



State Senator Brad Hoylman co-sponsored bills to limit New York's cooperation with ICE and create a "sanctuary state" to protect immigrants from random and unjustified deportation.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Immigration activist Jean Montrevil detained

By Tequila Minsky

With the piercing sounds of sirens and traffic, immigration activists, local politicians, and clergy braved bitter weather at the prayer vigil and rally protesting the detention of Jean Montrevil.

Montrevil was picked up during his lunch break — van transport entrepreneur — outside his home near Far Rockaway. He was on a deportation order.

Demonstrators prayed and then spoke. They held placards that read: "Free Jean Montrevil Now and Let Haitians Stay."

Four floors above, immigrants are processed at the Varick Street Processing Center at Houston Street before being transferred to detention centers in New Jersey or New York State.

Forty-nine-year-old Haitian Jean Montrevil is the

father of four American-born children, the youngest, daughter Jamya, 10 along with her mother spoke at the rally.

For years, Montrevil has lived under the threat of deportation under a 1996 federal law which gives ICE the discretion to deport legal immigrants with a past felony conviction no matter how far in their past.

Continued on Page 8

CALLS TO PERMIT WEED

Free up marijuana use says Antigua's PM Gaston Browne

By Bert Wilkinson

Just as the regional commission on marijuana is in the Bahamas for public consultations this week, an influential Caribbean head of government is calling on governments to take cognizance of the global push to allow for possession of small amounts for personal use rather than fill jail houses with innocent youths across the region.

Gaston Browne of Antigua, likely to call general elections within a matter of weeks, came out swinging this week, suggesting that the time has come for Caricom governments to legalize and decriminalize small amounts for personal use.

"We should continue to follow the developments in Canada, in particular, which will legalize the use of marijuana come July 2018, and I believe there will be scope for CARICOM countries to follow Canada wholesale," he said, noting that the region does not have to copy wholesale the laws in North America but could "take the aspects of laws and regulations that could apply to us

here and help us to deal with what has been a very difficult issue."

Four years ago, regional leaders established a commission on the positives of decriminalizing marijuana for personal and medicinal use but they are yet to make a final or collective decision on the way forward.

In the interim, the multi-agency commission that leaders had appointed to guide them on this issue is continuing to organize and hold public consultations in member states with the Bahamas being the latest. Similar forums were held in Guyana and Suriname late last year.

But countries such as Jamaica and Belize are certainly not waiting on any collective decision. Both have moved separately to decriminalize. Jamaica allows for up to two ounces without criminal charges while Belize allow for possession of not more than 10 grams.

Just this week, Guyanese Attorney General Basil Williams ruled out Guyana joining Jamaica and Belize in freeing up possession of small

Continued on Page 8

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Dawnn Jaffier, the innocent bystander killed during the 2014 Boston Caribbean Carnival by two men, Keith Williams and Wesson Colas, who Boston prosecutors say were sentenced to life in prison this week.

Facebook

Boston Carnival killers jailed for life

By Nelson A. King

Two men convicted in the shooting death of an innocent bystander at a 2014 Caribbean Carnival in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood have been sentenced to life in prison.

Keith Williams, 21, and Wesson Colas, 25, who were found guilty of first-degree murder on Dec. 28 in the death of Dawnn Jaffier, were sentenced Monday in Suffolk Superior Court, according to Necn news.

Prosecutors said Jaffier, 26, a city youth worker, was shot in the head in an August 2014 confrontation on Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester.

Prosecutors said Williams fired the shot that killed Jaffier but was aiming for Colas, who they said drew his gun first.

At Monday's sentencing, members of Jaffier's family gave impact statements on her behalf, according to Necn.

Her brother, Ian Jaffier Jr., told the court the defendants changed his life forever when they killed his beloved sister.

He also thanked the court for serving justice and recognized the families whose cases aren't solved and who continue to live without closure.

"I hope that this verdict actually rings bells through the city. It was stated earlier, I feel like if one person is watching this story, if one person puts their gun down, that's really a win for the whole entire city," Ian Jaffier Jr. said.

According to Necn, Jaffier's father, Ian Jaffier, called Dawnn's shooting death senseless, adding that his daughter strived to be a positive influence on the community. He said he'll always mourn the milestones they will miss.

Commuting while black

New guidebook alerts black commuters about stations with anti-black policing

By Alexandra Simon

It's a handbook for commuting while black.

A social justice community organization recently released a book to help black New Yorkers navigate the city's subway system. The National Action Network's "Black Commuters' Guide: Brooklyn" is a comprehensive book that highlights the disparity in fare evasion arrests in Brooklyn, and the stations where they are most likely to happen. The creator behind it all says despite the multiple disciplinary options transit officers can consider before cuffing offenders, those options are not being enforced and it is "the reason I created the book is because the numbers of black people being arrested for fare evasion is unconscionable," said Brandon Hicks.

When police catch someone evading a fare they can issue them a warning, a citation, or arrest them. The latter is the stiffest penalty and the first option for black offenders, he added.

"Either this is implicit bias or they are deliberately preying on black people, because the numbers are not reasonable," said Hicks. "The harshest crime is arrest and that is always the case for black people."

The guide pinpoints stations at Atlantic, Livonia, and Sutter avenues along the L train line, and the Junius Street station on the 3 train line, as the central areas with the highest arrest rates. All are in East New York and Brownsville — two predominantly black and low-income neighborhoods, said Hicks.

The police department's Transit District 33, which accounts for booking the vast majority of the fare jumping offenders, and covers central and eastern Brooklyn and parts of Queens, also includes Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In 2016, out of all of fare evasion arrests, 90 percent of those were people of color and 60 percent of them were black, according to Hicks. And the overwhelming demographic group subject to being apprehended



A police officer observes commuters using turnstiles at a Harlem subway station, Thursday March 3, 2016, in New York. The city is having second thoughts about its "broken windows policing," a longtime strategy of driving down crime by cracking down hard on people who commit minor offenses like turnstile jumping.

Associated Press / Beбето Matthews

are young black men between the ages of 16 and 36.

Hicks said that black commuters face an insurmountable challenge against this type of policing and feels even if the arrests are warranted, he strongly believes poverty but mostly anti-black policing plays a bigger role.

"I'm looking at the numbers, and if most people being arrested are black, then we need to stop and figure out the source of these disproportionate arrests," he said.

The guidebook is an homage to "The Negro Motorist Green Book," published during the Jim Crow era to alert black travelers on sundown towns, interstates, cities, and lodgings they could safely accommodate

during segregation. But also it will alert black riders of the issue and know where to keep a look out for arrest.

"We are hitting the pavements and already handing these out around these communities and organizations — Brooklyn needs to be aware of these places and where arrest rates are higher," he said.

The group has tried to meet with the captain of Transit District 33 but has been unsuccessful in setting anything up, said Hicks.

Hicks overall mission is to discuss the matter with the head cop of the district and determine a feasible solution that will decriminalize fare evasion, and help gradually decrease the number of arrests and reduce the crime itself.

Funerals begin for Jamaican victims of Bronx fire

By Nelson A. King

Funerals began Monday for many of the victims, including Jamaicans, who perished in a massive fire in the Bronx on Dec. 28.

Iholt Francis had been planning a trip from Jamaica to New York to visit his twin brother to celebrate their 28th birthday. Instead, he arrived last week to take his brother off life sup-

port, according to reports.

Francis's twin, Holt Francis, died a week after the Bronx fire ripped through his apartment building, killing four members of his Jamaican family and eight other people.

The fire was the deadliest in New York City in 27 years, the New York Times said.

The paper said the fire was started

by a three-year-old boy who was playing with a stove, and was fueled by gusty winds.

Funeral services were expected to be held Monday, at the R.G. Ortiz Funeral Home in Manhattan, for Holt Francis; his wife, Karen Stewart-Francis, 37; their daughters, Kylie, 2, and Kelesha, 7; and their cousin, Shawntay

Continued on Page 6

Barbados

A new governor of the Barbados Central Bank (BCB) took up office from Jan. 1, 2018.

Finance Minister Christopher Sinler announced that Christopher Haynes has been appointed as governor of the Central Bank of Barbados effective Jan. 1.

The new governor, who has acted in the position since Feb. 24 last year, has more than 37 years experience in central banking, with emphasis on macroeconomic policy and bank regulations.



He was deputy governor from February 2009 until early last year.

He authored and co-authored several publications, principally on economic policy, debt and financial sector issues.

Dominica

The Dominica Business Forum (DBF) is calling for a public inquiry into the looting that followed the Sept. 18 devastation caused by Hurricane Maria.

DCF chairman, Severin Mc Kenzie, said the issue had been raised with Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit last month where the private sector group discussed “the building of confidence particularly as it relates to the looting that took place after Hurricane Maria.”

McKenzie said questions have been asked about what mechanisms are being put in place to give local investors a certain level of confidence that they should re-invest in the Dominican economy.

Last month, Prime Minister Skerit said a review would be held to determine what went wrong with security on the island following the passage of the category 5 hurricane that killed at least 29 people and left millions of dollars in damage.



McKenzie said the private sector, which employs in excess of 15,000 people wants to know what went wrong, not only with the police, but what went wrong generally in the aftermath of the hurricane.

Guyana

Oil and gas giant ExxonMobil is expected to start oil production in Guyana by March 2020.

This was disclosed by Exxon’s Country Manager Rod Henson during a recent press conference in Guyana where contents of the Stabroek Petroleum Agreement between the oil company and the government were shared.

Guyana and ExxonMobil entered into an agreement in July 2016, which will see the South American country



St. Kitts, Cuba talk aid

From left, St. Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister, Dr. Timothy Harris; Cuban Ambassador to St. Kitts and Nevis, Abelardo Fabio Hernández Ferrer and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Osbert DeSuza. See story on Page 21

St. Kitts-Nevis government

receiving a 50 / 50 profit and a two percent royalty.

Oil from just the Liza Phase One could be more than US\$1.5 billion after five years and more than US\$7 billion over the life of the project.



Henson told journalists it is estimated when production starts around March 2020 it will be somewhere between 100,000 and 120,000 barrels a day.

The oil production in 2020 will represent only a fraction of the Liza field, Henson said.

St. Kitts

The devastating hurricanes Irma and Maria have disrupted record growth by the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union last year.

This is according to Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Governor Timothy Antoine who said before the hurricanes hit, the ECCU was on the way to record its fastest growth in a decade.

He said the welcomed development was rudely interrupted and reversed by the passage of the two hurricanes, two of the most powerful storms ever recorded.



Five out of the nine-member countries were impacted with three receiving direct hits.

Antoine said despite the impact of

the hurricanes, the ECCB made significant strides “of which we can justifiably be proud,” which include return to profitability and the launch of “our strategic plan.”

The 2017 – 2021 strategic plan “Transforming the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union Together” focuses on economic transformation.

Jamaica

A Jamaican delegation of top security officials led by National Security Minister Robert Montague recently attended the 9th Citizen Security Week in Colombia where they were provided with helpful information and suggestions regarding technological solutions available to deal with Jamaica’s crime problem.

The 9th Citizen Security Week was organized by the Inter-American Development Bank with support from the Colombian government.



The aim of the Security Week was to provide public security policymakers and directors of violence and crime prevention with a platform for dialogue and inform them of main challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The discussions were on the challenges that states face to establish legitimacy and trust in the implementation of citizen security public poli-

cies, through the exchange of experiences.

National Security Advisor, Major General Antony Anderson, who was a member of the delegation visited the Police Unit for Peace, the intelligence unit and the Telematics Directorate of the Colombian National Police, while in Bogota.

Trinidad

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley in a televised address to the nation on Sunday night has called on law-abiding citizens to continue to support the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) in their fight against crime.



With 18 murders recorded in the first week of 2018, Rowley said he is appealing to citizens to keep hope alive in this war against the heartless family members and career violent criminals.

“We must and will, win this war on crime. New approaches are at work in the Strategic Service Agency (SSA) and a new energy is beginning to infect the ranks of the TTPS and already we are seeing improvements in response and detections, he said.

The prime minister also re-emphasized his commitment to weed out corruption in the public service.

— *Compiled by Azad Ali*

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Trinidad to have its first female president

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago will soon have its first female president.

Come March this year, retired Court of Appeal judge Paula Mae Weekes will make history when she is inaugurated as the first woman to be elected president of Trinidad and Tobago.

Following a 35-minute meeting with Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Stuart Young announced that Weekes will be the government's nominee at the Diplomatic Centre, Port of Spain last Friday.

Young said Persad-Bissessar indicated the Opposition had no nominees at this stage, but she indicated she needed to caucus with Opposition members and would contact the government

He said the Constitution stipulates that 12 or more elected members of parliament must sign the nomination form a week before the Electoral College convenes.

The college is set to meet on Jan. 19.

Young explained that once a nominee is unopposed, that individual is automatically the President-elect.

He said Weekes had a stellar career as a jurist in TT, serving as a Justice of Appeal for 11 years before retiring in 2016.

Young also said Weekes has "a very great professional career" at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), spent a short time in private practice and served as a judge in the 1990s before being elevated to the Court of Appeal.

Weekes, who was called



Retired Court of Appeal judge Paula Mae Weekes.

to the bar in 1982, was the fifth woman to be appointed a judge of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago.

In August 2012, she acted as chief justice in the absence of Chief Justice Ivor Archie.

Weekes also served as an appeal court judge in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Current President Anthony Carmona five-year tenure in office will come to an end on March 16 this year.

The government has the majority of MPs in the Electoral College to approve Weekes as the next president.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

Bronx fire victims

Continued from Page 3
Young, 19.

Their bodies will be sent to St. Catherine Parish in Jamaica for burial on Jan. 21, the Times said.

It said several other funerals will be held over the next few weeks. Services were held on Sunday for the youngest victim, seven-month-old Amora Batiz, and her grandmother, Maria Batiz, 65.

Ms. Stewart-Francis, a hotel housekeeper, belonged to a close-knit family from southeast Jamaica, the Times said.

It said some relatives had lived in the building, on Prospect Avenue in the Belmont neighborhood in the Bronx, for nearly a decade.

Her family occupied five apartments there, and relatives doubled as babysitters, cooks and hairdressers, the Times said.

Her sister, Andrene Paul, said the family was still raising money to cover the cost of transporting their bodies to Jamaica for burial.

Paul said it had always been her sister's wish to be

buried there alongside their father, according to the Times.

Ms. Stewart-Francis was the youngest of their parents' 13 children, and "she and our father were joined at the hip," Paul said.

Francis joined her in the United States in 2016, and the two married that May. They had lived in the apartment building for about a year, Paul said.

"We always try to stick together because kids are involved," said Paul, whose pregnant daughter lived on the third floor with her husband and 10-year-old son. "It works that way, like a community for each other."

Many of the fire's victims were working-class immigrants, and relatives have been frustrated in their efforts to plan funerals because they are unfamiliar with the process and have little money to cover expenses, the Times said.

It said six victims of the fire were from the Ashanti region in Ghana. They included a soldier and two children.

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Browne: Give marijuana users a break



Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Alphonso Browne has called for the legalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use. Associated Press / Jason DeCrow, file

Browne spoke on a recent radio program and many of those who called in were quick to dismiss his calls as a general election gimmick to win hearts and minds. They said they are also on the lookout for a reduction in gasoline prices and import taxes on electronic items, all to win votes.

The commission is mandated to enquire about the social, economic, health and legal issues linked to marijuana use in the region of 15 nations and as well, to recommend whether there should be a reclassification of marijuana as a narcotic. If so, it will be more accessible to people who need it for religious, personal, recreational, medical and research uses officials said.

Support for Haitian activist

Continued from Page 1

When he was in his early 20s, Montrevil served five years for selling cocaine.

Eight years ago, he was in Pennsylvania scheduled for imminent deportation when the earthquake hit Haiti and deportations were temporarily halted. Since then he regularly checks in with ICE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, works and is a family man.

Jean Montrevil found fellowship, moral support and became active with the Judson Memorial Church community. He co-founded The New Sanctuary Coalition. But, the stress of multiple deportation orders has also wrought an emotional toll.

Shortly after Jean was picked up, ICE took him to the Essex County Jail in Newark, New Jersey, where he remained for two days. On Friday, he was flown down to Krome Detention Center in Miami.

His son Jahsiyah 14 has written about years attending protests and of living with the uncertainty of his father's presence. His testimony is circulating with an on-line petition to try to stop his father's deportation.

He writes: He had to go to annual check-ins with ICE. Before every check-in I always try to spend as much time as possible with him and

try not to think about the fact that it may be the last time I see him.

His worst fears may have been realized.

At the vigil, Judson Minister Michah Bucey spoke, "We're here because there is something much colder inside."

His Sunday sermon also addressed the issues of Jean's detention.

During the rally, State Senator Brad Hoylman, whose district includes Judson, said, "Jean deserves a pathway towards citizenship, not persecution by ICE."

He added, "I'll continue to join my Greenwich Village neighbors and my colleagues in government in speaking up against these unjust policies, as well as advocating for legislation in Albany."

U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) and State Assemblymember Deborah Glick (D-West Village) also spoke.

This latest detention follows the Trump administration's suspension of Temporary Protected Status — special immigration program for 60,000 Haitians that followed the 2010 earthquake.

On Tuesday, Judson Chief Pastor Donna Schapner flew down to Florida. "We're waiting to see what happens with the Board of Immigration Appeals," she said.



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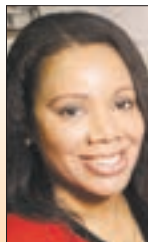
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An open appeal to new NYC Speaker Corey Johnson

By Albert Baldeo

Dear Speaker Johnson:
"For of those to whom much is given, much is required."
 President John F. Kennedy

Congratulations on your elevation as the second most powerful person in NYC government! Indeed, the discrimination you overcome for being openly gay and HIV-positive has fortified you for the fights ahead. Your history and the issues that you have worked have stood in solidarity with communities of color, the marginalized and the vulnerable. Like you said, "That is where you come from. That is what my life's work has been about."

We also applaud your statement that, "The problems and challenges we continue to face are of historic proportions. Overflowing homeless shelters, mom and pops unable to compete with deep-pocketed chain stores and a failing transit system are just three of our problems."

You should put a stop to the over criminalization of New Yorkers, like stop making criminals of poor people who cannot afford the fare to travel to work on the trains. You should roll back the senseless e-bike ban because it helps immigrant workers get by. Transform this city into a beacon that's in solidarity with poor and working-class New

Yorkers, including increasing your audit and scrutiny of the many failing city agencies that routinely waste and abuse our tax dollars, while preserving it as a "sanctuary city."

The mayor has promised us more senior centers, better schools, hospitals, city services and personnel and transparency in how benefits are awarded. Hold his feet to the fire.

You also said that, "I would support us putting up a significant amount of money," referring to city funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a stance that Mayor Bill de Blasio has resisted. "But there needs to be accountability involved so we know how that money is being spent, and that it's being spent wisely and that the projects remain on time." (NY Times 2/2/18).

Mr. Speaker, we urge you to address these and other issues speedily, not least here in Queens. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) is in breach of their public commitment and obligation to complete the wheelchair-accessible elevator in the Richmond Hill / Ozone Park community at the fulcrum Lefferts Boulevard and Liberty Avenue subway stop. This \$29 million project, commenced since 2014, was scheduled to be fin-

Continued on Page 14

Letter to Massive

Dear Mr. Massive Gosine,
 Permit me to extend my sincere thanks for your recent kaiso, "Rowley Mother Count." Carefully, I listened to its articulation. The word 'count' was pronounced faithfully, meticulously, cautiously, abiding strictly to the rules of English phonetics. I do not regard this as an accident. I regard it as your careful, wary efforts to not exceed the norms of simple courtesy. It cannot be otherwise, for, as we all know, a righteous woman is a joy and boon to the nation.

I am deeply mindful of a fundamental issue raised in the song: the issue of praedial larceny and its baneful effects on food production, on the national economy. While on the political hustings, I did promise to convert the Eastern seaboard of Trinidad into a flourishing agricultural farmland. Your song is surely an indictment to tackle the serious matter of praedial larceny; and its massive prohibitive impacts on food production. I there-

The culture of thievery and corruption has cut far too deep; it has almost become a national pastime, trait.

fore propose the following solutions:

PRIMARY SCHOOL REVOLUTION: We need not more thieves on our land. Instances of thievery and pure corruption are far too high. The culture of thievery and corruption has cut far too deep; it has almost become a national pastime, trait. Not good. I therefore intent to use the primary school, where our most cherished, delicate, resplendent future citizens amass, to create an altered breed of citizen. An ethical one. The revolution entails the first half of the day, morning periods, to be devoted to reading, writing, and the other 'academic'

arts. The second part of the day, the afternoon, shall be devoted to avid training in technology, sports, languages and music, the performance arts, and horticulture. The hands-on part. This will engender a more innovative, creative, productive citizen; more willing to co-operate, build by the speed of their skills, aptitudes, rather than the slow coach of stealth.

THE HORTICULTURAL REVOLUTION: Horticulture is the organized husbandry of tree-crops to produce fruit, drinks and food. Our horticulture mission, envisaged by the post-World War One Colonial Government, its botanic garden, its Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, its employment of JO Cutteridge to introduce horticultural knowledge in schools, has been shoved aside; first by the oil and gas economy; and now, tragically, by the drugs economy. Vast swathes of the United States and European populations, discontented, impression-

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Stand in solidarity with immigrants

By Sarah Guillet

I found out that I was a different from my fellow immigrant classmates in high school, as I applied for college and scholarships. At the time I didn't understand why I had to pay the same tuition as someone who lived in another state. And I didn't understand why I couldn't meet any of the scholarship requirements.

Throughout my childhood my family and I used to visit the United States frequently. But things changed when I was about 10 years old. My mother, brother and I came for what would be the last time, never returning to Haiti. My family received kidnapping threats, so we fled the island.

And because we didn't really understand the immigration process, we overstayed our visa.

That means when it came time to prove that I was a legal resident that could receive help to pay for college, I didn't have adequate paperwork. So I didn't know if I would be able to go to college. When I found out about CUNY, my anxiety settled a bit because the school was more welcoming to immigrants. I was relieved to know that I had at least one option for my education.

My first year was very difficult. At the time there wasn't any funding or scholarships for undocumented students. We didn't have a lot of money,

so we had to take it semester by semester — scraping together enough money for courses and books. When the earthquake happened we were devastated. But it took such a tragedy, people losing their homes, to get some support for my family.

As I entered my sophomore year, we were able to file for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), paying over \$1000 in fees for each member of my family. This meant that my mom was able to find work as a home health aide. It meant that I was able to apply for a part-time job to help my mom pay for my tuition, food and transportation. I was also able

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 REPORTER: Alexandra Simon



Contributing Writers: Azad Ali, Tangerine Clarke, Patrick Horne, Nelson King, Tequila Minsky, Vinette K. Pryce, Bert Wilkinson, Lloyd Kam Williams, George Alleyne

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

King for a day – & 50 years after

America's only revered King — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — and the only non-president American citizen to be granted a national holiday will be commemorated throughout the nation with music, dance, art, film, poetry, panel discussions and on the west coast, a parade in Los Angeles, California.

"50 Years After MLK: A Dream Deferred" aptly describes an oral presentation and celebration slated to be held at Harlem's Apollo Theater commemorating the storied life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on Jan. 15.

On the eve of the 1929 anniversary, a free, public two-hour event begins at 3 pm and will explore the progress that has been made in the half-century since Dr. King's untimely death 50 years ago.

Through a lively mix of one-on-one interviews and panel discussions featuring notable guests — including author and award-winning former television host Tavis Smiley, civil rights leader and former attorney and advisor to Dr. King, Dr. Clarence Jones, and today's prominent female activists — Linda Sarsour, Wom-



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

en's March co-founder; Patrisse Cullors, Black Lives Matter co-founder; Rosa Clemente, scholar and 2008 Green Party Vice Presidential candidate. The topic will spotlight the past and future for the people Dr. King described to be disfranchised and exploited.

Panelists will discuss the evolution and persistence of issues he fought to eliminate — from racial and wage inequality to housing discrimination to police brutality — and will broach the question of what Dr. King's vision and leadership mean in this time of moral and ethical ambiguity.

WNYC's Peabody Award-winning host Brian Lehrer and local "All Things Considered" host Jami Floyd will moderate meaningful conversations examining Dr. King's legacy and its impact on modern social justice movements.

"Fifty years after Dr. King's assassination, I can think of no better place than Harlem and the

Apollo to reflect on his work and mission," Jami Floyd said. "Issues of race, justice and the need for unity are front and center again, in our country. My hope is that our conversation will open the door to reconciliation, as we embark on the next 50 years — together."

"We're thrilled to partner once again with the Apollo Theater to celebrate Dr. King's life and relevance in such an important anniversary year and at such a crucial moment for our country," Brian Lehrer said. "It's a great opportunity to bring the important conversations we convene on air into the community in person."

Others slated for discussions include: Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and MLK biographer, Jeanne Theoharis, scholar and professor of political science at Brooklyn College, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, activist and spiritual leader of Congregation Beit



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Simchat Torah, Pandit Dasa — author, Mindful Leadership and Wellbeing expert, and former practicing monk, Imam Khalid Latif — executive director and Chaplain at NYU's Islamic Center, Chaplain with the NYPD, Minister Kristen John Foy, president of the Brooklyn Chapter of the National Action

Network
The event will conclude with a rousing performance by the two-time Emmy Award-winning ensemble Vy Higginson's Gospel For Teens — a renowned group of teenagers who study and sing the art of gospel music in Harlem.

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OP-EDS

An appeal to new NYC Speaker Corey Johnson

Continued from Page 10

ished since the end of 2016, but unpalatable excuses abound each time we enquire about the constantly deferred completion date, making it a virtual "pie in the sky!"

MTA will also benefit from increased revenues, and its procrastination raises serious concerns, including the forced closure of the adjacent main stairway, affects businesses, the local economy, and congests traffic. Seniors, pregnant mothers, kids, the physically challenged, students, workers, indeed, everyone in our tax paying community would benefit greatly from this elevator which makes mobility and travel easier.

Affected communities deserve to have this project completed. Moreover,

the fencing, construction and accumulating garbage are an eye sore, and a danger to public safety. This delinquent entity must recognize that it is failing in its duty to make access easier for residents with disabilities, contrary to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Indeed, the non-profit Center for Independence of the Disabled New York just filed a lawsuit against the MTA for lack of elevator access citywide. Why must Richmond Hill / Ozone Park residents be forced to expend resources and bring a class action law suit against the MTA when it feeds off the public trough of our taxes?

As a matter of customer obligation and due compliance with our laws, this project is long overdue, and must be completed now!

Letter to Massive

Continued from Page 10

able, dig into their hard-earned incomes to buy drugs from their Southern neighbours; a vast network of drugs passing from South into North; from which we, Trinidadians and Tobagonians, get our cut. The horticultural revolution would subvert this trade: instead of channelling hard drugs, cocaine and other opiates to the United States and European consumers, we would channel Vitamin A, D, C, trace minerals, through the abundant trade of tropical fruit and their by-products, into metropolitan and hinterland economies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM: As you would know, my party ran on a campaign of Local Government Reform in the last Local Government elections. We intend to stick to this promise. We do have an experienced team of persons currently creating proposals for this eventuality. Constituency Government. Lifting the onerous, complex, and un-doable burdens from central government — colonial by history, precedent and nature — onto the shoulders of our local leadership. Each constituency would have its own variety, its flagship projects, of economic endeavour. Community farms, that is state land made available to families and farmers to plant, will be a staple part of this reform. Local leaders tackling local issues, like praedial larceny!

COCOA, COCONUTS, DIARY: Special emphasis would be placed on these three historical flagship indigenous industries. Health. Cocoa is now, accurately, being labelled and marketed globally as a health food. Coconut oil is, as we are hearing from international scientists, the best mitigation against such endemic diseases

as dementia and Alzheimer's. Brain food. To counter bad drugs sold globally by big Pharma. And dairy: mozzarella cheese from our Buffalypso. I will instantly reopen the Chatham Diary, which was closed down for smelter. A marketing institute, supported by food parks (like industrial estates) family farms, independent farmers, will be established to win trade globally, with populations literally dying for tropical health and drink and food products.

THE COUVA HEALTH FACILITY: Health food for healthy bodies. Couva, centrally located, already equipped with a handful of good hotels, sports facilities, will be made into a sporting technology mecca in Latin America. I intend to transfer the transferable equipment from this 'showboat' project to local facilities, and convert this facility to a health and sports institute; specializing in food and sports technology. A nice niche of cocoa and chocolate producers has emerged, each selling its own brands, many based in Gran Couva. But not all of them know the real capiche. Why must our sportsmen and women constantly have to rely on the United States for training? When we have flat port waters, breezy plains and undulating hills, so fit for local training. We need the coaching technology institutes right here. Crawfie trained on Caroni cane lands.

As they say 'one by one coco fill the basket.' Every little thing adds up. A cocoa, a coconut, a caimite, a shaddock, a pineapple, a dongs, a tamarind, rangan, a balata, a soursop, a sapodilla, a cashew, a cachima, a star apple, a pommerac, pommecythere, a day, keep the doctor away. From Massive to ita food and drink. A massive fruit and energy program! Done the drugs, guns, energy, money cartels!

Wayne Kublalsingh

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Our Perspective

Stop Stealing From Car Wash Workers!

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

No worker should earn less than the minimum wage, ever. But in many low-wage industries, including car wash, where hundreds of workers are represented by the RWDSU, that's what has been happening for years. For too long, the so-called "tip Credit" has allowed operators to pay workers well below the minimum wage. In a time when low-wage workers rely on every cent to provide for themselves and their families, tip credit provides employers with an outrageous license to steal.

The tip credit is a part of New York State minimum wage law that allows industry operators to pay car wash workers a different, lower minimum wage. In theory, workers' tips are supposed to make up the difference, and possibly more. And, if workers' tips don't raise the level of pay to at least the minimum wage, car wash employers are supposed to make up the difference in additional hourly wages.

But tip credit does not work in the car wash environment. It's a vehicle for wage theft and contributes to systemic underpayment of car wash workers – exactly what the car wash unionizing campaign and car wash workers have been fighting against. Investigations have shown that employers don't always make up the extra pay for workers when tips are short, and car wash workers don't always receive the tips customers presume are going into their pockets. We shouldn't be giving unscrupulous employers additional opportunities to underpay their workers, and that's exactly what tip credit does in the car wash industry and many others. Tip credit has provided bad car wash operators with an abhorrent loophole that has left immigrant workers susceptible to wage theft. Car wash operators have been fined and directed to make restitution for wage theft to the tune of millions of dollars.

In many industries, Immigrant workers are particularly susceptible to tip credit-aided wage theft. Nail salon workers, deliverymen, car wash workers, restaurant workers; all are affected by wage theft, and all are affected by the tip credit loophole that makes it easier for employers to underpay them and even steal from them.

It's past time that the state of New York puts an end to tip credit and makes sure that no worker in the Empire State earns less than the minimum wage. New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has directed the Commissioner of Labor to schedule public hearings to evaluate the possibility of ending minimum wage tip credits in New York State. Ending tip credit would raise base pay for workers in a number of industries, and stop a loophole that has been responsible for countless instances of wage theft and contributed to holding entire communities back.

The Governor's announcement is an important next step in ensuring that 5,000 car wash workers in New York now have a chance to earn fair wages for their work, and that no worker in the Empire State is underpaid and impoverished.



www.rwdsu.org

Humane, holistic solution needed for TPS holders

Continued from Page 10

to apply for fellowships; one enabled me to work in youth justice, the other covered part of my tuition and allowed me to create my own interdisciplinary major. I majored in cultural anthropology and international human rights because I wanted to work in my community and understand the inequalities we face as immigrants and people of color.

But the resources were never enough to completely cover for my tuition. Each year, tuition was getting higher. As a TPS recipient I still had to pay everything out-of-pocket since I didn't qualify for financial aid. Becoming a TPS recipient is more like becoming an international student, but with less security since we don't know what happens when it ends.

I'm sharing my story because it's important to understand the diversity of the immigrant experience. We're students, some of us are young and have lived here most of our lives, others are older and support their family in this country and in Haiti. We want to live; we don't want to just survive. We want a path to citizenship. And we want to remind our neighbors and co-workers that our struggle is intertwined. I could

get deported tomorrow. But as a Black woman, I could also get shot by law enforcement tomorrow.

We need action from the government that provides a humane, holistic solution for Haitians and other TPS holders. Not only do we want the Department of Homeland Security to update the Federal Register and re-start the 60-day re-registration period for Haitians, we need Congress to provide a legislative fix for all TPS holders. Congress has the power to affirm our long-term presence in and contributions to the United States by enacting legislation that provides a pathway to permanent residency.

TPS made it so that we could live, work, study, and support our families. In the time that we've lived in the United States, we have become a part of the fabric of this nation as workers, homeowners, and most importantly community members. This is all our fight. We have to work together to push forward.

Sarah Guillet is a Haitian New York resident, a graduate student at Hunter College studying urban planning, and a member of the UndocuBlack Network. This essay was written as part of a national initiative of the Black Immigration Network (www.blackimmigration.net).

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How Net Neutrality can affect the Caribbean



After a meeting voting to end net neutrality, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai answers a question from a reporter, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, in Washington. Associated Press / Jacquelyn Martin

By Alexandra Simon

The Caribbean needs to rally behind net neutrality.

An online petition [https://www.change.org/p/u-s-senate-caribbean-americans-for-net-neutrality] is hoping to garner support from the Caribbean community for net neutrality. Maryland-based advocate Taylor Jenkins, who runs the platform Humans of the Caribbean Diaspora, says if the restoration of net neutrality fails, it will have grave consequences on the ways money and access to information is received from and by region, he said.

“The general issue on what it means for the Caribbean community, by and large, is it will affect the ways we use online, and all the remittances that are sent back that can potentially be at risk,” said Jenkins.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) introduced net neutrality rules in 2015 to protect free Internet and prevent broadband companies from slowing down and

charging users and providers for additional services. Last month commissioners voted to repeal it in a 3-2 vote.

Online services that allow their users to make money transfers, such as Western Union or Paypal, will greatly affect how remittances are sent from people living in the states to their families back in the Caribbean, said Jenkins. He adds that since the region is a central location for these type of payments, it is going to be greatly affected if broadband companies are given full control on what type of speed service their users are given.

“It is extremely impactful because looking at previous data as far as 2015 that receive remittances, most are coming from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, going to many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean regions,” said Jenkins.

He adds the significance of the region as a huge recipient of money transfers alone should

grab the attention of Caribbean people stateside, and even bring light to how local business may be shaped.

“It’s insane how much money we give back home to families,” he said. “And even people who are starting business — the way they’ll keep the connection is going to be huge. Because how do you get payments from Paypal or Western Union if you’re an international designer?”

As of last week the petition had over 12,000 signatures and counting, and Jenkins hopes that number can reach 15,000 by the end date of Jan. 19. Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey filed a Congressional Review Act vote, backed by over 26 other senators, to reinstate the Open Internet order, which would make the FCC maintain the existing rules.

Jenkins says that the Caribbean community needs to mobilize and show their support for the reinstatement of a free Internet, because it will have a big impact on the Diaspora globally.

“I’m reaching out to Congressmen and letting them know and getting more support from Caribbean organizations, locally

and nationally to advocate for this,” he said. “The Carib here is definitely behind this because we have a stake in this.”

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Caribbean pastor battles for his life in Harlem nursing home



Visitors, donning protective gear, flank Rev. Moore at the Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility, 1752 Park Ave., Harlem.

Photo by Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

The Rev. Reginald Euclid Moore, a very vibrant Methodist Church Minister who served in the Chateaubelair-Kingstown Circuit in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the 1970s, is now battling for his life in a Harlem nursing home.

The Nevisian-born Moore, 77, who received this theological training at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica and also worked as a minister in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago before migrating to New York in 1980 — is now lying helpless at the Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility, 1752 Park Ave., Harlem, after suffering a series of strokes.

Some former parishioners, and their families, who Rev. Moore mentored as youths in the town of Chateaubelair in the 1970s, made a special visit at his bedside on Dec. 30, despite the snowy conditions.

Hewitt James, a former school teacher and police officer in St. Vincent and the Gren-

adines, trekked from Philadelphia, Pa to see Rev. Moore for the very first time since the 1970s.

Ralphie Cunningham and Ann Franklin, otherwise known as Yvonne “Dan Dan” Nash, as well as a reporter, drove from Brooklyn. Cunningham and the reporter brought along their wives.

Cunningham and Franklin were not totally surprised to witness Rev. Moore’s condition, since they had seen him on previous occasions; but James and the reporter were shocked about his medical fate, as he depends on others for ADL (Activities of Daily Living) needs.

The former pastor of Beulah Wesleyan Methodist and Mt. Calvary United Methodist Churches, and assistant pastor at Salem United Methodist Church — all in Harlem — is breathing with the aid of a tracheostomy and is being tube-fed.

“Believe you me, he’s in good shape now, compared to the shape he was in [when he suffered his first stroke in 2016 and

was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at Harlem Hospital],” said Franklin, who — like James, Cunningham and the reporter — was a member of Clubland, the youth arm of the Chateaubelair Methodist Church, which Rev. Moore guided in the early-to-mid-1970s, in a Caribbean Life interview.

“He can scratch his head now,” added Franklin, who works as a nursing assistant at a nursing facility in Brooklyn and worships at the Miracle Temple Ministries, a Pentecostal church, attended primarily by Vincentians and Jamaicans, in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. “He did not know anybody around him. Thank God, he’s still here. We can still see him.”

“His situation, to me, is unfortunate,” chimed in Cunningham, who lived at the Moore’s, for six months, in Harlem when he migrated to New York in 1996. “But I think he made a lot of progress from the last time I saw him [in 2016].”

Robin Moore, 40, Rev. Moore’s second of three sons, the only

one born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines — the eldest, Lathen, was born in Guyana; and the youngest, Nigel, was born in Trinidad and Tobago — said, when his dad suffered a “massive stroke” in 2016, “he couldn’t move, couldn’t breathe by himself.

“He was basically in a comatose state, and he came out in March, 2016,” said Robin, who has followed his dad’s footsteps in pursuing the ministry. Robin serves as assistant pastor at Beulah Wesleyan Methodist Church, where Rev. Moore served as pas-

tor, when he first arrived in the US.

“Currently, he’s on a ventilator and trachea,” added Robin, expressing contrition about his dad’s medical state “because I would want him to witness more of my ministries and the seeds that he planted to give me a living.

“I’m happy that he’s still living and that he still recognizes me,” continued Robin, who, despite his very busy schedule, still visits his dad on an almost daily basis. “He keeps fighting; he never gives up.

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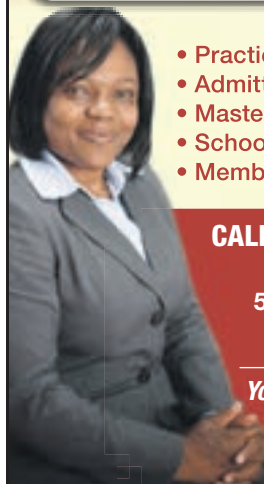
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St. Kitts & Nevis PM, Cuban ambassador discuss cooperation

St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister, Dr. Timothy Harris, and Cuban Ambassador to the Federation, Abelardo Fabio Hernández Ferrer, have reaffirmed the commitment of their respective governments to further strengthen the shared bilateral relations between both countries.

These commitments were given on Jan. 9 when Ferrer paid his first courtesy call on Prime Minister Harris since assuming the post as Cuban ambassador to St. Kitts and Nevis. Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Osbert DeSuza also attended meeting.

During the discussions, Ambassador Ferrer expressed gratitude towards the of St. Kitts and Nevis government for the support it has given to Cuba as it relates to calling for an end to the United States economic embargo.

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Republic of Cuba share a mutually beneficial partnership, with assistance being provided to the Federation in human resource development, through the provision of scholarships.

Prime Minister Harris stated, "Cuba has long been a strong and reliable voice in support of developing states, and St. Kitts and Nevis, like other

countries within CARICOM, we have benefited from that strong advocacy. The international agenda is rife with many issues in which we hope again to collaborate and cooperate with Cuba. Some of these issues are issues relating to climate change, climate mitigation and resilience measures. Other issues relate to the challenge of the blacklisting of states by the OECD and also the emerging issue of de-risking of banks within Caribbean islands."

Dr. Harris also highlighted the strong support St. Kitts and Nevis has received from the Cuban government towards the social development of the Kittitian and Nevisian people, particularly in the areas of health and education.

"We would want of course to see both of these areas strengthened, broadening the cooperation and the supply of specialist services to our country, and of course the training of our citizens in Cuba," the prime minister added.

From the period 2014 – 2017, a total of 27 Cuban scholarships were offered to nationals of St. Kitts and Nevis, of which 23 students pursued studies in medicine and two pursued studies in mechanical and electrical engineering.

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St. Kitts on prestigious travel list

Caribbean saw strong holiday season

By Alexandra Simon

The Caribbean remains a top tourist destination.

Last month, the Caribbean saw a strong holiday season despite some countries in the region being battered with hurricanes last year. The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association reports that many hotels reported 90 percent occupancies in December. Despite many countries still recovering from damage left by Hurricane Irma and Maria, it was only a best under.

“Now is a perfect time to visit and support the Caribbean and to see for yourselves how the resilience of our people offers travelers from around the world an exceptional experience, especially during this winter season and beyond,” said Frank Comito.

The countries that saw the most travelers were Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Cancun, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and The Bahamas.

“More than 70 percent of the Caribbean was not impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria and travelers are discovering the incredible diversity of destinations and offerings throughout the region, as they explore its many vacation options,” stated Frank Comito, CEO and director general of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA).



The view from a plunge pool at Park Hyatt St. Kitts.

St. Kitts and Nevis Government

St. Kitts is one of 22 destinations that Bloomberg Businessweek says will be “especially hot” this year. Mentioned second, St. Kitts is the only Caribbean destination on the list titled “Where to Go in 2018.”

In its introduction to the list, the highly respected business and financial publication states that, “The alchemy of being in the right place at the right time is exactly what transforms a good vacation into a great one. With that in mind, we’ve scoured the globe for the most exciting openings and events in 2018 and boiled them down to 22 especially compelling destinations.”

Bloomberg Businessweek writes, “St. Kitts has pulled off a beach-escape hat trick: It feels untouched while being both comfortable and convenient...In

terms of convenience, Delta has begun offering nonstop routes from Atlanta and New York, making St. Kitts more accessible than many of its Caribbean peers.”

The major international publication also notes that, “After surviving last year’s hurricanes unscathed, the destination got a considerable injection of glitz when the 126-room Park Hyatt opened in November. The first five-star beach resort on St. Kitts, it’s located on a secluded white-sand cove near the island’s southern tip; suites with private pools overlook the Caribbean Sea and the neighboring island of Nevis, while the three-bedroom presidential villa has a private chef and dedicated fitness area. The resort anchors Christophe Harbour, a new, 2,500-acre luxury

development and superyacht marina, which means guests have the twin benefits of privacy and quick access to high-end boutique shopping.”

Park Hyatt St. Kitts — the first Park Hyatt hotel in the Caribbean — has already landed on several prestigious lists.

These include Forbes’ 17 Hot Hotel Openings This Summer, Forbes’ 25 New Luxury Hotels That Come Highly Recommended, The Globe and Mail’s World’s hottest and hottest new hotels for 2017, The New York Times’ Hotel and Resorts to Travel to in 2017, The Telegraph’s The 28 best new hotels for 2017, Travel + Leisure’s Hotel Openings to Watch Out for in 2017, and Vogue’s 2016 Hottest Hotels: The 16 Most Anticipated Openings.

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

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

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Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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Barbadian writers need money

By George Alleyne

Women swept away the top prizes given out for exemplary prose when the Barbados Frank Collymore Literary Endowment awards a few days ago celebrated its 20th anniversary of formally recognising the work of outstanding writers.

With there being no first prize because the panel of judges found none of the entries worthy of that award, Heather Barker picked up the 2nd prize with her collection of stories, highlighted by a piece titled, 'The Plundering.'

Sonia Williams won the 3rd prize, which is also based on a collection, but in this instance it was poems under the shared title, 'Her Bald Head Luminous.'

Shakirah Bourne copped the Prime Minister's Award, a special prize for the top writer among those who put Barbados in a new, unexpected or unusual light. Her story is 'Getting Back at Jack Taylor.'

At the weekend ceremony celebrating Barbados' premier literary artistes, the issue of the ability of writers to earn a living off the artform raised its head as a number of speakers pointed



Clare Downes-Haynes (L), wife of Central Bank Governor Cleviston Haynes, presents the 2nd prize award to Heather Barker.

to a need for greater financial input into production of story-book pieces and a meaningful contribution to the bottom line of writers.

"At this point in our development it is important that we move beyond the politeness of lip service to fully appreciating and supporting our writers," said outgoing Chairman of the FCLE panel of judges, Antonio 'Boo' Rudder.

"When we speak of support we're talking about purchasing the books which many writers

have published at tremendous sacrifice and cost."

"Money always helps," quipped member of the panel of judges and the ceremony's MC, Andy Taitt, who made clear, that the appeal for a fund-base for creative writers is made, "without reducing art to simply money."

Prizes in the annual FCLE awards scheme begin with Bds\$10,000 (Bds\$1 = 50 cents US) for the first prize winner, and lesser sums for the other winners.

Over the years this money has been coming from the Central Bank that pays the first, second and third place prizes; and the Ministry of Culture that puts out the prize money for the Prime Minister's Award.

But it was noted that the while the personal one-time reward for the winning submissions is significant, there remains a need for support funding to take many of these Bajan masterpieces to publication, and distribution.

Central Bank Governor, Cleviston Haynes, spoke of a need "to bring prominence to Barbados' best writers while rewarding them tangibly.

"We need to find avenues to



Prime Minister's Award winner, Shakirah Bourne (L) receives her prize from Ministry of Culture Director of Cultural Policy, Sheron Johnson.

Photos by George Alleyne

make literature commercially viable for its exponents."

Noting that Barbados has a fledgling film industry he advised that writers seek to collaborate with persons in this parallel creative sector because "opportuni-

ties will emerge for some of our writers to have their manuscripts converted into film stories [and] ... synergies between these two art forms should be encouraged as a means of enabling our writers to profit from their talent."

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Guyana mourns the loss of disco legend Neil Chan

By **Tangerine Clarke**

Neil Chan, a larger than life figure who launched Solo Sounds International, and dominated the landscape of Arts and Entertainment in Guyana, commanding large costume and float parade bands at Mashramani in the 70s and 80s in Georgetown, died on Jan. 5. He was 88 years old.

Born on Nov. 4 and named Neil Vibert Ignatius Michael Chan by parents Soloman Chan and Rudy Beckles who lived in Georgetown, Chan, from a very young age created history, as a multifaceted person.

Cultural Director of the Guyana Cultural Association New York Claire Goring, a close friend and former member of the "Solo" team, recalled Chan's commitment to creating a good life for himself, while promoting his country.

He was a sports enthusiast, who excelled at bodybuilding and weight lifting and represented Guyana at the 1966 8th

British Empire Commonwealth Games in Jamaica.

Chan's business savvy led to his appointment as general manager of the External Trade Bureau (ETB), in 1970, which was responsible for the importation of most of Guyana's food and other commodities. He played a major role in trade at a time when foreign currency was in short supply and material for the development of the country were greatly needed.

He later started Bel Park Guyana Agency, and as a distributor of the Solo brand of agricultural equipment used by small farmers throughout Guyana.

Chan won King of the Band Competition on many occasions, leading Solo Sounds Int. to prominence at the Festival Arts of Guyana for many years, as the leading private sector costume band, well-known for splendor and pageantry with 1000 strong "Mashparaders."

He participated in Mash Nite



Neil Chan.

and Mash Day Competitions, and presented Solo contestants, displaying saris created locally by Solo staff at Deep-avali Pageants.

Chan received the Golden Arrowhead of Achievement award, Guyana's highest honor, for his dedicated and outstanding contribution to culture. He was also honored with the GCA of New York Award for his endowment to Guyana's Arts

and Culture.

He went on to launch Xanadu, a popular upscale discotheque the Place Where Dreams Come True – formally located at Vlissengen Road and Duncan Street in Georgetown.

This icon also played a significant role in developing costumed bands for tramping, after joining the steel band culture. He was a member of the musical group the Four Lords with Billy Moore, Neville Rose, Willie Wright, and Eve Manifold, who laid a foundation for his excellence as an exponent in Guyanese expression.

Chan's Solo Sounds Int. was the first to bring international talent to Guyana. Such performers included, Trinidad and Tobago's Shadow, David Rudder, Tambu, and the Charlie's Roots band. His band became the most influential during the 1970s and the early 1980s.

Neil Chan would be most remembered for his supremacy in bringing all Guyanese together

in the myriad of productions and collaborations he was instrumental in forming during his lifetime.

He was an astute businessman, well-liked, popular and versatile person. The Guyanese community and the thousands of lives he touched will dearly miss him.

Neil and his devoted wife, Sheila, shared 58 years of marriage. They also shared adopted children, Fabian Gaskin and Sattie Sasenarine, Carlotta, Vilma and George Chan.

Others who mourn Chan, include; nephews Musa Amin and Neil Allicock, nieces Patricia Mercurius, Sandra Britton, Marcy Allicock and six others; great nieces and nephew: Michelle Britton, Tony Britton and Abbi Braithwaight and 16 others; 18 great, great, nieces and nephews; cousins the Chan family; cherished friends: Fay and Grant Gaskin and family, the Spooner family, Claire Goring, Alicia Dougall and family, Inez Seepaul, and many others.

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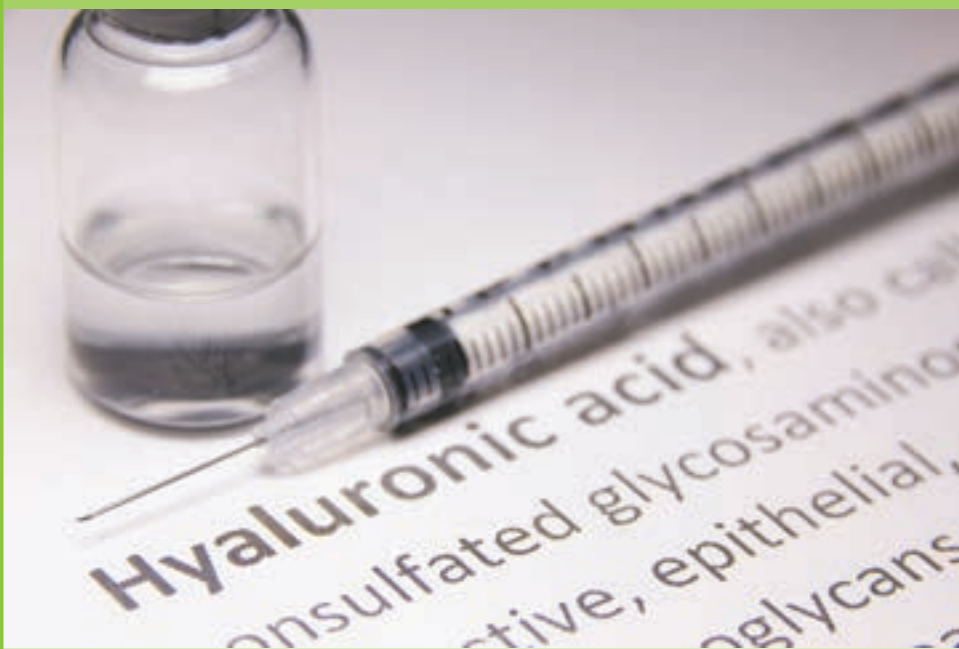
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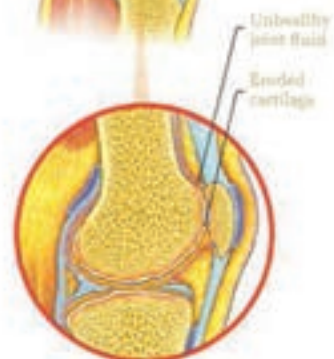
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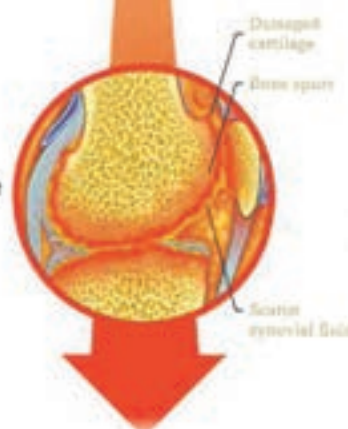
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Judge to Trump: DACA must continue for now

By Nelson A. King

Amid an intense political battle over a United States federal program that shields from deportation young Caribbean and other immigrants who were brought illegally to the U.S. as children, a federal judge in California has issued an injunction ordering the Trump administration to restart the program.

Stating that the decision to kill it was improper, Judge William Alsup of Federal District Court in San Francisco wrote on Tuesday that the Trump administration must "maintain the DACA program on a nationwide basis," as the legal challenge to the U.S. President Trump's decision proceed.

Former U.S. President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, in 2012 to also give young immigrants the ability to work legally in the United States. President Donald Trump moved to end the program in September, saying that Obama's actions were unconstitutional and an overreach of executive power, according to the New York Times.

The Times report said that decision set off a fierce debate in Washington as Democrats and Republicans spar about how to provide relief for about 800,000 immigrants who could face deportation when the program ends on Mar. 5.

Trump met with lawmakers Tuesday afternoon in a remarkable, hour-long televised meeting to begin negotiations, the Times said.

But it said critics of Trump's decision to end the policy, including several states and organizations, had already sued the administration, saying that shutting down the program was arbitrary and done without following the proper legal procedures.

One of the lead plaintiffs in the case, Janet Napolitano, is currently president of the sprawling University of California system, but served as Secretary of Homeland Security for Obama in 2012 and was an architect of the DACA program, the Times said.

In his ruling, Judge Alsup questioned the administration's contention that the DACA program had not been put into place legally. He asserted that

the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has long had the authority to grant the kind of temporary protections that formed the basis of the program.

Judge Alsup also cited several of Trump's Twitter posts that expressed support for the program, according to the Times.

He noted that, in September, the president wrote: "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!"

Such tweets, Alsup said, bolstered the idea that keeping the program going was in the public interest.

The judge wrote that previous beneficiaries of DACA, known as Dreamers, must be allowed to renew their status in the program, though the government will not be required to accept new applications from immigrants who had not previously submitted one.

In addition, Alsup said the Trump administration could continue to prevent DACA recipients from returning to the U.S. if they leave the country.



Demonstrators urging the Democratic Party to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA) rally outside the office of California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein in Los Angeles Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

Associated Press / Reed Saxon

New York State Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte



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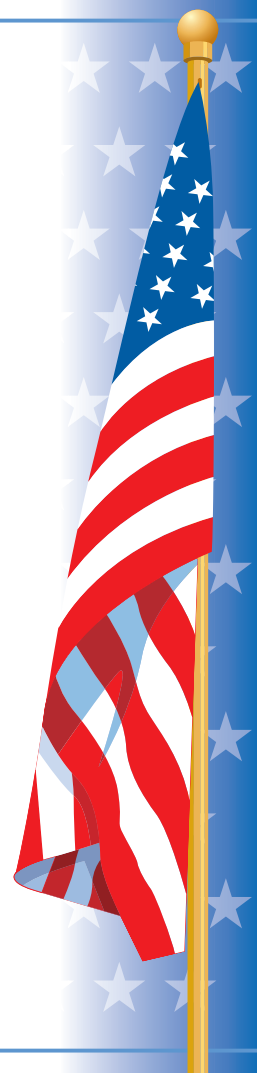
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TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Using mobile phones

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

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

Daydreaming

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

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

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

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

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

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

Reading

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

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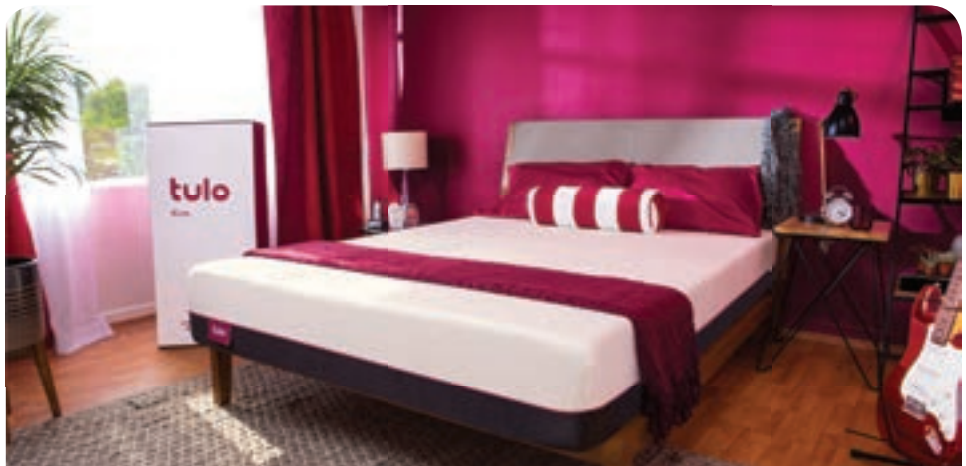
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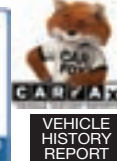
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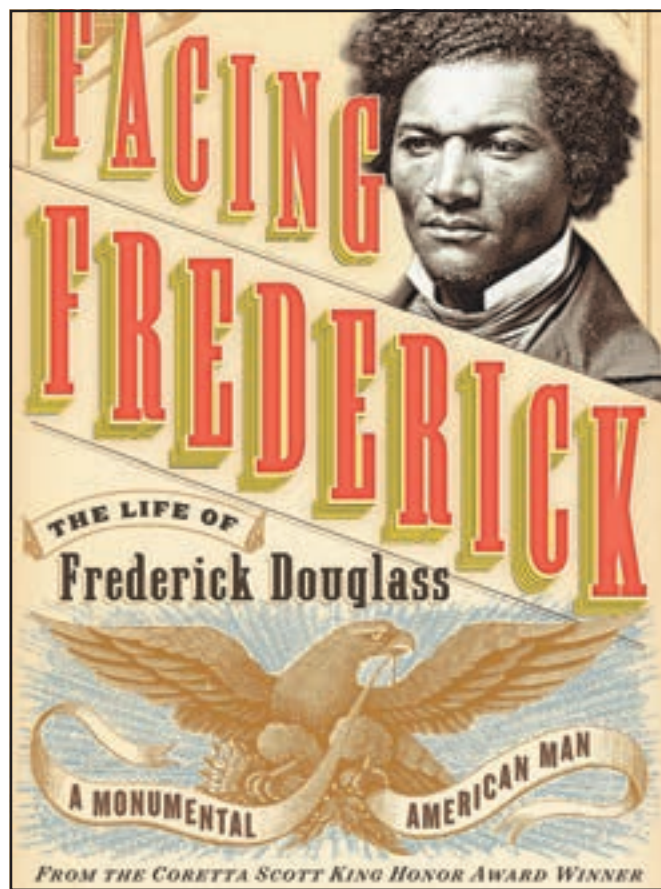
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Frederick Douglass' story too important to miss



Book cover of "Facing Frederick."

"Facing Frederick : The Life of Frederick Douglass, A Monumental American Man" by Tonya Bolden
c.2017, Abrams Books for Young Readers
\$19.99 / \$23.99 Canada
208 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You're not backing down. There's a line in the sand and nobody's crossing it on your watch. When something isn't right and you can fix it, you're going to defend it, too, even if it costs you. As you'll see in "Facing Frederick" by Tonya Bolden, if you lived in the mid-1800s, you'd be in good company.

Though he really didn't like to talk about it much, Frederick Douglass had been through things that were unimaginable. From the moment he was born into slavery, he was taken from his mother, who died when Frederick was small. At age six, his owner removed him from his grandparents' farm to a planta-

tion house; there, he slept on the floor of a closet. He was hired out to a slavemaster who beat him for no reason at all, and he worked as a shipbuilder before escaping from bondage.

Douglass didn't like to talk about his life — but he had to. As a young man, he gained recognition as an orator and newspaper publisher, but people thought he was a "fake." He grew awfully sick of that and so he wrote a book, to great acclaim, though doing so was dangerous: Douglass used several aliases in his anti-slavery activism, and his book finally laid bare the whole truth. Finding safety in Great Britain, he became a celebrity there, and met some men who further influenced his life and his work.

Following his time in Great Britain, he returned to America and started an anti-slavery newspaper with donations he had received while overseas. The paper faltered later because Douglass "miscalculated," but that setback didn't cause him to lose sight of

his goal; in fact, it strengthened his anti-slavery ideals. He and his family became conductors on the Underground Railroad, moving people up through New England into Canada.

"With the outbreak of the Civil War," says Bolden, "Frederick's hopes soared."

But he still wasn't happy: Black soldiers weren't allowed to do their part in the War, and Douglass wanted that changed. Finally, on Aug. 10, 1863, he went to the White House. The man who was once a little boy who slept on the floor of a closet had an appointment with President Lincoln....

Filled with excerpts from diaries, newspaper articles, bits of speeches, and reproductions of photographs, "Facing Frederick" is a great book with a powerful story.

Getting the full extent from of it, I think, will depend on the age of its reader.

Because it wouldn't be the same biography without dates and accounts of Douglass' trav-

els and actions, there's a lot in here and this book can be hard-to-follow. Older kids on a 10-to-14-year-old spectrum shouldn't have any problem with

it; it's lively enough between the dates-and-facts to keep that age group's attention. Kids on the younger side may struggle with too many facts.



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IN THE NEW YEAR



Fun ways to be a fit family

Obesity is a global epidemic affecting people of all ages. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one-third of Americans are considered obese, while Statistics Canada notes about 25 percent of Canadians are obese. Being overweight or obese has been linked

to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some forms of cancer, and children who are overweight are likely to be overweight or obese adults.

While eating a diet that is low in fat and high in whole-grain fiber, vegetables, and lean proteins is

Continued on page 38

Exercising together is not just a great way for families to get healthy, but also a great opportunity to spend time together.



FIT FAMILY

Continued from page 37

important, exercise remains one of the key factors in maintaining a healthy weight. However, many adults and children simply do not get enough exercise during the day. An active lifestyle is often hampered by the prevalence of digital devices or sedentary jobs that encourage more screen time than fitness time. But there are ways for the entire family to get fit. Exercising together is not just a great way for families to get healthy, but also a great opportunity to spend time together. The following are a handful of ways families can work together to incorporate more exercise into their daily lives:

TACKLE CHORES

Yes, tasks around the house can count as exercise. Working together not only gets you moving but also cuts down on the time it takes to tackle tasks around the house. Mowing the lawn, vacuuming the rugs, sweeping the floor — all of these activities can get the heart pumping. Make it

fun by setting chores to music or competing to see who gets their task done first or the best.

COMPETE IN THE POOL

Swimming is a low-impact activity that works many muscles in the body. Taking a dip in the pool can be both relaxing and beneficial to your health. Compete with family members to make the most of the time spent in the water. Host relay swimming races, see how long each member of the family can tread water, or create any other competitions that keep everyone in the pool moving.

CREATE AN OUTDOOR OBSTACLE COURSE

Set up a series of obstacles in your yard and host your own triathlon. You can jump through tires, climb through tubes, and scale trees. Make it fun by having adults try to ride tricycles or pair up an adult with a child for sack races. The opportunities for fun are only hampered by your imagination.

FAMILY BICYCLE RIDES

Traverse your neighborhood

or blaze new trails by riding bikes together. Young children can be strapped into trailers that are pulled behind the bike or ride in seats attached to the bike itself. This gives everyone a chance to enjoy the great outdoors.

GO HIKING

Hiking is another fun family activity that also happens to make for great exercise. Choose a trail that may not be level and push everyone's endurance to the test.

STROLL THE BEACH

Walking or running on sand offers more resistance than walking on pavement. Take a stroll at the seaside. Break up the walk by collecting shells or stopping by the water to observe marine wildlife.

HIT THE DANCE FLOOR

If you've been invited to a wedding or a Sweet 16 party, cut a rug and take advantage of the DJ and dance floor. When enjoying yourselves, you probably won't even realize how much you're exercising.

Concentrated juice consumption and kids' health

Today's youth continue to battle obesity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the percentage of obese children in the United States has more than tripled since the 1970s. Roughly one in five school-aged children is obese. Obese children and adults are at a higher risk for chronic health conditions such as asthma, bone and joint problems, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease.

Although many factors can contribute to obesity among children, researchers with the American Academy of Pediatrics are now warning parents that fruit juice can be a contributor. In suggestions that overwrite previous recommendations from 2006 in which the Academy said children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years could have up to six ounces of fruit juice a day, fruit juice is no longer recommended for children under the age of 1. Plus, health experts say that older children should choose whole fruit sources in lieu of fruit juices whenever possible.

According to an article "Reducing Childhood Obesity by Eliminating 100 percent Fruit Juice," authored by Dr. Janet Wojcicki and Dr. Melvin Heyman, and published in the American Journal of Public Health, excessive fruit juice consumption is associated with increased risk for obesity. There also is recent scientific evidence that sucrose consumption without the corresponding fiber is associated with metabolic syndrome, liver injury, and obesity.

Obesity is not the only risk associated with fruit juice. Although fruit juice in moderation can be a nutritious beverage, drinking juice from a bottle can lead to nursing bottle dental caries. Also, "toddler's diarrhea" has been associated with juice consumption, particularly in juice with a high fructose to glucose ratio, according to data published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition.



Many factors can contribute to obesity among children, but researchers with the American Academy of Pediatrics are now warning parents that fruit juice can be a contributor.

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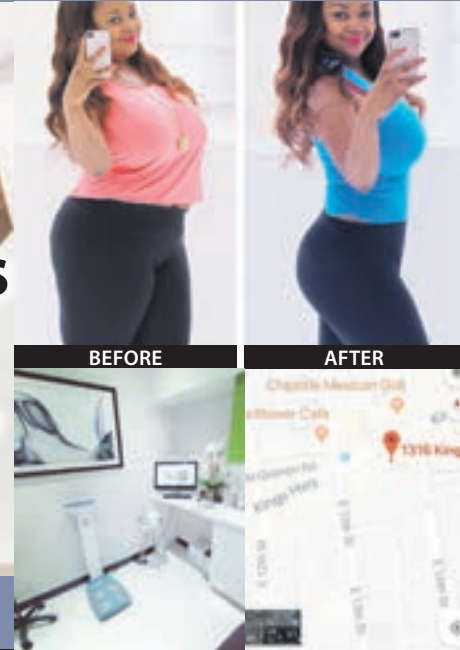
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Conquering Dementia in the Golden Years

Memory and concentration loss is a pervasive problem in modern society. Increased levels of stress and anxiety, accompanied by declining physical activity, have direct negative impact on our memory.

In Memory Clinic in Brighton Beach, the patients can check their memory as well as receive a comprehensive plan to prevent cognitive decline.

Dr. Valentin Bragin, the founder of the Stress Relief and Memory Training Center (currently Memory Clinic at Brighton Beach), has developed an innovative treatment for people suffering from dementia, based on combined treatment that includes physical activities, sensory stimulation, medications and vitamins.

The areas of expertise include assessment of cognitive functions and brain reserves and a multifaceted



program (medication and non pharmacological interventions) for treatment of dementia, which includes, but is not limited to memory training, gentle hands and sounds exercises and other sensory motor activities, aimed to increase cerebral blood flow and vitalize brain cells. He feels strongly that

restoration of brain blood flow is absolutely necessary at any stage of dementia to overcome chronic blood starvation in the brain. This helps medications and nutrients to reach all places in the brain and normalize brain functions.

Dr. Bragin has regularly published results of his work

and presented them at multiple national and international conferences since 2000s. People, who undergo this combined treatment, are able to hold cognitive decline, decrease caregiver burden and improve quality of life for 6 years (Bragin et al., 2014). Dr. Bragin has authored three books, "How to Activate Your Brain" (2005 in Russian, 2007 in English) and "Conquering Depression in the Golden Years" (2009).

His brain activation program is based on his previous experimental research, related to acute blood flow failure in different organs in the body, including the brain, and on basic science data related to the chronic shortage of the blood in the brain in people with dementia.

In his book "How to activate your brain" (2007), Dr. Bragin states that he can "always zero in on the functions and

movements that have not yet been touched by disease and... use them to counteract the process of disintegration and activate the brain."

Valentin Bragin, M.D., Ph.D., an integrative psychiatrist with over 50 years of clinical and research experience, is the founder and medical director of the Memory Clinic in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Bragin graduated and earned his Ph.D. from one of the oldest and most prestigious medical schools in the former Soviet Union, the Russian Military Medical Academy in Saint Petersburg, Russia. In the United States, Dr. Bragin did research, related to dementia, followed by the completion of residency in psychiatry at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital.

The Memory Clinic in Brighton Beach [3101 Ocean Parkway, Ste 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11235]. Please call to make an appointment: (718)946-2481.

Freeze Your Fat!

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

It's a new year, and it can be a new you.

Tired of constant diets and exercises that don't work on stubborn pockets of fat? Shape what you see without surgery or downtime!

Consider CoolSculpting at Khrom Dermatology, which eliminates fat. It is FDA-cleared and non-surgical.

The procedure utilizes controlled cooling to eliminate stubborn fat that resists the efforts of diet and exercise. The results are proven, noticeable, and lasting. Millions of CoolSculpting® procedures have been performed worldwide, proving that it is a safe and effective treatment. It was discovered years ago when scientists at Harvard University observed that some children who ate popsicles got dimples in their cheeks. The scientists, Drs. Dieter Manstein and R. Rox Anderson, realized that the popsicles were freezing and eliminating small pockets of fat cells.

The idea that cold can target fat cells — without damaging the skin or surrounding tissue — was the insight behind Cryolipolysis, the proven science on which the CoolSculpting® procedure is based.

The procedure safely delivers precisely controlled cooling to gently and effectively target the fat cells underneath the skin. These cells are crystalized (frozen), then die. Over time, the body naturally processes the fat and eliminates these dead cells, leaving a more sculpted you.

It works for both men and women, targeting areas that need to be treated. During this treatment, a gel pad and applicator will be applied to these specific areas. The applicator will then deliver controlled cooling to the targeted fat. While this is going on, patients are free to read, check e-mail, or even take a nap. It's that stress-free.

As the CoolSculpting® procedure is completely non-surgical, patients can resume normal activities immediately. They often return to work the same day after a treatment is completed.

The length of the treat-



ment will vary, depending on the number of areas being treated during one visit. Each session can last from 35 to 60 minutes, and some patients may have more than one treatment during the same office visit. Khrom Dermatology and Aesthetics will help you create an individualized treatment plan tailored to your spe-

cific goals. It also offers flexible payment plans to help patients achieve their goals.

Patients may start to see changes as quickly as three weeks after treatment, and will experience the most dramatic results after two months. The body will continue to flush out fat cells for up to four to six months after treatment.

Khrom Dermatology and Aesthetics can take the additional step of combining Fire (radio frequency technology to heat and tighten tissue) with ICE (cryolipolysis to freeze and permanently destroy fat cells), to achieve even more amazing results for fat reduction. As a result, you'll look great from every angle.

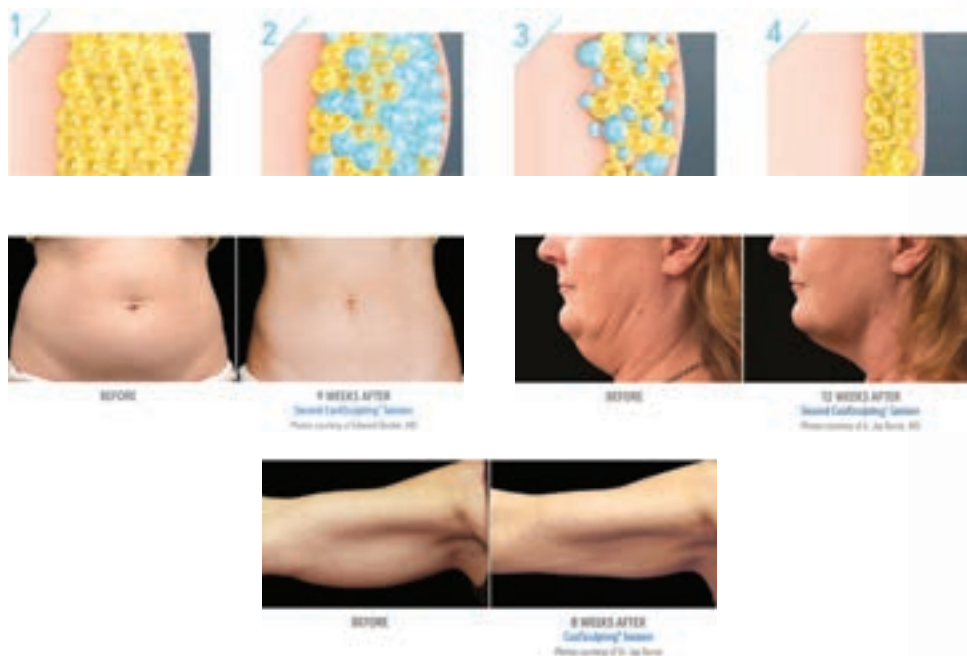
The CoolSculpting® pro-

cedure is for the treatment of visible fat bulges in the submental area, arms, thigh, abdomen, and flank.

Khrom Dermatology and Aesthetics [2797 Ocean Pkwy. between Neptune Avenue and Shore Parkway in Brighton Beach, (855) 454-7666, www.Khrommd.com]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am-5 pm.

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LIVING HEALTHY IN THE NEW YEAR

A chemical component in hops has been shown to improve brain function in lab mice. It may one day help with age-related cognitive decline.

Can beer boost brain power?

There is newfound reason to indulge in a pint or two of your favorite beer — and it's not just to catch up and share a few laughs with friends. New research has shown that a chemical compound in beer may be able to improve cognitive function. The beverage once thought to obliterate brain cells when consumed in abundance may actually have the opposite effect and boost brain power.

No one should run out an start imbibing just yet, however. The study that ran in Behavioral Brain Research in October 2014 was preliminary and only conducted on lab mice. During the study, scientists discovered that xanthohumol, a type of flavonoid found in beer, seemed to improve brain function in the young mice given xanthohumol doses. The cognitive flexibility of the mice was tested with a specially designed maze, and younger mice showed signs of intellectual improvement. Older mice showed no improvements. Researchers believe xanthohumol and other flavonoids, such as those found in red wine, blueberries, and dark chocolate, may play a role in helping a person form memories.

The mice were given very high doses of the flavonoid. A person would have to drink roughly 2,000 liters of beer a day to equal what the mice con-

sumed to show improvement. However, should a supplement hit the market down the road, it may just be possible for men and women to consume a potentially beneficial amount of xanthohumol without belying up at the bar.

One of the goals of the xanthohumol study was to examine its potential efficacy at treating age-related deficits in memory. Xanthohumol also may benefit those with metabolic syndrome, a condition associated with obesity and high blood pressure, as it can speed metabolism and reduce fatty acids in the liver.

Flavonoids are plant compounds that often provide plants with their color. Scientists have attributed many health benefits to flavonoids in foods and plants and have even suggested flavonoids can help in the fight against cancer and heart disease. Xanthohumol is rare and is most often found in the hops commonly used to make beer.

While doctors and researchers do not suggest running out and consuming a few six packs right now in the goal of improving brain function and cramming for that next test, xanthohumol may one day be harvested from beer hops to slow down age-related memory deficits.

Stop hibernating this winter!!!

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When it's time to get serious about losing weight, Elite Health Center offers the tools.

Gennady Krupnikas, co-owner of Elite Health Center says, "It's not uncommon for our patients to lose up to one pound per day on our programs, utilizing powerful, yet safe, medical protocols."

This means going beyond providing patients with a diet and exercise plan. Instead, Elite Health Center offers the HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) diet that involves hormone injections to help weight come off quickly - and keep it off. It's all supervised by a physician to assure safety.

It starts with a free body composition analysis that provides the doctor with insight into each individual's needs. The doctor takes into consideration the lifestyle, weight, fitness levels, and eating habits of each patient. This allows the doctor, together with a nutritionist, to create a customized HCG diet. "By creating a medical weight loss plan suited to your individual needs, we give you the best opportunity to lose weight once and for all," says Krupnikas. "It's a proven approach, based on sound medical principles."

The Phentermine -Appetite Management Protocol is another "life-changing weight loss" plan to consider, he says. It's designed to assist patients who are looking to lose weight within a more flexible time frame as it involves appetite suppressants and healthy eating.

If you have had enough of fad diets, supplements, and expensive frozen foods that still leave you hungry, come in for a consultation. Krupnikas says that the plans at Elite Health Center are effective because:

1. They release energy from fat cells. The process of breaking down fat into useable calories is called "ketosis". This process works very efficiently at releasing stored energy and food value from your fat cells.

2. They reduce cravings and fatigue by breaking the sugar cycle. By elimi-



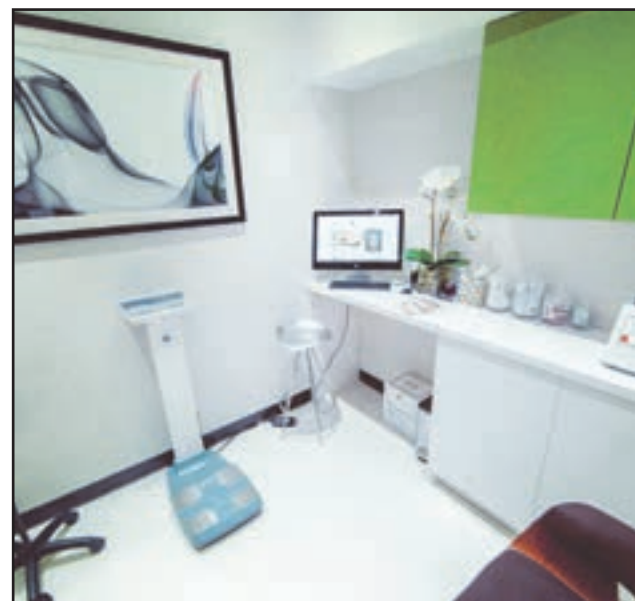
nating sugars and simple carbohydrates, the body enters the state of ketosis (fat burning).

3. They allow you to eat real food that you can buy at grocery stores. There's no need to buy costly pre-packaged meals, or artificial liquid diet products.

4. They prevent hunger, headaches, and irritability.

The plans assure that your body has adequate nutrition and sustained energy resources.

5. Elite Health Center offers one-on-one personal support. This helps you break out of old bad habits faster, while developing your new healthy eating habits, and long-term sustainable lifestyle changes.



6. Medical experts ensure that you lose weight safely and aggressively, and that all body functions are working normally, or are improving.

7. The goal is long-term weight loss. They are with you every step of the way, offering support and the tools to maintain a healthy weight loss for life.

8. No exercise is required in order to succeed. You will still lose weight.

Come in for a complimentary body analysis, and start making plans for a new you today.

Elite Health Center, [1316 Kings Hwy between E. 12th and E. 13th streets in Midwood, (917) 565-9360, www.elitehealthcenter.com].

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► This pain-free treatment takes approximately 30 minutes. There are no known side effects, the treatments are painless and remarkable effective for many people. In fact, with Auricular Therapy many patients successfully lose weight with one or two treatments. We recommend that you follow a diet plan when you start treatment.

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Vocalist and composer Imani Uzuri will present "Hush Arbor (The Opera)."
 Petra Richterova

Artists head to Harlem

Harlem Stage, the legendary uptown venue that for more than 30 years has promoted the creative legacy of Harlem and artists of color from around the corner and across the globe, is proud to present its Spring 2018 season of performances. The season is curated by Monique Martin, newly appointed director of programming for Harlem Stage and features artists who #Disrupt, and take creative risk. They reflect the times via a range of artistic genres,

Continued on Page 46

SISTAS: The Musical in 7th yr

With the arrival of 2018, the long-running smash *SISTAS: The Musical* had its seventh New Year's celebration at St. Luke's Theatre in the heart of the Theatre District. Produced by three-time Tony winner Hinton Battle and directed by Kenneth Ferrone ("Smash," "Grease Live!"), *SISTAS: THE MUSICAL* opened Off-Broadway Oct. 23, 2011. The show was released on DVD and digital download (iTunes, Netflix) by RLJ Worldwide/One Village Entertainment in 2013, and has been nationally broadcast on the BET Network. The production is now the longest-running African American musical in New York history.

SISTAS: THE MUSICAL, by Dorothy Marcic, follows a group of sisters as they prepare to bury the matriarch of their family. While cleaning out her attic, the five women reflect on the history

Continued on Page 46



Jamaican singer Queen Ifrica performs during the Roskilde Festival in Roskilde, Denmark.

Associated Press / Polfoto, Klavs Bo Christensen, Rockphoto

25 years of conscious Jamaican concerts

By Vinette K. Pryce

Rebel Salute, Jamaica's first for the year and probably the most conscious reggae concert series annually, will mark its 25th showcase on Jan. 12 and 13 on a plantation in the parish of St. Ann.

The brainchild of dancehall singjay Tony Rebel, it was initiated in 1994 as a birthday celebration for himself and friends to commemorate his birth on Jan. 15.

"At the beginning of Rebel Salute, 1994, it was just a commemoration

of my earth day. I was not thinking about being here 25 years later," Rebel recently explained.

The first event invited like-minded colleagues who wanted to celebrate music and the island without using drugs and artificial stimulants.

"Rebel Salute treats patrons to a drug-free, violence-free, alcohol-free and meat-free, family-oriented environment," Wikipedia states.

"Food vendors serve a strict Jamaican vegetarian menu which is complimented by a diet of cultural roots

rap from reggae's finest."

"It is one of Jamaica's biggest music festivals, known for its focus on roots and conscious music."

Rebel recalled people being in tears when Garnett Silk performed at the first year's offering despite the rain. He said throughout the years the show has grown from strength to strength.

"Rebel Salute is a broader section of our culture. It has set the precedence for a lot of things," Rebel said.

Continued on Page 46

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Perfect**
Ed Sheeran Duet w/ Beyonce
- 2 **Havana**
Camila Cabello Feat. Young Thug
- 3 **Bad At Love**
Halsey
- 4 **Thunder**
Imagine Dragons
- 5 **Rockstar**
Post Malone Feat. 21 Savage
- 6 **Too Good At Goodbyes**
Sam Smith
- 7 **New Rules**
Dua Lipa
- 8 **Feel It Still**
Portugal. The Man
- 9 **What Lovers Do**
Maroon 5 Feat. SZA
- 10 **Love.**
Kendrick Lamar Feat. Zacari

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- 2 **Divide**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **Revival**
Eminem
- 4 **Evolve**
Imagine Dragons
- 5 **Reputation**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Pitch Perfect 3**
Soundtrack
- 7 **DAMN.**
Kendrick Lamar
- 8 **Beautiful Trauma**
P!nk
- 9 **American Teen**
Khalid
- 10 **From A Room: Volume 2**
Chris Stapleton

Presented by

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REBEL SALUTE

Continued from Page 45

“We try to get the minds of our people in a positive way.”

In addition to presenting a stellar lineup of artists, last year the festival introduced the Herb Curb a section dedicated to display information on ganja uses.

“Rebel Salute has played a critical role in the two years of marijuana decriminalization,” Delano Seivright, director of the Cannabis Licensing Authority said during a recent launch in Kingston.

He added that the annual presentation has annually been “holding on the right track when it comes to ganja in our country and how ganja is accepted.”

Next week, “the Herb Curb will again feature an array of exhibits, herb practitioners, educators, speakers and medical professionals who explore the sacramental to the medicinal benefits of marijuana,” a release stated.

There will also be a designated smoking lounge, complete with seating and live video feed from the main stage.

Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, Jamaica’s Minister of Culture stated that not many festivals have survived as long as Rebel Salute.

“Can you believe it’s 25 years already? Twenty-five years of awesome entertainment, 25 years of clean, family friendly Jamaican music, 25 years of welcoming the people ...25 years of education about the benefit of the good herb,” Grange said.

Throughout the years, Jamaicans have had successful long-running concerts in every season. With Reggae Sunsplash the model that attracted music lovers to revel on the island during the summer months in the 1980s, the Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival proved alluring to fans of the airline, island and the myriad music genres showcased nightly on its November and January billings throughout the 90s and early 20s.

Sting, a Boxing Day music treat also appeased dancehall fans the day after Christmas providing marathon entertainment and trailer-loads



Reggae singjay artist Tony Rebel shares a moment with a NYPD officer from the 78th Precinct. Photo by Vnette K. Pryce

of patrons from the north who sought holiday fun and reprieve from winter blues.

In addition, a year-end concert hosted by the family of Denroy Morgan at the Good-year Oval in Morant Bay, annually enticed thousands for a final music event in Jamaica that attracted some of the top

entertainers in the heydays of dancehall music.

All those concerts are now history.

This year’s showcase will feature Queen Ifrica, J.C. Lodge, gospel artist Glacia and Rebel, the celebrant among conscious reggae / dancehall talents.

Harlem

Continued from Page 45

offering audiences the chance to experience legendary performers and rising stars.

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

On Jan. 16, join Harlem Stage for a special winter benefit performance. This intimate evening will feature jazz icon Dee Dee Bridgewater and singing sensation Wé McDonald, of The Voice fame, as they pay tribute to the legendary Ella Fitzgerald in honor of her centennial. Wé McDonald will be accompanied by organ and piano prodigy, Matthew Whitaker.

Grammy-nominated trumpeter Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah’s Stretch Music Residency is in its second year at Harlem Stage and this season the venue and will present the 2nd annual Stretch Music Festival, a FREE Stretch Music Intensive, along with a film screening and conversation series. The second year of the Stretch Music festival features Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah and his band along with musicians who push the boundaries of form as they reach back



Stretch Music Christian Scott Atunde Adjuah.

Photo by Koren Martin

into the past creating bridges to right now. Rhythms such as Kassa Soro from the North East Highlands of Guinea, that predate the transatlantic slave trade as well as Salsa, Son and Swing which came after those rhythms, can be heard on Blues, Funk, Trap, Hip Hop and Stretch Music. In this Festival you will hear a complete reevaluation of these cultures with the intent of building new bridges, new landscapes and new forms. This year’s festival will feature bands led by The Curtis Brothers, Max Moran and Neospectric, Lawrence Fields, Kris Funn and special surprise guests.

SISTAS: The Musical

Continued from Page 45

of their family and of African-American women through popular music spanning from Ma Rainey to Billie Holiday to Mary J. Blige to Beyoncé. This joyous, soulful and screamingly funny show celebrates the evolution of African American women through popular music including “Oh Happy Day,” “Mama Said,” “I Will Survive,” “Tyrone,” “I Am Not My Hair,” and “A Woman’s Worth.”

Featured in the cast are Tyla Collier (Spamalot and Little Shop of Horrors at Paper Mill), Aneesa Folds (This One’s for the Girls, Ragtime), Kendra Lynn Lucas (Hairspray, Godspell), Haley Swindal (Broadway’s Jekyll & Hyde, The Secret Garden at Lincoln Center), and Nesha Ward (“Orange is the New Black,” “Show Me a Hero”), with choreography by Lauren Lim Jackson and musi-

cal direction by Zachary Ryan.

Writer Dorothy Marcic also created the current hit musical This One’s for the Girls. Her first musical Respect (the genesis for This One’s for the Girls) played in over 70 U.S. cities. Dr. Marcic is a professor at Columbia University, a former Fulbright Scholar and author of 14 books including Managing with the Wisdom of Love, Respect: Women and Popular Music and, most recently, Love Lift Me Higher.

SISTAS: THE MUSICAL is produced Off-Broadway by Hinton Battle, Jay Harris and William Franzblau. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 4:30 pm at St. Luke’s Theatre, 308 West 46 St. (just west of Eighth Ave.) and tickets are available through www.SistasTheMusical.com 212-239-6200.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

Eco-exposé issues a dire warning

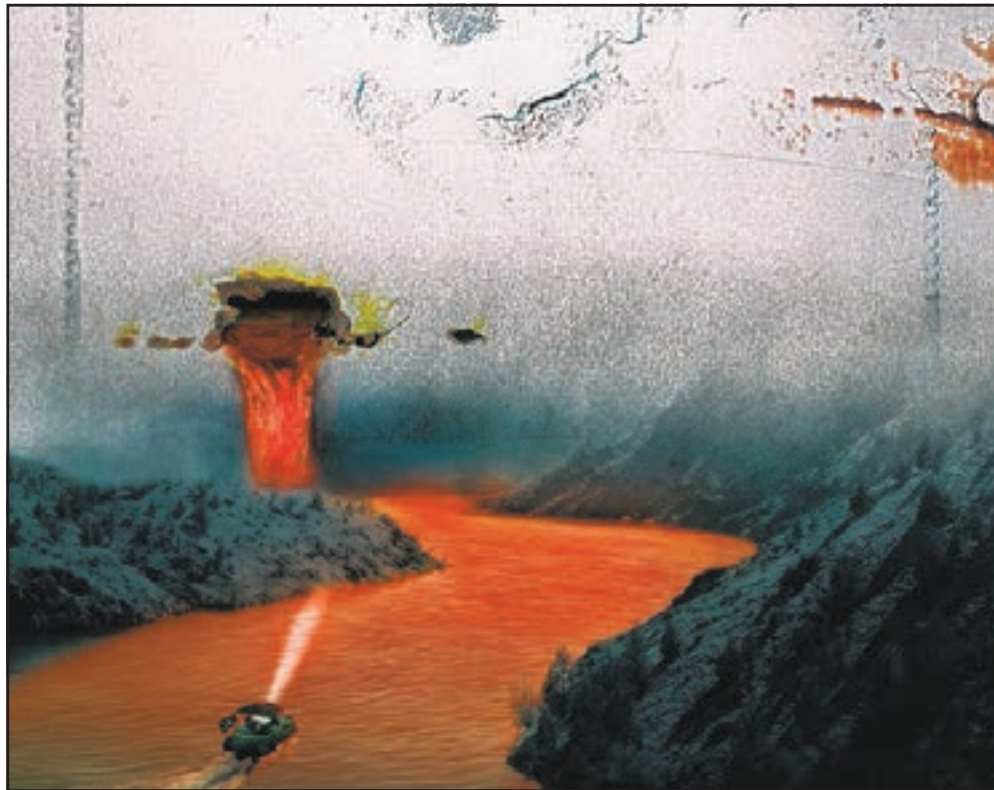
"What Lies Upstream"
Excellent (4 stars)
Unrated
Running time: 85 minutes
Distributor: Hyrax Films

By Kam Williams

On Jan. 9, 2014, a coal industry cleansing agent called MCHM started leaking from an above-ground storage tank into West Virginia's Elk River. The major chemical spill was covered up by Freedom Industries, the company that owned and operated the tank.

The 300,000 residents of Charleston were lucky that the substance emitted a noxious odor, otherwise they might never have known that their tap water was toxic. Still, some 700 folks called the local poison control center to report rashes and a variety of other symptoms.

Six days later, instead of caring about the health and safety of its customers, the



A scene from the movie "What Lies Upstream."

www.rottentomatoes.com

water company closed ranks with the prevaricating corporation by declaring the

licorice-tasting H2O safe to drink. Unfortunately, most of the other official agencies,

including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Center for Disease

Control, also ran interference for Freedom Industries.

This shocking state of affairs came to the attention of filmmaker / investigative journalist Cullen Hoback who made his way to the scene of the crime, camera in hand. Leaving no stone unturned, he doggedly pursued the truth, until justice was served, albeit belatedly.

The upshot of Hoback's efforts has been chronicled in fascinating fashion in *What Lies Upstream*, a jaw-dropping documentary which reveals most regulating agencies to be untrustworthy puppets of big business interests. Besides the Charleston disaster, the film covers similar events which transpired elsewhere around the country (most notably in Flint, Michigan), again and again illustrating how politicians and bureaucrats have routinely failed to protect the people who elected them.

A sobering exposé' issuing a dire warning about the whole damn nation's being on the brink of ecological collapse!

Independent & Foreign Films

Abe & Phil's Last Poker Game (R for profanity and sexuality) Baby-daddy comedy about a couple of childless retirees' (Martin Landau and Paul Sorvino) competition to convince a nurse (Maria Dizzia) that he's her long-lost father. With Pamela Dubin, Alexander Cook and Kayla Harrity.

Humor Me (Unrated) Father-son comedy about a struggling Manhattan playwright (Jemaine Clement) who reluctantly moves in with his elderly father (Elliott Gould) only to be pressured to put on a production starring residents of the Jersey retirement community. Featuring Annie Potts, Bebe Neuwirth, Ingrid Michaelson and Willie Carpenter.

Ku Qian (Unrated) The impact of modernization on Eastern China is examined in this documentary chronicling a day in the life of a migrant worker in the garment industry. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

Lover for a Day (Unrated) Third wheel drama, set in Paris, about a just-dumped, 23 year-old (Esther Garrel) who shows up at her father's (Eric Caravaca) looking for a place to crash, only to learn that he's already sharing the tiny apartment with a new girlfriend (Louise Chevillotte) half his age.

Support cast includes Paul Toucang, Felix Kysyl and Michel Charrel. (In French with subtitles)

My Art (Unrated) Laurie Simmons wrote, directed and stars in this character-driven drama about a 65-year-old teacher craving recognition as an artist. With Lena Dunham, Parker Posey, Robert Clohessy and Grace Dunham.

The Room (R for sexuality, profanity and brief violence) Re-release of the 2003 flop, which inspired *The Disaster Artist*. The abysmal production revolves around a love triangle which arises when a successful banker's (Tommy Wiseau) best friend (Greg Sestero) starts sleeping with his girlfriend (Juliette Danielle). Featuring Philip Haldman, Carolyn Minnott and Robyn Paris.

Saturday Church (Unrated) Poignant character study chronicling an effeminate, 14-year-old boy's (Luka Kain) struggle with his sexual identity until finding support at an LGBTQ support group in the transgender community. With Margot Bingham, Regina Taylor and Evander Duck, Jr.



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

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Photo: Carol Rosegg

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SPORTS

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West Indies' cricket team head coach Stuart Law, right, talks to team captain Jason Holder during a practice at the Kensington Oval Stadium in Bridgetown, Barbados, Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan

Not a win

By Azad Ali

West Indies Head coach Stuart Law said West Indies had some “soul-searching” to do after they suffered a 119-run crushing defeat at the hands of New Zealand in the recent Twenty20 International final, to end the eight-match tour without a single win.

The regional side lost both Tests by wide margins, were whitewashed 3-0 in the One-Day International series, before going down 2-0 in the three-match series.

The only match they escaped defeat

Continued on Page 50

Simmons appointed Afghanistan's head coach

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies cricket coach Phil Simmons has been appointed head coach of Afghanistan. He took over the job from which was left vacant when the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) terminated the contract of Lalchand Rajput, just three months after the former Indian batsman was appointed.

Simmons, a Trinidadian, will join the Afghanistan squad in Dubai as it prepares for the limited-overs series against Zimbabwe in Sharjah in February.

His contract runs until the 2019 World Cup.

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Rutgers head coach C. Vivian Stringer looks on during the first half against Ohio State in an NCAA college basketball game in Piscataway, N.J., Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016. Ohio State defeated Rutgers 67-58.

Associated Press / Rich Schultz, file

RUTGERS BACK

But UConn still No. 1 in AP women's hoops poll

By Doug Feinberg

NEW YORK (AP) — After a two-year hiatus, C. Vivian Stringer has Rutgers back in The Associated Press women's basketball poll.

The Scarlet Knights jumped into the AP Top 25 on Monday at No. 21, riding an 11-game winning streak.

Rutgers was last ranked on March 2, 2015.

There was a time not so long ago when Rutgers was a staple in the Top 25, but the team went through some lean years before returning to the rankings. Rutgers is in the midst of a remarkable turnaround

after going 6-24 last season.

“To go to the low depths we did and to show that perseverance and fight we have is great,” Stringer said. “We had to build everything from scratch. It showed me a lot about myself. I never gave up. We

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West Indies

Continued from Page 49

was the second Twenty20 on New Year's Day, which was rained out after nine overs.

Law said it was a disappointing tour adding that New Zealand played disciplined cricket, but the West Indies fell short.

He said the team needs to do a lot of hard work, planning and understanding.

"That means some soul-searching by looking in the mirror and asking if we gave everything to change a game, get into a game and win a game," he told reporters in New Zealand.

The West Indies were without experienced players such as Darren Sammy, Dwayne Bravo and Lendl Simmons, all of whom were members of the winning World Cup side in 2016 in India.

West suffered in the Twenty20 series in part from the absence of several key players. Veteran players such as Sunil Narine and Kieron Pollard both pulled out from the squad for personal reasons, while match-winner Marlon Samuels was forced out due to injury.

Law said the late withdrawal of some experienced players had hurt West Indies.

Simmons



Former West Indies' head coach Phil Simmons.

Associated Press / Arnulfo Franco

Continued from Page 49

Simmons was one of the three candidates shortlisted by the ACB, which conducted interviews over the past few months.

In addition to coaching West Indies, he has coached Ireland and Zimbabwe. All these are teams Afghanistan will play in the World Cup qualifiers.

Simmons was also interviewed for the Bangladesh coach job last month.



Rutgers' Ciani Cryor passes the ball as South Carolina's Alexis Jennings (35) and Tyasha Harris (52) defend in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the Gulf Coast Showcase tournament, Friday, Nov. 24, 2017, in Estero, Fla.

Associated Press / Luis M. Alvarez

RUTGERS BACK IN AP POLL

Continued from Page 49

had more resolve to fight."

The Scarlet Knights visit Purdue on Wednesday.

UConn remained a unanimous choice from the 32-member national media panel after cruising to two victories last week. The Huskies were followed in the rankings by Notre Dame, Louisville, Mississippi State and Baylor. Louisville hosts the Irish on Thursday.

South Carolina dropped from fourth to ninth after losing at Missouri on Sunday while the Tigers moved up three spots to 12th. It's the Gamecocks' worst ranking since Jan. 20, 2014.

Tennessee, Texas and Oregon are in front of the Gamecocks while Ohio State rounds out the top 10.

Green Bay also re-entered the poll this week at No. 25. Stanford and Villanova dropped out.

Other tidbits from the poll:

BIG TEN REVIVAL: With Rutgers' return, the Big Ten has five teams in the Top 25 for the first time since Nov. 23, 2015. Ohio State is 10th, Maryland 11th, Iowa tied for 18th, Rutgers 21st and Michigan 23rd.

"It's huge," Stringer said of having so many ranked teams. "I try to treat this as I would the Big East with Notre Dame, Louisville, Connecticut, Rutgers. We had a monster there. If we can continue to play well, the NCAA would consider us to be a strong conference and we'll get all five schools in."

MIGHTY DUCKS: After sweeping Southern California and UCLA, Oregon

has moved up a spot to eighth, which is the Ducks' highest ranking ever. The Ducks had been as high as ninth in 1982 and again this season.

"That's neat," coach Kelly Graves said. "We don't talk about it as a team, but it means we had a hell of a weekend."

Oregon swept the Los Angeles schools for the first time in school history. It is 15-2 on the season, with the losses coming against Louisville and Mississippi State.

"I wouldn't have guessed we'd be 15-2 against the 13th-toughest schedule in the country at this point with the youngest team in the Top 25. ... We're better right now than I thought we'd be. I got some gritty kids and they're tough mentally."

T&T fails to bid for Twenty20 Women's World Cup

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago government has taken a decision not to support a bid to host matches in the Twenty20 Women's World Cup, which will be played in the Caribbean this year.

The government did not meet the deadline of bidding for matches recently.

The Ministry of Sport decided that

due to the economic situation of the country, it would not be feasible to host matches.

The Women's World Cup will be hosted in the Caribbean from Nov. 3 to 24, during the 2018-2019 international cricket season.

It will be the sixth edition of the ICC Women's World Cup Twenty20, and the second to be hosted by the West Indies

(after the 2010 edition).

The tournament was awarded to Cricket West Indies (CWI) at the 2013 annual conference of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

West Indies women's cricketer Merri-sa Aguilera believes women's cricket in Trinidad and Tobago would take a step back, after the government's decision to not to make a bid to host matches.

Vincientian body-building legend passes

By Nelson A. King

Vincientian Winston "Winty" Roberts, a pioneer and significant player in the bodybuilding scene, passed away on Dec. 21, in Whitby, Ontario, Canada, according to Toronto's Muscle Insider.

Roberts, 78, was one of the most influential people in bodybuilding history, "but you'd never know it from how humble and modest he was," the Insider said.

It said Roberts began his bodybuilding journey as a competitor, with accolades such as winning the "Mr. Canada" title twice and participating in Mr. Universe "pose-downs" in the IFBB amateur ranks. The International Federation of Body Building and Fitness (IFBB), headquartered in Madrid, is an international professional sports governing body for bodybuilding and fitness that oversees many of the sport's major international events, notably the World and Continental Championships.

"But what we'll all remember is how this jolly-giant always had a kind word, a hug, and a smile for anyone at an OPA

(Ontario Physique Association) or IFBB show, no matter how busy he was," the Insider said.

It said, on migration to Canada, Roberts first moved in Montreal but ultimately ended up in Whitby, Ontario.

Until his death, he was president of Winston Roberts Incorporated, which organizes competitions at the local, provincial and professional levels.

Roberts was an IFBB judge at the pro level since 1985.

"There's really nothing he hasn't done in the decades he's been involved in the industry/sport," the Insider said. "Back when bodybuilding was in its infancy, Winston was heavily involved as a pioneer, working alongside many of the golden-era greats.

"As an example, Ben Weider, the father of modern bodybuilding, delegated Winston the task of writing the constitution of the IFBB," it added. "Winston took that assignment one step further and also wrote the initial IFBB rulebook for judging, which is still used today."

Roberts was elected general secretary of the IFBB in 1972 and used his IFBB credentials

to begin the Canadian Federation of Bodybuilding (now known as the CBBF).

The Insider said Roberts was also responsible for two "extremely significant moments" in bodybuilding history: "one which revolutionized bodybuilding competition was the suggestion to open pre-judging to the public; the other Winston used bodybuilding to help end an era of oppression and segregation in South Africa by allowing the president of the country to host 1975 Mr. Olympia and World Championships (Mr. Universe) competitions only if the audience was denied its common practice of limiting seating sections according to race.

"This proposal was accepted and was documented in the 1975 bodybuilding hit 'Pumping Iron,' which catapulted bodybuilding's status into the mainstream," the Insider said.

According to Carl Cheung, a National Level competitor and OPA judge: "There's nothing more heart dropping than receiving the sad news this morning, that the great legendary Mr. Winston Robert has passed away.



Winston "Winty" Roberts and his compatriot Elma Gabriel in younger years. Elma Gabriel (FB)

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TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, many things are on your plate, but you don't feel overwhelmed at all. In fact, you're ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs one.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Recreation is the name of the game this week, Gemini. Coming off of a busy period, you are anxious to put your feet up for a few days. Book that vacation right now.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Use your intuition in regard to others' feelings this week, Cancer. Give someone who needs it a little leeway, and your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, if you think change will do you some good, then it is time to make it happen. Embrace the excitement that comes with making changes.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Thanks to a spark of creativity, your plans may change this week, Virgo. Grab someone who is up for an unexpected adventure to join the journey.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, a financial windfall has given you some extra spending money. While you may want to splurge, the practical side of you knows some saving is in order.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, some things may be beyond your control this week, and that is okay. The measure of success will be how well you can adapt to the changes ahead.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Home improvements may be in your future, Sagittarius. Projects could be just what the doctor ordered to chase away any feelings of cabin fever that may develop.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, although the digital age has taken over, this week you might be ready to unplug for a while. Stock up on some books that can fuel your imagination.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Lend an ear to someone who has to get a few things off of his or her chest, Aquarius. You do not have to offer solutions. Just being there will be assistance enough.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't leave any stone unturned when seeking a solution this week, Pisces. The least expected avenue may be the right one.

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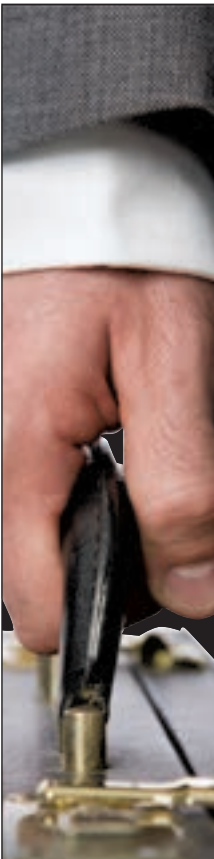
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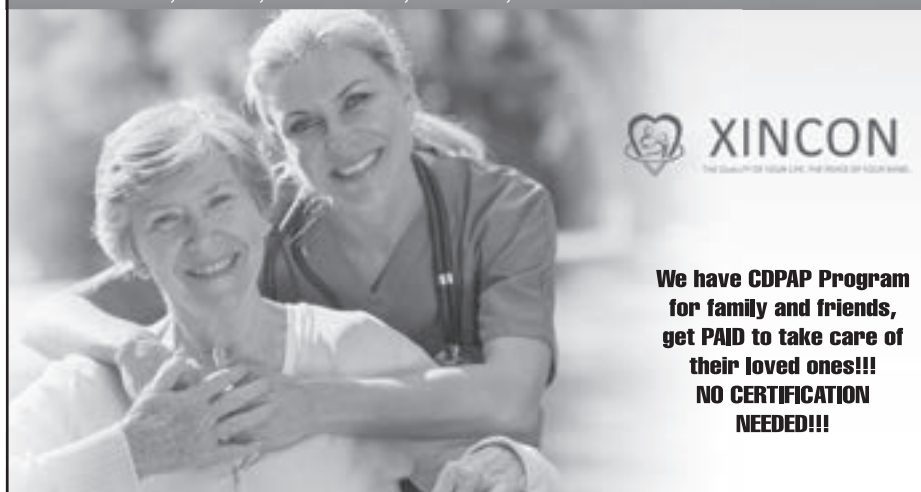
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Office of the Public Advocate

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Supreme Court County Of Kings
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Plaintiff
AGAINST
Kamar Jimoh, Grace Ibi-ronke Sowemimo, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 1/4/2016 and entered on 1/12/2016, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 08, 2018 at 02:30 PM premises known as 559 Cleveland Street Brooklyn, NY 11208-3505. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4049, LOT: 12. Approximate amount of judgment is \$340,583.41 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 015445/2009. Rosemarie Sailer, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

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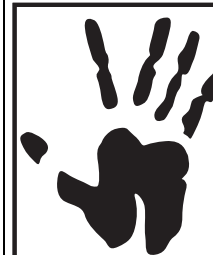
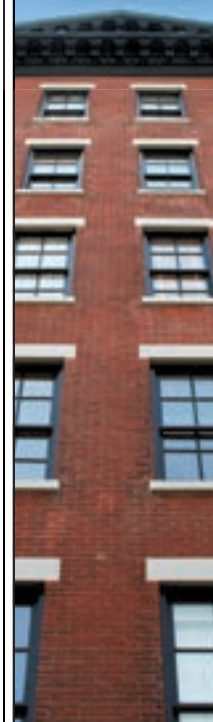
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