

The Spectrum

"The Student Voice of The College of The Bahamas"

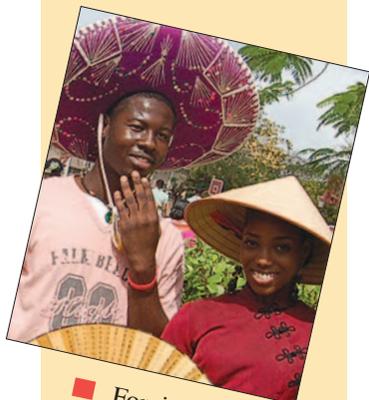
Volume 14 - Issue 3 - March 2009

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BIGGEST TURNOUT

Jamaal Knowles Wins COBUS Election



Jamaal Knowles - President



Antonio Butler - Vice President

In the biggest turnout in student election history at The College of The Bahamas over 3,000 cast their vote on Wednesday and Thursday, March 25th and 26th to elect officers for the 2009-2010 COBUS. President Elect **Jamaal Knowles**, a Science & Technology major received 568 votes compared to 478 for Renbert Mortimer and 204 for Delvano McIntosh, the other candidates for president.

Election was organized by the present COBUS headed by Perry Newton who said the big turnout was "due to hard campaigning by the candidates, on the ground visible support and the fact that some candidates brought voters to the poll."

Vice Present elect **Antonio Butler** received 599 votes compared to other VP candidates Brooke Sherman who received 510 votes and Uranda Curtis who got 121 votes. See page 14 to see the breakdown on this well-organized election.

STILL ON SCHEDULE

President Says COB Is Ready for University

by Kendra Culmer
Editor

In February the Nassau Guardian reported that Minister of Education Carl Bethel said COB may have to wait two or more years to become a university but President Janyne Hodder told The Spectrum, "We are ready now."

Minister Bethel is reported to have said that The College of The Bahamas' transition to university status could take "two years or it could be 10" and that the Bahamas Cabinet would soon decide on whether to "expedite The College's move to university status or place it on a slower track."

President Hodder said that while she is not aware of the context in which the Minister made his statement, it still doesn't change The College's agenda toward pursuing university status. "We're ready now. We offer the degrees; we have the faculty. We have improved online registration," she emphasized.

Asked what was needed before COB would be able to achieve university status,

the President said, "The government has to adopt charter legislation to make COB a university and that's what we're waiting for." She explained that university status does not involve internal action by COB but is an Act of Parliament. "As it stands now, we can operate as a perfectly fine university offering primarily undergraduate degrees."

Obviously the President's position is supported by her administration but many students agreed with Minister Bethel's remarks. Many said it could be years before COB is a university and cited a host of reasons for this opinion -- from problems with registration, to computer printers not working in the library and labs, lack of class availability, lack of faculty and resources. One student summed up his point of view by saying, "COB is disorganized, lacks resources and is just not up to university standards."

But there are others who are eager for The College to be recognized as a university preferring to focus on the quality of education received here. "I feel as though this is the best tertiary institution in our country

and that the education we receive here is comparable to other universities in the region," said one Business major who echoed the view of many students. Many students acknowledged that progress has been made, noting the opening of the Wellness Center, the addition of more computers around campus and the construction of the new library. President Hodder said that this new library should be completed by Fall 2010. Also on the agenda for improvements is a campus-wide wireless network which should be up and running by Fall 2009. These are all part of The College's agenda to become a university that supports national development, she said.

COB also has large support for university status in the wider community. Former Education Minister Alfred Sears who wrote in a letter to the editor of The Guardian said The College had completed virtually all the requirements for the move to university status and that the only other steps to be taken were for government to amend laws that established the institution.

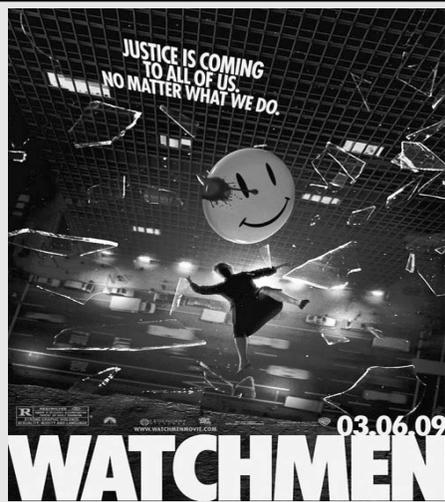
Movie Review

Reviewed by Nikera Cartwright

WATCHMEN

Comic books are not my thing but after seeing the preview for Watchmen I was a bit intrigued. I went in as green as grass anticipating the plot that would explain what these less than ordinary superheroes were all about. World peace and fights against global threats are recurring themes in most of today's films but a clever thing it was to incorporate superheroes in the mix! Set in the 1980's, Watchmen offers an intricate look at how a league of masked men and women served and protected throughout American history and how their brash way of saving the day caused them to lose favor with their once adoring public. When one of the masked crew is murdered, it forces the league out of retirement and into an investigation.

The special effects, narration and dialogue are just as entertaining as the action scenes. This movie has a little bit of everything. The gore and grime is offset by romance, history, politics and the plot to save the world. The film is graphic which adds to its authenticity. I loved that this movie is far from typical, with real unique



characters that each get a time to shine. If I had to pick a favorite character it would be "Rorschach" mainly because he is dark and seemed to be most dedicated to keeping the Watchmen alive. I'm thinking it might not be so bad to explore the world of comic books after all.

If you're looking for a movie that keeps you guessing and anticipating what comes next, then Watchmen is the one. You'll think you know how it's going to end but guess again! It's definitely one of those films that you have to watch more than once!

Flavor

by Patrick Deveaux

WHAT MAKES A MAN

Ever felt like you were too good for your friends? Well hopefully they find out how you really feel about them and never speak to you again you self righteous cident.

However this is for all those who feel their friend's are light-years ahead of them in every aspect of existence. Let's hear it for the misunderstood and the unappreciated. You are the ones who decide to mess with society's preconceived notions. Who boldly go against the norm and challenge expectations, even though it's sometimes not even on purpose.

We're talking about the pressures of adulthood, the turmoils of growing up and the heavy burden of wearing the title of "man" and or "woman." Seeing that those of the female persuasion basically have a free passage to womanhood called "puberty" we'll just focus on the guys for this one.

So what makes a man? Surely the world has gotten over the clichéd car obsessed, sports addicted and aimlessly aggressive image of the "real man." So what if your knowledge of cars doesn't extend beyond the passenger seat. So what if you'd rather read the second installation of the Twilight series instead of watching basketball play-offs. So what if you can't tell the difference between a wrench and a pair of pliers (lots of people can't actually). Does all the crap really make you less of a man? One may be quick to disagree claiming that in these modern times just as women have broke out of the traditional mold, it is also okay for men to use more brain than brawn. Subconsciously though we all still think with gender biases and our opinions are still somewhat guided by the influence of socially assigned gender roles.

It becomes really difficult when a guy sees everyone around him excelling. By nature men are competitive creatures so even if they could care less about walking around looking like a giant ball of macho cheese that's what appears as real manhood. As a result a man begins to think something is wrong with him, thinking that he should act more like the manufactured idea of "man" despite himself. Slowly he spirals into low self esteem and feels inadequate amongst his peers. Poor borderline homosexual guy, why can't he see that it is alright that he doesn't fit the mold? Tsk tsk.

Take this scenario for example. A cou-

ple is driving to any of the two beaches that are still suitable for locals to use on this island, and their car runs hot. So the woman gets out and goes to look under the hood while the guy sits in the car. It just feels wrong, right? Automatically you begin to think it should be the other way around. Conversely there could be a million reasons for this ever so strange occurrence. Perhaps, the woman could have been a former lesbian. Maybe the guy could have had an embarrassing accident in his pants and did not want to leave the vehicle. Of course there is still the chance that he may in fact know nothing about cars and his girl friend does. Who knows if that is even a realistic thought? Though that lady can accept her man as he is, society is laughing at him behind his back.

And so are we - just kidding.

Guys, women no longer want to be seen



Darius -- Ready to challenge expectations of what makes a man.

as fragile, feeble and subpar. So it's okay to keep that "S" on your chest covered more than you're used to. A man can still exist as a man even if he prefers the pen over the sword.

Now this isn't an excuse to be a pansy. Nobody likes pansies. They despise competition (very unlike men of course). So you can be a man and be who you are. No matter if you don't like sports, or suck at handy work. Although it's a plus to at least have an inkling of knowledge about something another than useless computer garble. Surprisingly, what makes a real man will always have more to do with a mature mental state than with physical prowess. Hard to believe right?

Galleria Cinemas

GALLERIA II- MALL AT MARATHON
Mall at Marathon - Tel: 380-FLIX/394-9404/5-
www.GALLERICINEMAS.COM

Monsters Vs. Aliens	New	1:30	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
12 Rounds	New	1:05	3:30	4:30	6:05	8:25	10:50
The Haunting In Connecticut	New	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:45
Knowing	T	1:25	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
I Love You Man	C	1:30	N/A	4:30	7:30	N/A	10:35
Race To Witch Mountain	B	1:10	3:35	4:00	6:10	8:35	10:45
Last House On The Left	C	1:05	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:40
Watchmen	C	1:00	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
Street Fighter	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:45
Tyler Perry's Madea Goes To Jail	T	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:55
Taken	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:55

GALLERIA 6- JFK DRIVE

Monsters Vs. Aliens	New	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:30
The Haunting	New	1:25	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:40	10:35
Knowing	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:40
I Love You Man	C	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:45
Race To Witch Mountain	B	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
Tyler Perry's Madea Goes To Jail	T	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:40

COB Signs Branding Contract

One of the many things that engage The College as it prepares for transition to university is the creation of a Brand Identity. Branding refers to the establishment of physical symbols of The University of The

decisions that will eventually produce a new brand identity and a more smarter or modern image to the University.

According to President Janyne Hodder at the time of the contract signing with



■ Branding Identity Contract -- President Janyne Hodder discusses the features of the new branding identity contract with the College signed in January with Karma Design Group. Seen here at the press conference are; Partner and Creative Director Eva Pyfrom, Karma Design; Partner and Account Director Brian Goudie, Karma Design; President, The College of The Bahamas, Janyne Hodder; and Creative Director, Karma Design Nicky Saddleton.

Bahamas such as, school colours, logo, mascot, short (abbreviated) name (e.g. COB) and other marketing tools.

All this is a creative process that takes time to achieve so recently The College announced that it had contracted the firm of Karma Design to collaborate with the institution on a new brand identity for the soon to be University of The Bahamas.

Karma Design, one of several companies that competed for the contract, was awarded nearly \$50,000 to help define what this 35-year old institution new Brand should be. So far a number of focus groups--comprising a cross section of COB community-- students, faculty, staff, alumni--have provide research material to help guide the design company in its creative

Karma Design in February, "Creation of a new brand for the anticipated University of The Bahamas is a pivotal step in the transition process for The College."

The new brand identity is expected to

- embody the institution's mission and strategic principles,
- convey a comprehensive and compelling identity that distinguishes the university from any other,
- create an effective visual identity and
- enhance recognition and credibility

Karma's job include working with the various focus groups, assessing responses of these participants as well as those who
n Continued on page 14

Movie Review

■ Lindsay Braynen

Guest Reviewer

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE, LIVES UP TO THE HYPE

Very rarely does a movie truly deserve the enormous amounts of praise it receives. For *Slumdog Millionaire*--a movie that pretty much swept all the award shows, even receiving the coveted Oscar for Best Picture--such praise is a massive understatement. I was completely blown away by this literal 'rags-to-riches' story of young Jamal Malik [played by Dev Patel], a 'slumdog' who has amazingly found himself one question away from winning 20 million rupees [or one million dollars] on India's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?"

Due to a tip off from the wary host, Jamal is arrested on suspicion of cheating before he can return to answer the final question. As he is being questioned as to how an uneducated street boy can somehow answer twelve random questions correctly without cheating, Jamal allows the officer- and the viewing audience- a look into his past, and how his tragic life has helped him answer each of the questions correctly.

Flashbacks show his turbulent childhood with well-meaning, but misguided older brother Salim [Madhur Mittal], their unintentional involvement with local gangsters, and Jamal's devotion to find fellow orphan Latika [Frieda Pinto] as they are separated and reunited time and time again. His story takes you through the unflinching poverty and brutality of the slums of Mumbai, and the deepest depths of loss, betrayal, survival, redemption and unwavering love. You find yourself rooting for Jamal as he takes on one perilous



gamble after another, all leading up to the million-dollar question everyone is anxious to have answered.

Director Danny Boyle was brilliant in his juxtaposition of the flashback scenes in relation to Jamal's interrogation and explanation, as well as portraying the game show as the 'ultimate escape' and lifeline for Jamal and Latika. The music was refreshingly authentic and entertaining [everyone's favorite pregnant Grammy/Oscar-nominated rapper M.I.A. contributed an original song as well as her hit "Paper Planes" to the soundtrack], and the actors- especially the children portraying Jamal, Salim and Latika, did an excellent job at remaining believable. Overall, an enjoyable film deserving of its praises and then some, so see it while it's still here. I can't wait for the DVD!

Interview with COBUS Presidential Candidates

■ Nikera Cartwright

Staff Writer

Campaigning for the new COBUS got started a little earlier than usual although not early enough for some campus commentators. Its also seemed that the campaigning was more energetic and better organized this time around.

From the start of March there were rallies, debates, signs, banners and even websites all pointing to the fact that COBUS elections would be held March 25th and 26th. Its also seemed that the teams were better know than the individual candidates. "Team Success" was headed by Renbert Mortimer and his running mate Uranda Curtis under the slogan, "Bringing the 'US' back in COBUS." They were known

for chanting the words "Fired up! Ready to go!" Mortimer's motivation for running was to create a unique COBUS which would not compare itself to past student governments. The outlined platform for Team Success was (1) Connection - connecting COBUS, students and the administration (2) Commitment - partnership and (3) Service - background work.

Mortimer's goal was to revamp the presidency by raising questions such as whether or not two students should sit in on College Council meetings. He also hoped to create opportunities and incentives for students and student representatives.

Another team dubbed themselves as "Team Student Power" under the slogan: "The Current That Unites". Jamaal

Knowles and Brooke Sherman led this team with a long list of senators. Knowles' reason for running included a wish to see change on COB's campus and his passion to empower students to stand up for their beliefs. He originally ran for Vice President but switch his candidacy for COBUS to President.

Despite having to change positions, some of the goals of Team Student Power were to make sure each student's voice is heard, to ensure student safety, increase visibility of campus security and fix COB's infrastructure. Student awareness was high on the list of priorities and Knowles planned to revise the Constitution and publish it on a future COBUS website which he hoped to create. Team Student Power also

said that COB students should be involved in national issues and hoped that together they can be the voice of change and transformation.

Presidential candidate Delvano McIntosh ran under the theme "Restoring Truth, Trust and Student Power." McIntosh position was that students have lost trust in student leadership based on the shortcomings of the current administration. He hoped to restore this trust by promoting student awareness. He said COBUS should make students aware of their rights and responsibilities via emails as well as through a "COBUS speaks" page on COB's website. His major goals are to implement a new Constitution void of inconsistencies,

■ Continued on page 14

Campus Characters

by Joanna Louis
Special Assignments



■ **GET YOUR PHONE CARD**---Banygh "The phone card guy" shows off his best side and his five and ten dollar phone cards. BTC couldn't do it better.

COB campus is like a pepper pot, an eclectic stew that makes this tertiary institution different and invariably unique. There is a rhythm and a flow to the campus that ironically, by the time one catches on to it, it's time to graduate. And in this rhythm there are persons who march to the beat of their own drums, bells or whistles. These are the colourful COB 'characters.'

Whether staff or students, they are "characters" that are recognized across schools or matriculation levels because they add something special to campus life.

One of the most notable campus characters is Teddy Charlton, known affectionately for the most part, by the student body and staff as "PLP".

Charlton who has been working at The College for over 20 years as a security officer can be found in the security booth at the entrance to the Portia Smith Building. He proudly told The Spectrum, "When I won the essay competition in 1962, I got to meet Sir Lynden Pindling and that was the greatest day of my life."

The reason 'PLP' is a notable character is because he will tell anyone within earshot at anytime, about the great legacy of the PLP, which he refers to as the first majority rule political party in The Bahamas.

Another campus character is Banygh Watson, a third-year Business Management major, known as 'Banygh the phone card guy.' He sells cell phone air time in five and ten dollar amounts around campus. He is hard to miss but his favorite place is at the end of the walkway by the School of

Communication and Creative Arts. Watson's enterprise got started as a way to make money to support his school fees and so far business has been good.

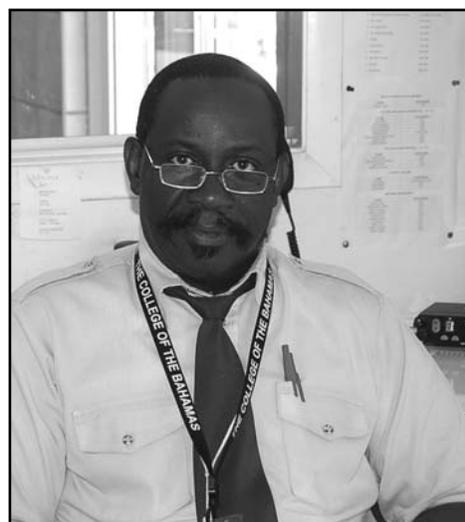
What makes Watson so memorable is his unique sales pitch: "Get your phone card needed ladies (or gents), tens, fives, whatever ya need."

Recently Watson came up against campus security who has been asking him to move along and stop selling his phone cards on campus. They told him campus laws do not permit soliciting but Watson argues that he is providing a needed service to students and should not be penalized for serving that need.

Whatever the resulting decision, Watson's entrepreneurial skills and unique advertising approach, add spice to campus life.

There are others who may count as campus characters in the minds of many students, maybe even the foreign lecturer who pronounces Bahamas as "Bahamer," despite being automatically corrected by her students, may be considered a 'character.'

Characters are just memorable people who make college life grand. And perhaps



■ **CHARACTER -- Teddy 'PLP' Charlton smiles as he reclines in his booth at Portia M. Smith Building, forever ready to talk about his favorite subject--the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP)-and how proud he is to be called 'PLP'.**

20 years from now when you try to describe things that were special about your college to friends and colleagues and find it difficult to bring these colourful characters to life, you will probably find it best to laugh and say: "Guess you had to be there."

Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor

I am appalled by the decision of the College to cram like sardines all students vehicles into a single parking space in the western end of the campus.

What angers me further is the fact that the College has gone out of its way to enforce its parking rules. The high-tech digital gates are manned with physical security guards, whilst the sardine can area has cars being broken into and some stolen.

Is the College serious about making the campus attractive for working students? And how can this be if students are being turning away from every parking space on the College grounds except in the small western section of the campus?

And why is the College not seeking new spaces or enhance packing for students who make up the majority here at the school? I believe it is grossly unfair to see that whilst I find it difficult to park on the section provided for us, parking made available for staff and faculty are empty.

Something cannot be right about this. May I suggest the College set aside sections at all parking spaces for students, at least 10 spaces! For this is only fair as the same is given to faculty and staff near the T-Block, or what I describe as the sardine can.

Signed

Disgusted over Parking

What Students Want to Know

Questions you ask. Answers provided by VP Academic Affairs

Q. Is it true that COB is revising the length of some degree programs--such as the BA in Accounting--from 138 credits back to 120 credits?

A. It is not correct to say that we are changing the BBA from 138 to 120. We will be looking at all of our programs as we review them and determine the number of courses which should be included in these programs. It is not unusual for some bachelor degrees to have more credits than others.

Q. Why is it that there are so few courses offered during the summer? Will the College offer a second summer semester again?

A. The Faculty are not required to teach in the summer and are expected to devote this time to professional development. Many universities use this time to do research, revision of programs, professional development, etc. Very few courses tend to be offered in the summer. Usually, the courses are the lower level ones. Of course, I am speaking about bachelor programs. Some universities run master's programs in the summers, but at the moment, there are no plans to offer a second summer session.

Q. What must a student do if they want to change their major?

A. If a student wishes to change his/her major they should first discuss this with the faculty advisor and/or chair of the School and then complete a change of major form.

Q. What are the relevant details of COB's disciplinary policy for students involved in fights on campus?

A. COB has a Disciplinary Board which deals with incidents such as fights. An investigation is conducted and depending on the findings, a student could be suspended or expelled. Everything depends on the circumstances but once a decision is made by the board the student is informed. Before sanctions are administered, the student has a right to appeal. This process is outlined in the Student-Handbook, starting from page P122.



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Visit The Spectrum online

<http://www.cob.edu.bs/Students/StudentPubns.php>

Editorial

Moving Forward, Yet Giving Back

They're the students who, despite the stress associated with the end of the semester, walk around with a smug, self-satisfied look on their faces. They are the ones who are smiling, when everyone else is complaining about the lack of summer courses and elusive advisors. They're the people most students envy - soon-to-be graduates of the class of 2009.

Most of us are looking forward to that day we can each wear the illustrious cap and gown. Unfortunately, it's not just because we're anxious to have proof of our academic endeavors, many of us are simply eager to graduate because it means an end to our time here at COB.

College is supposed to be 'the best years' of our lives but many students leave COB with a bitter taste in their

mouths - anxious to get as far away as possible from the institution without ever looking back. We don't have a campus culture here yet, where Alumni are eager to return and contribute to our college-- both through monetary donations and time. It is this sort of desire that is needed (among other factors) to help further this institution along.

So to the members of the graduating class of 2009, yes, we are all looking forward to the end of these college days but at the same time, let's not forget the good memories that were had along the way. Even though it's easier to just complain about the bad, even though our time as students has ended, we're still College of The Bahamas Alumni for life.
KC.

NOTICE

To our readers

This is the last issue of *The Spectrum* for the academic year 2008-2009! Thanks for reading and for all of your comments, suggestions and criticism over the past year.

Enjoy the summer and goodbye, from all of us at The Spectrum! See you in September.

CUSSERS BEWARE

For some it's a habit cultivated from infancy. Others do it when they get mad, excited or stressed out. And many do it because they think it's cool. What's the buzz? It's swearing, cursing or cussing, whichever is your lingo. It's so commonplace it's practically a national pastime.

But is it acceptable behavior?

If you've been paying attention, people are calling for a free day or week-free from cussing. Why? Because most people are non-cussers and they say it's unacceptable and downright rude. Non-cussers say their sensitivity is constantly bombarded by foul-mouths, young and old, who have zero manners and zero social propriety.

We hear cursing everywhere-- schoolyards, downtown Bay Street, food store, restaurants, airports and on COB campuses, especially on the basketball courts. Even when you are in your car driving, you hear them. What's a non-cusser to do?

In the city of Los Angeles, California, they recently called for a Cuss-Free Week and although there's no legal recourse to this challenge, it seems to be catching on in

many other cities in California.

Can the 'No Cussing Challenge' be taken up here in The Bahamas? **Let's give it a try.** But it could get worse before it gets better, so here are some suggestions for the non-cussers.

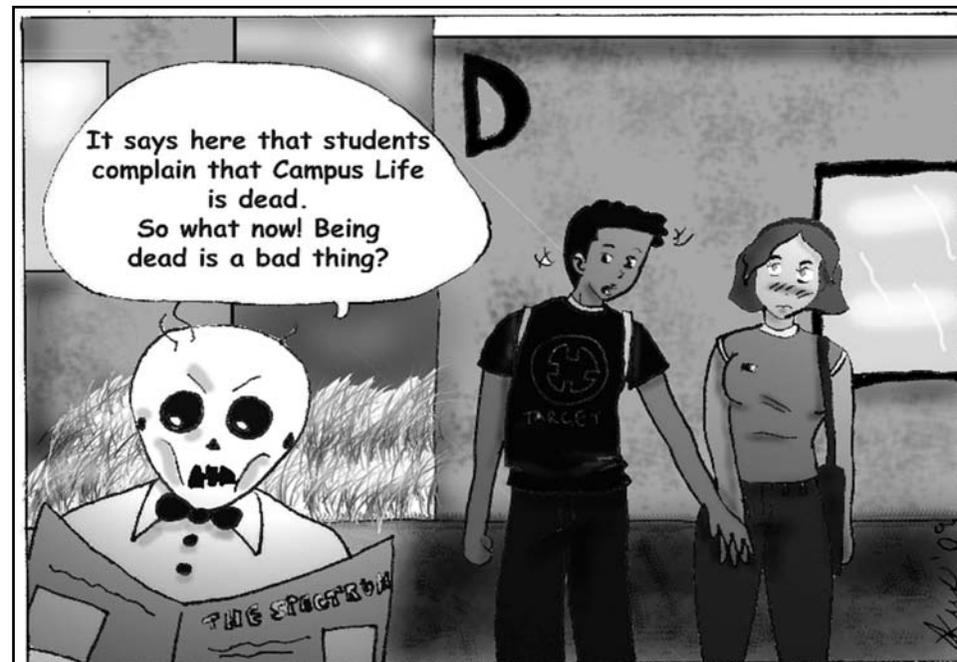
Join non-cussers anonymous and vent your frustration against those who swear on youtube or twitter. Perhaps you can organize a demonstration calling for the pelting of those who curse in public places or send complaining emails to your MP. What about lobbying the straight up youth groups such as Gentlemen's Club, Toastmasters, fraternities, sororities or your own church action group for assistance?

On COB campuses you carry bars of soap and bottle water with you to wash out the mouths of those who offend you. Or you can start a trend by sticking yellow PasteIt on the forehead of those who curse or start your very own Campus Club for Non-Cussers.

So, is it possible to stop people from #%*&? Let's try, for goodness sakes!

Campus Cartoon

by Patrick Deveaux





Breakfast Served from 7a.m. -10:30a.m.

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Student Discount - Present your Student I.D. and receive **10% off** the purchase of your meal. Valid only with the purchase of one (1) meal.



*It's waaaay better than fast food.
It's Wendy's.*

Misconceptions about Fulltime Students

■ by Jessica Simmons

Reporter

People often think that it is quite easy to be a full-time student at The College of The Bahamas. But, how true is that?

A fulltime student at COB is said to be a student who is registered to complete a minimum of 12 credits within a given semester, averaging about four to five classes.

A misconception of many fulltime students is that because they are not employed at a fulltime job, they are always free even though many of them are involved in extra curricular activities that require a great deal of time. Whether they are members of an active club held on campus, work in the Wellness Center, reporters for *The*

Reva Sharma, a fourth-year, full time Public Administration major, says that her field of study is dominated by part-timers who are mature, working adults. "Because I am not only a fulltime student but also the youngest among my classmates many of them feel as though I have a lot of time on my hands and that I can do it. However, this is not so because I am involved in a lot of activities" says Sharma.

Anastasia Deveaux, part-time accounting major feels that though the academic load is the same for both sets of students, "fulltime students have more study time than do part timers." She adds that apart from school work, part-timers are faced with many challenges such as demanding jobs and families to take care of, while



New students waiting to register at Orientation. (file photo)

Spectrum, peer tutors, members of a research project, or gain income in some other form such as braiding hair, washing cars, or selling phone cards, their time is fully occupied.

many full-timers have the pleasure of just having to focus on school work.

There is also a misconception that full-

■ Continued on page 14

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FIGHT ON COB CAMPUS

When fights break out on campus it's not always COB students who are involved. For instance in early March a group of C. C. Sweeting High School students tried to settle their grudge against each and brought their fight to campus. Several students were chased by police officers on campus before they were caught near the T-Block and then taken to the police station in the area to await the arrival of their guardians

"Afternoons, around 3 pm, can sometimes be rather dicey for campus security," Wellington Francis, Campus Security Director.

Francis said Campus Security has a good working relationship with community police officers from the Urban Renewal Division who often patrol the area as a check on the many high school students who crowd the streets after school, on their way home. As sometimes happen several of the students involved in fight managed to get onto COB campus and were chased by plain clothes and uniformed officers reports Francis.

He described C. C. Sweeting students as a challenge. "They are noisy, rowdy and ready to fight on the street or on COB campus if they get through the gates.

Bank of The Bahamas Pledges \$250K for Literacy Diagnostic Research



■ **BIG CHEQUE PRESENTATION** - Paul McSweeney, Managing Director Bank of The Bahamas, presented the College with a \$250,000 commitment for the establishment of a Literacy Diagnostic Research Centre, which will be housed in the School of Education. Next to McSweeney is Dr. Brenda Cleare, Dean Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences and Education; Dr. Ruth Sumner, Reading Specialist; Gloria Gomez, Chair School of Education; President Janyne Hodder; Dr. Linda David, Graduate Program and Int'l Relations.

■ by Carvel Francis

Staff Reporter & Production Editor

Pledging \$250,000 over a period of five years to support the development of a Literacy Diagnostic Research Center at The College of Bahamas, Managing Director Paul McSweeney said his bank's donation will help open a door of opportunity for thousands of students.

Calling the five-year commitment a partnership, McSweeney said, "Education gives us all the chance to be what we want to be. It gives us the chance to contribute to productive societies and make a difference. But we cannot have that chance if we are unable to read and write.

"An illiterate population is doomed to wallow in its past, but a literate population will gallop towards its future. Therefore every child living in The Bahamas must know how to read and write, and if they don't we need to find out why," he said.

This is the largest donation the bank has ever made and McSweeney said the bank was pleased to make the commitment to The College and he looks forward to the findings of the research as it unfolds. He added, "We trust that the findings will be put to good use so that one day every single child educated in The Bahamas will walk that road to human progress and realize his or her full potential."

The Literacy Diagnostic Research Centre will facilitate the analysis of language and reading deficiencies as well as add the provision of professional development workshops and seminars for in-service teachers.

The Centre's programme will investigate existing policies and evaluate programs that will seek to impact the national literacy agenda through provision of essen-

tial reports and scholarly publications. The data produced will inform the process by which teachers transform the landscape of the education system and ensure that the problem of illiteracy is adequately addressed.

College of The Bahamas' Reading Specialist, Dr. Ruth Sumner will oversee the research. She sees the need for research and training in reading diagnostics as critical. Sumner has studied the problem for over ten years discussing this issue with pre-service, in-service and classroom teachers and conducting numerous literacy workshops throughout the country.

A space in the E-block on the main campus has been allocated for the Diagnostic Centre. Necessary books and materials have already been ordered and by first summer session the Centre will be up and running, Sumner indicated.

Securing increased levels of research support is integral to The College's university transition as the mission of the institution is to contribute to national development through education, research and innovation and service.

President Janyne Hodder praised Bank of The Bahamas for its commitment to The College. She said, "The College is very pleased to be announcing another major corporate donation and this time to a research priority in an area of national need-literacy. We thank Bank of The Bahamas for recognizing this critical need and for supporting us with their corporate philanthropy. We look forward to the findings as the Literacy Diagnostic Research Centre unfolds and trust that the findings will be put to good use so that one day every single child educated in The Bahamas will walk that road to human progress and realize his or her full potential."

COB SETS UP CAREER WEBSITE

■ Thea Johnson
Staff Reporter



■ Norma Turnquest, Career and Job Placement Counsellor, explains features of the new job placement website.

Jobs! It seems everyone is scrambling for jobs because of the weakened economy. And as another influx of graduates prepares to enter an already saturated job market Counselling and Health Services Department has set up an employment website to make the process of finding a job a little easier. According to Career and Placement

Counsellor, Norma Turnquest, the website can be used by students and alumni. "It is a quick and easy way to connect students to employers and can be used to find part-time and full-time employment, along with internships both local and abroad," she said.

The employment website can be accessed by registering at <http://bahamas-csm.symplicity.com/students>. "Once registration has been submitted, the student must verify their email, only then are they considered registered and will then receive an email with their username, and password," she explained.

Students will gain complete access to the site which allows resumes to be posted. Compared to other methods of job searching, the site "allows more freedom of access," says Turnquest. However, in order for the site to be most effective, students must log on frequently and upload their resumes. "They will not be able to apply for openings without an approved resume," warns Turnquest.

The website has many other features. Students are able to view upcoming events, make appointments with Counsellors and locate alumni who desire to be mentors. "The employment website also stays cur-

rent on internships abroad which is good for those going off to school," explains Turnquest.

Turnquest admits that she has seen a significant drop in student employment since

December of 2008. "There are not as many businesses as we'd like to see at this time," she said, "but employers are signing up each day."

Foreign Languages Day



■ FOCUSING ON DIVERSITY-- The cultural diversity fiesta celebrated Thursday, Mar 19th on the grounds near Independence Park encourages and showcases cultural diversity. This was the fifth annual fiesta and students and faculty shared the diversity in the Foreign Languages curricula through songs, dance, poetry and fashion. Showing off their colourful costumes this group of Foreign Languages Day celebrants are Dr. Irene Moss, Director of International Languages & Cultural Institute, wearing a German Dirndl costume, Ashley Taylor wearing a Mexican poncho and sombrero, Caronique Decius wears an Indian Sari; Brevis Bonamby shows off in a large sombrero, and Christian Pinder sports a Chinese dress and coolie hat holding a fan. After the entertainment the audience was invited to sample various dishes prepared by Foreign Languages students and faculty.



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The Shoe Village

Madeira Shopping Plaza 328-0703
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RND Plaza, Freeport 351-3274



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G.R. Sweeting's
The Shoe Village

Madeira Shopping Plaza 328-0703
Marathon Mall 393-6113
RND Plaza, Freeport 351-3274

Towing & Parking Problems

■ Cassandra Nottage & Thea Johnson
Staff Reporters

Up to last year students parked throughout the Michael Elden complex parking lot whenever a parking spot was available. However, since the start of the semester roughly 10 vehicles were towed for illegally parking. To get cars returned students have to pay \$60.00.

There are appropriate signs erected on the grounds informing students where they can park and where they cannot on the grounds but students still take the chance that they will not be noticed.

There is designated student parking near the T-Block but students say there is not enough space although some who have classes in the Michael H Eldon Complex simply do not try the T-Block. If it were possible says, Wellington Francis, Director of Security, students could park almost everywhere but the physical makeup of the campus does not allow for such thing to occur. "There must be some order and regulation in respect to parking," he said.

Parking will be better organized when construction on the new library is completed. Francis explained that the grounds will be refurbished and redesigned and that entire area is under consideration in the plan for the library which includes proper parking. Students may even be issued with the appropriate push card when they enter The College. However, that may be the case only when the library project is completed.

In the Michael Elden Complex, there are three different operations to consider when it comes to parking Francis said: Class rooms for students (which is a cam-

is connected to the main campus and if students want to go to the fast food restaurants they can walk instead of taking up allocated parking spots unnecessarily. Francis stressed, "People will not subject themselves to certain instructions or policy of the Institution. If they did it would make things better for everyone, giving the constraints COB has."

Hence towing occurs when anyone, not only students, park illegally in the Michael Elden Complex or where ever unauthorized persons are parked.

In addition to faculty, staff and student parking areas, vehicles are not supposed to be parked on the grass and anyone who parks on the grass, could find their vehicle towed.

The T-Block is designed for student parking and persons outside of COB are not allowed to park in the T-Block. There are two security guards that operate the T-Block parking lot from morning until classes are over. There have been incidences in the T-Block parking lot which have resulted in damage or stolen vehicles. Francis says the stolen cars do not constitute a fault in security procedure but due to the manufacturer of some vehicles. He said master keys for certain vehicles are easily duplicated. He says the problem is not limited to COB parking lot, this kind of theft occurs all over New Providence.

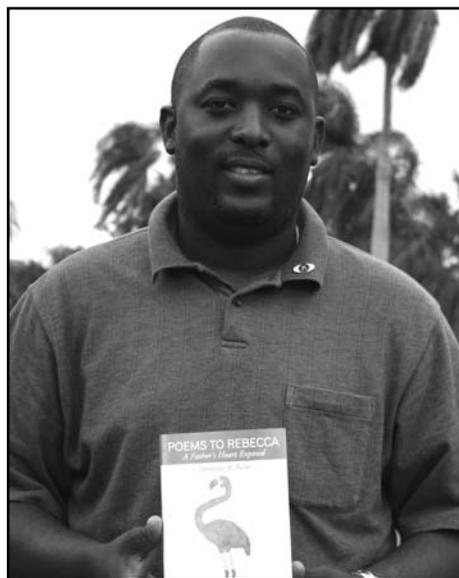
PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW ONCE A VEHICLE IS TOWED

Francis said once a vehicle is towed the student should contact campus security responsible for that area. Security would

explain that their car has been towed for a traffic violation and is at a specific wrecker company. Security will extend the courtesy of driving the person to the company if needed. Francis said that it's not their interest to tow students but if they are

■ Continued on page 12

BOOK OF POEMS



■ Dominic Bain holds book of *Poems to Rebecca*. Photo by Cassandra Nottage.

Student Publishes Book of Poems - Dominic A. Bain, soon to graduate with an Associate of Arts Degree in Architecture has written a book of poems dedicated to his seven-year old daughter, Rebecca. *Poems to Rebecca: A Father's Heart Exposed* depict his pains as he tries to cope with the possibility that he might not be able to see his daughter as he wishes. Bain and the child's mother are not married and their relationship is not a happy one. His poems also speak to the expectations he has for her as she journeys through adolescence to womanhood. Bain says he wants to leave a legacy not only for Rebecca but his other children and their children. *Poems to Rebecca* is available at ChapterOne Bookstore.

Bain said his book of poems gave him the opportunity to speak out against the unfairness in the law and within Bahamian society that relate to men and their children, particularly those born out of wedlock. Bain said he would like to speak on behalf of the men in this country who do not have access to their children and would discourage them

from having children out of wedlock.

Bain said, "I have a relationship with Rebecca now. I am trying my best to be instrumental in her life because my father was instrumental in mine."

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB ORGANIZES CAMPUS PRIDE CLEANUP DRIVE



n PILES OF TRASH - Picking up trash from the grounds of the Oakes Field campus seems to bring smiles to the faces of this group of Environmental Pride Club members and President Janyne Hodder. Bags of litter were collected Thursday, March 12th, by this enthusiastic group who spent hours, armed with huge trash bags and gloves, doing a job that shouldn't be necessary if everyone put their trash in the readily available bins throughout the campus.

Saying its interest is simply to help keep COB campus clean, green and pristine, groups of Environmental Pride Club members, joined by President Janyne Hodder, put their backs into it Thursday, March 12 and spent about two hours picking up trash around the Oakes Field campus.

Trailed by large black plastic bags, the enthusiastic groups attracted attention but few consciences were pricked enough to increase the number of adherents to any significant degree. Most of the watching students said it was a great thing to do but few of them volunteered to help pick up trash.

Club members hope the cleanup project will generate awareness to the fact that "our

campus environment reflects us and it is our duty to keep it clean," Club leaders said.

Group leaders said, the campus clean-up showed that not only are students to blame for the trash, but faculty and staff as well. They found PVC pipes, an office phone and cigarette butts practically everywhere on the grounds.

Since many of the trash bins on campus were not full, Club members said there was really no legitimate excuse for the littering and that this cleanup raised many question, such as were persons simply failing to utilize sanitary bins, or did garbage fall out of the trash cans

while they were being emptied? Also, should there be a penalty of some sort for persons caught littering on campus? Should security cameras be placed in areas that lack trash cans?

Environmental Club elected VP for 2009/10 Shekera Romer. It is our duty to avoid littering and throw our unwanted items in the sanitary bins provided." She urged students to be environmentally conscious. "This campus belongs to us, so let us all try our best to keep the campus in a healthy condition. Let us put our pride aside to make the year 2009 a year to start keeping our school clean, green and pristine."



■ **PARKING WOES** - Parking in the Michael H. Eldon Complex could get your car towed, like the one shown here. Students are reminded to park in the designated student parking near the T-Block, entrance on Tucker Road. Photo by Cassandra Nottage

pus), Starbucks and Chapter One Bookstore. These three operations have a whole lot of activity, "hence, parking is a serious issue, Francis said. "Therefore isn't it better for a student to comfortably park in the T-Block and walk to where ever they need to go."

Francis says Michael Elden complex



TO DO LIST

1. Find the Nearest KFC

2. TASTE

3. ENJOY!



**It's
Finger
Lickin'
Good!**

Presidential Candidates

■ from page 3
revise the parking policy and establish a job intervention program which gave students the opportunity to work and go to school. He also hoped to focus on the School of Nursing which he said is often neglected. This is not McIntosh's first time running for COBUS president. His reasons for running

a second time are simply to offer his services, challenge the administration and improve the student environment because there is a lot of potential for COB to grow. Asked what his race was like without a team, McIntosh explained that leaders must be self-motivated and having the passion for change and wanting to make a difference were enough to keep him going.

All three presidential candidates have served as COBUS senators or have been involved or are currently a part of boards and committees at The College.

New Slate of Officers elected and unopposed for COBUS 2009-10

Position	Name	Academic School	Disposition
President	Mr. Jamaal Knowles	Science & Technology	Elected
Vice President	Mr. Antonio Butler	Business	Elected
Treasurer	Mr. Waylon Meardy	CHMI	Elected
Secretary	Marcia Gibson	Education	Unopposed
Assistant Secretary	Rashad Rolle	CHMI	Unopposed
Senator	Ernica Scott	Education	Elected
Senator	Steffon Grant	Education	Elected
Senator	Ashley Evans	Social Sciences	Unopposed
Senator	Shavonne M. Sherman	CHMI	Unopposed
Senator	Stefanie M. Collie	Science & Technology	Elected
Senator	Italia Hutchinson	Science & Technology	Elected
Senator	Benjamin Ferguson Jr	Dorms	unopposed
Senator	Ashnell Saunders	Nursing	Unopposed
Senator	Jonique Webb	Business	Unopposed

Presidential Candidates	Votes Received	Winner
Renbert Mortimer	476	
Jamaal Knowles	568	*
Delvano	204	

Vice Presidential Candidates	Votes Received	Winner
Antonio Butler	599	*
Brooke Sherman	510	
Uranda Curtis	121	

GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Nassau Campus

- 20 May, 2009 - Nurses' Pinning Ceremony-- The College of The Bahamas Performing Arts Center
- 21 May, 2009 - Graduation Rehearsal -- Bahamas Faith Ministries
- 26 May, 2009 - Baccalaureate Service -- Zion Yamacraw Baptist Church
- 27 May, 2009 - Graduates' Awards Ceremony -- The College of The Bahamas Performing Arts Center
- 28 May, 2009 - Commencement Exercise -- Bahamas Faith Ministries

Northern Bahamas Campus

- 2 June, 2009 - Graduation Rehearsal
- 3 June, 2009 - Baccalaureate Service - Peach Tree Street Church of God Temple
- 4 June, 2009 - Commencement Exercise & Honours Convocation -Our Lucaya Resort



■ **Campus Life Slave Auction, Really?** -- Some campus events can have a special flavour, like this Valentine's Slave Auction held February 10th. Meant to pique students interest in campus activities. Men and women, singles and groups were 'auctioned off' to student bidders for dates, homework or "whatever".
Photos by Reva Devi.

Misconceptions

■ from page 7

time students do better in classes than do part-timers. However, this is not necessarily true. Many fulltime students who find difficulty in being able to manage school time and play time often find themselves barely able to hold on. "Fulltime students have it a little harder," says third-year, full-

time EDU major Angela Martin, "Lecturers expect more from you because you are full-time, and are sometimes not as lenient as they are with part time students.

Because full timers are so involved, they often feel, "if only I had more time, I would have..." Martin says that the hours within a day are never enough, it seems.

CHMI 'Empty Bowls' Attract Sunday Afternoon Crowd

■ by Carvel Francis

Staff Reporter & Production Editor

Some were short and small, some were wide and tall. They were a kaleidoscope of colours, some etched by the potter with poetry or words like "untouchable." From pink buffed bowls to teal green tea cup sizes, a room full of 'empty bowls' were on display like collectors' items ready for sale.

This colourful event called "Empty Bowls" was held at School of Culinary Hospitality & Management (Institute (CHMI) on a Sunday afternoon in early March as a fundraiser to fight hunger in The Bahamas. Patrons gathered in the courtyard of CHMI where proceeds from the sales of empty ceramic bowls went assist the Salvation Army projects for the needy.

Joann Behagg, Ceramicist and retired COB Art Lecturer spearheaded the event and explained how the idea germinated. "I went to the National Education in Ceramic Arts conference and saw the idea there. A high school teacher, John Hartom, started a project with his students to encourage them to help needy people. They came up with the idea of making bowls which evolved into the idea of "Empty Bowls."



Bowls on display at the first ever Empty Bowls event held at CHMI March 1st.

Patron Iris Finlayson loved what she saw describing the event as a refreshing idea. She said, "We are doing this for a worthy cause and on a Sunday afternoon, with wonderful company, eating delicious food. This is just a refreshing idea."

Bahamas must reflect "a clear, commanding and lasting image of our institution, one that strongly affirms the University's mission and also establishes a brand promise that will cultivate and build loyalty and understanding among all key constituent groups and the wider community."

She said it is important that "we initiate this process now because on whatever day the Government announces the establishment of The University of The Bahamas, which requires an Act of Parliament, we intend to be fully dressed and ready to go."

Karma Design is expected to present its initial design concept to COB something in mid May according to Brian Goudie Partner and Account Director for the company.

COB Faculty and Students Participate In Marine and Agribusiness Expo

■ by Carvel Francis

Staff Reporter & Production Editor

Two students and three faculty members from The College joined scores of stallholders at the 2nd Annual Agricultural, Marine Resources and Agribusiness Expo. The event was held at the Expo site on Gladstone Road Feb 26-28th.

Dr. Patricia Grant-Johnson of COB's Marine and Environmental Studies Institute said the annual event was an excellent idea to build awareness of how to become self sufficient and green in the country. She shared information on how to mix compost and how to start a garden.

"Our samples of compost ranged from chicken manure, to wood chips and shredded paper," she explained, adding that these are all excellent for use in starting up backyard gardens and aids well in producing excellent crops.

High school students and adults also gave much attention to The College's booth according to Lisa Benjamin, a Professor with the LLB program. "Many persons also shared and we had much interest from adults on our continuing education program, the Small Island Sustainability Program, and so this has been a very inspiring day," Benjamin said.

Speaking at the opening, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Lawrence Cartwright said The Bahamas has embarked on a mission to grow as much food as possible, recognizing the extensive import food bill and the shortages experienced after each hurricane. He said the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented a number of initiatives to make sure The Bahamas is a success and to cut the country's spending.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham also attended the event and stated that his government remains committed to encouraging

agriculture and supporting the development of food processing. "Toward this end, we will upgrade agricultural services; establish a farmer's credit program and a hurricane and disaster insurance fund to assist farmers suffering loss from natural disasters," the PM said.



Manning COB Booth—Dr. Patricia Grant-Johnson, student Nikera Brown and Professor Lisa Benjamin of the LLB program were on hand at the COB booth at the 2nd Annual Agricultural, Marine Resources and Agribusiness Expo.

Branding

■ from page 3

these participants as well as those who respond to the COB recently hoisted online survey before presenting its creative strategies to College administrators for consideration.

It was emphasized at the contract signing that the creation of a new brand identity should be seen as an historical process for the institution and all stakeholder groups are should have the opportunity to participate and to convey their ideas and impressions for the branding of the University.

President Hodder has said that the brand identity of The University of The

GGYA CLUB NEWS

■ by Cassandra Nottage

Staff Reporter

Fourteen COB students received Gold Awards and had their pictures taken with HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Governor General, Sir Arthur Hanna, Feb 4th during the award ceremony at Government House. Students received awards and certificates for completing the Gold Level in the GGY program. To qualify for the Gold Award participants must be

• 17 or older have

- completed the Silver Award level
- completed 6 extra months of community service/skill/physical recreation
- show commitment and improvement from the initial level of ability and
- display persistent and regular effort.

Gold recipients are Charles Nottage, Syneisha Bootle, Arvis Mortimer, Shandira Ferguson, Loukeisha Missick, Andrella Dames, Lavaughn Dames, Kelly Delancy, Oranique Hamilton, Sade Lopez, Kevette Munnings, Angelique Nairn, Kevin Pratt and Deja Rutherford.

COB Sign \$1.8M Contract For IT Upgrade

A comprehensive expansion and upgrade of COB's network infrastructure at a cost of \$1.8M was announced recently by The College. IBM has been contracted to perform the work, which will be carried out in phases.

SPORTS

Review

Sports Profile Focuses On Christine Sinclair



On Basketball Point Guard- Christine Sinclair (# 5) shows off her smart moves on the court with Savannah College of Arts basketball team during a competition in early January. Sinclair is graduating from COB with a degree in Physical Education but hopes to continue to play for COB as an Alumna if asked.

Nothing turns Christine Sinclair on like basketball. In fact that's what she will miss most when she graduates from COB this year with a degree in PhysEdu. "From the time I was young all I had was school and ball. Once I learned what the game was all about, I just loved it. There's nothing like basketball for me," she said, smiling.

She came to COB in 2001 as a part-time student Sinclair and had already established a reputation playing for the National Basketball team. She joined the COB team but it soon found it exhausting playing ball, working full time and studying so when COB offered her a scholarship to play on COB Ladies team she was happy to switched to full-time status.

Sinclair, who is a mere 4' 5" tall, has been captain of the Ladies Basketball team for four years and is presently point guard, a position that requires her to do a lot of passing of the ball to others. "I really

would like to shoot the ball, like most people, but as the point guard players are looking to me to pass them the ball. There's always pressure on the guard, I have to call the play and delegate," she explains.

She explained that presently most of COB experienced players have injuries or have graduated so presently the majority of the team are freshmen and that's the prime reason why she became point guard.

The upcoming graduation for Sinclair is seen as a mixed blessing. "It's kind of scary. I have been here since 2001 so college life is a big part of me. I feel as if I am letting go of something I know and going into something I don't know. You get attached to college life and it has been fun for me."

Since February Sinclair has been teaching sports at Queen's College and has a contract until the June when the academic year runs out. She says Queen's College has indicated interest in offering her a two-year contract starting in September but she also has the option of teaching in a Government school. She will have to decide soon.

She indicated that COB is hoping to organize an Alumni Basketball team and she looks forward to playing again for her Alma Mater when that time comes.

What will she miss most after she leaves COB? "Playing basketball, without a doubt, but I will also miss the friendship and team spirit," she said.

As a PhysED major she is a little concerned that she is able to continue to teach team sports rather and not be expected to coach in high school. "People think that a physical educator is the same as a coach and that's simply not true. I am a Physical Education leader and coaching is different," she explained.

Sinclair is already looking ahead, hoping to continue her education by applying to enroll in the Special Education Master's Degree. "I have applied and right now I am hoping for the best," she said.



■ TRACK & FIELD MEETS AT FAMU - COB team led by Coach Bradley Cooper participated in quite a few track and field matches with schools and clubs in the Florida area during March 13-14 weekend trip to FAMU.

CHESS AND SCRABBLE CLUB



CHESS AND SCRABBLE CLUB—These are the winners of the Chess and Scrabble Club tournament held in March— from left are: Chico(2nd place Scrabble), Cleveland (3rd Place Scrabble) Troval (1st place Scrabble), Club President Nacoya Ingraham, Kristian (1st place Chess), Tournament Coordinator Mr. Seymour, Steven (3rd Place Chess) and Charles (2nd Place Chess).



On Visiting Gymnasts Dazzle Crowds - Students from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska attracted large crowds of cheering COB students during their hour-long gymnastic displays on the basketball court. The visiting team was here for a short visit in mid March.