



Ready to run

Jumaane Williams announces his candidacy for lieutenant governor at City Hall. See story on Page 3.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Barbados bristles at human trafficking ranking

By George Alleyne

The United States' continued challenging of Barbados regarding prevention of trafficking of persons has angered this island's Attorney General, Adriel Brathwaite, who is questioning the American approach and methodology for labelling this state.

Barbados has for years been placed in Tier Two among countries in the US annual report on trafficking in persons, which means the island's government is regarded as not fully meeting the American Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards but is making significant efforts

to bring itself into compliance with those standards.

"It does annoy me, in all seriousness, that someone sits in Washington, writes a report every year, changes very little in the report and then determines the fate of [almost 300,000] citizens here by a stroke of a pen," Brathwaite said last week.

According to the United States report, among the reasons Barbados continues to languish below the top position of Tier One up to the 2017 report is because, "there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of traffick-

ing in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials."

But Brathwaite snapped, "so we're not compliant because we have not prosecuted anyone. It does not make a lot of sense."

Barbados has never convicted anyone for trafficking in persons, but reportedly has one court case lying and awaiting a concluded hearing

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TRADE ROW FUROR

Jamaica could quit CARICOM free market system

By Bert Wilkinson

When Caribbean community leaders assemble in Haiti next week, they might well be forced to discuss the very strong possibility that one of the nations, which had helped to found the integration movement and the regional free trade system is seriously considering withdrawing from that very same system until it is better organized and modernized.

Jamaica's parliament, the cabinet and the island's academic community are currently debating the recommendations of a commission which was established more than a year ago to undertake a complete review of the workings of CARICOM and to advise on the type of participation of Jamaica in the 15-member bloc going forward.

Former prime minister Bruce Golding was the man identified to head up the commission. It has submitted its

report and parliament has had preliminary debates on it, albeit amid heated circumstances.

But one key recommendation contained in the report has many in the community shaking their heads in disbelief and even fear, worried that the bloc might be having its own form of Jaexit or Brexit as it talks about Jamaica withdrawing from the single market and economy or free market trading system because of unending dis-satisfaction.

Back in July 1973, then prime ministers Forbes Burnham of Guyana, Michael Manley of Jamaica, Eric Williams of Trinidad and Errol Barrow of Barbados had signed the Treaty of Chaguaramas in Trinidad establishing the regional family grouping. It had replaced CARIFTA, the early version of CARICOM as it is known today. CARIFTA was the acronym for the Caribbean Free Trade Area.

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Williams now running for Lt. governor



Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y. speaks to supporters at a Community Town Hall in Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press / Frank Franklin II, file

Clarke blames Trump for DACA crisis

By Nelson A. King

As the United States Senate on Thursday summarily blocked three measures — including one backed by President Donald J. Trump — to resolve the fate of the so-called Caribbean and other “Dreamers,” leaving hundreds of thousands of them facing an uncertain future, Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has blamed the crisis squarely on the president.

“In September, Donald Trump created a crisis by ending DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals],” Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told Caribbean Life on Saturday. “He then called on Congress to work together to solve it.”

But Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, said Trump “continues to torpedo bipartisan deal after bipartisan deal, while offering an immigration framework that is cruel, vindictive and heartless.”

“Over 100 Dreamers are deported daily, and we are quickly approaching the March 5th deadline,” she said. “If Donald Trump cannot lead, he must get out of the way and let the Congress do its job in a bipartisan fashion,” and save DACA.”

March 5 is the day that Trump has set the DACA program to expire. The program protects about 690,000 Caribbean and other Dreamers from deportation and allows them to work, study or join the military. But Trump rescinded DACA, leaving it to Congress to find a replacement.

After the week began with the promise of an extraordinarily open, free-ranging debate on immigration, senators on Thursday struck down measure after measure, leaving into question whether any solution on the Dreamers can be reached.



Jumaane Williams announces his candidacy for lieutenant governor at City Hall.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

By Tequila Minsky

The steps of City Hall were filled with excitement on Friday, Feb. 16, when Council Member Jumaane Williams announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor of New York state.

Colleagues, other elected officials and representatives from community organizations with whom Williams has worked with over the last decade and half declared their support for this maverick politician who was just elected to his third term from the 45th District in NYC City Council.

Speakers repeated the term “progressive” in describing Williams’ brand of Democratic Party politics.

State Senator Kevin Parker who has known Williams for years and taught him at Brooklyn College, where Williams earned a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in urban policy and administration, said, “I’m excited to continue to work with him on issues of public safety, fighting discrimination, protecting our environment, and more.”

He called Williams fearless, effective, and passionate in taking on issues in City Council.

In various recent public appearances, Williams speaks about running on his effectiveness in City Council. He introduced and passed more than 40 pieces of legislation — second only to the number introduced by the

speaker.

On his behalf, Council Member I. Daneek Miller from Queens touted Williams’ advocacy for working people.

Labor activist and organizer Eddie Kay spoke of Williams as a fighter for the little guy, who would use the position as a voice that is one for the people.

Williams has spent several weekends on a listening tour around the state, meeting with local activists and progressive organizations since his Martin Luther King announcement that he was exploring the possibility of running for lieutenant governor.

It is their encouraging response, he says, that in part has informed his decision to formally enter the race.

Before a crowd of nearly 100 community members including those from East Flatbush Village, Elite Learners, GMACC—a violence prevention program, and Rabbi Ralbag and friends, Williams made his official announcement.

Williams’ older sister by five years, Jeanine Williams also spoke sharing personal anecdotes.

When Williams finally addressed the press, he said, “This is a big thing. I am first generation American / Brooklynite, and the son of Grenada.

I’ve spent my 41 years in Brooklyn and am a public school baby, up through Brooklyn College. My moth-

er was my advocate. It’s where I get my strength and drive.”

Williams also paid tribute to and referenced others in history who inspired him: Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King, and Shirley Chisholm.

He acknowledged all those who were standing behind him as “having his back.” He said, “Together, we can do a whole lot. It’s not me, it’s us, together.”

And he offered his mantra: Do what you can, with what you have, for as many people as you have the privilege of serving, for as long as you can.

Concluding he said, “Together, we can prove that activist energy can overcome establishment money... can reject the politics of cautious inaction... amplify the voices of all those who aren’t being heard.”

In New York State, candidates for governor and lieutenant governor run separately in the primary, with the winners of each party’s nomination forming a joint ticket for the general election. Current Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul has confirmed that she will run for reelection. The primary is Sept. 11.

Williams was asked if he were elected in the primary and on the ticket with Cuomo, could he work with Cuomo, with whom he is critical.

“I am a Democrat. I’m going to be running as a ticket, but I am independent,” Williams said.

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Antigua

A 57-year-old Japanese woman who kicked a police officer in the groin and refused to be searched on arrival at the V.C International Airport in Antigua recently was jailed for 14 days on a charge of assault and disorderly conduct.

It is alleged that Masayo Goto, who arrived on a Caribbean Airline flight from Jamaica, got involved in a fight with Customs officers and refused to be searched during a routine check at the airport.



Narcotics and K-9 officers, who were also on duty, went to the assistance of the Customs officers, as a result of the kicking, screaming, and disorderly behavior of the Japanese national.

A search was eventually carried out on her bags but nothing was found.

She was taken into custody and charged with assaulting a police officer among other offenses. She was destined to travel to St. Vincent.

Goto pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 14 days in prison by Magistrate Ngaio Emmanuel.

Bahamas

The pilot of a six-seater aircraft that crashed in waters near Mastic point, Andros, Bahamas killing all six people on board recently was not licensed to operate commercial flights nor did he have the required ratings to operate the Piper aircraft in visually impairing weather conditions.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Registry, the pilot of the ill-fated flight, Darren Clarke, held a private pilot license.

The United States registered aircraft departed San Andes Airport around 8 am and crashed into waters approximately four miles off Mastic point.

All seven passengers, including the pilot, were aboard the flight which was intended to land at New Providence.

A private pilot is not supposed to carry paying customers.



Jamaica

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) recently announced that the 37th edition of the Caribbean Travel Marketplace will be held at the Montego Bay Convention, Jamaica from Jan. 29 to 31, 2019.

The event will be held in collaboration with the Jamaica Ministry of Tourism, the Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association and the Jamaica Tourism Board.

The CHTA, Caribbean Travel Mar-



Overcrowding in Haiti's prisons

In this Feb. 13, 2017 photo, a prisoner puts food in a bag to send up to a fellow inmate at the National Penitentiary in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Prison authorities say they try their best to meet inmates' needs, but repeatedly receive insufficient funds from the state to buy food and cooking fuel.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

ketplace will bring together hotel and destination representatives; wholesalers and tour operators; online travel agencies; meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibition and members of the media for several days of business meetings, including a busy program of thousands of pre-scheduled appointments.



This year's Caribbean Travel marketplace, which was produced by the CHTA, was held in Puerto Rico.

Haiti

The impoverished country of Haiti has been ranked as the worst country for the most overcrowded prisons in the world, according to information released by World Prison Brief (WPB).

According to the London-based publication, at the end of January the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country topped the 205 countries surveyed for the most overcrowded prisons in the world, followed by the Philippines and El Salvador.

In June 2016, the 17 Haitian prisons in the country, had an average occupancy rate of 454 percent and the space per detainee was a little less than 0.05 m2, far off the international standard which is 4.5 m2.



The prison population in Haiti was

estimated at 10,500 prisoners or 96 out of 100,000 inhabitants.

WPB said the result of overcrowding causes many human violations, important health problems, spread of diseases, malnutrition and violence.

It noted that 72 percent of the prisoners were in pre-trial detention without having been tried.

St. Kitts

St. Kitts Ministry of Tourism recently received an award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism from the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

The award was given at an awards ceremony of the Climate Smart Sustainable Tourism Forum, which was recently held in St. Kitts.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Carlene Henry-Morton said the Ministry of Tourism's Sustainable Destination Management Plan provides a powerful case study in destination-driven sustainable tourism development, demonstrating a mode of excellence that can be applied to other destinations in the Caribbean and beyond.

She said the St. Kitts Ministry of Tourism recognized the sustainability risks associated with tourism development and immediately began pursuing a deliberate Sustainable Destination Management Program (SDMP), which



has grown to include a range of innovative initiatives that address all pillars of sustainability.

The Climate Smart Sustainable Tourism Forum was held under the theme "Good for Us, Better for All," bringing together local, regional and international tourism stakeholders and development agencies.

Organizing partners include the CTO, the St. Kitts Ministry of Tourism, the St. Kitts Sustainable Destination Council and Sustainable Travel International.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia's new luxury hotel Harbor Club recently opened its door under the new ownership of well-respected Canadian entrepreneur and businessman Wes Hall.

Harbor Club is an ultra-modern hotel featuring 115 tropical cabin-style rooms and suites and is poised to set new luxury standards and is designed to welcome travelers.

Aimbridge Hospitality LLC Company will manage the Club.

Aimbridge Hospitality is the largest independent hotel management and investment firm in the United States, and is recognized hospitality management leader throughout the Caribbean.



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A bold archbishop retires



Retiring Archbishop John Holder. Photo by George Alleyne

By George Alleyne

Anglican dioceses of the Caribbean will soon be naming a new Primate as Archbishop John Holder will retire at the end of February ending eight years of leading eight districts of the church in the region.

Reverend Holder's retirement will also see Barbadians anointing another Anglican leader as he has been Bishop of that diocese since 2000.

Among the most memorable work during Rev'd Holder's reign as regional Anglican Primate was his effort at all-inclusiveness, notably seeking to welcome into the fold persons of alternative lifestyles and sexual preferences.

It was a bold move in a region steeped in traditional religious beliefs in which the populace harbours a conservative approach to what comprises acceptable gender relationships and the definition of marriage.

Addressing the matter of churches speaking out against homosexuality he said last year that they seem to be misreading and misinterpreting the Bible, which he said clearly out-

lines that all human beings are accepted by God.

"I think it is sad when persons get up as Christians and ridicule another human being and give the impression that they are children of the devil and not children of God. That is out for us as Anglicans, we don't do that," Holder said.

His approach was remarkable because he dared to venture into areas where Caribbean political leaders fear to tread, or if they go there, walk gingerly.

Fear of angering the electorate and thereby losing precious support of voters have over the years seen Caribbean governments resist behind the scenes pressure from developed countries and international organisations to stop criminalising homosexual acts.

Regional political leaders have shown that they rather lose hundreds of millions of dollars in funding and aid from developed countries and donor agencies than risk the wrath of the religiously conservative Caribbean voter.

But the archbishop persisted by confronting this social core

value that has its origins in the church.

"Our clear position is that every human being in this world is a child of God and whatever... their opinions or their orientations, our role is to support them. If we think they are going wrong, our role is to redirect them, but not condemn them," he said.

"Instead of going after peculiarities, we look at what we have in common and share God's love and fellowship with all persons, no matter their orientation. The church is here as a servant of God, servant of Christ and we are here to minister to every human being in this world."

The archbishop's comments last weekend during a special diocesan thanksgiving farewell service held in Barbados, shows an awareness that the effort at inclusiveness is work that has only just begun.

"My ministry demanded a level of understanding, and a depth of patience," he said without any reference to acceptance of persons regardless of orientation.

He added, "each of us will

move along at a different pace along a common path. But the important thing is keeping our eye on the goal of the journey... to strengthen the ministry of this diocese, especially focusing this ministry on those critical areas of life that often need to be connected to our faith."

According to Church in the Province of the West Indies, Archbishop Holder entered the ordained ministry as a deacon in 1974 and became a priest in 1976. He was consecrated as the

13th Bishop of his native Barbados in 2000; and he became Archbishop of the West Indies in 2009. A graduate of the Barbados-based Codrington College, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and the Diploma in Theological Studies, the archbishop also holds a master's Degree in Sacred Theology (STM) from the School of Theology, University of the South. In 1985, he was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from King's College, London.

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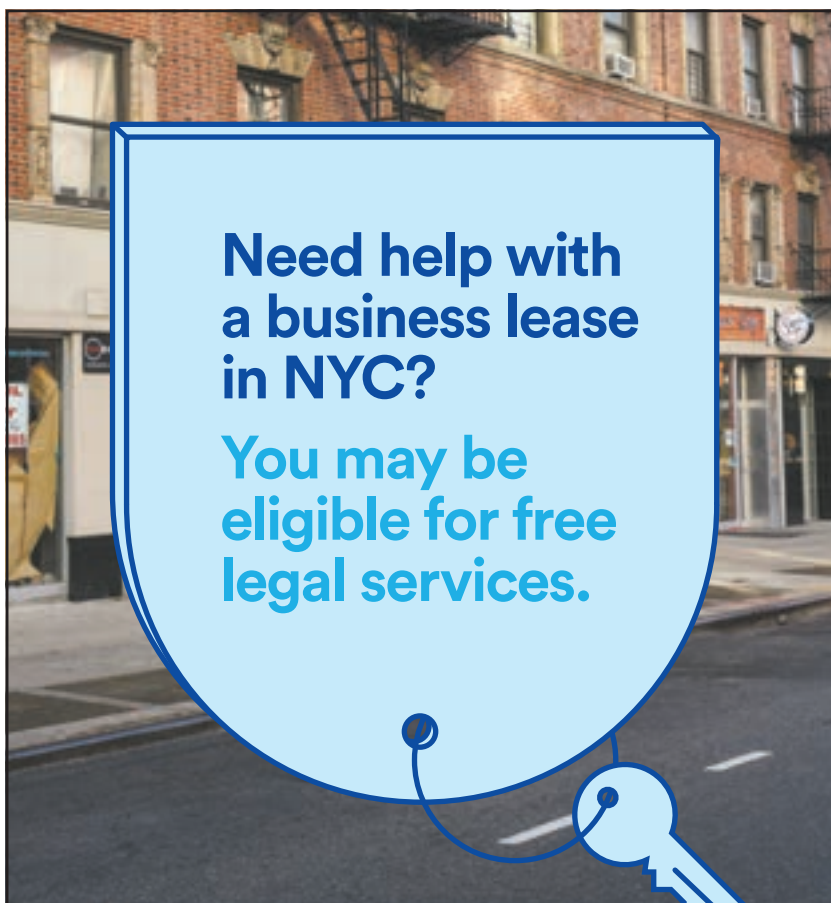
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Assorted

Jamaica at the crossroads



Former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding.

Associated Press / Collin Reid

Continued from Page 1

The four have for decades been revered as the founding fathers.

But fed up of constant barriers to trade, tariff and other impediments to its export products, the slow pace of trade conflict resolutions, the culture of basic information secrecy in the bloc and lukewarm reactions to calls for modernization of the regional family system among other beefs, the report is now speaking to open rebellion.

Bruce Golding startled an academic forum at the weekend in Jamaica by saying that in the absence of a clear commitment from its other neighbors about improving the trading regime, "Jamaica should withdraw from the single market and economy (CSME), but retain its membership of CARICOM in a capacity similar to that of The Bahamas.

This is as successive Jamaican administrations and trade regulators have been complaining about an alleged unfair system for trade. Some bloc members, Trinidad in particular, has done everything it can to restrict exports from Jamaica into the twin-island, while being allowed free and easy access into Jamaica. The row over trade access dates back to the patti pastry wars of the 90s. Jamaican exporters say Trinidad did everything in

its power to bloc access to the market. On free travel, Trinidad has also been identified as the main culprit, allegedly unfairly profiling and deporting Jamaican visitors to the island.

So authorities appointed a review commission to study the way things work in CARICOM and to make recommendations as to how Jamaica should continue its participation in the regional family going forward.

Golding suggests that Jamaica should quit membership of the free trade system—the so-called single market and economy (CSME), but remain a member of the community if clear systems are not in place to ensure proper free trade in about five years.

Human trafficking report

Continued from Page 1

and verdict since 2013.

This absence of convictions for the criminal offence of human trafficking contrasts starkly with the known situation on this island into which females mainly from Guyana and Jamaica are known to be brought in by other persons for work in night entertainment venues, where it is believed there is prostitution.

Up to the 2017 report, Barbados was in the Tier Two ranking along with Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

While the Barbados attorney general bristles at the US categorisation of the island, other CARICOM states were recently given thumbs up for their efforts.

Guyana, which has graduated to Tier One after flagging in a much lower ranking for a number of years, has received more positive points in the American 2018 Trafficking in Persons Interim Assessment for, securing one conviction for human trafficking, training law enforcement prosecutors on victim identification, and forming a Community Advocates Program to train village leaders in the interior of the country and mining regions.

Antigua, that is slightly lower than Barbados on a Tier Two Watchlist, was also congratulated in the interim report, released this month, for hir-

ing a human trafficking legal expert, and training government workers.

Haiti is in the same ranking as Antigua and received kudos for investigating "the alleged trafficking of 25 children for the purpose of domestic servitude."

Suriname which was also ranked in Tier Two Watchlist for 2017 found itself mentioned in the interim report for investigating and prosecuting "multiple ongoing trafficking cases, passed legislation providing more oversight of employment agencies, and identified services and reintegration support for victims."



Barbados Attorney General, Adriel Brathwaite. Photo by George Alleyne

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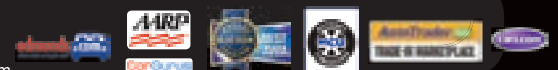
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Teaching Black History in our schools

By Jesse Hamilton

Last summer, I hosted a hackathon for middle school students at Medgar Evers College. Picture 40 enthusiastic young people ready to learn about coding, computer science, and technology, along with CodeEd educators and the welcoming college staff.

In an effort to be as educational as possible, I like to do a little history quiz when we host young people. My quiz features questions like, "Who was the first African-American woman elected to Congress?" That day, I asked, "Who was Medgar Evers?" Silence. The question stumped nearly all the students.

Only one student could venture a reply on his Civil Rights Movement leadership. That lone reply is part of the reason I am advancing legislation to make black history instruction in our K-12 schools mandatory.

The Southern Poverty Law Center recently published a troubling report on schools teaching the history of slavery, "Teaching Hard History." Among the most alarming findings, SPLC reports that two-thirds of high school seniors did not know it took a constitutional amendment to end slavery; 58 percent of teachers found their textbooks inadequate in teaching about slavery; the average textbook scored only 46 percent in SPLC's assessment of what should be included in the study of American slavery; 40

percent of teachers believed their state offers insufficient support for teaching about slavery.

The SPLC's analysis provides important data supporting the need to make black history instruction mandatory, mirroring my experience with the hackathon students and elsewhere.

Recent news reports underscore the necessity of this legislation. In one Bronx school, I.S. 224, the principal reportedly instructed an English teacher not to teach about the Harlem Renaissance. In another school, administrators refused to allow a student named Malcolm Xavier Combs to put "Malcolm X" on his senior sweater. In another instance, in Park Slope, the PTA included images of performers in blackface on advertisements for a 1920s themed fundraiser. Passing this law would send a clearly needed message of inclusion to all New Yorkers.

Black history's importance extends far beyond a single month. From the abolitionists like Sojourner Truth, who broke barriers in advocacy and helped end slavery, to the Harlem Renaissance, home to literary and artistic dynamism we benefit from even today, to the pioneering achievements of Shirley Chisholm, who paved a path for future public servants of color, men and women alike, black history serves as part of our national heritage.

Continued on Page 22

Whither, West Indies cricket?

By Albert Baldeo

"WICB needs to take responsibility for the fall for WI cricket."-Ramnaresh Sarwan, former WI captain

"The West Indies Cricket Board is the most unprofessional in the world...Cameron is 'immature', 'arrogant' and 'not having West Indies cricket at heart'...a dictator... I think we had enough as players."—Dwayne Bravo

"When is the last time a critic paid one your bills? Always remember that when you start to give them your energy."-Dave Cameron, President of WICB, now CWI (Cricket West Indies)

A few years ago, Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Viv Richards, Wes Hall and Andy Roberts, uniting under the umbrella banner of Cricket Legends, met with Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, chairman of the Prime Ministerial Committee on the Governance of West Indies Cricket, which had appointed the CARICOM cricket review panel in the wake of yet another crisis that emerged following the West Indies' withdrawal from India's tour in October 2014.

"During the last two decades, many different presidents and CEOs have led the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and yet, its performance has declined steadily with each passing year," the Legends said in a joint media release.

"The board is an oligarchic structure that considers itself answerable to no one but itself. It is one of the few sporting institutions that have remained virtually unchanged in attitude and structure in the last 70 years or more." Roger Harper, Charlie Griffith, Deryck Murray, (who was also member of the CARICOM review panel), leg-spinner

Cricket is first and foremost a dramatic spectacle. It belongs with the theatre, ballet, opera and the dance.

Dinanath Ramnarine, (previous president of the West Indies Players Association) and opening batsman, Desmond Haynes were only a few former stars who concurred with CARICOM's recommendation that the WICB become accountable to CARICOM authorities, and that the board should "undergo structural adjustment."

Recently, a CWI press release recently confirmed that off-spinner Sunil Narine, batsman Darren Bravo and all-rounders Kieron Powell and Andre Russell, all refused to proudly don their West Indies flannels, preferring to participate in the Pakistan Super league instead of taking part in the ICC World Cup qualifiers in Bangladesh in March. The World Cup is cricket's biggest stage. Former captains and star batsmen Chris Gayle, Ronnie Sarwan and the iconic Sir Viv Richards, Darren Sammy, and many other players have condemned similar complaints about the Board's callous treatment of players in the past.

Not only has the WICB / CWI shown serial disrespect for great players like Sobers, Hall, Kanhai, Gibbs, Lloyd, Chanderpaul and others over the years, but their humiliation have become more pronounced with each succeeding generation of cricketers. Some quarters have complained that "some players have too

much egos, and behave like mercenaries." The grievances on both sides must be heard and addressed.

The major complaint is that "the board has been utilizing the 'big stick' approach in dealing with matters, and not having proper communication with all stakeholders, including the players." Sarwan exposed his fallout with the WICB and Ottis Gibson, saying that Gibson verbally attacked him and dropped him, destroying him mentally. This led to his now famous quote, "I didn't know my front foot from my back foot," a situation that caused him to flee from the game and not leave his house or his room for days, until the point when his father had an emotional breakdown over worry for his son. "I would not answer the call of the WICB if picked now," is reflective of a seriously broken spirit.

Sarwan's disgust that "The CWI or WICB whatever name y'all come under, all the administrators, from 1990 onwards should go and play now and help the team qualify for the next World Cup," is symptomatic of the fact that West Indies cricket is imploding, and not keeping, consolidating, unifying and managing its individual talents. His complaint that, "Now imagine the great WICB asking players to play. I would like to laugh but out of respect for the Caribbean people I won't," demands immediate action by CARICOM governments to address the problems in our cricket.

CARICOM will do well to remind itself what cricket supremacy means in a global context to all Caribbean brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. It is best summarized by the former

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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@cnglobal.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.

Caribbean Superheroes among 'Black Panther' party

By now everyone knows the film "Black Panther" is not a documentary about a 1960s, California, Black revolutionary political party/group that scared America straight wearing all-black outfits, toting weapons and fearlessly proclaiming "power to the people."

In fact, the Imax HD blockbuster is a 1966 Marvel Comics creation and 134-minute feature that is all the rage for being the highest grossing comic book character which stars an all-Black cast and received critical acclaim throughout the world and shines a global spotlight on a continent the president of the United States considers a s***hole.

Making its world premiere prior to President's Day holiday, the groundbreaking film set in the African nation of Wakanda features immigrants, Africans, Caribbean nationals and some of the fiercest and wisest women to dominate any dynasty or administration.

Among the women listed in starring roles are: Angela Bassett, Mexico-born, Kenyan Lupita Nyung'o, Guyana-born



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Letitia Wright and Brazil-born Jamaican Nabiyah Be.

Jamaicans on the island joined legions of anxious moviegoers throughout the world on opening day to catch first public screenings of the anticipated sci-fi/fantasy which in addition to its alluring advance promotion also features Be, the daughter of reggae legend Jimmy Cliff.

Cliff's foray with acting includes starring roles in "The Harder They Come" and "Bongo Man" with featured roles alongside Robin Williams in the comedy "Club Paradise."

His daughter's reversed path to the spotlight found her singing and acting on the Brazilian stage. Born on the South American continent, like her Jamaican father she is also a singer.

On his many tours to Brazil she accompanied him singing background vocals and also

toured with him extensively.

After arriving here, she attended Pace University to study theater and eventually landed Off-Broadway roles.

This major movie debut placed Be alongside some of Hollywood's hallmark actors — Forest Whitaker, Michael B. Jordan, Sterling K. Brown, Nyung'o, Bassett and Chadwick Boseman.

Be's character, Tilda Johnson is actually Nightshade.

Nightshade debuted in Steve Englehart and Alan Weiss' Captain America #164 in 1973. In the comics, she is able to turn convicts into werewolves with a serum she created. Given her specialties in biology, chemistry and robotics among others Nightshade was the third villain casted for the film following Killmonger and M'Baku (Winston Duke).

Described by director Ryan Coogler as "the love and light"



Guyana-born Letitia Wright portrays Shuri in the "Black Panther." www.rottentomatoes.com

of the movie, perhaps, the next leading royal from the Marvel franchise will be Shuri, portrayed by 24-year-old Guyanese Wright.

She migrated to England with her mother at the age of seven.

Reportedly, she discovered

her passion for acting in 2006 after watching a young Keke Palmer who starred in the movie "Akeelah & The Bee," a film about a disadvantaged youth who found her identity when she emerged a spelling

Continued on Page 16

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MADE FOR NEW YORK.

A requiem for women rights activist

By Tangerine Clarke

The iconic life of Guliana Jacobs-Moses was remembered quite the way she would have wanted on Thursday, Feb. 15 with a celebratory memorial filled with love and touching tributes, her mother Christiana A. Jacobs, family members, friends and the many whose lives she touched.

Pastor Easton Marks in conducting the requiem for the advocate and owner of Jacobs Tax Service in Brooklyn, reminded mourners of the inevitability of death, and used the scripture and 'quips' to ease the hurt and pain during the stirring memorial.

"She was an activist who served, who lived for others, who gave, sacrificed, and loved," said Pastor Marks.

Dr. Reynold Howell, Pastor Carlus Hamilton and Pastor Floyd Johnson, expressed condolences in prayer and worship.

More than 800 mourners filled the pews of the Flatbush Seventh Adventist Church to say a final farewell to the beautiful lady who died suddenly on Feb. 3, at age 56.



Guliana Jacobs-Moses.

Posthumous accolades from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, Assemblyman Nick Perry, and Sen. Kevin Parker, honored "Gully", as she was lovingly called.

Sister, Hazetta Jacobs, expressed how proud she was of Guliana. "The comfort and kindness showed by so many gave us strength to move on. "It is not about crying, it is about living the life she would want me to live, to continue her legacy."

Many speakers echoed the sentiments of Leonela Jacobs who eulogized Guliana as a brilliant daughter of Kwakwani Village, who excelled, and received Guyana scholarships to study in Iraq, and the University of Guyana.

An immigrant who came to the U.S. in 1984, Guliana fought for the rights of others, and as recent as January 21, protested in Times Square for women's equality.

Obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees from John Jay College in criminal justice, sister, Leonela called Guliana a "vibrant soul, a comforter, and counselor whenever needed."

First Lady of Guyana, Mrs. Sandra Granger in a statement, applauded Jacobs for her support of causes she espoused.

Married to Noel Moses in June 2016, Guliana was remembered by Consul General of Guyana to New York, Barbara Atherly, as a strong woman who loved deeply and fiercely.

"During our last encounter, she promised to visit the consulate to share her ideas about a woman's project for Guyana, said Hon. Atherly, adding,



Chairperson of International Woman's Movement, Bonita Montique and members remembering Guliana's outstanding work. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

"Guliana's untimely death will clearly affect her family and our Guyanese community"

"Guliana was a patriot and this was fervently displayed throughout her life as she very aptly represented the cause of Guyana and Guyanese on every issue."

"As a member of the Guyana Action Committee, Guyana American Patriotic Forum, United Bridge Builders, she was at the forefront of our high incident of suicide, domestic violence and sexual exploitation of women," said the diplomat.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

Trinidad

More than 1,100 police officers are needed in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. This is in addition to the more than 7,000 police officers already employed.

The figure was given by acting Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Deodath Dulalchan at the weekly police



news briefing recently.

He said at present the police service is short of 1,100 officers and if "we can get that number through recruitment, we would be able to make that dent in the crime situation through policing standards."

Dulalchan added: "The TTPS will be fully operational and will provide a highly visible presence in terms of foot and other forms of patrols, including canine and mounted patrols."

- Compiled by Azad Ali

Caribbean Superheroes

Continued from Page 11

bee champion.

According to reports, Wright's parents were not at all impressed with her life's ambitions.

"In my country where I was born, Guyana, we push more for education... It's more being a lawyer, doctor, teacher, or scientist. So it was something I had to just really prove — not only to myself, but to my parents, that I could do it, and I can make a living from it, and that I was kind of good at it."

In pursuit of her dream she attended London's Identity School of Acting where a multicultural program enabled her to secure roles as a teenager in British television and theater.

The road to success was rocky and by age 20 she battled crippling depression.

For solace she turned to social media, there she lavished praise for a God that sustained her burgeoning career.

"Everybody has their thing that they're truthful about. My thing is just a love of God."

Wright posted that she was not ever "going to hide" her religious beliefs and would continue to praise her creator.

In order to prepare for a scene she said regardless of the role "I pray."

As the teenager who portrays T'Challa's 16-year-old, tech-savvy sister and the princess of Wakanda, Shuri's role finds her designing new technology for her country.

She is "an innovative spirit and an innovative mind" who "wants to take Wakanda to a new place."

Coupled with that she "has a great fashion sense," Wright explained.

Shuri unlike any other comic book character or Disney princess, sports braids as adornment of her hair and beauty.

"She was such a different character from what I'd read in scripts: A young Black woman who's super smart and into technology," Wright said. "I hadn't really seen any girls on screen who were into tech or science and engineering, and I know most of the world hadn't either. So I really wanted to play Shuri not just because she'd be funny

and smart and a really cool character to play, but also because I knew she'd leave an impact on young girls and young boys."

"I wish I could have Shuri's Kimoyo beads in real life — they can project anything onto glass without a remote control!" she said. "I wouldn't even need my cell phone. I'd just project my YouTube videos onto the wall! That would be so cool...You know, Shuri is just so cool. She's so cool! How could it not be an honor to play her?"

And while the Caribbean reputedly breeds fierce women, the men are equally bequeathed with a penchant for exhibiting fearsome talent.

From Trinidad & Tobago, Winston Duke represents the region in the blockbuster as M'Baku.

A Yale-educated actor who is already a major fan favorite, he is 31 years old and the proud bearer of two acting degrees from its school of drama.

Duke grew up in Tobago, in a village called Argyle. His mother worked for the government and had a restaurant that often attracted tourists. Recalling his youth on the twin island Duke said, he recalls showing patrons to their tables, a task which have helped him hone a charming response to strangers.

Although benefitting from a fairly lucrative lifestyle, his mother decided to sell the restaurant when he was nine years old. She moved the family to a studio apartment in Brooklyn.

Motivated by a desire to support Duke's older sister who pursued a career in medicine, Duke said he felt reclusive as she shuttled back and forth to the City College of New York.

Duke withdrew into himself, spending most days after school going to the library or to a local comic-book store called Winston's.

Allegedly, that introversion, stayed with him through high school, until one of his Spanish teachers noticed that he became energized whenever he had to make presentations to the class. She signed him up for the theater club and he never looked back, going on to study theater at the University of Buffalo.

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MADE FOR NEW YORK.

Ex-councilman: NYPD harasses me, files lawsuit

By Nelson A. King

Former New York City Council Member Dr. Kendall Stewart has been speaking out against alleged New York Police Department (NYPD) harassment after filing lawsuits accusing some officers of unfairly targeting businesses that cater to Brooklyn's Caribbean community, including his own.

Vincentian-born Stewart and his son, Omar, have both filed suit against the NYPD, as well as the city, claiming that their lounge, Café Omar, in East Flatbush has been unfairly targeted by the NYPD.

"As a prominent member of the community for over 35 years, I was shocked by the level of hostility and disregard of simple human decency the officers displayed when interacting with me and other members of the community," Stewart told Caribbean Life in detailing what he described as utter harassment by the NYPD. "As a doctor running a successful medical practice for the past 30 years, as a former District leader and state assembly man that was intimately involved with community activities, and

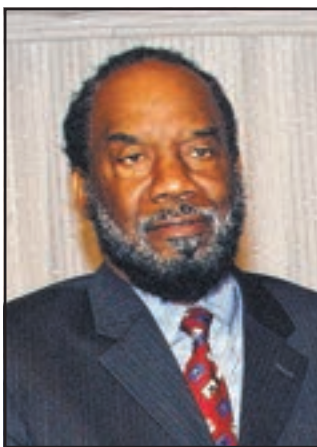
as a former two-term New York City Councilman who served the city well, and brought millions of dollars in funding and resources to the local constituents, I was deeply saddened by what has occurred and continue to occur in my community."

Stewart – a trained podiatrist and predecessor to Councilman Jumaane Williams, representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn – noted that East Flatbush in Central Brooklyn is "a community with the highest concentration of Caribbean Americans in the United States.

"But, unfortunately, it appears that many of the local police officers prey on local businesses and abuse their authority, rather than trying to understand the culture and compliment the community's diversity," he said.

He said two weeks before a "highly anticipated event" at Café Omar, "Lt. Lumbardi told me I must cancel the event."

"Due to the contracts and investment over US\$50,000.00, I was hesitant and tried to communicate with the 67th



Dr. Kendall Stewart.
Photo by Nelson A. King

Police Department [Precinct] to either get a letter or find out details to mitigate damages," Stewart said, stating that, on the day of the event and prior to opening the business, he brought all parties involved to the 67th Precinct in an attempt to resolve the issue.

"Lt. Lumbardi refused to meet with me, but I was able to get an audience with the neighborhood community officer Nelson," the doctor and

business man said. "My manager Dr. Omar Stewart [his son, who is also a medical doctor and lawyer], my promoter Danny Love, and I asked Officer Nelson for a written document that would state that the 67th Precinct advises us not to have the event, giving us 'good cause' to legally cancel all contracts and cancel the event entirely.

"Officer Nelson replied 'no further explanation' is needed," Stewart said, adding that when all parties returned to Café Omar, "a police car was waiting outside."

When the event did occur in August 2016, he said a police officer entered the premises at 11 pm and issued 14 tickets, "stating that the visit is a random business inspection."

Stewart said Lt. Lumbardi further told him that we must coordinate with Neighborhood Community Officer (NCO) Nelson.

"Lt. Lumbardi told me, through NCO Nelson, that I must cancel all future events scheduled for the West Indian Day Cultural Celebration at Café Omar, stating that he did not

want any crime in his Precinct area, although he admitted Café Omar was not responsible for any crimes thus far," he said.

"Officer Nelson further commented that, if I do have an event, he will shut down the business and lock everyone in the establishment up," he added. "I complied. NCO Nelson then said the precinct did not want us to have any major events until the following year. I complied."

Stewart said he had several meetings with Nelson, who, he said, suggested that Stewart give him a list of all future events, "so that the precinct can assist me. I complied."

In January last year, Stewart said he compiled a list of all the events for the month of January and February, and gave the list to NCO Nelson "in order to work with the 67th Precinct.

Stewart said NCO Nelson "assured me that everything is ok."

During his first event on Jan. 28 last year, Stewart said officers entered Café Omar, went directly to the bar and asked for the name on the list that was presented to NCO Nelson.

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City Hall celebrates Black History Month



Lena Horne postage stamp.

Lena Horne gets stamp of approval

By Vinette K. Pryce

The United States Postal Service added to their perpetual one-priced collection of iconic Americans during a Black History Month 2018 celebration at Symphony Space by unveiling the 41st Black Heritage Forever Stamp which bears the image of Lena Horne, three-time Grammy-winning singer, Broadway performer, and Hollywood star.

In a ceremony attended by Horne's daughter, Gail Lumet Bucklet, the USPS heralded the life and legacy of "a woman who used her platform as a renowned entertainer to become a prolific voice for civil rights advancement and gender equality," Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman said.

Horne began her career at the famed Cotton Club in Harlem and later moved to the West Coast where she signed a long-term Hollywood contract with MGM studios. She starred in numerous movies, including "Cabin In The Sky," and "Stormy Weather."

She made her Broadway debut in 1934 in "Dance With Your Gods," and also appeared in "Jamaica" and "Tony & Lena Sings" alongside Tony Bennett.

She received a Special Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical for her 1981 solo show, "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music."

As an activist, Horne entertained at camps for Black military men during World War II and advocated for Japanese Americans against discriminatory housing after the war.

The Brooklyn-born talent worked with Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching legislation, performed at civil rights rallies throughout the 1960s, and walked in the 1963 March on Washington.



Honoree Melvin Faulkner was awarded at the celebration.

Photo by Zoe Freilich

By Alexandra Simon

Black History Month was celebrated at City Hall on Feb. 15. The City Council's Black, Latino and Asian Caucus hosted the culturally-themed event. Three people

were awarded with proclamations at the celebration. The honorees were former councilman Archie Spigner, the founder of the Mind Builders Creative Arts Center, Madaha Kinsey-Lamb, and clergyman Melvin

Faulkner.

Other highlights of the event were taken by young saxophonist, Ashley Keiko and students and members of Edge School of the Arts and Joe's Music Center and Performing Arts.



Moving in history: The Edge School of the Arts performing "Four Little Girls," at the Black History Month celebration at City Hall on Feb. 15.

Photo by Zoe Freilich



Ashley Keiko plays her saxophone at the Black History Month Celebration in the Council Chambers at City Hall on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018.

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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Black History in schools

Continued from Page 10

Our young people should engage with black history in thoughtful, age-appropriate ways, throughout their time as students. Black history provides a panoply of avenues across subject areas for K-12 students to explore, intersecting with social studies, English language arts, performing and visual arts, and more. I have every confidence that the Board of Regents and educators across various disciplines can successfully weave the richness of black history and New York's unique place in black history into school curricula.

A crossroads for the world, New York's Black History intersects with experiences of the Afro-Caribbean community, the Afro-Latino community, and the entire African diaspora. Under the provisions of my black history in schools proposal, the Board of Regents would be responsible for determining how Black History is best incorporated into students' studies.

Sociologists point to the black experience being underrepresented overall in media, missing stories altogether, exaggeration of negative portrayals, and providing positive por-

trays within only a narrow scope. These broader facts have consequences for young peoples' development, self-esteem, expectations, and what figures are even available as role models. Requiring black history in schools is not a silver bullet, but it marks an important further development in chipping away at stultifying boundaries to opportunities.

I invite the public to join in support of an holistic effort to think about black history and participate in embracing a curriculum recognizing New York's unique place in black history. New York is blessed with a rich variety of institutions that can contribute to making this inclusive move a success, the Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, and all our museums, libraries, and numerous institutions of higher education can make valuable contributions to this effort.

This broader integration of black history into our schools is as important to our future as the coding and computer science those middle school students learned at Medgar Evers College. Such a curriculum leaves the boundaries of the schoolhouse and will help bolster New York students' college- and career-readiness, engaging them, sharpening their skills, and preparing them for the diverse and dynamic communities they will lead their lives in.

Jesse Hamilton is a state senator representing Brooklyn's 20th district. On Twitter @SenatorHamilton.

Cricket inspires Carib kids

Continued from Page 10

Prime Minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley, "The West Indies are Third World countries, but we belong and are in the first World of Cricket." Cricket is not only a religion in the Caribbean, but it best defines the region in the highest context. Regional political integration has followed cricket as a unifying and defining force.

In a deeper psychological and historical context, a West Indian cricketer's artistry and flamboyance is the product of the post-colonial era, where the psyche is the celebration and liberation from the bondages of imperialism and colonialism. It is a celebration of freedom. Our glorious successes lift marginalized people from our daily burdens, and takes us to flights of pride over our collective achievements, living in the ecstatic comfort of the superlatives that always follow.

What cricket means to the typical Caribbean kid is best summarized by Nobel Laureate, Sir V. S. Naipaul, in *The Middle Passage*, pg. 44, "Cricket has always been more than a game in Trinidad. In a society which demanded no skills and offered no rewards to merit, cricket was the only activity which permitted a man to grow to his full stature and to be measured against international standards... The cricketer was our

only hero-figure."

Cricket is simply the lifeblood of the Caribbean, and our greatest adhesive force. C.L.R. James, the renowned cricket scholar, in his work *Cricket in West Indian Culture*, at pg. 119 aptly noted, "From its beginning to this day cricket in the West Indies has expressed with astonishing fidelity the social relations of the islands." In his seminal work, *Beyond a Boundary*, James puts cricket in perspective when he wrote, "Cricket is first and foremost a dramatic spectacle. It belongs with the theatre, ballet, opera and the dance."

Caribbean kids are still inspired to become world famous like Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Learie Constantine, George Headley, Sir Frank Worrell, Brian Lara, Sir Viv Richards, Rohan Kanhai and other enduring West Indian icons so revered around the cricketing globe. They are the very embodiment of the West Indian dream, and inspirational figures.

In fact, sportsmanship and professionalism were intrinsic parts of a cricketer's development as his ability to flick the ball off the legs, late cut or hook a bouncer off the eyebrows. They prepared the Caribbean person to take his or her place amongst the best in the world, as so many have done academically, in sports, and in every facet of life and endeavor itself.

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Sir Hilary, SUNY to explore 'The Caribbean Diaspora'

By Vinette K. Pryce

Sir Hilary Beckles, chairman of the Caribbean Reparation Commission will keynote an address billed "Exploring the Caribbean Diaspora" on Feb. 24 at SUNY State College.

During his presentation, the Barbadian, historian, cricketer and knight also acclaimed for being vice chancellor at the University of the West Indies (UWI) is expected to shed some light on the magnitude and might of immigrants from the region whose impact he is convinced has not been fully exploited.

Revered for presenting a 10-point plan on reparations, Beckles is reputed for delving into a myriad of topics during his discussions.

"His work has covered a variety of areas within the broader topic of Afro-Caribbean history with works covering early slave rebellions in Barbados, the role of women in the slave trade, and the greater effects of colonialism on present Barbadian society," Wikipedia states.

"Other works have focused more specifically on Barbadian history, including education, telecommunications, the labor movement, and sporting culture" primarily the game of cricket which he



Sir Hilary Beckles.

Photo by George Alleyne

has opined about in essays and papers.

Reportedly, Beckles was the driving force behind the establishment of the Centre for Cricket Research at the Cave Hill campus of UWI in 1994.

Following his keynote address, he will be joined by panelists and faculty members Nadine Wedderburn, SUNY Empire, Schenectady, Rosalind October-Edun, SUNY Empire, Brooklyn and Lear Matthews, SUNY Empire, Manhattan to discuss the community's relevant concerns of immigrant organizations, pondering Caribbean identity — at home and abroad, and adjustment issues of Caribbean immigrants in the diaspora. Presented by the Black Male Initiative, the exploration begins at 12:30 pm at SUNY State College, 325 Hudson St. 3rd Floor.

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Birthday girl Edna George (center) with husband, Frankie, and their daughter, Zulema.
Photo by Nelson A. King

Retired nurse surprise 68th birthday bash

By Nelson A. King

A prominent Vincentian designer in Brooklyn two Saturdays ago sprang a big surprise on her retired nurse mother by hosting her 68th birthday bash at their East Flatbush home.

Zulema George, who owns AK Couture Boutique & Beauty Bar on Church Avenue in Brooklyn, invited a few close relatives and friends to share in the surprise celebration for her mom, Edna George, who retired in 2010 as a nurse from the then St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn.

"It wasn't a milestone birthday, but it was very important for me to put this together," Zulema told Caribbean Life. "Every year, we either take her out to dinner, or dad takes her away."

"This year, with her just coming back from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I knew she wasn't expecting much; so, I saw it as the opportune time to have a surprise dinner party," Zulema added. "And I am so glad that I did. Her expression when everyone yelled 'surprise' was priceless. And that alone made it all worthwhile."

"She is a superb mom and friend, and she deserves the best," Zulema continued. "Happy birthday again to the best mother in the world!"

Edna, who averts the spotlight, declined to be interviewed, but her Vincentian-born husband of 48 years, Auton "Frankie" George, a retired accountant and economist, furnished information after the lavish celebration that comprised good food, drinks and dancing to the sounds of a popular Vincentian DJ in Brooklyn, SupaEyes.

Frankie said Edna Robertha George,

née McDonald, was born in the interior village of Gomea in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the fifth child of Marian and Cornelius McDonald.

As a youth, Frankie said Edna always aspired to being a nurse.

"So, on graduation from high school, and after a cursory stint with teaching, she took and passed the exam to attend nursing school in Kingstown [the Vincentian capital] at the now Milton Cato Memorial Hospital [formerly Colonial Hospital]," he said. "Through hard work and dedication, she progressed through the ranks to the title of Staff Nurse."

But realizing that she needed to expand her nursing knowledge and skills, and that these were not entirely possible in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Frankie, a former master at the St. Vincent [and the Grenadines] Grammar School, said Edna migrated to Toronto, Canada, where she worked at Toronto Western Hospital.

In Toronto, Frankie and Edna, who had dated while in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, re-united. Frankie, at the time, was studying at Memorial University in Newfoundland on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship. Frankie and Edna got married in 1970 after Frankie graduated from Memorial University.

A year later, after Frankie completed a post graduate degree in economics at York University in Toronto, the Georges returned to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Frankie said he had to fulfill his obligation to the Vincentian government, which had offered him the scholarship.

He said Edna returned to the hospital, where she was initially trained, as a Staff Nurse, and that, in 1973, their only child, Zulema, was born.



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Soca legends win Trinidad & Tobago's Road March title

By Azad Ali

Two soca legends Machel Montano and Austin "Superblue" Lyons have captured the 2018 Trinidad and Tobago Road March title.

Their collaboration "Soca Kingdom" was played 336 times compared to Iwer George's "Savannah" followed by Patrice Roberts' Sweet Fuh So."

Machel has now won the Road March title nine times, surpassing Sparrow (Slinger Francisco) who has eight wins.

SuperBlue is now a 10-time Road March winner with this collaboration and he is tied with the grandmaster, Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts).

Meanwhile Ronnie & Cairo did it again this year, scoring a hat-trick with their presentation, Life's Checkered Board," to capture the 2018 Large Band of the Year title.

The band also captured its fifth Large Band title for Downtown (Port of Spain) competition.

Speaking to the media after McIntosh said when the band started in 2008 the aim was not to win titles but to provide an unforgettable experience for its players.

In the Medium Band category K2K Alliance and Partners with their portrayal We Stand United took first place, while Republic Bank Exodus



Trinidadian soca performer Machel Montano, right with microphone, sings during the Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Carnival grand parade in Toronto.

Giordano Ciampini / The Canadian Press via Associated Press

Steel Orchestra placed second with the Peter-Minshall-designed The Eyes of God.

In the other major competitions, Aron Voice St Louis' won the International Soca Monarch competition on Fantastic Friday at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain while Helon Francis is the new 2018 National Calypso Monarch.



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Erectile Dysfunction — more than a quality of life problem!

BY JACK RYAN

The benefits of seeking professional treatment for erectile dysfunction may seem obvious to both the patient and his partner. But what many men don't realize is that a thorough evaluation of this condition can uncover serious threats to their health.

Dr. Vitaly Raykhman, leading urologist of the Accord Physicians Prostate Center in Sheepshead Bay along with Dr. Yuly Chalikh, says that millions of men in the United States suffer from erectile dysfunction. Typically, he said, the man can't perform at all or is not satisfied with his sexual performance. The dysfunction can surface at any age, but it is more common in men 50 years old or older.

The problem can be psychological or the impotence may be caused by physiological abnormalities. In such cases, he said, the dysfunction may be related to

diabetes or an indication of even more serious conditions. A series of clinical tests done at the Urologic Institute can help doctors determine the reason of impotence.

"It is important that men who are experiencing this problem be promptly and properly evaluated by a urologist."

Erectile dysfunction, he stressed, can be an early indicator of "metabolic syndrome," a name given to a group of factors that raise the risk for heart disease and other health threats, including heart attack and stroke.

"The fact that they are bringing this problem into their consciousness can give a physician several years of lead time in heading off these far more serious medical problems," said Dr. Raykhman. "Could a visit to a urologist directly save a patient's life? Absolutely."

A skilled urologist can slow the progress of the dysfunction and with the proper treatment most patients can regain a more satisfying sexual experience.

Although surgery is sometimes necessary, "it's the last resort." Changes in lifestyle can often reverse the effects of erectile dysfunction. These include exercise, improvements in diet, and a reduction in smoking and alcohol intake. Erectile dysfunction can often be treated with medications such as Cialis, Viagra, Levitra or hormone therapy.

Dr. Raykhman stressed that because an erection is a vascular event, erectile dysfunction needs to be taken seriously.

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Caribbean hits 30 million mark in stay-over visitors



The newly restored Magens Bay Park in St. Thomas shown from above on Thursday, Dec. 7 following major restoration efforts made by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Magens Bay Authority and USVI Department of Tourism following Hurricane Irma. People walk at Magens Bay Beach, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ricardo Arduengo / Associated Press for Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.

By Nelson A. King

The Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) says the catastrophic hurricanes that devastated some Caribbean destinations last September slowed down tourism's progress but did not stop it.

Ryan Skeete, the CTO's acting director of research, said on Thursday, at a news conference streamed to a global audience, that the Caribbean reached the 30 million-mark in stay-over arrivals for the first time ever last year, even as the region battled the effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as Hurricane Harvey, which lashed parts of the United States, the Caribbean's primary market.

In addition, there was record spend by visitors, who contributed US\$37 billion to Caribbean economies during the 12-month period, up 2.6 percent over 2016, Skeete said.

The tourism researcher said that stay-over arrivals were on track for a strong performance

during the first-half of 2017, growing by an estimated 4.8 percent.

But he said growth was curtailed in the second half of the year by the storms, which were largely responsible for 1.7 percent drop between July and December.

"These outcomes resulted in an overall increase of 1.7 percent in 2017, making it the eighth consecutive year of growth, albeit slower than the average global growth rate of 6.7 percent," Skeete said.

The CTO official said that strong economic performance in the main markets helped spur the region's performance, with some destinations recording strong double-digit growth, although the hurricane-affected countries were down between seven per cent and 18 per cent.

The United States continued to be the primary market, growing by about 0.5 percent to reach an estimated 14.9 million visits to the region due mainly

to solid economic growth, low unemployment and high consumer confidence; while the Canadian market rebounded strongly, recording a 4.3 percent increase in arrivals, compared to a decline of 3.1 percent in 2016, Skeete said.

However, he said it was the European market that recorded the strongest growth rate, increasing by 6.2 percent to 5.8 million visitors, with the United Kingdom up by 2.9 percent to 1.3 million.

Skeete said the increase in arrivals was not reflected in hotel occupancy, which fell by 1.2 percent, according to STR (formerly Smith Travel Research), a US company that tracks supply and demand data for the hotel industry.

However, Skeete said both average daily rate and revenue per available room recorded increases, though slightly.

"Notably, the hotel performance indicators excluded most of the hurricane-impacted destinations at this time, due to

the disruption in operations caused by the hurricanes," he said.

The cruise sector also set a new high of 27 million passengers, 2.4 percent higher than 2016, despite the hurricanes.

"The cruise passenger performance mirrors the performance of tourist arrivals, as it grew strongly by 4.6 percent in the first half of 2017, but contracted marginally — by 0.4

percent — in the second half of the year. Indeed, cruise passenger arrivals fell dramatically in September by some 20 percent. However, growth resumed in October, which saw a two percent increase," Skeete said.

The CTO said the economic conditions are expected to be favorable for further growth in 2018, predicting growth of 2 to 3 percent in both stay-over and cruise arrivals.

Guyana moves more troops to Venezuelan border

By Bert Wilkinson

Government has started to move additional troops to the western border with Venezuela to deal with criminal activity involving heavily armed Venezuelan gangs crossing the border, harassing locals for food and money and engaging generally in lawless activities officials said at the weekend.

State Minister Joseph Harmon said government had noted complaints from local intelligence committees in several border communities about members of a so-called "sindicato gangs" crossing over into border districts of the Caribbean community nation and shaking down locals for items which are in short supply in crisis-hit Venezuela.

President David Granger flew to Whitewater Village near the border on Friday and expressed concerns about the situation, saying that the intelligence committees had written him complaining about an increase in criminal activities mostly involving "sindicato gang" members. He said authorities have acted quickly to deal with the matter.

Regional Chairman Brentnol Ashley said officials are aware that the gangs have murdered at least two Guyanese in the past three months and have robbed

and mugged dozens of others crossing the border back into Guyana on several occasions in addition to creating fear in communities. These including Guyanese families who had been living in Venezuela for years while returning home because of the economic crisis.

"So we asked for the help from the government. In one case, the police had to ask some armed Venezuelan soldiers to peacefully go back home. They had come for food. They complied without any incident," he said.

Granger, a retired army general who won elections in 2015, skirted around simmering tensions between Guyana and Venezuela linked to their decades-old border dispute telling a town hall meeting at Whitewater that he wanted them to live without fear but reminded them that they are on the frontline in relation to Venezuela.

"We want to make sure that you are safe and I'm here because I'm concerned about your safety. I'm here because I don't want anybody to attack you. I don't want anybody to hurt you. I don't want crimes to be committed against you," he said. The military presence is intended to neutralise any illegal activity and provide a 24 hour guard system to ensure maximum security," he said.

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Men and women can take small steps to reduce their risk of developing colorectal cancer – such as cutting down on alcoholic beverages and red meat.

How to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in both the United States and Canada. So say the American Cancer Society and the Canadian Cancer Society, who project nearly 60,000 Americans and Canadians will lose their lives to colorectal cancer in 2014 alone.

Though many risk factors for colorectal cancer, including age, heredity and racial and ethnic background, are beyond an individual's control, that does not mean people are helpless to reduce their risk for this potentially deadly disease. Maintaining or adopting a healthy lifestyle can reduce a person's risk of developing various cancers, and colorectal cancer is no exception. The following are a few ways adults can reduce their chance of developing colorectal cancer.

Get screened. As is the case with many cancer treatments, colorectal cancer treatments are much more effective when cancer is detected and treated early. Colorectal cancer screenings help find polyps before they become cancerous. In addition, people may not immediately associate symptoms of colorectal cancer with the disease, instead thinking such symptoms are indicative of a less serious illness or condition. Screenings can not only determine if those symptoms are a result of colorectal cancer but also find colorectal cancer before such symptoms even develop. Screenings and screening guidelines vary depending on the individual, as people with a higher than average risk for the disease may be told to start receiving an-

nual screenings before they turn 50, which is the age when people are told to receive such screenings regardless of their backgrounds.

Reconsider your diet. Adopting a healthier diet is another way many men and women can reduce their risk for colorectal cancer. Red meat is a great source of many nutrients, including protein, iron and zinc. But studies have shown that a diet high in red meat increases a person's risk for colorectal cancer, which may be due to chemicals known as nitrites forming when meat is digested or processed. In addition, the CCS notes that red meat contains higher amounts of heme iron than white meat. That's significant, as heme iron has been shown to cause damage to the innermost layer of the colon wall, which is known as the mucosa. A diet without much red or processed meats, which are those preserved by curing, smoking or salting, can lower one's risk for colorectal cancer.

Cut back on alcohol consumption. The International Agency on Cancer Research notes that there is sufficient evidence linking alcohol consumption to colorectal cancer. Men and women who excessively consume alcohol may be at greater risk of colorectal cancer because such consumers tend to have low levels of folic acid in the body. Numerous studies have linked low levels of folate to a higher risk of colorectal cancer, and one study that examined the effects of folate deficiency on mice concluded that folate deficiency increased DNA damage by decreasing the expression of two genes involved

in DNA damage by decreasing the expression of two genes involved in DNA repair. When consuming alcohol, men should stick to no more than two drinks per day while women who are not pregnant should limit their alcohol intake to one drink per day. Pregnant women should not consume alcohol.

Reduce exposure to heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Meat that is barbecued, fried, broiled, or cooked to well done can produce heterocyclic amines, or HCAs, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, both of which have been found to cause changes in DNA that may increase cancer risk. According to the National Cancer Institute, HCAs form when amino acids, sugars and creatine react at high temperatures, such as those necessary when frying foods or grilling over an open flame. PAHs, which also can be found in cigarette smoke and exhaust fumes from automobiles, form when fat and juices from meat grilled directly over an open fire drip onto the fire and cause flames, which contain PAHs that then adhere to the surface of the meat. To reduce exposure to HCAs and PAHs, avoid prolonged cooking times and direct exposure of meat to an open flame or high heat source, flip meat often, discard charred areas of meat before eating and never use meat drippings to make gravy.

Many risk factors for colorectal cancer are beyond an individual's control, but men and women still can take steps to significantly reduce their risk of developing this deadly disease.

Colorectal cancer by the numbers

Colorectal (colon and rectal) cancer claims thousands of lives each and every year. Due to its widespread reach and ability to affect both men and women, the public should become educated about the disease. Here's a look at colorectal cancer by the numbers:

3: Colorectal cancer ranks as the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States.

103,170: The number of new cases of colon cancer in the United States in 2012.

40,290: The number of new cases of rectal cancer in the United States in 2012.

23,300: The number of new cases of colorectal cancer in Canada in 2012.

63: The percentage of Canadian men who will live for five years after receiving a colorectal cancer diagnosis.

1: The number, in millions, of U.S. colorectal cancer survivors.

20: The number of years the cases of colorectal cancer have been dropping steadily thanks to increased awareness and screening methods.

5: The number of feet in length of the average colon.

4: The number of sections in the colon, which include the ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon, and sigmoid colon.

95: Percentage of colorectal cancers that are a type of cancer known as adenocarcinomas, which start in cells that form mucus for the colon.



Colorectal (colon and rectal) cancer claims thousands of men and women's lives each and every year.

Symptoms and risks for colorectal cancer

As men and women know full well, cancer does not discriminate. Few and far between are those whose lives have not been touched by cancer in one form or another. Be it a personal battle with the disease or a connection via a friend, family member, coworker, or other acquaintance, nearly everyone can cite someone in their life who has battled a form of cancer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among cancers that affect both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, claiming the lives of more than 50,000 men and women in 2007. In Canada, a country with roughly one-tenth the population of the United States, the Canadian Cancer Society reported that colorectal cancer was expected to claim the lives of nearly 9,000 Canadians in 2011.

Such figures illustrate the importance men and women must place on educating themselves about colorectal cancer and its symptoms and potential risk factors. First, however, it helps to understand just what colorectal cancer is and why it is so deadly:

What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is cancer that starts in either the colon or the rectum, which make up the large intestine. Often referred to as colon cancer, colorectal cancer can begin anywhere in the large intestine and the majority of colorectal cancers begin as abnormal growths called polyps that develop inside the colon or rectum and become cancers over a long period of time.



Men and women must educate themselves about colorectal cancer and its symptoms and potential risk factors.

Who gets colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer does not discriminate. In fact, of the roughly 53,000 cases of colorectal cancers reported to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2007, there was a nearly equal split of cases between men and women, with men accounting slightly less than 800 more cases than women over that time.

Are there known causes of colorectal cancer?

Despite its prevalence, colorectal cancer can

rarely be traced to a specific cause. According to the CDC, roughly 75 percent of colorectal cancers occur in people with no known risk factors. However, the following may increase a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer:

- A personal or family history of colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer
- Inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease

In a very small percentage of colorectal cancer cases, the cause is linked to a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer, also known as Lynch syndrome.

Are there symptoms of colorectal cancer?

Both colorectal polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms. This is especially true initially, when people could be living with polyps or cancer and not even know it. Such is the reason screenings for colorectal cancer, which should occur regularly when men and women reach age 50 are so important. But in some cases, the following symptoms may appear:

- Blood in or on your stool
- Persistent stomach pain or aches
- Inexplicable weight loss

Though causes of colorectal cancer aren't always known, studies have shown exercise and maintaining a healthy weight can decrease risk. More information is available at www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal.

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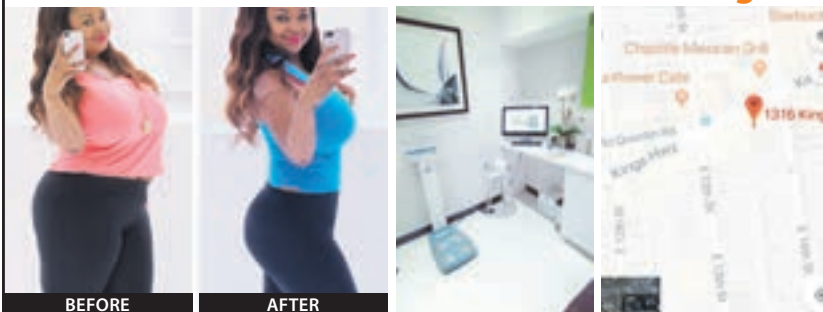
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Coffee and colon health

Coffee compels many people to rise out of bed every morning. While individuals have many reasons to drink caffeinated beverages, the most notable is often the pep such beverages provide. But coffee, tea, and other caffeinated beverages actually may provide additional benefits, including helping to fend off disease, including colorectal cancer.

The American Cancer Society estimates that, in the United States, more than 95,000 new cases of colon cancer and 39,000 new cases of rectal cancer will be diagnosed in 2016. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in men and women. However, coffee may help reduce instances of colon cancer.

A study titled "Coffee Consumption and the Risk of Colorectal Cancer," which was published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, found that regular coffee consumption inversely correlates to colorectal cancer risk. Coffee has been identified as a protective agent against colorectal cancer, as several of its components affect the physiology of the colon and can make cancerous cells less likely to take root there. The Journal of the National Cancer Institute also substantiates these claims. Frequent coffee consumption has been associated with a reduced risk of colorectal cancer in a number of case-control studies — for both men and women.

Drinking coffee may not only help keep cancer at bay, it may boost the survival rate from colon cancer, too. Information from a study published in *The Journal of Clinical Oncology* stated that colon cancer patients who are heavy coffee drinkers have a far lower risk of dying or having their cancer return than those who do not drink coffee. Significant benefits start at two to three cups per day. People who consumed four cups of caffeinated coffee or more a day had half the rate of recurrence or death than non-coffee drinkers.

Other data indicates caffeine alone may not be behind the reduced cancer risks and rates — it may be the coffee itself. Researchers at the University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center of Keck Medicine found that decreased colorectal risk was seen across all types of coffee, both caffeinated and decaffeinated. According to Dr. Stephen Gruber, the author of the study, coffee contains many elements that contribute to overall colorectal health, which may explain coffee's preventive properties. Caffeine and polyphenol can act as antioxidants, limiting the growth of potential colon cancer cells. Melanoidins generated during the roasting process have been thought to encourage colon mobility, and diterpenes may prevent cancer by enhancing the body's defense against oxidative damage.

Brooklyn Spine Center offering patients living with back pain a surgery-free option

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Dr. Melinda Keller of the Brooklyn Spine Center has been treating patients with chronic back pain for 36 years.

She has heard it all from patients who come to her as a last resort, after they have tried pills and injections. Yet, despite these treatments, they are still suffering. They can't sit and do computer work for their jobs. They can't bend to pick up their grandchildren. Many can't sleep at night because the pain is excruciating. Their quality of life is so diminished, many consider surgery to be their only option.

But Dr. Keller provides them with another alternative: non-surgical decompression. She utilizes the DRX-9000 (pictured right), a state-of-the-art device that helps restore spinal discs back to optimal health. The machine gently stretches the spine so that pain subsides. As a result, pressure on the nerves is released. "It accelerates the natural healing process, and offers an effective alternative to risky spine surgery, painful injections, and prescriptive medications," says Dr. Keller.

The results are based on scientific evidence. "Post-MRI results reveal actual physical improvement to the health of the spinal disc in approximately 90% of the cases," says the doctor.

D.R.X. stands for Decompression Reduction Extraction, and the DRX -9000 is the best quality and most researched decompression device on the market, she says. The system is manufactured by Axiom Worldwide, and is Food and Drug Administration-approved. This technology allows Dr. Keller to apply a controlled amount of traction to specific parts of the spine, gently easing the pressure off of patients' injured discs. Keeping discs healthy is important. "Discs are responsible for drawing fluid from the body that carries nutrients and oxygen to the spine," says Dr. Keller. "The spine needs these nutrients to stay strong."

The procedure is non-



(Clockwise from left) Dr. Melinda Keller of the Brooklyn Spine Center helps a patient use the LPG Spine Force. Dr. Keller in her office. Cecilia and Nadia greet patients at the front desk.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

invasive, and patients do not feel any pain when undergoing the treatment. The only thing they may feel is a gentle tug to the spine as the machine works to ease the symptoms associated with herniated discs, degenerative disc disease, and sciatica. While this is taking place, patients are lying comfortably on top of the machine's cushioned table. The treatment takes place slowly and gradually, so that patients are relaxed and stress-free.

Some patients report feeling a sense of relief right away, as the machine can offer immediate relief to the pressure on their discs. Several DRX-9000 treatments are usually needed to obtain lasting results. Dr. Keller will discuss the timeframe with each patient, outlining a treatment plan that's based on individual needs. Each session lasts about 45 minutes, providing time for the DRX-9000 to lengthen and stretch the spine, as it reduces pressure to the nerves.

Good spinal health is essential, says the doctor, as it can mean the difference between staying active and being bedridden. Some patients come into the office, and they can barely walk. If left untreated, what will their spines be like when they age? "Half of all babies born in the year 2000 or later, can expect to live to be 100 years old," says Dr. Keller. "We are already living longer, but we have to live better." Keeping our spines functioning at 100% prolongs quality of life.

More than 900 insurance companies cover chiropractic care, and the warm staff at the Brooklyn Spine Center will make a courtesy call on your behalf to see what your plan offers. The staff is compassionate, upbeat, easy-going, and available to help.

Brooklyn Spine Center [5911 16th Ave. between 59th and 60th streets in Borough Park, (718) 234-6200, www.BrooklynSpineCenter.com]. Open Mondays - Thursdays, 9 am - 7 pm; Fridays, 9 am - 2 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - noon, by appointment.

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FOCUS ON Health

**Demystifying
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Among cancers that affect both men and women, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify colorectal cancer as the third most common cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.

Thousands of people receive a colorectal cancer diagnosis every year, but screening can help save lives. However, some people fear the screening process even more than the reality of cancer. A typical physical involves numerous tests, and while many are unpleasant, few elicit such strong negative feelings as a colonoscopy. A colonoscopy remains one of the best methods of examining areas of the rectum, colon, and other parts of the intestinal tract to detect abnormalities that indicate diseases such as cancer. According to the Mayo Clinic, a colonoscopy should become part of routine checkups by age 50 in patients without a family history of colon abnormalities. Doctors may advise earlier screenings for those at higher risk.

A colonoscopy can be awkward, but it is a common procedure that is relatively safe. Understanding the process can alleviate some patients' trepidation. Your doctor will describe in detail what can be expected, as it may vary from practitioner to practitioner. The following is a rundown of what people can expect when receiving a colonoscopy:

Preparation

Some have described colonoscopy preparation as the most unpleasant part of the procedure. In order to provide clear images of the interior of the colon, the colon needs to be completely empty. To achieve this, your doctor will prescribe a solution that will empty the bowels thoroughly. This solution is consumed over a certain period of time prior to the procedure and will draw fluid into the colon to expel stool. Patients will need to stay near a bathroom after consuming the solution, and this prep work may be repeated on the morning of the procedure.

In addition to the beverage, you will be advised to eat a clear diet for 24 hours before the procedure. This means only clear broths and fluids. Solid food is not allowed. Again, this is to ensure that the laxative does its job and there will be no obstructions in the colon.

Day of procedure

The majority of colonoscopy procedures are performed when the patient is under anesthesia. Therefore,



Prior to a colonoscopy, your doctor will describe in detail what can be expected.

patients will need to bring a friend or relative along to the medical center to drive or escort them home once the procedure is finished.

Gastroenterologists typically perform the colonoscopy in a hospital or outpatient center. The anesthesiologist will meet with the patient to explain his or her role in the procedure. The doctor will once again explain the procedure, which involves the insertion of a flexible camera into the anus, to patients. The scope will travel through the colon slowly, looking for any abnormalities.

Patients can expect to lie on their sides on a gurney during the procedure. Patients will be hooked to an intravenous line and various monitors will keep track of their pulse and oxygen levels. Once the anesthesia is administered, patients will quickly drift off, and this is when the doctor will begin. After the procedure has been performed, many people do not remember it and experience no pain.

Because air is pumped into the colon to help the scope move unencumbered, patients can expect to feel some bloating and gas, but this should abate over time. Once the grogginess has worn off, you will be allowed to go home and enjoy a large lunch and fill your empty stomach.

Follow-up

The gastroenterologist may discuss the results of the colonoscopy right after the procedure or schedule a follow-up appointment a few days after. Patients will be provided with ongoing care information and recommendations to improve colon health. A diet that includes more full-grain fiber may be recommended.

Although a colonoscopy may not be an enjoyable procedure, it is vital to maintain health and a valuable tool for screening for cancer and other diseases.

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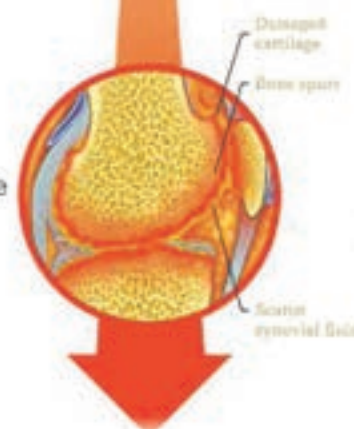
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9:45 am

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10:30 am

Understanding managed long term care

11:15 am

Preventing elder care fraud

12:00 pm

Estate Planning and the benefits and pitfalls of probate

12:45 pm

Accessibility options for seniors

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German and Nigerian singer Ayo, is one of the six artists that will perform at "Africa Now." Julien Mignot

Africa's new trendy sounds

By Alexandra Simon

They're back with the Motherland's newest sounds.

The yearly music event celebrating the trendiest and popular sounds to come out of the African continent returns to Apollo Theater on March 3. The "Africa Now" concert spotlights African artists and the emerging sounds they are bringing to the African music scene. Organized by the famed theater and the World Music Institute, together

Continued on Page 40

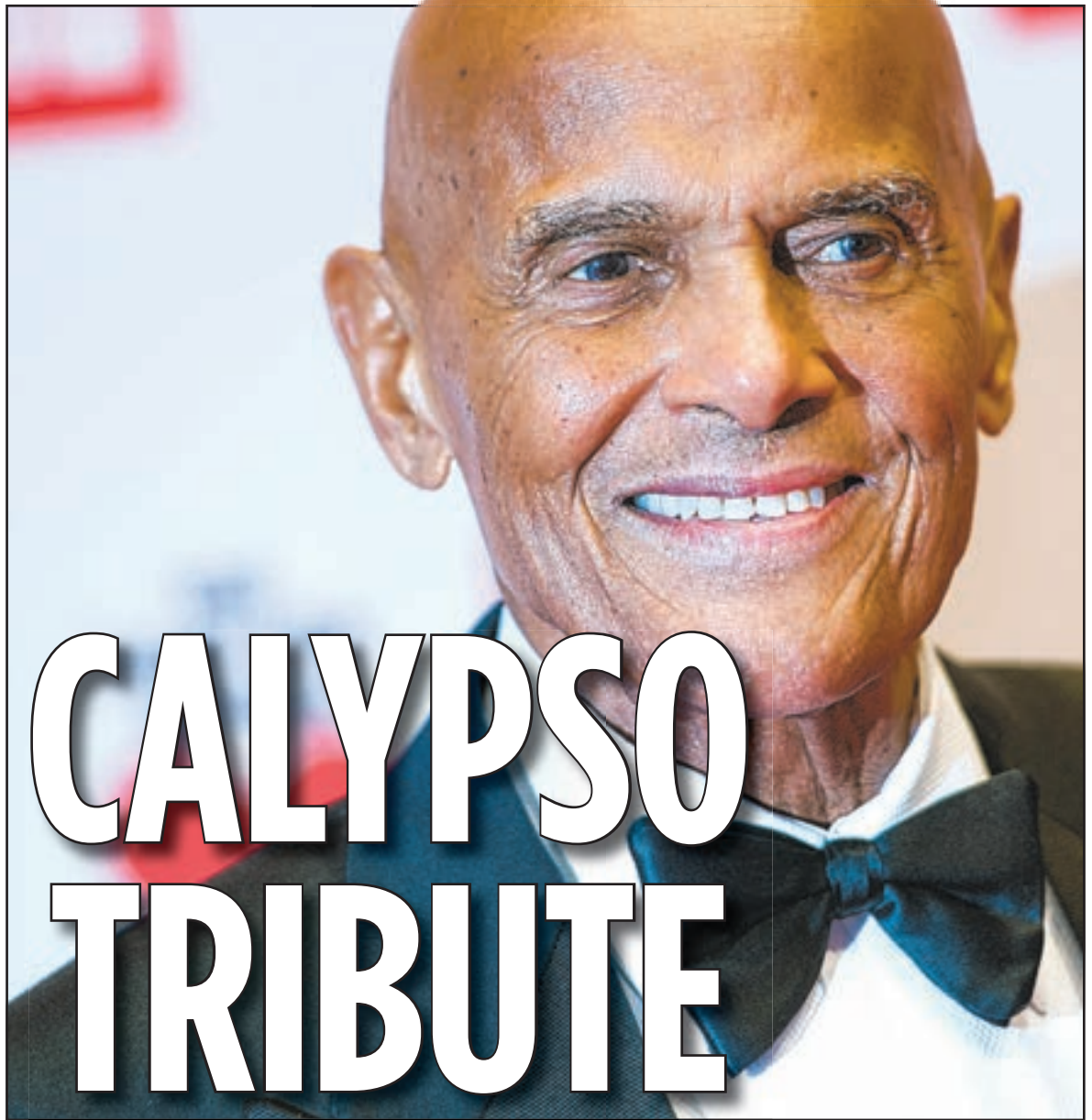
Haitian artist spotlights social issues

By Alexandra Simon

Philadelphia-based artist Watson Mere went viral last month for his artwork depicting Martin Luther King Jr. silencing President Trump. The idea for the one-year-old piece was generated during Trump's inauguration, which came days after the holiday celebrating Dr. King. Mere said he wanted to frame an artwork surrounding the late activist, while also juxtaposing him to something.

"I wanted to do a Martin Luther King piece, however, I also wanted to highlight something current and the inauguration of Trump was also going on — and the two of them are such polar opposites with

Continued on Page 40



CALYPSO TRIBUTE

Calypso legend and social activist Harry Belafonte is being honored with a concert on his 91st birthday on March 1 at Aaron Davis Hall at City College in Manhattan. Associated Press / Steffi Loos

Concert to celebrate Belafonte on his birthday

By Alexandra Simon

The stellar career of famed Calypso artist and social activist Harry Belafonte will be celebrated in a musical tribute on his 91st birthday on March 1 at City College Center for the Arts in Manhattan.

The concert at the arts center's Aaron Davis Hall will be performed by members of the Belafonte Alumni Group — a group of more than a dozen members who performed with Belafonte at some point in their lifetime. Their show will feature a style

of performance reminiscent of the days when the renowned vocalist still performed, said the group's musical director.

"We're going to plan the evening the way we used to when we performed with Harry in rehearsal and on stage, so it's going to be a performance from our point of view and our experience with Harry," said Richard Cummings.

He said the group will perform about 20 of Belafonte's classic tunes, including "Day-O (Banana Boat

song)," "Jamaica Farewell," "Don't Stop the Carnival," and more, as well as some lesser-known songs that spoke to his social activism.

"We're going to do a lot of fan-friendly songs, but we're also going to do some of his more poignant pieces of music that pointed out Harry's self-responsibility to the arts, stage and theater," said Cummings. "He was always on the cutting edge; we never really delved into that. We didn't just do hangout music — we

Continued on Page 40

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- 2 **Havana**
Camila Cabello Feat. Young Thug
- 3 **Finesse**
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- 4 **New Rules**
Dua Lipa
- 5 **How Long**
Charlie Puth
- 6 **Bad At Love**
Halsey
- 7 **Lights Down Low**
MAX Feat. gnash
- 8 **Him & I**
G-Eazy & Halsey
- 9 **Rockstar**
Post Malone Feat. 21 Savage
- 10 **Let You Down**
NF

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Black Panther: The Album**
Soundtrack
- 2 **The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- 3 **Fifty Shades Freed**
Soundtrack
- 4 **Man Of The Woods**
Justin Timberlake
- 5 **Sleepwalkers**
Brian Fallon
- 6 **Crooked Shadows**
Dashboard Confessional
- 7 **Evidence**
Elevation Collective
- 8 **2 Heartless**
Moneybagg Yo
- 9 **Always Ascending**
Franz Ferdinand
- 10 **Little Dark Age**
MGMT

Presented by



CALYPSO TRIBUTE

Continued from Page 39

did folk music and music from different countries.”

He says the show is going to cover the last two decades of Belafonte’s musical career, along with some earlier pieces.

“It’s going to be about 15 of us performing, and we’re going to touch on every era from 1978 to all the way until when Harry stepped away from stage in 1998,” he said.

Cummings performed with Belafonte — who has Jamaican and Martiniquan roots — from the late 1970s, and became his musical director shortly after. He continued to perform with him until the 1990s, and did shows with him on and off until the Calypso legend retired from stage performing. Cummings said that while Belafonte will not attend the March 1 concert, he is thrilled about it and may make an appearance via video.

“We still talk and he’s very happy about this event and we may connect with him through Skype,” Cummings added. “I think that will be a nice touch for the audience.”

The musical director says the show will bring back memories to some of his biggest fans, and now is an appropriate time to stage it.

“I think that in this atmosphere — especially for people of color but not exclusively — it’s important to know that Harry Belafonte not just an entertainer but a teacher and someone who admonished us to maintain our public outrage at the conditions that have been put upon many of us by government and society,” Cummings said. “We didn’t just come to have fun, we did, but we came to teach folks and honor our upbringing, and that’s important, because the state of art these days is suffering because we don’t understand our history.”

“Turn the World Around: The Music and Legacy of Harry Belafonte” at Aaron Davis Hall at the City College Center for the Arts [129 Convent Avenue between W. 133rd and W. 135th streets in Manhattan, (212) 650-6900, www.citycollegecenterforthearts.org]. March 1 at 7:30 pm. \$30 (\$20 students and seniors).



The performance will be led by members of the Belafonte Alumni Group, which comprises musicians and singers who once performed with Belafonte. Associate Press / Tobias Schwarz

Africa

Continued from Page 39

they are giving the stage to show, said the co-curator.

“The show is specifically about showcasing what is happening right now in African music, and the contemporary trends in African music,” said Par Neiburger, the artistic director of World Music Institute.

He says a show dedicated to what is in the now in African music, will help audiences that tend to imagine the more traditional-leaning music of Africa, with the current.

“When one thinks about African music that is international music or world music, often times that tends to lend itself to the traditional art forms or folkloric forms of African music,” said Neiburger. “Youssou N’Dour and Fela Kuti, — they are great artists but they are mostly playing know for their traditional African music forms.”

But the show is designed to give people the experience of what Africans are listening to back home and who are the people making those shifts in the



Congolese singer and songwriter Pierre Kwanders will also perform at ‘Africa Now’ concert. Iris Maenza

various genres.

“On one hand you’ll get to know what are people in Africa listening to right now, and not from the western audience perception, but what also artists are taking African music to new territory,” he added.

Six bands and artists from various parts of the continent will be performing at the Pan-African show — most of whom are artists exploring electronic music. One in particular is South African deejay Black Coffee, who will make his New York debut and a good choice to the lineup, said Neiburger.

Social issues in art

Continued from Page 39

their messages,” said Mere.

The work titled “My Brother’s Keeper,” shows Dr. King covering the mouth of President Trump.

It was revisited again in January, picking up a lot of traction after Trump made derogatory comments about Haiti, El Salvador, and African nations.

Being Haitian-American himself, he both thrilled people were noticing his art and shocked by the Trump’s remarks.

“I usually don’t allow anything he says to bother me any type of way because he’s a troll but that was one I couldn’t brush off my shoulder — especially because he said it around the time people were remembering the earthquake,” said Mere. “He said it with no kind of remorse. Almost 300,000 people died and those were the comments he made around earthquake anniversary.”

He said the reaction was unexpected but rewarding when he considers what he thinks of during his productivity.

“It was a surreal moment for me,” said Mere. “A lot of people just see the finished product, but when you have this idea in your head, and you’re going through the process of creating — you’re not thinking about that.”

But he adds that seeing how well it was received has only driven him to explore more social messages in his art, and he is most proud of this work.

“I didn’t know people everywhere would like it but I’m really happy it resonated especially in these times we are in,” he said.

His creative inspirations are renowned Haitian artist Hector Hyppolite and Jean Michel Basquiat, who was of Puerto Rican and Haitian descent. He said their art inspired him as a Caribbean man to continue producing work, particularly Basquiat.

“He really inspired me to pursue art — he grew up like me, we had the same and similar culture and I look at how far I am and they opened doors,” said Mere.

Boseman rises to the occasion as Marvel Superhero

"Black Panther"
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for pervasive violent action sequences and a rude gesture
Running time: 134 minutes
Production Studios: Marvel Studios / Walt Disney Pictures
Distributor: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures



Chadwick Boseman stars as a super hero in "Black Panther" directed by Ryan Coogler. www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

Chadwick Boseman has already made quite a career out of portraying a variety of prominent African-Americans, from football star Floyd Little (*The Express*), to baseball great Jackie Robinson (42), to Godfather of Soul James Brown (*Get on Up*) to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (*Marshall*). The versatile actor's efforts have been appreciated by the NAACP which has seen fit to nominate him for five Image Awards.

Although Black Panther is a fictional character, the role is ostensibly of no less significance than the historical figures Chadwick has played in the

past. That's because black kids have rarely had a superhero that looks like them to root for, even in Africa, where the Lord of the Jungle, Tarzan, was white, too.

Consequently, advance ticket sales for this Afrocentric origins tale have been through the roof, and I'm happy to report that audiences will not be disap-

pointed. For, the film not only features a dignified protagonist and a socially-relevant plotline, but it's also a worthy addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

The picture was directed by Ryan Coogler (*Creed*) who made the most of his \$200 million budget, between visually-

captivating special effects and an A-list cast which includes Academy Award-winners Forest Whitaker (for *The Last King of Scotland*) and Lupita Nyong'o (for *12 Years a Slave*), Oscar-nominee Angela Bassett (for *What's Love Got to Do with It*), as well as Michael B. Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya and

Sterling K. Brown.

At the point of departure, we learn that in ancient times the five tribes of Africa went to war over vibranium, a meteorite which imbues its holder with superhuman powers. Fast-forward to the present and we find T'Challa (Boseman) being summoned home to the fictional nation of Wakanda to assume the reins of power in the wake of the passing of his father, King T'Chaka (John Kani).

Complicating matters is the fact that a number of other warriors covet the throne and that a South African arms smuggler (Andy Serkis) is trying to get his hands on some vibranium. Not to worry. T'Challa has a capable CIA agent (Martin Freeman) and a trio of loyal females on his side in his 16-year-old sister (Letitia Wright), his ex-girlfriend (Nyong'o) and a two-fisted bodyguard (Danai Gurira).

What ensues is an edge of the seat roller coaster ride every bit as entertaining as any Spider-Man, Wonder Woman or other superhero adventure. Simply 'Marvel'-ous!

Independent & Foreign Films

Curvature (Unrated) Sci-fi thriller about a scientist (Lyndsy Fonseca) who travels back in time after a mysterious phone call in order to stop herself

from committing a murder. With Linda Hamilton, Glenn Morshower and Noah Bean.

Did You Wonder Who Fired the Gun? (Unrated) Justice delayed documentary investigating the events surrounding the 1946 killing of a black man in an Alabama convenience store by the owner, the director's great-grandfather, a Ku Klux Klansman.

Half Magic (R for frontal nudity, profanity, graphic sexuality and drug use) Heather Graham wrote, directed and stars in this battle-of-the-sexes comedy revolving around three BFFs' (Graham, Angela Kinsey and Stephanie Beatriz) dating and work woes. With Molly Shannon, Johnny Knoxville and Thomas Lennon.

Hannah (Unrated) Charlotte Rampling plays the title character in this intimate portrait of a housekeeper drifting between denial and reality in the wake of her husband's (Andre Wilms) being sent up the river. Featuring Stephanie Van Vyve, Simon



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Bisschop and Jessica Fanhan. (In French and English with subtitles)

Hichki (Unrated) Bollywood coming-of-age drama about a young woman (Rani Mukerji) with Tourette syndrome who turns her weakness into a strength en route to landing a teaching position at an elite prep school. With Supriya Pilgaonkar and Ivan Rodrigues. (In Hindi with subtitles)

Mute (Unrated) Futuristic sci-fi, set in Berlin in the 2050s, chronicling a mute bartender's (Alexander Skarsgard) desperate search for his missing girlfriend with the help of a couple of U.S. Army surgeons (Paul Rudd and Justin Theroux) on a mission of their own. Support cast includes Seyneb Saleh, Robert Sheehan and Noel Clarke.

Survivors Guide to Prison (Unrated) Incarceration documentary with practical tips for felons preparing for a stint behind bars. Featuring commentary by Danny Trejo, RZA, Ice-T, Susan Sarandon, Russell Simmons, Busta Rhymes and Q-Tip.

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West Indies cricket manager Rawl Lewis. West Indies Cricket Board

Grenada PM hails Lewis' new role

By Azad Ali

Grenada Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has hailed the appointment of Rawl Lewis as the new manager of the West Indies senior team.

Although Cricket West Indies (CWI) has not officially named Grenadian Lewis, for the post, Dr. Mitchell said in a statement, "we are pleased with the appointment and on

Continued on Page 44

Multi-million cricket deal

By Azad Ali

Explosive Barbadian all-rounder Jofra Archer has landed a multi-million dollar deal in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) after he was snapped up by Rajasthan Royals on the opening day of the auction recently.

Archer, 22, who have played only 20 first class matches but is yet to feature in an international, got a US\$1.3 million contract to become the most

Continued on Page 44



CAVS, WARRIORS READY

Team LeBron's LeBron James, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, holds MVP trophy after his team defeated Team Stephen at the NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles. Team LeBron won 148-145.

Associated Press / Chris Pizzello

Chase begins in NBA's sprint to the finish

By Brian Mahoney

LeBron James had a trophy in his hands and a smile on his face.

That was Sunday at the All-Star Game, when James again rose above the NBA's best in winning a game and MVP honors.

What he really wants is to be cel-

ebrating in the postseason, not mid-season.

The NBA's sprint to the finish begins Thursday with James riding high but starting again from back in the pack as Cleveland tries to catch Toronto and Boston in the Eastern Conference.

"We just added four new guys before

the break, and we have a lot of work to do," James said. "So I really don't like to think that too far ahead. But obviously winning championships is what it's all about. That's what this league is all about and hopefully at the end of the road then I have the Cavs there to

Continued on Page 44

Rawl Lewis

Continued from Page 43

behalf of the government and people of Grenada, we express hearty congratulations to Lewis.”

He added that Lewis has been a symbol of discipline and a hard worker and motivator and “we believe he would be a major source of much needed motivation for a battered side, which lost the Test series in New Zealand 2-0, the One-Day International series 3-0 and the Twenty20 series 2-0.”

Lewis, 43, joined CWI eight years ago as a project officer in the operations department, tasked with helping to manage the board’s plethora of regional tournaments.

In 2016, he was named as team operations manager of the West Indies squad for the successful Twenty20 World Cup campaign.

Lewis would replace legendary former West Indies fast bowler, Joel Garner who took up the post in 2016.

Premier League

Continued from Page 43

expensive Caribbean player purchased.

A virtual unknown, his name had been on the lips of several franchisees since he shot into the limelight in recent months with Horbart Hurricanes in the Australian Big Bash.

The fast-bowler has been one of the standouts in the tournament, grabbing 15 wickets with his pace, while showcasing his superb out-fielding.

The lucrative deal represents a bit of a fairy tale for Archer who only made his debut 18 months ago after spending a few years in obscurity, while stricken with a back injury.

Signed by Sussex in 2016, Archer was also outstanding for the club during the last English County season, claiming 61 wickets as the club’s leading bowler, in his first full campaign.

He has never played senior team cricket with his native Barbados but qualifies for England through his father.

However, there was no such luck for West Indies superstar opener Chris Gayle, who was bought for the base price of US\$312,000 by Kings XI Punjab on day two of the players’ auction.

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Team LeBron’s LeBron James, second from left, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, shoots as Team Stephen’s Draymond Green, left, of the Golden State Warriors, Klay Thompson, second from right, of the Golden State Warriors, and Stephen Curry, of the Golden State Warriors, defend during the first half of an NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press / Alex Gallardo

EAST IN CLOSE RACE FOR FOURTH PLACE

Continued from Page 43

actually compete for one, to be in a finals representing the East.”

The Golden State Warriors are also in the unusual position of pursuers, after red-hot Houston passed them for the league’s best record with 10 straight wins leading into the All-Star break. But nobody would count out the Warriors, not with their star-studded group that has won two of the last three titles.

Cleveland is the unknown, even with James. The Cavaliers added new pieces around him earlier this month, and there’s not a lot of time left to build championship chemistry.

The Cavs went into the break with four straight wins, but they’re still just third in the conference and couldn’t gain any ground on the Raptors, who have won

seven straight to pass the Celtics. Toronto is an NBA-best 24-4 at home and could make the Cavs’ NBA Finals plans difficult if they have to go through Canada.

“We would hope so, but we’ve got to get there,” Raptors All-Star guard Kyle Lowry said. “We’ve got to finish the season strong.”

Much of the work is already done, since the NBA’s earlier start to this season means teams are well beyond the midway point of their schedules. They will have about 25 games remaining, with so much to sort out in both conferences.

It’s a two-team race at the top of the West but things are tight well beyond that. San Antonio is just percentage points ahead of Minnesota for third while still hoping Kawhi Leonard returns from his thigh injury, and it’s a gap of only 4 1/2 games from there to 10th place, where

the Utah Jazz have won 11 straight.

The East has a close race for fourth place and home-court advantage in the first round between Washington and Indiana, and positioning to be settled down the bottom of the bracket, where Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Miami hold the final three spots.

But the biggest question might be the Celtics, who slumped into the break with three straight losses after leading the conference most of the season, and now have one team ahead of them and another behind that has the momentum.

“The Raptors have been playing really well. Cleveland has been playing really well. But we’ve got to get back to playing really well, too,” the Celtics’ Jaylen Brown said. “So as the season moves forward, we’re looking forward to getting back to the top spot.”

Bolt sets sight on soccer

By Azad Ali

Jamaica super star athlete Usain Bolt is set for his soccer career as he will have a trial with Borussia Dortmund, but he said his dream is to play for Manchester United in England.

The eight-time Olympic gold medalist will start his training next month with the Bundesliga soccer side.

The 31-year-old Man-

chester United fan insists he is still holding out hope of playing at Old Trafford saying he could get a helping hand from Manchester United great Sir Alex Ferguson.

He told the London Daily Express that in March he is going to do trials with Dortmund and that will determine what he does with his career.

Bolt said he is quite

nervous but will take time to adjust to soccer once he plays a few games.

Bolt retired from athletics in August following the World Championships in London.

He has yet to make a decision on his future away from the track but the Jamaican insists he believes he has “a chance of becoming a Premier League footballer.”



Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt.

Associated Press / Tony Gutierrez

Caribbean diplomats to UK: Be more caring

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean diplomats in London have asked the United Kingdom (UK) government to be more compassionate in the treatment of Caribbean nationals.

The diplomats on Wednesday urged the British Home Office to adopt this approach towards retirement-age Commonwealth citizens facing deportation, despite living in the UK all their adult lives, according to the British Guardian.

The paper said there could be thousands of people born in Commonwealth countries who emigrated to the UK with their parents as children and did not realize they were required to formally naturalize in Britain.

Their unresolved residency status could mean they face problems accessing pensions, housing, healthcare and work, said Guy Hewitt, the Barbados high commissioner in London.

New evidence of harsh treatment by the Home Office emerged this week when officials said they "now accepted" that Anthony Bryan, 60, who has spent five weeks in immigration detention centers in

England, was in fact "lawfully present in the UK".

Bryan, a grandfather who has lived in the UK for 52 years, has had two spells in detention and was booked last November on a flight to Jamaica, a country he left in 1965, when he was eight, and has not visited since, the Guardian reported.

It said the decorator lost his job in 2015 because he was unable to prove he was not an "illegal worker", and struggled to convince the Home Office of his right to be in the UK until his case was highlighted in news reports last year.

Bryan said he was relieved but angry at his treatment, which has left him heavily in debt because he was prevented from working for almost three years, according to the Guardian.

"I told them I was eight years old when I arrived here, but nobody believed; they told me I was an illegal immigrant and a criminal. They locked me up unlawfully. It was very stressful. It has been a nightmare," he said.

Hewitt and fellow high commissioners have raised the

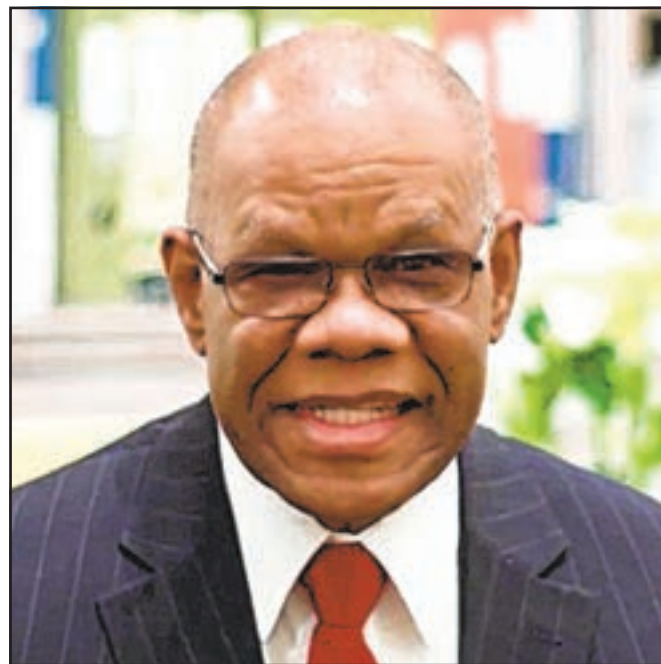
broader issue with the Foreign Office, urging officials to take a more humane approach in cases like Bryan's and Paulette Wilson's, a grandmother who lived and worked in the UK for 51 years, having arrived aged 10, before being told she was an illegal immigrant, being detained and threatened with forced removal to Jamaica, the Guardian said.

It said Caribbean diplomats were concerned people were reluctant to try to regularize their status because of fears they might be detained or deported.

Hewitt described the difficulties experienced by many as a tragedy.

"This is affecting people who came and gave a lifetime of service at a time when the UK was calling for workers and migrants," he said. "They came because they were encouraged to come here to help build post-World War II Britain and build it into the multicultural place that it is now.

"These are not people who tried to take advantage of the system," he added. "We need to find a compassionate mechanism for resolving this."



Jamaica's High Commissioner to London, Seth George Ramocan.

The Jamaican High Commissioner to London, Seth George Ramocan, agreed, according to the Guardian.

"In this system, one is guilty before proven innocent, rather than the other way around,"

he said. Since reports on the situation faced by Bryan and Wilson, the Guardian said Members of Parliament, lawyers and advice centers have highlighted numerous similar cases.



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may need to muscle your way through some projects, especially if your energy levels wane. Put your nose to the grindstone and work your way through things.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you are not one for letting obstacles get in your way. In fact, you find a way to go over or under any roadblocks. This makes you an asset to any team.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, if you have been forgetful about keeping tabs on your finances, you may be in for a surprise. Make an effort to more closely monitor your financial situation.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Don't be so quick to write off someone you thought was out of your life, Cancer. This person may play an integral role in your life this week.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
You might need to channel some newfound excitement, Leo. Perhaps there is a special project brewing or a party on the horizon. Keep up the good cheer.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, everyone makes mistakes, and those who move forward learn from their past errors. If you stumble, dust yourself off and get back into the game this week.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Don't consistently doubt yourself, Libra. Be confident that you can make decisions that will ensure your family's success and happiness for years to come.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Juggling too many items at once often ends with one of the balls dropping, Scorpio. Call on your support network to lend a helping hand when the juggling act gets too difficult.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Friends may flock to you and your jovial attitude this week, Sagittarius. Beat the winter blues by hosting a party, and it can be a win for all involved.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Loosen up the reins on something you have been holding onto tightly. This may mean giving a child a little more freedom to explore or involving others in a work assignment.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, it's time to put some new ideas in motion. Channel your energy into projects that will showcase your talents and vision for the future.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, creative endeavors may need to be shelved for a little while as you focus on practical tasks. It won't be long before you can return to them.

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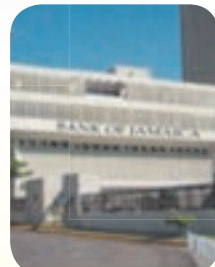
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