



Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Governor, Timothy Antoine.

Photo by George Alleyne

## US slams CARICOM as money launderers

By George Alleyne

In one fell swoop the United States government has condemned 14 of the 15 CARICOM states as major money laundering countries, and Barbados government minister, Donville Inniss, is calling for joint regional reaction.

In its March 2017 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of the US Department of State omitted only Montserrat in its broad brush across the region that hit every CARICOM member along with other Caribbean states, and Inniss noted that such charges carry severe consequences for financial operations of these countries.

"This is an issue that affects the survival of each economy in the region," he said recently in a comment on the issue.

"Our health-care systems in the region are at risk of not being adequately financed if we do not get it right in international finance and business. Our agricultural sector would be under immense pressure if we don't get it right in these areas," he told the Barbados Advocate newspaper.

The State Department stated that as of 2016 major money laundering countries included

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Though a full CARICOM member, the nation omitted from that list, Montserrat, remains a British Overseas

Territory.

Among the consequences of such labeling for the 14 states, is further unwillingness of international banks to act as corresponding financial houses for worldwide transactions coming out of and entering these CARICOM countries.

The inability to conduct, or limiting of, such transactions will affect not only macro economics considerations like international trade, but could also hurt CARICOM citizens on the individual level by hindering remittances, on which many in the region depend.

Prior to the State Department's broad brush labeling of CARICOM countries, many international financial houses had been dropping correspondent banking services to

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# ALL'S NOT SWEET

## Guyana quits sugar exports to European Union market

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyana, the Caribbean trade bloc's largest producer and exporter of raw cane sugar, is scaling back production and pulling away from the European market for the first time in nearly 400 years as Europe will from in the fall end a decades-old system that had guaranteed export quantities from its former colonies, officials said this week.

The country has since the mid 1970's been annually exporting nearly 170,000 metric tonnes of raw sugar to the European Union market under a special protocol with guaranteed prices and fixed quotas for production from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific nations.

But Errol Hanoman, chief executive at the Guyana Sugar Corporation said that the European Union will from September end the fixed quota system and throw open its market

to exporters from around the globe, including making more room for its own beet farmers to thrive.

The move will affect all countries still producing and exporting in the group including Jamaica, Belize and Barbados. Trinidad and St. Kitts quit that sector more than a decade ago when the European Union had slashed import prices by 36 percent, contending that sugar had become highly unprofitable and no longer made economic sense. Barbados has a single functioning estate.

The end of the quota system now means that cane sugar from the Caribbean with its high production costs will be unable to compete going forward as beet farmers move into space left by departing regional producers.

The result is that Guyana's government will close three of

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St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador to the UN, I. Rhonda King  
Photo by Nelson A. King

## UN resolution on World Creativity and Innovation Day

By Nelson A. King

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Permanent Mission to the United Nations said it has led the successful adoption of a UN resolution on World Creativity and Innovation Day.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador to the UN, I. Rhonda King, said on Friday that the resolution was successfully tabled by her Mission the day before and adopted by the UN General Assembly. “This resolution calls for the international recognition of April 21 as the day to highlight the role of creativity and innovation in problem-solving and, by extension, the implementation of the [UN] Sustainable Development Goals and, ultimately, achieving the future we want,” King told Caribbean Life.

“Beyond the obvious call for the recognition of the day internationally, the resolution also intends to initiate a discussion around the options available to countries, especially developing countries, in addressing the many issues that they grapple with in their quest for development,” she added.

King said that while developing countries, such as those in the Caribbean, are “unfairly seen as too dependent on aid from developed countries, the application of creative thinking and the use of available technologies can provide solutions to some of their most pressing problems, such as poverty eradication, the elimination of hunger and job creation.”

The UN diplomat pointed to the construction of the Argyle International Airport in her native land as “a prime local example of the use of creativity in a large scale, macro infrastructural project that was otherwise, and through ‘business as usual’ methodologies, seen as an insurmountable challenge.”

# Senator Parker proposes bill for teens leaving foster care

By Alexandra Simon

State sen. Kevin Parker (D–Ditmas Park) wants to financially assist young adults transitioning out of the foster care system in a new bill he proposed on May 4. To commemorate foster care awareness this month, Parker said it was his passion to solve issues regarding teens leaving the foster care system and working with advocacy groups, he hoped his bill would address the issues affecting them.

“I’ve been working over the last two years with Foster Care Unplugged and they work with young people out of foster care, and we are really concerned because the biggest problem is facing adults aging out of foster care,” said Parker.

Parker is proposing a bill to provide financial needs to teens, such as a banking accessibility and courses that will educate them the necessary information.

“First part of my bill will establish an individual savings account that the state can contribute money into for everyone,” said Parker. “This is especially important for young people when they come out and they can use this money for education or start business.”

The other parts of the bill will also require courses on financial literacy and basic independent living skills, according to Parker.

At 18 years old teens are officially out of the states’ system and are usually on their own with not much support, said Parker.

“When you come out of prison you get \$40, a metrocard, and a good luck, but when you leave the foster care system you only get a ‘good luck,’ if you’re lucky,” he said.



Supporting the kids: From left, Nicole Etienne, associate vice president Institute for Community Living, David Woodlock, chief executive officer for the Institute For Community Living, Melody Centeno, founder of Foster Care Unplugged, State sen. Kevin Parker, and Juana Jimenez-Guathier, vice president of Foster Care Unplugged at City Hall on May 4. Raven Robinson

Parker said while the number of children in the system had decreased, many children were finding themselves with no place to go despite decreasing rates.

“The DeBlasio administration has done a number of things to reduce numbers with more people getting adopted but we’re finding that 15 percent of people aging out of the system are becoming homeless and that’s a big problem,”

he said. “We are already overburdened with homeless shelter systems in New York, but with this bill I introduced, we believe it will be part of the solution to address people in foster care.”

The senator said that as the son of a former foster child, the welfare of children in the system impacted him a lot and he felt that not every child will be as lucky to find a stable life as his father.

## CBC chair, Clarke urge Trump to extend TPS

By Nelson A. King

The chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Cedric Richmond, and Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke have urged the Trump administration to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals who were in the United States prior to Nov. 4, 2016.

Haiti was added to the list of TPS-designated countries on Jan. 21, 2010, after an earthquake killed 300,000 people and displaced another 1.5 million people. TPS has been extended three times since then for 18 months each, CBC noted.

“Allowing Haitian nationals in this country to remain here longer puts them and their families in a better position to help Haiti rebuild and recover from devastating natural disasters,” said Congressman Richmond in his letter to John Kelly,

Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security, on Wednesday. “The 2010 earthquake and the cholera outbreak and hurricane that followed hurt a country that was already hurting and now is not the time to add salt to the wound.”

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, said the 2010 earthquake “disrupted the function of civil society in Haiti, displacing families from their homes, closing schools and social service agencies, creating instability in government and undermining the economy.”

“The people of Haiti have demonstrated extraordinary resolve in their efforts to rebuild, despite serious hardships, such as Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and outbreaks of cholera,” she said in her letter to Kelly. “Their efforts have been supported

by Haitian nationals here in the United States, who are working hard, and [are] sending money to family members and friends.

“These remittances are critical to the recovery, and have provided not only for basic needs but have also supported education, agricultural restoration, business development and home reconstruction,” she added.

Clarke, therefore, urged Kelly to “follow in the proud tradition established by his predecessors of continuing to allow Haitian nationals to contribute to their nation’s future.”

CBC said Clarke’s request was joined by the entire group. CBC. She has also introduced H.R. 1014, the Haiti Emergency Relief Act of 2017, which would provide TPS for Haitian nationals who have been in the United States since before Nov. 4, 2016.

## Barbados

Barbados has joined a list of countries who have criticized the recent International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCRS) published by the US Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, which claimed that the island was among several countries that the US regards as major money laundering countries.

Part of the report states, "narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and firearms trafficking are major sources of illicit funds in Barbados. In addition to the use of financial institutions, money laundering through the purchase of real estate, vehicles, and jewelry as well as through a variety of businesses."



Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Adriel Brathwaite said that this finding is "misleading" and in respect of Barbados merely cited "a number of generic methods of money laundering that may be found in any country."

He said there is nothing to support the view that they are at proportions that would have a significant impact on the local economy, or cause the faintest ripple in the international financial sector.

The attorney general acknowledged that the illegal drugs trade is the crime that is of the greatest concern in the country.

Braithwaite emphasized that Barbados is neither a producer of drugs for export, nor does it manufacture guns, contrary to the State Department's assertion that "narcotics trafficking and firearms trafficking are major sources of illicit funds in the country."

Antigua and Barbuda and Nevis have also rejected the INCRS report.

## Cayman Islands

The Chief Justice of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, Anthony Smellie, has issued an order prohibiting the public from making photocopies of court proceedings.

According to a notice posted on the door of the clerk's office, the public can review the court files and take notes, but



## St. Lucia government withholds funding for St. Lucia National Trust

Saint Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Michael Chastanet addressing the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters. Associated Press / Jason DeCrow, File

no method of copying or photographing, as in the past, will be permitted.

People can still access and take notes on court records after paying \$20 inspection fee. Obtaining photocopies — for an additional fee of \$20 per document per page — is allowed for "any legitimate purpose," including investigative journalism, with prior approval from the clerk of the court.



According to the notice, publishing public court documents online could constitute a violation of copyright, an apparently questionable rationale given the material in question comprises public documents in the first place.

## Dominica

Dominica will construct an international airport that is estimated to cost

around US\$20 million. But this does not include land acquisition, according to Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit.

Speaking at a recent Town Hall meeting about the citizenship by investment program he addressed the much debated subject of an international airport for Dominica.



He said a US firm which was charged to conduct studies for the construction of the airport has reported its findings to the Cabinet.

The prime minister said the team has been given the go-ahead to conduct the environmental impact assessment.

"Our country will see itself having an international airport. And what the experts have said is that the airport is feasible, the airport can be constructed and I have said to them is that I want

this international airport constructed in Dominica," Skerrit said.

The prime minister noted that his government has always been in favor of an international airport, however, funding has been his paramount concern.

## Jamaica

The Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anticorruption Bodies (CCICACB) recently held a five-day conference in Kingston, Jamaica, which organizers said provided an opportunity to share best practices and develop mechanisms for tracking corruption regionally.



Jamaica hosted the conference for the first time, the third staging of the regional conference which was facilitated

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# Guyana to scale back sugarcane production

Continued from page 1

the six grinding estates and factories by year end, scale back production to no more than 150,000 tonnes and concentrate more on selling about 60,000 to the Caribbean group of countries, about 50,000 on the open world market and just under 13,000 to the United States. The remainder will be left available for the local Guyana market.

The announcement came hours after government had laid a special white paper in parliament on sugar, saying its value to the local economy had fallen from the number one foreign exchange earner a decade ago to now behind gold, rice, bauxite and timber. The corporation has debts totaling nearly \$500M and produces sugar at nearly 40 American cents per pound, about three times higher than market prices.

The announcement also comes less than two months after the umbrella Sugar Association of the Caribbean

(SAC) had met in emergency session in Jamaica to consider the developments in Europe where the region had been selling an average of about 450,000 metric tonnes to Europe annually.

SAC President Karl James had told Caribbean Life recently that “we have to get into the market for refined sugar as well urgently. All of our refined sugar in the region is imported from outside so the way forward is for us to add refined sugar to brown sugar that is available and not bother too much with raw cane sugar.”

Hanoman said Guysuco will give up about 35,000 acres of land to diversification to other crops and to workers to switch to farming after estates are close and grinding comes to a halt.

“It will be irresponsible to do anything else other than to close those estates that are not performing as well,” he said, saying these decisions are the best for the money-losing, problem-plagued sector.

Go to [www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com](http://www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com) for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

# United approach needed

Continued from page 1

regional countries in what is termed ‘de-risking’ because of fears of huge financial penalties from US authorities if they are found doing business with suspected money laundering entities in the Caribbean.

The US State Department’s announcement has the potential of heightening the fear of international banks that they are likely to process financial transactions for the region that could involve laundered money.

Inniss, a Barbados Commerce and Industry minister, is concerned that in reacting to this latest accusation, and others, against the Caribbean grouping, these small countries are going forward as individuals, which makes it easier for them to be picked off.

“We are still 15 nations going into the international fora, grappling with an understanding of the issues and then perhaps 15 divergent positions on the matter, and I have been saying publicly and privately in regional meetings that we really need to come together.”

For this absence of a united approach, he blames officials of the Guyana based CARICOM Secretariat and heads of government of the respective states.

“It is like pulling teeth to get



Barbados government minister, Donville Inniss. Photo by George Alleyne

the folks in Georgetown, Guyana to understand the issues and I would go as far as to suggest that I do not think the leaders in the region appreciate the gravity of the situation,” he said.

Inniss’ call for coordinated CARICOM action matched that made by Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Governor, Timothy Antoine, during a Barbados visit earlier this month.

Pointing out that the world views the Caribbean as a brand or single entity, he said, “it means that notwithstanding our heroic domestic efforts, larger countries, correspondent banks, regulators and even international institutions regard us as a homogenous region. Consequently, the weaknesses of one often impact the reputation of all.”

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# Caribbean scientists work to limit climate impact on marine environment

By **Zadie Neufville**

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Apr 28 2017 (IPS) - Caribbean scientists say fishermen are already seeing the effects of climate change, so for a dozen or so years they've been designing systems and strategies to reduce the impacts on the industry.

While some work on reef gardens and strategies to repopulate over fished areas, others crunch the data and develop tools designed to prepare the region, raise awareness of climate change issues and provide the information to help leaders make decisions.

In December 2017, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) secretariat, with funding from the UK government, announced a Climate Report Card to help formulate strategies to lessen the impact of climate change on regional fisheries.

"The CRFM is trying to ensure that the issue of climate change as it relates to the fisheries sector comes to the fore... because the CARICOM

Heads of Government have put fish and fishery products among the priority commodities for CARICOM. It means that things that affect that development are important to us and so climate change is of primary importance," said Peter Murray, the CRFM's Programme Manager for Fisheries and Development.

The grouping of small, developing states are 'fortifying' the sectors that rely on the marine environment, or the Blue Economy, to withstand the expected ravages of climate change which scientists say will increase the intensity of hurricanes, droughts, coastal sea level rise and coral bleaching.

In its last report AR5, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported: "Many terrestrial, freshwater and marine species have shifted their geographic ranges, seasonal activities, migration patterns, abundances and species interactions in response to ongoing climate change," patterns that are already being

noted by Caribbean fishers.

In an email to IPS, Murray outlined several initiatives across the Caribbean that ,he says are crucial to regional efforts. The Report Card, which has been available since March, will provide the in-depth data governments need to make critical decisions on mitigation and adaptation. It provides information covering ocean processes such as ocean acidification; extreme events like storms, surges and sea temperature; biodiversity and civil society including fisheries, tourism and settlements.

In addition, the 17-members of the CRFM agreed to incorporate the management of fisheries into their national disaster plans, and signed off on the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the fisheries sector.

"It means that anything looking at climate change and potential impacts is important to us," Murray says.

The IPCC's gloomy projections for world fisheries has been confirmed by a 2015



In the Turks and Caicos, the government is searching for new ways to manage the conch and lobster populations.

Inter Press Service / Zadie Neufville

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report indicating that for the last 30 years, world fisheries have been in decline due to climate change. In the Caribbean, reduced catches are

directly impacting the stability of entire communities and the diets and livelihoods of some of the region's poorest. Further decline could devastate the economies of some islands.

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# Green Card for victims of domestic violence

By Gertrude Onuoha Esq

According to National Domestic Hotline, domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim — or perpetrator — of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation.

According to United States immigration website: “there are three ways immigrants who become victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and some other specific crimes may apply for legal immigration status for themselves and their child (ren).

1. Self-petitions for legal status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

2. Cancellation of removal under VAWA.

3. U-nonimmigrant status (crime victims).

To win an abuse case, you must establish the following:

1. • Proof that the abuser is a U.S. citizen or green card holder.

2. • Proof that you are the abuser’s spouse, child, or parent.

3. • Proof that you lived with the abuser.

4. • Proof that you currently live in the United States.

5. • Proof that you suffered abuse, such as police records, hospital records, witness statements, psychological evaluation.

6. • A statement describing your relationship with the abuser and the abuse you suffered, police clearance records and / or other evidence to show you are a person of “good moral character” a copy of your passport or birth certificate.

These immigration benefits each have specific requirements that must be established. Consult an immigration lawyer who works with victims of domestic abuse.

The content of this article is intended for general information purposes only, and is not legal advice. Those seeking specific legal advice should contact Gertrude Onuoha Esq. at 575 Lexington Avenue, 4th Fl. NY NY 10022 (Phone) 7326425605.

Gertrude Onuoha Esq. is the founder of the law offices of Gertrude Onuoha, P.C. She has practiced law for more than 17 years. She has great depth of experience and a successful track record in handling immigration matters. She is admitted to practice law in the state of New York and has a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the New York Bar Association.

# Towards a global role for African, Caribbean & Pacific states?

By Goele Geeraert

BRUSSELS, May 7 2017 (IPS) - The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) met this week in Brussels for the 105th Session of its Council of Ministers to discuss the key question of how these 79 countries could play a more effective role for their own citizens and in the international arena.

The ACP-group was established by the 1975 Georgetown Agreement to co-ordinate cooperation between its members and the European Union. At that time, it consisted of 46 countries of the Caribbean and the Pacific that signed the first Lomé Convention on trade and aid with nine European Union member states.

Since then the ACP’s commercial and political clout has grown. Today it counts 79 states. All of them, save Cuba, have signed the Cotonou Agreement that replaced the successive Lomé conventions and is better known as the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

## Post-2020 relations

The current ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement ends in 2020. In the lead-up to negotiations for a renewed partnership, future relations between the ACP and EU countries was one of the main points on the agenda of the Council. The current ACP-EU Partnership Agreement is based on three pillars: development cooperation, political cooperation, economic and trade cooperation.

Economic and trade cooperation has been a key component of the ACP-EU partnership. It took the form of Economic Partner-



Patrick I. Gomes, secretary-general of the ACP Group, at the 105th Session of its Council of Ministers in Brussels. Inter Press Service / Goele Geeraert

ship Agreements (EPA’s). They replaced the former non-reciprocal preferences the ACP countries enjoyed and had to meet the World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements. The majority of ACP countries are now implementing an EPA or have concluded EPA negotiations with the EU.

Ethiopia’s Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Abraham Tekeste said, “We have to be ready to fundamentally reform our cooperation with the EU after 2020 aiming at deepening our relationship in various, differentiated fronts rather than sticking to the traditional cooperation areas. We must ensure a more balanced partnership with Europe based on shared values and mutual respect.”

Therefore the Council of ministers approved its three priority areas to guide future programmes and activities of the Group post-2020: trade, investment, industrialisation and services; development cooperation, technology, science, innovation and research; political dialogue and advocacy.

The ACP representatives reaffirmed their commit-

ment to enhance ACP-EU trade relations. At the same time, they asked the European Union to show flexibility in responding to concerns from ACP countries.

## Comparative advantage

Another APC challenge of paramount importance will be to demonstrate its comparative advantage in partnerships with governments, the UN, multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, and others.

According to Peter Thomson, President of the UN General Assembly, the ACP Group has an added value on the global scene. “It can play a significant role in multilateral agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.”

This has recently been shown by the joint announcement made by the EU and ACP during the COP21 negotiations, representing 28 plus 79 countries of the world. The partners called for a legally-binding, ambitious, inclusive and durable agreement with clear long term goals, as well as a five-yearly review

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



# First West Coast Garifuna Festival triumphs

The inaugural Garifuna festival in Long Beach, California proved to be an ideal launch-point for what will now be an annual spring celebration of Black Caribbean and Central Americans from Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Held at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) thousands participated to flaunt the culture, arts, music and language of Black Caribs- Garifuna people of Central America.

Organized in collaboration with the Garifuna American Foundation United, the free, day long festival featured art workshops, face painting, children's story time, Garifuna drumming and dancing.

Costumed women displayed the unique typical fashions that distinguish the Garifuna people whose colors are black, white and yellow.

A family atmosphere prevailed with the language of the people tempering a myriad of displays from craft vendors, culinary ambassadors and artisans who travelled from the east coast, Midwest and as far away as the homelands that



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

comprise the specialized indigenous nationals.

Welcomed by the infectious dance beats by DJ Fuego of Matralleta de Oro, celebrants were treated by a multitude of talented traditional performers and demonstrators.

Following on the success of the first festival in 2011, later this month from May 21-27, the sixth annual Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival (GIFF) will be held in Venice, California.

Although a burgeoning calendar addition, the GIFF is already acclaimed as one of the nation's most prestigious film festivals celebrating Garifuna, Caribbean and indigenous cultures from around the world.

"We are happy to take audiences and moviegoers on a global journey celebrating culture through art and film," the organizers said.

Since its launch the GIFF

has showcased a variety of films and created by Garifuna filmmakers -- as well as many other indigenous people -- and has hosted panel discussions, workshops, cultural presentations and award ceremonies.

Opening night events includes a Black carpet arrival interview session, live music, performances and recognitions.

Engraved plaques will be issued to winning entries and a Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival Award will be presented. The latter is a humanitarian award presented for a film or documentary that embodies change in the world that teaches and brings awareness to the causes of the indigenous populace.

According to the GIFF mission statement: "It is in essence a venue that reconciles, entertains and portrays the very diverse and brilliant cultures



The Garifuna are descendants of Carib, Arawak, and West African people. The Garifuna music was proclaimed by UNESCO one of the masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001. Kike Calvo via Associated Press, File

to participants and attendees of the festival." Organizers issued a call for any film or documentary that is relevant to the mission statement of the Garifuna International Film Festival.

"We will accept preview DVDs that are works-in-progress as well as films with temporary soundtracks or dig-

ital outputs."

Feature films that have had commercial, theatrical, television or internet play in the US are eligible.

"We encourage all cultures to indigenous groups with a film / documentary will have the opportunity to qualify for

Continued on Page 24

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# Sustainable financing

Continued from page 10

mechanism and a transparency and accountability system tracking national commitment progress.

The statement became known as the "Ambition Coalition", quickly growing to include major powers and emerging economies.

## Intra-ACP cooperation

To play a significant global role, the ACP-group must also invest in stronger intra-ACP cooperation. There the group wants to play a complementary role to national and regional initiatives.

Patrick I. Gomes, secretary-general of the ACP Group, said, "Looking at the question of security, peace and stability, we do not have an army to go for example after Boko Haram in Nigeria. But as ACP we can ask ourselves why that ideology of Boko Haram appeals to young people and what gives people purpose in life. And that

is where the ACP culture programme comes in.

"The question of insecurity, peace and crime is also a fundamental question of poverty and development: how do we have comprehensive approaches to reducing and addressing poverty in all its forms and aspects? ACP makes a contribution in that direction by complementing what is at the national and the regional level. We have to look for examples of success at the national, we have to learn from each other's experience and make a difference by our intra-ACP programmes."

## Sustainable financing

No organisation can develop without strong institutions and solid, sustainable financing sources. Therefore the Council asked its member states to invest in a sustainable self-financing capacity of the ACP. It made an appeal to consequently pay their membership contribution and launched the idea of an endowment trust fund.

According to Gomes, "Member countries are receiving millions in grant financing thanks to the ACP. Compared to that amount of money the membership contribution is very little. So we encourage everyone to contribute to keep us going."

"We also encourage voluntary contributions as a start for an endowment trust fund. There is so much wealth and money in our countries. Would our billionaires and corporations not be concerned to look to how they can support their own organisation? We see that as a very important area for our financial sustainability."

At the end of the two-day meeting, the president of the council, Abraham Tekeste, said, "We have received by our Heads of State and Government clear marching orders to undertake the reforms needed to transform the ACP Group into an effective global player, fit for the 21st century, and responsive to the emerging priorities of our Member States."

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# Eight Jamaicans extradited to the US

By Azad Ali

Eight Jamaicans, including a former police officer were last week extradited to the United States to face charges related to their alleged involvement in a lottery scam.

Jason Jahalal, a former police officer, Alrick McLeod, Oneil Brown, Xanu Ann Morgan, Dario Palmer, Kazrae Gray, Kimberly Hudson and Dahlia Hunter were charged with various fraud offences including money laundering.

Mastermind of the scheme, Lavrick Willocks operated it out of a house where he lived with his mother, Dahlia Hunter. The accused will each face one count of conspiracy and attempting to commit wire fraud, 48 counts of wire fraud, 15 counts of mail fraud, and one count of money laundering in North Dakota, United States.

It is alleged that conmen schemed more than 70 people, mostly Americans, out of about US\$6 million.

Willocks had evaded arrest for some time, but was taken into custody in January after being found hiding in a garden in a hotel in Kingston.

He was extradited and at his court appearance, pleaded not guilty to the



Alrick McLeod, one of eight people who were extradited from Jamaica to face charges in the U.S. in what authorities said is a multimillion-dollar lottery scam that victimized dozens of Americans. The eight suspects made their initial appearance Thursday, April 27, 2017, at federal court in Bismarck, N.D.

Burleigh County Sheriff's Department via Associated Press

charges of conspiracy, wire fraud and a number of other charges.



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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

through the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat.

Sharing of practical operational experiences among anti-corruption bodies from across the region was part of the conference agenda.

The main objective was how to develop systems and programs for the betterment of countries.

The conference brought together some international delegates including Commonwealth Secretary General, Deodat Maharaj and Anti-Corruption Advisor, Dr. Roger Roranteng, as well as CCAICACB Chairman, Lady Anade Trotman-Joseph.

## St. Vincent

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) is warning that the La Soufriere Volcano remains an active volcano and "will erupt again."

The volcano erupted almost four decades ago and NEMO warned that while it "has been quiet for some time, it is still an active volcano and will erupt again. Citizens would know where they live in relation to the volcano and in which hazard zone they are located."

NEMO advised La Soufriere last erupted 38 years ago, in 1979.

NEMO will be joined by the Seismic Research Center (SRC) of the University of the West Indies, the Soufriere Monitoring Unit (SMU) and the Forestry Division to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the last eruption and to raise awareness of the risk and science associated with the active volcano this month.

## St. Lucia

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has removed government multibillion funding for the St. Lucia National Trust (SLNT) in the budget estimates currently being debated in parliament.

It is widely regarded as punishment for its opposition to a proposed dolphin park and its outspoken criticism of environmentally damaging components of a controversial development in St. Lucia.

The SLNT, joined by conservationists across the world had opposed the Chinese-sponsored co-called Pearl of the Caribbean project that poses a serious threat to the country's ecological cultural and archaeological heritage.

There is a proposal to build a causeway linking the Maria Islands Nature Reserve to the mainland, one of the only two wild-life havens, which is officially a protected area.

The prime minister has removed the entire Office of the Prime Minister's contributions of \$700,000 towards the work of the SLNT from this year's budget.

## Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago President Anthony Carmona is urging other CARICOM states who have not replaced the London-based Privy Council with the Caribbean Court of Justice as their final court in legal matters that they should consider doing so now.

Though 12 of the 15 CARICOM member states have signed the agreement establishing the CCJ, only Barbados, Guyana, Dominica, and Belize have accepted the court as the end decision-maker.

Carmona, who served as a High Court judge before his appointment as President of T&T in 2013, expressed his frustration over the long delay in members joining the CCJ, while speaking in Barbados recently during a presentation on Redefining Caribbean Pride for the 21st Century Youth, to the University of the West Indies, cave Hill Campus, undergraduate organization, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow.

President Carmona said he sees acceptance by all territories of CCJ to be the court of the last resort as another step towards fortifying the Caribbean identity.

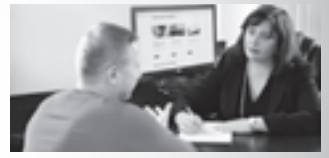
He noted that CCJ is predominately of Caribbean origin, and according to a CARICOM document, "judges appointed to the CCJ are evaluated on the basis of wide-ranging criteria, including experience and high moral character".

— compiled by Azad Ali

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# NYC libraries launch letter-writing campaign

**By Nelson A. King**  
 The city's three public library systems say they officially launched a letter-writing campaign this week, urging the mayor and City Council to increase funding for libraries in Fiscal Year 2018.

The Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library and Queens Library are calling on members of the public to sign letters to elected officials asking for US\$34 million in additional operating funding for increased hours, said the libraries in a statement.

The funding includes more branches to be open seven days a week and \$150 million in capital funding "to address critical maintenance needs at branches."

Letters can be signed at any of the city's 217 library locations, or online at [investinlibraries.org](http://investinlibraries.org).

The libraries said renowned writer Malcolm Gladwell is supporting the initiative and encouraging the public to sign letters, penning an email that was sent to library patrons on Wednesday.

"As a kid, the highlight of my week was Wednesday evening, when my mom would drive me into town to the Public Library," Gladwell wrote.

"The library was a magical place, that gave me — a kid from a tiny town — a


window on the whole world. I've never lost that feeling. And I've never felt more strongly that every child deserves that same window on the world," he added.

Gladwell said that only seven percent of New York City's libraries are open seven days — "for some families, weekends are their only chance to visit a branch and expand their horizons" — and mentions branches in need of serious repairs.

"Libraries are a lifeline — not a luxury — for New Yorkers. I know I wouldn't be a writer without learning to love reading at my local library as a child," Gladwell said. "Let's make sure other New York City kids get a chance to follow their dreams just like I did."

The letter-writing effort is part of the multi-year "Invest in Libraries" campaign to fight for increased resources and ensure that New Yorkers have the libraries that they need and deserve, the libraries said.


Since the campaign launched three years ago, the libraries said it has generated strong support from authors and celebrities such as Junot Diaz, Judy Blume, Tom Wolfe, Robert Caro, Anna Deavere Smith, Jeff Kinney, as well as thousands of everyday New Yorkers, "resulting in City funding for six-day service and an initial capital budget commitment.



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## A Mother's Day Concert Worth Attending

The Kings Theatre in Brooklyn is bound to be jam-packed on Mother's Day - Sunday, May 14th, 2017 as excited music lovers are blessed with the opportunity to see R&B legends **The O'Jays** perform live in concert along with Special Guest the **Temptation Review** featuring **Dennis Edwards**. For one night only, fans will immerse themselves in the sounds and memories of the 70's and early 80's while listening to these classic R&B acts in this fantastic Mother's Day Concert. For many, the evening doubles as the perfect Mother's Day Concert. For many, the evening doubles as the perfect Mother's Day gift, with all the ladies turning up in their Sunday best for this spectacular occasion.



For the past 50 years, the O'Jays have produced a string of hits that are considered to be masterpieces to this day. Eddie Levert, Walter Williams, and Eric Grant performed their chart-topping singles "Black Stabbers," "Used to Be My Girl," "Love Train," "I Love Music." "Give the People

What They Want," "Darlin' Baby (Sweet Tender Love)," "Cry Together," and "For the Love of Money." The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will rock the house for their fans on Mother's Day. The O'Jays singing their many hits will remind us all why mothers should be appreciated and respected every day, not just on Mother's Day. With the trio's incredible dancing moves, timeless hits, mellifluous vocals, and Eddie Levert's jokes, it will truly be a magical night in Brooklyn.

Edwards was the first new Temptation to enter the group after their "classic five" heyday, when he replaced David Ruffin as lead singer in July 1968. The Temptations officially introduced Edwards on July 9, 1968 on stage in Valle

Forge, Pennsylvania. With his disco periods; two of the Temptations songs he appears on, "Cloud Nine" (1968) and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" (1972), won Grammy Awards. Edwards was the lead singer on many other Temptations songs including "I Can't Get Next to You," "Ball of Confusion," "Psychedelic Shack," and "My Girl." The Temptations became one of the most successful Motown groups in the world.

Tickets can be purchased through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or charge by phone at (800) 745-3000. Tickets can also be purchased by visiting Kings Theatre Box Office between the hours of 12noon - 5pm. For further information contact the event producer, Jammins Events at 718-828-8041.

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# Heritage and hair

## New play discusses black women's hair stories

By Alexandra Simon

Let's talk hair.

A play discussing some black lady hair struggles is debuting at the Black Lady Theatre on May 12. "Hair'itage the Play, The Journey of Sistahs and Their Hair," follows six women dealing with the negative notions that come with their hair. The show not only identifies the varying perceptions associated with a black woman's hairstyle but will also challenge them, said one actress in the play.

"This is a play about black women and their experiences with black hair and accepting their identity while appreciating and embracing their own hair because there are so many stereotypes with our hair," said actress Dianne Dixon, who plays Loc Hair Sistah. "If you're wearing locs they assume you're one way, and if you have an afro they assume another thing, and we want to address those stereotypes and ridicule some of them as well."

The play highlights six monologues by women wearing different hairstyles, which include afro, weave, colored hair, straight hair, loc hair, and braided hair. And with each hairstyle comes a different story, one that Dixon says she can identify with.

Having worn locs for more than a decade, Dixon often deals with many of those negative assumptions as an actress, and has been the target of disparaging terms about her hair by agents and a former boyfriend, she said. But she says she strongly relates to the play because those struggles still present themselves in finding work as an actress.

"It is something that I can relate to because I'm a living testimony with what I've been going through with my nappy head," said Dixon. "My mom was very disappointed when I locked my hair and a boyfriend said if I locked it he would leave me, and I said bye."

But her feisty and hilarious character

perfectly mirrors how she reacts to the negativity, she said.

"Loc Sistah is a very free character and independent," said Dixon. "In one monologue she is taken out on a date by a brother where she is asked to pay for meal and Loc Sistah lets him have it."

The other ladies in the show also have funny scenes but the overall comedic play does take a look at some serious issues, such as enslavement and the origin of the negative perception, said Dixon.

Even though there was a growing natural hair movement among black women, Dixon said hair was an important part of black women's identity and there was still a need to conform because their hair remains a political issue.

"This play covers all the issues we go through on a daily basis because black women are always doing for something different with their hair and are looked at differently for each thing they do," she said. "I think it still plays a major part of our lives and even today black women struggle with their hair and want to be more accepted, so they straighten and blow it out to make it acceptable to society."

She said the play will spotlight how each hairstyle was received and most importantly will explain a thing or two about hair to help people to show more consideration to the differing experiences black women undergo.

"I think this is good for all audiences to come in and come with open mind to understand the culture," said Dixon. "I feel it will be entertaining and educational for those who don't know what we go through."

"Hair'itage the Play, The Journey of Sistahs and Their Hair" at Black Lady Theatre [750 Nostrand Ave. between Sterling and Park places in Bedford-Stuyvesant, [www.hairitagetheplay.com](http://www.hairitagetheplay.com)]. May 12 at 8 pm, May 13 at 3 pm and 8 pm, May 14 at 3 pm. \$25.



Jamaican-American actress Dianne Dixon is playing Loc Sistah in "Hair'itage the Play: The Journey of Sistahs and Their Hair," a production about black women's struggles and joys with their hair. The play will begin playing at the Black Lady Theatre on May 12.

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# Brooklyn artist creates vintage furniture from African textiles

By Tangerine Clarke

Benga Akinagbe is an American-born artist of Nigerian lineage, so it is not surprising that he sources some of the most beautiful prints from the continent of his ancestors, to fashion his Enitan Vintage furniture collection.

The talented, very light-hearted creator said he liked the energy and quality of things built before his time. Adding that the pieces carry a sense of warmth and personality that seem to transcend space and time such as the late great performer, songwriter, Prince, whose song “Nothing Compares To You,” after which he named his settee. Sexy M.F. 92 is another of Prince’s track that inspired his furniture.

Each Enitan Vintage piece on display at last weekend’s DSGN IS BKLYN exposition in Green Point’s Designs Center, was selected for its quality and potential to be lovingly reimagined with cultural creativity, said the designer.

Akinagbe, who moved from Washington DC, where he was born, to Bedford Stuyvesant, told Caribbean Life he sources fabric from his travels around the world, bringing the cloth to Brooklyn, to create a unique genre of furniture.

The colorful textiles are also, Vlisco Wax Hollandais, a special product that uses a variety of styles with a range of mixed colors, known as Holland Wax, shipped from Holland.

Enitan means “person of story” in Yoruba.

“The idea of our furniture, our spac-



Brooklyn-based furniture designer Benga Akinagbe sits on his “Nothing Compares To You” - inspired settee at the DSGN IS BKLYN exposition at Designs Center in Greenpoint.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

es, and our lives being steeped in stories, is the foundation of Enitan Vintage,” he said

Akinagbe described himself as an actor, activist, and humanitarian, and said he re-envisioned fine vintage furniture into ethically elegant new pieces,

selected for its quality and potential to be lovingly reimagined with cultural creativity.

“I have fun creating the pieces,” he said, showcasing three selections, varied in price. Visit [www.enitanvintage.com](http://www.enitanvintage.com) for more information.



Angella Reid is photographed in Lafayette Park in front of the White House, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011, in Washington. Next month, Reid becomes White House chief usher, only the ninth person to hold the job and the first woman in the position.

Associated Press / Carolyn Kaster

## Jamaican booted from the White House

By Vinette K. Pryce

Cinco de Mayo celebrated Mexico but it did not bode well for a Jamaican who made history October 2011 when President Barack Obama named her the first woman and second Black person to serve as the White House’s chief usher.

Angella Reid was fired on May 5 and reportedly relieved of her position without any explanation nor reason.

According to reports, on arriving to work on the usually festive day, White House staffers were told that Reid was no longer working there.

The White House declined to provide any specifics for the reasons behind Reid’s departure but a spokesperson for President Donald Trump’s administration said: “We are very grateful for her service and wish her the very best.”

Fluent in German and Spanish, Reid is credited with running the Hartford Marriot Rocky Hill Hotel in Connecticut and the Renaissance New York Hotel in New York City. A native of the parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica, she attended Excelsior High School in Kingston and soon afterwards in 1978 broached a career in the hospitality industry working at the Half Moon hotel in Montego Bay.

With a degree in hospitality management from the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft School in Munich, Germany, Reid took the highly-placed position at the White House after working for the Ritz-Carlton group in Washington D.C.

She had previously worked for the same hotelier in Miami and Arlington, Virginia.

## New Suriname envoy to OAS presents credentials

By Nelson A. King

The new Permanent Representative of Suriname to the Organization of American States (OAS), Niermala Badrising, has presented her credentials to OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro.

“The global and interconnected nature of the 21st century challenges require collective actions to find solutions that transcend national borders,” said Badrising at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Friday at OAS headquarters.

She also highlighted the need for “renewed multilateralism, one that could be based in an integrated approach and one that could be more in tune with the principles of international law and international relations.”

Almagro welcomed back Badrising, who had served in the same position between 2012 and 2015.

He emphasized the “productive working relationship” he had maintained with Badrising during her tenure as minister of Foreign Affairs, according to the OAS.



The new Permanent Representative of Suriname to the Organization of American States (OAS), Niermala Badrising presents credentials to Secretary General Luis Almagro.

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# Trayvon Martin

Continued from page 11

April 3, 2017.

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Visit [www.garifunafilmfestival.com](http://www.garifunafilmfestival.com) for more information.

## Trayvon Martin Will Receive Posthumous College Degree

Half a decade after Tray-

von Martin's death, the Florida, teenager — who captured the attention of a national audience divided by reaction to his shooting death — will be posthumously awarded a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science from Florida Memorial University (FMU).

The announcement was made recently on the university's Facebook page.

According to the social media post, the aeronautics degree is “In honor of the steps he took during his young life toward becoming a pilot,” the fact he attended aviation classes in high school; “had an obvious love of flying,” and had he lived would be 22, the age of many of the graduates.

His parents Sabrina Fulton and Tracy Martin will accept the degree during a commencement ceremony slated for May 13.

Fulton, Martin's mother is an alumnus of the school, a historically Black institution in Miami Gardens, Florida.

She holds a bachelor's degree in English.

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International reggae pop artist Shaggy earning a number one was a moment of pride for Greensleeves.  
Associated Press / Georgios Kefalas

## Greensleeves to celebrate 40th anniversary

By Alexandra Simon

Reaching a musical milestone. British reggae music label Greensleeves Records is celebrating its 40th anniversary this summer. Founded in 1975 as a record store in West London, the shop quickly grew into a go-to locale for Jamaican record producers two years later. Now 40 years later the label is thrilled to reach this landmark event, said a spokesman for the company.

“We are proud of our continued survival and the development of reggae music,” said Chris O’Brien, artist and repertoire at Greensleeves. “We are also proud of being a launch pad for the successes of great artists.”

Since partnering with United States-based independent reggae label VP Records — which operates a record stores in Queens and Florida — Greensleeves is an even bigger influential brand in the genre, said O’Brien.

“The beginning years of the label saw many great successes but the partnership with VP in 2016 has increased our global reach to see Greensleeves become a truly international brand,” he said.

The label is home to tunes that popular dancehall artists created in the 90s, and is responsible for helping artists like Shabba Ranks, Beenie Man, and Shaggy accomplish hit singles. One of those pinnacle moments was “seeing Shaggy reach number one,” said O’Brien.

International reggae pop artist Shaggy scored a number one hit in 1993 with his song ‘Oh Carolina,’ and that achievement skyrocketed his career, shedding

light on the independent label.

“‘Oh Carolina’ reaching number one was an epic feat because at that moment we knew the impact of our label and the vast fanbase we were reaching,” said O’Brien. “That was also one of the pivotal moments of Shaggy’s career that led him to international superstardom.”

To celebrate its milestone anniversary, the label is releasing several new and exclusive music to honor its four decades in music, said O’Brien. A release of a digital and CD compilation of 40 tracks — each song commemorating the 40 years of being in the business — will debut, along with a special 40th Anniversary edition package of ‘The Congos ‘Heart Of The Congos.’

And to top off the label’s birthday, various festivals, events, and concerts will be planned in London, Paris, and the 40th anniversary concert will take place at BB Kings in Times Square on June 21.

O’Brien said Greensleeves Records proved themselves to be an instrumental hand in the growth of reggae music and looked forward to its 80th anniversary.

“We couldn’t be prouder of this monumental milestone. Knowing that the label has had such an impact on the development of popular reggae styles such as lovers rock and dancehall gives us more motivation to keep pushing forward with more music and developing more great artists,” he said. “We hope that we can look back in another 40 years and see even more legends emerge from our catalog.”





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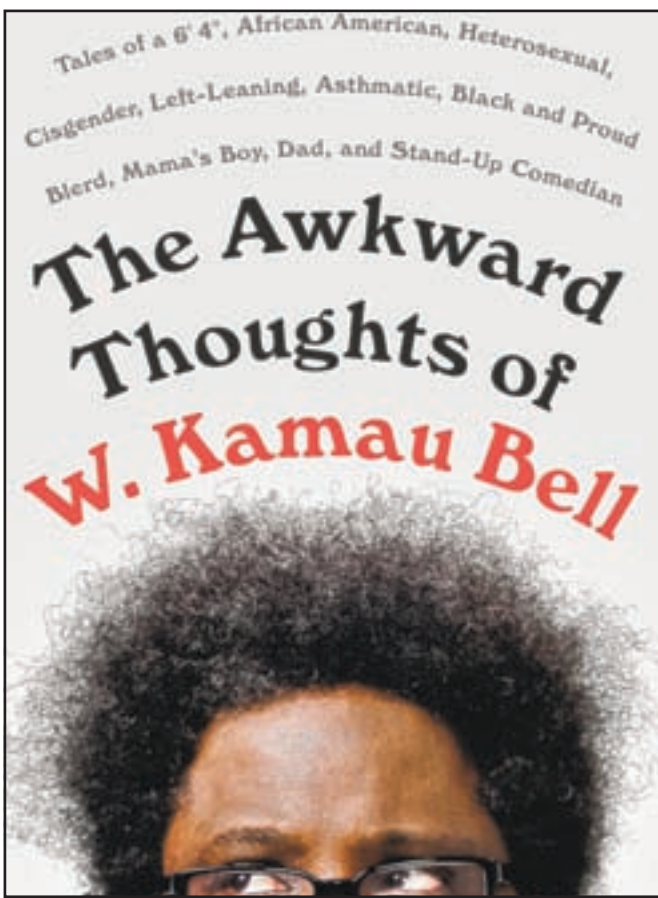
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# Comedian Bell shares his 'awkward thoughts'



Book cover of "The Awkard Thoughts of W. Kamu Bell."



Author Kamu Bell.

much care for the superheroes who seemed to have "some sort of contractual obligation to put the word 'Black' in their Superhero name."

Bell also loved Bruce Lee movies, and though there were surprisingly few authentic Lee films, the awesomeness of martial arts led Bell to take classes. He was a big Saturday Night Live watcher, absorbed stand-up comedy acts, and he appreciated how Muhammad Ali lived life by his own rules. All this — added to the day when someone other than his mother laughed out loud at his jokes — led to a decision: Bell gave up a scholarship to an Ivy League college, to pursue a career in comedy.

It wasn't the smoothest of paths. He didn't do well at his first gig. Audiences didn't laugh, so he tried another comedy tactic by utilizing the subject of racism in his shows. He wrote, offered workshops, found a niche medium, created a podcast, met a few of his

idols, was taken advantage of (often by white men), and he bounced ideas off others as he meanwhile met an independent woman, fell in love, and started a family. And his career took off... When reading a book by a comedian, one might expect to laugh, right?

"The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell: Tales of a 6'4", African American, Heterosexual, Cisgender, Left-Leaning, Asthmatic, Black and Proud Blerd, Mama's Boy, Dad, and Stand-Up Comedian" by W. Kamau Bell

c.2017, Dutton  
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada  
352 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You are a very different kind of person.

You like things that others don't like, you're good at something that nobody else can do, and you laugh at the craziest jokes. You're different — and that's okay. If we were all the same, as you'll see in "The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell" by W. Kamau Bell, life would be awfully boring.

When Kamau Bell was born in late January, 1973, his mother was already "a pioneer."

She'd been married and divorced twice, and was unmarried and 35 years old when Bell

was born. Unwilling to marry Bell's father, she defined her own life and raised her son to do the same.

Bell grew up a "blerd" (a Black nerd) who loved superhero comics and TV cartoons. He especially "LOVED! LOVED! LOVED!" the Incredible Hulk and thought he could actually be Spiderman because it was possible that Spidey was Black. Bell says he didn't, however,

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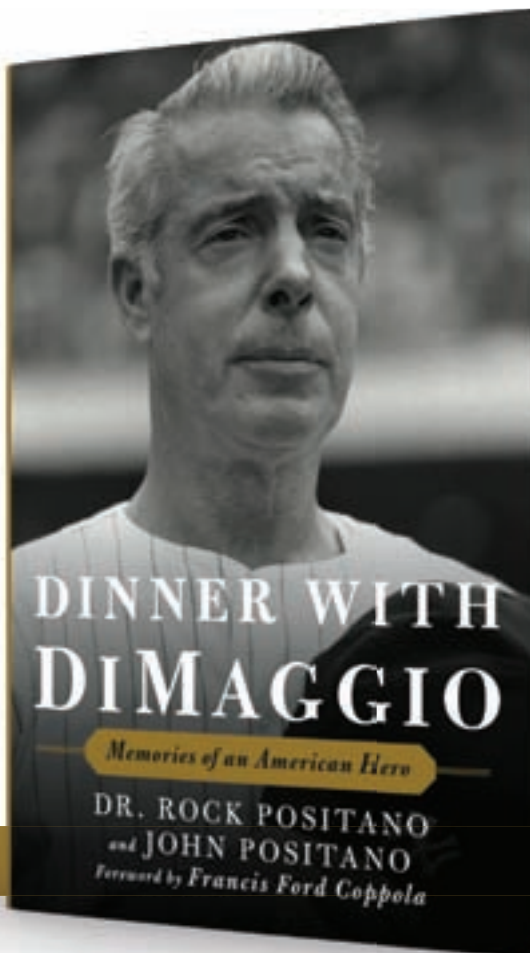
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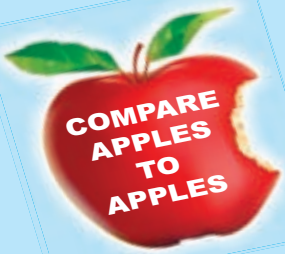
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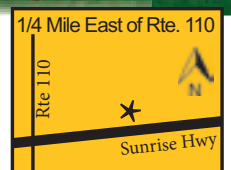


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# The Modern Kindergarten Experience

When you think back to your own kindergarten experience, it probably involved a half-day program and plenty of fun activities - finger painting, sand play and nap time. Likely the hardest parts were learning the alphabet and counting to 100.

Fast forward to today. While kindergarten still offers a fun learning environment, it's certainly more focused on academic achievement. Kindergartners often know the alphabet and have solid counting skills prior to the first day of school. If students aren't reading at the beginning of the school year, they're certainly expected to be doing so by the end.

"Kindergarten is the new first grade" isn't just an anecdote, it's a fact. New research from the University of Virginia compares kindergarten and first-grade classrooms between 1998 and 2010, finding that kindergarten classes have become increasingly like first grade, with more time spent on academic instruction and, ultimately, higher educational expectations.

Each year an estimated 4 mil-

lion children enter kindergarten. To help pre-K kids improve core learning skills and get them excited about school, it's important to find fun, age-appropriate ways to help them learn. Consider these expert ideas for preparing kids ages 3-6 for kindergarten.

## Educational apps

Children today have a natural knack for technology. While it's important to monitor and balance screen time, the right technology can help educate kids. *Preschool Academy* by IntellectoKids is an ideal example. With over 50 educational activities in one app, kids will learn the alphabet and develop important skills like counting, sorting, logic and critical thinking - the foundations for math and reading. Best yet, the learning is rooted in amusing animated puzzles about musical instruments, fun train adventures or whimsical letter/number games.

This educational app allows parents to customize for multiple children and select between

three levels, increasing in difficulty as they play and learn. Like *Preschool Academy*, the best learning games are constantly adding fresh new learning activities and are always free of ads or hidden in-app purchases.

## Fine motor skills

Fine motor skills, also known as dexterity, involve the coordination and control of muscles to create small movements. This usually requires hand-eye coordination as well. Being prepared for kindergarten means having a basic ability to complete fine motor actions like holding a pencil correctly, tying shoes and sorting small objects.

One of the easiest ways to support your child's fine motor development is by providing lots of opportunities to color and write. Make crayons and paper readily available and let kids' imaginations take off. As they try to draw a bird, write a story or create patterns, they are really preparing themselves for the classroom.

## Reading and conversation

Language is a heavy focus throughout the kindergarten curriculum. One way to prepare your child is to make reading a daily activity, including classics like "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom," "Harold & the Purple Crayon" or "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus." Fostering a love of books can set the stage for learning important reading skills. Visit your local library, stock your bookshelf and download digital books.

Additionally, make time for genuine conversation with your child. Both reading and speaking help children expand their knowledge of the English language. They'll also learn important social skills, and you'll also find yourself developing a deeper bond with your little one.

## Preschool

Want kids to be prepared for kindergarten? Enroll in preschool a few days a week. This experience gives children the

perfect foundation to prepare them for their educational journey. Preschools provide introductory education in writing and math, but it's a lot of fun, too. Students have plenty of time to play and learn about the world around them.

What's more, kids learn proper social etiquette and how to follow classroom rules. Being able to sit still, listen to the teacher, raise a hand to ask a question and interact respectfully among peers are all important skills that kids will need in order to thrive in an academic environment. If preschool isn't possible, consider joining a playgroup or visiting the library for story time, and encourage social interaction with new kids at the playground.

Knowing that kindergarten is more challenging than ever, smart parents are taking charge by introducing age-appropriate educational activities now. From smart apps like IntellectoKids *Preschool Academy* to reading every day, you're helping build the brain power that leads to success in kindergarten and beyond.

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# Fourth Haiti film fest returns

By Alexandra Simon

The fourth Haiti Film Festival kicks off with a fund raising gala and screening at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on May 11. The biennial event organized by the Haiti Cultural Exchange will be showing over 25 films over the course of four days, and for the first time will even recognize some notable Haitian entertainers and see a change of setting, said an organizer for the festival.

"We've done the festival at various venues but this year we are opening the Haiti Film Festival in a theatre for the first time and we'll be honoring three Haitian filmmakers and actors," said Regine M. Roumain, executive director of Haiti Cultural Exchange.

The four-day festival commences with the honoring of actor Jimmy Jean-Louis and directors Rachelle Sallave and Arnold Antonin. Afterwards the honorees are going to participate on a panel about the portrayals of Haitians on the big screen, and end with two films and a montage highlighting the

work of the entertainers, said Roumain.

Screening will continue at two other venues, and are split into two events, one day for short films and two more days for feature length films. The varying genres of films — some which will be making their debut to the city — will both be entertaining and a learning experience for viewers, said Roumain.

"We have documentaries on historical figures, the deforestation in Haiti and lot of these films provide a lot of educational information on social issues affecting Haitians so there's definitely a lot to learn," she said.

"The films runs the gamut in terms of genre and we also have first time filmmakers and quite a few New York premieres."

All of the films are spoken in Haitian Creole and French, but English subtitles will be displayed for every film. Being held in Brooklyn, Roumain said they made the event accessible because they wanted all

potential attendees to come out and experience Haitian film and provide a platform for the filmmakers.

"We really want as many people in the community to have access to these stories and narratives and that's why we keep these costs for free," said Roumain. "When we chose these films we wanted to ensure a range of emerging artists and have a mix of films of films about Haiti and diaspora"

Roumain expects the new addition to the festival and special guests will encourage fruitful discussions about Haitian culture at large, and promote positive interactions.

"We have a quite a lot of filmmakers and producers attending this year and that is more than last year, so this is a great opportunity to meet with them and hear their thoughts at the panel we have happening," she said. "I'm excited about the synergy and interacting within community and I'm excited to hear what participants say and what their reactions will be."



Saturday evening will spotlight the documentary films of Arnold Antonin who will be present. (He received the Paul Robeson African Diaspora best film award at FESPACO in Ouagadougou in 2007, 2009, and 2011). Photo by Tequila Minsky



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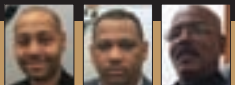


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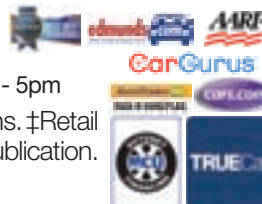
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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Papa Biggy's new song "Walk with God" is an inspirational calypso and soca-fused gospel song. Courtney

## Papa Biggy spreads love

By Alexandra Simon

Music for the motivation.

Connecticut-based Jamaican artist Papa Biggy is spreading hope in his new song "Walk with God." The popular calypso and soca-fused gospel song focuses on the failures of friendships and other relationships, and encourages finding faith in between it all, said the singer.

"It's an inspirational song about something that I have experienced myself in regards to disappointment by the peo-

Continued on Page 34

## Gospel singer to celebrate 40-yr career

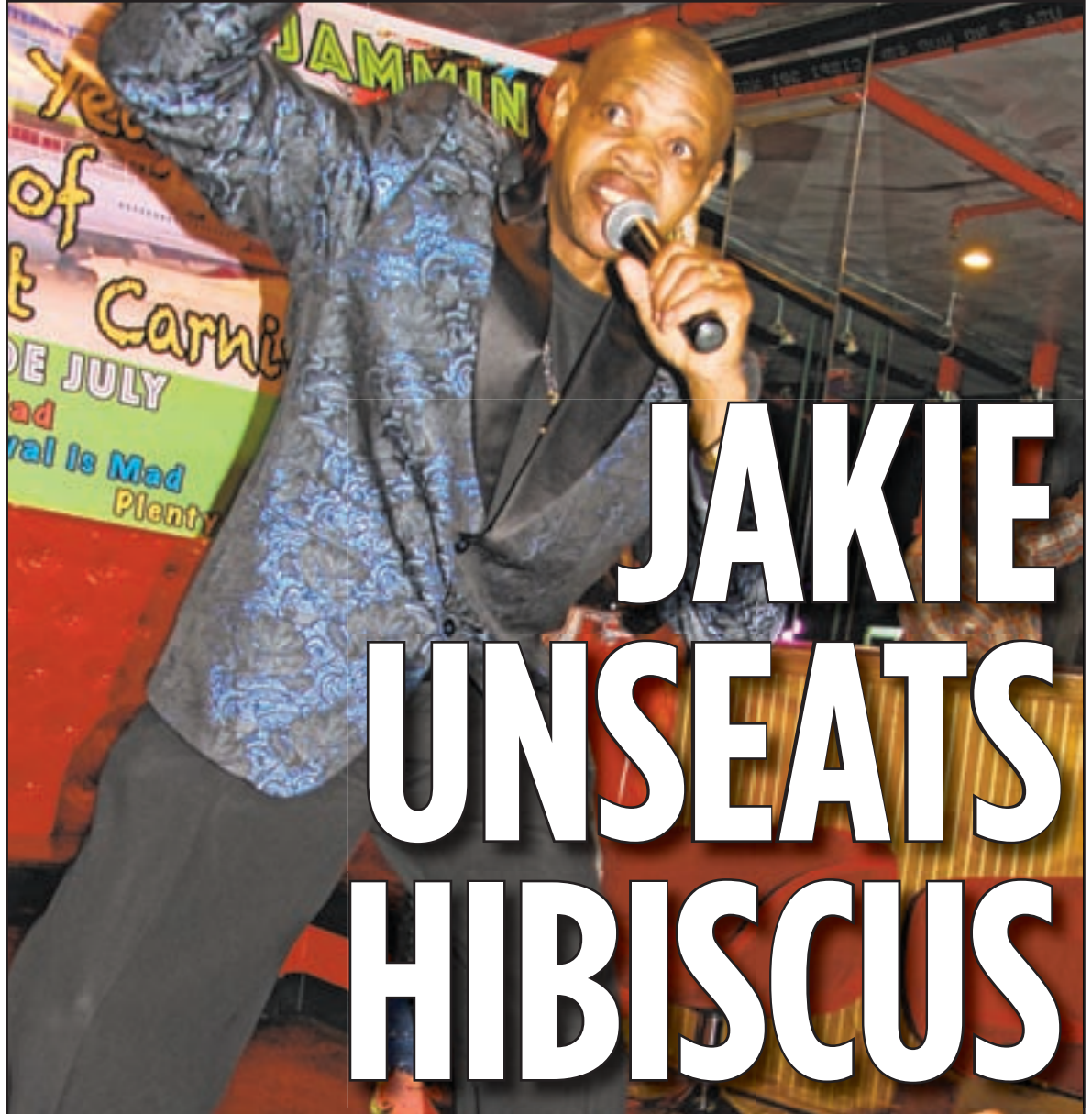
By Tangerine Clarke

Award-winning vocalist Cora Williamson has planned a Cora Williamson Music Ministries Gospel Concert in collaboration with Voices of Praise (VOP) to celebrate her 40 years in the ministry.

The concert will be held on Saturday, June 10, at God's Battalion of Prayer, 661 Linden Blvd. corner of Schenectady Ave. in Brooklyn.

According to Williamson she is organising the concert because of her passion for parents with gifted children. Featured performers will include Williamson and her children, Princess Kiara, and Prince Roy, Minister Wayne and daughter, Leandra Johnson, father and daughter, Simon and Dominique, and Rev. Dr. Heather Fran-

Continued on Page 34



# JAKIE UNSEATS HIBISCUS

Jackie sings "This Carnival."

Photo by Nelson A. King

## Captures Vincy New Song Competition title

By Nelson A. King

After years in the calypso wilderness without winning any major title, Kenroy "Jakie" Jack finally realized his dream Sunday morning in dethroning Michelle "Hibiscus" Hillcocks by capturing the Vincy New Song Competition title at the Gallis Lounge in East Flatbush, Brooklyn.

"This has been a long time coming," exclaimed Jakie, after Master of Ceremonies Ulric "Soca" Jones, Jr., a popular Vincentian entertainment promoter in Brooklyn, declared him the winner at 3:45 am. The crowd

approved boisterously.

Singing "This Carnival" before an ebullient crowd, and paying tribute to 40 years of Vincy Mas in July, Jakie also brushed aside challenges from veterans, such as John Dougan, Phil Patch and Striker, to grab the Soca Devil Trophy, which is awarded to the winner of the New Song Competition. The late Cyril "Soca Devil" Trophy, who succumbed to throat cancer in the 1990s, was one of the early winners of Vincentian calypso/soca competition in New York.

Jackie told Caribbean Life in a brief

post-show interview that "this one [song] was special," stating that it conveyed several elements of carnival, such as music and mas.

"It's carnival time / can the people jam / can the people jamming," Jakie sang partially in the chorus on his way to capturing the crown, attributing his success to invaluable help from, among others, musical arranger Adrian Bailey; Winston Soso, renowned as the "Rolls Royce of Calypso," who wrote "This Carnival," and Edson "Lively" McDonald,

Continued on Page 34



## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Shape Of You**  
Ed Sheeran
- 2 **That's What I Like**  
Bruno Mars
- 3 **Something Just Like This**  
The Chainsmokers & Coldplay
- 4 **It Ain't Me**  
Kygo x Selena Gomez
- 5 **Say You Won't Let Go**  
James Arthur
- 6 **Stay**  
Zedd & Alessia Cara
- 7 **Rockabye**  
Clean Bandit Feat. Sean Paul
- 8 **Scars To Your Beautiful**  
Alessia Cara
- 9 **Cold**  
Maroon 5 x Future
- 10 **Paris**  
The Chainsmokers

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **DAMN.**  
Kendrick Lamar
- 2 **Guardians Of The Galaxy**  
Soundtrack
- 3 **8**  
Incubus
- 4 **Digital druglord**  
blackbear
- 5 **Moana**  
Soundtrack
- 6 **Love And War**  
Brad Paisley
- 7 **Divide**  
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **Be Myself**  
Sheryl Crow
- 9 **More Life**  
Drake
- 10 **On My Side**  
Kim Walker-Smith

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# VINCY MAS LAUNCH

Continued from page 33

a former New York Vincy New Song Monarch.

The trio, as well as Jakie's "First Lady," Joy Jack, then converged on stage with Jakie, flanked by hordes of supporters, celebrating his triumph.

The Philadelphia-based Hibiscus — who had debuted last year in the 11-year-old competition, organized by the Brooklyn-based Level Vibes Promotions, headed by Ainsley Primus — fizzled with "Hard Wood," without even attaining a spot among the top three contenders. Her animated performance last year earned her that year's crown.

Dougan — perennial contender in the National Calypso Competition in Vincy Mas, who sang "Long Time" — was adjudged first runner-up, telling patrons that "ah long time ah want to wine on ah bounsie," demonstrating his yearning with a young lady at song's end.

Striker was second runner-up with "Labba Labba," a reference to gossip and ill-will, singing in part: "Life is too short / just leave me alone / just live your life / and shut your mouth / some people does want to mess up yo' life / so leave your

business alone."

The other contenders were Phil Patch with "Carnival in July," Hilford Hurst, adorned as a "Roman soldier," singing "Put on the armor/wearing armor," and Man Kemmie, a former Junior Calypso King in the National Calypso Competition in Vincy Mas, with "Sit down pon it."

The show — which kicked off at 12:15 am Sunday, coinciding with the official launch of Vincy Mas 2017 at home — also featured Road March titles from yesteryears — 1977 to 2003 — highlighting hits primarily from, among others, Becket ("Teaser," "Cocoa," "Tone," "Ah Want Soca" and "10 years"); Poser ("Up in Dey," "In ah me Moma" and "Hairly Bank"); and Touch ("Jam Dem," "Puss Man," "Move yo Front," "Murdo" and "Butt.")

"For Vincy Mas, it's a great achievement," said Primus in his opening remarks. "We're proud to bring Vincy Mas for 11 years."

"Tonight, we have seven calypsonians," new New York Consul General Howie Prince, a calypsonian in his own right, told patrons, and a former member of the National Carnival Association. "Tonight also



Hibiscus loves "Hard Wood."

Photo by Nelson A. King

marks the official launch of Vincy Mas."

Additionally, DJ Supa Eyes, an executive member of Level Vibes Promotions, played, and some artistes sang hits from calypsonians / soca artistes, who have gone to the great beyond. These included Soca Devil, Tommy T, Annice Carew, Don Simon, Otis Teshiera and Walter Porter.

Capping off the show, described by patrons as "one of the best in years," were performances from Vincy Calypso /

Soca "All Stars," some of whom had not taken to the stage in years. They comprised Ziggy ("Sweet Sappadilla," "Vincy Sweet" and "Ouch"); and Ron Pompey ("Keep Loving Me," "Rock De Party," "Shake," "Miss Tin Tin" and "Banana Police").

Other "All Stars" performers were Cauldric Forbes ("Carnival Party" and "Jam De Soca"); and Winston Soso, who brought the house down with "Woman in De Pan Yard," "Big Bottom" and his signature "I Don't Mind."

## Upbeat

Continued from page 33

friends so you have to walk with god," said Papa Biggy. "It's really an inspirational song."

Making a return to the music scene Papa Biggy started his music career in 1982 after winning a national deejay contest, which would also lead to his scholarship to attend the Jamaican School of Music. Having worked as a producer with artists such as Sizzla, Luciano, and Byron Lee and the Dragonaires, he is not a rookie to the industry and wanted to try something new in his sound this time around, said Biggy.

The upbeat rhythm for "Walk with God" instantly drew him when he heard it and became the incentive for the song, said Biggy. Hoping to also reach more listeners he chose to go with a fusion beat combining reggae, calypso, and soca.

"It had a different sound and I've been doing this for years but this time I wanted to do something different and new, and the words just exploded off of my tongue with it," he said. "I also wanted to do something that would appeal to a wider crowd and

not just reggae audience."

The song has religious context but all kinds of audiences can enjoy the message summarized in the song, said Biggy. Likening his song to Mr. Vegas' 2012 hit song "I am Blessed," he says his track has a similar mass appeal to listeners.

"It has the same type of vibe and the song has a general message — it can be played in the dance hall or anywhere," said Biggy. "This song is something that is motivating and uplifting and you'll feel empowered."

Papa Biggy says that as a Christian-raised artist and lover of music, he is not a religious fanatic and only wants to share the guidance of teachings that helped him to inspire other people. But most importantly he wants to entertain people in the purest way that he can, he said.

"I strongly believe in God but I don't make religion determine the way I look at others because I look at it as a concept of love and as long as you believe in love that's fine by me," he said. "I'm a cultural dancehall and reggae singer and a conscious artist. My songs are inspirational and have social messages that come across to the diaspora and different people on different levels."



Gospel singer Cora Williamson.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Continued from page 33

cis, son, Matthew and daughter, Gabriyal.

Other artists scheduled to perform are Minister Travis Finlay, Minister Calvin Parris (saxophonist), Voice of Redemption, and Harvest Time & Praise Dancers.

On Saturday, April 29 she wowed an audience with her infectious Soca-style gospel music, during a high-spirited concert hosted by Minister Wayne Johnson, at God's Battalion Church of Prayer in Brooklyn.

The popular gospel singer had humble beginnings, and relied on the God-given talent

## Gospel

she discovered at a very young age. However, the powerhouse performer, like many others, had her share of trials to get to the top, but with determination and faith, she prevailed in her quest for excellence, that spanned 40 years.

After her mother migrated to the United States in 1976, Williamson, who was born in the mining town of Linden, moved to the rural area of New Amsterdam, Berbice, and later discovered her melodious voice while attending Rev. Walter Pinkerton's Wesleyan Church tutelage at the tender age of 11.

The talented singer joined her mother in the United States, in 1978, and after graduating high school, earned a Degree in Computer Programming. However, despite her deep desire to travel the path of gospel music, Williams first needed to work to achieve this goal. This led her to the NYC Department of Correction, where she served as a deputy assistant warden at Rikers Island for 20 years, retiring at the age of 44, in 2007, to pursue her gospel career.



# Military misfits take shot at redemption

“Black Site Delta”

Good (2 stars)

Unrated

Running time: 86 minutes

Distributor:

XLrator Media

By Kam Williams

“Black Site Delta” is a micro-budget production most reminiscent of “The Dirty Dozen” (1967). Like that classic action flick, the action-oriented tale of redemption revolves around the patriotic exploits of a rag-tag team of convicts.

However, given the film’s financial constraints, it features a team of six instead of 12 protagonists. They are led by Jake (Cam Gigandet), a vet suffering from PTSD who, at the point of departure, lands in a military prison following a bar fight. He soon discovers that the place doubles as a black site kept off the radar of the general public.

His fellow inmates are other disgraced soldiers, such as Simms (Benjamin Charles Watson), a

former drone pilot incarcerated for refusing to drop a bomb on a terrorist at a child’s birthday party full of kids. Truth be told, the facility has been hijacked to secretly serve as the command center for a treasonous operation employing a weapon of mass destruction.

Apparently, one Colonel Irving (Michael Dale) has gone rogue and is now doing the bidding of an Afghan warlord named Khan (Arash Mokhtar). Once that fact comes to light, Jake recruits Simms, his love interest Vasquez (Teri Reeves), and a few other cellmates with the hope that their heroics might lead to full pardons. What ensues is a spectacular splatterfest worthy of John Woo or Sam Peckinpah.

Thus unfolds “Black Site Delta,” a gratuitous snuff flick laced with lots of gory kill shots. The movie marks the directorial debut of Jesse Gustafson who does a decent enough job to satiate the bloodlust of fans of the high body-count genre.

A “Dirty Half-Dozen,” tailor-made for folks who appreciate scene after scene of incessant slaughter.



Cam Gigandet and Teri Reeves star in “Black Site Delta.”

www.rottentomatoes.com

## Independent & Foreign Films

Absolutely Anything (Unrated) Sci-fi comedy about some advanced aliens from another planet who test the human species’ morality by temporarily blessing a Special Ed teacher (Simon Pegg) with superpowers. With Kate Beckinsale, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Rob Riggle and Eddie Izzard. (In English and French with subtitles)

Generation Iron 2 (Unrated) Body-building sequel featuring the perfect physiques of five of the top figures in the field: Kai Greene, Rich Piana, Calujm Von Moger, Iris Kyle and Mamdouh Elssbiay.

Meri Pyaari Bindu (Unrated) Romantic comedy about a best-selling author with writer’s block (Ayushmann Khurrana) who returns to his roots to work on a love story about the free-spirited woman (Parineeti Chopra) he just can’t get out of his head. Supporting cast includes Aparajita Adhya, Abish Mathew and Malvika Sitlani. (In Hindi with subtitles)

Paris Can Wait (PG for smoking, mature themes and mild epithets) Eleanor Coppola (wife of Francis Ford) makes her directorial debut with this romantic comedy about a miserably-married housewife (Diane Lane) who gets a new lease on life when she embarks on a carefree jaunt from Cannes to Paris with her preoccupied husband’s (Alec Baldwin) business partner (Arnaud Viand). With Cedric Monnet, Elise Tielrooy, Elodie Navarre and

Pierre Cuq.

Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe (Unrated) Reverential biopic about Stefan Zweig (Josef Hader), chronicling the celebrated Jewish author’s years in exile following his fleeing his native Austria for South America in 1936. Featuring Tomas Lemarquis, Barbara Sukowa and Charly Hubner. (In English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and German with subtitles)

The Wall (R for violence and pervasive profanity) Iraq War sniper saga revolving around a couple of American soldiers (John Cena and Aaron Taylor-Johnson) who find themselves pinned down in the desert with only an unstable wall standing between them and a sharpshooter (Laith Nakli).

The Wedding Plan (PG for mature themes) Romantic comedy about a jilted, Jewish bride-to-be (Noa Koler) who instead of cancelling the wedding, enlists the assistance of matchmakers in her desperate attempt to find another mate in a month. With Dafi Alferon, Oded Leopold, Udi Persi and Ronny Merhavi. (In Hebrew with subtitles)

Whisky Galore (Unrated) Remake of the 1949 farce of the same name about some Scottish pals’ plunder of booze from a ship that ran aground



### Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams



Alec Baldwin, Anne Lockwood and Arnaud Viard in a scene from “Paris Can Wait.”

www.rottentomatoes.com

in the Outer Hebrides. Ensemble cast includes Eddie Izzard, Naomi Battrick, Ellie Kendrick, James Cosmo and Sean Biggerstaff.

### BIG BUDGET FILMS

Dead Awake (Unrated) Suspense thriller about a social worker (Jocelin Donahue) who lands in a world of supernatural terror while investigating a series of mysterious deaths where each victim suffered from a condition called sleep paralysis. Ensemble cast includes Jesse Bradford, Brea Grant, James Eckhouse and Lori Petty.

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword (PG-13 for violence, action, suggestive content and brief profanity) Charlie Hunnam plays the title character in this reimagining of the medieval tale which finds the mythical monarch in a quest to reclaim the crown after being robbed of his birthright by a power-hungry uncle (Jude Law). With Djimon

Hounsou, Eric Bana, Astrid Berges-Frisbey and Aidan Gillen.

Lowriders (PG-13 for sensuality, profanity, violence, mature themes and brief drug use) Dysfunctional family drama, set in East L.A., revolving around a teenage street artist (Gabriel Chavarria) torn between his need for self-expression and his father (Demian Bichir) and ex-con brother’s (Theo Rossi) obsession with cruising around in a custom car that bounces. Featuring Eva Longoria, Melissa Benoist and Cress Williams.

Snatched (R for sexuality, brief nudity, pervasive profanity and crude humor) Action comedy about an uptight, helicopter mom (Goldie Hawn) who joins her recently-dumped daughter (Amy Schumer) for a getaway to a supposed paradise, only to have their exotic vacation turn into a never-ending nightmare. Cast includes Wanda Sykes, Joan Cusack and Christopher Meloni.



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# SPORTS

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West Indies' Marlon Samuels.  
Associated Press / Andres Leighton

## Cricketer aids the blind

By Azad Ali

West Indies middle-order batsman Marlon Samuels has donated Jam\$1.5 million (US\$11,700) to the Jamaica Society for the Blind.

The announcement was made at a press conference recently in Kingston where it was also revealed that Samuels, through his foundation, would also disburse a further J\$350,000 to Garfield Mitchell, 23, a visually impaired student of the Church Teachers College.

The veteran all-rounder said he started this foundation because "I am always

Continued on Page 38

## T&T wins Regional Super50 title

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Women cricketers have retained their Regional Super50 title when they defeated Barbados by 21 runs in the final at Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent on Sunday, April 30.

All-rounder Felicia Walters starred with both bat and ball, hitting 53 of 140 balls, including three fours, to guide the T&T team to 146 all out in 46 overs.

Walters' opening partner Reniece Boyce contributed with 29 at the top order, while Rachael Vincent hit 23 off 23 balls to post a competitive total.

Keila Elliot was the best bowler for Barbados, taking four wickets for 47.

In their turn at the crease Barbados was bowled out for 143 in 45.5 overs.

Trinidad and Tobago bowler Felicia Walters, who took three wickets for 25

Continued on Page 37



# WINDIES DEFEATS PAKISTAN

West Indies' Shannon Gabriel, left, is greeted by teammate Ashley Nurse after dismissing England's Joe Root during a one day international cricket match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, Friday, March 3, 2017.

Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan, File

## Gabriel wrecks Pakistan second innings

By Azad Ali

West Indies leveled the three-match Test series with a decisive win over Pakistan in the second match at Kensington Oval in Barbados last week. The final will be decided in Dominica this week

Pakistan won the first match in

Jamaica recently.

West Indies fast bowler Shannon Gabriel wrecked the Pakistan second innings taking 5 for 11 and match haul of 9 for 92.

He was named Man-of-the-Match. Gabriel bowled Pakistan to an emphatic victory after West Indies set

the visitors 108 for victory on the final day. Pakistan crashed to 81 all out, about half an hour before play ended.

It was Pakistan's fourth loss in seven games at the historic venue and maintains their unenviable record of having never won a Test at the Ken-

Continued on Page 38



Continued from page 37

somebody that gives back wherever I can.”

“The first year I spent a million and I asked Digicel to help and they did, the second year I spent another million and asked Lime (FLOW) and they helped me a lot and the third year, I did the party and asked everybody to donate to the foundation,” he added.

Samuels, who played 71 Tests, 187 One-Day International and 55 Twenty20s for the West Indies, said he embarked on the sponsorship with the Jamaica Society for the Blind following an incident four years ago in Australia when he was struck by a delivery van in the face and sustained a fractured eye socket.

He remained partially blind for two weeks before undergoing surgery and afterwards pledged support for the blind in Jamaica once recovered.

WICB President Dave Cameron, former Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller and Sports Minister Olivia Grande attended the newsconference.

## WINDIES

Continued from page 37

sington Oval.

The total equaled Pakistan’s lowest posed by India 20 years ago at the same venue and was also Pakistan’s second lowest-ever against West Indies, surpassing their record low of 77 in Lahore, 31 years ago.

Meanwhile, West Indies hope for automatic qualification in the race for the 2019 World Cup in England took a setback when they dropped another point in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings released recently.

The regional side, currently lying outside of the automatic places at ninth rankings, lost the final One-Day International to Pakistan to suffer a 2-1 defeat last month.

As a result, West Indies dropped to 83 points while Pakistan gained one point while remaining in eighth place in the rankings.

Hosts England and the other seven teams as of September 30, 2016 will qualify automatically for the quadrennial tournament, with the remaining three teams heading to qualify to determine the last two spots.

Windies looked on course to enhance their rankings when they staged a record run chase to beat Pakistan by four wickets in the opening ODI recently at the Guyana National Stadium.

However, they plunged to a 74-run defeat in the second game before also suffering a six-wicket defeat in the three-match series.



Bright future: Nazareth senior hoops star Alexis Sykes signed her name on the dotted line on May 4, making her commitment to South Alabama official. Sykes Family

# ‘Bama bound: Nazareth hoops star commits to South Alabama

By Laura Amato

From the very beginning, it just felt right.

Nazareth senior Alexis Sykes stepped onto campus at South Alabama last week and knew she’d found the place for her. The Lady Kingsmen basketball standout made it official May 4, committing to the program and cementing her on-court future for the next four years.

She hasn’t stopped smiling since.

“I just feel like this is the best school I could have possibly chosen,” Sykes said. “The coaching staff is really great and it’s far from New York, which I think I need. It’s going to slow me down, make me more humble and I’m so excited to go.”

Sykes said she’s proud of her college choice — and proud of herself for getting to this point.

The road hasn’t been easy — her father passed away when she was a freshman — but she’s found an outlet through basketball and her dedication

to the game hasn’t faltered.

“Basketball saved me. There’s been days I’ve just stayed in the gym from nine in the morning until 12 at night,” Sykes said. “It kept me off the streets, away from things most people would be doing at my age, but for me basketball is my guardian angel. It really helped me get through a lot. Without basketball, this wouldn’t happen.”

Sykes credits Nazareth and her coaches there with keeping her on the right path, and she’s confident she’ll have a similar support system at South Alabama next season.

She met the entire team during her official visit and, as the only player from New York, said she is more than willing to show them her hometown.

“I’m the only one from New York, the only one from up North really, so it’ll be a big adjustment,” she said. “I told everybody else on my team, they can come to New York. Any time they want to come to New York, they’re more than welcome to stay at my house.”

The key for Sykes was finding a program where she knew she could make an impact, and she already knows exactly what her role at South Alabama will be: scoring.

The squad lacked a big-time offensive weapon last season and Sykes is anxious to fill that role. It also helps that Jaguars coach Terry Fowler has already expressed confidence in Sykes and her jump shot.

“When a coach has confidence in me as a freshman, that means a lot to me,” Sykes said. “It says that I can be great at this game, but it’s up to me if I want to be great. So as long as he gives me the blueprint to be successful, I’m going to follow that.”

As far as Sykes is concerned, the sky is the limit. She knows how hard she worked to get here and she’s ready to spend the next four years proving it was all worth it.

“It’s the best feeling in the world right now,” she said. “I’m going to college for free. That’s a dream come true.”



# World's fastest man 'no longer chases women'

By Nelson A. King

Reports in New York on Monday said that Jamaican Usain Bolt, the world's fastest man, is slowing down — that he is “no longer chasing women.”

According to the New York Daily News, the fastest man on earth said his wild days are behind him, making this “proclamation at a party celebrating the Kentucky Derby over the weekend.”

“(When) you’re famous, all the girls are throwing themselves at you,” the 30-year-old Jamaican runner said at a Park Ave., New York viewing party, where he served as the “chief entertainment officer” for G.H. Mumm Champagne. “I got it out of my system already.”

Bolt said girlfriend Kasi Bennett keeps him grounded, according to the Daily News, adding that the world-record-holding sprinter, “who is frequently seen partying with sexy women, says he doesn’t even feel pressure to stray.”

While Bolt stated his case,

the Daily News said supermodels Nina Agdal and Chanel Iman were roaming about the party.

“Now it’s not as stressful to go out and see girls, and think ‘Oh, my God!’” Bolt claimed. “I’m much more relaxed.”

Bolt said Bennett, his girlfriend of nearly four years, isn’t worried about the endless reports — and photos — “that frequently pop up of him dirty dancing with partygoers all around the world,” according to the Daily News.

**Now it's not as stressful to go out and see girls, and think 'Oh, my God!'**

The paper said Bolt’s partying during the 2016 Olympics in Rio was outpaced only by his accomplishments on the track.

“He dominated the competition to preserve a 100 percent win record in Olympic finals dating to 2008,” the Daily News

said.

“When I go out, I just have fun,” the paper quoted Bolt as saying. “She knows I’m responsible.”

Bolt told the Daily News that, after Saturday’s party, when the celebration ended, he would hit the treadmill, then do abdominal work. He is in training to compete at track’s World Championships in London this summer, the Daily News said.

It said Bolt plans to pursue a professional soccer career after retiring from racing, and is set to train with Borussia Dortmund, a German club, in the fall.

But after watching many soccer players marry young only to find themselves engulfed in scandal, Bolt said he was glad he waited to settle into a relationship and pursue a career in the world’s most popular sport, the Daily News said, adding that Bolt recently told People magazine that fatherhood might be among his next steps.



Jamaica’s Usain Bolt celebrates winning the gold medal in the men’s 4 x 100-meter relay final, during the athletics competitions of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 19, 2016.

Associated Press / Matt Dunham, File

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Merle Warren

It was a great honor to have received such a prestigious and distinguished award. It was a realization of a huge life dream to be recognized by my peers for my ongoing contribution in the field of healthcare. This award has given me a chance of a lifetime to be more proactive in the field. For me, it's "The Noble Prize for Health".

# Congratulations to Honorees of Caribbean American Healthcare Award

I am truly humbled to be a past recipient of the Caribbean Life Healthcare Award. As a healthcare practitioner I continuously focus on providing high quality patient care. To be recognized for my resilience, dedication and overall commitment to reducing healthcare disparities has been a heartwarming experience. Congratulations to the 2017 awardees.



Sybilla Daniel Douglas

## Caribbean Life

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean American Healthcare Awards

# 2017 Gala

## Honorees

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Patricia Britton HHA

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Annemarie Campbell MSN, RN

Kenrick Cato, PhD, RN, CPHIMS

Hyacinth Charles RN BSN MSA

Samuel G. Clarke, M.A.

Marcia Cole-Saunders MPA

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Dr. Audrey Dupree Sealey

Beverly Gardner-Samuel

Madonna-Holder RN CNM MS

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Anne Marie Berthe Leveille-Tulce PhD, RN, MPH

Liza L. Long BS, RN-C, CDP, CDCM

Bernice Pamela McIntosh RN, Midwife

Dr. John Mitchell

Dr. Harrison Mitchell

Illouise Murillo-Tucker, DNP, RN, NP

Dr. Marcia Nelson

Kafi Yolanda Quaynor RN, AAS, BSN, MSA, WCC

Noreen Roach RN

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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, finding what you desire when you haven't made your own mind up about what you want can be challenging. Some soul-searching can probably come up with something promising.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Nagging doubts about an investment may be trying to tell you something, Taurus. Hold off on any bold moves until you feel more confident with parting ways with cash.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, if you have already committed to something, see it through. The end result may be something unexpected. Others are anxious to see what you can accomplish.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Take the emotional plunge, Cancer. Someone special needs to hear about it pronto. This is not a week to clam up, but rather one to share your feelings and let others in.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Going back to school might be the best path for you at this time, Leo. Although this might stretch your schedule to its limits, you'll find the time if it's important to you.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Volunteering can bring more meaning to your life, Virgo, especially if you feel yourself struggling right now. Giving back can sometimes make your problems seem small.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, trips may seem like they have to be large undertakings, but that's not always the case. Try for a short jaunt somewhere and enjoy the scenery.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
The time has come to spend less time thinking and more time doing, Scorpio. Turn a page in your life and you'll likely be satisfied with the results.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
There are a few friends who have stuck by your side through thick and thin, Sagittarius. When one comes knocking at your door for help, give this person the support he or she needs.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you can find a solution to a problem even if the answer eludes you for the time being. Don't overthink what has to be done. This is a time to act.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, you always have time to do something for yourself, but you might need to put that on hold right now and focus on others. Forge ahead even if you are met with resistance.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, do not think about anything but having fun for the next few days. Others will begin to live vicariously through you.



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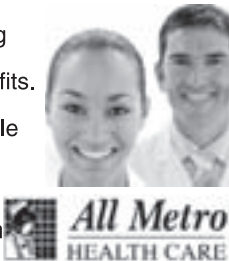
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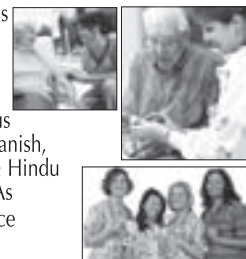


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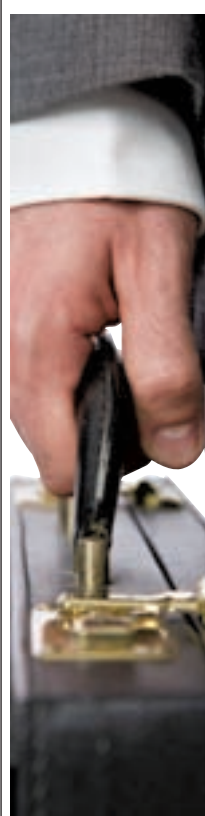
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**LEGAL**

**STATE OF MAINE PROBATE COURT**  
Oxford, ss.  
South Paris  
Docket A2016-0021(1)  
ORDER OF SERVICE OF PUBLICATION  
In Re: Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Petition for Adoption of Damien Michael Hamel  
The matter before the Court is the Motion of Amber Virgin and Blaine Virgin, petitioners, that Jordan R. Marsh, natural father of Damien Michael Hamel, be served by publication. Petitioners have filed two Petitions: one to terminate the parental rights of said Jordan R. Marsh in regards to said Damien Michael Hamel and a Petition to Adopt said Damien Michael Hamel. If Petitioners' Petition to Terminate the Parental Rights of Jordan R. Marsh is granted, all legal rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties, and obligations between Jordan R. Marsh and Damien Michael Hamel as parent

**LEGAL**

and child, shall be terminated. If said petitions are granted, the said Jordan R. Marsh shall not be entitled to notice of the child's adoption proceedings or be able to participate in the proceedings. It appears to the court that Jordan R. Marsh cannot with due diligence be served by any other prescribed method and that the address of Jordan R. Marsh is not known and cannot be ascertained by reasonable diligence. It is ordered that Jordan R. Marsh file with the Court by July 6, 2017, such objections, if any, as he may have to the granting of these petitions. It is further ordered that the said Jordan R. Marsh shall, prior to July 6, 2017, file with the Court his present address so that Notice of Hearing in this matter can be given to him. Jordan R. Marsh is given notice that if he fails to comply with the foregoing Order to provide the Court with his address so that Notice of Hearing may be given, the Petitions may be granted in his absence. It is further ordered that this order be published in the Caribbean Life, a newspaper of general circulation, published in Brooklyn, NY once a week for two successive weeks, and that a copy of this Order as published shall be sent by ordinary first-class mail to Jordan R. Marsh at his last known address. You are entitled to legal counsel in these proceedings. If you want an attorney and are unable to afford one, you must contact the court as soon as possible (and in any event within 10 days from last date of publication of this notice) to request that the court appoint a lawyer for you. Your request should be

**LEGAL**

made in person at court or in writing so that you may prove you made it if you request an appointment of a lawyer, no hearing will be scheduled on termination of your parental rights until your lawyer has an opportunity to prepare for that hearing. The address of the Court is: Oxford County Probate Court, P.O. Box 179,26 Western Ave., South Paris, ME 04281.  
Dated:  
Judge of Probate

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