

U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Michigan).

Photo by Bill Clark / CQ Roll Call

DEAL TURNS SOUR

CARICOM-Canada trade talks collapse

By Bert Wilkinson

Negotiations for a free trade agreement between Canada and the 15-nation Caribbean trade group appear to have collapsed telling its regional counterparts in official correspondence that it has done everything to reach a deal with the group to no avail after six years so it is simply walking away.

The agreement would have replaced the decades-old CaribCan arrangement that has

become incompatible with current World Trade Organization (WTO) rules at least for the time being.

The agreement had allowed Caribbean countries to export more than \$700M a year in goods largely duty free. CaribCan had been in place since the mid 80s and allowed the region to enjoy a healthy trade surplus in recent years thanks largely to gold exports from Suriname and Guyana as well as petro-

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Reparations summit to be held in NY

By Nelson A. King

The Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW), a leading research, policy and advocacy group with offices in New York and Baltimore, says it is holding an International Reparations Summit at vari-

ous sites across New York City from April 9-12, 2015.

IBW announced on Friday that speakers at the conference include Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies and chair of the Caribbean

Community's (CARICOM) Reparations Commission; U.S. civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson; Prof. Charles Ogeltree of Harvard University; and Mireille Fanon Mendes France, president of the Frantz

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Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller.

Associated Press / Evan Agostini

Jamaica diasporans hijack PM's message

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jamaicans who attended a Manhattan gathering billed as a community forum with Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller were witnesses to a disrupted address from the leader by disgruntled diasporan residents intent on reversing the buggery laws now in place on the Caribbean island.

The mostly partisan group that waited more than an hour to hear the leader; cheered her entry into the east-side located St. George's Episcopal Church and welcomed her to New York City despite forecasted rainy conditions and a raging inferno that wreaked havoc just blocks from the venue.

Many seemed shocked by the disruption.

Some watched helplessly as protesting diasporans launched a verbal assault on their island leader — to the ire of JA PM.

She was visibly riled as protesters to the country's buggery laws shouted down her optimistic message praising Diasporans for contribution to the island.

Initially, emphasizing braggadocio about Jamaicans being great and 'little but tallawah,' she infused the names of Marcus Garvey, Bob Marley and Nanny saying how great Jamaicans have been.

She said when President Barack Obama visits Jamaica on April 9 "she is likely to raise the issue of a pardon for the nation's first national hero, Marcus Garvey." That statement drew loud applause and approval.

The leader also won cheers when

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Honoring slavery's victims with The Ark of Return

By Tequila Minsky

March winds blew through the UN Visitors Plaza. Enduring bone-chilling conditions, dignitaries, VIPs and the public alike braved the blustery weather, shivering during the remarks.

On March 25, the long-awaited unveiling of the Ark of Return monument took place. The marble permanent memorial commemorating victims of the slave trade sits at the far end of the plaza; the East River is its backdrop.

The date of the ceremony coincided with date that is the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and The Transatlantic Slave Trade. Several worldwide activities remembering slavery are organized on that day.

The memorial at the UN aims to remind visitors of the complete history of slavery, urging them to acknowledge the tragedy and its legacy, and to heighten awareness of the current dangers of racism, prejudice and slavery's lingering consequences that continue to impact the descendants of slavery's victims today.

Some 15 million people were forced to make the crossing in slave ships during more than four centuries of the trade... "a stain on human history," said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his remarks during the ceremony. The memorial is also for the "huge numbers" who didn't survive the journey.

General Assembly President Sam Kutesa and a host of international dignitaries including Prime Minister of Jamaica Portia Simpson-Miller as



"Consider the legacy," one of the many elements in the Ark of Return memorial at U.N. Plaza reminds visitors of the complete history of slavery, urging them to acknowledge the tragedy and its legacy. Photo by Tequila Minsky

well as NYC's Mayor David Dinkins and Councilman Jumaane Williams helped inaugurate the memorial.

Courtenay Rattray, UN permanent representative of Jamaica and chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee hosted the ceremony.

Asoke Kumar Mukerji, UN permanent representative of India, which contributed \$250,000 and was the main donor to the Permanent Memorial Trust Fund for monument, paid tribute to human rights defenders who fought to abolish slavery and indentured labor.

Haitian-American architect and designer Rodney Leon designed the

memorial. He won an international competition of 310 participants from 83 countries.

Highlighting some of the features of the monument, Leon notes the triangular marble panels, which were inspired by the maps of the triangular trade in slaves. Maps are etched into the walls so visitors are confronted by the uncomfortable truth.

"These three triangular patterns describe the slave routes from specific locations in West Africa and throughout Africa to South America, to the Caribbean and Central America, and to North America," he says.

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Vincentian priests mourn 'caring' bishop

By Nelson A. King

Two Vincentian Anglican priests who were beneficiaries of an American bishop's goodwill are mourning his passing, saying he was a "great servant of God" and a "caring" shepherd.

The Right Rev. Orris George Walker, Jr., the seventh diocesan bishop of the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Long Island, NY was called to eternal rest on Feb. 28. He was 72.

Vincentian-born priests, Frs. Ulric Jones and Leopold Baynes were among hundreds of mourners who paid their last respect at the funeral service and interment, on Saturday, March 21, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City, Long Is.

Fr. Jones, who worked under Bishop Walker's leadership, flew from St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the funeral

service.

He told Caribbean Life that Bishop Walker was "a man with a most caring heart and a shepherding spirit," whom he first met on arrival in New York, in July, 1991. Fr. Jones and his family had migrated, at the time, from the Bahamas "to begin a new life."

"He embraced me and afforded me the opportunity to serve as a priest in the Diocese of Long Island, at historic Grace Church, Jamaica, Queens, and my subsequent election as rector of the Church of St. James the Less, Jamaica, Queens, from where I retired in 2007, after 13 years, and returned home," Fr. Jones said. "For this, I express my deep appreciation."

He said Bishop Walker had visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines on several occasions, proving to be "a friend of the

Diocese of the Windward Islands by his willingness to assist two of our churches (St. Paul's Calliaqua and Holy Name, Sandy Bay), which were undergoing much urgent repair.

"His kindness and generosity will be forever be remembered," said Fr. Jones, adding that Bishop Walker's dedication to the people of the Diocese of Long Island will "forever stand as a testament to his love for Jesus Christ and his dedication to the ministry of the church."

"To his sorrowing widow, Mrs. Norma Walker, his children and grandchildren, relatives and friends, I convey my profound and sincere condolences with the assurance of our prayers," Fr. Jones continued. "May he rest in peace, and rise in glory, and may his family and friends know that he is held in the palm

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Caribbean

Britain has warned travelers to the Caribbean about contracting the Chikungunya virus, based on the dramatic increase in the number of people affected by the disease in the last year.

Public Health England (PHE) said according to its latest annual data, there has been a 12-fold increase from 24 cases in 2013 to 295 cases in 2014 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The majority of cases, 88 percent, were acquired on trips to the Caribbean and South America. The outbreak, which started in December 2013 in the French Caribbean territory of St. Martin, has now affected most of the countries and territories in the Caribbean and Americas.

“Chikungunya is an unpleasant viral illness that can cause fever and joint pains, which, in some patients may persist for a prolonged period,” said Dr. Hilary Kirkbride, head of the PHE’s Travel and Migrant Health.



Focusing on renewable energy

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has installed 750 kilowatt hours of photovoltaic panels, which it says reduced its carbon emissions by 800 tonnes annually. See story on page 16.

Inter Press Service / Kenton X. Chance

Antigua

The government of Antigua and Barbuda recently announced the formalization of diplomatic relations with the tiny republic of Fiji, stressing the similar challenges the two countries faces as Small Island Developing States.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne’s government said in a statement that Antigua and Barbuda’s permanent representative to the United Nations Walton Aubrey Webson, and Fijian counterpart Peter Thompson signed recently the Joint Communique establishing diplomatic relations.

The statement said the two countries will support each other in the quest to diversify their economies which rely mainly on tourism.

The small Caribbean nation of about 90,000 inhabitants will also collaborate with Fiji in areas such as climate change, debt reduction and ocean conservation.



Bahamas

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) says it will form a commission to analyze the social economic, health and legal impact of decriminalizing marijuana use.

The announcement comes as CARICOM awaits a report on how medical marijuana could help boost the region’s economy.

Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart said recently that leaders would not be rushed into a decision. He spoke at a two-day CARICOM summit held in The Bahamas.



Recently, Jamaica’s parliament approved a bill that decriminalizes small amounts of marijuana and establishes a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry.

Activists in St. Lucia and other Caribbean islands have been pushing to legalize marijuana use.

Dominica

The Dominican government has confirmed that talks were being held with its Jamaican counterparts on a settlement regarding the deportation of dancehall artiste, Tommy Lee Sparta last February.

Lee, whose real name is Leroy Russell and three others — Tiasha Oralie Russell, Junior Fraser and Mario Christopher Wallace- were deported one day after they arrived to perform at a show.

Attorney General Levi Peter, speaking on the state-owned DNS radio said, “there have been communications between the Attorney General’s Chamber and Dominica’s Attorney General’s Chamber in relation to the matter.”

“I can confirm there has been communication between the two officers,” he said.

Earlier this month, Jamaica’s Deputy Solicitor General and Director of International Affairs Division, Dr. Kathy Ann-Brown had indicated that Roseau was seeking a friendly resolution to the



matter.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government announced recently that it will be one of the beneficiaries of a \$15 million grant from the government of Japan to help Caribbean islands improve their capacity to cope with climate change.

The fund is part of the Japan-Caribbean Partnership for Climate Change, which aims to assist Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean region to overcome their vulnerability to the challenges associated with climate change, the government said in a statement.

“Taking lessons from our own experience, the people and government of Japan see the dire need to work in partnership with other countries,” Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica Yasuo said recently in Kingston.

“The long-standing partnership between Jamaica and Japan has yielded significant benefits towards building efficient equipment and human resource capabilities in the field of disaster risk management,” Local Government Minister and Community Development Minister Noel Arscott said at the book launching event for disaster management.



St. Kitts

St. Kitts and Nevis has become the

second Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country to impose a ban on the importation of poultry products from several U.S. states following reports of an outbreak of Bird Flu.

Like Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda said the ban applies to poultry products from the U.S. states of Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington and British Columbia in Canada.

The list includes all poultry products, by-products and eggs and the authorities said the ban is intended to safeguard the poultry industry.

The ban is expected to remain in effect for three months and officials in St. Kitts said the restrictions are necessary to minimize the introduction of the Bird Flu virus into the twin-island federation, where more than 22 poultry farms would be at risk.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia’s Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Victoria Clarke-Charles says she intends on following the law and constitution of St. Lucia as her office deals with a report of alleged extrajudicial killings by police officers.

“Any matter referred to me will be received and treated in accordance with our



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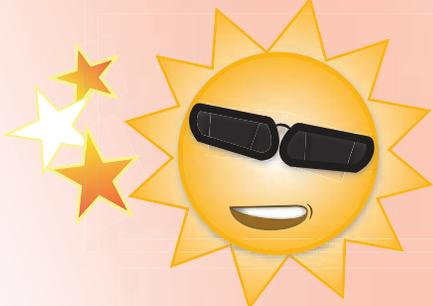
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Conyers to be honored for Reparations bill

Continued from cover
 Fanon Foundation and Chair of the U.N. Working Group of Experts on People of African descent and daughter of Frantz Fanon, the Black liberation theoretician and psychiatrist from Martinique.

During the summit, U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Michigan), the most senior member of the U.S. Congress and the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), will be honored for authoring a bill, HR 40, the "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act" and for his 50 years of service on Capitol Hill.

"We are delighted that the Institute of the Black World can be a clearinghouse for ideas and strategies on how to pursue reparations for historical crimes and injustices against people of African descent in the U.S. and across the Americas," said Dr. Ron Daniels, the Institute's president. "The courageous decision by nations in the Caribbean to demand reparations from the former European colonialists for Native Genocide and African enslavement and the formation of a CARICOM Reparations Commission is re-energizing the Reparations Movement in the U.S. and



The Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks to the congregation Sunday, March 8, 2015, at Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, Ala.

Associated Press /Selma Times-Journal, Alaina Denean

throughout the Pan African world."

IBW said scores of reparations advocates, pan-Africanists and social justice activists from across the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean will take part in the New York summit.

It said leaders of national reparations commissions, committees and task forces from 11 CARICOM nations will interface with leaders of the recently-formed European Reparations Commission and with members of the National African-American Reparations Commission (NAARC), which will be formally launched during the conference.

CaribCan to be extended

Continued from cover
 leum products from oil and gas-rich Trinidad.

The region had also exported millions in apparel, leather, ornaments and a range of other products including liquor under the old trading scheme.

But the one the two sides have been negotiating for the past six years would have been converted to a two-way arrangement had the negotiations been concluded and signed.

The bloc said this week that the Canadians have formally written to leaders indicating that they had applied to the WTO for CaribCan to be extended into the future to allow for a legal framework for trade between Ottawa and the region, meaning that the Canadians have given up hope of a two-way arrangement in the coming months.

Caricom said that trade ministers who are scheduled to meet at bloc headquarters in Guyana after the Easter holidays are expected to discuss the issue and make a final pronouncement on it. A preliminary reply to the Canadians has already been sent but whether this will be ignored until the WTO rules on the application for an extension is left to be seen officials said.

The region had consistently said that all of the smaller Eastern Caribbean states had indicated lukewarm support for the talks because they have little to export in two-way free trade and would

have been required to open their economies to goods from Canada and would have lost millions from taxes no longer being imposed on exports.

Should the WTO approve the appli-

Should the WTO approve the application for the extension of the life of the old agreement, the region is expected to enjoy an even greater trade surplus with Canada.

cation for the extension of the life of the old agreement, the region is expected to enjoy an even greater trade surplus with Canada because Toronto-based Guyana Goldfields is expected to open Guyana's first mega mine later this year and sell most of its production to Canadian refineries.

The last big mine was operated by Montreal-based Omai Gold Mines Ltd. which closed off mining 10 years ago after exporting more than three million ounces of gold from its western Guyana mine.

Gold from Gross Rosebel in Suriname is part of the reason why the region still sells more to Canada than Canada does to the Caribbean as its mine has been churning out hundreds of thousands of ounces per year.

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From left, Dr. Evelyn Castro; Jennifer Jackson; Constance Brown-Bellemy; Dr. Roy A. Hastic; Nadi Ghaness; vocalist, Sheimyrah Mighty and Kaye Chong. Photo by Seitu Oronde

CACCI honors history makers

By Nelson A. King

The Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) on Thursday, March 26 honored several leading women during its “2015 Women History Makers” celebration at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

The honorees were: Dr. Evelyn Castro, vice president for Student Affairs, Medgar Evers College, CUNY; Jennifer Jack-

son, president, T&T Cleaning and Janitorial Services, Inc.; Constance Brown-Bellemy, vice president, ICL; Nadi Ghaness, senior partner, H&N Insurance Agency; Kaye Chong, executive, Caribbean Airlines; Beth Goldberg, district director, United States Small Business Administration (SBA); Marlie Hall, CBS News Correspondent; and Beth Goldberg, N.Y. district director, U.S. Small Business Adminis-

tration.

The event, hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna, was billed as a “Special Business Membership Networking Reception,” with a marked focus on doing business with the United States, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Netherland

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Venezuela slashes Caribbean oil

By Nelson A. King

Reports say Venezuela has cut in half its subsidized shipments of crude oil to Cuba and Petrocaribe member nations to 200,000 barrels per day, down from 400,000 shipped in 2012.

Referring to a Barclays investment bank report, the Miami Herald said on Sunday that the report considered it “ironic” that Venezuela would ship any oil at all, underscoring that while the country is going through extreme difficulties, it continues to subsidize oil sales to countries that have healthier economies.

Because of the cuts in oil shipments to the Caribbean, the firm reduced its deficit forecast for Venezuela to US\$22.6 billion, down from more than US\$30 billion predicted for 2015, according to the Herald.

“The oil agreements have been a heavy burden for Venezuela. These deliveries reached 400,000 bpd at their peak in 2012, though Venezuela only received payment for 200,000

bpd,” said the Barclays report, citing figures from Petrologistics, the firm that follows tanker movements. “In the last decade, the agreements have cost Venezuela up to US\$50 billion.”

Surprisingly, the Herald said Cuba, “the most important ally of Nicolás Maduro’s regime, has not been exonerated from the cuts, which deepened after August 2014, when crude-oil prices began to drop.”

“Cuba has received about 55,000 barrels per day since September, nearly half of what it received in 2012,” the report said.

The Herald said the cuts in deliveries to Cuba are more important than those of the other countries benefiting from Venezuela’s largesse, because, unlike member countries of the Petrocaribe program, which at least pay a portion of the deliveries, “Havana’s regime does not make cash payments for the exchange.”



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NYC Department of Education

Why should the government deliver mail?

By Jacob G. Hornberger

In a country where people extol the virtues of free enterprise, why is the U.S. government involved in the delivery of mail? After all, it would be difficult to find a better example of a violation of the principles of free enterprise than the U.S. Postal Service.

The Postal Service is a monopoly. That means that the law expressly prohibits anyone in the private sector from competing against the government in the delivery of first-class mail. If some private firm attempts to do so, the Justice Department immediately secures an injunction from a federal judge enjoining the firm from continuing to compete. If the firm persists, the judge jails the head of the firm until he agrees to cease and desist with his competition.

Why should a country that prides itself on the virtues of free enterprise have a massive monopoly on mail delivery? Why not free enterprise in mail delivery?

One option would be to simply repeal the postal monopoly. That would put the Postal Service in the same position as everyone else — as a competitor among many private firms that would be seeking people's business.

But we all know what would happen. It is a virtual certainty that the Postal Service would be quickly run out of business.

There is no way that a governmental enterprise can effectively compete against private firms for customers' business.

That's in fact why the government has given the Postal Service a monopoly on its activities. Everyone within the Postal Service and the rest of the federal government knows that a monopoly is necessary to keep the Postal Service in existence, owing to its inability to maintain any market share against private firms in a free and competitive market.

The real question is: Why not simply abolish the Postal Service and leave the delivery of mail entirely to the free market?

After all, isn't that what U.S. officials advise foreign socialist regimes to do — to "privatize" their state-owned enterprises by selling them off?

Why not the same for the Postal Service?

In an era of UPS, FedEx, LaserShip, and other overnight-delivery services, does anyone really doubt that the private sector could handle the delivery of mail? Every day the private sector handles the delivery of untold quantities of groceries to countless grocery stores across the land. Is there anyone who really believes that the private sector couldn't handle mail delivery?

The Postal Service has long maintained that people in

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Education as a cornerstone for women's empowerment

By Dr. Kirsten Stoebenau

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2015 (IPS) - Earlier this month, the Barack Obama administration announced a new initiative designed to improve girls' education around the world. Dubbed "Let Girls Learn," the programme builds on current progress made, such as ensuring girls are enrolled in primary school at the same rates as boys, and is looking to expand opportunities for girls to complete their education.

The Obama administration's leadership on this issue is commendable and incredibly important for moving global momentum on girls' education forward.

Without transforming gender norms that hold too many girls back and holding schools accountable for ensuring girls stay in school and can return to school, girls - and indeed entire communities - will be deprived of future leaders.

We know that keeping girls in school and providing them with a quality education that can prepare them for their future continues to pay dividends down the line, including better health outcomes and better financial stability for girls themselves, and also for their families and communities.

Research shows that girls with secondary school education are six times less likely to marry early compared to girls who have very little or no education. Additionally, each extra year of a mother's education reduces the probability of infant

Around the world, far too many girls face insurmountable barriers that often cause girls to drop out of school.

mortality by as much as 10 per cent and each extra year of secondary schooling can increase a girl's future earnings by 10 to 20 per cent.

But around the world, far too many girls face insurmountable barriers that often cause girls to drop out of school, ultimately preventing them from getting the quality education they deserve.

Recently, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) conducted research to assess the main causes of school drop out for girls in two districts of the West Nile sub-region of Uganda where only six girls for every ten boys are enrolled in secondary school, a ratio far below the national average.

A predominantly rural and impoverished region, West Nile, Uganda's recent past has been characterized by war and conflict.

As such, poverty plays a huge role in girls' inability to continue school. Of the girls who dropped out of school nearly 50 per cent listed financial reasons as the main reason they dropped out of school. Pregnancy was the second most common reason girls gave for leaving school.

While these factors are indeed eye-opening, our research found, however, that gender norms and beliefs about the roles of women as compared to men, were among the most significant determinants of school dropout for girls in West Nile.

Traditionally in West Nile, girls were taught to be subservient to the men to whom they 'belonged', first to their fathers and then later in life to their husbands. Despite significant social change that has taken place over the past number of decades, deeply-rooted gender norms and expectations are carried from one generation to the next and have a profound impact on girls' and their families' expectations and hopes for girls futures, and girls' determination and ability to finish - or drop out of - school.

For example, while most parents surveyed said they value girls' and boys' schooling equally, they acknowledge burdens at home, like chores and housework, fall on the girls in the family, rather than the boys. Consequently, girls who reported their domestic chores had interfered with their schooling in the past were three times more likely to drop out.

The domestic sphere remains solely a woman's domain in the West Nile, and in the face of high adult mortality due to poverty, war, and HIV, girls who lost a parent were even more likely to have to take on a

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kevin Williams

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

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Some sick politicking in T&T Parliament

Not only Trinidad and Tobago nationals across the diaspora, but subscribers to basic moral standards in the Caribbean and indeed throughout the world, should be keen observers whenever scheduled 2015 general elections take place, to see if the Trinidad and Tobago electorate, in some inexplicable collective stupor, hands any further mandate to the government of Kamla Persad-Bissessar. The prime minister and her partners in crime have become that much of an embarrassment to the country they have ruled with unapologetically reckless abandon since 2010.

The Bissessar administration has been on a track, since soon after assuming office, where each shocking episode of abuse of its governing-majority status has vied with some prior transgression thought at the time to be the ultimate in unsavory conduct of public affairs. Last week saw the government descend to yet another level a dumbstruck nation looked upon as depths not previously believed possible.

For starters, the stratagem hatched by the Bissessar crew to essentially stage a campaign rally in the Parliament was jaw-drop-

ping distasteful, assuming the guise of (no kidding) a motion of no confidence in the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Keith Rowley. One assumes that if the government masterminds weren't breaking new parliamentary ground there, they found precedence for such pointlessly sick legislative tomfoolery in political practitioners as hell-bent on skullduggery as themselves. The waste-of-time forum set for full-scale excoriation of Rowley, the government people piled on with gusto. The leader of government business, no stranger to mud-wrestling style political discourse, did his customary thing, and then some. As did others in the obviously pre-arranged, choreographed gang-tackling session. It was the input from one of the least of the apostles, though, that precipitated the loudest howls from commentators, the political class and the public at large and, one more time, led to a pondering of whether there was any more ground underfoot into which these past masters of grunge could sink.

This junior minister, reading her prepared remarks, launched into a hideous anti-Rowley screed

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

targeting the man's personality and family history: he was born of a mother who had been raped by his father; he was himself the father of a son born after he raped the boy's mother! It is practically inconsequential that all of this canned garbage was subsequently shown to be without foundation. That gross performance — of material in which the junior team player's senior confederates were no doubt complicit — was what ignited anew the people's untamed anger at their government's routine indifference to anything resembling moral parameters.

As for the immediate calls for the individual who became the face of those foul proceedings to be dismissed, what a futile exercise. And giving further cover, to boot, to the prime minister's well-worn and unconvincing façade of hard taskmaster, ready to discipline minions who break stride. The reality more likely

being a boss lady with hands as stained as any others in her camp...if only because of her abiding so much conduct unbecoming that, notwithstanding her posture of clueless bystander, was obvious to everyone else. So, better in the instant case for the people to roll with Bissessar's b.s. about having "summoned" her supposedly chagrined subordinate and accepted her apology. Yeah, right!

There's also the matter, in last week's revolting business, of the office of Speaker in the Parliament being occupied by a man who is comfortable with the projection of himself as a common or garden party hack, damn any appearance of impartiality in his designated role. The guy's unfit to be even a "pretend" speaker was perhaps never so revealingly highlighted as in his non-interruption and impassive digesting of the fabricated bilge spewed about Rowley's allegedly iniquitous past. This speaker has several times before gone beyond the pale with questionable behavior. He shouldn't be sitting where he is. But, what does it matter that he is cut loose and replaced by someone equally

unprincipled and roguish?

There have been reports during Bissessar's tenure, that polling gives her decent approval numbers. It's an assertion that we believe doesn't square with sentiment on the ground concerning the government she leads. Trinidad Express columnist Selwyn Ryan raised the possibility of fixed polls. But fellow columnist Sunity Maharaj noted Bissessar's absenting herself from the legislative chamber while that vile contribution was being made last week — typical of the slithering moves designed to perpetuate the image of the unsoiled leader soaring above all the scummy goings-on below. We wonder now about that gambit having maxed out, energy-wise.

The Bissessar administration is classless, an absolute disgrace and should no longer exist. But lacking scruples, as this bunch does, doing the right thing is off limits. As they hold on to the prerogative of setting an election date like the keys to King Tut's tomb, this locomotive from hell, masquerading as a government, roars on.



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OP-EDS

Free market in mail delivery

Continued from page 10

the mountains would be unable to get mail but for the Postal Service. Really? Somehow people in the mountain get milk, food, supplies, clothing, and other important things. Would the private sector really be unable to figure out ways to get mail to them?

What would a free market in mail delivery end up looking like? That's impossible to say, which is one of the beauties of the free market. Through the imagination of entrepreneurs, their eagerness to make money by expanding market share, and their coordination with others doing the same, the free market brings into existence things that no one could ever have imagined. That's what would happen in a free-market mail system — that is, one in which the government played no role

whatsoever.

The beneficiary of all this? The consumer. Instead of having to go to the Post Office and stand in a long line, he now would have an array of entrepreneurs and new firms coming to him with new and better, low-cost ways of service.

The 20th century was the century of socialism and economic interventionism throughout the entire world. So far things aren't too different in the 21st century. The American people have the opportunity to lead the world out of this statist morass. A great place to start is by abolishing the Postal Service and adopting free enterprise in mail delivery.

Jacob Hornberger is president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va. (www.fff.org).

Education for development

Continued from page 10

high household chore burden. This set of burdens often includes caring for younger siblings, which likely contributes to girls in the study reporting only starting school on average at the age of 8.25 years, more than two years past the intended starting age of six.

For girls who become pregnant while in school, dropout is almost inevitable. Only 4 per cent of girls who reported they had ever been pregnant were still enrolled in school. Pregnancy is often followed by a forced marriage and the accompanying expectation that a girl's responsibilities should now shift from her education to caring for her child.

These data highlight just how many barriers girls face in continuing their education, with so many of those barriers finding deep roots in cultural norms that simply don't value girls the way they value boys. And while this study was conducted in the West Nile region of Uganda, gender norms that continue to hold girls back are certainly not rare around the world.

In order to succeed in letting girls learn, governments, schools, communities and families must dismantle barriers for girls where they exist. Local governments and communities must ensure girls get off to a good start with their education, by disseminating information about existing policies for the age at start of school, because we know that when girls are enrolled in school on time and progress through each grade on schedule, they're more likely to continue their education.

The education and health sectors must also work with local governments to introduce comprehensive sexuality education in schools to improve knowledge of and access to reproductive health services to help prevent pregnancy, which currently marks the end of a girl's education in Uganda.

Additionally, we know that eight of 10 girls who dropped out of school in West Nile, Uganda are eager to return to school if given the opportunity, but for the girls who dropped out due to pregnancy this is a near impossibility.

Re-entry and retention policies for pregnant girls and mothers who gave birth as children must be strengthened so that these girls do not miss out on the opportunity to break an intergenerational cycle of poverty, which is all the more likely for an adolescent single mother without a secondary education.

Education is, simply put, a cornerstone for women's empowerment and subsequently for local and national development.

Without transforming gender norms that hold too many girls back and holding schools accountable for ensuring girls stay in school and can return to school, girls – and indeed entire communities – will be deprived of future leaders that could be instrumental in helping to combat poverty in the community, which could empower more girls for generations to come.

Dr. Kirsten Stoebenau is a gender and population specialist at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW).

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

laws; I do not act on emotion or public opinion so I do not wish to join the discussion," the DPP said.

Recently, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony, in a nationwide radio and television broadcast, said Jamaican investigators probing alleged extrajudicial killings by members of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) had found a "blacklist or death list" existed.

Anthony also said the investigators had found police had staged "fake encounters" to legitimize their actions and "all police officers involved in the unlawful killings of citizens in respect of the files reviewed must be prosecuted."

But Anthony said his administration would not be making any statement regarding the guilt or innocence of the police officers involved and "the question whether anyone is to be prosecuted is solely for the director of Public Prosecutions to determine after evaluating and assessing the probative value of the evidence placed before her."

In 2013, the St. Lucia government enlisted the help of the Jamaican police to investigate the TSLPF, following a decision by the United States to withdraw security-related assistance after claims of human rights violations.

As a result, Police Commissioner Vernon Francois was prevented from traveling to the U.S. to represent the Regional Security Service at a conference of Black Police Chiefs.

The DPP told television viewers she would not join in the public debate on the matter.

St. Vincent

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court has called on the St. Vincent and the Grenadines government to pay former police commissioner Randolph Toussaint more than EC\$360,000 after ruling that the acquisition of his land some years ago was "unconstitutional, unlawful and null and void."

The Court also said the acquisition was "a contravention of the fundamental rights" of Toussaint to the enjoyment of property guaranteed by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Constitution.

In its ruling, the court ordered that the attorney general pay Toussaint RC\$361,779.30 plus interest at the rate of six percent per annum from December 2002, the date of first publication of the declaration of the acquisition in the gazette, until full payment of compensation.

The case stemmed from the acquisition by the government in 2002 of 12,957 square feet of land owned by Toussaint in the southern Grenadine island of Canouan.

In November 2002, Toussaint attempted to sell the lands for EC\$268,820 and Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves accused him of seeking to profit from the assets of the state. Toussaint had acquired the land in 1990 through

the Development Corporation when the New Democratic Party (NDP) formed the government.

During the budget debate on Dec. 5, 2002, Gonsalves told Parliament that the sale of the land to Toussaint was an "injustice" or a "scandal," which required the government and the Cabinet to correct it.

On that same day in an extraordinary issue of the Government Gazette notice was given that the lands belonging to Toussaint had to be acquired "for a public purpose...for the people of Canouan."

On March 3, 2013, the Land and Surveys said it had deposited EC\$9,717.80 at the Treasury Department in Toussaint's name being payment for the lands that he acquired in 1990.

Suriname

At least 25 political parties have signed up to contest the May 25 general election in Suriname, electoral officials said.

They said 15 of the parties have formed various coalitions, while the other 10 are contesting the polls as individual parties.

Chairman of the Central Voting Bureau Eugene Merkus, said that signing up the documents does not necessarily mean that the political parties will be automatically allowed to contest the election.

The Bureau will announce the final list and parties will then have two more days to file a final appeal at the Office of the President of Suriname.

The National Democratic Party (NDP) President Desi Bouterse, who is seeking a second consecutive term in office, has the largest registered number of members, totaling 50,000.

Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago was successfully elected to the Peace Building Commission of the United Nations, New York, USA, recently.

Trinidad and Tobago was among six new members elected to the 31-member commission for the period 2015 to 2017.

The Peace Building Commission was established in 2006 with the clear mandate to propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building and recovery and to design reconstruction efforts and institutions that facilitate the sustained resolution of conflict.

T&T Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran in a news release explained that the role of the commission is critical in ensuring countries which have experienced conflict do not suffer reversals that could not only undermine efforts at peace-building, but also have a deleterious effect on the long-term sustainable development of the affected states.

Compiled by Azad Ali



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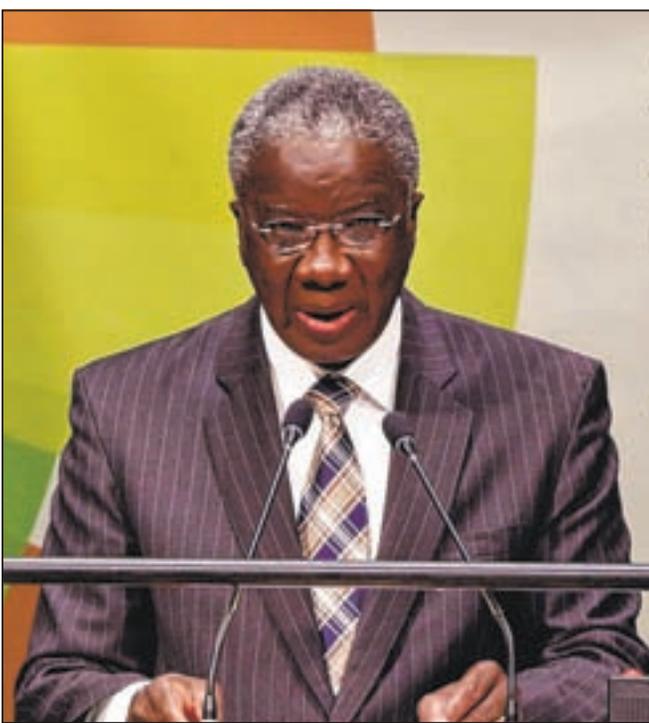
Barbados to become a republic

By Azad Ali

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart says Barbados will be moving towards a republican form of government “in the very near future” ending its centuries of old relationship with Britain’s Queen Elizabeth as its head of state.

“We cannot pat ourselves on the shoulder at having gone into independence; having decolonized out politics; we cannot pat ourselves on the shoulders at having decolonized our jurisprudence by delinking from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and explain to anybody why we continue to have a monarchical system.”

Therefore, the Right Excellency Errol Barrow decolonized the politics: Owen Arthur decolonized the jurisprudence and Freundel Stuart is going to complete the process,” Stuart told supporters of the ruling Democratic Labor Party last



Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, of Barbados, at the United Nations headquarters. Associated Press / Richard Drew, File

week.

While he gave no indication as to how soon the political move would be made, Prime Minister Stuart nonetheless indicated it would be done soon.

“We respect (the Queen) very highly as head of the Commonwealth and accept that she and all her successors

will continue to be at the apex of our political understanding. But in terms of Barbados’ constitutional status we have to move from a monarchical system to a republican form of government in the very near future,” Prime Minister Stuart said, noting that the island is already functioning as a republic.

‘Protect Your Biodiversity’

By Desmond Brown

ST. JOHN, Antigua, March 26, 2015 (IPS) - Richard Huber is chief of the Sustainable Communities, Hazard Risk, and Climate Change Section of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organisation of American States (OAS). Its objective? Foster resilient, more sustainable cities – reducing, for example, consumption of water and energy – while simultaneously improving the quality of life and the participation of the community.

On a recent visit to Antigua, IPS correspondent Desmond Brown sat down with Huber to discuss renewable energy and energy efficiency. Excerpts from the interview follow.

Q: What is a sustainable country?

A: A sustainable country is a country that is significantly trying to limit its CO2 emissions. For example, Costa Rica is trying to become the first

zero emissions country, and they are doing that by having a majority of their power from renewable sources, most notably hydroelectric but also wind and solar and biofuels.

So a sustainable country in the element of energy efficiency and renewable energy would be a country that is planting lots of trees to sequester carbon, looking after its coral reefs and its mangrove ecosystems, its critical ecosystems through a national parks and protected areas programme and being very, very energy efficient with a view towards, let’s say by 2020, being a country that has zero carbon emissions.

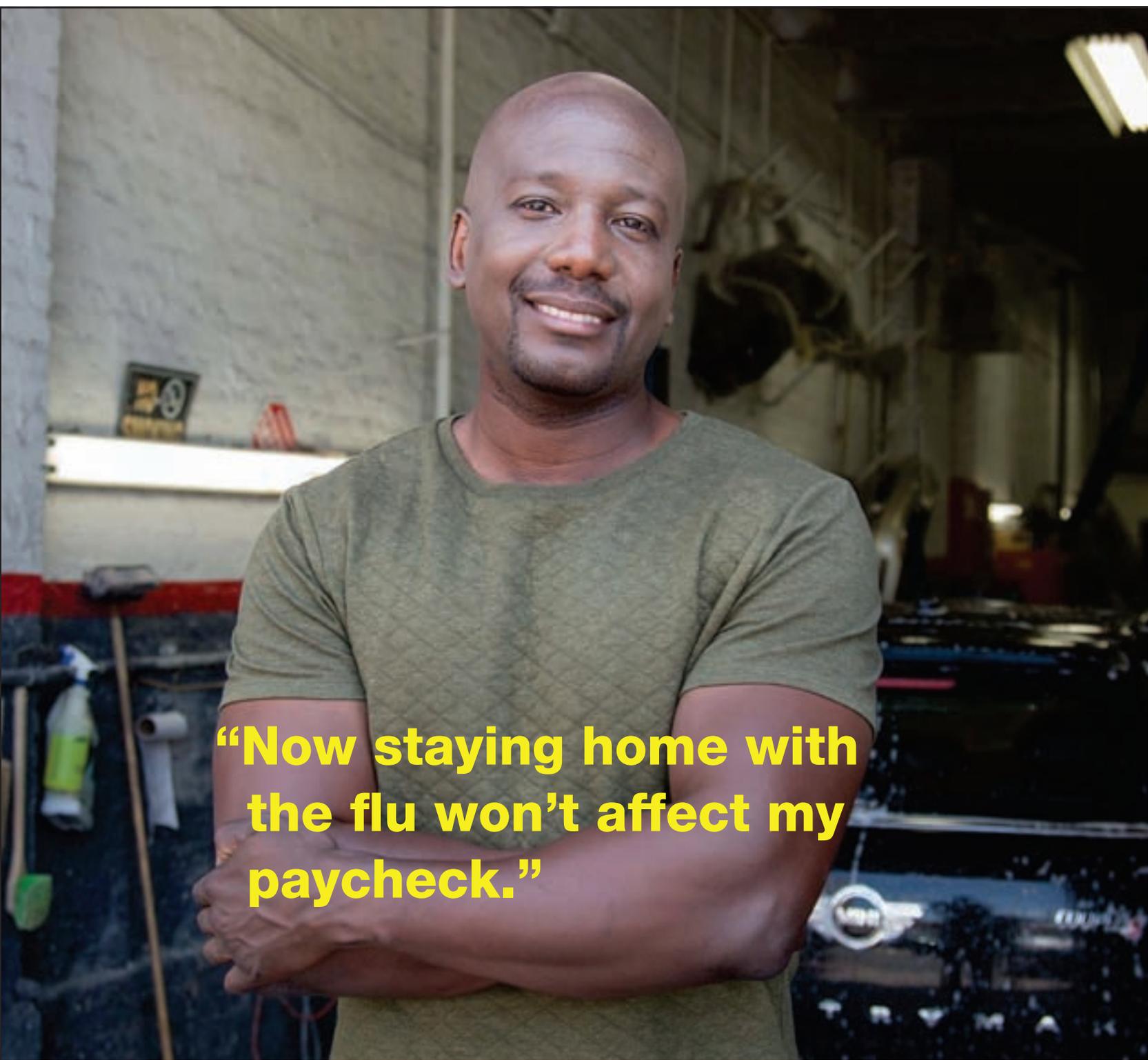
Q: How can small island states in the Caribbean be sustainable environmentally?

A: The first thing you would want to do is to have a very strong national parks and protected areas programme, as we are working on right now through the Northeast

Continued on Page 22

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Obama to visit Jamaica

By Vinette K. Pryce

For the second time in Jamaica's history a sitting president of the United States will visit the island.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan registered first in their history books as a Republican to make a stop to the island while in office.

On April 9, President Barack Obama will make an entry for the Democrats and also imprint a new chapter in Jamaica's history as the first Black president of the United States and the one to arrive while the first female prime minister leads the country.

A front page headline on the Jamaica Observer newspaper boasted "Yes We Can! Host Obama." The March 20 issue will undoubtedly tally record sales and ultimately enter their archives as a collector's item. Another inside story described the president's visit as a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

During the brief meeting in Jamaica, President Obama and Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller will hold bilateral discussions on a range of issues of mutual interest.

"The government of Jamaica is delighted that President Obama will be visiting Jamaica at this time. It will mark the second time since our independence that a sitting U.S. president will be visiting Jamaica," PM Simpson Miller said.

"We view the president's upcoming visit as an affirmation of the strong ties of friendship and cooperation that have united our two peoples for centuries. We are confident that through fruitful dialogue and exchanges during the visit we will succeed in further strengthening the close relations that exist at the bilateral level between Jamaica and the USA, and between the USA and CARICOM."

The leader's announcement received



President Barack Obama.

Associated Press / Susan Walsh

an immediate endorsement from former prime minister and opposition leader Andrew Holness.

Holness said he was extremely happy that a sitting U.S. president would be visiting Jamaica but also added his Jamaica Labor Party's view on the relaxed relationship between Cuba and the U.S. which PM Simpson Miller also mentioned in her statement to the Parliament.

"It is expected that the president will be proceeding from Jamaica to Panama for this hemispheric encounter which will welcome for the first time the participation of our closest neighbor the Republic of Cuba," Prime Minister Simpson Miller added.

Holness's response was that: "The Opposition will play its role when President Obama visits Jamaica and would like to place on record our appreciation for the chill in relations between the United States and Cuba. We the Opposition have always stated that the economic embargo against Cuba should be lifted. We welcome President Obama to Jamaica."

President Obama will meet with regional leaders afterwards on April 10, 11 in Panama for the Summit of the Americas. It will be his second meeting with CARICOM leaders following his meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad during the Summit of the Americas six years ago.

Tax revenues in the Caribbean remain stable

By Nelson A. King

A new report says tax revenues in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have remained stable in 2013 and continue to be considerably lower, as a proportion of national incomes, than in most Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

"Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 1990-2013 (fourth edition)" shows that the average ratio of tax revenue to gross domestic product (GDP) in the 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries, covered by the report, was 21.3 percent in 2013, 0.1 percentage point above the ratio in 2012.

The tax-to-GDP ratio rose from 19.5 percent to 21.2 percent over the 2009-12 period, the report says.

The report, produced jointly by the Inter-American Centre of Tax Adminis-

trations (CIAT), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the OECD's Development Centre, was launched during the 27th Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

It shows that tax revenues rose significantly across the region over the 1990-2013 period, pushing the average tax to GDP ratio up by 7 percentage points, from 14.4 percent to today's 21.3 percent level.

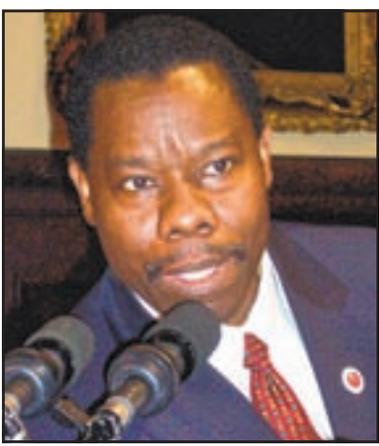
While this revenue boost has provided governments in the region increased capacity to improve spending on social programs and physical infrastructure, the tax to GDP ratio is still 13 percentage points below the OECD average of 34.1

percent, according to the report.

The report includes two special chapters. The first measures the usefulness of taking into account non-tax revenues from natural renewable and non-renewable resources, on top of all mandatory contributions to private health and pensions, in addition to tax revenues traditionally covered.

The second describes trends since 2000 in revenues from non-renewable natural resources in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, whose economies are driven by natural endowments, with aggregate projections up to 2014.

According to the report, the largest increases in tax to GDP ratios in 2013 were in Bolivia (2.1 percentage points), Argentina (1.7), Costa Rica (1.2) and El Salvador (0.7).



Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene.

Budget hearing for youth services

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene, chair of the Committee on Youth Services, said his committee on Friday jointly hosted a preliminary budget hearing with the Committee on Community Development in the Council Chambers at City Hall in lower Manhattan.

Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District in Brooklyn, said the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) testified at the hearing.

Youth service providers, advocates, community leaders, and members of the public also presented testimony.

As someone who has long been an advocate for our young people, Eugene said he understands "how critically important it is for a society to make a strong investment in its youth."

Last year, as the new chair of the Youth Services Committee, Eugene said he, combined with the strong support of Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, was instrumental in expanding the number of Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) jobs from some 35,000 slots to nearly 47,000 positions, an increase of nearly 10,700 jobs.

Eugene said he also worked hard to increase funding for many other critically-needed youth programs and services that included Comprehensive After School System (COMPASS) programs and services for Homeless and Runaway Youth.

The council member said he is looking forward to continue working with others to increase and improve programs for youth in every part of New York City.

DO THEY DESERVE LESS?

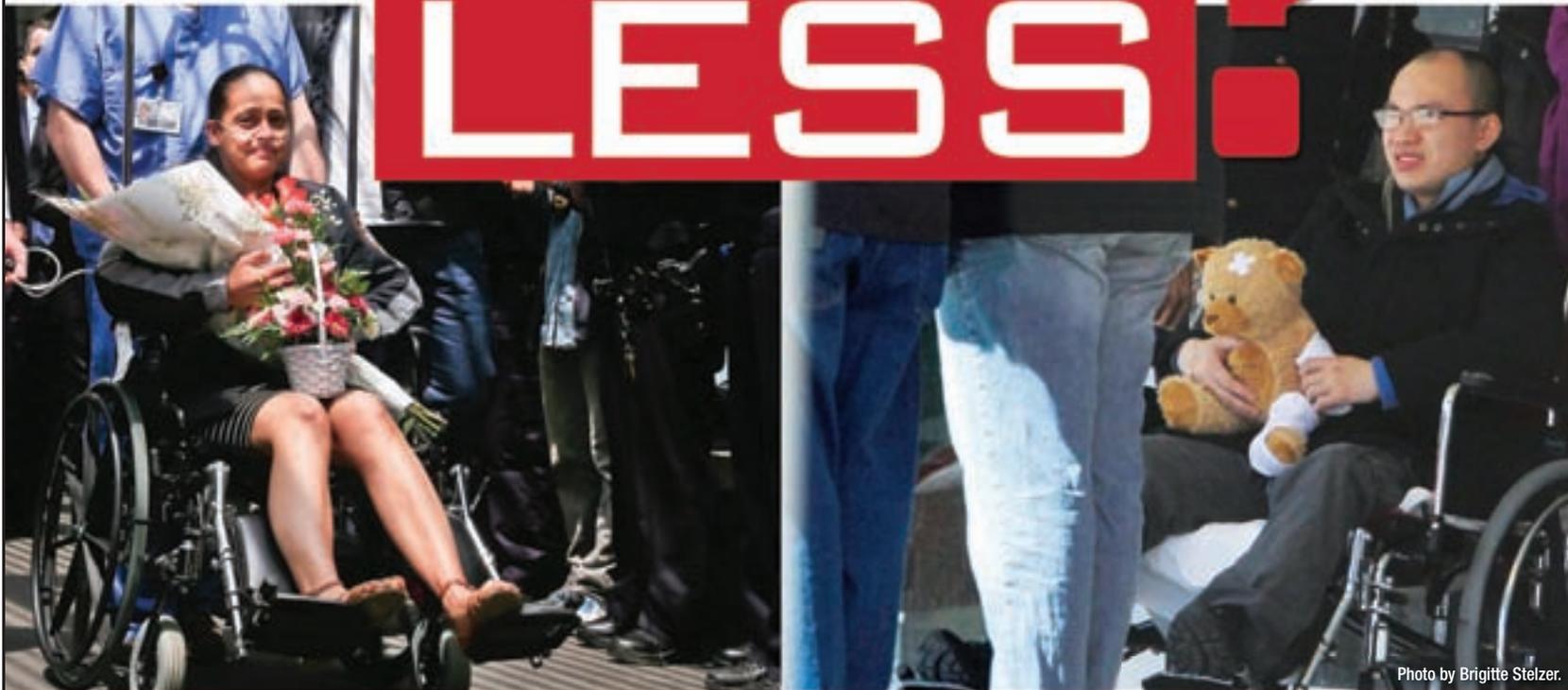


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Bichotte votes yes on abortion



Rodneyse Bichotte.

By Nelson A. King

Newly-elected State Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte has voted in favor of a woman's right to choose, as the New York State Assembly last week passed stand-alone abortion expansion legislation (A.6221 - Glick/S.4432 - Stewart-Cousins) that would require the state to "not deny a woman's right to obtain abortion."

The bill would align State law with existing federal law in Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

"Today, with the leadership of Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymember Deborah Glick, my colleagues and I stood proudly on the right side of history today as we voted

to protect women's right to choose," said Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, in affirming her vote.

"Women deserve to make our own decisions about our own bodies and our own health and this bill affirms that right," added the first Haitian American to be represented in the State's Legislature. "It's time for the State Senate to take action for women's equality and pass this bill."

The Bill amends Section 1,

Article 41 of the public health law to maintain that the state shall not deny a woman's right to obtain an abortion as established by the Supreme Court in the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973.

The legislation ensures a woman's right to choose abortion within 24 weeks of conception or when necessary to protect a woman's life or health.

A previous law failed to specifically guarantee a woman's right to abortion when her life was not at risk, Bichotte said.

No-confidence motion flops

By Azad Ali

An unprecedented no-confidence motion brought by the Trinidad and Tobago People's Partnership (PP) government against Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley flopped as members of the opposition staged a dramatic walk out from the House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 25.

The motion was presented by Leader of Government Business Housing Minister Dr. Roodal Moonilal in the House to show that Rowley was not capable of being the country's next prime minister.

General elections are due in T&T later this month.

Dr. Moonilal kicked off the debate raising questions about his tenure in office as an MP of Parliament and a past minister of the People's National Movement (PNM) administration between 2005-2009.

Responding to the motion, Opposition PNM MP Colm Imbert deemed it to be a monumental waste of time, turned

the tables on the government by staging a dramatic walk-out, refusing to participate.

The government was left alone with only itself to convince.

Imbert said: "Mr. Speaker, this motion is frivolous and vexatious, has no basis, no purpose! It is empty, vacuous, and tenuous! It is absurd."

The debate turned into a character assassination of Dr. Rowley when Minister Vernelle Alleyne-Toppin during her contribution said he was the product of a rape victim.

She said his mother was raped by his father's good friend in the sister island, Tobago when she was 13 years old.

She said that is why Dr. Rowley grew to become aggressive, arrogant, bombastic, and spiteful.

Alleyne-Topping came under fire from several women's group condemning her for saying that Dr. Rowley was born out of a rape incident.

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Biodiversity

Continued from page 16

Management Marine Area as well as Cades Bay in the south, two very large parks which would encompass almost 40 percent of the marine environment.

In fact, there is a Caribbean Challenge Initiative throughout many Caribbean countries that began through the prime minister of Grenada where many, many Caribbean countries are committing to having 20 percent of their marine areas well managed from a protection and conservation point of view by the year 2020.

So protect your biodiversity. It's a very good defence against hurricanes and other storm surges that occur. Those countries that in fact looked after their mangrove ecosystems, their freshwater herbaceous swamps, their marshes in general, were countries that had much less impact from the tsunami in the South Pacific. So protect your ecosystems.

Second of all, be highly energy efficient. Try to encourage driving hybrid cars, fuel efficient cars and have a very good sustainable transport programme. Public transportation actually is a great poverty alleviation equaliser, helping the poor get to work in comfort and quickly. So be energy efficient, protect your biodiversity would be the two key things towards being a sustainable country.

Q: What examples of environmental sustainability have you observed during your visit to Antigua?

A: I've been travelling around with Ruth Spencer, who is the consultant who's working on having up to 10 solar power photovoltaic electricity programmes in community centres, in churches and other outreach facilities. We went to the Precision Project the other day which not only has 19 kilowatts of photovoltaic, which I think is more electricity than they need, and they are further adding back to the grid. So that is less than zero carbon because they are actually producing more electricity than they use.

There is [also] tremendous opportunity for Antigua to grow all its crops [using hydroponics]. The problem with, for example, the tourism industry is that they depend on supply being there when they need it so that is the kind of thing that hydroponics and some of these new technologies in more efficient agriculture and sustainable agriculture could give. The idea would be to make Antigua and Barbuda food sufficient by the year 2020.

Q: Could you give me examples of

OAS projects in the Caribbean on this topic?

A: This is the second phase of the sustainable communities in Central America and the Caribbean Project. So the first one we had 14 projects and this one we have 10 projects. So let me give you a couple of examples in the Caribbean. In Dominican Republic we are supporting hydroelectric power, mini hydro plants and also training and outreach on showing the people who live along river basins that they could have a mini hydro powering the community.

Another project which is very interesting is the Grenada project whereby 90 percent of the poultry in Grenada was imported. The reason it's imported is because the cost of feed is so expensive. So there was a project where the local sanitary landfill gave the project land and the person is going by the fish market and picking up all the fish waste which was thrown into the bay earlier but he is now picking that up and taking it to the sanitary landfill where he has a plant where he cooks the fish waste and other waste and turns it into poultry feed.

So now instead of being 90 percent of the poultry being imported it's now down to 70 percent and not only that, his energy source is used engine oil.

Q: What advice would you give to Caribbean countries on the subject of renewable energy and energy efficiency?

A: The first thing that needs to happen is there needs to be an enabling environment created in order to introduce renewables, in this case mostly solar and wind. Right around this site here in Jabberwock Beach there are four historic windmills which are now in ruins, but the fact of the matter is there is a lot of wind that blew here traditionally and still blows and so these ridges along here and along the beach would be excellent sites for having wind power.

Also lots of land for example around the airport, a tremendous amount of sun and land which has high security where you could begin to have solar panels. We're beginning to have solar panel projects in the United States which are 150 megawatts which I think is more than all of Antigua and Barbuda uses.

So these larger plants particularly in areas which have security already established, like around the airport you can introduce larger scale photovoltaic projects that would feed into the grid and over time you begin to phase out the diesel generation system that supplies 100 percent or almost 99 percent of Antigua and Barbuda's power today.

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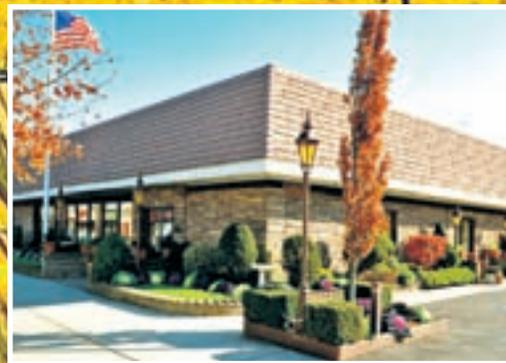
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DOG BREEDS AND SENIORS

Pets often make ideal companions. They are around when a person needs support, they can provide protection for those living alone, they're always willing to lend an ear to problems, and many tend to offer uncondi-

tional love. Seniors facing an empty nest or the loss of a spouse may find pets can buoy their spirits. Studies have shown that seniors can benefit both mentally and physically from having a pet around. Pets can alleviate anxiety, depression

and boredom.

While pets can provide comfort and companionship, they remain a significant responsibility. Seniors should find an animal that will fit in with their lifestyles. This is an important consideration for those seniors who travel frequently or have mobility issues. In addition, men and women living in senior communities or assisted living facilities should determine if there are any pet restrictions in place.

Those seniors who have decided that a dog will be the best fit can choose among several breeds that may be a good match for their needs. When selecting a dog, consider both size and temperament. Smaller dogs tend to be easier to handle and will need less maintenance. They are easily carried and won't take as long to bathe and groom. Smaller dogs also con-

sume less food than larger breeds, reducing the expense of dog food and the hassle of wrangling large, heavy bags of chow. Temperament is also important, as some breeds tend to be more easygoing than others. Larger breeds may be preferable to a smaller breeds, which tend to be hyperactive. However, always remember there are pros and cons to each breed, and each dog will demonstrate his own personality traits. The following are some dogs that can be especially compatible with seniors.

Pug: Equally playful and willing to be a lap dog, the pug requires little exercise and grooming. The breed is typically nonaggressive and submissive. Pugs are good-natured and playful; they don't often bark and are easy to train.

Shih Tzu: The Shih Tzu lives for attention, but this breed can be dominant

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Helping a parent after the loss of a spouse

Few children, even adult children, are ever prepared enough to help a parent deal with the loss of a spouse. In addition to coping with their own loss of a parent, many adults must find a way to help a parent who just lost the love of his or her life.

While it is never easy helping a parent in such a situation, there are ways to help a parent cope with such a significant loss.

Be mindful of your parent's health. Sadly, a common side effect of losing a spouse is showing less interest in one's own health. Kids must make sure their parents continue to eat regularly. Invite your parent over for dinner a couple of nights a week, and go over to your parent's home for dinner a couple of additional nights. If you have siblings, share this responsibility. Also, you can cook for your parent just like he or she used to cook for you.

While physical health is important, be sure your parent maintains his or her mental health as well. Depression is common among those who have lost a loved one, so ask your parent about her feelings, and if she is getting enough sleep. If you have your own kids, bring them over whenever possible. Nothing puts a bigger smile on a grandparent's face than the sight of his or her grandchildren.

Allow them some space to be themselves. While you might want to stay as close as possible to your parent, you also need to give her some space to be herself. Your parent just lost her spouse, and it's perfectly natural for her to want some time alone. Afford her this opportunity, but be mindful to check in with her regularly and not allow her to spend too much time alone.

Engage your parent as much as possible. When both your parents were still alive, you might not have invited them along to the movies or when taking your own kids to a sporting event. However, it's important to engage your parent in such activities now, as she might not get a chance to do such things otherwise.

Another way to engage your parent is to talk to her about current events or even books you have been reading. Doing so will help her stay mentally sharp, and you will no doubt benefit as well from her point of view.

Take a trip with your parent. Initially, your parent might be reluctant to travel, especially if she had travel plans or dreams with her spouse. However, over time your parent will no doubt enjoy the prospect of traveling with the family, and it can be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

DOGS

Continued from page 25

and difficult to train. The Shih Tzu will be alert to its surroundings and, despite its small stature, can be a good watchdog.

Pomeranian: Pomeranians look like big balls of fur and can bring a smile to an owner's face. The breed tends to be perky, can display dominance and can be difficult to train. Because Pomeranians can be dog-aggressive, they may be best as the only pet in the house.

Yorkshire terrier: The Yorkie is a diminutive breed in size only, as they tend to have exuberant personalities that dwarf their stature. The ideal lap dog, Yorkies want to lie around and lounge, though some do like to bark. If the fur is

kept short in a "puppy cut," the dog can be easy to maintain.

Pembroke Welsh corgi: This medium-sized dog hails from Wales and typically requires only moderate exercise and little grooming. They are easy to train and moderately dominant. They don't bark excessively, and they often get along with other dogs.

Schnauzer: Available in three sizes, schnauzers are good companions and protectors. This is an intelligent and loyal breed and will need to be kept amused to stave off boredom.

Brussels griffon: These dogs do not shed, but they will require professional grooming at least once every three months. If socialized early, the griffon can be a good companion but will likely remain wary of strangers. They are good watchdogs and devoted to their owners.

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Medicare 101 for caregivers

According to the Caregiver Action Network, more than 65 million Americans care for loved ones with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and frailty. Among their many responsibilities, caregivers are often tasked with helping their loved one understand Medicare and make coverage decisions. By following a few tips, caregivers can feel more confident about their ability to help their loved one navigate Medicare.

First, start with the basics. There are two ways to access Medicare. Original Medicare includes Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) and is offered through the federal government. As an alternative, some people choose Medicare Advantage (Part C), which includes all the coverage of Original Medicare plus additional benefits, often for no additional monthly premium. These plans are offered through private insurance companies approved by the government.

Prescription drug coverage is available with Medicare Part D, which is typically included in Medicare Advantage plans but can also be purchased separately for those with Original Medicare. It is also offered



Caregivers and their loved ones should consider both health and budget needs when comparing Medicare plans.
Ronnie Kaufman/Larry Hirshowitz

through private insurance companies approved by the government.

Some beneficiaries who have Orig-

inal Medicare enroll in a Medicare supplement plan, which covers some or all of the costs not covered by Parts

A and B.

Next, compare your care recipient's options.

"When caregivers are comparing Medicare plans, it's important for them to consider both their loved one's health and budget needs," said Rhonda Randall, D.O., chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare Retiree Solutions. "Look at the total cost of a plan, including premiums, deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, as well as the plan's network, if it has one, to make sure you're comfortable with the doctors and hospitals that are included."

If additional benefits such as dental and vision care or a gym membership are important, Randall suggests considering a Medicare Advantage plan; benefits like these are not typically covered by Original Medicare.

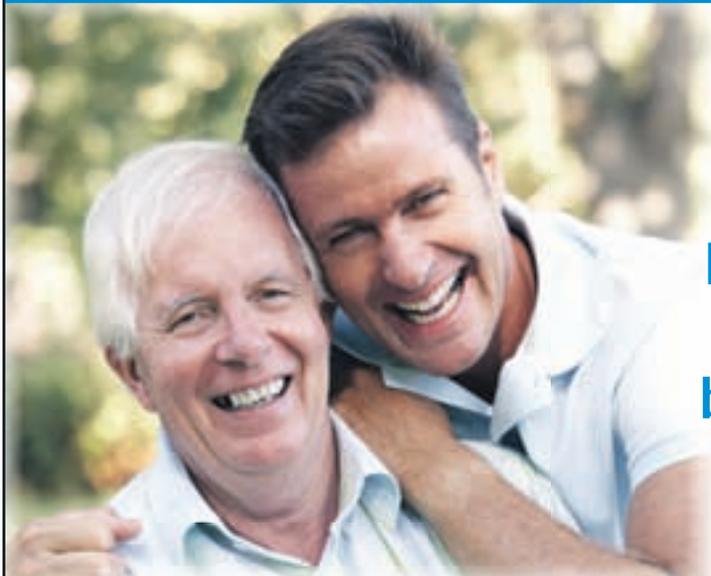
Lastly, don't go it alone. If you care for an older adult now or anticipate taking on a caregiver role, there are caregiver tools and resources available to help you and your loved one. To learn more and get the support you need today, visit www.WhatIsSolutionsForCaregivers.com or call (877) 765-4473. Services are available in all 50 states and can be tailored to meet specific needs.

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How to reduce your risk of Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease affects millions of people across the globe. In the United States alone, the Alzheimer's Association estimates one in eight older men and women has the disease, which is the sixth-leading cause of death in the country.

Few families have not been affected by Alzheimer's disease, and many relatives of those with the disease fully understand the role family history can play. Research into the disease is ongoing, and it's already yielded valuable information that may help reduce the prevalence of this devastating disease in the years to come.

One byproduct of researchers' efforts is the discovery that it may be possible to prevent or delay the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease through the implementation of a combination of healthy lifestyle choices. The following are a few healthy habits that may help men and women reduce their risk for Alzheimer's.

Exercise regularly. A



Recognizing the early warning signs of Alzheimer's can encourage people to begin treatments that can stave off some of the more debilitating symptoms of this disease.

study conducted by Scottish researchers and published in the journal *Neurology* in 2012 touted exercise as the most effective way for adults to protect their brains from Alzheimer's disease. Researchers examined roughly 700 70-year-old participants, all of

whom were born in 1936, who were asked to report their levels of physical activity. Each participant then received an MRI at age 73. Those tests revealed that the participants who were more physically active showed less brain shrinkage and fewer white matter

lesions, both of which are indicators of Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the Alzheimer's Research & Prevention Foundation reports that physical exercise reduces a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's by 50 percent and can even slow further deterioration in those who have already begun to develop the cognitive problems associated with Alzheimer's. Researchers continue to study the relationship between physical activity and the development of Alzheimer's diseases, but the evidence is mounting that regular exercise, regardless of a person's age, is a great way to reduce risk for Alzheimer's.

Eat healthy. What you put into your body may also reduce your risk for Alzheimer's disease. The brain operates at its best when it is fueled with a healthy diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables, healthy fats and lean protein. A heart-healthy diet is also brain-healthy, and researchers have found a potential link between heart disease

and Alzheimer's disease. Researcher Larry Sparks of the Sun Health Research Institute in Arizona and formerly of the Kentucky medical examiner's office studied brain tissues with a goal of finding early signs of Alzheimer's disease. He discovered that those who had the telltale plaques of Alzheimer's disease also had heart disease, suggesting heart disease may be a forerunner of brain diseases like Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association feels this link between the two will only grow stronger in the years to come, suggesting that a heart-healthy diet that reduces a person's risk of heart disease may also reduce the risk for Alzheimer's down the road. More information on a heart-healthy diet is available at www.heart.org.

Stimulate yourself mentally. Mental stimulation can help the brain stay sharp, and men and women who find ways to stay mentally stimulated can reduce their risk of developing Alzheimer's.

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The Ark of Return

Continued from page 3

The memorial's intent is to acknowledge the impact—the tragedy, consider the legacy, and not forget.

Why the name 'Ark of Return'? Leon elaborates: "The 'Door of No Return' in Gorée Island, Senegal is where slaves held in captivity on the African coast went through before being shipped away...never to return, a very tragic image. We felt it would be a good counterpoint to establish a spiritual space of return, an 'Ark of Return,' a vessel where we can begin to create a counter-narrative and undo some of that experience."

Leon also designed the African Burial Ground Memorial on Duane Street in lower Manhattan — dedicated in 2007, the only U.S. national monument devoted to the contributions of people of African descent. A current project includes the proposed design



Ark of Return designer Rodney Leon won an international competition of 310 participants from 83 countries.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

of a new 12,000 square foot Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts (MOCADA) in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Bishop

Continued from page 3

of God's hand!

"His death leaves a hole in the hearts of many and certainly in the Diocese of Long Island," he said. "We are so very, very sad but give great thanks for having him as a Father-in-God, a friend and colleague."

Fr. Jones further said Bishop Walker was "a pioneer," who warmly welcomed Vincentian priests in his diocese.

"He really showed appreciation and gave us opportunity," Fr. Jones said. "I couldn't stay in St. Vincent [and the Grenadines]. I had to come to New York. He really opened his heart to me and members of our families."

Fr. Jones disclosed that Bishop Walker had recommended his only daughter, Sharon, for the position of executive assistant to the then presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the U.S., the Most Rev. Frank Griswold. Sharon is still serving in that capacity — now under the Most Rev. Kathrine Jefferts-Schori.

Fr. Baynes said he first met Bishop Walker in September 1995 when he migrated to New York to study counseling, among other things, at Blanton Peale Theological School.

"There was no hesitation on his part to allow me to become the assistant at the Church of St. Mark (in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn) to work with the Rev. Harold Lewis," he said. "He was very approachable, kind, and had that compassionate spirit to make one feel at ease in his presence."

"Bishop Walker always said that, because of the West Indians in the diocese of Long Island, the church was doing well and that he loved visiting those churches because of their strong faith in God and tasty curry goat and

rice and peas," Fr. Baynes added.

He said Bishop Walker was also "kind to many churches in the Windward Islands offering financial support for much-needed repairs."

"Like anyone of us, he had his strengths and weakness, but as Dr. Lloyd Lewis said at the memorial service for him at Garden City 'Ordination is not a vaccination against our demons,'" said Fr. Baynes, adding that it was because of Bishop that he was appointed Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Corona, Queens, on May 1, 1999, "for which my family and me will always be forever grateful."

Another Vincentian-born pastor, the Rev. Carver Israel, archdeacon of Brooklyn, was also high in praise for Bishop Walker.

"He was a good, genuine pastor, who loved people and cared for people," Fr. Israel, Caribbean Life. "He really cared for his clergy. He held no animosity. He had his short comings, like anybody else, but he was a very decent man."

Bishop Walker was born on Nov. 5, 1942 in Baltimore, MD. In 1984, he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University in Madison, NJ.

In 1969, he was ordained to the priesthood. As Bishop of Long Island, he served as chairman of the board of managers of Episcopal Health Services and board chairman of the Interfaith Medical Center in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

In addition, Bishop Walker served as president of Episcopal Charities of Long Island and the George Mercer Memorial School of Theology.

He taught Canon Law, and Theology and Contemporary Society at The Mercer School and at the General Theological Seminary.

Bishop Walker also served as president of the Cathedral Chapter of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City.

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Tea-time and fashion for charity

By Tangerine Clarke

Ladies and gents from Brooklyn will step out in their finest Easter hats and ensemble all in the name of charity when the Health & Education Relief Organization for Cancer, (HEROC) committee, hosts its "Second Annual Fascination Tea Party, on April 12.

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, at 331 Hawthorne St., will welcome patrons from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a fun-filled afternoon of a runway show, creative competition and festive fare.

The group, which is dedicated to providing health care, nutrition and education to cancer patients in the U.S. and Guyana, will award prizes to winners of the most creative table. Best-dressed male and female attire honors will be



Models wearing hats and creations by Guyanese designer Gem Fraser during the first Fascination Tea Party.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

handed out, all while raising much needed funds to carry on its mission to improve and enhance the well being of those suffering with the disease.

"We remain committed to providing the necessary services that will benefit those with little or no access to much needed treatment," said Lorna

Welshman-Neblett, president of HEROC.

Thanks to dedicated patrons, added Welshman-Neblett, all proceeds will go towards medical missions to Guyana and the Caribbean, in conjunction with the umbrella organization Heal Education Relief Organization (HERO).

Anti-corruption onsite visits

By Nelson A. King

The Organization of American States (OAS) says the governments of Jamaica and Suriname, as well as Canada, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, have consented to receive on-site visits as part of the Fifth Round of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

The five countries notified the MESICIC Technical Secretariat of their decisions in accordance with the Methodology for Conducting On-site Visits, the OAS said.

It said the five countries also consented to and received on-site visits during the Fourth Round of Review.

For the Fifth Round, the MESICIC Committee of Experts will review the implementation of the provisions in Article III, paragraphs 3 and 12 of the Inter-American Convention against corruption, "which refer to the need-

ed instruction to government personnel and the study of preventive measures that take into account the relationship between equitable compensation and probity in public service," the OAS said.

Moreover, it said the committee will analyze the follow-up on the recommendations formulated to the States Parties in the Second Round, on topics such as public procurement, the hiring of public servants, whistleblower protection and the criminalization of acts of corruption under the convention.

The OAS said the "affirmative answers" from these five countries join those previously expressed by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.



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Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Four days of serious talk will unite an amalgam of inspiring speakers from April 8 to 11 when the National Action Network holds their national convention at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel.

NAN founder Rev. Al Sharpton said cast members from the hit television shows “Black-ish” and the recently highly-rated “Empire” series are expected to join Mayors Bill deBlasio and Ras Che Baraka of Newark, New Jersey and intellectuals during the four-day confab which annually lures a list of who’s who for the spring event.

Academia, politicians, celebrities from sports and entertainment, scholars, educators, clergy, entrepreneurs, families victimized by police brutality – Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell, Trayvonn Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner – and a long list of respected experts plan to share honest information about their specialized fields of concern.

Through workshops and panel discussions, a wide range of topical issues will present the 2015 forum NAN members

asked to be addressed.

Among them a discussion on “How Race is Covered in the Media,” a panel focussing on law and social justice — “Approach the Bar: A Discussion with Some of the Nation’s Top Legal Practitioners,” “Criminal Justice - The State Of Our Prisons and Jails In New York State,” “The Impact of Police Brutality: The Victims Speak,” “Disability Rights – At the Intersections of Justice: Fighting for the Rights of All,” “Environmental Justice – Killing Us Softly,” “Environmental Threats To Our Future,” and even an IT workshop titled “Technology Reaching Our Potential Through Technology.”

Sports will get its own spotlight when insiders talk about “Racism & Sexism in Sports.”

And the Black church will be the object of scrutiny on

a panel “Can God Trust the Black Church to be Agents of Social Justice?”

“Truth to Power” a gospel revival with Rev. Marvin Sapp will probably mobilize many of the talking heads who participated in the previously mentioned discussion.

An education panel – “Education of Students: Promoting Classroom Equality” will likely attract parents and youths concerned about the ins and outs maneuvering through kindergarten, high school or college.

To put emphasis on that discussion, Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education will punctuate, reject or analyze some of the talk and perhaps add the White House perspective on how the administration plans to improve on education.

The Healthcare Foundation will offer screenings and dis-

cussions on “AIDS Is A Civil Rights Issue.”

“Dealing with Health Disparities HIV/AIDS” and “Beyond the Stigma” are two more panels devoted to the controversial health topic.”

A focus on housing issues opens the floor for a panel entitled “Civil Rights and Activism in Housing.”

A conversation with Rev. Al Sharpton and his mentor Rev. Jesse Jackson might lure curious eavesdroppers, activists, potential organizers, youth, elderly, veterans and almost everyone interested in the American Civil Rights Movement.

“The Civil Rights Movement From Then To Now 50 Years Later” and “The Women of Selma” will certainly attract historians, students and many nostalgias.

The women’s only panel will focus on the topic “Securing Our Future” and the gender balancing “My Brother’s Keeper” is devoted to males.

Other alluring topics include “Homophobia in the Black Community,” and “Children of the Movement.”

Regarding the latter, next generation activists will opine on their years growing up with committed and dedicated parents.

Moderated by Dominique Sharpton, daughter of NAN founder, Rev. Al Sharpton, some of the panelists include:

Donzaleigh Abernathy and Kwame Abernathy, daughter and son of Dr. Ralph David Abernathy

Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Jamida Orange, daughter of James Orange, Maalak and Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter s of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz and Ashley Sharpton, daughter of Rev. Sharpton.

With a keynote address added to the menu for the annual women’s power lunch, “When Women Win, We All Win” might serve as the main course for this paid mid-day event.

A fashion show, youth caucus and other attractions combine for free, four-day events that include a job fair which will provide opportunities for potential employment with

Continued on Page 43

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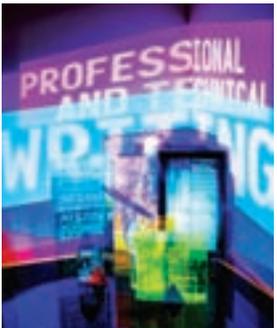


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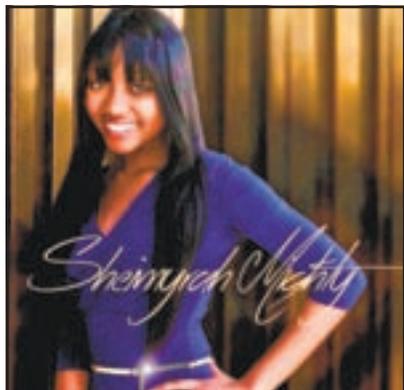
Panelists:

- o **Letitia James**, Public Advocate for New York City
- o **Zephyr Teachout**, Fordham Law Professor and former NYS gubernatorial Candidate
- o **Dick Dadey**, Executive Director of Citizens Union
- o **Al Vann**, former NY State Assemblyman and City Councilman
- o **Doug Henwood**, Economic Journalist and Author
- o **Ted Alexandro**, Comedian / Political Activist



ENTERTAINMENT

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'Mighty' explosive

By Dawn Plummer

A sterling performance of Sheimyrha Mighty in the court room at Brooklyn's Borough Hall, on Thursday, March 26 had the audience asking "Who is that?" as her strong vocal cords burst through the silence. She was singing the American National Anthem and eyes raised and looked across the isles at each other as the slender young woman held everyone's attention with her beautiful voice.

Continued on Page 39

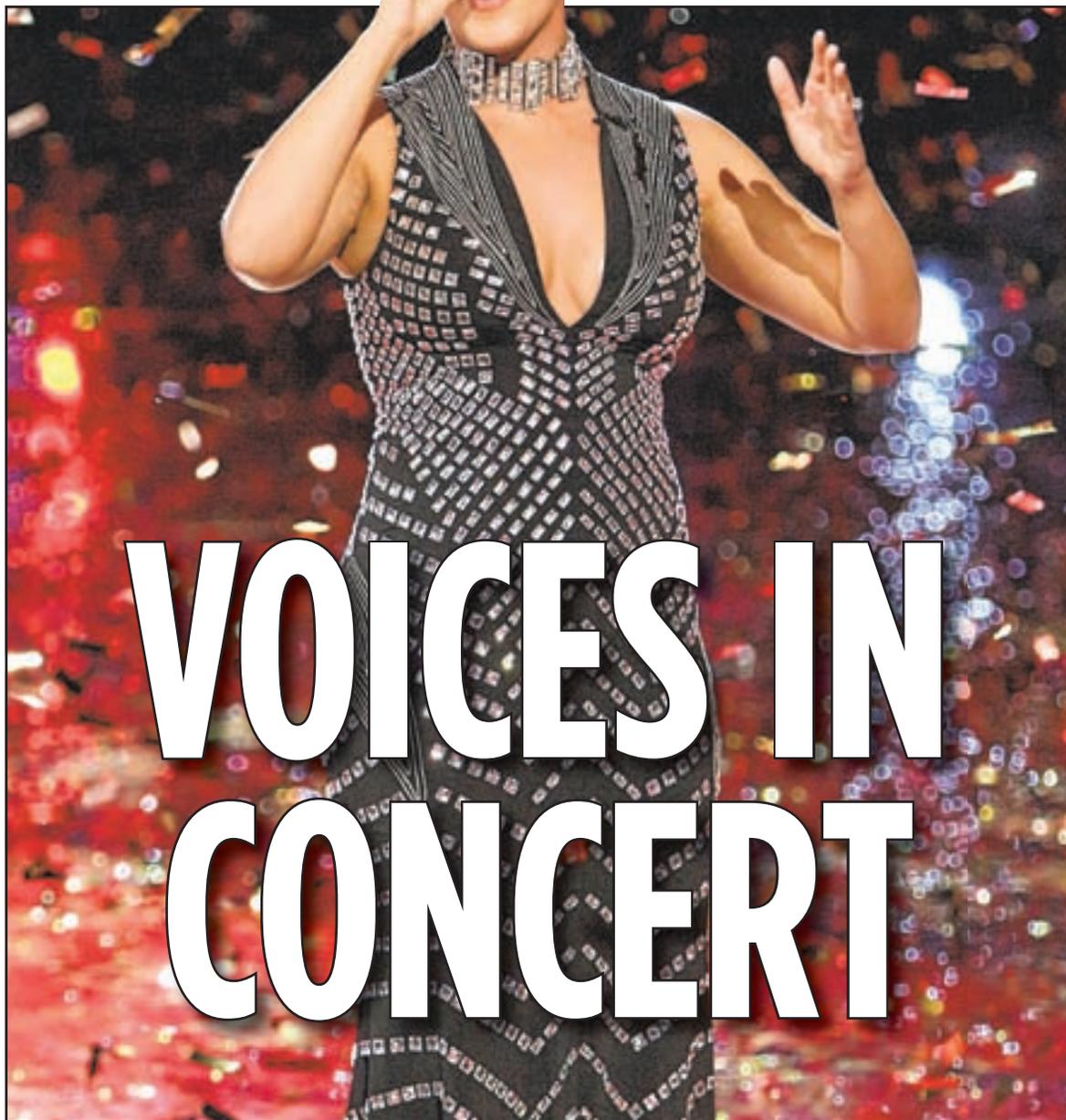
'Dancehall Rising'

By Gerry Hopkin (hopkinscg@gmail.com)

The countdown is on for what promises to be a historical dancehall reggae concert, as some of the Caribbean's finest award-winning artistes — Mavado, Capleton and Lady Saw — share the prestigious Kings Theatre stage with America's finest reggae-dancehall-rapper, Matisyahu. This grand musical encounter, titled "Dancehall Rising," is scheduled for April 10.

Mavado, born David Constantine Brooks, an artiste, actor, DJ and music producer of Jamaican origin is one of the headlined dacehall stars set to perform in this historical concert – the first major reggae show at this world-class venue.

No stranger to fame and media attention
Continued on Page 38



VOICES IN CONCERT

Tessanne Chin performs after being announced the season five winner of "The Voice" on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, in Los Angeles. Associated Press / NBC, Tyler Golden

Tessanne Chin, Fantasia to perform

Tri-state area music lovers will get the opportunity to see two powerhouse singers perform live - Tessanne Chin, season five winner of The Voice and American Idol winner Fantasia. Both ladies will share stage at an event billed 'Voices In Concert' that will be held at the newly renovated Kings Theatre in Brooklyn on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

"We are thrilled to have these two crowd favorites -Tessanne and Fantasia - perform live on one stage in Brooklyn, New York for the very first

time" said event organizer George Crooks of Jammin's Entertainment.

Announcement of the event has sparked interest among loyal Jamaican music lovers in the diaspora who voted in droves to ensure victory for Tessanne in 2013. While no one can definitively say how many votes the 'Hideaway' singer got each week from U.S. supporters and other ethnic groups, one thing is sure is that Jamaicans in the tri-state area came up big for her. The 'vote for Tessanne' campaign was galvanized

by dedicated fans who voted, texted, tweeted and organized viewing/listening parties around the city to support the singer.

Chin has since broken new ground – performing at the White House for President Obama. Her album "Count on My Love," her first since winning the Voice includes popular songs like "Tumbling Down," "Everything Reminds Me of You," "Always Tomorrow" and "People Change."

Fantasia also has many loyal fans
Continued on Page 36

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VOICES IN CONCERT

Continued from page 35

in the tri-state area. Her story, which was documented in a Lifetime Movie original is just as surreal as she beat the odds to walk away with the title in 2004 – the third season of American Idol. Her powerful voice proved too much for the judges and fans to resist. Since then she has recorded many hit songs and topped the Billboard chart with “I Believe.”

She has copped Grammy awards for “When I See You” and her album “Fantasia.” She is also the recipient of an NAACP award and has conquered Broadway with performances in “The Color Purple” and “After Midnight.” Part proceeds from the concert will be donated to the American Foundation for The University of The West Indies.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with Showtime at 9:00 p.m.

For tickets contact www.ticketmaster.com or 800.745.3000 www.kingstheatre.com @ Kings Theatre Box Office; Local Caribbean ticket outlets.



Singer Fantasia performs during a taping of the Black Girls Rock award ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Saturday, March 28, 2015, in Newark, N.J. Associated Press / Julio Cortez

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Shailene Woodley radiates chemistry aplenty

"Insurgent"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG-13 for sensuality, pervasive violence, intense action, mature themes and brief profanity
Running time: 119 minutes
Distributor: Lions Gate Films



Shailene Woodley (Tris) and Theo James (Four) from the film "The Insurgent." Rotten Tomatoes

By Kam Williams

"Insurgent" is the second in the action-oriented series of screen adaptations based on Veronica Roth's blockbuster Divergent trilogy. This installment represents a rarity for a cinematic sequel in that it's actually better than the first episode.

In case you're unfamiliar with the franchise's basic premise, the post-apocalyptic sci-fi is set amidst the crumbling ruins of a walled-in Chicago where what's left of humanity has been strictly divided into five factions based

on personality types, namely, Abnegation (the selfless); Amity (the peaceful); Candor (the honest); Dauntless (the brave); and Erudite (the intelligent).

Our intrepid heroine, Tris (Shailene Woodley) was deemed a threat to society after testing positive for several of the afore-

mentioned qualities since that makes her a Divergent, one of the handful of nonconformists whose minds the government cannot control. Consequently, the headstrong rebel ended up orphaned and roaming the streets with fellow faction-less rogues by the end of the original.

Insurgent picks up right where Divergent left off, though upping the ante in terms of intensity and visually-captivating special f/x. At the point of departure, we find Tris on the run with her boyfriend Four (Theo James), her brother Caleb (Ansel Elgort) and the duplicitous Peter Hayes (Miles Teller). The fugitives are being sought by Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the monomaniacal Erudite leader who has seized control of the city by commandeering the Dauntless warrior class.

The Machiavellian despot has declared martial law until all threats to her power have been neutralized. Meanwhile, Tris and company proceed to elude apprehension as they search for a sacred talisman supposedly hidden somewhere by her late mom (Ashley Judd).

The ancient artifact is rumored to contain an important message from Chicago's founding fathers. However, the box can only be accessed by a Divergent who succeeds at surviving an ordeal testing for all five of the

commonwealth's designated virtues. Sure, it's obvious that Tris is bright, fearless and altruistic. But she could perish in the process of attempting to prove herself a pacifist and truthful, too.

Fans of the source material will undoubtedly be surprised by this complicated box challenge which wasn't in the book. Nevertheless, the seamlessly-interwoven plot device works in terms of ratcheting up the tension.

The film features an A-list supporting cast that includes Oscar-winners Kate Winslet and Octavia Spencer and nominee Naomi Watts, along with effective performances on the part of Theo James, Ansel Elgort, Zoe Kravitz and Miles Teller. Still, make no mistake. "Insurgent" is a Shailene Woodley vehicle from beginning to end.

And the rising young star exhibits an impressive acting range in a physically as well as emotionally-demanding role promising to do for her what "The Hunger Games" did for Jennifer Lawrence.

Independent & Foreign Films

5 to 7 (R for sexuality)

Romantic romp revolving around an aspiring young writer (Anton Yelchin) and a married, middle-aged socialite (Berenice Marlohe) who rendezvous at the same time every day for a passionate affair at a classy, Midtown Manhattan hotel. Featuring Glenn Close, Olivia Thirlby and Frank Langella.

Boychoir (Unrated) Musical drama about the battle of wills which ensues when a demanding choirmaster (Dustin Hoffman) pushes an orphaned, 11 year-old student (Garrett Wareing) to the limit in order to help the promising prodigy reach his potential. With Josh Lucas, Kathy Bates, Debra Winger and Eddie Izzard.

Cheatin' (Unrated) Adult-oriented animated adventure about a love triangle involving a happily-married couple (Sophia Takal and Jeremy Baumann) and the shameless temptress (Sita Steele) who turns the husband's head. Voice cast includes Alex Markowitz, Jacob Steele and Mike Dragovic and Kelly Kriegshauser.

Cut Bank (R for violence and profanity) Psychological crime thriller, set in Montana, about a young auto mechanic (Liam Hemsworth) whose plans for a better life for himself and his girlfriend (Teresa Palmer) unravel after filming a murder he witnesses in their tiny hometown. With Billy



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Bob Thornton, John Malkovich, Bruce Dern and Oliver Platt.

Death of a Tree (Unrated) Faith-based drama about an elderly Catholic widower (Ronnie Marmo) who finds himself tempted by an attractive young woman (Gracie Tyrrell) to break the vow of celibacy he gave to God. Cast includes Megan Barton, Paul Borghese and Alexi Foor.

Effie Gray (PG-13 for sexuality, mature themes and brief nudity) Dakota Fanning stars as the title character in this historical drama, set in Victorian England, about the scandalous, loveless marriage between a teen bride and a prominent art historian (Greg Wise). With Emma Thompson, Julie Walters, Robbie Coltrane, Claudia Cardinale and Derek Jacobi.

Electric Slide (R for profanity, sexuality, nudity and brief violence) Crime blotter biopic chronicling the life and times of furniture salesman-turned-infamous outlaw Eddie Dodson (Jim Sturgess) who robbed 72 banks over the course of his checkered career. Ensemble cast includes Patricia Arquette, Chloe Sevigny, Isabel Lucas, Constance Wu, Rhys Coiro, Vinessa Shaw and Oz Perkins.

Continued on Page 39

VENGEANCE HITS HOME

FURIOUS 7

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MRC AN ORIGINAL FILM/ONE RACE FILMS PRODUCTION VIN DIESEL
PAUL WALKER DWYANE JOHNSON "FURIOUS 7" MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ TYRESE GIBSON CHRIS LUDACRIS BRIDGES JORDANA BREWSTER DJIMOU HOUMSOU
WITH KURT RUSSELL AND JASON STATHAM MUSIC BY BRIAN TYLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMANDA LEWIS SAMANTHA VINCENT CHRIS MORGAN BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY GARY SCOTT THOMPSON
ORIGINAL FILM PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 2 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **Style**
Taylor Swift
- 4 **Sugar**
Maroon 5
- 5 **Love Me Like I Do**
Ellie Goulding
- 6 **Time of Our Lives**
Pitbull & Ne-Yo
- 7 **FourFiveSeconds**
Rihanna & Kanye West...
- 8 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 9 **Earned It (Fifty Shades..)**
The Weeknd
- 10 **Somebody**
Natalie La Rose

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **To Pimp A Butterfly**
Kendrick Lamar
- 2 **Empire: Original Sound...**
Soundtrack
- 3 **Strangers to Ourselves**
Modest Mouse
- 4 **FROOT**
Marina and the Diamonds
- 5 **If Your Reading This...**
Drake
- 6 **Run**
AWOLNATION
- 7 **Sleeping with Sirens**
Sleeping With Sirens
- 8 **Fifty Shades of Grey**
Soundtrack
- 9 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 10 **Furious 7**
Soundtrack

Presented by
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Reggae Singer Lady Saw poses at Westwood Gallery in New York on Nov. 19, 2004. (AP Photo/Jim Cooper)

JIM COOPER

Dancehall music at Kings Theatre

Continued from page 35

tion, Mavado has, since 2004 and over the years, been releasing hits such as “Real McKoy,” “Weh Dem A Do,” “Delilah,” “Every Gyal” (with U.K. Grime artist Chipmunk) and “Survivor” (featuring Akon). To his credit, he won the 2008 UK MOBO Award for Best Reggae Act and the 2008 EME award for Male Singer of the Year.

Attendees will also get to experience Capleton, born Clifton George Bailey III, in Jamaica, but also known by many as The Prophet, The Fireman and King Shango,

Interestingly, the name by which he is best known, “Capleton,” was given to him by relatives and friends because of his outstanding analytical and oratorical skills, which were similar to that of an outstanding hometown lawyer who was named “Mr. Capleton.”

Today he continues to consistently provide the music-world with dancehall and conscious reggae hits. He started with hits like “Lotion Man”

in 1991 and has sustained and improved his repertoire with others such as “Alms House,” “Matie a Dead,” “Everybody Needs Somebody,” “Wings in the Morning” with Method Man, “I Testament,” “Who Dem?,” “Jah Jah City,” “Good in Her Clothes,” “Liberation Time,” and “I-Ternal Fire,” along the way.

In terms of recognition, Capleton has won, among others, several International Reggae & World Music Awards — the “Most Outstanding Stage Personality Award” of 2005 & 2006, the “Community Service Award” of 2009 and the “Spiritual Service Through Music Award” of 2009.

Another of the headliners in the April 10th concert is Grammy Award Winning, triple-platinum dancehall artiste, Lady Saw. Controversial, bold and hailed the ‘Dancehall Queen’, Lady Saw has over the years, beginning in 1994, released hits such as “Man is the Least,” “Chat to Mi Back,” “Love Sick,” “Heels On,” “I’ve

Got Your Man,” “Hot Gyal” and “Heels On.”

Lovers of quality music in the tri-state area are certainly in for a treat.”

Additionally, Matisyahu, a Billboard’s Reggae Artist of the Year awardee, will be sharing the stage in the “Dancehall Rising” lineup. This Pennsylvania-born artiste blends Orthodox Jewish themes with roots reggae, dancehall, rock and rap in his unique brand of cross-over reggae. Dropping top 40 hits and performing to packed stadiums since 2004, Matisyahu has already given us tunes such as “One Day,” “Sunshine,” “Live Like a Warrior,” “Warrior,” “Youth” and “King Without A Crown.”

“This concert, like all the other Jammin events at Kings Theatre, BAM and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, is showing the world that the artistes, producers and

promoters of our music can demand more and expect more in terms of quality events at upscale venues,” opines Caribbean-born Cheryl Vincent, who is also a R&B, folk and reggae artiste based in Brooklyn.

Other Big Concerts

On April 12, in a concert entitled “First Impression,” several Caribbean soca monarchs — Olatunji (reigning), Kes the Band, Kerwin Dubois, Mr. Killa, Ravi B, Lavaman and Lead Pipe & Saddis — from Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada and Barbados.

“Lovers of quality music in the tri-state area are certainly in for a treat,” noted Tropical-fete.com founder and director, Alton Aimable.

These and other quality cultural productions, which preserve and showcase the expressive culture of the Caribbean, The Americas, Africa and the Diaspora are organized by the creative minds at Jammin Entertainment of Brooklyn, NYC.

Indie Films

Continued from page 37

The Girl Is in Trouble (Unrated) Urban crime thriller about a down-on-his-luck Manhattan DJ (Columbus Short) torn between blackmailing a murderer (Jesse Spencer) and helping a damsel in distress (Alicja Bachleda). Co-starring Wilmer Valderrama, Paz de la Huerta and Miriam Colon.

The Hand That Feeds (Unrated) Employment discrimination expose' about a mild-mannered short order cook-turned-real-life Norma Rae who rallied fellow undocumented immigrants to challenge exploitative working conditions at a New York City restaurant chain.

Lambert & Stamp (R for profanity, drug use and brief nudity) Sixties retrospective revisiting a couple of fledgling filmmakers (Chris Stamp and Kit Lambert) who abandoned their plans to make a movie in order to mentor and manage the promising rock & roll band that would eventually call itself The Who. Featuring Pete Townsend, Terence Stamp and Roger and Heather Daltrey. (In German, French and English with subtitles)

Last Knights (R for violence) Medieval action thriller about a disgraced warrior (Clive Owen) who leads a rebellion against a corrupt ruler (Aksel Hennie) in order to avenge the death of his noble master (Morgan Freeman). With Daniel Adegboyega,



Columbus Short in a scene from "The Girl Is in Trouble."

Photo courtesy of rottetomatoes.com

Shohreh Aghdashloo and Sung-kee Ahn.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Furious 7 (PG-13 for pervasive violence and mayhem, suggestive content and brief profanity) Latest installment in the adrenaline-fueled franchise, featuring recently-deceased Paul Walker's final screen appearance, finds the motley crew of mercenaries coming out of retirement to match wits with a vengeful assassin (Jason Statham). Ensemble cast includes Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Kurt Russell and Djimon Hounsou.

'Mighty'

Continued from page 35

The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) was at the time honoring eight "Women of Excellence" from New York City for their dedication and service to the community. Mighty is an example of what is expected in the next generation when the right seeds are planted. The honored women were also serenaded and spurred remarkable responses for the young and talented singer, with the song, "Wind Beneath My Wings."

March is "Women's History Month" and what an encouraging and inspiring feeling it was to see the future star presenting such an awesome delivery to these ladies. The succession of a younger generation, bearing the torch from one generation of women to another.

Mighty was only three years old when she realized she has a special gift / talent. "I want to bring hope to the world through music," she said. During another recent performance when she rended the American national anthem, guests smiled and shook their heads. She is truly amazing. Mighty is an up and coming artist, only 16 years old. This young lady has so much greatness in her voice, but she revels in her talent with such humility. "I am satisfied and blessed with what I have accomplished, I just want to help oth-

ers," she calmly noted.

She has evolved into the sweet singing songstress professionally since January, 2014 when her manager, E-Uneek Kebreau, H Factor Family, a producer and a singer himself realized that this young lady was extremely talented and need to be guided. This realization has truly blossomed, since then she has performed for Donald Trump and Danny Glover at separate events. Mighty delivered the national anthem recently at the Barclays Center Nets games, raising eye brows again. She also performed at the conference of the United Federation of Teachers. She graced the stage with her eloquently and powerful voice at the annual 100 Black Casus in Albany and she performed for Shintaro Ishihara, governor, Toyko, Metropolitan area, Japan. She was extremely graceful and superb at the St. Lucia 36th Independence Anniversary event in Manhattan last month.

Mighty was born and raised in Brooklyn by her Jamaican and Haitian parents. She is certainly melting hearts and she has the heads and eyes of folks moving and asking the question seriously, "where do you go from here? She would like to be an international vocalist one day. She is only 16 and will continue her high school education at the LaGuardia Performing Arts School in Queens. The singer wants to inspire others, especially young people and be a strong influence in their lives.



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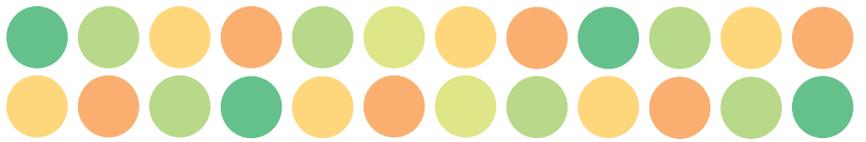
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WOMEN ARTISTS IN PLACE: Jamaica Center for the Arts & Learning, 153rd St. and Jamaica Ave., Queens; (718) 658-7400; www.jcal.org; Daily, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Now – Thursday, May 28; Free. This is an exciting exhibit featuring the works of 10 women.

“KEHINDE WILEY: A New Republic”: Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Wednesdays and Fridays – Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Now – Sunday, May 24; \$16 suggested.

YOUTH MADE MEDIA (Y2M2): Hunts Point Recreation Center, 75 Manida St. at Spofford Ave., The Bronx; (212) 360-3327; jheffler@ciyparksfoundation.org; www.cityparksfoundation.org; Weekdays, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Now – Sunday, May 31; Free. Students 11 to 15 years old receive instruction in Media Arts linked to Environmental Science. In addition, children receive homework help, go on field trips, watch movies and so much more. Registration is required.

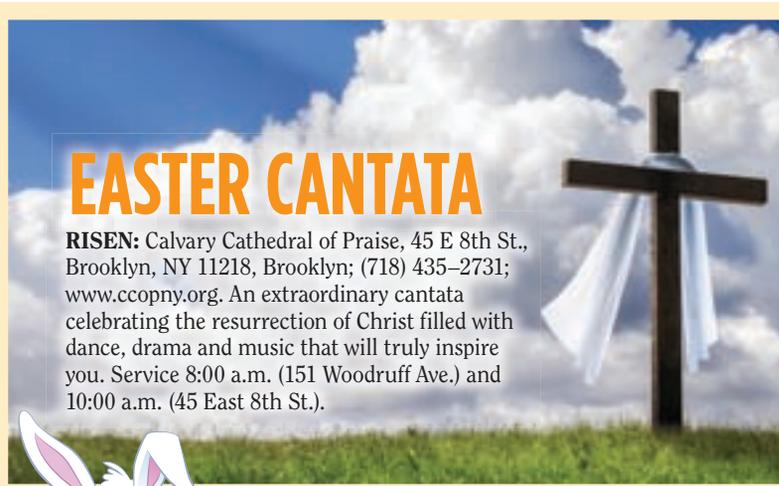
THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: Cameo Gallery, 93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, Brooklyn; (718) 302-1180; www.cameony.net; Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.; Free. Standup comedy hosted by Max Silvestri.

FRI., APRIL 3

EASTER EGG HUNT: Floyd Bennett Field (Aviator Sports & Events Center), 3159 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn; (718) 470-0224; www.greenmeadowsfarmny.com; 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; \$6. Children search for that 'egg-cellent' treasure, take a ride on a tiny tractor corn box, or a slush down a giant hay wagon slide, and many other activities for the day. Hosted by the Green Meadows Farm.

SAT., APRIL 4

EGG HUNT: Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval East, The Bronx; (718) 543-8672; www.nycgovparks.org; 11:00 a.m. – noon; Free. Children



EASTER CANTATA

RISEN: Calvary Cathedral of Praise, 45 E 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218, Brooklyn; (718) 435-2731; www.ccopny.org. An extraordinary cantata celebrating the resurrection of Christ filled with dance, drama and music that will truly inspire you. Service 8:00 a.m. (151 Woodruff Ave.) and 10:00 a.m. (45 East 8th St.).



EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 3: Floyd Bennett Field (Aviator Sports & Events Center), 3159 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn; (718) 470-0224; www.greenmeadowsfarmny.com; 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; \$6. Children search for that 'egg-cellent' treasure, take a ride on a tiny tractor corn box, or a slush down a giant hay wagon slide, and many other activities for the day. Hosted by the Green Meadows Farm.

FREE ZUMBA

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Free. Join us for a fitness class that's friendly and fun. To RSVP, call: (866) 539-0999.



three to 11 years old play games, have their faces painted, do arts and crafts and search for Easter eggs.

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Floyd Bennett Field (Aviator Sports & Events Center). See Friday, April 3.

BARNYARD EGG HUNT: Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Queens; (718) 347-3276; www.queensfarm.org; Noon – 4:00 p.m.; \$5. Meet Whiskers the Bunny and hunt for eggs. Try your luck at egg tossing and egg rolling, enjoy dancing the bunny hop and visit the farm animals.

SUN., APRIL 5

RISEN: Calvary Cathedral of Praise, 45 E 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218, Brooklyn; (718) 435-2731; www.ccopny.org. An extraordinary cantata celebrating the resurrection of Christ filled with dance, drama and music that will truly inspire you. Service 8:00 a.m. (151 Woodruff Ave.) and 10:00 a.m. (45 East 8th St.).

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Floyd Bennett Field (Aviator Sports & Events Center). See Friday, April 3.

EGG-CITING EGGS!: Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11213, Brooklyn; (718) 735-4400; www.brooklynkids.org; 11:30 am. Explore the egg-citing world of eggs and discover how families around the world celebrate the holiday known as Easter. Learn about animals that come from eggs, and examine a era bird's nest from the museum's collection. Make your own nest to take home.

MON., APRIL 6

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Floyd Bennett Field (Aviator Sports & Events Center). See Friday, April 3.

LOW IMPACT ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Free. Join us for a fitness class that's friendly and fun. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know that you will be participating in an exercise class. To RSVP, call: (866) 539-0999.

SITTING ZUMBA: Emblemhealth Neighborhood Care, 206-20 Linden Blvd., Queens; (866) 539-0999; www.ehnc.com/Locations/Cambria-Heights.aspx; Noon – 1:00 p.m.; Free. Join us for a sitting Zumba workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile. It is designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. Increase stamina and develop strength in upper and lower body. Use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know that you will be taking part in an exercise class.

TUES., APRIL 7

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM: Brooklyn; 12:00 noon. The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) will host its inaugural Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) citywide workshop series. Each workshop will provide attendees with valuable information on SYEP eligibility criteria; will identify citywide SYEP providers; clarify common misunderstandings about the program; and will share information on alternative summer opportunities and resources available to youth across the City. Attendees will also receive a step-by-step walk through of the SYEP application process and will have the opportunity to engage in an open question and answer session. Participants are selected by lottery for the program, which runs from July 6 through August 15. DYCD is accepting applications for the 2015 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through Friday, April 10, 2015. Workshops are open to all residents of New York City, with a specific focus on youth and parents of youth between the ages of 14-24. Interested individuals are encouraged to pre-register at <https://syep2015.eventbrite.com>. Inquiries can be sent to ExtRel@dycd.nyc.gov.

INSURANCE REVIEW WORKSHOPS: Neighborhood Housing Service, 9715 Avenue L, Rockaway Parkway, 2nd floor, Brooklyn; (212) 519-2571; www.nhsnyc.org; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Free. Are you covered adequately by your homeowner's insurance? Are you paying too much? Neighborhood Housing Services will review your policy free of cost. We also speak to community groups about how the changing flood maps will impact your policy and flood insurance.

MONTHLY LITERARY SHOWCASE: KGB Bar, 85 E. 4th Street (2nd Floor), Manhattan; (347) 613-0988; www.attheinkwell.com; 7:00 p.m.; Free. "At The Inkwell" - the popular East Village monthly literary showcase - holds their New York National Poetry Month event. Curated by Monique Antonette Lewis, the event will feature poets / writers Cherrie Amour, Stanton Hancock, Amy Barone, George Held, Kait Burrier, Hermine Meinhard and Andrea Talarico.

Compiled By Natalie Henry

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Diaspora

Continued from page 3

she humorously mentioned the might of immigrants, saying their tradition of sending “something back in suitcases, barrels and remittances” was a source of pride.

“We are proud of you,” she said.

It was then that a voice shouted “Liar! Liar!”

Echoing the jeering accusation, more boisterous voices added to the disruption that interrupted her appraisal of diasporan residents.

The diplomat seemed to morph into a force of tyranny assailing her assailants who were determined to disrupt her keynote presentation.

She responded to their cat-calls with anger challenging repudiation of her record on gay rights.

The prime minister said she recognized the demonstrators because they had previously attempted to derail her visit to the United Nations one day earlier when she attended the unveiling of the “Ark of Return” monument honoring victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

Seemingly committed to a sense of purpose, the dissenters publicly rebuked the prime minister for neglecting to enforce her majority in Parliament to reform the 1864 colonial law which prohibits same-sex marriage and other public display of homosexual conduct.

In response, she said along with her government she had always respected the rights of all citizens including those who identify themselves to be lesbians and homosexuals.

A name-calling episode followed and seemed to send the leader into a tailspin which ultimately forced a halt to the community forum promised by an invitation to all Jamaicans extended from the island’s consulate.

Some individuals fired back seemingly supportive comments of the PM although derogatory to the group — many of which seemed inappropriate to the religious house of worship.

Eventually, the dissenting group carrying a Jamaican flag was escorted from the church.

The abrupt end to the meeting sacrificed any hope for a question and answer segment or even a more detailed presentation from the leader.

The principal reason PM Simpson-Miller attended the forum was to endorse a launch of the sixth biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference slated for Montego Bay.

Slated for June 13 to 18, the aim of the unifying event is to provide a forum for exchange of dialogue between Jamaicans residing throughout the world.

With a greater number of Jamaicans residing outside the island, the theme, “linking for growth and prosperity” seemed elusive to gay rights advocates who faced off with the leader.

Prior to the heckling rant, the PM discarded a prepared speech that explained the aim of the conference.

During an earlier launch on Feb. 20 in Kingston, she stated that the conference would address issues related to

healthcare, education and implementation of a charter for long-term returning residents.

At that time she said: “we are refining the mechanisms to strengthen the relationship between the Jamaican Community overseas and the government communities and people (here) in Jamaica.”

She also said then: “we are conducting a mapping survey of our nationals overseas in an effort to locate and tap this reservoir of skills for Jamaica’s long term development.”

“As we launch the Jamaica Diaspora 2015, I am pleased to learn that a feature of the conference this year will again be the Day of Service.”

“On the designated day, members of the diaspora will carry out their projects all across the country, and not just in western Jamaica.”

But what must have been an easy explanation in the capital city of Jamaica was a difficult task here.

As if taken from a latter-day soap opera aired on the national radio station titled “Portia faces life” a media observer dubbed the foreign visit “Portia faces strife.”

Luckily for the visiting head of state — except for her own personal media entourage — there were no major press crews to capture the unfortunate interchange between nationals.

“I am very disappointed with the behavior of the prime minister,” Duane Coombs said.

“Although I don’t endorse the bad behavior displayed by the demonstrators inside a church, I would have hoped the PM would have used her elevated status to show better judgment and decorum.”

“I hope her performance will not go viral and further harm the country’s reputation.”

Since then Jamaica Anti-Homophobia Stand (JAHS) issued a statement saying: “The silence of Prime Minister Simpson-Miller in the face of such horrific persecution of LGBT Jamaicans is inexcusable. I hope that the St. George’s community speaks out against her complicity in these massive human rights violations.”

Jason Latty-Travis, president of the Caribbean Alliance for Equality added: “The prime minister has too often escaped scrutiny for her record of failure around protecting all Jamaicans, including LGBT folks. Jamaicans need her to speak out against the atrocities and then implement a plan to address the crisis.”

“We will continue to raise our voices in support of our LGBT brothers and sisters still in Jamaica,” Dwayne Brown, founder of JAHS said. “It is the Christian thing to do and the right thing to do.”

Prior to the showdown, presentations from Diasporan conference participants — Vivion Scully, Jampro; Harry Bhoo-rasingh, Jamaica National; Consular General Herman G. Lamont, Ambassador Sheryl Saunders, Director Diaspora Affairs Joan Pinnock; Minister of Foreign Affairs A.J. Nicholson and Lisa Ann Ogilvie, conference project manager presented an overview of plans for the event.

Homegoing

Continued from page 34

onsite employers ready to interview qualified job seekers.

The annual, invitation-only, black-tie "Keeper of the Dream Dinner Awards" returns with an evening gala and a number of honorary acknowledgements to distinguished achievers.

This year the Humanitarian Award will be given to Lee Daniels, an actor, director and film producer whose work includes the TV hit "Empire" and the Academy Award nominated film "Precious."

Awards will also be handed to motivational speaker and television personality Iyanla VanZant, Oscar-nominated actress Gabourey Sidibe, while posthumous honors will be awarded to the late actress Ruby Dee and poet Maya Angelou.

Yari Shahida, actress and actor Anthony Anderson from the hit TV

show "Black-ish" are also expected to attend.

For more info. Log onto www.nationalactionnetwork.net

DETAILS OF DR. BEN'S HOME GOING ANNOUNCED

Funeral arrangements for Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan have been finalized and details of the wake, viewing, repast and burial were recently confirmed.

According to a press release, Dr. Ben will lie in state at Abyssinian Baptist Church is located at 132 West 138th Street AKA Odell Clark Place (btw. Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. & Malcolm X Blvd.) in Harlem.

A viewing and wake will be held on April 9 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the 96-year-old Egyptologist who died on March 19.

The following morning from 9:30 a.m. until noon, visitors will be able to pay respect before his burial at Ferncliff Cemetery - 280 Secor Rd., Ardsley, New York. *Catch You On The Inside!*

CACCI

Continued from page 9

Antilles.

"This was a networking session with a difference," said CACCI President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Roy Hastick. "As we continue to embrace the Caribbean-American, African-American, Women and Minority Business Enter-

prises, and the entire business community, we are also continuing to explore ways and means for us to network and do business with each other.

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USA's goalkeeper Nick Rimando, front, and USA's Brek Shea, back left, fight for the ball with Switzerland's Admir Mehmedi, back right
Associated Press / Keystone, Ennio Leanza

US draw with Switzerland

By Graham Dunbar

ZURICH (AP) — The United States held on for 1-1 draw with Switzerland in an international friendly on Tuesday after veteran forward Jozy Altidore was sent off.

Brek Shea's curling free-kick gave the Americans a deserved goal on the stroke of halftime, and yet another lead to take into a second period.

But the trend of coach Jurgen Klinsmann's team to concede late goals con-

Continued on Page 46

Gayle to face disciplinary committee

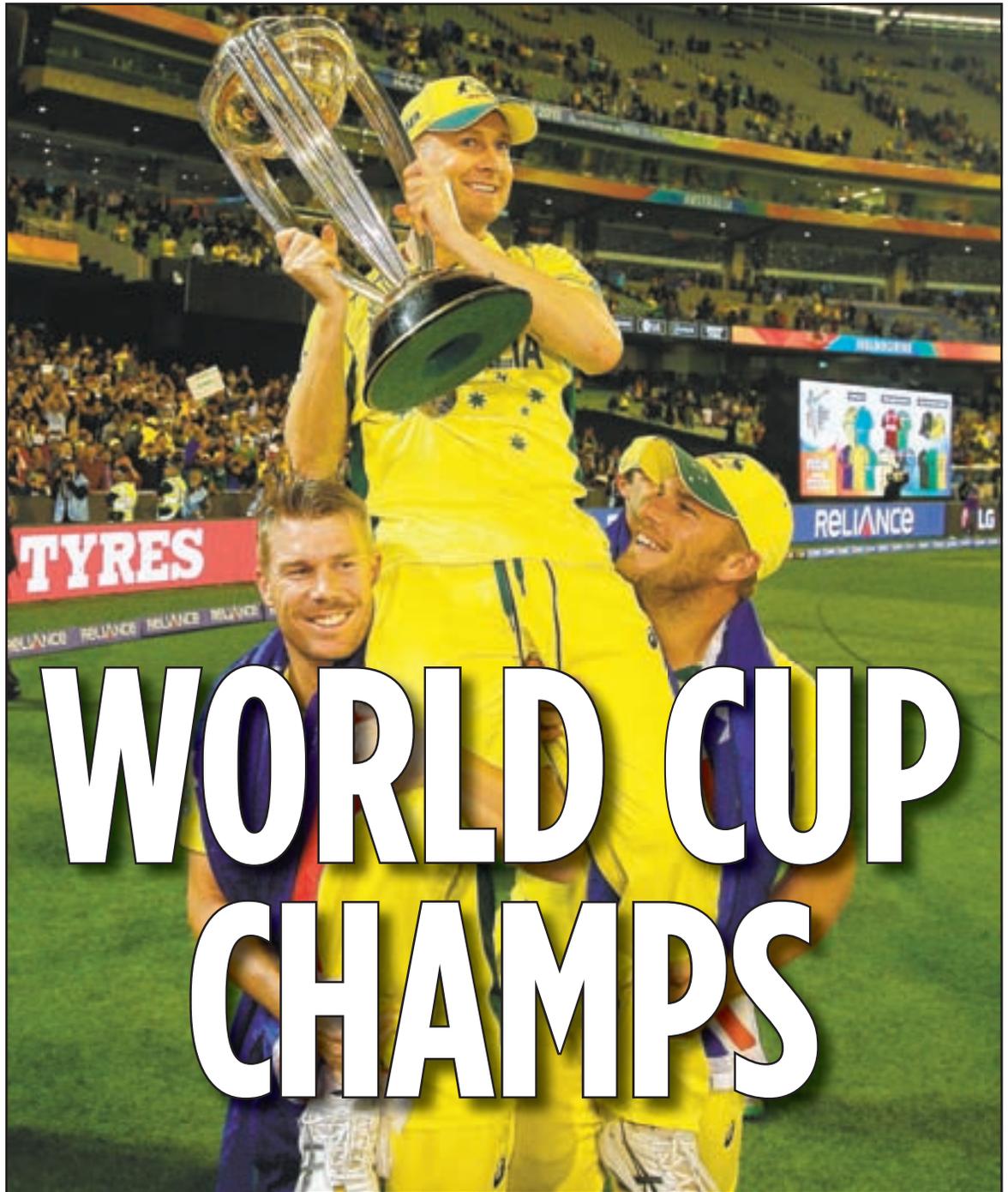
By Azad Ali

The West Indies disciplinary committee has agreed to complete their hearing on West Indies opening batsman Chris Gayle following the conclusion of the ICC World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

The hearing relates to Gayle's public reaction to the 2015 Cricket World Cup squad which saw the exclusion of all-rounders Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard.

WICB President Dave Cameron indicated that Gayle requested the hearing be deferred following the WICB requesting Gayle's response to the disciplinary committee weeks before the start of the

Continued on Page 46



Australian captain Michael Clarke is held aloft by teammates as he celebrates his team's seven wicket win over New Zealand in the Cricket World Cup final in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Associated Press / Rob Griffith

WORLD CUP CHAMPS

Australia defeats New Zealand for title

By George H. Whyte

The ICC Cricket World 2014-2015 ODI Tournament ended at the Melbourne Ground in Australia with the Aussies defeating New Zealand by seven wickets. New Zealand won the toss, batted first and they ran into early trouble losing their captain

without scoring.

Brendon McCullum was bowled by Mitchell Starc, struggling at 39 runs for 3 wickets after the fall of McCullum for 0, K. Williamson for 12 and M. Guptill for 15. A 111 runs partnership between Ross Taylor and G.D. Elliot. Taylor fell for 40 runs

from 72 balls at 150 for 4 in the 36th over. Elliot fell in the 42nd over for 83 runs from 82 balls. New Zealand was bowled out for 183 runs from 45 overs. J.P. Faulkner picked up 3 for 36 from 9 overs, Mitchell Johnson 3 for 30 from 9 overs and Mitchell

Continued on Page 46

Friendly soccer match

Continued from page 45

tinued after Altidore got a straight red card in the 68th minute for verbal abuse directed at Italian referee Luca Banti. Altidore, who later issued an apology, reacted on being shown a yellow card for a foul.

"It is unfortunate, but it happened," said Klinsmann, who played for Inter Milan. He said he reminded his players at halftime "never joke with an Italian referee."

Swiss pressure paid off in the 80th when substitute Valentin Stocker scored from just two meters (yards) past debutant goalkeeper William Yarbrough.

The U.S. has now been outscored 12-1 in the second half of matches since the World Cup.

"It might be a theme but it's not a problem," Klinsmann said. "Overall it was a very good team performance. I saw a lot of, lot of good stuff from the players."

A leveler had seemed increasingly inevitable, and five minutes earlier another Swiss substitute, Pajtim Kasami, header over an open goal from close range.

The U.S. also escaped in the 79th when an attempted clearance by defender John Brooks rolled just wide of his own goal.

Stocker struck when the ball dropped to his feet after two U.S. defenders challenged for a left-wing cross, leaving him unmarked in front of goal.

The Americans never threatened Switzerland's goal after Altidore's rush of blood midway through the second half, first fouling left-back Francois Moubandje.

"I want to apologize to our fans and my teammates," Altidore said in a statement issued through the U.S. Soccer Federation. "Emotion got the best of me and I put our team in a tough position. That's not the type of role model I want to be. All credit to the boys for grinding it out and earning a positive result."

Earlier, Shea's strike was out of character with a first half of miscues in front of goal.



USA's Brek Shea, left, scores the first goal of the game against Switzerland during the international friendly soccer match.

Associated Press / Keystone, Ennio Leanza



Australia's Mitchell Starc, left, celebrates with teammate Glenn Maxwell after taking the wicket of New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum for no score during the Cricket World Cup final in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Associated Press / Andy Brownbill

Ausies win by seven wickets

Continued from page 45

Starc 2 for 20 from 8 overs.

Australia scored 186 runs in 33.1 overs. Australia completed victory in style by scoring 186 runs for 3 wickets in 33.1 overs. Steve Smith scored 56 runs not out, opener David Warner 45 from 46 and Captain Michael Clarke 74 for 72. Smith and Captain Michael Clarke batted well for a partnership of 112 runs.

Note: J P Faulkner won the most valuable player award for the finals. Mitchell

Starc won the player of the series award.

WEST INDIES SQUAD

West Indies selectors named 20-member squad for a training camp in preparation for the English Tour. The squad comprises: Devin Smith, Kraigg Braithwaite, Darren Bravo, Marlon Samuels, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jermaine Blackwood, Denesh Ramdin, Kemar Roach, Jason Holder, Jerome Taylor, Shannon Gabriel, Sulieman Benn, Devendra Bishoo, Carlos

Braithwaite, Sheldon Cottrell, Shane Dowrich, Veerasammy Permaul, Leon Johnson, Miguel Cummins and Shai Hope. Camp starts April 5.

ITINERARY FOR ENGLISH TOUR

Monday, April 6 - Tour match in St. Kitts.

Wednesday, April 8 - Tour match in St. Kitts.

Monday, April 13 - First Test match at Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground.

Tuesday, April 21-25 - Second Test match at Grenada National Stadium.

Friday, May 1-5 - Third Test match at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

POOR SHOWING

West Indies cricketers ought to learn quickly and adapt standards to better improve their quality of cricket. Players should take a comprehensive look at themselves and their approach to the game at large and ask themselves, "Am I doing my share significantly as a player representing the West Indies Cricket team?"

Chris Gayle undecided

Continued from page 45

tournament.

Only recently, Gayle raised the possibility of retiring from Test cricket if his fragile back cannot cope with the increasing workload in a crammed cricket calendar.

Despite previous comments on the format, Gayle made it clear that he was still passionate about playing Tests but said that he would assess his future immediately after the World Cup, when he meets with the WICB officials.



West Indies Chris Gayle waves his bat to the crowd as he leaves the field after he was dismissed for 61 runs while batting against New Zealand during their Cricket World Cup quarterfinal match in Wellington, New Zealand, Saturday, March 21, 2015.

Associated Press / Ross Setford

Bolt returns to NY



Usain Bolt of Jamaica, competes in the men's 100m race during the Kamila Skolimowska Memorial athletics meeting at the National Stadium in Warsaw, Poland.

Associated Press / Czarek Sokolowski

By Robert Elkin

It would not be long now before professional track and field returns to the met area, and it will be just about when the high school and college season ends for the track buffs and athletes. Now we just need to have good weather, and not a rainy day.

All track and field competitors and spectators expect to jam once again for this year's edition of the New York Diamond League meet on June 13. This event will mark the initial appearance for a world class competitor since the end of May 2008 when Usain Bolt ran a 9.72 second time for the 100-meter dash. Incidentally, Bolt, a native of Jamaica, has not competed in the met area since that time.

After his performance of some seven years ago, he won six Olympic Gold Medals, eight world championship titles and just kept on winning and setting records in the process. He is an outstanding sprinter, and he, alone, should bring out the fans.

Bolt holds the current 100-meter world record with a 9.58 clocking and 200-meter world

record of 19.19.

He is certainly looking forward to compete here once again at Ichan Stadium.

"No one could forget their first world record, and I will never forget the crowd in New York that night," Bolt said. "They (the crowd) had to wait for an hour during a thunderstorm delay for our race and I don't think a single person left the stadium. They deserve a great performance and I'm glad I was able to give it to them."

However, officials and connections of the upcoming meet did not announce if Bolt will compete in the 100 or 200-meter runs at Ichan Stadium.

The 28-year old Bolt will start off the current outdoor season by competing in the 100-meter dash in Rio in mid April.

His highlight of the outdoor season is the World Championships in Athletics at the Beijing National Stadium, Beijing, China in August.

Meanwhile, the highlight invitational races in the tri-state area will be the Penn Relays. This is a meet that draws large crowds with something for everyone.



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Patience is a virtue you must have this week, Aries. Others may not be able to maintain your pace, so exercise patience with those who need it.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Share your thoughts and feelings about a particular project with others, Taurus. The people closest to you will provide just the support you need to move forward.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Embrace the competitive nature of a coworker this week, Gemini. This person might just motivate you to reach heights you have yet to reach, and this may lead to a promotion at work.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, a heart-to-heart talk with a loved one has you feeling confident as you move forward. Embrace this chance to communicate for the opportunity it truly is.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, allow someone close to you to enjoy his or her space this week. Find a way to keep busy as this special someone does some soul-searching.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Avoid rushing to judgment on an issue this week, Virgo. Rather than speculating on the "whys" and "how comes," wait until you can get some solid facts.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Luck is on your side this week, Libra. Make the most of this lucky streak and invite others to join in your fortune in the weeks to come.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, lend a helping hand to a loved one who could use some words of encouragement. Your efforts will be both effective and very much appreciated.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, anxiety about starting a new chapter in life is normal. Fear of the unknown can worry anyone, but look forward to all of the positive changes that are in store.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, thinking outside of the box comes easily to you. Although others may scoff at your unconventional ways, you always get the job done and this week is no different.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, peer pressure abounds this week, but you needn't worry about succumbing to it. You like to march to the beat of your own drum, and others look to you as a leader.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you may need to take an unusual approach to get things done this week. Don't be afraid to be aggressive.

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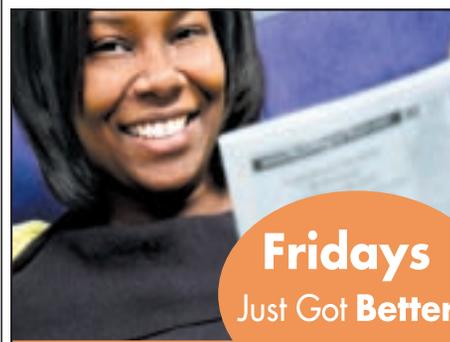
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Notice hereby is given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/31/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000333-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Tsvi (Last) Dinerman. My present name is (First) Henry (Last) Dinerman AKA Tsvi Dinerman. My present address is 555 Crown Street, Brooklyn, NY 11213. My place of birth is Boston, MA. My date of birth is March 31, 1958.

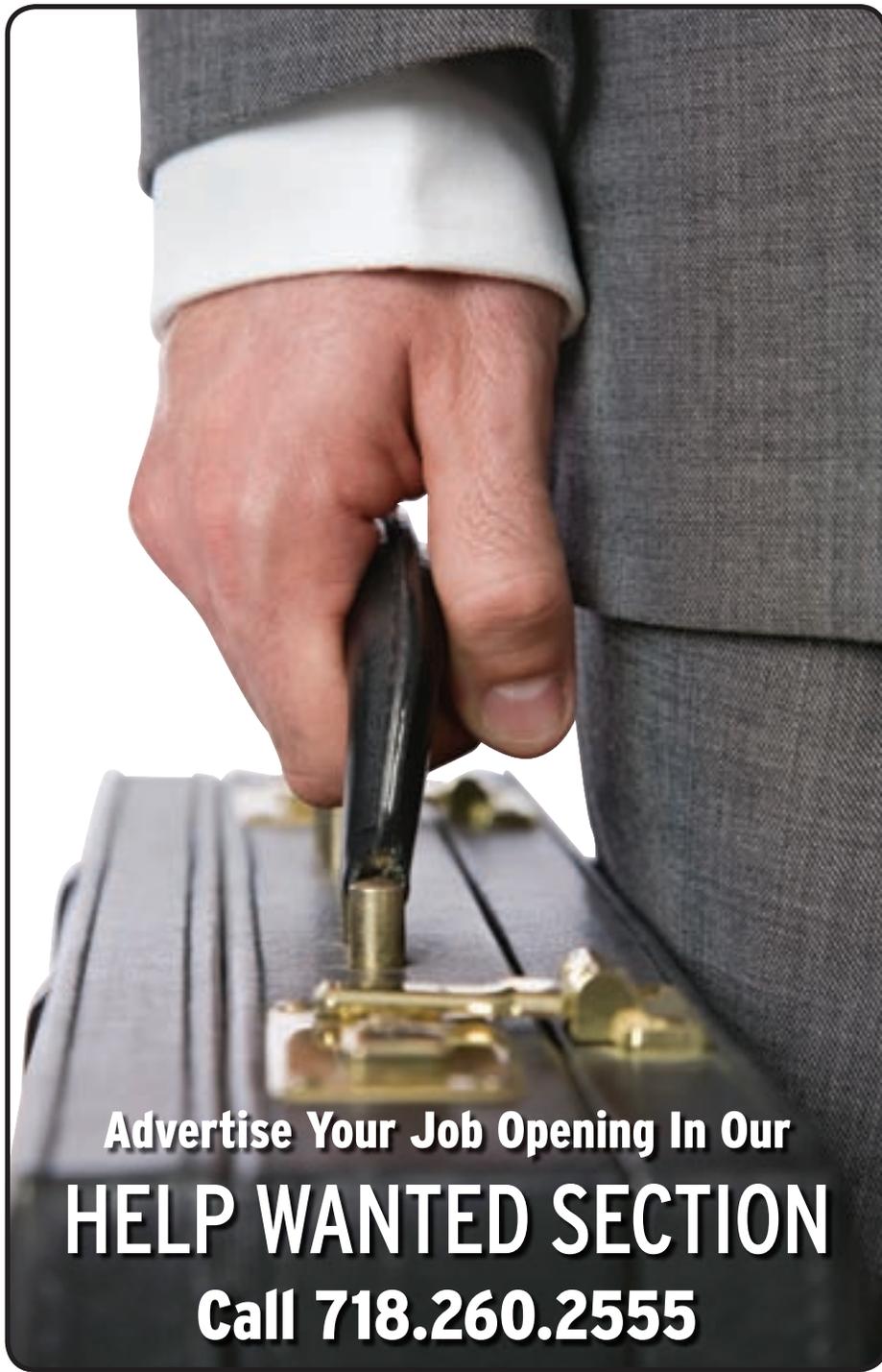
► **LEGAL**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE NYCTL 2008-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Pltf. vs. BEDFORD PLACE, LLC, et al, Defts. Index #32162/09. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered Jan. 16, 2015, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Apr. 16, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 727 Bedford Ave., Unit S9, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Section 3, Block 01715, Lot 1010. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$11,068.57 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. ROBERT GERSHON, Referee. SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC, Attys. For Pltf., 105 Maxess Rd., Suite N109, Melville, NY. File No. 09-081039 - #85681

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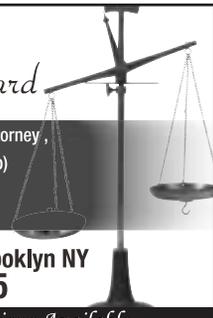
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