



Garifuna Jazz celebration

Kahlil Kwame Bell and his three-year-old (on tour with dad) warm up before the Saturday morning workshop with the Afri Garifuna Jazz Ensemble and musicians young and old (12-80) from Hartford, Connecticut. See Black History Month stories on pages 18, 21, 22 and 41. Photo by Tequilla Minsky

Adams receives special Martin Luther King Jr. award

By Nelson A. King

In celebration of Black History Month and to commemorate the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the State of Israel, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) honored Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams with the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

Counsel Gen. of Israel in New York Amb. Ido Aharoni, Barclays Center Majority Owner Bruce Ratner, chief executive officer of the Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center Brett Yormark, executive vice president of JNF Russell Robinson and managing director of JCRC-NY Hindy

Poupko presented Adams with the award at center court in the Barclays Center before the Brooklyn Nets' home game against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I am honored to join the illustrious group of leaders and activists that have received the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the State of Israel," Adams said.

"As the first African-American to have the honor to serve as Brooklyn Borough President, I stand on the shoulders of giants like Dr. King and the trailblazers of the civil rights movement," he added.

"My public service is committed to furthering his legacy, advancing the welfare

Continued on Page 6

TUMULT IN T&T CABINET

Fallout from alleged witness tampering scandal

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar made some sweeping changes to her government - a few months before the general election.

She fired five members of her Cabinet, including the country's Attorney General Anand Ramlogan and National Security Minister Garry Griffith, Justice Minister Emmanuel George, Sports Minister Rupert Griffith and removed the President of the Senate Timothy Hamel-Smith on Monday night.

The shake-up came in the wake of a police investigation in an alleged witness tampering scandal involving the attorney general, which has also led to the firing of the National Security Minister Gary Griffith (a witness in the matter).

Ramlogan is the first attorney general in Trinidad and Tobago to be fired. The other MP to get the axe was Embau Moheni, minister in the Ministry of National Security.

She has appointed former T&T High Commissioner to the UK,

Garvin Nicholas as attorney general and retired Brigadier General Carl Alfonso as national security minister.

Other new appointments were leader of the Congress of the People (one of the coalition partners in the People's Partnership government) Prakash Ramadhar, as minister of justice (in addition to his portfolio of legal affairs minister), former national footballer Brent Sancho, as sports minister, Kwasi Mutema, minister in the Ministry of Works, Christine Newallo-Hosein, minister of the People and Social Development (which was formerly held by PM Persad-Bissessar) and Stacy Roonparine, minister in the Ministry of Gender Affairs.

In her television address to the nation on Monday night, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar dedicated just one line to her outgoing Attorney General saying; "Attorney General has vehemently denied the allegation" (of witness tampering).

She criticized the actions of former
Continued on Page 34

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Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller attends a multilateral meeting at the Caribbean Energy Security Summit at the State Department in Washington, Monday, Jan. 26, 2015.

Associated Press / Jacquelyn Martin

Clarke welcomes Jamaica's PM to Congress

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke says she has welcomed and celebrated Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller for visiting the United States Congress.

During the reception, Clarke said on Thursday that Simpson Miller commended the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for supporting Jamaica in its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "which resulted in approval of US\$923.3 million arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility for Jamaica on May 1, 2013."

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, was joined by CBC Chairman G.K. Butterfield, former CBC Chairwoman Maxine Waters, and other CBC members.

Simpson Miller was also joined at the reception by David Lipton, first deputy managing director of the IMF; Francisco Palmieri, deputy assistant secretary for the Caribbean and Central America in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs; and other members of the delegation from Jamaica, including Dr. Stephen Vasciannie, ambassador to the United States; and Lorna Johnson, honorary consul of the Consulate of Jamaica in Los Angeles.

"Today, I have the distinct honor of introducing a woman whose leadership has been invaluable to Jamaica and its people, the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller," said Clarke in introducing Simpson Miller at the reception. "A trailblazer in public service, born in Wood Hall in St. Catherine Parish, Prime Minister Simpson Miller has dedicated her life to a career in public service."

Free at last: Court vacates conviction of Barbadian

By Nelson A. King

A New York State Supreme Court judge on Thursday vacated the conviction of a Barbadian national who had spent 18 months in jail for a crime prosecutors now say never occurred.

The conviction of Michael Waithe, 52, who has a green card and faces deportation because of a felony burglary in 1987, was vacated by Justice Neil Jon Firetog, who granted a motion by Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson to vacate the case.

"This hardworking and innocent man came to our country for a better life and ended up being framed and went to prison for a crime that he didn't commit," Thompson said in a statement.

"He now faces being ripped apart from his family, including his three beautiful children and granddaughter," Thompson added. "Wrongful convictions lead not only to wrongful imprisonment but also can impact a person's job, housing or immigration status."

Thompson said Waithe did not commit the supposed 1986 crime, which also never occurred.

Waithe was a security guard at a Brooklyn building when a tenant "claimed she saw Mr. Waithe taking items out of the apartment," along with two other individuals she could not identify, said Prosecutor Mark Hale at a hearing on Thursday.

Hale said there was no physical evidence, adding that there was "scant evidence a burglary had, in fact, been committed."

He said the witness was "the sole person who was responsible for the conviction of the defendant."

In the fall, Waithe contacted the Con-



Michael Waithe and his girlfriend Karen Garrick leave a courtroom after Waithe was exonerated in New York, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. A state Supreme Court judge granted a prosecutor's motion to vacate Waithe's 1987 burglary conviction. Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson says in a statement Waithe came to the U.S. seeking a better life but was instead framed for a crime he didn't commit. The green card-holder faces deportation based on the conviction.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

vication Review Unit at the Office of the Brooklyn District Attorney, which examines questionable cases at the request of lawyers, defendants or family members, according to the New York Times.

The paper said the unit's lawyers interviewed the witness, who said that no burglary had occurred.

Hale said she accused Waithe "solely because she did not like him, and

thought he was responsible for the theft of an auto from her."

"These things happen in life; unfortunately it happened to me," said Waithe after his case was vacated.

He recalled that, in 2011, he was stopped by immigration officers on arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York from his native Barbados.

Jamaican-born heads intelligence agency

By Vinette K. Pryce

The title and name Lieut. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart may not resound with military familiarity the way U.S. Army General Colin Powell did when the latter decided policy as national security advisor and chairman of joint chief of staff.

Perhaps a reason is the fact Lieut. Stewart wears the uniform of the USMC — whose motto is "Semper Fidelis" (always faithful).

Another could be the fact war in Iraq and Afghanistan has moved from the front pages where it lingered during the President George W. Bush administration when history declared the soldier, the first Black to hone the key position.

However, like the four-star general, under the leadership of the Commander-in-chief Barack Obama, the marine

has distinguished himself through military service and on Jan. 23 became the first Black and the first Marine to hold the position of director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

And while that accomplishment is major, the fact the military's top spy chief was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica makes him another Caribbean superstar.

Full disclosure reveals that Stewart lived on the island until he reached eighth grade.

"I left (Kingston) about 1971, when I was just starting second year at Kingston College."

That was about the same time Powell was making his second tour as a soldier in Vietnam. Stewart credits his upbringing in Jamaica for his success.

"The education I got there put me

in a good position when I came to America."

Although on arrival here he was assigned to the eight grade educators believed comparable to the Jamaican school system, Vincent reflected: "I was well ahead of my classmates."

A decade later, Stewart joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

He received his baccalaureate degree from Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, where he majored in History (1981).

He also earned master's degrees in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI (1995) and in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (2002).

Continued on Page 36

Caribbean

The Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is observing its 10th anniversary this year, with Justice Adrian Saunders saying the “CCJ has come a long way over those 10 years.”

The CCJ, established in 2001 to replace the London-based Privy Council as the region’s final court, began operations on April 16, 2005.

The CCJ has both an original and appellate jurisdiction, but while most of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries are signatories to the Original jurisdiction, only Barbados, Guyana and Belize are members of the appellate jurisdiction.



The CCJ also acts as an international tribunal interpreting the Revised Treaty of Chaguramas that governs the 15-member regional integration movement.

President in the first court proceedings for 2015, Justice Saunders noted that the CCJ had come a long way from the solitary case that was filed in 2005.

He told the court that last year the CCJ delivered 21 judgments, six of which were from Barbados, four from Belize and 11 from Guyana.

Speaking about the court’s plan for its tenth year of operations, Justice Saunders said throughout this calendar year, the CCJ will be embarking on a variety of activities to mark the occasion.

“These activities will unfold over the following months and details of them will be published in due course,” he said.

Bahamas

More than 90 participants representing defense, law enforcement, government and international organizations from the Caribbean, North America, South America, Central America and Europe recently attended the Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC), co-hosted this year by the Royal Bahamas Defense Force (RBDF) and the United States Military Southern Command (Southcom).



The Miami-based Southern Command, otherwise known as Southcom says strengthening capabilities, interoperability and information sharing to effectively counter transnational organized crime in the Caribbean will be the focus again for military and civilian leaders from 21 countries.

Southcom said international security leaders who met recently discussed the threat and ways to effectively reduce the presence and impact of organized crime.

This was the fifth consecutive year the topic was the central theme of the CANSEC, underscoring the importance of the issue for regional leaders and their



Beach erosion battle

Jamaica’s Negril beach in the vicinity of the Tree House Hotel bar after rough seas on Good Friday 2013 and prior to the fire that destroyed the Country Country Hotel restaurant in the foreground. See story on page 16.

Inter Press Service / Mary Veira

commitment to addressing it by working together.

Barbados

The Barbados government has announced a seven million dollar initiative aimed at bringing relief to businesses on the west coast suffering from a shortage of natural gas.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart told Parliament recently that the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) has agreed that industrial users of natural gas should switch immediately to alternative fuels for the short term.



The new proposals followed a joint meeting between the technical subcommittee and boards of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited (BNOCL) and NPC.

It followed an outcry by customers, including several hotel and restaurant chains, that they were experiencing low gas pressure since last December.

Stuart said that NPC had discovered that the production of some wells had fallen below the economic threshold, but that two other wells had now been identified that would be connected to the BNOCL’s existing gathering system.

The prime minister said four small air mix plants are scheduled to come on stream by month end, while another plant would be set up.

The natural gas suppliers also agreed

to transport compressed natural gas by trail-mounted vessels. Stuart estimated it would take three to four weeks to put the necessary infrastructure in place at the facility and import the necessary equipment.

Stuart also revealed that in an effort to increase gas production and reserves, the BNOCL will finalize the relevant contracts and other arrangements in order to resume its expanding drilling program early in the third quarter of 2015.”

Grenada

A man who robbed former Prime Minister Tilman Thomas, after he gave him a ride last December was jailed for six months.

The court heard that Amron Mitchell stole EC\$600 from Thomas on Dec. 19, 2014.

Thomas, who lost the last general election three years ago, said Mitchell was among four people, he gave a lift to St Andrew east of the capital, St George’s.

“They were standing at the Temple Junction hitching ride and because I was going to Grenville I decided to give them a lift,” he told the court.

Thomas said when he reached home he saw the pouch open and out of the bag. He did not realize that the money was gone until the police called him.



Thomas said he became aware of the robbery when a police officer, whose son was among those he had given a ride, called to inform him of the theft.

Mitchell, an unemployed man pleaded guilty to the charge.

Guyana

Former Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) judge Professor Duke Pollard is questioning the validity of the May 11, 2015 Guyana election announcement by President Donald Ramotar.



In a letter to the Guyana press, Prof. Pollard said “a definitive determination of the election date in the meaning of Article 61 of the Guyana constitution is yet to be made.”

Prof. Pollard, who currently lectures at the University of Guyana argued that lawful appointment of an election date must follow announcement of the dissolution of Parliament.

President Ramotar recently announced the holding of elections, but remained mum on the dissolution of the 65-member National Assembly.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, however, said there was no requirement for the dissolution to accompany announcement of an election date.

“There is absolutely no obligation on the president to dissolve Parliament at

Continued on Page 14

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Brooklyn mayor receives MLK award

Continued from cover

of every member of our human race," he continued. "I thank Amb. Aharoni, along with my friends at the JCRB-NY and JNF for this recognition that underscores my bond with Israel and with the Jewish people of Brooklyn and beyond."

Since 1991, the Consulate General of Israel in New York, together with JCRC-NY and JNF, have annually paid tribute to the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream of peaceful co-existence between people of diverse religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds, according to the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President.

It said the State of Israel has embraced the legacy of Dr. King, "for it mirrors the values of hope and peace to which all can relate. Dr. King was a great friend to Israel and the Jewish people and was active in the battle against anti-Semitism."

The tribute honors those individuals who embody the spirit and ideals of Dr. King in their efforts to promote diversity and tolerance, the state-



Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams is presented with the State of Israel's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Award by Consul General of Israel in New York Ambassador Ido Aharoni, JNF's Russell Robinson and JCRC-NY's Hindy Poupko, during a pregame ceremony before the Brooklyn Nets hosted the Los Angeles Clippers at the Barclays Center, Monday. From left: Hindy Poupko, Barclays Center Majority Owner Bruce Ratner, Eric L. Adams, Ido Aharoni, Russell Robinson and CEO of the Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center Brett Yormark.

Photo by Tal Atzmon

ment said.

"I am proud to continue this long-standing tradition with JCRC and JNF, and present our annual MLK Award on behalf of the State of Israel, to Brooklyn Borough President, Eric L. Adams," Amb. Aharoni said.

"BP Adams has dedicated his work to building bridges between peoples of all walks of life, upholding the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The people of Israel take pride in being the only nation outside of the United States to

acknowledge Martin Luther King Day, and value our shared mission to fight against hatred and racism," he added.

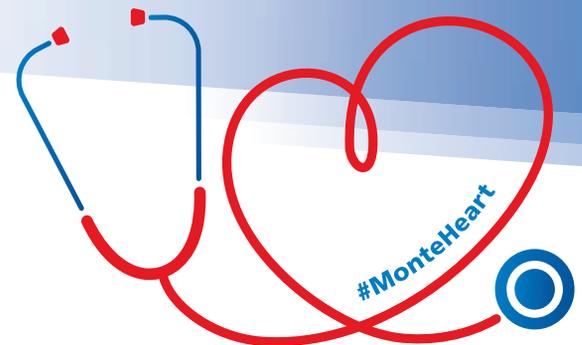
"For over two decades we have had the privilege of recognizing leaders whose lives and work embody the spirit

of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Rabbi Michael S. Miller. "Our honoree this year, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, truly exemplifies Rev. King's values and is a most worthy recipient of this accolade."

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Call for ending embargo



Antigua PM Gaston Browne (R) with Cuban President Raul Castro during a recent visit to Cuba.

Photo courtesy gov't of Antigua and Barbuda

By Nelson A. King

Heads of States and Governments attending the Third Summit of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) have been urged to call on the United States Congress to lift the half-century-old trade and economic blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States.

Speaking in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the opening of the session on Wednesday, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Browne welcomed the decision of the governments of Cuba and the United States to establish diplomatic relations.

"We are delighted that the anachronistic and failed policy of the United States government of isolating Cuba is in the process of ending," he said. "But we remain concerned that the formal trade embargo of Cuba by the United States remains codified in extra-territorial laws."

Reiterating a plea made at

the United Nations General Assembly in September last year, Browne called on CELAC members to urge the U.S. Congress to rescind the trade embargo against Cuba and to normalize all relations "in the interest of the stability and well-being of the Hemisphere".

The Antigua and Barbuda prime minister - who in September, during the United Nations General Assembly, also called on the United States to remove Cuba from a list of State Sponsors of Terrorism - also spoke on the issue of terrorism at the CELAC Summit noting that it has become a scourge on the face of the Earth.

He noted that the terrorist tactics of ISIL, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram are "despicable".

"We must condemn them vigorously and stand against terrorism wherever it occurs, as we do those that occurred in the United States, the United Kingdom and France," he said.

"But it is worth recalling that the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, based at the University of Maryland, has revealed that in 2012, terrorism touched 85 countries and just three - Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan - suffered more than half of the attacks and fatalities," he added.

Brooklyn fire kills Grenadian mother

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane D. Williams says he's "deeply saddened" by a fire in his district early Sunday morning that claimed the life of a Grenadian mother and injured many others, including a firefighter, who was there to save those trapped inside a multi-family home by the inferno.

"My prayers for peace and comfort are with the family and victims," said Williams, a Grenadian American, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

"As we wait to learn more on the condition of those injured and how this tragic event unfolded, I would like to thank the fire department personnel and police officers for their rapid response on such a cold winter night," he added.

"More than 100 firefighters were on the scene, and if it weren't for their fast arrival and heroic actions, the damage may have been much

worse," continued Williams, deputy leader and chair of the City Council's Housing and Buildings Committee. "My office will be reaching out to ensure those affected by the fire receive all the help they need."

The two-alarm fire broke out at 3:30 a.m. Sunday in a three-story multi-family home on East 86th Street and Avenue B in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

According to reports, seven people were rescued from the fire.

Grenadian-born Maria Henry, 49, was taken to nearby Brookdale University Hospital for smoke inhalation but was pronounced dead on arrival, police said.

Her Grenadian-born brother, Raphael Henry, 65, a New York City bus mechanic, who ran into his burning apartment to save her from the blaze, was rushed to Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, where he is listed in critical condition.

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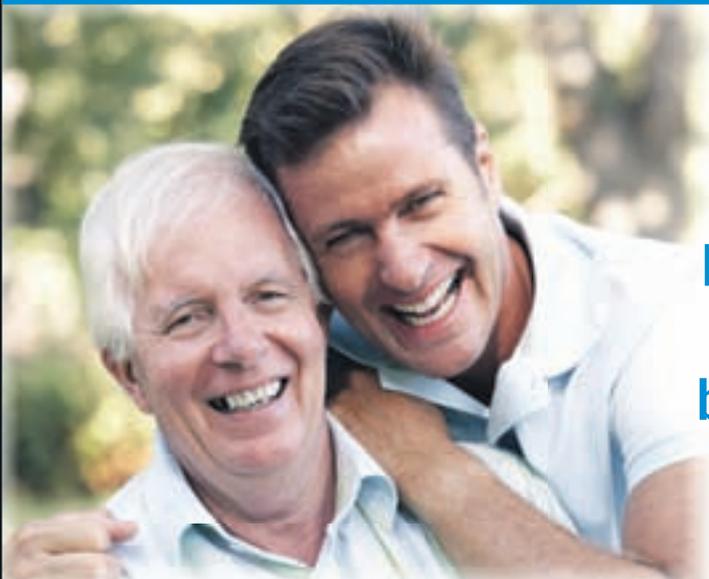
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A free and open internet for an innovative and competitive economy

By Mac Clemmens

If you're reading this online, thank net neutrality.

Net neutrality is the principle that all Internet content must be delivered equally. This article shouldn't be transmitted more slowly than another one. Your cat video shouldn't be given priority over a TED Talk. More importantly, your small business' website shouldn't be loaded slower than Amazon's. Put it this way: Net neutrality prevents preferential treatment; it is freedom from interference.

That freedom is crucial to businesses large and small. According to Fast Company, Amazon calculated that just one more second of page loading time could cost \$1.6 billion in sales each year. Amazon could probably handle that loss, but most small businesses probably couldn't, and some might not get off the ground. Imagine if Hulu or Netflix had, in their infancy, been forced to pay high fees or face tortoise-like loading speeds.

So when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a proposal that would have allowed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to slow down traffic and charge a fee for higher speeds, small businesses took notice.

My company serves nonprofits—churches, domestic violence groups, educational institutions—groups that cannot afford to pay for faster speeds.

Yet without net neutrality, commercially-sponsored content would be streamed in no time, while groups like these which are dedicated to helping people could see their speeds slow to a crawl. Our mission is to empower people who do good in the world. This proposal would be devastating to that goal, and the groups we work with.

As many as four million people commented on the proposal, with the vast majority supporting net neutrality and less than one percent opposed. Business groups like the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) joined in, helping to make the business case for net neutrality: too many businesses simply can't afford to have their communications slowed.

The FCC should understand that there's a sure-fire way to protect net neutrality: reclassify broadband to fit under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, thereby giving the FCC the power to ensure that consumers be protected.

The reclassification argument has support from none other than President Obama. "For almost a century," he explained, "our law has recognized that companies who connect you to the world have special obligations not to exploit the monopoly they enjoy. It is common sense that the same philosophy should guide any

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Patent examination and legal fictions

By Carlos M. Correa

GENEVA, Feb. 3, 2015 (IPS) - Industry's demands and political pressures exerted by developed countries to expand and strengthen patent protection worldwide have been based on the argument that patents promote innovation and thereby contribute to achieve social, political and economic well-being, independently of the level of development of the country where they are granted and enforced.

This view ignores the fact that patents do not have the same impact in countries with different industrial bases, research and development (R&D) capabilities and availability of capital to finance innovation, among others.

Significantly, there is a growing body of academic studies challenging the belief that patents are essential to incentivise innovation, even in advanced countries, or to enhance economic growth.

While many scholars call for a substantial reform of the patent system, others go as far as suggesting its abolition.

In a working paper entitled The case against patents, Michele Boldrin and David K. Levine have argued that "in spite of the enormous increase in the number of patents and in the strength of their legal protection we have neither seen a dramatic acceleration in the rate of technological progress nor a major increase in the levels of research and development (R&D) expenditure. There is strong evidence, instead, that patents have many neg-

There is a growing body of academic studies challenging the belief that patents are essential to incentivise innovation, even in advanced countries.

ative consequences."

"Both of these observations are consistent with theories of innovation that emphasise competition and first-mover advantage as the main drivers of innovation and directly contradict theories postulating that government-granted monopolies are crucial in order to provide incentives for innovation."

The role of the patent system is thus controversial, particularly in developing countries.

"Patents do not have the same impact in countries with different industrial bases, research and development (R&D) capabilities and availability of capital to finance innovation, among others"

In the last 25 years, much emphasis has been put on the concept of intellectual property as 'truly property'. Different variants of natural rights-based approaches have been articulated to justify developed countries' relentless efforts to increase the scope and levels of intellectual property protection, notably for patents.

The idea that patents are a piece of property has provided ideological support for an expansion of the protectable subject matter,

the extension of the term of protection, the reinforcement of the exclusive rights, and the strengthening of enforcement measures.

Patents confer exclusive rights. They limit the use of knowledge – a public good by its very nature – and competition, which promotes consumer well-being and innovation.

Nobody can produce or commercialise the protected invention during the lifetime of the patent, unless authorised by the patent holder or under compulsory licences, which are rarely granted. Given the exclusionary effects of patents, they have often been characterised as 'monopolies'.

Yet, the rights conferred by patents are based on partial and often imperfect factual determinations. The examination process does not allow patent offices to reach definitive judgments on patentability.

There is also uncertainty regarding the validity of patents in the boundaries of what is protected under individual patents. The patent claims are in many cases ambiguous and it is unclear what the actually protected subject matter is. Australian academic Peter Drahos asserts that "patents, unlike blocks of land, do not come with settled boundaries."

Thus, it is fuzziness rather than definitiveness that characterises patent grants. This is not accidental, but deliberately sought by patent applicants to discourage competitors.

In addition to imprecise disclosures of what is deemed to be the invention, courts interpret pat-

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Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community News Group
Corporate Headquarters: One MetroTech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201



CEO: Les Goodstein
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER: Jennifer Goodstein
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ralph D'Onofrio
EDITOR EMERITUS: Kenton Kirby
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams

Contributing Writers: Azad Ali, Roderick J. Broome, Fabian Burrell, Tangerine Clarke, Robert Elkin, Patrick Horne, Nelson King, Donna Lamb, Tequila Minsky, Vinette K. Pryce, George H. Whyte, Bert Wilkinson, Lloyd Kam Williams

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

Getting mean-spirited about the weather

It is the cheapest of cheap shots to dump on public officials who, in full better-than-sorry mode, make decisions about how to respond to predicted adverse weather conditions based on word relayed by forecasters. Politician types, the media and others who jump all over a sequence like we experienced recently in New York City, when blizzard conditions we were prepared for didn't quite materialize, are flat-out intent only on exploiting the possibilities they see in such situations for ridicule and general bad-mouthing aimed at whoever is on the hot seat. It's tawdry stuff.

For some reason, elected officials being seen as not adequately meeting the challenge of a weather episode tends to be enticing fodder for the media, to say nothing of the political capital various and sundry opportunists look to derive from it. A substantial snowstorm that hit the city in 1969 turned into a *bête noir* in the political fortunes of then mayor John Lindsay, because of sections of Queens that allegedly got ignored in

the cleanup. Last year, Mayor de Blasio found himself with a first-year snow story "blessing" when the slow pace of snow removal in parts of Upper Manhattan produced the customary flood of irate residents, the media of course along to vent the frustrations.

In those and other instances of perceived after-the-fact governmental inadequacy, a mayor, governor or whose ever call it was cannot escape blame if the response fails to proceed as smoothly as it should (reminiscent of George Bush's dumbfounding thumbs-up to "Brownie" in the midst of what looked like major operational dysfunction to the lot of us during Hurricane Katrina). Taking accurate measure of a calamitous episode during or after its occurrence is an important barometer of leadership competence. But no way is this comparable to an official acting out of an abundance of caution in a judgment call about what critics are quick to characterize as leadership failure, when events unfold less ominously than was feared.

This, sadly, is a behavioral

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

norm we have come to expect from certain quarters. And when on Jan. 26 and even earlier, we were told in New York to brace for a whopper of a winter storm that, to our relief didn't do to us what it did to Eastern Long Island and elsewhere, the stage was set for the regular flamethrowers to spring into action. How smart was it to ban non-essential vehicles from the roadways, to shut down public transportation, to close schools, etc? The Monday morning quarterbacking was off and running at a fast clip, as we knew it would. We have, unavoidably, folks in the media establishment who, faced with a choice of a "New York Spared" or "What Blizzard?" headline driving the story of our recent weather dance, would invariably go for the latter. And there's never a shortage of budding, blooming or just plain boisterous politi-

cal opportunists to sign on to a sentiment geared for scandal.

This notion of blaming an elected official for what Nature does or doesn't lavish on us mortals is so nuts, you wonder if those who engage in the wildness have any capacity at all for thinking through the kick they're on. The official is guided in how to prepare for a weather event by what weather forecasters are saying. If forecasters at times turn out to be somewhat off the mark and the official is consequently not as on top of things as one might prefer, there is but one conclusion that can be deduced from detractors' criticism: that the official ought be better at projecting weather patterns than designated experts. And how bizarre is that!

In the case of Mayor de Blasio, there's no question but that unabashed identification of himself as embarked on a progressive agenda would make the Jan. 26-27 weather episode more grist for the mill among elements who show up nowhere near the mayor on the ideological spectrum. One could pretty well guarantee, for

instance, that the city's foremost clown, insufferable Donald Trump, who commented that President Obama would use the city's storm emergency to declare martial law here, would have nothing complimentary to offer about Mayor de Blasio's blizzard warning not panning out.

For his part, de Blasio would likely respond no differently if confronted with a similar weather scenario down the road, with the pot shot takers doing their customary thing also. But a controversy now bubbling up seems relative — about some folks on the right making a ruckus regarding the vaccination of kids. If, as we suspect, it is also primarily from the right that we get the carping crowd, ready to lambast a public official whose reliance on forecasters turns problematic, is a dis of science what this is all about? The right, with its myriad conspiracy-theory fringe groups, wouldn't be trying to tell us that like medical science with its vaccines, weather science is also expendable, would they?

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2. PARENTS OF US CITIZEN WANTING TO WORK AND MAINTAIN THEIR CHILDREN:

Are you a parent of a US Citizen Child or Green card holder? You may be administratively approved for a work permit to enable you to maintain your family. This is an administrative relief subject to discretion of the government officials.

3. ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US:

This is a major problem but there is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder or those who have US citizen children. You may still get a work permit and green card.

4. ILLEGAL REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION:

Did you enter the US after being deported? This is a crime. There is relief for special immigrants married to a US Citizen or green card holder. Hurry to talk to us before you are arrested. You may be entitled to relief?

5. WORK PERMIT AND GREEN CARD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS:

- Are you less than 21 years old?
- Are you living in the US dependent on someone other than your parent?
- Is your natural parent dead or lack viable means to take care of you?
- Do you think it is not in your best interest to return to country of birth or citizenship now?

You may be entitled to work permit and or green card whether you entered with visa or not. You may still be approved even if you entered without inspection, entered with fraudulent document or overstayed your visa or have certain criminal record.

6. CRIMINAL RECORDS: WAIVERS AND PARDONS:

If you are convicted or pled guilty to a crime in the past it can generate complexities and be a nightmare but waivers and various special actions and legal procedures are available to relieve immigrants with past criminal records.

7. REMOVING 2-YEAR CONDITIONAL GREENCARD:

Many immigrants have found it difficult to remove conditions on their 2 year green cards either because they are not able to convince

the government that their marriage is genuine or because they are not getting cooperation from their spouse. We can help remove conditions on your green card, even if your spouse is not filing with you and even if you have been denied and placed in a removal proceeding. You need not wait for 2 years if you are abused by your spouse or if your spouse died.

8. ASYLUM PROBLEMS AND DEPORTATION ORDERS:



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9. APPROVALS AND VISA BULLETIN PROBLEMS:

Do you have an approved petition filed by your brother or sister, parents etc and you were unable to apply for a green card because you overstayed here in US? Call us now. We might be able to assist you.

10. NOTICE TO APPEAR (NTA) IN IMMIGRATION COURT AND IMMIGRATION COURT PROCEEDINGS:

Did you receive NTA from the government or are you currently in immigration court? Consider speaking to us for a great first or second opinion and resolution of your case. You will not regret calling.

11. DO YOU NEED A WORK PERMIT, IDENTIFICATION CARD AND FOREIGN TRAVEL PERMIT?

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12. CBP AND TSA PROBLEMS:

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OP-EDS

Net neutrality needed

Continued from page 10

service that is based on the transmission of information—whether a phone call, or a packet of data.”

Small businesses need net neutrality—as does the economy as a whole. We can't have a system where established companies with deeper pockets play by a different set of rules. That runs contrary to the American entrepreneurial spirit. That's why net neutrality has strong support on both sides of the political aisle.

ISPs have argued that reclassifying broadband under Title II will harm consumers—that too much regulation would snuff out investment and innovation, and lead to larger bills. It is understandable that the industry would not want additional regulation. But in reality, reclassification would simply legally enforce the status quo. The Internet now is a place where content gets distributed equally, without forcing people to pay for the privilege. That's the way it should stay.

Yes, ISPs would lose a potential revenue stream. But, considering ISPs have

already created an artificial scarcity in broadband by locking up a large percentage of metropolitan fiber in agreements with municipalities, that's a poor argument.

ISPs in many parts of the country already benefit from a near-total lack of competition, and our Internet speeds are slower—and cost more—than in many other countries. Letting ISPs interfere with traffic will only make matters worse—the Internet that works best is the one that works with the least interference.

We need an Internet that's open and free to all, and we must ensure that all American businesses can remain competitive, both domestically and globally. Covering broadband under Title II may not be ideal, but it's currently our best hope to ensure the Internet remains a place for innovation.

Clemmens is the chief executive officer of Digital Deployment, a Sacramento-based web development company specializing in content management systems.

Patent protection fiction

Continued from page 10

ent claims with different theories and methodologies that lead to diverse outcomes with regard to what is deemed protected and eventually infringed.

Another fundamental problem with the patent regime is that it operates on the basis of a limited capacity to examine the patentability of claimed inventions and on a number of legal fictions created by legislators, patent offices or courts.

Such legal fictions are often dogmatically applied, without a critical assessment of their justification and implications.

A patent is granted in most countries after a substantive examination is conducted to determine whether it meets the patentability standard established by national laws which generally require novelty, inventive step (or non-obviousness) and industrial applicability (or utility).

However, some countries (such as Luxembourg and South Africa) confer patents without such a substantive examination or without assessing inventive step (for example, Switzerland and France).

While patent offices in developing countries (except China) receive a number of patent applications much lower than developed countries, some (such as Argentina, India and Thailand) have introduced legislative or other regulatory changes to tighten the application of the patentability requirements and reduce, through a rigorous exami-

nation, the proliferation of patents, particularly in the pharmaceutical field.

The intervention of patent offices through substantive examination in the process of creating patent rights gives them an appearance of validity. However, such intervention offers no guarantee in this respect and the public and uninformed business actors may be grossly misled.

The case of South Africa, where no substantive examination is currently made, is illustrative.

Thousands of patents have been registered in South Africa to cover minor or trivial developments that can block local production or importation of lower-priced generic medicines. However, the government of South Africa recently announced its intention to introduce a system of substantive examination, at least for pharmaceutical patents.

This proposal raised stiff opposition from pharmaceutical multinational companies, which were eventually found to finance a covered lobbying operation aimed at derailing the government's initiative.

On the one hand, it is to be expected that the introduction of such a system would discourage patent applications that may not survive a serious substantive analysis; hence, the number of applications will presumably diminish over time, especially if fees are established at a level that discourages speculative patenting.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4
the same time when a date for National Elections is announced," Nandall was quoted as saying.

Haiti

United Nations Security Council members recently paid a visit to Haiti aimed in part at urging the government to hold long-delayed municipal and legislative elections.

Representatives of the council's 15-member states met with government officials during their three-day stay, including President Michel Martelly. He began ruling by decree recently when Parliament was dissolved after legislators' terms expired amid a political stalemate.

The UN had said in a statement it will assess the implementation of council resolutions such as the strengthening of Haiti's police force.

Council members last year extended the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti by a year and except to cut the number of troops from 5,021 to 2,370 by June.

The visit came just days after a new Haitian Cabinet and other government officials were sworn in. Haiti, recently sworn in new Prime Minister Evans Paul, prompting supporters of the opposition factions to announce new protests to force Martelly out of office.



He became president in 2011 and is scheduled to step down next year.

Jamaica

Jamaica's tourism authorities are putting together packages to offer Venezuelan government as part of a move to reduce the country's approximately US\$3 billion debt with the oil-producing country under the trade component mechanism of the Petro-Caribe agreement.

Former Director of Tourism John Lynch has been engaged as a consultant, and will be chiefly responsible for the development of the tourism segment of the trade-component mechanism.

Lynch can earn up to \$12 million, inclusive of fees and overseas travel, to provide consultancy in the area of airlift and special projects.

The arrangement, which was signed in September, months after he left office as director of tourism, saw the direct-contracting method used to procure his services.

Jennifer Griffith, permanent secretary in the tourism and entertainment ministry said, "there is a tourism component and what we hope to do is to package vacation experiences for Venezuelans in Jamaica, as if we package them right, they can be used to offset the loan."

— compiled by Azad Ali



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11:00am-2:00pm • Eisenstadt Admin. Bldg. Lobby
- 2/19 WOMENHEART SUPPORT GROUP**
For Women who have Experienced a Cardiac Event
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Row over Jamaica's bid to slow beach erosion



Taken April 19, 2014, this photo shows a fully restored beach at Negril. The sand is taken away by storms and returns a few months later. Hoteliers fear that the breakwater will prevent the natural generation from occurring.

Inter Press Service / Mary Veira

By **Zadie Neufville**

KINGSTON, Feb 2 2015 (IPS) - A plan that government says will slow the rate of erosion on Jamaica's world-famous Negril beach is being opposed by the people whose livelihoods it is meant to protect.

Work is set to begin in March, but some in the tourist town continue to resist the planned construction of two breakwaters, which experts say is one of a series of actions aimed at protecting the beach and slowing persistent erosion. Those opposing the plan say the structures will do more damage than good.

"Building breakwaters is not what stakeholders here want. These hard structures cause more erosion than they prevent," Couples Resort's Mary Veira told IPS.

There is fear, Veira explained, that the structures will hinder the natural regeneration of the beach that currently occurs after each extreme weather event.

Government targeted the 'Seven Mile' stretch of Negril's coast as its climate change adaptation project after several studies indicated that more than 55 metres of beach had been eroded in the last 40 plus years. The tourist Mecca is said to account for 25 per cent of the earnings of an industry that is responsible for about half of Jamaica's GDP.

Veira is one of a group of hoteliers calling for a halt to the breakwater project, fearing its construction will irreparably damage Negril's tourism industry. The environmental activist also pointed out that the structure is significantly different to that proposed by Smith Warner International (SWI) in 2008, in a consultation paid for by the community.

In addition she said, "The engineers who have been awarded the job are not coastal engineers."

In a newspaper article dated May 2014, Veira noted: "Also of concern to stakeholders is

the fact that the Environmental Engineer of National Works Agency, Dr. Mark Richards, admits such a major project of sea defense has really never been done."

Business owners expressed concerns that boulders from the two "large rubble mound breakwaters" could break loose and destroy properties during rough weather. They also worry that it will create an eyesore as well as cause further damage to the fragile marine ecosystem, effectively killing snorkeling beds.

Both the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), which oversees environment and planning on the island, and the National Works Agency (NWA), the entity overseeing the project, are adamant that the fears are unwarranted. Many hoteliers, however, continue to dig in.

The government has accused Veira and others of conducting a misinformation campaign to undermine the project's cred-

ibility and the issue has divided the community.

The construction of the two breakwaters 1.2 kilometres off shore follows on previous work to strengthen the natural ecosystem protection of the coastal communities by replanting sea grass beds and mangroves in several vulnerable communities, including Negril. The structures are expected to break wave action and allow other remedial work to take

place.

Government has said the beach nurturing option is out of the question. In May 2014, director of environment in the project's implementing agency the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Clare Bernard told Negril's business community in a meeting that the 5.4 million dollars earmarked for construction of the breakwaters could not be used for beach nourishment.

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Minimally invasive procedures usually allow patients to recovery quickly after treatment with little to no complications. These procedures involve using microwave therapy to eliminate portions of the prostate.

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Because BPH and prostate cancer can coexist, urologists at the Prostate Center are meticulous in diagnosing BPH and highly recommend regular screening for prostate cancer. If you experience excessive discomfort from your symptoms, do not hesitate to discuss your treatment options with one of the award-winning urologists at the Accord Physicians Prostate Center. If your life has been impacted by BPH, come visit Prostate Center and see how you can restore your comfort.

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First Black-owned theater faces uncertain future

By Vinette K. Pryce

The first major snowstorm of 2015 may have been a blessing to organizers of a movement dedicated to promoting the Harlem culture.

On the date, three feet of snow was predicted to dump on New York City, a group called the Harlem Swing Dance Society planned an information event to "Save The Renny."

They hoped to present a film, discuss and encourage a petition drive to stop the destruction of Harlem's historic Renaissance Ballroom & Casino AKA The Renny.

Since the event had to be canceled, it is being rescheduled for Feb. 9, during Black History Month and perhaps a more fitting calendar date to bring enlightenment about the Harlem landmark that emerged the first theatre in New York built, owned and controlled by Blacks.

Perhaps it is difficult to imagine that in 1920 Blacks living in this metropolis had no place to meet, dance, celebrate



Harlem's historic Renaissance Ballroom & Casino AKA The Renny.

or entertain.

Particularly in the mecca that African Americans migrated in droves a century ago at the beginning of the last century, Harlem provided few spaces for migrants to revel or even find investment opportunities to erect new buildings.

Harder to imagine is how

three men from the Caribbean united, acted swiftly and brought change by constructing a viable reception hall that would accommodate the needs of an entire community.

Footnotes to historic accounts credit immigrants William H. Roach from Antigua, Cleophus Charity and Joseph H. Sweeney

from Montserrat as the principal builders of the Renaissance.

They were members of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and subscribed heavily to the philosophy proposed by the Jamaican immigrant who urged unity among Blacks.

Garvey advocated for African

Americans to support Black-owned businesses. With an almost explosive membership base, the UNIA encouraged Blacks to embrace the uniqueness of the Renaissance.

Commissioned that year to build a block-long complex at 137th St. the three men erected a two story tall building that accommodated a 900-seat movie theater, a large space for dances, meetings, private parties and even sporting events. Completed in 1924, the iconic complex showcased accomplishments of African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance period which is acclaimed for its abundance artistic revolution and culture.

Roach and Joseph Sweeney were championed for overseeing the only major black-owned uptown theater during this time.

Roach who owned a house-cleaning service and ran a real estate business bought the northeast corner of 137th St.

Continued on Page 38

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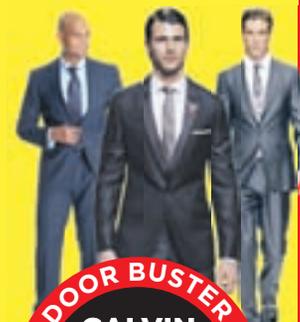
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- Justin Grant, digital content editor at Fidelity Investments. Grant has reported for ABC News' investigative unit, Good Morning America, National Public Radio, and Reuters as well as The New York Times and Washington Post. He was editor of the campus newspaper Seawanhaka.

- Debra Lewis-Boothman reported and wrote for People magazine where she interviewed celebrities and politicians and covered the music beat. She now teaches a course in entertainment journalism at LIU Brooklyn.

- Curtis Stephen, adjunct pro-

fessor for news reporting and advisor to the campus newspaper Seawanhaka, is a regular contributor to the urban affairs magazine, City Limits, and has worked for Newsday, Newsweek, CNN in Atlanta, and WNBC-TV in New York.

- Rocco Parascondola, police bureau chief at the New York Daily News, is one of New York City's top crime reporters.

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Dame Mary Eugenia Charles.
Associated Press / Daniel Morel

‘The Iron Lady of the Caribbean’

By Nelson A. King

Dame Mary Eugenia Charles: May 15, 1919 - Sept. 6, 2005.

For championing the United States’ invasion of Grenada after the assassination of its Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and for her “strongly opinionated, uncompromising leadership style,” Dame Mary Eugenia Charles was called “The Iron Lady of the Caribbean,” according to the Dominica Academy of Arts and Sciences (DAAS), which honored her posthumously in February 2010.

“She was a remarkable woman who held her own on the world stage with distinction,” DAAS said.

The late Dominica Prime Minister was born on May 15, 1919 in the village of Pointe Michel, Dominica.

Her father, John Baptiste “JB” Charles, was of humble background; but through hard work and perseverance, he became a prominent and wealthy landowner and banker, DAAS said.

Dame Eugenia’s mother, Josephine, ran the family grocery in Roseau, the Dominica capital, and a bakery in Pointe Michel.

Eugenia was the last of four children. She attended the Convent High School in Dominica and St. Joseph’s Convent in Grenada, becoming interested in law while working at the magistrate’s court in Roseau, DAAS said.

She read law at the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics, and was called to the Bar at London’s Inner Temple in 1949, according to DAAS.

She passed the bar in 1950, and returned to Dominica as the island’s first female lawyer, specializing in property law.

In 1968, she helped form, and was elected leader of the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP).

Irrepressible, super-talented Hazel Scott

By Les Slater

A befuddling curiosity it is, how conspicuously absent Hazel Scott’s name and contribution on more than one level have been from the story of African American struggle and survival, in New York City and in the U.S. overall. For an individual who accomplished as much as she did, both as an exceptionally gifted artist and a crusader for equal rights, Scott’s exclusion from, or at best minimalist presence in, the honor roll of outstanding trailblazers of color is a travesty.

Born in Trinidad in 1920, Scott migrated with her family to the U.S. when she was four years old, the family settling in the cultural oasis that was New York’s Harlem. No doubt influenced by her mother, a musician, Scott’s piano playing ability soon established her as a child prodigy, and as early as age 8, she was given scholarships to study at famed Juilliard School. The young musical wiz, who could also deliver vocals with the best of them, was already doing gigs in her teens, including performances on radio. Jazz piano stalwarts such as Art Tatum and Teddy Wilson were said to be among her mentors in that genre. But Scott remained a top-echelon performer of classical music as well, and in time her ingenuity in concocting swinging interpretations of classical compositions would boost her growing popularity.

Scott’s standout talent led to engagements in leading New York nightclubs, like trendy Café Society and the Cotton Club; to appearances with major headliners, including sharing the bill at Roseland with the Count Basie orchestra; and to multiple musical theater productions, including stints at Carnegie Hall. Amazingly, this was all happening when she was but a young, twentyish dynamo. Added to which, the Scott package included vivaciousness. Blessed with an attractiveness that only enhanced her stage appeal, she was a natural for films and, when it became part of the entertainment menu, television. By 1945 she had appeared in films for major studios, including “Something to Shout About,”



Hazel Scott, the pianist whose repertoire ranged from Bach to Boogie-Woogie, is seen on arrival at Paddington Station, London, on the afternoon of Sept. 4, 1951. Miss Scott, a native of Trinidad, enjoyed a three-fold reputation in America, composer, pianist and vocalist. She appeared at the London Palladium on Sept. 10 for the first time in this country.
Associated Pres, File

“Broadway Rhythm,” “I Dood It” and “Rhapsody in Blue.”

Scott was said to have given indications of being independent-minded from rather early, which evidently framed her perspective on the social condition for people of color. What seems clear is that by the time she had become a much-in-demand performing artist, she was determined to stand firm against the systemic inequality that was an everyday reality for people of color.

She refused to perform in segregated venues. She once successfully sued a restaurant in Washington state for denying her service because of her color. When Hollywood beckoned, Scott was adamant about not accepting roles that perpetuated what had become the black stereotype for movies of the era – roles which invariably presented blacks as dispensable sideshow props. She also insisted on having control over how she appeared in films, reserving the right to wear her own cloth-

ing if she wasn’t satisfied with a studio’s choice of wardrobe.

This obviously was unusual spunk for a young artist. And having demonstrated how prepared she was to battle the establishment in her professional career, whenever she felt short-changed on account of her race, it was hardly a surprise that she would be driven by the same fighting spirit to rail against injustice to people of color throughout the society. The commitment to such activism could only intensify when, in 1945, she married the political firebrand and powerful pastor of Harlem’s Abyssinian Baptist Church, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Even so, the 1940s were a heady time for Scott professionally, as she maintained a busy engagement schedule. Then in June, 1950 she ascended to another plateau when she became host of her own television show on the DuMont network, one of the first African American women given such a role.

Slain Grenada revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop



In this May 1, 1980 file photo, then Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, center, is flanked by Cuba's leader Fidel Castro, right, and Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega in Havana, Cuba.
Associated Press / File

By Nelson A. King

Maurice Rupert Bishop was the prime minister of Grenada from March 15, 1979 to Oct. 19, 1983, the day when he was executed at Fort Rupert in St. George's, the Grenada capital.

At the same time, Bishop was also commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Grenada; chairman of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM); and minister of information, defense and interior of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada (PRG).

According to the Grenada Revolution Online, Bishop was 6' 3" tall, an excellent speaker and "a handsome man with recognized charismatic features of personality."

The Grenada Revolution Online said Bishop was known to be pragmatic in that he held that the results of an idea are the best criteria by which to

judge its merit.

But The Grenada Revolution Online said Bishop's charisma and his democratic sensibilities "proved not to be a substitute for wielding authority and leadership."

Born on May 29, 1944 in [Dutch] Aruba, he moved to Grenada from Aruba in 1950 with his late Grenadian parents Rupert and Alimenta Bishop, along with his sisters Ann and Maureen.

Bishop attended his first school in Grenada when he was six years old, the Wesley Hall Primary School and, in the next year, passed on to St. George's Roman Catholic Primary School.

Maurice Bishop went on scholarship – one of four government scholarship students – to the Roman Catholic Presentation Brothers' College in 1957. At this secondary school, Bishop won the 1962 Princi-

pal's Gold medal for "outstanding academic and overall ability."

Bernard Coard – who was Bishop's deputy and who fell out with Bishop in leading his eventual assassination – and Bishop did not attend the same secondary school. Coard attended the Grenada Boys Secondary School [GBSS].

At Presentation, Bishop attained his Senior Cambridge and Higher School Certificates. He was president of the Students' Union, president of the Debating Society, and foundation member and president of the Historical Society.

Bishop was also the editor of the school magazine at Presentation College, the "Student Voice," according to the Grenada Revolution online. He received the 1962 Principal's Gold Medal at Presentation College.

He was co-founder in 1963,

with Bernard Coard, of the Grenada Assembly of Youth After Truth. This organization was designed to enable the students of Presentation College and GBSS to "address the important questions of the day," The Grenada Revolution Online said. Bishop graduated from Presentation Brothers' College in 1962.

After secondary school graduation, for about nine months, Bishop and Coard continued the "Grenada Assembly of Youth After Truth" while Bishop

was working at the Registry in Grenada.

But The Grenada Revolution Online said, "The Grenada Assembly of Youth After Truth" dissolved after nine months. Maurice Bishop left for Great Britain in December 1963, at 19, to study law, and Coard went to Brandeis University in the United States to study economics.

In the course of one of these demonstrations, Bishop was freed from house arrest by the crowd.

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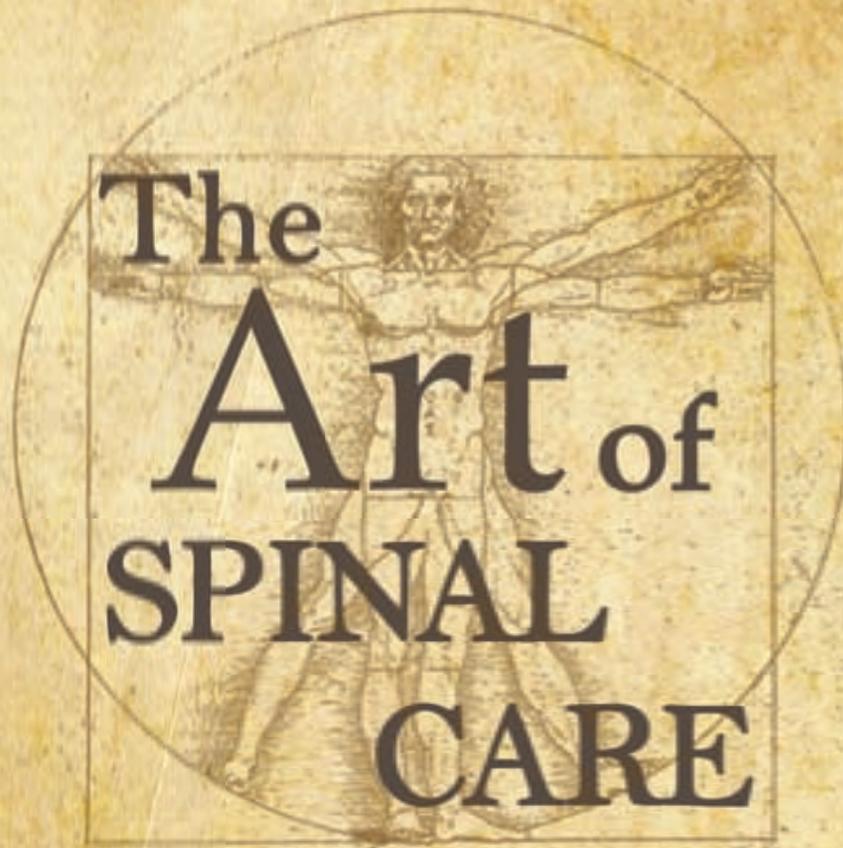
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Keeping marriage going strong into your golden years



The trend of long-married couples calling it quits has been growing. However, there are some steps couples can take to keep their relationships going strong.

According to the AARP, divorces among people over the age of 50 have doubled since 1990. According to Susan Brown, co-director of the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University, one out of three baby boomers will face their golden years unmarried.

There are a number of reasons why divorce rates have skyrocketed among the over-50 set. Understanding just why these divorces are taking place and taking proactive steps to alleviate some of the divorce triggers can be a recipe for a happy marriage that continues throughout a couple's golden years.

Increase accountability

Ours is a transient society where families no longer bat an eyelash over moving great distances away from other family members. As a result, boomers may feel like they are not connected to children or grandchildren. With this in mind, they may feel less attached to their marriage or their responsibilities, or believe that no one will get hurt by a divorce. Keeping families close and remaining in frequent contact can increase accountability and reduce the propensity for divorce.

Get things in the open

A major reason for a failed marriage is years of avoiding significant issues, rather than addressing problems. Couples should make time to talk to each other about anything that might be bothering them, rather than let-

ting too many things slide. If these conversations turn into shouting matches, there is always the option of bringing in a third party to serve as a mediator.

Spend time apart

After retirement, couples may find themselves spending hours upon hours in each other's company. While togetherness can be beneficial, too much time spent together may lead to feelings of suffocation and the perception that each member of the relationship is no longer his or her own person.

Individuals can remedy this by doing more things on their own, whether spending time apart with friends or engaging in hobby time without your spouse. After all, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Brief periods of separation can make the time mar-

ried couples do spend together feel more meaningful.

Renew your vows

After 30 or more years, the vows you shared on your wedding day may be a distant memory. Some people may have different views on the permanence of vows, putting personal happiness ahead of the happiness of the couple. Take stock of what you promised one another on your wedding day and stick to those words.

Become a comedian

Laughter has a way of dissolving a tenuous situation. Focus energy on laughing at mistakes instead of pointing blame. Couples can make fun of themselves and resolve to not take things too seriously.

Act like you're dating

Couples often become

complacent after many years of marriage. They may forget about the little details that made the relationship fun in the early years.

The personal notes and cards and other surprises may fall by the wayside after being together for some time. Make an effort to go on dates, write love notes, and think of what was appreciated by your partners when you were in the dating stage.

Practice selflessness

Sometimes all that is needed to rekindle a relationship is a selfless act that shows how much you care for your partner.

Couples who are on the fence with regard to divorce can make an effort to improve the relationship rather than simply see divorce as the best option.

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New Medicaid program could impact seniors

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

My 97-year-old mother-in-law Lillian has been receiving her medical care through the original Medicare since she turned 65. It covers her doctor visits, lab tests, and prescription drugs. When she turned 90 she started to need assistance with dressing and eating. Since she has limited income and assets, she qualified to receive home care through a Managed Long Term Care Plan, a private agency that is paid by Medicaid. In addition to her home care, the long term care plan covers her dental care, hearing aides, her walker and wheelchair, and her transportation to and from her doctors. In the next few months her health plan coverage could change.

Lillian is one of approximately 800,000 New York State residents classified by the government as "Dual Eligibles," that is individuals 65 years or older who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits. Beginning in January, New York City's dual eligibles received letters from the State Department of Health introducing them to a new government health care program that can replace their current Medicare or Medicaid services. If one of your relatives received one, do not ignore it.

The new program, called a Fully Integrated Dual Advantage program, offers a full spectrum of government health care services, including doctor and hospital visits, all prescription medicines, and home or nursing home care all through one provider. The program will roll out in April 2015. The letter claims that the program will simplify medical care. One advantage of the new plan includes medical visits with no payment deductibles, no copayments, and no plan premiums. Another advantage is the introduction of an Interdisciplinary Team that will oversee the enrollee's health care. The team will consist of the enrollee and a trusted friend or relative, the doctors, the home care aide and a Fully Integrated Dual Advantage plan care manager.

After this brief introduction to Fully Integrated Dual Advantage benefits, the letter asks all recipients if they would like to disenroll from their current Medicare or Medicaid plan and enroll in a dual advantage plan. They have 90 days to decide. They will receive written periodic reminders: one 30 days after receiving the original announcement and one after 60 days. But there is a catch.

If a recipient does not respond in the indicated time period, the New York State Department of Health will assume the candidate wants to be in a dual advantage plan and will "pas-

sively enroll" him in one of the 22 available plans. In other words, a candidate must actively respond to the inquiry and indicate that he prefers to remain in his current plan (that is, opt out of a dual advantage plan), or the government will assume he wants to enroll. The State will then arbitrarily assign him to a plan.

Although the new plan offer several benefits that could simplify care, there are some downsides to consider as well. One disadvantage is the limited provider network. In original Medicare, members can use any Medicare doctor registered in the United States. In dual advantage plans, new enrollees are limited to doctors and other medical services in their program network. Another disadvantage is in drug coverage. New enrollees will be restricted to medications covered by their new plan. That means a person must check that his dual advantage plan will cover his prescriptions or he will not receive them — or, he must pay for them out of pocket.

A final disadvantage concerns secondary medical coverage. Many people who enroll in traditional Medicare have secondary coverage through an employee-sponsored, union-sponsored, or a Medigap program. Under Fully Integrated Dual Advantage the registrant will lose his secondary coverage. This might not impact the enrollee, but it could impact family members if they are covered as well. If this is the case, the applicant should check his current policy to determine if this change will cause the family to lose their coverage.

If a dual eligible decides to enroll in a dual advantage program, he still has time to make adjustments. An enrollee can continue to use his current providers for at least 90 days after enrollment or until a care assessment has been completed under the new plan. After the time period has expired, Fully Integrated Dual Advantage will no longer pay for the doctor unless she agrees to participate in the new plan.

On a positive note, enrollment in a dual advantage plan is reversible. Anyone who enrolls, either passively or actively, can elect to leave and switch to another plan or return to the original if he is not satisfied with the service. Participants can disenroll at any time. However, the change will not be immediate. A plan does not go into effect until the first of the following month, so at most a person would have to wait 30 days.

When my mother-in-law received her introductory letter, the whole family sat down and discussed the advantages and disadvantages. After much

Continued on page 28

Are expired medications still safe to take?



If an expired medication is taken by mistake, there's little need to worry about potentially adverse effects.

It is 2 am and that cough and stuffy nose you have been battling is still keeping you up. You reach for the nighttime cold relief medicine only to find it expired a few months ago. If you take a dose to ease your symptoms, will you be putting yourself at risk?

This situation is a relatively common occurrence. Many medicine cabinets are stocked with over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription medications that may be past their expiration dates. It is a good idea to routinely discard expired medicines, but if you happen to take a drug that has passed its expiration date, you will most likely suffer no ill effects.

According to the Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide, the expiration date on a medicine is not the dates when a drug becomes hazardous. Rather, it marks the period of time after which a drug company can no longer guaran-

tee the efficacy of the medication. Since 1979, drug manufacturers selling medications in the United States have been required by the Food and Drug Administration to stamp an expiration date on their products. This is the date until which the manufacturer can still guarantee full potency of the drug.

Expiration dates also may be a marketing ploy. Francis Flaherty, a retired Food and Drug Administration pharmacist, has said drug manufacturers put expiration dates on products for marketing purposes rather than scientific reasons. It doesn't make financial sense to a company to have products on the shelves for years. Therefore, most drug manufacturers will not do long-term testing on products to confirm if they will be effective 10 to 15 years after manufacture.

The U.S. military has conducted its own studies with the help of the Administration. Food and Drug

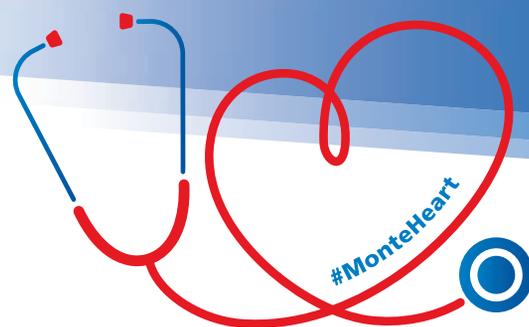
Administration researchers tested more than 100 over-the-counter and prescription drugs. Around 90 percent were proven to still be effective long past the expiration date — some for more than 10 years. Drugs that are stored in cool, dark places have a better chance of lasting because the fillers used in the product will not separate or start to break down as they might in a warm, humid environment. Storing medicines in the refrigerator can prolong their shelf life.

Although a pharmacist cannot legally advise consumers to use medication past an expiration date, most over-the-counter pain relievers and drugs in pill form should still be fine. Certain liquid antibiotics and drugs made up of organic materials can expire faster than others. For those who still want to err on the safe side, routinely clean out medications from cabinets once they expire.

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Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 2:00 pm

Montefiore Medical Group, Co-op City (Bay Plaza), Reception Area
2100 Bartow Avenue, Bronx, New York 10475

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 10:00 am

Montefiore Medical Group, Bronx East, Lower Level Conference Room
2300 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, New York 10462

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Friday, February 6, 2015 | 11:00 am

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Moses Campus, 3415 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467
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Heart Disease: Awareness and Prevention

Monday, February 9, 2015 | 1:30 pm

Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 1:30 pm

Montefiore Medical Group, Reception Area, Family Health Center
360 East 193rd Street, Bronx, New York 10458

Blood Pressure Screening

Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Montefiore Hospital, Cafeteria
Wakefield Campus, 600 East 233rd Street, Bronx, New York 10466

If you are interested in attending a heart month event, simply show up to the event. To download the 2015 calendar with our heart care locations, for the latest information on other events, or to find out more about Heart Month at Montefiore, please visit www.montefiore.org/HeartMonth.



Helping your elderly parents or relatives from afar

Today's families are more geographically diverse than ever before. Whereas it was once common for families to remain in the same city or state for generations, nowadays families routinely spread out across the country, if not the world. Thanks to technological advancements that make it easier than ever before to stay in touch, families today can still thrive and stay close even if they live hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away from one another.

One issue facing many families that have chosen to spread out is how to help Mom and Dad when they reach the age where they need their adult children's help. While this wasn't a problem for the families of yesteryear, it is a genuine concern for adults who live far away from their parents. Fortunately, there are ways to be there for your elderly parents even when you can't physically be there for them.

Speak to your parents about what they need. While some parents might not be able to realistically assess their needs, children should speak to their parents when making decisions



about their care. Adults who live far away from their parents might not know exactly what their parents need, so discuss the problems they might be having on a day-to-day basis to determine the level of care or assistance they will need.

Examine finances. Managing

money is often difficult for seniors who have had an accident or are dealing with a serious medical condition. Seniors might forget to pay bills or be struggling to manage money with the escalating costs of prescription medications and health care in general.

To help avoid missed bills, adult children can utilize online bill paying offered by many banks, wherein bills are automatically paid each month on their due date by simply being deducted from a given account. Adult children can also consult a financial advisor to develop a plan that allows seniors access to their money while ensuring it will still be there when they need it.

Research community resources.

Many communities provide adequate resources for the elderly who might be incapacitated or otherwise need assistance. Programs such as Meals on Wheels can be a great assistance to long-distance caregivers concerned about their elderly parents. People can consult with the Department of Health and Human Services or visit www.Eldercare.gov and use their eldercare

MEDICAID

Continued from page 26

deliberation we decided that Lillian should remain in her current plan. Her current doctors know her and visit her at her home and she loves her home attendants. Why change a good thing? We called the phone number listed on the introductory letter and opted out of a Fully Integrated Dual Advantage plan.

We do not want to rock the boat. New programs are often welcome, and simplicity is often a good reason to change. Fully Integrated Dual Advantage plans might offer advantages for some Medicaid recipients who receive home care. But in our case, we worked hard to get Lillian a staff of trusted professionals and dependable services. We do not want to risk the unknown. We are happy with her current coverage.

*Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor/advocate and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families get the best care for their aging loved ones when family care is no longer enough. She has been working with seniors and their families for ten years. Her book *Almost Like Home: A Family Guide to Navigating the Nursing Home Maze* was reviewed in Jane Brody's Personal Health column of the New York Times. To read the review and to order go to <http://joannaleefer.com/reviews/>*

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The State of New York has created a participant ombudsman program called the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) to provide Participants free, confidential assistance on any services offered by VNSNY CHOICE FIDA Complete. ICAN may be reached toll-free at 1-844-614-8800 or online at icannys.org.

VNSNY CHOICE FIDA Complete is a managed care plan that contracts with both Medicare and the New York State Department of Health (Medicaid) to provide benefits of both programs to Participants through the Fully Integrated Duals Advantage (FIDA) Demonstration.

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Haiti's artisans reach a larger public through networking



By Tequila Minsky
 The bright well-lit showroom of the Artisan Business Network (ABN) is usually filled with a myriad of artisans' wares and is located in Port-au-Prince's pleasant old residential neighborhood of Pacot. There are cut-metal work from Croix des Bouquets, tobacco-covered papier-mâché vases from Jacmel, and soapstone objects d'art from Leogane. There are jewelry made from horn, vetiver woven baskets, beaded Vodou flags, and higher-end leather change purses and beaded passport cases.

At a recent visit, the Port-au-Prince showroom/depot's inventory was a bit depleted as much had been shipped off to New York where the items were on display Feb. 1-4 at Booth 1060 in the artisan section at the Javitz Center Gift Show. "We work with individual artists but we encourage collaboration," says Nathalie Tancrede, ABN's director, speaking of the numerous groups

Left: At the Haiti headquarters, Nathalie Tancrede, director of Artisans Business Network, says that with many additional new artisan items and an active outreach program, the Network has increased sales since the days when Macy's was their only customer. Right: The Javitz Center ABN booth featured new collections. Roberto Calasanz holds papier mache items he designed. Photo by Tequila Minsky

that make up the Network. For example, they work with a collective of 100 women who make embroidered linen napkins and knit "joujou" dolls in the small town of Fond-des-Blancs, part of the work of Haiti Projects. The Network is a direct offspring of the Heart of Haiti (Fairwinds Trading & Keith

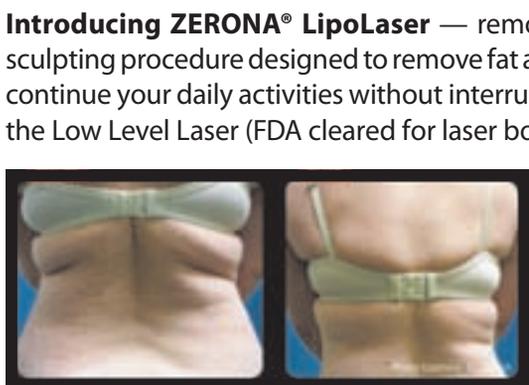
Reicker) project that in 2010 brought crafted items to Macy's outlets. (Tancrede was the country director of that project and on the 15th of January supporters celebrated the 5-year anniversary of the initiative's progress in the executive suite of Macy's Herald Square.) The Network was created

with a \$200,00 grant from the Clinton/Bush Fund, which continued and expanded Heart of Haiti's work including developing three depots: the one in Port-au-Prince, which is also the headquarters; one for the metal artisans and other arts in the village of Noailles outside of Croix des Bouquets and

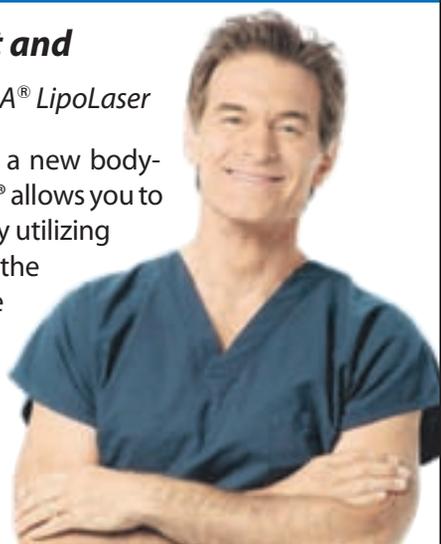
one in Jacmel. Now, through the Network, in addition to Macy's, designers, interior decorators, gift boutiques, duty free shops, souvenir shops, and churches order the artisan's products. "We have buyers who request custom designs," Tancrede reports.

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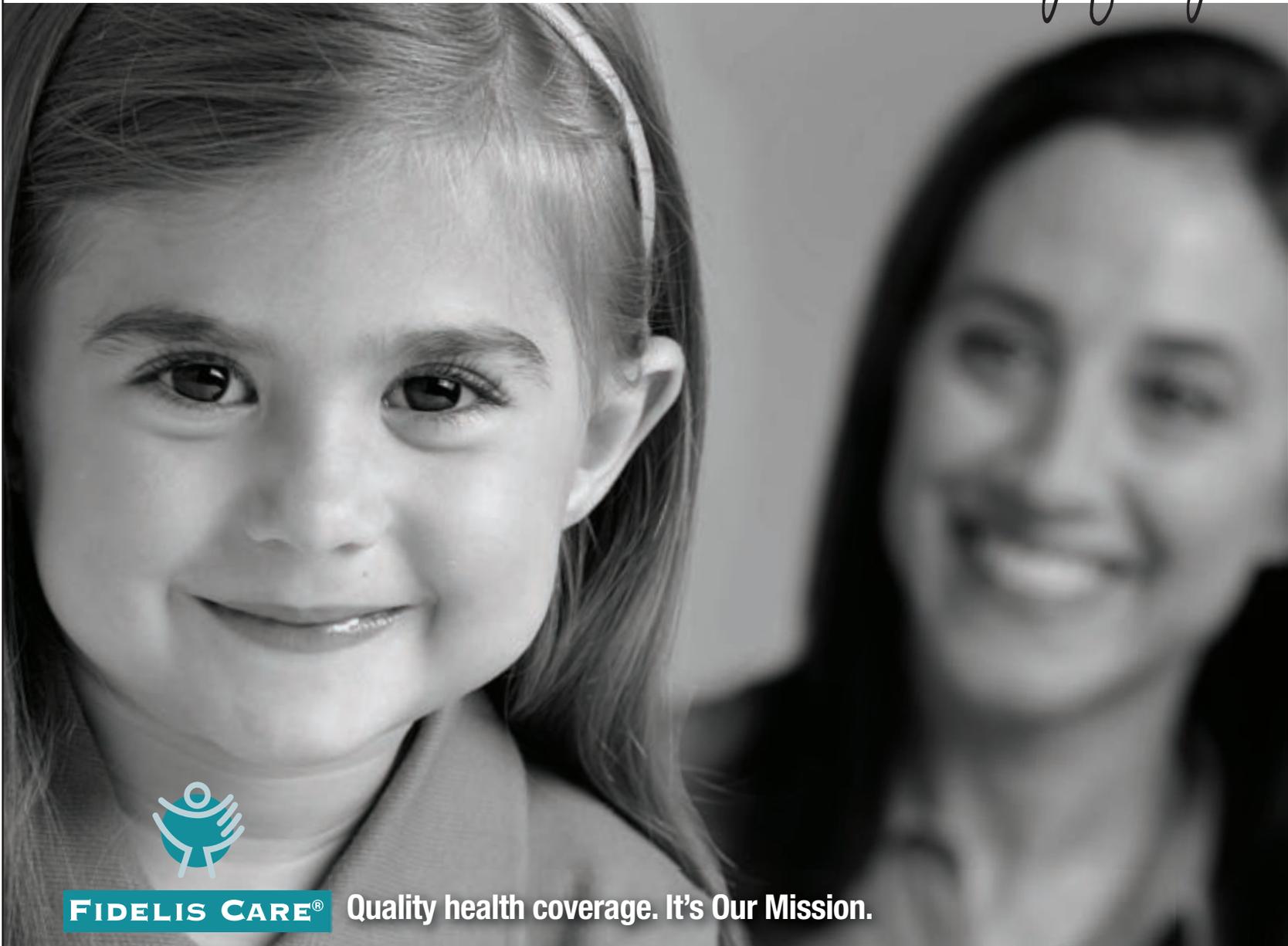


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2005	Chevy TrailBlazer, 81k	J1066	\$5,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$7,995	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
2005	Ford Expedition, 122k	8789	\$5,995	2007	Acura MDX, 104k	10125	\$8,995	2006	Cadillac Escalade, 100k	10464	\$12,995
2006	BMW X3, 128k	11286	\$6,995	2006	Honda Ridgeline, 135k	4629	\$9,995	2007	Toyota FJ Cruiser, 70k	11842	\$16,995
2006	Toyota Rav 4, 114k	2554	\$7,500	2006	BMW X5, 85k	11851	\$9,995	2008	GMC Yukon, 62k	65921	\$17,995



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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	A72885	\$3,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 20k	1226	\$13,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
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YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$14,888
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400
2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995				

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T&T PM fires 5 officials

Continued from cover

National Security Minister Griffith and the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) director David West for not bringing to her attention the matter of the alleged witness tampering by the AG.

She suggested that Griffith had a moral obligation to tell her if and when Ramlogan had asked him to place a call to West (seeking to have West withdraw his witness statement) and if he had done so, the situation would have been different today, adding, that Griffith had admitted making "such a call."

The prime minister also called for the resignation of West as PCA director.

She asserted West's office as Director of the PCA had been compromised and brought into disrepute by the allegations, along with the office of the attorney general and minister of national security.

West is a witness of fact for Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley in the Section 34 defamation lawsuit filed against him by Ramlogan.

West alleged he was approached by the former AG to withdraw his statement in exchange for the appointment to head the PCA.

The alleged approach came six days before West was appointed to the post.

The controversy, which was first exposed by a daily newspaper took a dramatic turn last week when West



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. Associated Press / Frank Franklin II

visited the acting Police Commissioner Stephen Williams and presented him with a signed statement in which he confirmed the allegations of "an attempt to pervert the course of justice" against Ramlogan.

Ramlogan's four-and-a-half year tenure has been turbulent as he has been involved in many controversies but this one is the most serious and threatening to all.'



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Intelligence director

Continued from Page 3

His spiral past promotion boards landed him positions as senior intelligence planner for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and director of Intelligence for

“He brings a wealth of talent and leadership to the Defense Intelligence Agency and the nation’s intelligence community across the agencies and organizations.”



Lieut. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart.

Photo courtesy of DIA Public Affairs

Marine Corps Headquarters.

While serving as commander at Marine Forces Cyber Command in the rank of major general he was nominated for a third star and was approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee on Dec. 10, 2014.

Described by Department of Defense spokesman, Army Col. Steven Warren as “a distinguished intelligence professional and dedicated war fighter,” Major Stewart will lead the charge to “provide military intelligence to combat units, defense planners and policy makers.”

“He brings a wealth of talent and leadership to the Defense Intelligence Agency and the nation’s intelligence community across the agencies and

organizations,” Warren added.

“Vincent’s temperament, professional background, leadership skills and integrity make him eminently suited to be the DIA director,” James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence said in a statement.

Clapper’s endorsement added that, “This is a position I know well, and Vincent is exceptionally qualified to serve in this important Intelligence Community and Department of Defense post.”

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Petition

Continued from page 18

and Seventh Ave. (known as Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard). The partners designated Charity, the president of the Renaissance and Sweeney, the treasurer. Together they built the Renaissance Theater in 1921.

Much has been documented about the hot-spot in Harlem affectionately known as The Renny. Visited often by Garvey, boxer Joe Louis, entertainer Cab Calloway, Count Basie and Duke Ellington, Paul Robeson also performed there.

At a time Blacks were barred from the National Basketball Association, it became the home court of the Rens, the first all African American professional basketball team in the nation.

The adjacent 900-seat theater featured movies by Oscar Micheaux, the first African-American to produce a feature-length film.

The casino was used for a 1923 anti-lynching meeting held by the N.A.A.C.P.

Ironically, David N. Dinkins, the first Black mayor of NYC does not support the building's historical significance as a Harlem landmark. But in 1953, he and his bride Joyce held their wedding reception there.

The building closed in 1979.

Reportedly "for Sweeney this loss was so great that within weeks of losing control of the Renaissance, he went home to his dwelling on 136th St., locked himself

in, and turned on the jets of his gas stove. His funeral was presided over by the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., then pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church."

It remained in disrepair for many years.

In 1991, Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, organized a group of small business owners in Harlem to buy the site. The group paid \$300,000 for the mortgage.

That same year a proposal for landmark status of the building was presented to the city's landmarks commission. In 1997, a court-appointed mediator awarded the business owners the title to the property.

But recently, the Abyssinian Development Corporation — the real estate arm of the church — sold the building to BRP Development Corporation for \$15 million.

The developers promise a \$70 million housing unit they plan to name, The Renny. It will include a 134-unit apartment building, with affordably priced homes. A spokesperson said 17,500 square feet of retail space will replace the landmark structure after it is razed.

Although the Department of Buildings is still reviewing the plans and have not confirmed the future of the historic spot, cultural preservationist such as Michael Henry Adams believe the community should rally to protect the space.

Adams regularly protests the sale and projected construction project.

Every Sunday he visits the 137th location and if only alone, shouts the urgency to reclaim the legacy started by the Caribbean pioneers.

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Rihanna to duet with West & British Knight



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



In this Nov. 11, 2014, file photo, Rihanna performs on the National Mall in Washington during the Concert for Valor.

Associated Press / Carolyn Kaster, File

Saint Michael, Barbados-born, Robyn Rihanna Fenty AKA Rihanna is part of a triumvirate billed to take the stage at the Staples Center in California Sunday to perform from her anticipated "Four Five Seconds" CD during the 57th annual Grammy awards.

Joining her onstage will be legendary Beatles, Sir Paul McCartney and making his return to the Grammy stage after a six-year absence is 21-time Grammy winner Kanye West.

Nominated a record 56 times for Grammy honors, West will deliver a never-before-seen solo performance as well as a world debut collaborative performance with Rihanna.

After a trial run with West on the eve of the 49th Superbowl championship in Arizona in front of some of the biggest sports fans in America, the 26-year-old pop princess will face the world's largest music audience to debut her eighth album during the global-viewing award presentation/show.

Superbowl XLIX united West with Rihanna for a perform-

ance that invited r&b singer John Legend and his model wife Chissy Teigen, West's wife Kim Kardashian and others in a mini-stadium last Saturday.

The Caribbean music royalty performed for a solid hour and was joined onstage by West.

She has not released new material since 2012 when she introduced her "Unapologetic" album.

Frequently described as her musical comeback, this latest performance will combine the talents of West and McCartney -- two musical giants for a live debut of "Four Five Seconds."

The new track features the British rocker on guitar while West raps to Rihanna's vocals.

"Four Five Seconds" is now available on iTunes and is being tagged as a "catchy" track.

"Rihanna's seriously pleased to have bagged a big slot at The Grammys and two huge

names to kick off her comeback," Britain's Sun newspaper reported.

The English publication added: "Paul McCartney's a Grammys regular and it will give Rihanna serious kudos to have a Beatle backing her on stage. It is going to be a huge Grammys moment."

Last year McCartney performed during the awards alongside fellow former Beatle drummer Ringo Starr.

With 18 miniature, gramophones to his collection McCartney lends star power to Rihanna's effort.

The 72-year-old super-star joined West last year to collaborate on a song titled "Only One" which is dedicated to the rapper's daughter North.

That track featured the former Beatle on keyboards, while 37-year-old West sang from the perspective of his late

mother.

A seven-time Grammy award winner, Rihanna is nominated in the Best Rap / Sung Collaboration category for "The Monster" a track she joined Eminem to record.

The rapper is also up for two nominations.

He is also named in the Best Rap/Sung Collaboration (with Charlie Wilson) and Best Rap Song for "Bound 2."

This year's honors also include appearances and performances by Madonna, AC/DC, Pharrell Williams, Prince. *Catch You On The Inside!*

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James Lovell introduces the segunda drum to the Saturday morning workshop participants in Hartford, Connecticut. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Garifuna jazz goes to Trinity College

By Tequila Minsky

“This is our launching of Black History Month,” said Dr. Dario Euraque, Trinity College history professor. “And, we’re giving it a more international focus.”

Dr. Euraque has written extensively on Garifuna social and political history and how they have resisted racism and exclusion by the majority populations in Honduras, Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Euraque and music professor Eric

Continued on Page 44

Roger Gary wins award

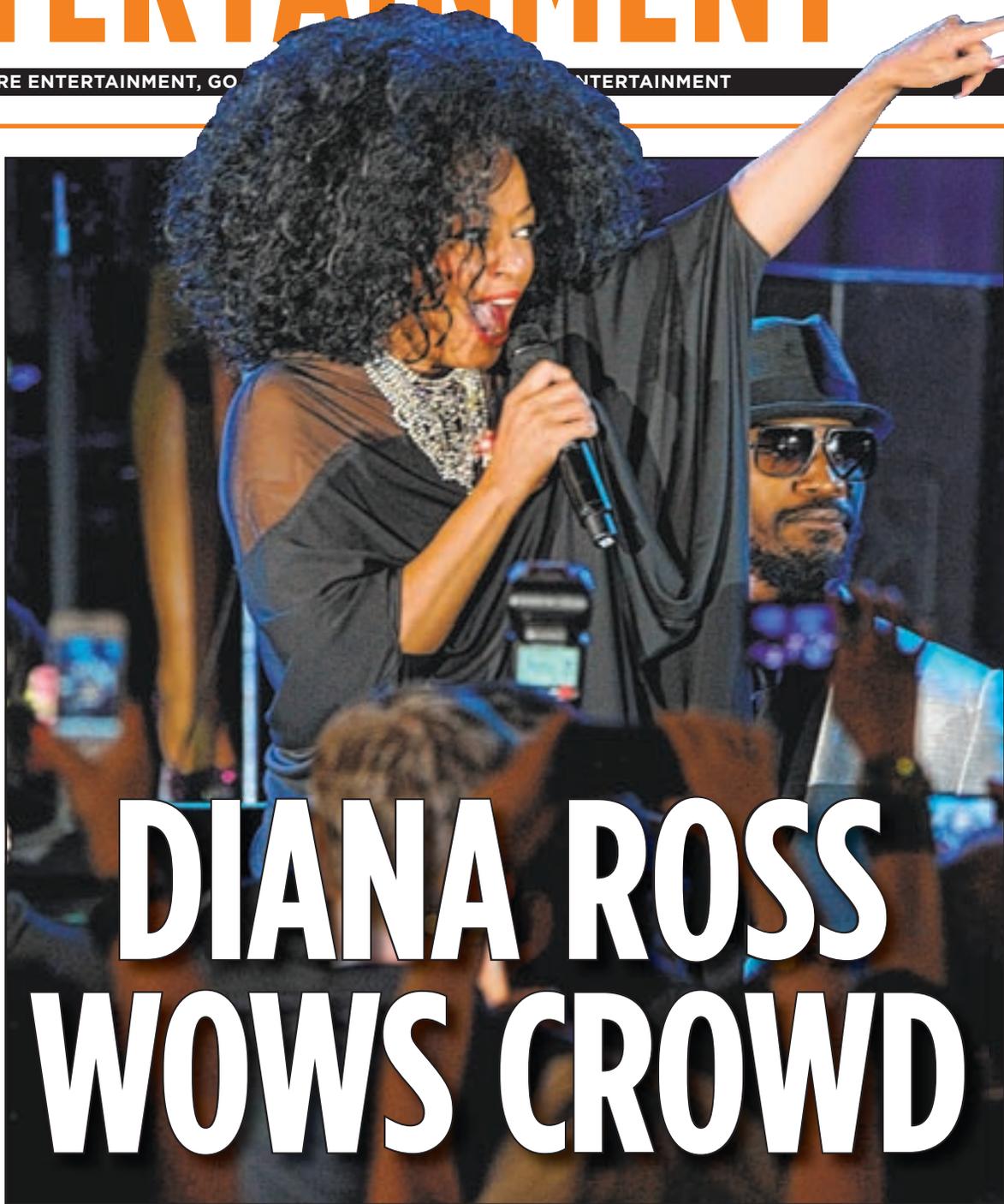
By Tangerine Clarke

Brooklyn-based fashion designer, Roger Gary’s new collection was featured at the august El Museo del Barrio Museum in Spanish Harlem, where the couturier won the Young Designer Award, presented by founder of Latinista Fashion Week Dee Rivera and fashion designer Cesar Galindo.

The Jan. 30 launch of Latinista Fashion Week showcased two pieces of Gary’s Sport of Kings colorful horse racing outfits, cut from silk and designed with long sleeves.

One piece showed a coloration of chick-

Continued on Page 44



DIANA ROSS WOWS CROWD

Diana Ross performs onstage at the Pre-GRAMMY Gala & Salute to Industry Icons with Clive Davis honoring Richard Branson, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press / Vince Buccu, File

Kings Theatre venue steals the show

By Noah Hurowitz

Diana Ross probably isn’t used to being the opening act.

The soul legend captivated a sold-out crowd at the grand reopening of the Kings Theatre in Flatbush on Tuesday night, but the main attraction was the majestic and painstakingly restored venue.

“I couldn’t be more proud,” said Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte (D-Flatbush), as she gazed around the lobby before the show. “It’s so beautiful, so intricate, and it really

brings flavor to Flatbush.”

Okay, so the 3,000 people who coughed up upwards of \$100 and lined up around the block to see the legendary Detroit diva are probably fans.

Show-goers walking through the lobby of the Flatbush Avenue venue for the first time were agog as they took in the high, ornamental ceilings and dramatic red drapes, all carefully made to appear as they did when the theater opened in 1929.

One new feature of the revamped

theater was the more-spacious seats, but no one was sitting down for Ross — she had the whole crowd on its feet within seconds of her grand entrance, striding down the aisle, belting out “I’m Coming Out.” Some fans surged down the aisle after her to dance in front of the stage, and the rest stayed standing and clapping.

Between a dizzying succession of costume changes, Ross delivered a set of hits from her solo career,

Continued on Page 44

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Tale revisits sub-prime mortgage crisis

"Americans"
 Very Good (3 stars)
 Rated R for profanity,
 nudity, sexuality and
 drug use.
 Running time:
 85 minutes
 Distributor:
 Archstone Distribution

By Kam Williams

It is California in 2007, at the height of the sub-prime mortgage boom. Jason "Jay" Kelley (Beau Martin Williams), a cash-strapped bouncer is offered an alternative line of work in a higher tax bracket by Devin Weiss (Matt Funke), a hotshot real estate broker whose company is in the midst of a hiring blitz.

For, the Feds have recently deregulated ARMs (Adjustable Rate Mortgages), making the liars loans available to any member of the general public able to meet the minimum down payment requirement of a mere 1 percent. That development has triggered a feeding



A scene from the film "Americans."

Photo courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

frenzy which left lenders like Devin with too few employees to process notes fast enough.

Unfortunately, Jay proves unable to resist the easy money being dangled right in front of his eyes like a carrot on a stick. Worse, once greed has gotten the better of him, he succumbs to the suggestion that it's okay to behave unscrupulously in the name of the almighty dollar. So, he soon finds himself

being trained to trick naïve borrowers into signing on the dotted line to finance homes way beyond their means.

Jay's ethical tailspin begins with his fast-talking an unemployed pal (Trai Byers) with a wife and kids into buying a house he's destined to default on. Jay subsequently loses his moral bearings afterhours, too, by attending wild parties with his colleagues where snorting

coke off women's bare midriffs is par for the course. Worst of all, when he sobers up and decides he wants out, he's blackmailed by a manipulative boss (Sam McMurray) who's been secretly recording his hedonistic behavior.

Unfolding like the West Coast's answer to the decadence displayed in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, "Americans" is a sobering cautionary tale expos-

ing the ugly underbelly of the California mortgage industry. Directed by Theo Avgerinos (*Fifty Pills*), the semi-autobiographical adventure was co-written by its co-stars, Beau Martin Williams and Matt Funke.

A modern morality play serving as a telling reminder of exactly how easily an American dream can dissolve into a never ending dystopian nightmare.

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TOP 10 SINGLE



- 1 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 2 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 3 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 4 **I'm Not The Only One**
Sam Smith
- 5 **Jealous**
Nick Jonas
- 6 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 7 **Love Me Harder**
Ariana Grande & The Weeknd
- 8 **Lips Are Movin**
Meghan Trainor
- 9 **The Heart Wants What...**
Selena Gomez
- 10 **Animals**
Maroon 5

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **American Beauty...**
Fall Out Boy
- 2 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 3 **B4.Da.\$\$**
Joey Bada\$\$
- 4 **The Pale Emperor**
Marilyn Manson
- 5 **Tetsuo & Youth**
Lupe Fiasco
- 6 **What A Terrible World...**
The Decemberists
- 7 **Title**
Meghan Trainor
- 8 **Vulnicura**
Bjork
- 9 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 10 **The Pinkprint**
Nicki Minaj



DIANA ROSS

Continued from page 41

and more by the Supremes, the legendary Motown trio she led for more than a decade. And, in true diva fashion, she banned professional photography from the show, so that the only record of the night would be blurry Instagram photos, and shots provided by her publicist.

The concert was the first big show at the palatial venue since it closed as a movie theater in 1977. Efforts to restore the Versailles-inspired treasure gained steam under former borough president Marty Markowitz, who went on his first date at the theater back in the early 1950s. But the renovations didn't begin until 2013, and only wrapped last month.

Markowitz, who now works as an outer-borough tourism czar for the city, was among the host of local politicians who were no less visibly wowed about the theater's reopening.

Ross is the first act of a 2015 schedule packed with bold-faced names, including



Xexaina Markland escorts her 73-year-old grandmother Eve Richards, who was celebrating her birthday, to a sold-out Diana Ross concert at the reopening of the Brooklyn's Kings Theatre in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015.

Associated Press / Kathy Willens

Gladys Knight, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, and the Moscow Ballet.

"We've got a lot of footprints coming here from all over the city," Bichotte said. "We are really experiencing an explosion and enhancement of per-

forming arts in Flatbush."

For those who missed the big show, or those who went and want to relive the magic, the theater is hosting a free walk-through on Saturday afternoon.

Community walk-through

at the Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Duryea Place and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush, www.kingstheatre.com). Feb. 7, noon to 4:00 p.m. Line forms at 11:30 a.m. and closes at 4:00 p.m. First-come, first-served.

Fashion

Continued from page 41

en yellow with mauve polka dots and pink stripes and a zipped up front, while the other silk shirt was created in a colorful blend of orange, purple and green, and completed with a collar.

Models Taj and Alex matched the outfits with white stirrup pants and riding boots.

The award-winning designer's inspiration came from his love of horse racing while growing up in Guyana.

"When I was a kid, I dreamed of being a jockey and I enjoyed riding horses at D'Urban Park in Georgetown," said Gary, who also admired the colorful silk shirts that the jockeys wore.

"I am fascinated with the outfits," he said, adding that this collection is a tribute to horse racing biggest events. The Kentucky Derby, the Belmont Stakes, the Preakness Steaks, and the memorable D'Urban Park, where he spent time watching the races and being a part of the excitement.

Gary who has designed for beauty pageant contestants such as Miss Guyana World, Miss Guy-



Roger Gary (left) with models Taj and Alexis.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

ana Earth and Miss Guyana Universe, to name a few, explained that this collection is an extension of his resort line of colorful swimwear.

The 25-piece collection is geared to the adventurous woman who Gary says is not a wallflower, but someone who wants to be noticed.

The women's wear designer that was featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET), Rip The Runway and VH1, is hoping to attract women to this collection, who are happy in their skin, and who wants to feel good, and celebrates life. "I say yes wear it."

Garifuna music

Continued from page 41

The Billings Forge in Hartford invited New York-based Afri Garifuna Jazz Ensemble to their Connecticut campus to perform and present, last weekend. Both professors chair their departments and recognize the connection of music to history and culture.

"We're expanding what is Black History; it's not just African-American history," explains Euraque.

Last Friday at noon, ensemble co-director singer Lucy Blanco and Alex Kwabena Colon on Garifuna drum and Kahlil Bell on bongos and conga gave a culture/music workshop to Dr. Galm's music students along with Trinity faculty Pablo Delano (Studio Arts) and Milla Riggio (English) who lectured about Garifuna-related projects.

The whole six-piece ensemble performed on campus that evening, a prelude with what was to follow.

It was sunny and chilly early the next morning when ensemble members assembled their instruments at

the Billings Forge in Hartford. Mario Sprouse set up his keyboard—he had played the onstage grand piano the night before and Luisa Bastidas tuned up her electric violin. High school music students, local musicians, and other music lovers, ages 12-80, filtered into the community space.

"We want to include people from the city; this isn't just a Trinity event," said Euraque.

Part of the effort in bringing the ensemble to Hartford was to involve students and established musicians from the larger Hartford community, a way to bridge the campus with the outside world.

James Lovell started off the morning.

"Repeat after me: 'buiti binafi', that's good morning," he instructed as the workshop began.

Adding a little more Garifuna language to set the tone he said, "Idabiangi?" How are you? Now, repeat." And, "magadietina", I am fine.

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Former New York Knicks player Cal Ramsey attends a news conference at New York's Madison Square Garden, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Associated Press / Richard Drew, File

Garden to host star attraction

By Robert Elkin

The last time a basketball all-star game was held at Madison Square Garden was in 1998 when capacity crowds turned out to watch the likes of Kevin Garnett and Michael Jordan.

This all-star attraction matches the best of the best from the Eastern and the Western conferences. But the three-day program does not only contain an all-star attraction. It encompasses

Continued on Page 48

Vincentian PM slams WICB leadership

By Azad Ali

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has slammed the leadership of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president Dave Cameron as "poor" and "embarrassing" and has called for the firing of the Jamaican executive as head of the regional board.

The long-serving regional prime minister was speaking in reference to Cameron's handling of the recent players contracts impasse, which resulted from a disputed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the subsequent abandonment of the India tour by the West Indies One-Day team.

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AGUDELO RETURNS

New England Revolution forward Juan Agudelo (10) and Sporting Kansas City defender Matt Besler, back, vie for a head ball during the first half of an MLS playoff soccer match in Kansas City, Kan., Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013.

Associated Press / Orlin Wagner, File

Revolution welcomes him once more

By Patrick Horne

After one year in the wilderness, U.S. national team forward and New Jersey native, Juan Agudelo, is returning to his old team the New England Revolution in MLS. The forward left the Revs after the 2013 season for chance to play in the Eng-

lish Premier League, which turned out to be futile.

"I'm bummed out that it didn't work out," Agudelo said of the Stoke City situation. "But everyone moves forward, and I'm really excited to come back to a team that I'm familiar with. It feels like I never left."

Agudelo encountered problems in getting a work permit to play in Europe and spent the last year just training and hoping for good news that never came. New England retained his rights and after watching his former teammates battle in

Continued on Page 48

Women's World Cup Tourney

Continued from page 47

the 2014 MLS Cup lost to the Los Angeles Galaxy, he wanted to come home. In the past two months, the forward made contact with the Revs.

"December through January we started to have more dialogue," said Jay Heaps, the Revs coach. "I think Juan realized there was a really good opportunity here not only to come back to somewhere he was familiar, but also to come back and get really good playing time with good players around him.

"When he's at his best and he's playing well, he should be in that national team camp. He should be looked at as a forward that Jurgen [Klinsmann, U.S. national team head coach] is looking at."

"It's not a bad team to come back to," he said. "They got so far last year and just came up a tiny bit short. I'm just hoping that I can help the team anyway that I can to finish it off."

U.S. women prepare

The U.S. women's national team is starting its preparation for next summer's FIFA Women's World Cup tournament in June in cities throughout Canada with a two week tour of Europe. The tour involves two games and daily training, with the first game on Sunday, Feb. 8, versus France in Lorient and the second against England five days later in Milton Keynes. The USA has never lost to France (14-2-0) in 16 games and is also unbeaten against England with seven wins in 11 matches.

The Americans are in a difficult World Cup group which includes Nigeria, Sweden and Australia. U.S. forward Alex Morgan returns from injury, veteran midfielder Shannon Boxx has been recalled and forward Amy Rodriguez also recently returned to the team after a maternity hiatus.



United States' Alex Morgan, left, controls the ball against Guatemala's Coralia Monterroso during the first half of a CONCACAF Women's Championship soccer game Friday, Oct. 17, 2014, in Bridgeview, Ill.

Associated Press / Nam Y. Huh

Barbados, Guyana draw

World Cup qualifying preparations for the in the Caribbean region is heating up and Barbados and Guyana wasted no time in getting their teams ready. Last Sunday night, the two met in an international friendly in Bridgetown, Barbados and played to a 2-2 draw in what was reported as a very exciting game.

Qualifying games for the 2018 World Cup in Russia get under way in earnest next month for the lower ranked teams, but Guyana and Barbados kick off their campaigns later in June.

Four goals were scored in the first half as the teams battled for a win the rest of the way. After 33 minutes, the home team

found itself trailing by two goals. Sheldon Holder put Guyana ahead in the 12th minute; he dribbled past on the right wing beat goalkeeper Dario Weir with a shot from close range. Emery Welshman made it 2-0 in the 33rd minute with a shot from 20 yards.

With their backs to the wall, the Bajans roared back just minutes after Welshman's score; Jomo Harris volleyed a shot from just outside the 18 yard box to pull the hosts within a goal, then Barbados captain Mario Harte tied the game with his first international goals when he sent a low shot that beat Guyana goalkeeper Akel Clarke.

Basketball

Continued from page 47

a rookie game, slam dunk contest and other individual player skill performances, both at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan and Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

While the game itself takes place Sunday night at the Garden and is usually an offensive showcase, the National Basketball Association will perform activities at other sites, as well.

An 'old timer' who expected to be on hand for some of the activities, especially the ones the Knicks are involved in during the regular season is Cal Ramsey, who goes around in a wheelchair as a result of a tear in his knee. Therefore, at press time he will be at his upper Manhattan residence watching the game on television. With his disabilities he is still able to perform his duties for the Knicks and be an assistant at New York University. He is very well known in the area.

The 77-year-old Ramsey is still very much involved with basketball although not as much on the actual court as he used to be. And he is graduate of the Division III college, which still draws the fans even though they are not top-rated in the metropolitan area.

In 1998, he underwent knee surgery but still manages as much as he is able to in both categories, and tries not to miss a game. At half time of the college games, he advises his head coach and assistant coaches at NYU what to do different during the actual competition — such as in rebounding, correcting turnovers and defense. He also helps the players how to further their basketball game and in internship at jobs.

With the Knicks in his early years in the National Basketball Association, Ramsey did not last with them long nor with St. Louis, who drafted him, and Syracuse because there were better payers on the rosters. He soon would retire from the court and stay in another category — on the sideline as much as possible.

Off the court with the Knicks, Ramsey, a force behind the team, stresses education, is involved in a goodwill program and a stay-in-school program all for the kids. He is an ambassador for Madison Square Garden and is familiar figure at all of the team's home games. In addition, he is involved in their summer camp for kids. A vital force behind the Knicks, Ramsey is a director of special projects and in the community relations representative.

Besides his many positions with the Knicks, he served at one time as a color commentator both for the Knicks and college games in the met area.. And he still helps in recruiting high school players for New York University and speaks to the future players and their parents, as well. He is very well liked by all concerned on and off the courts.

Gonsalves takes WICB to task

Continued from page 47

More significantly, Dr. Gonsalves comments come just a few weeks ahead of the WICB annual general meeting when Cameron will be up for re-election.

"I hope the respective boards in the territories tell him to take a break and come back at a later date, perhaps with more mature, renewed skills of leadership," Gonsalves told the Nation newspaper in Barbados.

"I think his leadership in this regard has been extremely poor and has embar-

rassed us before the world. I happen to know certain facts which drew me to the conclusion that it is his leadership that led to the premature end of the tour of India," he said.

The outspoken Dr. Gonsalves has played a central role in trying to resolve the impasse that ensued when West Indies players walked off the one-day tour of India, following the fourth One-Day International in Dharamsala last October.

The Indian Cricket Board blamed the WICB for the abandonment of the tour and subsequently lodged a claim for US\$42 million in damages.



Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

Associated Press / Mary Altaffer

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PRESIDENTS' DAY EVENT



From left, Stella Boyea-Ashby, Dr. Roxie Irish and Dofflyn King at 80th Birthday gala for former New York City Councilwoman Dr. Una S.T. Clarke. Photo by Nelson A. King

Fit to be a Vincentian sports ambassador

By Nelson A. King

When St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves announced the 2014 Sports Ambassadors, during the country's independence anniversary military parade last October, many nationals in the Diaspora expressed consternation that arguably one of the better, if not the best, netballers in the nation's history was omitted.

The call for Stella Boyea-Ashby's inclusion on the list even grew louder in recent times in the wake of the conferral last December in Brooklyn of the Lifetime Achievement Award on football (soccer) great Rudolph "Rudy" Boucher, a former national football captain and coach, by the group, Vincy Cares, Inc. Some have also urged that Boucher be named a sports ambassador.

Many former national netballers, particularly those who played under Boyea-Ashby's perennial captaincy, have voiced support for her would-be sports ambassadorship in light of her sterling contribution — even at a very tender age — to the nation.

"She was a force to be reckoned with," Dr. Roxie Irish, ex-national netball star, who "had the privilege of playing in St. Kitts-Nevis, Bermuda, Grenada and the U.S.A under the captaincy of the skillful Stella Boyea," told Caribbean Life.

Stella — who represented the national netball team from 1973-84, when she migrated to New York — was known only by that last name until her marriage to Keith Hadaway Ashby in 1986. Hadaway Ashby is a member of the prominent Hadaway business family in Kingstown,

the Vincentian capital.

Boyea-Ashby captained the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Netball Team from 1974-80 and again from 1983-84. Jose Providence was the captain from 1981-82.

"Stella knew how to encourage and lead her team, which she did by example," said Irish, president of the United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn. "She was fearless, and always treated everyone with respect. She was very protective of the team, especially the younger ladies.

Irish, who was "drafted" in the national netball team in 1980, also described Boyea-Ashby as a "phenomenon — a bundle of energy, a storage of stamina, container of creative concepts, full of flawless fluidity and a 'States Woman' to the core.

"This woman, who we looked up to with maximum respect and adoration, was our champion," she said. "I especially love her gregarious nature; and, today, I can claim her as a true friend.

"So, on behalf of my sisters, Debra and Dailene (who also represented the nation in netball) and myself, we say 'Thank you, Stella, for the wonderful years of playing under your leadership,'" Irish added. "You are simply the best!"

Gailene Windsor — another former national netball star, who played under Boyea-Ashby's captaincy for four years, including in the 1979 World Tournament — said Boyea-Ashby "has done great in representing St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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Aries, tackle a problem that's been puzzling you head-on this week. A direct approach may just provide you the unique perspective you need to crack this nut.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, state your case carefully when you attempt to get your point across at work. Others will appreciate your thoughtful approach and respond positively.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you are up to your ears in work and you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel just yet. Rest assured that it's there, but it could take a few more days in the trenches.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Various responsibilities require your full attention this week, Cancer. Don't be afraid to accept some help so you can get everything done on time.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are invested in reaching a goal, and those around you are inspired by your gusto. Make the most of your energy and help others harness theirs if given the chance.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you work best when you have a plan in place. While you are not usually appreciative of surprises, this week you are willing to be a little more flexible.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
A disagreement at work has you unsure about what side to support, Libra. Stay neutral for the time being until you can get a better grasp of the situation.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, focus on issues at work this week. Channel your energy into productivity at the office, and know that there will be time to daydream down the road.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
You may feel strong winds of change blowing in your direction, Sagittarius, and you do not know what is in store for you. Sometimes it can be exciting to be surprised.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, look forward to the weeks ahead, as some good news is on the horizon. Allow others around you to share in the good times ahead.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, revisit your career goals this week. Even if your goals seem ever-changing, it can be productive to reexamine them from time to time.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Keep things simple this week, Pisces. You will have a lot on your plate in the days ahead, but it's nothing you can't handle.

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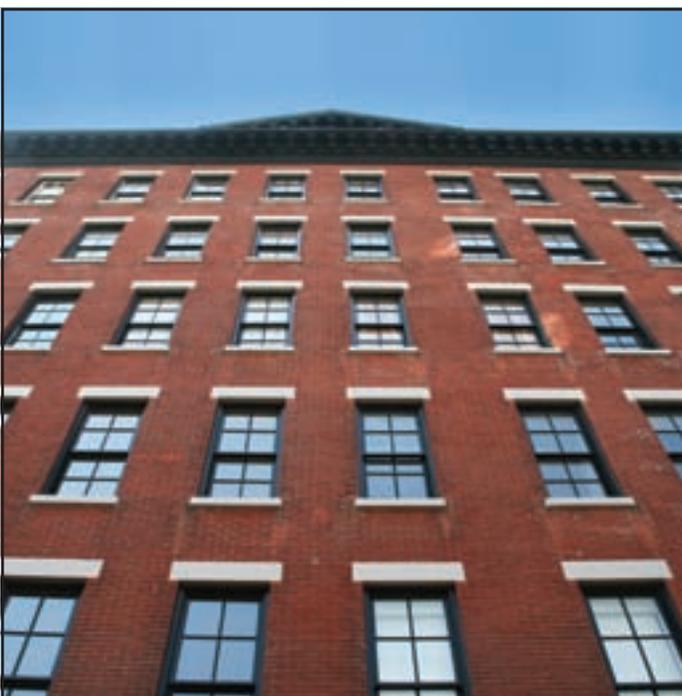
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