "119 coalition sorties relating to violations of the laws of war", reported Human Rights Watch, which along with the Amnesty International and other organizations are asking for an arm's embargo. But Saudi Arabia is the world's second largest arms importer of the world.

Anyhow, it is very unlikely that Saudi Arabia and its allies from the Gulf countries will be able to take on the leadership of the Sunni world, because of its intolerance of a branch of Islam, and in the long run compete with a much larger and developed Iran. But for the moment everybody has been turning a blind eye to Saudi Arabia's role in spreading Salafism.

4) Salafism brings us to ISIS, which follows this branch of Islam as the official religion, even radicalizing it more. However, there is a growing consensus that ISIS is using religion as a tool for enrolment, and pull together all those who are frustrated by secularism and modernization. ISIS, as a tangible entity, according to military experts could be defeated in a couple of weeks, by two mechanized brigades. But it would affect the 600.000 people which are in its territory, and escalate the theory propagated by them that Muslims have always been subjected to the Christian crusaders, who installed the monarchs and Emirs on their thrones, and

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to the Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and the individual's verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Court-sanctioned trampling on voting rights

In the strange run-up to the presidential election that the 2016 version is proving to be, one primary contest recently, in Arizona, gave us a dramatic sampling of the legacy of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia — a reminder of the kind of backward-looking action for which Scalia and his conservative-bloc court brethren were responsible. According to reports, voters waited in line to cast their ballots for up to five hours in the March 22 primary, some of them naturally opting to leave, rather than subject themselves to such an unbelievably chaotic election-day happening.

As it turned out, it was in Maricopa County, the state's largest, that this mess unfolded, the county also being, by curious circumstance, home to the state's most populous concentration of Latinos. And the reason voters were put through unnecessary inconvenience on that scale was a deliberate move by the state to drastically reduce Maricopa County's polling places. From 200 polling sites in 2012, the Republican-controlled legislature voted to reduce them to 60 for this year's voting.

Meaning that in the county of 4.2 million people, the average number of voters to be serviced by each polling place shot up to approximately 21,000! State lawmakers were able to treat the citizens' voting privilege in such cavalier fashion because the U.S. Supreme Court, when in 2013 it ruled in favor of a right-wing attempt to gut the Voting Rights Act, opened the door for such a travesty as happened in Arizona and could well be replicated elsewhere.

In this particular assault on the Voting Rights Act, conservatives got Scalia and his ideological allies to vote for rolling back the provision that required certain states, known to have a history of suppressing voting in minority communities, to seek and obtain federal permission before any changes in voting procedure could be made. With the high court's removal of the so-called "preclearance" provision, Arizona Republicans could proceed to cause Maricopa County, with its hefty Latino population, to experience a living hell just to exercise their suffrage. It was all intended simply to save money, the agents of this

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

Conservatives got Scalia...to vote for rolling back the provision that required certain states to seek and obtain federal permission before any changes in voting procedure could be made.

mischief claimed. But there was too much walking and talking like a duck here for that tired line to register favorably.

Small wonder that calls for the Justice Department to investigate what went down came from Phoenix's Mayor Gregory Stanton among others, Phoenix being located in Maricopa County. Stanton is a Democrat but ideally, political affiliation shouldn't dictate reaction to the

inexcusably long delays those voters faced. No elected official, especially those exercising executive authority over broad territory, should be comfortable with government's green-lighting of what would have been well known to be a prescription for the election-day disarray that resulted. Supreme Court conservatives notwithstanding, Attorney General Loretta Lynch and her troops obviously need to keep a laser-like focus on all states, particularly those likely to be thinking to pull off shenanigans akin to what was done in Arizona. Of course, when an episode bubbles up, like this insensitive trampling on people's rights facilitated by the high court, it cannot but pivot to the current court controversy surrounding filling of the seat vacated by Scalia. And with a GOP majority in the Senate seemingly dug in immovably in its refusal to consider the nominee sent up by President Obama, composition of the Supreme Court becomes an even keener concern in the 2016 stakes than it normally is in presidential elections.

When we look at the place in this democracy that the

Supreme Court occupies, we will no doubt continue to flinch a bit — at least some of us — as we muse upon the court's imperfect state. Some of us may dare to imagine a non-politicized high court. Why, we wonder, does it seem pretty much unachievable, the idea of a court whose justices were all in the John Paul Stevens mold — nominated by a Republican president but in his long tenure coming to be recognized as the anchor of a progressive take on the spirit of the law? Or, why not justices who followed the path of Earl Warren, likewise a Republican nominee who as chief justice back in the 1950s, spearheaded one of the most celebrated periods of landmark progressive rulings in the court's history, including *Brown v. Board of Education*?

Instead, politics as usual is what we have come to accept as unavoidable reality in the Supreme Court narrative. What happened in Arizona and the role of Scalia and others in making it possible remind us, as we await the filling of that ninth court seat, that politics as usual influencing the court isn't about to end anytime soon.



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OP-EDS

Terrorism and its consequences

Continued from page 10

have effectively run the Arab world in their own interest. The crusaders will never allow a real Arab entity, and will continue to govern through their puppets. This vision and the call for a holy war against the invaders and the Arab governments will continue after the death of ISIS as a territorial entity, and get a responsive chord in the entire Arab world, because it is based on historical facts. So, the ISIS call will survive the Caliphate.

5) Europe's reaction has been not to intervene seriously against ISIS (and Russia even less), but continue supporting factions in the Syrian war. The continent's responsibilities in the wave of refugees fleeing Syria and Libya are clear, but of no consequence. Besides, by taking a totally illegal decision on how to deal with refugees, Europe entered in a Faustian pact with Turkey, a country which has turned a blind eye to ISIS, and is clearly against the principles of democracy that Europe advances. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Doctors without Borders have withdrawn from Greece, declaring the plan illegal. Of course, in the Arab world, this does not go unnoticed, and the gap with the West is steadily increasing. In the rhetoric of the right wing countries of Europe (Poland Hungary, Slovakia), and of the right wing parties, refugees have become the bear-

er of terrorism in Europe. Europe has not even been able to implement obvious measures of coordination on terrorism because of the growing jealousy of the governments, and there is no strategy on this issue, beside rhetoric which plays well into the hands of ISIS.

6) The right wing and xenophobic parties are therefore allied with ISIS. It is evident that, without a strategy of awareness and information, discrimination against Arabs will increase, and this is exactly what ISIS is waiting for, asking Arabs who live in Europe to decide on whether to integrate with the West, and become apostates, or help ISIS, by striking everywhere.

7) No terrorists have come from the Arab world. All those involved until now, were Europeans, born and raised in Europe. Most were petty criminals or marginalized people, not at all observant, who become indoctrinated while serving prison terms for their crimes or through social networking. They were in fact nihilist, who found in ISIS dignity and escape from a life without work and a future. Europe has found six billion euros to keep the refugees at bay, after spending more than seven billion in military expenses in the Middle East. If that money would have been invested in the ghettos where Muslims live in Belgium, France and Great Britain, probably terrorism today would have been far less.

Terminal illness

Continued from page 10

She made the same decision, to undergo aggressive treatment. But it didn't work. That doesn't make her weak, or a quitter. It just means life dealt her a lousy hand. Given that hand, Brittany determined to make the best she could of it.

People who are comforted to know medical aid in dying is available if they need it are also committed to fighting their disease when there's a chance to cure it or slow its progression. The Hansons present a false choice of treating disease or submitting to death. That kind of thinking is seductive. It supports our delusion that we are different from those who die of cancer, and that difference will save us. But it does a grave disservice to those unlucky enough to

have fought bravely, long and well and died anyway.

Of course people hearing they have a terminal illness want to beat it. If they can't beat it, they want to slow it. If they can't slow it, they want excellent pain control and comfort care. If hospice cannot control pain and other symptoms, they want a peaceful escape from suffering, hopefully at home, in the arms of their loved ones. Why would a benevolent government, or a compassionate politician, or a fortunate cancer survivor, want to deny them that?

Barbara Coombs Lee was a nurse and physician assistant for 25 years who coauthored the nation's first law authorizing medical aid in dying, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. She is an attorney and president of Compassion & Choices, an end-of-life choice advocacy organization.

CORRECTION:

We would like to apologize for mistakenly identifying Dr. Illouise Murillo-Tucker as Jamaican born in the caption of cover photo of our March 11-17 issue with the headline "Nurses honored." In fact she is a Belizean.

Lions Club bestows honors

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Transition Lions Club on Saturday bestowed surprised honors on four community figures at its inaugural Fashion Easter Luncheon at St. Gabriel's Golden Hall on Hawthorne Street in Brooklyn.

Club President Grenadian-born Gloria Rennie-Murray told patrons at the gala ceremony that the honorees were not previously informed about the honor.

The honorees were: Guyanese natives Leslie Brooks, also known as DJ Leslie; Sharon Anne Trotman; Patrick Verwayne; and Caribbean Life's senior reporter Nelson A. King, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"I don't know if I should cry or not," said Brooks, who serves as the club's "Resident DJ," on receiving the award. "Thank you, and I really appreciate it."

Trotman, a program director at Hazel Brooks Neighborhood Center in Brooklyn, said she was "humbled to receive this award."

"My daily prayer is to help someone each day," she said. "Then my living will not be in



DJ Leslie Brooks receives award from Brooklyn Transition Lions Club President Grenadian Gloria Rennie-Murray. Photo by Nelson A. King

vain. I always try to be my best in everyday of my life."

Verwayne, co-founder and first Charter President of the Brooklyn Transition Lions Club, who is still a very active member of the club, lauded members, saying: "If it wasn't for the members of the Brooklyn Transition Lions Club, there would be no Transition Lions Club."

"We'll like you to continue

doing more work," he told members.

"So, I'll like to continue working for the Brooklyn Transition Lions Club," said the retired engineer at Wycoff Medical Center at the border of Queens and Brooklyn.

While lunching on assorted chicken, escovitch fish, macaroni and cheese, and other delicacies, patrons were entertained by soca music and Guyanese folk songs by DJ Leslie, as well as folk dances by the St. Lucia Cultural Dance Group, fashion show and laughter from Trinidadian comedienne Susan Kennedy.

"How come Donald Trump (Republican presidential front-runner) expect to control Mexicans and Muslims when he can't control his hair," Kennedy quipped in one of her numbers.

Rennie-Murray thanked patrons for their support, stating that she was pleased with the turn-out at the inaugural event that was switched to a luncheon from a breakfast.

Patrons walked away with winning door prizes, and chair and money raffles.



Patrick Verwayne (l) receives award from Lion Charles W. McBride, 2nd vice district governor. Photo by Nelson A. King



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Guyana prez to headline Jubilee State Dinner



Guyana's President David A. Granger. Associated Press / Kevin Hagen

Trinidadian now US ambassador

By Azad Ali

A Trinidadian, who migrated to the USA at the age of 14 years, has returned to his former homeland as the United States Ambassador.

John Learie Estrada, his wife and twin daughters arrived earlier this week to take up his post.

The U.S. Embassy in a release said, Estrada will assume duties after the presentation of his Letters of Credence to President Anthony Carmona.

In a welcome video posted on the U.S. Embassy's Facebook page, Estrada, recalled the communities he grew up, in Laventille (now a crime "hot spot"), Diego Martin (West Trinidad) and Toco, (a rural area in the East).

He said that at the age of 14 he migrated to the U.S. and forged a new life.

"I brought with me a respect for diversity and an inherent sense of the equal value of all people. I served with honor in the United States Marine Corps attaining the Corps' highest enlisted rank, 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps," he said.

Her movie and television credits include Warehouse 13; Sons of Anarchy; ER; Law & Order; SVU; the shield; Avatar; and her breakout role in Bagdad Café. The black tie and red carpet affair will also be attended by US federal, State and City officials, as well as other Guyanese Hollywood, music and sports celebrities.

Granger will be the Grand Marshall of the 2016 Guyanese American Unity Parade and Mashramani in New York City on June 12, 2016.

Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) said that Granger will also address a Unity Rally, at the end of the parade, to conclude "Guyana Jubilee Week" in New York.

It will be Granger's first address to Guyanese nationals in New York since his election to the presidency in May 2015.

Several celebrities of Guyanese heritage; including actors, singers, professional basketball, soccer and football players will also march in the parade, the Committee said.

The parade, the second annual Guyanese American parade in Brooklyn, will also commemorate the historic 50 years of Independence of the Republic of Guyana.

The Brooklyn-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) and Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) are sponsors of the carnival-styled parade, called Mashramani, an Amerindian word for community celebration.

The parade will start on Church Avenue at Bedford, proceed east to Ralph Avenue, south on Ralph Avenue to Flatlands Avenue and West into South Shore High School Park in Brooklyn, where Granger will address the Unity Rally.

The "Guyana Jubilee Week" will be held under the theme: "Reflect Our Journey: Forging Unity and Embracing Modernity."

Granger, Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo and other officials of the government of Guyana, as well as U.S. federal, state and local officials, will be guests of honor at various "Jubilee Week" celebration events, the committee said.

By Nelson A. King

Guyana's President David Granger will deliver the keynote address at a State Dinner in his honor at the Sheraton New York Time Square Hotel & Towers, on June 11, 2016, organizers in New York say.

The Brooklyn-based Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) said on Wednesday that the State Dinner is a part of a spectacular "Guyana Jubilee Week" celebration in New York City from June 4-12, 2016.

It commemorates Guyana's historic Golden Jubilee of Independence. Guyana gained independence from Great Britain on May 26, 1966.

"Guyana Jubilee Week NYC 2016" is being organized by Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York), in conjunction with Guyana's Embassy in Washington D.C, and Consulate and UN Mission in New York.

Award Winning Guyanese-American Actress, CCH Pounder, will be Mistress of Ceremonies at the State Dinner, the 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee (New York) said.

Pounder can be seen on the hit CBS series, NCIC: New Orleans.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4
 almost 10 months.

Jamaica

Jamaica hotel magnate Gordon "Butch" Stewart is taking legal action against The Gleaner Company in Jamaica, seeking around \$J\$17.5 billion (US\$0.94 billion in damages for defamation).



Stewart, 74, chairman of Sandals and Beaches said he has initiated legal action against The Gleaner Company after the publication of a story in the Jamaica Gleaner's website recently which he claimed was false and defamatory.

The publication on the Gleaner's website dated Friday March 11, 2016 in which The Gleaner published a report under the name of Barbara Gayle, justice coordinator, that shares of businessman Gordon "Butch" Stewart in Gorstew Limited, Jamaica, have been frozen due to his failure to pay legal costs to the tune of \$40 million Jamaican dollars to one Noel Sloley, is false and defamatory.

He said the freezing order in question is in respect of costs claimed by Jamaica Tours Limited, which is the subject of ongoing litigation in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

Stewart claimed the malicious and defamatory article has caused signifi-

cant damage, not only to his reputation, but the companies which he represents.

St. Kitts

St. Kitts / Nevis Consumers Affairs Act 2003 is being repealed to address consumers' concern about labels written in foreign languages and to institute other protection issues.

This was disclosed by Consumer Affairs Officer Vincent Fough, who said that all supermarkets have been informed that their labels should have English, even if there are other languages, because the official language in St. Kitts and Nevis is English. They have also been asked to remove items in violation of this from the shelves.



The consumer affairs officer said that the new bill will fall in line with the CARICOM Protection Consumer Protection Bill.

He explained that it stems from the Treaty of Chaguaramas where member states have to follow Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) contractual arrangements.

The new bill outlines that once a business is in breach of contract, the business will have to pay a fine or the owner sent to jail. Both penalties may apply in some cases.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Free writing workshops in Queens Library

By Tequila Minsky

Queens Central Library in Jamaica is offering a free Creative Writers' Workshop for those with an "itch to write" led by writer and performer Jennifer Celestin.

The series of eight guided workshops to "get you writing" will be held on Sundays from April 3 – May 22 at 1 pm in the main floor conference room.

Different writing techniques and exercises will be explored to free creativity.

"We'll have two poetry workshops, two short story workshops, and two revision workshops," Celestin explains, adding that, "writing is rewriting."

Haitian-American Celestin has been facilitating workshops for more than 10 years.

"I love that it (the work-

shop) makes the writing process communal and gives writers deadlines," she says of the workshop structure. "People can come for one session or all."

Holding an M.A. from NYU, currently Celestin is completing an M.F.A. in Fiction at CUNY: Queens College.

Her writings are included in the City Lore Anthology of Haitian poetry, Label Me Latina/o: Journal of 20th & 21st Centuries Latino Literary Production, and in Akashicbooks.com's forthcoming Mondays are Murder series.

A three-time attendee of the National Book Foundation's Summer Writing Workshops, Celestin has also facilitated workshops outside of the U.S., in Montreal and Haiti, after the earthquake.

She has also performed at numerous venues in New York



Jennifer Celestin.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

City, including the Bowery Poetry Club and Café, Lincoln Center Out of Doors and BRIC Arts Media.

The library's flyer beckons: Aspiring poets and writers are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

The Central Library is located at 89-11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, (F train to 169 St.) For more information, call 718-990-0778.

Freelancers seek justice

By Nelson A. King

As part of its campaign to protect independent workers from deadbeat companies, Freelancers Union launched on Monday "The World's Longest Invoice" — an online counter where independent workers can share stories and add the amount they have been stiffed to a running national total.

The New York-based Freelancers Union said its goal is to support the "Freelance Isn't Free" Act, a first-of-its-kind NYC Council legislation that would provide basic protections for independent workers from companies who refuse to pay, or force them to wait months for their checks.

If successful, the legislation could be a national model for other cities to follow, the union said.

Under the proposed bill, any company that hires a freelance worker would have to execute a simple written contract, describing the work

to be completed, the rate and method of payment, and date when payment is due.

"Those companies that stiff freelancers would face consequences, including double damages, attorney's fees, and civil penalties from judges and the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs," said the Freelancers Union in a statement.

First introduced by NYC Council Member Brad Lander and a broad coalition of business and labor organizations led by the Freelancers Union, the "Freelance Isn't Free" Act has gained support from a majority of the NYC Council, with 28 of 51 members currently signed on, plus NYC Public Advocate Tish James.

The union said more than 70 percent of freelancers experience late or nonpayment at some point in their career, "getting stiffed an average of \$5,968 every year — forcing many to use credit cards or rely on government assistance to make up the difference."

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Animal clinic cares for Brooklyn pets

Animal Medicine & Surgery Clinic was here when: Star Wars entered the screen for the first time; Apple became the first home computer and also for the world's first test tube baby. The clinic is still here, helping to take care of the nation's more than 70 million dogs, 80 million cats, 11 million birds, seven million pet horses, and millions of other companion animals.

Conveniently located at 9518 Ave. L in Brooklyn for almost 40 years, the clinic has become a community staple of choice for primary veterinary care. Dr. Ronald Chaikin said the clinic's strong yet innovative approach to pet care is demonstrated with the use of traditional and holistic treatment plans — whether the pet walks, swims, slithers or flies.

Chaikin said the team of experienced and efficient in-house doctors of Veterinary Medicine included Dr. Alex Cortes and Dr. Steven Fox. The team is supported by veterinary assistants Mark Thomson and David Falconer, kennel support staff Michelle Mauro, Romulo Devilla and receptionists Shannon Jean, Suzanne Dixon and Diahann Green.

"Most of the staff are long standing residents of the Canarsie community and have been with the practice for many years. They are reliable and love their jobs," said Chaikin.

The doctor outlined several reasons why pet owners will



Animal Medicine & Surgery Clinic is located at 9518 Ave. L in Brooklyn.

us. That is why we keep our office hours open just for you.

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- The availability of boarding, pet transit services and grooming.
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- Extensive fully stocked pharmacy to cater to your prescriptive needs.

"Animal Medicine and Surgery Clinic means relationship, accountability and trust. Our endurance as a practice and inclusion in the life of the community that we serve, didn't happen because our building is strong, it happened because we provide care that keep our clients coming back again and again," said Chaikin.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
100+ items – to assist the small business community in the State of New York.

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Recipe Rescue cooking champions

Two ninth-grade students who are members of NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers Project Reach Youth (PRY) Track program at the John Jay High School Campus came out top winners on March 12 in the 2016 Recipe Rescue cooking competition hosted by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Taking first place in the final round for high school students was Evelyn Corona Ramirez, 14, and in fourth place was Cheyenne Washington, 15.

The PRY Track students competed for two hours against two other high school students to prepare and cook a healthy recipe makeover. Their teacher, Kenneth Williams, watched on the sidelines cheering them on. "Seeing them come from learning the basics of cooking to taking part in their first competition makes me truly proud for them," said Williams. DYCD partners with NYC's cultural, civic, and recreational institutions to provide experiences like Recipe Rescue for young people to learn, explore, and display their talents.

Ms. Ramirez prepared a Mexican dish known as, "Pastel de Tres Leches" (or Three Milk Cake). "This dish is normally prepared for special occasions, like birthdays and holidays and this day was special to me so I decided to go for it," she said. Fourth place winner, Ms. Washington, was thankful to be part of the competition. "I am really happy to be involved, it was fun and exciting!" she said.

For more than 14 years, NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers' PRY Track program has been providing afterschool academic enrichment activities such as dance and fitness sessions, SAT prep courses, and cooking classes, including drop-out prevention services to students at the John Jay High School Campus. "PRY Track is a fantastic opportunity for students," said Sarah Russ, PRY Track program coordinator. "The program helps them develop interactive skills and build their confidence."

Ms. Ramirez was awarded a trophy and Ms. Washington received a medal of honor. "I don't know what the next step will be for me," Ms. Ramirez said, "but I will definitely continue cooking."



Cheyenne Washington poses with her healthy platter comprised of chicken and broccoli, whole wheat pasta, and unsalted butter. NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers

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HOW TO DETERMINE IF DOWNSIZING IS FOR YOU

As men and women retire or approach retirement age, many opt to downsize their homes. Such a decision can save older adults substantial amounts of money while also liberating them from the hassle of maintaining large homes they no longer need.

Downsizing to smaller homes or apartments is a significant step, one that homeowners should give ample consideration before making

their final decisions. The following are a handful of tips to help homeowners determine if downsizing to smaller homes is the right move:

Get a grip on the real estate market. Downsizing is not solely about money, but it's important that homeowners consider the real estate market before putting their homes up for sale. Speak with a local realtor or your financial advisor about the current state of your real estate market. Downsizing

can help homeowners save money on utilities, taxes and mortgage payments, but those savings may be negated if you sell your house in a buyer's market instead of a seller's market. If you think the current market won't get you the price you are hoping for, delay your downsizing until the market rebounds.

Take inventory of what's in your house. Empty nesters often find that their homes are still filled with their chil-

dren's possessions, even long after those children have entered adulthood and left home. If the storage in your home is dominated by items that belong to your children and not you, then downsizing might be right for you. Tell your children you are thinking of downsizing and invite them over to pick through any items still in your home. Once they have done so and taken what they want, you can host a yard sale, ultimately donating or

discarding what you cannot sell. Once all of the items are gone, you may realize that moving into a smaller place is the financially prudent decision.

Examine your own items as well. Your children's items are likely not the only items taking up space in your home. Take inventory of your own possessions as well, making note of items you can live without and those you want to keep.

Continued on page 24

Dr. Alan P. Goldman: Treating And Relieving Arthritis Pain

There are a lot of people suffering with joint pain and arthritis, says **Dr. Alan P. Goldman**, a specialist in rheumatology (130 Brighton Beach Avenue, 718-946-7557), and they often believe that there is little that can be done to alleviate their pain.

They are wrong. There are many options available, Dr. Goldman says; the key is finding a physician who is knowledgeable in those treatment modalities.

As a rheumatologist, Dr. Goldman specializes in the treatment of arthritis; one of only a handful practicing in Brooklyn.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an inflammatory illness that causes joints to swell. Symptoms include morning stiffness and swelling, often in the hands, elbows, or wrists, he says. Perhaps because there are so few rheumatologists in the borough, when people experience these symptoms, they often "see a surgeon first," says Dr. Goldman. But this often doesn't make much sense, he explains.

"When you have stomach pains, you don't go to a surgeon before seeing a gastroenterologist," he explains. "When you have chest pains, you don't see a surgeon before seeing a cardiologist."

A surgeon is the expert to see when surgery is needed, he notes, and of course Dr. Goldman refers patients to surgeons when necessary. Still, Dr. Goldman believes that the majority of people who suffer with arthritis can be treated without surgery. Even those who suffer

enormously may find relief with Remicade IV infusion treatments, he says. "It has worked wonders."

Patients receive these treatments once every few months, and people who previously couldn't move well find that the "benefits are tremendous," he says. Those whose symptoms are less severe may find relief with pills or injections. This method has been used successfully for many years, says Dr. Goldman. And, "It still works."

When patients see Dr. Goldman they are assured of receiving expert evaluations. Dr. Goldman's office offers x-rays, and a number of in-office treatment procedures. Should patients need physical therapy, arrangements can be made for this, as well.

Dr. Goldman also recommends that people age 60 or older come in to be checked for osteoporosis. People who are thin or who smoke are especially at risk, he notes.

Dr. Goldman is a Harvard graduate who has studied at Bellevue Hospital-New York University Medical Center and Gouverneur Hospital in Manhattan. He is on staff at the New York Methodist Hospital, and he is a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology, as well as a member of the American College of Physicians, Nassau County Medical Society, the New York State Medical Society, American Medical Association, and the New York Academy of Sciences.

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Aging makes the body less accepting of sugars, thereby making aging men and women more susceptible to type 2 diabetes.

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According to the American Diabetes Association, as men and women age, their risk for type 2 diabetes increases.

Diabetes develops when the amount of sugar in a person's blood is too high. When a person has type 2 diabetes, his or her body does not respond to insulin, a hormone that regulates the amount of glucose, a type of sugar, in the blood. Aging makes the body less accepting of sugars, thereby making aging men and women more susceptible to type 2 diabetes.

But just because aging is an uncontrollable risk factor for type 2 diabetes does not mean men and women over 50 cannot take steps to reduce their risk. The Association advises that routine exercise and a healthy diet that is low in saturated and trans fat and moder-

ate in salt and sugar can help seniors stay healthy and lower their risk for type 2 diabetes.

Aging makes the body less accepting of sugars, thereby making aging men and women more susceptible to type 2 diabetes.

A healthy meal plan should include lean protein, non-starchy vegetables, whole grains, healthy fats, and fruit. In addition, those young and old who want to decrease their risk for type 2 diabetes should avoid sugar-sweetened beverages such as soda, sports drinks, sweet tea, and fruit punch.

Downsizing

Continued from page 21

If the list of items you can live without is extensive, then you probably won't have a problem moving into a smaller home. If you aren't quite ready to say goodbye to many of your possessions, then you might benefit from staying put for a little while longer.

Consider your retirement lifestyle. If you have already retired or on the verge of retirement and plan to spend lots of time traveling, then downsizing to a smaller home may free up money you can spend on trips.

And if you really do see yourself as a silver-haired jetsetter, then you likely won't miss your current home because you won't be home frequently enough to enjoy it. If travel is not high on your retirement to-do list but you have a hobby, such as crafting, restoring classic cars or woodworking, that you hope to turn into a second profession, then you might benefit from staying put and converting your existing space into a workshop.

Many retirees downsize their homes, but this decision requires careful consideration of a variety of factors.

Retirement saving for late bloomers

Today's young professionals hear about the importance of saving for retirement seemingly from the moment they are hired. In addition to discussions with human resources personnel about employer-sponsored retirement plans, young professionals are learning about the importance of saving for retirement thanks to the abundance of financial-planning advertisements on television, the radio, and the internet.

Older workers may not have been so lucky, and many may find themselves trying to play catch up as retirement age draws closer. It's important to begin saving for retirement as early as possible, but late bloomers whose retirement dates are nearing can still take steps to secure their financial futures:

Pay down debts. Eliminating debt is good for people of all ages, but especially so for those nearing retirement. Substan-



tial debt may delay your retirement and can greatly reduce your quality of life during retirement. If you still have substantial debt, eliminate it before you start saving additional money for retirement. Once your debt slate has been wiped clean, you can then increase your retirement contributions.

Eliminate unnecessary

expenses. If your retirement savings are low (many financial advisors now advise men and women that they will need at least 60 percent of their pre-retirement income each year they are retired), start cutting back on unnecessary expenses and reallocate that money toward retirement saving. Cutting out luxury items, such as vacations to exotic locales or coun-

try club memberships, is one way to save money. But don't

Start cutting back on unnecessary expenses and reallocate that money toward retirement saving.

overlook the simpler ways to save, such as canceling your cable subscription or dining at home more often.

Downsize your home. Many empty nesters downsize their homes as retirement nears, and doing so can help you save a substantial amount of money. If the kids no longer live at home or if you simply have more space than you will need after retirement, downsize to a smaller, less expensive home. Monitor the real estate market before you decide to downsize so you can be sure to get the best deal on your current home. Downsizing saves on monthly utility bills, prop-

erty taxes, and a host of additional expenses. Downsizing also means less maintenance, which gives you more time to pursue your hobbies upon retiring.

Take on some additional work. You may have long felt that you would slowly wind down in the years immediately preceding retirement, but taking on some additional work outside of your current job is a great way to save more for retirement and perhaps even lay the foundation for a post-retirement career. Workers over the age of 50 can be invaluable resources to startups or other businesses looking for executives who have been there, done that. Look for part-time jobs that seek such experience. Even if the initial jobs don't bowl you over financially, part-time consultant work in retirement can make up for lost retirement savings and may even make your retirement years more fulfilling.

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Making prisons more productive



Author Baz Dreisinger.

“Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World” by Baz Dreisinger
c.2016, Other Press
\$27.95 / \$35.95 Canada
336 pages

can American cultural studies and is passionate about working with about-to-be-released prisoners, Baz Dreisinger says she’s used to surprising people. Her “peculiar blend of identities” is unique — and so was her idea of a two-year journey to visit prisons around the world.

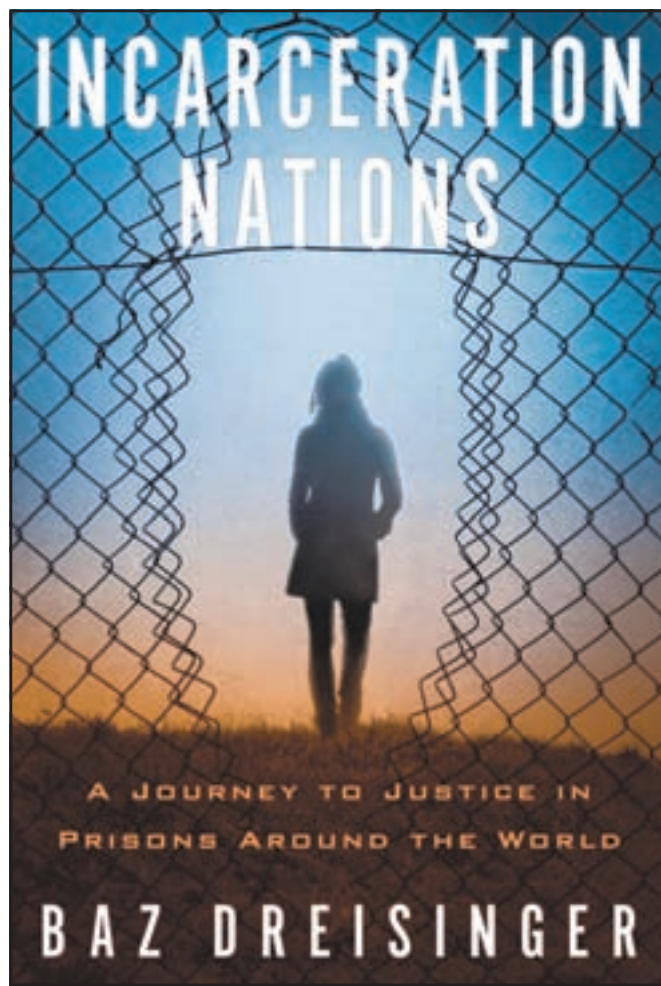
The statistics that spurred her are “devastating:” More than two million people are behind bars in America, making the U.S. the “world’s largest jailer.” There are more African Americans in jail today than were enslaved 166 years ago; one in 14 black men is incarcerated in the States. American prisons hold 160,000 “lifers,” as compared to fewer than 60 lifers in Australia.

America’s prison model, says Dreisinger, is exported around the world. But the world, as she discovered, altered those plans.

In Rwanda, where violence between Hutus and Tutsis horrified us a generation ago, she discovered that bribery and corruption are “rampant” but prison programs bring criminals and victims together to attempt forgiveness.

In South Africa, in the prison where Nelson Mandela was held, she learned that apologies are nice, but a phone call to a prisoner’s mother does even more.

In Uganda, where overcrowding leads to horrific conditions and corruption is “endemic,” she learns that prisoners are hungry for beauty in words. In Thailand, she toured



Author Baz Dreisinger.

women’s prisons where guards by their names and faces, not are required to know women their numbers.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You do the crime, you do the time.

If you’re willing, in other words, to misbehave or break the law, you need to be willing to face consequences. But what if the crime doesn’t match the punishment? What if your sentence doesn’t have a period at the end? Or what if, as you’ll see in “Incarceration Nations” by Baz Dreisinger, you didn’t commit a crime at all?

As a white Jewish English professor who focuses on Afri-

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Continued from page 8

be created.”

Further, he maintained that strengthening Jamaican institutions by limiting corruption, enhancing transparency and respect for the rule of law will improve trust in the political process, in addition to opening doors to greater domestic and international trade.

Dialogue Between Democracies follow in the same vein as other panel discussions about security and good governance, which were held in Kingston, Jamaica, in January of this year. Those discussions highlighted many key points, including the continued strong security cooperation between Jamaica and the USA through training and capacity building; and, facilitated perspectives on issues, such as what could be deemed as the security force's reliance on extraditions to the USA, which some participants surmised could consequently weaken local law enforcement institutions.

The last topic of discussion was how the Jamaican brand could be used as a force for overall development and growth of the country of Jamaica. Jarrett gave his insight on the matter. “Jamaica has been through a long and hard journey despite still being a relatively young country. We are at a place in history where the time for the more complicated work needs to be done. Jamaica's economy has been transformed into something that is more

service based. It's time that the modern tools of good governance be applied to Jamaica; it's a time where we have to think more. We have to apply modern expertise and part of that expertise is shown by how we project our country and how we as citizens of Jamaica become more engaged; it is shown by how we invest and speak about our island as well as how we address those ills that are in the island. We must

We have to apply modern expertise and part of that expertise is shown by how we project our country and how we as citizens of Jamaica become more engaged;

move from those days where, ‘Informer fuh dead!’ It is up to us, the citizens of Jamaica and those outside of Jamaica to make a difference and to continue this dialogue between the two peoples of Jamaica and the U.S.”

Dr. King maintained, “In the final analysis, we hope to find the most effective ways for both Jamaica and the United States, strong democracies in partnership, to cooperate in pursuit of their mutual interests. We believe these forums will provide a platform which will facilitate the voicing of different opinions on the current partnership between our countries, and in so doing to identify ways in which the partnership may be strengthened.”

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Outrage over Brooklyn DA's plea for convicted

A honeymoon with Ken Thompson, Brooklyn's first Black district attorney seems to be over.

After a year-long romance since his election in 2013, and the fact he overturned more than 19 wrongful convictions by his predecessor DA Joseph "Joe" Hynes, the pioneering prosecutor has lost favor with supporters who voted in large numbers to seat him in the lofty position no other Black had ever occupied.

Some who were previously enamored by his promise to serve the community are now calling him a "traitor" and on the 48th anniversary of the assassination of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the trailblazing Kings County prosecutor will be visited by disgruntled New Yorkers who believe he wronged an entire Black community by recommending leniency and no jail-sentence for a police officer he convinced a jury to convict.

That DA Thompson vigorously pursued a charge of manslaughter in the second degree against NYPD Officer Peter



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Liang and ultimately proved to a jury that the same individual recklessly endangered the life of 28-year-old Akai Gurley when he pulled out his weapon and squeezed the trigger without regard to the fact Gurley was unarmed could be explained away with justification of a change of heart.

The fact he won a conviction proved to be cause célèbre for a segment of the society. However, last week when the DA sent a memo to the Asian judge recommending no prison sentence for the convicted Asian officer, the same group erupted in protest and is now mobilizing to rally against his plea.

Already determined to express dissent are members of Gurley's family who disagree with DA Thompson's plea to Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun to waive any prison sentence and instead apply six months house detention and

community service as punishment for manslaughter.

"District Attorney Ken Thompson betrayed the Black community," Brooklyn Assemblyman Charles Barron said.

"This sends a dangerous precedence."

"This cop is getting away with murder."

The ire of the Black community dominated local talk shows with callers verbally assailing the once-beloved lawman.

Assemblyman Barron, one of the organizers of the April 4 demonstration outside the DA's office, explained: "This officer was indicted and convicted for manslaughter in the second degree. That crime carries up to 15 years in prison. For DA Ken Thompson to only recommend five-years probation, six months house detention and community service for an officer who recklessly took the life of Akai Gurley and negli-



Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson speaks during a press conference, Wednesday Oct. 15, 2014 in New York.

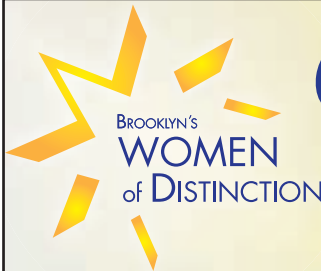
Associated Press / Beбето Matthews, File

gently refused to help save his life, tells me even with a Black district attorney, Black lives do not matter to this system."

United in dissent with his wife City Councilwoman Inez Barron, the East New York legislator and Civil Rights activist expressed outrage that such a proposal was presented to a judge.

"A prison sentence is not warranted," DA Thompson said.

"His incarceration is not necessary to protect the public, and due to the unique circumstances of this case," should be permitted to wear an electronic bracelet, and obligated to perform 500 hours of community service.



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Byron Lee album cover.

‘Bacchanal’ in Jamaica Mas

By Vinette K. Pryce

Calypso and soca music lovers in Jamaica will go back to the future on April 3 with the re-launching of Jamaica Carnival.

Missing from the cultural calendar since Byron Lee, its founder died at age 73 in 2008, it seemed as if his brainchild died with him.

Not so said his daughter Julianne Lee.

After an eight-year hiatus, Jamaica Carnival is set to return next year and Sunday, a sampling and reminder of

Continued on Page 34

Phagwah brings Spring to Richmond Hill, Queens

By Tangerine Clarke

The vivid colors of spring were everywhere on the streets of Richmond Hill, Queens last Saturday, when Caribbean nationals celebrated the festival of Phagwah, to welcome the dawn of spring, a season of joy and love, and signifies good over evil.

Also known as Holi, the festival brought out hundreds of nationals, many who wore white attire expected to be drenched in colored powder known as abir — to display the splendor

Continued on Page 34



Tammy Morgan models BCBG Leopard Shor outfit.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Models strut stuff at Lions Club Show

By Nelson A. King

The Brooklyn Transition Lions Club brought the best out of some patrons on Saturday when they were asked to strut their stuff before an appreciative audience at the club’s inaugural Easter Fashion Show Luncheon extravaganza at St. Gabriel’s Golden Hall on Hawthorne Street in Brooklyn.

The club also honored four community figures at the event: Guyanese natives Leslie Brooks, also known as DJ Leslie; Sharon Anne

Trotman; Patrick Verwayne; and Caribbean Life’s senior reporter Nelson A. King, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Emceed by Guyanese Grace-lyn Forde, the models, all “loving moms” who love to sing, received rave reviews, impressing the large audience with their evening wear. All models, except Vincentian Desma Dofflyn King, were Guyanese natives.

Tammy Morgan, a teacher and a “vibrant mom” wore a BCBG Leop-

ard dress. Hazel Erskine, a member of the New Life Center of Truth Church in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, wore a three-piece yellow Sunday dress, with matching shoes and hat. Erskine also wore a matching cocktail suit, with complementary hat.

Jeannette Grant, who also represented New Life Center of Truth Church, wore an authentic Nigerian two-piece outfit, highlighted by cobalt blue earring and necklaces,

Continued on Page 34



Have a party to remember at Sirico's

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When you've got 90 years of experience, you know how to throw awesome parties.

Their grandparents may have started Sirico's Catering, but two cousins, Hercules and Jim Sirico, are the ones that keep these parties going every night.

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Music: The house DJ is young, hip, gets the party started, and keeps it moving all night long.

Pictures: Photos and videos will be treasured for a lifetime, so Sirico's works with proven photographers and videographers who make sure special moments are captured. The beautiful gardens and active fireplace in the lobby make perfect backdrops.

Decorations: Lighting sets the mood and atmosphere, so color-coordinate your event with an LED lighting package. It can match your wedding colors. Or, reach for the stars with specialized effects that include an image of a bright blue

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Tropical Bar: Say aloha to the place where teens enjoy drinks that include virgin pina colodas, strawberry daiquiris, and frozen sensations.

Food: A buffet loaded with fun food, customize designed to taste. Among the offerings: taco stations, a mashed potato bar, and sliders. For dessert, there's an ice cream sundae bar, candy tables, and Sirico's famous chocolate fountain.

Decorations: Select from in-house designs and decorations, tailored to teens. Balloon center pieces are always a hit.

Other parties

Every special occasion calls for unique needs, and Sirico's accommodates them all. Whether it's an anniversary, retirement, Communion, Confirmation, corporate event, or other special occasion, Sirico's is the place to be.

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Inside Life

Continued from page 30

"This is a major injustice...unprecedented," Assemblyman Barron said, "an incredible wrong to the entire community."

Convicted last month for firing the deadly shot, Liang, a rookie cop and his partner, Shaun Landau, also a rookie, were allegedly making a routine vertical check throughout the Louis H. Pink Houses in East New York on Nov. 20, 2014 when a bullet fired from Liang's gun ricocheted off a wall and struck Gurley in the chest.

It was one week before Thanksgiving and reports of police shootings of Blacks seemed recurring headline news throughout the country.

Deadly police shootings in Baltimore, Maryland, Ferguson, Missouri, Detroit, Michigan, Cleveland, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois added to statistics reporting that despite the fact Black males between the ages of 15 and 34 comprise two percent of the US population their death rate from police shootings is a whopping 15 percent.

That rate is five times higher than those of whites.

One of the prevailing aspects to the Brooklyn case revealed that NYPD policy forbids officers to discharge their weapons unless they are faced with a deadly threat to their lives.

Prosecutors argued that Liang had acted recklessly by putting his finger on the trigger when he entered the stairwell.

Liang testified that his gun went off accidentally when he was startled by a sound in a dark stairwell.

Another glaring revelation from the prosecution was that after the shooting neither Liang nor his partner attempted to resuscitate the dying tenant who laid bleeding and helpless.

Jurors also heard that neither of the rookie cops bothered to call for emergency medical aid.

That factor may have contributed to the guilty verdict.

Reportedly, immediately following the shooting Liang called representatives of his PBA union and with his partner contrived an explanation for the shooting.

Compelling argument proved that Liang delayed reporting the gunshot and failed to administer first aid. He testified that neither he nor his partner realized a bullet had hit anyone until minutes later, when they found Gurley bleeding on a landing below. Both rookies were terminated and reportedly will not be reinstated by NYPD.

Liang is scheduled to be sentenced on April 14.

At that time, the judge could adhere to DA Thompson's request or sentence the former police officer to a maximum of 15 years in prison.

According to DA Thompson, he made the recommendation because Liang had no criminal history and does not pose a threat to public safety.

But an outraged group is convinced that pressure was placed on the prosecutor and perhaps he was forced to make the controversial decision.

"I think there should be a consequence of his action. Someone was killed," an irate New Yorker said.

"Six months' house arrest is ridiculous. It's insulting."

"Thompson is playing two sides for the middle."

"Who got to Brooklyn, District Attorney Ken Thompson?"

"How can he legally justify not recommending one day in prison for NYPD Officer Peter Liang, who recklessly took the life of an innocent Akai Gurley, who was unarmed and not committing any crime?" Assemblyman Barron posted on his Facebook page.

Those and other stirring comments have been surfacing on social media outlets.

Some claim the Asian community forced the plea.

Led by organizations representing the Asian community, several disgruntled Asians railed against the February verdict during demonstrations saying Liang was convicted because he was Asian.

They claimed the guilty verdict was a result of a scheme to scapegoat Liang due to his race.

There are also those who claim Pat Lynch, president of the Police Benevolent Association might have also influenced DA Thompson's appeal.

"District Attorney Thompson was elected on the promise that he would not allow officers to act as if they are above the law," the Gurley family said in a statement. "His sentencing recommendation is a betrayal of that promise."

Kenneth Palmer, Gurley's stepfather, said he felt awful about the recommendation.

"What is justice? That's my question right now."

"If it was your son, what would you think?" he added.

DA Thompson said that while Liang was convicted because his actions led to the death of an innocent man, "there is no evidence, however, that he intended to kill or injure Mr. Gurley."

Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee and there is more than a coincidence that on that anniversary, the first Black DA in the borough will be publicly rebuked by some of his staunchest supporters.

One of the first public appearances he made after accepting the oath of office found him delivering the keynote address at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. birthday tribute at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Enthusiastically greeted with a standing ovation, he offered a glowing tribute to the Civil Rights martyr and promised that he would reform the criminal justice system during his tenure. Since that time he has successfully recouped large caches of illegal guns using an amnesty-free gun buy-back offer.

A former federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York, Thompson was a member of the team that successfully prosecuted former NYPD Officer Justin Volpe in the brutal 1997 beating and torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima in the 70th Precinct stationhouse in Brooklyn.

Catch You On The Inside!

Man of Steel against the Caped Crusader

“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice”
Fair (1 star)
Rated PG-13 for intense violence, pervasive action and some sensuality
Running time: 151 minutes
Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures



Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill) in the movie “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice.”
Warner Bros. Picture

By Kam Williams

Let's face it, Christian Bale's Batman was going to be a hard act for any actor to follow, especially Ben Affleck who had already proved underwhelming as a superhero when he played Daredevil back in 2003. And the departure from the franchise of Chris Nolan, the legendary director of the critically-acclaimed Dark Knight trilogy, only served to lower expectations even further.

Thus, it's no surprise that “Batman v Superman: Dawn

of Justice” would indeed prove to be a bitter disappointment. The picture was directed by Zack Snyder who also helmed the 2013 reboot of Superman, called Man of Steel.

The first problem with this terribly-flawed, second offering in the DC Extended Universe

series rests in its interminable 2-and-1/2 hour running time that could have easily been trimmed down to less than 90 minutes. For example, why bother revisit the backstory about what inspired Bruce Wayne to become Batman, when the murder of his parents

had previously been addressed in numerous other episodes?

The second issue with the production has to do with Batman and Superman's (Henry Cavill) being cast as adversaries for the bulk of the film. Yes, the source of the tension between the two is adequate-

ly explained, but the audience nevertheless grows increasingly impatient since we'd much rather see our beloved heroes quickly resolve their differences in favor of joining forces to fight a real villain.

After all, there is an eminently detestable adversary waiting in the wings in the person of the diabolical Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg). Too bad this tortoise-paced blockbuster takes forever to arrive at that epic showdown. Instead, we're forced to endure the meaningless machinations of a convoluted adventure less concerned with coherency than with atmospherics, action and special f/x.

Besides those superficial bells and whistles, director Snyder exhibits an annoying fondness for support characters with nothing much to do, from Clark Kent's colleague Jimmy Olsen (Michael Cassidy), to his boss Perry White (Laurence Fishburne), to Bruce Wayne's butler Alfred (Jeremy Irons).

Independent & Foreign Films

Catching the Sun (Unrated) Green economy documentary extolling the efforts of entrepreneurs in the U.S. and China to capitalize on the race to solar energy

Francofonia (Unrated) World War II drama giving a cinematic tour of the Louvre while explaining how the museum managed to prevent plunder of its collection during the Nazi occupation of France. Co-starring Vincent Nemeth, Louis-Do de Lencquesaing and Benjamin Utzerath. (In French, German, Russian and English with subtitles)

God's Not Dead 2 (PG for mature themes) Courtroom drama revolving around a public high school teacher's (Melissa Joan Hart) fight for her career and her First Amendment rights after being suspended for having a classroom discussion of Jesus. With Jesse Metcalfe, Robin Givens, Ernie Hudson, Pat Boone and Senator Fred Thompson.

Marinoni: The Fire in the Flame (Unrated) Reverential documentary chronicling the career of champion cyclist-turned-master bike maker Giuseppe Marinoni. (In English, French and Italian with subtitles)

Natural Born Pranksters (R for crude humor, dangerous stunts, and for pervasive profanity and sexuality) Practical joke comedy highlighting the work of such Youtube sensations as Roman Atwood, Vitaly Z and Dennis Roady.

Pandemic (Unrated) Sci-fi thrill-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

er revolving around a research doctor (Rachel Nichols) who represents the last hope for a cure after a virus wipes out New York City and threatens to decimate what's left of humanity. With Mekhi Phifer, Missi Pyle and Alfie Allen.

Sold (Unrated) Adaptation of Patricia McCormick's best seller of the same name chronicling the real-life ordeal of a 13 year-old Nepalese peasant (Niyar Sainik) sold to Indian sex traffickers. Supporting cast includes Gillian Anderson, David Arquette and Seema Biswas.

Standing Tall (R for profanity and some sexuality) Coming-of-age drama about a juvenile court judge (Catherine Deneuve) and a special ed teacher (Benoit Magimel) who join forces to rehabilitate a teen (Rod Paradot) in trouble with the law since being abandoned by his mother at the age of six. With Sara Forestier, Diane Rouxel and Elisabeth Mazeu. (In French with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Collide (PG-13 for violence, profanity, sexuality and drug use) Action thriller about a couple of American tourists (Nicholas Hoult and Felicity Jones) backpacking across Europe who end up on the run from drug smugglers in Germany.

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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 **My House**
Flo Rida
- 5 **Cake By The Ocean**
DNCE
- 6 **Me, Myself & I**
G-Eazy x Bebe Rexha
- 7 **Sorry**
Justin Bieber
- 8 **Hands to Myself**
Selena Gomez
- 9 **Pillowtalk**
Zayn
- 10 **I Took A Pill in Ibiza**
Mike Posner

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **This Is What The Truth...**
Gwen Stefani
- 2 **Something Beautiful**
Jordan Smith
- 3 **Chapter I (EP)**
Kane Brown
- 4 **The Passion: New...**
Soundtrack
- 5 **Traveller**
Chris Stapleton
- 6 **Sothern Family**
Various Artists
- 7 **25**
Adele
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Niykee Heaton
- 9 **ANTI**
Rihanna
- 10 **Hamilton: An American..**
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FASHION GALORE AT EASTER SHOW

Continued from page 31

King wore a custom-made outfit, designed by Guyanese CeCe Wear. The registered nurse was resplendent in the beautiful gold, Aplicard dress, with a knee-

length overcoat and matching jewelry.

"It was fabulous," said patron Shaundell Agrippa, a Guyanese native, who trekked from Springfield Gardens, Queens. "I enjoyed it.

"It was nice," added the director of Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C., Inc. Day Care Center. "It was a refreshing atmosphere to see them [models] on the Cat Walk, and celebrating Easter, too."

The event drew representa-

tives from several area Lions clubs, including: Brooklyn Midwood, Brooklyn Farragut, Winthrop Lions, Brooklyn Clinton Hill, Brooklyn Vanderveer, Brooklyn Crown Heights and Brooklyn Outreach.



The St. Lucia Dance Group takes to the floor.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Carnival

Continued from page 31

the hey-days will reintroduce the pageantry and revelry Lee relentlessly promoted on the island.

"It is not the actual carnival," the benefactor and director said of this week's launch, "It is just a teaser of introduction of what is about to come.

"We will be parading through sections of the corporate area on that day... the day daddy dubbed as 'Carnival Sunday,'" Lee said.

Originally staged April 1990 to maximize celebration of Easter, masqueraders paraded through the streets of the capital and reveled to the sounds of eastern Caribbean music at Port Royal and uptown areas of New Kingston.

Prior to the premiere event, via radio broadcasts, Lee invited diasporans and visitors to attend the latest Caribbean cultural event.

A kiddie carnival, concerts headlined by the Mighty Sparrow and a Road March debuted the colorful celebration.

With help and promotion from WLIB-AM, New York's

first 24-hour Caribbean radio station, listeners and tourists flocked to the island to join in the fun.

South Florida's WAVS-AM with its huge Caribbean listening audience also managed to convince more than a few to board then national airline Air Jamaica for the after-Easter bacchanal.

Both stations presented live broadcasts from the island to stateside listening audiences.

And although criticisms from the church focused on the Resurrection Day spectacular, crowds were not discouraged from traveling to Ocho Rios' Chukka Cove for the kick-off to the week-long fete.

Reportedly, the myriad activities attracted large numbers with crowds swelling from the first year's approximately 1400 masqueraders to more than 1.2 million in 1998.

Unique from Trinidad & Tobago's annual, Jamaica Carnival integrated its own reggae music often featuring Beenie Man, Admiral Bailey and others to complete the nightly lineup.

A wet fete in Port Royal featured reggae as well as other music genres to the beachside event.

Colorful trail in Queens

Continued from page 31

of spring, celebrated on the Hindu calendar.

The celebrants dabbed red, yellow, pink and blue dye on the faces of each other in a display of joy and friendliness to commemorate the 25th Annual Phagwah Parade organized by the greater New York based Guyanese Hindus.

From the very young, dressed in Indian regalia, embellished with jewels — to grandparents, friends and neighbors, who waved national flags — all enjoyed the festivities that began on Wednesday, March 23, during the Full Moon which is symbolic in the Hindu religion.

The exciting sounds of the Tassa drums, Dee Jays music and revelers along the Liberty Avenue parade route which ended in Smokey Park, brought jubilation to the community, especially because the spectacle, was cancelled last year due to disagreement among organizers.

Banners showcasing revelers from Hindu Mandir,



Little Jayden on his Tassa drum in the Phawah Parade in Richmond Hill.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

local businesses, the Queens College Alumni Association, and many other groups left a colorful trail behind them at yet another jubilant display of joy, which culminated with a cultural presentation with performances by Indian Chutney singer Terry Gagraj and many others.

Laya, who had a big smile on her face as she watched the floats from the side of the road, said Phagwah celebrates love peace, and happiness.

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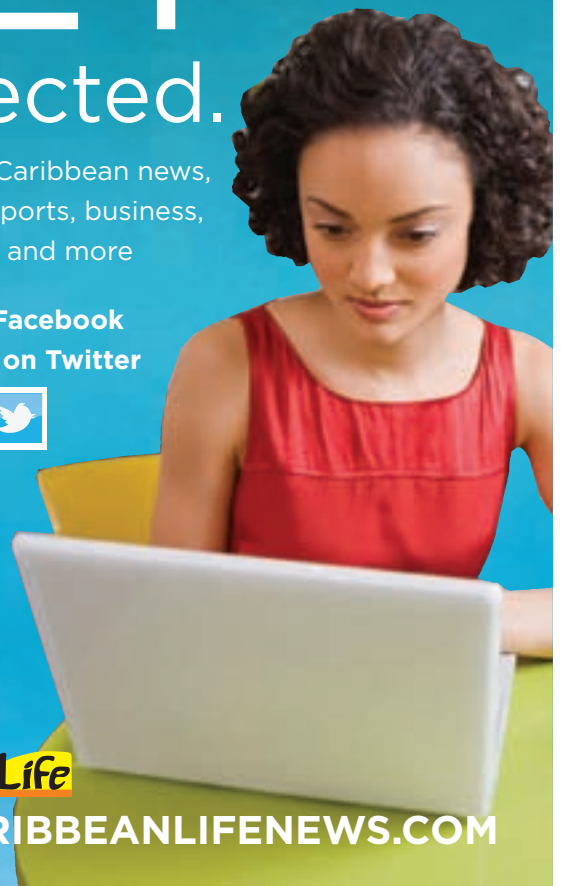
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Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

CARICOM battles WICB

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is seeking legal advice in its ongoing battle with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to have the controversial recommendations of its Governance Review report implemented.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said even though the WICB had taken a hardline stance against CARICOM, the regional prime ministerial grouping did not intend to back down and was pursuing other avenues.

“There has been no change. The West Indies Cricket Board has taken the

Continued on Page 38

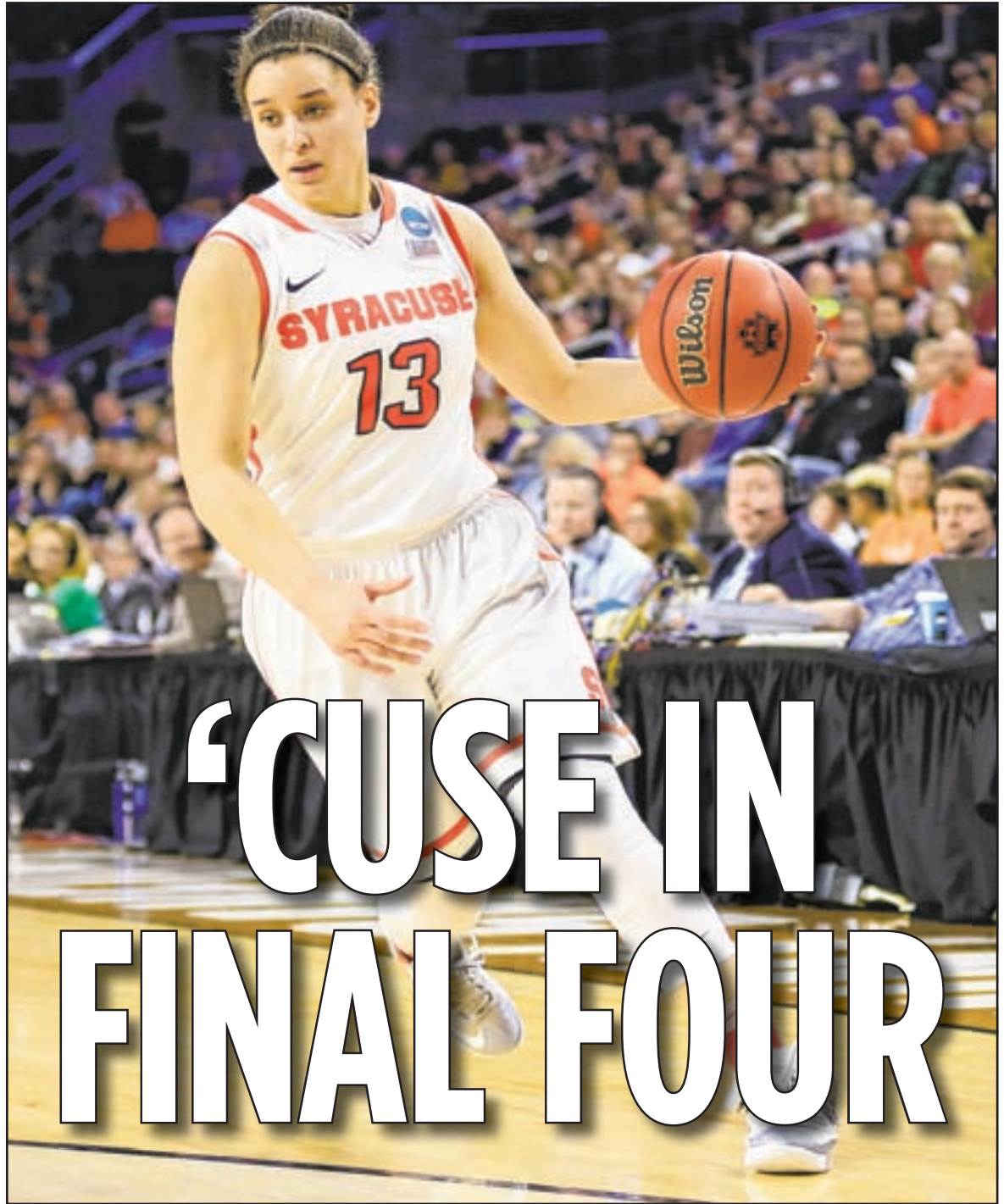
WI cricketer makes history

By Azad Ali

West Indies and Trinidad off-spinner Anisa Mohammed became the first bowler (male or female) in history to take 100 wickets in Twenty20 International as she spearheaded a superb bowling effort, to help beat Pakistan by four runs in a close Women’s Twenty20 World Cup opening match recently.

Defending a disappointing 103 for eight off 20 overs following another batting failure, West Indies amazingly restricted the Pakistan team to a paltry

Continued on Page 38



‘CUSE IN FINAL FOUR

Butler Did It: Former Lady Kingsman star Brianna Butler scored 18 points, all on three-pointers, to help Syracuse beat Tennessee and reach its first Final Four. Associated Press / Charlie Neibergall

Former Nazareth star Butler leads the way

By Trey Rodriguez

Former Nazareth star Brianna Butler shot the Syracuse women’s basketball team to its first-ever Final Four.

“I thought Brianna was unbelievable inside,” Syracuse coach Quentin Hillsman said after his team’s Elite

Eight win. “She came in and played some tough minutes for us.”

The former Nazareth star scored 18 points — including four makes from three-point range — for No.-4 seeded Syracuse in an 80–72 upset win over No. 1 South Carolina in the Sweet Sixteen. She followed that up

two days later by netting 18 points — all of which came from behind the arc — alongside five rebounds and two assists in the Orange’s 89–67 victory against No. 7 Tennessee in the Elite Eight. It was an experience of a lifetime for Butler.

Continued on Page 38

CARICOM seeks legal advice

Continued from page 37

position that they faced down Prime Minister Patterson and the Patterson Report, they now faced down Prime Minister (Keith) Mitchell and the CARICOM Sub-Committee and now the board has made it quite clear they won't cooperate with any attempt to reform themselves and save West Indies cricket," Rowley said during a television interview.

Rowley said they have asked the CARICOM Secretariat to get legal advice and support to determine what is the legal position with this product called West Indies cricket?

"The question arises with the people of the Caribbean, what is West Indies cricket? And how did this board get this product which they are marketing now and is being so bombastic in talking to the regional leaders," he added.

"If any action against the WICB is possible, then one needs to know what is the basis for the action and whether we like it or not, cricket is important in the region and will remain an important conversation," the prime minister said.

A CARICOM-commissioned investigative panel headed by UWI Cave Hill Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau, last November recommended the "immediate dissolution" of the WICB — a proposal which has since been rejected by the embattled board as an "unnecessary and intrusive demand."

Go to Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.



Butler Did It: Former Lady Kingsman star Brianna Butler scored 18 points, all on three-pointers, to help Syracuse beat Tennessee and reach its first Final Four. Associated Press / Charlie Neibergall

SYRACUSE WOMEN MOVE FORWARD

Continued from page 37

"I really never had the opportunity to cut down nets," she said. "Coach, the whole tournament, was telling us how great a feeling it is. It really lived up to that expectation of what he had told us."

Syracuse rallied late in the game after trailing by 10 at the half against South Carolina. Butler made a pivotal three at the 1:08 mark in the fourth quarter that extended Syracuse's recently-acquired lead to six. South Carolina, which features her former Nazareth teammate Bianca Cuevas, eventually fell.

"I have to give credit to my teammates and coaches," said Butler, a former McDonald's All-American. "They gave me confidence to come out in the

second half and fire. Lex [Alexis Peterson] told me they're going to fall. Even coach gave me the confidence. Even if I was missing, he wanted to keep shooting."

It was more of the same for Butler against Tennessee. She shot six of 15 from behind the arc in 36 minutes, crediting her coach with green-lighting the outside shooting.

"Coach has always given us confidence to shoot the three, influencing us to shoot them," said Butler. "It's something we've been able to do the whole season."

'Cuse won by 18 points, but it was a close game for all but the last six minutes of the fourth quarter. Butler's former Nazareth teammate Taylor Ford added three points and two rebounds

for the Orange. Tennessee made one last push in the fourth before Butler buried the team with two big threes that seemingly put the game out of reach. Butler once again credited her teammate and coaches for her success.

"Without their confidence — setting me up and finding me — I wouldn't be able to hit those shots I've been able to," she said. "They helped us take the lead, take away Tennessee's chance of coming back. It was just a great experience."

Butler's big game helped Syracuse advance to the Final Four as it gets ready to play No. 7 Washington in Indianapolis at 8:30 pm on Sunday. The winner of the matchup will advance to the championship game to face the winner of the UConn-Oregon State contest in the other semifinal.

Windies prez praises Jaguars

Continued from page 37

99 for five off their 20 overs, to make a winning start to their Group B campaign.

Mohammed picked up three Pakistani wickets for 25 runs.

The closest to her is Pakistan's Shahid Afridi with 95 wickets. This means she has more Twenty20 wickets than all her male West Indies counterparts. Her nearest rival is current West Indies Twenty20 captain Darren Sammy with 43 wickets.

The West Indies women have won

two of their matches so far.

Meanwhile the West Indies Cricket Board President Dave Cameron has offered congratulations to the Guyana Jaguars for successfully defending the Regional Four-Day Professional Cricket League title recently.

The team took home the George Headley / Everton Weekes Trophy.

The Jaguars racked up 149 points to win back-to-back titles and is the first winner in the newly formatted four-day competition.

President Cameron said, "what Guyana as a country has done with its

cricket product in the last three years, where all categories of their teams have won or been in a final, always challenging for a top position, is commendable".

Cameron highlighted the input of the WI Under-19 captain, Shimron Hetmyer, who since his return has been part of the squad and made an impressive century in the last round -107- and was also named Man-of-the-Match.

West Indies' bowler Anisa Mohammed celebrates the dismissal of Australia's Elyse Villani during their ICC Women's Twenty20 Cricket World Cup semi-final match in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi, File



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Guyanese youth get a chance at hoops

By Tangerine Clarke

Basketball coach Lugard Mohan says he does not turn away any child who shows up at his basketball clinic on Saturdays at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana, despite over crowding and insufficient balls for training.

He said the basketball clinic not only helps the boys and girls, it also helps him as an individual be a better person. Basketball also promotes comradery among the youths who are from different backgrounds.

"I was a hasty, impatient young man who could not relate to certain situations and after I started to play the game I became disciplined," said Mohan, who runs a skill clinic that helps the players to interact and stay fit.

Mohan, a former national basketball champion and team captain for the defunct Ravens Basketball team, one of Guyana's best some years ago, volunteers his time to ensure the players enjoy a good game of basketball in a disciplined envi-

ronment.

Now in its second year, the Youth Basketball of Guyana benefits from Mohan's dedication to share his skills with youths during two sessions every Saturday.

I was a hasty, impatient young man who could not relate to certain situations and after I started to play the game I became disciplined.

Despite playing with balls that are four years old, the four to 16-year-old students enjoy a good game of basketball. They eagerly run back and forth on the court showcasing the techniques of the game, such as shooting, ball handling, dribbling, offensive moves, defense, rebounding, to becoming first-rate players.

Mohan, who patiently guides each player through his or her paces during the four-hour sessions, hopes for donations of more basketballs, so that the program could be extended.



Coach Lugard Mohan (left) with players on the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall Court in Guyana
Photo by Tangerine Clarke

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you are ready to get moving and have a lot of momentum behind you. This is an ideal time to reach your goals. Don't let your confidence waver.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, this week it is better to trust your heart instead of your head. Sometimes you have to let your emotions guide your actions, and your gut could be telling you something.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you have good news to share and you are eager to reconnect with some friends or coworkers. Just complete prior commitments before you begin making plans to socialize.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, things in your life seem to be growing more challenging by the day. Make a list and tackle things as they come up so you don't start to feel overwhelmed.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
A few possibilities intrigue you, Leo, but you don't yet know just where you are going to direct your creative energy. Think it through a little longer.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you may feel like you can ignore your responsibilities this week, but you cannot. Although you have plenty of free time coming up, you have lots to do before then.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, someone close to you isn't on board with your point of view. You can't please everyone all of the time. Stay the course if you feel it is right.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, something is on your mind you need to share your feelings. Resist the urge to hold your tongue. Honesty is the best policy in your book.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you are having a lot of fun now that you made it through a rather extensive to-do list. You can finally rest and breathe a little easier. Make some time for yourself.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a busy schedule is proving problematic because so many people are demanding some face time and you want to help them all. However, you will have to pick and choose.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Your amicable nature and willingness to let go of your own personal agenda makes it relatively easy for you to interact with a lot of people this week, Aquarius.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, think of ways to increase your income this week. Explore all of your options, even if they mean going out of your comfort zone.

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Tab



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SONY

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