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MAS MEETS A.I.

Trini mas
band uses
latest tech
to bring its
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Mas Meets A.I.

KsK Studios uses latest technology to bring Carnival 2025 creations home

FAMED medium band K2K Alliance & Partners is, yet again, expanding its digital print in mas. Its 2025 band launch was an AI-powered one on October 10, via its streaming platform, K2K Studios.

Holy Trespasses – its 2025 presentation – showcased a fully AI-powered docufilm which interwove its 2025 collection and an AI-generated fashion show.

K2K Alliance & Partners Studios (K2K Studios) is the band's "innovation hub that nurtures ideas into industry-changing products and supports transformational concepts," it says on its website k2k-studios.com. The space is dedicated to activating change. The hub will showcase new and immersive ways to enjoy the K2K Collection. This includes, but is not limited to animation, movies, reality TV and audible experiences, the website said.

Over the last three years, the band led by Kathy and Karen Norman, has been meshing masquerade and immersive digital technologies.

For its 2024 launch, the band used digital images and a video presentation during its live presentation at Queen's Hall, St Ann's, last year.

In 2022, the Carnival company announced its dive into the metaverse and its animation launchpad.

This is just the start for the band's AI adventure.

Asked about the success of the AI launch as opposed to a physical launch, K2K said effectiveness could be measured in two ways: viewership and bottom line.

K2K said, since its inception, it traditionally hosted a live-theatre production for the premiere of its collections.

"Thus, the streaming feature and the AI-powered movie was really a feasibility study and pilot for future events," K2K's co-founder Kathy Norman said in an interview with Newsday.

"In terms of effectiveness, one of our key performance indicators was our viewership rate on the night and over the weekend. Website engagement on the night of the event (which began at 11 pm) was 7.5 times more



Kahlua Coffee Liquer from K2K Alliance & Partners' 2025 Carnival presentation

than selling our show at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA, Port of Spain)."

She added that the company's website kept "significant momentum" over the weekend following the launch.

Kathy said as for the bottom line, the ever-growing generative AI allowed smaller businesses, like K2K, to minimise cost while maximising reach.

"Our Broadway-styled shows are expensive – from hall rentals, (Copyright Music Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago) COTT licence, dance cast, models and everything else that is needed to bring a show to fruition.

"Leveraging the advances in technology

gives small businesses a chance to create, compete and entertain. AI has the ability to power Carnival and empower the entrepreneur," she said.

A media release said K2K had become the first band to host a fully-powered AI Carnival show and film.

"The docufilm was curated with two intentions: to paint a visual story and to showcase how K2K could power and empower the Carnival landscape through the use of tools like generative AI."

She added that generative AI was poised to unleash a next wave of productivity and the company wanted to be in a position to grow as tech grew.

The Power of Positive Thinking

As we know life is full of surprises, both exciting and challenging. We encounter setbacks, unexpected events, and moments that test our resilience. With all these curveballs coming our way, why add to the difficulty by speaking negatively about ourselves?

The Power of Words

Our words possess incredible power. What we say to ourselves can significantly influence our mood, self-esteem, and overall well-being. When you speak negatively about yourself, you are not just describing your current state; you are reinforcing it. For example, if you constantly tell yourself, "I am not good enough," it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. You might start to believe it, and this belief can hold you back from reaching your full potential.

Think about it this way: if you were to speak to a friend the way you sometimes speak to yourself, would they stay your friend for long? Probably not. Negative self-talk can be like a bad friend who is always putting you down. Imagine telling yourself, "I am a failure," or "I will never succeed." These thoughts can shoot down your confidence and make it harder to bounce back from life's challenges.

The Impact of Self-Talk

Positive self-talk, on the other hand, can be incredibly uplifting and empowering. When you remind yourself of your strengths and achievements, you build resilience and self-belief. For instance, telling yourself, "I am capable," or "I can handle this," can give you the boost you need to tackle challenges with a more positive attitude. Your internal dialogue can become a powerful ally, guiding you through tough times with greater ease. I talk to my-

self all the time because I too am not perfect however I practice this every day.

Consider the impact of the words you choose. When you face a challenge, think about how you would approach it if you spoke to yourself with kindness and encouragement. Instead of dwelling on negative outcomes, focus on positive actions you can take and affirm your abilities. This shift in perspective not only enhances your mood but also motivates you to keep moving forward.

Here are a few suggestions of Positive Self-Talk:

Instead of saying, "I cannot do this," say, "This is difficult; however, I will discover a way to manage it." When faced with a challenging task, remind yourself that while it may be tough, you have the resources and determination to find a solution.

Instead of saying, "I always mess up," say, "I make mistakes sometimes; however, I will learn and grow from them." Acknowledge that errors are a part of the learning process. Each mistake is an opportunity to gain valuable experience and improve.

Instead of saying, "I am not worthy," say, "I am deserving of success and happiness." Recognize your intrinsic value and affirm your right to achieve your goals and find joy in life. Your worth is not defined by past failures or external opinions.

A Word of Wisdom

I am known as The Experiential Coach, and I wanted to share with you an insightful perspective on self-talk: "Your inner dialogue shapes your reality. Speak to yourself with the kindness and encouragement you would offer to others.

Remember, you are your own greatest ally on this journey of life." This wisdom emphasizes the importance of treating yourself with the same compassion and positivity you extend to those you care about.

Here is some Encouragement and Inspiration for you:

Everyone faces difficulties at some point. Even the most successful individuals encounter obstacles and make mistakes. The key difference often lies in their approach to these challenges. They focus on solutions rather than dwelling on problems, and they practice positive self-talk to stay motivated and resilient.

Imagine a professional athlete who loses a game. Instead of berating themselves, they might say, "I did not win this time; however, I will learn from my mistakes and come back stronger." This positive mindset helps them to improve and keep moving forward. Their self-talk reinforces their resilience and drives them to achieve greater success.

Similarly, consider someone working on a new project. If things do not go as planned, rather than thinking, "I am incapable," they might reflect, "This project has not turned out as I hoped; however, I will adjust my approach and continue striving towards my goal." This attitude allows them to adapt and persist through challenges, fostering personal and professional growth.

Taking Action start today, NOW!

You possess the power to change your internal dialogue. Start by paying attention to how you talk to yourself. When you catch yourself being negative, gently shift to a more positive thought. It might feel



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Dianne Ojar

awkward at first, but with practice, positive self-talk can become a natural part of your life.



Begin with small steps. Each time you notice a negative thought, switch it with a positive affirmation. This could be as simple as reminding yourself of your past successes or focusing on your strengths. Over time, these positive affirmations will help reframe your mindset, making it easier to approach challenges with confidence and optimism.

In challenging times, remind yourself that you are not alone. Everyone faces hardships, and speaking kindly to yourself can make a significant difference in how you handle them. Treat yourself with the same compassion and encouragement that you would offer to a friend. Remember that you are deserving of support and kindness, both from others and from yourself.

Finally, life throws enough curveballs without us adding to the mix with negative self-talk and by changing the way you speak to yourself, you can transform your mindset and increase your resilience. Be kind to yourself, acknowledge your strengths, and remember that you have the ability to overcome challenges. After all, you deserve to be your own biggest supporter. Embrace the power of positive self-talk, and watch as it enhances your ability to face life's challenges with grace and strength.

For further details or to start your transformative journey, reach out to me at info@TheExperientialCoach.com. Inquire about the "21 Days Lifestyle Shift Series" and other available programs at www.DianneOjar.com

Let Heart & Soul help you unlock your potential and achieve your ultimate breakthrough experience. We look forward to connecting with you!

EYEING THE GRAMMIES

Albums from Trini reggae star, Kes the Band up for consideration

IS a Grammy nomination on its way for Trinidad and Tobago? Artiste Rossi “RKG” Gray believes that it is going to happen soon and hopes it comes from his third album, Fully Digital.

RKG is one of the TT artistes being considered for a Grammy nomination. His album is being considered in the Best Reggae Album category.

Kes the Band is among the others.

Kes said on Facebook on October 8: “We’re so excited that our album Man With no Door and single Out of this World with Sean Paul are being considered for this year’s Grammy Awards. First-round voting to determine the nominees is live through October 15. Blessings and thanks to all the producers, engineers, musicians and artists (who) worked on the album with us.”

Nominations will be announced on November 8.

RKG is best known as a radio presenter on Next 99.1 Fm, but has been an artiste for about 20 years now.

Even though he is not as widely known in TT, he has built a fanbase in Africa.

Talking about his career, RKG said, “I used to sing in school bazaars, in small concerts.

“I am originally from east Trinidad, Cleaver Woods, to be exact. Some of the people I grew up with that are in the business today are the likes of Bunji Garlin. Me and Bunji Garlin were actually neighbours and we grew up singing at the side of the road, on the streets, that kind of thing.”

His first recording was a collaboration with Dawg E Slaughter and the late Ghetto Flex.

Looking back on how that happened, he said he was at a Westmoorings studio, Island Project, when Ghetto Flex heard him and acknowledged his talent. He also helped RKG come up with his sobriquet.

After this RKG worked with a number of local producers, including Jason Lee, First Klase and Angelo Pantin.

During that time, he tried to create his first album, but believes he failed because he did not get what he wanted, and so “squashed the project.” However, his first, independent album, Caribbean Born, was also up for Grammy consideration in 2017.

The album consisted of reggae, dancehall and soca, but because soca did not have a Grammy category, it fell under the reggae category.

Still, it got him signed to the New York label Vpal Music.

This is now his third consideration, having got the second for his 2022 single Zungusha in the Global Music Performance category.

This year’s consideration is back again in the Best Reggae Album category, pitting him against heavy-hitters like Vybz Kartel, Spice and Shenseea.

RKG has worked on the Fully Digital album for the last three years and described its music as “uplifting.”

One of its songs, Love Life, is dedicated to the life of his late friend, Leroy “Gotti” Thomas.

It also features Things Pon Meh Mind and Zero Pressure, done with Kenyan artiste Jean Jay. There are 14 songs on it.

Grammy considerations for local artistes have increased and RKG is happy about this.

But translating that into a nomination was difficult, as artistes were limited by certified voters.

In TT, there were possibly 30 certified voters.

The Recording Academy’s website says to get Grammy consideration, artistes must first submit their music to the academy’s online entry process. Recording Academy members (voting and professional) and registered media companies may submit entries, it added.

The website says the academy’s voting membership votes on Grammy winners and nominees and membership includes artistes, producers, songwriters and engineers.



“RKG” is being considered for a Grammy nomination

It’s an honour to be considered, RKG said.

He admitted that he was not as well known as an artiste in TT as he’d like to be and it was a challenge he has had over the years.

“I have had a lot of ups and downs in my career as an artiste. I would not say it is because of the music but it was because of my personal choices.”

RKG also said he never saw himself simply singing soca and always enjoyed singing other genres.

He believes to be successful as an artiste singing genres other than calypso and soca, performers had to find an audience overseas before they have one at home.

He said there would be pockets of people listening to the music but not many. “I believe artistes could have their core fanbase here but if they are doing things other than soca, you have to try to network with people outside of TT.”

DANCING FOR A GENERATION

“Baby Susan” now a cultural ambassador through dance for T&T

Susan Mohip is a name recognised far beyond Indian classical dance and culture. An embodiment of tradition, modernity, and ambition, her journey reflects the evolving role of Hindu women in Trinidad and Tobago.

With a career spanning over 45 years, the specialist in Indian Kathak dance is a mother of two, and a senior lecturer at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), where she teaches Indian classical dance. She also serves as the artistic director of the Susan Mohip Dance Company, is the lead female singer for the Sargam International Orchestra, and co-founded the Sangeet Mahavidyalaya music school.

The Gasparillo resident has not only elevated Indian classical arts through her contributions to dance, music and education, but has also inspired countless women to break free from societal expectations while staying deeply connected to their cultural roots.

From the age of three, known as “Baby Susan”, many people believed she was destined for greatness as she impressed audiences with her graceful moves and diverse skills.

Nurtured by the love and guidance of her mother – a figure she credits for shaping her into the artist and woman she is today – Mohip said, “Beginning my dancing career with my mom is my most cherished memory. With her guidance and love, I was able to create a career that holds great significance for women today.”

Her rise in the world of dance was meteoric. By the age of four, she became a household name, captivating national television audiences. Reflecting on those early years, she fondly recalled, “They were my best years – innocent, pure, and filled with so much excitement and glamour.”

But behind the glamour was discipline – a trait instilled by her mother.

“My mom was a stickler for discipline, practise, and organisation,” she explained.

“Every Saturday, I practised for four hours with her, learning every routine with precision.”

Despite her success in TT, Mohip knew her journey had only just begun. In 1989, she received an Indian Council for Cultural Relations scholarship from the Government of India to further her studies in Kathak dance under the guidance of the legendary Shrimati Vaswati Mishra. This experience transformed her not only as a dancer but as an educator and cultural ambassador.



KYNN
Kumari Ya Ngau
PHOTOGRAPHY

“Baby” Susan Mohip — a cultural ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago

“My experience in India was amazing. It grounded me and gave me the tools to bring Indian classical dance to a more meaningful level,” she said. “I wanted to be more than just an entertainer; I needed to understand the depth of the art form.”

As a public figure and a role model for

Hindu women, Mohip believes that while cultural traditions should be honoured, women must continue to adapt and evolve. “Education is key to everything we do. By uplifting and improving themselves, Hindu women can break traditional expectations while staying true to their cultural roots,” she advised.



Showing One Love for Thanksgiving

Toronto's One Love Family Services was able to distribute chicken to 300 families on Sat Oct 11th for Thanksgiving thanks to the generosity of Amir Quality Meats, who recently opened the first halal federal poultry plant in Arthur, Ontario.

Photo shows volunteers Ali Shaw and Lucia and others.



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A street for Rose

Calypso Queen elated as Tobago honours her legacy

“YOUR daughter is home,” proclaimed calypso legend McCartha Linda “Calypso Rose” Sandy-Lewis as she was among eight local icons honoured by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) on the morning of October 25. Milford Road in Scarborough is now Calypso Rose Boulevard.

The other seven icons honoured included the late Winston “Mighty Shadow” Bailey, legendary football coach Bertille St Clair, former chief administrator Allan Richards, late politician and pharmacist James AA Biggart, late anthropologist Dr Jacob Delworth Elder, as well as Aloysius Morean and Edna Morean (education), both deceased.

The ceremony was held at the Esplanade in Scarborough.

Calypso Rose, who was born in Tobago, thanked God for keeping her alive, adding that throughout her 84 years she wrote over 1,000 calypsoes. The most recent, she said, was done a few weeks ago about Tobago Carnival.

Singing part of the song, she chimed, “Get up, let’s go, it’s Carnival in Tobago/Remember October is mas over here...So give me pan, leh we jam, and give me brass leh we play we mas.”

She received cheers from the audience as she danced in her wheelchair, chanting, “Go, Tobago!”

She recalled some of her struggles as a woman in the calypso scene when she just entered. But she said she overcame the challenges and the very music many tried to dissuade her from publishing are now some of her best tracks.

“I want to thank Tobago for having a street in my name that when I go home, the name will still be there – Calypso Rose.

“I want to thank the THA and all the people of Tobago for giving me this wonderful time. And I want to thank you, Jesus, because you know I am standing upon the solid rock and the rock is Jesus.”

As she was taken to the official street sign, she exclaimed, “That’s my boulevard!” once it was unveiled.

Drivers honked their horns as they were passing the ceremony, while secondary school students walking nearby looked on in awe, saying, “That’s Calypso Rose.”

There will also now be the JD Elder roundabout, Mighty Shadow Boulevard, Bertille St Clair roundabout, Allan Richards roundabout,



Calypso Rose (in wheelchair) at the street named for her in Tobago

Morean Drive, and the James AA Biggart Avenue.

Secretary of Tourism Tashia Burris told all the honourees they “have shaped the fabric of our Tobago society.

“Today marks an occasion where we pay tribute to the trailblazers, the visionaries, the custodians of our culture and our history and those dynamic individuals who have made remarkable contributions to Tobago’s heritage.”

Education secretary Zorisha Hackett said the new street and roundabout names will en-

sure the icons’ impact is “permanently etched into the landscape of our island to serve as beacons of inspiration for us all.”

She said she was “deeply moved” to be able to honour them.

There will also now be the JD Elder roundabout, Mighty Shadow Boulevard, Bertille St Clair roundabout, Allan Richards roundabout, Morean Drive, and the James AA Biggart Avenue. Secretary of Tourism Tashia Burris told all the honourees they “have shaped the fabric of our Tobago society.

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Ford banks on midsize

The Pro commercial pickup remains firm's biggest moneymaker

The Ford skunkworks' midsize electric pickup truck, scheduled for the 2028 model year, will match China's BYD for costs, CEO Jim Farley told Wall Street analysts in the automaker's third-quarter earnings on October 28.

Farley said Ford already has cut EV costs by \$1 billion this year and has trimmed battery capacity by 35% "in line with where we think the market will be in a few years."

Farley said Ford is shifting EV launches to help meet a previously stated goal of making all its new EVs profitable within 12 months of launch. Ford expects 150 new EV nameplates to enter the North American market by the end of 2026, putting even more pressure on electric-vehicle prices.

Ford's next generation of EVs will use lithium-iron phosphate batteries developed with Chinese partner CATL, with which Ford is building a plant in Michigan.

"And we're deep in the design and engineering of our next-generation vehicles," Farley said. "Boy, are we excited about these coming out in the next few years. You know, in 40 years in the industry I've seen a lot of game-changer products, but the midsize electric pickup designed by our California team has got to be one of the most exciting."

It will come with an "incredible package" and consumer technology for a segment Ford



Ford's next generation of EV pickups will use Chinese-made batteries

knows well, he said.

"It matches the cost structure of any Chinese manufacturer building in Mexico in the future," Farley said, with obvious reference to BYD, which expects to have chosen a site for a Mexican plant with 150,000 units of annual capacity, according to Reuters. "How do we know that? Because 60% of the BOM has already been quoted," he said, referring to the bill of materials for the

midsize EV truck.

The pickup will be the first all-new EV on Ford's third-generation electric platform to come from the skunkworks that Farley revealed in his fiscal 2023 earnings call last February. Lead engineer is Alan Clarke, who led engineering on the Model Y for Tesla.



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Gen X for the Win

Here are the results as Miami Mas celebrates its 40th anniversary with a blast

The 40th anniversary of the Miami Carnival was celebrated on October 27 with a spectacular Parade of Bands featuring 17 masquerade groups, marking a significant milestone in the region's cultural calendar. This vibrant event has become a cornerstone of South Florida's identity and reinforces the Carnival's role as a unifying force for the area's cultural diversity and creativity.

Attendees were treated to a dazzling display of colors, intricate costumes, and the lively sounds of Soca music, making Miami Carnival a thoughtfully curated celebration of Caribbean heritage. Recognized as one of the Top 100 Events in South Florida, the Carnival offered a dynamic blend of pageantry, music, food, arts and crafts, and cultural experiences, drawing thousands eager to embrace the joyous spirit of Caribbean culture and its artistic expression.

The successful 40th-anniversary celebration was made possible through the generous support of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the host sponsor, along with backing from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners.

The day featured elaborate costumes, cultural performances, and an all-star Mega Soca Concert, further showcasing the rich traditions of the Caribbean.

2024 Miami Carnival Winners

Band of the Year

1st Place: Gen-X Carnival – Portrayal: Miami Carnival-Ravenous

2nd Place: Ramajay Mas International – Portrayal: Free Spirit

3rd Place: Big and Strong/One Island – Portrayal: A Night at the Louvre

4th Place: Pleasure Mas – Portrayal: Ro-



Gen X took Band of the Year at Miami Mas

mancing the Stone

Queen of Carnival

1st Place: Reisha Maynard – Portrayal: The Phoenix Warrior (Ramajay Mas International)

2nd Place: Charlene Samuels – Portrayal: Aurora: Goddess of Dawn (Freaks Mas)

3rd Place: Jessy Schuester – Portrayal: Arachnes (Revel Nation Carnival)

King of Carnival

1st Place: Percival Maynard – Portrayal: Roar: Spirit of the King (Ramajay Mas International)

2nd Place: Glen Turnbull – Portrayal: Mr. Majesty (The Forest) (Dingolay Mas)

3rd Place: Cletus Evans – Portrayal: Chronos Father Time (Freaks Mas)

Female Individual of the Year

1st Place: Janeille Campbell – Portrayal: Aello (Revel Nation Carnival)

2nd Place: Amber-Lynn Lewis – Portrayal: Pixiu (Revel Nation Carnival)

3rd Place: Kaiomi Inniss – Portrayal: SUNDJATA (Party Room Squad)

Male Individual of the Year

1st Place: Neil Williams – Portrayal: Palais Royale (Savage Mas)

DJ Awards

Best Local DJ:

Wassi Ones – Eternal Vibes

Ramajay Mas International – GBM Productions

Euphoria Mas, Inc – DJ J Rocca

Best Out-of-Town DJ:

Gen-X Carnival – DJ Kevin Crown

Savage Mas – Shakton: LovaBoi

Big and Strong/One Island – DJ Elon Baker

Road March 2024 (Calypso Most Played)

1st Place: Problem Child – Carnival Jumbie

2nd Place: Bunji Garlin – Carnival Contract

3rd Place: Mical Teja – DNA

Miami Carnival's 40th anniversary was not just a celebration of the past but a vibrant reaffirmation of the Caribbean culture that continues to thrive in South Florida.

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Publisher

RAYNIER MAHARAJ

Editor

MILAN MAHARAJ

Digital Manager

KATHY PLACE

email: independentnewspaper@aol.com

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Cardi Blue

Singer livid after Child Protection Services called to her mansion

Cardi B blows off steam on social media after Child Protective Services visited her home recently.

What appears to be a prank call isn't so funny because Cardi B threatens to sue the unknown person behind it. The Bronx rapper shared in an Instagram Live session that not only did CPS visit her home, but cops also showed up to do a welfare check on her children. The "Enough" rapper is currently going through a divorce from Offset that is shaping up to be messy. But it seems like some opposing fans are taking matters into their own hands.

Authorities did not reveal who made the call to alert law enforcement and the CPS to go to Cardi B's house, but folks on social media are blaming petty fans for what went down. Nevertheless, the rapper vows to get to the bottom of it and take legal action against those involved.

"I swear to you I'm gonna get to the bottom of it," she said. "For you mother—s to do a little prank call with Child Protective Services to come to my gated mansion at 11 p.m. while my children are sleeping because there's an anonymous call that my kids have been getting abused and beaten. Are you f—ing dumb? This is when the pranks start getting too far — when you a—s think it's funny."

"We're the only people of color in my neighborhood completely and for mother—ers to pop up in my house with cops and Child Protective Services because you mother—ers want to do an anonymous call involving my children," she added.

Cardi B assured everyone on her Live that her kids are doing great and are well taken care of as she and Offset figure out co-parenting. The "Money" rapper shared that she and her baby daddy spent \$45,000 on private school for their daughter Kulture alone. The estranged couple recently welcomed their third child despite their separation.

Cardi celebrated her 32nd birthday earlier this month by jetting herself and her children to Paris, where she shelled out \$50,000 per night for an Airbnb. After a wild night of partying, she vowed never to drink again. She also dished on how she flashed her cousin Glorilla, who FaceTimed her to wish her a happy birthday. The two female rappers have been very close since they found out that they were cousins.



Cardi B is going through a divorce from Offset, says call was a prank but not funny

DRAGGED INTO POLITICS

Elon Musk Dubs Eminem A Diddy ‘Party Participant’ after he endorses Harris

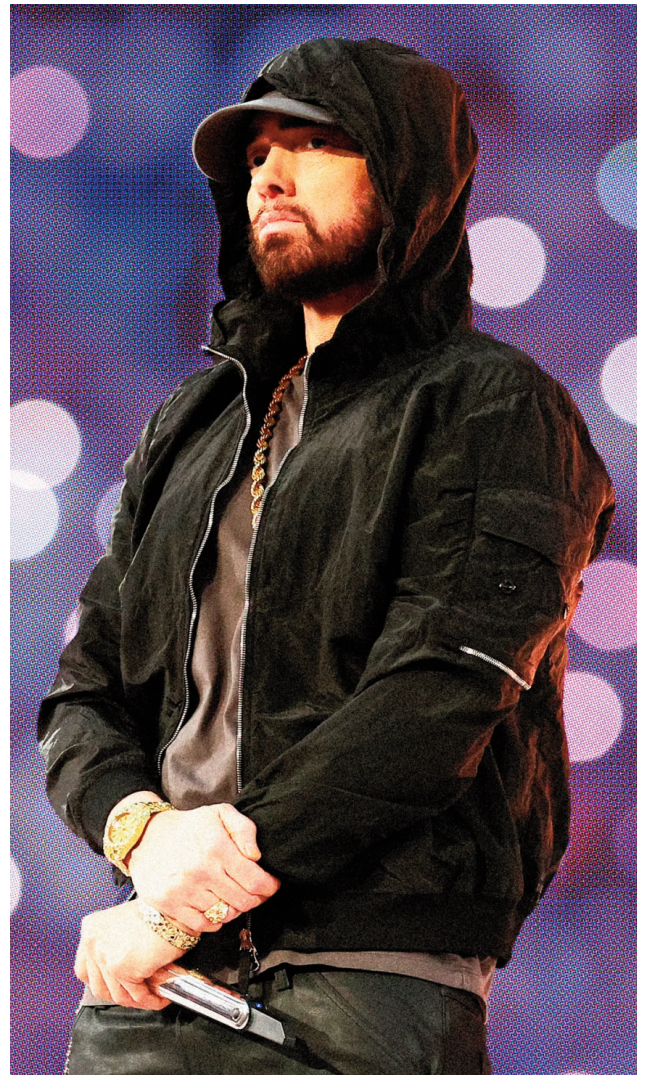
Elon Musk is clearly not a fan of Eminem as he dubbed the Detroit rapper a “Diddy party participant.”

To be mentioned in the same sentence as Diddy much less to have allegedly participated in a “Diddy party” is about the worst thing for any celebrity right now. The Bad Boy Records mogul is quite toxic in the entertainment space right now and his alleged parties, dubbed “freak-offs” have celebrities staying as far away from him as possible. Celebrities are not even partying anymore, according to Bow Wow.

Eminem has now found himself being mentioned in the same bracket as Diddy, but it appears to be over politics. The “Venom” rap legend entered the political arena earlier this week when he took the stage at Kamala Harris’ campaign rally in his hometown, Detroit. Em introduced former President Barack Obama at the event and voiced his strong support for Harris, who is in a hotly contested presidential race with Trump.

Elon Musk, who has thrown his support behind Trump, did not like the news that Eminem is supporting Harris. The X Owner responded to a post by an X user, who shared a screenshot of a TMZ article confirming that Em was set to introduce Obama at the Detroit rally. “Yet another Diddy party participant,” Elon wrote in response to that post. It’s unclear if The Marshall Mathers LP rapper has ever attended Diddy parties, but being mentioned in that manner is particularly damaging for any celebrity.

Eminem has not yet responded to Elon Musk’s comment, but knowing him, he will likely address it in his next song. Nevertheless,



Elon Musk (left) was upset that Eminem endorsed Kamala Harris

the claims are unfounded as there are no clear public examples of Eminem and Diddy having a close friendship past or present. Aside from a few photos of them at award events, like the Grammys, there is no other publicly available content linking them together.

Still, to be named as a celebrity who attended Diddy parties could be damaging to their reputation and also put them in the crosshairs

for legal problems. The feds say they have celebrities on tape at Diddy parties, called “freak-offs”, and some celebrities have found themselves being named in lawsuits against the embattled rap mogul. This doesn’t mean that Eminem will get entangled in any of the legal proceedings due to Musk’s incendiary remark but at the very least it makes him the subject of social media trolling.



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Canada is Jamaica's second largest source market for tourism

Tourism Boost

Canada increases airline seats by 109% to Jamaica

Jamaica's tourism sector is set to receive a major boost this upcoming winter, with a significant increase in airline seats from Canada. Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett, announced that the island will benefit from a surge in available seats ranging from 62% to 109%, thanks to airline partners Sunwing, Flair, and Caribbean Airlines.

"This increase in seats over what is gearing up to be a busy winter season is a testament to the confidence our partners have and the demand for the destination," said Bartlett.

As Canada is Jamaica's second-largest source market for tourism, this expansion sup-

ports the country's strategic goal of increasing Canadian arrivals to 500,000 by 2025.

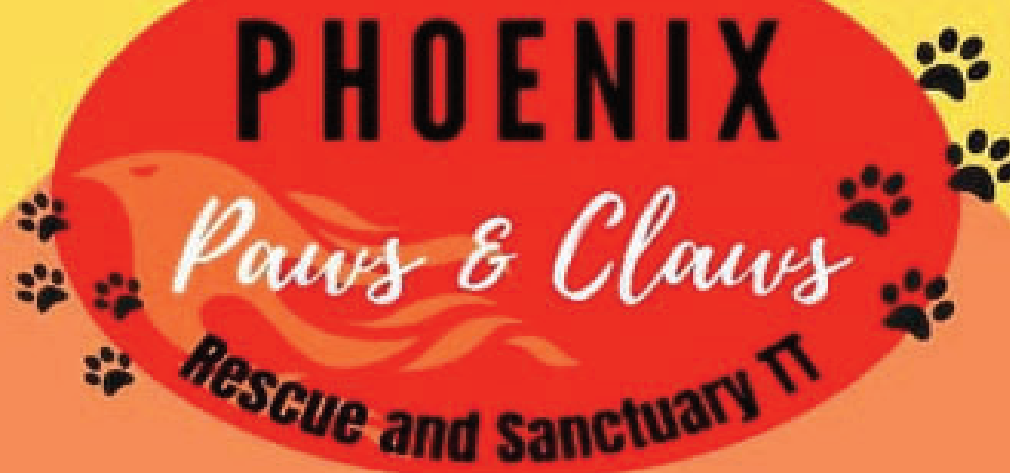
Sunwing Airlines will see a 62% increase in seats from Montreal, growing from 12,852 to 20,979, while Ottawa flights will see a 77% rise, adding 2,646 more seats for a total of 6,048. Flair Airlines will more than double the seats on its Toronto to Kingston route, moving from 6,936 to 14,505—a 109% increase.

Caribbean Airlines will also boost capacity, increasing from 8,320 to 12,000 seats, representing a 44% rise.

Donovan White, Director of Tourism, emphasized the importance of airlift in driving tour-

ism growth, stating, "Airlift continues to be a critical strategic focus in increasing arrivals to Jamaica, and we are grateful for our airline partners who see the value in adding seats over this busy period. Jamaica remains attractive and top of mind as a top destination."

Jamaica is projected to welcome over 4.2 million visitors this year, with the tourism sector expected to generate US\$4.3 million in earnings. The increase in airline seats from Canada will play a crucial role in achieving these goals, reinforcing the island's position as a leading destination in the Caribbean.



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Not Vybzing

Vybz Kartel Has Health Scare At Wild Night Of Partying At Nightclub

Vybz Kartel is currently resting at home following a wild night of partying at Meca nightclub in Kingston.

The dancehall legend was out with his fiancée Sidem Ozturk at the popular Kingston hot-spot when he suddenly had a health scare that sent everyone around him into a panic. A clip has been circulating online showing Vybz Kartel being held up by members of his entourage as he was ushered out of the venue. His fiancée was present with him as they rushed him to a waiting BMW X6 before being whisked away.

Sources inside the deejay's camp confirmed with Urban Islandz on Tuesday that he is doing okay and resting at home. We're told that he was suffering from exhaustion and dehydration following a hectic schedule. "He [Vybz Kartel] is resting doctors checked him out and all is good just dehydration and exhaustion," sources told us.

Kartel has had a busy schedule since his release from prison this summer with numerous events and promotional appearances. The Portmore deejay is also trying to get in his best shape ahead of his first post-prison concert, Freedom Street, at the National Stadium on New Year's Eve. Fans are now questioning if the dancehall deejay will be fit enough to undertake his 3-hour set at that performance.

"If you can't hold up at a club appearance how you plan to perform for three hours, Addi stop the drinking and partying and get health brogad," one fan wrote. Another fan said, "The



Vybz Kartel and Sidem Ozturk

body needs proper healing, Im sorry but the body isn't young anymore stay home and relax with sidem." Another added, "Man just nice and lil frass which we all do sometimes no hang over mi

noss get some rest and ready fi road again."

In the meantime, Vybz Kartel previews some new music ahead of his Freedom Street concert on New Year's Eve at the National Stadium.



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Diddy in a holiday photo with his children

FAMILY DRAMA

Diddy's children not letting his legal battles stop them

Diddy's children are not letting his drama stop them from living their best lives.

Earlier this month, one of Diddy's sons, King Combs, was spotted at the club having the time of his life with his girlfriend Raven Tracy. The move sparked criticism on social media with some folks telling him to keep a low profile as his father fights for his life. Now Quincy Brown has sparked outrage online after debuting the trailer for his upcoming vlog series.

"It's actually never as it seems," the actor says in the 51-second clip. "I'm always doing something. Always. And that's what makes this life a journey."

The trailer features mostly Quincy, King, and Justin Combs, but the rap mogul's twin daughter, Jessie and D'Lila Combs, made a cameo, as well as his other teenage daughter, Chance Combs. Diddy also made a very brief

appearance in the clip leading some fans to speculate that his children might be trying to rehabilitate his image in the vlog series.

The Vlog trailer sparked an immediate response from fans with the vast majority condemning Quincy for the video. "This is so dumb I mean no one even listens to Quincy's music, but I guess they gotta make money somehow why not with some extra thousand views during a controversy when they should be laying low," one person wrote. Another added, "Ooh they are spiraling and they are throwing gasoline on a forest fire. Quincy should've sat and ate his food b/c now the kids will no longer be off limits."

Diddy's children recently issued a joint statement condemning folks who are pushing certain narratives not just against the Bad Boy Records founder, but also against his children.

The statement was put out by Quincy, Christian, Justin, D'Lila, Jessie, and Chance, as they stand united in support of their father amid serious allegations against him.

Diddy, real name Sean Combs, is currently behind bars at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn awaiting trial for racketeering and sex trafficking. The entertainment mogul has maintained his innocence and his attorney has indicated that he is "eager" to take the witness stand and tell his side of the story. His trial date is set for May 2025 barring there are no delays.

Aside from his federal racketeering case, Diddy is also facing a growing number of lawsuits from accusers who are both males and females. One of his accusers claimed that she was a minor at the time of the alleged abuse.



Clark Kent is Dead

Famed Hip Hop producer loses battle with colon cancer at age 57

Famed hip hop producer DJ Clark Kent, real name Rodolfo A. Franklin, has died following a long battle with colon cancer.

The music producer's family confirmed his passing on October 25 via a statement posted on Instagram. We know that the legendary beatmaker and disc jockey has been battling an illness over the past three years, but his family sources say his health deteriorated rapidly over the past weeks before making his transition on October 25, 2024.

"It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of the beloved Rodolfo A. Franklin, known to the world as DJ Clark Kent," the statement reads. "Clark passed away Thursday evening surrounded by his devoted wife Kesha, daughter Kabriah and son Antonio. Clark

quietly and valiantly fought a three year battle with Colon Cancer, while continuing to share his gifts with the world. The family is grateful for everyone's love, support and prayers during this time and ask for privacy as they process this immense loss."

DJ Clark Kent has worked with some of the biggest names in hip-hop over the decades from in the 1990s when he first made his mark on the rap scene. However, his career in rap started as far back as the 80s when he made a name for himself as a prolific DJ. His first hit song would come in 1995 with the Billboard hit "Player's Anthem" by the legendary Junior M.A.F.I.A. and the late The Notorious B.I.G. The song peaked at No. 13 on the Hot 100 chart paving the way for the producer to work with

more big names in rap at the time like Jay-Z, Mariah Carey, Shyne, and Foxy Brown, who is his cousin.

Clark Kent produced a handful of the songs on Jay-Z's critically acclaimed album, Reasonable Doubt, including "Cashmere Thoughts" and the Biggie Smalls-assisted joint "Brooklyn's Finest" which became a major hit in 1996.

Aside from being a prolific producer and disc jockey, DJ Clark Kent was also famous for being a sneaker aficionado. He appeared on Complex's Sneaker Shopping show where he revealed that he has a sneaker collection of around 3,500 pairs of rare kicks. He often showcased signed sneakers on his Instagram account.

MR CLEAN

15-Year-Old Ethiopian Student Has Invented A Soap To Prevent And Treat Skin Cancer

15-year-old Ethiopian student, Heman Bekele has invented a soap that could treat and prevent multiple forms of skin cancer.

Heman was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He migrated to the United States with his family when he was 4-year-old.

At the age of 7, he started watching Chemistry tutorials online. Heman would then started conducting his own science experiments.

He would mix up whatever he could get his hands on at home and waiting to see if the resulting would turn into anything.

“They were just dish soap, laundry detergent, and common household chemicals,” he says today of the ingredients he’d use. “I would hide them under my bed and see what would happen if I left them overnight. There was a lot of mixing together completely at random.”

Before his 7th birthday, his parents gave him a chemistry set that came with a sample of sodium hydroxide, a gift which change the course of his innovation.

Heman learned that aluminum and sodium hydroxide can together produce prodigious amounts of heat.

This new discovery got him thinking about creating a solution that could change humanity’s fate.

“I thought that this could be a solution to energy, to making an unlimited supply,” he says. “But I almost started a fire.”

Heman started developing a soap that could treat and prevent multiple forms of skin cancer.

He made the soap that has nanoparticles at the age of 14. It helps ensure that the drug stays on the skin even after washing.

Heman says coming to the United States ignited the idea.

“When I was younger, I didn’t think much of it, but when I came to America, I realized what a big problem the sun and ultraviolet radiation is when you’re exposed to it for a long time,” Heman says.

Heman’s cancer soap would be a lot more affordable than the \$40,000 it typically costs for skin-cancer treatment.

“What is one thing that is an internationally impactful idea, something that everyone can use, [regardless of] socioeconomic class?” Heman recalls thinking. “Almost everyone uses soap and water for cleaning. So soap would probably be the best option.”



Herman Bekele — named Time Magazine’s Youth inventor of the year

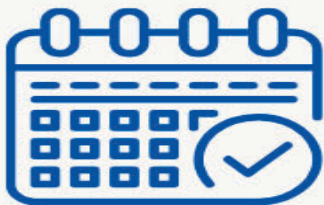


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