

# Caribbean Life

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**INSIDE: SPECIAL SECTION PAGES 27-33**

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## Garifuna Pride in The U.S.

By Chudi Chukwudi

Members of the Garifuna-American community of the U.S. Gulf Coast region in the city of Houston, Tx. joined fellow Garifunas across the country in the observance of National Garifuna Settlement, Education & Awareness Month, to celebrate Garifuna culture, history values and identity with events that included parades, forums and concerts.

Garifuna Settlement is the celebration of the arrival of the Garifuna people to Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua beginning in November 1802. They settled in Honduras on Apr. 12, 1797 after being exiled due to their resistance of British colonization in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The country of Belize, after being petitioned by community organizer, Thomas Vincent Ramos in 1942, proclaimed November 19 as "Garifuna Settlement Day" a holiday in the country. In the United States, the City of Los Angeles first began the celebrations in the 1960s and is now a national celebration of pride, culture, and identity of this community.

Cities across the country hosted

Continued on Page 3



Haiti's President Michel Martelly.

AP Photo/Guillermo Arias

# HAITI'S IN THE CHAIR

## Hosts first Caribbean summit

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean Community leaders will make history next month when they fly to finance-starved Haiti for their first ever full-fledged of regional leaders on Haitian soil.

President Michel Martelly who won a landslide in general elec-

tions in mid 2011 has bitten the bullet and decided that the time is more than ripe for Haiti to both hold a summit, try to sell the idea of regional integration to its people and move to play a more meaningful place in CARICOM.

The two-day meeting begins on

Continued on Page 4

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

## Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is projecting a 3.8 percent economic growth for the Caribbean in 2013.

This growth is, however, predicted on developments in the world economy – in particular the Eurozone crisis settling, China and India are increasing their consumption and the United States resolving its impending fiscal cliff.

“The picture taking shape is thus one of slow overall growth and continuing uncertainty, which may worsen should geopolitical tensions disrupt the functioning of certain critical markets, such as the petroleum markets,” the UN organization said in its preliminary overview of regional economies recently launched at ECLAC’s sub-regional head office in Port of Spain, Trinidad.



Caribbean countries are still on a fragile fiscal footing and need fiscal reform along with external support to firmly gain sustainable fiscal consolidation paths.

The outlook did not rule out a lower growth prospect, given external risks.

“The resilience Latin America and the Caribbean has shown thus far would be more severely tested. A growth slowdown in the U.S. would affect Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean,” the report said.

It is expected that overall growth in the Caribbean will be slightly better than last year, although the impact of Hurricane Sandy may have some spillover effects in 2013. This may see an increase in construction activity as well.

## Dominica

The attorney representing Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit has called for the resignation of all, but one member of the Integrity Commission, accusing them of being politically biased against his client.



Senior Counsel Anthony Astaphan is also threatening to boycott a sitting of the Commission probing allegations that Prime Minister Skerit used his



## Cuban Doctors Travel

In this July 18, 2012 file photo, just graduated doctors have their picture taken holding their diplomas after a graduation ceremony at the Karl Marx theater in Havana, Cuba. A Cuban doctor says the Caribbean nation is eliminating longstanding restrictions on health care professionals’ overseas travel as part of a broader migration reform. The doctor says hospital directors met Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 with Health Minister Roberto Morales and were told of the new policy, effective Jan. 14. See page 4.

position as chairman of Cabinet to approve concessions for a business venture in which he had an interest.

The enquiry which was due to begin in December has been put off to January, 2013.

“We are saying in the alternative that the Prime Minister ought to have been given the opportunity to be heard in that time,” Astaphan said, adding “we are saying that the allegation is based on a fundamentally false premise that the prime minister was present when the Cabinet decision was made, which is the sole allegation about the chairmanship of the Cabinet meeting,” he said.

The senior attorney claimed that there are people in the Commission who are affiliated politically to the (opposition) Dominica Freedom Party and to the United Workers Party and the recent events have propelled us to write to the commissioner of police demanding an investigation into the unauthorized use and publication of confidential information.

“A letter was also sent to the chairman of the Integrity Commission. We reserve the right on

behalf of the prime minister to demand that every single commissioner, other than the chairman of the Commission resign,” he added.

He said if any of the three named commissioners, whom he has accused to being politically biased “attempt to sit at the hearing, we are not going to participate at all at that hearing.”

## Guyana

Guyana remains loyal to its position of solidarity with Cuba to end the 50-year-old embargo against the Spanish-speaking island by the United States, President Donald Ramoutar said as Guyana and Cuba recently celebrated their 40th anniversary of bilateral relations.



During a reception to mark the occasion, Ramoutar said Guyana will continue to push for an end to the blockade. Signs of hope for a change came in 2009 when newly elected President Barack Obama spoke of a “new beginning” with Cuba during the Fifth Summit of

the Americas hosted in neighboring.

## Jamaica

One of Jamaica’s most popular reggae artistes from the 1980s, Eek-a-Mouse, is facing extradition to the United States.



Best known for the single “A wha do dem” as well as his signature mimic of a mouse, Eek-a-Mouse, whose given name is Ripton J. Hylton, is reportedly being deported from Paraguay to the United States.

U.S. law enforcement authorities say Eek-a-Mouse will then face extradition to North Carolina on four-year-old charges. It is reported that the reggae artiste left the U.S. sometime after his arrest on rape and narcotics charges in August 2008.

He has maintained his innocence since his arrest, but in 2010, he missed a court date in Dare County, North Carolina after flight cancelations in Europe related to volcanic ash. His lawyer said his absence was not intentional, however a warrant was issued for his

arrest with a US\$1 million bond for failure to appear.

Police said the reggae artiste was in custody awaiting extradition to North Carolina from Florida. According to investigators Eek-a-Mouse was found in Paraguay on Nov. 21 without a proper visa.

## St. Lucia



St. Lucia’s main opposition party, the United Workers Party (UWP), is calling on National Security Minister Victor La Corbiniere to make public his plan on crime prevention amid escalation of criminal activity on the island.

“The Minister of National Security must be reminded that his party’s election manifesto, ‘Blueprint for Growth,’ reads law and order will be the first pillar of development for our party when we get into office is to make St. Lucia safer,” said Opposition Leader Stephenson King.

“The question must be posed is whether after one year, St Lucians really feel safer?” he said.

In 2012 43 people were murdered.

The opposition is also calling on the government to outline the role now being played by former police commissioner Ausbert Regis who serves as special adviser to the government. King said as special adviser on crime and security, Regis was expected to play a significant role in advising the authorities on strategies and policies that would assist in combating the prevalence of violent crime on the island.

## Trinidad and Tobago

The commercial economic and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America has been in existence since the 1960s, a move which Cuban ambassador to Guyana Raul Gortyazar Marrero described as a strategy to isolate Cuba from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and the rest of the world in 1972. Guyana was one of the four Caricom nations to establish bilateral relations.



“During our own struggle to safeguard our independence and to build on the foundations for

Continued on Page 24

# Nevis goes to the polls

By Nelson A. King

The people of Nevis will go to the polls on Jan. 22 to elect a new administration, Premier Joseph Parry announced on Jan. 5, naming January 14 as Nomination Day.

"At this the start of 2013, we hold the future of our beloved island truly in our hands," said Parry in a 15-minute nationwide radio and television broadcast.

"There's much going on around us, as an island, a federation and a region, that we have little or no ability to determine," Parry said. "But there is the aspect of political, social and economic stability of Nevis, that we can very much influence; and here is where imminent general elections for a new Nevis Island Administration come into sharp focus."

Parry agreed to a snap poll instead of holding a by-election in the St. John's constituency after the High Court and the Court of Appeal ruled that the victory of his former deputy, Hensley Daniel

was voided last year.

The incumbent Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) held a one-seat majority over the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM), following the last NIA poll.

Daniel had won the seat by 14 votes, defeating the CCM's Deputy Leader Mark Brantley and giving the ruling party a slender 3-2 majority in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA).

Brantley had filed an election petition, charging widespread irregularity.

After a two-week trial in January last year, Justice Lionel Jones declared the election invalid.

The respondents, including Daniel, Parry, the Supervisor of Elections, Leroy Benjamin, and electoral officials Bernadette Lawrence and Kelvin Daley had argued during the trial that started in January that the results were free and fair based on existing regulations. Benjamin has since resigned from the post.

# Garifuna Pride in The U.S.

family events, music concerts, documentary premieres and the annual Garifuna Settlement mass to honor and pay tribute to the Hon. Thomas Vincent Ramos and ancestors. In addition, as part of Garifuna Settlement Month, Dec. 2 is known as Andy Palacio Day.

In his greeting letter commending the Garifuna-American community U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez from Chicago praised the community, writing that: "This is time to honor the history and contributions of this unique immigrant group to our city, state and nation."

Congressman Gutierrez is one of many local city, state and national leaders who honored Garifuna Settlement Education and Awareness Month.

"For more than two centuries, the Garifuna people have added greatly to the cultural pride and diversity in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean," wrote Texas State Sen. Rodney Ellis in the Texas State Senate Proclamation of Garifuna Settlement, Education and Awareness Month,

In New York, South Bronx Public Relations firm, Elite Carib, in association with SOB\* (Sounds of Brazil), hosted the Garifuna Settle-



Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

ment Red Carpet and Wani Entertainment Awards -- a sold out event that recognized the contributions of world music and Garifuna recording artists, Don Cuelar, Gx Team and El Unico

to world music and preservation of Garifuna culture and music. The SOB's event marks the first time a Garifuna entity sells out an iconic venue like SOB's, whose list of performing artists

includes the late Celia Cruz, Andy Palacio, Tito Puente and modern-day entertainers like Marc Anthony, Aventura and Jay Z.

See New York Garifuna Celebration, Page 34.

# Judge bucks NYPD stop 'n frisk trend

By Nelson A. King & Kenton K. Kirby

A federal district court judge in Manhattan, presiding over three significant stop-and-frisk lawsuits that could fundamentally change New York City's strategy for preventing street crimes, has determined that NYPD officers had systematically crossed the line by routinely stopping people outside the buildings without reasonable suspicion that they were trespassing and ordered the NYPD

"to cease performing trespass stops" outside vcer-tain private buildings in the program, unless officers have reasonable suspicion, a legal standard that requires officers to be acting on more than just a hunch.

Judge Shira A. Scheindlin's decision was the first U.S. federal ruling to find that the practice, under New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg administration, violates the Fourth Amendment protection against unrea-

Continued on Page 18

# Final rule on U.S. visas for relatives abroad

By Kingsley Dougan

A final ruling has been established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security regarding the length of time it should take to process visas allowing U.S. citizens separated from their immediate relatives abroad (spouse, children and parents) to unify in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Thursday, Jan. 3 that a final ruling has been determined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which had received more than 4,000 comments in response to an April 2, 2012 proposed rule and considered all of them

in preparing the final rule.

"The law is designed to avoid extreme hardship to U.S. citizens, which is precisely what this rule achieves," USCIS Director Mayorkas said. "The change will have a significant impact on American families by greatly reducing the time family members are separated from those they rely upon."

The final rule establishes a process that allows certain individuals to apply for a provisional unlawful presence waiver before they depart the United States to attend immigrant visa interviews in their countries of origin. The process will be effective on March

4, 2013 and more information about the filing process will be made available in the coming weeks at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

Under current law, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who are not eligible to adjust status in the United States to become lawful permanent residents must leave the U.S. and obtain an immigrant visa abroad. Individuals who have accrued more than six months of unlawful presence while in the United States must obtain a waiver to overcome the unlawful presence inadmissibility bar before they can return to the United States after departing to obtain

an immigrant visa. Under the existing waiver process, which remains available to those who do not qualify for the new process, immediate relatives cannot file a waiver application until after they have appeared for an immigrant visa interview abroad and the Department of State has determined that they are inadmissible.

In order to obtain a provisional unlawful presence waiver, the applicant must be an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, inadmissible only on account of unlawful presence, and demonstrate the denial of the waiver would result in extreme hardship to his or her U.S.

Continued on Page 18



A woman reads a passport application form as she waits in line outside an immigration office in Havana, Cuba, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. AP Photo/Franklin Reyes

# Freeing up Cuban doctors

By Andrea Rodriguez

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba is eliminating longstanding restrictions on health care professionals' overseas travel as part of a broader migration reform that takes effect next week, an island doctor told The

Associated Press on Monday.

Hospital directors learned of the new policy, which takes effect Jan. 14, in a Saturday meeting with Health Minister Roberto Morales and word of the change was relayed

in hospital staff meetings, according to the doctor, who attended one of the subsequent gatherings.

The minister's directive: "A doctor will be treated like any other citizen starting now and can exit free-

Continued on Page 36

# Haiti's first Caricom summit

Continued from cover

Feb. 19.

Haiti is the last nation to join the group in 2002 at the summit in Guyana but problems ranging from the effects of devastating annual hurricanes, persistent poverty and the January 2010 earthquake have conspired to undermine previous attempts to hold a summit or key high level meetings on the island of about 10 million.

Haiti is easily the most populous of the CARICOM member states and only Jamaica's with 2.6 million has a population of any international significance.

Most of Martelly's colleagues say they will attend the annual mid-year or so-called intersessional summit that precedes the main one normally held in rotating venues in July.

Martelly, incidentally, is also the first Haitian head of state to hold the six-month job as chairman of CARICOM, a position he assumed at the beginning of this month after St. Lucia's Kenneth Anthony, host of last July's summit, ended his own half year term at the end of December.

Officials at the Guyana-based secretariat said that apart from the recurring themes like efforts to forge a single market and economy, free travel, a perennial but lame discussion of a common currency and threats to regional industries such as rum, the main agenda item could be the restructuring of CARICOM's headquarters and its ministerial and other institutions.

The issue was first raised at the mid-year summit in Suriname in March of last year when leaders looked at

the report of a consultancy group which was hired to study regional bodies, the secretariat and come up with recommendations for improvement.

Secretary General, Dominica-born Irwin LaRocque, said recently there is little doubt that restructuring is the region's main focus for this year.

"We have already lined up the necessary resources to get it done and I intend to start in earnest the change process or the transformation process that our heads have mandated. With the assistance of DFLD we have been able to engage a change facilitator who will be advising me on the way forward. But the change process and the leadership of the change process rest with me. So it's going to occupy a significant amount of time," he said.

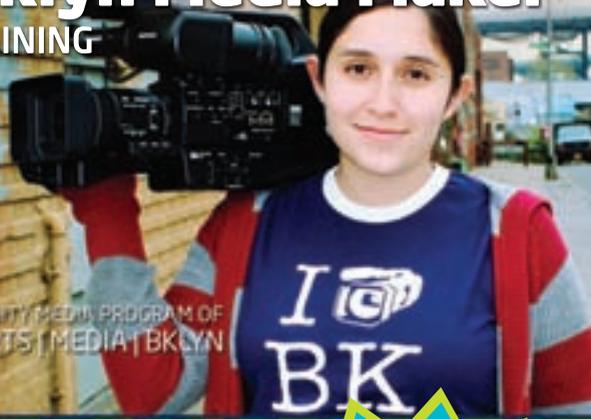
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# Grenada signs economic agreement with China

**By Nelson A. King**

The government of Grenada and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have signed an economic and technical agreement valued at US\$4.8 million.

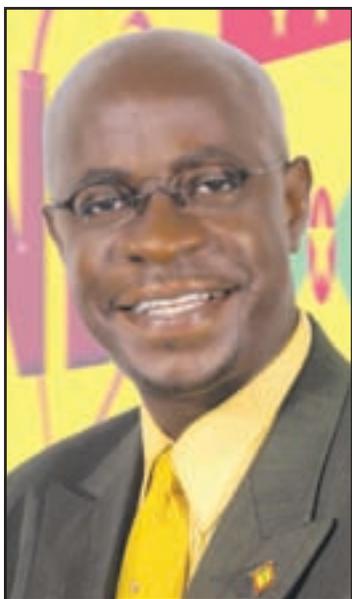
Grenada's Minister for Finance Nazim Burke and Ambassador of the PRC to Grenada, Xu Jianguo signed the agreement.

"On behalf of the government, I wish to place on record our profound gratitude to the government and people of the People's Republic of China for its continued financial support in assisting us to meet the needs of our people," Burke said.

He said the grant will go towards projects that were agreed upon by the two governments, according to a Grenada government statement.

Burke said the agreement is an indication of the ongoing friendly relations between the two countries.

Meantime, as part of the con-



Minister for Finance Nazim Burke.

Grenada will benefit from three training courses to be conducted during the first quarter of 2013.

Two police officers will each attend a course in information technology (IT) in law enforcement and advance fingerprinting and computers from Jan. 7 to March 29, 2013 in India.

The Grenada Department of Labor will benefit from a training and development program, entitled "Development of Employment Policy for Sustainable Economic Development and Improvement in Workers Welfare, from Jan. 16 to Feb. 2, 2013.

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas said, "The priority for my administration is the development of our human resource. We continue to work with international partners and friendly governments to secure opportunities for our people to fulfill their potential and improve the quality of service to our people."

tinuing corporation between the Grenada government and India,

# Gambling referendum

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — The government of the Bahamas says it has prepared a two-part referendum that could legalize certain forms of gambling on the islands.

National Security Minister Bernard Nottage says voters will be asked whether they support creation of a national lottery and the regulation and taxation of now-underground gambling center centers.

He said in a speech late Wednesday that the referendum will be

held on Jan. 28.

Bahamians currently are barred from gambling in casinos at the islands' resorts. But many go to underground gambling centers called "web shops" to bet on numbers in televised U.S. lotteries.

Prime Minister Perry Christie has said the measure would generate \$20 million a year in taxes if approved.

However, he faces fierce opposition from a powerful church lobby that condemns gambling.

# Three U.S. tourists die in traffic accident in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police in Jamaica say three tourists from the U.S. have died in a traffic collision on the island's north coast.

Authorities say the women were killed when their car crashed into a minibus just east of Montego Bay on Wednesday. The victims were identified as 76-year-old Gloria Capleton of Brooklyn, New York and 53-year-old Claudette Grand and

34-year-old Vanessa Brown of Marlboro, Maryland.

Police say the driver of the car carrying the women is hospitalized but expected to recover. They say another passenger in the car received medical treatment and was released, along with the driver and several passengers of the minibus.

Police said Thursday that they are investigating what caused the accident.

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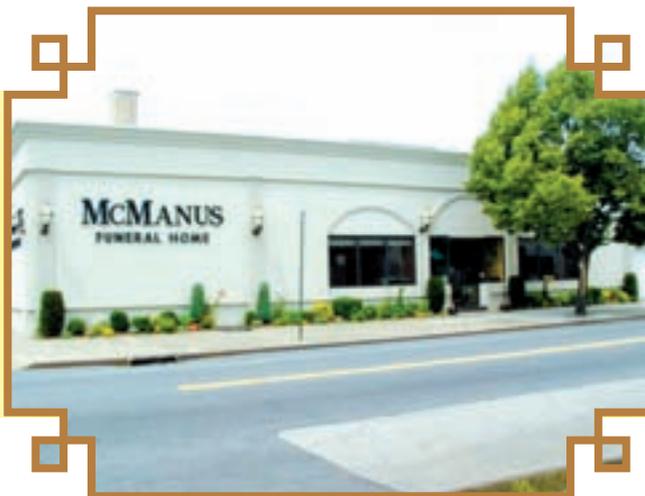
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# Put EPP back into the bids now!

## To The Editor:

If Bloomberg and company really care about busing our children properly in the short term and in the long term, they can legally place EPP back into the bids. In fact, the only reason EPP is not yet required in all school bus contracts is that they had Cuomo veto a bill that passed the State Assembly and Senate in 2011.

If the Mayor's DOE has the will to bus disabled children properly, they will find the means. Consider all the families who rearrange their time and budget priorities to make sure our children's needs are met.

The December letter to parents and guardians on DOE stationery stepped up the 'spin' about legalities and safety. Here is what PIST thinks: We have one outgoing mayor, who has other careers, saying that EPP cannot be in the bids. However, three mayoral candidates whose public credibility is at stake said on Dec. 23 that EPP can and should be put back into those bids. EPP is the prevailing way of doing business in grades K-12, and this method of seniority passed a major audit in 1995. The city could have easily beaten the case that they are citing as an excuse to deny job security to our experienced bus crews.

If the Mayor and DOE really want to prevent a temporary disruption of our children's education, they would stop talking nonsense about Metrocards, and put EPP back into the bids NOW!

If they really care about safety, they would not open up the field of school transportation to Walmart-like subcontracting and downsizing. Flashback: September 2012—Long twisted bus routes for pre-K students were given to new companies that couldn't handle the job. City Hall and Tweed still brag about the "competitive bidding" that led to this disaster. Flash forward: September 2015—According to new bid package there could be 40 children with and without disabilities bused together with no more than one attendant. Corporate thinkers may call that productivity, but families and educators call that CHAOS.

If City Hall and Tweed really respect parents, they would stop telling us that they know what's best, and start seeking our input and questions on the way good busing is defined to both old and new companies. They would not be (a) testifying that bus conditions are fine and then walking out when it's the parents' turn to testify (10/10/2012); (b) telling parent leaders on the phone and in writing that there's no place for us in a pre-Bid conference (1/2/2013).

Between the unions and the DOE, we can tell who has a common interest with parents and who is talking down to us. ATU 1181-1061 supports a School Bus Bill of Rights; in fact, their insights added to what PIST had already learned from NYC par-

Continued on Page 12

# Is it midnight in Havana?

By Yoani Sánchez

HAVANA — Just outside the Virgin of Regla temple, here in Havana, a fortune-teller throws shells for passersby in exchange for money. Every day she gets the same questions: Will they find love? Will they be able to buy a home? Will they be able to travel in the near future? And above all, when will "this" end?

With a simple demonstrative pronoun, the fortune-teller's clients refer to what some call "the revolution," others, "the dictatorship," but what most simply refer to as "The System." It's a difficult question for the white-turbaned woman with her intensely red nails to answer with any specificity, partly because she can never be sure if the questioner is a State Security agent in civilian dress. So she looks at the position of each shell and says, in barely a whisper, "Soon. It will be soon."

It's increasingly obvious that the biological clock of the Cuban government — a slow and agonizing journey of the hands that has lasted 54 years — is closing in on midnight. Every minute that passes brings obsolescence a little nearer. The existence of a political system should not be

## Cuba's current political model will not outlive its leaders.

so closely linked to the youth or decrepitude of its leaders, but in the case of our island, both ages have come to be the same thing.

Like a creature made in the image and likeness of a man — who believes himself to be God — Cuba's current political model will not outlive its creators. Every decision made over the past five decades, every step taken in one direction or another, has been marked by the personalities and decisions of a handful of human beings — two of them in particular. One, Fidel Castro, 86, has been convalescing for six long years in a place few Cubans could find on a map.

Although in the last five years Fidel's brother Raúl, 81, has installed some younger faces in the administrative and governmental apparatus, the most important decisions remain concentrated in the hands of octogenarians. (Raúl's successor, Jose Ramon Machado, is 82.)

Like a voracious Saturn devouring his children, the principal leaders of the revolution have not allowed any favored sons to overshadow them.

The last to be ousted due to the paranoia of the Castro brothers were Vice President Carlos Lage, a figure who enjoyed popular sympathy, and the foreign minister Felipe Perez Roque. Both might have made promising successors, but were accused by Fidel Castro himself as having been "addicted to the honey of power" and removed from their positions in 2009.

Their own selfishness has left Cuban leaders without a plan for succession and time has run out to develop it, at least one not sincerely committed to continuing along the path set by old men dressed in olive green.

For Raúl, the picture is worrisome, and he has declared that "time is short" to ready the generation that will replace him and his comrades. In 2013, he will be forced to accelerate this process, and his obvious desperation about the future is contributing to the ideological weakening and the loss of whatever popular support the Castro

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# Understanding the NYC Workforce

## To The Editor:

Workforce Professionals Training Institute (WPTI) invites guests to the New York Times building for a breakfast event about results from a survey of over 180 front line workforce development staff. This staff is often overlooked in the nonprofit arena, but the services they provide are key to helping thousands of NYC jobseekers find gainful employment and a pathway out of poverty. The survey of front line staff and additional interviews/focus groups with their managers were conducted by WPTI with the assistance of the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI), and the results are outlined in a report entitled Deep in the Trenches that will ignite an important conversation

about implications for the future of the workforce development field and set the stage for WPTI's new strategic direction. Highlights of what will be discussed include surprising demographic information about front line staff and insights about retention, professional development, and performance measures.

Sharon Sewell-Fairman, newly installed executive director at WPTI, will join Amy Landesman (formerly of WPTI) and James Parrot of FPI in a conversation facilitated by Sheila Maguire (formerly of Public/Private Ventures) regarding the findings and recommendations from the report. The recommendations are geared towards creating the essential supports for professional development,

retention and advancement, and performance management in the workforce development field.

Founded in 2004, WPTI ([www.workforceprofessionals.com](http://www.workforceprofessionals.com)) is a high energy, cutting-edge, professional training and consulting organization that gives New York City workforce professionals the skills, confidence, and motivation to excel in every aspect of their work. WPTI is the first nonprofit training provider in New York State focused exclusively on professional development for the workforce development field. Each year, approximately 800 line- and managerial-staff from community-based organizations, community colleges and public workforce agencies ben-

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# Caribbean Life

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

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
**NYPA**

**PUBLISHER:** Clifford Luster  
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**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Kevin Williams

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

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

# Civility's ogres, they cast Sandy's victims adrift

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, ran into quite a firestorm recently when he opted to delay a vote on Hurricane Sandy relief funds that had already been acted on by the Senate. Democrats were predictably upset but so too were some Republicans, more so from Sandy-ravaged areas, including Rep. Peter King of Long Island and New Jersey's governor, Chris Christie. King seemed to walk back some of his criticism after Boehner, apparently under pressure, scheduled a vote for a partial aid package. Christie, however, gave no impression of being inclined to let up on the steam he initially emitted. But that's probably at least in part another (political) story. Of greater significance, though, the Sandy relief situation evidenced more of the social/political schism in this country and with it, a meanness brazenly packaged as all in good faith by self-styled guardians of the public purse.

Boehner's move to go with a vote on a \$9 billion plus first-phase of the \$60 billion in relief requested passed by a solid majority, 354 members giving it a thumbs up; but curiosity naturally centered on 67 "no" votes. Among the latter,

there was invariably the patronizing claptrap about being sympathetic to Sandy's victims and being of a mind to help them, but...One of the non-supporting congressmen from the South spelled it out for the conservative media screamers: aid for disaster victims is a non-starter so long as it's adding to the national debt. What a crock! In the god-awful event of a President Romney requesting billions to further balloon the defense budget, per his promise on the campaign trail, we know full well there'd be not a peep out of these card-carrying hawks. The wonder is why some of them bother to continue the charade of dissembling concern for such as suffered Sandy's rampage.

A representative of the conservative Club for Growth was on MSNBC the other day, parroting the same tired preface about caring for those whom Sandy had blindsided... which clearly amounted to not a whole lot, as his organization lobbied Congressional Republicans not to vote for the Sandy relief appropriation. Here was another shameless, indeed proud mouthpiece for heartless governmental rejection of the idea that there's merit in showing compassion to people whose

## Viewpoint

By Les Slater

lives, in a few hours of nature's fury, became chaotically unraveled. Undertaking such expenditure, said the Club for Growth guy, on which the government will not see any kind of return, is policy his outfit will not support. Which prompted fellow MSNBC guest Ron Reagan to sarcastically remark that the Club for Growth must have been beside itself with anger over the jumbo-size mess George W. Bush and his inner circle of neon warmongers embarked on in Iraq.

This standing rule among conservatives where there's virtually no Pentagon-related expenditure that shouldn't automatically earn "sacred cow" protection, contrasted with a response to social spending that is precisely the opposite, truly casts them as civility's ogres. Not that this creates any worry warts in the camp. There's so frequently an accompanying disingenuousness, though, that makes this hard-line demeanor tough to abide.

The fixation on "entitlements," for one thing, during the non-stop speechifying about cutting the deficit, always seems to conveniently ignore that two of the favorite whipping boys, Social Security and Medicare, are insurance programs that people pay into to hopefully derive benefits down the road. Yet the "entitlements" (translation: "hand-outs") battle cry drones on ad infinitum, the coded reference hardly a mystery, especially emanating from some of the more abrasively intolerant right-flank players. Nor is there, conspicuously, acknowledgment ever made that those unpaid for George Bush wars in Iraq and Afghanistan account for a huge chunk of the national debt.

There are obviously no boundaries to the ridiculous extremes to which the conservative element is prepared to push for its version of the way forward. In their tactics to gain the upper hand by sheer brute force, if need be, the will of the people is a secondary or even non-existent consideration. Through those broken lenses, President Obama's having handily won reelection in November, for example, is but a footnote, not the most significant political development of 2012.

So thanks primarily to a bunch of netherworld characters in the House, whose business clearly is at odds with the people's, the fiscal cliff nightmare scenario is made to run to the threshold of absolute governmental dysfunction. On the heels of which come some of the very loonies running off about shutting down the government being a good thing.

Maybe because the jokers making these preposterous noises aren't yet of a league to be taken even half seriously, efforts toward sidelining their circus act are probably not yet a talking point at this stage. They're playing with fire, though, one of these crackpots intimating a few days ago that he and his Newt Gingrich-led government shut-down band back in the 90s influenced the balanced budgets and surpluses of the Clinton administration. Some gall, that. It is not yet so, but it may well rise to where it becomes necessary for Bill Clinton to take these one-note truants to school.

In the face of all that these folks have been shown to proudly stand for, one question above all lingers: Are we sufficiently concerned that there are disparate slices of the electorate altogether comfortable with this representation?

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# Midnight in the Cuban capital

Continued from page 10

regime still enjoys.

Meanwhile, Castro's tentative economic reforms are also contributing to the loss of control over the population. Together, the expansion of the private sector, the imposition of taxes, the distribution of land leases to farmers, and the authorization of cooperatives in businesses other than agriculture, are gradually reducing the state's influence in the daily life of Cubans.

Raúl may see these as a desperation move to jumpstart the Cuban economy, but one consequence will be the diminished ideological commitment of the people to a government that provides fewer and fewer subsidies and benefits. Every step the authorities take in the direction of greater flexibility is like pointing a loaded gun at their own temples.

A system based on keeping every tiny aspect of our national life under tight control cannot maintain itself when some of these bonds are loosened. Reform is the death of the status quo and maneuvers to guarantee financial survival by opening the system to private capital are a death sentence written in advance.

The year 2013 will be a decisive

one in Cuba's move from economic centralism to the fragmentation of production, from absolute verticality to its dismantling. Those who cease to receive their salaries from a state institution and come to support their families through self-employment will undoubtedly gain more political autonomy.

Despite the best efforts of the political police, the opposition today is more energized than it has been since the so-called Black Spring of 2003 — when 75 regime opponents were rounded up, most sentenced to long prison terms. Although 2012 closed with the unfortunate loss of Oswaldo Paya, the leading figure of the Christian Liberation Movement, other faces are beginning to gain prominence. The number of activists is increasing — and they are bringing fresh, modern ideas to the struggle.

An emerging community of alternative bloggers and performance artists is blending social criticism into its creations, and increasingly bold musicians are using the lyrics of hip hop and reggaeton to narrate a reality far removed from the official discourse. Meanwhile, alternative information networks, including Twitter and other social networks via mobile phones, are helping to break

the state's monopoly on opinion and to communicate the truth about what is happening on our island to the rest of the world.

The aging of the nomenclatura, the growing opposition, and the expansion of the private sector are not the only influences that will weaken the system in 2013. The worsening health of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez is a catalyst for collapse. In the absence of his great patron — and provider of subsidized petroleum — in Caracas, Raúl will have to speed up economic reforms even more quickly to spur growth, further weakening the Communist Party's authority. The emergence of their Venezuelan acolyte was a godsend to the Castros, who lost their original benefactor with the collapse of Soviet communism. But there doesn't appear to be another country on the horizon willing to shoulder the burden of 42,000 square miles and its 11 million inhabitants.

U.S. President Barack Obama will also have a part to play. If the United States finally lifts — or softens — its decades-long embargo, it may give the government a temporary financial respite. But on the other hand, such a move would also take away the Castro regime's favorite political excuse for its economic failures.

# EPP bids

Continued from page 10

Black, who said that Special Education is expensive, and school staff about what would make busing better and safer. The Mayor's DOE is steadily chipping away at the transportation rights our children do have, by creating the circumstances for a much lower quality of service.

We remember Cathleen

Black, who said that Special Education is expensive, and told parents who have complaints about busing to take a cab. What has Michael Bloomberg done lately to prove that his philosophy is any different from that?

*Parents to Improve School Transportation pistnyc@gmail.com 347-504-3310 (se habla español)*

# NYC Workforce

Continued from page 10

efit from WPTI's rich interactive style, practical information and real-world workforce expertise to achieve outstanding results for low-income individuals and disadvantaged jobseekers struggling to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

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and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all new Yorkers. Founded in 1991, FPI works to create a strong economy in which prosperity is broadly shared. FPI's Immigration Research Initiative looks at immigration issues in New York State, and around the country.

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# Kirani is our Person of the Year

By Herman Hall

Media outlets generally consider politicians first when evaluating individuals who are eligible to be "Person of the Year." TIME Magazine, which started the Person of the Year honor, frequently chooses politicians and statespersons.

For 2012, in the Caribbean, the task was easy. There was no Anglophone head of government deserving to be Person of the Year. It was difficult to spot a prime minister with vision, creativity, and the will to enhance Caricom. It was politics as usual.

The next group of Caribbean nationals where it was possible to find a Person of the Year was within the entertainment fraternity. Every year they do more for the region than politicians. Jamaica's reggae artists such as Beenie Man, members of the Marley family, Beres Hammond and others continue to have successful concerts and attract international audiences. Yet, in 2012 there was no artist who was a cut above the rest or committed to extraordinary humanitarian causes.

Forget about calypso and soca artists! Machel Montano was the only artist worth considering but

he too falls far short. The Caribbean brightest moments in 2012 were during the London Olympic Games when regional Olympians, regardless of island they hailed from, generated support of Caribbean nationals around the world in particular and the global community in general.

At the Jamaican Independence Ball in New York City celebrating the 50th anniversary of Jamaica as a nation, Prime Minister Portia Simpson congratulated Trinidad & Tobago, The Bahamas and Grenada for the gold medals their athletes brought home. She was extremely ecstatic.

An Olympian deserves to be The Caribbean Person of the Year for 2012 and some may think it a no-brainer to say it should be EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year for 2008, Usain Bolt. Today, Usain Bolt, like Muhammad Ali, is highly respected, most admired and very popular around the world. Bolt's achievement in London is still mesmerizing and indescribable. If this magazine's Person of the Year were based on the number of gold medals won and magical achievements then Usain Bolt would be our Person of the Year.

There are other factors worth considering and this leads us to Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad & Tobago and Kirani James of Grenada.

Walcott became the first non-European to win an Olympic Gold Medal in men's javelin since 1952. It was astounding since it is not a field blacks and the western hemisphere excel in. Walcott became only the second Trinbagonian to win gold in the Olympics.

Given its limited resources, the small nation of Grenada cannot afford to fund training of its athletes and often it's ordinary citizens who spearhead the effort to send athletes on the world stage to gain experience. Such is the path that Kirani James followed.

Track and field has not been in the blood of Grenada fans when compared to Jamaicans who will climb mountains to support their athletes. For example, during the last four or five years, Grenada has participated in the popular Penn Relays held in Pennsylvania but it is easy to count the few Grenada flags at the Penn Relays. The first year Kirani James entered the Penn Relays an EVERYBODY'S representative met a high level New York-based Grenada gov-

ernment official and asked if he had attended the Penn Relays to support the Grenada contingency and he replied, "What is the Penn Relays?"

The world heard of Kirani James when he won the 400m event at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu, South Korea. He became the youngest world champion ever of this race. A few days later, he repeated his success in Zurich, Switzerland. Preparing for the London Olympics was a challenge for James. In order not to violate his immigration status as a student in the U.S., he was unable to take time off from school to train whereas American athletes were allowed to curtail school affording them time to prepare for the Games.

The pressure was mounting on James to win gold in London. He was the world's champion and favorite. Moreover, James had the burden of not disappointing Grenadians. They depended on him to get tiny Grenada its first Olympic medal. Most people may have cracked under this demand. Not James. He easily won the Olympic Gold Medal. In tipping his hat to James, the great Olympian Michael Johnson, who owns the 400m Olympic record, said that



Grenada's Kirani James. AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus

James can smash it. Given all the barriers Kirani James has endured and surmounted; his uplifting comments and conduct off the field plus the prestige he has brought to Grenada and the small islands of the Eastern Caribbean, Kirani James is EVERYBODY'S, the Caribbean-American magazine, Person of the Year.

*Herman Hall is publisher of Everybody's.*

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# Haiti president new chairman of CARICOM

By Azad Ali

Haiti's President Michel Martelly has taken over the Chairmanship of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) from St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony. He will serve for six months from Jan. 1 to July 1.

The impoverished country has assumed the Chair for the first time since joining the regional integration movement in 1999 and has promised to promote sustainable development policies based on an effective cooperation strategy according to President Martelly.

Martelly in a statement issued by the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana on Jan. 2, 2013 said: "Haiti gladly embraces this opportunity to provide leadership to the integration process for the next six

months and looks forward to help strengthen the Caribbean Community."

For the first time Haiti will also host an inter-sessional meeting of the regional heads of governments – the XXIV Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads of State, which will be held in February.

In providing leadership to the integration process, Martelly said he would build on the "sterling work" of Anthony and would seek the support of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who is the third member of the Bureau of Prime Ministers.

The Bureau comprises the immediate past chairman, the current chairman and the incoming chairman.

Trinidad and Tobago is due to take over the chairmanship from July 1 and is expected to host this year's CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in July.

Referring to Haiti's role in CARICOM, Martelly said Haiti must accelerate its integration into CARICOM and is committed to doing so during his tenure as chairman.

Noting that Haiti has assumed office in the year that CARICOM will celebrate its 40th year of existence, and when Haiti was marking its 209 Independence anniversary under the banner of freedom and unity, Martelly said it was also in unity and regional integration that all member states can overcome serious economic, environmental and social challenges facing CARICOM.

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# Expert shows how to build biz using social capital

By Nelson A. King

“Heal the world. Make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race,” words of the late Michael Jackson ring true in the message Vincentian expatriate and Greenwich, CT resident, Stacia Morris, conveys to New Yorkers needing advice on how to make it in business in the 21st Century.

Building social capital is paramount in “giving back to your community,” Morris said. “As you give to one or two people, they give to one or two people,” and “your influence,” and as a result “your social capital expands exponentially,” she added.

That’s in her DNA, the financial literacy expert disclosed as she delivered the feature address at a recent gala awards ceremony of the Internet-based group, VincyCares, at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

Morris, a management consultant and author of “Teen Money 101 is urging nationals in the pursuit of business success, to build up their social capital as part of their legacy.

From lessons learned at home as a child, Morris always considered giving back to the community a necessary endeavor. “Be



Stacia Morris (R) receives a bouquet of flowers from Helen Mascoll, assistant secretary of VincyCares.

Photo by Nelson A. King

someone’s angel,” she urged. “Be a tutor, be a mentor, be someone’s angel, be there for someone – whatever their age.”

While it is easier to give money and support functions like the gala events, “it’s harder to give time,

consistent time.” But, she said, everyone should still endeavor to “touch a life” in the effort to build “better communities.”

Borrowing a quote from author Albert Pine, Morris reminded her audience that what they did for them-

selves dies with them, but that what they did for others “remained immortal.”

Going back to Michael Jackson, Morris reminded listeners that: “There are people dying” but that “if they cared enough enough for the living, it would

“make a better place for you and for me.”

The breadth of Morris’s professional accomplishments beyond the elite Girls High School in Kingstown, includes: Fortune 500 business executive, management consultant, financial literacy author and international speaker. Her areas of expertise have included global consulting, global lease finance, information technology services, global business transformation and change management.

Morris, who spent most of her corporate career at IBM Corporation in a variety of capacities; the most interesting of which involved developing leasing businesses with extensive travel throughout Latin America.

Morris holds a post-MBA Certificate in Accounting and an MBA in Computer Information Systems. She earned her bachelor of arts in economics at the University of the West Indies.

Civic duties have long driven her desire to “give back.” Her volunteer activities have included work with Junior Achievement; Women’s Business Development Center; Pace University’s Career Center; treasurer and member of the Board of Directors at the Greenwich, CT, Young Women Christian

Association (YWCA); United Way of Greenwich; and Literacy Volunteers of America. As a volunteer, Morris said she noted the lack of financial literacy education in schools’ curricula.

As founder of “Your Money TREK (YMT),” Morris said her organization specializes in financial literacy education through the use of publications, seminars, workshops, symposia, and other speaking engagements. She said YMT’s vision is to take financial literacy worldwide.

“YMT believes in empowering students to understand financial principles, vocabulary and solutions to common financial challenges,” Morris said.

“The organization’s desire is to improve the quality of life of peoples everywhere; and that is why it starts with educating teens and young adults, to influence their money management habits from a young age,” she added.

Morris was honored during a “Teen Money 101,” feature on ABC’s “Here and Now” in December 2011.

Her passion for teaching and improving the lives of others is reflected in all of her pursuits, from the workplace to the community.

## SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

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### NYC Small Business Resource Center | The New York Public Library

smallbiz.nypl.org

### Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

### Small Business - Business First - New York State

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

### 2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide\_3135.pdf

### Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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

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

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

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

### Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneynewyork.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php  
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners – and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

### Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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

### Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

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

### Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm  
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# NYPD

Continued from page 3

sonable search and seizure. It focused on police stops conducted in front of several thousand private residen-

tial buildings in the Bronx enrolled in the "Trespass Affidavit Program."

In her ruling, the judge aimed much of the criticism at the training the Police Department provides officers, which she said suggested sidesteps the Fourth

Amendment. She said much of the evidence in the case "strengthens the conclusion that the NYPD's inaccurate training has taught officers the following lesson: Stop and question first, develop reasonable suspicion later."

"If New York City has any sense, it will use this ruling as an opportunity to start a wholesale reform of stop and frisk," said Christopher T. Dunn, a lawyer for the New York Civil Liberties Union, one of the groups representing the plaintiffs.

Property managers in that program have asked the police to patrol their buildings and to arrest trespassers.

"While it may be difficult to say where, precisely, to draw the line between constitutional and unconstitutional police encounters, such a line exists, and the NYPD has systematically crossed it when making trespass stops outside TAP buildings in the Bronx," Judge Scheindlin ruled.

Observers say while the judge's decision applies to only one of the lawsuits, *Ligon v. the City of New York*, the cases share some core constitutional issues.

NYPD commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly, who has rejected the ruling, contends that the program, also known as Clean Halls, gave residents of the Bronx buildings "a modicum of safety for less prosperous tenants. Their landlords explicitly requested this extra level of protection."

Then judge's decision, Kelly contends, that it unnecessarily interferes with the department's efforts to use all of the crime-fighting tools necessary to keep Clean Halls buildings safe and secure," he said.

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams, himself a victim of an unlawful arrest during the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade, has hailed a judge's decision to strike down part of the New York Police Department's (NYPD) "stop-and-frisk" practice.

"I thank Judge Scheindlin for standing up to the abuses of the stop, question and frisk tactic and standing up for the residents of the Bronx who have been unfairly targeted and unjustly arrested," Williams, who was illegally arrested by the NYPD during the West

Indian American Carnival Parade two years ago, told Caribbean Life.

"As a former tenant organizer, I actually support the existence of programs like 'Clean Halls,' which promote a stronger relationship between communities and the police and make tenants feel safer," the representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn added.

"However, because of the NYPD's overzealous behavior, trust has degraded to the point that it is difficult to discern worthwhile initiatives," he continued. "I believe that this will improve the great work that most of 'New York's Finest' already do every day, by revising training measures and better defining when it is proper to conduct a stop, question and frisk," he said.

Williams said the judge's ruling was a "legal victory" that, "hopefully, augers well for the battles to come. "Ultimately, we must seek a complete end to the NYPD's current policy towards stop, question and frisk and pursue a public safety strategy that ensures better policing and safer streets for all," he added.

# U.S. Visas

Continued from page 3

citizen spouse or parent. USCIS will publish a new form, Form I-601A, Application for a Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver, for individuals to use when applying for a provisional unlawful presence waiver under the new process.

Under the new provisional waiver process, immediate relatives must still depart the United States for the consular immigrant visa process; however, they can apply for a provisional waiver before they depart for their immigrant visa interview abroad. Individuals who file the Form I-601A must notify the Department of State's National Visa Center that they are or will be seeking a provisional waiver from USCIS. The new process will reduce the amount of time U.S. citizen are separated from their qualifying immediate relatives. Details on the process changes are available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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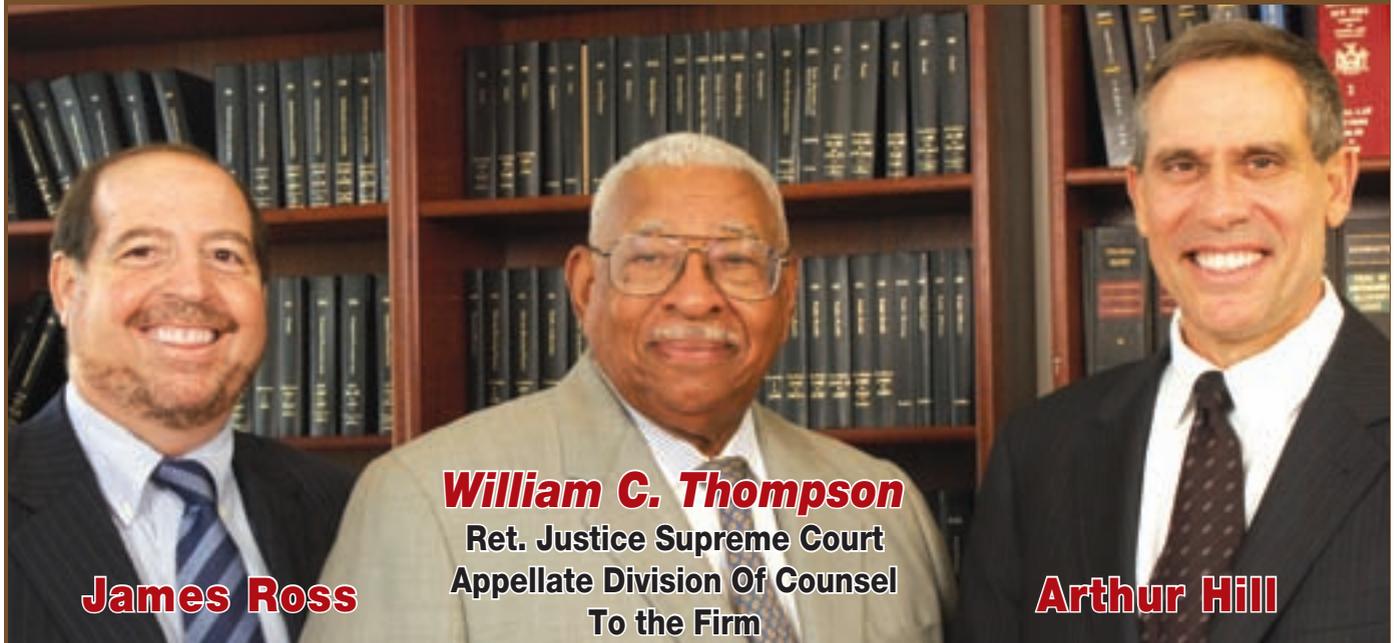
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# Resolve to quit smoking in the New Year

(StatePoint) It's at the top of many New Year's resolution lists -- quitting smoking. In fact, 15 million people try to quit smoking cigarettes yearly. Only 5 percent succeed when they use no support or go cold turkey. Moreover, the average smoker will attempt to quit up to nine times before successfully quitting.

Luckily there are new tips and tools that can help smokers kick the habit this year.

In an effort to empower the more than 45 million current U.S. smokers to call it quits, Glaxo-SmithKline Consumer Healthcare has launched Quit.com, a free, total quit-smoking online resource with tools to help smokers quit their cigarette addictions and stay smoke-free.

Every smoker is different; therefore every smoker's approach to quitting may need to be different. Quit.com houses personalized tools in a central location to help smokers navigate quitting smoking, no matter where they may be

## HEALTH

in their quit journey.

Here are some tips from the experts at Quit.com to help smokers quit their nicotine addiction in the New Year:

- **Preparing to Quit:** First pick your quit date. By having a day you're working toward, you'll be able to prepare mentally and physically to quit. Do your research on how to be prepared before getting started.

- **Ready to Quit:** Support your quit by reducing your body's physical cravings so they don't get in the way of your willpower. Consider using a nicotine replacement product that fits your lifestyle, such as a gum, lozenge or patch.

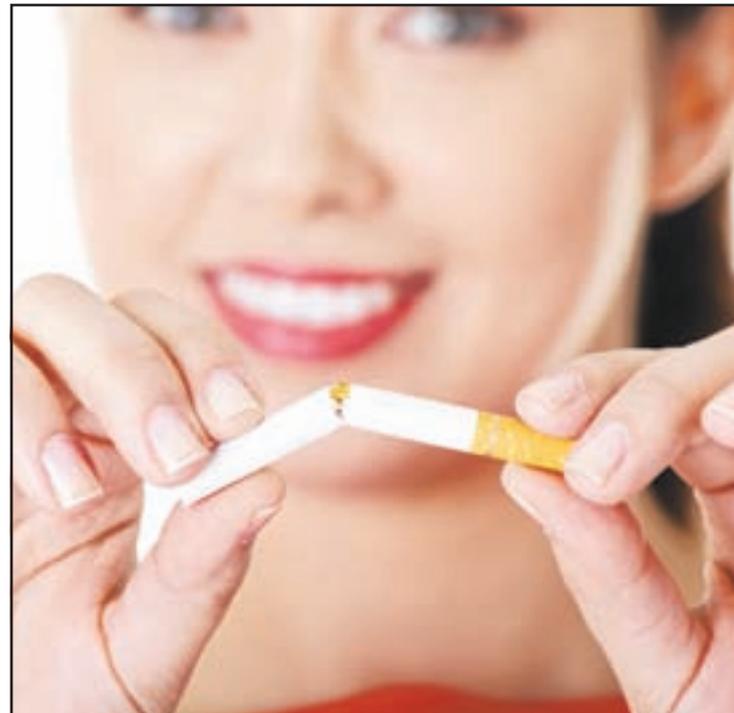
- **Currently Quitting:** Celebrate every little win and stay focused on the positive benefits of quitting and why you decided to quit in the first place. If you get a strong crav-

ing, change things up to throw your urge to smoke.

- **Post-Quit:** Surround yourself with inspiration to stay smoke-free -- your family, your pet, your health and your finances -- and remember you have everything to gain by quitting.

More tips on quitting smoking can be found at [www.Quit.com](http://www.Quit.com). The new website is built in four levels with specific tools depending on where smokers are in the quitting process -- preparing to quit, ready to quit, currently quitting or post-quit and looking for resources to remain a nonsmoker.

"Quitting smoking is tough and requires focus and effort, but that's only half the equation. Part of the addiction is behavioral -- a learned habit over time -- but the other part is neurobiology, a chemical dependency to nicotine," explains Saul Shiffman, Ph.D., an addiction and dependence expert, researcher in behavior change and relapse at the University of Pittsburgh, and paid-consultant



Break the smoking habit.

Fotolia.com/ (c) Piotr Marcinski

to GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare. "Using a combination of behavioral resources, education and quit smoking medicines can improve chances of success!"

Quit.com also offers tools to help battle mental aspects of quitting smoking, such as identifying and tracking triggers and making a list of reasons you want to quit,

along with resources to help fight the physical addiction, such as a quit guide to find the right nicotine replacement to provide relief from cravings.

The key to successfully kicking the habit is to empower and encourage smokers to try quitting and give them tools to help them succeed.

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# How to protect your family from whooping cough

StatePoint) Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly-contagious and vaccine-preventable disease that has made a startling comeback across the country. It is currently responsible for causing the worst epidemic the U.S. has seen in 50 years, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 13 deaths.

“Immunization is still the best way to help prevent the spread of pertussis”, says Siobhan Dolan, MD, MPH, an obstetrician/gynecologist and medical advisor to March of Dimes. “It’s important for both children and adults to be up-to-date with their pertussis immunization.”

Researchers have found that immunity from childhood pertussis vaccinations wears off over time, so the pertussis shots that most adults received as children may no longer fully protect them. The adult Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) booster

## HEALTH

vaccine is recommended for adults to help keep them healthy and help prevent them from spreading diseases to others, especially children. The CDC recently updated its immunization guidelines, which now state that all adults aged 19 years and older who have

**“Research has shown that when the source of a baby’s pertussis can be identified, it’s traced back to family members.”**

not yet received a dose of Tdap should receive a single dose.

“Research has shown that when the source of a baby’s pertussis can be identified, it’s traced back to family members in up to 80 per-

cent of cases,” Dr. Dolan explained. “So it’s imperative for parents to know that everyone around their baby -- parents, friends, caregivers, grandparents -- needs to have an adult Tdap booster vaccine.”

According to a survey conducted online in May 2012 by Harris Interactive on behalf of the Sounds of Pertussis Campaign, a joint initiative from Sanofi Pasteur and March of Dimes, more than 4 out of 5 parents with children ages 2 and younger (83 percent) believe adult vaccination is important to help protect against the spread of pertussis, but only 19 percent reported asking those in regular contact with their child to get a Tdap booster shot.

“The reason is probably because most parents -- 61 percent -- said they would feel awkward asking those in close contact with their infants to get an adult Tdap booster shot, according to the survey,” said Dr. Dolan.

“Parents want to do all they can



Get immunized and protect your family from whooping cough. Fotolia.com/Yuri Arcurs (C)

to keep their babies healthy and to protect them from danger,” she added. “Speak to your friends and family about getting a pertussis booster. That simple ‘ask’ will help protect them and your baby from this potentially fatal disease.”

More information about pertussis and the Sounds of Pertussis

Campaign can be found online at [www.SoundsofPertussis.com](http://www.SoundsofPertussis.com).

And remember, although whooping cough may be on the rise nationwide, there are simple steps you can take to help protect your family: get your booster shot now and encourage those around you to do the same.

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## CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2  
the growth and development of our nation, Cuba was in the forefront in providing the much needed support, especially key in the area of science and technology, health, culture, sports and education," Ramourtar said.

### St. Lucia

Hundreds of farmers were counting their losses after fire of unknown origin recently gutted the headquarters of the St. Lucia Banana Corporation in the capital, Castries.

More than 3,000 shareholders have been affected by the fire, which lit up the city as firemen fought for several hours to bring it under control.

Corporation chairman Patrick Joseph said the destruction of the office building, which had been placed in the hands of the liquidator and was up for sale, came as a shock to members of the farming community who have been patiently awaiting dividends from the sale of the building.

Joseph said farmers had been enquiring about the pending sale of the building and the possibility of getting their shares before the re-opening of the new school term in January. "But it looks more bleak

and hopeless for them," he said.

### Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago has been ranked No 5 in the world for having people with the most Positive attitudes – the happiest people, according to a Gallup poll.



Gallup Inc. is a U.S.-based organization which provides data-driven news based on US and world polls, daily tracking and public opinion research. The poll showed seven of the ten countries with the most upbeat attitudes were in Latin America.

Other than Trinidad and Tobago, the countries making it into the top 10 were Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, El Salvador, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Thailand and the Philippines.

Gallup asked about 1,000 people in each of the 148 countries in 2012 about their state of mind as it relate to the issues of everyday life and their coping mechanisms.

A great majority, in what is considered underdeveloped or undeveloped territories found ways to keep themselves happy amidst social or personal problems.

*Compiled by Azad Ali*

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# EDUCATION

CNG SPRING 2013

Page 27 • Caribbean Life • Jan. 11-17, 2013



## SHE'S THE SCIENTIST

### Companies looking for female engineers

**F**emale engineers and organizations such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers want women choosing a course of study and potential career path to consider scientific fields — like engineering. There's more to this line of work than meets the eye. Here are some of the many reasons female students should think about pursuing a career in engineering.

#### **Design and innovate**

"Engineering jobs are involved with the invention, design and manufacture of products and systems," says Dr. Irena Atov, chair of Institute's Women in Engineering and technical manager at Telstra, a network architecture reliability group. Essentially, engineers apply the principles of science and mathematics to develop economical solutions to technical problems. "Everything you use, everywhere you go

in the man-made environment has its basis in engineering."

#### **Play with technology**

Technology isn't just for catching up on social networking or trading e-mails. At the crux of engineering are technologies used to design, produce, test, and simulate how a machine, structure, or system operates. You can actually "play" with the concepts that you are developing before they are put

to market.

#### **Science can liberate**

There's something empowering about a career in a field that has such widespread touch, impact and reliability.

"Engineering is such an interesting field in that every day when you go to work you can create things you never thought possible — a true way to

**Continued on Page 30**

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## EDUCATION

# The TEAK Fellowship

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

Education visionary Justine Stamen Arrillaga was awestruck by her student Dewitt White's talent for tickling the ivories, a gift that landed the teen — who hailed from a fractured family plagued by AIDS, homelessness, drugs, and violence — a gig at Carnegie Hall.

The performance was one of several successes enjoyed by the aspiring classical pianist, who eventually fell prey to his poverty and hardships, and was murdered in 1997 at the age of 17.

Dewitt's tragic death spurred the 28-year-old Brown University graduate and Tiger Foundation philanthropist to act swiftly on behalf of other impoverished, hopeless teens before they, too, lost their way and fell through New York's cracks.

The following year, Stamen Arrillaga created a program that would help to harness their skills and assets, and place them in elite private and public high schools and colleges, using education to break their cycle of poverty and despair.

She formed TEAK Fellowship in memory of Dewitt, with a pioneer class of 22 seventh-grade students, naming her program after her friend Teak Dyer who was murdered in 1988 on the eve of her high school graduation.

During the next eight years, Stamen Arrillaga placed six classes of eighth-grade students in top high schools with financial aid packages covering 95 percent of their expenses.

She also helped to place the first two classes of 12th-graders in prestigious colleges such as Amherst, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania, and Wesleyan.

One TEAK strength is that it keeps up with evolving educational trends, such as advanced curriculums and wider programming.



**HANDS-ON APPROACH:** TEAK seventh graders use geobands to build their math skills.

Courtesy of TEAK Fellowship Courtesy of TEAK Fellowship

It will accept promising city sixth-grade students to its program this month — a transition from last year when only seventh graders were eligible.

"This change allows more time and preparation for the students and will offer more opportunities for their future success," says executive director Lynn D. Sorensen. "TEAK Fellows will be better prepared for high school because of their exposure to academic and leadership opportunities at an earlier age."

TEAK's race-blind college access program also provides leadership training, exposure to the arts and outdoors, mentoring, career experience, and assistance with high school and college applications.

The results are impressive: 100 percent of TEAK students graduate from high school, compared to 65 percent of city public school students; 100 percent of TEAK participants enroll in four-year colleges and universities; 87 percent of its alumni matriculate to top-tier national universities or liberal arts colleges, including 22 percent to the Ivy League; and 86 percent of its alumni graduate from college in five years or less.

TEAK alums have earned Fulbright scholarships, and entered the fields of medicine, law, finance, pharmacology, engineer-

ing, cancer research, AmeriCorps service, journalism, and teaching.

Their success stories — proudly posted on TEAK's website — are heartwarming.

One former student named Dyese — a graduate of Spence School, Dartmouth College, and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons — is on her way to becoming a gynecologist.

"My childhood aspiration was to become an OB-GYN and now I'm actually living my dream. It's surreal, fun, exciting, and scary, all at the same time," she writes.

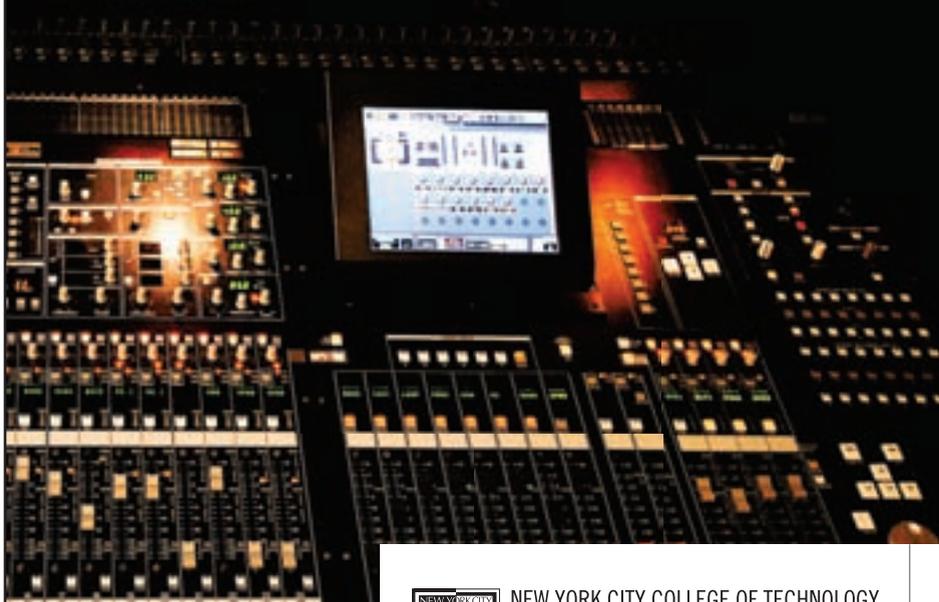
Nate, who graduated this year from Northfield Mount Hermon School in western Massachusetts, says attending the boarding school changed his life.

"It exposed me to living in a small, rural area, and it's exciting because I've never lived anywhere like this," says the proud alumnus, currently enrolled at Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

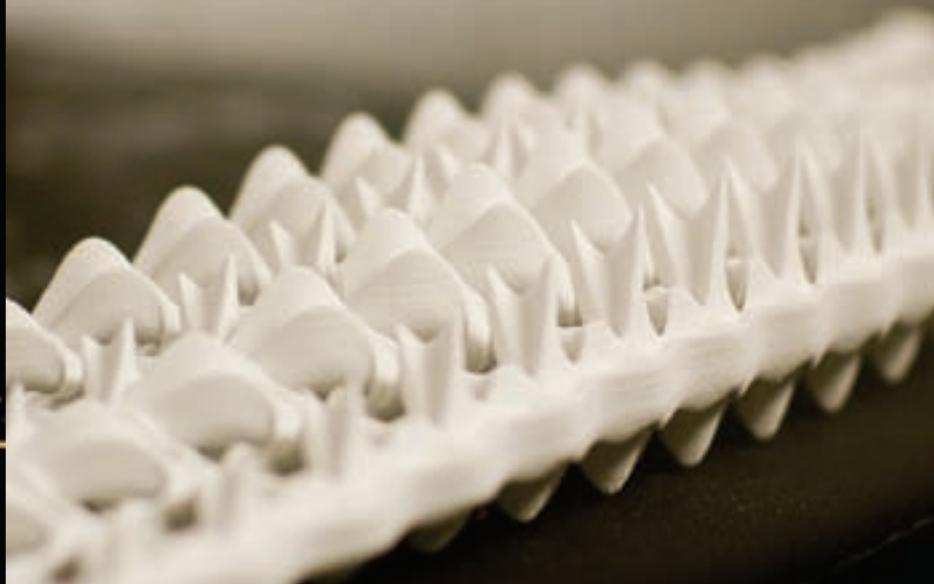
"Most of all, I wanted to get a head start in preparing for college life," he shares.

For information about a TEAK Fellowship information session near you, contact Sarah Demers, associate director of Admissions, at (212) 288-6678 X 118, or e-mail her at [sdemers@teak-fellowship.org](mailto:sdemers@teak-fellowship.org).

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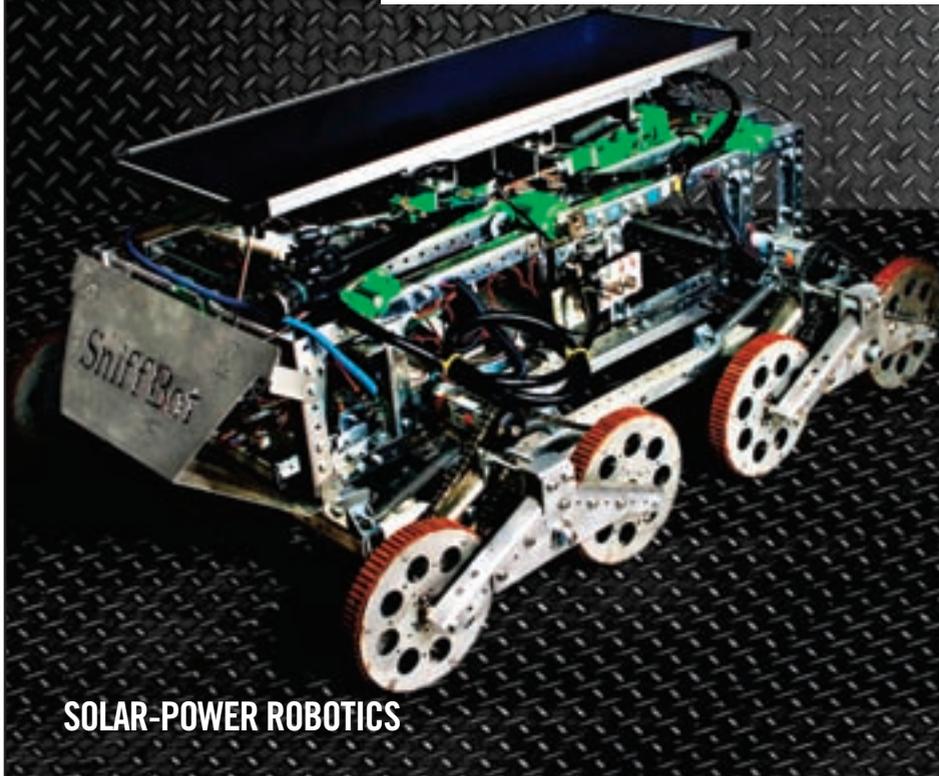
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# EDUCATION

## Scientist

Continued from Page 27

follow your dreams," says Atov.

Additionally, the talent pool provided by female engineers is growing and women can bring a new perspective to the field and its social force.

### Hands-on work in different specialties

For those who love to get inside a problem and work toward a solution, engineering has multiple fields of interest to pursue. Engineering pervades so many subsets that there are dozens of specialized concentrations within this field of study. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 17 engineering specialties recognized by the Federal Government's Standard Occupational Classification system. These include: agricultural engineers, biomedical engineers, civil engineers, computer engineers, environmental engineers, and nuclear engineers, among others. Individuals interested in a specific area of study can likely find an engineering specialty that works in conjunction with that field.

### Engineering can be lucrative

Thanks to the widespread demand for engineers in all facets of the economy, engineering can be a stable and intellectually stimulating career. In a time of economic uncertainty, it can be a smart move to choose a career path that ensures long-term employment, like engineering. Although salaries vary according to country and area of specialty, it's not uncommon to earn a starting salary of \$80,000 and upward per year, which, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is "among the highest of all college graduates."

**Internships can help students further clarify the intricacies of a career in engineering, especially one in a certain specialization.**

### Travel opportunities abound

A truly global career path, engineering jobs exist all over the world.

"Engineering offers international portability — enabling you to work in different countries," says Atov. Domestic companies may place employees to work in foreign subsidiaries, or global companies may be looking for a larger pool of applicants.

"Especially in the field of academia, engineers don't just pursue careers in their home state, or even country. University jobs are now advertised worldwide and it is quite the norm, to have applicants from every continent — thus ensuring that the best candidates in the world are chosen," she says. "Women should know, now more than ever, that engineer-

ing is a career that brings together passion, creativity and intelligence to a job where you can help people."

Engineering careers generally require a four-year degree from an accredited university. Internships can help students further clarify the intricacies of a career in engineering, especially one in a certain specialization. Regardless of age or level of education, if your dream is to join the ranks of other successful women engineers — such as Dr. Radia Perlman, known as the Mother of the Internet, and Nancy J. Currie, a NASA astronaut, engineer and officer in the U.S. Armed Forces — visit [www.Try-Engineering.org](http://www.Try-Engineering.org) or [www.ieee.org/women](http://www.ieee.org/women) to take action and get your career started down the right path.



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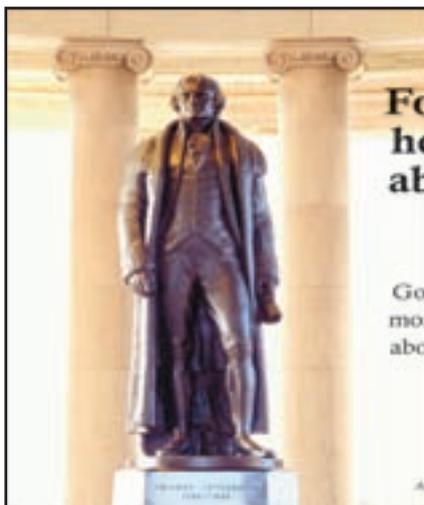
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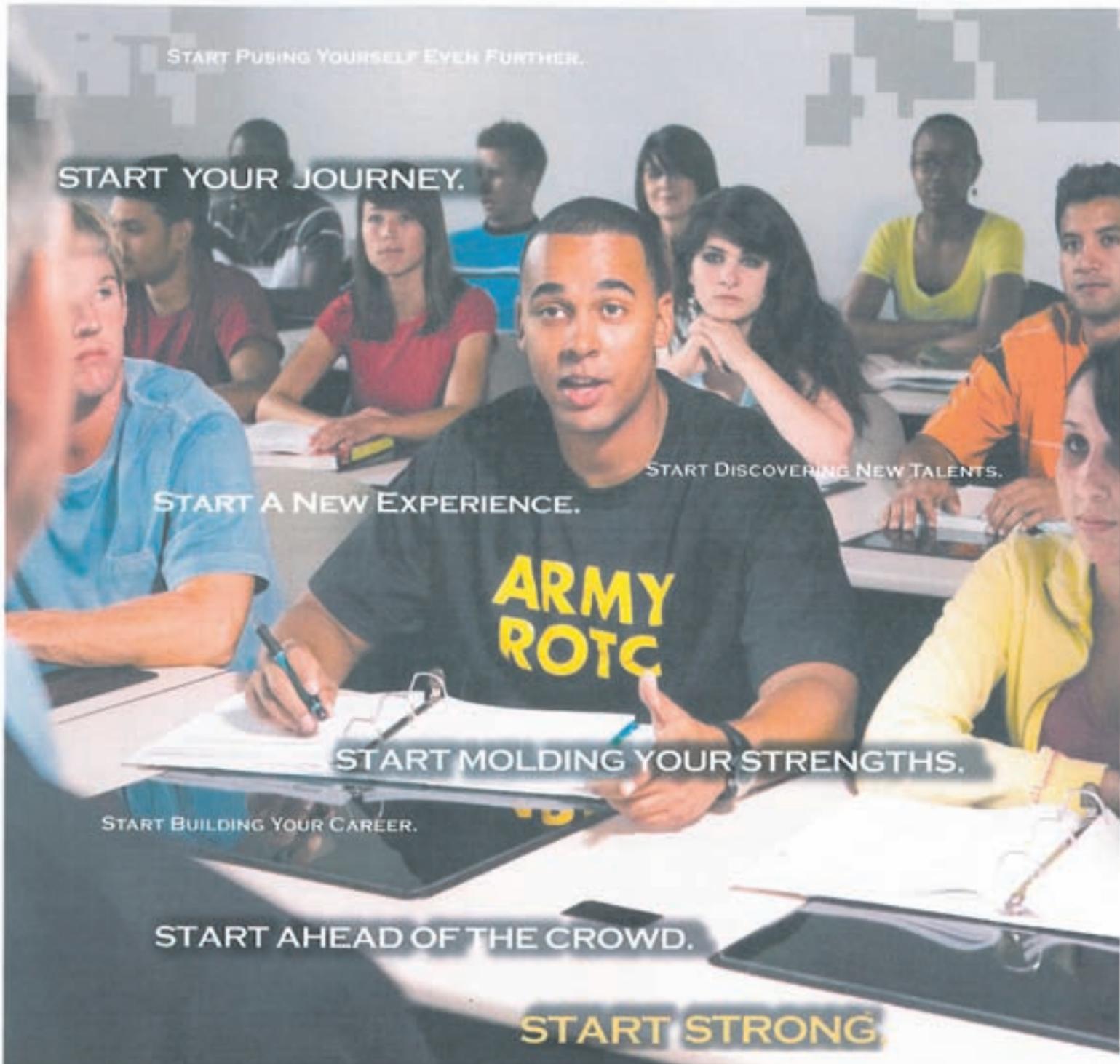


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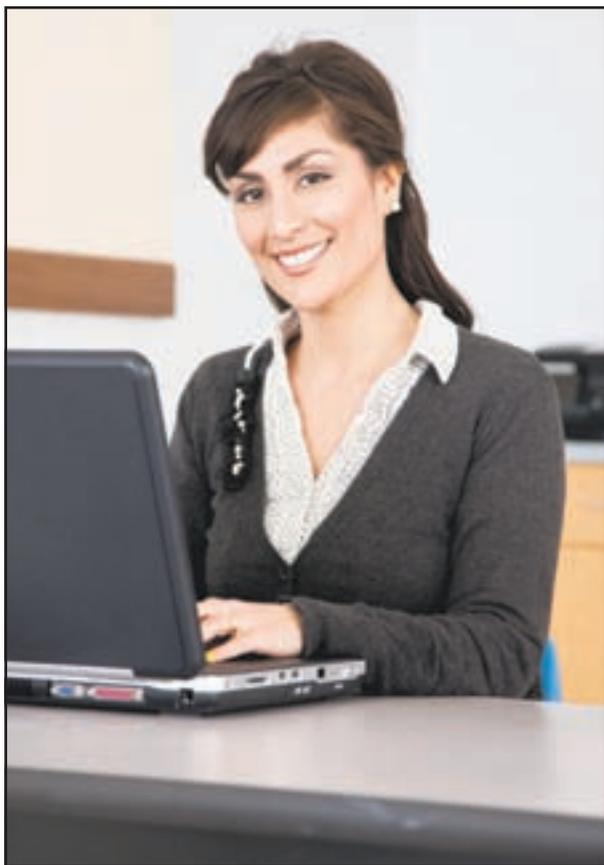


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Many colleges and universities report that re-entry or adult students are the new majority on campus. Adults ages 25 to 69 are increasingly enrolling in courses around the country.

# Considerations for continuing school

Adults go back to school for a variety of reasons. They may have personal accomplishment goals or their motivation could be purely financial. Unemployment has recently led many individuals back to the classroom. Many colleges and universities report that re-entry or adult students are the new majority on campus. Adults ages 25 to 69 are increasingly enrolling in courses around the country. But going back to school is a serious undertaking. Not only is it an investment of time, but it is also an investment of money. If you're thinking about going back to school, first ask yourself these questions.

## Is now the right time?

Those going back to school because they think it might provide better job prospects or yield higher salaries could be mistaken. Many employers are cutting continuing-education grants and scaling back on hires with advanced degrees. That's because companies are feeling the heat of the recession as well. Advanced degrees generally mean having to pay an employee a higher salary, something many com-

panies are not in a position to do right now. Therefore, an advanced degree might prove a hindrance in today's job market and not become the financial windfall some students expect. If this is the case, delaying an advanced degree for a few years may be a more financially sound idea.

## What are your goals?

Individuals need to examine their long- and short-term goals regarding education. Goals should include whether time is available to complete the degree. Some degrees can take months or years to finish, depending on how many credits a person already has. Is the goal to receive a completely different degree and begin a new career? If so, put it down on paper so you have a definite goal in sight.

## Are the finances available?

Attending school is no small undertaking. Whether a public, private, or online school, tuition can cost several thousand dollars per year. Tests taken to be accepted to school can cost money, and books will be needed for coursework. If money is tight right now, continuing school may not be the

best option, especially if high-interest loans are the only viable means to continuing education. However, if the finances are there and school won't detract from other bills, then school might be the right choice.

## What is the right school?

Those who have a full-time job can look into a school that offers evening or weekend classes. Many schools now offer online courses that allow individuals to take classes remotely. There is a growing interest in schools that specifically specialize in online degrees. Such schools enable students to take classes on their own time and complete assignments in a manner that's less time-specific. Continuing students who may not have a spouse or children can move around to the school of choice. Once again, finances figure to play a major role when deciding on a school.

## Is a college degree really necessary?

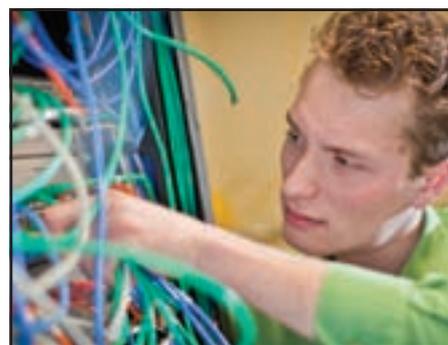
For many, continuing education doesn't mean heading to a college campus. It can involve taking certificate programs and vocational training.

## Trade school enrollment on the rise

As overseas production operations return to the United States, enrollment in trade schools continues to rise. Despite high levels of unemployment, domestic manufacturing companies are finding it difficult to fill positions, thanks in part to an attitudinal shift over the years wherein young people did not consider manufacturing a respectable or attractive trade.

Such attitudes are starting to change, as indicated by the surging enrollment at trade schools. The Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, for example, is experiencing its highest enrollment in years, with students young and old looking to take advantage of the growing number of available manufacturing positions. Thanks to high demand, the school has even introduced a six-month certificate program for the first time in its history.

Many manufacturers have bemoaned the lack of qualified machinists to fill positions, and those manufacturers are emphasizing that today's machinists must be computer lit-



erate and be skilled in computer-aided design and engineering. That increased demand for skilled workers has driven up their wages. In fact, a 2012 study from Georgetown University's Center for Education and the Workforce noted that 63 percent of workers with associate's degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or manufacturing earned more money than the average person with a bachelor's degree in humanities or social sciences.

As trade schools continue to benefit from the return of manufacturing jobs, recent college graduates continue to find a job market that is less than welcoming. Analysis of government data for the Associated Press found that in early 2012, half of recent college graduates were either unemployed or underemployed (working in positions unrelated to their degree).

Such a reality has been advantageous to trade schools, which have become an increasingly attractive option for the masses of unemployed men and women.

## What to look for in a graduate program

Today's college graduates are facing a difficult job market, one that is flooded with unemployed professionals but few job openings. As a result, many college juniors, seniors and even recent graduates are considering the pursuit of an advanced degree. When researching different graduate programs, prospective applicants should take the following under consideration:

### Admission standards

Applicants should be looking for schools with tough admissions standards. Schools with low admissions standards won't necessarily provide a degree that's valued by prospective employers.

Since many students will be pursuing an advanced degree in the hopes it will help them stand out in a crowded pool of ap-

**A good graduate program will boast a career development program that helps place graduates in desirable careers.**

licants, that advanced degree should be one that has substantial value and not one that was easy to pursue and obtain.

### Assistance

A good graduate program will boast a career

development program that helps place graduates in desirable careers. Ask about past graduates of the program, and where they are currently working and what they're earning.

### Faculty

When researching graduate programs, look for one whose faculty are well known in your desired field. Most school websites list faculty biographies. A strong faculty is one that has a history of scholarly publications, acclaim among colleagues, and professional experience not just in academia, but in the desired field as well. A proven and respected faculty can be a great way for students to make connections in the field.

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# Va. apple grower finds core business with Cuba

By **Matt Armstrong,**  
**The Winchester Star**

WINCHESTER, Va. (AP) — Improving trade relations with Cuba over the past decade has helped boost revenue for Virginia farmers and other agricultural-based enterprises, including a local apple company.

Phil Glaize, whose family has been in the apple business for more than 70 years, began working with the state government and ALIMPORT — Cuba's food import agency — to export apples from Frederick and Shenandoah counties to the Caribbean country about six years ago.

The number of apples Glaize exports to Cuba has been up and down over the years, he said, but the company sent about 7,000 cases — approximately 875,000 apples — to the country in 2012.

The price Glaize gets for his fruit in Cuba is better than what he would get from an apple processing plant, but lower than at a U.S. grocery store.

He estimated that apple exporters in Virginia sent about \$1 million in apple products to Cuba this year.

"It's revenue from apples that we would have limited sale for otherwise," Glaize said. "If 7,000 cases went to Cuba, I might have been able to only sell 3,000 of them through other channels."

The apples Glaize sends to Cuba have some defects — the primary one being russeting that gives the skin a brownish discoloration — but the taste and quality of the fruit is unaffected, he said.

"We couldn't sell (an apple with extensive russeting) in this country, so it's nice that we have

that outlet," Glaize said. "(Cuba) gets a lower grade for a lower price, and the only difference is (these apples aren't) as cosmetically appealing."

Virginia's agricultural exports to Cuba have increased from \$838,000 in 2003 — when they resumed after parts of the 1961 trade embargo were relaxed — to nearly \$65 million in 2011, according to Todd Haymore, Virginia's secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

"With agricultural exports for the first nine months of 2012 valued at \$53 million, Cuba is a consistently valuable market for Virginia's agricultural products," Haymore wrote in an email.

Though the trade embargo has loosened, there are still obstacles for agricultural businesses that want to export to Cuba.

# Rebirth of the Garifuna culture at home

By **Tangerine Clarke**

Some of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' most versatile performers will showcase the country's rich culture and heritage at a concert Saturday, Jan. 12 to benefit retrieval efforts in the historic homeland of the Garifuna people. The concert also includes a special live performance by James Lovell and the Afri-Garifuna Youth Ensemble.

Titled "Rebirth of a Culture," the show will begin at 3:00 p.m. on the sixth floor of Manhattan's 3 West 18th St. building, where patrons will be educated and entertained during three hours of stirring music, song and dance, plus refreshments.

The Yurumein Garifuna Cultural Retrieval group, headed by Trish Sy. Hill and Lovell, brings the Garifuna language back to its ancestral homeland in St. Vincent

and the Grenadines.

The program has been "a resounding success" over the last two summers, St. Hill said, despite "very little outside funding, and with most of the funds coming largely from 'out of pocket with very little outside support.'"

Last summer, St. Hill toiled tirelessly to produce the program; however, she said, she hopes that this year supporters will put great effort into keeping the programs alive in St. Vincent, so that the next generation of Vincentians will benefit from the history of their country.

Yurumen Garifuna Cultural Retrieval is a unique program that uses music, dance and performance as a vehicle to teach the language. As a direct result of its effectiveness, said St. Hill, young people are

again speaking Garifuna, the indigenous language of Yurumein (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) where it has been dormant for over a hundred years.

Videos of performances at Barrouallie, formerly named Princess Town and a pivotal town during the reign of the Garifuna; at Sandy Bay, formerly populated by the Kallinago and Garifuna people; at the Peace Memorial Hall in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, as well as at historic Balliceaux -- the island prison where the Garifuna people were interned before being exiled to Roatan, are available.

St. Hill encourages the community to be part of this historic cultural rebirth in Yurumein, by supporting this fundraising effort. For more information, call Trish St. Hill at 347-488-4395

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# Travel free doctors

Continued from page 4

ly, as long as the destination country allows it” by issuing an entry visa, said the physician, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to foreign journalists.

“Apparently it has been completely repealed,” he said. “No restrictions of any kind.”

Another doctor confirmed that she had been told of the new policy.

For many years Cuban doctors have been limited in their ability to travel or had to undergo cumbersome bureaucratic procedures. They are routinely denied permission to travel or receive it only if they plan to leave for good and after a five-year process of being released from their duties.

The restrictions were justified as necessary to prevent brain drain from a sector that is the pride of

Cuba's Communist leaders, and which lost thousands of skilled professionals in the 1960s as the country increasingly embraced

abroad without losing their full rights as citizens.

The United States offers special refugee status to Cuban doctors who defect

**“They told us they did a study and found that a high percentage of doctors who go abroad (on missions or for conferences) return to the country.”**

socialism following the Cuban Revolution. Many more left during the economic crisis of the 1990s.

Other individuals in strategic occupations such as scientists, military officers and athletes have also had a hard time getting permission to travel.

In October, authorities announced the end of the widely detested exit visa known as the “white card,” which for decades was required of any Cuban seeking to travel overseas.

The reform also extended to two years the amount of time Cubans can stay

from international missions in Venezuela and other countries — something the island government calls “theft” of talent.

The new policy on health care workers applies to both those seeking to emigrate and those simply wanting to travel as tourists or to visit family overseas.

The rules may not result in an immediate, massive exodus of medical workers to Miami. Most would not be able to travel there without a U.S. visa, although some who enjoy dual Spanish citizenship could get around that requirement.

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# Prostate Cancer: Stop It Before It's too Late.

Reading newspaper articles can be fun, interesting, and entertaining, but can it save your life or the life of your loved ones?

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2012, about 241,740 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and about 28,170 men will die of prostate cancer. About 1 in 6 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men.

Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.\*

In this article, we seek advice from two award winning urologic surgeons, Dr. Vitaly Raykhman and Dr. Yuly Chalik. These two recipients of the prestigious Patient's Choice Award were also named America's Top Urologists of 2009 and 2010. They will tell us how to detect prostate cancer in its earliest stage and successfully fight it.

## Doctors, what are the symptoms of prostate cancer? Can a man diagnose himself for this disease?

Unfortunately, prostate cancer will usually not exhibit outward symptoms in its early stages, so the patient is often not aware of the presence of a tumor. Because it is important to diagnose this disease before any symptoms occur, men over age 45 are strongly encouraged to undergo an elective urological examination at least once a year.

## How do you diagnose prostate cancer?

The first step in diagnosing prostate cancer is analyzing PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in blood.

If cancer is suspected, a biopsy will be advisable, since it is the only test that can fully confirm the diagnosis of prostate cancer. At NYUI, doctors can perform a biopsy under anesthesia directly on premises.

NYUI's in-house specialized laboratory enables our certified and astute pathologist to quickly and accurately study prostate cells, shortening your diagnosis and treatment time.

Given the complexity of the diagnosis and of prostate cancer in general, we urge readers to be tested only using modern equipment at the most up-to-date clinics, such as NYUI.

## What is the most effective method of treatment offered at the New York Urologic Institute?

When choosing a method of treatment, we take into account the stage of the cancer, the patient's age, risk of complications, as well as the wishes of the patient. There are a number of proven treatment options available, including radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and surgical treatment.

To date, the most effective method of combating prostate cancer is radiation therapy. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is a unique type of radiation therapy offered at NYUI which involves the use of computed tomography (CT) to carefully pinpoint and map the exact 3-Dimensional shape of the tumor. The software carefully calculates the dose intensity pattern that will best conform to the tumor shape. IMRT allows for more effective radiation to the prostate, while minimizing exposure to adjacent normal tissues. With a radiation oncologist with over 30 years of experience and the most modern treatment and diagnostic tools, The New York Urologic Institute is a leader in the fight against prostate cancer.



Utilizing Computed Tomography

## What would you say to men suffering from prostate cancer?

Being diagnosed with prostate cancer doesn't mean you should give up and stop fighting. The New York Urologic Institute can successfully treat this type of cancer if it is diagnosed in its early stages. Our treatment can prolong the lives of prostate cancer patients for many years.

We recommend that all men be more attentive to their health and to seek professional medical help when symptoms first develop.

\*Information via the American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

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If you smell, see or hear any of those indications, leave the area immediately, then call National Grid at **1-718-643-4050**. Don't make the mistake of thinking someone else will make the call. Be smart and be safe. Call before you dig and know the signs of a gas leak. A little prevention could make all the difference.

# Make sure your eyes are in top shape at Contact Lens and Vision

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

It is said that, "the light of the body is the eye."

For sure, the eyes are one of the first things people notice.

Contact Lens and Vision wants to be sure your eyes continue to light up your surroundings.

The highly trained optometrists there use the latest technology for all examinations, allowing them to see if your eyes can focus well.

This is important because the ability to see starts when light reflects off an object that is viewed and enters the eye. When this occurs, "it stimulates cells to send millions of electrochemical impulses along the optic nerve to the brain. The portion of the brain at the back of the head interprets the impulses, enabling us to see the object," says Dr. Jason Yee, one of Contact Lens and Vision's optometrists.

While it may sound com-



(Left) Dr. Jason Yee is one of Contact Lens and Vision's highly trained optometrists. (Above) Optometric technician Jessica La Guerre.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

plex, it's something most of us do instantly, without even thinking about it.

Still, we don't want to take that ability for granted. That's why annual eye examinations are essential. A comprehensive exam will see if there are any issues that may affect vision.

Should you need contact lenses, you are in good hands. The store carries just about every brand and type, includ-

ing bifocal and colored lenses, and those to correct astigmatism. As it stocks thousands of trial lenses, many patients are able to leave the office on the day of their visit, contacts in their eyes, immediately seeing the world clearly again.

Dr. Yee says he's been with the company since its inception. He's a local Brooklynite who has been interested in the field of vision since work-

ing a part-time job at an optical store while still in high school.

He is a graduate of St. John's University, and earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from the State University of New York College of Optometry. He completed a Residency in Family Practice at The East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center. He specializes in contact lens fittings, and is also trained

and certified in the treatment and management of ocular disease.

The technology at Contact Lens and Vision includes Optical Coherence Tomography, a scanning laser used to analyze the layers of the retina and optic nerve for any signs of eye disease, says the doctor.

"It's similar to a CT scan of the eye. It works using light without radiation, and is essential for early diagnosis of glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinal disease."

Dr. Yanique Forrest, another optometrist in the office, earned her Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Stony Brook University in 2006. After participating in SUNY Optometry's CSTEP program in 2005, she developed an interest in and decided to pursue further education in the field of optometry. She earned her Doctoral Degree in 2011 from SUNY College of Optometry.

She specializes in contact lens fittings and is also certified in the treatment and management of ocular disease.

The firm tests for macular degeneration, a disease that can lead to blindness.

In addition, Contact Lens and Vision sells supplements that help keep eyes healthy.

It's conveniently located inside LensCrafters, inside the Kings Plaza Shopping Center, so if you are out shopping, it's easy to stop by and make an appointment.

The fees at Contact Lens and Vision are affordable, and many insurance plans are accepted.

Contact Lens and Vision [5403 Kings Plaza Shopping Center between Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue in Marine Park, (718) 252-8333, [www.contactlensand-vision.com](http://www.contactlensand-vision.com)]. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 10 am-7 pm, and Sundays, 11 am-4 pm.

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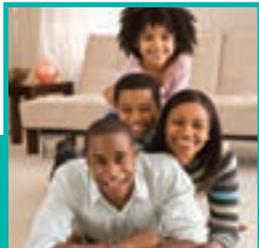
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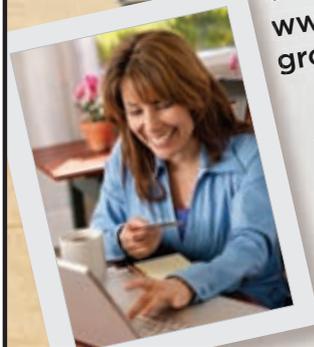
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# 'Central Park Five' skims the surface

Ken Burns and his daughter Sarah makes a bold attempt to set the record straight on a controversial case which began in New York's Central Park on April 19, 1989 and continues despite convictions, sentences, incarcerations, time served and vacated convictions due to a confession that cleared them from guilt in 2002. Sarah first wrote about the case while a senior at Yale in 2003 and then followed the story while working for a lawyer in New York before publishing a book, "The Central Park Five: A Chronicle of a City Wilding."

In a documentary entitled "The Central Park Five," the Burns' lens spotlight five men -- Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Kharey Wise and Raymond Santana -- the adults who were teenagers when detectives of the NYPD along with the Manhattan district attorney's office secured videotaped confessions of them accept-



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

ing blame for the assault and rape of an investment banker who was jogging in Central Park. After the release of the confessions to media, the youths said they were coerced and coached to accept responsibility for the heinous act which inflamed and further divided this city which already was strained by a gaping racial abyss.

The youth -- 14 to 16 -- said the night they were scooped up in a police raid, they were exhausted and were told that if they follow a script detectives prepared, they would be released and sent home. Many hours later, they remained in police custody and although underage did not have the presence of their parents. Each account seemed to conflict with the

other. However, a pieced-together statement seemed to target the young men making them baits in the city hungry for an arrest. Coverage of the case was as divided with Black media decrying the fact they were interrogated without their parents; that many more than five boys were arrested in the dragnet to find the demon who had violated a white, Wall Street, corporate executive. And that racism was at the heart of the arrests.

Traditional media maintained that Blacks and Latinos were destroying the city and if they were in the park they must be the criminals to brutally violate the innocent jogger.

She was 28-years-old and lived on the upper west

side. The brutal attack left Patricia Meili in a coma for 12 days. She lost 75 percent of her blood and has no recollection of the tragedy she suffered that night.

Mayor Ed Koch described the attack and rape as the "crime of the century."

Billionaire Donald Trump put his millions where his mouth was and placed full-page advertising in four daily newspapers. The ad called for reinstatement of the death penalty.

Needless to say, the city was seething with anger. The NYPD was desperate to catch the culprit (s) and District Attorney Robert Morgenthau also wanted a conclusion to perhaps one of the worst cases in N.Y. history. Brooklyn and Queens had already been scarred by the Howard Beach and Bensonhurst travesties, which resulted in the deaths of Black youths who were pursued and killed by whites.

The facts that there was no DNA match to connect

the minority youths to the crime, or that that they could neither identify the clothing worn by the victim nor state the exact location of the crime or even corroborate a time-frame that placed them at the crime scene proved oblivious to prosecutors determined to jail the juveniles.

According to reports at approximately 9:00 p.m. a group of "marauding youths" entered the park and began robbing and assaulting individuals. That group was alleged to be about 30.

Police claimed they rounded about that many boys but narrowed the rape to a smaller number giving name to the Central Park Five.

Burns' film begins with the image of a full moon hanging over the park. Burns and from many accounts claimed the moon was low, bright and full. Strange things happen when the moon is full.

Werewolves, vampires and creepy creatures emerge. Repeated many times by media, reports were that in Central Park that night there were "wilding wolf-packs."

The film progresses with the formerly convicted -- except for Antron McCray -- explaining how they came to be entangled in the awful web that riddled the city that year.

One of the most obvious reasons for holding them hostage was that the teenagers lived in close proximity to the vast Manhattan playground.

Central Park was like their backyard. Three of the defendants lived in Schomburg Plaza, an apartment complex at 110th Street and Fifth Ave. just across from the Park.

By the end of the nail-biting document, the unraveling of a media assassination becomes evident.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## AFROPOP'S new host Gabourey Sidibe

By Chudi Chukwudi

Gabourey Sidibe steps into a new role this winter as host of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, an innovative documentary series highlighting contemporary life, art and pop culture in the African Diaspora. Best known for her Oscar- and Golden Globe-nominated depiction of "Precious" in the Lee Daniels film *Precious: Based on the Novel Push* by Sapphire, Sidibe also made waves with her hilarious performance in *Tower Heist* opposite Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy. The fifth season of *AfroPoP*, produced by Black Public Media, will premiere at 7:00pm ET (6:00pm CT, 4:00 p.m. PT) on public television's WORLD channel, on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, continuing on Tuesdays weekly through February 5, 2013. The series will release to public television stations



Gabourey Sidibe PBS

This season, *AfroPoP*, which consists of independent films, brings viewers on a journey into human and women's rights struggles across the world. Co-presented by the Center for Asian American Media, Elia-ichi Kimaro's *A Lot Like You* (January 22), follows the half-Korean, half-Tanzanian sexual-abuse survivor and filmmaker as she explores her African roots, and learns

Continued on Page 42

## Sifuentes loses in net final

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP) — "Mary Poppins" is closing up its big umbrella on Broadway.

An official close to the show's producers said Monday that the six-year-old musical will end performances in March at the New Amsterdam Theatre and eventually be replaced by a musical adapted from the film "Aladdin."

The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak before the official announce-

ment. The New York Post first reported the news, citing an anonymous source. A Disney representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Mary Poppins," co-produced by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, is based both on the children's books by P.L. Travers and the 1964 movie starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. It tells the story of the world's most practically perfect nanny in Edwardian London.

With a big cast, lav-

Continued on Page 42



Denise Belfon

## Denise Belfon: Ready To Take Everything

By Chudi Chukwudi

Denise 'Saucy Wow' Belfon is making it known that should she walk away victorious at the February 8, 2013 staging of the International Soca Monarch competition.

She will be giving back in a big way, to the people who have supported her over the years -- her fans. The soca songstress, known for her attractive on stage dancing prowess, released a power soca single

Wednesday, Jan. 2 -- a track called, "Taking Everything" which, Belfon says, she is bent on doing.

In 2013, Belfon celebrates 21 years in the soca music industry. "2013 is my year. I'm taking the groovy at the Soca Monarch and now I'm saying that I'm coming to try to take home the Power Soca Monarch too," a confident Belfon said, adding that she is confident that she will be "up there in the top three" by the end of

the competition on Carnival Saturday morning.

Belfon has never before made it to the finals of both legs of the competition, but she says she will be doing just what she feels she needs to, in the coming weeks, to ensure that she does in 2013.

"This is the first time in years since I've been recording and doing songs that I am saying that I am

Continued on Page 42

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Locked Out Of Heaven**  
Bruno Mars
- 2 **Diamonds**  
Rihanna
- 3 **Ho Hey**  
The Lumineers
- 4 **One More Night**  
Maroon 5
- 5 **I Cry**  
Flo Rida
- 6 **Home**  
Phillip Phillips
- 7 **Let Me Love You (Until You Leave)**  
Ne-Yo
- 8 **Beauty And A Beat**  
Justin Bieber Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 9 **Die Young**  
Ke\$ha
- 10 **Try**  
P!nk

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Red**  
Taylor Swift
- 2 **Les Miserables: Highlights...**  
Soundtrack
- 3 **Night Visions**  
Imagine Dragons
- 4 **Take Me Home**  
One Direction
- 5 **Pitch Perfect**  
Soundtrack
- 6 **The Lumineers**  
The Lumineers
- 7 **Unorthodox Jukebox**  
Bruno Mars
- 8 **Motown 1's**  
Various Artists
- 9 **Legend: The Best Of Bob...**  
Bob Marley And The Wailers
- 10 **Unapologetic**  
Rihanna

Presented by  
**verizon**wireless

# Gabourey Sidibe

Continued from page 41

about the sexual violence faced by her aunts and other women in the Chagga culture. *Dear Mandela* (January 29), by Dara Kell and Christopher Nizza, captures the demonstrations of residents of the Durban shantytowns as they fight for the decent living conditions promised by the post-apartheid government and challenge the African National Congress (ANC). Directors Violeta Ayala and Daniel Fallshaw uncover modern-day slavery in refugee camps in Western Sahara in *Stolen* (February 5), entangling themselves in a high-stakes thriller.

In her role as host, Sidibe frames each episode's content, adding her personal concerns about the issues portrayed. "This season of *AfroPoP* helps give voice to those who truly need to be heard," said the Brooklyn native, whose father hails from Senegal. "I'm happy to help bring these stories to the American public and raise awareness of issues of vital concern to women and men in Africa as well as all who care about human rights."

"Gabourey's energetic spirit and connection to the youth culture made her the perfect choice

to host the series this season and we are happy to have her as such an integral part of *AfroPoP*," said Black Public Media Vice President and Director of Programming Leslie Fields-Cruz and co-executive producer of the series.

*AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* will premiere on the WORLD Channel. Encore programs will broadcast later Tuesday nights at midnight ET (11 pm CT and 9 pm PT). Select episodes (*A Lot Like You* and *Dear Mandela*) will be distributed by American Public Television for broadcast on public television channels in addition to WORLD in February 2013. For more information, check your local listings or visit [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org).

To find local airings, visit the *AfroPoP* page on [www.APTOnline.org](http://www.APTOnline.org). To find your local WORLD station, visit [http://worldchannel.org/where\\_to\\_watch\\_world\\_tv](http://worldchannel.org/where_to_watch_world_tv).

#### ABOUT THE HOST

Gabourey Sidibe burst onto the scene in 2009 with her stunning portrayal of "Precious" in Lee Daniels film *Precious*: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire. Her efforts earned her an Academy Award® and Golden Globe®



In 'Stolen' (February 5), demonstrations of residents of the Durban shantytowns as they fight for the decent living conditions promised by the post-apartheid government and challenge the African National Congress.  
Violeta Ayala and Daniel Fallshaw

nomination for Best Actress along with an array of other nominations and awards.

Gabourey will next film the fourth season of the Golden Globe nominated Showtime series, *The Big C*, opposite Laura Linney. She plays the series regular role of "Andrea," a teenager who has become part of the core family, working alongside Oliver Platt, John Benjamin Hickey and Susan Sarandon.

Gabourey starred in Universal's action-comedy film *Tower Heist* opposite Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy for director Brett Ratner. She can soon be seen in the indie drama *Yelling to the Sky*, which premiered at the Berlinale Film Festival. She will next appear in Martin McDonagh's *Seven Psychopaths* opposite Woody Harrelson. In 2010, Gabourey had the distinct honor of hosting *Saturday Night Live*.

## Belfon

Continued from page 41

-- and I really and truly mean it. Sometimes we just say it for the hype but this year, for me, it's more than just hype."

Saucy who has described the onset of the 2013 season as "madness," says she is loving every moment of it so far, and admitted to having already secured bookings for a number of major events, including the Fire Fete next Saturday, the WASA Fete and the brand new "Prison's Soca For Life" event on January 26.

"The whole factor this year is the fact that the public missed me last year and now this year, the thing start. I've done my homework. I've watched, analyzed and this year it's all about the people," she said.

On the issue of her assurance to her sup-

porters, should she walk away the big winner of the competition on *Fantastic Friday*, Denise said, "If I win a lump-sum of money, I don't see the problem with putting on a grand event

**I've done my homework. I've watched, analyzed and this year it's all about the people.**

for the people -- a free event."

Belfon teamed up with Stadic Studios for her latest contribution and the track, "Taking Everything" was written collaboratively by Belfon, Kevin KC' Charles and Ian 'Flojo' Corbin.

Fans of the artiste can follow her on Twitter @TrueSaucyWow for constant updates on her music and more, throughout the season.

## Mary Poppins

Continued from page 41

ish sets and stunts that include Mary flying with her umbrella and Bert the chimney sweep tap dancing upside-down, the show was a hit after opening in 2006, two years after debuting in London.

The show is part of Disney Theatrical Productions' five big Broadway hits from seven attempts since 1994 — a profitable list that includes "The Lion King" and the more recent "Newsies." That's way above the 3-in-10 average recoupment of most Broadway shows. "Mary Poppins" routinely grosses over \$1 million every week despite the presence of touring versions.

When it closes, it will have been performed 2,619 times and have been seen by more than 4 million people. It recouped its initial Broadway investment within a year, and has gone on to be among the top 10



From left, Neil McCaffrey, Scarlett Strallen and Cassidy Leonard in a scene from, "Mary Poppins," in New York.  
Joan Marcus

grossing shows for the past six years and top five for attendance. It will rank as the 22nd longest-running show in Broadway history.

Its soon-to-be vacant home at the New Amsterdam Theatre will be taken by the musical "Aladdin," which has melodies by

Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice — the same team who created the animated film version that starred Robin Williams. The musical, with a book by Chad Beguelin, had its premiere in Seattle in summer 2011.

# Riveting docudrama recounts manhunt for Bin

**"Zero Dark Thirty"**  
Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated R for profanity,  
disturbing images  
and graphic violence.  
Running time:  
157 minutes  
Distributor:  
Columbia Pictures

## By Kam Williams

After 9/11, the United States intensified its efforts in the international manhunt for Osama bin Laden (Ricky Sekhon). Nevertheless, the elusive mastermind of the terrorist attack continued to orchestrate mass murders in Bali, Istanbul, London, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere around the world.

Dismayed by the ever-mounting death toll, the authorities rationalized the use of rough interrogation tactics bordering on torture in the hope of expediting the capture, dead or alive, of the slippery

al-Qaida leader. He was ultimately tracked down to a walled compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan where he died on May 2, 2011 during a daring, helicopter raid conducted by Navy SEAL Team Six.

Directed by two-time, Academy Award-winner Kathryn Bigelow (for *The Hurt Locker*), "Zero Dark Thirty" (military speak for 12:30 a.m.) is a riveting, super-realistic account of the decade-long search for bin Laden. Bigelow has again collaborated with Oscar-winning scriptwriter Mark Boal (also for *The Hurt Locker*), with the pair apparently gaining access to classified materials in preparing the project.

The film is structured as a tale of female empowerment revolving around Maya (Jessica Chastain), a cool, calm and collected CIA agent who manages to keep her head even when so many around her seem to be losing theirs, literally and/or figuratively. She also has an uncanny knack for decipher-



A scene from "Zero Dark Thirty."

ing, which clues might be worth following, cutting a sharp contrast in this regard to bumbling colleagues who fritter away most of their time on wild goose chases.

At the point of departure, we find Maya finally getting her first taste of fieldwork after starting

her career boning-up on bin Laden behind a desk in Washington, D.C. She's been reassigned to participate in the questioning of al-Qaida members and sympathizers being detained at secret sites located outside the U.S. where the Geneva Conventions provisions relating to

torture presumably don't apply.

Soon, Maya's chasing clues from Pakistan to Kuwait to Afghanistan and back, alongside tone-deaf bosses (Jason Clarke and Kyle Chandler) who could crack the case quickly if they weren't such male chauvinists suffering from Persistent Disbelief Syndrome. That's the shopworn plot device which pits a frustrated, unappreciated protagonist against an army of stubbornly skeptical naysayers.

Whether a convenient, cinematic contrivance or an accurate portrayal of what transpired, *Zero Dark Thirty's* version of history certainly makes for a very convincing piece of patriotic storytelling. Credit Jessica Chastain for imbuing her character, Maya, with a compelling combination of vulnerability, sagacity and steely resolve in a memorable, Oscar-quality performance. CIA Agent Strangelove, or how I learned to stop worrying and love waterboarding!

## Independent & foreign films

The *Baytown Outlaws* (R for sexuality, drug use, graphic violence and pervasive profanity) Custody comedy about a woman (Eva Longoria) who hires a trio of rough rednecks (Clayne Crawford, Daniel Cudmore and Travis Fimmel) to rescue her godson (Thomas Brodie-Sangster) from the clutches of her abusive ex-husband (Billy Bob Thornton). With Zoe Bell, Serinda Swan and Natalie Martinez.

*Clandestine Childhood* (Unrated) Dirty War drama, set in the Seventies, following the fortunes of a couple (Natalia Oreiro and Ernesto Alterio) which assumed new identities upon moving with their sons (Cesar Troncoso and Teo Gutierrez Romero) back to Argentina from Cuba to take part in the guerilla movement trying to topple the government. With Violeta Palukas, Mayana Neiva, Douglas Simon and Cristina Banegas. (In Spanish and Portuguese with subtitles)

*Fairhaven* (Unrated) Prodigal Son drama about a substance-abusing ne'er-do-well (Chris Messina) very eventful weekend spent with a couple of pals (Rich Sommer and Tom O'Brien) when



## Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

he returns to his hometown for the first time in a decade to attend his estranged father's funeral. With Sarah Paulson, Alexie Gilmore and Natalie Gold.

*High Tech, Low Life* (Unrated) Big Brother documentary examining censorship of the media and the Internet in the People's Republic of China. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

*Quartet* (PG-13 for profanity and suggestive humor) Dustin Hoffman directed this musical drama set at a home for retired opera singers where plans for the annual concert celebrating Verdi's birthday are complicated by the arrival of a pampered diva (Maggie Smith). Featuring Michael Gambon, Billy Connolly and Sheridan Smith.

*Sellebrity* (Unrated) Papparazzi documentary, directed by Kevin Mazur, offering an inside look at the lives of the rich and famous as well as the shut-

terbugs who get paid to stalk them with cameras. Featuring appearances by Kid Rock, Jennifer Aniston, Sheryl Crow, Marc Antony, Salma Hayed and Sir Elton John.

*Storage 24* (R for violence, gore and profanity) Sci-fi horror flick about four Londoners who find themselves trapped with an alien in a storage facility after the crash of a military cargo plane. Starring Noel Clarke, Colin O'Donoghue and Antonia Campbell-Hughes.

*Struck by Lightning* (Unrated) Coming-of-age comedy narrated by a socially-outcasted, high school senior (Chris Colfer) recounting the events leading up to his untimely death in a parking lot. With Allison Janney, Rebel Wilson and Dermot Mulroney.

*Uprising* (Unrated) Arab Spring documentary chronicling the 2011 overthrow of Hosni Mubarak's repressive regime in Egypt.

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CREATOR OF PAN'S LABYRINTH

JESSICA CHASTAIN  
**MAMA**  
A MOTHER'S LOVE IS FOREVER.

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VIOLENCE AND TERROR, SOME DISTURBING IMAGES AND THEMATIC ELEMENTS

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# SUN KULCHA

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

**SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS “WHY DO I STAY?”:** The Tamar Women’s Ministry invites you to attend “Finding My Way” a four-part series on spiritual wholeness between noon-2:00 p.m. at the Tried Stone Baptist Church, 1591 Boston Rd., Bronx, N.Y. 10460.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** Bronx Deliverance Center of Faith invites you to attend our Community Fellowship Service. Special invited guest: Pastor Joseph Pressley and congregation of Faithful Church of God. For more information, contact Dea. Joseph Ellis at (917)293-4247. The service is sponsored by The Men’s Dept. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, mail to Bronx Deliverance Center of Faith, COGIC, P.O. Box 201, Bronx, N.Y. 10459 Attn: Men’s Dept.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

**LITTLE-NEW YORKERS:** Free with Museum Admission, for ages 3-5. Each class will include time with historic toys, a special Little-New Yorkers “Hello” song, story readings, and a related carft project.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

**CROSS-STITCH CIRCLE:** Drop in to try your skills at one of the oldest forms of embroidery in the world from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Beginning cross stitchers will learn the basic stitch and create a bookmark with their new skill. More seasoned stitchers can continue working on their bookmark or branch into more complicated designs—make a handcrafted gift for someone! No pre-registration required. Free with Museum admission. For ages 6 and up!

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

**BUSINESS FOCUS:** Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Power Breakfast Meeting. This event will focus on critical small business concerns: job development, small business financing, business services technology, M/WE certification preparation, and a collective call for action. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Pre-registration is required. Confirm your registration today! RSVP: Tel: (718)834-5544 or Email: raha-stick@msn.com.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

**SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS “I HAVE A VOICE”:** The Tamar Women’s Ministry invites you to attend “Finding My Way” a four-part series on spiritual wholeness between noon-2:00 p.m. at the Tried Stone Baptist Church, 1591 Boston Rd., Bronx, N.Y. 10460.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16 - 19

**ARTS:** Black Latina: The Play returns to the stages of New York City at Teatro La Tea. Whether dark-skinned or indeed African-



**FARMERS MARKET:** Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including calaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT,WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Leferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit [www.seedsinthemiddle.org](http://www.seedsinthemiddle.org).



**REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING:** Are you a senior homeowner struggling to make ends meet? A reverse mortgage may be an answer. NHS can help determine if this is the best option for you. All programs discussed are backed by the federal government. For information, call (718)469-4679.

American and Hispanic, Black Latina chronicles the journey of ones struggle identifying with both cultures. It deals with external factors from society to media as well as the internal viewpoints of family and friends. Appropriate for ages 13 and up. Showtime is at 8:00 p.m. and tickets are \$19.62. In addition to the 8:00 p.m. performance, there will be a matinee performance on Jan. 19 at 3:00 p.m. Teatro La Tea, 107 Suffolk St., 2ndFl. New York, N.Y. 10002 United States. You can purchase tickets online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/299560>.

### ONGOING

### CURRENTLY- JANUARY 27, 2013

**EXHIBIT:** Artist Noel Copeland and Michael Milton take recycled and reclaimed materials and transform them into works of art are featured in the latest exhibition staged at Clover’s Fine Art Gallery in downtown Brooklyn. Clover’s Fine Art Gallery 388 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.



**HOME IMPROVEMENT:** Did your roof collapse? Does your brolier need replacement? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? NHS of East Flatbush can assist you. For information on home improvement programs, call (718)469-4679.

### JANUARY 12 - FEBURARY 9

**SELF-DENFENSE CORSES:** Five-week course combines physical and verbal self-defense skills with discussions on safety, prevention and violence de-escalation. FREE to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, and is offered on a sliding scale based on income for everyone else. Free childcare is also available. This course runs Saturdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m. Center for Anti-violence Education 327 7th St., Park Slope Brooklyn, N.Y. (corner of 5th Ave.) Call or email today to sign up (718)788-1775 and or [info@caeny.org](mailto:info@caeny.org).

**DONATIONS:** St. Robert Bellarmine Church is joining efforts with the Dioceses of Trenton to bring relief to victims in the hardest hit areas. The church has organized a sorting sub station in the parish and will be delivering donations to various locations shortly. The church is seeking donations of cardboard shipping boxes for packing or rubbermaid bins for storage for victims. Donations are tax deductible and the church will provide you with a receipt upon request. Feel free to contact St. Robert Bellarmine Church

at any time Attn: SRB Hurricane Relief Effort, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728 or [srbwelcome@gmail.com](mailto:srbwelcome@gmail.com), Pam Stengel (732)580-0075, Linda Altini (917)578-4852. Phone: (732)462-7429 or Fax: (732)409-3496.

**QUEENS SICKLE CELL:** The Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, 207-08 Hollis Ave., Queens Village, N.Y., presents a Parent to Parent Support Group meeting every first Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. For directions and registration, call (718)712-0873 or email [Qscanorg@verizon.net](mailto:Qscanorg@verizon.net).

**FAIRWAY MARKET SHUTTLE:** Fairway Market is now offering a free group shuttle bus to its Red Hook, Brooklyn store at 480-500 Van Brunt St., Mondays thru Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. For pick-up reservations for groups of 10 or more, within a five-mile radius of the store, call Viola Williams or Marcy Rosenblum at (347) 750-1251. There will also be pickups on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at 589 Prospect Ave., between 11 and 10 avenues. All seniors get a five percent discount in the store. Each group will have an hour and a half to shop and/or enjoy a bite to eat in the picturesque cafe by the waterfront.

**FARMERS MARKET:** Seeds in the Middle is sponsoring The Crown Heights Farmers Market offering fresh fruits and vegetables, including calaloo and Caribbean favorites and accepting EBT,WIC, Snap, FMNP, Health Bucks, and Fresh Connect. The market will be operating every Thursday from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Metz Park at Albany and Lefferts avenues, Brooklyn. For more information, visit [www.seedsinthemiddle.org](http://www.seedsinthemiddle.org).

**COMPUTER TRAINING:** Mount Carmel Worship and 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.

**REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING:** Are you a senior homeowner struggling to make ends meet? A reverse mortgage may be an answer. NHS can help determine if this is the best option for you. All programs discussed are backed by the federal government. For information, call (718)469-4679.

**FORECLOSURE SERVICES:** Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? The Flatbush Development Vcorp, NHS of East Flatbush and the Center for N.Y.C. Neighborhoods are offering free services and assistance. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment, call (718)469-4679.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT:** Did your roof collapse? Does your brolier need replacement? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? NHS of East Flatbush can assist you. For information on home improvement programs, call (718)469-4679.

*Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry*

# SPORTS



Tony Vails. Photo by Verity Rollins

## Vails sparks York's five

By Robert Elkin

When in doubt, give the ball to Tony Vails. And you're sure of a pass leading to a basket or a basket by himself.

This was the case during a recent basketball game matching two colleges from the City University of New York Athletic Conference—York of Jamaica, Queens and John Jay of Manhattan.

"I'm a senior now, and I have to accept the challenge," Vails said after last week's game. "I can take over a game like I'm supposed to."

With two minutes left in the second half,  
Continued on Page 46

## Jack Warner vindicated

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago's National Security Minister Jack Warner claims he has been vindicated now that football's governing body, FIFA, has closed its investigation into allegations that Mohamed bin Hammam, former president of the ASIA Football Confederation (AFC), paid bribes to Caribbean officials.

Warner resigned from FIFA and all forms of football two months after the allegations were made, while bin Hammam was banned for life.

It was alleged that bribes were paid during a Caribbean Football Union (CFU) meeting in Port of Spain in May 2011.

The investigation by Michael Garvia, chief ethics investigator with FIFA, was recently  
Continued on Page 46



Dynique Moore takes first place and Sukanya Wade takes second place in Middle School 55-meter dash.

# FAST PACE

Photo by Lem Peterkin

## High School hurdlers shine at Golgate games

BROOKLYN, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Some of the nation's best high school hurdlers faced off against each other on Friday, the start of the second preliminary meet of the 39th annual Colgate Women's Games. All-Star PSAL hurdles record-holder Brigitte Pewu of

Curtis High School in Staten Island ran 8.1 this week, just ahead of Junior Olympic champion Sandreeka Bancroft, the Colgate Women's Games' 2011 mid school record-holder from Cardozo High School in Queens, who ran 8.2. The outstanding competition helps both cham-

pions, as they each shaved .2 off last week's times. Lauren Lyons of Spellman High School in the Bronx continues undefeated in the 55 meters (7.2), and 200 meters (25.4); and Egypt Parker of Preston High School in the Bronx,

Continued on Page 46

# Warner

Continued from page 45

closed after failing to find new evidence.

Garcia's decision to close the investigation into the Caribbean allegations is contained in his confidential report to FIFA.

It states: "With respect to the events at the CFU conference, the investigation uncovered no new material proof beyond the substantial evidence presented during the proceedings that culminated with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decision vacating bin Hammam's ban.

"Accordingly, the investigatory chamber has closed this matter, consistent with the CAS panel's guidance regarding newly-discovered evidence," Garcia said.

Commenting on the report Warner said: "Because of the false allegations, my family and I were subjects of much harassment and persecution, which unfortunately continue to this day. I sincerely hope that with this announcement, we will finally have some much-deserved relief."



Jack Warner (left) and Mohamed bin Hammam, former president of the ASIA Football Confederation (AFC).  
AP Photo/Shirley Bahadur

"I must really extend sincere congratulations to my former colleague in FIFA for taking the battle all the way to CAS," he added.

Warner said he has no intention of returning to FIFA, as he had played his

role as a member of the FIFA executive for 29 years

In July 2012, Bin Hammam's lifetime FIFA ban was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) due to insufficient evidence.

He remains provisionally suspended over allegations of financial mismanagement while he was AFC president but his legal team has launched a challenge to that suspension in the Swiss courts.

# Tony Vails

Continued from page 45

Vails scored on a lay-up and then converted a free throw. Vails then made two free throws with less than a minute remaining on the clock. The score read 81-79 in favor of York. DuQuan Lawson of York threw the ball away. Thirteen seconds show on the clock. Thomas Hart converts another free throw to put York up 82-79. Kris Owens hits on a desperation lay-up as time expired.

York just held on for an 82-81 thriller over John Jay and increased its record to 6-6 and 2-2 in the CUNYAC, and sent John Jay to its first setback in the league at 3-1, and 6-4 overall.

Vails went on to score a personal best of 25 points and grabbed six rebounds while teammate Don Rodriguez scored 20 points. But they could not stop John Jay's junior Jamar Harry, who topped all point makers with 26 markers. Vails came alive with 16 points during the decisive second half when the visitors led by six points at three different stages.

All eyes were on Vails who felt very confident. He was ranked 18th in Division III of the NCAA coming into the game and averaged at 23 points a contest at one point of the season.

A 6'0" senior guard, he can do almost anything on the court from the shooting guard or small forward position.

He has to be a leader on the court as well as shoot all the time. But he still has to work on rebounds and converting

free throws as he made 11 of 17 from the free throw line.

"I love playing for (Coach Ron) St. John," Vails said after the game. "He gives me confidence to play better. When I'm relaxed I can take over a game like I'm supposed

**"Tony is my go-to player," St. John said. "We call him the finisher. Tony does what he has to do when the game is on the line. He's a big time player."**

to."

"Tony is my go-to player," St. John said. "We call him the finisher. Tony does what he has to do when the game is on the line. He's a big time player."

As the saying would go, 'Big time players come to play in big time games.'

"When in doubt give the ball to Vails," St. John added. "He's gotten smart as a player."

Otis Fenn, who formerly coached on the junior college level, now coaches John Jay.

"Otis and I have a good rivalry going back and forth probably about 12 years," St. John said. "He probably has beaten me once or twice. His team was 3-0 in the Conference (coming into the game at York College)."

"We need to go out and focus," the veteran coach summed up. "By beating John Jay it makes a statement for us and we go along from here."

# Colgate Women's Games

Continued from page 45

last year's "Most Promising Newcomer" trophy winner and Colgate Women's Games' mid-school record holder reclaimed the lead from Keziann Jones of Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn by tossing 11.07m to Jones' 10.94m.

In the Mid School division on Saturday, 13-year-old Gabrielle Wilkinson of Friends' Central School in Wynnewood, PA continued undefeated with another double win in the 800 meters and 1500 meters, this week improving to 2:20:07 and 4:53:00 respectively.

In the College / Open Division on Sunday, Treasure Glymph of the Bronx, a Junior Olympic high jump and long jump champion, and Colgate Women's Games high school hurdles finalist last year, returns as a freshman from Buffalo State College this season to

win the 55-meter hurdles in 8.5, an improvement over last week's 8.7 win. Veteran Colgate Women's Games' champion Amber Williams of Parsippany, NJ who had a perfect season last year, continues undefeated. Williams took the 200 meters in 25.2, and 400 meters in 58.0.

Meet Director Fred Thompson says this year's youngest competitors are sharing the spotlight with veteran champions. "We're seeing elementary school girls running like experienced athletes, and this is very promising because it tells us there are great teachers, coaches and parents taking the time to work with their youngest kids. The results are obvious on the track, but more importantly, their physical and mental commitment will have a positive benefit throughout their lives."

Also on Sunday in the

Elementary A division, newcomer Jada Mora of PS 347 in Manhattan won the hurdles in 11.9, improving her time from last week's first place win in 12.2; Jamilah Jackson of PS 815 in Brooklyn also improved and won the 800 meters in 2:57.9; Sabrina Imes of Shipley Elementary School in Bryn Mawr, PA remains undefeated with wins in the 200 meters 31.3, and 400 75.7, both times are more than two seconds faster than her wins last week.

Participation in the Colgate Women's Games is completely free. Girls and young women compete within their own age/grade divisions for ribbons, medals and points. Events include 55 meters, 55-meter hurdles, 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, 1500 meters, high jump and shot put.

Two more preliminary meets and a semi-finals at

Pratt Institute will determine top point scorers who will advance to the Finals to compete for trophies and educational grants-in-aid from Colgate-Palmolive Company. This year's finals will be held at the New Balance Track and Field Center at the Armory in New York City on Feb. 23, 2013.

The 39th annual Colgate Women's Games are the nation's largest amateur track and field series for girls and young women, and have produced more than 20 Olympians, hundreds of age/grade division national champions, and countless changed lives. Each year, high school participants are among the most heavily recruited athletes by colleges and universities across the nation. Coaches, recruiters, athletes and fans can follow scores each week at Colgategames.com



The York College men's basketball team.

Photo by Verity Rollins

# Windies selectors must focus on Twenty20 games

It is of vital importance that the West Indies selectors take a very keen look at the performance of cricketers in this year's Twenty20 games and promote those players who have been consistent and have shown an interest in moving up to the senior squad. In spite of the West Indies winning the 2012 Twenty20, there is still room for emerging younger talents with the needed skills that can keep the West Indies competitive.

For many years quality players have been overlooked and one of the reasons is that the teams they are representing are not winning teams despite the outstanding performance of some individual players. It is therefore important that selectors pay keen attention to individual performances in the regional tournaments and not so much on which popular team won or came in as runner up. Young all-rounders must be singled out because in Twenty20 cricket or One-Day Interna-



## Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

tional they are of great value with bat and ball.

### Cooper, Carter and Dowrich Must be Closely Monitored

Kevon Cooper [Trinidad/Tobago], Jonathan Carter [Barbados] and wicket keeper batsman Shane Dowrich [Barbados] should be closely monitored during the 2013 Twenty20 tournament. It is about time that the West Indies selectors get themselves in the correct groove in pinpointing talents. Cooper and Carter are two outstanding all rounders with great talent. Cooper is already playing in the Indian Premier League and if that league can identify his talents why not the West Indies selectors? Young Shane Dowrich is a fine wicket keeper who should

be given much more exposure to develop his cricketing skills.

### Guyana Defeats CCC From Last Ball

Combined Campuses and Colleges batted first and scored 159 runs for 3 wickets with Chadwick Walton smashing 99 not out after opening the batting. Kyle Corbin scored 25 before he was run out. Devendra Bishoo picked up 1 for 23 for Guyana.

Heroic Veer Sammy Permaul did it for Guyana. Shivnarine Chanderpaul opened the batting for Guyana scoring 38. After the run out of Ramneresh Sarwan for 8, Narsingh Deonarine came in at number four and scored a sparkling 57 that boosted Guyana to 91 for 3 after 11.2 overs



In this file photo, Australia's captain Ricky Ponting, right, is stumped out by West Indies wicket keeper Chadwick Walton, off the bowling of West Indies' Nikita Miller for 79 runs, during their Champions Trophy cricket match, at Wanderers, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

AP Photo

when Chanderpaul fell. Guyana reached 144 for 8 as Captain Permaul clubbed the last ball in the 20th over for six as Guyana reached

160 in fine style after pacer Jason Holder sent down a wide and a no ball in the last over.

Note: Guyana has four

players who have played International Cricket and they should be a great boost for their team in the tournament.

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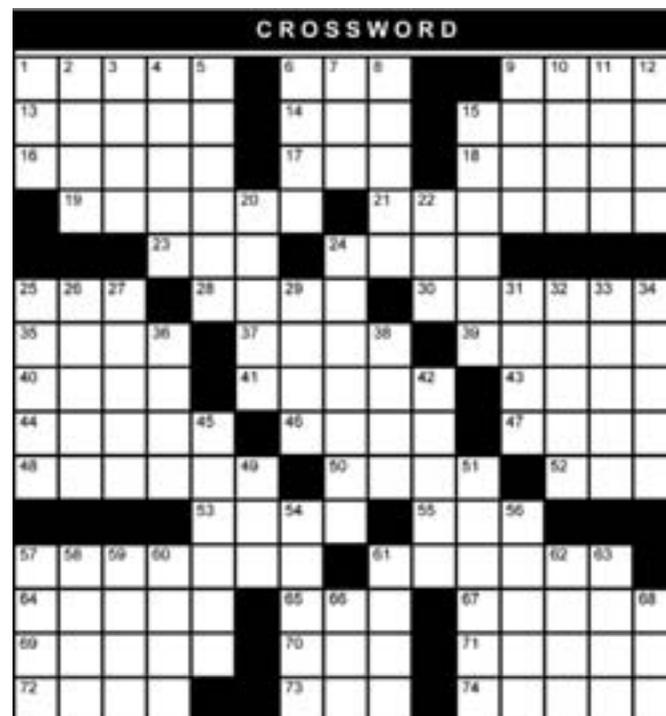
## ACROSS

1. Mt. Everest, McKinley and such
6. Cleopatra's cause of death
9. Crack in a lip
13. \*Hot toddy, e.g.
14. Former Chinese communist leader
15. Glowed or beamed
16. Pronouncements
17. "\_\_\_ to Joy"
18. Bird of prey weapon
19. Hungarian composer Bela
21. \*Popular winter sculpture
23. Thus far
24. Greenish blue
25. Former refrigerant
28. \*A snow \_\_\_ is one for trekking on snow
30. Astronomer's sighting
35. Miners' bounty, pl.
37. One who "\_\_\_ on the safe side"
39. Start eating!
40. Heaven's Gate, e.g.
41. 1:3, e.g.
43. Captured in fun
44. "Well-\_\_\_ machine"
46. Falls behind
47. Like tiny print
48. Like number 1 to hydrogen
50. Cuzco valley empire
52. Jack Kerouac's Paradise

53. Pottery oven
55. Everybody or everything
57. \* \_\_\_ break
61. Done after a trip
64. Wombs
65. Gas station abbreviation
67. Florida Key, e.g.
69. Turf, as opposed to surf
70. Unagi
71. \*Heard on sleigh ride?
72. Cab blower
73. \*Snow falls from it
74. Irregularly notched

## DOWN

1. Sum it up
2. Where a baby goes
3. Maryland Institute College of Art
4. Diary note
5. \*Used for gliding
6. In a frenzy
7. "\_\_\_ but true"
8. Literature in metrical form
9. Tobacco mouthful
10. River islet
11. Dwarf buffalo
12. In the Ivy League
15. Pitted peach, e.g.
20. Not the same one
22. Indian restaurant staple
24. Feeling no doubt
25. \*Hot treat
26. \*Ingredient in infamous cake
27. Played by Yo-Yo Ma
29. Kind of surgeon
31. Marty McFly's antagonist
32. Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid, pl.
33. Tarzan's swing rope
34. \*Snow impression
36. Kind of cell
38. \*Capricorn or Aquarius, e.g.
42. Extinct Italic language
45. Tiny antelope
49. Result of Truman's National Security Act of 1947
51. \*Kind of skiing
54. Ancient Greeks' harps
56. Lightsaber beam
57. Be quiet!
58. "The Simpsons" palindrome
59. Malicious look
60. Ayatollah's home
61. Pre-swan state?
62. Greek muse of history
63. Party casks
66. Expresses mild alarm or surprise
68. "\_\_\_ End" by The Doors



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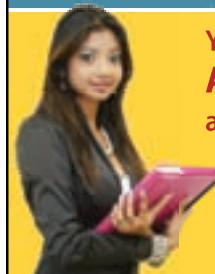
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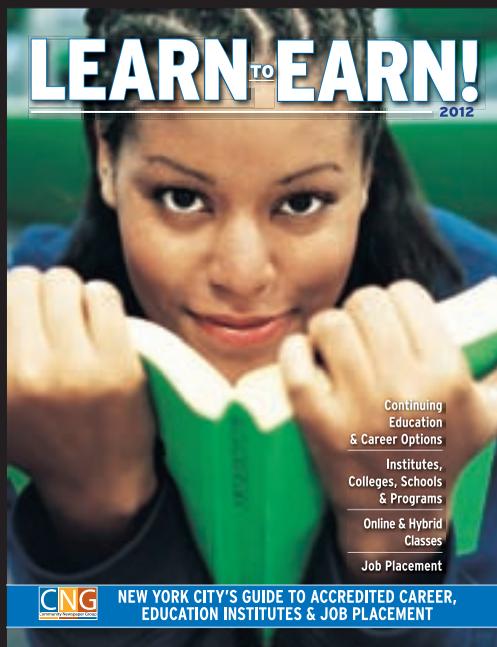
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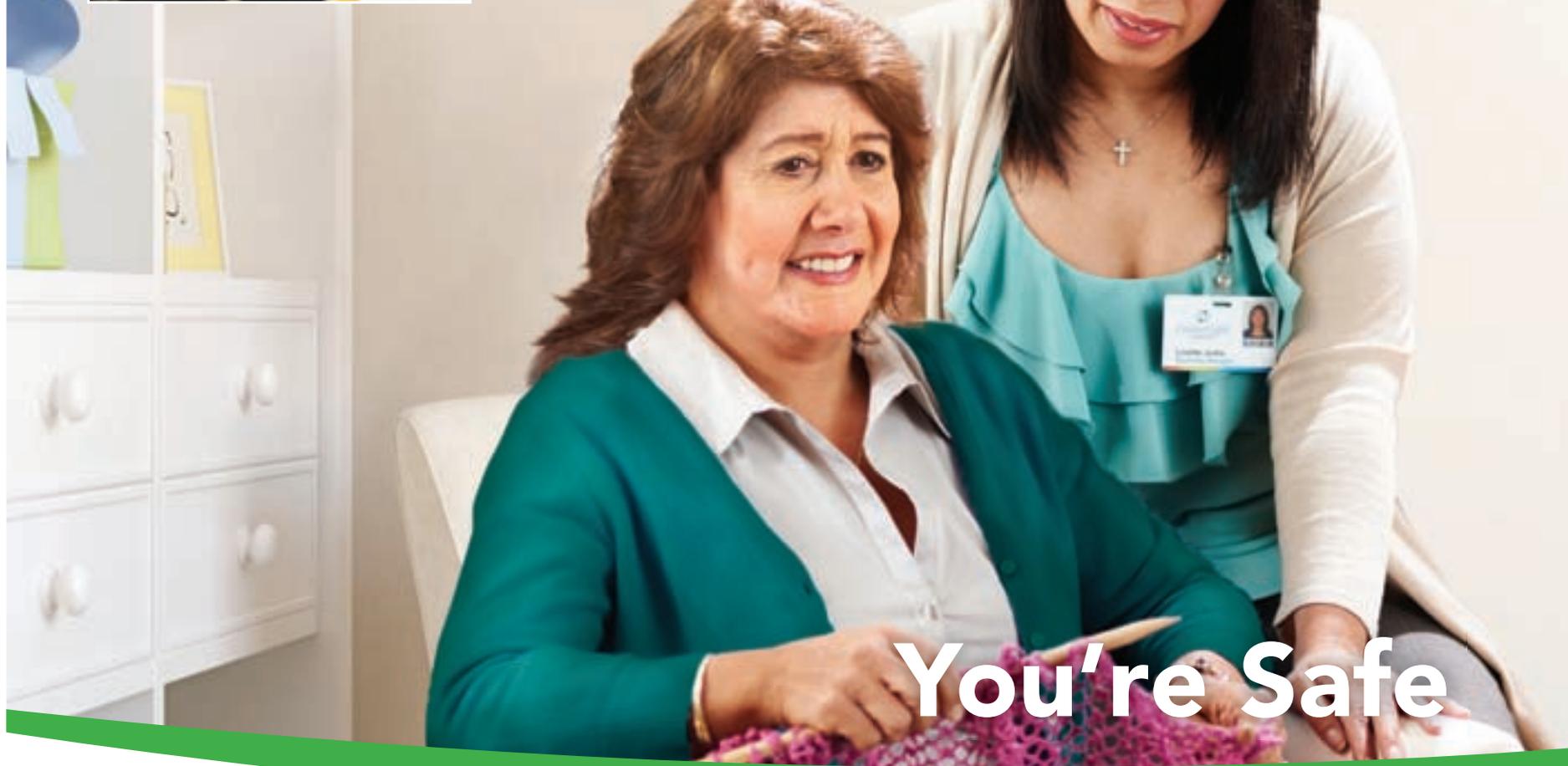


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