



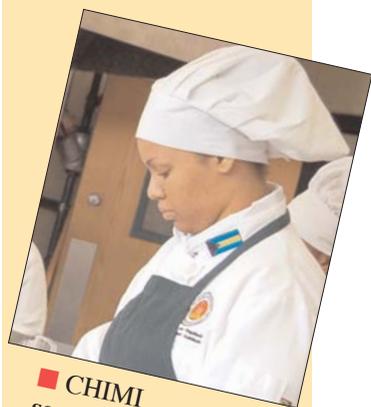
The Spectrum

"The Student Voice of The College of The Bahamas"

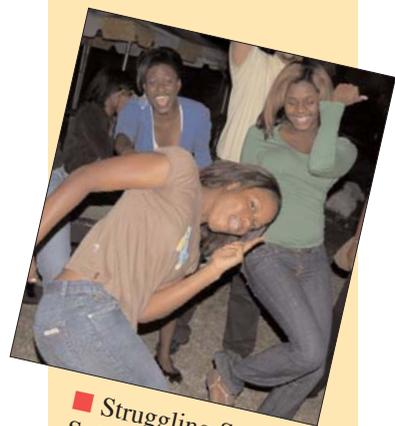
Volume 10 - Issue 3 - November 2008

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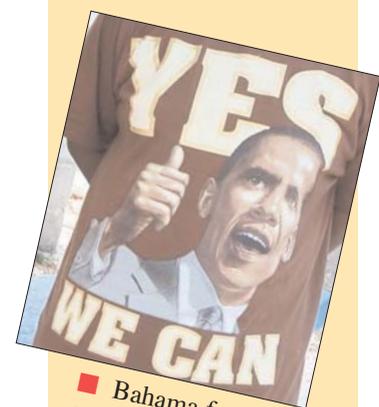
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EDU Majors Respond

■ by *Nikera Cartwright and Joanna Louis*
Staff Writers

Many assessment methods used by the School of Education are different to methods employed by other disciplines. To the untrained eye of students of other schools and their lecturers, EDU grading practices may seem easy, but that's not a fair assessment, say students and faculty of EDU.

Teacher aiding, class observations, lesson planning and teaching are only a few of the ways that EDU students are assessed. Students find these types of assignments a challenge and that's because these assignments they say require extensive planning, creativity, and the emotional constitution of an ox. Therefore it came as a shock to many

students to learn that President Hodder had stated during her speech to faculty and staff at the seminar in August that:

"I have heard concerns that the grades in The School of Education are significantly higher than grades in other schools. Whether there is a statistically significant difference in the grade distribution of this school and the grade distribution patterns of other schools or whether this is simply a matter of inaccurate perception, I do not know. However, given the importance of fair and consistent grading as part of our reputation for degree integrity, I invite The School to do the research that either dispels this view or explains why there is a difference."

It was difficult to get a response to this statement from EDU's Chair despite the fact that three reporters from The Spectrum went to their November faculty meeting after receiving prior permission from the Chair. When the Chair was asked about the School's response to the President's comments, she asserted that the remarks were reflective of EDU majors and therefore questions should be directed to them. It was explained that because the comment was made about the School of Education as a whole, all parts of the School should speak out, including the faculty. Regardless, EDU faculty remained

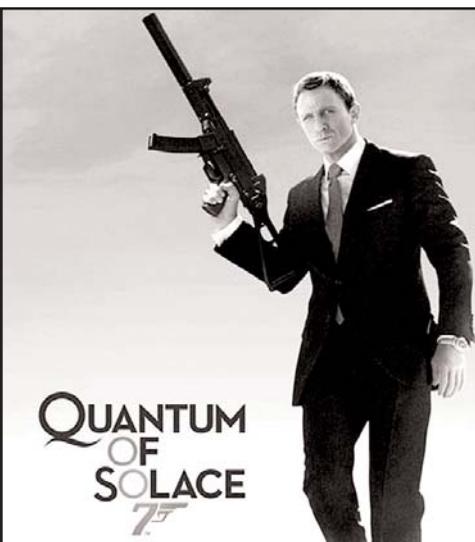
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Students Voice Registration Woes



■ Dr. Danny Davis spoke with students at a forum Thursday November 13th about their issues with Spring semester registration. Student reactions to the change in registration procedure prompted COBUS to draft an ill-fated petition against it (see story page 7). The forum was held in the Student Union Building in the foreground of an intriguing mural that signifies the power of voice. (photo by Reva Devi)

Quantum of Solace Review



Quantum of Solace -- Rated C

by Derreck Johnson,
Movie Reviewer

Quantum of Solace" is another action-packed entry in the ultra-successful James Bond series. It is indeed a weird title, but a quantum of solace refers to the measure of comfort and trust needed in any successful relationship. This idea serves as Bond's motivation for revenge because he loses his quantum of solace after his love, Vesper Lynd, was taken from him in the previous installment, "Casino Royale". (NOTE: You

might want to watch "Casino Royale" before you see this film or some parts will be totally confusing.) In addition, the word "Quantum" in the title serves as the name of the mysterious organization that Bond has to investigate.

Like in "Casino Royale", Daniel Craig does a fantastic job as the current James Bond. His performance in this film is likely to win over the few critics he has left. To quote M, (Judi Dench) he's a real "cold-hearted bastard" when he has to be. One thing is clear throughout the movie: Bond is a scorned man out for revenge no matter how bloody it may get, which makes for one awesome viewing experience.

The movie is not without its flaws though. Some of the characters just aren't remarkable. This includes the main villain, Mr. Greene (Mathieu Amalric) who's more of a wimp than humanly possible. It seems as though one hard slap could knock him out for a few hours. Even the Bond Girls, Camille and Agent Fields (Olga Kurylenko and Gemma Arterton) suffer from being ultimately forgettable. Sexy, but memorable.

There are also problems with the story. One being that the "evil plan" of Quantum and Mr. Greene is not clear and you're left wondering what the big deal is. But when you're going to see a James Bond film, do

you really care about the story? It's more about the action and this film does not disappoint. There are many incredible stunts, explosions, car chases, shootouts and fights

to satisfy any Bond fan, action junkie or newcomers to the James Bond series. After the dust settles, you'll be left wanting more.

Flavor by Patrick Deveaux

You know what's stupid? The fact that we are all stupid. That's right, fellow Bahamians, permanent residents, and those who made their ways here by some less legal means; there are certain members of the Bahamian populace that simply think Bahamians are all just a bunch of Big-Black-Idiots.

Now it may come as no surprise that the ones who feel this way are those supposed members of the intelligentsia, the cream of the scholastic corn crop. It seems that once someone becomes educated the people around them appear as mindless imbeciles drifting aimlessly in a constant stupor. Everywhere you go nowadays you hear someone blurting out "Bahamians are so stupid" or "We the dumbest people in the world" or something along those lines.

Constantly all that is being recycled is a stream of condensing slurs. Few words are spent uplifting Bahamians and The Bahamas, a nation that is still in an infantile stage of development (This is however, not to be taken as an excuse for any society or political problems that the country's has been facing since Independence). Negative thoughts and attitudes shape a negative country. Surely The Bahamas is not a country of cry babies that can't handle a little reprimanding, but if there is going to be criticism at least let it be constructive criticism.

We accept that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but is it too much to ask that if you speak condescendingly about a people and if you are the upstanding intellectual you claim to be, then you should offer a solution to this proclaimed nation wide idiocy. There's lots of talk going on by these celebrated intellectuals (mainly behind closed doors) as well

as the self proclaimed intellectuals (mainly in public) about the degenerate state of society and the people's lack of motivation towards educational progress, but what is being done about it all?

Really, one begins to wonder if these people actually give a flying hoot about anything other than themselves and the chatter they constantly create. One must inquire about such things because honestly, pretentious social elitist just seem way too contented with calling everyone else idiots. In some sad way they feel as if they have more self worth because they have the ability to put down everyone and everything else. This is completely logical, right?

Come on, the fastest way to sound smart is by getting people to agree that everyone else around you is dumb. Then that sparks the chain reaction. You create your own little clique because, of course you're not an idiot and the person you so articulately complain to is not an idiot either. This is because you're at least too smart to insult the very person you're divulging the pains of your pathetic little heart to, while that very person is not stupid enough to buy into your conceited drivel and is at that very moment thinking you are the biggest nimrod they've ever spoken to.

So is The Bahamas a bandwagon country? Are all Bahamians just following the crowd so to speak? Apparently so. It's hard to believe that Bahamians are just the stupidest people in the world because let's face it, there are some stupid people in the world, but it's hard to believe Bahamians are at the top of that list. We all know it's at least in the top ten though - of course that's a joke.

But truly Bahamians need to stop bringing down other Bahamians and their own country. Those who claim to know better should act as if they do. No longer criticize, but energize! Yaay! Gosh, doesn't that sound like a government sponsored print ad?

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QUANTUM OF SOLACE	T	1:00	3:40	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:50
QUANTUM OF SOLACE	T	2:00	N/A	4:30	7:00	N/A	10:00
MADAGASCAR 2	A	1:20	3:35	N/A	6:20	8:40	10:35
MADAGASCAR 2	A	2:00	N/A	4:30	7:15	N/A	10:00
SOUL MEN	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:50
ROLE MODELS	C	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:40
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BOLT	NEW	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:45
QUANTUM OF SOLACE	NEW	1:00	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
MADAGASCAR 2	A	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:25
SOUL MEN	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:40
ROLE MODELS	C	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:00	8:40	10:45

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NEW PHARMACY PROGRAM THIS SEMESTER AT COB



■ Pharmacy Lab - Construction started this summer for a Pharmacy Lab to be housed in the former Magnetics Lab in the T-Block. (photo by Reva Devi)

■ by Cassandra Nottage

Staff Reporter

Starting this fall semester a four-year Pharmacy program was introduced as a joint offering of The College of The Bahamas and The University of Technology (UTECH), Jamaica. This program provides students with academic and professional skills to become competent pharmacists and also lays the foundation for future academic and professional growth in the field of pharmacy.

First and second year courses are expected to be taught at COB's Oakes Field campus while third and fourth year courses will be taught, initially at UTECH in Jamaica. It is expected that The College/University of The Bahamas will offer its own Bachelor of Pharmacy Program within 4-6 years.

Managed by Dr. Zorene Curry, Coordinator of Allied Health Professions in the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions the program is located the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences.

Most of the 22 students enrolled in the program this semester have either an Associate degree in Biology with Chemistry or have transferred from the Bachelor's program. Hence they have been exempted from several first year courses. The remaining students comprise pharmaceutical technicians, transfer students from other COB programs and students who have completed specialty courses at other institutions. The latter group are given exemptions on a case by case basis.

Former School of Science & Technology Chair Bridgette Hogg said the core courses for this new program will be taught by COB faculty in the School of Science & Technology (biology, chemistry, physics & mathematics) whereas the pharmaceutical courses (specialty courses) are taught by a staff from the Princess Margaret Hospital Pharmacy who is also a part-time lecturer at The College.

Hogg described the program as very intense and said students are required to take at least 17-22 credits each semester. Because students were able to get exemptions, the heaviest load for students this semester was 14 credits.

It is a program requirement that students must complete one semester or 40 hours performing community service at an approved agency such as the Red Cross, Humane Society or serve with a church or, as requested by some students, work with the children's after school program, assisting them in reading and playing games. Students are required to submit a report based on what they've learnt about their service and their community by the end of the semester.

Hogg explained that students need to get experience being around people, being able to speak with people to get their attention and to get them to listen. "If you are going to be a pharmacist, there is no good giving out medicine and people don't know what they are supposed to do and you can't explain to them in a way that they accept or understand.

New Pharmacy Lab

■ by Zenovia Pinder

Staff Reporter

If you have classes in the Technology block you know about the constructing noise coming from room T-18 over the past weeks. Workmen are renovating that room into a Pharmacy Lab however renovations should be completed by the time the spring semester starts in January.

The pharmacy lab is a project implemented after the Ministry of Health expressed a desperate need for more Bahamian qualified pharmacists of which there are few in The Bahamas. The lab will provide hands-on training for both Bahamian and foreign students opting to enter the new Pharmacy program just introduced at The College of The Bahamas this semester.

All students in the sciences should benefit from the new Pharmacy lab. Nursing majors, students pursuing Bachelor's of Science degrees in Bio-Chemistry and Associate's degrees would need a first class research lab. Nursing and Allied Health School will host a variety of labs in this new Pharmacy lab as well.

The lab will be outfitted with a variety of equipment necessary to make research a whole lot easier for students. Sensitive balances, fume

cupboards, culture equipment, chemical analysis and purification equipment are a few of the many apparatus that would be available. In genetics courses instead of substituting important equipment, students will be able to grow organisms using the culture equipment.

Presently the student population outweighs the amount of equipment available to carry out assigned experiments. Because of scarce resources, many students are forced to work in pairs to complete lab assignments. When the proper utensils are in place, this would accommodate the amount of student opting to enroll in the pharmacy program.

According to Professor Bridgette Hogg who has been involved in the planning and development of the program for the past two years, "There has been some equipment that was donated to the construction of the lab and while the value of this equipment has not been identified, The College has estimated the total lab cost at \$1.6 million.

Hogg is also coordinating the Community Service Project this semester and assisting with student advisement. Next semester she will teach CHEM 336, a course which meets the biochemistry requirement for the Pharmacy program.

So if they have the medication and you haven't convinced them that they should take it and you haven't advised them how to take it, then it's going to be a failure." In completing and submitting a report of their community service, students should also be successful in advising people about their medication.

Students in this program automatically join the region's Association of Pharmacy students as a requirement of being in the program. Students are assessed based on grades and performance in the community service agencies. In the second year students will be in pharmacy uniform wearing their pin, like the Nursing students.

As this program is combined with

UTECH, Jamaica, entry requirements must satisfy both institutions. Basic requirements are:

- BGCSE Mathematics & English with grade C or above and 3 other academic BGCSE'S with grade C or above (or relevant equivalents);
- 2 semesters of College Chemistry & at least 2 semesters in College Physics, Biology or Mathematics (or relevant equivalents); and
- Successful final selection interview.

Hogg is expecting The Bahamas to have about 22/23 new certified pharmacist in the next 4 years.

HEALTH CONCERNS AT MICHAEL H. ELDON COMPLEX

Since the summer, lecturers whose offices are in the Michael Eldon Complex have complained to senior management of certain problems such as poor ventilation, bees in the ventilation system and pigeon droppings on the outside walls of the building. One lecturer went so far as to say that the combination of hot weather and freezing cold air conditioning may contribute to the development of mould between the walls.

Students who have classes in the building have also reported noticing swarming bees and a strange green substance on the side of the building, as well as "pungent" or "rank" smells in certain areas of the building. One lecturer in Social Sciences and her entire small class of nine experienced cold and flu-like symptoms for one week around the time that their classroom was not "authorized for entry into." At the time the room had dead and dying bees falling from the ceiling, covering about four or five desks and the surrounding floor areas.

Security at Michael Eldon Complex told The Spectrum that complaints about the bees were forwarded to Director of Security, Wellington Francis who advised the closure of the room. Once the bees were exterminated and cleaned up by the auxiliary staff, the room was reopened for classes.

COBUS was alerted to the matter several times and appointed their SOSC Senators Crystal Rolle and Keith Major to champion the issue. Rolle claims a moss/mould specialist was also to be called in but claims COBUS has not "exactly been kept in the loop on the issue and has been given the runaround."

Julian Miller, Director of Physical Plant, acknowledged there was a problem, but believes it is now under control. Though he claimed to have no knowledge of the room's closure, he did say that COB spent \$1500 in their battle to exterminate the bees. On the initial extermination many bees were killed but the problem did not go away so a bee keeper had to be called in to ensure that the queen bee was destroyed. The problem is now over, as far as they are concerned, and there has been a significant reduction in the number of bees in and around the building.

Estates Manager, Anthony Burrows has indicated they have taken steps to soon remove the mould and algae buildup caused by the bird droppings on the side of the building.

It should be noted as a reminder to readers that there have been concerns voiced about smells, moulds and plumbing issues connected with the Michael H. Eldon Complex ever since it was occupied in 2005 after COB purchased and extensively renovated the building.



■ NORTHERN BAHAMAS CAMPUS PROJECT - Construction of COB Northern Bahamas Campus (NBC) began during the start of this school year and is expected to be completed in 2010. It is a whole new campus located on East Settler's Way, 15 miles east of the city of Freeport. The campus is expected to accommodate some 900 students, one-third more than the 600 that already attend. Grand Bahama Authority provided the land for the new campus.

NBC will consist of two buildings linked by walkways, containing approximately 40,000 square feet of office space, 18 classrooms, an elevator to allow for disabled access, a central courtyard for activities, science and computer labs, a library, conference room, and a bookstore.

Gordon Mills, Editor and Writer in the Office of Communication said the idea of placing a campus in another city will allow for the University of The Bahamas to eventually expand, encouraging more entrepreneurial opportunities to develop within the city of Freeport.

What happens to College Prep when COB becomes a University?

University buzz has dominated the atmosphere at COB for a few years now, but it seems as though the benefits and consequences are not being discussed with current students. One question that is frequently asked by relevant students concerns College Prep. If COB is moving toward more Bachelor's and Master's degrees and fewer Associates, what happens to College Prep?

A sophomore who came to COB for Culinary Arts but has a deficiency in Math had many questions about what would happen to College Prep students. "If they end up phasing [College Prep] out, it feels like I'm gonna be pushed aside by The College," he said. "What does that mean for my education? Am I kicked out? Am I forced up to college level math? What about others like me?"

In an interview with VP Academic Affairs, Dr. Rhonda Chipman-Johnson, The Spectrum was assured that even though the stress will be put on more Bachelor's degrees and the creation of Master's degrees, there will still be some provisions made for the College Prep Program.

Although what has happened in The

College has been the reallocation of individual Prep courses from individual schools exclusively to the Center for Continuing Education and Extension Services, CEES will remain a unit of the College/University and will allow College Prep to continue.

Dr Chipman-Johnson pointed out that College Prep had been stopped before and in that case students were told to enroll at Bahamas Baptist Community College (BBCC) and complete their Prep courses there before coming to COB.

When College came back on stream at COB, it was only done because of the tremendous need. Now, about 300 new students are admitted into the College Prep program each year.

Students who came in on College level programs with deficiencies (one or two College Prep courses to complete) will be able to integrate their classes and still complete their programs painlessly.

It might be significant to note that the US is also facing similar issues with vast numbers of College Prep students and lesser numbers of students prepared for College after high school graduation.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec 24	Closed (Bookstore open until 1pm)
Thursday, Dec 25	C l o s e d
Friday, Dec 26	C l o s e d
Saturday, Dec 27	C l o s e d
Monday, Dec 29	O p e n
Tuesday, Dec 30	O p e n
Wednesday, Dec 31	Closed at 1pm
Thursday, Jan 1	C l o s e d
Friday, Jan 2	C l o s e d
Saturday, Jan 3	C l o s e d
Monday, Jan 5	O p e n

Editorial

Hard Work and Frustration

It's hard being a student. It's especially difficult when the demands of college life force you to sacrifice precious luxuries such as favorite TV shows, outings with friends and, of course, many nights of sleep.

This uphill battle against school work is even harder when there are others around you who try to imply - or even outright say - that the grades you have earned have been "inflated" by the lecturers within your school and that you don't deserve those letters on your transcript.

It's even harder when you know that you've worked, you know that you

have studied, you know that you have done everything short of losing your mind to prepare for exams and despite it all, there will be people who will still outperform you - thanks to scraps of cheat notes stuffed in shoes or hidden under desks.

It's also aggravating when you know that you're putting in your best effort - or something close to it - and there will be others who slide by as dead weight group members in every class.

Being a student is hard - but there are just some people who make it even more frustrating.

Campus Cartoons



The Spectrum

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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

How much will \$20 for parking cover?

There has been a lot of talk that next academic semester students will be charged \$20 for parking; the question here is how much will \$20 cover? During this semester a number of students have complained of their vehicles being broken into and valuables being stolen (mainly from the T-Block parking lot).

According to Director of Security, this policy is implemented to keep students from parking in areas reserved for faculty and staff. As a student attending the most prestigious College in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I need to know that when I park my car in areas allocated to students I should have some level of security about leaving my car and not having to worry about it being broken into.

In every parking lot across the

campus there are signs saying "COB is not responsible for any damages to vehicles while on campus," but as a student paying fees and tuitions on time every semester don't I deserve to have mainstream security protecting my valuables while attending classes?

There have been reports about vehicles being stolen while on campus; why is this happening? Where is security? Why isn't COB doing more to protect students' vehicles?

As students we make COB The College it is today. So will \$20 only give students a place to park or will it also protect the vehicles, when students leave their cars in the parking lots will they meet them there when they get back?

Signed: I want to believe.



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CHMI EXPECTATIONS

by Crystal Clarke

Staff Writer

Vibrant, buzzing, dynamic are some of the adjectives that should come to mind when describing Culinary and Hospitality Management Institute (CHMI) but it seems that COB's flagship school is not living up to expectations. Enrollment is below expectations and much of its equipment used for training purposes is below industry standard.

Presently, tourism and hospitality outlook in The Bahamas and North American appear grim, however tourism is likely to remain this country's number one industry, accounting for more than sixty cents out of every dollar. Despite certain limitations, CHMI sees itself as a

centre for excellence in culinary and hospitality management studies in the region

According to Dr. Lincoln Marshall, Executive Director of CHMI, the Institute is somewhat behind in advancement because of the lack of new cutting-edge equipment. He said, "Compared to many programs (hospitality) in North America and even the Caribbean, we are behind. We need to upgrade our equipment to become more competitive."

It seems more crucial than ever that CHMI continue to produce quality programs designed to keep its students on the edge when it comes to new industry standards and technology. CHMI offers a bachelor in tourism management, basic professional and academic programs and

to this most students in the school of education are on the Ministry of Education grant, which required that the scholarship recipients maintain a minimum grade point average of three point.

Education Senator, Allez Lightbourne said, "If there is no proof, the statement should not have been made." After being admonished by the President on a prior occasion to avoid propaganda and spreading rumors, Lightbourne said no members of The College community should rely on hearsay. However, the fact that the information is on the internet for the world to see has added insult to injury for some students. There is no doubt that the statement has had an impact.

COBUS President, Perry Newton, says that he has already begun to feel the effects: "As an Education major, I feel I have been subject to more intense scrutiny [as a result of the President's remarks]. It seems malicious."

Overall, students say President Hodder's remarks may have been well intended to clear up what may be a "matter of inaccurate perception" but nevertheless, there are many that feel the comment only helped to perpetuate an unfounded belief that has been lingering for too long amongst other schools. So Education majors are now faced with the reality that as future teachers, society-including COB faculty-view them as persons who should be at the standard of perfection, and though unfair, the price of this standard is scrutiny.



■ Culinary Faces - These Culinary Arts Students look quite smart in their whites as they prepare pastry for class exercise. (photo by Reva Devi)

EDU Majors Respond

Continued from page 1

tight lipped, refusing to give their views or to respond to questions about the meeting they had with President Janyne Hodder a few days earlier.

Many Education students told The Spectrum that they heard about the President's remarks from more than one of their EDU lecturers at the beginning of the semester. Education Awareness Society (E.A.S.) President, Shannon Evans says, "On one hand, it was disturbing considering that as Education majors we work hard. We are up all hours completing work, planning lessons and teaching classes. On the other hand, it's motivation. I have to prove the stigma wrong." Evans also suggests that perhaps student interest levels are different and maybe the teaching style used by Education lecturers is different than other lecturers'.

Some students also suggest that the disparity in grades is a result of the fact that Education lecturers have extensive training in various teaching methods and approaches that help students produce top notch results. These students were livid that it would even be implied that there was some form of outright cheating happening in the School. Lashanta Knowles, a Secondary Education Math major was incensed that it would even be implied that she does work for her grades, saying "Do you know how I hard work?" In addition

opportunities through quality vocal and technical training, professional development and research.

Dr. Marshall said that CHMI is most concerned with increasing its enrollment and improving the quality of programs offered. He said that the Institute is currently revising many of its courses, encouraging lecturers to upgrade them-

selves professionally and become more active in various industry programs and events.

For example, Assistant Professor and Department Head of CHMI, Ruth Gardiner, recently participated in the 8th Leon H Sullivan Summit, a large scale

Continued on page 15

Students Petition New Registration Procedure

by Nikera Cartwright

Staff Writer

Registration Revamped is a hot issue for many students. It led to a petition circulated by COBUS as a means of overturning the policy that had already been set in motion since mid November. Nevertheless students failed to turn up in enough numbers at a special meeting called by COBUS Nov 13th to address the issue and support the petition.

Registrar Dr. Danny Davis, on hand to respond to questions about the policy tagged "Registration Revamped explained that the new Registration process was to aid the move toward university status. Based on the questions posed, there was overall confusion about the new process despite the explanation on The College's website and in last month's issue of The Spectrum.

Students wanted to know:

- how they would be affected if they were on scholarship;
- if there was a wait list; and
- why such a short payment time during economic hardship.

The consensus was that students would drop out of College because they would be

unable to pay their fees within the required time frame. Deregistration went into effect from Nov 17th when students start early registration for the spring semester. Students who register are expected to pay for their courses with seven days after registration. If they do not pay within the allotted time, their course reservations will be automatically cancelled by the system.

Scholarship students have an extension they will not have to pay until after their transcripts are issued.

Dr. Davis suggested that students familiarize themselves with the deferred payment plan and wait until the week they can pay to actually register. He also explained how the new registration will stop the problem of courses being filled by students who never pay therefore putting students who can pay at a disadvantage. It will also lessen the number of students who claim they cannot get into the classes they need in order to graduate.

Some students were heartened knowing the chance of not getting into classes will be significantly reduced as courses will become available on a constant basis. Others left the meeting wondering if they would be able to attend college in the spring.



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It's Wendy's.*

Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture



■ Award winning poet and author of 12 poetry collections, Kwame Dawes was the distinguished visiting lecturer at the third annual Anatol Rodgers Memorial Lecture held Thursday, Nov. 13 in the lecturer theatre at CHMI. Dawes' passion and topic of choice for was the History, Influence and Future of the Jamaican Reggae Culture. Reaction to Dawes' lecturer was described as 'outstanding, enlightening, energetic, really amazing,' by many of who attended this year's lecture which drew the largest crowd ever. Previous guest speakers have been popular Jamaican cultural activist Caroline Cooper and the well-known St. Lucian author Fred D'Aguiar.

FIRE IN PORTIA SMITH BUILDING

It was more black smoke than flames but it caused enough drama to call in the fire truck on Friday, Nov. 21. Everyone was evacuated from the Portia M. Smith Building, the three-storied structure which houses all student services for a few hours while firemen put out the smoke.

Apparently a smoking vent on the third floor was the cause and there was some damage to the walls of the male bathroom where the smoking vent was located. Interesting enough the fire alarm in the building did not go off. Repairs to the building are already underway.





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Struggling School Spirit



BUNDELECTURERS NIGHT - COBUS hosted their take on the traditional Guy Fawkes celebration Thursday 6 November. The male and female dummies intended to represent our most distinguished professors, were burned in a signified act of release from school-related stress. The turnout to this event and the dance that followed shows that students are more willing to participate in College activities and, dare we say, may be showing more School Spirit. (photos by Joanna Louis)

by Joanna Louis
Staff Writer

Cheerleading squads, drill teams and mascots are often the images that come to mind when we think of having school spirit. To steal a popular writing technique from Eng 119 students, school spirit, as defined by Encarta dictionary, is the enthusiasm and loyalty that somebody feels through belonging to a group. When students were asked how they feel about being a COB student, answers often varied. In the freshmen and sophomore section of the student body the school spirit seemed to fledging if not full grown. A first year business major says that, "I would say I have school spirit but I don't really show it." When a third year education major was asked about having school spirit, she replied, "All I want is to be finished with COB!"

To say that there is a lack of school spirit at The College may seem like old news to some and maybe to others it is of little consequence. Is it that most COB students do not connect with their classmates outside of group work? Is it because COB does not really have a major sports program as yet? And maybe it is because we do not have the competition of other major universities in the country or region. In most colleges the typical display of school spirit is at games, rallies or after game rallies. Students like to set themselves apart from other students to cheer for the team that represents them as a school. Sports and the social activities that come with them are an integral part of College life, but there are other activities

that promote school spirit. The new campus life director, Mr. Vicente Roberts, and the new COBUS have made great strides towards promoting school spirit through all of the activities they have put on this semester.

One of the more interesting events was the "Bun Dem lecturers: Guy Fawkes" celebration. Guy and Lady Fawkes effigies were placed near the stage on by Independence Park and an open mike was set up to allow students to voice their stress and then stuff the names of lecturers into the Fawkes'

before they were burned. It was events like these that got the student body out in full force to support and socialize with one another. Other events that encouraged school spirit within the outside community are the student participation in blood and testing drives. The number of students that turned out for the blood drive held in the SUB at the end of October was unavailable up to press time; however the drive was shut down with students still waiting to give blood.

When COB reaches university status - and for all of you eye rollers out there, we

will reach there someday- hopefully the influx of international students, a more active and varied sports program will cause a change in the perception of the students about getting involved in school spirit. But for now, more students should start a slogan, attend a school function and talk to other students about school events. All of these activities constitute school spirit, so for all students, the young and the old heads, get involved in this experience now while it lasts.

The Performing Arts Centre in the A-Block



PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE-----It cost around \$3.5M to provide major renovations for the Performing Arts Centre which is forecasted to be a significant revenue generator for The College but no one will or can say when the Centre will open for business. Although minor sprucing up is still visible and although the nearby grounds need landscaping, construction seem completed and everyone is waiting for this facility to start functioning.

Renovations to reconvert the old COB auditorium into a fancy performing arts centre started more than two years ago when the area was cordoned off with plywood causing great confusion on campus for all who needed to transit to different parts of the A-block. For months now the previous closed foyer of the A-block-- the main entrance to the Centre draped in heavy but impressive grape-coloured curtains can be entered and the various features of the Centre have been installed--seating, stage apparatus, lighting and control room.

Canadian Foundation Provides Scholarships for Exuma Students



■ **Scholarship Provider**--*One-time Exuma winter resident Murray DeYoung pictured outside his home in Canada, provides annual scholarships through his foundation for Exuma students to attend The College.*

■ by Sanovia McPhee
Staff Writer

For ten years, The Murray DeYoung Educational Foundation has been a source of financial relief for students from Exuma who dreamed of pursuing a college education.

Since its inception more than 20

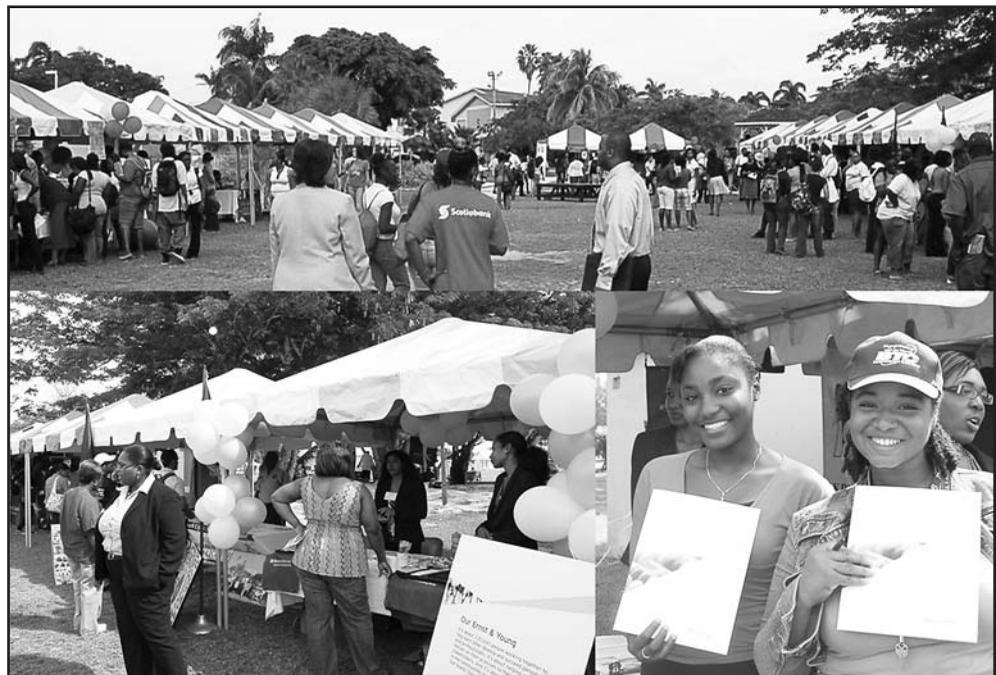
Exumians supported by Canadian Murray DeYoung's foundation have successfully graduated from The College of The Bahamas. The foundation gives need-based academic scholarships to students in Exuma and the US.

For many years before his death, DeYoung had developed a deep attachment to the island and its people. He often rented a house and stayed in Exuma for most of the long, cold Canadian winters.

It was on one of these visits that DeYoung became interested in the work of the Exuma Foundation campus at Hooper's Bay, Exuma. He was particularly interested in efforts to support young people gain an education that would help them to be self supporting.

DeYoung worked with COB Coordinator in Exuma, Jennifer Kettel to establish a scholarship fund that would enable graduates from L.N. Coakley High School to attend COB.

After his death, directors of the Murray DeYoung Foundation continue to support the Exuma scholarship efforts.



■ **JOB FAIR** -- Many more companies were featured at this year's Job Fair which organizers say attracted more students than in previous years. Among the companies participating in the day-long event held Thursday, Nov. 13 were: Bahamas Fast Ferries, Bahamas Agricultural Industries Corp. (BAIC), Bahamas Telecommunications Co.(BTC), British American Financial, Caribbean Bottling Co., CLICO (Bahamas) Ltd., Commonwealth Bank, Commonwealth Brewery, Deloitte & Touche, Department of Labour, Doctor's Hospital, Ernst & Young, Family Guardian, First Caribbean Bank Int'l, KPMG, Lucayan Tropical Produce, Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, Water & Sewerage Corporation and ZNS Network. Photo by Kendra Culmer,

Dilemma of Mature & Part-time Students

■ by Chakara Bennett and Jessica Simmons
Staff Writers

Most people would consider the traditional age for college/university students to be around 16-30 years of age. However, today it has become commonplace for persons well over this age range to attend a tertiary institute and for some as first time ever college students. The College of The Bahamas is no exception in this growing trend of mature students as more working people with families decide to attend college to do individual betterment courses or aspire to complete an entire new major on a part-time basis.

Although the interest of older students is positive for The College's credibility, many of the students themselves feel that they are not accommodated as well as the full-time students.

For instance, Tiffany Pinder, a junior and part-time accounting major feels that although COB tries to be accommodating to mature students a little more effort can be exercised to make schooling at COB a little

more comfortable especially in terms of consistency in scheduling classes.

"When the new class schedules were placed for students to view for the fall semester, a particular class had been scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 pm. However, when it was time for me to register, I noticed that the time had been changed to 4-6 pm on the same days. This was disturbing for me because as a working student, I had already notified my boss about my classes according to the classes I'd seen on the schedule. Advising him of such changes created a problem for at work as to when it was suitable for me to leave work."

On the other hand Daniel Pinder, a Primary education major says COB is not accommodating for her as a mature student. She says classes are not flexible because often many of these classes have only one section. "There is not a wide variety of classes to choose from because most of the classes are only offered during the day... I was forced to leave my job to complete COB because a lot of the scheduled class times

were not working out for me. Fortunately, I was financially stable to leave my job and attend school full time. I also believe that the classes for Education should be better spaced out because too many times I have not been able to take major courses because they clashed."

Similarly, Mary Brown, a Primary Education major feels that COB offers too few sections for essential courses and this forces many students who want to and can graduate at a proper time to have to wait until another semester if not another year in order to take the class. Another issue is that there are no Education courses during the summer and the reasoning behind it by some lecturers is that because students don't do well in such classes during the regular semester it wouldn't make sense to schedule them during the summer. Brown feels that this is unfair and hinders those students who want to graduate at the proper time.

"I am convinced that COB is designed to keep you here forever. I don't think COB is really accommodating to mature students and doesn't really try to meet our needs. As it

currently stands, I am not driven at all by the college's current system."

Fann Bowe, 35, an Electrical Engineering Technician major wishes that the Wellness Center on COB campus had better opening and closing hours: "I really want to be able to use the Wellness Center but it closes before I even get on campus for classes. This isn't fair. Furthermore, the instructors there say that I must take a physical assessment test but this test takes place between 12 am-2 pm and this is inconvenient for me and others who work during the day. I shouldn't have to pay for a service that I don't even use."

Other problems mentioned:

- ❑ They have a hard time meeting lecturers for office hours in the evenings since some don't actually keep them.
- ❑ COB should utilize the 8-10 pm class slot so more classes can be offered for students.
- ❑ Part-time students, especially evening students should not have to pay student activity fees since they do not participate or get to enjoy the activities.

■ Continued on page 14

BAHAMA FOR OBAMA!



■ **Yes, He Did** - Darion Spence, COB senior, is proud to wear his Barack Obama t-shirt.

■ by Jyna Mackey

Correspondent

“Yes we can!” This was the triumphant refrain expressed by American Presidential candidate Barack Obama in his acceptance speech as President Elect of the United States of America on the night of November 4. Creating history as the first African American candidate to win the election for president, Obama has forever become a household, academic, political and historical name for the world.

This political turning point has indeed been embraced not only by the US and many countries around the world, but The Bahamas has also followed suit. “Bahama for Obama,” “Everybody Wins,” are just a few slogans adapted by Bahamians during the presidential frenzy. From T-shirts to bumper stickers and flags, there was a heightened presence and awareness, anticipation for hope and change, which have been the staged intentions of Obama.

The immeasurable success and achievement of Obama's won resulted in countless parties across in Nassau and possibly on many other family islands as well. Only a few short minutes after 11 pm on November 4th, 2008 was all it took for the procession to begin. Cars filled the streets, horns blowing, people yelling into the night. It was pretty

much like the national Bahamian election.

For many Bahamians Obama's success is symbolic of the great things black people can achieve and sets the sky as the limit. Alexia Rolle, COB Alumna admits that initially she was thrilled and excited that Senator Obama had such courage to go up against Senator Hillary Clinton, and that she was actually pulling for Clinton more than she did Obama. However, as she found herself drawn in and completely consumed by the debates, press conferences and rally's she soon joined the “I fa Obama” bandwagon. “As I enter my first year teaching, this is a momentous event, a part of history that I will be able to share not only with my kids in the classroom, but my very own children and grandchildren, that “Yes, We Can!”

Obama has brought belief and faith and hope that anything is possible once you put your best forth and work hard at it. “I am confident that he will do well,” said Garjo Thompson, previously employed at Atlantis Resort but suffered from the downsizing due to the declining conditions in the tourism industry. Thompson believes that hope has come in the right time and that it is not too late. “All is not lost, jobs may come and go and I believe Obama is the man for that job at this time. It will be hard initially but he will revive America and then we will see the benefit very soon. I know he will; there's nobody better suited for the job!”

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Dilemma of Mature & Part-time Students

■ Continued from page 12

□ There should be a more diverse offering of Saturday classes.

□ More online courses

In response to the concerns voiced by mature students College officials say much is done to accommodate and consider part time students. Dr. Earla Carey-Baines, Dean of Liberal and Fine Arts had this to say:

“There are a number of facilities on campus that stay open later for the convenience of part-time or evening students. For instance, this semester the Language Resource Center (LRC) in room F8 open on a

Saturday for the convenience of these students and they are also open a few evenings in the week as well. The Foreign Languages lab (F6) has also made arrangements for Saturday hours as well. In terms of part-time students having difficulties meeting with lecturers at office hours, as far as I know most lecturers do keep their schedules. They are required to keep a minimum of four office hours a week and for lecturers with evening classes, we suggest that one of those hours be in the evening.”

Carey-Baines also mentioned that most lecturers are open to appointments if their times are inconvenient to students and are often willing to

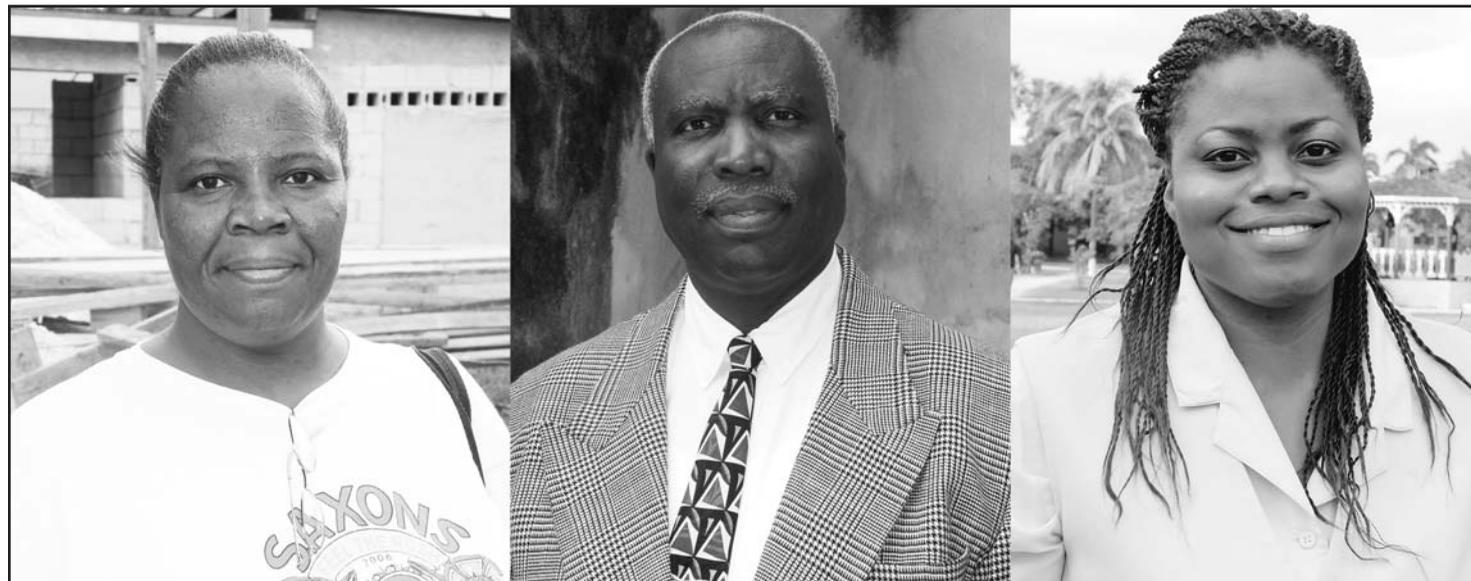
allow students to email them their papers or ask questions via email if a face-to-face meeting is not convenient. She added if none of these options are available the student should seek help from the Chair or Dean of their school in order to get in contact with the lecturer.

In response to the question about extending the hours of even classes, Dr. Brooks-Jones, Chair of English says classes scheduled 8-10 pm have been tried before but most lecturers found that students were not attentive after the first half an hour because they were mentally exhausted especially if they were working until 5 pm and had a class from 6-8 pm already.

She said the issue of having more Saturday classes is also a good idea and The College is still trying to get lecturers and students to be more open to this idea so that it can eventually become a regular school day. However, she said there is resistance from students who are used to the regular Monday to Friday, if not Monday to Thursday, week.

COBUS president 2008-2009, Perry Newton, also a mature student, said he is concerned about these issues. He said mature/part time students are “a difficult crowd to gather to ask questions and listen to about concerns.” He continued, “There is nothing COBUS is

doing specifically to assist them in their plight since we don't have anything to go by or any formal complaints. But to fix this our position is--if you can't get in contact with officials in your school you can just drop your concerns in the new suggestion boxes that are dotted around campus now. Your concerns and ideas will be considered and College officials and COBUS will think of how to assist in any way we can to alleviate problems.”



■ Part-time Expressions-----Joycelyn Rolle, Nursing; Christopher Smith, Public Adm and Lief Dean, Banking and Finance-have something in common. They are among so-called 'mature' or part-time students which make up about 30% of College enrollment. (Photo by Carvel Francis)



■ **Intriguing Matters** - Dr. Daniel Mitchell, an expert on tax reform and supply side tax policy, shared his views with students, faculty and members of the public at the CHMI Lecture Theatre in an open forum on November 7th. The event was hosted by the Economic Society of The College of The Bahamas (ESOCOB), a student organization led by Economics and Finance majors.

Nursing Career; Still in Demand

Nursing is still very much a career in demand and even though the academic program here at The College has come a long way so to speak there is still a shortage of nurses here in The Bahamas. The Spectrum spoke with several Nursing students newcomers, about their program and their College experience thus far and got this consensus. “There is no real respect for nursing majors at the main COB campus.”

Students expressed frustration that there seems to be nowhere they can go to ask any questions about their program. Students say when they question any of the heads of the academic faculty have been met with the response: “You will have to check the

Grosvenor campus at PMH.” This has led some to question if the nursing program is respected in the same way as all other programs offered here at COB.

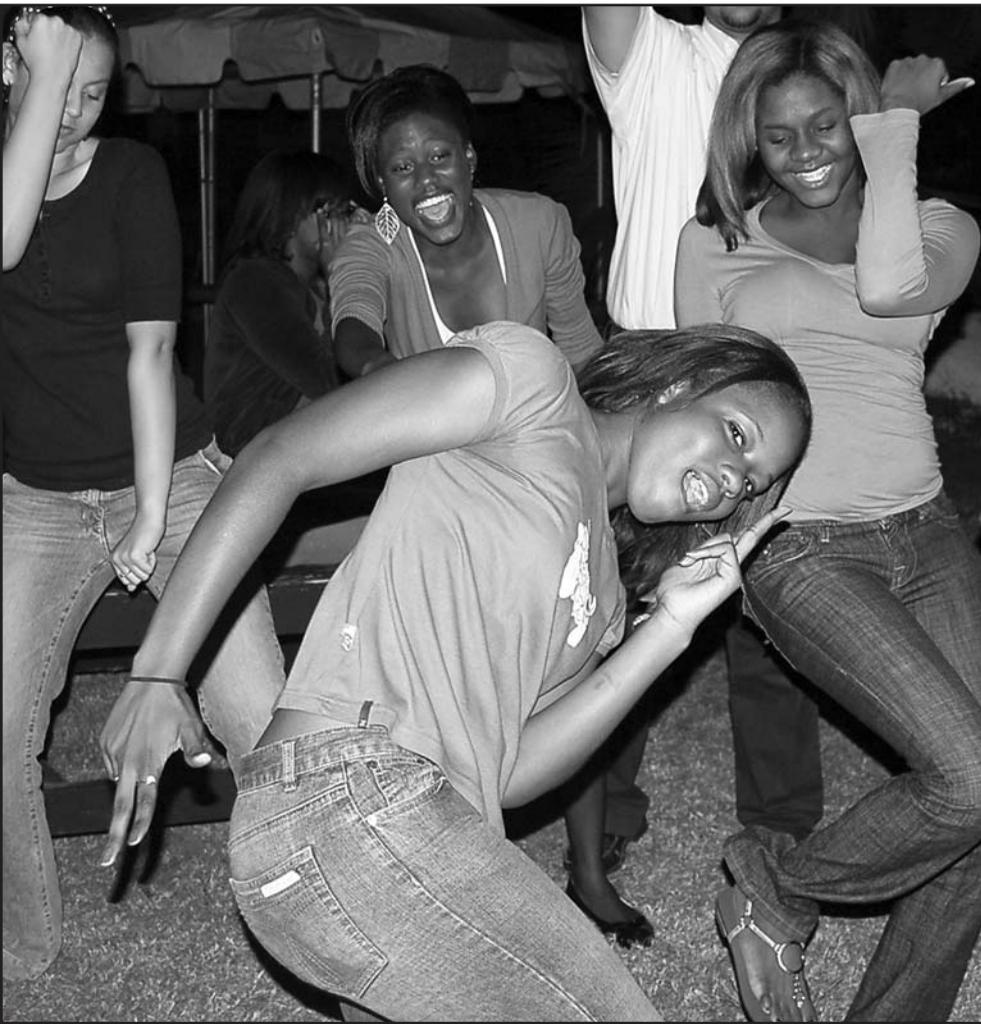
After a meeting held Nov. 13th at the School of Nursing (Grosvenor Close Campus) which was open to all nursing majors, freshmen got some more bad news. They were told that in order to get into and start their nursing courses they would have to complete all General Education courses first. While these new students were dealing with this information, 2nd and 3rd year students were baffled by the announcement that

■ Continued on page 15

Campus Clubs 2008

BIBLE READERS CLUB
BUSINESS CLUB
CARIB STEP CLUB
CIRCLE K
CLUB MUD
COB SELF DEFENCE CLUB
DANCE CLUB
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY
ECONOMIC CLUB
EDUCATION AWARENESS CLUB
FILM CLUB
FOREIGN & FAMILY ISLAND ASSOCIATION
GOLDEN Z
GOV. GENERAL'S YOUTH AWARD
INNOWORKS

MODELLING CLUB
NATIONAL AFRICAN BAHAMIAN COMMITTEE
NURSING CLUB
PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY
PHYS ED CLUB
PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS
ROTARACT
STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
SIGMA ALPHA PI
SOCIETY OF THE STUDY OF VISUAL CULTURE
LAW CRIMINAL JUSTIC SOCIETY
SPANISH CLUB



■ Stress Relief - These young ladies obviously relieved much stress, dancing and having a good time at COBUS' Bundemlecturers Night November 6th. (photo by Joanna Louis)

Nursing Career; Still in Demand

■ Continued from page 14

many of them will be sent back to COB's Oakesfield campus to finish outstanding general education courses before they can continue with their nursing courses.

These inconveniences aside, many of those juniors and sophomores who have already learned the ropes of the nursing program seem to love their experiences of going onto the hospital wards and interacting with the patients. After speaking with a few of them and asking about these experiences, the reactions were all the same. They all seem to be ecstatic about becoming future nurses and improving the Bahamian allied health profession. When asked about advisement and registration, the students said that advisement and registration is always a hassle and wished that this problem will soon be resolved. Other than the normal headache of classes and coming down to the end of another semester, students at the Grovesnor campus seem to be enjoying the newly refined dorms and eating in the cafeteria while waiting on their next class to begin.

LIBRARY HOURS

Extended Library Hours--FROM
DEC.1-9

Monday - Thursday

8:30am - 10:00pm

Friday

8:30am - 7:00pm

Saturdays

9:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday

12:00noon - 5:00pm

Lunch and the Law: Jan. 30, 2009, British Colonial Hilton. Topic: "Family Matters."

Contact Evania Thompson at 677-3227 or evaniathompson@cob.edu.bs for further details.

Book Festival- second annual: March 14, 2009. This year, Rotary International is joining forces with COB to make an even bigger and better Book Festival.

CHMI EXPECTATIONS

■ Continued from page 7

conference designed to help Africa meet the needs of its people and participate more in the global economy. During the summit, which was held this June, Gardiner was invited to participate in one of the forums that focused on sustaining the growth of tourism in the African continent.

In addition, nine faculty members and staff of CHMI participated in the ServSafe® Sanitation Training Program, which is an internationally recognized program designed to give participants cutting edge information on proper health and food sanitation in the kitchen. Dr. Lincoln Marshall expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the program and looks forward to some lecturers becoming instructors in the program in

the future.

With increased emphasis placed on employee upgrading initiatives, CHMI also hopes to upgrade its programs and practices to ensure that students are attractive to employers after graduation.

Through strategic industry partnerships, CHMI is creating more flexible programs and enhancing accessibility for a diverse student population. While sentiments have been expressed by some major industry-leaders that CHMI graduates are not fully equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively work in the tourism and hospitality field, Dr. Marshall refutes this saying that based on feedback they have received, employers are happy with their graduates and most find CHMI's students highly attractive.

"This is particularly true with the graduates of the apprentice program," Dr. Marshall said, "Employers are willing to hire them even before they graduate."

To ensure the success of CHMI as an Institution, adequate funding must be in place. At present, the only major donor is The Bahamas Hotel Association in conjunction with the Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board. According to the Executive Director, the school has not been successful in attracting sponsors and the reason for this is currently being analyzed.

Student opinions about their major are mixed, for example, Kendra Smith, a third year Tourism Management major said CHMI's challenges go way beyond the need for new equipment. She

believes the Institute should strive to get students more involved in the daily operations and events of the industry. "As aspiring tourism and hospitality students, we need more hands-on contact with the industry," said Smith, "If that's not happening, then we're simply wasting our time."

Second-year Hospitality Operations student Aysia Ginton, thinks the Institute is buzzing as there are always events and activities going on. She said that the culinary section especially is always hosting interesting and exciting events that draw large crowds from the wider COB population. "Despite what people say, I don't see any other school in COB that hosts more events than CHMI. There is always something going on over here."

SPORTS

Review

with Patrick Deveaux



■ **BENCH PRESS WINNERS FALL 2008 COMPETITION** --Looking fit and happy the male and female winners of the Bench Press Competition held in Nov. in the campus Wellness Centre receive their trophy from Wellness Centre Manager Bradley Cooper. Winners are from left Judy Duncanson, Hilton Solomon, Sasha Anderson, Runnerup female category, and Sean Bastian, Asst. Director of Athletics. Missing is Marcian Tucker, Runnerup male category.

WELLNESS CENTRE 100 DAY WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

Since mid October the Wellness Centre has been running a three-month 100-Day-Weight-Loss-Challenge hoping it will be the motivator for getting people on the healthy track and long term weight loss. The program ends Jan. 21, 2009 with gym membership incentive awards given for first second and third place winners.

ELIGIBILITY-Any COB faculty, staff or student is eligible. Participants pay a gym membership of \$20 per month for three-month duration of the weight loss challenge in addition to a one-time registration fee of \$5. Students are exempted from the fee as long as they are enrolled for the semester. However, all participants pay the one time registration \$5 fee.

The program started Oct. 14 with a fitness assessment and registration, however persons can join the program at any time it just means you have less time to burn off those extra pounds and catch up with the early starters.

Groups meet and weigh in Fridays 12 noon - 12:30 pm.

Whoever has the largest weight loss percentage wins the challenge.

Groups are welcomed, of course and can weigh in on e challenge. Winner receives: three months gym membership (from registration fees); Second Place Winner receives: two months gym membership (from registration fees) and Third Place Winner receives one month gym membership (from registration fees).

The College of The Bahamas Men's Basketball 2008-09 Team Roster

Head Coach: Sean Bastian (7th season)

Assistance Coach: Kirk Basden (4th season)

Trainer: Franco Moncur (1st season)

Team Manager: Jude Vilma (2nd season)

No	Name	Pos	Ht.	Wt.	High School
4	Tario Brooks	G/F	6-1	175	Government High
5	Edward Borrows	G	5-7	155	Abaco High School
6	Denzel Barr	G	5-9	170	Saint John's College
7	Garvin Lightbourn	G	6-2	170	C.R.Walker High
8	Jamaal Darling	G	5-6	157	Doris Johnson High
9	Raif Ferguson	G	5-7	157	C.V.Bethel High School
10	Damian Sturrup	G	6	175	C.C. Sweeting High
11	Theron Butler	F	6-3	185	Queen's College
12	Philip Colebroke	C	6-3	250	C.C. Sweeting High
13	Rashad Mckenzie	F	6-3	190	Jordan Prince William High
14	Dorran Moxey	F	6-2	170	Saint John's College
15	Dominic Sweeting	C	6-3	205	Government High
16	Jade Cox	F	6-2	215	Nassau Christian Academy



■ **Soccer Ladies** -- COB Women's Soccer Team is strong on the field and can often be seen kicking a ball around for fun. They are pictured here with their coaches Michael Wong and Paul McCann.

INTRAMURAL TABLE TENNIS

It started Nov. 19 in the SUB with 15 persons playing sets of 15 or 21 and the winner moving on to the final which took place Wednesday Nov. 26.