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Brazil emerges at the U.N.

By Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 8, 2012 (IPS/GIN) -- When a U.N. member state agrees to hold an international conference in its capital, the host country is not only offered the privilege of chairing the mega meeting but also given pride of place as the keynote opening speaker.

But for the last 67 years, since the inception of the United Nations, Brazil has continued to hold the number one slot on opening day of the General Assembly sessions, a position which rightly belongs to the host country, the United States, which remains the second speaker cast in stone.

As a result of this longstanding tradition – with no logical explanation even from the United Nations – President Dilma Rousseff became the first woman, since the founding of the world body, to open the annual high-level debate of world leaders at the General Assembly in September.

She was immediately followed by U.S. President Barack Obama.

Over the last decade, going back to the presidency of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva ending in 2010, Brazil has participated in nine U.N. peacekeeping missions; hosted important multi-lateral conferences (in particular the Rio+20 summit last June); actively contributed to discussions on U.N. reform; worked to strengthen the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); and encouraged a greater role for the U.N. in the promotion of economic and social development.

Brazil is also a founding mem-

Continued on Page 4

WHITE HOUSE MUSICAL CAPER



English Handbell Choir of the Church of the Good Shepherd at a recent New York performance.

Photo by Dave Rodney

Jamaican-led Bronx Choir on a D.C. Mission

By Dave Rodney

The growing acclaim of the English Handbell Choir of the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Bronx, New York is about to intensify with the arrival of the astonishing news that the choir, made up of mostly Jamaicans, will perform at the White House in Washington DC.

"The news came as a huge and wonderful surprise to us two days ago," the Kingston-born choir director Grace Brown Barton told the *Gleaner*, glowing with pride. "This is a marvelous moment for any choir but the upcoming trip will be even more spectacular given the fact that we are going to the White House with an African American president, Barack Obama, in residence for a second term," Brown Barton added.

The 14-member choir will perform on Friday Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at a two-hour concert as part of the White House Holiday Concert Series. The

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Barbados

Barbadian health officials have issued a leptospirosis alert urging the public to wear adequate protective clothing when participating in outdoor work or recreational activities, such as gardening and construction.

Last year the island recorded three deaths from 44 cases and so far for this year, the number of people suffering from the disease has been out at 29.

The Ministry of Health said that people who are seriously ill with leptospirosis may be at risk of death and might need to be hospitalized.

The Ministry of Health said that although rodents, are the main carrier of leptospirosis in Barbados, the disease may also be transmitted by other animals which carry the leptospirosis organism, including pigs, horses and cattle.



Grenada

Former Grenada attorney general Jimmy Bristol is predicting the downfall of the Tilman Thomas administration "the minute Parliament reopens."

Bristol, the president of the Grenada Bar Association (GBA), said while the constitution provides for the parliament to be prorogued "we all know the reason for the prorogation, an apparent reference to the move by Prime Minister Thomas in September to have Governor General Sir Carlyle Glean prorogue Parliament."

A two-page statement from the Office of the Prime Minister gave no date for the start of the parliamentary session but indicated that "the traditional Throne Speech is expected to be graciously delivered by His Excellency, the Governor General."

The decision to prorogue Parliament meant that the prime minister did not face a motion of no confidence that had been filed by his former foreign affairs minister Karl Hood and was expected to be debated in the last session of Parliament.

Four government ministers have resigned, including Peter David, the former Tourism Minister, Hood and former trade minister Michael Church. Three other government ministers, including Bristol have



Cubans elect transgender official

Adela Hernandez, 48, greets a few neighbors as she walks past them, in the village of Caibarien, Cuba, Friday, Nov. 16, 2012. Hernandez, a biologically male Cuban who has lived as a female since childhood, served two years in prison in the 1980s for dangerousness after her own family denounced her sexuality. This month she made history by becoming the first known transgender person to hold public office in Cuba, winning election as a delegate to the municipal government of Caibarien in the central province of Villa Clara. See page 6.

Ramon Espinosa

been fired.

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) which won 11 seats in the 2008 general election now has only six legislators in the 15-member Parliament.

Haiti

A Haitian government official says up to 10 persons died in the northern part of the country following a night of heavy rainfall recently.

Jean Henry Petit of Haiti's Civil Protection Office said most of the Haitians died in the port of Cap-Haitien when flood waters crashed through the homes and swept them away. One person died after his house collapsed.

The fatal rains came just two weeks after Hurricane Sandy's outer bands led to widespread flooding.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia Police Commissioner Vernon Francois has issued a stern warning to drug traffickers and others engaged in the illegal drug trade that their assets will be tar-



geted in the battle against crime.

His warning followed the recent seizure of nearly EC\$3 million worth of cocaine on board a pleasure boat. Police described the seizure of 100 kilograms of cocaine as one of the biggest drug busts on the island.

French national, Roger Tinar, 68, recently appeared in court charged with importation, possession and intent to supply the illegal drug. He was remanded in custody to re-appear in court later this month.

The police commissioner said that seizing assets linked to the illegal drugs trade will be a major focus of law enforcement officials.

"We want the drug criminals to know that it is not only about arresting them and prosecuting them for possession of drugs or trafficking in drugs but also it is provided for us to chase after the assets of drugs dealers," the commissioner said.

Suriname

Police recently seized a large quantity of cocaine at Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport in Suriname and detained two suspects who run a vegetable export

business in the Dutch island.

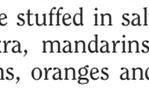
The authorities said 60 kilograms of the illegal drug were destined for the Netherlands and the discovery was made by the specialist Ant-Narcotics Squad Unit at the airport.

The drugs were found stuffed in six bags of sweet potatoes after authorities found them extremely heavy. In recent weeks, the squad has seized several amounts of cocaine stuffed in salt fish, chocolate, okra, mandarins, coconuts, pumpkins, oranges and other fruits.

Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government has won a US\$131 million (TT\$1.3 billion) lawsuit against UK-based British Aerospace Engineering Systems (BAE) over the cancellation of an order for three offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) last week.

Attorney General Anand Ramlogan announced that the settlement was reached after a two-year dispute.



The settlement, he said, was a significant precedent for Trinidad and Tobago and created legal history by successfully standing up to one of the world's biggest military defense companies.

BAE in a brief statement said, "The settlement with the T&T government is an amount consistent with provisions held."

It said after the cancellation, the three OPVs were subsequently sold to the Brazilian Navy under a contract signed in December 2011 and the first ship was handed over in June.

In September 2010, the new People's Partnership administration cancelled the OPVs, which were ordered by the previous People's National Movement (PNM) government.

The government said during the early months of 2010, concern had been raised over the capabilities of the OPVs combat system.

BAE Systems initiated arbitration proceedings in London hoping to recover US\$100 million from the T&T government as it had taken a 100-pound sterling charge on its books.

In turn, T&T had issued a counter-claim of TT\$1.6 billion for the boats, which were valued at 155 million pounds.

Barbados

Europe will continue to provide assistance to the Caribbean on several issues, including climate change and security.

The assurance was given by newly-appointed head of the European Union (EU) delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Ambassador Mikael Barford, during a courtesy call on Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart.

A Barbados statement said, "during the meeting, the ambassador praised the maturity of the relationship between government and the EU and outlined ways in which it could be strengthened," the statement said, noting that Prime Minister Stuart had also acknowledged the long-standing association with the European group of nations.

The statement said that the "two officials also shared their mutual view on a range of other topics, including human rights and the

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Luis Alberto Moreno.

AP Photo / Jason DeCrow

IDB aids Carib businesses

By Nelson A. King

The President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno, on Nov. 16 announced that the bank will provide financing and technical advice to medium-size enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean seeking to establish or expand international operations.

Moreno said the Washington-based financial institution will provide commercial banks with \$70 million for expanding their lines of credit to firms wishing to export or invest abroad.

He said the bank also will make available \$350 million in guarantees through local banks to companies that participate in international bidding for the provision of services.

Moreno made the announcement on the first day of the XXII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Cadiz, Spain.

He said small and medium-size enterprises in the Caribbean region are lagging behind other regions of the world when it comes to overseas operations.

He, therefore, called for actions to “generate new and better opportunities to connect medium-size enterprises,” such as the Iberian Peninsula and Europe in general.

“We believe that it is critical to join efforts and build strategic part-

nerships that allow us to catalyze these operations on a much larger scale,” Moreno said.

He said the IDB will consolidate tools to help these firms’ efforts to operate overseas through a new platform called Conectaméricas.

Moreno said the platform, which will provide businesses with information on potential trade partners and investors, as well as data on tariffs and other trade rules, will be developed in collaboration with export promotion agencies and major business schools in the region and the Iberian Peninsula.

The IDB chief said the financial instruments for medium-size companies are part of a suite of options that the IDB makes available to firms of all sizes in the region.

He said the Bank’s Trade Finance Facilitation Program has supported 2,966 trade and investment transactions for companies from 18 countries in the region for a total of \$2.6 billion.

Moreno said he was expected to participate in a conference with more than 100 companies from the Iberian peninsula, on Nov. 19, which will describe IDB partnership opportunities for the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was expected to take place at the IDB’s European office in Madrid.

Elected officials, advocates call for electoral reform

By Tequila Minsky

Several pieces of pro-voter legislation aimed at improving the electoral process, including bills authored by Council Members Gale Brewer, Jessica Lappin and Jumaane Williams will be discussed by the Committee on Governmental Operations at City Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 10:00 a.m.

This follows a meeting last week on the steps of City Hall by elected government officials joined by good government advocates to propose an agenda of legislative and policy reforms that would overhaul the elections process in the five boroughs.

During the recent Presidential elections a woman in Fort Greene waited to vote for two and a half hours; voting at other sites took hours more. Some registered voters’ names had “fallen off” the registration roll. Ballots were

hard to read. At some sites, scanners that count the votes were broken. Sites suffered from disorganization.

Adding to the confusion, these snafus coupled with the Governor Cuomo’s proclamation responding to hurricane Sandy displacement of residents and polling sites, which allowed voting for president by affidavit at any polling site.

Historically blue-Democrat, New York State is not a swing state, so it was commonly acknowledged that the numbers were fortunately not as critical as Ohio. None-the-less, the myriad of election day problems raise grave concerns about New Yorkers political franchise.

“We recognize that the effects of Sandy posed particular challenges for administering last week’s election, but we also know that many of the problems voters experienced are per-

ennial and many resulted from the ways the new paper-ballot system was implemented,” said Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh of the Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement.

Hurricane Sandy was not blamed for all the problems.

At the City Hall press conference, among the key steps put forth to improve elections were: Fixing the voter registration system to make it easier to enroll and keep records up to date, better notice to voters of polling sites and dates for upcoming elections, and greater use of alternative forms of notification—email, text, or automated phoning.

Also presented were: eliminating voter cards, a relic of the lever system that would speed up the voting process.

Also, insuring proper

training for poll workers and allowing eight-hour rather than 16 hours shifts and encouraging City and State employees to serve.

Mentioned were increasing the use of technology at poll sites to expedite signing of voters and improving the ballot design.

The old system for the size of a voting district, based on the lever machines that could only count up to 999 votes in each election is being questioned. It is being suggested that electoral districts be combined, meaning there would be fewer different “tables” to direct voters to within poll sites.

Early voting (state legislation A5153), which would alleviate the pressure at the polls particularly in highly contested elections, no-excuse absentee voting and a streamlining of the tabulation process are also among procedures being proposed.

Thanksgiving in fine style

The men and women of Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club collaborated with Hope City Empowerment Center, which is led by Bradley Backus, Esq., to help 338 men and women celebrate Thanksgiving in fine style on Thursday, Nov. 15.

Hope City Empowerment Center, a pillar in the Crown Heights Community, has provided much-needed services to thousands of men and women daily. Known throughout the borough as a haven for those who have the greatest need in the Brooklyn community, Hope City once again lived up to its name – providing hope!

The outreach is just one of the many projects Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club has embraced since its founding. From the monthly feeding program in partnership with God’s



Residents of Crown Heights get a hearty Thanksgiving treat

Photo by Keith Dawson

Battalion of Prayer Church in Brooklyn, New York, to the Club’s ongoing working relationship with Light-house International in Manhattan to identify children – within the community the Club operates and serves –

who lack access to proper vision care and on-going resources.

In keeping with Lions Clubs International’s motto “We Serve,” the men and women of Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club lived up to

that motto on that occasion. On hand to assist the members of Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club, were members of Kings County Lions Club, Beulah Church of the Nazarene and many friends and relatives.

English handbell choir

Continued from cover

repertoire will include over 26 songs representing Christmas carols from around the world. The set is expected to include a few Jamaican and Caribbean favorites, including the anonymously written spiritual, "The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy" (CPWI Hymnal #63).

The good news came as a shock to members of the predominantly Jamaican congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd, an Episcopal church in New York. "Most of us in the group had no idea that a member of the congregation, Naomi DaCosta, a Jamaican, and her daughter Heather Turnbull had submitted the handbell choir's name and a YouTube to the White House for consideration," group member Donna Hylton confessed. The YouTube clip featured a popular hymn, *Diademata*, also known as "Crown Him With Many Crowns". Over the weekend before the arrival of Hurricane Sandy there was a flurry of requests from the White House for more information regarding the group and its repertoire; but even at that point, most of the members were focused on hurricane preparations and were still blissfully unaware of the upcoming rare appearance. The final confirma-

tion arrived by email two days ago," Hylton at mid-week.

The English Handbell Choir of the Church of the Good Shepherd performed in Jamaica last December at St. George's Parish Church in Savanna-la-Mar. The group was on island by an invitation from the Rev. Canon Hartley Perrin of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Petersfield, Westmoreland.

"We are absolutely delighted to accept the White House invitation on behalf of the choir, the church and the rector, Rev. Canon Calvin C. McIntyre," assistant handbell choir director Mrs. Camille McIntyre stated. "We plan to deliver a most mesmerizing and unforgettable selection of Christmas music to visitors at the White House," she promised.

English handbell choirs are not limited to England, although the art form was first developed and perfected there in the late 1600s. The term 'English handbell' is a reference to the type of bell used and the particular technique employed in the creation of the music. Each member of the handbell choir plays a single note on the chromatic scale and the bells are heard in tuned sets. The collective sound produced by English handbells expertly played can be tremendously pleasing to the ears.

Brazil emerging as key player at U.N.

Continued from cover

ber of the 132-member Group of 77, the largest single coalition of developing countries at the United Nations, and is the 10th largest contributor to the U.N.'s regular budget, with 38 million dollars for the latest fiscal year.

Described as one of the world's newly emerging powers, Brazil plays a key political and economic role in two of the most powerful international coalitions: IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

Professor Candido Antonio Mendes de Almeida, president of the Forum of Rectors of Rio de Janeiro, told IPS Brazil's role in the world community is closely linked with the emergence of BRICS, and "out of the classical peripheries and with a growing influence in Africa, especially in the Portuguese-speaking countries".

"The permanent seat in U.N.'s Security Council will occur as an inevitable consequence," said Mendes de Almeida, author of over 30 books and secretary-general

of the Academy of Latinity.

Along with India, Germany and Japan, Brazil is part of the Group of Four (G-4), and one of the front runners for a permanent seat in the Security Council, outpacing Argentina, another potential contender from Latin America.

"At the same time, a full new Brazilian approach in Latin America appears with the stern condemnation of the coup d'état in Paraguay, a counter play to the anti-American escalation of the Bolivarian states, and a full new bilateral expanding trade with Argentina," said Mendes de Almeida, who has participated in several international conferences as a Brazilian delegate or a special guest.

The G-4 has continued to work closely to achieve the goal of "a more representative, democratic and transparent Security Council, in line with the current geopolitical realities".

The Group believes that reform is long overdue and that a longer delay may affect the capacity of the Security Council to deal with new chal-

lenges and hinder the effectiveness and legitimacy of its decisions.

"Brazil is confident the reform of the Security Council is perfectly achievable and that a positive result can be obtained in the near future," a spokesman for the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations told IPS.

"It is our hope the intergovernmental negotiations in the General Assembly (currently underway) will gain momentum in the coming months and that this can lead to concrete results on the main aspects of the reform."

As a non-permanent member, Brazil has served 10 times on the Security Council.

And as of last month, Brazil has contributed 2,220 troops and police personnel to nine U.N. peacekeeping missions, in Western Sahara, Haiti, Cyprus, Lebanon, Abyei (Sudan), Liberia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Cote d'Ivoire.

The largest contributions are to peacekeeping missions in Haiti (1,894 troops) and Lebanon (268 troops).



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Transgender woman first to win office in Cuba

By Andrea Rodriguez

HAVANA (AP) — Adela Hernandez, a biologically male Cuban who has lived as a female since childhood, served two years in prison in the 1980s for “dangerousness” after her own family denounced her sexuality.

This month she made history by becoming the first known transgender person to hold public office in Cuba, winning election as a delegate to the municipal government of Caibarien in the central province of Villa Clara.

In a country where gays were persecuted for decades and sent to grueling work camps in the countryside, Hernandez, 48, hailed her election as yet another milestone in a gradual shift away from macho attitudes in the years since Fidel Castro himself expressed regret over the treatment of people perceived to be different.

“As time evolves, homo-



Adela Hernandez, center, poses with her neighbors in Caibarien, Cuba.
AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

phobic people — although they will always exist — are the minority,” Hernandez said by phone from her hometown.

Becoming a delegate “is a great triumph,” she added.

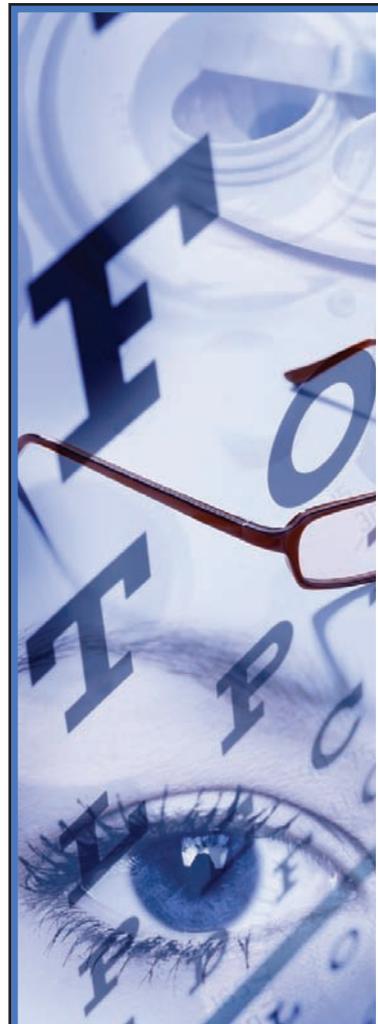
Because she has not undergone sex-change surgery, Hernandez is legally still a man in the eyes of the Cuban state: Jose Agustin Hernandez, according to the civil registry. Hernandez, who switched back and forth between feminine and masculine pronouns when

referring to herself during an interview, said she hasn’t made a decision to seek an operation but doesn’t rule it out either.

Hernandez won office in early November by taking a runoff vote 280-170. Her position is the equivalent of a city councilor, and her election makes her eligible to be selected as a representative to Parliament in early 2013.

For years after the 1959 Cuban Revolution, authorities hounded people of differing sexual orientation and others considered threatening, such as priests, long-haired youths and rock ‘n’ roll enthusiasts. But there have been notable changes in attitudes toward sexual-

ity. “I would like to think that discrimination against homosexuals is a problem that is being overcome,” Fidel Castro told an interviewer some years ago.



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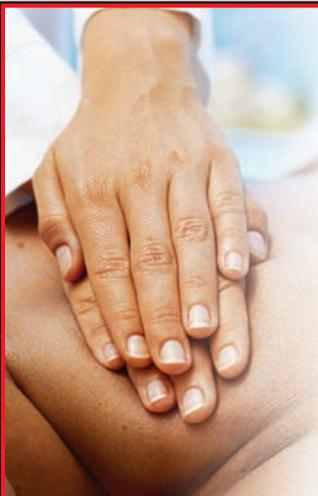
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French aids disaster recovery

By Azad Ali

The French government will be sending emergency aid totaling 220,000 euros to assist Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba following the passage of Hurricane Sandy recently.

The French Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica, announced that just over 50,000 euros will be handed over to the Office of Disaster Preparedness in the eastern parish of Portland.

"These funds will preferably be allocated to the drying up of several hospitals and school buildings, which were damaged by floods and rains and to measures aimed at controlling the extension of the dengue disease," the embassy said in a release.

According to first counselor Jean-Luc Wertheimer, the embassy moved to respond given the extent of the damage suffered in the east and north-east end of Jamaica and as well as sections of Cuba and Haiti.

Of that total amount, the 60,000 euros to Cuba will go directly to non-governmental



In this Oct. 26, 2012 photo, residents walk past tree branches and power lines felled by Hurricane Sandy in Santiago de Cuba. AP Photo/Franklin Reyes

organizations in the city of Santiago de Cuba, the area that suffered most from the disaster, said Vincent Floreni, the deputy spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry.

The full extent of the storm's havoc on Haiti was just beginning to emerge. Extensive damage to crops throughout the southern part of the country, as well as the high potential for a spike in cases of cholera and other water-borne diseases,

could mean Haiti will see the deadliest effects of Sandy in the coming weeks.

Haiti reported the highest death in the Caribbean, as swollen rivers and landslides claimed at least 52 lives, according to the country's Civil Protection office.

The late season storm that roared across the Caribbean and then onto sections of the United States left behind billions of dollars in damages and claimed over 100 lives.

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Minimum wage increase before pay raises for lawmakers

By Melanie Beam

After missing an opportunity earlier this year to pass an increase in New York's minimum wage, the state legislature is now expected to convene a special session in the coming weeks to consider a pay raise – for themselves.

As a business person and advocate for upstate local businesses, I cannot help but shake my head in disbelief. A minimum wage increase should take priority over a pay raise for legislators – not the other way around.

An increased minimum wage is good for business. At the current rate of \$7.25 an hour, a full-time retail cashier, child care worker, security guard or health aide earning minimum wage makes just \$15,080 a year. It hurts our local economies when workers are paid so little they have to work two jobs or rely on public assistance to make ends meet. By raising the minimum wage, we will have more dollars circulating in our communities, boosting our local businesses and our state.

Governor Cuomo has said that the state legislature must reconsider a minimum wage increase before receiving his support for salary increases for legislators. Opinion polls show that New Yorkers strongly back a minimum wage increase.

The Assembly has already approved a bill that would raise the state's minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour and index it to automatically rise with the cost of living each year. Unfortunately,

ly, this bill never even received a vote when it arrived at the Senate chamber last May. It's time for the Senate to listen to the people and do its job by giving this proposal a vote.

The economic benefits of raising the minimum wage are clear: As summarized in a report last April by Senator Jeffrey Klein, raising New York's minimum wage to \$8.50 will boost the pay of over 1 million low-paid workers, generating \$600 million in new statewide spending, and spurring job creation as consumers buy more at businesses around our state.

My experience has shown me that small business is the engine that drives our economy. Small businesses created 67 percent of the net new jobs from mid-2009 to 2011, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. For every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 recirculates in the regional economy, compared to only \$43 when these dollars go to a national business.

Small businesses in New York understand the importance of investing in employees with higher wages. Businesses paying better wages see less costly turnover in their workforces and improved productivity and customer satisfaction.

Small businesses are more likely to pay above minimum wage than national chains. In retail, New York's biggest low-wage sector, large companies pay wages that are actually 23 percent less on average than those

Continued on page 12

Need for a fair-minded press

By Robin Montano

"We were wrong"

"I see this victory in the arbitration as a big thing and whether or not you like the government, 'the boys' ought to be congratulated. It is a big thing. But the newspapers haven't done so."

That's a title or headline that you won't see over any editorial in any Trinidad and Tobago newspaper any time soon. Another title or headline that you shouldn't hold your breath for is "WE ARE SORRY." The question of a fair minded press comes to the fore once again. Let me be clear: the newspapers have every right in the world to be as biased or as unfair as they want to be. Bottom line: that is what freedom of the press is all about. I am not about trying to muzzle them, intimidate them, or restrict them in any way and I will be the first to join in condemning anybody who would be so foolish as to attempt to do such a thing.

But criticism is a very different thing from intimidation, and nobody and no institution should ever believe that it is

so sacrosanct that it cannot be criticised.

What has brought this on is the announcement by the Attorney General Anand Ramlogan yesterday that the long running (two-year) arbitration battle between the government and UK-based British Aerospace Engineering Systems (BAE) over the cancellation of the OPV's (Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been settled in the government's favor with BAE Systems having to pay to Trinidad & Tobago the not inconsiderable sum of \$1.382 billion.

Now, on Sunday, Oct., 28, 2012 the Sunday Guardian published a headline article that the attorney general had gone to the Cabinet with a request for approval that the government pay BAE the sum of \$1.3 billion!! The article caused a huge fire storm with the Opposition yelling "we told you so!" at the top of their voices. The article went into some detail saying that several Cabinet ministers were irate and "confirmed the decision" to pay BAE had been taken but did not want to be taken. The article even went on to report that Mr.

Dookeran, who had chaired the meeting, walked out of it.

The attorney general vigorously denied the truth of the article and slammed the Guardian for publishing it at a time when the matter was 'sub judice'. Other government ministers also stepped up to the plate, but the truth is that not very many people believed them. After all, why would the Guardian publish such a story if it weren't true?

It is pellucidly clear now that this report was as wrong as wrong could be. In fact, the truth is just the opposite! But there has been absolutely no apology from the Guardian or even a paltry acknowledgement that maybe, just maybe, it got its facts all wrong and that what was reported simply could not have been true. But the editorials in both the Guardian and the Express this morning chose instead to criticise the prime minister for her criticisms of Opposition Leader Keith Rowley, which she made at the Divali Nagar.

Tell me something: what
Continued on page 12

Open letter to President Obama

To the Editor:

I, Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely write to express my prayers and congratulations on your re-election for another four-year term as president of the United States. Queen Mother Audley Moore represented 55 million African Descendants of the transatlantic slave trade who fought for reparations and lived to be almost one 100 years old, and as a matter of traditional rite and spiritual continuity I carry her legacy. I am the Community Mayor of Harlem and Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa. I take great pleasure in nominating Ambassador Susan Elizabeth Rice, as the next United States

Secretary of State. Ambassador Rice is supremely qualified as a candidate for this very important office.

I have observed Ambassador Rice perform her duties as United States Ambassador to the United States with grace, pride, integrity and dignity.

Ambassador Rice is an African American woman born in Washington D.C. and highly trained for the post. Ambassador Rice was trained and mentored in foreign affairs and diplomacy by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright whom we lobbied for as the first woman United States

Secretary of State appointed by President Bill Clinton. Ambassador Rice is the mother of two children and the world is in need of the sensitivity of nurturing mothers to achieve urgently needed global peace and amity between member states.

I highly recommend Ambassador Susan Rice to be appointed as United States Secretary of State. I have been involved with United Nations in Global affairs resolution for 43 years.

Peace and Blessings

Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely

Community Mayor of Harlem
Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa

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

McCain selectively, not uniformly, anti-Rice

We gave some kudos to Senator John McCain not too long ago in this space for what seemed a dignified response after a woman at one of his 2008 campaign stops sought to offensively characterize then candidate Barack Obama. Timing is everything, and we wonder now if that demonstration of graciousness had essentially to do with Election Day 2008 having not yet arrived and the luxury of a show of comity was one McCain figured he could still afford. Whether all bets were off for McCain after his loss in '08 we don't know but, especially in his current tirade and odious conduct regarding UN Ambassador Susan Rice and the Benghazi consulate incident, he has been the polar opposite of what he exhibited at that campaign stop four years ago.

McCain and fellow Republican in the Senate, Lindsay Graham, made a big splash the other day denouncing Rice, labeling her incompetent, unqualified and all the rest and announcing that they would block her nomination if the president were to select her as replacement for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. That unchecked vitriol from the two even elicited

a rare public display of anger from the president who accused them of going after Rice because she was "an easy target." The narrative in the aftermath of the Libyan rampage that caused the death of four Americans always made clear that Rice, if she reported publicly what may not have been a full accounting of events, was only being guided in so doing by the intelligence briefing she had been given. This was something Mitt Romney, McCain and others tried to make into a big presidential campaign issue. Clearly, it didn't fly. Indeed, when Romney tried to hit a homerun with it in the second debate, it boomeranged on him.

Given all of which, McCain's determined pursuit of what went down in Libya and more specifically, what many have called his character assassination of Rice in the process makes you wonder what in heaven's name is driving this. There were two developments, one would have thought, that should have put the clamps on McCain's dumbfounding crusade. More recently, the newly departed head of the CIA, Gen. David Petraeus, appeared on Capitol Hill

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

behind closed doors to bring lawmakers up to speed on what went down in Libya. Reports coming out of those hearings corroborate all that had been earlier said about Rice's not having engaged in any deliberate misleading of anyone. Inexplicably, McCain wasn't around for that much anticipated Petraeus appearance, although he was supposed to be. But curiously, the general's revelations to members of Congress apparently haven't dampened McCain's enthusiasm for the anti-Rice kick he's been on.

Prior to that, though, the bogus nature of this rant from the senator had been made quite clear. Ever alert media types had broached to him that back when George Bush nominated Condoleezza Rice to be secretary of state, McCain gave her a pass, in her nomination hearings, for her firm contention a few years earlier as national security adviser, that there were

weapons of mass destruction in Saddam's Iraq. McCain's explanation was that it was different with that other Rice lady, that "the whole world" thought there were WMD in Iraq. In just a few short years McCain has developed a striking revisionist take on the erratic Bush administration action that got this country into a costly, unnecessary occupation (which the senator fully supported and even today would like to see prolonged).

The line about the whole world being on board with the WMD claim that was used as rationale for invading Iraq is of course absurd. McCain seems to have expunged from memory, conveniently, some of the second and third raters upon whom the Bush administration had to rely to be partners in the so-called Coalition of the Willing. He seems to have forgotten that the likes of Germany and France were conspicuously absent. And that Tony Blair in Britain paid the price of major humiliation and the political wilderness for standing with Bush on a policy the British people soundly opposed.

The 2012 election now into the

history books and with the unfortunate episode in Libya having never seized the public's imagination in a way McCain, Romney and their GOP cohorts were hoping it would, the senator's opting to play hardball with Susan Rice becomes quite difficult to fathom. Somehow, one would have figured McCain to be a guy more prone to pay attention to the optics here: he, an older white man coming off with uncanny hostility toward a young African American woman. The political calculus can't be ignored. Although it may not count for much politically back in Arizona which he represents, his "roughing up" of Rice, if he persists with it, cannot, in the overall, but taint him some.

The president, on the other hand, scored one for himself big time with his stout defense of his UN ambassador, challenging McCain (and Graham) to "take it up with me." Perhaps flush with a two million plus popular vote plurality and a decisive electoral vote trouncing, there's gusto, bravado, whatever newly installed in the president's arsenal that makes the threats of a John McCain against Susan Rice quite hollow by comparison.

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Need for a fair-minded press

Continued from page 10
 important to Trinidad & Tobago this morning: the fact that the country has won a huge law suit or that the prime minister inserted certain political comments in a speech at a religious function? (And I am not here discussing whether or not the comments were justified. That is for another time. Let's not mix apples and mangoes.) For the life of me I can't understand it. I see this victory in the arbitration as a big thing and whether or not you like the government "the boys" ought to be congratulated. It is a big thing. But the newspapers haven't done so.

I can only come up with one possible reason for the attitude of these two newspapers, and that is that they

are terribly biased against the government. If somebody ... anybody ... could give me another reason or reasons I would gladly consider it or them. And as I said from the very beginning, if they want to be against the government (or anybody else) then that is their absolute and unqualified right. Just be honest about it!

This is the second time that I have pointed out the inherent bias in the press. I know all too well that the editors will ignore what I am saying here and will continue as before, but hopefully, one or two of my readers will begin to notice and will adjust their opinions on what they read in our media accordingly.

Source: <http://www.robinmontano.blogspot.ca>
 Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012

Against tax cuts for the wealthy

By Josh Knauer

As a software entrepreneur, I find it ironic to see people going online to rail against taxes and government spending. The Internet grew from government research financed by earlier generations of

taxpayers. So did computers, GPS technology and many other technologies we take for granted today. The Global Positioning System (GPS) we access from our phones, computers and cars was developed and is still operat-

ed by the Department of Defense, which does not charge user fees. We know the companies making the latest commercial products, but not the history of private and public sector innovation and partnership

behind them. A strong collaboration between the public and private sectors is essential for the continued innovation and job creation necessary to keep our country competitive in the global market.

Continued on page 14

Minimum wage increase before pay raises for lawmakers

Continued from page 10

ing to the Fiscal Policy Institute.

A higher minimum wage would level the playing field for small businesses in New York and keep more dollars circulating in our local economy and our tax base instead of padding the profits of national and multinational corporations.

Raising the minimum wage would provide a much-needed lift to our economy by ensuring that

cash-strapped consumers earn enough to afford the basic goods and services that businesses are eager to sell.

New York has an inexcusable gap between its high cost of living and low minimum wage. Our neighbors, Connecticut and Vermont, are among the 18 states that have raised their minimum wages above \$7.25. Employers in New York are actually paying minimum wage workers less today,

adjusted for inflation, than they did four decades ago. That makes no sense.

As we said in a Business for a Fair Minimum Wage statement signed by hundreds of New York businesses calling for a raise, "With far less buying power than it had four decades ago, today's minimum wage means poverty for working families and weakens the consumer demand at the heart of our economy."

Local businesses, low-

paid workers and their families, and our communities cannot afford for Albany to drop the ball again. It's time to raise the minimum wage and boost our state economy.

Beam is president of Capital District Local First and Director at WSG.net. Capital District Local First is an independent business alliance in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties.

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In the critical run up to hurricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic hurricane on record to date, New York City officials mobilized to secure and evacuate certain low-lying areas of Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. At Kingsbrook, in anticipation of this crisis, our Incident Command Center activated its disaster plan on Sunday, October 28th, which incorporates the 96-hour emergency plan recommended by FEMA.

Because of our readiness, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center and our sister institution, Rutland Nursing Home, were immediately able to accept 125 hospital patients and nursing home residents from threatened, low-lying facilities at the request of the City's Office of Emergency Management in coordination with The Greater New York Hospital Association and the New York State Department of Health. Patients evacuated were from Ocean Promenade Nursing Home, Coney Island Hospital, Shoreview Nursing Home, Cliffside Rehabilitation & Residential Health Center and Haym Solomon Nursing Home. Staff from Ocean Promenade joined Kingsbrook's team to care for evacuees and our human resources team completed emergency credentialing procedures of all visiting staff, confirming that

qualified personnel were here for all patients and residents.

On Sunday November 11th, Rutland Nursing Home coordinated the safe transfer of the Ocean Promenade residents back to their home facility and on November 13th, Rutland Nursing Home admitted an additional 67 resident evacuees from the Seacrest Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, along with members of their staff. In total over 200 evacuee residents and patients were cared for at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center/Rutland Nursing Home during this time of crisis.

Staff from our food, building services, and facilities divisions prepared our open congregate spaces for evacuees and settled everyone into comfortable accommodations immediately. We also received additional beds and materials from our vendors, FEMA and the National Guard. Many of our acute care patients and "guest" nursing home residents expressed how comfortable they were and made specific mention of how compassionate and caring our entire staff had been.

Additionally, Greater New York Hospital Association requested the help of our Food and Nutrition Department to provide over 85 meals to residents at Menorah Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care in Manhattan Beach Brooklyn.

Kingsbrook's transportation staff fulfilled this request in spite of the weather conditions.

Our caring and committed staff, many of whom remained on-site for more than 72-hours, worked in lock-step to provide the necessary quality care needed by those who had to evacuate. Nurses, doctors, medical residents and many other critical staff members remained on site, sleeping on cots to assure proper coverage for shifts and to ensure the highest quality of patient centered care. Administration from Ocean Promenade Nursing Home praised our prompt response and support in such an important time of need and made special mention of our staff's professionalism and efficiency.

In 2011, Kingsbrook was the only independent hospital to take in 218 patients/residents, including those who were ventilator dependent during Hurricane Irene. In essence, this emergency response effort reflected yet again Kingsbrook's ability to answer the call, and our proficiency in "situation/crisis management". Our efforts reflect our commitment to our broader community, to each other through outstanding teamwork, and most importantly, the high level of quality care delivery to all those we serve, no matter the circumstance.

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Lasers have made a remarkable contribution toward healthcare, allowing practitioners to treat a variety of conditions with the speed of light. As a non-invasive tool, the laser is particularly effective for the efficient treatment of soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, and a variety of other ailments and pain.

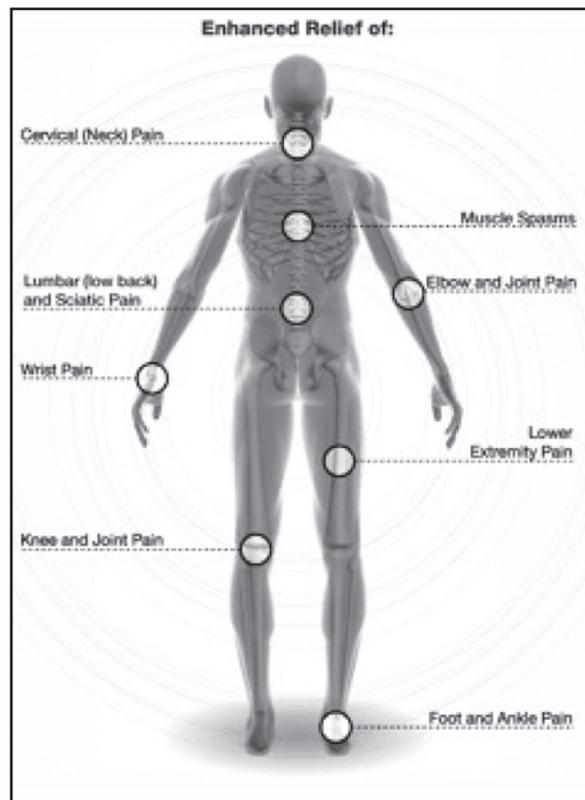
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Against tax cuts for the wealthy

Continued from page 12

OP-ED

My company, Rhiza Labs, was recently named one of Pittsburgh's top 10 fastest growing tech companies. We make easy-to-use tools for collecting, analyzing and sharing data online. My business has directly benefited from the tax dollars that went into the research that created Internet technologies long before Rhiza was established. Like many businesses, we've had customers from the public and private sector – from AT&T and Comcast to Pittsburgh Public Schools and the United Way.

In today's polarized political debate, too many politicians speak of taxes as a cost that businesses should seek to avoid, or worse, as a cost that strangles and threatens the very future of business. In fact, my business and businesses generally have gotten a very good return on our tax dollars.

We need to invest more in basic research to plant the seeds for the

next inventions that will change our lives in ways we can't presently imagine. We need to invest in science and math education so our children have the tools to become the engineers, entrepreneurs and job creators of the next generation. U.S. students used to lead the world in these important subjects, but continuing budget cutbacks and teacher layoffs have left us falling behind our international competitors.

Investments in science and math education now will pay dividends later for companies like mine because we will have a broader pool of job candidates to hire. Tax dollars were a vital component in our past innovations and have modernized infrastructure and fostered economic success. Tax dollars remain a vital component of our economy today.

Unfortunately, we've

been laying off people in very important jobs like police and teachers, and letting our roads, bridges and schools fall apart, to help pay for a decade's worth of tax cuts for our nation's most affluent households. To justify continuing that harmful policy, tax cut defenders claim that letting the Bush-era tax cuts expire for income above \$250,000 will hurt our nation's small businesses. That's ridiculous.

Fewer than 3 percent of tax returns listing business income have taxable income over \$250,000, and many of these fortunate taxpayers are Wall Street investment partners, lawyers and large company CEOs earning income from service on corporate boards or renting out their vacation homes – not the picture of small businesses most of us hold. Indeed, only the richest 2 percent of Americans have any income above \$250,000, and everyone would keep tax cuts on their first \$250,000.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2
impact of sea level rise on vulnerable economies and greening initiatives.”

St. Lucia

St. Lucia recently marked the second anniversary of the passage of Hurricane Thomas with Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony saying that Oct. 30 must always be remembered.

“I urge St. Lucians to take a moment to reflect on that sad day, paying our respects to the 14 lives which were lost during this unfortunate ordeal.

“The trauma of the people of Fond, St. Jacques and Columbette in Soufriere as well as other parts of St. Lucia must remain etched in our minds. We must not forget them and their families,” Anthony said in a statement.



Trinidad

The unemployment rate in Trinidad and Tobago rose to 5.4 percent in the first quarter of 2012, up from 4.2 percent when

compared to the last three months (fourth quarter of 2011).

This according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in a statement released recently.

The report stated that the number of persons unemployed during January to March 2012 was 33,800, which represents an increase of 0.3 percent over the previous quarter when the total number of persons unemployed was 25,900.

Even though the total labor force increased by 0.3 percent over the period under consideration, the increase in the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2012 was 5.4 percent. In comparison, the unemployment rate for the previous quarter was 4.2 percent.

The report stated that the total labor force for January to March 2012 stood at 623,500 persons, up from 621,900 for the period October to December 2011. This represented an increase of 0.3 percent.

Compiled by Azad Ali



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Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Blake Hamilton, Bedford-Stuyvesant

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After Sandy: Caribbeans can count on CACCI

By Vinette K. Pryce

Business was the order of a breakfast meeting recently at Borough Hall in Brooklyn where members of Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce Inc. (CACCI) culled problem solvers and experts in various professions to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The resourceful morning session attracted residents of New York and New Jersey affected by Hurricane Sandy since Oct. 27.

Members of the organization banded to help Caribbean nationals and displaced nationals who were affected when water and wind shattered the lives of thousands.

A panel of experts flooded information that will speed recovery and perhaps lessen anxiety for many who are finding difficulty maneuvering through the bureaucracy of government.

"We need a faith lift," Rev. Dennis Dillon said.

"Now is when organizations are important," Roy Hastick, president and CEO of CACCI said. He added that the organization he founded stands ready to help provide opportunities for the needy to tap into the \$30 billion Gov.



CACCI Board member and co-convener George Hulse, Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr., president/CEO, CACCI, Rev. Dennis Dillon, and Dr. William L. Pollard, president, Medgar Evers College were among those who attended the hurricane recovery CACCI breakfast at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Andrew Cuomo has earmarked for reparations.

He joined with others to emphasize that exploita-

tion is prevalent and everyone should be wary of spurious individuals.

Representatives from the

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce bolstered hopes by providing answers to many of the queries of concern.

Does the IRS provide tax relief?

What if I am employed by a business that suffered

damage?

What services does the city and state provide?

What do I do if my business suffered damage that is not covered by insurance?

A fact sheet provided responses to those and a myriad of other questions.

Application for filing for disaster loans were in abundance. Filing deadline date for physical damage is Dec. 31. For economic injury, the deadline is July 31, 2013.

Temporary work space at 25 Elm St. is available immediately through the end of the year.

According to Carlo A. Scissura, president of the BCC "Together we can help businesses rebuild bigger and better than before and continue to make Brooklyn the wonderful place we all know it is."

Scissura said he can be reached directly at 917-622-4063 or by email at cscissura@brooklynchamber.com

A web portal is also available to provide relief to small business. Log on to www.ibrooklyn.com/sandy

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SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

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www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork
Save on Small Business Energy Bills and Compare Rates. Get a Quote Now!

NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

2012 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm
Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

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

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm
Find resources and advice on starting a

business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php
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

www.bcny.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues. Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

www.bfindapc.com/...business-resource.../resources-for-businesses-i
If you operate a business in New York City, you are especially fortunate. The city has pulled together a wealth of resources for small business owners.

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
100+ items - to assist the small business community in the State of New York.

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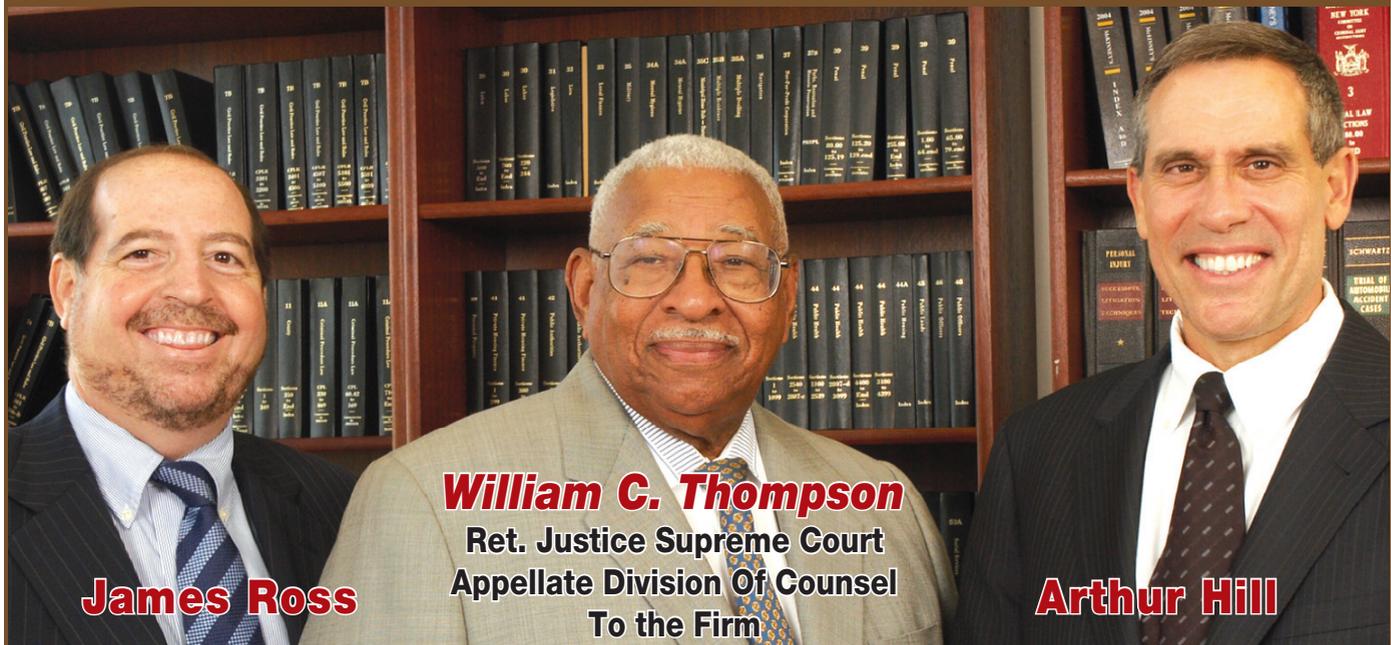
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■ **I was skeptical.** I bought a box and it worked as advertised. Within a week I had relief. Howard Toy, 69, Henderson, NV ■ **It's heaven to sleep through the night.** For many years I had 6-7 sleep interruptions every night. Had urgent trips to the bathroom day and night with discomforts. I enjoy my new life. Angus Pike, Oshawa, ON ■ **I am truly amazed and relieved.** After 2 weeks I no longer have to get up during the night. I'm enjoying a normal sex life again. I hope a lot of men with a pride issue give this tea a shot. It's difficult to express how delighted I am. Clarence A. Rehrig, 58, Allentown, PA ■ **Know the truth.** This is my third year of drinking the Ezee Flow Tea. I highly recommend it. A real life saver. Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA. ■ **Women** suffering with incontinence, UTIs ask for Bladder Control Tea for Women #4b. Guaranteed relief within days. **No need to make claims. Bell relays 100% truthful user's free speech. No money is paid for it. No questions asked guarantee.**



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■ **Bell Blood Pressure Formulation helped me feel great.** Thank you for this wonderful product. William Oliver, Portsmouth, VA ■ **I have been taking Bell #26 now for one year.** My mom and brother started taking it as well. Even my pastor is on it now. Thanks! Mary Earl, Longview, TX ■ **I started to take Bell Blood Pressure Formulation #26.** After about 30 days my blood pressure was normal. My doctor was very happy with me. Irene Surridge, 67, Owen Sound, ON ■ **A friend recommended Bell BP Formulation!** When a friend had good results I decided to try it. After taking Bell Blood Pressure Formulation #26. It made a difference in my life. Milton Perdomo, 68, Rego Park, NY. **No need to make claims. Bell relays 100% truthful user's free speech. No money is paid for it. No questions asked guarantee.**

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Last couple of years I tried everything. Results with Bell Skin Disorders #60 were unbelievable. I have beautiful skin again. Thanks for giving back my self-esteem. Nelisa Royer, 28, Doral, FL ■ **My mom bought Bell #60.** I was skeptical. It did work quickly and better than anything else. Christopher Seraphin, 14, Brooklyn, NY. ■ **It worked.** I no longer have to hide at home, because I was ashamed to be seen. Agnes Casillas, 60, New York, NY ■ **Can wear again dresses that are backless.** My skin looks fantastic. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Yvette Maclean, 40, Lodi, CA ■ **I was trying everything for years** and nothing worked. I felt physical and emotional pain having to hide. Finally I found your Bell #60. I'm so grateful and impressed about how fast it worked with amazing results. Eulalia Isabel Sanchez Martin, 30, Brampton, ON **Skeptics can call everybody. All are real people like you or your friends.**

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■ **College professor had lack of good sleeps with many interruptions** for last 8 years that made her tired during the day. Within 3 days taking Bell Sound Sleep #23 the terrible snoring stopped. I wake up feeling refreshed and energized. I can concentrate in a focused, happy manner. I feel delighted with this natural product. Dr. Anela E. Heiges, 77, New York, NY ■ **A life changing product.** The very first night I took the capsules and every night after I had a restful and wonderful sleep. It has been a God send and blessing. I am by nature a skeptic. The money-back guarantee convinced me to try it. Jimmy Pay, 53, Gardendale, AC ■ **3 Years on Bell Sound Sleep #23.** My wife and I are entirely satisfied. Snoring episodes have completely disappeared. This has improved our lives enormously. Leo Fortin, 60, St-Georges, QC ■ **Basically you saved my husband's life.** For the last 5 years my husband had very bad nights. Bell #23 was nothing short of a miracle. I have my husband back. No more snoring. No more napping during the day. I am telling all our friends. Bonnie Johnson, 64, Wichita, KS ■ **My life changed. Sleep now 7-8 hours.** I am a retired college professor and author of books. I have no more need to nap during the day. Nothing I tried helped until I started Bell Sound Sleep. I am so delighted with this product I would like to make motivational speeches to help others. Carmen V. Caruso, 66, Ann Arbor, MI **On the Bell Website we list phone numbers or email addresses of actual users of this product and all other Bell products. Most are delighted to talk about their relief.**



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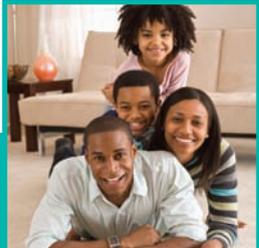
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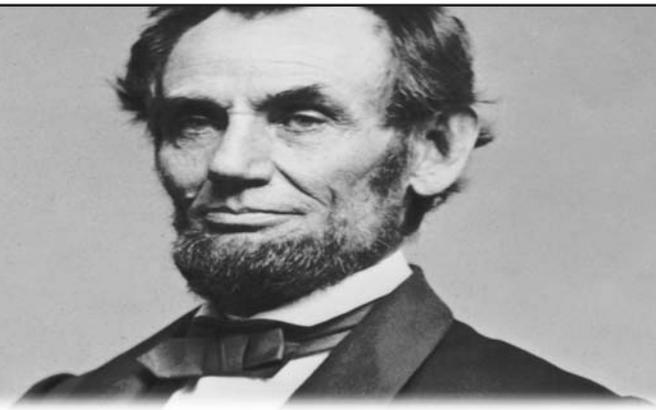
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What every man over 40 should ask his doctor

(StatePoint) Annual physicals may not be at the top of every man's to-do list, but these visits are crucial for longevity -- especially for those men over 40.

There's no better time than your check-up to have all your looming health questions answered. Make the most of your next visit by composing a checklist of things you'd like to talk about during your appointment.

No matter how healthy you feel, there are some discussion points you'll definitely want to cover:

Prostate Cancer Screening

Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in America, affecting one in six men, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation. If you're a man over 40, there are several major risk factors that you need to know about. If you are African-American, or have a family history of prostate cancer, talk to your doctor about your prostate health, beginning at age 40.

The older you are, the more likely you are to be diagnosed with this potentially life-threatening illness, but that doesn't mean younger men are not also diagnosed. In fact, one in every 38 men aged 40 to 59 is diag-

HEALTH

nosed with prostate cancer. Talk to your doctor about when you should begin screenings and how you can lower your risk of diagnosis.

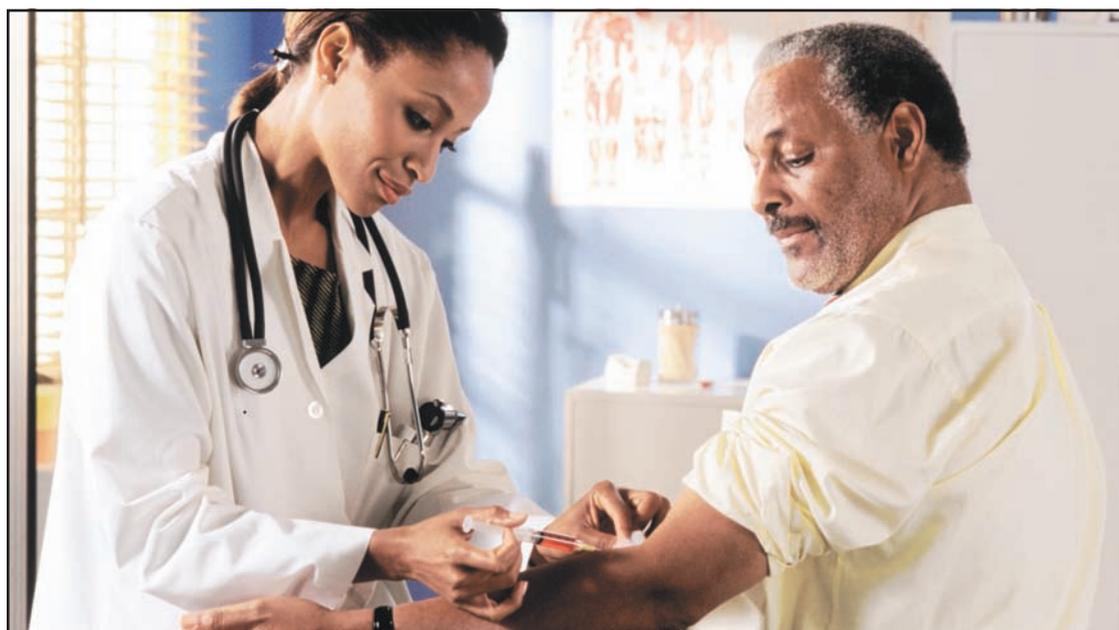
Be proactive! Visit the Prostate Cancer Foundation website at www.PCF.org for more information on risk factors, and to access a list of prevention tips.

Your Heart's Health

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease causes more than one in four deaths of men in the United States.

To get an accurate gauge of your risk, be honest with your doctor. He or she can't advise you properly if you don't share all the facts on your habits -- good and bad.

Have your blood pressure and cholesterol tested at recommended intervals. Ask your doctor if your levels are normal and what you can do if they aren't. If you don't currently get regular physical activity, your doctor can advise you on safely easing into an exercise program.



A man takes a blood test.

Diabetes Risk

Many people have the misconception that if something is wrong; their bodies will let them know. But diabetes often begins without symptoms. Your risk factor for developing diabetes goes up if you are overweight, have high blood pressure,

or a family history of the disease. Ask your doctor if you need to be screened.

In the meantime, lower your risk for diabetes by maintaining a healthy weight. Your doctor is a great resource for helping you form an effective weight management

plan. It's vital for men to manage their risks for life-threatening diseases like prostate cancer, and one of the best ways to do that is with regular visits to the doctor. If it's been over a year since your last appointment, call today to schedule a visit.

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Marley's daughter pens 'Every Little Thing'

Cedella, the eldest of Bob and Rita Marley's children recently published another in her series of children's books dedicated to the spirit and message of songs by her famous father.

"Every Little Thing" based on the song "Three little Birds" which choruses "don't worry about a thing 'cause every little thing is gonna be all right" is adapted to a delightful book that addresses the care-free sensibilities of first-time readers.

The song she said "has given hope to millions whose hearts have been lifted when facing the economic, social, and political challenges of today's difficult world."

In her father's words she based his lyrics to "to show through a child's eyes how he found hope in the world."

Although many young readers may not have discovered the lead Wailer or heard his beat, after perusing the pages they will surely see the message in her



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

colorfully illustrated publication.

Vanessa Brantley-Newton graphically provided the main ingredients to appeal to beginning readers.

She generously splashes heavy doses of images of children on swings; wearing a rainbow of colors including the trademarked red, gold and green associated with members of the Rastafarian community; playing soccer – Bob's favorite sport; in mischief, being comforted and surrounded by pets, plants and plenty of love.

Last year the entrepreneurial mom published "One Love" to the delight of young readers. She said the book would enable youngsters to "feel the beat and the positive rhythm of change." The title she said

was based on her favorite "happy song."

"I think everybody has a happy song, 'One Love is mine.'" "It's also a healing song. I play it for my boys when they weren't feeling well," the mother of three boys said.

"One Love' is also a great sleepy time song."

Cedella's reasons for tagging the popular song are all related to her father and her own three children – Soul Rebel, Skip and Saiyan.

The Grammy-winning singer, actress, designer and author recently outfitted Rihanna with one of her eye-catching designs.

The pop singer dressed to impress when she performed on television's "Saturday Night Live."

With fabric brandishing the image of the icon-



Cedella Marley in her design studio.

AP Photo/Rolo De Campo, HO

ic reggae singer, the word "Marley" blazed an instant demand for Marley's "Catch A Fire" brand.

Celebrities have long found favor with her stylish designs. And this past sum-

mer the world saw her athletic, fashion forward styling at the London Olympics.

Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt and the entire Jamaican delegation sported her patriotic designs.

Her "High Tide" swimwear is also acclaimed and was recently featured on Tyra Banks' hit TV show --"America's Next Top Model" -- which taped a few segments in Jamaica.

Marley has worn many hats, after taking hiatus from singing with Ziggy Marley & the Melody Makers she featured in films – "Joey Breaker," "The Mighty Quinn," and "KLA\$H."

Her first segue to writing introduced children to her father who is known as "The Boy From Nine Miles: The Early Life of Bob Marley."

In 2002 she published "56 Thoughts from 56 Hope Road."

At that time she said the book compiled meditations, sayings and Psalms that reflected her father's thoughts.

She later penned "One Love" and now "Every Little Thing" might well be all right.

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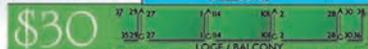


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ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas with the Rockettes

By Vinette K. Pryce

The first sign of the holidays followed Hurricane Sandy and arrived one week after a presidential election. The occasion found thousands of children accompanied by their parents bustling through the doors of Radio City Music Hall for the annual Christmas Spectacular.

A diverse assembly united with disregard to politics, color or creed watched with glee a 90-minute tradition that this year marks 85 years of holiday treat.

Four shows daily and on some days five will have 36 Rockettes, or 62 legs render eye-high kicks.

All fit the five feet six to five feet 10 and a half inches requirement, fulfill routines requiring 1,300 costumes and throughout maintaining cadence to an orchestral symphony that only the acoustically-perfect show-

place could fully deliver.

The variety showcase is measured by live sheep, camels, donkeys and a convoy of characters simulating the age-old story about three gifted wise men from the east that followed a bright star that led to a baby and his homeless parents hunkered down inside a stable.

This year, when the spectacle marks its 85th year, children will relate to a storyline following a parent in search of a special gift for her daughter.

If you think mom is in search of the latest iPad mini or latest smart phone. You are close. Santa has the right idea and onstage the gift is magnified, amplified, digitized and 2012.

Some of the classic routines are revisited to the delight of die-hard fans and traditionalists. Annual

Continued on Page 30

'Trapped' on Broadway?

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK (AP) — Is Broadway ready for Twan, Sylvester, Pimp Lucius and “the package”? R. Kelly thinks so — and says he’s working to bring the wacky characters and plotlines in his even wackier “Trapped in the Closet” series to the Great White Way.

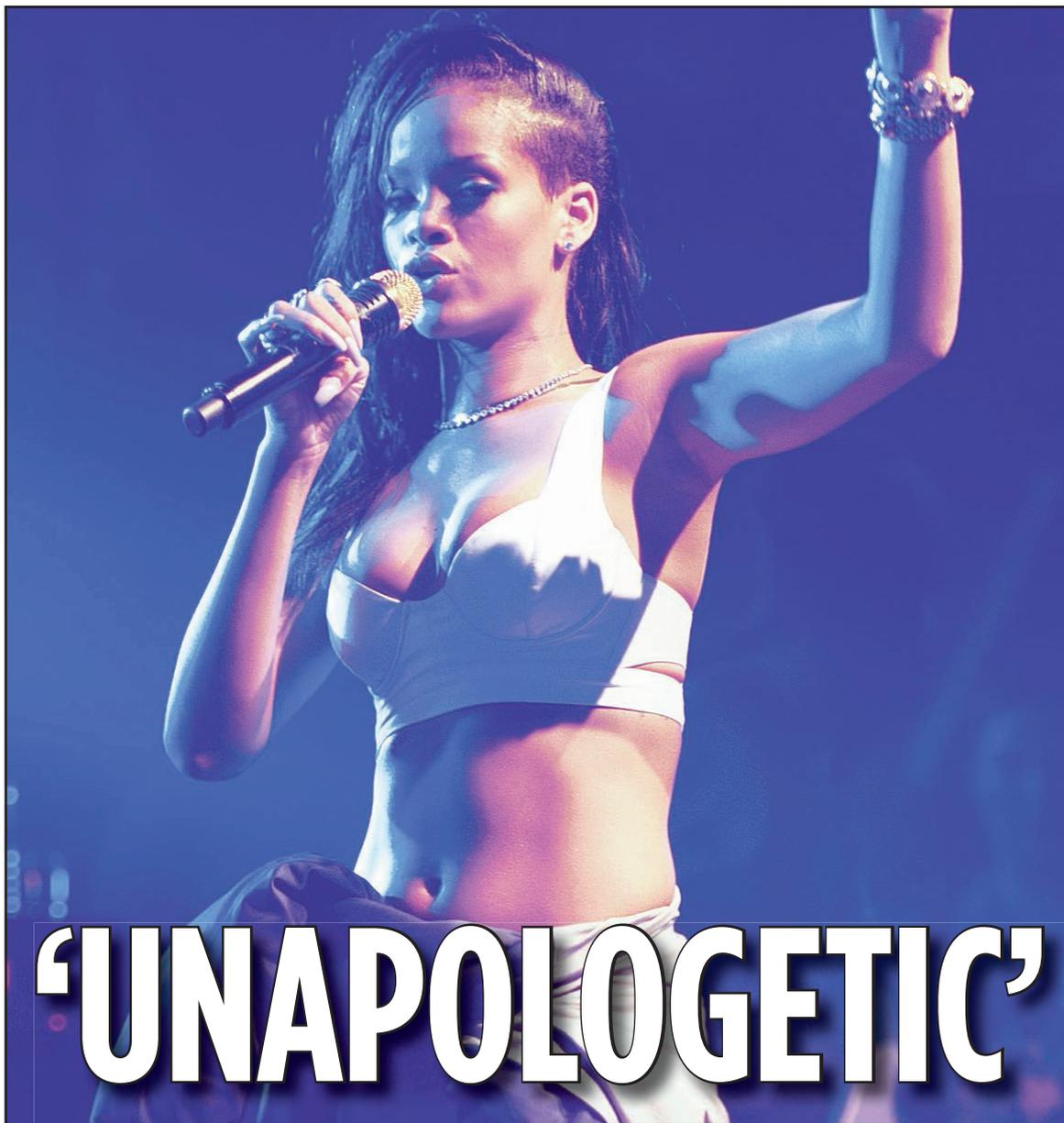
The superstar announced Monday night that he’s had an offer to bring the cult classic to the stage, and he may even be in some performances.

“To transform it into a

Broadway version, that’s what I’m working on,” he told a packed house at the Sunshine Theater, where he unveiled the latest chapters in “Trapped in the Closet,” which will debut on the IFC channel on Friday.

Kelly gave no other details about a possible Broadway adaptation of the wildly popular video opera. It got its start from a stirring series of songs Kelly debuted in 2005, which ended with a cliffhanger. The songs captured so

Continued on Page 30



'UNAPOLOGETIC'

Rihanna performs during her “777” Tour to promote her upcoming album “Unapologetic” at the Danforth Music Hall on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, in Toronto.

Photo by Arthur Mola/Invision/AP

Rihanna brings the goods on 7th album

By Mesfin Fekadu, AP Music Writer

There’s something about Rihanna. And her producers.

The singer’s new album — her seventh in seven years — is like many of her other releases, full of songs that are catchy, fun and addictive. Her albums are almost like listening to a “NOW” compilation disc.

“Unapologetic” is no different. It’s full of future hits, and not a single miss.

“Phresh Out the Runaway,” which kicks off the album, does so with a bang. And there are more: “Pour It Up,” which has Rihanna sounding like a female version of The-Dream, is appealing; “Jump” samples Ginuwine’s “Pony” — and it’s surprisingly good; and the David Guetta-

helmed “Right Now” is European-flavored and upbeat.

Even Rihanna’s duet with her ex Chris Brown on “Nobody’s Business,” which samples Michael Jackson’s “The Way You Make Me Feel,” will make you move your feet. Lyrically though, the song is somewhat dismissive. “Ain’t nobody’s business,” she sings. OK, then stop

Continued on Page 30

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **One More Night**
Maroon 5
- 2 **Some Nights**
Fun.
- 3 **Let Me Love You**
Ne-Yo
- 4 **Diamonds**
Rihanna
- 5 **We are Never Ever Getting...**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Too Close**
Alex Clare
- 7 **Die Young**
Ke\$ha
- 8 **Don't Wake Me Up**
Chris Brown
- 9 **As Long As You Love Me**
Justin Bieber Feat. Big Sean
- 10 **Adorn**
Miguel

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Red**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **R.E.D.**
Ne-Yo
- 3 **Babel**
Mumford & Sons
- 4 **good kid, m.A.A.d city**
Kendrick Lamar
- 5 **Dreams of Fireflies**
Trans-Siberian Orchestra
- 6 **Punk Goes Pop**
Various Artists
- 7 **Music From Another Dimension**
Aerosmith
- 8 **Overexposed**
Marron 5
- 9 **Night Train**
Jason Aldean
- 10 **Now 44**
Various Artists

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Trapped on Broadway

Continued from page 29

much attention that Kelly made an over-the-top video series about it that just got crazier and crazier as he added more chapters.

Kelly has often referred to "Trapped" as an alien, and on Monday, he said: "I'm glad to be one of the astronauts to take this thing to the unknown."

He thanked the enthusiastic crowd for accepting the series, and admitted that he always wanted to act: "Somehow, I landed 'Trapped in the

Closet' from being silly."

He also joked about the ridiculous nature of the series.

"I'm just having a lot of fun. I don't have a job, so I sit in the studio all day and think of stuff to do and this is just something stupid I've done that's been successful for me," he said. "I'm having a lot of fun with it."

The latest chapters introduce a few new faces, and like the others series, ends with a cliffhanger. While it's taken Kelly five years to add these

latest chapters, Kelly says he won't take as long to produce more.

"I want everybody to know I've got 85 chapters of 'Trapped in the Closet' waiting in the studio for y'all," he said. "The chapters that are coming — the show, we call it — is going to exceed every chapter that you have ever seen."

Kelly capped off the evening with a rendition of one of his biggest hits, "I Believe I Can Fly," for the audience.

Rockettes

Continued from page 29

favorites -- march of the wooden soldiers; Santa's arrival in 3-D and the more recent staple -- a bus tour to Central Park's skating rink provide holiday thrill to tourists and residents.

"Look daddy, a choo choo," a tot excitedly said to his father when an overhead train swirled the

domed interior.

And while the spectacle offers the best theatrical treat before Christmas, any visit to the famed showplace is always well worth the effort.

The chandelier in the lobby, the carpet, the seats, the first, second and third mezzanines, the acoustics, the merchandise, the courteous ushers, the location at Rockefeller Center, and after the spectacle inside, outside, a burst of snow provides adds

fantasy regardless of the temperature. A nine-week run ends on Dec. 30.

For those yearning to see animals stroll through the streets of the city, the notion is not far-fetched. With a little luck on any given day that vision is highly probable as camels, donkeys and sheep in the show exercise daily by doing just that.

Radio City Music Hall is located at 1260 Sixth Ave. at 50th St.



The legendary Rockettes dancers doing high kicks to kick-off the 2012 Radio City Christmas Spectacular with its annual "Christmas in August" event celebrating the 85th anniversary of the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Performances of the 2012 Radio City Christmas Spectacular which began Nov. 9, run through Dec. 30, 2012.

AP Photo/Starpix, Amanda Schwab



Rihanna performs at the Danforth Music Hall on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, in Toronto.
Photo by Arthur Mola/Invision/AP

Rihanna

Continued from page 29

tweeting one another.

When Rihanna slows it down, she's still on point: Her duet with singer Mikky Ekko on the piano-tune "Stay" is touching; the mid-tempo first single, the Sia-penned "Diamonds," is enjoyable; and "What Now" builds nicely from its calming verse to its electrified hook.

Seven concerts. Seven cities. Seven days.

Rihanna began her "777" tour in Mexico City on Wednesday night, Nov. 14 with an exclusive party for about 2,000 fans.

Dressed in black shorts, a small black top and a black boxing robe, Rihanna was welcomed on the stage of the El Plaza Condesa concert hall with an ovation despite being two hours late. She thanked fans for their patience.

"This is incredible! Thank you very much for your patience. You really make me feel loved here," said the 24-year-old singer before opening the concert with "Cockiness (Love It)."

The show was a taste of what's to come in her "Diamonds World Tour" scheduled for the first half of 2013.

Rihanna arrived in Mexico City on a Boeing 777, which will take her to Toronto, Stockholm, Paris, Berlin, London and finally New York, where she will complete the grueling tour and present her latest album, "Unapologetic."

She also sang "Fresh Off The Runway" and "Diamonds" from her new album, which features collaborations with Eminem, David Guetta, Future and former boyfriend, Chris Brown.

"We've waited a long time to get back here, Mexico City!" said the singer.

Themes on the Indomitability of the human spirit

"The Sessions"

Excellent (4 stars)
Rated R for graphic sexuality, frontal nudity and frank dialogue
Running time: 95 minutes
Distributor:
Fox Searchlight

By Kam Williams

Mark O'Brien (John Hawkes) was left paralyzed from the neck down by the polio he'd contracted as a child. Consequently, he can only breathe with the assistance of an iron lung, although he can use a portable respirator for a few hours at a time.

Nonetheless, the condition has never stopped him from fantasizing, especially about his attractive attendants like Amanda (Annika Marks) who quit when he expressed his desire for her. The sexually-frustrated, 38-year-old decides that the only way he'll probably ever lose

his virginity is by paying a woman to sleep with him.

However, this proves easier said than done, between the physical challenges presented by quadriplegia and his having to wrestle with a major moral issue as a devout Catholic. Since his religion forbids fornication outside the sanctity of marriage, Mark consults his parish priest for special dispensation.

Armed with the surprisingly-sympathetic Father Brendan's (William H. Macy) blessing, Mark retains the services of Cheryl (Helen Hunt), a professional sex surrogate with the bedside demeanor, or should I say bedroom demeanor, of a saint. Over the course of a half-dozen, romantic rendezvous, the sensitive therapist gradually helps her patient conquer problems with performance anxiety and premature ejaculation.

En route to consummation, the pair simultaneously forge a friendship in spite her fears that he might develop an attachment to her. After



A scene from "The Sessions."

all, she is married. But Mark emerges from the experience, a changed man, as he develops the confidence to flirt with other women and he even ultimately finds a wife (Robin Weigert).

The Sessions' subject-matter might strike some as salacious, given the film's frequent, full-frontal

nudity. But the picture actually plays out more as a compassionate tale exploring a variety of themes, including faith, friendship, relationships and the indomitability of the human spirit.

Written and directed by Ben Lewin, himself a polio victim, the movie is based on Mark O'Brien's

(1950-1999) life story as chronicled in his autobiography "How I Became a Human Being: A Disabled Man's Quest for Independence." The late author was already the subject of *Breathing Lessons*, a biopic which won an Academy Award in 1997 in the Best Documentary category.

Rather than resort to manipulative sentimentality, the production resists the temptation to follow a Hollywood formula in favor of a realistic plot that Mark undoubtedly would have appreciated. As a journalist and longtime civil rights advocate, he never looked for pity but lobbied for legislation and equality on behalf of the handicapped.

Co-stars John Hawkes and Helen Hunt generate an endearing chemistry, here, turning in a couple of virtuoso performances deserving of serious consideration come Oscar season. A poignant, character-driven drama depicting the disabled as complicated individuals with a full range of emotions.

Independent & Foreign Films

Central Park Five (Unrated) Rush to judgment documentary, co-directed by Ken Burns and his daughter, Sarah, revisiting the infamous Central Park Jogger case where five black and Latino teenagers with no previous records were wrongfully convicted for the rape of a white jogger, while the actual perpetrator, a serial sexual offender with an extensive rap sheet, remained at-large. With appearances by Reverend Calvin Butts and former NYC Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins.

Gottfried Heinwein and the Dreaming Child (Unrated) Mixed media documentary about an Israeli Opera production in Tel Aviv that was designed by the celebrated Austrian artist Gottfried Heinwein.

Hitchcock (PG-13 for sexuality, violent images and mature themes) Faithful adaptation of Stephen Rebello's Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho," a book revolving around Alfred's (Anthony Hopkins) relationship with his wife, Alma (Helen Mirren), and his fascination with Ed Gein (Michael Wincott), the murderer who served as inspiration for the character Norman Bates. With Scarlet



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Johansson, Jessica Biel, Toni Colette and original "Karate Kid" Ralph Macchio.

The King (Unrated) Inspirational biopic about Darko Kralj, a Bosnian war casualty who went on to become a paralympic world record-holder. (In Croatian with subtitles)

Rust and Bone (R for violence, profanity, explicit sexuality and graphic nudity) Romance drama about a boxer with broken hands (Matthias Schoenaerts) who falls in love with a legless Killer whale trainer (Marion Cotillard) after he moves from Belgium to Antibes to raise his 5 year-old son (Armand Verdure) in a safer environment. With Corinne Masiero, Celine Sallette and Bouli Lanners. (In French with subtitles)

Seeds of Resiliency (Unrated) Overcoming-the odds documentary about the lives of a dozen different people who have thrived in the wake of great tragedies, including a Ugandan civil war orphan, a quadriplegic professor from

Korea, a Holocaust survivor and a wheelchair-bound boy who made it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Life of Pi (PG for mature themes and scary action sequences) Oscar-winner Ang Lee (for Brokeback Mountain) directs this 3-D adaptation of Yann Martel's magical novel chronicling a shipwrecked zookeeper's (Suraj Sharma) ordeal after being stranded in a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean with a zebra, an orangutan, a zebra and a Bengal tiger. With Irrfan Khan, Gerard Depardieu and Rafe Spall.

Red Dawn (PG-13 for profanity and intense war violence) Remake of the 1984 thriller about a ragtag team of teenage guerilla fighters who save the day after their town is invaded by North Korea. Ensemble features Chris Hemsworth, Josh Hutcherson, Isabel Lucas, Alyssa Diaz, Adrienne Palicki, Edwin Hodge, Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Ron Yuan.

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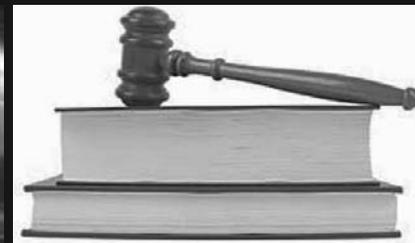


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Highlighting outstanding Haitian talent

By Tequila Minsky

In its ongoing commitment in sharing Haitian culture to both the Diaspo-

ra and a broader audience, Brooklyn-based Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX) has been extraordinarily busy.

Last week, they collaborated in three different presentations; HCX partnered with the CUNY Graduate Center

in an evening of contemporary Haitian theatre; at El Museo del Barrio, it held its monthly An n' Pale (We speak) series in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition; and, for the Haitian Studies Association, they introduced an up-and-coming jazz talent.

Haitian writer Gary Victor was featured in a theatrical evening at CUNY's Martin E. Segal Theatre. "This is the first time that Victor's work has been presented in English," said Lehman College Professor of French Thomas C. Spear acknowledging the "labor of love", translating French to English, by Lucy Swanson.

Local actors Macc Plaise and Michele Marcelin read "Blood and the Sea", an excerpt of Victor's stage adaptation from a novel by the same name. Master percussionist Tiga accompanied the reading. Maduka Steady then performed an excerpt from the play "The 12th Floor."

Following the readings,

Professor Spear led a discussion with Victor; the plays' director Phyllis Roome translated.

Audience member Elle Philippe was delighted in being exposed to Victor's work. "It was fascinating," she gushed, "and I love the fact that this author has a writing program now in Haiti working with young teens." Philippe brought her 12-year-old daughter who was completely engaged with the evening of theatre and talk. "I look forward to reading his books," Philippe commented.

Prolific Victor has 15 novels, 10 short story collections, plays, children's books, radio, screenplays, and a regular satirical column in the Haitian daily, "Le Nouvelliste" in his credits.

Two days later, El Museo del Barrio hosted with HCX an evening of conversation with Miami-based Haitian artist Edouard Duval Carrie whose evocative paintings—one in each venue—are part

of "Caribbean: Crossroads of the World" exhibit still at Queens Museum and El Museo, closing Jan. 6.

Assistant Professor of American Studies at Dickinson College Jerry Philogene discussed with the artist his personal experiences, the influence on him of Haiti's Centre d'Art, and how his choice of subject matter—vodou gods, African iconography, contemporary events—work their way into his paintings.

Duval Carrie's stirring paintings use evocative imagery, painted frames completely integrated into the work and a vibrant palette. The artist also creates alter pieces, sculptures and installations and most recently has begun to curate exhibitions at Miami's The Little Haiti Cultural Center, a stone's throw from his studio.

Haiti Cultural Exchange also helped organize the cultural evening for the Haitian Studies Association. **Continued on page 39**

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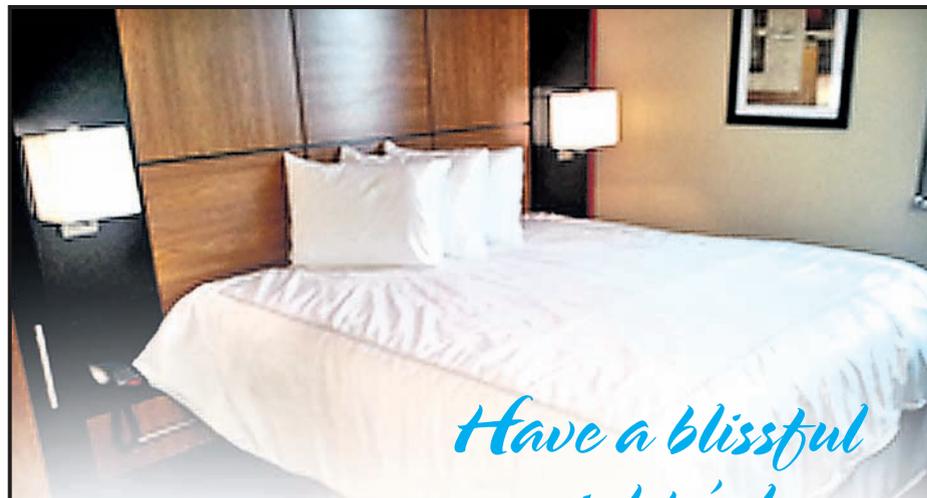
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Haiti talent

Continued from page 34

tion conference at York College, which featured Brooklyn-based jazz musician Melanie Charles (who recently returned from 6 months in Japan, followed by a European tour) and her group. "They loved it," said HCX director Regine Roumain, relishing in how she was able to share this immensely talented and versatile young Haitian-American woman musician with members of an international audience who might not have had the opportunity to become familiar (yet) with Charles' artistry.

Topping off HCX's busy week, the cultural organization just moved into its very first office at Five Myles Gallery, 558 St. John's Place in Crown Heights. Following over 10 collaborative events during the past two years, the two non-profit organizations are sharing resources to benefit the Brooklyn community. Having a home is a great step for this active organization.

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SPORTS

Los Angeles, Houston in finals

By Patrick Horne

The 2012 MLS Cup is déjà vu! The Los Angeles Galaxy, the fourth seeded team in the Western Conference will host the Houston Dynamo, the fifth seeded team in the Eastern Conference, at Home Depot Center in Carson (CA) in the 2012 MLS Cup final on Saturday, Dec. 1. The MLS championship game is a rematch of last year's final, when the Galaxy came out winners.

The matchup, for the second straight year, underscores the idea that the play-offs signal a new season where there are no guarantees for success for those clubs that played well in the regular season. In fact, lowly seeded teams like Los Angeles and Houston, which sort of sneaked into the play-offs, grasp the second life to achieve what was lost during the regular season. The Galaxy is now the Western Conference play-off champion, and the Dynamo is the Eastern Conference champion.

Los Angeles went through the Vancouver Whitecaps, defeated highly-favored Western Conference winner San Jose Earthquakes, before turning back the Seattle Sounders by an aggregate score of 4-2 in the home-and-away Conference final series, on Sunday, Nov. 18 in Seattle. The Galaxy went into Seattle last Sunday night with a 3-0 win

Continued on Page 44

Sarwan resigns from WIPA Assoc.

By Azad Ali

Embattled West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan has resigned from the West Indies Players Association (WIPA).

Sarwan's decision to quit WIPA appears to coincide with his effort to return to the West Indies team.

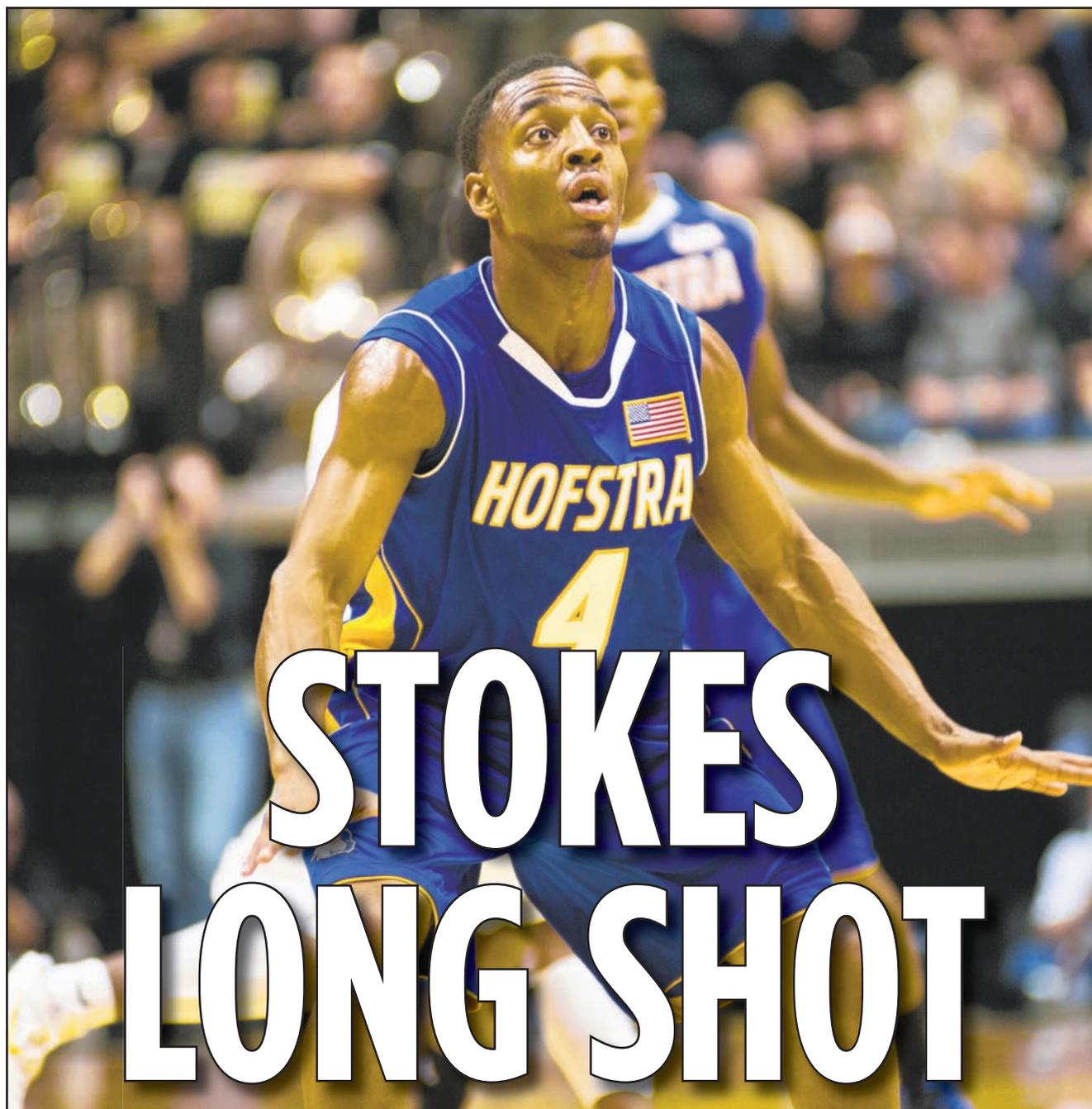
Also retiring from WIPA was attorney Dave Persad.

A WIPA statement said that the positions made vacant by both men will be filled at the next annual general meeting in January.

"Both Ramnaresh and Dave have in their own ways contributed to WIPA's progress," said a statement from WIPA's chief executive officer Michael Hall.

"We certainly wish Ramnaresh all the very best in his future cricket career as we are

Continued on Page 44



Shaquille Stokes (No. 4) plays for Hofstra University.

Photo courtesy of Hofstra University

Hofstra University wins 2k Sports Classic

By Robert Elkin

Shaquille Stokes returned home to New York to continue his college basketball career. And he felt tremendous playing near his home.

The return of Stokes to his native land proved a success after spending his freshman year at the University of Hawaii and

a very successful high school career.

The occasion at Hofstra University in Hempstead, Long Island marked the 2k Sports Classic round robin format of six teams benefitting the Wounded Warrior Projects.

Stokes scored only nine points, including one of four from long range out,

and assisted twice in 28 minutes against South Dakota State. However, the one shot from long range out broke a 63-63 tie with less than three seconds left, an outside shot for the game winning basket.

"I just wanted to put the ball in the

Continued on Page 44

Los Angeles, Houston in MLS finals

Continued from page 43
in the first leg, hence the burden was on the Sounders to score three goals just to force overtime.

The host scored within 12th minutes of each half to go ahead, 2-0: Eddie Johnson tallied the first goal for Seattle in the 12th minute and Zach Scott in the 57th, but although much time was left in the game for the tying goal to even the aggregate score at 3-3, a controversial hand ball in the penalty area by Seattle defender Adam Johansson sent Galaxy forward Robbie Keane to the penalty spot in the 67th minute to make the score 2-1 and forced Seattle to have to score two goals in the final 23 minutes of play. The task turned out to be too much for the home team despite the vocal support of the 44,575 sell-out crowd in CenturyLink Field. It meant that the Sounders would have to wait another year for the chance to make an initial appearance in MLS Cup.

Battle-tested Houston Dynamo stormed into RFK Stadium in Washington DC after a 3-1 defeat of DC United in the first leg of the Eastern Conference finals. Houston pressured the ball from the outset and in the 33rd minute of play, Boniek Garcia put the visitors ahead, 1-0, off a pass from Brad Davis. DC United equalized in the 82nd through Branko Boskovic but it wasn't enough. The 1-1 draw signaled Houston's fourth Eastern Conference play-off title in the last seven years. Houston also defeated the Chicago Fire, then overcame Conference regular season champion Sporting Kansas City, on the way to the Conference title.

Caribbean Championship

The eight-team field for the 2012 Digicel Caribbean



Houston Dynamo's Boniek Garcia, bottom, and DC United's Chris Korb, top, battle for the ball during the first half of the second game of an MLS soccer Eastern Conference final playoff series match on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Washington.

AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez

Cup Championship in Antigua and Barbuda is now complete and the games will go on for a week in mid-December. The last two groups completed play on Sunday, Nov. 18 to complete the final field.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the host and Cuba qualified from four-team Group 8, which also included St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Surinam. Trinidad (2-0-1, 7 pts.) finished atop the group with Cuba (1-1-1, 4 pts.) second. Suriname (1-0-0-2, 3 pts.) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (0-2-1, 2 pts.) were eliminated.

In Group 6, Haiti's (2-1-0,

6 pts.) two wins helped it win the group with six points, while French Guyana (1-1-1, 4 pts.) advanced by scoring more goals than Grenada (1-1-1, 4 pts.); the French scored five goals in its three games, while host Grenada managed only three. Grenada will miss out on the finals after it had qualified for the last two Caribbean Cup championships and CONCACAF Gold Cup tournaments.

The eight teams in the 2012 Digicel Caribbean Cup finals in Antigua and Barbuda in mid-December are in two groups. Group A will consist of host Antigua and Barbuda,

Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic. In Group B, defending champion Jamaica will do battle against Martinique, French Guyana, and Cuba. The top four teams will qualify for the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup in the USA.

MLK wins

Martin Luther King Jr. High School, located in Manhattan, won its 14th PSAL, Class A title in the last 17 years. MLK captured the New York City Public Schools championship by defeating Aviator High School, 2-0, on Sunday at Randall's Island.

Hofstra University

Continued from page 43
hole," he said.

The third game of the season marked a successful home coming for him after his team lost two games on the road. Hofstra went on to win the 'Classic,' with games against the District of Columbia and Marshall on three successive games.

As a college freshman during the 2011-2012 season, the 5-10 guard started 12 games at the University of Hawaii but got into 30 contests overall. He turned in a noteworthy season with tremendous statistics.

He then transferred to be nearer to home, because his grandmother was sick. He wanted to be close to her.

"I grew as a player this year," said Stokes while talking about his sophomore campaign as compared to last season. "I want to be involved more as a leader. The coaching staff (at Hofstra) helped a lot here. I was happy that I transferred from Hawaii to Hofstra.

Head Coach Mo Cassara has been indeed satisfied with his team, which won three straight games to end the week, individually

including with Stokes. He has been starting or coming off the bench in the contests in the backcourt.

"We have a deep team and do a lot of guard things (plays)," said Cassara. "We have a long season... After losing the first two games as we struggled, this was a great win for us. Credit goes to the guys. We are playing a lot of new faces."

Stokes, a resident of Harlem in Manhattan, and competing in leagues in that area, starred at Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, where he became a three-year starter. He was part of a team that either won a championship or came close to winning a title in the Public Schools Athletic League.

Stokes played at a school that produced Stephon Marbury, Sebastian Telfair and Lance Stephenson, into the National Basketball Association. Stokes competed on a team that was coached by Tiny Morton, who produced many great players at Lincoln.

"Now a lot of people can come and watch me play," Stokes said. "I'll keep working hard and hopefully, it'll show up on the court and also in the classroom."



UNLV guard Oscar Bellfield (0) dribbles past Hawaii guard Shaquille Stokes (4) during the first half of the NCAA college basketball game in Honolulu.

AP Photo/Marco Garcia

Sarwan resigns from players association

Continued from page 43
tain that he still has a great deal to contribute to West Indies cricket," Hall said.

Sarwan's resignation from the WIPA executive may be part of his strategy to play for the West Indies cricket team again, the

Jamaica Gleaner reported, citing sources.

He last played a Test for the West Indies in the summer of 2011 against India but has since then declared that he would never represent the regional side again.

However, the 32 year-old

right-handed Guyanese batsman recently had a change of heart, and has been lobbying the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president Julian Hunte and chairman of selectors Clyde Butts to regain his place.

Kisson, who became a

director of WIPA in 2010, has withdrawn his services from the players' association.

He was the lead attorney in the recent court matter concerning player contracts and a disputed memorandum of understanding involving WIPA and the WICB.

Tino Best crumbles team Bangladesh



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

West Indies pulled off a fascinating victory against Bangladesh in the first cricket Test match of the series. In a high-scoring first innings from both sides on a slow pitch gifted for batsmen and not much for the bowlers, the West Indies scored 527 runs for 4 wickets before declaring. Shivnarine Chanderpaul struck his second double century in Test cricket by hitting 203 not out and marking his 26th Test century. Wicket keeper batsman Denesh Ramdin slammed 126 not out and opening batsman Kieron Powell 110.

Bangladesh Scores 556 All out

Bangladesh batsmen stood up on a batting pitch and took full advantage with five of their batsmen scoring more than 50 and one scoring 108. Young Naeem Islam was the centurion with 108, Nasir Hossain 96, Shakib Al Hasan 89, Tamim Iqal 72, Mushfiqur Rahim 43, Mahmudullah 62 and Shahriar

Nafees 31. For the West Indies, Ravi Rampaul's figures were 3 wickets for 118 runs, Sunil Narine 3 for 148 and Darren Sammy 2 for 83 Bangladesh in their second innings were given a task of 245 for victory and were bowled out for 167 runs.

West Indies pacer Tino Best bowled with pace, hostility and a great measure of accuracy picking up his first five-wicket haul in a Test match. Best bowled 12.3 overs and took 5 wickets for 24 runs.

Bangladesh had no means of standing up against the fiery Best who was just remarkable and outstanding. West Indies team is 1-0 in the two-Test series.

Windies Bowlers Must Create Wicket Taking Tactics

Bangladesh's score of 556

all out in the first innings of the first Test match should have been much lower if the West Indies bowlers were more tactical in their approach. Playing on a solid batting wicket bowlers have to use their cricket knowledge in order to take wickets.

Wrong Tactic

West Indies spinner Sunil Narine bowled his traditional way in the first Test match on a wicket that did not provide much help to the bowlers. Here comes the challenge to any bowler when the conditions are not favorable to induce a method or methods of how to pick up wickets. Narine uses the air a lot to deceive batsmen. That approach got him into some thrashing because Bangladesh's batsmen are very good at spin bowling. The differ-



West Indies cricketer Tino Best, right, celebrates the dismissal of Bangladesh cricketer Shahriar Nafees during the fifth day of the first cricket Test match between Bangladesh and West Indies, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012.

AP Photo/A.M. Ahad

ence arises when bowlers get lots of turn with the ball thus enabling the bowler to cause some confusion for the batsmen. When the second Test match starts Narine is expected to use the turn much more rather than giving the ball

too much air. It is hoped that Narine consider the situation that he faced in the first Test match and try to have it remedied.

Best has to work harder on his line and learn to be much more attacking in order to

force batsmen into mistakes. He needs to bowl with much more control and avoid bowling every ball at 90 miles per hour. Some variation tends to throw batsmen off thus enabling the bowler to take wickets.

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55. Blue
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6. Great Barrier _____
7. E in BCE
8. "Rigoletto" composer
9. "The Big ____ Theory"
10. Primary source for Scandinavian mythology
11. Late designer Christian _____
12. Girl hogs
15. Perceive or think about in a particular

- way
20. Grind down
22. *Future home network for "Partners in Crime"
24. Venomous talk
25. *MTV's "The Real _____"
26. Cowboy's cry of joy
27. Not slouching
29. *Entering its 25th season
31. Pull an all-nighter
32. Middle Eastern porter
33. Salon file
34. *So you think you can do this?
36. Goes well with sushi
38. Phone button
42. Natasha Fatale's enemy
45. Concluding or finishing
49. *It's often bought on "Pawn Stars"
51. What pirates do
54. Wine ripening
56. Indian metropolis
57. Contributes
58. Waldorf salad ingredient
59. Arabian chieftain
60. Type of defense
61. Word processor command
62. Bug-eyed
63. Mascara site
64. Badger's den
67. Bird word

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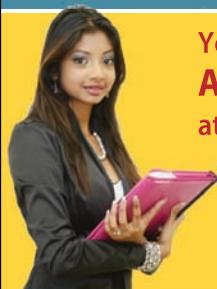
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