



With community activists, union members, and other city council members, at City Hall, City Council Member Mathieu Eugene pleads with the Department of Homeland Security to extend the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians that expires in July.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

RUM TRADE QUALM

French exit from EU could affect Caribbean rum

By Bert Wilkinson

Britain voting to leave the European Union is one thing. And now, if France does the same in the coming months such a move could present a big problem for Caribbean countries which produce and export rum.

Top regional officials, especially those involved in the Barbados-based, umbrella West Indies Rum and Spirits Association (WIRSPA) say they fear

that rum exports to the EU could be hurt if the far right National Front party of Marine Le Pen wins the second round of the upcoming French presidential elections.

Her party won 21.30 percent of the vote in the first round on Sunday, running second to Emmanuel Macron, a candidate who favors the French remaining in the EU family of nearly 30 nations. Macron won

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Advocating for TPS extension

By Tequila Minsky

At City Hall, City Council Member Mathieu Eugene surrounded by community advocates and activists, union members and other City Council representatives pleaded with the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend the Temporary Protected Status

(TPS) for Haiti.

TPS is an immigration status offered due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely. Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war) or an environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or

an epidemic are possible conditions for a country's nationals receiving TPS status.

"It will be a very important humanitarian gesture for the Haitian people," Eugene said. "We have approximately 50,000 Haitians in the United States who have TPS, and the

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WOMI honors women of purpose at annual gala



Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke addresses the town hall meeting.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Clarke: Defend your community

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has urged the Caribbean community in New York to vigorously “push back and fight back” on United States President Donald Trump’s immigration policies.

In addressing a town hall meeting Wednesday evening at the New Life Tabernacle in the heart of the Caribbean community in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, Clarke said there was dire need for the community to “push back and fight back in the best interest of our own self-preservation.”

“Donald Trump has been in office for fewer than 100 days, and he has been true to form,” said Clarke, representative for the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn. “His administration has already undermined the broader international community’s confidence in our nation; threatened millions of American families with forced separation, through cruel and inhumane deportation practices; and initiated the process of eliminating programs that are critical to our health and safety.

“Let’s be clear, we are called to defend our community from the threat of a man whose very defining principle has been the denial of our own civil rights,” added Clarke at the town hall meeting, flanked by, among others, attorneys Diane Lucas, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Office of New York State Attorney General, and Sam Palmer-Simon, Supervising Attorney for the New York-based Immigrant Justice Corp.

“We are at the center of his [Trump’s] disruption,” continued Clarke at the town hall meeting attended by her Jamaican-born parents, Leslie and Una Clarke.

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Honorees at the Women of Mission International gala at Crystal Manor in Flatbush on April 21.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

By Tangerine Clarke

Themed “Know Your Purpose” Brooklyn-based non-profit Women of Mission International (WOMI) honored the best and brightest women for their outstanding accomplishments in the community during the organization’s second Annual Awards Gala at Crystal Manor Ballroom in Brooklyn, on Friday, April 21.

The honorees included: Rhonda Benda, Kassandra Campbell-Wilson, Dr. Monica Sanchez, Phyllis David, Rena Adonis, D’Nike Amma, Dr. Melissa Var-swik, Michelle A. Nicholas, Maxine Chambers, Tangerine Clarke, and Diane Madray.

Citations from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and NYS Senator Roxanne Persaud were also presented, while President of WOMI, Linda Felix-Johnson, who celebrated her birthday on the same day, received citations from the same lawmakers.

Felix-Johnson praised the service of WOMI saying, “Our desire is to work to ensure that all woman folk are prepared to play their part. This, we feel can be achieved through education, guidance, and mentoring.

“We are proud to have developed vibrant outreach programs that benefit many in Guyana and the diaspora, and we are committed to expanding these programs,” said Felix-Johnson.

WOMI’s initiatives include: a Senior Day Program, a Primary School Nutritional program, Sponsor-A Student and School program, Community Conferences, and a Vocational and Technical Scholarship Program.

Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guyana to the United

Nations, H.E. Ambassador Rudolph M. Ten-Pow congratulated the organization for its commitment to the interest and welfare of the most vulnerable members of Guyana, and challenged the volunteers to take up the mantle to address mental health issues in their homeland.

“Help to change our society’s attitude towards mental health, not only for women and girls, but young men who also need help,” said Ambassador Ten-Pow while sharing statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) that has moved Guyana from first to fourth in the world for suicide incidents.

However, the diplomat said that this was little consolation and reminded WOMI of the high rate of female victims of suicide, and encouraged members and the community to make a contribution, whether voluntarily or financially, to aid the newly formed Sunrise Center for suicide in Guyana.

He suggested the organization use its programs to counsel and service underserved areas of Guyana — in their hometown, school, or church that they attended as a child.

“The most helpful thing you can do is to use your tools and resources you have at your disposal to spread awareness of mental health issues to help to remove the stigma,” said Ambassador Ten-Pow.

Ambassador Ten-Pow applauded Semona Broomes, the first female miner, now, Guyana’s junior minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources, a special guest excused because of a family emergency, for her bravery in protecting helpless young girls victims of trafficking in Guyana, and praised WOMI for recognizing Broomes’ contribution to women.

Addressing the topic: Know Your Purpose, Guyana’s Consul General to New York Barbara Atherly, called on the women to live their lives with purpose.

“Living our lives with a purpose is all linked to us being empowered. Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of people and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their capacities.”

Atherly said, despite facing more gender-related barriers, sexual harassment, unfair hiring practices than men in the workplace, women empowerment remains key to strengthening their participation in decision-making “which is the most important key to socio-economic development.”

“Empowering women acts as a potential, which accelerates the economic growth and continued development,” added Consul General Atherly.

Latrice M. Walker, member of the NYS Assembly, the Overseas Medical Assistance Team (OMAT), and sponsor, Sampson Funeral Service Inc., congratulated WOMI for an outstanding evening of honors, celebrated with an inspirational rendition by D’Nike Amma, and music by the Cool Jazz Band. Rkity in turn, sang the Guyana National Anthem.

Board of directors are: President, Linda Felix-Johnson; Vice-President, Guliana Jacobs; Secretary, Sandy Campbell; Asst. Secretary, Keisha Felix; Treasurer, Denise Nurse-Roland; Director, Denise Copin-Alexander; Director, Wenda Hudson; Director, Berneita Primo; Director, D’Nike Amma, Director, Dianne Dixon, and member, Carol Archer.

To make a donation to WOMI’s initiatives in the United States and Guyana, visit www.womenofmission.com.

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Bahamas

The popular Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival has been postponed because of the May 10 general election. It will now take place from May 18-20, two weeks behind the original May 4-6 dates.

The postponement comes less than a week after organizers had announced the event's line up for the three days.

Prime Minister Perry Christie recently announced that general elections will take place on May 10.

Carnival lovers are disappointed over the move to push forward the date, especially those who are booked to travel to attend Junkanoo.



Chairman of the National Festival Commission Paul Major said it was in the country's best interest.

Barbados

Barbados Attorney General Adriel Brathwaite has said that gay people are not persecuted in Barbados, based on their sexual orientation.

He sought to dispel the notion that homosexuals and lesbians were being targeted.

The attorney general made the statement during a courtesy call on Canadian High Commissioner Marie Legault recently.

Brathwaite maintained that, although buggery was still illegal in Barbados, this did not impact two consenting adults.

He said Barbados remained one of the Caribbean islands where gays could exist without fearing for their lives.

The attorney general stressed that citizens have always been aware and very "tolerant of same-sex relations within the society."



In reply, the Canadian High Commissioner said Canadians "thrive on diversity" and she hoped Barbados would eventually come to a place where it was "different from the rest of the Caribbean."

Guyana

The Guyana Cabinet is expected to



Bahamas Junkanoo

Band members with the Bahamas Junkanoo Revue, dance and perform during a parade for Miami-Broward One Carnival, celebrating Caribbean culture in Miami. Associated Press / Wilfredo Lee

review the Value Added Tax (VAT) paid on private school fees.

In a release, the government said the decision to review the proposal was made following a meeting between private school stakeholders and government officials, including the prime minister and minister of education.

The statement said Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo has committed to reviewing VAT on private school fees at the next meeting of Cabinet.

During the meeting, Nagamootoo made a detailed presentation after listening to a number of educators, students and parents.

He said the ministerial team will take the concerns and views expressed to Cabinet and an announcement will soon be made.

The prime minister said the issue will be reconsidered for the 2018 budget.

At the meeting, the prime minister acknowledged the introduction of VAT on private school fees was an unpopular tax which stakeholders protested.

He explained that the measure was not introduced in any way to place a burden on parents and students, but with the reduction of the VAT rate from 16 percent to 14 percent, there was a reduction of Guy\$10 billion in revenue.

The prime minister said the government has to examine ways in which to make up for this shortfall.

Haiti

Haitian airline, Sunrise Airways will soon launch a nonstop service between Port-au-Prince and Orlando, Florida.

Starting from October, the carrier will

launch its first direct service from the Caribbean nation to the United States.

The flight will also be the first to connect to Orlando International Airport with Haiti's Toussaint Louverture International Airport.

In a release, Sunrise officials said the new scheduled flights will begin on Oct. 17 subject to government approval.

The airline also offers intra-Caribbean routes between Haiti and Cuba, Jamaica, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos.

Tourism officials say after welcoming 1,189, 269 visitor arrivals in 2015, arrivals declined significantly in 2016, according to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

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TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

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

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

Daydreaming

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

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

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

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

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

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

Reading

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

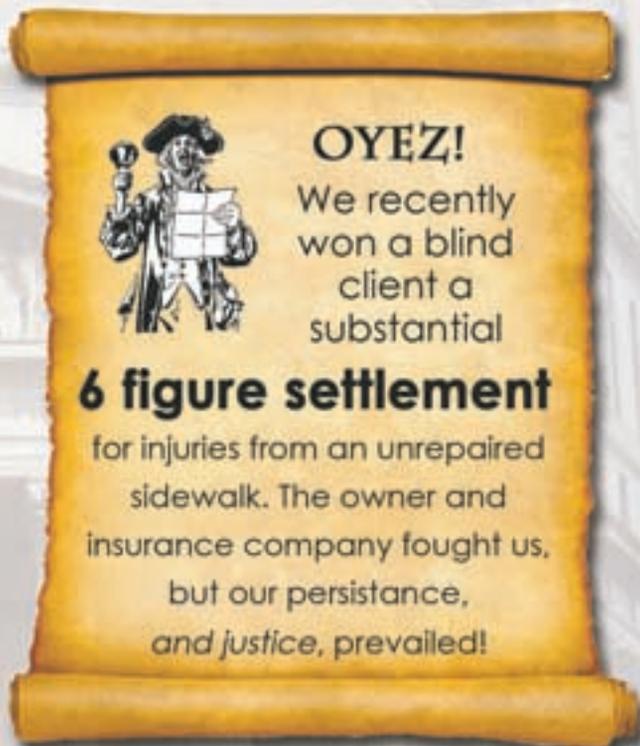
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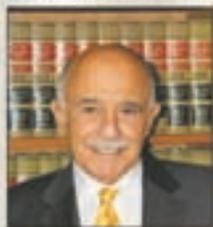
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Regional rum may face French resistance

Continued from Page 1

24.01 percent. The two decimated a field of nearly a dozen candidates. The second round of voting to determine who is the next French president is scheduled for May 7.

But Le Pen's far right movement wants to vote like the British to abandon the EU, saying the system of collective rules and general oversight from EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium have undermined France's sovereignty, national identity and independence. She even wants drastic restrictions on immigration and does not want Brussels to tell the French how to deal with issues such as migrants.

Frank Ward, head of the regional rum and spirits body argues that the EU may find it hard to survive a powerhouse and influential country like France leaving the EU but more importantly such a departure would undermine the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that the EU has with the Caribbean.

The EPA had replaced the Lome and Georgetown conventions which had governed trade and aid relations with the EU and the region and has much to do with sugar, rice, banana and rum

exports to the EU.

"If there are any changes in government in some of our major markets that may also have an impact. The idea that France may pull out of the EU that could have a significant impact upon us so if the outcome of the French elections is such that it engenders a more protectionist outlook, that would not bode well for us as an export-oriented industry because then there may be barriers put up to us being able to trade. I'm not saying that it's going to happen but we always have to be thinking of various possibilities which will negatively impact upon us," Ward told the Barbados Today publication.

Barbados for example, earned \$40M selling rum last year alone. Any major and drastic disruptions in that market could spell trouble for the region as the real fear is that the EPA aspects of agreements with Europe would not survive a French and British departure.

"Rum is an iconic product of the region for which we can be justifiably proud. We have done many, many things together over the years. We have had numerous successes, we have had hiccups, but nonetheless we have managed to advance the interest of the industry, not only for the owners of the companies themselves but also for the well-being of the community at large," Ward argues.

The regional rum sector is closely monitoring the French vote even as a long running support program for the development of the rum industry in the region is coming to an end in the EU.

Fight against Trump's policies

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Una Clarke was the first Caribbean-born woman to be elected to New York City Council.

"We are being targeted for divestment, detention and deportation," the congresswoman said. "With his policies on immigration, Donald Trump has attempted to return our nation to the worst parts of its history, when there were severe restrictions preventing Caribbean people and people of color generally from entering the United States, as well as ramped up, expanded and expedited deportations, or 'politely, removals, without access to due process."

"Can you say deportation force," she asked. "Well, it's real. I'm not sugar-coating it, and I'm not exaggerating. This is real talk."

Since Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20, 2017, the congresswoman said "dozens, if not hundreds, of people in New York City have been detained by ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] agents."

"Often times, they have been deprived of their rights and available leniency, relief or pardon," she said. "These recent events, done under the sole authority of the Donald, have terrorized our community of law-abiding, hard-working immigrants, prompting countless people to panic - often after receiving false information and rumors about ICE raids, policies and procedures."

Clarke warned that this "uncertain

climate created by the Trump administration has allowed scam artists and other criminally-minded individuals to take advantage of people."

But she urged members of the Caribbean community to know their rights, stating that, while ICE agents sometimes wear "street clothes, they cannot ask people for money."

"With your help, we will better inform the people of Central Brooklyn about their rights and fight back on a grassroots level against Donald Trump's atrocious, racist, and xenophobic and white supremacist policies," Clarke said.

In the interim, she said she will continue to fight against Trump's immigration policies, stating that she has already introduced a bill in the US House of Representatives that would require ICE agents to wear body cameras during all enforcement activities.

She has also calling on the US Department of Homeland Security, successfully, to investigate civil rights abuses in the implementation of Trump's executive orders on immigration.

Additionally, Clarke said staffers in her District Office in Brooklyn have been working "tirelessly" with immigrants, "who have immigration issues, assisting them by conducting inquiries into their citizenship and green card applications, as well as providing referrals to quality pro bono legal service organizations that assist with certain immigration matters."



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Eugene pleads his case for TPS



City Council Member Mathieu Eugene makes his case for the Department of Homeland Security to extend the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians that expires in July. Photo by Tequila Minsky

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renewal of this status is how they can continue to provide for their families.”

TPS provides immigration relief that has allowed Haitians to live and work freely in the United States. Having been renewed three times, TPS is set to expire July 22.

Immediately after the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake that killed almost 300,000 and left 1.5 million homeless, Haiti received TPS status for 18 months for those in Haiti during the earthquake. In 2011 it was extended to include individuals present up to January 2011. Forty thousand Haitians still live in tents.

Eugene reminded those gathered that Haiti is still recovering from the earthquake, has had an outbreak of cholera, and just last fall’s hurricane devastated the southern part of the country. “It cannot receive an influx of 50,000 people,” he said.

James McCament, the acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (ISCIS), said TPS should be terminated. “Conditions in Haiti no longer support its designation for TPS,” McCament said in a memo to U.S. Department of Homeland Secretary John F. Kelly according to the Miami Herald.

Councilman Alan Maisel reminded those present that people in his Canarsie District are still recovering from

Hurricane Sandy, and that is in this country. Imagine a country with so many economic and infrastructure challenges, he prodded. “Please take pity, President Trump,” he implored. “Have compassion and help the people of Haiti.”

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Guy A. Sansaricq from Brooklyn, an unwavering Haiti advocate, as well as a representative from NYLAG — New York Legal Assistance Group, the Legal Aid Society and Union 32BJ — holding signs reading “Don’t Hurt Haitian Families” were among the many present advocating for TPS renewal.

Holding a sign that read “Kite Yo Rete, Let Them Stay,” David Calvert of YouthBuild NYC Collaborative, an organization that has youth job and leadership projects in Haiti endorsed Councilman Eugene’s petition and the need to ensure the rights of Haitians in New York City. He added that U.S. policy should assist in the development of Haiti.

Eugene said that TPS holders contribute \$280 million to the economy and Haitians send a tremendous amount — \$1.3 billion — home; grandmothers raise kids and recent arrivals have opened small businesses.

“We’re doctors, teachers, and taxi drivers and contribute to the fabric of America,” he emphasized. We must join forces and raise our voices. Haiti is still in need.”

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Trump's first 100 days: a serious cause for concern

By Martin Khor

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

PENANG, April 24 2017 (IPS) - This week, Donald Trump will mark his first hundred days as US President. It's time to assess his impact on the world, especially the developing countries.

It's too early to form firm conclusions. But much of what we have seen so far is of serious concern.

Recently there have been many U-turns from Trump. Trump had indicated the US should not be dragged into foreign wars but on 6 April he attacked Syria with missiles, even though there was no clear evidence to back the charge that the Assad regime was responsible for using chemical weapons.

Then his military dropped what is described as the biggest ever non-nuclear bomb in a quite highly-populated district in Afghanistan.

Critics explain that this flexing of military might be aimed at the domestic constituency, as nothing is more guaranteed to boost a President's popularity and prove his muscular credentials than bombing an enemy.

Perhaps the actions were also meant to create fear in the leaders of North Korea. But North Korea threatens to counterattack by conventional or nuclear bombs if it is attacked by the US, and it could mean what it says.

Trump himself threatens to bomb North Korea's nuclear facilities. With two leaders

being so unpredictable, we might unbelievably be on a verge of a nuclear war.

As the Financial Times' commentator Gideon Rachman remarked, there is the danger that Trump has concluded that military action is the key to the "winning" image he promised his voters.

"There are members of the president's inner circle who do indeed believe that the Trump administration is seriously contemplating a 'first strike' on North Korea. But if Kim Jong Un has drawn the same conclusion, he may reach for the nuclear trigger first."

The New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof says the most frightening nightmare is of Trump blundering into a new Korean war. It could happen when Trump destroys a test missile that North Korea is about to launch, and the country might respond by firing artillery at Seoul (population: 25 million).

He cites Gen. Gary Luck, a former commander of American forces in South Korea, as estimating that a new Korean war could cause one million casualties and \$1 trillion in damage.

Let us all hope and pray that this nightmare scenario does not become reality.

This may be the most unfortunate trend of the Trump presidency. Far from the expectation that he would retreat from being the world policeman and turn inward to work for "America First", the new President may find that fighting wars or at least unleashing missiles and bombs in third world countries may "make America great



For the time being the much anticipated US-China trade war is off the radar. But it is by no means off altogether. Bigstock

again."

This may be easier than winning domestic battles like replacing former President Obama's health care policy or banning visitors or refugees from seven Muslim-majority countries, an order that has been countered by the courts.

But the message that people from certain groups or countries are not welcome in the US is having effect: recent reports indicate a decline in tourism and foreign student applications to the US.

Another flip-flop was on NATO. Trump condemned it for being obsolete, but recently hailed it for being "no longer obsolete," to his Western allies' great relief.

Another note-worthy but welcome about-turn was when the US President conceded that China is after all not a currency manipulator. On the campaign trail, he had vowed to name China such a manipulator on day 1 of his presidency, to be followed up with imposing a 45 percent tariff on Chinese products.

Trump continues to be obsessed by the US trade deficit, and to him China is the main culprit, with a \$347 billion trade surplus versus the US.

The US-China summit in Florida on April 7-8 cooled relations between the two big powers. "I believe lots of very potentially bad problems will

be going away," Trump said at the summit's end.

The two countries agreed to a proposal by Chinese President Xi Jinping to have a 100-day plan to increase US exports to China and reduce the US trade deficit.

For the time being the much anticipated US-China trade war is off the radar. But it is by no means off altogether.

Trump has moved to shred Obama's climate change policy. He proposed to cut the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 31 percent and eliminate climate change research and prevention programmes throughout the federal government. The EPA, now led by a climate change skeptic, was ordered to revise its standards on tailpipe pollution from vehicles and review the Clean Power Plan, which was the centrepiece of Obama's policy to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Trump has asked his Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to prepare a report within 90 days on the US' bilateral trade deficits with its trading partners, and whether any of them is caused by dumping, cheating, subsidies, free trade agreements, currency misalignment and even unfair WTO rules.

Once Trump has the analysis, he will be able to take action to correct any anomalies, said Ross.

We can thus expect the

Trump administration to have a blueprint on how to deal with each country with a significant trade surplus with the US.

If carried out, this would be an unprecedented exercise by an economic super-power to pressurise and intimidate its trade partners to curb their exports to and expand their imports from the US, or else face action.

During the 100-day period, Trump did not carry out his threats to impose extra tariffs on Mexico and China. He did fulfil his promise to pull the US out of the TPPA but he has yet to show seriousness about revamping NAFTA.

A threat to the trade system could come from a tax reform bill being prepared by Republican Congress leaders. The original paper contains a "trade adjustment" system with the effect of taxing US imports by 20 percent while exempting US exports from corporate tax.

If such a bill is passed, we can expect a torrent of criticism from the rest of the world, many cases against the US at the WTO and retaliatory action by several countries. Due to opposition from several business sectors in the US, it is possible that this trade-adjustment aspect could eventually be dropped or at least modified considerably.

In any case, as the new US trade policy finds its shape, the first 100 days of Trump has spread a cold protectionist wind around the world.

On another issue, the icy winds have quickly turned into action, and caused international consternation.

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Trump's foreign policy approach overshadows cooperation

Continued from page 10

pollution from vehicles and review the Clean Power Plan, which was the centrepiece of Obama's policy to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The plan would have shut down hundreds of coal-fired power plants, stop new coal plants and replace them with wind and solar farms.

"The policy reversals also signal that Mr Trump has no intention of following through on Mr Obama's formal pledges under the Paris accord," said Coral Davenport in the New York Times.

Under the Paris agreement, the US pledged to reduce its greenhouse gases by about 26 percent from 2005 levels by 2025. "That can be achieved only if the US not only implements the Clean Power Plan and tailpipe pollution rules but also tightens them or adds more policies in future years," says Davenport.

She quotes Mario Molina, a Nobel prize-winning scientist from Mexico, as saying: "The message clearly is, we won't do what the United States has promised to do...They don't

believe climate change is serious. It is shocking to see such a degree of ignorance from the US."

Will the US pull out of the Paris Agreement? An internal debate is reportedly taking place within the administration. If the country cannot meet and has no intention of meeting its Paris pledge, then it may find a convenient excuse to leave.

Even if it stays on, the new US delegation can be expected to discourage or stop other countries from moving ahead with new measures and actions.

There is widespread dismay about Trump's intention to stop honouring the US pledge to contribute \$3 billion initially to the Green Climate Fund, which assists developing countries take climate actions.

Obama had transferred the first billion, but there will be no more forthcoming from the Trump administration unless Congress over-rides the President (which is very unlikely).

Another adverse development, especially for developing countries, is Trump's intention to downgrade the importance of international and development cooperation.

In March Trump announced his proposed budget with a big cut of 28% or \$10.9 billion for the UN and other international organisations, the State Department and the US agency for international development, while by contrast the proposed military budget was increased by \$54 billion.

At about the same time, the UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien urgently requested a big injection of donor funds to address the worst global humanitarian crisis since the end of the second world war, with drought affecting 38 million people in 17 African countries.

The US has for long been a leading contributor to humanitarian programmes such as the World Food program. In future, other countries will have to provide a greater share of disaster assistance, said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

"The US is turning inward at a time when we are facing these unprecedented crises that require increasing US assistance," according to Bernice Romero of Save the Children, as quoted in the Los Angeles Times. "In 2016 the US con-

tributed \$6.4 billion in humanitarian assistance, the largest in the world. Cutting its funding at a time of looming famine and the world's largest displacement crisis since World War II is really unconscionable and could really have devastating consequences."

Trump also proposed to cut the US contribution to the UN budget by an as yet unknown amount and pay at most 25 percent of UN peacekeeping costs. The US has been paying 22 percent of the UN's core budget of \$5.4 billion and 28.5% of the UN peacekeeping budget of \$7.9 billion. Trump also proposed a cut of \$650 million over three years to the World Bank and other multilateral development banks.

The foreign affairs community in the US itself is shocked by the short-sightedness of the Trump measures and 121 retired US generals and admirals urged Congress to fully fund diplomacy and foreign aid as these were critical to preventing conflict.

The proposed Trump budget will likely be challenged at the Congress which has many supporters for both diplomacy and humanitarian concerns. We

will have to wait to see the final outcome.

Nevertheless the intention of the President and his administration is clear and depressing. And instead of other countries stepping in to make up for the United States' decrease in aid, some may be tempted to likewise reduce their contributions.

For example, the United Kingdom Prime Minister Theresa May in answer to journalists' questions refused to confirm that the UK would continue its tradition of providing 0.7 percent of GNP as foreign aid.

This has led the billionaire and philanthropist Bill Gates to warn that a cut in UK aid, which currently is at 12 billion pounds, would mean more lives lost in Africa.

Besides the reduction in funding, the Trump foreign policy approach is also dampening the spirit and substance of international cooperation.

For example, the President's sceptical attitude towards global cooperation on climate change will adversely affect the overall global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to global warming.

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Inside Life

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tics, the Intruders, Chi-lites, Persuaders, Delphonics, Spinners, O'Jays, the Manhattans and others.

Music lovers that discovered the unique and soothing voice that powered the suave and romantic trio also knew that the distinctive lead singer defined the brand distinctly American, uniquely Black and superlatively significant to a genre of global envy.

With Gooding at the helm, the group was regarded among the best.

While harmony provided the mainstay for appeal to rhythm and blues performers, it was Gooding's impeccable and distinctive vocal delivery that defined the group.

They worked with Stevie Wonder and the best producers of the era.

To fans there was only one Cuba Gooding — no senior nor junior.

At age 22 Cuba married singer Shirley Sullivan.

They moved to California.

It was there he realized he had to add "senior" to his name.

His first son, Cuba Jr. quickly emerged a star after debuting as an actor in the movie "Boyz in the Hood."

He won an Academy Award for his supporting role in the film "Jerry McGuire" and emerged a box-office success.

The actor recently portrayed O.J. Simpson in the TV miniseries depicting the demise of the former football

superstar.

The couple also parented Omar, an actor who made his debut in the film "Baby Boy."

The Goodings are also parents to Tommy, a musician and April, an actress and comedian.

The singer and his wife Shirley parted in 1974 but remarried in 1995 and spent their honeymoon in Barbados.

The lead singer took hiatus from the famed group in 1977. During that period he released two solo albums but reunited with them two years later.

Cuba Jr. said as a child he enjoyed watching his father work and was proud of his celebrity. He spoke nostalgically about how his father often encouraged him to join him on-stage.

"It was a lot of feeling like, "I come from royalty'."

In his later years, Gooding Sr. tried his hand at acting in a few small roles and even released a new single titled "Politics" in 2007. The song was played during the 2009 inaugural ball.

Allegedly he was also working on a film project titled "Everybody Plays the Fool: The Cuba Gooding Story" which aimed to highlight three generations of his family: Dudley Gooding, Cuba Gooding Sr., Cuba Gooding Jr. and Omar Gooding.

Gooding Sr. died one week before his 73rd birthday.

He was found slumped over in his silver Jaguar, which was parked on a street in Woodland Hills, California.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

St. Vincent

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Glossy Bay Marina is said to be the first super yacht marina in the eastern and southern Caribbean, with 120 berths, including 24 "super yacht" berths capable of accommodating yachts between 100 and 200 feet long.

Irish financier Dermot Desmond, one of the major investors in the project, has already spent US\$60 million and is on track to make a further investment of another US\$25 million to US\$30 million this year and a similar sum next three years.

He said Italian investor also pumped US\$425 million into the project.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said he is seeing significant opportunities for Vincentians from the project.

He said when the marina is finished there are gong to be opportunities galore as there are already opportunities for Vincentian entrepreneurs.

St. Kitts

Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris has condemned the vicious attack that led to the death of one woman and injuring another in Nevis on Easter Monday.



Police reported that Moreall Webbe, 28, was killed and Sonia Grant sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were traveling was riddled

with bullets. The women were heading home from a bingo game when they were shot at.

In a release, Dr. Harris said the incident that took place in Cotton Ground was in "shocking contrast with the values espoused during the season of reverence."

"My government condemns that abhorrent, barbaric act and implores those with any information to contact the Royal St. Christopher Police Force to ensure that justice is meted out swiftly for the sake of the victims, their families and loved ones as well as for their safety and security of us all," the release stated.

Trinidad

More than 1,793 Trinidad and Tobago nationals were deported from the United States over the past 10 years.

National Security Minister Edmund Dillon made this announcement in Parliament while he was answering questions from the opposition about the level of deportees from 2007 to 2016.

According to Dillon, the highest level of nationals deported from the United States over the 10-year period was in 2008, when 325 were sent back.

The lowest figure was in 2015 when 77 were deported.

He said the returnees are placed in different categories according to the reasons / crimes they had committed.

The national security minister said the most serious category of deportees are those concerning murder and terrorist activities, who are monitored by Trinidad and Tobago Intelligence forces and the police.

- Compiled by Azad Ali

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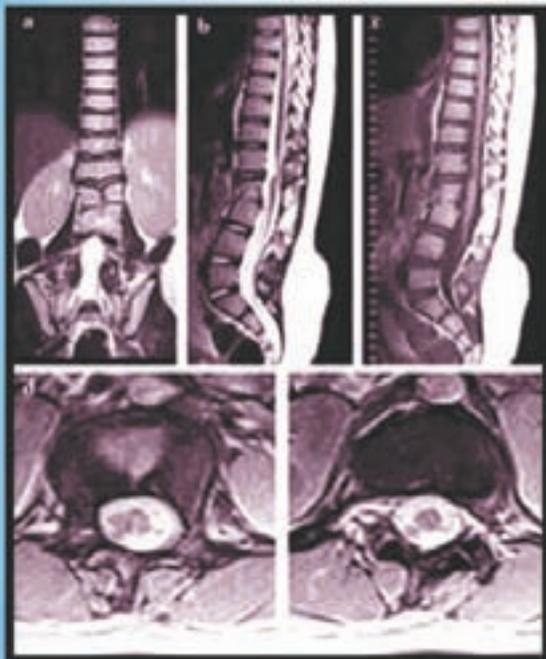
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Oldest Jamaican is also world's super centenarian

By Vinette K. Pryce

"The world's oldest human is Jamaican Violet Brown, who was born on March 10, 1900. Congrats Violet," Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness tweeted on April 15 via the information highway.

Proud to inform the universe of his island's super centenarian's super status Holness resorted to a practice the current US president regularly relies in order to boast a family's pride while expressing the joy of a nation.

At 117 years old, the eldest of elders on the island was born and still lives in Trelawny, a parish in Jamaica thousands of curious foreigners flocked to visit after Usain Bolt, the world's fastest human first sprinted to finish in record times.

They wanted to eat the foods he ate, drink the water he drinks and if only briefly breathe the same air that would enable an Olympic experience.

According to the Gleaner newspaper, "she eats every-

thing, except chicken and pork, and skips the alcohol."

"I don't drink rum and demtings," she told the newspaper.

"I tell you, these young people these days have it easy — piped water, taxis and buses to bring them where they want to go, everything to their convenience," Brown reportedly said on her birthday in 2010.

"When I was younger, and even as an adult, I had to work so hard that sometimes when I look back, I cry at how hard I had to work to make a living for my family."

Nicknamed "Aunt V," she and her husband worked as cane farmers and credits hard work to her longevity.

On hearing the news of her milestone accomplishment, the super survivor said: "I feel good, I feel happy to be the oldest person (in the world)."

"I did not feel I would become the oldest person, I feel I would pass long ago. Thank God for whatever He has given to me."

Ironically, her eldest son

Harland Fairweather celebrated his 97th birthday on the same day she received the record-breaking news.

"He was really overwhelmed with the achievement," a relative said.

Unfortunately Fairweather died four days later on April 19.

Fairweather was hypertensive and died after a short bout of illness.

"They were very close and shared the same residence."

"It is well known that she wanted him to bury her and occasionally stated that upon the passing of either one of them, the other would follow shortly afterwards," a source close to her said.

"She is well aware of everything and she is grieving."

Reportedly, Mosse Brown, who had six children lost another son previously but still has four surviving children who are celebrating longevity with her.

Mosse-Brown was born at the turn of the last century



Violet Mosse Brown and her 97-year-old son.

when Queen Victoria ruled Brittania and reigned supreme throughout the English-Caribbean region.

She still lives in the same house with family members. The home has been in their family for the past 200 years.

Dr. Thomas Perls, professor of medicine and geriatrics at Boston University and Boston Medical Center explained that at any one time, there are only about 300 super-centenarians — people who are 110 and older — living worldwide.

They aren't born with just one "aging well" gene, but

many of them — "it's like winning the lottery," he said — which allows them to delay or escape major diseases.

Women are much more likely to enjoy extreme longevity: About 85 percent of centenarians are women. At the most extreme ages, 110 and older, that number grows to 90 percent, Perls said.

The oldest living man is currently 113-year-old Israel Krystal and lives in Israel.

Mosse-Brown earned the title after the death of Emma Morano of Italy. She died at 117 years, 137 days old.



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This event is made possible through the generosity of the New York City Council Council Autism Awareness Initiative and in partnership with the Kennedy Child Study Center



Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union Announces New CEO

Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union, in Brooklyn, New York, announced that Anthony Grigos has been appointed as its new President/CEO.

He will succeed the credit union's President/CEO Gene Brody, who will continue to serve the credit union as Board Treasurer and Chief Strategy Officer following 53 years of service to our credit union, including 30 years as the President/CEO of Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union. "It was time to pass the reins" said Brody, who recommended Grigos to succeed him.

Anthony Grigos had been the credit union's Executive Vice President since 2013. Prior to joining the credit union, Grigos had fifteen years of experience in the Real Estate and Mortgage industry. Earlier in his career he rose to Vice President at JP Morgan Chase in their Information Technology division. His experience has helped grow BRFCU's real estate lending while refining overall products and member service across all business lines. Anthony's extensive technology background has been instrumental in the credit union's technology infrastructure to meet today's demands for member service, operational efficiency, and computer security. Grigos received his Bachelor of Science from Brooklyn College and holds a Master of Business Administration from Fordham University in NY.

"It is an honor that comes with great responsibility to become President/CEO of Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union; and I am confident of the years that lie ahead for our credit union" said Grigos, as he thanked Brody and the credit union Board for this opportunity and their unwavering support and confidence in him.



Gene Brody (left) Congratulate his successor, Anthony Grigos (right) after his appointment, as the new President? CEO of Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union



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A cosmetic company for black women

By Alexandra Simon

A Toronto-based makeup enthusiast wants to propel the availability of beauty products specific to black women in the makeup industry. TAJJ Cosmetics is the brainchild of its founder June Smith, a Jamaican-Canadian lover of cosmetics, who started the company in 2008 out of necessity, she said.

“What I really and truly want to see is for the beauty industry to pay more attention to women around the globe, and pay more attention to black women,” said Smith. “I want to see diversity and I want to be able to walk into store and see foundation in all colors.”

This lack of options is what led her to entrepreneurship. The idea for TAJJ Cosmetics arose after Smith noticed a corn forming on her toe and she became self-conscious about showing her feet as a result. Growing fed up with keeping her feet hidden she sought a solution for it, and that is how she got started into the industry, she said.

“I was always hiding my toe and didn’t want to show it because I wanted to get rid of this unsightly thing,” said Smith. “I thought to myself, there are all these things can cover discoloration for the face, but how come there is nothing for the feet?”

In her search for a solution she encountered the few options available to black



Founder and CEO of TAJJ Cosmetics June Smith, created her own makeup line after having a hard time finding beauty products to solve a toe concern. Her passion is to provide more options to black buyers.

Andre Smith

skin tones. But after endless researching she thought of an idea, and consulted with various companies to come up with her pigmented and waterproof product, the Incredible Corn Concealer.

“I was looking for a concealer and something to match my skin but trying to find these products as a black woman is hard, so I decided to create my own line,” said Smith.

And she quickly expanded to include other products when several close friends and relatives inquired about using the product on their faces. Naming the company after herself and

her three sons, TAJJ is an acronym for Tyler, Andre, Jever, and June. Currently offering beauty basics such as eye shadow, foundation, lipstick, the company’s products comes with the pigmentation needed for darker tones, according to Smith.

And the company is still branching out as future merchandise will soon incorporate more lip products such as colored lip glosses, said Smith. But a main company priority is informing buyers of products useful to them. Smith said trends and few options cause black consumers to buy more, but she wants them to

get things they need.

“I want to educate people on beauty and what they do or don’t have to use,” she said. “I do not want to just sell because I want to tell them the pros and cons of products — because not everyone needs a concealer.”

Smith said catering to the underserved was the reason why she entered the makeup business, and that was a major reason why her company was different from other makeup companies.

“We want to stand out and want to make sure we fulfil the needs — we don’t just want you to buy lipstick and that’s very

important for me,” she said. “We are different and first of all because if we just got into with just with foundation and lipstick we’d be lost — we got into it with a niche product and our products are specifically designed for black women.”

With TAJJ growing as a company in several years, Smith believes it will get bigger. Attracting buyers mostly from the United States, United Kingdom, and even as far the Australia, she said there was a demand for cosmetics catering to black women and abandoning that base for growth is not ideal.

“Wherever I see a need is where I try to be,” said Smith. “I want my company to focus on black women. The moment we get into what everyone else is doing is when we’ll be just be like everyone else and we want to stay on the platform we started, that’s where we’re staying to build on.”



Smith and award-winning British international creative hair artist Angela Plummer, at the International Hair and Beauty Show in New Jersey last year.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Small Business Energy | SmallBusinessEnergy.com

www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork

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NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

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

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/helppresource/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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Dr. Emmanuel Valery

Our Director of Internal medicine, Dr. Emmanuel Valery, was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and has been in the medical field for close to 3 decades. Since immigrating to New York after graduating from Noreste University in Mexico in 1986, Dr. Valery completed the prestigious Fifth Pathway program for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and has practiced Internal Medicine at many of the best hospitals in the world. Dr. Valery was a Medical Director at New York Methodist Hospital and was the CEO of Bedford Medical Group. Dr. Valery has also practiced at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Kings County Hospital, and Bronx Lebanon Special Care Center. Dr. Valery is well-known for his extensive medical knowledge and makes sure to personally see each patient. As an immigrant himself he dedicates his life and profession to bringing quality medical care to our wonderful community.



Dr. Anise Joseph

Dr. Joseph, LaSante's Chief of Pediatric Medicine, is a Haitian-American pediatrician who is passionate about promoting the health and wellness of children and adolescents. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY of Haitian immigrant parents. Dr. Joseph earned a Bachelor's degree from Fordham University at Lincoln Center and graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. Prior to joining LaSante Health Center, Dr. Joseph worked in the pediatric emergency department at St. Barnabas Hospital in Bronx, NY for about 2 years. She lives in Brooklyn where she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending church and reading.

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Our Perspective

Bloomingtondale's Needs to Recognize Value of Its Workers

By Stuart Appelbaum, President
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, UFCW

Since 1937, the RWDSU has represented the employees at Bloomingtondale's flagship store on 59th Street. The store is a New York City institution and an internationally famous tourist destination. Every year it generates millions of dollars in profits for Bloomingtondale's and serves as an icon for the upscale retail chain.

The customer service provided by RWDSU Local 3 members is one of the reasons for the enduring popularity at this iconic store.

Bloomingtondale's workers' customer service and skills on the sales floor at the 59th street store have helped establish the Bloomingtondale's brand which has benefited the retailer's sales both in-store and online.

That's why it's important that Bloomingtondale's invests in its workers. They want the in-store experience to be a positive one for customers, created by motivated workers. Bloomingtondale's needs to negotiate a fair new contract with its workers by the May 1 deadline. Negotiations have so far been difficult, with the company asking for unreasonable givebacks and refusing to address issues with the commission policy that are hitting workers' paychecks hard.

At 59th Street, online sales are happening because of the work Local 3 members do on the sales floor – often spending hours providing service to customers who then finalize their sales online. In fact, Bloomingtondale's has placed signs in the store encouraging customers to finalize their purchases online. Workers' time and attention are helping to make sales every day, but commissions that should be going to them are instead being pocketed by management. This is resulting in huge pay cuts for Bloomingtondale's workers, the majority of whom are paid only through their commissions. Bloomingtondale's workers are reporting that they are taking home at least 20 percent less than they were five years ago.

Bloomingtondale's management has so far refused to consider reasonable solutions to this issue that would reward commission pay from these types of sales while still providing customers with the option to pay online for in-store sales. In addition, Bloomingtondale's health care benefits are becoming unaffordable for workers, with premiums going up each year and outpacing employee wage increases. The company also wants to take away hard-won seniority rights and other benefits from senior employees. And, Bloomingtondale's workers are also being harmed by a store policy which requires them to give up commissions even months after a sale is made if an item is returned. When they get their paychecks they don't even know if they will be able to keep the money they have earned or will be forced to return it at a later date.

The bottom line is that Bloomingtondale's needs to reinvest in its workforce to build for the future, and to protect its brand. It's what will keep people shopping at Bloomingtondale's and online. It's more important than ever that Bloomingtondale's ensures a positive in-store experience – and not just to make sales, but to preserve the mystique of the Bloomingtondale's brand that transcends their brick-and mortar stores.

RWDSU members will not accept a contract that diminishes the value they provide for Bloomingtondale's. And Bloomingtondale's shouldn't pursue a contract that will hurt their workers as well as their standing as a premier shopping destination and experience.



www.rwdsu.org

New policy for immigrant defendants

By Nelson A. King

Amid heightened fears in the immigrant community in the United States over President Trump's draconian immigration policy, Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez on Monday announced that his office is implementing a new policy aimed at minimizing collateral immigration consequences of criminal convictions, particularly for misdemeanor and other low-level offenses.

Gonzalez said his office has hired two immigration attorneys to train all staff on immigration issues and to advise prosecutors when making plea offers and sentencing recommendations on cases of non-citizen defendants "in an effort to avoid disproportionate collateral consequences, such as deportation, while maintaining public safety.

"I am committed to equal and fair justice for all Brooklyn residents – citizens, lawful residents and undocumented immigrants alike," he said. "Now, more than ever, we must ensure that a conviction, especially for a minor offense, does not lead to unintended and severe consequences like deportation, which can be unfair, tear families apart and destabilize our communities and businesses.

"In Brooklyn, we have been proactive in protecting immigrants from fraud and hate crimes; and now, with the unprecedented hiring of immigration attorneys and the implementation of this policy, we continue to lead on this important issue," Gonzalez.

He stressed that his office is "not seeking to frustrate the federal government's function of protecting our country by removing non-citizens whose illegal acts have caused real harm and endangered others."

Rather, he said his goal is to enhance public safety and fairness in the criminal justice system, adding that this policy complements but does not compromise, this goal.

"We will not stop prosecuting crimes, but we are determined to see that case outcomes are proportionate to the offense as well as fair and just for everyone," Gonzalez said.

The New York Immigration Coalition Executive Director Steven Choi congratulated Gonzalez on this "significant initiative.

"This is an important step to protect Brooklyn's large and diverse immigrant population," he said. "Misdemeanors and low-level offenses often trap immigrants who are unfamiliar with the legal process – and potentially expose them to harsh 'double punishment' of being deported and ripped from their families.

"The New York Immigration Coalition looks forward to the program's success and eventual expansion," Choi added. "After all, this is our New York, one that fights for justice of all people."

The acting district attorney said that

non-citizen defendants may face harsh immigration penalties as a result of criminal convictions, even for minor offenses.

He also said lawful residents (green card holders or students, workers, visitors, refugees and asylees with valid visas) can face deportation, detention during removal proceedings, bars to readmittance into the country and negative effects on applications for permanent residency or citizenship.

Gonzalez said a conviction for undocumented immigrants can make them a priority for deportation enforcement or eliminate the possibility of the cancellation of removal proceedings that might be otherwise available based on length of stay, marriage, extreme hardship and other factors.

According to federal law, four factors primarily affect how a conviction impacts a defendant's immigration consequences.

Firstly, Nature of the crime. Certain offenses, like those involving a controlled substance, domestic violence, firearms, crimes against a child and crimes of moral turpitude, are prioritized and can be determinative on how a state offense is treated for immigration purposes.

For instance: some state misdemeanors, like possession of marijuana and petit larceny, are considered felonies for immigration purposes, while trespass and unauthorized use of a vehicle are not, Gonzalez said.

Secondly, Length of sentence. Certain misdemeanor dispositions are tantamount to aggravated felonies for immigration purposes.

Thirdly, the length of the defendant's stay in the United States, and fourthly, whether the defendant has prior convictions and the nature of such convictions, Gonzalez said.

He said the policy complements current practices pursuant to New York City's status as a sanctuary city, under which his office does not share immigration status of victims and witnesses with federal authorities and encourages all residents to report crimes and cooperate with investigations without fear of reprisals.

Gonzalez said the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office has "done much to prevent immigrants from becoming victims of crime and to assist those who become victims."

He said that includes "well-attended" immigration forums in several communities that are now being held on a monthly basis; "an active Hate Crimes Unit and a robust Immigrant Fraud Unit that is specifically tasked with investigating crimes against immigrants; a regular review of U-Visa applications of witnesses and victims; a culturally diverse team of counselors in the Victims Services Unit; and more."



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Simple Procedure Improves Dry Eyes & Sagging Eyelids

Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery

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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.

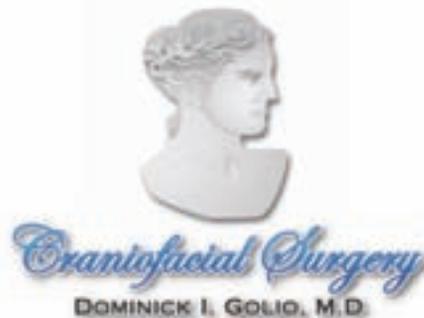
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Applying sufficient amounts of sunscreen with a minimum sun protection factor of 30 can help adults and children reduce their risk for skin cancer.

Sunburn and the risk of skin cancer

Sunburn can be a painful, unsightly consequence of too much unprotected time spent in the sun. But sunburn is more than just a temporary nuisance. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, sunburn can cause long-lasting damage to the skin and increase a person's risk of developing skin cancer.

Sunburn tends to be so common, particularly during the warmer months of the year, that many people may consider it a relatively harmless byproduct of spending time outside under the sun. But the United Kingdom-based charitable organization Cancer Research UK notes that getting painful sunburn just once every two years can triple a person's risk of developing melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

A better understanding of sunburn and its relationship with skin cancer may encourage more people to prioritize protecting their skin when spending time in the sun:

What is sunburn?

Sunburn occurs when the DNA in skin cells has been damaged by ultraviolet radiation.

Many people associate sunburn with skin that peels or blisters, but any skin that turns pink or red in the sun has been sunburnt.

Am I always vulnerable?

Though many people may only get sunburns on hot days, that's not because the skin is not susceptible to sunburn year-round. In fact, sunburn can occur any time of year because it's caused by ultraviolet radiation, which has nothing to do with the temperature. Many people only spend time outdoors on hot days; hence, the reason they may only suffer sunburn in late spring and summer.

Since sunburn can occur at any time of year, it's imperative that skin is covered up and sunscreen is applied regardless of what time of year a person is enjoying the great outdoors.

Am I safe once my skin peels?

People who have experienced sunburn may have noticed their skin peeling in the days after they were burned, though not every sunburn

victim's skin peels. Peeling is how the body rids itself of the damaged cells that can lead to cancer.

But just because a sunburn victim's skin peels post-sunburn does not mean that person has necessarily dodged the skin cancer bullet. Some damage may remain after skin peels, and that remaining damage can still make sunburn sufferers vulnerable to skin cancer.

I've been sunburned. Now what?

A sunburn, even a particularly bad sunburn, does not guarantee a person will develop skin cancer. But frequent sunburns increase a person's risk of the disease, so people who have been sunburned, whether it's just once or several times, should revisit what they're doing to protect their skin before going back out in the sun.

Wearing protective clothing, including long sleeve shirts and protective hats, and applying strong sunscreen with a minimum sun protection factor of 30 are just a couple of ways to protect skin from sun damage.

Get relief from sunburn pain

Summer draws people outdoors to enjoy fun in the sun. But not every aspect of summertime weather can be pleasant, especially when sunburn rears its blistering head.

Despite the health warnings about sun exposure, people still venture outdoors repeatedly without the use of a protective product with a high enough SPF. Side effects of failing to protect the skin can include nasty burns and an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Perhaps individuals fail to take sunburns seriously because they don't associate sunburns with anything dangerous. But sunburn is just like any other burn and the skin pays the price.

Most people wouldn't intentionally set fire to their skin or play with caustic chemicals. But they will spend hours in the sun unprotected. Just like the flames of a fire, the sun can cause serious burns, even second- and third-degree ones. A second-degree burn causes not only damage to the epidermis, or the outer layer of skin, but extends deeper into the dermis as well. A third-degree burn seriously harms the entire epidermis and dermis, as well as nerves and fatty tissue contained within, according to The Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Because the epidermis and hair follicles are destroyed, new skin will not grow.

Sunburn can occur after roughly 15 to 30 minutes of exposure to the sun. The burn itself may not show up for hours later, which is why people often think they've avoided a burn. The results of sunburn are often pain, redness, and potential blistering, depending on the level of damage. Although there is no specific treatment for sunburn, there are some remedies that can help the pain and help to speed up recovery.

Drink plenty of water. Damaged skin may not be able to properly inhibit the loss of moisture from the



The best way to treat sunburn is not to get it in the first place. This means being diligent about applying sunblock before going outdoors.

body, resulting in dehydration. Drinking water can replenish fluids needed for comfort and health.

Over-the-counter pain medications may alleviate the stubborn pain. If the pain is very severe, consult a physician, who might feel prescription-strength pain relievers are necessary. There also are topical pain-relief sprays that temporarily dull the pain and cool the skin.

Use cool, wet compresses. Lotions that soothe can also be helpful and reduce swelling. Look for ones with natural ingredients, such as aloe vera.

Oral antihistamines can help. When the skin eventually starts to peel and becomes itchy, antihistamines can relieve the itch.

If blisters are present, leave them be until they break on their own. Prematurely breaking sunburn blisters can increase the risk of infection. An antibiotic cream may be applied after the blisters break to speed up healing and prevent infection.

Know then to call a doctor. If the sunburn is severe or accompanied by a fever, consult a physician.

The best way to treat sunburn is not to get it in the first place. This means being diligent about applying sunblock before going outdoors.

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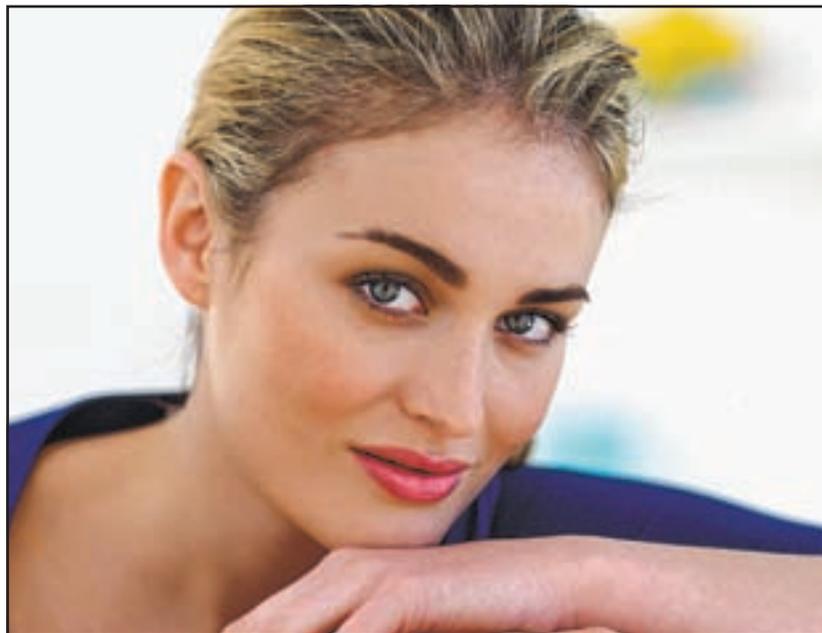
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Adults and even children are susceptible to skin cancer when spending time outdoors.

Skin cancer is a year-round danger

Skin cancer can affect anyone, and overexposure to the sun, a key risk factor for skin cancer, can occur at any time of year. Whether it is a hot, sultry day spent by the pool or a chilly day skiing the slopes, any exposure to the sun can result in skin damage that can increase a person's risk for skin cancer. Plus, certain areas of the body are more susceptible than others.

How does skin cancer form?

When DNA, the material that encodes genetic information in all cells of the body, is damaged and the body cannot repair that damage, a person's risk for cancer increases. Damaged cells begin to grow and divide uncontrollably. Damaged skin cells that divide and spread can cause skin cancer. Because skin cancer tumors generally form in the outer-most layer of the skin known as the epidermis, skin cancer may be more readily apparent and detectable than many other cancers in the early stages.

The American Academy of Dermatology says that one in five Americans will develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetime, while the Canadian Skin Cancer Foundation says that basal cell carcinoma, the most common form of skin cancer, affects 50,000 to 60,000 Canadians each year.

Where is skin cancer most likely to appear?

Skin cancer is most likely to appear on the areas of the body most exposed to the sun. These include the head, face, neck, arms, and legs. Those who are bald or balding can also have skin cancer ap-

pear on their scalp. But skin cancer can develop anywhere on the body where there is skin, which makes it important to routinely check all areas of the body for indicators of the disease.

A recent study by The Mayo Clinic found that, while skin cancer can affect anyone, young women are more likely to receive a diagnosis. The study indicated that melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, has increased by eight times for women under the age of 40 since 1970. Even children can get skin cancer. A study in the journal Pediatrics found that the number of cases of skin cancer among children and adolescents has been increasing each year by about two percent.

Types of skin cancer

There are three main types of skin cancer. They include basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma.

Basal cell carcinoma occurs in the basal cells, which are the lowest level of the epidermis. It can appear as a shiny translucent or pearly nodule, a sore that continuously heals and then reopens, a pink slightly elevated growth, reddish irritated patches of skin, or a waxy scar.

Squamous cell carcinoma occurs in the upper layer of the epidermis. It often looks like a crusty, red patch of skin.

Melanoma begins in the melanocytes, the cells in the epidermis that give the skin its color. Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer because it can quickly spread into the lymph system of the body and organs. Melanoma can form in a preexisting mole or form a new mole.

The older we get, the more complicated our health care becomes.

Doesn't seem right, does it?

As we age, we often find ourselves facing health care needs that were never an issue when we were younger. It may be post-surgical rehab or in some cases, a loved one can simply no longer be cared for at home and needs to find a nursing home with the right blend of lifestyle, accommodations and cultural sensitivity.

For others, some help to those who care for a family member at home is all that's needed. And Medicare, Medicaid, dual coverage, supplemental coverage, you name it, it's complicated.

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Safe options for looking tanned

Many men and women want to have a sun-kissed look come summer, and that may drive them to spend hours out in the sun or inside tanning salons.

Repeated, unprotected exposure to ultraviolet rays, whether from the sun or tanning beds, can cause skin damage, eye damage, immune system suppression, and skin cancer, according to a variety of health sources. The Skin Cancer Foundation says each year there are more new cases of skin cancer in the United States than there are incidences of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung, and colon combined. About 90 percent of nonmelanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

While a tan can make a person appear healthy, over time ultraviolet exposure can accelerate the effects of aging, causing noticeable changes to the skin.

Overexposure to these rays can cause skin to sag as the skin loses its ability to go back into place after stretching. Sun exposure can cause fine and coarse wrinkles, freckles, mottled pigmentation, dilation of small blood vessels under the skin, and cancerous tumors.

Exposure to radiation of any kind puts a person at risk for skin ailments. Cumulative ultraviolet exposure may even lead to melanoma — the most serious form of skin cancer that is responsible for 75 percent of all skin cancer deaths — later in life.

Those who want to look tan can still rely on artificial means to achieve a sun-kissed glow:

Bronzers

Bronzing powders are cosmetics that are brushed on the skin and typically applied to the areas of the body that would be touched by the sun, such as the bridge of the nose, apples of the cheeks, col-



Spray tanning is a safer option than tanning beds or exposing the skin to too much sun.

larbone, and shoulders.

Bronzers are commonly used to contour the skin to de-emphasize certain features or play up others. A bronzer will wash off with soap and water or a cosmetic removal cleanser.

Sunless tanner

Sunless tanners come in sprays, lotions, and even moisturizers. Sunless tanners have been around in some form since the 1960s, and they work by employing DHA, a colorless sugar carbohydrate that interacts with dead skin cells of the epidermis.

The sugar causes a chemical reaction that results in a color change. Results may take a few applications and can last up to a week.

Kingsbrook offering free stroke screenings

Kingsbrook will offer free stroke screenings and education from April 24 to 29, 11 am–2 pm in the Vascular Laboratory, Katz building fourth floor on the medical center's main campus. Kingsbrook's free screening program provides access to detection opportunities for the under and uninsured of the community. The screening program is part of the facility's prevention agenda to improve access to quality care and early detection efforts and is offered via Kingsbrook's Best Health School.

Kingsbrook has received the Gold Stroke Award for the past several years, an honor that recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. Additionally, Kingsbrook specializes in

stroke rehabilitation and has a designated Stroke Center implemented in its Emergency Department. The center is fully equipped with tele-stroke capabilities, a two-way, video conferencing system with stroke and neurology specialists.

"Knowing your risk factors is key to prevention," says Enid Dillard, director of Marketing and Public Affairs at Kingsbrook. "Stroke is very prevalent in our community and as such, we are happy to provide these early detection efforts."

For more information on the monthly screening schedule for 2017, visit at www.kingsbrook.org under Community Programs & Events or call (718) 604-5062.

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center (585 Schenectady Ave. between Winthrop Street and Rutland Road).



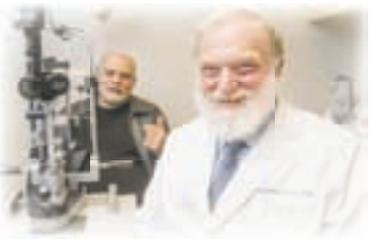
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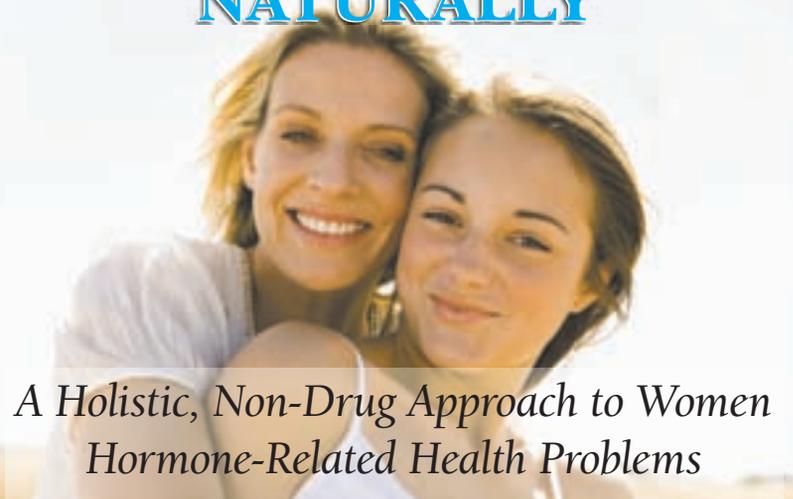



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Bust of Sir Lynden Pindling added to 'Hall of Heroes'

By Nelson A. King

The Organization of American States (OAS) on Thursday incorporated a bust of former Bahamian Prime Minister and national hero Sir Lynden Pindling to its "Hall of Heroes."

The OAS said the incorporation took place at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. in a ceremony that was attended by senior Bahamian officials, including the Attorney General and Senator, Allison Maynard Gibson; the Consul General of The Bahamas in Washington, Paulette Zonice; and the Governor-General and wife of the late Sir Lynden Pindling, Dame Marguerite Pindling.

Others were the Director of the Sir Lynden Pindling Foundation and son of the former Prime Minister, Obafemi Pindling; the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the OAS, Ambassador Elliston Rahming; the Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United States of America, Eugene Newry; as well as OAS Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez' and representatives from other OAS member countries.

"The everlasting legacy that this great Caribbean son has left in the lives of the people a small island state like The Bahamas," said Rahming, noting Sir Lynden's socio-economic contributions and role in the Bahamas' independence.

Rahming also recalled the role the former prime minister played in the liberation of the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, according to the OAS.

Mendez also spoke about the life and heritage of Sir Lynden, highlighting his



Bust of former Bahamas Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling incorporated in OAS' Hall of Heroes. OAS

achievements and contributions in the educational, multilateral, economic, political and legal realm.

"During his lifetime, Sir Lynden, a political giant and visionary, left an indelible mark upon the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and our region," he said, stating that Pindling was the longest-serving, democratically-elected head of government in the hemisphere.

"We thank the government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for honoring our organization with the placement of this bust in our Hall of Heroes," Mendez said.

"Here, Sir Lynden will proudly stand among the other great luminaries and historical figures of our hemisphere," he added.

Clarke announces 2017 Congressional Art Competition

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has announced the 2017 Congressional Art Competition, which allows young Brooklyn artists to share their inspiration with the entire community.

Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, said some of the most talented artists in history were from Brooklyn.

She said prolific neo-expressionist Jean-Michel Basquiat went to Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood; and muralist Marion Greenwood, a major contributor to the social realist tradition, was born in Brooklyn as well.

"I fully expect that the next generation of young women and men in Brooklyn will continue that proud tradition," Clarke said. "Through the Congressional Art Competition, high school students have an opportunity to showcase their brilliant work

here in our community and – for the first-time entrant – in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., for a full year.

"I encourage all aspiring artists, who are interested in creating a work that reflects our community, to enter the competition, as well as anyone interested in the arts to join me at the Brooklyn Museum for the showcase," she added.

The competition, open to students who attend a high school within the 9th Congressional District of New York, allows for the submission of work until Friday, May 5.

Clarke will also host a 2017 Congressional Art Competition Award Presentation Show (location to be announced) in May.

For additional information, contact Reginald Belon, District Representative, at 718-287-1142 or Reginald.Belon@mail.house.gov.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Poet, actress Michèle Marcelin ends her proverb poem with a call to action. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Celebrating life with jazz

By Tequila Minsky

What do teachers do in their spare time? Most teachers would say that's a contradiction in terms!

Teachers who are also artists have in fact two vocations — like Brooklyn's PS 138 middle school teachers Michèle Voltaire Marceline and Alix (Buyu) Ambroise and teaching artist Jessica St. Vil-Ulysse.

Marceline is a multi-faceted performing artist, Ambroise plays a mean saxophone, and St. Vil-Ulysse dances and is

Continued on Page 38

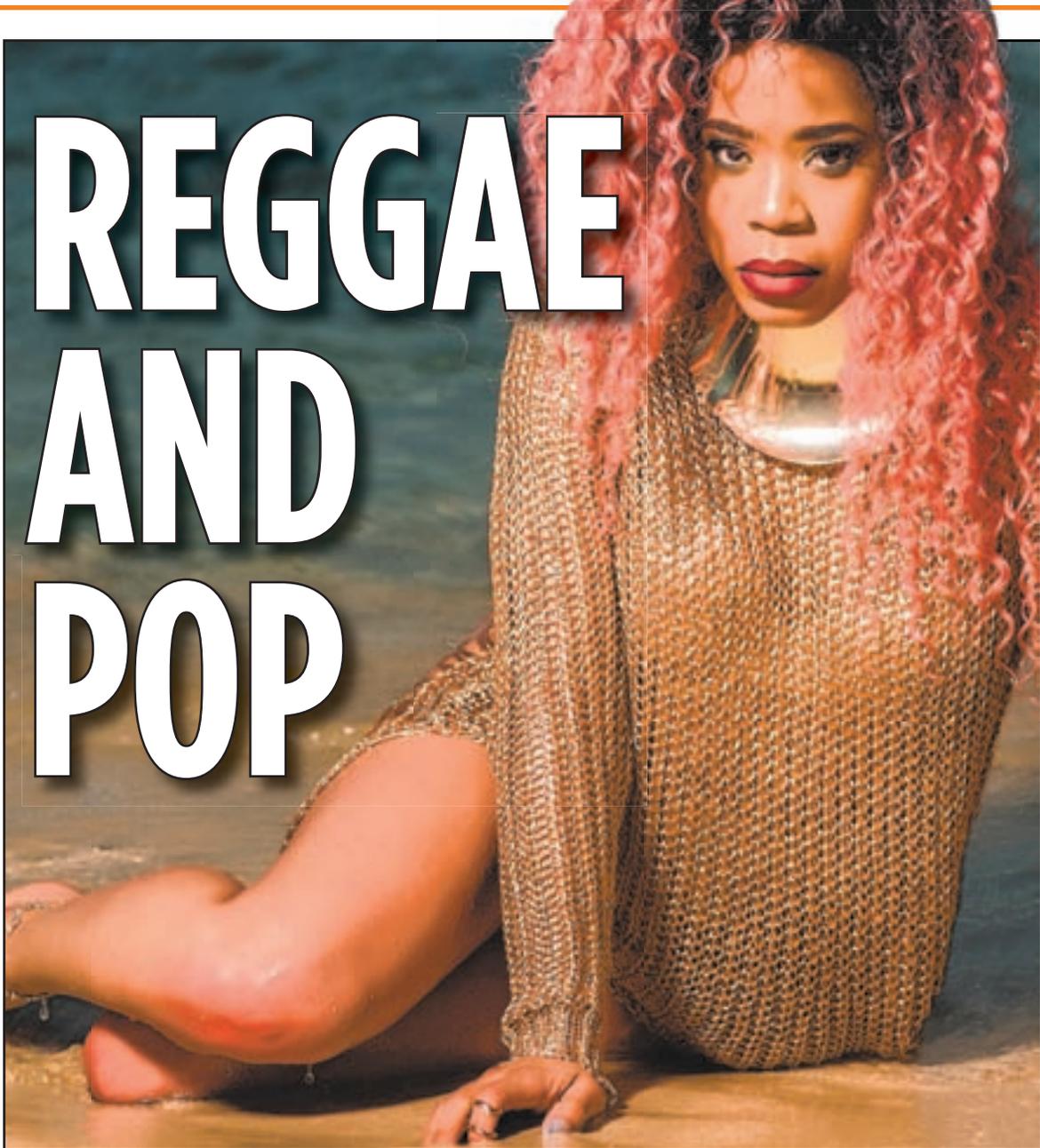
Daddy U Roy to perform in NYC

Jamaican music pioneer Daddy U Roy, who ruled the charts in the 70s with hit singles, 'Penny For Your Song' (with Derrick Harriott); 'Stop that Train'; 'Dread in a Babylon'; 'Wake The Town'; 'Rule The Nation' and 'Wear You To The Ball' (with John Holt) is set to perform in Queens on Sunday, June 25.

'The Originator,' as he is known, has earned an invitation to perform at New York's Groovin In The Park at Roy Wilkins Park where he will join reggae / rocksteady hitmaker Freddie McGregor, chart topper Ken Boothe and music magician Leroy Sibbles. All four acts will form part of a special package that celebrates the magic of the Rocksteady / reggae era. It is his first outdoor concert performance in New York City in more than 25 years and he is over the moon.

Continued on Page 38

REGGAE AND POP



Runs in the family: Reggae pop singer K'Reema, also the daughter of famous singer King Yellowman, is releasing her debut EP. Jamie Barnett

K'Reema debuts her new EP

By Alexandra Simon

Music runs in the family.

Reggae pop singer K'reema is coming out with her first EP, which is set to be released later this month. The daughter of popular reggae musician King Yellowman, the young artist was always exposed to music and even recorded several songs and music videos. But now she is taking her craft to the next level and delving into the field that made her father a household name, she said.

"Since coming out on the scene

three years ago, I always wanted to do music from growing up and loving music as little girl," she said. "I always dreamed of putting my music out there in the world and hoping that people enjoy it."

And her debut single "Drop It" is appropriately titled based on a break she took since first launching her singing career. She got the idea from wondering fans.

"It was while since I had put out music — I was touring but not putting anything out, and people

were asking when are you going drop music," said K'Reema.

She said her music particularly focuses on relationships and a variety of feelings people experience. In her release, she explores those themes and hopes to elicit a mixture of listener reactions.

"I feel like I try to touch on everyday aspects from a female standpoint and as it pertains to us as women," she said. "This EP is a rollercoaster of emotions and it's such a dear project

Continued on Page 38

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- Shape Of You**
Ed Sheeran
- That's What I Like**
Bruno Mars
- I Feel It Coming**
The Weekend Feat. Daft Punk
- Love On The Brain**
Rihanna
- Something Just Like This**
The Chainsmokers & Coldplay
- I Don't Wanna Live Forever**
Zayn / Taylor Swift
- Paris**
The Chainsmokers
- Scars To Your Beautiful**
Alessia Cara
- Rockabye**
Clean Bandit Feat. Sean Paul
- Chained To The Rhythm**
Katy Perry Feat. Skip Marley

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Memories... Do Not Open**
The Chainsmokers
- PTX Vol. IV: Classics (EP)**
Pentatonix
- Star-light: Live On Tour**
Bethel Music
- All-Amerikkkan Bada\$\$**
Joey Bada\$\$
- Divide**
Ed Sheeran
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Drake
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Father John Misty
- Moana**
Soundtrack
- Beauty And The Beast (2017)**
Soundtrack
- Whiteout Conditions**
The New Pornographers

Presented by

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REGGAE AND POP

Continued from Page 37

to me — it's going to take you through a state of happiness, sadness, and excitement."

Inspired by musicians such as Shania Twain, Beyonce, Tanya Stephens, and Beres Hammond, the singer describes her music as a mixture of reggae and pop — two sounds that encompass the two environments she was raised in, she said.

"I kind of wanted to touch on both sides of music, from growing up in Kingston and living here in New York," she said. "I want to touch on my roots, and where I currently am in life."

But while she loves having her father guide her in her career, she sometimes feels she has a higher bar to meet because of his celebrity but hopes fans can

see beyond that.

"It's great and it's challenging at the same time, everyone knows my daddy and they're wondering 'Can she really do this,' with a lot of curiosity," said K'Reema. "But I'm working hard to show that I'm my own artist, I really love to do this and I'm not trying to live off of my dad."

And her father is one of her biggest supporters, she said. Growing up with music around her, K'Reema said it was only natural that she found a space in music, but more importantly she wanted listeners to know that she was more similar to them than otherwise.

"I want people to know K'Reema and love my music and know that I'm a regular everyday girl, a sister, a daughter and just getting my



The singer who says she sometimes feels she has to meet the high expectations, strongly believes that she was destined for music.
Jamie Barnett

music out there," she said. "Growing up in a big family, music always been that average for me to step out from brothers and sisters — I love music."

Poetry

Continued from Page 37

a choreographer.

These three, all Haitian, came together at the branch library in Laurelton for a performance entitled "Celebration of Life: Poetry, Dance and All That Jazz."

Joining them to celebrate through their artistic mastery, by mid-afternoon, neighborhood residents along with friends and fans traveling from Brooklyn, Manhattan and Long Island packed the library's community space.

Poet, writer, and performer Michèle Voltaire Marceline started off with a Haitian Creole piece she fabricated. Knowing how rich the countless inventory of Haitian proverbs are, she juxtaposed proverbs that have opposite meanings to show Haiti's many dimensions, in her poem always addressing the country "peyi" first.

Here are a few proverbs in translation that she shared: Country, where bragging bulls barely have horns; Country, where the giver of the blow forgets, the bearer of the scar remembers; Country where the stones in the water do not know the pain of the stones in the sun. And the best known: Peyi dèyè mòn gen mòn — Country, where beyond the mountains, are more mountains.

Her poem ends with a call to action: This country is like my



To Frankétienne's Rapjazz, a high-energy collaboration of the three performing artists.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

finger; I can't cut it away. This country is ours; what will we do to save it?

"These illustrate the parallel universes that exist simultaneously in Haiti," Marceline explains.

The poet also performed two other original poems: Ars Poetica and I am Woman.

A spellbound audience watched choreographer St. Vil-Ulysse's opening dance entitled "It's not just the Vodou" to the music of Obed Jean-Louis and spoken words of Ella Turenne.

Saxophonist Buyu Ambroise performed Frantz Casséus's Mèsi Bon Dye. In his second number, he mashed up the traditional song "Koute Moun Yo" with "Rare Rara."

Wrapping up the afternoon, Marceline introduced a poem by Frankétienne — a leading Haitian writer known for a body of Haitian Creole literary work — Rapjazz. Ambroise and St. Vil-Ulysse joined her in a collaborative high-energy finale, completely engaging the audience.

Groovin in the Park

Continued from Page 37

"This performance is a big, big thing! The last time I performed outdoor in New York was with Toots in Central Park in the 80s" he recalled.

"I have heard about Groovin but this is the first time I am being invited to perform. It's an honor and I will do my best to please everyone," he affirmed.

Roy is a major superstar in Europe and Africa where he performs regularly. A few years ago he had a minor hit state-side with singer Richie Stephens called 'Real Reggae Music' and 'Ebony Eyes' featuring Winsome Benjamin. A follow up single 'Nah Complain' with entertainer Kafinal topped reggae charts in Canada and New York. Earlier this year, he recorded 'Pumps & Pride' with singer Tarrus Riley

that is getting traction on numerous stations in the Diaspora. His biggest hit is still his collaborative song 'Wear You To The Ball' that was released with John Holt in the early 70s. It reached #1 on the Jamaican chart and stayed there for 12 weeks.

"'Wear You To The Ball' is my biggest song. It is requested by fans everywhere I perform. They love it!," he disclosed.

When asked which other artiste he would consider recording with, the 'Wake The Town' singer said emphatically, "I would love to do a collaboration with Mariah Carey. She has a musical range that only Minnie Riperton can match. She is a high grade singer. I also love Gladys Knight, Patti Labelle, Diana Ross and Whitney Houston. These are some of the best singers of all time," he explained.



Reggae singer Daddy U. Roy.

Cutthroat rivalry between New Orleans barbershops

N.O.L.A. Circus
Very Good (2.5 stars)
Unrated
Running time: 89 minutes
Distributor: XLRator Media

By Kam Williams

Will (Martin Bradford) is the proprietor of Kupcakes, a hair salon located in Algiers, the only New Orleans parish on the west side of the Mississippi River. What makes him unique is that he's also a grassroots activist who periodically stands on the proverbial soap box, preaching to anybody who'll listen about Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He only has one employee, Nola (Jessica Morali), a gorgeous shampoo girl. They are secretly lovers, too, only because she has a very over-protective brother, Denzel (Reginald Varice), who is driven berserk just by the thought of her sleeping with anybody.

For example, he went crazy and beat up the entire staff at Napoli's Pizzeria, when he



Marvin (Vas Blackwood) and his two brothers, Hathi (Corey Mendell Parker) and Anaconda (Nicoye Banks)

www.rottentomatoes.com

suspected the owner of sleeping with her. Gesuippe Napoli (Ricky Wayne) was so incensed by the pummeling that he's summoned a hit man from Sicily (Gianni Boromei) to knock off the perpetrator.

Meanwhile, right across the street from Kupcakes we find

Marvin's, an old-fashioned barbershop frequented by a colorful cast of characters. The place is run by Marvin (Vas Blackwood) and his two brothers, Hathi (Corey Mendell Parker) and Anaconda (Nicoye Banks).

Each of the siblings has a distinctive physical trait. Mar-

vin has a huge Afro, Hathi has big ears, and Anaconda was blessed with gargantuan genitalia, hence the nickname. And he's a sex addict dating Nola's BFF, Karen (Kamille McCuin). Karen is the neighborhood drug dealer, not to be confused with another hustler who lurks

around, pressuring passersby to purchase everything from watches to underwear.

Additional players in this theater of the absurd include Woody (Lucius Baston), an aspiring opera singer who only stutters when he speaks, and a trio of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen threatening to kill Will unless he stops the pontificating in favor of civil rights.

All of the above are afforded their moments to shine in N.O.L.A. Circus, a kitchen sink comedy written and directed by Luc Annett. The foul-mouthed Frenchman is apparently unaware of contemporary social trends, since his irreverent film debut arrives laced with profanity, ethnic slurs, misogyny and assorted other salacious material ostensibly intended to easily offend.

The picture relies on a preposterous plot somewhat redeemed by the fact that the outrageous antics onscreen are often hilarious. So, don't be surprised if you end up laughing in spite of yourself.

Politically-incorrect, crass-ploitation fare strictly for the unshockable!

Independent & Foreign

Bang! The Bert Berns Story (Unrated) Reverential retrospective chronicling the aborted career of songwriter/producer Bert Berns (1929-1967)

who wrote such hits in the Sixties as "Twist & Shout," "Hang on Sloopy" and "Piece of My Heart," and helped launch the careers of The Drifters, The Isley Brothers, Janis Joplin, Neil Diamond and Van Morrison before passing away prematurely at the age of 38.

Danger Close (Unrated) War correspondent documentary chronicling the career of Alex Quade, a female reporter who, since 2001, has frequently embedded herself with U.S. Special Operations Forces on classified combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Grey Lady (R for violence and brief profanity) Crime thriller about a homicide detective (Eric Dane) who gets more than he bargained for when he ventures from Boston to Nantucket to track down his partner's (Rebecca Gayheart) killer. Featuring Natalie Zea, Amy Madigan and Adrian Lester.

LA 92 (R for profanity, bloody images and disturbing violence) "No justice, no peace!" documentary revisiting the events surrounding the riots which broke out around Los Angeles in the wake of the Rodney King verdict.

Long Strange Trip (R for profanity,



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

graphic nudity and pervasive drug use) Warts-and-all rockumentary affording a revealing look at the life and times of the Grateful Dead. Featuring never before seen video footage of Jerry Garcia, Phil Lesh, Mickey Hart, Bob Weir, Robert Hunter, Bill Kreutzmann and Pigpen.

The Mayor (Unrated) Political pot-boiler, set in South Korea, about the woes which ensue for the Mayor of Seoul (Min-sik Choi) after he announces plans to run for a record-breaking third term. With Do-won Kwak, Eunkyung Shim and So-ri Moon. (In Korean with subtitles)

Obit (Unrated) Life after death documentary chronicling the work of the New York Times' obituary writers.

One Week and a Day (Unrated) Midlife crisis drama about a grieving shopkeeper (Shai Avivi) who, much to his wife's (Evgina Dodina) chagrin, starts getting high and shirking his responsibilities after sitting Shiva for his recently-deceased 25-year-old son. Supporting cast includes Sharon Alexander, Uri Gavriel and Tomer Kapon. (In Hebrew with subtitles)

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SPORTS

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Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

Government Information Services Limited

Cricket hijacked

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley says West Indies cricket has been “hijacked” by people who are going to destroy the product and the game.

He was at the time speaking during an interview on an early morning television show. He said the current structure and organization of the game by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and their new incarnation the West Indies Cricket Board Incorporated cannot work.

Rowley claimed that Caribbean
Continued on Page 42

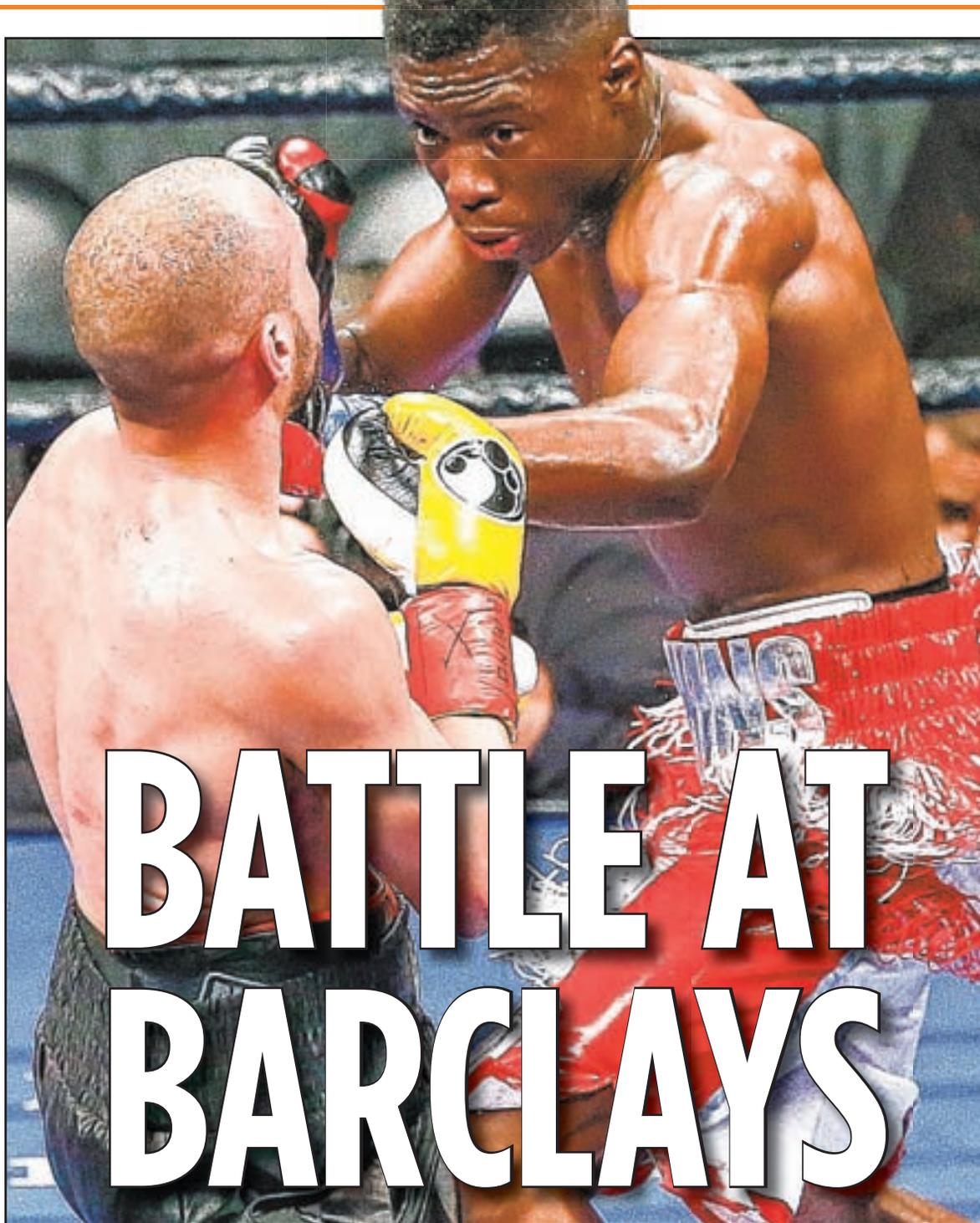
Taylor comes out of retirement

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor has come out of retirement from Test cricket and has indicated he is again available for selection to the regional side.

Taylor 32, who stepped down from Test cricket last July said he was ready to play for the West Indies.

Having played three first class matches for his native Jamaica Scorpions in recent weeks, Taylor could now find himself for selection in the West Indies squad for the three-Test match series
Continued on Page 42



BATTLE AT BARCLAYS

Focused in: Richardson Hitchens wanted another knockout, but knew he controlled his fight against Alexander Picot at Barclays Center on April 22.
Photo by Robert Cole

Teen welterweight Richardson Hitchens goes 2-0

By Laura Amato

He got the win, but came away disappointed.

Standout welterweight Richardson Hitchens didn't get the knockout he wanted, but still dominated in the ring at Barclays Center on April 22, cruising to a unanimous decision

over Alexander Picot. The 19-year-old Brooklyn native controlled the tempo in all four rounds, and earned a 40-36 score from all three judges.

“I just wanted to give my hometown and fans [a good fight],” he said. “I'm kind of disappointed because I didn't get the knockout.”

“When you're young, you want to knock everything out,” Hitchens said. “It was tough, every clean shot was catching him and he was getting hurt and battered. I thought he was going to give up, but he stood up. I thought I had it in the third

Continued on Page 42

Continued from page 41

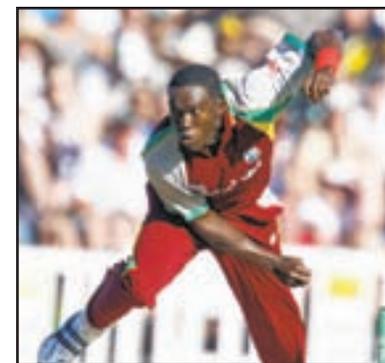
cricket has been “hijacked” by a small clique who are bent on destroying Caribbean cricket and “it is my position that unless the question is answered as to who owns that asset (Caribbean Cricket), we are spinning top in mud.”

The prime minister said the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Australia Cricket Board had resolved that issue in their countries and arrangements were put in place that led to the rebuilding of their teams under the new arrangements.

In December 2015, Rowley and the then head of CARICOM’s sub-committee on cricket, Grenada’s Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell met with representatives of the WICB, including President Dave Cameron where the WICB initially agreed that there were governance issues that needed to be addressed and was open to restructuring.

However, Cameron and the WICB changed their stance following the recommendations of a report from an independent committee.

Taylor



Jerome Taylor.
Associated Press / NZPA, Wayne Drought, File

Continued from page 41

against Pakistan to be played in the Caribbean starting from this week.

The Jamaica and West Indies speedster said, “I believe I have a lot of cricket in me and I know I can still offer a lot to West Indies cricket in the Test arena.”

Taylor had suddenly ended his Test career ahead of the four-Test series against India last July, but remained available for selection in the shorter format of the game.

He subsequently turned out for the West Indies in the three-match Twenty20 series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates last year when the regional side suffered an embarrassing white-wash.

Taylor was among the leading wicket-takers in the Regional Super50 earlier this year with 16 wickets, including a five-wicket haul against Guyana Jaguars at Kensington Oval, Barbados.



Better in Brooklyn: Hometown star Richardson Hitchens improved to 2-0 with a unanimous decision.

Photo by Robert Cole

BATTLE AT BARCLAYS

Continued from page 41

[round].”

Hitchens — who made his pro debut at Barclays in March with an early-fight knockout — took charge from the opening bell, landing punch after punch. Picot spent most of the fight backed up against the ropes, doing his best to simply try to block his opponent’s attacks.

“I wanted to pace myself, but I started off applying pressure and punishing him,” Hitchens said. “He kept getting hurt, but he did not go down. I saw him wobbling around the ring, running, and I was chasing him, but I didn’t want to do something stupid. If the knockout comes, it comes.”

Hitchens went into the fight wanting to win, no matter what, and hoping for that second knockout. But in the end he knew he’d managed to impress the boxing world with his performance and, most importantly, gotten a bit more experience in the ring.

“I’ve never gone four rounds in a fight before, so that was good,” the young boxer said. “My coach was happy that we got the rounds in, so I’m just looking to push up my rounds. It’s a good experience.”

Hitchens knew he’d won the fight before the scores were even announced, certain his record was still perfect even as he retreated to his corner. He’d landed the majority of his punches — including a handful of body shots in the fourth round that left Picot more than just a bit wobbly on his feet.

“I definitely knew,” he said. “There was no way a judge could give the fight to a fighter getting punished like that. [Picot] didn’t want to fight. I felt like he was just there to survive.”

Hitchens — who excelled on the amateur circuit and represented Haiti in the 2016 Olympics — appears to have a bright ring future ahead of him after two strong showings at Barclays. But he’s his own toughest critic, and is still determined to prove himself every time he fights.

“You’ve got to be the one in the gym that’s eager and ready to get better and always keep the same level of love for the sport of boxing,” the teen said. “I walked into the gym and it was love at first sight. I’ll love it until the day I unlace these gloves.”

In other action, Amanda Serrano also did her hometown crowd proud at Barclays, capturing the women’s bantamweight championship with an

eighth-round technical knockout over Dahiana Santana.

“It means everything to me. We worked so hard. We worked hard for this moment,” said Serrano, a graduate of Bushwick High School. “To be a five-division world champion is amazing. To be the first female and first Puerto Rican is amazing.”

Serrano, 28, now has won world titles in the bantamweight, junior featherweight, featherweight, junior lightweight and lightweight divisions. She had little trouble with Santana, controlling the fight with strong left jabs and punishing body shots. The fight was nearly stopped after four rounds, as Santana was examined by ring doctors after developing swelling over both eyes.

According to CompuBox punch statistics, Serrano (31-1-1, 23 KOs) landed 152 of 486 punches, while Santana connected on just 60 her 293 shots.

Serrano wrapped up her victory just over a minute into the eighth round, drilling Santana with punch after punch along the ropes.

“I’m just so happy for this moment,” Serrano said afterward. “Just to be a five-division world champion, I could retire today and be the happiest woman alive.”

Team Jamaica Bickle to host Caribbean athletes

By Nelson A. King

Team Jamaica Bickle, Inc., the New York-based not-for-profit organization that provides much-needed support for Jamaican athletes who compete at the annual Penn Relay Carnival at the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN) in Philadelphia, says it will begin welcoming athletes from across the Caribbean early this week.

The annual Penn Relay takes place from Thursday through Saturday.

Athletes will arrive from several high schools and a handful of colleges in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Guyana and Barbados, Team Jamaica Bickle said.

The organization provides ground transportation, hot meals, chiropractic care and coordinated hotel accommodation, among other services, to the athletes during their stay in Philadelphia.

"With 23 years of hosting, under its belt, it is a routine that they are well used to," said Team Jamaica Bickle in a statement. "It involves early mornings to ensure buses move on time to get athletes to the sta-

dium for competition, to getting breakfast started before the crack of dawn for those early competitors."

Team Jamaica Bickle said the "village is a hub of activity."

"The huge tent is a meeting spot for the entire contingent," it said. "It is where sponsors, friends and fans converge. The large commercial grade kitchen from which meals are served daily is operated by the organization's founding partner, Caribbean Food Delights."

"Athletes throughout the years have come to expect great Caribbean hospitality; a warm spot in what can be a cold Philadelphia during these relays," it added, stating that the week of preparation is "a culmination of planning of activities that begin as early as fall of the previous year."

Throughout the months leading up to the relays, Team Jamaica Bickle said the organization and its cadre of volunteers engage in various fundraising activities from New York to Philadelphia to underwrite its huge budget.

"Fundraising is necessary for our survival," said found-



Meal time under the tent.

Team Jamaica Bickle

er and chief executive officer Irwine Clare. "Corporate support is not as it used to be, so we are pushed to increase our activities, especially at the community level."

"Our appeal is for the community to donate more as their donations to us, as a not-for-profit, are tax deductible," he added. "We are proud of our athletes; let's put our money

where our mouth is."

For more information on Team Jamaica Bickle or to lend your support, please call (718) 523-2861 or email teamjamaicabickle@gmail.com.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
You can only procrastinate for so long, Aries. Soon enough this will catch up with you, so it's best to start addressing your to-do list as soon as possible.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Your patience will boil over this week if you do not find a way to let off steam, Taurus. Exercise may be just what you need, so schedule some time to work out.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, speak up and share your opinion this week. Others will appreciate your straightforwardness. Explain your point of view in detail and others will see where you are coming from.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you wear your heart on your sleeve, and those closest to you will be able to figure out what is going on in your head. Accept their support when it is offered.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Sometimes even Leos needs to work through their feelings on their own. Don't be afraid to spend some time reflecting on what you need to resolve.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, it's nice to have like-minded people around you to support your efforts. But sometimes you need someone who sees things differently to shake up your perspective.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, make a concerted effort to block out any distractions in the days ahead. You might not avoid all the turmoil, but your efforts will prove fruitful.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, take others' point of view to heart in the days ahead. This signals to others you value their opinions and recognize their efforts.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Others can use a dose of your optimism right now, Sagittarius. Find a way to include as many people as possible as you look to spread some sunshine around.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may develop a soft spot for someone who needs your help in the next few days. Do all you can without stretching yourself too thin. Your assistance will be appreciated.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, in your search for a different perspective, you may find yourself confiding in a coworker in the coming days. Give careful consideration to any advice you receive.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, your imagination is running wild and this could lead you on an unexpected adventure. Take a level-headed friend along for the ride.



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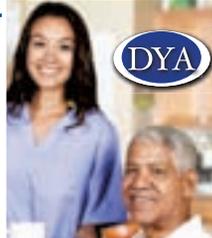
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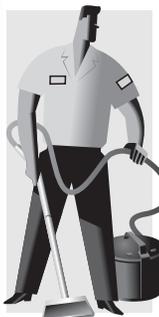
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