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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

ELECTIONS FEVER



**KAMALA SHUNS
DEBATE WITH
OPPOSITION**



**SECURITY
BEEFED UP FOR
OPPOSITION
LEADER AFTER
THREATS**

Page 4

LABOR DAY CARNIVAL MOVING AHEAD



Clouds hang over its operation

Page 6



**VOTING RIGHTS
50 YEARS
LATER**

Needed now- under threat
-legal and political-

Page 9



**COMRIE
ELECTED
OFFICIALS
TARGETED**

For special investigation for minor
infractions

Page 8



**CARICOM
BACKS GUYANA**

In border dispute with Venezuela
and advised their Minister

Page 16



**VINCENT HOSANG TO
RECEIVE
ORDER OF
JAMAICA**

National honors from the
Government of Jamaica

Page 8

NEW YORK POLICE

NEW

APPROACH

TO COMMUNITY POLICING “PARTNERSHIP OF TRUST” DISCUSSED

HAITI - AT LAST

ELECTIONS HELD FOR PARLIAMENT

LOW TURNOUT, SPORADIC VIOLENCE, CLAIM OF FRAUD



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OPED

U.N. Should Show the U.S. that Black Lives Matter Stop Violations
By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist - P 10



OPED

One Year After Ferguson: Change Still Must Come
by Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
NNPA Columnist -P10



FLASH

Healing Oils from Guyanese Entrepreneur
By Walter Greene - P18



SPORTS

Barbados beat Jamaica in Women's Super50 -P22

EXCHANGE RATES

The following reflects rates paid to individual travelers for each U.S. dollar changed and is an average Central Bank rate per country.

Antigua & Barbuda	2.68
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Dominica	2.68
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Jamaica	88.50
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St. Lucia	2.68
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AFRICA

Nigeria president appoints anti-corruption advisers

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has appointed a committee to advise him on how best to tackle corruption and reform the legal system.

The seven-member Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption is mostly made up of academics.

Mr Buhari was elected in May, largely on a promise to tackle corruption.

He has said he believes government officials have stolen about \$150bn (£96bn) from the public purse over the past decade.

"The committee's brief is to advise the present administration on the prosecution of the war against corruption and the implementation of required reforms in Nigeria's criminal justice system," said presidential spokesman Femi Adesina.

However, Mr Adesina was unable to say when the committee would report back to the president with its recommendations.

Cameroon police 'free children after years in chains

Military police have raided a house in Cameroon and freed around 70 children who were being held captive and were suffering from disease and hunger.

Some of them had spent three years in chains and had scars inflicted from beatings, officers told local media.

The head of an Islamic school who owned the house in the northern town of Ngaoundere has been arrested.

The arrested man denies any wrongdoing, saying parents willingly sent their children to his "correctional centre".

The Koranic school master is also reported to have married two young girls who were imprisoned in the house.

The military police, known as gendarmes, say all the children are now free and are being given medical help before they being reunited with their families.

A few adults were amongst the captives, including one man whose relative allegedly wanted to be rid of him because of an inheritance dispute, he says.

Cecil the lion: Mugabe blames foreign 'vandals' for death

President Robert Mugabe has said Zimbabweans failed in their responsibility to protect Cecil, a lion shot by an American hunter. President Mugabe said his compatriots should protect their natural resources from what he called foreign "vandals"

In a speech for National Heroes Day he said: "Even Cecil the lion - he is yours. He's dead!"

The lion - a favorite at Hwange National Park - died after he was shot by Walter Palmer using a bow and arrow.

The dentist from Minnesota has said he believed the hunt was legal. It is thought he paid about \$50,000 (£32,000) to hunt 13-year-old Cecil, who wore a GPS collar and was being studied by Oxford University for conservation purposes.

It is alleged Cecil the lion was lured from a protected zone to be shot Mr Mugabe used a speech in Harare to make his first public comments about the lion, whose death sparked international condemnation. He said: "He was yours to protect and you failed to protect him.

"There are vandals who come from all over of course... some may be just ordinary visitors, but (there are) others who want to vandalize, to irregularly and illegally acquire part of our resources."

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican missing-student activist killed in Guerrero state

A Mexican community activist who helped families search for their missing relatives has been killed.

Miguel Angel Jimenez Blanco's body was found near his home in a town in the south-western state of Guerrero.

He had led search parties after the disappearance of 43 students in the nearby town of Iguala last year threw light on hundreds of other missing people.

Guerrero is a region plagued by gang and drug violence.

At least 15 people were killed there over the weekend.

Mr Jimenez Blanco's body was found in the taxi he owned in the small town of Xaltianguis.

He had been part of an organization which had supported the search for the students in the hills around Iguala. He had also helped dig up a number of graves of murdered people that were found during the search for the students. He had helped organize a group called The Other Disappeared, mostly women who meet every Sunday to search the hills for the remains of their loved ones.

Argentina: Governing party's Scioli ahead in primaries

The presidential candidate for Argentina's governing coalition has won a comfortable majority in primary elections held on Sunday.

Analysts say the primaries are a good indicator of who may win the presidential elections later this year.

With 93% of the votes counted, governing coalition candidate Daniel Scioli had a 14-point lead over his conservative rival, Mauricio Macri.

The first round of the presidential election will be held on 25 October.

President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who has been in power since December 2007, will not be able to stand again as the constitution limits presidents to two terms in office.

Scores killed by car bomb attacks in eastern Iraq

At least 42 people have been killed and many more injured in two bomb attacks in eastern Iraq, local officials say.

A car bomb exploded in a marketplace near the city of Baquba, 35 miles (60km) north-east of Baghdad, killing at least 35 and injuring more than 70.

A second car bomb at a checkpoint east of the city reportedly killed at least seven and wounded approximately 25.

Baquba was the scene of fierce fighting last year between Islamic State (IS) fighters and pro-government militias. Government forces managed to take control of the city but clashes with the militants continue across Diyala province.

Last month, IS bombed a crowded marketplace in the province, killing 115 people who had gathered to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Monday's attacks, but they bear the hallmarks of previous IS attacks against civilian groups and military checkpoints.

New visa system for Haitians

ROSEAU, Dominica (CMC) – The Dominica government says it will soon announce a new visa system for Haitians wanting to enter the island.

Despite being a member of the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping, Haitian nationals require visas to enter most if not all of the CARICOM countries.

Immigration Minister Rayburn Blackmore, speaking on the state-owned DBS radio Monday, said that over the past six months there has been a review of the issuance of visas to Haitian nationals.

“We have reviewed the system...and in due time we will be making an announcement as to the way forward.

“The intention is to have a system whereby it can be more transparent. We are just waiting

to have the administrative system put in place and also our intention is to have proper vetting system. “If persons were issued visas to work on a farm, we have to know where that farm is and we have to ensure that we do not facilitate an enterprise whereby persons come into the country legally and live illegally and that’s not healthy for any democracy,” Blackmore said, adding that under the new system, Haitian nationals could apply in person for visas rather than rely on an employer.

“So the system we have developed would require one who wants to apply for a visa to do so directly via the quick pack system...and the application will be returned via the mail.

“That is being done to ensure that we have proper check and balances and management of the process going forward,” he told radio listeners.



OAS mission in Haiti says elections mark ‘step forward’

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti (CMC) – The head of the Organization of American States (OAS) Observer Electoral Mission (EOM) to Haiti, has described Sunday’s first round of legislative elections in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country as “a step forward”.

“The work of the mission does not end here,” said Enrique Castillo, the former foreign affairs minister of Costa Rica, who welcomed the “determination of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) to continue with the next steps in the electoral process”.

Castillo said Sunday’s election “was a step forward in strengthening Haitian democracy” and the OAS said it would deploy another mission to the first round of voting in the presidential elections in October.

The EOM congratulated Haiti country on the holding of the elections that included the



participation of the vast majority of political forces in the country.

“The mission recommended holding a civic education campaign to increase citizen participation in the elections,” the OAS said.

Elena Vaenciano, a representative of the Electoral Observation Mission from the European Union, told reporters while there were “few

incidents of violence...our impression our information for now, tell us that the elections were held almost normally”

“This is the beginning of the path of consolidation of the democracy in Haiti,” she added.

The first round balloting was marred by sporadic acts of violence and in one instance businessman Nestor Michelet, the presidential candidate of the Coalition for the convention of the Reconstruction of the Haitian Citizens Reconciliation” (CORRECH) was admitted to hospital with a broken arm.

“I hoped that we would collectively set a benchmark in democracy, a signal of preparedness to our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean, Latin America and around the world, and at the same time, do so with adherence to rule of law throughout.

“While gravely disappointed in the confusion caused by a lack of coordination and the arbitrary closures of polling offices, serving as

a catalyst to the violence that followed today, I again urge our citizens to remain calm, safe and our national and international security forces to assist in keeping the peace,” he said in a statement.

He urged Haitians not to “play in to the hands of those who would leverage this news to suggest that we are not ready for change”.

Electoral officials say while 5.8 million people had been registered to vote to elect 119 deputies and 20 senators, there were at least 1,855 candidates contesting the 139 parliamentary seats.

There were 1,558 voting centers with a total of 13,725 polling stations and the officials say they expect the results to be known within the next 10 days.

“It is true that there has been some small problems, but we salute the people that came out to do his duty,” said Prime Minister Evans Paul.

CARICOM Chair tells Venezuela Vice-President regional body siding with Guyana in territorial dispute

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, –Venezuela’s vice-president Jorge Arreaza recently heard directly from the CARICOM chairman, Barbados’ Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, that the regional grouping is backing Guyana in the territorial dispute between the two South American neighbours.

Stuart met last Friday with Arreaza who was visiting the island as part of a regional tour to discuss Venezuela’s territorial and maritime claims in the region.

Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro issued a decree on May 25, claiming sovereignty over Guyana’s territorial waters in the Essequibo region of the Atlantic Ocean, including a large part of the area where US oil giant ExxonMobil discovered oil a month ago.

During last week’s discussions, Stuart emphasized the need to maintain peace and stability as the basis for enhancing regional cooperation and the development of both Guyana and Venezuela, and welcomed Arreaza’s visit to Barbados and the Caribbean as a tangible demonstration of his country’s commitment to those ideals.

But he reiterated the position adopted by CARICOM heads of government last month, and restated its total support for the



integrity of Guyana’s territory and maritime space, as well as that of all CARICOM states. He said that Barbados stood by Guyana as it sought the best means to address this issue. “We are committed to assisting Venezuela and Guyana in this dispute, preferring at all

times a peaceful solution... But as of now, having regard to the fact that there was an arbitral award in 1899 and having regard to the fact that the Geneva Agreement of 1966 has not yielded the kind of results that either Venezuela or Guyana expected, CARICOM’s

formal position has to be a commitment to the territorial integrity of Guyana,” he pointed out.

Acknowledging that both countries had been trying to pursue a peaceful settlement for many years, Stuart expressed the view that the time had come for the issue to be concluded.

“We cannot contemplate such an end if we do not have a mechanism in place. For in the event the peaceful solution we prefer does not happen, an alternative mechanism can be sprung into action that can settle the matter by judicial means,” he noted.

Stuart told Arreaza that Barbados acknowledged that Venezuela had issued a new decree, namely Presidential Decree no 1859 of July 6, 2015, which had replaced Decree 1787. He informed that the new Decree was being studied by CARICOM experts. Stuart emphasized the importance to Barbados of its relationship with Venezuela. He welcomed the efforts at communication on the part of the government of Venezuela.

Also present at the meeting were Venezuelan Ambassador to Barbados, José Gomez Fébres, and the Venezuelan Vice President’s wife Rosa Virginia Chavez.

Security beefed up for T&T Opposition Leader

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) — The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) yesterday refused to comment on whether or not security had been beefed up for Opposition Leader Dr Keith Rowley in the run-up to the September 7 general election here.

Acting Police Commissioner Stephen Williams said he would not “confirm or deny” the report of the increased security that one newspaper said was based on “intelligence” that a “serious” threat” had been made on the life of Rowley, who is leading the main opposition People’s National Movement (PNM) into the election.

“I would not comment on any matter which should not be in the public domain,” Williams told reporters.

The Trinidad Express newspaper reported yesterday that the security forces were alerted to the threat following the jailbreak from the Port of Spain prison two weeks ago that resulted in the death of a policeman. Two of the three prisoners who escaped were killed in separate incidents, while the third surrendered to police and has since been charged with murder as well as escaping lawful custody.

The newspaper reported that following a public meeting of the PNM in Diego Martin, west of here on Tuesday night, “the Opposition leader noticeably did not engage in the normal crowd-mixing activity which has become customary after such public meetings”.

The paper said that while State security is involved in the beefed-up arrangements “in a major way”, Rowley has brought in a layer

of private security as well.

Rowley himself has declined to comment on the increased security, saying “it is in the hands of the specialists in the public and the private sector. I will not comment further on the details of any of these arrangements.” Asked whether he had been made aware of the threat to his life, Rowley said: “I will not comment any further on that”.

Rowley, who has been provided with security by the State since February 2014, has received two death threats since becoming Opposition leader.

In 2011, Rowley reported to police that he had received threatening letters and a year later, then-national security minister Jack Warner revealed police were investigating a “threat against Rowley’s life”.



T&T journalist accuses Opposition Leader of sexual harassment



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) – Opposition Leader Dr Keith Rowley Saturday denied allegations of sexual harassment saying he had put the matter in the hands of his lawyers.

Rowley said that the allegations made by the Trinidad Express investigative journalist Anika Gumbs were an “outrageous and shocking conspiracy” to slander him. He said he had since referred the matter to his attorneys, Farris Al Rawi and Michael Quamina, who told a news conference Saturday that their client “categorically denied the allegations made by Miss Gumbs and that her letter of resignation was aimed more at causing damage”.

Gumbs resigned on Friday after claiming that she was “mentally scarred” and

“traumatised” by “an unfortunate experience” with Rowley.

In her resignation letter dated August 7, Gumbs stated that during a visit to Rowley’s home in Diego Martin, west of here, on April 20 to pursue a story she was “astonished” to see he was bareback.

She also claimed that she had informed Rowley that she had received prank calls and “to her shock and surprise,” Rowley said: “Would you hire me to be your bodyguard outside your bedroom?”

She also indicated that on a previous visit to Rowley’s home on April 9, he touched her on her back and asked if she had a tattoo of a map on it. She said she told him that the “tattoo on my back was not a map but a butterfly”. She said Rowley asked her the meaning of the butterfly tattoo, and she replied: “It’s all part of being chic.”

She said as Rowley walked her to the front of his home, a bee landed on her dress and Rowley removed it, saying: “Even honey bees landing on you.”

Gumbs said the “entire incident prompted me to shelve all of my work dresses” and she opted instead to wear “only pant suits while on duty”.

Gumbs said in January at the end of another interview with Rowley at his office Rowley asked whether she had recently returned

from vacation and when she said she was on leave, Rowley replied: “You are looking rosy.”

“On reflection I now feel unable to communicate with Dr Rowley any longer because he betrayed my trust and expectations...The unfortunate experience has left me mentally scarred and traumatised. As a woman I felt frightened and disrespected because of the compromising situation I unexpectedly found myself.

“I remain shocked that Dr Rowley, a political leader, a husband, a father and grandfather, a man I held in such high regard could have acted in such an inappropriate manner and uttered such suggestive words to me,” she wrote, adding that her decision to resign was made easily.

“However, in upholding the highest standards of journalism and to avoid the Express Newspapers from being brought into disrepute, I have opted to sever all ties with the company,” she stated. But Al Rawi, who is also the PNM public relations officer, questioned the timing of the resignation.

He said the party had evidence of attempts being made to pay people to lie against Rowley in the lead up to the September 7 poll.

Rowley himself has described the Gumbs situation as a continuation of the Vernella (Alleyne-Toppin)’s attempt at slander, a reference to the junior government minister telling Parliament earlier this year that Rowley was born as a result of a rape. “This young girl was then raped by her father’s best friend. The product today is the aspirant to lofty office,” Alleyne-Toppin said during a debate of no confidence against Rowley in March, adding, “Mr Speaker, can you imagine this mother carrying this pain and shame for nine months and the impact it had on the unborn child?”

Rowley said that Gumbs statement and Alleyne-Toppin remarks “are both geared towards the same objective, to make me unpalatable to the electorate”.

But he said he believed that the good sensible people would see this charge for what it is.

“These are acts of desperation...The Vernella slander has failed and so (you) try and try again”.

Al Rawi said that the statement by Gumbs is the latest in the “No Rowley” campaign by the coalition People’s Partnership, headed by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

T&T PM shuns election debate with Opposition Leader

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) – Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar claiming that the Trinidad and Tobago Debates Commission (TTDC) is in the pockets of the main opposition People’s National Movement (PNM), says she will not participate in any debate being organised by the TTDC ahead of the September 7 general election.

The TTDC has said that the debates are scheduled for August 20 and 27 and Opposition Leader Dr Keith Rowley has said he would participate in the events.

But Persad-Bissessar, who is leading her United National Congress (UNC) led coalition People’s Partnership into the polls, said that statements made by a PNM political activist supports her view that either the TTDC is in the pockets of the PNM or vice versa. Persad-Bissessar, who last month participated

in an event organised by the State-owned Caribbean New Media Group (CNMG) television station said councillor Isha Wells, one of the interviewers and a self confessed PNM activist, had indicated that the financiers of the Opposition party were not in favour of Persad-Bissessar.

“I am saying in that circumstance where it is now being revealed by the PNM activist that the PNM and the Debates Commission had their own deal, then it meant that they never intended to be fair to me to participate in that debate,” she said.

“I am certain that I will not be given a fair hearing in any debate that is moderated, carried out or produced by the Debates Commission.”

She then told television journalist Khamal Georges “so, Khamal, you can tell your bosses that I will not be participating in the debate”.





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Timothy Bailey, WIADCA's leader: This year's West Indian carnival on track

Controversy over Carnival Association's membership simmers - May heat up after festival

By Tony Best

Less than a month before more than a million revelers and spectators hit Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway thoroughfare to join in mammoth West Indian carnival festival on Labor Day, the organizers of America's largest outdoor cultural festival is promising an amazing spectacle on Brooklyn's streets.

"We are moving ahead with our plans for the 48th annual Caribbean carnival and the it promises to be one of the largest and the best," said Timothy Bailey, President of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association, which has been staging the extravaganza for almost half of a century. "We are proceeding with carnival 2015, getting Labor Day together. We are concentrating on it. "We have 40-odd senior carnival bands and more than 40 bands for the junior carnival which promises to be bigger than in previous years," added Bailey. "This is the first time we have had so many (junior) bands registered for the (kiddies) carnival. We are getting Labor Day carnival together."

Interestingly, the plans are being finalized against a backdrop of a continuing controversy over membership in WIADCA. The Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy, a Brooklyn-based human rights



organization led by Rockford Burke, One Guyana USA and Guyana Unity Movement have complained to New York State Attorney-General, Eric Schneiderman, and to the Brooklyn District Attorney, Kenneth Thompson, that WIADCA had allegedly discriminated against Guyanese, Haitians, Antiguans and Jamaicans by erecting barriers to membership in the Association and its Board of Directors.

After the complaints were lodged with state and City officials, the organizations held a joint meeting chaired by Dr. Roy Hastick, President of the Caribbean-American

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to resolve the issues but the thorny problem remains unresolved.

"Yes, we did meet at the request of WIADCA and with the concurrence of Caribbean-Guyana Institute and the two other organizations," Hastick said. "WIADCA had asked me to coordinate the meeting and where it was left at the end of the session was that both sides will work post Labor Day to seek a solution. It will take a while before there is a meeting of the minds. All sides, WIADCA, the Institute, and two Guyanese organizations were respectful of each other and I consider it a good first step."

However, Burke, charged afterwards that WIADCA had "reneged" on several aspects of the agreement, a contention the Association denied.

"WIADCA has since demonstrated ambivalence about honoring the agreement and has taken no steps to implement it," said Burke.

Bailey saw the outcome differently. "We had a meeting, agreed on issues but this is not a matter on which we are concentrating before the carnival," he said. With almost a dozen steel bands registered for the annual Panorama competition to select the champion of pan music in the United States on September 6 and with a lineup of legends of Caribbean music,

including the Mighty Sparrow, David Rudder, Swallow and Edwin Yearwood scheduled to perform less than 24 hours before the costume bands hit the streets, Bailey said WIADCA was looking forward to staging a grand and exciting series of events – outdoor concerts, costume parades and a stay in school concert and college fair. New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry, a strong legislative supporter of carnival in Albany, the state capital, expressed hope that the festival would take place in a joyful mood and without rancor.

"I am not directly involved in WIADCA's activities and no one has contacted me about this year's carnival," said Perry. "There are funds available for carnival but no one has reached out about them. The WIADCA-Institute problem will not go away. Potentially, it can be detrimental to carnival and can be blown out of proportion."

The Grand Marshals of the upcoming carnival festival will be New York State Supreme Court Justice Sylvia Ash, who is also Chairperson of the billion-dollar Municipal Credit Union, Earl Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer of the Transport Workers Union, and Kenneth Mapp, Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

T & T Opposition Leader Says Government Wants him dead

SCARBOROUGH, Tobago (CMC) – Opposition Leader Dr Keith Rowley is accusing the coalition People's Partnership Government of wanting him dead.

"First time in Trinidad and Tobago, the Opposition Leader is under attack from the Government. And when I'm not under attack from their friends who they hire to kill me, I'm under attack from their friends who they hire to lie about me," Rowley told a public meeting of the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) here on Sunday night. Rowley told supporters that a few months ago he had informed people in the country that for the first time "in my 30 years (in public office) I feared for my personal safety."

"Lo and behold, as I speak to you now, I'm surrounded by people who you pay to protect me from people who will have me killed," Rowley told supporters. Over the weekend, PNM public relations officer Faris Al Rawi, who is also one of Rowley's attorneys, said that there was confirmation by national security forces at the highest level that there was "a physical assassination attempt aimed at removing Rowley at a price tag of TT\$15 million

(One TT dollar = US\$0.16 cents)

"The question for Trinidad and Tobago is this, who stands to benefit from Dr. Rowley's elimination," Al Rawi asked. But National Security Minister Carl Alfonso said he is unaware of any attempt on Rowley's life.

He told reporters Sunday that while the police may be aware of the threat, the

Commissioner of Police is yet to inform him.

"Security has become a big concern and seems to be a growing concern generally speaking. I have not been told by anybody, any official persons that there is a threat on Mr Rowley's life," he added. While he did not disclose any names as to who would be lying against him,, Rowley was apparently making reference to the former investigative journalist with the Trinidad Express newspaper, Anika Gumbs, who resigned her post over the weekend, claiming that she was "mentally scarred" and "traumatised" by "an unfortunate experience" with Rowley. In her resignation letter dated August 7, Gumbs stated that during a visit to Rowley's home in Diego Martin, west of here, on April 20 to pursue a story she was "astonished" to see he was bareback. She also claimed that she had informed Rowley that she had received prank calls and "to her shock and surprise," Rowley said: "Would you hire me to be your bodyguard outside your bedroom?" She also indicated that on a previous visit to Rowley's home on April 9, he touched her on her back and asked if she had a tattoo of a map on it. She said she told him that the "tattoo on my back was not a map but a butterfly".

She said Rowley asked her the meaning of the butterfly tattoo, and she replied: "It's all part of being chic".

Rowley, who is leading the PNM into the September 7 general election, has since said he has placed the matter in the hands of his attorneys.

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Antigua and Barbuda to join CCJ in all jurisdictions

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (CMC) — The Antigua and Barbuda Government says it will be joining the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), as the island's final court. Cabinet has accepted a recommendation from Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Steadroy Benjamin on the issue.

The CCJ was established in 2001 to replace the London-based Privy Council. However, while most Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries have signed on to the court's original jurisdiction, only Barbados, Guyana, Belize and Dominica, are signatories to the appellate jurisdiction of the CCJ that also serves as an international tribunal interpreting the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the 15-member regional integration movement. Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to Caricom

Dr Clarence Henry has been appointed to spearhead the national engagement and consultation to fully explain the rationale for the adoption of the CCJ in its appellate jurisdiction. Benjamin said that the diplomat will head a national committee of stakeholders that will coordinate and manage the national engagement and consultation on this matter.

He said the committee would also include representatives from the trade unions, political parties, the private sector, the bar association, the Electoral Commission, the Barbuda Council, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, civil society, and the media.

Benjamin said the committee's mandate includes preparing the country to determine the matter by way of a referendum at the end of the consultative process.



Fifty Years after the signing of Voting Rights Act, issue of voting by Blacks and the poor remains a

Top priority, comprehensive reform of law is crucial

by Tony Best

Fifty years after the 1965 Voting Rights Act became the law of the land and the driving force that liberated the ballot box from shackles of racists intent on preventing Blacks from voting, the calls are mounting for comprehensive reform by Congress. Two years after the nation's top court gutted the Voting Rights law of a key provision that had eliminated obstacles to the voting booth, demands for reforms are becoming louder, coming from all sections of society, from the first Black President and his Vice President, a civil rights icon who campaigned alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the rights of Blacks to a decent education, affordable housing and access to effective health care and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws in the 1960, religious leaders of all description and present day civil rights advocates and their national, state and local organizations. "Some of the protections that had been enshrined in the Voting Rights Act have been weakened as a consequence of court decisions and interpretations of the law," complained President Obama whose path to the White House was paved by the provisions of the Act that was signed by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965. "State legislature have instituted procedures and practices that, although on the surface may appear neutral, have the effect of discouraging people from voting, may have a disproportionate effect on certain kinds of folks voting. And if, in fact those practices, those trends, those tendencies are allowed to continue unanswered, then over time the hard-won battles of 50 years ago erode, our democracy erodes," added Obama. That was why, he said, "one order of business is for Congress to pass an updated version of the Voting Rights Act that would correct some of the problems that have arisen."

U.S. Senator Corey Booker, a Democrat of New Jersey now in his first term on Capitol Hill, agreed with Obama, pointing a finger of blame at the voter ID laws enacted in Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin and other parts of the country, especially in the South. "The voting Rights Act is under threat," warned Senator Booker, a former Mayor of Newark. "And these voter ID laws which are being passed in many states have a disproportionate impact on poor folks." The ID laws are requiring voters to present different forms of ID -- driver's license, passport or a gun license but not a student ID card -- before being allowed to cast ballots. The major reason given for the strict laws is the need to deter voter fraud, which was negligible, less than one per cent of the votes cast in many of the states. Senator Booker told a national television audience on Sunday that cases of voter fraud were so miniscule, almost non-existent, that "you're more likely to get struck by lightning in Texas than to find any kind of voter fraud." So far, Texas' ID laws have restricted the rights of 600,000 Black and poor people there, explained Booker, one of two Blacks in the Senate. The other is South Carolina's Senator Tim Scott, a Republican. Joining the chorus for law reform is U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, a former Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. He said that half a century after its enactment, the Voting Rights law needed strengthening. "It is clear that our work is far from done," said Rangel on the Act's anniversary. "Too many localities are committing the greatest wrong for any democracy by trying to keep those that wish to vote from doing so. What was once a literacy test has now become a voter ID law, but while the method changes the impact is the same. It is time to end the foolish attempts to solve problems that simply



do not exist. Now, that the Supreme Court has struck down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, it has become even more important that Congress to take action." And the action required is comprehensive voting rights reform. Interestingly, federal appeal courts in Texas and Wisconsin have struck down voter ID laws in those states. As for the Congressional Black Caucus, whose 40-plus members have been among Congress' chief beneficiaries of the Act, couldn't agree more with Rangel, Booker and others. "Fifty years since passage of the VRA (Voting Rights Act), it remains clear that the struggle for the right to vote is not over," said G.K. Butterfield, the Caucus Chairman who is from North Carolina. "Today it's more important than ever that Congress pass a comprehensive legislative proposal that restores the Voting Rights Act and improves our nation's voting system in a way that guarantees access to the ballot box and protects the fundamental right to vote for every American once and for all." Another member of the Caucus, Congressman John Lewis, an aide to Dr. King at the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s has broadened the demand for

change by appealing to the clergy around the country to mobilize support behind the proposed legislative remedies.

"We need to fix it (VRA) before next year's election," said Lewis, who campaigned for the original Voting Rights law. "We've got to do it brothers and sisters. We have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate to do it."

And that's where the clergy comes in, he told the Progressive National Baptist Convention in Washington a few days ago that action in support of reform by religious ministers was essential. "It's time again for the religious leaders, the ministers of the gospel, to get in trouble," he said. "There are forces in our country, in Washington and all around America, who want to take us back. But we're not going back. We have made too much progress. We're going forward." In New York, the Rev. Gilford Monroe, Pastor of Mt. Zion Church of God, Seventh Day in Brooklyn, said Congressional action couldn't be over-stated.

"Many churches are unaware of the legislative proposals on Capitol Hill and should be brought up to speed on the bills before the House and the Senate," said Monroe, Director of Faith-based and Clergy Initiatives at Brooklyn Borough Hall. "I agree that the clergy must get involved in the campaign because at the end of the day our congregations are being adversely affected by being denied the right to vote."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, leader of the National Action Network who uses his radio and national television shows to urge Congressional action said that the Voting Rights reform was crucial.

Minister calls for decriminalization of attempted suicide

GEORGETOWN Guyana (CMC) — The Guyana Police Force (GPF) yesterday launched its suicide prevention hotline, while a senior Government minister calling for the

decriminalisation of attempted suicide in the country. "Guyana should move toward the decriminalisation of attempted suicide. I would like to hear the arguments from the other side to hear why it would remain on the law-

books," said Public Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan, adding it would be a useful debate on the matter. Attempted suicide is punishable by a maximum of two years imprisonment and Ramjattan said that Guyana is one of few

countries in the region where attempted suicide is a crime. He said the United States, Canada and the whole of Europe have all done away with that offence.

State Senator Leroy Comrie: witch-hunt targeting New York elected officials a fact of life;

warns elected officials if they are convicted of breaking the law they would go to prison.

By Tony Best

A “witch-hunt” targeting New York elected officials in and out of Albany is a fact of life. But office-holders in the Assembly and the State Senate and elsewhere should recognize that if they break the law by engaging in corrupt practices, they stand a good chance of being indicted and if found guilty in the courts they would end up serving time in prison. That warning has come from State Senator Leroy Comrie, a freshman Democratic lawmaker from Queens, who told the **Carib News** that it was clear a “witch hunt” was on. “‘Definitely, there is a witch-hunt on all elected officials, no matter where you are,” was the way Senator Comrie put it. “Preet Bharara, (Manhattan U.S. Attorney) has announced he is looking at several other elected officials and their travel expenses and expenditures in general. There is a witch hunt on elected officials and I think it is not going to stop in the foreseeable future. All we must try to do is to ensure that people who are in office are doing the right thing and stay focus on what’s important.” Just the other day former Brooklyn State

Senator John Sampson, who once served as chairman of the State Senate Democratic Conference when his party controlled the chamber was convicted in federal court of obstructing a federal investigation. Sampson, who was one of the most influential elected officials in New York State is expected to serve several years in jail in the wake of his conviction. Asked about the Sampson case, Comrie described his conviction by a jury as “part of life,” the result of wrong-doing. “He was found guilty and part of life. If you do something wrong in this day and age and in this transparent world that we live in and you are found out you are going to go to jail,” said Comrie. “So, the best thing for you to do is to make sure your actions are above reproach and the things that you do must be for your community first. That’s how I have always lived my life and I will try to continue with God’s help and stay on that path.” Interestingly, Comrie, the son of Jamaican parents won a Senate seat that was held for years by Malcolm Smith, a Democrat who was recently convicted of a criminal offence. Smith was a high-ranking lawmaker when the



Democrats controlled the Senate, serving as Majority Leader. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. Comrie handily defeated Smith when he sought re-election while under indictment and awaiting trial. Comrie won the seat with a large majority. But Sampson and Smith weren’t alone in running afoul of the law. State Senator Thomas Libous, a Republican from Binghamton was the number two Republican in the chamber and he was recently found guilty of lying to FBI agents.

State Senator Dean Skelos, the Republican Senate Majority Leader for six years was indicted in May on corruption charges. Sheldon Silver, for decades the Speaker of the Democratic controlled Assembly is awaiting trial on corruption allegations. He stepped down from the Speaker’s office after the federal indictment but he has retained his seat. If convicted, Silver would be forced out of the Assembly. Comrie, a City Council member for a dozen years left City Hall because of term limits and was made Queens Deputy Borough President when Malinda Katz became Borough President in 2013. “I won the seat in state Senate with a large majority because I served my constituents well. They recognized that I got the job done and put their interests first,” he said. Comrie made his comments after attending an official Jamaica independence flag raising ceremony at Queens Borough Hall hosted by Katz. More than a hundred Jamaicans, including the Caribbean country’s Consul General in New York, Herman Lamont attended the function.

Dr. Vincent Hosang Receives the Order of Jamaica

Dr. Vincent Hosang, CEO/President/ Founder of Caribbean Food Delights and philanthropist will receive the Order of Jamaica (OJ), for his dedicated service to Jamaica and the Diaspora in New York.

The honor of the Order of Jamaica (OJ) may be conferred upon any Jamaican citizen of outstanding distinction or upon any distinguished citizen of a country other than

Jamaica (honorary member). A member of the Order is styled “Honorable” and the motto of the Order is “For a covenant of the People”.

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Order is styled “Honorable” and the motto of the Order is “For a covenant of the People”.

Dr. Hosang said he was most delighted with Honor and thanks the many supporters over the years who have helped to make the business successful and that allowed he and his family to be involved in the activities of the community; to support many worthy causes.



Police Department launches new community policing strategy in City to build trust NYPD reaches out to Caribbean Community

by Tony Best

As New York City’s police chief William Bratton launches his new community policing strategy designed to boost relationships with neighborhoods, the NYPD’s top brass is reaching out to the Caribbean community for support and feedback about an initiative that aims to build trust in the force.

And an initial meeting arranged by Bratton and some of his top commanders and attended by Caribbean community leaders, including New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry, an assistant Speaker Pro-Tem of the lower chamber of the legislature in Albany; Dr. Roy Hastick, President of the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Rickford Burke, head of the Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy; Curtis Nelson, executive Director of Sesame Flyers; and Jumaane Williams and Dr. Mathieu Eugene, two Brooklyn City Council members was described later as “informative” and a “good first step.”

“It was useful and it provided an opportunity for people to dialogue with the chief of police and to raise some of their concerns,” said Perry, a long-serving lawmaker in Albany.

Dr. Hastick described the meeting’s outcome in a similar way.

“It was cordial and seeks to achieve an essential goal: better relations between the NYPD and various communities across the City,” said the CACCI leader. “It’s a good first step and we look forward to a continuing dialogue.”

Interestingly, the session and additional

meetings may lead to a forging of business ties between the NYPD and minority and women-owned enterprises in the five boroughs.

“We in the chamber are interested in the growth of small businesses, not only for enterprises owned by people from the Caribbean but across the board,” said Hastick, the chamber’s founder. “We envisage a meeting that would focus on small businesses and their needs.”

The session follows the launching of Bratton’s new approach to community policing that’s being labelled “One City: Safe and Fair Everywhere.” It calls for more officers on the beat to heighten people’s feelings of safety on the streets and in their homes and improve relationships between neighborhoods and officers.

“As important as safety is, it is not enough,” was the way Bratton put it earlier when he presented the plan to members of the clergy in June at One Police Plaza. “Safety without Public approval isn’t public safety. We want a safer, fairer City everywhere and for everyone.”

According to officials and community leaders who have reviewed the strategy, officers are to be placed in certain neighborhood, day-in and day out so they can become much more familiar with the people they are sworn to protect and to serve. Just as important people would become familiar with the cops who are



being assigned to the same neighborhood for extended periods of time.

“That’s going to create a deeper kind of trust,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio several weeks ago at a community center in Manhattan. Relations between residents of predominantly Black neighborhoods and the police officers plummeted after the killing of Remarley Graham, an unarmed Jamaican teenager by a cop who burst into the teenager’s Bronx which he shared with his mother, grandmother and siblings. The officer shot and killed the youth for no apparent reason. No drugs or weapons were ever found and after the cop was indicted a Bronx judge threw out the charges citing technical grounds.

Next was the Eric Garner case that triggered national and international attention. The father of six children, Garner was placed in a chokehold by a cop who wanted to arrest him for selling loose cigarettes of the streets. The City’s Medical Examiner ruled the death a homicide but a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict the officer despite the video evidence of the incident and the fact that Garner was placed in a chokehold which the NYPD had previously banned. After the meeting with Caribbean community representatives, Perry said that a concern was articulated at the meeting about the police’s method of approving or rejecting permits for entertainment centers in certain neighborhood. “The gist of the concern at the meeting was that the police tended to have a policy that often resulted in the closing down of businesses of that type in our neighborhoods, rather than trying to work with them to develop good business practices so that the operations can be kept within the law,” said Perry. “I intend to put that issue on our agenda at the legislative level because I just think the police may not be mindful of the fact that those businesses thrive in other neighborhoods with good cooperation from the police. Certainly, those businesses that operate in disregard for the community’s right to peace and quiet must be addressed in the appropriate way.”

Fifty Years after the signing of the Voting Rights Act

we must rescue the Key Civil rights legislation from the assaults of State law makers

The Voting Rights Act, which U.S. President Lyndon Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965, is one of the most effective pieces of legislation of the civil rights or any era in American history.

It played a major role in eliminating many of the racial impediments to voting in the country fifty years after its historic enactment, the Act which protects what is perhaps the most a fundamental right in the U.S. after the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, allowed tens of millions of people to choose their leaders. It is now under serious threat, assault is perhaps the best way to put it and it is in urgent and serious need of reform.

From Wisconsin, Texas and North Carolina to Mississippi and Alabama, to cite a few examples, Republican dominated state legislature are erecting monstrous barriers that prevent Blacks and other people of color from exercising the franchise. On the 50th anniversary of the law the most pernicious weapon being used by white lawmakers is an insistence that requires people to present a photo ID --- a motor vehicle driver's license, passport; or even a handgun permit --- before being allowed

to cast one's ballot. IN Texas alone, a voter ID law passed in 2011 effectively disenfranchised 600,000 registered voters -- almost 5 per cent of the electorate there. Considering that American officials go around the world telling everyone that the North American economic and social colossus is a paragon of democratic virtue, these ID laws make a mockery of U.S. claims and people's rights.

Just last week, President Barack Obama, who owes his historic presence in the White House as the nation's first Black chief executive to the provisions of the ACT, complained that "in practice, we have state legislature that are deliberately trying to make it harder for people to vote." And two ways of achieving that abhorrent goal is to curb or eliminate early voting and by demanding photo IDs. Those restrictions are being imposed on the false premise that they are needed to eliminate voter fraud, something that hardly exists. After all, scientific studies have shown that less than 1 per cent of the more than 100 million votes cast in the country were found to be the result of fraud.

As a matter of fact, a days ago, U.S. Senator Corey Booker, a Democrat of New Jersey

and a former Mayor of Newark, told a national television audience that "you're more likely to get struck by lightning in Texas than to find any kind of voter fraud." Still, supposedly intelligent people, not only in Texas but in several southern states support the restrictions on voting because of allegations of fraud.

U.S. Congressman John Lewis, an aide of Dr. Martin Luther King, the iconic leader of the civil rights movement of the 1960s who did more than any anyone else to stir America's conscience and help break down the monstrous barriers to the ballot box at the state and local levels eloquently summed up the impediments to the foundation of any system of governance.

"There are forces in our country, in Washington and all around America, want to take us back," he told the Progressive National Baptist Convention in Washington. "But we're not going back. We've made too much progress."

In essence, we must move forward. And to do that we must use every fiber in our bodies, every available decent institution, every chance we get to press the case for improvements to the Voting Rights Act.

For example, our churches, as they have

done in the past, must be mobilized to get our people involved in support of legislation now on the Congressional docket to amend the Act and give it back the strength the U.S. Supreme Court took away two years ago. The top court removed section four of the 1965 law that previously prevented states with a history of discriminating against Black votes from continuing their odious ways and the Republican controlled House of Representatives and the Senate must reinstate the losses.

Our lawmakers and the clergy must link arms to get a comprehensive legislative measure through the Congress in order to restore the Voting Rights Act to its original strength while improving the overall voting system in a fashion that guarantees full access to the ballot box. That legislation must also protect people fundamental right to vote. Anything less wouldn't be acceptable.

In other words, we must have a lasting and indeed robust answer to the desires of Republicans who believe that everything must be done to stop Blacks, Hispanics and other people of color from being full participants in the nation's democracy.

Police Commissioner and Caribbean Immigrant Community

NYPD's community strategy for Caribbean immigrants, a first step?

A partnership that builds "trust" in New York City.

That's what Police Commissioner, William Bratton, says he wants to develop in New York City between the Police Department and New Yorkers, whether native-born or immigrant. It is a noble objective that if achieved would enable the NYPD to become an effective force in the five borough instead of being viewed as an occupying institution. Ultimately, it could make people feel safe in their homes and on the streets after more than a decade of suspicion, frayed relations and friction.

After the turbulent era of stop-and-frisk that saw hundreds of thousands of innocent New Yorkers, especially young Blacks, stopped and questioned without justification, Bratton is implementing his new strategy: "One City: Safe and Fair Everywhere" which seeks to establish a "more intimate" relationship with the different communities and neighborhoods that make up the City. It's in everybody's interest that it succeeds. As the police chief explained it recently to influential members of the clergy in the five boroughs "as important as safety is, it is not

enough. Safety without public approval isn't public safety. We want a safer, fairer City, everywhere for everyone."

Last week, Bratton met behind closed doors with a small representative gathering of Caribbean community leaders, drawn mainly from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens and talked about the Department's plans for community policing and safety and how the partnership he envisages would evolve. He also received feedback from people.

From all accounts, it was an important and productive meeting, which some community leaders insist was a "good first step" that augurs well for the future. Clearly, much will depend on what happens next and if the community leaders become convinced that sincerity and fairness are the watchwords of the 35,000 uniformed officers.

Like Black and Hispanic New Yorkers scattered across the five boroughs, Caribbean immigrants have suffered from the high-handedness, racism and indifference which characterize relations between the NYPD and communities of color. Stop and frisk did considerable damage to the way of ficers and residents of Caribbean immigrant

communities, especially those in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx relate to each other. More than 500,000 English, Creole and Spanish-speaking people from the Caribbean call the City home and they aren't looking for special treatment from officers. They want to feel safe on the streets and in their homes and as in the case of other people of color, they want to be respected and when that respect isn't present they react like everyone else: with frustration and a lack of trust.

The killing of Remarley Graham, an unarmed Caribbean youth who didn't threaten the police officer and the failure of the criminal justice system to punish the cop for the brazen and brutal way he barged into the private home and killed the youth in the presence of his aged grandmother were clear indications that far too many officers have little, if any, respect or consideration for the lives of Blacks, regardless of their birthplace. The call to action entitled "Black Lives Matter" is as important to Caribbean immigrant as it relevant to others of color. The Eric Garner case and the failure of the grand jury on Staten Island to indict the

police officer who placed the father of six in a choke hold that caused his death were as painful and outrageous to the foreign born as it was to New Yorkers whose "navel strings were buried" in the City's soil.

Participants in the session, discussed with the NYPD leaders the new patrolling system the NYPD plans to use in various neighborhoods to establish a better rapport with residents and the community representatives are eager to do their part in forging the relationship the brass is seeking.

At the same time, they expect their business enterprises, the minority and women-owned companies to given the same treatment and commercial opportunities as those reserved for white companies.

That certainly is a matter of interest to the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry and to elected officials, including City Councilmembers Jumaane Williams and Dr. Mathieu Eugene; New York State Assembly members Nick Perry and Rodneyse Bichotte as well as State Senators Jesse Hamilton and Kevin Parker.

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U.N. Should Show the U.S. that Black Lives Matter - Stop Violations



By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Almost daily there is another fatal case of racially-motivated police brutality that occurs against a Black American woman, man or child. What is happening to Black people in America? What is causing this resurgence of bigotry, violence and brutality?

The occurrences of other serious injustices are also growing: voter suppression, economic inequalities, mass incarceration, as well as racial discrimination in education, housing, environment, employment, and health care.

Taken together, these injustices represent staggering violations of the fundamental human rights of Black America. I believe it is time once again to petition the United Nations for an international response to the violations of the human rights of Black Americans, just as Malcolm X had proposed.

Human rights may be defined as those universal rights that are inherent to all human beings. In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble states, "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

Thus, our chant today "No Justice, No Peace!" is rooted in international law. There are some who will question the effectiveness of calling upon the United Nations to introduce and pass a resolution to stop the human rights violations of Black people and others in the U.S. We live in a global economy and a geopolitical world. I believe, therefore, if international sanctions were to be imposed by the U.N. on the U.S. because of systematic and racially-motivated human rights violations, it would serve as an effective deterrent.

We should recall that back in 1947, W.E.B. DuBois led the NAACP to petition the United Nations to protest the deadly and discriminatory treatment of Black Americans. The document that DuBois and the NAACP presented to the U.N. was titled, "An Appeal to the World." They cited in their U.N. petition a litany of facts detailing widespread lynching, racial discrimination, as well as documenting the inequalities in housing, employment, education, voting rights and health care.

The new form of lynching today is the use of deadly police force and actions that lead to the unjustifiable deaths of Black Americans, most of them unarmed. Not only are our civil rights being denied, but also our human rights are being systematically violated. It is relevant to today's state of affairs in Black America to read the following quote from the NAACP U.N. petition 68 years ago: "At first [the American Negro] was driven from the polls in the South by mobs and violence; and then he was openly cheated; finally by a 'Gentlemen's agreement' with the North, that Negro was disfranchised in the South by a series of laws, methods of administration, court decisions, and general public policy, so that today, three-fourths of the Negro population of the nation is deprived of the right to vote by open and declared policy."

Twenty-one states have implemented some type of voter suppression law or policy that is directly targeted at Black Americans and others who have been historically denied equal justice. There are 113 voter suppression proposals pending in 33 states. This action comes on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court gutting a key section of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that requires jurisdictions with a documented history of racial discrimination to pre-clear and voting laws with the Justice Department or a federal judge in Washington, D.C.

The audacity of W.E.B. DuBois, the NAACP,

and in particular Black newspaper publishers who were members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in the 1940s helped to lay the groundwork for the building of the modern Civil Rights Movement. We are challenged yet again to speak out, organize, mobilize, and to protest. But we must also build stronger institutions and businesses that we own. Going back to the U.N. is a tactical move to reassert our human rights.

Yes, we affirm that "Black Lives Matter!" We have an obligation to generations past and future to demand that federal and state governments take more action to stop the injustices that we face. We all should now be preparing for the massive "Justice Or Else" mobilization in Washington, D.C. on October 10 that will be webcast and video streamed to millions of people throughout the world in different languages. It's time to stop our human rights from being so carelessly violated.

(#BlackLivesMatter #JusticeOrElse #BlackPressUSA)

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: drbchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

One Year After Ferguson: Change Still Must Come



By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
NNPA Columnist

After three days of peaceful demonstrations marking the one-year anniversary of Michael Brown's fatal shooting in Ferguson, Mo., yet another African American man was shot by police there. While the facts are still unclear, the tragedy will surely add to the national protests challenging our racially biased structures of criminal injustice. A week earlier, a young, unarmed man was shot to death by a police officer in Seneca, S.C. Only this young man was not Black, but White.

According to CNN, Zachary Hammond was fatally shot while in a Hardee's parking lot. He was 19 years old and on a date. The police officer was conducting a drug investigation and claims that he shot Hammond in self-defense when the unarmed teenager drove his car at him. A small amount of marijuana was found in the front passenger compartment.

Police said the target of the investigation was not Hammond but his date. An independent autopsy showed, however, that Hammond was shot in the back, contradicting the official story. "He was a 19 year old, 121 pound kid killed basically for a joint," family attorney Eric Bland said. CNN reported that if this had been an African American victim, it would have received national attention. That is true now, but only because an active movement of demonstrators have made it so. In fact, virtually the only protests to Hammond's death were issued by #BlackLivesMatter activists on social media.

One year after Michael Brown's fatal shooting in Ferguson, unarmed Black men are still seven times more likely than Whites to die by police gunfire, according to a new study by the Washington Post. So far this year, the Post reports, 24 unarmed Black men have been shot and killed by police — one every nine days. The Post reports that 585 people in total have been shot and killed by police through August 7. [The Guardian database reports 700 have been killed by police].

There is no question that African American men are a greatest risk. After the Michael Brown killing in Ferguson, national protests have forced reform of the police and of mass incarceration policies onto the national agenda. The names of those who died from police violence — Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Samuel DuBose, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, Freddy Gray, Sandra Bland and more — are etched in public memory because

demonstrators have demanded justice for them.

The non-violent protests of demonstrators and the Black church have forced community after community to respond. After Ferguson, and with the spread of cameras that have caught the police in lies, the police are no longer completely immune. In 24 states, reform measures — many focused on requiring body cameras — have been introduced. These are merely the first stirrings of change. But the killings haven't stopped.

While African Americans are at disproportionate risk from the structural and human biases of our criminal justice system, we should not forget that working and poor people of all races suffer from police excessive use of force. Police kill more Whites than Blacks. Of the 700 killings it has recorded, the Guardian reports that 340 were White, 179 Black and 101 Hispanic. The Post reports that African American men were 40 percent of the unarmed deaths, but Whites and Hispanics made up the majority. The system has a class bias, as well as a race bias. An investigation by Alternet's Zaid Jilani revealed that in the first five months of this year, 95 percent of police killings occurred in neighborhoods with average incomes under \$100,000. There were no killings in neighborhoods with incomes of \$200,000 or above.

Not surprisingly, lower income Whites are more likely to say police abuse of authority is on the rise than middle or upper income whites.

Excessive force puts White lives at risk, as well as those of Blacks and Hispanics. But the silence of the White community and of the white Church is deafening. The victims of police abuse are left to seek justice on their own.

We need people of conscience in the White community to join with the growing movement grounded in the African American community to demand reform. Too often, police don't live in the communities they patrol. They are armed to the teeth, but often receive too little training in how police can help build a community rather than simply occupy it.

People of all races and all incomes care about safe streets. They want their children protected; their parents able to walk outside with security. This is as true of impoverished African American neighborhoods as it is of upscale suburbs. But one year after Ferguson, it's clear we all have a stake in dramatic reform of the American way of policing, if the police are to be trusted as protectors and not threats.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbowpush.org

Dr. Roy A Hastick appointed Brooklyn Borough Ambassador to BBP Eric L. Adams

Dear Future Ambassador of Brooklyn,
Congratulations!

It is my pleasure and honor to officially inform you that you have been selected to be a Brooklyn Ambassador.

You are admired for your community spirit, vision and dedication to the growth of Brooklyn. You have established and sustained relationships with your community which is vital for its continued growth and support. In short, you have proven yourself to be an audacious leader and a worthy role model for One Brooklyn.

As an ambassador, you will work within your designated community to help promote the neighborhood and uphold the welfare of its residents. Brooklyn Ambassadors will notify the Brooklyn Borough President of the issues and concerns of the residents and meetings and events held within the community.

With approval, you will attend community meetings, workshops, conferences and events in their designated community on behalf of the Borough President. You will attend internal and external meetings, and events initiated by Brooklyn Borough Hall. Brooklyn Ambassadors will relay the policies, programs, initiatives, messages, and promotional materials to their community at large.

I am convening a meet and greet introduction with the Borough President and approved Brooklyn Ambassadors on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 to formally induct you and provide you with guidelines and procedures.

Born in Grenada, WI, Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr. migrated to the United States in 1972 and worked for several years as an administrator, community advocate, an entrepreneur and newspaper publisher. In 1985 he founded the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) with 10 members. Under his leadership, CACCI has become a well recognized and well respected organization with over 1,700 members in the tri-state area and in the Caribbean.

For the past 30 years, CACCI has sustained and developed its mission -- to advocate on behalf of Caribbean American, African American, and other small businesses. As President and CEO of CACCI, Hastick has been credited for his tireless efforts to put in place a structure that serves the small business community, promotes economic development and continues to foster a climate of unity and harmony among diverse cultures. In collaboration with the CACCI membership and the wider community, CACCI organizes emergency responses to hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters in the Caribbean region including St. Kitts-Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Haiti. CACCI has hosted numerous Caribbean Heads of State on their visits to New York. He participates annually in planning of the Annual National Caribbean Heritage Month Conferences and instituted the annual economic development brunch which

held in Washington, DC. An ardent advocate of Two-Way trade between the United States and the Caribbean region, Hastick served as an elected delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business, and successfully campaigned to get two-way trade with the Caribbean region into the final recommendations that were submitted to the US Congress. CACCI manages the NYC-owned Brooklyn-based micro enterprise incubator, a 9,000 sq. ft. Flatbush Caton Vendors Market, which houses over 40 vendors who sell a variety of African and Caribbean artifacts and a small business service center, which provides business counseling services. Under his leadership, CACCI has launched numerous small business projects and programs including the NYS/CACCI Census 2010 Outreach and Mobilization initiative and NYC DSBS Business Services Programs. Hastick has served on several economic development boards including past memberships on NYC Mayor's Small Business Advisory Board, J P Morgan Chase CAB Board and New York City and Company Inc. Current appointments include:

Brooklyn Navy Yard Industrial Park, Board of Directors; NYC Comptroller's Red Tape NYPD Commissioner's Advisory Committee MWBE; And appointed by Brooklyn Borough President to serve as one of his "Brooklyn Borough Ambassadors". In 1986, Hastick was selected to receive the National Small Business



Advocate of the Year Award by the US Department of Commerce. Since that time he has been the recipient of countless awards from diverse business, cultural and civic groups for his impressive record of achievements and efforts at promoting economic development, most notably from then NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's African American Achievers Award for exemplary small business leadership; the NYC American Dreamer Award during "Immigrants' Week in NYC" presented by NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Diaspora Award; NYS Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce; and the 2011 NY Mets Caribbean Heritage Award presented at the Mets Stadium. Hastick also treasures the Honorary Doctorate which was bestowed on him and the recognition received from City University of New York Medgar Evers College, and the PENCIL Award for his service as "Principal for a Day" at PS 91. Hastick's motto is "BUSINESS NETWORKING WORKS".

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FC Harlem and Chelsea Football Club Special Reception



FC Harlem and Chelsea Football Club Special Reception



On Monday, July 20th, FC Harlem and the Board of Directors of Chelsea Football Club held a reception at Minton's Jazz Supper Club in Harlem. The reception celebrated their partnership and included an announcement of a new project to create a one-of-a-kind Soccer and youth development facility. FC Harlem is a non-profit youth enrichment sports program, founded in 1990. It serves youth in Harlem and the Bronx and combines sport with enrichment and mentoring with the aim to create LIONS (Leaders In Our Community).

On Tuesday July 21st Adidas hosted a freestyle soccer event at the FC Harlem Field located in Riverside Park. Star players from Chelsea FC judged the competition while over 300 spectators in attendance. FC Harlem player Joseph Koroma won the competition.

ABOVE AND BEYOND HONORING THOSE YOU SERVE



L/R-NY Senator Bill Perkins, (Above & Beyond honoree) Walter Bridgers (Harlem Vet Center, Director), (Retired Army Brigadier General) Dr. Loree Sutton

Beyond and Beyond Veterans honorees Those Who Serve

L/R-(Retired Army Veteran) Mrs. Archible (National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.), (Retired Army Brigadier General) Dr. Loree Sutton, (Retired Army Veteran, National Association Black Veterans, Inc.) Leroy R. Archible

-Pace Business College in lower Manhattan held an awards ceremony for ten veterans Honoring Those Who Serve, Above and Beyond. Harlem honoree Vet Center, Team Leader Walter Bridgers, said, "Military people are mission oriented. And never get rid of a mission, you just find different ways to complete the mission." For Bridgers, 65, working to assist fellow veterans who are making the adjustment back to civilian life after a career in the armed forces provides just that sense of mission. The Harlem Vet Center provides veterans and their families with outreach, counseling and referral services, including assistance in finding housing, medical referrals and counseling marriage conflict and sexual trauma. Bridgers believes education is the key to allowing veterans to make the successful transition back to civilian life. (Gideon Manasseh / photojournalist).



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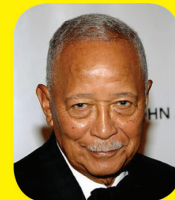


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Sheryl Lee Ralph
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Singer/HIV-AIDS humanitarian



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Boy 10, shot dead by 11-year-old

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) -- The Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago is calling on the authorities to implement the "significant penalties" under the Children's Act after a 10-year-old boy was shot and killed by an 11-year-old with a shotgun in a garden in Diego Martin, west of here on Thursday. The authority said that the law provides for significant penalties "for a person who fails to

take reasonable precautions to guard against a child having access to arms and ammunition". Police said that Reuben Reed was in the company of some friends when they stumbled upon the gun and was shot in the chest by an 11-year-old boy. Another boy was grazed by a bullet.

The authority said it is on standby to provide support to the children who were involved

in the incident and was appealing "to parents and guardians to supervise their children and be extremely vigilant in ensuring the safety of their children, especially during the school holiday".

Police said they had also found a small number of marijuana plants in the area.
Restaurant owner killed, wife beaten



Earthquake rocks Barbados



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) – An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.6 rocked Barbados on Friday but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

The Trinidad-based Seismic Research Center (SRC) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), said the tremor was felt at around 2:21 pm (local time) and was located 224 kilometres north-east of the capital, Bridgetown. It had a depth of 10 km and was at latitude 13.86 north

and longitude 58.82 west.

This is the second quake to hit Barbados in a 72 hour period. On Tuesday, the island was rattled by an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.4.

The SRC said that it is continuing to monitor the situation in the neighbouring Caribbean island following a series of earth tremors in recent weeks with the strongest being 6.5, three weeks ago.

Former Trinidad Cabinet minister calls on PM to step aside until cleared in police probes



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Thursday August 6, 2015 – A former minister who now leads the regional chapter of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) is calling on Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to step aside as the twin-island republic's leader, until she is cleared of wrongdoing in ongoing police investigations.

Mary King, who was fired by Persad-Bissessar four years ago, after she awarded a contract to a company she jointly owned with her husband, said yesterday she was deeply concerned about the conflict of interest that exists in the prime minister remaining at

the helm while under probe.

The Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau is looking into allegations that Persad-Bissessar was bribed by two businessmen wanted by the US for money laundering – Ishwar Galbaransingh and Steve Ferguson – to keep them out of jail and prevent their extradition, and lawmen are also investigating the 2013 discovery of marijuana at her residence. "These investigations do not require her to remove herself from her parliamentary position as a representative of her constituency. However, as head of the National Security Council, of which the Commissioner of Police is a member, compromises his position as the head of the unit that is investigating the matters relating to the prime minister," King contended in a statement issued by GOPAC.

"Under all international standards, the only way to avoid a constitutional crisis would be for Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar to stand down from the position of prime minister, until such time as the police investigations have concluded without laying of criminal charges against her." Persad-Bissessar had revoked King's appointment as a senator and Minister of Planning, Economic and Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs after she improperly awarded a TT\$100,000

US\$15,788) contract for website development at her ministry to Ixanos Limited, a company, in which she and her husband were the principal shareholders. The Irish-born King had allegedly

failed to disclose her interest in the company, participated in the selection process, and put her secretary on the evaluation committee which recommended the award of the contract to Ixanos.

Honduran Congress to recognize Fidel Castro



HAVANA, Cuba (CMC) – The Honduran National Congress will award a special acknowledgement to former Cuban President, Fidel Castro, for his work in favour of the health and education of the people of the Central American nation. The award was proposed by the deputy of the Libertad and Refundacion (Libre) Party, Scherly Arriaga, and backed by the Nationalist Party, Oswaldo Ramos, President

of the Legislation Commission. Cuba has cooperated with Honduras in the field of health since 1974, when the country was hit by Hurricane Fifi. In addition, 345,000 Hondurans have studied Medicine at Havana's Latin American Medical School (ELAM). Up to July this year, the Cuban Medical Mission in Honduras had treated 27.6 million cases in d

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Guyana PM confirms salary hikes for gov't officials; says they need "respectable salaries"

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, – Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo has confirmed media reports that ministers and other top level government officials will be getting bigger pay checks, saying they need to be paid "respectable salaries" to reduce the risk of them getting involved in corruption. However, he said no 100 per cent increase had been decided on, as some reports had indicated.

Speaking to journalists on Sunday, Nagamootoo sought to explain the reasons for the pending salary hikes. "There has been a reduction in the number of ministries, and also it would be used as a method of preventing ministers from putting their hands in the cookie jars," he said. "They need to be paid respectable salaries, same as the police ranks and other persons,

so as to avoid the temptation of stealing, accepting bribes and indulging in corrupt practices . . . You see in the audits how many people have been helping themselves to vehicles and state funds, so I believe that ministers deserve to be paid." The prime minister also suggested that there were many high qualified persons who left lucrative jobs to serve the Guyanese people and questioned whether they were being paid enough.

On August 1, the Guyana Times reported that the David Granger-led government planned to announce salary increases that would see some senior government officials going home with more than twice their salaries.



Jordan as saying government would be fulfilling its promise to grant pay increases to public servants as well, although he did not say when that would happen. In response to reports, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) said it condemned

this "act of excessive generosity" by A Partnership for Nation Unity and Alliance for Change (APNU+AFC) administration which it said had accused it of excessive spending while in power. "The Granger administration is now planning to rub salt in the wounds of Guyanese, by 'fixing up the boys and girls' with big pay increases. This is same administration which had claimed there is no money in the treasury to continue the School Uniform Voucher Programme and to give public servants a promised 20 per cent pay increase," it said in a statement. "Clearly, the Granger administration is more concerned with living extravagant lifestyles and earning big bucks, while the population suffers," the PPP added

IDB approves US\$130m for Jamaica's structural economic program



WASHINGTON, United States (CMC) – The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Thursday said it had approved a US\$130-million loan for Jamaica so as to strengthen its structural programme for economic growth. It said that this is the second operation of a policy-based loan series, providing budget support for the Government's fiscal policy reform. The first operation was approved in February last year.

The Jamaica Government has been improving its public finances in recent years in order to set the stage for stronger economic growth. Under its ecoreform

Among other measures, the programme targets strengthening of Jamaica's pension system, and most specifically, efforts to ensure that the pension fund is financially sustainable. This includes reforming the National Insurance Scheme (NIS). In addition, a fiscal rule has been established. These reforms will contribute to maintaining and enhancing Jamaica's sound fiscal programme.

"The IDB has been a consistent partner in this programme of economic reform on which we have embarked and we have made considerable progress because of the support received by the IDB. We don't always agree on everything, but when we don't, we can discuss and emerge with an even stronger

bond of collaboration and are better off for having these discussions.

"This approval, on the eve of Jamaica's celebration of the 53rd anniversary of Independence, is appropriately timed as we strive to ensure the unfurling of all the opportunities that Independence represents. Our sincere thanks to the IDB for a partnership that is helping us to deliver on the legitimate expectations of the people in Jamaica for a better life," said Finance and Planning Minister Dr Peter Phillips. The Vice President for Countries at the IDB, Alexandre Meira da Rosa, said the agreement had the full support of everyone on the IDB Board

"This is a credit and tribute to the efforts of

Jamaica to carry out the reforms necessary to achieve economic and social growth. We believe that Jamaica is about to turn the corner and harvest the results of its efforts.

"This agreement is the fulfillment of a commitment that IDB President Moreno and I made to Minister Phillips last year, to walk hand-in-hand with Jamaica on the reform journey. We celebrate the fulfillment of that promise and reaffirm the full commitment of the IDB to Jamaica."

The IDB loan has a 20-year maturity, a 5.5-year grace period and an interest rate based on LIBOR, which is currently about 1.2 per cent.

100 illegal Haitian migrants captured in Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (CMC) -- The Royal Bahamas Defence Force (BDF) says it has detained more than 100 Haitian migrants after stopping a vessel west of Ragged Islands.

It said the migrants, comprising 117 adult males, 23 adult females, and three children were transported to Coral Harbour Base yesterday morning, where they were handed over to immigration authority for further investigation.

Last week, eight Cubans were detained in a makeshift vessel in the Gulf Stream, west of West End, Grand Bahama.

The BDF said that, so far this year, it has apprehended or assisted in apprehending almost 1,000 migrants trying to enter The Bahamas illegally.



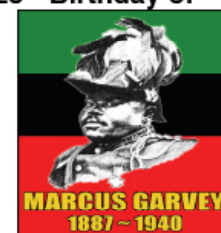
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ARIES - March 21 - April 19

Doors will open professionally if you send out your resume and go for interviews. Don't allow children or entertainment to cost too much or you'll have financial problems. Self-improvement projects are your best outlet. You need an outlet. You'll be sensitive to the comments made by loved ones. Try not to jump to conclusions. You'll be so wrapped up in your own problems that you are likely to take loved ones for granted.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 27, 29, 31, 35, 39

TAURUS - April 20 - May 20

Put some flair back into your work or move onto greater challenges. Attend motivational seminars that will help you to reach your potential. Don't be angry with those who don't show the same excitement regarding your projects. Emotional upset is likely, curb your reactions to situations regarding home and family. Delays due to transportation difficulties may cause a snag in your plans.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 25, 26, 33, 34, 47

GEMINI - May 21- June 21

Spend time pampering yourself and you'll be glad you did. Don't reveal secret information about others. Co-workers won't be willing to cooperate with you, and you'll have to accomplish projects on your own. Romantic connections could lead to a serious and prosperous arrangement. Mingle with intellectual people to meet the type of companions who will satisfy your needs. Don't let anyone take advantage of you.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 20, 21, 22, 34, 44

CANCER- June 22 - July 22

You'll be indecisive, your romantic partner will be confused by your actions. Take the initiative and go after your goals. Business ventures can earn you extra cash. You'll have to be careful that you don't make rash decisions you'll regret later. Don't promise your mate that you'll do something for him or her unless you have full intentions of following through. Colleagues will sidetrack you if you get involved in a dispute.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 18, 28, 33, 38, 48

LEO July 23- August 22

You will learn more if you listen. Someone you know well will reveal information pertinent to your professional future. New friendships will develop through activities that include large groups. Move quickly if you see an opportunity to advance. Your timing must be impeccable. Don't hesitate to take that business trip you've been thinking about. The time to make deals is now.

Lucky Numbers: 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 48

VIRGO - AUGUST 23- September 23

Check out activities that offer a physical challenge. Now you're ready to entertain. You must learn not to force your opinions on others. Participating in a challenging physical activity will help ease your tension and stress. You will be looking for a good fight if things don't go your way. Remember that you can't make decisions for other people even if you did pay their way. You can't buy love or friendship.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 12, 20, 31, 41

LIBRA - September 24 - October 22

You need to start learning new skills if you want to keep up with the never-ending technological changes at work. Don't become involved in dubious financial schemes. Extravagance could be your downfall. Excessiveness will result in minor illness. You need to put some time aside for rest and relaxation. Don't sign anything unless you understand the repercussions. It is best to hold tight and observe what everyone else is doing.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 21, 22, 32, 42

SCORPIO- October 23 - November 21

You may want to look into the nature of an organization before you donate or join it. Your partner will not put up with your possessiveness. Expect to get into a heated discussion. Don't try to change loved ones. Self-improvement should be your goal. Sudden romantic infatuations may send you for a loop. You must take your time if you wish things to work in your favor. Be honest and direct and don't be afraid to ask the necessary questions.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 27, 29, 32, 38, 49

SAGITTARIUS - November 22 -December 21

Your lover may not be sure of your intentions. Be discriminating when discussing work. You won't be able to trust some of your colleagues or clients. Keep your ideas to yourself for the time being. Find out all you can about your present position and the changes going on around you. Work hard to complete projects that might make a real difference to your professional future.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 24, 28, 44, 45, 47

CAPRICORN - December 22- January 19

Protect your reputation and prepare yourself for unexpected changes. It's time to take a serious look at getting into shape before summer hits and you have to shed some of those layers of clothing you've been hiding under. Get busy talking to those individuals who can offer you mental stimulation. You will be in a competitive mood, and any debate that comes your way will be welcomed.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 16, 26, 27, 36, 46

AQUARIUS - January 20 February 18

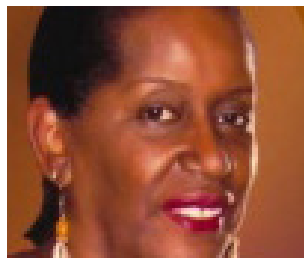
Don't blame others for your own mistakes or unhappiness. New acquaintances will show interest in you if you are happy and positive about yourself. You need to make some personal changes in your life. Don't be depressed. You need to concentrate on your creative projects and not worry so much about what other people are saying or doing. Put your heart and soul into things you enjoy. You don't need to overspend to impress others.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 8, 23, 27, 31, 41

PISCES - February 19 - March 20

If you can combine some work with pleasure, you will gain respect and help from those in a position to help you get ahead. If you made a promise to your family, you must not renege. Put everything else on hold. Emotional problems with family members will be disheartening. Make the necessary changes. You may get a negative response from your family. If they can't come up with a better solution, continue with your plans.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 11, 21, 24, 31, 46



HOT TOPICS

NYC: March with the Coalition for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic in a protest rally scheduled to begin at Grand Army Plaza, Eastern Parkway, on August 14 at 9 a.m. The March itinerary traverses the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall in Manhattan. The Coalition of 16 predominantly Haitian-American organizations is in response to the Dominican Republic 2013 Court decree to strip hundreds of thousands of people born in the Dominican Republic, who are descendants of Haitian parents. The Coalition says "no to racism, no to xenophobia, and no to expulsion of families from the DR. That expulsion would create yet another humanitarian crisis for Haiti, still in recovery after the 2010 earthquake. Execution of this order will usher in a humanitarian crisis of dramatic proportions. The demonstration is sponsored by Democrats, NYS Assemblywoman Rodney Bichotte and NYC Councilman Mathieu Eugene. The United States response to the abhorning crisis in Hispaniola has been anemic. For more info about the crisis, the Dominican-born Haitians, now legally in a limbo state, the Dominican Republic; Haiti; and big Brother USA, due north of Hispaniola, visit chrd.org and call 212.465.2549, 917.776.4060, 917.705.3157.

HARLEM DAY: One of the highlights of the Annual Harlem Week celebration is HARLEM DAY, which is Sunday, August 16. And this year is no different. It all happens along the 135 Street corridor from Fifth Avenue to St. Nicholas. International Vendors Village co-exists with the Auto Show and sound stages along the corridor set up for concerts to appease all music genres and will titillate everyone from the toddler to the centenarian. For full HARLEM DAY calendar, visit HARLEMWEEK2015. Harlem Week celebration comes to an end of August 22!

NEWSMAKERS

Three phenomenal women were honored at the 2015 Harlem Week Economic Development Day Conference's Second Annual Basil Paterson Awards Luncheon, held at Columbia University, on August 11. Honorees were Paula Madison, Africa Channel co-owner and former Diversity chief at NBC-TV; Michelle Roberts, Esquire, executive director of



the National Basketball Players Association, the most powerful woman in professional sports in North America and Wendy Lewis, Senior VP of Major League Baseball. Conference attendee and special dais guest, His Excellency Serge Letchimy, President of Martinique was presented with an award, which was presented by Karl Rodney, NY Carib News publisher; Carl McCall, SUNY Chair, and Governor David Paterson. In addition to being the world's greatest athlete, tennis icon Serena Williams dons the current cover of New York Magazine's FASHION issue. The story, "The Unretiring Serena Williams; she's eyeing a Fashionable Post-Court Life, but first she's got tennis history to make" is written by Kerry Howley with fabulous photographs by

What's Going on By Victoria Horsford

Norman Jean Roy. Check it out.

LEO birthday greetings to: Settepani restauranteuse Ethiopia-born Leah Abraham, theater impresario Woodie King; real estate brokers Yvonne Stafford and Victor Wareham; honorary Jamaican, fine artist/philanthropist Danny Simmons, who soon relocates to Philadelphia; and Vanessa vanBoom

SUMMER PLEASURES



The Jamaican Independence Celebration Foundation will host the 53rd Anniversary of Jamaican Independence gala on August 15, at the NY Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom, located at 1335 Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan. The festivities begin at 6:30 pm with a cocktail reception and silent auction followed by the Dinner Awards and Dancing. The 2015 Jamaica Independence Honorees are Paula Williams Madison and Yvonne Biggs Rubie, MPH. The 53rd Jamaica Independence celebration also recognizes Future Leaders: Sabrina Ho Sang Jordan; Erin Lue-Hing; Sacha Comrie; Tahira Francis; Marlon Samuda; and Jordan Wright. Gala sponsors include Mutual of



America; Carib News; Diageo-Guinness; USA; Golden Krust; Tower Isles; FORDCredit; Grace Foods; the Jamaica Gleaner; Red Stripe; and Caribbean Food Delights. For more info about the \$225 black-tie benefit, call 631.374.7811 or 718.802.8301.

The Jeff King Band performs at the Jazz at the Welancora Art Gallery along with a discussion by ethnomusicologist Frederica Mareva Hadley, Oberlin College jazz professor and founder of Jooski, a music history tour operator, on Sunday, August 16. Admission is \$25. Music sets are at 6 and 7:30 pm. Gallery, located at 410 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, opens at 4 pm.

RIP: Woodie King's New Federal Theater will host a tribute, honoring actor Gilbert Lewis, originally from Atlantic City, NJ, on August 17, from 6-9 pm, at the State Office building. Located at 163 West 125 Street, Harlem, 2nd Floor Art Gallery.

A Harlem-based writer, Victoria Horsford can be contacted at victoriahorsford@gmail.com

No Ordinary Designer

By Walter Greene

When the fabulous Philadelphia based, Jamaican fashion designer TERESE SYDONNA came to New York City for a trunk show, I had to go down to the Gary Williams Showroom in the garment district, to see up close and personal all of the wonderful clothes that this talented designer brings to life. I'd come to know of her immense talent over the past few years, but her collection for this season, Terese seem to have had a major breakthrough. Her craftsmanship, colors and silhouette were all on point. Terese went through racks of ultra-modern garments that were quite functional with magical elements, like her signature high-waist silhouette. "This is my number one best selling style for the last three years now," said Terese about that specific figure flattering shape.

COLOR AND DETAIL

"This season is more colorful, I use a lot of tiny belts, tricot and neoprene fabrics." There was a variety of soft, flowing dresses, others were figure flattering and sexy. "I design from size 3 to size 12, and, also do special custom garments....For Spring, some

of the key colors are blue, white and black in these wonderful prints. I was inspired by actress Diane Keaton in the movie 'Annie Hall' You can see some of the menswear influences in some of the shirts, like detailing. Moving into fall I will use more color, but, I love black and white, more people can relate to that. I want to make a statement and surprise people. With my designs you have to expect the unexpected."

BACKGROUND

Terese ploughs through the fashion industry with a pedigree that's created for success in the competitive world of fashion design. Terese was born in Lucea, Jamaica, before migrating to the US. She's equipped with a dual degree in Economics and Business & Studio Art from Lafayette College. Terese also has a fashion degree from New York's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) and is an alum of Philadelphia Fashion Incubator at Macy's. This talented designer has done 'pop-up' shops and trunk shows at Dilworth Park City Hall and Macy's Center City among them. Terese has also participated in The Polite Way Foundation fundraising event where her collection was featured.

INFLUENCES

What keeps this young fashion designer relevant; "I think I have something to say to keep me (my work) refreshing, comfortable and looking good. When I design, I think of a woman who wants a weekend look. She also wants to wear something great on and off day or evening that is effortless and easy." Terese admitted that comic book superheros were always a huge influence on her design aesthetic. "Night Caller...I grew up watching X-Men. Now, I design those cool things that are wearable and quirky.

ACCESSIBILITY

Among the celebrities she is like to dress are; Kerry Washington, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kate Blanchett. Five years from now, Terese says she wants to be accessible in wholesale outlets internationally in Europe, the Caribbean and Asia. The Terese Sydonna line is available at Jade's Closet in Wayne, Pennsylvania, Lacey in Hadden Heights New Jersey, Armour in Philadelphia and Joan Shipp also in Philadelphia to name a few. Visit teresesydonna.com for more information.



Designer Terese Sedonna shows off some of her creations in New York.

Healing Oils From Guyanese Entrepreneur

By Walter Greene

Guyana born, Florida based clinical aromatherapist ZENA HALLAM is on a mission to make people's reality a much easier experience by way of her creation of Tazeka - a collection of life changing aromatherapy natural oils that create a sense of balance, clarity and serenity to the human spirit. "I have a passion for what I'm doing. I want Tazeka to become an integral part of people's lives. I am so excited when I'm in the lab creating and formulating new blends. I want people to be happy and improve their lives through aromatherapy," said Zena of her calming product line which is gaining popularity since it's launch earlier this year.

VARIETY

Zena's exotic line of oils come in an array of awesome metallic colored mini-flasks. The uber-modern packaging of each individual oil is in a class by itself. The



Zena Hallam

handy encased bottles, each in a different shiny color are about the size of a lipstick, and can easily fit into your purse. The offerings include - "Concentrate," "Peaceful Slumber," "Tension Tonic," "Slim Solution,"

"Aphrodite," "Ares," "Optimism," and "Balance" to name a few.

ZENA'S PHILOSOPHY

Zena truly believes there is a real connection between wellness, happiness and beauty. "Everyone is beautiful naturally, if only we care for ourselves, our bodies and souls, our beauty always shine through. That's why aromatherapy can be so powerful. I think the mark of a healer is that we want to help everyone we can. That's why I created Tazeka. When you wear Tazeka, there is a personal connection between you and the scents, as opposed to regular perfumes and fragrances....I feel blessed to be in this position to improve people's lives, and am deeply touched by the people who are holding my hand on this journey."

HER JOURNEY

The journey towards Zena's level of healing and beauty started as a girl growing up in

Georgetown, Guyana. She witnessed her mother using herbs and her big personality in healing people. "That type of healing was always within me" recalls Zena, who relocated to the UK and remembers finding a Reflexology School on line and immediately registered. When she and her husband decided to make the US their home, she found a school for aromatherapy and never looked back. Along the way, with extensive training, Zena immersed herself in the world of essential oils, and knew she was on to something special. She studied in England and France, earning certification as a clinical aromatherapist. "They always say: 'The oils will lead you' and they do. I was dedicated and committed to my training. I wanted to absorb everything I learnt, then I worked for two and a half years on the formulation of my own oils and blends." Visit www.tazekaaromatherapy.com for purchase and more information.

Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row

New York Fashion Week just got another dose of star power as Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row brings the high fashion runway to the mainstream. On Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m., live from the capital of American fashion, Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row will hit the stage at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in a dazzling spectacle celebrating the intersection of music and fashion. Featuring the fall season's hottest looks, Macy's (NYSE:M) is set to take the fashion catwalk to new heights with a creative presentation like no other, featuring musical and dance performances that will enthrall spectators. "We are thrilled to celebrate New York Fashion Week with a spectacular event that will bring the high-fashion runway closer to fans everywhere," said Martine Reardon, Macy's chief marketing officer. "Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row will ignite the

catwalk in a celebration of fashion and music, featuring the hottest styles for fall, as well as fantastic music and dance performances that make that elusive front row seat during Fashion Week a possibility for all." Amid the glamour and runway spectacle, Nate Ruess, Grammy Award-winning front man of the band fun., will perform songs from his debut solo album, "Grand Romantic." He will take the stage along with additional performers, to be announced at a later date. Beginning on Friday, Aug. 14, select credit card holders will have the exclusive first chance to purchase tickets to Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row priced at \$55 and \$80. The general public on-sale begins on Friday, Aug. 21. Tickets may be purchased through TICKETMASTER (at ticketmaster.com or 866-858-0008) or in person at the Madison Square Garden Box Office. Ticketmaster orders are subject to service fees. All tickets

include a \$5 facility fee. Tickets for people with disabilities may be purchased through Ticketmaster, at the MSG Box Office or by calling MSG's Disabled Services Department at (212) 465-6034. Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row continues the company's legacy of charitable giving and is set to support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the Council of Fashion Designers of America Foundation (CFDA), with 100 percent of the proceeds from ticket sales from the Sept. 17 live show at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. Additionally, Macy's has partnered with several extraordinary charity organizations for its first-ever Fashion Pass, to benefit and strengthen the communities the company serves nationwide. Now through Aug. 15, when customers give \$5 at the register, they will receive 15 percent to 20 percent off on select storewide purchases, plus \$10 off a \$30 purchase. Fashion Pass kicked

off on July 22 and through its conclusion, 100 percent of the \$5 donation will benefit: Children's Cancer Research Fund; Council of Fashion Designers of America Foundation, Inc.; The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation; Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana; Ronald McDonald House New York; and The Fashion Incubators at Macy's. Fans from coast-to-coast will have the ultimate VIP experience when they tune-in to E! for the broadcast debut of Macy's Presents Fashion's Front Row on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. ET (check local listings). The broadcast will include highlights of the live show and performances, celebrity appearances, interviews, behind-the-scenes elements including a look at the arrivals carpet, as well as special moments from New York Fashion Week.



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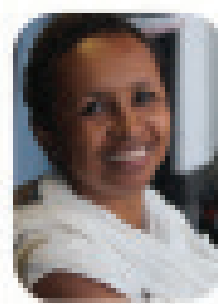
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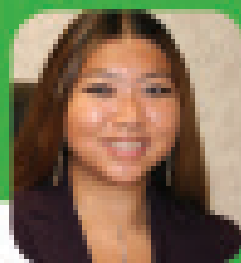


Paula Williams Madison

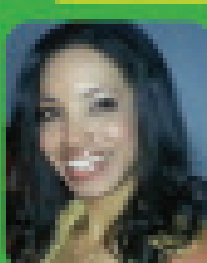


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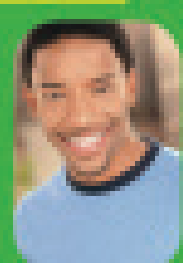
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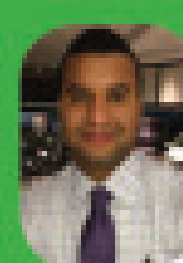
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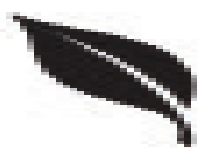
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Caribbean Cup Soccer



Photos by Keith Dawson

West Is Best In NY Caribbean Cup Mid-Season Classic

The New York Caribbean Cup West All-Stars put on a scintillating display of soccer to win their first Mid-Season Classic in four tries. Kudos to young Team Antigua and Barbuda striker Eugene Kirwan who led the West with a remarkable four goal tally. East All-Stars took an early 2-0 lead on goals by Louis Robenson and Dieujuste Angelo in the 12th and 18th minutes respectively and just when the East seemed destined to win their 4th All-Star game Eugene Kirwan pulled one back for the West when his shot deflected off a defender and caught goalkeeper Ian James moving in the wrong direction. For much of the half the East looked quite menacing,

however, there was no further scoring as the whistle sounded to end the half with the East holding a 2-1 advantage.

When play resumed it didn't take long for the West to level the scores with a Quame Holder strike in the 47th minute. Shortly after it was Kirwan at it again when he scored from a goal front melee to put the West ahead 3-2. Denzil Watson, who had been rather ineffective all afternoon suddenly came to life and gave the East life with a game tying goal in the 56th minute. With the scores even East coach Arthur 'Jetty' Mikes made a change that changed the game when he took central defender Asrick Samuels out to give his non-starters a chance to play. Almost immediately the

East gave up their 4th goal when Kirwan latched on to a loose ball and had Ian James at his mercy. Then with the clock ticking down the West was awarded a penalty which Kirwan converted to give the West All-Stars their first win.

In the curtain raiser, Cambria Heights Panthers Girls SC and Nehemiah International Girls SC played to an exciting 1-1 stalemate. Ebony Birch tallied for the Panthers while Iyesha Ollivierre scored for Nehemiah International. In the men U-23 encounter goals by Victor Ogunwale (3), Ryan Creace and Paul Thompson helped Brooklyn Soca Lions defeat Hota Bavaria SC 5-2. Zack Sathasidam and Elvis Aguiluz scored for Hota.

Certainly the beneficiary of the afternoon's events

were the kiddies who received back-packs with school supplies as part of the Caribbean Cup's Community Outreach Program. Also, Caribbean Cup wishes to thank Tower Isle's Frozen Foods for their contribution to give-aways to fans during the afternoon.

NY Caribbean Cup Quarter Finals

The 2015 New York Caribbean Cup quarter-finals kick off next Sunday, August 16, at the Thomas Jefferson High School field, 125-08 Flatlands Avenue, (corner of Shepherd) in Brooklyn. 3:15pm – Team Haiti VS Team Trinidad & Tobago 5:30pm - Team St. Kitts & Nevis VS Team Dominica

Brooklyn Netball roundup

Brooklyn, NY
CANA's penultimate Preliminary Round League Games.....

Allyanze Fusion "solidifies" territorial advantage in claiming 2015 "Super Six" title, Islanders "B" claims Inters crown at Allyanze Cosmos's demise..... as leaders Survivors "A" lose final bid, but hangs on to dear life on fate of Upsetters "B" versus late surgers Untouchables "B" this Saturday.....

In a wild and enigmatic "twist of fate" to a weekend that could easily go down as the "most eventful" in the history of netball in Brooklyn, the USA and maybe, the only one of its kind, the 2015 CANA Summer League hosted by the Management & Staff of The Brooklyn Sports Club and the Executive Members of the Caribbean American Netball Association (CANA) saw some Divisional titles been decided. Two titles, namely the Super Six, where undefeated Allyanze Fusion sunk Rising Eagles Pink (34-28) in their final League game of the season enroute to copping the title while Allyanze Cosmos have themselves to kick in the foot after they gave up hoards of lead changes and eventually fell face flat in the end in surrendering to a pesky Survivors "B" (33-34). With the Allyanze Cosmos loss, Islanders "B" was given the preference hold on the Inters title seemingly by a better goal differential.

The A2 title is still yet to be decided when the final League game of the season is played on Saturday, days before the start of the lethal KO Round already bursting at its seams with grudge matches to last from here until eternity. The KO Round gets underway on August 15th, while the shooting competition the next day, (August 16th), the Mixed Tournament on August 29th and on the 30th the Caribbean Communities (CARICOM), USA and the United Nations comes together for the ever exciting, lucrative and pulsating Caribbean Cup Championships where defending champions and 2014 winners Trinidad & Tobago will tackle former champions Jamaica, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, St. Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, USA and Guyana. Saturday's League Games: Anciel Langainge and her

Flameblazing glory team humiliated Untouchables "A" (67-36) in a bottom of the Super Six table clash, while Untouchables "B" who ceremoniously is racing against time in the Deadly A2 Division clobbered Crusaders (46-30). The Andrew Grand Untouchables "B" team have shown true grit and grace these last rounds of games and maybe out of luck whence they play strong title contenders Upsetters "B" who beat A2 leaders Survivors "A" yesterday (30-28) in a pivotal match. With the A2 Division still undecided, the following possibilities linger.....

If Upsetters "B" win against Untouchables "B" on Saturday they will have to score (53) goals or more and stop Untouchables "B" from scoring over 15 goals or more in order to compete with a (251 GF divide by 168 GA) for a (1.49 %) Goal Differential Survivors "A" team. If Upsetters "B" achieve that feat they would crown themselves champions of the A2 Division as they would have surpassed the (1.49%) goal differential although both teams would have the same amount of points (31).

A loss to Untouchables "B" in any way, shape or form by Upsetters "B" will see them trying to avenge the loss in the KO Round next week, or start preparation early for next year's season. The loss also would demote them from second place to third in the process.

Untouchables "B" with their inferior goal difference of (214 GF/142 GA) 1.50% goal differential and 22 points and having lost two games versus Survivors "A" and Volcanoes "B" are out of the top tier position. Only a win against Upsetters "B" this weekend can get them to 27 points leaving Upsetters "B" at either (26 or 27 points) pending on the scores in the game this weekend.

The double losses earlier in the season is a sure indicator of an Untouchables "B" team kryptonite and their vehement consequence of falling from grace. The most points they can garner from this is (27) points and this could make them second in the division and Upsetters "B" third.

The possibilities are endless, the game on Saturday

will prove thus.

In other Saturday games, Survivors "A" trounced Volcanoes "B" (36-25) to keep their A2 Championship hopes alive while in the feature game of the evening Allyanze Fusion became one of the only teams in the CANA Summer League over the years to have been promoted from a lower division to win a Senior Division in the duration of a year. The 2015 Super Six Champions carved out some close but exciting wins over Untouchables "A", (36-35), Upsetters "A" (33-32), Flameblazers (34-26), Volcanoes "A" (46-33) and Rising Eagles Pink (34-28) enroute to their Championship.

In an evening at the "Oscars", the heated game against Rising Eagles Pink and Allyanze Fusion offered an aura of fierce and competitive nature whereby friendly coaching confrontational rivalries, overly passiveness by onlookers, some players and bystanders relayed heat and friction in a game ruled by two great teams, one trying to cling wholeheartedly on their unblemished record, whilst the other sought "truce", no matter what the result entail in the end to prove they're a team to compete, win and be a factor in all facets of their Administration and the sport on a whole.

The game at times got aggressive and tense as both Eagles and Allyanze came out for the kill no matter what the consequence. The Eagles team though, having themselves to behead, created 27 errors in the entire game, according to the Molten Stats & Survey Department. Fifteen of those errors prove detrimental in the shooting circle as Rose (5 sure shot at goal erred), Oldham "Chippahs" (5 unforced errors) and Taylor (5 shooting errors), the other twelve errors came in the mid court with footwork violations, causing contacts and overpassed balls. The thwarted commotion between coaches of Rising Eagles Pink & Allyanze Fusion had no bearing on the players nor the game as the encounter ended with Allyanze Fusion winning in fine style (34-28). In Sunday's games, Untouchables "B" ran rings around debutants Philly Vixens in their game defeating them (37-8). In the Inters Division

title game, Allyanze Cosmos may have had their "organized pre celebratory" cakes, wines and eateries all planned out too soon as they were surprised (34-33) by out of Borough Survivors "B". Survivors "B" looked purposeful and held on for dear life until the final whistle blew. The win for Survivors "B" only elevated them positionally, but not into the medal round. With the loss to Cosmos, Islanders "B" was given the nod on the Superior Goal Differential Rule over their adversaries Allyanze Cosmos.

In the dreaded A2 game, Upsetters "B" held their composure amidst a plethora of lead changes and swiftly turn the table on still divisional leaders Survivors "A" (30-28). Survivors "A" still leads the A2 Division but await the outcome of the Upsetters "B"/ Untouchables "B" matchup on Saturday of this week.

Rising Eagles Purple, who severed ties with CANA that same evening failed to show for their A2 matchup against Islanders "B", whilst Philadelphia Vixens fought gallantly against Volcanoes "B" in a close and heartbreaking (24-26) loss. The Vixens no doubt went for the jugular of the Brooklyn based Volcanic team but their efforts were upheld with just a minute into the game when they were outscored by two goals. Congrats to the Vixens, they performed creditably towards the end.

The competition continues on the weekend (Saturday & Sunday) with the playing of the all important decisive A2 game at 5:00 pm between Upsetters "B" and Untouchables "B". The Inters Rally will also take place earlier that day plus the Divisional A2 & "Super Five" Amalgamation Rally which takes place on Sunday will add to the much awaited hype just days before the SEEMINGLY DREADED upcoming KO Round that sure will flow the adrenalin and excitement back to a League already throttling with excitement of a different kind.

Don't miss the final round of games in the KO Division as teams try to make amends for their mistakes in the league. Come out and support your favorite teams as the season comes to a close. Donovan "Balla" Buckle

Barbados defeats Jamaica in Women's Super50



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC) -- A Shaquana Quintyne half-century and three-wicket hauls from Deandra Dottin

and Shakera Selman helped Barbados beat Jamaica by 32 runs in their opening game of the Regional Women's Super50 here on Thursday.

Opting to bat first at Caldrac Cricket Club, Barbados were dismissed for an inadequate 172 off 45.5 overs, with skipper Quintyne top-scoring with 60 and fellow West Indies player Kyshona Knight getting 40. Part-time seamer Natasha McLean spearheaded the Jamaica attack with four for 18 while off-spinner Chedean Nation picked up two for 31. In reply, Jamaica put up a short fight before being bundled out for 140 off 41.3 overs, as Windies seamers Dottin (3-22) and Selman (3-26) destroyed the innings. West Indies batting star Stafanie Taylor hit a patient 29 but was the only batsman to get past 20. Barbados started shakily, losing key West Indies players Hayley Matthews for seven and Dottin for two, to slump to 22 for three after six overs.

However, the 19-year-old Quintyne combined with Knight in a 91-run, fourth wicket stand to rescue the innings. Quintyne faced 107 deliveries and struck four fours

while Knight, a left-hander, hit two fours and a six in an innings lasting 71 balls. Once the partnership was broken, Barbados fell away, losing their last seven wickets for 59 runs.

Jamaica were making a fist of it at 99 for three until Selman and Dottin were introduced, and they lost their last seven wickets for 41 runs.

Jodian Morgan perished in the fourth over for eight with the score on 14 but Taylor and opener McLean (16) added 27 to stabilise the run chase.

When McLean and Jerona Walcott (7) fell in quick succession, Taylor and Nation put on a further 40 runs for the fourth wicket to frustrate the Barbadians.

Taylor spent two hours at the crease and faced 77 balls, but failed to hit a single boundary.

Her dismissal, bowled by Selman in the 31st over with the score on 119, triggered the slide as Jamaica lost six wickets for 21 runs.

WICB to create commercial entity

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CMC) – The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) wants to create a commercial entity to increase the board's revenue intake.

President of the WICB Dave Cameron said the regional board must find other ways to improve its financial status. However, he credits the improved relations between the WICB and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) for the financial windfall.

"We believe that for West Indies cricket to go forward we need to find a way to separate the commercial from the socio-political issues and so while we'll have West Indies Cricket Board, we'll have a separate commercial entity that will clearly distinguish our commercial rights and sell them according to commercial guidelines," he said while addressing the latest in a series of regional town-hall meetings in Jamaica. Cameron, accompanied by Vice President Emmanuel Nanthan, said that despite the board's effort to improve the game in the region, some territorial boards and franchises have not been professional in their operations and could be penalised for

their tardiness.

"I'm particularly disturbed because the new season for 2015/16 started on August 1 and there are only two franchises that actually have programmes ready for the year," he said.

"So while you put pressure on the WICB to account ensure that you're putting pressure on the territorial boards and all the franchises to account because they are all being given a substantial amount of resources to ensure that our cricket goes forward."

He said that the formation of the Professional Cricket League (PCL) is part of the plan to improve the game in the region. However, he warns that some franchises could miss out on the monthly allocations of US\$45,000, part of which comes from the PCL Fund for Development.

"We are saying that the PCL is a new business and franchises need to run a quality professional set up. Some of them haven't done that and the board has taken a decision that if franchises do not comply with the standard etc. then there could be penalties. And the only penalty that we could exact is the withholding of funds."



The PCL, which now captures up to 120 players plus officials in a pool, is hailed as one of the new programmes to re-establish the sport over the next few years. This is PCL, the President says, "increases the number of first class games to 10 in a season, while leaving the window open for the IPL and the CPL, offering players an additional opportunity to maximise earnings."

Cameron also summarised a number of

programmes the Board is currently involved in "aiming at being efficient and effective as we as a region seek to re-invest in the sport that we all love so much".

Vice President, Nanthan pledged the Board's continuous drive towards unity and the coordinated approach to re-engaging the general cricket community.

Nanthan referred to the work of the newly-formed West Indies Retired Players Foundation (WIRPF) and the impact that the town-hall meetings should have. Nanthan continued to raise the issue of stakeholder involvement and the role each Caribbean citizen has to play.

The meeting also discussed the absence of the senior team from the 2017 Champions trophy, the role of regional governments in ensuring that cricket is taught in schools, team bonding and building for on and off the field performance and how the WICB handle the overexposure of youngsters to the Twenty20 version of the game.

Other issues of governance, marketing and skills development were also discussed.

The next town-hall meeting is scheduled for Antigua at a date to be announced.

Boyz Storm To Top Of CFU Rankings

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (CMC):

Propelled by their historic run in the recent CONCACAF Gold Cup, Jamaica's Reggae Boyz have stormed up the rankings to claim the top spot in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU).

In the latest FIFA rankings released on Thursday, Jamaica jumped 21 spots to be 55th in the world - a significant rise considering their 76th-place ranking a month ago.

Trinidad and Tobago, who also experienced a measure of Gold Cup success last month, have leapt eight places in the FIFA rankings to be 56th. They now lie second in CFU.

Jamaica's upward movement came as little surprise, especially after they upset the form books to reach the final of the Gold Cup.

They went down 3-1 in the championship game to Mexico.

(FIFA rankings are in brackets.)

1. Jamaica (55)
2. Trinidad & Tobago (56)
3. Haiti (84)
4. Antigua & Barbuda (105)
5. St Vincent & the Grenadines (115)
6. St Kitts & Nevis (119)
6. Cuba (119)
8. Dominican Republic (129)
9. St Lucia (131)
10. Bermuda (135)
11. Aruba (137)
12. Barbados (138)
13. Cura ao (148)
14. Puerto Rico (150)
15. Guyana (152)



NYBP-SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY

HARLEM WEEK celebrates NYC Senior Citizen's Day



Scholarship awards



Applebee's staff



Emblem Health



Apple Bank Staff



Con Edison



Harlem Seniors



Harlem Senior honoree

By Audrey J. Bernard

Scores of dressed to impress seniors donned their Sunday best and attended the HARLEM WEEK Celebrates New York City Senior Citizen's Day Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at Melba's 125 in the Adam C. Powell, Jr. State Office Building in Harlem hosted by the New York City Senior Citizen's Planning Committee chaired by Stephanie E. Francis and co-chaired by DiAnne Henderson, Patricia Ricketts and Bob Tate.

Billed as HARLEM WEEK "Elder's Jubilee" Senior Citizen's Award Luncheon, the glorious salute to Harlem seniors was a "Celebration of Life, Health and Legacy" that recognized Harlem's seniors during a day filled with great food, prideful presentations to pillars of the Harlem community, deserving scholarships/internships/grants, special performances and a fabulous fashion showcase. The annual "Elders' Jubilee" Awards Luncheon is named in honor of Joseph Roberts, Sr. and Vivian Robinson, two of Harlem's greatest citizens. These two New Yorkers left extraordinary legacies of accomplishment and will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

The fun-filled day began with an outdoor farmers market on the Plaza that provided many shopping opportunities and health related activities including Yoga for attendees prior to entering the building for the free public expo filled with information about how to improve your lifestyles. The NYC Seniors Expo and Health Fair took place in the second floor Art Gallery and comprised

screenings, live entertainment, raffles and fun for everyone.

In addition, seniors were encouraged to participate in the S.T.E.A.M. (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) conference entitled "Demystifying Technology" for the education and use by our seniors. "Demystifying Technology for Senior Citizens" provided presentations by Silicon Harlem to senior citizens on using new technologies from internet to smartphones. The initiative focused on inclusion and involvement of the Senior Citizen community and to be tech savvy, informed, and educated using technology to manage and communicate health concerns, order prescriptions, save money, stay connected to family & friends and more.

The Awards Luncheon took place on the third floor. Following a mix & mingle and a rousing invocation by Rev. Robert Royal, renowned gospel and R&B vocalist Danny Coakley led the audience in singing the Negro National Anthem. Then Patricia Ricketts, vice president, programming, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, explained the purpose of the event. "The 'Elder's Jubilee' is a salute to the past, present and future of the many great seniors in the 'Harlems of America' and beyond. It is with much joy and great pride that we salute our illustrious seniors and mentors who have in the past, or are now living and working for our communities."

Then Ricketts introduced the distinguished dais guests that included Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Hon. Bill Perkins, Hon. Keith L.T. Wright, Hon. Inez E. Dickens, and Hon. Gale Brewer. During lunch the proud seniors and

other guests were thoroughly entertained by soulful performances by Alice Tan Ridley courtesy of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Harlem Swing Dance Society members Etta Dixon and Bernard Dove courtesy of Harlem Music Festival, followed by a spiffy fashion show featuring fashions from Harlem's great designers chaired by Gladys James, with the assistance of Deborah Williams and emceed by Cynthia Holiday.

The centerpiece of the festive program was the 2015 "Elder's Jubilee" presentations. The awards program was presided over by Ricketts and HARLEM WEEK board member and co-founder of HARLEM WEEK, Stephanie Francis and Voza Rivers, 1st vice chairman, HARLEM WEEK. Henrietta Lyle, chair of Community Board 10, received the Vivian Robinson Arts & Culture Award. Samuel McGee, CEO, Harlem Goju Association, received the distinguished Joseph Roberts, Sr. Community Service Award.

The HARLEM WEEK 2015 Scholarships/ Internships/Grants were presented by Con Edison, Apple Bank for Savings, and Aetna. Hon. Charles B. Rangel presented The Vivian E. Jones Outstanding Educational Achievement Scholarship award to Sharda Scipio. Hon. Inez E. Dickens presented The Dorothy Payne-Morehead Outstanding Educational Achievement Scholarship award to Reginald Idlett Jr.

Lloyd Williams, president, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, delivered poignant parting remarks in which he thanked "our distinguished Harlem Elders who continue to grace us with their presence as

well as those who paved the way." Williams received a thunderous ovation when he avowed that he will see them all back here next year! The program culminated in a salute to oldest seniors in attendance, Ms. Alelia Murphy, age 110 and Mr. John Mapson, age 103 followed by a special senior citizens gift drawings presented by Apple Bank, Applebee's, Melba's 125 and Greyhound. This was Harlem at its best and another great day in Harlem! (Photos by Hubert Williams)

The Luncheon was followed by a Senior Citizens Technology Conference on the 8th floor entitled "Demystifying Technology," hosted by Silicon Harlem and The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, chaired by Congressman Rangel. The conference was packed with hundreds of inquisitive and dramatically alert senior citizens who asked the right questions and gave the right answers. There were also in excess of two dozen young Harlemites who supported and complemented the seniors in attendance. The youngsters in attendance invited all seniors to attend the August 8th Youth Technology Conference. Many seniors said they would see them there.

About HARLEM WEEK
Celebrating its 41st year in 2015, HARLEM WEEK offers over 100 events from July 26, 2015 through August 22, 2015 to over 2 million attendees from all over New York and the world. HARLEM WEEK celebrates the neighborhoods assets and unique flavor, promoting Harlem's rich African, African-American, Caribbean, Hispanic and European history, culture, arts, religion, entertainment and sports.



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