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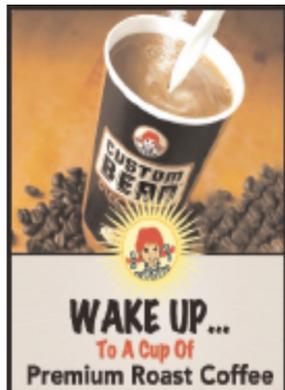
The Tribune

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BAHAMAS BIGGEST

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SPORTS

Tigers maul the Pitbulls

SPORTS STARTS ON PAGE 9

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\$10,000

HAVE YOU WON YOUR SHARE?

New drug fears amid Haiti crisis

Govt criticised over return of 78 migrants to Haiti

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE return of 78 undocumented Haitian migrants to Haiti yesterday has been criticised as an attempt by the Government to win political favour before Tuesday's by-election.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham maintains his position on Haitian repatriation has not changed since the earthquake which brought the country to a standstill on January 12, and he declared it would be impossible to send undocumented Haitians back to their homeland in the circumstances.

At that time, while stating that repatriations were to be suspended, Mr Ingraham added that "if new Haitians come and we apprehend them before they arrive in The Bahamas or otherwise, we will have a different position to take."

SEE page 11

Bahamas warned of massive rise in trafficking missions

By ALISON LOWE
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INTERNATIONAL crime fighters and academics fear the chaos and desperation in a post-earthquake Haiti, combined with the escape of thousands of criminals with drug ties from its main prison, will cause a huge rise in drug trafficking missions that will likely be felt in the Bahamas.

With this warning sounded, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest yesterday stated that the Government's "excellent" drug interdiction programme operating internally and in conjunction with US and Turks and Caicos forces through the Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos programme (OPBAT) "would be able to deal with any possible increase."

According to US media reports, combined with its ever high unemployment levels and already weakened law enforcement forces, the devastation wrought in Haiti by the 7.0 earthquake is causing concern among officials that drug traffickers will emerge stronger than ever.

Like The Bahamas, Haiti has consistently been identified in US State Department reports on drug trafficking as a "major transit point" for narcotics in the region.

Most commonly, drugs are brought into the country from South America — Colombia and Venezuela — and then re-shipped from Haiti to Europe and the US.

The Bahamas and the Dominican Republic have suffered most from this flow, becoming midway points in

SEE page eight

ELIZABETH CANDIDATES TAKE PART IN THE 'GREAT DEBATE'



FROM LEFT: Rodney Moncur of the Workers' Party, Ryan Pinder of the PLP, Dr Andre Rollins of the National Development Party and Cassius Stuart of the Bahamas Democratic Movement at last night's debate.

FOUR candidates in the Elizabeth by-election race yesterday participated in what was billed as the "Great Debate" for that constituency — with the three candidates from the "fringe" parties saying it is time for voters to kick out the FNM and the PLP and the PLP's Ryan Pinder telling of the "fresh perspective and solutions" he wants to bring to Elizabeth.

The debate — only the second political debate to be televised or aired on radio — saw each candidate make a short statement to the packed Epiphany Anglican Church Hall before answering a number of questions relating to the

qualities their candidacy offers and what their intentions are for the constituency if elected.

Each candidate who participated — Worker's Party leader Rodney Moncur, PLP candidate Ryan Pinder, the National Development Party's Andre Rollins and the Bahamas Democratic Movement's Cassius Stuart — stood behind a colourful podium as they fielded questions from moderator, Jones Com-

SEE page eight

Workers' Party steps up bid to have FNM candidate disqualified

By TANEKA THOMPSON
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IN his latest call to see by-election opponent Dr Duane Sands "disqualified" from the Elizabeth by-election vote, Workers' Party Leader Rodney Moncur claims the FNM candidate did not fully disclose his company's contractual dealings with the Government as mandated by the Constitution.

Mr Moncur yesterday argued that the doctor's published disclosure of assets did not reveal the complete picture of their working relationship.

The political hopeful claims this would be grounds for disqualification based on Consti-

tution rules for persons wishing to be elected to the House of Assembly.

"Dr Sands failed to tell us the name of the company. Dr Sands has failed to tell us the amount of shares he has in the company. Dr Sands has failed to tell us the value of the shares that he has in the company.

"Dr Sands has failed to tell us the name of the Government agency or ministry that the contract was signed with. Dr Sands has failed to tell us the value of the entire contract," Mr Moncur said.

He was referring to information in a disclosure letter the FNM candidate provided to by-

SEE page eight

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LOCAL NEWS

GB Police Force donates \$3,000 to Haiti Relief Fund

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT – The Royal Bahamas Police Force on Grand Bahama donated \$3,000 to the Haiti Relief Fund on Tuesday.

Quinn McCartney, senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, presented the cheque to representatives of the Grand Bahama Centre for the Red Cross at the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre. Mr McCartney said a decision was made during a regular monthly meeting two weeks ago to make a donation to assist earthquake victims in Haiti.

"An appeal was made to members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force for a donation and some persons donated \$100.

"We want to give back to the community and we are indeed pleased that officers and

reserves responded so generously," he said.

Mary Russell, Red Cross administrator, thanked Mr McCartney and his officers for their donation.

"It is indeed a pleasure to receive this cheque to aid the Haitian Relief Fund because it will go a long way," she said.

Ms Russell said that donations continue to come in at the centre on Jobson Avenue.

She said there is a need for medical supplies, baby items, and feminine hygiene products.

"The relief efforts are going really well, however, we are getting more clothes than we really need at this moment.

"The emphasis is on feminine products, water and medical supplies. We are not turning away the clothes, but that is not a priority at this time," Ms Russell said.

The Red Cross is preparing to ship its trailer with relief supplies to Haiti.

'Positive results' from Customs shift system

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Department of Customs is touting positive results from the government's newly implemented shift system for its officers.

"We've gotten good reports so far on our shift system which has been around for the past three weeks. Bit by bit we're trying to improve the face of Customs," said Customs Comptroller Glenn Gomez.

The system allows both Customs and Immigration officers to work a rotating eight-hour shift, five days a week. It is meant to eliminate or reduce the need for gross overtime incurred in those departments.

Success

While heralding its initial success, Mr Gomez could not readily say how much money the public purse has saved because of the new shift system.

Despite his positive take

on the scheme, he conceded that not all Customs officers are happy with the change, which came into effect nearly a month ago.

"With any new thing there are mixed feelings, but I think as we move further into it people will realise it's a good thing," he said, adding that the plan allows single parents more flexible time to drop off and pick up their children from school while allowing others to avoid early morning traffic jams.

Issues

John Pinder, president of the Bahamas Public Service Union (BPSU) which represents Customs and Immigration officers, said his union still has several issues regarding the new time schedule it wants addressed.

He said he is awaiting a meeting with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to discuss possible improvements on the salary currently offered to Customs guards.

"It is the government's wish that all Customs guards be reclassified to



BAHAMAS Public Service Union president John Pinder said there are still several issues the union wants addressed.

Customs officers. Until the reclassification is done they want to stay on overtime or get a better salary until then," he said.

As for the Department

of Immigration, Mr Pinder said it is fighting staffing challenges due to the new shift system.

"Customs went and hired 130 training officers to accommodate the new shift system but Immigration hasn't started their training yet. And so they are complaining that they haven't had a proper roster for the shift system," said Mr Pinder. "So we're hoping that Immigration would quickly recruit training officers to accommodate the shift system."

His union is also fighting for increments which are due some Customs and Immigration personnel to maintain their level of seniority. Some lower ranking officers are still awaiting promotions to grade two officers, Mr Pinder said.



PERRY CHRISTIE



HUBERT INGRAHAM

PM: Christie failed to do anything with \$100,000 allocation

OPPOSITION Leader Perry Christie failed to do anything with the \$100,000 allocated to him in the 2007/08 budget to have improvements made in his constituency, Prime Minister Ingraham revealed.

"Presumably he thought nothing should be done," Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said.

Mr Ingraham made this observation on Sunday as he defended the FNM's record of carrying out public works against accusations from the PLP that he had threatened Elizabeth voters that failure to support the FNM's candidate in the upcoming by-election could threaten their access to public goods and services, such as capital works.

In response, the Prime Minister noted that his government was thanked by

former MP for Elizabeth Malcolm Adderley in his resignation speech for the constituency allowance it provided him that had enabled him to carry out much needed improvement projects in what was then his constituency.

"We continue to demonstrate that we do not do work in constituencies because of who they support.

"In fact in some constituencies where we made monies available, like \$100,000 for the MP to decide on what should be done in the constituency, people like Mr Christie in the first year didn't spend any of the money at all. Presumably he thought nothing should be done (in the Farm Road constituency).

Mr Ingraham said "there is no credible allegation that can be made against the government that (he) head(s) that we show favouritism in terms of essential public works in any constituency during the course of our tenure in office."

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of Elizabeth Estates, will be held at Victory Fundamental Baptist Church, Golf Course Blvd., Sea Breeze at 2:00 p.m. Thursday February 11th 2010. Officiating will be Pastor Ivan Carey, assisted by other ministers. Interment will follow in Old Trail Cemetery, Abundant Life Road..

Left to cherish her memories are **her mother: J. Natasha Cartwright; her father: Edward Smith; one brother: Courtney Barry; grand parents: Vernon and Veronica Adderley, Carlos Louis and Betty Ramsey step-grandmother; Catherine Louis; adopted grandmother: Linda Johnson and Elra Ward; nine aunts: Dr. Kenya Ward, Sanshayeea Adderley, Valerie and Monique Smith, Carolyn Longley and Sandra Harris, Fernande Russell, Carlaine Smith and Antoinette Louis; three uncles: Leading Seaman Roberto Adderley, Dr. E. Anthonie Ward and Basil Longley Sr., and David Louis, fifteen cousins, her god parents, and a host of other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.**

Friends may pay their last respects at Butler's Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Ernest & York Streets on Wednesday, February 10th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and at the church on Thursday from 1:00 p.m., until service time.

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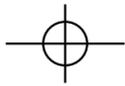
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LOCAL NEWS

Two men in court in connection with fatal Milton Street shooting

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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TWO men charged in a fatal shooting on Milton Street last July were arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday on murder and attempted murder charges.

Police have charged Raphael Neymour, 23, alias "Mad ass"; and Jason Ferguson, 29, of Strachan's Corner with the July 21, 2009, murder of Marvin Sears.

According to police reports, two gunmen turned onto Milton Street off East Street in a dark coloured vehicle, got out of the car and fired shots at a group of about six men. Sears, 36, was hit in the stomach. He was rushed to hospital and later died of his injuries.

Neymour and Ferguson have also been charged with



RAPHAEL NEYMOUR



JASON FERGUSON

Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

the attempted murder of Mathias Williams, who was reportedly shot in the elbow.

The accused, who were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in

Court 1, Bank Lane, were not represented by an attorney and were not required to enter a plea to the charges.

Ferguson, who is also known as "Fat head" and

"Shorts", was charged last January with the August 2007 murder of Theophilus Dean, 24.

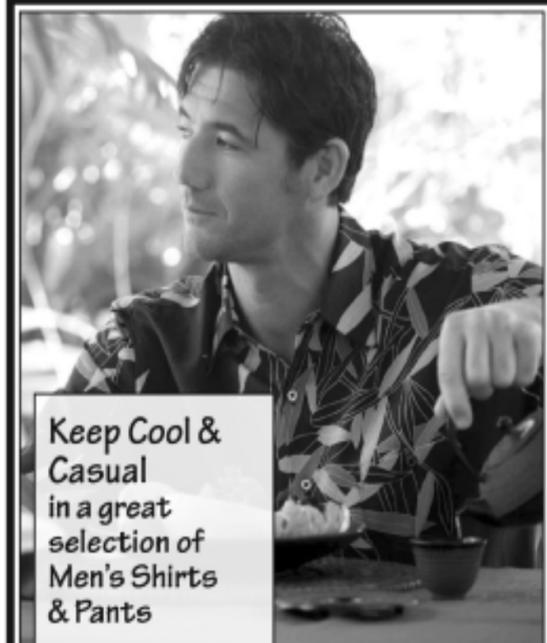
Neymour is also accused of the attempted murder of Samantha Eden. It is alleged that he attempted to cause Eden's death on Monday, August 3, 2009.

It is also alleged that he was in possession of a handgun with the intent to endanger the life of Nadley Flesnier.

Neymour told the magistrate he did not know his co-accused and that they had never been placed on an identification parade.

Neymour added that he had been informed that he was being held in connection with another murder.

The accused were both remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. Their case was adjourned to Friday, February 12, for a fixture hearing.



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Bahamas Against Crime plans 'Caravan of Peace'

By ALESHA CADET

THE rising tide of crime shows no sign of abating in the new year and the activist group Bahamas Against Crime has declared that it is critical for the nation to say "enough is enough" in 2010.

According to Rev Dr William Thompson, chairman of BAC, while the official homicide count for the year stands at 10 – already surpassing the number at this point in 2009, a record breaking year for murders – the unofficial number is thought to be even higher.

Rev Thompson also pointed out that far more drugs have been confiscated since the beginning of 2010, compared to the same period the previous year.

He added: "The rate of armed robberies, burglaries, and other serious crimes is well above last year's rate. This is inflicting much pain and suffering upon families, friends and the entire society."

BAC is intent on fighting this trend by replacing the developing culture of crime, violence and hostility with one of peace, unity and tranquility.

"A Caravan of Peace is being organised which will travel throughout New Providence communities staging peace rallies and concerts, working with residents and community groups to lower the level of crime and violence," Rev Thompson said. He said this effort could begin as early as next month.

BAC will also host a private sector "Crime Summit" on March 22 and 23 at the Wyndham Resort, under the theme "Enough is Enough."

The event will bring together organisations from the religious, business, professional and academic sectors to produce an action plan that BAC wants to implement across the capital with the help of private sector partners.

BAC president Rev CB Moss said: "This summit is designed to put into play some of the plans that have been made over the years. Now is the time for action."

Rev Thompson said government agencies will be invited to assist with the facilitation of certain aspects of the action plan, however the driving force must be individuals and non-governmental entities.



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

REV DR WILLIAM THOMPSON and Rev CB Moss speak to the press yesterday.

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Crawfish 'size matters' in Abaco

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Abaco fishing community says when it comes to crawfish, size definitely matters – although the jury is still out in other islands.

Friends of the Environment, an Abaco-based environmental health advocacy organisation, launched the Size Matters campaign to combat the capture of juvenile crawfish in Abaco.

The campaign is intended to encourage a culture of self-regulation as a matter of national pride to help preserve and protect the country's fisheries resources, which have recently come under threat from internal and external forces.

In addition to the widespread capture of juveniles, invasive lionfish has become a major threat to the crawfish population, as it feeds on crawfish larvae, slowing the regenerative process of the species.

Meanwhile, global trends are a major threat to the commercial crawfish industry, as international markets for Bahami-

an crawfish are demanding Marine Steward Council (MSC) certification of local exports.

However, research conducted by Friends of the Environment in collaboration with Florida International University's Department of Marine Resources, shows the number one threat is the illegal capture of egg-bearing females.

The joint team published a threat ranking after widespread consultation with Abaco stakeholders that also identified pollution, invasive lionfish, wetland degradation and climate change as threats, in declining order of significance.

"We are using a marketing approach by raising the level of pride. Abaco fishermen are ultimately responsible for the future of fisheries. That one lobster they fish, even if they sell that to a local wholesaler, can ultimately end up being sold in Nassau and exported out of the country as far as Europe," said d'Shan Maycock,

the campaign's manager.

"(Responding to potential threats) will force us as a country to implement more sustainable practices, which is the goal of this campaign. Fishermen will have to comply with the regulations already in place as well as implement best practice skills in their fishing business which will only benefit the country in the long run and enable us to achieve international certification in the future," said Ms Maycock.

In 2009, Abaco landed 729,000 plus pounds of crawfish, valued at about \$6 million. This was almost one fifth of the Bahamas' 2008 export total of 4.5 million pounds.

The "Size Matters" pride campaign is one of several efforts that should move the Bahamas further in line with sustainable practices in the commercial fishing industry. Major crawfish exporter Tropic Seafood Ltd has been involved in rigorous public education campaigns and policy-

based advocacy with the government.

Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Larry Cartwright, said the greatest challenge the Bahamas faces is quantifying fish stocks.

Despite the challenges, he said, all export fisheries facilities can pass international inspections on any given day.

He added that the existence of open seasons for stone crab, grouper and crawfish puts the Bahamas ahead of the game, not to mention the government's active plans to increase the number of marine protected areas (MPA) from one – the Exuma Land and Sea National Park – to eight.

The minister noted that he tabled legislation in the House of Assembly last month for the creation of the Berry Islands MPA. Legislation for the Exuma South-side MPA is ready for tabling. Next on the list are parks in South Eleuthera, Bimini, Abaco, and an area between Exuma and Long Island.

Women in court on gun, ammunition charges

THREE women were arraigned in Magistrates' Court yesterday on gun and ammunition charges.

Princess Saunders, 40; Annacalia Saunders, 18; and Ciayvonna Lockhart, 22, all of East Street, were arraigned before Magistrate Carolita Bethell in Court 8, Bank Lane, charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of ammunition.

It is alleged that on Saturday, February 6, the women were found in possession of a 9mm Beretta pistol and 15 live rounds of ammunition.

The women pleaded not guilty to the charges. Princess Saunders was granted \$7,500 bail.

Her co-accused were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison and will return to court on February 11 for a bail hearing.



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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Haitians become political fodder

POLITICS is a cruel game of creating divisions and playing on the prejudices of a community.

In the Elizabeth by-election the long-suffering Haitian has become a political football.

One would have thought that a people's compassion on the suffering of others would have put this subject out of bounds for all politicians.

But no. One minute government is criticised for releasing Haitians from the Carmichael Road Detention Centre and granting them temporary amnesty during a period when Haiti, after the destruction of Port-au-Prince, was in no position to take them back.

Another minute, it was being berated for prosecuting Haitians who illegally landed at Coral Harbour, and now it is being criticised for picking the migrants up at sea and returning them to Haiti.

Shane Gibson, immigration minister in the Christie government, wanted to know why if Government could return Haitians intercepted in Bahamian waters to their homeland, it could not also repatriate immigrants who had landed on Bahamian soil. Mr Gibson is mischief making.

He, as well as all Bahamians, having daily watched the chaos in Haiti knows the answer so we shall not even waste the ink of our presses to engage him in argument.

He was upset that the government took the Haitians from their "unseaworthy boat", put them on the Defence Force vessel and returned them to Haiti without first bringing them to Nassau for processing. Surely Mr Gibson is not being serious.

Why would the government go to the extra expense of bringing them to Nassau, processing them, charging them in court — remember they had not landed on our soil — putting them in jail and at some future date going to even more expense to repatriate them?

It just does not make practical sense, and Mr Gibson knows this.

But it does make mischievous politics. Mr Gibson also knows this, and this is the game he is playing at the expense of the unfortunate Haitian.

"We will do all we can to assist Haiti except we cannot absorb Haiti's population in the Bahamas," Mr Ingraham told the Associated Press.

All Bahamians of whatever political hue will agree with that statement.

Even the great United States with its vast territories says the same thing.

Like the Bahamas the United States announced it would deport Haitians who arrived in that country after the catastrophic earthquake of January 12. US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano made it clear that Haiti's misfortunate "is not an opportunity for migration." The Bahamas government is saying the same thing.

Washington announced that it was giving temporary status to about 100,000 Haitians living illegally in the US before the quake.

The Bahamas did the same, releasing 102 Haitians being held at the Detention Centre for repatriation. They have about a six-month reprieve.

And, of course, both countries are patrolling the waters to turn the boats back before they can land on either shore.

If Mr Gibson wants the migrants brought to Nassau instead of being taken back to Haiti then why have the Defence Force waste its time on the open seas?

Surely, not to give them safe escort to Nassau.

It is about time that politicians stop playing Russian roulette with the lives of the unfortunate Haitians and get on with solving the immediate needs of the constituents of the Elizabeth constituency.

The Prime Minister responds to article on Haitian migrants

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THIS letter is in response to the article by your reporter Alison Lowe appearing in this morning's edition of The Tribune (Tuesday, Feb. 9).

When the terrible earthquake struck Haiti's capital city on January 12th, I announced on the following day that in light of conditions in that country in the immediate aftermath of the quake, the Bahamas Government would suspend its programme of apprehension of illegal Haitian migrants living in the country. As reported in the press, I said:

"The Department of Immigration will release from the Detention Centre those Haitians who are currently there and give them some temporary status until such time as things have changed." I went on to say "If new Haitians come and we apprehend them before they arrive in The Bahamas or otherwise, we will have a different position to take."

I also reported that all repatriation exercises had been suspended.

As a result some 102 illegal Haitian immigrants awaiting repatriation from the Carmichael Detention Centre were released and given temporary status allowing them to remain in the country for up to six months.

When I addressed a news conference on the January 17th, I reaffirmed my Government's decision to suspend apprehension, detention and repatriation of Haitians found living illegally in The Bahamas. And, I noted that other countries like the US had done the same and were granting illegal Haitian nationals special temporary status. I also said the following:

"They (the US) have also, like us, (my emphasis) made it clear that no new immigrants from Haiti will be allowed in. The American and international media have already tak-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

en note of our decision."

Hence, when 49 new illegal immigrants landed in the vicinity of Coral Harbour on January 26th, they were arrested, charged before our courts and subsequently convicted and sentenced to six months incarceration at Her Majesty's prison.

According to press reports, the men are confined at the prison in Fox Hill; the women and three minor children are being detained at the Carmichael Detention Centre. It can be expected that they will all be repatriated to Haiti.

Most Bahamians will be aware of increased surveillance by both Bahamian and US authorities aimed at detecting boats seeking to depart Haiti since the earthquake with the intention of transporting illegal migrants to foreign countries. These increased surveillance efforts are meant to assist in containing the flow of undocumented migrants from taking to the seas on unseaworthy vessels and exposing themselves to still more danger.

When such boats are detected, they are escorted back to their home ports without them ever reaching a foreign port.

That was the case with the 78 Haitians detected by a RBDF patrol vessel while they were travelling on a Haitian sloop in waters off the Exuma chain last Saturday. Because their vessel was unseaworthy, the migrants were transferred to a RBDF vessel and they are being returned safely to their Haitian port. The US Coast Guard is assisting in this matter.

Nothing in the handling of this latest group of illegal immigrants is in any way contradictory to announced Government

policy on the treatment of Haitians found in The Bahamas following the events of January 12, 2010.

Clearly, as events evolve in Haiti the response from The Bahamas will be adjusted to take changes into account.

I also attach a copy of the press release issued by the Ministry of National Security yesterday.

PRIME MINISTER HUBERT A INGRAHAM

Nassau, February 9th, 2010.

Ministry of National Security release:

Haitian Immigrants returned to Haiti

The Ministry of National Security has confirmed that on Saturday, 6 February 2010, 78 Haitian migrants were intercepted in waters near the Exuma chain when the sloop in which they were sailing was sighted by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force on a routine patrol.

Defence Force vessel HMBS P-45 spotted the 30-foot Haitian sailing sloop approximately 13 nautical miles southwest of Barreterre, Exuma. The Haitian migrants, 64 males and 14 females, were transferred from their unseaworthy vessel and taken aboard Defence Force craft P-45 and P-49.

The migrants, all of whom appeared to be in fair health, have been transferred to HMBS Bahamas. The United States Coast Guard is assisting the Royal Bahamas Defence Force in returning the migrants to Haiti.

The return of the migrants to Haiti is in conformity with enunciated policy that Haitian migrants coming to The Bahamas illegally after the earthquake will be apprehended and returned to Haiti.

February 8, 2010.

Corruption seems to be embedded deep in PLP

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Since time immemorial the PLP has been associated with one form of underhandedness or the other.

Various forms of suspicious manoeuvrings, especially in elections have been the hallmark of that shameless bunch. The FNM cannot forget how the 1987 election was literally stolen in broad daylight.

We all can remember how the PLP emptied the graveyards. Zombies, ghosts and goblins voted, so what is happening in the Elizabeth by elections is actually expected, especially how desperate the PLP seem to be.

The election court exposed

how those managing the election under the Christie administration that served 2002-2007 confused us all from the way people were shuffled from constituency to constituency so that certain candidates could win.

The election court showed us clearly that serious gerrymandering occurred. Natural boundary lines were erased in favour for unusual lines that ran through people's homes.

During the 2007 election, some even bragged how they voted in several constituencies. But who could forget the brazen attempt of a well known lawyer who was feverishly moving between Sandilands Primary School and Faith Temple School on Prince Charles, trying to plan his fake ballots.

Even though he was literally and physically monitored and chased by me, he still continued to manoeuvre hell-bent on gaining an advantage for the PLP.

So the recent cry from the FNM, NDP and BDM about hundreds of voters who cannot be found, only reminds us

of elections past when people who were registered claimed to reside in vacant lots.

So dishonesty and corruption seems to be embedded deep in the foundation of the PLP — even one of their number, Loftus Roker, warned many years ago that "corruption was rocking" the PLP to its very foundation.

It is too bad though that the atmosphere of crime in the Bahamas today would only be enhanced when criminals believe that a political party cheats just to gain power. It confirms that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

On another note, the PLP said at one of their rallies that they would rescue the Elizabeth Constituency.

Now the real joke is Elizabeth was represented by the PLP for the past eight years. Do you think that the PLPs just have bad memories or they are habitual liars? In my opinion they are both.

IVOINE INGRAHAM
Nassau,
February, 2010.

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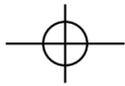
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LOCAL NEWS

Police believe teen hidden to prevent giving evidence

Search for missing 18-year-old

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Grand Bahama police are searching for a missing 18-year-old girl who they believe is being hidden to prevent her from giving evidence in a court case.

Charleah Edwina Wilchcombe of No 11 Brink Hill Road, Lincoln Green, is a witness in a case before the Magistrate's Court. She was last seen six months ago on August 4 at the Columbus House for Girls, two months before the court matter was scheduled to be heard.



Rock man, was granted bail on Monday.

Ernestine Bartlett was being held in police custody following her arraignment on Friday in the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate's Court pending the outcome of doctors' attempts to stabilise the victim, who was in hospital in the critical condition at the time.

During her reappearance in court on Monday, Bartlett pleaded not guilty to causing grievous harm and elected to have a summary trial. Magistrate Gwen Claude granted

Bartlett bail in the amount of \$5,000 with one or two sureties.

The matter was adjourned to April 29 for trial.

BURGLARY CHARGE

Frederick Antonio, 55, of Holmes Rock, was arraigned on attempted burglary charges in the Freeport Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Antonio was charged in Court 3 before Deputy Chief Magistrate Helen Jones with attempted burglary, causing damage, and resisting arrest.

It is alleged that on February 5, the accused attempted to gain entry and caused damage at a home in South Bahama. It is further alleged that he resisted arrest.

He pleaded guilty to causing damage and was sentenced to one year at Her Majesty's Prison in Nassau.

Antonio pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest. He did not enter a plea to the charge of attempted burglary.

Magistrate Jones adjourned the matters to April 13.

Public

Police declined to divulge the details of the case, but said they do not believe that any harm has come to the girl. They are now appealing to the public to help them find the missing teenager.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey said the police released a missing poster of the teen to the media in October 2009 and again on February 4, 2010.

Ms Mackey said police have not received any information to date concerning the whereabouts of the girl.

Anyone with information pertaining to this matter is asked to call police at 350-3107, 352-9774/5 or 911.

WOMAN CHARGED IN STABBING

A 45-year-old Eight Mile Rock woman, who was charged in connection with last week's stabbing of a 55-year-old Holmes

Sentence deferred on 'dangerous driving' man

A MAN who pleaded guilty last December to killing a woman and a one-year-old girl in the course of dangerous driving will have to wait a few more weeks before he is sentenced.

Gabelle Gabriel, 23, of South Beach Drive, has also pleaded guilty to driving without a valid driver's license and driving while not covered by third party risk insurance.

Court dockets allege that at about 4.20pm on Sunday, September 20, Gabriel drove a water truck south on Marathon Road in the area of the Marathon Mall in a manner dangerous to the public, thereby causing the deaths of Lavonya Miller and Rondea Dean.

Ms Miller, 20, and her one-year-old niece were passengers in the water truck driven by Gabriel which was travelling on Marathon

Road when it crashed into a maroon coloured Cadillac Seville, causing the truck to flip over.

Both the woman and the young child were thrown from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.

Gabriel, who is represented by attorney Mark Rolle, appeared before Magistrate Ancella Williams in Court 6 yesterday. He was informed by the Magistrate, however, that his sentence would be deferred as his

probation report was not available. His sentencing has been deferred to February 26. Magistrate Williams told Gabriel, who is on \$10,000 bail, to continue with his grief counselling.

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US actress visits Haiti as goodwill ambassador for UN

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

ANGELINA JOLIE began two days of meetings with Haiti earthquake victims Tuesday in her role as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. refugee agency, according to Associated Press.

The actress, representing the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, met with U.N. officials in Port-au-Prince and visited an SOS Villages camp

for orphans outside the capital, where she was cheered by Haitians yelling, "Angie! Angie!"

That same camp took care of 33 Haitian children after a U.S.-based Baptist group was arrested at the Dominican border trying to take the kids out of the country.

It wasn't known if Jolie spoke with any of the children, and journalists were kept at a distance throughout

her visit.

The American missionaries have been accused of trying to take the children out of Haiti without proper documentation.

The group says it was heading to a Dominican orphanage following Haiti's quake and had only good intentions.

Jolie also toured a Doctors Without Borders hospital in a Port-au-Prince suburb, waving to onlookers.

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How we became hooked on overeating

AS CHRISSEY LOVE said recently on the ZNS call-in show *Immediate Response*, "Chile I been on more diet than Oprah."

Her point was that diets don't work — at least not in the long-term. As we all know, it's hard to stick to any diet, and sooner or later we give up and rejoin the world of uncontrolled eating, usually gaining back the few pounds we lost plus a little more.

Most of us simply shrug our shoulders and move on. But a groundbreaking new book by



the former head of the US Food and Drug Administration reveals that food is now a top public health issue, and he tries to explain how we can scientifically address our compulsive urge to overeat.

The unfortunate fact is, says

Dr David Kessler in *The End of Overeating*, that we have all become addicts — hooked by overstimulated brain chemicals on huge portions of food layered and loaded with sugar, fat and salt, which offers little or no nutritional value.

Kessler, a Harvard-educated paediatrician, argues that until we fundamentally alter our eating behaviour, we will continue to waste money on ineffective weight-loss schemes while running the risk of all those deadly medical conditions that are caused by obesity — including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, arthritis and some cancers.

Naturally, his book focuses on Americans and the American food industry in particular. But Bahamians are in the same overloaded boat, as Health Minister Dr Hubert Minnis has frequently pointed out. And since most of our prepared foods and chain restaurants are American, Kessler's facts about overeating are just as applicable here.

Kessler is perhaps best known for his efforts to investigate and regulate the tobacco industry, and his accusation that cigarette makers intentionally manipulated nicotine content to make their products more addictive. His new book compares the food industry to big tobacco, and shows how our responses to food need to change.

"The attitudes that created the social acceptability of smoking shifted, and many of us began to see smoking as deviant, even repulsive behaviour. A consensus emerged that the cigarette, and the industry that manufactured it, was abhorrent. We moved from glorification to demonisation."

So we need to change our thinking about big food in the same way. As Kessler says, "Its ubiquitous presence, large portion sizes, incessant marketing, and the cultural assumption that its acceptable to eat anywhere at any time (are you listening civil servants?) puts us at risk...And people need to hear repeatedly, from many sources, that selling, serving, and eating food layered and loaded with sugar, fat and salt has negative, unhealthy consequences."

The book begins with the observation that for thousands of years human body weight stayed remarkably stable, so that people who were overweight stood apart from the general population. A perfect biological system seemed to be at work, until something happened in the 1980s.

When researchers surveyed government health and nutrition data collected from 1988 to 1991 it became apparent that fully one-third of the entire American adult population was

overweight — an abrupt increase. The landmark study showing that the rate of obesity in America had exploded was published in the July 1994 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Kessler's book is the result of the years of thinking and study he went through to try to make sense of those results. As he points out, food had become more readily available in the 1970s and 80s, along with larger portion sizes, more chain restaurants, more neighbourhood food outlets, and a culture that promoted more out-of-home eating. But there had to be something more driving us to overeat.

His conclusion — in a nutshell — is that sugar, fat and salt cause us to eat more sugar fat and salt. It's all about "palatability", a term scientists use to refer to food that has the capacity to stimulate the appetite and drive us to eat more. "It's the stimulation, rather than general hunger," he says, "that makes us put food into our mouths long after our caloric needs are satisfied."

Decades of research into human taste, food preferences and dietary choices, have confirmed that what stimulates us most is a combination of sugar and fat. Mix the same amount of sugar into low fat and high fat products and people always choose the higher-fat mixtures — something that restaurants like the Cheesecake Factory were quick to figure out.

Kessler cites one experiment with two strains of rats. One was bred to overfeed when a high-calorie diet was available, producing an obesity-prone rat. The other strain did not ordinarily overfeed — an obesity-resistant rat.

After a period of eating extra calories, the obesity-resistant group cut back their food intake much faster. But when both groups were offered highly palatable foods rich in sugar and fat, all the animals ate without restraint.

Another experiment let one group of animals eat freely while restricting the diet of another group.

Both groups then headed towards a chocolate-flavoured cereal high in sugar and fat at almost the same speed. The absence of hunger made no difference to the appeal of the reward.

But it is Kessler's insights into the food industry that are the most interesting part of the book. He reports inside information from a variety of food consultants who confirmed that the industry creates dishes specifically to hit the three points of the compass — sugar, fat and salt.

"Chicken tenders," he writes, "are so loaded with batter and fat that my source jokes that they're a UFO — an unidentified fried object. Salt and sugar are loaded into the fat. The White Chocolate Mocha Frappuccino served at Starbucks is coffee diluted with a mix of sugar, fat and salt."



Blooming Onions — the trademark Outback Steakhouse dish — provide plenty of surface area to absorb fat. Fried in batter and topped with sauce their flavour comes from salt on sugar on fat.

Eating high-sugar, high-fat foods produces opioids in our brains that help calm us down and make us feel better — at least in the short term. That's why infants cry less when given sugar water and animals feel less pain when administered opioid-like drugs. "Eating highly palatable food activates the opioid circuits...The more rewarding the food, the greater the attention we direct toward it and the more vigorously we pursue it."

In addition to that, the conditions under which we encounter foods switch on powerful brain chemicals that compel us to eat. We learn to want a food or some other substance we once liked. Putting all this together gives the following picture, he says: "A cue triggers a dopamine-fueled urge...dopamine leads us to food...eating food leads to opioid release...and the production of both dopamine and opioids stimulates further eating...The more rewarding the food, the stronger the learning experience that creates the automatic behaviour."

And the goal of food design is to make products as rewarding as possible. For example, Kessler describes the boneless chicken wings at Chili's Restaurant. The meat is injected with a solution of water, soy protein, salt and sodium phosphate. At the manufacturing plant the chicken is battered, breaded, and pre-dusted to create a salty coating that becomes crispy when fried in fat at the restaurant.

The coating is some 40 per cent fat and represents up to half of the volume of nuggets that end up on your plate. Added to this is a sweet and salty sauce and a mayonnaise-based dressing — it's hyperpalatable food that requires little chewing and goes down easily. The fact is that chemical-based processing has created a sort of adult baby food.

According to US government figures we are eating more of everything these days. Per capita consumption of fats and oils jumped 63 per cent over the past 30-odd years. Use of sugars and sweeteners was up 19 per cent. We ate 43 per cent more grain and 7 per cent more meat, eggs, and nuts over the same period. We are also eating 24 per cent more vegetables — but most of those are deep-fried potatoes, otherwise known as french fries.

Then there are the portion sizes. Food designers say that if you make plates bigger and fill them more, everyone makes more money.

Supersize options and all-you-can-eat specials give consumer access to a bottomless well of food for a fractional increase in cost. It's cheap and it's always available.

"Based on these findings," Kessler says, "an argument can be made that conditioned overeating is a syndrome, or a condition characterised by a cluster of symptoms...These patterns almost certainly contribute significantly to the exploding obesity epidemic...A conducive environment is necessary to trigger hyper-eating. That's exactly what we have today."

The bad news is that there's no quick fix — it's simply impossible to avoid the temptation of highly palatable foods all the time in today's world. The good news is that we can begin to train ourselves to alter the reactions that are generated by stimulation.

And awareness of the problem is the first step along this road, Kessler says.

"Once I thought a big plate of food was what I wanted and needed to feel better. Now I see that plate for what it is — layers of fat on sugar on fat that will never provide lasting satisfaction and only keep me coming back for more. I have changed the reward value of the stimulus."

Over to you Chrissy.

What do you think? Send comments to larry@tribunemedia.net Or visit www.bahamapundit.com

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A Memorial Service for



Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Kelly Kenning, OBE, 85

of Cable Beach, Nassau, The Bahamas, who died at Doctor's Hospital on Saturday, 6th February, 2010 will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk, Princes Street on Wednesday, 17th February at 11.00 a.m. Rev. Charles Sweeting will officiate.

Mrs. Kenning is survived by her husband, John Kenning, OBE; her cousins, Godfrey Kelly, CMG and his wife Sonia and their daughter, Linda and her daughter, Katherine; Paula Kelly, widow of the late Basil Kelly and their children, Steven Kelly, his daughter, Jennifer and his wife Susan; Gary Kelly and his wife, Karen and their children, Ashley and Travis; Lynn Lowe and her husband, Chris and children, Kelly, Lauren and Matthew; Nancy Kelly, widow of the late David Kelly and their children Andrew Kelly and his sons, Jordan and Oliver; Gregory Kelly and his wife, Shelle and their children, Avery and Jack; Scott Kelly and his wife Candy and their daughter, Katie; George Kelly, MBE and his wife Norma and their children Maureen and Charles and his wife Candice and their daughter Skylar Rose; her brothers-in-law, Alexander Kenning and his wife Joan and their children, David and Gary; David Noel Kenning and his wife Elizabeth and their children, Jill, Alan and Caroline; special friends, Jack and Betty Sands, Loree Kelly Delahey and Pam Stuart.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kenning's staff, Phillippe Pierre, Beryl Pratt, Gloria Miller, Presley Seymour and Samuel Mortimer and to Dr. C. Dean Tseretopoulos, Dr. Angela Kunz, Dr. Michael Neville, Edith DeGuia Caparas, R.N., Donovan Caparas, Agatha Lightbourne, T.C.N., Justina Knowles, R.N., Inez Cartwright, T.C.N., Sybil Allen, R.N., Shirley Cooper, R.N., Ruthlyn Rolle, P.C.T., May Ferguson, T.C.N., Shellee Smith, T.C.N., Hazel Knowles, Nancy Bethel, Kimberley Walkine, R.N., Indera Stubba, R.N., and Linda Abere, R.N.

In lieu of flowers, friends who wish may make a donation to the Bahamas Humane Society, P.O. Box N 242, Nassau in memory of the late Mrs. Betty Kelly Kenning, OBE.



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LOCAL NEWS

Artisans 'on cusp of handicraft revolution'

150 GRADUATE FROM BAIC COURSES

BAHAMIAN artisans are "on the cusp of a revolution in the handicraft industry," Agriculture and Marine Resources Minister Larry Cartwright has declared.

The minister was speaking during the graduation ceremony last Friday for 150 Eleutherans from Princess Cay to Harbour Island who took part in the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation's (BAIC) courses in shell, coconut, straw and sisal craft.

BAIC executive chairman Edison Key said the target is to produce \$300 million worth of authentically Bahamian made souvenirs.

"That is the estimated value of souvenirs and other memorabilia that we import for our tourists," he said.

"From what I see here in Eleuthera and elsewhere in our Bahamaland, that expenditure to foreign concerns is totally unnecessary.

"Imagine what it would do for the Bahamian economy if just a third of that was spent in support of the Bahamian handicraft industry!"

Mr Cartwright said that "more people are being trained, organised and prepared to be symbols of our creativity and genius."

Mr Key has pledged BAIC's support as artisans move to cash in on the multi-million-dollar Bahamian souvenir industry.

He is advocating that only authentic Bahamian items should be sold in the new straw market being constructed downtown Nassau.

Trainers for the courses were nationally acclaimed Emily Munnings of Savannah Sound, Eleuthera; Salomie Cartwright of Gregory Town, Eleuthera; and April Martin-Fox for Nassau, New Providence.



ELEUTHERA CRAFT ASSOCIATION president Susan Culmer (centre) shows off coconut craft on exhibit during ceremony marking the graduation of artisans who completed BAIC courses in handicraft last Friday.

The president and treasurer of the Bahamas National Craft Association are Eleutherans Martha Smith and Susan Culmer respectively. Ms Culmer is also president of the Eleuthera Craft Association.

Minister Cartwright noted that the handicraft and souvenir industry has been a viable sector of the economy.

"Many vendors still regard it as a saving grace in terms of income providing a consistent and better way of life," he said.

He implored artisans to "summon the inner resolve that Bahamians were known for, to redouble your efforts and apply your ingenuity to design and manufacture keepsakes and cherished pieces at an even more rapid pace which is com-

parable to international standards, never allowing our handicraft to lose the indigenous stamp."

He recognised the "pivotal role" BAIC is playing in "providing an incubation environment" for small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs.

"Now that BAIC has sought to undertake these training programmes and to raise the awareness of our artisans and entrepreneurs to what the possibilities are, a more concerted effort must be made on the part of all concerned," he said.

As a result of the unwavering effort of Eleuthera artisans, Mr Cartwright said, the volume, standard and quality of craft and souvenir items from this island have increased over the years.



GRADUATES OF BAIC'S handicraft courses in Eleuthera, entertain guests.



SHELL WORK, on exhibit during the graduation ceremony, was one of the courses BAIC offered in Eleuthera.

He underscored the need for authentically Bahamian items to be presented in the new straw market being constructed downtown Nassau.

"What you are doing in Eleuthera and throughout the other islands with regard to craft," he said, "I see no reason why anyone should have to go out of the country to find souvenir items.

"We have the raw material that is

indigenous to the Bahamas, we have the trained personnel who are producing products that are as good as you can buy anywhere in the world, and we certainly have the market for it in the five million and more tourists who come to our islands each year."

BAIC executive chairman Edison M Key urged artisans to "take heart and stay focused."

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LOCAL NEWS

Elizabeth candidates

FROM page one

munications Network CEO, Wendell Jones. The debate, organised by JCN, was aired on television on JCN channel 14 and Love 97FM.

As the first person to address the hall, Mr Moncur, who was the most lively and vocal of all the candidates, accused Mr Pinder of “not having the support of Perry Christie.”

Mr Pinder, in turn, presented himself, spoke of the problems which he believes must be addressed in Elizabeth, including “rising unemployment, sky-rocketing crime and the disintegration of family values.”

He said his “number one priority is to provide opportunities for the economic expansion and economic empowerment for Bahamians in this constituency.”

The NDP’s Mr Rollins hit out at the two major political parties for making promises to the populace that they have failed to fulfil, leaving the country “largely underdeveloped” in many regards.

Speaking after him, Mr Stuart said it is “time for a change.”

“We have the highest national debt in history of our nation, we have the highest debt ratio, the highest crime rate in history of our nation and the highest unemployment in the history of our nation and the worst educational system in the history of our nation,” he said.

Mr Moncur caused a stir at the debate, at one point breaking into Creole — causing him to be reprimanded by moderator Wendall Jones who said he “ought to speak English” during the event — and making statements which Mr Jones suggested were slanderous and could result in him being evicted from the debate should he do so again.

Questions fielded touched on the integrity of the voter’s register, immigration and crime, among other issues.

As had been forecast, FNM candidate Dr Duane Sands did not participate. FNM leader Hubert Ingraham told the media he would not join in “Mr Wendall Jone’s debate”, and that the decision was the party’s and not the candidate’s.

Workers’ Party

FROM page one

election returning officer Jack Thompson on January 29. This letter was part of the disclosure of assets all candidates published in the Government Notice of Nomination gazette on February 1. It revealed that Dr Sands “owns shares in a medical company which has a contract with the Bahamas government to provide cancer treatment services.”

According to Mr Moncur, the disclosure does not meet constitutional guidelines.

The centrepiece of his new argument hinges on Article 48.1(J) of the Constitution, which states: “No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Assembly who is interested in any government contract and has not disclosed the nature of such contract and of his interest therein by publishing a notice in the Gazette within one month before the date of election.”

Said Mr Moncur: “So even if you accept the

argument of the FNM, that he did disclose on January, 29, he has not disclosed the nature (of the contract) — so he still is not in strict compliance with the Constitution.”

Based on this, Mr Moncur said that Mr Thompson, also the Director of Immigration, should have rejected Dr Sands’ nomination papers under Part V, Section 38 (4a) of the Election Act.

That portion of the Act states: “The returning officer shall reject a nomination paper: (if) he is satisfied that the intending candidate is dead or that he has withdrawn or that he is disqualified from being elected by virtue of any of the provisions of the Constitution or this Act.”

Meantime, Mr Moncur said he will await the outcome of next Tuesday’s by-election before potentially taking his argument before a court.



DR DUANE SANDS

“At the end of the race, that is when you go to court. So the decision to go to court depends on what happens at the end of the race, if he wins, and depending on the circumstances on that day. But when you examine the Constitution and the law, he’s not complied.”

Last week, Mr Moncur called for Dr Sands to be eliminated from the by-election, arguing he was ineligible for nomination because he did not make public his company’s contractual relationship with the Government within a month before the by-election.

This call was based on his interpretation of the phrase “within one month before the day of election.”

The FNM and Dr Sands dismissed Mr Moncur’s arguments.

Fred Smith, QC, told *The Tribune* that the word “within” refers to the time between the date of calling the election and the actual election — not within 30 days a month before the race.

New drug fears amid Haiti crisis

FROM page one

the illicit trade.

Captain Peter Brown, who commands the US Coast Guard efforts in the Caribbean, advised that while drug smuggling activity was temporarily disrupted in the immediate aftermath of the January 12 quake, traffickers have now resumed their missions.

Meanwhile, the 5,000 plus convicts who escaped from the country’s main prison, the National Penitentiary, after it collapsed during the earthquake, are anticipated to boost an already serious problem that has greatly contributed to the destabilisation of the country.

Mark Schneider, vice president of the International Crisis Group, a Belgium-based research foun-

datation, said around 1,000 of those who are now back on the streets are drug gang members.

Their comments appeared in the *USA Today* yesterday, just over two weeks after the interception of a Haitian freighter off Great Inagua in a joint Bahamas-US anti-narcotics operation resulted in five Haitian men appearing before a Bahamian magistrate on drug charges.

The vessel was found to contain 404lbs of cocaine and 51lbs of marijuana, worth more than \$3 million.

“We’re prepared and alert to the possibility that as Haiti is reconstructed, criminals might try to use it as a transit point,” Capt Brown said.

Robert Perito, director of the Haiti programme at the US Institute of Peace, a Washington

think-tank that promotes conflict resolution, suggested the worst of the spike could be seen once the foreign military presence in the country ebbs away in the coming months.

“There wasn’t much law enforcement to begin with, and now there’s even less. Right now we’ve got (foreign) military crawling all over the island,” Perito said.

“But they won’t be there forever.”

The flow of drugs into the country has been fingered by its president, Rene Preval, as a major destabilising force in a country already struggling to get on its feet economically.

Now as the country needs to have all hands on deck as it tries to rebuild and revive a sense of normalcy, the threat that the

tragic conditions will be exploited by drug gangs may hamper that effort.

“The chaos and desperation that have set in provide an opening that trafficking organisations will undoubtedly seek to exploit,” Cindy Arnsion of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, a Washington think tank that studies national and world affairs, told USA Today.

Ivelaw Griffith, an expert on crime in the Caribbean at the City University of New York, agreed.

“Haiti has always been a weak link against drug trafficking. It’s a grave situation, and it’s going to get graver, because people are now going to be even more susceptible to whatever corrupting forces are out there.”

Legal Notice

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QUISTCLOSE LTD.

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ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

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ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Govt criticised over return of 78 migrants

The Government later said that any new illegal arrivals from Haiti would be charged before the courts with breaking Bahamian law.

Three weeks after Mr Ingraham's announcement, the 64 men and 14 women found in "fair health" on an "unseaworthy" 30ft Haitian sloop 13 miles southwest of Barreterre, Exuma, on Saturday, were loaded on to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) vessel HMBS Bahamas and transported to Haiti yesterday with assistance from the United States Coast Guard, according to the Ministry of National Security.

The Ministry could not confirm whether the illegals were documented, where in Haiti they were taken, who received them, or how much the exercise cost when questioned by The Tribune yesterday.

However a statement from the Ministry of National Security said: "The return of the migrants to Haiti is in conformity with enunciated policy that

Haitian migrants coming to the Bahamas illegally after the earthquake will be apprehended and returned to Haiti."

In a letter to *The Tribune* yesterday, penned in response to an article which appeared in the newspaper that morning in which former immigration minister Shane Gibson suggested the move to return the Haitians found at sea directly to Haiti was a "new policy" and begged the question of why all migrants could not be repatriated, the Prime Minister said the move, which he did not describe as a "repatriation" exercise, was "in no way contradictory to announced government policy on the treatment of Haitians found in The Bahamas following the events of January 12, 2010." (See Mr Ingraham's letter on page 4).

He pointed to the fact that the Haitians did not "ever reach a foreign port."

Mr Ingraham stated: "Most Bahamians will be aware of increased surveillance by both Bahamian and US authorities

aimed at detecting boats seeking to depart Haiti since the earthquake with the intention of transporting illegal migrants to foreign countries.

"These surveillance efforts are meant to assist in containing the flow of undocumented migrants from taking to the seas on unseaworthy vessels and exposing themselves to still more danger."

"When such boats are detected they are escorted back to their home without ever reaching a foreign port."

"That was the case with the 78 migrants detected by a RBDF patrol vessel while they were travelling on a Haitian sloop in waters off the Exuma chain last Saturday.

"Because their vessel was unseaworthy, the migrants were transferred to an RBDF vessel and they are being returned safely to their Haitian port. The US Coast Guard is assisting in this matter."

Mr Ingraham added: "Clearly, as events evolve in Haiti the response from The Bahamas



MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION
Brent Symonette

will be adjusted to take changes into account."

However, the Prime Minister's political opponents have accused the Free National Movement (FNM) government of backing down from their original stance in an attempt to win public approval.

Prime Minister Ingraham was applauded and cheered by the crowd Monday night as he announced the return of the migrants to Haiti while speaking at the opening of one of his par-

ty's Elizabeth constituency headquarters.

The move to send the Haitians back to their homeland comes after Mr Ingraham approved and defended the release of 102 Haitians from the Carmichael Road Detention Centre on January 17 amidst public criticism, and two weeks after 49 Haitian migrants found off the coast of New Providence were charged and detained for six months to avoid immediate repatriation to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette asserted on Monday the Government is reviewing policy "as it goes along" and any apparent changes can be attributed to changing times over the last four weeks. But Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) chairman Bradley Roberts said the Prime Minister was sending out an ambiguous message typical of the FNM government.

"They are here one day and over there the next day, and so forth," Mr Roberts said.

"I clearly recall them saying they would not send any of them back with the conditions in

Haiti, but obviously the conditions in Haiti have changed in Hubert Ingraham's mind."

Rodney Moncur, the Workers' Party candidate for Elizabeth, said: "It would appear Bahamians were opposed to the Government releasing the Haitians from the Detention Centre to get out of that political mess they have gone against international law and gone against what is Christian and what is humane."

"This is strict politics that is being played and I think it's wrong The Government should have brought those Haitians in as they were found in territorial waters of the Bahamas and offences were committed under our law. They are changing the policy during the elections so perhaps after the election day they will get back to their humanitarian stance."

The Elizabeth by-election will be held on Tuesday and five candidates are vying for the post, including Dr Duane Sands for the FNM and tax-attorney Ryan Pinder for the PLP.

• SEE LETTERS ON PAGE FOUR

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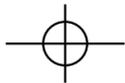
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TASTE

The Tribune Taste



chocolate martini



Oysters

aphrodisiac

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

It's the season of love and many persons will celebrate Valentine's Day with a special meal. But can certain foods really increase your physical desire for other people?

That's the idea, of course, behind aphrodisiacs—an eclectic group of foods and drink thought to increase your sex drive. The name aphrodisiac comes from the Greek words for lust (aphrodisia) and sexual desire (aphrodisiakos), which are themselves linked to the name of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty.

Aphrodisiacs are a host of finger foods that you and your loved one can share and feed each other.

"It's the lure of anticipation that makes aphrodisiacs the most attractive," says relationship and couples therapist Maggie Bain. Mrs Bain says you can make anything an aphrodisiac. "An aphrodisiac can be any food that stimulates the senses, and colour is the basic quality in aphrodisiac. That's why we get a high, and a rush of romantic thoughts when we are attracted to someone."

For example, chocolate contains Phenyl Ethyl Amine (PEA), which is a natural amphetamine that our body produces. So when we increase the level of this chemical in our bodies, it spikes up desire in the body. Chocolate has been used in courtships for centuries.

Another example is strawberries. This dates back to the Roman Empire when women were forbidden to eat the fruit, hence the thrill of the forbidden increased the sexual drive.

"It was also in the Roman Empire that when people went on their honeymoon, they used to drink strawberry soup to kind of boost their sexual life for their big night," said Chef Jamall Petty from Island Flare Cooking Show on JCN.

Drinks containing ginseng and ginko also increase sexual desire.

"There's a myth with some food items. Shell fish, oysters, contain high percentage of proteins that boost sexual desire. Animal meat doesn't score anywhere as far as sexual desire goes.

But seafood does a better job of increasing your mojo. It isn't so much the meat, but there are chemicals in seafood that directly affect your sex hormones, boosting levels of the male hormone, testosterone, and estrogen in the females. Conch, which is the Bahamian version of the oyster impacts your libido immensely," says Lorenzo Martinez, executive chef at Luciano's of Chicago restaurant.

The 'piston' of the conch, or 'conch caviar' is supposed to be the most potent.

"Conch is the Bahamian version of the oyster. Cracked conch tastes similar to fried oyster," he added.

"Tourists ask for conch all the time, says Edwin Johnson, executive chef and culinary trainer at Wyndham Nassau Resorts and Crystal Palace Casinos.

"Mussels, oysters, sushi rolls, sturgeon fish eggs, fresh salmon and other shellfish are all touted to be foods that will stimulate your libido. Put a sprinkle of ginger or hint of cayenne pepper on these sea foods to keep the fire burning during sex," he said.

Mrs Bain says the effect of aphrodisiacs on people depends on the individual. "Aphrodisiacs are for real, but what reacts with me, may not react in you. Some men don't get the potent effect of Viagra in other foods," says Mrs Bain. "Some men

may find that it's pretty slow to fully activated in them."

Aphrodisiacs may take your sex life to new dimensions, touting the sensate focus to awaken parts of the brain so that we are alive and in tune with all parts of our body and mind.

Desserts like ice cream, chocolate, and stuffed desserts with warm center can also increase your mood.

"Bananas, cherries, and strawberries are perfect when dipped in chocolate. It's a combination of that type of stuff would be a way to fast track things for the way you would go for Valentine's," says Chef Petty.

The far from usual strawberry daiquiri and chocolate martinis, are more suggestive in increasing your sex drive than the typical celebratory drink of champagne.

According to Chef Petty, men are more likely to order foods that are of aphrodisiac nature. "They typically ask if we have oysters," he said. Most women seem to go with the flow, as they don't really care for aphrodisiacs.

This Saturday, Chef Petty will be discussing some special Valentine's Day foods that will help couples turn each other on. These are recipes that couples can cook together.

fruits



conch salad



TASTE

The Tribune

entertainment

things
2DO

Valentine's Edition

Here are a few events you and your significant other can enjoy this Valentine's day.

FIRST OFFICIAL HOTEL WORKERS PARTY AT BAMBU
Discover Atlantis and Water Features invites you to start the year off right with their first official Hotel Workers Party, Thursday, February 11, 9pm at Bambu Nightclub. Tickets are \$20.

46TH ANNUAL HEART BALL
The Heart Ball Committee presents its annual fundraising event, Saturday, February 13, 7 pm at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort. This event generates finances to aid the Sir Victor Sassoon of the Bahamas Heart Foundation in providing assistance for the treatment of heart disease in Bahamian children. The ball includes a presentation of the Golden Heart Award to an individual for their contribution to society.

LOVE FEST 2010
Enjoy a night of laughter and entertainment at Love Fest 2010, Saturday, February 13, 8.30pm at the Rainforest Theatre, Crystal Palace Casino. Show stars Drew Thomas, Shang, Ripp Michaels, Dexter Angry and Nikki Carr with a mystery celebrity guest headliner. Cost: \$30 advanced; \$40 at the door.

ST VALENTINE'S DAY SAILING REGATTAS ON MONTAGU BAY
The 23rd Annual St Valentine's Day Massacre Regatta on Montagu Bay will take place on February 13-14 and features three C-Class native sloop races and then junior sailor's optimist class races from noon to 5 pm. On Sunday, the 'Catch Me If You Can' race features A- and B-Class sloops. A-Class sloops include the re-built Lady Muriel, Tida Wave, Rupert's Legend, New Courageous, Redstripe, Who Dat, Good News and The Southern Cross. Come enjoy all the sailing fun and great Bahamian food! www.bahamassailing.org

RUSSIAN ROULETTE VALENTINE'S AFFAIR
Uptown Lounge hosts a red and white Valentine's Day affair with cash and prize giveaways on Sunday, February 14. Cost: \$5/ladies and \$10/gents before 11pm.

A BALLING NIGHT OF LOVE
Oscar and The Ballers Club present an all white Valentine's night at Fort Charlotte on February 14. Music by an array of DJs, including Selecta Ty, DJ Fynes, DJ Flex, Selecta Chronic and Selecta Rydim. Cost: \$10/ladies; \$15/gents.

COUPLES RETREAT VALENTINE GETAWAY EXCURSION
Silent Breeze Entertainment wants you and your significant other to enjoy a night of love together at Sun Cay Island on Sunday, February 14 with music from legends like Luther Vandross, Percy Sledge, Marvin Gaye and so much more! Tickets are \$150 V.I.P., \$200 platinum. Cost includes 3-course gourmet meal and a roundtrip boat ride. Boat leaves Woodes Rogers Wharf, 6pm and 8pm and departs from Sun Cay Island 9pm and 11pm.

CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER AND FRIENDS COMEDY SHOW
The Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort invites all guests to a laughter-filled evening with comedian Cedric The Entertainer and his friends J.J. from BET's Comic View and fellow comedian Malik S in the resort's ballroom. The event is slated for February 14, tickets and VIP tables are priced at \$75/per person. Call 327-6000 for more information.

Fall in love with Emerald Palms

By CHESTER ROBARDS
crobarbs@tribunemedia.net

WHERE the starlight is never dimmed by tungsten bulbs and moonlight ekes out a footpath from room to shore, Emerald Palms Resort invites you to fall in love with it.

This weekend, though, when lovers claim one special day just for themselves, the resort is inviting couples to come fall in love with each other "all over again", with a Valentine's package loaded with food, surprises and a sexy seclusion that only the family islands - Andros especially - can muster.

The resort where "miles of secluded beach and hundreds of palm trees awaits you", offers the allure of the invitation to break free from the pomp of flowers and candy and immerse your-



self in your sweetie. Their Valentine's package includes two nights and three days in one of the Emerald Palms' amazing Clubrooms, with a daily continental breakfast.

And if Venus smiles down on the weekend of love (the weather is good), Valentine's dinner will be hosted under the stars on Saturday night.

With no distractions from contemporary media, Driggs Hill is a weekend playground for the intrepid couple.

Bicycles are available for guest use at the resort and the ride to the tip of South Andros, where one can view North Andros and the Autec marine base, is an energising experience.

Along the way, stop for some conch salad at 'Muddasick' Bar and chat it up with the most interesting couple in Driggs Hill, who love to tell lies about each other and Andros but don't worry... they come clean with a burst of laughter and a "man I just jokin'".

Getting to this secluded paradise, takes an easy 15 minute flight to Congo Town airport from Nassau and just a 5 minute drive to the resort.

Options for that romantic getaway are never limited in the Islands of the Bahamas and Emerald Palms and Driggs Hill epitomise that experience.

Emerald palms encourages local lovers and those abroad to experience the magic that is the out islands.

TRIBUNE FEATURES TOP 10

Top 10 Romantic Songs of All Time

- 1) Lionel Richie & Diana Ross - **ENDLESS LOVE**
- 2) Whitney Houston - **I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU**
- 3) Celine Dion - **MY HEART WILL GO ON**
- 4) KC & Jojo - **ALL MY LIFE**
- 5) Boys II Men - **I'LL MAKE LOVE TO YOU**
- 6) Bryan Adams - **EVERYTHING I DO, I DO IT FOR YOU**
- 7) Vanessa Williams - **SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST**
- 8) Brian Mcknight - **STILL IN LOVE**
- 9) Bryan Adams - **EVERYTHING I DO**
- 10) Luther Vandross - **HERE AND NOW**

Top 10 Main-stream Love Songs

- 1) Beyonce - **YOU ARE MY ROCK**
- 2) Mariah Carey - **I STAY IN LOVE**
- 3) Avant - **WHEN IT HURTS**
- 4) Shania Twain - **YOU'RE STILL THE ONE**
- 5) Usher - **MOVING MOUNTAINS**
- 6) Faith Hill - **BREATHE**
- 7) Omarion -

Antonius Roberts FROM page 10

in many parts of the world including Italy, South Africa, the U.S. Canada and Germany. His most recent work at Collins House on Shirley Street, designing and creating 7 acres of special feature landscaping for public use is

described in his Artist's Statement for that project - 'as a sculptor it is important that the ideals of conservation and preservation are reflected in my work. I do this by utilizing indigenous materials and locating the installations, where possible, in places of historical significance. Thus the past is recorded, re-created and remembered as a living historical record of our Bahami-

an heritage.' A Lucayan Tree house was constructed from Casuarinas reclaimed from the South Pond area as were benches and swings and his own 20 foot Driftwood totem was also installed. Plantings consist mostly of indigenous shrubs and all vegetation material from the initial clearing of the site was preserved and mulched on site for future use within the gardens.

Currently his exhibition 'Naked Truth' is open to the public at the Central Bank reflecting yet another aspect of the artist's social conscience and sense of responsibility. The paintings are of nude women, real women not glamorised or airbrushed and speak to the way some segments of society view them and abuse them. The intention is to make the viewer pause and reflect with

the hope that these depictions will provoke positive discussion and action to correct some of the ills in our society. The sculptures, all of blackened wood, are darkly complementary to the artist's viewpoint. This artist continues in his quest to educate and unite the community in a positive way with his thought-provoking and sometimes challenging work.

I'M TRYING YOU AND ME ONE I SWEAR

Top 10 Caribbean Love Songs

- 1) Jah Cure - **SEARCHING SHE'S ROYAL**
- 2) Tarrus Riley - **THEY GONNA TALK**
- 3) Ronnie Butler - **ECHOES OF MY MIND**
- 4) Jah Cure - **NEVER FIND I LOVE YOU**
- 5) Sammi Starr - **I LOVE YOU**
- 6) Bodine Johnson - **I LOVE YOU**
- 7) Ta Da - **WHEN I FOUND YOU**
- 8) Glen Washington - **STRANGERS IN NIGHT**
- 9) Smokey 007 - **LAURA**
- 10) Sweet Emily/Ronnie Butler - **LOOK WHAT YA' DO**

- 1) **Romeo & Juliet** (*Romeo & Juliet*)
- 2) **Jack Dawson & Rose DeWitt Bukater** (*Titanic*)
- 3) **Mickey and Minnie** (*Disney*)
- 4) **Barbie and Ken** (*Mattel*)
- 5) **Edward Cullen & Bella Swann** (*Twilight*)
- 6) **Fitzwilliam Darcy & Elizabeth Bennet** (*Pride and Prejudice*)
- 7) **Fred and Wilma Flintstone** (*The Flintstones*)
- 8) **Harry and Sally** (*When Harry Met Sally*)
- 9) **Cinderella and Prince Charming** (*Cinderella*)
- 10) **Catherine and Heathcliff** (*Wuthering Heights*)

Top 10 Real Life Couples

- 1) President Barack & Michelle Obama
- 2) Anthony and Cleopatra
- 3) Wallis Simpson and The Duke of Windsor
- 4) Mary and Joseph
- 5) Prince Rainer and Grace Kelly
- 6) Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt
- 7) John Lennon and Yoko Ono
- 8) Napoleon Bonaparte and Josephine de Beauharnais
- 9) Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart
- 10) Ronald and Nancy Reagan

Top 10 Romantic Movies

- 1) Titanic
- 2) Grease
- 3) The Notebook
- 4) Moulin Rouge
- 5) Pretty Woman
- 6) Sleepless in Seattle
- 7) Ghost
- 8) Casablanca
- 9) Dirty Dancing
- 10) The English Patient

Top 10 Fictional Couples



ARTS

Heart Ball Committee prepares for Saturday's ball

If you're ready to make a difference in a child's life and preserve a heart, make sure you attend the 46th Annual Heart Ball or make a donation to The Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation.

Each year many Bahamians die and suffer from heart disease and related conditions. Heart disease does not discriminate against age, gender, religion, race, or color. When it affects one person in a family, it directly and indirectly affects all. Sadly, many people can't afford the health care they or their love ones need when they discover that they have a heart disease or condition. The Heart Ball Committee wishes to encourage the Bahamian public to take preventative measures this February (Heart Month) and ensure they are heart healthy and help to repair the heart of a child.

whether in hospitals in The Bahamas or in Florida. Additionally, The Heart Foundation works along with The Bahamas Heart Association to educate and inform people about heart care and heart healthy lifestyles as a preventive measure.

Since its inception, The Heart Foundation has helped over 4,000 patients obtain heart care. Despite The Heart Foundation's best efforts and the increase in number of local cardiologists and equipment, there is still a need for funding for persons who must travel abroad for care.

The ball and the Annual Tea Party and Fashion Show are the organization's two major fundraising events. Other fundraising activities include giving heart bracelets, and benefit performances for a donation. In addition, The Heart Foundation accepts gifts, memorial donations and tax-deductible donations. No amount is ever too small.

The Foundation runs primarily on a voluntary and contributory basis. Being a non-profit organization, The Heart Foundation relies heavily on the generosity of others to meet their goals and encourage the public and Corporate Bahamas to lend their support, especially in these tough economic times.

For information on ticket purchases or donations please contact The Heart Foundation at telephone number 327-0806.



PICTURED are Heart Ball Committee members. Seated: (L-R) Elsa Johnson-Mackenzie, Lady Sheila Butler (Co-chair), Ingrid Sears (PR), Maria Symonette. Standing: (L-R) Rosemarie Thompson, Michelangiolo Baccelli, Alexandria Newbold (Co-chair), Portia Nottage (Co-Chair), Nadia Campbell (Co-chair), Marilyn Cambridge, Claire Howorth, Inez Johnson, Coretta Owen, Linda Lafleur (Treasurer). Missing: Sue Riding, Rochelle Sealy, Charmaine Miller, Zelia Bethel, Barbara Sawyer, Marilyn Dean, Natasha Lightbourne, Marilyn Dean, Valerie Clarke.



SOME of the attendees at last year's event.



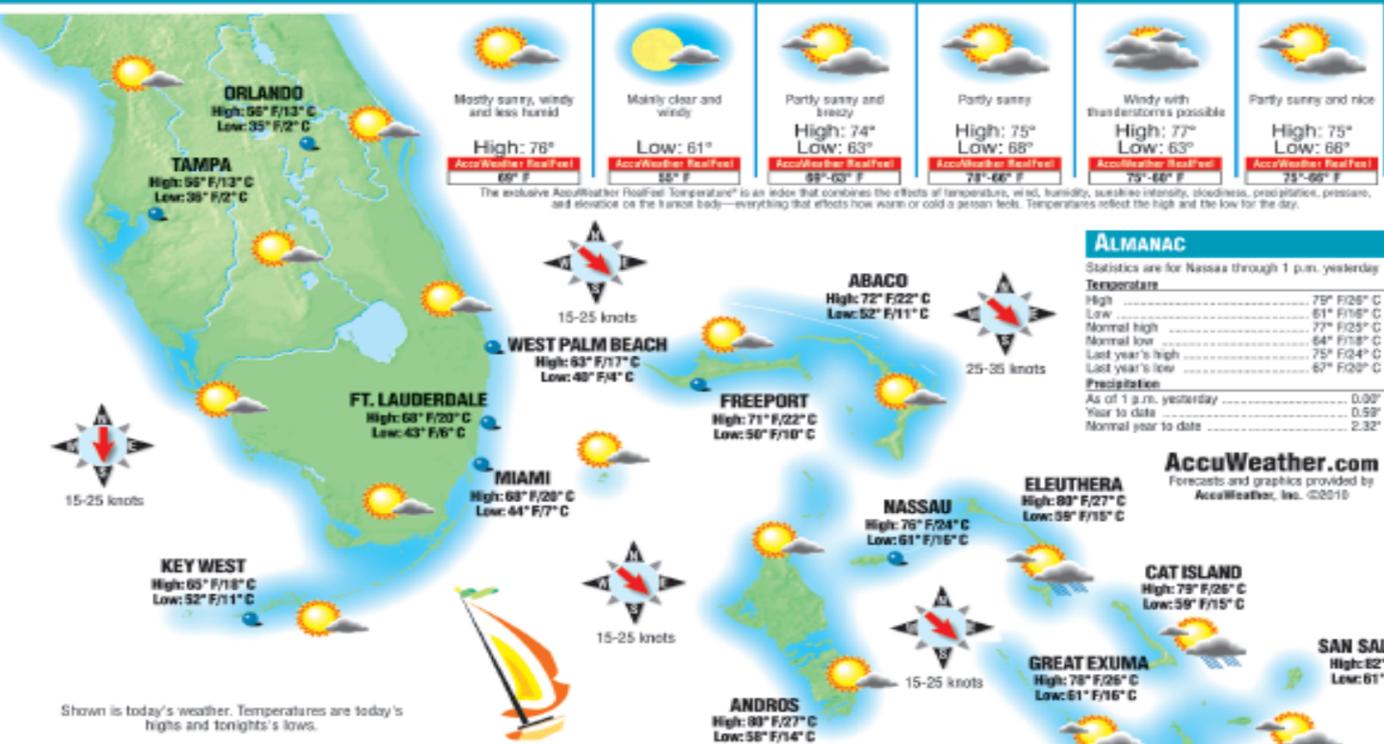
PRIZES handed out at last year's event.

THE WEATHER REPORT

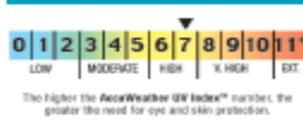


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5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

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Today	5:17 a.m.	2.5	11:47 a.m.	0.3
	5:32 p.m.	2.0	11:37 p.m.	0.0
Thursday	6:02 a.m.	2.6	12:29 p.m.	0.1
	6:17 p.m.	2.1	-----	-----
Friday	6:41 a.m.	2.6	12:21 a.m.	-0.1
	6:57 p.m.	2.2	1:06 p.m.	0.0
Saturday	7:18 a.m.	2.6	1:02 a.m.	-0.1
	7:35 p.m.	2.4	1:41 p.m.	-0.1
Sunday	7:53 a.m.	2.6	1:41 a.m.	-0.1
	8:11 p.m.	2.4	2:14 p.m.	-0.1
Monday	8:27 a.m.	2.6	2:19 a.m.	-0.1
	8:46 p.m.	2.5	2:46 p.m.	-0.1
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	2.5	2:56 p.m.	-0.1
	9:22 p.m.	2.5	3:17 p.m.	-0.1

ALMANAC

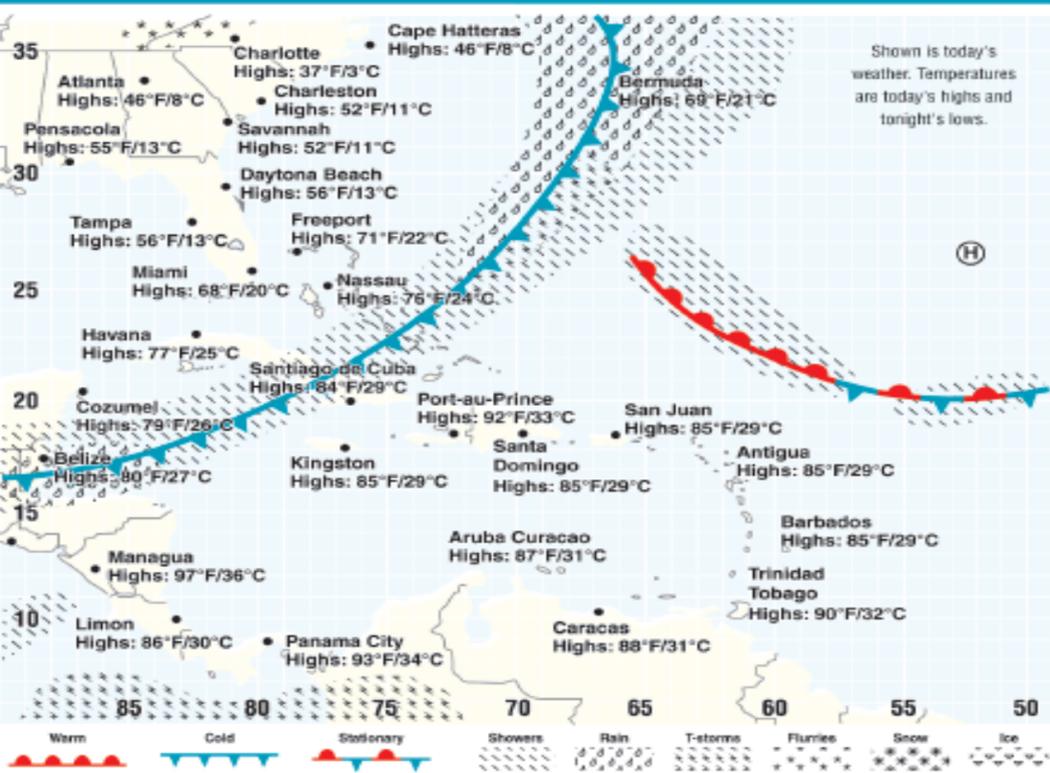
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday	
Temperature	
High	75° F/25° C
Low	61° F/16° C
Normal high	77° F/25° C
Normal low	64° F/18° C
Last year's high	75° F/24° C
Last year's low	67° F/20° C
Precipitation	
As of 1 p.m. yesterday	0.09"
Year to date	0.59"
Normal year to date	2.32"

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:48 a.m.	Moonrise	4:26 a.m.
Sunset	6:01 p.m.	Moonset	3:14 p.m.
Now		Full	
Feb. 13		Full	
Feb. 21		Full	
Feb. 28		Full	
Mar. 7		Full	

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

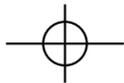
	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: NW at 25-35 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	73° F
	Thursday: NW at 10-20 Knots	0-12 Feet	10 Miles	73° F
ANDROS	Today: NW at 15-25 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
	Thursday: N at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: WNW at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
	Thursday: NW at 8-16 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: W at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	79° F
	Thursday: NNW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: NW at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	76° F
	Thursday: NW at 8-16 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	76° F
FREEPORT	Today: NW at 20-30 Knots	5-9 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
	Thursday: NW at 10-20 Knots	5-9 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: NW at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	76° F
	Thursday: NNW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	76° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: W at 8-10 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	78° F
	Thursday: NNW at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	78° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: WNW at 12-25 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	78° F
	Thursday: NNW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	78° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: WSW at 12-25 Knots	3-5 Feet	7 Miles	77° F
	Thursday: NNW at 10-20 Knots	5-9 Feet	10 Miles	78° F
NASSAU	Today: NW at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
	Thursday: NNW at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	78° F
	Thursday: N at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	6 Miles	77° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: NW at 15-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	75° F
	Thursday: NW at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	75° F

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Fall in love with Emerald Palms

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Aphrodisiacs - Do they work?

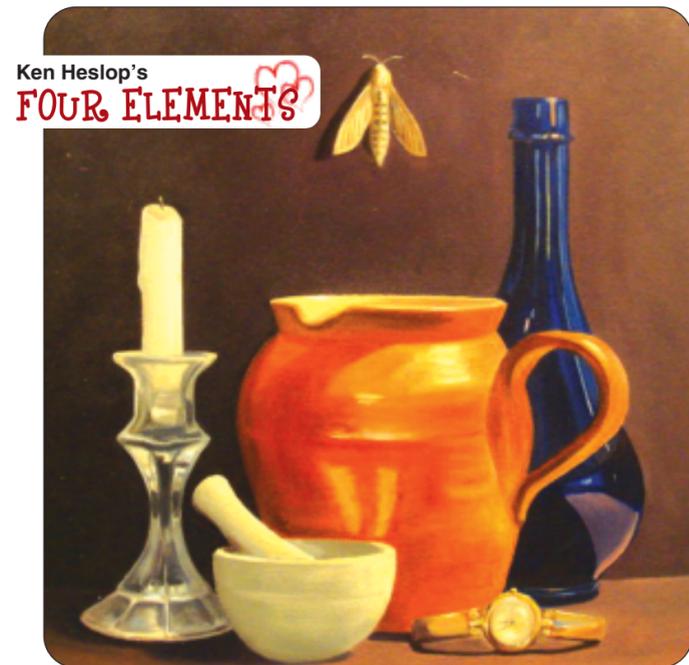
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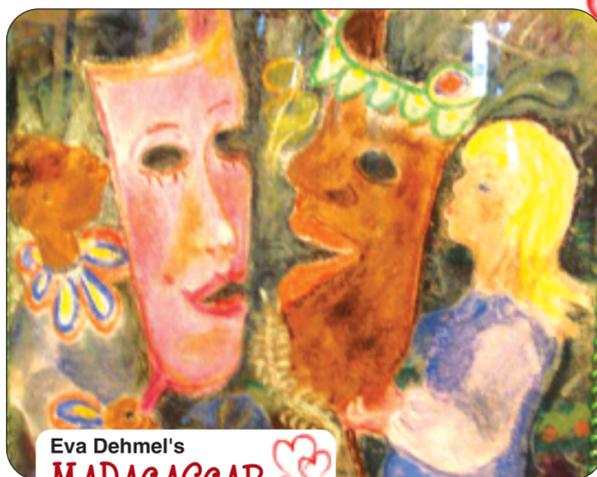
The Arts

The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010



Ken Heslop's **FOUR ELEMENTS**



Eva Dehmel's **MADAGASCAR**



Ishbel Macdonald's watercolours **ROSES**



Melanie Darville with **CLEAR**



Leslie Duncombe's artwork **EAT BEEF**

The show which is an emotionally stimulating experience encompasses a diverse display -including oil on canvas paintings, water coloured paintings, handmade paper collages, sculptures and even some functional art pieces like jewelry designs.

The exhibit kicked off last Thursday attracting fine art enthusiast around the community and new inquisitive art lovers.

The art and crafts on display were so well received by the attendees that several of the pieces were sold on spot to both local business for their offices and residents for their homes.

The pieces currently showcased are either paintings of the sun and sand, or works of art that portray a realistic depiction of the world in which we live.

However, the exhibition is not only limited to those island images. There are also expressionistic pieces of the mind, heart, and soul.

And by using vibrant colour palettes the artists hope their ideas, thoughts, and beliefs are not only communicated effectively but also invite meaningful reflection.

"The artists who took part in the exhibition this year took the local historical sites, and the local scenes and transferred all of those experiences onto their mediums. They also used their own discretion, and worked on whatever they felt," Del Foxton spokesperson and member of the Grand Bahama Artist Association said in an interview with *Tribune Arts*.

There are approximately 75 pieces on display at the Glory Banks Art Gallery in the Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahama.

"If you love art come out and support the show. If you never had an interest in art still come out and see what is on display, you may never know a passion might spark the minute you take a look at a painting or a craft work," she said.

Ms Foxton said those interested in purchasing a piece should allow that same free spirit to flourish leaving you with the openness to select a piece of art or craft that speaks to you.

"Original art is a very good gift because this is something that a person can have forever. However if you want to purchase the artwork for yourself purchase one that evokes some sort of emotion.

"And the good thing about artwork is that no matter where you hang it or put it you will get that same feeling every time you look at it," she said.

"I want to encourage persons to come out and get inspired," she said.

The Glory Banks art gallery at the Rand Nature Center is open Monday to Friday from 9am - 4pm. An artist will always be present at the centre to give insight into his or her work.

Grand Bahama Artist Association is a group of part-time as well as full time professional artists who aim to attract persons with an inclination in various art forms as well as harness their skills. The group is comprised of art teachers, professional artists, local artists and international artists.

The Grand Bahama Artist Association membership also includes art teachers who provide art classes in a variety of mediums.

The exhibition runs for the entire month of February. For more information contact Del Foxton at 353-4333.

For the Love of Art

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

R OSES are beautiful, and chocolates are absolutely delicious, but what makes the perfect Valentines Day gift- The beauty of an intricate piece of artwork. That is the thought the Grand Bahama Artist Association wants art lovers to buy into as they view the work displayed at the group's annual Valentines Day exhibit.

TRANSFORMING SPACES

Antonius ROBERTS

ANTONIUS Roberts is one of The Bahamas' most outstanding Artists and its preeminent Sculptor and Open Space Designer. Over the years he has gathered many awards and accolades both here and abroad, all well-deserved and gained, not only through pure talent but hard work, dedication to the process and the expression, through his work, of his artistic philosophy. The Post House Studio & Gallery is his home base and works are always in progress.

His ethic comprises several elements - conservation, preservation and transformation of existing

resources and the importance of preserving our Bahamian heritage, with a strong advocacy for education and communication and the relevance of artistic integrity.

In the forthcoming 2010 Transforming Spaces exhibition, visitors to the Post House Studio & Gallery will see a selection of his paintings as well as those of Max Taylor on display. More of Roberts' beautiful blackened wood sculptures, tables and other pieces will also be exhibited to dramatic effect.

His public profile as a Curator has given him prominence in both

the public and private sectors playing significant roles with the curating and purchasing of art under the auspices of the Paradise Island Promotional Board and the Airport Authority for the existing airport; playing a leading role in the restoration of the Villa Doyle which is now the home of The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas and he was the founding Curator of The Central Bank Art Gallery. His other credits include being the former coordinator for the highly successful Finco Summer Art programme as well as mentoring and teaching innumerable students at various schools, the College of The Bahamas and the Lyford Cay International School.

The conservationist is demonstrated in his sculptures and his furniture pieces. Whether carved in situ or done in his studio they are all made from reclaimed or discarded wood or stone. His first

excursion into creating on site was at Clifton Cay where his installation of The Sacred Women, carved out of existing in-ground Casuarina trees, acknowledged both his Bahamian African heritage, his philosophy of transforming spaces and his dedication to conservation. Subsequently he did a similar installation in Freeport and then traveled a series of 12 specially carved 'Sacred Women' to an exhibition in Wiesbaden Germany and then back to be put on display at The National Art Gallery.

By invitation in 2006, he traveled to China and created a 12 foot Bronze sculpture named 'Rebirth' as a permanent installation in the Art Park in Changchun. Much of his work, in wood, bronze and stone is now in private collections

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