



Athlete of the Year

President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Sebastian Coe, right, presents Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, with the "2016 Athlete of the Year Award", during the 2016 World Athletics Gala Awards, Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, in Monaco. See story on page 45.

Associated Press / Claude Paris

Jeffries elected to US House Democratic leadership

By Nelson A. King

On the heels of a disappointing election on Nov. 8, United States Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) has been elected by his colleagues to serve on the Democratic leadership team for the 115th Congress.

Jeffries, who represents parts of Brooklyn and Queens, received an overwhelming 126 votes of support from his peers.

He will help lead the messaging apparatus for House Democrats as co-chair of the

Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC).

In that role, Jeffries said he will focus on "sharpening the legislative and communications strategy" in the face

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PORTIA SIGNALS CHANGE

New era in Jamaican politics set to begin next year

By Bert Wilkinson

The Jamaican political landscape is bracing for yet another major changing of the guard because the island's first woman prime minister and opposition leader is about to step down, opening the way for a protracted fight among the party's top brass to replace her.

Portia Simpson Miller announced a few days ago that she plans to quit the presidency of the 78-year-old People's National Party (PNP), less than a year after her and the PNP narrowly lost general elections to perennial nemesis, the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP).

Never fully embraced by the

middle and upper echelons of Jamaica's highly class and color-conscious society, Simpson Miller survived fierce challenges to her leadership of the PNP during the 10 years she served as president.

She now appears to have bowed to the rising crescendo from the party and the Jamaican elite to call it quits and to

By Martin Khor
Martin Khor is executive director of the South Centre, a think tank for developing countries, based in Geneva.

PENANG, Dec 5 2016 (IPS) - What kind of trade policy will the United States have under

Continued on Page 6

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New York City Police Department Chief of Department James O'Neill speaks during a news conference, in New York's City Hall.

Associated Press / Mary Altaffer, File

Fighting crime requires community support

By Dawn Plummer

New York City is now a different and better place when compared to the nineties said the New York City Commissioner of Police, James P. O'Neil recently.

Commissioner O'Neil made these remarks while delivering the featured address at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, business and community meeting at Tamdon School of Engineers, NYU, Downtown Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 6. O'Neil in his opening remarks highlighted the long and hard efforts of the New York City Police Force working to fight crime. He said the police department did not give up and as a result the city has seen a reduction in crime. Commissioner O'Neil said that for over the last 25 to 30 years, the New York Police Department battled the problem and today's decline is the result.

The Neighborhood Coordination Officers program implemented by the NYPD is another area for concentration for the department, he remarked. "This is a sure way to help fight crime in New York City," the commissioner added. "We have to evolve, otherwise we will not make the city better and safer." The commissioner said, although crime is down, 2016 is not the best the city has seen. "We were able to control fatal shooting and burglary is down. However, the community must get involved and know their precincts and their precinct commanders. As crime is a serious business, requiring the involvement of everyone," O'Neil stated.

On the issue of terrorism, O'Neil said the resources for counterterrorism are in place to combat violent incidents and engaging in community policing will keep the situation down, he noted. Commissioner O'Neil asked New York City residents to reach out to the police even by saying "hello," he added. "If you see something say it, report it so we can investigate, if you have video reveal them," he suggested.

Candle light vigil, \$50,000 reward for Guyanese correction officer's murder

By Tangerine Clarke

Hundreds turned out last Monday night for a candlelight vigil, and called for justice for Guyanese-American Alastasia Bryan, a 25-year-old correction officer of the Anna M. Kross Center on Rikers Island, who was brutally murdered in her car at the corner of 73rd Street and Avenue L, in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn.

Mother, Ingrid Bryan was comforted by Guyanese-born Senator Roxanne Persaud and Guyana Consul General, Barbara Atherly as the grieving mother, muttered "Alastasia was a wonderful daughter."

"My daughter doesn't do anything except comes and goes from work. Work was all she cared about," Bryan's mother told the Daily News at the crime scene on Sunday night.

Brooklyn Advocate Anthony Herbert said the city has failed the family of officer Bryan, and questioned why Mayor Bill De Blasio did not make a house call. "Is it because this family is from the Caribbean, or is it because they are black, that you did not show any respect by coming to see this family, Mr. Mayor," blasted Herbert.

"At the end of the day they bleed red too, you have to show this community the same kind of respect. You need to check yourself. If you want to celebrate getting black votes, then come and see black people," added Herbert in a loud tone of voice.

"There is nothing more important than us standing behind correction officers, and this family, based on what has taken place. We are not going to speculate, we will let the police department do their investigation."



Former Correction Officer Alastasia Bryan.

Correction Department website

"We are going to stand behind this family and let them know they are not by themselves. Their daughter made the ultimate sacrifice doing her job in the community, and unfortunately, somebody took her life away," said Herbert, adding that, "a 25-year-old is no longer with us."

"We stand with law enforcement groups to say enough is enough with gun violence. You have to put these

guns down. If you want to take a life, take your own, you took somebody's child off this planet," bellowed Herbert, giving respect to correction officers whom he said sacrifice their lives for the community.

The vocal community activist questioned crime statistics that states crime was on the decline in black communities, and blasted the city stating that Bryan should not have been killed.

US deports over 200 Haitians in last several weeks

By Nelson A. King

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says over 200 Haitians have been deported in the last several weeks, as the Obama administration has resumed deportation of Haitians living illegally in the country.

DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson said on Nov. 22 that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, which falls under DHS' jurisdiction, also "plans to significantly expand removal operations in the coming weeks."

But Johnson said Haitian nationals currently covered by Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are unaffected by the resumption of deportation to the French-speaking Caribbean country.

"Specifically, those Haitian nationals

who have been continuously residing in the United States since Jan. 12, 2011 and currently hold TPS may remain in the United States and are not subject to removal," he said in a statement. "These beneficiaries also remain eligible for employment authorization."

Johnson said TPS for Haitian nationals has been extended through July 22, 2017, adding, however, that "recently, we have seen an increase in the numbers of those apprehended on the southern border."

He said he has instructed border security and immigration enforcement personnel "to take steps to keep pace with this increase."

As a result, the DHS secretary said there are currently about 41,000 immigrants in United States immigration detention facilities, including over

4,400 Haitians. Typically, the number in immigration detention is about 31,000 to 34,000, he said.

"I have authorized ICE to acquire additional detention space so that those apprehended at the border and not eligible for humanitarian relief can be detained and sent home as soon as possible," Johnson said. "We must enforce the immigration laws consistent with our priorities."

"Those who attempt to enter our country illegally must know that, consistent with our laws and our values, we must and we will send you back," he affirmed.

Following the tragic earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010, Johnson noted that ICE ceased deporting Haitians living illegally in the United States.

Caribbean

The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is moving to increase airport safety and certification in the Caribbean region.

The FAA has introduced a new initiative, along with its Caribbean partners and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), will also work to improve the region's air-traffic-flow-management activities and collaborative decision-making process.

The initiative will also help implement ICAO's guidelines across the Caribbean, which is expected to witness five to six percent more air-traffic over the next 20 years.



The FAA said more than 17 percent of international flights currently departing from the United States are headed for destinations in the Caribbean, while various other flights transit the Caribbean airspace between North and South America.

Anguilla

LIAT has cut its services to Anguilla and Nevis, weeks after airline executives announced that the carrier would have to discontinue unprofitable routes.

The executives said in a statement issued recently that LIAT would not renew an arrangement with Caribbean Helicopters of Antigua, which facilitated airlift to the two small islands.



LIAT's Chief Commercial Officer, Lloyd Carswell said, "as we continue to pursue our relentless pursuit of operational efficiency and profitability, both us and our partner, Caribbean Helicopters, have decided not to extend the arrangement."

Bahamas

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is launching a women's initiative for nonviolence in the Bahamas. The United States government is funding the project.

A 2015 report published by the ministry of social services and community



Cuban leader laid to rest

Placed in a small coffin covered by a Cuban flag the ashes of Cuban leader Fidel Castro are driven along the streets of Havana, Cuba, Wednesday Nov. 30, 2016. Castro's ashes have begun a four-day journey across Cuba from Havana to their final resting place in the eastern city of Santiago. Associated Press / Enric Marti, File

development noted that in the Bahamas gender-based violence "constitutes a major public health issue."

Three Caribbean countries have among the highest recorded incidents of rape in the world — The Bahamas followed by St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica according to the report.

The Women's Initiative for Non-Violence and Development (WIND) seeks to improve the capacity of law enforcement, the justice sector and communities to respond to and prevent gender-based violence in The Bahamas.



The initiative aims to raise awareness and share information and best practices among agencies in order to better address this issue.

PADF recently hosted four conferences around the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This year's United Nations observance highlights the need for funding for initiatives that prevent and end gender-based violence.

Barbados

The Barbados government is instituting new border control technology at the Grantley Adams International Airport come next year to speed up the processing of arriving passengers.

Minister with responsibility for Immigration, Senator Darcy Boyce speaking at a citizenship induction ceremony recently assured immigration officers that the new technology would not threaten their jobs.

He revealed that 14 automated pass-

port control (APC) kiosks were being installed in the arrival hall and the 20 immigration counters currently in use would be maintained.

Boyce said the booths, which are expected to be operational from February 2017, will initially be available for use by Barbadians and persons with permanent status in Barbados.

The minister said passengers opting to use the booths would spend an estimated 90 seconds completing the process. Officers would be on hand to assist anyone who needs it.

Boyce said that handling the administrative part of the inspection at the kiosks was expected to result in passengers being cleared four times faster than with the traditional process.



Continued on Page 21



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Simpson to quit in September



(Left) Portia Simpson Miller, leader of the People's National Party, speaks to supporters during the victory rally of the parliamentary elections in Kingston, Jamaica, late Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011. (Right) Peter Phillips is greeted by supporters Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Associated Press / Collin Reid, File

House Dems

Continued from page 1 of Donald Trump's Electoral College victory.

Reps. David Cicilline (RI-1) and Cheri Bustos (IL-17) were also elected to co-chair the DPCC.

"For too many hard-working families, the American dream is increasingly out of reach," Jeffries said. "Wage stagnation, under-employment, the exploding cost of a college education and the erosion of pensions have left many without hope."

"House Democrats have the best game plan to address the economic pain felt by hardworking Americans," he added. "It's now time for us to execute it."

In the 114th Congress, Jeffries sat on the Judiciary Committee, and the Education and Workforce Committee, and served as Whip of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Continued from page 1

President Donald Trump? This is a hot issue, as Trump has made unorthodox pronouncements on trade issues during and after the election campaign. If he acts on even some of the positions he took, it will create a sea change in trade policy in the US and possibly the world.

Trump has recently emphasized that he will take the US out of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) on his first day of office, and renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

He called them a disaster for the US. He was probably referring to the claim that many of manufacturing jobs lost in the US in recent years were due to free trade agreements (FTAs) and the overseas relocation of US companies. He is also probably blaming trade agreements for the US' huge trade deficits.

Most economists howev-

er have a different view. They attribute US job losses mainly to technological change.

There are legitimate fears that Trump's "Put America First" slogan, when applied to trade, will lead to an increase in trade protectionism.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on products from China and Mexico by as much as 45 percent. Trump in his campaign accused China of being a "currency manipulator." If a country is so labelled by the Treasury Department it could be grounds under US law to slap extra tariffs

on its products.

President Obama came under pressure from many Congress members and economists to do just that, but he smartly resisted as he realised it would trigger a very nasty trade war with China.

It is possible Trump will also climb down from this populist stance once he is president. For a start, China's currency is not under-valued and currently its government is trying to prevent (not encourage) its currency from further sliding.

Secondly, taking trade action

against China on currency grounds would be against the rules of WTO, and China should be able to successfully take a WTO case against the US for any such action.

Finally, China has warned it will retaliate if the US were to take protectionist actions. An article in the Beijing-based Global Times spelled out how the country would cancel its orders of Boeing aircraft, restrict US auto and I-phone sales in China and halt US soybean and maize imports, while a number of US industries would be impaired.



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Clarke celebrates 92nd birthday of late Chisholm

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke on Wednesday celebrated the 92nd birthday of the late Caribbean American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman and Caribbean American to enter the race for president of the United States.

"Today, we celebrate the 92nd birthday of my esteemed predecessor, the Honorable Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. A woman proud of her Caribbean heritage and her membership in the renowned Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., her voice was a call to action in the Civil Rights Movement to insist that women must have an opportunity to assume positions of leadership," said Clarke who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

Chisholm, born in Brooklyn in 1924 to Barbadian and Guyanese parents, was renowned for becoming the first Black congresswoman (1968), representing the then 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn for seven, two-year terms. With redistricting, the 11th Congressional District has now become the 9th Congressional District.

In 1972, the out-spoken Chisholm, whose husband was Jamaican, was an activist who was elected to New York State Assembly in 1964. Chisholm broke many barriers as a



Shirley Chisholm.

Associated Press

community advocate and legislator.

Clarke said Chisholm's achievements in the United States Congress were "extensive," listing, among her achievements, the establishment of nutrition assistance programs; expanded health services for parents and children; increases in the minimum wage; literacy training; the protection of the right to vote; support for veterans of the armed forces; and providing opportunities for women to succeed in college, graduate school, and collegiate and professional sports with the enactment of Title IX.

Caribbean joins in adopting Cancun Declaration

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations says Caribbean countries were among more than 190 countries at a major conference in Mexico in pledging to step up efforts to integrate biodiversity into the policies of their forests, fisheries, tourism and agriculture sectors.

The UN said on Sunday that countries adopted the Cancun Declaration, named after the Mexican city where the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known as "COP13," is being held.

"The Declaration represents an unprecedented recognition from the international community that biodiversity protection must involve different governmental and economic sectors and not just environment ministries," the UN said.

"The Cancun Declaration, and the powerful commitments made here at the High Level Segment send a strong signal that countries are ready to achieve the Aichi Targets," said Braulio

Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD, referring to the 20 biodiversity targets that Parties to the CBD are meant to achieve by 2020.

During the two-day High-Level Segment of the meeting known COP13, the UN said countries participated in roundtables discussing how the fisheries, tourism, forestry and agricultural sectors can take biodiversity into account and how they can contribute to its protection and conservation.

"For the first time, through the efforts of all parties, we are really speaking meaningfully to one another about the real value of biodiversity to tourism, to agriculture, to forestry, to fisheries – to the very lifeblood of our economies," said Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

In addition to the Cancun Declaration, the UN said various countries announced on Saturday their own commitments to accelerate action to meet the Targets' deadline in less than four years.

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Rethinking trade policy and protectionism in the Trump era

By Martin Khor

Martin Khor is executive director of the South Centre, a think tank for developing countries, based in Geneva.

PENANG, Dec 5 2016 (IPS) - What kind of trade policy will the United States have under President Donald Trump? This is a hot issue, as Trump has made unorthodox pronouncements on trade issues during and after the election campaign. If he acts on even some of the positions he took, it will create a sea change in trade policy in the US and possibly the world.

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in trade protectionism.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on products from China and Mexico by as much as 45 percent. Trump in his campaign accused China of being a "currency manipulator." If a country is so labelled by the Treasury Department it could be grounds under US law to slap extra tariffs on its products.

President Obama came under pressure from many Congress members and economists to do just that, but he smartly resisted as he realised it would trigger a very nasty trade war with China.

It is possible Trump will also climb down from this populist stance once he is president. For a start, China's currency is not under-valued and currently its government is trying to prevent (not encourage) its currency from further sliding.

Secondly, taking trade action against China on currency grounds would be against the rules of WTO, and China should be able to successfully take a WTO case against the US for any such action.

Finally, China has warned it will retaliate if the US were to take protectionist actions. An article in the Beijing-based Global Times spelled out how the country would cancel its orders of Boeing aircraft, restrict US auto and I-phone sales in China and halt US soybean and maize imports,

The new Trump presidency is also expected to usher in a major change in how the US (and eventually many other countries) will perceive free trade agreements.

while a number of US industries would be impaired.

But if an across-the-board tariff hike is out of the question, the Trump administration is likely to consider taking more trade-remedy action on a range of products from China and other countries by claiming they are being dumped or unfairly subsidised.

There are loopholes in the WTO rules on trade remedies which have made these a favourite protectionist tool. A country can slap on high tariffs against an imported good from another country by claiming its price is artificially low because it has been "dumped" (exported at a price lower than the domestic price) or unfairly subsidised by the state.

But if the exporting country complains and a WTO panel rules that the actions were wrongly taken, there is no penalty imposed against the offending country which is only asked to lift the tariff. Meanwhile the aggrieved country has lost many years of export earnings. Moreover, the same actions can again be taken against the same country, thus perpetuating the protection.

We may see a rise in such trade-remedy actions under President Trump, especially if he is counselled against taking the more blatant route of

imposing an all-out tariff wall.

But we can also expect tit-for-tat counter-action of the same type by the affected countries, in a global spiral of protectionism. That will be in nobody's interest.

The new Trump presidency is also expected to usher in a major change in how the US (and eventually many other countries) will perceive free trade agreements. Trump's objection to the TTPA and NAFTA seems to be based on the issue of goods trade, that the template of these agreements seems to favour the exports of the partner countries at the expense of the US.

Trump said he would instead "negotiate fair bilateral deals that bring jobs and industry back." This appears to be neo-mercantilist and against the free-trade principle, but it is this kind of "America-first" populism that helped propel him to power.

If the new US policy moves in this direction, what is to prevent other countries from doing likewise? "Free trade" or "fair trade" will be interpreted by each country in ways that favour it, and many of the present rules will have to be set aside.

However the FTAs are much more than trade, and they became unpopular with the public in the US and elsewhere not only because of the threat of cheap imports taking over the market of local producers, but also because of the non-trade issues that are embedded in most recent FTAs, including FTAs between developed countries, and those between developed and developing countries.

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One of these issues include investment rules aimed at liberalising foreign investment and financial flows, with an especially controversial section that gives rights to foreign investors to take cases and make claims against the host government in an international tribunal.

Another issue is the strengthening of intellectual property rules that favour multinational companies at the expense of local consumers. A most unpopular effect is a tremendous rise in the cost of some patented medicines through the additional curbing of competition from cheaper generic drugs.

Other issues include the opening up government procurement to foreign firms on a national-treatment basis, thus reducing the share of local businesses in this huge sector; the liberalisation of the services sectors, which for some countries may affect the cost of basic services that are normally performed by the public sector; and, in the most recent FTAs, the establishment of new rules overseeing the policies and behaviour of state-owned enterprises.

The structure of this kind of North-South FTAs is mainly unfavourable to developing countries in general. While a developing country can get some benefits on the trade component through better market access to the developed country, the non-trade issues are usually against their interests as the developed countries are far stronger and have the upper hand in the areas of

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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

Advent of Christmas, Kwanzaa & Hannukah

The last month of the year arrived with the advent of Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. Truly, it is the season for everything festive. And almost 12 days into the month, doubts of a gift from “my true love” handing over 12 Drummers Drumming, 11 Pipers Piping, 10 Lords a Leaping, 9 Ladies Dancing, 8 Maids a Milking, 7 Swans a Swimming, 6 Geese a Laying, 5 Golden Rings, 4 Calling Birds, 3 French Hens, 2 Turtle Doves or a Partridge in a Pear Tree may be may be wishful thinking.

Far more tangible are many outstanding holiday treats in and around New York City.

Among them, the annual Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular which runs at the landmark showplace until Jan. 2, 2017.

Once again, the Rockettes will daily kick up excitement for entire families, tourists and fans that are guaranteed holiday feasts. Santa arrives with his reindeers in visual 3-D reality, and digital, floating snowflakes and the NYC tour through Central Park pro-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

vide ogling stares of amazement when ice-skating and a menagerie of animals parade the stage during the nativity to make this the very best gift of the season.

For more information, log onto www.rockettes.com “Oh what Fun It is To Ride...”

Individuals and families who have taken The Ride around the theater district already know the exhilarating experience of touring with a talking bus that stops at intervals to allow sidewalk, street performers to act-out surprise treats.

Celebrating the celestial lights of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza the holiday Ride will run until Jan. 8, 2017.

Already rolling, The Ride’s Holiday Edition is transforming the streets of Manhattan into a virtual stage for superlative surprises that has marked

its unique reputation since it began five years ago.

Guided by two hosts while adding its own award-winning actors, singers and dancers to the crowded mix on the street, the huge motor coaches deliver a show worthy of the standing ovations and group euphoria that result at the end of each trip.

The motor coaches are events in their own right.

According to spokesperson Judy Jacksina “The Ride Holiday Edition wraps New York in a big bow for you, your family and your friends to open together.”

For more information, log onto www.Experiencetheride.com.

On Broadway – Two must see musicals during the season will add up to all the 12 days of goodies the musical heralded by promises in a holiday Christ-



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, center, kicks his leg as he poses with members of the Radio City Rockettes, Jessica Davison, far left, Lauren Renck, second from left, Christine Sienicki, second from right, and Christine Walsh-Warren, far right, after he blessed camels, sheep and a donkey, Tuesday Nov. 1, 2016, in New York. The animals, arriving for their first day of rehearsal, will appear in the nativity scene of the “Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes.”

Associated Press / Bebeto Matthews

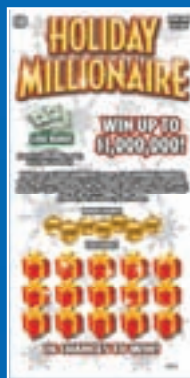
mas song.

“The Color Purple” and “A Bronx Tale” delightfully entrance gift-seekers to a time and place only the Great White way could recreate with such

believability.

Starring Cynthia Errivo and Jennifer Holiday (only a name with coincidence), the revival of the Pulitzer Prize winning **Continued on page 17**

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Pro-development trade agenda

Continued from page 10

investment, intellectual property, services and procurement.

However, civil society groups in the developed countries also find the non-trade issues against the public interest. For example, the investor-state dispute system undermines the ability of these countries to set their own environmental or health policies, and the tighter intellectual property rules impede access to medicines and knowledge in these advanced countries as well.

Through the recent FTAs, sensitive areas and issues that were previously under the purview of the national government are now subjected to new and intrusive rules that cramp the space that countries (whether in the South or North) normally have to set their own policies.

Both the trade and non-trade issues have made the “trade agreements” highly controversial. Civil society groups in developing countries have been expressing their concerns that the public interest and national sovereignty are being undermined.

At the same time, the public in developed countries, including in the US, Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, have become disillusioned and even outraged by the effects of the FTAs their governments signed or proposed.

The anti-FTA movement became so strong in the US that it helped boost the unexpectedly good showing by Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primaries, pressurised Hillary Clinton to pledge her opposition to the TPP, and enabled Trump to ride on and add to the “anti-trade” emotions in his campaign.

The heightened focus on trade policy during and after the US elections is a good time to review what works and what does not work for the public interest in trade agreements.

It is becoming clear that trade agreements have become overloaded with many issues that do not belong to an agreement originally designed for trade in goods.

For example, there is a history and logic to the “non-discrimination” and “national treatment” principles established for trade in goods among countries, and even then there is a debate on the conditions under which the application of these principles bring about mutual benefits in trade.

The same principles and template are often inappropriate when applied to non-trade issues for which they were not designed. Creating rules based on these principles and including them in trade agreements can lead to imbalances and unequal outcomes among the partners, and even adverse consequences for all the partners.

However in recent years the scope of

trade agreements has grown to include more and more issues, to which the original trade principles have been applied, leading to more and more contention and unpopularity.

The overloaded agenda in FTAs gives trade a bad name, with people being confused between trade, trade policy and trade agreements. Many people who are disgruntled with trade agreements also become unhappy with trade per se, and the benefits that trade can bring get mixed up with and overwhelmed by the contentious non-trade issues, and trade ends up being condemned as well.

It is important, at this moment of an imminent Trump presidency, to clarify the difference between trade and trade agreements, and to review the whole issue of trade policy.

A good outcome would be to design new agreements that are mutually beneficial in the trade aspect to all partners, whilst removing the controversial non-trade issues from the agenda. And this could be part of a broader pro-development trade agenda.

But this is not likely to be the new agreements being envisaged by the Trump team. The danger is that these may be even worse than the existing ones.

We risk entering a new era where the US, and maybe some other developed countries as well, are tempted to promote extreme trade protectionism, whilst retaining or expanding the unpopular non-trade issues in the trade agenda because it is in the interest of their corporations.

We might end up with a new type of “America first” agreements, in which a Trump administration ensures that the US can curb imports whilst championing its exports, thus reducing the trade benefits to its partners; while at the same time strengthening the rules in non-trade issues like intellectual property and liberalising financial services that favour US corporations but are against the partners’ interests.

That would be the worst of both worlds, at least for developing countries.

It is thus crucial for policy makers and thinkers in developing countries to rethink what kind of trade is good for their economies, what kind of trade policy would correspond to that positive trade performance, and what kind of trade agreements would be good to have and which types should be avoided.

It is also time to rethink the role of the World Trade Organisation and reaffirm the priority of developing a balanced and pro-development multilateral trading system. If (and that is a big if) the WTO could evolve into such an ideal system, there would be no need or less need for bilateral trade agreements.

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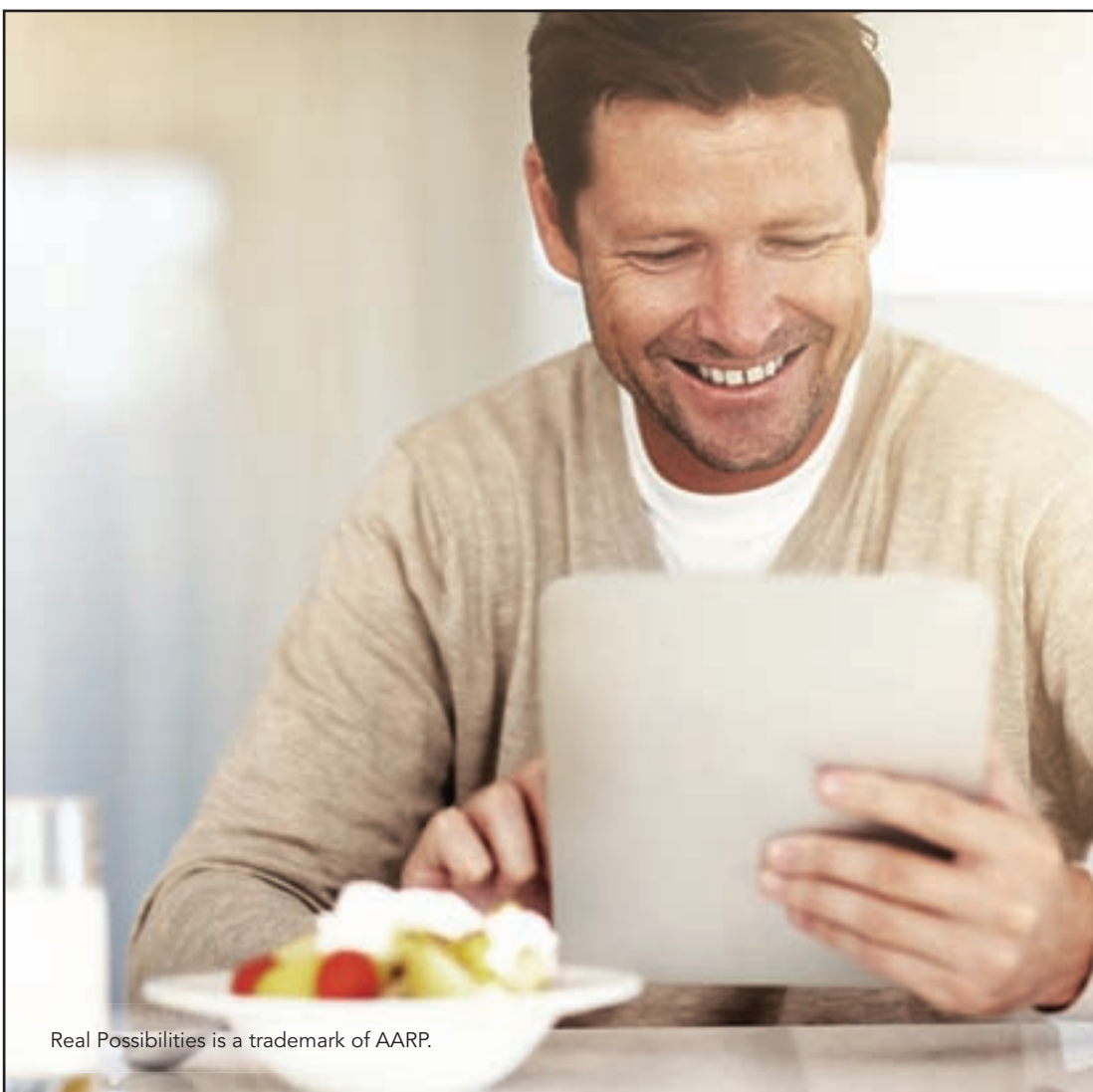


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PNM wins seven corporations

By Azad Ali

A historic 17 percent of voters went to the polls for the Local Government General Election (LGE) in Trinidad last Monday. More than one million people registered to vote with the Election and Boundaries Commission (EBC).

The ruling People's National Movement (PNM) in Trinidad won seven corporations including four Borough Corporations (7) in the Local Government Election (LGE) on Nov. 28, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) took six corporations. There was a tie (4-4) in one of the Corporations in East Trinidad.

It was a tight victory for the PNM. In 2013, a historic 452,013 faced the polls (or 43 percent) to vote in that Local Government General Election in Trinidad.

Four other smaller political parties failed to win a seat. All their candidates lost their deposit.

It was a close victory for the PNM as the UNC bounced back after failing in the 2015 general election.

However, Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said it was a "fantastic win" despite the low voter turnout.

He said the PNM did well and the election demonstrated that the country understood the difficult economic situation that the PNM inherited.

Persad-Bissessar told cheering UNC supporters that she had asked the peo-



Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Keith Rowley.

Government of Trinidad and Tobago

ple to send a message to the Rowley government that there was too much pain and suffering and it is time for change.

She said the UNC had managed to wrest 12 seats from the PNM in the election and promised to look out for the needs of the "small man."

The LGE was seen as a referendum on Rowley's performance after a year in office and Persad-Bissessar who had lost nine elections since her defeat in 2015.

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Advent of Christmas, Kwanzaa & Hannukah

Continued from page 11

book by Alice Walker that starred Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg and Danny Glover in the Stephen Spielberg film version in 1985 will end its run at the Jacob's Theater, 242 West 45th St. on Jan. 8. For more information, check www.thecolorpurple.com.

At the Longacre Theater, 220 West 48th St. the uptown story about residents of the Belmont section of the Bronx, once the reputed safest neighborhood in New York – "A Bronx Tale" features a cast of 30 thespians and is co-directed by Robert DeNiro who made his directorial film debut in 1933 casting the writer and stage actor Chazz Palminteri whose concept first introduced the telling Italian storyline.

Based on the critically acclaimed play that inspired the classic film, the streetwise musical nostalgically returns to the stoops of the Bronx in the late 60s where a young man is caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he would love to be. Featuring a doo-wop score, this is a tale about respect, loyalty, love and above all else ...family."For more information, log on to www.abronxtalethemusical.com.

From Dec. 10-18, Uptown at the Apollo Theater at 125th St., "The First Noel" returns after a successful collaboration with the Classical Theater of Harlem last holiday season. The Harlem-based holiday musical features music that crosses genres — from pop to jazz to gospel — to tell a universal story of love and belonging. The presentation follows three generations of a Harlem family affected by the tragic loss of a loved one. Time is slow to heal this family's wounds until an unexpected visit from Grandma reveals some long-absent Christmas joy. The story is also about how a community is healed, one family at a time, as everyday people challenge extraordinary things to help one another receive the gift of love during the holiday season.

Also later in the month at the same landmark location, The Apollo Theater celebrates its 10th annual Kwanzaa Celebration, on New Year's Eve.

Featuring the renowned New York-based dance company Abdel Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre and guest performances, the Apollo has established an annual show to celebrate this holiday tradition on one day of the Kwanzaa holiday. The Apollo's celebration is a joyful evening of dance and music honoring the principles of Kwanzaa—family, community, and culture. Hosted by radio personality Imhotep Gary Byrd this event will also celebrate the 35th anniversary of Forces of Nature. For more information, log on to www.apollotheater.org.

On the first day of the month, Brooklyn brightened even more with the 27th annual tree lighting at MetroTech Commons. Eric Adams, the borough's president and Rev. Herbert Daughtry were in attendance to see Santa Claus and his live reindeer. Not even the Rockefeller Center spectacular showcased animals of such ilk. A performance by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, dance routines by Brooklyn based Dancewave and holiday treats from Starbucks and La Defense also enlightened guests.

On Dec. 11 Braata Productions will celebrate its fourth annual Ole Time Grand Market at the Holy Family Church Auditorium, 9719 Flatlands Ave. Gates open at 4:30 pm and the concert will begin at 5 pm. Showcasing the best of Jamaican folk culture and the wider Caribbean, this year's concert will include the award winning Braata Folk Singers, powerhouse songstress Ophelia Carter from Jamaica, Smax Music representing Haiti, GAMAE Garifuna Performing Arts Company representing St. Vincent & the Grenadines by way of Belize, Kizzy's Playhouse with traditions from Trinidad and Tobago plus balladeer Andrew Clarke.

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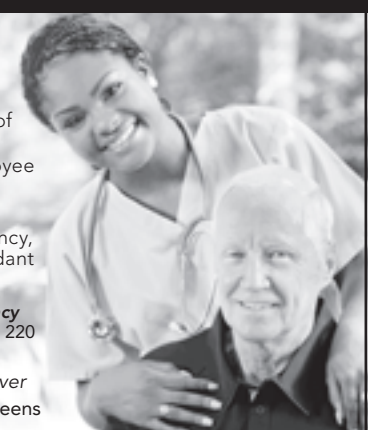
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TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

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Fund-raiser for diabetic former Yo! MTV Raps co-host

By Alexandra Simon

A local meet and greet fund-raiser for famed former Yo! MTV Raps co-host Doctor Dre will be held in Brooklyn at the Atlas Steakhouse on Dec. 17 to raise money for diabetes.

“Hollywood Comes to Brooklyn” is a fund-raiser for the blind popular host of the first rap-show on MTV who has lived with Type 2 diabetes for a decade now. Money raised is going towards starting a foundation Doctor Dre is creating, and to cover some medical bills. The event will be an important cause for people to support — they will get a little bit of Hollywood-inspired entertainment while supporting an important cause because that will encourage the radio personality to come out of his shell and talk more to the public about his life with diabetes in time for Hollywood month, said the event’s organizer.

“Doctor Dre made his first social appearance this year at my award show,” said Coco-

chynna Ford, organizer of the event. “When he came out and revealed that he went blind from diabetes, I thought it would be a perfect month to have a fund raiser to talk about men’s health.”

At the event, Doctor Dre will meet with fans and talk about his life since his big break on MTV, and living as a diabetic since his diagnosis. Special guests that will attend will be state Sen. Kevin Parker (D—Ditmas Park) and radio host Lenny Green.

The legendary hip-hop figure announced his blindness this past June after silently suffering with the disability for three years due to complications from his diabetes. He even underwent amputations to his feet, but Ford says he is in a good state of mind.

“He’s totally dependent on people assisting him but he’s not mad about it — he’s very happy,” she said. “He wants to create a legacy for our young people. He’s blind but he sees

everything more clearly than ever.”

Ford says her goal for the festive party is to bring the icon back into the limelight and help boost support to spearhead his own foundation, called the Doctor Dre Foundation for Diabetes Research Associates to Find a Cure. The organization will aim to support research and find a cure for the disease. But despite his name, he is not getting a lot of support from fans or famous people knows, said Ford.

“He doesn’t have a lot backers in the industry even though he is radio loyalty in hip-hop,” she said. “We’re trying to raise money because he needs a lot of things and he wants to start a foundation for wellness and getting in shape, and work with existing organizations.”

Ideally raising \$100,000 is a perfect number to get things rolling faster, said Ford, but she hopes to raise less than that just to get his immediate needs taken care of.



Doctor Dre at the Men of Excellence Ceremony in Bedford-Stuyvesant in September. The event was the first public appearance Doctor Dre made in 2016.

Alonzo Boldin Zo Photography

“We’re looking to raise \$5,000 because he doesn’t have enough medical insurance to cover medical costs and supplies,” she said. “It’s the little things he needs now and the rest will go towards the foun-

“Hollywood Comes to Brooklyn” at Atlas Steakhouse [943 Coney Island Ave. between Ditmas and Newkirk avenues in Kensington, (646) 494-7227]. Dec. 17, 6–9 pm. \$20.



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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

He noted that the system was already in place at several international airports, resulting in waiting times in arrivals halls had dropped by 40 to 50 percent.

Cuba

The Cuban government has pardoned close to 800 prisoners in response to a recent call by Pope Francis.

The state-run Granma newspaper reported that 787 prisoners who have been pardoned include women, young and sick prisoners, but not those who have committed "extremely dangerous" crimes such as murder and rape.

The newspaper said the Council of State, led by President Raul Castro, issued the pardons "in response to the call by Pope Francis to heads of state in the Holy Year of Mercy".

The statement said when it came to choosing which prisoners to free, the Council of State had taken into account the crimes they had committed, their conduct and years they served.

Relations between Cuba's Communist government and the Catholic Church have improved in recent years.

Cuba released some 3,500 prisoners last year ahead of the Pope's visit, in what has been called a goodwill gesture.

Haiti

Customs officers in Haiti recently discovered a shipment of weapons in a container at the Global Lafito about 20

kilometers north of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

A total of seven Smith and Wesson pistols, five Glock models 40, more than 400 rounds of ammunition for the Glock and various others, including ammunition for assault rifles were seized by the customs and police, according to the justice of the peace.

The names of the sender and recipient have not been revealed.

This is the third seizure of weapons in Haiti since a large shipment was discovered on Sept. 8 at the Port of Saint-Marc.

Jamaica

Amnesty International has accused Jamaica of "promoting a culture of fear" linked to a chronically high rate of killings by police.

A report issued recently by the London-based group says two Jamaican officers have been convicted of murder since 2000.

About 3,000 people were killed in police-related facilities during that time.

Poor residents have regularly protested what they insist are murders by police and accuse officers of planting pistols beside bodies and collecting spent shells.

Senior police officers have dismissed accusations of unlawful killings, noting Jamaica is overflowing with guns and gangs.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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East Flatbush store brings all-purpose natural needs



Guy has ran the business for more than 30 years, constantly evolving to meet the needs of his customers by even having a juice bar and clinic. Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

Generational herbalists: Roland Guy, left, and his son Ashanti, sell hundreds of different herbs and blends at their organic store, Ambrosia Health Foods on Church Avenue in East Flatbush.

Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

By Alexandra Simon

A herbalist is raising the health consciousness in his community with his one-stop natural food store.

Ambrosia Health Foods has been in East Flatbush for 30 years, selling natural products to locals pursuing a healthy lifestyle. The store's Trinidadian owner, Roland Guy, carries everything including natural medicines, vitamins, and herbs for health. The shop has grown and expanded significantly, and is now giving their community more than healthy food, by providing health services such as eye-reading for internal health and programs, said the owner

and manager.

"We sell natural organics and minerals, and we also do iridology and colonic therapy in our clinic," said Guy, who prides himself on all-natural and chemical-free products.

"We sell nothing white in the store — no white rice and no white sugar because those are carcinogenic and cause illnesses — so we stay away from that white stuff."

Guy said if he was not passionate about the health of his community he would have a different kind of business, and sell chemical-laden food. "If I wanted to do that I would open up a grocery store," he said.

With a thriving business on Church Avenue, a popular commercial hub often filled with not-so-healthy food options, and one of the few businesses catering to natural living, Guy said he often notices customers who pass by his shop after leaving a fast-food place. But when he sees that he uses that opportunity to educate.

"I see it all the time, but I don't want to be critical of what other people eat — I just say don't eat too much fried food," he said.

But what makes the business stand out from other health stores is the variety of options available. Ambrosia Health Foods

store sells just about anything, and health enthusiasts interested in going all-natural and learning on how to transition, can find everything including food such as rice, beans, and spices, drinkable blends for all organ functions, and literary education such as black history and "Back to Eden," a go-to book for understanding herbal remedies.

"There's a blend for everything and we sell very specific things to clean the liver and the kidney," said Guy. "Books are also very important and we sell plenty of books on African history and religious books — we are very well rounded."

Several programs are also run in the store to educate customers on incorporating herbs into their diets. Grenadian herbalist, Patrick Delves, comes to United States mainly to give lectures

and conduct programs at Ambrosia Health Foods, Guy said.

At 73 years old, Guy describes himself as being in good health. Having studied herbology and naturopathy, Guy who is also a Vietnam war hero who served as a medic in the United States Army, has dedicated most of his life learning and sharing his knowledge on the natural living, starting a smaller shop in the late 80s. He now runs it with his son, who now manages most of the tasks, but he has big plans in store.

"I'm relaxing and my son is in charge now," he said. "But we are thinking of doing a factory and doing different things with the same herbs, tea, and working on making our own tonics. We've always discussed these things and my son is going to be in charge of that."

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2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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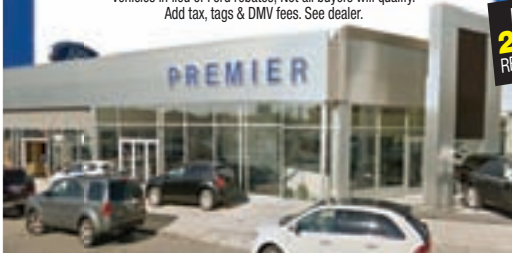
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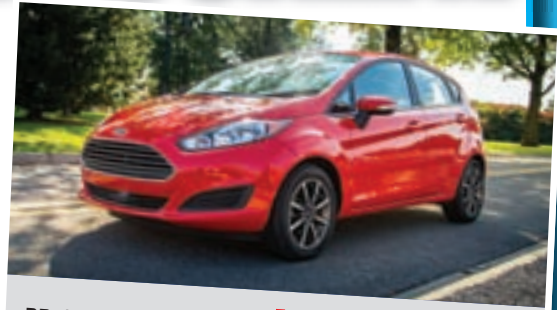
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Cheers: Young children make a toast to each other at the previous festival held during last Spring. The kid-friendly event will teach students how to make healthy options of popular foods at the Crown Heights Winter Fest on Dec. 15 and Dec. 17.

Seeds in the Middle

Winter fest aims at healthier eating

By Alexandra Simon

A winter festival with a health conscious goal is debuting in Crown Heights to encourage awareness and healthy eating at P.S. 221 on Dec. 15 and Dec. 17.

The inaugural Crown Heights Winter Fest is bringing fresh food, local vendors, healthy cooking demonstrations, art activities, and free health screenings for local residents. An organizer of the event hopes the direly lacking neighborhood of Crown Heights comes out to support the festival in hopes of bringing back a farmers market into the community.

“We thought of some ways to empower the community to build something and bring in money for fresh food access — because both things are lacking compared to other neighborhoods,” said Nancie Katz, director and cofounder of Seeds in the Middle, who is organizing the event. “We attempt to do something that is joyful for everyone with a cross-cultural and diverse aim because nobody is doing that for Crown Heights.”

Families with kids are encouraged to come as chefs will show children how to make healthy recipes of popular dishes.

“I’m going to make zucchini pizza,” said Barbara Adamson. “This is a way of introducing ethnic backgrounds to eat healthy without eating greasy food.”

Adamson said starting health educa-

tion with children is a more effective prevention method than with adults because older adults may be set in their ways.

“I prefer to deal with children and I want to teach them that they have alternatives and can eat healthy,” she said. “You can bend a young tree, but you’ll break branches of old ones.”

Visitors will be able to eat, buy, and also get on-site health screenings for high blood pressure, asthma, and even enroll for off-site screenings such as breast exams and cancer services with health providers.

Katz said the disparity between the efforts to bring healthy options to more lower income communities are not being organized enough and Crown Heights barely gets a farmers market once a year.

“There are not many farmers market in minority neighborhoods,” she said. “But look at Park Slope where they have 20-40 markets of fresh food a year, and Crown Heights has only two or three.”

The event will run all day to encourage all the communities of Crown Heights, and Saturday to encourage a bigger crowd.

“Crown Heights Winter Fest” at P.S. 221 [791 Empire Blvd. between Troy and Schenectady avenues in Crown Heights, www.seedsinthemiddle.org. Dec. 15, 4-8 pm and Dec. 17, 11 am-4 pm.



One of the many activities children will be able to participate in, is an art activity painting a mural. Seeds in the Middle

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Guyanese artisans in New York promote their work

By Tangerine Clarke

Entrepreneur Kim Jones said she is not a fashion designer, but she is passionate about promoting Guyanese artisans in the US where she has lived since she immigrated from her rural Buxton Village, at a very young age.

Jones was one of many vendors who sold merchandise at the Christ Fellowship Baptist Church Winter Wonderland Flea Market, in Brownsville, last Saturday Dec. 2.

Her suggested Christmas gifts of colorful fabrics, wooden earrings, head-wraps, hand-made leather bags from Guyana, and her signature - "Just Skirts" collection of children and adult skirts designed from African cloth, are sourced from local and international designers.

"Entrepreneurship is in my blood," said Jones, who was inspired by her mother, a former vendor, to continue the trade, even after she had completing her studies, and continues to work as a banker.

"I continue to work, but still



Leather handbags from Guyana being sold by Kim Jones. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

find the time to promote the work of designers, and since I love to wear skirts, I promote the garment through my brand, "Just Skirts," added Jones, who carries on the Afro-centric idea to keep-up the movement her mother started. At the same time, she gives women the opportunity to look

good while wearing her colorful print skirts.

She noted that it is difficult for shoppers to find these types of skirts during the winter season, and more so, many who are traveling home to the hot climate for the holiday season, and cannot find summer garments in stores.

To this end, Jones said she created a market for herself, by selling summer clothing all year round. She also likes fashion and knows what types of outfit looks good on a woman.

The vendor said it was very important to her bottom-line, to promote a quality product, as such, for the last 15 years she has sourced manufacturers who produce top of the line sturdy fabric.

She praised nationals in Guyana for their eagerness to produce quality work, such as her children's skirt collection that was produced by rural Bartica resident Diane Holder, in a timely manner.

"I am looking for ideas from



Chasity Jackson shows off a colorful print skirt from Kim Jones' "Just Skirts" line. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

vendors in Guyana. If there are any young Guyanese entrepreneurs who can create clothing, I would promote their work here in New York," said Jones.

The businesswoman would provide the fabric for the cloth-

ing to be made in her homeland, and in return, she would ensure the designers are given the recognition they deserve, said Jones who sells her merchandise online, and at pop-up shopping events in Brooklyn.



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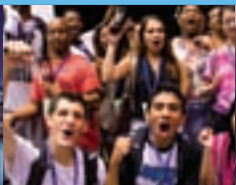
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Game changers in sports

“Game Changers: The Unsung Heroines of Sports History” by Molly Schiot
c.2016, Simon & Schuster
\$25.00 / \$34.00 Canada
310 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can't bear to look at the score.

Whatever it is, it's going to be close. Both sides are playing well today, and they're all very talented. Your team might win. They might lose. Or, as in the new book “Game Changers” by Molly Schiot, they might alter the way the whole thing's played.

Growing up, Schiot says, “I thought only men could be champions.” Most popular sports-themed movies indicated as much; so did TV before cable. Few tales of women in sports were widely known, so Schiot, a Hollywood director, searched until she found a “treasure trove of images” that “inspired me to pull these stories out of the dark.”

Take the story of Alice Marble.

Marble was a Grand Slam championship tennis win-



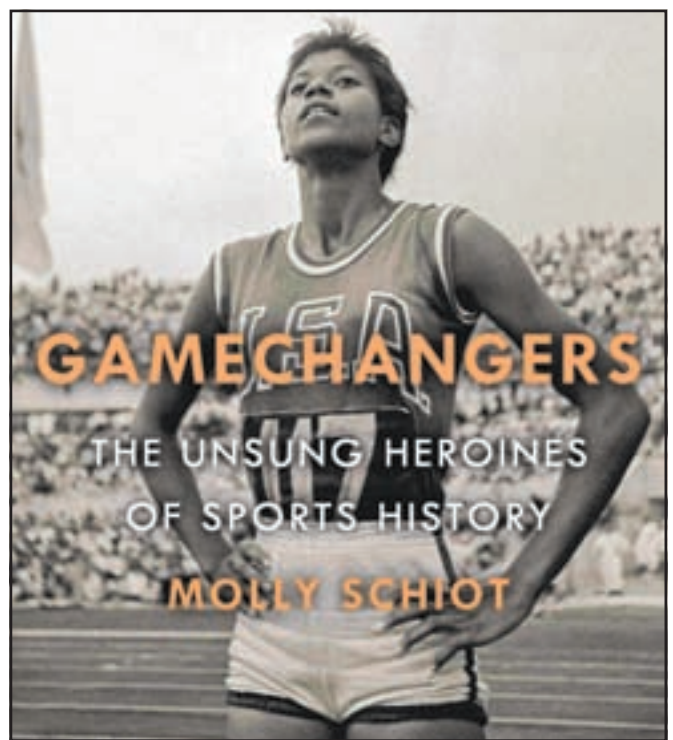
The Tropicalfete Steel Pan Ensemble playing some popular tunes for the guests.

ner many times over, but her “post-tennis life” was equally remarkable: shortly after losing both her husband and her baby, Marble became a spy for the Allies during World War II.

Althea Gibson was the first tennis player to break the color barrier at the U.S. Open. But did you know that there were a lot of African-American women who fought on the courts before her: Ruth Harris, Lillian Hardy, Alfreda Jackson, Clementine Redmond...?

Of course, this book includes athletes like Billie Jean King, Babe Didrikson Zaharais, Nadia Comaneci, Renée Richards, and Diana Nyad. You've heard about them, but you may not know that Olympian Abby Hoffman masqueraded as a boy when she was nine years old, in order to play hockey in Canada. You may not know about the abuse the first female pro-baseball umpire got during ump school, the jeers the first female Boston Marathon runner endured, or the record snatched from Kitty O'Neil. You might have seen an in-your-face move by skater Surya Bonaly, but you don't know what bullfighter Conchita Cintrón did, or that Negro League baseballer Toni Stone cheekily befriended prostitutes while on the road. Because of what an autopsy revealed, you might not know about Stella Walsh at all. And there's a chance that many of these women couldn't have reached their goals or made history without the efforts of Bernice Sandler and Edith Green.

Wow, are there a lot of surprises inside “Game Changers.”



Book cover of “Game Changers: The Unsung Heroines of Sports History” by Molly Schiot.

Even rabid sports fans will find something new hiding here, in part because author Molly Schiot includes mini-chapters on women athletes in a huge variety of sports. Fans will find everything from the archery to zooming race cars, balls to boats, journalism, hiking, climbing, skating,

and coaching. Nearly half of this book consists of photos of women athletes in action or in peril; many of them embraced dangerous feats and many were the target of men who thought they didn't belong on the field. Schiot also treats readers to a few interviews with and by pro female athletes.

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holiday GUIDE 2016



Select educational gifts for children



Developmental toys and educational games for kids make for popular gifts.

When shopping for holiday gifts for children, shoppers can easily be overwhelmed by the many toys, electronics, apparel, and other items available for kids. Those who may not be up-to-date on the latest trends may even find shopping for kids a bit like solving a difficult puzzle.

Some shoppers may want to get kids the flashiest toy, but others may prefer gifts that are both fun and mentally stimulating. Developmental toys and educational games for kids make for popular gifts. Shoppers looking for fun, educational toys and games for the kids on their shopping lists have a host of items to choose from:

Building blocks

Blocks that enable children to design and construct are popular among youngsters of various ages. Blocks come in many different forms, from early education wooden blocks that fill nursery floors to the more intricate, interlocking building sets that are coveted

by older children.

STEM toys

Some of the latest trends in children's toys veer away from regular video games and apps and cater to the rising interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. Early introduction to these fields can result in skills that can pay dividends later in life, considering students who have an emphasis on STEM knowledge are highly coveted among employers.

Toys may include robot-building kits, toys that help young learners test the boundaries of physics, apps that help kids learn computer programming, and even scientific experiment kits that illustrate cause and effect.

Sensory toys

Young children can benefit from toys that stimulate the senses. Items to consider include water toys, sands (including the newer kinetic varieties), playdoughs, musical instruments, and bubbles. Even food-related toys, such as those that encourage baking

or cooking, will appeal to various senses and can help kids learn valuable skills.

Imaginative play toys

Imaginative play is an effective way to stimulate creative thinking and may help children become better learners. The Creativity Institute, specializing in toys for creative play, says playing is important to children and the way they practice growing up.

According to an article by Dr. Scott Kaufman that appeared in *Psychology Today*, "Systematic research has increasingly demonstrated a series of clear benefits of children's engagement in pretend games from the ages of about 2 and a half through ages 6 or 7."

Dress-up toys, puppets, dolls, action figures, and toys that mimic real-life activities are all examples of products that promote imaginative play.

Not only will educational toys encourage children to play and have fun, but they'll serve as building blocks to a lifetime of learning as well.

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Frugal gift wrapping ideas

Holiday shoppers spend billions of dollars each year on gifts for friends, family, and coworkers. But holiday shoppers also spend substantial amounts of money dressing up those gifts with bows and wrapping paper. Shoppers may not want to spend much more on wrapping paper, bags, and other ways to dress-up their gifts, and by employing a few tricks of the gift-wrapping trade, they may not have to. The following are some frugal, yet flashy, ways to wrap presents this holiday season:

Children's artwork: Over the course of a school year parents can accumulate dozens of original pieces of art from their children's time in the classroom. Instead of relegating those pictures to a memory box or temporary glory on the refrigerator, turn them into unique gift wrap. Pair these pieces of art with colored ribbon, and everyone who gets a unique masterpiece will feel special.

Newspaper: Recycle newsprint and comics into wrapping paper. Encourage everyone to wrap in newspaper for a cohesive look come Christmas morning.

Cloth: Leftover cloth from Halloween or cloth purchased to create homemade curtains can be turned into giftwrap for awkward-shaped gifts. Use decorative ribbon to seal the

bundle shut.

Brown paper: Brown paper tied with twine or ribbon is inexpensive and can easily be recycled after use. Use a marker to put the names of gift recipients on each package to save on gift tags as well.

Glass jars: Use mason jars when wrapping smaller gifts, including gift cards, to give them an arts-and-crafts feel.

Fabric gift bags: If you're handy with a needle and thread, sew sacks out of leftover fabric to make gift bags of various sizes.

Cookie tins: Find unique cookie tins from yard sales or leftover tins from holidays past and use them as gift boxes.

Recipes: If you will be giving a cookbook or food-themed gifts, print recipes that can be used as gift wrap and then later used to make certain dishes.

Baby linens: From blankets to wash cloths, use baby linens to wrap infant-themed gifts for new parents.

Baskets: Wicker baskets are available in various shapes and sizes. They can be used to make a gift collection and then reused over and over again.

There are many creative and inexpensive ways to wrap gifts this year instead of relying on preprinted and often expensive wrapping paper.



Whatever the origins behind the tradition, millions of children dutifully leave milk and cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Cookies and milk a Christmas tradition

Leaving cookies and milk for Santa Claus is a Christmas Eve tradition.

Children regularly place a dish of cookies and a glass of milk by the tree on Christmas Eve so that Santa has enough energy to complete all of his gift-giving before kids wake up on Christmas morning. The tradition of leaving cookies out on Christmas Eve may trace its origins to Saint Nicholas.

On the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6, children would leave food and drink for the saint

and any attendants. The treats would be exchanged for gifts. While that's one theory behind the tradition, others think it is linked to the history of the Christmas tree and the edible decorations that adorn it. Santa would snack on the ornaments.

Even after edible decorations gave way to inedible ornaments, the tradition of leaving a snack for Santa remained. Whatever the origins behind the tradition, millions of children dutifully leave milk and cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve.

RUSH

Continued from page 35

shoppers. If possible, call stores before you leave the house to confirm if they have certain items in stock, or buy items online from retailers who offer an in-store pickup option. Checkout lines for in-store pickup items are often separated from more traditional checkout lines, further reducing your risk of waiting in long lines.

Shop local

Small local businesses may not boast the inventory of larger retailers you're liable to encounter at the mall, but local small businesses tend to deal with thinner crowds than na-

tional stores during the holiday season. Items in such businesses may be more unique than items sold at nationwide retailers.

Start early

Crowds only grow bigger and more impatient between Black Friday and the final days before Christmas, so shoppers who can find the time to shop before the height of the shopping season might find parking lots and checkout lines more to their liking.

The holiday shopping rush hits full swing in the weeks before Christmas Day, but there are many ways shoppers can get their shopping done and avoid the crowds at the same time.

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Safety first when stringing holiday lights

Holiday decorations help make a special time of year even more memorable. Whether you're hanging mistletoe above a doorway or decking the halls, safety must be a priority when decorating a home for the holidays.

Accidents can happen no matter what type of holiday decorating you're doing, but stringing holiday lights around your home may be especially dangerous. This season, keep the following safety tips in mind when stringing lights so this season of celebration starts off safe and sound:

Work with a partner

Partnering up when stringing holiday lights allows decorators to use both of their hands to climb up ladders instead of using one of their hands to carry lights. Once they reach a point where it's safe to hang lights, they can then have a helper hand them the lights. If possible, work in groups of three so someone can hold the ladder steady at all times.

Inspect lights

Lights are not built to last

forever, and over time holiday lights can suffer damage that has the potential to be dangerous. Wires can fray, and sockets can crack or break. Inspect lights and wires before hanging them, replacing any that pose a hazard. When replacing bulbs, be sure to replace them with bulbs of equal wattage.

Use an extension cord of adequate length

Exterior holiday lights are often plugged into extension cords that extend to a shed or garage. Do not connect several extension cords to power holiday lights; instead, use just a single cord that's lengthy enough to reach the outlet. Connecting extension cords is a fire hazard. In addition, make sure the amperage of the decorations matches the amperage rating of the extension cord, which can be found on the product label or possibly on the manufacturer's website.

Make sure lights do not pose hazard inside

Lights might be hung on



Safety should reign supreme when stringing holiday lights outside in or inside your home.

Christmas trees or along hallways. Such lights and the cords connecting them to power sources should never pose safety hazards, so make sure they are not lying on the floor. Staple lights to the wall and never place them beneath furniture or rugs. Lights can overheat when placed beneath rugs, and lights that are not

properly secured to a wall can pose certain dangers, including being potential tripping hazards.

Hang the correct lights

When stringing lights, make sure you hang lights designated as exterior lights on the exterior of your home

and those designated as interior lights inside your home. Hanging lights in the wrong places poses a fire hazard and creates additional safety concerns, so adhere to manufacturer instructions when stringing lights.

Safety should reign supreme when stringing holiday lights around the house.

Holidays can potentially be hazardous to your pets

The holiday season is full of joy. But in the midst of decorating and socializing, pet owners may overlook the needs of their pets. Hectic schedules and homes full of unusual décor can throw pets off-kilter.

No pet owner wants his pet to feel uncomfortable or suffer any injuries, so it's important that owners exercise caution with the following items come the holiday season:

Bones

Small bones or bone chips from turkey can become lodged in the digestive tracts of pets and cause serious injury. If you want to provide your pet with a holiday treat, choose a safer, store-bought bone.

Chocolate

An abundance of treats seems to be par for the course during the holiday season. Dogs should avoid all chocolate, but dark chocolate poses

a particularly serious threat. Chocolate can cause agitation, elevated heart rate, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, and even death.

In addition, candy or cookies sweetened with the artificial sweetener xylitol can cause a dangerous drop in blood pressure for dogs.

Pine needles and trees

When ingested, pine needles can puncture the intestines of pets. In search of an easy drink, dogs and cats may be drawn to the fresh water reservoir of live trees, increasing the likelihood that they knock over a Christmas tree, injuring themselves and causing damage around the house.

Trees should be properly secured, and fallen needles should be promptly discarded.

Tinsel

Skip the tinsel if you have

a cat. Felines are likely to mistake tinsel for a toy. Eating tinsel can cause severe damage to a cat's intestinal tract, as it may get caught in the stomach while the rest of it continues to pass through the intestines.

Tinsel also may wrap around the tongue, increasing the cat's risk of choking. Ornaments also are tempting playthings. Cats may pounce on glass ornaments, breaking them and suffering injury.

Electrical cords

The American Animal Hospital Association says holiday lights mean more electrical cords for kittens and puppies to chew. Secure all cords and keep them out of reach of pets.

Candles

The subtle flicker of a lit candle can add ambiance to a space. But all it takes is the swish of a tail or the pat of a paw to knock over a candle and spark a fire. Never leave



Ensure that these festivities are as safe for pets as they are enjoyable.

lit candles unattended.

If you have boisterous pets, opt for LED-simulated candles instead.

Alcohol

Spirits are sometimes a part of celebrations, but alcoholic beverages should be kept

out of reach of pets. Alcohol suppresses the immune system, and it can result in significant health issues for pets who consume it.

The holiday season is a time for celebration. Ensure that these festivities are as safe for pets as they are enjoyable.



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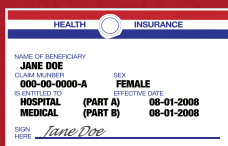


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The Diploma in Bookkeeping, a blended program, which imparts the knowledge and skill sets to perform functions within the bookkeeping cycle, manually and with QuickBooks and Xero, and grounds students in accounting ethics and best practices.

The Diploma in Childcare Management provides the understanding of the business and administrative skills needed to establish a childcare center.

The Diploma in Construction Administration is a blended program that provides the skills to secure an entry-level position within the commercial or residential building sectors of the real estate industry. Students learn about the construction process and document administration, and gain an introduction to construction methods and materials, building systems, drawings, estimating, and scheduling.

The Diploma in Introduction to Programming with Python provides students with the knowledge and the applied skills needed to pursue careers as junior software engineers or developers in one of the fastest-growing and most in-demand languages in the industry.

The Diploma in Medical Coding teaches students how to compile, process, and maintain medical records by becoming proficient in ICD-10 medical coding.

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The Diploma in Retail Operations Management trains students with the enhanced knowledge, expertise, insights, and skills required to become a retail buyer, a retail merchandiser, or a retail operations management trainee.

The Diploma in Web Design and Development teaches students the essential webpage development skills through hands-on practice using HTML5 and CSS.

All Diplomas will provide industry specific career modules presented online in a self-paced format, which help students to better understand the job market. Upon completion of a diploma, students also will have access to an online portal featuring job postings and a resource library. Annual networking events will provide opportunities to meet with peers and employers in the field. Each program of study provides students with a tangible take-away project that can be added to their résumé and presented to prospective employers.

For more information about NYUSPS Diploma Programs, visit sps.nyu.edu/diplomas07 or call 212-998-7200. Application deadline is January 4, 2017.



Guyanese group hosts first pre-Kwanzaa event

By Tangerine Clarke

Dr. Molefi Asante, professor and chair of the Department of African-American Studies of Temple University will be the guest speaker at the first pre-Kwanzaa cultural celebration hosted by members of the Queenstown Essequibo Guyana NY Association, on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Themed *Kuumba / Creativity* — to do always as much as we can, in the way we can in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it — the celebration will be held at the American Legion Hall, 1130 E 92nd St. in Brooklyn and will begin at 3:30 pm, featuring special guest Dr. Kimani Nehusi.

The organization announced that the evening's event will celebrate family, community, and culture. African

fare drumming, dancing with special artists will highlight the festive celebration, and it will be hosted by WBAI Radio, community activist and educator Okyeame.

The explanation of Kwanzaa as well as components that have specific cultural relevance to the Guyanese community will be highlighted. The event is family oriented and the attendance of children in particular is desired. Many other forms of 'edutainment' will bring joy and happiness to the audience.

A \$20.00 donation is required and this will go towards the organization's outreach programs.

For more information, visit www.myqueenstown.org or contact Arnold "AB" Drakes 347-424-7263, Harold Stephney 718-902-0216, or Bernard Kilkenny 646-299-0958.

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The Tropicalfete Steel Pan Ensemble playing some popular tunes for the guests.
Brittany Somerset

Show brings music education to youth

By Alexandra Simon

The sixth annual Tropicalfete Countdown is returning for a music-filled educational event at the Brooklyn Music School on Dec. 18.

The highlight of the engagement will be a youth Steel Pan ensemble that will play Caribbean and American tunes, live music from local artists, and even a dance presentation where dancers will do ballet on stilts, said the organizer.

“When the band is performing, we will have our stilt walkers and masquer-
Continued on Page 42

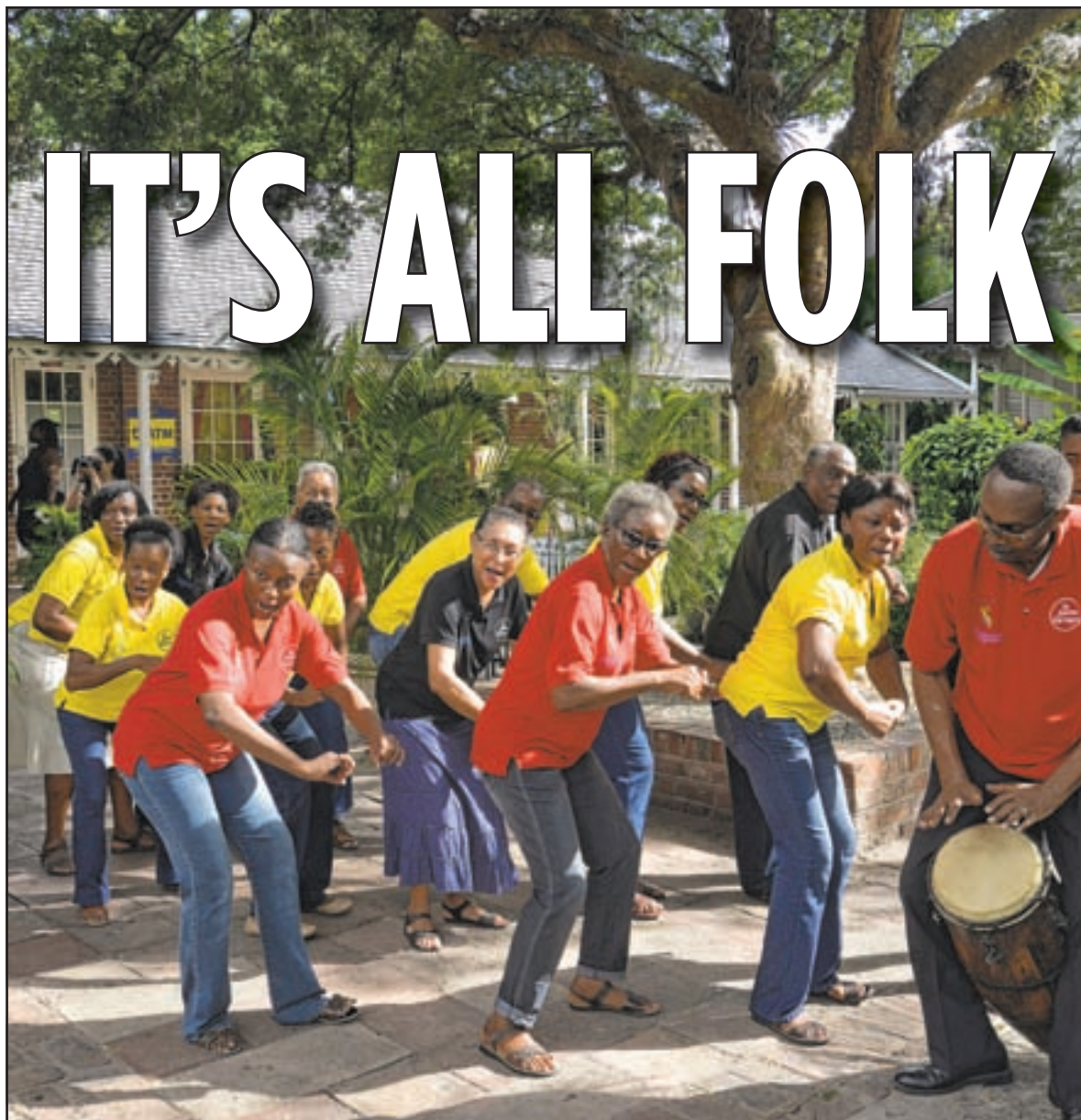
Christmas nostalgia

By Nelson A. King

In continuing to bring the Christmas spirit at home to nationals in New York, the United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn (UVCGB) last Saturday night hosted its third annual Christmas Caroling showcase in the Fellowship Hall at the Miracle Temple Ministries in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

The concert, which attracted not only Vincentians but also a number of Caribbean nationals — including Jamaicans, Trinidadians, Guyanese and Grenadians — featured, among other things, carol singing, reflections, story-telling and skits, with patrons reminiscing about the “real” Christmas at home.

Even St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ New York Consul General Howie Prince — the former head of the Nation-
Continued on Page 42



IT'S ALL FOLK

Jamaican Folk Singers performing on the grounds of Devon House in Kingston, Jamaica.
Photo by Kevin Williams

Jamaican Folk Singers’ 50th anniversary

By Kevin Williams

When you think Jamaican folk music one of the first groups that will come to mind is the Jamaican Folk Singers.

It was a pleasant surprise to see and hear the singers perform outdoor at the famous Devon House in Kingston, Jamaica on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 while on a press trip sponsored by the Jamaica Tourist Board.

Christine McDonald Nevers, musical director of the Jamaican Folk Singers said the group is now 49

years old and will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on March 15, 2017. The year-long activities will include a celebratory anniversary and memorial service to honor its founder, Dr. Olive Lewin, a 50th anniversary concert season and a series of overseas tours.

“We are actually working on putting out a CD. We are having a reunion and we are starting to inform former members around the world to come with us and we are going to be touring across the island

doing free performances,” said the musical director.

According to McDonald Nevers, one of the things Dr. Olive Lewin said while doing her research collecting the music, was that she got the music freely from the people who she sat with in the community, and it was very important for her and for the group to continue to share that music. “So we are doing free concerts in markets, town centers and school halls. Anybody who wants to

Continued on Page 42

TOP OF THE CHARTS

FOLK SINGERS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Closer**
The Chainsmokers Feat. Halsey
- 2 **Starboy**
The Weeknd Feat. Daft Punk
- 3 **24K Magic**
Bruno Mars
- 4 **Let Me Love You**
DJ Snake Feat. Justin Bieber
- 5 **Side To Side**
Ariana Grande Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 6 **Don't Wanna Know**
Maroon 5 Feat. Kendrick Lamar
- 7 **Heathens**
twenty one pilots
- 8 **Scars To Your Beautiful**
Alessia Cara
- 9 **Black Beatles**
Rae Sremmurd Feat. Gucci Mane
- 10 **I Hate U I Love U**
gnash Feat. Olivia O'Brien

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Starboy**
The Weeknd
- 2 **A Pentatonix Christmas**
Pentatonix
- 3 **Moana**
Soundtrack
- 4 **24K Magic**
Bruno Mars
- 5 **'Tis The Season**
Jordan Smith
- 6 **Trolls**
Soundtrack
- 7 **That's Christmas To Me**
Pentatonix
- 8 **Hardwired...To Self-Destruct**
Metallica
- 9 **Christmas**
Michael Buble
- 10 **Joanne**
Lady Gaga

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Continued from page 41
hear us can come and share in what is ours," said the musical director.

The group comprises 26 persons including musicians who are conga drummers and guitarists.

"We only have two CDs out now and we are going to release our new CD in 2017. We have a number of records or LPs which we are converting to CDs so that is three of those. So we hope by the end of 2017 we will have six CDs on the market."

"Earlier this year (August 2016) we went to Costa Rica and they are looking for us to return and tour along that coast including Panama and other countries along that stretch. Let's see what happens for North America. We will see," said McDonald Nev-ers. In Costa Rica the group performed at the Limon Roots Afro Cultural Festival, as part

of efforts to help further cultural relationships between Jamaica and Costa Rica.

Dr. Lewin was commissioned by the prime minister at the time to do research on Jamaica's folk music culture. Having collected that information the question was what to do with it, should it be locked up? but a friend said it should be shared and that is how the group was founded. The aim is to get as many people, not just Jamaicans, to share in the rich folk music and culture of Jamaica.

She was a Jamaican author, social anthropologist, musicologist, and teacher. She is probably best known for her recorded anthologies of old Jamaica folk songs, researched and collected over her lifetime according to Wikipedia. She was born in 1937 in Jamaica and died on April 10, 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica. She studied



Jamaican Folk Singers pose for a group picture at Devon House in Kingston, Jamaica. Photo by Kevin Williams

at the Royal Academy of Music and also wrote a book entitled "Rock it come over."

With a repertoire of more than 200 songs arranged by Dr. Lewin, the group has sung to audiences in several countries including Argentina, Barbados,

Canada, Cuba, Germany, Great Britain, Martinique, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.

These tours over the years have been sponsored initially by Berger Paints in the 1980s, and since 2009 by Mother's.

Music education for youth

Continued from page 41

aders come out," said Alton Aimable, organizer and founder of Tropicalfete. "We've done this before but it will be new for most of audiences in there."

The event also boasts of a performance from Klick Band, a brass band expected to play some new songs for big band music lovers. The 25-member steel pan band — all young players from 6–18 years old, will open the show with the national anthem and play some popular pop songs throughout the show, said Aimable.

During the show there will be appearances from New York-based Caribbean artists Mesha Steele, Daria Primus, Sassy Ramatour and Dr. Witty, who are set to perform soca, reggae and calypso songs respectively.

There will also an award ceremony to honor music producer, Roger Meltzer who is hosting a youth workshop on music rights, Aimable said.

"He has taught many workshops on music royalties — this workshop will teach the young how to copyright and protect themselves from theft, and how to use the media," he said.

Since 2011, Tropicalfete established itself as a non-profit to promote and provide educational services and programs on Caribbean culture and youth.



How high: Young dancers performing ballet on stilts at a previous Tropicalfete countdown show last year. Brittany Somerset

Aimable said he carefully planned the show to be exciting and children-friendly, to attract everyone of Caribbean descent to enjoy the activities. He also said his priority is the education of the youth and hopes the show encourages more sign-ups for Tropicalfete's musical program, which will begin in January.

"One of the reasons we work all year is because we work on our costumes and make sure they're not skimpy — because we are very family friendly," he said. "It's always good to support youth and at the end of day and this is a great musical experience to enjoy and what we have to offer as Caribbean people."

Christmas nostalgia

Continued from page 41

al Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) — who assumed the position in September, joined in the fun, showcasing his talents and versatility, and ability to "fit in" easily in any setting.

He told the enthusiastic crowd — warm inside but very cold outside, as winter approaches — about his role in caroling, as a youth in Lowmans Windwards, his native village, disclosing that he was also renowned as the "Speech Man."

He said his speeches involved going down to the Lowmans River and asking for "10 cents to cool my liver," as patrons erupted in laugh-

ter. Prince also drew the best out of the normally taciturn Mulraine "Mack" Richards, a former St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Windward Islands cricketer, and public school teacher in Brooklyn.

"You have to sing along, or you may have to pay the church US\$200," Prince threatened Richards, who obliged, agreeing to a duet with Prince.

Later, after the youthful, Jamaican Roberts' siblings of Merisalyn, 11, Jonathan, 9, and Nicholas, 6, sang "Jingle Bells," Prince remarked, in jest, that it was the first West Indian Carol.



Jamaican kids, from left, Nicholas, Merisalyn and Jonathan Roberts sing "Jingle Bells." Photo by Nelson A. King

Love gurus date despite philosophical differences

"The Bounce Back"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and brief drug use
Running time: 104 minutes
Distributor: Freestyle Releasing



Dating guru Matthew Taylor (Shemar Moore, second left) falls for celebrity therapist Kristin Peralta (Nadine Velazquez, left) while he does a book tour to promote his best-selling self-help guide. www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

Love guru Matthew Taylor (Shemar Moore) is the author of the new best seller, "The Bounce Back." Accompanied by his enterprising business manager, Terry (Bill Bellamy), he's been hawking the self-help book on plenty of TV and radio programs.

Since Terry believes that "Image is everything," he's concerned that Matthew hasn't settled down since his divorce. "A relationship guru should be in a relationship for longer than a minute," he counsels his BFF/boss.

That sentiment is echoed by Matthew's teenage daughter, Aleya (Nadja Alaya), who says, "Dad, you really need to get a girlfriend." Nevertheless, her father tends to settle for

one-night stands, like the one he recently shared with Lizette (Marta Cross), the makeup artist at a TV station where he'd just appeared.

Matthew finally meets his match, literally and figuratively, the day he crosses paths with Kristin Peralta (Nadine Velazquez), a fellow therapist also making the rounds on the talk show circuit. Trouble is,

while there's evidently chemistry between the two, they have conflicting advice to offer folks nursing wounds from a painful relationship.

Matthew's simplistic suggestion is to "Get out of your head and into action." By contrast, Kristin doesn't think the solution is quite that easy. She says, "Therapy's a marathon, not a sprint." After all, she's

still recovering from having her heart broken over six years ago.

Consequently, she views Matthew as a charlatan exploiting the vulnerable. And she tells him so to his face, snarling, "Quick fixes like yours are always a scam, whether it's a book, a pill or a seminar."

Confrontation makes for great TV drama and, soon

enough, the two therapists find their services in demand to debate their contradictory philosophies head-to-head. However, the more time they subsequently spend together making personal appearances, the more the feelings between them have a chance to develop.

But can a relationship survive on chemistry alone? That is the pivotal question posed by *The Bounce Back*, a delightful romantic romp directed by Youssef Delara (Filly Brown). The movie is most reminiscent of *Think Like a Man*, another urban-oriented soap opera revolving around the battle-of-the-sexes.

Nevertheless, this novel contribution to the genre stands on its own and thus warrants recommending, between a solid script with a couple of cleverly-concealed plot twists, and a plethora of praiseworthy performances on the part of a talented cast topped by Shemar Moore, Nadine Velazquez, Kali Hawk, Sheryl Underwood and the versatile veteran, Bill Bellamy.

Confirmation that opposites do, in fact, attract, even shrinks dispensing diametrically-opposed dating advice!

Weekly previews that make choosing a film fun

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

All We Had (Unrated) Dysfunctional family drama about a cash-strapped single-mom (Katie Holmes) living hand-to-mouth with her 13-year-old daughter (Stefania Owen) until they move to a tiny town where she finds a steady job as a waitress only to be victimized by a fast-talking mortgage broker (Mark Consuelos). Featuring Eve Lindley, Richard Kind and Judy Greer.

Befikre (Unrated) Romantic comedy about a guy (Ranveer Singh) who ventures from Delhi to Paris in search of employment only to fall in love with a free-spirited Indian girl (Vaani Kapoor) born in France. With Elisa Bachir Bey, Julie Ordon and Hugo Diego Garcia. (In Hindi with subtitles)

The Brand New Testament (Unrated) Irreverent comedy about a sadistic God (Benoit Poelvoorde) living in a high-rise apartment in Brussels where he abuses both his wife (Yolande Moreau) and 10 year-old daughter (Pili Groyne). Support cast includes Francois Damiens, Catherine Deneuve and Marco Lorenzini. (In French and German with subtitles)

Burn Country (Unrated) Crime thriller about an Afghani refugee (Dominic Rains) who finds his life threatened after he takes a job as an investigative reporter with a newspaper in the quiet California town where he settles down. With James Franco, Melissa Leo and Rachel Brosnahan.

Friend Request (R for profanity, violence and disturbing images) High attrition-rate horror flick about a popular college coed (Alycia Debnam-Carey) who comes to regret unfriending a stalker (Liesl Ahlers) when her closest classmates start disappearing one-by-one. With William Moseley, Connor Paolo and Brit Morgan.

Harry Benson: Shoot First (Unrated) Reverential biopic chronicling the enduring career of 86 year-old Harry Benson, legendary photographer of the stars, with subjects ranging from the Beatles to Muhammad Ali.

Kill Ratio (Unrated) Espionage thriller about an American spy (Tom Hopper) working undercover to protect a fledgling, Eastern European democracy during a coup d'etat being orchestrated



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

by a ruthless, renegade general (Nick Dunning). With Amy Huberman, Lacy Moore and Michelle Lehane.

On the Map (Unrated) Inspirational documentary recounting the Cinderella story of the Israeli basketball team's unlikely win of the European Cup in 1977.

Slash (Unrated) Coming-of-age comedy about an introverted, high school freshman (Michael Johnston) who turns a new leaf when a cute upperclassman (Hannah Marks) takes an interest in his erotic fiction. With Tishuan Scott, Jessie Ennis and Michael Ian Black.

Solitary (Unrated) Prodigal Daughter drama about an unemployed, substance-abusing party girl (Katharine Lee McEwan) who moves back home to live with her aging father after getting dumped by her boyfriend. Cast includes Sam Hoare, Jana Dowling and Jack Lowe.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

The Bounce Back (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and brief drug use) Romantic comedy about a charismatic relationship guru (Shemar Moore) who falls in love with a skeptical fellow therapist (Nadine Velazquez) he meets while on a book tour promoting his new best seller. Supporting cast includes Bill Bellamy, Kali Hawk and Vanessa Bell Calloway.

La La Land (PG-13 for profanity) Damien Chazelle (Whiplash) directed this enchanting homage to Hollywood musicals set in present-day LA and revolving around an aspiring actress (Emma Stone) and jaded jazz musician's (Ryan Gosling) whirlwind romance. With J.K. Simmons, John Legend and Rosemarie DeWitt.

Office Christmas Party (R for crude sexuality, graphic nudity, drug use and pervasive profanity) Raunchy holiday comedy about a couple of corporate execs' (Jason Bateman and T.J. Miller) attempt to save their jobs by throwing a wild party to impress a potential client. Ensemble cast includes Jennifer Aniston, Kate McKinnon, Vanessa Bayer, Olivia Munn, Courtney B. Vance and Rob Corddry.

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Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, holds his "2016 Athlete of the Year Awards." Associated Press / Claude Paris

Bolt's journey

By Azad Ali

Several of the world's leading athletes and entertainers came out for the documentary on Usain Bolt's quest for iconic status, which was premiered in London recently.

Stars from track and field and dance-hall music braved freezing weather conditions to attend the function at the West End's Odeon Leicester Square

Continued on Page 46

West Indies Women qualify

By Azad Ali

West Indies Women breathed a sigh of relief after earning an automatic qualification for next year's ICC 50-overs World Cup in England.

Their bid to become one of the four automatic qualifiers had been left in limbo following a humiliating 3-0 whitewash to India Women last month (November), which left them fourth in the ICC Women's Championship after

Continued on Page 46



HOLDING ON

Hear him roar: Bishop Loughlin senior Keith Williams racked up 26 points, including two impressive dunks, for the Lions on Dec. 2. Photo by Caleb Caldwell

Loughlin escapes with slim win in opener

By Kyle Gorman

It wasn't quite a roar of victory, but Bishop Loughlin's boys basketball team notched its first win of the season with a slim 95-87 showing over All Hallows on Dec. 2.

The Lions were pleased with the score, but knew there was still plenty

to work on, particularly on the defensive end.

"We didn't play our best basketball today," said Loughlin coach Ed Gonzalez. "We didn't do well on defense today."

Bishop Loughlin (1-0) led wire-to-wire, but the Lions' comfortable

cushion turned into a tight, five-point lead with just under a minute left on the clock. Turnovers were a particular problem in the backcourt as the Lions guards tried to push tempo.

"I've got to limit my turnovers,"

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cinema for the premier that ran for nearly two hours.

The documentary titled "I Am Bolt" takes viewers behind the scenes of Bolt's journey to nine Olympic gold medals.

Among the VIPs was former Jamaican Sprinting great, Merlene Ottley, who said; "I think he's had enough. He has won everything and I mean what else is there to do."

Ottley the legendary sprinter has won three silver and six bronze medals at the Olympics.

Bolt, who has started training a month ago, went to Monaco for the IAAF Athletics Awards, where he received the Male Athletics of the Year Award.

Bolt, who plans to retire at the World Championships next year, said, "I've always said London is a good place to untie my shoes."

Time to reflect

By Azad Ali

West Indies Captain Jason Holder has urged his players who were booted out of the Tri-Nation Series to use the disappointment as time for personal reflection as they tried to regroup.

Needing to beat Zimbabwe in the recent final against Sri Lanka, West Indies tied their second game against Zimbabwe by five runs under the Duck/Lewis method, to see their challenge ended at the Queen's Sports Club in Zimbabwe.

The regional team started the tournament with a convincing win over Sri Lanka but tied their second game and lost their third to Sri Lanka by a single run before rain and carelessness ensured their demise in their final match.

Holder said Zimbabwe got too many runs and the players did not bat smart enough in the situation, "we lost wickets at crucial stages."

He said while he thought the game could have continued amidst



Standout performance: Junior Markquis Nowell led his team with 33 points.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

LIONS TO FOCUS ON DEFENSE

Continued from page 45

said junior Markquis Nowell. "And I've got to play better defense."

Nowell was electric on the offensive side of the court, despite his self-criticism, and he led his team with 33 points on the night, including a pair of three-pointers and a massive dunk early in the game that had the entire crowd on its feet.

"I wanted to be aggressive. I wanted to set the tone," Nowell said.

Gonzalez, however, was frustrated by Nowell's defensive struggles down the stretch.

"There's no doubt he can score the ball — we all know that. There's no doubt he's a very good player," the Lions

coach said. "I'm not worried about that. What I'm worried about is his defense. He's got to get better defensively, and also he's got to run the team a little bit more efficiently."

Nowell wasn't the only Bishop Loughlin standout to put up big numbers in the season-opener. Senior guard Keith Williams — who committed to the University of Cincinnati earlier this year — racked up 26 points, including a pair of highlight-worthy dunks of his own. The soon-to-be Bearcat regularly out-muscled his opponents in the paint, drawing fouls and hauling in rebounds.

Despite the big numbers on offense, it was the lack of efficiency and consistent defensive pressure that kept the

game close throughout the night.

Bishop Loughlin jumped out to a 19-14 lead after the first quarter and padded that cushion throughout the second. Nowell led the charge, highlighting an 11-point run with a high-arc, mid-range jumper in the first half. All Hallows (0-1) refused to go down without a fight, however, coming out strong in the third quarter and matching the Lions throughout the second half. It wasn't pretty down the stretch, bordering close to nerve-wracking, but the Lions are confident they can turn their defense around. After all, that was only game one.

"We gave up a lot of points," Gonzalez said. "We've got to take better pride in our defense and move on from here."

Windies Women qualify

Continued from page 45

their full complement of 21 games.

The top four in the Championship gain automatic qualification.

However, they were in danger of being overtaken by India Women who were fifth on 19 points with three games remaining and needed to just win two of their remaining games to clinch the fourth automatic World Cup position.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) subsequently ruled last week that India has "forfeited each of the three matches it was due to play against

Pakistan in Round 6 of the ICC Women's Championship and that the points should be awarded to Pakistan."

The ICC said the Technical Committee was sensitive to the current state of relations between the nations of India and Pakistan, but concluded that the India Cricket Board of Control had not been able to establish "acceptable reasons" for not participating in the series.

West Indies Women clinched fourth place with 22 points, avoiding a 10-team play-off in Sri Lanka next February to determine the four spots in the World Cup.



Former Pakistan cricketer and ICC chief Zaheer Abbas hands the trophy to the West Indies team after they defeated Australia in the final of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 2016 cricket tournament at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India, Sunday, April 3, 2016.

Associated Press / Bikas Das, File

Australia Women won the Women's Championship with 36 points with England Women on second with 29 points and New Zealand Women third on 26.

Brendon Rodney motivates Brooklyn Community Services Youths



Brendon Rodney chats with young athletes.



Olympiad Brendon Rodney on track techniques.

Brendon Rodney, who won a bronze medal for Canada running track in Rio, brought his Olympic medal to visits with youths at Brooklyn Community Services' East

New York Family Academy and GKCC afterschool programs. The youths were thrilled to get the Olympiad experience by wearing the prized medal and learning

champion techniques in running relays. "Whatever you want to accomplish, you can," he told them.

Rodney grew up in rapper Drake's hometown of Toronto

and his escape from getting into trouble was sports. Today, he's a Brooklyn resident, who holds a master's degree in exercise science and nutrition

from LIU and is currently balancing his professional track career with working on staff with LIU athletics. His father is from Jamaica.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, nothing can break your resolve, not even a worthy temptation. This will serve you well when you're faced with a difficult situation in the week ahead.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Take a lighter approach to the week, Taurus. You can benefit from some rest and relaxation. Invite friends over if you need a diversion from the daily grind.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, expect to be torn between two attractive options this week. Trust your instincts on this one, even if you must go against convention to do so.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, many people are rooting for you this week, and it can be eye-opening learning just how many people are in your corner. Remember to support your friends when they need you.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Clear out your schedule, Leo, because it could be a wild ride for the next few days. You probably will not have much time to yourself. When you get a break, make the most of it.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, friends will seemingly come out of the woodwork this week to visit with you. You will not be short on social interactions. Take a few minutes to catch your breath.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Vacations are the order of the week, Libra. You can't get enough of travel lately, and you're apt to take as many people as you can along for the ride.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may have to push yourself out of your comfort zone this week. It can be a little scary to do so, but with the support of a few close friends, you can benefit from change.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, don't wait too long to take advantage of an opportunity that drops in your lap; otherwise, it may pass you by. Expect some friendly envy on the part of others.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Support a family member when he or she has some unconventional ideas, Capricorn. This may be just the catalyst needed to spark new conversations and actions.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Your job may take up a considerable amount of your time for the immediate future, Aquarius. You must decide whether this is the path you want or if you're ready to move on.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, what you deem joking around may be taken seriously by someone else and hurt some feelings. Be careful with your words.

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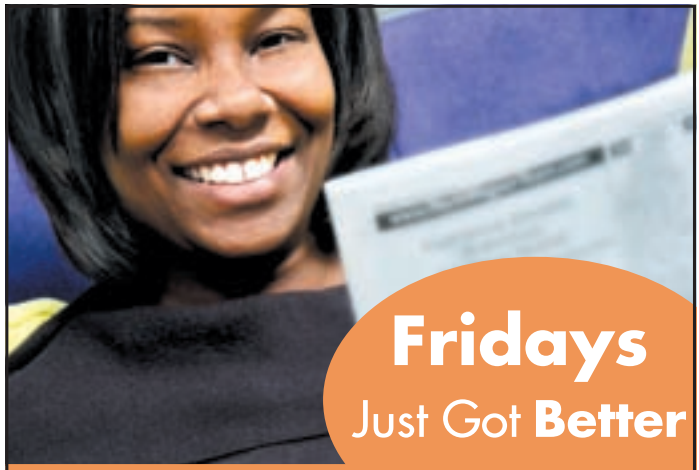
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license, #TBA has been applied for by Slight Return LLC d/b/a Café Gitane to sell beer and wine at retail in an on premises establishment. For on premises consumption under the ABC law at 70 Hudson Avenue Brooklyn NY 11201.

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