

# Caribbean Life

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Brooklyn/Staten Island Edition

FREE

Published by Courier-Life Publications Inc. One Metrotech North, Tenth Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201 • 718-260-2500 • May 4-10, 2012



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cancer**  
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## U.S. runs afoul of Carib rum distillers

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean Community (Caricom) nations, which for decades have been exporting various brands of rum to the U.S. are to mount a spirited campaign to get the U.S. government to cut back on heavy subsidies to one major producer in the U.S. Virgin Islands that have placed regional production at a serious disadvantage, the bloc said Monday.

The 15-nation bloc is to send a delegation to meet with U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk next month to complain that authorities in the Virgin Islands have given British spirits giant, Diageo generous tax and other incentives that have helped the company to build a brand new heavy-duty distillery that would produce and export Captain Morgan Rum to the U.S. much cheaper than many of the bloc's members.

Secretary General Irwin LaRoque said he raised the issue during meetings in Washington last week

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## Going for a record

Star batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul is now within sight of becoming the second West Indies cricketer to reach 10,000 Test runs. Page 41.

AP Photo/Tom Hevesi.

# TIME TO REBUILD BUFFERS

## -- IMF Tells LatAm, Carib

By Nelson A. King

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says while the economic challenges facing Latin America (LatAM) and the Caribbean differ across countries, they should rebuild policy space and be watchful for downside risks.

In its latest Regional Economic Outlook for the Western Hemisphere, the Washington-based financial institution warned on April 25 that supportive external conditions facing some countries, such as abundant and cheap external financing, and favorable commodity prices, may persist for a while, but are likely to dis-

sipate over time.

"Conditions remain favorable. The double tailwinds of easy external financial and high commodity prices are likely to persist for a while but not forever," said Nicolás Eyzaguirre, director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department at the presentation of the report in Bogotá, Colombia.

"Now, the challenge for many countries is to take advantage of this environment to rebuild buffers, to enhance the resilience and flexibility that has served them so well the last

Continued on page 4

Antigua

Inter-regional travel could come to a halt if industrial action hits LIAT. The Antigua-based LIAT and the Antigua and Barbuda's Workers Union (ABWU) are up in arms following its recent announcement that it was terminating employment of 25 airline workers.

The Ministry of Labor has invited the two parties to the bargaining table in a last ditch effort to stave off threatened industrial action.

LIAT recently issued redundancy notices to all but three employees in its Cargo and Quickpak Department in a cost-cutting plan. The cargo section was launched a year ago and in a release recently the cash-strapped airline announced plans for the further outsourcing of its Cargo and Quickpak operations at several of its stations in the Caribbean.

Bahamas

Bahamians will go to the polls on May 7. Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said he has advised Governor General Sir Arthur Alexander Foulkes to dissolve Parliament, paving the way for general elections in The Bahamas.

"My government has completed its mandate. It is now time for the Bahamian people to decide in whose hands they will grant a new mandate for the governance of our country over the next five years," he told supporters of the Free National Movement (FNM).

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# Political turmoil in Grenada, rift within incumbent party

By Nelson A. King

Grenada's opposition New National Party led by Keith Mitchell, the former prime minister -- now leader of the opposition, is taking advantage of internal discord within the ruling party to call for a vote of no-confidence.

On April 30, Mitchell's NNP announced it had filed a motion calling for a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, following the resignation of Peter David a senior minister, amid continued in-fighting in the incumbent National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Mitchel told a news conference in St. George's, the Grenadian capital, that the motion would be debated at the next sitting of the Parliament due this month, and that it had been filed on April 27 ahead of the resignation of the tourism, civil aviation and culture minister. The NNP, which controls four of the 15 seats in the House of Representatives, is seeking a special sitting of the House for a vote on the motion.

"We, as a responsible opposition, took the decision to file a vote of no confidence in the leadership of the country. The Speaker (George James Mc Guire), in his own right, decided that, in the context of the Standing Orders, that we must have at least six MPs to request a special sitting," Mitchell said.

"The motion will go as is, but will not be a special sitting. If we are able to get support from two more members, then we can ask for a special sitting of the



Peter David.

Photo courtesy of NDC

House," he added.

The motion accuses Thomas, 66, of "encouraging internal division and strife within his government since 2008," when the NDC won the general elections.

The motion also comes a few days after NDC chairman Stanford Simon and a group of NDC elders accused Thomas of dividing his own party.

The five senior NDC members, however, said they were "working hard" to mend the party's expanding rift, possibly by "shedding" some dissident members.

"It may mean the emergence of an NDC that may have to shed some individuals who refuse to abide by the democratic principles, which govern the way we carry out the business of the party," they said.

"We recognize that polariza-

tion has set in, and while the party is functioning according to the democratic norms enshrined in its constitution, there are others in the party who are on a divergent course," the elders added.

They said the team, including senior minister Denis Lett and former party chairman Colin La Barrie, could not deny the perception of a division within the government and party.

Thomas has confirmed a division within the NDC. The rift appeared to widen when Minister for Information, Sen. Glen Noel, accused his Cabinet colleagues of being part of a plot to remove the prime minister.

But the senior NDC officials said there was no truth to such statement.

"The Cabinet members and others who have not seen eye to eye with the prime minister on some issues have been labeled as a 'gang' whose aim is to unseat the PM (prime minister). This is a falsehood," they said.

"No one is challenging (Prime Minister Thomas) for leadership. The issue is the way he treats and labels those with viewpoints other than his," they added.

"There is no ideological gap within the NDC. One cannot deny that the emergence of the party as a strong political organization is representative of persons who, from a historical perspective, have come from different sides of the political spectrum," the statement continued.

In tendering his resignation

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Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. AP Photo/Rob Griffith

## Trinidad will abolish the privy council

By Azad Ali

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, in a historic move announced that Trinidad and Tobago would abolish criminal appeals to the London-based Privy Council.

She said legislation would be brought to Parliament to remove the British Privy Council as T&T's final appellate court and replaced with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

In delivering the statement on Wednesday at the Parliament sitting, Persad-Bissessar said she had advised Chief Justice Ivor Archie, the President of the Law Association Dana Seetahal and the Criminal Bar Association head, Pamela Elder SC of this decision.

Persad-Bissessar said the move comes on the heels of a recently concluded CARICOM heads of government conference in Suriname where the matter was discussed by several CARICOM heads and where she gave her commitment to approach the issue on her return home.

"As a measure of our growing confidence in the CCJ, and as a mature and leading world democracy, in this year of our 50th independence anniversary, we will take legislation acceding to the criminal appellate jurisdiction of the CCJ. In very much the same way as other countries have; similar to Hong Kong prior to the transfer of sovereignty to the People's Republic of China in 1979 and Singapore in 1989. There is ample precedent for such a phased withdrawal from the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Privy Council," she said.

However, the civil matters to the Privy Council would not be abolished.

The prime minister said the time was ripe as our democracy has grown in strength "to take responsibility ourselves for the final adjudication of our disputes consonant with the pristine principles of justice and fair play and say good-bye to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as our final Court of Appeal."

# Braille's the new note at East Caribbean Bank

## ECCB issues EC notes with Braille features

By Shermalon Kirby

In an effort to provide EC notes which are easier for blind and visually impaired people to use, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has issued a series of notes with braille features.

Braille is a universal system of writing and printing which enables the blind or visually impaired person to read and

write through touch. It consists of a pattern of raised dots which are arranged on special paper and represent letters, numbers and characters.

The braille characters on the upgraded EC Notes feature a cricket theme in the form of balls and stumps. These characters have been added to the \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills. All the other

features of the notes, including the profile watermark of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, the security features and the images, remain the same.

The \$10 EC notes with the braille features are now in circulation and available at the commercial banks in the ECCB member countries. The other three notes will be issued on demand.



From left, Linda Duggins, publicist; Eddie Ellis, president and founder Kyung Ji Rhee-CNUSO and Juvenile Justice Director Leonard Dunston.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

## Campaign for human justice

Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions (CNUS) launched their campaign for a paradigm shift “From Criminal Justice to Human Justice” Friday, April 15, with a formal gala at the 1199 SEIU Penthouse, where the monumental evening featured speeches from Guest of Honor Harry Belafonte, honorary host committee chairs Danny Glover, George Gresham (1199 SEIU president), and Yasiin Bey (Mos Def) along with addresses from civil rights activists Bob Moses and Gus Newport.

CNUS, which in the past has been summoned to the White House for consultation and called to testify as experts before numerous committees, commissions and legislative bodies, aims to reduce reliance on the criminal punishment system as the answer to solving socio-economic ills, violence, structural inequities, substance abuse and other health-related issues.

The First Annual Human Justice Gala provided a launch pad for CNUS members to formally present their concept of human justice to their constituents and supporters.

CNUS opened the evening with a cocktail reception showcasing a media gallery with 10 significant prints of statistics, photos, and letters from inmates that correlated with the theme. The prints brought attention to the amount of money the U.S. spends on education versus incarceration and highlighted the fact that the U.S. has the largest prison population in the world.

2.3 million are in jails and prisons with another 5.1 million on parole or probation, which results in 7.4 million people in the U.S. being under some form of correctional supervision.

The dinner program was opened with a moving choir performance by MS 113 Ronald Edmonds Learning Center Choir, which included Harry Belafonte’s “We Are The World.” Mr. Belafonte followed as the guest speaker giving accolades to activists ranging from his generation to today’s youth. He concluded by drawing attention to today’s heightened political climate saying, “Capitalism has no compassion. The oppressor has not such humanity.”

Similarly Yasiin spoke to humanity telling the audience, “The goal is to reaffirm humanity.”

Civil Rights Activists and founder of The Algebra Project, Bob Moses drew a bridge between the inter-generational audience commenting that, “Today’s issues in the criminal justice system are a continuation of the struggles we faced in the civil rights era.”

Veteran activist and actor, Danny Glover read the organization’s open letter on Human Justice, which states, “Human Justice is defined as the merger between Human Rights and Human Development. It is about enlarging one’s choices, achieving well-being and combatting processes that impoverish people or underpin oppression and structural injustice.”

# Martin Luther King III, city officials call for police reform

By Tequila Minsky

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer has called for reform of NYPD’s stop and frisk policy during a news conference on the steps of City Hall, Tuesday, April 24.

Stringer recited imposing statistics: last year, of the 685,000 New Yorkers who were stopped and frisked, 85 percent were Black or Latino. There were no arrests for 95 percent. “Targeting or racial profiling is not constitutional,” Stringer said, “It’s not just an issue of people of color.”

“The initiation of SMART (Strategically Managed, Analysis and Research-driven, Technology-based) policing uses technology, research, and analysis to support the strategic management of police activities accounts for the drop in crime,” Stringer said.

“The battle to reform stop and frisk is one of the great civil right struggles of our time,” Stringer added. “As now practiced by the New York Police Department, it amounts to separate and unequal policing on the streets of New York—an affront to King’s legacy.”

Martin Luther King III, son of the slain leader, stood with Stringer and City Council members. “When a person of color is stopped by a police officer once every minute of every day—basically accused of engaging in criminal activity—we need to find the courage within ourselves to say ‘this



Martin Luther King III joins with elected New York officials in their call for police reform.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

is not justice’ and to stand up for what is right.”

King reaffirmed his commitment to reducing violence in America’s communities. He supports Mayor Bloomberg’s initiatives to stop the sale of illegal guns and get guns out of the community but believes that the practice of stop and frisk is not working and “on the contrary, the effect on our communities is harmful.”

“It’s a culture,” he continued. We must create a culture of non-violence. There must be balance.” He stressed that “diversity training is missing in our nation” and that “this dialogue must continue to address this issue.”

Several City Council members spoke following King. Daniel Dromm

from Queens told of how victims of domestic violence are afraid to go to the police. Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito reiterated that there is a “culture in NYPD” that leads to criminalizing whole neighborhoods. Alluding to a more community oriented Ray Kelly in his earlier tenures as police commissioner, Mark-Viverito said that “Ray Kelly needs to come home.”

“Police policies must respect our communities and our civil liberties,” said Council member Brad Lander who reminded the press that a package of legislation being introduced by Jumaane Williams is calling for oversight of the police department by an inspector general.

## Pols introduce legislation campaign for finance reform

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assistant Speaker Rhoda Jacobs (D-Flatbush) announced recently that they have introduced legislation to bring fair elections to New York.

Silver said by reforming the state’s antiquated campaign finance laws and creating a public financing system for all state offices the focus of elections is expected to shift from the substance of the issues and candidates – not the money used to fund them.

Supported by community groups, businesses, good government organizations, faith leaders, and labor, the 2012 Fair Elections Act (A.9885-B)

creates an optional public financing system for primary, general, and special election campaigns that covers all statewide offices, state legislative offices, and constitutional convention delegates. The bill also provides meaningful enforcement measures for candidates who opt into the system.

“Fair elections are part of the core of our democracy and are essential to ensuring that we have good government,” said Assemblywoman Jacobs.

“Given the terrible consequences resulting from the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, New York State needs to lead the way in reducing

the influence of money in our own elections,” she added.

The legislation reforms the system by allowing candidates for state office who meet the necessary requirements and reach the eligibility threshold in their fundraising to receive matching contributions of \$6 for every \$1 they raise on contributions of up to \$250.

The bill requires candidates to have a broad array of contributors by requiring a certain number of small-dollar donors – natural persons from a candidate’s district – to ensure that large-dollar donors do not have undue influence. Public funds would be



New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

AP Photo/Tim Roske

capped at a specific limit depending on the office being sought.

Underscoring the importance of the substance of campaigns and not the money that funds them, candidates receiving public financing who are running opposed would be required to participate in at least one debate before the primary election and one debate before the general election. These debates would be open to all candidates, regardless of funding.

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# Carib urged to watch for downside risks

Continued from cover few years," he added.

Eyzaguirre, however, said growth in Latin America and the Caribbean continues to be firm, despite a slowdown in the second half of 2011 due to tightened policies following the post-crisis rebound and the effect of global uncertainties.

The Fund projects that the region will grow at 3.7 percent in 2012, and 4.1 percent in 2013, up modestly from forecasts published in January.

The regional outlook report indicates that near-term risks are still tilted to the downside, and revolve

most notably around possible renewed tensions in European markets and an oil price shock.

But the report also notes different conditions with the region that imply differing policy challenges.

It says South America's financially integrated economies – Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay – grew at an average rate of 5.5 percent in 2011, down from over 6½ percent in 2010.

The report urges countries in Central America, which are near potential and have debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratios above pre-crisis lev-

els, to redouble their efforts to consolidate fiscal positions, while strengthening monetary and prudential frameworks.

Meantime, the report says Caribbean countries continue to face "sluggish growth in tourism-intensive countries and stubborn fiscal imbalances.

"The near-term focus should thus remain on working off fiscal overhangs and addressing financial fragilities," it says.

"Looking further ahead, greater efforts are needed to tackle structural weaknesses to boost competitiveness and growth," it added.

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# Obama offers help with regional security

By Azad Ali

CARICOM states are expected to benefit from \$130 million in financial assistance from U.S. President Barack Obama to deal with crime and security in the region.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar made this disclosure following the conclusion of the recent Sixth Summit of the Americas in Colombia.

Persad-Bissessar, who has lead responsibility for security within CARICOM's quasi-Cabinet and other Caribbean leaders met with Obama for about an hour at the Summit.

The prime minister said she was happy about the outcome of the discussions, as assistance to one nation in the region would effectively be assistance to all CARICOM nations.

Persad-Bissessar said the initiatives, for which the money will be used, will be given in due course.

"We know that the criminal elements operating in the Americas are very organ-



Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.  
AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos

ized, in some instances to the extent that their resources exceed in number and sophistication in the resources of the state," she said.

Persad-Bissessar said the crime-fight in the region cannot be won without the cooperation among OAS states.

The prime minister said she also discussed with Obama about partnership with the Caribbean region for the procurement of fast

patrol vessels.

She noted that these islands are "porous" and CARICOM cannot give adequate protection to man all these borders around every island.

The prime minister said T&T Ambassador to the United States Neil Parsan will follow up on this and will look at the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which will not only benefit Trinidad and Tobago but the Eastern Caribbean.

## U.S. runs afoul of Carib producers

Continued from cover

because "developments surrounding the subsidies to U.S. Virgin Islands rum producers which have put Caricom rum producers at a disadvantage."

The bloc said that excise taxes collected from the production of rum in the Virgin Islands are remitted back to the USVI for development

purposes, while the company pays only 24 American cents per gallon of molasses used in production compared to \$160 per ton by Caribbean producers who themselves do not manufacture molasses.

The bloc also said they believe that the level of incentives granted to Diageo might be in breach of World Trade Organization rules and they

will make the point to Mr. Kirk when a date is fixed for their meeting, most likely in May.

Diageo is the world's leading producer of premium drinks such as Johnny Walker Whiskey, Smirnoff Vodka, Baileys, and Captain Morgan Rum which is now being produced in the USVI for export to the U.S. mainland.

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# Political turmoil in Grenada

Continued from Page 2

on Monday, David said he was “pushed” into making this decision after Thomas “refused to accept the proposal that the minister of information retract public comments that sought to bring the party and government into disrepute.

“The record is there to show that, in spite of repeated provocations and a well-orchestrated smear campaign against my name, until now I have said nothing publicly on the issues at hand,” David told reporters.

“However, within the last week, the situation became untenable with the publication of the comments by the minister that was made in the presence of Prime Minister Tillman Thomas and Minister of Finance Nazim Burke,” he added.

“Given their presence, and their subsequent stance Monday when the issue was brought up, it is now clearer that the comments were made with

their tacit approval,” continued David, adding that he would remain Member of Parliament for the Town of St. George and NDC general secretary.

David is the second minister to resign since the NDC won the 2008 general election by an 11-4 margin.

Former Environment Minister Michael Church’s resignation was also followed by the dismissal of his successor, Joseph Gilbert, in January.

Meantime, Thomas said on April 30 that he “has been informed of the resignation of the Minister for Tourism and Culture, Hon. Peter David, from the government.

“While this did not come as a surprise, the prime minister is undeterred in his resolve to continue his government’s policies, aimed at continuing to build a foundation for genuine prosperity in the longer term, with a more immediate need for the creation of jobs,” he said in a statement.

Thomas said that, upon taking office, ministers would have acted diligently to promote the interests of the people of Grenada.

“The government has set the platform for our economic transformation, and we are just beginning to see the benefits of our policies. My focus remains on the implementation of the government’s development agenda,” he said.

“Our success at the last general election came as a result of the trust the Grenadian people placed in us and our message for development,” he added.

“As prime minister, I am still committed to that message and the promise we made to discharge our duties in a fair and even-handed manner,” Thomas continued. “The business of government continues as we seek to improve the lives of every Grenadian man, woman and child.”

Thomas expressed his “appreciation” to David for his service during his period in Cabinet.



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# Community protests 'Sick and Fired' policy at Golden Farm



Council Member Brad Lander joined by a group of workers and community supporters at the Golden Farm Market.

Workers, community supporters and elected officials including Council Member Brad Lander have called for paid sick days at Kensington's Golden Farm grocery store and at businesses across the city.

More than one million New Yorkers, including the workers at Golden Farm, work without paid sick

days – forcing many to go to work sick to avoid losing the wages or the jobs their families rely on.

Since its opening in the late nineties, Golden Farm has fallen short on its treatment of the staff that keeps the store running. In addition to failing to provide basic benefits such as paid sick days, the store has also

failed to pay minimum wage or overtime.

"Every worker deserves paid sick days," said Martin Gonzalez, a Golden Farm worker who has worked without paid sick days for five years. "We are organizing here at Golden Farm so we don't have to choose between our health and our pay checks every time we get sick. Getting sick shouldn't mean risking your job. We're proud to have the support of the community."

"At too many New York businesses, workers must choose between their own health and putting food on the table," said Council Member Brad Lander. "This is particularly concerning at a grocery store like Golden Farm, which we depend for a safe source for food. We want to shop at local businesses that ensure that sick workers are at home getting better, not handling the food that our families are going to eat."

Workers and members of the community at the rally, including members of New York Communities for Change and Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW held signs with slogans such as "Sick and Fired" and "Healthy Workers, Healthy Customers."

The workers and their supporters called for the City Council to pass a bill currently under consideration to guarantee paid sick days for workers. The proposal currently has 37 co-sponsors in the City Council, including 13 co-sponsors from Brooklyn.

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# W.I. Carnival Concerns

By Rickford Burke

The Caribbean American community in New York City faces the daunting reality that convening and funding the West Indian American Day Parade and Carnival this year could become an insurmountable challenge. Failure to bring our community together to collectively meet this challenge could result in no parade and a major embarrassment for our elected and community leadership, as well as the Caribbean Diaspora as a whole. This result we cannot afford!

As you are aware, there are grave concerns about the future of the parade; the viability of the West Indian American Carnival Association (WIADCA) - given recent internal developments that "seemingly" precipitated a collapse of its organizational structures, consequently leaving supporters and the public confused at best; and WIADCA's possible inability to retain the confidence of sponsors, given lingering perceptions -- justifiable or unfounded, that last year's parade was violent.

I therefore recommend that the leadership of our community give immediate consideration to an interim arrangement to ensure continuity of this event so as to preserve this vital aspect of our heritage.

Pursuant to the aforementioned, I propose the following:

(I) The leadership of the Caribbean-American community should immediately establish an Interim Carnival Authority (however styled) to oversee, direct and manage carnival 2012, which ordinarily would be convened by the West Indian American Carnival Association (WIADCA).

(II) The purpose of the Authority is to (I) ensure the successful and effective planning, convening and staging of the entire weekend of events that comprise Carnival celebration 2012 as well as the West Indian American carnival, a.k.a. the "Labor Day Parade 2012," and (II) oversee the transformation of WIADCA into a viable, accountable, effective organization; be it via internal reform, partnerships or other means.

(III) In my view the Authority should:

not be a governmental agency; not be appointed solely by government officials and must operate outside the control of government.

(IV) The Authority may comprise seven to nine members who shall be a statutory board. Initially, members should be elected/appointed by consensus or majority decision exclusively at an assemblage of elected officials and members of the general leadership of Caribbean-American community. The board shall make its own rules of operation by simple or two-thirds majority vote.

(V) WIADCA as well as all individuals and/or organizations that wish to participate in carnival 2012 shall sign an agreement recognizing the "Interim Carnival Authority" as the singular and supreme entity, convenor and sponsor of the Labor Day Parade 2012 and related activities. In so doing they must also affirm that any and all decisions, actions, directives and rules established by the Authority pursuant to said agreement shall be legitimate and fully binding on all parties, their agents and representatives and shall be subscribed to, upheld, executed, carried-out, respected and followed without opposition, controversy or challenge.

(VI) The Authority shall immediately register as a not for profit organization and apply for tax-exempt status. Interim to its grant of tax-exemption, it should use a conduit for funding for the 2012 parade as well as make legitimate expenditures expressly in pursuance of its mission.

(VII) The Authority should be the sole permittee of the "Labor Day Parade" on the Eastern Parkway on Labor Day 2012, as well as for all other activities for carnival weekend.

(VIII) Because of its unique institutional knowledge and capacity, the Authority may commission WIADCA to manage all or various aspects of the Parade and related activities, subject to its direction and control.

(IX) In order to mitigate potential fallout that may derive from a perception by sponsors that the 2011 parade was blemished by violence, the ability to solicit and

Continued on page 20

# Unemployment insurance system needs fixing now

By Marianne Hill

Out of work? Odds are you're also out of luck as far as unemployment benefits go. With the national unemployment rate expected to remain above eight percent until late next year, millions of workers are applying for unemployment benefits, but most do not qualify. Only about 40 percent of those filing for benefits received them in 2011 and in several states the percentage of recipients was much lower than that. In addition, the federal government in February cut back on the duration of extended benefits and states are reducing benefit amounts and duration as well. This gaping and growing hole in our social safety net inflicts severe hardships on the families of wage earners who have lost jobs.

What could be more basic to the economic security of workers than unemployment insurance? Don't working men and women have a right to expect that their employment insurance will actually offer some meaningful protection?

The percentage of workers qualifying for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits has shrunk since the 1960s as a result of changes in the workforce and more restrictive eligibility requirements. Nationally, about 30 percent of today's workers are employed part-time, part-year, or are classified by employers as independent contractors. It is hard for these workers to qualify for benefits under current requirements, which in many states include a base period formula that doesn't take into account work done most recently.

Single mothers who are heads of families, in particular, are likely to find they cannot meet eligibility requirements. If they are let go because they take time off for family emergencies or other compelling family reasons, they may not qualify for UI. Or they may work only part-time, while their children are in school, because they can't afford childcare. But as part-time workers who are not seeking full-time jobs, they cannot qualify for any benefits in several states. This is wrong.

The unemployment rate has averaged

9.0 percent or more for three years. As of March 2012, 12.7 million Americans were unemployed, not including the thousands of discouraged workers who have stopped seeking employment. Unemployed workers are more likely to lose their homes and their savings than are their peers. Most lack health insurance. But though the short-term cost to these families is high, it can be even higher in the long-run: the mental and physical health of these families suffers as does the educational achievement of their children. In addition, neighborhoods, communities and local businesses are adversely impacted.

From an economic development perspective, it makes sense to improve access to benefits. Besides the multiplier effects of the added spending, UI protects a region's investment in human capital. This is especially critical for cutting-edge firms that begin small but go on to become the giants of the next generation. The failure rate of these start-ups is high and a strong UI system helps to keep an experienced workforce in the area.

UI also dampens the impact of recessions by stabilizing spending. What's not to love? The cost is modest, averaging less than \$34 per employee monthly - although if coverage is expanded to include the majority of the unemployed, an increase in the UI tax base may be needed.

Several states, faced with shrinking insurance trust funds, have unfortunately opted to reduce benefits rather than adjust their outdated tax bases. Yet only the first \$15,000 of earnings or less is subject to the UI tax in 34 states.

It's time the economic security of our workforce moved up in our ranking of priorities. Working men and women have a right to unemployment insurance that, when they need it, will help them keep food on their plates, a roof over their heads and -- of equal importance -- in their hearts, the conviction that America cares.

Marianne Hill is an activist with a Ph.D. in economics.

## Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community Newspaper Group

Corporate Headquarters: One Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, New York 11201



Publisher... Clifford Luster  
Associate Publisher... Ralph D'Onofrio  
Editor-In-Chief... Kenton Kirby  
Associate Editor... Kevin Williams



**Contributing Writers:** Azad Ali, Roderick J. Broome, Fabian Burrell, Robert Elkin, Patrick Horne, Nelson King, Tequila Minsky, Donna Lamb, Vnette K. Pryce, George H. Whyte, Tangerine Clarke, Bert Wilkinson, Lloyd Kam Williams  
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# Turning Caribbean landfills into energy

By Desmond Brown

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, April 20 - The tourist brochure shows pictures of lovely white sandy beaches, tall coconut trees and rolling mountains. Welcome to the Caribbean.

But the picture has been changing in recent years as Caribbean countries grapple with millions of tonnes of household waste that sometimes scar the landscape.

Now there is a glimmer of hope. A United Kingdom-based Waste to Energy firm is partnering with some Caribbean countries to set up plants that will convert garbage into electricity and potable water, and in the process transform the region from its dependence on fossil fuel.

"The Caribbean is a wonderful area but what you haven't got is the land or the resources," Tony Fiddy, the president of the Waste to Energy Division and the Regional Vice President

for Europe and Africa of Naanovo Energy Inc., told IPS.

"If you want to put solar up, you need big solar fields, if you want to use wind, you need big wind fields. But what you do have (right now)? You have waste."

Naanovo burns waste in an incinerator plant to produce seven megawatts of power and 36,000 litres of potable water from 180 tonnes of waste.

The firm says that with modern pollution control equipment, plant emissions are virtually non-existent, representing little or no risk to the environment or to the health and safety of people living near the plant.

The benefits of investing in green energy were highlighted during the first-ever Green Investment Forum at a Caribbean Sustainable Tourism conference which wrapped up here on Wednesday.

The Barbados-based

Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), which organises the yearly conference, partnered with Invest Caribbean Now, a brand founded by Felicia Persaud, the Guyana-born chief executive officer of a New York-based digital media company, to present the inaugural green forum.

Persaud urged delegates to look at the economic prospects of green energy and renewables and the potential for the region.

"Guyana and the Caribbean are filled with an abundance of sunshine, wind, water and other natural resources," she said, adding "let us be very clear that investing in clean energy is not just environmentally responsible but good business because no region offers long term prospects in growth for renewable energy than the Caribbean."

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) last year noted that investors pumped a

record 211 billion dollars into renewables globally, with 72 billion invested in developing countries.

While South and Central America secured 13.1 billion of that amount, the Caribbean did not even get a cent.

"So it is a challenge to the Caribbean region to position itself to take advantage of this new sector sustainably and with transparency. Our leaders must begin to think outside the box and be unafraid to move beyond the traditional sectors - for instance out of a dying sugar industry to ethanol," Persaud said.

"We must tap investment into this sector to create new jobs and limit our dependence on the up and down prices of oil and grow our economies like our south American neighbors and really make a mark on this generation."

Naanovo has invested 50 million dollars in St. Kitts to build a seven megawatt plant and is also in

discussions with Jamaica and St. Lucia to set up similar projects in those countries.

The projects, which are set up under what's called a BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) agreement, would be transferred to the respective governments after 25 years.

Fiddy said St. Kitts, with close to 50,000 people, currently has 130 tonnes of waste. Under the project, which is now awaiting final approval from the Denzil Douglas government, the present landfill will be shut down and waste, up to five years old, converted to energy.

"We have made our presentation to government, we have lobbied people, and because St. Kitts doesn't have in-house people to prove the technology, they have used the Organisation of American States who have approved the project and our managing director down there is awaiting a meeting with the prime

minister to give it the go-ahead," Fiddy said.

"St. Lucia has 80,000 people so that tells me there is enough waste there to put 14, maybe 21 megawatts there. Jamaica has 2.8 million people and we are talking to them about doing a 21 megawatt plant."

Fiddy said the Caribbean and the world are losing energy daily, with fossil fuels drying up and worsening climate change, and he firmly believes that converting waste to energy is the way to go.

He said the Caribbean represents a huge potential for renewable energy projects, primarily because of the ideal climate conditions for solar, wind and biomass power production.

"What we have done in our organisation, we have developed technology where we take what you put in your dustbin and we turn it into energy," he said.

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Op-Ed

## Cut the Pentagon Budget

By Susan Shaer

As budget chair for the House of Representatives, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) is "The Man." President Obama presented his budget, and Ryan has announced his. Dueling budgets. Under the Ryan budget, even if you're part of the infamous 1 percent, your local services will be cut. That road expansion to bring in more trucks for new businesses? Gone. Federal funds to help expand the local airport for business or tourism – nope. Shoring up collapsing bridges and ruined roads? Wait your turn. And for the 99 percent, it's slash and burn. Local job training to help those out of work, help to reduce the increased class sizes, and more rental assistance for newly unemployed? Gone.

The United States is in debt. But the question is: Will spending cuts to support our communities help bring back our nation's financial strength? As more and more people fall into poverty, become homeless, drop out of school and face chronic illnesses without treatment, the fundamental system of a working society crumbles. The result, simply put, is less ability to contribute to the economic system, which includes paying taxes as a member of that society. Those lost taxes will make it even more difficult to make up our deficit, or bring down our debt.

Here's an idea: Rather than focus on wounding domestic programs that help people and families, communities and businesses, let's cut where elected officials have maneuvering room: the Pentagon budget. Each year, Congress appropriates more than half of discretionary spending to the Department of Defense, wars and nuclear weapons spending. Even without deficit reduction pressure, this overspending takes dollars away from needed domestic priorities that strengthen our economy and ensure that America can compete in the world marketplace. This isn't making our nation more secure. As chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dempsey put it, "It makes no sense at all for us as a nation to have an extraordinarily capable military instrument of power if we are economically disadvantaged around the world."

Also, many tax dollars going into this enormous Pentagon budget are wasted on last century's security strategy. Over the next decade, we are slated to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on a nuclear weapons arsenal built for another era. Expanding our production of nuclear weapons and their expensive delivery systems is at odds with our efforts to constrain nuclear weapons development elsewhere in the world. These weapons are simply irrelevant to support

Continued on page 20

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# Flushing the slush fund in Guyana

By Bert Wilkinson

Less than a week after the two parliamentary opposition parties embarrassed the governing People's Progressive

Party (PPP) by slashing the budget of some of its pet propaganda and corruption arms to a dollar each, authorities have decided to take the

issue to their supporters just in case it needs to call fresh elections sometime this year or next year.

A Partnership for National

Unity (APNU) led by retired army general David Granger and the Alliance For Change (AFC) of attorney Khemraj Ramjattan waited until the

last sitting on the assembly on the budget last Thursday, May 26 to take away \$2.5M from the elections commission to prevent it from participating in any snap elections under current controversial rules, awarded GINA, the highly abused news agency and the state TV station, (NCN) a dollar each, and several other agencies the opposition parties had long accused of being slush fund agencies.

Also decimated by the two parties, were the government's low carbon or reduced carbon emissions program, a free laptop distribution project and a land demarcation program for native Amerindians, all regarded as budgetary agencies being used by authorities for the personal enrichment of top officials, their friends and families.

But despite the total amount voted off the 2012 budgetary estimates being only about \$12M from a total budget of \$960M, government had made it clear that it is upset and plans to send

home dozens of workers in the near future.

Not impressed by its convenient support for the workers cause, opposition activists and newspaper letter writers say government never showed any sympathy or cared when opposition supporters lost their jobs or were targeted unfairly. They point to the firing of more than 60 mostly Afro, APNU supporters who were let go in 2009 by Rusal, the Russian bauxite miner whose top managers are known to be close to government.

They say that the labor ministry was less than aggressive in fighting the workers' cause and waited for nearly three years before ordering compulsory arbitration which Rusal is now challenging in court. The workers remain at home.

As this week began, Finance Minister Ashni Singh said that the slashing of the budget for the various agencies now means that workers will have to hit the breadline.

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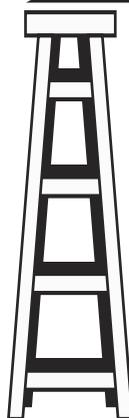
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# On track with FastTrac support

By Tequila Minsky

While Trinidadian Colette Burnett was a bank branch manager, she had an urge to do something different.

She was working in the finance world for seven years when she applied to the FastTrac New Venture Program run by the New York Department of Small Business; part of a program called New York Business Solutions.

"I wanted to do something related to food," she said.

restaurateurs to learn restaurant ownership pitfalls. She planned to launch her restaurant in December 2009 but, "I opened three months ahead of time because I had orders from the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and the Children's Museum," Colette explains.

Colette's idea was to focus on authenticity of flavors and serve chicken with a choice of sauces from different Caribbean islands. She started with her mother's recipe from Trinidad and opened with 10 different -- now expanded to 12 islands-inspired sauces. They range from mild "spice island rubbed (Grenada)" to medium, "ginger buff" to her her spicier signature sauce, "Trini Tamarind" (Trinidad), or to even hotter "pineapple jerk (Jamaica)."



The take-out Super Wings restaurant serves 12 islands-inspired sauces with their wings.

Photos by Tequila Minsky

Accepted in 2009, she left her bank job to take the six-week part-time training program. In the program, she clarified and finessed her ideas for her business and developed a business plan figuring out the finances under the expert eyes of her instructors.

"I did a lot of research," she said, of looking at the demographics and talking to a lot of

her fiancé, in September 2009, she opened Super Wings on Union and Nostrand at a site that had seen nine other restaurants — the kitchen was already in place. The community took to her and she is doing well.

The menu also has fish, shrimp and tofu that appeals to varied tastes, ethnicities and races. "Our customers are like the United



The Super Wings restaurant on 1218 Union Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225.

Nations," she muses. And why are there two other chicken joints across the street? Her reply, "They came after me."

Super Wings won the Best Wings in Brooklyn in 2010 and seven months later, Bobby Flay walked into Super Wings for a Caribbean Spicy Wings Challenge. Colette won with her Trini Tamarind.

In terms of professional help, in addition to the invaluable FastTrac program, the Caribbean Chamber of Commerce and Industry assisted in licensing,

getting the M/WBE certification.

"Our biggest challenge was financing," Colette reveals, we couldn't get a bank loan. "I cashed in my 401k," financing it herself.

Colette not only overcame the statistic that 60 percent restaurants die within the first year but she was ahead of time in her business plan. Three years out of the gate, she opened a second restaurant in March 2012, this one on Utica, and is a sit-down.

NYC Business Solutions offers several free mini-courses for

those wanting to start their own business.

The more intense and also free FastTrac New Venture program is seven sessions, approximately 50 classroom hours, and requires 15-20 hours of prep per week. It accepts applications on a rolling basis and applicants are encouraged to apply early with a thoughtful and complete application to this competitive program.

As for advice from Colette: do your research, know your market, be authentic and most importantly, get past your fear.

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# Caribbean Roundup

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**Continued from page 2**

In the last general election, the FNM won 23 seats as compared to 18 for the main opposition Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) headed by former Prime Minister Perry Christie.

The PLP has been campaigning on a promise of fixing The Bahamas after accusing the NFM government of squandering money and unkept promises to the electorate.

## Barbados

A waste-to-energy facility expected to process approximately 350 tons of solid waste a day and provide between 10 to 14 megawatts of electricity is being planned for Barbados.

This was announced by the island's Minister of the Environment and Drainage Dr. Dennis Lowe, as he disclosed that Cabinet recently approved Bds\$377 million for the creation of a Mangrove Pond Green Energy Complex.

Along with the waste-to-energy facility, the complex will include a solar power facility, a wind energy facility, the Mangrove Pond Beautification Program, the construction of a new mechanical maintenance facility and the Landfill Gas Management System.

Dr. Lowe said the complex formed part of the government's efforts to develop a comprehensive program to manage solid waste disposal and create energy options for the country.

## Bermuda

Recently retired chief justice Richard Ground has been appointed to the Court of Appeal, Government House announced.

The statement said Ground's appointment to the higher court - to take effect next year - was made after consultation with Court of Appeal President Edward Zacca, a Jamaican.

Ground took up the post in 2004 after serving

the previous six years as chief justice of the Turks and Caicos. Earlier, he was attorney general of the Cayman Islands from 1987 to 1992.

Ground's appointment as chief justice was made over the objections of then-premier Alex Scott whose choice was Jamaica-born judge Norma Wade Miller, ex-wife of former opposition leader Frederick Wade.

Governor of Bermuda Sir Richard Gozney announced that Ground's appointment will take effect from Jan. 2, 2013.

## Cuba

During the first quarter of 2012 Cuba has already received one million tourists, according to a recent announcement by the Cuban Ministry of Tourism.

According to the Ministry, during the first three months of this year, the number of arrivals had grown by four percent while the tourism industry's revenues showed

a 12 per cent growth.

Tourism officials say Russia had become its main source of travel, along with Canada, Argentina, Italy, UK and Germany.

In the first three months of 2012 more than 26,000 Russians visited Cuba, almost double the figure for the same period last year.

In 2011, Cuba received more than 2.7 million visitors, including 78,500 Russians. Previously, Canada has been its biggest source market.

Last year, Cuba's Minister of Tourism Manuel Marrero announced that tourist arrivals in Cuba were expected to increase in 2012 with the arrival of 2.9 million foreign visitors.

## Guyana

Guyana is seeking a national debate on whether to eliminate its death penalty and change laws discriminating against homosexuals and transgender.

Town-hall style meet-

ings will be held across the country as part of a promise made to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The government also plans to analyze public opinion before deciding whether it will submit any bills to revise current laws.

National Security Minister Clement Rohee has already launched the debate on hangings via televised panel discussions that allow for call-ins. The public will also be able to attend meetings on the issue later this month.

No one has been hanged in Guyana since 1997, even though the law remains on the books. Nearly 30 prisoners are on death row.

Officials also plan to meet with leaders from Christian, Hindu and Islamic communities, who represent the country's prominent religions. Many religious leaders oppose legislation of homosexuality.

## Jamaica

Prime Minister Portia

Simpson Miller has warned that her administration would adopt a tough stance against people who abuse or cause harm to children whether through neglect or deliberate action.

She said Jamaicans must be feeling a sense of shame with regards to what is happening in terms of the abuse of children, adding, "children have a special place in my heart; they are precious and must be protected."

The prime minister said she has already had discussions with the minister of justice with a view of reviewing the relevant laws, and along with the children's advocate, will be implementing a series of measures to help change the culture of ignoring acts of abuse against children.

"We will be holding parents and guardians responsible, as well as offenders, who must never escape serious punishment, for hurting a child," the prime minister said.

*Compiled by Azad Ali*

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# Concerns about the future of New York's annual West Indian Carnival

**Continued from page 10**  
determine sponsorship for the 2012 Parade should be delegated the sole purview of the Authority.

(X) All permits for the

Parade for bands, vendors etc shall be issued by WIADCA in the name of the Authority and shall be conditioned on the rules as set out by the Authority and WIADCA.

(XI) The Authority shall appoint its own interim personnel to liaise with WIADCA and all other parties and signatories, to ensure effective implementation of the agree-

ment as well as competent implementation of its decisions.

(XII) Funding for the carnival shall issue to the Authority in the name of its conduit, and all legitimate expenses shall be honored by the Authority. Elected officials should guarantee "a measure" funding for the authority.

(XIII) No aspect of the entire weekend of events that comprise Carnival celebra-

tion 2012 shall be independent of the Authority.

(XIV) Once Carnival 2012 concludes, the Authority must issue an audited report and commence examining the viability of carnival as well as WIADCA, recommend fundamental reforms for WIADCA or implement permanent arrangements for future carnivals.

(XV) The Authority shall be accountable to the elected officials, leaders and mem-

bers of the Caribbean community.

This proposal will not be a panacea for the myriad challenge we face and will certainly not be to amenable to all. But it forms a basis for discussion and a foundation for the modalities of a formal accord.

**Rickford Burke.**

The author is president, Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID).

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## Let's cut Pentagon Budget

**Continued from page 12**

our troops on the battlefield or to address 21st century threats.

We also seem to be addicted to consuming deficit money on wars. Nearly nine years in Iraq have been joined by more than a decade in Afghanistan, while sabre-rattling over Iran heats up. Whether measured merely in direct financial cost, or in the broader and more profound cost of lives lost and damaged, we cannot afford to be a nation perpetually at war.

Fiscal conservatives like Rep. Ryan must agree that the Pentagon, which swallows up such a large percentage of our budget, must be at least as carefully scrutinized for waste as other government programs. Right now the Pentagon does not even pass an audit to show how it spends our tax dollars.

Some supporters of the Pentagon and their contractors tout money to the Pentagon as a jobs' program. War should never be viewed as such a program. Sensible

national security jobs make sense, and no member of Congress can ignore the effect of policy decisions on jobs. Nonetheless, economists have shown that federal investments in non-military sectors -- like education, health care and clean energy -- create more jobs than military spending. Let's invest in those jobs.

*Shaer is the executive director of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), and co-chair of Win Without War.*

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His plan puts care for homebound seniors in the hands of HMO-style healthcare providers under a program called Managed Care. To save money, these companies will force many seniors into nursing homes – or they can choose to stay home and die alone.

Many of these seniors are currently cared for and protected by the dedicated city social workers in the Community Alternative Systems Agency (CASA).

CASA workers' only concern is making sure these seniors are well cared for in body, mind and spirit. Managed Care companies' only concern is the bottom line.

**Tell Gov. Cuomo to Keep Senior Care Where it Belongs-  
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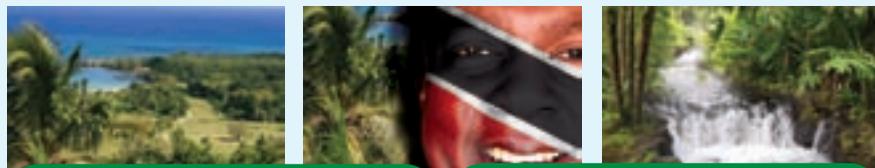
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# Help for thyroid at NY Methodist

Park Slope medical center can test for and treat Brooklynites' thyroid conditions

By Edmund Giegerich

Have you been trying to gain or lose weight, but found that the pounds don't seem to budge? Have you looked in the mirror after months of intense exercise and a healthier diet, only to see the exact same reflection you did before? If that's the case, you may want to ask your doctor about a possible thyroid disorder. New York Methodist Hospital can help.

The thyroid is a gland located in your neck just below your voice box. The hormones it secretes help to control the body's metabolism, so if your body produces abnormal amounts of these thyroid hormones, you may gain or lose weight as a result. Two of the most common

thyroid conditions are hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism.

Hypothyroidism prevents your body from producing enough thyroid hormone. It often causes inexplicable weight gain. In addition, early signs may include increased sensitivity to cold, constipation, low heart rate, and fatigue. If hypothyroidism is not detected early on, it is possible that it will cause slow speech, chronic low body temperature, depression, and in women, abnormal menstrual cycles.

Conversely, hyperthyroidism is the term used when the body produces too much thyroid hormone. It is usually accompanied by inexplicable weight loss. In addition, those with hyper-

thyroidism may find their hearts racing, or experience symptoms like frequent bowel movements, hand tremors, difficulty sleeping, intolerance of heat, and for women, light menstrual cycles.

Thyroid conditions are unrelated to lifestyle choices and can sometimes be genetic. Because symptoms do not always present themselves immediately, the conditions are often confused with a host of other health problems.

To identify a thyroid condition, your doctor will test the levels of thyroid hormones found in your blood. The good news is that both hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism are often treatable with common prescription medi-

cations. However, in rare cases, more potent treatments or surgical procedures may be necessary. If you believe you have a thyroid condition, it is important to get tested as soon as possible. Left untreated, these illnesses can lead to life-threatening conditions

such as cancer and heart disease.

An estimated 60 million Americans have a thyroid condition, so if you find that you're one of them, there's no need to despair. With quick action and dedication to a treatment regimen, hypothyroidism or hyper-

thyroidism can be just a small bump on the road to a long and happy life.

For more, call New York Methodist Hospital at (718) 780-3000.

Edmund Giegerich, MD, is the chief of Endocrinology at New York Methodist Hospital.

## Thinking 'FAST' can save a life

Know these signs to recognize a stroke

Quick thinking and prompt action can help keep you and yours from being among the 700,000 strokes that occur in the U.S. annually and result in 160,000 deaths.

Carotid arteries in the neck build up plaque as we age. Strokes result either from obstruction of blood flow to the brain by plaque, or when bits of plaque and clots break off and flow to the brain. Left untreated, carotid artery disease may lead to stroke, when lack of oxygen and other essential nutrients cause damage to the brain.

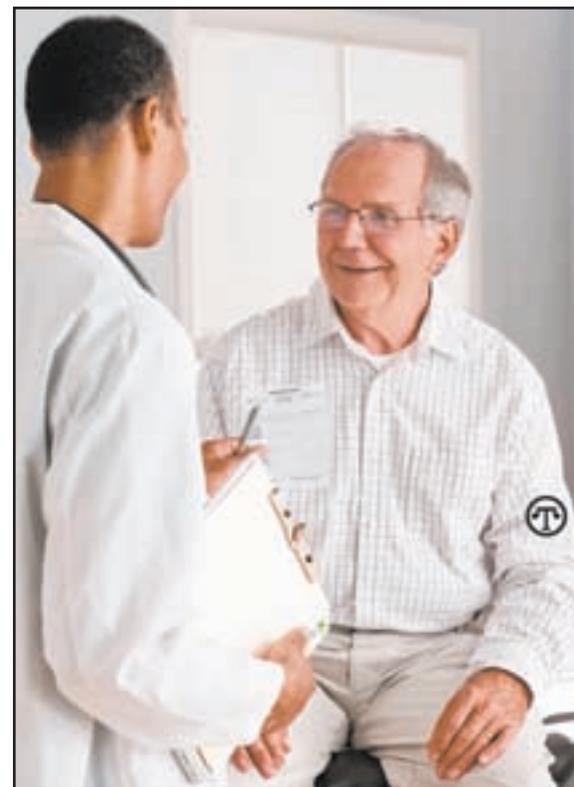
It is sometimes difficult to know if someone is having a stroke. The National Stroke Association recommends this simple test to determine if someone is having a stroke:

### Think FAST

•Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of her face droop?

•Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

•Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Does his speech



Taking the time to answer a few questions may help to reduce your risk of stroke.

sound slurred or strange?

•Time: If you observe any of these signs, it's time to call 9-1-1.

If you are diagnosed

with carotid artery disease, see a vascular surgeon.

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# Fugees' John Forte reinvents himself

By Tangerine Clarke

John Forte has reinvented himself. In his newest album - "From Brooklyn to Russia With Love," the Grammy nominated musician and former Fugees producer bears his soul in titles - "I'll Give you Me," "Upon Close Examination" and "Let Life Begin."

Forte who was the topic of a documentary recently premiered at the 11th Annual Tribeca Film Festival, in New York City, gave his audience an introspective of his life as he makes his way back into the music industry, after being released from the Pennsylvania Lorreto federal Penitentiary four years ago.

Forte was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years, but served only seven, for possession of 31 pounds of liquid cocaine, that was found in his luggage at Newark Airport in 2000.

In a candid portrayal in "The Russian Winter," the famous Hip Hop rapper, of



From left, fan, Beverley Hunte, musician John Forte and Caribbean Life's Tangerine Clarke after final showing of the documentary "The Russian Winter" and the Q&A at Central Bar in New York City.

Photo courtesy: Tangerine Clarke

Haitian decent named his mother and 1970s singer/songwriter, Carly Simon as his inspiration in life, and spoke about being pardoned by former president George W. Bush.

Forte, who grew up in

a single-family home in Bedford Stuyvesant, but who did well as a student of violin at the prestigious Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, was pardoned after Carly Simon, along with Sen. Orin

Hatch, a musician himself, fought vigorously for the Forte's release. They argued that the sentence was too harsh for a first-time drug offence.

During the final showing of the '94 film on April 25,

Forte expressed gratitude to his former high school friend Christophe Charlier, head of Le Castle Company, for helping him to regain notoriety after his visit to Russia that was initially planned for just a weekend.

Directed by Peter Ringbom, the movie was shot entirely in the winter swept country of Russia during a four-month, five-city tour of concerts that were held in a Russian orphanage, hospital and concert halls, with all proceeds going towards the institutions in St. Petersburg.

In his straightforward conversations, Forte spoke about the hardship Black men face in American society, many coming from single-family homes, referring to his own father who he said was gracious enough to name him John Forte Junior, but did not stick around to take care of him.

The excellent documentary was followed by

a QandA at New York's Central Bar, with Forte, who expressed gratitude for being released from his five-year probation. He made a commitment to work with organizations to overturn the harsh penalties meted out for drug offences, as he continues his role in public speaking to combat drugs trafficking.

Thirty-seven-year-old Forte, who shot to fame with band mates Lauren Hill and Wyclef Jean became famous for his 1998 Columbia Records album "Poly Sci" that featured DMX and Fugees member Pras.

The dreadlocked rapper and mind-blowing talented songwriter also appeared on Wyclef Jean's hit "We Trying To Stay Alive," and released "I, John" in 2002.

He has performed in more than 40 concerts, and has more than 60 songs to his name.

To support Forte's come back follow him on his Face Book page.



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## Jazz musicians, Village community in tribute to flautist Dave Valentin

*By Chudi Chukwudi*

On March 3, 2012 Grammy Award-winning flutist Dave Valentin was hospitalized after suffering a stroke during a performance at the Jazz Kitchen in Indianapolis. Following his return to New York City home, Valentin has made remarkable strides on the road to eventual recover, but is still unable to perform publicly.

In order to help the beloved flutist meet his continuing financial obligations during his recuperation, many of his friends will gather to stage a benefit tribute to him at Le Poisson Rouge, located on the 158 Bleecker St. site of the old Village Gate.

For nearly two decades Le Poisson Rouge on Monday nights hosted the greatest names in jazz and Latin music performing together before packed houses of listeners and dancers under the banner, Salsa Meets Jazz.

The space will once again



**Flutist Dave Valentin.**

*AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews*

pulsate with the sound of jazz soloists improvising to the AfroCuban rhythms of salsa.

The evening will offer older listeners the chance to relive some of the seminal sounds that once filled the room and younger ones a rare opportunity to experience an evening that will undoubtedly rekindle the fire that once burned hotly in the Bleecker Street basement.

With players such as the

bassist-bandleader Andy Gonzalez with Manny Oquendo's Libre (one of the series' most popular groups) and guest soloists Sonny Fortune and Steve Turre (two soloists who performed with band many times), former Libre trombonist, composer/bandleader Papo Vazquez with his Mighty Pirate Troubadours and Valentin's own rhythm section backing vibraphonist Dave Samuels of Caribbean Jazz Project fame, the night is sure to be one to remember, with several famous surprise guests expected.

For those unable to attend who wish to support Valentin on his road to recovery, tax deductible donations can be sent to the laudable organization that has already begun to help the flutist in his time of need, The Jazz Foundation of America, 322 West 48th Street, New York, NY 10036. Checks or money orders should note Dave Valentin in the memo line.

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# Dr. Steven C. Tawil: Colon Cancer Screening & Prevention

By Camille Sperrazza

Stop postponing your colonoscopy.

Everyone age 50 and over needs one, but African-Americans are at an especially high risk of developing colon cancer, says Dr. Steven C. Tawil, gastroenterologist and internist.

"It is recommended that they be screened for colon cancer at age 45," says the doctor.

The reasons the mortality rate is higher for African-Americans is not known, says Dr. Tawil, but the good news is that having this simple procedure "can improve the numbers."

It has never been easier or more convenient to undergo this procedure. It can be done right in Dr. Tawil's Brighton Beach office, with an anesthesiologist present.

"This means it is an 100 percent painless procedure," says the doctor.

The administration of the anesthesia is quick, so patients feel no pain, he assures. The presence of the anesthesiologist also means that a patient's vital signs are constantly being monitored.

"It's another pair of hands in the room, another doctor checking oxygen, heart rhythms, and pulse," says Dr. Tawil. "It's all about the comfort and safety of the patient."

Dr. Tawil's office is recognized by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery. Facilities accredited by this organization must meet rigorous standards of cleanliness and other criteria that assures the highest standards, says the doctor. This feat is not an easy achievement, and he takes pride that his practice is held in such high esteem.

The Brighton Beach Avenue facility, at the same location since 1991, recently moved from the second floor to the third floor, securing a new 6,000 square foot office. Among the highlights is an endoscopy suite with a private changing room, a recovery room, and a private bathroom in the recovery room. Such a set-up makes screening easy for the patient, as there's no running down a hall to find a toilet. Everything is convenient and private.

Make an appointment to see him if you have rectal bleeding. This could be a sign of colon cancer, and should never be ignored, says the

doctor. A change in bowel habits or unexplained weight loss are other reasons to undergo an exam. If there is a history of polyps in the family, being screened is a must, he says. Polyps are small growths that occur on the wall of the colon, and if they are not removed, some may eventually turn into cancer, says Dr. Tawil. The removal of polyps can be done right after the colonoscopy is performed, while the patient is still under anesthesia. That way, patients don't have to return to get another procedure.

Patients can also come to him to get their blood pressure checked and their sugar levels monitored. He also treats heartburn, ulcers, constipation, liver issues, and stomach ailments. He specializes in the treatment of hepatitis, particularly hepatitis C.

"We have the latest treatment, available right in the office," he says.

Dr. Tawil's credentials are impeccable. He is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, which means a "double certification," he notes. In addition, he is re-certified every 10 years, which involves undergoing a seven-hour test. It all proves he is at the top of his game, aware of the most recent developments in the field.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Dr. Tawil trained at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for five years. He is on staff at the New York Methodist Hospital, and is a member of the American College of Physicians; the New York State Medical Society; the American Medical Association; and the American College of Gastroenterology.

The office accepts most major health plans, including Medicare and Medicaid. For the convenience of his hard-working patients, the office is now open on Sundays. It is handicapped accessible, and convenient to bus and trains. The doctor sees patients by appointment.

*Dr. Tawil [130 Brighton Beach Ave. between Ocean Parkway and Coney Island Avenue in Brighton Beach, (718) 946-7557]. Open Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm; Mondays, 9 am to 4:30 pm; and Wednesdays, 9 am to 6:30 pm. Procedures are performed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

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# Health

## Health disparities and the Affordable Care Act

Not all Americans have equal access to health care—or similar health care outcomes. Low-income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, and other underserved populations often have higher rates of disease, fewer treatment options, and reduced access to care. They are also less likely to have health insurance than the population as a whole. By improving access to quality health care for all Americans, the Affordable Care Act will help reduce these health disparities by making improvements in:

### Preventive Care

Medicare and some private insurance plans will cover recommended like regular check-ups, cancer screenings, and immunizations at no additional cost to eligible people.

### Coordinated Care

The law calls for new investments in community health teams to manage chronic disease. This is important, because minority communities experience higher rates of illness and death for chronic diseases

such as diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, and cancer. Because infant mortality and post-birth complications are also higher in minority and low-income groups, the law includes new funds for home visits for expectant mothers and newborns.

### Diversity and cultural competency

The Affordable Care Act expands initiatives to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the health care professions. It also strengthens cultural competency training for all health care providers. Health plans will be required to use language services and community outreach in underserved communities. Improving communications between providers and patients will help address health disparities particularly in Hispanic communities, which currently have high numbers of uninsured people.

### Health Care Providers For Underserved Communities

The Affordable Care Act increases funding for community health centers, which provide comprehen-

sive health care for everyone no matter how much they are able to pay. Health centers serve an estimated one in three low-income people and one in four low-income minority residents. The new resources will enable health centers to double the number of patients they serve.

### Ending Insurance Discrimination

Insurance discrimination will be banned, so people who have been sick can't be excluded from coverage or charged higher premiums. Women will no longer have to pay higher premiums because of their gender. New funding will be available to collect information on how women and racial and ethnic minorities experience the health care system, leading to improvements that will benefit these groups.

### Affordable Insurance Coverage

A new health insurance marketplace will be created in 2014. These new health insurance Exchanges will offer one-stop shopping so individuals can compare prices, benefits and



health plan performance on easy-to-use websites. The Exchanges will guarantee that all people have a choice for quality, affordable health insurance even if a job loss, job switch, move, or illness occurs. The new law also provides tax credits to help more Americans pay for insurance.

### Improved Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Language, and Disability Status

These will help identify disparities and more effectively target and monitor efforts to reduce them. Consistent methods for collecting and reporting health data will help us better characterize and compare the nature of health problems in underserved populations.

Source: *HealthCare.Gov*  
Courtesy *Healthy Living News*



## Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

By Herbert Okun, M.D.  
Diplomate American Board of Urology

## Your doctor's your best guide

Most people have heard of kidney stones and the various methods of dealing with this sometimes very painful problem but are surprised to hear that stones can also be present in the urinary bladder.

Kidney stones most often are passed out spontaneously but in certain cases, when the stone is too big to fit through the narrow interior passageway of the ureter connecting the kidney to the bladder, urological intervention may become necessary. A stone passing down the ureter from the kidney towards the bladder may obstruct the flow of urine and the result is that the kidney, which blindly continues to produce urine, inflates itself like a balloon stretching the nerves in the tissues lining the kidney interior. Stretching of these nerves is felt as a severe pain known as "renal colic" and requires relief using appropriate medication.

If the stone should spontaneously pass through the ureter into the urinary bladder, the "renal colic" is suddenly and dramatically relieved. Usually but not always, the stone will pass out of the bladder shortly thereafter. Sometimes, especially if the patient also has an enlarged prostate, the stone may get trapped within the bladder behind an obstructing prostate, where it slowly enlarges as the urinary salts build up layer upon layer on the surface of the stone. Eventually, the stone will get so large that it becomes irritating to the bladder interior resulting in pain, worsening of the symptoms of prostate enlargement, bleeding, infection and

possible development of a bladder tumor. When the stone is made primarily of calcium, it cannot be dissolved and urological intervention will be required.

When however, the kidney and/or bladder stone is made of Uric Acid, it may be dissolved by the use of certain medications. These usually consist of various combinations of potassium and sodium citrate and include Polycitra-K, Urocit-K and Bicitra. These medications, however, must be under the strict control of your doctor as there is a long list of other medications, which may interact with these drugs and cause far more harm than good. So always ask your doctor to check out drug compatibility not only for what he prescribes for you but also for what other of your doctors may have prescribed for entirely unrelated conditions and for over the counter medications you may have obtained on your own.

Another drug, which works in a different manner to actually reduce the production of uric acid, may also play a role in the treatment of uric acid stones. This drug is allopurinol and it also must be under your doctor's strict control with periodic blood tests checking for possible toxicity to liver, kidney and bone marrow, because like all medications and treatments, it can be a double-edged sword; it can help but it can also cause harm. Your doctor will know what is best and guide you appropriately.

Have a question? Call Dr. Okun at 718-241-6767

## 10 types of breast cancer discovered

By Justin Norrie

A landmark study has revealed there are at least 10 different types of breast cancer, not four as previously thought – a finding that is expected to have far-reaching implications for treatment of the disease.

The research by British and Canadian scientists, published today in the journal *Nature*, is the largest global gene study of breast cancer tissue ever performed, and the culmination of decades of research into the disease.

Carlos Caldas, one of the authors and the chairman of cancer medicine at the University of Cambridge, said the results would "pave the way for doctors in the future to diagnose the type of breast cancer a woman

has, the types of drugs that will work, and those that won't, in a much more precise way than is currently possible."

Breast malignancies are diagnosed in almost 1.4 million women a year worldwide.

Sandra O'Toole, a clinical associate professor from the University of Sydney Medical School, said the new findings were "very powerful" because they "present new information on genes that might give rise to new targeted treatments in the future. For example one subtype of breast cancer looks to be influenced strongly by the immune system, which may lead to new approaches to treatment."

Until now, doctors have



classified tumors into one of four types by looking at the tissue under a microscope. The category of tumor has provided a guide to how long a woman is likely to survive and which drugs to use.

But doctors were at a loss to explain why, in some cases, treatments turned out to be ineffective, and in others, supposedly dangerous tumors proved easy to beat.

The researchers, from Cancer Research UK's

Cambridge Research Institute and the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver, believe their findings have solved the mystery.

The team analyzed the DNA and RNA of 2,000 tumor samples from women diagnosed with breast cancer between five and 10 years ago, and were able to classify breast cancer into at least 10 new subtypes grouped by common genetic features that correlate with survival. The new classification could change the way drugs were tailored to treat women with breast cancer, they said.

The team also discovered several new breast cancer genes that drive the disease, all of which were potential targets for new types of drugs.

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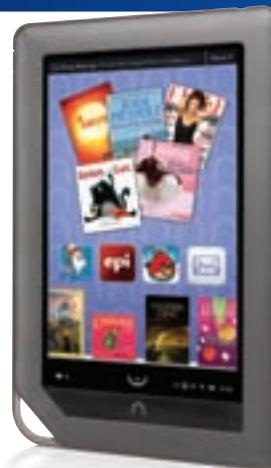
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# Portia Simpson's inaugural New York visit

Jamaica's first female Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller made her first visit to New York since her landslide, historic election four months ago and addressed nationals on a myriad of issues.

Her inaugural address inside the Lenox Road Baptist Church in Crown Heights, Brooklyn culled supporters and rival party members for a united banner-waving force that firmly displayed national pride and heritage.



PM Portia Simpson-Miller with her ministers.

Photo by Sharon Bennett

Elected Dec. 29, 2011, the head of government was met by persons loyal to her People's National Party as well as members of the rival Jamaica Labor Party who admittedly expressed their affection and pride for the politician.

Here to accept the honor of being among Time Magazine's 100 most influential people, Simpson-Miller attended the Manhattan gala on Tuesday, joining Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and other prominent colleagues.

She met with members of the diaspora on Wednesday.

Accompanied by three members of Jamaica's parliament – Sandra Falconer, minister of information, Wykeham McNeil, minister of tourism and Phillip Paulwell, minister of energy – she exuded leadership and pride in her nation.



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

"I am proud to be Jamaican...proud to be prime minister at this time... and on a mission with a vision..." she said to cheers of approval.

There was an orange hue that filtered throughout the predominantly black, green and gold, flag-waving, Brooklyn assembly.

The color identifies her political party and last Wednesday was evident from orange-colored hair to whole outfits displaying affiliation to the PNP.

Allegedly, supporters traveled from Boston, Connecticut and all the boroughs to see and hear the pioneering politician.

In her message to a 600-capacity seat crowd that spilled over into a recreational area, she expressed gratitude to the church's congregation, nationals and praised "Jamaicans making a valiant contribution" to the diaspora.

"When we want to be good we are the best at what we do," she said.

In calling for unity she said: "if we unite nothing can stop us."

Her calculated, eloquent and paced presentation emphasized a one Jamaica concept she repeated.

She amplified a message that "no matter who you voted for," this government is ready to bring change and progress.

She tackled a number of issues ranging from investments, tourism, partnership agreements, education, agriculture and a myriad of diaspora-related topics.

"Join with us to work as one to make Jamaica the family for the future of this generation and the next."

She mentioned the rise of the profile of Rastafarians in Jamaica.

She explained that now their status has been elevated and intimated that a believer could be steps away from being prime minister.

Her inference was her own path from being a councilor to being elected leader.

Currently, her orange-tinged party successfully secured the election of Damian Crawford an alleged Rastafarian and councilor.

She spoke about the summer Olympics in London, England which in athletic circles is already buzzing with hopes for a Jamaican coup of gold medal winners.

Tasked with the portfolio of minister of sports she explained the current mood on the island.

"I saw the faces of athletes and there is determination there...excitement is building at home for the Olympics."

Simpson-Miller fielded questions from the audience and lingered long shaking hands with enthusiastic supporters.

She acknowledged the presence of former parliamentarian Verna Parchment, a former opposition member.

While a majority of guests seemed happy to see the Caribbean head of state, there were those who felt shut-out of the ceremony when the doors closed hours before her arrival.

Some guests waited up to two hours before being allowed into a spillover space where a small closed-circuit screen was set up.

Citing preferential access given to church members and a VIP guest list, some guests left the venue prematurely.

"I didn't come to see her on TV, I see her on TV all the time," Charley Simpson said as he exited the location.

He was not alone, many angry supporters joined him.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

'96 Minutes is a serendipitous slice-of-life tale unfolding in L.A. over the course of one very eventful evening.'

Kam Williams – Page 37

FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENT, GO TO [CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://CARIBBEANLIFENEWS.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

## Home visits with Flatbush artists

The 2012 Flatbush Artists' Studio Tour will take place on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20 from noon to 6:00 p.m. in Ditmas Park, one of New York City's most architecturally interesting and historic neighborhoods.

Established contemporary artists will welcome visitors into their homes and studios, most of which are located in century-old Victorian houses surrounded by gardens and an arbor-tum of leafy trees. This will be the group's third studio tour with previous tours having attracted hundreds of visitors.

The free event will showcase artists working in a variety of media. Visitors will have the chance to both



"Dancer" by Zane Treimanis.

see and collect art and talk to the artists about their work. In some of the studios, artists will also give demonstrations. Many of the studios will host more than one artist.

Continued on next page

## Saylor Operas

The Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College will present a double bill of two Bruce Saylor operas: "My Kinsman Major Molineux" (in its New York premiere), and "The Image Maker" based on the verse play by James Merrill in its world premiere. Performances are on May 4 through 6 at the Goldstein Theatre at Queens College.



Ascene from "My Kinsman Major Molineux."

Merrill's work, "The Image Maker," is a Santeria-based fable set in the Caribbean about a puppet maker whose creations come to life. Saylor captures the theme of magic and folk religion with music that ranges from serene to bright and sun-splashed, to dark, atonal and dissonant.

The new work will be presented along with Saylor's one-act opera, "My Kinsman Major Molineux,"

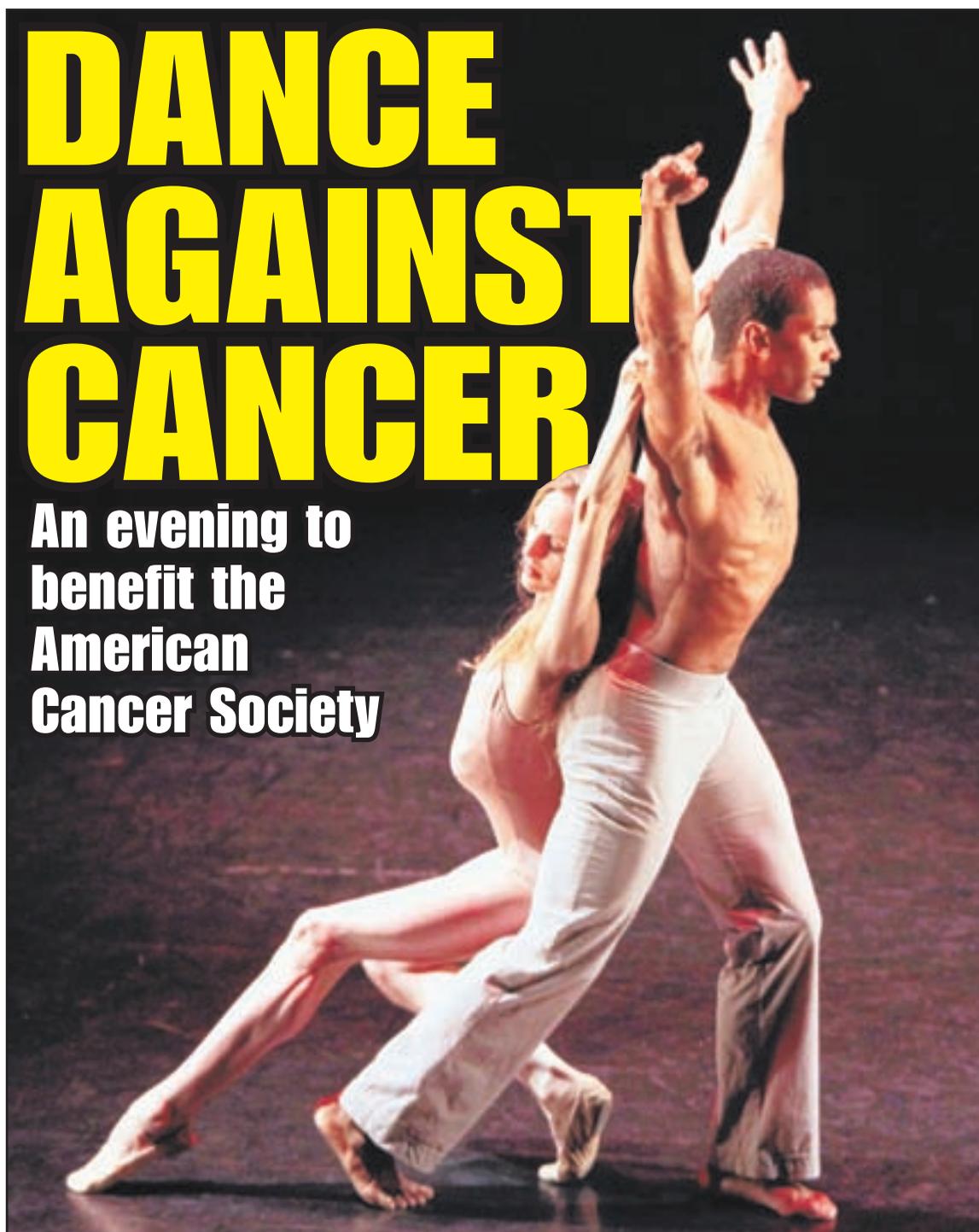
which has a libretto by Cary Plotkin, and is based on the short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne. "Major Molineux" premiered in Pittsburgh in 1976 and is the first opera Saylor ever composed. It has undergone orchestral revisions since its premiere, which will be reflected in its New York debut.

Both operas will be conducted by Maurice Peress.

Continued on next page

# DANCE AGAINST CANCER

An evening to benefit the American Cancer Society



Wendy Whelan and Craig Hall, New York City Ballet.

Photo by Erin Baiano

Manhattan Movement and Arts Center presents "Dance Against Cancer" on Monday, May 7, at the Manhattan Movement and Arts Center at 248 West 60th St., in Manhattan (between Amsterdam and West End avenues) in the

Lincoln Center area.

The event includes cocktails at 6:00 p.m., a performance at 7:00 p.m., and a reception at 8:30 p.m.

All proceeds from this event will benefit research initiatives as well as all patient and family services

programs that American Cancer Society funds.

The evening's performance, produced by New York City Ballet's Daniel Ulbricht and Manhattan Movement and Arts Center's

Continued on next page

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **We Are Young**  
Fun. Feat. Janelle Monae
- 2 **Glad You Came**  
The Wanted
- 3 **Stronger**  
Kelly Clarkson
- 4 **Part of Me**  
Katy Perry
- 5 **Wild Ones**  
Flo Rida Feat. Sia
- 6 **Somebody That I Used to Know**  
Gotye Feat. Kimbra
- 7 **Take Care**  
Drake Feat. Rihanna
- 8 **Starships**  
Nicki Minaj
- 9 **Rumor Has It**  
Adele
- 10 **Set Fire To The Rain**  
Adele

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Love Is A Four Letter Word**  
Jason Mraz
- 2 **California 37**  
Train
- 3 **Making Mirrors**  
Gotye
- 4 **Up All Night**  
One Direction
- 5 **Tuskegee**  
Lionel Richie
- 6 **Jack Johnson & Friends**  
Jack Johnson
- 7 **21**  
Adele
- 8 **The End Is Where We Begin**  
Thousand Foot Krutch
- 9 **Pluto**  
Future
- 10 **Picture Show**  
Neon Trees

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# MMAC benefit performances

Continued from previous page

Erin Fogarty will feature dancers from New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



**Matthew Rushing, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.**

Photo by Erin Baiano

Performers to include Ailey's Matthew Rushing and Clifton Brown; NYCB's Maria Kowroski, Tiler Peck, Lauren Lovette, Robert Fairchild, Amar Ramasar, Daniel Ulbricht; American Ballet Theatre's Herman Cornejo; Boston Ballet's Misa Kuranaga; Martha Graham Dance Company's Katherine Crockett and more to be announced.

"Dance Against Cancer" is made possible by a generous space donation from Rose Caiola, the executive artistic director of Manhattan Movement and Arts Center. The evening is sponsored by the Brooklyn Brewery and Food Match, Inc.

Tickets are available at <http://community.acevents.org/danceagainstcancernyc>. Sponsorships are also available for \$1,000, which include: four tickets to the performance and

reception, all-access pass to the tech rehearsals, and a signed photo with a benefit performer of your choice.

About Manhattan Movement & Arts Center

Manhattan Movement & Arts Center was developed by Rose Caiola as the home of the Manhattan Youth Ballet, a graded, pre-professional ballet academy and performance company.

Ms. Caiola, a former dancer and actress, founded the academy in the fall of 1994 as Studio Maestro at 48 W. 68th Street, and today serves as the youth ballet's executive artistic director.

The school is modeled after the European academies. The Manhattan Youth Ballet has acquired a reputation for excellent teaching in an intimate and individually supportive environment. The school's graduates have danced professionally with American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, Ballet de España, San Francisco Ballet and Complexions.

As the ballet academy grew, the search for a larger space inspired in Ms. Caiola a highly personal vision of a studio and theater complex that would encompass all aspects of dance education and performance.

MMAC opened its doors in June 2008, occupying a dramatic bi-level space within The Element, a luxury high-rise condominium. In addition to the Manhattan Youth Ballet, mmac's studios and theater host daily adult dance and fitness classes, the mmac Kids program, summer intensive programs, as well as an array of performances and special events.

## Queens College theater

Continued from previous page

The stage director is Lorca Peress. Sets and lighting are designed by Harry Feiner. Costumes are designed by Sam Fleming. Projection design is by Jan Hartley. Choreography is by Carolyn Webb.

Saylor has received fellowships, grants and awards from the Guggenheim, Mellon, and Ingram Merrill Foundations, the National Prize for Composition from the National Society of Arts and Letters, the Music Award and Charles E. Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, numerous scholarships and prizes from Juilliard, and from the Fulbright Commission for study in Rome. He has composed four operas, among them "Orpheus Descending," based on the Williams play, for Lyric Opera of Chicago where he was composer-in-residence.

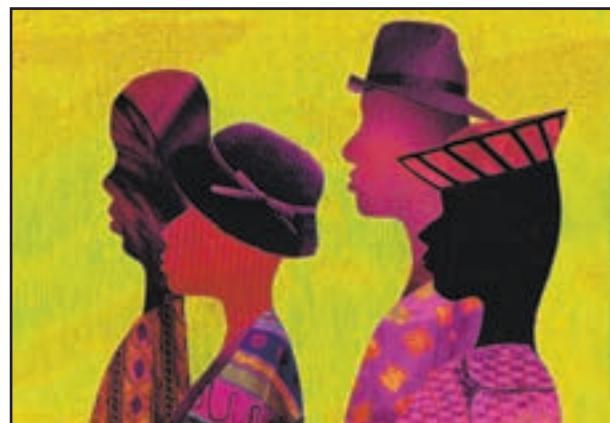
He has collaborated with American soprano Jessye Norman on two best-selling holiday CDs, on

music for several important national occasions, and on concert versions of Duke Ellington's sacred music.

The operas are a joint presentation of the Aaron Copland School of Music, the school's Opera Program, and the Department of Drama, Theater and Dance. Since 2002 the music school, in partnership with the Drama Department, has presented 12 opera productions, two of which have won National Opera Association Awards; a New York premiere; three Mozart Operas, and 20th Century works by Bernstein and Argento.

The current production features performances by talented students from the Opera Program complemented by professional contributions both onstage and behind the scenes. In 2006, ACSM presented the New York premiere of Mr. Saylor's "Orpheus Descending."

Performances: Friday, Saturday, May 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 at 2:30 p.m.



"Processional" by Olivia Jackson.

## Flatbush Artists

Continued from previous page

The range of both art and artists is diverse and includes acrylic and oil painting, carved sculpture from fallen neighborhood trees, drawings, mixed media, collage, polished abstract frescoes, photography from international locations, Japanese ink brush painting and artisanal jewelry made from precious metals, gems and ethnic beads. Three of the artists who will be participating are Olivia Jackson, Paul Catalanotto, Zane Treimanis, Arturo Garcia and Olivia Jackson.

Paul Catalanotto has reinvented the ancient art of frescoes to express his abstract compositions. While paint was applied over fresh plaster in ancient frescoes, Catalanotto uses his 17 years of experience as an artisan plasterer to mix colors into the plaster itself and apply it in successive layers of color in a sequence that parallels the light spectrum and the progressive realms of the earth.

Zane Treimanis' sculptures radiate a lively, playful energy regardless whether she is working in natural wood tones, color or black and white. Her sculptures are composed of many pieces of wood that are cut on a bandsaw and nailed or glued in a grid to form vibrant abstract forms drawn from the natural world.

Treimanis says that because the bandsaw allows her to fluidly cut highly detailed shapes, it has become a close companion in her artistic journey. Recently she has been exploring racial differences and commonalities using different shades of wood to express her ideas. She exhibited these new sculp-

tures in her 30-year retrospective exhibition at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists' Coalition last fall. Many of these sculptures and others will be on display at her Victorian home.

Arturo Garcia is trained in the school of Classical Realism painting, a school that requires mastery of anatomy, botany and light as well as the structure of ordinary objects. His paintings have an extraordinary clarity that is simultaneously classic and very modern. Born in Mexico City, his family moved to Barcelona while he was a young boy where he fell in love with the paintings of the Spanish masters and knew he wanted to be a painter.

Garcia has also won several coveted fellowships to study landscape painting with the Hudson River School Fellowship. His art has won numerous awards.

Olivia Jackson creates powerful collages that distill vivid images; often from her own life and family. Her collages are a synthesis of paper and computer art. After creating the paper collage, Jackson scans the image and uses the computer to alter and enhance background colors and textures.

Jackson has a BA in art and is currently studying art at Cooper Union. Her work has been exhibited at the Clinton Hill Gallery.

**Location:** Victorian Flatbush is located in the heart of Brooklyn, just a few blocks south of Prospect Park. Transportation is easy and direct. **BUS:** B68, B16, B35, and several other buses.

**Subway:** Q train to Beverley Rd., Cortelyou Rd. or Newkirk Plaza **CAR:** Parking is plentiful

# Gangstas carjack college coeds

**"96 Minutes"**  
**Very Good (3 stars)**  
**Rated R for violence and pervasive profanity.**  
**Running time: 93 minutes**  
**Distributor: Arc Entertainment**

By Kam Williams

Carley (Brittany Snow) is a sheltered college senior who's torn between roaming around exploring the country after getting her degree and going on to law school primarily to please her parents. She's caught up in an animated conversation about

the future with her best friend, Lena (Christian Serratos), who is, in turn, concerned about her boyfriend and about making a smooth transition from campus to the real world.

The carefree coeds drive around Los Angeles, blissfully unaware that their world is on the verge of suddenly colliding with that of a couple of tough teenagers from the other side of the tracks. One, Dre (Evan Ross), is fast approaching a milestone of his own, having just ordered a cap-and-gown for his impending high school graduation. He hopes to be one of the few kids from his block



Carley, played by Brittany Snow, being carjacked in "96 Minutes."

to overcome the odds and actually make it out of the ghetto.

Sadly, the same can't

be said about his younger cousin, Kevin (Jonathan Michael Trautmann), a dropout desperate to be

embraced by the local gang. To prove himself worthy, he impulsively decides to carjack Carley and Lena's car at gunpoint.

Dre reluctantly joins Kevin in this felonious endeavor, more to talk some sense into him than as an accomplice, only to have grand theft auto escalate to kidnapping and attempted murder when his trigger-happy cuz shoots a resistant Lena in the head. With all four subsequently cooped-up together in the car, what ensues is a harrowing ordeal marked by mutual misunderstandings borne of a culture clash.

Like a claustrophobic variation of the Oscar-winning Best Picture "Crash," "96 Minutes" is a serendipitous slice-of-life tale unfolding in L.A. over the course of one very eventful evening. The compelling crime drama marks the impressive writing and directorial debut of Aimee Lagos, who exhibits quite a knack for both character-development and for generating edge of your seat urgency.

Listen, whenever vapid Valley girls cross paths with wanton boys 'n the hood, you know something's gotta give. And when the dust settles, it ain't going to look pretty.

## Independent & Foreign Films

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13 for profanity and sexuality) Geriatric set comedy about British retirees who move to India to spend their Golden Years in luxurious accommodations only to discover that the place fails to measure up to its billing. A-list cast includes Oscar-winning Dames Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, two-time nominee Tom Wilkinson, along with Bill Nighy and Dev Patel.

First Position (Unrated) Stars of tomorrow portraits of a half-dozen dancers in training for the Youth America Grand Prix, one of the world's most prestigious, international ballet competitions.

Jesus Henry Christ (PG-13 for profanity, smoking and violent images) Baby-daddy comedy about a boy genius' (Jason Spevack) search for his father (Michael Sheen) after learning from his mother (Toni Colette) that he was a test tube baby conceived in a Petri dish. Support cast includes Samantha Weinstein, Cameron Kennedy and Dewshane Williams.

Last Call at the Oasis (PG-13 for disturbing content and brief profanity) Climate change documentary examining evaporating evidence of the world's



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

burgeoning water crisis. Featuring commentary by Erin Brockovich, Peter H. Gleick and Tyrone Hayes.

A Little Bit of Heaven (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and crude humor) Bittersweet romantic comedy about a stoic doctor (Gael Garcia Bernal) whose steely veneer starts to crumble when he finds himself falling in love with the care-free cancer patient (Kate Hudson) he's given a terminal diagnosis. Ensemble cast includes Academy Award-winners Whoopi Goldberg and Kathy Bates, Rosemarie DeWitt, Romany Malco, Treat Williams and Peter Dinklage.

LOL (PG-13 for profanity and mature themes) Miley Cyrus stars in this remake of the French romantic romp of the same name about a recently-jilted teenager who develops feelings for her best friend (Douglas Booth) after having her heart broken by her high school sweetheart (George Finn). With Demi Moore, Thomas Jane and Ashley Greene.

Meeting Evil (R for profanity and violence) Cajun

country crime thriller about a depressed family man (Luke Wilson) who is kidnapped and taken on a killing spree by a demonic serial killer (Samuel L. Jackson). With Leslie Bibb, Peyton List and Tracie Thoms.

Mother's Day (R for sexuality, torture, brutal violence and pervasive profanity) Grisly remake of the 1980 horror flick revolving around three sadistic siblings (Patrick John Flueger, Warren Kole and Matt O'Leary) who terrorize the new owners (Jaime King and Frank Grillo) of their childhood home in the wake of a bank robbery gone bad. With Rebecca De Mornay, Tony Nappo and Kandyse McClure.

The Perfect Family (PG-13 for mature themes) Dysfunctional family dramedy about a devout candidate (Kathleen Turner) for Catholic Woman of the Year who does her best to hide her alcoholic husband (Michael McGrady), her lesbian daughter (Emily Deschanel) and her philandering, married son (Jason Ritter) from the judges. Support cast includes

Richard Chamberlain, Elizabeth Pena and Sharon Lawrence.

ReGeneration (Unrated) Modern malaise documentary, narrated by Ryan Gosling, chronicling the cynicism running rampant

among Americans recently coming-of-age. Featuring commentary by Noam Chomsky, Talib Kwali and the late Howard Zinn.

You Hurt My Feelings (Unrated) Baby maybe sitcom about a marriage-mind-

ed fellow (John Merriman) who takes a job as a nanny to convince his ex-girlfriend (Courtney Davis) that he's ready to settle down and have children. With Macon Blair and Lillian and Violet Collins.



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**AGES 2-15**

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# SUN KULCHA

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

**Teddy Bear Clinic** Area children are invited to bring their injured and sick teddy bears and other stuffed animals to our Teddy Bear Clinic to learn not to fear the Emergency Room experience and to decrease stress of visiting the ER. The toys will undergo mock triage, medical exams and x-rays by doctors, nurses and other clinical staff, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Montefiore Medical Center, North Hospital, Emergency Department, 600 East 233 St., between Bronx River Pkwy. and White Plains Rd., Bronx. For information, call (718) 920-9000.

**Film Festival** Community Access and NYAPRS present the eighth Annual NYC Mental Health Film Festival featuring Burning Blossom, Mental Illness is Not a Crime, The Interventionists, Georgia Crises Intervention Team, Voices of Hope and Recovery and Crazy and Proud, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at St. Francis College, 182 Remsen St., Brooklyn Heights. For information and to purchase tickets, call Carla at (212) 780-1400 ext. 7726.

**Benefit Concert** Daddy Rocker Rocks for Autism, a benefit concert to raise money for Autism Speaks, featuring the Meyer Rossabi Band, Off the Record, and Daddy Rocker and The Brooklyn South Band, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Tamaqua Marina Bar and Grill, 84 Ebony Court, Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn. Donation: \$20 Adults; \$10 Children 12 & under (for safety reasons children must be supervised). For group rates and questions, contact John at tdma@verizon.net.

**A Garden Party** The Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107 St., Corona, Queens, is throwing a Garden Party on May 5 and 6 featuring Mona's Hot Four with vocalist Tamar Korn on Saturday and the Queens College Hot 5 on Sunday. The free event will also offer house tours, live jazz, sample red beans 'n rice, swing dancing and raffles. For information and schedules, visit [www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org](http://www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org).

**Eco Fair** NHS of East Flatbush is sponsoring a free Eco Fair featuring exhibits, live entertainment, children's activities, green job seminars, yoga, recycling clothes stations, art displays, crafts, Tai-Chi, and more, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Yard, 2510 Church Ave., between Rogers & Bedford avenues, Brooklyn. Call (718) 469-4679 for more information.

**Gardening Workshops** The High School for Public Service Youth Farm is offering a workshop to the Crown Heights/East Flatbush community on Solutions to Pesky Garden Critters, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Youth Farm, 600 Kingston Ave., between Rutland & Winthrop. For information, visit [www.bkfarmyards.com](http://www.bkfarmyards.com).

### SUNDAY, MAY 6



#### Food Stamp Outreach

Find out if you are eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits! A representative from the NYC Human Resources Administration will be available to assist you with eligibility pre-screening & to answer any questions every Tues. & Wed., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Community Board 12, 4101 White Plains Road at 229 St., Bronx. For more information, call (718) 881-4455.

#### Tai Chi

Stop. Breathe. Relax. Join Tai Chi Easy, a wellness practice combining Tai-chi, Qigong, meditation & Chinese healing, taught by Daniel Weicher, certified teacher in Integral Qigong & Tai Chi, every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Moore Street Market, 110 Moore St., entrance on Humbolt St., Brooklyn. Donations are appreciated. Call (914) 673-6016 for information.



**Mammograms** Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs and Mutli-Diagnostic Services is offering no-cost digital mammograms and clinical breast exams at Our Lady of Refuge Church, 1087 Ocean Ave, between Farragut Rd. & Foster Ave., Brooklyn, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eligibility criteria: Women 40+, N.Y.C. mailing address, no mammogram in the past 12 months. Wear two-piece outfit; do not use any oil, powder, deodorant or perfume. If you have Medicare, Medicaid or other health insurance, bring your card with you. For information, call (877) 628-9090.

**Fundraising Gala** Making the Impossible Possible, Inc. is holding its First Annual Fundraising Gala to raise awareness of the need for academic success of Haitian students in Haiti, at the Adria Hotel and Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Blvd., Bayside, Queens, 6:00 p.m. featuring honored guests and live performances. Donations of school supplies will be accepted. For tickets, call (347) 731-4722, (917) 607-3542.

### TUESDAY, MAY 8

**Networking Breakfast** The Greater New York Chamber of Commerce is hosting an Open

#### Volunteers Needed

Volunteer readers are needed for the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center Network Reach Out and Read Program at the Mount Vernon, Yonkers and Greenburgh Health Center locations. Bilingual readers are helpful, but not required. Just a few hours a week reading to a child can make a difference for the child, the family and the community. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Ms. Eneida Rivera, director of Reach Out and Read at (914) 699-7200 ext. 1048.



House Networking Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at the Greater NY Chamber, 20 W. 44 St., between 5 & 6 avenues, New York. Must RSVP online at [www.ny-chamber.com](http://www.ny-chamber.com). For information, call (212) 686-7220.

**Poetry/Spoken Word** Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, Queens is hosting a charity event featuring an evening of poetry, spoken word and socially conscience reggae music to raise money for the Malaria No More Organization for the purchase of insecticide treated bed nets, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Admission: free. For information, call (347) 806-3605.

### FRIDAY, MAY 11

**J@LC** J@LC presents New Orleans Celebration with the music of Jelly Roll Morton w/The Marcus Roberts Octet featuring his recent record New Orleans Meets Harlem, Fri. & Sat., 5/11 & 12, 8:00 p.m., at the Rose Theater at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60 St., N.Y. Tickets can be purchased thru [jalc.org](http://jalc.org) or CenterCharge at (212) 721-6500 or at the Box Office.

### SATURDAY, MAY 12

**Mother's Day Concert** Join us for an evening of old school Salsa & Soul concert and dance featuring Black Ivory, The Intruders & Zon del Barrio with MC Bob Love of WBLS 107.5 FM at The Louis Armstrong Center, 33-16 108 St., Corona, Queens. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Showtime 8:00 p.m. For information and tickets, call (718) 651-0096 ext. 217 or (718) 565-2170. Parking available. Contributions are tax deductible and benefit Elmcor's After School and Youth Programs.

### THURSDAY, MAY 24

**Free Training** The New York State Office of Mental Health is offering a free training session on SSI and SSDI Benefits - Myths, Tips, Tricks and How to Make It Work, Thurs. & Fri., 5/24 & 5/25, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (lunch on your own each day), at Kings County Hospital Center, 451 Clarkson Ave., T-Bldg. Auditorium, between New York Ave. and East 34th St., Brooklyn. Resignation required; space limited. Register before 5/18 via email to [ssinfo@omh.ny.gov](mailto:ssinfo@omh.ny.gov)

### ONGOING

**Bullying Contest** District Attorney Charles J. Hynes presents the second Annual Legal Lives Video Contest open to all Brooklyn students, grades 4-9. Create a 90-second video on the topics of "Bullying" and "Cyberbullying" answering one of the following questions: What is Bullying?; What does a bully look like?; What should you do if you are being bullied?; How does being bullied make you feel?; and How can you stop a bully?, using pictures, music, skits and interviews then upload your completed video to YouTube. For complete details and instructions visit <http://youtu.be/Y0dZHPc1PyM>. Deadline for all video submissions is June 1, 2012, 5:00 p.m. The winner will star as the Brooklyn DA for a day! For questions, email [GRIPPOE@brooklynda.org](mailto:GRIPPOE@brooklynda.org) or call the DA's educational hotline at (718) 250-3395.

**USA Soccer** The T&T USA Soccer Assn. is now running the T&T Caribbean Cup Team to be played May - September 2012. Training will be held at Hamilton Field in Brooklyn, between Albany and E.N.Y. avenues on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. All interested parties, contact (347) 424-3235 or (347) 365-7537.

**USA Soccer** T&T USA Soccer Assn. is holding a national trial for U-17 and U-20 for the T&T National Youth Teams. The U-17 tournament is to be held in T&T on July 3-11, 2012. For more information, call (347) 365-7537 or email [gthotto1@optonline.net](mailto:gthotto1@optonline.net)

**Computer Training** Mount Carmel Worship & Outreach Center is holding adult and children computer training programs, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (917) 609-0909 for registration details.

Compiled by Ida Eisenstein

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# Crossword *by StatePoint Media, Inc.*

**ACROSS**

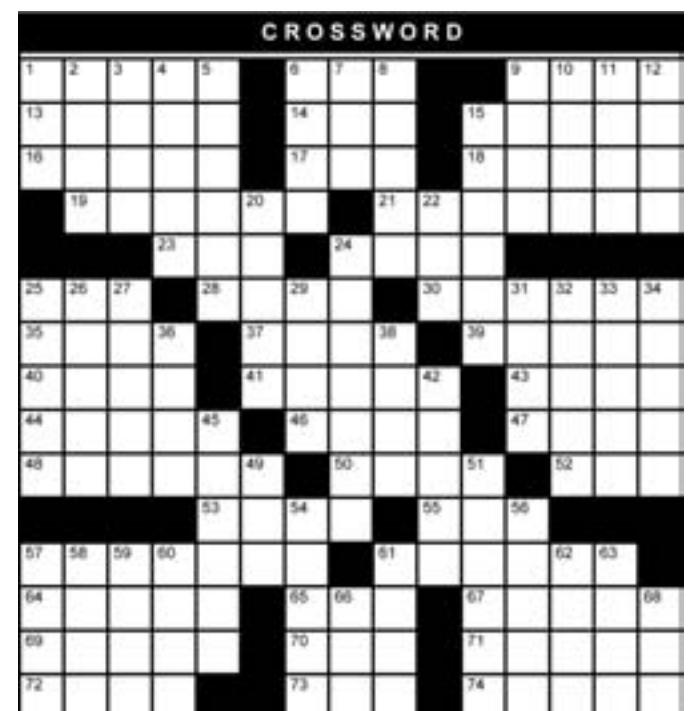
- 1. Gain access to, 2 words
- 6. \*1965's "Get \_\_\_ My Cloud"
- 9. Benedict XVI, e.g.
- 13. African antelope
- 14. Equal to 10 liters
- 15. Was furious
- 16. "Happy Endings" actor Adam \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. CSI evidence
- 18. Stand on end
- 19. Chews out
- 21. \*Famous for her "Umbrella"
- 23. Likewise
- 24. "...partridge in a \_\_\_ tree..."
- 25. \*Madonna's controversial garment
- 28. Viking writing symbol
- 30. Interstellar cloud
- 35. "A River \_\_\_ Through It"
- 37. Cause of Titanic's demise
- 39. Like a mad dog
- 40. "Do \_\_\_ others as you would do..."
- 41. Tennessee footballer
- 43. \*Aguilera and Carey can hit a high one
- 44. Yuletides
- 46. Winter Olympic event
- 47. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" author
- 48. Army's offensive, pl.
- 50. Remote Automated Weather Station
- 52. Used at start of new hole

- 53. Unstressed-stressed pattern in poetry
- 55. Pig's home
- 57. \*If she "were a boy..."
- 61. Road less traveled
- 64. In the midst
- 65. \_\_\_ and feather
- 67. EU money, pl.
- 69. American poet James Whitcomb \_\_\_\_\_
- 70. Geological period
- 71. Narrow mountain ridge
- 72. Benevolent and Protective Order of \_\_\_\_\_
- 73. \*The \_\_\_ Hot Chili Peppers
- 74. \*She wakes up "in the morning feeling like P. Diddy"

**DOWN**

- 1. As opposed to Gross Domestic Product
- 2. Unfledged hawk
- 3. Bath powder
- 4. Administer
- 5. \*\*"You belong with" her?
- 6. Betting probability
- 7. \*Belieber, e.g.
- 8. Bell-bottoms bottom
- 9. Between larva and adult
- 10. Sign of something to come
- 11. Philadelphia's Ivy League member
- 12. Cocoyam
- 15. Hitler, e.g.

- 20. "No \_\_\_ about it"
- 22. 007 creator
- 24. Throw out of kilter
- 25. \*He'd "catch a grenade for ya"
- 26. A sentence that goes too long
- 27. Poker stakes
- 29. First man on the moon
- 31. \*E Street \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. Lusitania's destroyer
- 33. Gracefully slender
- 34. \*She "could have had it all rolling in the deep"
- 36. Worn from walking
- 38. \*She "was born this way"
- 42. Gossipy
- 45. Scrooge-like
- 49. Cul de \_\_\_\_\_
- 51. Mean characteristic
- 54. Approximately 1.094 yards
- 56. \*James Blunt: "\_\_\_ Beautiful"
- 57. \*\_\_\_naked Ladies, band
- 58. Short for Emilia
- 59. Nutrition of an embryo
- 60. Dollar bills
- 61. Half of Brangelina
- 62. Greek god of war
- 63. Shakespearean "does"
- 66. "We \_\_\_ Marshall"
- 68. \*\*"Under the boardwalk, down by the \_\_\_"



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*'No meaningful changes have been in the West Indies team that faces off against England in May. Indications are that it won't be easy for them to win'*

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 43

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## Monroe's team has strong class

By Robert Elkin

The basketball team at Monroe College performed very well during its past basketball season in a junior college league. The men's team with branches in The Bronx and in New Rochelle posted a 33-4 record, one of the best records of any hoop squad in the metropolitan area.

Monroe was top ranked in the nation for a period of time, finished 3-1 in the national tournament, losing to the eventual winner, and wound up fifth in the nation, and in the process had a great season.

As a result, Monroe, under Head Coach Jeff Brustad, turned out several players graduating to Division I colleges.

"The big question mark was where is Orlando Sanchez going," said a team spokesman. "The rumor is St. John's University, but it could be Auburn or Providence or it could be anywhere."

According to a late decision Sanchez is headed to Big East Conference Saint John's University.

Teammate Drimir Ferguson is headed to North Carolina Central College; Davon Marshall is going to Liberty; Anthony Banks is taking his game to Longwood College and Marco Bourgault is also attending St.

Continued on next page



New England Revolution's Shalrie Joseph (No. 21).

AP Photo/Elise Amendola

By Patrick Horne

There was much irony in the New York Red Bulls 1-0 win over the New England Revolution last Saturday afternoon at Red Bull Arena. As Red Bulls coach Hans Backe said in his postgame comments, his team accomplished

probably its best result so far this season with what was his weakest lineup.

The Red Bulls (4-3-1), because of a plethora of injuries to starter, were forced to give first-time starts to defenders Brandon Barklage and Tyler Ruthven, while Connor Lade was mak-

ing only his second start in the backline; the makeshift defense, with only one regular starter, Markus Holgersson, came up with the team's first shut-out of the season, which garnered Red Bulls rookie goalkeeper the man-of-the-

Continued on next page

## Chanderpaul makes a comeback

By Azad Ali

West Indies middle-order batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul is steadily continuing to make his way back to the top of world cricket.

The 37-year-old left-hander recently jumped another three spots to move to fifth in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings.

His rise comes on the heels of his unbeaten 103 in the opening Test against Australia recently at Kensington Oval, Barbados.

It was his 25th Test century, surpassing legendary Sir Vivian Richards (24) and moving within one of the incomparable Sir Garfield Sobers.

Chanderpaul is now also just 188 runs away from becoming the second West Indies batsman to reach 10,000 Test runs, behind the outstanding Brian Lara who finished his career with 11,953 runs.

In the bowling rankings, captain and

Continued on next page

# Lynch places 12th in challenge race

By Robert Elkin

Coming off a 35:17.8 time for a five-mile challenge race conducted by the Alley Pond Striders, Collin Lynch will take a short journey to East Meadow, Long Island this weekend.

The purpose will be to compete in a race on Long Island Marathon day. He is not going to run the complete marathon distance of 26.2 miles but intends to compete in two races, the 10K and the mile on the same course as the marathon. His goal is to go under 14 minutes.

His strategy is to go out for a fast start. Once he gets that fast start, he will be all right, as Lynch explained.

Originally from Trinidad, Lynch used the Alley Pond Park race as a challenge and a prep race for the future.

The race in Bayside marked his first for the season. Lynch placed 12th overall in a field of 175 finishers in the second big race in Queens this year behind a very huge event in Flushing Meadow

Corona Park earlier in the year.

"This race helped me because it was a challenging race, and I like the hills," said Lynch. "I'm impressed with the facilities here and with my time," he added.

The initial four-place finishers were the 'class of the field' as they were about three minutes apart. Then the rest of the field was close and tight with runners battling each other down through the stretch and at the finish line.

Lynch, who did not attend high school in New York, but at Trinity in Trinidad, indulged in cricket, soccer and running. His running specialties were in the 400 and 800 meters.

"I really liked running and took it up at a young age for there wasn't any physical contact in track," he explained after his Alley Pond race. "After high school I attended New Paltz College where I was on the cross country team running competitively.

Contrasting running in Trinidad with running in the United States, he said, "when I came here I

had to change my whole running scheme. Here, I had to be strong and concentrate more so while running."

In the Alley Pond Challenge, he could not go out too fast, because if he did he would have burned himself. Usually, he goes out at a 6:01 pace, but instead he turned in a slow 6:50 one, because the course was very challenging, and very hilly from the first mile on.

"Running like this helped me a lot and made me a better runner," he went on. "But I ran on a good course in my first ever race here."

Lynch is working hard on his speed and runs about 25 miles a week in Forest Park, Queens, two miles from his house.

He came to the United States in 1984 at the age of 21 years and one year later took up cross country running.

"I've (run) in a lot of marathons and run in ultra marathons," he added. "But now I am concentrating on shorter distance events. I've done a lot of races in Long Island and in Central Park."

# Bulls stop Revs

Continued from previous page

match award. Absent from the regular defensive lineup were wing backs Roy Miller and Jan Gunnar Soli and Stephen Keel.

The midfield was also thin with Teemu Tainio out with injury and Rafael Marquez out serving a three-game suspension for dangerous play, but Joel Lindpere, Mehdi Ballouchy, Dax McCarty and Dane Richards held up the middle.

Thierry Henry scored the winner in the seventh minute when he won the ball in a battle with Stephen McCarthy to tap it over the head of Revs goal keeper Matt Reis. Shortly after, Henry, who leads the league with nine goals, went down with a strained hamstring injury and was taken out of the game; Henry could be out for up to three weeks.

The result was also ironic because the Revolution (2-5) dominated play throughout the contest and created more opportunities to score but were let down by poor finishing on offense. Revs forward Saer Sene muffed two opportunities early in the first half when on both occasions he had only Meara to beat. Sene was indecisive on occasions in the second half and teammates Lee Nguyen and Jose Moreno also failed to register easy chances. Nguyen came close to scoring when his stunner from 20 yards was heading for the upper left corner of the net near the end but was parried wide of the goal by Meara's left hand.

The Revs were led by Grenadian Shalrie Joseph and Reis, the only leftovers from a New Revs midfielder, took charge in the off-season and has fielded an entirely new team with Joseph and Reis the exceptions. The Red Bulls next play at home on Wednesday, May 9 versus the Houston Dynamo. The Los Angeles Galaxy hosts the Red Bulls on Saturday night, May 5.

In other MLS results last Saturday, the Los Angeles Galaxy (3-3-1) managed a 1-1 tie with FC Dallas (3-3-3) when substitute Pat Noonan came up with a goal in stoppage time for the defending champs. Dallas' goal came from a Brek Shea penalty in the 61st minute; Galaxy's Robbie Keane



New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry. AP Photo/Mel Evans

# Chanderpaul makes comeback

Continued from previous page

medium pacer Darren Sammy has jumped four places to 22nd, to become the highest ranked West Indies bowler after taking three wickets in consistent spells in the last Test.

South African fast bowler Dale Steyn leads an unchanged top five.



Shivnarine Chanderpaul. AP Photo/Lynne Sladky

# Monroe

Continued from previous page

John's University. Marco is a 6-6 guard who can play forward because of his size. He can shoot and he is a dead-eye shooter from three points out. He also can keep the ball alive under the basket and he is a very heady player.

Head Coach Steve Lavin and his staff are excited about having him at St. John's.

The athletic department at Monroe College has had a tremendous season both for men's and women's basketball.

"Last year our men finished

third and this year wound up fifth. Monroe has turned in winning programs almost every year.

The team has been led by Davon Marshal, who averaged about 15 points a game. He was one of two players hitting over 40 percent from three-point out, as the team turned in outstanding inside and outside games.

"We could shoot from the three," said Gary Axelbank, sports information director at Monroe, at the Metropolitan Basketball Writers' Association's dinner honoring outstanding players during the past season and the winner of the Haggerty Award, going to the outstanding player in the met area.

Sanchez also led the way for the basketball team with his field goal shooting.

"The bottom line for us is number one winning and number two is providing opportunities for guys to get to division one schools (colleges)," added Axelbank. "And we did that! We had a successful season as you can imagine.

"We would have liked to have won the national championship, but when you look at our sophomores we had a two year class with a lot of (Division I) coaches scouting our guys all year long. We have hands down the best two-year program in the New York metro area."

missed a penalty in the 47th minute that would have put Los Angeles ahead. Also, the Montreal Impact topped the Portland Timber, 2-0; the San Jose Earthquakes bettered the Philadelphia Union, 2-1; The Vancouver Whitecaps beat the Columbus Crew, 1-0; DC United beat the Houston Dynamo, 3-2; the Colorado Rapids punned Chivas USA, 4-0; the Seattle Sounders topped the Chicago Fire, 2-1; and Real Salt Lake knocked off Toronto FC, 3-2.

## English FA Cup

The prestigious English Football Association Cup, known as the FA Cup, will be contested at the famous Wembley Stadium on Saturday, May 5 (Fox Sports) when Chelsea takes on Liverpool. Chelsea will also battle Germany's Bayern Munich in the European Champions' League final at Bayern Munich Stadium on Saturday, May 19.

# West Indies face tougher challenges

The West Indies team faces off against England in the first Test match starting May 17 at Lords and indications are that the contest would not be easy for the West Indies.

West Indies selectors have chosen to tour England with a very thin side, which poses no real threat to the opposition. Denesh Ramdin has replaced Carlton Baugh Jr, Kraig Brathwaite has been dropped but no meaningful changes have been made to give England a tough fight on their home soil. Marlon Samuels' return gives the team a little boost with the batting.

## Chris Gayle And Sunil Narine Are Match Winners

Windies selectors and the WICB are still not making the best efforts to have the most capable players that will best serve the team. Every effort should be made to have Sunil Narine and Chris Gayle for the Test matches at all times when the West Indies are contesting.

Gayle and Narine are playing in the IPL and their unavailability puts the West Indies in a weaker position to defeat any major opposition. Some of the West Indies batsmen are still in the learning phase and they are far from ready for the high-level competition. That has been shown against Australia and England has a strong balanced squad. England's James Anderson bowls very well at home. He is a brilliant and consistent wicket taker. He moves the ball around very well and he is highly experienced.

## Superb English Batting

Jonathon Jrott and Ian Bell will be the batsmen to give the West Indies a tough challenge. They love to spend a long time at the wicket and are very good at playing spin and pace. Test cricket is their first choice in scoring runs.



## Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte



Marlon Samuels' return is expected to give the West Indies team a boost.  
AP Photo/Aman Sharma

## Kirk Edwards and Narsingh Deonarine Should do Well

Under English conditions, Barbados and West Indies batsman Kirk Edwards should do well in England and this is because of his batting style. Allrounder Narsingh Deonarine should gain some dividends with his bowling under those conditions and his discipline batting style should also earn him runs. Marlon Samuels is back and he is an automatic choice on the Windies team. Deonarine is in the final 11 because of Samuels' inclusion.

## Ottis Gibson Needs To Work Harder

West Indies Head Coach

Ottis Gibson needs to work much harder with the Windies batsmen, particularly with their technique. Most of the West Indies batsmen are going through this crisis of making a good start but are unable to remain in the wicket for any length of time to make any significant contribution. Gibson will have to coordinate his efforts and modify his strategies by implementing new measures to assist batsmen in doing much better. The West Indies bowlers performed reasonably well but their batsmen came up too short on many occasions. West Indies tied the Twenty20 and the One-Day series but Australia won the three Test series 2-0.

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## What you need to know about foster parenting

As the saying goes, generally, the best foster parents are people like you, with a lot of common sense and a lot of love in their hearts.

Foster parents are usually resilient people with a lot of courage to bring up children and welcome them into their lives with open hearts. They realize that becoming a foster parent is an exceptional duty that involves plenty of patience.

Foster parenting is indeed a big responsibility, however, it is not complicated. An important part of succeeding as a foster parent revolves around accepting the child from the core of your heart and understanding his complicated emotions, especially if the child has lost his biological parents and is dealing with the overwhelming loss. You need to be patient and slowly teach the child about family values, expectations, rituals, etc. You really have to cooperate with the child to integrate the child to a normal living environment once again. Let's explore the three different areas of foster parenting.

### Foster adopt

To adopt a child, you must meet certain criteria. You can be either married or single, but must be an adult of at least 21 years of age, and you are required to be financially stable.

When you opt for adoption, you need to fill out an application. If you are not sure about the application procedure, you can ask for help from the organization from which you would adopt the child.

Feel free to discuss and share your lifestyle and the background to which you belong.

If you are married, you must present your marriage certificate, and if divorced, again, you have to show the document granting the divorce.

Allow the staff to visit your home and investigate your background.

Prior to adoption, you must attend the free training classes that would teach you how to

deal with the foster child in the best way.

### Respite foster care

Respite is a very essential service in foster parenting. With this service, parents are able to take a break so burnout is averted. Conversely, respite will do the children good as well. If they spend a weekend away from the home and spend time with other foster children they can relate to, they will gain from the experience. It is necessary to plan a respite weekend properly, otherwise it might end up being a stressful experience.

Respite for foster parenting began as individual service agencies to sustain the exceptional care given by foster parents. In a number of programs, respite is a normal part of the family support package presented to foster families caring for children with special needs. Other agencies have presented respite to foster parents as an enticement to care for children who have medical problems or as a motivation to consider urgent situation placements. Even though foster placements are usually provisional, many children in foster care are adopted by their foster parents. When this happens, respite care support that was available during foster placement should be sustained.

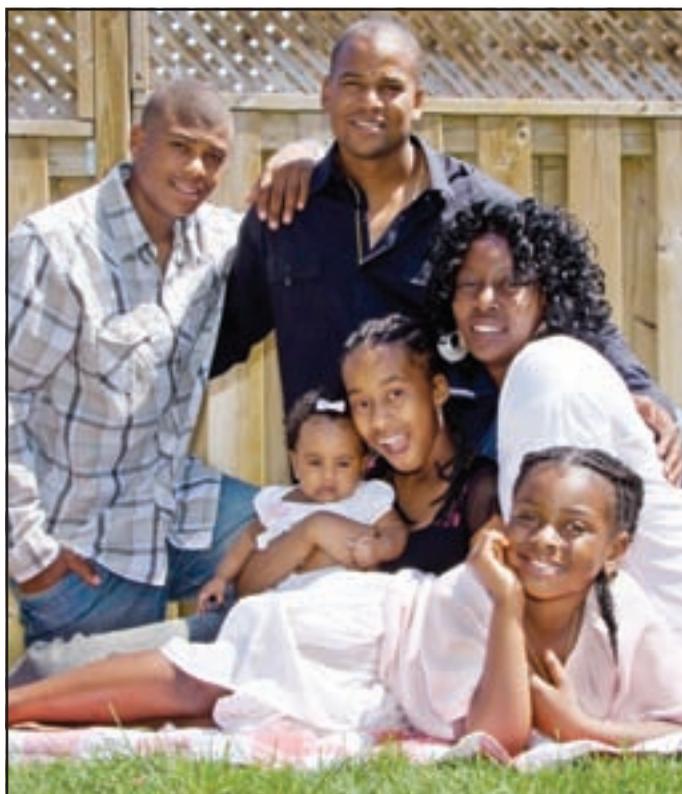
### Therapeutic foster care

Therapeutic foster care services are designed to provide a flawless system of behavioral healthcare to the children. These services give children who show signs of emotional and behavioral problems with steady care in a comfortable and warm environment.

The goal of therapeutic foster care is to offer each child the opportunity to get continual, stable treatment, healthy living conditions, and successful education to create an avenue to a successful life.

Foster parenting isn't for everyone, but is certainly worth exploring.

— Article Circle



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# LEARN TO EARN!

## EDUCATION & CAREER TRAINING

### Career trends you should know

ARA

Students graduating from college this year should expect better job opportunities and salaries than graduates from recent history, but that doesn't mean new graduates will have an easy time finding employment. Competition will still be fierce with hundreds of applications submitted for jobs in many industries, both from new graduates and former graduates still looking for work.

If you're graduating soon and seeking career opportunities, here are some employment trends to be aware of to stay on top of the career market:

•First, expect to change jobs numerous times in your career. In today's career world, job stability does not always equal job security. Employees change jobs about every five years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Reasons differ for many people, but could be due to changes in the industry, restructuring in the company, or because of lack of job growth within one company.

"The U.S. economy is fundamentally changing, and employees can no longer expect to work their way up the company ladder," says Brad Kuchenreuther, campus president at Everest Collegen Vancouver.

•Second, know where the jobs are. "Our nation is experiencing huge demographic and economic changes, which are creating major shifts in the types of jobs available today," says Mary Durall-Dupree, academic dean Everest. "Students should prepare themselves for a changing job market."

Current careers in need of employees include information technology, engineers, and accounting and finance, according to Fortune 500 magazine.

•Third, consider going back to school for additional career training. Today's job market requires that employees keep their skills current, and as a result, more and more adults are going back to school. "Students come to us to keep their skills up-to-date or get the credentials they need to advance in their careers," says Durall-Dupree. "They find that it is increasingly necessary in today's changing job market."

Careers that require education higher than a bachelor's degree are expected to have the fastest employment growth by 2020, according to the BLS. But several occupations in the medical field and the marketing industry which require associate or bachelor's degrees are also projected to grow rapidly through 2020. Going back to school for additional training, or earning a degree while already in the job are options for employees.

"Employers understand that a one- or two-year program can give new employees exactly the mix of academic learning and hands-on experience they need to excel in today's changing job market," says Kuchenreuther.

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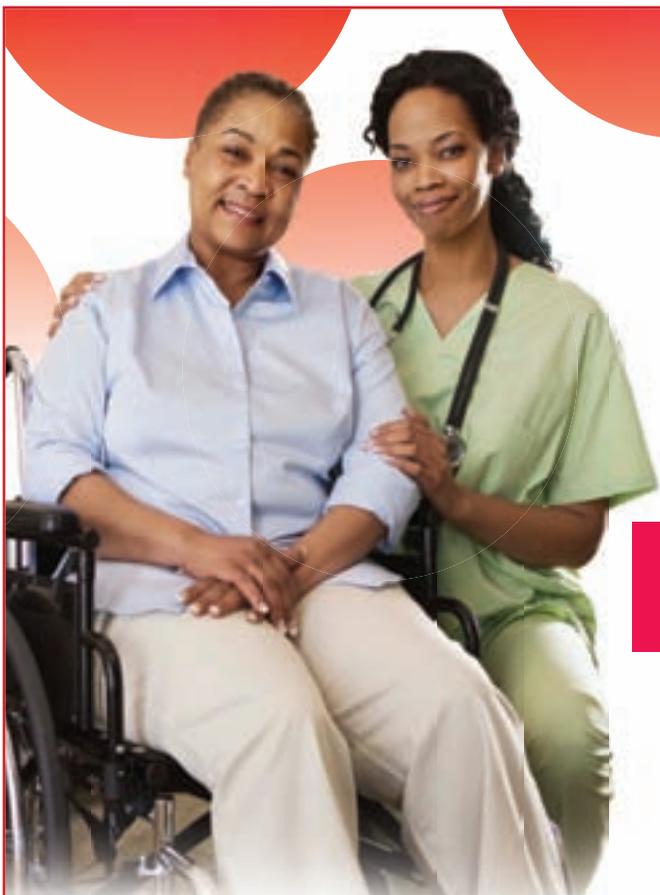
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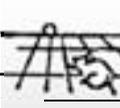
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