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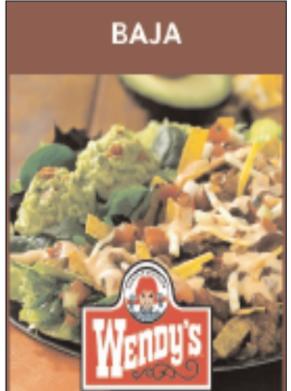
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FEATURES



Elementary Elegance

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INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS

Raptors in the lead

SEE SECTION E



'Help my boy walk again'

MAN DISCOVERED SHOT DEAD IN CAR

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT: As police on Grand Bahama launched an investigation into the island's first homicide this year, a second man was discovered shot to death in his car in the Garden Villas area.

A 24-year-old man, who was stabbed early Sunday morning at a Freeport nightclub, died at hospital on Monday, police reported.

The young man, identified as Tamaro Johnson, is a resident of Weddell Avenue, where police discovered a second man shot to death around 11.50pm on Monday.

It is not known whether the incidents are connected and if the shooting was in retaliation.

SEE page 10

Mum's plea for paralysed son

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

A TEENAGER paralysed in a horrific car accident two years ago is reaching out to the community for help in getting treatment which could help him walk again.

Renaldo Bradford Gibson and his mother Jacqueline Ford were involved in a car accident in March 2009 in which Renaldo broke his second vertebrae, leaving him unable to move any part of his body.

"This has really left me in a mental state," Mrs Ford told *The Tribune* yesterday. "All the ups and downs of his case has thrown me into depression sometimes. My family has been torn because of this."

Remembering the day of the accident, Mrs Ford said she was pulling out of a corner on Prince Charles Drive, on her way to drop her son off to school, when a truck hit the passenger side of their car, where Renaldo was seated.

Mrs Ford said she blacked out for a few moments only to wake up and find her son had been thrown from the car and

was lying unconscious on the pavement.

Taken to Princess Margaret Hospital, Renaldo immediately underwent emergency surgery to stabilise his neck.

Mrs Ford, who escaped with minor injuries, received the devastating news from doctors shortly afterwards - her son would never walk again and would be ventilator-dependent for the rest of his life.

Although he has remained bedridden in hospital for the last two years, 18-year-old Renaldo has slowly regained feeling all over his body and now has some limited movement in his legs, which doctors initially told Mrs Ford would not be possible.

Renaldo is still connected to a ventilator, but Mrs Ford believes that with further medical treatment and rehabilitation in the United States, Renaldo may have a chance of regaining some use of his legs and even upper body.

"My son is a fighter and has a desire to go on," said Mrs Ford.

She said she wanted PHM

SEE page 10



SEEKING HELP: Renaldo Bradford Gibson pictured (left) before his accident and (above) in hospital with his priest. Renaldo and his mother Jacqueline Ford were involved in a car accident which left him unable to move any part of his body.

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE BRANCH VETTING REPORTS 'SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION'

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

VETTING reports produced by the Security and Intelligence Branch are "often based on gossip and trivia", claims Fred Mitchell, opposition spokesman on the public service.

Appointments and promotions in the public service are often predicated on a "positive vetting" score, but Mr Mitchell said decision makers should exercise their own judgment and in some cases even "overrule an SIB report."

He said he was not questioning the usefulness of vetting, but said the reports should be used with "caution." The common practice, he said, was for SIB reports to be "elevated in the minds of the bureaucracy to too

high a level."

"What we have to be careful of is that gossip does not turn into the official record of your behaviour," said Mr Mitchell.

He described the investigative process in producing an SIB report as "going to the neighbourhood where you live and asking people what do you know about the person."

Superintendent Robert Young, head of the SIB, did not return messages asking him to comment on Mr Mitchell's statement.

Credible allegations, information about convictions or undisclosed offences could reasonably have a "material affect" on a promotion decision, said Mr Mitchell, but he cautioned against using SIB reports as the

SEE page 10

CHRISTIE: ALL PLPS WILL VOTE 'NO' ON THE SALE OF BTC

PLP Leader Perry Christie said last night that all PLP MPs, and Senators will vote "no" on the sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless when the matter comes to the House of Assembly and the Senate.

Declaring before a crowd of supporters at the party's rally at the Golden Gates Shopping Centre that the PLP will be calling for a "division" on this issue, Mr Christie said that they want Bahamians to see and for history to record "which of their representatives" will vote for the "fire sale of the national patrimony."

"I repeat: the PLP is opposed to the sale of BTC

SEE page 10

PLP MEMBERS CRITICISE FNM AT PARTY RALLY

PROGRESSIVE Liberal Party supporters met last night at a Golden Gates rally to hear presentations from party officials.

Jerome Gomez, PLP candidate for Killarney said: "My fellow Bahamians, these are dark times in our beloved Bahamas. We are being attacked on every front. Crime is at an all time high! Unemployment is at an all time high! The Bahamian spirit is at an all time low! Broken and battered by this uncaring government. And instead of lifting up the Bahamian spirit, all this FNM government wants to do is to build roads. Roads

SEE page 10

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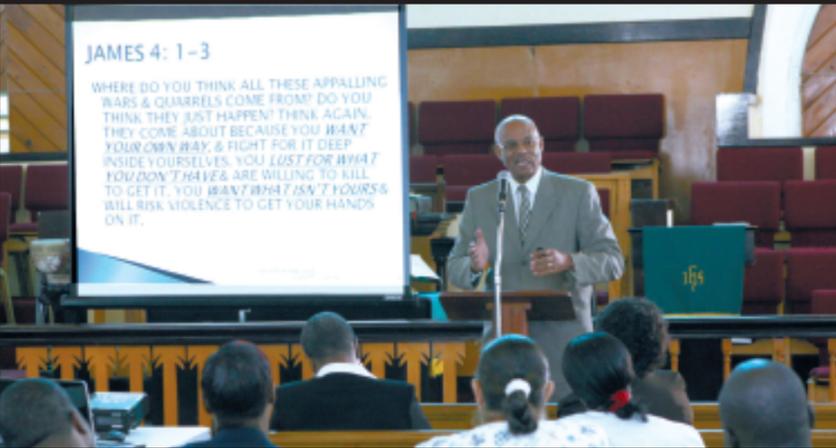
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LOCAL NEWS

CHURCH HOSTS CONFLICT RESOLUTION FORUM



THE PEWS of Wesley Methodist Church on Baillou Hill Road and Chapel Street were full yesterday as well known Bahamian psychiatrist Dr Timothy Barrett spoke about methods of conflict resolution. The monthly forum is sponsored by the Community Counselling and Assessment Centre.



Raymond Bethel/BIS



WORKMEN BUSY INSTALLING a six-inch water main at the Robinson Road and East Street junction.



PROJECT ENGINEER Charlene Collie (centre) gives reporters an update of road works on East Street and Robinson Road as ministry employee Latoya Walker (left) looks on.

Robinson Road and East Street junction closed for road work

ROBINSON Road from Key West Street to the junction with East Street remains under full closure as road work continues on this corridor. "We're working towards completing this area in totality. We're connecting to water mains and preparing to install four utility service ducts," said Ministry of Public Works project engineer Charlene Collie.

"The intention is to complete the works from beginning to end." Other works to be carried out include installation of signs and road markings. "We're asking the general public and business owners to bear with us while we try to complete these works as quickly as possible. "On the eastern end of Robinson Road (from Claridge Road to Miami Street) under full closure we were able to complete the works in a shorter time rather than with traffic moving at all times. "The full closure is to

maximise the safety of the motoring public, pedestrians and workers," she said. Diversion notifications are in place. Drivers are advised to use the Independence High Way to Baillou Hill Road and Eighth Street to East Street or continue to Baillou Hill Road travelling north and then use Independence Drive to travel east to Marathon Road

(using a portion of Robinson Road). Access to local businesses and homes will be provided, the Ministry of Works said. Drivers can expect to see more closures in the Robinson Road area as work progresses west towards Baillou Hill Road.

• SEE PAGE SEVEN

Nine appear in court on drugs charges

NINE men were arraigned in a Magistrates Court on Monday on drug charges. Lathario Rose, 36, of Rupert Dean Lane; David Colebrooke, 49, of Jasmine Gardens; Dwayne Henderson of Prince Charles Drive; Nathaniel Higgs, 26, of North Eleuthera; and Jason Major, 26, of East Street, pleaded not guilty to the charges of possession of dangerous drugs with the intent to supply and importation of dangerous drugs. The men were arrested last Wednesday near Cay Verde, Ragged Island after authorities intercepted some boats and retrieved 852 pounds of marijuana. Police estimated the drugs to have a street value of \$852,000. The five men were arraigned along with four others on additional charges. Rose, Colebrooke, Henderson, Higgs and Major have been charged along with Mario Moxey, 39 of Kemp Road; Zintwan Duncombe, 25, of Fresh Creek Andros; David Sweeting, 34, of Exuma; and Carlton Johnson, 31 of Kemps Bay, Eleuthera with conspiring to import and conspiring to possess dangerous drugs. The men all pleaded not guilty to the charges. They were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison and are expected back in court on March 14.

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Caribbean Princess	17APR11	007	399	429	San Juan, St. Thomas, Tortola, Antigua, Barbados, St. Lucia, at sea, San Juan
Crown Princess	23APR11	007	449	479	Fort Lauderdale, at sea, Grand Cayman, Island of Roatan (Honduras), Island of Cozumel (Mexico), at sea, Princess Cays, Fort Lauderdale
Ruby Princess	24APR11	007	549	599	Fort Lauderdale, Princess Cays, at sea, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Grand Turk, at sea, Fort Lauderdale
Crown Princess	30APR11	007	649	699	Fort Lauderdale, at sea, Grand Cayman, Island of Roatan (Honduras), Island of Cozumel (Mexico), at sea, Princess Cays, Fort Lauderdale
Crown Princess	15APR11	007	769	799	Fort Lauderdale, at sea, Grand Cayman, Island of Roatan (Honduras), Island of Cozumel (Mexico), at sea, Princess Cays, Fort Lauderdale
Star Princess	23APR11	010	699	799	Fort Lauderdale, 2 days at sea, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, at sea, Princess Cays, Fort Lauderdale
Emerald Princess	17APR11	010	699	799	Fort Lauderdale, 2 days at sea, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, at sea, Princess Cays, Fort Lauderdale
Caribbean Princess	08MAY11	009	699	799	New York, 2 days at sea, Grand Turk, San Juan, St. Thomas, at sea, Royal Naval Dockyard (Bermuda), at sea, New York
Ruby Princess	17APR11	007	1,049	1,309	Fort Lauderdale, Princess Cays, at sea, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Grand Turk, at sea, Fort Lauderdale

Share your news

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



Abaco residents plan protest against BEC



BEC CHAIRMAN Michael Moss had said, 'We are going to get it right this summer.'

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

Concerns raised over issues with power supply

A GROUP of Abaco residents are set to protest against BEC this Thursday over unresolved issues with the island's power supply.

The scheduled protest will come a week after BEC officials held a town meeting on the island, where they promised that "by hook or crook" the community's electricity woes would be dealt with by the summer.

As previously reported, many on the island fear BEC will not be able to keep its pledge, forcing locals, second home owners and other tourists to grapple with intermittent power cuts and a consequent drop in business yet again.

"Lots of business people here feel they (BEC) are just trying to satisfy somebody (with words)," one business owner told *The Tribune* yesterday.

"People feel they are getting mixed messages. Last week BEC said new lines will be in by the summer - that could mean as late as September," added the

entrepreneur, who did not want to be identified. "Next month, are they going to say something else?"

Another Abaco resident said her business has dropped by at least 20 per cent because of dips in the power supply. Meanwhile, calls continue to pour in from tourists who are worried their summer travel plans will be blighted by blackouts, she added.

"I do have a lot of customers that have written to me and asked are they going to have to put up with it again this year. We have a marina with 10 rented slips but we've lost two of our long-term boats because of the power fluctuations - that's 20 per cent of our business," said the hotelier.

"They keep saying it's going to get better and I

think it would be a major mistake and let down to tourists and the residents if they don't get this sorted out".

Last week, BEC officials insisted that construction of overhead transmission lines for the Wilson City Power Plant will be completed by the summer - although no exact date was given - a move expected to alleviate Abaco's power outages during peak usage periods.

"We are going to get it right this summer," BEC chairman Michael Moss told the skeptical crowd.

Government is reviewing bids for the installation of an upgraded transmission line capable of providing a consistent power supply to Abaco residents. A contract should be signed by the end of this month.

Construction on the new overhead transmission line is expected to begin in April with a summer completion date.

If the line is not in place by the summer, BEC will rely on the generators - which are currently undergoing a \$1 million refurbishment - at the Marsh Harbour Power Station.

"At present we are fully capable of providing 14 megawatts of electricity from the Wilson City Power Station via the existing transmission line. Should, for any reason, the transmission line not be installed on time, we are presently overhauling the generators at the Marsh Harbour Power Station," explained Mr Moss at the town meeting.

"One million has been earmarked for this project and once completed the Marsh Harbour Power Station will have the capacity to supply a minimum of 11 megawatts (MW) of reliable electricity. Wilson City and Marsh Harbour running simultaneously will adequately meet Abaco's peak demand of 25 megawatts," Mr Moss said.

"By hook or by crook, res-

idents in Abaco will not be subjected to another summer of constant outages," he added.

NEW YORK RESIDENT SENTENCED TO FORFEIT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

A 30-YEAR-OLD New York resident was sentenced to forfeit thousands of dollars and be deported yesterday.

Alphousseyn Sylla, a Frenchman residing in the Bronx, was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One, Bank Lane, charged with failing to declare, \$23,076 and falsely declaring that he was not leaving the country with more than \$10,000 cash.

It is alleged that Sylla, while at the Lyn-

den Pindling International Airport on Monday, March 7, failed to declare 200 pesos, equivalent to \$16.15; 141 Riyal (Saudi currency) equivalent to \$37.59; \$1,584.70 in US currency; and £2,254, equivalent to \$3,642 in US currency.

Sylla pleaded guilty to this charge, and also pleaded guilty to making a false declaration.

He was ordered to forfeit the cash and be deported.

MP says Ingraham 'interfering in court's process over costs'

PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham is interfering in the court's process of determining costs in the case of Cheryl Grant-Bethell according to Fred Mitchell, opposition spokesman on the public service.

He said this days after Prime Minister Ingraham categorised a recent Supreme Court ruling as a defeat for Mrs Grant-Bethell, and said the government expects to be awarded costs.

Mr Mitchell said: "Here are the facts on the issue of costs. The matter of costs has been reserved to the March 18 court hearing. Any comment then on costs could well be interpreted as an attempt by the executive to tell the court what to do. Mr Ingraham is a lawyer and knows better.

"The issue of those costs remains a matter for the overall arguments on the March 18 hearing and are for the judge to decide, not the prime minister," he said.

The court refused most of the positions filed by Mrs Grant-Bethell in her application for a judicial review after being passed over for the post of Director of Public Prosecutions.

However, Senior Justice Jon Isaacs did rule that Mrs Grant-Bethell was treated "unfairly" by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC), and that her appointment to the lesser post of Deputy Law Reform Commissioner was "irrational".

Mr Mitchell said yesterday: "We all happen to think that the prime minister's attack on the weekend was unseemly and we wish to say so in the public domain.

"In our eyes, in the view



FRED MITCHELL, opposition spokesman on the public service.

of the press, in everyone else's eyes except the prime minister's, Mrs Grant Bethell won her case. No amount of shouting and stamping by the prime minister can change what the court said about the conduct of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission," he said.

Mr Mitchell further called on the prime minister to "cease and desist" - threatening that there may be legal implications to some of this remarks.

"The prime minister's remarks may be defamatory and Mrs Grant Bethell is presently having her lawyers

examine those comments made at his press conference at the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

"He made certain characterisations of Mrs Grant Bethell which are inaccurate and which may be defamatory. While she has no quarrel with the press, it is incumbent upon all of us to guard ourselves from being co-conspirators in a concerted effort by the government of the Bahamas to besmirch her reputation.

"Suffice it to say that Mrs Grant Bethell asserts that at all times she spoke truthfully to the court," said Mr Mitchell.

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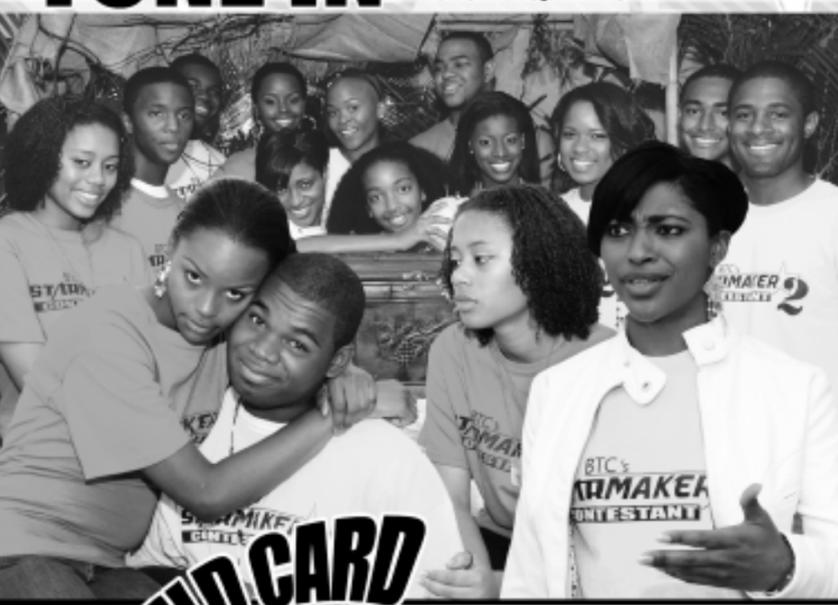
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Equality for women a distant goal in world

EGYPTIAN women demanding equal rights on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day were shoved by men who said they should go home where they belong. Congolese women asked their government to protect them from systematic rapes, and women in Croatia who lost their jobs accused the government of corruption.

But the centennial anniversary of the day established by socialist women to promote better working conditions, the right to vote and hold public office, and equality with men, also was marked Tuesday by festivities including dancing in the street in South Korea's capital and a 10-kilometer run by some 8,000 women in Mexico City. Super-sleuth James Bond actor Daniel Craig got into the act — trading his signature suit for a flowing blonde wig, print dress, pearls and heels for a short film marking the day that highlights the inequalities faced by women around the world.

Speaking at U.N. headquarters in New York, Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon recalled that 100 years ago "gender equality was a largely radical idea."

While progress since then should be celebrated, he said, "We must also remember that — in too many countries and in too many societies — women remain second-class citizens, denied their fundamental rights, deprived of legitimate opportunity."

Their second-class status was evident in Cairo's now famous Tahrir Square, which protesters who succeeded in ousting President Hosni Mubarak on Feb. 11 used as their base. Hundreds of women — some in headscarves and flowing robes, others in jeans — who marched to the square to celebrate the anniversary, demand equality and an end to sexual harassment were soon outnumbered by men who chased them out. In troubled Ivory Coast, thousands of women defiantly marched to the bloodstained street where seven female demonstrators armed only with tree branches symbolizing peace were brutally killed last week by soldiers in armored personnel carriers who opened fire.

The women had tried to march every day since Thursday's attack but lost their nerve in the face of an army loyal to strongman Laurent Gbagbo who has refused to relinquish the presidency to the internationally recognized winner of the November election, Alassane Ouattara.

The women escaped attack Tuesday, but hours later the army burst into Treichville, the downtown neighbourhood where they marched, and killed at least four civilians. Reporters saw the bodies of three men and one woman on the blood-splattered floor of a clinic. In Congo's capital, Kinshasa, the president's wife, Olive Kabila, joined the march against rape, which has long been used as a weapon of war in the country. At least 8,300 rapes were reported in 2009 but aid workers say the true toll is much higher.

In Croatia's capital, Zagreb, and the Adriatic port of Rijeka, protesters marking International Women's Day demanded jobs and called for the government to resign. In Manila, demonstrators demanded justice for "comfort women" forced into prostitution in World War II, and in Gaza, hundreds of Palestinian women called for an end to the rift between Hamas, which controls Gaza, and Fatah, which controls the West Bank.

At an all-star gathering of women in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said women must be included in any process of democratic reform in the Middle East. The audience included First Lady Michelle Obama and the female president of Kyrgyzstan and prime minister of Australia.

Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, who now heads the new U.N. agency to promote women's rights, said the pioneering women who launched the annual commemoration would probably look at the world today "with a mixture of pride and disappointment."

Over one million women and men took to the streets in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on what was originally called International Working Women's Day on March 19, 1911 to demand an end to discrimination.

The day became popular in Eastern Europe, Russia and the former Soviet bloc, and eventually spread around the globe. In some regions, it lost its political flavour and became an occasion for men to express their love for women with candy and flowers while in other regions, women's struggle for human rights and political and social equality remained the focus. In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day. Two years later the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a day for women's rights and international peace.

Despite major progress over the last 100 years, "the hopes of equality expressed on that first International Women's Day are a long way from being realized," said Bachelet, who became the first executive director of UN Women in January.

Girls are still less likely to be in school than boys, almost two-thirds of illiterate adults are women, and every 90 seconds a woman dies in pregnancy or due to childbirth-related complications despite the knowledge and resources to make births safe, she said. Women also continue to earn less than men for the same work and have unequal inheritance rights and access to land. Despite some high-profile advances, Bachelet said, only 28 women are heads of state or government and just 8 per cent are peace negotiators. Last week, the Inter-Parliamentary reported that while the number of women in legislatures reached an all-time high of 19.1 per cent in 2010, "the target of gender balance in politics is still a distant one."

■ (Article by Edith M. Lederer of AP).

Restraint must be built into the fiscal system

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The fiscal policies followed by successive governments — deficit spending, unfunded liabilities and the over all debt load of The Bahamas — will eventually become a burden for everyone through higher taxes or inflation, if restraint is not built into the system.

Dr. Dan Mitchell of the Libertarian Think Tank, the *Cato Institute* <<http://www.cato.org/>> recently provided food for thought — ideas that might help our policy makers — in an article that first appeared in *Investor's Business Daily* <<http://www.investors.com/>> on March 4, 2011.

Pointing out that "good fiscal policy doesn't require miracles — or dramatic shutdowns" but limiting the growth of the public sector, and coupled with normal revenue growth, government red ink disappears surprisingly quickly.

He provides a few excellent examples from around the world:

Between 1994 and 1999 the US increased spending only 3 per cent each year and the result was a budget

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

surplus.

In the early 90's in Canada, average annual increases in government spending was only 1 per cent. In 1992 spending was 53 per cent of GDP and the deficit was 9 per cent of GDP.

By 1997 spending was 44 per cent of GDP. Again after just five years, there was a small surplus.

The story was pretty much the same in Ireland. Government spending was 60 per cent of GDP in 1985 with deficits consuming another 12 per cent of the economy's output.

After just four years of fiscal restraint, spending was around 43 per cent of GDP and deficits were reduced to 2.7 per cent of GDP.

In Slovakia they increased their annual budget by only 1.3 per cent of GDP on average over the three years from 2000 to 2003 and the public spending dropped from 36.9 per cent of GDP to 29.2 per cent.

With other pro-growth policies like the flat tax and personal retirement accounts, economic growth was robust. And finally:

From 1990 to 1995 New Zealand dropped spending from 53.5 per cent of GDP and deficits of 4.5 per cent of GDP down to spending of only 43.1 per cent of GDP and a budget surplus of 2.8 per cent of GDP.

In the US Dr. Mitchell points out that: "Two per cent annual spending increases would lead to fiscal balance by 2021."

Limiting spending growth to 1 per cent annually would balance the budget by 2019.

A spending freeze would balance the budget by 2017."

So if the government "can't cut spending", surely the Budget can be held at current levels in an attempt to get the country's fiscal house in order in the not too distant future?

RICK LOWE

Nassau,
March 6, 2011
www.weblogbahamas.com

Demonstrations and the rule of law

EDITOR, The Tribune.

As a trained lawyer and a lifelong student of the constitution, I fully believe in and support the right of anyone to hold a public demonstration. That right, however, is not absolute. It depends on the demonstrator observing the terms and conditions imposed by the law; the rights of other members of the general public and, of course, considerations for public order and safety.

I did not attend the recent demonstration in the area of Bay Street when there was an apparent confrontation between the police and

some of the demonstrators but I did watch portions of it on television and read the various print media articles.

The demonstration should have been confined to the northern side of Rawson Square. The police did its collective duty in erecting barricades and restricting the massing and movement of persons away from the immediate vicinity of the House of Assembly. Persons should never have been in a position to threaten the person of any legislator, inclusive of the Rt Hon Prime Minister.

It is one thing for persons who are supposedly opposed to the proposed sale of BTC to Cable & Wireless but something totally different to them proposing, in political and possibly violent terms, a change of regime, as some of the placards seemed to suggest.

The demonstration, clearly, was motivated by other factors which must now be addressed by the Rt Hon Prime Minister and his administration.

I would hope that none of the so-called demonstrators were induced to congregate on Bay Street for filthy lucre

and/or some other selfish gain. Some say that some of the demonstrators were bused in by various political parties which are in opposition to the FNM. If that is the case, I have no problem with that. My problem would be where there is evidence to suggest that the demonstration may have been hijacked by political operatives.

And so, yes, people have the right to demonstrate but the police and its excellent Commissioner of Police have the sworn duty to uphold law and order.

They also have the duty to ensure the safety of the general public and the smooth flow of traffic, no more, no less.

If the demonstrators opposed the proposed sale all they and their political allies need to do is bide their time until the advent of the general elections and do what they must do.

To God then, in all of these mundane things, be the glory.

ORTLAND

H BODIE JR
Nassau,
March 1, 2011.

Lent is a sacred time of divine grace

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Ash Wednesday (March 9) marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time when we fast with joy, submitting ourselves to spiritual struggles in preparation for the sorrowful Passion and joyful Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is demanded of all Christians at this time is fasting, abstinence, restriction of personal desires and pleasures, intense prayer, confession, and similar ascetic elements.

Lent is a sacred time of divine grace, which seeks to detach us from things material, lowly and corrupt in order to attract us toward things superior, wholesome and spiritual. It is a unique opportunity to remove from the soul every inordinate passion so as to make room for the immense rejoicing and gladness of Easter.

Limiting ourselves to what is absolutely essential and necessary in an attitude of dignified, deliberate simplicity is a formula for patience and tolerance; it is an opportunity to acknowledge and emphasize our need for God's assistance and mercy, placing our complete trust in His affectionate providence; it is a prescription for salvation.

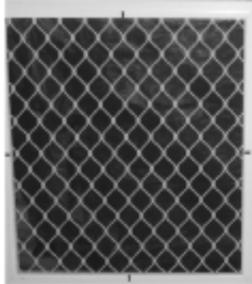
Let us be up and on our way.

PAUL KOKOSKI
Canada,
March 3, 2011.

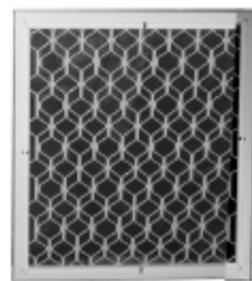
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LOCAL NEWS

PLP plans to give 'special attention' to Grand Bahama

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net



PLP LEADER
Perry Christie

FREEPORT – THE PLP is preparing to unveil its campaign plans for the next general election in the immediate future and intends to give special attention to Grand Bahama, party leader Perry Christie said.

“We propose to unveil our approach to the next general election much sooner than we have done in the past; we are about a month from completing our works,” he said at PLP Headquarters in Grand Bahama on Monday.

“It is not going to be very long before we begin our messaging as to what we propose to do when we become the government of the Bahamas.”

One of the aspects the PLP campaign will focus on is giving more attention to Grand Bahama, Mr Christie said.

Accusing the FNM government of “gross neglect and dereliction of duty” to the people of Grand Bahama, Mr Christie pledged that a PLP government would restore the island to its glory days.

While in Freeport on Monday, Mr Christie and several PLP MPs met with resort officials at the Our Lucaya Resort regarding the failings at the property.

“(We) made recommendations as what we think must happen to give Grand Bahama a chance to come out of this recession and get jobs back in this economy and give the people of this island hope of a secure future,” he said.

“We feel time is moving rapidly and we want them to know the kind of government we will be when we win the next general election.”

Our Lucaya Beach and Golf Resort terminated 200 workers last Friday. The resort has also closed two of its three hotels, reducing its room inventory from 1,200 to 500 rooms.

In light of global economic challenges, management stated that the lay-offs and adjustments to the resort were necessary “in an effort to save over 800 jobs and keep a vital Grand Bahama island tourism product operational.”

Mr Christie said that the PLP and the FNM administration had been aware of losses in the island’s tourism product.

“We feel the government must explain to the people what they were doing, knowing that things were rough down here and that challenges existed.

“We just finished a mid-year budget debate and the government did not see itself fit to advise the House of Assembly and the country that these lay-offs were (pending).

“Is it because they did not know or is it because they did not want us to turn our wrath on the government for its continual failings? The government must explain its position,” Mr Christie said.

The Opposition leader stressed that Grand Bahama plays an important role in the country.

“We will come in here and specifically focus and concentrate on this island because this island is a critical

player in the make-up of the Bahamas. It is the second economy of our country, and so you cannot be neglectful with respect to this island, and we propose to pay a lot of attention to it and to cause government to do more.

“I don’t understand why they (Government) are so secretive about what’s happened and still so secretive of any plans they have with respect to this island,” he said.

Mr Christie said the PLP is very concerned about the failings of the Grand Bahama’s tourism product and particularly at the Our Lucaya Resort property.

Some of their recommendations to hotel representatives, he said, included consideration for an operator similar to Kerzner.

“We have also been concerned about the quality of the casino operators so we spoke to that, and Mr Wilhcombe made recommendation of a signature event for this island to ensure we have a healthy tourism product,” he added.

He noted that suggestions were also made concerning the poor visitor satisfaction rating on Grand Bahama.

“Hopefully those recommendations would take root.

“As I indicated to the persons we spoke to, unless the government sees itself as an active partner in the enterprise of making the economy of Grand Bahama work and making the tourism product work, it is not going to happen and it will have to wait until we get there (in office) to fix.

“We are hoping that efforts would be made to fix it before we get there, but we can give you complete assurance that we are coming into government with a lot of ideas on how we should go about bringing Grand Bahama back to its glory days,” Mr Christie said.

POTCAKE SAYS

THE BAHAMAS’ VERY OWN STREET PHILOSOPHER



MAN WANTED FOR QUESTIONING

POLICE are asking the public’s assistance in determining the whereabouts of 27-year-old Gary Leon who is wanted for questioning in a murder case.

The suspect’s last known addresses are Palm Beach Street and Moore Avenue in New Providence. He has a dark brown complexion, is 6’2” tall and weighs around 200lbs. Leon is considered armed and extremely dangerous.

If the suspect is seen approach with caution and contact the police at 502-9910 502-9991 or Crime Tipsters at 352-1919 or 328-8474 or the nearest police station.



‘SIGNIFICANT LEADS’ IN SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

• POLICE are following significant leads in their investigation into the shooting of a 42-year-old woman.

The woman was at Butler Street, Nassau Village, when a silver Honda Inspire with four male occupants approached her shortly before 10pm on Monday.

A man armed with a handgun got out of the car and opened fire on the woman.

The victim sustained gunshot injuries to both thighs and was taken to hospital by emergency medical services where she is listed as in stable condition.

• EMPLOYEES and customers of a barber shop tackled a teenage armed robber and turned him over to police on Monday.

Two employees and a customer at the Miracle Cut Barber Shop disarmed and

detained the 17-year-old man who had entered the store armed with a handgun.

The Farrington Road man, described by eyewitnesses as “light-skinned”, entered the shop at Moore Avenue and Palm Beach Street shortly before 7pm and demanded cash; however an altercation with the employees and a customer ensued.

As a result, the culprit, his gun, and ammunition were turned over to police.

Earlier that day, two men, one of whom was armed with a handgun, robbed the Early Bird Supermarket.

The culprits wore blue shirts and brown pants when they

entered the store at Robinson Road shortly before noon.

After taking an undisclosed amount of cash, the thugs fled the area into the Ridgeland Park area. Investigations into the matter are ongoing.

• A 20-year-old woman is recovering in hospital from stab wounds she received during a fight with another woman.

The two women got into an altercation at St James Road on Monday evening. The victim received stab wounds to her upper arm and hand around 6.30pm and was taken to hospital by a private vehicle.

Police investigations are ongoing.

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Sunday, March 20th, 2011
The Convention closes on Sunday, March 20th, 2011 with the Annual Parade and Water Baptismal Service at the Western Esplanade, and with the live ZNS Radio 1540 AM, 810 AM and ZNS TV 13 evening broadcast service. During this service, the National Overseer, Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming will deliver the final message on the Convention’s theme.

BISHOP CLAYTON MARTIN
General Presbyter

BISHOP DAVID BRYAN
Global Outreach Director

BISHOP ROBERT DAVIS
State Overseer of Florida

BISHOP JEFFERY DAVIS
State Overseer of North Carolina

BISHOP TIMOTHY COALTER
State Overseer of South Carolina

BISHOP CLARENCE WILLIAMS
Overseer of The Turks & Caicos Islands

BISHOP DON BROCK
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Commissioner of Police

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Monday, March 14th, 2011
Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming, CMG, DD, JP, National Overseer and Moderator will deliver his Annual National Address on Monday, March 14th live over ZNS Radio 1540 AM and 810 AM.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Governor General urges more support for Red Cross

By LINDSAY THOMPSON
Bahamas Information Services

AS HUNDREDS of patrons enjoyed the food and entertainment at the 69th Annual Bahamas Red Cross Society Fair last weekend, Governor-General Sir Arthur Foulkes underscored the importance of the organisation in times of need.

"We are here to have fun but even while we are enjoying ourselves, we must not forget that the work of the Bahamas Red Cross Society is serious business and that this fair is a fundraiser to ensure that the work of the society continues," he told the crowd assembled in the lower gardens of Government House on Saturday.

Disaster can strike at any time, anywhere and the administrators and volunteers of the Red Cross must always be prepared and ready to help, he said.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30. However, there are disasters such as tornadoes, lightning strikes, floods, fires and others that leave families destitute, the Governor-General said.

"In these emergency situations the Red Cross Society must step into the gap," he said, adding that such was the



GOVERNOR-GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes and his wife Joan Lady Foulkes pose with patrons William and Lindsay at the 69th Annual Fair of the Bahamas Red Cross Society.

case following the January 12, 2010 earthquake which caused massive destruction to Haiti.

Sir Arthur said that the work of the Red Cross Society in the community goes unnoticed because it is "good news which seldom, if ever, makes the headlines in the daily papers or talked about on the radio or seen on television."

Some of the programmes undertaken by the Red Cross Society are:

- Meals on Wheels, daily

hot meals are delivered to the shut-ins and disabled

- Fresh milk is provided to school children on the Family Islands

- Medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and hospital beds are made available for minimal rental fee

- The society's trained volunteers provide first aid and ambulance services at national events, sports meets, road races and other functions.

The Bahamas Red Cross



SIR ARTHUR FOULKES, Governor-General, officially opens the 69th Annual Fair of the Bahamas Red Cross Society in the lower gardens of Government House on Saturday.

was organised by the government as a national society through a Bill passed in Parliament on June 23, 1975. Its mission is to prevent and alleviate suffering wherever it may be found; to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings; to work for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health and social welfare; to train personnel and encourage voluntary service; and to act as a channel for collecting money and goods donated by the public for the sick and suffering.

LYFORD CAY FOUNDATION ACCEPTING AWARD APPLICATIONS



IN 2010, the Lyford Cay Foundations' Gifts and Grants Committee gave \$2.5 million to the College of the Bahamas to fund the purchase of furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new Harry C Moore Library and Information Centre.

THE Lyford Cay Foundations (LCF) announced that their Gifts and Grants Committee is currently accepting applications from Bahamian non-profit and charitable organisations who wish to apply for an award.

The Foundations have so far disbursed more than \$15 million to dozens of local non-profit groups to date, LCF officials said.

Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. On occasion, substantially larger grants have been approved and special fundraising efforts undertaken.

This year, the initiative is particularly interested in receiving applications for projects in the following areas: education and literacy; after-school programmes; youth summer camps and activities; environmental protection; health care and care facilities; mental health programmes; feeding centres; parenting skills training; crime prevention and Family Island programmes.

"The Foundations do not normally make direct gifts to support expenses incurred by other endowments, places of worship or government agencies (such as construction or administrative costs), but will fund qualifying philanthropic community programmes run by these organisations. It does not make awards to individuals or to cover personal medical expenses," LCF officials said.

When considering applications, the committee favours: Specific programmes over general ones

- Existing programmes over start-ups
- Requests to fund capital costs rather than operating costs
- Tangible needs, for example equipment, physical repairs, building projects.
- Programmes that will benefit the Family Islands

The remaining application deadlines for 2011 are:

- April 1 to be considered by June 1
- October 1 to be considered by November 30

For full details on the application process and application forms, persons are asked to please visit www.lyfordcayfoundation.org.

Bahamas aviation chief to chair international body

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – The Chief Aviation Specialist for the Bahamas has been named chairman elect of International Federal Partners' Federal Pavilion for the premier aviation event, EAA Air Venture Osh Kosh, which takes place this year in Osh Kosh,

WI, July 25-31. Mr Greg Rolle, head of the Aviation Department for The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, has accepted the position to chair the prestigious aviation group that includes, the United States, Canada and The Bahamas. When Mr Rolle

starts his chairmanship at the conclusion of this year's show, he will serve in the post for two consecutive years. He will assume the reins from current IFP chairman, Aaron Sauer, a Senior Air Safety Investigator with the US National Transportation Safety Board.

"It will be my privilege to serve as the chairman of the IFP," Mr Rolle said on acceptance of the position, adding, "I will do my utmost to use my skill set, abilities and talents to ensure that the Federal Pavilion continues to prove to be an effective arena for the private pilot to be educated, enlightened and provided with up-to-the minute procedural and other information necessary for a seamless crossing of the borders." The aviation executive noted that "over the years, the islands of the Bahamas have benefited greatly from our mutual relationship, and it is my belief that acting in the capacity as chairman of the IFP, will add depth to our partnership."

The prestigious honour means that Mr Rolle will be the chair of a body that plays a major role at the Annual EAA Air Venture Expo, which attracts hundreds of thousands of aviation enthusiasts annually from across the globe.

"We (International Federal Partnership) are honoured to have you representing the Bahamas to serve as chairman for the upcoming years," chairman Sauer said while welcoming Mr Rolle to his position. "We appreciate your service and all the years you have dedicated to the IFP and The Bahamas representation at Air Venture."

US Federal Agencies and Canadian Government departments in 1990 began partici-



GREG ROLLE, head of the Aviation Department for The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation

pating together at the EAA Air Venture in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin and came to be known as the International Federal Partnership.

In 1998, the Bahamas with its Civil Aviation departments joined the group. The IFP annually contracts with EAA for a massive 21,000 square foot hanger – The International Federal Pavilion – and from this space the member countries with their various government agencies and departments, display exhibits as well as provide booths with information.

The Chairman of the IFP is responsible for facilitating the collective efforts of the members in achieving the Partnership's goals. Duties of the chair include, facilitating meetings and teleconferences of the group; facilitating staff meetings and special engagements during the week of Air Venture and mediating differences that may arise between the members to the extent that the differences affect the Partnership.

Mr Rolle is a veteran Ministry of Tourism employee who has been with the organisation for some 25 years. During his years with the ministry, he has served in various capacities, including Director of Bahamas Sports Tourism. A licensed private pilot, Mr Rolle returned to the leadership position of tourism's aviation department in 2008. Under his recent leadership, the Bahamas has stepped up its marketing initiatives against the lucrative aviation market. Signature programmes include Bahamas Preferred (FBO) Gateways, Bahamas Flying Ambassadors, and Bahamas Day. The inventive strategies being undertaken by the country's aviation department, has thrust the Bahamas into the spotlight of the International aviation arena.

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LOCAL NEWS

NEMA workshop develops tsunami warning protocol

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) hosted a two-day workshop to formulate a tsunami and other coastal hazards warning system protocol for the Bahamas.

Captain Stephen Russell, director of NEMA, stressed the importance of the country having in place an early warning system in the event of a tsunami or any other coastal event.

The protocol will be presented to Cabinet for approval and implementation.

"The thing is we want to notify the Bahamian public as soon as possible, as the Bahamas is challenged

because of its geographical location," Captain Russell said.

He said he was delighted the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency together with the Australian government (AusAID) as sponsor was able to stage the workshop series being conducted throughout the Caribbean.

Hazards

Dr Virginia Clerveaux, senior programme officer, said it was a pleasure for CDEMA to be a part of the workshop that seeks to enhance the capacity of its



PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED a two-day workshop to formulate a tsunami and other coastal hazards warning system protocol for the Bahamas at the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base at Coral Harbour. The workshop was hosted by the National Emergency Management Agency. Photo/NEMA

participating states to work towards better management of both natural and technological hazards, but specifically of tsunami hazards.

The workshop provided participants an opportunity to revisit disaster risk management strategies; share

best practices and lessons learnt from a cross-spectra of projects, programmes and policies; and an opportunity to highlight the critical importance of building resilience to disaster risk in the communities.

Participants comprising representatives of NEMA's emergency support function groupings were able to project their input into a model from the Turks and Caicos Islands protocol, and adapt it to fit the Bahamas, should the country be faced with a tsunami or storm surge; and formulate specific strategies to educate the public at large on the importance of being prepared and where to "find the highest point" once the warning has been sounded.

A session also dealt with the role the media plays in informing the public through various means such as television, radio and the newspapers.

It was concluded that the mass media has "a fundamental role" to play in making disaster risk reduction efforts successful.

From CDEMA's perspective, the workshop also provided an "important opportunity and platform which allows us to build on alliances that have already been forged towards a collective vision for the reduction of disaster risk and promotion of sustainable livelihoods, economic and social progress particularly within our coastal communities which has been the disproportionate focus of our economic and social activities as well as infrastructural development," Dr Clerveaux said.

decisions contribute to vulnerability and increase the risk of future disasters, she noted.

Scientific data has documented evidence of giant waves throughout the Caribbean from as early as 1629.

The NOAA Geophysical Data Centre reports that the Caribbean Basin has had eight per cent of the world's tsunami events and the Indian Ocean seven per cent; taking into account the December 2004 tsunami which killed more than 250,000 people.

"Experience has shown that the most effective response mechanisms to disaster loss reduction has proven to be a dynamic, multi-level management arrangement in which national, regional, government and non-government actors work together in a timely, effective and mutually-enhancing way," Dr Clerveaux said.

The seminar was held March 3 - 4 at the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base at Coral Harbour.

Region

During her presentations, she highlighted aspects of the disaster risk profile of the Caribbean region, which is largely comprised of small island developing states (SIDS) located within an active seismic arc.

The impact of disasters on these states leave massive destruction and overpowering evidence of how poor planning and investment

Road work commences on Fox Hill Road and Prince Charles Drive

ROAD work on Fox Hill Road and Prince Charles Drive have commenced.

The work includes installation of a 24-inch water main from Fox Hill Road and Prince Charles Drive in the east to the junction at Baillou Hill and Robinson Road that is expected to improve water quality. Drainage utilities are also being installed.

Charlene Collie, project engineer with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, said: "Work on the northern verge of Fox Hill Road and Prince Charles junction has begun. The work will eventually lead into full road closure as we install the 24-inch water main."

The closure will not take place immediately, but as the work progresses it will eventually lead into a full closure that is expected to last for a short duration.

During the closure motorists are advised to divert through Sea Breeze and Fox Hill Road travelling the route along Bernard Road.

"We ask the public to exercise patience as we go through the construction phase," said Ms Collie. "It should not be for more than four weeks as we are trying to install at least approximately 300 ft of the 24-inch water main."

Workmen are also busy installing approximately 1,500 ft of the 24-inch water main at St Michael's Road on the western end of Prince Charles Drive.

"We're progressing with installation of over 300 ft per week that equates to five weeks," said Ms Collie.

The works are a part of the government's \$120 million contract for the New Providence Road Improvement Project.



CHARLENE COLLIE, project engineer with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, advises the public to be patient as they traverse the Fox Hill Road and Prince Charles Drive area where road works are in progress.

Patrick Hanna/BIS

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- Techniques, equipment and materials for appropriate application of word skills and strategies
- Other Topical Issues

Participants will receive:

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- Individuals aspiring to become Reading teachers
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Propaganda and the pending BTC privatisation

By LARRY SMITH

AND now class, today we are going to talk about propaganda. Does anyone know what the word means?

It derives from the Latin for propagate, which means to multiply, reproduce or transmit. In this case, we are talking about spreading information.

What kind of information? Well, that is often hard to say. The key point to remember is that the information being presented will have an agenda. And in order to judge the value and quality of the information, you need to determine what that agenda is.

In a nutshell, propaganda uses loaded messages to produce an emotional response in support of an often hidden objective. And ever since the 1930s (when German and Soviet propaganda promoted state-sponsored genocide) the term has acquired a strong negative meaning – for good reason.

Journalists are supposed to be trained to give their audiences a reasonably accurate background and analysis of the subject at hand. Advertisers use an overt form of propaganda to persuade people to buy their products or services. Public relations lies somewhere in between, often presenting itself as journalism in support of a proprietary theme, which is not necessarily nefarious.

What sets propaganda apart more than anything else is that it seeks to influence public opinion through deception and confusion, rather than by encouraging genuine understanding.

According to Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, "The most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly – it must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over."

What points instantly spring to mind in the local context? No turning back (to white rule);



stop, review and cancel (good economic initiatives); Hubert "the dictator" Ingraham; selling our birthright (to white foreigners), the plantation economy (enslaves blacks).

But it's not just about repetitive slander. As British wartime propagandist (and later cabinet minister) Richard Crossman said: "The art of propaganda is not telling lies, but rather selecting the truth you require and giving it mixed up with some truths the audience wants to hear."

This is what we are seeing today with the (currently) one-sided debate over the pending privatisation of BTC.

Let's look at the recent constructs of a massive conspiracy to corruptly engineer the sale of BTC against the interests and wishes of the Bahamian people. Evidence for this is said to rest on a series of conflicts of interest, and was recently given credence by retired Tribune journalist Nicky Kelly, who now writes a column for the Punch.

"One has to ask why the PM is so motivated to pursue a deal that is so suspect, and the machinations of its participants so obvious, that they exhaust credulity," Kelly wrote.

In this view, a small group of unrelated people began moving chess pieces years ago to achieve the present result – the sale of half of BTC to Cable & Wireless Communications, within a regulatory environment developed and controlled by former CWC employees.

The inference is that the plot was hatched by CWC, with the support of leading Bahamian politicians and technical advisors, to save its future Caribbean business prospects. Or maybe it was the other way

round, and our top politicians and bureaucrats simply planned to enrich themselves from CWC. In either case, the full background to the story is largely ignored and a massive corrupt scheme is offered as the obvious reality. The clear agenda is to derail the privatisation of BTC, both for political gain and to protect vested interests.

The full background to the story includes the fact that there were no less than three public bodies responsible for decision-making – the cabinet, the privatisation advisory committee, and the privatisation working committee. There were also two sets of financial advisors – KPMG Bahamas and CITI, a major international bank – as well as two legal advisors – Charles Russell, a British firm specialising in communications law (which also advised the Christie administration on regulatory reform), and local law firm Higgs & Johnson.

In short, there were significant checks and balances. And with so many separate groups of advisors it would be very difficult for a specific conflict of interest to flow through to a final sale. It also has to be acknowledged that the goal of liberalising the communications sector and finding a major strategic partner for BTC has been the accepted policy of both major parties for years – even more so in the case of the FNM, which launched the process in 1998.

And what about those conflicts of interest that have been selectively ignored by the conspiracy theorists. Conflicts like the participation of some of the major antagonists in the current debate in the earlier sale that was agreed by the Christie



A PROTEST against the pending sale of BTC.

administration with Bluewater Ventures – a foreign firm with uncertain ownership and no operating history.

It has been suggested that some of them were heavily involved when that deal went down – together with some of the leaders of the same unions that are now so critical of the current process. What chess pieces were these players moving?

The Christie administration cancelled the original privatisation process launched by the FNM after rejecting existing bids, and then proceeded to negotiate solely with Bluewater from 2005 until the general election in May 2007. How is this any different from the Ingraham administration rejecting bids received in the current process, and then talking to CWC?

And let's not forget to take into account the stark contrast between Bluewater, an unknown private equity firm, and CWC, a major international telecoms provider with a long and publicly reported background in the field.

In fact, almost all of the bidders for BTC throughout this long and complicated process were private financiers who saw an opportunity to make money. DigiCell and CWC are the most obvious telecoms buyers in the region, but DigiCell (which decided not to bid in the last auction) is purely a cellular operator. CWC is one of the

few entities that does everything BTC does throughout the region and has a strategic reason to invest for the long-term. And since CWC has been interested in the Bahamas for the last 15 years, how can it suddenly be suspicious when they step up to the plate?

It is easy to research a large global business like Cable & Wireless, which may have problems in some areas but a very healthy balance sheet overall. In fact, CWC is a leader in all regional markets except Jamaica where they are second. It should also be noted that, although declining to participate in the most recent auction due to an internal reorganisation, CWC eventually went through the same entry process as all other bidders.

As for the terms of the CWC agreement, it is a fact that all the bidders required BTC's unfunded pension deficit to be covered by government – including Bluewater. How can this now be "repugnant" to the PLP, when they agreed to pay off the full deficit and close the pension plan entirely. I would suggest that there is no business in the world where employees make zero contributions to their own pensions while the employer pays 20 per cent of salaries into a fund. This obviously has a huge impact on BTC's value.

It is also true that all the bidders – including Bluewater – demanded a management fee

in their plans, something which some commentators find egregious. The rationale for the fee that CWC brings a lot of added value to BTC in terms of technology and intellectual property, which will significantly benefit the other shareholder. This is normal practice where a minority partner is involved, and industry benchmarks are used to set the fee scale.

Clearly, connecting the dots selectively amounts to spouting propaganda. It does nothing to help people reach a genuine understanding of the issues. This is known as pinpointing the enemy – simplifying a complex situation by presenting a specific group or person as the enemy in a clear-cut choice between right and wrong. And the better informed you are, the less susceptible you will be to this type of propaganda.

One of the worst allegations in this saga was made recently by PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts (who was the minister responsible for BTC in the Christie administration) He accused current BTC chairman Julian Francis of a corrupt conflict of interest in awarding to Providence Advisors (a financial services company which Francis also chairs) a lucrative contract to manage part of the BTC pension fund.

"As a result of this contract that Julian Francis awarded to himself, he positioned himself and Providence Advisors Ltd to be paid in excess of \$400,000 per annum for the past 3 years," Roberts said. "The PLP calls for Julian Francis' immediate resignation and for the police to commence investigations..."

The facts are that efforts to place BTC pension funds with local investment managers began in 2006 under the Christie administration, when Greg Bethel was BTC chairman and also president of Fidelity Bank & Trust – one of the firms chasing the business.

SEE page nine

Tribune Trivia

Yesterday's Question

What charitable group is facilitating the building of the Zion Children's Home in Current Island?

Yesterday's Answer

The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church

Yesterday's Winners

Melonie Inniss	3pts
Shelton Miller	2pts
Crystal Clarke	1pt

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FROM page eight

Propaganda

Providence, headed by Kenwood Kerr, was also invited to bid, and was eventually approved (along with Fidelity and CFAL) in a process guided by the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche.

The actual contract was not executed until after the 2007

general election, and Francis (who is not a Providence shareholder) had nothing to do with choosing the investment managers. And Providence's fees over the past two and a half years were less than \$350,000.

Statements from political

operatives and unsupported extrapolations by sympathetic or thoughtless journalists are not the only forms of propaganda we must watch out for. There are also those entities which pose as legitimate news media. While party newspapers or radio broadcasts may be easily identified and their information taken with a grain of salt, some propaganda outlets

try to disguise their true nature to fool an audience into believing they are presenting valid information.

The current prime example locally is the online propaganda outlet known as *Bahamas Press*, which refuses to even acknowledge that it is financed, owned and operated by real people, although it classifies itself as a "leading news web-

site." An anonymous responder claimed the site is owned "by the people of the Bahamas."

As George Orwell wrote in his novel *1984*, "the process (of mass-media deception) has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it would bring with it a feeling of falsity and

hence of guilt."

Of course, now that I have waded into the propaganda swamp, I must be part of the conspiracy, right? Well, now you can make the call.

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

NASSAU LISTINGS

DEVELOPED RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



1. VENICE BAY ANNEX
LOT NO. 12 Block 2
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Triplex Apartment Building
PROPERTY SIZE: 9,806 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling south along Bacardi Road from Carmichael Road, take the 1st corner on the right after the entrance to the former Bacardi Company and then head west. The subject property is the 4th building on the right, grey trimmed white.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$449,000



2. WESTLAKE ROAD
LOT NO. 8
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Residence
PROPERTY SIZE: 43,615 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Traveling west along Adelaide Road from Coral Harbour Roundabout; take the 1st corner on the left past Oasis. Head south along Westlake Road. The subject property is the 8th house on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,056,000



3. WEST STREET
LOT NO. 2
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Residence
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The subject property is located on the western side of West Street; about 70 feet north of Meeting Street.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$162,000



4. WINTON MEADOWS ESTATES
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 115
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single family Residence
 3 beds / 2 baths
PROPERTY SIZE: 8,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Traveling east on Prince Charles Drive, from Culberts Hill; take the 1st corner on the right. Heading south, take the 2nd corner on the right. The subject property is the 4th house on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$287,000

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

VACANT LOTS

1. ALLEN DRIVE
LOT NO. 2
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi/Single Family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: From Carmichael Road, turn through the corner by Geneva Brass Seafood and then take the 3rd corner on the left. The vacant property is located on the left, towards the end of corner.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$70,000

2. BLUE HILL ROAD SOUTH
LOT NO. 4 unnamed subdivision
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,597 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travel south along Blue Hill Rd. from Cow Pen Rd. take the 1st corner on the right, subject property is the 3rd lot on the right.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$67,000

3. CAMPERDOWN PHASE TWO
LOT NO. 4
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 13,873 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The subject property is located on Forest Drive, off Camperdown Drive
APPRAISED VALUE: \$210,000

4. CARMICHAEL ROAD
LOT NO. 2 of Crown Allotment #35
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi / single-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 11,625 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located west of McKinney Avenue.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$116,000

5. CARMICHAEL ROAD
LOT NO. Parcel "A"
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi/ Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 4,650 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Traveling west on Avacado Road from Faith Avenue, take the 1st graveled corner on the left, the property is the 2nd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$51,000

6. CARMICHAEL VILLAGE
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 4 and 5 - part of Crown Allotments 21 and 22 Grant A8-50
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single Family Residential Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: each 6,960 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant properties are bounded west of Golden Isles Road and south of Carmichael Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$139,000

7. CORAL BREEZE ESTATES
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 52
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located in Coral Harbour.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$100,000

8. CORAL BREEZE ESTATES
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 58
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 7,500 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located in Phase -1 of Coral Breeze Estates.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$101,000

9. COW PEN ROAD
LOT NO. 1
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Commercial Development lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 4,986 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling west along Cow Pen Road from Silver Gates Drive; head to the 1st graveled road on the left. The vacant property is the 1st lot on the west.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$70,000

10. ENGLERSTON SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 21 Block 25
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single/ Multi-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,360 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling east along Cordeaux Avenue from East Street, take the 3rd corner on the left (Miami Street) and head north. The vacant property is the 3rd lot on the right.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$48,000

11. EVANSVILLE SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 23
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single/Multi-family lots
PROPERTY SIZE: 7,337 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travel west along Carmichael Rd. from Unison Rd. take the 6th corner on the left. Heading south pass the 3rd corner on the left. The subject property is the 2nd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$88,000

12. FOX HILL SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. Parcel #1 and #2
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi-family lots
PROPERTY SIZE: Parcel #1 - 4,199 sq. ft. #2 - 3,348 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Traveling north along Grant Street from Dorsett Street, the subject properties are the 3rd and 4th lots on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$61,000 combined

13. GAMBLE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 29Section 3
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi/ Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling south on Baillou Hill Road, passing Carmichael Road, take the 3rd corner on the left, Sunrise Road opposite St. Vincent Road. Heading south on Sunrise Road, take the 4th corner on the left, the subject lot is the 6th on the right.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$60,000

14. HAROLD ROAD HEIGHTS
LOT NO. 15
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single/ Multi-Family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 9,096 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The subject property is located on the northern side of a road reservation about 100 feet south of Gerald's Street.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$73,000

15. KOOL ACRES SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. Parcel of Land
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 7,000 Sq. ft. .
LOCATION: Traveling west on Lumumba Road from Fox Hill Road, take the 6th corner on the right (Adderley Close). The subject property is the 4th lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$84,000

16. LAKE VILLANESS SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 105
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single / Multi-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 14,400 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located in Lake Villaness approx. 2,730 feet west of Gladstone Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$79,000

17. POLHEMUS GARDENS
LOT NO. 15 (Northern half)
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi/Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 7,804 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travel west along Boyd Rd. from Nassau St. take the 1st corner on the right Buntings avenue, subject property is the 2nd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$78,000

18. POLHEMUS STREET
LOT NO. 3
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Residential lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: On the northern side of Polhemus St. about 240 feet east of Nassau St.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$50,000

19. RAHMING COURT SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 5
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi-family lots
PROPERTY SIZE: 5,502 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Situated in Rahming Court, located on the southern side of Bernard Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$66,000

20. ROCKY PINE ROAD
LOT NO. Parcel of Land Portion of Crown Grant A5-23
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 13,406 sq. ft.
LOCATION: On the western side of Ismae Drive - 170 feet south of Rocky Pine Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$150,000

21. SOUTH OCEAN ESTATES
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 6 Block 7
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 11,738 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travel south of Lyford Cay immediately pass Mount Pleasant; take a left onto South Ocean Boulevard to new South Ocean Estates. The vacant lot is property number 6 in block 7.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$155,000

22. TWIN LAKES SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 3, Block 28
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single/Multi-Family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 12,600 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Traveling south along Skyline Drive from West Bay Street, take the 4th corner on the right (entrance to Twin Lakes). Heading west take the 1st corner on the right. The subject property is the 3rd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$158,000

23. VICTORIA GARDENS
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 7
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling south on Gladstone Road from JFK Drive, enter Victoria Gardens main entrance (1st corner left) and head east. At the 1st cross road, turn left. The vacant property is the 2nd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$72,000

24. VICTORIA GARDENS
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 8
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,588 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling south on Gladstone Road from JFK Drive, enter Victoria Gardens main entrance (1st corner left) and head east. At the 1st cross road, turn left. The vacant property is the 3rd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$79,000

25. VICTORIA GARDENS
SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 168
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Residence under construction
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located on the northern side of a road reservation about 1/4 mile east of Gladstone Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$90,000

26. VILLAGE CHILCOTT
ALLOTMENT
LOT NO. 14
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 4,972 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling south along Kemp Road, pass the intersection (Parkgate Road), take the 1st corner on the left (Hamilton Street). The vacant property is the 2nd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$50,000

27. WEST WINDS SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 363
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Duplex Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 6,000 sq. ft.
LOCATION: The vacant property is located in the area known as "Love Beach" in the Western District of New Providence.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$95,000

28. WEST WINDS SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. 220
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Multi/Single-family Lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 9,281 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Enter the subdivision from Windsor Field Road to the t-junction, and then take a left, the lot is the 2nd on the left, on the eastern side of Kingfish Road.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$176,000

29. YUMA ESTATES SUBDIVISION
LOT NO. "C"
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single/ Multi-family lot
PROPERTY SIZE: 7,268 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling west along West Bay Street from Blake Road, take the 4th corner on the left (Kiskadee Drive) and head south - passing over the hill - turn thru the 1st corner on the left (entrance to Yuma). Head to the T-junction and turn left onto Sanctuary Circle. The vacant property is the 3rd lot on the left.
APPRAISED VALUE: \$102,000

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one MAN DISCOVERED SHOT DEAD IN CAR

Police have classified Mr Johnson's death as the island's first homicide for 2011. Although police have not yet released the identity of the island's second homicide, the victim is believed to be Patrick Russell, 42, of Lewis Yard. According to reports, sometime around 11.50pm on Monday, police received reports of

gunshots at Weddell Avenue. When officers arrived at the scene to investigate, they discovered a gold-coloured Nissan Maxima riddled with bullets and a man slumped over the driver's seat. Asst Supt Loretta Mackey reported that the victim, a 42-year-old male resident of Lewis Yard, had sustained multiple

gunshot wounds about the body. She said initial reports revealed that at 11.45pm the victim was sitting in his vehicle at an unpaved road between Weddell and Bruce Avenues when occupants in another vehicle pulled up next to him and opened fire. EMS personnel were called

to assist, but the victim had already died of his injuries. He was taken to the Rand Memorial Hospital and pronounced dead by doctors. Almost 24 hours prior to the shooting, police were investigating a stabbing that occurred at Club Rock 'n Roll in the International Bazaar sometime around 1.05am on Sunday. On arrival at the scene, officers saw a young man, identified as Tamaro Johnson, lying on the ground with multiple stab wounds in his upper body.

According to initial reports, Johnson was involved in a fight at the club when he was injured. He was taken by ambulance to Rand Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. ASP Mackey said police received information that Johnson had died of his injuries in hospital on Monday. No arrests have been made, and police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

'Help my boy walk again' FROM page one

doctors to do more physiotherapy with her son, but without success. "My whole family feels that if they had tried a little harder, he could have been further along than he is now," she said. "I tried and I tried, but nobody heard my cry." Mrs Ford has been in contact with staff at the University of Miami Hospital, who have agreed to see Renaldo and evaluate his case, however without health insurance, further treatment in the United States will be extremely expensive. Mrs Ford said Renaldo has believed since the morning after the accident that he will one day be able to breathe and stand up on his own. She said that with some help, she knows he has the potential to do so. Before the accident, Renaldo, the second youngest of four brothers, was actively involved in a number of youth organisations connected with his church and school, was a member of the youth choir and an usher at his church. "He was known in school as the little boy with all the manners," his mother said. "Renaldo loved cars," she added. "He always wanted to be a car designer or an auto body mechanic." Mrs Ford said her son still has a lot of potential and much to offer the world, as he is the sort of person who can remain positive, even after what he has been through. The family plans to hold a fundraiser and is meeting with members of their church on Thursday to form a plan. In the meantime, they are asking anyone who wishes to help to contact them, or make a donation at a Bank of the Bahamas branch, account number 5510031764.

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FROM page one

to get us nowhere fast." "This is a government of infrastructure not of people, of things not of brotherly love, of all things foreign and not of things Bahamian. They are for the imprisonment of the Bahamian spirit, not for the empowerment of the Bahamian spirit. This government is for the enrichment of a few at the detriment of the many," he said. Senator Michael Halkitis said the government is planning to

PLP MEMBERS

distract Bahamians "to try and take your minds of their absolute and dismal failure in managing the economy, in fighting crime and in making sure that Bahamians are not marginalized, overlooked and dispossessed in their own country." He accused the government of grand standing in the media. "The ZNS evening news might as well be called 'FNM Ministers Tonight.' The whole newscast is one parade of one

minister after the other talking a lot, but saying basically nothing; at least nothing of benefit to the Bahamian people. We see what happened at the Lynden Pindling International Airport. They had the opening, and then they went back for a tour, of course with all the television cameras," said Mr Halkitis. "I heard somewhere that they are going back next week to inspect the bathrooms and the week after that to inspect the landscaping and have some more press conferences," he said.

FROM page one

to Cable and Wireless. We call on the government to cease and desist. The PLP will upon coming to office move to regain the majority shares forthwith from Cable and Wireless if the sale goes through. "The PLP believes in a share owning democracy and will sell shares in BTC in tranches to the Bahamian people. The PLP will allow competition and will liberalize the telecommunications market. That is the PLP's policy. That is the issue. We urge the FNM to stick to the issues," he said. Mr Christie added: "I am calling on civil society, led by the church and the Christian Council in particular to monitor the conduct of this election campaign, and cry shame where parties exaggerate their demands and charges to the point where it becomes an insult to the intelligence of the Bahamian people. The government's assault upon the intelligence of the Bahamian people

CHRISTIE: ALL PLPS WILL VOTE 'NO' ON THE SALE OF BTC

and their intelligence last week in the House of Assembly surely crossed the line." Mr Christie also pledged that his party will not utilise character assassination, vicious gossip, or smear tactics in their campaigns in the 2012 general election, saying it will not and cannot be fought on the basis of "foolishness." "We are not in the business of character assassination. Vicious gossip or malicious gapeed is not for us! We are not in the business of smear tactics or slanderous innuendo. We will leave that to those other fellas! And we most certainly are not in the business of corrupt electioneering. We will leave that to the other fellas too! We saw enough of what should not have been done in the Elizabeth by-election last year to know that that is not the way to go," Mr Christie said. • SEE PAGE FIVE

FROM page one

primary basis for decision making. The case of veteran prosecutor Cheryl Grant-Bethell recently brought to light the use of SIB reports by public agencies. In the recent ruling of Senior Justice Jon Isaacs he noted that an SIB report caused the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) to disqualify Mrs Grant-Bethell from the race for Director of Public Pros-

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

ecution (DPP). Justice Isaacs noted that the JLSC removed Mrs Grant-Bethell from her "substantive post as deputy director of public prosecution without employing the usual means for doing so, e.g., disciplinary proceedings resulting in dismissal from the public service or by promotion or transfer not objected to by the officer." Although Mrs Grant-Bethell's appointment as Deputy Law Reform Commissioner was "technically a promotion," Justice Isaacs said it excised her from her chosen career path without her consent. "I so conclude because (the section of the law governing her new post) limits tenure of a commissioner, the only office to which the applicant can now aspire, whereas as DDPP she was on course for an office where she could theoretically serve until her retirement. Even if she had remained DDPP she would have enjoyed tenure in the Office of the Attorney General, all things being equal, beyond five years," said Justice Isaacs. He agreed that Mrs Grant-Bethell's lateral transfer was "irrational" and her treatment by the JLSC was "unfair." In his arguments he noted several points about the SIB report and its use by the JLSC. "An allegation should not be the basis for depriving a person of an opportunity for advancement in the public service particularly without affording the person an opportunity to address the allegation. Fairness one would think requires no less," said Justice Isaacs. He said the JLSC used a first SIB report when considering Mrs Grant-Bethell's application for the post of acting DPP. The allegations in this report were put to Mrs Grant-Bethell, who addressed them sufficiently that her recommendation was upheld. It was the contents of a second SIB report that formed the basis of the JLSC's decision to ultimately side-step Mrs Grant-Bethell. In the latter instance,

the JLSC denied Mrs Grant-Bethell the opportunity to respond to the claims. "She was able to allay any concern they had on (the first) occasion. It is not inconceivable that she may not have been able to do so again. The summary denial of such an opportunity to my mind breached the applicant's right to be treated in a matter that was not unfair," said Justice Isaacs in his ruling. "The JLSC has acted on a report prepared by an agency of the State without affording the applicant an opportunity to be heard. I can think of no allegation so bad as to allow the JLSC to forego this basic requirement of fairness," he said. In light of the recent ruling, Mr Mitchell said the government should seriously review its policies governing the use of SIB reports. "I don't recall a judge having made a comment on SIB reports before. When a justice of the Supreme Court makes some kind of finding or gives an opinion, the executive should really study the matter and make a determination about some action based on what he said," said Mr Mitchell. He said he personally feels that "basic fairness" should dictate that any public servant has a right to see what is on their file, including an SIB report, "particularly if you are going to use it to make a decision that is contrary to that person's interests." Mr Mitchell said it was resistance from the "bureaucracy" itself that has blocked successive governments from adopting any change in policy. He said the public service should desist from the common practice of placing negative SIB reports on the files of public servants and using them as the basis for denying promotions without their knowledge, and without serving as grounds to initiate disciplinary proceedings. He said the standard set in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act should apply to the use of SIB reports, which suggests decision makers "should not be able to use SIB reports" if it has been sitting on a public servant's file for seven years. • SEE PAGE THREE

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Gadhafi forces barrage rebels in east and west

Loyalists threaten to recapture closest rebel-held city

TRIPOLI, Libya
Associated Press

AFTER dramatic successes over the past weeks, Libya's rebel movement appears to have hit a wall of overwhelming power from loyalists of Moammar Gadhafi. Pro-regime forces halted its drive on Tripoli with a heavy barrage of rockets in the east and threatened Tuesday to recapture the closest rebel-held city to the capital in the west.

If Zawiyah, on Tripoli's doorstep, is ultimately retaken, the contours of a stalemate would emerge — with Libya divided between a largely loyalist west and a rebel east as the world wrestles with the thorny question of how deeply to intervene.

President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron agreed to plan for the "full spectrum of possible responses" on Libya, including imposing a no-fly zone to prevent Gadhafi's warplanes from striking rebels. According to a White House statement, the two leaders spoke Tuesday and agreed that the objective must be an end to violence and the departure of Gadhafi "as quickly as possible."

Zawiyah, a city of 200,000, was sealed off under a fifth day of a destructive siege, with conflicting reports of who was in control. A brigade led by one of Gadhafi's sons, Khamis, is believed to be leading the assault, shelling neighborhoods with tank and artillery fire from the outskirts and trying to push troops in to the city's central Martyrs Square where rebels had set up camp.

Hospital

The city hospital has been overwhelmed with dead and wounded and many houses have been damaged, according to residents who escaped the past two days. One man who slipped out of the city on Monday said pro-Gadhafi forces had seized the central square.

An adviser to the Libyan Foreign Ministry in Tripoli on Tuesday also claimed that government troops were in control, raising the green flag over the square. The adviser, who is originally from Zawiyah, said he was trying to mediate a cease-fire with remaining rebels. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

But a resident of the nearby town of Sabratha said people who fled from Zawiyah on Tuesday afternoon told him fighting continued, with rebels back in control of the square. He said they reported hit-and-run attacks between the two sides.

The various reports could not be independently confirmed. Electricity, phone and Internet services have all been cut in the city, making it impossible to reach witnesses inside Zawiyah, just 30 miles west of Tripoli.

The recapture of Zawiyah would be a significant victory for Gadhafi, easing a threat just outside his main bastion in the capital. If his forces can hold it, it would free up troops to deploy against other rebel-held areas.

The fall of Zawiyah to anti-Gadhafi residents ear-

ly on in the uprising that began Feb. 15 had illustrated the initial, blazing progress of the opposition. The uprising swept over the entire eastern half of the country, breaking it out of the regime's control, and seized Zawiyah and several other cities and towns in the northwestern pocket of the country where Gadhafi's regime was confined.

But the government could be regaining some balance and its capability to lash back with powerful force.

The battle is far from over and could be drawn out into a long and bloody civil war. The latest round of fighting on opposite ends of Libya's Mediterranean coast once again revealed the weakness and disorganization of both sides.

Even if it ends with Zawiyah's recapture, the long siege of the city underlined the rebels' tenacity and the struggles of even a reportedly elite force like the Khamis Brigades to crush them.

Advance

At the same time, Gadhafi's regime has been using its air power advantage more each day to check a rebel advance west toward Tripoli on the main coastal highway leading out of the opposition-controlled eastern half of the country. The increasing use of air power underlines the vulnerability of the rebel forces as they attempt to march across open, desert terrain — but it also could prompt world powers to impose a no-fly zone over Libya to deny Gadhafi that edge.

In the east, Gadhafi's forces succeeded over the weekend in blunting the rebels' attempt to march toward Tripoli, repelling them from Bin Jawwad, a small town 375 miles (600 kilometers) east of the capital, and driving them back to the oil port of Ras Lanouf, further east.

On Tuesday, troops fired barrages of rockets at a rebel contingent that tried to move out from Ras Lanouf. At least 26 wounded were rushed to the hospital in the town, some of them with legs lost and other serious injuries, according to doctors there.

"I was hit in the arm and leg, my friend was wounded in the stomach," Momen Mohammad, 31, said while lying in a hospital bed.

Earlier in the day, warplanes launched at least five new airstrikes near rebel position in Ras Lanouf, one hitting a two-story house in a residential area, causing some damage.

None of the strikes appeared to cause casualties, suggesting they were intended to intimidate the fighters, according to an Associated Press reporter who saw the strikes. The anti-regime forces were not taking any chances and were spreading out deep inside the desert around the area in small groups.

The rebels seem to have reached a point of their campaign where they need to figure out how to organize resupply lines and avoid becoming easy targets for warplanes in their march across the open desert region with little cover. The extent of their westward reach is a check-



LIBYAN VOLUNTEERS gesture as they raise a pre Gadhafi flag on the outskirts of the eastern town of Ras Lanouf, Libya, Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have scored a significant victory, recapturing the closest city to the capital to have fallen in rebel hands. On another front near the opposition-held east, loyalists trying to stop anti-government fighters from advancing toward the capital pounded the rebels with airstrikes and rockets. (AP)



LIBYAN MEN walk by burned vehicles while visiting the stormed al-Katiba base in Benghazi, Libya Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Al-Katiba is a Libyan internal security forces facility that hosted offices, a training field, an official ceremonies platform, an underground secret detention camp and the residence of the Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in Benghazi, it was stormed and mostly burned by protesters during the ongoing Libyan uprising. (AP)

point about six miles (10 kilometers) west of Ras Lanouf.

In Benghazi, Libya's second largest city and the main rebel stronghold in east, there was an unusual attack after weeks of quiet that followed the rebel capture of the territory. Assaults in a car tossed a grenade at a hotel where foreign journalists were staying, but there were no casualties and only some light damage to windows, an opposition official said.

Terms

A spokesman for the opposition's newly created Interim Governing Council in Benghazi said a man who claimed to represent Gadhafi made contact with the council to discuss terms for Gadhafi to step down. Mustafa Gheriani told the AP the council could not be certain whether the man was acting on his own initiative or did in fact represent the Libyan leader.

"But our position is clear: No negotiations with the Gadhafi regime," said Gheriani, who declined to say when contact was made or revealed the identity of the purported envoy.

Libyan state television denied that Gadhafi had sent an envoy to talk to the rebels.

In London, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said that neither Gadhafi nor rebel forces appeared currently able to establish supremacy. "At the moment ... it seems that either side lacks the immediate power to overthrow the other," he said.

The United States and its NATO allies edged closer Monday to formulating a military response to the escalating violence in Libya as the alliance boosted surveillance flights over the country and the Obama administration signaled it might be willing to help arm Gadhafi's opponents. Europe, meanwhile, kick-started international efforts to impose a no-fly zone.

France and Britain have taken the lead in drafting a U.N. Security Council resolution that would establish a no-fly zone over Libya to prevent Gadhafi's warplanes from bombing civilians and rebels.

It still appeared unlikely that U.S. warplanes or missiles soon would deploy in Libya. British and French officials said the no-fly resolution was being drawn up as a contingency and it has not been decided whether to put it before the U.N. Security Council, where Russia holds veto power and has rejected such a move.

Western officials have

said a no-fly zone does not require a U.N. mandate, but they would prefer to have one.

An official with a subsidiary of Libya's national oil company said Tuesday that production has dropped by about 90 percent, a reflection of the beating the OPEC member's oil sector is taking amid violence raging in the country.

Sirte Oil Co. is producing about 9,500 barrels per day, compared to normal production levels at about 95,000 barrels per day, said company official Ahmed Jerski.

Disruption

Analysts estimate that more than half of Libya's almost 1.6 million barrels per day in production is being shut-in, and the disruption in exports has sent global oil prices skyrocketing.

The U.S. benchmark crude contract for April delivery was hovering slightly below \$104 per barrel on Tuesday, retreating from highs of almost \$107 per barrel a day earlier. The drop came as several OPEC ministers said they were talking informally about whether to ramp up production to offset the Libya supply drop.

The upheaval has also sparked a massive exodus by foreign workers in Libya fleeing the violence. As of Tuesday, 224,661 migrants had reached Libya's borders with Tunisia, Egypt, Niger and Algeria since February 20, according to the latest International Organization for Migration figures provided Tuesday to AP.

But a Red Crescent official said Tuesday that soldiers loyal to Gadhafi have blocked some 30,000 migrant workers from fleeing into Tunisia and forced many to return to work in Tripoli.

Ibrahim Osman of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies told The Associated Press that the migrant workers were rounded up and held in Libyan immigration buildings near the Tunisian border last week.

Osman, who heads the agency's assessment teams in northern Africa, said Gadhafi soldiers were forcibly returning many of the 30,000 Bangladeshis, Egyptians and sub-Saharan Africans nearing the Ras Ajdir border crossing.

He said loyalists held a pro-government demonstration at the crossing and appear to have forcibly return the migrants to service jobs.

LOCAL NEWS

Lionfish: Predator to the main course

By KHYLE QUINCY PARKER
Press Attaché
Embassy of The Bahamas
Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Aquarium in Washington, DC, inaugurated its 'Fresh Thoughts: Sustainable Seafood Dining Series' in March, featuring lionfish collected in the Bahamas.

Bahamas Ambassador to the United States Cornelius A Smith attended, and was enthusiastic about both the evening's success and the initiation of a charge to develop a potential market for the consumption of the lionfish in the DC Metro area.

Given the threat the lionfish represents to traditional fisheries exports like grouper, the creation of such a market would be a boon of

immeasurable worth to the Bahamas.

"At a time when fisheries exports in the Bahamas are not as strong as is desirable, the opportunity to create a new source of revenue for our marine sector is very welcome. Add to that the chance to exert a measure of control over this predatory species, and you begin to see why we are excited about this venture and what it may mean," Ambassador Smith said.

"I can only hope that the marine sector in the Bahamas will be encouraged by this event to redouble efforts to build an export market for lionfish. Such foresight will only redound to the benefit of our people, reaping commercial rewards and conservational benefits."

The Indo-Pacific Red Lionfish

(*Pterois volitans*) is not native to the Atlantic.

In fact, this fish has been invading tropical Atlantic waters at an alarming rate and, in addition to causing major concern in the Bahamas, is threatening aquatic ecosystems as far east as Bermuda and south to the entire Caribbean.

The National Aquarium, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) have studied methods of controlling the population and impacts of the lionfish. After those studies and consultation with the restaurant sector, human consumption has emerged as a viable method to control the population of this venomous pest species.

"At a time when concerned ven-



LIONFISH was featured at the inaugural 'Fresh Thoughts' event.

dors, restaurateurs and diners are seeking sustainable seafood choices, biologists are suggesting that the red lionfish may provide a commercial opportunity as well as a means to control an invasive species," said Andy Dehart, director of Fishes and Aquatic Invertebrates at the National Aquarium.

"With so many fish stocks over-exploited, we're thrilled that lionfish offers a great-tasting fillet and we're excited to finally introduce it to

Washington, DC, food enthusiasts."

This was the impetus behind the decision to feature lionfish at the inaugural 'Fresh Thoughts' event.

Chef Xavier Deshayes partnered with the aquarium to launch this sustainable seafood dining series at the aquarium's DC location. 'Fresh Thoughts' is intended to celebrate

"sensible and scrumptious seafood choices with the help of renowned Washington, DC, chefs."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Four people killed in Ivory Coast after women honour dead

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast
Associated Press

IN AN act of bold defiance, thousands of women converged Tuesday on the bloodstained pavement where seven of their sisters fell last week, even as the army backing this country's rogue leader killed four more civilians.

The brutal slayings last week occurred when soldiers in armored personnel carriers opened fire on a crowd of female demonstrators who were armed with nothing more than tree branches, symbolizing peace.

The attack has further galvanized the international community against strongman Laurent Gbagbo, who has refused to yield power three months after being declared the loser of his country's election.

The women had tried to march everyday since the attack Thursday only to lose their nerve in the face of an army that has shown no restraint, including by breaking the long-standing code that has always protected women. They refused to be cowed on Tuesday, however, because it was International Women's Day.

Hours after several hundred women marched in Treichville, a downtown neighborhood, the army burst in and killed at least four civilians. Reporters saw the bodies of three men and one woman on the blood-splattered floor of a clinic.

Thousands of other women demonstrating near the site of last week's killings in the Aboho district were protected by men who had formed a wall across the mouth of a freeway by lining

A BOY gestures in front of a protest fire set by local youth, shortly before security forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo opened fire on civilians, in the Treichville neighborhood of Abidjan, Ivory Coast Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Soldiers backing Ivory Coast's rogue leader opened fire on civilians again Tuesday, killing at least four people hours after hundreds took to the streets to protest the deaths of seven women gunned down at a march last week. (AP)

cars end-to-end.

Mariam Bamba, 32, picked up a limp branch Tuesday next to one of the blood stains on pavement. "This leaf is all they were carrying," she said of the victims.

The seven women are just a fraction of the more than 400 people killed in the three months since this country's disputed election. Because they were unarmed women, their deaths have prompted international condemnation, including from the U.S. State Department which called Gbagbo "morally



bankrupt."

A video obtained by The Associated Press shows the joyful crowd blowing whistles and waving branches moments before the women are mowed down.

When Sako Bamara arrived at the hospital last Thursday, his relatives told him not to lift the

cloth covering his wife's body. At least not above the shoulders. "They wouldn't let me look at her face," he said. "So I had to identify her feet," he said. Then he broke down.

The video's grainy footage clearly shows that the 34-year-old had been decapitated. Her brother-in-law was the first to arrive and recognized her by the color of her T-shirt. Bones were protruding from her neck. Beyond there was nothing. The survivors brought wooden carts from the nearby market and used them to transport the dead to the hospital.

Bamara had encouraged her to go to the march, just as so many other husbands and fathers had. "That morning she asked my permission to go. I said, 'Be careful.' Since they are women, I thought they would never shoot."

At the hospital, the dead women were laid side by side, and at one point a mobile phone started ringing inside the pocket of one of the other lifeless women.

Bamara's brother lifted the cloth covering her body and retrieved it out of her pocket. On the other end was the dead girl's frantic father, Gnelle Gnon Ouattara, who could not reach his 21-year-old daughter Rokiya. He rushed to the hospital and saw his child, part of her neck

sheared off by the large-caliber bullet.

"In Africa we say that it's the child that must bury the father," said Ouattara. "When it's the father that buries the child, something isn't right."

The women marching Tuesday wore T-shirts bearing the smiling portrait of 'ADO' — Alassane Dramane Ouattara, the democratically elected president who has been prevented from governing the country by Gbagbo.

He has spent the first three months of his term inside a resort hotel under day-and-night United Nations protection, and was to leave the grounds for the first time Tuesday night at the invitation of the African Union.

Both Ouattara and Gbagbo have been invited to travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to hear the verdict of the AU's Peace and Security Council, which was attempting to find a solution to the crisis. Ouattara has called on the international community to launch an armed intervention in order to oust Gbagbo, who appeared on state television last week to say that he is "hanging in there."

"I heard someone say that God has left Africa," said Yacouba Ouattara, a relative of one of the dead women. "No. It's Ivory Coast that God has left."



A MAN in a balaclava provides security at a rally of supporters of Alassane Ouattara protesting against violence linked to the nation's ongoing political crisis, in the Aboho district of Abidjan, Ivory Coast yesterday. (AP)

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Chamber target for April on survey

* Utilities, Immigration and incentives among key private sector concerns
* Island's unemployment rate 'upwards of 20%', and Chamber chief says: 'We can't catch a break'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce is hoping to present the findings of its private sector survey, a key step in its development of an economic plan for Grand Bahama, to the "key change agents" by April-May, its president telling Tribune Business yesterday that the island's unemployment rate was now likely "upwards of 20 per cent".

K P Turnquest said the Chamber was completing Phase Two of its economic plan, the information gathering stage, and was aiming to present its findings to the Government, Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) and the island's wider community "certainly by May at the latest".

"We're moving now into the solidifying of the issues that have been raised to develop key points for presentation to the change agents - the Government,"

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BEC fuel charge rise in a month

Corporation aims to mitigate impact through use of more efficient Bunker C

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) customers will "likely" see a rise in the fuel charge component of their bill "in another month's time", given the delayed impact of higher oil prices on its costs, although efforts will be made to mitigate this through the use of higher-efficiency generation units.

Michael Moss, BEC's chairman, yesterday said that a trend of decreasing fuel charges for the last several months will likely turn around soon when the impact of rising oil prices, resulting largely from the unrest in Libya, is seen in BEC's fuel bill.

"The fuel charge for the last several months has been going down on your bill, but increases in fuel costs have just come about, so those are not yet filtering through to your bill. I do expect in another month's time, when we take another delivery of fuel and probably pay a higher price for that fuel, consumers will likely be seeing a higher fuel charge on their bill," he added.

However, Mr Moss said this is not a given.

"What we are trying to do is maximise the amount of equipment we burn Bunker C (fuel) in to minimise

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'Good chance' \$62.5m IPO fully subscribed

Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House stock to be third largest market cap at \$250m once listed on BISX

Amount sought 'more than two times' the highest amount raised' in any IPO

'Blue chip' offering presents first 'really good dividend yield to market for some time'

2011 to be key test for capital markets, and investor split anticipated to be 80/20 in favour of retail



MICHAEL ANDERSON

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The \$62.5 million Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House initial public offering (IPO) stands "a fairly good chance of being fully subscribed" based on initial investor expressions of interest, its placement agent told Tribune Business yesterday, adding that the stock would be BISX's third largest by market capitalisation once listed.

Describing the liquor manu-

facturer/distributor as a "blue chip" addition to the Bahamian capital markets, Michael Anderson, president of Royal-Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust, said the IPO was "the first time we've brought a really good dividend yield to market for some time".

Explaining that the relatively high dividend yield was likely to be attractive to both Bahamian institutional and retail investors, Mr Anderson

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OUT ISLAND ELECTRIC SALES 'MORE THAN WE PRODUCE'

BEC data accuracy 'leaves much to be desired'

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation "needs to get its data straight" as it relates to technical and non-technical electricity losses in the Family Islands, its chairman said yesterday, with "the accuracy of the numbers leaving much to be desired". In some months, BEC is shown as selling more electricity than it can produce.

Michael Moss said BEC's recorded losses in the Family Islands are "all over the place", and any effort to start addressing this would be fruitless without first getting reliable data.

He was responding to a query from Tribune Business as to whether BEC has been able to address what international consultants, Fichtner, found were high loss-levels in the Family Islands, both technical (as a result of distribution/transmission issues) and non-technical (as a result of theft, metering problems and the like).

Fichtner, in a 2010 report supported by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), said that while BEC's technical/non-technical loss figures in New Providence were not excessive compared with other nations in the region, losses in the Family Islands are high compared with those in other Caribbean countries, and especially compared with countries outside of the region.

Referring to the Family Island losses, Mr Moss said: "Nothing has yet been done about (reducing) it, although I believe the accuracy of the numbers leave much to be desired, and so the first thing to do is to go in and begin to scrub the systems."

"We have commenced that process."

"We are now getting what we believe to be more reliable data, and once we have that we can then begin to focus on the issues."

Mr Moss said he receives a monthly report on Family Island electricity consumption and losses, and he suspects there are significant discrepancies.

"Sometimes I have seen some of the monthly reports say the amount of electricity sold to customers is more than we produce."

"When you see that you know you have a problem," he said.

Losses in the Family Islands are likely to be primarily "non technical" - due to theft or metering problems - he suggested.

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Two years to deal with BEC's 'atrocious' forced outages

Corporation 'well overdue for maintenance on every piece of equipment'

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

It will take at least two years to address the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's (BEC) "atrocious" forced outage rate and reduce this to internationally-accepted standards, given the long-overdue equipment maintenance this will demand, its chairman said yesterday.

"The average rate is still unacceptable, and it will take us two years to get on track in terms of outages. We are well overdue for main-

SEE page 4B



MICHAEL MOSS

OUR LUCAYA CLOSURE STRATEGY 'DIMINISHES PRICE COMPETITIVENESS'

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

The closure of two of the Our Lucaya Golf and Beach Resort's lower-price properties in favour of keeping open its more high-end hotel will reduce Grand Bahama's price competitiveness as a destination, and make it "harder to achieve" a boost in overnight arrivals to the island, the Minister of Tourism and Aviation said yesterday.

Given that occupancies were already low, the 58 per cent reduction in room inven-

tory brought about by Hutchinson Whampoa's decision to close parts of the resort will not have as much effect as the fact that the rooms the owners are choosing to keep on the market are "the higher price category rooms", Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace told Tribune Business.

His comments came after resort executives confirmed on Friday that over 200 staff would be terminated, and parts of the hotel closed in light of major losses. Our

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Gas retailers penalised by 'inefficient' price structure

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Gas station retailers suffer margin erosion through an "inefficient" pricing structure that penalises them when oil prices increase through high capital costs, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman said yesterday, adding that government taxes were a major factor behind the relatively high prices.

Khaalil Rolle told Tribune Business that while it could be argued that government-imposed price controls on retail and wholesale margins in the petroleum industry had benefited Bahamian consumers, they also had the consequence of constraining gas station profitability.

Yet he argued that price controls were not the main factor in determining Bahamian gasoline and diesel prices, the two key components being the landed cost of fuel (global oil prices) and the tax structure imposed on the industry by the Government.

"I think price control, the Government-controlled margin system, was meant to protect the consumer," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business. "To my mind, to this point it has been relatively effective, but I don't think

Think-tank executive points out that government tax take 53% more than retail/wholesale margins combined, as he and Chamber chair agree duties key to relatively high prices



KHAALIS ROLLE

that's the major issue at hand.

"When you start to look at petroleum prices, the margin is a relatively small component of the pricing structure of fuel.

Margins

"The main component is the actual landed, acquisition cost of the fuel, and then you tack on the margins, tack on the duty structure of the gasoline.

"At any point, duties make up a huge part of the



overall price. So, compared to other places, the price is extremely high, but it is extremely high for a couple of reasons - the acquisition

cost of the fuel, and the duty and tax structure of the fuel."

Retail margins on gasoline and diesel per gallon are \$0.44 and \$0.33 respectively, with wholesale margins on the former fixed at \$0.33 per gallon.

The Government, meanwhile, via the tax structure earns \$1.06 per gallon of gas plus 7 per cent Stamp Duty and, when oil prices rise as they now do, its take goes up thanks to the latter being calculated as a percentage.

Mr Rolle's assessment was backed by Nassau Institute think-tank executive, Rick Lowe, who pointed out that, based on gasoline selling for \$3.80 per gallon, the Government's collective \$1.18 per gallon take was 53 per cent more than the com-

bined retail/wholesale margins. "Beside the fact that price controls are inherently immoral, and particularly in the Bahamas, where the Government makes some 53 per cent more than the combined take of the international suppliers and local retailers, it's simply not possible to please both consumers and suppliers," Mr Lowe said.

World

"So as the world price of gasoline increases, the Government's take, or profit if you will, continues to escalate, while the retailers who have to pay more for a gallon earn the same amount per gallon."

He added that the easiest

short-term solution to ease the impact of rising oil prices was for the Government to reduce its tax take, but "there's always a price to pay".

In this case, it would be the effect on government revenue at a time when the Ingraham administration is looking to squeeze out every last cent of revenue from the Bahamas' weak economy. For that very reason, and given that petroleum-related taxes, together with those on motor vehicles, account for around 35-40 per cent of total government revenues, the administration will almost certainly not be lowering these duties any time soon.

However, Mr Lowe suggested: "If the Government is not prepared to drop price controls in view of the increases of oil on the world market, they might consider holding the Stamp Tax charges at current levels, rather than charge the 7 per cent on ever increasing CIF prices of imported oil."

He added: "Government needs revenue, and does not want to reduce its margin, but the public are saying: 'Make the gas retailer charge me less'. It's a difficult position to believe you can control international prices of anything. As far as controlling it, it's impossible, I think.

"Unless the Government is prepared to do with less revenue from a gallon of gasoline, why get into the middle of it? The Government is saying: 'I'm going to limit the retailer's margin to a set figure, but I'm not going to limit myself.' That doesn't seem entirely fair to me."

Meanwhile, Mr Rolle told Tribune Business: "In terms of whether price controls are an effective measure for protecting the consumer, I guess you can make the argument they are, but in terms of the overall profitability for retailers, they are constraining.

"If prices go up too high, the cost of capital goes up. The retailers need more money to pay for fuel upfront, so the cost of getting the fuel goes up for them. Because the cost of capital is so expensive, it strains their margins.

"If they have to go into overdraft to pay for fuel shipments, they have to pay overdraft charge, which come out of the margin. That's where the inefficiency is in the pricing structure. Petroleum products are a very heavily taxed commodity, and it doesn't serve them well."



The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Proposal For Independent Auditors

The National Insurance Board (NIB) invites suitably qualified accounting firms to submit a proposal to serve as independent auditors for the audit of the National Insurance Fund's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011, subject to renewal for an additional two years. The financial statements are to be completed in April, following the year-end.

The 2009 Annual Report can be accessed at www.nib-bahamas.com

The proposal should include, but not be limited to:

1. General information on the firm and its local and/or international affiliates.
2. The qualifications and experience of the principals of the firm, including comments regarding other professional staff members' skills and competence.
3. Information on the firm's audit experience in financial institutions similar in size or nature to the NIB.
4. The approach and time-line that will be adopted for the audit and related services that the firm can provide the NIB.
5. Comments with respect to the firm's independence.
6. Estimates of fees and billings.

Proposals should be addressed to:

The Director
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
Clifford Darling Complex
Baillou Hill Road
Nassau, Bahamas

and marked "Proposal to Serve as Independent Auditors", to arrive at the Director's Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2011. The NIB reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.



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RESORTS MOVE ON EDUCATION

Wanting to compare notes and priorities with one of the most important areas of Government, the Bahamas Hotel Association's (BHA) president, Stuart Bowe, recently met with Education Minister Desmond Bannister.

The meeting resulted in a commitment to work closer on key areas of mutual interest, and a pledge to be part of a collaborative effort along with the Ministry of Tourism, and between Government and industry, to better address tourism's workforce development needs.

The BHA has long been involved in working with the schools, and is presently stepping up its education and training efforts in anticipation of upcoming demands for qualified candidates as the economy rebounds and Baha Mar and other investments come on stream.



Historic bull market reaching second birthday

DAVE CARPENTER,
AP Personal Finance Writer
CHICAGO

As a historic bull market reaches its second birthday, everyday investors are piling back into stocks, finally ready for more risk and hoping the rally has further to go.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index has almost doubled since March 9, 2009, when it hit a 12-year low after the financial crisis. And the Dow Jones industrials are back above 12,000, about 2,000 points shy of their all-time high.

Little-guy investors appear to be on board. Since the beginning of the year, investors have put \$24.2 billion into U.S. stock mutual funds, according to the Investment Company Institute. They withdrew \$96.7 billion in 2010.

"It didn't feel right to be back in until now," says Richard Dukas, who heads a public relations firm in New York City. "I still don't want to put all my money in the market, but I believe we've come through the worst of it."

After the 2008 financial meltdown, Dukas and his wife converted their 401(k)

retirement accounts into cash. They had been burned during the bubble in technology stocks a decade ago, and Dukas says he has been "extremely skittish" ever since.

Now Dukas, 48, says 85 percent of his portfolio is back in mutual funds, although he maintains a small cushion of cash.

More job security, strengthening retirement account balances and improvement in the overall U.S. economy are some of the factors that have brought everyday investors back to the market. A snapshot of what's happened:

— The outlook of investors as measured by stock newsletters and market surveys has been extremely bullish for two or three months, says Mark Arbeter, chief technical strategist for S&P Equity Research.

— Many workers have enjoyed seeing their 401(k) balances return to where they stood at the market's peak because they kept contributing during the down years. Many who have maintained their 401(k) accounts for a decade or longer still have some ground to make up because of their larger starting balances.

— Americans who still have jobs are as secure as they've been in 14 years. That's

because the number of planned layoffs has fallen to a low, according to outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

The combination has boosted confidence and brought investors back to a rising market. The Dow was trading Tuesday at around 12,200, up 86 percent from the 2009 low. It's still 14 percent below its all-time high in October 2007.

While the economy is improving, it will take a lot longer to erase the abject fear that average investors have felt about owning stocks the last two years, says Jason Trennert, chief investment strategist for Strategas Research Partners in New York.

One reason to set aside their reservations: They can't find a better place to stash their money. The bull market in bonds has ended, money-market accounts are returning 1 percent or less, and the average two-year CD earns no more than 1.5 percent.

As a result, many investors returning to the market are tiptoeing back in.

They're buying what Trennert calls "stocks that look like bonds" — dividend-paying blue chips that they hope will hedge their risk by guaranteeing at least a dividend payout.

Chamber target for April on survey

FROM page 1B

the Port Authority and the community. That's the next phase that we hope will be done in a month," Mr Turnquest told Tribune Business.

Asked about the key issues raised, the Chamber president said: "The primary issue people had was on the utility costs. I guess that ranked number one. Immigration has been a big issue, and the duty concessions and rights under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement was another issue. The overall lack of promotion of the island has been another concern."

Mr Turnquest said the Chamber had already met with the Government and the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) over the Ingraham administration's plan to create a Grand Bahama Development Board, which would oversee the island's promotion and growth, agreeing to "work together" after being reassured that the initiative would not sideline its economic development plan.

"We did express the concern that we did not want to get sidetracked from the initiative we've undertaken," Mr Turnquest explained. "A lot of thought and work has gone into that. We will be working side by side with the initiative outlined by the Minister, and they will work very well in terms of the overall vision for the island."

With those concerns satisfied, Mr Turnquest said of the Development Board plan: "Obviously, it's of the utmost importance that we all work together to try and resurrect or fix the situation [on Grand Bahama]."

"The idea of working together in a collaborative fashion to promote Grand Bahama and address the issues affecting business and foreign direct investment is obviously very important and a good approach."

"Our immediate need is in respect of tourism promotion. There are a number of initiatives being talked about, and hopefully Grand Bahama will be on the radar and promotion of this destination will take place so we can benefit."

Referring to last week's lay-off of some 200 hotel workers at Our Lucaya, Mr Turnquest said: "It just seems like we can't catch a break. We are having a very difficult time at the moment."

"There are some far-off bright spots we see. There are still some tremendous opportunities here, but there are some things we have to deal with and make adjustments on - the cost of electricity is a major concern. There are still very good opportunities for Grand Bahama, and we have to go out and promote it and reconnect with the kind of investment that will help us with sustainable development."

Although there were no official, updated unemployment figures, Mr Turnquest described the loss of 200 jobs as "very big for us". But, given the 17 per cent rate for Grand Bahama recorded two years ago, and with no major job opportunities having come to the island since, the Chamber president estimated that the present rate was "upwards of 20 per cent for sure".

"We have 1,000 students coming out of school in the next couple of months. What are we going to do with those kids," Mr Turnquest asked.



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BUSINESS

'Good chance' \$62.5m IPO fully subscribed

FROM page 1B

said the upcoming IPO - scheduled to launch on March 21 - would test just how far this nation's capital markets had come, including their ability to absorb and finance such sizeable equity offerings.

Describing the \$62.5 million that the Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House IPO is seeking to raise as "more than two times" the highest amount raised in an equity offering, IPO in the Bahamas previously, Mr Anderson acknowledged it was "difficult to know" just how much investor interest there was, and "now much capital there is to meet the requirements of the offering".

However, RoyalFidelity, accompanied by Commonwealth Brewery and Heineken executives, is now into its second week of presentations to key Bahamian institutional investors, such as pension funds and insurance companies, and Mr Anderson told Tribune Business: "We expect to see a fair amount of interest in this offering, and our initial indications are that there is strong interest."

"From what we've seen, there is a fairly good chance of this being fully subscribed, which signifies that there has been development in the capital markets and more capital is available to be placed into an IPO."

The RoyalFidelity president said he had initially anticipated that investor take-up for the upcoming IPO would be split 80/20 in favour of institutional investors, but several wealthy individuals had already expressed interest in taking up multi-million allocations of around \$2-\$3 million.

"On this kind of offering, I'd be looking at \$40-\$50 million coming from institutions, and the last \$15-\$20 million coming from individuals," Mr Anderson said. "It's very difficult at this stage to figure out whether we will see the level of interest we expect to see. Initial indications are good, but at the end of the day, people have to be comfortable it's a good investment."

He agreed with Kenwood Kerr, Providence Advisors' chief executive, who earlier this week told Tribune Business that successful IPOs and equity offerings required a "good underlying story", telling Tribune Business the key factor was whether they

offered enough value to make them attractive to investors.

While there was "a fair amount of liquidity" in the Bahamian market, Mr Anderson conceded this did not mean people would automatically invest in the upcoming IPO. The risk/reward fundamentals had to be attractive, he added, but one positive was that the dividend yields - and total potential return - on offer were much higher than current bank deposit rates.

Acknowledging that recent trends had been for the Bahamian capital markets to "shy away from equities on the basis of a lack of yield", instead preferring fixed income securities, Mr Anderson said the attraction of Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House - which operate as one company - for investors was that they provided a relatively high dividend return.

"This particular security offering has a relatively high dividend yield for equities, and I believe that will be attractive to investors as well," he told Tribune Business. "They will get the benefits of capital appreciation as well as an attractive dividend yield."

Mr Anderson said most Bahamian equities that had performed well offered attractive dividend yields to their shareholders, but in more recent times the market's general focus had been on capital (share price) appreciation and earnings.

"This will be the first time we've brought a really good dividend yield to market for some time," he told this newspaper. "It will have the third highest market capitalisation of any security. This one, at \$250 million, will be the third biggest market cap on BISSX."

"It's one of those stocks that ought to be attractive to institutional and retail investors as one of the blue chips on the market."

The largest BISSX-listed stock by market capitalisation is FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) at \$1.17 billion, followed by Commonwealth Bank at \$670 million. FirstCaribbean, when it was CIBC, also holds the distinction of being the largest IPO to date at around \$30 million.

With the \$62.5 million Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House IPO set to be followed later this year by the flotation of the first 9 per cent tranche of Bahamas

Telecommunications Company (BTC) shares retained by the Government, likely worth around \$37 million, and the possible \$8 million Arawak Cay port IPO, around \$100 million worth of equities will be offered to the Bahamian capital markets this year.

"2011 will be a good year to test the capacity of the capital markets, because we will be bringing a number of new offerings to market that I don't think we've done in the last 10 years or so," Mr Anderson said.

"It will be very interesting to see. I'm kind of excited about the prospect of it, it's such a large amount, and hopefully I'll be more than pleasantly surprised by the results."

Mr Anderson added that investors needed to look to the future, and realise that with the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project starting, and the Government in the throes of major infrastructure upgrades, the Bahamian economy was preparing to enter a new growth phase - something that would benefit the companies being offered as investment opportunities.

"If this pans out as we expect it to do over the next three-five years, it will be a major growth period for the Bahamas," he explained. "There's a massive amount of money going to be spent in the economy over the next two-three years, and that will spur growth in the economy, and put people in a better position to invest and benefit from these investments."

"It's the start of it. We have to look at the next three-five years as a major growth period for the Bahamas."

The Government mandated that a 25 per cent stake in Commonwealth Brewery/Burns House be offered to Bahamian investors as an IPO as a condition for approving the \$125 million buy-out of the 50 per cent stake held by Associated Bahamian Distillers and Brewers (ABDAB), the vehicle 70 per cent controlled by Sir Gareth 'Tiger' Finlayson and his family.

The IPO will be offered at the same terms, and price, as ABDAB received, the Government having approved the timing given that it agreed to effectively underwrite the offering by acquiring any shares not subscribed for by the Bahamian public.

Two years to deal with BEC's 'atrocious' forced outages

FROM page 1B

tenance, in terms of the recommended maintenance suggested by the manufacturer, on every piece of equipment," Michael Moss told Tribune Business.

Mr Moss was responding to this newspaper's query about whether BEC has been able to make any headway in addressing its forced outage rate, which a report by international consultants, Fichtner, revealed to be "two to three times" the international industry average between 2007 and 2009.

The Forced Outage Rate refers to the probability that a power unit will not be available for service when required.

The German-based consultants drew attention to this deficiency in an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-supported report released in early 2010, noting that the Clifton Pier Power Station showed a "high forced outage rate of between 10 per cent and 16 per cent in the past three years, while a typical benchmark would be a maximum 5 per cent".

Equipment

Mr Moss emphasised the role played by BEC's "limping" financial position in its failure to adequately maintain equipment, resulting in power outages in recent years.

After turning a "small profit" for the first time in five years in 2010, BEC is expected to generate a net profit in the "\$8 million to \$10 million" range in its 2011 financial year. This enhanced financial position will give the Corporation the leeway to begin to address some of its equipment deficiencies in a more effective manner, suggested Mr Moss.

"In terms of the outage rate at the plant, it is atrocious, but the Corporation has not had the financial means to maintain equipment in as timely a fashion as one would've wanted to, and when you fail to maintain you get breakdowns," he told Tribune Business.

"We have started to sign contracts to commence addressing the outages. What you have to do is judiciously begin taking out equipment (for maintenance). When you're doing overhauls you can't be reckless about it, because even if it might be overdue, if you take it out in summer you will only make it worse for consumers."

"You have to do work on some and keep your fingers crossed and hope that that which has not been addressed will last through the summer."

Mr Moss said that around two years from now would be "a more appropriate time to begin benchmarking [BEC] against international standards" on outages.

"I think it's most unfortunate to do that when everyone knows what the situation with BEC has been financially," he said.

BEC fuel charge rise in a month

FROM page 1B

imise the impact to customers. That certainly is our objective, since Bunker C is cheaper, so we want to use as much of that as we can.

"The end fuel charge to the consumer is a combination of the fuel we have to buy and the equipment we use to generate power," he added.

BEC last year ditched the fuel "surcharge" in favour of a fuel charge, in an effort to "let the public know the full impact that fuel has on our business".

This means that customers are charged a "basic tariff", which is based on the cost of defraying "the cost of doing business", including salaries, maintenance and "a little profit", noted Mr Moss, and a separate fuel charge that varies depending on the price of fuel in the international market. This is as opposed to the inclusion of a fluctuating fuel surcharge within the basic tariff.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.45 of 2000)

BLUNDELL MANAGEMENT INC.

In Voluntary liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137(4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000) **BLUNDELL MANAGEMENT INC.** has been dissolved and struck off the Register according to the Certificate of Dissolution issued by the Register General on the 17th of February, 2011.

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BUSINESS

UNDERWATER MORTGAGES RISE AS HOME PRICES FALL

DEREK KRAVITZ,
AP Real Estate Writer
WASHINGTON

The number of Americans who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth rose at the end of last year, preventing many people from selling their homes in an already weak housing market.

About 11.1 million households, or 23.1 percent of all mortgaged homes, were underwater in the October-December quarter, according to report released Tuesday by housing data firm CoreLogic. That's up from 22.5 percent, or 10.8 million households, in the July-September quarter.

The number of underwater mortgages had fallen in the previous three quarters. But that was mostly because more homes had fallen into foreclosure. Underwater mortgages typically rise when home prices fall. Home prices in December hit their lowest point since the housing bust in 11 of 20 major U.S. metro areas. In a healthy housing market, about 5 percent of homeowners are underwater.

Roughly two-thirds of homeowners in Nevada with a mortgage had negative home equity, the worst in the country. Arizona, Florida, Michigan and California were next, with up to 50 percent of homeowners with mortgages in those states underwater.

Oklahoma had the smallest percentage of underwater homeowners in the October-December quarter, at 5.8 percent. Only nine states recorded percentages less than 10 percent.

AIG REPAYS \$6.9BN TO BAILOUT PROGRAMME

MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON

American International Group Inc. has paid the federal government nearly \$7 billion this week after selling off assets, trimming its financial bailout balance to just under \$60 billion.

The Treasury Department says \$6.6 billion comes from AIG's sale last week of MetLife Inc. holdings. Another \$300 million is from AIG's sale of American Life Insurance Co.

AIG has now paid back \$9.1 billion of the \$68 billion in bailout funds it received from the government at the height of the 2008 financial crisis. Treasury owns 92 percent of AIG through its holdings of the company's common stock, which it is expected to begin selling in May. Treasury officials said they expect to recoup the full amount of the bailout.

Bank stocks push indexes higher; oil prices dip



Richard Drew/AP Photo

CHIP CUTTER,
AP Business Writers
DAVID K. RANDALL,
AP Business Writers
NEW YORK

Financial companies pushed stock indexes higher Tuesday on signs that banks may soon raise their dividends.

Bank of America Corp. gained 4.7 percent, the most of the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones industrial average, after chief executive Brian Moynihan told an investor's meeting that the bank could earn more money over the next two years as its business sta-

bilizes. That led analysts to note that large consumer banks may raise their dividends. Banks slashed dividends during the 2008 financial crisis to cut costs.

Financial stocks in the S&P 500 index rose 2.2 percent, the most of any of the index's 10 company groups. American Express Co. gained 3.5 percent, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. gained 2.6 percent.

Falling oil prices also helped stocks move higher. Oil prices dipped 0.5 percent to \$105 a barrel after Kuwait's oil minister said that OPEC members are in informal talks about raising oil output as the conflict in Libya continues.

"Rapidly higher moving oil prices can substantially impact demand," said Oliver Pursche, president of Gary Goldberg Financial Services.

"It's something OPEC members are 'very, very much aware of and want to avoid.'"

Oil prices have risen 9 percent so far this month. That has pushed stocks lower as investors worry that higher gas prices will dampen the economic recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 124.35 points, or 1 percent, to 12,214.38. The S&P 500 rose 11.69, or 0.9 percent, to 1,321.82.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC NEWS associated press

A look at economic developments and activity in major stock markets around the world Tuesday:

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's oil minister denied that the surge in oil prices reflects a shortage of crude on the market but said that the kingdom is committed to tapping excess supplies if needed.

The 12-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has so far held its official output quotas unchanged, even as massive protests across the oil-rich Middle East have pushed global oil prices to their highest levels since late 2008. An uprising in OPEC member Libya has stoked supply concerns, increasing pressure on the producer bloc to pump more to ease prices. The oil minister of Saudi Arabia said the oil market remains well-supplied, however. He reiterated the kingdom's stance that the spike in oil costs stems more from financial speculation and unwarranted investor sentiment than industry fundamentals.

CAIRO — An official with a subsidiary of Libya's national oil company said production has dropped by about 90 percent, a reflection of the beating the OPEC member's oil sector is taking amid violence raging in the country. Analysts estimate that more than half of Libya's almost 1.6 million barrels per day in production is being shut in.

BERLIN — Major oil producers and consumers are well-placed to respond to any shortfall in supplies resulting from the crisis in Libya, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner stressed after talks with German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble. He added that "even in the face of these uncertainties," there are "encouraging signs of gradually strengthening recovery" across major global economies.

Besides the global economy and the eurozone debt crisis, Geithner and Schauble also discussed sanctions against the regime of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. Geithner said they addressed the "effort to build a strong set of sanctions" against the Libyan regime, but gave no details. Geithner's meetings in Germany, where he also met European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet, came ahead of a pair of summits at which European leaders will try to finally get a grip on the continent's debt crisis. The Treasury Secretary praised eurozone countries' "remarkable" efforts to push through reforms and produce a long-term mechanism aimed at coping with future problems.

LONDON — Hopes that the OPEC oil cartel will raise production to offset the shortfall from Libya pushed oil prices lower and shored up confidence in European stock markets. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed up 0.2 percent, France's CAC-40 ended up 0.6 percent and Germany's DAX was 0.4 percent higher.

TOKYO — Earlier in Asia, Japan's benchmark 225 stock average added 0.2 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.7 percent and China's main Shanghai index gained 0.1 percent.

SHANGHAI — China's economy is safe from a "double-dip" slowdown in growth, a top economic planner said, though he acknowledged challenges in keeping inflation under control and cutting back on excessive and wasteful investments.

HONG KONG — Chinese airlines announced a batch of deals to buy airplanes from Boeing and other Western plane makers at a major Asian air show, underlining the rapid expansion of China's aviation market. Air China and Hong Kong Airlines plan to buy planes from Boeing Co. worth about \$10 billion at sticker prices. Chicago-based Boeing predicted that the Asia-Pacific region would overtake North America and Europe as the world's biggest air transport market over the next 20 years after a similar forecast from rival Airbus SAS.

ATHENS, Greece — Greece raised 1.625 billion euros (\$2.28 billion) in an auction of treasury bills, though the higher interest rate it has to pay showed investor unease a day after the country's credit rating was downgraded sharply. In return for selling the 26-week bills, Greece had to pay an interest rate of 4.75 percent, up from the 4.64 percent it had to pay in a similar auction last month, but lower than the 4.90 percent demanded in January. Though investors wanted a higher rate in return for their cash, the Greek government still managed to raise more than the original offer of 1.25 billion euros because of heavy demand for the bonds.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

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Fax: In this Feb. 1, 2011 photo, traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Greece raises \$2.3bn in treasury bills auction following rating cut

ELENA BECATOROS,
Associated Press
ATHENS, Greece

Greece raised Euro1.625 billion (\$2.28 billion) in an auction of treasury bills Tuesday, though the higher interest rate it has to pay showed investor unease a day after the country's credit rating was downgraded sharply.

In return for selling the 26-week bills, Greece had to pay an interest rate of 4.75 percent, the Public Debt Management Agency said. The rate was up from the 4.64 percent it had to pay in a similar auction last month, but lower than the 4.90 percent demanded in January.

Though investors wanted a higher rate in return for their cash, the Greek government still managed to raise more than the original offer of \$1.25 billion. Demand was relatively healthy, with the auction 3.59 times oversubscribed.

Tuesday's sale came after Moody's slashed the debt-ridden country's junk rating by three notches to B1, prompting a furious riposte from the Greek government, which described the move as "completely unjustified."

Greece began short-dated treasury bill sales last September to maintain a presence in the market after its debt crisis sent interest rates for longer-term money soaring, effectively blocking the country from the bond market.

VACANCY

Property Management Company is immediately seeking an entry-level maintenance worker for its multi-floor commercial building. The ideal candidate will be required to perform general building maintenance and repair work involving plumbing and electrical skills; some heavy lifting is required. The candidate must work well independently, take initiative and be a team player.

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Morton Bahamas Limited, A K + S Group Company seeks a suitable candidate to fill the position of Electrical Engineer, at its salt production facility in Inagua, The Bahamas.

This position support the facility by managing the activities associated with electrical projects and electrical maintenance.

The successful candidate will have the ability to manage projects, and possess' good computer and organizational skills. Good communication skill, interpersonal skills and the ability to solve complex problem.

A College Degree in Electrical Engineering is required. Entry level candidates are welcomed.

Bahamian Citizen or Holder of Bahamas Work Permit required.

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BUSINESS

Our Lucaya closure strategy 'diminishes price competitiveness'

FROM page 1B

Lucaya said the move was necessary to save other jobs and keep the remaining part of the resort operational.

Speaking to Tribune Business from Berlin, Germany, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said that while Grand Bahama used to play a role as a lower "entry price point" Bahamian destination, this is no longer the case, and it will mean changes in the way the resort

and the island are marketed to potential tourists.

"In terms of the categories, it does make a difference because they really are keeping open the higher-priced category rooms. We understand why they are doing it, but it certainly will have impact on what we are promoting and prices, and the competitiveness of Grand Bahama versus Nassau. The effect is that some of the competitiveness that we thought

could be restored to Grand Bahama will be diminished, and it will mean we have to work harder on achieving what it is we are trying to achieve," said Mr Vanderpool Wallace.

"That is something we are still working out the details on with the new management there, and we certainly have gotten a great deal of cooperation with them so far."

Maximising "value" to would-be travellers to the Bahamas - essentially lowering costs or enhancing what visitors feel that they get for their dollar - has been a major focus of the Ministry of Tourism's strategy to attract more arrivals to this nation during economically dire times. Promotions such as the 'Companion Fly Free' deal, which allows an international visitor to get a free airfare to the Bahamas if they and a friend/partner stays at a hotel for a minimum of four nights, have been key elements of this strategy.

The Tourism Minister declined to elaborate on any plans that may have been shared with him by the resort's owners to boost its flagging performance levels, but he added that his Ministry will now "work with (the hotel) to help restore them to where they were".

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace added that the Government was supportive of the decision by Hutchison Whampoa to have those "ultimately responsible for the property really much more concentrated on island than they were before" as it seeks to improve business levels at the resort.

"We certainly believe in this group, which is trying to move things along, and we will do our best to work with

them to make that happen. We believe the formula they have come up with now, where all of Hutchison's holdings on Grand Bahama are under one vision as opposed to the separation that was there before, will help," said the Minister.

Tribune Business understands that Hutchison Whampoa has restructured its Grand Bahama interests under the Freeport Container Port, placing them under the ultimate control of Hong Kong-based John Meredith, head of the conglomerate's global ports operations, Hutchison Port Holdings.

Hutchison Whampoa's other interests in Grand Bahama, besides Our Lucaya, include a 50 per cent interest in the Freeport Harbour Company, which owns the Grand Bahama Airport, 50 per cent in the Grand Bahama Development Company (Devco) and a majority holding in the Freeport Container Port.

On Friday, resort executives at Our Lucaya confirmed that more than 200 staff would lose their jobs at the resort, leaving around 550 still employed.

The resort will now consolidate its operations in the Breaker's Cay and Manor House section of the property, while the other two hotels, including the Reef Village will be closed.

"Primary in our improvement plans is an aggressive marketing and promotional campaign and possible restructure of the resort. We remain excited about Grand Bahama's future and will continue to demonstrate our confidence in the tourism growth and economy of the Bahamas," a statement from the company said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2010/CLE/qui/239
IN THE SUPREME COURT
 Common Law and Equity Division
IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land containing, by admeasurements, six thousand (6,000) square feet or thereabouts being known and described as Lot #1291 of Golden Gates Estates Section Two Addition situate in the Western District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas
AND
IN THE MATTER OF the Quietening Titles Act 1959
AND
IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Rosemary Hart
NOTICE

Take notice that **ROSEMARY HART** of the Southern District of the Island of New Providence The Bahamas has filed a Petition pursuant to the Quietening Titles Act, 1959, in respect of the following property:-

Lot #1291 of Golden Gates Estates Section Two Addition situate in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas which said Subdivision is situate on the northern side of Mulatto Place 300 ft. Northeasterly from Cedar Way and approximately 589 ft. Southeasterly from Carmichael Road. The lot is measured as being bounded Westwardly by Lot 1290 of the said subdivision and running 100 ft.; northwardly by a Lot 1280 and running 60 ft.; eastwardly by a lot 1292 running thereon 100 ft.; and southwardly by a public road reservation known as Mulatto Place running thereon 60 ft. This lot is shown on a plan now filed in the Department of Lands and Surveys as **Plan 5142 N.P.**

The Petition of **ROSEMARY HART** claims that she has held possession of the said hereditaments for the last thirty (30) years and that accordingly no dower or other right affects her title to the same; and further that there are no charges, encumbrances, or monetary liens attached to the said hereditaments which affects her title to the land. **AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that Rosemary Hart, the Petitioner, has presented a Petition to the Supreme Court to have her title to the land investigated determined and declared under the quietening titles act 1959 (Ch.357) Statute Laws of the Bahamas.

Copies of the plan filed in relation to this action may be inspected during the normal office hours at the following places situated within the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas:

- a. Registry of the Supreme Court located 2nd Floor of the Ansbacher House, East Street (North)
- b. Department of Lands & Survey located East Bay Street and
- c. The Chambers of Hanna Johnson & Co. located Hawkins Hill on its Eastern Side. (Travelling north it is the 7th structure after passing the Department of Immigration's (Additional) Parking Lot.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or any adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the said Petition shall on or before Friday, April 29th, A.D., 2011 file in the Supreme Court Registry located 2nd Floor of the Ansbacher House, East Street (North) and serve on the Petitioner, through her Attorneys a statement of his or her claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his or her claim on or before Friday, April 29th, 2011 shall operate as a bar to such claim.

Dated this 22nd day of February, A.D., 2011

This Notice is published by Order of the Court dated November 25th, A.D., 2010 by His Lordship Sir Michael Barnett and is published at the instance of the Petitioner's Attorneys Messrs. Hanna Johnson & Co. whose Chambers are located Hawkins Hill (North), New Providence, The Bahamas and may be contacted at (242)-325-6159 or (242)-325-6165.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2010
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/qui/01590
Common Law and Equity Side

The Petition of Raleigh I. Butler Sr. in respect of:-

ALL THAT tract of land containing 1,045.128 Acres being a part of the original Crown Grant to Thomas Fraizer situate in the vicinity of Carmichael Pond and Sandy Point and otherwise known as 'The Fraizer Tract' as well as "Carmichael" on the Western End of the Island of Rum Cay one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and **ALL THAT** tract of land containing 1,526.41 Acres being a part of the original Crown Grants to Andrew Deveaux, Benjamin Lord Jr., and William Slater in the vicinity of Hartford Caves on the Northern Coast of the Island of Rum Cay one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Raleigh I. Butler Sr. claims to be the owner of the fee simple estates in possession of the said lands and has applied to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas under S.3 of the Quietening Titles Act, 1969 in the above action to have its title to the said lands investigated the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the court in accordance with provisions of the said Act. Copies of the said plans may be inspected during normal office hours at the Registry of the Supreme Court, East Street, N.P., and at the Chambers of C.F. Butler & Associates, Charles E. Carey Building, Dowdeswell Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having dower or a right to dower or any adverse claim not recognized in the Petition shall before the 2nd day of May A.D., 2011 file in the said Registry of The Supreme Court and serve the Petitioner or the above C.F. Butler & Associates a statement of such claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed herewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of such claim by the above time will operate as a bar to such claim.

C.F. BUTLER & ASSOCIATES
 Chambers
 Top Floor, Charles E. Carey Bldg.
 Dowdeswell Street
 Nassau, The Bahamas

Attorneys for the Petitioner

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **FANEL ETIENNE of FIRE TRAIL ROAD** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **2nd day of March, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **NISSAGE DENAVE of SPANISH WELLS, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **2nd DAY of MARCH, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **OBSAINT GEORGES of FOX HILL, NASSAU, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **9th day of March, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
 N° 46 of 2000

CRESCENT TRADING LIMITED
 (IBC N° 151792 B
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 131(2)(a) of the International Business Companies Act N° 46 of 2000, **CRESCENT TRADING LIMITED** is in Dissolution.

Any person having a Claim against the above-named Company is required on or before 2nd May 2011 to send their name, address and particulars of their debt or claim to the Liquidator of the Company, or in default thereof they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claim is approved.

Rosana Hollins of Suite 2B, Mansion House, 143 Main Street, Gibraltar, is the Liquidator of **CRESCENT TRADING LIMITED**.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:												
TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2011												
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,456.20 CHG 0.32 %CHG 0.02 YTD -42.99 YTD % -2.87												
FINDEX: YEAR END 2008 -12.31%												
WWW.BISXBHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320												
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Security	Yield	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
11.13	0.95	AML	AML Foods Limited	1.04	10.63	10.63	0.00	2,000	0.123	0.040	8.9	3.67%
10.63	9.05	Bahamas Property Fund			10.63	10.63	0.00		0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%
5.75	4.40	Bank of Bahamas			4.50	4.50	0.00		0.153	0.100	29.4	2.22%
0.53	0.17	Benchmark			0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
2.84	2.70	Bahamas Waste			2.70	2.70	0.00		0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%
2.20	1.96	Fidelity Bank			1.96	1.96	0.00		0.016	0.040	122.5	2.04%
12.40	9.44	Cable Bahamas			10.21	10.21	0.00		1.050	0.310	9.7	3.04%
6.50	2.35	Colina Holdings			2.40	2.40	0.00	400	0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%
7.00	5.80	Commonwealth Bank (S1)			6.80	6.80	0.00		0.488	0.260	13.9	3.82%
2.86	1.90	Consolidated Water BDRs			2.16	2.21	0.05		0.111	0.045	19.9	2.04%
2.54	1.40	Doctor's Hospital			1.40	1.40	0.00		0.107	0.110	13.1	7.86%
6.50	5.25	Famguard			5.25	5.25	0.00		0.357	0.240	14.7	4.57%
9.27	5.88	Finco			5.88	5.88	0.00		0.682	0.000	8.6	0.00%
11.40	8.77	FirstCaribbean Bank			9.39	9.39	0.00		0.494	0.350	11.9	3.73%
6.00	4.57	Focol (S)			5.40	5.40	0.00		0.452	0.160	11.0	2.96%
11.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference			1.00	1.00	-0.50%		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
5.59	5.50	ICD Utilities			7.40	7.40	0.00		0.012	0.240	616.7	3.24%
10.50	9.80	J. S. Johnson			9.82	9.82	0.00		0.859	0.640	11.4	6.52%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate			10.00	10.00	0.00		1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds traded on a Percentage Pricing basis)												
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Security	Yield	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	BAH29	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	6.95%	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	FBB17	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	7%	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	FBB22	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	Prime + 1.75%	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	FBB13	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	7%	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	FBB15	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	Prime + 1.75%	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)												
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Security	Yield	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
10.06	5.01	N/A	Bahamas Supermarkets		N/A	N/A	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.55	0.40	N/A	RND Holdings		0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)												
41.00	29.00	30.13	ABDAB		31.59	29.00			4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	0.45	RND Holdings		0.55	0.55			0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds												
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date				
1.5122	1.4076	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5179	6.51%	6.90%	1.488004	1.476244	30-Nov-10				
2.9527	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9486	0.04%	1.45%	2.918256	2.910084	28-Feb-11				
1.5837	1.5141	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5837	0.61%	4.59%	1.564030	1.545071	11-Feb-11				
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.7049	-0.50%	-15.54%			31-Jan-11				
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.4164	0.44%	-0.10%			31-Jan-11				
114.3684	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.3684	9.98%	12.49%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10				
106.5528	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	106.5528	4.75%	7.18%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10				
1.1465	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1465	5.20%	5.20%			31-Dec-10				
1.1185	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1185	4.73%	4.73%			31-Dec-10				
1.1491	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1491	5.35%	5.35%			31-Dec-10				
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.7950	4.85%	5.45%			30-Nov-10				
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.6417	-1.20%	0.50%			30-Nov-10				
10.1266	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	10.1266	1.27%	1.27%			31-Jan-11				
8.4510	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.4510	9.95%	9.95%			31-Jan-11				
MARKET TERMS												
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00						YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price						
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks						Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity						
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks						Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity						
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume						Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price						
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume						Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week						
Change - Change in closing price from day to day						EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths						
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today						NAV - Net Asset Value						
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months						N/M - Not Meaningful						
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings						FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100						
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/6/2007												
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007												
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525												

ENTERTAINMENT



RELIABLE: A selection of heritage tomatoes including Cherokee Purple, Jubilee, Black Krim and Cuban.

Heirlooms or hybrids?

I was talking with a gardening friend a few weeks ago and offered him some heirloom tomato seeds. He showed no interest. "I only grow hybrids," he told me. "They are good and reliable." He had a point.

Hybrid tomatoes usually produce well, while heirloom tomatoes can seriously disappoint when it comes to a good harvest. This exchange led me to think about the pros and cons of both types.

Hybrid seeds are produced by cross-pollination in order to establish defined characteristics. Heirloom tomatoes are open pollinated and their forebears have been around for many years, well over a hundred years for some. Had I counted my tomatoes at Christmas time I would have found a 3:2 ratio of hybrids over heirlooms because hybrids tend to produce quickly and I used them for my first crops. Now the majority is definitely heirlooms.

GREEN SCENE

By GARDENER JACK

Practically all hybrid tomato varieties are determinate, meaning that they produce all of their fruit at one time and then die. Most heirlooms are indeterminate and fruiting is staggered over a long period, usually with diminishing returns. I have often pulled up plants that still had one or two tomatoes attached which were a long way from ripening.

Hybrid tomatoes are usually of a uniform shape and size, all seemingly pressed from the same mould. Heirloom tomatoes have quite a bit of character and no two seem to look quite alike. Not all their shapes are appealing; they are often lopsided

and parti-coloured. Some people look at black heirlooms and resolutely refuse to sample a slice.

I have already mentioned that hybrid tomatoes are vigorous and regular. This is important more to a farmer than a gardener because when all the crop is at the same stage of growth the time for reaping is easily calculated and the harvesting can be done in one pass. Heirloom tomato vines may be with you for most of the growing season, taking up far more space than they really should when you calculate the returns.

One of the characteristics added to hybrid tomatoes is disease resistance. Tomatoes are prone to a great number of diseases and many of these diseases can be negated by using the correct variety of tomato. Farmers do not want to lose a complete crop to disease so they invest in varieties that are well protected. Gardeners tend to grow several different varieties of tomato and the loss of one set would be annoying but not a disaster. Some heirloom tomatoes do have

inherent disease resistance but in general they are innocents at large. I must say that I have never lost any heirlooms to any disease other than nematodes. They may not be disease resistant but as long as they are well-fed and healthy they can survive very well.

If you have been mentally tallying the merits of hybrids over heirlooms you no doubt have hybrids well ahead by now. The last factor to be considered may change everything.

Why do you think those heirloom tomatoes have been around for 25, 50 or 100 years? It is all because of the taste. Heirlooms are heirlooms because the seeds of the finest tasting fruits were saved and used year after year. There is no such thing as an insipid heirloom.

During February a lady friend tasted a black tomato – Black From Tula – for the first time. "That's a tomato!" she enthused. "Wow!" She then went on to suggest you could have heirloom tomato tastings just like wine tastings.

Hybrid tomatoes taste good and are very satisfying – until you match them up against an heirloom. Try a slice of Big Boy or Early Girl, then try the very similar looking Brandywine. Point made.

On the lighter side, heirlooms usually have better names than hybrids. The hybrid names are very pleasant but seem to have been selected by committee. Heirloom tomatoes have wonderful names that often hint at a story: Anna Russian, Break o' Day, Box Car Willie, Cherokee Chocolate, Earl of Edgcombe, Kellogg's Breakfast, Mortgage Lifter, Omar's Lebanese, Pink Ping Pong, Riesentraube, Sophie's Choice and Wins All are examples.

If you have never grown heirloom tomatoes, why not give them a try. Just like Proust's Madeleine, the taste may take you back to the time when tomatoes tasted like real tomatoes instead of mushy cardboard.

• gardenerjack@coralwave.com

Flash Back

Just a few images of what we the Bahamas looked like 40...50...60... years in the past

BY ROLAND ROSE



The Bahamas own home grown models.

Who would not visit the islands of the Bahamas if there was a chance of catching a glimpse of one of these glorious young ladies.



entertainment

Kate vs Catherine - the Royal name dilemma

By GREGORY KATZ and SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

CALL her Kate, at least for now.

It may be years before Kate Middleton becomes queen, but questions are already being raised about the princess-to-be's preferred moniker: Queen Kate or Queen Catherine?

Ever since her engagement became official in November, palace officials — and her fiancé, Prince William — have taken to calling her Catherine, which is the name used on the official, gold-embossed invitations to their nuptials at Westminster Abbey on April 29.

"Catherine" sounds more formal, regal and fitting for a future queen, experts say.

But Middleton herself may not embrace the change just yet. During a joint visit Tuesday with Prince William to Northern Ireland, Middleton mentioned casually that she thinks of herself primarily as Kate.

"I'm still very much Kate," said Middleton, when a woman outside Belfast City Hall asked her what name she preferred.

The "Kate" versus "Catherine" debate has emerged in recent weeks because of William's switch in using it and because "Catherine" or the initial "C" is being imprinted on officially sanctioned wedding memorabilia and commemorative china.

"I think that Catherine does have a more historic feel to it; there have been several queen consorts called Catherine in British history," said Charles Kidd, editor of the blue-blood bible DeBrett's Peerage. "So Queen Catherine does sound quite familiar. It has a historic ring to it."

He said Kate also sounds pleasant but reminds him of the feisty character in "Kiss Me Kate," a Cole Porter musical that features William Shakespeare's play "The Taming of the Shrew."

"I imagine she'll be known as Catherine but the tabloids and majority of the press will continue to call her Kate, so in the general sense she'll be known as Kate," he said.

According to the official royal wedding website, which has already received more than two million visits since it started up last week, Middleton does not prefer one name over the other.

It says Middleton used the name "Catherine" when she was growing up with her family but tends to use the more casual "Kate" in her professional life.

"Miss Middleton uses both names equally, and she has never expressed a preference for either Catherine or Kate since her engagement," the website states.

Most of the popular British press still call her "Kate," and headline writers are not expected to change.



NCO launches Porgy and Bess

By CARA BRENNEN-BETHEL
Tribune Features Editor

The Nassau City Opera Company gave a sneak preview of what can be expected when they present their version of the legendary Gershwin opera *Porgy and Bess* in July at a special cocktail launch at the Nassau Art Gallery last week.

Attendees were treated to a special wine and cheese reception, before hearing a brief synopsis of the opera's plot by NCO artistic director Dr Cleveland Williams and several selections from cast members.

"With this evening's performance of *Porgy and Bess*, our vision is accompanied with a burning desire to experience the on-going development of Nassau City Opera as a self-sustaining dynamic, high quality, regional, resident opera company deeply involved in the enrichment and the quality of life of the youth and community of Nassau by providing and ensuring performance excel-

lence in opera," Dr Williams explained.

Porgy and Bess will be the second full length performance by the group, since they presented the well received *Treemonisha* by Scott Joplin during 2009 as part of the official 36th Bahamian Independence Day Celebrations and Dr Williams promised that attendees will not be disappointed. He explained that *Porgy and Bess* is usually performed to sold out crowds around the world due to its overwhelming popularity.

The Bahamian version, he vowed will be a first class performance that will intrigue audiences. The company will receive musical assistance from a group of talented string musicians from Canada who will come to Nassau and complete the Bahamian orchestra for the opera.

Dr Williams is appealing to corporate Bahamas and fellow Bahamians to become "Friends of Nassau City Opera" and lend their financial and moral support; which will greatly assist the company's artistic growth and continued performances in the Bahamian community.

Porgy and Bess tells the story of Porgy, a disabled black beggar living in the slums of Charleston, South Carolina. It deals with his attempts to rescue Bess from the clutches of Crown, her violent and possessive lover, and Sportin' Life, the drug dealer and deals with themes of love and abuse. It is based on Dubose Hayward's novel *Porgy*. It was first performed in 1935, but received its acceptance as a legitimate opera in 1976 when it was presented by The Houston Grand Opera.

Its more familiar songs include *Summertime*, *It Ain't Necessarily So*, *Bess*, *You is My Woman Now*, *I Loves You Porgy* and *Oh I Can't Sit Down*.

THE CAST WILL INCLUDE:
PORGY - Cleveand Williams/ Antoine Wallace
BESS - Candice Bostwick and understudy Fabienne Brown-
SERENA - Nikitia Thompson/ Annette Dorsett
CLARA - Portia Barnett/Liza Fritz Charles
CROWN - Kermit Strachan/ Darrell Hurston

BES PERFORMANCE:
Members of the cast of *Porgy and Bess* perform at the official launch of the opera held at the National Art Gallery last week. Among their selections was one of the opera's most famous songs - *Summertime*.



Without 'Men,' is Charlie Sheen winning or losing?

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

CONSIDER two parallel universes: Charlie Sheen is destined to hit rock bottom after being fired from the best job he'll ever have; Charlie Sheen has been freed to blaze a new path to dazzling fame and riches.

Speculation about the dueling scenarios swelled after Warner Bros. Television said Monday that Sheen's services on "Two and a Half Men" had been terminated, effective immediately, following "careful consideration."

The studio said it's yet to decide the fate of TV's top-rated comedy which, under protest from Sheen, halted production for the season to allow the hard-partying actor to seek treatment for admitted drug use.

During his bitter tug-of-war with the studio, attention focused on whether he was on the verge of killing his career. Imperiling a hit show and a job that paid a reported \$1.8 million an episode — or earning

him north of \$43 million a year — must be Sheen's undoing, observers said.

Not so fast, say others. "At this point, all bets are off regarding where his career goes from here," said Paul Levinson, a Fordham University media professor. "Although nothing is certain where fame and celerity are concerned, Sheen's ubiquity in the past few weeks suggest that he could indeed go on to become a bigger superstar than (the sitcom) could ever had made him."

Opportunity already may have come knocking.

Sheen, 45, met with executives at Live Nation Entertainment on Monday and is considering a series of stage shows, celebrity website RadarOnline said. Calls and e-mails to the concert promotion company weren't returned Monday.

The road beckoned another performer who clashed publicly with his employer: Conan O'Brien went on a nationwide concert tour after exiting NBC's "Tonight" over network plans to move the show.

Sheen also intends to sell a line of merchandise, including T-shirts, hats and mugs, emblazoned with his catch phrases, the website said. It's aimed at displacing what he called the "posers and bootleggers" making money off "Winning," "Adonis DNA" and his other memorable utterances, RadarOnline reported.

The firing capped a rarely open, raging battle between a Hollywood star and those who employ him, with Sheen claiming the right to live as he pleased — including the acknowledged use of illegal drugs, although he's said he is currently clean — as long as he showed up sober and ready to work.

"Two and a Half Men," which debuted in 2003, stars Sheen as womanizing bachelor Charlie Harper, who creates an ad hoc family with his neurotic brother, the divorced Alan (Jon Cryer) and Alan's son, Jake (Angus T. Jones).

Sheen's life has long been rocky but — either despite of that or because of it — viewers embraced him.



IN A Aug. 2, 2010 file photo, Charlie Sheen waves as he arrives at the Pitkin County Courthouse in Aspen, Colo., for a hearing in his domestic abuse case. Warner Bros. Television says it has fired actor Charlie Sheen from the hit sitcom "Two and a Half Men." The studio that produces the CBS series said the decision was made after "careful consideration." (AP)

things 2DO

MARCH 9 - MARCH 11 BTTO'S TALENT EXPLOSION SEARCH

• The Bahamas Talented Youth Organisation invites young men, ages 13-17, to be individual participants or groups in the Talent Explosion taking place in April. Participants will be divided into three categories of singing, dancing and instruments. Winners receive a grand prize of \$500 and go on to perform at the finals of the Miss Bahamas Talented Teen Scholarship Competition. Entry fee: \$50/per entry form. Email: talented-teenbahamas@yahoo.com Telephone: 341-7330.

MARCH 10 - THURSDAY COB'S CAREER AND JOB FAIR

• The College of the Bahamas Counselling and Health Services department hosts a Career and Job Placement Fair under the theme "Jobs for the Present, Careers for the Future", 10am-4pm at Independence Park. See <http://www.cob.edu.bs>

MARCH 12 - SATURDAY NWCCU'S OPEN HOUSE

• The National Workers Co-operative Credit Union presents an open house that showcases its services and products, 10am-6pm. Telephone: 326-5806.

MARCH 12 - SATURDAY SWAGGARIFIC EXTRAVAGANZA: "ZEBRA AFFAIR"

• Sky Juice King presents the black and white edition of the Swaggarrific Extravaganza at Club 112. Music provided by Outta Road King Studda alongside Warrior Sounds, One Touch, DJ Tank and Lil Dwight. Cost: \$10/ladies; \$15/gents.

MARCH 12 - SATURDAY 6TH ANNUAL UNCLE LOU ROAD RACE & WALK

• St Augustine's College Alumni invites you to take part in the 6th annual Uncle Lou Road Race and Walk that begins 6am from Rawson Square with male and female categories from under-15 to 50-and-over. Entry fee: \$15.

MARCH 14 - MONDAY "CHAPTER 34": POPEYE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

• Popeye Productions and Club 40/40 present "Chapter 34", a birthday celebration for Popeye, 10pm at Club 40/40, Carmichael Road. Cost: \$10/ladies; \$15/gents; \$25/VIP includes free drinks and hor 'd'ouvres. Music provided by Mighty Pencil, DJ Fines, Dion Da Butcha, Big "L" and special performances by The Smooth Criminals, Juice Unit Dancers and Popeye and Da Caribbean Dancers.

Share your news

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

ARTS



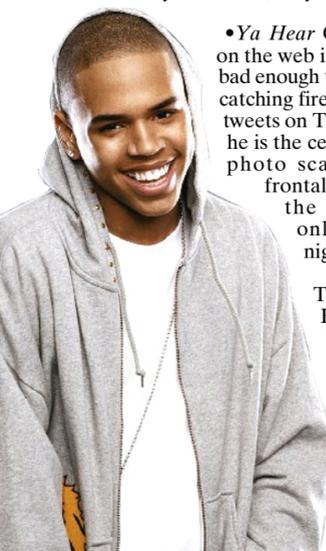
YA HEAR

Gossip Corner

•*Ya Hear* Kanye West recent video for "All of the Lights" was banned from Youtube? Apparently the controversial video has been removed from Youtube as it is believed that its content poses danger for persons with epilepsy. The video was removed after Epilepsy Action expressed its concern that it may be harmful to some people with photosensitive epilepsy.

•*Ya Hear* Nelly & Kelly, you know the two singers who had that big hit "Dilemma" back in the day. They are out with their spanking new hit "Gone", its a sequel to the 2001 smash hit "Dilemma." You guys should check it out, it's great. By the way, they are not a couple but they would make a beautiful couple, keep it up guys!

•*Ya Hear* Will Smith's little girl Willow Smith appeared on Oprah the other day broadcasting and performing her new song "21st Century Girl". I am a big fan of the Smiths but I really think little Willow should be in school, she is way too young for all of this exposure. Fans are saying the single is not as big as her last song "Whip My Hair," but it has a ring to it. It is more generated to the younger crowd like herself, I'm not mad at you Willow, do your thing girl!



•*Ya Hear* Chris Brown is on the web in the nude? It's bad enough that he is always catching fire for some of his tweets on Twitter, and now he is the centre of a naked photo scandal. A full-frontal nude photo of the star emerged online on Friday night.

Taking it to Twitter.com Brown tweeted: "Another day!! Another lesson! Another party!! I'm so thankful to have the support of my fans with my music!"

Top R&b/Hip Hop Songs

- » MOMENT 4 LIFE
Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake
- » FALL FOR YOUR TYPE
Jamie Foxx Featuring Drake
- » 6 FOOT 7 FOOT
Lil Wayne Featuring Cory Gunz
- » LOVE FACES
Trey Songz
- » LOOK AT ME NOW
Chris Brown Featuring Lil Wayne & Busta Rhymes
- » PRETTY GIRL ROCK
Keri Hilson
- » NO BS
Chris Brown
- » ALL OF THE LIGHTS
Kanye West
- » YOU BE KILLIN EM
Fabulous
- » CAN'T BE FRIENDS
Trey Songz

Kim Kardashian

PREMIERES

JAM



By FARAH

I guess Kim Kardashian is tired of doing nothing! The reality TV star stepped into another facet of the entertainment industry- she released her debut single *Jam (Turn It Up)*.

The upbeat dance track was produced and written by singer and songwriter The Dream. And while the song is an epic failure, sales from it will go towards a long-standing charity.

Her good friend Ciara encouraged her to harness her musical skills. But I guess misery loves company since Ciara isn't doing that well with her music either.

However, we can't escape the fact that it is a good gesture by Kim K, but maybe she should have taken another route if giving back to charities was something that she held close to her heart (but like they say different strokes for different folks).

While "Jam" is not the worst debut single from a reality star, Kim could have given a little more effort. Maybe if Kim didn't sound so boring and lifeless it would have at least made up for the cheesy lyrics.

"I'mma burn it out tonight, it's goin' down by live via satellite and all I see is angels in my eyes and the buzz got me way up in the sky. Maybach in the front (the front), pick out any boy that I want (I want), DJ here I am feeling good, feeling great, just got paid."

The song had the potential to be a fun hit, but if she didn't sing it like she was thirsty she wouldn't be getting so many negative comments from listeners. Kim showed just how hard it was to be recording artist.

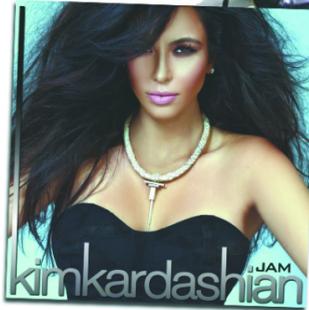
"I'm human, I've never sang before! This is definitely something I don't do, so for me to step outside of my comfort zone and do this—world premiere it on KIIS FM with Ellen and Ryan Seacrest, this is a really big deal!" she explained.

I must give her credit for taking such a brave leap leaving herself open to criticism by others. But hey we can't kill her for trying. And beside how would she have known that she has no real future as a recording artist if she didn't try. Now that she gotten that out of the way she can try something new.

Kim K has committed to the song as she is gearing up for the premiere of the video this Sunday.

And just a suggestions maybe her stepdad Bruce can do the remix to "Jam".

Kim Kardashian is known most infamously for a sex tape with R&B journeyman and reality star vet Ray J. Her family's reality show *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* is one of cable network E!'s most popular shows.



I'm human, I've never sang before! This is definitely something I don't do, so for me to step outside of my comfort zone and do this—world premiere it on KIIS FM with Ellen and Ryan Seacrest, this is a really big deal.



Idol CHIT CHAT

By LESH

In Ya Ear Idol Recap

BASED on the viewers votes, the top 10 were revealed to America last week. The two long hours consisted of 14 contestants being cut from the show, but three were saved as they competed for the judges wild card spots. Ashton, Stefano and Naima sang their hearts out as they competed for the wild card picks.

Although nervous, Ashton came out with all her confidence and sang the famous Dream Girls song, "And I Am Telling You." She really wanted to convince the judges that she was not leaving that stage without a yes. Ashton is a favourite of mine, I was very shocked when she was not picked for the top 10 from the start, I am sure others were just as surprised also. Ashton fought herself into the top 13 with the song she had chosen, go Ashton!

Stefano also had a point to prove when he was not initially chosen for one of the top 10 spots, he came out in the wild card picks and sang "I Need You Now," for the judges, a very inspiring song. I am happy that he got his second chance to be in the top.

A fan favorite, Naima sang "For all we know," for the wild card judges, and you can tell she wanted to be there by the tears that rolled from her eyes as she sang her heart out performing that song, she really wanted it and she got her second chance.

In the midst of it all, Jennifer Lopez premiered her new video for her single "On The Floor," which was very entertaining. J lo "still got it," at her age. This week, AI fans can be on the look out for a few celebrities to make appearances on the results show after the top 13 take to the stage. Rumor has it that former idol, Adam Lambert will be performing on the show this week. Also, performances by Diddy Dirty Money and David Cook.

The Elimination RESULTS

- AI 2011 TOP 10
- SCOTTY MCCREERY
 - JACOB LUSK
 - CASEY ABRAMS
 - PAUL MCDONALD
 - JAMES DURBIN
 - PIA TOSCANO
 - LAUREN ALAINA
 - KAREN RODRIGUEZ
 - THIA MEGIA
 - HALEY REINHART

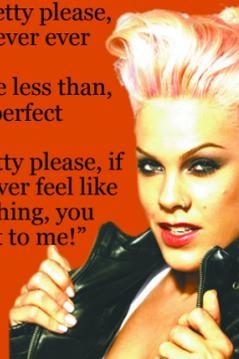
- AI WILD CARD JUDGES PICKS
- ASHTON JONES
 - STEFANO LANGONE
 - NAIMA ADEDAPO

LINE OF THE DAY

From Pink's Perfect

"Pretty pretty please, don't you ever ever feel like you're less than, less than perfect"

Pretty pretty please, if you ever ever feel like you're nothing, you are perfect to me!"



THE TRIBUNE • SECTION C

arts

& ENTERTAINMENT

COMING SOON...

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEW EXCITING SECTION CALL 502-2394.



NCO launches Porgy and Bess
See page 10

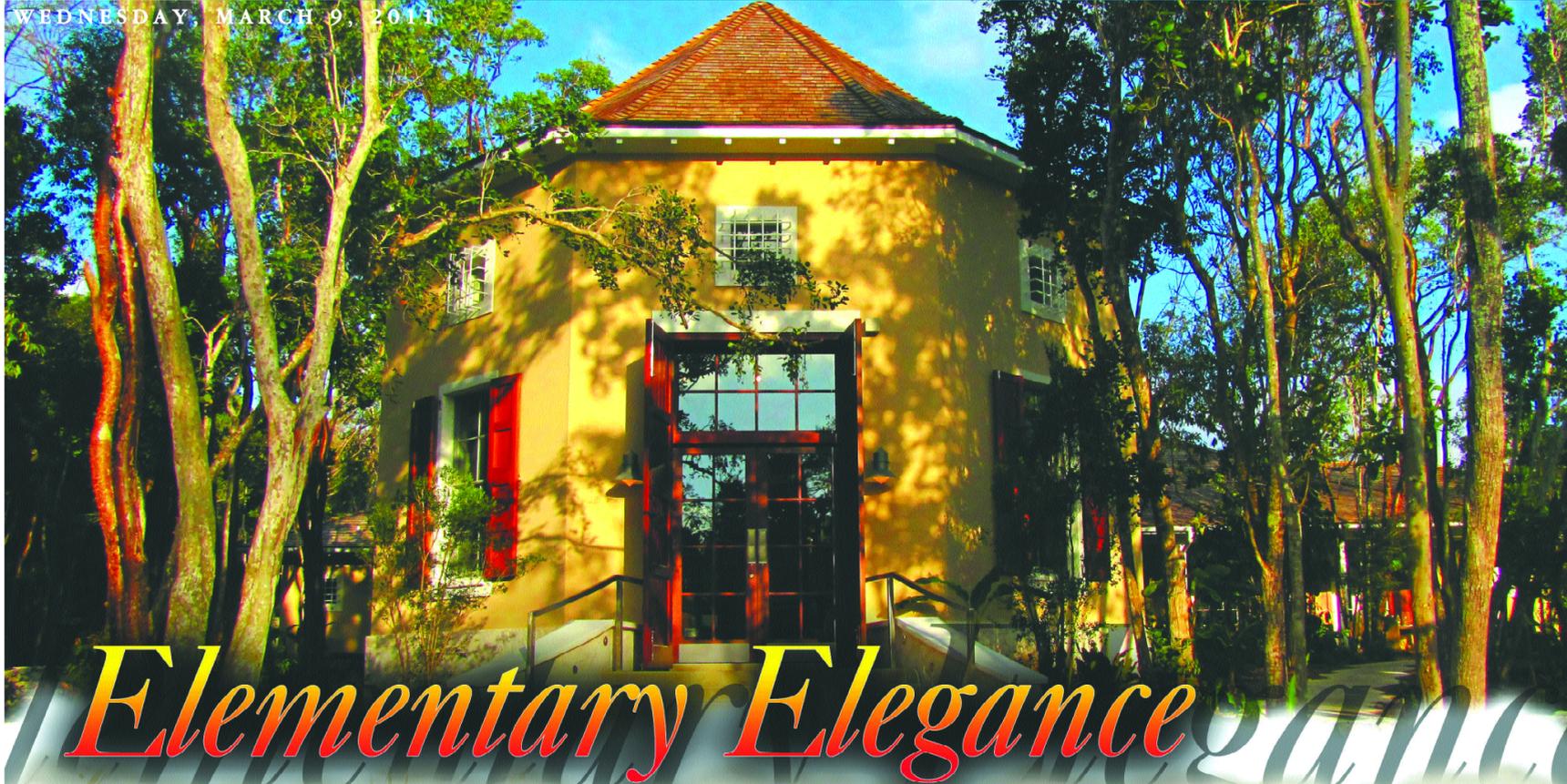
In Ya Ear: Kim Kardashian premieres Jam
See page 11



The Arts

The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011



Elementary Elegance

Mahogany House's philosophy of keeping it simple and staying close to the earth is delivering a unique dining experience.

AT MAHOGANY House, simplicity is something they take very seriously.

Spurning the customary ocean view and elaborate décor for a rustic setting among native trees, this new restaurant has gone back to basics to redefine what it means to eat well in Nassau.

Everything from the food, to the wine, to the property itself, is true to the ideal that an authentic fine dining experience doesn't need to be adorned with pretentious bells and whistles – or obscene prices for that matter.

Nor must a great restaurant exude an air of inaccessibility.

"I've been in restaurants where I feel uncomfortable," said manager Chris Farnum. "I don't like to feel that."

"The idea here was to create something simple: good food for good value, a place where you'd be able to get a cocktail, to get a glass of wine, a place anyone could come to, a second home for people."

But simplicity isn't easy.

"When you strip everything down

to the basics, they better be great. Taking food and making it simple and great is harder," Chris said.

It's even more difficult when you are aiming to keep all entrees under \$45 – most of them well under – and a stock of 400 excellent wines at very reasonable prices.

Yet in just three months, Chris and his team have more than fulfilled their ambitions – a fact which the perpetually packed dining room bears witness to.

The key to pulling it off is staying close to the earth.

Self Sustaining

Mahogany House grows as many of its own ingredients as possible. Working in conjunction with local produce company Lucayan Tropical, they have established 2,000 square feet of raised vegetable beds, as well as a picturesque terraced herb garden where basil, coriander and tomatillos grow. Chris plans to make this the setting of wine tastings and pig roasts in the future.

The vast majority of the meat and fish served at Mahogany House are sustainable; sourced from farms that

use ecologically sound methods in an effort to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

This concern with leaving a light footprint is also evident in the design of the building in its 1.5 acre setting.

Architect Thomas Schlessler of Design Bureaux in Manhattan, New York worked with a local architect on the plans, which were more than a year and a half in the making.

"The land was special, so the idea was to make something that gave people a sense of place," Chris said.

"What usually happens is a bulldozer comes along and pushes everything down before you start building. But here, we only took the trees down where the building sits."

"It's really easy to impose yourself on a space, and it can work, but the idea here was to do something that fits, something that belongs."

"I want people to come in and feel that they have discovered something. We wanted that historical tie."

Much of the detailing is wrought in the lustrous red wood for which the restaurant is named, and which itself has a deep historical resonance in the Bahamas.

Though the effect is simple, every detail was carefully considered – right down to the seemingly casual distribution of small herb bushes, which were actually positioned strategically to release bursts of fragrance when brushed by passers-by.

The first thing the customers see when they approach the property is its octagonal shop which sells many of the ingredients used in creating the menu.

It stocks a wide selection of gourmet coffees, aged artisan cheeses, olive oils, and many of the wines served in the dining room.

The shop sits above the European-style, gravel-floored wine cellar, which doubles as a private dining room seating 14 for an eight-course meal paired with wines.

Chris has imported his selection of choice wines from Italy, Spain and France.

"The best wine is made in the best environment. Like great food, it's the ingredients that make the dish," he said. "The best wine is organic, unfiltered, and produced by little growers who put their heart and soul into making the best wine they can."

Passion

Chris has a passion for educating people about food and wine –

especially his staff of 40, who are all 30 years old or younger.

"A restaurant has to be a complete learning environment," he said, explaining that at Mahogany House, even the waiters get a chance to learn their way around the kitchen, so long as they display the proper level of enthusiasm and care.

"I tell them they've got to make sure they are proud of every single dish they put out," Chris said.

He learned this approach to food through experience. Born in a tiny Iowa town of just 3,000, he started working in restaurants when he was 18 to pay his way through college.

"I was a bus boy, became a waiter, then moved to Chicago and worked for big restaurant company," he explained.

Chris opened the very successful Jane's restaurant in the trendy neighborhood of Bucktown, Chicago in 1994. It became known as one of the best restaurants in the city.

Chris was working in the industry when he met Mahogany House owner, local hedge fund manager Mark Holowesko.

He emphasised that the restaurant is Mark's brain child and that he played a vital role in the design and development of the project.

"He deserves all the credit for bringing it to life," Chris said.



GRAND TOUR: Mahogany House manager Chris Farnum gives Tribune reporter Megan Reynolds a tour of the shop.

DELICIOUS: Chefs Dan Quirk (above left), 24 and Kevin Getzwich (above right), 25 display their wares.