

WEATHER

TRY OUR **DOUBLE FISH FILET**



HIGH 72F
LOW 58F

MOSTLY SUNNY

The Tribune

ANY TIME...ANY PLACE, WE'RE #1

USA TODAY

BAHAMAS EDITION

www.tribune242.com



On the GO?
Get Hooked On Wendy's
FISH GO WRAP
Enjoy a tender
NORTH PACIFIC
COD FILLET

Volume: 106 No.88

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010

PRICE - 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)

INSIGHT

A hidden Evil

SEE PAGE 16B



INSIDE

Real Estate

SECTION INSIDE



'Big O' Walk-a-thon

SEE PAGE 11 OF THE USA TODAY



100 JAMZ SECRET SOUND

FIND TODAY'S CLUE INSIDE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$16,000

PLP chairman in contract fury

Gibson accuses Roberts of 'spreading lies'

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

CHAIRMAN of the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation Kenyatta Gibson accused Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts of spreading lies and half-truths about the corporation's contract tendering process.

Mr Gibson also strongly denied that his previous business relationship with

SEE page 11



Bradley Roberts hits out at Bahamas Mortgage Corporation Chairman Kenyatta Gibson

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net



nates, allowing them to run amuck with the public purse. He called on the Free National Movement leader to respond to his charges of "wasteful expenditure" and to disclose the fate of Mr Gibson's position as BMC head and the future of Mr Chipman's contract, in light of these allegations.

Mr Roberts also accused Mr Gibson and Mr Chipman of "colluding to milk the taxpayer" adding that they are caught in a clear case of conflict of interest because they had partnered in a wheelchair rental company several years ago.

Last night, Kenyatta Gibson refuted these accusations

SEE page 11

GOVERNOR GENERAL ENJOYS RED CROSS FAIR



GOVERNOR GENERAL Arthur Hanna shakes hands at one of the Red Cross Fair stalls. The annual event drew crowds to the Lower Gardens at the Government House Grounds on Saturday.

SEE PAGE SEVEN

FNM denies McCartney quit after row with Deputy PM

THE Free National Movement has denied a suggestion that Branville McCartney, the party's former State Minister for Immigration, resigned his cabinet post after a heated exchange between himself and Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette.

According to a media report broadcast on Jones Communications Network (JCN) last week, the radio station said that the then Minister of State had allegedly stormed out of Cabinet following a row with Mr Symonette and was subsequently locked out of the room at the request of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham.

"The FNM is reluctant to respond to the rumour mongering that usually sur-

SEE page 11

Tyler Perry film to premiere in Bahamas

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

ON MARCH 29, the Bahamas will host the exclusive premiere of Tyler Perry's film "Why Did I Get Married Too" at the Atlantis Theatre complete with red carpet, Minister of Tourism Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace revealed at a press conference yesterday.

Partnering with Mount Tabor Bishop Neil Ellis and the Ministry of Tourism is GEMS 105.9FM, and major sponsors include Colombian Emeralds and Bank of the Bahamas. The event will be open to the public, and for the

SEE page 15

Paul Moss: PLP must change leadership or lose election

By **PAUL G TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

A FORMER leadership contender for the PLP said that if the party does not take a long hard look at changing its current leadership it will not be able to win the next general election.

Using the Elizabeth by-election as a gauge of the "lack of interest" displayed by young and disfranchised voters towards the PLP, attorney Paul Moss said that the PLP needs to stop pretending as though "all is well" inside their organization and come to grips with reality.

"How pathetic it must be for the oldest political party in this country to be depend-

SEE page 15

RIGHT ON TARGET!

Bahamas Office & School Supplies

Now Selling Hallmark Cards

at U.S. Prices!

394-5656
Bilney Lane
www.bossbahamas.com

'FLATBREAD' SAMMIES

BIG, BOLD TASTE, BIGGER SIZE.

QUIZNOS SUB
MMMM...TOASTY!

6 inch \$3.95 Sammie Only
Make it a combo for \$2



LOCAL NEWS

HAITI: AFTER THE QUAKE

BY FELICITY INGRAHAM

Pain and resilience among rubble

NEARLY two months after powerful earthquakes followed by numerous tremors rocked the foundation of the capital of the Republic of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, the citizens of that country are indeed getting on with life. They are literally living amongst the rubble.

The destruction has not deterred the people of Haiti from being the resilient and industrious people they have always been. When you look at the faces of the people of Port-au-Prince, you can see pain behind stoic faces; hardened looks that seem distrustful; and the wear that long-suffering can bring. But their actions show that even if you knock down the very foundation on which they stand, they will climb on top of it and keep on pushing.

Women set up fruit and vegetable stalls, and everything you would need for the basics of your home can be found at any makeshift market. You can find everything from live chicken to plastic tarp to make a tent home; and the numbers gambling business is quite alive and well in the city. Men are busy salvaging steel from fallen buildings. Trucks weave through traffic carting away the precious commodity, as the people are wasting no time in their efforts to rebuild.

The capital city is very dusty, and from the back of a truck, fine particles sting the eyes while the smog from diesel engines add to the thick



HAITIANS sell goods amid the devastation of the earthquake nearly two months ago.

plume. Not once during the several hours-trip did we see the sun peek through the clouds to give a ray of light. The rains from the previous day have created muddy streets, but the peddlers must still sell their wares in this environment, as the rubble has pushed its way into the street.

A trip up the mountain to the Bahamian Embassy in Haiti reveals fresh, crisp air, beautiful foliage, and shows the true beauty of the country. But many of the buildings in the area

have also been affected. So many families are living in the half of their home that is still standing, while the other rooms are split, with the demised half some 200 feet down a ledge. Yet, the mountain is the place where you can find an upscale clothing boutique, a webshop, nightclubs, and fine restaurants.

The trip was made possible through a one-of-a-kind initiative brought about by Bahamasair. The national flag carrier only makes the trip to

the southern country for repatriation purposes. However, Deputy General Manager of Bahamasair Van Diah organised the special trip, hoping that Bahamians who wanted to see the devastation first-hand could benefit from spending the day there.

Several religious leaders took delegations to Haiti for the day trip. Their Haitian counterparts were waiting at the airport to take them on a guided tour of the area and give them an opportunity to interact with earthquake victims. People travelling to Haiti on Saturday, March 5, took advantage of the flight because the fare was lower than any other carrier.

For Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, the Right Reverend Laish Boyd, his diocese is committed now more than ever to help the people of Haiti.

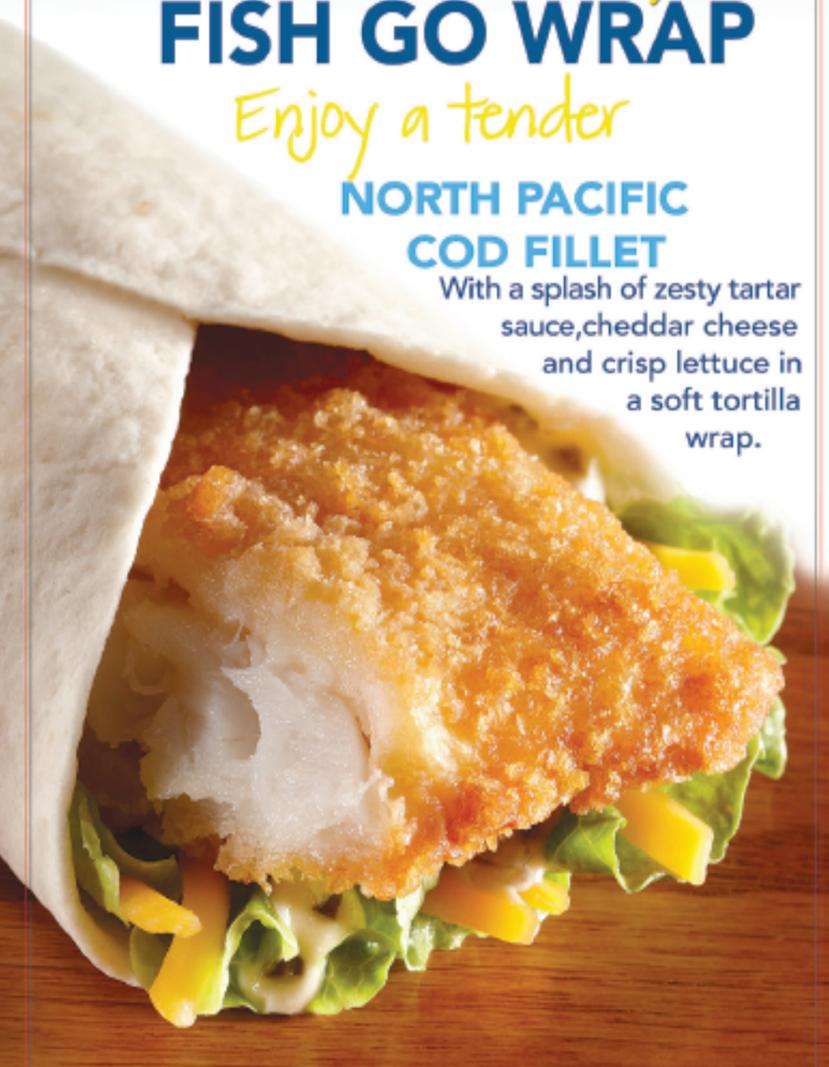
"What struck me was the widespread self help," he said. "I saw men loading up huge dumptrucks that would take a tractor a few minutes. It would take those men a few hours, but they were committed to it. I saw people digging through rubble, trying to demolish buildings, and trying to salvage steel from buildings."

"We went to one of the Anglican high schools — St. Peter's College," Rev Boyd added. It collapsed during the earthquake and there were students caught in the lower level when the third

SEE page 15



On the GO?
Get Hooked On Wendy's
FISH GO WRAP
Enjoy a tender
NORTH PACIFIC COD FILLET
 With a splash of zesty tartar sauce, cheddar cheese and crisp lettuce in a soft tortilla wrap.



© 2009 Oldemark LLC




Conquer Your Hunger
TAKE ON THE BACONATOR
 IN SINGLE, DOUBLE OR TRIPLE

© 2009 Oldemark LLC




Domino's

COMPLETE meal DEAL!

purchase 1 Large 1-TOPPING PIZZA,
 an Order of Cheesy Bread
 & A 2 Litre of COKE

\$18.99

LOCAL NEWS

In brief

Police probe three armed robberies

ARMED thugs held up four New Providence residents in three separate armed robberies over the weekend, police said.

The robberies all occurred within less than 24 hours and are the latest in a string of similar incidents throughout the capital.

The first robbery occurred sometime around 1.34 am Saturday at West Avenue, Carmichael Road. A woman told police that as she tried to get into her home she was approached by a man — armed with a shotgun — who asked for cash. She also told police that the assailant, who was dressed in a red shirt, dark trousers and had a green scarf tied around his face, stole her purse, which contained an undetermined amount of cash.

A few hours later, around 8.58 pm Saturday, police received information of another armed robbery, this time at Prince Charles Drive. At the scene, police were told that two women were at home when they were held up by a man, armed with a handgun. The thief robbed them of an undetermined amount of cash, lap tops and cell phones before fleeing on foot in an unknown direction.

The third robbery happened around 12.35 am yesterday at Sea Breeze Lane. A 22-year-old resident of Fire Trail Road told police that his car had been stolen by an armed man. The victim said he was sitting in his 2000 tan coloured Chevrolet Malibu when a man, armed with a handgun, jumped out of a black Honda CRV.

The culprit robbed the victim of his car and cell phones. He then fled the area in the stolen car, followed by an accomplice who drove the black car. Police investigations continue.

Four arrested after gun found

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT — Four persons were arrested after police discovered a high powered shotgun at a residence in Freeport. According to reports, DEU officers executed a search warrant at a house on Wisteria Drive at Gambier Loop, where they seized a Magnum 12 gauge shotgun with 10 shotgun shells, hidden under a bureau in the master bedroom.

As a result, four occupants, ages 18, 22, 39 and 40, were taken into custody by police.

Two of the suspects were charged and released on bail. They are expected to appear in the Magistrate's Court in Freeport on March 8 on the charges of possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of ammunition. The remaining suspects are in police custody.

FOR 3 IN 1 LAWN SERVICE
Fertilizer, Fungicide,
Pest Control
Tropical Exterminators
322-2157

COMPLETE ALARM SYSTEM
\$30 PER MONTH
356-5973
Ask about our 100% guarantee
www.dragonshield.net

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

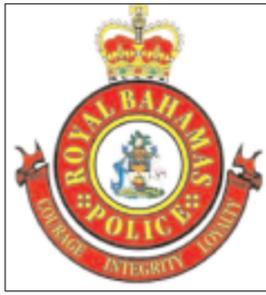
New unit aims to fight crime through education

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

THE Royal Bahamas Police Force hopes to take a significant bite out of crime with its newly created National Crime Prevention Office.

The section focuses on educating the public on ways to avoid being victims of crimes of opportunity — such as house-breaking and armed robbery — while providing positive role models to at-risk youth in crime ridden areas.

"There is a need for education on crime prevention in this country because during an (RBPF) evaluation of crimes committed, we found that more than half of them can be prevented with the necessary educational measures being put in place. We're talking about armed robberies, housebreak-ins, burglaries, stolen vehicles and cases of stealing," said NCPO head Superintendent Stephen Dean.



In light of this, the NCPO's primary area of focus will be educating the public through the media, targeting areas with high crime trends, touring schools, social clubs and church groups. The unit also relies on an initiative called predictive policing, a programme adopted from the United States.

"That is where we continue to analyse all of the crime data and look at (areas) where we have been challenged. The goal of predictive policing is to tell us where crime is likely to be committed. It's in its infancy stages

but it's a good working tool to intervene in crime," said Mr Dean.

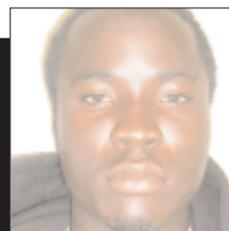
He believes the programme, launched four weeks ago, will have a positive and wide-reaching effect. One initiative he is most proud of is the recruitment of the RBPF's band to positively connect with at-risk youth in crime ridden areas.

Challenges

A week ago, the band visited the Deveaux Street area — an area which challenges the police force — and Palm Beach Avenue are performing for the area and handing out pamphlets.

"Some of the officers in the band are from those areas, so they show them positive role models and that they can be somebody despite the areas that they are in," he said.

"Over the next few weeks you will see a number of other areas we will go into and we believe that will have a positive



DENNIS LOUIS

Badly burned body identified

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT — The badly burned body discovered at West End has been identified as that of 22-year-old Dennis Louis of Freeport, police reported Thursday.

Louis, a resident of Tasman Close, was reported missing after his family learned that a body was discovered on Sunday near Bootle Bay.

His death is the first homicide for the year on Grand Bahama. A passerby discovered the burned remains in bushes in the Pelican Lakes area around 2pm and alerted the police. Police may have a second homicide on its hands as human skeletal remains were also discovered on Monday in Freeport. No positive identification of the remains has been determined yet and police have not classified the incident as a homicide. The Central Detective Unit is investigating both incidents. Asst Supt Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, is urging anyone with information concerning these matters to contact the police.

The Ultimate
Easter
Begins at Home Fabrics

- Easter Toys
 - Bubbles from .65¢
 - Marbles \$1.00
 - Wind up toys
 - Squishy Balls
- Plastic Eggs from \$2.50
 - Large Eggs
- Easter Baskets from \$2.99
 - Basket Bags 10 for \$7.50
- Bunnies, Chicks & Lambs from \$4.99
 - Pretty Ballerina Bunnies
- ALSO Egg Decorating Kits
 - Decorations
 - Easter Lillies
 - Easter Crafts
 - Easter Baking Pans & Decorations
- Easter Grass \$1.25 & Up

Fabrics, Crafts and Inspiration
Home Fabrics
Madeira St. [242] 325-8233 • Robinson Rd. [242] 322-3080

CARPET, FURNITURE, MARBLE & TILE CARE
THE MOST THOROUGH RESTORATION & CLEANING EVER, OR THE JOB IS FREE!
NASSAU'S ONLY PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED STONE CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CARE SYSTEMS.

- Carpet, Upholstery, Stone and Marble Cleaning & Restoration Specialist.
- Prochem Cleaning Systems removes Deep & Heavy Soil, Bacteria, Grease, Watermarks and Stains from Carpeting & Furniture, restoring them to like new at a fraction of replacement cost.
- Carpet, Sofa's, Loveseats, Chairs, Dining Chairs, Cars, Boats, Great Tiles, Marble & Stone
- Persian, Wool & Silk Carpet Cleaning Specialist
- Marble Polishing, Restoration & Care
- Wood Floor Restoration

Authorized StoneTech Professional Contractor
CALL PROCHEM BAHAMAS
PHONE: 323-8083 or 323-1594

ONLY WE CAN DO IT RIGHT!
www.prochemsystems.com • www.stonetechpro.com • www.tile.org
*pap@coralwave.com

Movie posters for Brooklyn's Finest, Alice in Wonderland, Cop Out, and The Crazyies.

Galleria Cinemas
The Mall-at-Marathon
BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 10:00 AM DAILY
EFFECTIVE MARCH 5TH, 2010

Movie	Rating	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
ALICE IN WONDERLAND	NEW	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
BROOKLYN'S FINEST	NEW	1:05	N/A	4:20	7:20	N/A	10:40
COOP OUT	C	1:10	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:55
THE CRAZIES	C	1:10	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
SHUTTER ISLAND	C	1:00	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
THE WOLFMAN	C	1:05	3:20	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
VALENTINE'S DAY	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
PERCY JACKSON	B	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	C	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:55
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:35
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50

GALLERIA 6 - JFK DRIVE
USE YOUR E-CARD TO RESERVE TICKETS AT 380-3549 OR WWW.GALLERIA6CINEMAS.COM

Movie	Rating	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
COOP OUT	NEW	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE CRAZIES	NEW	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:15
SHUTTER ISLAND	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:40
THE WOLFMAN	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:45
VALENTINE'S DAY	C	1:05	N/A	4:05	7:05	N/A	10:05
PERCY JACKSON	B	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45

380-FLIX
Use your e-card to reserve tickets at 380-3549 or visit us at www.bahamaslocal.com

Irish Countryside
The Java Gallery
Wong's Plaza
Madeira Street
(242) 326-2335

3 pc Queen Post Bed
1 pc Dresser
1 pc Mirror
2 pc Nightstands
1 pc 5 Drawer Chest

Queen 8 Pc Set \$3,950
King 8 Pc Set \$4,150

Solid Wood
Financing Available Through Commonwealth Bank

hp acer DELL CERTIFIED PARTNER TOSHIBA Leading Innovation >>>

COMPUTERS

AUTHORISED DEALER
Micronet
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

7

Check us out!
56 MADEIRA STREET, PALMDALE • 242.328.3040 • WWW.MICRONET.BS

The Tribune Limited

NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

LEON E. H. DUPUCH, Publisher/Editor 1903-1914

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH, Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.

Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991

EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON, C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

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

TELEPHONES

Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352
Circulation Department - (242) 502-2387
Nassau Fax: - (242) 328-2398
Freeport, Grand Bahama: 1-(242)-352-6608

WEBSITE

www.tribune242.com - updated daily at 2pm

Bahamian history repeats itself in Jamaica

"WE'RE going through very stressful times," a leading Jamaican businessman admitted yesterday as the government of Jamaica and the United States were locked in judicial debate over one of that island's well known "dons" — "The President of Tivoli", or in real life, Christopher "Dudus" Coke.

Coke controls Tivoli, Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding's constituency. There are those who maintain that it is Coke who keeps peace in Tivoli, and if it were not for him Golding would not be where he is today.

The US's request for Dudus' extradition on a long list of gun and drug trafficking charges sent shock waves through Jamaica. For the past three weeks the Jamaican government has refused the request.

Prime Minister Golding is resisting extradition on the grounds that under Jamaican law the acquisition of the evidence against the Tivoli don, which supports the extradition request, violates the provisions of the Interception of Communications Act. And so, at present, the US request cannot go before a Jamaican court until the Attorney General signs the order. Prime Minister Golding says the attorney general has a "duty to protect the constitutional rights of Coke and not extradite him."

Many Jamaicans question the delay. Some say government should get it before the courts and let the courts make the final decision. But until the attorney general signs, nothing moves forward.

In a sharply worded exchange the State Department said the delays in the Coke case, in addition to the temporary suspension in processing of all other pending requests, raised "serious questions" about the Jamaican Government's commitment to combating transnational crime.

There is even talk in Jamaica that the US law enforcement agents could kidnap Coke and put him before a US court. Apparently, there is no clause in the existing extradition treaty between Jamaica and the US to prevent it. But there is certainly precedent for it. In 1992 US agents kidnapped Alvarez Machain, wanted for kidnapping and murder, from his Mexico home and took him to the US.

Also causing further confusion is the sudden suspension last week of the US visa of another leading Jamaican citizen — Wayne Chen. The Jamaican government claims that his visa has nothing to do with the Coke case, which has started speculation down

another path. Mr Chen is still without his visa.

Many Jamaicans worry that they have been without a US ambassador for a year and three months — "never before in living memory has that happened," said a citizen in pained surprise.

Which takes us back to the ugly eighties in the Bahamas during Ronald Reagan's administration when this nation had no ambassador for two years. And, yes, drugs was the evil nematode at the bottom of it all.

("Nematode", a favourite word of former attorney general Paul Adderley. In one of his flights of verbal fancy on the floor of the House he called a Tribune reporter a "nematode". However, we think the word better suited to the world of crime than to a reporter trying to do an honest job of reporting during a corrupt era).

During that period the Bahamas-US relations were conducted by US Chargé d'Affaires Andrew Antippos. This situation continued for two years until an ambassador was finally appointed. The Pindling government did not approve of Antippos, nor did Antippos approve of what was happening in the Bahamas on the drug scene. On the eventual arrival of the ambassador, Mr Antippos became the Deputy Chief of Mission. However, the Pindling administration made certain that he did not hold that position for long. They made life so difficult for the Antipposes that in order to patch up relations the new ambassador — a non career diplomat — had to dismiss Mr Antippos so that "good friends who occasionally disagree" could start to mend fences.

But in 1988, Mr Antippos had the last word. He agreed to testify in the trial of Colombian Joe Lehder who had a free pass to Norman's Cay under the Pindling administration. Norman's Cay became the headquarters of Lehder's drug empire. And Andrew Antippos told the story of how he had to advise the US property owners to abandon their properties and leave the island because the US Embassy could no longer give them protection in the Bahamas.

"I testified to all that I had tried to accomplish against Lehder and the Bahamas' unwillingness to cooperate and that really blew a fuse in Nassau," Mr Antippos told the world.

The same fuse is now being blown in Jamaica. Dudus Coke might as well go quietly, as go he will, dragging Jamaica's reputation in the mud behind him.

McCartney's resignation was a political master stroke

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The resignation of Branville McCartney as junior minister of immigration in the Ingraham cabinet has created a lot of intense political talk around the town. It was a master political stroke that the public welcomes and appreciates — in my view.

The move has shown up the political weaknesses and complacency of the likes of Zhivar-go Laing, Tommy Turnquest, Carl Bethel, and other young, but politically sluggish FNMs — who appear strictly comfortable with a good and prestigious job, and clearly lack the political ambition and vision necessary to keep the torch of a young generation burning with robust confidence and anticipation.

They have long forgotten one of the chief planks in the FNM propaganda campaign prior to the 1992 general election. It was term limits for a prime minister and party leader. We did not want Pindling to reign for life; nor do we want Ingraham to do the same. We demand a system that promotes political competition, and dynamic and progressive leadership. We do not believe that two Bahamian women have born one leader each that are exclusively capable of leading the affairs of our nation.

Mr McCartney is in tune with the status quo — that is ready for a new and prosperous brand

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

of politics in The Bahamas. Hubert Ingraham and his PLP counterpart — Perry Christie — are expired products lingering unattractively on the Bahamian political shelf. They have become trite in the eyes of the people who long for a new era of political leadership and direction.

Brad McCartney has essentially said: Here I am, send me! He has signaled his interest in becoming leader of the FNM in short order. He has put his dull colleagues on the spot, and has told the masses that he is not interested in being a friendly neighbourhood yes-man who is prepared to go with the unpopular flow of political window dressing and shameless underhandedness from the top.

Branville McCartney represents a new breed of politicians in The Bahamas — who are eager to serve the people with a progressively ambitious and productive agenda. He appears ready to tackle the vexing illegal immigration issue that has plagued The Bahamas for decades and even to this day — for example.

He looks ready to change the bureaucratically uncreative business as usual mentality in

government, and replace it with an administration for and by the people. Brad McCartney is a budding leader who has challenged an old order in Bahamian politics that seems determined to enforce its detested will on an electorate longing for change that they really can believe in.

The resignation of Branville McCartney has a lasting impact on modern Bahamian politics. It signals a revolution in the making in the national political landscape.

It is hoped that Mr McCartney would not relent in his drive for higher political office and social, economic, and political deliverance for a deserving people; as doing so will only result in a serious political backlash — like that of Algernon Allen when he turned thousands on to his one man game on the R M Bailey Park some years back — then he buckled under heavy political pressure and returned shamelessly "to his vomit." The rest is hard-to-swallow history.

Only time will reveal the genuineness of Mr McCartney's recent decision. The masses are watching with buoyant enthusiasm, and optimism. It is worth taking this matter sincerely Mr McCartney, or the political exit heartlessly awaits you.

DENNIS DAMES
Nassau,
March 5, 2010.

Mr Branville McCartney needs to give an explanation

EDITOR, The Tribune.

With your permission, kindly allow me space in your newspaper to express my views on the surprising resignation of the Minister of State for Immigration the Hon Branville McCartney, a bright spot in the Free National Movement and to offer my advice and guidance on the way forward.

For starters, I believe that Branville is a talented individual who will definitely play a part in the leadership of the Free National Movement if he puts the brakes on and plays his cards right. However, I'm puzzled and confused by some of the contents of his reasoning for resigning. Firstly, he says that politically the country is headed in the wrong direction and secondly, he is still committed to the Free National Movement and

the Prime Minister. Well, Mr McCartney needs to explain how can he still be committed to a Prime Minister and a government who is taking the country in the wrong political direction.

He goes on to talk about being stagnated.

What exactly does he mean?

Is he prevented from carrying out policies set forth by the government?

Branville ought to be reminded, and not be swayed by the opinions of a few "chronic" callers to talk shows, that he was only elected in 2007, almost three years ago. I believe that makes him a rookie.

He ought not to allow a few "chronic" callers put ideas in his head before it's time. I'm advising him to put the brakes on the press releases and press conferences.

He ought not to allow himself to be used by the official opposition to create friction between himself and the Free National Movement.

Obviously, he knows that

politics is a dirty game and politicians can be easily offended.

I wish to convey to Branville a word of advice which was told to a colleague, he said and I quote "do not argue with a man who orders the ink by the gallon."

In closing, I say to my friend Branville, stay away from the press and do not allow yourself to be dragged into the negativity that they are attempting to create. You are an FNM.

Work in Bamboo Town and continue to be an effective member of parliament. You don't need a fight when 2012 rolls around.

PAT STRACHAN
Nassau,
March, 2010.

TROPICAL
EXTERMINATORS
FOR PEST PROBLEMS
PHONE: 322-2157

Quality Auto Sales
PRE-OWNED CARS & TRUCKS
**TRADE-INS ON
NEW CAR SALES
ACCEPTED**

Check Out These Great Values

'06 HYUNDAI SONATA
'01 HYUNDAI
'04 FORD EXPLORER
'95 NISSAN BLUEBIRD
'98 HYUNDAI COUPE
'01 HYUNDAI COUPE
'01 MAZDA MPV WAGON
'99 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER
'00 HYUNDAI GALLOPER
'04 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
'08 HYUNDAI SONATA
'06 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
'97 TOYOTA AVALON
'91 VOLVO 740 GL
'98 HONDA ACCORD



QUALITY auto sales
LIMITED
#1 AUTO DEALER IN THE BAHAMAS
EAST SHIRLEY STREET • 322-3775 • 325-3079

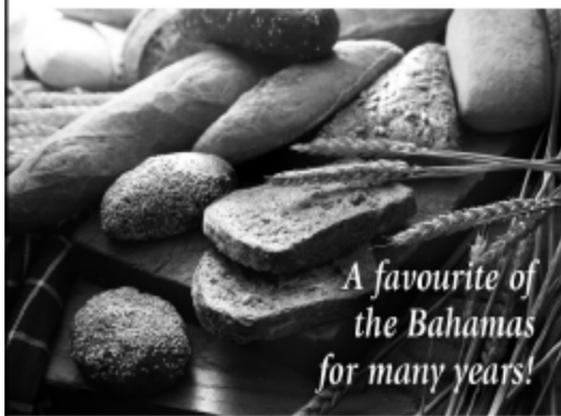
Visit our showroom at Quality Auto Sales (Freeport) Ltd for similar deals, Queens Hwy, 302-6133
or Alisco Motor Mall, Don MacKay Blvd, 367-2916

OPEN: Mon to Fri 8:30am - 5:30pm • Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

If it's



FLOUR
...it's OKAY!



A favourite of
the Bahamas
for many years!

- A premium flour that is milled from Canadian Hard Red Spring Wheat
- An enriched flour that is versatile and well suited to various baking and cooking applications

Distributed throughout the Bahamas by

BWA

Bahamas Wholesale Agencies Ltd.

East West Highway, Nassau • Tel: 242-394-1759
1 Milton Street, Freeport • Tel: 242-351-2201

ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF
THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR

Are invited to attend a choir rehearsal on
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
at
St. John's College in the Auditorium
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This rehearsal is for your participation in the Choir's
20th Annual Concert Season, March 23 - 27, 2010

LOCAL NEWS



THESE PHOTOS are said to show the area just south of Haulover on December 4, 2009 (left) and February 20, 2010.

Minister responds to concerns over mangroves on Bimini

By AVA TURNQUEST
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

RESPONDING to claims of the "illicit rape of Bimini's remaining mangroves" Environment Minister Earl Deveaux charged that despite interests for "stridency", persons should still consider claims in their historical context.

In the most recent of several letters written to the government, and now the Prime Minister, from Mangrove Action Project executive director Alfredo Quarto, the international mangrove protection and preservation organisation criticized the impact of Bimini's Marine Protected Area and regulations, stating that it is "all for naught."

Mr Quarto wrote: "The whole concept of a viable MPA is threatened by ongoing, unregulated development including massive mangrove clearing."

Minister Deveaux was unable to comment specifically as he was not privy to the most recent letter, but said that the regulations implemented in Bimini were drafted and approved through numerous town meetings on the island.

The minister explained that while he was in no way disputing the validity of claims brought forward, persons with evidence towards any developer's environmental misconduct should be taken directly to the local government office so that an official assessment can be conducted.

The letter continued: "The destruction of Bimini's remaining mangroves is shocking. Evidence of wanton destruction and lack of regulation of this now rushed development at Bimini Bay is all too clearly depicted."

Minister Deveaux has confirmed interest in pursuing and discussing claims made and is expected to release an official statement on the matter later this week.

Teens in hospital after stabbings in street fight

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
thompson@tribunemedia.net

TWO teenage boys are in serious condition in hospital after being stabbed in the chest and back during a violent street fight. The attack was one of three stabbing incidents reported over the weekend.

The victims, a 14-year-old and 19-year-old, were embroiled in an argument with a group of men in the parking lot of the discount store, Buy 4 Less, on Blue Hill Road south, about 5.34pm Saturday. During the fray, the younger boy was stabbed in the right side of his chest while the other victim received an injury in the right side of his back, said Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings.

The boys were taken to hospital by Emergency Medical Services where at last report, they were listed in serious condition. Meantime, four men are assisting police in their investigations.

Earlier that day, around 3.50 am Saturday, a 28-year-old resident of Gibbs Corner told police he was stabbed while at Comfort Zone on Wulff Road. The victim said he was attacked by a man who stabbed him in

his neck. He was taken to hospital by EMS where he was listed in serious condition.

Sgt Skippings said police are following significant leads into the matter.

Another man is in hospital after he tried to fend off a robber. Police said it was sometime around 7.21pm Saturday in the Peardale area when a man said he was approached by another man who tried to rob him of his bicycle. The victim told police he resisted the robbery and was subsequently stabbed in his upper back.

He was taken to hospital where he is listed in stable condition.

Police also made several arrests over the weekend.

While acting on a tip around 4 pm Friday, officers of the Northeastern Division executed a search warrant on a home at Pitt Road. After searching the home, officers found a small amount of ammunition.

The two occupants of the home, a 42-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman, were taken into custody.

A few hours later, around 7 pm Friday, officers of the Mobile Division were patrolling Bahama Avenue off Market Street when they saw a man acting suspiciously.

Officers searched the man, and discovered a small quantity of what was suspected to be marijuana. A resident of Golden Gates number 2 is assisting police with their investigations.

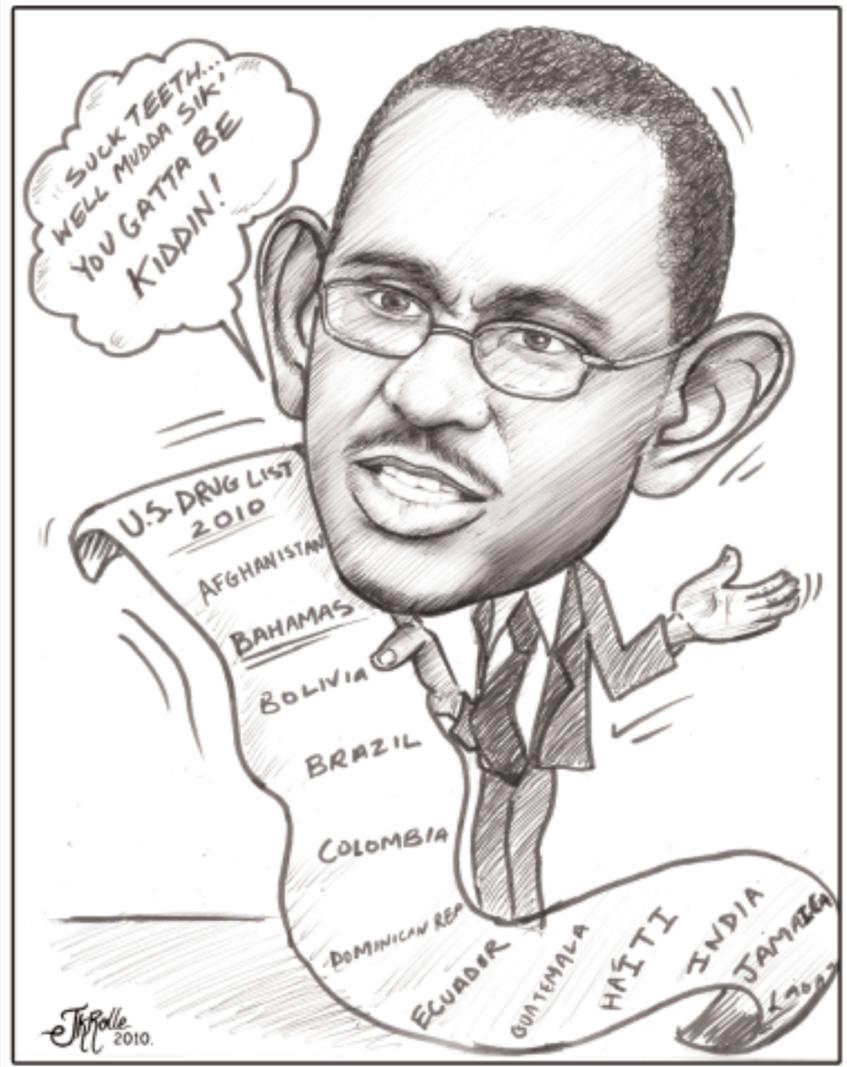
In other crime news, police also recovered a small amount of marijuana while patrolling the Hutchinson Street area.

Mobile division officers were patrolling the area around 9.15 pm Friday when they saw a male acting suspiciously. As officers approached the male he fled the area and was able to evade police. However, a search of the area uncovered a small quantity of suspected marijuana.

Investigations into all of these incidents continue.

PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE
By Jamaal Rolle

BAHAMAS ON U.S. DRUG LIST AGAIN.



Generac logo and contact information: East Bay Street, Tel: 393-7873. Services include Residential, Commercial, and Light Industrial Generators. Features include Automatic Standby Generators (8-150KW), LP or Diesel Fuled, and prices starting from \$3,095.00. Includes a 24/7 Automatic Power Protection logo.

Sale

\$ 7.00

Size 7-11

Colors:

- Yellow, Orange, Black, Brown
- White, Gold, Silver, White, Turquoise
- Pink, Purple, Red, Royal Blue

The **sneakerboxx**
Rosetta St. - Ph: 325-3336

Auto H & L LIMITED
JUST WEST OF CITY MARKET, TONIQUE DARLING HIGHWAY

"WE WILL MATCH OR BEAT ANY PRICE IN TOWN"

S H H H! HURRY
our *New Selection*
Of Pre-Owned Cars
have started to arrive...

0 Down Payment for Government Workers

- Honda Accord • Honda Civic • Honda Odyssey
- Nissan Cefiro • Nissan Sunny • Toyota Camry
- Toyota Corolla • Toyota 8-Seater Vans

MONTHLY PAYMENTS STARTING AS LOW AS \$280

"IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE"

TEL: (242) 341-0449 • (242) 341-2249 • FAX: (242) 361-1136
Visit our Website: www.autohl.com

LOCAL NEWS

Disasters need more than prayers

BY SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

THE massive earthquakes in Haiti and Chile within six weeks of each other, on January 12 and February 27 respectively, revealed the limited capacity of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries to respond to disasters on this scale.

To date, CARICOM countries have not been able to

insight WORLD VIEW

mobilize support for Chile and have virtually left the problem to be tackled by the Chilean government, the United States of America, better-off Latin American nations and the international institutions. CARICOM countries simply do not have the resources in any form to cope with massive disasters



SIR RONALD SANDERS

within their own member states, let alone to provide help to other countries.

In this regard, CARICOM countries need to thank God that the 7.0 earthquake that buckled Haiti did not extend into Jamaica. Nonetheless, high praise should be given to CARICOM countries for their efforts, at both the level of governments and the public, to help Haiti. In proportion to their capacity, many of them have been very generous.

Barbados has now emerged as the country which, on a per capita basis, has pledged the most to Haiti's relief and reconstruction.

Prime Minister David Thompson has revealed that the Barbados government is donating US\$1 million to Haiti, the same figure as the governments of the two countries at either end of CARICOM's economic scale — oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, the poorest country, in per capita income terms, after Haiti in the region.

Outstanding

While Guyana's contribution was exemplary, the donation of Barbados is outstanding for not only has the government pledged US\$1 million, but it has been shouldering the costs for the operations of the Regional Security System (RSS) that has provided much needed security and other services to Haiti. Barbados shares the RSS with six island-territories



Natacha Pisarenko/AP Photo

PEOPLE walk past a damaged house in Caleta Tumbes, Chile, Saturday March 6, 2010. A tsunami, caused by an earthquake, hit Chile's coastal central region on Feb. 27.

of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) but Thompson revealed that "no other contributions have been forthcoming" from other states.

CARICOM countries gave as much as they could. They did so directly and through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). But, at the end of the day, large though the contribution was in relation to the means of these countries, it was a drop in the Ocean measured against the scale of Haiti's needs.

Haiti required the large scale assistance of countries such as the United States, Canada, France, Brazil and the international institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In early March at a meeting of CARICOM finance ministers, Secretary-General, Edwin Carrington, declared that the region "cannot fail to take cognizance of the near similar situation (to Haiti) which has befallen Chile." He urged assistance "to the best of our ability at this time".

The number of dead and injured in Chile was not as great as in Haiti even though the 8.8 tremor was much stronger than the earthquake that bowed Haiti.

Nonetheless, as this commentary is being written, the United Nations Office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reports that 723 people were killed and 2 million (about 10 per cent of the population) have been made homeless and are walking the streets. Six regions were declared as zones of catastrophe.

But CARICOM countries are already over-stretched in Haiti. It is doubtful that any of them, except perhaps for Trinidad and Tobago, could make anything more than a

token gesture of assistance to Chile.

Fortunately, there are governments that can provide immediate relief assistance and Chile has the financial capacity to undertake the reconstruction that has been estimated, so far, at US\$30 billion — 15 per cent of Chile's annual economic output.

The country is the best managed in Latin America with a public debt of only 6 per cent of its GDP. By comparison, the majority of CARICOM countries have a debt to GDP ratio of one hundred per cent and more.

Profits

Further, over the last decade Chile saved much of the profits from sales of copper by state-owned mines and taxes on private miners. Its sovereign wealth funds now hold about US\$15 billion. With this kind of record and assets, Chile will easily be able to access capital markets at low interest rates for rebuilding.

How to establish machinery for avoiding huge human and infrastructural catastrophes as a result of natural disasters is something that should now be actively exercising the minds of Caribbean leaders.

St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas recently observed that "there is a wave of volcanic activity that is taking place in this region" and he called on his country's National Emergency Management Agency "to review the country's capacity to deal with an earthquake". He would know that to do so the Agency would require greater resources from the government than it now has.

Among the factors that all governments should take into account is the legislation and enforcement of far better build-

ing standards than now exists. Equally, they should all subscribe to the Caribbean Catastrophe Facility Risk Insurance Facility which paid out very quickly to Haiti and gave the government some resources to help rebuild the broken country.

The underlying point about all this is that CARICOM countries could not cope with two disasters simultaneously among its own membership and while they have been valiant in Haiti in relation to their means, their financial contribution to Haiti was miniscule.

Nonetheless, disaster threatens them in the form of hurricanes and earthquakes and they are ill-prepared to cope — a fact that international financial institutions and large countries should take into account by ceasing to graduate them from concessionary lending; urgently addressing their burdensome commercial debt problems; and stopping the demand in the World Trade Organisation and in trade agreements that they give reciprocal treatment to countries and regions much larger than they are.

Of course, the principal lesson to be learned from the experience of Haiti and Chile is that the countries that will recover faster and reconstruct quicker from disasters are the ones with the prudently run economies that benefit from greater resources.

In this connection, CARICOM countries could make their economies stronger by accelerating the completion of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy with an effective governance structure.

Praying that disaster does not kick down the doors of two or more CARICOM countries at the same time won't be enough.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronald-sanders.com

House and Property Packages.
Available own your *Dream Home.*
Call: 467-9431

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING YOU THE BEST IN COMPUTER-RELATED TRAINING!

2010 Training Schedule

CompTIA A+ Certification Pass your CompTIA A+ exam Guaranteed!! Course Duration: 6-8 weeks Price: \$700.00 Starts: Week of March 20th	Microsoft Office 2007 Learn Word, Outlook, Excel, & PowerPoint!! Course Duration: 10-12 weeks Price: \$1000.00 Starts: Week of March 20th
--	--

REGISTER TWO INDIVIDUALS ALONG WITH YOURSELF AND GET \$200.00 OFF OF YOUR TUITION. REGISTER THREE INDIVIDUALS ALONG WITH YOURSELF AND YOUR COURSE IS FREE! PROMOTION LASTS UNTIL MARCH 15TH.

For more information on further course offerings
Call us at: 380-8152
Or
Email us at: itworks@consultant.com

IT'S A TIME OF JOY AND JUBILATION!
IT'S A GRAND TIME OF PRAISE AND CELEBRATION!

89th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

March 14-21, 2010 - East Street Tabernacle
THEME: "RISEN, UPRIGHT, RESTORED AND READY!"
Psalm 20:8

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

MINISTER CATHERINE H. PAYNE
International Director of Women's Ministries from Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.

BISHOP JOHN N. HUMES
National Overseer of the Church of God, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands

BISHOP CLARENCE N. WILLIAMS
National Overseer of the Turks & Caicos Islands

BISHOP BRICE H. THOMPSON
General Presbyter of the Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean Islands.

MINISTERING IN MUSIC WILL BE: The Convention Praise Team, National Convention Choir, Tabernacle Concert Choir, the Church of God National Choir, Bahamas Public Officers Choir and various soloists, choirs and singing groups. The Bahama Brass Band, Bahama Youth and Junior Brass Bands will provide special music.

Monday, March 15th, 2010
Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming, CMG, DD, JP, National Overseer and Moderator will deliver his **Annual National Address on Monday, March 15th live over ZNS 1540 AM and 810 AM, and live over Television Channel 55.**

LOG ON TO:
www.cogopbahamas.org
FOR LIVE WEBCAST EVENING SESSIONS

Bring the family and be blessed!

For further information, call 322-3097

Moderator:
Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming & Minister Jacqueline B. Rahming

New Arrivals from

naturalizer

The Shoe Village
G.R. Sweeting's

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

PHOTO SPECIAL

Bahamas Red Cross Fair 2010

THE BAHAMAS RED CROSS SOCIETY held its annual fair on Saturday at the lower grounds of Government House. Governor Arthur Hanna was present to enjoy the attractions and greet fair-goers.



LADIES from the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority present the Governor General Arthur Hanna a native delight called a "CUP"



THRILL SEEKERS: Youngsters enjoy the thrills of Saturday's fair.



A FAIR-GOER enjoys a game of bingo.



CHILDREN enjoy the slides.

We Get to the Bottom of CAR TROUBLES

SERVICE
Now available at Montague Motors Ltd.

Japanese Right Hand Drive Cars

OUR SPECIALTY!

- Tune Ups
- Oil Change
- Brake Jobs
- Shocks
- Body Repair

We order parts from Japan!



Montague Call Us at 394-0323/5 or 394-1377
MOTORS LTD.



FAMILY FUN: Saturday's event was a day for all the family.

PHOTOS:
Felipe Major /Tribune staff

GacoRoof

TIRED OF FIXING THOSE ROOF LEAKS OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

- 50-year limited warranty
- Apply to virtually any roof
- Mildew resistant
- Reduce energy costs
- The ONLY 10DF0% silicone roof coating

THE LAST ROOF COATING YOU'LL EVER NEED

PaintSuppliers
Exclusive Distributors
Shirley Street | 393 2836

Sale

Sale Begins March 8th, 2010

Clarks

Marathon Mall • 393-4155 • Mon-Fri 10am-8pm • Sat 10am-9pm
All major credit cards accepted. Sorry no debit cards accepted.

hp ProLiant ML Servers
EXPANDABLE • RELIABLE • AFFORDABLE

The HP G6 Servers are a welcome new innovation in server technology

we've got it

Custom
COMPUTERS LIMITED

◀ Stores at Cable Beach & East Bay St. ▶
Sales: 242.396.1100 • Service: 242.396.1115

www.customcomputers.bs
solutions@customcomputers.bs

LOCAL NEWS

Local company makes difference



SUFFER THE CHILDREN: Mr. Charles Beall has set up a fully equipped field medical facility at Delmas 19 in Port-au-Prince to provide trauma and emergency surgery and medical care for children.

CHARLES Beall, CEO of Oldcastle Building Products (Caribbean) Limited, a Bahamian company, is making a difference in the lives of Haiti's orphans.

Since the January 12 earthquake, Mr. Beall, a long-time resident and applicant for citizenship in The Bahamas, has spent more than 30 days in Port-au-Prince leading a relief effort for the orphanages.

His focus has been on locating and supplying orphanages and abandoned children with food, shelter and medical care. He is currently supplying eight orphanages and about 650 children with life essential support.

Mr. Beall has also set up a fully equipped field medical facility at Delmas 19 in Port-au-Prince to provide trauma and emergency surgery and medical care for children.

He is collaborating with Amsterdam Medical Centre (AMC) from the Netherlands to provide surgeons and other medical professionals to operate the emergency medical clinic for the children.

Mr. Beall has been personally coordinating the emergency relief effort and has delivered tons of food, water and medical supplies to orphanages throughout Haiti since the earthquake.



FACE OF DISASTER: Children were on the front line of the Haiti disaster.

"I have participated in disaster relief efforts in other parts of the world, but I have never experienced the scale of devastation and suffering that exists in Haiti. The world community must do all that we can to help the Haitian people survive and recover from this disaster."

Charles Beall



We believe in your right to buy appliances with peace of mind.

Master Technicians is trusted by nine major manufacturers to give our customers a factory backed one year warranty and service by trained technicians. We've got your back, during and after the sale. Talk to one of our appliance experts today and see how we keep your home running.



Master Technicians
APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

Open Monday thru Saturday, 8:30am 'til 5:30pm • Village Rd., Nassau, Bahamas
Ph: 393-5310 Fax: 393-8094 • www.mastertechbahamas.com

You will be satisfied!

Logistics

Immediately following the initial earthquake, Mr. Beall travelled to the Dominican Republic, located supplies, organized a logistics operation, and began trucking emergency relief into Haiti. He said his immediate objective is to develop a sustainable system to deliver food, shelter and medical care for the orphans and abandoned children of Haiti.

"I have participated in disaster relief efforts in other parts of the world, but I have never experienced the scale of devastation and suffering that exists in Haiti," he said.

"The world community must do all that we can to help the Haitian people survive and recover from this disaster."

Mr. Beall's long term goal is to raise the standard of living for all of the children of Haiti.

Oldcastle Caribbean has pledged to supply the building materials for 5,000 temporary houses, including sanitary structures, capable of withstanding the upcoming hurricane season.

The materials will be shipped to Haiti within the next 30 days.

Oldcastle Caribbean will also assess the establishment of a formal operation in Haiti to assist with the reconstruction effort that

will last for many years.

"We all need to be thinking about disaster preparedness," said Mark Roberts, owner of Builders Mall; FYP, Tile King, and the Paint Centre.

Builders Mall is the local distributor of Oldcastle Building Products in the Bahamas. According to Mr. Roberts, Builders Mall has been asked by the National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in preparation of a disaster response plan for the Bahamas.

Builders Mall was asked by NEMA to participate in part due to their generous efforts in the reconstruction of Inagua after Hurricane Hannah, September 3, 2008.

SEE page nine



THE BAHAMAS INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

"Upholding Integrity, Striving for Excellence"

IFRS FOR SMALL and MEDIUM-SIZE ENTITIES (SMEs) PRESENTATION

The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) would like to invite you to a presentation and adoption process on Tuesday March 9th, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel on the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) designed specifically for Small and Medium-sized entities by the International Accounting Standard Board (IASB). Guest Speaker are Basil Ingraham and IFRS Consultant David Raggay .

Date: Tuesday, March 9th, 2010
Time: 6:00 p.m-8:00 p.m.
Place: British Colonial Hilton Hotel
RSVP: Fax: 326-6618 Tel: 326-6619
Email: secbica@batelnet.bs
bicaexecutive@hotmail.com

WANTED STORE SUPERVISOR

to oversee multiple retail outlets.

Minimum 5 years supervisory experience. We are opened 7 days a week. Shift work 8:00am-4:00pm and 4:00pm-Midnight.

Salary will commensurate with experience.

Please send Resume and passport size photo along with a Cover Letter in your own handwriting to:

**P.O. Box CB-11392,
Nassau, Bahamas.**

adam & eve

Sale Inside & Outside

Grab your Discount out

Of the Bag on all New clothing



Harbour bay 394-5767 aebahamas.com

LOCAL NEWS

Teen power lights up talent showcase

TEEN POWER BAHAMAS recently held a successful 2010 Teen Talent Showcase at Arawak Cay, giving young people a chance to showcase their talent and promote non-violence amongst their peers.

For the past few years, Teen Power Bahamas has been working towards providing teenagers with events that are fun and positive. The creative concept of Ken Rolle, also known as DJ Kenny Rebel, Teen Power Bahamas

has launched its slate of activities leading up to Teen Fest 2010. The event will highlight the brightest and the best in signing, rapping, chatting and dancing amongst Bahamian teens from the public and private school systems.

International artists have already come on board to make the event one to remember.

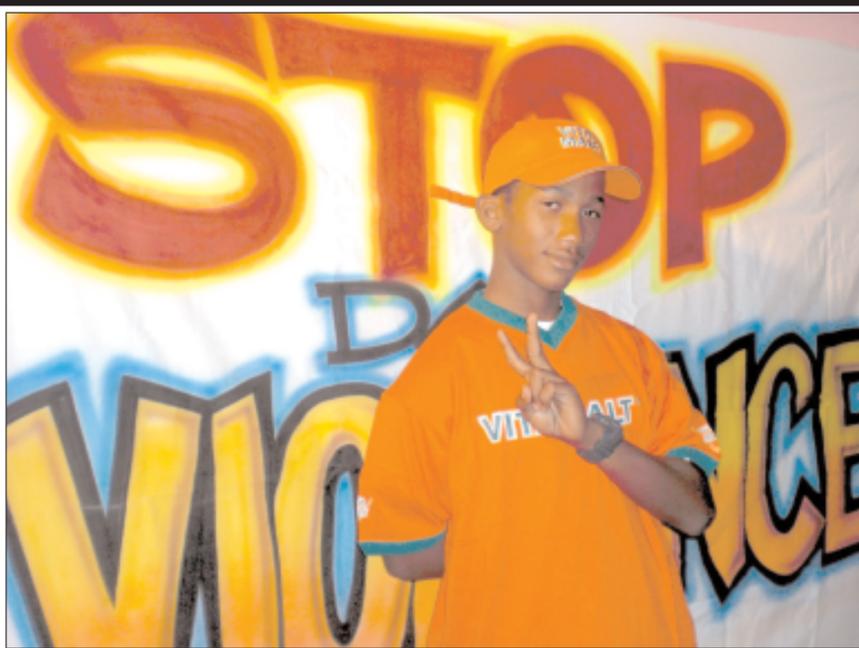
Students who win in the various categories for the Teen Talent Showcase will move on to participate in

Teen Fest 2010 this coming May.

They will be able to meet personally with the international artists, gaining pertinent advice before performing with them on stage.

Vitamalt has taken the lead as a corporate sponsor for the Teen Power Bahamas series of events.

STANLEY SMITH, a student at T. A. Thompson Junior High School.



KEYS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM SEMINAR

Hosted by DZ Global Network
"Raising a Generation to Lead, Prosper and take Dominion on the Earth"

Saturday 13th, Mar. 2010
9:30am - 2pm
Global Worship Center, West Ridge Estates
(Call for Directions)

Kirvy Ferguson
CFO Consulting

Keshelle Kerr
Creative Wealth Bahamas

Brenda Pratt
Global Worship Center

Coretta Rolle
Focused Woman International

Register Online at www.wilglobalsummit.com
Call for Early Registration Tickets and more information
[242] 323-3210 or [242] 325-6310
Registration: \$25.00 Inclusive of Lunch

National Prescription Drug Plan (NPDP)

"Reducing Costs, Increasing Access, Improving Health"

GET WITH THE PLAN!

- If you are an NIB pensioner, an NIB invalid, a Bahamian over 65 years, or a child under 18 years (or under 25 years if in full-time education); and
- A physician has diagnosed you with one or more of these diseases: *arthritis, asthma, breast cancer, diabetes, glaucoma, high cholesterol, hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, major depression, prostate cancer or psychosis*

PRE-REGISTER TODAY for membership to receive more than 160 Prescription Drugs free-of-charge during Phase I.

PRE-REGISTRATION DATES & VENUES:

IN NASSAU:
Princess Margaret Hospital, through March 12th, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
NIB offices at Blue Hill Road, Wulff Road & Fox Hill
ongoing Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m.

IN GRAND BAHAMA:
NIB offices in Freeport, 8 Mile Rock, East End & West End,
ongoing Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m.

THE FAMILY ISLANDS:
All NIB local offices, ongoing Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m.

Note: Please bring NIB card, valid photo id and name and address of physician who is prescribing your medication or treating your condition.



DOLLARS vs DAYS

By MIKE LIGHTBOURN

AFTER you've taken step one to decide to sell your home, step two is usually setting your asking price, striving for a balance between generating offers and receiving top dollar.

Your Bahamas Real Estate Association (BREA) agent should perform a competitive market analysis to produce an estimate of your home's "fair market



value," or that price that educated buyers will pay based on listings and sales of homes similar to yours. The agent will provide the information and suggest a price.

In a hot market, you have the advantage, but would still want to avoid overpricing, which is always unproductive. However, in a neutral or buyers market, you'll have to be particularly cautious in your approach to setting a price.

In soft markets, price reductions become more common, as well as fewer offers and longer listing periods. You have to first establish your priority: is it more important for you to sell quickly or to get the most money possible? Like it or not, one option simply must be more critical than the other.

Have a third party, such as your BREA-licensed agent, help you see your home as a commodity, with positive and negative selling points. Price your home objectively and competitively, be prepared to negotiate to reach an agreement with buyers, and exercise patience as you prepare your move.

* Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty.

WANTED

RETAIL STORE MANAGERS

for chain of retail stores on Paradise Island. We are opened 7 days a week.
Shift work 8:00am-4:00pm and 4:00pm-Midnight.

Salary will commensurate with experience.

Please send Resume and passport size photo along with a Cover Letter in your own handwriting to:
P.O. Box CB-11392, Nassau, Bahamas.

You must have the luck of the Irish...

FOR **\$99⁰⁰** TAXES NOT INCLUDED

travel in March to **MIAMI FT. LAUDERDALE ALL FAMILY ISLANDS!**

Call today for more details!

Book your tickets on-line anywhere anytime and use your local credit card. Tickets are issued locally.

PREMIER TRAVEL
Tel: 242.328.0264 • 242.328.0257 • 242.322.7371 • 242.325.6991
Fax: 242.325.6878 • www.premiertravelbahamas.com
Your one-stop full-service travel agency.
Let us help you explore some great getaways!

BAHAMAS.COM PREMIER TRAVEL AGENCY
A FULLY BAHAMIAN OWNED TRAVEL AGENCY

AROUND THE WORLD WITH CARE

LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

accountant Reece Chipman had any bearing on the decision making process regarding a \$152,000 contract awarded to Catsan and Chipman Ltd to audit the BMC.

The firm, owned by Mr Chipman — the unsuccessful FNM candidate for the Sea Breeze constituency in the 2007 elec-

Kenyatta Gibson

tion — was one of seven accounting firms that participated in an open bid process launched by the BMC last year.

"Once again the chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party has decided to spread lies, twist the truth and distort facts in an effort to defame another human

being," charged Mr Gibson, in a statement released last night.

His statement came in response to fresh allegations made by Mr Roberts, who yesterday accused Mr Gibson and Mr Chipman of a conflict of interest because they had formed a wheelchair rental company in 2003.

Said Mr Roberts: "There can be no denying of the fact that

to the extent that Reece Chipman and Kenyatta Gibson are in any sort of partnership raises a legitimate concern about an actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from their common business relationship."

But Mr Gibson claimed that Braxton Wheels Limited "has been out of existence and has not transacted any business since 2006."

He continued: "This can be easily verified and Mr. Roberts is aware that Mr. Chipman is not my business partner. Mr Roberts deals in half truths so as to misrepresent facts. Mr Chipman is not my business partner and Bradley Roberts has now

unlawfully defamed me."

He also again defended the BMC's decision to award the contract to Catsan and Chipman.

"There was nothing untoward relative to this contract and Mr Roberts can scream from here to eternity, but he cannot change the facts of this matter: that the contract awarded was the best value for money."

He argued that his recent contribution to the House of Assembly provoked the PLP chairman's latest round of allegations.

"Obviously my previous statement and my speech in the House of Assembly, in which I

disclosed Mr Roberts' several acts of cronyism, has made Mr Roberts and the vast business cartel, whose interest he represents very upset.

"Therein I tabled a list which proved that Mr Roberts presided over a system where only supporters of Mr Roberts' (political) party would be recommended by Mr Roberts and his colleagues to be hired at the Bahamas Telecommunication Company.

"This is clearly Mr Roberts' futile attempt to retaliate. It is curious that this non-issue was only raised after I exposed Mr Roberts' duplicity therein," said Mr Gibson.

FROM page one

as lies and half-truths. He said his former business relationship with Mr Chipman was not a factor when the accountant was awarded the contract.

Meantime, a source close to Mr Gibson told The Tribune that the MP was weighing his legal options about a possible libel suit against Mr Roberts. (See story front page).

Yesterday's statements are the latest in a war of words between the Opposition and the FNM over a \$152,000 contract awarded to Catsan and Chipman Ltd — headed by Mr Chipman, the unsuccessful FNM candidate for the Sea Breeze constituency in the 2007 election — to audit the BMC. The firm, owned by Mr Chipman, also President of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants, was one of seven accounting firms that participated in an open bid process launched by the BMC last year.

During a press conference at the PLP's Farrington Road headquarters, Mr Roberts revealed that Mr Gibson and Mr Chipman were business partners in wheelchair rental company Braxton Wheels Limited incorporated on June 17, 2003. He provided a Registrar General's Department receipt, dated August 28, 2006, to support his claims. The

FROM page one

rounds political developments in this country," read the statement released yesterday by the FNM, "but when an elaborate and totally fabricated story is broadcast as news by a supposedly responsible media house then a response is necessary.

"At no time did the alleged events reported by the radio station take place. Furthermore, nothing even remotely resembling that account ever took place. The FNM regards the peddling of such unfounded fabrications as utterly irresponsible and a disservice to the Bahamian public."

As such, the FNM called on JCN news to retract their publication and apologise for spreading this "malicious

PLP chairman in contract fury

receipt lists Mr Gibson, along with Mr Chipman, as the only shareholders in Braxton Wheels Ltd. The last returns listed Mr Gibson as president and chairman of the Board of Directors and Reece Dean Chipman as managing director and vice-president, holding 3,000 and 2,000 shares respectively.

"There can be no denying of the fact that to the extent that Reece Chipman and Kenyatta Gibson are in any sort of partnership raises a legitimate concern about an actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from their common business relationship," said Mr Roberts, flanked by PLP MP for St Thomas More Frank Smith, and two party stalwarts.

"Why did the (BMC) select the accounting firm with the highest bid for work that could have been performed by other, more reputable and more experienced accounting firms? It is fair to ask whether Mr Chipman's firm has the professional expertise, capacity and the manpower to effectively conduct and complete this engagement as do the other firms that submitted bids for this engagement."

The PLP chairman also questioned whether Mr Chipman is listed as a chartered accountant with the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants.

FNM denies McCartney quit after row with Deputy PM

rumour." Attempts to reach JCN for comment were not successful.

Having resigned from his post as a Cabinet minister two weeks ago, Mr McCartney has vowed to focus his attention on his family and giving greater support and energy to his constituency of Bamboo Town.

"My strengths will be invested in making them stronger. My energy and ambition will hopefully lead to greater opportunities for them.

"There have indeed been some very thrilling high points along the way, one of which I am very proud to share with

you today.

"My wife Lisa, my daughters Kasia and Tai and I have welcomed a new member to our family, Lawrence Khail McCartney.

"The birth of each of our children has provided us unbounded joy and emotion and a welcome reminder that life is more about the moments than the occasions, and success in life depends on how well you are able to determine and manage the order of your priorities — by the acceleration of some, the abeyance of others and the acceptance that in life nothing comes before its time," he said.

We have the keys to your next car!

Starting from **0 DOWN** \$240 per month

NEW LOAN PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE
Car Loans to Chequard Holders
Restrictions apply!

Montague Motors is NOW OFFERING SERVICE to all Japanese right hand drive cars!
• tune ups • oil change
• brake jobs • shocks
• body repair
• we order parts from Japan!

Japanese Used Cars is our ONLY business!

Montague MOTORS LTD.
VILLAGE ROAD NEAR SHIRLEY STREET
Call Us at 394-0323/5 or 394-1377

Princess Margaret Hospital

Beginning March 1st, 2010

our NEW! VISITING HOURS

GENERAL WARDS
Monday – Saturday - (12pm – 1pm & 6pm – 8pm)
Sunday - (11am – 12pm & 3pm – 5pm)

CHILDREN'S WARD
Monday - Saturday - (12pm – 2pm & 6pm – 8pm)
Sunday – (11am – 1pm & 3pm – 5pm)

PRIVATE SERVICES
Daily - (9am – 8pm)

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
Daily – (11am – 2pm & 4pm – 8pm)

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE & SPECIAL CARE BABY UNITS
Daily – (10am – 2pm & 4pm – 8pm)

"We work with families to provide the best care possible to our patients"

In an effort to improve our patient care and customer services, we are pleased to introduce our new visiting hours to the public.

Our aim is to provide family and friends more time with their love ones while in hospital.

We wish to remind the public that **CHILDREN UNDER 14YRS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN HOSPITAL** unless they are seeking medical assistance as an out-patient, and should ALWAYS be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, please contact Nursing Administration at **322-2861** or visit our website at **www.phabahamas.org**

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

Recruiting Now for the April 2010 Intake

UK distance learning from RDI in Bahamas

World Class UK university qualifications from the world's leading provider of UK distance learning

Student Testimonial
Malina BA Business Management
"I didn't want to lose my job so I chose distance learning because it's flexible – I could work as well as study at the same time. Enrollment was quick and easy the financial process is very good as it enables you to pay in installments.
Honestly I have to commend RDI and its staff for the support they were giving me. I am recommending RDI to my friends and colleagues – they fully support you in your programme of study and they are very efficient in their communication."

BACHELORS DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- University of Wales – BA (Hons) Business (top up) – specialisms in Marketing, Finance, Banking
- University of Sunderland – BA (Hons) Business & Management (top up), BA (Hons) Accountancy & Financial Management (top up)
- University of Derby – BSc (Hons) Psychology
- University of Teesside – LLB, BSc (Hons) Business Computing (top up)
- Sheffield Hallam University – BSc (Hons) International Hospitality & Tourism (top up)
- Higher National Diploma (entry to top up Degrees through 2-year HND) in Business and Management, Information Technology, Travel and Tourism, Marketing, Finance

MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- MBA – University of Bradford (AMBA, EQUIS accredited), University of Sunderland, University of Wales
- MSc in Public Administration & Development – University of Birmingham
- MSc Marketing & Management – University of Bradford
- MSc Finance, Accounting & Management – University of Bradford
- MSc Information Technology – University of Teesside
- MSc Telecommunications – Birmingham City University
- MSc International Hospitality Management – Sheffield Hallam University
- Diploma in Management – University of Wales (pre-MBA for non-degree holders)
- Certificate in Management – University of Wales

Featured Programme:
UNIVERSITY OF WALES MBA
US\$8,500
complete in minimum of one year.
World Top 20 Online MBA (Financial Times, 2009)

Call 1 888 496 6173 (TOLL FREE) today, to fast-track your career

www.rdicaribbean.com

RDI (Regional Office)
27499 Riverview Center Boulevard,
Suite 111, Bonita Springs,
Florida 34134 USA • Tel 1 239 444 1730
• email info@rdicaribbean.com

rdi learning without boundaries

LOCAL NEWS

Paul Moss: PLP must change leadership

FROM page one

ing on a court to give it an election victory. I find it staggering," Mr Moss told *The Tribune* yesterday.

Currently there can be no declared winner of the Elizabeth by-election as the results are currently before the courts. Following an intense two-day recount, the FNM's Dr Duane Sands stands ahead of the PLP's Ryan Pinder with 1,501 votes to Mr Pinder's 1,499. The PLP is challenging five protested ballots which if counted could give their party a majority of three votes and the victory in the Elizabeth constituency. Court hearings are set to begin on March 11th.

In the meantime Mr Moss said that he thinks the focus of the PLP should now be on training its people on how to conduct elections and trying to "clean up" the party so that it is "more attractive" to a wider majority of Bahamians.

Having won the Elizabeth seat with a majority of over 1,200 votes in 2002, and by some 45 votes in 2007, Mr Moss said this last result in the by-election should prove to the party that the leadership of the organization is taking the PLP down "the wrong path."

"If the PLP wants to have a chance at winning the next general election, they need to take a hard look at changing the leadership. The leadership has lost its appeal. Even in the most dire of circumstance that we see the country in today they are unable to attract people to the party. And even though they talk about the amount of money the FNM spent in that by-election, you are supposed to have this victory secured. And these guys still can't pull it off.

"They have Bradley (Roberts) going on with his (bombastic) ways. Those styles are played out. You have to be about something different to attract people to you," he stressed.

Having challenged the party's current leader Perry Christie in their last national convention and lost, Mr Moss said that he is not afraid to continue to speak out against the leadership of his party. He said that he is also not concerned about being denied a nomination to run under the party's banner in the St Cecilia constituency as he already does not hold out much hope of actually getting the nomination.

"Mr Christie promised that there would be 'consequences' for those who opposed him so I'm not too concerned about that. See, they want you to be someone who is all about this hero-worship. You must be a 'yes-man'.

"Well I am not about that. I came into politics to make a difference. I didn't come into politics to make a living. Anybody who knows me knows that. And they can try their tricks but come 2012 I will be the representative for St Cecilia. They can count on that," he said.

Pain and resilience among the rubble

FROM page two

and second stories fell on them. Their bodies are still there and they don't know when they are going to be able to retrieve them. That's a stark reminder of what we are dealing with."

Bishop Simeon Hall brought boxes of food, medicine and clothing, handing them over to Ambassador-designate to Haiti, former Commodore Butch Scavella. He said the trip showed him how very badly our Haitian brothers and sisters need our help.

"I commend the Haitian people for the resilience of their spirit," he said. "It seems they have acclimated to their circumstances."

When asked if he thought the tragedy could have a silver lining Bishop Hall responded: "God has a way of bringing answers to prayers. For years, Haiti and has been beleaguered and beset by bad governance and now every country in the world is helping Haiti and giving aid. This is God's way of bringing Haiti to the forefront and I am hoping the Haitian and those elected to serve will recognise this is something bigger than themselves and move forward."

Other religious leaders who took the journey included Father Alaine M. Laverne of St. Bede's Catholic Church, Father Roland Vilfot of the Catholic Haitian community in the Bahamas, and Bishop Elgarnett Rahming.

Ambassador-designate Scavella says the presence of so many international forces is creating an atmosphere that makes him feel relatively safe amongst the chaos.

"There was more devastation when I got here (than what you see now). I saw bodies, limbs and lots more debris," he said. "The government and the international community are really cleaning up the place. People are getting on with business as usual because they have to survive — but the devastation is very apparent."

Mr. Scavella said at present, the government is very concerned about ensuring that all of the Haitian people are housed.

Help for the people of Haiti is warranted. But the residents are not in need of clothes as much as they are in need of financial assistance. These resilient and proud people would much rather have the collateral necessary to rebuild their homes and to fuel their entrepreneurial spirit.

FROM page one

first time allow Bahamians a "taste of Hollywood, right in it's own backyard."

Bishop Ellis continued: "We are aware that the Bahamian people have come to know Tyler through his Madea character and I am happy once again to have the privilege to afford our people the opportunity to meet him up-close and personal."

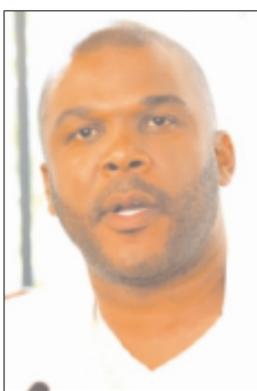
As the venue will only be able to accommodate 400 persons, Bahamians are encouraged to acquire tickets from the GEMS radio station at their earliest availability, which is scheduled for late next week.

Partial proceeds from the event will be donated to the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group, a group that seeks to offer solace and community for those affected by the disease.

According to the Bahamas Film Commission, films and TV productions shot in the Bahamas can inject up to \$15 million into the nation's economy — outside of increased Bahamian employment opportunities.

The sequel, shot partially in Eleuthera and Exuma, was

Tyler Perry film to premiere in Bahamas



TYLER PERRY

reported to have brought in nearly \$1 million to the island's economy.

Minister Vanderpool-Wallace acknowledged, "Advertising has changed greatly over the years, many times the commercials that we are running can be skipped or avoided due to amenities such as TiVo.

"The one thing that they can never take out is product placement within the film or show, and there is no better

product placement than to show the water and the beauty of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. When people see this film they will get to see the wonders of the Bahamas in a way that we could not have possibly reproduced on our own."

The tourism minister said the event is a testament that "anybody" can assist in the development of tourism, highlighting its succession as a direct result of Bishop Ellis' initiative and relationship with the American superstar.

Bishop Ellis met the entertainment icon by chance through like religious affiliations, over the years they maintained a friendship and when Mr Perry developed an interest in purchasing an island, he turned to Bishop Ellis for advice.

"When I approached the Minister of Tourism early last year," Bishop Ellis said, "and requested that he and other government officials arrange to have a meeting with Tyler because of the work that he was currently doing in the Bahamas, it was already evi-

dent to me that Tyler was enthralled with the beauty and people of our country."

"Why Did I Get Married Too" is scheduled for release in the United States on April 2.

SWEATERS

50% OFF

Fine Threads

Bernard Rd - Mackey St - Thompson Blvd

20% OFF

STORE WIDE

Fast Track your plans...

EDUCATIONAL LOAN

CAR PURCHASE

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

with a *Fast Track* Loan.

Fidelity Bank *Fast Track* Loan

Apply today for The Fidelity Bank **Fast Track Loan** by salary deduction. **Fast Track loans** are also available with **Debt\$AVER** consolidation loans — so you can borrow and save!

- **Decisions Fast**
- **Money Fast**
- **Plus Visa Credit Card Fast**

➤ **Fast Track your loan — Call Today!**

www.fidelitygroup.com

Nassau: t 356.7764
FREDERICK STREET | WULFF ROAD

Freeport: t 352.6676/7
MADEIRA PLAZA | ROBIN HOOD

Marsh Harbour: t 367.3135
CABLE BEACH | FREEPORT | MARSH HARBOUR

SIGNATURE SANDWICHES

Colonel's Choice

Triple Crunch

\$4.50

sandwich

\$5.99

combo

HOT 'N' SPICY ZINGER

TRUST THE EXPERTS!

Limited time offer. While supplies last. Visuals shown are representational.

NEW

Cilantro Lime

BK BIG FISH

VALUE MEAL

Cilantro sauce with a twist of lime