

Trinidad readies for General **Election**

By Azad Ali

The campaign for the Sept. 7, 2015 General Election in Trinidad and Tobago kicked off last week.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, 63, announced the date in a statement at the House of Representatives, Port of Spain that she would advise President Anthony Carmona "to dissolve parliament at midnight on June 17, 2015 — a move which will bring to an end the tenth parliament and clear the way for the eleventh."

She said her government was the first under the Republican Constitution to serve its full term.

Persad-Bissessar said it did so despite the expectations of the opposition.

The prime minister said the Partnership Government is ready to return to the voters of Trinidad and Tobago.

Of the Opposition People's National Movement (PNM) Persad-Bissesar said: "They told the electorate in 2010, 2011, 2012, in every year that we would not last more than a few weeks in govern-

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CARICOM: STOP THE DEPORTATION



A Taste of Carnival

Coco Cole and Lorraine from "We Carnival" posing in costumes entitled "Romance" and "Blue Tabanca" at Suede's Caribbean Restaurant Week Launch. See story on page 41. Photo by Kevin Bollers

Do not expel people of Haitian descent

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean Community governments this week appealed to the Dominican Republic to halt the expulsion of people of Haitian descent in the wake of a simmering dispute over the island's denial of them to have citizenship.

The governments in a statement warned that the failure of Dominican authorities to cease expelling people of Haitian descent who were born there could lead to "a humanitarian crisis in our region."

"In reiterating its human rights concerns, the community emphasized that these Dominicans had been made stateless by a ruling of the constitutional court which had been made retroactive to Continued on Page 6



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The 1st Annual Interfaith Memorial Service for Haiti at Borough Hall. Council Member Mathieu Eugene was a speaker.

Community Newspaper Group / Bess

Petition to stop mass deportation of Haitians

By Nelson A. King

As the deadline nears for the deportation of Haitian Dominicans in the Dominican Republic, a New York City legislator has created and circulated a petition calling on the Dominican Republic government to stop what he describes as "this unjust plan that will displace hundreds of thousands of people who call the Dominican Republic home."

"The majority of the individuals being deported are of Haitian descent, but classifying them as Haitians is inaccurate because many of these men and women and boys and girls were born in the Dominican Republic or have lived in the Dominican Republic for most of their lives," Dr. Mathieu Eugene, the first ever Haitian to be elected to New York City Council, told Caribbean Life.

"Sending individuals who identify as citizens of the Dominican Republic back to Haiti simply because they have Haitian ancestry is incredibly unjust," added the representative for the 40th Council District in Brooklyn.

"This human rights issue will impact not just the individuals facing deportation but our entire society," Eugene continued. "If this discriminatory deportation occurs, so many men, women, and children will lose the lives they've worked so hard to create."

The Council Member is urging the public to vociferously voice their objection to this "atrocious act."

"My heart hurts for the hundreds of thousands of people who are facing the unfathomable deportation from their own country," he said. "Hard-working individuals who call the Dominican Republic their home are being forced out by a discriminatory ruling.

Political club honors nine deserving fathers

By Nelson A. King

A major political club in New York on Sunday conveyed Father's Day honors on nine community and business advocates at a gala ceremony at Tropical Paradise Ballroom on Utica Avenue in Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn-based Progressive Democrats Political Association (PDPA) bestowed the honor on Dr. George Irish, the Montserratan-born dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College; Barbadian-born Earl Phillips, secretary treasurer of the Transport Workers Union, Local 100, the largest transportation local union in the United States; and Haitian-born musician, singer, songwriter and civil rights activist Kinomorsa Divers, also known as King Kino.

The other honorees were: James Cordice, the pioneer of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' participation on the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa; Franklyn "Supadex" Richards, president of the fast-rising Internetbased group, VincyCares; Jamaicans, entrepreneurs Oscar Palmar and Winston Williams; Tobagonian businessman Javin Baird; and Guyanese-born businessman and newspaper publisher Zamal Sankar.

The event was also in keeping with PDPA's Caribbean American Heritage Month celebration.

"Today is a day to have them (honorees) smell the roses while their noses are still working," said U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, a PDPA executive member, in jest, in addressing the ceremony.

"These gentlemen are very special," added Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn and whose Jamaican-born mother, Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, a former New York City Councilmember, is PDPA's founder and president.

"Thank you for being the standardbearers in our community," continued the younger Clarke, who presented the honorees with congressional citations. New York State Assemblywoman Latrice Walter also presented State

proclamations to the honorees.

Dr. Irish currently resides in the Bronx, where he serves as spiritual / presiding elder of various ministries -Spiritual Awakening Ministries, Come World Ministries, Come Bible Institute, Zion Pentecostal Faith Center, Mount Calvary United C.O.G.I.C., Soul Harvest International Ministries in Long Island and Beulah Pilgrim Holiness Church in Boston.

Besides being dean at Medgar Evers College, Dr. Irish is the executive director of the Caribbean Research Center at the college.

He is a tenured full professor of Car-



James Cordice receives congressional citation from US Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (R), flanked by Clarke's mother and PDPA president Former New York City Councilmember Jamaican Una Clarke and Councilmember Laurie Cumbo. Photo by Nelson A. King

ibbean and Latin American Studies, president / CEO of Caribbean Diaspora Press Inc., and Caribbean-American Research Foundation Inc., and also chancellor, Universidad Popular de Las Americas based in Panama.

A native-born Barbadian, Phillips migrated to the U.S. in 1987 and made Brooklyn his home. He is the proud father of two children – Tina and Alexander.

In 1993, he secured employment with the NYCT as a chassis maintainer, and 1994, after one year with NYCT, he decided to dissolve his auto repair shop and concentrate on his job with NYCT.

His activism and determination to protect the safety of all transit workers propelled him to a job with the union as a Field Safety Representative. In 2010, he teamed up with the current Local 100 President John Samuelson to form a slate that among other things promised a more aggressive workplace safety agenda.

In 2011, Phillips filled the vacancy in the office of Local Secretary Treasurer; and, in 2013, the Local 100 membership elected him to a full three-year term in that office.

Lord Kinomorsa Divers, King Kino, a renowned Haitian star musician, singer, songwriter, humanitarian and civil rights activist, said he was "born to be a leader."

He began his successful career path at a very early age, singing gospel music in church.

He later progressed to playing musi- in the City of New York.

BQ

cal instruments and popular music during his teens, but he never forgot the teachings and disciplines he received in the church.

In 1975, after residing in New York for five years, businessman Palmer visited his native Jamaica for a two-week vacation. While in Kingston, the capital, he wanted jerk pork, but, at that time, they only sold pot roasted pork and called it jerk pork.

He and some friends went to Boston in Portland, the home of jerk pork, and got some "real jerk pork."

During that time, the idea came to him that this would be a good business in Kingston. On returning to Kingston, he started to look for a place for a restaurant. He rented a store in the then new plaza, Kings Plaza.

Palmer then returned to New York and, two weeks later, he was back in Jamaica and opened Jerk City Restaurant in May 1975. That was the beginning of the commercialization of jerk, he said.

Sankar is an independent businessman, social entrepreneur and community activist.

In addition to his work as CEO at the Caribbean Daylight newspaper which he founded more than two decades ago, Sankar is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), and vice president of The Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, Inc., a leading provider of early childhood care and education in the City of New York

Caribbean Life, June 26-July 2, 2015 💦 💈



THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The European Union recently signed a 346 million (euro) new regional funding program with the Caribbean region until 2020.

This represents more than a doubling of the funds that were available in previous years (165 million euros).

The program, designed together with the Caribbean representative organization Cariforum, establishes jointly agreed priorities for bi-regional cooperation.

The signing took place on the occasion of the EU-Celec (Community of Latin America and Caribbean States) Summit and the EU-Cariforum High level Event in Brussels.

Vice-President Federica Mogherini said: "The EU and the Caribbean have strong historic, economic and cultural ties, based on common

values. "With this new funding, we want to

our common efforts

further



towards more inclusive and sustainable development and prosperity and will continue to stand by the side of the Caribbean people to continue to develop our excellent, mutually-beneficial partnership based on respect and common values."

strengthen

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica said, "With the signing of the regional program we can now mobilize resources for the implementation of our jointly-defined priorities."

The funds announced for the Caribbean are part of an overall package of the EU of almost 700 million (euros) in support of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Antigua

Antigua's president of the Association of Persons with Disabilities, Bernard Warner is describing government's treatment of the country's elderly and disabled as "a disgrace."

The head of the local organization alleges that government is now forcing some of the nation's most vulnerable citizens to choose between the benefits



All about Jamaica

The Montego Bay Cultural Center in Jamaica. See story on page 26.

Photo by Natalie Y. Henry

of two social programs.

The Board of the Guardians and PDV Bahamas Caribe provide assistance to the elderly, mentally challenged, visually impaired and the economically disadvantaged.

But Warner told the OBSERVER newspaper at least 30 of his members complained they have been told they can no longer benefit from both subsidies.

То make matters, worse, Warner said members of his association were only

informed of the benefit

when they turned up to receive their checks recently. Warner said there should have been

a warning before pulling the plug on the benefits.

He is calling on the public to stand up for those who will be affected.

Baha Mar CEO Sarkis Izmirlian has returned to China amid increasing uncertainty over the fate of the megaresort in The Bahamas.

Izrmirlian met with partners in China multiple times this year to dis-

cuss issues that are preventing the property from opening. He was recently in China. The opening, which



originally set for December 2014, has been delayed three times — the last in May this year.

Last month, the CEO informed staff that the property had canceled reservations and reassigned more than 1,000 employees from their original positions to jobs that needed to be done within the resort, construction clean-

ing, cleaning of the resort perimeter and loading of furniture and fixtures to the hotels.

Prime Minister Perry Christie has said repeatedly in recent weeks that he expects the matter to be resolved "imminently."

Jamaica

The Jamaican government says it will begin testing its electronic procurement system next month ahead of its full implementation next year.

Funded jointly by the government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the project is intended to strengthen

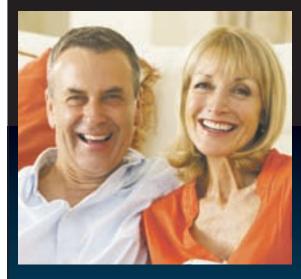


the efficiency and quality of Jamaica's public procurement process through Continued on Page 24

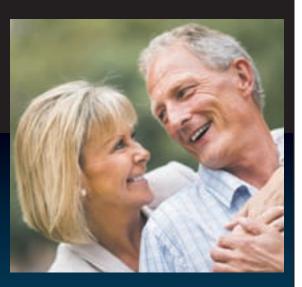


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Haitians await deportation

Continued from cover

1929, revoking their nationality. The very real possibility that they could be expelled to Haiti, a country of which they are not citizens and with which many have neither family nor language links was an additional cause for concern."

The issue is expected to be discussed at length when leaders meet for their main annual summit in Barbados from July 2-4. Angry at the court ruling two years ago, leaders said they were suspending moves by the DR, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, to join the 15-nation grouping as a full member until it reverses the decision and treats people of Haitian descent with dignity and grant them nativity.

In its latest missive on an issue that is clearly not going away, CARICOM said that it is so concerned about a possible humanitarian crisis that they raised the issue at a mid June meeting of the CariForum Group that also includes the DR in Brussels, Belgium and was told "of the plight of Dominicans of Haitian descent who are now stateless, both those who were documented and those who were not."

The CariForum grouping that deals mostly with trade and other relations



In this Thursday, June 18, 2015 photo, Milene Monime, 16, sits as her twomonth-old son Jefferson Thezon, center, sleeps next to another person's child inside a school classroom where her family and others are staying after being deported the previous day from neighboring Dominican Republic, in the village of Fonbaya, Haiti. Associated Press / Rebecca Blackwell

with Europe is the closest and most formal opportunity the DR gets to interact with CARICOM.

The leaders said that the DR gave a commitment to adhere to several principles regarding the issue including the protection of citizenship and the presumption that persons should not be rendered stateless, noting that the meeting had agreed to establish proposals to set up appropriate benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms to be presented to the group for consideration.

"The community calls on the tion with Puerto Rico, Cu Dominican Republic authorities to Haiti, its hated neighbor.

adhere to the principles and confirm the citizenship status of Dominicans of Haitian descent and not to engage in the expulsion of Dominicans of Haitian descent and avoid creating a humanitarian crisis in our region."

But London-based Caribbean expert David Jessop said in a recent piece on Haiti and other issues that CARICOM will soon realize that the DR does not really care for closer relations with the grouping and based on recent public utterances from President Danilo Medina, it is seeking closer cooperation with Puerto Rico, Cuba and even Haiti, its hated neighbor.

Elections

Continued from cover

ment, then that became a few months. Then it became a year and after that they continued to call for early elections on a regular basis because their political strategy to remove their leader in 2010 and seek to come to power because they expected us to collapse early failed to materialize."

The election date came as the United National Congress (UNC) announced the close of nominations for persons seeking to be screened by the party to contest seats, with a deadline date of June 26, 2015.

Four political parties are expected to contest the General Election — UNC, PNM, Congress of the People (COP) and the Independent Labor Party (ILP).

The PNM has already announced candidates for the 41 seats in the House of Representatives which comprise 39 in Trinidad and two in Tobago.

The UNC will decide how many seats the party will contest since negotiations are still taking place with one of the other major coalition partners, the COP, for the allocation of seats.

Prakash Ramdhar, who is the minister of justice said the COP will contest the six seats which it won in the May 24, 2010 General Election.

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Guyana seeks UN help in dispute

By Azad Ali

The government of Guyana plans to ask the United Nations to intervene and settle the border dispute with Venezuela.'

Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Greenidge, said the only alternative to settle the controversy with its Spanish-speaking neighbor is that of a judicial settlement that the 1899 Arbitral Tribunal Award of the border with Venezuela is final.

"A judicial settlement in respect of Venezuela's contention that this award is null and void appears to be the best, if not the only way, now open to us," Greenidge said.

He said Guyana has stepped up its diplomatic offensive to the international community, including special approaches to the other Caribbean and Commonwealth member states, "from whom we have consistently received support in the past for our just course."

"Other steps are being taken to ensure than Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity are not compromised in any way and that our sovereignty right to develop this great country is free from threats and economic aggression remains untrammeled," the Foreign Affairs Minister said.

Greenidge said the decree has served to widen even further the gap between the neighboring South American coun-



fully.

Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Greenidge.

Associated Press / Pierre Thielemans

tries. The purported annexation of the waters off Essequibo now takes in the oil-rich Stabroek Block where American oil giant, Exxon Mobil, last month found a "significant" reserve of high quality crude oil.

He said the government would be directing its "full attention" to legal proceedings to settle the matter peace-

Greenidge stressed that the 1966 Geneva Agreement between Venezuela, Britain and Guyana provides for various mechanisms to resolve the controversy, but one of them — the United Nations Secretary General's Good Officer Process — has not yielded any progress for the past 25 years.

T&T police investigates marijuana find at PM's home

By Azad Ali

The acting Police Commissioner Stephen Williams has announced that the police will launch a probe into the discovery of "five grams of a plant-like substance resembling that of marijuana" at the Phillipine, South Trinidad residence of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar about two years ago.

The Express newspaper in an article headlined; "Smoke Out," last Sunday said that former National Security Minister Jack Warner said that he was part of a plan by certain ministers to "cover up" the marijuana find at the prime minister's home on April 12, 2013.

The acting top cop had told the media there "was no report recorded in the Police Service concerning a matter like this. I was the head of the Police Service at the point in time and that matter was not brought to my attention and clearly when I speak

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OP-EDS

Pope Francis' timely call to action on climate change

By Tomás Insua

BOSTON, June 22, 2015 (IPS) - On June 18, Pope Francis issued Laudato Si, the first ever encyclical about ecology, which promises to be a highly influential document for years to come. The encyclical, which is the most authoritative teaching document a Pope can issue, delivered a strong message addressing the moral dimension of the severe ecological crisis we have caused with our "throwaway culture" and general disregard for our common home, the Earth.

One of the most important points of this document is that it connects the dots between social justice and environmental justice. As a parishioner from Buenos Aires I have seen firsthand how Jorge Bergoglio cared deeply about both issues, and it is beautiful to see how he is bringing them together in this historical encyclical.

Climate change is a moral issue, so the exasperating lack of ambition of our political leaders in the climate negotiations raises the urgency of mass civic mobilisation this year.

The most prominent example of this connection is how our role in causing climate change is hurting those who had nothing to do with this crisis, namely the poor and future generations.

Although the encyclical will have an impact on Catholic

teaching for generations to come, its timing at this particular juncture is no accident. As the Pope himself stated, "the important thing is that there be a bit of time between the issuing of the encyclical and the meeting in Paris, so that it can make a contribution."

The Paris meeting he referred to is the crucial COP21 summit that the United Nations will convene in December, where the world's governments are expected to sign a new treaty to tackle human-made climate change and avoid its worst impacts.

This is significant because the international climate negotiations have been characterized by a consistent lack of ambition during the past two decades, allowing the climate change crisis to exacerbate. Greenhouse gases emissions have grown 60 percent since world leaders first met in the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, and continue to accelerate setting the foundation for a severe disruption of the climate system.

Scientists are shouting at us, urging humankind to change course immediately, but we are not listening. That is why strong moral voices such as the one of Pope Francis have the potential to change people's hearts and overcome the current gridlock.

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Identity Crisis: Navigating my roots

By Alley Olivier

I am a first generation Haitian American. I am born to two very proud Haitians who migrated to New York City in their teens in hopes of furthering their education and opportunity. Fluent speakers of Haitian Creole and French, my parents are bi-lingual while my siblings and I struggle to respond in our parent's native tongue. Unfortunately, like many other Haitian Americans, I can understand the language far better than I can speak it.

The choice to teach or not to teach boils down to immigrant survival of the fittest. English is the native language of this country and while there are advantages in any person knowing another language the focus was more on assimilation than linguistic preservation.

Without knowledge of my ethnic background, you would assume I am a lightskinned African American female. The first layer of our identity is cosmetic, we are lumped into groups based largely on complexion. As a first generation Caribbean American, there isn't much fault to this as we identify with an African American experience. However, for Caribbean nationals this is a huge issue as nationalistic pride acts as an armor that separates a Haitian person from an African American person for instance.

It is these complexities of the Caribbean American experience that remains at the forefront of discussion particularly in various Caribbean Heritage Month events. From panel discussions to documentaWe do not walk around with banners proclaiming our Caribbean ethnicities and therefore are lumped into a general race category.

ries, Caribbean American identities are dissected to expose a push-and-pull battle between race and ethnicity.

Living in Flatbush, a known Caribbean neighborhood in Brooklyn, there is a feeling of being surrounded by your culture despite being frequent flyer miles away. Whether it is through food or music, Flatbush often feels like a Caribbean epicenter for any culture.

Aside from a range of cultural representations, you also find an integration of the African American experience. While one car might be blasting Soca, Calypso or Reggae, another will very well blast popular Hip Hop or R&B. The two cultures often overlap despite being treated separately in many respects.

While I label myself a "Haitian American," always leading with my ethnicity, I have been born and raised in America. If nothing else, I proclaim myself a proud Brooklynite first. I have not yet visited my parent's home country but still pride myself as a Haitian as I have been raised with those values, not to mention my parents consider me as such.

There are constant reminders to "be better."

Caribbean Americans often joke at how a B+ could mean a stern lecture while their American friends are bought a new pair of Jordan sneakers. Often times I've heard friends of both Caribbean American and African Americans compare households where those of Caribbean descent would shake their heads in amazement.

Entering college, I remember listening to my roommate curse at her mother. Myself and another friend who is of Trinidadian descent looked on in horror - we could not fathom the idea of even saying "hell" or "damn" around our parents without some serious consequences. It was these small nuances that create this idea that being raised in a Caribbean household is far different than that of an African American household

Despite those cultural upbringings, it is the language barrier that acts as a true reminder to my "lesser" status, often teased by other Haitian's for my American accent whenever I attempt to speak Creole.

Whether it is being called a "Yankee" for being born here, first and second generation Caribbean Americans will always identify with an African American experience. We do not walk around with banners proclaiming our Caribbean ethnicities and therefore are lumped into a general race category. We encounter the best of both worlds, featuring Hip Hop and Kompa on our playlists, loving Southern comfort food and Sunday home cooked meals - we leverage both Continued on Page 12

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

Forced to act right in Charleston

Image-wise, the South Carolina governor, Nikki Haley, had it going on all cylinders, including a show of emotion whose genuineness we have no reason to doubt, when she was first heard from following the unspeakable horror at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. The state, she said, had to grieve, to heal, to reach out to bereaved kin, etc. Her response quickly lost some of its initial "correctness" though, when she was queried about a larger context for what had so heinously brought Charleston to a standstill - matters like the easy accessibility of guns or the state's defiantly flying a Confederate flag on the Capitol grounds. Eventually, many would be complimenting the governor for a directional shift away from the predictable right-wing-speak injected into her first response, to pushing for removal of the offensive Confederate symbol a few days later. It seems clear that the numbing shock of what unfolded in that sanctuary proved, in some key instances, more powerful than a deep-seated conservative resolve to give nary

an inch in rallying round that flag.

Haley, the offspring of immigrants from India, evidently thought herself sufficiently establishment-rooted to identify with the conservative values of the Republican Party, when she veered toward active involvement in politics. Personally acquainted though she is with the immigrant narrative, she nevertheless hews to the hard-line position that has come to define GOP immigration policy. Ditto abortion, gun rights and other items routinely included in the check list of Republican wedge issues. African American Senator Tim Scott is of similar persuasion, staking out positions that have validated his credentials as farright GOP / Tea Party stock and have earned him first a seat in the House and subsequently in the Senate, from deep-red South Carolina. Asked where he stood on the issue of the Confederate flag still being flown in the state, Scott slid into defense mode, declaring last Sunday he wasn't yet prepared to "make news" with his position. By the following day,



he was joining Haley and others as a party to the "take down the flag" agitation suddenly afoot among Republicans.

In the ongoing struggle for dignity, folks are no less appreciative of victories that come via some unexpected, fateful commingling of events. Of course they'll take it, if the depraved actions of a hateobsessed monster result in removal of such an in-your-face reminder of the American story at its worst. But neither is it to be lost in the flow that reactive expediency, not a proactive sense of duty, has occasioned the change...a change that's still dependent upon enough Republican legislators across the state signing off on it.

Gov. Haley seemed to be bending over backward to reassure whites, tamp down a presumed restlessness among them. This was no effort to short-circuit their love affair

with that flag, she underscored at every turn. Just removal of it from a single spot. Honoring their ancestry and everything else that's been trotted out to make the case for this foremost Confederate symbol's earned presence in today's America remain unchanged, she promised. Of course Haley and the others who have been vending that line of twaddle tend to conveniently ignore in the spiel that the Confederate flag got placed atop the South Carolina Capitol in 1962, and with arch conservative Strom Thurmond as chief architect, was all about pushing back against the drive for civil rights then underway. The raison d'etre of the flag's reappearance in the 1960s couldn't be more starkly clear. The malarkey about ancestry and all the rest that Haley, Scott and their white Republican colleagues keep belaboring is standard see-through stuff.

That two of the three top elected officials in South Carolina are non-white Republicans does nothing to temper our skepticism about talk of comity, harmonious race relations and all else that's been added

to a make-nice tableau following what occurred at Emanuel A.M.E. At the end of the day, Haley and Scott subscribe fully to their party's most reactionary principles impinging on persons of color. A much advertised "right thing" they are now on record to do may not be strictly termed "involuntary," but would seem not too far from it. For sure, supporting removal of the flag would have generated zero consideration by Haley and Scott prior to Wednesday, June 17.

The flag has been a frontand-center bone of contention but it is hardly the only issue highlighted by last week's horrendous turn of events. From the usual suspects, for example, came predictable chatter when many, including TV's Jon Stewart, took note of the relatively low-key vigilance devoted to the eruption of white supremacist domestic terrorism as was seen in Charleston and the all-hands alert constantly committed to the likes of al Qaeda.

To which we're supposed to accept without murmur: That's just the way it is.



OP-EDS

Facing my identity crisis

Continued from page 10 worlds when applicable.

For Caribbean nationals, America isn't home. Priding themselves of higher education and moral standards, many Caribbean natives and Caribbean Americans do not consider themselves Black, African American or even American.

There is a particular dichotomy experienced by first and second generation Caribbean Americans. We are raised in a race-filled country where skin color dominates treatment. Yet, in your household you are held to standards of excellence that are supposedly not shared by African American households.

To be a Caribbean American is to be an expert navigator. There are choices to be made as to when you are boastful about your Caribbean roots and when you identify as an African American.

Conversations surrounding identity will never solve the greater questions of "where do I belong" or "who am I." Ultimately, I balance identifying as both Caribbean and African American and accept that within the two worlds I do not belong 100 percent in either.

Climate change, a moral issue

Continued from page 10

Climate change is a moral issue, so the exasperating lack of ambition of our political leaders in the climate negotiations raises the urgency of mass civic mobilisation this year. Faced with the clear and present threat of climate change, governments have long used the supposed passivity of their citizens as an excuse for inaction.

The climate movement is growing fast and is building up pressure at an increasing scale, but its growth rate needs to be boosted to meet the size of the challenge. Pope Francis' encyclical has the potential to draw a huge amount of people to the climate movement by inspiring the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, as well as non-Catholics who are open to his message, to mobilise in this important year.

Catholics are already responding to the Holy Father's call by scaling their mobilisation, mainly through the recently founded Global Catholic Climate Movement. This is a coalition of over 100 Catholic organizations from all continents, aiming to raise awareness about the moral imperative of climate change and to amplify the encyclical's message in the global climate debate by mobilising the Church's grassroots.

The flagship campaign of the movement is its recently launched Catholic Climate Petition, which the Pope himself endorsed a month ago when we met him in the Vatican, with the goal of collecting at least one million signatures for world leaders gathered in the COP21 summit in Paris. The ask, to be delivered in coalition with other faith and secular organisations, is for governments to take bold action and keep the global temperature increase below the dangerous threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels.

At the same time, people of all faiths are coming together with a strong moral call for action through initiatives such as Fast for the Climate -

At the same time, people of all faiths are coming together with a strong moral call for action through initiatives such as Fast for the Climate.

whereby participants fast on a monthly basis to show solidarity with the victims of climate change – and the People's Pilgrimage – a series of pilgrimages in the name of climate change led by Yeb Saño, former Philippine climate ambassador, and designed to culminate in a descent on Paris around COP21.

Leaders of other faiths will furthermore join their Catholic counterparts in celebration of the encyclical on June 28, when the interfaith march "One Earth, One Human Family" will go to St. Peter's Square as a sign of gratitude to Pope Francis.

Whatever happens, this year will go down in the history books. Be sure of that. The Pope has made a massive contribution to making sure it's remembered for all the right reasons. Now it's our turn to step up and finish the job.

Edited by Kitty Stapp

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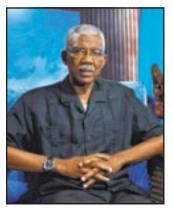
A regional foodbasket plans for the worst

By Desmond Brown

GEORGETOWN, June 10, 2015 (IPS) - Despite its highly variable climate, Guyana is the only Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country that enjoys food security. But rapid climate change could pose a challenge not only for Guyana, but for its Caribbean neigbours who depend on the South American country for much of their produce.

Agriculture in Guyana accounts for 32 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP); 37 percent of all export earnings; and employs about one third of the labour force. Main agricultural exports are sugar, earning some 137 million dollars annually; rice, earning 55 million dollars, forestry, earning 70 million; fish products, earning 65 million; and other crops and livestock 7.5 million.

David Granger, who became Guyana's new president after winning general and regional elections here on May 11, said his administration is not tak-



Guyanese President David Granger.

ing this for granted, and he is fully aware that climate change could cause the country to lose its food-secure status.

"On the coastland which is low and flat, the climate is actually slightly different to the hinterland and the forested mountainous areas where the rainfall is very heavy, part of the Amazonian rainforest; and deeper south, closer to Brazil you have a completely different terrain, a landscape of savannahs," Granger told IPS.

"On the savannahs you have a long wet season, which is now taking place, and a long dry season. On the coastland we have a long dry season and a long wet season and a short dry season and a short wet season. So when we speak of climate change we're speaking of very complex geographical phenomenon."

Approximately 90 percent of Guyana's population lives on a narrow coastline strip a half to one metre below sea level. That coastal belt is protected by seawall barriers that have existed since the Dutch occupation of the country. In recent times, however, severe storms have toppled these defences, resulting in significant flooding, a danger scientists predict may become more frequent.

The government is spending six million dollars annually on drainage and irrigation and requires some 100 million dollars to adapt its drainage



Boys catch fish in a gully that runs through their community in Guyana. Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

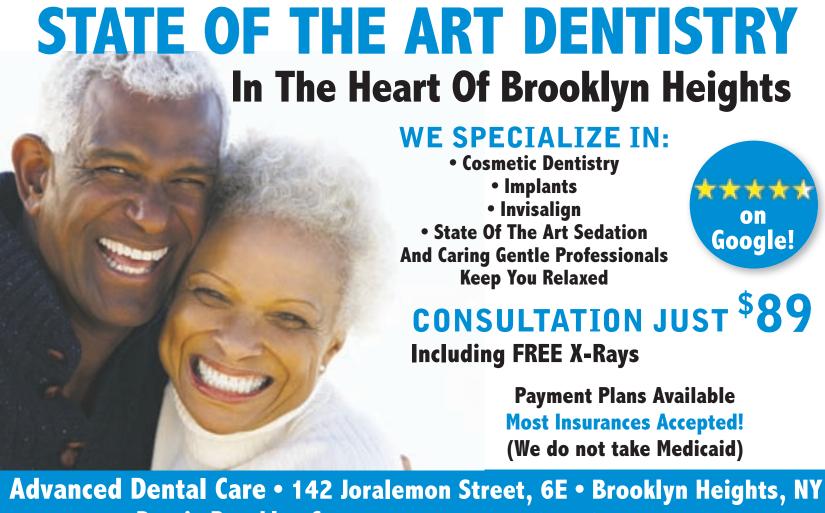
infrastructure to deal with the effects of climate change.

"We have to plan a policy... we have to chart a course that protects our citizens and traditionally as far as coastal zone management is concerned. We have had to build sea defences and build proper drainage and irrigation works otherwise our people will be flooded out," Granger said.

He related that the country experienced "a terrible flood exactly 10 years ago" and many of the communities on the coast were affected.

"We lost billions of dollars because of floods. So we have to protect our people from that type of catastrophe and we just have to continue what we've been doing traditionally in terms of seawalls but also we have to implement plans to prevent the excessive cutting down of our trees and of course reforestation to plant back areas that have been mined out."

Continued on Page 28



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Rosalind Mc Lymont.

Photo courtesy of The Network Journal

Africa rewards outstanding Guyana national

By Vinette K. Pryce

When Guyana national Rosalind Mc Lymont received a second invitation to serve as a delegate to an African summit she was humbled and proud to be asked but mostly she felt particularly sig-

nificant she would represent the United States of America.

Three years ago she was asked to be a delegate to the second African and African Diaspora mayors and leaders summit in Dakar, Senegal.

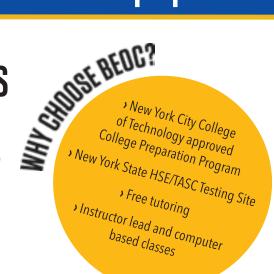


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At that time she was invited to make remarks at the final plenary.

This year's gathering earlier this month at the fourth World Summit of Mayors and Leaders of African Descent in Accra, Ghana, Mc Lymont her role broadened and placed her among the elites representing nations throughout the diaspora.

The author, executive editor of The Network Journal, CEO and publisher of AfricaStrictly-Business.com remarked that the lofty honor placed her with the likes of a former Ghanaian president, the son of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the mayor of Kingston, Jamaica and other highly-placed politicians and literary experts. "I felt so low down on

the totem pole," she said. But when she was presented a Certificate of Excellence from the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent in Accra, Ghana, she was genuinely surprised.

"Both the invitation to speak and the certificate caught me completely by surprise," McLymont told TNJ.

"There are so many outstanding individuals (here) who spoke, including former Ghanaian President Flight Lieutenant (Ret.) Jerry Rawlings; Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Marcus Garvey; the Vice President of Honduras: and all of the mayors, ministers of government, private sector and academic leaders -- Nonetheless, it was an honor and I am deeply humbled by both gestures, as I am humbled to have been invited to join the U.S. delegation."

McLymont's involvement in Africa spans four decades.

Reportedly, she taught French, English and history in two high schools in Africa.

According to TNJ, from 1973 to 1980 she worked in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She also reported on U.S. zil, from May 23-25, 2017.

trade with Africa for The Journal of Commerce newspaper and penned the award-winning, first "rebranding Africa" novel, "Middle Ground."

She is also credited with writing "Africa Strictly Business, The Steady March to Prosperity."

During an entrepreneurship she served as consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Africa Bureau Gender Program.

McLymont also served as an executive board member of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation. Her service to the continent also included two terms on the Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee of the Export Import Bank of the United States.

"I am really happy to see all of these mayors and leaders coming together year after year to share experiences, best practices, as they work toward the common goal of economic empowerment for their respective constituencies."

"I believe in the importance of an economically strong, self-serving Africa to the physical and psychological wellbeing of the people of Africa and to people of African descent worldwide," the Guyanese native stated.

"I am really happy to see all of these mayors and leaders coming together vear after vear to share experiences, best practices, and support for each other as they work toward the common goal of economic empowerment for their respective constituencies."

The next world summit will be held in Bahia, Bra-









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THE CARIBBEAN BUSINESS REPORT **Brooklyn duo 'nails' it with Breukelen Polished**

Bv Allev Olivier

Ease back into a plush chair and let your mind wander. Your hands are precious, used daily and abused by dish washing soap, turning doorknobs, handshakes with other movers and shakers and much more.

For most women, getting their nails done is an experience worth carving time out of their day for.

The most time consuming aspect of the experience that requires cognitive thought is choosing the right color. Featuring 14 new, 5-toxin free shades for every occasion, Ariel Terry and Tauaishu Porter have started Breukelen Polished - a new nail polish line bottling "dopeness."

The 10-year best friend duo's accidental business is rooted in their love for not only getting their nails done but also their borough.

Trinidadian and Jamaican descendant Terry conceived the idea of starting a nail polish line after completing her degree in Kinesiology at Temple University in 2013 but let it fade away. "I think everyone goes into those life woes of just figuring out what you're about to do because you can't find a job, you got loans to pay and you got six months to make it happen," Terry said. "Knowing entrepreneurs, I was just like I love nail polish, I get my nails done every week. That was my way of decompressing when I was home and I was just like 'what if I made my own nail polish?"

Like most other millennials, post-graduate life presents more questions than answers. Weighing the ideas of graduate school, GREs, taking time



Founders Tauaishu Porter and Ariel Terry holding "Chill Son" and "Fabolush" nail polish. Photo by Tommy Thomas

off and more 24-year-old Terry and Porter entered the realm of entrepreneurship after what was meant to be a typical nail salon visit.

Taken aback by the lavish salons décor, the two first considered the idea of owning their own nail salon in Brooklyn even going the extra mile of researching nail technician schools.

"Tauaishu and I were at a beauty bar and the seats were decorated with hair dryers. Everything was beauty inspired and so I think I mentioned something about owning a nail salon and she was like 'yo that would be cool.' And I said we should really do that and we were both really hype. I was like 'I've been trying to do this, let's do a nail polish line and save the money up for that and then open up a nail salon."

Terry and Porter — still working their daytime jobs of physical therapy aide and student, respectively — clocked in hours of researching feasible options that adhered to their timeline as well as their pockets.

"The most sensible option was to do our own nail polish line because once we open up the store it'll be our brand in the store and to start off we'll be going to other black-owned businesses and see how well it will do in the store," Porter, of Barbadaian descent, said. "We went as far as Googling a private company and picking out the colors ourselves. As time went on we just came up with the whole concept of Brooklyn and how the nail polish names resonate with Brooklyn."

Throughout their research process, the duo chose to utilize a third party armed with The next couple of months, a vast arsenal of colors. Weed-

ing out the colors that didn't speak to them, Terry and Porter finally reached a consensus on 14 colors that invoked an emotional response from them. "We chose colors based on who we are, the colors more or less represent us and how we feel when we saw the colors,' Terry said.

After choosing colors, the team tackled another task: nail polish names. Keeping a theme that aligned with Brooklyn, names like "The Bois" - a rich blue with built in sparkle — or "Do or Die" — a lush red — the girls matched colors to prominent names, places, phrases and more that are so Brooklyn. Even down to the name, "Breukelen" is the old Dutch spelling of the borough. "We did some history on Brooklyn's origins and found out the original spelling derived from the city in Netherlands meaning 'Broken Land.' Being two women from different backgrounds on this "broken land" united over the love of the same thing," Terry said. "And our name colors go right along with the history of Brooklyn over the years."

Most important to note is that Breukelen Polished boasts being a five-free toxin polish, something most don't understand or are aware of. Many polishes contains toxins such as dibutyl phthalate (DBP), toluene, formaldehyde. While mainstream brands label themselves as three or four free, Breukelen goes the extra mile of being five.

"Us being five-free is huge. The toxins that you inhale when you put on other nail polish you don't even know – even seeping into your skin radiating into your body is extremely harmful what the long term effects can do," Terry said.

"Nowadays people are on this organic craze, people overall are just trying to be healthier. Why not have a healthy nail polish on your nails," Porter added.

While the polish bottles the mega-borough, Terry and Porter's wider appeal is to every woman – whether quirky, chic or the Wall Street type frequently on the go.

"Everywhere has a different type of female, there's not just one female that lives in a neighborhood," Porter said.

"I think we also feel as though individually we embody those three types of women. We each have those qualities to us and so it wasn't just one type of trait we wanted to reveal. We wanted to reveal all sides of us," Terry added.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

REMOVING IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARES There are solutions to problems immigrants frequently experience. Among the problems and solutions are the following:

1. GETTING MARRIED TO A US CITIZEN OR GREEN CARD HOLDER AND BEING ABUSED OR ABANDONED **BY THE SPOUSE:** If you are married to a

US Citizen or green card holder who is abusive or has abandoned you, you may be entitled to a work permit and green card even if you are divorced or have a criminal record. You do not need your spouse to fi le for you or sponsor you or attend the interview with you. This relief is also applicable to child (including step child), fi ancée and parent of US citizens or green card holder. You can also get relief if you are married to a citizen or green card holder who was already married but did not divorce before marrying you, that is, a bigamy or polygamy situation.

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

Are you a parent of a US Citizen Child or



Green card holder? You may be administratively approved for a work permit to enable you to maintain your family. This is an administrative relief subject to

discretion of the government officials. **3. ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US:**

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

4. ILLEGAL REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION:

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

5. WORK PERMIT AND GREEN CARD FOR CHIL-DREN AND YOUNG PERSONS:

• Are you less than 21 years old? • Are you living in the US dependent on someone other than your parent?

· Is your natural parent dead or lack viable means to take care of you?

• Do you think it is not in your best interest to return to country of birth or citizenship now? You may be entitled to work permit and or green card whether you entered with visa or not. You may still be approved even if you entered without inspection, entered with fraudulent document or overstayed your visa or have certain criminal record.

6. CRIMINAL RECORDS: WAIVERS AND PARDONS:

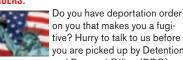
If you are convicted or pled guilty to a crime in the past it can generate complexities and be a nightmare but waivers and various special actions and legal procedures are available to relieve immigrants with past criminal records.

7. REMOVING 2-YEAR CONDITIONAL GREENCARD:

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

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

8. ASYLUM PROBLEMS AND DEPORTATION **ORDERS:**



and Removal Office (DRO). Your deportation may be suspended and get work permit & green card.

9. APPROVALS AND VISA BULLETIN PROBLEMS:

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

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On being a 'Caribpolitan' in the Diaspora

By Alley Olivier

Living in major cities with thriving pockets of communities maintaining their culture and heritage, diaspora may now be to general a term to adequately represent the modern day Caribbean transplant or descendant.

Chief curator and cultural entrepreneur at CaribBeing, Shelley Worrell, has coined the term "Caribpolitan" that has millenials latching on in expression of one of the many facets that comprise their identities.

"As sort've someone who was born here to Caribbean parents and travelling back and fourth between the U.S. and the Caribbean, I've always felt this gap like you didn't have the full American identity or this full Caribbean identity. I felt it was very important to start to define what that could look like. It started off with my own personal introspection quest for knowledge," she said.

"Caribpolitan" directly relates to those who identify as Caribbean — whether being a native to a country or descendant to Caribbean-born parents — living in metropolitan cities like Brooklyn's Flatbush or London's Brixton. According to CaribBeing's website, a Caribpolitan is:

"CARIBPOLITAN /'KAR-IB-POL-I-TAN/: [noun] 1. Term constructed from 'Caribbean' and the Greek root 'polis' which means city, citizenship or body of people. 2. 21st century person with West Indian origin / descent living in diasporic metropolitan communities such as Brooklyn's Flatbush, Florida's Miami, Toronto's Brampton, and London's Brixton. 3. Urban person with parentage from one or more Caribbean islands."

Sparking conversations across social media, men and women of Caribbean descent are adding the term to their account bios. Despite the positive feedback, some feel that the term may be unnecessary and create a sense of privilege to those using the term. Blogger, Niama Sandy, wrote an essay about the new term on Medium.com where

to a country or descendant to she discusses the possibility of it Caribbean-born parents — living in metropolitan cities like natives.

> "As with the term Afropolitan, there is danger in the exceptionalism implied. What of the people who have never lived outside of the Caribbean? Who have worked to raise the standard at home? Those who did leave but through whatever turn of events didn't have access to funds, education or the other socio-economic trappings of what constitutes modern urbane enlightenment," Sandy wrote.

> Sandy's initial distaste started with the term harboring an elitist vibe, separating Caribbean American's in the states from those who might not have ever left their native countries or possibly don't meet up to particular income levels. "I genuinely was rubbed the wrong way initially. Even with Afropolitan there's this kind've attitude that people have when referring to the term that is exclusionary for perhaps people who don't make a certain



Nya Thompson holding the official Caribpolitan graphic Tea Towel. Photo by Kevin Bollers

amount of money or haven't left whatever country they originally were from. There's definitely a way to be in the Caribbean or whatever part of

Africa and still be cosmopolitan because I know tons of people who that applies to. It's an elitist thing that struck me when I read it initally," she said.

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Marijuana

Continued from page 9

he has said publicly he doesn't know anything about the report and he has confirmed that position to me."

However, about two hours after Warner held a press conference to reveal details of another marijuana find on April 12, 2013 at the PM's residence, while he was national security minister, the T&T Police Service sent out a media release entitled "Investigation Ordered into alleged discovery at the prime minister's private residence."

The commissioner said he was presented with a signed report from Senior Superintendent Gary Gould, which confirmed discovery of five grams of a "plant-like material" resembling marijuana, contained in a plastic bag in the male washroom of a gazebo on the western end of the prime minister's private residence at the Phillipine on April 19, 2013.

But no mention was made about the other marijuana find on the grounds outside a window of the PM's residence which Warner spoke

"I was out of the country when security services are reported to have made this discovery. Needless to say, I am horrified and disturbed to hear these reports."

about. At the time PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar was attending a conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

In a response, Persad-Bissessar said in a statement; "the police have commented on a substance they reportedly found on the common grounds outside of my residence more than two years ago. These grounds are under the control of state security services, including the army, special branch and the police. Many staff, workmen and other individuals are allowed by security services onto the property every day.

"I was out of the country when security services are reported to have made this discovery. Needless to say, I am horrified and disturbed to hear these reports. While the timing of this disclosure is clearly political (the election bell has rung), I have faith in the police to investigate their own conduct and that of all law enforcement professionals involved," the statement said.

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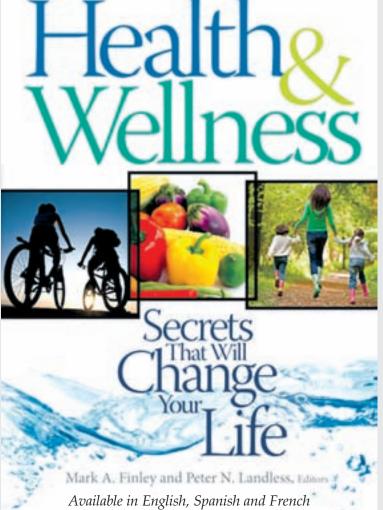
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

St. Kitts

round of presidential elections in Octo-

Media and communication officials

Officials at the Organization of East-

ern Caribbean States (OECS) Com-

mission noted that, implementing the

awareness program on the subject "we

recognize that people who speak on the

subject of climate change communicate

on a body of knowledge that is based

hamper our goal of achieving behavioral

change as persistent poor environmen-

tal practices are known to exacerbate

climate change impacts," officials said.

The main objectives of the symposi-

um were to highlight challenges related

to climate change and examine strate-

gies to scale up best practices and maxi-

mize the use of available media products

The symposium was funded by

that already exist in the Caribbean.

from across the region recently met

in St. Kitts-Nevis for a symposium at demystifying the complexities of climate

change and its related issues.

on fluid scientific data,

to people who are not

necessarily interested in

the science of climate

"This, we believe, can

change.

USAID.

ber and a final round in December.

Continued from page 4

the development of an electronic system for government procuring and tendering agencies and suppliers, and automating activities performed by these parties, by integrating them on a single portal.

Project manager for the Electronic Government Procurement Project in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, John Thompson, said three agencies have been selected for the pilot project, which will run for six months.

"By the end of December we would have ironed out all the kinks and we will be ready for full deployment commencing in 2016," he said, adding that the web-based system is highly secure and encrypted.

He said that one of the major benefits anticipated from the system is the automation of the annual procurement process.

Grenada

More than 140 passengers arrived on JetBlue's inaugural return flight from Grenada to New York earlier this month.

The flight was almost filled to capacity with nationals and returning visitors from the Diaspora which took off from the Maurice Bishop International Airport under the guidance of Captain David Neil and his crew members

New York-bound flight were several

members of the Grenada media frater-

nity who were given the opportunity to

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JetBlue Airways and the Grenada Tour-

Former Prime Minister Laurent

In a list issued recently, the nine-

member Provisional Electoral Council

approved 58 names rejecting Lamothe

as well as former foreign minister Duly

Brutus and former social affairs minis-

Gauthier had initially been recom-

While the Council gave no reasons

for rejecting the candidates, political

observers say this is normally done if

the candidates fail to obtain discharge

certificates from parliament certifying

that they properly managed state funds

Lamothe served as prime minis-

ter during the period 2012-2014. Haiti

is expected to hold local elections in

August followed by the first the first

Lamothe is among 13 politicians reject-

ed by the Electoral Council as Haiti prepares for presidential and general

and amid loud applause touched down at JFK International Airport around 7 pm. Among those on the

ism Authority.

elections later this year.

ter Josefa Gauthier.

mended to move forward

in the process by an

elections panel but the

decision was overturned

recently by the National

during their tenure.

Bureau of Electoral Challenges.

Haiti





St. Lucia St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony recently opened the Caribbean Growth Forum (CGF) in St. Lucia, which was attended by more than 200 business leaders and economists to chart a way

Caribbean countries. The forum was held at the Sandals Resort on Pigeon Island, a short distance from the capital, Castries.

forward for the economic development of

The two-day conference was organized by the Washington-based World Bank.

Ministers representing CARICOM govern-

ments met in a closed

door session with international institutions to explore opportunities for partnerships between private entities and

public section institutions. In a statement ,the World Bank said the CGF initiative had engaged more than 2,500 government, private sector and civil society leaders, and led to the implementation of more than 100 reforms in improving business climate, boosting skills and productivity and enhancing connectivity and logistics.

Trinidad

posal.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has announced that the legislation proposing a new runoff voting

procedure, among other reforms, has been scrapped to allow greater consultation and in light of concerns expressed by civil society on the pro-





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One location, so much Jamaican history

By Natalie Y. Henry

The former Montego Bay court house has received a major renovation and is now the Montego Bay Cultural Center. The cultural center is located in Sam Sharpe Square, downtown Montego Bay where one of Jamaica's national heroes Sam Sharpe was hung for his role as an instigator of the 1831 slave rebellion. A place of darkness is now a source of light and hope, the multifaceted facility houses various exhibitions along with conference and performing art spaces.

The National Gallery West (which falls under the National Gallery of Jamaica) is located inside in the center. Their latest exhibit "Xaymaca: Nature and the Landscape in Jamaican Art" named after the Taino's name for the island meaning "land of wood and water." The exhibit celebrates the beauty of Jamaica's landscape along with the history it carries through the brush strokes of national and visiting artist. This exhibit is a departure from the stereotypical art forms such as man in the countryside, leather goods, and other crafts.

Monique Gilpin, assistant curator of National Gallery West said, "I hope to expose more people to the arts and educate them on the importance of art and history especially for our culture. I encourage patrons to come in and learn even if it is not a long-term interest now, that can be an industry from which people actually make money."

National Museum West's (which is a part of the National Museum of Jamaica) latest exhibit "Rastafari" details the history of the movement from its inception in 1930 to the present where Rastafarians are calling for a public apology and reparations.

After finding out about the Smithsonian's exhibit on the same theme, Dr. Alicia Palmer, curator of National Museum West decided that this was the perfect opportunity to take control of the conversation. In 2013, National Museum Jamaica did a smaller exhibition on Rastafari and it was then



Marilyn Campbell, tour guide at the National Museum West, Montego Bay, Jamaica. Photo by Natalie Henry

brought to Montego Bay, the National Museum West's is an extended version of the exhibit focusing on Western Jamaica. "When we found out that America was doing something about our culture, we wanted to do something and claim back that culture for Rastafari," said Dr. Palmer. "The idea was to expose people to Rastafari culture. A lot of people aren't really aware of the experiences of Rastafari."

Rastafarianism is synonymous with Jamaica but few know what atrocities they faced. As a part of the exhibit, the film "Bad Friday" is featured which focuses on a community of Rastafarians in western Jamaica who annually commemorate the 1963 Coral Gardens "incident," a moment just after independence when the Jamaican government rounded up, jailed and tortured hundreds of Rastafarians.

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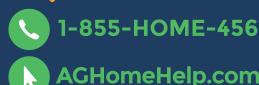
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Foodbasket

Continued from page 14

An impressive 80 percent of Guyana's surface area is covered by rainforest the size of England. Beneath the jungle and savannah lie gold, diamond and bauxite - staples of Guvana's economy.

Norway has committed to providing Guyana up to 250 million dollars by 2015 for avoided deforestation once certain performance indicators are met. Earnings from the partnership to date amount to 190 million dollars.

It is one of the highest payments worldwide for results achieved under a bilateral REDD+ partnership, second only to Brazil.

The partnership between Guyana and Norway began in 2009 and payments made to Guyana under it support the country's ambitious climate action, keeping deforestation low while promoting development and sustainable economic growth through the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

"The big expenditure will come if we ever have to move from the coastline and go further inland which is higher,' Granger said.

"Most of the inland territory, maybe 50 kilometres from here, is higher and the sort of doomsday scenarios that we might have to abandon some parts of the coastline, that would be a tremendous cost. That would be something that we don't want to contemplate but vou can never tell when a catastrophe could strike."

The Guyanese president said the country has also been putting aside funds from the millions earned annually from the extractive industries.

"As part of our policy which we've already announced, profits from revenues from extractive industries - gold, timber, diamond, bauxite - will be used in something we call Sovereign Wealth Fund so that our children don't have to face the ravages of poverty," he said.

"It is something we have to include in our budget...we must start putting aside money in order to prepare for any form of catastrophe. We can't depend on handouts all the time," Granger added.

Jamilla Sealy, regional chairperson of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) and project manager of the World Wide Views on Climate and Energy, said climate change impacts in Guyana could affect neighbouring countries like Barbados.

"If Guyana, for instance, has significant flooding, and the major rivers overflow, the contents can reach our coasts via ocean currents. This can lead to fish kills and stress on the coral reefs in Barbados. Also climate change aids in the spread of vector-borne diseases,

e.g. chikungunya and may cause a reemergence of yellow fever and malaria," she told IPS.

"In terms of food security, if we import most of our food from one country and it is diminished, then we will be severely affected. For example, if a large hurricane decimates a country like Ivan did to Grenada in 2004, it can destroy the country's economy and draw on the resources of neighbouring islands such as water and food."

Barbados' imports from Guyana have grown the fastest of all imports from CARICOM countries except for Trinidad & Tobago, according to data published

"It is something we have to include in our budget... we must start putting aside money in order to prepare for any form of catastrophe. We can't depend on handouts all the time."

by the Central Bank of Barbados. Barbados imports more than 15 million dollars' worth of goods from Guyana annually. The Caribbean as a whole expends 3.5 billion annually on food importation.

Sealy noted that Small Island Developing States like those in the Caribbean would be the first to be impacted by climate change.

"Owing to our size, we have limited land, water, and food. We import oil. So if something happens in another country that has the oil and food, we would not have any and we would be in a vulnerable state," she said.

CYEN is a non-profit, non-governmental, regional organisation which has been empowering youth to address issues such as climate change, sustainable land management, solid waste management and other sustainable development issues. They have been operating since 1993 and there are currently 18 chapters in the Caribbean.

CYEN believes that there should be no decisions made about sustainable development without the involvement of youth.

Sealy said CYEN is on a drive to empower vouth to address issues surrounding climate change.

The World Wide Views is the largest citizen consultation in the world which aims to include citizen voices into major international decisions. World Wide Views consultations were conducted by five CYEN chapters last weekend in Barbados, Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana and Haiti.

Edited by Kitty Stapp

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YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
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FOCUS ON Health

What is the role of bone marrow in the body?

he skeletal system is a fascinating component of human anatomy. While the hard, outer structure of the system that comprises the bones and keeps the body upright and protects organs may get plenty of attention, some people are less informed about the other role bones play in health.

Bone marrow basics

Bone marrow is nestled inside of the collagen, calcium and other minerals that give bones strength and flexibility. Unlike the hardness associated with bones, marrow is actually a soft, spongy tissue. Bone marrow is active in newborn babies and children, meaning it is always producing new marrow cells. This is what helps children to grow. By the time a person reaches young adulthood, much of the marrow inside of the bones stops producing new cells. However, in adults, active marrow still can be found inside of the spine, hips, shoulder bones, ribs, breastbone, and skull.

The University of California San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital says bone marrow manufactures bone marrow stem cells, which produce the various blood cells that help the body to thrive. Bone marrow produces red blood cells that carry oxygen to tissues in the body. Platelets help blood clot in order to stop bleeding and promote healing of injuries. White blood cells are essential to fighting infections and are a main component of the immune system. Among white blood cells, neutrophils and macrophages fight bacterial and fungal infections by essentially

Continued on Page 34

STRENGTH-TRAINING **TIPS FOR WOMEN**

trength training might once have been the realm of hulking males aiming to build as much muscle as possible, but active adults now recognize that strength training is beneficial to men and women alike. In fact, strength training can be especially beneficial to women, helping them develop and maintain strong bones and thereby reducing their risk for osteoporosis, a medical condition that afflicts more women than men and is characterized by weak or brittle bones.

Though women over 50 are most susceptible to osteoporosis, women of all ages can benefit from strength training. Those who are unfamiliar with such exercise may be hesitant to dive right in for fear of injury or due to the sometimes intimidating nature of strength training sections at fitness centers. But the following tips should help women overcome any such fears as they adapt to fitness regimens that include regular strength training.

Work with a trainer initially.

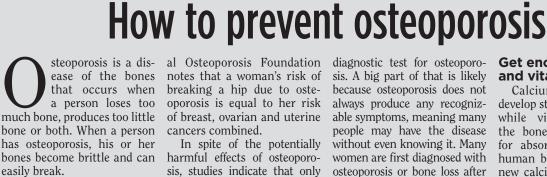
Strength training is great for the body, but women who have never before lifted a weight might want to employ the services of a personal trainer until they are comfortable enough to go it alone. Personal trainers can ensure you are performing exercises correctly and not in a way that can cause injury. In addition, trainers can answer any questions you might have and help you establish strength training goals.

Begin with light weights.

When starting a strength training regimen, use lighter weights, only increasing the weight once you are Continued on Page 34



Certain dairy products, including milk, are great sources of calcium, which women need to reduce their risk of osteoporosis.



While osteoporosis can affect anyone, women over the age of 50 are especially susceptible. In fact, the Nation-

al Osteoporosis Foundation notes that a woman's risk of breaking a hip due to osteoporosis is equal to her risk

cancers combined. In spite of the potentially harmful effects of osteoporosis, studies indicate that only 12 percent of people with osteoporosis have had a bone mineral density, or BMD, screening, which is the most reliable

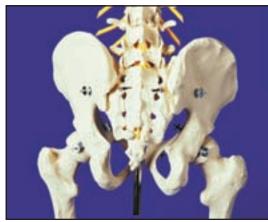
of breast, ovarian and uterine

diagnostic test for osteoporosis. A big part of that is likely because osteoporosis does not always produce any recognizable symptoms, meaning many people may have the disease without even knowing it. Many women are first diagnosed with osteoporosis or bone loss after suffering a fracture, but there are steps women can take to lower their risk of developing osteoporosis.

Get enough calcium and vitamin D.

Calcium helps women develop strong, healthy bones, while vitamin D protects the bones and is necessary for absorbing calcium. The human body cannot produce new calcium, so it's essential that women get the recommended amount of calcium from their diets. Women 51 Continued on Page 34

FOCUS ON



Bone health is important at any age, but it is particularly crucial as a person gets older.

Simple ways to protect your bones

s men and women age, many take steps to improve their overall health. These steps can be as simple as cutting back on dinner portions or as significant as joining a gym and committing to an exercise regimen.

One of the best things men and women can do to improve their health, as well as their quality of life, as they age is to protect their bones. Though some are aware of the importance of protecting their bones, which weaken as the aging process progresses, leaving older adults susceptible to fractures, many might not know that protecting their bones is quite simple. What's more, many of the roughly two million bone fractures caused by osteoporosis, a medical condition in which the bones become brittle from loss of tissue, are preventable. Men and women who heed the following tips to help protect their bones can reduce their risk of fractures as they age.

Get your calcium and vitamin D

Calcium and vitamin D promote bone health, and many people are aware of those effects. However, a 2005 study published in the Journal of Clinical Endocriology found that 52 percent of postmenopausal women on osteoporosis treatment had insufficient levels of vitamin D, despite being told by their doctors to take both vitamin D and calcium. If your diet does not include adequate vitamin D, which can be found in fortified dairy products, egg yolks, and fish, then vitamin D supplements can help meet your needs. Calcium can be found in a variety of products, including fortified cereals and juices, dark leafy greens like broccoli, almonds, and a host of dairy products.

Visit your physician

Few people might know that bone health is actually measurable. A bone density screening can assess your bone health, while FRAX, an online tool developed by the World Health Organization, evaluates a individual's risk of fracture based on a host of factors, including age, weight, height and your medical history. FRAX models give a 10-year probability of fracture, which can help prevent injuries down the road for those people whose risk might not be immediate. The National Osteoporosis Foundation recommends all women begin receiving bone density screenings at age 65. However, women with additional risk factors, including smokers, those with low weight or a thin frame, family history of osteoporosis, late onset of menstrual periods, and a history of anorexia or bulimia, should consult their physician about screenings regardless of their age.



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Inside bones is a spongy material known as bone marrow, which produces all of the blood cells the body needs to operate effectively.

Marrow

Continued from page 32

"eating" germs. B-Lymphocytes make proteins that attach to the surfaces of infection-causing microbes. T-Lymphocytes engulf and destroy pathogens directly.

Blood cells do not live very long inside of the body, which is why marrow continually produces all three types of blood cells. Bone marrow produces approximately 500 billion blood cells per day.

Bone marrow donation

Diseases such as myeloma, aplastic anemia, lymphoma, and leukemia occur when bone marrow is compromised and cannot work properly. People diagnosed with such conditions will be in need of a bone marrow donation as a best chance of survival.

Osteoporosis

Continued from page 32

and older are advised to get 1,200 milligrams of calcium daily, and foods like low- and non-fat milk, yogurt and cheese are great sources of calcium. Women can get vitamin D from sunlight; certain foods, including fatty fish such as salmon and tuna; and vitamin D supplements.

Eat bone-healthy foods. The National Osteoporosis Foundation notes that recent research has found that blueberries, olive oil, soy beans, and foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids may promote bone health. Women also should know that even though certain foods may contain calcium, that does not necessarily make them ideal for bone health. Beans, for example, contain calcium, but they also are high in phylates, which can interfere with the body's ability to absorb calcium. Soaking beans in water for several hours before cooking them can reduce their levels of phylates.

Watch what you drink, too. It's not just foods that can contribute to osteoporosis. The beverages women drink also can affect their risk. Caffeine can decrease calcium absorption and contribute to bone loss, so drink beverages like coffee and caffeinated tea and soft drinks in moderation. Heavy alcohol consumption also can cause numerous negative side effects, not the least of which is bone loss, so women should only drink alcohol in moderation.

Update your fitness regimen. Women can strengthen their bones by including some high-impact weight-bearing exercises, which include dancing, hiking, jogging and jumping rope, in their fitness regimens. In addition, add some muscle-strengthening exercises, such as light weightlifting, to your routine. Yoga and Pilates also can make valuable additions to an exercise regimen, helping to improve balance and reduce the risk of falls, but women should discuss such exercises with their physicians before diving in, as some of the positions in yoga and Pilates may not be safe for older women at heightened risk of osteoporosis.

More information about osteoporosis can be found at www.nof.org.

Training

Continued from page 32

confident you have the motion of an exercise down pat and need a greater challenge. If you don't want to add too much weight, you can increase the number of reps so your workout stays challenging.

Expect some soreness, but take stock of any aches and pains.

You should expect to feel some

moderate soreness after your first few strength training sessions. That soreness likely stems from your body never before engaging its muscles in the way strength training does. But any persistent aches and pains should be taken seriously. It's important to take note of where the pain is coming from, which can indicate whether or not you are performing exercises correctly. For example, your shoulders should not be inflamed or aching during or after a biceps workout. If they are, your form is probably off and you should consult a trainer to help ensure your form is cor-

rect and you are not risking injury.

Work the entire body.

Adequate strength training targets various muscles in the body, not just the arms. Women should make sure their strength training regimens include exercises for their shoulders, back, chest, arms, and legs. Focus on one or two muscle groups each workout.

Strength training might be most often associated with men, but women can benefit from lifting weights in the immediate future and for years to come.

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Caribbean Life

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Caribbean nationals salute heritage with honors

Los Angeles, California — Caribbean-Americans in California marked the 30-day presidential proclamation (since 2006) that declares June, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month by hosting a gala awards dinner and launching a film festival dedicated to the diasporan tribute.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Caribbean-American Heritage Month with a Caribbean Heritage Salute to Hollywood & Excellence gala a weeklong series of events paid tribute to the unique culture.

Buoyed by the perceptive efforts of Jamaican-American Marva Griffiths Herman, founder and executive director of Caribbean Heritage Organization, a myriad of laudatory events paid tribute to Caribbean nationals — primarily on the west coast — who have excelled in various

aspects of their pursuit. Herman founded the organi-

zation dedicated to hyphenated Caribbean immigrants in 2007 — one year after Congress approved the June designation.

Prior to the national proclamation, she had successfully led a grassroots campaign to



Inside Life
By Vinette K. Pryce

enable a month-long acknowledgement of Caribbean-Americans in Los Angeles. Since then, her Caribbean Heritage Salute to Hollywood & Excellence has become the go-to event during the month. And along with Dr. Claire Nelson they are credited with spearheading a petition and movement that led to the congressional approval.

According to Nelson, a Jamaican-American, CHO is now in 18 cities.

During the gala held at the Hilton Universal Hotel, she explained why June is celebrated with Caribbean pageantry and pride.

In her inimitable, Jamaican patois she informed patrons that when deciding a timeframe to honor immigrants from the Caribbean, only summer months were considered.

She said an elimination process excluded the months of May, because of Cinco de Mayo; July, due to America's celebrated independence day focus on the fourth, August, because celebrations of independence for Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica would interfere and said she was not about to lobby against New York's September huge revelry on Labor Day by offering the month.

She explained that June seemed the most appropriate because no Caribbean island marked any significant occasion during the month of June and with significant assistance from Senator Charles Schumer was able to get the approval of the Congress.

Nelson boasted some of the achievements of her birth-island saying there are "five Jamaicans in the White House."

She added that because of their influence they must have schooled President Barack Obama on how to greet Jamaicans saying, "Wha ah gwaan



Grenada's Film Commissioner Ellen Bishop Spielman (sister of former prime minister Maurice Bishop) Marva Griffiths Herman, founder of Caribbean Heritage Organization and honoree Grenadian Yvette Noel Schure.

Photo by Vinette K. Pryce

massive" when he addressed them on the island.

Nelson emceed the proceeding and introduced fellow Jamaican, V.S. Russell, an actor who provided folk interpretation of the island's favorite folk

hero, Brer Ananacy.

She also presented Urim 7, a reggae group that offered a musical menu which included Bob Marley's "Redemption Song."

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Ainsley Primus, president of Dynamite Calypso Tent. Photo by Nelson A. King

Tent prez happy with semi picks

By Nelson A. King

After being weary of what he had characterized as failure to select, over the years, very deserving calypsonians from his tent, the president of the Brooklyn-based Dynamite Calypso Tent, Ainsley Primus, has expressed delight with the number of selections for this year's semifinal round in the National Calypso Competition in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Continued on Page 42

Caribbean flair and fashion

By Tangerine Clarke

Georgetown-based fashion designer Sonia Noel literally turned the rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall into a runway on June 12. In just 45 minutes the Guyana Fashion Week CEO was triumphant in hosting 16 designers, presenting more than 40 pieces of garment and accessories, all the while showcasing the multi-cultural identity of the couturiers.

From floor sweeping gowns in black and gold, to white frocks and bridal wear, models sashayed down a long flight of stairs to display a floral patchwork attire by Guyanese Melissa Payne, swimwear embellished matched with costume head-pieces by Marlon Smart, Continued on Page 42

A scene from "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey."

Photo courtesy of "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey"

Tracing the notes of the steel pan drum

By Alley Olivier

You know Carnival is here when steel pan yards are alive with music in the wee hours of the night.

Pan music isn't constrained to just Carnival season, a rich culture and history is beaten into every oil drum.

Exposing the colorful history surrounding the steel pan drum is Trinidadian native Kim Johnson and French-born Jean Michael Gilbert, the co-producers of docu-drama "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey." Written by Johnson, the 90-minute film intertwines fictional characters with true historic events to create an exciting watching experience for the audience. "Our initial idea was a standard documentary what you would see in like a Ken Burns jazz kind of thing. When we spoke to the third co-producer, who is a friend of Jean Michael and most experienced film producer, Bathelmy Fougea, he suggested that first of all the documentary part should follow characters," Johnson said. "It was a challenge to style and what I can say is we are more than pleased by the reaction of the public," Gilbert added.

Johnson's extensive knowledge of the history of steel bands allowed for him to write an informed cinematic production that threaded together historic events portrayed through a fictional character.

"For this film what I did was I took events that were factual and I joined them together so that one person could experience them," Johnson



38 Caribbean Life, June 26-July 2, 2015

BQ

Sex abuse survivor copes with trauma

"Felt" Very Good (3 stars) Unrated **Running time:** 80 minutes **Distributor:** Amplify Releasing

By Kam Williams

Amy (Amy Everson) has been left so haunted by demons after years of unspecified sexual abuse that today she dreams of crushing a rapist to death with her thighs. She also fantasizes about gouging out his eyes and sticking a pin in a penis.

Good luck to anyone who gets involved with the traumatized survivor, since she's obviously still dealing with the fallout of whatever happened to her. Some of Amy's suitors are oblivious of the warning signs, such as the cad who cavalierly suggested that the date rape drug, Rohypnol, doesn't even exist.

Such callous behavior plays right into Amy's belief that most men are exploitative jerks



A scene from the movie "Felt."

who think they have the right to grope her just because she's female. She laments that they

don't understand that there are other forms of violence besides

ing with a gun.

ВQ

Rather than retreat into punching or stabbing or shoot- her shell, Amy copes by creat-

ing elaborate costumes which make a feminist statement about the patriarchal state of the culture. For instance, she'll strap on a fake penis and cover her face with a mask before taking a walk in the woods; or she might don a giant chicken mascot costume in order to follow a dude around.

Yet, despite her apparent disgust with the opposite sex, Amy hasn't given up on finding Mr. Right. She hangs out at a pool hall where she peppers possible partners with probing questions like: "Do you prefer docile chicks?"

Inspired by its star Amy Everson's real-life experiences, Felt is a surreal, semi-autobiographical adventure with a patently political agenda. Directed by Jason Banker (Toad Road), this unsettling experimental indie is simultaneously a psychological thriller which never affords the audience an opportunity to get comfortable in their seats.

A cattle prod of a picture which incessantly provokes and pushes the cinematic envelope while taking no prisoners in a very freaky battle-of-the-sexes.



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A scene from the documentary, "Fresh Dressed."

Courtesy of www.rottentomatoes.com

Independent & **Foreign Films**

Batkid Begins (PG for mature themes) Makea-wish documentarv recounting how the citizens of San Francisco collaborated to make five- year-old, cancer

patient Miles Scott's dream of becoming Batman a reality.

A Borrowed Identity (Unrated) Middle East drama revolving around a Palestinian teenager (Tawfeek Barhom) attending a prestigious Israeli boarding school in Jerusalem where he lands in hot water for falling in love with a Jewish classmate (Danielle Kitsis). With Razi Gabareen, Ali Suliman and Yael Abecassis. (In Arabic, Hebrew, English and German with subtitles)

Escobar: Paradise Lost (Unrated) Romance thriller, set in Colombia in the summer of 1991, about a Canadian surfer dude (Josh Hutchinson) who is pressured to serve as a hit man after falling for the niece (Claudia Traisac) of drug cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar (Benicio del Toro). Support cast includes Anne Giradot, Carlos Bardem and Brady Corbet.

Felt (Unrated) Semi-autobiographical psychological thriller revolving around a victim of sexual assault's (Amy Everson) attempt to cope with her trauma by disappearing into a number of alter egos. With Alanna Reynolds, Kentucker Audley and Ryan Creighton.

Fresh Dressed (Unrated) Hip-hop documentary revisiting the rise in popularity of urban fashion as a consequence of the simultaneous mainstreaming of rap music in American culture. Featuring appearances by Pharrell Williams, Daymond John and Damon Dash.

A Little Chaos (R for sexuality and brief nudity) Romance drama, set in



France during the reign of Louis XIV, where a couple of gifted landscape artists (Kate Winslet and Matthias Schoenaerts) fall in love while sculpting the royal garden at the Palace of Versailles. Directed by Alan Rickman who plays the king, and co-stars Stanley Tucci, Jennifer Ehle and Helen McCrory.

The Little Death (Unrated) Kinky sex comedy, set in Sydney, exploring the fetishes of five suburban couples. Ensemble cast includes writer/director Josh Lawson, Kate Box, Tasneem Roc, Lisa McCune and Damon Herriman.

A Murder in the Park (PG-13 for violent reenactments, disturbing images, drug use and brief profanity) Miscarriage of justice courtroom expose' suggesting that the Innocence Project had inadvertently set free on appeal a death row inmate who was actually guilty all along.

Runoff (R for drug use) Rural tale of survival about a woman (Joanne Kelly) willing desperate to keep a failing, family farm afloat after her husband (Neal Huff) falls ill and they're threatened with foreclosure by heartless bill collectors. With Rashel Bestard, Tom Bower and Drew Cash.

What Happened, Miss Simone? (Unrated) Prestige biopic chronicling the life and times of the legendary Nina Simone. Produced by the late jazz singer and civil rights activist's daughter, Lisa.

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Alaysia Willams, Kamille Wood and Sasha Bowen of Suede Restaurant serving tasty Caribbean treats at Caribbean Restaurant Week Launch. Photo by Kevin Bollers

Dine Caribbean in fine style

By Alley Olivier

Throw the word "diet," "waist trainer" and the phrase "summer body" out the window.

The second annual Caribbean Restaurant Week is upon us, from June 22 - 29. Fourteen different locations are prepared to satisfy your taste buds, stomach and most importantly your wallet with discounts prices.

The West Indian American Dav Carnival Association (WIADACA) in partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (BCC) collaborated to bring Caribbean Restaurant Week back for its second year. According to Carlo Scissura, president and CEO at the BCC, Caribbean Restaurant Week is important to support the dynamic Caribbean community in Brooklyn particularly.

"Brooklyn is the capital of the Caribbean in the USA," Scissura said. "We are where Caribbean's work, where they raise their families, where they own businesses and our job at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is to expose incredible places like Suede. Not just to the Caribbean community but to non-Caribbean."

"Caribbean Restaurant Week, this is the way to go. Brooklyn Chamber of Com-

merce and WIADACA are delighted to get together and display the type of food we are used to," Thomas Bailey, president of WIADACA, added.

Through a submission process, restaurants offer either discounts or prixfixe menu deals to encourage any hungry customer to enjoy selections of their menu.

Fairly new to the scene, Suede Restaurant - located on Clarendon Road between East 56th and East 57th streets - served as the location for the official launch featuring samples of dishes such as their Oxtail Pizza and Salmon Balls. Manny Mensah, marketing manager at Suede, encourages anyone stopping in to see the location as an extension of their community to host events, enjoy great service and most importantly delicious food.

"We are a neighborhood restaurant and we want to be all about the community," Mensah said. "We want to be able to give you great Caribbean food and great service with that."

Also offering small bites to all in attendance were last year's launch host D'Savannah Bar and Lounge as well as Vivid Café.

For Natalie Lamming-Scott, president at D'Savannah Bar and Lounge, Caribbean Restaurant Week allows for restaurants to show that there is more to Caribbean food than the typical rice and chicken dishes.

"I think this is a great way to help the community embrace our culture through the food. A lot of people think Caribbean food is just jerk chicken, rice and peas, plantain and there's so much more to Caribbean food," Lamming-Scott said.

To the sounds of steel pan soloists and a hip-hop violinist, the vibe was set for a Caribbean affair equipped with beautiful Masqueraders.

Caribbean Restaurant Week is not just about food. This weeklong celebration reaffirms Brooklyn as a prime destination for fine dining experiences we once believed we had to cross the Brooklyn Bridge for.

'We want everyone to know that the Caribbean culture is alive in Brooklyn. We no longer have to cross the bridge for dining," Scissura said.

Take advantage of lunch and dinner specials including \$15 to \$35 prix-fixe menus while available. At right, see a full list of the participating restaurants.

Foodies taste the islands

By Alley Olivier

Two words generally make a crowd of people happy: free and food.

Brooklyn's Borough Hall Caribbean American Heritage Month celebrations combined the two concepts Friday, June 12 with the annual Taste of the Caribbean event.

patrons' senses of smell, sight and most importantly taste were thoroughly satisfied.

From corn soup to island patties, Beryl Green admits that this is her favorite Caribbean Heritage Month event. "I've been coming so many years but this has always been a very exciting Featuring nine distinct restaurants, and awesome event. I'm eating up the

food - I love Caribbean food and can taste from so many different islands here," Green, a Jamaican native, said.

Representing the islands of Trinidad, Haiti, Barbados and Jamaica, each restaurant presented a sample of some of the finest items on their menu.

Before those in attendance piled their plates high, mini performances kept the crowd entertained including a brief showcase from the upcoming film "De Roaring 70's A Calypso Musical."

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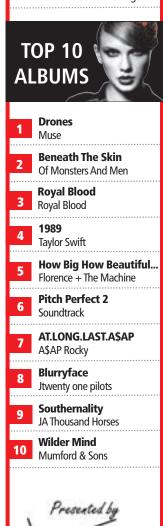
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8	Uptown Funk! Mark Ronson
9	Honey I'm Good Andy Grammer
10	You Know You Like It DJ Snake & AlunaGeorge



veri70nwireless



Continued from page 37

said. "The character is a fictional character – even though I took the name of a real historical person - and I joined together various events that happened to different men or bands and I let one person be the thread that joined them."

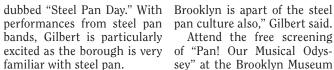
'Pan! Our Musical Odyssey" follows various musicians all in search of achieving the highest level in their art. Preparing for Panorama - considered the "Olympics of music" - where bands from across the globe descend on Trinidad to compete, Gilbert and Johnson feel that this showing of an artistic struggle is what sets their film apart.

"A lot of times these documentaries in the Caribbean are like poverty and violence and gang – very negative. Our film is extremely positive. It really shows the positive creativity of the people," Gilbert said.

"A lot of movies about third world music and musicians see them just struggling against oppression, struggling against poverty, struggling against political oppression. These

A still from the docu-drama "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey." musicians are musicians. They are artists. They're struggling in the context of their art, to

"Pan! Our Musical Odyssey"



"It is a New York premiere and we are very happy to do it in the Brooklyn Museum because I think it is a prestigious place. It's nice because

Photo courtesy of "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey"

pan culture also," Gilbert said. Attend the free screening

of "Pan! Our Musical Odyssey" at the Brooklyn Museum June 28 at 2 pm preceded by a short film titled "Doubles with Slight Pepper." Visit caribbeing.com for more information about show times.

make their art together, to be more creative and outdo the next artist," Johnson added.

makes its New York debut at the Brooklyn Museum June 28, which has been newly



Models from Bridging the Gap Connecting Caribbean Style Fashion Show at Borough Hall on June 12.

Photo by Donn Thompson

Fashion

Continued from page 37

in addition to Mariska's popular Resort Collection, that continues to take the world by storm.

The recent Caribbean Heritage Month fashion platform was idyllic for up-and-coming designers Lisett Mendoza, Darya Filipchyk and Shackeema Brown, Kings Borough College students whose excellent pieces captured the essence of style and elegance.

Bridging the Gap - Connecting Caribbean Style certainly hit its mark with a production that notably had a mixed spread of trends.

Ghanaian Frederick Agyem- form.

BQ

ang's colorful mud cloth outfits, and Haitian Lady Ruth's fierce designing concepts, sizzled on the catwalk.

Noel certainly cast a net far and wide to find designers whose ensembles were poetry in motion. Jamaican Minki's sexy shorts and top in green and yellow and a crochet dress, summed up the designer's panache, while French Guiana's Mayonka designs were a fitting tribute to the ultra elegant woman.

The ready to wear pieces by Lady Ruth, Dominick Larouche and Butch Diva of Trinidad, Geneve Powell of Jamaican decent, St. Lucia's Christine Samuels and Avtava, all brought Caribbean flair and sophistication to the plat-

Calypso

Continued from page 37

"It's a good feeling," Primus told Caribbean Life after the National Calypso Association last Friday announced six calypsonians from the Dynamite Calypso Tent to compete in the semifinal at Carnival City, Victoria Park, Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, on Saturday night.

The selectees are former monarch De Man Age, perennial semifinalist and finalist Dennis Bowman, John Dougan, Drakie, Navel String and Fabulous T.

"We deserve these six picks," said Primus, who had been very critical of what he had described as the "mistreatment", by local calypso authorities, of calypsonians from his tent. "The guys were great. We had a good preliminary (round at Café Omar in Brooklyn late last month)."

After the preliminary round, Primus had declined to predict the number of calypsonians that would be selected from the Dynamite Calypso Tent, reiterating his disappointment with last year's selection.

"I stop predicting," he told there."

Caribbean Life then. "Last year, I predicted five, and they give us three. "The way the judging is

set up, the Dynamite Calypso Tent is at a disadvantage," he added. "The guys (calypsonians) live up here; they don't have to face them [the judges at home] every day."

In addition, Primus said calypsonians from his tent are judged earlier than their counterparts at home and that there is a two-week gap before the local judging.

"It should not be two weeks, and it just leaves four days [from the announcement of the semifinal results] for the guys here to practice," he said. "Last year, we protested it, and they [Calypso Association] go back and do the same thing.

"We have jobs up here, where we have to put in for time off [in advance]," Primus added. "You [calypsonians] have family, you have to arrange for certain things, you have to buy airline tickets. It's ridiculous.

'We're doing something for our country in the Diaspora," he continued. "We just want a level playing field. We're looking for the same rights as anybody (calypsonian) down

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Caribbean Life



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William Henry 'Smush' Parker. Associated Press / J. Pat Carter, File

Hoop league in full swing

By Robert Elkin

Now that the National Basketball Association schedule is over, most of the attention goes on building for next season and the free agent market during the off season. For the players on different levels especially those out of college, they are awaiting the next stepwhere will they be playing, or will they take it easy and searching for another line of work in their field.

The players are now taking 'it' to

Continued on Page 46

Players, WICB resolve dispute

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) have finally come to an agreement concerning the payment structure for players, which was one of the main issues which led to the regional side pull-out half way through their tour of India last year.

Last September, the WICB and WIPA agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Collective bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the overall aim or professionalizing the game in the Caribbean.

An important part of the new MOU and CBA included creating clear, long-Continued on Page 46



Vancouver Whitecaps FC forward Octavio Rivero, front, beats New York Red Bulls defender Ronald Zubar to the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match, Saturday, June 20, 2015, in Harrison, N.J. Associated Press / Julio Cortez

NY City FC, Bulls see fortunes reverse

By Patrick Horne

The second edition of the local derby between the New York Red Bulls and New York City FC kicks off on Sunday at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx (5 pm, ESPN2) and adding to the intrigue of this local rivalry is the reversal of fortunes of the MLS teams involved.

Since the first edition in this 'Hudson River' rivalry back on Sunday, May 10, when the Red Bulls won, 2-1, at Red Bull Arena in Harrison (NJ) with the support of an eclectic sellout crowd, the teams have gone in opposite directions in the conference standings. The Red Bulls (4-5-5, 17 points) are in the

midst of a winless five-game streak, including four straight losses, and dropped from second to seventh in the 10-team MLS Eastern Conference standings; while New York City FC (4-5-7, 17 pts.), enjoying their first run of consecutive wins by capturing maximum points in their last Continued on Page 46

BQ



Vancouver Whitecaps FC goalkeeper David Ousted, center, stops a penalty shot by New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips (99) as forward Mike Grella (13) and Nicolas Mezquida (9) look on during the first half of an MLS soccer match, Saturday, June 20, 2015, in Harrison, N.J. Associated Press / Julio Cortez

Whitecaps defeat Red Bulls

Continued from page 45

four games, climbed out of the bottom of the standings to occupy eighth place, just behind the Red Bulls and with the same number of points. The Red Bulls have a slight advantage in goals scored (18-17). The teams meet once more this season, on Sunday, Aug. 9, at Red Bull Arena, 7 pm.

The Red Bulls' last defeat was against the Vancouver Whitecaps FC, 2-1, last Saturday night at Red Bull Arena. The team battled with only 10 players when midfielder Sacha Kljestan was ejected from the contest in the 10th minute. Adding insult to injury was Bradley Wright-Phillips' two missed penalty kicks, the first for an MLS player in a game. The Red Bulls' midfielder Sal Zizzo was fouled in the penalty area, but Wright-Phillips's penalty in the fourth minute was saved by Whitecaps goalkeeper David Ousted; ditto in the 64th minute when Red Bull Anatole Abang was fouled.

Vancouver had a 1-0 halftime lead when Kekuta Manneh scored off a cross in the 15th minute and extended that lead, 2-0, by the 76th on a goal from Kianz Froese. Abang scored the Red Bulls' goal a minute later. The Bulls were scheduled to host Real Salt Lake on Wednesday, June 24 in a 7:30 kickoff.

In New York City FC's last outing, David Villa scored twice to give his team a 2-0 road win at Toronto FC. Villa scored from the penalty spot in the eighth minute after a Toronto player was called for a hand ball in the penalty area, and scored again when he intercepted a pass in front of the Toronto goal in the 58th minute and beat goalkeeper Chris Konopka.

NYCFC has been the center of more intrigue just ahead of Sunday's derby when unknown sources revealed that the team is about to introduce Italian legend, Andrea Pirlo, on Friday, today, as its next major signing.

The 36-year-old Pirlo played for AC Milan in the Italian top league, Series A, for 11 years and for Juventus the past four. He played 115 times for Italy, including playing a major role in the Italians' 2006 World Cup title victory.

Basketball

Continued from page 45

the courts once again for summer action-whether it be indoor or outdoor doesn't really matter. Of course they rather play indoors during the evenings would be the best time.

This the Nike Pro City Summer Basketball League held at Baruch College in mid-town Manhattan. This league has been in existence for about four years at its present location on East 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue. It previously was contested at Hunter College.

For some games they are packed to capacity with every seat in the 'bleachers' taken and especially when hoop buffs see current stars playing in the NBA, or whe a youngster shines at a young age and is in the making. And former stars also excite the fans with their backcourt work and dunking ability. And one can't count out the back court players who make the team 'go.'

In the first game of the season, offense prevailed over defense in overtime.

Take, William Henry 'Smush' Parker, who played some high school ball here in New York City who is a typical example.

Smush Parker did not indicate that he would like another chance in playing for a team in the National Basketball Association.

All eyes were on him in a Nike New York Pro-City Summer Basketball League game. The way that he put the ball in the hoop and his overall play showed that he could go at 'it' once again.

Parker is a former outstanding point and a shooting guard at Newtown High, then the same at the College of Southern Idaho, and for two years, including sitting out for a year according to NCAA requirements, at Fordham University and later on in the NBA 'D' league.

He returned to New York, put on an X-men uniform to the delight of the crowded gym at Baruch College. They were cheering him on to continue to shine in front of them.

He scored 29 points, grabbed six rebounds, and scored five shots from long range out in a 114-111 overtime victory over Dyckman / NYAC in the league opener for both teams.

At press time, with summer break at Baruch College for its students, not many students are aware of this league and how competitive it can be.

"Since we don't have much participation from the student body, we have a lot of 'outside' turnout from all over," said a spokes person from the college. "This league has a loyal following."

There are eight teams in the league with competition Tuesday and Thursday evening with two games an evening, the first one starting at 6:30 pm. It is a round robin league followed by playoffs and a champion-ship game. The first four teams make the playoffs.

Agreement reached on pay

Continued from page 45

term, stable arrangements for player compensation at all levels.

But there seemed to have some confusion, particularly among players, as to the specifics of what had been agreed and how the new compensation structure would operate, and this was recognized as a major contribution factor to the premature termination of the West Indies tour to Indian last October.

According to a WIB release last week, the WICB and WIPA participated by mutual consent in a formal mediation

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process over a period of five days to consider the question of what level of sponsorship funds received by the WICB should international players receive and how that amount should be distributed. The WICB release did not state how the breakdown would go.

In addition to resolving the issue, the WICB and WIPA, the release said that the two parties were able to reach a greater and more consistent understanding of the MoU and CBA by clarifying the underlying agreed principles of player payments for a period of four years.





Associated Press / Chris Brandis



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Tridents defeat Amazon Warriors

Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

The Caribbean Premier League started in flying colors with the Tridents defeating the Guyana Amazon Warriors. The Tridents scored 158 runs for 6 wickets in their 20 overs with captain Kieron Pollard scoring 48 runs from 26 balls. Amazon Warriors fell into early trouble when Lendl Simmons was run out followed by Shivnaine Chanderpaul and West Indies Test captain Denesh Ramdin.



West Indies fast bowler Ravi Rampaul. AP Photo/Chris Brandis) Warriors at this stage were 21 runs for 3 wickets. Brad Hodge scored 26 runs from 24 balls.

The Amazon Warriors were bowled out for 109 runs in 18 overs. This game was played at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. Ravi Rampaul picked up 3 wickets for 16 runs, Robin Petersem 3 for 31 and captain Kieron Pollard 2 wickets for 19 runs.

Teams participating in this year's 2015 Caribbean Premier League are: Barbados Tridents, Jamaica Jallawahs, St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots, St Lucia Zouks, Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel and Guyana Amazon Warriors. This competition which began on June 20 ends on July 26, 2015. Some overseas players participating in this year's CPL are Shahid Afridi, Jacques Kallis, Kevin Pietersen, Jillakaratne Dilshan, Martin Guptill, Shoaib Malik and Daniel Vettori.



Tridents captain Kieron Pollard.

CAN WEST INDIES PLAYERS ENHANCE THEIR GAME?

Are there any genuine benefits gained from the Caribbean Premier League? The purpose of hosting such a tournament should not only be for financial gain but to develop the skills of players. Too much emphasis is on Twenty20 and One-Day Internationals regarding West Indies players.

Test cricket should be the main focus and young players must discipline themselves to learn the necessary aspects leading on to the Test arena. There are many shortcomings and weaknesses in almost every area of Test cricket and there is a need for an overall strategy to get West Indies players fully ready for Test cricket. West Indies cricketers need to look at themselves and correct all their flaws. Batsmen and bowlers must be in the competitive mood because Test cricket is all about top class competitiveness.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton, File



Caribbean Life YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE FOR JUNE 29TH TO JULY 5TH

ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20

Your mood is pleasant and playful this week, Aries. It's a perfect time to plan a social engagement or party at your home. Invite friends and family and have a good time.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21 Taurus, take time to find ways to relax and unwind. This could mean removing yourself from tense or competitive situations for a little while until things calm down.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21 Your imagination is ignited this week, Gemini. This can clear the path for new beginnings. Make sure decisions you make now are centered and empowered. CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, your energy levels are elevated this week. Make the most of this newfound energy by tackling all of those projects you have been putting off.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23

This week brings all sorts of interesting ideas and desires, Leo. There's much to keep you busy, but make sure you don't overdo things. Avoid the urge to stretch yourself too thin.

VIRGO: *Aug 24/Sept 22*

Don't be surprised if your feelings are all over the place this week, Virgo. The week might feel like a roller coaster, but you will feel great by the end of the week **LIBRA:** Sept 23/Oct 23 Libra, an irritating issue seems to fix itself and that is reliaving Remember you do not have to take

that is relieving. Remember, you do not have to take on everything yourself. Plenty of people are willing to lend a hand. **SCORPIO:** Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you have lately been more comfortable with your role in life and your responsibilities. It seems you have everything all together, and others may seek out your advice.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21 Sagittarius, when your imagination is stimulated, there's nothing you cannot accomplish. This may be an interesting week for you, as restless energy has you seeking an outlet. **CAPRICORN:** *Dec 22/Jan 20* Capricorn, you may need to look at a problem from another perspective to find the best solution. Discuss your findings with others and see if they have any suggestions.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18 Take things easy and let your intuition work for you, Aquarius. Financial or business-related projects fall in your lap, and you work through them quite easily.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20 Emotions reach a high after hearing good news this week, Pisces. It's okay to let your guard down a bit around your loved ones.



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