



Worrell says the designation will serve to remind the city of its influential Caribbean population.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

Caribbean to get its own hub in Brooklyn

By Alexandra Simon

Visiting the Caribbean is about to get a lot easier.

Local politicians will designate the city's first-ever "Little Caribbean" district on Sept. 28, officially commemorating parts of Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and Flatbush for their robust community of immigrants from the region. The recognition will ensure the fast-gentrifying neighborhoods retain their Caribbean history and identity, according

to the woman who spearheaded the naming initiative.

"Our communities are rapidly changing, especially in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, and it's very important now to put our stake in the ground and make a collective effort to preserve and protect Caribbean culture for generations to come," said Shelley Worrell, the founder of cultural advocacy group Caribbeing.

Kings County's Caribbean population is second only to

that of the region itself and formally recognizing it will increase awareness of the local community, ensuring it continues to thrive, Worrell said.

"Brooklyn has the largest and most diverse Caribbean population outside of the Caribbean," she said. "One of the goals of Little Caribbean is to increase visibility and sales for small business along the corridors, in addition to showing Caribbean communities back

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APPEAL FOR AID

Dominica requests help after Maria ravages country

By Bert Wilkinson

Dominica's embattled government Wednesday threw out a region and worldwide appeal for help after Category Five Hurricane Maria pulverized the Caribbean trade bloc nation that is wedged between the French dependencies of Guadeloupe and Martinique, killing seven people and setting the country back by millions, two years to the month when Hurricane Erica had also battered the island of 72,000.

Video footage posted by the Barbados Nation Newspaper from an overflight by a Regional Security System aircraft showed large holes in state and private buildings, debris scattered as far as the eye could see and the type of desolation normally associated with the aftermath of a major natural disaster.

As Maria took its time over Dominica on Monday night, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit appeared to sum up as situation as succinctly and as pellucid as he could saying in

one of his last social media postings that "we have lost all what money can buy. We will need help my friend. We will need all kinds of help," he said before the power went out island wide.

Dominica's French neighbors were also reporting widespread damage to property and at least two deaths. Two boaters are also believed to be missing.

With adequate time and warnings to prepare, Caribbean Community governments rushed to send aid and supplies to Dominica even as they were ironically still doing so for a number of countries which were affected by mega storm and equal opportunity destroyer Irma a mere two weeks ago.

The St. Lucia and Antigua governments asked donors to use their island as staging bases for relief supplies and promised that all paper work and duties would be waived as this is a regional emergency.

For the region, the 2017 storm season is one of the

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Trump tightens rules for visas

By Nelson A. King

In continuing its draconian immigration policies, the Donald J. Trump's administration in the United States is giving immigration and consular officials new grounds to deny entry to visitors from the Caribbean and other places or to deport them if they are already in the United States.

In a cable to American embassies around the world, United States Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson wrote that visitors who require a visa before entering the United States must then follow through on their stated plans for at least three months, according to the New York Times.

If in that period, they do something they failed to mention in an interview with a consular official — such as marry an American citizen, go to school or get a job — it will be presumed that they have deliberately lied, reported the Times on Monday.

It said that would make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to renew a visa, get a new one or change their status.

Additionally, if visitors were still in the United States, they would be eligible for deportation, the Times said.

Changes of plans that occur after three months may still be problematic but are not presumed to be the result of “willful misrepresentation,” the cable said, according to the Times.

It said that, under previous rules, a change in plans was deemed to be misrepresentation only for the first month after arrival in the United States.

“If someone comes to the U.S. as a tourist, falls in love and gets married within 90 days and then applies for a green card, this means the application would be denied,” said Diane Rish, the associate director of government relations at the American Immigration Lawyers Association. “This is a significant policy change.”

In 2016, the United States issued more than 10 million visas, helping to support a large tourism industry, the Times said.

But it said the new rule does not generally apply to citizens of 38 countries — including most of Europe and longstanding allies like Australia, New Zealand and Japan — who do not need a visa or an explicit travel, business or educational plan before coming to the United States.

Local college team wins \$1m Smart Gun Design Competition

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Monday announced the winner of his \$1 million Smart Gun Design Competition, awarding the capital grant prize to New York University Tandon School of Engineering (NYU Tandon) on behalf of its student team Autonomous Ballistics.

The team, which was selected by a judging panel, is said to have created the most promising proposal that will prevent unauthorized users from firing a gun.

Autonomous Ballistics, which is mentored by Adjunct Professor Anthony Clarke, is made up of team leader Sy Cohen, Class of 2017, with a degree in mechanical engineering; Ashwin Raj Kumar, a Ph. D candidate in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Jonathan Ng, Class of 2016, with a degree in mechanical engineering; and Eddilene Paola Cordero Pardo, an officer in the Colombian Navy and a Master's degree student majoring in technology management.

The conclusion of this competition — held in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), and the Smart Tech Challenge Foundation — featured a design expo in the Community Room of Brooklyn Borough Hall that included presentations from the five student teams that were named finalists last month.

Adams, himself a former police officer, as well as a gun owner, praised all of the competition's teams for contributing positively to the ongoing effort to end gun violence in Brooklyn.

“I am so proud of these incredibly innovative young people, who have chan-



Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams (right) announces the winner of his \$1 million Smart Gun Design Competition, awarding the capital grant prize to New York University Tandon School of Engineering (NYU Tandon).

neled our collective pain from senseless gun violence into a purposeful mission of designing technology that can save lives,” he said. “I look forward to working with NYU Tandon and their students on this proposal in the months ahead.

“Today, Brooklyn is taking a meaningful step forward for our nation and our world in advancing a future where smarter guns and safer streets are a reality,” he added.

The finalists also included Energy Environmental Simulation (EES) Lab from New York City College of Technology, Intelligent Defense Systems (IDS) from Pratt Institute, Pew Pew from New York City College of Technology, and Smartfire Technology from NYU Tandon.

Teams were invited to enter the Smart

Gun Design Competition between Sept. 1, 2016 and Jan. 1, 2017, and submitted their design by the deadline of Jun. 1, 2017, Adams said.

He said one entry was accepted per team, with school entering as many teams as they wished.

One graduate student or professor was required to be on each team with undergraduate students.

The team leader had to be affiliated with the school, but team membership was open to the public.

A committee of jurists selected the five best ideas submitted to the Smart Gun Design Competition and allocated \$10,000 grants from Adams' discretionary budget to the finalists' institutions in order to further their work.

Federal judge urges Trump to push back DACA deadline

By Nelson A. King

United States federal judge in Brooklyn on Thursday urged the Trump administration to extend its deadline for young, undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants to apply to stay in the US under a program by former President Barack Obama that Trump recently announced that he was rescinding.

Last week, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced, on Trump's behalf, that immigrants shielded from deportation by the program, which is known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, would have until Oct. 5 to reapply for protected status.

But the federal judge, Nicholas G. Garaufis, said the deadline was too soon and requested it be pushed back so that

the president and Congress have time to fix the program through legislation, according to the New York Times.

“The concern of the court is that Oct. 5 is three weeks away,” Judge Garaufis said at an hour-long hearing in Federal District Court in Brooklyn. “It would make a lot of sense from various vantage points to extend this deadline.”

DACA has protected hundreds of thousands of children and young adults who were brought illegally to the United States by their parents, noted the Times.

Judge Garaufis said the only ones who would be “harmed” by keeping the deadline in place were the young immigrants themselves.

While the judge's statement was not a court order, it was “a potent hint” of his position toward the decision to rescind

DACA, a matter that arrived in his court last week when immigration lawyers filed a federal complaint saying that ending the program was an “arbitrary, capricious” move “based upon animus toward Latinos,” according to the Times.

It said the complaint, which revived a prior lawsuit filed in support of DACA last year, was the first legal assault on the program's repeal.

A day after it was filed, a group of 16 Democratic state attorneys general submitted a similar suit opposing the rollback, which has also ended up in front of Judge Garaufis, the Times said.

At the hearing, Judge Garaufis, who was appointed by former US President Bill Clinton, said that “the ultimate outcome of this case should not be

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Caribbean

The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance (CCRIF) will pay US\$15.6 million to the governments of Antigua and Barbuda; Anguilla; and St. Kitts and Nevis for damage caused by hurricane Irma under tropical cyclone policies the islands hold with the facility.

Antigua and Barbuda will get the biggest slice of US\$6,794,875; Anguilla, US\$6,529,100 and St. Kitts and Nevis the lowest amount, US\$2,294,603.

Barbuda was devastated by the hurricane with authorities saying that 95 percent of the structures were destroyed and the island has been deemed inhabitable.



A statement from CCRIF said it is verifying the calculations for the payments and is discussing with the three governments that arrangements for making the payments will be settled within 14 days.

Bahamas

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has called on the Diaspora to consider new investment opportunities in The Bahamas, in areas ranging from tourism to aquaculture, to the maritime sector.

He said the Bahamian Diaspora is a major talent and investment pool that the Bahamas must tap into and his administration intends to help create a global network of Bahamians to help boost national development and to create a 21st century Bahamas.

Dr. Minnis is calling on Bahamians overseas and friends of The Bahamas to consider new investment opportunities in The Bahamas. The prime minister said his administration is also giving consideration to the establishment of an overseas council of the Bahamian Diaspora that will utilize social media and a dedicated website to help produce a database and platform for communication with Bahamians overseas.



He said such a council could also promote investment and job opportunities for Bahamians wishing to return to and / or work in The Bahamas.

Dominica

The Dominica government has agreed to pay public servants two months' salary as a one-off payment for arrears following the successful conclusion of an agreement with the Dominica Public Service Union (DPSU).

DPSU Thomas Letang said the col-



PAHO to restore health clinics

The Hanna Thomas Hospital in Antigua damaged by Hurricane Irma. See story on Page 20.

Pan American Health Organisation

lective agreement has already been signed and "what we have before us is a salary freeze for the period 2015-2016."

He said public officers will not be getting a salary increase for 2015 - to 2016.



A one-off payment is equivalent to one month salary commuted on the last salary received by the officer who retired in 2015-2016 and that is for retired officers who retired in 2015 and 2016.

Letang said public officers will also receive a three percent salary increase for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Additionally, an agreement was reached on several other areas, he said including an EC\$20,000 grant towards training public officers, an EC\$80,000 grant towards the union's revolving fund and a grant of EC\$236,000 towards the union's medical and health insurance.

Guyana

Guyana has intensified measles surveillance near the border with Venezuela. Nationals of the neighboring South American country are seeking medical treatment for malaria following reports that more than 360 Venezuelans who had crossed the border in recent weeks were seeking medical help for malaria.

State Minister Joseph Harmon said

the government was first made aware of the situation from health personnel in the Region One and a decision was made to continue offering assistance to its neighbors.

According to Harmon, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has advised of increased cases of measles in Venezuela.

As a result, he said Guyana had decided to step up measles surveillance and "adopt a high level of vaccination."

The minister said Venezuelans are asked to adhere to the protocol at the point of entry where they are required to provide identification along with the reason for the visit.



Harmon said the Venezuelans should only stay in Guyana for the time offered.

Venezuelans are currently given special permission to enter Guyana for a limited period to seek medical attention.

Venezuela is in the midst of a political and economic crisis that has caused many of them to flee the country.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government has signed a US\$20 million (J\$2.56 billion) agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank, which will provide

funds to Micro Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) through the Development Bank of the Jamaica (DBJ).

According to a news release from the Finance Ministry, Finance Minister Audley Shaw has reiterated the government's commitment to providing access to financing to MSMEs to be able to build their capacity.

The minister said micro entrepreneurs are a significant sector that commercial banks have often overlooked, and that is why the Credit Enhancement Fund (CEF) is critical, as it provides an opportunity for MSMEs to be able to build their capacity, expand their business ventures and in so doing, create more jobs.

"If we are ever to achieve the 'five' in 'four' plan, or be able to sustain economic growth, we must provide a business environment in which the MSME sector can grow," Shaw said in the release.



The CEF will provide a partial guarantee per individual MSME loan in the amount not exceeding US\$385,000; it is also expected to provide coverage of up to 90 percent of the individual loan for up to 10 years, the release added.

Jamaica continues to benefit from the over 45-year long relationship

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Urgent appeal for disaster relief

Continued from Page 1

worst on record with so many member nations in a state of disrepair from Irma, Maria and possibly Lee which forecasters are tracking. Up to midweek it was way out in the Atlantic.

In New York for the annual UN General Assembly meetings and reflecting on a miserable storm season, Guyanese President David Granger mused that the time had perhaps come for regional leaders to see how Guyana, with its vast landscape and resources, could be of help to islands battered each year by hurricanes.

“We have to sit down and speak to other CARICOM states to see how this gift (of land) could be utilized to give the Caribbean people a better life in the wake of these disasters. In my lifetime, I have never seen such a catastrophic series of hurricane,” he told reporters. Granger is 73.

As private citizens and private sector groups mobilized relief aid especially to Dominica, Maria was pounding nearby Puerto Rico which had last experienced a similarly categorized storm back in 1928 and was also headed to the US Virgin Islands even as citizens there are also struggling to recover from Irma.

And as Dominican officials assessed the damage and as CDEMA, the umbrella response agency was sending supplies to the island, Principal Prime Ministerial Adviser Hartley Henry joined his boss in appealing for worldwide help, two years after a battering from the last storm.

He said all mobile phone towers were down, electricity out island wide and PM Skerrit was able



Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit. Associated Press

to communicate with colleagues and the outside world through a satellite phone handed to him by French authorities.

“Maria was a category five hurricane. I am not sure if any of the Caribbean islands can withstand a cat-five. We need tarpaulins, bedding and sleeping material to the country, certain canned foods,” he said. “This has been a serious punch to the heart but not the soul. The rebuilding effort from Erica has been brought back to zero, perhaps minus zero.”

But he said some of the national infrastructure damaged two years ago stood up this time through better construction but Maria appeared to aim her wrath more at buildings rather than roads as was the case the last time. The Melville Hall Airport terminal in the north of the island sustained significant damage but Henry said the tarmac could be in operational in a few days.

Little Caribbean

Continued from Page 1

home that we are united here.”

Little Caribbean will include Flatbush Avenue between Empire Boulevard and Nostrand Avenue, Church Avenue between Flatbush and New York Avenues, and Nostrand Avenue between Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard. Passersby will know they are in the quarter thanks to new promotional signs that will be displayed throughout it, the Caribbean president said.

The moniker is similar to those for other ethnic enclaves such as Little Italy and Chinatown, according to Worrell, who said it is a designation in name only and does not mark the district for historic protection under the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

But the mayor and City Council support it, along with the borough president, who said he is looking forward to christening the area and the flurry of

activity the naming will bring to the surrounding naves.

“I'm proud to be a long-time supporter of Little Caribbean, and I'm even prouder that this designation is coming to fruition. Brooklyn is the epicenter of the Caribbean Diaspora, and this branding promises to have an incalculable value on the economic development and cultural pride of Flatbush and East Flatbush,” said Borough President Eric Adams.

The designation follows the borough's 50th-annual West Indian American Day Parade, a milestone that proved Brooklyn's long-time Caribbean community deserves its own hub, Worrell said.

“Right now we are witnessing a number of changes. The West Indian American Day Carnival just celebrated 50 years of existence, signifying that the Caribbean community has a strong foothold in Brooklyn, central Brooklyn in particular,” she said.

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7

Bajans face increased levels of poverty

By George Alleyne

A report on living conditions in Barbados might have given the current administration a failing grade as it showed more people falling into the poverty band during seven of the nine years that the government has been in office.

The Inter-American Development Bank collaborated with Barbados' Statistical Service department in a sample survey of 7,100 people from more than 2,500 households in all of the island's 11 parishes between February 2016 and January 2017 and reported that not only has the number of persons in poverty increased, but also females continue to be the most affected

"We see that a significant share of households have left extreme poverty situation, but they have increased their non-extreme poverty situation. So former extreme poor have migrated to be non-extreme poor, which gives a rise in non-extreme poverty," said IDB's Project Leader and Economics Senior Specialist, Dieter Beuermann Mendoza as he recently reported on the study's find-

ings.

"If we add the two types of poverty, we do see an increase in overall poverty of 2.4 percent... So overall, poverty is rising because extreme poor are going into non-extreme poor and the vulnerable have fallen into poverty," he added.

That 2.4 percentage points increase in overall poverty represents a movement from 15.1 percent in 2010 to 17.5 percent in 2017.

Persons with an income valued as high as \$642.52 (Bds\$1 = 50 cents US) per month per person are categorized among the non-extreme poor, and those who hit an income valued at \$297.28 per month or less are regarded as being in an extreme poor position.

The year-long survey confirmed that Barbados continues to be a matrifocal society with women heading 57 percent of households on the island. And consistently females represent 21.02 per cent of the poor with men accounting for 13.06 percent.

At 4.15 percent females also lead in the category of extreme poor where males are at 2.4

percent.

Most of the poor households and income earners were found to be located along the East Coast of Barbados with St John and St Joseph registering the highest overall poverty.

This decline in living conditions has come under the watch of the ruling Democratic Labour Party government that has been in office since 2008, first under the late Prime Minister David Thompson who died in office and was succeeded by Prime Minister Freundel Stuart in 2010.

IDB Caribbean Country Department, General Manager, Therese Turner-Jones, explained that a reason for the latest study was a realization by the hemispheric organization that there was very little current information on critical areas of Barbados and other Caribbean societies.

"In the absence of such data, policymakers are really operating in the dark. This is not a good way to be operating, particularly given where Barbados and the region is in terms of its macro-economic situation," she said.

That sentiment found agree-



Barbados' Minister of Social Care Steve Blackett.

Photo by George Alleyne

ment in Government's Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development Steve Blackett who said that owing to challenges with data collection, only two extensive studies into the extent and nature of poverty have been

conducted in Barbados.

"It is of paramount importance that the conduct of surveys on poverty becomes a more regular occurrence. This will reduce the gaps in data available on poverty and living conditions," said Blackett.

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Guyana starts consular services on weekends

By Tangerine Clarke

In an effort to bring competent, and complete service to the Guyanese diaspora, the Guyana consulate began services every second Saturday of every quarter during the year, as from Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017 from 10 am – 2 pm. Dec. 16, 2017 will be the last for this year before the 2018 schedule.

During an interview with Caribbean Life, recently Guyana Consul General Barbara Atherly said except for visas, the consulate will process birth certifi-

cates, travel documents, death certificates travel documents, and will give notary service.

As of Sept. 1, 2017, walk-in applicants for passports will receive service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9 am – 3 pm.

“Over the past year, we have worked to enhance our services in an easier, and friendlier way. The consulate also introduced an automated telephone system and launched an interactive, user-friendly website,” noted CG Atherly.

The diplomat is also calling on Guyanese who have applied for passports or birth certificates between 2010 and April 2017, to collect their documents by Sept. 30, 2017, before the documents are returned to Georgetown.

She noted that the consulate can no longer hold the documents due to lack of storage space, and is in negotiations with the passport office in Georgetown to return them.

Atherly, who has been instrumental along with the staff, to bring the consulate into a twen-

ty-first century computerized system, since taking up office one year ago, is urging nationals to come into the office as soon as possible to collect their passports.

Machine-readable passports are now accepted through a mail-in system. Applicants could use overnight / express mail, with tracking ability for exact record keeping, as well as for the applicant's peace of mind.

Applicants must ensure forms (downloaded from the website www.guyanaconsulatenewyork.org) with guidelines — are properly completed before mailing.

Two passport-size pictures and the passport fee must accompany the completed form and return postage, payable by money order. The processing time is about four to six weeks.

The consulate is in discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgetown, for the passport office to put an expedited service in place. This will come on-stream in 2018, after a network is created to combat corruption.

OP-ED

Black men's love for Indian, mixed & white women

By Dr. Kumar Mahabir

An African male is in love with an Indian female.

At the T&T Film Festival, this is the theme of two well-publicised local feature films being screened: Green Days by the River and Moko Jumbie, and perhaps the lesser-known Back to Freeport. These films come hot on the heels of another recently-screened local film entitled Bazoozee with the same theme.

This year also saw the release of another incarnation of the King Kong motion picture (Kong: Skull Island) by Warner Bros. The movie is often interpreted as a depiction of the Black man's love for a White blonde woman for whom he is willing to face danger and even death.

Why the focus on relationships between black men and non-black women? Why ignore totally sexual relationships between Indian men and non-Indian women? Is there is sinister plot to emasculate, marginalise and erase images

of Indian men in the mass media? This belief is based on the virtual absence of Indian men in advertisements in the print media, billboards and on television.

Shouldn't filmmakers also base their scripts on sexual encounters between Indian men and White women? There are at least three Caribbean novels dealing with Indian men and White women: Tiger and Doreen in Samuel Selvon's Turn Again Tiger (1958), and Romesh and Petra in The Plains of Caroni (1970), as well as Ranjit and Sandra in V.S. Naipaul's The Mimic Men (1967).

There are intimate interracial liaisons between Indian men and Black women such as between Santosh and the hubshi woman in Naipaul's short story collection, In a Free State (1971). And Ranjitsingh and Ajourda taste all the colours in the menu in their Port of Spain office in Peter Ramkeesoon's sexual blockbuster novel, Sunday Morning Coming Down (1971).



Dr. Kumar Mahabir.

The Martinique-born, Afro-Caribbean physician, psychiatrist and philosopher, Frantz Fanon, has framed a theory to explain this obsession of Black men in his book, Black Skin White Masks (1952).

Fanon begins Chapter 3 with the following passage: “Out of the blackest part of my soul, across the zebra stripping of my mind, surges the desire to be suddenly white. I wish to be acknowledged not as a black but as a white. Now ... who but a white woman can do this for me? By loving me, she proves that I am worthy of white love. I am loved like a white man... I marry white culture, white beauty and white whiteness”

(page 46).

Fanon explains that the Black man wants to be accepted and loved by the non-black world. By entering into these inter-racial relationships, the Black man seeks to “achieve denaturalization and (to use a loathsome word) deracialization.” He tries to emancipate himself from the bondage of his skin, his race and his culture and hope to have children that would not look like him (ref. Michael Jackson).

Post-colonial studies and critical theory explains that when Black men rise in educational, political and financial status, their desire is to have an Indian, Mixed (“Red” or “Dougla”) or White woman to enhance their status. In a chapter on images of men and women in calypsoes, literary critic Gordon Rohlehr (1998) categorises “Idealised women” as the White woman, the High-brown woman and the Indian woman. Rohlehr observes that in the Black calypsoians' confessions “lies the self-contempt of the black man, who considers himself unworthy of the woman of colour whom he desires...” (page 261).

This desire by Black men for Indian, Mixed (“Red” or “Dougla”) or White women is the major cause of the destruction of the African family which is characterised by absent fathers, female-headed households and

illegitimate children. In his MA Thesis submitted to Clark Atlanta University in 1996, Booker Edwards found that in African families, boys without fathers tend to become more gang-affiliated than those who have a two-parent home.

In discourses on race and beauty in post-colonial societies, the Black woman is often not seen as a role model. When brown-skinned and straight-haired Janelle Penny Commissioning of T&T was crowned Miss Universe in 1977, it was an exceptional rupture to a long tradition of white beauty. In an article entitled “Contesting Beauty” in ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America 2017 edition, Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman states that the ways in which the perception of beauty negatively impact Black women have seldom been discussed in the context of racial prejudice.

In the Americas and the Caribbean, Indian, Mixed (“Red” or “Dougla”) or White women are used in visual advertisement in newspapers, magazines and billboards of to sell products and services. The subliminal message is that these colours as well as thin lips, narrow nose and straight or relaxed hair are promoted as superior.

The writer is an anthropologist who has published 11 books.

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Panamanians to mark independence with parade

Panamanians from both the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean regions of the isthmus are preparing for the 114th anniversary of their separation from Colombia with a commemorative festivity of the Nov. 3, 1903 independence by hosting a flag-raising ceremony, parade and festival.

Organized by the Day of Independence Committee of Panama in New York (DICP-NY), for the 22nd year, since its formation, the organization is again hosting a pre-independence celebration in Brooklyn to mark the historic occasion.

Slated to kick-off on Oct. 7 at 10 am from Franklin Ave. a parade featuring marching bands, folkloric groups, cultural organizations, school and community representatives and elected officials will mark the annual event.

Throughout the route from Bergen Street along Franklin Avenue to President Street beauty queens, flag-waving revelers and colorful costumes will decorate a grand parade which will culminate at Clason Avenue and Eastern Parkway.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

There a performance stage will welcome singers, dancers amidst a confluence of vendors, merchandisers, artisans and culinary experts all vying to promote the national specialties that distinguish the isthmus that connects two continents.

Last year, indigenous natives of the San Blas Islands brought their unique handcrafted embroidered 'molas' to the parade for the first time.

The distinctive and decorative pattern, unique to the populous, held prominence throughout the day as natives displayed them on traditional garb.

A queen dressed in traditional outfit also added to the pageantry.

Fraternal groups – some of them displaying West Indian/Panamanian unity flaunted banners identifying them to be Panamanian Jamaica, Pan-

ama Canal Alumni, Caribbean American Inc., (best known as PAJACAM).

Grand marshals for the pre-Columbus Day celebration this year are Jose Francis, director producer of "Rinconsito Panameno," a TV program and New York Supreme Court Judge Shawndya L. Simpson.

Some of the participating bands include — the Panamanian Marching Band of Atlanta, the First Panamanian Marching Band of Brooklyn and the United Panamanians Veterans Band.

Other participating bands from Panamá include: Banda de Musica El Hogar, Banda Independiente Apocalipsis, Instituto Nacional, Instituto Jose Dolores Moscote, Banda Internacional Panamá para Cristo and many more.

Organizers claim the main objective of the organization is to 'diffuse knowledge in regards



Panamanian indigenous San Blas natives parade in New York.

to the Panamanian culture."

Another they said "is to bring Panamanians and other Latin Americans together to celebrate and commemorate Panama's separation from Colombia which occurred on Nov. 3 1903."

For more information about

the parade, contact www.dicp-ny.org.

The World's Super-Centurian From Jamaica Has Died

The world's oldest person has died at age 117.

Continued on Page 32

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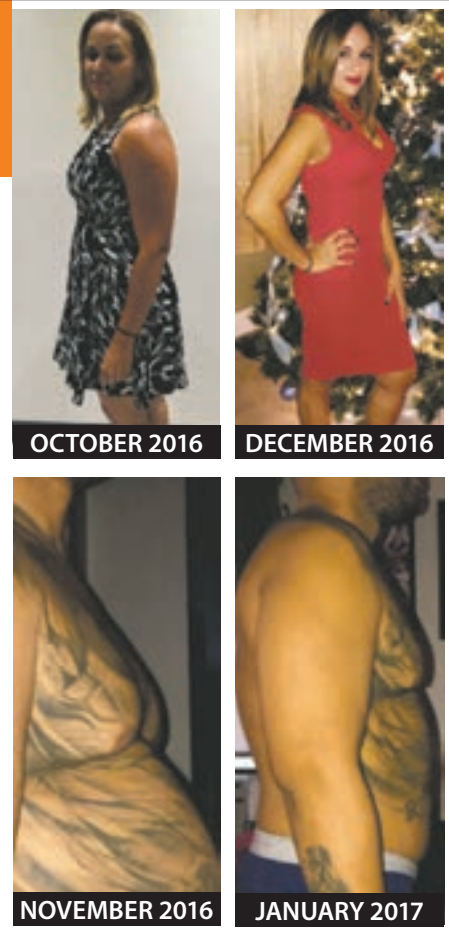
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Bedford Stuyvesant's rise is non-inclusive

By Dawn Plummer

The mode of gentrification has gradually taken grounds in Brooklyn. These undergoing changes in the Borough have left Bedford-Stuyvesant as a community raising against its own. A neighborhood with a longstanding history of great Black arts and culture and sturdy, beautifully carved brownstones homes any potential buyer would line up to purchase, but in the midst of the waving change there are many that are left far behind.

In recently concluded research work carried out by the New York State Comptroller's Office on the historic North Central Brooklyn community, they reported back to local community leaders and elected officials on their findings. On Friday, Sept. 15 at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli divulge on these findings and the effect the changes now have on Bedford-Stuyvesant. DiNapoli said that although the community is experiencing economic growth in most areas,

there are gaps and disparities despite this growth. "The snapshot is not bias, it looks at the tale of two cities," DiNapoli explained. The resurging of Bedford-Stuyvesant must be to the benefit of all its residents," he commented.

The report shows an influx of more than 150,000 new residents over the last ten years. This is a 34 percent increase in the population. In this report it was further revealed that long-term residents are earning an average of \$28,000 per year while new residents earn \$50,200 in average. The number of household with incomes below the federal poverty level has increase by 13 percent in the community since the end of the recession. According to the report presented, one third of all household in Bedford-Stuyvesant receive some form of supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP), food stamps etc.

The new residents are mainly white, young and immigrants, the report stated. These findings also show that such situations have put pressure on

long term residents making it increasingly difficult for them to find affordable housing in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The State Comptroller noted that the findings reveal that the immigrant community in Bedford-Stuyvesant has increased by 33 percent, when compared to 6.5 percent overall in Brooklyn and 12 percent citywide, the Dominican Republic is the fastest growing group with 29,000 in population other immigrant groups are from Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, Mexico each at seven percent and Trinidad & Tobago at 4.5 percent.

DiNapoli said the report revealed that since 2000, businesses have grown in Bedford Stuyvesant by 73 percent, the fastest in the city overall. The retail trade and leisure and hospitality sectors had the largest gains between 2009 and 2016. In the meantime, DiNapoli noted, the neighborhood has a shortage of primary care physicians and waiting time in the neighborhood hospitals emergency rooms exceeds that of the statewide average.

In the finding it was



New York State Comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli at podium as state and city elected officials listened. From left, recently elected Democratic primary winner for 41st City Council, Alicia Samuels; State Senator Valmanette Montogomery; NY City Councilmember Robert Cornegy; State Assemblymember Walter Mosley and State Assemblymember, Tremaine Wright.

New York State Comptroller's Office

revealed that elementary schools and middle schools have shown notable improvement in English and mathematics proficiency but is still lagging behind the citywide average. On the issue of crime, the report shows that violent

crime, murders, rape, robbery and assaults have declined by over 44 percent and major felony crimes declined by one third between 2000-2016 but despite these revelations, crime remains a problem in Bedford-Stuyvesant.



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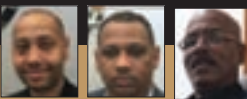


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Antiguan envoy meets emergency agencies



Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders talking with the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee.

Gov't of Antigua and Barbuda

By Nelson A. King

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organisation of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders, on Wednesday met in Washington, D.C. with the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee and representatives of major countries to discuss the devastating impact on Barbuda by the recent passage of Hurricane Irma.

Sanders made "emotive presentations to the representatives of both groups who were visibly moved by a video presentation of the destruction of Barbuda and the evacuation of all its residents to Antigua," according to an Antigua and Barbuda Government statement.

The Emergency Aid Committee included the Pan American Development Fund, the Inter-American Defence Board, the Pan American Health Organisation and the Inter-American Committee on Agriculture.

Major countries at the second meeting included Italy, Japan, Monaco, the European Union,

the United States, France, Spain and Switzerland, the statement said.

Sanders described the present situation in Barbuda as "uninhabitable," including the possibility of disease resulting from dead animals and unclean water infiltration.

"It is very fortunate that Antigua had only relatively minor damage from Hurricane Irma and is now functioning normally, with the result that it could take in the inhabitants of Barbuda and provide for them on an immediate basis," he said.

"But there is a natural desire by the Barbudan community to return to the island – something that is difficult until basic services can be restored," he added, stressing that even these basic services "have a high cost that is beyond the resources of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda alone."

Sir Ronald said that Antigua and Barbuda has a US\$1 billion economy "but is facing a rebuilding cost of in excess of US\$250

million," according to the statement.

It said donor countries pointed out that, "in order for Barbuda to face up to future storms of this kind, it would have to be rebuilt differently and to higher standards that could resist hurricanes."

In agreeing with this observation, the Antiguan envoy said: "This is precisely why the country requires international help."

He said that Prime Minister Gaston Browne is already engaged about the need for a "careful and well documented plan for the rebuilding of Barbuda that is sustainable, viable and 'bankable' to attract the necessary funding."

Many of the agencies, such as USAID and the Pan American Health Organisation, indicated that their emergency response teams are already sending in relief material to help cope with immediate needs, according to the statement.

Later, on Wednesday, Sanders made a presentation to US

government officials and Congressional representatives at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., the statement said.

"It is vitally important to knock on every door, to speak to everyone, to spread knowledge," Sanders said. "I am painfully aware that the devastation of Barbuda could become yesterday's story to the international media. It is crucial to act now

and at all levels."

Meantime, the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda in Miami said on Wednesday that it is opening a warehouse in Miami for the receipt of hurricane relief items for Barbuda.

Consul General Gilbert Boustany said items needed include pampers, baby formula, wipes, personal hygiene items, canned foods, medical supplies, and rolling beds with mattresses.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

with the Inter American Bank (IDB), the ministry said.

Trinidad

A 64-year-old grandmother, Melan Salvary-Doyle of San Fernando, South Trinidad was among the 37 people killed as a direct result of Hurricane Irma which recently slammed into several Caribbean countries as a monster Category 5 storm.

Iram is being blamed for at least 17 deaths in the United States after it lashed the Florida Keys.

According to reports, the tragedy occurred at the home of her sister at 32 A, Rue Round The Pond French

Quarters in St. Martin, where she has been taking care of her three-year-old grandson who were both swept away in raging flood waters.

Salvary-Dole, a mother of six left her Trinidad home to go on a vacation at her daughter's home about three weeks before Hurricane Irma struck St. Martin.

Meanwhile, 19 Trinidadians had to be evacuated from Dutch St. Maarten and flown to Antigua after the devastation of the island.



— Compiled by Azad Ali

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Fisheries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific – Immense opportunities, critical challenges

By **Viwanou Gnassounou**

Viwanou Gnassounou is ACP assistant secretary general for Sustainable Economic Development & Trade

BRUXELLES, Sept. 13, 2017 (IPS) - Fish is big business. The latest figures show that more than 165 million tonnes of fish are either captured or harvested in a year, with each person consuming more than 20kg of fish annually, according to the world average. Roughly US\$140 billion worth of fish is traded globally per annum, with millions of people relying on jobs in fishing and fish-farming, not to mention the seafood industry which involves processing, transport, retail and restaurants.

The fisheries and aquaculture sector is also crucial to reducing poverty and eliminating hunger. This is particularly true for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, the vast majority of which are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). ACP countries export as

much as \$US 5.3 billion annually, with fisheries products making up half the total value of traded commodities in some countries.

Yet despite its undeniable importance, the sector faces severe challenges.

For a start, nearly a third of the world's assessed fish stocks are overfished, undercutting nature's ability to give high yields in the long term. Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and overcapacity of fishing fleets are two of the biggest culprits, with IUU hemorrhaging billions in revenue for ACP states. In West Africa alone, more than one billion is lost each year due to IUU fishing while in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, IUU claims at least 470 million annually, with actual lost revenue to Pacific Island countries around 140 million. Such losses hurt countries' efforts to cut poverty and sustain growth.

At the same time, ACP's share of world fisheries trade

remains minimal, although its regions are home to some of the world's most iconic and productive maritime zones. Trade barriers hinder competitiveness, as local producers struggle to attain the high product standards demanded by international markets. Poor infrastructure holds back economic gains, whether it involves lack of access to aquaculture production zones, or lack of facilities to store or process fish in order to add value to products. Meanwhile, WTO rules, such as rules of origin, make it hard to take advantage of breaks given to vulnerable countries.

Environmental degradation is also a global challenge due to pollution, overfishing, and climate change. In the Caribbean for example, where more than 70 percent of the population lives along the coast, nearly two thirds of coral reefs are threatened by human activities, while a third is threatened by coastal development and pollution from inland sources. Cli-



Fisher folk in Palau's waters. Inter Press Service / Christopher Pala

mate change effects such as sea surface warming, ocean acidification, rising sea levels and extreme weather events all lead to habitat destruction, dimin-

ished fish stocks and damaged ecosystems.

Such grave and crosscutting challenges cannot be tackled by a country on its own.

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PAHO supports restoration of health services in Caribbean in wake of passage of Hurricane Irma

By Nelson A. King

The Washington, D.C.-based Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said its experts are supporting efforts to restore health services in Caribbean islands most affected by Hurricane Irma.

PAHO said on Thursday that it has deployed health infrastructure experts, sanitary engineers, epidemiologists, among others, in collaboration with the affected countries.

PAHO said its teams, in support of health authorities and other agencies, are working in the British Virgin Islands to reestablish the logistics chain that allows them to receive medical supplies and medicines, as well as store them safely and distribute them between health centers and patients.

“Health authorities on the affected islands have identified their needs for drug supplies, and PAHO is sending in the

necessary supplies, as well as supporting the mobilization of health personnel to support national teams that have been working non-stop since the passage of the hurricane,” PAHO said.

It said the islands of Barbuda, St. Martin and St. Bartholomew, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Bahamas and Turks and Caicos reported serious damage to infrastructure, hospitals and health centers, along with the loss of electricity and limited access to clean water.

Hurricane Irma also hit the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts and Nevis, causing less serious damage, PAHO said.

“The need to support the rotation of health personnel at affected sites, and epidemiological surveillance to detect any outbreak of diseases are vital at this stage of the response, especially because of the lack

of clean water and access to health services,” according to Ciro Ugarte, director of the Department of Health Emergencies at PAHO, who briefed ambassadors of the countries to the Organization of American States (OAS) on the hurricane response.

Ugarte said damages to airports, ports and roads “pose a challenge” for delivering humanitarian assistance, and completing damage and needs assessments.

But he said these obstacles are being overcome with the support of the affected countries themselves and PAHO personnel, “who have been able to mobilize the most affected areas, using any available means, including military transport.”

Ugarte said that, on many of the affected islands, PAHO has been the only agency in the field, even before the hurricane hit.



Sylvan McIntyre, former director of NADMA (left), Lauristan Hosten (third from left) and Joyce Thomas-Peters, disaster risk reduction consultant and former national disaster coordinator in Grenada were part of PAHO teams in support of health authorities and other agencies working in the British Virgin Islands to reestablish the logistics chain that allows them to receive medical supplies and medicines, as well as store them safely and distribute them between health centers and patients.

Pan American Health Organisation

Experts in water and sanitation, health infrastructure, damage assessment and needs, logistics, coordination, epidemiology and management of humanitarian supplies have already been deployed to all the most affected islands, and are working with national and local health staff, Ugarte said.

He also noted “the solidarity

and support” in the response from countries and territories that were not affected.

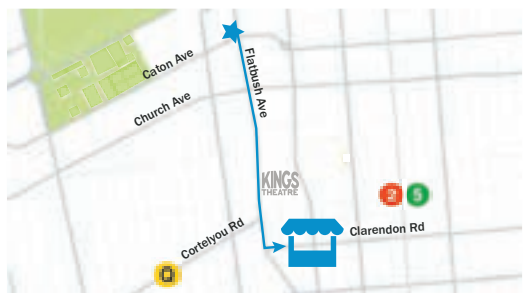
Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm, landed in Antigua and Barbuda on the morning of Sept. 6 and continued along the northern side of the Leeward Islands before impacting the state of Florida, PAHO noted.

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Skin, hair care line promotes health-consciousness



NBI All Natural is an organic line that uses Jamaican black castor oil to fulfill hair and skin needs without chemicals. Jory Johnson

By Alexandra Simon

The bootleggers be gone. A New Jersey-based cosmetologist is promoting healthy living with her skincare awareness. NBI All Natural is a one-stop shop for all skin and hair needs, created by Susan Strachan. The Jamaican-born natural lifestyle enthusiast started her company in 2013 seeking an alternative solution to the oversaturation of topical remedies with unnatural ingredients, she said. "One thing I notice is a lot of hair or skin products are promising to deliver on all these great things, but I notice that

all of them have ingredients in them that most people can't pronounce," said Strachan. So in search of a more mindful approach to what she puts on her body, she researched how she could incorporate less chemically-laden products into her daily use because these bigger brands are not considering this, added Strachan. "We don't get the best quality of choosing what we want, but even though we don't have that luxury, we can give ourselves the quality of life we want by getting the best," she said. Hence the creation of NBI, a humorous acronym for No Boot-

leg Ingredients, which Strachan credits her husband for. "We are health conscious, and what we don't realize is that toxins enter our bloodstream and whatever we eat, ingest, and put on our skin is going into our bodies." All of NBI's products are non-sulfate and cruelty-free. And they share one unique ingredient — Jamaican black castor oil, a multi-use oil for hair and skin. Since childhood, Strachan always used the popular oil to enhance her beauty routines, and felt it was only appropriate to incorporate that into her items.

Susan Strachan is the founder and creator of NBI All Natural. Susan Strachan

She said castor oil has been the solution to many of her past skin and hair woes and she continued to use it in her personal regimen making it a staple product in her family. "It has a lot of vitamins that helps restore and rejuvenate your skin," she said. "Castor is thick, creates a moisture barrier for skin so what we did was formulate it using natural oils, but still having its effect, and all these products fight against dryness." The line features 22 unisex products, from body scrubs, to lotions, balms, lip care, to hair oils and other products, according to Strachan. With castor oil being a very strong-scented oil, she adds that all of lines have unscented and fragrance free versions, as well as those with essential oils including lavender and eucalyptus oil, which mask the smell.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm
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Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

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Small Business Resources - The Business Council of 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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From a little Barbados schoolboy he internalized as fact his becoming an author without any kind of miraculous happening, but based on his abilities, pursuits, and movements. Though so young, his teachers often commented about his eventual success; such was the writing and reading – obsession he always displayed regarding his own stories and poems... also classroom related. True, England was no longer that inhuman slave-owning nation of Black countries, but still controlling them as “The Mother Country,” continued the inferiority treatment of the colonies and natives; hence, subjection, to poverty was to be kept alive even when Blacks grasp the improvement idea “fight for independence.” Being so young, he could not be expected to fully understand, but strong fundamental common sense within him assured him of people like him being always engulfed by the poorest of conditions and would continue if meaningful struggles were not waged. Hence, as a poor young teenager he somehow found a way out of his poor Penny Hole Village and settled in the far away, totally different metropolis London Town. There he “became a man overnight.” He soon connected with the government supported Youth Employment Exchange to hire teens young as 14 to work full-time like adults yet be paid the lower youth wage. While still a teenager J.A.B. became a British soldier. Almost ending his fifth army year, he again became a civilian, and a postman with the main British post office. A year later he moved to Canada.

In time he was: Toronto postal worker; lithographer–printer; higher education-seeking night school student; freelance writer; author of first book; founder, editor, co-publisher of Canada’s first Black magazine, SPEAR – about the time of the publication of his third book, Niggers, This is Canada. Both got him much exposure – positive and negative. Mainstream media aimed at him: “Controversial; militant.” Some government sources were similar. Suddenly came his disappearance from Ontario, said later to be a brief move to USA. A good-paying full-time day position offered within the New York City graphic arts industry held him back. Staying became stronger with his full-time university night studies that earned him undergraduate and graduate degrees. As in Canada, professors often praised his literary abilities. Some also showed disappointment about militancy he harbored. He eventually connected with the New York City Board of Education as a high school Writing and Graphic Arts teacher at various schools – even one located in so-volatile Rikers Island Jail for the many teenage inmates always locked down there. At times, after regular school hours, he taught evening adult education. 20 years – a few shorter than when J. Ashton Brathwaite adopted the name Odimumba Kwamdele – came by and he opted for the BOE Early Retirement plan. Also, fitted into the 20 years: his book writings; his years editing and publishing pocket-sized magazine The ROOT; possible heart problems caused by continuous back-against-the-wall behavior of NYC high school students. About his literary abilities, he insists: “Not from college but a birthright talent, dedication, living in major world cities, visiting different nations... African. I have been writing for as long as I can recall. What a pity truly “Great writers” are credited long after they die.”

Recently Reproduced CDs of Fundamental Poetry by ODIMUMBA KWAMDELE (J. Ashton Brathwaite), most from the turbulent sociopolitical 1970’s-early 1980’s – before Rap. Surprisingly, poetry had made a strong return, and Kwamdele’s (solely-from-memory) delivery of his poetry so captivated audiences, he became popular as “the Rap Session Poet.” Still accompanied by soulful rhythms, he still wishes that: “Folks would concentrate most of his wise and powerful messages.”



CD 2: 1) The Righteous BlackMan, 2) Black Woman-Mother Earth, 3) Burn Babylon Burn, 4) Great Lumumba of Congo, 5) African Roots people, 6) Bejan in the Big Countries, 7) Back to PENNY HOLE Forever, 8) Ham’s Blues, 9) Death and Birth of Prophet Martin Luther King, 10) Return of Sodom and Gomorrah, 11) Red, Black and Green, 12) The Poor Revolution, 13) Return to Barbados, 14) Brixton on Fire, 15) Jewel in the Mud, 16) Shadow of Death, 17) Extinction of Root **CD 3: (the latest):** 1) Root Reborn, 2) Soul to Soul, 3) Back to PENNY HOLE Forever, Mother Nature, Father Time, 5) Power of Bad, 6) African Soul Brother Adam, 7) Baaadaaas Non-Human, 8) Democratic Demon, 9) Heaven in Hell, 10) Short Verses, Tall Thoughts, 11) Oh Canada Blues, 12) Life on Other Planets, 13) HER FACE Blues, 14) No Pie in the Sky (parts 1,2,3,4), 15) Ebony Love, 16) The Immortal. **CD 1: (Earliest: First produced in vinyl LP form):** 1) MANDELA in Jail; Letgo the Man, 2) Black Beauty : Makeda Queen of Sheba... Black Circus in New York City... Mother Country Blues... Soul Surviving in London (1960’s)... The Education of Poor Tom Blackman... and OTHERS

International Homecoming Day

Rosedale church celebrates diverse parish with cultural fest

By Alexandra Simon

A festive worship like no other!

Hundreds of parishioners came out for International Homecoming day — a festive celebration of the multi-ethnic cultures at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rosedale on Sept. 16. In honor of the place of worship's 110th anniversary year, the day was a chance for residents to learn about the church's history, and the people of its diverse parish, said one organizer.

"Seeing the people come together was so much fun. There were so many ethnicities represented and so much information to learn about each other," said Monica Carrington, a longtime vestry member of the church.

International Home-

coming Day is a display of culture through fashion, food, and music. The predominantly Caribbean American parish had more than a dozen booths, each highlighting a few tidbits about a island and aspects of its culture, added Carrington.

"Every booth had in-depth information about a country's history and roots — so people could get food and education," she said. "I was energized by the whole thing."

The day included a procession of flags, a mini carnival, fashion show, dance and music performances, and food. The relaxing event was so entertaining that members of the mostly reserved parish were showing off their best dance moves, said Carrington.

"I saw people that

were 80 years old just dancing and having a good time — I couldn't believe it," she said. "They were loose and having a fun."

She said the church's parish is much different from when it was first founded. But now with a different demographic of worshippers, the festive celebration is a reminder to the community of its past and present.

"One hundred years ago, Rosedale was mostly white, and black people couldn't move into this neighborhood because of racism," said Carrington. "But we are the majority now, and we've come a long way in 110 years and I wanted to showcase that."

Carrington noted that guests were so thrilled by the event, that the next day's mass had a different energy.

"We went to church on Sunday and everyone was still on a high from the day before," she said.

As the oldest worship house in Rosedale, and an important factor in the lives of its members, hosting cultural events such as International Homecoming Day is an opportunity for the church's parochial members to broaden their relationship with its neighbors and expand their visibility, said a co-organizer of the event.

"We want to reach the community and partner with businesses more," said Yvonne Robinson. "We've been here for 110 years and a lot of people don't know we are here. So it's our mission to open our doors to the community and let the folks know we are open to them."

Organizers are in talks to bring back the festival as an annual or bi-annual event, added Robinson.



Mas time: Montserrat masqueraders sport some colorful costumes and masks.



Flag bearers: Young boys walk with the flag of Barbados and United States, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church's International Homecoming Day in Rosedale on Sept. 16, 2017.

Photos by Tyrone Johnson

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Mon, Oct. 16, 2017	Deadline for Internet and telephone registration.
Mon/Tues, Oct. 23-24, 2017	Admit Cards mailed to Catholic elementary schools for distribution to students.
Mon, Oct. 30, 2017	Call 1-866-611TACHS (1-866-618-2247) if Admit Cards are not yet received.
Sat, Nov. 4, 2017	TACHS Administration
Thurs, Dec. 14, 2017	Last day to complete TACHS Applicant Records via the Internet for Catholic elementary schools. Students in schools (other than Catholic schools) must mail paper TACHS Applicant Records to their three high school choices, arriving by December 15, 2017.
Fri, Dec. 16, 2017	TACHS results to arrive at high schools.
Wed, Jan. 10, 2018	Release of admission notices by high schools.
February 2018	Response cards back to high schools – high school notification letters will include information relative to the date on which a student should return his/her acceptance letter to the high school of their choice.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL
September 2017		
Sat. 30th	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Cathedral Christ the King
October 2017		
Sat. 1st	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Christ the King
Thurs. 5th	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	St. Servator
Sat. 7th	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	McClurey
Wed. 11th	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Bishop Loughlin
Thurs. 12th	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Bishop Kearney
Sat. 14th	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	St. Agnes St. Elizabeth St. Francis St. John
Sun. 15th	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Bishop Loughlin Mary Louis Molloy Xaverian
Thurs. 19th	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Nazareth
Sat. 21st	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Rumhouse
Sun. 22nd	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Cathedral Holy Cross St. Servator
Thurs. 26th	7:00 p.m.	St. Elizabeth
Thurs. 26th	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Nazareth St. Joseph
Sat. 28th	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Nazareth
Sun. 29th	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bishop Kearney
November 2017		
Thurs. 9th	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Cristo Rey
January 2018		
Thurs. 18th	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	St. Agnes

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Democrats plot TPS strategy as deadline looms

By Nelson A. King

A half dozen United States Democratic lawmakers have met with Haiti's ambassador to the United States in what has been described as an intimate dinner to craft a new strategy aimed at convincing the Trump administration to extend the Temporary Protected Program (TPS) set to expire in January 2018 that allows thousands of Haitians to work and live in the United States.

Democrats said it's time to tie TPS to recent activism over DACA, an executive order signed by Barack Obama that gave protections to undocumented, young Caribbean and other immigrants brought to the United States as minors, according to the Miami Herald.

"We have to create the atmosphere where the man in the Oval Office says 'I'm considering it,'" said Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Democrat of Texas.

Democrats argue that repeatedly bringing up TPS during every DACA protest and getting business leaders to realize the disruption to labor markets if 58,000 Haitians are required to

leave will increase public pressure on President Donald J. Trump to grant the TPS extension, the Herald said.

"If all the Haitian workers at Fort Lauderdale International Airport left tomorrow, they would have the messiest bathrooms of any airport, even messier than LaGuardia," said Congressman Alcee Hastings, Democrat of Florida.

Hastings and Jackson Lee said that widespread outrage from Democrats—and business leaders—over President Donald Trump's decision to end DACA last week created a massive amount of public pressure, according to the Herald.

It noted that the TPS program is administered by the US Homeland Security Department and allows foreign nationals already in the United States from 10 countries to stay in the United States for a designated period of time. TPS was granted to Haiti in 2011 after a massive earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010.

When Haiti's TPS was up for renewal in May, Democrats asked then-Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly to show "compassion."

But Kelly ultimately decided to extend Haiti's status, but only for six months instead of the usual 18, reported the Herald.

Kelly also said Haitians "need to start thinking about returning."

"It's all or nothing at this point, given the time frame, the consequences, if nothing happens between now and November," said Haiti ambassador to the US, Paul Altidor. "We're trying to ensure that as many people from Capitol Hill, from either side of the aisle, are involved in this, and we've seen that from members of the Florida delegation."

Already overwhelmed by Haitian migrants who are being deported from the Dominican Republic, aid agencies in Haiti say they aren't prepared to handle a possible influx of Haitians enrolled in TPS who could soon be forced to return home, the Herald said.

The dinner was organized by Altidor and New York Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, a long-time proponent of extending Haiti's TPS status, the Herald said.

"We're going to go to whom-



Ranking Member Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, speaks during a hearing of the House Judiciary subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Associated Press / Alex Brandon, File

ever we need to make the case," said Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

She said bringing TPS into

the larger DACA debate "will help combat the spread of misinformation, such as false reports that Canada was offering free residency to Haitians in the United States."



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Kingsbrook hosts NY State Alumni Association Behavioral Health Fair

Kingsbrook Medical Center, The New York State Alumni Association, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as well as community providers of addiction and mental health services will present the third Annual Recovery Month Health Fair to educate the community and persons who are in recovery to learn about the intersect of behavioral health and primary care. The event will be held at Kingsbrook Hospital on Sept. 22, 2017 from 9 am - 3:30 pm. CASAC and Peer training hours are available.

This one-day health fair entitled "Community Integration: Employment and Family" providing presentations related to health, career, educational and vocational issues and how they pertain to the lives of people in recovery from substance use or mental health issues.

Kingsbrook hospital will lead the way with expert presenters in the area of health via their "Best Health School" program — their education outreach initiative designed to advance the health and wellness of the community.

This year, Kingsbrook's HR Department will shed special insight on current careers in health care and the vocational skills and preparation needed to enter those fields.

The New York State Alumni Association comprises of a group of individuals in recovery from alcohol and other drug substance use who have made a decision to work together to support other individuals in recovery, focusing on families and youth. This support is given through providing information on educational and vocational opportunities, current drug policies and practices that affect peers (persons in recovery) and recreational opportunities. In addition, there is a focus on the whole person including health information.

Each year, the NYS Alumni Association plays a big in role the national celebration of Recovery Month. In September, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association's (SAMHSA) sponsors Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use issues and celebrate people who recover.

Kingsbrook will also offer health related testing, and community behavioral health providers will offer information on current drug use patterns in New York City and on the services they offer to the community of Brooklyn and the larger community of NYC. A light continental breakfast and lunch are included. Please feel free to contact Mary Silva at 646-728-4580, if you have questions.

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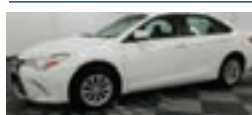
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World's oldest person dies in Jamaica

Continued from Page 11

Violet Moss Brown died on Sept. 15 in her homeland Jamaica where she lived her entire life.

Reportedly, she died peacefully on the Friday afternoon less than a week after being hospitalized following reports she was showing signs of illness.

Reports are that she felt ill and on instructions from Barry Russell, her 85-year-old son was taken to a hospital in Montego Bay which is located miles away from her Duanvale home.

Reports are that she made it clear that she did not want to go.

Russell said he gave instructions for his mother to be taken from her home after she got ill but his mother's death came as a surprise to him.

Two grandchildren contend that it was the move to the hospital which may have contributed to her demise.

She was taken "against her wishes" from her residence to a medical facility six days prior, they claim



World's oldest person Violet Brown has died in Jamaica at the age of 117 years and 189 days old, on Friday, Sept. 15, at a local hospital.

Associated Press / Raymond Simpson, File

"She was a little dehydrated and a doctor who came to see her said all she needed was a little potassium... so there was no good reason why they had to take her to any medical facility" on Sept. 9 she explained.

"She did not want to go; but later she begged them not to take her unless they were going to take her back home," Palmer added. "They didn't take her back, and so they took her away from her loved ones and

took away her freedom; took away her dignity, and take her to a strange place where she had no family and friends and didn't even tell some of us where she was."

According to Russell, he had given assurances to his mother that he would soon visit her at the capital city facility. He explained that she seemed eager for him to visit and he consoled her saying he would make the trip after the weekend. *Catch You On The Inside!*

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Jamaica's Chef Andre cooks up cuisine at demonstration



BBQ Pork Sliders decorated with miniature Jamaica flags (left) while Chef Andre Fowles displays sauces from Grace Foods.

Photos by Tangerine Clarke

By Tangerine Clarke

A group of foodies gathered around Food Network's Chopped Champion, Chef Andre Fowles, as he showed off his cuisine skills during a demonstration on how to prepare three dishes with sauces from Grace Foods, during a recent exclusive tasting event at the Midtown Manhattan offices of Finn Partners.

Fowles, the Brand Ambassador for Grace Foods, and owner of Everything Food, flawlessly prepared, Grace BBQ pork sliders and sea salt potato chips, Grace Jerk Honey Wings, and

Crispy Chili Shrimp with Grace Jerk Cream.

He started off with the crispy shrimp, using the jerk marinade, not too spicy, with balanced flavors, and paired with the sauce to compliment the sweetness of the shrimp.

The two-time Food Network winner, then used the Grace Jerk sauce to create finger-licking Jerk Chicken wings, brown on the outside and tender on the inside. The spicy Jerk sauce highlighted the seasonings, and blended into the meat for a delicious taste.

Next up, was Pork Sliders,

which made use of the rich dark BBQ sauce in a pulled-pork style cooking and finished with sea salt and potato chips. He topped off the little buns with miniature Jamaica flags to give the presentation that homey, nostalgic feel.

The award-winning chef was impressive, giving his audience a brief history of the authentic Jamaica staple that he grew up eating in his grandmother's dishes in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Grace Foods brand founded in 1922 in Kingston, Jamaica, is a great fit for the hometown boy who has made

it big in the United States, but still has a strong connection to his Jamaican roots, using elements of his country to show his cooking style, and love of food, and more food, said Chef Fowles.

He is passionate about using the Grace Brand that he says is the backbone of Jamaican cuisine, a testament to him ever so often desire to share with the world, when the sauce is necessary in his cooking.

He said the Grace Brand has always tried to make cooking more convenient, a product that "accentuates our cuisine."

"The global inspired Grace Brand has an American appeal and is enjoyed by anyone who loves to cook."

The Grace Foods sauces are Jamaican Style BBQ Sauce, Jamaican Style Jerk Seasoning, and Jamaican Style Marinade.

Chef Andre Fowles is quite busy these days spotlighting his great cooking at food demonstrations around the New York area, festivals and on the Food Network channel.

His saying: "When you focus on being a blessing — God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance."

RGPF wants to forge closer ties with Grenadians in NYPD

The Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) is hoping that a recent donation of policing equipment by Grenadian officers in the New York City Police Department (NYPD) will be a starting point in forging closer ties with Grenadian law enforcement officers in the Diaspora.

Deputy Commissioner Edwin Martin said the Royal Grenada Police Force will be exploring a two-pronged approach with the Grenadian officers of the NYPD.

"One of the ways in which we can expand this relationship is to explore the possibility of having a strategic relationship and an exchange

programme — at the strategic level and at the tactical level," he said.

"That way we can send police officers to NYPD to observe how they carry out their activities — planning and executing activities — both at the strategic and tactical levels.

And vice versa, their officers at different levels can also come to Royal Grenada Police Force and see how we do things and maybe even offer advice that can help us in developing our own procedures and practices."

DCOPs Martin and Franklyn Redhead and Assistant Commissioners Michael Fran-


cois and Trevor Modeste were among rank and file officers of the Royal Grenada Police Force who attended a presentation ceremony of protective vests, helmets, and other equipment including traffic enforcement equipment.

Lieutenant Nimrod Ollivierre, who led the group of Grenadian NYPD officers, said that they're already looking at other areas they could provide assistance, support and collaboration.

The donation was as a result of fundraising initiatives by the officers in New York following the shooting death of Corporal Daniel Edgar of the RGPF last April.



Grenada's Deputy Police Commissioner Edwin Martin (second from left) with members of the Royal Grenada Police Force and Grenadian officers in the New York City Police Department.



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- Preventing fraud and scams against the elderly
- Recognizing elder care abuse

11:30 am

Navigating home care options

12:30 pm

What to do now to protect your family's assets later

- Estate planning
- Benefits and pitfalls of probate

1:30 pm

Memory loss in seniors and the elderly

- Learn about resources and strategies to maintain dignity and connectedness

2:30 pm

Understanding managed long term care

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Is Barbados storm ready?

By George Alleyne

Barbadians fondly claim 'God is a Bajan' because the island usually escapes hurricanes with just rain and wind brushes, and this might be a godsend because recent events continue to expose it as unprepared for a major hit.

An island-wide power cut that came while Hurricane Maria was passing some 90 miles north of the island Monday amidst some residents' unhappiness with a signal from the Disaster Emergency Management (DEM) office that there was no need for a national shutdown and it was safe to open businesses despite a prevailing flood warning are the latest red flags on Barbados' storm readiness.

The alerts on how prepared is Barbados to take on the full brunt of a storm were to be found in the expressions of outrage by some Barbadians that Monday was a day of work despite the deluge of rain that began the day before and continued during the call to work.

In spite of being almost one hundred miles away and only at Category One strength Hurricane Maria damaged several homes and caused the usual flooding that afflicts certain parishes in heavy rainfall, eroded at least one beach, and threw waves on some roadways including the downtown Bridgetown Wharf Road.

The alerts on how prepared is Barbados to take on the full brunt of a storm were to be found in the expressions of outrage by some Barbadians that Monday was a day of work despite the deluge of rain that began the day before and continued during the call to work.

But while residents of sister Caribbean territories such as Dominica, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands struggle with real issues of rebuilding, from scratch in some cases, Barbadians are absorbed in debate on whether it was correct for DEM to give clearance for stores, offices and other places of work to open while rain poured intermittently, as a Tropical Storm Watch was still active, and a flood warning in effect.

In stating that it was business as usual Monday, DEM Director Kerry Hinds had advised residents to be 'vigilant and careful' as the Barbados Meteorological Office expected more rain and high winds as a result of the

passage of Hurricane Maria.

The Monday afternoon power cut added fuel to the debate with the Nation newspaper reporting on Tuesday that it rendered idle workers who had reluctantly left their homes because of the DEM clearance.

"The biggest power outage occurred around 3:30 pm [Monday] and affected the entire island. It left people, who braved pouring rains and gusty winds to get to work, sitting in darkness for three and half hours in some instances," the Nation reported.

It is believed that a lightning strike at a main plant of the island's sole electricity supplier, Barbados Light and Power caused the electricity cut, and technicians immediately jumped into action restoring the first areas in just over half an hour with other districts receiving a restoration of supply through about six hours.

But this national power cut that was triggered by outer band storm effects

from a disturbance so far away brought into question the readiness of the island's infrastructure.

This comes against a backdrop of complaints over the years that similar to what happens in many other Caribbean territories, homes, offices and other structures are not being built to withstand storm force winds.



Emergency Management Director Kerry Hinds.

Photo by George Alleyne

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This visitor admires this black and white photo by Frederick Russell.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

Celebrating Brooklyn through photography

By Tequila Minsky

The images in the expansive gallery just behind BRIC's lobby performance space pays tribute to its home borough with the exhibition "Brooklyn Photographs" by 11 photographers.

"By the 1860s, Brooklyn had become the third largest city in the U.S.," reads the intro in the accompanying 27-page exhibition catalogue. "The change is

Continued on Page 42

Green music Reggae style

By Alexandra Simon

Taking a greener approach to music. British reggae musician Macka B's forthcoming album "Health is Wealth," is slated to come out next week on Sept. 29. The veteran artist's new project will include his widely popular and viral internet song "Cucumba" — a funny pro-green tune that gained him new audiences worldwide. The artist says he always wanted to advocate healthy-eating in music to raise more consciousness.

"For the longest time I wanted to do social commentary on conscious things, and I always try to be positive. But I also see the lack of health awareness and too many funerals — and I want to try and do something about it," said Macka. "Music is a powerful

Continued on Page 42



Francesca Andre says her passion for storytelling and her personal experience with colorism, inspired her to create a film like "Charcoal."
Gustavo Azael Torres

Filmmaker talks success of debut film

By Alexandra Simon

Haitian-American filmmaker Francesca Andre is an up and coming creator highlighting important subjects that affects various communities. She does that in her film, "Charcoal," which is gaining much traction in film industry. In her the movie she approached the topic of colorism and how external and internal effects it has on black women. Having dealt with colorism herself, Andre wants to use her lens to focus on similar issues.

Caribbean Life: When did you get

into filmmaking and how did you find a passion for it?

Francesca Andre: I always had a passion for storytelling. As a child, I spent a lot of time with my grandmother who taught me lots of folktales, like "Krik Krak", and riddles, like "Tim Tim, Bwa Sech". Storytelling was big part of my upbringing in Haiti; we sang, we danced, we roleplayed. It was just a way to spend time as a family and I am grateful for this gift. Filmmaking felt natural to me. My mind is always racing with ideas, voices, characters,

stories - the more persistent ones are the ones that I write about. Charcoal was one of them. I couldn't escape it. I woke up around 3 am with the idea. I was inspired and felt unapologetic about it, so I knew I had to write and create it.

CL: Explain why did you want to create a project about colorism, and how does "Charcoal" help you tell that story?

FA: I know so many stories about colorism, skin bleaching, about hat-

Continued on Page 42

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Attention**
Charlie Puth
- 2 **There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back**
Shawn Mendes
- 3 **Slow Hands**
Niall Horan
- 4 **Wild Thoughts**
DJ Khaled Feat. Rihanna
- 5 **Believer**
Imagine Dragons
- 6 **Strip That Down**
Liam Payne Feat. Quavo
- 7 **Shape Of You**
Ed Sheeran
- 8 **Feel It Still**
Portugal. The Man
- 9 **Unforgettable**
French Montana feat. Swae...
- 10 **Look What You Made Me Do**
Taylor Swift

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Life Changes**
Thomas Rhett
- 2 **Sleep Well Beast**
The National
- 3 **Current Mood**
Dustin Lynch
- 4 **Slowheart**
Kip Moore
- 5 **All The Light Above It Too**
Jack Johnson
- 6 **A Moment Apart**
ODESZA
- 7 **Southern Blood**
Gregg Allman
- 8 **Native Invader**
Tori Amos
- 9 **Hitchhiker**
Neil Young
- 10 **Evolve**
Imagine Dragons

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Brooklyn photography

Continued from Page 41

relentless," writes Curator, VP BRIC Elizabeth Ferrer and how the images, black and white, color, analogue and digital "express the continual tension between the borough we know and what it is becoming." The exhibit is organized as a series of chapters, photographs created from the 1960s to the present. Photography serves as tangible memory.

On Saturday's "Coffee and Conversation, Artists Talk" three of the exhibiting photographers spoke at BRIC about their work and their history in photography.

From a single street in Williamsburg where George Malave grew up and photographed in the 1960s, his "Vareet Street Kid series" are the oldest images in the show. Malave and his mother represent an early wave of Puerto Rican migrants who arrived in New York at the close of World War II.

Malave creates a series of images. The wall-size black and white reproduction of one boy and a graffitied wall with embedded images of kids on the block reflects this series approach. Its

impact is compelling and sets the stage for the exhibition. In an adjoining case, several of the photographer's contact sheets with grease pencil selections remind the viewer of the work staple for black and white film photographers before digital.

Malave emphasized how while some might view his images as kids "immersed in devastation," as kids, they never were concerned about themselves. "They're concerned with each other," he said of days of unsupervised play. "They use their imagination to create things."

Meryl Meisler's Bushwick photographs from the 1980s are on view, taken during the 12 years she daily went to and from IS 291 where she taught art. "I took this photo with Ansel Adams in mind," she told the panel of her image of a bombed out vacant lot that wraps around the front and back cover of the catalogue.

Meisler never sought out the underbelly of that era's Bushwick — scarred from the destruction of the 1977 blackout. "I wanted to photograph things that were not depressing so I could (emotionally) continue to work there." She eventually included



George Malave sees his work as a series of images. Exhibited in a wall-size installation montage is the Street Kid Series, images from the Vareet street block he grew up on in Williamsburg. Photo by Tequila Minsky

the history of Bushwick in her curriculum.

The third on Saturday's panel, Larry Racioppo, pursues series devoted to diverse New York themes. His Brooklyn Photographs created between 1973 and 1978 document Halloween traditions in South Brooklyn on the street where he was living.

Other photographers in the show are: Patrick D. Pagnano (roller disco in Crown Heights), Max Kozloff (carnival series), Russell Frederick (portraits in Crown Heights), Nelson Bakerman (construction of Barclay

Center), Sergio Purtell (banality of the urbanscape), Yolanda Andre (moments and daily lives), Leigh Davis (single room living spaces), and Stefanie Apple (artists and their workspaces). There are 75 images in all in the exhibition.

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7 pm, BRIC hosts a free panel: Street Photography, Encounters with a Camera. Exhibiting photographers will discuss their practice and issues around photographing others in the public sphere. Essayist and journalist Garnette Cadogan will moderate.

Music

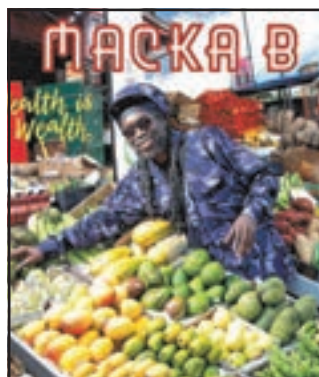
Continued from Page 41

medium that's why I put my message in that form because it really gets through to people."

For more than three decades, Macka has practiced a plant-based diet, avoiding dairy and meat out of his love of animals. And one of the ways he tries to promote his healthy eating lifestyle to others is through his music — all while making a few light-hearted jokes along the way, he said.

"People bring down their defenses on certain subjects when something is funny," he said. "With healthy-eating, I put a little humor in there and the young people gravitate to it, and I find that this is better than saying to people 'Don't eat this or that,' you have to be positive."

And his pro-health stance has been welcomed by many. When a video of Macka singing "Cucumba," went viral, it was reshared and even celebrities like Naomi Campbell and Diana Ross were sharing his video on their social media. He was ecstatic.



Macka B talks social and environmental consciousness in "Health is Wealth."

Andy Cotterill

"The reaction was amazing," said Macka. "I was only doing something I would do anyway, but it got a lot of people thinking about getting healthy."

The album also features another song, "Wha Me Eat," where Macka discusses his experience and the reactions he gets when identifying as vegan. But the album is not just about his journey and love of green foods. He approaches subjects like peer pressure and doubts, and even pays tribute to some legendary Jamaican artists in a few songs. Fans can get a full experience of his talents, according to Macka.

It's all about self-love

Continued from Page 41

ing one's hair. I wanted to tell a story that shows how self-hatred is taught and can be unlearned. I wanted to tell a story that shows the trauma, the damage to one's self-worth, but the victory as well. Charcoal is about facing this world and being bold enough to love who you are.

CL: "Charcoal" will be screened at several stateside and international film festivals, tell me how excited you are about your film gaining more audiences?

FA: I am grateful. This is a low budget film. I shot it myself and my husband, Gustavo Azael Torres, edited the film. It's a project of love that I could not have done without the talents of Chengu Kargbo, Lorry Francois, Kweta Henry, Heather Smith and Khamaly Bryan. They gave this project their best. It's a positive, triumphant film that young girls and women of color should watch.

CL: And are there any other film festivals you are hoping to pick up your film?

FA: Yes, my goal is to con-

tinue submitting "Charcoal" to many different film festivals. I am open to any festival that is willing to show the film.

CL: Compared to other films tackling the subject of colorism (Dark Girls, Light Girls), what makes your take on it different?

FA: "Charcoal" shows the generational cycle of colorism, from the perspective of a young child, a teenager, and a mother. It shows how self-hatred is taught and can turn into a vicious, self-perpetuating pattern. I haven't seen "Dark Girls, Light Girls," but I do think these topics need to be explored more, as these traumas continue to haunt us as a people.

CL: As a filmmaker what is most important for you when viewers watch it?

FA: I hope they feel empowered. "Charcoal" is about taking your power back. It's about self-love.

CL: How long did it take you to complete the film?

FA: It took about three months. The editing process was the longest.

Masked 9/11 hero memorialized in biopic

"Man in Red Bandana"

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for mature themes and disaster images

Running time: 85 minutes

Production Studio: Verdi Productions / RDZ Productions

Distributor: Verdi Entertainment / Magna Entertainment / Falco Ink



This film is about Welles Crowther, a 9/11 hero who was tragically killed in the lobby of the South Tower when it collapsed. www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

Sometimes, substance trumps low-production values. Case in point, *Man in Red Bandana*. Minutes after the World Trade Center was struck by United Airlines Flight 175 on the morning of 9/11, Welles Crowther called his mother to let her know he was okay. The 24-year-old stockbroker knew she'd be worried, since his office was located on the 104th floor of the South Tower.

However, Welles was also a volunteer firefighter who was seriously considering abandon-

ing his very-promising Wall Street career to start over with the New York Fire Department. In fact, he'd recently expressed to his father a feeling that having a more meaningful job was more important to him than making lots of money.

So, it wasn't a surprise to

Welles' family that, instead of leaving the burning building, he might remain inside, calmly leading the injured and dazed to safety. For, after discovering the only avenue of escape available to those trapped above the impact of the plane, he made his way

up and down that unstable staircase several times to assist seemingly-trapped victims.

But because he covered his face with a red bandana while altruistically performing his heroics, none of those he saved ever knew whom to thank. Nevertheless, a number of arti-

cles published by the New York Times and other newspapers featured survivors' accounts crediting a masked young man with saving their lives.

Unfortunately, Welles perished in the collapse of the tower, but not before rescuing at least a dozen victims. It was easy for his folks and anybody else that knew him to identify Welles as the unidentified Good Samaritan. That's because a red bandana had been his trademark since his father first gave him one at the age of 7.

Welles wore the bandana throughout childhood, on the lacrosse field while playing for Boston College, and even sported it in the pocket of his suit jacket as an up-and-coming equities trader. And then, during the last and finest hour of his abbreviated life, he used it to filter smoke from the acrid air he was being forced to breathe by the conflagration.

An overdue tribute to a selfless hero who put into action his heartfelt belief that we are all here to care for one another. A must see documentary guaranteed to leave you in tears!

Independent & Foreign Films

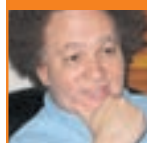
Battle of the Sexes (PG-13 for sexuality and partial nudity) Tennis docudrama recreating the 1973 match between reigning champion Billie Jean King (Emma Stone)

and 55 year-old hustler Bobby Riggs, a trash-talking misogynist who created a media circus by boasting he could beat the best female player in the world. With Sarah Silverman, Elisabeth Shue and Bill Pullman.

Bobbi Jene (Unrated) Warts and all biopic chronicling the questionable career choices of Bobbi Jene Smith, the American, modern dance star who abandoned her devoted boyfriend (Or Schraiber) as well as a prominent position in Israel's prestigious Batsheva Company to pursue a solo career back in the States.

Hong Kong Trilogy: Preschooled, Preoccupied, Preposterous (Unrated) Intergenerational documentary painting a cultural portrait of Hong Kong via compelling interviews conducted over the course of a year with 100+ citizens of all ages (In Cantonese, Mandarin and English with subtitles)

The King's Choice (Unrated) World War II docudrama, revisiting Norway monarch Haakon VII's (Jesper Christensen) pivotal decision on April 9, 1940 to resist rather than capitulate to the invading Nazi army. With Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Karl



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Markovics and Tuva Novotny. (In Norwegian, German, Danish and Swedish with subtitles)

Loving Vincent (PG-13 for violence, mature themes, sexuality and smoking) Robert Gulaczyk plays Vincent Van Gogh in this reverential biopic exploring the eccentric artist's life and mysterious death. With Saoirse Ronan, Chris O'Dowd and Jerome Flynn.

Stronger (R for pervasive profanity, gruesome images and brief nudity and sexuality) Inspirational biopic chronicling the injury and recovery of Jeff Bauman (Jake Gyllenhaal), a spectator who had both of his legs blown off by a terrorist blast while waiting for his fiancée (Tatiana Maslany) to finish the 2013 Boston Marathon. Supporting cast includes Miranda Richardson, Patty O'Neil and Nate Richman.

The Tiger Hunter (Unrated) Romantic comedy, set in Chicago in the Seventies, about a disenchanted Indian immigrant (Danny Pudi) who abandons his pursuit of the American Dream to chase his childhood sweetheart (Karen David). Featuring Rizwan Manji, Jon Heder and Kevin Pollak.

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Trinidad and Tobago cricketer Kevon Cooper.

Associated Press / Mahesh Kumar A., File

Carib cricket champs

By Azad Ali

Trinbago Knight Riders (KKR) defeated the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the finals of the 2017 Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) to claim the title before a 15,000-strong partisan crowd at the newly opened Brian Lara Cricket Academy in South Trinidad on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2017.

It was a nail-biting finish as the Knight Riders were batting 90 for 7 wickets with just the tail-enders to bat, chasing a modest total of 136 for victory. The Knight Riders struggled

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Windies bowler makes his mark

By Azad Ali

West Indies fast bowler Kumar Roach has joined a distinguished list of bowlers with five-wicket hauls at historic Lord's Cricket Ground, England recently.

Right-arm bowler Roach, in his first Test series in 18 months, claimed 5 for 72 as England were dismissed for 194 in the first innings of the final Test at Lord's.

With the performance he became the ninth West Indies bowler to make the honors board at the home of cricket (Lord's), joining the likes of legends Courtney Walsh,

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TWENTY20 VICTORY

West Indies Keshav Williams celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Adil Rashid during their T20 match at the Emirates Riverside stadium in Durham, England, Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017.

Richard Sellers / PA via Associated Press

West Indies beat England in one-off game

By Azad Ali

West Indies beat England in their one-off Twenty20 by 21 runs at Chester-le-Street, Durham, England last week-end.

After being put in to bat, West Indies scored 176-9, from a whirlwind knock openers Chris Gayle

and Evin Lewis.

Captain Carlos Brathwaite (3-20) and Keshav Williams (3-35) undermined England's comeback.

Spinner Sunil Narine grabbed 2-15 from four overs and England were bowled out for 155 with three

balls to spare.

Earlier Gayle and Lewis smashed 72 runs off 39 balls for the opening wicket before West Indies lost their momentum. Lewis made 51 off 28 balls and Gayle 40 of 21

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badly and needed 33 from the last three overs with Kevon Cooper and wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin in the wicket.

Cooper hit a whirlwind 29 from 14 balls including two fours and two sixes to swing the match in the Knight Riders way.

Australian fast bowler Ben Hilfenhans was struck for 22 runs in the 19th over including two wides and a no-ball. KKR won the match with three wickets and an over to spare.

Earlier Bravo won the toss and opted to send the Patriots in to bat first and they were in control for the first over when prolific opener Gayle was caught for one run.

It was hyped as the best ever CPL with stars such as Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo and Sunil Narine.

After the match, Gayle, captain of the Patriots, lamented his team's failure in their first-ever finals saying they had a foot in at one stage but couldn't get pass the line

He however, thanked his players for a tremendous season over the past six weeks over several Caribbean islands and hopes they can build on their showing in the future.



West Indies Carlos Brathwaite celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Liam Plunkett to win the T20 match at the Emirates Riverside stadium in Durham, England, Saturday Sept. 16, 2017. Richard Sellers / PA via Associated Press

Windies



West Indies' Kemar Roach bowls on the second day of the third test match between England and the West Indies at Lord's cricket ground in London, Friday, Sept. 8, 2017.

Associated Press / Kirsty Wigglesworth

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Malcolm Marshall and Andy Roberts.

Roach finished the series with 11 wickets at 29 runs apiece as West Indies lost the series 2-1.

A year ago, Roach was having serious doubts he would ever return to international cricket.

He was still struggling to recover from a shoulder injury which had resulted in surgery, and subsequently also led to a loss of form.

Roach was recalled for the three-Test tour of England after 18 months out of the West Indies team. But the 20-year-old rebounded in style when he snatched the five-wicket haul at Lord's.



Former West Indies Captain Brian Lara. Associated Press

chase when he was dismissed by Jerome Taylor.

However, Alex Hales (43) smashed eight fours and a six and took England to 64-1 inside the first batting power play. England could only manage to reach 155.

After the match, Narine said the return of some of the Twenty20 stars to regional colors was a welcome sign and also welcomed Gayle to the side at the top of the order as well as the captaincy of Brathwaite.

WINDIES SCORE TWENTY20 VICTORY

Continued from Page 45

balls.

West Indies then stumbled and lost nine wickets for 104 runs. England lost Jason Roy off the very first ball of its run

Disharmony destroys Windies cricket

By Azad Ali

West Indies batting legend Brian Lara has said that disharmony between the Cricket West Indies Board (CWI) and its players are the one cancer that has affected and destroyed West Indies cricket over the last 25 years.

He was at the time delivering the feature address at the 2017 MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture, at the Lord's Cricket Ground, England recently.

He used the podium to talk about several things related to West Indies cricket, reminiscing on his young playing career and being in the company of cricketers greats such as Gordon Greenidge and Sir Vivian Richards.

Lara said from as far back as the 1980s, the present and past boards failed to secure the future of the game in the region.

The former West Indies captain also took the International Cricket Council (ICC) and regional officials to task on scheduling the local calendar in the rainy season.

He said West Indies should become a nation that plays cricket on Boxing Day and New Year's to see if there is a bit of revival.

Lara became only the second West Indian, after Clive Lloyd, to be selected to deliver the lecture at the annual event.

Basketball stats: There's an app for that

By Alexandra Simon

It's a slam dunk app! A pair of Brooklyn brothers have created a platform that collects and archives basketball statistics for the sport's data enthusiasts. East Flatbush siblings and basketball players, Nigel and Vaughn Caldon, innovated the idea for Ballstar — an online medium that documents all basketball figures from the NBA to even local school teams. Inspiration for the application spawned from conversions the two would hear at sidecourt neighborhood games, said Nigel Caldon.

"It really started with an argument that I was listening to with friends and they were talking about how good they used to be and it occurred to me that there was no evidence of how good they were or have digital resume that says who they played," he said.

At Wingate Park in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, where the brothers often go to shoot hoops, they frequently encounter these debates and saw a chance to equip those discussions with accessible facts to reference. Hence the creation

of Ballstar — a comprehensive platform for all of the sport's recorded game's information. Users can search the program for basketball games from the founding of the sport, to the current with national and international teams.

With the database, users can search the numbers for their favorite teams and players, seeing their scores and wins. And if one cannot remember a team or league name or who they played, people can search courts too, according to Caldon.

As lovers of the game, the duo figured that an app would be a great way to put an end to debates and have a go-to guide to book that track scores. It took some time to execute but the brothers knew their idea would pull through in the end.

"This didn't exist and it was a challenge to build and put this together — we made a lot of connections all over the world before coming up with a plan," said Vaughn Caldon. "It was sloppy at first but this was our huge first step, and once it was on paper it was a viable product."

Ballstar is used by a select few leagues and coaches and as it grows, it will be a vital source for recruiters, added Caldon.

"We have over 70 partners who are using the app now as a data reference source and now we have the opportunity to amplify what they're doing.

The Caldon brothers say the platform will give hoop fanatics a chance to catch up on players overseas, including Stephon Marbury, who left the NBA to play in the Chinese Basketball Association. As a database, they will be able to stay on top of favorite players without relying on U.S.-centric sports networks for that information.

"We're giving people a new way to access these players without being tied to ESPN," said Nigel Caldon. "We have no priorities to a player, so when Marbury goes to China people should be able to see what he's doing because we think not being able to is unreal."

And it is not just Marbury either. From the rookies to the veterans, Ballstar will be a one-stop shop to access the numbers on anyone playing the sport professionally and it is a



Tech ballers: From left, brothers Nigel and Vaughn Caldon are the creators of Ballstar — a basketball data app that provides access to all of the sports statistics.

Jorge Caraballo Cordovez

new type of technology sharing can have a voice on an international platform," said Vaughn Caldon. "We want to give open data a try by kicking down the door for this tech thing."

"We want every player to count — the same way Twitter gave people a voice, you too

CARICOM Consular Corps mobilize hurricane relief

By Tangerine Clarke

As Hurricane Maria bears down on the Caribbean for what is reported to be another damaging hurricane, some members of the CARICOM Consular Corps on Sunday, Sept. 17, mobilized the community to aid citizens devastated by Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean region, by collecting canned goods, clothing, baby diapers and toiletries, that will be shipped immediately through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, said Consul General of Guyana to New York Barbara Atherly.

The corps which included Consul Generals of St. Lucia, Jeremiah Hyacinth; St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Howie Prince; Dominica Consulate representative, Sheldon Peter Anthony, and Deputy CG of Belize, Michelle Longworth, welcomed donors, during an afternoon of music and refreshments at the Friends of Crown Heights Hall on Hege-man Street in East New York.

Two more mobilization drives will be held in Brooklyn on Sunday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Oct. 1, at Friends of Crown Heights, 671 Prospect Place from 10 am to 5 pm.



Some of the members of the CARICOM Consular Corps took a break from packing much-needed items for a photo. They are Consul General of Belize, Herman R. Longworth, Deputy CG of Belize, Michelle Longworth, CG of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Howie Prince, CG of Guyana Barbara Atherly, Dominica Consulate representative, Sheldon Peter Anthony and Vice CG of St. Lucia, Jeremiah Hyacinth.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Donations could be dropped off in Queens during the week at: Darmin Bachu Law Offices, 8745 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, New York, and Vishnu Mahadeo, 13617 Hillside Ave., Jamaica, New York.

Atherly, who will begin her three-month stint on Oct. 1, as chairperson of the Consu-

lar Corp, noted that after an emergency meeting to respond to the devastation left by hurricane Irma in the Caribbean, a decision was made, to collect needed items, and plan a church service, and a variety concert for a later date, to continue supportive initiatives to help those displaced.

CG Howie Prince, said that St. Vincent and the Grenadines

community felt it was necessary to come together with the Corps, after the group had began an independent drive, to start humanitarian efforts that is 'absolutely necessary at this time in the Caribbean.'

"The Caribbean was devastated by Irma, and many countries are down and out. For instance, all 1800 persons were evacuated from Barbuda, Anguilla was devastated, and the British Virgin Islands is 95 percent damaged," said the diplomat, adding that there is also significant damage to the Turks and Caicos and the United States Virgin Islands.

"We are asking persons to bring relief items as well as cash. This collective effort would go a much longer way in bringing relief to those persons affected by the hurricane. We have scored one for Caribbean unity, by doing this, and we know our efforts would help the suffering," said Prince.

He is calling on the community to give generously, "be benevolent in terms of doing something that would make you feel good, and make people

who are suffering feel better, he added.

Dominica's consul representative, Shelton Peter Anthony in turn recalled the help his country received in 2015 after Hurricane Erica, and thanked the Consular Corps for coming together to organize relief back then. As such, he felt that it is his country's duty to give back.

"Not only did Dominicans brought help to our country, I was impressed with how our brothers and sisters from the Caribbean helped Dominica.

"We are all our brother's keeper and we are happy to be here to help, because maybe its Antigua and Barbuda today, and tomorrow it could be someone else," said Anthony.

CG Herman Longworth who said his country Belize was spared the wrath of Irma this time, after receiving least damage from a 2016 hurricane, noted, 'We are brothers and sisters in the Caribbean and it is incumbent upon us to make sure we come together to aid everyone in need, that is the way it ought to be, and that is why we are here today to support those in need and help in the efforts.'

ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, when an opportunity comes your way, resist the temptation to pass it up thinking something better is on the horizon. There are no guarantees, so make the most of this chance.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Many things around the home need your attention, Taurus. But you may be having trouble finding the motivation to tackle them right now. Get a partner to lend a helping hand.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, make a concerted and sincere effort to focus on family for the next few days. It's time to reconnect with everyone in the house, and you will enjoy the time at home.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, slow down a little because moving faster will not get the job done right. It may only lead to sloppy mistakes that will take even more time to handle.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
It can be challenging to find initial support for your ideas, Leo. However, once you explain all of the specifics, there's a good chance others will climb on board.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Risk can sometimes have a large payoff, Virgo. Just make sure you time your jump right or you could miss an opportunity to really shine.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, if you push yourself a little harder this week, you will be happy with the results. Even though it may be an uphill battle, the summit will look pretty nice.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, just when you think you can lie low and escape the week without any excitement, something pops up that requires all of your attention. Hunker down for now.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, focus on something new for a while rather than a problem that has been bouncing around in your brain. Frustration will get you nowhere, so let it go for now.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, even if you take some time off from work, things will go on as planned. Although you are a key member of the team, others can temporarily fill your shoes.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Sometimes the things that require the most work are the ones that you enjoy the most, Aquarius. Dig in deep on a new project and the rewards will come afterward.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
A few things still need to be sorted out, Pisces. Then you can put your feet up for the time being. Gemini has something to say this week.

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