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## First Icon Award winner

Rihanna poses backstage with the Icon award at the American Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles. Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

## OECS denounces DR Court ruling

**By Nelson A. King**

Leaders of the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have denounced a ruling by the Constitutional Court in the Dominican Republic that renders stateless thousands of people of Haitian descent.

"We deeply regret the failure of the government of the Domin-

ican Republic to take corrective measures. Accordingly, we call on the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of which our individual countries are also members, to suspend immediately any consideration of the application by the Dominican Republic for membership of CARICOM," said the leaders in a communiqué after meeting in Montserrat

last week.

In describing the constitutional court's ruling as "repulsive and discriminatory," the OECS leaders also called on other regional and hemispheric organizations such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to "speak out unequivocally in con-

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# T&T, J'A TRAVEL ISSUES

## Row over deportations, and airport rejections

**By Bert Wilkinson**

Angry about a growing number of Jamaicans being refused entry into some Caribbean islands, Trinidad in particular, several groups and prominent individuals in Jamaica are fighting back by organizing mass boycotts of products from the twin-island republic using traditional and social media to whip up support for their effort.

The move follows publication of statistics that show that more than 1,000 Jamaicans have been denied entry into Trinidad and Tobago in the past three years. National Security Adviser Gary Griffith said Tuesday that an average of two are turned away per flight because they do not nor-

mally satisfy immigration requirements or lie on forms including a group of 13 which received similar treatment earlier this year.

Buoyed by an embarrassing defeat of the Barbados government in the Shanique Myrie case at the hands of the umbrella Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), Jamaicans say the time has come to fight back against stereotyping of Jamaican travelers as too many immigration and customs officers at various Caribbean ports profile Jamaican passengers as either male or female drug mules or women heading into the prostitution business.

Myrie had taken the Barbados government to the CCJ for the

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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

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THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

## Barbados

The Barbados government says it will implement fully, the 15 percent tax on lottery winnings over a certain amount, even as it acknowledged that “some changes” had been made to the measure announced in the national budget.

The Ministry of Finance said that the new measure would come into effect now that the appropriate legislation has been approved.

The statement said that the Ministry of Finance is now putting the “finishing touches to the proposal, following which industry players will be duly informed. It is expected that this process will be completed in a few weeks.”

Under the new proposal, people who won more than BDS\$100,000 (One BDS dollar = US\$0.50) or more in lotteries would be required to pay 15 percent tax.

“When passed, together with the passage of the Lottery Winnings Tax, they would represent the full legal implementation of the tax component of government’s fiscal measures from 2013,” the Ministry of Finance said.



## Guyana

The government of Guyana says it has placed its troops on alert after a report that Venezuelan soldiers might cross into territory held by Guyana.

Defense Secretary Roger Luncheon says Guyana’s military was told to remain “vigilant,” during a planned visit by Venezuelan opposition officials under military protection to a Guyana-held area claimed by both South American countries along the Essequibo River.

Guyana’s government has not taken such a step since 1982, when Venezuelan military planes flew over an area it has claimed in a border dispute that goes back decades.

Luncheon said there has been a surge of nationalistic rhetoric among candidates in Venezuela’s upcoming municipal elections.

In October, Venezuela detained a ship chartered by a U.S. oil company that had an exploration concession from Guyana in disputed waters.



## The dangers of seismic surveys

President of Fishermen and Friends of the Sea (FFOS) Gary About is arrested near the International Waterfront in Port of Spain. See page 14.

IPS/Peter Richards

## Haiti

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti has voiced concern at recent incidents of violence in several cities and urged everyone in the country to work towards ensuring a peaceful society.

Head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sandra Honore, said violence has resurged in Cite Soleil and around schools in Cap Haitien.

“Such crime are particularly disturbing as they endanger the safety of all, and the social peace that Haiti needs to move forward on the path of strengthening rule of law and socio-economic development,” she said in a statement recently.

The Mission urged all Haitians, civil society and other actors, including political, religious and community leaders, to continue working for peace.

MINUSTAH also reiterated its commitment to support Haitian authorities, especially the Haitian National Police, to prevent vio-



lence and to strengthen the rule of law institutions in line with its mandate.

Recently, the UN Security Council extended MINUSTAH’s mandate until mid-October 2014.

## Jamaica

Jamaica has now become the first independent Caribbean country to have no criminal defamation laws-including seditious libel on the books.

Grenada abolished criminal libel in 2012, but maintains laws criminalizing seditious libel and insult of the monarch.

As part of its campaign to repeal criminal defamation in the Caribbean, IPI lobbied publicly and privately for the bill’s passage; IPI and its strategic partner, the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM), also visited Jamaica three times to meet with government officials in support of the Media Association of Jamaica (MAJ) and the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ).

In a statement, PAJ president Jenni Campbell said: “This is an important step in increasing free-



dom of expression and by extension press freedom in Jamaica

## St. Lucia

The St. Lucia government has dismissed suggestions that it had not kept to its promise to reduce the tax on fuel in an effort to control the price at the pumps. Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony, who met with officials from the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) and PetroCaribe recently, said the rate of Excise Tax on petroleum products was 40 per cent below what existed prior to Nov. 28, 2011, when the previous administration was in office.

“Despite all the political ads you may be seeing right now on your television, since this government has been formed, the average price government has gained from Excise Tax on gasoline has been EC\$1.84 (One EC dollar = US \$0.37 cents) per gallon, and EC\$2.35 per gallon, and EC\$2.35 per gallon for diesel.

“To be clear, for fear that there are those from certain quarters who may say they did not hear



it, since this government has been elected by the people, from December 2011 till to date, the average excise tax that the government of St. Lucia collected from gas and diesel have been \$1.84 per gallon and \$2.35 per gallon.

## St. Vincent

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves says he is “absolutely fed up” at the constant industrial action plaguing the regional airline, LIAT.

Gonsalves, who is the chairman of the shareholder governments of the financially troubled airline, said he was “fed up” with the “self-inflicted wounds” on the Antigua-based airline.

LIAT pilots walked off their jobs recently and their union, the Leeward Islands Airline Pilots Association (LIAP-PA) blamed “misguided and ill-informed decisions” taken by the airline’s management for the action.

The union claimed that they were forced into an emergency meeting to discuss the management’s decision resulting in the widespread disruption to the airline’s daily schedule.

Gonsalves said “these self-inflicted wounds between management and the pilots just have to stop.”

Gonsalves said he was anxious to receive a full report on what led to the recent strike but he urged management and the pilots to maintain level heads and exercise mature judgment.

Gonsalves said he was still of the opinion that Liat should be declared an essential service, adding that the shareholder governments had already agreed to go that route.

He said he raised the matter at the CARICOM level and member states now have to decide on whether to accept his proposals.

## Suriname

Judicial authorities in Suriname have ordered a probe into criminal charges of the United States government against Dino Bouterse, son of the president of Suriname.

Bouterse, 41, who is already fac-



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Queueing up for BBQ at St. Matthias Charities, Inc. fundraiser on Aug. 24. Photo by Nelson A. King

## Bronx-based Vincentian charity gives back

By Nelson A. King

A Vincentian Christian charity group in New York dedicated to giving back to their homeland has donated yet another shipment of much-needed medical supplies and equipment to the main hospital in capital and rural clivics throughout the country.

Pastor Robert McBarnett, president and founder of the Bronx-based St. Matthias Charities told Caribbean Life his group is fulfilling its mission by doing “great work for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”

It recently donated a 20ft.-container of medical equipment and supplies, last month, the recently-ordained Spiritual Baptist minister said, adding that the shipment was made easier with collaboration from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ New York Consulate General and former administrator of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) in Kingstown, Sis. Ynolde Smart, who was, at the time, on vacation in New York, as well as the Vincentian-owned, New York-based Square Deal Shippers.

Items included: an endoscopy washing machine and printer, examination tables, chairs to be used in waiting areas of the hospital and various institutions, incubator, file cabinets, IV poles and medicine.

On Nov. 1, McBarnett, an employee in the Envi-

ronmental Department at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, on the Brooklyn-Queens corridor, said his organization also collaborated with the Consulate General and the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nurses Association of New York, Inc. in shipping 23 hospital beds to the MCMH.

The beds were donated to the nursing group by registered nurse Olga Husbands, manager of nursing operations and systems at New York University Hospital in midtown Manhattan. Husbands’ parents hail from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

McBarnett said St. Matthias Charities, Inc. is also raising funds for the purchase of a bronchoscope, estimated to cost US\$40-50,000, for the MCMH.

The group, which conducted its annual fundraising BBQ in Brooklyn in August, plans to raise more funds at its annual Prayer Breakfast, on Nov. 30, at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

Since the formation of the St. Matthias Charities, Inc. a year ago, McBarnett said it has shipped three containers of medical and school supplies and equipment to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and one container of similar supplies to Grenada.

These also included clothes and shoes, donated

Continued on Page 28

# Outrage over growing ‘knockout game’ violence

By Nelson A. King

Leading Brooklyn politicians have expressed outrage over violence related to the “knockout game,” a local and national phenomenon in which unsuspecting strangers are struck on the head and knocked to the ground.

At a news conference at the Crown Heights Youth Collective, the legislators, as well as Brooklyn District Attorney-Elect Ken Thompson and community leaders, expressed deep concern in which there have been numerous incidents related to the “knockout” game.

Legislators who attended the meeting were: Reps. Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8), Yvette Clarke (NY-9), Brooklyn Borough President-Elect Eric Adams, Assem. Karim Camara (AD-43), and Councilmember-Elect Laurie Cumbo.

“Random acts of violence, particularly when targeted at people on the basis of race or religion, will not be tolerated,” said Jeffries. “If you violently participate in the knockout game, we will do everything in our power to make sure that the criminal justice system is there to



Congressman Hakeem Jeffries addressing a news conference at the Crown Heights Youth Collective. Photo courtesy of Office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries

knockout socially unacceptable behavior.

“We must also make sure that we positively reinforce young people throughout the community in a manner that promotes constructive activity by at risk youth,” he added.

Clarke said the Brooklyn community “will not tolerate random acts of violence,” adding that “attacks on any people in our community are an attack on our

community as a whole.

“With the leadership of this community and the New York City Police Department (NYPD), we will stop the violence that threatens our safety,” she said.

Adams described the attacks as a “dangerous, despicable game,” stating that it “represents the worst kind of sick violence.”

He said the perpetrators “must be dealt with swiftly and harshly.”

Thompson said he was standing with his colleagues in government – group of African American and West Indian American leaders – to “reach out now, before it’s too late, to any young person, who thinks, for one second, that it’s cool to sucker punch a totally unsuspecting, defenseless person for laughs or to gain some ridiculous measure of status.

Continued on Page 28

## Healthfirst opens in Washington Heights

Healthfirst, a not-for-profit managed care organization offering health insurance to individuals and families living in the New York metropolitan area and New Jersey, celebrated the grand opening of its new Community Office in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 20. The new office is located at 1467 St. Nicholas Ave., West 183rd Street.

The Washington Heights Community Office is open to the public Monday through Saturday.



From left, Dan McCarthy (Healthfirst Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer); Senator Adriano Espaillat; Assemblywoman Gabriela Rosa; Pat Wang (Healthfirst President and CEO); Ramon Tallaj, MD (Corinthian Medical IPA).

Photo by Lem Peterkin

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# Garbage piles up in Georgetown, Guyana

By Tangerine Clarke

Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana, Patricia Chase-Green called on Donald Ramotar stating - "as president of this country, who has an office, and residence in Georgetown, I call on you to use your influence to end the garbage stalemate that threatens the health of our citizens."

Acknowledging that the City of Georgetown is in a crisis situation due to the garbage that continues to pile up while councilors bicker over who should clean up the mess, Chase-Green said - "I will do everything in my power to ensure the garbage is cleared away to welcome overseas Guyanese for the holiday season."

During a recent exclusive interview with Caribbean Life after a City Hall staff member was seen dumping garbage next to a clearly marked receptacle on the grounds of the municipality, Chase-Green lay the blame squarely on Town Clerk Carol Sooba, whom she said



President Donald Ramotar. AP Photo/Richard Drew

terminated the private contractor without first discussing ways to effectively deal with the situation.

The councilmember blamed Sooba for what she called her lack of commonsense for terminating the services of a private contractor hired to clean up the city, and outside of Stabroek and Boruda

markets.

"I said to her, how could we evaluate holding back cash allocated to pay a contractor to remove the accumulated garbage that could eventually create a health crisis and possibly the deaths of children.

"City Hall is presently not capable of removing the amount of garbage that is accumulated, said Chase-Green, a nurse by profession, who expressed frustration and concern that the approaching rainy season would clearly prevent garbage collection. The Christmas holidays she added would also bring added solid waste thrown out by citizens in preparation for the festive season.

She specifically named Mr. Forsyth, owner of Invro-Tech recycling, who was approved by the city council to clean up the environment, but again she blames the year-long hold up on the town clerk, who is yet to approved the contract.

# Tobago explores its tourism potential

By Aba Luke

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad. Nov. 25, 2013---- Boasting that the island of Tobago is a rare gem of the Caribbean, a spanking new entertainment lounge is moving to lure domestic and foreign visitors to its doors. La Isla Tobago Members Lounge is set to be launched on Friday, Nov.29 on the island known for its pristine beaches and relaxing atmosphere. There has been somewhat of an upsurge in efforts by the island's entertainment entrepreneurs in recent months to prepare Tobago for travellers who yearn for a little of everything when they visit the island. La Isla Tobago members Lounge is challenging the norm in Tobago, bringing premium entertainment, inclusive of themed nights, bar games and live music for members of the establishment.

Located at Fortune Plaza, Milford Road, Bon Accord, the member's lounge will add value to life, according to its slogan and with a mandate to treat each person

who visits like a VIP, things are looking quite good for the entertainment circuit in Tobago. In recent months, there has been much talk about the need to improve the elements of attraction that are offered to visitors to the small island. With that, owners and management of La Isla Tobago moved to satisfy this need, especially relative to the entertainment landscape on the island. The lounge was formed by a powerful board of directors and consists of a membership committee. Additionally, many corporate entities have already obtained membership status at La Isla Tobago- something that guarantees them secure parking along with countless other perks.

The island of Tobago, reputed for its high level of customer service is expected to gain additional tourism mileage with the addition of this member's lounge. Much like the perks of a golf club, this entertainment outfit will cater to each and every need of its membership.

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# Jamaica fight-back over travel denials

Continued from cover  
humiliating treatment she had received at the Grantley Adams International Airport when she was stripped and finger searched, thrown in a filthy cell and put on the next plane back home because authorities there thought she was headed for the ladies of the night business or had come to rob Barbadian women of a possible spouse by marrying a local and remaining on the island. The CCJ handed defeat to Barbados and punitive damages to Myrie, triggering a region-wide rethink of the right of free travel within the Caribbean trade bloc of nations.

Single women from several Caribbean trade bloc countries including Guyana, have complained about similar treatment at the hands of Barbadian and Trinidadian airport

officials but the latest spat between Jamaica and Trinidad has attracted support

for the attitude that they have adopted with respect to Jamaica and Jamaicans

**"I am tired of seeing Trinidad and Barbados treat other member states, especially Jamaica, like second-rate citizens. The patty war is fresh in my mind and the number of Jamaicans turned back from their shores annually,"**

from a wide cross sections of Jamaicans who say that enough is enough.

Karl Samuda, a former Jamaican government minister and shadow legislator on Industry and Commerce threw his support behind the campaign this week by saying that the entry refusals" makes a mockery of the spirit of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Trinidadians must be roundly chastized

in particular."

He argued that nothing will change until a campaign to boycott products from Trinidad begins to bite, noting that "we should not have a situation where a country's producers are benefiting tremendously from our markets and, at the same time, breaching the provisions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas with respect to the free movement of Jamaicans

throughout the region."

Jamaican school teacher Kesreen Green Dillon whose campaign is picking up steam and even attracting comment from the private sector umbrella organization, says that "I am tired of seeing Trinidad and Barbados treat other member states, especially Jamaica, like second-rate citizens. The patty war is fresh in my mind and the number of Jamaicans turned back from their shores annually," she said, referring to a recent trade war over restrictions of Jamaican patties into the Trinidad market.

This is even as Attorney General A.J. Nicholson warned that any such move would be counter-productive to good relations but it appears at few Jamaicans are listening in the wake of the recent CCJ ruling.

# A terrible wrong

Continued from cover  
denomination of this ruling.

"The individual and collective voices of all who believe in and are committed to human rights and justice for all must now be raised to urge the Dominican Republic to right this terrible wrong," the communiqué said.

A special meeting of the CARICOM Bureau to discuss the court ruling was expected to be held in Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday.

It would be chaired by host Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar, who also chairman of the 15-member regional grouping.

The CARICOM Bureau comprises Prime Minister Persad Bissessar; her St. Vincent and the Grenadines counterpart, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves; and the President of Haiti, Michel

Martelly.

The meeting was also expected to be attended by CARICOM Secretary General Irwin La Rocque.

Gonsalves, who has been very critical of the Dominican Republic court ruling, has written two letters to the President of the Dominican Republic, Danilo Medina, warning that St. Vincent and the Grenadines would oppose his country's application for membership to CARICOM, as well as seek its suspension from the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM).

The OECS comprises Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

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# Barbados newspaper in hot water over child-sex publication

By George Alleyne

The Jamaica Gleaner newspaper's support for counter-part Barbados Nation in a saga of a published report of children having sex in a classroom has earned it a tell-off from a government minister.

Three of the Nation newspaper's top brass were last week slapped with criminal charges for the publication, and the Gleaner on Sunday questioned in its editorial column whether the court action might have political connotations.

But Barbados Government Minister, Donville Inniss, retorted, "I say to the editor of the Jamaica Gleaner, mind your own business and look at the rot going on in Jamaica. Barbados is in good hands."

Noting that Nation Publisher and CEO, Vivian-Anne Gittens; Editor-in-Chief, Roy Morris; and News Editor, Sanka Price, were charged under a child protection act, the Gleaner on Sunday stated it endorses the legislation, "We however have serious reservation about the application of the law in relation to the Nation newspaper and its staff ... We hope that there are no political undertones in this matter, and it does not imply an attempt to rein in the Nation's feisty independence".

Accusing the Gleaner of seeking to give the impression of there being political mischief behind the charges, Inniss said Sunday night, "I don't know what happens in Jamaica, but I can tell

those people in Jamaica, as I can tell people in the media in this country, we are still a law-abiding society. The Director of Public Prosecutions is not under any political dictates from anyone".

The entire Gleaner editorial comment was reprinted in the Trinidad Express newspaper, also on Sunday.

The three Nation people were hauled before the court last Thursday, under the Protection of Children Act, following police investigation of what laws were breached when the newspaper published in its Saturday Sun edition of Oct. 26, under the caption 'Sex Scene', a report with photograph of a boy and girl engaged in a sex act, believed to be videotaped on a cell phone by



Nation newspaper top brass being escorted to District A Magistrate's Court in Bridgetown last week by plainclothes police officers: Third from left (in white top) is Publisher and CEO Vivian-Anne Gittens; walking behind her (with gray beard in white shirt) is News Editor Sanka Price and (partly hidden in black and clean shaven) is Editor-in-Chief Roy Morris.

Photo by George Alleyne

other students and put on the Internet.

First to be hit with charges for a criminal offence were two boys, 15 and 16 years old, accused on Wednesday of filming and distributing indecent images of a boy and girl having sex in a classroom. They are now on US\$5,000 bail each, and will

return to court on Nov. 27.

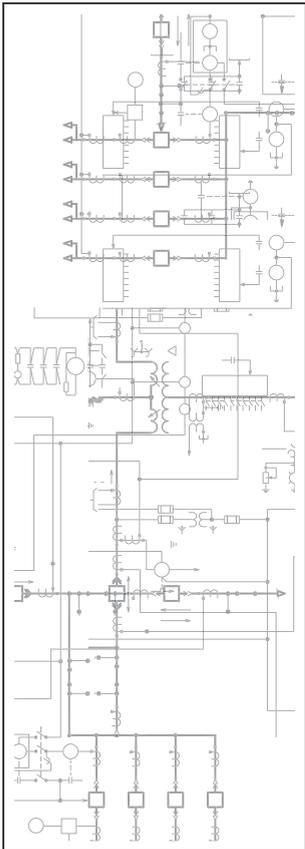
The Nation trio also are awaiting their day in court, March 11 next year, while on \$2,500 bail each. They were made to surrender their travel documents.

The charges faced by the media house personnel carry a penalty of a maximum five years imprisonment, and are

unprecedented in Barbados.

If this type of court action against a media house is not without precedent in the Caribbean, it is in the least new in this era of social media, and traditional newspapers, along with radio and television stations will be maintaining a close eye on proceedings.

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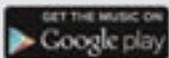


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# Devil in the details, Angel in the big picture

By Robert E. Hunter

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, 2013 (IPS) - The devil is in the details. This cliché is already being invoked regarding the deal concluded this past weekend between Iran and the so-called P5+1 – the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, plus Germany, along with the European Union's High Representative, Baroness Catherine Ashton.

Devil and details, yes; but the "angel" is in the "big picture," the fact of the agreement itself – interim, certainly; flawed, perhaps; but a basic break with the past.

This is the end of the Cold War with Iran, (accurately) defined as a state when it is not possible to distinguish between what is negotiable and what is not.

It will now become much harder for Iran to get the bomb, even if it were hell-bent on doing so. The risk of war has plummeted. Israel is safer – along with the rest of the region and the world – even as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denies that fact.

This is the end of the Cold War with Iran, (accurately) defined as a state when it is not possible to distinguish between what is negotiable and what is not. Going back to that parlous state would require a major act of Iranian bad faith, perfidy, or aggression, not at all in its self-interest.

In the last few days, the Middle East has become different from what it was before. That happened, as a "moment in history," when President Barack Obama called Iran's President, Hassan Rouhani, on the latter's way to Kennedy Airport.

**The issue of Iran's nuclear programme can be dealt with successfully, that is clearly in the U.S. interest.**

That moment psychologically set in train a sequence of events that are causing an earthquake in the region. And like any good earthquake, the extent, the impact, and even the direction it travels will not soon be clear. But one thing is clear: despite downside risks, changes taking place can be positive if people in power will make it so.

The struggle with Iran has never been just about the "bomb." Even aside from whether Iran's domestic nuclear energy programme would ineluctably morph into a nuclear weapons capability, it has posed problems ever since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Iran turned from being a supporter of Western, especially U.S., interests – a so-called "regional influential" – to being a challenger of U.S. hegemony, the predominance of Sunnis over Shiites in the heart of the Middle East, and the comfort level of close U.S. regional partners.

The United States led in devising a policy to contain Iran. It included diplomatic isolation, the introduction of economic sanctions, Washington's support for Saddam Hussein's Iraq in its war against Iran, and U.S. buttressing of the military security of its regional partners.

There have also been widespread reports of external efforts to destabilise Iran, along with a U.S. predilection for regime change.

Why Iran has now decided to negotiate seriously about its nuclear programme will be long debated and be variously ascribed to economic sanctions; to progressive loss of popular support for the mullah-led regime and a "melting" of ideology; and to the election of an Iranian president with an agenda different from his predecessor and blessed by the Supreme Leader.

Current possibilities are helped by a U.S. administration prepared to negotiate seriously, unlike its two predecessors, from when Iran a decade ago put a positive offer on the table that went unanswered – as Secretary of State John Kerry noted Saturday night.

At heart, Iran is now back "in play" in the region and is beginning the march toward resuming a role in the international community – slow perhaps, abortive perhaps, but for now pointed in that direction.

Assuming that the issue of Iran's nuclear programme can be dealt with successfully, that is clearly in the U.S. interest. It might lead toward renewed U.S.-Iranian cooperation, tacit or explicit, over Afghanistan, where complementary interests led Iran to support the U.S. overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001. It is also possible that Iran will come to value stability in Iraq over the pursuit of major influence there.

It is still a stretch to see Iran's working to reconcile with Israel (a quasi-ally before 1979), although Iran's full reengagement in the outside world and especially in relations with the United States can never be completed without Iran's reaching out to Israel (and

vice versa).

And for Iran to change its posture toward Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon would require not just alteration of Iran's ambitions but also changes in policies by other states and groups.

Syria is both symbol and substance of the core problem of Iran's re-emerging as a serious player in the Middle East. There is the slow-burning civil war between Sunnis and Shias that was reignited by the Iranian Revolution and then, when that fire began to die down, by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, which overthrew a Sunni minority government dominating a majority Shia population.

The war in Syria is in part an effort by Sunni states to "right the balance." In the process, however, Saudi Arabia in particular has been unwilling to control elements in its country that are both inspiring and arming the worst elements of Islamist extremism and which fuel not just Al-Qaeda and its ilk but also the Taliban.

There is also state-centred competition for influence in the Middle East – geopolitics. This is linked to the relationships of regional states, especially Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the United States. Both stoutly oppose Iran's reentry into that competition.

In addition to its continuing worries about an Iranian bomb, Israel is concerned that lessened tensions with Iran could swing attention back to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But Saudi Arabia faces no potential military threat from Iran. Any Iranian challenge is denominated in terms of Sunni vs. Shia, cultural and economic penetration, and the greater vibrancy of Iranian society – none of which can be dealt with by the huge quantities of armaments these countries

have accumulated.

Further, as Iran does again become a player, uncertainties regarding its potential challenges to neighbours will lead them to cleave even more closely to the United States; and the U.S. will have to continue being a critical strategic presence in the region – its desire to "pivot" to East Asia notwithstanding.

It is thus not surprising that several regional states oppose the U.S.-led opening to Iran and have already signaled a no-holds-barred campaign, including in U.S. domestic politics, if not to scuttle what has been achieved so far at least to limit US (and P5+1) negotiating flexibility. (Iranian hard-liners will also be working to undercut President Rouhani.)

Israel and others can rightly ask that the U.S. not fall for a "sucker's deal," though, as Secretary Kerry correctly stated, "We are not blind, and I don't think we're stupid."

But they are also worried that they will lose their long-unchallenged preeminence in Washington and with Western business interests. This is not Washington's problem. Indeed, from Afghanistan to Iraq to Syria and even to Israeli-Palestinian relations, drawing Iran constructively into the outside world – if that can be done safely – is very much in U.S. interests.

Even at this early stage in moving beyond cold war with Iran, President Obama has earned his Nobel Peace Prize.

*Robert E. Hunter, former U.S. ambassador to NATO, was director of Middle East Affairs on the National Security Council Staff in the Carter Administration and in 2011-12 was Director of Transatlantic Security Studies at the National Defense University.*

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## What's on your mind?

**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@cnglocal.com](mailto:caribbeanlife@cnglocal.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.

# Even Thanksgiving loses its 'untouchable' status

This Thanksgiving time, a really big thumbs-up has been earned by some frontline players in the retail sector who've declined joining the mad rush to which many competitors are committed, to open their doors Thanksgiving evening. That absurdity triggers recall of the sentiments expressed by calypso's redoubtable Mighty Sparrow, when he sang many years ago, "Capitalism Gone Mad." Really, do we need any further reminders of where workers' interests rank, viewed through the prism of the corporate establishment? It's risky to accept at face value the pronouncements of those retailers now espousing respect for the sanctity of Thanksgiving (who knows if a year hence an altogether different chorus is being sung?). But never mind that. For now, kudos to Nordstrom, T.J. Maxx, Dillard's, Home Depot, BJ's, Marshall's, Costco and the others who've opted to distance themselves from this latest display of shameless corporate greed.

Dissenters from this push to despoil the Thanksgiving spirit in favor of raking in big bucks are at least giving principled voice to the unsavory turn of events: they believe their employees should be

allowed to spend Thanksgiving Day with their families. If the others, comfortable with jumping the gun on the start of the holiday season gold rush, take solace in an assault on tradition that peels away only a portion, not all of Thanksgiving Day, far from reflecting some concern for propriety, it is more suggestive of self-congratulatory indulgence attempting to maximize a token gesture. They must know that the underlying perception remains, of a willingness to dishonor a revered day that purports to connect the ongoing experiment that is America to origins deeply rooted in spirituality.

Given such historical bearing, one would surely presume Thanksgiving Day to be protected for life from any capitalist designs of dubious intent. Surely, a holiday, which commands pause for special remembrance of this country's founding, as well as invites, in like vein, reflection upon blessings bestowed, is supposedly a bigger match than the corporate juggernaut's avarice could handle. Or so we thought.

Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio's "tale of two cities" spiel in his campaign resonated well with an overwhelming majority of New York City resi-

## Viewpoint

By Les Slater

dents because it's a living reality that New Yorkers know all too well...in respect of which, New Yorkers have lots of company throughout the country. The theme of a small, privileged population segment controlling, in lopsided fashion, the bulk of the country's assets and resources has made it into political discourse perhaps more frequently of late than it's been known to happen previously. Middle class/working class frustration over the gap that has grown quite enormous between them and those who are well off is palpable. The point being that there are already symbols galore surrounding or intruding on common, salt-of-the-earth folk reinforcing their unenviable station relative to those on the higher rungs, and attesting to the gap, if anything, looking to grow larger. A decision by those controlling interests to breach the protection historically afforded an institution like Thanksgiving becomes yet another manifestation

of a single-minded "taker" mentality that only exacerbates the sense of siege felt by those under foot.

One expects, of course, the usual poppycock from offending parties: that opening for business before Thanksgiving Day has drawn to a close is all about affording shoppers the opportunity to grab bargains. We feel pretty confident in the assertion that, among those early-bird shoppers, if ever there is a line formed of folks who believe offering them discounted merchandise was what primarily drove retailers' early-opening decision, the line won't be a long one. Early shopping for "Black Friday" bargains is a fad that has attracted a devoted core of followers over the years and presumably many of them will have committed to the Thanksgiving evening variation. It's a routine, however, to which they're being led, new rules of the game that they predictably observe and to which they're prepared to adjust. It's the behavior of the rules changers that we think warrants vociferous protest.

Which sets us to wondering about the social conservative take on all this. How about that ever active lobby devoting just a smidgeon of the energy now expended on bash-

ing the Affordable Care Act on what clearly is unabashed irreverence for traditional values. One wishes that the social conservatism impetus that practitioners make sure to keep constantly fed into the body politic could be brought to bear on an issue like desecration of Thanksgiving. Or does the presence of big business in the mix mean all bets are off, given the cozy relationship the conservative lot evidently believe they must maintain with the business sector? It wouldn't be the first time conservatives' decision on something that was or wasn't acceptable confounded logic.

Sunday shopping was once taboo not too very long ago in many places. The decision to remove that restriction was readily understandable in practical terms. That bears no comparison to storming the Thanksgiving Day barricades. Probably more concerning than the act itself is what it portends. It's pretty deflating to ponder that when once "Nothing is sacred" was uttered more or less as idle chatter, major indifference to human feelings like business as usual Thanksgiving evening comes along, adding hard truth to the deepening loss of innocence.

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# Bankruptcy Filing

**By Gregory Messer**

While many people fear losing their shirt in a bankruptcy, it is only a figure of speech. Even in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, you will likely be able to keep possessions most precious to you, but the facts of each

case are different.

While it is an intimidating option to consider, bankruptcy may ultimately be beneficial if you wish to reduce your debts and build a healthy financial future for yourself.

Your financial situation is different from any other. If you are considering bankruptcy as an option, you need to separate fact from fiction. Consider these points:

**Fiction:** Changes in the bankruptcy law in 2005 made filing for bankruptcy impossible.

**Fact:** Legislative changes to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in 2005 were made to respond to allegations that too many people were using bankruptcy petitions to discharge debt they could have paid. Among other changes made to the Bankruptcy Code, a means test was created to examine eligibility for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the most common form of bankruptcy filed. If you are eligible, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, or a liquidation bankruptcy, is still available to you.

**Fiction:** You must have a certain amount of debt to qualify for bankruptcy. Debt required before you can file bankruptcy.

**Fact:** You can file for bankruptcy when you have debt you can no longer pay down over a reasonable period of time with your expected income.

**Fiction:** If you are employed, you cannot file for bankruptcy.

**Fact:** Many working individuals carry unmanageable debt. Filing Chapter 13 bankruptcy, or a wage earner bankruptcy, is a good option if you have an income and property you would like to keep.

Last year more than one million consumers and businesses filed for relief under federal bankruptcy laws. With the economic downturn and continuing weak

labor market, bankruptcy is an important option to help hardworking people get a new financial start.

For most consumers, bankruptcy is an opportunity to handle overwhelming personal financial problems. There is no stigma attached to getting help when you are in trouble < it's just being smart.

In addition to immediate protection from garnishment and collection efforts made by creditors, bankruptcy provides tools for discharging or reorganizing your debt. Using the method right for your financial picture helps you get back on your feet financially.

With Chapter 7, debt not paid off using funds from liquidated property is eliminated through discharge. In Chapter 13, your debt load may be reduced through renegotiation prior to approval of your repayment plan.

In either case, it is important to know what type of debt can be discharged during bankruptcy. Consider these points:

**Unsecured debt.** Creditors who do not have an interest in property as collateral for the money you owe are called unsecured creditors.

Unsecured debt often takes the form of credit card debt, medical bills and other expenses. While unsecured creditors cannot repossess your property, they can initiate garnishment and collection actions against you.

**Secured debt.** A creditor who has an interest or lien on property as collateral for money borrowed by you is called a secured creditor.

Although the automatic stay in bankruptcy prohibits further effort toward repossession of secured property during the bankruptcy, that security interest remains and the property can eventually be repossessed

by the creditor if you are unable to bring the loan current.

**Other obligations.** Many people owe debt that cannot be discharged through bankruptcy, including child support, alimony and criminal legal penalties. In specific cases, student loans

and tax obligations can be addressed through bankruptcy.

**What Can You Keep When You File Bankruptcy?**

For many people unable to pay their bills, bankruptcy is the only reasonable option to restore some kind of financial stability. Most people worry about the possessions they will lose in the process.

**When you file bankruptcy, what can you keep?**

The answer is more than you think, depending on the type of bankruptcy you file. In a Chapter 13 action, your debt is reorganized and reduced to allow you to pay off expenses over a three- to five-year period. If you work through your plan, you keep all your property.

If you qualify for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the bankruptcy trustee evaluates your petition for property that is not exempt under federal bankruptcy law. Exempt assets are those possessions and goods that state or federal law allows you to keep, even during a Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

In New York you can elect to take bankruptcy exemptions provided by the state or those detailed under federal law, but not both. The types of possessions that are exempt, up to a certain value, under state or federal bankruptcy law include:

- \* Equity in your home-  
stead or residence
- \* Value in a motor vehicle based on current market value
- \* Household goods including furnishings, clothes and other items
- \* Tools needed for your trade or business
- \* Jewelry

**Factors to consider when filing:**

You must make sure you include all your debts when assessing your financial circumstances. Also, make note of factors that affect your debts, such as whether you have a co-signer on a loan or mortgage and find out if your debts are even eligible.

The author practices bankruptcy law on 26 Court Street in Brooklyn.

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# Trinidadian fishers choose jail over 'Seismic Bombing'

**By Peter Richards**

PORT OF SPAIN, Nov 21, 2013 (IPS) - The demonstration took place on land and sea simultaneously. In the end, police had arrested three people, including Gary Aboud, president of the Trinidadian NGO Fishermen and Friends of the Sea (FFOS), but protesters were undaunted. They would be back.

"We are going to re-assemble and go back to the drawing board. The action gave the government a clear indication of how serious we are," Aboud told IPS. He now faces charges of resisting arrest, obstructing the police and protesting without permission on Nov. 13.

"Each air gun is emitting almost double the sound of a single jet and is equivalent to sound that occurs when you use explosives." -- Gary Aboud

At the centre of the dispute are the seismic surveys in which energy companies searching for oil and hydrocarbons in the seabed deploy air guns, which are towed behind ships and release intense impulses of compressed air into the water.

According to the U.S.

-based Natural Resources Defence Council, seismic surveys have been shown to cause catch rates of some commercial fish to plummet – in some cases over enormous areas of ocean.

"What we are asking is for the same thing every country in the world has asked for," Aboud said, noting that the issue has become controversial enough that the International Maritime Organisation and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will convene a meeting in London next February to highlight ways of minimising the impact of seismic surveys.

FFOS also says a government-appointed committee is skewed heavily in favour of people closely affiliated with the energy sector here.

"It only has two fisherfolk representatives and 14 government representatives – that is an imbalance. We are recommending one scientist be appointed by the fisherfolk, one scientist by the government and the two scientists appoint a third scientist," he said.

"The government has appointed a lot of yes men and people who work for

the energy sector. If you work for the energy sector we can't expect justice," Aboud told IPS.

Food Production Minister Devant Maharaj, speaking at the end of the weekly cabinet meeting, disputed these assertions.

"Seismic surveys are routinely conducted as part of the exploratory process in an effort to obtain information on the location and the quantum of raw hydrocarbon in the various strata of rocks," he said.

Maraj said that several studies have been done regionally and internationally, and documentation on the effect of seismic surveys on different species of fish can be found in a policy document titled "The National Seismic Operations of Trinidad and Tobago."

"A draft version developed in July 2010 was circulated to committee members and other major stakeholders for comment. The policy document was also submitted to the Ministry of Energy for its consideration," Maharaj said.

Critics argue that there should be a moratorium on seismic testing while the

Continued on Page 28

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# St. Vincent's Volcano holds more promise than peril

By Desmond Brown

KINGSTOWN, Nov 12 2013 (IPS) - Weary of sky-high electricity prices, St. Vincent is following in the footsteps of another, decidedly un-tropical island nearly 4,000 miles away in its quest to harness clean geothermal power.

A contingent of Icelandic scientists is here until December, investigating the mountainous nation's geothermal potential, estimated at 890 megawatts.

"In North Windward where I grew up and still spend most of my time, I remember how much we yearned for electricity when most of the country was brightly lit."-- local resident Rochelle Baptiste

The source is the island's La Soufrière volcano, which has erupted three times since 1902. There is a steaming resurgent dome in the crater and numerous



From left, Jan Hartke of the Clinton Foundation, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, Peter Williams, managing director of Light & Power Holdings Ltd., Barbados, and Gunnar Gunnarsson of Reykjavik Geothermal. IPS/ Desmond Brown

hot springs in river valleys on the western side of the volcano. Of additional interest are three striking features near Wallibou Beach, in an area locally known as "Hot Waters," and a circular feature near Trin-

ity Falls.

"They will go into the Soufrière mountains, doing some surface exploration work. This is like hiking, just scientists walking around with some measuring devices and measuring resistivity of the earth, of

the volcano, and by doing that, they will get an indication if there is a possible resource in the area," Gunnar Orn Gunnarsson, chief operating officer of Reykjavik Geothermal, told IPS.

"We are confident that there is but first we have to do measurements to be able to confirm that," said Gunnarsson, whose own nation relies on geothermal for about a quarter of all electricity generation.

Funding for the 50-million-dollar project is coming from the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines government, Barbados Light & Power Holdings and Reykjavik Geothermal.

Scientists rank St. Vincent fourth on a list of countries in the Lesser Antilles with geothermal energy potential, behind Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and Dominica. Nevis, Saba, St. Kitts, Grenada, Martinique, Montserrat and Statia complete the list of the top 11 countries.

Dominica recently launched its own geothermal project with the construction of a small power

plant for domestic consumption and a bigger plant of up to 100 megawatts of electricity for export to the neighbouring French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Geothermal "is a matter of great interest, not only to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, but the Carib-

**"The fuel cost savings to be had with geothermal, I'm told, will be in the region of 16 million to 20 million dollars. That's a significant amount given the cost of the fuel."**

bean, to the neighbouring countries such as St. Lucia and Barbados," Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves told IPS, adding that the project would be a "potentially game changing initiative."

"The fuel cost savings to be had with geothermal, I'm told, will be in the region of 16 million to 20 million dollars. That's a significant amount given

the cost of the fuel."

St. Vincent currently produces just over five megawatts of electricity from its three hydropower stations. The peak demand for electricity is between 20-21 megawatts. With the addition of a geothermal plant, the island is looking to produce an additional 10 megawatts to bring total production to 15 megawatts.

"When [former] President [Bill] Clinton first started this idea about reaching out to islands, he knew the price of electricity and specifically told me the electricity cost in almost every island in the Caribbean, so obviously he had put some time into looking at this and was concerned about it," Jan Hartke, global director of the Clinton Climate Initiative Clean Energy Project, told IPS.

"How can families get along with the kinds of electricity costs that you have? How can businesses thrive? How can the islands take the kind of social and economic and environmental leadership roles that it wants and should do when

Continued on Page 40

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# Hunger Relief Partnership Plan

Michael Pugh, president and chief operating officer of Carver Federal Savings Bank has announced a partnership with Bailey House, the second oldest AIDS organization in New York City providing housing and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

On Nov. 20, the bank presented a check for \$10,000 to the Bailey House food pantry to show its support in the fight against hunger in New York. In addition, throughout the year, the bank will host financial education seminars and events for Bailey House employees, as well as provide credit counseling.

Since its founding in 1948, and as the largest African American and Caribbean American run bank in the country, Carver's mission has been rooted in helping the underserved in local communities throughout the boroughs of New York City. Carver Bank's \$10,000 donation will provide more than 650 non-perishable food pantry bags, providing close to 2,000 meals to people in the communities that Carver serves.

Founded in 1983, Bailey House was the first organization to introduce an innovative supportive housing program that connected



From left: Denise Arzola, deputy director, Community Services, Bailey House; Gina Quattrochi, CEO, Bailey House; Dennis Robertson, VP business development, Carver Bank; Blondel Pinnock, president, Carver Community Development Corporation (CCDC) SVP, Carver Bank and Michael Pugh, president and chief operating officer, Carver Bank.

people living with HIV/AIDS to much-needed apartments, healthcare and other support services. Bailey House addresses fundamental human needs – housing, food, and safety – and delivers comprehensive support services that include access to healthcare, support groups, and access to substance abuse treatment

to ensure that all clients achieve positive health outcomes.

“We are honored to partner with Carver Bank to help ensure that those in our collective community are able to access much-needed healthy food,” says Gina Quattrochi, CEO of Bailey House. “We like to say that ‘food is medicine’

because proper nutrition is critical to those living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. And with recent federal cuts to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), more people than ever are too poor to put meals on the table and will be looking to places like our Food Pantry to help feed their families. We are grate-

ful to Carver for helping us address these inequities.”

“We chose Bailey House food pantry because it is located within the community that our employees work and live in, which brings it close to home for us,” says Michael Pugh. “The opportunity to provide a significant number of meals to those in need is

very gratifying.”

As part of the partnership between Carver Bank and Bailey House, Carver Bank hosted an internal food drive and employees will be volunteering in the food pantry located at 1751 Park Ave., New York, NY 10035, helping to organize, assemble and distribute food pantry bags.

For more information on how the public can help, contact: Bailey House, 212-633-2500 ext 460

## ABOUT BAILEY HOUSE

For the past 30 years, Bailey House has been the leader in addressing poverty, health care and homelessness for those affected by HIV/AIDS in New York City. Today, Bailey House programs serve as an international model for innovation in housing and supportive services for those living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. Visit [www.baileyhouse.org](http://www.baileyhouse.org) to learn more.

## ABOUT CARVER BANK

Carver Bancorp, Inc. is the largest African-American and Caribbean run bank in the United States. For more information, visit [carverbank.com](http://carverbank.com)

## SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

### Small Business Energy | SmallBusinessEnergy.com

[www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork](http://www.smallbusinessenergy.com/NewYork)  
Save on Small Business Energy Bills and Compare Rates. Get a Quote Now!

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

[smallbiz.nypl.org](http://smallbiz.nypl.org)

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

[www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html](http://www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html)

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

[www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html](http://www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html)

### 2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

[www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide\\_3135.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm)  
Find resources and advice on starting a

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

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

[www.yourmoneyny.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php](http://www.yourmoneyny.com/helpresource/smallbusiness/index.php)  
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners – and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

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

[www.bcny.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm](http://www.bcny.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm)  
Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues. Visit [www.nyfirst.ny.gov](http://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](http://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](http://www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm)  
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### Empire State Development Strategic Business Division Minority and Women's Business Development

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# Jamaica Grill offers healthy Caribbean cuisine

By Fabian Burrell

Reports from the Brooklyn District Public Health Office indicate that “obesity and overweight are common in residents of all ages in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick. More than 1 in 4 children in Head Start programs and public elementary schools are obese, and more than 4 in 10 are overweight or obese.”

Knowing this, Jamaica Grill, a family-owned and operated restaurant is committed to a healthier community and has undertaken several initiatives to help in the fight for better health. Partnering with Emblem Health, CAMBA and other not-for-profits, Jamaica Grill offers community residents free healthy cooking demos. They have also launched a Healthier Options Menu. This menu is designed to help customers understand what to put on their plate when making a selection for dinner. It also offers diabetic-friendly entrées and side dishes. Owner, Dawn Skeete, believes this is how her restaurant can best contribute to fight obesity. The last in the series of Healthy Cooking Demos is winding down for 2013. These demos focused on teaching community members how

## HEALTH

to plan and shop for healthier food options.

Jamaica Grill was recently featured on a “Live Healthy/GBHC” Breakfast Hotspot with Dr. Bob Lee during the Steve Harvey Morning Show on 107.5 FM. Chef Skeete noted that “Health is the New Wealth” and Jamaica Grill’s new Healthy Option Menu is the place to find healthy local “take-out.” She pointed out that while many have moved to buying healthier produce, some are making wrong combination choices, preparation methods and still others are unsure of serving portions. Farm Food Group Inc., the parent company of Jamaica Grill, has always been a supportive and community-invested business. Skeete elaborated, “this new menu is part of a larger strategy to address health issues affecting the Brooklyn communities of Bedford Stuyvesant and Bushwick.”

To help you make healthier choices this holiday season, Jamaica Grill is offering holiday meals, featuring some of the dishes from the Healthy Option Menu and the



Dr. Bob Lee from WBSL, poses with attendees at Jamaica Grill Restaurant.

Photo by Margot Jordan

Healthy Cooking Demos. What’s on Jamaica Grill’s table for this Thanksgiving season? Jerk Turkey stuffed with Yellow Yam; Breadfruit Salad and Maple Cinnamon Yams. For the full holiday menu, please visit [www.jamaicagrill.com](http://www.jamaicagrill.com)

The restaurant is located at 321 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., between Lexington Avenue & Quincy Street in Bedford Stuyvesant. TSkeete will launch her new recipe book in a few weeks and has partnered with [Demarketplace.com](http://Demarketplace.com) to

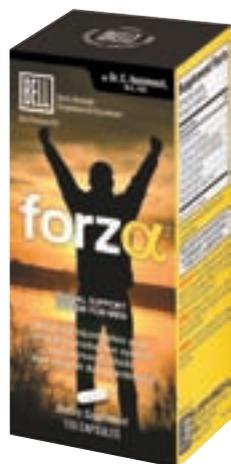
offer the recipes for Jamaica Grill’s signature Jerk Turkey and Sorrel Cranberry Sauce. Sign up for recipes and other events including a special cultural drink from the Caribbean mixology workshop at [www.demarketplace.com](http://www.demarketplace.com).



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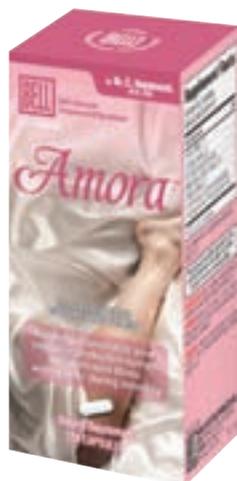


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- **I'm truly amazed and relieved.** After just 2 weeks of drinking the Bell Ezee Flow Tea I no longer have to get up during the night. I'm enjoying a normal sex life. This product is so incredible. I enjoy drinking the tea. I hope that a lot of men with a pride issue give this a shot. It's difficult to express how delighted I am. *Clarence A. Rehrig, 58, Allentown, PA. \**

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- **I wish I had found this tea sooner!** A family member told me that she used the Bell Tea for Women #4b with positive results. What a wonderful product. It also worked for me. *Australia P. Rodriguez, Rego Park, NY.*
- **Plan to keep taking it as long as I live!** One of the clerks in my local health food store recommended the Bladder Control Tea #4b. I was very skeptical. What a surprise it worked! 5 days after starting the tea I noticed a major improvement and it is continually getting better each day. I plan keep taking it for as long as I live. Thank you! *Frances Baird, 87, Venice, FL.*
- **Exercises didn't help!** After drinking the Bell Tea for Women #4b my life is far less stressful especially when I am at work. Thanks for such an amazing product! *Marilyn Sallows, 53, Fort McMurray, AB*
- **Tea represents truth in advertising!** Being a skeptic, I ordered this Bladder Control Tea for Women as a more or less last resort, after trying everything else in the last 5 years. It worked better than I hoped for. Thank you for this great product, and above all, for truth in advertising. *Marina Rosa, 57, Las Vegas, NV\**

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# Toasting success with Guyana's first winery

By Tangerine Clarke

When Warren Douglas decided to produce wine on a broad scale, he chose his homeland where the pristine natural environment, and variety of fruits were the perfect welcome back for the Guyanese-American who left his adopted Charlotte, North Carolina home for a life of tranquility.

Douglas' wife Tracy, a fashion designer and painter also wanted to embrace her talents and share her knowledge with others, so four years ago the couple combined their skills and embraced a future that opened up new vistas for them in the peaceful Madewini region, on the Soesdyke, Linden Highway.

Today, guests are relishing in the 17-acre tourist attraction that is home to "Pandama Retreat and Winery" - where visitors sip the vintage made from fruits such

as Jamoon, a small purple fruit akin to blue berry, Sorrel that has medicinal properties, Anti-Desmond, Cherry, Noni, Five-Finger, also known as Carambola, and the Malacca Pear.

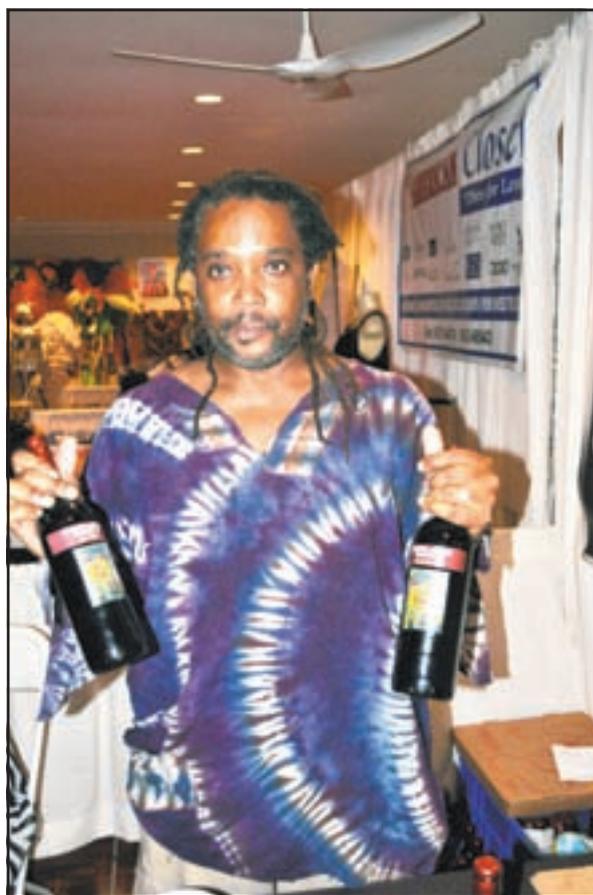
"Pulse"- a libido booster and enhancement tonic made from the Kapadula bark, and six others indigenous to Guyana and the Amazon Basin, and geared to induce blood flow to a man's pelvic area, is one of the Pandama's top sellers.

The connoisseur stated that Pandama Winery creates exotic fruit wines of extraordinary elegance and sophistication, and celebrates the tropical flavors of Guyana. The winery recently introduced a line of naturally fermented red and white wine gourmet vinegars. These amazing products he said are marinades and tenderizers for all types of meat, fish and tofu.

The sweeping grounds of Pandama also gives the entrepreneurs the opportunity to host wedding and commitment ceremonies, family reunions, bird watching and nature trail adventure, and staff development workshops.

The former U.S. military man, who studied chemistry, used this knowledge as a catalyst to experiment with various fruits while living in his North Carolina home, a venture that blossomed into a successful cottage industry with the use of Georgia peaches.

With the help of family and friends across America who enjoy their gifts of Douglas' vintage, the aficionado embarked upon an adventure as a small business owner returning to his roots to till the land and share his love of winemaking with his countrymen and women.



"We have had a great response to our wines in Guyana said Douglas whose intention is to make his line of wines available in as many

places as possible. "There is a real need for quality local wines in Guyana, both for Guyanese here and in the Diaspora, he added.

Douglas is happy that Pandama Wines has made it to many tables in the U.S. and the UK during the holiday season since it was established, and intends to keep producing the alcoholic drink. "Our focus is not mass production, but rather providing a quality product that is satisfying to all of our customers.

"We are now poised to introduce Pandama Wines to the rest of the world. We are pursuing the necessary export certifications to allow the company to reach as many wine lovers as we can, according to the website.

The Master Winemaker expressed how wonderful it was to be back home in land of birth. A once city boy who migrated to the US thirty-one years ago Douglas said, "I am having a great time in my own world, away from the big city. "I want to encourage other Guyanese who want to pursue a small business or large enterprise, to come back and take a second look at Guyana.

For more information log on to [www.pandamaretreat.com](http://www.pandamaretreat.com)

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## FOCUS ON HEALTH

# Exploring the link between tobacco and cancer

Tobacco and cancer have long been intertwined. A 1982 report from the United States Surgeon General listed tobacco as the major cause of cancer death in the United States, and the American Cancer Society notes that those findings hold up more than 30 years later.

According to the ACS, tobacco use is responsible for nearly 20 percent of all deaths in the United States.

Smoking cigarettes is prevalent throughout society, as ACS data indicates that no ethnic group or race has proven capable of avoiding cigarettes. In 2011, the most recent year for which data is available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that roughly 44 million U.S. adults were smokers, and every race and ethnicity liv-

ing in the United States was represented among those 44 million smokers.

With so many people across the globe continuing to smoke, clearly such figures have yet to strike a chord among the millions of people who continue to light up. Perhaps a closer look at tobacco and its relation to cancer-related death is just what smokers need to put their cigarettes down once and for all.

According to the ACS, roughly half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of their habit. And since smoking has proven so pervasive among the various races and ethnicities living in the United States, it's safe to assume smokers across the globe face similar fates if they continue to smoke.

Inside the United States, roughly 443,000 people die each year from illnesses related to tobacco use. While many smokers are aware of the link between smoking and lung cancer, lung cancer is not the only cancer smokers are at a greater risk for than nonsmokers. In fact, smoking increases a person's risk of developing a slew of cancers, including cancers of the larynx, oral cavity (mouth, tongue and lips), stomach, pancreas, cervix, kidney, and bladder.

And cancer is not the only disease or ailment smokers are susceptible to as a result of their habit. Smoking is a major cause of many other potentially deadly health problems, including heart disease, aneurysms, emphysema and stroke.

## Keeping asthma under control

A 2010 nationwide telephone survey of 1,001 asthma patients found that while most patients with asthma understood the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma, they didn't always act accordingly.

"This finding demonstrates a serious disconnect between the perceived consequences of uncontrolled asthma and the necessary steps people should take to achieve better control," explained Dr. Shailesh Shah, an asthma expert with PA Allergy and Asthma Consultants.

"Some people believe that asthma goes away when their symptoms do, but asthma is a chronic disease. The good news is that with the appropriate treatment regimen, the

inflammation that causes the symptoms may be properly managed."

Additionally, there are simple steps patients can take to avoid unnecessary complications, beginning with an open discussion with a physician.

### Understand asthma

People with asthma suffer from chronic lung inflammation, with symptoms ranging from coughing and wheezing to chest tightness and shortness of breath. Additionally, asthma triggers such as air pollution, smoke, pet dander, pollen, and mold can set off an asthma episode.

It's important for patients to understand that when their asthma is under control with the help of their physicians, through

lifestyle modifications, and the proper use of appropriate controller medication, they should exhibit few asthma symptoms.

### Simple steps to asthma control

A physician can help create an asthma action plan and determine if a controller medication, in addition to a rescue medication, is appropriate.

"Using an asthma action plan...can help patients stay in the know and in control of their asthma," Shah stresses. "By understanding proper asthma management and appropriate use of medications, patients can help maintain control over their asthma symptoms and minimize the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma."



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# Getting the facts on bronchiolitis

Parents should be aware of respiratory infection that can affect young children

Parents have likely heard about bronchitis. But another respiratory infection, bronchiolitis, gets far less attention.

Bronchiolitis is an infection of the small tubes inside of the lungs (bronchioles) that is caused by a virus and generally affects young children during the autumn and winter months.

During normal breathing under healthy conditions, air enters the lungs through the trachea. It then travels down the branching bronchi and into the small bronchiole tubes inside of the lungs. Then the air passes from the bronchioles into the millions of air sacs in the lungs, and eventually into the bloodstream.

When a child suffers from bronchiolitis, most often the bronchioles fill with mucus

and experience inflammation thanks to a virus called the respiratory syncytial virus. The mucus and swollen tubes can make it difficult for oxygen to reach the lungs and get to where it is needed. The child may wheeze or breathe harder or faster in order to compensate.

In adults, this infection isn't generally serious. But in children it can be dangerous, particularly if the virus does not clear up quickly and leads to an acute case of bronchiolitis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that most otherwise healthy people recover from this in one to two weeks. Infants and young children may be prone to cases that don't go away and become bronchiolitis.

The best way to prevent bronchiolitis is to reduce



Infants are more susceptible to cases of bronchiolitis caused by the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

the spread of cold viruses through the home with frequent hand-washing and cleaning of shared items

around the house. Children that fall into the following categories may be more likely to get bronchiolitis,

according to the National Institutes of Health. These risk factors include:

- Age 6 months or younger
- Born prematurely
- Exposed to cigarette smoke, even in the womb
- Bottle-fed
- Born with Down's syndrome
- Close contact with other infected children
- Have a long-term lung disease

Symptoms of bronchiolitis include a cough that may be dry or produce phlegm. Wheezing may also occur because of inflammation of the airways. Rapid breathing, difficulty breathing, fatigue, fever, and nasal flaring in infants may be other signs.

Antibiotics do not treat viral infections, so it's

unlikely the child will be given an antibiotic prescription for bronchiolitis. Usually supportive therapy, such as breathing in moist air, rest, drinking fluids, and avoiding any exposure to cigarette smoke, are recommended. Rarely antiviral medications may be used to treat very ill children.

Some doctors may prescribe the use of a bronchodilator or steroid treatment to ease inflammation in the airways. These may be breathed in by use of a nebulizers or another inhaler delivery device.

Parents of children with breathing difficulties should consult with the pediatrician if symptoms of any respiratory illness take a while to clear up. The illness may have gone beyond just the common cold.

# Lung cancer is deadliest of all

Many people are quick to assume they will be immune to lung cancer if they simply avoid smoking tobacco, but the disease is much more complex than that, and understanding it could mean the difference between life and death.

## Causes of lung cancer

While the National Cancer Institute reports that smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, that doesn't mean nonsmokers — or those who quit smoking — still aren't at risk. In fact, many additional factors can increase a person's risk of lung cancer.

Secondhand smoke has long been known to be very harmful, and no one, not even children, is immune to its effects. The American Cancer Society notes that, in the U.S. alone, roughly 3,000 nonsmoking adults will succumb to lung cancer each year because of secondhand

smoke. Choosing not to smoke is a good decision, but being around smokers and breathing in their smoke could prove just as deadly as smoking. The less a person is exposed to tobacco smoke, the lower his risk for lung cancer.

Another risk factor for lung cancer is radon, a radioactive gas that cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted. Radon forms in soil and rocks, and people who work in mines could be exposed. Radon can also be found in homes when it pushes its way through cracks in floors or gaps around service pipes or in suspended floors. Testing a home for radon is inexpensive and won't take much time.

Additional causes of lung cancer include air pollution, asbestos, and even age. Older people are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer, as are those with a family history of lung cancer.

Does lung cancer have

## symptoms?

The deadliest form of cancer, lung cancer is perhaps so deadly because it does not often have many symptoms in its early stages. While some symptoms might manifest themselves in the early stages, most will wait until the cancer begins to grow before they make their presence felt.

As the cancer grows, the following symptoms might appear:

- A cough that continues to worsen or won't go away
- Constant chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- A voice that grows hoarse
- Frequent infections of the lungs, including pneumonia
- Constant feelings of fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss

Each of these symptoms can occur even if a person does not have lung cancer.

However, those who experience any of the above symptoms should consult their physicians immediately.

## How is lung cancer diagnosed?

In many cases, individuals will experience one of the aforementioned symptoms of lung cancer and then visit their doctors. Such a visit should be made immediately, and patients should expect certain tests to be performed upon visiting their doctor. In addition to ordering some blood work, a doctor will likely perform a physical exam to check for general signs of health and listen to breathing. During the physical, the doctor is likely to check for swollen lymph nodes, fluid in the lungs, and a swollen liver.

A doctor will also order X-ray pictures of the chest to detect if there are any tumors or an abnormal fluid buildup. A CT scan, which takes pic-



Choosing not to smoke is a good decision, but being around smokers and breathing in their smoke could prove just as deadly as smoking. The less a person is exposed to tobacco smoke, the lower their risk for lung cancer.

tures of the tissue inside the chest, will likely be taken as well. These pictures can show if there is a tumor, abnormal fluid or swollen lymph nodes.

When determining if a patient has lung cancer, a doctor will also enlist the help of a pathologist to study cell or tissue samples. These cells or tissues can be collected in a number of ways, and a doctor might order more

than one test.

•Bronchoscopy: A thin, lighted tube is inserted through the nose or mouth into the lung, allowing a close exam of the lungs and the air passages that lead to them. A cell sample can be taken with a needle, brush or other tool.

•Sputum cytology: Sputum, or thick fluid, is coughed up from the lungs and then checked for cancer cells.



Mopping can remove pollutants the vacuum cleaner might have left behind.

# IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY

## It's important to prepare your home for winter weather

With fall soon to give way to winter, many people will be spending more time indoors. Winter weather can be harsh, and it can be difficult for fresh air to make its way into a home once the warmer temperatures of summer and fall give way to the cold days of winter.

Poor indoor air quality can cause multiple problems. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, poor indoor air quality can increase a person's risk of developing pneumonia, and it also may aggravate existing respiratory conditions such as asthma. The agency also notes that long-term exposure to indoor air pollution can increase a person's risk for heart disease, respiratory diseases, and even cancer.

Because indoor air pollution can be so devastating, many homeowners look for ways to improve their indoor air quality, especially before the arrival of winter, when residents figure to spend such a significant amount of time indoors. Fortunately, homeowners can take many steps to do just that.

- Clean with soap and water. Soap and hot water can still clean a home effectively, and this age-old combination might be the healthiest way to clean as well. Many household cleaning products contain potentially harmful ingredients that can introduce toxins and irritants into a home. Avoid such cleaners and solvents when clean-

ing a home. If stains prove too stubborn for soap and water, be sure to open windows when using potentially harmful cleaners indoors.

- Purchase an air filtration system. Air filtration systems vary significantly in size, cost, and function. Some systems are designed to remove specific pollutants, and may not be effective at removing additional indoor air pollutants. Larger models tend to be most effective at filtering pollutants like dust, but such units are more expensive than smaller units. If your home is especially dusty, then a large filtering system may prove a worthy investment.

- Open windows and doors when possible. Introducing outdoor air into a home is a great way to improve indoor air quality. Of course, opening windows and doors might not be feasible in the middle of winter. But take advantage of any such opportunities when they present themselves. For example, after cooking a big meal, open the kitchen exhaust fan to allow fresh air into the home. Such fans are not large enough to cause a significant temperature drop in the home, but they can directly remove contaminants from inside the home, like those that might be emitted from gas stoves.

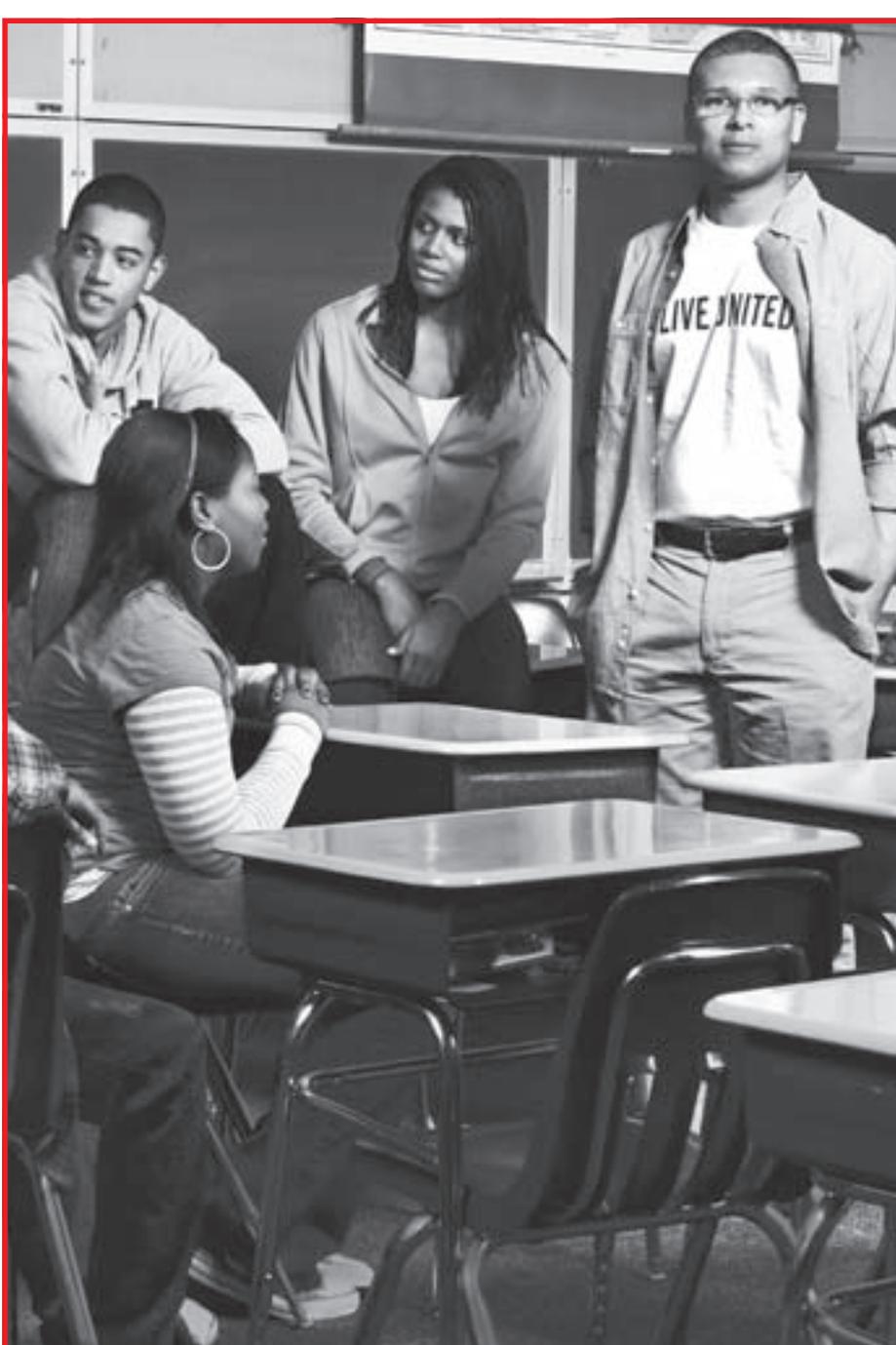
- Insist guests and residents remove their shoes. Chemicals can find their way into a home in a variety of ways, and you and

your fellow residents or guests may be tracking them into your home on your shoes. Keep a doormat inside all entryways, and insist guests and residents remove their shoes before entering your home. This reduces the amount of potential pollutants brought into your home and also makes cleaning the home that much easier.

- Break out the mop. Vacuum cleaners can be effective at picking up pollutants inside a home, but they also can leave things behind. When a vacuum cleaner seems to be leaving some dust behind, take out the mop and, with just a little water, address the areas where dust is still lingering. Water should be enough to do the trick, and, unlike some cleaning products, water won't be introducing any additional harmful pollutants into the home.

- Smoke outside. Smoking inside a home is inviting trouble, especially during those times of year when the windows cannot be opened. Secondhand smoke is a significant source of indoor air pollution, as cigarette smoke is known to contain more than 4,000 chemicals. Smoking indoors, whether an area is well or poorly ventilated, can be dangerous to smokers. Exposure to secondhand smoke puts adults and children alike at risk of several diseases, including asthma and cancer. If you or your fellow residents or visitors must smoke, do so outdoors.

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## Impact of seismic surveys

Continued from Page 14  
government creates a regulatory framework that will include making it mandatory for companies to submit an independently-conducted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before testing.

"All the oil companies know that the EIA is a standard procedure...so it is not just something we are saying, it is standard procedure around the world," Aboud told IPS.

He added that a judge in Mexico recently ruled "that you cannot do seismic bombing where the fishes are spawning (and) where there is a migratory path".

The fisherfolk here have directed their anger mostly at British Petroleum (BP) and the state-owned Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (PETROTRIN). Aboud said he has already started talks with the trade union movement here.

He also plans to hold talks with religious leaders in the hope they would empathise with what he called the

"national plight" of the fishing industry.

But PETROTRIN has hit back, saying that its plans for an Ocean Bottom Cable (OBC) seismic survey is being undertaken in "conformance with the licence requirements" from the relevant authorities as well as putting in place "measures to ensure that the seismic survey is conducted in conformance with international safety and environmental best practices".

In a full page-newspaper advertisement this week, PETROTRIN said that research has indicated that the "effects of seismic surveys on fish stock have indicated little or no negative impact" and that the mortality caused by air-emitting devices on fish eggs and larvae might amount to an average of 0.0012 percent a day.

"In comparison to the natural mortality rate of 5-15 percent per day, the seismic induced damage is insignificant," the oil company asserted, adding "we stand by our statement that the

decibel levels of the underwater pulses are similar to the naturally occurring sounds in the ocean.

"The sound from the survey does not exceed 250 decibels which can be compared to a ship sound, close to the hull, which emits 200 decibels and a bottlenose dolphin click which emits 229 decibels."

At the start of the year, BP conducted a 275-million-dollar seismic study that the company's regional president Norman Christie said "has given reason for even more confidence in the future of Trinidad and Tobago's hydrocarbon industry.

"This survey will allow us to improve our understanding of our existing acreage to ensure we are maximising the recovery of the resources. The survey has stirred up quite a bit of excitement as it is the first time we are using this specialised seismic technology in the BP world," he added.

Aboud says the oil companies' arguments simply don't hold water.

## Game

Continued from Page 3

"There is no status to be gained when you cowardly sucker punch a defenseless victim or you watch or encourage a friend to do the same," he said.

"It's not cool, it's not right, we know better, and it won't be tolerated," Thompson added. "A civilized society demands that we cannot and will not tolerate such senseless violence."

Camara said he deplored acts of violence against

anyone, denouncing the "vicious and reprehensible acts of violence occurring across Brooklyn and the country.

"We must see such acts of violence against any individual as an attack against every individual," he said, commending Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force and local commanding officers for their "swift action and commitment to investigating" these incidents.

According to the NYPD, several victims have been assaulted in similar fashion in Crown Heights, which

has a sizable Jewish population.

Over the weekend, authorities arrested and charged Amrit Marajh, 28, with aggravated assault as a hate crime, assault as a hate and assault in the third degree in relation to an attack on a Jewish Brooklyn resident.

Last week, a 78 year-old woman was attacked while walking down the street in Midwood.

There have been reports of similar assaults on innocent victims of all ages in New York, Illinois, Missouri and Washington, D.C.

## Charity

Continued from Page 3

by, among others, New York merchant Ronald Chase, as well as foodstuff; blood pressure and diabetic monitors with testing strips; walkers; crutches; canes; pampers; x-ray view box; duplicator and film bin; and a US\$100,000 endoscopy/colonoscopy machine, donated by Dr. Vijay

Arya, a physician at Wycoff Heights Medical Center, and his foundation.

McBarnett said the Grenada project was initiated when a member of Crown Heights Gospel Church in Brooklyn joined St. Matthias Charities, Inc. on its mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in February. "Sis. Hannah Reid gave us 100 percent support and gave up her time to work with us," he said, adding: "Sis. Reid said to us, 'I believed in your organization and your

conviction to help others'".

McBarnett said clinics in North and Central Leeward and the Grenadines constituencies will be among its primary focus when the group conducts its next medical mission early next year.

Most clinics on the windward coast of mainland St. Vincent have already benefited from earlier missions, said the untiring McBarnett.

For more information, contact McBarnett at (917) 407-0385.



# Shopping break.

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An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol – which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how – and when – to begin the conversation, visit:

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**Continued from page 2**  
ing cocaine and weapons trafficking charges, has reportedly agreed to provide material support to people believed to be members of the Lebanese terrorism organization Hezbollah, but who were in fact confidential sources of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

This team, under supervision of the Prosecutor General, will launch a probe into the criminal offences and the involved suspects.

### Trinidad

The United States and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are forging a stronger relationship, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) office said in a statement issued after the first U.S.-CARICOM meeting since May when U.S. Vice President Joe Biden signed into existence a U.S.-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment.

Together with then CARICOM Chairman, Haitian President Michel Martelly, Biden signed a revised Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which gave life to the council, the mandate of which is to deal with what the USTR described in its statement as “important trade and investment issues.” The USTR said: “Bilateral trade, intellectual property, e-commerce, (and) regulatory cooperation (were) discussed at the first meeting under the U.S.-CARICOM TIFA.”



The statement did not offer specifics about the discussions but in a statement at the time of the signing, CARICOM had said: “Among the issues of critical and urgent importance to CARICOM are the threat faced by CARICOM exports of rum in the U.S. market, and the US/Antigua and Barbuda cross-border gambling services dispute.”

### Turks and Caicos

Air Turks and Caicos, the national airline of Turks and Caicos Islands announced recently the changing of its name to Inter-Caribbean Airways.

The “InterCaribbean” name was chosen to reflect the greater Pan-Caribbean expansion of air service in the Western Caribbean in the coming months. With this a new slogan adopted to reflect the mission, “Connecting you and the Caribbean.”

For the first time, travelling between the islands of Western Caribbean may take an hour or two instead of a day or two.

Lyndon Gardiner, chairman of Air Turks and Caicos said, “it is important for us to capture the life and the color of the islands. We believe our new brand and colors represent all of the Caribbean.”

The logo represents elements of the sea, air, palm trees and flamingos.



*Compiled by Azad Ali*

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# 'Black Nativity' premieres at Apollo

A classic Black presentation debuted to unique audiences – uptown and downtown – with screenings of the star-studded film “Black Nativity.”

Harlem launched into holiday mode by inviting Academy-award winning actors Forrest Whitaker and Angela Bassett, singer-actress Jennifer Hudson, Tyrese Gibson, Nasir (Nas) Jones and Jacob Latimore to the world premiere at the Apollo Theater.

The stellar celebrity lineup of the contemporary adaptation of Langston Hughes' greeted audiences and fans many of whom in previous years had seen the musical drama performed in the Village of Harlem. With the backing of a major movie studio (Fox Searchlight) the acclaimed musical follows Langston (portrayed by Latimore) -- a street-wise teen from Baltimore raised by a single mother, as he journeys to New York City to spend the Christmas holiday with his estranged



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

relatives Rev. Cornell and Aretha Cobbs (Whitaker and Bassett).

Unwilling to live by the imposing preacher's rules, a frustrated Langston is determined to return home to his mother, Naima (Hudson).

The teenager embarks on a surprising and inspirational journey and along with new friends, and a little divine intervention, he discovers the true meaning of faith, healing, and family.

Joined onstage by director Kasi Lemmons and executive producers including T.D. Jakes the premiere event marked a pre-holiday treat for the community and a tribute to the Village which was showcased throughout the big-screen feature.

An after-party was held at The Red Rooster, a popular nightspot located just off 125th St. at Lenox Ave.

Downtown, the African American Women in Film Festival slated the film as a kick-off to their 16th annual celebration. Slated from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, the film screening followed red-carpet arrivals to the Clearview Theater at 23rd St.

With a glamorous cast of actors and director Lemmons in attendance, the opening night event previewed this year's schedule. Among the highlights are: A special “Black History” mini documentary segment created by Emmy Award winner Neema Barnette with special guest award winner filmmaker Reed McCants; a webisode competition hosted by “Lenox



This image released by Fox Searchlight Films shows Jennifer Hudson, left, and Jacob Latimore in a scene from “Black Nativity.” AP Photo/Fox Searchlight Films, Phil Bray

Hill's” Al Thompson, followed by New York Love Film Workshop and will conclude with an international screening program showcasing independent films made by women from around the world. Festival

favorites include the youth films screening segment. Rounding off the event is the conclusion of the film screening program will include a special promotional segment of highly anticipated upcoming film,

“The Lost Book of Rap.” A special VIP closing night reception promises guest host honoree, Winsome Sinclair.

The official opening of “Black Nativity” is Nov. 27. *Catch You On the Inside!*

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## A star is born

By Vinette K. Pryce

The premiere opening of Radio City Music Hall's annual Christmas Spectacular reached past its usual tradition of presenting the season's most dynamic live, holiday, family treat to showcase a real-live spectacular and inspiration. Nov. 13, prior to the Rockette-filled hit, audiences watched an uplifting video from a six-year-old named Julianna Pierre.

From the looks of her bald-head, one could sense she battled a debilitating disease. Pierre is a pediatric cancer patient at Marie Fareri Children's Hospital but that is not all she is. She is bold, talented and a winner. Allegedly during her grueling pain and treatment last April she took time out to audition for the Garden of Dreams Talent Show. Put on by Madison Square Garden and the Garden of Dreams Foundation, the show offers young talent an opportunity to perform and perhaps



Opening night of the 2013 Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes and six-year-old Julianna Pierre at Radio City Music Hall.

Photo by Avi Gerver

share dreams. Reportedly, Pierre's performance surpassed most and on opening night, she was invited to show off that remarkable gift.

Introduced by television, weathercaster Al Roker Pierre blasted onstage. She seemed confident despite the awe of the moment and perhaps

Continued on Page 34

## 'British Dependency' releases CD in NY

By Vinette K. Pryce

As more and more developing countries define themselves in terms of independence from colonial constraints, from the island of Anguilla comes a band called "British Dependency." Intent on creating "music they claim reflect originality, talent, togetherness, bravery and wisdom" "sounds that command



Members of Anguilla's "British Dependency" band. Photo courtesy of BD

attention as they dip, dive, drop and harmonize to convey more music than a typical three-piece band" a trio combined to express "varied

Continued on Page 34



Monica Fenty, right, presents the Icon award to her daughter Rihanna at the American Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles. Photo by John Shearer/Invision/AP

## Rihanna wins the first Icon Award

By Nelson A. King

Barbados' pop-singing sensation Rihanna on Sunday night won the first-ever Icon Award at the 2013 American Music Awards (AMA) at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

After what has been described as a stunning performance of her song "Diamonds," Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, accepted the award that was voted

completely by fans.

Her mother, Monica Fenty, presented her with the award following a video commemoration from Jay Z and a video montage showing her career highlights.

"Rihanna, I'm so proud of you tonight. I know the journey and your career has not always been an easy one, but tonight I applaud and admire you for being so strong

and so positive and so humble and so focused," said her mother at the award ceremony, broadcast live on ABC TV.

"And I mean, it's amazing how you always manage to take good from all your experiences," she added.

"I'm so pleased to be a part of this historic moment, and I just want to

Continued on Page 34

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1** **Royals**  
Lorde
- 2** **Wake Me Up!**  
Avicii
- 3** **Hold On, We're Going Home**  
Drake Feat. Majid Jordan
- 4** **Wrecking Ball**  
Miley Cyrus
- 5** **Roar**  
Katy Perry
- 6** **Demons**  
Imagine Dragons
- 7** **Applause**  
Lady Gaga
- 8** **The Monster**  
Eminem Featuring Rihanna
- 9** **Counting Stars**  
OneRepublic
- 10** **Holy Grail**  
Jay-Z Feat. Justin Timberlake

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1** **ARTPOP**  
Lady Gaga
- 2** **The Marshall Mathers LP 2**  
Eminem
- 3** **Sail Out (EP)**  
Jhene Aiko
- 4** **Pure Heroine**  
Lorde
- 5** **NOW 48**  
Various Artists
- 6** **Nothing Was The Same**  
Drake
- 7** **Prism**  
Katy Perry
- 8** **Bangerz**  
Miley Cyrus
- 9** **Night Visions**  
Imagine Dragons
- 10** **The 20/20 Experience (2 Of 2)**  
Justin Timberlake

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# Top of the charts

Continued from page 33

say I'm proud to present to you the first ever AMA Icon Award," Braithwaite continued.

In receiving the award, Rihanna, 25, told her mom it was "just about 20 years ago," when she "really started making life a living hell with my 'annoying little husky man voice,' you'd call it.

"And I mean just disrupting the entire neighborhood. I annoyed every one of my neighbors [on Baxter Street in Bridgetown, Barbados]," she said.

She then thanked a host of people who were instrumental in her rise to stardom, including Jay Z and producer Antonio "L.A." Reid.

Rihanna also recalled the record deal that eventually led her to Jay Z, who said in a video presentation: "Something in her eyes told me she was a star."

"You keep me driven, you keep this special," Rihanna told her fans. "I can't believe that, at 25 years old, I'm holding an Icon Award.

"If you know me, you know that I love you and that I thank you and that I'm grateful," she added.

In introducing her, Master of Ceremony Bill Maher described Rihanna, who was born on Feb. 20, 1988, as "the voice of our generation," noting that she has sold about 50 million albums and 180 digital tracks worldwide.

Justin Timberlake, who accepted the award for Favorite R&B Soul Artist (Male), after Rihanna's, said,

The AMA's Icon Award is among a comprehensive list of awards and nominations that Rihanna has received over the years.

They comprise about 250 awards from 540 nominations, primarily in the pop, R&B and hip-hop genre categories.

The Barbadian recording artist won five awards for her first single, "Pon de Replay" in her debut album "Music of the Sun" (2005).

Her second album, "A Girl Like Me" (2006), garnered even more awards and nominations.

The lead single, "Umbrella," in Rihanna's "breakout album," "Good Girl Gone Bad" (2007), earned Rihanna her first Grammy Award in 2008.

"Umbrella" was named "Song of the Decade" at the Barbados Music Awards in 2010.

"Rude Boy", the hit single in Rihanna's "Rated R" (2009) album, was nominated for "Song of the Year" at the MTV Europe Music Awards.

Rihanna's collaboration with Jay-Z and Kanye West in 2010, with "Run This Town", won her second and third Grammy awards for Best Rap Song and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration.

The Barbadian singing sensation received two Grammys for Album of the Year and Best Pop Vocal Album for her fifth album, "Loud" (2010). The lead single, "Only Girl (In the World)" also won Best Dance Recording.

In 2011, Rihanna's collabora-



Rihanna performs on stage at the American Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Photo by John Shearer/Invision/AP

tion Eminem on "Love the Way You Lie" earned her three Grammy awards.

She also received two Grammys – Best Rap Song and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration – at the 2012 Grammy Awards for collaborating with Kanye West on his single "All of the Lights."

Rihanna's sixth album, "Talk That Talk" (2011), won the MTV Video Music Award for Video of the Year in 2012 and Best Short Form Music Video at the 55th Grammy Awards in 2013.

"Diamonds" is the lead single in Rihanna's seventh album, "Unapologetic" (2012).

## Anguilla trio

Continued from page 33

talents, backgrounds, and professionalism."

Also known as "BD," band members Joyah Gee, Ruel Richardson and Jaiden Fleming claim the name is "about where the members come from but not what they are about or where they are going."

During a New York launch, the group introduced Joyah, Anguilla's first female bass player who sang and strummed samplings from their 10-track "Finding Wisdom" CD released Nov. 19.

A single "Do You This" was released on Nov. 5 and boasts a rock-ready beat with scintillating dubs.

Drummer, Flemming and Richardson, the lead vocalist round out the triumvirate who present an eclectic blend of voices, drums,



From left, Ruel Richardson, Joyah Gee and Jaiden Fleming.

Photo courtesy of BD

guitar, and bass that is British Dependency.

After the New York appearance BD will head to St. Kitts for a concert on Nov. 27; one in Nevis the following night and on to St. Maarten on Nov. 29. To close out the month "British Dependency" will perform in St. Barts.

## Julianna

Continued from page 33

the daunting prospect of performing at the world-acclaimed venue. She looked pretty in pink. A flower-decorated bandeau barely peeked from her full, cropped hair. Escorted by two Rockettes and in front of a VIP-filled audience of 5,000 the youngster repeated her superlative prowess. In the video presentation, she had explained that her favorite song is "Can You Feel The Love?" from The Lion King. She received a standing ovation signaling the birth of a new star.

The show runs until Dec. 30 and with two dozen, eye-high kickers called the Rockettes, Santa Claus, a six-year-old girl named Kayla from New Rochelle, her mom, three camels, three wise men, donkeys,



Julianna Pierre at Radio City Music Hall.

Photo by Avi Gerver

sheep, a high tech 3D live, GPS presentation, an ice rink, a bus tour through Manhattan and the new "Snow" segment there is something for every member of the family.

# Katniss forced into another death match

**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire**  
**Very Good (3 stars)**  
 PG-13 for profanity, intense violence, frightening images, mature themes and a suggestive situation  
**Running time:** 146 minutes  
**Distributor:** Lionsgate Films

**By Kam Williams**

Despite only being introduced in 2008, The Hunger Games trilogy has so captured the collective imagination of kids the world over that it has already eclipsed Harry Potter as the best-selling children's book series of all time. Suzanne Collins' post-apocalyptic adventure is set in Panem, a disturbing dystopia marked by the brutal subjugation of the overwhelmingly-poor

majority by the very powerful, privileged few.

In the first installment, heroine Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) grudgingly participated in a winner-take-all death match against other teens, each representing his or her home district. Known as the "Hunger Games," the annual competition is staged as entertainment ostensibly designed to distract the masses from their pitiful plight.

Wise beyond her years, underdog Katniss emerged triumphant at the end of the first episode by virtue of a combination of craftiness, compassion and her skills as an archer. However, she did break a cardinal rule by sparing the life of her co-winner, Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), her friend and male counterpart from District 12.

At the second installment's point of departure, we find the pair embarking on a government-sponsored victory tour around the coun-

**Once the pomp and circumstance of the decadent opening ritual are out of the way, the relatively-gruesome main event begins.**

try. However, when their speeches stir up revolutionary fervor in the crowds, a vindictive President Snow (Donald Sutherland) breaks a promise by drafting them to take part in the Quarter Quell, a tournament of champions comprised entirely of former Hunger Games winners.

So, it's not long before they're back in training for another free-for-all, this time engaging elite opponents blessed with gifts ranging from fang-like teeth to uncanny intuition to chameleon-like camouflage to the ability to harness electricity. Each of the entrants,



A scene from "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

known as tributes, is introduced by Caesar Flickerman (Stanley Tucci), the festivities' unctuous master of ceremonies.

Once the pomp and circumstance of the decadent opening ritual are out of the way, the relatively-gruesome main event begins. Allegiances are forged, and bargains are made, followed by literal and figurative backstabbing in a desperate contest which ultimately

mandates a cruel betrayal of any loyalties.

For all its frenetic action, this uneventful installment nevertheless suffers slightly from a classic case of inbetweenie-itis, since it basically serves as a bridge to the trilogy's exciting conclusion. A water-treading sequel that achieves its goal of satiating the fans' bloodlust while whetting their appetite for the franchise's grand finale.

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# Independent & Foreign Films

**Black Nativity** (PG for menacing, mature themes and mild epithets) Kasi Lemmons wrote and directed this adaptation of the Langston Hughes musical of the same name about a single-mom (Jennifer Hudson) who sends her teenage son (Jacob Latimore) to Harlem to stay with her long-estranged parents (Forest Whitaker and Angela Bassett) when she's evicted from her Baltimore apartment. Supporting cast includes Mary J. Blige, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Tyrese Gibson and Nas Jones.

**Bullett Raja** (Unrated) Saif Ali Khan stars in the title role of this action adventure, set in the Hindi heartland, about a mild-mannered Average Joe's transformation into an anti-establishment outlaw in response to India's corruption. With Raj Babbar, Gulshan Grover and Vidhut Jamwal.

**Caught in the Web** (Unrated) Cultural evolution drama about a young



## Kam's Capsules

By Kam Williams

Chinese woman (Yuanyuan Gao) who's ostracized after a cell phone video of her failing to yield her bus seat to a senior citizen goes viral. Co-starring Chen Yao, Mark Chao and Xueqi Wang. (in Mandarin with subtitles)

**The End of Time** (Unrated) Tick-tock documentary exploring our perception of the elusive subject of time.

**Journey to the South Pacific** (G) Eco-documentary, narrated by Cate Blanchett, advocating the preservation of such undersea creatures as whale sharks and giant rays.

**Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom** (PG-13 for sexuality, intense violence, disturbing images and brief profanity) Epic biopic based on the autobiography of Nelson Mandela (Idris Elba) chronicling the South Afri-

can leader's transition from outlawed freedom fighter to political prisoner to president. With Naomie Harris, Tony Kgoroge and Riaad Moosa. (In English, Afrikaans and Xhosa with subtitles)

**Pad Yatra: A Green Odyssey** (Unrated) Daryl Hannah narrates this climate change documentary lamenting the melting of the Himalayan glacial region as a consequence of global warming.

**The Punk Singer** (Unrated) Retrospective rockumentary revisiting the 20-year career of activist and musical pioneer Kathleen Hanna, lead singer of the band Bikini Kill. Featuring commentary by Joan Jett, Kim Gordon and Carrie Brownstein.

**Reaching for the Moon**

(Unrated) Bittersweet biopic recounting the tragic love affair between American poet Elizabeth Bishop (Miranda Otto) and Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares (Gloria Pires). Featuring Tracy Middendorf, Marcello Airoldi and Lola Kirke. (In English and Portuguese with subtitles)

### BIG BUDGET FILMS

**Frozen** (PG for action and mild rude humor) Disney animated adventure about a fearless princess (Kristen Bell) who embarks on an epic journey with a gruff mountain man (Josh Gad) in order to reverse the curse of eternal winter accidentally inflicted upon the kingdom by her queen-to-be sister (Idina Menzel) with cryogenic powers. Voice cast includes Ciaran Hinds, Jonathan Groff and Edie McClurg.

**Homefront** (R for graphic violence, drug use, pervasive profanity and brief sexuality) Sly Stallone wrote the screenplay for this adap-



A scene from *Bullett Raja*.

tation of the Chuck Logan novel of the same name about a DEA Agent (Jason Statham) who retires to a quiet town for the sake of his family only to have their lives turned upside-down by a ruthless meth dealer (James Franco). With Winona Ryder, Kate Bosworth, Izabela Vidovic and Omar Benson Miller.

**Oldboy** (R for nudity,

profanity, graphic sexuality, brutal violence and disturbing images) Spike Lee directed this remake of the Korean revenge thriller revolving around an advertising exec's (Josh Brolin) quest for vengeance after being kidnapped and held hostage for 20 years. With Samuel L. Jackson, Elizabeth Olsen, Sharlto Copley and Michael Imperioli.

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# SUN KULCHA

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### FRI., NOV. 29

**TOUCH TANK:** Join Brooklyn Children's Museum in an exploration of sea animals at 12:00 p.m. Touch a starfish, horseshoe crab, or sea snail! Explore sea creatures up close and learn about ocean diversity. Admission is \$9.00 per person. Admission is free for Museum members and children under one year of age. 145 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213.

### MON., DEC. 2

**HOLIDAY SPIRIT:** Join MetroTech Commons for caroling and hot cocoa. Residents and visitors will enjoy festive carols from the Brooklyn Tech High School Chorus and take pictures with friends, family and neighbors in the holiday-inspired photo booth. MetroTech Commons, in front of 2 MetroTech Center. MetroTech Center is located in Downtown Brooklyn between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue, and Willoughby Street and Tech Place.

### TUES., DEC. 3

**BUGGING OUT:** Feeling brave? Meet grasshoppers, worms, stick bugs, and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. Admission is \$9.00 per person. Admission is free for Museum members and children under 1 year of age. 145 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213.

### SAT., DEC. 7

**FESTIVAL AFROLATINO:** Join the Afrolatino Festival of New York at Breukelen Coffee Shop in Brooklyn from 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. for their holiday celebration and fundraising event. There will be music by DJ Inspire and live performances. Please make a \$10 donation along with school/ art supplies for a public school in Bastimentos Island, Bocas del Toro, Panama. This is one party you should not miss!! Invite all of your friends! 764 Franklin Ave., New York, NY 11238 (718) 789-7070.

### SUN., DEC. 8

**DIWALI:** Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, returns to Pelham Art Center as part of its Folk Arts Series, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join us for this popular event with free hands-on workshops and activities, held during ArtsWestchester's Free Arts Day! 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. Call 914-738-2525 for more information.

### MON., DEC. 9

**DEMISTIFYING ACS:** Come and learn more about Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and find out more information about community-based organizations and services. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn. Register, by visiting <https://brooklyn-expo.eventbrite.com/>



## DIWALI

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## FARMER'S MARKET

**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).

### SAT., DEC. 14

**HOMEOWNER FORUM:** Free Homeowner Insurance Information session from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mortgage check-ups and review. Free information on home improvement options, Home Repair Courses and the NYC Build-It-Back program. Counselors will be present to address mortgage modification needs. We encourage you to bring your homeowners insurance policy and mortgage statement for review. Capital One Bank, 1425 Rockaway Parkway (corner of Glenwood Rd) Brooklyn, NY 11236. To register, please call Tyrone 718.469.4679 or email [infoef\\_01@nhsnyc.org](mailto:infoef_01@nhsnyc.org). Lunch provided. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services, Capital One and CNYCN.

**INFORMATIONAL SESSION:** Brainorkestra Learning Programs will be conducting a free informational session for parents from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Cadman Plaza, 1st floor meeting room 7. For information or to reserve a place, leave an email or message at the following: [www.brainorkestra.com](http://www.brainorkestra.com) or call (917) 821-8836.



## HOLIDAY BASH

**HOLIDAY BASH:** The "Three Bears Holiday Bash" is a variety show that celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The audience also gets to join in on the fun with a "12 days of Christmas" sing-a-long during the performance! Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., with an additional 2:30 p.m. performance each Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$7/children under 12, \$10/all others. For more information, maps and walking directions, please visit <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/>.

### MON., DEC. 15

**DANCEHALL WORKSHOP:** The choreographers of "FIYAH" will be hosting a "Triple Treat Dancehall Workshop" at Cumbe from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. with Yaminah Legohn, Jessica Phoenix and Blacka Di Danca along with DJ Yanks. For advance tickets, visit [cumbdance.com](http://cumbdance.com). Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Cumbe: 558 Fulton St., NY 11217.

### ONGOING CURRENTLY - MON., DEC. 30

**HOLIDAY BASH:** The "Three Bears Holiday Bash" is a variety show that celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The audience also gets to join in on the fun with a "12 days of Christmas" sing-a-long during the performance! Showings are Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., with an additional 2:30 p.m. performance each Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$7/children under 12, \$10/all others. Tickets are sold at the door, only when available. To guarantee admission, purchase tickets online

at <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/swedish-cottage-marionette-theatre/>. The Cottage is located in Central Park at 81st Street and Central Park West, just south of the Delacorte Theater. For more information, maps and walking directions, please visit <http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/arts/>.

**PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTER:** Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched a second Passport Application Center at the Kings Highway Library providing a convenient facility for Brooklyn residents and new immigrants to apply for passports. Hours are temporarily set for 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. Saturdays are currently closed until further notice. 2115 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11229. To make an appointment, call 718-230-2292 or 718-375-3037 ext. 128.

**FEATURING HOME REPAIR:** Is your boiler, water main or roof in need of fixing? Do you need major repairs done but lack the finances? Now is the best time to fix it. Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization can assist you. For more information on our Home Improvement Programs, please call 718-469-4679 or visit [www.nhsfeastflatbush.org](http://www.nhsfeastflatbush.org).

**FORECLOSURE:** Are you behind in your mortgage or seeking a modification? Come in for free services and assistance. We will help you as much as possible to keep your home. Referrals for free legal assistance are also available. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 718.469.4679. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, not-for-profit organizations. [www.nhsnyc.org](http://www.nhsnyc.org).

**HOME HELP FOR DISABLED:** If you are a disabled homeowner living in Brooklyn or have someone disabled living in your household, you may qualify for up to \$5,000 in home repair grants. Repairs must be geared toward making the home accessible and convenient for the disabled person. Sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, a not-for-profit housing organization, and the New York State Housing Trust Corporation. For more information, please call (718) 469-4679.

**COMMUNITY CENTER:** Are you looking to improve your life? Take a class at Community Learning Center: How to Write a Book or Script, Create a Resume, How to Create Wealth, Get/Keep a Spouse, Start a Business. Classes for everyone. Community Learning Center, 147-12 Archer Ave., Queens. For more information/RSVP, call (718) 291-1094.

*If you have an event that you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to [Caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com](mailto:Caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com). All submissions are up for review by the editor.*

*Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry*

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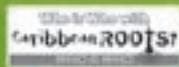


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# Volcano

Continued from Page 16

you have these kinds of burdens on your electricity prices?"

Prime Minister Gonsalves also sees it as a major development opportunity. "As our energy costs come down, you can expect more hotels to come. You can expect factories which don't want to set up here because of the high cost of electricity, and as you get more tourists there are other knock-on effects," he said.

"More restaurants will be built and opened with a comfortable eating environment for clients, because running an air conditioning unit on an ongoing basis at 40 cents per kilowatt hour, it could eat up all of your profits," he told IPS.

The Caribbean is one of the regions most prone to natural disasters resulting from climate change and officials are hoping that geothermal energy is the answer to their mounting climate change concerns.

Hartke said the climate

issue and its effect on Caribbean countries was also of particular concern to the Clinton foundation.

"There is no set of countries that are more vulnerable than the small island developing states," he told IPS. "Mrs. Clinton has been interested in the islands for a long time. She was at the Organisation of American States (OAS) four years ago specifically talking about the concerns and needs of St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

Officials have already commenced public education exercises for residents of North Windward in the northeast of the island and Chateaubelair in the northwest, the two communities closest to the volcano which occupies most of the northern third of the country.

"It is very important to keep the people informed since those areas are going to be directly affected in terms of exploration and production," Gonsalves said.

Local resident Rochelle Baptiste welcomed the government-led initiative to seek cheaper energy

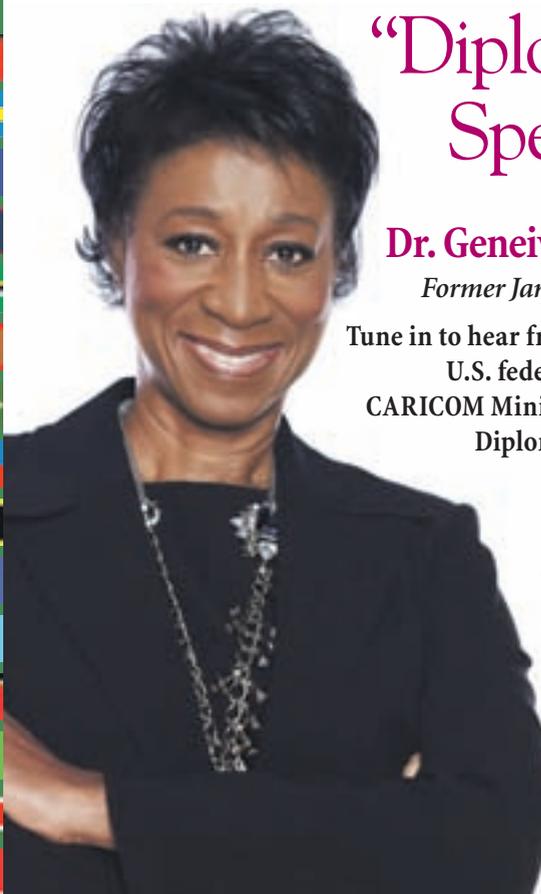
through geothermal exploration. Like most Vincentians, she is eagerly awaiting the end result.

"In this harsh economic climate it is important that action be taken to lessen the impact on citizens," she told IPS.

"High energy cost is an issue that our citizens have been struggling with over the years which in some respect has been hampering social and economic development as persons are just not able to meet the cost on their monthly electricity bills compounded with other bills.

"In North Windward where I grew up and still spend most of my time, I remember how much we yearned for electricity when most of the country was brightly lit. When it came, we were elated but it came with a price which residents are still struggling to pay for. Each month you can hear the cry as neighbours complain to neighbours about the high cost of electricity, as they ponder how they are going to meet the payment," Baptiste added.

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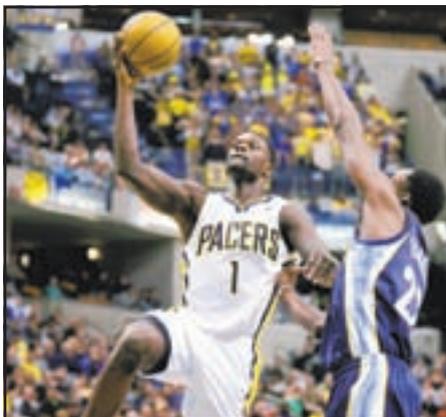


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# SPORTS

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Indiana Pacers guard Lance Stephenson, left, shoots in front of Memphis Grizzlies guard Jamaal Franklin in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Monday, Nov. 11, 2013.

AP Photo/Michael Conroy, file

## Lincoln talent

By Robert Elkin

Over the years, Lincoln High School of Brooklyn produced three basketball players who put on National Basketball Association uniforms – Stephon Marbury, Sebastian Telfair, and more recently Lance Stephenson. With them came title winning or contending teams in the Public Schools Athletic League.

And looking back further, there were other schools which did, likewise; one can't count

Continued on Page 42

## Nurse celebrates 80th birthday

By Azad Ali

The prolific Barbadian and West Indies batsman from the 1960s, Seymour Nurse celebrated his 80th birthday recently, making him one of the oldest surviving West Indies cricketer.

Nurse was a classy right-handed middle order batsman who played 29 Test matches. He made 2,523 runs and averaged 47.6 runs per innings. He made six centuries including a best of 258 in his final Test innings in New Zealand in 1969.

Nurse is among an elite list of West Indian batsmen who made over 500 runs in a Test series on two occasions.

Continued on Page 42



# MLS CUP FINALS

Sporting KC forward Dom Dwyer celebrates his goal during the second half of an MLS playoff soccer match against the Houston Dynamo in Kansas City, Kan., Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013. Sporting KC defeated Houston Dynamo 2-1.

## Kansas City, Real Salt Lake in MLS Cup

By Patrick Horne

Eastern Conference champion Sporting Kansas City and its Western Conference counterpart, Real Salt Lake, will play in 2013 MLS Cup, the league's championship game, at Sporting Park in Kansas City on Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:00 p.m.

on ESPN. Sporting overcame a Houston team that had knocked it out of the playoffs the past two seasons, with a 2-1 victory, while Real Salt Lake manhandled a Portland Timbers team it defeated three times during the year to come away with a 1-0 win (5-2 on aggregate) the second

leg of the Conference final.

When Boniek Garcia put Houston Dynamo ahead in the third minute of play last Saturday in the second leg of the Conference series, it seemed like déjà vu, but not for long. Two unlikely heroes

Continued on Page 42

AP Photo/Orlin Wagner



Sporting KC defender Ike Opara, back, and Houston midfielder Servando Carrasco (17) during the second half of an MLS playoff soccer match in Kansas City, Kan., Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013. AP Photo/Orlin Wagner

## Major League Soccer

Continued from page 41

stepped up and broke the hex to put Sporting Kansas City on its way to its first MLS Cup appearance since 2004.

Regular starter C.J. Sapong capitalized on a Houston mistake and equalized in the 12th minute to pull host Sporting Kansas City level, then he turned the show over to Benny Feilhaber and Dom Dwyer. Both were fringe players throughout the season: Feilhaber, once thought of as the midfield savior for the U.S. after the departure of former national player Claudio Reyna, was recently traded from the New England Revolution and played in only one of Sporting's last four games of the season. Second-year forward Dwyer failed to earn enough playing time early in the year and was loaned to Orlando City in the USL. He returned later in the season to earn playing time and a starting position.

The pair, along with hard-working U.S. midfielder Graham Zusi, made the difference for Sporting. Zusi ran all day and was always a threat to Houston,

while Dwyer was bullish on Houston's goal in his relentless forays. Feilhaber seemed to find his old form as he threaded passes that put his players in behind the Dynamo defense. One such pass made the difference as Feilhaber dribbled down the middle of the Houston defense and chipped the ball that split two Dynamo defenders for Dwyer to run onto and beat a defender and the goalkeeper for the winning goal in the 63rd minute.

"I said to (Feilhaber) that that was why we brought him here," Sporting KC head coach Peter Vermes said. "His ability to open up a defense is exactly what we were looking for. It was a great ball and at the same time it was very intuitive for Dom to be able to read the situation and have the calmness to just slip it in. It was a big-time final pass, but at the same time the finish was excellent." So much for the two-year hex!

In Portland on Sunday night at Jeld Wen Stadium, head Coach Kaleb Porter, a candidate for the MLS Coach of the Year, said after the Timbers loss that he felt like the "luckiest coach in the league." Porter was referring to the great strides that

his third-year team made in 2013 after two previously bad years. Porter continued, "This team has set a standard in a short amount of time, and it's only the beginning," said the coach. "We're going to be back, there's no doubt about it. We're not getting worse, we're getting better. We're going to keep doing what we did this year, hopefully better. And hopefully we're back here next year, only we're the ones dancing on the field going to the MLS Cup because again our goal is to raise trophies."

The Timbers dug a hole for themselves when they lost at Real Salt Lake, 4-2, in the first leg of the Conference final. In the second outing, the Timbers were two goals behind and had a mountain to climb considering its 0-3 record against RSL. Both teams played hard and played well, but it was a Robbie Findlay goal in the 26th minute that put RSL into MLS Cup with its fourth win of the season against a very good Timbers squad.

Portland finished second in the Conference to RSL and was in the running for the Supporter's Shield Trophy as it sported one of the best records in the league;

this was a team that fired its coach, John Spencer, mid-way through the 2012 season and was coached by its general manager the rest of the way. Porter, a former college coach at University of Akron, took over leadership of the club and in less than a year of player acquisitions through trades, the college draft and other dealings put together a team that reached the Conference final, just a game away from MLS Cup.

So, when losing Coach Porter says he feels lucky, it is because he has created the right environment for future success. Portland has one of the largest fan bases in the league and arguably the most passionate fans, which includes the Timbers Army, a chanting group that occupies a special section in the stadium on game-day.

"It's a winning culture, no doubt about it," said Portland Captain Will Johnson after the loss to the grateful chants of the Timbers Army. "That's one of the things we talked about afterwards, of being proud of we're no longer the Portland Timbers that everyone beats up on."

## PSAL Stars

Continued from page 41

out Mark Jackson, playing at Bishop Loughlin High School, now coaching the Golden State Warriors.

Stephenson and his Indiana Pacers recently came to New York to battle the Brooklyn Nets and then the New York Knicks. Every time he comes East, he draws his family, friends, and former high school teammates and even 'enemies,' who played on opposing teams. The custom is that Stephenson is allotted a certain amount of free or complimentary tickets.

Not always he can get them for his high school players now involved in the sport, for they must attend to their own practices and/or games and at times academics at his former school which comes first.

Yes, there is another member of the Lincoln family coming up in five more years. His name is Isaiah Whitehead.

Over the years, when time and schedule permits, Lance would try to give Whitehead little tips on his game. They include working hard, staying focused, being smart, and not letting little things bring you down. Lance would also tell Isaiah to stay positive and be a leader.

"Isaiah took over the team last year and will leave a mark when he leaves (graduates) Lincoln," the four-year NBA guard said recently. "That's what I did!"

Whitehead has the talent, size, and awareness, according to Stephenson. "He's getting better in every game. I want him to follow my footsteps."

Stephenson is trying to see his former team play but he is so busy.

Meanwhile, Stephenson has to concentrate on his



Abraham Lincoln Rail-splitters Isaiah Whitehead #15 drives to the hoop against Wings Academy during a high school basketball game in the PSAL Boys AA Semi-finals at CCNY earlier this year in Manhattan.

AP Photo/Gregory Payan, file

own play and continue to produce.

The 6'5" Stephenson played on a team last year that finished runner-up to Miami in the Conference finals.

"I try to be very aggressive on the bench, and try to find people I am throwing at," Stephenson said.

"I have to work on being consistent even if I am not scoring, being a great defender and rebounder, and finding stuff to keep me going. It's all about being mature and staying and I learned from that and got better every year. (As a team) we're getting better in every game as long as we stick together."

"Last year Stephenson was one of the most improved players in the NBA, and came into the summer with great work ethic. He has taken a great leap," said Indiana Head Coach Frank Vogel.

"Lance has been playing great on the offensive and defensive ends," center Roy Hibbert said. "I'm happy that he is having a heck of a season. He's been good. He's aggressive."

## Nurse

He made his Test debut against England in Jamaica in 1960 and was named one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year in 1967.

After retiring from the

game, Nurse was a long-standing coach in Barbados and played a role in the development of several Test players including Malcolm Marshall. He was the manager of the West Indies Under-19 team and the Barbados senior team.

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Stk #1172, V6, auto, moonroof, leather, rear camera, navigation, 32,378 mi.



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2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995
2000	Honda Civic, 130k	544413	\$2,995

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2004	Nissan Sentra, 53k	UC16122	\$3,995
1999	Toyota Rav4, 160k	218724	\$3,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	\$4,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2003	Honda Accord EX, 91k	72885	\$5,995
2005	Honda Civic, 142k	78453	\$5,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995
2008	Volkswagen Jetta, 30k	52550	\$6,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2009	Toyota Camry, 87k	82713	\$7,995
2010	Honda Fit, 17k	73329	\$7,995
2007	Toyota Corolla, 92k	74352	\$7,995

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2009	Honda Accord EX, 40k	65124	\$7,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995
2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$9,495
2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995
2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2009	Nissan Murano, 45k	73621	\$12,888
2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2007	Lexus ES350, 53k	56974	\$14,888
2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
2009	Acura MDX, 31k	73459	\$22,888
2010	Lexus LS 460, 39k	82704	\$31,995

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# Windies prepare for long New Zealand tour

## Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte



West Indies cricket team faces about six weeks of play on a much flatter and faster wicket with the ball coming on to the bat. These conditions are much better for the West Indies batsmen. West Indies will play three Test matches, five One-Day internationals and two Twenty20's. The series start on Dec. 3 with the first Test match and goes all the way to Jan. 15, 2014 for the final Twenty20 match.

West Indies squad for the Test series are as follows: Darren Sammy, Denesh Ramdin, Tino Best, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Sheldon Cotterell, Shannon Gabriel, Veerasammy Permaul, Chadwick Walton, Shane Shillingford, Marlon Samuels and Kieran Powell.

Note: Chris Gayle suffered

a hamstring and returned to Jamaica. If there is no replacement for Gayle, Kirk Edwards will open the batting with Powell. Tino Best, Shannon Gabriel along with Sheldon Cotterell are the quick bowlers. Kemar Roach is injured.

### LENDL SIMMONS SHOULD RETURN TO TEST CRICKET

Lendl Simmons should find himself back into the Test squad because his batting has been very favorable. When Shivnarine Chanderpaul exits the West Indies team, it should be easier for Simmons to regain his place on the Test team.

West Indies cricketers should be ready for the different condition in New Zealand and it is hoped that



West Indies' Tino Best bowls during the Tri-Nation Series cricket match against India in Port-of-Spain; Trinidad; Friday; July 5, 2013.; AP Photo/Andres Leighton; file

their performances will be enhanced. Narsingh Deonarine must hold on to his middle order position in Test

because he has the capabilities of staying at the wicket and scoring. Spinners Shane Shillingford and Veerasam-

my Permaul will perform on the New Zealand wicket. Cottrill, the new young pacer, will have his opportunity as

well. New Zealand tour will be a great experience for the young players to gain some experience.

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- \*(If applicable)

Applicants pay a \$680 filing fee to USCIS. Please do **not** bring the fee to this event. To apply for a fee waiver, bring as many of these items as applicable:

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- Copy of benefits cards
- Copy of IRS tax returns for the most recent tax year

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## THEME: MODES OF COMMUNICATION

### ACROSS

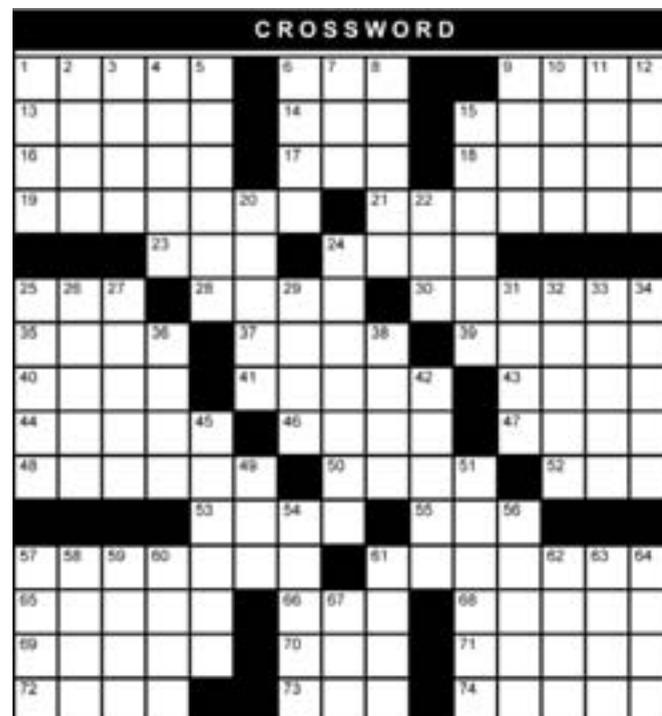
1. Dandruff manufacturer
6. Third degree
9. Mop
13. Spot for boutonniere
14. Oahu greeting gift
15. Boxer's move
16. Gladiators' battlefield
17. \*Yours, when texting
18. Village V.I.P.
19. \*As opposed to calling
21. \*Following dial tone
23. Lennon's wife
24. \*It's spoken
25. \*E-mail was invented by this school's alum
28. Marvel Comics hammer wielder
30. Building material
35. Can be strong on those not bathed
37. Wading bird
39. Sign up again
40. Hindu princess
41. Clan emblem
43. Like top-notch accommodations
44. Seven days postmortem
46. Largest volcano in Europe

47. Test choice
48. Between Paleocene and Oligocene
50. \*Do it to email before sending?
52. "C' \_\_\_\_ la vie!"
53. Start of some scotch names
55. Petting spot
57. \*Raised dots
61. \*Bottled on water
65. Jousting pole
66. Bit of sunshine
68. Comparative of hale
69. Weasel's aquatic cousin
70. Lodge
71. Augmenting
72. Turned to the right, as in horse
73. Pilot's estimate
74. Makes full

### DOWN

1. Fence part
2. C in TLC
3. Kilimanjaro top, e.g.
4. Slow, musically speaking
5. Lamentation
6. Blatant promotion
7. \_\_\_\_ Royal Highness
8. ABBA's genre
9. Auction off
10. Dry riverbed
11. Bread maker
12. Ship wrecker

15. Torch holder
20. Result of pitcher's dominance
22. Pendulum's path
24. \*Type of words less common these days
25. \*Dots and dashes code
26. Popular potato
27. Gin's partner
29. Symphony member
31. Patty \_\_\_\_
32. Accustom
33. "Sexus" and "Plexus" partner
34. \*It's character-limited
36. Gauche or Droite in Paris
38. \*Email button
42. Grain of Mesoamerica
45. Hook, line and sinker person
49. Building addition
51. Comedian Daniel and reggae musician Peter
54. Chill-inducing
56. Japanese port
57. \*It features postings
58. First-\_\_\_\_
59. Pot contribution
60. Coffee choice
61. Mimicking bird
62. Came down
63. Type of pool
64. Units of work
67. Colony-living insect



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Answers in Classified Section

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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Participate in something new and interesting this week, Aries. The perfect activity will present itself in the next few weeks, so be sure to keep your eyes open.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, delay any upcoming shopping excursions for the time being. Your coffers are getting a bit sparse, and you need to conserve the rest of your funds.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Listen to advice this week, Gemini. Loved ones only want to help and provide support, so keep that in mind when those closest to you offer some guidance.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, your suspicions may be aroused by someone who has been paying more attention to you than normal. It could be something completely innocent, but right now you're not sure.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Every day is a learning process, Leo. You will find that there are a number of new ideas swirling around in your head, and if you pin one down, you may be on to something.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Your colleagues at work may be making things difficult, Virgo, but there is nothing you can do about it right now. Just work your hardest, and things will turn out for the best.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, prepare to juggle multiple responsibilities in the coming days. Be ready to multi-task and expect to be pulled in multiple directions.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, a small misunderstanding turns into a larger battle this week. But you have the power to put the flames out quickly by keeping a cool head.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, you are having so much fun lately that it almost seems like life is a game. Just don't get so caught up in the good times that you overlook your responsibilities.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you usually take your responsibilities quite seriously, and that is often for the best. Just be sure to let your hair down sometimes and have a little fun.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, some irregularities have begun to pop up of late. It is not up to you to figure out what is going on, though. Others will discover the truth.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, your head may be in the clouds, but it is quite comfortable up there. Just don't linger up there too long.

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## ► LEGAL

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/20/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001299-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Abhay (Last) Chathurbhujja. My present name is (First) Rolando (Middle) Peter John (Last) Dixon AKA Rolando P.J. Dixon. My present address is

## ► LEGAL

3708 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203-. My place of birth is Jamaica. My date of birth is September 01, 1979.

**Notice is hereby** given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/20/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001301-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Thaila (Middle) Lherimarthe (Last) Toussaint. My present name is (First) Kayla (Middle) Esther (Last) Toussaint (infant). My present address is 2310 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226- My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is March 20, 2013.

## ► LEGAL

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS  
U.S. BANK, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff, - against- OSVALDO ACOSTA, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed OCTOBER 2, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in ROOM 224 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NY on the 12TH DAY OF DE-

## ► LEGAL

CEMBER, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. premises known as 74-76 SOUTH 2ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11211 further described as follows: Block: 2416, Lot: 8  
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the Southerly side of South 2nd Street, distant 50 feet Easterly from the corner formed by the intersection on the Southerly side of South 2nd Street with the Easterly side of Wythe Avenue; RUNNING THENCE Southerly parallel to Wythe Avenue, 75 feet; THENCE Easterly parallel with the South 2nd Street, 50 feet; THENCE Northerly again parallel to Wythe Avenue, 75 feet to the Southerly side of South 2nd Street; THENCE Westerly along the Southerly side of South 2nd Street, 50 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. SAID PREMISES known as 74-76 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY. Approximate amount of lien \$973,828.71 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.  
Index Number 14712/2008.  
LYLE SILVERSMITH, ESQ., REFEREE  
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC  
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff  
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