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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

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NEWS

Student writers  
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CARS FOR SALE,  
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SPORTS

BAHAMAS BIGGEST

Johnson  
goes to  
next level

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**\$10,000**

**HAVE YOU WON YOUR SHARE?**

# Pinder in 'conflict of interest' claims

### Quake divine retribution claim slammed

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

PASTORS who have attributed Haiti's catastrophic earthquake and subsequent suffering of millions of people to divine retribution were slammed by Methodist church leaders and charities yesterday.

Bill Higgs, president  
**SEE page three**

## PLP candidate's job with US law firm sparks controversy

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net



RYAN PINDER



PAGE 3: Date for TV debate

RYAN Pinder, PLP candidate for Elizabeth, has been hit with claims that his job with a US-based law firm that advocates for foreign developers might mean he could suffer from a conflict of interest if elected to Parliament.

Andre Rollins, the National Development Party's candidate for the Elizabeth by-election, also alleges that Mr Pinder's candidacy in Elizabeth is "opportunistic", considering his recent history of campaigning in the Clifton constituency, and is aimed solely at launching him into Parliament rather than a genuine concern or connection with the people who live in the area.

"Is Ryan Pinder an opportunist seeking to represent a foreign law firm who has close affiliation with many developers seeking to do business, not only in the state of Florida, but potentially in this country?" Mr Rollins asked.

Like Workers' Party candidate, Rodney Moncur, the 34-year-old expressed further concern that Mr Pinder's US citizenship may impinge upon his ability to truly act in the interests of the Bahamas as a lawmaker if elected, and may lead to the upheaval of an election court challenge if not further explored.

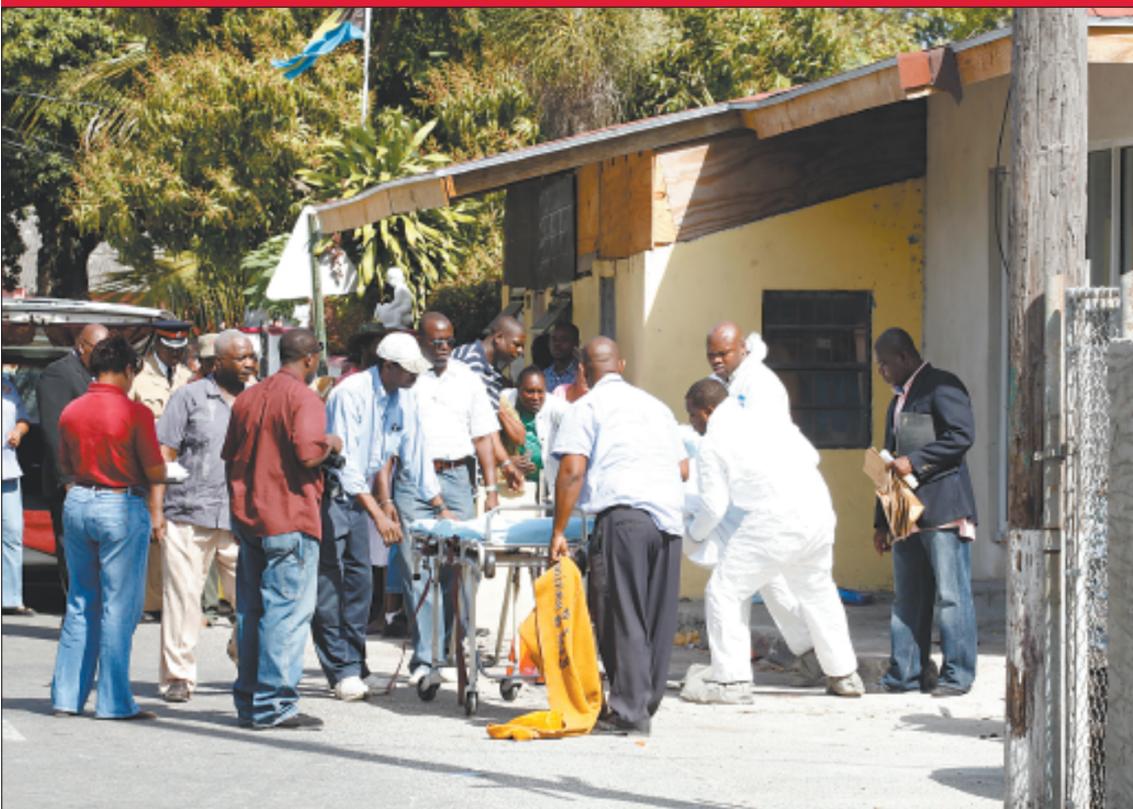
Yesterday Mr Pinder declined to comment on Mr Rollins' claims, saying that they were "personal" in nature.

Mr Rollins told *The Tribune* that constituents need to question what both candidates put forward that the FNM and the PLP "represent", based on their records.

Not sparing Dr Duane Sands, the FNM candidate for the February 16 by-election, Mr Rollins alleged that scrutiny of Dr Sands' record does

**SEE page 11**

## TWO SHOT DEAD IN SUSPECTED REVENGE ATTACK



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

OFFICERS remove the body of one of the young men shot yesterday morning in Rupert Dean Lane. Three people are being questioned.

By NATARIO MCKENZIE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

POLICE were last night questioning three people - two of them women - after two men were shot dead in a suspected revenge attack.

The three were arrested in the Woodes Alley area off Market Street late yesterday afternoon. Police also recovered two

### Police question trio, including two women

high-powered automatic weapons and a camouflage jacket.

They are being held in connection with the shootings of Wilton Omar Smith, 30, of Roberts Drive, Bamboo Town, and

Lashawn Davis, 29, of Rupert Dean Lane. The pair were gunned down by the roadside, not far from the New Apostolic Church on Rupert Dean Lane. Their deaths push the country's homicide count to 10.

Screams of grief emanated from Rupert Dean Lane yesterday as relatives, friends of the victims as well as concerned residents of

**SEE page 11**

## HAVE YOU SEEN HER?



THE POLICE are asking for the assistance of the residents of Grand Bahama and Abaco in their efforts to locate 17-year-old Charleah Wilchcombe. She was last seen at the Columbus House for Girls on August 4, 2009. Anyone with information should call 350-310/78, 352-9774/5 or 911.

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY POLICE

## Toyota car importers urged to contact dealership

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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DRIVERS who have privately imported a US-made Toyota from the US have been advised to contact the country's main Toyota dealership to see if they need to get it repaired after the car maker recalled millions of the vehicles over a potentially dangerous accelerator "stick-

ing" problem.

Executive Motors has identified around 25 other Toyotas - Camrys, Avalons and Tundras from 2007 to 2010 - that it has imported from the US and sold in the Bahamas which are also likely to need to have the problematic part replaced.

"We are in process of contacting those clients directly and we're looking at putting in a press release next week

for those we do not have contact information for, advising them of procedure," said Executive Motors President Frederick Albury.

Mr Albury said the company is hoping to have the replacement part within the month and have it installed into the affected Toyotas to correct the "sticking" problem or stop it from occurring in the future.

Executive Motors is order-

ing extra parts to assist those individuals locally who may have imported US-made cars privately and may also be in need of replacement parts. Mr Albury was unable to say if the company would get enough extra parts to cover demand and indicated that some car owners may have to contact their US dealership

**SEE page 11**

## LOCAL NEWS

# US Embassy's 2010 essay awards ceremony honours eight Bahamians

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You & Us



US Ambassador Nicole Avant; Minister of Education Desmond Bannister and the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard pose for a photo with the top finalists in the Martin Luther King Jr Essay Competition, essay committee judges, sponsors and education officials from the participating schools.



NEW Providence winner Shaquille Sands, 12th grade student at CW Saunders High School receives her awards from US Ambassador Nicole A Avant and Minister of Education Desmond Bannister.

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EIGHT Bahamian student writers were honoured for their written achievements at the US Embassy's 2010 essay awards ceremony yesterday.

The students were challenged to discuss how they demonstrated personal integrity in their lives or illustrate the integrity of a personal mentor. Inspiration for the essay questions came from a legendary quote by iconic American civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King.

Before they received their prizes, American Ambassador to the Bahamas Nicole Avant congratulated the students on their achievements while encouraging them to be a positive change in their communities.

"I am a firm believer in the power of choice. We have the opportunity everyday to respond to our circumstances either in a negative way or in a positive way.

"The circumstances themselves do not hold the power nor do they in any way determine who we are or who we become. The true power is in how we choose to respond to our circumstances," she told the crowd of students, parents, teachers and dignitaries at the British Colonial Hilton.

Also present was Education Minister Desmond Bannister, who praised the competition as an avenue to enhance the applicants' reading and cognitive skills. He also heralded the contest as a chance for the students to enhance personal integrity.

"Victory is not merely in coming first or walking away with a prize but in being an agent for change for your fellow man," he said.

First place honours went to two students — one from New Providence and another from Grand Bahama, Shaquille Sands and Michael Cooper, of C W Saunders High School and Bishop Michael Eldon High School, respectively. They were awarded several books, a laptop and a certificate of achievement.

Meanwhile, Traimaine Thompson of Mangrove Cay High School placed 2nd; Nakhaz Gay of Faith Temple High School placed 3rd; and Na'eem McIver of Westminster College placed 4th.

Three students received honourable mention: Micaiah Bostwick of Westminster College; D'Abthra Adderley of St Andrews; and Kalene Jones of San Salvador High School.



FAMILY Island winner Michael Cooper, 11th grade student at Bishop Michael Eldon High School, Freeport, Grand Bahama, receives his awards from US Ambassador Nicole A Avant and Minister of Education Desmond Bannister.

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# Scotiabank

## Marlborough Celebrates 40 years of Service Excellence



Scotiabank's Marlborough branch celebrated forty years of delivering quality service to Bahamians. In commemoration of this significant anniversary, the Branch planned a week of activities demonstrating its appreciation to its customers for their loyalty over the years. Marlborough's management and staff invited two of the branches oldest existing customers to a breakfast presentation to honor them for being the Longest Serving Customers. Receiving this distinction, Mrs. Dorothy Curtis and Mr. James Catalyn spoke of the tremendous growth that they have witnessed from Scotiabank over the last 40 years.

Expressing his appreciation to the Bank, Mr. Catalyn noted, "Scotiabank is the best place to bank in The Bahamas. I look forward to continued service excellence in the future". With 21 branches and 55 ABM'S throughout the Bahamas, Scotiabank (Bahamas) Ltd. has proudly served the Bahamian community since 1956 and plans to continue to not only meet the growing needs of Bahamians but exceed the expectations of Bahamians providing service excellence.

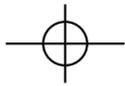


Pictured L to R: Sean Brathwaite, Director Retail Banking; James Catalyn, Scotiabank Customer; Marsha Major, Senior Manager Marlborough Branch and Bruno Styles, Senior Manager Sales and Service Support



Pictured L to R: Bruno Styles, Senior Manager Sales and Service Support; Dorothy Curtis, Scotiabank Customer; Marsha Major, Senior Manager Marlborough Branch and Sean Brathwaite, Director Retail Banking.

Scotiabank



LOCAL NEWS

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT

# Ship ready for mercy mission

## Freighter loaded with supplies to depart Nassau on February 24

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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A FREIGHTER loaded with supplies will be sent to Haiti later this month to ease the suffering of thousands in the earthquake ravaged nation.

Although the sea port in Port-au-Prince remains closed and a long line of aid ships sit in the harbour awaiting entry, Bahamian charities have surmounted the challenge to ensure their donations reach those in need.

The freighter, loaded with 40 20ft containers of emergency supplies, medical supplies and equipment, 30,000 cases of water and a flatbed truck, will go from Nassau to Cap-Haitien on Haiti's northern coast on February 24. The donations were collected by: Rotary; the Bahamas Conference of Methodist Churches and Bahamas Methodist Habitat; the Bahamas Red Cross Society; the Salvation Army and the Scout Association. They will be collected by the partner organisations of these entities on the ground and transported to communities in need.

Nearly four weeks after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake levelled Port-au-Prince, hundreds of thousands of people seeking medical help and shelter



RICHARD MCCOMBE, Rotary District 7020 disaster relief co-ordinator speaks at a press conference yesterday.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff

have fled the capital and swamped small communities already struggling with minimal infrastructure.

Rotary District 7020 disaster relief co-ordinator Richard McCombe explained how the displaced people, including hundreds of children, many without parents, need shelter, education, mental and physical care and social activities.

Rotary 7020, working with 17 Rotary clubs in Haiti, other Bahamian charities and their partners, intends to address these needs in a long-term relief plan over the next two months. Mr McCombe said: "We need to create schools, we need to create com-

munities, we need to create a place where people can go for shelter because many people are going from one community to another trying to find a home.

"They need people to inspire them to become social again and help them rebuild a life."

Rotary alone has put half a million dollars towards Haiti relief, in addition to the thousands raised by the Methodist churches, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and the Scouts Association, who all spoke about their combined relief effort at a press conference at the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church headquarters in Baltic Avenue, Nassau, yesterday. With help from Odyssey Aviation, they have sent more than 155 flights to various Haitian airports and delivered 125,000lbs of emergency supplies including 70,000lbs of medical supplies.

Bahamas Red Cross Society director general Caroline Turnquest said the charity's two storey warehouse in JFK Drive has been filled with donations and she hopes to transport the bulk of this material on the freighter. Ms Turnquest said: "We have been overwhelmed with donations and we look forward to continued support as we are in this for the long-haul. We know this is not something that will end over the next few weeks or even months. There will be homes to rebuild and we will be there for that as well."

**Quake divine retribution claim comes under fire**

FROM page one

of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, publicly criticised pastors and others who deemed the Haiti earthquake a justified act of God.

He said: "We don't see this as any judgment or any payback or any wake-up call that unfortunately some church people have said.

"If this is a judgment of God on Haiti then the rest of us ought to be worried. We should be very scared indeed of what could happen to us.

"We know about all the corruption and we know about social and cultural conditions that are not in agreement with what God requires."

The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church (BMC) which incorporates Bahamas Methodist Habitat, has provided social assistance to communities in need across the Bahamas as well as disaster relief in the islands for many years and expanded to provide international assistance after Hurricane Ike struck in 2008.

When Port-au-Prince and the surrounding settlements were levelled by an earthquake on January 12 the organisation was one of the first to send emergency supplies to the region with assistance from Rotary and Odyssey Aviation.

Despite the overwhelming support they have seen in collaborative relief efforts across the Bahamas, many Bahamians have publicly judged the disaster as something divinely justified.

Henry Knowles, BMC general secretary, said: "People say this is God's way of condemning them. I heard a pastor say, 'Haiti needs to sit up and take a beating from God' and that is certainly not our attitude.

"We have to pay it forward, we have to do what we have to do now so when our time comes others can step in and help us.

"Most people think this is just a fad. This is not a fad, this is what we do every day and we are in it for the people, for the humanity of the people."

Mr Higgs added: "Rather than cast judgment, see this as an opportunity for us to respond, to share our humanity by embracing the opportunity to help each other.

"We have an opportunity to do something good and to do the right thing.

"We don't need to spend time casting judgment.

"Lets just do what's right and respond to a situation that we could very well find ourselves in."

**"If this is a judgment of God on Haiti then the rest of us ought to be worried. We should be very scared indeed of what could happen to us."**

Bill Higgs

# Caribbean countries to build hospital, provide healthcare

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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COMMANDER Stephen Russell.

CARIBBEAN countries will work together to build a hospital and provide healthcare in disaster stricken Haiti, National Emergency Management Agency director Stephen Russell said yesterday.

As part of the wider Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), NEMA is following directives from the region-wide initiative to support Haiti, which only joined CDEMA in September last year.

Commander Russell said the Caribbean countries expect to facilitate healthcare to Haitians by building a hospital in Haiti and dispatching physicians and nurses in the devastated nation.

There are currently 350 CARICOM representatives working in Haiti and NEMA has sent two officers on the CDEMA rotation to set up disaster relief operation centres.

However most of their work will be done in the long-term, Commander Russell said.

"This disaster in Haiti is overwhelming to all of us," he added. "This is a long-term process and we need now to look at a long-term strategy for rebuilding. If it seems we were slow in doing some things we had to do it in a systematic manner and we are standing by to assist in the long-term.

"We don't want everyone doing their own thing; we have to work together."

Commander Russell praised Bahamian relief efforts and charities working together to provide emergency assistance to Haiti while NEMA secures aircraft, road vehicles and a

ship to dispatch to Haiti when necessary. The magnitude 7.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami warning in the Bahamas has also alerted NEMA to the range of disasters it must be prepared to face.

Commander Russell said: "It has caused us to refocus on our disaster planning and look at the full concept of disaster management, earthquakes and tsunamis."

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# Televised debate between candidates set for Tuesday

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net



THE first live televised debate between candidates in a parliamentary election since 2002 will take place on Tuesday but while organisers claim they have received confirmation of attendance from all five candidates the two main political parties yesterday denied this.

The "Great Debate for Elizabeth 2010", which will allow for around three to four hundred Bahamians to watch from within the venue itself and thousands more on live television and radio, is being organised by the Jones Communications Network, the owner of JCN channel 14 television station, Love97FM radio and the Bahama Journal.

Prepared questions will be launched at the political hopefuls by moderator Wendell Jones. Members of the public can submit questions that they would like to see asked of the candidates ahead of the two hour event.

Yesterday Kristen Jones of JCN said all candidates – the PLP's Ryan Pinder, the FNM's Duane Sands, the Bahamas Democratic Movements (BDM) Cassius Stuart, National Development Party candidate Andre Rollins and Worker's Party hopeful Rodney Moncur – had quickly agreed to participate.

"We didn't have any problems," she said, asked whether the company had difficulty getting candidates to agree to the prospect. "The two main parties actually responded the quickest," she added.

However, when contacted yesterday for confirmation, FNM chairman Carl Bethel said the party's candidate in the by-election, Dr Duane Sands, would not be taking part, and denied that the party had indicated otherwise to JCN.

"Our position has not changed on this matter. Our candidate is not engaging in debate with other candidates. Our discussion is with the residents of Elizabeth."

Mr Bethel said the decision was that of the party, not Dr Sands. PLP candidate Ryan Pinder said he was "waiting to receive the rules" when asked if he would be participating.

The last public debate in the run up to an election in the Bahamas was in 2002. At that time the leaders of the FNM, PLP, the Coalition for Democratic Reform and the Bahamas Democratic Movement – Tommy Turnquest, Perry Christie, Bernard Nottage and Cassius Stuart respectively – debated each other live on radio.

Referring to this debate, Mr Bethel said yesterday: "We did it before, and we won't be doing it again."

According to Ms Jones, candidates in "The Great Debate for Elizabeth" will be questioned by the moderator on a variety of topics pertinent to their candidacy and the constituents of Elizabeth, with each candidate being given 90 seconds to respond to each question. Candidates will be given 45 seconds to rebut any response by another candidate to a particular question and they may also face individual questions from Mr Jones.

No questions will be taken on the night from members of the audience.

The event begins at 8pm sharp. Entrance is free and those wishing to watch must be in place ahead of time.

If you wish to submit a question for consideration by the moderator, email it to jcnnews@gmail.com or you can fax it to 325 3996.

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EDGE OF DARKNESS	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	11
WHEN IN ROME	B	1:30	N/A	4:30	7:30	N/A	11
LEGION	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	11
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	11
BOOK OF ELI	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	11
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	11
PRECIOUS	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	11
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	B	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:20	N/A	11
AVATAR	T	1:00	N/A	4:30	N/A	8:40	11

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EDGE OF DARKNESS	C	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10
LEGION	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:35	10
BOOK OF ELI	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	N

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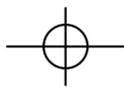
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# The Tribune Limited

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Published Daily Monday to Saturday

Shirley Street, P.O. Box N-3207, Nassau, Bahamas  
Insurance Management Building., P.O. F-485, Freeport, Grand Bahama

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## Obama and Dalai Lama to meet

WASHINGTON — Just a week after enraging China with an arms sale package for rival Taiwan, President Barack Obama risks more damage to this crucial relationship by agreeing to meet with the Dalai Lama in two weeks.

The truth is he has little choice. Obama already postponed the visit once, angering U.S. lawmakers and rights groups. As Obama struggles to regain his footing after political setbacks, the last thing he needs is to open himself up to fresh criticism that he is kowtowing to China.

So on Thursday, his administration confirmed what had long been expected: Obama will meet with the Dalai Lama when the Tibetan monk visits Washington on February 17-18.

China immediately urged the United States to scrap the meeting to avoid hurting bilateral ties. China accuses the Dalai Lama of pushing for Tibetan independence, which the Dalai Lama denies, and believes that shunning the exiled Tibetan monk should be a basic principle of international relations for countries that want to deal with China.

In reality, China could not have been surprised by Thursday's announcement.

Every U.S. president for the last two decades has met with the Dalai Lama, and those visits are considered powerful signs of the American commitment to human rights. Obama also told Chinese leaders last year that he would meet with the monk.

The Dalai Lama enjoys widespread support in America. High-profile celebrities call him friend; college students flock to his frequent campus lectures; powerful U.S. lawmakers would call another postponed meeting a betrayal.

Obama is focused on domestic matters as he deals with a struggling economy and a series of Republican political victories. He does not want to add to that with an outcry over his snubbing the Dalai Lama again.

For the last year, Obama has faced criticism that his administration is more eager to win Chinese cooperation on nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea and climate change and economic crises than to hold Beijing accountable

for what activists call an abysmal rights record.

Much of that criticism stems from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's comments during a trip to China a year ago that human rights should not interfere with improving U.S.-China ties. Activists also said Obama failed to make human rights a big enough priority during his China trip in November.

Just a month before that high-profile trip, Obama faced anger for putting off a White House visit when the Dalai Lama came to Washington.

Still, he has little to show from China for his outreach. As Beijing refuses to give ground on many key issues, the Obama administration has shown an increasing willingness to get tough.

In September, Obama slapped tariffs on a flood of Chinese tyres entering the United States. Although he antagonized China and heard complaints about U.S. protectionism, he was praised by powerful American union allies who blame Chinese tyre imports for the loss of thousands of jobs.

And, in recent weeks, the administration announced the \$6.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan, the self-governing democratic island Beijing claims as its own; Clinton urged Beijing to investigate hacking attacks that led to Google's threat to pull out of China; and Obama vowed to get tough with China on a currency dispute. Now, China's anger will be focused on the Dalai Lama's visit.

China maintains that Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans say the region was functionally independent for much of its history. Tibet and Taiwan are China's most sensitive issues, and Obama risks Chinese retaliation by stoking anger in Beijing.

Already, China has threatened to punish U.S. companies involved in any arms sales to Taiwan and has suspended military exchanges with Washington.

Many will be watching whether the Dalai Lama meeting wrecks a possible April visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao to Washington.

(This article was written by Foster Klug, Associated Press Writer).

# All hands are needed on our country's deck

EDITOR, The Tribune.

"Reproach hath broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none." David implores God's help. Psalms chapter 69, verse 20.

Recent events in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, has me reeling. As a consequence of the situation which I am about to unveil, has brought about several questions: Firstly, what is the purpose of the Immigration laws of the Bahamas? Who coined the laws and/or was it intended to be a piece of legal convenience? Is the opposition party, during any period in our country's existence, irrelevant? How many ethnic groupings are there in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas? Who is responsible and why? What is the role of a Police Force when the mandated legal enforcement body the Immigration Department appears to have lost its effectiveness? How can this very important arm of law enforcement lose its edge? How many status challenged individuals do we have in The Bahamas? Is there a statute bar posed on the length of time an individual coming from another country can be considered for status? How is this possible when the initial landing was due to the law being broken? How can an individual continue his livelihood undetected and or without interdiction?

A person being detained at the Carmichael Road Detention Centre was obviously there because he or she had broken the laws and not based on how many years they were in the Bahamas. How then can they be released when the laws were quite clear, or so I thought regarding detainees? If no laws were broken why were they incarcerated? Having set a dangerous precedent how will other detainees be considered?

Who hired the politicians? For what purpose? Was it not to ensure that the Bahamian people have a better way of life, because of the way the politicians does the people's business.

Finally history has shown that when countries have a multiplicity of ethnic people, that conflicts results. Remember Bosnia Herzegovina and Rwanda. In Bosnia there were three groups each with a certain percentage, so too in Rwanda. The end result, genocide, all trying to outdo the other for supremacy.

This is a dangerous game being played in the Bahamas, nowadays. While we may not have been responsible for what has happened in Haiti economically, and I'm not talking about the earthquake because the quake's victims brought tears to my eyes. The Bahamas had done more for Haitians

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

then perhaps France and or any other Caribbean nation when in actuality we are not even in the Caribbean, but the Atlantic Ocean with the country, Bermuda. We are continuously doing for the Haitian people, as we have many thousands of them here.

I call on the United Nations in New York, to cause there to be had a massive investigations, with hopes of uncovering why it is that such a resourcefully rich country, has ended up so very poor.

This account should go back to the days when France controlled the colony/territory. If it is proven that politicians had disadvantaged or plundered the resources of these people, then charges are to be laid.

Surely no other country, and certainly not the Bahamas, ought to be reaping the load of this misfortune. My prayers and that of my family, goes out to the families of those killed and displaced by the earthquake.

I do not know what the politicians are seeing as they drive the streets of New Providence, but what my travel revealed frightened me every where you go, young men congregating all hours, dilapidat-

ed buildings, streets, pot hole ridden, parks unkempt, old derelict vehicles; an eye sore and breeding ground for rodents, etc, gambling houses on the increase, drug peddling, people of all ages blatantly making use of obscene language, among children, especially. These are very different times from what I used to know. What is happening with the maintenance programme for these constituencies? The revenue received from Banking, Tourism and the Financial Services? What percentage of this money is exiting this country earmarked to support other nationalities? The Central Bank of The Bahamas, needs to release the numbers for all to see.

There is no question that many Bahamians are unemployed and hurting. Just the other day 6,000 customer's electrical power had been turned off and what percentage of that number remains? I praise the efforts of the Rt Honourable Prime Minister Ingraham in trying to bring relief, but the problems faced by the country, are too gigantic for any one man. All hands needs to be on deck.

I can write 'till next year, but for now I thank you for the space.

FRANK GILBERT  
Nassau,  
January 26, 2010.

## I applaud those who attended March of Life

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I commend the hundreds of thousands of people, including pro-life leaders from Canada, Africa, Europe, South America, Asia and Oceania who attended the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday. America's March for Life has become the world's pro-life protest against the aggressive promotion of abortion and population control that is sweeping the world and which is now the official policy of the United States, thanks to the administration of President Barack Obama.

If an (human) embryo is human, it is a person — this is the golden rule for bioethics.

It is a scientific fact that human life begins in its entirety at the moment of conception. From the first moment the embryo has a full anthropological qualification; there is a continuity; there are no leaps that have in them substantial mutations; the embryonic body develops. Every manual of human embryology states that the zygote is already an unrepeatable human being, unique in its species, a different being from the mother and the father.

Ultimately, free will cannot be cited as justification for society to allow moral choices that strike at the most fundamental rights of others. Such a choice is abortion, which constitutes the taking of innocent human life.

The so-called "right" to abortion championed by feminists and abortion supporters ends up enslaving women because they are turned into instruments of sexual gratification. If the woman can abort without restrictions, the man is free of any responsibility as father, leaving the woman as his tool of sexual gratification in a position of "non-equality."

Let us fight for life. Life is the future of man, never death.

PAUL KOKOSKI  
Canada,  
January 22, 2010.

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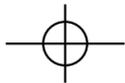
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LOCAL NEWS

APPEAL FILED AGAINST COURT RULING WHICH OVERTURNED APPOINTMENT

# Woman pastor's fight for church post continues

AN APPEAL has been filed against a court ruling which overturned the appointment of Rev Diana Francis as pastor-elect of First Baptist Church.

The ruling was handed down by now retired Justice Cheryl Albury last December.

First Baptist Church Incorporated, Rev Earle Francis and his daughter Rev Diana Francis are listed as the appellants in the appeal. Rev Harold Bodie - one of the founding members of First Baptist Church on Market Street South - is listed as the respondent.

Rev Diana Francis, host of the show "U Gat Issues", was installed in the position of pastor-elect in December 2007 by her father, the Rev Earle Francis, head pastor of First Baptist Church.

Rev Bodie, who was backed by some members of the church, opposed the appointment and sought a Supreme Court declaration that Rev Diana Francis' installation as pastor-elect and co-pastor of the church was

null and void as it contravened article 16 of the association's memorandum. He also asked the court to declare that all First Baptist's financial records should be turned over to him and that all appointments to the church's executive board by Rev Francis be considered null and void.

Justice Albury decided that Rev Francis' installation as pastor-elect was null and void as it was in contravention of the association's memorandum.

## Upheld

However, the judge upheld Rev Francis' appointment as co-pastor as well as the executive board appointments made by Rev Earle Francis, as these predated the amendments made to the memorandum after the court action was initiated.

Justice Albury also ruled against the request that all financial records of the church be turned over to Rev Bodie.

She noted that Rev Bodie and some of the church's members had expressed con-

cern over the lack of transparency with regard to the church's financial records, but said she had found nothing in the evidence before her to suggest that the demand would be in conformity with the church's memorandum, or in the interest of justice.

Five grounds of appeal have been outlined in a notice of appeal filed on behalf of Rev Earle Francis and Rev Diana Francis. They are being represented by attorney

Sharon Wilson. Attorney Romona Farquharson, who represents Rev Bodie, told *The Tribune* yesterday that she had been served with the notice of appeal on Wednesday but has not yet spoken with her client about the matter.

"I have to take instructions from my client on how to proceed and we have to prepare for the appeal but it is very disappointing," Ms Farquharson said.



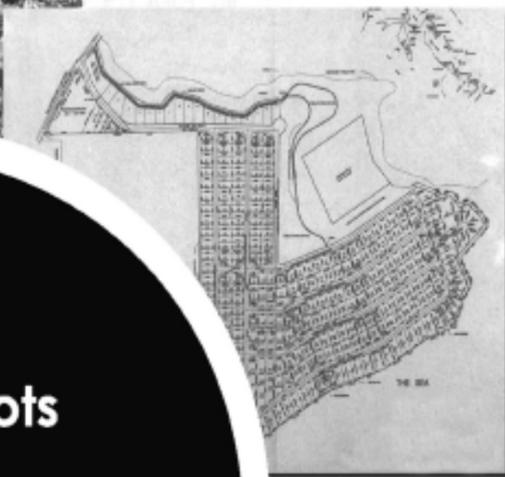
APPEAL LODGED: Rev Diana Francis

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## WANTED FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER



**JASON FERGUSON**, 27, (alias Short Man) is wanted for questioning in connection with murder and possession of a high-powered firearm.



**RAPHAEL NEYMOUR**, 24, (alias 'Raffy') is wanted for questioning in connection with murder and possession of a high powered firearm.

Anyone with information should contact Police Emergency on 919/911; Police Control Room on 322-3333; CDU on 502-9930/9991; or Crime Stoppers on 328-8477.

## WHYYOUVEX?

"I vex that these PLPs, FNMs, BDMs, NDPs and all the rest getting so worked up about this silly by-election what don't really mean anything in the grand scheme of things instead of worrying about all the young men and women who getting shoot, stab and rob every day of the week in our lil' country.

"I am tired of these politicians just making noise, handing out their scratchy t-shirts and inviting loud drunk people to campaign with them while the rest of us suffer. When the election fever wears off, the FNM will still be the government, people will still be out of jobs and hooligans will still be running around shooting people up. But yet y'all want to wave pom poms."  
- Tired of foolishness

"I vex because I tired of all this crime and murderation in this country. I scared to walk out my door or drive at night these days because I scared to see some aggressive thug waiting for me. And I don't blame the police, and I don't blame the government because it's our society that created these people who have no regard for law, order or human life."  
- Praying for Nassau

"I vex at seeing people children on the side of the road selling phone cards, soda, water, fruit, peanut; you name it, while their big, rusty ma and pa home doing who knows what!

"Where are the police or social workers? Surely this can't be legal to have children under the age of 14 on the side of the road when night falls, by themselves, working because their parents are so lousy. The other day I saw one lil' boy out in the cold with no coat selling phone cards, I called the police. Don't know if they came but it hurt my heart to see."  
- No Nonsense

"I vex because I broke and Valentine's Day coming up. I can't even buy nothing nice for myself much less my girlfriend. I know all I ga get is headache because she ga be talking 'bout what her friends doing and all that, this time their boyfriends living at home while I got rent and bills to pay."  
- Love ain' cheap

Are you vex? Send your comments to 'whyyouvex@tribune-media.net' or fax to 328-2398.





LOCAL NEWS

# BENGIE — PET OF WEEK



BENGIE is a playful 1-year-old male Beagle/Potcake mix with beautiful brown and white markings. While being calm and collected for the most part, when in the mood he is all about fun and just loves to run and play. This picture is a great example: he simply could not contain himself!

Sadly, Bengie has been in at the Humane Society since July, which means that he has been waiting to be adopted for over six months now — longer than any other dog at the BHS! It is hard to believe that such a personable gentleman has yet to be re-homed. Please consider adopting poor Bengie; it is high time that he had a family to call his own and a garden to stretch his legs and run about in.

# Dancing to Caribbean Drums: An Appreciation of the life of Rex Nettleford



BY SIR RONALD SANDERS  
(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean Diplomat)

## insight

### WORLD VIEW

**T**HIS commentary is being written in the first blush of the news that Rex Nettleford has died. A profound and deep sense of loss overcame me, and I have no doubt enveloped many throughout the Caribbean including those who did not know him personally. What everyone understands — those who knew him personally and those who didn't — is that he was a Caribbean champion; a man who fervently believed in the worth of the term, "Caribbean person" and gave it both intellectual meaning and depiction.

The entire Caribbean knows, in the inner place that is our Caribbean soul, that, with Nettleford's passing, the region has lost an essence — an essential ingredient of our own validation as a Caribbean civilization — that was unique and is irreplaceable.

Rex Nettleford (pictured top right) simply made Caribbean people more assured of themselves; more comfortable in their skins of whatever colour; and more confident that, despite the fact that they are a transplanted people, they had established a unique cultural identity equal to any in the world.

Nettleford was a Jamaican, but he was Caribbean too.

As he said: "The typical West Indian is part-African, part-European, part-Asian, part-Native American but totally Caribbean".

He developed the point by saying: "The texture of character and the sophistication of sense and sensibility engaging the Planet's systemic contradictions were ironically colonialism's benefits for a couple of generations in the West Indies.

"In dealing with the dilemma of difference manifested in the ability to assert without rancor, to draw on a sense of rightness without hubris, to remain human (e) in the face of persistent obscenities that plague the human condition, all such attributes in turn served to endow the Caribbean man with the conviction that Planet Earth is, in the end, one world to share."

He drew on that reality and his fervent belief in it to serve not only multi-ethnic Jamaica, but the wider multi-ethnic, multi-religious



Sir Ronald Sanders

Caribbean, and to be a respected regional representative on the world's stage including on the Executive Board of the United Nations Education, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

All who knew him in his several incarnations at the University of the West Indies, as Professor, as Vice Chancellor and as emeritus Vice Chancellor, will testify to his great erudition; his capacity to argue passionately and convincingly; and to the breadth of his knowledge.

### Education

I recall well one such international outing when at a biennial meeting of foreign ministers from the UK and the Caribbean, he represented the University of the West Indies in a discussion of the role of education in Caribbean development.

I led a delegation from Antigua and Barbuda that included the late Leonard Tim Hector himself an educator and historian.

The discussion on the role of education in development was dominated by Nettleford and Hector, and somewhere in the British archives of that meeting held in London is the verbatim record of their enthralling presentations.

It was a discussion conducted without a note by the two main speakers, and none who heard it could fail to be impressed by the quality and force of the arguments. But, they did a major service to Caribbean scholars.

The Chevening Scholarship resulted from it, and annually

**'Rex Nettleford simply made Caribbean people more assured of themselves; more comfortable in their skins of whatever colour ...'**

Caribbean students journey to the UK for post-graduate work.

From his overarching position as Vice Chancellor of UWI, Nettleford knew, in his own words, that "the world is changing as if in a contest with the speed of light" and UWI had to produce skills "so that its graduates can find firm place and sustained purpose in the 'knowledge society' of the third millennium, even while maintaining standards and delivering education of excellence". "The challenges of politics, economics, social development in the new global situation", he said, "demanded no less."

It was a task to which he set his hand with determination as the University's principal officer.

But, he also knew, as he put it, that the University had "to place great emphasis on the exercise of the creative attributes of the mind."

The University had to produce the skills that would make the Caribbean competitive in the global economy, but it had the ongoing responsibility too of nurturing thinkers, ideas-people, innovators — Caribbean people who, from the richness of their own cohabitation and intermingling, could contribute to domestic and global thinking on religious tolerance, international relations, ending racism, and solving conflicts.

Students from every Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) country encountered Nettleford in one or other of his many roles in the University for decades.

They were inspired and

motivated by him, and they admired him greatly. Therefore, it is not surprising that Caribbean people — in their separate states with their national flags and national anthems — are united in their sense of loss — a sense that the essence of the region's single Caribbean soul is yet again diminished.

Rex Nettleford is to Caribbean cultural identity what Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, Alister McIntyre and the late William Demas are to the Caribbean's political and economic identity as a region and in the region's interaction with the global community.

He belongs to a select group of Caribbean visionaries who the region's people know without doubt championed them selflessly and faithfully and validated them in the world.

### Rebuilding

In the rebuilding of Haitian society — occasioned by the massive physical destruction of Haiti by last January's earthquake — Rex Nettleford would have been a perfect resource for CARICOM's P J Patterson, Jamaica's former Prime Minister, as he leads the regional argument not only for the rebuilding of Haiti, but also for the restoration of Haitian society socially, culturally and politically.

Nettleford was a dancer and choreographer — two disciplines he personally enjoyed and in which his creativity gave enjoyment to audiences throughout the Caribbean.

In these disciplines, he danced to many drums and he was spectacular in his performance.

But, it is in the dance to the drums of his Caribbean life that he is a motivating force — Jamaican he was by birth and commitment, but Caribbean he also was by intellectual understanding, cultural recognition, and passionate embrace.

It would be to the Caribbean's lasting benefit if from the shared sense of loss felt throughout the region, there could be a sustained revival of the drums of Caribbean union to which Rex Nettleford danced in his lifetime.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronald-sanders.com](http://www.sirronald-sanders.com) <<http://www.sirronaldsanders.com/>>

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- \* Spanish Service ..... 11:00 a.m.
- \* FADS Youth Church(Grades 7-12) First & Third Sunday ..... 11:30 a.m.
- \* POWER CREW Church(Ages 10-11 yrs.) Second & Fourth Sunday ..... 11:30 a.m.
- \* Evening Service ..... 6:30 p.m.

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- \* Royal Rangers (Boys Club) 4-16 yrs.
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7:00 p.m. Sis. Rosemary Williams/Bro. Franklyn Bethel

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LOCAL NEWS

# Students pay courtesy call on Commissioner of Police



SIXTY students of First Start Academy, with their teachers and principal Shakantela Briggs, paid a courtesy call on Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade at the Paul H Farquaharson Conference Centre, Police Headquarters, East Street.

While at headquarters, the group visited the Fire Department where they rode on the fire truck and learned about fire safety.

The group also visited the Internal Security Division where the Police Band and the K-9 Unit performed much to the enjoyment of the children.

On completion of the tour, the students were treated by Commissioner Greenslade to snacks and treats at the conference centre.



## THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

# Getting heard at trade agreement talks

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMIAN labour stakeholders are in the midst of a three-day international training workshop highlighting the need for workers and employers to have their voices represented in trade agreement negotiations.

Organisers hope they will strengthen regional labour stakeholders' awareness of why and how they should make their sector's concerns known to those negotiating international trade agreements on behalf of their country.

They pointed out the significant impact such agreements — which often address the degree of foreign competition in a domestic industry or the question of the entrance of outside labour into the local market — can have on local employers and

employees once they go into effect. At the end of the three-day workshop, it is expected that delegates, among them Bahamas Public Service Union president John Pinder and Union of Tertiary Educators (Bahamas) president Jennifer Isaacs Dotson — strengthen their capacity to meaningfully advocate for their concerns to be incorporated in regional and international trade arrangements, such as a new two-way free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the Caribbean and Canada.

The meeting, hosted at the British Colonial Hilton, is being held under the theme "International Trade Agreements and the Decent Work Agenda", and has been organised jointly by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the CARICOM Secretariat's Office of Trade Negotiations.

Labour stakeholders will look at trade

agreements already in effect and seek to ascertain what lessons can be learnt from them going forward while also focusing on how they can "maximise the benefits" that may be available to them or those they represent under the provisions of particular trade agreements. Around a dozen Bahamians were in attendance, along with delegates from Jamaica, Belize, Trinidad and elsewhere in the region.

Vincent Atkins, a trade policy/technical adviser to the Less Developed Countries of CARICOM in the Office of Trade Negotiations, said it was "opportune" that the workshop was being held in the Bahamas, as the country has just recently started to become more involved in the globalised trade arena, having concluded steps to sign onto the "free trade" Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe and to finally join the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,600.64   CHG -0.03   %CHG 0.00   YTD 35.26   YTD % 2.25											
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52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
1.49	1.03	AML Foods Limited	1.12	1.12	0.00		0.283	0.000	4.0	0.00%	
10.75	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.74	10.74	0.00		0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%	
7.00	6.90	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00		0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%	
0.63	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00		0.168	0.090	18.8	2.86%	
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00		0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%	
13.43	9.62	Cable Bahamas	13.43	13.43	0.00		1.406	0.250	9.6	1.86%	
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00		0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%	
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.99	6.99	0.00		0.419	0.300	16.7	4.29%	
3.85	2.21	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.74	2.71	-0.03		0.631	0.350	15.8	3.50%	
2.55	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.55	2.55	0.00		0.627	0.080	4.1	3.14%	
7.80	5.94	Famguard	6.49	6.49	0.00		0.420	0.240	15.5	3.70%	
11.80	8.75	Finco	9.27	9.27	0.00		0.322	0.520	28.8	5.61%	
10.45	9.80	First Caribbean Bank	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.631	0.350	15.8	3.50%	
5.53	3.75	Focal (S)	4.77	4.77	0.00		0.326	0.150	14.6	3.14%	
1.00	1.00	Focal Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.30	0.27	Freepport Concrete	0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%	
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00		0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%	
10.50	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.95	9.95	0.00		0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%	

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1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			

Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.05	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	

Colina Over-The-Counter Securities											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date			
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	

BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date			
1.4387	1.3535	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4387	6.30	6.30			31-Dec-09			
2.8869	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8869	-1.81	-1.81			31-Dec-09			
1.5127	1.4387	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5127	0.35	5.14			29-Jan-10			
3.3201	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.1168	-7.94	-7.94			31-Dec-09			
13.2400	12.6816	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09			
103.9873	93.1999	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41			31-Dec-09			
101.7254	96.4070	CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.52	5.52			31-Dec-09			
1.0898	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0898	5.22	5.22			9-Dec-09			
1.0680	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0680	3.39	3.39			9-Dec-09			
1.0907	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0907	5.15	5.15			9-Dec-09			
9.5795	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	9.5795	5.33	5.33			31-Dec-09			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	11.2361	12.36	12.36			31-Dec-09			
7.7171	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Intl Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.7171	40.05	40.05			31-Dec-09			

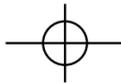
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume											
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume											
Change - Change in closing price from day to day											
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today											
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months											
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings											
S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007											
(S) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity											
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price											
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week											
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths											
NAV - Net Asset Value											
N/M - Not Meaningful											
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100											

Tell the world how you feel about your special

# Valentine

What better way to let your love know how much they mean to you, than by having your love note displayed in The Tribune as part of our Valentine's feature section. You can drop off your message and a favourite photo all this week for just \$30. All messages should be under 50 words.





# sports

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

INSIDE • Sealey signs with Tar Heels



## Johnson takes it to the next level

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

AFTER reaching the highest plateau as an amateur boxer, Taureano 'Reno' Johnson has decided to step up to the next level - the professional ranks.

Johnson, who made history at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China when he became the first Bahamian to reach round four, said he felt he has achieved everything except win a medal and now he need to start earning a living.

"I had planned on going pro at the beginning of 2010, so it was always in the plan," he said in an exclusive interview with The Tribune yesterday from

McDonough, Georgia where he is training.

"The reason for that is simply, I need to start making some money."

Johnson, who turns 26 on February 12, recently signed a three-year contract with Pound for Pound Management, headed by Shane Bailey and Barry Adams Jr. and he also has a promotional agreement with Prize Fight Promotions that has him lined up for a minimum of seven fights over the next 12 months.

Bailey said Adams Jr. had an associate in the Bahamas who introduced them to Johnson and after flying his and his mother in town, it appeared as if a match was made in heaven.

"They came down for a weekend, but he wanted to

spend some more time, so he stayed with me and my family for two weeks," Bailey said.

The rest was history.

They signed a three-year deal and on March 5 at the Center Stage in Atlanta, Georgia, Johnson will be making his debut against American Cleoney Fuqua in the 160 pound middleweight division in a four-rounder. Fuqua has a 1-1 win-loss record with a knockout.

He also has another fight scheduled for March 20 in Mississippi.

Although he's yet to make his first dine, Johnson said he's going through the growing pain of getting himself established as a pro where he have to take care of all of his expenses.

"I'm going to get some fights, so that is what I'm working on now," he said. "I'm just trying to get started and putting my foot inside the door."

So far, Johnson said his training has been going great. He's currently working out under the tutelage of Alex Baba, a former World Boxing Council champion.

As for his debut on March 5, Johnson said he's eager to get into the ring again.

"I'm very excited. I saw one of his fights on ytube and so I think it will be great to compete against this guy," Johnson said. "I watched his fight, but not to be boostful, but I'm



Taureano 'Reno' Johnson

SEE page 10



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

BAHAMIAN Gary Armstrong winds up to bowl against a Panama batter.

### sports NOTES

#### TENNIS BRAJAXBA AGE GROUP

• THE 2010 Brajaxba Age Group Series Tennis Tournament, which got started on Saturday at the National Tennis Center, will continue today at 10 a.m.

Matches are also scheduled for Sunday, starting at 10 a.m.

This is the first event for top level juniors and will be used as a tune-up for the Subway Junior Tennis Tournament that will be staged in Grand Bahama in two weeks.

#### BASKETBALL NPBA UPDATE

• THE New Providence Basketball Association played one game on Friday night at the DW Davis Gymnasium with the B-Reddies knocking off the Security & General Stars 66-60.

The top scorer for B-Reddies was Jamaris King with 18 points. Tomoko Moxey had 21 in a losing effort.

The NPBA will be back in action tonight at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium when they host a fund raiser for Haiti. There will be a ladies' game at 6:30 p.m. and the feature contest will be a match-up of the Haitian players in the league against a select side from the NPBA.

## Bahamas cricket national team remains undefeated

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Cricket Association national team is taking advantage of its home turf, sitting on top of the standings at the Pepsi International Cricket Council's Americas Division 2 Tournament.

Yesterday at Haynes Oval on the fifth day of the week-long International Cricket Council tournament, the Bahamas remained undefeated at 3-0 turning in 350 overs to out-score Panama, who could only respond with 195 all out.

Also yesterday at Windsor Park, Brazil scored 244 runs in 50 overs for a loss of six wickets as they fell victim to Turks and Cacios, who came back and scored 245.

Panama dropped to 2-1, identical to Suriname. The Turks & Cacios is 1-2 and Brazil bring up the rear at 0-3.

Today, the Bahamas will

play Suriname at 9:30 a.m. in the championship match at Haynes Oval. At Windsor Park, Panama will play the Turks & Cacios to complete the round robin.

The winner of the tournament will advance to the Division 1 in May in Bermuda. If the Bahamas win, they will also go to Kuwait in the Division 8 of the World League in December.

In yesterday's win, Ryan Tappin had 98 runs to lead the Bahamas and the best bowler was Narendra Ekanayake with six wickets for 20 runs.

BCA's president Greg Taylor said he's not boosting, but he's confident that the Bahamas' team comprising of mixture of youth and experience will prevail.

The Bahamas, managed by Irving Taylor and coached by Mohamed Allie with Gary Brathwaite as trainer, will need to beat Suriname in order to win.

The tournament has been a

welcome event for the Bahamas as its has brought close to 100 players and fans for the week-long event. This is the first time that the Bahamas has hosted such an event and Taylor said they have been able to accommodate the International Cricket Council.

As for the level of competition, Taylor said it has been keenly contested from all five participating countries.

"Quite frankly, I think all of the teams have really stepped up their play near the end of the tournament," Taylor said. "But I think we got off to a good start and we were able to maintain that high level through the tournament."

Taylor credited the BCA for incorporating more of the younger players on their squad to the impressive showing so far in the tournament.

The two youngest players on the Bahamian team are Ashmeid Allie, 15, and Jermaine Adderley, 16.



BAHAMIAN Gary Armstrong keeps his focus on the Panamanian batter.

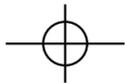


A PLAYER from Panama takes his turn at bat yesterday at Haynes Oval.



### Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.



LOCAL NEWS

# Pinder in 'conflict of interest' claims

FROM page one

not show evidence of a strong support for the rights of the "average" Bahamian.

While Dr Sands has held numerous senior positions in various medical institutions, associations and oversight bodies, Mr Rollins contends he is not aware of any instance where Dr Sands advocated on behalf of patients who have suffered medical negligence and sought redress — and this should be of concern to voters.

He said: "I am extremely concerned that Bahamians have not

been able to receive redress or have their issues properly dealt with by those within the medical profession.

"Why have we never heard Dr Sands speak out against these many issues that have caused Bahamians to lose faith and confidence in the healthcare system?"

"He said his track record is long enough where Bahamians can trust him and know that the quantity he provides is a known one. I take issue with that because I don't believe we've adequately seen Dr Sands demonstrate that he's interested in making very difficult decisions that would show him to be one who would fight for Bahamians."

In response, Dr Sands said: "I've served as president of the Medical Association of Bahamas for three years — longer than any other single physician in the history of the Bahamas — and as chairman of the Bahamas Medical Council.

"Certainly my record during that time speaks for itself in spoken and published positions, taking on matters of medical ethics, of appropriateness of care, reasonable and ethical billing practices, on and on and on. Perhaps that happened at a time prior to (Mr Rollins) returning home and he's not aware of it."

Speaking of Mr Pinder's affiliation with a US-based commercial

law firm and lobbyists Becker and Poliakoff, for whom he works as a consultant at their Bahamas office since returning to Nassau from Florida in mid-2008, Mr Rollins said he is concerned about reports that the company is "very aggressive in representing private developers' interests in South Florida" and Mr Pinder might use his election to the House of Assembly to further his company's agenda.

"My question is if Becker and Poliakoff has been serving not only as a law firm but as a political lobby has pumped so much money into the political campaigns of politicians who have decided on whether or not

development projects are given the green light, well could it be that the law firm of Becker and Poliakoff with Mr Ryan Pinder as a representative of that law firm here in the Bahamas is going to potentially be used as someone who will work in Government to serve the interests of private developers in Florida who happen to be trying to do business in the Bahamas.

"I say this is going to be at the expense or to the disadvantage of Bahamians seeking to do business in this country, or Bahamians in communities which do not wish to see mega developments take place," he said.

FROM page one

## Two shot dead

Bain Town flocked to the scene of the brutal slayings which occurred shortly after 10am yesterday.

"I came out in time to see a person running off. I went over to the guy lying on the ground, the first one was already dead," said Sherry Elliot Ferguson, a longtime Bain Town resident, said yesterday.

"I had a chance to talk to him, that's my boy," Assistant Commissioner of Police Glen Miller said. "The information we received is that at least one person was seen walking up to the men.

"There was an exchange of words and the individual then pulled out a handgun and a number of shots were fired at the first individual.

"A second individual who was nearby came to question him and this is when he was shot."

Residents in homes nearby claimed they heard at least eight shots fired.

The shooter, who police said was simply described as being

of dark complexion and of medium build, reportedly made his escape on a motorbike.

A woman, who witnesses claimed had gone to see what was happening, was reportedly injured following the shooting and had to be taken to hospital. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding that incident as well. "We don't know what the exact motive is at this time although we suspect that it may be some revenge killing," Mr Miller said. "What we are seeing is a number of drug houses popping up all over the place, particularly in this area and other areas of New Providence. I do feel that as a result of the proliferation of firearms on the street and the increase of drugs on the streets we are seeing this type of violence.

"I want to appeal to the public, particularly in these communities where you suspect that homes or streets are being used for the sale of drugs, to report it," Mr Miller said. Meanwhile,

senior pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church Bishop Simeon Hall yesterday urged churches to become more relevant to the social problems plaguing the country.

"It's interesting that there are more than 3,500 churches in our Bahamas and very few are opened after Sunday. More churches have to be more relevant to the social needs of our country. The Government is doing some things but yet more needs to be done," Bishop Hall said. Community activist Rev CB Moss whose church is based in the Bain Town community said: "It's very sad what has occurred here today, and this community among others is tired of picking up the pieces. It's past the time that this nation decides whether it's going to repeat this scenario week after week, month after month while lip service is being paid to the problem."

"This is a time for action. There is just too much talk about crime in this country. I don't think authorities understand what incidents like this do to communities and families."

## Toyota car importers are urged to contact dealership

FROM page one

directly to order the part, which Executive Motors can install.

In the meantime, the businessman advised drivers with US models to contact the Executive Motors service department and register their vehicle.

"The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) number would indicate if their vehicle is affected or not. There's a procedure for checking to see if that particular accelerator part is installed in their vehicle," said Mr Albury, noting that not all models which appear in the list of recalled cars publicised earlier this month will definitely be affected.

Earlier this month, Toyota recalled millions of cars after admitting that many may be impacted by a "sticky" accelerator problem that has seen some cars accelerate at random despite the driver not pressing the pedal.

Yesterday Mr Albury said Toyota's head office in the US had confirmed what he had previously told *The Tribune* was highly likely

- that the vast majority of their vehicles which Mr Albury's dealership sells are not affected by the recall as they are built in Japan, where manufacturers use a different supplier for the cars' accelerators.

"We have received a letter from the Toyota motor company that all vehicles we've imported direct from Japan are exempt from the recall," said Mr Albury.

Vehicles which are included under the "sticky accelerator pedal recall" include: certain 2009-2010 RAV4s, certain 2009-2010 Corollas, 2009-2010 Matrix, 2005-2010 Avalon, certain 2007-2010 Camrys, certain 2010 Highlanders, 2007-2010 Trundras and 2008-2010 Sequoias.

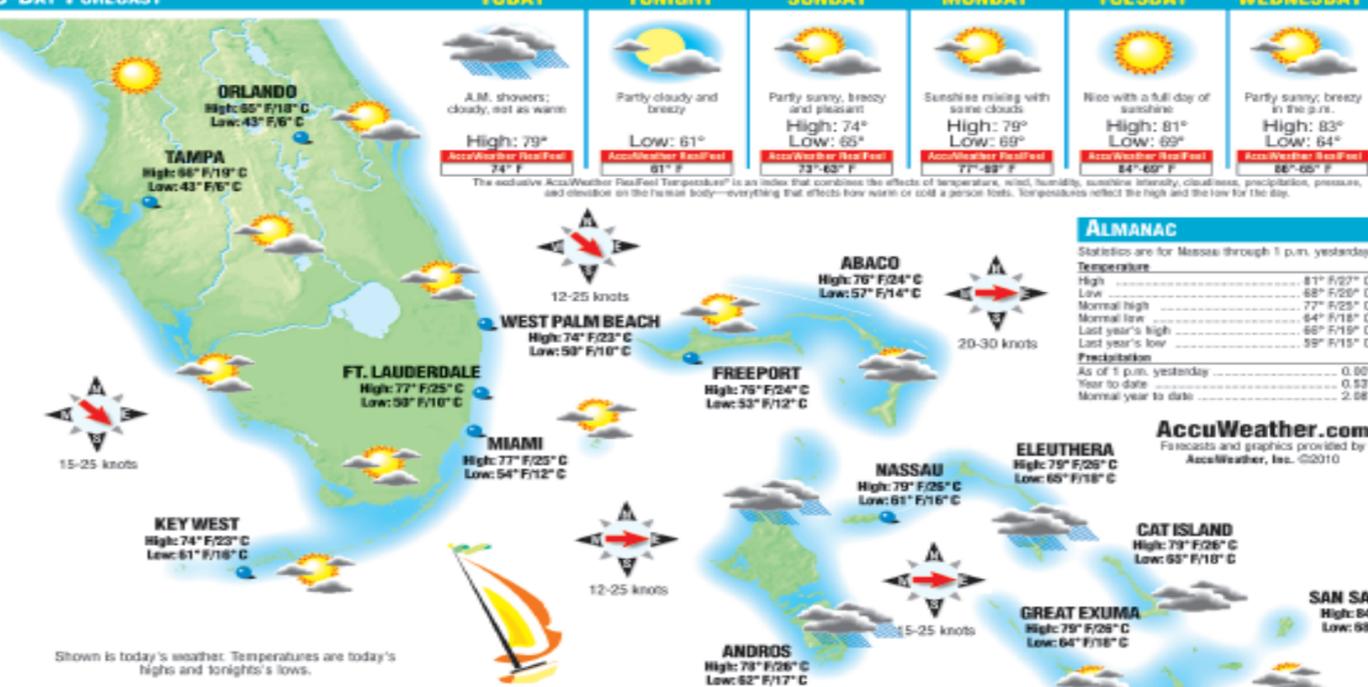
The recall is the result of the latest in a long line of recent safety issues to have hit the global car-maker since September 2007. Two days ago, Toyota announced that it is investigating 200 reports of brake faults in its new Prius model, however a recall has not been announced.

# THE WEATHER REPORT



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED  
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

### 5-DAY FORECAST



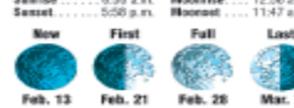
### UV INDEX TODAY



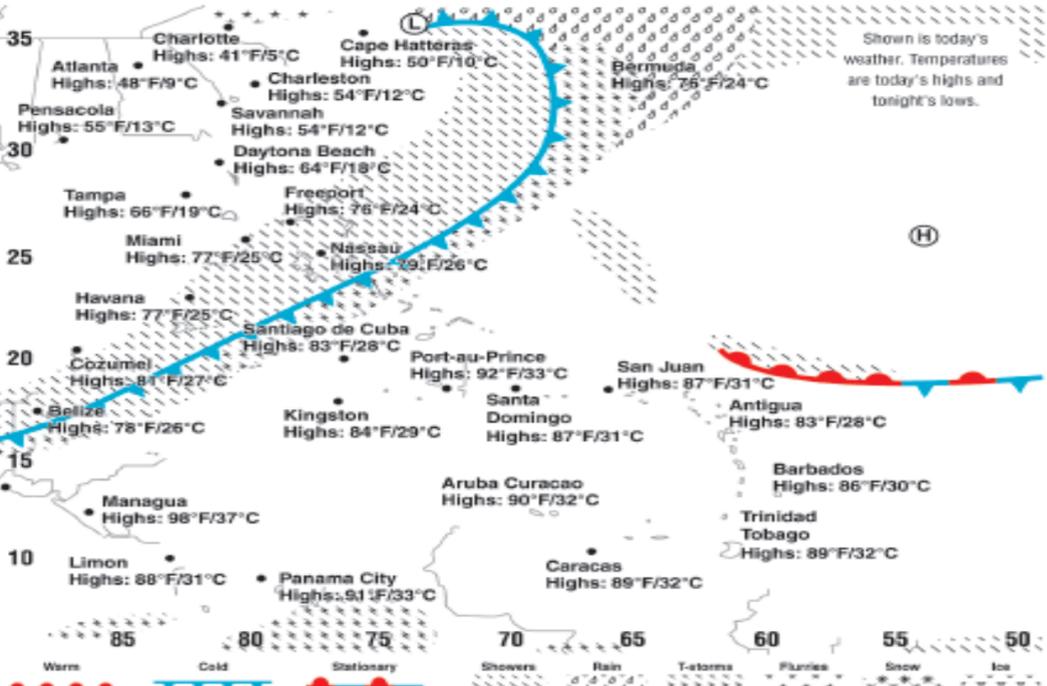
### TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Low
Today	1:23 a.m., 2.6	7:59 a.m., 0.3
Sunday	2:26 a.m., 2.5	8:57 a.m., 0.4
Monday	3:29 a.m., 2.5	9:01 a.m., 0.4
Tuesday	4:42 a.m., 2.5	10:50 a.m., 0.3
Wednesday	5:17 a.m., 2.5	11:47 a.m., 0.3
Thursday	6:02 a.m., 2.6	12:29 p.m., 0.1
Friday	6:41 a.m., 2.6	12:21 a.m., -0.1
Saturday	6:57 p.m., 2.2	1:06 p.m., 0.0

### SUN AND MOON



### INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



### MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: W at 20-30 Knots	5-6 Feet	10 Miles	74° F
ANDROS	Today: NW at 10-20 Knots	6-10 Feet	10 Miles	74° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: W at 12-25 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	76° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: NNW at 10-20 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
FREEPORT	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
NASSAU	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: W at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F

## AUTO INSURANCE

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