



The Spectrum

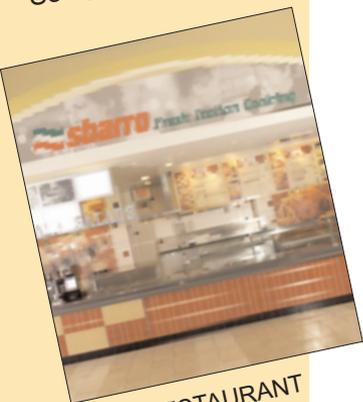
Volume 6 - Issue 2 - October 2006

"The Student Voice of The College of The Bahamas"

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Cost of Education At COB

Contributed by Ryan Bastian & Garnel Leo

Students are known to gripe about the cumbersome advisement registration process, insufficient number of essential courses and other administration woes, but few complain about the value of their academic instruction. Students know they are getting a good education right here at home which enables them to compete successfully for jobs and with those who attend university abroad for similar undergraduate degrees.

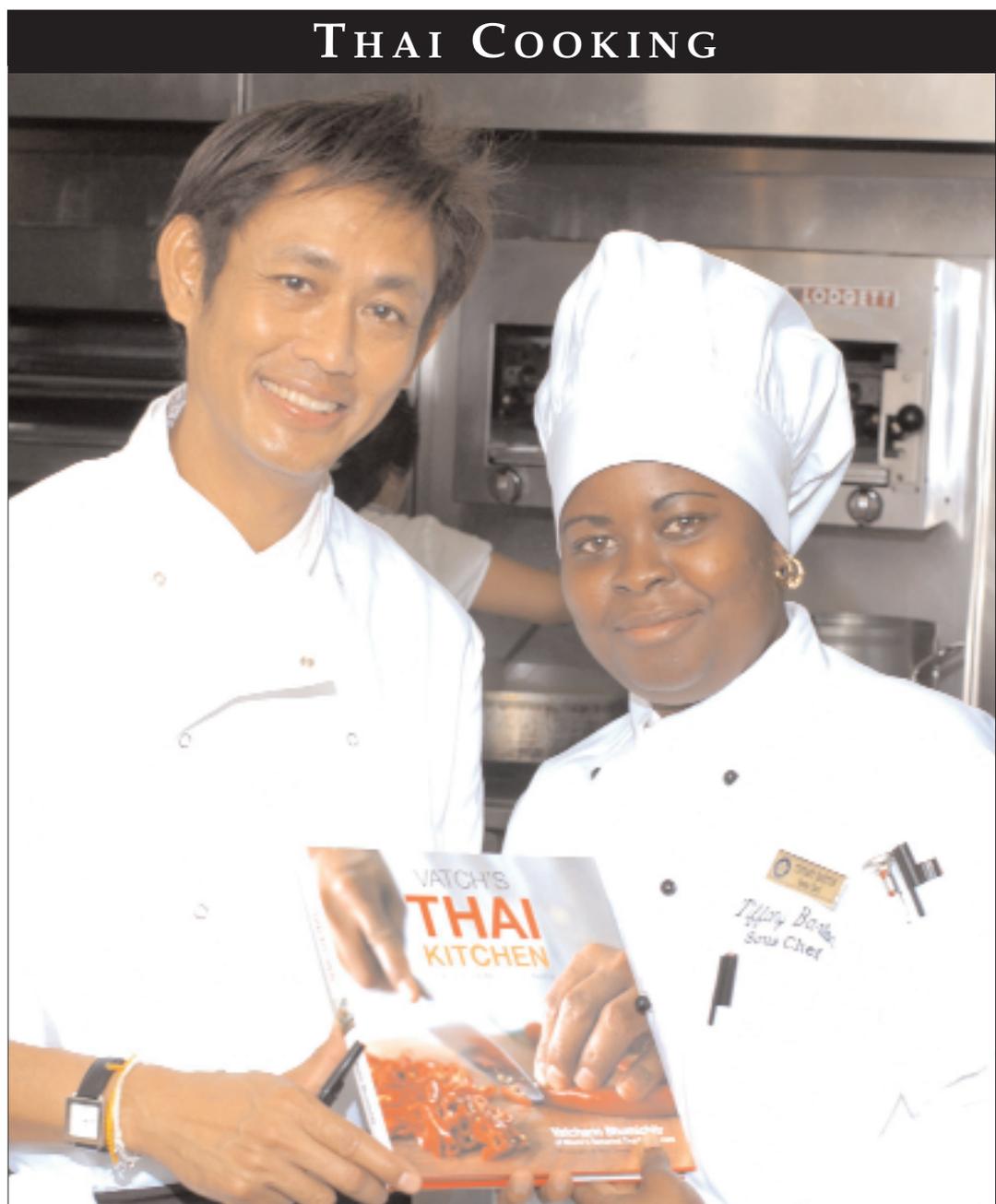
The cost of tertiary education is rising everywhere but at The College/University of The Bahamas, it seems. Students receive first class education at COB, but pay very little for it when compared to universities in the US and Canada, where most Bahamians go directly from high school or as transfer students from COB.

For tuition only students at COB pay \$300 for a three-credit course taken in the first and second year and \$450 for 300 or 400 level courses taken in the third and fourth year of college. In 2004-2005 a student taking 30 credits of 100 or 200 coded courses paid a total of \$3,000; if they took 300 or 400 level courses they paid a total of \$5,000. So a good estimate of tuition cost for a bachelor degree at COB would be about \$16,000, an amount Bahamians could easily pay for a single year at some US colleges.

The cost of education at COB is extremely modest when compared to what they would pay if they went to the US or Canada for tertiary education. College costs are said to be increasing faster than inflation in the US. Tuition hikes range from 4 or 5 percent to over 11 percent for out of state students. In fact the high cost of education abroad is the reason why most students attend COB since it is frequently stated that Bahamians prefer to go abroad after high school. The reason cited most is to get away from home or to get more international exposure.

■ Continued on page 9

THAI COOKING



■ THAI COOKING-World famous Thai chef Vatcharin Bhumichitr shares some of the secrets of Thai cooking with Tiffany Barton, Sous Chef at Wyndham Nassau Resort restaurant and many others at a hands-on demonstration Sept 11-12 at COB Culinary Institute, Thompson Blvd. (photo by Library Media.)

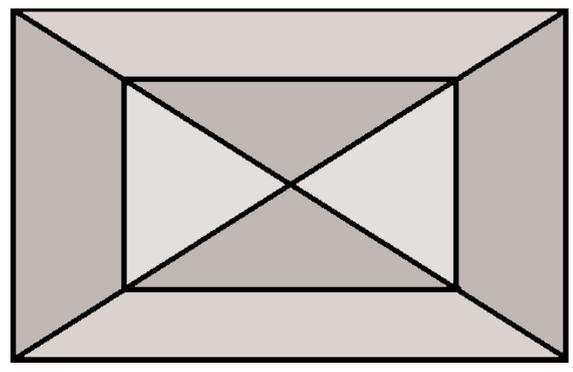
■ Thai Cooking on page 8

COBUS Government Officers

This list is reprinted because a few positions were not included in the September issue of *The Spectrum*.

- A'Leithia Sweeting - President
- Dale Gelin- Vice President
- Kendall Carroll III – Sectary
- D'Angelo Reid- Treasurer
- Moses Darville- Public Relations Office
- Randina Oliver – Presidential Advisor
- Lorenzo Curtis- Presidential Advisor
- Audirio Sands - Social Sciences Senator
- Pemesia Rolle - Nursing and Allied Health Senator
- Chavette Black – Tourism Senator
- Shantell Rolle - Natural Sciences Senator
- Anwar Smith – Natural Science Senator
- Daryl Dorsette – Business Senator
- Monique Brown - Business Senator
- Henrietta Cartwright – Communication Senator
- Vernita Moss - Education Senator
- Latoya Hall - Education Senator
- Emille Hunt – English Senator

The Spectrum PUZZLE



How Many triangles do you see?

(Submitted by Sterling)

Galleria Cinemas

The Mall-at-Marathon
Box Office Opens at 10:00AM Daily

Effective October 6th, 2006

THE DEPARTED	NEW	1:00	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	NEW	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:50
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	NEW	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:15	10:45
OPEN SEASON	A	1:20	3:50	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:35
THE GUARDIAN	T	1:40	N/A	4:40	7:40	N/A	10:20
FEARLESS	T	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:50
GRIDIRON GANG	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
EVERYONE'S HERO	A	1:10	3:45	N/A	6:20	8:30	10:30
THE COVENANT	T	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:40
THE PROTECTOR	T	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:25	8:35	10:45
CRANK	C	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:20	8:35	10:55

Galleria 6 - JFK Drive

THE DEPARTED	NEW	1:00	3:50	N/A	7:10	N/A	10:00
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	NEW	1:25	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:40
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	NEW	1:30	3:50	N/A	6:20	8:35	10:35
OPEN SEASON	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:20
THE GUARDIAN	T	1:10	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:10
FEARLESS	T	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:30

TEL: 380-FLIX / 393-9404

The Black Dahlia Movie Review



■ The Black Dahlia Rated R

Reviewed By Travaldo Farrington

In this display of nostalgia gone awry, Brian de Palma brings us the film adaptation of *The Black Dahlia* novel. It follows a boxer-turned-detective as he investigates the murder of a young actress. The film stars Scarlett Johansson, Hilary Swank and Josh Hartnett.

This film fails at just about everything it attempts to achieve. First and foremost, where *Black Dahlia* does succeed is in achieving the film noir aesthetic. Everything about the way the film was shot feels as if it

were really a 1950's crime drama. If only it had been shot in black and white, it would've been perfect. Unfortunately, that's the only really good thing that can be said.

Josh Hartnett and Scarlet Johanssen were chosen as leads for the film. If their characters were played by any other actors, it may have been a performance worth watching. As it stands, they lack the charisma to bring these characters to life. Josh Hartnett, in particular, lacks the presence and grizzled, hardened demeanor to pull off the role. The protagonist in a crime drama should ooze passion and a jaded view of the world despite his own hope that there is some good left. What we get is a slack jaw and a continuously furrowed brow.

The first half of the film flows well enough but quickly becomes unnecessarily convoluted and downright ridiculous. The impact bloody climax would have had is completely lost in a sea of meandering plot-lines and ulterior motives. The film feels forced, as if two halves of two different movies had been mashed together. You may find yourself, as I did, agreeing with the audience. It would seem to be far more satisfying to mock what's going on on screen. At least then, when you see "The End" it won't be nearly as frustrating as it'd been if you were invested in the film.

FACULTY GETS NEW LABEL

The Union of Tertiary Educators of the Bahamas (UTEB) recently signed a new industrial agreement with The College of The Bahamas. The agreement that has been in the making since 2003 gives faculty at COB a pay raise which most find satisfactory. It also guarantees, through a set of American based nomenclature, that Union members have opportunities to increase their salaries while doing the job for which they feel most qualified.

According to Ms. Isaacs-Dotson, UTEB President, before the new contract faculty hoping to be paid more had no choice but to go into administration.

So how does the new nomenclature work?

In ascending order, the levels for teaching faculty are: Instructor, Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor, with each rung in the hierarchy being an opportunity to make more

money while remaining in the field of teaching.

Ms. Isaacs-Dotson says the entire teaching faculty has had their positions converted to the new system although officially most persons have retained the positions of Instructors and Lecturers, with faculty who were designated Senior Lecturers in the old system becoming Associate Professors.

Asked if the new ranking could cause students to question the authority of their Instructors and Lecturers whom it could be construed the system has inferred as less qualified, Ms. Dotson did not see that as a possibility.

The whole procedure she explained is controlled not only by the degree a faculty has earned, but also the length of time spent at The College and the amount of research done. The Union leader also assured *The Spectrum* that the student body does not have to fear being "short-changed."

SCHOOL NEWS

President's Scholars Inducted

Surrounded by representatives of organizations that donated scholarship funds, their parents, COB President, Council Chairman and COB officials including Council Chairman, six students were officially inducted as Presidential Scholars Sept 20 at a ceremony held at the residence of President Janyne Hodder.

President's Scholars Programme (PSP) is a four-year scholarship and personal development scheme designed to identify and attract outstanding high school students, selected based on merit and leadership attributes. (See story in Sept issue of The Spectrum.) Goals of the programme and selection process were explained by

Director Lottis Shearer Duncombe.

During the induction ceremony led by President Hodder, the six students were charged and accepted the responsibility to uphold the vision and foster the principles of PSP. Afterward representatives from First Caribbean Bank Dr. Kerry Higgs and Bahamas Markets Brian Knowles, cloaked the students in blue jackets with the official PSP badge.

Council Chairman Franklin Wilson said COB is engaged in a strategic process with clear concepts for developing a university uniquely Bahamian institution with regional and global perspective. He thanked Director Shearer Duncombe for introducing the concept

of PSP, Dr. Rhonda Chipman Johnson who officially launched the programme while Acting President of The College and President Hodder for her enthusiastic support of PSP.

He said this is the first time that there has been an event focused on students at the official residence of the President. He said the occasion reflects the value the President attaches to student excellence which argues well in the transition from College to University. He said the transition involves many steps and the induction ceremony is one building block in the process. He saluted the students, describing them as pioneers and encouraging them to be good role models.

News from The Northern Campus



■ Standing from left: Steve Davies, School of Business; Dr. Kayla Stubbs, School of Sciences and Technology; Maggie Turner, Academic Affairs Officer; Juliet Spence, School of English; Dr. Daphne Grace, School of English; Chef Devain Maycock, School of Culinary Arts; Esmund Weekes, School of Business; Don Maples, School of Education. Seated: Veronica Ferguson, School of Education; Bridgette Major-Donaldson, School of Culinary Arts and Carol Moss, School of English. Not shown is Jean Bowes, School of Business

The Fall 2006 academic year at the Northern Campus started off with a wonderful New Student Orientation Program held under the tent on the grounds. In attendance were many of the new students along with a large number of parents. The morning was filled with songs of praise, a prayer for the new academic year, and important guidelines were passed on to the freshmen.

There was approximately a thirty (30) percent increase in enrollment this year, with a significant amount of male students present. Classes are running well, and with the higher enrollment numbers several extra sections of classes had to be added to the timetable to accommodate the large numbers of students.

With this increase, the Northern Campus is even more inspired to create a vibrant student activities program. A Bowling League will be established by October for staff and students. Clubs to be revived will be The

Business Club, The Choir, Volleyball and Basketball teams. We will continue to have the Bridge Club, SCM and COBUS.

The Grand Bahama Port Authority are being very generous to the campus by providing a refurbished, high tech Student Resource Centre which is now being developed. The centre will be refurbished with 10 new computers, a laminating machine, overhead projectors, and new carpet; all to enhance the level of technology, which the students will have access to.

One of our goals for The Northern Campus this academic year is for students to receive an excellent and well-rounded education during their time with us. This will be achieved through high standards in academics, the creation of a high tech campus, and an increase in meaningful, yet fun-filled student activities.



■ This attractive food counter section is what students can expect when they enter the campus Sbarro

SBARRO COMING TO COB

by S.A. Hanna
Managing Editor

You may have noticed that renovations are being carried out in the cafeteria beneath the SUB. That's because Sbarro, the Italian eatery is moving onto the COB campus and will be opened for business sometime in late October or early November.

According to Carlton Knowles, franchise owner in charge of the project, the restaurant will be just like any other branch of Sbarro's,

with a slightly youthful twist, of course.

It will offer the classic Italian menu of pizzas, salads and pastas. They will also have soft serve ice-cream as well as yogurt and fruits, for the health conscience demographic at COB.

Mr. Knowles promise that prices at this branch will be competitive with the various fast-food restaurants located near the Oakes Field campus. He said they are still research-

ing how exactly to give students concessions.

The campus cafeteria has been closed for a year now. The renovations done for Sbarro show expansion in some places, handicap accessible restrooms and an overall design that models this branch so that it fits in with other franchise locations. Mr. Knowles said that entire portion of the building has been gutted, giving the workmen a blank slate to work with. In his words, "everything that was not structurally a part of the building has been removed."

He was asked to respond to the comment made by some in the College community that Sbarro's move here is one purely motivated by profit, Mr. Knowles responded: "If the services we offer to the College are perceived by students to be nothing more than exploitation, the business won't survive."

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
plans a retreat and seminar this month at COB Resource Centre in George Town, Exuma. Participants will focus on Teacher Research with Literacy from 8 am to 4 pm for two days, October 20th – 21st. For more details contact Prof. Linda Russell at 397-2604/397-2636



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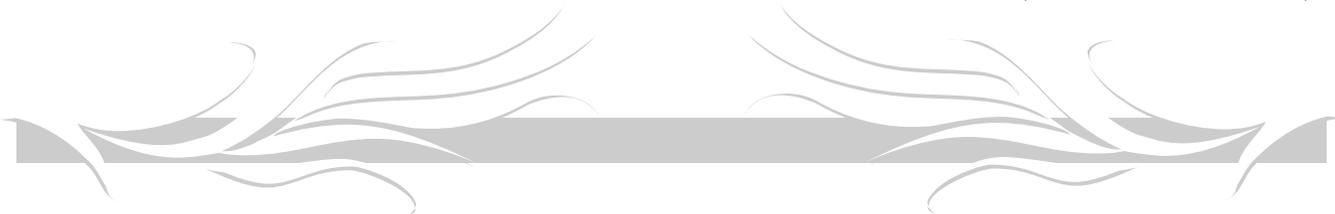
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The Spectrum

"The Student Voice of The College of The Bahamas"

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The Spectrum, the student voice of The College of The Bahamas,
is published monthly.

EDITORIAL

Why is the F-Block Trippin'?

by S.A. Hanna
Managing Editor

Persons with majors that force them to spend considerable amounts of time in the F block may know that of late this block has been plagued by lost of electricity. Not during a BEC load shedding exercise. Those don't really affect students because COB has several generators around the Oakes field campus in the event that such a situation should happen.

According to the Physical Plant Department, the problem is that the construction work being done on the Auditorium is pulling power from the F-Block. This means that at any moment something is being added to one part of the College, it can cause another part of The College to lose something in the form of time, information and equipment.

The lost of power that has occur several times in the past two weeks is isolated solely to the F-block, which is the home for the Learning Resource Centre, the Language Lab, the Journalism Lab and several classes.

These incidents affect in particular members of the Journalism department adversely as they occur while students are using the important elec-

tronic devices in the lab.

It is not that this block has been grossly neglected or over-looked by The College.

Many of the students are quite grateful about the fact that all of the classes have air-conditioning. Unfortunately this seems to have contributed to the problem because when the power goes out in the F-block, many of the windows are stuck, unable to open because the operators do not work.

What it seems to be is that, while The College has been gracious enough to bestow many kind blessings on the F-Block, certain important things have been over looked. Certain important things like having adequate power for a block with over \$22,166.00 worth of fickle electrical equipment running at any time.

It only seems unwise to risk losing such costly equipment as well as the incalculable work of students to a problem that has a possible remedy. The residents of the F-Block no doubt will make do, with the equipment that have now...as long as the electricity is flowing through the equipment allowing them to work.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are encouraged. Please type and send to The Spectrum, College of the Bahamas, c/o Student Publications Board, S-3 Art Block, Oakes Field Campus, or email spectrum@cob.edu.bs. Length should not exceed 350 words. All letters must be signed and include contact information for verification, such as exact COB registration name. The Spectrum has the right to withhold any submission from publication and will not consider more than two letters from the same individual on one topic. The Spectrum reserves the right to edit all letters and submissions for content, clarity and length.

Letter to the Editor

FRUSTRATED STUDENT

Dear Editor:

It was a Thursday afternoon as I walked into the law library office only to intrude on a lively topic about the female worker's family. As I said excuse me to ask my question, my words are received with looks of "oh what does this one want". This wasn't so bad though, it's the laughter that follows my question that pushed my buttons. To add insult to injury my being there is completely pointless due to the fact that they can't even answer the question. Walking off, I began to wander if the Librarian was even aware of the extent of the frustration some of her staff inflict on students everyday. To say that COB's staff puts customer satisfaction first would be the same as saying communist encourage the growth of the private sector.

I'm getting ahead of myself. Although this current instance is merely one of the most recent in a long line of experiences of utter dissatisfaction, the beginning would provide more perspective about the frustrations of which I speak.

Like any other student can tell you, registration can either be a walk in the park or for the majority of the time an uphill struggle in futility. As a freshman the only hindrance to my registration experience was the fact that my advisor was missing in action, but other than that I was "quickly"

sorted out three hours later. It wasn't until my second time registering that my faith in COB's staff began to waiver. My account had been left locked by the business department because someone forgot to remove the lock after they gladly took my money. One would think such an oversight would be quickly remedied, but the people with clearance to unlock my account were all on a retreat for the next two days. This happened on a Thursday. Fast forward to Monday and I'm left picking new classes due to the fact that two of my five classes are full.

Why would they do such a thing around registration time? Would leaving someone behind with the authority to deal with such matters be too much of a task?

I'm sure I'm not the only student to walk through the bookstore doors and try to obtain a book, only to find out that it either "hasn't been brought in yet" or has "sold out for now". Then only to return the next day to find out that the books in question were actually just sitting around up stairs or in storage collecting dust because someone forgot they were up there. This much is excusable to an extent but what was really at issue is the fact that the bookstore's security guards found it within their job description to verbally and once almost physically harass students at their leisure. For example there's a guard who likes to walk up to every table/booth and stare

at the occupants until they start up a conversation with him. In a more extreme case a student was merely standing behind the café store purchase area when a security guard came and told him to sit down without any explanation. So he politely complied and apologized. His compliance however was met with hostility from the security, who proceeded to lecture him about "you college students think you're so much better than me" and then threatens to assault the student if he ever meets him outside COB grounds. Who hires a man this unstable to protect people? Furthermore who doesn't fire such a person after three other occasions with three different students were accosted by him in plain sight in the bookstore?

College of The Bahamas is the hope of our nation's tertiary education system and hopes one day to become University of The Bahamas. With the upgrade in status will the level of complacency and inefficiency shown by its workers rise or will this new prestige lead to a more efficient and streamlined institution. There is a lot that can be done under our new leadership, my only question is will I be around to see the fruits of such said change if it happens or will the generation of tomorrow be plagued by the same disgruntlement that we face today.

Signed Frustrated

Campus Cartoon

by Patrick Deveaux



COMING IN OCTOBER 2006



**Store Hours: Mon-Thur
7am-9pm
Fri & Sat 7am-10pm**

The Choir wants you



If you like to sing and wish to participate in more college activities, The College Choir is an excellent choice to liven your college experience. The Choir is actively seeking new members.

The Choir has a rich history of entertaining not only at campus events but community events where their reputation as a talented performing and instrumental group has blossomed over the years. Choir members often

perform at community concerts and with visiting college choirs.

Although the majority of Choir members are Music major, anyone within the COB community can join The College Choir, other students majors in particular, but faculty and staff can also lend their talents. The Choir wants you!

Choir practice is every Thursday from 2 pm in the Music Room in the H-block. If a performance is upcoming practice time is extended.

This year there are two Choir Directors, Associate Professor, Pauline Glasby, Head of Department and Patricia Ellis, Assistant Director of Human Resources.

This semester The Choir will performing at various receptions President Hodder is hosting at her residence. The Choir is also preparing for another annual Christmas concert which will be held at Government House ballroom. The choir has a present membership between 30-40 members.

Not Enough Computers!



Students in A Block's computer lab (photo by Reva Devi)

by S.A. Hanna and Reva Devi

"They have bad conditions. The internet never up and there ain't enough computers for students," said Kordero St.Cyr, a second-year student. The attitude he expresses is shared by many students at COB.

Whether or not they are working properly, the question of whether COB has an adequate number of computers for students has plagued The College for several semesters. With reports of students having to wait up to 1/2 hour to print one document as well the unpredictability of the computer lab hours, the efficiency of the present number of computers and labs has some students worried.

When questioned on if the schools esti-

mated 80 computers available for general use, was ample for the thousands of students at COB, Rudy Burton of the MIS Department says there are a sufficient number of computers. "People have computers at home, the problem is bad planning," he said referring to students procrastinating with their assignments.

But some students do not feel such a position is acceptable. According to Patrick Thompson, a third-year student, all of the responsibility cannot be placed on the shoulders of the students. "Everybody don't have a computer or internet at home," he said citing this as the reason persons wait until they are at school to do their assignments.

According to John Collins, MIS Chief

International Languages and Cultures Institute



■ Monsieur Thierry Boeuf, French Consul, led a group of faculty, students and representative of foreign nationals in the parade of 15 flags at the opening of the International Languages and Cultures Institute, Thursday, Sept 28, 2006. Photo by Library Media.

Contributed by Dianna Vargas-Phillpot

As part of The College of The Bahamas' transformation to university, a new International Languages and Cultures Institute was launched Thursday, Sept 28 which offers everyone an opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons and develop knowledge in foreign languages.

According to its mission statement, "The International Languages Institute is committed to providing quality language instruction in selected world languages and promoting intercultural communication and awareness for students, business professionals, government and other special groups within The Bahamas and the region. The Institute strives to offer instructional programmes and services in an optimal learning environment which integrates the most current and effective pedagogy and technology."

This means that the Institute, with Dr. Irene Moss, Assistant Professor in the Foreign Languages Department, School

of Communication and Creative Arts, serving as Project Coordinator, aims not only to complement and assist The College, but will cater to the needs of the general public.

For example, the Institute is planning a community outreach which will assist high school students to better prepare themselves for the BGCSE foreign languages exams.

Moreover, COB students might find the Institute significantly beneficial when it comes to foreign language studies. The Institute will address specific interests and provide more specific learning services, in this case focusing on different cultures and foreign languages programmes.

In most instances where members of the public wish to take courses for personal development or job-related needs, the Institute offers proficiency certificates designed for specific courses.

Languages courses previously managed by COB's Continuing Education and

Continued on page 10

Information Officer, there are three main labs located around the Oakes Field campus that are open to all students. These are the BBTC-7, A-13 and T-4 each with 12-20 computers. Besides these, there are specialized computers labs that are opened only to specific schools as well as computers available in the various

libraries.

He also added The College is taking steps to better the existing system.

Part of the problem with the erratic lab hours according to Mr. Collins, is that MIS is understaffed. A problem he says they are dealing with by hiring more students as Tech-Mentors to keep labs opened during the allotted

times.

Mr. Collins also attributed the inconsistent hours to the interference of students. Referring to a specific incident, Mr. Collins revealed that a student "burnt out" the controls for the hurricane shutters over the door for the computer lab in the A-Block, locking students out temporarily.

FORGOTTEN PROGRAM MAJORS

What are you studying at COB? Education? Biology? Chemistry? Nursing? Law? Business? Well, it's fairly likely that one of these is your major, after all they are among the most commonly pursued majors.

At The College of The Bahamas there are about 60 programs from which student can select majors. Yet there are some majors that are highly under-subscribed, such as Art, Music and English.

So what is the problem? After all, these majors allow you a lot of leniency, a wide margin for creativity and many classes don't require end of term exams.

According to most students interviewed the reasons for not taking such majors are either they simply lack interest in the areas or they don't have the skill to succeed in them.

Some students said that they love the subjects but they couldn't live the lifestyle of poverty that they would be subjected to in The Bahamas. Other students commented that, "There's no future in art!" or "English? You could only be a teacher," and "What are you going to do with music?"

But quite frankly, there are a lot of occupational options in the mentioned subjects as can be seen below.

And these are just a few of the career possibilities in these fields. For more information contact a College Counselor on the 3rd floor of the Portia Smith Building.

Also students are advised to remember that The Bahamas is a diverse place and ideas and points of view change everyday. Not doing what you are passionate about because of what society or your parents say, won't be helping you to achieve your full potential. Of course, you are likely to receive an amazing salary being an accountant or doctor, but is it going to be worth your being dissatisfied for a large portion of your life?

Don't be afraid to explore these majors say faculty advisors. Some of this country's best and most creative minds are in these fields. It is possible that creativity may be exactly what this country needs to get to the next level developmentally and economically.

Who is going to 'step up' to the plate tomorrow to be the next K.B. or Keva Bethel or Antonius Roberts? These people entertain us, educate us and preserve our history and culture through the work they do. You are needed to continue this work and to keep our culture rich and intact.

So the ball is in your court COB students. It's your choice.

Careers in Art	Careers in Music	Careers in English
Graphic Designer	Maestro	Professional Proof-Reader
Photographer	Disc-jockey	Editor
Painter	Music Synchronizer	Professional Speech writer
Sculptor	Music record dealer	Playwright
Interior Decorator	Music artist	Paralegal
Manga-ka	International teacher	Advertising
Animator	Music teacher	Research- Analyst
Book Illustrator	Movie track composer	Salesperson
Tattoo artist	Music promoter	Print & Broadcast
Fashion Designer	Music Manager	Author
Magazine layout & design	Music publicist	Video Programming & Production
Art teacher/lecturer	Recording Studio Engineer	ESL teacher
Art Museum curator	Musicologist	Language/Literature teacher
Police Sketch Artist		

Thai Cooking

It was an enthusiastic group made up of hotel chefs, culinary students and others that gathered at the School of Culinary and Hospitality Management Institute to learn some of the secrets of Thai cooking, Sept 11-12.

Renowned restaurateur and Chef Vatcharin Bhumichitr and his delegation provided hands-on demonstrations of Thai cooking for the enthusiastic audience that included President Janyne Hodder and Executive Vice President Dr. Rhonda Chipman-Johnson.

This special culinary initiative was supported by The College of The Bahamas in partnership with the Thai Trade Center in Miami and in cooperation with The Bahamas Hotel Association and The Bahamas Culinary Association.

Thai food is very popular in many cities in the west,

the interactive demonstrations were arranged to assist local culinary professionals to expand their range of cooking styles attest to the interest in Thai cuisine in The Bahamas. The demonstrations targeted three groups: professional chefs, students and members of the public. Each session covered the cultural and value aspects of Thai dining with demonstrations of the best known Thai dishes.

Chef Wayde Sweeting, President of The Bahamas Culinary Association said the session presented an opportunity to offer more choices to hotel guests."Dining is one of the essential elements in a tourist experience but there is no Thai restaurant in The Bahamas even though some hotels have included some their fusion dishes in their menu."

Culinary Arts Lecturer and Coordinator of the

Apprentice Program at COB, Mario A

Chef Mario Adderley said this initiative in Thai cuisine would be the first of its kind at COB. "We are very pleased to have the partnership of the ThaiTrade Center in Miami and our industry partners to conduct such workshops." He said Thailand's long coast line and tropical climate make it similar to The Bahamas. "There seems to be no doubt that Bahamians and visitors will enjoy this tasty, healthy cuisine for which most ingredients are locally available."

Thai Trade Center in Miami is an agency under the Department of Export Promotion of the Royal Thai Government. Admission to the sessions was free. Professional chefs attended Sept 11 from 9 am to 12 noon while the public class was held Sept 12.

Youth Want to Know Forum Nov 1 Kendal G.L. Issac Gymnasium Watch for flyers

FORBES ELECTED STAFF COUNCIL REP

Media Specialist RODMAN FORBES of Library Media Department was elected Friday, Oct. 6th to represent COB staff at College Council monthly meetings for one year, starting this month.

Forbes was said to have won by a landslide receiving most of the 214 total votes cast, defeating four other candidates that included Mary Russell of Financial Aid & Housing; Sharlene Smith of Libraries & Instructional Media; Jeannie Gibson of Institutional Planning and Jerome Wallace, in the Department of Physical Plant at Northern Bahamas Campus.

The election was overseen by the office of the College Counsel, Mrs. Ruby Nottage who is also Secretary to The College Council.

COB President Hodder announced in August at the opening of the faculty and staff seminar, that The Council had sent out an invitation to COB administrative staff to

send a representative to sit as an observer on Council "for a term of one year, September 2006/2007 and thereafter, in each instance." Staff representative would have a voice but no vote in the deliberations of The Council because the College Act of 1995 makes no provision for the representation of staff on Council.

While staff had no specific representation on The College Council, the Union of Tertiary Educators of The Bahamas (UTEB) has represented faculty at Council meetings for many years.

COB total staff is 320, including the Freeport campus and Exuma Centre. Each candidate had to be nominated by five persons to be listed on the ballot. Votes were cast from the conference room of the Portia M. Smith building and started at 10 am Friday. Voting was also viewed electronically.

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A Very Dramatic Summer



Chakara Bennett
Features Editor

Have you heard? Drama is COB is on the rise! During the early part of this year and continuing into the summer months, many COB students have been involved in different dramatic productions.

One such production was the play, "De Market Fire" which was written by English major, Emille Hunt and produced by The Track Road Theatre, which our own Dr. Ian Strachan is founder and chairperson. It was humorously focused on the historical Bay Street straw market fire that occurred in 2001. This show was an instant hit!!! All of the actors/actresses in this production were extremely talented. But actors such as Matthew Wildegoose, the main actor, and Franklin Camille and actresses like Daria Delancy and Ryan Adderley, really brought the play out due to their excellent performances. The play was not only popular with the public at large but also with many COB students. In fact, it was said that people had to be sent away when seats ran out in the the-

atre.

The second production, "Honey Les Wait" should hit closer to home for you, COB students. After all, according to actor, Patrick Deveaux, and co-writer and director Travon Patton, this was not just performed by students, but also directed, organized and produced by them. "We were surprised at the amount of student support we got, especially it being our first time trying something like this," he said. In fact, the actors formed themselves into a group called YAG (Youth Actors Guild). The purpose of this play was to promote abstinence and AIDS awareness among the youth of the nation. According to Tony McCartney, an actor who isn't a COB student, this production has been performed not only for students but also a few scenes for the U.S. ambassador at his home and the entire production at The National Center For



The Performing Arts. Also, there have been articles about it in The Tribune and The Guardian. Drama in COB is surely going places!

In the past, drama in the Bahamas appears to be on a decline, yet these two major youth involved productions are saying otherwise.

LITERACY DAY CELEBRATIONS

To increase awareness of the need and importance of literacy, The College of The Bahamas and The Tribune publications teamed up for a week Sept. 8-15th to present a series of readings by Bahamian authors to celebrate International Literacy Day.

Readings were held daily during the evenings in Chapter One Bookstore with presentations by writers Michael Pintard, Obediah Michael Smith, Dr. Ian Strachan, Patricia Glington-Meicholas, Telcine Turner-Rolle, Cleveland "Anku" Eneas and Victoria Sarnes.

In addition, The Tribune ran a special eight-page supplement with interesting articles by Dame Ivy Dumont retired

Governor General and Sir Arthur Foulkes, one-time Bahamas High Commissioner to the UK, plus interviews with a number of well-known writers most are noted above. The supplement also included a message from the United Nations and a 'Reading is Freedom' declaration signed by a number of very important local people whose signatures can be seen on the front page of the supplement.

International Literacy Day is an annual event and is celebrated in a number of ways but most countries tend to focus on educational activities to increase awareness of literacy and the role it plays in developing constructive citizens.

Drama is back COB!!! Drama is back!! But why? What has changed? According to Deveaux and also Andrew Strachan, an actor in "De Market Fire", the reason is simply that this generation has changed. "Young people are no longer forced to stifle their creativity by the fretful older generation. They have a more open mindset and the illusions of grandeur and success only existing in academic fields such as medicine and law have been shattered. Drama is no longer a waste of time. It's an awesome and worthwhile pastime. Also, many plays today are more focused toward attracting young actors, and the young people support each other."

Well, after such a successful drama season, what is in store for the future you ask? Simply, more and more drama!!! If you were one of the unfortunate people who missed the plays mentioned above, then you are in luck! Coming October 5-7th at the Dundas is an encore of the historically fabulous and extremely entertaining "De Market Fire".

If you have any ideas, a deep passion or talent for drama, don't be afraid to contact Dr.



■ Da Market Fire Cast

Ian Strachan in the School of English. He is also in charge of the college's drama club, "Off-Track", which is presently in hiatus, but if there is enough student interest it may be able to restart. Or maybe you may choose to take the initiative to produce the play on your own with your friends for fun. Well, however you plan to express yourself dramatically, always remember to have fun!

Cost of Education at COB

■ Continued from page 1

In this issue The Spectrum takes a look at a sampling of tuition fees only that students pay for one year of education at COB and selected institutions in the US and Canada. While at COB tuition fees have remained fixed for several, tuition in the US and Canada fees vary considerably, depending on the program of choice, the number of courses taken or whether the institution is public or private. If private, tuition will cost more because fees have to cover operating costs, if the institution is public, a major source of funding comes from the state.

We are not comparing size of the foreign institutions to COB or whether the nomenclature is university or college, we are looking at cost of tertiary education and the institutions that attract many Bahamians.

Bahamians, as international or out-of-state students, pay considerably more at both private and public institutions. Cost of course credits can differ depending on the course taken, for example whether you are a freshman/sophomore or junior/senior student and in some cases whether it's a science or arts course.

A look at tuition fees only for a 30 credit load at the following universities: Atlanta University in the US state of Georgia a popular institution for Bahamians, the fee was just under \$15,000; at North Carolina University at Chapel Hill, they would have paid over \$18,000; at Florida International University the fee was a little of \$15,500 and

at St. Leo's University (in Florida) they would have paid almost \$15,000. At COB, a student taking 30 credits would pay between \$3,000-\$5,000.

In Canada where tuition fees are about four to six percent less than they are in the US, a Bahamian attending Acadia University would pay just under B\$13,000; at Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie they would have paid a little over B\$10,000; at Queens tuition fees range between B\$9 and B\$19,000 depending on the program of choice.

The fees indicated for COB and universities abroad are for tuition only and do not include any number of accompanying fees for items such as books, insurance, union, labs and other miscellaneous fees which can vary depending on the year. These amounts also do not including housing and meals.

At COB the credit range for a bachelor's degree is between 120-135, depending on the program. A student who graduates from COB with a bachelor degree last year paid between \$16 and \$22,750 for the entire four to five year package. Of course this amount did not include the various fees which add up to an additional \$175 each.

A COB degree is highly marketable. Employers respect it because COB graduates have a history of leadership performance at work. Universities abroad welcome transfer students from COB because they know the students can achieve. The question is frequently asked nowadays: How long can COB continue to provide this level of education for which students, for the most part, pay only a fraction of the cost?

SCHOLARSHIP, FINANCIAL AID & HOUSING

Located on the second floor of Student Services (Portia M. Smith) building, Financial Aid & Housing office is one of the most sought out sites on campus. Nevertheless, many students are unaware of the list of services or confused about what they need to do to take advantage of the offerings of this department.

“It’s a competitive business”

Headed by Director Cheryl Carey and Assistant Director Mary Russell, two caring women who have been with The College for many years, this department is extremely busy at certain times during the semester. If you need assistance contact them months before the semester starts but the information contained in this report should answer some of your concerns and help you get started.

It’s a competitive business. Over the years enrollment has increased but the amount of money available for financial aid and housing has not increased by any appreciable amount. Financial aid is primarily awarded

based on scholastic merit and according to Director Carey, there are more students requesting financial assistance than there are award dollars, so students have to compete. Students can get awards from \$600 to full tuition.

Freshmen or new students should contact Financial Aid before they graduate from high school, however COB will normally accept applications in July or August. Current students should apply by end of June for fall and end of October for spring award. All COB application for admission forms have information about financial aid and when and how to apply. Only full-time Bahamian students are eligible for financial assistance.

New students who enter with 5 BGCSEs (English and math included) at A or B grades are in much better standing to compete for financial awards than a student who has ‘C’ grades. Ms. Carey explains that a ‘C’ grade puts the student in the race for consideration, but an ‘A’ or ‘B’ grade puts the student in competition.” Current or continuing students must have a minimum of 2.5 GPA to be considered. No awards or scholarship are granted to students in College Prep or basic

upgrading, the LLB and Master’s programs.

Although COB selects students and grants the award, the money for financial assistance is provided by the Bahamas government and these funds are lumped in the total COB annual government grant. Government grant to COB supports in particular Teacher Education and Nursing majors although awards are also given to financially strapped students with good grades. For the past two years, including the current academic year, COB received less than \$20 million from government, practically all of which goes to pay faculty and staff salaries.

Additionally, financial aid supports the well-known Work-Study program and pays for tuition only but this is a significant help to students experiencing financial difficulties. Recipients of this award work in various areas of The College during the fall and spring terms.

Not to be overlooked are the various private scholarships and bursaries donated by individuals, companies and organizations. These are normally awarded to academically outstanding students, but some are awarded on the basis of financial need and for particular areas of study. As always The Lyford Cay Foundation and Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation and The College of The Bahamas Endowment Fund are available to students.

MOSS ROAD HOUSING

Another challenging responsibility of this department is housing which has had a history sprinkled with students’ complaints about faulty facilities and appliances. However, for the past few years, students in the two residency blocks located Moss Road and College Avenue--easy walking distance from the Oakes Field campus--seem relatively satisfied with their accommodations.

There are 11 apartments occupied by 55 students, mostly family islanders who each pay \$400 for the longer semester and \$200 during the summer session. Each summer COB spends thousands of dollars renovating and replacing furniture and appliances at the dorms. Students are sometimes turned away because of shortage of space and many are hopeful that this issue will be lessened once construction of Dorm C, the third block of housing, is completed.

A small number of off campus housing are also available and within close proximity to campus. A listing of these accommodations is available in the Department, just write to Director, Financial Aid & Housing or telephone 302-4371 for further assistance.

International Languages and Cultures Institute

■ Continued From page 7

Extension Services (CEES) are now the responsibility of The Institute which will apply the same equivalency as CEES. For example: Conversational Spanish I and II are equivalent in credit to Spanish 103 offered by the Foreign Languages Department of SCCA. Institute courses (formerly CEES courses) run for 10 weeks, with 3 hours of classes per week. SCCA’s Foreign Languages Department courses run for 14 weeks, with 4 hours of classes per week.

But the Institute’s purpose is not only academic as it will also offer special services such as immersion days/week-ends, literary evenings, art and other exhibits, reception of satellite broadcast from foreign countries and cultural evenings.

Dr. Irene Moss explains that the Institute’s focus is also on the teaching

“I want students to come here and be able to experience other cultures”

and learning about other cultures so as to promote tolerance and understanding of the many international cultures that touch our shores.

“I want students to come here and be able to experience other cultures - without having to travel abroad,” she said.

She illustrates the Institute’s aim of promoting foreign cultures through the many colourful multi-cultural décor displayed around the Institute’s office in the Munnings Building located next to Kentucky Fried Chicken, northwest of the roundabout .

The Institute will initially offer courses in Spanish, French, German and Haitian Creole and organizers hope to incorporate shortly, Portuguese, Italian and Mandarin Chinese.

Additionally, English as a second language will be taught, and special interest language courses will be offered to hotel workers, banking and business groups, medical professionals, taxi drivers, tour guides, etc.

Dr. Moss reports that as The Bahamas moves further toward globalization, all course levels will follow the proficiency guidelines set out by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



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YOUR COB EDUCATION

WHO REALLY PAYS



COB is a public supported institution. The Bahamas government provides the main source of funding for COB. Tuition fees are regarded as fixed since they have been the same for four years now and will likely remain so for a few more years, most COB officials believe.

The government's annual grant to The College is just under \$20 million and has been so for the past three years. To raise fees COB would have to get government's approval and although they have not made a formal request for tuition fee increase, they have not had any response to their verbal request.

Because tuition costs remain fixed, VP for Finance and Administration Denton Brown says COB relies heavily on the government grant to pay salaries health insurance and utility bills. In addition he said COB relies on revenue generated from tuition fees and non-tuition fees--which COB can change without

government approval—to pay for other operating costs which have increased substantively, in some areas.

Mr. Brown said The College's total income for last year was \$35.2 million. This amount included the \$20 million from government, plus \$10.6 million from tuition fees and \$1.5 million from non-tuition fees. Include in the total income was income from book sales, scholarship grants, donations from benefactors and friends of The College. COB's expenditures were \$38 million and COB used a surplus from the last three years to pay for the additional expenses.

From an accounting perspective, The College may seem financially sound since there is no significant deficient on the books, however this present status, leaves little revenue for necessary expansion of facilities and further development of proper infrastructure.

If COB were to raise its tuition to five or six thousand dollars a year, for example, that would

“make a whole lot of difference in terms of student life” says Mr. Brown.

He said COB would be able to provide proper infrastructure, increase its computer capacity with internet access, renovate and expand dorm space, more facility for sports. “This will have a positive impact on the quality of student life. There is a direct relation between the amount of money we have to spend and the quality of life for the students,” says Mr. Brown.

Improving the quality of student life is what everyone wants but this requires more funding, more than COB presently generates. So the government has given approval for COB to float a bond to generate more revenue. Mr. Brown explains that COB intends to do this in before the start of the next academic year. He said, “The bond will be issued in amounts of \$5, 000, \$10, 000 and \$20,000 for 5, 10, 20 or 30 years and will be sold to the public, insurance companies, pension funds and corporations.”

International Food Festival



■ Watermelon Rose - See it at the festival (photo by Reva Devi)

Contributed by Reva Devi

If you've never heard of the International Food Festival, chances are you've been living under a rock. Every October, people living in The Bahamas from the different nations of the world come together and offer food, entertainment and trinkets from their homelands to those in attendance.

Held at the Botanical Gardens, this two-day event scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct 21st and 22nd is not a mere fair, it is an extravaganza of cultures.

Each country involved is responsible for a stall, as well as having a representative in national dress participate in a fashion show called the Parade of Nations. Most countries volunteer to provide entertainment over the two day period, however, festival entertainment usually officially kicks off with a beautiful dance by a young Indian girl. Many countries provide a dance or a song, but some provide a skit or non-musical display.

The stalls, where food and other items are sold, are split into sections according to regions. A Caribbean section includes The Bahamas (which has a variety of stall) and Cuba (which is so large it is in an area on its own), Asia, the Americas and Europe. In addition to the food stalls, there is a Kiddy Korner (run by Girl Guides and various volunteers), soda stalls, and, for adults only, the Bacardi stall.

The stalls of different regions compete early on Saturday morning to see which has the best presentation and although there is no cash prize plaque, the competition is solely for bragging rights and pride.

For persons only interested in the food, this is truly the place to get ANY and EVERYTHING that you want. Whether you want Chinese food you normally buy as a treat, Bahamian food you eat on a regular basis, or the Scottish food you've never tried

before, you will be able to find something you'll enjoy. Each country brings a variety of dishes from which you can choose and most also offer a local drink of some kind.

Younger children have the option of going into the Kiddy Korner, which is a very large play area with a swing set, slide and other activities. It is a small price to pay for a parent to put their child in the area for a few hours or the entire day. If that's not quite what you have in mind for your child, there is a bouncing castle and a spinning ride that they can also enjoy without you having to leave them.

Though the prices can be a bit exorbitant when you add up your expenditure, the melting of the various cultures is a sight to behold on its own. Every stall, regardless of placement in the competition, is always beautifully decorated and the food for each is always displayed in the most appetizing manner.

A small stall, like the Turks and Caicos, uses its space to full capacity and has creative ways of exhibition. The largest stall, Cuba, has different stalls for food, drinks, trinkets, leather, jewelry, as well as artwork and has the opportunity to present as much native decorations as they desire.

The College community is invited to attend the festival and enjoy the food and the rich cultures from around the world.



■ Watch the parade of nations in color dresses (photo by Reva Devi)

SPORTS

Review

Athletics Progress at COB



■ COB students at a recent soccer meet (photo by Sean Bastian)

Contributed by Patrick Deveaux

Progress is being made and good news is radiating from the new athletic program.

Greg Harshaw, Director of Athletics says that there was a great interest in the intramural program, greater than expected. This is because most of the teams were established in time to meet their deadlines. Men's and Women's intramural table tennis, Men and Women's intramural swim, and Women's tertiary volley team were among those that were able to meet their respective dates.

Mr. Harshaw was pleased to announce that all intramural deadlines were met and the dates for team establishments are confirmed. Furthermore, the program is making strides, not to mention it has had the greatest sign up and participation record that The College has ever had, which really expresses the overall interest of the student body.

As far as the Tertiary league is concerned, that was expected to be in place as of the beginning of this semester, but that process has been delayed because of lack of response for a grant request from the government. Despite the postponement however, the tertiary league teams are already established, so the athletics committee are prepared and ready to start as soon the government responds

Among the array of events and excursions

the sports committee has planned, is the recent visit to Northern Bahamas Campus to establish the bowling league which will be launched early October when they will be heading back to check on the progress it has made. However that wasn't their only motive behind the trip.

The visit was also to make students aware of Student Activities and to encourage students to get involved in various clubs, as Mr. Harshaw explains this program is about more than sports as it seeks to create opportunities for students in the area of sport whole making them well round in mind and body. The next trip the committee makes will be to the Exuma campus.

For that creative student, a contest will soon be on the way to name The College's Mascot, of course the one chosen winner will be awarded in this effort to promote school spirit.

For all you computer savvy sports lovers, there is soon to be an upgrade to The College's website where one can view, the Bios of team members and coaches along with their pictures, statistics and rosters. This is not only going to be excellent for COB students but coaches and students at colleges and universities aboard.

Tournaments are planned for Men's and Women's Basketball teams to travel to New York City in November to play City Tech and

Schedule of Athletics and Student Activities for fall 2006

Date	Event	Sponsoring Unit/Department
Oct. 18	College Health Fair 2006	Student Activities
Oct. 19	Men's Intramural Basketball Game	Student Activities
Oct. 26	Open Chess Tournament	Student Activities
Oct. 28	COB Invitational Volleyball Classic 2006	Student Activities; Athletics
Nov. 4 & 5	1st COB Collegiate Basketball Tournament (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Schools)	Athletics
Nov. 11 & 12	Men's & Women's Basketball Teams vs. Polytechnic and City Tech (New York City Tour)	Athletics
Nov. 16-19	National Conference of Student Leadership (Orlando, Florida)	Student Activities
Nov. 25	COB Gospel Concert	Student Activities



■ Soccer game at play (photo by Sean Bastian)



■ COB students at a thursday's volleyball meet (photo by Kendall Carroll)

Polytechnic University and New York City College of Technology, which are both NCAA teams. During the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov 25-26, Men's Basketball team

hopes to attend a tournament as well. Besides getting new uniforms the Track Team is also expected to compete in three to four track meets in the US.