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Party on the Parkway

The new styles made their debut at the StronJeh International band launch, giving guests a chance to see what trends will be at the West Indian American Day parade. See story on Page 3.

Photo by Sean Murphy

Williams launches re-election bid

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane Williams on May 9 delivered his State of the District Address and formally announced his re-election campaign at Andries Hudde Junior High School in Brook-

lyn.

"As this year progresses, we are confronted with many of the same issues that we as a community, and City, have been tackling for a while," said Williams, representative for the 45th Council District,

"balancing the need for safer streets with fair policing, attacking gun violence's root causes, advocating for more affordable housing, and now, an increasing culture of fear and intimidation because of

Continued on Page 6

BANK WOES SPREAD

Caribbean banks tighten the noose on transactions

By Bert Wilkinson

In the past year or so, several of the larger commercial banks in the United States such as JP Morgan Chase and the Bank of America cut ties with counterpart institutions in the Caribbean, blaming increased pressure from federal regulators and higher costs to monitor the legitimacy of transactions from the region as reasons. It was easier to simply sever ties as they have done.

Stung by the moves and forced to seek out alternative international banks to process bank transfers, checks and

other transactions, banks in the region hurriedly concluded new arrangements with others to keep customers happy. In one instance, the Belize's Central Bank was forced to play the role of an international bank, processing checks and other transactions just to keep commerce moving as several of their banks were left in the lurch.

Now, bankers are moving to prevent the situation from deteriorating further, at least in their opinion. Some in Barbados, for example, are lead-

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Sen. Kevin Parker presents Sherif Fraser, district manager of Brooklyn Community Board 17 in the 21st Senate District, with Woman of Distinction Award during ceremony in Albany. Sen. Kevin Parker

Sherif Fraser is Sen. Parker's Woman of Distinction 2017

By Tangerine Clarke

Senator Kevin Parker's Woman of Distinction is a fitting tribute to Guyanese-born Sherif Fraser, district manager of Brooklyn Community Board 17 in the 21st Senate District, who has dedicated her life to community service since migrating of the United States in 1982.

Sen. Parker (D) who, for the past 19 years has celebrated the contributions of women in their district with the annual Women of Distinction Award for their exemplary contributions, presented a plaque to Fraser on May 9, during a ceremony in the State Capital Building in Albany.

Sen. Parker, Whip for the Senate democratic Conference, and Sen. Democratic Conference Polity Group, called the community manager a hardworking executive, business-woman, community organizer, and advocate — who has set the bar very high, and is deserving of being called a "Woman of Distinction."

"I am happy to have this opportunity to recognize the work that she has done in making the 21st Senate District one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family," said Sen. Parker, adding that as an immigrant woman, she is a living example, of attaining the American dream."

Fraser, president of the non-profit Guyana Unity Movement, (GUM), a motivator and exceptional citizen in the community, who began her career at the Department of Environmental Protection Communications Center, thanked Sen. Parker, member of the Senate Select Committee on Technology & Innovation, for the prestigious honor, stating that she was proud to have dedicated her life and career to serving the residents of her district.

Vincentian ex-diplomat receives Special Recognition Award

By Nelson A. King

Former St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Deputy New York Consul General and calypsonian Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas Saturday night received the "Special Recognition Award" from the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc. at a gala banquet at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn.

Scorcher — who a few months ago was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn-based Friends of Sion Hill — was among three other honorees at the event that also marked the ex-police group's 37th Annual Fundraising Ball.

"When they told me that the police had issued a citation for me, I said to myself, 'after all these years, I thought the Statute of Limitation had passed,'" said Scorcher, to laughter, after receiving the award.

Scorcher thanked, among others, the Almighty; his mother, Emily Thomas; his late step mother, Mary Neverson Morris; Neverson Morris' sister Venus Alexander; Marcel and Cornell Browne; and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc. for their "significant role in the development of the person who stands before you today.

"I am living proof that, if even it takes decades, they always get their man," he said. "I often take time to remind myself that, in the best of men, there's a little evil; and, in the worst of men, there's a little good. Keep on watching over us, my good men."

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc. said the Special Recognition Award is bestowed on a non-member who has



Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas receives award, flanked by (L-R) Arden Tannis, Dr. Arnette Tannis and NY Consul General Howie Prince. Photo by Nelson A. King

"demonstrated a passion for community service and/or to the development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and, in particular, members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force and/or ex-police associations, and has dedicated time, energy, financial and other personal and professional resources towards this passion."

Brooklyn's Celestial Funeral Home — whose manager and chief executive officer is Wilmoth Seaton, a former school teacher at home — received the Corporate Citizens Award. Jamaican Edward Hinds received the award on

behalf of Seaton, who was visiting Toronto, Canada.

Founding fathers ex-prison officer, Hayward Thomas, and retired registered nurse David Alban Williams, received the Diamond Award.

Arden Thomas, the president of The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., Inc., also chose ex-police officer Pamela Ferrari-Easter, of Canouan in the St. Vincent Grenadine islands, to receive the President Surprise Award.

"For the past 12 months, Pam has

Continued on Page 12

Ready to party on the Parkway

By Alexandra Simon

The carnival festivities are almost here.

The newly created Brooklyn-based carnival band StronJeh International debuted the launch of their band with a carnival preview at the Floyd Bennett Legion Campus in Mill Basin on May 19. The band's "Party on the Parkway" event showed off the new styles they have in store for the West Indian American Day parade in September and what they could create together, said the organizer.

"This is our first band launch joining under the name StronJeh — we decided this was best instead of hopping around different bands and doing our own thing, and see what we can bring together," said executive costume designer Edward Connor.

About 41 costumes and designs were modeled, and many were eye-catching and colorful but there was one particular



Queens of the Parkway: The jazzed and bejeweled costumes expected to be seen on Eastern Parkway on Labor Day. Photo by Sean Murphy

look that the guests loved, said Connor.

"All the costumes got a different reaction but Buenos Dias individual — the crowd roared from the beginning to end," he said.

And even the models enjoyed a great time wearing the designs, said a representative with StronJeh.

"The models were very excited backstage and happy to wear and show the pieces," said Sonia Forde.

Guests were also thrilled with the new styles, said Forde, and she also said that the varying designs gave potential buyers diverse options to choose from this summer.

"A lot of people were very excited with every costume and seeing all the colors come to life," she said. "There's a new look every summer and everyone wants a costume to match."

Caribbean

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) is seeking to strengthen its relationship with Emirates Holidays, the largest tour operator in the Middle East, as it seeks to broaden the Caribbean's appeal in the Arabia Market.

Officials of CTO, the region's tourism development agency, recently met with tour operators during Arabian Travel Market (ATM), to build relationship which began last year when the CTO conducted an in-house training program in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for 40 Emirates Holiday reservations, sales and operation staff to familiarize them with the Caribbean product.



This was after Emirates airlines had announced flights from Dubai to Ft Lauderdale, Florida, with a code sharing agreement with Jet Blue that opened up numerous Caribbean destinations to the United States.

The CTO recently returned from hosting six Caribbean roadshows in France, visiting the cities of Rouen, Caen, Rennes, Nantes, Angers and Tours.

These partners had the opportunity to network and present their destinations and products to over 100 travel agents and tour operators at the events, which attracted key industry professionals from the French market, all interest in learning more about the Caribbean region, the CTO said.

Dominica

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) recently held a trade mission in St. Lucia, Martinique and Dominica in a bid to strengthen intra-regional and international trade.



Minister of Agriculture for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saboto Caesar led the delegation.

Among the key areas of regional and international trade discussed were; international market opportunities, Certification, Transportation, Marketing, Research and Development, Production and Technology (agro processing).

The OECS trade delegation met with



Haiti Culinary Pride

In this April 27, 2017 photo, Instructor Chef Marie Solange Chevalier, center, observes a student prep mangoes at the Hoteliere D'Haiti school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Haitian cuisine is a spicy confluence of French, Spanish, African and Amerindian cooking traditions. See story on Page 14.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

key stakeholders in St. Lucia, Martinique, and Dominica to discuss existing market conditions and each island's particular strengths and weaknesses as it relates to the production, and preparation for export, of agriculture produce.

The delegation spent three days in Martinique to evaluate the market and determine the potential for importation of produce from the OECS region.

Vincent Duville, director of the Cabinet of President Alfred Marie-Jeanne said trade among Caribbean islands is a major opportunity.

Grenada

The Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) is seeking to expand its German market share. The island is currently experience year on year growth in the market.



GTA CEO, Patricia Maher recently visited Germany to meet with travel agents, tour operators and airlines that are Grenada partners.

Maher was able to meet with head of network, development long haul for Condo Airlines Wilken Bellman and it was agreed that focus should be placed on the growing winter season bookings.

She said Condor is partnering with Caribbean Airlines and are in negotiations with LIAT for connecting flights in time for summer 2017.

The GTA official said Germans can check-in Frankfurt and connect seamlessly with luggage on LIAT to Pure Grenada. Condor is also code sharing with Air China so it makes Frankfurt a hub to Asia for Grenada.

Discussions were held with tour operators to promote Grenada as a destination.

Jamaica

Senior officials from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) recently met in Jamaica with counterparts from the German Development Bank and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to discuss a regional Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation project which is being implemented in four Caribbean states.

The teams held talks with partner organizations and visited four sites that have been approved for funding under the project for the local adaptation measures aimed at improving the ability of vulnerable communities to withstand the impacts of climate change.

The project seeks to minimize the adverse impacts from climate change by

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Caribbean businesses face new challenges



Secretary-General of CARICOM Irwin LaRocque. Caribbean Community

Continued from Page 1

ing the way by upping the pressure on depositors from various sectors, gambling especially, to defend, explain and prove that daily large deposits are not from the proceeds of crime or illicit business.

This week, the Bankers Association through President Donna Wellington made it clear that these agencies prefer to err on the side of caution rather than accept large deposits from gaming houses and attract increased and unwanted scrutiny from local and international monitoring agencies including the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

So they have told gaming houses not to bring money each day to deposit as there are no plans to risk irking those international banks which still have corresponding relationships with the region.

“When there are elevated risk levels and challenges around money laundering, we have to be careful about these issues from a regulatory standpoint. We also have correspondent banking relationships to maintain to carry on our business because that is our gateway

to the world so it is vital that we keep those relationship,” said Bankers Association President Donna Wellington.

Many of those bank whose relations were severed by the mega American agencies in the past year say that new correspondents such as British Crown Agents Bank now charge even higher processing fees than those offered by BOA in the past, calling it a clear case of exploitation but a necessary evil as relations have to be maintained.

But Barbadian Attorney General Adriel Brathwaite told Barbados Today that banks should be more reasonable as gaming houses are legitimate.

“A couple days ago a legitimate business sent me a note on WhatsApp with lots of cash on a table saying, ‘AG help me, we don’t know what to do with this. Our bank account has been deactivated and we are paying our staff with cash’, and they can’t operate like that,” Brathwaite said.

State of the District Address

Continued from Page 1

Trump’s presidency.”

Williams shared with attendees the progressive legislative and budgetary progress he has made on behalf of the constituents of the 45th District, the impact he has had for those across the city and his plans on how he will continue to push the people’s agenda in the future.

He also gave an overview of the funding he has provided for District 45.

Between 2014 and 2017, he said he provided roughly \$430,000 for programs and initiatives for seniors, about \$600,000 for youth programming, nearly \$1.5 million for local initiatives in the community, and about \$30 million in direct investments for capital projects.

On housing, Williams said he introduced a bill that would provide oversight of buildings that receive the 421a tax cut, “to make sure that they keep up their end of the bargain in regard to offering affordable units in their buildings.”

He said the legislation that would increase the penalties for tenant harassment.

Williams said he also introduced the Veterans Anti-discrimination bill that would protect veterans and armed service members from being discriminated against in housing.

He said the measure protects tenants

living in supportive housing, adding that it cracks down on shady individuals who entice low-income residents into breaking their rent stabilizes leases in exchange for some cash.

In addition, Williams said he passed a package of 10 bills that would increase the “safety of our gas infrastructure so that we can lower the chances of another tragedy like the gas-related explosions that took place two years ago.”

On safety, he said he helped pass the Commuter Van Safety Act, comprising three bills, which cracks down on illegal, rogue commuter van operators who pose a danger to commuters, while also ensuring that licensed and insured operators can operate safely across the city.

The Construction Safety Act — a package of 21 bills meant to strengthen construction and crane safety regulations in New York City was also introduced, “so that we can prevent the likelihood of one more family losing a loved one,” Williams said.

He said he partnered with New York Immigration Coalition and 67th Clergy Precinct Council to host know your rights town hall in light of President Trump’s assault on immigrants.

Additionally, Williams said legislation was introduced and passed on, among others, education, public safety and gun violence.



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Our Perspective

NYC Sends a Message by Banning On-Call Scheduling

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

Working in retail in New York City can be a tough way to make a living. Low wages and insufficient hours can make it a struggle just to get by. And, until now, retail workers have faced the brutal practice known as on-call scheduling. But finally, thanks to a new law passed by the New York City Council, with Mayor de Blasio set to sign it soon, on-call scheduling will be a thing of the past.

Retail workers deserve to thrive, not just survive.

The RWDSU is proud to have led the fight against on-call scheduling, which disrupts workers' lives and their families' lives by requiring them to keep themselves available when they are not scheduled to work with no guarantee of an actual work shift. We work with retail workers, both unionized and nonunionized, every day. And we know how on-call scheduling has made it impossible for workers to take a needed second job or plan for the basic necessities of their lives, including child care, education, or medical care. That's why the passage of Intro. 1387 is so important.

The new law will restore control and balance to the lives of working people in New York City.

The law bans New York City employers from scheduling workers to be on call. Employers will not be able to cancel a shift within 72 hours of the start of the shift except

under extreme conditions like a natural disaster. Employers can only add shifts within 72 hours with workers' consent. The new law takes away from employers a cruel, exploitative computer-driven system designed to optimize employer profits while sacrificing any considerations for working men and women. It will restore control and balance to the lives of working people in New York City.

We applaud the city council's action, and look forward to the mayor signing this bill into law. The de Blasio Administration's partnership with the RWDSU to support workers sets a national precedent that will be felt across the country. It's important that more cities recognize the destructive effect of on-call scheduling and ban the practice.

Retail workers deserve to thrive, not just survive. And banning on-call scheduling is an important part of setting an environment where retail workers can move forward and build better lives.



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Ending the Opioid Epidemic

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WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **“Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain”** that fall into the following categories:

Prescription opioids

“Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate to severe pain, but can also have serious risks and side effects. Common types are oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, and methadone.”

Fentanyl

“Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever. It is many times more powerful than other opioids and is approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. Illegally made and distributed fentanyl has been on the rise in several states.”

Heroin

“Heroin is an illegal opioid. Heroin use has increased across the U.S. among men and women, most age groups, and all income levels.”

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

THE DANGERS OF OPIOID ABUSE IN NYC

Opioid abuse in New York City has been on the rise in recent years, including a dramatic increase in the number of overdose deaths.

The Facts

- “In 2016 an estimated 1,300 New Yorkers died of drug overdose — the highest number on record. Approximately 1,075 of those involved an opioid.”
- “Almost 90 percent of fatal opioid overdoses in 2016 involved heroin or fentanyl.”
- “Before 2015, fentanyl was involved in fewer than 5 percent of all overdose deaths in NYC.”
- “Rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths increased by 43% for the period 2010 to 2014, from 8.2 per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 11.7 per 100,000 residents in 2014.”

(Source: NYC Mayor’s Office, 2017; NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dec. 2015)

PREVENTING ABUSE IN YOUR FAMILY

According to the New York State Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse, the following are key steps you can take to help protect your family from the dangers of opioid abuse:

“Talk to your kids about the dangers of substance abuse and make it clear such behavior will not be tolerated. Keep the lines of communication open so [they] feel comfortable coming to you in a time of need”

“Parents who are involved and engaged in their children’s lives are more likely to notice the warning signs of substance abuse and are able to prevent it before it happens.”

“Store prescription medications safely and take inventory of the medications in your possession.”¹

NYC police officers are being trained and equipped to prevent overdose deaths. To help combat the opioid crisis, the PBA recently agreed to have all of its members carry and use the life-saving drug Naloxone, which can prevent an opioid or heroin overdose from becoming fatal. **In the event of an overdose, call 911 immediately.**

¹(Source: NYS Task Force to Combat Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse)



NY State Task Force to Combat Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse:

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Haitians need our protection

By Mayor Bill de Blasio

As the proud Mayor of one of the largest Haitian communities in the United States, I am once again calling on the Department of Homeland Security to extend Temporary Protected Status to Haiti.

While conditions in Haiti remain unstable, the Trump administration is aggressively deporting people. Temporary Protected Status for Haiti expires July 22nd. That is much too soon.

There is a Haitian proverb that says, "Beyond the mountains, more mountains." It refers to the beauty of Haiti's landscape and the wisdom of a people who have learned that one hardship often follows another.

In 2010, the country was rocked by a massive earthquake that killed approximately 150,000 people. Following the aftershocks came cholera, which has taken at least 9,000 lives so far. In October of last year, Hurricane Matthew struck, destroying buildings, bridges, crops and human lives.

Created in 1990 and signed into law by the first President

Bush, Temporary Protected Status gives the U.S. a way to provide a refuge for people who cannot safely return to their homes due to environmental catastrophe or violence. That is exactly the situation for Haitians.

I called for Temporary Protected Status to be extended to Haiti in 2010 and again in 2016.

The New York City Council passed a resolution by Haitian-American Council Member Mathieu Eugene supporting an extension. New York State Assembly member, Rodneyse Bichotte, the first Haitian American in the city elected to the Assembly, has called on Washington to do the same.

There is now a bill in Congress, introduced by my good friend Rep. Yvette Clarke and co-sponsored by many other members of the New York delegation that would give Haiti another 18 months of Temporary Protected Status.

New York City is home to nearly 100,000 Haitian immigrants. In this ultimate city of immigrants, we must do everything we can to protect and uplift this great community.

What does it take to solve a statelessness crisis?

By Robin Guittard

Robin Guittard is a campaigner on the Caribbean at Amnesty International

MEXICO CITY, May 23 2017 (IPS) - Three years ago today, authorities in the Dominican Republic passed a law seeking to address a statelessness crisis that has effectively stripped thousands of people off their Dominican nationality and with it, denied them a range of human rights.

The crisis exploded in 2013, after a ruling by the Dominican Republic's top court that retroactively applied to anyone born after 1929 to undocumented foreign parents. In practice, it disproportionately affected Dominicans of Haitian descent in a context of an island shared by two nations: Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The largest statelessness crisis ever seen in the Americas was unleashed, with four generations of people being legally erased from the map and turned into ghost citizens, with no rights and no future — unable to enroll in school, apply for regular jobs or facing difficulty in seeing a doctor. An international outcry followed.

Robin Guittard, Campaigner on the Caribbean at Amnesty International

In response, in 2014, Congress passed Law 169-14 that divided people in various categories.

Group A included around 55,000 people born in the Dominican Republic and whose births were registered in the civil registry, but were arbitrarily deprived of their nationality by the court's ruling.

According to the latest



Dominicans of Haitian descent stage a protest in the Dominican Republic. Amnesty International

available data, 12,000 of them have been so far able to re-access their Dominican identity documents. However, there have been reports that the original birth certificates of some of them are being cancelled and their cases moved to a separate civil registry, which is creating chaos and fear of possible discriminatory practices in the future.

Group B includes those born in the Dominican Republic but whose births were never registered. A so-called Naturalization Plan was put in place between July 2014 and February 2015 to give this group a path to naturalization.

According to the government, only 8,755 individuals were able to register out of an official estimate of 53,000 potential people who belong to this group. According to the 2014 Law, they had to wait two years for the naturalization process to start. The deadline is coming to an end soon and we still don't know how many of them have had their files approved, neither what process will be followed. The ordinary natu-

ralization process as it currently stands requires that a passport and a birth certificate from the origin country to be produced, and it is not clear if and how their nationality will be restored. No need to say that stateless people don't have such documents and the authorities have failed to provide any solution for this.

For the 84% of people from group B who couldn't register, the situation is dramatic. Many of them remain stateless, which means they're unable to move forward with their lives. They're limited in their education, they face huge obstacles to access healthcare services, and they can't work legally nor travel freely inside and outside their country.

Today, they have no available avenues to get their Dominican nationality back.

In 2014, President Medina showed courage and great political will by putting forward the Naturalization Law. But the plan fell short of solving this urgent crisis and did not comply with the Dominican Republic's obli-

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Trump wants to dump Caribbean retreat

President Donald Trump will have one less issue to contend with when he sells a property he owns on the Caribbean island of St. Martin.

According to Sotheby's International Realty, the 45th leader of the USA is selling off Le Château des Palmiers, a multi-million-dollar 11-bedroom beachfront estate located on Plum Bay Beach, Terres Basses on the south-western tip of the island.

Le Château des Palmiers includes a five-bedroom ocean side villa, a four-bedroom garden side villa and a two-bedroom manager's area.

According to Business Insider, since 2013 when he purchased the lavish estate he has mostly used it as a rental property.

The Sotheby's listing stated that amenities include a huge heated pool, an open air and air conditioned fitness centre, a tennis court, and covered outdoor bar, billiards and dining areas.

Although there has been no posting of an asking price, the desired sale price is available upon request. Reportedly



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

the four and half acre estate might be sold for a modest \$28 million which is \$8.3 million more than the list price when the real estate businessman purchased it through two shell companies, Excel Venture I LLC and Excel Venture Corporation.

2017 Aim For Single W-i-n-n-e-r Bee -- Less Scripps Ties

As the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee nears, rules have been amended to prevent ties and double prizes which have repeated for three consecutive years.

Officials are hoping to ensure that only one speller will emerge as champion speller.

According to the new rules, the handful of contestants who make it to the final evening of the competition will be required to take a written tie-breaking test.

The test consists of 12 spelling words and "12 multiple choice vocabulary items."

If it becomes "mathematically impossible" for a single winner to emerge by 25 rounds, officials will reveal the test scores of the remaining competitors.

"The speller with the highest Tiebreaker Test score will be declared champion," a website dedicate to the competition explained.

"If, however, there is a tie on the Tiebreaker Test for the highest score, the spellers tying for the highest score will be declared co-champions."

According to Paige Kimble, executive director "unless we further raise the bar," there "is certainly a point of view that the level of competition has risen to a place where we are likely to see more co-championships."

The organization has consistently revamped its rules in



Donald Trump's estate in St. Martin.

order to keep abreast of the fierce competitors. Since its inception in 1925 there was only one Spelling Bee tie. It occurred in 1962.

But in recent years, spellers have been expanding their knowledge of vocabulary and word origins. They are seeking ever-longer and more difficult

words.

Last year, the Bee decided to switch from 25 "championship words" to 25 "championship rounds."

With that many rounds to decide the best, judges were able to hurl as many as 75 words at finalists.

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Awards

arrival.

After spending two years in the US Army, 10 of which was in Vietnam, Scorcher said he worked at the US Postal Service by day and attended Brooklyn College at nights, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, a Masters of Arts degree in Urban Administration, and an Advance Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Over the years, Thomas said he taught public schools in New York City, retiring in 2001. He then served as Deputy Consul General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 2001 to 2011.

From an early age, Scorcher said he showed a great love for music, writing and singing numerous hits over the years.

His first recording was in 1976, with a track entitled "Wilma wok Obeah on Me," followed by notables as "Party Fever," "Wake up the Party," "Phantom DJ," "Sweetness is My Weakness," "Fork up All the Beaches," "I am a Darkie," "Come St. Vincent," "Pipe Layer" and "The Legend of Soca."

Besides the US, Scorcher has performed, among other places, in England, Canada, Columbia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada.

The Flatbush, Brooklyn-based Celestial Funeral services, Inc., which was established in 2002, and is family-owned and operated, has the distinction of having the first Vincentian-born Licensed Funeral Director, Wilmouth "Passie" Seaton, as its chief executive officer and manager.

Statelessness crisis

Continued from Page 10

gations under international law. Last year Medina was re-elected for a new four-year mandate, which provides a renewed opportunity to put an end to the largest statelessness crisis of this continent.

The roadmap to resolve such a complex situation may not be easy, but every day that authorities continue to turn a blind eye to it, and more children of stateless people are born into "ghost citizens" in the country, the more intricate the situation becomes.

As a matter of urgency, the authorities in the Dominican Republic must deliver identity documents to all individuals in group A, immediately facilitate the restoration of nationality of the 8,755 people of group B through an expedited process and provide a clear and simple path to restore the nationality of all those who were unable to enroll in the Naturalization Plan and were previously identified with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

An independent mechanism should also be established, with the participation of Dominican human rights organizations, tasked with oversighting this processes. By the end of this year, the mechanism should be able to produce a first independent evaluation of the initiatives carried out

since 2013 to address the statelessness crisis, including specific recommendations to the authorities to restore the nationality of those affected and prevent any future arbitrary restrictions to the right to nationality.

The statelessness crisis that has shaken the Dominican Republic since 2013 has shown the tremendous impacts of discriminatory policies on people's lives and rights. The country that was once seen by many as a tropical paradise has become the home of the largest stateless population of the Americas.

Why are the Dominican Republic's authorities insisting in denying its youth from going to university and integrate in society, and to deny the right to receive adequate medical care for those in need? Why do they insist in trapping in endless poverty those already excluded and marginalized and for all the stateless to be able to realize themselves as individuals and help their country to advance towards progress?

Three years after Law 169 was passed, much more needs to be done to solve the statelessness crisis that still affects thousands of people in the Dominican Republic. Dominican political leaders and all sectors of Dominican society must be ready to act now. The above mentioned roadmap can be the first steps towards ending this crisis and ensuring the rights of everyone in the country.

Continued from Page 3

rie," Tannis said.

He also recognized the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organization's New York staffer Annette Stowe, of Bequia, presenting her a bouquet of flowers, for her continued support of the group, and for designing and producing the group's annual journal.

New York Consul General Howie Prince and president of the Vincentian umbrella group in the US, the Brooklyn-based Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO), Laverne McDowald-Thompson, also addressed the ceremony.

About the honorees

Scorcher, who was born and raised in Sion Hill, overlooking capital city, Kingstown, before he migrated to the United States, said he always had a passion for sports, playing it "with varying degrees of success,"

He said he played Division One Basketball, was a National Volleyball player and was the first person from Sion Hill to be selected to play football (soccer) for St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Team, as a junior player and then as a senior player.

Scorcher was also a Student Teacher, a custom officer and a magistrate clerk before he migrated to the US, where he was drafted into the Army soon after

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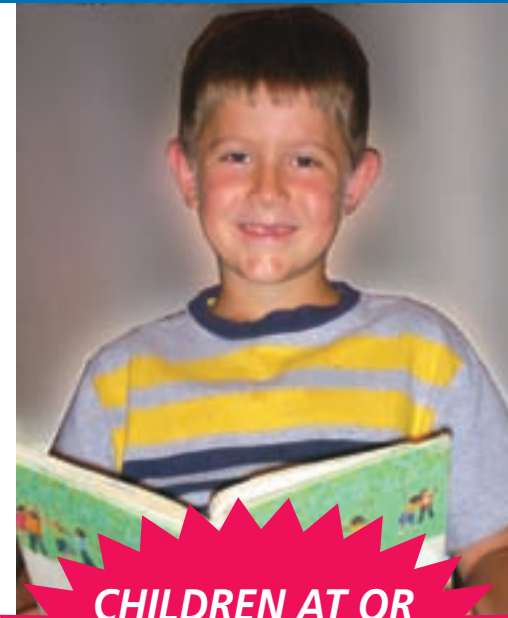
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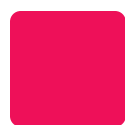
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Haiti chefs carving out higher profile for country's cuisine

By David McFadden

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — In a dining room in a wealthy district in the hills above Haiti's capital, waiters in black outfits whisk plates of crunchy malanga fritters and a creamy cornmeal dish to well-off locals and tourists. In the kitchen, the chef ladles glistening, fresh conch into a pot as his staff dice tomatoes and watercress.

Haitian cuisine is a spicy confluence of French, Spanish, African and Amerindian cooking traditions that blends indigenous ingredients like the rich, earthy black mushroom known as djon djon with a variety of cooking techniques, crusted baguettes and flaky pastries. For decades, Haitian food has been seen as simple, hearty fare best simmered for hours over charcoal stoves at home or fried up and served in cheap curbside restaurants. Haitians who could afford a night out at a restaurant used to opt for versions of continen-

tal menus or a generic Caribbean fusion mimicking the food in island resorts.

In recent years a new generation of Haitian chefs here and abroad has begun reimaging the country's cuisine. Traditional delicacies like the milky cornmeal beverage called akasan; the fiery carrot and cabbage condiment called pikliz; citrus-marinated chicken with boiled cashews; and whole fish in spiced broth are being prepared using haute cuisine techniques and served in the growing number of restaurants serving foreigners and Haiti's small middle- and upper-class.

"It's a real exciting time right now for Haitian gastronomy. We have serious, bona fide culinarians who are creative and focused on raising the profile of our food," chef Jouvens Jean said as chile-laced shrimp sizzled in a pan at Jojo Restaurant in Petionville.

Accomplished chefs like Jean and Stephan Berrouet-Durand moved back to their

homeland from the United States, importing the presentation and kitchen know-how of the various countries where they've worked, while others are increasingly vocal ambassadors for their food culture overseas, appearing on U.S. and European cooking programs.

"Suddenly, a lot of Haitian chefs don't have this fear of saying 'Haitian cuisine' out loud. It is becoming a very popular thing," said Georges Laguerre, a Miami-based food entrepreneur who ran a Haitian eatery in Los Angeles for over a decade.

Dependence on food imports has grown as a result of intractable economic stagnation, but local favorites like malanga root, chayote squash and a dark spinach are still grown organically on farmland plowed by oxen and maintained without pesticides or chemical fertilizers only because most farmers could never dream of affording them.

The fact that Haiti has a vibrant food culture at all can



In this May 2, 2017 photo, Jojo Restaurant Chef Jouvens Jean prepares a local meal with fried bananas and pork in Petion-Ville, Haiti. . Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

be surprising to those who only associate this Caribbean nation with hunger and crushing poverty. But even through decades of decline and recurrent political turmoil, Haiti never lost its delicious recipes.

"I think one of Haiti's greatest resources is its food. I have yet to meet anyone who did not

appreciate the flavors of traditional Haitian cuisine," said Nadege Fleurimond, a Haitian-born writer and caterer based in New York City whose 2014 cookbook "Haiti Uncovered: A Regional Adventure into the Art of Haitian Cuisine" helped kick-start a fresh look at the country's recipes.

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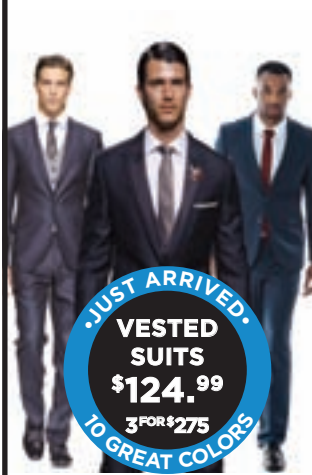


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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

restoring the protective services offered by natural eco-systems like coastal mangrove forests and coral reefs in some areas while restoring and building man-made structures such as mangroves.

The Local Adaptation Measures projects in Jamaica are being managed by a mix of non-governmental and government institutions.

There are 16 areas being targeted in the Caribbean, among them are Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

St. Lucia

The Canadian government-funded Improved Access to Justice in the Caribbean (IMPACT Justice) project recently hosted three technical advisory group (TAG) meetings in Gros Islet, Rodney Bay, St. Lucia.

The meetings sought to assist the project as it seeks to finalize its plan for Year Four under the legislative and treaty policy making component, legal profession and education component and the project's alternative dispute resolution component.

Persons who were selected to sit on TAG meetings represent various government offices and NGOs across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and include representatives from ministries of legal affairs and chambers of attorneys general, chief parliamentary counsel, a solicitor general, representatives of bar association, including a judge and Guyana Commissioner of Police.

At the TAG meetings, discussions were held for the proposals for drafting a new model legislation for CARICOM member states, review of the IMPACT Justice Model Community Mediation Bill and Model Legal Profession Regulations; making plans for the establishment of community mediation associations and restorative practices associations in countries where the project has had training and plans to offer further advanced training in these areas.

Last year, the IMPACT Justice TAG meetings were held in Belize City, Belize.

Turks and Caicos Islands

The Caribbean Development Bank

(CDB) will be hosting a seminar later this month to review the Caribbean's gains in climate adaptation and mitigation and to examine the implementation of the Bank's Climate Resilience Strategy 2012-2017.

The event will be held during the 47th annual meeting of CDB's board of governors meeting in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

The group will discuss the region's climate strategy and implementation plan, and share perspectives on the agreed upon nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement — the targets countries have committed to meeting to stop global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius.

Participants will discuss the NDCs from the perspectives of their own priorities, trade-offs and examine the realities of meetings these goals.

During the past five years, CDB has sharpened its focus on addressing climate change vulnerabilities in its borrowing member countries.

Trinidad

Two opposition United National Congress (UNC) attorneys are preparing to challenge the controversial Property Tax in the Port of Spain, Trinidad, High Court which the government has introduced.

The two attorneys, representing four home owners are asking to have the courts review the implementation process of the tax while they are also seeking a judicial review and constitution challenge to the property tax.

One of the home owners, who was a former minister in the Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration, is asking the government to hold its hand on the implementation of the Property Tax until it amends the legislative provisions and before the court determines the actions.

The government has been given until next week to respond otherwise the property owners will approach the courts with their legal challenges. So far the government has not responded and has extended the deadline date to June 5, 2017.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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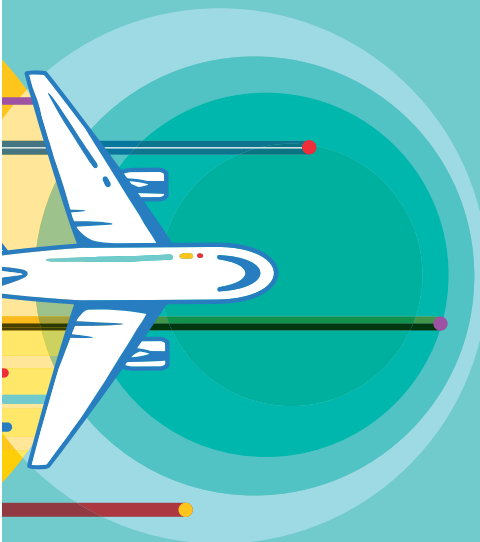
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This event is made possible through the generosity of the New York City Council Autism Awareness Initiative.



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1.3 Million Dollar Verdict Awarded to Injured Tenant

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Arze & Mollica recently secured a \$1,310,000 verdict for a Brooklyn woman.

She was showering in her apartment when the ceiling collapsed, striking her on the head, neck, shoulders, and back. She was taken to the emergency room.

The landlord and the management company were sued for failing to keep the premises in a reasonably safe condition, and for failing to make adequate and necessary repairs in a timely manner. Following the accident, the building superintendent cleaned approximately 80 to 100 pounds of ceiling and debris off the bathroom floor. Complaints had been made over the course of a year, and the landlord did make several attempts to fix a leak. However, the ceiling's collapse meant it was not repaired properly.

As a result, the woman was awarded money for lost wages from work, and for her pain and suffering.

Yes, injuries are painful — but the legal process doesn't have to be. When Arze and Mollica LLP is on your side, it



Gerald Arze and Raymond Mollica are personally involved in every case they take on. Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

won't be.

Attorney Gerald G. Arze of the firm says when it comes to any time of accident — be it auto or something else — it is imperative that people speak to a knowledgeable attorney soon after the accident has taken place. This is because there are time restrictions involved in the filing of paperwork. No one should hesitate to call Arze and Mollica LLP because it doesn't cost anything to talk with them. Arze

and Mollica LLP does not get compensated for its time unless it wins the case.

Mr. Arze also stresses the importance of hiring the right lawyer — one who has a dedicated practice to helping people who are injured in accidents.

"This will ensure the attorney is up-to-date on all the changes in law that occur year to year in the realm of automobile accident and No Fault law."

The office represents many

people who have been injured at work, due to the negligence of a third party as well.

"This permits the person to not only have a Workers Compensation case, but to also have a lawsuit against the negligent party," says Mr. Arze. Such a scenario takes important investigative work on the part of the law office. "It includes searching building permits and work applications which identify various entities hired to perform work at a work site," he says.

"Premises liability" refers to those who are injured while inside a building or while in front of one due to the negligence of a property owner or manager. Collecting cellphone photos, and the names and phone numbers of witnesses, is extremely important to preserve your ability to bring a case if you have been injured, he says.

"Our office is dedicated to protecting the injured against the negligent acts of persons, corporations, businesses, and municipal entities."

Some of the company's many success stories can be read on its website. To best serve clients, the office does not take on more

than it can handle. This assures that Mr. Arze and Mr. Mollica are personally involved in every case. Clients are kept aware of the case progress, too, and calls are returned promptly.

Both attorneys worked for high-profile law firms before deciding to open Arze and Mollica LLP in 2007. Mr. Arze is an active participant in the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the Brooklyn Bar Association. He is fluent in Spanish and English.

Mr. Mollica is a member of the Columbian Lawyers Association, Brooklyn Bar Association, and the New York Trial Lawyers Association.

Arze and Mollica LLP has marked a milestone 10 years in the business, and has moved to larger office space, conveniently located close to the D and N trains.

Arze and Mollica LLP [35 Avenue U between W. 12th and 86th streets in Gravesend, (718) 996-5600, www.ArzeMollicaLaw.com]. Open Mondays - Fridays, 9 am - 6 pm. (39 Broadway, Suite 950, between Morris Street and Exchange Alley in the Financial District). By appointment only.

Harlem group raises \$1 million at annual gala

By Alexandra Simon

A Harlem-based youth organization raised more than \$1 million at an honorary gala in Midtown on May 12. Many recognizable actors and artists were in attendance at The Brotherhood / Sisterhood Sol 13th annual gala, including actor Jeffrey Wright and Carrie Mae Weems, who were awarded at the event for supporting the organization's mission and raising the money, said the group's executive director.

"The Brotherhood / Sister Sol is an organization that is dedicated to helping young people understand the political realities of our age and to helping them become social change makers," said Khary Lazarre-White. "We believe this work is done via education, organizing and the arts — and we are so pleased to have honored two artists whose work and life missions are so intertwined with social."

With the funds the company will use that towards investing in various types programming geared for more than 1,000 city youngsters, he said.

And they will have a bigger home in the near future as the organization plans to start construction on a space in November, according to Lazarre-White. The spanking new location will be able to accommodate the much needed space to begin more opportunities for children and employees with training facilities, technology hub, and an event space.

"This development allows for the creation of the necessary physical site for an organization that is being modeled across the country. This new building will allow us to build an expanded state of the art site for our children," he said. "This is solely a home for the development of The Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sol — a space to work to change policies that will more broadly and systemically help these children, and a building to train the field so that others can improve their youth development outcomes. We are excited and proud to announce this vitally important step."

The Brotherhood / Sisterhood Sol is a nationally-known organization founded in 1995 as a social justice group focused on providing opportunities to children facing inequality. They offer year-round after school programs and training to empower and prepare young adults for careers.

Lazarre-White said that giving children the chances will best put them on the right path into becoming champions for social advancement.

Battle of the rum mixologists



With competition judges, the Rum Rumble finalists—Sylvanus Johnson and Dani DeLuna hold bottle of Seven Fathoms rum, used as the base for the cocktail. Photo by Tequila Minsky

By Tequila Minsky

It's the second year in a row when mixologist Vincentian Sylvanus Johnson will compete in the June finals of Caribbean Week New York's Mixologist of the Year.

A battle of six mixologists took place at Roof at Park South Hotel on May 15, the first round in the competition. Using Seven Fathoms, other rums and additional ingredients (some secret), they used their spirits' artistry to create unique, flavorful and hopefully winning cocktails.

The score tied between the top two. The other finalist Dani DeLuna will compete with Johnson at Caribbean Week's Rum Rumble on Thursday June 8.

At the bar, three judges focused on the mixologists listening intently to the narratives as they went into action one at a time, concocting their cocktails.

Judging criteria included the stories behind the drinks as well as the tastes.

Last year Sylvanus Johnson won at the semi-finals and finished second overall.

Sylvanus Johnson was born in St. Vincent and The Grenadines, hailing from the town of Biabou and immigrated when he was six. He grew up in Brooklyn and has lived in New York for 22 years.

What's his connection to rum? "I have a love for rum above all other spirits," he said. "I also enjoy the flavors of the burnt sugar cane that give rum notes of vanilla, nuts, pineapple, and spice," he added with a knowledge-

able flourish.

Bartending for nine years, how did he get into bartending? He was "mentored by a family friend who got me a bar back job when I was nineteen," he said. "I tried to learn as much as I could about spirits, bartending, and food from the people I worked with and became a bartender."

He rattled off a list of bars he tended. You can find him at Westlight in the William Vale Hotel in Wil-



Sylvanus Johnson's mango dipped in chili piquin — a pepper, sugar and salt mixture (tangy but not hot) is the final flourish for this savory rum cocktail. Photo by Tequila Minsky

liamsburg and upstate in Hudson, NY at Backbar.

What goes into the winning drink — he calls Darow, named for his grandmother — that made him a finalist?

This savory cocktail featured Matusalem and Seven Fathoms rums, green mango puree with cholula hot sauce, salt, and pepper with charred green bell pepper and lemon juice, in a labor intensive invention.

"The flavors are seasonal and Caribbean, inspired by memories I have of eating green mangos with chili sauce, lemon and salt," he said.

He served it over crushed ice with a flamed bell pepper rosette and mango dipped in chili piquin — a pepper, sugar, salt mixture (it was tangy but not hot).

The other finalist DeLuna's cocktail was named Mark V — a large-format Barrel based on how they drink Planter's Punch in the Cayman Islands!

Organized by the CTO, Caribbean Week (which starts June 4) New York is the largest, most engaging regional tourism activity in the city. Events take place at Wyndham New Yorker Hotel except for the sixth annual Rum & Rhythm Benefit, June 9, at Capitale, which raises monies to go to scholarships and study grants to Caribbean students pursuing studies in tourism and hospitality and related subjects.

Caribbean Week showcases the sights, sounds, colors, culture and unique holiday experiences of the Caribbean and during the week attracts tourism officials, artists, investors and other strategic partners.

Inequality can kill you, death can be unequal

“The Broken Ladder: How Inequality Affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die” by Keith Payne
c.2017, Viking
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada
246 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

He got more.

There was a time in your life when just noticing that was reason to throw a tantrum. It was enough to make any adult near you want to run away. But now that you're all grown up, “He got more” means more — and in the new book “The Broken Ladder” by Keith Payne, you'll see how it might affect your life.

Airplane kerfuffles are hardly news these days, but Keith Payne sees them differently: they are, he says, linked to status hierarchy. First-Class has wider, plusher seats while coach fliers must cram themselves into tiny cushions and share an armrest. Whether they know it or not, that causes envy; in fact, air rage increases, say research-



Author Keith Payne. TK

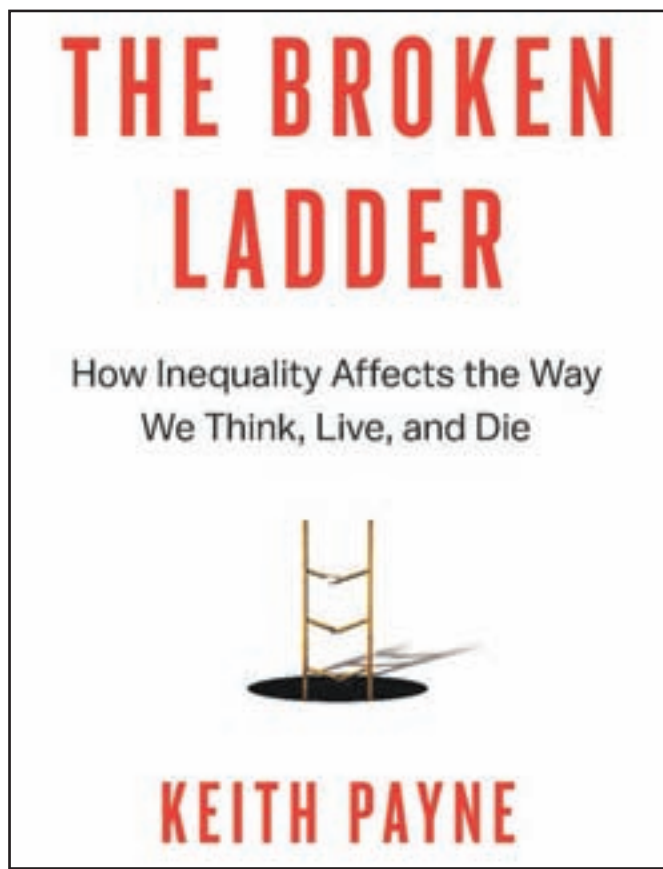
ers, when people are forced to see this inequality. Add a delayed or canceled flight, and things escalate to violence.

The thing is that flights aren't cheap. Just the fact that someone is on a plane says a lot about their income but when people perceive inequality, they “feel poor and act poor, even when they're not.” Even so, it's true that the rich do get richer, while the poorest people have treaded financial water for about the last half-century.

Payne imagines a ladder as a metaphor for inequality. The higher the rung an individual reaches, the better their status and income, health, safety, and future. Racial inequality — which is “qualitatively different,” no matter how big a person's paycheck is — affects one's position on the ladder. So does geography, and education, or lack thereof. The lower the rung, the less the person has, monetarily and otherwise.

The good thing is that each person's situation may change within parameters, and can be relative to that of others: the Haves, in other words, think they have not... until they see that the Have Nots have less. That changes perceptions and may, at least temporarily, lead to a more satisfied life. Even so, in the incessant effort to get ahead, an individual's needs (or imagined needs) can cause risk-taking, and the accompanying adrenaline rush affects body organs negatively.

Simply put: inequality can



Book cover of “The Broken Ladder” by Keith Payne.

kill you. And if you're on a lower rung of that imaginary ladder, even your death will be unequal.

Oh, my, but the first three-fifths of “The Broken Ladder” is

an eye-opener. In those pages, author Keith Payne sets readers up with a plethora of statistics to support what he's about to lay down; specifically, that inequality is worse than we think it is.

Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. PLAY. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit. Snack. Meeting. Sit.

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Pollen, mold, dust, and animal dander are some of the more common triggers of allergic rhinitis.

Hay fever triggers

Some common causes of seasonal allergies

Allergy triggers are all around, and the rates of those people affected by various allergies seems to be growing. Worldwide, the rise in prevalence of allergic diseases has continued in the industrialized world for more than 50 years, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. Sensitization to foreign proteins in one's environment is present in up to 40 percent of the world's population, continues the Academy.

An allergy is defined as an overreaction of the human immune system to a foreign protein (allergen) that is eaten, inhaled, touched, or injected into the body. Allergies can cause such reactions as stuffy or runny noses, itchy eyes, coughing and sneezing, rashes, and hives. More severe reactions can include difficulty breathing, a lowering of blood pressure, and asthma attacks.

Millions of visits to physician offices result in a primary diagnosis of allergic rhinitis, or hay fever — one of the most common allergy manifestations. The Centers for Disease Control says 17.6 million Americans were diagnosed with hay fever in the

past 12 months. Allergic rhinitis is a common condition that creates symptoms similar to a cold. Unlike a cold, which is caused by a virus, allergic rhinitis is an allergic response to any number of triggers. Usually hay fever can be brought on by any number of allergens and sometimes it can be difficult to narrow down the exact cause. However, here are some of the more common allergens:

Pollen

Of all things that can cause an allergy, those resulting from pollen tend to be the most prolific. Pollen can be released from trees, grasses, weeds, and flowers throughout much of the year. While the main goal of pollen is to fertilize other plants, pollen that is inhaled can cause allergic reactions. It's one of the more difficult allergens to avoid since pollen is virtually everywhere.

Dust

Dust is an accumulation of microscopic particles that become trapped in a home. A large portion of dust is comprised of dust mites. WebMD says about 20 million Americans are allergic to dust mites and their waste. Dust mites

feed on skin from pets and humans. They tend to spike in numbers during warmer weather or if indoor temperatures are kept at 75 F or higher. Cleaning using a HEPA filter vacuum can keep dust at a minimum. Air purifiers also may be able to help.

Animal dander

Millions of pet owners have an allergy to their animals, says the Academy. It's not the fur of the animal that causes the trouble, but usually proteins found in a pet's shed skin, saliva, and urine that can cause problems. Keep in mind that there are no truly hypoallergenic breeds, and length of hair or fur will not eliminate allergies. An allergist may be able to suggest a course of treatment.

Mold

Tiny fungi with spores that float through the air, mold is yet another common allergen. The most common allergy-causing molds include *Alternaria*, *Aspergillus*, *Cladosporium*, and *Penicillium*. Preventing the environment needed for mold to grow can reduce allergic reactions. This primarily means airing out homes to keep them dry.

Natural ways to beat seasonal allergies

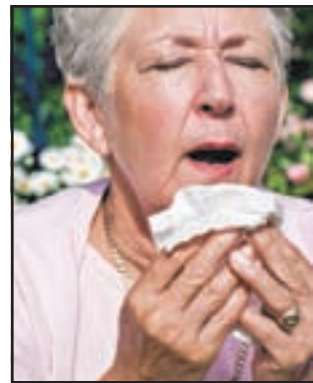
The season of allergy-induced sniffles and other complications is right around the corner. If you are one of the millions of people affected by seasonal allergies that lead to nasal swelling, sneezing, watery eyes, and a scratchy throat, you may not be eagerly anticipating the warmer weather as much as others.

Allergy research is ongoing, and in the future doctors may be able to prevent allergic reactions from occurring rather than treating the symptoms that ensue. Until then, you will have to work with the remedies that currently exist. These remedies include antihistamines, which can cause dangerous interactions with other medications and may cause drowsiness. These side effects can be dangerous for use in seniors. Consider these other options instead:

Drink plenty of fluids. Although liquids can't wash the allergens out of your system, water, juice and clear broths can help loosen congestion. Hot liquids can soothe inflamed membranes in the nose and throat.

Avoid allergens as much as possible. Check weather reports for the levels of particulates in the air and stay indoors if they are high. Keep away from tall grasses and places with a lot of foliage.

Use the air conditioning. Rather than keeping the windows wide open, use an air conditioner and dehumidifier to filter the air coming inside



If you are one of the millions of people affected by seasonal allergies that lead to nasal swelling, sneezing, watery eyes, and a scratchy throat, you may not be eagerly anticipating the warmer weather as much as others.

of the house and ensuring it is cool and dry.

Head to the beach. If you want to spend time outdoors, areas by the ocean will have pollen counts that are much lower than in mountainous areas.

Dry clothes indoors. Line-dried clothes may smell fresh, but they can bring molds and pollens indoors and exacerbate allergies.

Shower frequently. After being outdoors, take a shower to rinse off any allergens clinging to hair and skin.

Check with a doctor. Before mixing allergy medications with any prescriptions you are taking, ensure that they are safe to mix. If your doctor is unavailable, consult with a pharmacist about drug interactions.

Alleviate ear problems

Ear problems come and go, and some may be the result of seasonal allergies or the accumulation of wax or water inside the ear canal.

Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, says the eustachian tube is a narrow tube that connects the middle ear to the back of the nose. Normally, this tube opens with every swallow or yawn to act as a pressure-equalizing valve for the middle ear. It also serves to drain the mucus produced by the lining of the middle ear. At times, the tube can get blocked, caus-

ing a negative pressure that draws the eardrum inward. When this occurs, dull or muffled hearing is sometimes evident, and individuals may feel pain and pressure.

Colds, sinus trouble, allergies, and other ailments can contribute to eustachian tube dysfunction. The pressure change within the ear as well as a buildup of mucus can lead to trouble and a visit to a doctor. In many cases, eustachian tubes will become clear again on their own. However, some doctors will prescribe a decongestant nasal spray to help the process along.



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FOCUS ON *Health*

New health center offers free seminars

METROPLUS

MetroPlus Health Plan has announced today a partnership with Maimonides Health Center in providing free health seminars at the new MetroPlus Community Office in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

“We are delighted to join with Maimonides—as well as our other partners, Asian Americans for Equality and idNYC—at this beautiful new space in the vibrant neighborhood of Sunset Park,” said Seth Diamond, Chief Operating Officer of MetroPlus Health Plan. “Maimonides Health Center is a vital part of this community, so to partner with them in offering these services is a great opportunity to further serve the residents of Sunset Park.”

Asian Outreach Director Janice Yang, of Maimonides Medical Center, said, “Maimonides is glad to see MetroPlus Health Plan open an office in the Sunset Park area. We are looking forward to serving this community together. By partnering in this health seminars initiative, we hope to bring needed health information to our community in

the language they understand.”

SUNSET PARK SEMINAR SCHEDULE

All seminars 9:30–10:30 AM

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•**Monday, July 3:** Xixi Amley: Healthy Heart

•**Monday, Aug. 7:** Dr. Po Cheng Chu: Abdominal Discomfort

•**Thursday, Sept. 21,** Dr. Lan Mo: Cancer Screenings & Prevention

•**Monday, Oct. 2:** Dr. Jason Wong: Hip and Knee Arthritis: Diagnosis and Treatment

•**Monday, Nov. 6:** Dr. Yanli Liang: Effective Parenting Skills

•**Monday, Dec. 4:** Dr. Liwen Ye: Insomnia.

All seminars (conducted in English and Chinese) will be held at the new MetroPlus Health Plan Sunset Park office, 807 48th Street, Second floor, Brooklyn, New York.

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TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

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

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

Daydreaming

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

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

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

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

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

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

Reading

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

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Playwright James Ijames.
Kim Carson Photography

Play on injustice

By Alexandra Simon

The painful tale we all know.

A new thought-provoking play documenting the horrors of police brutality and vigilantism is debuting at the National Black Theatre starting on May 31. “Kill Move Paradise” is a story that follows four men who meet the fate of extra-judicial or vigilante violence, mirroring major headlines following the deaths of black men. The play is a timely reminder of what is continually happening and sheds light on the aftermath,

Continued on Page 34

Trini filmmaker debut at Cannes

By Alexandra Simon

Au-revoir, he is France-bound!

Trinidadian actor and filmmaker Paul Pryce is heading to the 70th Annual Cannes Film Festival in France this weekend. His debut short film “Come Out, Come Out,” will have its world premiere at the festival’s short film corner — a non-competitive film screening at the event. The actor said he was thrilled to learn his film got into the prestigious affair and it somewhat solidified his drive to create as a black filmmaker.

“It’s really gratifying to experience especially because I’m an actor by trade but I really believe in making my own work as an artist of color in this industry — it’s really important that you find avenues for yourself,” he said.

“I’m very excited to see something that I made from scratch go into the

Continued on Page 34



Long legs: A stilt-walker in costume at last year’s Bankra Caribbean Folk Festival in Jamaica, Queens.

Bankra Caribbean Folk Festival

Carib folk fest returns with cultural characters

By Alexandra Simon

The cultural creatures are reawakening.

The third annual Bankra Caribbean Folk Festival returns to Queens on June 3 for a celebratory homage to the folk history of the region. Next month the rapidly growing event will feature something new for guests and will introduce puppet-sculptures of the mythical Caribbean characters to life with a display of them, said the festival organizer.

“We are expanding the popularity

of festival with an effigy park — it’s going to be a large scale puppet display and people will readily identify all the mythical folk characters they grew up hearing about,” said Andrew Clarke.

Colorful sculptures of folkloric creatures such as Trinidadian “djab-djab,” will be at the festival for viewing, and Clarke said it will be an educational experience for festival-goers on the origins of said characters, which he hopes will reconnect them to their roots.

“The showcase will have puppets with a bit of background information about and which island it came from,” he said. “What we want to show is how similar and connected we are as a people. We are from different islands but we grew up hearing about the same characters just different names.”

The festival is one of the rare times that folkloric parts of Caribbean culture are acknowledged on a larger scale and not as a minor aspect of it,

Continued on Page 34

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **That's What I Like**
Bruno Mars
- 2 **Shape Of You**
Ed Sheeran
- 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 **Scars To Your Beautiful**
Alessia Cara
- 8 **Issues**
Julia Michaels
- 9 **Body Like A Rock Road**
Sam Hunt
- 10 **Cold**
Maroon 5 x Future

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Everybody**
Logic
- 2 **From A Room: Volume 1**
Chris Stapleton
- 3 **Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.2**
Soundtrack
- 4 **DAMN.**
Kendrick Lamar
- 5 **Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.1**
Soundtrack
- 6 **Graveyard Shift**
Motionless in White
- 7 **Turn Up The Quiet**
Diana Krall
- 8 **There's Really A Wolf**
Russ
- 9 **Cover Stories: Brandi Carlile**
Various Artists
- 10 **NOW 62**
Various Artists

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PUPPETS GALORE

Continued from Page 33

said Clarke. And in this multi-cultural affair, there is an opportunity for every country to share that.

"Whenever folk singers perform we are always the warm-up act or on the small stage — never is folk given main stage to showcase at its highest level," said Clarke.

"That's the reason we give folk artists this platform and we bring all islands to represent to show how diverse Caribbean culture is. We try to showcase length and breadth of that by incorporating a lot of different islands."

He also said even though the ongoing festival was in the third year, it has been around longer and with the expansion

to a street festival, Clarke says he looks forward to the newcomers it will attract and the continued growth of it.

The folk festival celebrates Caribbean folk culture in its finest form and now we are going to be a street festival.

"The folk festival celebrates Caribbean folk culture in its finest form and now we are going to be a street festival," he said. "We know the attendance will be such a diverse array of folks and we'll get them just off of Jamaica Avenue — they'll hear the music and find out about the Bankra Caribbean folk festival."



Belizean folklore takes center stage at the annual Bankra Caribbean Folk Festival, which returns to Queens on June 3. This year the festival will debut an effigy park to educate guests of traditional and folkloric characters in the Caribbean. *Jordan Burgess*

Vicitms

Continued from Page 33

said the playwright.

"I felt that I wanted to write something about what's going on because I also noticed when young men are killed, the media automatically is trying to find out if he was a good kid or a bad kid — they're not allowed to be people," said James W. Ijames. "But even if they are bad that doesn't warrant them being killed. It's an incredible imbalance and I wanted to create space where they're elevated and get to be their pure selves."

There are four main characters in the play — Daz, Isa, Grif, and Tiny — all ranging in age and all finding themselves as victims, and in the same alternate place. Their names are not explicitly Trayvon Martin or Mike Brown — two black teenagers killed by vigilantism and police — but are constructed on multiple victims, he added.

"The characters are not based on specific instances but are kind of composites of a lot of different ones," said Ijames.

All the characters die but come to know each other in an afterlife-like world where they learn what happened to them, said Ijames.

"They don't know each other — they only know each other in this afterworld but they eventually come to realization on how they got there," he said.

Ijames said along with the



Actor Donnell Smith will play the character Grif in the play. He is one of four characters in the story that meets a fate.

Maria J. Hackett

play looking into the outcome of who each man was before death, it was a very personal play for him that hit close to home

"It could be me — I have two nephews, uncles, and it could be any of them," said Ijames. "I felt like my experience with law enforcement thankfully hasn't violent, but they have existed, and it's part of being and growing up in America as a black man and knowing it can happen."

During the 65-minute play the names of several victims will be called to paying honor to their lives cut short, said Ijames.

But most importantly Ijames says he uses his craft as a writer to elicit varying emotions from his viewers. Even though the subject matter at hand initially seems dark, he uses some laughter to help ease the story.

Trinidadian filmmaker

Continued from Page 33

world — it really reaffirms my desire to tell my own stories as a producer and writer, and to have more agency in my creative process."

The 12-minute film "Come Out, Come Out" is a short thriller that follows a mother being stalked by her estranged husband. Pryce said that although this was his debut film, it was actually a decade-old project that he recently revisited last year. Writing the screenplay was a test of his creativity, and he aimed to keep viewers at the edge of their seats in his electrifying story, he said.

"I thought it was exciting to challenge myself to something that is self-contained with two characters in one location, and viscerally center what would happen if someone is trapped in a bathroom and the only thing separating them is a door?," said Pryce. "It is actually pretty terrifying movie and it came out of wanting to venture and foray into writing."

And with such a big platform to show his artistic creation at one of the biggest film festivals in the world, now thousands will get to see his work on screen for the first time. He is unsure how people will receive the film but wants it stay on the mind of viewers.

"I just want someone to have a real emotional experi-



Trinidadian-born actor and screenwriter Paul Pryce's debut short film, "Come Out, Come Out," will have its world premiere at Cannes Film Festival.

Dirty Sugar Photography

ence watching it that it leaves some feeling like the molecules in their body was rearranged," said Pryce. "I want them feeling, 'Wow, what did I see — this film has me thinking about certain things.'"

Pryce leaves for France on Saturday to attend the festival and debut his film for the first time. And with a potential opportunity for movie buzz and connections with other creatives, he said he looked forward to a rewarding outcome.

"Maybe we may expand the film into a feature-length movie — that is very much on the cards," he said. "But we're also looking at it as a calling card or door opener for other productions and collaborations."

Prince charming courts sickly next-door neighbor

“Everything, Everything”
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for mature themes and brief sensuality
Running time: 96 minutes
Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

By Kam Williams

It's Maddy Whittier's (Amanda Stenberg) 18th birthday, but she won't be celebrating the occasion at a party or restaurant. In fact, she won't be leaving the house or even having friends over anytime soon.

That's because she has SCID, a rare genetic disorder that basically makes her allergic to everything.

Consequently, she's been stuck inside a hermetically-sealed house since being diagnosed with the disease at the age of 3, shortly after her father and brother's untimely deaths in a terrible car crash.

Lucky for Maddy, her mom, Pauline (Anika Noni Rose), is a physician who could afford



Amanda Stenberg and Nick Robinson in “Everything, Everything” (2017). www.imdb.com

to raise her in a luxurious, if sterile, environment free of the germs that could compromise her immune system in an instant. Although Maddy grew up curious about the outside world, she's gotten used to

exploring it over the internet with the help of online courses and a support group for kids with her sickness.

Then, Maddy receives the best birthday gift she could ever imagine when new neighbors move in

right next-door. For, one member of the family, Olly (Nick Robinson), is a boy about her own age. And all it takes is a glance through the glass window for the handsome hunk to fall head-over-heels in love with her.

The ardent admirer uses sign language to ask Maddy for her phone number, before typing “UR beautiful” in his very first text. Olly's zeal only increases upon learning about her crippling affliction, and he asks if there's any way he could be decontaminated to come over for a visit.

But that's against doctor's orders, especially mom's, which forces the lovebirds to admire each other from afar. Hormones raging, Maddy is suddenly discontent with her sheltered existence in an antiseptic gilded cage.

Will she recklessly abandon the protective bubble to rush into the arms of a perfect prince charming she barely knows? That is the burning question at the heart of *Everything, Everything*, a bittersweet, bildungsroman based on the young adult novel by Nicola Yoon. The picture was directed by Stella Meghie who successfully adapted the book into a syrupy soap opera certain to satisfy fans of the source material.

A tender enough tearjerker to dehydrate even this crabby curmudgeon!

Independent & Foreign Films

96 Souls (Unrated) Sci-fi thriller about a research scientist who, after a lab accident, discovers he's able to read people's minds. With Sid Veda, Paul Statman and Toyin Moses.

Black Butterfly (R for profanity) Suspense thriller revolving around a reclusive writer (Antonio Banderas) who, against his better judgment, invites a shady drifter (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) to crash in his cabin during a serial killer's reign of terror around the mountainous region. Supporting cast includes Piper Perabo, Abel Ferrara and Nicholas Aaron.

Buena Vista Social Club: Adios (PG for mature themes, brief suggestive material and pervasive smoking) Concert documentary and sequel to the 2000 Oscar-nominee follows the final tour of the five surviving members of the band as they reflect on their careers and their contributions to Cuba's musical culture. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

Cruel and Unusual (Unrated) Miscarriage of justice documentary chronicling the 42 years straight spent in solitary confinement by Robert King, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, Black Panthers targeted and convicted of murder without a shred of evidence besides the testimony of bribed and



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

blind witnesses.

Drone (Unrated) Revenge thriller about an American drone pilot (Sean Bean) conducting covert bombing missions from the comfort of his hometown who suddenly finds himself accused of killing the innocent family of a grieving Pakistani businessman. (Patrick Sabongui). With Mary McCormack, Joel David Moore and Sharon Taylor.

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

Restless Creature: Wendy Whelan (Unrated) Prestige profile following the prima ballerina as she prepares to perform a modern dance piece while contemplating the end of her three-decade career with the New York City Ballet.

The Women's Balcony (Unrated) Tale of female empowerment, set in Jerusalem, revolving around the women members of an Orthodox congregation's attempt to derail their new rabbi's



Piper Perabo and Antonio Banderas in “Black Butterfly” (2017).

www.imdb.com

(Avraham Aviv Alush) plan to implement traditional gender roles at the synagogue. With Oma Banai, Yafit Asulin and Sharon Elimelech. (In Hebrew with subtitles)

Big Budget Films

Baywatch (R for crude humor, graphic sexuality, frontal nudity and pervasive profanity) Screen adaptation of the long-running TV series (1989-2001) as an unlikely-buddies action comedy about a veteran lifeguard (Dwayne Johnson) and a rebellious recruit (Zac Efron) forced to put aside their differences to take on a

drug ring ruining the area. With Priyanka Chopra, Alexandra Daddario and Kelly Rohrbach, and featuring cameos by original cast members David Hasselhoff and Pamela Anderson.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (PG-13 for violence and suggestive content) Johnny Depp is back as Captain Jack Sparrow for a swashbuckling adventure which finds the Black Pearl pursued by a ghost ship with a zombie crew under the command of an old nemesis (Javier Bardem). With Orlando Bloom, Geoffrey Rush and Kaya Scodelario.

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West Indies' Curtly Ambrose
Associated Press / Tom Hevezi

Sir Curtly: Aim for the top

By Azad Ali

Legendary former fast bowler, Sir Curtly Ambrose is advising the West Indies team to put aside the disappointment of missing out on next month's ICC Champion Trophy and concentrate on returning to the top of the world.

The tournament, referred to as the mini World Cup, features the cricket world's top eight teams, with West Indies missing out on the June 1-18 showpiece in England due to their lowly number nine ranking.

"It's really a shame. It is sad. I never

Continued on Page 38

Windies captain defends his bowler

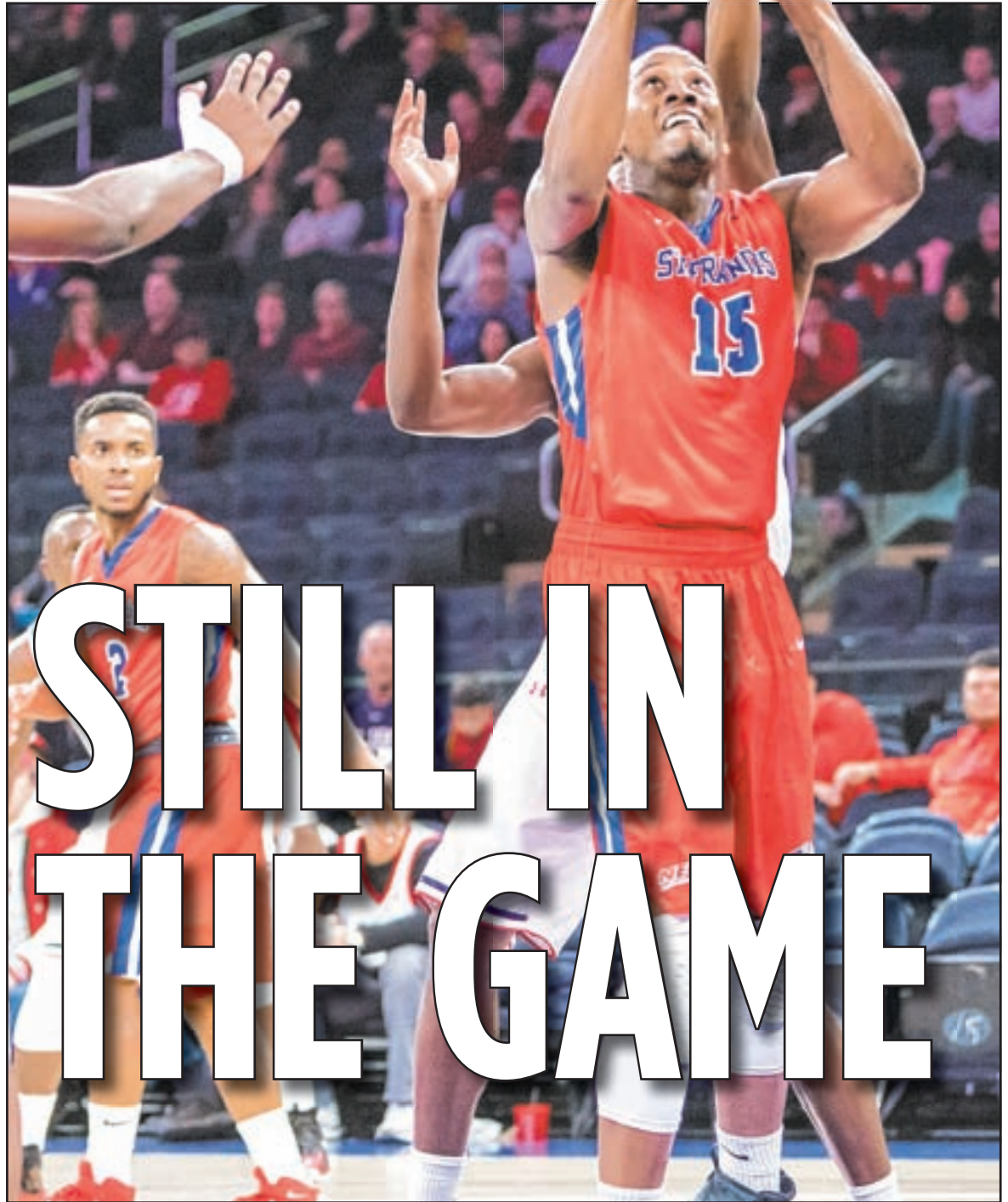
By Azad Ali

West Indies captain Jason Holder has defended fast bowler Shannon Gabriel's reckless batting in the penultimate over which resulted in a series defeat to Pakistan on the final day of the decisive Third Test in Dominica last week.

With West Indies battling to save the match late in the evening, Gabriel batting at number 11 survived for about half an hour at the crease in a last wicket stand with century-maker Roston Chase, to frustrate Pakistan.

But with one ball left to negotiate the penultimate over of the day Gabriel lost his cool, and probably attempted to hit leg-spinner Yasir Shah out of the ground, was bowled for four to give Pakistan a 101-run defeat and a 2-1 loss in the three-match series.

Continued on Page 38



STILL IN THE GAME

Down-low determination: Former St. Francis standout Chris Hooper excelled on the English hoops circuit this year, regularly leading his team in scoring.
St. Francis College

Former St. Francis star makes impact in England

By Laura Amato

Across the pond, his game got even better.

St. Francis College grad Chris Hooper took the international game by storm last season, competing for the Reading Rockets of the English Basketball League. He was several

thousand miles away from home, but the former Terriers standout hardly missed a step. After all, it was still basketball, and he is always been pretty good at that.

"I was prepared for it and I had the whole offseason after I finished at St. Francis last year," Hooper said.

"Then I had three months before I even went out to England, so I was pretty much ready when I got there. I wasn't really surprised by anything."

Hooper hit his stride in the very first game — notching a team-best 22 points in the season opener — but

Continued on Page 38

Continued from page 37

thought the time would come when we, as a West Indies team, would miss a Champion Trophy,” Sir Curtly told the Royal Gazette in Bermuda.

“It’s not a nice feeling at all, but that’s the way it is. We are not playing as well as we can so it’s up to us as a nation, and the cricketers themselves, to bring back this tradition we have to get West Indies cricket near the top,” he said.

The team was good enough to win the tournament back in 2004 in England, when it beat the host in a dramatic final at the Oval.

However, their fortunes have since declined steadily and they now also face the prospect of failing to qualify automatically for a chance at the remaining two spots.

Sir Curtly, who took 405 wickets from 98 Tests and 225 scalps from 176 ODIs, was up until last year served as a bowling consultant to the West Indies.

The West Indies team has lost five of their six ODIs, with five-match series against India and England to follow by the end of September.



Confident on the court: St. Francis grad Chris Hooper credited his experience with the Terriers for preparing him before he began his pro career in England this year. St. Francis College

STILL IN THE GAME

Continued from page 37

he didn’t find his true on-court rhythm until just before Christmas. The squad was riding a six-game win streak, and suddenly Hooper’s offense exploded. After he scored 33 points in a game just before the holiday break, he knew his role on the team had changed.

“My coach had a talk with me before I left and he told me the guy that was playing behind me had been let go,” he said. “So I went from 25, 30 minutes to 40 minutes real quick. So before I left, he just told me that there was going to be a lot of weight on my shoulders and they wanted me to pick it up even more.”

The 6-foot-6, 240-pounder didn’t

have to change much of his game before turning pro, but he did alter his mindset a bit when he picked up the extra minutes. The game was still fun for him, but now there was a business mindset that Hooper knew he needed to adopt if he wanted to stay on the roster.

“That’s when it became even more of a dedication thing,” he said. “You’ve always got to go hard because otherwise you’re going to get cut or waived.”

Hooper’s new mindset served him well down the stretch with Reading as the team continued to put him front and center on offense and defense. He spent his Christmas break working on conditioning, determined to be prepared for 40 minutes on the court, and the challenges his coaches set for him.

“I know I can get 15 and 10, but can I get 20 and 15?” Hooper said. “Things like that. Before every game [the coach would] tell me that they’d choose me over any of the other bigs in the league any day, now prove [him] right. So once he says that, I’m just ready to do that.”

Hooper is the first to point that he wasn’t totally pleased with how the season ended — Reading came up short in the playoffs — but he’s happy with a performance that won him the Eurobasket.com All-British NBL Division One League Player of the Year honor. Now, Hooper is just looking to get better.

“I’m just looking to work out and progress my jump shot,” he said. “I’m just trying to expand my skills.”

West Indies



West Indies Jason Holder bowls to New Zealand during their one day international cricket match in Hamilton, New Zealand, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014.

Associated Press / New Zealand Herald, Christine Cornege, File

Continued from page 37

Holder told reporters; “We’ve just got to give him encouragement. Up until then, he was doing an outstanding job for us in this entire series.”

He has bowled his heart out and gotten a match-winning haul in the second Test in Barbados and also bowled well in Jamaica and in Dominica.

“We make mistakes and hopefully he can learn from it and move forward,” Holder said.

The captain said prior to Gabriel’s indiscretion, Man-of-the Match Roston Chase seemed poised to pull off a remarkable draw for West Indies with an unbeaten 101.

West Indies to host India for five-match series

By Azad Ali

Embattled West Indies will be seeking to boost its qualification fortunes for the 2019 World Cup when the team meets with powerhouse India in a five-match series starting in the Caribbean next month.

The tour will run from June 23 to July 6, with just one Twenty20 International scheduled for July 9, according to the Indian Cricket Board.

West Indies currently ranked ninth

in the International Cricket Council’s one-day rankings are in danger of missing out on automatic qualification for the World Cup in England.

The regional side will open the tour against India with two One-Day Internationals at the Queen’s Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad on June 23 and 25 before heading to the Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in Antigua for the third and fourth matches on June 30 and July 2.

The final One-Day International will be played at Sabina Park, Jamaica on July 6 and the only Twenty20 three days later.

India, ranked number three in the world, is currently preparing for the Champions Trophy in England which runs from June 1-18.

West Indies will be missing from the tournament for the first time since its inception after they were ranked outside of the top eight teams in the world at the cut-off date for qualification.

Clippers wrap up season with impressive turnaround

By Matthew John

They turned it around, and took off.

Not too long ago, the Xaverian High School baseball team was struggling, managing only an under-.500 record with just a few weeks left in the season. The team knew something had to change — quickly.

Fast forward to May 17. Xaverian wrapped up the regular season with a 12–5 victory over St. Edmund, and clinched the Brooklyn-Queens title as well, capping a turnaround that has the squad practically bursting with confidence.

“We started off slow, and we just kept telling them [that] it’s not how you start,” said Xaverian coach Frank Del George. “It’s how you finish, and we finished on top. They did a great job. They pulled themselves together. We won 11 out of the last 13 games, and that put us right where we wanted to be.”

Xaverian led St. Edmund by just one run after the first



Turn of the tide: Xaverian’s Thomas Papadopoulos, left, and Jared Lerner helped the Clippers turn the year around, wrapping up the regular season on May 17 with a lopsided victory over St. Edmund. Community News Group / Matthew John

two innings, but the Clippers’ bats erupted in the third. Junior center fielder Jared Lerner and senior first baseman Xavier Vargas each hit triples, sparking a five-run rally that padded

the squad’s lead. The Eagles refused to fold, however, scoring two runs in the bottom of the third to cut the deficit to four.

That was as close as St. Edmund would get. Xaverian scored six more runs in the last four innings, while St. Edmund was only able to plate three more. The loss eliminated St. Edmund from playoff contention.

Lerner, Vargas, and junior right fielder Thomas Papadoulos combined to knock out seven hits, score a total of eight runs, and drive in another five.

“I started off a lot of rallies when I got on base,” said Lerner, who had two hits and three runs scored. “[Papadoulos] and I are the fastest two on the team, so getting on base and stealing bases is the way we have to win games.”

Xaverian’s offense stole the show, but the Clippers pitching did its job down the stretch as well. Senior starter Pedro Fortoso, and relievers Joseph



X marks the spot: Xaverian’s Xavier Vargas helped spark a dominant offensive showing as the Clippers cruised to a victory over St. Edmund on May 17. File photo by William Thomas

D’Amato, Shamus Connolly and Derek Lugewicz — all juniors — gave up eight hits, but only five runs, and kept the Eagles hitters at bay.

Xaverian won in convincing fashion, but their coach said there was still room for improvement.

“I thought we hit the ball pretty well today, but our defense was a little shoddy,” Del George said. “Our pitching was so-so — could be a lot better — but our offense was the key to the game.”

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Prove yourself with actions instead of words, Aries. Your productivity will not speak for itself, so you may need to do some self-promotion to get the word out.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your words will carry a lot of weight when you speak about a topic that is dear to your heart. Others might be inspired by your message, and you can recruit helpers.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Do not get caught up in gossip and hearsay, Gemini. That can compromise your credibility at work and among friends. Stay focused on your responsibilities.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
While you shouldn't compare yourself to others too often, once in a while it can illustrate just how far you have come. Why not compare against the person you once were?

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you know what needs to get done. Now it is just a matter of finding the time to accomplish everything. Simplify things by writing all of your tasks down.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
You may have to explain your point of view over and over again before others see your way of thinking, Virgo. Don't let this discourage you this week.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, once you are knee-deep in a project, you may not need to take frequent breaks. You're ready to plow through to the finish line and reap the rewards of hard work.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, no matter which words come out of your mouth, others are compelled to listen when you speak. Recognize the impact your words can have on others.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Explaining a proposal may require some creative thinking, Sagittarius. Make a list of all the talking points and then narrow down your options this week.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you tend to hold yourself to a very high standard because you always want to do your best the first time out of the gate. Others appreciate your dedication.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, sometimes it seems as if you have a sixth sense, especially where finding good deals are concerned. You're happy to be the shopper of the family.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, extreme focus on a subject can be a help or a hindrance. Remember to remain flexible in the next few days.

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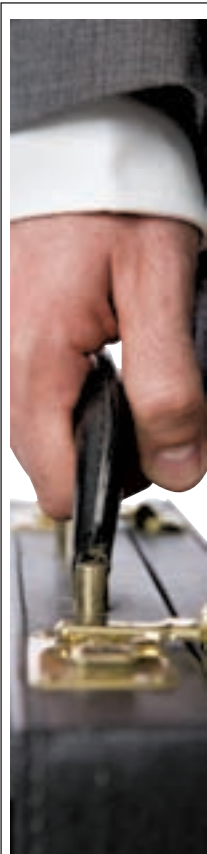
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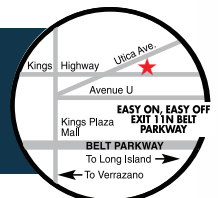
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