

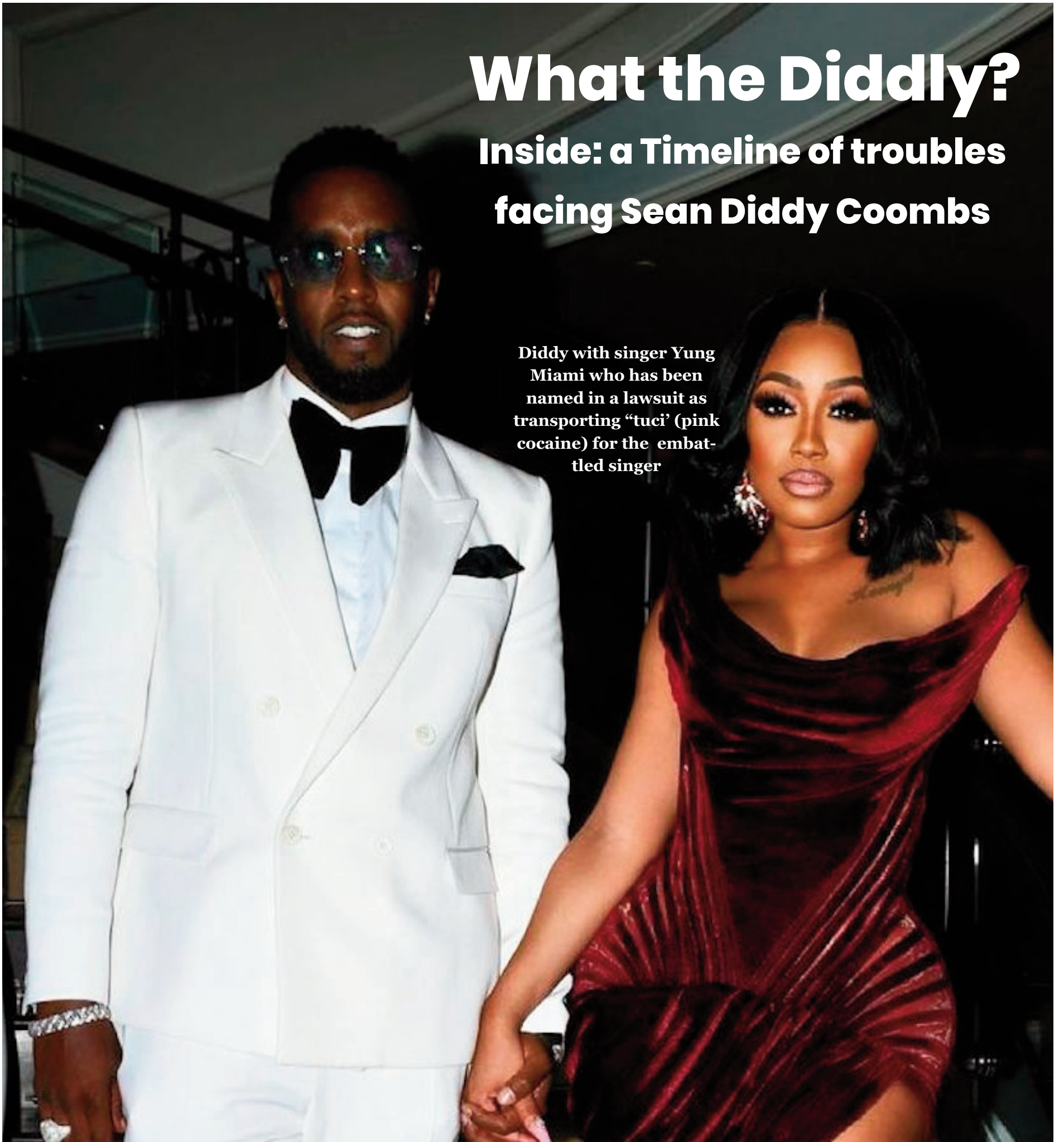


MAN WITH NO DOOR:
Soca legend Kes releases
first new album in more
than a decade

What the Diddy?

Inside: a Timeline of troubles facing Sean Diddy Coombs

Diddy with singer Yung
Miami who has been
named in a lawsuit as
transporting “tuci” (pink
cocaine) for the embat-
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Man with No Door

First album from Kes in more than a decade is a musical journey in diversity

Soca superstar and cultural ambassador Kes dropped his latest album 'Man With No Door' on March 29, marking his first full-length project in over a decade, released by Ineffable Records. The highly anticipated album promises to deliver a musical journey that transcends boundaries and celebrates the diverse influences that have shaped Kes's iconic sound.

Inspired by the concept of creative freedom, 'Man With No Door' aims to create a sonic space that unites the myriad worlds explored by Kes throughout his musical odyssey. With a blend of colorful melodies, infectious rhythms, and diverse styles, the album invites listeners to revel in the richness of musical diversity and discover the common thread that connects us all.

In a standout collaboration, Kes joins forces with Trinbagonian reggae powerhouse artist Queen Omega on the powerful track 'Rise Up.' The song serves as a poignant call to action for unity and positive change in a world that is ripe for transformation. Through their impassioned lyrics and soul-stirring melodies, Kes and Queen Omega deliver a rallying cry for collective empowerment and upliftment.

Another highlight of the album is the energetic track 'Honeycomb,' a collaboration with the acclaimed Jamaican artist Busy Signal. Infused with the classic bassline-driven dancehall vibe that Kes and Busy Signal both adore, 'Honeycomb' embodies the infectious energy of Soca Dancehall fusion and showcases the dynamic synergy between the two talented musicians.

With a track list featuring 16 vibrant songs, including standout tracks like 'Banga,' 'Mood' featuring Shaggy, and 'Miracle' featuring Tano, 'Man With No Door' promises to be a compelling showcase of Kes's artistic evolution and musical prowess. Each song adds a unique hue to the sonic palette of the album, creating a tapestry of sound that reflects the boundless creativity and versatility of Kes as an artist.

"Tack Back", which was released earlier this year, continues to garner global attention, and reclaim the top spot as the most streamed soca song worldwide and throughout the Caribbean.

As Kes embarks on this exciting new chap-



Kes has dropped his first new album in over a decade

ter in his musical journey, fans can expect to be taken on a mesmerizing adventure through the diverse sounds and flavors of 'Man With No Door.' With its message of unity, diversity, and

creative exploration, the album serves as a testament to the power of music to bridge divides and bring people together in harmony.

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Today, what you will be reading may be a tad different from what I usually share, and this is because this week has been a truly teaching week on many levels. This is a conversation between us, and I promise you that the takeaway will truly change your perspective on life because it did for me.

So, here is what happened: I have said on many occasions to do what you love regardless if you do not know how to do it 100%, just do it and with practice, you will get better at it. This is so true for me, and let me tell you why. I do not see myself as a writer although I wrote my first book in 2011, "Mrs. Fraud and You ~ Will You Be the Victim or Victor when She Comes Knocking?" and my second is coming soon "The Strategic Goal Seeker's Handbook," but here is the thing people have asked me if I am a writer and in the professional world academia world I am not. Sounds kind of strange right, what I am is simply someone who loves to share, inspire, and empower, and I am a storyteller, and that my dear ones is what writing and every profession should be based on. I have stories to share, teachings to share, and more. So, I am writing this column for my dear friend's magazine, and yes Raynier Maharaj is a fantastic editor and publisher in case you did not know he founded the Caribbean Camera Newspaper way back in the day and made his name, and I am so proud of him. I am going to divert for a moment because you will have a better understanding of what I am sharing so here goes. Forgive me Ray, you know they do now and ask for forgiveness later. He did not know that I was going to share this, oh well.

In November 2016 publisher and editor for The Independent a newspaper that was at the time the first digital newspaper in circulation

for about 2 years, was notified that he was being awarded this prestigious award at Queen's Park Toronto to be presented by The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell Lt Governor of Ontario at The National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada Annual Awards and here is the funny part, he had no idea who nominated him, what the award was about, did not want to go ho-

who is watching you, who is inspired by you, whose lives you have changed and Raynier has helped so many children through his work silently, and more.

Another story is there is a CEO of a very well-known publicly traded international company we all know, who started in the mailroom and



wever he was convinced to go and so he went and his son got to witness one of the greatest achievements of his father's career. He is not a person in the limelight and apart from that I will not even mention the incredible charity work he does.

I also had the opportunity to recognize him as a recipient of International Men's Day Canada and here is why I am writing this today, I hope that when he edits this he will understand why I am sharing all of this because, you never know

then 20 years after one day she was called to a meeting and was given the position of CEO and she was shocked because she did not even apply. They were watching her all this time and she is still today the CEO and yes, I have had that conversation with her. Who would have thought?

I received a phone call from one of our dear readers who, I must mention is a very young lady at heart, and her background is in education, was a representative of her country as an ambassador, a

very successful business coach globally, worked with the best of the best, author and it goes on and she shared something with me which caught me off guard and touched me. I did not know that she saw the column I was writing here and she congratulated me on the high level of the writing and I was speechless. Now please understand that all I have shared today has nothing to do with ego as many would see it but more to inspire and help those who need some support and love and this is why I do what I do. She has accreditations as I do but has been in the field way longer than I have and I know that she supports me but I did not know that she thought of me on that level. Thank you Miss Laila because you have inspired so many and thank you for taking the time to share with me so I can pass on this message to many who need a boost of confidence like many of us need.

Working with people, energy, and vibration can be challenging; however, we love what we do and I encourage you to continue to do the writing, podcast, TV, radio shows, and more because you never know who is watching, listening, and whose lives you may have inspired and in this world saved. If what you read today inspired, you then please do share because it is told and a fact that Sharing is Healing. I wish you whatever your heart desires and may your dreams manifest your reality by continuing to share. Be the ray of the Sun.

Contact Dianne Ojar by sending an email to info@TheExperientialCoach.com and also if you would like more information on the books as well as I am available for consultations.



Calypso Rose — oldest artiste to ever headline Coachella

Queen of the Road

New play from Toronto's Rhoma Spencer pays tribute to Calypso Rose

The Trinidad premiere of *Queen Of The Road – The Calypso Rose Musical (QOTR)* – a production celebrating the life and legacy of the legendary Calypso Rose will have a gala opening at the Central Bank auditorium later next month.

The event is being held under the patronage of T&T President Christine Kangaloo.

Written and directed by Toronto's Rhoma Spencer and presented by Yes Productions, *Queen of the Road* opens May 10 at 7.30 pm. Other shows will be held on May 11 and 12 at 6.30 pm, a media release said.

QOTR is a vibrant tribute to the remarkable journey of Calypso Rose whose music has resonated with audiences around the globe. Actor/singer Stacey Sobers Abraham, NWAC Calypso Queen 2018, plays the role of Calypso Rose, the release said.

Born Linda McCartha Monica Sandy-Lewis in Bethel, Tobago, Calypso Rose's debut classic calypso of 1966, *Fire Fire*, has been translated into over 20 languages. In 2017, she won the Victoire de la Musique Award (French Grammy). In 2019, she became the oldest artiste ever to head-

line at the Coachella Festival in California.

From humble beginnings to international acclaim, this musical extravaganza promises to

transport audiences through the captivating rhythms and rich storytelling of calypso, the release said.

Canadian Jazz legend passes at 104

Canadian jazz legend Eleanor Collins, who began performing in the 1930s and worked with other greats like Dizzy Gillespie and fellow Canadian Oscar Peterson, has died at the age of 104.

A family member confirmed that Collins, known as Canada's first lady of jazz, died on March 24.

Collins made her television debut in 1954 on CBC Vancouver's *Bamboula: A Day in the West Indies*, the first Canadian television show with a mixed-race cast and the first live music TV show broadcast from Vancouver.

She later starred in *The Eleanor Show*, becoming the first woman and first Black artist to headline their own national television series.

Collins was born on Nov. 21, 1919, in Edmonton. Her parents had joined hundreds of Black homesteaders who migrated from Oklahoma and settled on the Prairies.



In 2014, at the age of 95, she was invested into the Order of Canada for her work. Canada Post unveiled a stamp to honour Collins in 2022.

What the diddly?

A Timeline of troubles faced by Sean Combs

On March 25, headlines blared with the news that two homes belonging to hip-hop mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs were being raided by law enforcement. This news came a few months after a bombshell lawsuit, accusing Combs of sexual assault, was filed by his former girlfriend—a seemingly dam-breaking moment that led to a number of other women, and a man Combs recently worked with, filing similar suits of their own. (Combs has denied all wrongdoing.)

Since Monday, various incongruous reports surrounding the reasons for the raids, Combs’ whereabouts, and information on other involved players, were released, making it hard to parse what we actually know.

What exactly are the allegations against Diddy? It seems like they’ve kept piling up.

While the full and lengthy story of the numerous allegations against Diddy is still unfolding, it’s worth noting that the majority of the suits against Diddy were launched last year after his former girlfriend, the singer Cassie, sued Combs in federal court on Nov. 16 on various claims of sexual assault and intimidation. Though that suit was settled out of court the following day—yes, you read that correctly—three more suits were subsequently filed by women who similarly accused Combs of various sex crimes including rape and sex trafficking. The first three suits (including Cassie’s) were filed in rapid succession due to the impending Nov. 24 deadline for New York’s Adult Survivor’s Act, which, for one year, extended the statute of limitations for adult victims to pursue legal action against their alleged abusers to 20 years. On Dec. 6, the fourth lawsuit, from a Jane Doe, was filed under a similar yet different New York City piece of legislation called the Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Act.

Following the fourth filing, Combs released a statement via his Instagram denouncing all of the claims, saying: “For the last couple of weeks, I have sat silently and watched people try to assassinate my character, destroy my reputation and my legacy. Sickening allegations have been made against me by individuals looking for a quick payday. Let me be absolutely clear: I did not do any of the awful things being alleged. I will fight for my name, my family, and for the truth.”

However, this was not the end of the hip-



Diddy outside his Star Island home

hop artist’s mounting legal trouble. A month ago, on Feb. 26, the producer Rodney “Lil Rod” Jones Jr., alleged in a 73-page legal filing with photographs and graphic details that, among other non-sexual offenses, Combs drugged, threatened, and sexually harassed him while they were working on Combs’ 2023 album *The Love Album: Off the Grid*. In a statement made to the Times, Combs’ lawyer, Shawn Holley, stated that “Lil Rod is nothing more than a liar,” calling the producer’s allegations “pure fiction,” and claiming that they have “overwhelming, indisputable proof” that his assertions are fabricated. However, this did not stop Jones Jr., who amended his federal complaint on Monday, to also accuse actor Cuba Gooding Jr. of sexual assault and harassment while on Combs’ yacht.

Allegedly, according to this lawsuit, Gooding Jr. has also been embroiled in legal action for alleged sexual misconduct for the past couple of years, including a settlement in June on a rape allegation involving a 2013 incident, as well as a current lawsuit filed by two women. Gooding Jr. previously pleaded guilty to some of the allegations of these two women but did no jail time.

On March 25, federal agents from Homeland Security, alongside local law enforcement, conducted a raid of Combs’ Miami and Los Angeles homes as part of a sex trafficking investigation.

The Department of Homeland Security is the same agency that was involved in the investigation against R&B singer R. Kelly that led to his 2022 conviction. NewsNation is even reporting that the federal case against Combs is directly modeled after the R. Kelly case.

There is video of the raids on both Combs’

L.A. and Miami homes—the former of which is registered to “Bad Boy Films” as well as one of Combs’ daughters—from countless outlets. Meanwhile,

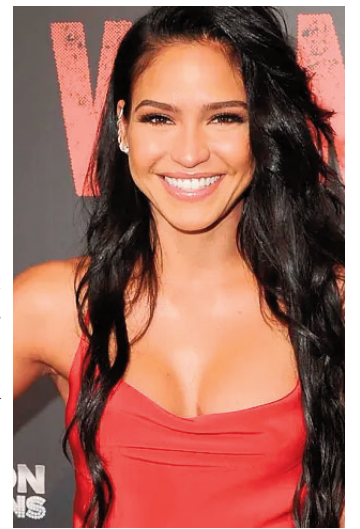
TMZ purports to have internal photos showing the aftermath of the L.A. raid. In the footage of the L.A. raid, two of Combs’ adult sons, King and Justin Combs, were shown being detained outside the house, though ABC News reported that this was standard procedure, and the sons were released without charges. It is unclear whether or not his other children, some of whom are minors, were present or detained. Most notably, one thing that cannot be seen in the footage was Combs himself, as his whereabouts at the time were unknown.

Because Combs was not present during the raids, there were some seemingly conflicting reports about where his private jet was and whether or not he was even on it.

Tabloids, which were tracking Combs’ private jet, reported that the plane landed on the island of Antigua, though it was initially unclear whether Combs was on it or not. Because of this, the rumor mill began churning out a narrative in which Combs would have tried to escape to the island, but no less a source than the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda nipped the rumor in the bud saying he was not on the jet.

While news of the raids was releasing and the Antigua speculation was unfolding, Combs was spotted around the Miami-Opa Locka Executive airport. The New York Post reported that Combs was allegedly about to board a different private jet from Miami (remember, his usual all-black LoveAir jet was on its way to Antigua).

Meanwhile, a man named Brendan Paul, whom Jones Jr. alleges to be Combs’ drug “mule,” was arrested by law enforcement at Opa Locka Executive Airport on felony charges for “possession of suspected cocaine and possession of suspected marijuana candy.” According to Jones Jr.’s lawsuit, the former Syracuse University basketball player “procured, transported, and distributed ecstasy, cocaine, GHB, ketamine, marijuana, mushrooms, and tucui.” Paul has since been released on a \$2,500 bond.



Cassie

Italian homes for €1



Abandoned properties being sold off in attempt to repopulate towns

Italy's one-euro-home sales have been attracting a lot of interest over the past few years, with dozens opting to snap up abandoned properties in some of the country's depopulated towns.

But while towns like Mus-someli in Sicily and Zungoli in Campania have managed to offload various abandoned dwellings to foreigners longing to live the Italian dream, some have struggled to sell their empty homes.

Among them is Patrica, a remote medieval village of barely 3,000 residents located south of Rome, where more than 40 properties deserted in the early 1900s have been left to rot.

Perched on a rocky plateau overlooking the Sacco valley in cen-



Animal Kingdom is one of the parks offered at DisneyWorld

tral Italy, Patrica is an idyllic spot, but life here wasn't easy for locals in the past.

Many left in search of a brighter future elsewhere, leaving

their homes empty for decades.

In an attempt to breathe new life into the dying village, the town's mayor Lucio Fiordaliso has been trying to emulate the success of

other Italian villages who've put their empty homes up for sale for one euro, or just over a dollar. He's so far had little success.

While local authorities in towns left underpopulated due to earthquakes and other natural calamities have the jurisdiction to put abandoned homes up for sale without permission from the owners, this isn't the case for Patrica and other towns like it.

"We first need the availability of owners, or their heirs, in disposing of their old houses," says Fiordaliso.

"Only then can we place these properties up for sale with their consent, which makes the process very complicated. Almost impossible."

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This bus is Electric!

Volkswagen may be making its living these days with vehicles like the Jetta and Atlas, but many people fondly recall its earliest models: the original punch-buggy Beetle, and the air-cooled Microbus van that descended from it. It's one reason the German automaker went full retro with its new ID. Buzz.

This all-electric model, revealed alongside several hundred classic vans brought by their owners to the event in Huntington Beach, Calif., pays homage to that original design while being as up-to-date as others in the ID. family. The name indicates VW's battery-only models, which include the ID.4 SUV and the upcoming ID.7 sedan. The Buzz will go on sale in Canada in 2024, with pricing yet to come.

Unveiling it on the California coast ties into the original Microbus' popularity as a "surfer dude" wagon. Volkswagen expects the Buzz to appeal to outdoorsy people, such as campers or, yes, surfers, but at its heart, it's a family vehicle – in essence, a way-cool minivan, complete with sliding doors and up to three rows of seats. The Buzz was initially unveiled in Europe last year as a shorter, two-row van. Instead, all North American versions will have a longer wheelbase with a larger battery and more horsepower.

The original VW van went into production in 1950. It was based on the Beetle's underpinnings and, like that iconic car, had an air-cooled engine driving the rear wheels – and at just 30 horsepower, drivers had to be patient about getting where they were going.

That shouldn't be the case with the Buzz, of course. The electric motor is still in the back, but it makes 282 horsepower, along with 406 lb-ft of torque. An available all-wheel-drive (AWD) version adds a second electric motor for the wheels up front, increasing the van's total output to 330 horsepower. Its top speed is electronically limited to 159 km/h – something the original bus could only imagine in its wildest dreams.

The Buzz's battery is mounted under the floor, which preserves cabin space and gives a lower centre of gravity that helps improve handling. The North American Buzz's extra length allows for a larger battery – 91 kWh, while the European version has an 82-kWh battery. Range hasn't been announced, but on a model we pho-



The VW ID Buzz electric bus is now available for sale in Canada

tographed before the official unveiling, the instrument cluster showed 152 miles (244 km) on a battery charged to 53 per cent.

That first 1950 van was about the same length as the 2019 Beetle. In contrast, the ID. Buzz is only marginally shorter than the current Atlas Cross Sport SUV, and about as wide as the larger Atlas sport-utility but taller. American buyers will have a choice of six- or seven-passenger seating, but unique to Canada, there will be a third choice of five-passenger, with just two rows and expansive cargo space in the back. The bench seat can slide forward or back, depending on whether it's the second- or third-row passengers who need the most legroom. Both rear rows fold flat for extra storage – you'll also be able to order a board that fits between the seats to provide a flat cargo floor, complete with fabric storage bins under them – and on three-row models, the third row can be removed entirely.

And while the original Microbus was pretty plain inside, the Buzz will come standard with ventilated and massaging front seats, heated front and rear seats and steering wheel, wireless charger, eight USB-C ports, dual power-sliding doors, hands-free power liftgate, and removable centre console. The dividers in that bin can double as bottle openers or as ice scrapers, should you not opt for the available heated windshield. A panoramic glass roof will also be offered, with

electrochromic tinting that can be switched from clear to dark, depending on how much sunshine you prefer.



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The Classy Chef

Trini cook has a vision of turning her home country into a culinary paradise

TRINI chef and media personality Natasha de Bourg, aka the Classy Chef, is one very busy woman.

She is president of the Trinidad Culinary Association (TCA), judges international culinary competitions and produces and appears in multiple television shows. And she is preparing to add two more projects to her very full plate, namely a Caribbean/African culinary documentary series and an executive-chef position in the US.

De Bourg recently chatted about her various activities in a recent interview, starting with the TCA.

She founded the association, which aims to preserve Trinidad and Tobago's culinary heritage, inspire creativity, and establish the country as a world-class culinary destination, last year, after returning from 13 years working abroad.

"Because I had this vision where I wanted to see the progression of culinary tourism and the culinary heritage and DNA preserved not just in TT but in the Caribbean as a whole. Because a lot of people go out of Trinidad and they don't come back home to give back to their country. So I wanted to be that person to come back."

She said while chefs are traditionally egoistic and would "fight" with other chefs, she wanted to pool together all chefs, including amateurs, experienced chefs and pioneers, to give back to Trinidad.

She recalled when TCA started she received a bit of opposition.

"I am this young female chef, and the culinary world is known as a male industry."

De Bourg said she had to face the foundational chefs in TT who did not know who she was.

"But it didn't take long (to convince them). After one meeting they were on board with me."

She reported the TCA has more than chefs, bakers and culinary enthusiasts on its Instagram page and a private WhatsApp group with more than 80 chefs and restaurant owners.

She said her vision for the TCA includes



Natasha De Bourg: education is the key to culinary excellence

making nationals aware of the culinary industry. She added that the industry is not appreciated because people are not aware of how much work it takes.

"Trinidad is a cultural country and Trinidad cannot be sustainable with two days of Carnival. It's just two days for the year, and yes, we are booked out and sold out. But I think Trinidad is so much more than Carnival."

De Bourg, a Christian, quoted Hosea 4:6, "My people perish for lack of knowledge," and applied it to the local culinary industry.

"Our education system, when it comes to culinary (matters), has been closed down. And that is why, when you go to restaurants, you don't get the level of quality that you would get. Because if you are not trained properly, then

you cannot give what you don't have."

She said the results of the lack of education and training in the industry are cheap labour, inconsistent food quality and people who lack knowledge about what they have to produce.

"They are just working for money because it's a job."

De Bourg said she has started to build a structure for a culinary education for TT and added she is well connected with the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, the academic accreditation body in the UK. She also said she has friends who are professors at Harvard University teaching culinary psychology and who were willing to visit TT to establish the subject there.

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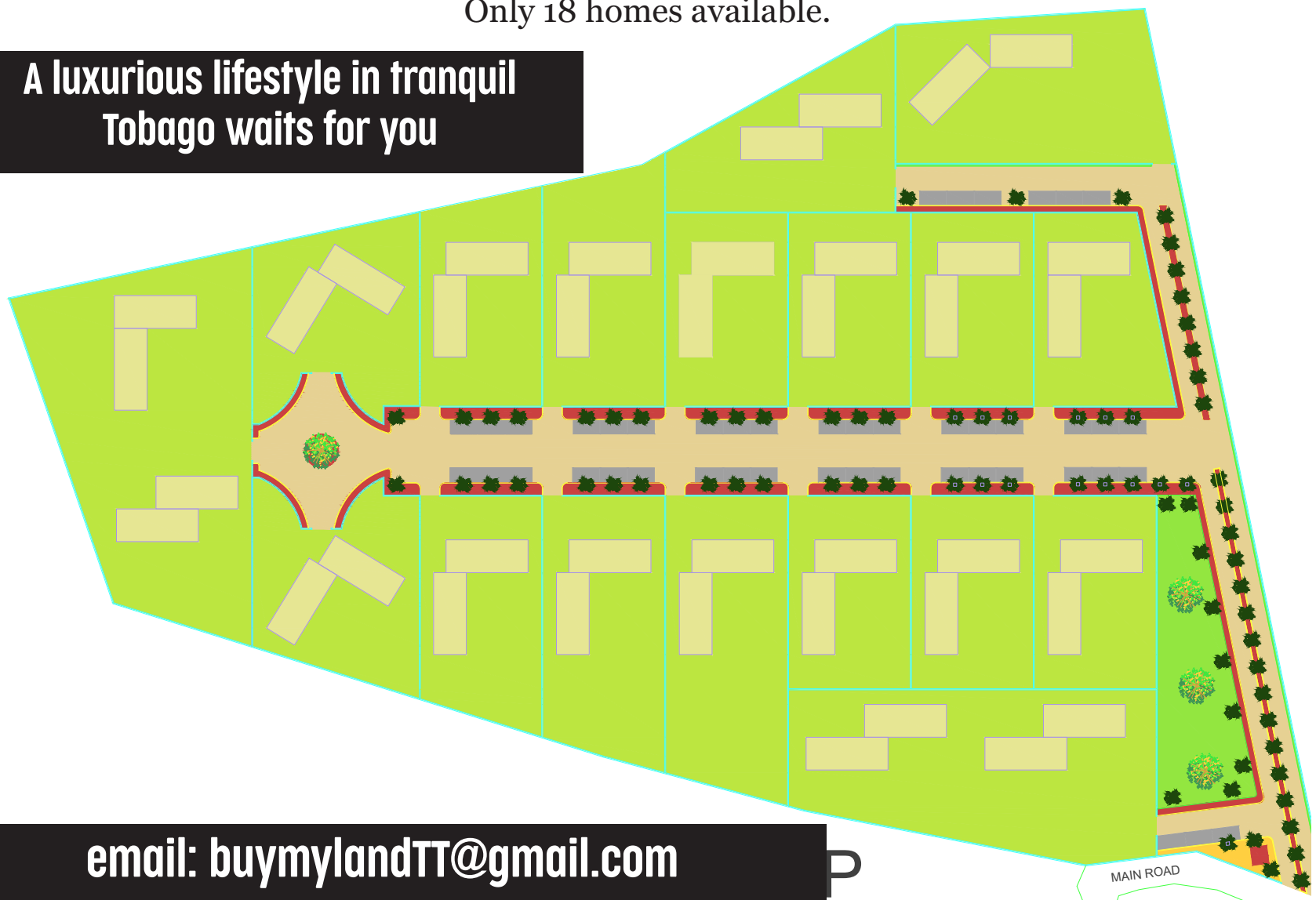
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Moses Revolution featuring
Shyann Bailey



Spreading the Love

From Yukon to Toronto, Moses Revolution leads the Caribbean music brand in Canada

Moses Revolution ft. Shyann Bailey is Canada's #1 diverse Caribbean Band.

The band consists of members from different walks of life and a variety of cultures, creating a distinct sound and vibe.

The band recently rebranded, putting Shyann at the front to bring her voice and energy to the band to create unforgettable per-

formances.

Moses Revolution has been together for 25 years, perfecting their soca sound.

It was founded in 2001 comprising of Caribbean musicians residing in Canada. As the name implies, the goal is to revolutionize music through the fusion of the various rhythms of the Caribbean. The band's strength lies in the marriage of these rhythms which has given them that unique island sound.

The band has performed extensively across Canada, in cities such as Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and Ottawa. It presently play at the three major Caribbean festivals in the GTA, Caribana, Hamilton Mardi Gras and Barrie Caribfest.

The band has accompanied many major artists from the Caribbean, including Rose, Sparrow, Ajamu, Ernie Smith and American Hall of

Famer Percy Sledge.

Moses Revolution ft. Shyann Bailey has produced two CDs 'Against the Odds' and 'Music Inspiration'.

The band has appeared at Island Soul at the Harbourfront in Toronto on several occasions, and have performed live on CBC radio and also played most major venues in Toronto.

In 2017, Moses Revolution released a song called Thank You in commemoration of Canada's 150th Birthday with several local artistes.

It is also credited as the first Caribbean band to perform live in far-flung places such as Yukon and Dawson City, which is a first for Caribbean music.

Moses Revolution has also worked with some of the greatest names in R&B music, including the legendary Hall of Famer Percy Sledge.

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Judge made a Fatal Error

PJ Patterson & Hugh Small representing Vybz Kartel in Privy Council case

Two of Jamaica's erudite attorneys, PJ Patterson, KC, and Hugh Small, KC, have revealed that Jamaican courts have dealt with the current conundrum regarding jury tampering in the Vybz Kartel case, as they revealed a 1983 precedent that appeared to miss the defense attorneys, prosecutors and the judges of the lower court, appeal court and the Privy Council.

Attorneys for Adidja Palmer, also called Vybz Kartel, Shawn Campbell, Kahirah Jones, and Andre St. John, are currently waiting for the writ issued by the Privy Council to be signed by King Charles before they can appear before the Court of Appeal.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council ruled last week that the murder conviction of Kartel and others be overturned and their case remitted to the Court of Appeal to determine whether he would be retried or released. The cohort has been in jail for 13 years.

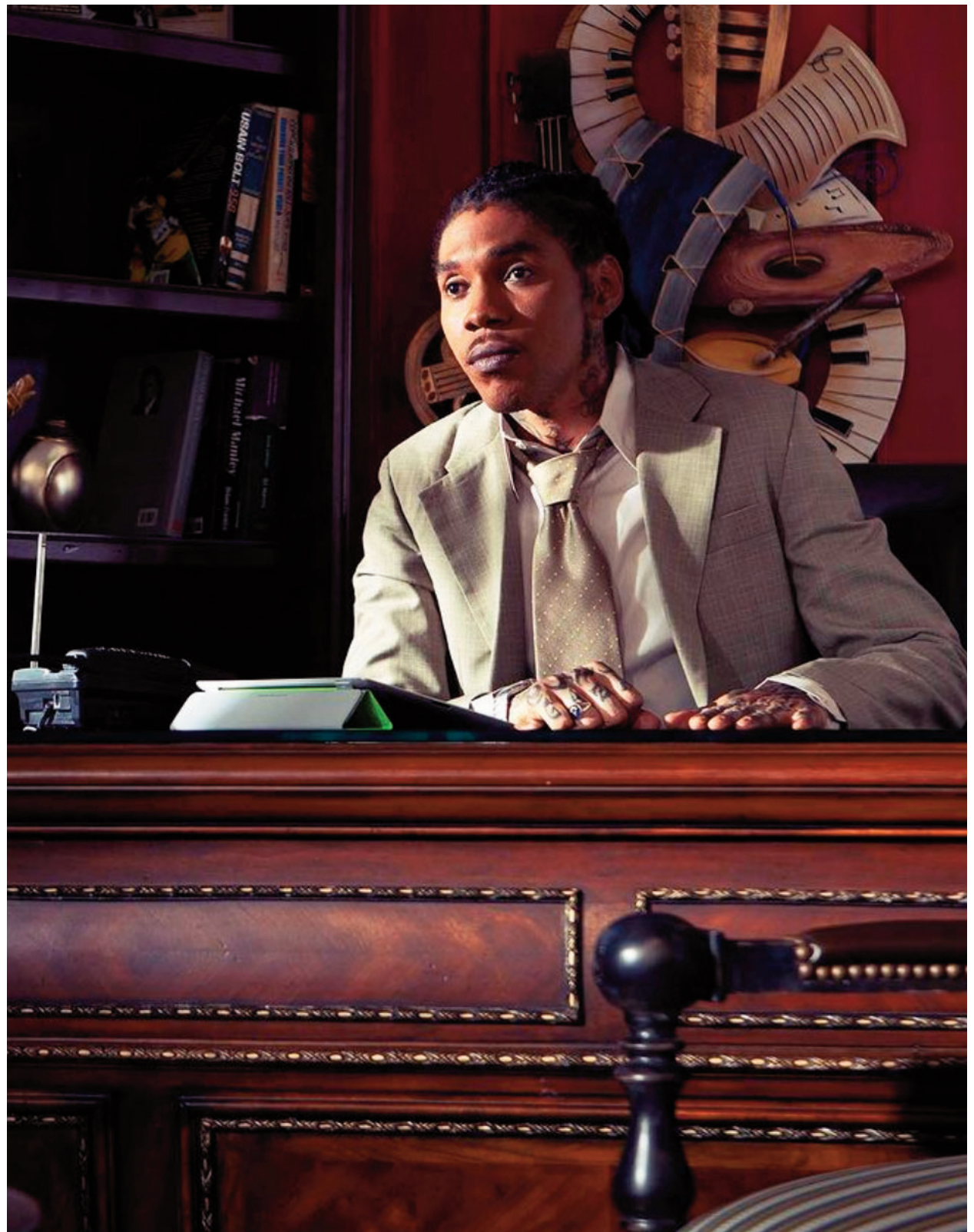
However, the jury tampering matter is not a mystery as King's Counsels Small and Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, called the situation unfortunate as they outlined a legal precedent within the jurisdiction that could have prevented the matter from going to the Privy Council.

According to the lawyers, the precedent is the famous Libel case, *The Gleaner Company Limited and John Hearne v Michael Manley* in 1983, where the court ruled that if a jury is compromised, the judge had to discharge the jury and proceed with a new trial and a clean panel of jurors.

In that case, the judge discharged the foreman as a special juror who was hearing evidence in a libel case in which Manley claimed damages for an article written by Hearne and published by the Gleaner. The Gleaner had provided evidence to the court that the foreman was employed by the National Workers Union under the leadership of the Manley, who was his island supervisor, risking the possibility of bias.

According to a summary of the case, the foreman was discharged for apparent bias, but the judge refused to discharge the entire jury and continued with six special jurors. The Gleaner and Hearne appealed against the judge's ruling, and on appeal, the Court of Appeal, in a majority decision, decided that the entire jury must be discharged and a new trial ordered.

"It is regrettable that this case was not brought to the attention of Justice Campbell, the



Vybz Kartel is hoping for a positive verdict from the Privy Council

judges of the Jamaica Court of Appeal, Dennis Morrison, Patrick Brooks, and Franklyn Williams, or cited in the Privy Council," the statement by the King's Counsel wrote.

They added, "It is worthy of note, unlike the situation in the Vybz Kartel case, there was no finding of actual misconduct by the foreman in that civil case. To have continued the criminal case against Vybz Kartel et al, notwithstanding 64 days of trial, was not merely a risk, but a fatal error to render any final verdict unacceptable in

accordance with the tenets of justice and the decision of our own Court of Appeal in 1983."

The country's Director of Public Prosecution, Paula Llewellyn, has revealed that her office has no choice but to ask the Court of Appeal to order a retrial in the interests of justice and the constitutional mandate of her office.

Kartel has also not withheld his criticism of the DPP, whom he slammed for allegedly influencing the judge to continue with the trial despite several bribery attempts during his trial.

Rihanna eyes China

Singer taps dancehall's Bambi to launch her Fenty Beauty Fashion Empire in Asia

Rihanna is expanding her Fenty Beauty empire to China and taps into her reggae/dancehall roots for a fitting soundtrack for her first promo video. The Bajan pop star turned beauty mogul was instantly bombarded with requests from her fans, code name Navy, asking for new music.

The 36-year-old mother of two shared the video on her Instagram on March 21, telling her 152 million followers, “China fenty fam!! i’m so excited to announce that we are expanding in sephora stores april 1 – y’all ready?!”

Rihanna used dancehall artist Bambii’s 2021 single “Twitch” to soundtrack the promo clip, which gets her fans hungry for new music from her.

“I keep thinking it’s new music. why you always tricking us?” one fan wrote. Another fan said, “Girl and here I thought this was a music video. At this point we’re not getting any new music from Rihanna ever maybe I should just go ahead and become a Beehive or a Barb.”

Rihanna’s Fenty Beauty China expansion comes on the eve of a sitewide sale the company running with some products getting deep discounts of as much as 30 and 25 percent starting on Friday, March 22.

It has been over seven years since Rihanna released an album, but over the years, she has released a few singles and collaborations, the most recent of which came in 2022 when she released “Lift Me Up” on the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever soundtrack. RiRi performed the song during her historic Super Bowl Halftime Show last year and also earned an Academy Award nomination.

Since then she has welcomed her second child, Riot Myers, with her partner A\$AP Rocky. The rapper recently appeared with Rihanna in one of her promo videos for her Fenty Skin line promoting her new Fenty Lux Balm for lips. Rocky has maintained that he is a big supporter of Rihanna’s beauty products and regularly used them on his own skin.

As for whether fans will get new music, the answer is more likely, but Rihanna is in no rush; she is taking her own sweet time.



Rihanna — launching her billion-dollar beauty empire in China



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City of Dreams

Idris Elba plans to build an eco-city in Sierra Leone

Idris Elba, one of Hollywood's biggest stars, sets to build an eco-city in Sherbro Island, a monumental Island in Sierra Leone with a population of around 30 to 40,000 people.

A year after Sierra Leone had gone to the polls and elected a new President, 2019 marked the year of Idris' first-ever visit to Sierra Leone, a country where his father was born.

His visit sparked headlines across the country. For a star so famous and popular, it was a symbol of homecoming to the country that birthed his father.

It was the visit that inspired him to embark on one of the biggest projects Sierra Leone has ever seen since post colonial times.

Idris' visit was welcomed with a presidential welcoming, and was received by President Bio. Eventually, he was given citizenship.

In 2020, Senegalese-born RnB superstar, Akon, announced "Akon City", a real life Wakanda city inspired by the Hollywood blockbuster movie Wakanda.

Although Akon's envisioned real life Wakanda city never progressed beyond the stage of dreams, in Sierra Leone, two childhood friends are dreaming big to build an eco-city.

Siaka Stevens, the grandson of former President Siaka Stevens, and Idris Elba are working round the clock to transforming a monumental and historic Island in Sierra Leone, Sherbro Island into an eco-city.

Idris and Siaka grew up together in east London.

Unlike Idris whose first visit to Sierra Leone came in 2019, Siaka had been visiting and spending time in Sierra Leone for the last decade.

Siaka, a luxury hospitality and entertainment businessman, had initially wanted to establish a boutique hotel in Sierra Leone but he realized "Sierra Leone wasn't ready for that level of tourism".

This ignited the idea of transforming Sherbro Island into an eco-city, and that's how Idris became a partner and big player in the project.

"Originally we went there thinking how could we bring tourism to the most incredible 19 miles of beachfront," Idris told the BBC in an interview.

During Idris Elba's visit to Sierra Leone in 2019, the Sherbro Alliance Partners (SAP) came to light. The Government of Sierra Leone and SAP signed deal to develop and transform Sherbro Island into an eco-city.

"We believe that Sherbro Island City will be an economic engine for our country and neigh-



Sherbro Island in Sierra Leone with a population of around 30 to 40,000 people

bours," said President Bio at the signing of documents.

According to Siaka, the project is estimated to "potentially accommodating a population of up to a million people".

Development of the project is to begin around the main town of Bonthe, but the whole island is within the scope of the project.

"Part of me wants to build that beautiful retirement home for my mum," said Idris Elba.

"Never in my lifetime would I have thought I could build the foundation for a new smart-city... I'm not qualified for that. But I am qualified to dream big," he continued.

Finance, Sustainability, And Energy

As huge as this project is, and being one of the biggest projects in Sierra Leone, it's clear that financing it requires partnerships, corporations, and investments.

According to SAP, the eco-city project is to be financed through a public-private partnership, whereby the island will be designated a special economic zone with a separate legal and economic system from the rest of Sierra Leone.

Electricity is still a major challenge in Sierra Leone. More than 70% of Sierra Leoneans don't have access to electricity. Rural areas like Sherbro Island still lack electricity.

In a bold and ambitious move, Idris and his wife Sabrina met with one of Europe's largest in-

vestors in renewable energy, Octopus Energy Generation.

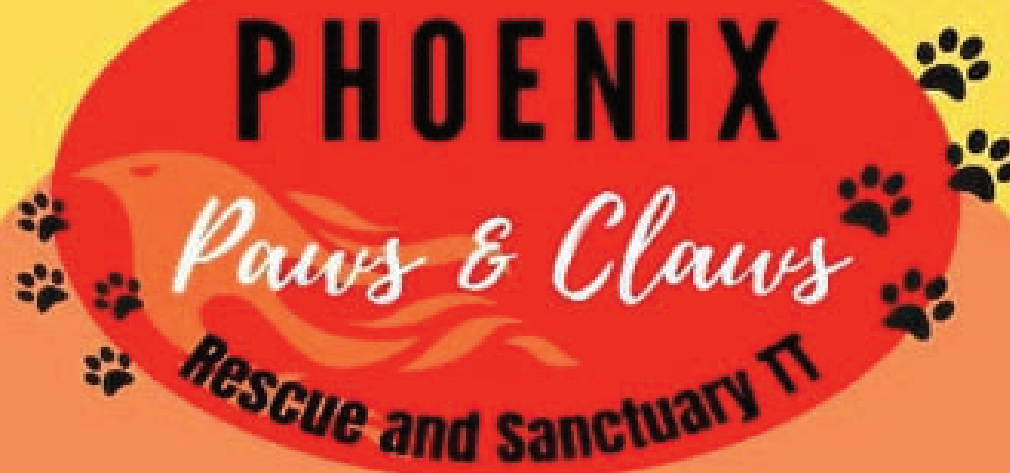
In November last year, SAP partnered with Octopus Energy Generation to build wind and solar farm, which includes five wind turbines, an array of solar panels and battery storage.

Ms North-Bond, head of Octopus Energy Generation, told the BBC the company was considering two ways to distribute power across the island — a micro-grid.

The other option was to function as an "energy island", enabling local business to bring electric vehicles — both cars and motorcycles — to charge up from on-site battery stations and then deliver energy to domestic batteries in people's homes.

Sierra Leone is a country that has been through a period of turmoil over the years. The bloody civil war that wrecked the country's economic growth and infrastructure; the Ebola epidemic that killed thousands of people and scared off hundreds of investors; the recent pre and post elections violence — all have had a ripple effect on the tourism sector.

As one of the smallest nations in West Africa, and one of the most peaceful nations in Africa, Sierra Leone is yet to enjoy and benefit from its beautiful beaches, mind blowing landscapes, rich culture and history, and among many others.



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Peace Robots

Sierra Leone engineer builds world's first machines to teach peace

A young Sierra Leonean innovator and self taught engineer, Ibrahim Parizco Dainkeh has built the first-ever peace robots in the world. The robots are designed to preach peace in Sierra Leone and the world at large.

In a time when peace is a scarce commodity in the world, the young genius, Ibrahim thought it would be necessary to develop robots that preach peace, unity and love for all.

Ibrahim has never set foot in the university. Everything he knows and does came from the internet and his ingenuity.

Balancing talent with financial constraints and lack of infrastructural development in Sierra Leone, Ibrahim delved into junkyards for resources.

Almost over 60% of the materials he used to build the robots were from the junkyards. He used a damaged drone controlling remote and transformed it into a remote to control the movement of the robots.

Ibrahim said his greatest ambition as a child “was to use technology to address significant challenges within our communities.”

The two robots, named “Dainkehbots”, built with a bicycle that serves as their means of transportation, pedaled on the streets of Freetown to create awareness and preach peace in Sierra Leone.



Ibrahim Parizco Dainkeh



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FLYING HIGH

Trini is youngest woman ever to head UK Royal Aeronautical Society

IT is a quiet day in the small, southeastern town of Rio Claro in Trinidad. A little girl named Kerissa Khan is playing outdoors, having the time of her life.

But then she spots some white trails across the sky and hears a thunderous sound. Is it a bird? No. Is it a plane? Yes. It is the Concorde, moving faster than the speed of sound, and little Kerissa is fascinated.

But who knew decades later, she would grow up to become one of the world's leading aeronautical professionals?

Khan is now an aeronautical engineer and the second woman and youngest person ever to become the president of the Royal Aeronautical Society in the UK.

Born and raised in TT, she said she enjoyed growing up in a country with "such a diverse community."

"I loved growing up in Rio Claro and Mayaro. We (TT) are, as you know, a melting pot of ethnicities and backgrounds and religions, and you just have a unique opportunity to grow up with such a rich, diverse culture and that embeds into who you are."

Now, having lived in countries that include Scotland, England, Canada and France, she says those experiences were "just not the same" as home. She currently lives in London.

Growing up, she was an "outdoor kid" who loved basking in good weather and regularly going to the beach.

"It is (an experience) I would never replace."

It was also during her childhood that she was bombarded with fun facts about aeroplanes by her older brother Shirayd Khan as they watched the Concorde flying above.

Concorde flew commercially from 1976-2003 and was the world's first supersonic, commercial aeroplane. As soon as Khan started to speak about it, her eyes lit up and her voice got high and squeaky. She was very excited to explain how it all began.

"He (my brother) was constantly explaining how they work. He used to say, 'Do you know that sonic boom what you're hearing – that aircraft flies faster than the speed of sound?'"

"I was like, 'What? How can it do that?' and I was so drawn in to this aircraft. I was obsessed, to be honest. I was intrigued by something groundbreaking, and to know there are people



Kerissa Khan poses with the Bombardier Global 7500 which was the first aircraft she worked on designing. It is the world's fastest and longest-range business jet

who make that possible...I wanted to be one of those people who could make things that seem impossible possible."

When she attended ASJA Primary School in Princes Town, she loved maths and science. Although she did not reveal her age, the only hint she gave was that she wrote Common Entrance and not the SEA exam.

"I just enjoyed learning new things. I was always curious and fascinated by anything that is really captivating in science."

And by the time she moved on to Naparima Girls' High School in San Fernando, she knew what field she wanted to enter.

"I genuinely looked forward to learning about physics and aerodynamics and fluids...I guess it's like one (interest) drove the other, where I was really interested in math and physics and I also knew those would be helpful for (the) career (I wanted)."

She took a year off after secondary school to go to pilot school in Piarco. But while making up airtime on completing her exams to become officially certified, the time came for her to begin studying aeronautical engineering at the Univer-

sity of Glasgow, Scotland.

"I was learning to fly as a hobby and I had always been fascinated with flight, but (I knew) my degree was really the job I wanted to do, so I said, 'You need to leave the hobby behind.'"

She did a five-year master's degree in aeronautical engineering, which also included industry experience.

She recalled the "climate shock" she experienced after moving to Scotland in 2007.

"I arrived in autumn, so it was already freezing!"

But she praised the "supportive, fantastic community" she was surrounded by during her time there. Asked how people would typically react when they learnt where she was from, she said, "I pretty much had to pull a map down and say, 'Okay, this is the Caribbean, this is Venezuela and this is TT.'"

She now boasts of aerospace designing systems – which she calls her babies – for the Bombardier Global 7500/8000, Airbus A320, A321 and A330, Boeing 787, Eurofighter jets like the Typhoon and Tornado, among others.

Kaiso Gone Dread

Calypso icon David Rudder teams up with ace pannist Andy Narell for new album to pay tribute to Black Stalin

As fate would have it, US-born pannist Andy Narell and David Rudder were quietly collaborating on an album at the same time US R&B/pop/hip-hop artiste Beyoncé must have been recording her country album with its current hit song Texas Hold 'em.

The two vastly different projects have some symbolic connections. They both challenge perceived musical boundaries.

US-born pannist Narell and Rudder had collaborated on songs before, but this album in the making, *Kaiso Gone Dread: the Words and Music of Black Stalin*, expands their collaboration to include musicians from the French, Spanish and English-speaking Caribbean.

"I was talking to Andy one day and said, 'We haven't done anything together for a long time,' and he suggested we do an album of Stalin's music," said Rudder.

"I always wanted to produce a great David Rudder album. In the past, I produced a couple of tracks like my version of David's Long Time Band," said Narell. For Narell and Rudder, Stalin had an emotional pull from nostalgia to timeless relevance.

"I'm taking a deeper dive into Stalin's work. Now that I'm learning all the words to his songs, I'm more impressed by his poetry – his message," said Narell.

"He lays out his arguments like a brilliant lawyer. We, the listeners, are the jury. I find the parallels between him and David so strong in terms of the message, the power and the poetry." Keeping the roots of Stalin's music and blending in a pan-Caribbean jazz twist was the challenge.

"The goal is to re-interpret the music – not the lyrics. We want to keep Stalin's message and original lyrics, just present it in a slightly different way. In some cases I just phrased the lyrics differently," said Rudder. Rudder's vocals are much softer than we are accustomed to in the past. "It's a more classical sound," he said.



David Rudder with Andy Narell

Narell has been busy sending tracks to Rudder and musicians to add their contributions. "David sings me a few bars on the telephone so I know what key he wants to sing in, and then I get with my keyboard and computer and try to do a track that he can sing to and make sure he feels comfortable with it," said Narell.

A drummer from Martinique, a bass player from Cuba, a percussionist from Brazil, Narell on keyboards and pan, Trinidadian Etienne Charles on trumpet and a horn section arranged by Narell's son Isaac surround Rudder's voice with a musical tapestry representing the region.

"The jazz arrangements are going really well," said Rudder. For Narell and Rudder, Stalin's messages have no boundaries so it's not surprising they see his music bridging musical genres. They strive to preserve Stalin's char-

isma and power.

"Stalin knew the mood of the crowd," said Rudder. "I would like to perpetuate artistes who are really relevant to our society – just give them a second voice." Rudder most remembers Stalin's "instant smile," and he said Stalin had a way of drawing people to him.

Narell recalls Dimanche Gras 1987 in the Savannah when Stalin sang *Burn Dem* and *Mr Panmaker* and Rudder sang *Calypso Music and Dedication*.

"I saw Stalin sing *Burn Dem* and the crowd's reaction was wild. He was on stage with pannist Bobby Greenridge when he sang *Mr Panmaker*. I found that song to have an isolationist message of protect what you created. Hold it close to you. I was on the stage playing with David when he sang *Dedication*, which seemed to be the opposite message."

Caribbean Queen of the World

Trinidad beauty places fourth in Ms World competition but tops the field as Ms World Caribbean

Miss World Trinidad and Tobago Aché Abrahams copped the title of Miss World Caribbean at the 71st Miss World pageant held on March 9 in India.

Co-franchise holder of Miss World TT Navin Boodhai confirmed Abrahams' title.

Based on the competition presenting the continents as Americas and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Asia/Oceania, supporters interpreted Abrahams' continental title win as Miss World Americas and the Caribbean.

However, subsequent posts from the Miss World Organisation led to some confusion as she was identified as Miss World Caribbean, and Miss Brazil, Letticia Frota, named Miss World Americas.

Boodhai explained how the differentiated title came about.

"The decision to split the Americas and the Caribbean was taken just two days prior at a meeting with Miss World management and all National Directors. Mrs. Charu Lochan Dass, National Pageant Director for Miss World Trinidad and Tobago attended that meeting.

Given the structure of the competition having only four continents prior to the final night, adjustments had to be made accordingly.

But moving forward, this will be the new structure, as per decisions taken," he said.

Boodhai added: "We are extremely delighted that the Caribbean was given this level of equal standing and representation - similar to the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania."

He said as the newly crowned Miss World Caribbean, Abrahams will use the platform to advocate not just for her home country, but the entire region.

"As Aché would have indicated during the competition, that the Caribbean may be small but we remain significant, we may not always get the opportunity, but we have the talent.

Aché will be taking this opportunity as Miss World Caribbean to showcase the Caribbean in a positive light, and at the same time be an advocate for improving our resiliency as a region, especially with respect to climate change issues as part of our sustainable development," Boodhai



Beyonce: using hair care to further philanthropic work

said.

Meanwhile, the co-franchise holder said the talent search for next Miss World Trinidad and Tobago begins with screening on April 7, and finals on June 23.

Abrahams has agreed to support this year's national pageant and will be part of the franchise team to assist, mentor and lend advice to the top 15 girls. Miss Tobago, recently crowned by Coco Velvet International, has been given a guaranteed spot in the final 15.

Abrahams met Prime Minister Keith Rowley on her return to Trinidad on March 21, when they discussed her desire to work with the nation's youth.

She commented, "It is such an honour that he (Dr Rowley) took the time to meet with me. I think it reflects the support of my beautiful country.

"The meeting went amazing(ly). I am just excited to see what is up next, and I always tell

people that this is just chapter one.

"I can't wait to continue to give back to our beautiful country and continue to really help in whatever way I can. Very excited, very excited," she gushed.

Reporters asked if she had any specific project at the top of her agenda.

"So I created the Invisible Scars Project, which focuses on destigmatising mental health, but really and truly it is about empowering the youth and people of Trinidad and Tobago." Abrahams said she has had support from Social Development Minister Donna Cox for this project and hopes to see its continuity.

"With the prime minister, we discussed how I am going to continue empowering the children, especially teenagers in high school, and how we can really be there to guide them in the right direction. There are many things in the works right now that I am excited to eventually share with you."

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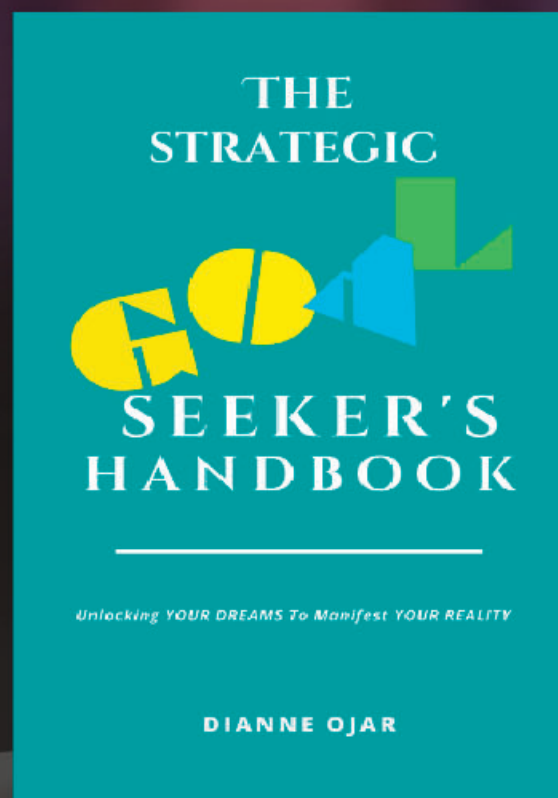
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