

# Caribbean Life

email: [caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com](mailto:caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com)

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**STEPHEN MARLEY  
TAKES BEST  
REGGAE ALBUM**  
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## U.S. plea for unity in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

The United States has called on all political parties and legislators in Haiti to work closely together in order to avert a political crisis in the French-speaking, earthquake-ravaged Caribbean country.

"Haiti's executive and legislative branches need to rise above their interests and work together in the spirit of compromise to overcome their common challenges," said Susan Rice, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, who led a 15-member delegation of the U.N. Security Council on a visit to Haiti last week, calling on the legislative and executive branches to

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## Caribbean Day at CMA

Haitian master drummer Bonga (left) and his drum troupe will perform at the Children's Museum of the Arts' Caribbean-American Festival on Saturday, March 3 at 103 Charlton St., Manhattan. See page 25.

Photo by John Muggenborg

# CRICKET PROBE WIDENS

## Guyana Exec Under Arrest

By Bert Wilkinson

The Guyana's government's public pledge to dismantle the elected Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) because of alleged

widespread corruption and take over the administration of cricket by installing its Interim Management Committee (IMC)

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Guyana

Guyana Police Commissioner Henry Greene has obtained a temporary injunction from a High Court, blocking police from charging him with rape.

Greene, through his attorneys led by senior counsel Rex Mackay, claimed the director of Public Prosecutions' advice is bad and the woman, who accused him, lacked credibility.

The 57-year-old reportedly admitted to having sex with the accuser, but claimed that it was consensual.

Greene went on leave in December to facilitate the probe. He and the complainant have been questioned by Guyanese and Jamaican investigators.

He also wants the High Court to quash the advice by the DPP because there was insufficient evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction."

Haiti

Haitian President Michel Martelly recently backed off a suggestion from an interview a day earlier that he might be open to a pardon for former dictator Jean Claude Duvalier.

He said he meant only that he wanted and end to the internal conflict that has long afflicted his country.

Martelly, speaking in a radio interview said that he "never proposed to pardon" the dictator known as "Baby Doc," who is under a judicial investigation for crimes committed during his

Continued on page 18



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# Jamaica's republican status on fast track

By Nelson A. King

The newly-elected government of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller in Jamaica has begun initial discussions on the country's transition to republican status, a government statement issued in New York on Feb. 16 said.

The Jamaica Information Service (JIS) said Sandra Falconer, Minister with responsibility for Information, made the disclosure at a press briefing on Wednesday.

"She said the talks are being led by the ministry of justice and the attorney general's department, spearheaded by a ministerial committee, which is to make recommendations to cabinet before talks with the opposition begin," JIS said.



Jamaicas' Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller.

AP Photo/Collin Reid

The statement said the same ministerial committee is spearheading discussions for the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to become Jamaica's final court of appeal.

It said the justice ministry and the attorney general's department are also "playing lead roles in these discussions."

"It was advised that the two matters (Republican status and CCJ) are to be kept separate," Falconer said.

In her inaugural speech in January, Simpson Miller indicated that the government intended to begin the process of removing all ties with the British monarchy in becoming a "truly independent nation."

Currently, under the Jamaican constitution,

the country's head of state is Queen Elizabeth II. The prime minister is formally appointed into office by the governor-general of Jamaica, who represents the Queen.

Simpson Miller also signaled the administration's intention to establish the CCJ in its final appellate jurisdiction and "end judicial surveillance from London."

The CCJ was established as a regional judicial entity, about 11 years ago, to be the final appellate court for member-states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

While Jamaica is a signatory to the establishment of the CCJ, it does not yet use the court, as local cases are still referred to the London-based Privy Council, JIS said.

## CHT continues tax pushback

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHT) is calling on the Caribbean media to maintain pressure on the British government to repeal its controversial Airline Passenger Duty (APD), which, it says is damaging the economies of the region's countries.

CHTA President Joseph Forstmayr of Jamaica contended the tax had reduced the number of British visitors to the Caribbean by some 90,000 a year in contrast to other European countries without such levies.

He said economic damages leveled by the tax on the islands were even more damaging because U.K. visitors stayed between 10 and 14 days in the Caribbean, which was a considerable amount of revenue lost to regional communities and businesses.

Alec Sanguinetti, director general and CEO of CHTA agreed none of the

British government's aid programs in the region approached the value of tourism to local economies.

He called for innovative ways of protesting the punitive U.K. taxes such as slogans on Caribbean athletes competing in the Olympics in London this summer.

Cash-strapped regional airline LIAT lost US\$46 million last year and US\$26 million more than in 2010.

And the airline is considering suing Trinidad and Tobago-owned Caribbean Airlines Ltd (CAL) over "unfair competition" under CARICOM protocols.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, chair of the shareholder governments told news conference in Kingstown that while shareholder governments are committed to keeping the airline afloat and recognizes its necessity and desirability, they would



St. Vincent P.M. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos

have to take some "serious decisions going forward."

Gonsalves, who is also the CARICOM spokesperson on air transportation, said LIAT would seek legal advice on how CAL "is conducting its business by providing subsidies and coming on the routes, competing with us."

"They pay just US\$50 a barrel for aviation fuel. We pay US\$110, \$120. Obviously that can't be correct. I have no problem with CAL coming in our

routes, none whatsoever. The competition is fine but the competition has to be on a level playing field," Gonsalves said.

Gonsalves, along with his Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda counterparts Freundel Stuart and Baldwin Spencer, met recently in Barbados with LIAT's board and management and unions representing the airline's workers.

The meeting mandated Gonsalves to communicate concerns about the fuel subsidy to Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's government, owners of CAL.

"It is our contention that such unfair competition is subversive of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and also of the Common Air Services Agreement in CARICOM and we must address it," the St. Vincent and the Grenadines prime minister said.

## Charting new path in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Haiti's Minister of the Interior, Thierry Mayard-Paul, said on Feb. 14 that his earthquake-ravaged country is charting a new course for sustainable economic development.

"We are focusing our efforts on investment and job creation, particularly in Haiti's heartland," said Mayard-Paul, in articulating the Martelly administration's new vision for Haiti, after meeting in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, with a delegation of the Bureau of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), led by Suriname's President, Desire Delano Bouterse.

"We understand that the key to driving sustainable development in Haiti is to map it throughout our entire nation, and then drive it through local initiatives and decentralized cooperation," he added.

CARICOM leaders were in Haiti this week on a two-day mission "to forge stronger ties and closer cooperation between the 14-member states while exploring ways to strengthen Haiti's participation in the organization," said Haiti's Ministry of the Interior in a statement.

Under discussion was the adoption of French as an official and working language for the organization, it said.

After thanking CARICOM members for their ongoing support of Haiti since the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, Mayard-Paul emphasized that his impoverished, French-speaking Caribbean nation is progressing in its recovery efforts.

"President Martelly's new vision for Haiti is to build a socially just, economically free, and politically independent nation that does not end with reconstruction but, rather, begins with renovation," he said.

"This is aligned with the administration's vision for decentralization and job creation through investment," he added.

"It is clear that what Haitians want and need is (are) jobs that will restore their dignity," continued Mayard-Paul, stating that Haiti offers an "energetic and willing workforce."

## Police raids on media threaten press freedom

PORT OF SPAIN, Feb. 13 - Four months before the island hosts the World Congress of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI), the Trinidad and Tobago government finds itself on the defense in the wake of police raids on two national media houses in six weeks.

Police officers from the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB), a unit within the Office of the Attorney General, swooped down on the *Newsday* newspaper and the home of one its senior political and parliamentary writers, Andre Bagoo, last Thursday.

"Our constitution enshrines the right to a free press as a fundamental human right and the government believes this is vital to our democracy," the 20-month-old coalition People's Partnership government said in a statement after the event.

Police Commissioner Dwayne Gibbs defended the action, noting that police "have a responsibility to uphold the law and conduct their investigations in accordance with that law."

A similar search of a television station occurred on Dec. 29, 2011, prompting IPI, which holds its congress here from June 23-26, to state that "such actions inevitably have a chilling effect on media freedom and we urge the government to take steps to make sure that disproportionate shows of force like this don't become a habit".

"A raid by police on a media house always raises

profound issues of freedom of the press and the permissible scope of government action," said IPI executive director, Alison Bethel McKenzie.

Yet less than two months later, the police descended on *Newsday* and Bagoo's home in search of evidence they said would help identify the person who leaked information for the basis of a story showing discord between the chairman of the Integrity Commission, Ken Gordon, and his deputy, Gladys Gafoor. The police had written to Bagoo on Jan. 20 requesting that he reveal the source of the information.

"It is fundamental to the functioning of a journalist that she or he is able to protect sources of information. Without this, the work of the journalist, particularly the investigative journalist, is fatally impaired," *Newsday's* editor-in-chief, Therese Mills, said in a statement.

Ironically, the call for the police to investigate the leak at the Integrity Commission came from Gordon, a former newspaper publisher who has always promoted himself as a fighter on behalf of press freedom and after whom a school of journalism here has been named.

The Integrity Commission confirmed that it had requested the police investigation, even as it also acknowledged, "A free and independent media is one of the cornerstones of our Constitution and our democracy."

**Continued on page 15**

# Artists uncover the beauty of Church Avenue district

*By Kingsley Dougan*

Church Avenue will have five new colorful and vibrant additions to the neighborhood in Spring 2012.

The Church Avenue Business Improvement District (Church Avenue BID) is pleased to announce the designs selected for Uncover Church Avenue, a public art program to install murals on commercial gates along Church Avenue.

The program engages local artists, residents, children, and merchants to take an active role in deciding the look of their neighborhood.

Uncover Church Avenue received over 50 submissions from artists throughout Brooklyn, including students from Erasmus Hall High School. After months of community voting, brochures distributed, and an exhibition at the Flatbush Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (ending on February 24), when the votes are finally in.

The participating Uncover Church Avenue artists include:

Bruce Zeines for Bonnie Youth Club (1221 Church Ave.), Rudjessy Secours for



**Rudjessy Secours with her design for Richie Rich.**

Photo credit: Church Avenue BID.

Richie Rich (1219 Church Ave), Sherry Ginsberg Davis for Iglesia Pentecostal (1115 Church Ave.) Nu for Children's Corner (1101 Church Ave.) Catherine Rutgers for Drive Time Radio (1111 Church Ave.)

The artists are a mix of local residents: Bruce Zeines, Sherry Ginsberg Davis, and Catherine Rutgers, a newcomer to Church Avenue, Nu and Erasmus Hall High School student Rudjessy Secours.

**Rendering for Children's Corner by artist, NU.**

"This part of Church Avenue is a very interesting zone, with stores on one side and homes on the other," states 20-year resident Catherine Rutgers. "My goal was to enhance a wonderful and complex environment, and bring eye-catching, refreshing brightness to the storefronts."

"The Church Avenue BID applauds the vision of these artists and their commitment towards creating a positive and dynamic streetscape on Church Avenue."

For more information on Uncover Church Avenue, visit [www.uncoverchurchave.wordpress.com](http://www.uncoverchurchave.wordpress.com).

## Grenada plans major homecoming celebrations

*By Nelson A. King*

The Grenada Office of Diaspora Affairs (ODA) says that hundreds of nationals in the Diaspora are expected home during the month of August to participate in a series of activities, including carnival, reunions and the "Grenadian Homecoming."

The ODA said in a statement issued in New York on Feb. 21 that the "Homecoming," which will be held from Aug. 5-18, under the theme, "Engaging Our Communities - Embracing Our Heritage", will

involve returning nationals engaging in community projects, seminars, a youth camp, and a dinner and awards ceremony.

"The 'Homecoming' is the main calendar event for the ODA in 2012, and plans are on-going to create a platform for Grenadian nationals in the Diaspora to return to the island during the month of August and participate in the activities," the statement said.

"We are encouraging Grenadians in the Diaspora to be a part of this

historic homecoming celebrations this year," said Elizabeth Greenidge, permanent secretary in the Grenada Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"This is an opportunity for our nationals who are returning home for the summer to engage in various community activities, and exchanging of ideas through workshops and seminars," she added.

Organisers have also included in the program a public viewing of the Men's 400-meter final on the afternoon of Aug. 6, 2012.

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# Gov't attempt to take over cricket

## Continued from cover

took a new turn over the weekend when local police arrested board secretary Anand Sanasie on suspicion that he was part of an organized ring that sold visas to ordinary Guyanese by passing them off to Western embassies as bona fide cricketers.

Sanasie who was indicted on treason charges by the previous PNC administration more than 20 years ago and is also one of the GCB's representatives on the Antigua-based West Indies Cricket Board, was released by police after hours of questioning on Friday but was told in no uncertain manner that police are now reviewing visa support letters he and board members wrote to the U.S., Canadian and UK embassies years ago to determine how many non-cricketers had profited from the scheme.

Sanasie, a former military officer, is one of Georgetown's leading businessmen. Digicel rents its headquarters building from him, while the elections commission has two of its key offices under lease from Sanasie. It is widely believed that police are acting on the instructions of government in the latest effort to dismantle the board and install its own preferred faces.

In all, investigators say that more than 80 such letters were sent to embassies over the years and some had included people who never properly held a bat or had bowled a ball in any recognized form of cricket. Sanasie has denied the charges.

Police say they are looking at two specific cases that might prove their case. Letters were written for Marvin Munroe and Wasin Haslim as

youngsters who were senior national cricketers but after checks it was easily proved that both were not. Director of Sports and Member of Parliament Neil Kumar was also listed as a match scorer on a team traveling to Canada. Police say this one is also suspicious as well.

Sanasie was due to revisit police headquarters as the work week began. Government has brought in former Guyana and West Indies Captain Clive Lloyd to help lead the charge aimed at "reorganizing cricket in Guyana."

The effort has so far had both some farcical and devastating moments for local cricket as the WICB scrubbed Guyana off the list of venues for the Australia Test match in April and has moved the Guyana team from its local base to Dominica from where it has already

won two of the four-day matches in the annual regional competition. Farcically, the IMC had also named a separate national team

The government putsch is continuing despite the fact that the regional umbrella board has warned that next year's international matches might also be taken away. Lloyd argues that cricket is in the doldrums and he can no longer stand idly by and so he is dedicating time to helping to restructure the game and its chaotic administration in Guyana.

His critics, however, say that he has so far made the fatal mistake of siding with authorities and the IMC instead of placing himself in the middle as a mediator, using the influence, respect and credibility that have been around for years.

# U.S. call to avert a Haitian crisis

## Continued from cover

stop the wrangling.

"The president and prime minister have prioritized investments to create jobs to build a brighter future," she told reporters at the end of the four-day mission to Haiti.

"But we also understand that improvements in the rule of law, in institution building, fighting corruption and removing other barriers to growth are key to attracting and retaining the quality and quantity of investments that Haiti needs," Rice continued.

Other United Nations' diplomats expressed fear about worsening post-carnival political crisis in the impoverished country.

"From what we heard, there is a risk of political confrontation," said Philip Parham, the United Kingdom's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, who was among Security

Ambassadors on the Haiti trip. "Some people think it is really significant.

"One vital ingredient in moving forward is going to be clear and inclusive leadership from the top," he added.

Parham said Haitian legislators have complained about "political differences with the President, with whom the opposition-dominated parliament is at loggerheads.

"It would have been good to hear more of a positive vision for Haiti and the role of the parliamentary leadership in that," he said.

On Feb. 17, Haiti's National Palace blamed "trouble makers" near the Champ de Mars for attacking the president's motorcade.

Reports indicated that President Michel Martelly was hit by a rock but not seriously injured as he walked in a Carnival procession.



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# Ex-Grenada PM George Brizan passes at 69

*By Nelson A. King*

Former Grenada Prime Minister George Brizan, a co-founder of the incumbent National Democratic Congress (NDC), died on Feb. 18 at the General Hospital in St. George's, the Grenada capital, following a prolonged illness. He was 69.

Brizan, an economist and educator in training, was the "Spice Isle's" sixth prime minister since independence, serving for four months in 1995 on the resignation of Nicholas Brathwaite.

His party was defeated by Dr. Keith Mitchell's New National Party (NNP), a successor to another party Brizan formed, the National Democratic Party (NDP).

In 1987, Brizan and former Attorney General Francis Alexis founded the NDC, now led by Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, who returned the party to



**Former Prime Minister  
George I. Brizan**  
Photo courtesy government  
of Grenada

government in 2008 after 13 years in opposition.

Brizan served in the 1990-1995 Brathwaite administration as finance minister and later agriculture minister. He was also minister for trade, industry, production and energy.

In addition, he was a consultant to successive Grenadian governments on economic affairs since the late 1960s, including that of his successor, Prime

Minister Mitchell.

Born George Ignatius Brizan, on Oct. 31, 1942, in the southeastern parish of St. David's, he was educated at Catholic schools, St. Dominic's Primary and Presentation Brothers College.

He was trained at the Grenada Teacher's College, where he earned a certificate in Education from the University of the West Indies before pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies in Canada.

A prolific writer and speaker on Grenadian history, Brizan wrote "Grenada: Island of Conflict", published by Macmillan Caribbean in 1998 and considered a seminal work on a turbulent island's past, from the 17th Century European settlement to the 1983 coup and invasion.

He also wrote "Brave Young Grenadians: Loyal British Subjects."

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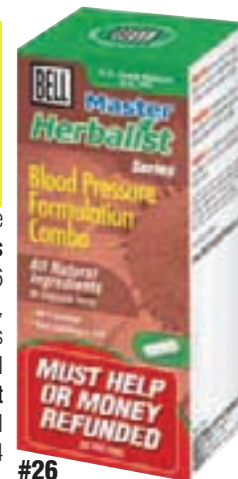
High blood pressure is called the silent killer. If your BP is higher than normal, try to get it down to about 120/80. For many people it is easy to control. If it does not work for you we refund your money. On our website you will find over 50 testimonials with full names and towns from all over USA and Canada. Most of them have listed phone numbers and are happy to talk about the relief they had. No money was paid for testimonials.

**Dr. C. Hammoud M.H., Ph.D.** recommends this effective fish peptide blood pressure natural product. So does **Dr. Julian Whitaker M.D.** ■ **I was on 3 blood pressure drugs** that did not work well. After starting Bell #26 my readings are generally well below 120/80. *Dona A. Anderson, 76, Sooke, BC* ■ **My blood pressure was 157/90** and I had side effects from prescription drugs. I bought a monitor. After 6 months on Bell #26 I was down to 120/80. *Toni L. McCuiston, 52, Elizabethtown, PA* ■ **At work my driver's medical test** was too high at 170/100. After taking Bell #26 for a few days I went down to 128/84 which allowed me to pass my work medical. *Kris Geier, 48, Windsor, ON.* **All products guaranteed to work.**



#14

this. *Deanna O'Neil, 63, Tecumseh, ON.* ■ **I had great success with all Bell health products!** In the last 2 years I had relief with Bell Prostate Ezee Flow Tea, HDL Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Combo and Stem Cell Activator. I love your products. They all work for me. Great results. That's all that matters. *Basil Richards, 49, S.W. Ranches, FL* ■ **20 years of high cholesterol alleviated!** I had high cholesterol for 20 years and drugs didn't agree with me. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 for 6 months I had a check-up and was surprised about the big improvement. I was delighted and extremely happy and so was my doctor. *Norma Hrysis, 65, Lac Du Bonnet, MB.* **We supply TRUE EVIDENCE.**



#26

# Cholesterol Control

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# Stop and Frisk program irks board

By Kenton Kirby

In 2011, in its stop-and-frisk program, the NYPD recorded an all-time high and more than six times the number of stops that occurred in 2002; executing nearly 685,000 stops in 2011.

Records indicate that 85 percent of those stopped were Black and Latino; and only 7 percent of those stops resulted in arrest -- a figure consistent across racial groups.

In a pending lawsuit condemning the NYPD's stop-and-frisk record, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and the Manhattan Borough Board noted that:

\* No gun was found in 99.9 percent of stops;

\* Many of these stops are not based on reasonable suspicion that a crime has or is taking place, but instead rely on dubious grounds such as "furtive movement", which was recently banned as a basis for stops in Philadelphia; and

\* one out of seven arrests New York City are for low-level marijuana possession.

The borough board noted that the stop-and-frisk program costs city taxpayers \$75 million a year in police and court costs; and that many young people are charged with these low-level offenses which do not carry

jail time, but can compromise their chances at securing financial aid, accessing public housing, obtaining gainful employment, and enlisting in the military.

Borough President Scott Stringer and the borough board point to the facts which show that:

~ In 2000, the United States Civil Rights Commission concluded that the NYPD stop-and-frisk program amounted to racial profiling; and,

~ In August 2011, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York found that serious questions remain about racial disparities in current stop-and-frisk practices about the constitutionality of thousands of stops that do not result in arrest; and,

~ Quotas may have a role in driving the four-fold increase in stops over the last decade; and

~ The current stop-and-frisk practice is creating a deep layer of distrust between police and the city's Black and Latino neighborhoods that makes solving crime harder, not easier.

The Manhattan Borough Board seeks redress with immediate resolution of the discriminatory practice, with the NYPD taking steps to reform Stop and Frisk practices immediately in order to address the racial disparities and constitutional concerns, by:

-- Implementation of measures, which may include increasing the accountability for precinct commanders through CompStat

~ New training at the Police Academy to make stops more constitutional and less confrontational;

~ Exploration of proven alternatives to stop-and-frisk, like the "call-in" approach pioneered by John Jay College Prof. David Kennedy, which has reduced violent crime by up to 60 percent in cities such as Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

The Manhattan Borough Board resolution also calls for a partnership between the United States Department of Justice and the NYPD to launch an investigation to determine "how Stop and Frisk is used in New York to determine whether racial profiling remains a problem and, if so, determine what steps should be taken to address such problems and improve the implementation of stop and frisk practices, "including whether the Department of Justice should appoint a special monitor."

Borough President Scott Stringer and the Manhattan Borough Board would like to see passage of legislation pending before the State Legislature making possession of small amounts of marijuana in "public view" a violation, rather than a misdemeanor.

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# The problem with too many political debates

By Lee H. Hamilton

What role should debates have in political campaigning? That's the question being raised by this Republican presidential primary season.

Some prominent Republicans are worried that the nonstop series of GOP debates has done their party more harm than good by showcasing all the differences among the candidates. But others disagree precisely because the debates have given the candidates a chance to air their opinions. "I think they've been the most important primary debates in our history. Certainly the most important I've ever covered," CNN's Wolf Blitzer said on the night of the Florida primary.

The debates' impact on the campaign is interesting, but they raise a larger issue that shouldn't get lost in presidential horse-race coverage. It has to do with how the average voter gets to know a candidate, whether for the presidency or for a seat in Congress — and what we ought to know about a candidate before we make up our minds. Can we devise a political campaign in this country that allows us to get beyond the debates' one-liners, superficial answers and stage-managed images, to an in-depth, wide-open discussion with opportunity for extensive follow-up?

There's no question that debates have some value. Structured properly, they make a candidate put forth his or her ideas, give us a glimpse of how they behave under pressure, and allow us to get a sense of what the candidates — and sometimes the party as a whole — believe the campaign is about.

But there can be too much of a good thing. Preparing for many debates cuts hugely into the time a candidate spends with actual voters (rather than the media who control the debates), listening to their concerns, taking the temperature of the electorate, deepening the campaign's message and building its organization and outreach. It's important for candidates to get to know the electorate in the work place, at diners, in places of worship, at service-club meetings and shopping malls and even political rallies. Debates move the candi-

date toward the television screen and in some important ways away from the voter.

More fundamentally, it's worth asking to what extent debates give voters the information they need to make discriminating choices. You want a politician to be able to think on her feet and to be articulate, of course; agility with both words and ideas is a valuable political skill. But in public officials we want more than a good debater. Debates tend to harden candidates' positions, rewarding indignation and forcefully stated convictions. They show us nothing of a candidate's ability to work toward common ground with people who disagree — which is, of course, the essence of governing. And debates steer candidates away from in-depth exploration of complex issues — witness, for instance, the almost total lack of foreign-policy discussion in the series of GOP presidential debates.

There are ways to handle some of these shortcomings, of course. Debates could benefit from avoiding the one-minute-statement, 30-second-rebuttal format, and instead allow for true discussion in a format that would allow voters to see how the candidates address major issues in reasonable juxtaposition with one another. After all, that's what elected officials have to be able to do — so why not let the electorate see them at it before they get elected?

There are many important qualities that debates do not test: the ability to build consensus, to work with people of differing opinions and backgrounds, to make sound judgments about what's best for the country, to sort through complex issues and arrive at proposals that move the nation forward. These are qualities that voters can gauge only by seeing candidates in action on the stump, by hearing them explain in depth how they would approach our big challenges, and by watching them as they encounter people from all walks of life.

*Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

# Key Brooklyn hospitals under threat of closure

By Celia Weinthrob

Brooklyn's hospitals are in a precarious state. Four of our borough's 16 hospitals are failing and will close if not merged with other, more financially stable ones.

In late January, the New York State Office of Mental Health announced it was closing Kingsboro Psychiatric Center in East Flatbush, taking patients, their families and hospital employees by surprise.

A report issued by Stephen Berger for the NYS Commissioner of Health in November makes four radical suggestions for immediate change. The first is that Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Bushwick and Interfaith Medical Center in Crown Heights would lose their individual identities and integrate with Brooklyn Hospital Center in Fort Greene as the lead entity of the three.

Brooklyn Hospital Center itself emerged from bankruptcy in late 2007. Wyckoff and Interfaith are at risk of imminent financial collapse. Interfaith's expenses are 29 percent higher than its income, according to the NYS Office of Health Systems Management, and many of Wyckoff's former senior leadership and trustees are now being investigated for mismanagement of hospital funds and questionable business practices.

As for the benefits that Brooklyn Hospital Center might gain from this merger, a spokesperson cited the ability to offer increased quality of care while improving efficiency and gaining better revenues for the hospitals.

Second, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in East Flatbush is to absorb Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Canarsie. Brookdale currently has expenses exceeding its income by 10 percent, and restructuring its debt is essential to the success of this merger.

Kingsbrook, with a 1% profit margin, is stronger financially. This integration will increase Kingsbrook's strength

in obstetrics, pediatrics, trauma care, and cardiac catheterization services. Brookdale, in turn, gains access to Kingsbrook's well recognized rehabilitation care and nursing homes.

The report also calls for Kingsboro Psychiatric to close its 290 in-patient beds, an action that was announced on Jan. 31 and will be completed by early March.

Kingsboro Psychiatric is Brooklyn's only long term care facility for the mentally ill. The typical length of stay is 183 days compared with 79 days in mental hospitals statewide. And the institution has had trouble both with patient violence, and two deaths due to delay in receiving medication.

The Kingsboro patients will be moved to South Beach Psychiatric in Staten Island.

SUNY Downstate Medical Center in East Flatbush, which took over Long Island College Hospital (LICH) in Cobble Hill last year, and Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge in 2008, was also targeted in the report.

The fourth recommendation, citing efficiency, calls for SUNY Downstate to consolidate its inpatient services at its LICH campus in Brooklyn Heights, and close its East Flatbush campus, which is across the street from Kings County Hospital and a few blocks away from Kingsbrook Jewish. The report strongly urges no additional expansion at the former Victory site in Bay Ridge.

The Brooklyn Medicare Redesign Team's report states that 30 percent of Brooklyn's 6,400 hospital beds are empty on any given day and should be eliminated. It also states that expanding the availability of preventive medical care is key to reducing the number of costly emergency room visits by Brooklynites with no insurance — people hospitals may not turn away, and to whom treatment must be provided at no cost.

*Celia Weinthrob is publisher of The Brooklyn Paper, a CNG publication.*

Quality-of-care issues at stake in the proposed mergers...

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# A campaign roller-coaster like no other

By Les Slater

There are no apologies needed for a continuing fascination with the Republicans' path to a presidential nominee. There can't be too many nominee selection exercises, if any, over the course of history that can rival this one for such wild swings in the fortunes of would-be standard bearers. It's just amazing, since the process began last year, how many alleged leaders of the pack there have been, and how, with all his resources and the label of presumptive nominee long bestowed on him, Mitt Romney still finds himself unable to formally occupy that anointed space.

Rick Santorum had all the appearance of a footnote to the proceedings as the GOP presidential aspirants got into their free-for-all. For whatever reasons, Santorum has now assumed a position out front in national polls as Republican voters' choice, posing the kind of challenge for Romney that Newt Gingrich did just recently. How does Santorum, beaten quite handily in '06 in his bid to retain his Pennsylvania Senate seat, make this loud noise in going for these big stakes? How does Gingrich, when he surged, do likewise after running a campaign that became a laughing stock, so much so as to cause a mass departure of campaign staff?

All supposedly informed observation points to the non-Romney element in the mix as catalyst for this unseemly voter behavior. Although apparently agreed that of those running, Romney stands the best chance of being competitive against President Obama, Republican voters just don't seem able to get comfortable with the idea of Romney representing their brand. The result of which has been this alphabet soup of contenders being given turns at the helm at any given moment. Rick Perry, Michelle Bachmann, Herman Cain, even Donald Trump early in the game, have enjoyed a taste of the "frontrun-

## Viewpoint

ner" spotlight along the way. You wonder whether those who quit, fearing they had precious little chance of elevation to elite status, like Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman, may not have subsequently come to see their withdrawals as premature, given what uncanny turns have been taken by this roller coaster.

The see-through conservative garb worn by Romney is always where the trail leads. Romney's past, including being governor of Massachusetts where he authored his once much ballyhooed health care reform measure, along with other parts of his profile that don't quite match the true conservative type, has been the big impediment to his closing the deal with Republican primary voters. Romney is right now on the verge of what could be a key indicator for him of what kind of traction he commands among the GOP following. If in Michigan, where he grew up and where his father was once governor, he is bested by Santorum, as currently evidenced in the polls, it would be the kind of body blow that could have serious knockout potential. Adding significantly to his problems in Michigan is that he must defend his opposition to the Obama administration's bailout of the auto industry during the recession's darkest days. The Michigan primary is coming, ironically, right in the midst of euphoria in the American auto worker ranks over news of the industry having rebounded, with handsome profits to show for it. Romney's criticism of the lifeline the administration decided to throw to a sinking Detroit looks now to be big-time electioneering baggage.

In truth, given the lack of core conviction that has come to surround Romney, it won't be all that smart to

bet that he really feels the bailout was flawed policy. In robotic fashion he makes these pretentious anti-Obama utterances, no doubt thinking that at least some portion of his audience buys the stuff, simply because he's the salesman. A fellow running with an air of inevitability about securing the nomination would be given to that kind of swagger. Being waylaid in Michigan, if that comes to pass, would probably bring about somewhat of a change in the strut. Even if he pulls off Michigan, though, Romney's messaging problem there, vis a vis his being on the wrong side of the auto industry bailout issue, is a cautionary tale for the national landscape that he would be well advised not to ignore. Should overall economic news continue to be positive, Romney's pious declarations about Obama being clueless as to how to fix the economy will sound ever more phony to an electorate that apparently already has difficulty giving this guy genuine article status.

In light of all these undulations on the road to the GOP's nominee, what's not going away, and probably gaining even more of a foothold with the rise of the likes of Santorum to frontrunner billing, is talk of someone not in the current bunch coming into the race, who offers a way out of the dilemma facing the party. It's got to be god-awful frustrating to not feel suitably bonded with the fellow thought to have the best shot against an incumbent you desperately want to dethrone, while convinced that others now in the race are all of the bound-to-lose variety. The way it's been going, one wouldn't at all want to foreclose the possibility that there'll be plot surprises up ahead to rival any John Grisham novel.

A roller coaster indeed, have the Republicans fashioned for themselves this campaign season. And, as we've said before, probably not a model they're likely to go for again.

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# Leave legacy of health; not just wealth

By Dr. Rani Whitfield

The current state of our economy has raised questions about whether today's kids will be better or worse off than their parents. But, as a physician and father, I question whether they will be healthy enough to even live longer than their parents.

Today, more physicians than ever are treating children for "adult" diseases like diabetes, hypertension and even heart disease. So, we should be equally concerned about the future of their health as we are about their wealth.

This Black History Month and Heart Health Month, I decided to write an open letter to African American parents, urging you to start a family legacy of good health. The future of our children depends on it.

It's no secret that heart disease, obesity and diabetes are taking a toll on our families and our communities at a rate higher than any other ethnic group in the country. And it is mostly preventable. As a father to a six-year-old, I know "Do as I say, not as I do" doesn't work when kids are watching and mimicking your every move. Therefore, as parents, we have to take the first steps toward building a healthy, active lifestyle for ourselves with hopes that our kids will "do as we do."

Contrary to what you might think, taking those steps doesn't mean cutting out the things you enjoy

## Op-Ed

- doing that can actually lead to weight gain. To be honest, I'm not giving up my favorite foods and beverages, and neither should you. It's really about making better decisions. If you use two sticks of butter in your famous peach cobbler, use one or a healthier butter substitute. If you use salt pork in collard greens, try smoked turkey instead. Or, if you love soda, try a low-or no-calorie version or drink from a smaller cup.

Another problem I often see in my practice is the idea that kids need to "clean their plate." This was once a good rule, but now that we are feeding our children adult-sized portions, it can be dangerous. With my daughter, I allow her to decide when she's full - clean plate or not - because kids are good at saying when they've had enough. So, next time you sit down to dinner, put a little less on your child's plate and listen when they tell you they're full. It might also help you rethink the amount on your plate, too.

Lastly, family time shouldn't only be TV time. Get up and be active together. If your kids are jumping around with their Wii game, join them. If they're playing tag in the backyard, be "it." One thing I love to do with my daughter is dance because it's good exercise

and lets us be silly together. Leaving a legacy of good health doesn't have to be serious and boring, so have fun with it.

This isn't a letter of "shoulda, coulda, wouldas" because I understand food is a cultural and satisfying experience. Rather, it is a challenge for you to take inventory of your family's health habits and make small adjustments that could bring about big changes. Studies show that just a small weight loss can reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and other diseases.

So this month and year round I'm taking a pledge, and I hope you will too: I pledge to leave my daughter with better health habits than the generation before her. I will leave her with less risk for heart disease, diabetes and obesity. I will be active for her and with her. And I will make decisions that set her on the path to good health for the rest of her life.

Good luck creating your family's good health legacy for this generation and the next.

*Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, known best as "The Hip Hop Doc," is a board certified family physician with a private practice in Baton Rouge. He uses hip-hop music to educate teens and young adults on health issues and is a consultant for several organizations including The Coca-Cola Company. He can be reached at [www.h2doc.com](http://www.h2doc.com).*

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## Rare diseases affect millions of Americans

One in 10 Americans is currently affected by a rare disease. For these people, getting properly diagnosed and treated can be a challenge.

Studies have shown it often takes five years or longer to receive an accurate diagnosis of a rare disease, according to the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). And once diagnosed, many patients and families don't know where to turn for treatment or support.

"Nearly 30 million Americans are living with the challenges of a rare disease, but they are underserved and often ignored by the medical system," said Peter Saltonstall, president and CEO of NORD. "Despite the challenges, many people with rare diseases display tremendous courage and strength, living their daily lives with disabling and mysterious symptoms."

To draw attention to rare diseases as an important public health issue, NORD sponsors Rare Disease Day, which is held on the last day of February every year. Details can be found at [RareDiseaseDay.us](http://RareDiseaseDay.us).

In the U.S., any disease affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans is considered rare. According to the National Institutes of Health, there are nearly 7,000 rare diseases, and about 75 percent of them affect children.



Dave Crawford of Dallas knows firsthand the challenges of suffering from a rare disease. For more than 50 years, Crawford suffered from daily mysterious symptoms including red, bumpy skin rashes, fevers, conjunctivitis, headaches, joint swelling and muscle aches. The symptoms often occurred after exposure to cold or damp air, but also flared spontaneously. Crawford's mother, grandmother and great-grandmother had also lived with the same painful symptoms, but never received a diagnosis.

It wasn't until 2010 that Crawford was finally diagnosed with Cryopyrin-Associated Periodic Syndromes (CAPS) -- a group of rare genetic diseases that affect an estimated 300

people in the U.S.

"After suffering from daily symptoms for decades, it was a tremendous relief to get a conclusive diagnosis," said Crawford. "My doctor and I have developed a treatment plan that keeps the inflammation and other symptoms well under control."

"CAPS is a serious and lifelong inflammatory disease that is treatable, but often misdiagnosed or undiagnosed because few physicians are familiar with it, and its symptoms may resemble other illnesses," said Dr. Hal Hoffman, professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at the University of California, a specialist in rare inherited inflammatory disorders whose lab identified the gene responsible for CAPS.

Though rare diseases are often overlooked, it's important to learn your family's health history as many are passed down through generations.

To learn more about CAPS and take a disease questionnaire, visit [CAPSFamilyConnections.com/rare](http://CAPSFamilyConnections.com/rare). If you or someone you love have already been diagnosed with CAPS, share your experience with others at [CAPSConnectUSA.com/rare](http://CAPSConnectUSA.com/rare). Both websites are provided by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

*Courtesy of State Point Media*

## Tips for men to stay healthy as they age

With age comes wisdom. Unfortunately, it also comes with an increased threat of developing certain health problems.

Prostate cancer and other diseases affect a disproportionately large amount of American men. According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF), more than 16 million men are affected by the disease globally, and American men represent nearly 2.5 million of that figure.

Given these statistics, American men should be especially vigilant about their health. With a few lifestyle tweaks and attitude adjustments, you can help stay healthy as you age.

### Eat Right

If you've eaten a particular way your whole life, you might find it difficult to change. But cutting out the junk in favor of fruits, vegetables and whole grains is well worth the effort. Not only will you look and feel better, certain foods have even been proven to reduce your risk of developing diseases like prostate cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes.

Opt for fish over red meat. Evidence from several studies suggests that fish can help protect against prostate cancer because it contains "good

fat," particularly omega-3 fatty acids. Choose olive oil over margarine. While monounsaturated fat found in olive oil is beneficial to health, trans-fatty acids contained in margarine contribute to clogged arteries, high cholesterol and an increased risk of stroke and heart attack.

A free nutrition guide and tasty recipes are available at [www.pcf.org/nutrition](http://www.pcf.org/nutrition).

### Stay Active

A sedentary lifestyle contributes to your risk of obesity, heart disease and cancer. You don't need to become a marathon runner, however, to experience benefits from a more active lifestyle. Start with what you can handle, like a 20-minute walk once a day. If you have bad joints, consider a low impact activity like swimming.

### Get Checked

While it's always important to be open with your physician about your health and your family's health history, starting at age 40 it becomes crucial. The older you are, the more likely you are to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and other diseases. In fact, more than 65 percent of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over the age of 65, according to PCF.



Your doctor can help you determine your risk of developing various diseases, and make recommendations accordingly. Regular doctor's visits are also an important component of early diagnosis. While these tests may not be fun, they can save your life. If you have a history of prostate cancer in your family, consider a yearly rectal examination and a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test starting in your forties, or even earlier if your doctor recommends it.

Broader awareness and understanding of the health risks associated with aging can save lives. So don't shy away from talking to your friends and family about your health, and theirs.

*Courtesy of State Point Media*



## Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

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

## The Ancient Chinese concept of Yin-Yang

The Chinese speak of "Yin-Yang" as opposing but complementary forces present throughout nature. Urologically, this concept can also be applied to urination as being a balance of opposing forces.

First are the forces that help you to urinate and the second, those that hold back urine giving you control to avoid wetting yourself. Increases in the forces that help urination such as stronger contraction of the bladder or abdominal muscles would result in a more forceful urinary flow. This is because the bladder lies within the abdomen so any increase in abdominal pressure is reflected as an increase in bladder pressure. An increase of forces holding back urination results in a weaker flow. When the urologist wants to be sure that the patient's symptoms are coming from an enlarged or

obstructive prostate, the "Urodynamic Study" is done. This permits demonstration of an abnormally high bladder pressure during urination caused by an increased force of contraction of the bladder muscle itself. That is the hallmark of the obstructive prostate.

The set of forces that tend to hold back the urine are of two types. First is the result of a mechanical obstruction or narrowing to the outflow of urine, such as might be caused by an enlarged prostate or by a stricture or narrowing in the urethra. Strictures can occur anywhere in the urethra from the tip of the penis right up to the bladder neck where the prostate connects to the bladder. They are usually the result of scarification from trau-

ma or past infections.

The second type of force that retains urine and results in a slow and weak urinary stream is the type that weakens the force of the bladder contractions. These may be caused by some abnormality of the central and/or peripheral nervous system resulting in a weak-walled bladder.

Another common cause of a weak bladder can be an obstructive prostate. In the beginning, the bladder muscle gets stronger and stronger as it struggles to overcome the prostate obstruction. Eventually, if the obstruction is not relieved, the bladder muscle will fail just as the heart muscle can fail when it is over worked and the result is a weak bladder no longer able to contract efficiently. The consequence of course is a thin weak urinary stream.

Treatment for the obstructive prostate has changed over the years. Catheterization was replaced by surgery and surgery is now largely being replaced by medications, which can shrink the size of the prostate and relax the muscles within the gland. This diminishes resistance to the flow of urine through the prostatic pathway and improves the "Yin and Yang" of flow. Not everyone however can tolerate the possible side effects or drug interactions of these medications and for these men, a "Microwave" treatment of the prostate may be ideally suited to relieve their symptoms without surgery or never-ending medication.

*Question? Call Dr. Okun at 718-241-6767*

# Police raids

Continued from page 3

But the Gordon-led Commission said that while it had "been forced to request a police investigation", it was "not in a position to direct the manner of this investigation".

Even Attorney General Anand Ramlogan sought to distance his office from the police action, saying that he viewed any continued connection between the ACIB and his office as "an embarrassment".

He described the search and seizure of material by the ACIB from the newspaper and the reporter's home as "unexplained" and "dramatic", adding that while the ACIB was listed as being under his portfolio, he has "no jurisdiction whatsoever over this entity".

He insisted that he only became aware of the police action after it was reported in the media.

But Newsday remained unconvinced. A recent editorial titled "Police State" asked, "To whom is the ACIB accountable for its actions?"

The Express newspaper, a sister company of the television station searched by the police, said in its editorial that "the search and seize operations at Newsday confirmed that last December's lockdown of TV6 had been no aberration".

"Trinidad and Tobago has somehow entered into a dread new reality," the editorial warned, adding "until now, it had never been the case that media houses and media personnel could feel themselves directly threatened by coercive arms of the State".

## Condemning a growing threat

The regional media organisation, the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM), said it was "not comforted by government claims of ignorance". It called on the administration of Kamla Persad Bissessar "to clearly state its specific position on the actions of this arm of the national security infrastructure".

The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago

(MATT) suggested that the "incident appears to be part of a developing pattern of intimidatory tactics being adopted by the police service in dealing with the media". It also mentioned the country's recent downgrade by Reporters Without Borders, an international watchdog agency, in its press freedom index.

"The overt or covert police intimidation of journalists must not be ignored," warned the Jamaica Press Association, the region's oldest media grouping.

Opposition Leader Dr. Keith Rowley, who said the police had been "hopelessly misguided", warned, "If this is allowed to become an acceptable way of doing investigations in this country then the very essential freedom of the press which is enshrined in our Constitution, will be effectively destroyed."

Stung by the open criticism, the Persad Bissessar administration, which came to power promising transparency and open government, "reaffirm(ed) its deep commitment to the protection and preservation of the independence and freedom of the media".

"We believe in the open access of information to journalists rather than obstruction of the process," the government said, calling the relationship between a reporter and his or her source "privileged and sacred" and claiming, "Police intervention can only be justified in extreme situations".

The Congress of the People party, part of the coalition government, said it had given Police Commissioner Gibbs a 24-hour deadline to investigate the matter and make public his findings.

But as Assistant Commissioner of Police Fitzroy Frederick said on a radio program Sunday, the police do not report to politicians.

"Just as freedom of the press is enshrined in the Constitution, the police also have a constitutional role... Nobody could tell the police really what to do," he said. (IPS/GIN)

# 'Mama P' faces prejudice, economic challenges

By *Zadie Neufville*

KINGSTON, Jan. 25 - Running on promises of job creation, economic growth and wider stakeholder consultations, Jamaica's most popular politician and the country's first female prime minister Portia Simpson Miller swept to power in a victory almost no one had predicted.

It is Simpson Miller's second time as head of government. The first began in February 2006 after two very brutal bat-

tles for the leadership of the People's National Party (PNP) to replace a retiring Percival Patterson.

A veteran of representational politics for close to 38 years, Simpson Miller, affectionately called Mama or Sista P, ran on a "People Power" platform and was confident of a win.

If most were stunned by the PNP's victory, they were even more amazed by the margin - 42 to 21 seats - and the many incorrect polls and analyses. Even Don Anderson,

the single pollster predicting a PNP win, had not envisioned the margin of victory.

Despite baggage of corruption and the Dudus Coke affair, the 39-year old Andrew Holness tried to embody a new beginning for the scandal-plagued Jamaica Labor Party (JLP).

For some, the JLP's re-election bid revealed the class prejudice and gender biases that continue to simmer in Jamaican society. Many voters,

like Gloria Clarke, view Simpson Miller's win as a triumph for poor black women "who work hard to send their children to school."

She epitomises the aspirations of poor Jamaicans - a young country girl who moved to inner city Kingston and who made history by reaching the highest office. Her combative but passionate style is an affront to the island's upper classes, but endears Sista P to most ordinary islanders.

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# McCall receives first MLK leadership award

By Nelson A. King

Former State Comptroller and erstwhile gubernatorial candidate, H. Carl McCall, has received SUNY Downstate Medical Center's first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award.

The medical center and University Hospital of Brooklyn bestowed the prestigious award on McCall, the current chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees, at a special ceremony in commemoration of Martin Luther King Day, on Jan. 12.

The award, sponsored by the medical center's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, recognizes individuals who have an "exemplary record of service in government, business, and education, and who have a distinguished record in molding consensus to shape solutions to important societal challenges."

"It's a privilege to share this celebration of the life and dream of Dr. King with men and women who are



H. Carl McCall with Downstate Hospital CEO Debra Carey (right) and ophthalmologist Dr. Monica Dweck.

Photo by Nelson A. King

in many ways caretakers of his legacy;" McCall said at a recent SUNY Downstate ceremony in his honor attended by President Dr. John LaRosa, hospital CEO Debra Carey and Kevin Antoine, Esq., chief diversity officer.

"Dr. King implored all of us to uplift the least of us. He saw poverty and social inequality not as inevitable consequences of free market conventions but as blights on the American soul, matters of simple jus-

tice," McCall added.

"Decades after his passing, the impact of poverty and inequality are sharply painfully apart in all facets of American life, especially when it comes to issues of health. It is healthcare professionals like you, and community institutions like SUNY Downstate that are working to fill an urgent need," he continued.

"Yes, Dr. King's dream lives here at SUNY Downstate. So it means a great deal for me to be

recognized by those who exemplify this compassion to good healthcare," McCall said.

In telling his audience "something about Dr. King and his influence" on him, on Downstate Medical Center, "and what he did for so many of us," McCall said it was an event that ended up on the front page of the New York Times on July 23, 1963.

He said he and 200 picketers were arrested that day in a demonstration, at Downstate Medical Center, for minority jobs.

McCall said then Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who created the SUNY system, "was putting a lot of money to the development and the expansion of the system.

"He committed millions of dollars to the construction of new facilities here at Downstate Medical Center. Maybe, this building we're in today was one of those," he said.

"The problem was that spending millions of taxpayer dollars, right here

in Brooklyn, in the midst of a minority community, there was not one African-American or Latino worker on the site here at Downstate Medical Center," he added.

"So a group of people from a group called Brooklyn CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality), they came here and they demonstrated. They picketed, they walked around with signs saying we want jobs, we want economic opportunity. Nobody paid any attention," he added.

"So, they reached out to the ministers and asked the ministers to come and help. So I was the person who had to bring together the ministers. So I gathered some ministers, we came here, and we walked around and we picketed, and we had signs. We said we want jobs, nobody paid any attention.

"So that night, we had a meeting at Bethany Baptist Church, and we said, 'What shall we do to have some impact to

make some change here?' and we talked about the things that Martin Luther King and other ministers were doing in the South," continued McCall to rapt attention.

"So we came back the next day, on the 23rd of June and, instead of walking around and picketing, we sat down. We sat down in the entrance to this construction site. We didn't let any trucks in. We didn't let any workers in. We stopped the work. We said, 'If we can't work here, nobody's going to work here,' he said. "So the police came, they picked us up. They arrested 200 people. The largest mass arrest they had in years, and we went off to jail. I went off to jail. But we felt that's what we had to do."

As a result, McCall said, in "a couple of days," Gov. Rockefeller called and said "Let's sit down and talk."

After meeting with the governor, McCall said: "Immediately some people were put to work here."

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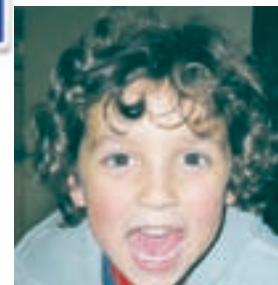
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Continued from page 2

brutal 15-year rule in the 1970s and 1980s. The judge is expected to rule soon on whether Duvalier will face trial on corruption charges and human rights charges.

## Jamaica

More than 2,000 firearms were melted down in a blazing furnace recently to combat gun trafficking and corruption in Jamaica while reducing violent crime.

Police, government and U.N. officials destroyed pistols and revolvers by putting them into a kiln glowing bright orange at a cement factory in the capital Kingston. Most of the guns were decommissioned or seized in police operations over the years.

National Security Minister Peter Bunting, who has been in office for just over a month, said the destruction of the weapons is an important step towards managing the sizeable stockpiles of guns in Jamaica and reduc-

ing the risk of theft.

## St. Kitts

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas has stated that the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) is looking for redress from the Trinidad and Tobago government over the fallout from the collapses of CLICO and British-American Insurance Company (BAICO).

He spoke at a recent press conference in St. Kitts. Douglas revealed that the ECCU continues to seek financial relief from the government of Trinidad and Tobago, both in support of policy holders as well as in support of regional institutions whose investments in British-American Insurance Company (BAICO) now pose a risk to the member countries.

He noted that a Health Insurance Fund was in place for most of last year in order to assist affected BAICO health insurance policy holders.

Douglas, who is also the minister of finance said the complex and high technical undertaking of recapitalizing and selling BAICO is now underway.

## St. Kitts

Prime Minister Denzil Douglas said law enforcement officials in St. Kitts and Nevis will continue to be exposed to advanced training from regional and international agencies as an important part of government's anti-crime strategy.

He said over the past three years, approximately 60 security professionals have received training in various disciplines such as maritime repair, civil aviation security, trafficking and border security as well as forensic and financial crimes investigations.

In 2011, 40 police and Defense Force officers explored techniques of crime scene management during training provided by the United States

Embassy Force Protection Detachment Program in collaboration with the U.S. Naval Investigative Service, he said.

Douglas said four officers from the Financial Intelligence Unit received training in financial investigation, money laundering and intelligence gathering. The course was facilitated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

## Trinidad

The Trinidad and Tobago government is pumping TT\$100 million for Carnival 2012.

This was revealed by Arts and Multiculturalism Minister Winston "Gypsy" Peters, who told a post-Cabinet news briefing at the Diplomatic Centre, Port of Spain recently that Cabinet approved an additional TT\$53 million to supplement the \$45 million, which was previously allocated for the event, dubbed the "Greatest Show on Earth."

Peters said since last year there had been a "marked improvement" in the facilities being constructed for the Carnival events.

He said Carnival was big business and the government was attempting to do all it could to ensure this year's celebrations were the best.

Peters said state-owned airline CAL, had confirmed bookings for 220, 000 visitors coming for the celebration, which culminate with two days of masquerade, on Feb. 20 and 21, at venues across the country.

The government has allocated a total of TT\$13 million for the International Soca and Chutney Monarchs competition.

## Trinidad

Former Prime Minister Patrick Manning is now in Washington USA hospital undergoing treatment for a stroke he suffered recently.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said the

government has approved \$91,000 to pay for an air ambulance to transport Manning to the prestigious Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington DC for additional medical treatment for the stroke he suffered recently.

She said a request was received from the family of Manning, asking that the ailing 65-year-old San Fernando East MP be sent overseas to receive additional medical treatment.

Manning was hospitalized at the San Fernando General Hospital since he suffered the stroke on Jan. 23. He was initially warded at the hospital's intensive care unit before being transferred to its high dependency unit.

Walter Reed General Hospital was established in 1909 and is regarded as the U.S. Army's flagship medical centre.

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Compiled by Azad Ali

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# APTS AVAILABLE	APARTMENT TYPE	MONTHLY RENT	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	TOTAL GROSS ANNUAL INCOME RANGE MINIMUM-MAXIMUM
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4	1 Bedroom	\$564	1 2	\$21,325 - \$23,240 \$21,325 - \$26,560
2	2 Bedroom	\$688	2 3 4	\$25,611 - \$26,560 \$25,611 - \$29,880 \$25,611 - \$33,200

**Note:** Apartment Type Subject to Occupancy Criteria. Rent Includes Gas for Cooking and Heating. Rents and Income Requirements Subject to Change.

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Completed applications must be returned by **regular mail only** (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box that will be listed on the application, and **must be postmarked by April 14, 2012**. Applications postmarked after April 14, 2012 will be set aside for possible future consideration.

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# Weekes to be recognized

*By Jeremiah Hyacinth*

The legendary St. Lucian artiste and philanthropist Taj Weekes has been selected for the St. Lucia House Foundation's Humanitarian Award for his selflessness and dedicated humanitarian efforts.

Weekes will receive this prestigious award at the 33rd Anniversary of Independence Gala scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Grand Prospect Hall, located at 263 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

A release from the Foundation states that it is honored to recognize Weekes, who is one of island's most creative musical artistes. He has inspired many through his artistic and humanitarian endeavors.

In 2007, Weekes founded a charity—They Often Cry Outreach (TOCO)—aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged Caribbean children through a variety of sports, health, and enrichment programs.

Weekes was named a Goodwill Ambassador by the International Consortium of



**Taj Weekes.** By Sarah Scott

Caribbean Professionals and recognized by a division of the United Nations. Through his music, Weekes addresses several crucial issues, including global warming, casualties of war, domestic and youth violence, diabetes and health, poverty, and the welfare of children.

In 2011, the internationally celebrated artiste returned home to participate in the World-Renowned Saint Lucia Jazz Festival for the first time. Later that year, TOCO collected generous donations of balls, uniforms, shoes, socks, and gear, as well as money to fund its mission trips. TOCO also collected 5000 shoe donations from various elementary schools. The shoes were

sent to Haiti as earthquake recovery aid. In addition to their annual collection of soccer equipment, TOCO has expanded its program to include an annual toy drive and educational workshops.

In December 2011, Weekes returned to St. Lucia to launch TOCO's First Annual Holiday Toy Drive, distributing toys to children in need and feeding the elderly at community center in Castries, Saint Lucia. In 2012, TOCO plans to expand to other Caribbean islands, with stops in Trinidad, Tobago, and Haiti; the group also plans a lecture tour targeting high schools and colleges across the Caribbean.

The upcoming Independence Gala marks the end of activities in New York to celebrate St. Lucia's 33rd Anniversary of Independence from Great Britain. The activities were organized by the Saint Lucia House Foundation, an umbrella group of St. Lucian organizations based in New York City, Connecticut, and New Jersey in collaboration with the St. Lucia Consulate General in New York.



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# Trinidad & Tobago thespian Sullivan Walker passes

*By Vinette K. Pryce*

Caribbean nationals residing in Brooklyn will not soon forget Sullivan Walker. He epitomized the federation West Indians imagined if all the countries in the region had united under one banner instead of branching off to seek independence.

Walker not only imagined a united Caribbean force but presided over a theater company that boasted casts of rainbow Caribbean actors to stage performances he defined as Caribbean Experience Theater.

Born in a place called Success Village, Laventille, the Trinidad & Tobago native arrived here in 1969 after placing third in a contest.

According to the Trinidad Express his prize was a trip to the United States.

He used that opportunity to stake a claim for promot-

ing his native T&T theatre and remained here.

By the 1980's, Walker was packing in crowds to Flatbush where his plays attracted scores of Caribbean nationals.

He established his own theater company and on any given weekend would adorn the Ozone Layer with white balloons, incorporate music and dance to present his story telling episodes of life in T&T.

Walker's most telling skit described his "Boy Days." How he stole condensed milk; tried to conceal his mischief by adding water to the thick, sugary sweetener.

Regardless of which Caribbean nation patrons called home, most related to that childhood prank.

He was seriously comedic.

His interpretation of 'love in a cemetery' was not only classic but downright scary.

The riveting tale seemed rapturous and sexy until the end when Walker revealed the entire romantic rendezvous to be one with a ghost.

Later that decade, television audiences found out about the Brooklyn resident when he joined the cast of the "The Cosby Show."

From 1988 to 1991 Walker portrayed Dr. James Harmon, a friend and physician to Cosby's character, Dr. Cliff Huxtable.

Hollywood sought him for guest appearances on "The Pretenders," "The Sentinel," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," and movies "Crocodile Dundee" and "Get Rich or Die Trying."

He made regular appearances on situation comedy shows: "The Jamie Foxx Show" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air."

He was also the principal character in the series "Where I Live."

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# Houston: Model, singer, actress, superstar

When Whitney Houston made an early morning appearance in Central Park three years ago, she repeated an act her mother Cissy initiated by introducing her to a Manhattan crowd at a time she was an unknown teenager.

The summer of 2009, the acclaimed queen of pop brought her 16-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina onstage the Rumsey Playfield where Good Morning America presented a live, televised concert and after introducing her only child, together they sang to cheers from an adoring audience.

Houston's mother Cissy, a gospel singer had made a similar gesture in 1983 at a Manhattan club/restaurant known as Sweetwater's. Although her 19-year-old daughter was a burgeoning model and already a cover girl selling '17 Magazine,' the soulful singer boosted the career of her only daughter by taking her onstage for a club debut.

Whitney was not shy to crowds, she had been singing in front of congregations at her Newark, New Jersey Baptist church. There she built a reputation as a phenomenon.

What patrons to the west side, popular night spot may



**Whitney Houston (right) and daughter Bobbi Kristina in Central Park in 2009.** Photo by Chris Griffith



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

not have known then was that Clive Davis, the president of Arista Records was also in the audience.

After handing the microphone to her daughter, Cissy watched as crowds erupted into applause after her daughter sang a song of choice. Soon after that occasion, the young, New Jersey native emerged a recording artist and a voice the world would reckon.

After the release of her first album, the world became aware that Whitney had family ties to the music industry.

In addition to her talented mother, Whitney's cousins Dee Dee and Dionne Warwick, and godmother, Aretha Franklin, the acclaimed queen of soul virtually ushered and guaranteed her success in the music industry.

But Whitney's unique and superlative range and register seemed more than enough to propel her career to meteoric rise that placed in her the Guinness Book of Records as the most successful and awarded artist of all times.

Nominated 26 times for the prestigious Grammy awards, she owns six.

She quickly amassed 512 nominations and a collection of 415 awards.

Houston's 99 RIAA awards, 30 Billboard Awards, 22 American Music Awards, 16 NAACP awards, 7 Soul Train awards, six people's choice awards, two Emmys, and numerous humanitarian honors related to fostering

quality education and performing arts are too numerous to count.

She is the only artist to chart seven consecutive number one hits.

She starred in films – "The Bodyguard," "The Preacher's Wife," "Waiting To Exhale" and "Cinderella." Houston died in Los Angeles, California on the eve of the music industry's biggest awards night.

She died Feb. 11 in California, on the eve of the Grammy awards.

She was 48.

## Jamaica's Bacchanal Carnival Begins

An entire season of carnival was recently launched in Kingston to celebrate Jamaica's 50th Anniversary of Independence and the revelry of its people. Until April, an action-packed schedule of cultural festivities will move from parish to parish to incorporate an all-island season of celebration. A series of high-energy events are now taking place across the island and features live entertainment from popular soca and dancehall performers from the Caribbean. A kick-off began recently in the capital city of Kingston and will culminate there in April.

Already the city is being transformed into a mecca of entertainment with costumed parades, colorful floats, and the pulsating sounds of soca, reggae, and calypso music.

"The Carnival season is a celebratory time when visitors and locals alike take part in Jamaican-style festivals," John Lynch, Jamaica's Director of Tourism said. "As we commemorate our 50th Anniversary of Independence this year, this carnival season takes on special significance in also honoring our heritage."

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*'The documentary, Undeclared isn't just about football exploits but also of bonafide cases of quality character.'*

Kam Williams – Page 27

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## Caribbean Day at the CMA

By Tequila Minsky

Immersing yourself in the Caribbean spirit through arts is a wonderful way for the family to warm up an early March afternoon.

For the second year, in what will probably be an annual event, the Children's Museum of the Arts (CMA) is having its Caribbean Day when the museum will gear all art activities toward art traditions from the Caribbean. The day will draw special attention to Haitian arts.

From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, CMA's light-infused brand-new location will offer opportunities for children to use a variety of art media while CMA's teaching artist staff will be creating several fine arts and media lab

Continued on next page



This art work is on the wall of the CMA gallery created by public artist Caledonia Dance Curry, AKA Swoon. Her public art can be seen in the streets of Brooklyn.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

## Mr. Fantastic takes Carnival's top honors

By Azad Ali

Soca superstar Machel Montano scored a double when he took the International Power Soca Monarch and the Groovy Soca Monarch titles on Fantastic Friday night at the Hasley Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain.

He sealed the victory in the Power Soca Monarch with his road march contender "Pump Yuh Flag" to take TT\$2 million, the most lucrative prize at this year's Carnival.

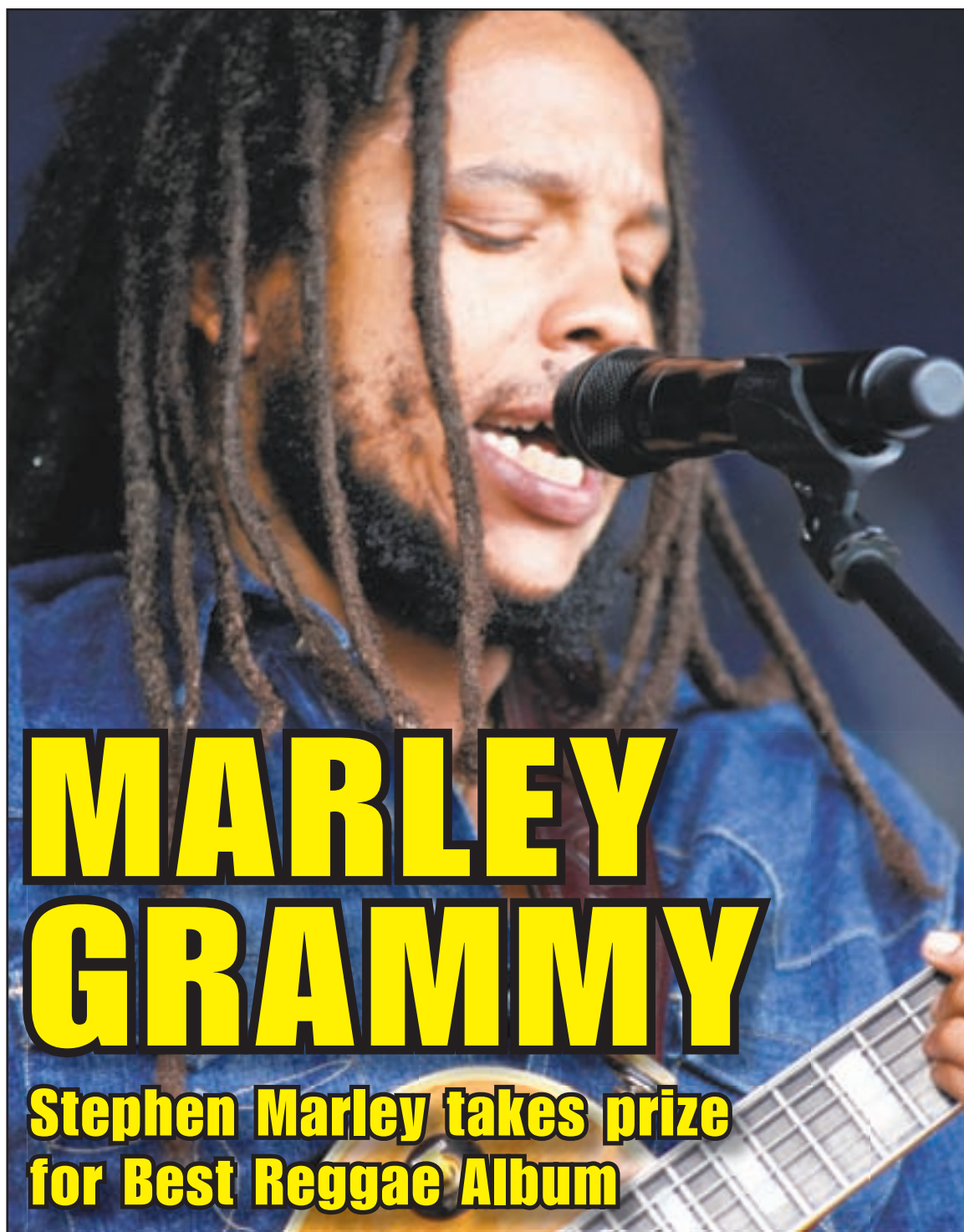
He will cash in TT\$500,000 for winning the Groovy category with his performance of "Mr Fete."

Continued on next page



In this file photo singers Machel Montano, right, and Allyson Hinds perform at the Trelawny Stadium, Jamaica.

AP Photo/Andres Leighton



**Stephen Marley takes prize for Best Reggae Album**

By Vinette K. Pryce

Perhaps it was less than a surprise when Bob and Rita Marley's youngest son Stephen took the Best Reggae Album category at the recent Grammy awards.

Annual predictions often sub-

mit to a notion that in any given year any nominated Marley will be favored by voting music insiders at the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

The six-time Grammy winner won this time for his CD "Revelation

Pt. 1 – The Root Of Life."

The recording won over Monty Alexander's "Harlem – Kingston Express Live;" Israel Vibration "Reggae Knights;" Shaggy – "Summer In Kingston" and "Wild

Continued on next page

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Set Fire To The Rain**  
Adele
- 2 **We Found Love**  
Rihanna Feat. Calvin Harris
- 3 **Good Feeling**  
Flo Rida
- 4 **It Will Rain**  
Bruno Mars
- 5 **The One That Got Away**  
Katy Perry
- 6 **Domino**  
Jessie J
- 7 **Stronger**  
Kelly Clarkson
- 8 **Turn Me On**  
David Guetta Feat. Nicki Minaj
- 9 **International Love**  
Pitbull Feat. Chris Brown
- 10 **Ni\*\*as in Paris**  
Jay Z Knaye West

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **21**  
Adele
- 2 **Whitney: The Greatest Hits**  
Whitney Houston
- 3 **Scars & Stories**  
The Fray
- 4 **A Different Kind of Truth**  
Van Halen
- 5 **Kisses On The Bottom**  
Paul McCartney
- 6 **Mylo Xyloto**  
Coldplay
- 7 **Home**  
Dierks Bentley
- 8 **Born To Die**  
Lana Del Rey
- 9 **Stronger**  
Kelly Clarkson
- 10 **19**  
Adele

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Stephen Marley, performs during a tribute to Paul Simon in Washington.  
AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

## Winning Marley ways

Continued from previous page

& Free” by his big brother Ziggy Marley from the same parents.

The most-winning member of the Marley family previously won as a solo artiste in 2008 with “Mind Control” and again in 2010 for the acoustic version of the same album. He also shared success collaborating with his siblings who recorded as Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers.

The family group triumphed with “Conscious Party” in 1989, “One Bright Day” the year after and again in 1998 for their recording of “Fallen Is Babylon.”

He leads in winning the most Grammy awards in the sole category dedicated to the Jamaica-popularized beat.

Ziggy has won five Grammy awards while the youngest of the Marley recording clan, Damian AKA ‘Junior Gong’ follows behind with three.

Damian is the only reggae artist to win two Grammy awards on the same night.

In addition to scoring a win in the reggae category in 2006 for his mega-hit “Welcome to Jamrock,” Damian also won in the best urban/alternative performance category for the same track.

It should be noted that every son of Bob Marley who pursued a career in music has been nominated for a Grammy award.

Other Marley off-springs to be nominated include Julian and Ky-Mani.

Kymani was nominated in 2001 for his “Many More Roads” but lost to his younger brother Damian’s “Half-way-

Tree.”

Julian’s “Awake” CD lost out in 2010 when his brother Stephen won for his acoustic follow-up to “Mind Control.”

Brothers Robert and Rohan Marley bypassed the entertainment industry to pursue unrelated careers.

In another category, British singer Corinne Bailey Rae won another Grammy for her interpretation of Bob Marley’s “Is This Love.”

She took the miniature, gold, gramophone in the best rhythm and blues performance category beating Charlie Wilson, Ledisi, Kelly Price & Stokely and Marsha Ambrosius.

The Marley name has been associated with winning recordings for several recording artists.

Bunny Wailer, who as a member of the Bob Marley’s Wailing Wailers began his music career as a member of the trio with Peter Tosh, is the recipient of three Grammy awards.

Two are tributes to his time-honored, legendary collaborator.

In 1990, he won for “Time Will Tell: A Tribute To Bob Marley” and six years later he scored again with “Hall of Fame: A Tribute to Bob Marley.”

The acclaimed king of reggae did not win a Grammy award in his lifetime.

He died May 11, 1981 before a reggae category was established.

However, in 2001 Bob Marley received a posthumous lifetime achievement honor from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, presenters of the Grammy awards.

## Machel Montano tops 'em

Continued from previous page

Dressed in gold, Montano appeared on stage pulled in a chariot accompanied by comedienne Rachael Price who he said was his Mrs. Fete.

Also taking the stage during his presentation was mas man Peter Minshall’s “Tan Tan” and “Sagaboy” who Montano referred to as Mr and Mrs Fete.

Iwer George for the second year running had to settle for second place in the Power category. Destra Garcia placed

third. Kees Dieffenthaler, who won the Groovy category last year placed fifth with his rendition “Stress Away.”

And on Carnival Saturday night Neal & Massy All Stars retained its National Panorama title at the Queen’s Park Savannah, Port of Spain with its rendition of Leon “Smooth” Edwards arrangement of “Play Your Self.”

Playing in sixth position the defending champions were confident they would retain their title.

## Children’s Day at the museum

Continued from previous page  
workshops that highlight traditional Caribbean arts. Workshop rooms for painting, clay, multi-media, and music-making provide comfortable working space; the museum provides the materials. Noise is not discouraged.

During the year, teaching artists went to PS 115 in Canarsie and worked with the children to create an animated film sharing traditions and their Caribbean heritage. Their children-made film will screen at noon, kicking off the Caribbean Day programming.

The spacious gallery, hub of the new art-making center, is where returning Haitian master drummer Bonga will perform his traditional drumming, song and dance starting at 1:00 p.m. Bonga always brings a large array of percussion instruments for children to use—rattles and drums, small bells, a cowbell, and rhythm sticks. Kids and parents will accompany him. His dancer adds color and movement to the engaging rhythms and melodies.

In the fine arts studio, children will have a chance to make puppets and backdrops, starting at 1:00 p.m. with puppet maker Boo followed by the realm of storyteller Lily Cerat who paints pictures in words for the imagination as she shares tales from her childhood.

Meanwhile, children can explore all the creative centers at CMA as the artist-led workshops help students recreate Caribbean arts.

The techniques the Museum explores with children are as broad as the history of art itself. They include exploring color, recycled object sculpture, the grid for painting like artist Chuck Close, silhouettes, collaborative sculpture, pointillism, pop up books, monochromatic drawing, earthenware clay, wearable art, twigs and plaster, mask making, papier-mâché, ink blots, and more. Many of these will be used on Caribbean Day.

The Children’s Museum of the Arts officially opened its new location – 103 Charleton St., one block below Houston between Hudson and Greenwich, in October to much fanfare. A record crowd with parents and children from all the boroughs attended.

The fee for entrance on Caribbean Day is \$10 per person—adults and children. Infants and seniors are free.

This new space for creativity is a configuration of art labs and studios, a media lab, and clay room. Much fun is to be had here. There are morning classes for children under age five and semester-long after-school classes. On Thursday afternoons, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., the fee is “pay as you wish.” For more info: <http://cmany.org>.



Young children enjoy working with clay in the workshop room.  
Photo by Tequila Minsky

# Football coach finds winning formula

**"Undefeated"**  
 Excellent (4 stars)  
 Unrated  
 Running time: 113 minutes  
 Distributor: The Weinstein Company

By Kam Williams

"You think football builds character. It does not. Football reveals character." That mantra sums up the philosophy Bill Courtney relied upon in pep talks to turn around the football program at Manassas High located in inner-city Memphis. When he assumed the reins in 2004, the Tigers had never made the playoffs in its entire 100-year history, and hadn't even won a single game in the previous 14 years.

Luckily, Coach Courtney followed a calling to try to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged African-American kids on the team, so he offered his services to

the school on a volunteer basis. And it wasn't long before he began to understand precisely why the Tigers had such a long losing record, as members of his squad were soon being crippled by assorted afflictions visited upon unfortunate folks stuck in the ghetto.

First, his starting right guard and middle linebacker left school after being shot, while his center was unavailable because of being arrested. Then, he had to intervene when a couple of other players fought with each other right in front of him. That "career's worth of crap" for an average coach all transpired at Manassas in just two weeks. Not one to be deterred easily, Courtney still stuck around for the long run and by 2009 had forged Manassas into a playoff-bound powerhouse to be reckoned with.

The team's phenomenal achievement is the subject of "Undefeated,"



A scene from "Undefeated."

an overcoming-the-odds documentary co-directed by T.J. Martin and Dan Lindsay. Nominated for

an Academy Award in the Best Documentary category, the film focuses primarily on the coach and on

three youngsters whose fortunes he took a particular interest in: Chavis, Money and O.C.

We see that Chavis, a hot-headed junior being raised by a single-mom, has recently returned to school after spending 15 months in a juvenile penitentiary. Money, a gentle giant who lives with his grandmother, is applying himself both in the classroom and on the field with hopes of landing a scholarship as a ticket out of the 'hood. Star senior O.C. has been blessed with size and great natural ability, yet poor grades might torpedo his chances of being accepted to college.

Although Coach Courtney's tough love regimen looks at times like it might push a player or two over the edge, it ultimately proves to be just the right prescription to inspire the team to morph from perennial underdogs to gridiron greats. A compelling documentary chronicling not just football exploits but a few bona fide cases of quality character revealed.

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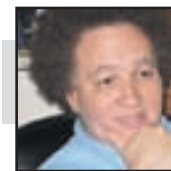
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# Independent & Foreign Films



## Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

**The Fairy** (Unrated) Romantic fantasy about a hotel's night watchman (Dominique Abel) who falls in love with the magical fairy (Fiona Gordon) who vanishes into thin air after granting him two of his three wishers. Supporting cast includes Philippe Martz, Bruno Romy and Vladimir Zongo. (In French with subtitles)

**The Forgiveness of Blood** (Unrated) Coming-of-age drama about a couple of carefree, teenaged siblings (Tristan Halilaj and Sindi Lacej) forced to mature and drop out of high school when a long-running blood feud with a neighboring clan is reignited over real estate rights. With Refet Abazi, Cun Lajci and Veton Osmani. (In Albanian with subtitles)

**Neon Flesh** (Unrated) "It's hard out here for a pimp" comedy, set in Buenos Aires, about a 22-year-old ne'er-do-well (Mario Casas) who hopes to earn his prostitute mother's (Macarena Gomez) respect by opening up a whorehouse with the help of a couple of streetwise buddies (Vincente Romero and Luciano Caceres). With Dario Grandinetti, Damaso Conde and Vanessa Oliveira. (In Spanish with subtitles)

**Tomorrow, When the War Began** (R for violence) Screen adaptation of John

Marsden's novel of the same name about seven Australian teenagers who band together to survive when they return from a weeklong camping trip in the bush to find the country invaded by a hostile nation. Starring Caitlin Stasey, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Lincoln Lewis, Deniz Akdeniz, Phoebe Tonkin, Chris Pang and Ashleigh Cummings.

### Big Budget Films

**Act of Valor** (R for torture, profanity and graphic violence) Action adventure about an elite team of Navy SEALs who embark on a top secret mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA Agent only to uncover an imminent terrorist plot against America. Starring Nestor Serrano, Roselyn Sanchez, Jason Cottle and Emilio Rivera.

**Gone** (PG-13 for violence, sexuality, drug references and brief profanity) Harrowing whodunit revolving around a terrified young woman (Amanda Seyfried) who becomes convinced that the same serial killer whose clutches she escaped a year ago has

just abducted her suddenly-missing sister (Emily Wickersham). With Daniel Sunjata, Sebastian Stan and Wes Bentley.

**Good Deeds** (PG-13 for sexuality, violence, profanity and mature themes) Tyler Perry wrote, directed and stars in this modern morality play as an unfulfilled, corporate CEO who has second thoughts about marrying his shallow fiancée (Gabrielle Union) after befriending a struggling, single-mom (Thandie Newton) who works as a janitor in his company's office building. With Phylicia Rashad, Rebecca Romijn, Brian White, Beverly Johnson and Jamie Kennedy.

**Wanderlust** (R for profanity, sexuality, drug use and graphic nudity) Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd co-star in this midlife crisis comedy about a married couple who move from Manhattan to a free love, hippie commune in the country after the husband loses his high-paying job. Cast includes Malin Akerman, Justin Theroux, Kathryn Hahn, Kerri Kenney, Linda Lavin and Alan Alda.

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### SATURDAY, FEB. 25

**Prayer Breakfast** People Moved With Compassion (PMWC) presents a Prayer Breakfast (8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.) & Conference (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) featuring Speaker Min. Marva Thomas at Calvary Cathedral of Praise, 45 East 8th St., Brooklyn. Admission free. There will be a free will offering. Call to register at (347) 267-2654 or (718) 435-2731.

**Urban Agriculture** EcoStation:NY & Bushwick Farmer's Market present a community celebration of urban agriculture, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. featuring the Bushwick Campus Farm & Greenhouse, Putnam Ave. at Irving Ave., Brooklyn including a tour of the working organic farm & for the adults, a party featuring drinks, snacks live music, networking & slideshows, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Fire Proof, 119 Ingraham St. RSVP to (646) 393-9305 or visit [www.BushwickFarmersMarket.org](http://www.BushwickFarmersMarket.org).

**J@LC** J@LC features The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad presenting Legacy's hip hop sound influenced by West African percussion music, jazz, break-beat & more, 2:30 p.m. at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, 5th Fl., Frederick P. Rose Hall, Lincoln Center, Broadway at 60th St., N.Y. Free admission. Seating is first come, first served. No tickets required. For information, call (212) 258-9595 or visit [jalc.org](http://jalc.org).

### SUNDAY, FEB. 26

**Film Screening** Commemorating Black History Month, The Freedom Socialist Party is featuring a screening of "Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders," documenting the battle, led by women at the 1964 Democratic Party Convention, demanding equal representation in the Mississippi delegation, 3:00 p.m. at Freedom Hall, 113 W. 128 St., between Malcolm X Blvd./Lenox Ave. & Seventh Ave. Admission free. Brunch served at 2:00 p.m. for donation. Childcare provided. For information, call (212) 222-0633.

**Henry & Mudge** BMCC Tribeca PAC & Theatreworks USA presents "Henry & Mudge," a story about the Adventure of Henry & Mudge, his canine buddy, when they move to a new house in the country, 3:00 p.m. at Borough of Manhattan Community College located at 199 Chambers St., N.Y. For ages 3 - 8 years. For tickets & information, call (212) 220-1460 or visit [www.tribecapac.org](http://www.tribecapac.org).

**Cultural Explosion** In celebration of Black History Month St. Gregory the Great RC Church Heritage Committee (a division of St. Matthews) presents their 6th Annual Cultural Explosion, 5:00 p.m. at St. Teresa of Avila, 563 Sterling Place at Classon Ave., Brooklyn, starring Quake USA, Art In Motion, fashion, music, comedy & raffle drawing. Light refreshments will be served. For ticket information, contact Lennox Calder at (347) 583-2936.



### Food Stamp Outreach

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



### Financial Coaching

We all have goals - paying off bills, saving for a home, improving our credit score, etc., etc. The Financial Capabilities & Coaching Program is a personal approach to help reach goals. For more information, call the Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush at (718) 469-4679.

### MONDAY, FEB. 27

**BAMcinematek** BAMcinematek presents a Brooklyn close-up double feature featuring Nelson George & Diana Paragas' Brooklyn Boeheme a salute to Ft. Greene in the 80s, the epicenter for forward-thinking black culture & paired with Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It," a sex comedy addressing Black sexuality, 7:30 p.m., at BAM, Peter Jay Sharp Bldg., 30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn. For information, call (718) 636-4129 or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

**Love, Hope & Destiny** St. Francis College, Founders Hall, 189 Remsen St., Brooklyn Heights, presents "Love, Hope & Destiny: A Reading of Poetry and Prose" by senior citizens, 12:30 p.m. - 1:40 p.m. Free & open to the public. For information, call (718) 489-5200.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 28

**Boxing** Pulse 48, 1020 East 48 St., corner of Farragut Rd., Brooklyn is hosting Golden Gloves Tuesday Night at the Fights. First fight begins 7:00 p.m. & features five - eight fights for the night.

### Children's Program

The Mount Carmel Worship & Outreach Center, 788 East 46 St., between Clarendon & Ave. D, Brooklyn, is offering a children's tutoring/computer training program, standardized test preparation & job skills training program, Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. For registration details, call (971) 609-0909.



Doors open 6:00 p.m. For more information & to purchase tickets, contact (718) 282-8041 & (646) 434-5390.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 29

**Juilliard Jazz** The Juilliard School invites you to attend a special evening of "The Gerry Mulligan Tribute Concert" featuring the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra with guest artist, Gary Smulyan celebrating the creation of the Gerry & Franca Mulligan Scholarship & announcing the first recipient, saxophonist Jordan Pettay, 8:00 p.m. at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater, The Juilliard School, 155 West 65th St., N.Y. For tickets & more information, call (212) 769-7406 or go to [www.juilliard.edu](http://www.juilliard.edu).

### SATURDAY, MAR. 3

**Education Program** Family-to-Family Education Program will be offering a series of 12 weekly classes structured to help caregivers understand & support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their well being, starting 3/3/12 at Kings County Hospital Center, 451 Clarkson

### ONGOING

**Free Tax Preparation** The Bethex Federal Credit Union is offering free tax preparation every Wednesday, 12 noon - 7:00 p.m. & Fri., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Bronx Independent Living Services, 4419 Third Ave, Ste. 2C, Bronx. For more information & necessary paperwork, call (718) 515-2800 ext. 111 or for an ASL interpreter, call & make appointment with Ms. Saldana at (866) 882-3244.

**Free Tax Help** The Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union & the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be offering free tax help to low- to-moderate-income residents of Bedford Stuyvesant & Bushwick. In addition to providing free, high-quality tax preparation, the program gives Central Brooklyn residents an opportunity to open credit union accounts. For more information, call (212) 505-EITC (3482).

**Adoption** "You Gotta Believe!," a community based older child adoption agency is looking for families (regardless of age, marital status, gender or income) who would be willing to provide love & nurturing to a child in the foster care system. Classes held on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 2801 W 8 St., in Coney Island & Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. at Church of the Holy Redeemer, 2424 Linden Blvd. in East New York. For information, call (718) 372-3003.

**Foreclosure Prevention** If you're interested in obtaining a modification or just concerned about your mortgage, come in for free services, counseling & assistance every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Open House sponsored by NHS of East Flatbush. To RSVP or for more information, call (718) 469-4679.

**Winter Aches & Pains** Jamaican Fountain Pimento Oil is an all natural, chemical & preservative free herbal medication that relieves sore muscles, stiff joints, nerve damage, circulation issues, fluid retention amongst a host of other ailments. Call Sandra at (866) 223-2414 to book a free massage appointment for your place of worship, senior citizens group or nursing home. For more information, visit [www.pimentooil.com](http://www.pimentooil.com).

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

**Vendor Registration** Black Christmas 2012, A Holiday Season with a Purpose, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, at the Hotel Pennsylvania in Manhattan. For details & fees on early, regular & late vendor registration call Norman Cole at (212) 714-4531.

# Are You Suffering With Severe Constant Pain?

## New Laser Light Breakthrough Treatment May Reduce Or Even Eliminate Pain Of The Worst Kind In Just Minutes

If you are suffering with severe pain despite all the treatments, that may have failed you in the past, you may now have some hope of reducing or even eliminating your pain with a new non-surgical, painless laser treatment now available in Brooklyn.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment is an innovative, scientifically based, therapeutic modality. This new technology offers advanced pain relief and expedited healing times through a process known as photobiostimulation.

Deep Tissue Laser Treatment delivers, deep, penetrating, photonic (light) energy to bring about profound physiological changes. ATP (Adenosine-triphosphate) production is increased, inflammation and pain reduced and circulation increased at the site of pain. These changes in cellular chemistry are triggered by the deep tissue laser making it a true healing modality.

Deep Tissue Laser Therapy does not require the use of drugs or surgery, and there are no known side effects or risks that may occur with other forms of treatment. In addition, it can often achieve results faster than other treatment modalities. During the treatment the patient will feel a deep soothing warmth. This pleasant sensation reassures the patient that the laser is stimulating cellular activity.

Lasers have made a remarkable contribution toward healthcare, allowing practitioners to treat a variety of conditions with the speed of light. As a non-invasive tool, the laser is particularly effective for the efficient treatment of soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, and a variety of other ailments and pain.

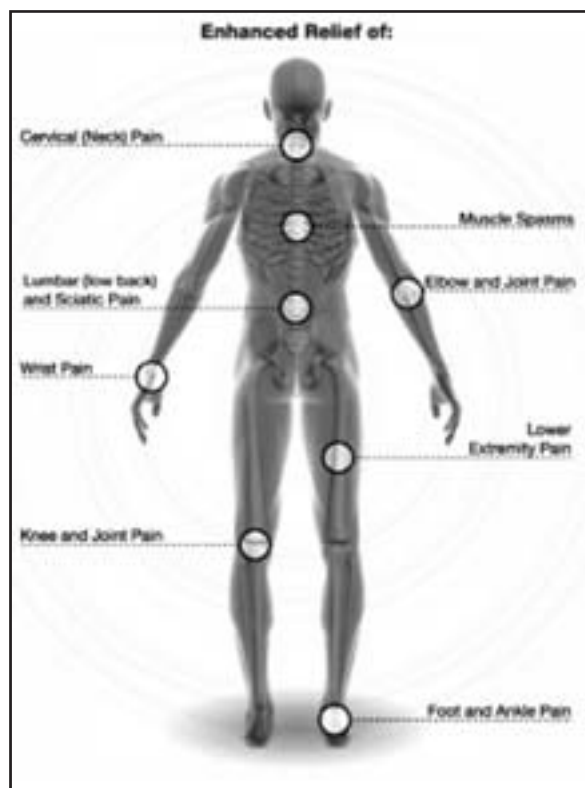
Low Level Laser enhances metabolic activity at the cellular level, without generating tissue-damaging heat.

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- Bell's Palsy
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# Brockington plays Zora Neale Hurston

By Deardra Shuler

The National Black Touring Circuit featured Kim Brockington as Zora Neale Hurston, in a one-woman play written by Laurence Holder, and directed by Wynn Handman, as part of the Black History Month Play Festival, which runs through Feb. 26.

During the festival shows such as "The Good Fight: A Phillip Randolph" starring Ralph McCain, was held Feb. 3-5; Zora Neale Hurston ran Feb. 10 through 12; "Adam" is running at the Dwyer Cultural Center, at 258 St. Nicholas Avenue in Manhattan, Feb. 17-19, starring Timothy Simonson, and "I, Barbara Jordan" starring Toni Seawright, finishes the series at the National Black Theatre, located at 2031 Fifth Avenue, on Feb. 24-26.

"I wouldn't be doing Zora if it weren't for Woodie King, Jr., and Elizabeth Van Dkye. Initially Elizabeth was portraying Zora with Joseph Edwards. The show was top



Kim Brockington & Zora Neale Hurston (inset).

shelf. I caught her show and was very impressed. A year later, Woodie called me to say Elizabeth could not do the show in Bethlehem, PA and asked whether I could I go on in her place. I did not have to do anything but say 'yes.' And I did. Elizabeth was generous and gave me the blocking. Woodie gave me the script and I had six weeks to get ready for it. I had some pretty big shoes to fill. I started playing the role

whenever Elizabeth could not do a performance," said Kim Brockington.

"I have always been interested in the life of Zora Neale Hurston. Born in Notasulga, Alabama in 1891, Zora was the fifth of eight children. Zora was a fun loving, outrageous, bodacious individual who was all about getting her art out to the world. She became the literary queen of the Harlem Renaissance.

"Her Eyes Were Watching God was one of her most famous books," stated Kim who loves portraying the role.

Ms. Brockington portrayed Zora in a PBS documentary. "I talk about Zora's childhood in the PBS version," remarked the talented performer. "Zora's mother died when Zora was young and it changed Zora's whole world. Her father married very soon afterward. Zora's father was a ladies man and always a bit scandalous. His new wife did not like Zora, so Zora was sent her off to school. Eventually, her father stopped paying for school and she was kicked out. She got a job in a traveling theatrical show as a maid. Zora always loved storytelling, thus it's no surprise she became a writer. She returned to school attending Morgan where she finished high school. By the time she got to Howard University, she was writing. She was 28. She went on to

Barnard where she majored in anthropology."

Ahead of her time, Zora was a poet, writer and anthropologist, who won several awards and contests. Eventually she won a Guggenheim Fellowship allowing her to travel to Jamaica and Haiti, where she studied African voodoo rituals. Hurston continued her research in America's southland where she collected and wrote about African American folklore.

During the Harlem Renaissance era, a lot of the artists had patrons who sponsored their work. Charlotte Mason was Zora's patron. Ms. Mason was an influential woman who gave Zora money for clothes, books and lodging. Langston Hughes also had a patron but criticized Zora for allowing her patronage to go on too long. Charlotte Mason, who insisted Zora called her "Godmother," was very controlling and wanted to control Zora's art, forcing Zora to acqui-

esce to Charlotte demands. Zora felt smothered, frustrated and angry under Godmother's control. Finally, she got away from Godmother after publishing Jonah's Gourd Vine in 1934. "Moses, Man of the Mountain" was published in 1939. Ms. Hurston's periodicals were published in The Saturday Evening Post, and American Mercury.

She contributed to "Woman in the Suwannee County Jail," a book written by journalist William Bradford Huie. As a folklorist, Hurston oftentimes wrote in the dialect of her subject matter, utilizing speech patterns of the period she documented. "Mules and Men," was another of her works.

Shewill be performing her one-woman show on Zora at Georgia State University in Atlanta on March 12 for Women's Month; in May, she is slated to perform Zora in Baltimore and perhaps another performance in New Jersey in June.

## NYC premiere of 'Better Mus' Come'

By Fabian Burrell

As the island nation Jamaica celebrates 50 years of independence from British rule, Jamaican film director Storm Sautler's "Better Mus' Come" chronicles the bloody reign of terror that was once the backdrop for the political campaigns and struggle for power between the two parties; Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) and the Peoples National Party (PNP).

Loosely woven around the late 70's reign of terror in West Kingston and closely mirroring the capture of the Jamaican druglord Christopher "Dudus" Coke whose extradition to the United States from Jamaica was world news for several days in May 2011, the script attempts to show the circumstances leading up to this epidemic. While movies of the same genre has portrayed their story for the shock value to create the sensationalism that moviegoers tend to seek, this movie shows

the human frailties and the stark reality of waking everyday with no opportunities to earn an honest living.

Lead character, Ricky has a young son whose mother's life was taken by the senseless violence that permeates the ghetto and he is left alone to take care of his son. You see tender moments with him and his son; taking him to school, gently reprimanding him from playing "shoot 'em ups" and caring for him as he runs a high temperature. You see the pain when his son asks him for some water to drink and he goes to the pipe and there is none. He then walks to the river to catch water in a bucket to boil for drinking and bathing.

The actor, Sheldon Shepherd, reminisced about his own life coming from a poor family and living these same hardships. The young and very ruggedly handsome dub poet beamed in on Skype to share with his new fans his appreciation

for the opportunity to be in the film. Skyping with him was Everaldo Cleary (Shortman) who never dreamed of being in film and was also struggling in Sandy Bay just like his character.

The acting is intense and the cinematography captures the grit of the ghetto. Storm describes his film as a history lesson and one that even he did not know prior to his own research but one that he wants to impart to this generation so they can understand the underlying root cause of the violence that many ascribe to Jamaica as much as its roots and culture image is painted by the reggae Music of the iconic Bob Marley.

Many of the residents of Sandy Bay, one of the main locations for the filming, were cast as extras and Sautler was pleased with the talent he discovered even amongst those who had no formal education or jobs. On the other hand, the female lead was the last



Sky Nicole Grey (Kemala), left, and Storm Sautler director of "Better Mus' Come". Photo by Fabian Burrell

to be cast, by pure chance. Storm observed Sky Nicole Grey walking by the office and invited her to read for the part. She was a natural fit. She, had however, been fantasizing about an entertainment career even as she performed skits for her family on Sundays after dinner since she was a little girl. She has already launched a modeling career on the international scene, her face has graced the covers of international magazines; including Essence,

and even now she is fine-tuning a singing career.

The love story between Kemala and Ricky ignites as suddenly as the violence takes hold of the garrison that is clearly delineated by its narrow streets and twists and turns that makes it a one way in or out for anyone; live by the code or die trying to rise above it. Ricky is the natural leader amongst his friends and encourages them to stay away from the politicians' offers of quick easy

money but falls prey to the inevitable dominance when Shortman who goes out to seek work in the PNP camp and is turned away gets attacked and his face is slashed. Seeking revenge, the gang goes out to attack the community residents by throwing Molotov cocktails into their sheds and when they run out to escape the fire, shoots them down. Ricky gets shot and sends Kemala away with his son, but...

Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater was the location for the New York premier of "Better Mus' Come" which was presented by Imagenation and The Film Society of Lincoln Center. The special screening was preceded by a rousing performance by Mr. Vegas of "Heads High" fame. His new album "Sweet Jamaica" pays tribute to the last 50 years of Jamaican music, from Ska to Dancehall. Courtney Panton of The Kingston Studio accompanied him on drums.



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# Celebrate History at Louis Armstrong House

February, Black History Month, is an ideal time to visit the Louis Armstrong House Museum, home of the founding father of jazz. As a special Black History Month gift, the Broadway show "Stick Fly" produced by Alicia Keys will provide discount ticket coupons to our visitors to see the show.

Led by a trained docent, the 40-minute tour is like a personal session with Satchmo himself, as visitors walk through his fully preserved residence, look at his original furnishings, and listen to rare recordings of him playing trumpet or talking with friends. The modest house provides the ideal backdrop for learning about the improbable life of Louis Armstrong, who transcended stark poverty—his grandparents were slaves—to become an American icon and international superstar.

The first African American to receive featured billing in a major Hollywood motion picture, Armstrong co-starred in "Pennies

from Heaven" with Bing Crosby in 1936. The next year, when he took over the Fleischmann's Yeast Show from Rudy Vallee for seven weeks, he became the first African American to host a nationally sponsored radio variety show. Satchmo continued to break new cultural ground. He was the first African-American entertainer to have his contract stipulate that he would not play at any hotel where he couldn't stay. From 1947 until the end of his career, he appeared exclusively with integrated bands; after New Orleans outlawed mixed-race ensembles, he avoided his hometown for a decade.

The first jazz musician to be featured on the cover of Time magazine (1949), he won a GRAMMY in 1965, was featured on the cover of Life Magazine in 1966, and received a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award in 1972, the year after he died. Armstrong was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990 and was named one

of Life Magazine's "100 Top Entertainers of the 20th Century" in 1999. His "Hot Five and Hot Seven" recordings (1925-1928) were designated for preservation by the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress in 2003.

## Louis Armstrong House Museum Exhibition

The Louis Armstrong House Museum, which is administered by Queens College, holds seven collections of photographs, sound recordings, letters, manuscripts, instruments and artifacts, making it the largest publicly held archival collection in the world devoted to a jazz musician. Although Armstrong traveled 300 days a year, he called this modest house in Corona his home.

## Planning Your Visit

The Louis Armstrong House Museum is located at 34-56 107th Avenue in Corona, Queens. The museum is open Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday from 12:00 noon to

5:00 p.m. Guided 40-minute house tours start every hour on the hour. The last tour of the day leaves at 4:00 pm. The gift shop, exhibit area and garden can be explored before or after the tour. No reservations are necessary for individuals, but groups of eight or more should call ahead to reserve.

Parking is available within the neighborhood and the museum is accessible by subway via the 7 train.

There is an admission fee for seniors, students and children and free for LAHM members and children under 4. Groups with reservations enjoy a discount on admission. The Louis Armstrong House Museum is closed on all Mondays and the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. It is always open on July 4, the date when Armstrong celebrated his birthday.

School groups are encouraged to visit. Reservations can be made at [www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org](http://www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org).



Louis Armstrong (center) signing a contract with his manager, Joe Glaser (left) and agent Cork O'Keefe by his side. Louis was the first African-American to host a nationally sponsored radio program: "Fleischmann's Yeast Show."

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*'Fierce bowling from the Barbadian pacers gave their team the edge in the Regional Four-Day Competition.'*

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 37

## Donovan player of the month

By Patrick Horne

U.S. and Los Angeles Galaxy forward Landon Donovan by now must have removed the doubts about his ability to succeed in Europe.

Twice a failure in Germany, Donovan turned his attention to England and had a short spell with Everton in 2010-2011; after modest success at in his first spell at Everton FC of the English Premier League, he returned for his second short-term spell this season and this time made a big impact at Everton. After this second spell, Donovan last week was named Everton's player of the month for January.

"It feels good," Donovan told Everton TV. "I think there was a point in January where no one was too happy with the way things were going, but the last few weeks have been a welcome change and a lot better, and it's been a lot more fun to be a part of, for sure."

Donovan assisted on eight goals for Everton in January and had nine assists in his two-month loan spell. He made a big contribution to Everton, including an assist in a 1-0 win over Premiership leaders Manchester City.

"Any time you can beat the leaders it's

Continued on next page

## High price tag for spinner

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago mystery spinner Sunil Narine, who shot into the cricket limelight last year was purchased by Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the fifth highest price behind India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene, India pacer Vinay Kumar and New Zealand batsman Brendon McCullum.

Narine was the biggest shock of the auction when he was snapped up for US\$700,000 from a starting base price of US\$50,000.

He made his international Twenty20 debut last year.

Emerging West Indies batsman Darren Bravo and all rounder Kevin Cooper were also picked up by the IPL franchises.

Bravo, who was in ESPN Circifino's Test

Continued on next page



# BLACKBIRDS SECURE SPOT Head to playoffs in the Northeast

Long Island's Jamal Olasewere, front left, is fouled by Robert Morris' Velton Jones, right, during the first half of a Northeast Conference Championship NCAA college basketball game in New York.

AP Photo/Bill Kostroun

By Robert Elkin

Last year the Long Island University-Brooklyn basketball team under the coaching of Jim Ferry captured 13 consecutive games, including the Northeast

College Conference post-season tournament, defeating Robert Morris in the title game.

Jamal Olasewere captured the Most Valuable Player award of the conference

tournament. He scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against Central Connecticut State, tallied 18 points and grabbed the same number of rebounds

Continued on next page

# Blackbirds secure a spot in finals

Continued from previous page

against St. Francis of Pennsylvania.

Olasewere exploded for 31 markers and grabbed 11 caroms against Robert Morris in the contest that decided their automatic bid into the NCAA tournament where they lost to North Carolina University in the opening round. He is a tough rebounder, can really go in there and even put the ball into the hoop.

Teammate Jason Brickman, who turned in an excellent freshman year at the guard position, returned to the team as did Olasewere, Julian Boyd, C.J. Garner, and Michael Culpo. These players can give any of their rivals 'fits' better known as trouble in winning.

They all prepared very well for the current season. With many of the returnees and not such a deep squad they felt confident coming into the season that they would go deep into the NCAA tournament. But first, they must make it.

Ferry thus began his 10th season as head coach of the Blackbirds, located in downtown Brooklyn.

They started the season rather slow and lost at Hofstra, Old Dominican and Penn State, all on the road. After losing to Iona College to drop their record to 2-4, and with the same starters-Brickman, a tremendous back court player, and a candidate for an all-league spot at the season's end, Culpo, Olasewere and pre-season North East Conference player of the year Boyd, Ferry's team went on a tremendous role winning nine straight games at one stage of the season.

After losing to Robert Morris, and then taking five in a row including two over

neighborhood rival St. Francis College, including one at Madison Square Garden, their first place record read 19-7 and only one league setback.

And most important of all, they clinched a spot in the Northeast Conference tournament. The other teams standing hasn't been determined at press time as the schedule is still going on.

Credit must go to the whole team, especially to Olasewere, who puts on quite a show both on offense and defense from the forward position until he fouled out with 30 seconds left against St. Francis College of Brooklyn in the Battle of Brooklyn.

Teammate Boyd connected on a jump shot with about 20 seconds left in the second half to put the Blackbirds ahead 79-78. Garnes' two free throws put the icing on the cake or for LIU in a game that went right down to the end and thrilled the near capacity crowd. Despite the setback in the Battle of Brooklyn, the Terriers still remains in contention for a playoff spot, with the home court advantage going to the top four colleges.

Olasewere put on some show to be named Most Valuable Player of the Battle of Brooklyn schools to climax rivalry week in college basketball.

"I don't think it's pressure to repeat," Ferry said. "The top four teams get the home court advantage."

And credit must go to Brickman, who makes those passes, plays a tremendous game in the backcourt, has great court vision, and assisted 12 times in the Battle of Brooklyn at the LIU Wellness Center.

"Brickman had a special season as a freshman and has gotten quicker than (last

year), added Ferry. "He's taken on the role as a leader. And he has done a fantastic job for us."

Coupled with Culpo, the only senior starter, they are two unselfish players, and they team very well together in the backcourt. Culpo is a very good ball handler. And there's also a key reserve in freshman Brandon Thompson, who has been averaging in double figures as far as minutes are concerned. Coach Ferry is very high on him.

"He can handle the ball and has a great feel for the game," added Ferry.

While the Blackbirds have to focus on one game at a time during the regular season in preparation for the league's post-season tournament, the St. Francis College Terriers, trying to have a turn around season, are also doing very well in their drive to pull an upset or two in the stretch run. They are also in the running for a playoff spot which at press time is not clinched as yet.

St. Francis' head coach Glenn Braica, whose team has been doing just great, said that the Battle of Brooklyn has always been interesting. The season has been going to form the way it should be.

"We still have to improve on our defense," said Coach Braica, who is in his second season as head coach of the Terriers. "I'm proud of my team. It's been a good season and a fun year. We have a good group of guys. (Against Long Island University) we gave a decent account of ourselves and we're proud of our players."

Home court is an advantage and makes a big difference to a team during any game; with a tournament no exception.



Trinidad and Tobago spinner Sunil Narine. AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi

## T&T heads to India

Continued from previous page

XI for 2011 and is now ranked in the top 20 of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings, was picked up by Deccan Chargers at his base price of US\$100,000, while Cooper, who like Narine, gave a good performance at both the Champions League last September and last month's Caribbean T20 series where T&T retained their title was secured by Rajasthan Royals at his base price of US\$50,000.

The Trinidad and Tobago players were just three of four new West Indians to play in the IPL. The other player bought was the dynamic Jamaican all-rounder Andre Russell, who was purchased for US\$450,000 by the Delhi Daredevils from a base price of US\$50,000.

The four will now join Chris Gayle (Royal Challengers Bangalore), Kieron Pollard (Mumbai Indians) and Dwayne Bravo (Chennai Super Kings) as West Indians in the IPL.

This year's IPL will run from April 4 to May 27, which will coincide with both the three-Test series against Australia (April 7-27) and the subsequent tour to England (May 5-June 24).

## Player of the month

Continued from previous page

a pretty special night," Donovan said, "and my dad was there that night, so it made it a little extra special for me."

### Johnson Returns

U.S. national team forward Eddie Johnson returned to MLS when he was traded to the Seattle Sounders last week. Johnson, who failed a physical at Mexico's Pueblo club in December, was selected by the Montreal Impact on Friday in the MLS allocation draft; he was then traded to Seattle for forward Mike Fucino and midfielder Lamar Neagle.

The 28-year-old Johnson was much travelled and just prior to Pueblo, the forward played Cardiff City in Wales, Preston North End in England and Aris in Greece. Johnson started his career in MLS with FC Dallas (2001-06) and Kansas City (2007-08) before signing for Fulham F.C. of the

English Premier League. He was a member of the 2006 U.S. World Cup team and scored 12 goals in 42 internationals.

### Ching Back To Houston

Former U.S. national team forward and longtime Houston Dynamo mainstay, Brian Ching, was returned to the Dynamo in a recent trade with Montreal Impact. Left unprotected after last season in the MLS expansion draft and selected by Montreal. Ching, 33, was unhappy out of Houston and threatened to retire at the time. Houston on Thursday give up a conditional first-round pick in the 2013 SuperDraft to reacquire Ching, who is the team's all-time scoring leader with 64 goals.

"We have made this decision based on reasons that we felt were beneficial for both the desires and needs of our club and the wishes of Brian Ching," said Impact head coach Jesse Marsh.



Everton's Landon Donovan, left, vies for the ball against Blackburn Rovers' Martin Olsson during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England. AP Photo/Tim Hales

# Trinidad crumbles from Barbados pace

The third round of the Regional Four-Day Competition was highlighted with some fierce fast bowling from Jino Best and Fidel Edwards of Barbados.

Trinidad & Tobago scored 338 runs in their first inning with Lendl Simmons scoring 52, Captain Denesh Ramdin 88, Rayad Emrit 62 not out and Darren Bravo 52.

In their second innings Trinidad & Tobago were bundled out for 119 runs. Lendl Simmons did not bat in the second innings because of a finger injury. Adrian Barath was hit in the arm by pacer Jino Best and retired on 2 runs.

Bravo was hit on the shoulder by Best. Edwards ripped through the other end. From 81 runs for 3 wickets with Captain Denesh Ramdin trying to repair the innings, Sulieman Benn the left-arm spinner wrapped up the innings bowling out Trinidad & Tobago for 119 runs in their second innings. Edwards picked



## Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

up 5 wickets for 64 runs, Sulieman Benn 2 for 38 and Jino Best 3 for 31.

### Barbados Scores 279 and 179 for 5

Barbados Captain Kirk Edwards scored 70 and 45 respectively, Ryan Hinds scored 46 in the first innings, opener Kraigg Brathwaite 27 and the left-handed Jonathan Carter 37 and 36.

### Barbados Wins by 5 Wickets

Young Barbados and West Indies batsman Kraigg Brathwaite scored 48 not out from 142 balls in a fifth wicket partnership of 47 runs with Jonathan Carter who scored 36. Wicket keeper batsman Shane Dowrich scored 19 as he

stood up with Brathwaite seeing their team home safely at 179 for 5. Sunil Narine picked up 5 for 78, and 3 for 54 respectively gaining match figures of 8 for 132.

### Jamaica Defeats The Leewards By 201 Runs And An Inning

Jamaica boosted to 36 points after three games, led the points table. Jamaica bowled out the Leewards Islands for 104 and 99 respectively. Leg spinner Odean Brown got match figures of 9 for 38. Nikita Miller grabbed 5 for 16 in the second innings gaining match figures of 7 for 47.

### Guyana Defeats CCC

Guyana gained 24

points from three games after they gained 12 points from defeating Combined Colleges and Campuses. Assad Fudadin is the leading runs scorer so far in the Regional Four-Day Tournament.

### Guyana's Assad Fudadin Leading with Runs

Assad Fudadin has so far scored 259 runs in the Regional Four-Day Tournament. He has the highest runs so far in the competition. In his first game against the Leeward Islands, Fudadin got 11 and 52, against the Windward Islands 0, 52 and against CCC 102 and 42. He has reached 2,000 first class runs from 44 matches.

Note: The team that wins this year's Four-Day Regional Tournament will receive the Headley/Weekes Trophy. This is in honor of West Indies greats George Headley and Sir Everton Weekes.



File photo of West Indies' Sulieman Benn bowling. AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth

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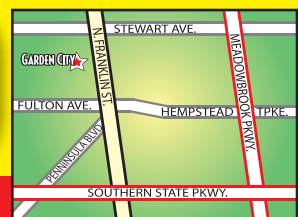
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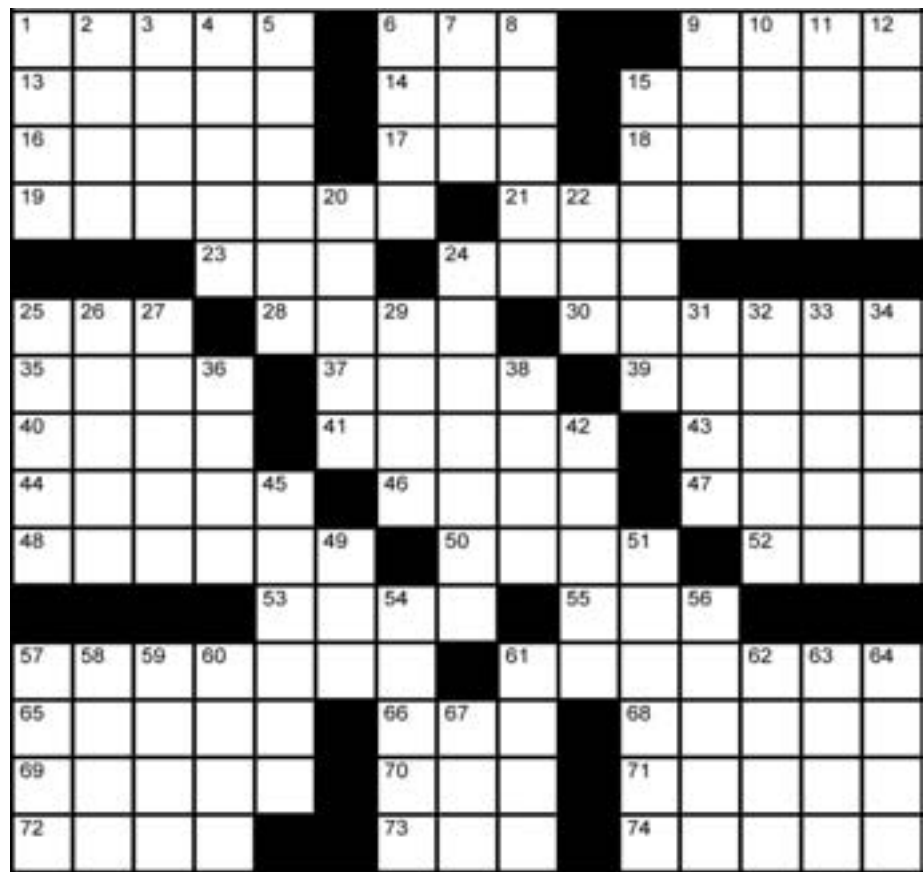
# Caribbean Crossword by StatePoint Media, Inc.

## ACROSS

1. Three square ones a day
6. Feline sound
9. Slope or hillside
13. Muslim God
14. Spermatozoa counterpart
15. "Little Deuce \_\_\_\_\_," song
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Boothe Luce
17. "Lake" in Provence
18. Taken by server
19. \*Where most Presidents went to college
21. \*He was famously Catholic
23. "He \_\_\_ and drank the precious words..."
24. Fool
25. Toy maker
28. "The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical"
30. Interstellar cloud
35. Like sinister side in "Star Wars"
37. Mountain goat terrain
39. Ranked or graded
40. Used in fencing
41. Luciano Pavarotti, e.g.
43. Actress \_\_\_\_\_ Sofer
44. "Your Body Is a Wonderland" performer
46. \_\_\_\_\_ Lee
47. Hat part
48. Popular flowering shrub
50. Do over
52. Feared by illegal immigrants
53. "Far and \_\_\_\_\_" the best
55. It fought British rule
57. Like a snake
61. \*Tallest President
65. Hoppity-like board game
66. \*35 is the minimum \_\_\_\_\_
68. Embryo sacs
69. Type of flu
70. Chewbacca's sidekick
71. Like yellow polka dot bikini
72. Not nice
73. R&R spot
74. Plural of suffix denoting female

## DOWN

1. One of these is approximately equal to speed of sound
2. Famous female scat singer
3. Having or resembling wings
4. Caterpillar precursor
5. Holder for #40 Across
6. Result of dampness
7. Actress Longoria
8. Mad or crazy
9. \*Pres. Coolidge was " \_\_\_\_\_ on the Fourth of July"
10. Ill-mannered
11. Imitated
12. Suggestive of supernatural
15. Talk it over
20. Respond
22. Longest division of geological time
24. Grain storage
25. Organ swelling
26. Largest city in Bolivia
27. Goddess of love, Norse mythology
29. Wraths
31. Aggressive remark
32. Wombs
33. Most famous Bolshevik?
34. \*First White House inhabitant
36. \_\_\_\_\_ over
38. \*He won popular but lost electoral vote
42. Exact halves of diameters
45. \*Oldest elected President
49. Hole punching tool
51. Like baroque
54. Indian nursemaids
56. Highest points
57. It featured George Michael
58. Enthusiastic review
59. Hipbones
60. FBI agent
61. River in Siberia
62. Singles
63. Drawn in the sand?
64. They oppose the yeahs
67. Generation \_\_\_\_\_



Answers in Classified Section

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## ► LEGAL NOTICES

### ► LEGAL

#### Probate Citation

File No. 2011/4133  
SURROGATE'S COURT-KINGS COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent

TO: Pascal Cassamajor and any and all unknown persons whose names or parts of whose names, and whose place or places of residence are unknown and cannot, after due diligent inquiry, be ascertained, distributees, heirs at law and next of kin of said Pascal Cassamajor and if any of the said distributees, heirs at law or next of kin of Pascal Cassamajor deceased be dead, their legal representatives, their husbands or wives, if any, distributees and successors in interest whose names and/or places of residence and post office addresses are unknown.

A petition having been duly filed by Cecil Philanthrope who is domiciled at 1642 Prieur Street, Montreal, Canada H2C 1M4.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York on March 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in room 319 why a decree should not be made in the estate of Gerard Cassamajor lately domiciled at 361 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York admitting to probate a will dated April 21, 2011 as the Will of Gerard Cassamajor, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters testamentary issue to: Cecil Philanthrope Dated, Attested and Sealed 1/30/12  
HON. MARGARITA LOPEZ TORRES Surrogate  
Doreen A. Quinn Chief Clerk  
Attorney for Petitioner: T.W. Lewis & Co., LLC  
370 Seventh Avenue, Suite 720 New York, NY 10001  
212-785-7600

### ► LEGAL

[Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear, it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have the right to have an attorney appear for you.]

### ► LEGAL

SUMMONS AND NOTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS

INDEX NO. 4281/09  
NYCTL 2008-A TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2008-A Trust, Plaintiffs, - against - ESTATE OF GLADYS PEPPLES, ESTATE OF BARBARA RUTH COFIELD, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY BUREAU OF HIGHWAY OPERATIONS, and "JOHN DOE No. 1" through "JOHN DOE No. 100", inclusive, the names of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the lien premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the lien premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants.

ADDRESS: 636 HANCOCK STREET, BROOK-

### ► LEGAL

LYN, NY  
BLOCK: 1661 LOT: 37  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty days after service is completed if the summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above entitled action is to foreclose a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of KINGS on the 15TH day of JULY, 2008 and bearing County Register File Number / C R F N 0008000280709 covering premises described as follows:  
ADDRESS: 636 HANCOCK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY  
BLOCK: 1661 LOT: 37  
COUNTY: KINGS

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the tax lien described above. Plaintiff designates KINGS County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county where the Property being foreclosed upon is located. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Dated: February 9, 2012  
New York, New York  
WINDELS MARX LANE & MITTENDORF LLP  
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS  
NYCTL 2008-A TRUST, and The Bank of New York As Collateral Agent and Custodian for the

### ► LEGAL

NYCTL 2008-A Trust  
MICHAEL H. RESNIKOFF, ESQ.  
156 WEST 56TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019  
PHONE: (212) 237-1102  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Court dated February 9, 2012 and filed along with the supporting papers in the KINGS County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien.

SCHEDULE A - DESCRIPTION ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET, DISTANT 168 FEET 9 INCHES WESTERLY FROM THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF HANCOCK STREET AND REID AVENUE; RUNNING THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET, 16 FEET 3 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE SOUTHERLY PARALLEL WITH REID AVENUE AND PART OF THE DISTANCE THROUGH A PARTY WALL, 96 FEET 11 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE EASTERLY PARALLEL WITH HANCOCK STREET 16 FEET 3 INCHES; RUNNING THENCE NORTHERLY AGAIN PARALLEL WITH REID AVENUE 96 FEET 11 INCHES TO THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HANCOCK STREET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. SAID PREMISES BEING KNOWN AS 636 HANCOCK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, BLOCK: 1661, LOT: 37  
Reference #:  
700777.017

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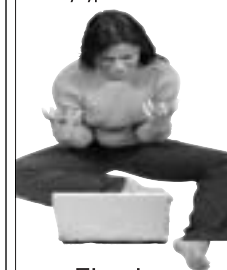
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