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BAHAMAS BIGGEST

SPORTS

Debbie and Chris finish second

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SPECIAL REPORT

FORMER MP, PETER NYGARD TEAM UP TO SPONSOR REGATTA

Officials in theft probe 'reinstated'

FORMER MP for Mount Moriah and a current candidate for the South Andros constituency Keod Smith has announced that he and fashion mogul Peter Nygard have joined forces to sponsor the upcoming South Andros Regatta.

During a press conference at the Androsia Restaurant, Mr Smith said he and Mr Nygard are "committed" to doing their part to ensure the success of the annual event and has pledged to defray the expenses in putting it on.

The pair have also pledged to provide the prize-money, and are responsible for the production of all of the paraphernalia for sale during the regatta. The proceeds of these items, Mr Smith said, will go toward the establishment and

SEE page nine

New posts for some transferred employees

By **PACO NUNEZ**
Tribune News Editor

bune investigation into the management of the public school system.

Several officials claim that although the Ministry of Education has been given a mandate to overhaul the system and make it more transparent, there is a camp within the ministry resisting this move.

According to a source, the promotions are part of an effort to "cover up" claims of wrongdoing in an attempt to protect the image and reputation of the ministry.

Ministry bosses are said to be upset about the development, but their hands are tied because once an employee receives an official recommendation from a management level officer, union rules apply - meaning their appointment cannot be blocked without conclusive proof of wrongdoing.

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FIREFIIGHTERS CALLED TO GAMING BOARD

FELIPE MAJOR/TRIBUNE STAFF



BUILDING CLEARED: Firefighters were called to the Gaming Board offices yesterday after staff could smell burning. Employees waited outside as the building was checked. A faulty air conditioning unit was reportedly behind the burning and staff were allowed to return.

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UNION MEMBERS HAVE 'MIXED REACTIONS' TO BTC VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE PACKAGES

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

MEMBERS of the Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union "have mixed reactions" to the voluntary severance packages offered by BTC officials, said President William Carroll.

"I've been meeting with my members all along. They have mixed reactions that's the best I can say," said Mr Carroll, who represents managers employed at BTC.

Mr Carroll said if all goes according to plan, BTC employees will be briefed by company officials on the severance packages next Monday.

He added that he did not know how many of his members will accept the offers.

"It depends on each one's situation, it wouldn't suit

SEE page nine

MP QUESTIONS 'ETHICAL STANDARDS' OF NEWSPAPER OVER WIKILEAKS REPORTS

FRED Mitchell, opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, questioned the "ethical standards" of The Nassau Guardian in its reporting of confidential US embassy cables on Bahamian political affairs.

During his presentation in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr Mitchell said a Guardian reporter failed to declare her personal interests with respect to one

of the subjects of the Wikileaks investigation. Mr Mitchell featured prominently this week in a Wikileaks disclosure.

"I always envied my colleague the Member for North Andros that former lady friend of his who shall remain nameless who works at the Guardian and wrote that whole section about me

SEE page nine

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LOCAL NEWS

Tribune story prompts clean-up of court bathrooms

OFFICIALS have launched a court bathroom renovation project after *The Tribune* exposed the deplorable conditions of facilities at the Nassau Street Court complex.

The job is expected to be finished by the end of the week, according to Leroy Sumner, an undersecretary in the Office of the Judiciary.

Contracted workers were brought in to remove the trash and human waste that littered the bathrooms on Monday.

Public Works employees painted and began restoration work yesterday.

"We had a cleaning company go in and clean it up," Mr Sumner said, "we had the Ministry of Works in today, taking care of the graffiti and starting to do the restoration work of the interior.

"It should be complete by Thursday – we are just waiting for the replacement of urinals, toilets, and

faucets." The exterior door of the facility also will be replaced as it is badly damaged.

Photographs, believed to have been taken on Friday, raised questions about the performance of the maintenance crew assigned to the court complex.

However, according to Mr Sumner, the condition of the bathrooms degenerated due to improper use, eventually overwhelming the one worker assigned to clean them.

Upkeep of the facility is the sole responsibility of the Office of the Judiciary.

CLEAN-UP: Work takes place yesterday. **Felipe Major/Tribune staff**



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\$37 million PMH unit will be 'largest public health investment in 60 years'

BUDGET ALLOWS FOR 400 NEW PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

THE new budget makes provision for the hire of more than 400 new employees to the public service, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said.

The new employees will be engaged for key appointments in the Department of Public Works, Department of Education, Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, the Public Hospitals Authority, the Prison Department and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

Some 40 new teachers, 83 security assistants, 25 security officers, 50 janitors, 10 case aid workers, 10 social workers, seven medical officers, 35 nurses and 20 doctors will be brought into the public service in the upcoming fiscal year.

Fifty officers will be hired for the Prison Department – at a cost of \$900,000 – while 62 officers presently in training will join the RBDF.

The budget also allows for the hiring of high school graduates with the requisite BJC or BGCSE certificates – 50 at each level – and 100 college and university graduates. These will be hired as apprentices, to gain work experience.

BUDGET DEBATE

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE \$37 million construction of a critical care unit at Princess Margaret Hospital is the largest single investment in public health care since the national hospital was built 60 years ago, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said.

The new unit – which will have six new operating theatres and a new laboratory – is part of an estimated \$60 million capital works project within the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA).

The improved infrastructure is a signal of the government's commitment to providing better national health care, said Mr Ingraham.

"The largest of these projects is the planning and construction of a world-class Critical Care Block at the Princess Margaret Hospital. The construction of this new facility will represent the single largest investment in health care in this country since PMH was built nearly six decades ago," said Mr Ingraham, as he led the contribution to the 2011/2012 budget debate.



ABOVE: Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham speaks in the House of Assembly last week.

"It is anticipated that the relocation of the General Practice Clinic will reduce the number of patients seeking care at the hospital as non-urgent cases, thereby reducing the waiting time in the A&E for urgent care," said Mr Ingraham.

When the General Practice Clinic is relocated, it will make available another 3,800 square feet of space allowing for the final upgrading and expansion of A&E.

Mr Ingraham said the first phase of the \$320,000 A&E expansion, completed in December 2010, was designed to re-organise and renovate 2,500 square feet of existing public areas.

The prime minister also updated the nation on the ongoing operating theatre renovation and expansion project at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama, which he said "is advancing well."

The project includes the construction of two operating theatres, one endoscopy procedure room, one induction room, day surgery facilities and staff lounge areas.

The work is set for a September, 2011 completion date at a cost of \$3.5 million.

In the 2010/2011 fiscal period, plans for the relocation of the Rand's Specialty Clinics to the leased facility on Coral Road and for the subsequent temporary relo-



LEFT: Princess Margaret Hospital which is set for a new critical care unit.

cation of the A&E department were both completed.

"This paved the way for the commencement of the renovation and expansion of the main Accident & Emergency Department at that hospital," said Mr Ingraham.

This construction, with a cost of \$2.1 million, has a target date of August.

"Additionally, the residents of Freeport, for the first time, will be provided with a state of the art community health centre, offering the full range of primary health care services including those for mothers and children and for the prevention and control of chronic non-communicable diseases.

"The project leading to the construction of this new

facility is presently underway with the development and fine-tuning of functional programming and master space plans," said Mr Ingraham.

Back in the capital, two major projects are underway at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre: the renovation and expansion of the Geriatrics Hospital, and the construction of a new building to accommodate the Child and Adolescent Unit, and the new Robert Smith Ward.

Mr Ingraham said several phases of this project are already complete with final works scheduled for completion by the first week of June, at a cost of \$1.5 million.

Services

"This new wing of the hospital will entail a three-storey building consisting of approximately 70,000 square feet. It will house new suites of Intensive Care Units for both adults and children; six new operating theatres; new clinical laboratory facilities; a modern sterile supplies division and other support services."

The project will go out to tender this month with construction scheduled for September 2011. The target completion date is March 2013.

Government has also completed the first phase of the expansion and renovation of the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) at PMH with the second phase set to begin later this year. This will include the relocation of the General Practice Clinic to a new facility on 4th Terrace, Centreville.

\$549,000 towards more staff at the AG's Office

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

Government will also seek amendments to Bail Act

THE government has committed half a million dollars of budget funding to bolster staff numbers in the Office of the Attorney General and the Judiciary.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced that the government also would be seeking amendments to the Bail Act in its bid to "reduce the number of violent offenders and accused persons out on bail who seek to do harm to others."

Coupled with ongoing reform efforts, Mr Ingraham said that the financial provision would "deliver a better functioning criminal justice system."

Mr Ingraham announced that the Office of the Attorney would receive \$549,000 "to engage nine assistant counsel, three chief counsel and one senior counsel" during his budget contribution on Monday.

Provisions for the promotion for legal officers also will be provided.

There also will be funds set aside for three new magistrates, one each to be sent to Eleuthera, Exuma and New Providence.

Presently, resident magistrates are confined to Nassau, Freeport, Eight Mile Rock, and in Abaco.

"Far too often the residents of Family Islands are short changed in their right to a fair trial within a reasonable time because of the absence of regular

and consistent services of a magistrate," Mr Ingraham said.

"We have provided additional funding in this budget to appoint two new magistrates to reside in Eleuthera and Exuma," he added. "The appointment of these two new additional resident Family Island magistrates will in our view significantly improve the provision of these services to the residents of these islands."

Mr Ingraham also noted the progress of infrastructural improvements to the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, which he said were in "lamentable condition" when his party assumed office in 2007.

"Members and the Bahamian public can see the government's investment in improving infrastructure around the country and very dramatically in New Providence," Mr Ingraham said.

As the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), responsible for public prosecution, works to reduce the backlog of criminal cases in the courts, Mr Ingraham outlined several initiatives yielding significant progress.

"Even though," he added, "reasonably, time is required for the outcomes to be plainly manifested, there has been substantial progress in the jus-

tice system over the past several months."

The OAG launched a witness care unit to provide support service to victims and witnesses in February 2011, and is now working to establish a prosecutor's case management unit, which would ensure cases are adequately prepared to meet trial dates.

Mr Ingraham noted that the increase in criminal trial courts, and the designation of one such court to hear current matters – committed in the past year – have "made it possible to meaningfully attack the long existing backlog of cases in the Supreme Court and to prevent the accrual of a new backlog."

There are four criminal trial courts in New Providence and one in Grand Bahama.

He said: "Upon arraignment of a new case in the Supreme Court, it is now fixed for trial for a specific date and those trial dates have been less than eighteen months. Another of the four courts is assigned to hear retrials ordered by the Court of Appeal or due to a hung jury."

Mr Ingraham said the progress made in reducing and preventing backlog was a "break-through of success compared with recent decades."

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PM Hubert Ingraham is not a dictator

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Sir Lynden Pindling and his PLP government ruled The Bahamas for 25 consecutive years, from 1967 to 1992. While I am not a huge fan of the late Sir Lynden Pindling, I do, however, admit that he had accomplished much for this country.

Sir Lynden and his administration led The Bahamas to independence in 1973. He gave to this country National Insurance, the College of The Bahamas, ZNS TV 13 and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force. In addition, Sir Lynden created the black Bahamian middle-class and he was responsible for providing high school education for thousands of poor black Bahamians.

However, the former prime minister and his PLP government were not perfect. They had their flaws. Sir Lynden's government was plagued with corruption, particularly during the latter 1970s and well into the decade of the 1980s.

During the 1980s, The Bahamas saw a rise in the illicit drug trade. There are those who are adamant that the then PLP government was well aware of what was going on in this country, yet did very little to put an end to it. I lived in North Andros during the 1980s. We had no prosperous industry, yet many North Androsians lived in fancy homes and drove expensive cars. Many of these persons had never worked a day in their life, yet they were multi-millionaires.

The 1984 Commission of Inquiry revealed how steeped the corruption had seeped into the Bahamian government. Sir Lynden, to the best of my knowledge, never admitted to any wrongdoing. Throughout those hearings, Sir Lynden contended that he was squeaky clean. Sir Lynden maintained his innocence right to the very end. To his many loyal supporters though, the first Bahamian Prime Minister could do no wrong. To a certain extent, he was treated like a demigod. But he was only a man.

I will not judge Sir Lynden. Like the rest of us, he will stand before the Almighty at the Great White Throne of Judgment. Nevertheless, I have given the father of the modern Bahamas the benefit of the doubt. However, there are still persons who are convinced that the then government of The Bahamas turned a blind eye to what was happening in this country during the 1980s.

Yet, despite his alleged indiscretions, Sir Lynden is still the father of this nation. He is a

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

true national hero. He was a nation builder. Sir Lynden might have made some errors during his lengthy tenure as the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, but I still believe that all Bahamians should honour and revere the man, whether they are PLP or FNM.

Every Bahamian has benefited from the tremendous contributions of Sir Lynden, whether they are willing to admit this or not. However, this same honour that is given to Sir Lynden is not extended to the present Prime Minister, the Hon Hubert A Ingraham by many of the supporters of the Progressive Liberal Party.

It now appears as if hating PM Ingraham has become the favourite pastime of many of his detractors. There are persons in this country that have an intense dislike for the Leader of this country.

Few Bahamians, however, would deny that PM Ingraham is very much responsible for the deepening of democracy in this country. Prime Minister Ingraham opened up the airwaves in this country.

During the 25 years of Sir Lynden's government, The Bahamas only had ZNS Radio and Television. The National Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas was the unofficial organ of the PLP government. Many of the media personalities who worked at ZNS were rabid supporters of the PLP government. Voicing one's disagreement with Sir Lynden and his government via ZNS Radio and Television was virtually unheard of. Very few of the employees at ZNS dared to openly oppose any of the decisions or policies of the PLP. No one can honestly deny that the PLP controlled ZNS with an iron-fist.

Certain persons who worked at ZNS were really only there for one reason, to promote the message of the PLP. In fact, a few of these former ZNS employees had entered the field of politics after leaving the corporation. Most of them are now affiliated with the Opposition party. In fact, one of them now serves as a PLP MP. I remember one of these die-hard PLP supporters who worked at ZNS. He had accused Mr Ingraham and his government of victimisation. This particular person used to promote the PLP's message on his radio programme on ZNS. This was especially evident during the period leading up to the 2007 general election.

Needless to say, when the PLP were booted out of office that year, this person was promptly removed from his post. This action by the FNM caused quite a stir among the rank and file members of the PLP. They alleged that Mr Ingraham had victimised an innocent Bahamian citizen. However, I agreed with Mr Ingraham's position on this matter. The person in question had no right to be promoting any political party on a radio station that is funded by the taxpayers of The Bahamas. But this journalist refused to see it that way. He was totally convinced that he was wronged by the FNM.

These journalists weren't really there at ZNS to give out information in an objective, unbiased fashion. Hardly anything negative about the PLP government was ever reported. But if ZNS had to report anything negative about the PLP, it was either downplayed or dismissed as yet another trivial matter. Under Sir Lynden's watch, there were no radio talk-shows, where persons could call in and express their disagreement with the government without the fear of losing the job. Very few PLPs had a problem with Sir Lynden's dictatorial style of leadership. In fact, hardly anyone from the PLP had ever complained about the blatant media censorship in this country, while Sir Lynden was at the helm. Perhaps many Bahamians back then never really understood what true democracy was. Maybe this is why they tolerated the PLP's behaviour in government. The Bahamian citizenry were never really exposed to true democ-

racy; where persons could openly criticise the government and know that they still had a job to go to the next morning.

Sir Lynden knew that had he opened up the airwaves in The Bahamas, his days as Prime Minister would have been numbered. This is one reason why he kept this country in the Dark Ages. Yet few PLP supporters were willing to label the father of the nation a dictator, even though he was known to victimise anyone who dared to challenge him.

Granted, freedom of the press was in The Bahamas while Sir Lynden ruled, but it came with a very heavy price. The owners of The Tribune newspaper can attest to this. The present PLP knows all of this, yet they would never admit that Sir Lynden ruled this country with an iron-fist. Sir Lynden never tolerated political dissent in his party. Those who dared to challenge his leadership were promptly dismissed from the PLP.

Now, some of these same persons who had no problem with Sir Lynden's leadership style have the gumption to call PM Ingraham "The Dictator". I am not saying that PM Ingraham has never made any questionable decisions. He has. I have voiced my opposition to several of his decisions on numerous occasions. I have also openly criticized this FNM government over its lackluster performance in Grand Bahama over the past four years. There are times that the Prime Minister deserves to be criticised. But we must also remember to be respectful when we criticise our Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Ingraham is not a perfect man. No one is. I believe that it was the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, who said that a man and an institution must be judged at their best and not at their worst. Granted, PM Ingraham does appear to have a domineering personality. He had fired several of his Ministers in the past for not toeing the party line. While I am not condoning PM Ingraham for doing what he did, I do, however, recognise that he, like Sir Lynden, has made significant contributions to The Bahamas.

Nevertheless, there are persons within the PLP who are unwilling to admit that PM Ingraham has even done one good thing for The Bahamas. They are only interested in highlighting his errors. That is all they are interested in seeing.

Every other day I hear these persons calling in to the radio talk-shows to complain about the Prime Minister's dictatorial style of leadership. Yet, had it not been for the Hon. Hubert Ingraham, those same radio talk-shows, which have now become the unofficial organ of the PLP, would not even be on the air in this country.

Under Sir Lynden's watch, those radio talk-shows would have never seen the light of day. Those same critics of PM Ingraham would have never openly criticize Sir Lynden. Never. Prime Minister Ingraham has brought a culture of true democracy to this country. That is why these PLP supporters can now call in to the radio talk-shows and openly lambaste Mr Ingraham without fear of reprisal from the FNM government. Yet his critics will never give him credit for this.

If Prime Minister Ingraham is a dictator, why did he open up the airwaves? If he is a dictator, why would he issue out so many broadcast licenses to Bahamians to own and operate their own radio and television stations?

The persons who are spreading this political propaganda are so full of dislike for the Prime Minister, that they are not thinking rationally.

When Sir Lynden was in power, there was no 100 Jamz, Love 97.5 FM, MORE 94.9, Cable News 12, BCN Channel 55 or JCN Channel 14. We only had ZNS under Sir Lynden's government. Mr Ingraham saw the importance of having privately owned radio and television stations in The Bahamas. This is what true democracy is all about. A dictator would never do what Mr Ingraham did. Never!

KEVIN EVANS
Nassau,
May 24, 2011.

Sir Jack Hayward hails BFA as 'whistleblower'

AT LEAST one long time resident of the Bahamas is bursting with pride today at the principled stand taken by the Bahamas Football Association (BFA), whose president blew the whistle on the bribery scandal now threatening the reputation of the International Football Federation — FIFA.

Yesterday Sir Jack Hayward telephoned from Fort Lauderdale, where he is undergoing medical treatment, to say how proud he is of BFA President Anton Sealey, and vice president Fred Lunn, who refused to accept bribes for their Association's vote in today's election of a president for FIFA.

The Bahamas Association came out of the scandal with "their heads held high and a job well done," said Sir Jack.

"Sealey and Lunn deserve a great deal of credit for their honesty and integrity," said Sir Jack. "Their stand reflects very well on the Bahamas Football Association as it does on the Bahamas in general."

The attempted bribe was an insult to the whole Caribbean. Those seeking the Caribbean Football Federation's vote obviously saw its members as coming from poor island nations who would never have seen so much money as fell from the brown envelope that was offered them. Many proved to their tempters that poor they might be, but they had pride, they had integrity and although they might never see so much money again, under such tainted conditions they would never stoop so low as to pick it up. As was pointed out, \$40,000 for the Caribbean's smaller islands would be the equivalent of several years' salary.

As for the Bahamas, having been once written off as an "island for sale", Sealey, Lunn and the BFA redeemed the country's reputation. They showed the world that not all Bahamians are for sale.

The attempted bribe took place at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Trinidad on May 10 where members of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) had been invited to a special meeting to listen to FIFA presidential candidate Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar present his manifesto to head FIFA. Hammam is president of the Asian Football Association.

After the presentation 25 associations — including the Bahamas — was invited to a conference room to pick up a "gift," according to an affidavit sent to FIFA's ethics com-

mittee. Fred Lunn was one of the first to go to the room. When he opened his envelope he was shocked when US\$40,000 in crisp, new \$100 bills — four packs each of \$10,000 — fell out. Although urged to accept the gift by a Caribbean Football Union (CFU) official, he decided to text his president, Anton Sealey, who was in Zurich, where FIFA is headquartered. Sealey called Lunn and told him "under no circumstances would the Bahamas FA accept such a cash gift." He instructed him to return the \$40,000.

The scam was out and the investigation was on. Suspended from FIFA, pending an investigation, were Mr Bin Hammam, Jack Warner of Trinidad, FIFA's vice president and head of the Caribbean Federation, and two CFU officials.

Sir Jack Hayward, OBE, co-chairman of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, and the Grand Bahamas Development Company, who made Grand Bahama his home in 1956, is a great football fan. Not only is he the life president of the Wolverhampton Wanderers, but he is a member of the club's Hall of Fame. He would, therefore, be watching the FIFA scandal closely and feeling particular pride in his "Bahamian boys."

Sir Jack, born in Wolverhampton, is recognised as one of a select group of football benefactors who has spent huge fortunes of time and money on rescuing their hometown boyhood club from obscurity.

Having bought the club in 1990 for £2.1 million and spent another estimated £70 million in redeveloping its derelict stadium and grounds, and writing off its debts, he sold the club in 2007 to businessman Steve Morgan, OBE, for a nominal £10 fee on condition he invested £30 million in the club.

Sir Jack is very proud that the Wolverhampton Wanderers club is recognised as the best run club in the League.

Unlike such winners as Manchester United and Arsenal it has no debts and no bank commitments.

So far, however, it cannot match Manchester or Arsenal on the field. Both teams walk away with the cups and win the leagues.

"We have managed to scrape into the Third League for the third season," said Sir Jack. "We hope next season to see us establishing ourselves more securely."

Today, however, he is very proud of the Bahamas and the BFA.

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Nassau, Bahamas



RENOVATIONS: Work at the Thompson Boulevard office of the Ministry of Education is almost complete.

Tim Clarke/
Tribune staff



DAUGHTER OF FORMER PRISON GUARD TESTIFIES

THE murder trial of a former prison guard continued in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Jerome Bethel is accused of killing Gary Gardiner, who was stabbed in a fight on February 11, 2009.

Bethel, who is on bail, was a prison officer from 1995 to 2001.

His 13-year-old daughter took the witness stand yesterday, telling the court Gardiner had been her mother's boyfriend.

She recalled that on the night of February 11, 2009, she, her mother and Gardiner were at their Cowpen Road home when her father called to ask about the whereabouts of her brother, JJ.

The young girl testified that her father then showed up at the house and he and Gardiner got into an argument.

The witness told the court that her mother called out to two boys, asking them to intervene in the fight between Gardiner and her father.

She said she recalled seeing Gardiner bleeding, and that he died that night.

During cross-examination by Bethel's attorney Murrio Ducille, the girl said she did not see how Gardiner died because it was dark.

She recalled hearing her father tell Gardiner that he would be going back to Andros in a body bag.

Under cross-examination, the girl also recalled that when her father called and asked after her brother, Gardiner said that if Bethel was so concerned about the children he should come and get them.

The trial continues before Supreme Court Justice Vera Watkins.

Jilian Williams is prosecuting the case.

Finishing touches made to ministry office renovation

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

RENOVATIONS are almost complete at the Thompson Boulevard office of the Ministry of Education, and staff members have started to return.

Health fears sparked by the physical condition of the building caused two entire ministries to be relocated in February of last year.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has since returned to the building, as have some Ministry of Education (MOE) staff.

The new building has several upgrade features that government officials are pleased about.

"What I am most pleased about is that they have redirected the air conditioning system. Instead of the entire building being placed on one system, they have (separated it) into various quadrants, and it is all computerised. If staff would wish to change the temperature, whether to increase or decrease it, they can only do it by two degree points above or below. There are greater controls in place. We are also very pleased with the ambiance. The building looks new and we are delighted," said Elma Garraway, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education.

"It is the outside with which we are most concerned. I am aware that the outside will be painted and we will find a way to prevent the pigeons from making a home on all of the ledges. The place looks like it is new again," she said.

By mid-June, education officials are hoping to have completed the move from the Teachers and Salaried Workers Co-operative Credit Union on East Street, where the ministry was temporarily housed.

The government is expecting a report from the project manager this week on the final plans for the transition.

The movement started last month with some of the largest departments in the ministry, including the curriculum division, the human resources department and a portion of the accounting division.

Workers are still installing



carpets and cleaning furniture in several areas, but the major work has been completed. Once the full transition takes place, Ms Garraway said, there will be "swift protocols to ensure the standard is maintained."

Last year, employees raised the alarm over the long-standing mould prob-

lem in the National Insurance Board-owned building. They feared the problem was causing them to be sick.

Medical professionals said at the time that the mould was not a threat to the health of workers unless they had existing conditions that make them "more susceptible," according to former minister Carl Bethel.

In explaining the decision to relocate the staff he said: "This is really more to do with comfort of the staff and their self-perceptions in terms of how they feel coming into a building that deals with challenges that the building on Thompson Boulevard has."



MAN IN COURT ON MURDER CHARGE

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday on a murder charge.

Police have charged Mario Rolle of Teach Avenue with the May 23 murder of Cyril Strachan Jr.

Strachan, 26, was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head outside an apartment building on Coral Road in Sunshine Park off Carmichael Road.

Rolle, who is represented by attorney Ian Cargill, was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court

One, Bank Lane.

He was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to her Majesty's Prison.

The case was adjourned to July 20, when a Voluntary Bill of Indictment will be presented.

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LOCAL NEWS

MP: Govt failed to put forth solutions for the economy

OPPOSITION MP for Elizabeth Ryan Pinder accused the government of failing to put forward any solutions to improve the struggling Bahamian economy.

Giving his contribution on the 2011/2012 national budget debate, Mr Pinder said he was surprised that after years of expressing his opinion on financial affairs and scope of the economy, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has finally agreed with his position with respect to tax policy government revenue.

"I have been saying for years that the tax base is too narrow and as the population grows, the government will be unable to raise the necessary revenues to support the country. Last year this FNM government didn't want to listen and thought increasing taxes across the board, without meaningful policies of economic expansion, would raise necessary government revenues. This policy failed, and now there is recognition that the tax base, in other words the economy, is too narrow.

"Our population is growing faster than our economy, which means that our government's spending is growing faster than its ability to raise revenue from taxes. This government, however, having recognised

Ryan Pinder gives contribution to the national budget debate

a problem, has failed to put forth any solutions.

"In fact, they have put forth policies counter to the need to expand our economy. The FNM government, instead of putting forth solutions to the problem of too narrow an economy, has in fact put forth policies to further shrink our economy, policies as I have described to destroy Bahamian owned agriculture and agri-business," Mr Pinder said.

The Elizabeth MP added that even in good times, there is a problem with tax collection and policy, yet the FNM government only ever wants to focus on "collections."

"This FNM government seems to be creating the IRS of the Bahamas. They are creating a central tax enforcement agency, the Tax Administration Division. What is untold is what powers will this Tax Administrative Division have? Will they operate like the IRS in the United States? Is this a predicate foundation for an income tax in the Bahamas? These are open questions that deserve answers.

"You cannot and should not implement step-by-step

tax policies without discussing with Bahamians the implications, and total picture of tax reform. I say, Bahamians beware, this government has never been transparent in its tax policies. It tables and debates a Business Licence Bill before public consultation; this government has a trend of imposing customs duty changes without consultation of industry," he said.

Mr Pinder highlighted that an example of this is the increase in duties on car imports that was seen in last year's budget.

"There was no consultation with the industry, and I am told that when industry requested consultation, the attitude of this government was that they are the tax collectors; they don't need industry to tell them what to do.

"Shame on you – and I warn again, Bahamians beware of the tax policy changes of this government, they will not consult you before changing the tax policy of the country.

"I call for the government once again to establish a committee representative of the government, the oppo-

sition and the private sector to properly analyse the tax policy of the country, how economic expansion will result in a reduced tax rate to Bahamians, and how, as a country, we should design our economy and tax policy in unison. I call for a committee to develop a National Economic Plan taking into account these policies," he said.



ELIZABETH MP Ryan Pinder

NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE LOGO COMPETITION



SECRETARY TO THE CABINET Anita Bernard is pictured at the Paul Farquharson Building with the finalists for the National Independence Logo Competition, which attracted 47 entries from artists ranging in age from 14 to 40. Pictured from left to right: Kam Cheng, third place winner; Jason Taylor, second place winner; Jeremy Cartwright, first place winner; Ms Bernard, and Ambrose Fernander, competition co-ordinator.

Patrick Hanna/BIS

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION
OF THE BAHAMAS

INSURANCE COMMISSION OF THE BAHAMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 3 of 2011

1st June, 2011

This NOTICE is issued by the Insurance Commission of The Bahamas ("the Commission") pursuant to sections 8 and 128(a) of the Insurance Act, Ch. 347.

The general public is hereby notified that effective immediately, the registration of TRINITY INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS LTD. has been cancelled and that the following persons are not licensed by the Commission to sell insurance products:

Philip Franks
M. Genevieve Miller
Debra Ritchie

Signed

LENNOX McCARTNEY
Superintendent of Insurance

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION
OF THE BAHAMAS

INSURANCE COMMISSION OF THE BAHAMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 2 of 2011

31st May, 2011

This NOTICE is issued by the Insurance Commission of The Bahamas ("the Commission") pursuant to sections 8 of the Insurance Act, Chapter 347, and section 4(1) of the External Insurance Act, Chapter 348.

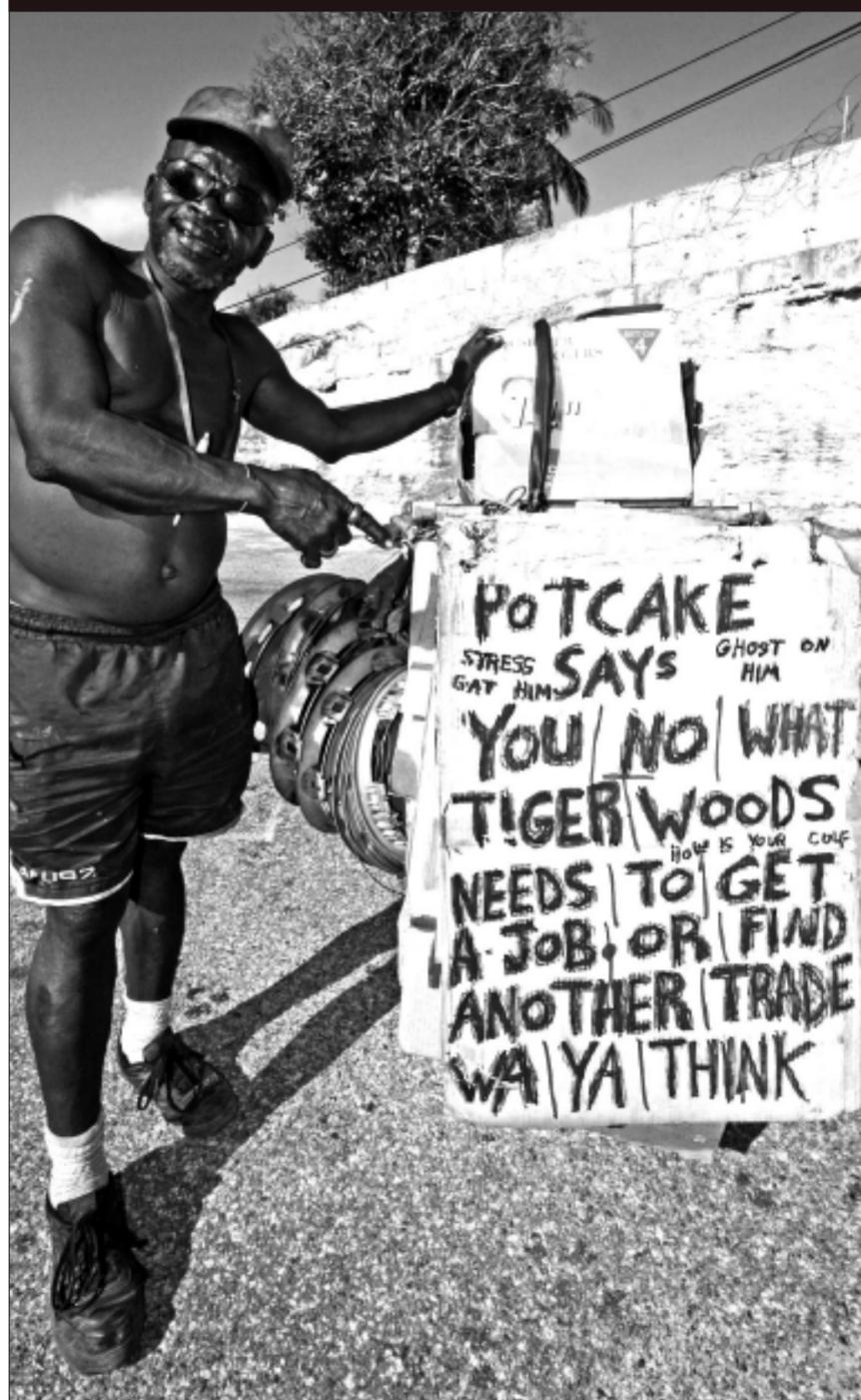
The general public is hereby notified that CONDOR GUARANTY, INC. is not a licensee of the Commission and is therefore not licensed to conduct insurance business in or from The Bahamas.

Signed

LENNOX McCARTNEY
Superintendent of Insurance

POTCAKE SAYS

THE BAHAMAS' VERY OWN STREET PHILOSOPHER



Dr Ian Strachan: Support for DNA on Facebook may not equal votes

By LAMECH JOHNSON

PROFESSOR and political analyst Dr Ian Strachan said the new Democratic National Alliance should not make too much of the strong support it has attracted on social media, as this may not translate into votes.

Dr Strachan, a newspaper columnist and associate professor of English at the College of the Bahamas, pointed out that even though 14 per cent of registered voters are under 24 – “and that is a good thing” – the traditional swing vote will remain the deciding factor come election day.

He said: “I know the youth vote is very important, but the swing vote is more important because it consists of a wide range of persons. The youth vote is more first time voters and my instinct is that at the end of the day, most young people will vote what their parents vote.”

“In the end, when all the campaigning is going on, most young people will feel the pressure of their parents working along with these parties and they will vote based on how their parents vote.”

Since the creation of the DNA's Facebook page in April, the party has already accumulated more than 2,000 “likes” from Bahamian Facebook users – more than the PLP and the FNM combined.

The PLP's page, created in July 2008, had attracted 1,504 “likes” as of yesterday afternoon, while the FNM page, created around the same time had only 475.

But Dr Strachan said the new party should be careful about how it reads these numbers.

He said: “I know Facebook is important. I know it reaches people but I still believe that Bahamians prefer that face to face interaction over the Internet. They

like to argue and debate in person.”

He agreed that DNA is the clear front-runner in the struggle to become the third force in Bahamian politics party, but said the fact that the party is creating excitement among young people could create a misleading picture.

“We know that the youth vote is very important and the support on Facebook speaks to a generational difference that exists. However, it doesn't mean you've won their vote.”

“Major parties in the previous elections had concerts and other events to target young voters and they showed up, but did they vote for them?” he asked.

Dr Strachan added that the weak Facebook showing by the PLP and FNM could simply be the result of a lack of effort.

“I'm quite sure if they had tried they could have more – though it remains to be seen what the PLP and FNM's strategy will be in gaining more supporters on Facebook,” he said.

However, according to DNA leader Branville McCartney, the party's Facebook fame is an indication that attitudes are changing.

He said: “It tells me that people are very hungry for change and they want to see a positive change in this country.”

“Over the past five years, there has been an intellectual revolution that started with social media and with young people.”

“Social media is the way of the future and our way of reaching the people – through our website, through twitter, through Facebook, YouTube. Social media is a form of communication. I used it in Bamboo Town and now we're using it for the DNA and it's working.”



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL ALLIANCE leader Branville McCartney greets members of the public recently.

JUNE IS CO-OPERATIVE MONTH

Cooperative Empowerment for You Today

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Cooperative Societies are business enterprises that are owned and democratically governed by their members and exist solely to serve their members' interests;

AND WHEREAS, the Cooperative Societies in The Bahamas with a membership exceeding 35,000 and assets above \$250 million, generate significant income, employment and function as engines of economic growth for local communities;

AND WHEREAS, Cooperative Societies operate in the various communities in which their member owners live and work;

AND WHEREAS, concern for community is a core guiding Cooperative principle; and Cooperative operate with a set of shared values that include honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for other;

AND WHEREAS, Cooperatives dedicate substantial human and financial resources to serve their communities beyond their core business functions, including charitable giving, investment in community development through innovative projects and support of Quality education;

AND WHEREAS, the community commitment of Cooperatives, enhances economic opportunity and improves the quality of life for its members in The Bahamas;

AND WHEREAS, the government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas commit to using its resources and services as appropriate, to better promote the value of cooperatives and important contributions to our economy and its role in improving opportunity and quality of life in our communities;

AND WHEREAS, in recognition of the 37th Anniversary of the establishment of the Cooperative Movement in The Bahamas, the Department of Cooperative Development in The Bahamas Cooperative League have scheduled a calendar of events for the month of June 2011, under the theme “Cooperative Empowerment for You Today”, to promote and to advance the benefits of Cooperatives and its impact on society and to reaffirm its member-service mission and commitment to community;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Hubert A. Ingraham, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2011 as “Cooperative Month”,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have Hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 27th Day of May, 2011.

Hubert A. Ingraham
Prime Minister

Calendar of Events for Cooperative Month, 2011

April 30-June 11 – Health Fitness Challenge	June 14 - Bahamas Law - Open House	June 21- National Workers - Open House
May 29 - Church Service - Evangelistic Temple 11am	June 15 - Bahama Island - Open House	June 22- Educational Seminar - For members/public - Workers House 6-8pm
June 9 - Educational Seminar—Cooperative Think Tank—Bahamas Cooperative League 10am-2pm	June 16 - Education Seminar—Session for BODs UWI 9-3:30	June 26- Salem Union - Credit Union Focus Day
June 10 - Teachers and Salaried Workers - Open House	June 16 - Public Workers - Open House	June 28- Educational Seminar - Brown Bag Lunch - UWI 9-3:30
June 10 - Public Workers- Annual General Meeting 6pm	June 17 - Mix & Mingle -Bahamas Coop League -7 until	June 29 - Book Launch - TBA
June 11 - Fun Run Walk - To be held Goodman's Bay. 6am	June 18 - Grand Bahama - Open House	June 30 - Bowling Night - Mario's Entertainment Center 7pm
	June 20 - Transportation & Service - Open House	July 1 – Cooperative Book Launch - venue & time TBA

*Please Note that all Open House Events are at 10am-2pm

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NEW PARTY SAYS BUDGET LACKS THE 'IT' FACTOR

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net



People's Deliverance Party leader Paul Moss

A NEWLY formed party claims the budget does not do enough to address the major issues affecting Bahamians.

Expressing the party's “dismay” over the progress of the budget debate in parliament during a press conference yesterday, People's Deliverance Party (PDP) leader Paul Moss said the government's financial plan does not address unemployment or assist small businesses – two necessary ingredients for an economic turnaround.

“The budget lacks what we in the PDP call the ‘it’ factor, which should have jump-started the economy by placing a serious emphasis on small business,” said Mr Moss.

The party is urging the government to bring relief to small businesses my lowering business licence fees and other taxes as an incentive to the sector and a strategy for lowering unemployment.

The PDP added that the government has contributed to the record high unemployment “by letting people go” from government agencies such as Immigration, Customs, the Police Force and – indirectly – BTC.

As Labour Day approaches, the public can expect the government and opposition to “come out and march this Friday with the labourers of the country” said Mr Moss.

“We wish to put them on notice that instead of wearing their red, yellow and green they ought to wear sack cloth and ashes to mourn the death of labour rights in the country and the high employment rate,” said Mr Moss.

He said the PDP is not about making political statements, but rather representing the people and delivering them from the “unemployment that is going on unabated, and the fear of crime which has recently sky-rocketed.”

“We will make the changes necessary, enforce all laws and ensure that the emphasis is put where it ought to be – on the people. This is the difference, the people, and our name reflects what we are about,” said Mr Moss.

Mr Moss said the PDP already has 20 candidates and plans to run a full slate of individuals with the expertise to govern in the next general election.

He said: “Whenever the elections are called and we are elected we will be ready to govern from day one.”

WikiLeaks cables and the Bahamas

"In the race between secrecy and truth, it seems inevitable that truth will always win."

— newspaper publisher Rupert Murdoch

By LARRY SMITH



Times, they contain "candid American appraisals of foreign leaders, narratives of complicated negotiations, allegations of corruption and duplicity, and countless behind-the-scenes insights."

More recently, WikiLeaks has begun partnering with other media groups to publish stories based on the cables that relate to their particular countries. This is what the Nassau Guardian has been doing for the past week or so. The Tribune never pursued the opportunity.

According to the Guardian, "What the US thinks about the Bahamas is as relevant to the direction of this country as what Bahamian politicians think about the Bahamas. The information to be provided to our readers over the next few months...will make public a private world, enabling regular people to see what is being said and done on their behalf."

But so far, the common complaint has been that the information contained in the stories about the Bahamas cables is mostly gossip that conveys little more than the conventional wisdom we are all too familiar with. For example, we have learned that Perry Christie is characteristically late and a pathological ditherer, while Fred Mitchell's view of himself as a master geopolitical strategist has been confirmed.

However, there are other insights we might never have been aware of — such as details of the rivalry between police chiefs Reginald Ferguson and Ellison Greenslade. The WikiLeaks documents provide texture, nuance and drama, deepening and correcting our understanding of how things happen in official circles, as well as our estimation of political and other leaders.

We assume there is more to come — only 12,000 of the quarter million cables have been released by WikiLeaks so far. The big question, of course, is

will there be something related to the Bahamas similar the cables in which American diplomats recounted the corruption of Tunisia's dictatorial rulers? That release helped fuel a popular uprising last December that sparked what is now called the Arab Spring.

Meanwhile, the US has described the unauthorized release of field reports from its diplomatic officers in the Bahamas as "unfortunate" because it can "harm individuals as well as undermine efforts to advance (shared) objectives...By its very nature, field reporting to Washington is candid and often raw information."

But before we get too wound up, we should be aware that the most sensitive communications between Washington and its embassies around the world are classified top secret or higher — and are therefore missing from the Wikileaks documents, which range from unclassified to secret. And as the New York Times says, "it is important to remember that diplomatic cables are versions of events. They can be speculative. They can be ambiguous. They can be wrong."

We should also get another thing straight, right up front. It is not "treason" for Bahamians to discuss local affairs with the Americans. And it is not a "betrayal of trust" for embassy officials to pass on information gained from such conversations to the US government. More to the point, there is absolutely nothing wrong with a responsible media organization publishing redacted versions of these documents — with due regard for the possibility of libel and unjustified harm.

Here's something else to consider. The Pentagon says about half a million people have access to the database from which these secret cables were pilfered. And more than three million US citizens are cleared to see "secret" material. That begs the question



JULIAN ASSANGE is generally described as WikiLeaks' director.

of whether these documents can actually be deemed secret in the first place. As one reporter noted, "the random rubber-stamping of millions of papers and computer files each year does not a security system make."

The suspected source of the war logs and diplomatic cables is an army private named Bradley Manning, who bragged in an online chat room last year about downloading the documents from a military computer system. He has been in detention since May 2010 without trial and there have been dozens of serious calls in the US for Assange to be "taken out" by special forces. Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said he should be "hunted down like Osama bin Laden."

But such threats have not slowed WikiLeaks' expansion. The website says it now has partnerships with more than 73 media organizations in more than 50 countries to disseminate and publish information from the secret government cables — including the Bahamas. According to Assange, the network of cooperative arrangements is expanding by about four per week.

Assange credits WikiLeaks with triggering a "year of miracles for journalism" that has enhanced the transparency of governments and contributed to the democratic revolutions sweeping across the Arab world. "Courage is contagious," he said recently. "We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of sources willing to come forward."

COASTAL POLLUTION AND THE MONTAGU RAMP

"I would not let my children swim at Montagu. And if we can't fix the Montagu ramp, we can't fix anything in this country." — Dr Kathleen Sullivan Sealey.

Works Minister Neko Grant and Montagu MP Loretta Butler-Turner will appear in a town meeting at Queen's College on Village Road next Saturday evening (June 7) to discuss unprecedented improvements to the Montagu foreshore and the Eastern Road.

We say "unprecedented" because no serious effort has been made to remediate the chaos and public safety risks at the Montagu in over 20 years. But this year turning lanes will be added to the junctions at Blair, Johnson Road and Fox Hill Road to alleviate massive traffic congestion, vendors will be moved from the ramp to better accommodation nearby, toilet facilities will be built, and the beach will be restored.

Unfortunately, these long overdue changes will do little to address the health risks from pollution caused by garbage, oil and fuel discharges, fish entrails, sewerage and storm water runoff. And this is despite the fact that the Montagu shoreline is one of the few open spaces left on the island, used regularly by inner city families for swimming, jogging, cookouts and regattas.

At a meeting of the East Nassau Rotary Club recently, a University of Miami marine biologist had this to say about that: "Too

much pollution in coastal waters is a problem and the ocean can be a major disease vector," according to Dr Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, who has been researching marine ecosystems in the Bahamas since the 1980s. "People can get hepatitis, which is chronic throughout the Caribbean. People think the sea sterilises things but pollution will come back and hurt you. Why is it considered acceptable to throw all that stuff in the water? Would you let your children swim there? it's a bacterial time bomb."

Sullivan Sealey said the Bahamas' unique ecosystem needs extra care to remain healthy as development expands. "At the Montagu ramp we throw fish guts and many other things in the water. The malaria outbreak in George Town, Exuma originated at a creek called Ugly Corner that was clogged with garbage. Too many nutrients added to the water causes algae proliferation and degrades the ecosystem. We think this is what has contributed to the rapid spread of lionfish in the Bahamas over the past five years."

Healthy ecosystems are the foundation for a sound economy, she said, and every bit of damage we do to the environment will cost us more in the future in terms of lost services and mitigation efforts. With our present rate of population growth and development we have to realise that we can't do as we please the way we used to do.

"Environmental stewardship is the job of citizens as well as the government. Abuse of the environment should be unacceptable to everyone. And every community should have an environmental management plan to minimise abuse."

"Let's not pass stupid on to our kids."

"We have acted in the right way at the highest levels, so we know what should be done, but we don't apply those principles on the ground."

"And if you can't fix the Montagu ramp you can't fix anything in this country."

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

Tribune Trivia

Yesterday's Question

In what sport did team Bahamas beat the team from Mexico 17-12?

Yesterday's Answer

Rugby

Yesterday's Winners

Cindi Scavella
Donnalee Rolle
Lynette Roker

3pts
2pts
1pt

Click the 'Like' button on the Tribune News Network Facebook page to play Tribune Trivia

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- Feed the Sting Rays
- Tours of Aqua venture
- Fishing lessons

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Spaces are limited to 20 Students
Camp minimum age: 8 years

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Weekly Climbing Camps
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
June 21st - August 20th, 2010

Activities Include:

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- Climbing at Climb's Rush ATLANTIS
- Tours of Dolphin Cay!
- Meet the Sea Lions!
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Cost: \$80
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Camp minimum age: 8 years
(first come first serve basis)

To register call:
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BUTCH KERZNER SUMMIT FOUNDATION

MP questions 'ethical standards' of newspaper over WikiLeaks reports

FROM page one

this morning. As the song writer says: "That Gal look good!" said Mr Mitchell.

"My only point is that journalism, the kind that the Nassau Guardian, The Tribune and the Bahama Journal are to practice carries with it certain ethical standards and it is unethical to write a story about one subject of which you had a close personal relationship as if you are a disinterested party. It can be seen as malicious. But neither she nor her employers seem to get the point," said Mr Mitchell.

He said ethical standards were important because the public relies on the media to "tell the Bahamian story; to tell it accurately, and without fear or favour."

Mr Mitchell said it "may be necessary" for the Embassy to disassociate itself from the attributed statements in the Wikileaks cables, so "they are not taken as an official view of events."

"It strains credibility to me that US professional diplomats, a person so high as a deputy chief of mission who was actually sitting in

the seat of the ambassador, would accept and adopt uncritically propaganda lines from the Free National Movement. That is simply not a professional report," he said.

There is both "fascination and revulsion" at the disclosures, said Mr Mitchell. Revulsion that public officials "would be so open and callous" with information they share with "American diplomats." Mr Mitchell said Bahamians questioning whether Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham would "so loosely and callously spill all his guts to junior US officials."

"I can tell you also in connection with the public service, that the police commissioner was reeling yesterday. Again, that someone who this country trusted for our national security, a former Commissioner of Police could be quoted as spilling his guts out to junior U.S. officials. Again I say allegedly. We have to hope it is allegedly because no self-respecting Commissioner of Police would do any such thing. Perhaps we will see if the former Commissioner Mr. Ferguson will sue because most certainly

he could not have sold his country out like that," said Mr Mitchell.

Putting the disclosures in perspective, Mr Mitchell said the country should understand the role of "public diplomacy and private diplomacy" in international affairs, said Mr Mitchell.

"There are many private ruminations and events which we know about US diplomats and their private activities in this country. But how would that serve the Bahamian interests for me to expose that. And that is what I admire about American diplomacy and about that country as a nation, it always pursues its interests," he said.

Describing his interaction with embassy officials during his tenure in government, Mr Mitchell said of the Wikileaks disclosures, "They are saying that I stood up for my country. I put Bahamians first."

He described a message sent by one of his former colleagues: "When I read the two page story about 'What the Americans Really Thought' of you in the Guardian, my chest swelled



QUESTIONING 'ETHICAL STANDARDS': Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell

with pride, for the intended exposé turned out to be a public testimony to your diplomacy, tact and wisdom and to the fact that (unlike others of your colleagues)

you are not in the least bit intimidated or in awe of any 'superpower'.

"The worst that could be said of you was that you are a Bahamian and a Black

nationalist, whom they often times found to be aloof, close-mouthed and uncommunicative. If only that could have been said of Samson."

Officials in theft probe 'reinstated'

FROM page one

However, because the official investigation has yet to be completed, any such proof that may have been uncovered is still in the hands of the police.

Meanwhile, contacts in the ministry claim the investigation has stalled, because the suspects were "vouched for" by certain ministry officials.

The source could not say how many of the suspected individuals have enjoyed promotions.

When the allegations first came to light in January, Inspector Ricardo Richardson at

the Quakoo Street Police Station described one complaint – in which a ministry employee was allegedly found – as a "laundry list" of items from a storage unit.

Witnessed by two police officers, and an acting supervisor at the ministry, the employee was allegedly found with more than 80 items in his vehicle, Insp Richardson said.

Among them were books, markers, a bar of coral soap, power surges, a Holy Bible, pens, rulers, scissors and other stationary.

When contacted for comment on the allegations, Minister of Education Desmond Bannister declined to respond.

FORMER MP AND PETER NYGARD TEAM UP TO SPONSOR REGATTA

FROM page one

maintenance of an "Andros foundation" to provide academic and vocational scholarships for Andros students up to and including high school.

Mr Smith said he had decided to step in and lend his assistance to this year's event knowing that most regattas and homecoming festivals find themselves year after year struggling to make ends meet.

Therefore, having had the opportunity in recent weeks of learning of the struggles of the South Andros Regatta Committee, Mr Smith said that he determined to lend his assistance in a piloted effort.

"In congratulating the committee for its tireless efforts over the last few months, I, on behalf of Mr Nygard and my wife Monique, wish to express our gratitude to the committee for the opportunity to serve and wish them and the community of South Andros all the best for a competitive, safe, and successful regatta holiday weekend," Mr Smith said.

The current Member of Parliament for South Andros, Picewell Forbes, could not be reached yesterday for his opinion of the upcoming event and the fact that his political rival was financing it.

Mr Forbes, however, has already gone on record to decry Mr Smith's tactics of campaigning in his area as he has made it known that he will be contesting the seat in the 2012 election.

Mr Forbes has faced considerable frustrations in this regard, as he has yet to be formally confirmed as the PLP's candidate.

UNION MEMBERS HAVE 'MIXED REACTIONS' TO BTC VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE PACKAGES

FROM page one

everybody, we'll have some takers."

Although Mr Carroll was "shocked" by the terms of the packages – which were revealed exclusively by *The Tribune* last week – he said most of his members are happy with the union's negotiating tactics.

"My members when I spoke to them, the majority of them who talked to me say they are pleased with what we did and how hard we fought. That's all that matters, what my members think about it," he said.

For those who are confused about the details of the packages, help will be offered to sort out the particulars.

"There will be a forum for them to meet and people who need help will be afforded the help because some will not understand."

Cable and Wireless Communications, which purchased 51 per cent of BTC from the government in April, has concluded its negotiations with BCPMU and the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union, which represents line staff.

All employees at BTC under the age of 45 will be offered the chance to leave

the company with a minimum of five weeks pay for every year on the job up to 104 weeks in total.

Employees 45 and under 50 will be offered the same five weeks per year up to a cap of 110 weeks, and people aged 50 but under 55 will be offered five weeks salary for every year of employment up to a cap of 75 weeks.

Those in the range from 55 years to 58.5 will receive the same offer up to a cap of 68 weeks, with persons ranging from 58.5 and under 60 will be pro-rated from 68 weeks based on the number of months remaining to the age of 60.

These packages, it was said by sources close to the matter, are expected to be offered to all employees with the expectation that BTC's current staff levels could be reduced by at least 400 people.

According to a presentation prepared for the company's executives, the report suggests no person in the age group 45 to 50 will receive less than six months incentive payment. In addition, the company appears to be willing to continue the cost of medical coverage payment for all age groups for one year, with out-placement/training services to be provided.

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- (b) The dissolution of the said Company commenced on the 24th day of May, 2011 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said Company is **Marios Cosma** of 1 Katalanou Street, F1 at 101, 2121 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Dated the 30th day of May, 2011.

HARRY B. SANDS, LOBOSKY MANAGEMENT CO. LTD.
Attorneys for the above-named Company

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SYRIA'S BASHAR ASSAD GRANTS AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL 'CRIMES'

BEIRUT
Associated Press

SYRIAN President Bashar Assad issued a general amnesty Tuesday for prisoners that includes those deemed to have committed political "crimes" as pressure built from a 10-week-old uprising that his regime has failed to quell with overwhelming military force.

The offer was swiftly rejected by the opposition as just another plot by the regime to gain time.

Syrian state television said the amnesty covered "all members of political movements," including the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which led an armed uprising against Assad's father in 1982. Membership in the party is punishable by death.

The amnesty could affect some 10,000 people Syrian activists say have been rounded up since the protests against the Assad regime broke out in mid-March. The release of political prisoners has been a key demand of the opposition.

The offer came as members of the Syrian opposition gathered in Turkey for a conference aimed at overcoming differences and bolstering the protesters who have endured a bloody crackdown that has killed more than 1,000 civilians.

The opposition was quick to reject it.

"This shows weakness on the part of the regime," said Mohammad Abdullah, a Washington-based Syrian dissident who was attending the conference in Antalya, Turkey.

Abdullah, whose father, Ali Abdullah, is a well-

known political prisoner, said the move would have been a good one had it come in the first week of the uprising, not after hundreds of protesters have been killed.

"The opposition now will accept nothing less than regime change," he said.

In Washington, the Obama administration expressed doubts over the amnesty offer and demanded that Assad prove to a sceptical world that he is serious about reform.

"He's said a lot of things in recent weeks and months, but we've seen very little concrete action," State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters. "It just underscores the fact that he needs to take concrete steps, not rhetoric, to address what's going on in the country."

Reform

Syria's Russian allies welcomed the move as a serious step toward reform. "Moscow pins high hopes on the opposition to take it as an invitation for talks," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying by the Itar-Tass news agency.

The Syrian state TV report said the amnesty covers "crimes committed before May 31" and reduces criminal sentences for felony convictions in half unless a personal lawsuit is involved.

Assad's move was the latest in a series of reforms — including lifting a 40-year-old state of emergency and granting citizenship to stateless Kurds in eastern Syria — aimed at addressing the grievances of protesters.

SYRIANS WALK PAST a T-shirt with a portrait of Syrian President Bashar Assad which reads "we love you," at a popular market in downtown Damascus, Syria, on Monday. (AP)

But those moves have been accompanied by a ruthless military crackdown to try to quash the most serious challenge to the Assad family's 40-year rule. The government claims the uprising is the work of Islamic extremists and armed gangs.

Earlier Tuesday, a senior official of the ruling Baath Party signaled the government was ready to engage its opponents in a national dialogue, but refused to commit to constitutional changes that would allow challenges to Assad's autocratic rule.

Mohammad Said Bkheitan, assistant secretary general of the ruling Baath party, said mechanisms for a national dialogue would be announced within the next 48 hours.

The offer echoes a similar call made by government officials at the start of the uprising, but the talks have failed to materialize.

Bkheitan said it was "premature" to talk about constitutional changes that would allow challenges to Assad in the 2014 presidential election.

He also indicated the regime was not ready to amend the portion of the constitution that declares the ruling Baath Party the leader of the state and society — a key opposition demand.

"We have told the opposition that there are ballot boxes. Once you hold the reins of power, and we become the opposition, then abrogate this article.



Now there are other priorities," Bkheitan said.

Bkheitan said the protest movement to no more than 100,000 people. "They are the same people who demonstrate each time," he said. A prominent Syrian opposition leader described the comments as "irresponsible."

"If the regime until now does not acknowledge the existence of an opposition or a real protest movement, then what is there to talk about?" asked Burhan Ghalioun, who is also a scholar of contemporary oriental studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. Ghalioun said Bekhtiar's comments rejecting amending the constitution show the regime is not serious about dialogue.

"If they do not recognize that the aim of dialogue is to change the regime ... this means they are not serious and we will not engage in dialogue with them," he told The Associated Press by phone from Paris.

Meanwhile, army troops pounded a town in the country's turbulent heartland Tuesday with heavy machine guns and artillery in renewed attacks that killed at least one person and wounded many others, activists said.

The Local Coordination

Committees in Syria, which helps organize and document the country's protests, said many others were wounded in the attack on Rastan, a town a few miles (kilometers) north of the central city of Homs, which has been under attack since Sunday.

The death raises to 16 the number of people killed in the three-day crackdown in Homs province, scene of some of the largest anti-government demonstrations in recent weeks, activists said.

Restrictions

Details coming out of Syria are sketchy because the government has placed severe restrictions on the media and expelled foreign reporters, making it nearly impossible to independently verify accounts coming out of the country.

The committees said the army was shelling Rastan from four directions with T-72 tanks, adding the military shelled a field hospital and destroyed the entrance to the city and its industrial zone.

A Syrian military official quoted by state-run media said army units and security forces in Rastan had arrest-

ed members of "armed terrorist groups who terrorized citizens and destroyed public and private property." The official said the military also confiscated a large number of arms and weapons. Two soldiers, including an officer, were killed and four others were wounded, it said.

A resident of Homs told AP that government troops entered the central town of Talbiseh late Monday and made sweeping arrests.

Syria's Al Watan newspaper said that Talbiseh was now under the full control of security forces and the army. It said the main highway, which leads to Lebanon, was closed by the army "to preserve citizens' lives as armed groups are targeting all passing cars."

UNICEF, meanwhile, called Tuesday on all parties to spare civilians, particularly children and women, and urged the government to investigate allegations of the detention and torture of children.

"Since mid-March, reports of children injured, detained, displaced and at times killed have been increasing," UNICEF said, saying there are unconfirmed reports that at least 30 children have been killed.

PAKISTAN FORMS COMMISSION TO PROBE OSAMA BIN LADEN RAID

Mandate includes establishing facts regarding al-Qaida chief's presence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD
Associated Press

PAKISTAN'S government on Tuesday named the members of a commission tasked with probing the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, including how it came about that the al-Qaida chief was living in a Pakistani garrison city.

Parliament passed a resolution earlier this month demanding that an independent commission — as opposed to one led by the military — investigate the May 2 incursion, which deeply humiliated Pakistani leaders.

Its creation suggests the weak civilian government is using the opportunity to gain leverage over the powerful security establishment during a time when army and intelligence leaders are facing unusual levels of public criticism.

Pakistan has a poor history when it comes to holding leaders accountable for mistakes, especially if they are in the security establishment. Commissions may be formed, but their findings often are not far-reaching and may not be released to the public.

The five-member panel commission will be led by Javed Iqbal, a Supreme Court justice. Its other

IN THIS MAY 8, 2011, file photo a Pakistan army soldier secures a street close to the house, background, of former al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. (AP)

members include a retired lieutenant general and a former ambassador.

According to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's office, the commission's mandate includes establishing "the full facts" regarding bin Laden's presence in Pakistan, as well as details about the U.S. incursion.

The commission is also expected to figure out what security lapses were involved on the Pakistani side, and to ultimately make "consequential recommendations."

The bin Laden killing battered the already uneasy relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan.

While Pakistani leaders insist they had no idea the terrorist leader was hiding in the northwest city of Abbottabad, suspicions persist in the U.S. that some elements within Pakistan's security forces may have helped hide the al-Qaida leader.

Even so, both sides are likely to do their utmost to patch things up.

Pakistan relies on billions of dollars in U.S. aid to help keep its economy afloat and its military strong.

The U.S. needs Pakistan's cooperation against Islamist militants who use its soil to plan attacks on the West. It also considers Pakistan key to prospects for a peace deal between the Taliban and the government in neighboring Afghanistan.



GARY SINISE, US MILITARY DISCUSS AID TO HAITI

MIAMI
Associated Press

ACTOR GARY SINISE is meeting with U.S. military officials in suburban Miami about Haiti.

Sinise will visit U.S. Southern Command's headquarters Tuesday morning.

He's also scheduled to meet with the media about humanitarian work his foundation Operation International Children carried out in Haiti in partnership with the U.S. military and People to People International.

On Monday, Sinise's foundation and U.S. troops were scheduled to deliver 2,560 school supply kits to Haitian schoolchildren in Haiti's Artibonite Department.

The troops are members of a U.S. military task force in Haiti to support ongoing humanitarian assistance.

The task force is providing medical care and building a school, two medical clinics, a water well and a latrine facility for communities near Gonaives.

The task force is led by the Louisiana National Guard.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CRUISE SHIP PASSENGERS INJURED IN GIBRALTAR BLAST

MADRID
Associated Press

TWELVE passengers on a cruise ship moored in Gibraltar have been injured after a dockside tank holding used oil and water exploded as workers were welding it.

Gibraltar's government says the passengers on the "Independence of the Seas" operated by Royal Caribbean, suffered injuries ranging from minor burns to a fractured shoulder. The ship sailed away from

the affected area immediately after the blast.

A government statement said one Spanish worker involved in the welding operation suffered life-threatening injuries and a second worker had less serious injuries.

The explosion sent black smoke billowing into the air, hiding Gibraltar's famed "Rock" from view. The government said the workers were welding atop the tank. An investigation was under way to determine the cause.

FLAMES AND SMOKE BILLOW from an oil tank in the docks of Gibraltar, Tuesday May 31, 2011. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known but two people were reported injured. (AP)



Cellphones a 'possible' carcinogen — like coffee

LONDON
Associated Press

A RESPECTED international panel of scientists says cellphones are possible cancer-causing agents, putting them in the same category as the pesticide DDT, gasoline engine exhaust and coffee.

The classification was issued Tuesday in Lyon, France, by the International Agency for Research on Cancer after a review of dozens of published studies. The agency is an arm of the World Health Organisation and its assessment now goes to WHO and national health agencies for possible guidance on cellphone use.

Classifying agents as "possibly carcinogenic" doesn't mean they automatically cause cancer and some experts said the ruling shouldn't change people's cellphone habits.

"Anything is a possible carcinogen," said Donald Berry, a professor of biostatistics at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas. He was not involved in the WHO cancer group's assessment. "This is not something I worry about and it will not in any way change how I use my cellphone," he said —

speaking from his cellphone.

The same cancer research agency lists alcoholic drinks as a known carcinogen and night shift work as a probable carcinogen. Anyone's risk for cancer depends on many factors, from genetic makeup to the amount and length of time of an exposure.

After a weeklong meeting on the type of electromagnetic radiation found in cellphones, microwaves and radar, the expert panel said there was limited evidence cellphone use was linked to two types of brain tumors and inadequate evidence to draw conclusions for other cancers.

"We found some threads of evidence telling us how cancers might occur, but there were acknowledged gaps and uncertainties," said Jonathan Samet of the University of Southern California, the panel's chairman.

"The WHO's verdict means there is some evidence linking mobile phones to cancer but it is too weak to draw strong conclusions from," said Ed Yong, head of health information at Cancer Research U.K. "If such a link exists, it is unlikely to be a large one."

Last year, results of a

large study found no clear link between cellphones and cancer. But some advocacy groups contend the study raised serious concerns because it showed a hint of a possible connection between very heavy phone use and glioma, a rare but often deadly form of brain tumor. However, the numbers in that subgroup weren't sufficient to make the case.

The study was controversial because it began with people who already had cancer and asked them to recall how often they used their cellphones more than a decade ago.

In about 30 other studies done in Europe, New Zealand and the U.S., patients with brain tumors have not reported using their cellphones more often than unaffected people.

Because cellphones are so popular, it may be impossible for experts to compare cellphone users who develop brain tumors with people who don't use the devices. According to a survey last year, the number of cellphone subscribers worldwide has hit 5 billion, or nearly three-quarters of the global population.

People's cellphone habits have also changed dramati-



cally since the first studies began years ago and it's unclear if the results of previous research would still apply today.

Since many cancerous tumors take decades to develop, experts say it's impossible to conclude cellphones have no long-term health risks. The studies conducted so far haven't tracked people for longer than about a decade.

Cellphones send signals to nearby towers via radio frequency waves, a form of energy similar to FM radio waves and microwaves. But the radiation produced by cellphones cannot directly damage DNA and is different from stronger types of radiation like X-rays or ultraviolet light. At very high levels, radio frequency waves from cellphones can heat up body tissue, but that is not believed to dam-

age human cells.

Some experts recommended people use a headset or earpiece if they are worried about the possible health dangers of cellphones. "If there is a risk, most of it goes away with a wireless earpiece," said Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

Brawley said people should focus on the real health hazards of cellphones. "Cellphones may cause brain tumors but they kill far more people through automobile accidents," he said. Brawley added it was also reasonable to limit children's use of cellphones since their brains are still developing.

Earlier this year, a U.S. National Institutes of Health study found that cellphone use can speed up brain activity, but it is

unknown whether that has any dangerous health effects.

The cellphone industry trade group, CTIA-The Wireless Association, pointed to two U.S. agencies that have found no evidence cellphones are linked to cancer — the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Communications Commission.

The WHO's cancer research agency has reviewed more than 900 occupational exposures, chemicals and other agents since 1971, classifying their link to cancer by labeling them from carcinogenic to probably not carcinogenic. The American Cancer Society has estimated that only about 6 percent of cancers are related to environmental causes and most of that is on-the-job occupational exposure.

TEAMS RECOVER 75 MORE BODIES FROM 2009 AIR CRASH

PARIS
Associated Press

THE French gendarmerie says that 75 more bodies have been pulled from the Atlantic Ocean in the past week, nearly two years after the crash of an Air France flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris.

That brings the total number of bodies recovered since June 1, 2009, to 127. All 228 people aboard the plane died.

Two French investigating judges have written to families of victims to tell them that bodies which are too badly damaged will not be recovered to preserve their dignity.

An initial reading of the cockpit and data recorders from the flight show that the Airbus 330 went into an aerodynamic stall that the pilot could not rectify, perhaps because of incorrect speed readings, and the plane dropped 38,000 feet (11,500 meters) into the ocean in 3 1/2 minutes.



THIS MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009 file photo released by Brazil's Air Force shows Brazil's Navy sailors recovering debris from the missing Air France jet at the Atlantic Ocean. (AP)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

POLICE: MISSING PAKISTANI JOURNALIST FOUND DEAD

ISLAMABAD
Associated Press

A PAKISTANI journalist who investigated al-Qaida's alleged infiltration of the navy and told a rights activist he'd been threatened by the country's intelligence agencies was found dead Tuesday. Police said his body showed signs of torture.

Syed Saleem Shahzad's death underscores the dangers of reporting in Pakistan, which in 2010 was called the deadliest country for journalists. It could also increase scrutiny of Pakistan's security agencies, already under domestic pressure since the May 2 U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Shahzad, a correspondent for the Asia Times Online as well as Italian news agency Adnkronos International, went missing Sunday from Islamabad while on his way to appear on a television show.

A brother-in-law identified his body after it was found some six miles (10 kilometers)

from his car in Mandi Bahaudin district outside the capital. An initial exam found signs of torture, but autopsy results were pending, police official Bilal Ahmad said.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official denied allegations that the agency had anything to do with Shahzad's case.

"It's absurd," the official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media on the record.

Pressure

The 40-year-old Shahzad dabbled in some sensitive topics, which would likely have caught the eye of Pakistan's security establishment. The country's military and spy networks operate largely outside the law and regularly try to pressure media outlets and individual reporters.

Last October, Shahzad wrote an Asia Times article that claimed that Pakistan had freed a detained Afghan Tal-

iban commander so that he could "play a pivotal role in backchannel talks through the Pakistani army with Washington."

Within days, he was summoned to an office of Pakistan's premier spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, according to an email he sent to Ali Dayan Hasan, a researcher for Human Rights Watch. Intelligence officials pressured him to reveal his sources or retract the story, but he declined.

At the end of the meeting, one of the intelligence officials issued what appeared to be a veiled threat. The official told him the agencies had recently arrested a "terrorist" who had carried a hit list, and that if Shahzad's name was on the list, he'd let him know.

Shahzad told Hasan that he was sending him the notes of the meeting for the "record only if in case something happens to me or my family in future."

Last week, militants staged an 18-hour siege of a naval base in Pakistan's largest city,



THIS UNDATED PHOTO provided by Adnkronos news agency shows Pakistani journalist and Adnkronos International correspondent Syed Saleem Shahzad. The Pakistani journalist who investigated al-Qaida's alleged infiltration of the navy and told a rights activist he'd been threatened by the country's intelligence agencies was found dead in Islamabad Tuesday. (AP)

Karachi. The attack further embarrassed a security establishment still reeling from the unilateral U.S. raid against bin Laden. Pakistan has protested the May 2 American incursion as a violation of its sovereignty.

Shahzad wrote a story for

the Asia Times alleging al-Qaida staged the raid after talks failed with the navy over releasing some of its officials held on suspicion of ties to the terror network. The story came amid widespread suspicion that the militants in the raid had inside help.

Asia Times Online says it is a Hong Kong-based outlet with some 50 correspondents and contributors in 25 Asian countries, the U.S. and Europe.

Shahzad's wife got into touch with Hasan soon after her husband went missing Sunday, and in investigating the situation, the rights activist said he was told by some Pakistani government officials that they believed Shahzad was in the ISI's custody.

"It is absolutely essential that an independent investigation, a transparent inquiry and clear judicial process lead to those responsible for (Shahzad's) murder being held accountable," Hasan said.

He added, however, "The manner in which this killing took place echoes other documented cases in which Pakistan's intelligence services, chiefly the ISI, have been involved."

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani expressed condolences and ordered an inquiry into the journalist's death. But Gilani, whose civilian government has little control over security forces, often

orders such inquiries, and they either fizzle out or their results are never released.

Sohail Rehman, a close friend of the family, said Shahzad was originally from Karachi and had three children. He'd worked for several news organizations and often appeared on Pakistani news channels as an analyst and terrorism expert.

Militants

Adnkronos International, the Italian news agency, said Shahzad had worked for them since 2004, and that in 2006 Taliban militants in Afghanistan held him captive for several days.

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Pakistan was the deadliest country for journalists in 2010, with at least eight media workers killed in the line of duty.

The threats often come from militants. Six of the journalists in Pakistan were killed in suicide attacks, the group said in a report late last year.

The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists strongly condemned Shahzad's killing, and demanded a high level investigation. "This is tragic," said Amin Yousuf, secretary-general of the union. "We are losing our professional colleagues but the government never unearths who is behind the killing of journalists."

ISLAMISTS AMBUSH ARMY, GUNFIGHTS RESUME IN YEMEN

SANAA, Yemen
Associated Press

ISLAMIST militants who overran a southern town killed five soldiers in an ambush Tuesday while fresh clashes erupted between government forces and fighters loyal to the country's top tribal leader.

The violence pushed Yemen closer to the edge of a civil war. Nearly four months of mass protests calling for democratic reforms and the ouster of longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh have rocked the stability of this impoverished corner of the Arabian Peninsula, where government control is weak outside the capital Sanaa and an active al-Qaida branch and other militant groups operate.

Saleh has confronted the mass protests calling for his ouster by promising reform and sending security forces — his largest remaining bastion of support — to crack down on protesters. At times, they have unleashed sniper attacks on unarmed marchers.

Saleh has steadfastly refused to step down, clinging to power despite the uprising, defections by key allies and intense pressure from the United States and Yemen's powerful Gulf neighbors to transfer power. Four protesters were killed in the southern city of Taiz Tuesday, bringing the city's two-day death toll to at least 25.

Stiff criticism of the government's crackdown in Taiz came Tuesday from U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner. "We condemn those indiscriminate attacks by Yemeni security forces," he said, urging Saleh to sign an accord to leave office "and to move Yemen forward."

Tuesday's violence highlights the security gaps left open as Saleh's forces work nearly exclusively to keep him in power, said Christopher Boucek of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The more the Yemeni government is focused on this political crisis, the more they're not paying attention to anything else," he said. "So the potential for violence and the breakdown of law and order gets bigger and bigger."

The soldiers were ambushed outside the southern town of Zinjibar, which Islamist militants seized over the weekend. Gunmen fired on an army unit approaching the city from the west, forcing them to accelerate into the fire of other militants hiding down the road, a security official said.

The attack killed five soldiers and injured 12, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters. The soldiers killed two militants before fleeing. Hundreds of armed Islamists stormed the town of more than 20,000 people last week, seizing banks and government offices before setting up barricades to solidify their control. Army units have shelled the town for days, failing to dislodge the militants and while sending hundreds of residents fleeing.

Resident Hilmi Ali said the shells appeared to fall randomly over the town, striking a mosque and four houses in his neighborhood and killing seven of his neighbors.

The Islamists broke into a police administration building and an intelligence office and could be seen speeding about town in police cars, Ali said. Dozens of families fled, braving the gunfights between militants and government forces on the city's outskirts.

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Regulator drops BTC's interconnect tariffs 21-35%

* URCA rejects carrier's attempts to use its own analysis to justify higher fees in area vital to competition
* Cable's duct charge proposal a 'barrier' to small rivals
* Regulator acknowledges BTC's 'stranded asset' fears

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Regulators have rejected the Bahamas Telecommunications Company's (BTC)

attempt to use their own analysis to inflate its interconnection joining services charges by up to 140 per cent, mandating that the newly-privatised carrier

reduce the figures in its latest proposal by between 21-35 per cent.
Unveiling its results on the public consultation over BTC's proposed intercon-

nection charges, the Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA) said it

SEE page 4B

BUDGET'S \$25M 'NOT BEING SPENT WHERE NEEDED'



KHAALIS ROLLE

Private sector must provide Budget input as government's biggest revenue generator

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) yesterday undertook a rapid survey of its membership to obtain their views on the Budget initiatives designed to aid the private sector, its chairman yesterday suggesting the business community largely felt \$25 million was "not being spent where it is most needed".

Telling Tribune Business that 95 per cent of calls fielded by the BCCEC in the Budget's immediate aftermath were "not in favour" of many measures announced, Khaalis Rolle said the organisation wanted to get a more considered, "better view" from as wide a cross-section of the private sector as possible.

With the business community now having time to take a more considered view of the Budget's private sector-related initiatives, the BCCEC sought to obtain member feedback by last night. It will analyse the findings, then present them to the Government.

"We had some members that called us to express some concerns, and those concerns were the initial ones communicated in the press," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business. "The likely impact of the jobs plan and Jump Start initiative, and what would be the direct benefits to the membership?"

The BCCEC chairman said one e-mail, received from a realtor, bemoaned the fact that the Government had not reduced the two percentage point increase implemented across all Stamp Duty brackets in the 2010-2011 Budget.

The realtor argued that this had reduced real estate sales, resulting in slashed revenues and commissions for Bahamian real estate professionals. This, in turn, led to lay-offs, higher unemployment and more government spending.

"Lower taxes equals more jobs; higher taxes equals less jobs" was the message sent to Mr Rolle and the BCCEC. Another respondent told the Chamber that the Government would have been better off spending the \$25 million allocated to the National Jobs Training and Readiness initiative to a grant fund that made allocations to deserving small and medium-sized Bahamian enterprises, enabling them to grow and take on more employees.

"Essentially, what they're saying is that if the Government is going to spend \$25 million, 'spend it where it will most matter to me,'" Mr Rolle explained, "reducing costs of operation, helping to pay down the overdraft, interest

SEE page 2B

Electricity demand set to grow 3.1-8%

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Electricity demand in the Bahamas is expected to increase at a rate between 3.1 per cent to 8 per cent per annum in the period up to 2013, a study has revealed, with per capita energy consumption "somewhat high" for the Caribbean at 5,700 kilowatts per hour (kWh).
Noting that the Bahamas lost 12.3 per cent of the electricity it produced in 2008 before it reached the end user, the report, entitled Sta-

Bahamas' per capita use 'somewhat high' for Caribbean, says report, averaging 5,700 kWh

tus of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Caribbean, noted that this nation was the only one in the region that required an electricity grid to cover an archipelago.

"The Bahamas is unique in that its electricity system is distributed among some 16 isolated island grids," the report said. "Thus expansion is incremental, and generation capacity is primarily small diesel plants with a capacity of 20MW and less. The BEC website features

a map of plants on each island. In spite of the distributed layout of the system, BEC charges a single rate structure for its customers."

Peak demand for New Providence, according to the report released earlier this year, currently stands at 234 MegaWatts (MW). This figure is projected to rise by 53 per cent to 359 MW by 2013, largely as a result of projects such as Albany and Baha

SEE page 3B

REALTORS DIFFER OVER \$250K-PLUS PROPERTY STAMP TAX INCREASE

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Two prominent realtors yesterday concurred with the Government's projection that there will be no pick up in revenue from real estate transactions in the lower price point categories this Budget year, although diverging on forecasts that it will generate more Stamp Duty from properties valued at over \$250,000.

Peter Dupuch, president of ERA Dupuch Realty, said his company has seen as much as a 30 per cent pick up in property sales this year compared to 2010, primarily driven by the closing of deals on homes in the \$400,000 to \$850,000 price range.

This, he said, is because buyers are coming back into the market having realised that they can obtain a property at what would be a considered a "bargain" price - with homes in the higher-end range having seen price point reductions of between 10 and 15 per cent compared to pre-recession.

Mr Dupuch said this trend would seem to validate, to an extent, the Government's projection that it may realise an increase of \$4.8 million in Stamp Tax revenue from transactions involving homes in the \$250,000-plus range. The Government has projected in the 2011-2012 Budget that revenue from Stamp Tax in this category will rise to a total of \$135.3 million.

The realtor said he also agrees with the projection that there will be little pick up in sales of properties valued at less than \$250,000. Such sales have been sluggish and continue to be so, he told Tribune Business.

The Government's forecasts for revenue collection from Stamp Tax on real estate transactions in these categories (those properties valued at less than \$250,000) are down from last year by a cumulative \$4.6 million, at \$21.525 million.

Mr Dupuch suggested this is, in part, because such buyers remain "hurt more" than wealthier purchasers by the two percentage point Stamp Tax increase that was implemented in the previous year's

SEE page 2B

* Business sees 30% pick-up in property sales compared to 2010
* But competitor says market hit by poor communication over \$1.5m residency 'fast track' threshold

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The information contained is from a third party and The Tribune can not be held responsible for errors and/or omission from the daily report.



PROFITS DOWN: The front entrance of Doctors Hospital.

DOCTORS SUFFERS 83% PROFITS FALL

* BISX-listed healthcare provider says patient days hit lowest level since 2004
* Economic growth encourages Western Medical Plaza reassessment
* Completing 'final part of the equation' for medical tourism

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Doctors Hospital Health Systems (DHHS) is completing "the final part of the equation" that will attract US and international patients to its facilities, despite suffering an 83 per cent net income fall during fiscal 2011 as a result of patient days hitting their lowest levels since 2004.

The BISX-listed healthcare provider yesterday unveiled results that showed it remained in the black, albeit with a much lower profit level of \$865,285 compared to the \$4.886 million generated in fiscal 2010, as total patient days - standing at 10,061 - decreased by a greater amount than expected.

Analysing its performance for the 12 months to end-January 2011, Doctors Hospital noted in its annual report that adult patient days declined year-over-year by 21.9 per cent, with net patient service revenues dropping by some \$5.7 million or 12.6 per cent to \$39.177 million, compared to \$44.842 million in fiscal 2010.

The top-line decline went straight to the bottom, as Doctors Hospital was able to reduce total expenses by \$1.4 million, or 3.4 per cent, from \$41.134 million in the 12 months

SEE page 2B

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BUSINESS

REALTORS DIFFER OVER \$250K-PLUS PROPERTY STAMP TAX INCREASE

FROM page 1B

budget.

"When that happened we had sales which fell through because they were involving people who were already scrapping. Whereas a rich guy's like 'Oh bummer', but he pays it," said Mr Dupuch.

Larry Roberts, president of Bahamas Realty, agreed with Mr Dupuch and the Government on one point - that there would likely be no increase this year in the sale of properties in the \$250,000 and below category.

However, he disagreed with the suggestion that the Government would be realistic to expect an increase in revenue from transactions relating to properties in the \$250,000-plus range.

"I would not predict an increase in sales any category. I don't see how they could think there will be an increase. I think we would be fortunate to maintain the level we have, certainly through the remainder of this year. We are continuing to do business but I wouldn't say there's going to be a major improvement. I think the Government will be disappointed," said Mr Roberts, adding: "I hope I am wrong, but the economy is in bad shape."

Factoring into the depressed state of sales

Bahamas Realty continues to see, suggested the businessman, is the continued high level of unemployment and the stricter lending conditions now being applied by banks.

Meanwhile, beyond the general economic conditions in the Bahamas and the US, another significant impact on the sale of homes in the \$250,000 plus range was felt recently as a result of the "way the Government communicated" a decision to revise the policy on the investment threshold that would allow home buyers to obtain fast-tracked permanent residency consideration, charged Mr Roberts.

In April, the Government announced that a foreign home buyer would have to buy a property valued at \$1.5 million or more in order to receive such consideration, as opposed to the \$500,000 threshold previously applied.

"The perception is that you now have to spend \$1.5 million in order to get permanent residency, and that's the message that went out. We are all trying to do damage control and convince people that's not the case. We had buyers who had signed contracts and not closed on them who were furious. It's only because the Government did not communicate very effectively," Mr Roberts said.

THE CLEARING BANKS ASSOCIATION Announces Labour Day Holiday Banking Hours

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Friday, June 3, 2011
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(9:30am – 1:00 pm)

Commonwealth Bank Limited
(10:00am – 1:00 pm)

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited – Money Centres
Frederick Street: 9:00am to 3:00pm
Robin Hood: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Wulff Road: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Marsh Harbour: 9:30am to 12 noon

RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited
CLOSED

Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited
CLOSED

Normal Banking Hours will resume on
Monday, June 6, 2011
(9:30am – 3:00pm)

Bank of The Bahamas Limited
Citibank, N.A.

Commonwealth Bank Limited
Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited
FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited
RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited
Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited

Doctors suffers 83% profits fall

FROM page 1B

to end-January 2010 to \$39.73 million this time around.

However, with the decline in top-line revenues easily outweighing the rate of expense decrease, Doctors Hospital saw total expenses as a percentage of total revenues rise from 89 per cent in fiscal 2010 to 98 per cent in the year just closed.

"Total admissions to the facility were 3,915 in fiscal 2011, representing a 7.7 per cent decrease over the prior year," Doctors Hospital said. "Comparing this statistic to the decrease of 21.9 per cent in patient days shows the change in acuity of patients.

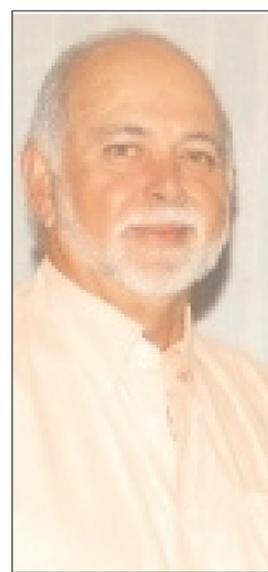
"Total patient days of 10,061 represented the lowest since 2004. As indicated last year, we expected the downward trend of decreased patient days to continue, but not at this level.

"During the year we saw an increase in patients with decreased insurance benefits or complete loss of insurance coverage, as employers struggled to cut costs and lay-offs increased. The result was patients were unable to pay for increased deductibles and co-payments, and utilised the public health system."

Doctors Hospital said it "expects" a small recovery in patient days, service revenues and the overall top line during fiscal 2012, in line with the overall economy's improvement. "The average daily census decreased to 28 patients per days from 35 in the previous year," the BISX-listed healthcare provider added.

It has budgeted \$3.2 million for capital replacements and upgrades during the current 2012 fiscal year, part of which will be spent on a new CT scan machine.

"Major progress has occurred in the planning of the potential renovations required to respond to current and future demand," Doctors Hospital said. "The physical expansion will seek to introduce new services, expand current services and



BARRY RASSIN

consolidate activities."

Striking a further positive tone, Doctors Hospital said it was reevaluating the prospects for its Blake Road-based Western Medical Plaza facility, given the start of the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar development, the \$1.3 billion Albany project and other developments in nearby western New Providence.

Doctors Hospital has been seeking to either sell or lease out Western Medical Plaza for some six to seven years, the facility being seen by some as 'ahead of its time', constructed before the economic activity required to drive patients and business to it had begun.

"Interest continues in purchase and lease options, which are being reviewed," Doctors Hospital said of this facility. "However, as conditions in the economic environment improve and increased demand occurs, considerations of optimisation are being entertained. It continues to be a great potential for the organisation."

Detailing how it managed to hold expenses down, Doctors Hospital said salaries and benefits dropped year-over-year by \$0.362 million or 2.1 per cent, compared to the previous year. Medical supplies and services expenses fell by \$0.323 million, or 2.8 per cent, in the 12 months to end-January 31, 2011, compared to the previous year.

However, the significant top-line reduction threw these expenses, as a percentage of patient revenues, out of whack. Salaries as a percentage of the top-line grew to 42.6 per cent from 38.1 per cent, while the medical supplies ratio rose from 26.1 per cent to 29 per cent.

Budget's \$25m 'not being spent where needed'

FROM page 1B

in bank loans in difficulty. I understand the Government has to generate jobs going into an election period, but allow me to determine where the money is spent."

The BCCEC chairman said the Government and private sector needed "to be on the same page", especially on any initiatives launched by the former that will impact business.

He added that the BCCEC also had a duty to present all private sector views to the Government, speaking out on behalf of those who both opposed or were in favour of its initiatives, but were too afraid to do so.

"We haven't had any meetings with the Government on the Budget, and before we meet with them we want to have the results of this survey," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business. "We were not pleased with the level of consultation that took place on this one."

"We were in a better position, and more informed to address concerns with the last Budget because they discussed it with us, and we were better able to explain what the intent was. We were able to see the rationale behind it, although we did not necessarily agree with it."

"We have to understand that it's not all about us; we have to keep a balanced view of things," he added. "We're the sector the Government derives most revenue from. We have to provide input and we have to be in agreement."

"Government should not be spending without our agreement, because we are partners in this economy and partners in the revenue generating process. We're not trying to be difficult; we're just trying to protect the interests of the private sector at the end of the day."

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NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF ETHEL BLANCHE ROGERS late of the Settlement of Deadman's Cay in the Island of Long Island one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of the same certified in writing to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of June, A.D., 2011 and if required, to prove such debts or claims, or default be excluded from any distribution; after the above date the assets will be distributed having regard only to the proved debts or claims of which the Executor shall have had notice.

And Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the 15th day of June, A.D., 2011.

SYDBRI LEGAL SERVICES
Attorneys for the Executrix
Naomi House
No.19, Ninth Terrace, Centreville
P. O. Box EE-15075
Nassau, Bahamas

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF MAUDLIN CAREY aka MAUDE CAREY late of Montrose Avenue in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of the same certified in writing to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of June, A.D., 2011 and if required, to prove such debts or claims, or default be excluded from any distribution; after the above date the assets will be distributed having regard only to the proved debts or claims of which the Executor shall have had notice.

And Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the 15th day of June, A.D., 2011.

KENDAL WRIGHT & CO.
Attorneys for the Executrix
Equity House
Mt. Royal Avenue North
P. O. Box SS-19014
Nassau, Bahamas

Crime 'can derail' national economy

Chamber unveils first economic crime survey

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Gauging the extent of economic crime, its impact on the business community and on how it can be mitigated is to be the goal of the very first economic crime survey in the Bahamas, the chairman of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) said yesterday.

The 2011 Economic Crime Survey, which contains 87 "carefully chosen" questions about businesses' exposure to such crime, will be distributed to Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's "1,000 plus" business members and made available to any Bahamian firm online.

"Crime is one of the single most important issues that we face, with the potential to derail the economy.

"The intention is that this survey will give us clear indicators of what the cost and likely impact of crime is on businesses," Khaalis Rolle said yesterday as he announced the launch of the survey.

The survey is being conducted by the BCCEC in conjunction with KRYs Global, which has conducted two similar questionnaire exercises in the Cayman Islands, and is presently doing similar in the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda.

Edmund Rahming, managing director of KRYs Global, said: "The purpose of the survey is generally to come up with trends and patterns as it relates to economic crime in the community, and then to communicate the results after analysing those back to the community, so they can make changes in their business as it relates to proce-

"Crime is one of the single most important issues that we face, with the potential to derail the economy. The intention is that this survey will give us clear indicators of what the cost and likely impact of crime is on businesses."

Khaalis Rolle

dures, internal controls and fraud risk assessments. We also think this is definitely something the policymakers should obtain and use to combat economic fraud."

Among the 87 questions which business operators/owners will be asked to respond to are 48 economic crime questions, eight retail questions, eight internal fraud questions, three money laundering questions, and 20 physical/property crime questions.

Both Mr Rahming and Mr Rolle noted that a "strong response" from the business community will be needed in order for the full benefit of the survey to be realised.

In this regard, Mr Rolle noted that the survey, while extensive, does not have to be filled out at one time, but can be saved and returned to, and will be available not only to the 1,000 plus BCCEC member businesses but to all Bahamian companies via the Internet.

"We want to make this as widespread as possible.

"To get good data we need to include everyone. It's online so everyone can have access to it.

"We wanted to make it very convenient," he said.

The BCCEC chairman said that while no hard data is yet available on the phenomenon, it is clear that internal fraud is a major problem for many Bahamian businesses, despite it being less "visible" than crimes such as armed robbery.

Fraud

Mr Rahming explained that internal fraud can relate to a variety of illegal activities, including accounting fraud, operational fraud in the form of asset misappropriation, fraud as it relates to sales, plus procurement fraud in the form of the exchange of funds or kickbacks to go with a particular vendor.

Mr Rolle added that it is also evident that the amount of money businesses are today spending on security is "much higher as a percentage of costs than it should be", and than it used to be.

"It's easy to see that the cost of security has gone up significantly over the past five years.

"I've seen companies that wouldn't previously have 24-hour security, have 24-hour security. If they did have

security it would be after dark, now it's 24 hours," he said.

"If you calculate the cost of that additional timeframe, it's expensive.

"Then if you look at CCTV, that's expensive also. If you factor transitioning money from your business to a bank - in the past a business owner would be able to put that in a bag and take it to the bank - that's not safe any more.

"So that's three levels of security now that you have to pay for, and at the cost of security nowadays it's pretty expensive."

Mr Rahming said he hopes that KRYs Global can partner with the BCCEC to conduct the survey every two years going forward, so that evidence can be gathered of how economic crime and its impact on the business community is evolving going forward.

The BCCEC also intends to use the findings to inform the formulation of future programs in its Business Security and Crime Division, helping businesses mitigate their potential risk of falling prey to all types of crime.

All surveys must be completed by July 12 in order to be included in the analysis. The findings of the exercise will be released in early September, 2011.

Electricity demand set to grow 3.1-8%

FROM page 1B

Mar coming on stream.

"Electrical consumption is somewhat high for the region, averaging 5,700 kWh per capita per year in 2008," the study noted.

"Annual growth in electrical demand to 2013 is expected to be at least 3.1 per cent, or as much as 8 per cent."

The study noted that total electrical sales in the Bahamas were forecast to rise from 1,536 GWh to 2,219 GWh by 2013, but little progress had been made when it came to introducing renewable energy into the power production mix.

Wind power had the potential to generate 58 MW, some 15MW of that on Grand Bahama, generating 5-10 per cent of existing capacity. Solar was said to have the same 58 MW potential, meaning these two combined could generate 10 per cent of the Bahamas' 584 MW capacity. Biomass was seen as having "low potential", standing at 1 MW.

Wind

"Wind data is being measured on Grand Bahama Island in a joint project between Grand Bahama Power Company and shareholder Emera. The assessment project involves towers at seven sites across the island, at a cost of \$263,600. Following the assessment, GBPC may install up to 15 MW of wind capacity by 2012," the report said.

"The Bahamian government implemented incentives for solar equipment in 2008, by decreasing import duties from 42 per cent to 10 per cent. The hospitality industry has shown some interest in solar devices, and several PV and SWH distributors have entered the market.

"The Bahamas has good solar resources for flat-panel PV and solar hot water systems, with GHI averaging over 5.3 kWh/m²/day. While this is somewhat less than other islands in the Caribbean, the high price of power means PV and SHW systems are still economically viable....

"The Bahamas may be an ideal site for ocean-based RE technologies. Ocean-thermal energy may be exploitable in the steep drop offs of the Bahamas Bank, as well as tidal wave and other sources."

DOCTORS HOSPITAL

AGM

Annual General Meeting

A reminder to all of our Doctors Hospital Health System shareholders that your attendance at the 2011 Annual General Meeting is very important to us. The meeting will be held at the Doctors Hospital Conference Room, located on Dowdeswell Street behind the Business Office. We look forward to seeing our shareholders there.

Location: Doctors Hospital Conference Room, Dowdeswell Street

Date: Thursday, June 23rd, 2011

Time: 5:30pm



DOCTORS HOSPITAL
Health System



The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Request for Contractors Pre-Qualification

The National Insurance Board (NIB) is seeking to pre-qualify Bahamian contractors to bid on works to complete the exterior painting of the Sir Clifford Darling Complex, Headquarters Building of the National Insurance Board located on Baillou Hill Road, Nassau, Bahamas. Contractors must be in compliance with the National Insurance Act (social security programme), and in good standing with the relevant Government agencies.

Contractors seeking to be pre-qualified for this project must have at a minimum the following experiences:

1. General Construction and/or Commercial Painting of buildings
2. Completion of various structural repairs to commercial building,
3. Completion of quality work
4. National Insurance Board letter of Good Standing
5. Public Liability Insurance not less than \$1 Million.
6. Valid Business licence
7. Established business office with either employed and/or contracted Quantity Surveyor.
8. Documented construction works health and safety program

The Sir Clifford Darling Complex is a commercial multi-storey building structure of approximately 50,000 square feet. The exterior of the building has various overhangs, terraces, and soffit areas. The painting works will have to be coordinated to safely accommodate the flow of staff and customers that frequent the building daily. The uneven grades and sloped areas that surround the building and the architectural exterior façade of the building will have to be accounted for to accommodate scaffolding and swing stations that may be used to complete the painting works.

Pre-Qualification documents may be collected from the Security Booth at NIB's Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road, from May 30 - June 8, 2011, or downloaded from NIB's website at www.nib-bahamas.com.

Pre-Qualification documents should be signed, sealed and returned to the Security Booth in an envelope addressed to The Director, The National Insurance Board, Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road with the caption "Pre-Qualification Document - Exterior Painting of the Sir Clifford Darling Complex, Headquarters Building of the National Insurance Board, Baillou Hill Road", on or before 12:00 Noon on June 8, 2011.

Only contractors that meet the minimum requirements as described above, should respond.

The National Insurance Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submitted Pre-Qualification documents that are submitted for consideration.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD VACANCY NOTICE



The National Insurance Board (NIB) invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the positions of **INSPECTOR**, in the Board's Compliance/Inspectorate Department.

JOB SUMMARY

To ensure full compliance among employers and self-employed persons and voluntarily insured persons (entities) in accordance with the National Insurance Act and Regulations.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Partner with Employers as a Relationship Officer to ensure compliance with the National Insurance Act and Regulations, including but not limited to, the following:

- Registration in accordance with the required standards;
- Reviewing employment records to ensure that contribution payments are made;
- Completion of Inspections and processing of cases;
- Investigating and acting on all matters relative to registration and non-compliance;
- Maintenance of confidential information using the systems, policies and procedures of the National Insurance Board;
- Preparation of reports and completion of standard forms; and
- To provide on-going education on the prescribed benefits, requirements and policies of the National Insurance Act and the National Insurance Board.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration or a related field, from an accredited educational institution.
- Competent in Microsoft Office Applications including Word, Excel and Query tools.
- Excellent communications skills, oral and written.
- Excellent Customer Service skills.
- Pass the NIB basic aptitude test.
- A high degree of confidentiality and professionalism.

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply by submitting a completed application form, along with the necessary proof of qualifications **on or before June 15, 2011**, to the:

Senior Manager, Administration
Human Resources
The National Insurance Board
Clifford Darling Complex
P. O. Box N-7508
Nassau, Bahamas

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD VACANCY NOTICE



The National Insurance Board (NIB) invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **INTERNAL AUDITOR**, in the Board's Internal Audit Department.

JOB SUMMARY

To assist in determining whether organizational units in the company are performing their accounting, custodial or control activities in compliance with management instructions, applicable statements of Policies and Procedures, and in a manner consistent with both company objectives and the National Insurance Act and Regulations.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- To assist in identifying those activities subject to audit coverage, evaluates their significance and assesses the degree of risk inherent in the activity in terms of cost, schedule and quality.
- To conduct review of assigned organizational and functional activities.
- To assist in determining whether organizational units in the company are performing their accounting, custodial or control activities in compliance with management instructions, applicable statements of Policies and Procedures, and in a manner consistent with both company objectives and the National Insurance Act and Regulations.
- To plan and execute Financial and Operational audits in accordance with accepted standards and policies of the National Insurance Board.
- To report audatory findings and make recommendations for correcting unsatisfactory conditions, improving operations and reducing costs.
- To perform special reviews at the request of Executive Management.
- Makes oral or written presentations to management during and at the conclusion of the audit. Discuss deficiencies and recommends corrective action to improve operations.
- Prepares formal written reports, expressing opinions on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system and the efficiency with which activities are carried out.
- Conduct follow-up reviews to appraise the adequacy of the corrective action taken to improve deficient conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited College or University in a business field, preferably in Accounting or Finance.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or equivalent with BICA Registration current.
- A minimum of five (5) years experience in an administrative/supervisory capacity.
- Must demonstrate the ability to define objectives, plan the work, communicate priorities and motivate staff.
- Competent in Microsoft Office Applications – including Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply by submitting a completed application form, along with the necessary proof of qualifications **on or before June 15, 2011**, to the:

Senior Manager, Administration
Human Resources
The National Insurance Board
Clifford Darling Complex
P. O. Box N-7508
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

Regulator drops BTC's interconnect tariffs 21-35%

FROM page 1B

was "never its intention to substitute" its own analysis for that offered by the state-owned incumbent.

BTC had initially used internal engineering data, employed to determine capital spending on network development, to calculate tariffs for various interconnection services and equipment. However, URCA said the communications industry typically used a model marking annual operating and common costs at 10 per cent of the gross replacement cost (GRC) of a carrier's asset base.

As a result, the regulator said BTC's monthly operating costs for interconnection services were between 42.1-58.4 per cent lower than the GRC model.

Seizing the opportunity, BTC noted that the regulator's proposed monthly joining services operating costs were between 72.58 per cent to 140 per cent higher than its own. The former state-owned incumbent, as a result, resubmitted revised charges using URCA's model, altering the mark-ups for indirect and common costs to bring them into line with those proposed by the regulator.

The net effect was that BTC increased proposed monthly charges for various interconnection equipment, which it proposed to levy on rival carriers, by between 27.3 per cent to 40 per cent.

Opposing BTC's mark-up increases, URCA said its previous analysis was intended to provide "a sense check to BTC's cost estimates" by using industry comparatives.

"URCA's analysis has been used by BTC to justify the increased charges," the regulator said. "URCA emphasizes that it was never URCA's intention to substitute the analysis in the consultation for BTC's own analysis."

"URCA does not believe it is better placed than BTC to estimate the costs that BTC would face in providing a service. Therefore, in the absence of information that

"In light of this concern, URCA has decided it is reasonable to maintain BTC's proposed recurring charges for duct charges. However, URCA will review the charging structure in future updates of the RAO, and on the basis of relevant information and sector policy objectives."

would demonstrate clearly that BTC's proposals were incorrect (or that URCA's assumptions were likely to be more accurate), URCA does not believe it would be appropriate to replace BTC's assumptions with its own. As such, URCA will not accept BTC's revised mark-ups for indirect and common costs."

The regulator then mandated that BTC reduce its various interconnection joining services charges by between 23 per cent to 35 per cent in the final tariff schedule, which will be included as part of the carrier's final Reference Access & Interconnection Offer (RAIO).

These charges will now play a crucial role in the ongoing talks between BTC and Cable Bahamas (and the latter's Systems Resource Group subsidiary) over an interconnection agreement between the Bahamas' two largest communications sector players.

These negotiations have become increasingly fraught in recent weeks, with URCA having to intervene by issuing an 'Interim Order' setting out the timetable for concluding an agreement and the conditions both sides must meet.

This is one of URCA's more important consultations, as interconnection facilitates competition in the communications sector by allowing calls originating on one carrier's network to terminate on another's - thereby allowing clients of different carriers to call one another. Given that BTC is the incumbent operator, interconnection fees that are not cost-oriented could stifle the ability of rivals to enter the market and compete.

In its feedback on the interconnection charging consul-

tation, BISX-listed Cable Bahamas suggested that if one party constructed the entire joining path between itself and another carrier, the costs should be split 50/50.

However, if two carriers each constructed their own joining path between their networks, each should bear their own costs, while if a joining path was mutually constructed, the two parties must support the maintenance and installation costs for the parts they built.

Cable Bahamas also called for the duct costs to be charged on a one-off, rather than recurring monthly basis, if BTC built the entire joining path. It also suggested that duct charges be location specific.

In response, URCA said that given future changes to BTC's interconnection charging structure required both its approval and a public consultation, it was not necessary to incorporate Cable Bahamas' suggestions into BTC's RAO.

On the duct charges, the regulator said: "Cable Bahamas proposal to apply a one-off charge would have a more significant impact on smaller other licensed operators (OLOs). This could potentially act as a barrier to entry for smaller providers."

"In light of this concern, URCA has decided it is reasonable to maintain BTC's proposed recurring charges for duct charges. However, URCA will review the charging structure in future updates of the RAO, and on the basis of relevant information and sector policy objectives."

Rejecting BTC's assertion that comparisons between the 'mature' UK interconnection market and the Bahamas were inappropriate, URCA said forecasting processes within its RAO were designed to eliminate uncertainty over traffic volume "and provide a basis upon which BTC can plan interconnection capacity".

With all carriers having to provide transmission termination equipment at their end of the joining path, BTC had warned that there was a risk rival operators might pay for "unnecessarily high capacity" without any tariff restrictions.

Agreeing, the regulator said: "Including an arbitrary mark-up on charges for spare capacity with no justification for the level of an appropriate mark-up would not, in URCA's view, make the tariffs more appropriate or more reflective of the costs incurred by an efficient operator."

"It is also not clear why BTC might be relatively more affected by URCA's proposed charging structure than other licensed operators (OLOs). Although more OLOs may seek direct connectivity with BTC than with other OLOs, it is not clear to URCA that this means BTC will require a relatively high degree of spare capacity than other operators."

The regulator, though, accepted that BTC had legitimate fears that it could be left with "stranded assets" if rival carriers left the market, "the costs of which would not have been fully recovered."

"URCA therefore proposes to closely monitor the development of the interconnection market to ensure that no individual party faces undue costs from the provision of interconnection services and will, if necessary, revisit this charging structure during future reviews of BTC's RAO," URCA added.



Security Forces of The Bahamas and
The Royal Bahamas Police Force
Staff Association
PENSION PLAN TRUST

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Bahamas Police Force Staff Association in conjunction with The National Workers Health Plan Network, will be hosting a one-day seminar on **"The Way Forward in Healthcare and Pension"** **Saturday, June 4th, 2011** at the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers (BCPOU) Hall, Farrington Road from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interested persons from Government Ministries and Departments, Bahamas Union of Teachers; Nurses Union, Bahamas Cooperative League, Prison Staff Association, Primary School Principals Association, The Road Traffic Department and Defence Force Department are invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served

arts

& ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

ART BY Trevor Tucker



Nature's KISS

By CARA BRENNEN-BETHEL • Tribune Features Editor

St Augustine's teachers Marco Mullings and Trevor Tucker have once again joined artistic forces- this time to present Nature's Kiss an exhibition that provides a closer look at the patterns that make up the environment around us.

While this is the third show they have done together, it is different in that it is a real collaboration.

"This time around we planned the approach. The other shows did not have the flow that you will see in this one. You can see the differences in our artistic approach, but you still have the sense that it is one show. We really planned it out so that we could set parameters and have two different interpretations of the same thing," Marco recently told *Tribune Arts*.

"A lot of the pieces are underwater scenes that focus on the patterns of marine life i.e. grouper, marine life, angel fish and grouper. I have always been inspired by patterns and colours. There are also birds, flowers and some

SEE page 2C



ART BY Marco Mulling

NATURE'S KISS

FROM page 2C

humans in there.”
“We wanted to use the whole colour wheel, but we wanted to take the marine and plant life and really focus on isolating some of the patterns that you find in nature. It is really a marriage of nature and harmony really allowing the colours to direct the work.”

Trevor added that this show really is about focusing on the “bits and pieces” that make up the larger whole such as an individual flower petal as opposed to the whole flower.

“I love being able to take those little pieces and then put them together. It is almost like putting a puzzle together and letting the picture flow.”

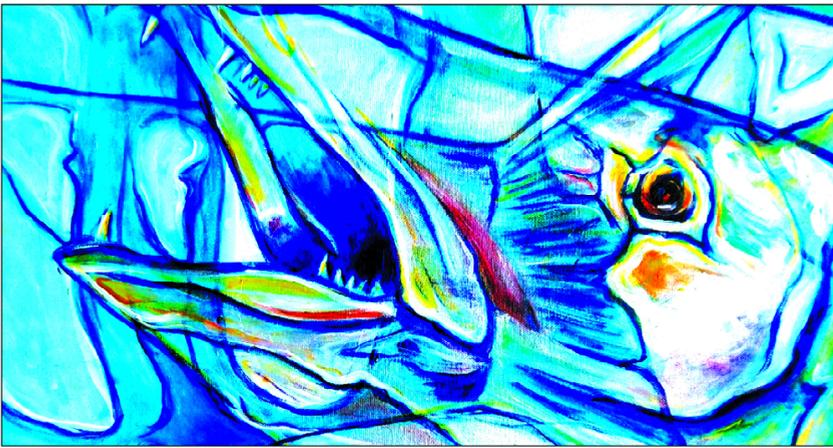
He added that Nature's Kiss is “definitely a blast of colour, with lots of movement and natural energy.”

It also allowed him a chance to hone some of his skills such as transparent overlapping.

Between them, the exhibit will feature between 30 and 50 pieces - some still in the works. The collection premieres on June 2, with a one night opening show at the Bahamas National Trust - a fitting venue to tie in with the theme followed by a longer engagement at the Via Cafe two weeks later.

I love being able to take those little pieces and then put them together. It is almost like putting a puzzle together and letting the picture flow.

- Trevor Tucker



ART BY Trevor Tucker



mahogany house



food - wine - market

dinner
5pm-10pm
tuesday to sunday

lunch
11am-2pm
tuesday to friday

brunch
11am-2pm
saturday

market
9am-6pm
monday
9am-9pm
tuesday to sunday

A sense of place from the architecture to the wine and food. Enjoy the overall experience that is Mahogany House.

Have a cocktail at the bar. Grab a pizza to go. Feast on cheese & salumi on the patio. Fill your basket in the Mediterranean market. Entertain your friends in the open dining room.

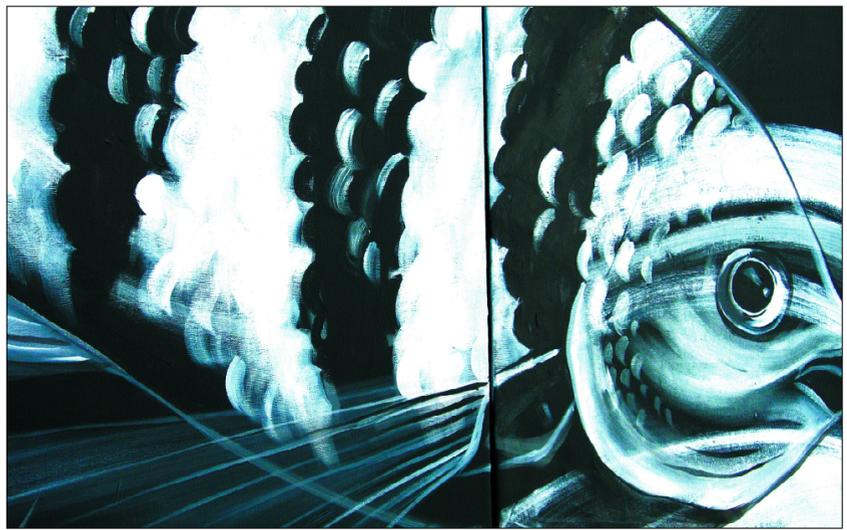
Take a magical and mystical wine flight with over 200 wines to experience.

The market is our pantry. Sustainable, fresh ingredients cooked with passion. From pork belly, salmon ceviche, hog pizza, manicotti & gnocchi to branzino, cod, duck and ribeye.

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ART BY Marco Mulling



REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR EPIC EXPEDITION

Youth from across The Bahamas expected to attend

By PRECISION MEDIA

TWO hundred young persons from across The Bahamas are set to descend on picturesque Abaco for a 13-day Bahamas Award Scheme Expedition (BASE).

Participants in the Governor General Youth Award (GGYA) programme will have the opportunity to appreciate Abaco in all its glory while they trek along pristine beaches and through thick pine forests.

Thanks to the G.O.L.D. Initiative — a financial partnership between the GGYA and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture — more Family Island and inner-city participants will be able to attend this year's event.

Famed for its candy-striped lighthouse, peaceful beaches, lovingly restored colonial houses and bright cascading bougainvillea, Abaco is the epitome of tranquility and beauty lying just 200 miles east of Miami.

Youths aged 14 to 25 will experience adventure and discovery dur-

ing their journey, which is meticulously designed to allow participants the freedom to share skills, take initiative and demonstrate resourcefulness, all while encircled by a safety net of trained support staff.

BASE 2011 is open to all GGYA participants seeking a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Those awards come, however, with pre-requisite community service, skills and physical fitness components.

BASE 2011 runs from Sunday, June 26, to Friday, July 8. Registration is underway for the event, which is expected to draw youths from Abaco, Acklins, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama and New Providence.

The creation of BASE in 1992 encouraged young people to be disciplined and responsible, simultaneously providing opportunities for achievement and fulfillment in challenging situations, according to national director of the GGYA, Denise Mortimer.

"BASE gives GGYA participants

opportunities to experience life on a different Bahamian Family Island (in this instance Abaco); live and work with people other than their normal peers; develop additional leadership skills, and qualify for their respective adventurous journey level," said Ms Mortimer. "Gold participants complete the required residential project, which involves a community service."

Prior to the expedition, participants will be based at the Abaco Central High School, where training and route planning sessions will be held, equipment checked and food rationed out. The four-day Gold expedition begins July 2. The three-day Silver Expedition starts July 3, and the Bronze expedition runs from July 4 through July 6.

The physical demands of such hikes are no laughing matter. Participants are responsible for the preparation and packing of their own food, health and hygiene items and other necessities. They are strictly limited to what they can carry on their back. Therefore, each person is required to pack 23 to 30 per cent of his/her body weight in clothes and equipment and told to allow an additional 10 to 15 per cent for food.

Ms Mortimer stressed the importance of following all instructions: pack light, drink lots of water, get plenty of rest, bring all items on the equipment list, be discipline and read the information provided.

"Do not plan to run away from home, as the GGYA does not adopt anyone," she quipped.

"Those persons who think this is an excursion do not fully understand what BASE is about," said Ms Mortimer. "Don't travel with too much clothing. You have to be able to work in a group and be able to adjust to outdoor showers."

The GGYA is an exciting self-development programme available to all young Bahamians. It equips them with life skills to make a difference within themselves, their communities and the world.

Only 50 per cent of Bronze chasers will obtain the medal, while the success rate for Silver and Gold is much higher, around 75 per cent.

The GGYA is a member of the International Award for Young People, where almost eight million young people from 132 countries have undertaken a variety of voluntary and challenging activities.

Last October, the government signed a contract with the GGYA to provide the organisation with critical funding through the G.O.L.D. Initiative. In addition to increased Family Island and inner-city participation in BASE 2011, the GGYA is also able to offer training courses for new volunteers through the new funding mechanism.

According to the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Charles Maynard, the initiative's goal is to bring every school on every island of The Bahamas into the GGYA programme as a part of a national youth development strategy.

"Upon completion, most participants are proud that they were able to take part in BASE because it is the ultimate test of one's patience, discipline, strength and ability to overcome obstacles," said Ms Mortimer. "Many did not think they could complete such a challenging venture, and so they gain a better understanding of themselves and others. Participants get a tremendous sense of achievement. They never thought they could survive without TV, cell phone, their own bed and a hot shower."



In this publicity mage released by DC Comics, DC Comics' co-publisher Jim Lee is shown. DC Comics is going back to the starting point in September, renumbering its entire lineup of DC Universe titles with No. 1 and retooling nearly all of its major characters, including Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman. (AP)

DC COMICS TO RELAUNCH MOST TITLES AT NO. 1

PHILADELPHIA Associated Press

DC Comics is going back to the starting point in September, renumbering its entire lineup of DC Universe titles with No. 1 and retooling nearly all of its major characters, including Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman.

At the same time, the company, which has been publishing comics for 76 years, also said it would start selling digital copies of its printed ongoing superhero titles through apps and a website the same day they're released in comic shops, a move dubbed by the industry as day-and-date sales. That will affect the company's superhero titles.

That means DC is joining a movement already embraced by Archie Comics, which began same-day digital and print sales in April, along with other smaller publishers.

DC's rival, Marvel Comics, has not yet implemented such a move but has routinely held more market share every year since 2002, based on sales statistics from Diamond Comic Distributors.

USA Today reported that DC's move will start with the first issue of "Justice League" No.

1 in September, which will reunite the classic lineup of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman and Green Lantern.

The newspaper reported that 52 issues, all starting at No. 1, will be released starting at the end of the summer. "Justice League" is the first and will be written by DC's chief creative officer Geoff Johns and illustrated by co-publisher Jim Lee, the first time the pair have collaborated together, the company said.

Lee has also designed the costumes of more than 50 characters, the paper reported.

In a note to direct-market retailers, Bob Wayne, senior vice president for sales, said by rebooting the superhero titles and moving to day-and-date digital sales, DC was positioning itself to let readers experience characters in a new light.

"We have taken great care in maintaining continuity where most important, but fans will see a new approach to our storytelling," he said in the letter. "Some of the characters will have new origins, while others will undergo minor changes. Our characters are always being updated; however, this is the first time all of our characters will be presented in a new way all at once."

THINGS 2DO

JUNE 1 - JUNE 5 (ELEUTHERA) PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL

• Gregory Town, Eleuthera hosts its annual Pineapple Festival, a festival that pays homage to the many pineapple farmers for their outstanding contributions and that brings together Bahamians and visitors to enjoy and participate in activities such as the pineapple eating contest, pineapple cooking contest, old time pineapple crazy sports, 40-mile pineapple cycling contest, plaiting of the pineapple pole and the Little Miss Pineapple Princess pageant. Telephone: 332-2142, 332-2148, or 332-2868.

JUNE 2 - THURSDAY BIFF'S MONTHLY FILM SERIES: "WAITING FOR SUPERMAN"

• The Bahamas International Film Festival, along with the FirstCaribbean International Bank, presents the Monthly Film Series' movie for June, "Waiting for Superman", which examines the crisis of public education in the United States through multiple interlocking stories, from students and families whose futures hang in the balance to the educators and reformers trying to find solutions for the dysfunctional system. 8pm at Galleria Cinema, JFK. Cost: \$7. Telephone: 356-5939.

JUNE 3 - FRIDAY KEVA POITIER LABOUR DAY COOK-OUT

• Enjoy delicious food at this Labour Day cook-out in aid of medical expenses for Keva Poitier. Menu includes chicken, peas 'n rice, macaroni and cheese, and coleslaw. Cost: \$10. 12pm-6pm on the Western

Esplanade.

JUNE 4 - SATURDAY HENNESSY ARTISTRY AT CLUB LUNA

• Club Luna hosts Hennessy Artistry, the art of blending, featuring a live concert from grammy-award winning artist Beenie Man and a special appearance by Willest and the Illest band. Cost: \$25/general advance; \$35/general at the door; 45/VIP advance; \$55/VIP at the door; \$125/platinum, includes hors d'oeuvres and complimentary drinks.

JUNE 5 - SUNDAY BAHAMAS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT

• The Bahamas National Children's Choir celebrates their 20th anniversary with a concert under the direction of Dr Patricia Bazard, Audrey Dean and assisted by Alfred Dean, 5pm at the Rainforest Theatre. Cost: \$10/available from choir members. Telephone: 557-8668 or 394-3018.

JUNE 9 - MONDAY HOTEL ASSOCIATION MEETING & BTC PLANS UPDATE

• The Bahamas Hotel Association holds a Board of Directors' and Members Meeting at 9.30 am at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Hotel, (The Arawak Room). There will be a special roundtable presentation by Geoff Houston, Chief Executive Officer, BTC Bahamas. He will provide the latest updates on BTC's plans. RSVP by contacting: 322-8381-4 or email Charlotte Knowles Thompson at: BHA@BahamasHotels.org

VIA CAFE PRESENTS

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CORNER OF PARLIAMENT ST. & WOODS CROSSING WALK



THE IMMENSELY popular frangipani Bridal Bouquet is flowering now and will stay blooming all the rest of the year.

THE MONTH OF JUNE

June, soon;
July, stand by;
August, come it must;
September, remember;
October, all over.

This little mnemonic about the hurricane season is fine, except that it is wildly inaccurate. September usually is our busiest month for hurricanes while some of the most destructive have occurred in October, even November. The hurricane season officially starts today but we have a couple of months when the likelihood of a storm is small.

June is poinciana month, when the trees are at their best. Those bare, straggly skeletons of winter have miraculously transformed themselves into the most magnifi-

cent displays of red or brick orange blossoms.

Blooming too are crepe myrtle and frangipani, joining those shrubs like bougainvillea, oleander and hibiscus that produce flowers for most of the year.

In the flowerbeds it is the heat lovers such as cosmos, vinca, sunflowers, zinnias and marigolds that hold sway. New Guinea impatiens and caladiums do well in the heat but also need shade.

The heat is taking its toll on the vegetable garden. Most of what we grew through winter and spring is now suffering and this signals the end of our vegetables season. Peppers, watermelons, corn, snake beans and okra are among vegetables that will grow well in summer heat, but by and large the season is on its last legs.

Most tomatoes need cool conditions below 68 degrees to self-pollinate and our late spring and early

summer nights are usually well above this mark. Certain tomatoes, particularly cherry tomatoes, can set fruit at a higher temperature and these are our best bet for the near future.

Some gardeners have structures that provide shade, sometimes erroneously called greenhouses. These will not help much with tomatoes but are excellent for peppers and other prime vegetables. If you have mature trees in your yard you may be able to grow peppers, eggplants, cucumbers and other warm weather crops in pots under the shade of trees.

June is the month when the rainy season normally begins, though we may have to wait until July. Local farmers who do not have irrigation systems are suffering, and gardeners are complaining to me about the amount of time they have to spend watering their remaining vegetables and flower beds

Mature fruit trees can tolerate going without water because their roots are widespread and firmly established. Most fruit trees produce better crops when conditions are dry. A sudden supply of water may induce fruit drop.

It has been so dry here on Abaco that I'm going to wait until the rainy season has definitely started before I treat my fruit trees with their summer regimen of chelated iron, fertilizer and minor nutrients.

Watermelons seem to be doing well this year but there have been many cases of blossom-end rot that have reduced the harvests. Blossom-end rot is usually caused by infrequent watering, and watermelons are more demanding of regular watering than most plants. They are native to West Africa and particularly along the banks of rivers that provide the roots with steady moisture in silty conditions.

Our lawns are like impatient hors-



It's watermelon time and this Sugar Baby is a handy size for most families.

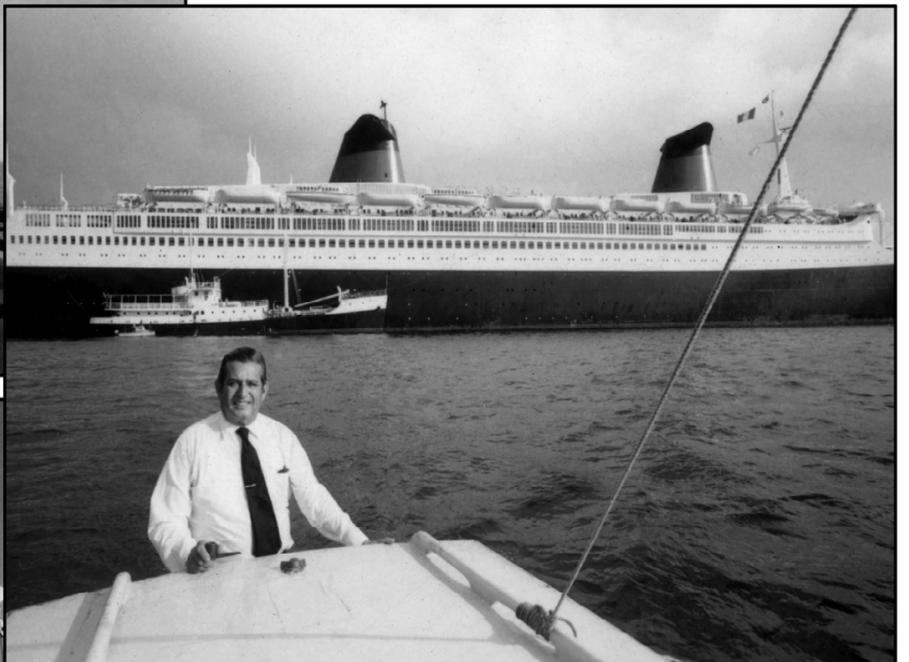
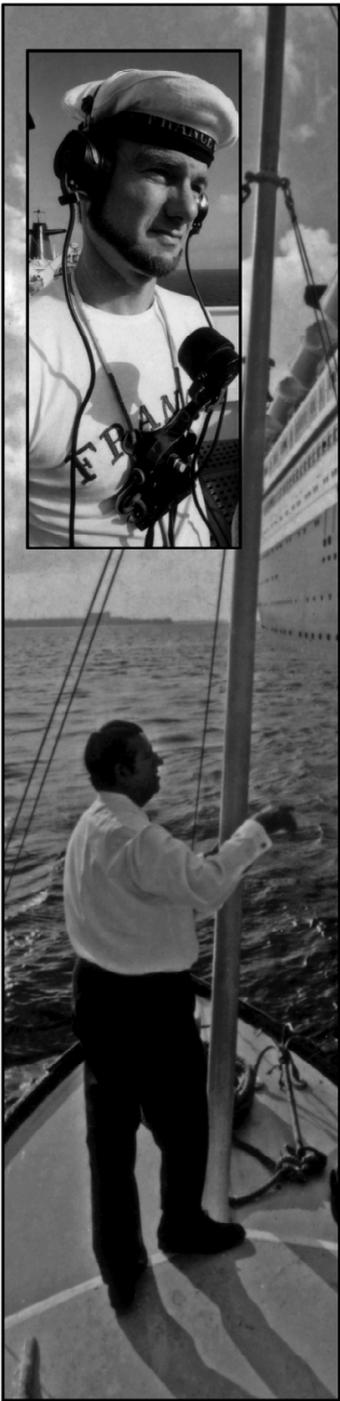
es, just waiting to stampede into grassy abundance. The combination of heat and rain when the time soon comes will make mowing a really regular chore. I swear there have been times in the past when the grass needed cutting again just a day after it had been mown.

•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



Captain Fred Brown brings to safe anchorage the SS France, one of the largest ships in the world at the time.


YA HEAR
 GOSSIP CORNER

• **YA HEAR** Tupac Shakur alive? That was the phony story that appeared on PBS network's website. PBS officials say hackers cracked the network's website, posting a phony story claiming dead rapper Tupac Shakur was alive in New Zealand, and a group that claimed responsibility for the hacking complained about a recent "Frontline" investigative news program on WikiLeaks.

• **YA HEAR** Sean Kingston in critical condition after jet ski crash? TMZ reported that Sean Kingston is in critical condition after surviving a life-threatening jet ski accident in Miami with a female comrade. During the holiday weekend Kingston and his passenger crashed into a bridge, but pulled through after a bystander rescued them. Both Kingston and his rider were rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital where Kingston is being treated in the trauma ward.

• **YA HEAR** Chelsea Handler had an abortion? In a recent New York Times article Handler opened up about her past. "I had an abortion when I was 16. Because that's what I should have done," Handler revealed. "Otherwise I would now have a 20-year-old kid. Anyway, those are things that people shouldn't be dishonest about it."

• **YA HEAR** Kim K is tying the knot? The reality star is engaged to New Jersey Nets player Kris Humphries. Humphries, 26, got down on bended knee on May 18 at her Beverly Hills home, and proposed with rose petals on ground spelling out, "WILL YOU MARRY ME?"

IN YA EAR'S BEENIE MAN EXCLUSIVE

WELCOME DI KING OF DI DANCEHALL

By LESH

DANCEHALL VETERAN and Award Winning Star, Anthony Moses Davis, also known as 'Beenie Man' is set to make headlines when he takes the stage in Nassau this Saturday at Club Luna courtesy of Hennessy Artistry Bahamas in association with Burns House Group of Companies.

In an exclusive interview with *In Ya Ear*, the self-proclaimed "King of the Dancehall" says he will put on a good show this Saturday for the Bahamian crowd.

Beenie has captured his millions of fans with his hits like "Rum and Red bull," "Girls Dem Sugar", "Wickedest Slam", "Healer", "Ole Dawg", "Who Am I (Sim Simma)", "Dude", "Boss Man" and "King of the Dancehall", Beenie Man was destined to rank top of the dancehall charts with Grammy-nominations, high climbing record sales, and his greatest dancehall hits.

He tells *In Ya Ear* he has performed quite a few times in the Bahamas, the last time being at last year's Caribbean Collaboration concert on Arawak Cay. "I always enjoy my time there and I have a lot of friends in the Bahamas, in Freeport and Bimini," he says.

When asked what advice he would give to Bahamian musicians who want to be successful as their Jamaican counterparts, Beenie said he would simply "Keep it Caribbean."

He went on to say that the Bahamas has a lot of talented musicians, but they often strive to make their music international for a US status. Beenie Man urges Bahamian musicians to try to come into their own in the music industry.

He also gives advice to Jamaicans living in the Bahamas- "Keep their head up."

Beenie said he is expecting a great show this weekend. "All kings bring your queen, buy your ticket and don't jump the fence."

According to promoters of the concert, Beenie is an international phenomenon and the mention of his name instantly has patrons jumping with the excitement of seeing him live.

"It is impossible to listen to the local airwaves in the Bahamas and not hear the latest hit song "I'm Okay", as it is presently in heavy rotation.

"This summer's concert is expected to be memorable. Beenie Man's constant mention of Hennessy in his dancehall hits, emphasised that the recognition of the value of Hennessy has hit the Jamaican entertainment scene," promoters stated. Hennessy Artistry promotes the art of blending various genres and talents of the world's top artists globally.

"We have each event to feature some of the most cutting edge and formidable names in music today, one being Beenie Man himself," Answell Johnson, Hennessy Brand Manager explained.

The Hennessy Artistry has given dancehall music patrons the chance to win one of twenty five general passes, one of fifteen VIP passes, and one of ten platinum passes to see Beenie Man live in concert with the purchase of any bottle of Hennessy at selected Burns House and Butler & Sands locations. In addition, Beenie Man fans were able to win concert tickets through the event's page - "Hennessy Artistry Bahamas" on Facebook.

Tickets to the concert are on sale at designated outlets in Nassau that include Burns House Locations: JFK - Independence Liquor Store- Saunders Beach - Caves Village, Captain's Cabin and the Mall of Marathon. The concert's general admission cost is \$25 in Advance/\$35 at the Door, VIP- \$45 in Advance/\$55 at the Door and Platinum cost is \$125.

NEW RELEASES

Beyonce

1+1

Lloyd featuring Trey Songz and Young Jeezy

BE THE ONE

Jill Scott featuring Anthony Hamilton

SO IN LOVE

DJ Drama featuring Wiz Khalifa, Fabolous, Roscoe Dash

'OH MY'

Da Brat featuring Jadakiss

GET IT GET IT

Jadakiss featuring Emmany

HOLD YOU DOWN

Raekwon featuring DJ Khaled, Game, Pharrell, Busta Rhymes

ROCK N ROLL (Remix)

Lil Wayne

HOW TO LOVE

Nicki Minaj featuring Swizz Beatz

CATCH ME

2011 GUIT CHAT

AND THE WINNER IS...SEXY SCOTTY!

By LESH

MY PREDICTIONS were accurate, I said the winner would be Scotty McCreery or Lauren Alaina. Scotty conquered all and was named the American Idol 2011 winner, I was still rooting for Lauren but everyone knows the real winner never really gets the title. Look at Jennifer Hudson and Daughtry, they are both award winning stars that got noticed on American Idol, so keep your head up Lauren!

At the beginning of the show we got to see all of the season's contestant come back to perform as a group, they all were dressed up in white and sang Lady Gaga's "Born This Way." We got to see James Durbin perform with Judas Priest. James always brings a lot of energy to the idol stage.

There was also a performance from Jacob Lusk who performed with award winning gospel stars, Kirk Franklin and Gladys Knight. That was just beautiful to watch, they sang Kirk Franklin's new hit, "Smile," a favourite of mine. Casey Abrahams also came

out and did a performance with actor, Jack Black, the Kung Fu Panda star. Now that was an hilarious performance, it was fun to watch.

Now the best performances of the night was when the top 13 girls came out doing a Beyonce medley, they all looked really nice, Beyonce came out and killed it when she sang and danced along with them. Steven Tyler also sang his hit song "Dream On." Scotty did a little duet with Tim McGraw, and Lauren Alaina sang with Carrie Underwood. It was very nice.

Going further, Lil Jon came on for a few seconds and introduced the group TLC who sang a few of their hits. Naima, Thia, Karen and Ashthon joined in to dance their song "Chasing Waterfalls."

We also got a look at all the people who didn't make it on the show, it was hilarious. And guys I know you weren't expecting a performance from Marc Anthony and his wife, AI judge, Jennifer Lopez, they both delivered.

After two long hours, the time had come for the winner to be announced. Of course Lauren was already in tears, Ryan reveals that the season 10 American Idol winner is SCOTTY MCCREERY! I think he knew he was going to win. He tried to sing a song and ended up crying as all the winners do. And that was the end of the season. Good luck to Scotty and all of the contestants!



MADE YOU LOOK

LADY Gaga never ceases to amaze! She is one of the most bizarre figures of fashion and every ensemble she steps onto the red carpet in out does the previous one. She has not only taken her fashion to another level, she has taken her shoe game to a new level. From towering heels to unique designs Gaga is never afraid to step out of the box. Now go on and look!

