



Carnival in the air

Ciara Lynn wearing a "Scorpion Sting" female frontline costume designed by Hayden John & Ramon Bailey of L&H Creative Designs. **See story on page 41.**
Photo by Kevin Bollers

JAMAICA CASHES IN ON WEED

Country moves ahead with marijuana deregulation

By Bert Wilkinson

On the agenda of Caribbean Community leaders who meet in Guyana in two weeks is the controversial issue of legalizing marijuana for medicinal and personal uses but even as heads prepare for the summit, Jamaica is giving clear signals that it is pushing right ahead and not awaiting on the actions of the wider group.

Its Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA), the only one in the group of 15 nations, is taking definitive action to ensure the island cashes in on an industry which could transform the country from traditional dependency on bauxite, sugar and tourism, being ever mindful of the windfall cities in the United States have made from regulating weed.

The authority is the principal body established to tightly regulate the sector, monitor and grow its developments and

to advise cabinet and parliament about changes where necessary.

In the past week, the top brass of the authority sat down with editors at the Gleaner Newspaper to detail the workings of the authority and what it has in its sights for the sector. Officials have emphasized the need for tight control.

"We do understand that there are a lot of requirements, but we are dealing with an industry that has to be heavily regulated, so you do need a lot of requirements," said Hyacinth Lightbourne, the chairperson of the authority.

The issue has been on the radar of governments for the past two years with some like Guyana and Trinidad giving early signals that they are not fully ready to give perennial users a free pass until a full study on its implications is

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Wanted! A Caribbean tourism agenda

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) presented a paper to attendees at a Capitol Hill Briefing in Washington D.C., urging the creation of a Caribbean-United States public-private sector dialogue and a framework for a Caribbean-United States tourism action agenda to strengthen Caribbean engagement with the United States.

Maintaining that tourism presents the Caribbean with the quickest way to create jobs, reduce public debt and stimulate new business activ-

ity, CHTA's Chief Executive Officer and Director General Frank Comito said that "a new demand-driven public-private sector approach and resolve by the region's leadership, the United States and other major global tourism trading partners is necessary for the countries throughout the region to maximize the benefits from tourism and for the United States to further benefit from a more secure, stable and prosperous Caribbean."

Organized by the Washington-D.C.-based Caribbean-Central American Action and the

Inter-American Development Bank, attendees included representatives from the United States Congress and US Administration, private sector leaders, the diplomatic community and representatives from Washington's multilateral institutions.

Joining Comito at the briefing was CHTA President Karolin Troubetzkoy and Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, a member of the CHTA Board of Directors and chair of the organization's Government Relations Committee.

Comito called on stakehold-

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Borough President Adams congratulated Maria Nitti, owner of Isabella's Creations in Bensonhurst and organizer of a monthly birthday party for children at the CAMBA Flagstone Family Center, a homeless shelter in Brownville, on becoming "Hero of the Month" for May.

Borough President's office / Erica Sherman

Adams honors baker, educator

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Tuesday honored a local baker who organizes birthday celebrations for homeless children and an educator who has developed innovative programs to teach both children and adults.

Maria Nitti, the owner of Isabella's Creations in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, was declared "Hero of the Month" for May; while Rose Graham, the Jamaican-born vice principal of PS 399 Stanley Eugene Clarke in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, was named June's "Hero of the Month."

Nitti and Graham were lauded at a ceremony in the rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall, a continuation of Adams' "Hero of the Month" initiative honoring the accomplishments of Brooklynites from all walks of life.

"These women went beyond the call of duty," Adams said. "Their work personifies the work of a hero — going beyond their job descriptions to fulfill a need and provide real help to people in our community."

"Oftentimes we think of saving a life as a physical act by a police officer or a firefighter in an emergency," he added. "But anyone who has touched a life as Maria and Rose, has also saved a life."

In 2014, Adams said Nitti donated several boxes of cupcakes for a Christmas party at the CAMBA Flagstone Family Center in Brownville, a shelter for about 150 families with more than 400 children.

After seeing the joy on the faces of children at the shelter, the baker decided to launch Operation Birthday Party.

Every month, Adams said she organizes local food vendors to throw a celebration with birthday cake, a disc jockey, face painting, and gifts for children at the shelter who are celebrating their birthdays.

Immigration forum talks fraud and scams



Getting much needed advice: Guests at the second annual immigration forum at Saint Matthew's Church, listen on as representatives from United States Center for Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, discuss ways for undocumented immigrants to avoid scams and fraud. Photo by Louise Wateridge

By Alexandra Simon

Fearful and undocumented Brooklyn immigrants were given hopeful signs of relief at the second annual immigration forum at Saint Matthew's Parish Centre in Crown Heights on June 18.

The forum being held in a church building did not stop immigration experts from including the sacred house on its list of predators that undocumented immigrants should beware of.

"I have had real estate defraud cases involving churches — nothing is hands off," said Richard Farrell, chief of the District Attorney's real estate fraud unit. "Do not take financial advice at a church — go somewhere set up to give financial advice."

Whether someone is documented or undocumented, they should not be afraid of seeking help from public services if they have been a victim of any crime, according to representatives from the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.

Black immigrants in New York City have a population close to 1 million

people, with many hailing from the Caribbean, according to the New York Immigrant Coalition. But have lower rates of reporting scams, according to NYC. Farrell says going to the District Attorney's office is the safest way to report crimes.

"We, the D.A.'s office, will provide services regardless of your immigration status — because it's the law," said Farrell.

In its second year, the annual immigration forum is held to inform and educate documented and undocumented immigrants on how to protect themselves against money-seeking predators. The forum consisted of a panel represented by the United States Center for Immigration Services (USCIS), New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), and the Brooklyn District Attorney's office — all there to quell misconceptions about the immigration.

Deportation, legal advice, scams, and especially fraud, were among the top issues discussed.

"If an immigrant has been defrauded through an immigration scheme, they do not have to go to any precinct in Brooklyn," said Jose Interiano, Assistant District Attorney for immigration fraud unit. "You can come straight to us at the Brooklyn D.A.'s office."

Undocumented immigrants with paperwork being processed must also always be cautious of who they seek legal advice from, and to stay informed by an accredited attorney, said a representative for New York Legal Assistance Group.

"Please make sure you are speaking to an actual attorney," said Michelle Roberti, an immigration attorney for New York Legal Assistance Group. "If you file false immigration paperwork, and somebody actually sends this stuff to USCIS — the person who is going to be hurt is you."

Each organization has a website to seek valuable information, but if someone is unsure of its validity, they can go to the Brooklyn District Attorney's office at 350 Jay Street.

Caribbean

A commission charged with creating a human strategy for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was recently launched in Barbados and hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank.

CARICOM leaders took the decision to establish the commission at their 25th intercessional meeting in 2014. The commission has 17 specialists and other stakeholders in education and human resource development and its work is supported by the CARICOM Secretariat, as coordinator, and the CDB which is financing the reestablishment of a gender-responsive and socially inclusive CARICOM Strategy for harmonized education reform.



Antigua

The Immigration Department will impose a late fee penalty on immigrant residents in Antigua and Barbuda from the end of this month for failing to get an extension of stay on or before the expiry date.

Chief Immigration Officer Annette Mark said the measure is being undertaken by the department to keep residents in line noting that the practice is being adopted from other Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Caribbean nations.



Mark said the exact sum for the late payment fee has not yet been decided but it is going to be standard for everyone.

"We are hoping that persons will still come forward and regularize their time," he said.

Barbados

Sandals Resorts International has started the multi-million expansion of its Dover Beach property in Barbados with the construction of an additional 222 rooms and suites.



Dubbed Sandals Barbados "Phase 11," the expansion when completed in November 2017, will add to the existing



Coral reef in danger

At this Bonaire reef, the olive-green coral is alive, but the mottled-gray coral is dead. **See story on page 14.**

Inter Press Service / Living Oceans Foundation

280-room count and firmly place the property as the largest Sandals Resort in the Eastern Caribbean.

A press release stated that official ground-breaking ceremony was held on June 8, 2016, was led by Sandals Chairman Gordon "Butch" Stewart and Chief Executive Officer, Adam Stewart, along with Barbadian Minister of Tourism Richard Sealy, Health Minister John Boyce and several invited tourism and business officials.

The expansion is set to create an additional 520 new jobs bringing the total direct employment to more than 1,100.

Chairman Stewart assured that when completed, the expansion will set the stage for what is continued revolution in hospitality in the Caribbean.

On completion, the resort will offer five new restaurants, new spa and well-

ness sanctuary, three new swimming pools and an entertainment pavilion complete with a bowling alley, the first for a Sandals Resort.

Grenada

The Grenada government said it does not expect any backlash from a what is described as a civil matter in the United States involving Charles Liu, a citizen of Grenada under Section 11 of the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Act, because the matter has nothing to do with the program.



A government statement said: "A civil suit was brought against Mr. Charles by an investor who reported him to the Securities and Exchange Commission in the USA, requesting that an investigation be conducted because two years

had passed since he approached them for money to construct a modern cancer hospital."

However, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said recently that it had filed fraud charges and obtained an asset freeze against Liu and his wife, who are accused of misusing two-thirds of the money they raised from investors for the purpose of building and operating a new cancer treatment center.

Although the investigation may have been triggered by an aggrieved investor, the SEC made it clear that the complaint was filed by them, not the investor.

Minister of Economic Development Oliver Joseph told a post cabinet press briefing if the matter becomes a criminal indictment, Grenada will take whatever action is deemed necessary.

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T&T faces uphill battle in war on crime

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has admitted his government was losing the war on crime.

Speaking to supporters at a public meeting in St. Joseph about four miles from the city of Port of Spain, Rowley stated that every attempt by the Government to bring the crime situation under control it was being stymied and blocked by the Opposition.

He said this was affecting the lives of citizens. The police have recorded 205 murders so far for the year.

The prime minister said the Ministry of National Security had been allocated the largest slice of the 2015/2016 budget, making it more money government is injecting into crime fighting.

Rowley also slammed some members of the police service for not "measuring up" in the performance of their duties.

He noted that for the past nine months, the government has been trying to appoint a police commissioner to manage the service, but the Opposition has since challenged in court the process to appoint a commissioner of police.

He said if the morale of the Police Service was low and the environment



Trinidad and Tobago PM Keith Rowley.

corrupt, nothing would change.

"Trinidad and Tobago is losing the war against criminal elements. We are losing the war. We are saying we want a commissioner of police. There isn't a news item in this country where the major part of the news is who kill who," he said.

Rowley said criminals were now planning murders, kidnappings and mayhem.

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Marijuana industry takes shape



Hyacinth Lightbourne.

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Continued from cover completed.

The authority has said that it plans to be very administratively creative with this potentially transformative sector. It is getting ready to establish kiosks or dedicated desks at air and seaports so tourists can buy a temporary license to obtain and sample marijuana for personal use while on the island

Before such a system is implemented, authorities will have to plug any loopholes in existing laws to mitigate abuse or commercialization of weed obtained under the personal usage system.

The body is insisting that for now the drug would be administered only to people with prescriptions and not on an ad hoc basis.

"It would primarily be for people who have a prescription and, in effect, you're doing it for medicinal purposes with a permit from the Ministry of Health. If they don't have a prescription, then they can do what we call 'self-declare', and this will allow them to have the two ounces while they are here," said Lightbourne.

The authority says it is favoring this regulated route to ensure the system is

properly managed and to avoid abuse and clashes with law enforcement. She also said that it is well known that some tourists come to Jamaica to use island's world renowned marijuana plant for personal and other uses.

"The thought is that if you are coming out of the airport, there is a kiosk that you can go to. So basically whoever is coming out of immigration can go to that desk and register and get that clearance," she said.

Jamaica's parliament has already passed legislation allowing ordinary folks to possess and use no more than two ounces. No other bloc member has dared to even discuss such an idea but law enforcement on the island has not complained about the move.

Caribbean tourism

Continued from cover

ers to explore opportunities and challenges for the United States and the Caribbean region through tourism.

He participated in a panel session with moderator former Jamaica Ambassador Richard Bernal, incoming provice chancellor of Global Affairs at the University of the West Indies and representatives from the financial services and energy sectors.

Two days prior to the briefing, the U.S. House of Representatives had just passed legislation to strengthen United States engagement with Caribbean countries.

The United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (H.R. 4939), which Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced with Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), would require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to submit to Congress a multiyear strategy focused on enhancing engagement with the countries of the Caribbean and outreaching to diaspora communities in the United States, Government, private sector and civil society interests.

The legislation puts particular emphasis on energy security, countering violence, expanded diplomacy, and other priority areas, CHTA said.

"The bill is an important first step

to see a further expansion on the collaboration between the United States and the Caribbean region and we hope that the appropriate funding will be made available to address the various requirements highlighted in the bill," Troubetzkoy said.

"We are all aware of the complex and diverse issues that affect many of our Caribbean nations and the strides that need to be made to jump-start our economies and create jobs, but also in the areas of climate resilience, energy efficiency, education and safety and security," he added. "Tourism is recognized as holding the greatest potential as the region's economic driver. Therefore, a strengthening of our collaborative efforts with the United States can only be beneficial to achieve our region's overall goals"

Comito said tourism ties between the United States and the Caribbean "extend well beyond the 14.3 million Americans who travelled as overnight visitors in 2015, spending over US\$15 billion in the Caribbean.

"This represented 50 percent of our record setting 28 million overnight visitors in 2015 and does not include those visiting our shores on cruise ships, mostly from U.S. destinations," he said. "Our ties extend to the cultural, historic and economic relationships which have underscored our connectivity and interdependence for centuries.

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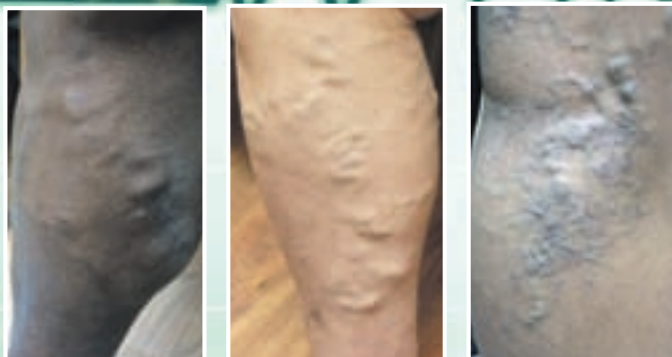
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A decalogue to understand terrorism

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 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 Yadhizites. 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 it's 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 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 histori-

cal 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 bearer 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 6 billion euros to keep the refugees at bay, after spending more than 7 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.

8) It is a fact that Europe cannot compete internationally and keep social stability, without immigrants. The working population has been in decline since 2010. Germany needs 800,000 people. In 2060, there will be 50 million people less in Europe, and the pension system, with a much older population, will go broke. At that time, life expectancy will be of 91 for men and 94.3 for women as against today's 80 for men and 85.7 for women. The average age of the 82 percent of Syrian refugees is under 34 years, and a study by the Ministry of Interior of Austria found that they are generally more educated than Austrian citizens. The European citizen should therefore look to immigrants as a resource and support. No campaign of awareness on this issue is in place, because it would be politically difficult to say the least.

9) The trend is the opposite. And xenophobic parties are on growth in every election, and they ask for expulsion of immigrants, like Donald Trump is doing in the U.S. This, beside being an impossible act, is also a gross political error. The animosity against Muslims, without any effort of understanding the complex reality, is playing into the hands of terrorism, and radicalizing immigrants who come to Europe in search of work and live in dignity.

10) The final conclusion is that we are getting into the trap of a clash of civilizations, where we defend a Christian Europe against a hostile Mus-

Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community News Group
Corporate Headquarters: One MetroTech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201

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A risky balancing act by Sanders

It may be that what Bernie Sanders has in mind, strategically, heading to the Democratic convention turns out to be a pullback from the “messy” experience he had promised. One would certainly hope so. His refusal, even after the run of primaries was over, to acknowledge Hillary Clinton as the clear winner and pledge his support to the party’s standard bearer may get a rise out of rabid Sanders supporters wishing and hoping for some miraculous turn of events. But in this year of the Republicans having knowingly and recklessly committed to taking the electorate through the muck with their Donald Trump candidacy, it absolutely is no time for these Sanders antics. And he stands an excellent chance of precipitating a game-changing slide in public perception — from a high positive for his contribution to the Democratic nomination process, to a self-serving sour grapes posture that diminishes him immeasurably.

Sanders cannot have it both ways. He cannot in one breath sound off about doing all he

can to ensure Trump’s defeat and signal, in the next, that he has a problem accepting the indisputable nominee choice of Democratic voters. Indicating, as he did in his online remarks to supporters the other day, that he was looking forward to working with Clinton “to change the Democratic party” is simply not good enough, at this stage of the process. And a damned sight presumptuous too, for a late arriving addition to the Democratic fold.

It’s not unreasonable to conjecture that this rush of what appears to be arrogance on Sanders’ part is primarily a function of the response his campaign was able to generate, rather significantly among a younger voter demographic. It was all good that Sanders could tap into something that so readily resonated with a younger voting sector. At the same time, while there was nothing to fault in his overall spiel about economic justice and addressing all areas of social imbalance affecting the underclass, it was our feeling that parts of his proposed agenda, like free tuition at pub-

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

It’s not unreasonable to conjecture that this rush of what appears to be arrogance on Sanders’ part is primarily a function of the response his campaign was able to generate, rather significantly among a younger voter demographic.

lic colleges and a reconfigured Wall Street model (as different from Wall Street being made to play by the rules) stretched political pragmatism and were only in essence a prescription for continued Washington gridlock. But Sanders’ interpretation of where his campaign landed him — some lofty space that allows him to trample over

established Democratic party procedure — is a fanciful leap. He apparently needs to get a better grip on the nuts and bolts of switching party affiliation and seeking the nomination as a Democrat.

It must require hubris in copious supply in him for Sanders to be demanding party changes like ending the selection of super delegates or insisting on the removal of Debbie Wasserman Schultz as Democratic National Committee chair... unless there’s notable demand for such changes from within the party core. The idea that those heavy-duty demands could emanate from so recent a Democratic convert is a bit difficult to fathom. It begs the conclusion that Sanders seems clueless as to any distinction between earning and not having earned the Democratic nomination. But there’s been speculation, too, of Sanders merely doing the bidding of others calling the shots in his camp. Among whom, so goes the scuttlebutt, is Sanders’ wife — “a pretty good Lady Macbeth,” someone reportedly said.

Notwithstanding those idyl-

lic scenarios Sanders partisans are inclined to paint about the merits of his battling to the bitter end in his nomination quest, hard facts about his bid to become the candidate stand firm. Most compelling of all perhaps being that Sanders was well aware when he entered the fray, of what the Democratic Party ground rules were. He knows full well that attempting to make an issue about super delegates committed to Clinton, for example, was disingenuous, this having been a fait accompli when Sanders became a player. Beyond which, Clinton rolled up a larger tally of primary votes and substantially more delegates, and as the primaries wound down and he seemed to position the California vote as a sort of acid test of their respective strengths, she handily defeated him there.

Altogether, there’s precious little merit in Sanders and his crew’s continued hard-ball stance. As this election increasingly commands our gaze, with the stakes perhaps more critical than any within recall of anyone who will be party to this 2016 edition.

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OP-EDS

Understanding terrorism

Continued from page 10

lim world. This is the worst possible error. It plays well into the hands of the ISIS rhetoric, and like any clash, calls for polarization. It helps the right wing and xenophobe parties to take over Europe, with an increase of fear and insecurity.

Polarization is never helpful for democracy and tolerance. A group of 50,000 militants (in a world of 1.3 billion Muslims), is able to change our lives, reduce our individual privacy and freedom, and

increase militarism and surveillance. If we do not get out of this trap of a clash of civilizations, Europe will change deeply and forever, because the phenomenon of terrorism is here to stay with us for generations... It took nearly two centuries for Europe to get rid of the wars of religion. In the 30-year-war (1618-1648), eight million out of a total population of 110 million, the majority of them civilians lost their lives. Will history help us to face the present?

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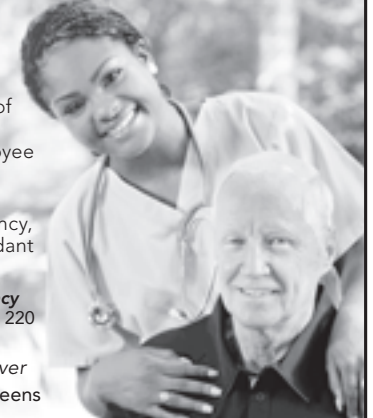
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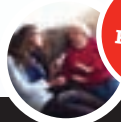
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Coral Reef Tourism in danger

Bahamians vote no

By Lyndal Rowlands

June 7, 2016 (IPS) - A recent UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report on world heritage sites in danger from climate change received widespread media attention after the Australian government requested the removal of a chapter on the Great Barrier Reef.

However the Great Barrier Reef is not the only coral reef at risk from climate change. The report described how coral reefs all around the world are being directly effected by warming waters and acidification associated with changes in the climate.

While coral reefs can adapt to gradual changes in ocean temperature, especially if they are free from other local stressors like over-fishing and water pollution, it is expected that their ability to adapt is "highly likely" to be outstripped by rates of climate change in the coming decades, the report said.

Keeping half of the world's coral reefs would require stopping warming at just 1.2 degrees, the report said, while preserving more than 10 percent would require limiting warming to 1.5 degrees celsius.

However the world is already far off track for achieving such limited rates of warming, and many coral reefs are already in danger.

"We know that temperature is the main driver of bleaching and that temperature increases are primarily related to global climate change," Melanie McField, director of the Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative at the Smithsonian Institution told IPS.

"There will be a limit where the temperature becomes so high that even the ones in the pristine areas with the right balance of fish and clear, clean water they will also be impacted."

Addressing local stressors such as over-fishing and water pollution can help the reefs to adapt, but McField says that this is only buying the reefs some time.

"It buys you time, that's the way we often explain it, while those leaders in the United Nations (UN) fix the problem."

"We're doing all the other things, but on the climate really we're looking to the UN, to the leaders, to the private sector, someone else has to fix that," she said.

Many of the world's coral reefs are in developing countries, which rely on them for tourism and fishing.

The world's second largest coral reef, the MesoAmerican Barrier Reef, also known as the Great Mayan Reef, borders Belize, Honduras and Guatemala.

"Tourism is now the number one

sector of the economy in most of the Mesoamerican reef," said McField.

However while many developing countries rely on coral reefs for tourism, their ability to help save them varies, Madhavi Colton, lead conservation scientist at the Coral Reef Alliance told IPS.

"There are absolutely things that we are doing to reefs that we could stop doing to reefs that would absolutely help those reefs deal with climate change," said Colton.

"Yes coral reefs are in a lot of trouble but there are still things that we can do, we can still save coral reefs," she said.

"Generally the reefs that are in places where lots and lots of people live are doing worse than reefs in places where not so many people live," Colton noted.

Colton said that marine parks such as the Rorotan Marine Park in Honduras have been successful in helping reefs and fish to recover.

Another notable example, she said, is the country of Palau in the Pacific.

"Their government has realised that the vast majority of their revenue comes from tourism so they've established a green fee which is a tax on every visitor who visits Palau and that money is used to protect the resources that people are coming there to visit."

By Azad Ali

The Bahamian electorate has voted a resounding "no" to four bills which will have facilitated changes to the Constitution aimed at ensuring gender equality in citizenship matters in the recent referendum.

The first bill would have allowed children born abroad to obtain Bahamian citizenship from either their Bahamian father or mother, in circumstances where the other parent is not Bahamian; the second would have enabled a Bahamian woman who marries a non-Bahamian man to secure for him the same ability to apply for Bahamian citizenship currently afforded to a Bahamian man married to a non-Bahamian woman.

The third change would have seen an unmarried Bahamian man being able to pass on his Bahamian citizenship to a child father with a non-Bahamian woman, if he is able to provide DNA evidence that he is the father; and the fourth amendment would have updated Article 26 of the Constitution to make it unconstitutional for Parliament to pass any laws that discriminate based on sex. Prime Minister Perry Christie, who had run an aggressive Vote Yes campaign, described the results of the voting where the majority of the electorate voted "no" as a "setback."

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Robinson: Grenada is in crisis



Attendees at the NDC-NY Chapter Pre-Father's Day Brunch in Brooklyn.
Gerry Hopkin

By Gerry Hopkin

Randal Robinson, the recently installed public relations officer of Grenada's main opposition party, the National Democratic Congress, culminated his five-day visit to New York City, by attending and addressing the crowd gathered at the NDC-NY Chapter's Annual Pre-Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 12. The event was held at the auditorium of St. Therese of Lisieux, on Avenue D, in Brooklyn.

This was Robinson's first official visit to the Diaspora, on behalf of the NDC-Grenada executive, which has prioritized the need to fully engage Grenadians and friends of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, in New York and elsewhere, as partners in the sustainable, all-around development of the tri-island state.

On Friday, he met with NDC-NY Chapter leaders and members in a three-hour long meeting; while on Saturday, he visited several Grenadian-owned businesses in Brooklyn, during a walk-about, in the company of NDC-NY Chapter Nick Cox; PRO Gerry Hopkin and active



Randal Robinson, NDC-Grenada, PRO, as he addresses attendees at the NDC-NY Chapter Pre-Father's Day Brunch in Brooklyn

member Floyd Bishop.

The businesses visited were Puma's Auto; Whiskey's Shipping; West Cuisine; Ritz Restaurant; La Baye Market; Sam's Fashion and MCG Grand Cafe.

During the walk about, Robinson got to meet and greet several Grenadians living in the tri-state area.

Then at the Annual Pre-Father's Day Brunch, he was asked to open the formal segment by singing the National Anthem of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, which he delivered in classic style.

Later on, he also delivered remarks which reported worsening socio-economic conditions in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, where unemployment is at an all-time high of approximately 50 percent among youths. More than 60 percent of the population of the tri-island state are between 18 and 45.

"Grenada is in crisis — economically, morally, socially — and the job to fix this, is ours... This is not a time to look away," he said.

"Raise your voices, do what you can to get your relatives at home to say, enough is enough," continued Robinson.

Additionally, Robinson spoke of the importance of the much appreciated contributions of Grenadians in the Diaspora, who all have a role to play in the NDC's readiness to sustainably restore and develop Grenada.

"The NDC is about Grenada

[Carriacou and Petite Martinique], so when you come out to support events such as this one, you are supporting Grenada," he said.

The brunchers were also briefly addressed by Nick Cox, NDC-NY chairman, who at the start of the formal segment, had welcoming remarks; and by Lyn Alexander, the vice chairperson, who delivered a vote of thanks to the visiting public relations officer and to all who took the time to prepare for, and to attend the NDC Brunch, despite the numerous other Grenadian events that

were being held on Sunday.

Besides the wide selection of fine Grenadian breakfast/lunch dishes and beverages, the several NDC party faithful and concerned Grenadians, who came out, were treated to some sweet, mostly Grenadian, back-in-time music, supplied by DJs Jude and International Little B.

Gerry Hopkin, the NDC-NY, P.R.O. Gerry Hopkin moderated the formal segment of the brunch. He encouraged folks to mingle and meet and greet, after the formal proceedings were completed.

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Howard University alums create ap for Caribbean schools

By Alexandra Simon

A comprehensive web and mobile education platform is going to launch in the Caribbean next month — its first stop, Jamaica.

SmartTerm is a New Jersey-based web platform created by six Caribbean-American men — five from Jamaica and one from Trinidad. The program is going to provide students, parents, and educators with the best tool to serve their education needs by facilitating communication. The platform will be used to log and track information between the school and students and their families, and hopes to bridge the gap between educators and their students.

“It’s a cohesive web-platform that connects administrators, students, and parents,” said Theon O’Connor, director of communication for SmartTerm.

SmartTerm creators say the platform will allow students to communicate with their classmates, complete and submit homework, see disciplinary actions, check grades, and even have health records uploaded. Parents and teachers will also have access to the program allowing parents to be on the same track with teachers when it comes to their child’s education.

The platform is hyper focused on the Caribbean due to already limited access, which they say is going to present one of the the biggest challenges SmartTerm will encounter.

“Based on our research, there’s a lot that the Caribbean lacks compared to other regions of the world. The world is going further and faster into digital technology, and we think SmartTerm will be the way forward for education in schools for the future,” said Sean Wilkinson, chief technology officer for SmartTerm.

The company plans to start demos next month in Jamaica where they will introduce the platforms features, and display how it will benefit the school system. They will also expand into Trinidad and Barbados some months later, and eventually branch out to other islands if the launch is a success.



Meet the creators: From left, SmartTerm’s Chief Operations Officer, Stuart Crooks, Chief Executive Officer, Shamir Saddler and the Chief Research Officer, Jomo Haldane. SmartTerm was created by a team of five Jamaican-Americans, and one Trinidadian-American. Sean Wilkinson

The brains behind SmartTerm, Shamir Saddler and Stuart Crooks, are alumni’s of Howard University in Washington D.C. The duo decided to create SmartTerm upon experiencing the educational tools used here in the United States, and wanted to develop their own. They are joined by friends O’Connor, Jomo Haldane, Jayme Hoyte, and Sean Wilkinson.

“In summary, SmartTerm was created to increase efficiency in schools, getting the Caribbean region as a whole more involved with technology and lessening the manual burden of the administrative side of the education

sector,” said Crooks.

O’Connor says SmartTerm will change the future of the Caribbean and hopes that the diaspora can find gratitude with their innovation.

“We really want people to understand what we’re doing for the Caribbean community,” said O’Connor.

“Some people like to say that when people move away, we don’t remember where we’re from — and just living in U.S. with no care or concern about home. We want the people here to know that we do.”

SmartTerm launches in Jamaica on July 1.

Deep concern over political uncertainty in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Deeply concerned that the prevailing uncertainty in Haiti is further compounding the numerous political and socio-economic challenges facing the French-speaking Caribbean country, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says that further delays in completing the electoral process can potentially affect stability in the country, as well as international support

to it.

According to a statement issued by his spokesperson on Thursday, Ban called on the Haitian National Assembly to urgently decide on a viable arrangement for provisional governance that can ensure the completion of the electoral process and a return to full constitutional order without further delays.

The statement further said that the UN chief urged all stakeholders to act responsibly in the interest of Haiti and

its people, and to refrain from any incitement or resort to violence.

On Wednesday, the UN and its partners in Haiti expressed concern that measures to ensure institutional continuity had not been taken, despite missing several key deadlines regarding the political transition, as well as the ending of term of the country’s provisional president.

In a joint press statement, the Special

Continued on Page 22



From left, Sabrina Samuel, Mary Hoffman and Valerie Samuel.

Sabrina Samuel wins business award

Sabrina’s Play Studio owned by Sabrina Samuel is the winner of this year’s Statewide SBDC Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

According to The York College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Samuel has been a client of the center.

The NY SBDC Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award is given to the female business owner whose efforts and contributions have enabled their business to thrive with the assistance of SBDC services.

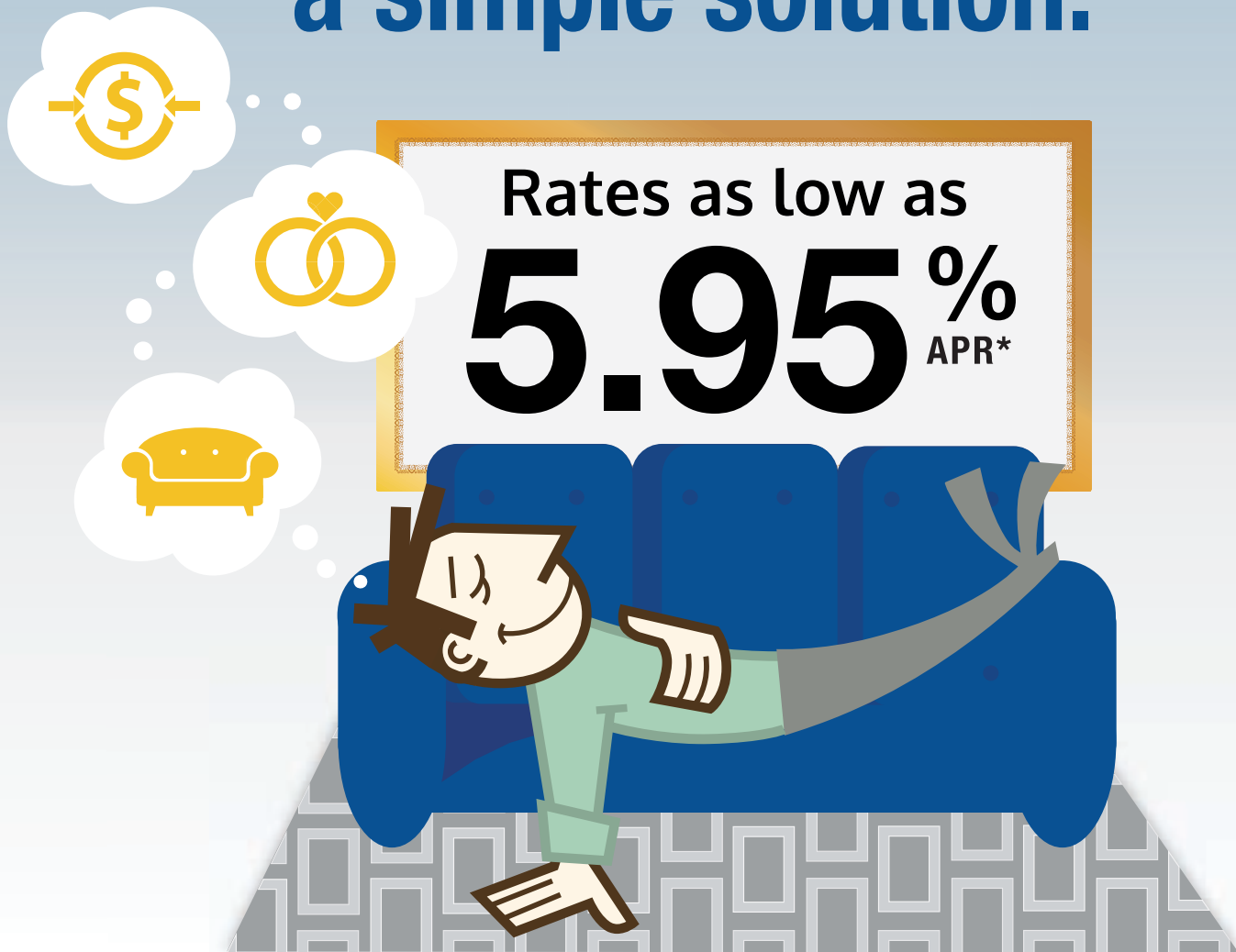
Samuel vision was that of an indoor play-space in which children could play in a safe environment, expand their motor and social skills, and which would foster their cognitive development. The facility is a 1,900-square-foot play space designed for kids from infants up to age nine. The well-organized facility looks like a giant recreation room and is divided into areas for different age groups. When Samuel was planning the new business, she consulted the SBDC about start-up costs, financing and sources of capital. In addition to standard play time, the center offers after-school programming, summer camp, birthday parties, children’s yoga, and storytelling sessions. The center also offers classes such as Mommy & Me, Movement through Music.

“The York SBDC was very welcoming and my business advisor really listened to what I needed and immediately helped me with my expansion,” says Samuel. “I’m so thankful to the my Business Advisor, Valerie White-Samuel and the SBDC for all their help and support.”

SBDC State Director James King said, “We are pleased to recognize

Continued on Page 22

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

Liu is one of the significant investors in the proposed Mt. Hartman Project in Grenada and was appointed as an agent for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program in the United States.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government has announced that all members of Parliament will be given Ja\$1 million to fight the Zika virus in their communities.

Speaking in the House of Representatives, Health Minister Dr. Christopher Dufton said the funding, which will be provided through the National Health Fund, will be channeled through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and will be available from July 1, 2016.



He said the funds will be used to train 1,000 community workers through HEART Trust / NTA who will be employed for six weeks beginning July; facilitate community and two hall meetings; undertake vector control activities at the community level; and to disseminate education material.

St. Kitts

Key stakeholders from a wide-cross section of St. Kitts and Nevis recently attended a crime reduction consultation organized by the Ministry of National Security.

Persons from faith-based institutions, Parents, youth groups and law enforcement took part in the June 4-11 consultation.

International social skills consultant Neal J. Chitan met with residents of the twin-island to discuss strategies as part of the government's initiatives to reduce crime.

Chitan said he is working to "uncover the root causes; and also to initiate concept and strategy that will not only create an anti-crime resolve in citizens but also create a national media buzz."



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Osmond Petty said the consultation is in keeping with government's strategy to implement "a broad-based, multi-faceted approach to crime reduction."

Petty said he was pleased with Chaitan's presentations, which centered on the Enforcement, Diagnostic, Education and Rehabilitation model and pledged to promote such.

Chitan also engaged members of the Criminal Justice Strategic Board, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and other groups and organizations.

Suriname

A military court has ordered that the murder trial of Suriname President Desi Bouterse in connection with 1982 deaths of his political opponents should resume after it ruled that an



amnesty law is unconstitutional.

The trial had been on hold since April 2012, when a parliament controlled by Bouterse's party approved an amnesty law.

A constitutional court was supposed to verify whether the amnesty law was legitimate, but such a court was never created.

After four years, the military court said it had waited long enough.

St. Vincent

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves recently laid the cybercrime legislation in Parliament. The bill had its first reading in Parliament and was sent to a select committee for review and consultations.



The legislation, among other measures, create offenses relating to cyber harassment and bullying, illegal accessing and remaining in a computer system, as well as illegal interception, acquisition or interference of computer data.

If the bill is become law, anyone convicted of an offense is liable to a fine of EC\$200,000 and imprisonment for up to 20 years. Critics say the legislation is intended to silence opponents of the government who use the Internet to engage in their activism.

Gonsalves, who is also Minister of Legal Affairs, has brushed aside his critics, saying the bill is regional in nature and adapted for local use.

Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government is bringing legislation to Parliament to make firearm and gang-related offences nonbailable for a period of two years.



This was disclosed by Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General Stuart Young at a news conference last week at the Office of the Prime Minister in St. Clair, Port of Spain.

He said similar legislation was passed by the former People's Partnership (PP) government with the support of the then Opposition (now ruling) PNM.

Young said there are currently provisions in place in law making people charged with certain offences, ineligible for bail, including illegal possession of firearms and kidnapping.

"What this law does is that persons charged with respect to these offences are not eligible for bail. The prosecution has 120 days with which to bring evidence to court and commence the case, failing which, the accused can then be eligible to apply to a magistrate or High Court judge for bail," he said.

Young said these provisions will expire in August and what the government is seeking to do is extend the provisions until August 2018 to allow law enforcement agencies as well as the prosecutorial arms to have ineligibility for bail for the next two years

-compiled by Azad Ali

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Borough Prez Adams emphasizes health

By Alexandra Simon

Borough President Eric Adams used a personal health battle to raise health awareness at the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce Industry's brunch on June 8.

The annual gathering organized to build economic development in Caribbean American communities here and abroad was destination for Adams to highlight the high rates of diabetes in minority communities. He triumphed over his own personal victory with diabetes, referencing a north star to representing an issue each ethnic community struggles with.

"All groups have their north star," said Adams. "Our health is our north star."

Adams talked about his struggle with almost losing his eyesight, as well as the diabe-



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

tes affecting many of his family members.

"If you have participated in adultery with your eating habits, and you're just married to that fried chicken and that roti — it is what it is," said Adams.

"If you don't mind injecting yourself twice a day, if you don't mind going from two pills, to three pills, to insulin, to amputation, to dialysis, to death — if that's what you

want to do, that's fine."

The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. was founded in 1985 in New York to provide assistance to small business owners. The organization in conjunction with the Office of the Borough President organizes an annual brunch to promote networking and encourage community building and small business creation

Entrepreneur Award

Continued from page 18
Sabrina for her extraordinary contributions to her community. Her hard-work and dedication have helped her achieve success and accomplish her goals, while at the same time

making a positive impact on the state's economy."
Samuel was honored along with the SBDC's other entrepreneurs of the year at an awards ceremony held in Lake George, New York in May.

Politics in Haiti

Continued from page 18
Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, Sandra Honoré, and the other members of the international community in Haiti represented in the "Core Group" — the ambassadors of Brazil, Canada, France, Spain, the United States and the European Union, and the Special Representative of the Organization of American States — took note of the opening of the second ordinary session of the Haitian Parliament in accordance with the Constitution.

National Assembly elected Jocelerme Privert as the nation's interim president, one week after former President Michel Martelly departed without a successor.

Privert served as interim president for 120 days, and an election had been scheduled for April 24, following an agreement — known as the Feb. 5 Agreement — between Haitian stakeholders to preserve institutional continuity and further the electoral process.

"The Core Group expresses concern that no measures have been taken to ensure institutional continuity beyond June 13 as provided for in the Feb. 5 Agreement," the statement said.

Subsequently, on April 25, Ban's spokesperson issued a statement underlining the UN chief's deep concern that that the agreed upon date for holding elections in Haiti was not met and that no alternate electoral calendar was announced.

On Feb. 14, the Haitian




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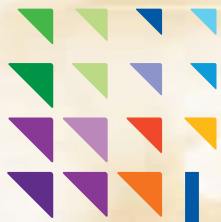
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Chaquanzha Stephenson and the pageant organizer.

Jamaican wears Dream Castle crown

By Nelson A. King

Jamaican American Chaquanzha Stephenson was crowned Miss Dream Castle 2016 at the coronation held last Saturday at the Royal Regency Hotel in Yonkers

The 24-year-old beauty, who resides in Stamford, Conn., beat out a strong field of eight contestants to take the crown, \$1,500 cash and a host of other prizes, including an all-expense paid seven-day / six-night trip for two at Dream Castle Villa in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Before a fair-sized crowd, Stephenson edged out another favorite, Essence Henley, who was adjudged first runner-up. Perpetua Smith, 18, was second runner-up, and 22-year-old veterinary technology student Carles Griffith, was third runner-up.

Stephenson currently works in Human Resources and believes God's divine plan for her is to serve the community at large with a special focus on youth.

She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a dual degree in Political Science and Justice Studies. Chaquanzha is working on building

her non-profit, Don't Oppress People, Educate! (DOPE) Inc., with the hope of empowering future generations.

Anaya Williams, daughter of pageant organizer Gwendolyn Nicks-James, opened the show with a creditable performance of Adele's "Hello" before MC Barry G introduced the contestants.

They made their first appearance in black swimwear and a purple wrap performing to the 1986 single by Prince "Kiss," as a tribute to the late entertainer.

Following the opening group number, the contestants returned for the swimwear competition. Contestants were also judged on smile, talent, evening gown, and question and answer.

Alexis Patterson of the Bronx was voted Miss Congeniality; while Shantinique Bell won the prize for Most Tickets Sold.

Salome, Tinga Stewart and The Del-phonics Revue featuring Greg Hill serenaded the contestants.

This year, the contestants wore an exquisite array of evening gowns courtesy of D'Marsh Couture and EN BLANC Couture Boutique.

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Brooklyn jazz legend honored at book-signing

By Alexandra Simon

Legendary jazz musician and composer Randy Weston was honored at his book-signing event where the artist was also praised for his talents and six-decade career, at Medgar Evers College on June 10.

About 200 people came out to celebrate the life of 90-year-

old Weston. Guests sat with the musician to watch a short documentary about his life, a performance by a jazz ensemble, and two dance pieces performed by the Afro-Caribbean dance group, "Something Positive, Inc." The piece was performed to African drums as a tribute to Weston's aptitude for the continent's sounds, one performer said.

"He is an icon in this community — a real performer, and he also loves the drum," said Michael Manswell, creative director of "Something Positive, Inc." "When we perform, we use live drums for every performance — it was the right thing to do."

Weston started his jazz career 60 years ago in Bedford-Stuyvesant. He set his style apart from other artists by notably incorporating African rhythms into his music. Throughout his career he traveled internationally, and knew other jazz legends such as Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

The college presented Weston with an Artists of Distinction plaque. Attendees also bought and got signed copies



The leading men: From left, Al Vann, co-founder of Medgar Evers College, with jazz musician Randy Weston, and Rudy Crew, president of Medgar Evers College, at an event honoring Weston's music at Medgar Evers College in Crown Heights.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini

of his autobiography "African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston."

Some performers say laud-

ing icons while they are living should be a priority, and that is why Manswell performed for Weston.

"He is 90, and not many of our icons live long — celebrating him was awesome," said Manswell.



The leading men: From left, Al Vann, co-founder of Medgar Evers College, with jazz musician Randy Weston, and Rudy Crew, president of Medgar Evers College, at an event honoring Weston's music at Medgar Evers Col-

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TEACH  

Daycare owners collaborate on pre-k graduation

By Nelson A. King

In a ceremony last Friday afternoon, filled with much pomp and circumstance, Guyanese-born mother and daughter daycare providers, Paulette Hyman and Shaundell Agrippa, collaborated in organizing the graduation of seven children from Pre-K at their daycare centers in Laurelton, Queens.

The seven graduating students from Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C., Inc. and Jeremy's Place Daycare — one was four years old and the others were five — will now go on to kindergarten in area public schools.

The graduates of Haitian, Guyanese, Jamaican, Grenadian and American parentage were: Girls Kourtney Bashford, Meila Pretto and Makayla Fluker; and boys Neithan Bashford, Hanif Mohammed, Marley Taylor and Jelani Ewart.

"Today is, indeed, a wonderful day," said Ms. Agrippa, the daughter-owner of the five-year-old Nicky's Little Sprouts,



Shaundell Agrippa presents a certificate to Marley Taylor.

D.C., Inc., where the ceremony was held in addressing the Class of 2016. "Today is about the children. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, and we are celebrating with you all.

"Sometimes, we are concerned about what a child will become tomorrow; yet, we forget that he is someone today,"

she added at the ceremony that comprised teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, supporters and guests. "As parents and teachers, we do put a lot of time and energy into preparing our children for their futures. It is our collective responsibility to mold the leaders of tomorrow for it is on them that the future will have to depend."

Agrippa, who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Brooklyn College, City University of New York (CUNY), said the graduating students "have grown and developed remarkably," stating that "they have learned so much. They have remained eager and enthusiastic in so many ways."

She congratulated the teachers and parents for their "exceptional roles" in facilitating the graduating process.

"Now, girls and boys, we need to tell you how very proud we are of you today," said Agrippa, a member of Golden Key National Honor Society



Shaundell Agrippa presents a certificate to Marley Taylor.

and the National Association of University Women, Long Is. Branch. "You are special. You have all worked hard."

She urged parents and guests to view the bulletin boards, posted along the fence, to "see some of the work our children have done."

"Well done and congratulations to each and every one of you," said Agrippa, who migrated from Guyana to New York when she was 14 years old, turning to the graduates and their parents. "You can feel very proud of all you have accomplished."

"It has been an honor and a privilege being a part of their journey and one [jour-

ney], which has been imbued with wonderful memories," she added. "While some things will change, and rightly so, the core fundamentals in their [students'] lives will remain the same. Remember, that we will always be interested in your child and their destiny wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become."

Agrippa's mother, Ms. Hyman, owner of Jeremy's Place Day Care, Inc., which she founded 11 years ago, said the students "learned to love Reading, Math, doing Science experiments and other fine motor skill activities, which will help them so much as they progress with their education."

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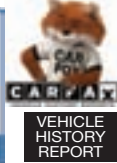
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DROWSY DRIVING CAN BE AS DANGEROUS AS DRIVING IMPAIRED

The public is well educated about the dangers of driving while impaired by medication, alcohol or illegal drugs. But drivers may not be aware that driving while tired can be just as dangerous.

Driving when tired can be a fatal mistake. Just as alcohol or drugs can slow down reaction time, impair judgment and increase the risk of accident, so, too, can being tired behind the wheel. Drowsy driving is reportedly what caused the fatal crash in June 2014 between a limousine and a Walmart truck that ended the life of comic

James McNair and seriously injured fellow comedian Tracy Morgan. The driver, Kevin Roper, was going 20 miles over the speed limit and was almost at his drive time limit, according to preliminary reports by the National Transportation Safety Board.

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 100,000 car crashes in the United States each year occur as the result of an overly tired driver. Various studies demonstrate that drivers who have remained awake for 18 hours prior to driving

mimic the driving performance of intoxicated motorists. In fact, drowsy driving can be confused with driving with a high blood alcohol content.

Sleepiness can arise relatively quickly, and according to Thomas Balkin, PhD, director of the behavioral biology program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and a leading expert on sleep and fatigue, it's difficult for drivers to assess just how sleepy they are.

"Sleepiness affects the part of the brain responsible for judgment and self-awareness,"

he says. "When you've reached the stage where you are fighting sleep, the effect of any method of reviving yourself can be very short-lived."

Furthermore, people do not have to be in a deep sleep to actually be asleep behind the wheel. Micro-sleeps occur when certain brain cells temporarily shut down for a few seconds. A person is not completely asleep but in a sort of fog as if they are asleep.

When sleepiness sets in, the best course of action is to pull off the road. Opening the window, turning on the radio

or blasting cold air is, at best, only a temporary solution. If driving with passengers and feelings of sleepiness appear, hand the keys over to a passenger and have them take over driving, if possible. Otherwise, a short nap and a cup of coffee can be used in combination to increase alertness.

It's also a good idea to avoid beginning a long road trip in mid-afternoon around the hours of two or three o'clock. While alertness generally dips in the evening hours, due to the circadian rhythm, alertness also dips in the late after-

noon, prompting drowsiness. A 2010 study by the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety found that as many drivers reported falling asleep at the wheel in the afternoon hours as reported falling asleep late at night. Driving in a warm, quiet car also may spur drowsiness, as would driving after a heavy meal.

Driving tired is just as dangerous as other impaired driving. Slow reaction times and unawareness of surroundings can contribute to accidents that are otherwise avoidable..

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Taking the time to answer a few questions may help to reduce your risk of stroke.

Do you know your risk of stroke?

Taking the time to answer a few questions may help to reduce your risk of stroke. Stroke is the number three cause of death of Americans and is a leading cause of disability.

This year, it will strike 700,000 Americans of all ages, genders and ethnicities. A member of your family, a friend or neighbor — or even you — could be a victim.

Many Americans are not aware of their stroke risk factors, many of which can be prevented or controlled. You can start to take control by knowing what factors put you at risk. Check all that apply to you.

Age: For every decade after age 55, your chance of stroke doubles.

Family history: Your mother, father, sister, brother or grandparent had a stroke, or your father or brother had a heart attack before age 55, or your mother or sister had a heart attack before age 65.

Previous stroke or transient ischemic attack: You have had a stroke or tran-

sient ischemic attack (“mini-stroke”).

Blood pressure: Your blood pressure is 140/90 mm Hg or higher (high blood pressure), a healthcare professional has said your blood pressure is high, your blood pressure is 120/80 to 139/89 mm Hg (prehypertension), or you don’t know what your blood pressure is.

Tobacco smoking: You smoke, live, or work with people who smoke tobacco regularly.

Diabetes: You have diabetes (a fasting blood sugar reading of 126 mg-dL or higher), you need medicine to control your blood sugar, or you have been told you have an impaired ability to control your blood sugar (a fasting blood sugar reading greater than 100 mg-dL).

Total cholesterol: Your cholesterol is 240 mg-dL or higher, or you don’t know your level.

HDL cholesterol: Your HDL — or “good” cholesterol — is less than 40 mg-dL, or you don’t know your HDL cholesterol levels.

Physical activity: Your physical activity level is less than a total of 30 minutes on most days.

Carotid or other artery disease: You have been told you have disease in the carotid arteries (the blood vessels that supply blood to the brain) or you have peripheral artery disease (primarily affects blood vessels of the legs).

Certain blood disorders: You have been told you have a high red blood cell count or sickle cell disease (also called sickle cell anemia).

Atrial fibrillation: You have a heart rhythm disorder called atrial fibrillation.

Other heart disease: You have coronary heart disease or other heart conditions, or you have had a heart attack.

If one or more of these choices apply to you, studies show you are at increased risk for stroke. See a healthcare provider for a complete assessment of your risks.

To learn more, call, toll free, (888) 478-7653 or visit www.StrokeAssociation.org.

Knowing signs can save a life

Each year, 780,000 Americans suffer a stroke. It is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of long-term disability in the United States. Yet, many Americans do not know the symptoms or what to do when they witness someone having a stroke.

“Stroke is an unmistakable event. Few other medical conditions come on so suddenly or are so noticeable to a bystander,” said Dr. Walter J. Koroshetz, deputy director of the Institute. “For this reason, it is critical that people know to call 9-1-1 and get to the hospital to receive appropriate medical treatment immediately when a stroke occurs. Prompt treatment can dramatically decrease or even prevent long-term disabilities caused by a stroke.”

A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted. Brain cells die when deprived of oxygen and nutrients provided by blood. Because stroke injures the brain, if you are having a stroke, you may not realize what is happening. But, to a bystander, the signs of a stroke are distinct:

weakness of the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body)

- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech

- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination

- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

In treating a stroke, every minute counts. Knowing the symptoms of a stroke, making note of the time of the first stroke symptoms, and getting to the hospital quickly — within 60 minutes if possible — can help you save yourself, or someone you know, from serious long-term disability.

Making changes in your lifestyle can help prevent stroke. Risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, heart disease, family history of stroke, high cholesterol, and being overweight. Talk to your doctor and let him know about the concerns you may have about the risk factors of stroke. Find out your risks and take action.

For more information, visit www.stroke.ninds.nih.gov.

- Sudden numbness or



Knowing the symptoms of a stroke, making note of the time of the first stroke symptoms, and getting to the hospital quickly — within 60 minutes if possible — can help you save yourself, or someone you know, from serious long-term disability.

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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Attacks can leave lasting effects

Surviving a stroke can leave lasting impairments that can drastically alter the victim's life.

Consider the case of Wayne Banks. Some days he cannot remember from one minute to the next what he was doing. The 71-year-old struggles with vascular dementia, a decline in intellectual abilities, as a result of a stroke, or "brain attack."

Vascular dementia occurs when brain tissue is damaged, most often by a stroke or series of strokes. The brain cells, in effect, have difficulty working together to help individuals process information. Approximately 39 percent of Americans over the age of 65 experiencing dementia have vascular dementia, making it second only to Alzheimer's dementia.

"People with VaD lose their ability to process things mentally, that is they lose their ability to remember things, may have some change in their personality, and may have what looks like depression," said Dr. Don

Smith, stroke program director at Colorado Neurological Institute. "They also may have difficulties with calculations, solving problems or planning."

It is estimated that nearly a fifth of the people who suffer a stroke will develop problems involving their mental abilities. Symptoms of vascular dementia may include memory loss, language problems, confusion and impaired motor control.

Currently, there is no approved treatment for vascular dementia.

The prevalence of vascular dementia increases with age, and the number of Americans aged 65 and older is expected to increase to nearly 70 million by 2030. Health experts expect the condition to be a growing issue among the country's aging population.

Wayne Banks and his wife remain optimistic.

"We've been told the dementia might not get better, but there's hope," Mrs. Banks says.

For more information, visit www.stroke.org.

Study: Eating fish can reduce your risk

A recent study suggests that a diet high in fatty fish can significantly decrease a woman's risk of ischemic stroke. According to the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, women who ate four ounces of fish two to four times a week cut their risk of ischemic stroke by 48 percent.

The fish most often cited as the highest in Omega-3 fatty acid concentrations include king oscar sardines, salmon, and mackerel. These cold-water fish have a high percentage of Omega-3 fatty acids, which have been cited in leading health studies to lower blood pressure and increase cardiovascular health. Due to increasing evidence of

the health benefits of fish oils, the American Heart Association recently issued a recommendation that people eat at least two servings of fish per week.

The article suggests that Omega-3 fatty acids work to alleviate blood clots, which are largely responsible for ischemic strokes. This type of stroke constitutes more than 80 percent of all strokes. Significantly, these properties did not increase the dangers of hemorrhagic strokes.

"Our research suggests that women can reduce their risk of thrombotic stroke by up to 48 percent by eating fish two to four times per week," says author Kathryn M. Rexrode, of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital.

More women than men have strokes, according to a national survey, but many women may be dramatically underestimating their risk.

Women and stroke

More women than men have strokes — the leading cause of disability and third-leading cause of death in the United States — according to a national survey conducted by HealthyWomen, the nation's leading independent health information source for women, but many women may be dramatically underestimating their risk.

Leean Hendrix did. At age 26, the former Miss Arizona was talking to her friend when she suddenly realized her speech had become incomprehensible. Concerned, she looked in the mirror and realized the right side of her face was drooping. She knew immediately something was wrong.

"When I went to the hospital, I learned I had suffered a stroke. I never thought it would happen to me," said Leean. "I was young, healthy and in shape."

According to the survey of 2,000 women, which was conducted in partnership with the National Stroke Association and the American College of Emergency Physicians by Harris Interactive, 40 percent of women said they were only somewhat — or not at all —

concerned about experiencing a stroke in their lifetime. Furthermore, although women are twice as likely to die from stroke as they are from breast cancer, the survey found that women believed breast cancer to be five times more prevalent than stroke.

"The results of the survey underscore what we see too often with women when it comes to dealing with their unique health issues," said registered nurse Elizabeth Battaglini Cahill, executive director of HealthyWomen. "As they put the health of family members and everyone else first, they often underestimate their own risks and ignore warning signs of serious health problems, like stroke."

An acute ischemic stroke occurs when an obstruction, such as a blood clot, blocks blood flow to the brain. The obstruction deprives the brain of blood and oxygen, destroying valuable nerve cells in the affected area within minutes.

"Stroke knows no gender and can happen to anyone at any age," said Dr. Marilyn Rymer, director of the Brain and Stroke Institute at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. "Given the prevalence

of stroke in women, it is especially critical for women to understand the risk factors and symptoms."

Only 27 percent of women surveyed could name more than two of the six primary stroke symptoms.

"If you experience any of the symptoms of a stroke, it is imperative to call 9-1-1 so you receive immediate medical attention, even if the symptoms go away," said Dr. Angela Gardner, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "Time equals brain; for every minute the brain is deprived of oxygen, it may lose up to 1.9 million brain cells. If you are having even one of the symptoms of stroke, come to the emergency department so we can evaluate and treat you."

Because of her stroke, Leean has no memories of her high school days. However, she's using her experience to educate others.

"I am living proof that a stroke really can happen to anyone and I urge all women to take control of their health and learn the signs and risk factors for stroke."

For more, visit www.healthywomen.org.

SPINAL DECOMPRESSION: The alternative to back pain



Back pain is one of the most common chronic pain conditions affecting Americans, and spinal decompression goes right to the root of the problem.

Back pain is one of the most common chronic pain conditions affecting Americans, and spinal decompression goes right to the root of that problem.

Back pain is a significant health issue affecting more than 80 percent of Americans. Its symptoms reoccur and usually increase in severity with each episode.

The American Academy of Pain Medicine calls back pain the major cause of disability affecting Americans under 45 years of age. More than 26 million Americans between the ages of 20 to 64 experience frequent back pain. And according to the National Institute of Health Statistics, back pain is the most common type of pain reported by Americans.

Duke Medical Center notes that back-pain patients spend more than \$90 million each year on healthcare expenses.

HealthQuest is attempting to do their part in providing cost effective treatment with positive patient outcomes, utilizing non-invasive procedures.

Spinal decompression is an FDA-approved, non-surgical procedure that can treat lower back pain and neck pain caused by spinal issues. HealthQuest, a multi-specialty pain management center provides this treatment to relieve back pain. The treatment involves relaxing the pressure on the pinched nerves of the spinal column. The built up pressure causes pain, and relieving the pressure thereby reduces it.

The procedure employs traction cycling through the different stages of relaxation and distraction while maintaining the right positioning of the disc. This creates a vacuum within the affected spinal disc as a result of the negative pressure. The herniated or protruded disc material gets pulled back inside the spinal column. Additionally it stimulates blood supply, which encour-

ages the healing process.

The treatment is carried out with specialized equipment by the highly trained medical staff at HealthQuest. Each of these treatment sessions lasts for only 20 to 25 minutes. The results are amazing, with individuals experiencing a kind of relief and freedom they never thought was possible.

This advanced treatment is combined with HealthQuest's whole body and scientifically innovative approach.

You don't need to live with back pain. You don't need to be one of the many Americans whose quality of life and work are compromised by this condition. Spinal decompression is an innovative and highly effective treatment, which is provided in a pleasant, friendly office based setting.

Contact information

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Loving tribute to a friendship

“Running with the Champ” by Tim Shanahan (with Chuck Crisafulli) c.2016, Simon & Schuster \$27.00 / \$36.00 Canada 307 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Two heads are better than one.

Another body can make work lighter, both in mood and in task. A partner can support you, encourage you, inspire you, and sympathize with you. You solve easier with another mind on the problem. Yes, two heads are better than one, and in the new book “Running with the Champ” by Tim Shanahan (with Chuck Crisafulli), so are four feet.

People who knew Muhammad Ali probably wouldn't be surprised that he met Tim Shanahan in 1970 because of a charity event.

Shanahan was working with a Chicago organization, and needed big-name sports heroes to “deliver a motivational speech to the students.” His connections led to Ali, who invited Shanahan into his home and his life. They were friends almost instantly; days later, they became regular running partners.

It was a rather informal situation, says Shanahan: they ran when they could, near a park in Chicago. This was after Ali's three-year boxing suspension, and both knew that the Champ needed encouragement; Shanahan, the better runner, gave it to him. The unlikely friendship began to take deepen: the black Muslim athlete who came from the wrong side of the Louisville tracks and the Catholic white guy born in Wisconsin would lay in the grass after their run, discussing their childhoods, favorite things, dreams, and life in general.

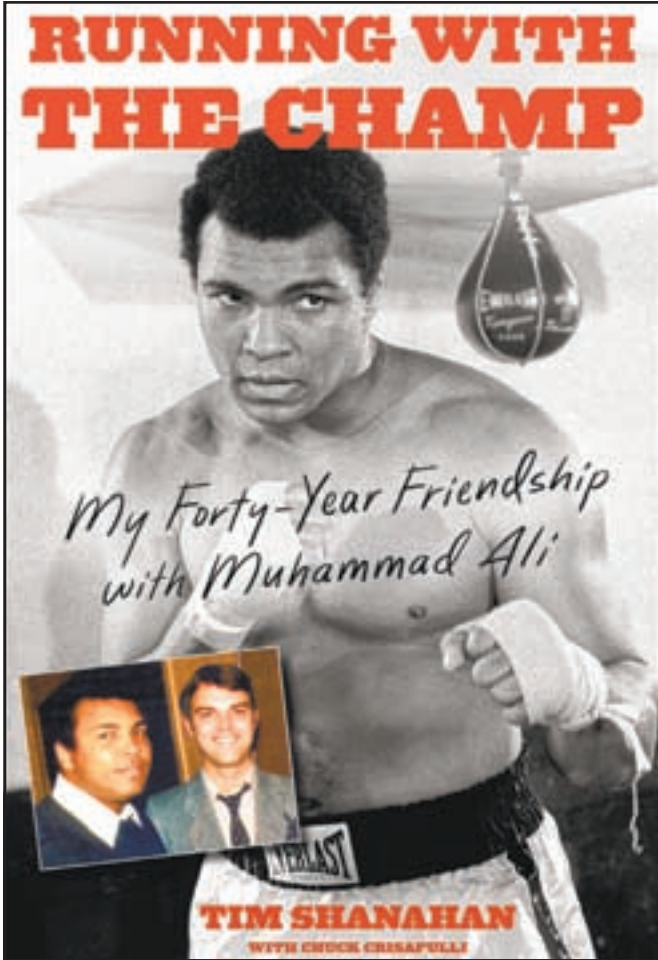
Being Ali's friend was a wild ride through the years.

The Champ was often abrupt

with his demands, both to Shanahan and to others; he didn't suffer fools gladly, and expected his wishes to be quickly granted. He was generous, monetarily and time-wise, with nearly everyone he saw, giving away a good portion of his income (and, supposedly, some of Shanahan's, too). Ali loved meeting celebrities, hated unsolicited advice, could be stubborn (especially in his career), and had a surprising jealous streak, but he was funny and larger-than-life. Then, around the time Ali retired, things changed: he started uncharacteristically losing his patience with many in his inner circle — including Shanahan.

In 1984, a diagnosis of “parkinsonism” explained everything...

In many such memoirs based on celebrity, you'll often find a distracting amount of name-dropping and braggadocio. You might even expect that in a memoir about Muhammad Ali, but the surprise is that author Tim Shanahan (with Chuck

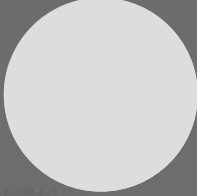



Book cover of “Running with the Champ.”

Crisafulli) doesn't focus on that the Champ” is a loving tribute alone. Instead, “Running with to a friendship.

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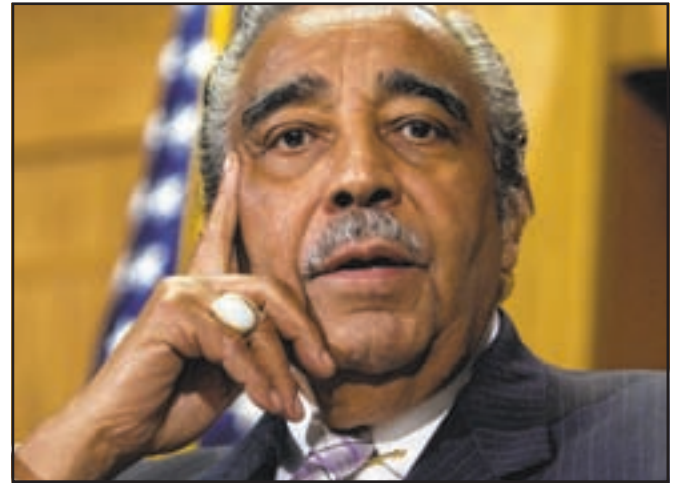
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Primary reason to cast a ballot again



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



Charles B. Rangel (D-NY). CQ Roll Call via Associated Press, File

In case you thought the April primary was the only one to decide politicians to vote for in November, think again, there are two more scheduled before the big day when the next leader of the free world is fully endorsed by a majority bipartisan Americans.

The last primary election narrowed the field of presidential candidates seeking to live in the White House.

Tuesday, June 28, voters in NYC will have a say as to who will represent congressional districts and do the bidding for better living conditions when they go to Washington D.C.

New York ranks among the 10 states with the worst voter turnout during primary elections. And registered Democrats in seven of New York City's congressional districts will be voting to select a candidate to represent their party in the Nov. 8 general election for seats — one per district — in the U.S. House of Representatives.

There are no Republican primaries taking place within the city limits on June 28.

Perhaps the most sought after position in the race is

in District 13, which covers northern Manhattan and the southwestern edge of the Bronx. Eight candidates are vying to replace Cong. Charles B. Rangel who is retiring and will not be returning to the nation's capital. His constituency comprises East Harlem, Harlem, Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, Inwood, Kings Bridge, Bedford Park and Fordham Hill.

The contenders staking a claim for the coveted seat are all reputed community leaders. Among them: Adam Clayton Powell IV, a former City Councilman and former State Assembly Member.

A familiar name to the ballot, his father Adam Clayton Powell Jr. represented Harlem from 1944 to 1970 and was the pride of Harlem during his tenure before his regular vacations to Bimini in the Bahamas became an issue for his detractors in

Washington D.C.

Ironically, following Powell's departure, Cong. Rangel inherited the coveted seat.

NYS Assemblyman Keith Wright is another favorite son seeking the office. The son of popular and controversial now deceased, former Judge Bruce Wright made an early bid for the position and has already won the endorsement of the outgoing Cong. Rangel.

Suzan Johnson Cook is the only female in the race. A popular and respected community leader, she is also a pastor, former ambassador and former administration official to President Bill Clinton.

Michael Gallagher has often been referenced as a "virtual unknown" to the campaign trail.

What is known is that he is from Washington Heights and may have supporters in that upper Manhattan area.

Better known to the Dominican community is State Senator Adriano Espaillat.

On two previous occasions he challenged Cong. Rangel and both times lost to the elder statesman.

State Assembly Member Guillermo Linares has the distinction of being the first Dominican Republic-born individual to be elected to public office. That was 1991. He is a former City Councilman and a former commissioner of

Immigrant Affairs.

Clyde Williams lives in Harlem and was born in Washington D.C., the center of American politics. He was political director of the Democratic National Committee and Domestic Policy Advisor to former President Bill Clinton. He is married to former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Mona Stephen who he allegedly met in the Situation Room at the White House.

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Carnegie Hall opens doors to Gospel, secular

By Vinette K. Pryce

Big things are happening at Carnegie Hall.

Earlier this month on June 2 Robert F. Smith was elected chairman of Carnegie Hall's Board of Trustees. Smith's winning majority manifested three years after Clive Gillinson, executive and artistic director invited him to become a trustee at the prestigious music venue.

Continued on Page 44

'Kaiso Laugh Riot' showcases Calypso humor

Some of the premier names that have laced the calypso art form with crowd-pleasing comedic offerings over the years will be bringing their combined talents to "Kaiso Laugh Riot," a blockbuster showcase of wall-to-wall calypso humor to be rolled out Sunday evening, July 17 at Brooklyn's Tropical Paradise Ballroom.

Renowned funnymen Lord Funny, Pink Panther, Trinidad Rio, Organizer, Dr. Witty and performing emcee Sprangalang headline the cast of what is billed as "an evening designed to keep the audience in stitches." Onetime T&T road march champ Poser is in the lineup as

Continued on Page 44



Deayon Nedd-McIntosh wearing a "Venom" female frontline costume designed by Martin Andell-Jack and Richard Andell-Jack of M&R Designs.
Photo by Kevin Bollers

Kaios International Sound launches band

By Kevin Bollers

Kaios International Sounds launched its band at D'Savannah Lounge in Flatbush, Brooklyn on Saturday, June 11 under the theme "Savage Beauty" which celebrates the power, sensuality and significance of women of color.

Band leader Mark Mclean in explaining the concept behind the theme said, "I thought about what black women have been through from the dawn of time until now and I thought about how black women

have been our engine to make us fly, anchors to hold us steady and the roots to make us grow. So with this said, Kaios wanted to showcase how beautiful the black woman really is."

Last year, Kaios International Sounds, won first place win for medium size band at the West Indian American Day Carnival. The band came with artistry and craftsmanship that brought to life some awesome costumes. Mclean also admittedly stepped up where organization was concerned; introducing our por-

trayal, our sections, bringing everyone together. The idea of team work, was a lesson he learned well and it paid off in dividends.

This year he has once again gotten together and collaborated with some of the most talented designers in carnival mas and has also allowed some new designers to explore their creativity. One of those new designers is Blazin Vybes of Envy Vybes whose section is named "Ravenous Beauty." "Usually, I just take pictures for

Continued on Page 44



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Twins Sebastian and Samien Mesadieu on trumpet and sax respectively, beside their trombonist dad in the marvelous guest band I.S.O.P.

Brooklyn twins shine at annual recital

Generous applause and shouts of “bravo” rang out in celebrating 17 years in the community as Maa Sa Akhi Performing Arts Academy hosted its Annual Recital at the Caton School Auditorium, 18 Marlborough Rd., Flatbush, Brooklyn.

The event culminated the creative and disciplinary studies of piano, trap drum, guitar, voice and rhythmic body movements of stepping! Noted guests included Hon. Queen Mothers of the Ausar Auset Society (International Pan African organization for spiritual and economic empowerment). The 70th Precinct Community Council President Ed Powel and his wife Wendy, long time modern and Haitian dance instructor and noted podiatrist, Dr. Carl Jean of “Foot Specialty Practice” also attended the recital.

Highlighting the show were two long time students, Sebastian and Samien Mesadieu. The twins (age 10) have been students at Maa Sa Akhi for six years. With Caribbean Calypso gusto in “What A Fellowship” they blasted out fantastic solos, on trumpet and sax respectively, beside their trombonist dad in the marvelous guest band I.S.O.P. directed by Everton Bailey.

Luidjy Cenatus and Gregory Henry masterfully played the classical Beethoven piano composition “Für Elise” arranged as a duet by Maa Sa Akhi’s Director Mother Hefen Sa-Akhi.

Both students have only been playing piano for one to two years respectively. From beautiful original compositions by Annalyne Lesfloris and Sarah Abernathy, to “Stepping” by Rhythm Orchestra to “We Rock” Band, with Sebastian, Samien and Zion Bey (age 5),

each student displayed courage, genuine growth and sheer enjoyment!

According to the director, the Maa

“Maa Sa Akhi is a great place in summer for young people to fill their minds learning a musical instrument, for much better success in the coming academic year.

Sa Akhi Recital was a wonderful community event adored by entire families with performance talent, scrumptious healthy food by Elder Hepausura, as well as displays by local author Keith Holmes, sharing his internationally acclaimed book “Black Inventors and Nutritionist” and author of “Correcting The Vitamin D Deficiency Epidemic” - Emily Francis from Healthier You Health Food store, 2259 Church Ave.

Next week Maa Sa Akhi senior citizen students will shine at their first dinner and recital. Maa Sa Akhi serves many seniors in the Flatbush community through The Flatbush / Caton Market, where seniors attend classes in “Piano / Mind Body Cultivation” toward better success in any life endeavor.

“Maa Sa Akhi is a great place in summer for young people to fill their minds learning a musical instrument, for much better success in the coming academic year. It is great for all ages and with practice can bring skill, discipline and confidence. The sky is the limit and Maa Sa Akhi can help take you there!” said the director.

THE NEW SOUND OF BROOKLYN

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Suave CIA agent enlists help of nerdy accountant

“Central Intelligence”
Fair (1 star)
Rated PG-13 for violence, sexuality, nudity, crude humor and brief profanity
Running time: 107 minutes
Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

By Kam Williams

Back in high school, Calvin (Kevin Hart) was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” while his chubby pal Bob (Dwayne Johnson) was being bullied by classmates because of his weight. But that was a couple of decades ago, and a lot has changed since then.

Today, we find Calvin wondering whether he might have peaked during his glory days at Central High when he and his childhood sweetheart Maggie (Danielle Nicolet) were voted



Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson star in “Central Intelligence.”

Homecoming King and Queen. Yes, the two did marry, but the relationship’s been so rocky she’s currently insisting they enter therapy. Things are even worse for Calvin at his accounting firm, where he’s just been

passed over for a promotion to partner.

By comparison, Bob’s fortunes have improved immeasurably over the intervening years. He’s not only shed all that unwanted baby fat but

he’s re-sculpted himself into a veritable Adonis by pumping iron a half-dozen hours a day. Furthermore, he’s flourishing in an enviable career as a crack CIA Agent well-versed in the tools of international

espionage.

The pair’s paths cross for the first time in years at their 20th high school reunion where Calvin is impressed by both Bob’s new physique and his daring line of work. So, it’s no surprise that the suave spy is able to enlist the jaded pencil pusher’s technical assistance on his latest assignment. He also could use a little help apprehending the assassin who murdered his partner (Aaron Paul).

That’s the point of departure of “Central Intelligence,” an unlikely-buddies comedy directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber (We’re the Millers). Kevin Hart has proven himself quite the master of the genre, given the success of such box-office hits as The Wedding Ringer, Get Hard and Ride Along 1 and 2, to name a few. Unfortunately, Kevin and co-star Dwayne Johnson fail to generate any chemistry, despite sharing the screen in scene after scene of silly slapstick.

Independent & Foreign Films

Breaking a Monster (Unrated) Rockumentary recounting the rise in 2007 of “Unlocking the Truth,” a heavy metal trio of 13-year-old, African-American boys from Brooklyn: Malcolm Brickhouse, Jarad Dawkins and Alec Atkins.

The Duel (R for profanity and graphic violence) Classic Western, set in the 1880s, pitting a Texas Ranger (Liam Hemsworth) against the deranged preacher (Woody Harrelson) terrorizing a frontier town. With Alice Braga, Emory Cohen and William Sadler.

Eat That Question: Frank Zappa in His Own Words (R for profanity, sexual references and brief nudity) Reverential biopic revisiting the life and career of the avant-garde musician, filmmaker, composer and producer best remembered as the bandleader of “The Mothers of Invention.”

Misconception (PG-13 for mature themes and some sexual references) Population boom documentary questioning the conventional assumptions about humanity’s exponential growth rate.

Nuts! (Unrated) “Snake oil” biopic Dr. John Romulus Brinkley (1885-1942), a charlatan with a phony medical degree who made a fortune by performing goat testicle transplants on men all across the country as a cure for impotence.



Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Septembers of Shiraz (PG-13 for mature themes, brutality, torture, disturbing images, partial nudity and brief profanity) Fact-based drama, set in Tehran during the Iranian Revolution of 1979, chronicling the desperate efforts of a Jewish family to flee the country before they might be persecuted by Islamic fundamentalists. Starring Adrien Brody, Salma Hayek and Gabriella Wright.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Free State of Jones (R for brutal battle scenes and disturbing images) Civil War saga about a white Mississippian (Matthew McConaughey) who leads fellow farmers and former slaves in an uprising against the Confederacy. Supporting cast includes Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Keri Russell and Mahershala Ali.

Independence Day: Resurgence (PG-13 for action, violence, destruction and profanity) Epic sci-fi sequel, set two decades after the events of the original, finds humanity bracing for an invasion by a better-equipped fleet of hostile alien forces. Ensemble cast includes Maika Monroe, Joey King, Jeff Goldblum, Liam Hemsworth, Vivica A. Fox and Bill Pullman.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifefews.com for the latest in Caribbean news.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Can't Stop The Feeling!**
Justin Timberlake
- 2 **One Dance**
Drake Feat. Wiz Kid...
- 3 **Don't Let Me Down**
The Chainsmokers Feat. Daya
- 4 **I Took A Pill in Ibiza**
Mike Posner
- 5 **Work From Home**
Fifth Harmony
- 6 **Dangerous Woman**
Ariana Grande
- 7 **This is What You Came For**
Calvin Harris feat. Rihanna
- 8 **Just Like Fire**
P!nk
- 9 **Love Yourself**
Justin Bieber
- 10 **7 Years**
Lukas Graham

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Hamilton: An American...**
Original Broadway Cast
- 2 **Last Year Was Complicated**
Nick Jonas
- 3 **The Human Condition**
Jon Bellion
- 4 **Lemonade**
Beyonce
- 5 **Views**
Drake
- 6 **A/B**
Kaleo
- 7 **Strange Little Birds**
Garbage
- 8 **Fitz And the Tandrums**
Fitz and the Tandrums
- 9 **The Best of Simon &...**
Simon & Garfunkel
- 10 **Why Are You OK**
Band of Horses

Presented by
verizon wireless

Kaios band launch

Continued from page 41
launches and DJ on the road. I was encouraged and helped by my friends and fellow designers. I decided to try my hand at designing this year. I had a few ideas, took some old frames, had them cut and used them to create something on my own," said Vybes.

Other designers include Tamara George-Khalifa of Diamond Class Mas Section Name with section "Maasai Uprising"; From the United Kingdom, Martin and Richard Andell-Jack of M&R Designs with sections "Black Widow" and "Venom"; Hayden John & Ramon Bailey of L&H Creative Designs with sections "Juma Tribe" and "Scorpion Sting;" Keisha Kydd George of Town Girls Mas with section "Scorpion Sting" and Drillz of Drillz International with section "Iroquois Warrior."

Mclean talked about how this collaboration came about again this year. "Well, I think this year a lot of the designers picked us, knowing how Kaios views their designers as family and not just a payday. As for the new designers in particular, I remember how I started and

had no one to help me or show me, so with that said, I always feel the need to give an up and coming designer a platform to learn the craft of mas and this is also where the veteran designers come into play."

One of those veteran designers, Martin Andell-Jack of M&R Designs from the United Kingdom, spoke of the benefits of collaboration between designers within bands. "When a group of designers work together as a team it strengthens the growth of creativity. Each designer has his or her own vision of mas from the bikini and beads to using fabrics or sometimes using the most simplest materials in designing any presentation that is chosen by the bands. I see mas as a freedom of expression and movement where a group of people or I should say designers come together under one umbrella working together with each other creating a spectacular show for everyone to see. Each person has their own skill set; we are all creative in our own way. Working together in collaboration is always best in any mas band."



Makesi Andrews wearing "Scorpion Sting" male frontline costume designed by Keisha Kydd George of Townsgirl Mas in collaboration with Kaios International Sounds Mas Band.
Photo by Kevin Bollers

Carnegie

Continued from page 41

"I am humbled and honored to serve as Carnegie Hall's next chairman, working with the board, staff, and entire Carnegie Hall community to advance this iconic institution," Smith said. "Carnegie Hall is perfectly placed to champion not only artistic excellence, but also access and exposure to the best music in the world. During my time on the board, I have enjoyed working with Clive Gillinson on this mission and look forward to building on the Hall's already considerable outreach efforts into communities to reach our next generation of music lovers and performers. I am excited to continue our partnership and to have this opportunity to work with so many who care about Carnegie Hall, building on its extraordinary legacy to take it to even greater heights in the future."

Gillinson poured over Smith's election saying: "I'm thrilled that Robert has agreed to become Carnegie Hall's new chairman, and I personally look

forward to working closely with him to chart the future course for the Hall. I have greatly enjoyed our work together over his time on the board and have valued his passion for music and his global commitment to young artists through his rich and varied philanthropic efforts with the Menuhin Competition and the Sphinx Organization among others. Robert's appreciation for connecting underserved communities to the arts combined with his keen understanding of the transformational power of digital technology will bring capabilities that will be very important to us as we continue to evolve Carnegie Hall's unique leadership role in the world of the twenty-first century."

Less than two weeks later, Gillinson made another announcement. He said the upcoming season will include a "Night of Inspiration" dedicated to diversity, gospel and secular music.

The intent of the showcase he said is to promote a broad-based audience to the reputed showplace and also encourage excellence in every genre.

Gillinson emphasized the fact a diverse lineup would attract a diverse crowd to patronize the concert.

Bellyful of Calypso

Continued from page 41

well, along with the inimitable Wassy. Lambert & The Mators Orchestra provides musical accompaniment.

"Kaiso Laugh Riot" taps into the prominent place humor has always occupied in the calypso genre. Rib-tickling material has typically been a mainstay of any first-rate calypso revue and has produced hits for countless bards in both live and recorded performances. With a deliberate emphasis in this instance on humorous content that runs the gamut, "Kaiso Laugh Riot" expects to provide those on hand to share in the experience what promises to be a memorable evening of comic relief.

Included in the lineup are performers who are seasoned practitioners in generating peals of laughter from audiences. Lord Funny, a popular favorite since the early 1970s, has had a laundry list of hits including "Soul Chick," "Meh Granny," "Ah Soul Man," "Bowling Alley" and "Two Knee." Pink Panther's hits include "Laughing in the Ghetto" and



Spangalang.

"Misprint." From Trinidad Rio audiences have been treated to "Looking for Cup," "Free Show Kaiso King" and "No Drawers." The evergreens from Organizer include "Doh Tell Ah Soul" and "Bandit." Dr. Witty, a multiple winner of the annual Sesame Flyers calypso contest in New York, as well as a featured calypso tent performer in Trinidad, has scored with "Ketch Ass" and "She Continues." Emcee Spangalang, an infrequent contributor to the musical performance portion of calypso revues, was a big fan favorite with his "Two Chord" some years ago.

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Bollywood superstar and *Trinbago Knight Riders* co-owner Shah Rukh Khan. Associated Press / Rafiq Maqbool

CPL Twenty20 set for Miami

By Azad Ali

The fourth edition of the Caribbean Premier league (CPL) Twenty20 competition is set to start on June 29, with the Miami, Florida leg to be played from July 28-29 at the Central Broward Stadium in Fort Lauderdale.

A series of high profile match-ups will headline the Florida leg, Barbados Tridents, the 2014 champions, will clash with Guyana Amazon Warriors in the opening game, in a repeat of the final

Continued on Page 48

World's highest paid athletes

By Azad Ali

World and Olympic Champion Usain Bolt was ranked 22nd on the *Forbes Magazine* list of world's highest paid athletes, behind football greats, Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona striker Lionel Messi.

Jamaican Bolt, who will be seeking more gold medals in the upcoming Rio Olympics, is said to earn US\$32.5 million per annum, according to *Forbes Magazine*.

Ronaldo and Messi topped the list in the wake of boxer Floyd Mayweather's

Continued on Page 48



US IN COPA SEMIS

Ecuador's Juan Carlos Paredes, right, and United States' Bobby Wood fight for the ball during a Copa America Centenario quarterfinal soccer match, Thursday, June 16, 2016 at CenturyLink Field in Seattle.

Associated Press / Elaine Thompson

Dempsey, Zardes lead US over Ecuador 2-1

By Tim Booth

SEATTLE (AP) — Another benchmark for the United States. Another huge goal for Clint Dempsey.

As unlikely as it seemed a few weeks ago, the U.S. is in the semifinals of the Copa America.

Dempsey scored for the third

straight game and set up Gyasi Zardes for a tap-in goal, boosting the United States into the Copa America semifinals with a wild 2-1 win over Ecuador on Thursday, June 16.

"Clint is special," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "He showed

that tonight. He showed that the last couple of weeks. He showed that throughout his entire career."

Playing before a boisterous and almost completely partisan home crowd of 47,322 in the soccer-mad Pacific Northwest, the U.S. won a

Continued on Page 48

Athletes



Jamaica's Usain Bolt.
Associated Press/ David Guttenfelder, File

Continued from page 47

retirement and back surgery for golfer Tiger Woods.

Ronaldo, the 31-year-old Portugal forward topped the list at \$88 million with \$56 million in salary and \$32 million more from endorsement deals.

Twenty20

Continued from page 47

from two seasons.

Reigning champions Trinbago Knight Riders will take on St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots the following day with the July 30-31 weekend featuring exciting doubleheaders on both days.

United States opener Steven Taylor, who played for the Tridents last year, said he expects fans from across the United States to flock to Fort Lauderdale for the four days of cricket.



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Ecuador goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez, lies on the pitch, as he reacts after United States' Gyasi Zardes scored his side's third goal during a Copa America Centenario quarterfinal soccer match. Associated Press / Elaine Thompson

US ADVANCES IN COPA TOURNEY

Continued from page 47

knockout game against a nation outside its region for only the second time other than in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

And the Americans did it on the back of Dempsey, their fiery 33-year-old striker whose place on the U.S. team was debated early this year. Dempsey's 52nd international goal, five behind Landon Donovan's American record, put the U.S. ahead in the 22nd minute. Zardes guided Dempsey's cross into the net in the 65th for his sixth goal and a 2-0 lead.

"I've been blessed that I was able to step up and, hopefully, I can keep going," Dempsey said. "I thought we played well. I thought we created some good chances in front of goal. We were unlucky not to score more."

Michael Arroyo scored for Ecuador in the 74th minute, making for a tense ending, and Enner Valencia missed a pair of great chances moments later on a pair of headers.

It was a chippy game that became costly for the U.S. American midfielder Jermaine Jones was shown a red card during a 52nd-minute confrontation that also saw Ecuador winger Antonio Valencia sent off after a second yellow card for a harsh tackle on Alejandro Bedoya along the sideline.

U.S. players immediately rushed in to the scrum after Valencia's tackle, and Jones raised an arm at Arroyo. Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan immediately showed a red card to Jones.

Klinsmann was irate at the red card, blaming the decision on fourth official Wilton Sampaio on the sideline.

"It was an absolute joke," Klinsmann said.

Jones will be suspended for the semifinal along with Bedoya and Bobby Wood, who both got their second yellow cards of the tournament.

Ecuador coach Gustavo Quinteros also appeared to be sent off in the 90th minute.

The only previous knockout win for the U.S. over a non-CONCACAF team was against Spain in the 2009 Confederations Cup semifinal. The only other U.S. appearance in the Copa semifinals was in 1995, when it advanced to the final four by beating Mexico, then was eliminated by Brazil.

The Americans are now assured two more games in the tournament: the semifinal and either a third-place match or the final. The Argentina-Venezuela game is Saturday night, so the U.S. will have two extra days of rest.

After using the same lineup in the first three games — the first time the U.S. did that in three consecutive matches since 1930 — Klinsmann had to make a shift due to the red card picked up by right back DeAndre Yedlin against Paraguay that caused the speedy youngster to miss a chance to play back in his hometown. Klinsmann inserted Matt Besler at left back and flopped Fabian Johnson to fill Yedlin's spot on the right side.

Dempsey appeared energized playing in the home stadium of his Seattle Sounders, and his header provided the U.S. a chance to relax. Wood was tremendous all night, getting behind the defense and holding the ball up to provide chances on the attack.

On the first goal, Dempsey played the ball ahead to Wood, who dribbled and then passed to Jones. He crossed into the penalty area, where Dempsey — who had been knocked down and recovered — completed his run from midfield and split defenders to the ball, directing it to the corner of the net past goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez from 8 yards.

The second goal was also a result of Wood playing the ball back. Brooks sent a long ball to Wood, and his pass to Besler was crossed to Zardes in the area. His headed pass found Dempsey, who was able to slide the ball across the mouth of the goal for Zardes to poke in.

"I had to bury it, just to make sure," Zardes said. "It's that striker mentality."

After that, the Americans tired in the wide-open play, and Ecuador turned up pressure. Arroyo's goal came off Walter Ayovi's free kick from a flank. Enner Valencia had two great chances in the 76th and 77th minutes, and Brooks nearly had an own goal in the first minute of stoppage time, only to see the ball deflected wide by goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

"At that point, every guy needed everything they had on the field, ready to do whatever it takes and just play with a collective willingness to suffer and just make sure we're walking off the field winners," said U.S. captain Michael Bradley, who wore a rainbow armband in honor of those killed in the Orlando, Florida, nightclub shooting last weekend. "That's certainly what pulled us through."

Vincy student athlete graduates with honors

By Nelson A. King

As the maxims go, “nothing good comes easy,” “no pain no gain” and “there’s light at the end of the tunnel,” life has not been a “bed of roses” for tenacious Vincentian student athlete Sheldeen Joseph.

Through it all, though — financial and other hardships — Joseph has persevered, graduating on May 23 — not just with an ordinary bachelor’s degree but with a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors (magna cum laude), in Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Community-based Corrections, from Bowie State University in Maryland.

Her grade point average (GPA) was 3.71 out of a possible 4.0.

Unable to sustain herself financially, much less pay for tuition, books and boarding, Joseph, who will turn 24 on July 4, relied primarily on the benevolence of Vincentians in the United States, including the humanitarian James Cord-

ice, the pioneer of St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ participation in the illustrious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa.

“Ever since going to Bowie (State University) — after all the troubles financially and otherwise — I made a goal to graduate from Bowie State with honors,” the national basketball star told Caribbean Life Sunday evening in an exclusive interview. “I made that challenge for myself, and I went ahead and achieved it.

“Over the four years in the United States, I have grown into a smart, intelligent and strong young woman,” added Joseph, a former student at St. Joseph’s Convent Marriagua and Emmanuel High School Mesopotamia in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. “Year after year, I found myself in a situation that determines my strength and faith with God. Either, I had to choose whether to give up or keep fighting. I always choose to fight.

“I left home with the mind

set to make something out of the opportunity that’s in front of me, and I did just that,” Joseph continued. “I formed relationships with my professors and many other staff and faculty members. I flocked with them just to eat up all the knowledge that they had to share.”

The Philadelphia-based Cordice said Joseph’s fighting spirit should be an inspiration for many of the nation’s youth facing adversity.

“Despite all the things I’ve learned Sheldeen has gone through — financially, emotionally, just every day struggle of even wanting to get out of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, breaking through the zone when you know you can do more — it’s amazing for the energy she brings,” he told Caribbean Life. “She’s strong and competitive,” he added. “You just want to help a person like that. I feel good about her accomplishments.”

Cordice said he and his



James Cordice (left) and Sheldeen Joseph. Kylla Herbert

friend and associate Kylla Herbert had driven for three hours from Philadelphia to witness Joseph’s graduation ceremony. “Sheldeen told me that when she looked up at the stadium and saw the Vincy flag, and saw me, she came alive,” he said, stating that he had promised Joseph that he was committed to seeing her achieve her dream.

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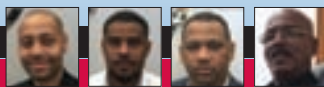
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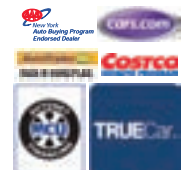
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Aries, it may not be possible to get away for an extended vacation just now, but perhaps a few days away will offer the brief respite you need to get energized.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, professional issues may be stressful, but try to maintain a positive attitude and the issues will soon be resolved. Rely on a trusted colleague to help.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21
Face tough issues head on, Gemini. No matter the obstacle, you are fully capable of overcoming it. If necessary, ask for some clarification so you can better focus on the tasks at hand.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, take some time out of your schedule for a fun day trip or another spontaneous activity that enables you to escape the daily grind and unwind for a little while.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
You may need to lend some special skills to a situation this week, Leo. When someone calls on you for help, accept the challenge with dignity and pride.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, make delegation a priority over the next several days. Spread the workload around to lessen some of your burden and to encourage others to contribute.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your mind is set on a new opportunity, but you do not yet have the finances to make it happen. See if you can find an investor or another way to fund the project.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, sometimes you have to take a challenging route even though you desire the easier path. The hard work will be worth it in the end, as you will see shortly.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Helping others is a big part of who you are, Sagittarius. Every effort you put forth will come back to you in time. Enjoy all the moments you have with others.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
It's difficult to fully explain just how busy you are, Capricorn. Start trimming your to-do list so you can maintain your energy and actively involve those around you.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
It's time to try a few new things, Aquarius. Try a hobby or activity that is out of your comfort zone. You may be surprised at how much this new hobby interests you.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
There's only so long you can put off financial concerns before they become a big problem, Pisces. Start addressing things today.

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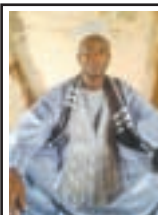
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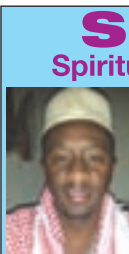
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Human Resources Director

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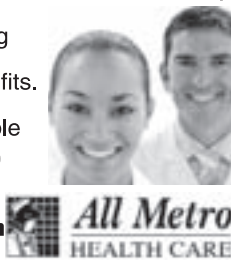
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EOE



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PCAs**
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► HELP WANTED

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Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
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Office of the Public Advocate
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LEGAL

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT OF KINGS, CASTLE PEAK 2012-1 LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2012-1, BY U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, vs. PACIANO PINEDA, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on July 07, 2014 and Order Ratifying Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed December 9, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 14, 2016 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 9 Fanchon Place, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 3483 and Lot 17. Approximate amount of judgment is \$704,202.08 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 2030/07. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, or the Referee. Marc Held, Esq., Referee Peter T. Roach & Associates, P.C., 6901 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 240, Syosset, New York 11791, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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