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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Brooklyn, 2015: Borough President Adams and Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna bid farewell to 2014 at the New Year's Eve fireworks celebration at Grand Army Plaza. See story on page 25

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

MAJOR RUCKUS AHEAD

Disquiet in T&T as alleged terror list is released

By Bert Wilkinson

Early in the new year, the administration of Prime Minister Keith Rowley will lay a highly controversial document in parliament listing the names and activities of nearly 200 people who an international watchdog group says have more than passing links to international terrorism.

The report was compiled by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) which has strong links to the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and monitors the level of compliance by countries and financial

institutions regarding financial transactions and suspected acts of money laundering.

In Trinidad, Minister Brian Stuart Young who operates out of Rowley's office told local media in the past week that a total of 182 locals were under the radar of the FIU with suspected links to terrorism.

Young said officials had pored over nearly 750 suspicious transactions in the past year, nearly 22 percent more than the previous year. More than 700 were related to money laundering and while 69 had all

Continued on Page 6

Calls on US to stop Haitian deportations

By Nelson A. King

As the Obama administration in the United States has resumed deportation of Haitians living illegally in the country, there is a growing chorus of calls for Washington to reverse course.

In the latest appeal, three legislators in Brooklyn have dispatched a joint letter to the US Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, and to the Obama administration asking them to rescind their decision to resume deporta-

tions of Haitians.

New York State Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte, New York City Council Member Jumaane D. Williams, and New York State Senator Kevin Parker said Haitians being

Continued on Page 6



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Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte (2nd from r) with staff of Public School 6.

Office of Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte

Brooklyn politicians send greetings

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn legislators Council Member Jumaane D. Williams, Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte and Senator Jesse Hamilton have joined their legislative colleagues in dispatching holidays greetings to their respective constituents.

Williams, deputy leader for the City Council and representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, sent greetings on Kwanzaa, which is celebrated from Dec. 26 – Jan. 1 by the African Diaspora all over the world.

“I send my sincerest regard to all who celebrate Kwanzaa this holiday season,” he said on Dec. 26. “Today marks the beginning of a cultural celebration that honors African American heritage and culture through the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

“This season, we celebrate Kwanzaa at a time when many of Africa’s children in America are undergoing challenges as they move through life,” he added, stating that African Americans are faced with high unemployment rates, inadequate housing and schooling options, and a “burgeoning gun violence pandemic that is taking the lives of our youth.

“As we reflect on our troubles, blessings and memories over the past year, let us be inspired by the spirit of unity or Umoja, so we can bring in 2017 with hope that there will be a better tomorrow,” Williams continued. “Habari Gani.”

Continued on Page 15

Medical team thanks volunteers at Christmas party



HERO volunteers take time to be merry and bright.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

By Tangerine Clarke

Doctors and medical personal of the non-profit, Health and Education Relief Organization (HERO) said thanks to their volunteers and supporters who continue to help the humanitarians carry out their medical missions to Guyana, to heal thousands of citizens.

Guyanese-born, Drs. Harrison and John Mitchell, co-founders of HERO, hosted their annual Christmas party at Stephen’s Church Hall in Brooklyn, recently, to share cheer, good well, festive food, drink, and music, but their thoughts were with children and adults back home who are in need of vision care, surgery, and cancer screenings, to help them live normal lives.

The medical mission has expanded its surgical program by recruiting specialists physicians, like plastic surgeons, Obstetrics, urologist, and orthopedic, according to Dr. Harrison Mitchell.

“I am proud to announce that my son, John Mitchell, has been one of the principal opticians of the vision program, the brainchild of my brother Dr. John Mitchell,” said Mitchell

“The program is more structured, and John has been instrumental in vision testing, and prescribing glasses and contact lenses for patients. This program has been overwhelming in Georgetown,” said Dr. Harrison who added that Thursday has been set-aside especially to attend to children.

During these testing, he mentioned, a young girl cried when she could not read the vision chart, and noted that it was striking that the child was attending school but no one recognized that she could not see. This is an example of why testing and intervention are important to help children.

The internist, affiliated with New

York City’s St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center, said Sophia, in Georgetown is one such, area in dire need of medical help. As such, HERO will make this area a top priority aside from the Georgetown Hospital clinic, to better serve patients.

Dr. John Mitchell, a Scranton, Pennsylvania surgeon, who is also affiliated with Washington Hospital, said the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), where he completed a one-year stint, has many challenges. There is a lack of clinical faculty to teach staff how to take care of patients

“Young physicians at (GPHC) are dedicated, and they yearn for the opportunity to learn,” said Dr. John Mitchell whose team has performed surgeries to correct chronic deformities such as the

repair of cleft palette and clubfoot. In addition, HERO has expanded its breast health program to better serve citizens who are battling the disease.

In addition to pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Claude Scott, Dr. Ron Chase, who is affiliated with New York Presbyterian Hospital has performed laparoscopic surgery, while teaching surgeons there, procedure to carry on the work.

Wayne Paul-Bazil, a nursing assistant at Kings County Hospital, has made four trips, taking with him, medical supplies to the GPHC, and to rural areas of the country, where the need is great, he said.

To learn more, or to volunteer with HERO – log on to [www. http://heroglobal.org](http://heroglobal.org).



President of HERO/C - the cancer arm of HERO, Lorna Welshman-Neblett, Dr. Harrison Mitchell, Dr. Ron Chase, Dr. Collie Oudkirk and Dr. John Mitchell shared cheer at the annual Christmas party.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Caribbean

Caribbean countries have been warned to expect above normal rainfall this year (2017) during the dry season.

At the third Dry Season Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (Cariforum) of the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) recent three-day meeting in Grenada, meteorologist at the Grenada National Meteorologica Services, Trisha Miller told the meeting that though the region would experience conditions that are hotter than the average dry season, it would still be cooler than in the recent past.



He said over the past few months, especially from August to October, the temperature was high in most places and this led to people feeling uncomfortable at times.

Miller said from December to February, conditions should be wet enough to partly off-set the dryness and water shortages in some regions.

The forecast for Cuba and the Cayman Islands is that these countries will remain in drought conditions and will be closely monitored.

Barbados

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has granted Barbados US\$34 million loan to improve its energy security and diversify the island's energy mix.

The project will help Barbados in transitioning to a cleaner energy future, meeting its current natural gas demands and contributing to the creation of a regional Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply.

The loan will enhance Barbados' energy security and sustainability by diversifying its energy mix through promoting the use of cleaner fuels for power generation, increasing the use of renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficient applications by Barbados' government and private sector.



The Barbadian government's priorities in the electricity sector include reducing electricity prices, using cleaner fuels and reducing the negative environmental impacts.

Barbados plans to have renewable energy contributes to 65 percent of total peak electricity demand by 2029.

The loan is for 24 years and will be financed by the IDB's Ordinary Capital resources with a 6.5 year grace period and a labor-based interest rate.

Bahamas

The Bahamas government has denied allegations that it is offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of ille-



'I Am Bolt' premieres in London

Usain Bolt strikes a pose upon arrival at the World premiere of the film "I Am Bolt" in London. See story on page 37.

Associated Press / Tim Ireland

gal immigrants in the country.

In a media release the Department of Immigration said a recent statement was being circulated on social media and reported by one local media house "about the offer of rewards by the department for information leading to the arrest of illegal migrants is patently false."



The release said that, given the relatively high volume of misinformation on social media, the department was urging the public to "exercise caution and restraint when sharing suspiciously and potentially harmful content on this medium."

Guyana

Guyana has produced a record 641,000 ounces of gold in 2016 with earnings of more than US\$750 million.

Minister of Natural Resources Raphael Trotman said the production figure is far more than the projected target of 550,000 ounces.



He said the medium and small scale miners played a significant role in the historic accomplishment and that nearly 70 percent of the gold recorded, was accounted for by these miners.

For the year 2017, the gold target has been set to 694,000 ounces. Trotman said it is a difficult but not an impos-

sible target to reach.

Trotman said the mining sector also achieved another record with more than 190,000 metric carats of diamonds as of October 2016, earning Guyana more than Guy\$73 million.

Grenada

Grenada police are cracking down on military-type clothing and "explosive" fireworks in the island.

Police have raided several business places and seized counterfeit military wear as well as fireworks during the Christmas season.

Head of the Community Relations of the Police Force, Sylvan McIntyre said that as part of the operation, "all things illegal will be seized."



McIntyre explained that all importers, retailers and the general public should be aware that is an offence to import, sell or deal in military uniforms without permission from the relevant authority.

He said it is an offence to bring into Grenada any military or any of the patterned materials commonly used for making military uniforms.

The penalty on conviction is EC\$10,000. McIntyre also said it is a criminal offence for any person to use, deal, sell or purchase explosives such as firecrackers, scratch bombs and other devices that have similar explosive

effect, without the appropriate license.

Jamaica

The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSO) recently launched the Violence Against Children Reward Fund that will be used for rewarding people who assist in the arrest and charge of anyone who has committed violent acts against children.



A PSOJ statement describes violence acts against children and teenagers up to the age of 18 as including murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, kidnapping murder, molestation, carnal abuse or child abuse.

The proposed fund will hold a minimum of J\$1 million and will be managed by Crime Stop Jamaica that will also be responsible for determining the value of each reward granted based on a case by case scenario.

Musson Foundation has made a \$1 million donation to start the fund.

Deputy Commissioner of Police George Quallo said there has been a downward trend in murder, rape and sexual offences against children in 2016 compared to 2015.

St. Lucia

The St. Lucia government is seeking a "formal clarification and retraction" from UNAIDS of a statement released

Continued on Page 16

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Trinidadians await release of terror list



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

Continued from page 1

the hallmarks of being strongly linked to the financing of terrorism.

But even as authorities are waiting out the Xmas and New Year holiday season, key members of the island's Islamic community are zooming in on the revelations and are asking that officials release the names of those listed in the document.

Umar Abdullah who represents the Islamic Front on the island said government appears to be guilty of being led by the nose by the FIU and its related international organizations.

"I am challenging the government to produce the list of the 182 suspected nationals along with the names of the 69 who are suspected of financing terrorism. It appears as though this present administration is allowing itself to be drawn into a war with its own citizens much to their own disadvantage and at the expense and peril of the ordinary man on the streets," he said.

For his part, Young said the report will show that nearly \$150 million in transactions from commercial banks,

private members clubs, wire transfer and real estate agencies were made during the reporting period and authorities are picking up certain trends.

One includes large amounts of money transferred to places and countries which Interpol and other global agencies list as major human trafficking destinations.

Additionally, the minister said, dozens of intelligence reports generated from FIU investigations have been sent to law enforcement agencies for further investigations.

So far Trinidad appears to be way out front among its Caribbean neighbors in its level of monitoring of financial transactions and alleged links to terrorism and money laundering.

Haitian deportations

Continued from page 1

deported are unfairly "singled out."

Bichotte, the first Haitian American in New York City to be elected to New York State Assembly, has also participated in a social media campaign imploring the US administration to redesignate Haitians refugees for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) classification and to expand the Haitian Family Reunification Program.

The three elected officials represent largely Caribbean districts in Brooklyn, with high concentration of Haitians. Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District, Williams the 45th City Council District, and Parker the 21st Senatorial District.

"America has long been known as the land of opportunity, and a country that has opened its borders to immigrants," the legislators say in their joint letter. "If we look at more recent immigrants, such as Cubans, there has long been a policy that once they arrive, if they make it to our shores, they are allowed to stay and granted refugee status.

"There were also Salvadorans and Guatemalans, which sought asylum in our country during the civil war in El Salvador, many to whom asylum was granted," they add. "Ultimately, legislation was put in place — the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central Relief Act (1972) — which allowed these

groups to apply directly for a green card. In addition, the Obama administration has recently said it would accept 110,000 Syrian refugees. In light of these policies, it would appear, that these Haitian immigrants are being singled out."

The politicians wrote that, prior to the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, many Haitians migrated there to find work, stating that, once the Olympics were over, jobs were scarce and that some Haitians began the long and treacherous journey to the US / Mexico border "only to be detained or turned away."

In some cases, Bichotte, Williams and Parker said Haitian families were separated — "women and children from their husbands and fathers, due to the abrupt change in immigration policy."

The legislators said the deportations resumed "at a time when there was a tragic confluence of events, including the devastation Hurricane Matthew and a widespread cholera epidemic, accompanied by a pending election.

"Contrary to what DHS (Department of Homeland Security) has stated, the situation in Haiti has not improved; it has worsened, warranting a humanitarian response, not harsh enforcement," they said, adding that "without an effort to rectify this situation, DHS' forced separation of family members may mean that families are separated for a lifetime.

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International Business and Commerce Minister, Donville Inniss.

Photo by George Alleyne

Blacklisting annoys Barbados

By George Alleyne

Barbados continues to fume over a blacklisting by worldwide charity organisation, Oxfam, with International Business and Commerce Minister, Donville Inniss, on Monday reportedly describing the poverty-fighting group as a bully and liar.

UK based Oxfam earlier this month named this island number 13 among the world's top 15 'worst corporate tax havens,' claiming that Barbados along with the other 14, "facilitate the most extreme forms of corporate tax avoidance, driving the race to the bottom in corporate taxation."

The renowned charity accused Barbados and the other countries of using harmful tax policies, that are "causing the loss of huge amounts of valuable tax revenue," and said, "their use is becoming standard business practice for many companies."

Oxfam stated that its analysis found 90 percent of the world's biggest companies had a presence in at least one tax haven.

"I don't know where Oxfam's head lies to tell such blatant [untruths] about a sovereign state," the Nation newspaper reported Inniss saying Monday.

"There is no way even the most unenlightened person can say that Barbados is a tax haven, but you have these organisations that criticise us and will not say 'boo' about America, where there are some states which practise

[such activity]. Yet when it comes to small Barbados, there are those who feel they can run roughshod over us."

The minister's accusations Monday are the second reported salvo aimed at Oxfam.

The Barbados TODAY epaper had previously reported him referring to Oxfam's categorization of Barbados as 'wicked' and 'mischievous.'

Noting that Barbados' offshore operations currently enjoy a passing grade from the biggest tax haven watchdog agency, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, he questioned the authority of the charitable organisation in venturing into such areas.

"Next thing you know the Salvation Army is going to say we are a tax haven, the Red Cross is going to say we are a tax haven."

The government minister said that instead of praising Barbados for applying initiatives that lifted its people out of poverty, Oxfam wanted people for the island, to "come with a beggar bowl."

In the report, Oxfam stated that it exposed the so-called 'worst tax havens,' because, "collecting tax is one of the key means by which governments are able to address poverty and inequality. But big business is dodging tax on an industrial scale, depriving governments across the globe of the money they need to address poverty and invest in health-care, education and jobs."

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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Global effects of Trump even before taking office

By Martin Khor

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

PENANG, Nov. 24, 2016 (IPS) - Even before taking office, President-Elect Donald Trump and the policies he promised during his campaign are already having a worldwide impact in at least three areas — global finance, trade and climate change.

If his election is described as an earthquake, the aftershocks are now being felt.

Global funds are starting to move out of many developing countries, reducing the value of their currencies and causing great economic uncertainty.

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) looks like it will fade away, as Trump has said he would give notice of the US withdrawing from the pact on his first day of office.

Earlier, President Obama, seeing the signs on the wall, gave up on efforts to give it a final push through Congress.

And delegates meeting at the two-week annual UN climate conference that ended in Marakesh on Nov. 19 were all speculating whether a President Trump would carry out his campaign threat to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement and what then would happen to future international climate action.

Trump has since softened his stand, telling the New York Times on Nov. 22 that he has “an open mind” on the Paris agreement. But he has also indicated he won't follow through on the Obama administration's domestic measures to reduce Greenhouse gases.

These are only some of initial effects in anticipation of a Trump presidency. As the President Elect begins to fill in his cabinet positions, the world also wondered what is in store with regard to new US policies on immigration, the UN, the Middle East, Asia and even NATO.

The first concrete real-world effect was on currencies and the flow of funds in developing countries. Equities and currencies in many countries in Asia and elsewhere have taken a hit since the Trump election victory.

The US dollar has strengthened significantly in expectations that Trump will embark on massive spending on infrastructure, thus increasing expectations of inflationary pressures and of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates earlier than expected.

Many billions of dollars of funds that had moved to emerging economies in search for higher yield are returning to the now-attractive USA, and this reverse flow is expected to continue or increase.

This can cause volatility and havoc in many emerging economies, in the wake of an exit of a sizable portion of the hundreds of billions of dollars of foreign funds.

Many developing countries are vulnerable as foreign funds in recent years have increased their ownership of their government bonds denominated in domestic currencies, and there is also higher participation of foreigners in their stock markets.

This makes them even more susceptible to high outflows of capital, and to the weakening

of their currency levels, making it more difficult to service external debt. The lesson from the boom-bust financial cycle is that what comes in as short-term funds will most likely move out when conditions change.

On the TPP, the effects of the US elections came swiftly. The US Congress must ratify the TPP for it to come into effect and the last opportunity is during the “lame duck” session before Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20.

But immediately after the elections, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell Dougall announced there would be no vote on the TPP during this year.

Sensing there is no hope for a TPP bill to succeed, Obama signaled he would give up the effort. As Obama is the true, and often lonely, champion of the TPP, while Trump had pledged to kill it during his campaign, there is almost no prospect for the TPP to be ratified in the US.

Many billions of dollars of funds that had moved to emerging economies in search for higher yield are returning to the now-attractive USA, and this reverse flow is expected to continue or increase

At the recent summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held in Lima, leaders of the TPP countries, including Obama, were holding on to the possibility that Trump on taking office would change his mind on the TPP.

After all, President Bill Clinton pushed through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) though he opposed it before becoming President and Obama had signed the TPP although he too had earlier been against such agreements.

However, Trump dashed hopes that he too would do an about-turn when he announced on Nov. 20 that on his first day as President he would issue a notification of intent to withdraw from the TPP which he called a “potential disaster.”

Without the US on board the TPP cannot survive, as at least six countries with 85% of the combined GDP of all the 13 TPP countries need to ratify the agreement for it to come into effect.

The near-certain death of the TPP is due not so much to Trump as to the public mood in the US that has become so strongly against such trade agreements that it was unlikely there would be enough votes to get it through the Congress, whoever won the election.

A larger issue is what overall trade policy Trump will adopt. It is almost certain that the other big agreement, the US-European Union Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), will also cease negotiations.

And NAFTA may be re-negotiated, as this was a Trump campaign promise, though no one knows the parameters of such a re-negotiation.

Trump has also vowed to slap on huge tariffs on imports from China and Mexico. Doing so would be against basic World Trade Organisation rules, so Trump might have to discard his campaign threats — or else hell will break loose at the WTO.

In any case, the future of the WTO's negotiating agenda will have to await the unveiling of President Trump's overall trade policy.

Thus the Trump presidency will have a huge impact on the future of the multilateral trading system as well as on bilateral trade agreements.

Even more is at stake in climate change, widely described as the biggest crisis facing the world. During the campaign, Trump described climate change as a hoax and vowed to pull the US out from the Paris Agreement, which Obama had joined with other countries to ratify and which came into force in record time on Nov. 4.

There was a sombre mood at the UN Climate Change Convention conference in Morocco that ended Nov. 19. Delegates and activists alike speculated

in the corridors on what would happen if the US leaves the Paris Agreement or even the Convention altogether.

French President Francois Hollande told the conference that “the United States, the second largest greenhouse gas emitter, must respect the commitments it has undertaken,” stressing that the agreement was “irreversible”.

If the US leaves the Paris Agreement, the effects could be disastrous. When the US under President George W. Bush withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, it didn't have an immediate effect on other countries.

But by 2011, Japan, Russia and Canada had also either pulled out of the protocol or refused to participate in its second commitment period, and the protocol is now hardly operational. There are legitimate concerns the same fate may befall on a Paris Agreement without the US.

Freed from the commitment the US made under the agreement to cut its Greenhouse Gas emissions by 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, a Trump administration might more easily un-do Obama's executive orders and the Environment Protection Agency rules to cut emissions from existing power plants.

A ray of hope was lit on this depressing scenario at least temporarily when Trump told journalists at the New York Times that “I have an open mind on it”, when asked about the Paris agreement.

The chances of Trump becoming a climate co-operant if not exactly a champion are not however bright. He has announced that his choice for EPA head is Myron Ebelle, known for his skeptical views on the “myths of climate change.”

And one of his priorities on assuming office would be to pump more oil and gas and restore the coal industry. Reversing Obama's climate change regulations are expected to follow.

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Requiem to those we loved and lost in 2016

On Christmas Day, actor William Shatner, the pilot of TV's "Star Trek" space adventure summed up 2016 saying "Is this year over yet? Too many people are passing away. Rest in Peace George Michael."

Nile Rodgers, founder of the hit group Chic founder added "this is so crazy I was just at his house the morning of the 23rd. So crazy."

The shocking news dulled the revelry of the Christian holiday, the second day of the Jewish Channukah festivities and the Kwanzaa celebration African Americans anticipated the following day.

In a requiem to the sudden passing of the two-time British, Grammy winner, former Radio One DJ Tony Blackburn said "This dreadful year goes on and on...RIP George Michael."

"During an influential career that spanned nearly four decades, George became one of the most beloved pop craftsmen and respected entertainers. From the enormous success he achieved with pop duo Wham! to his influential solo career, his extraordinary talent had a profound impact on countless entertainers worldwide, and his creative contributions will live on forever," Neil Portnow, President/CEO of The Recording Academy said.

"We have lost a cherished artist and our sincerest condolences go out to George's family, friends, and musical collaborators. He will be missed."

The music award institution had issued a similar statement a decade ago on the very same day when soul singer James Brown succumbed at age 73. Two years later, another Christmas Day shocker upstaged the revelry with the announcement of the death of Eartha Kitt on the holiday. Kitt died at age 81.

Early in 2016, Portnow lamented the death of another British singer/musician who passed in New York. David Bowie, a New York resident died on Jan. 10, after battling cancer. He was 69.

Celebrated New Yorkers were hard-hit with tragedies in 2016.

Colonel Abrams, a 80s chart-topper whose "Trapped" and "Ain't Gonna Let" ruled disco clubs died on Nov. 25 at age 67. He was acclaimed to be the pioneer of house and dance music.

Born in Detroit, Michigan his family later moved to East 13 Street, in Manhattan's east



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Village and here is where his international mark as dancer, singer and actor.

Local media suffered a blow when "PBS News Hour" co-anchor Gwen Ifill died on Nov. 14. The reporter battled with cancer and lost the fight at age 61. Ifill was born in Jamaica, Queens. Reports in the New York Times stated that she grew up in federally subsidized housing in Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island.

New York City-born actor Robert Vaughn died of leukemia on Nov. 11. He was 83. Vaughn was known best for his role in "The Man from U.N.C.L.E" television series

The creator of "Happy Days" and "The Odd Couple" was a Bronx native. Garry Marshall, born in the borough in 1934, died of complications from pneumonia after suffering a stroke. He was 81. Marshall also directed "Pretty Woman" and "The Princess Diaries."

A prolific author, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel died on July 2. He was 87. Though born in Romania, Wiesel called Manhattan home until the time of his death.

Lou Pearlman, the creator of "NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys, died in federal prison on Aug. 19, 2016. He was 62. Pearlman was born in Flushing, Queens, and graduated from Queens College in the late 1970s. Pearlman was serving out a 25-year sentence for swindling banks and investors out of more than \$300 million.

Michael Cimino, the Academy Award-winning director behind the 1978 Vietnam War film "The Deer Hunter," died on July 2, 2016. He was 77. Born in New York City, Cimino grew up on Long Island before moving to Los Angeles in 1971.

What is New York Fashion Week without Bill Cunningham? The New York Times photographer was known for his street style pictures — and for the bike he rode around Manhattan while shooting. Cunningham had been with the newspaper for 40 years when he died on June 25. He was 87.

Former "60 Minutes" news correspondent Morley Safer died in Manhattan on May 19. He was 84. The veteran jour-

nalist joined CBS News in Dec. 1970 and had retired just a week before his death.

Patty Duke, a native of Queens who won an Oscar as a teenager for "The Miracle Worker," died of sepsis on March 29. She was 69. The actress' long career included her own television show, "The Patty Duke Show," and "The Valley of the Dolls."

Former first lady Nancy Reagan died of congestive heart failure on March 6. She was 94. Reagan grew up in Flushing, Queens, before becoming a Hollywood actress and marrying then-actor and future President Ronald Reagan in 1952.

George Kennedy, who was born in NYC died on Feb. 28. He was 91. The veteran character actor starred in countless movies including "Cool Hand Luke" and "Airport."

"Mob Wives" star and Brooklyn native Angela Raiola, better known as "Big Ang," died on Feb. 18 after battling cancer. She was 55.

Muhammad Ali was not a New Yorker. However when he died on June 3 at age 73 he was grieved for many days at Harlem's Apollo Theater as if he was born and raised in the Big Apple. His mega accomplishments in boxing and iconic philanthropic and cultural contributions were partly attributed to the outpouring of love the community displayed but mostly his ties to the city revered him as a favorite son. The legendary world championship fighter had struggled from Parkinson's disease for 35 years but after suffering from respiratory issues, the three-time-former champion passed away in a hospital in Phoenix, Arizona.

His funeral was held in his hometown Louisville, Kentucky.

In Minneapolis, Minnesota the color purple reigned when news of the passing of Prince Rogers Nelson made headlines on April 21.

The rock/pop superstar died in his Paisley Park recording studio.

Prince was most famous for the classic song and movie "Purple Rain" as well as a long list of Grammy-winning compositions including "Little Red Corvette," "When Doves Cry,"



Fidel Castro (second from left) with PM Michael Manley and GG Glasspole - 1970.
Ephraim Martin

"1999," "Let's Go Crazy," "Do Me Baby," "I Would Die 4U," "Diamonds and Pearls," "Raspberry Beret," "I Wanna be Your Lover" and a trove of classic recordings.

Prince was 57. Prince protégé Vanity died Feb. 15. The leader of a 80s group known as Vanity 6, her off-stage name was Denise Katrina Matthews. Like Prince, she too died at 57.

A partial listing of celebrated departures also include: Maurice White of the rhythm and blues group Earth Wind and Fire, 74, actor Ron Glass, 71, Frank Sinatra Jr. 75, actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, 99, Phife Dawg, a Tribe called Quest, 45, actors Bill Nunn, 66, Gene Wilder, 83, Kenny "R2D2" Baker, 81, and Alan Thicke, 69, musician Leon Russell, 74 and John Glenn, the first American astronaut to orbit the earth at 95.

The Caribbean suffered tragic losses on Sep. 8 with the passing of Cecil Bustamante Campbell, a Jamaican ska innovator popularly known as Prince Buster. The music producer and recorder died in Miami, Florida at age 78.

Another source of grief for Caribbean music lovers focused on Jamaican radio co-host Ellen (Pat) Bailey. Most listeners familiar with the "Gil and Pat Bailey Show," will recall the St. Elizabeth-born co-producer as Miss Pat, Gil's spouse who co-piloted New York's longest running Jamaican radio program. Bailey died on Dec. 12 in her Long Island home, at age 77.

She died after suffering a stroke one year ago while

broadcasting her popular "Let's Hear It" segment on WPAT radio, (930 AM).

Another of her legacies proved a tribute to her island-nation when she opened a one-stop shop for Jamaican foods. She named it Yard & Farrin, a place nationals could find food treats galore.

Guyana mourned Edward Ricardo Braithwaite, a prolific author, educator, engineer and diplomat.

Braithwaite later moved to Britain and enlist in the Royal Air Force, but even with a degree in engineering from Cambridge, he was denied a job in that field because he was Black.

Rather than fight a potential losing battle with pervasive racism in that field he challenged a teaching career in the slums of London. Equally competitive due to the unruly students he was forced to educate he ultimately succeeded in winning their confidence, trust and respect. He chronicled his teaching experience living there by penning a book he titled "To Sir With Love."

The book inspired a movie of the same name that starred actor Sidney Poitier and Scottish singer Lulu.

Braithwaite died Dec. 13 at age 104 in Rockville, Maryland.

Perhaps the Caribbean region attracted its biggest publicity windfall when revolutionary, Communist leader Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz died on Nov. 25 in Cuba. Nine days of official, national mourning *Catch You On The Inside!*

US seeks closer ties with the Caribbean

By Dawn Plummer

There is no avoidant between the United States (US) and the Caribbean, and history has shown that the relationship has been a long and cordial one in most circumstances. However, the question that has always been raised by some Caribbean nationals more often than not what is the United States doing to help its Caribbean neighbors, especially on issues that are bilateral.

With this knowledge on hand and the need to have a greater inclusion of the Caribbean in the US Foreign Affairs policies, United States Congressman, Representative Eliot Engle, (D-NY) a ranking member on Foreign Affairs along with his colleague, Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, former chair of the committee (R-FL) tabled a piece of legislation in the United States Congress to propel and prioritize issues relating to the Caribbean. The bill was tabled as: The United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (H.R.4939).

The bill first passed through Congress in June 2016, went to the United States Senate on

Dec. 10, some slight changes were made to this bill and sent back to Congress and the legislation was passed in Congress on Dec. 13, 2016. President Barack Obama's signature will then put this piece of legislation into law.

Congressional advisor on Caribbean Affairs representing Congressman Eliot Engle office lauded the bill as a meaningful one for the Caribbean. The bill, the advisor pointed out, will call for long-term agreements between the United States and the Caribbean. It will enhance and strengthen the existing ties. It will develop further engagement between United States and Caribbean on pertinent bilateral agreements. Congressman Engle also wants to uphold United States aid already in place, as the need does exist especially for some nations. Also highlighted is the importance for these Caribbean nations to collaborate with the United States State Department more than ever before. In a news release, Engle noted that countries of the Caribbean are profoundly important "... we must not lose

sight of our long term interest close to home."

The Congressional advisor also acknowledged the valuable importance of the Caribbean Community to the United States "and the big picture is that the Caribbean needs the United States, especially as the new administration takes office in January," the advisor added.

The legislation will address areas such as how to collaborate more on energy, security, expanding diplomacy and providing educational exchange opportunities for Caribbean citizens.

Representative Engle is also asking that the Caribbean Diaspora leaders have a significant input in these engagements. One Caribbean leader, Bronx resident and President of the Jamaica Progressive League, Sadie Campbell said, she welcomes the legislation, "...what will it take to wake us up, we need more participation from the Diaspora, we have been too silent, if Donald Trump does not wake us up I do not know what will. We need full support from the Diaspora to send our message."

President of the Interna-



President Obama laughs with Rep. Eliot Engle, D-NY., as he enters to address a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sept. 8, 2011.

Associated Press / Kevin Lamarque, POOL

tional Consortium of Caribbean Professionals, Dr. Gerald White-Davis, hailed the piece of legislation as encouraging, "any extension to help sustain the relationship is good."



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OAS wants respect for electoral process in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

The Washington, D.C.-based Organization of American States (OAS) says its Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) in Haiti has called for "respect for pre-established norms" in the electoral process in the French-speaking Caribbean country.

The OAS said on Wednesday that the EOM, led by former Uruguayan senator Juan Raúl Ferreira, "takes note of the decision by the National Electoral Court (BCEN) to carry out a verification at the Tabulation Center (CTV) of 12 percent of the voting return protocols issued in the elections held on Nov. 20.

"The Mission observed that political parties are making use of the available legal processes to present their claims and concerns," the OAS said.

In accordance with existing agreements between the government of Haiti and the General Secretariat of the OAS, the OAS said it "has had a continuous presence in the country since Nov. 2 and will continue to accompany the Haitian people in this process until the final results of the election are

published.

"The OAS / EOM reaffirms the importance of completing the final phases of the electoral process in accordance with pre-established norms and in a peaceful atmosphere," said the OAS, calling on "all actors to conduct themselves responsibly in order to bring this process to its proper conclusion."

The OAS has said that preliminary results in the Nov. 20 presidential election in Haiti are "in line" with data collected by its observation mission.

"The preliminary results show significant margins between the number of votes obtained by the candidates contesting the election, and are in line with data collected by OAS observers at polling stations on Election Day," the OAS said.

Jovenel Moïse, a member of the PHTK, or the Bald Heads Party, has been declared winner of the presidential election, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) said.

Moïse, a plantation owner, received 595,430 votes, or 55.6 per cent of the votes cast, defeating Jude Célestin of the LAPEH Party of former presi-



Jovenel Moïse talks to journalists during an interview in his office in Petion-Ville, Haiti, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016. Moïse, a political newcomer backed by Haiti's previous elected leader, easily won the presidential election redo, according to preliminary results that were quickly questioned Tuesday by several losing factions.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

dent Michel Martelly, who received 208,837 votes, or 19.52 per cent, of the popular votes.

The other presidential can-

didates Jean-Charles Moïse, of the Pitit Dessalines, received 118,142 votes, or 11.04 per cent; while Maryse Narcisse, of the Fanmi Lavalas, and who

was a spokeswoman for former president Jean Bertrand Aristide, received 96,121 votes, or 8.99 per cent, of the popular votes.



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Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados Senator Mrs. Maxine Pamela Ometa McClean addresses the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press / Stephen Chernin

Barbados, China sign visa waiver agreement

By Azad Ali

The Barbados government has signed a reciprocal visa waiver agreement with China which will include holders of ordinary passports.

The agreement was signed by Barbados Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean and Ambassador to China, Wang Le recently.

The minister said there was also an agreement “on the establishment of Visa-Free Access to holders of passports issued by the office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.”

McClean also spoke about the excellent relations between the two countries, noting that in 2017 would mark 40 years of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China.

The minister cited two examples of such activities as the recent arrival of a Chinese medical team in Barbados to assist with the provision of medical care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the Sixth Round of consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of some Caribbean countries and China’s foreign ministry, which took place in March.

She said the completion and signing of the treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and treaty on extradition between the two countries were also signed.

This year, the minister said also marked the beginning of the rehabilitation work on the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium, which has been facilitated by a grant provided by China.

Caribbean urged to support new approach to cholera in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Recognizing the moral responsibility of the United Nations to the victims of the cholera epidemic in Haiti, the General Assembly has welcomed the new UN approach to tackling the disease — formally launched earlier this month by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon — and called on all 193 of the world body’s members states, including Caribbean countries, to provide the two-track plan their full support.

Adopting a consensus resolution, the Assembly called on “all member states, relevant UN bodies and other international governmental and non-governmental partners to provide their full support to [the new UN approach], in particular to intensify their efforts to respond to and eliminate cholera and to address the suffering of its victims, including by providing material assistance and support to communities and those Haitians most directly affected by cholera.”

Costing an estimated US\$400 million over the next two years, the UN said the approach, detailed in a report of the secretary-general, entitled “A new approach to cholera in Haiti,” will center on two different elements, known as “Track One” and “Track Two.”

“Track One” consists of a “greatly intensified and better-resourced effort to respond to and reduce the incidence of cholera, through addressing Haiti’s short- and longer-term issues of water, sanitation and health systems and improved access to care and treatment,” the UN said.

It said “Track Two” of the approach is the development of a package of material assistance and support to those Haitians most directly affected by cholera, “centered on the victims and their families and communities.”

“It is expected that it will also involve affected individuals and communities in the development of the package,” the



A boy diagnosed with cholera receives treatment at a cholera center in Anse D’Hainault, Haiti, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016. The U.N. said Hurricane Matthew has increased the risk of a “renewed spike” in the number of cholera cases.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

UN said.

It said Haiti has been dealing with a cholera outbreak since October 2010, some nine months after it suffered a devastating earthquake.

The outbreak has affected an estimated 788,000 people and claimed the lives of more than 9,000, the UN said.

It said concerted national and international actions have resulted in a 90 percent reduction in the number of suspected cases.

Briefing the Assembly on the new approach in early December, Ban apologized to the people of Haiti, expressing deep regret for the loss of life and suffering caused by the French-speaking country’s cholera epidemic.

“The United Nations and its member states have the power to recognize and respond to that suffering,” he said. “Let us step up in solidarity to our moral duty and do the right thing for the Haitian people and our United Nations.”

Holiday greetings

Continued from page 3

Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, wished all those celebrating Chanukah, Freilechen Chanukah, to those celebrating Christmas, a Merry Christmas, and to those celebrating Kwaanza, a Happy Kwaanza, and a Happy Winter Solstice.

“May these holidays, which are celebrated in the darkest and coldest time of year, give light and warmth to all,” she said.

This year, Bichotte, District Leader Josue Pierre and the Shirley Chisholm Democratic Club collaborated for the

Annual Toy Drive and Holiday Party, hosted by Grenadian Derek Noel.

Bichotte said there was food, music and dancing, “and a good time was had by all.”

She expressed gratitude to William; Judges Ciccotto, Levine and Sweeney; Flatbush Development Corporation; Leon Goldenberg; and the many community members for their contributions.

“They definitely made the lives of many children brighter this Christmas,” said Bichotte, disclosing that this year’s toys were donated to Public School 6.



Sen. ‘Santa’ Jesse Hamilton with youngest guest.

Sen. Jesse Hamilton, dubbed “Senator Santa,” hosted a Toy Drive and Give-away celebration at his 20th Senatorial District Office in Brooklyn.

Ernest Emmanuel City Council Candidate Wishes the Haitian Community



A happy and Safe Independence Day



Ernest Emmanuel
City Council Candidate
District 45

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

in December 2016 which claimed the island was the only Eastern Caribbean country which had not eliminated mother-to-child transmission.

Health Minister Mary Isaac said the claim was “completely unfounded” and that the last reported case of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in St. Lucia was in 2010.

She said that St. Lucia remained committed to its efforts in preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



Isaac said UNAIDS has assured the ministry that will publish a full retraction of the statement and highlight St. Lucia’s accomplishment in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV since 2010.

Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago economy has declined by 4.5 percent in 2016 according to a new report from the Economic Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

This follows contractions of 0.6 percent and 0.5 percent in 2014

Eclac said continued natural gas supply shortages, maintenance shut-

down and weak energy prices contributed the energy sector’s deterioration, while linkages with that sector pulled down the non-energy sector.

The current account deficit widened as a result of reduced goods export, while foreign direct investment saw a modest recovery.

According to the report, government’s fiscal deficit expanded to 4.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In response, several adjustments were made to compensate for lost energy revenues, including several new tax initiatives.



The report said: “In monetary policy, the central repo rate was left unchanged in 2016 and the exchange rate against the US dollar was allowed to weaken. Unemployment rose to 4.4 percent in the second quarter of 2016 as the slowdown took hold.

It also noted that measures had been implemented to increase revenue from other sources, including reinstatement of property tax, a new income tax bracket and a 7 percent tax on online shopping.

-compiled by Azad Ali

Cancer deaths on the rise

By Azad Ali

Cancer deaths are rising in the Caribbean, according to a recent study by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC).

In a statement CARPHA said only the death-rate from lung cancer was higher in the United States than the Caribbean.

It said the rates of death for cancer of the cervix, breasts, prostate and colon are two to three times higher in the Caribbean than the United States.

The study showed prostate cancer to cause 18 to 47 percent of cancer deaths among Caribbean men, while lung cancer was the second cause of cancer deaths accounting for five to 25 percent.

Among females, breast cancer was the main cause of cancer death, accounting for 14 to 30 percent of cancers and being generally twice as high as the US rate.

CARPHA head, Dr. James Hospedales said breast cancer can be detected early and treated successfully.

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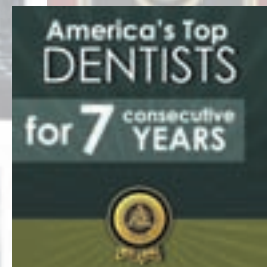
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Maurice White's musical journey to rock & roll

"My Life with Earth Wind & Fire" by Maurice White with Herb Powell
c.2016, Amistad
\$27.99 / \$34.99 Canada
385 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your needs are very simple. Food, shelter, water. Those are the essentials, but then there are the things you need for yourself: family, good friends, a warm bed, a good book, and a place of welcome. You wouldn't die without them, but those things spice your life. And if you were Maurice White, author of "My Life with Earth, Wind & Fire" (with Herb Powell), you'd add one more: music.

Born in Memphis at a time when Jim Crow ruled the south, Maurice White was four years old when his mother told him that she needed to go to Chicago to find a job. She left him with a friend who became White's "Mama," and who raised him with strength and wisdom.

He was a quiet boy, a born introvert, but Mama taught him by example to love God,

Mahalia, and Ray Charles, though he was in junior high when he fell "deep under the spell of music." White and his best friend pulled together a band then, and one of the members encouraged White to find his spiritual core and think in different ways.

At 18, not long before his Mama died of cancer, White headed for Chicago to live with his "Mother Dear," his birth mother, who'd remarried and was raising six children. She offered him a place to stay, but he wanted to be his own man; he also wanted to emulate his stepfather and attend medical school, but music had such an allure that he told "Dad" that he'd been called to a different vocation. White became "a sponge" to soak up all he could learn about the music business.

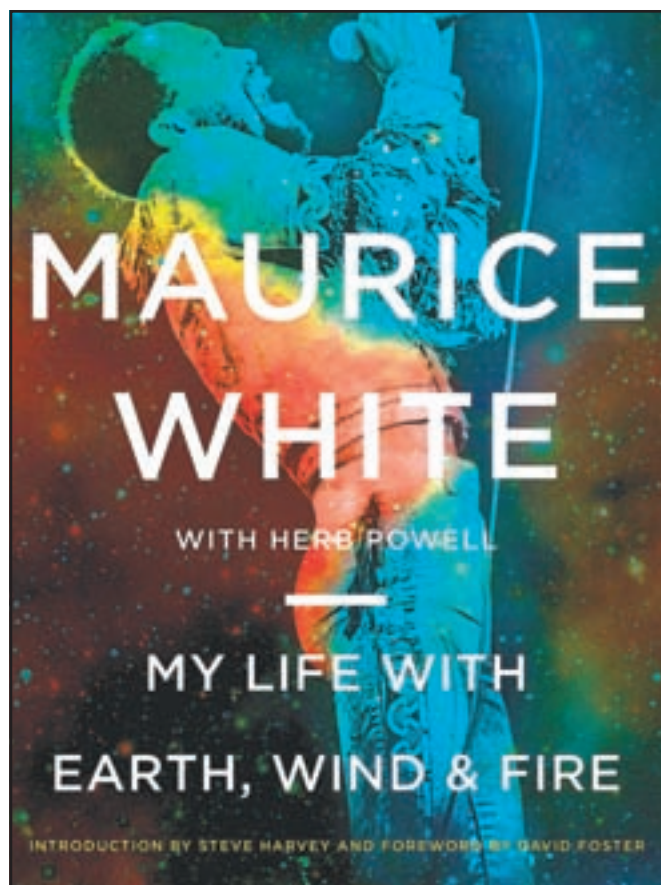
By early 1970, he knew what kind of music he wanted to play. He'd been a bandleader before, and he was eager to do it again. An astrologer had even handed him a "piece to my puzzle," an astrological chart was filled with "only fire, air, and earth signs."

Which brings us to page 77, almost the quarter-point of this memoir. That means "My Life with Earth, Wind & Fire" is one very wordy book.

That's not to say it's bad — at least not the first half of it, anyhow. The late author Maurice White (with Herb Powell) tells of Jim Crow from the point of view of a child, of the Civil Rights movement, and what it was like in the early days of Motown, Chess Records, and a new kind of rock & roll. Because White and Powell are so casual in their storytelling, those memories feel like a conversation with readers.

At roughly the part where White switches gears musically, so does the book. There's where we get a lot of detail about the band, players, gigs, and such — valuable info if you can follow along. Musical mud, if you can't.

Therefore, the audience for this book, I think, is with a professional musician or a die-hard EW&F fan. Pass on it, if you're not — but if you are, "My Life with Earth, Wind & Fire" could be elemental.



Book cover of "My Life With Earth Wind and Fire" by Maurice White.

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Author of "East of Flatbush, North of Love: An Ethnography of Home," Danielle Brown. Also a musician and former music teacher, she uses different music titles to introduce a new section in the book. The book is a memoir of her experiences growing up in East Flatbush.
 Denise Simon

Book of memoirs highlights life in East Flatbush

By Alexandra Simon

The Caribbean Diaspora is front and center in a memoir detailing stories in one of the city's predominantly Caribbean neighborhoods.

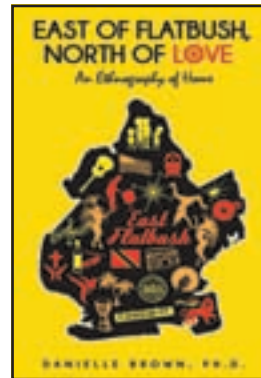
"East of Flatbush, North of Love: An Ethnography of Home," is an ode to the people who made East Flatbush the dynamic neighborhood it is today, and the unique experiences of the lives of people who still live there. The book's author and East Flatbush native Danielle Brown, takes readers through an explorative journey of race, culture, religion, music, and sociopolitical issues — all through her vision.

"I really wanted to give my perspective and teach history and culture using my experiences," said Brown. "This book would've been different if my brother or my sister had written it because our experiences are different. This is just my way to teach history and culture."

Brown was raised in East Flatbush by Trinidadian parents, where she is currently based. Growing up she interacted with many friends from all over the Caribbean including Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, St. Vincent, Barbados. Her experiences mostly center on the neighborhood and her parents homeland, but she said anyone of Caribbean background can relate to the narratives in her book, because even people outside

the country are finding solace in it.

"I use East Flatbush as a starting point and then I get to Trinidad, then I talk about imperialism and colonialism, and I end again with East Flatbush," said Brown. "But I can't talk about East Flatbush without talking about the larger Caribbean — I get people from Trinidad who read this book and say they had my experiences."



Heart of Brooklyn: The book cover of the memoir, which highlights the stories unique to the neighborhood.

Several aspects of the neighborhood are highlighted in the book, such as the sounds that can be heard, the restaurants, landmark religious stores, and most importantly, the people. But a notable part of "East of Flatbush, North of Love," are the song titles that introduce a new section of the book introduced after a song title. Brown who is also a musician, said the titles she chose were a

sure way to get her point across. "I use music as an entry point to the music and culture for people to get the little bits and pieces of how I learned about music and culture," she said. "Music can teach you so much more if you let it — people learn so much through songs."

Even though the book is not exactly a guidebook, it is more so a pathway for East Flatbush residents, Brooklynites, and New Yorkers alike to learn about this unique neighborhood, said Brown. For her, it is about representation and cultural understanding.

Denise Simon

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East Flatbush restaurant offers fresh roti



The storefront of Roti-R-U's in East Flatbush. Community News Group / Alexandra Simon



Family business: King Persaud runs the eatery with his 23-year-old son Brandon, who prepares food for customers. Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

By Alexandra Simon

A local restaurateur is bidding for the top roti in town with his roti-specializing eatery.

Roti-R-U's opened its doors to East Flatbush in November 2013 as a walk-in takeout. Now three years into the business and now also an eat-in restaurant, the restaurant's Guyanese-American owner says his bistro is a staple for many in the Caribbean community because he offers the real deal.

"There's a lot of roti places in Brooklyn, but once people come into my business they won't go anywhere else," said King Persaud, founder and owner of Roti-R-U's. "We sell fresh roti that is made every day — not that stale stuff and we sell a lot of dishes that go

with it."

During a given week, Persaud who runs the restaurant with a staff that includes his 23 year-old son Brandon, says they produce dozens of fresh roti skin all day — so much he cannot truly calculate an exact number.

"I can't begin to get into that because we sell a lot — we make a lot of roti everyday," he said.

The eating house's extensive menu offers a one-stop shop for anyone with a taste for Caribbean food. Despite its name, Roti-R-U's does not just sell roti even though that is the top selling food at the store. Customers can also buy jerk chicken, beef patties, chow mein, rice, and a variety of stewed meats. He also carries pastries import-

ed from the Caribbean and has vegan-friendly options.

"We got a lot of vegetarian food," he said. "If you walk in, there is something for you to eat. We don't turn anyone away because we have everything."

Persaud prides himself on using top notch products for his roti recipe in order to give customers a better tasting and enjoyable meal. He says setting this goal is an honest business model that keeps him and his customers pleased, and he also ensures that his employees follow it as well, he said.

"It's the quality roti that

they come for because we don't use cheap products," said Persaud. "That's the instruction I give people who work here — there's no scamming. Because once things start getting good, some people will start getting cheap and buy the flour cheaper — we don't cut corners here."

He says maintaining this honesty reflects the genuine patronage that even supports his brand outside of East Flatbush, which also led him to expanding to a dine in and sustain their business.

"I get customers from Staten

Island and Far Rockaway," he said. "A lot of customers were telling us to expand so they can stay and eat — just give your customers what they need because what you put in, is what you get out."

Persaud sees a bright future for his business, and possibly another expansion of it with a different type of setting.

"I hope it'll grow into a better and bigger establishment because we're trying to push it," he said. "Maybe somewhere with a bar and more upscale restaurant pushing the same products, different atmosphere."

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www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm
Find resources and advice on starting a business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

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

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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Caribbean children victims of human trafficking



A girl waits with officers from the Haitian Police's Brigade for the Protection of Minors (BPM), at a BPM checkpoint on a bridge in the city of Ouanaminthe, on the north-eastern border with the Dominican Republic. UNICEF

By Nelson A. King

A new United Nations report says that a significant number of children in the Caribbean and Central America are victims of human trafficking.

The report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), released at the UN on Wednesday, states that, while worldwide 28 percent of trafficking victims are children, children account for 64 percent in Central America and the Caribbean.

Sixty-two percent of the children trafficking victims are in sub-Saharan Africa; 69 countries detected trafficking victims from sub-Saharan Africa between 2012 and 2014, the report states.

It says that the vast majority of all human trafficking victims — some 71 percent — are women and girls and one third are children.

“Trafficking for sexual exploitation and for forced labor remain the most prom-

inently detected forms,” said UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov. “But victims are also being trafficked to be used as beggars, for forced or sham marriages, benefit fraud, or production of pornography.”

The 2016 UNODC Global Report disaggregates data on the basis of gender, finding that women and girls are usually trafficked for marriage and sexual slavery.

Men and boys, however, are trafficked into exploitative labor, including work in the mining sector, as porters, soldiers and slaves, the report says.

Fedotov emphasized the link between armed groups and human trafficking, noting how armed groups often engage in trafficking in their territories of operation, coercing women and girls into marriages or sexual slavery, and pressing men and boys to act as forced labor or combatants.

“People escaping from war and persecution are partic-

ularly vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking,” he said. “The urgency of their situation might lead them to make dangerous migration decisions.”

The report documents patterns among trafficking and regular migration flows that share the same destination country.

It also identifies trends within countries, between neighboring States and across continents.

Factors that tend to aggravate rates of trafficking include transnational organized crime in the country of origin and a victim’s socio-economic profile, the UN said.

While 158 countries have criminalized human trafficking — “a huge improvement over the past 13 years,” according to the UN, Fedotov, nonetheless, warned that “the rate of convictions remains far too low, and victims are not always receiving the protection and services countries are obliged

to provide.”

He, therefore, called for more resources to identify and assist trafficking victims, and to improve the criminal justice

responses to detect, investigate and successfully prosecute cases.

The UNODC releases a report on trafficking every two years.

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY

Simple Procedure Improves Dry Eyes & Sagging Eyelids

Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery

If you have recurring infections on your eyelashes, dry eyes, feeling of dirt, debris, sand, odd bodies or watery eyes, you are not alone. A simple procedure performed under local anesthesia can help.

Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, “A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, Parkinsons & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions.”

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, “A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds.”

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring the position thereof. “It’s like

pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time,” says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections. Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation.

This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

The same day of the surgery you can watch television, read a book, warm up your own food as well as wash your face permitting the stitches to get wet.

In short, you will be able to fend for self the same day of procedure.

Private insurances and Medicare will cover the procedure when it’s done to correct the excess flab, symptoms of tearing, recurrent infections or inversion of the eyelashes. This procedure should not be confused with under-eye bags that are considered a cosmetic concern and therefore is not covered by any insurance.



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OOH: Bright blasts illuminate Prospect Park.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Free, fireworks, fun, food, slated for all-night revelry in Brooklyn on eve of 17

By Vinette K. Pryce

If Manhattan's Times Square seems a bit intimidating on New Year's Eve, a Brooklyn boardwalk and its major park might be more inviting to ring in the new year.

According to Eric L. Adams, the borough's president: "We have built an incredible New Year's Eve tradition, leaving no doubt as to where is the best place on the planet to ring in 2017."

"There are two types of people: Those who celebrate the New Year in Brooklyn, and those who wish they could. Make sure to be one of the lucky ones!"

He recently announced plans for New Year's Eve celebrations that could trump Manhattan's ball drop in Times Square.

The BP said for the third year in a row — in both Coney Island and Prospect Park — Brooklyn is offering greater access to free family-friendly festivities.

Adams said he will be the host to the annual celebration which will be highlighted by a digital "burst" of lights to ring in 2017 from the iconic Parachute Jump. This year's event at Steeplechase Plaza will complement his ongoing support of the 37th annual fireworks and festivities held in Grand Army Plaza. Slated to begin at 6:00 P.M., the party at Prospect Park will commence at 11 pm and feature music from DJ C. Live and the Brooklyn Mash It Up Band at Grand Army Plaza that leads into a bigger-than-ever pyrotechnic display.

Building off of the success of last year's expanded Coney Island festivities — which were attended by more than 15,000 revelers — BP Adams announced that the Abe Stark Skating Rink, B&B Carousell, Deno's Wonder Wheel, and Thunderbolt roller coaster

will be open and free of charge starting at 6:00 PM on New Year's Eve. The New York Aquarium will have special extended hours of operations until 10:30 pm.

"Once again, the People's Playground will play host to what is fast becoming a beloved annual tradition: New Year's Eve, the Coney Island way!" Council Member Treyger said. "Thousands of people will converge on our beloved boardwalk, beneath the peak of the iconic Parachute Jump, to enjoy all of the sights, sounds, tastes, and thrills that Coney Island has to offer. I can't wait to greet that crowd and join them in welcoming 2017. It is a pleasure to work with Borough President Adams, State Senator Savino, Assembly Member Harris, the Alliance for Coney Island, and all of the local organizations that are working hard to make Coney Island the place to be when the clock strikes midnight."

"What better way to ring in the New Year than in one of our most treasured public spaces, Prospect Park!" NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver said.

"As Prospect Park inches towards its 150th birthday, celebrations like this one offer us an exciting opportunity to honor this special place that serves so many New Yorkers. NYC Parks is grateful for such a wonderful and meaningful tradition, and to our partners who help make it possible, including Borough President Adams and the Prospect Park Alliance."

"New Year's Eve Fireworks at Grand Army Plaza are truly a borough-wide celebration, and so it is fitting to host in Prospect Park, 'Brooklyn's Backyard,'" Sue Donoghue, president of the Pros-

pect Park Alliance said.

"This year has special meaning to us, as it will formally kick off our 150th anniversary celebration of Prospect Park, which first opened to the public in 1867. We welcome revelers to come to the Park to enjoy the gorgeous display, which would not be possible without the support of Borough President Adams, and we thank him."

"The NYC & Company Foundation is proud to support Brooklyn's upcoming New Year's Eve event on the Coney Island boardwalk as we spotlight one of New York City's most iconic and beloved attractions," Fred Dixon, president of NYC & Company Foundation said.

"The Alliance for Coney Island is happy to once again work in partnership with Borough President Adams, Council Member Treyger, and Assembly Member Harris to ring in the New Year in Coney Island," Alexandra Silversmith, executive director of the Alliance for Coney Island said. "We've seen a growing number of attendees and this year we're making it even more exciting with venues opening earlier for guests to enjoy Coney Island throughout the day."

Additional Coney Island dining and entertainment options that will open special for this holiday celebration include Applebee's, Coney Island Brewery, Coney Island USA, El Dorado Bumper Cars, Nathan's Famous, Tom's Restaurant, Wahlburgers, and White Castle. Additional partners on his celebration in Coney Island include State Senator Diane J. Savino, Assembly Member Pamela Harris, Brooklyn Community Board 13, Luna Park, NYC Parks, and NYPD.

New hours at T&T consulate

By Tangerine Clarke

Starting Jan. 3, 2017, the Trinidad & Tobago Consulate in New York, which serves about 250,000 nationals in the Tri-State area, will open to the public from 8 am to 2 pm for immigration and administrative services from Monday to Friday, and from 8 am to 4 pm for telephone inquiries, to accommodate the many needs of the diaspora.

In addition, the consulate will be opened to the public from 8 am to noon the first and third Thursday of every month.

Outgoing, Trinidad & Tobago Consul General (Ag.) to New York, Urvashi Ramnarine told Caribbean Life during a recent interview at the CARICOM Consular Corps Christmas celebration, at the Barbados Consulate, in Manhattan, that the new hours of operation of the consulate, will better serve nationals with passport applications and renewals, birth certificates, forms, and in the many other issues that nationals seek assistance with.

The diplomat, who is being recalled to Port of Spain on completion of her assignment in January 2017, added that the office would be better ready to serve everyone during the new hours, and would cater to the growing needs of services at its 125 Maiden Lane, 4th Floor, in Manhattan location.

CG Ramnarine, a 16-year Foreign Service officer who served five years in New York with the last year as acting consul general in New York, said she has been very fortunate to serve in two very important postings. She did a four-and-a-half-year stint in India, and five and a half years in New York, where she gained insightful experience to better equip her for any other assignment in the Trinidad & Tobago Foreign Service.

"It is routine that the ministry rotates officers ever so often, and being outside of Trinidad for 10 years, I have gained a lot of experience in consular and bilateral relations, while working on behalf of Trinidad at the High Commission in India, rendering services to Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and now in at the consulate in New York," said Ramnarine.

Although working in these various capacities dealing foreign policy was challenging, Ramnarine feels that her work has helped to deepen relations between countries, and forged deeper relationships with the diaspora with whom she has partnered with to showcase Trinidad's rich diverse, multi-cultural heritage.

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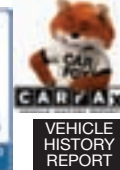
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Turks and Caicos elects first female premier

By Azad Ali

A woman has created history in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) when she was voted premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands — booting out Premier Dr. Rufus Ewing out of Parliament in the recent general election.

Preliminary results released by the electoral office in the British Overseas Territory showed that 45-year-old attorney Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson had led the opposition People's Democratic Movement (PDM) to victory, winning seven of the 10 parliamentary seats.

She is the first-ever woman to head a government in the British Overseas Territory.

Cartwright-Robinson led a team called "The Dream Team" to the election and has accused the Ewing-led government of having led the TCI into an abyss for which the citizens are suffering.

The 7,800 voters had three choices, the ruling PNP, the PDM and the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) led by Oswald Skippings.

The new premier told supporters that the new government would stick to the policies outlined on the PDM manifesto.



Premier Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson.
www.wikimedia.org



Founder of Trees that Feed Foundation (TFFF) Mary McLaughlin, left, with the organization's Barbados representative Barney Gibbs, right, inspecting a tree nursery in Barbados, one of the many Caribbean countries where they are planting breadfruit trees.
Mike McLaughlin

Tree-planting organization sees solution to Haiti's deforestation

By Alexandra Simon

Eight years since starting an international tree-planting mission, the Trees That Feed Foundation (TFFF) recently planted their 100,000th tree in Haiti, and sees a hopeful light for the country's agricultural future following the destructive Hurricane Matthew that wrecked most of the country's southern region, which was also home to ample crops and trees.

The Illinois-based organization began its environmental commitment in Jamaica, then expanded that mission to Haiti and other smaller islands, and has been planting breadfruit trees and assisting farmers in the Caribbean with maintaining and growing their crops. But since the hurricane, the organization has been seeking solutions to assist Haitian farmers with the tools, rather than create dependency often suggested for the country, said a spokesman for the organization.

"Right now Haiti needs a little bit of everything," said Mike McLaughlin, secretary treasurer of Trees That Feed Foundation. "People are sending clothes and shoes, and we think that's good, but what we think is better is helping them help themselves and setting up their own businesses."

Trees That Feed Foundation primarily plants breadfruit trees, but also plant trees that produce cashews, mangoes, ackee, and other highly consumed foods in a given country. But the primary focus is breadfruit, which is turned into flour to make porridges consumed by children at schools and orphanages



Charlotin Frednaud, left, a Haitian entrepreneur posing with breadfruit flour, which is donated to orphanages and schools in Haiti to feed children.
Mike McLaughlin

in Haiti.

Allowing the locals to learn about the agriculture, the process, and planting have fed many Haitian school children and given farmers work opportunities, said McLaughlin. He says they are able to feed people and create entrepreneurship, while also sustaining the pre-existing local businesses as well, which often suffers with constant aid without investment.

"When you keep giving, you inter-

ferre with the local business," he said. "We don't just plant trees — we give equipment, we create jobs, and educate people about the value of agriculture, and how to understand the world we live in."

The organization's overall goal is to plant one million trees, and it is trying to reach that by expanding TFFF into other islands in the region, specifically in Haiti where widespread deforestation due to charcoal dependency has left Haiti's agricultural industry in a vulnerable stage. But even with the long road ahead, McLaughlin says he is seeing progress and long-term solutions with the growing awareness TFFF emphasizes with their partners.

"It's happening already but we can't declare victory yet — that's why I go back to education because it's one of the most important things, and once the government starts to realize it, they can help by taking a more organized approach," he said.

Once trees such as breadfruit, instead of timber trees are planted, it will begin a reduction in tree cutting, and help locals see the necessity in protecting their environment.

Overall the mission of Trees That Feed Foundation is to ensure the preservation of trees, and build a desire to make the world invest more into the environment, rather than more popular ways of aid, said McLaughlin.

"I want people to understand the importance of agriculture, agroforestry, self sufficiency, and other better ways to help, instead of just sending old shoes,"



Staying motivated and avoiding injury can help people get in shape and maintain healthy lifestyles for years to come.

Get fit in the new year the smart way

Exercise is an important component of a healthy lifestyle. Many people establish bold fitness goals with a mind toward getting in shape. It's tempting to jump right in, especially when friends or relatives reach their own fitness goals. However, inactive men and women risk injury when diving right in and not taking a gradual approach to fitness and weight-loss regimens. To reap the most rewards from exercise, take the proper precautions and follow these guidelines:

Consult your doctor

Get medical clearance before you begin a new exercise regimen, especially if you have any preexisting medical conditions. Your doctor may suggest certain modifications that can reduce strain on certain parts of the body or advise you on the most effective activities for people with your condition.

It's also wise to inform doctors of fitness plans and goals so they can help track your progress.

Watch what you eat

A light, healthy snack gives you a little fuel without affecting your ability to exercise. After eating, the body diverts blood flow to the gastrointestinal tract to aid with digestion. Exercising while this blood flow is centralized in the gastrointestinal tract may cause muscle cramps or generalized weakness.

Nutrition experts at the University of California, Los Angeles, say that people who exercise strenuously on a full stomach also may experience reflux, hiccups, nausea, and vomiting.

Warm up

Stretches, light movements, and range of motion exercises can improve flexibility and prepare the body for more to come. If muscles aren't fully stretched and warm, injuries such as strains and tendon tears may occur. Take the time to warm up; otherwise, you may find yourself on the sidelines.

Dress appropriately

Invest in quality athletic

shoes and other equipment made for the activity you will be performing. The right equipment can help prevent injury. Athletic shoes that fail to provide adequate support can increase your risk of injury.

Good shoes do not have to cost a fortune, as there are plenty of brands that will work quite well. If you need suggestions, discuss your exercise regimen and goals with a podiatrist or orthopedist. You also may need equipment specific to a given activity. For example, wrist supports and quality gloves are essential for kick-boxing classes.

Stay hydrated

The Better Health Channel of the Victoria State Government says a person can lose around one and a half liters of fluid for every hour of exercise. Drink water before, during, and after each exercise session. If you need water while exercising, take small sips.

Exercise is a key part of a healthy lifestyle. Remember to do so safely and effectively.

Finding the time to exercise

Diet and exercise are essential components of a healthy lifestyle. Even the busiest people can find ways to eat healthy, but finding time to exercise can be more difficult.

According to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, regular physical activity can prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and stroke, which are the three leading causes of health-related death in the United States. Regular exercise helps people control their weight while promoting bone, muscle, and joint health.

The following are a handful of strategies men and women can employ as they attempt to make more time in their days to exercise:

Reexamine free time

Few adults, especially those juggling families and careers, have an abundance of free time. But reexamining the ways you are spending your free time may help you uncover some moments for daily exercise.

The Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition notes that adults between the ages of 18 and 64 need at least two and a half hours each week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity. That may seem like a lot, but it's only slightly more than 20 minutes per day. It helps to supplement such aerobic activity with some strength-training activities at least two days per week. Try waking up 20 to 30 minutes earlier each day, using that time to hit the treadmill or jog around the neighborhood. You likely won't be affected by waking up earlier, and you won't need to alter your existing schedule for the rest of the day, either.

Work & exercise

Technology has made it easier than ever before to stay connected to the office even when you are nowhere near your desk. Those who can't seem to find time to exercise often cite the demands of their job as the primary reason behind their inactiv-



Taking the dog for a walk rather than spending time on the couch is one creative way to find more time for exercise.

ity, but those same individuals can use the technology at their disposal, be it smartphones that allow them keep track of work e-mails or tablets that make it possible to connect remotely to office servers, to work while they exercise.

Bring your smartphone or tablet with you when you work out on the elliptical or jog on the treadmill.

Reduce time sitting

A 2008 study from Australian researchers found that people who regularly break up their sedentary time, including the hours they sit behind their desk at the office, with movement had healthier waist circumferences, body mass indexes, and triglycerides than those who did not. While hourly breaks to walk around the office might not seem like exercise, such breaks can benefit your long-term health.

Get creative

You don't need a gym membership to live a healthy lifestyle. When possible, take the stairs instead of an elevator and park further away from your office door so you get a small cardiovascular workout on your way into and out of the office.

Rather than hitting the couch after dinner, walk or bike around your block. Such simple gestures may seem insignificant, but the more creative ways you find to exercise each day, the more beneficial such efforts become.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Would your friends say you are addicted to your phone? Are you constantly texting, checking your emails, or updating your social media status? Well, if any of the above applies, you may be suffering from the newly diagnosed "Tech Neck". This term describes injuries and pain resulting from too much time spent looking down at wireless devices. In turn this can lead to headaches, upper back and neck pain, shoulder pain or even arm pain.

You may not realize this fact but every time you look down to text or check your phone (most commonly at 60 degree angle), this is essentially the equivalent of **adding 60 lbs. or over four bowling balls** worth of stress to the back of your neck. Statistics currently state that the average adult spends approximately 3.6 hours daily (that's 1300 hours per year) on their mobile devices. That number grows to **over 5000 hours** yearly if you're a high school student.

Present studies state that 80% of the US population will experience posture related pain in their life. This may lead to flattening of the upper spine, joint damage, ligament laxity, and even potentially cause your lungs to take in up to 30% less oxygen as a result of compression from the poor posture.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Two stilt dancers perform on stage to the music of a live band at the TropicalFete Countdown at the Brooklyn School of Music on Dec. 18.

Brittany Somerset

Young talent shines at TropicalFete

By Alexandra Simon

Young talent were the stars of the night at the TropicalFete Countdown at the Brooklyn School of Music on Dec. 18.

The annual event hosted a night of dance, calypso music, and stilt dancing. Guests came out to see kids perform steel pan renditions of popular songs, and experience a live band that everyone seemed to like, said the show's host.

Continued on Page 34

Caribbean artists get close-up

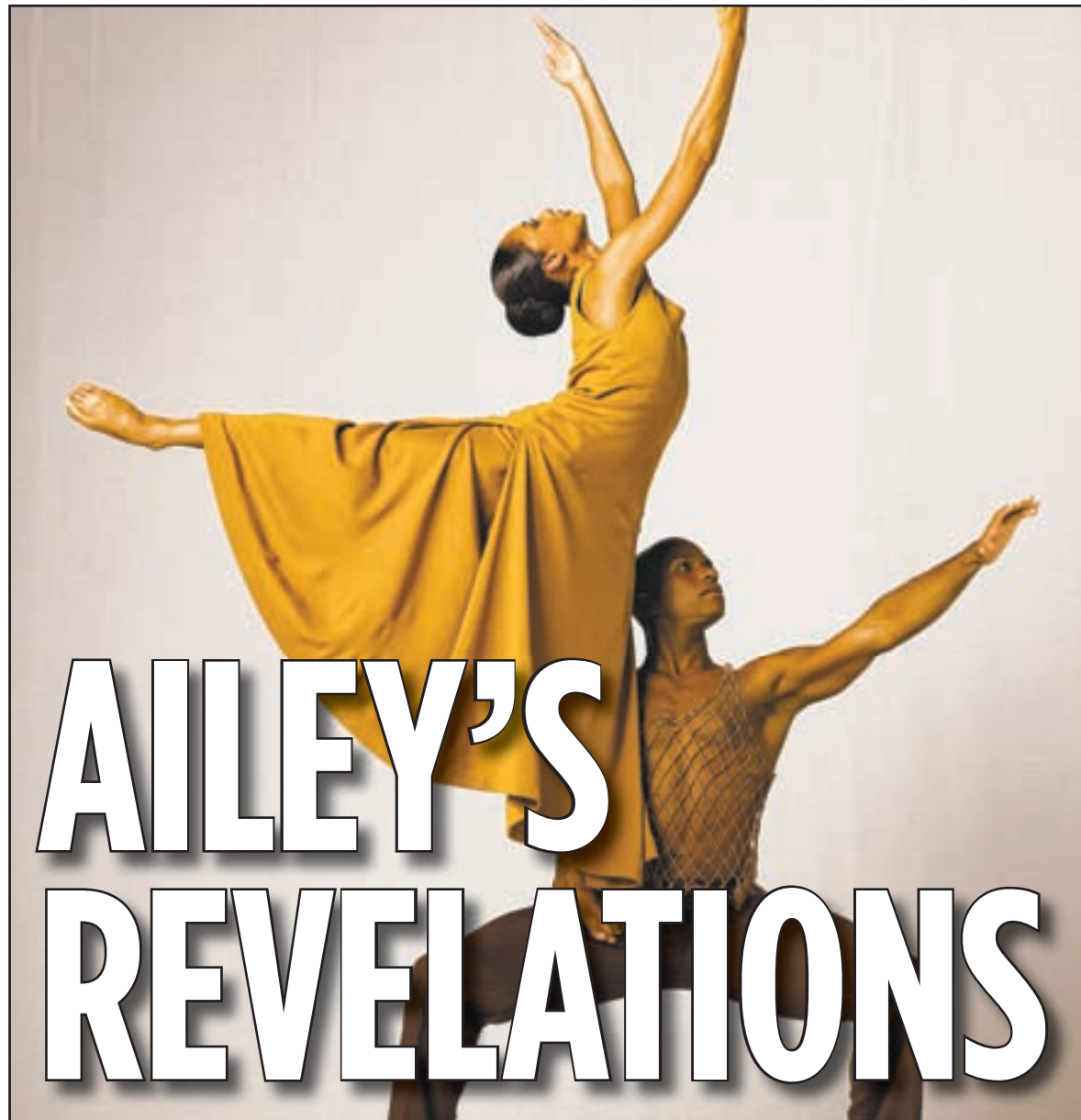
By Alexandra Simon

All aboard for a post-Valentine's weekend musical cruise.

A cruise trip featuring the top reggae, dancehall, and soca musicians is set to depart on Feb. 27 for a five-day and four-night trip from Miami, Florida to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Organizers of the Love and Harmony cruise say the non-stop party provides fans with a close-up of their favorite artists at an event not commonly offered.

"A lot of these artists perform at these big major stage shows but fans never get to see them up close personal," said Jabba, organizer and representative for Rockers Island. "People will pay \$200 to see their favorite artist but whether their front row or back row — that's the closest they'll get to the artist."

Continued on Page 34



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's Revelations. Andrew Eccles

Rising to the political occasion

By Laura Andrews

"Revelations" the most important curative and self-healing dance of the 21st century should be the mandatory diagnosis for survivors of the 2016 presidential election in the United States. Alvin Ailey's 1960 brilliantly-choreographed masterpiece speaks to rising to the occasion in the face of continuous adversity. The opening of "Revelations," performed by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre at New York City Center, leans into the common feeling of disappointment.

A subtle-colored background with dancers donning skin-toned clothing vividly illustrates the prevalence of undignified moments in the lives of all people.

Majestically, the company filled the stage, with de'cor and costumes by Ves Harper, as Hall Johnson's 'I Been Buked' dared to explain musically troubled human missteps. The ability of Alvin Ailey, the founder of AAADT, to create "Revelation" reflecting the experience of Black women and citizens around the globe, gives personal

testimonies to wrestling with similar issues as well as demonstrating the importance of this invaluable dance.

A clear example, was a gentleman seated next to me in NYC, during this evening performance, who is a visitor from Israel. According to this citizen of Israel, a land in territorial dispute since the biblical days, he recalled meeting Ailey, face-to-face, in his homeland and seeing "Revelations" the first time in this holy venue.

Although an ageless dance, "Revelations" **Continued on Page 34**

TOP OF THE CHARTS

AILEY

TOP 10 SINGLES



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

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **A Pentatonix Christmas**
Pentatonix
- 2 **Passion, Pain & Demon Slayin'**
Kid Cudi
- 3 **Not The Actual Events (EP)**
Nine Inch Nails
- 4 **Your Eyez Only**
J. Cole
- 5 **24K Magic**
Bruno Mars
- 6 **That's Christmas To Me**
Pentatonix
- 7 **The Return of East Atlanta Santa**
Gucci Mane
- 8 **Filthy America... It's Beautiful**
The Lox
- 9 **Starboy**
The Weekend
- 10 **Moana**
Soundtrack

Presented by



Continued from page 33

elations" dancer Hope Boykin, in one section leads a diverse group, as dancers elegantly demonstrate resilience and tenacity in overcoming obstacles. While assurance is addressed, humility, patience and requests for divine intervention are not taken for granted.

Establishing the surge of energy and power available to man through faith and belief materialize, as dancers Constance Stamatiou and Yannick Lebrun gracefully dazzled the enthusiastic contingent with agile bodies balanced by an arm, next by a leg and then a body. A powerful, pleasing and indulgent sight for the sold-out crowd.

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For more information on the AAADT and making a difference with this world beloved company, visit AlvinAiley.org/ Support.



AAADT in Alvin Ailey's Revelations.

Paul Kolnik

TropicalFete

Continued from page 33

"It was a smashing hit for everyone with an appreciation for live music," said Tanisha Burke, hostess of the event. "We had a well-seasoned band filled with horns, saxophones, trumpets, drums and guitars — it was fully loaded."

But the stars of the show was a steel pan ensemble of youngsters in colorful hats, who took the stage to perform different numbers from classical music, to funk, and pop, said Burke.

"The children's outfits were so beautiful — they wore these green hats that lit up and added a sparkling glow to the stage," said Burke. "They took us through a trip of every genre."

The youthful band enjoyed their year end debut after practicing for every weekend it since September for the show.

"They enjoyed themselves immensely and showed a lot of confidence," said the bands music director Ricardo Greenaway. "They were very excited they supported each other as they got to see their hard work up close."

Alongside the sounds of steel, were stilt performers who danced to music of the band. But the one of the highlights of the night was a hilarious calypso folk music presentation by Dr. Witty, a calyp-



The stilting: Young dancer balances on stilts to perform a dance routine at the TropicalFete Countdown at the Brooklyn School of Music on Dec. 18. *Brittany Somerset*

so performer who sang a song detailing the struggles of being black in the world — something the younger generation could benefit from knowing.

"I liked Dr. Witty's performance — he was so creative with his words and he was so easy and smooth — he didn't need to do any extra antics," she said. "The kids got entertainment and a history lesson."

The three hour kid-friendly event was a chance for children to showcase their skills and show to parents the importance of musical programs. As one of the top goals of TropicalFete's mission, which includes encouraging musical talent in young children, Burke says the pride the children showed afterwards was a sign their mentorship was accomplished.

Lovers Rock cruise

Continued from page 33

Artists such as Beres Hammond, Elephant Man, Allison Hinds, Shabba Ranks, and Dexta Daps, are a few of the many confirmed acts for the Love and Harmony cruise. Fans will board a 2500 passenger Norwegian Pearl cruise ship, and get a chance to be up close and personal with the musicians in a much more and intimate space, Jabba said.

The highlight of the cruise, however, is the interaction that will follow after performances, said Jabba. With the ship equipped with a casino, four pool decks, a gym, and surprise events like a contests and pajama party, guests will get to actually party, meet, and talk with their favorite artists even when they are not performing — an opportunity many will ever get to experience.

"You're going to be living on the same ship as the artists you love for five days," he said. "It's going to be the greatest experience. You can be in the same elevator with Dexta Daps, or see Elephant Man by the pool deck, and you'll get to finally be close and have a conversation with

them."

Not only will it be an experience for passengers, it will be one for the artists too, many who have never performed on a cruise or experienced one. Jabba said a chat with Beres Hammond never having been on a cruise, was partially the reason he was pushed to do this cruise.

"He told me he had never been on cruise, but he told if I showed him a contract to perform on a cruise he would do it," he said. "It's going to be the first time for a lot of these artists — Shabba Ranks has also never been on cruise."

Jabba said planning the cruise was four years in the making and he hopes that the trip is a an extended getaway for people and the artists who are just as excited to be a part of it.

"It's going to be lovers rock music — the atmosphere and music will overall be very nice," he said. "A lot of these artists are working very hard and rehearsing for months."

"Love and Harmony Cruise" on Norwegian Pearl from Miami, Florida to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Feb. 27–March 3, 2017.

The unsung African-American mathematicians

"Hidden Figures"
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG for mature themes and mild epithets
Running time: 127 minutes
Distributor: 20th Century Fox

By Kam Williams
All of the astronauts



"Hidden Figures" is the incredible untold story of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe)—brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit www.rottentomatoes.com

picked by NASA to participate in its maiden manned space programs, Mercury and Gemini, were white males. However, behind the scenes, there was a dedicated team of African-American, female mathematicians who played a pivotal role in ensuring that they launched and returned safely, whether from orbiting the Earth or a mission to the moon.

Equipped only with pencils and slide rules, these so-called "human computers" were among the best and the brightest minds recruited by NASA to do the critical calculations needed to win the space race with Russia. Author Margot Lee Shetterly gave these unsung heroines their due in "Hidden Figures," a best seller belatedly crediting their quan-

titative contributions to the cause.

Besides chronicling their considerable accomplish-

ments, the book also recounted the indignities these brilliant black women simultaneously suffered, simply because

they had the misfortune to be living in Virginia during the dark days of Jim Crow. Back then, African-American brain-

iacs employed by NASA were automatically assigned to work in its segregated West Computing Group.

Directed by Theodore Melfi (St. Vincent), the overlooked icons' story has now been adapted to the big screen as an uplifting, overcoming-the-odds docudrama. The picture recounts the trials and tribulations of three members of the unit Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe).

We are flies on the wall when, without complaining, Katherine routinely has to run to a distant "Colored" ladies room despite the presence of one for whites right nearby. On another occasion, we witness Mary's frustration in furthering her education on account of the fact that blacks aren't allowed to matriculate at the local college offering the courses she needs.

By film's end, both the bathroom and school are indeed integrated, albeit after an emotional intervention by NASA administrator Al Harrison (Kevin Costner). A worthwhile, teachable moment correcting a shameful chapter in American history.

Independent & Foreign Films

Gold (R for sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity) Unlikely-buddies drama about a down on his luck businessman (Matthew McConaughey) who joins forces with a geologist (Edgar Ramirez) to search for gold bullion in the jungles of Borneo. With Bryce Dallas Howard, Stacy Keach and Bruce Greenwood.

Live by Night (R for sexuality, nudity, graphic violence and pervasive profanity) Ben Affleck wrote, directed and stars in this adaptation of the Dennis Lehane crime thriller of the same name about the reign of a ruthless Boston mobster during the Prohibition Era. Ensemble cast includes Zoe Saldana, Brendan Gleeson, Elle Fanning, Scott Eastwood, Chris Cooper and Sienna Miller.

Paterson (R for profanity) Adam Driver handles the title role in this character-driven dramedy, set in New Jersey, revolving around the mundane life of a poetry-writing, municipal bus driver. With Golshifteh Farahani, Rizwan Manji and Method Man.



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Fences (PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and sexual references) Denzel Washington and Viola Davis co-star in this screen adaptation of August Wilson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play chronicling the struggles of an African-American family living in Pittsburgh in the Fifties. With Mykelti Williamson, Jovan Adepo, Stephen Henderson and Russell Hornsby.

Hidden Figures (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) Adaptation of the Margot Lee Shetterly best seller chronicling the exploits of a trio of African-American unsung heroines (Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe), NASA mathematicians who played pivotal roles in America's success against Russia in the space race. Cast includes Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst, Jim Parsons and Mahershala Ali.



Ben Afflec stars in "Live by Night."

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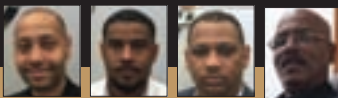
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SPORTS

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Athlete Usain Bolt poses for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the film 'I Am Bolt' in London, Monday, Nov. 28, 2016.

Associated Press / Tim Ireland

Jamaica's global hero

By Azad Ali

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness has labeled Usain Bolt as a "global hero" saying the sprint star has given Jamaica a new level of international visibility.

He was speaking at the regional premier of the film "I Am Bolt" which documents Bolt's life and rise to stardom in track and field.

The prime minister said Bolt is now Jamaica's biggest ambassador adding that his personality, his ability to draw people to him and his showmanship

Continued on Page 38

Chris Gayle joins Patriots

By Azad Ali

Explosive Jamaican batsman Chris Gayle is moving from the Jamaica Tallawahs to the St. Kitts Patriots for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) next season.

The transfer means that the talismanic left-handed opener has cut ties with his native Jamaica Tallawahs for the Twenty20 tournament, which he has twice led to the title, including 2016.

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Twenty20 tournament will be held from August to September next year (2017) because of the hectic cricket season.

Continued on Page 38



BLACKBIRDS STUNNED

Swarmed: Blackbirds guard Iverson Fleming tries to go up towards the basket against a pair of Niagara defenders at Barclays Center on Dec. 21.

Bob Dea

Blackbirds suffer third-straight loss

By Laura Amato

The ball just wouldn't bounce the Blackbirds' way.

The Long Island University men's basketball team wrapped its non-conference schedule on Dec. 21 with a 75-66 loss to Niagara University at Barclays Center. It was the third-

straight loss for the Blackbirds as the squad shot just 34.2 percent in the second half.

"I know our guys were frustrated by that," Blackbirds coach Jack Perri said. "But you've got to keep your poise in those situations. This game was more about effort, focus, and not

getting back on defense."

It's been a long and winding non-conference road for Long Island University as the Blackbirds have struggled to find consistency over the last few weeks. The squad played just two true home games in its first 13

Continued on Page 38

Jamaica's global hero

Continued from page 37

have really given a boost to Brand Jamaica.

Bolt, 30, is a multiple-time Olympic gold medalist and is widely regarded as the greatest ever sprinter.

He has won the 100 and 200 meters at three successive Olympics and has added three gold in the sprint relay, to bring his tally to nine.

Bolt still holds the World records in both the 100 and 200 meters

Holness said Bolt was the ideal example of what could be accomplished through hard work and commitment.

The prime minister was one of several government officials, in addition to political and business figures who attended the premier of the film at the National Indoor Sports Center.

Patriots



West Indies batsman Chris Gayle plays the shot from which he was out caught for 21 runs during their Cricket World Cup Pool B match against India in Perth, Australia, Friday, March 6, 2015.

Associated Press / Theron Kirkman, File

Continued from page 37

Chief Operations Officer of the Hero CPL Pete Russell said that India is coming to the Caribbean for an One-Day International series and did not want to clash with the games so it was decided that August was the best month.

Russell explained that the economic impact of the CPL was US\$90 million in 2016, a huge increase from the 2015 season which made US\$76.2 million in the Caribbean.

He said the television audience is an indication of the popularity of the tournament, which had an audience of 134 million, of which 82 million comes from India.

The CPL will have top international players this year.



Fraught with frustration: Long Island University senior forward Jerome Frink struggled down low as the Blackbirds fell 75-66 to Niagara at Barclays Center on Dec. 21.

Bob Dea

BLACKBIRDS STUNNED

Continued from page 37

match-ups and sometimes spent more time traveling than practicing.

It's final exam season, and Perri is certain that exhaustion caused the latest loss.

"This was a tough stretch. There's been no break," Perri said. "It's been travel, practice, prepare, game — and it's been consistent. Now you throw in finals too and you could tell that played a factor."

The Blackbirds struggled to put the ball in the hoop throughout the night — the team was unable to find a rhythm as poor shots and miscues plagued them early in the game. The Blackbirds notched seven turnovers in the first 20 minutes of play, and despite taking a 12-5 lead six minutes into the game, the squad went into the break down two.

Long Island University's game plan this season has been to work the ball down low while relying the squad's col-

lective size advantage to create easy offense. That was the game plan against the Purple Eagles as well, but it didn't quite work out.

Dominic Robb racked up seven blocked shots and hauled in a team-high 11 rebounds for Niagara, keeping the Blackbirds off the block.

"I thought we had an advantage in size, and I thought we could take it at Robb," Perri said. "Good for him. He completely shut Jerome out of the game, created guys traveling, and intimidated guys."

The Purple Eagles padded its lead throughout the second half — sparked by a 15-rebound cushion on the glass — but it was one late-game moment that defined the match-up. Robb missed three straight chip-shots in the post, grabbed his own rebound on each miss, and pushed the ball back out to Chris Barton, who was fouled on his shot attempt. He made both free throws, and Long Island University was

left visibly shocked.

"The effort was not there on the glass," Perri said. "Guys' mouths were wide open and standing straight up. It's not what I was used to seeing out of this group. I'm disappointed with that."

The Blackbirds took 70 shots by the final whistle — the desperation started to creep into the offense as the squad continued to try and mount a comeback.

It's a disappointing showing for the squad, and one that Perri hopes will shift players' mindsets heading into Northeast Conference play. Long Island University hosts Mount St. Mary's on Dec. 29 in the opener, but first the Blackbirds are taking some much-needed time off.

"We need this bad. They all need it, they're mentally shot," Perri said. "Regardless of what happened in these games, our focus is league. We want to try and win the league."

Lincoln fends off Jefferson to retain spotless season

By Benjamin Leibowitz

They're still on track.

Lincoln's boys basketball team kept its perfect record intact on Dec. 22, defeating Jefferson 88-71 in a rematch of last year's Public Schools Athletic League championship game.

This year, however, the Railsplitters walked away with the victory and — more importantly — a big-time boost of early-season confidence.

"Last year we took a beating by this team at the Garden, but tonight was a good win," Lincoln coach Dwayne Morton said. "Our whole team played well tonight."

Lincoln (6-0) dominated on the boards throughout the matchup, able to grab second-chance points and limit the Orange Wave to one-and-done possessions. As a team, the Railsplitters hauled in 42 rebounds — 10 more than Jefferson posted — including a whopping 13 on the offensive glass. KeClejuan Ferguson led

the rebounding charge, racking up 14 boards, 22 points, and two assists for good measure.

Michael Reid was another significant contributor for Lincoln. The senior shooting guard matched Ferguson's 22 points, including four shots from behind the arc. In addition to his solid scoring night, Reid also notched six rebounds and dished out four assists.

Donald Flores rounded out the Railsplitters' offensive effort, finishing with 21 points and six assists. The senior point guard knew this was a major matchup and was determined to settle into a leadership role on the court — particularly against a league rival.

"As the player on the team with the most experience, it's my job to lift [teammates'] spirits up on and off the court," Flores said. "My team is very young, so making sure my guys keep their heads up is very important to me."

Jefferson (5-1) held its

own during the first half of the game, matching the Railsplitters early momentum, but the Orange Wave struggled to maintain its effort down the stretch. Lincoln gave up just 11 points in the third quarter, silencing the crowd at Jefferson and taking a lead it would not surrender.

The Railsplitters squad knew it would have to set the game's tone from the opening whistle, and it didn't have to look far for inspiration. Pacers star (and former Lincoln great) Lance Stephenson took in the game as well.

"It's always great to come back and show your love," Stephenson said. "And it gives the younger kids a boost, and makes them feel special."

Jefferson put three players in double digits — led by Khilail Rhodes' team-best 22 points — but the Orange Wave couldn't overcome third-quarter miscues in the team's first loss of the year.

The two squads will face off



Setting the tone: Lincoln's Mike Reid, left, and Donald Flores jumpstarted the Railsplitters' offensive efforts on Dec. 22, combining for 43 points in the win against Jefferson.

Photo by Benjamin Leibowitz

once more during the regular season — on Feb. 1 — but for now, the Railsplitters are simply looking to stay perfect. Lincoln is determined to build off the victory, certain the squad's jam-packed roster is primed for another deep postseason run.

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Aries, emails and texts might fill your week as everyone wants to speak with you in the coming days. Schedule a break from your devices if you find yourself overwhelmed.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Career progress is more complicated than you had originally thought, Taurus. You might need to take a step back and reassess your career path.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, doors are opening for you all over the place, but you don't know which one to choose. Speak with someone you trust who can serve as an advisor and mentor.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you have a need to be emotionally connected to others at this time, but you also want to exert your independence. You might have to make some decisions.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, others are on your mind this week. You feel a need to help in any way you can, so use this week to explore volunteer opportunities in your community.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
You may need an adjustment period to tackle a new assignment, Virgo. This is not something to rush, so take your time even if the results are slow to come along.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Prior commitments this week may prevent you from doing something you've long wanted to, Libra. Keep your head up and another opportunity will present itself.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
It could be now or never, Scorpio. You want to make your mark but are cautious in keeping your intentions to yourself. Eventually your master plan will come to light.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, you're increasingly busy this week, but things are not what you expect. You could be running around for all of the wrong reasons. Reexamine your plan, if necessary.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, your focus may be on personal gains this week, but you might want to shift it to something else. An unforeseen opportunity awaits if you can recognize it.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, it's difficult to contain your excitement the next few days. But keep your cool so others do not start to look at you strangely. Your time to shine is coming.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
You have a secret to share, but you must wait to do so, Pisces. Do your best to avoid spilling the beans before the time has come.

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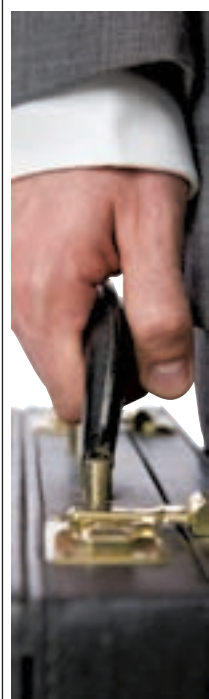
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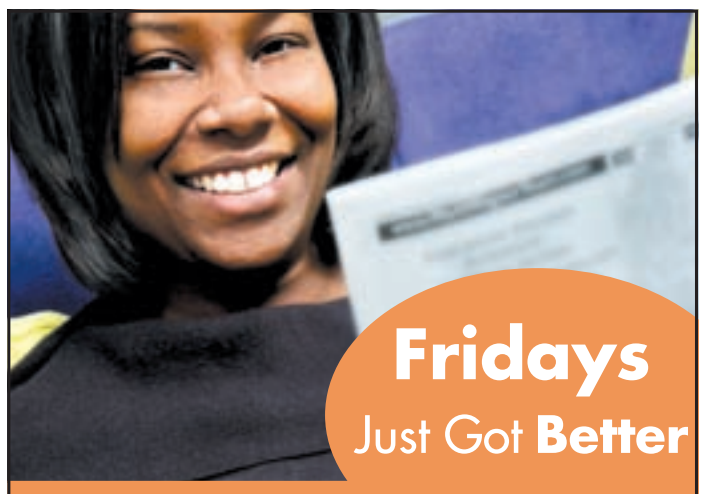
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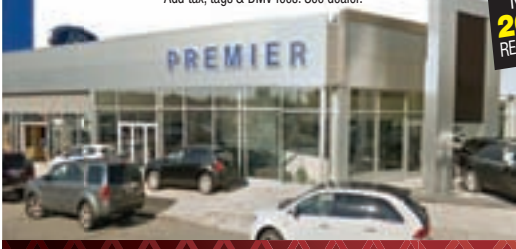
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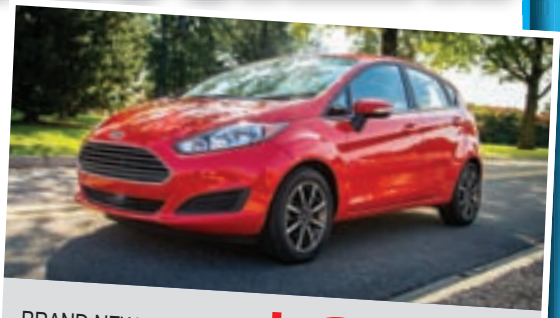
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*+Prices/Payments include all costs to consumer except tax, title & DMV fees which are additional & may be payable upon signing. Closed end leases based on terms above & subject to Tier 1 credit approval thru primary lender. Leases are 25c per mile over 10,500 miles per year. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear, maintenance & repair. Total Monthly Payments/Purchase Option: Mustang: \$4536/17115, Fusion: \$2376/17676, Fiesta: \$1656/10503, Escape: \$2376/17756, Focus: \$2376/10791, Explorer: \$4536/21665. Competitive Lease Conquest Cash available to customers that currently lease a non-Ford competitive vehicle. Vehicles sold cosmetically as is. Photos for illustration. Not responsible for errors. Prior transactions excluded. Offers cannot be combined. Ad cars may be sold prior to publication. Ad supercedes previous offers. Based on current factory programs. Must take same day delivery. DCA#0806391, DMV#6240988.