



Diana Richardson addressing victory party Tuesday night flanked by elected officials and union representatives. Photo by Nelson A. King

GUYANA VOTES MONDAY

Multiracial coalition fights for change

By Bert Wilkinson

On Monday, the third of six elections that are scheduled to be held in the Caribbean trade group and its associate members this year will take place in Guyana with a multiracial coalition appearing to be on course to deny the governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) a sixth consecutive five-year term.

Retired army Brig. Gen. David Granger, 69, is leading a spirited multiracial coalition that is fighting to unseat the PPP of President Donald Ramotar but the party, sensing that the coalition is gaining momentum and is energized, is giving the campaign its all, even resorting to open race baiting to scare its tradition Indo Guyanese supporters to rally around them or face "dark days," violence, armed home invasions and government gangs terrorizing Indians.

The chief culprit of such a message in this regard has been former President Bharrat Jagdeo whose 12-year tenure between 1999-2011 was characterized by the rise, power and growing influence of the cocaine trade, accompanying armed private death squads, credible domestic and international allegations of widespread corruption, nepotism and racial discrimination against Guyanese

of African origin among a string of other ills including open favoritism of Asian investors.

So far this year there voters have kicked out governments in St. Kitts and Anguilla. Voters in Suriname are due to cast ballots on May 25 while an announcement about a date in Trinidad is expected anytime soon. Polls show the opposition just a neck ahead of the governing coalition there, while nothing is expected to change in Suriname and St. Vincent later in the year.

The PPP has been traditionally supported by Guyanese of Indian descent.

Jagdeo, whose links to players in the underworld is known to have attracted more than passing interest from federal agencies in the US, is well aware of possible dire consequences of a defeat by the PPP as he and others in his close political and business circle could well end up before local and even international courts for alleged wrongdoing.

Additionally, Leaders of the A Partnership For National Unity-Alliance For Change Team Unity Coalition have promised to investigate, review and cancel a string of questionable business deals and state contracts handed out contemptuously to friends and relatives

Continued on Page 6

Richardson wins special poll

By Nelson A. King

Caribbean American community advocate Diana Richardson on Tuesday handsomely won a four-way race in a special election for a seat in New York State Assembly.

Contesting the seat for the 43rd Assembly District in Brooklyn and running on the minority Working Families Party line, Richardson, 32 – whose

mother, Hyacinth Bryson Richardson, was born in Aruba, and father, William Richardson, was born in St. Martin – won 50 percent of the votes, or 4045 votes, with 98 percent of the election precincts reporting.

Shirley Patterson, the Independence Party candidate, who was supported by Brooklyn Borough President Eric L.

Continued on Page 6



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Assemblymember Bichotte, human rights advocates, Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York.

Bichotte ends hunger strike

By Nelson A. King

Newly-elected Haitian American Assemblywoman Rodney Bichotte on Tuesday ended a four-day hunger strike as the New York State Assembly finally voted to approve a resolution calling on the United States Congress to adopt House of Representatives Resolution 443 (2013-2014) condemning actions of the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court that strip hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent of their citizenship.

"Today's vote sends an unequivocal message that the Dominican Republic's persistent abuse of Dominicans of Haitian descent must stop," Bichotte, the first Haitian American to be elected to the State Assembly from New York City, told Caribbean Life.

"As happy as I am to bring my hunger strike to an end, it was nothing compared to the deprivation and persecution suffered by Dominicans of Haitian descent," added Bichotte, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn.

"I applaud my colleagues in the Assembly for joining me in voting to condemn these human rights violations," she continued.

Resolution K376 addresses recent laws and court decisions in the Dominican Republic that have left hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent without citizenship rendering them stateless, as well as other human rights abuses faced by that community.

The resolution had widespread support from numerous organizations including the United States National Bar Association, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, Amnesty International (AI), Haitian American Lawyer Association of New York (HALANY), 1199 Service Employees International Union (1199 SEIU), and the Coalition of Dominicans

Continued on Page 26

Call to end sexual violence on Denim Day

By Tequila Minsky

NYC Council Member Laurie Cumbo and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer have called for an end to sexual violence during a rally at City Hall on Wednesday, April 29.

In full support, other elected officials, and survivors, advocates and supportive men packed City Hall steps, rallying in commemoration of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day. The rally cry: Yes means yes, no means no!

"One in three Americans is a victim of sexual violence, particularly on campus," said BP Gale Brewer.

"There is no excuse for sexual violence. Tight jeans are never an invitation to rape." Brewer was referring to the Italian Supreme Court ruling in 1998 that reversed a rape conviction on the grounds that the victim complied because her jeans were so tight — the court's conclusion that she must have helped her attacker, thus making the act consensual.

That ruling sparked protest by Italian and international women leading to observance of Denim Day in April, recognized by at least 20 U.S. states. Wearing jeans on this day has become an international symbol of protest against destructive attitudes about sexual assault. (The Italian ruling was later reversed).

New Yorkers have been acknowledging this day since 2010, launched by then Council Member Julissa Ferreras. "This is a national and global movement," said Cumbo who reported 13,000 sexual assaults last year in her district. The council member spoke to



NYPD Commissioner William Bratton emphasized how the NYPD is working to address sexual violence. He is flanked by Council Member Cumbo on the left and Borough President Gale Brewer. Photo by Tequila Minsky

those who are vulnerable, "We will be here until we have safe streets."

It was emphasized that sexual violence remains prevalent in communities — particularly college campuses and universities across New York State — promoting the need for continued awareness; tougher laws; and additional support for survivors.

Assistant to the chief, Inspector Keane of the Special Victims Division, explained that the division has a staff of 200 detectives working in the five boroughs. "A real concern is the under reporting of sexual violence crimes on college campus," he said. He declined to

talk of a well-publicized case at Columbia University, where a victim frequently sees her attacker on campus, stating, "It's under investigation."

At the rally, three social workers that are placed in New York City high schools held the banner of their organization — Center Against Domestic Violence.

Phung Ngu Yen sees 40-50 students a week at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn. She counsels both boys and girls with all kinds of issues: history of family domestic violence, abusive relationships, history of trauma, physical or sexual abuse, and bereavement.

Pols saddened by Haitian church members' death

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams has joined Councilmembers Jumaane Williams and Alan Maisel in expressing sadness over the death Sunday of three members of a Brooklyn church.

Three Haitian members of Bethesda French Seventh-day Adventist Church were killed upstate when a van carrying congregants from a religious retreat crashed.

The church serves Williams' and Maisel's Brooklyn districts. According to reports, three additional people in the van were hospitalized and one has been released. Their names were not disclosed.

"Last night, three members of Bethesda French Seventh-day Adventist Church were suddenly and tragically taken from

us," said Adams on Monday.

"The impact of their deaths, ever more painful considering that they were travelling home from a religious retreat when it occurred, will be felt throughout their respective communities," he added.

"It is important that we, as One Brooklyn, honor their lives and all that they have done for their community and congregation," Adams continued.

Williams, deputy leader and chair of the City Council's Housing and Buildings Committee, and Maisel, chair of the Council's Standards and Ethics Committee, said in a joint statement that they were "deeply saddened to hear of the traffic accident."

Those killed included a teenager. They were returning from the Greater

New York Conference Men's Prayer Convention in Ellenville, New York.

"Our prayers for peace, comfort and healing are with the family and friends of those who passed, and additional prayers of healing for those still in the hospital," Williams and Maisel said.

"The Bethesda French church is dealing with unimaginable grief, and our offices will do whatever we can to aid during this extremely difficult time," they added.

"One thing is certain though, the Haitian men who have passed and those injured are examples for our community as great men of faith, and this church will be a bedrock as we move forward after this horrible loss," Williams and Maisel continued.

Caribbean

The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating a British trader who allegedly stashed millions of pound sterling in offshore bank account in some Caribbean islands.

The London Evening Standard reported that Navinder Singh Sarao, 36, who lives in a modest semi-detached house with his parents on Hounslow, West London, and doesn't even own a car, was able to find \$5million (pound sterling) to pay his bail.



The FBI insisted that Sarao hid his illegal gotten gains in a "complex" web of offshore accounts.

In the criminal complaint, United States of America Navinder Singh Sarao, filed recently at the US District Court in Northern Illinois, FBI Special Agent Laberta claimed the Briton admitted to amassing "the majority of his (net) worth in no more than 20 days of trading on days when the market was particularly vulnerable".

According to FBI Special Agent Laberta, the Briton stashed money he earned during the 2010 Wall Street "flash crash" and in his other high frequency trades in Nevis and Anguilla.

"Around the time of the Flash Crash, Sarao took significant steps to protect his assets," says the criminal complaint.

Bahamas

The Bahamas government said it viewed sexual misconduct within schools "very seriously," as it investigates an allegation of an incident of sexual misconduct involving four pupils, including one female.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said had recently been informed by a principal of an unidentified primary school of the incident. It said the report was also made to the police.

"The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology takes matters of alleged sexual misconduct within our schools very seriously and gives priority to such matters," it said, adding that once an incident is brought to its attention "the protocols and procedures as set out by the Safe Schools Protocol, Manual for Public Schools, are immediately followed.



It said the pupils are being closely monitored and the alleged victim has been removed from having direct interaction with those involved.

Barbados

The Barbados-based Caribbean Mentorship Institute (CMI) said it is



Climate change affects fishing

A woman purchases fish at a market in Kingstown, St. Vincent. CARICOM leaders say fisheries is one of the important economic sectors already being impacted by climate change. See story on page 14.

Inter Press Service / Kenton X. Chance

alarmed by the number of young persons who have been associated with gang-related activities with the Caribbean region.

"Many young persons are not receiving the type of guidance that is needed for them to flourish within their communities. We have seen too many examples of young men and women who have dropped out of school to engage in criminal activities," said CMI President Felicia Browne.



"The growing trend should be of grave concern to everyone. Our youth are not finding their way and are often losing their lives due to errors and judgments. They need guidance and mentors to re-shape their thinking and understanding," she added.

Browne said the CMI, which says it has made several types of intervention in countries across the region, is adamant that if community members and policy makers turn a blind eye to the plight of young persons.

Grenada

Grenada police confirmed they had detained seven Nepalese students, reported missing in St. Lucia recently.



In a brief statement, the police said the students are now in custody "after arriving Grenada by boat

from St. Lucia."

It said the six males and one female "are believed to be the victims of human trafficking" and a "Ghanaian national who reportedly is a resident of Trinidad is also in police custody, assisting with police investigations."

The students are among a group of Asians who have been left virtually stranded in St. Lucia as a result of what has become known as the "Lambirds Academy affair."

Guyana

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency says officers nabbed a Guyanese national with cocaine in his sneakers at John F. Kennedy International Airport recently.

According to CBP, on April, 6, the arriving passenger, Thenga Adams "tried to sneak past" officers.

"During the course of the inspection, CBI officers discovered running shoes in his luggage that contained a white powdery substance that tested positive for cocaine," CBP said in a statement.

Jamaica

A 16-year-old teenager, who earlier this month was denied entry into Suriname on the grounds he was on his way to Turkey to join the Islamic

State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS), has been ordered released into the custody of his parents.

The ordered was given recently by a judge in Port Maria Children's Court, less than a day after a magistrate had transferred the matter to the St. Mary's Resident Magistrate's Court after indicating she had no jurisdiction over the matter.

His attorney, Zara Lewis, said the judge gave a two-year supervision order for the teenager, meaning the Probation Department will monitor him until he turns 18 years old.



Relatives of the teenager, who was taken into custody on April 12, have denied he is a terrorist, saying the boy was on his way to the Netherlands where he was supposed to have been met by his mother and grandmother and taken to Britain.

The opposition Jamaica Labor Party earlier this month called for a full investigation into the matter after Suriname immigration authorities denied the teenager entry into the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

St. Lucia

A Barbadian national was fined EC\$4,000 after he pleaded guilty to being in possession or nearly three

Continued on Page 20

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Prez Carter to monitor elections



Retired Army Commander Brig. Gen. David Granger, the Guyanese Opposition Leader and the man who could be Guyana's president after the upcoming May 11 general elections campaigning in Queens, New York earlier this year.

Photo by Bert Wilkinson

led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will monitor the voting. Dozens of them have already arrived in the country to observe the situation before actual voting begins.

The country which houses the headquarters of the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is going to the polls more than 18 months ahead of schedule because the same opposition coalition had forced Ramotar to suspend and later dissolve the 65-seat parliament to avoid a no-confidence vote that it almost certainly would have lost. The other side had a one-seat majority.

Richardson

Continued from cover

Adams, and the area's State Senator, Jesse Hamilton, who represents the 20th Senatorial District in Brooklyn, received 25 percent, or 1976 votes.

Menachem Raitport, the owner of a kosher butcher shop who won endorsements from Jewish leaders and ran on the Conservative and Republican Party lines, obtained 21 percent, or 1659 votes.

Geoffrey Davis, a Democratic district leader and community activist, who ran as the candidate of a party he created, Love Yourself, won 4 percent, or 306 votes.

The special election was called to replace African American Assemblyman Karim Camara, who resigned in January to take up a new position with the administration of New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The district comprises the Crown Heights and Lefferts Gardens sections of Brooklyn.

"We won!" Richardson, who lives in Crown Heights, told a victory party Tuesday night at the Golden Hall, at St. Gabriel's Episcopal (Anglican) Church, in Crown Heights.

"I'm so tired," she added, flanked by jubilant supporters, including an array of elected local officials and union members who had endorsed her. "The political arena is not so nice. They're going to get ready for Diana Richard-

son." "I'm so grateful, I'm so thankful," continued the mother of one, 12-year-old Isaac Bowen, who joined her at the podium. "And the no. 1 person we thank is God."

"I put this race in God's hands," Richardson said. "Not only did we win, we won 2-1. This is for the community. I'm so happy about what is going to happen in the 43rd (Assembly District)."

Richardson was supported by Caribbean American legislators – U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke; her mother Jamaican-born Una S.T. Clarke, a former New York City Councilwoman, who was the first Caribbean-born woman to hold elective office in the City; Grenadian American Councilman Jumaane Williams; and Haitian American Assembly Member Rodney Bichotte.

Richardson also received the endorsements of many other prominent elected officials, including New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, as well as African Americans State Senator Kevin Parker and Assembly Member Latrice Walker. Additionally, she was heavily backed by the labor community. Her endorsements included: TWU Local 100, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, SEIU 32BJ, DC 37, and HAAPA-PAC (Haitian American Association for Political Action), Planned Parenthood NYC Votes, New York State Nurses Association, Make The Road Action Fund and New York City District Council of Carpenters.

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BVI youth policy a Caribbean model

By Nelson A. King

The government of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) says its youth policy is a model for the Caribbean, stating that the policy gives the youth a “solid foundation” on which they can grow as individuals and as responsible citizens of the British Overseas Territory and the world.

The BVI is one of seven countries in the region with an updated Youth Policy following the launch of the Virgin Islands National Youth Policy and Strategic Framework earlier this week.

“I am pleased that in giving our youth a voice, the National Youth Policy includes the creation of the Virgin Islands Youth Commission, the National Youth Council and the National Youth Parliament,” said BVI Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. D. Orlando Smith.



BVI Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. D. Orlando Smith. www.bvi.org.uk

“We envision that through these three bodies, the Territory’s next generation of leaders and parliamentarians will be trained on the guiding principles of democracy, good governance, advocacy, human rights and the law”, he added.

Minister for Education and Culture, Myron V. Walwyn said that he was looking forward to

the institutionalization of the National Youth Commission, the National Youth Council and Youth Parliament.

Walwyn said the Youth Parliament will enable young people across the Territory to develop their skills and to advocate meaningfully on different platforms and themes that impact them.

Forum on the Carib’s future

By Nelson A. King

The Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says Deputy Executive Secretary Antonio Prado will this week participate in the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago.

The forum, which runs from Tuesday through Thursday, is co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the United Nations system.

Sessions will be held at the UWI St. Augustine campus and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago capital, ECLAC said.

During his first visit to the Caribbean and Trinidad and Tobago, Prado will deliver opening remarks on the first day of the forum on, “Disruptive Thinking for Development: The Role of the Academy and Development

Organizations,” at the UWI St. Augustine campus.

He will also serve as chairperson and moderator for a plenary session, organized by the ECLAC sub-regional headquarters for the Caribbean on the final day of the forum, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, ECLAC said.

It said this session will focus on identifying and advocating innovative financing solutions for the Caribbean amid the challenges of high debt, reduced aid and stricter loan concessionality.

“The ECLAC plenary session will also build on the ongoing discussions on financing for development, in light of what is anticipated to be the forging of a new financing for development architecture, that will culminate in the third United Nations conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, in July 2015,” the statement said.



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Now is the time for sunlight on trade

By Celia Wexler

[P]opular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. ... And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.
— James Madison, 1822

In Washington, D.C. this year, spring has been churlish. A cold and rainy March has given way to a cool and unpredictable April. We hope for more sunlight.

Sunlight also is sorely needed in our nation's capital as members of Congress consider an expedited process for approving trade agreements that are being done largely in secret. For the past several years, representatives of our government have been negotiating trade deals with the Pacific Rim nations and the European Union behind closed doors, pacts that will affect every American family and worker. The only people privy to inside information about the trade talks have been 566 trade advisors, the overwhelming majority of whom represent corporate interests.

Members of Congress can gain some access to this closely guarded information, but most staff members cannot, since these documents are considered classified information. In contrast, due to public pressure, the EU has begun to publicly release its draft texts, as well as background informa-

tion about the negotiations.

You would think that in light of this lack of meaningful information on these complicated deals, Congress would demand that before it votes to on them, when their contents are finally disclosed, it get enough time to examine the details, to hold hearings, to ensure that the public gets to weigh in on these agreements in a way that could make a difference, not simply to react to deals that have already been cut.

Instead, a process that has lacked even basic transparency would be compounded by an approval mechanism that gives Congress a limited amount of time and no opportunity for committee oversight. Members who wish to amend these crucial agreements are out of luck; no amendments are permitted, and debate is limited to 20 hours. And the Senate, where bills of far less importance often are subject to a filibuster, won't have the right to filibuster these trade deals. A simple majority is all that's required to approve them.

This is not how a democracy is supposed to work, particularly when their impact is so far-reaching. Trade may seem like a wonky, inside-the-beltway subject, but this issue is important, particularly for the new trade deals of the 21st Century. Take the pending trade agreement between the U.S. and the European Union, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The focus of the deal is not on tar-

Continued on Page 12

Lack of trade finance has become a barrier for developing countries

By Roberto Azevêdo

GENEVA, May 2 2015 (IPS) - Up to 80 percent of global trade is supported by some form of financing or credit insurance. Yet in many countries there is a lack of capacity in the financial sector to support trade, and also a lack of access to the international financial system. Therefore the ability of these countries to use simple instruments such as letters of credit is limited.

The impact of these limitations on a country's trading potential can be very, very significant.

After the financial crisis, the supply of trade finance has largely returned to normal levels in the major markets, but not everywhere and not for everyone.

The structural difficulties of poor countries in accessing trade finance have not disappeared – indeed the situation may well have declined due to the effects of the crisis.

There are indications that markets are even more selective now. Under increased regulatory scrutiny, many institutions have lowered their risk-appetites and are focusing more on their established customers. Some are deliberately decreasing their number of clients in a so-called "flight to quality."

In this environment, the lower end of the market has been struggling to obtain affordable finance, with the smaller companies in

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the most credit-constrained as 50 percent of their requests for trade finance are estimated to be rejected.

the smaller, less-developed countries affected the most.

I was particularly struck by the fact that the financing gaps are the highest in the poorest countries, notably in Africa and Asia. And I was struck by the size of those gaps.

A survey by the African Development Bank of 300 banks operating in 45 African countries found that the market for trade finance was somewhere between 330 and 350 billion dollars.

It also found that this could be markedly higher if a significant share of the financing requested by traders had not been rejected.

Based on such rejections, the estimate for the value of unmet demand for trade finance in Africa is between 110 and 120 billion dollars.

This gap represents one-third of the existing market.

The main reasons for the rejection of requests for financing were:

- the lack of creditworthiness or poor credit history
- the insufficient lim-

its granted by endorsing banks to local African issuing banks

the small size of the balance sheets of African banks, and

insufficient U.S. dollar liquidity

Some of these constraints are structural, and can only be addressed in the medium to long term. The retreat of global banks from Africa, and from other poor countries, is one such issue.

The Asian Development Bank conducted a similar survey in Asia, looking at countries like Viet Nam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

According to preliminary estimates, the unmet demand there is around 800 billion dollars.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the most credit-constrained as 50 percent of their requests for trade finance are estimated to be rejected. This is compared with just seven percent for multinational corporations.

Moreover, two-thirds of the companies surveyed reported that they did not seek alternatives for rejected transactions.

Therefore, these gaps may be exacerbated by a lack of awareness and familiarity among companies – particularly smaller ones – about the many options which exist.

A large majority of firms stated that they would ben-

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

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Election without trickery, the hope in T&T

They're seriously into election-watch mode in Trinidad and Tobago. Actually, some may think "Kamla-watch" to be the more apt characterization, as it is whatever stealth move(s) Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar may be fixing to unleash that have curiosity levels high throughout the society. A while back, waxing colloquial, the prime minister had said no one was going to "jumbie" her into announcing an election date before she was good and ready to do so. But wiggle room to play that timing game with the all-important date has gotten narrower, now that we've entered the month of May. And Bissessar, to her chagrin, could find herself getting too cute about her announcement of when the country will go to the polls.

Bissessar's pending announcement cannot but rethread the round of political silliness that defined Trinidad and Tobago's last general election five years ago, when Patrick Manning abruptly called an election half-way through his government's term. We have always maintained here that responsibility for the Manning

train wreck lay not with him but with party colleagues, who unwisely went along with the "untouchable" veneer he had cultivated, even as the man clearly was, by 2010, in the firm grip of megalomania and, for his own and the country's good, ought to have been forced from his leadership perch by all available means. There's no such intra-party tension dogging Bissessar, and she and her confederates have emphatically made known during their tenure, when assorted misdeeds generated angry pushback, that they had no intention of demitting office early, a la Manning.

Come May 24, however, the Bissessar posse will have been in office five years. There reportedly are plans being hatched on the other side of the political divide to dramatize that the government has reached the end of its constitutional tether. But in this developing election scenario, speculation that the government may try to put one over on opposing politicians and the public is hardly without merit, given the track record. Several times over the last five years have moves been made out of

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

the glare of public awareness when government players wanted to "get over" inconspicuously. Two, in particular, would trigger John Public's instant recall: the attempt to install a junior, unqualified employee in one of the highest national security positions in the country; and the notorious "Section 34" gambit in which one section of a criminal justice bill was extracted and brought in the dead of night to the former president, who incredulously signed the thing, the maneuver later revealed to be a scheme to benefit two party financiers facing possible extradition and jail terms in the U.S.

Given such dirty-tricks practice as business as usual, the government's engaging in more of the same as an election draws near would surprise no one. Bissessar and company flirted, for instance, with some so-called constitution reform stuff, including a run-off proposal

for elections, about which they took much flak for attempting to push through the measures absent adequate consultation with the citizenry. But everything that's now established about the modus operandi of this government tells us that, public disgruntlement notwithstanding, there's no way a pre-election effort to ram the "reform" legislation down the people's throat can be ruled out.

We wouldn't be surprised either, as we've previous noted here, if the administration's obsession with prolonging its stay in office hasn't had the prime minister and her lieutenants digging into the country's political history. For whatever it's worth, checking on legislative predecessors back in the 1950s would reveal their voting to extend the 1950-55 legislature's life one year...with disastrous consequences for several of them when a new election was finally held in 1956.

Naturally, apart from staying around through whatever works as political stratagem or the mere happenstance of now controlling when shots get called — like an election

date — the government is also on a last-ditch vote-buying binge. Trinidad Express columnist Sunity Maharaj commented last Sunday on this reckless disregard for sound economic fundamentals, in the now troubling development of Moody's downgrading Trinidad and Tobago's bond rating and the country's economic outlook from stable to negative. Maharaj characterized the government as pursuing "a strategy that prioritizes the political agenda over T&T's economic well-being." Looking back to when Bissessar and company began their romp, with empty platitudes about "change," Maharaj said: "It was clear that this was to be no government of change. What it intended was to milk the oil and gas economy for all it was worth in order to buy the next vote."

The tragedy is that intelligent analysis of wrong-headed economic policy (forget for a moment all the other nefarious carrying-on over five years) doesn't mean squat to this government. The beat will go on...until the people say, "Enough!"

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OP-EDS

Financing for development

Continued from page 10

enefit from greater financial education.

These findings are particularly striking as Africa and developing Asia are two areas of the world in which trade has grown fastest in the past decade.

But the potential evolution of new production networks is faster than the ability of the local financial sectors to support them.

In this way the lack of development of the financial sector can be a significant barrier to trade.

It can prevent developing countries from integrating into the trading system and accessing further trade opportunities.

And it can therefore prevent them from leveraging trade as a powerful source of development.

So we need to respond to this problem.

The exchanges that we have here can form part of this response. We need to

join together in order to advocate action in this area and to devise practical solutions.

Of course, there is no magic bullet. This is a complex issue. However, that should not discourage our efforts.

The trade finance facilitation programmes that I outlined earlier are one example of practical action that we can take.

Of course this only fills part of the gap, so our response needs to be more fundamental.

In July this year, the United Nations' major 'Financing for Development' conference will take place in Addis Ababa. And I think it is essential that we put trade finance on the agenda there.

In this way we can ensure that this issue is given its proper prominence in the development debate, especially at a time when the all-important U.N. Sustainable Development Goals are being finalised.

Time to focus on trade deals

Continued from page 10

iffs, but rather on the way both the U.S. and the EU will impose environmental and public health and safety standards in the future. Businesses that are sick of having to abide by different regulations in the EU and the U.S. call these differences "trade irritants," and they'd like reduce them.

That could be a good thing, if the deal meant that we took the most protective rules and adopted them. But it is quite possible that the reverse will happen – that in the future both the U.S. and Europe will settle on "lowest common denominator" regulation that reduces safety and jeopardizes our environment, but that keeps corporate profits high.

There is even talk of including Investor State Dispute Settlement in this trade agreement, a mechanism that would make it possible for a foreign corporation to sue a government if it claimed a regulation unfairly harmed its bottom line. Such lawsuits would be decided by corporate and trade lawyers in an extra-national tribunal operating out of public view.

Labor, environmental and public health groups on both sides of the Atlantic have serious qualms about the consequences of these agreements. But the protests of the public interest

community in this country have not yet resonated with the larger public. Nor have they gotten significant media attention.

You can understand why this is happening. Reporters increasingly are focusing on subjects that are trending among the public. But average citizens aren't discussing trade deals because, to a large extent, they don't know anything about them. So the public is not sending the media any signals that these deals interest them, and the media is responding by not reporting on them. We've created a vicious cycle.

These trade deals are way too important for either reporters or the media to simply shrug their shoulders and let government continue to act in secret. James Madison would be appalled by our apathy. If we believe that information is crucial to self-government, then it is our duty to demand more sunlight on trade.

Celia Wexler is senior Washington representative for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She is the author of Out of the News: Former Journalists Discuss a Profession in Crisis. The Center is a partner in the OpenTheGovernment.org coalition. This article previously appeared in The Hill.



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40 years of co-ed

By Tangerine Clarke

Guyana's Ambassador to Washington Bayney Karran said distinguished honorees — Dawn Holder-Alert, Dr. Michelle Mickle Foster, Amlata Persaud and Dr. Alissa Trotz, are emblematic of the tradition of academic and professional excellence with which Queen's College is synonymous.

During his recent remarks at Terrace On the Park to commemorate 40 years of co-education and the enrollment of girls at the prestigious high school, Karran added that the alumni are trailblazers and taskmasters in every field of human endeavor as typified by the honorees.

The alumnus told the packed Black Tie Gala that it was important for all societies to transcend traditional gender norms and ensure that males and females participate fully and equally in both the public and private spheres.

"This celebration of the 40th anniversary of co-education is most appropriate for our school.



From left, Karen Wharton, vice president of QCAANY; His Excellency Ambassador Bayney Karran; Amlata Persaud, honoree; Dr. Alissa Trotz, honoree; Clarence Trotz, former head master of QC; Dawn Holder-Alert, honoree; Dr. Michelle Foster, honoree; John Campbell, president of QCAA-NY and Saran Nurse, treasurer of QCAANY.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

It is indisputable that coeducation benefits students by reflecting more accurately the social environment that they will encounter in the adult world."

Karren, who said he was honored to share the podium with Clarence Trotz, his former headmaster and outstanding educator, also applauded the QC of Guyana Alumni Association N.Y. Chapter, for planning the auspicious weekend of activities that included a fusion lime, a multi-denominational service and family brunch.

Trotz, alumnus and University of Cambridge educated academic, who served as headmas-

ter in the 1970s, praised his alma mater for the success of co-education, and avowed that over the last three decades women in many countries have excelled academically better than their male counterparts in sciences, engineering, mathematics, and other technological areas.

"This revolution has meant that the proverbial academic 'gender gap' at universities is steadily narrowing. At Queen's College, this narrowing has been taking place ever since girls entered the school in 1975," added Trotz, who noted that the institution had its first female scholars in the early 1980's.

JetBlue expands Caribbean network

By Nelson A. King

JetBlue Airways says its continuing to expand its services to the Caribbean as it filed an intent to serve Antigua's V.C. Bird International Airport (ANU) three times weekly from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

The airline said on Monday that its aim is to launch service in Antigua and Barbuda on Nov. 5, "subject to receipt of government operating authority."

Additionally, the airline will add seasonal weekly service from Boston's Logan International Airport (BOS) to Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport (BGI), which will launch Nov. 7, subject also to "receipt of government operating authority."

"We offer customers more flights to the Caribbean than any other airline, and the beautiful destination of Antigua will be a great addition to our network for those wanting to discover something new," said Dave Clark, vice president, network planning, JetBlue.

"A gorgeous Caribbean island, Antigua offers beaches, history and romance, along with world-class resorts like Sandals Grande Antigua," he added.

Clarke said Barbados has "proven to be a favorite for our New York customers, and we're happy to provide Bostonians the chance to experience the beauty and culture of Barbados."

He said Antigua is one of the largest Caribbean markets not currently served by JetBlue, adding that it "will grow the airline's robust JFK leisure route portfolio."

"We are excited to be bringing JetBlue to Antigua and Barbuda following successful negotiations," said Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, Economic Development, Investment and Energy Asot A. Michael.

"As a new airline flying into Antigua, JetBlue will make the destination more accessible to visitors searching for affordable and direct same-day connections," he added.

Carib stakes out 'Red Lines' for Paris climate talks



St. Lucia's Minister for the Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy Science and Technology, James Fletcher, says a climate change deal favourable to the Caribbean will help to protect the important tourism sector.

Inter Press Service / Kenton X. Chance

By **Kenton X. Chance**

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, April 28, 2015 (IPS) - When the international climate change talks ended in Peru last December, the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a political and economic union comprising small, developing, climate-vulnerable islands and low-lying nations, left with "the bare minimum necessary to continue the process to address climate change."

"The Lima Accord did decide that the Parties would continue to work on the elements in the Annex to develop a negotiating text for the new Climate Change Agreement. We wanted a stronger statement that these were the elements to be used to draft the negotiating text," Carlos Fuller, international and regional liaison officer at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre told IPS.

"We did not get the specific mention that Loss and Damage would be included in the new agreement, but there is also no

mention that it would not be included. On Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), we got an agreement that all parties would submit their contributions for the new agreement during 2015.

"However, we lost all the specifics that would inform parties on what should be submitted. We lost the review process for the INDCs and only those parties who wished to respond to questions for clarification would do so," Fuller said.

The Lima talks forms part of the homestretch leg of negotiations ahead of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), slated for Paris in December.

The UNFCCC is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which has been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in

the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

At the meeting in Paris, parties are expected to sign a legally binding accord intended to keep human-induced global temperature rise within levels that science says will avert catastrophic climate change.

CARICOM negotiators are trying to avoid a repeat of Lima and are identifying the "red line" issues that are "sacrosanct" for their populations as they prepare for the Paris summit.

In preparation for the Paris talks, lead negotiators from CARICOM met here on Apr. 21, first, to prepare for an engagement of CARICOM heads with French President François Hollande in Martinique on May 9.

"President Hollande, I guess, is intending to meet with CARICOM heads to get from them what are the main concerns of Caribbean small island developing states and to see how

he can develop some momentum, some consensus leading to Paris," James Fletcher, St. Lucia's minister for the Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy Science and Technology, tells IPS.

The Castries meeting brought together CARICOM lead negotiators and technical experts on climate change, Fletcher says, adding, "Our meeting was a meeting of technical experts to really refine what are our main positions,

what are the issues that are sacrosanct for us, what are the red line issues, that, as far as we are concerned, any new agreement on climate change must address."

Serge Letchimy, president of the Regional Council of Martinique, tells IPS that the regional summit in Martinique "is dedicated to preparation and mobilisation toward" COP 21 and will bring together states and territories of the Carib-

Continued on Page 30

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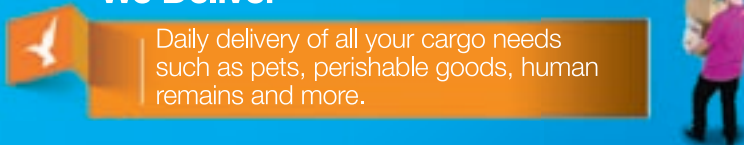
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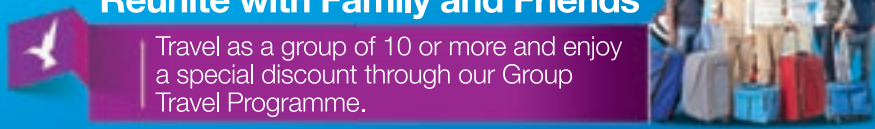
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'Whine up' and shed pounds

By Alley Olivier

Ladies, prepare to chip. Dance aerobics has become the new workout craze helping non-traditional gym-goers increase their sweat levels to the pulsing music.

Aruba and Grenada descendant Royelle McKenzie brings island flare to the craze with her high energy soca fused playlists and use of carnival moves set to make any feter forget they are working out in her Boulay 360 dance fitness classes.

"Dancing to soca music is a total body workout because you're working out everything as well as your core - fusing the dance steps of the Caribbean with basic aerobics steps. It's a journey through carnival, that freedom you have — it's a no judgment zone. One of my sayings is 'are you feeling ambitious today' because when you're doing carnival it is fun and festive," she said.

McKenzie utilizes her wealth of knowledge as a certified group fitness instructor and physical therapist of 11 years to ensure that your carnival aerobic experience is both fun and beneficial. Persons with various fitness levels are invited into the party where McKenzie takes special care to ensure each member in her band is getting the workout appropriate for their level of fitness. Keeping the class size relatively small, she is able to connect with each person with specific check-ins while keeping the entire class motivated to just keep marching.

"You see the camaraderie between you and your fellow masqueraders. You're a team together," she said.

Combining whining, juking and marching into the workout session, McKenzie manages to incorporate these popular dance moves to include high knees, jumping jacks and more



Founder Royelle McKenzie (center) showing Keisha James and Ilana Warner how to whine up. Photo courtesy of Boulay 360

for a total body and core workout. The sweat will drip as you sing along to the music and pass high-fives to those closest to you throughout the session.

"You move and you move and the music is good so you don't really feel like you're working out but you are really

working out because you are soaking wet. I've done Zumba and it's a combination of hip-hop, R&B, salsa but in terms of comparison this is more intense. It's just nonstop pace," said Kizziah Prime, a regular participant.

The 55-minute sessions start

off with a warm-up to get the body ready to increase intensity with each song change. McKenzie remains at the front, commanding her masqueraders with words of encouragement, careful instruction and correction. Her careful ear always

Continued on Page 26

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Rawlston Williams: The Rebel Chef

By Alley Olivier

Praise the Lord — and pass the island bowl!

A new dine-and-dash restaurant in Crown Heights has customers's mouths watering and minds thinking of a higher calling with every dish served.

At former theology student and St. Vincent native Rawlston Williams new Caribbean fusion restaurant, the Food Sermon on 355 Rogers Avenue between Sullivan Place and Montgomery Street in Crown Heights provides offerings with the hope the customer will be satisfied.

"If you look at the menu, we actually call it offerings. The whole thing is that you're making something with your grubby hands and it is just as intimate a situation as husband and wife; we're going to take our offerings and hope to God that you like it," Williams said.

Williams chose to leave his studies in theology in part because he felt he could not meet the demands of the ministry. Typical character traits associated with a pastor include public speaking of which he is actually afraid to do. His own personal reflections also steered him in the direction of choosing to cook, and use his food to satisfy his ideas of a "higher calling."

"There are many reasons why I didn't finished my studies in theology. I'm deathly afraid of speaking in public. How can I preach the word and I'm terrified? Another reason is, can



Rawlston Williams prepares a meal in the kitchen of Food Sermon.



Photos courtesy of Rawlston Williams

I live what I'm preaching? Can I be true to the ideals not only in the short-run but the long run? It's a constant struggle between deciphering whether the call on me was to lead others or was it a call to a higher moral way of living. Because those questions were present it gave me a lot of pause," he said.

Raised as a Seven Day Adventist, his hours of operation adhere to that of his faith — closed by sunset on Friday to reopen doors again for regular service on Sunday. The small menu encompasses dishes reminiscent of all islands in the Caribbean such as roti. What might serve as a sur-

prise are the full, gourmet salads listed. His childhood diet which comprised eating mostly homegrown vegetables, home-made bread and steamed or roasted fruits including his favorite breadfruit, influences his imaginative menu.

"I didn't grow up eating Caribbean food. The only religious influence is in reference to having vegetarian options. I must say it's not a new-age healthy Caribbean food; the island bowl is really what I want to do and not being brought up traditionally eating Caribbean food I have an outsider's point of view. I love the idea of having just flavors from the islands but doing it differently," he said.

During his short eight weeks of being open, Williams has learned to accept and weigh the opinions of others in regards to the preparation of his food and restaurant design. Upon entering the Food Sermon, one might not know it is serving Caribbean cuisine until peeking at the menu, which boasts imaginative spinoffs from your standard jerk chicken with rice and peas plate.

"I've had people walk in and walk right out. I've had others walk in and say 'you're doing this for the white people.' People come in here and they ask 'you making Jamaican food? You making Trini?' or whatever and I'm like, what does

that mean? As I've been told, you go to a Trinidadian spot you expect to get more of a roti thing, you go to a Jamaican spot you expect more of a jerk — but those are just small items. You still have your goat, your curries, your ground stew — it's all essentially the same thing," he said.

Taking each day in stride, Williams is learning from what he likes to call his 'restaurantette daily.' Balancing when to consider expanding his small staff, considering adding a delivery service and more, he is excited to expand his thoughtful menu in hopes that your belly will hum with a pleased amen.

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

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners — and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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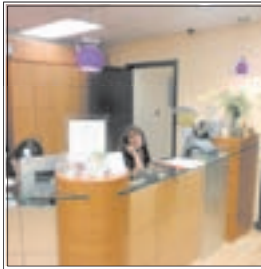
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Continued from page 4

kilos of cocaine in St. Lucia.

Richie Bonnett was arrested at the George Charles Airport in January and found to be in possession of 2.8 kilos of the drugs with a street value of EC\$84,000.

At the time of his arrest, Bonnett was in company of Maria Shepherd also of Barbados, against whom the charges were dropped.

He was reprimanded and discharged on other charges relating to intent to supply and export of the illegal drug.



St. Vincent

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has sought to distance himself from the arrest of a secondary school teacher Jozette Bibby-Bowen after she posted comments on the social website Facebook.

Recently Director of Public, Prosecutions (DPP) Colin Williams discontinued two charges of obscene publication against the teacher, whose attorneys say they are now seeking possible compensation following her arrest.

Gonsalves suggested that the action of the police were not consistent with the direction of the DPP, saying, there was a communication from the DPP to the police and that communication

“would have not being consistent with any arrest at the school and charging.”

The 37-year-old teacher was arrested in the staff room of the Bishop’s College in Kingstown on March 2, where she taught information technology, electronic document preparation and management and accounting.

Gonsalves, speaking at a press conference said that following the arrest, people “who have an interest not in truth but in hysteria and, in some instances, some persons who make judgment about others, perhaps on the basis of themselves,” had said that the arrest was political.

He said most of the commentary “pointed to Ralph.”

“I had absolutely no conversation with the police or the director of public prosecutions to charge this lady,” Gonsalves said.

“I have never in the 14 years plus since I am prime minister, never spoken to the commissioner of police, any commissioner, none of them can tell you that I’ve ever called them to speak to them about prosecuting somebody. I have never done it with any director of public prosecution. I respect the separation of powers as regards criminal prosecutions,” Gonsalves said.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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Review site tips power back into tenant's hands



From left, Felix Addison (COO), Ofo Ezeugwu (CEO) of WhoseYourLandlord.com with ABC News Production team representative.
Photo courtesy of ABC News

By Alley Olivier

The first major task for anyone moving to a new country, state or city is securing a place with running water and a formidable roof to call home.

Without knowledge of the housing markets, the laws associated with the housing authority and more, many are quick to sign leases without adequately understanding their rights as a tenant.

Stepping in to act as a buffer between tenant and landlord is Ofo Ezeugwu's review website "Whose Your Landlord" <http://www.whoseyourlandlord.com/>, providing a rating system tipping power into the tenant's hands.

"We use the possessive form of the word "who" because we're giving renters ownership of their situation by putting housing in their hands," Ezeugwu, CEO, details on his website.

The Temple University grad started the website in 2012 while running for vice president of Temple's student body

in his junior year. Whose Your Landlord's initial purpose was to allow student's to rate their landlords in the surrounding area's of the university's campus to help steer the next generation away from poor housing situations. Since then, it has expanded to include more than 40,000 users in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and more.

Most review sites allow for you to rate a business or person's services through a star system. To ensure a minority group isn't calling wolf for their one bad experience, Ezeugwu and his team comprising Felix Addison, COO, Nik Korablin, CTO and Phil Meyer, creative director created a system that relies on a personality test and qualitative information to create a less biased score.

"When we first started we had sliders from one to 10 which was a bad thing because if you love your landlord you'll just give him all 10's and on the flipside of that if you hate him

you'll give him all ones even if he did do better in some areas. We remastered our whole review process and made it in the sense of a personality test where you answer seven to eight questions that's limited to answers that are predisposed in front of you and you pick what fits you best. You don't see the answer until the very end so you get the fairest and unbiased information," he said.

For new Caribbean immigrants moving to New York and other major cities, Ezeugwu notices common red flags are ignored by those simply happy to have made it to the states unaware of the power they hold. Common missteps for new renters are incomplete checks of the building to scout for holes near electrical outlets and faucets, which might indicate a rodent or roach problem and failing to ensuring that water runs in all sinks. Another issue unique to Caribbean immigrants or people of

other cultures is the language barrier. For those with strong accents or looser understanding of English, landlords are able to use that to their advantage when ironing out details on the lease.

"I met a woman once who was paying \$800 a month for rent which isn't bad for New York but her heat was off and her water wasn't running but she was just happy to be here. You have people that are ok with it for the wrong reason because they just think that this is the way it is not realizing there are laws and regulations their property managers have to abide by," he said.

"A lot of times for Caribbean immigrants they have a strong accent or don't speak the language and landlords use that to get over on them. We don't realize how much power we have or what resources we have in front of us and because of that property managers and landlords have an infinite power especially in cities like New York where it is very competitive to get housing," he said.

To combat the prevalent issue, Ezeugwu urges new residents to always bring along a friend who can act as a third party witness for any verbal exchange between the tenant and landlord.

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If you or someone you care about is among the 20 million students the United States Department of Education predicts will graduate this year, congratulations.

Now, it's time to contemplate your next move: the one out of the dorm or campus apartment. To help, here are a few tips from the experts:

- Reserve the right truck well in advance. For most students, a 12- or 16-foot truck is right for the job. Just remember, you're not the only one moving out. Try to reserve the truck and any accessories — boxes, packing tape, bubble packing material, moving blankets, hand trucks and so on — at least two weeks in advance.

- Plan your travel time. Take into account the time of day, likely traffic patterns and stops.

- Get used to the truck before you drive away. Familiarize yourself with the truck's switches and gauges. Adjust the seat and side mirrors so they match your height and comfort zone.

Remember, it's likely to be taller, wider and heavier than the vehicle you're used to driving. That means you may have to drive more slowly and take extra precautions, particularly on turns. Also, be aware that trucks have oversized blind spots. Know

where these are.

- Take a close look at your rental agreement. Most include language from the U.S. Department of Transportation that prohibits the "carrying or hauling of explosives and other dangerous articles." That means you can't pack paint, chemicals and cleaning materials, flammable solvents, propane, gasoline and the like.

- Be sure to insure yourself. Most insurance and credit card companies won't cover truck rentals. You may want to sign up for additional coverage options to protect yourself and your belongings.

- Don't pack everything. Items you may need to grab in a hurry—such as paperwork, credit cards, identification, a change of clothes, drinks and snacks—should be kept close at hand in a travel bag with you in the cab.

- Pack it right. Load the heaviest items on the truck first. Always bend your knees and lift with your legs, never your back.

- Buddy up. Sharing the ride with a friend can help to defer some of your truck rental costs and the driving and provide some extra help with your boxes.

- Use discounts through AAA.
- For safety's sake, park only in well-lit areas and keep a padlock on the rear door.



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Caribbean workout

Continued from page 17

listening to the music, she increases the pace by adding in the shoulders or sway of the arms as it makes sense to the beat of whatever song is playing.

Unlike other dance aerobics classes, McKenzie routinely tells her team to check out their reflection in the mirror. Her aim is to not only provide a great workout to help the body but to ensure the women in attendance leave feeling good, both mentally and spiritually.

"She was able to correct me while going through the routine without making me feel self-conscious," said Chaquana Carr, a first-time participant.

For those unfamiliar with soca or

carnival, McKenzie encourages women willing to maintain an open mind who love music of all genres to come out and experience it for themselves. She also calls on women who might feel they lack rhythm to give themselves a chance to feel a sense of freedom and pride in their body and themselves.

"All women know how to whine. We all do it different and that's ok. I tell them to have fun with it," McKenzie said.

Boulay 360 hosts classes throughout the week in various locations throughout Brooklyn. Visit their website for more information on schedules and times. <http://boulay360.com/> dance fitness classes.

Bichotte

Continued from page 3

Against Racism (CDAR).

"Individuals born in the Dominican Republic should not have their citizenship status retroactively challenged," said New York State Assemblyman David I. Weprin, who joined his colleagues in voting for the resolution's passage.

"I wholeheartedly endorse Assemblywoman Bichotte's resolution that condemns the Dominican Republic's recent court decisions, which retroac-

tively deprived thousands of their own citizens of their fundamental right — the right to a nationality," he added.

The international human rights watchdog, Amnesty International USA, said it "welcomes the resolution and calls on all members of the Assembly to stand in solidarity with Dominicans of Haitian descent who have been stripped of their nationality."

The Dominican Republic government had stated that on or about June 15, 2015, it will begin mass deportations of Dominicans of Haitian descent from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country.

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2011	Mercedes GLK350, 44k	8159	\$19,995	2013	BWW 328i xDrive, 18k	3881	\$24,995
2011	Mercedes ML350, 25k	5589	\$21,888	2012	Mercedes E350, 20k	11628	\$24,995
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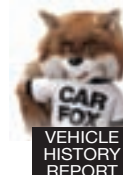
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Climate

Continued from page 14
bean.

The regional summit aims to list the initiatives of the Caribbean region “which must be integrated in a ‘schedule of solutions’ adapted to the specificities of these territories,” explains Maité Cabrera, a media relations official involved in the organisation of the Martinique meeting.

“It also aims to contribute to the writing of an ambitious and binding global agreement which must be adopted during COP21,” Cabrera tells IPS.

The Castries meeting of CARICOM climate change negotiators was also a stocktaking gathering at which officials examined the status of their proposals ahead of COP 21.

“Our negotiators have been involved in negotiations; the first round of negotiations was in Geneva this year. There are still negotiations to take place on a range of issues — adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and a range of issues,” Fletcher tells IPS.

“This really allows us to take stock of how the negotiations are going and what are the main issues and where we should be identifying with the negotiations,” he says. A third element of the Castries gathering had to do with preparing for a meeting of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and CARICOM leaders at the CARICOM Head of Government meeting in Barbados in July.

“So, again, we are looking to develop a position that will allow our heads to speak with one position, one unified position on climate change in that meeting with the Secretary General, which, again, deals with climate change and climate finance.”

Fletcher is optimistic that the Caribbean will make progress on its positions on climate change ahead of and ultimately at COP 21, saying that the region has been “very united in its position on climate change.”

“If there is one thing I can say from the time I have been involved in this process is that Caribbean heads, Caribbean countries have all been united on our issues, there is no disagreement amount us,” says Fletcher, who has attended several COPs, including in Warsaw in 2013 and Lima in 2014.

However, he also identified areas in which the region can do more to shore up its negotiating ahead of Paris.

“I think what needs to happen a little more is coordination and this is what today’s meeting is about, ensuring that that coordination is there,” he tells IPS, adding that coordination worked well at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Samoa last year.

Fletcher tells IPS that at the Samoa conference “there was a very strong Caribbean presence and a very good coordinated presence to ensure that we were able to speak with the same voice and that is what we are aiming for in Paris this year.”

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Braata fills bankra with cultural folk treats



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



Actress Hillary Roosevelt Ricketts learning about the "Breadfruit" from Braata Folk Singers members.

Photo courtesy of Braata Folk Singers

After delivering a short but sweet sampling of their folkloric capacity and in the process ensuring a delightful early Mother's Day treat, the Braata singers are now gearing for a full-fledged performance with an inaugural staging of a Bankra Caribbean Folk Festival.

Colorful, cultural and oozing with Caribbean pride, members of the group sang and danced their specialty recently in front of Jamaica's former Prime Minister Percival J. Patterson when he spoke at Medgar Evers College and for their effort received thunderous applause.

The talented troupe could be considered exhibitionists, the way each member flaunt their heritage is somewhat of a display and homage to pastimes, nostalgia and a unique treasury distinct to the Caribbean region.

Often costumed in bandanas, floral patterns, peasant blouses, head-wraps and a rainbow of bright colors, their mere appearance sets an atmosphere of tropical, Caribbean revelry.

However, coupled with that alluring aspect, their embrace of an education and outreach

element extends their mission of 'showcasing the best of the Caribbean and its people' — they give something extra.

The gift they promise on June 7 is the first ever Bankra Basket Caribbean Folk Festival. From the group that fully explained the patois word 'brawta' and configured its plus facility to encompass the moniker now synonymous with more, encore and something extra, Bankra, may emerge another word familiar to others beyond a specific sector in the region.

"A bankra is a Jamaican traveling basket; usually woven, and is often carried or used as a display for a wide variety of produce. The name is inherited from the Twi language of Ghana (bonkara)."

Therefore the program for the day will feature basket weaving and extras to indulge

adults and children. One of the main attractions will also be performances by some of the very best cultural, performance groups from the Caribbean.

From 3:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. groups representing Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica will virtually turn back the clock to reprise folk songs familiar to their heritage. Something Positive, La Troupe Zetwal, Adlib Steel Orchestra, AJA, Impressions Dance Theatre, Boodooosingh Tassa Group, Quake and a growing list of performers are billed.

Along with cultural exhibits, a drumming session, magician, JJ the Clown, games, animal farm, a food pavilion, body art, and surprises for the children — 12 and under will be admitted free of charge — brawta should be expected.

According to the organizers there will be three major com-

ponents to the festival:

- (1) The Stalls/Island Baskets
- (2) The Cultural Performances
- (3) Effigy Walkway

They claim that the impetus for the event is to dedicate folk forms and folk culture to "stimulate nostalgia for those who grew up with it, provide learning opportunities for others who had no knowledge of it,

and help reestablish the importance, and relevance of folk as a viable, vibrant contributor to the Caribbean brand."

Slated for The Jamaica Performing Arts Centre, 153-10 Jamaica Ave, on June 7, the doors will swing open at noon with a curfew at 8:00 p.m.

For more information, log on to www.braataproductions.org.

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David "Chang-I" Morgan performs at the Sugar Mill Night Club in Brooklyn. Photo by Nelson A. King

Chang-I wins Vincy New Song contest

By Nelson A. King

Chang-I is certainly "feeling good in ah de neighborhood" after dethroning defending champion Dennis Bowman to snatch the Vincy New York New Song Competition Saturday night / Sunday morning at the Sugar Mill Night Club in Brooklyn.

Toronto-based Chang-I, 49, whose real name is David Morgan, stole the show in a field of nine competitors that also included veteran Vincentian soca artistes and calypsonians John "The Truth" Dougan, Fabulous T, Jakie and Bob MC.

Continued on Page 36

NY celebrates African cinema

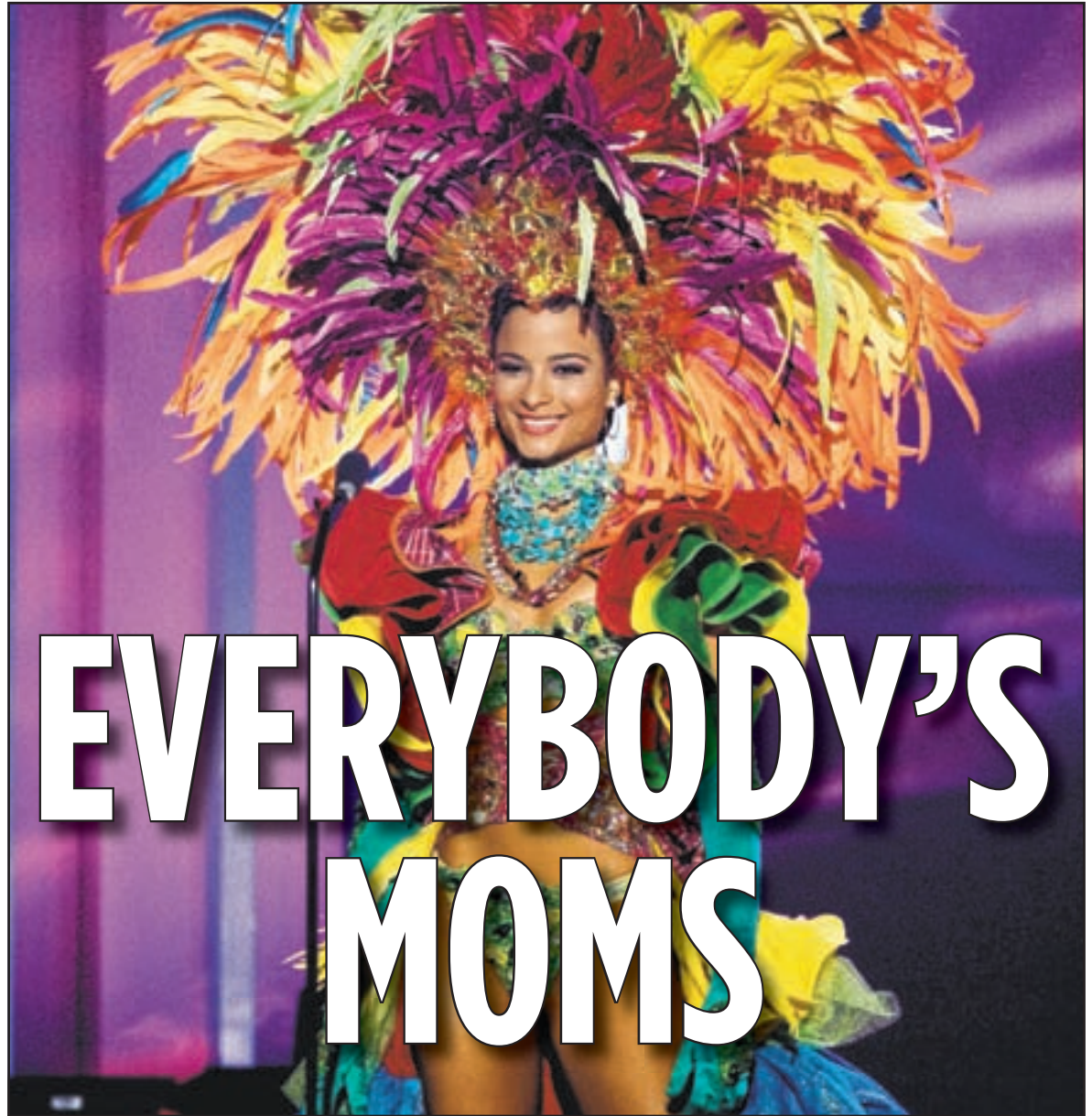
By Tequila Minsky

A town hall African artist salon at the Greene Performance Space kicked off the upcoming 22nd edition of the African Film Festival New York (NYAFF).

Many artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers, among others, relished in the discussion of African diaspora artists living and creating outside of the continent and got a hint of the upcoming festival.

The two-week festival, which opened on Wednesday, May 6, with the N.Y. premiere of the South African film "noir Cold Harbour," will screen in three venues.

Continued on Page 36



EVERYBODY'S MOMS

Miss Jamaica, Kaci Fennell poses for the judges, during the national costume show during the 63rd annual Miss Universe Competition in Miami, Fla., Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. Associated Press / J Pat Carter

Caribbean artists entertain moms

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College will spring to life on Mother's Day Saturday, May 9 at 8:00 p.m. when some of the hottest Caribbean artistes and personalities such as Lyrikal, Becket, Delcita and Kaci Fennell, Miss Universe Jamaica entertain moms.

It is the annual "Mother We Love You Concert" produced by EVERYBODY'S "Caribbean" magazine on Mother's Day Saturday. The spectacular concert also features Nikki Crosby – with her 2015 massive hit,

"Go-Granny, second runner-up in the 2015 International Soca Monarch. Nikki Crosby will unquestionably inspire everyone.

Kaci Fennell, Miss Universe Jamaica is a motivator. The younger generation will enjoy her presence and message. "I am looking forward to greet moms at the concert and to make their weekend very enjoyable," says Kaci who is a proponent of healthy eating habits amongst young people.

Biggie Irie, the versatile soca and

reggae singer from Barbados, is expected to render his hits, "Ode to Jamaica" and "Nah Goin Home."

Soca star Chucky Gordon, the 2015 National Calypso Monarch of Trinidad & Tobago, is also performing. Gordon won the title in 2014. He is T&T 50th Anniversary of Independence Calypso Monarch.

Becket, the calypso icon from St. Vincent & the Grenadines, plans to render his Mother's Day classic, "Mama." Will he sing "Teaser," "Pres-

Continued on Page 36

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Computer nerd falls for Fembot with free will

Ex Machina
Excellent (4 stars)
Rated R for profanity,
violence, sexual
references and
graphic nudity
Running time:
108 minutes
Distributor: A24



Domnhall Gleeson (pictured above) plays a computer programmer in a scene from "Ex Machina."
Photo courtesy of www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

Caleb Smith (Domnhall Gleeson) works as a computer programmer for Blue Book, the most popular internet search engine in the world. As the winner of a staff lottery, he is summoned to the secluded, hilltop retreat of the company's reclusive CEO, Nathan Bateman (Oscar Isaac).

Only after being brought there by corporate helicopter does the nerdy 26-year-old discover that his billionaire boss has a hidden agenda. As it turns out, the place is less a home than a high-tech facility dedi-

cated to conducting research in artificial intelligence.

But before Caleb is allowed to stay, he's forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement promising to keep secret what he's about to witness. Nathan next explains

that it's an invention, an android he wants Turing tested, meaning examined for any software flaws revealing it as non-human.

He then introduces his curious guest to Ava (Alicia Vikander), the fetching fembot

he wants studied over the course of a week. Caleb is surprised by her level of sophistication, since her brain is complex enough to discern the connotation of idioms like "breaking the ice." He's even more impressed by her

non-deterministic nature, as she appears to have been successfully programmed with free will.

The plot thickens several days into the project when Ava senses Caleb has developed feelings for her. At that point, the attractive automaton quietly confides her fears about being expendable in the eyes of Nathan who wouldn't have a second thought about wiping her memory banks clean once she's no longer considered state-of-the-art. After all, that's what he's done to each of her mothballed predecessors in his relentless quest to build a better cyborg.

Where does Caleb's loyalty lie? With the callous employer he suddenly sees as a heartless tinkerer? Or with the flesh-covered machine exhibiting a full range of emotions, including a seductive vulnerability? That is the dilemma confronting the anguished protagonist in "Ex Machina," an intriguing sci-fi adventure marking the splendid directorial debut of Alex Garland.

Independent & Foreign Films

5 Flights Up (PG-13 for profanity and naked images) Slice-of-life drama, set in Brooklyn, revolving around the trial and tribulations of a retired couple (Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton) being pressured by their niece (Cynthia Nixon) to sell the rundown home they've shared for the past 40 years. With Carrie Preston, Miriam Shor and Alysia Reiner.

1001 Grams (Unrated) Poignant character study about a nerdy Norwegian (Ane Dahl Torp) who is shaken out of her comfort zone after crossing paths with a fellow scientist (Laurent Stocker) while attending a seminar in Paris. Cast includes Stein Winge, Hildegun Riise and Didier Flamand. (In Norwegian, French and English with subtitles)

The D Train (R for nudity, graphic sexuality, profanity and drug use) Unlikely-buddies comedy about a social zero's (Jack Black) desperate attempt to convince his high school's boy most likely (James Marsden) to attend their 20th reunion. With Kathryn Hahn, Jeffrey Tambor and Russell Posner.

Hunting Elephants (Unrated) Israeli crime comedy, set in Jerusalem, about a trio of revenge-minded retirees (Sasson Gabai, Patrick Stewart and Moni Moshonov) who hatch a plan to rob a bank with the help of a precocious



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

12-year-old (Gil blank). Support cast includes Yael Abecassis, Tzvika Hadar and Moshe Ivgy. (In Hebrew and English with subtitles)

I Am Big Bird (Unrated) Reverential retrospective covering the enduring career of Carroll Spinney, the 81 year-old puppeteer who has played Big Bird on Sesame Street since 1969. Featuring commentary by Frank Oz, Sonia Manzano and the late Jim Henson.

Maggie (PG-13 for profanity, mature themes and disturbing images) Abigail Breslin stars as the title character in this post-apocalyptic thriller, set in the Midwest, as an ill-fated teen whose dad (Arnold Schwarzenegger) stands by her side after she's infected with the deadly virus sweeping the nation that slowly turns its victims into cannibalistic zombies. Cast includes Joely Richardson, Laura Cayouette and Denise Williamson.

Noble (PG-13 for violence, sexuality and mature themes) Deirdre O'Kane handles the title role in this biopic about Christina Noble, the Irish spinster who, in 1989, founded an orphanage in Vietnam for hundreds of homeless kids roaming the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. With Sarah Greene, Gloria Cramer Curtis and Brendan Coyle.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES and GOLD CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT present a GOLD CIRCLE ENTERTAINMENT/BROWNSTONE production "PITCH PERFECT 2" ANNA KENDRICK KEEL WILSON HALLIE STEINFIELD BRITTANY SNOW SKYLAR ASTIN ADAM DEVINE KATY SAGAL ANNA CAMP ALEXIS KNAPP HANA MAE LEE with JOHN MICHAEL HUGHES and ELIZABETH BANKS SUPERVISOR SARAH WEISTER MUSIC PRODUCER JULIANNE JORDAN JULIA MICHELS WRITTEN BY MARK MOTHERSCHAUGH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SCOTT WHEENEY PRODUCED BY PAUL BROOKS MAX HANDELMAN ELIZABETH BANKS WRITTEN BY KAY CANNON DIRECTED BY ELIZABETH BANKS

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Earned It (Fifty Shades..)**
The Weeknd
- 2 **Love Me Like I Do**
Ellie Goulding
- 3 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 4 **Sugar**
Maroon 5
- 5 **Style**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Somebody**
Natalie La Rose
- 7 **Shut up & Dance**
Walk the Moon
- 8 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 9 **Want to Want Me**
Jason Derulo
- 10 **One Last Time**
Ariana Grande

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Sound & Color**
Alabama Shakes
- 2 **Love Story**
YelaWolf
- 3 **Tomorrow We Live**
KB
- 4 **Cama Incendiada**
Mana
- 5 **Furious 7**
Soundtrack
- 6 **Kindred**
Passion Pit
- 7 **Montevallo**
Sam Hunt
- 8 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 9 **If You're Reading This...**
Drake
- 10 **I Hold My Beer, Vol. 1**
Randy Rogers & Wade Bowen



African Film Fest

Continued from page 33

The festival's opening leg is at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's (FSLC) Walter Reade Theater (5/6-5/12), followed by four days of screenings at Harlem's Maysles Cinema and wrapping at BAMCinematek (5/22-5/25).

There used to be a time when the only images coming from Africa were about poverty, dictators and natural disasters. Some 25 years ago, NYAFF Founder Mahen Bonetti's aim was to create a festival to challenge the prevailing narrative about Africa through the cinematic arts.

These (negative stereotypes) things existed Bonetti admits, "But there are so many positive things about Africa, particularly its rich culture, that must be celebrated." And, she set out to bring different observations and interpretations to a New York audience. Bonetti told those gathered Friday night how moved she was at the public's overwhelming response to the films over the years.

The festival's centerpiece film, "Red Leaves" by Ethiopian-Israeli Bazi Gete, is a tale of an aging Ethiopian immigrant in Israel caught between his fight to keep homeland traditions

alive and his children's way of life in Israel — a film about family, tradition and modernity (Lincoln Ctr-5/8, 5/10).

Twenty-six films in the festival include a mystery/crime film, dramatic narratives, documentaries and shorts. Films take place or are from filmmakers from Ghana, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Israel, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, and Egypt.

There are numerous New York premieres, five U.S. premieres, two classics revived ("Black Orpheus," "Kirikou and the Sorceress"), a work-in-progress documentary preview and a screening of the Foreign Film Academy Award nominee Timbuktu (BAMCinematek-5/23).

A festival subtheme "Women in the Media" explores strides of female filmmakers in the past decade and a half. Films include: "100% Dakar-More Than Art" by Sandra Krampelhuber, "Cold Harbour" by Carey McKenzie, "Love the One You Love" by Jenna Bass, "The Narrow Frame of Midnight" by Tala Hadid, "Mossane" by Safi Faye (closing night 5/12), and "The Prophecy" by Marcia Juzga, and



Singer / rapper Blitz the Ambassador, along with socially conscious duo Les Nubians, and author Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond (Power Necklance) participated in the panel African Artists living in the Diaspora and discussed living and creating outside the continent.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

"Ziara." Many of the filmmakers will speak and field questions following the screenings.

In Short Programs #2 (Lincoln Center, 5/6, 5/8): Women in the Media presents seven insightful diverse films by women from a retelling of Rosa Parks in "Bus Nut" by Akousa Adoma Owusu to a young girl's encounter with the Orishas in "The Summer of Gods" by Eliciana Nascimento.

A free art exhibition "The Prophecy" accompanies the festival from May 6 - 17 at the Amphitheater in the Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center. The environmental-themed photo-

graphs represent the intersection of art, fashion, mythology, and nature and raise awareness of environmental concerns. A behind-the-scenes digital exhibit of stills by Fabrice Monteiro will show how the Beninese-Belgian photographer created the images.

Festival Founder and Director Bonetti revisits her mission, "We see that our community has not only helped bring our masters to the attention of global audiences but that we continue to push to the forefront new voices that celebrate Africa in this important moment in history."

Moms

Continued from page 33

blockbuster?

"Mother We Love You concert" is for the entire family including children of all ages. As a result, EVERYBODY'S is pleased to introduce the Batingua Dance Company consisting of teenage dancers. Josh Boyce, a 12-year old Barbadian-American, who won a scholarship to study dance at the famed National Dance Institute in Harlem is making his debut on the big stage.

The Sunshine Band led by Sunshine Diaz is providing live music.

"We thank readers and fans who suggested mothers for saluting. Four mothers will be recognized at the concert," says concert manager Michelle Young.

The moms to be honored are Mrs. Gloria Renee-Murray of Grenada, Mrs. Bibi Zoriena Sankar of Guyana, Mrs. Mavis Cameron, president of the Jamaican-American Adventist



Barbadian reggae and soca singer Biggie Irie.

Association and Ms. Simone HoSang, director of Nutrition Department of Royal Caribbean Bakery.

All seats are reserved. Tickets for the Mother's Day Saturday concert are can be purchased at Brooklyn Center Box Office (718) 951-4500 and Caribbean outlets.

Online at <http://everybodysmag.com/featured/mothers-day-saturday-concert-may-9th>.

Vincy contest winner

Continued from page 33

"It's a long time coming," exclaimed Chang-I after Ainsley Primus, president of the Brooklyn-based organizing group, Level Vibes Promotions, presented him with the winning trophy about 2:55 a.m. on Sunday.

"I always tell myself that, if I work hard, I'll get to the top," the former vocalist with defunct Vincentian bands, Resurrection, of Barrouallie, and Asterisks, of Layou, later told Caribbean Life in an exclusive interview. "I realize that, whenever you work hard, it [reward] always comes to fruition."

The former Barrouallie Secondary School (BSS) student, who sang his way to the grand finale in the National Calypso Competition in Vincy Mas 2013 — with "100 Percent Vincy" and "Who Feel De Pinch" — said he wanted to return to traditional soca songs with "Ah Feeling Good."

"Traditional soca music is hardly being played these days," said Chang-I, who is also the lead vocalist and co-founder of

the Toronto-based Caribbean soca band, Moses Revolution.

"I said to my friend, Moses (Trinidadian with whom Chang-I co-founded the band in 1990), 'we need the traditional soca songs,'" he added.

With a jumpy beat, the first verse of "Ah Feeling Good" goes: "It's Friday evening, and I ain't tired yet/Just finished working/Ah going home and rest/Ah jump in de shower/And ah start getting dress/Cause dis is de weekend we going out to fete."

The chorus: "Ah feeling good/Yes, ah feeling good in the neighborhood/Tonight, in the neighborhood/Ah feeling nice/Yes, ah feeling alright in the neighborhood/Tonight, in the neighborhood."

Chang-I, who began competing in the New Song Competition in New York in 2013 and was runner-up in 2013 and 2014 — losing by just one point to Dougan in 2013 and conceding to Bowman last year — said he was "feeling good" in capturing the crown for the first time.

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Justin Belnavis of St. Francis Prep High School on the court.

Photo by Clifton Belnavis

Doubles netter seeks title

By Robert Elkin

It has been a team effort with all five positions coming out victorious and some by big scores at St. Francis Prep High School as its tennis team seeks a title. With two players already committing to college, one member of the tennis team Justin Belnavis still has not made up his mind about whether he stays locally or goes out of town.

Justin, a former volley ball player during his third year of high school, returned to tennis, and is primarily a doubles player at St. Francis Prep, located in Fresh Meadows, Queens. Now he is concentrating mainly on the racquet activity.

During the time that he was compet-

Continued on Page 40

Cricket panel to review WICB

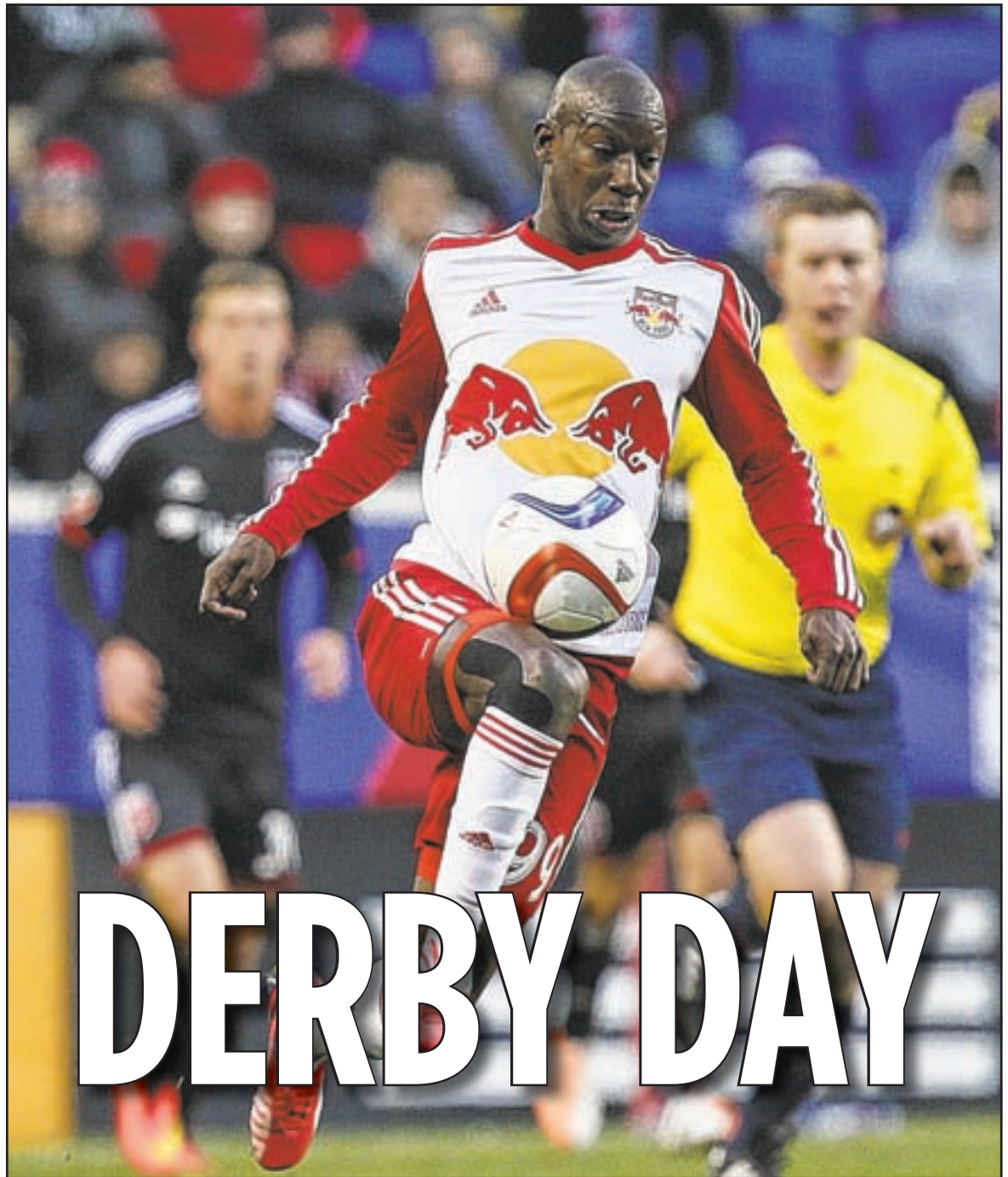
By Azad Ali

CARICOM and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) have agreed to establish a panel to conduct a review of the government's structure of the board.

This was the major outcome of a near five-hour meeting between CARICOM Cricket Governance Committee and the directors of the management of the WICB in Grenada recently.

CARICOM Chairman, Perry Christie, Prime Minister of the Bahamas and CARICOM secretary general, Ambassador Irwin La Rocque, also attended the meeting which took place recently at

Continued on Page 40



DERBY DAY

New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips (99) takes the ball up field during the second half of an MLS soccer game against D.C. United, Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Harrison, N.J. The Red Bulls won 2-0.

Associated Press / John Minchillo

NY-NJ teams seek bragging rights

By Patrick Horne

Sunday, May 10, is 'Derby Day' when both local MLS teams go toe-to-toe for bragging right in the New York / New Jersey metropolitan area. The New York Red Bulls will host New York City FC at its haven — Red Bull Arena in Harrison (NJ), a place where the Red

Bulls seldom lose - in the first of three MLS matchups between the clubs this season. The nationally televised showdown will kick off at 7:00 p.m. on Fox Sports One.

Soccer everywhere thrives on derbies, local rivalries that encourage the competition to spill into the stands

and continue as talking points in the neighborhoods and workplaces. In England, there is the famous Manchester Derby between (Manchester) United and (Manchester) City; in London, there is never a dull moment when Chelsea FC meets Tottenham FC

Continued on Page 40

Continued from page 39

ing in volleyball, he really liked this sport. He said that volley ball was kind of similar to tennis, and that's why he switched back to tennis.

Justin's father Clifton is a native of Jamaica, West Indies who resides in Elmont, Long Island. Before taking up residence here Belnavis lived in England.

It was Clifton who first introduced his son into tennis at a young age. When Justin was about five years old, the two went to a nearby park to get him into the sport. The youngster joined a program conducted by Bill Biggs and along with his staff introduced him into the sport. Justin enjoyed tennis and played often at Roy Wilkins Park and in the Youth and Tennis program.

Justin took advantage of the lessons, kept on improving under the direction of Briggs and he continued the sport when he entered high school.

In a dual match against Archbishop Molloy High School, held at the latter's home site, Alley Pond Park, he teamed with Matt Curceo to defeat Molloy's Brendan Silva and Christian Cirillo, 6-0, 6-1, in second doubles to help his team win, 5-0. St. Francis after the match remained undefeated in dual competition by the same 5-0 score.

Justin said that he speaks with his father 24-7.

"He sees potential in me," Justin went on. "He (along with head coach at St. Francis Prep John Brennan) help me out. He tells me not to be nervous (on the court). Just go out and play your (match)."

During his time at St. Francis Prep, he stopped playing tennis for a while because he was getting better in volleyball. He's back again at tennis concentrating on one sport.

"In tennis, I still have to work on my net game and back hand, (to be a complete player)," he went on. "Now I love tennis!"

Coach Brennan feels optimistic about the team winning the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association city-wide tennis championship come later on in the month. Fordham Prep is the defending title holder, and in a dual match already earlier in the season, the Terriers won the match.



New York City FC's Kwadwo Poku, left, jumps over Seattle Sounders FC's Osvaldo Alonso during the second half of an MLS soccer game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, May 3, 2015. The Sounders defeated the New York City FC 3-1.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

NJ, NY soccer showdown

Continued from page 39

or when either those clubs plays Arsenal FC. Italy has the Milan Derby between Inter (Milan) and AC (Athletic Club of Milan). The MLS has its share of these rivalries as well, just take in a Western Conference Portland Timbers-Seattle Sounders matchup and watch the fans sing and shout and sit on the edge of their seats from start to finish; or watch the Canadian teams in MLS as they battle for the Amway Canadian Championship between Toronto FC, Montreal Impact and the Vancouver Whitecaps. The game is made of derbies, nerve-racking but exciting contests that are most memorable; and for the still-growing MLS, these added attractions are important for fans interest and growth.

After Sunday's Red Bulls-New York FC showdown, the teams will meet again in Yankee Stadium, home of the inaugural New York FC franchise, on June 28 and kick back to Red Bull Arena on Aug. 9, both Sunday games. The first

contest, though, is always the most important and usually the most exciting as it sets the tone and establishes the mental advantage for the winner.

The teams are on very different paths, but most of the season is still ahead. The established New York Red Bulls (3-1-4) set a season-opening record, playing seven games undefeated, but that streak ended with a 2-1 loss at old rival New England Revolution last Saturday, May 2, while New York FC (0-5-2) is still winless after a 3-1 home loss to the Seattle Sounders last Sunday.

The Red Bulls surprised many who believed that this year could well be a very difficult season after parting with popular coach Mike Petke, who led the team to its first Supporters' Shield Trophy (the regular season title) in 2013, and also losing inspirational captain Thierry Henry, strong defender Jamison Olave and experienced midfielder Tim Cahill, but new coach Jesse Marsh managed to retool the team and give it

a very promising outlook.

New York City FC is still hoping that Spain international, David Villa, dogged by injury, will eventually live up to his lethal-striker billing, and that former England international Frank Lampard will arrive soon from parent club Manchester City to help rescue the Jason Kreis-led team that seems searching for a field leader and starving for goals.

What also really makes Sunday's matchup exciting, area bragging rights notwithstanding, are the underlying duels that exists: former Red Bull Mehdi Ballouchy has been scoring goals for New York City FC and may have something to prove; and so will two U.S. internationals – the Red Bulls Sacha Kljestan and Mix Dixkerud of NYFC — who will be in a midfield battle. The two American coaches, Marsh and Kreis, will be locked in a tactical tussle, which will certainly add to the contest, but most importantly is the battle for the local fans.

WI Cricket Board under review

Continued from page 39

the Spice Island Beach Resort.

President of the WICB, Whycliffe "Dave" Cameron led the board's team, which included the vice-president, directors, as well as the chief executive officer and corporate secretary.

The Cricket Governance Committee, which initiated the meeting, was established by the heads of government to

review the administrative and governance structure of WICB with a view to involving greater stakeholder participation.

It comprises the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell as chairman, Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda, Gaston Browne and Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

It was agreed that the prime minister

of Grenada, as chairman of the Cricket Governance Committee, will consult with the president of the WICB on the composition of the five-member panel.

According to a WICB press release, the CARICOM secretary general will prepare the terms of reference for the work of the panel and submit them to Prime Minister Mitchell who will also consult with the president of the WICB.

The Cricket Governance Committee and the WICB have also agreed that the panel will submit its recommendations within three months of the commence-

ment of its evaluation.

Upon receipt of the report, both sides are intent on collaborating with each other with a view to reversing the current negative trends in the sport and governance.

The panel will comprise a member of the legal profession, a West Indies cricket legend, someone from academia, a member of the private sector and an individual knowledge of the work of the WICB.

Both parties expressed satisfaction of the outcome of the meeting.

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West Indies has multiple areas of concern



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte



West Indies' captain Denesh Ramdin, left, and teammate Jermaine Blackwood celebrate defeating England by five wickets during day three of their third Test match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Sunday, May 3, 2015.
Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan

West Indies fast bowler Kumar Roach has been out of form for a long period and that has caused a major problem with the West Indies team winning. Jerome Taylor was left with the heavy burden of trying to get the opposition out and inexperienced opening batsmen caused the team many setbacks early in the match. Kraigg Braithwaite so far has done a reasonable good job as an opening batsman but has problems with the lifting ball and edging too much to the slips.

Jermaine Blackwood is a fine middle order batsman but others in the order have to step up to stabilize the batting. Captain Denesh Ramdin must be on top of his game. He is an experienced player and he must produce to enhance the efforts of the team. Bowling will be a main concern when Australia visits this June.

VEERASAMMY PERMAUL HAS GREAT POTENTIAL

Variation seems to be lacking with all the West Indies bowlers. Bowling Coach Curtly

Ambrose must have discussed with the bowlers to not bowl the same line continuously. Sulieman Benn is out of the squad because he bowls the same line frequently. He comes up with no slower nor faster flighted balls. Any quality spinner knows the importance of variation — one quicker straight ball from a spinner always has the possibility of picking up wickets. Australia's Shane Warne is a perfect example.

Veerasammy Permaul seems to understand what it takes to pick up wickets. He still has to use the faster ball much more often. Devendra Bishoo is not a big turner of the ball and he bowls too short.

WEST INDIES WIN BY ALLROUND PERFORMANCES

Apart from the fine performances from the West

Indies bowlers, their batsmen, Darren Bravo and Jermaine Blackwood played pivotal roles to ensure that the West Indies won the third and final Test match of the series. Blackwood and Bravo gathered a partnership of 108 runs. Bravo scored 82 and Blackwood 47 not out and he scored 85 in the first innings with 11 fours and 4 sixes.

WEST INDIES TIE SERIES 1-1

West Indies defeated England by five wickets within three days at the Kensington Oval Ground in Barbados to even the series 1-1. England had scores of 257 and 123, the West Indies 189 and 194 for 5. For England, Captain Alastair Cook scored 105 and for the West Indies Jerome Taylor picked up 3 wickets for 36 runs in first innings. Fast bowler James Anderson who

was named man of the series, picked up 6 wickets for 42 runs in the first innings from 12.4 overs.

TAYLOR, HOLDER AND PERMAUL WRECK ENGLAND

West Indies bowlers dis-

played some spectacular performances in the second innings of the third and final Test match. Jerome Taylor 3 for 33, Veerasammy Permaul 3 for 43 and Jason Holder 3 for 15. England was bowled out for 123 runs in their second innings.





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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

At the heart of the American story is the simple truth that all children should have a fair chance at success, no matter who they are or where they come from. Central to this promise of opportunity are the love and support of family — which all girls and boys deserve, but not enough have. During National Foster Care Month, we recommit to caring for all our Nation's daughters and sons, and we reaffirm our basic belief: in America, there is a place for everyone, and no young person should feel like they are on their own.

Over the last decade, our Nation has made significant progress in reducing the number of young people in foster care, but we have more work to do to ensure all children can thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Today, there are over 400,000 boys and girls in our foster care system. More than 100,000 of them are waiting to be adopted, and every year, 23,000 young people age out of the system — never having found the security of a permanent home. There also continue to be disproportionate numbers of African-American and Native American youth in the foster care system, compounding the disparities these communities too often face.

All young people, regardless of what they look like, which religion they follow, who they love, or the gender they identify with, deserve the chance to dream and grow in a loving, permanent home. When our Nation's daughters and sons lack stable homes and



strong support structures, they face enormous barriers to reaching their fullest potential — difficulties no child should have to experience, especially not on their own. And those who age out of the foster care system often face obstacles as they transition into adulthood, including challenges completing their education, remaining financially secure, and staying out of the justice system.

My Administration is committed to expanding what is possible for all our Nation's children and empowering them to overcome every challenge they face. From day one, we have been working to create a better, more-supportive foster care system, and we have taken steps to increase the safety, permanency, and well-being of America's children. Last year,

we announced new initiatives to help protect the financial security of foster youth, expand their opportunities for education and employment, and keep them out of the justice system. We are partnering with State and tribal leaders to support innovative strategies that strengthen families, improve the foster care system, and prevent children from entering it in the first place, and each day we continue the fight to secure every child's right to earn their piece of the American dream.

We know that children are best raised in families, not institutions. And each year, men and women of all backgrounds open their homes and hearts to foster children. These selfless individuals step up and serve as loving parents and family members and dedicated teachers, mentors, caseworkers, and faith leaders — helping foster children realize their highest aspirations despite the great odds stacked against them.

My Administration is striving to bolster all those who support foster children by providing the resources and assistance they need. With so many children waiting for loving homes, it is important to ensure all qualified caregivers have the opportunity to serve as foster or adoptive parents, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. That is why we are working to break down the barriers that exist and investing in efforts to recruit more qualified parents for children in foster care.

In the face of often unimaginable

challenges, foster children demonstrate extraordinary courage and determination. Their resolve reminds us that we have obligations to them and to one another, and that we all share in the responsibility of lifting up our Nation's youth. This month, we honor these young people and all those who dedicate themselves to making a difference in the lives of girls and boys in foster care. Let us each recognize the large and small ways we can brighten the future of a foster child this month and every month, and together let us reach for the day when everyone knows the love and safety of a permanent home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as National Foster Care Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by taking time to help youth in foster care and recognizing the commitment of all who touch their lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you will have a lot energy this week. Channel your energy into a project that is especially meaningful to you and those you love.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Nervous energy may leave you feeling a bit out of sorts, Taurus. Find a way to keep busy so your nerves don't get the better of you. Invite a friend over.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a friend may be in a bind and come to you for advice and assistance. Find the right words to heal any wounds and provide the support this person needs.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Changes at home make this an exciting time for you, Cancer. Enjoy these changes for the excitement they bring and take some time to reflect on the good things in your life.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, resist the urge to offer advice unless you are asked to do so. You do not need to expend extra energy on something that is beyond your control and does not concern you.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
You may have to use your intuition to get to the root of a situation, Virgo. Even financial concerns can be resolved if you go with your gut. Trust a friend to help you out.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, make the most of some upcoming free time. Use the down time to reflect on where you want to be going forward and what you need to do to get there.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you have a need to keep a secret, but the excitement is building and making it hard to do so. Keep in mind the surprise will be that much better if you hold out.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a hectic schedule may compromise your ability to get together with friends. Although you may be disappointed, there will be other opportunities.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
A visitor needs a little sympathy and compassion from you this week, Capricorn. His or her situation can put life in perspective and help calm your own nerves.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Plans for a vacation could be hampered by circumstances beyond your control, Aquarius. It may come down to funds being needed elsewhere. Your time for travel will come.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, some unexpected news is coming your way. Prepare yourself for a change and keep the faith that the change will be positive.

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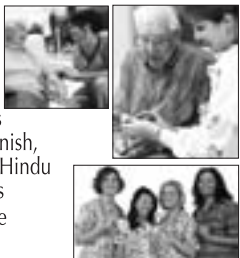
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Leticia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble.

Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

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NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the installation of new Landscape Plantings at Riverbank State Park, Manhattan Borough, New York will be received by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), New York City Region at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building at 163 West 125th Street – 17th Floor, New York, NY 10027 until **11:00 am local time, June 3, 2015** when they will be publicly opened and read. Each bid must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and must be accompanied by Bid Security in the form of a certified check, bank check, or bid bond in the amount of:

General Construction Contract D004699 \$5,000.00 Five thousand dollars

1. General Construction Contract: A general description of the primary work elements is listed below for reference – Contractor is responsible for reviewing all the drawings and specifications to obtain a complete understanding of the entire work scope):
- a. Demolition / removals / earthwork / excavation
 - b. Installation of new landscape tree plantings, inclusive of planting soils and planting "accessories" as noted on the drawings
 - c. Resettlement of concrete pavers around specific tree pit locations

(Refer to Specification Section 011000 for more information – the description above is a general summary of the work). Contractor is responsible for construction in accordance with the Project Manual, drawings and any addendum that may be issued.

Alternate Price Item: Provide alternate price for items outlined in Specification Section 012300.

MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION GOALS

The following goals for MWBE participation on this project have been established at:

Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)	13%
Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)	17%
MWBE Combined Goal	30%

PROJECT COMPLETION

The completion date for this project is **90 days** after agreement has been approved by the NYS Comptroller's Office.

PROJECT SPECIFIC LIQUIDATED DAMAGES (Refer to General Conditions Article 14). GC Contract = \$500.00 per day

Starting on the advertisement date, the Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge and obtained in person or by mail from Yuriy Khodosh (212-866-3494) at the New York City Regional Office located at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building – 163 West 125th Street – 17th Floor – New York, NY 10027 for a non-refundable fee of **\$49.00 (per set) and shipping and handling as applicable**. Make checks payable to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

In accordance with State Finance Law, Section 139j, the following agency staff has been designated as contacts for this contract:

Stephen McCorkell, RLA:
(518-474-1352) (Stephen.McCorkell@Parks.NY.Gov)

Please note that contacting any other agency staff regarding this contract may be a violation of State Finance Law, Section 139j, resulting in a determination of contractor non-responsibility.

BONDS

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Bond in the statutory form of public bonds required by Sections 136 and 137 of the State Finance Law, each for 100% of the amount of the Contract.

All RFI's are due by: **1:00 pm** on May 20, 2015

RFI'S RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

A formal Pre-Bid meeting has not been scheduled for this project. However, all interested bidders are encouraged to visit the site – which is open to the public (8:00 am – 5:00 pm). Work areas are clearly visible and accessible.

ANTIQUE LOVERS TAKE NOTE- BRIMFIELD, MA starts Tuesday May 12th. 5,000 Dealers of Antiques/Collectibles. Visit: www.brimfield.com for info on 20 individual show openings. May 12th- 17th 2015

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OBITUARIES

Carmen Foster
9/22/1939 - 1/6/2015

Age 75. Born in Georgetown Guyana. Came to America in January 1969. Nursing career in England. Nursing career in America at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan (NY). Retired from Verizon in 1990. Married Tony in September 1974. Children, George and Deborah. Brothers, Anthony and Compton. Sister, Shirley. Stepbrother, Desmond. 3 granddaughters, 1 great granddaughter. Enjoyed reading the Bible. Enjoyed watching talk shows and being at home with her husband Tony. Enjoyed phone conversations with friends and family.




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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, sexual orientation or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY CARVER FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

The following persons appear from our records to be entitled to unclaimed property consisting of cash amounts of fifty dollars or more. A report of Unclaimed Property will be made to the Comptroller of the State of New York, pursuant to Article III of the Abandoned Property Law. A list of the names contained in such notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the bank, located at 75 West 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027 where such abandoned property is payable. Such abandoned property will be paid on or before May 30th next to persons establishing to its satisfaction their right to receive the same. In the succeeding June and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed property will be paid to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and shall thereupon cease to be liable therefor.

Account Name	Account Address	Account City	Account State	Account Zip
ALVIN EASTMAN	288 CROWN STREET #60	BROOKLYN	NY	11225-3026
AMERICAN EXPRESS CENTURION BANK	4315 SOUTH 2700 WEST, MC 02-01-03	SALT LAKE CITY	UT	84184
CATHERINE A CHARLES	60 HARVEY AVE	COVINGTON	GA	30016
CHERIN PARIAN	527 PUTNAM AVE 2ND FLOOR	BROOKLYN	NY	11221
CHERYL D MILLER	101-28 131ST STREET 2ND FLOOR	SOUTH RICHMOND HIL	NY	11419-2347
DAVE A HACKETT	49 CROWN STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11225
DERRICK GIBBS	1270 FIFTH AVENUE	NEW YORK	NY	10029
DEWETTE C AUGHTRY ESQ	189 MONTAGUE STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11201
DOROTHY GORDON	320 STERLING STREET #5BW	BROOKLYN	NY	11225-4262
DOROTHY TAITT	34 NEW YORK AVE	BROOKLYN	NY	11216-2831
ELIAS MOUDATSOS	480 MAINE AVENUE	STATEN ISLAND	NY	10314
EMMANUELLA MARY AGWU	60 FOURTH AVENUE	BROOKLYN	NY	11217
ENID SMITH	239-08 148TH AVENUE	ROSEDALE	NY	11422
ILA L BARNES	239 OCEAN AVENUE APT NO. 6B	BROOKLYN	NY	11225-5542
IRENE LLOYD	1780 FIRST AVE APT 25C	NEW YORK	NY	10028
JOHN H ABNEY JR	145-51 157TH STREET	JAMAICA	NY	11434-4238
JONATHAN E CLARKE	1380 VAN DUYN PLACE	TEANECK	NJ	07666
JOSEPH CLARK JR	168-12 127TH AVENUE, #9F	JAMAICA	NY	11434-3152
JULISE JEAN BAPTISTE	542 PARKSIDE AVE APT 2 C	BROOKLYN	NY	11226
KANIKA DURHAM	714 HALSEY STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11233-1207
LENA HENRY	2714 AVENUE D #3E	BROOKLYN	NY	11226-7853
LEROY J GRANT	420 E 111TH STREET	NEW YORK	NY	10029
MARJORIE E WILLIAMS	903 EAST 98TH STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11225
MYRTLE SALMON	550 GREENE AVENUE APT#5S	BROOKLYN	NY	11216
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ROSE J FOSTER	610 ST. MARKS AVENUE	BROOKLYN	NY	11216
SANDRA L WAITHE	1211 CARROLL STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11225-2211
SHELDON O SMITH	1425 EASTERN PKWY APT 2A	BROOKLYN	NY	11233
SYLVESTER GREAVES	600 ALBANY AVE, APT# 515	BROOKLYN	NY	11203
THE CITY OF NEW YORK	800 GATES AVE	BROOKLYN	NY	11221
THE MOSQUE OF ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD INC	130 WEST 113TH STREET	NEW YORK	NY	10026
THOMASINA BUSHBY	29 WEST 174TH STREET #PH	BRONX	NY	10453-7741
VERA M DALEY	240 JEFFERSON AVENUE	BROOKLYN	NY	11216-4503
WILLIAM HAIR JR ESQ	1338 EAST 55TH STREET	BROOKLYN	NY	11234
WILLIE-MAE GOODMAN	445 EAST 120TH STREET, APT#3A	NEW YORK	NY	10035-3711



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