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FEATURES



Birth of a Godhead
SEE 'THE ARTS'

INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS



Knowles, Bhupathi undefeated
SEE PAGE NINE

Police fear tourist robberies 'linked'

Minister tells of 'significant leads'

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are investigating the "troubling" possibility that there may be some "connections" between a number of recent tourist robberies that have taken place in the capital, the Minister of National Security said.

Revealing this development yesterday, Tommy Turnquest said police have some "significant leads in that regard."

He made his comments when asked in an interview with the media yesterday morning to give an update on the dramatic robbery of 18 tourists who were on an eco-tour in the former Perpall Tract last Friday.

Mr Turnquest did not state which robberies are believed to be connected. In the case involving eight tourists at the Queen's Staircase on October 11, three people have already been charged with that crime and remanded in custody.

Mr Turnquest said: "There are some troubling parts of that crime event (the eco-tour robbery) itself that the police are looking at that we want

to review...I want to believe that this was an isolated incident (although) you can say well it also happened at the 66 steps (and) there may have been some connections."

"There are some significant leads in that regard."

The Minister said he could say no more at this time as he would not wish to compromise the police investigation.

Initial police reports on the robbery suggested that two gunmen robbed separate groups of cruise tourists at around 1pm in the Bahamas Association for Social Health's (BASH) Earth Village last Friday.

According to reports from tourist Paul Coladonato, 51, who was among the second group, he and others were ordered by the masked assailants to lie face-down while the men robbed them of their valuables, kicking and hitting some of them with their weapons.

At the same time, the men fired a shot at the ground and demanded that their Bahamian tour guide jump into a nearby canal.

Mr Coladonato, who was

SEE page two

Former MP is again questioned by the police

FORMER FNM MP Lester Turnquest was again questioned by police yesterday as they continue investigations into an allegation of forgery dating back to 2007.

Head of the Central Detective Unit Superintendent Elsworth Moss confirmed Mr Turnquest was questioned at the CDU office on Thompson Blvd yesterday.

According to Supt Moss, Mr Turnquest was not arrested yesterday but came to the station voluntarily to assist police.

SEE page seven



LESTER TURNQUEST

BOAT HITS DREDGING CABLE



A CREW MEMBER sits at the stern of a 50 foot vessel that had to be run aground after hitting one of the cables used to dredge Nassau harbour. The boat reportedly took on water very quickly and had to be anchored onto the beach to avoid its total loss.

Tour operators say business not affected by armed robbery

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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SEVERAL tour operators on Nassau claim they are not yet experiencing any falloff in business stemming from the recent armed robbery of 18 visitors touring BASH's Earth Village site last week.

Still they are worried that bad press and word of mouth from the incident — which came a little more than a month after a group of tourists were robbed at gunpoint while touring the 66 steps — may hurt business in the long run.

William Saunders, owner of Majestic Tours, said advance bookings for January and February, 2010 are better than the same period this year. Yet he is concerned that criminals will continue to target unsecured tour stops and historical sites if police and tourism officials do not quickly provide adequate security.

"Believe it or not, I just checked my forward reservations for January and February and what we have right now is ahead of last year this time, so that's a positive. But if this thing continues and if the police and Ministry of Tourism

SEE page seven

Teenager's death in cell 'consistent with hanging'

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 15-YEAR-OLD boy found hanging in a police cell died from respiratory arrest as a result of a constricting force around his neck, a pathologist told an inquest yesterday.

Dr Govinda Raju testified in Coroner's Court how the signs were consistent with death due to hanging.

Michael Knowles was found dead in a holding cell at East Street South police station on May 31.

Dr Raju, who was the first witness to testify at the inquest, said he performed an autopsy on the teenager on June 8.

According to Dr Raju, Michael was found hanging with what appeared to be a nylon string around his neck. The string had been attached to a bar in the cell.

Michael, he said, had been dressed in a black T-shirt and red and blue basketball shorts. Dr Raju told the court there was a deep ligature mark around Michael's neck which would have been produced by the pressure on the blue string around his neck.

He said he also noticed abrasions to the teenager's wrists which he said could have been caused by handcuffs as well as abrasions to the teenagers' arms and shins.

Corporal Leon Strachan

SEE page seven

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LOCAL NEWS



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

THE 18 VISITORS were robbed while touring BASH's Earth Village site.

Police fear tourist robberies 'linked'

FROM page one

with three Malaysian friends among a group of nine passengers from the Royal Caribbean Navigator of the Seas, said they had feared that the tour guide was about to be murdered.

The tourist said that merely recounting the traumatic episode is "stressful" and he has no desire to return to Nassau or recommend it to friends.

Dutch Royal Caribbean passenger Ad Koens also spoke out about his ordeal in a video posted to the website

YouTube. He highlighted what he described as the incompetence of the Bahamian police in the aftermath of the event.

No charges have yet been brought in connection with the dramatic incident, although Mr Turnquest said yesterday morning that police have a "person of interest" in custody at this time.

The Minister added that police are working with BASH to beef up security at the site, which is commonly visited by tourists.

In an interview with the Florida Sun-Sentinel, which reported on the tourist robbery in an article entitled "Robbery Shakes Bahamas Tourism" yesterday afternoon, BASH Executive Director Terry Miller was quoted as saying the government has promised to set up "an intensive security system" in the Earth Village forest.

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LOCAL NEWS

NDP slams AG appointment

By MEGAN REYNOLDS Tribune Staff Reporter mreynolds@tribunemedia.net



JOHN DELANEY

THE appointment of commercial lawyer John Delaney to the office of Attorney General as violent crime is at an all time high has been slammed by the National Development Party.

The party flung further criticism at Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham for increasing the responsibilities of the AG and Ministry of Legal Affairs by adding the promotion and development of financial services to this portfolio.

And as Mr Delaney is the third commercial/corporate lawyer to be appointed to the post, the NDP is calling on Mr Ingraham to justify his decision.

The new Attorney General's special focus on commercial litigation and financial services during his 22 year private career, combined with his increased responsibility in financial services, makes it possible that he may focus on this area and not do enough to address the pressing demands for criminal justice, the NDP fears.

A spokesman for the fledgling political party said: "The NDP is of the conviction that the gravity of our nation's violent crime problem, and the weakness of our nation's penal code as it relates to violent offenders, demands that the Attorney General's office be led by someone whose sole focus is on correcting our dysfunctional justice system."

"We believe that any effort on the part of the current political directorate to engage the financial services sector, if they insist on not creating a separate financial services ministry, should involve incorporating this function within the Ministry of Finance, not within the Attorney General's office."

The prime minister voiced his government's commitment to fighting crime and improving the criminal justice system as Mr Delaney was sworn in at Government House on Monday.

But the NDP have criticised Mr Ingraham for making "no perceptible improvement" to the justice system since making similar statements at the swearing in of former Attorney General Claire Hepburn in May 2007, when Mr Ingraham said the poor state of the judicial and legal service was unacceptable and a top priority for government.

The NDP believes the appointment of three commercial lawyers to head the judiciary, in addition to the inclusion of responsibility for the financial services industry, demonstrates a dangerous level of instability and lack of focus, which is unacceptable and depriving Bahamians of real value and results.

"We call on the prime minister to give this nation's crime problem the serious attention that it deserves and not allow the Attorney General's office to double as the Ministry of Financial Services," the spokesman said.

"The NDP believes crime is an issue of governance and that the current crime crisis demands a full-time Attorney General and Minister of Justice."

Hotel occupancy rates up seven per cent on last year

THE MINISTRY of Tourism and Aviation reported that occupancy levels for October at the 14 major hotels in New Providence have increased by seven per cent over last year.

According to a summary report prepared by the minister and the Bahamas Hotel Association, October 2009 experienced an occupancy rate of 50.2 per cent - compared to 43.2 per cent in October 2008.

The report pointed out, however, that these figures are "distorted" by the temporary closure of 379 rooms at RIU last year.

"Exclude RIU from the 2008 figures and the 2008 September occupancy rate falls to 41.5 per cent. The closure of RIU also distorts the room nights sold picture even more," it said.

"Room nights sold increased by 2.7 per cent overall, 12.7 per cent when excluding RIU from 2008. However, an \$18 decrease in the average daily room rate (ADR) wiped out any gain in hotel room revenue expected from such an increase in room nights sold."

The report also revealed that room revenue fell by 7.4 per cent in October compared to last year, or 5.3 per cent if the RIU hotel is excluded.

"For October 2009, the ADR was \$167.25 compared to \$185.59 last year. October saw available room nights decreased



HOTELS IN OCTOBER 2009 experienced an occupancy rate of 50.2%

by 11.6 per cent. Nine of the 14 reporting properties recorded October increases in room revenues that ranged from hardly any increase at all to several properties reporting solid revenue if not substantial growth. Where decreases in room revenue occurred, it was in all cases double digit.

"Looking at the performance for the year, hotel occupancy stood at 62.3 per cent compared to 66.2 per cent last year. The

ADR was \$225.44 while January to October last year saw \$249.82. Hotel revenue fell 20.4 per cent with 12 of the 14 hotels reporting losses for the year so far.

Hotel room nights sold decreased by 11.8 per cent," it said.

The latest preliminary air arrival figures for New Providence, up to the end of September, have been released by the Department of Statistics

and the Ministry of Tourism. They show a 8.2 per cent decrease or 65,940 fewer foreign air arrivals than in 2008.

"Despite the mixed results, October performance indicators demonstrate a second consecutive month of either marginal improvements or single digit declines.

"While this is a welcome change of course, any small improvements in occupancy and arrivals continue to be significantly offset by low average

daily room rates and revenue for each room as a result of a strong push by hotels to increase market share through value-added promotions.

"This suggests that with a gradual global recovery as it now being widely predicted hotels will continue to be challenged, needing to pay close attention to maintaining operational efficiency while aggressively marketing themselves and the destination to maximise revenue," the report said.

Bahamian agencies take part in anti-terrorism workshop

By ALISON LOWE Tribune Staff Reporter alowe@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMIAN agencies involved in the fight against terrorism and its financing yesterday took part in day one of a special international workshop expected to strengthen the country's anti-terrorism capacity.

Local officers from the Police, Defence Force, Immigration and Customs Departments, as well as civil servants from the Finance Intelligence Unit, Attorney General's Office and the Port Authority were represented at the event - a "Specialised Workshop in the prevention and fight against terrorism and its financing: Legal framework and mechanisms of international co-operation."

The three-day gathering, hosted at the Sheraton Nassau Resort, will allow Bahamian officials to share information and ideas with global anti-terrorism experts from United States, Canada, Brazil, Spain, Italy, the Dominican Republic and various international agencies like Interpol, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organisation of American States (CICTE/OAS).

Presenters will speak on the legal instruments against terrorism, the role of human rights in the anti-terrorism fight, national experiences in investigating and prosecuting acts and terrorism and terrorist financing and best practices in regional and international anti-terrorism co-operation.

Addressing the opening ceremony,

Police, Defence Force, Immigration and Customs officers among those taking part

mony, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest emphasised that the Bahamas is deeply committed to doing its part to counter terrorism both locally and through co-operation with the international community.

The minister noted that not only does terrorism destroy lives, it also "destabilises governments and civil society, weakens economies and retards economic and social development."

He said representation from various Bahamian agencies at the workshop "is a reflection of the network (the government is) seeking to develop at the national level to combat terrorism through inter-agency co-operation."

The Bahamas continues to keep pace with international anti-terrorism developments, for example through the ratification of core universal counter-terrorism conventions and the enactment of legislation to combat terrorism, added Mr Turnquest.

Also addressing the workshop, Mauro Miedico, co-ordinator of the UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch's Latin American and Caribbean team, noted that the Bahamas is now party to 12 of the 16 legal "instruments" in which the rules of international law that relate to the prevention of terrorist acts are codified, and has "worked hard to ensure their full implementation."

Although praising the Bahamas for "showing a strong commitment to the fight against terrorism, terrorism financing

and international crime", Ignacio Ibanez, programme manager of the Legislative Assistance and Counter Terrorism Financing Programme of the CICTE/OAS, went on to point out that the Bahamas is "unfortunately" among nine countries which have yet to ratify the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism.

The convention, which has been ratified by 25 countries, is another legal instrument which "strengthens a preventative regional approach and fosters smoother legal co-operation when fighting terrorism."

"During the next few days we will aim to see how useful these legal instruments against terrorism can be when ratified, effectively implemented into national legislation and appropriately used during the investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases," added Mr Ibanez during his address.

The Bahamas is the current vice-chair of CICTE and a potential chair of the committee for 2010/2011.

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A new club and marching band is born

IN THIS column yesterday we described the great strides made in the Eastern Police Division under ASP Shannonor Evans who launched the community-active Pacesetters programme from the Elizabeth Estates Police Station in 2000. It was suggested that the initiative had died when Mr Evans was posted as Commandant of the Police College.

Maybe so, but not for long. Supt David Deveaux, who was transferred to the Elizabeth Estates Station this year, is setting up an ambitious programme, from which, he promises, the leaders of tomorrow will be drawn. He hopes that all residents in his police division — this includes the areas of Prince Charles, Sea Breeze, Winton, San Souci, Fox Hill, the Eastern Road and all the streets between — will support the programme.

Although spearheaded by the police with him at the head, Supt Deveaux emphasises that it is not a police programme, rather it is a programme that partners with the community.

The Eastern Division police are working with the Eastern Community Association — Carl Spencer is the president. On the committee are teachers, an accountant, housewives, and business people. Anyone willing to help is welcome.

Supt Deveaux points out that all residents should have an investment in this programme.

“We are trying to develop positive things with our young people as they will be the leaders of tomorrow. We have to teach them how to plan for life, and help them to position themselves to step up to the plate. If we don’t train them now, they will go down and our country will go down with them.”

He pointed out that anyone who wants to feel secure in this community, who wants to help turn an angry youth into productive citizens, should have a vested interest in this youth club.

Two weeks ago Supt Deveaux announced the launch of the Eastern Division Pacesetters Youth Club and Marching Band. Already more than 70 youth have signed up with parents still stopping by to inquire about a place for their child.

Supt Deveaux is so confident in his programme that he has even set the date for the band’s first public appearance — a pre-Valentine’s concert on February 13. He has the youth, he has the band master, but there is still a major problem — he has no instruments. However, he is certain that he will make his concert date — and that’s where

the community comes in. Expect him to announce the opening of a bank account for the band, with an invitation for residents of the Eastern Division to contribute.

Explaining the objectives of the programme, he said, it was important to instil discipline, emphasise the importance of a good education, and instead of fighting, how to communicate. He said that conflict resolution will be an important part of the programme with young people being taught the importance of giving back to the community. In other words community service will be high on the programme. Financial management also will be taught.

“I want them to understand how to handle money to properly manage their affairs, how to support themselves so that they will not have to steal,” says this 48-year-old police officer who has a masters degree in Business Management and is now studying for a degree in law.

They must also learn how to speak well and to clearly express themselves. To develop this a debating club will be a part of the programme.

They must also have a skill. And this is where music comes in. “Music,” says Supt Deveaux, “is a way to bring people in line; they will learn to be synchronised, to work together as one to produce harmony.”

In other words he wants to give these young people — ages 9 to 16 — a plan for life. They are being prepared to take up positions of leadership, even to aspire to become a part of the political process. “I want these young people to be above average. In other words we are trying to prepare a cadre of young boys and girls who will take their positions in the community and be a beacon for others.”

Today, said Supt Deveaux, “too many of these young people are getting into trouble, fighting among themselves and behaving ridiculously. We have to teach them that there is more to life than the negative things going around.”

And when the bands and choirs are ready these youth will be performing in the churches and giving band concerts once a month on a different park in the Eastern Division, so that all residents will have an opportunity to enjoy a new breed of young people.

But this is a community partnership. All residents from Prince Charles to the Eastern Road in the north are urged to join hands with the police to help rescue these young people from a life of crime.

It is in all our interests to give this ambitious effort our full support.

Sino-African cooperation benefits both sides

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Bahamas hereby submits an article about the relations between China and Africa.

We found the editorial last Saturday with the title of *China’s breathtaking expansion in Africa* on page four rather misleading. I hope that this attached article could serve as some kind of clarification.

POLITICAL DIVISION,
Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Sino-African Cooperation benefits all people

Although geographically far apart, China and Africa have a time-honoured friendship, which has been cemented over the long course of history. Since the beginning of the new century, especially since the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the two sides have been committed to building a new type of strategic partnership, and jointly implementing the eight cooperation measures announced by President Hu Jintao.

As a result, China-Africa trade and economic ties have gained a new momentum, bringing benefits to people from both sides.

China-Africa trade has been developing rapidly.

It registered an average annual growth rate of over 30 per cent in the past eight years and exceeded 100 billion U.S. dollars for the first time in 2008, realising the target of “100 billion dollars by 2010” proposed by Premier Wen Jiabao two years ahead of schedule.

Chinese investment in Africa has expanded steadily. In 2008, Chinese direct investment in the continent amounted to 5.49 billion dollars.

The existing stock of investment had reached 7.8 billion dollars and more than 1,600 Chinese companies had invested in Africa by 2008, covering a wide range of areas from product processing to

LETTERS

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agricultural development.

Substantial progress has been made in infrastructure cooperation.

Chinese enterprises have undertaken the construction of some major projects in Africa, including the east-west expressway in Algeria, the expansion of the Lobito Port in Angola and the Bui hydro-power station in Ghana, which have been widely applauded by local governments and people. After years of efforts, China-Africa trade and economic cooperation has shifted towards a diversified and interactive pattern encompassing trade, investment, aid and project contracting, playing an irreplaceable role in the economic development of both sides.

China has closely followed the development of Africa and sincerely wishes to make its contribution to the African people in developing their nations and creating a better life. To help African countries build their capacity for self-development, China has provided various assistance to 53 countries under the framework of South-South Cooperation over the past 50-strong years. It has finished over 800 complete-plant projects, provided training to 300,000 people, cancelled 306 debts for 34 heavily indebted poor and least developed countries, and sent 17,000 medical workers to 43 African countries.

The Chinese people will never forget the invaluable support of the African friends in major international issues such as the resumption of China’s membership in the UN and the hosting of the Beijing Olympic Games, and their selfless assistance in the wake of the devastating earthquake in 2008.

Over the three years since the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China and Africa have executed the eight measures to promote development and improve

people’s well-being, and thus have contributed tremendously to deepening bilateral trade and economic cooperation and advancing social and economic development of Africa.

Under the assistance initiative, the Chinese side has constructed a number of large infrastructure projects including the national stadium of Zambia, the second Bridge of Bamako, Mali, the hydro-power station of Pubara, Gabon, the new airport of Mauritius and the ring road of Nairobi, Kenya.

The 100 China-assisted rural schools will accommodate 50,000 children, and the 30 hospitals with Chinese assistance will add 4,000 beds to local medical capacity.

The malaria prevention cooperation has covered over 30 countries and benefited hundreds of millions of people. The Ethiopian glass factory invested by the China-Africa Development Fund has filled the vacancy of local industry, and the cotton planting project in Malawi will create 100,000 jobs for local farmers. The Zambia-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Area has already attracted 10 enterprises with a total investment of more than 700 million dollars, and created 6,000 jobs. Meanwhile, Chinese companies have also grown stronger and reaped great profits on the vast African continent.

Facts have proven that China-Africa economic and trade relationship features reciprocity, mutual benefit, cooperation and win-win, reflects the aspirations of the peoples and the need of the time, and thus sets up a role model of South-South Cooperation.

2009 is a year when China-Africa economic and trade relationship will continue to prosper on the strong momentum. The Chinese government will, as always, follow the principle of “sincerity and friendship, equal treatment, mutual support and common development”, deepen trade and economic cooperation, fight the financial crisis and achieve the goal of common development.

(Source: China Daily)

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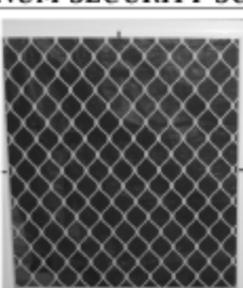


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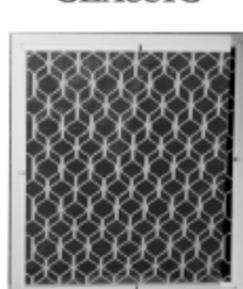
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LOCAL NEWS

Man accused of murder of businessman has convictions quashed

THE man accused of the February 2006 murder of businessman Keith Carey will have to be retried as the Court of Appeal yesterday quashed his convictions on murder, conspiracy to commit murder and armed robbery charges.

Jamal Ginton had received the death sentence following his conviction for the murder of Keith Carey. Prosecutors had claimed Ginton shot Carey, 43, twice outside the Bank of the Bahamas on Tonique Williams Darling Highway on February 27, 2006. The victim had been attempting to deposit \$40,000 belonging to the Esso Service Station which he operated.

Ginton, alias 'Bumper', was unanimously found guilty of the murder and armed robbery of Carey on April 9 of this year.

He had been charged along with Dwight Knowles and Sean Brown, who were unanimously convicted of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Senior Supreme Court Justice Jon Isaacs had directed the jury not to consider the charge of murder against Knowles and Brown. That direction was one of 17 grounds of appeal filed by Ginton's attorney Craig Butler.

"There were 17 grounds of appeal but the Court of Appeal was really only interested in the fourth ground. Based on the fourth ground, the Court of Appeal quashed the conviction," Mr Butler said yesterday.

"The fourth ground was that the judge was wrong in law to remove from the jury at the close of the case for the defence, the charges of murder and armed robbery as against the two co-accused. What that did was lead to an unfair trial against Jamal Ginton.

"The Court of appeal did not release him, they ordered a new trial. They said he is to remain on remand until that new trial takes place," Mr Butler said.

He noted that his client is now no longer a condemned man and has the ability to apply for bail in the Supreme Court.

Ginton's co-accused, Knowles, was given an 11-year sentence and Brown received a 10-year sentence.

According to evidence heard at the trial, Knowles and Brown sat in the getaway car while Ginton shot and robbed Carey.

The victim's cousin, Vaughn, who had originally been charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, testified for the prosecution in exchange for having the charge against him dropped.

The witness had testified that Dwight Knowles had approached him about setting up the robbery in exchange for \$9,000 which he claimed he was never paid.

Senior Justice Jon Isaacs also sentenced Ginton to 30 years imprisonment on the armed robbery charge and 10 years imprisonment on the conspiracy to commit armed robbery charge. The sentences are to run concurrently beginning on the date of his conviction.

Ruling on police officer charged with sex with minors expected on Friday

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE trial of police officer Vaughn Pratt, who is charged with having sex with two minors, was adjourned to Friday when a ruling in the case is expected to be handed down by Deputy Chief Magistrate Helen Jones.

A ruling was scheduled for yesterday, however Pratt's lawyer, Murrio Ducille, is presently involved in a murder trial that is underway in the Supreme Court in Freeport.

Sergeant Pratt is accused of having sexual intercourse with two minors, aged 14 and 15, on May 6, 2007.

It is alleged that Pratt got the girls drunk and had sex

with them in a bedroom at his home on Duke Drive.

The girls were put in the care of Pratt and his wife, who was off the island at the time of the alleged incident.

The summary trial began in November, 2007. The prosecution closed its case on June 23. Valeria Pyfrom and Lorna Longley-Rolle of the Attorney General's Office are prosecuting the case.

Prosecution

On August 17, Mr Ducille made a no case submission on behalf of Sergeant Pratt, saying that the prosecution had failed to establish a *prima facie* case against his client.

Mrs Pyfrom insisted that the offence of unlawful sex-

ual intercourse was committed by Pratt.

She told the court that doctors examined the girls at the hospital on May 6, 2007.

The doctor, she said, reported that the 14-year-old had already taken a bath and changed her clothing. Her genital exam was normal, but doctors noted that the complainant was very emotional and wanted to cry.

She noted that doctors reported that the 15-year-old displayed redness of the rectum, anus and vagina.

Mrs Pyfrom said the girls told a social worker Pratt got them drunk. He is accused of giving each girl five rounds of drinks - one was allegedly given Vodka and cranberry juice and the other was given Vodka and orange juice.

Pratt was arrested on May 7, 2007.

Roberts offers \$1m for return of Turnquest's 'stolen' anti-crime plans

PLP CHAIRMAN Bradley Roberts offered one million dollars to whoever returns the "stolen" anti-crime plans to Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest.

In his address at the opposition's Fox Hill branch meeting on Monday night, Mr Roberts reminded those in attendance that Mr Turnquest had claimed he and the FNM had a plan to get rid of crime.

However, with crime spiralling out of control, Mr Roberts quipped that someone must have "stolen the plans Tommy had."

"I offered a reward of one million dollars for the return of Tommy and the FNM's plans but today no one has come forward," he said.

Mr Roberts added: "Tommy claims that he does not walk around with a gun in his waist preventing people from committing crimes.

"To sum up, Tommy's reaction to his critics was, 'Stop scapegoating me man, I am doing the best I can man'. The bottom line is, Tommy's best ain't good enough."



BRADLEY ROBERTS and Tommy Turnquest

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FRANKLY, I am sick and tired of all those forwarded e-mails peddling scams, lies and hate propaganda.

This irksome correspondence used to derive mostly from unsophisticated Internet users who thought they were doing their friends and relatives a favour by sending a useful safety tip or an interesting take on the news. But now it seems almost everyone is getting into the act — even well-educated and otherwise level-headed folks — and the information they are peddling grows more outrageous by the day.

Why is this? Well, as one blogger put it recently, "these forwards are not just a way of spreading an idea efficiently, they are a way of getting people to commit to the idea, or deepen their commitment, by the very act of forwarding it. This is a dangerous practice in a democracy: getting people to commit to ideas and beliefs which may be false, without any regard to the actual evidence."

The most egregious recent example came from a lawyer friend, and it had already been forwarded by several other Bahamian lawyers as a cautionary word to the wise. The email featured a link to a video, which purported to show the former health minister of Finland, Dr Rauni Kilde, warning that the swine flu vaccine is actually a bio-weapon intended to cripple the immune system for purposes of population control.

"It's not the swine flu that's dangerous, it's the injections," Kilde says in a thick Scandinavian accent. "Behind the whole thing is to diminish the population, because it's toxic, and to get millions and millions into their own pocket by using scary propaganda. The World Health Organisation has ordered that everybody, by force, has to be injected. The figures released by the WHO are all false. They have been forced to do this by Big Pharma. The target is to get rid of as many people as possible and to get as much money as possible."

Well those seem to be two contradictory goals to me, since I assume that drug companies can't make much money from dead people. But Kilde does have a background of sorts. She was apparently a provincial medical officer in Lapland until injuries she received in a car accident in 1987 forced her to retire. Since then she has described herself as a "ufologist" and has alleged that world



governments are implanting microchips in our brains to control behaviour.

"Are we ready for the robotization of mankind and the total elimination of privacy, including freedom of thought?" she asks in one essay.

"How many of us would want to cede our entire life, including our most secret thoughts, to Big Brother? Yet the technology exists to create a totalitarian New World Order."

If you google her name, Kilde turns up on a wide variety of fringe, new age, libertarian and conspiracy websites. She has also been featured on slightly less crazy right wing websites — like the Massachusetts Liberty Preservation Association and Patrick Buchanan.org — although in some cases her videos have since been removed.

The attitude of most of the folks that run these websites is that the rest of us are insane for believing the lies of Big Medicine and Big Government.

In fact there is a big movement afoot to warn people about the dangers of the swine flu vaccine and the effort by world governments to force it on us.

These warnings come in several forms, some more extreme than others. One of the more innocuous was sent to me recently by a local friend. It takes the form of a pseudo-scientific medical advisory from a "bachelor of pharmacy" at the University of South Australia who was top of his class at school.

"If the regular flu kills 40,000-plus per year, and the swine flu only killed 2-3,000," the pharmacist asks knowingly, "then why are governments buying it in advance, giving it to us for free, and giving drug manufacturers immunity to legal cases against them? Does that make sense? No. This stuff is poison."

Of course, such dire health warnings are frequently wrapped up in ridiculous rightwing accusations that "the government" is seeking to destroy our freedoms and force us to take harmful drugs.

And the effectiveness of this scare-mongering was confirmed over the weekend when a CNN poll reported that more than half of Americans don't want the H1N1 vaccine because they believe it's unsafe.

This is despite the fact that this vaccine is no different from the seasonal flu shot, which has been administered to hundreds of millions of people and raises no objection. The two vaccines are produced in exactly the same way and have the same potential — but rare — risks. And the vaccinations are not mandatory in the US or in other countries, although some hospitals and localities may require healthcare workers to take the shots, for obvious reasons.

In order to avoid being fooled by this nonsense, just do this: Never believe anything, especially forwards, that you receive in your e-mail inbox. Most of these messages are untrue. And you will not get bad luck for 100 years if you delete the message before forwarding it to all of your friends.

Anyone can post anything on the internet, but when making important decisions regarding your health and the health of your loved ones, who would you rather consult — some crazy website or your family doctor? Let me put it another way, would you google "pufferfish", then watch a youtube video on how to prepare this deadly poisonous fish, then trust the information enough to cook it and serve it to your children?

The important thing to know is that when you google something, the search results that come up first are based on the number of hits they receive,

not on how reliable the content is. For example, just because the first site that pops up when you google "H1N1 vaccine ingredients" tells you that it contains formaldehyde, live monkey virus, mercury and tissues from aborted babies does not mean it is true.

Also, please remember that anyone can sign any name at the bottom of an e-mail and there is no way to track this back.

For example, I could write a message telling everyone that eating macaroni and cheese dipped in crab fat will give you immunity from swine flu. Then I could sign it "Dr Hubert Minnis" and include a list of his credentials.

But it doesn't mean the advice is true. In fact, the falsehoods being spread about the H1N1 vaccine are much more dangerous than any potential side effect from the vaccine itself, since they encourage the credulous to ignore good medical advice.

That brings me to my second example — a political chain email I received recently from a close family member that concerned US President Barack Obama (who else?). But before I get to that, have you noticed that most of the insulting trashy political propaganda and hate mails circulating around the internet come from the right, with a large majority directed at Obama? I can't recall getting any emails that denigrate the right wing or social conservatives in the same fanatical way. It's tempting to think that moderates and liberals are more likely to question the validity of such crazy emails.

Now back to the Obama email, which first appeared around the time of the presidential election.

It purported to be a message from liberal historian David Kaiser, and it compared Obama to Adolf Hitler.

The email is, of course, a forgery, but it presents a litany of familiar ultra conservative themes that boil all our problems down to one man — Barack Obama — who will destroy the constitution and reshape America in the same way that Hitler transformed Germany. This message has been traced to a rightwing blog by Pat Dollard, called The War Starts Here.

I don't understand how otherwise intelligent and well-meaning folks can distribute such messages or be taken in by them so easily. The way to avoid that is to use critical thinking. And claims about huge conspiracies are the first thing to look out for. The American political system is simply too big and there are too many checks and balances for a handful of Obama supporters to be able to stage a secret communist coup. Likewise, it would have been impossible for a select few in the Bush administration to orchestrate the 9/11 attacks. And the world is an even bigger place, so please be sceptical when emails tell you that one group or another is secretly pulling all the strings.

Here are a few other simple ways to identify internet hoaxes: If an email vilifies political enemies or uses religion to make political or social points; if you are directed to send an email to everyone in your address book urgently; if an email offers no specific facts that can be easily checked; if an email presents sensational or frightening stories, or appeals to your worst fears; or promises goods or money, or if the message sounds like special insider information.

These are all clear signs that you are being taken for a fool.

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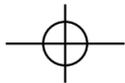
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

don't get included to put in necessary security it will destroy tourism," Mr Williams said. "These criminals know the police aren't there and they target it."

He is also worried that negative word of mouth about the incident could spell bad news for local tour operators.

"I think if it gets carried by major news (networks) particularly in the US and Canada I think it will have an effect," he said.

One of the victims has already created a video about the incident, which has been posted on the popular video sharing network YouTube.

A manager at another leading tour company said

Tour operators say business not affected by armed robbery

the bad press stemming from the incident will no doubt affect all of the country's tour providers.

"It looks bad even though it didn't happen with (our) tour company it still will affect everybody because you never know who these guests are speaking to about their experience," said the manager, who chose to remain anonymous.

Farley Williams, operator of Bahamas Sightseeing and Tours, said he has not seen any cancellations since the group of cruise passengers were robbed at gunpoint last Friday.

Mr Williams, whose company takes tourists on multiple historical sites throughout the

capital, said he will continue to operate in the same manner despite possible threats from criminals.

On Friday, 18 cruise ship passengers who were part of two separate Segway tours visiting BASH's Earth Village were robbed by two shotgun

toting bandits.

The thieves tied up the Bahamian tour guide and ordered the group to the ground before the second group approached. They were also robbed.

Early last month, a group of American cruise ship passengers were robbed, while on a taxi-cab tour of the 66 Steps.

• SEE PAGE THREE

18 tourists in shotgun terror

Minister MAN FACES STRING OF RAPE CHARGES

THE TRIBUNE reported on the incident on Saturday.

Woman left 'traumatised' by long wait for justice

BY AVA TURNQUEST A WOMAN who was allegedly sexually harassed by police more than 20 years ago has filed a lawsuit to maintain her sanity for an abuse she suffered in 1988. She got to the 11th floor of the daily news building to meet with the woman's lawyer, and of her disappointment for abuse in the struggle for justice that has left her physically and mentally

Former MP is again questioned

FROM page one

"They continued their investigations with him I'm told," Mr Moss said yesterday.

On November 9 Mr Turnquest was arrested — and later released — as police probed the matter.

It is understood that the RBPF investigation relates to the operations of Britannia Investment Company — owned by Mr Turnquest's former business partner Hywel Jones — and Mr Turnquest's investment firm Bonnycord Group Limited.

Mr Turnquest has maintained his innocence in the case. "We haven't done anything wrong and the one thing I have learned is that when you are in litigation people would say anything."

"There are certain things I just can't bring myself to do — as my former partner Hywel Jones denied his signature; I can't do that. It is just amazing but in litigation people say things to bolster their case," he told the media at a press conference days after his arrest.

Last year, officials from Canada arrived in the Bahamas to investigate the Britannia Investment Company for a "fraudulent tax scheme" that totalled over \$100 million. While the case is chiefly one involving Canadian tax law, and is not a criminal matter, no charges were filed against Mr Jones, his colleagues, Britannia and Hampton.

Mr Jones was also embroiled in a heated legal dispute with Mr Turnquest — who was once an associate of Britannia Limited — before he was shot and killed earlier this year.

Teenager's death in cell 'consistent with hanging'

FROM page one

told the hearing he found Michael's body during a routine check.

According to Corporal Strachan, at the time Michael died he was being detained on suspicion of committing house-breaking.

Cpl Strachan said he saw Michael for the first time on Wednesday, May 27, and then took over duties as the station orderly on May 31.

He claimed Michael, who appeared to be fine, was the only person in custody. However, around 5.16pm a woman by the name of Desirae Chisolm was put in the second holding cell.

Cpl Strachan said that around 6.30pm Detective Constable Kelalrico Burrows came and took Michael to the detective unit upstairs. He further stated that an hour later, Inspector James Miller brought the boy back to the holding cell.

Cpl Strachan said that when he checked the cells around 8pm, he found him hanging from a steel bar in the cell. He told the court that Michael had no pulse and that EMS personnel were contacted.

Michael's mother Donna Wilson said her son had not been arrested on Wednesday, but rather on Thursday in the Bahama Avenue area. She asked Cpl Strachan why she was not called to be present when police took a statement

from her son. The officer responded by saying he was not the investigator in the matter and could not say if any attempts had been made to contact her. He said Michael was charged on May 31.

Downen Major, store manager of Super Value, East Street and Robinson Road, described Michael as a mannerly boy who was street smart and had a troubled background. Mr Major said that Michael worked as a packing boy at the food store.

He said Michael had told him he and his mother were on bad terms. Mr Major said that two weeks prior to his death, Michael had been sent home from work because of an altercation between some other boys. Major said that he had been shocked to learn of Michael's death.

Paramedic Joanne Rolle told the court that she received a call instructing her to go to the East Street South Police Station around 8.24pm on May 31. She said that she and her driver arrived at the police station around 8.30pm and there observed a brown skinned male hanging from a cell from a string which was around his neck. She said that upon examination, she noticed no vital signs. Rolle said that the boy's hands were to his side, his tongue was protruding out of his mouth and his legs were crossed. The inquest resumes on Thursday before Coroner William Campbell.

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Carols

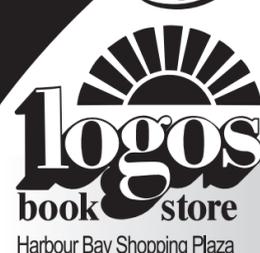
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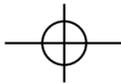
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sports

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

Regatta champion Ivan Stuart dies, *see page 11*

Baptist Sports Council: Golden Gates captures two titles

Knowles, Bhupathi undefeated

Barclays ATP World Tour Finals



AP Photo

HIGH FIVE — Mark Knowles (left) and Mahesh Bhupathi celebrate their win yesterday at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals...

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

After getting off to a shaky start, Mark Knowles and Mahesh Bhupathi turned things around as they remained undefeated at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals at The O2 in London, England.

The Bahamian-Indian duo, seeded at No.3 in the year-ending round robin tournament, came from behind to pull off a 3-6, 6-3, 10-7 win yesterday over the Polish team of Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski.

"They played well," said Knowles, who was riding their stunning first round victory over top seeds Daniel Nestor of Canada and Nanad Zimonjic.

"They broke Mahesh in the first set for the only break and were able to take the set. But in the second set, we came back a little stronger and played much better.

"It went down to the super tie-breaker and I think we went on to play as best as we could to be able to come out with the win. It was a big win for us."

Knowles and Bhupathi, who clinched their first round win over Frantisek Cermak and Michal Mertinak on Sunday, said they were prepared for Fyrstenberg and Matkowski.

"We knew that in order for us to advance out of our pool, we have to win all three of our matches," Knowles said during an interview with *The Tribune* from London.

"We feel we are playing as well as any other team here. So if we can

continue to play that way, we should definitely have a chance to move onto the playoffs."

With the victory, Knowles and Bhupathi have surged out front in the Group A standings with a 2-0 win-loss record. Fyrstenberg and Matkowski have dropped to 1-1.

On Thursday, 38-year-old Knowles and Bhupathi, 35, are set to play their final match in the round robin when they take on Nestor and Zimonjic. The match will determine which two teams will advance to the playoffs.

They will cross over and play the top two teams out of Pool B that is led by American identical twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan.

But before they get to the playoffs, Knowles said he and Bhupathi are hoping to get past Nestor and Zimonjic.

"We're in a good position, but we still have to go out there and win," Knowles said. "The best way for us to get into the playoffs is to win."

"It's going to be a big match because we've had a history playing against them. So we know that we will have to play at our best and I think we will be ready to do that."

This is just the second time that Knowles and Bhupathi are playing together in the tournament. Last year, in their debut, they failed to advance out of the playoffs.

However, Knowles has had a great deal of success when he teamed up with Nestor. They won the title in 2007, the year that they eventually broke up their long-time union.

Prior to that, Knowles and Nestor played in the final in 2006, didn't make the playoff in 2005, but got to the semis in 2004 and 2003.

Rattlers beat Stingrays

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.netC I GIBSON
RATTLERS - 31
C V BETHEL
STINGRAYS - 26

TIED at two early in the first half, the Rattlers went on a 9-0 run and maintained an advantage to ward off a persistent Stingrays team seeking their first win.

A jumper by Stevandre Wells gave the Rattlers an 11-2 lead. The Stingrays would come back led by Shatyna Stuart whose driving lay-up trimmed the deficit to 15-8.

Stuart, the lone ballhandler and penetrator for the Stingrays, managed to keep them within striking distance for much of the game.

Despite her efforts, the Rattlers were too dominant, controlling both interiors with forwards Robin Gibson and Precious Aranha.

With their tenacity on the boards, the duo gave the Rattlers various second and third shot opportunities and trips to the free throw line.

C I Gibson failed to take full advantage of the foul prone Stingrays and extend their lead as they shot a paltry 1-12 from the free throw line late in the first half.

With both teams struggling to score, the Rattlers led 18-11 at the half.

The offensive struggles continued in the second half with just one basket scored between the two teams in the opening six minutes.

Stuart made one of two free throws at the line to bring the Stingrays within three, 20-17.

The momentum would be short lived as the Rattlers reeled off for a timely 5-0 run on a three pointer from Lornika Seraphin and a basket by Gibson.

Stuart again scored when her team needed her most to end the run and make the score 25-19 with just over seven minutes left to play. Both teams went through an exten-

sive drought with just one point scored in nearly five minutes.

The Stingrays had numerous chances to cut into the lead at the free throw line but went 0-6 from the charity stripe in the game's waning moments.

Gibson led all scorers with 15 points, Seraphin finished with six while Aranha and Wells finished with four points apiece. Stuart led the Stingrays with 10 points while Wenneka Brown added four.

GHS MAGIC - 23
RM BAILEY PACERS - 11

In a matchup of teams that generally struggle offensively, the Magic brought more than enough scoring to outlast the winless Pacers.

The Magic lead reached double figures for the first time on a three pointer by Marcelene St Jean from the top of the key to give her team a 12-1 lead.

The Pacers would manage to add just a single free through over the last five minutes of the half as the Magic took a 12-2 lead at the break. After the Pacers scored again from the line, the Magic's Shanice Cartwright picked up the scoring slack in the second half with a 5-0 run of her own which gave her team a 17-4 lead with 12:24 left to play.

St Jean, who finished with a game high 11 points, added the next two baskets for the Magic who led 21-3.

The Pacers made their first shot from the field with 6:34 left to play in the game on a running jumper from Tonia-Kaye Johnson. The score sparked a late 6-2 run for the Pacers but proved to be too little to overcome the double figure deficit.

St Jean was the game's lone scorer in double figures while Chiquita Ferguson finished with six and Cartwright finished with five points respectively. Latasa Armbrister led the Pacers with five points while Diamante Barr added three.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



STINGRAYS guard Shatyna Stuart brings the ball upcourt yesterday. She finished with 10 points... SEE NEXT PAGE

SPORTS

Island regatta 'pioneer' Ivan Stuart passes away

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

CAPTAIN Ivan Stuart, one of the few to win a championship title in every island regatta in the A, B and C Classes, died Sunday on Abaco. The fisherman by profession was in his 70s.

Yesterday condolences poured in from the sailing community as they reflected on the life of Stuart, who left a void that will be hard to fill.

"I'm sure all of the sailors will miss him," said Captain Emmitt Munroe, one of Stuart's closest friends in sailing. "He would jump on the C class, then he would sail the B class and the A class."

"He used to jump on any of those boats and sail. The owners used to come to him because they knew he was a good sailor and he would jump

from C to B and A."

Munroe and Stuart's relationship went back to the days when Munroe only had the Courageous boat. But once he got the New Courageous, Munroe said Stuart teamed up with his son, Shawn, to sail the new boat.

"He sailed a lot of boats when they needed him," Munroe said. "I can't see anybody who is a sailor and sailed who wouldn't miss him. I know I could sail my own boat, but I will miss him because he was a good help to me."

A couple months ago when Munroe came to town to see the doctor, Munroe said he cracked a joke with Start, telling him to "hurry up and get better so he could sail the New Courageous again."

"That made him smile and made him feel good. He said the next time we have sailing, he just want to go on the boat and sail with me. So I take his

passing to heart. I will miss him."

Rev Dr Philip McPhee, owner of the Thunderbird, said although Stuart came into sailing a little late in age, he left an indelible mark in the sport.

"He won championship in every island in the Bahamas. I don't think no other skipper has done that, beside Lundy Robinson and probably Emmitt Munroe," McPhee pointed out.

Winning

"In that age bracket, he stands out as a pioneer in terms of winning championships in every island regattas in the A, B and C classes. He was a tiller man extraordinaire and was truly a legend in sloop sailing."

McPhee, who serves as the sailing consultant at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, said unfortunately, Stuart never got the recognition

that he deserved.

"Hopefully we will pay tribute to him either in the Bulla Reg Regatta on January 1 in Exuma or the New Year's Day Regatta in January," McPhee said. "He's deserving of that recognition and I will recommend that to Minister (Desmond) Bannister and the ministry."

Although the Cobra was the first boat that Stuart sailed, he also sailed on the Lonesome Dove, the Old and New Courageous, the Thunderbird, Unknown, Vitamalt Thunderbird, Southern Cross and the Sea Star.

They never sailed together, but Eleazor 'The Sailing Barber' Johnson and his Lady in Red, Lady Nathalie was Stuart's keenest rivals in the B class.

"I knew him for many years. He was a very good sailor," said Johnson, who first came in contact with Stuart when

their Lady Nathalie and the Cobra competed in the Briland Regatta in the 1960s. "He was good and anytime you beat him, you got a good win because he was very skillful. He was a person who never talked that much. He was always one way."

In February during his St Valentine's Day Massacre in Montagu Beach, Johnson said he and Stuart sailed together on the same boat as they watched the races.

"He told me that Nathalie was fast and with the light wind, the boats won't catch her," Johnson recalled. "He was right. She put time on them and they never caught her."

Both Munroe and Johnson said they tried to spend as much time as they could with Munroe, especially when he started to become sick and was unable to continue fishing and even sailing.

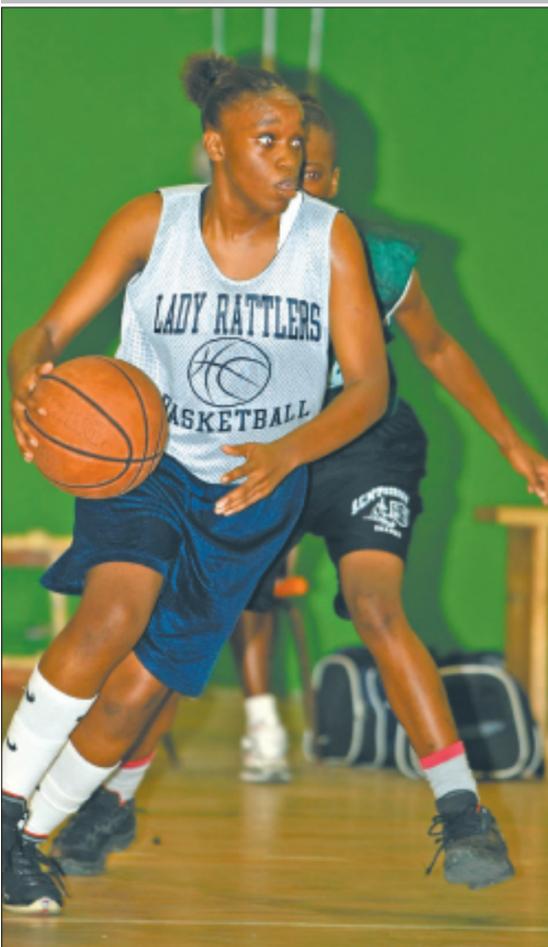


LORNIKA SERAPHIN looks up the floor during the first half...



PRECIOUS ARANHA (centre) comes away with a loose ball...

Rattlers VS Stingrays



STEVEANDRE WELLS looks to make a pass in yesterday's 31-26 win over the C V Bethel Stingrays...



SHAQUELLE BAIN goes after a loose ball...



SHATYNA STUART drives to the basket...

Photos by Felipe Major/Tribune staff



Join Us for Proposed Southwest New Providence Marine Park Community Meeting

The area off the Southwest Coast of New Providence is important due to its proximity to the island of New Providence. As an important Dive Site, it has value for the tourism industry and has recreational value to New Providence Fishermen. The Bahamas National Trust is in the process of developing a proposal for a National Park to be developed off the Southwest coast of New Providence Island. The creation of a marine park in this area has the potential to serve multiple purposes of protecting resources, providing non-destructive economic benefits, and providing both recreational and educational opportunities for Bahamians.

The Bahamas National Trust firmly believes that engaging both stakeholders and resource users during the project's development phase is essential for its success. All users of the Southwest Marine Area off of New Providence should try and attend this important meeting.

Join us at one of our scheduled community meetings:

- DATE: Wednesday, November 25th, 2009
TIME: 7:00 PM
VENUE: The Retreat, Village Road
- DATE: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009
TIME: 7:00 PM
VENUE: St. Paul's Church, Lyford Cay

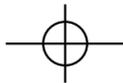
For additional meeting information call 393-1317 or email bnt@bnt.bs

Community Meeting

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SPORTS

Golden Gates captures titles

GOLDEN Gates captured two pennant titles on Saturday as the Baptist Sports Council drew closer to the completion of the 2009 Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex.

Golden Gates pushed their undefeated record to 4-0 in the men's vice president division as they blasted Calvary Deliverance 22-5 and Golden Gates also finished perfect in the Co-ed president division at 3-0 with a 13-3 rout over Salem.

The other pennant won so far is the co-ed vice president division. That went to St Paul's, managed by Morris-Evans, who finished with a 2-1 record.

The regular season games were cut short as the teams were placed in two divisions in the men and the co-ed to ensure that both the best-of-three playoffs and championship series are completed in December.

On Saturday, defending champions Transfiguration and Temple Fellowship are scheduled to play in two separate games to determine the men's president pennant winners. Both are 2-1.

It's the same scenario in the 17-and-under division where Transfiguration and Temple Fellowship are both 3-1 and they will play two different opponents to determine the pennant winners.

Here's a summary of the games played on Saturday:

Golden Gates 22, Calvary Deliverance 5 (M)

Ken Wood Jr went 3-for-5 with two RBI and four runs scored; Michael Thompson 2-for-2 with five RBI and three runs; Chavez Thompson 2-for-

St Paul's wins co-ed vice president division

3 with two RBI and three runs; Randy Wallace 2-for-2 with three runs and Khalid Curry 1-for-3 with three RBI and two runs. Junior Moss was the winning pitcher and Danny Stubbs suffered the loss. Jayson Clarke went 2-for-2 with a home run, driving in two runs and scoring twice for the losers.

St Marks' 10, Faith United 5 (M)

Ken Symonette had two hits and scored three times and Hermis Ferguson had two hits and scored two runs in the win. Jason Sweeting was the winning pitcher. Alfred Johnson got the loss.

Faith United 18, St John's 1 (17-and-Under)

Steven Russell had two hits with two RBI, scoring twice and Trevell Lightbourn had two hits with three RBI, scoring three times in the win. D'Angelo Cartwright got the win and Alexander Clarke suffered the loss.

Golden Gates 9, Faith United 4 (17-and-Under)

Devon Francis had two hits with two RBI, scoring two runs and Dino Sweeting also scored twice to lead the winners. Keann Thompson got the win on the mound.

Golden Gates 13, Salem 3 (Co-ed)

Renee Davis had two hits, including a homer, scoring twice and Vandette Smith and Eugene Pratt both scored two runs in the win. Pratt was the winning pitcher and Frank

Rolle suffered the loss.

Macedonia 16, Transfiguration 3 (17-and-U)

Patrizio Adderley, Bernard Ferguson, Jordan Gibson, Crandon Wallace, Quintin Williams, Raymond Demeritte and D'Kyle Rolle all had two hits, scoring two runs in the win.

Wallace was the winning pitcher and Alexander Bain Jr was tagged with the loss. Miguel Hanna had two hits, scoring a run to lead the attack for the losers.

Transfiguration 21, Calvary Bible 7 (M)

Miguel Hanna was 3-for-4, just missing the cycle as he got a homer, triple and double, driving in four runs; Nelson Farrington was 2-for-4 with a RBI, scoring four times and Stephen Sands was 2-for-4 with a homer, driving in three runs and scoring two more.

Farrington was the winning pitcher and Terrance Pinder suffered the loss. He was also 2-for-3, scoring two runs and Kirk Thompson, Trevor Saunders and Kevin Pinder all homered in the loss.

Golden Gates 16, St John's 3 (17-and-Under)

Tevin Symonette went 2-for-3 with a homer, driving in three runs and scoring twice; Raymond Bastian was 2-for-3 with a two-run homer, scoring three times and Kyle Curry added a two-run homer in the win. Keann Thompson was the winning pitcher and Tori Rolle suffered the loss.

Baptist Sports Council: Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic team standings/schedule

TEAMS	W	L	Pct.	GB
Men's President Division				
Transfiguration	2	1	.666	-
Temple Fellowship	2	1	.666	-
Calvary Bible	2	2	.500	-
St. Mark's	1	2	.333	1
Faith United	1	2	.333	1
Men's Vice President Division				
Golden Gates	4	0	1.000	-
Macedonia	3	2	.600	11/2
Salem	2	2	.500	2
St. Paul's	1	2	.333	21/2
Calvary Deliverance	1	2	.333	21/2
Mt. Carey	0	3	.250	3
17-And-Under Division				
Transfiguration	3	1	.666	-
Temple Fellowship	3	1	.666	-
Golden Gates	3	2	.600	-
Macedonia	3	2	.600	-
Faith United	1	3	.333	2
St. John's	0	4	.000	3
Co-Ed President Division				
Golden Gates	3	0	1.000	-
Ebenezer	1	1	.500	11/2
Salem	1	2	.333	2
Macedonia	0	2	.000	21/2
Co-Ed Vice President Division				
St. Paul's	2	1	.666	-
Temple Fellowship	2	1	.666	-
Faith United	1	1	.500	1
St. John's	0	2	.000	2

Saturday schedule: Field One @ 10 am – Calvary Deliverance vs St Paul's (M); 11:30 am – Macedonia vs Ebenezer (Co-ed); 1 pm – Golden Gates vs Salem (M)
 Field Two @ 10 am – St John's vs Transfiguration (17); 11:30 am – Transfiguration vs St Mark's (M); 1 pm – Mt Carey vs St Paul's (M); 2:30pm – Calvary Deliverance vs Mt Carey (M)
 Field Three @ 10 am – Faith United vs Temple Fellowship (17); 11:30 am – Temple Fellowship vs Faith United (M); 1pm – Faith United vs St John's (Co-ed)



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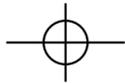


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business

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

SECTION B • business@tribunemedia.net

Party bookings decline by 15%

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net



ROBERT SANDS

HOLIDAY event bookings are down about 15 per cent year-over-year at BahaMar's resorts, the company's vice-president of external affairs said yesterday, while party rental and supply stores are seeing the market teeter both ways.

Robert Sands told Tribune Business that the Wyndham and Sheraton resort properties have attempted to tailor their offerings to attract Bahamas-based corporations and businesses that have large numbers of employees to their ballrooms for annual holiday parties.

However, he said due to the economic slump the conference and catering departments within the hotel have seen a trough in their Yuletide food/beverage and decor requests.

"The functions are not as rich as they were last year and numbers are not as high as last year. One or two functions have not rebooked," said Mr Sands.

"No business appears to have been exempt in the current economic environment. Every business has been impacted in some form or fashion - some more severely than others - obviously the

majority in the opposite direction."

Mr Sands said some companies coming in are no longer embellishing their events, but rather cutting down on beverage and reducing the food budget to a pittance.

"We have created menus and are working to custom suit the menus to meet the budget needs," he said. "In the end, it is a business and needs to be profitable for us."

Representatives from Reflections Rentals and Party Supplies said they cater to a niche crowd, mostly upper middle to upper class patrons, and have not seen a substantial decrease in business year-over-year.

The representative, who wished to remain anonymous,

SEE page 5B

Downtown plaza now 70% leased

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

The multi-million dollar renovation of Moses Plaza could help spark the full revitalisation of downtown Nassau, with 70 per cent of the complex's retail space already leased and talks ongoing with potential tenants for the two restaurant spaces, the development's chief executive said yesterday.

Charles Klonaris told a group of Ministry of Tourism and Downtown Nassau Partnership officials that the development, which could be completed by early 2010, incorporates the harbourfront, which will be a major driving force for pedestrian traffic in the downtown area in upcoming years.

Among the businesses expected to lease spaces when the plaza is complete and transformed into Elizabeth on Bay are Haagen Dazs, Dunkin Donuts and Sundrop Creations.

The development initiated by Mr Klonaris and his broth-

- * Haagen Dazs, Dunkin Donuts and Sundrop Creations expected to be among tenants when former Moses Plaza reopens in early 2010
- * Set to house Dolphin Encounters and Stuart Cove expositions in larger retail spaces, and talks with restaurant tenants ongoing

ers precedes the movement of the container shipping facilities from the heart of the city and a look to either side of his establishment, which could be named Elizabeth on the Bay when it is completed, shows the move is much needed.

The plaza's main esplanade gives way to a picturesque view of the harbour and Paradise Island, framed by the restaurant foyer. However, upon stepping out on to the rear deck, the view pans out to reveal an active container yard to the right and the rear of semi-dilapidated warehouses to the left.

According to Mr Klonaris, those spaces might better be served as a ferry terminal for the movement of tourists back and forth from Atlantis to the Promenade that is soon to be built along the harbour front. He added that the new

plaza was set to house permanent expositions for two popular tour operators, Dolphin Encounters and Stuart Cove, which will occupy two of the larger retail spaces. They will also have dock space attached to the plaza, where they will moor their vessels and begin their tours.

"The future is the harbour," said Mr Klonaris. "The future is water transportation." He added that the plaza required a significant investment to underwrite the renovations and, according to him, costs continue to increase.

Vaughn Roberts, managing director of the Downtown Nassau Partnership, the public-private body charged with guiding city's revitalisation effort to the legislative stage, hailed the development of the plaza as positive change to the blighted area east of East Street.

Mr Roberts echoed Mr Klonaris' sentiments that the new plaza will herald the revitalisation effort.

"Once you have this and the new Straw Market, you will start to see where it will take off in a big way," he said. Mr Klonaris said previously that his development will without a doubt "bring back that side of Bay Street".

When the property is opened for business, the plaza will be the first of the properties between East and Armstrong Streets to be revitalised as a part of the Government and private sector's plan to reinvent Nassau's tourism product.

The Government is still finalising plans to extend the properties on the waterfront, in order to develop a pedestrian promenade that is to be one of its pet projects for the revitalisation.

Store's 'big change' via \$100k refit

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

A MALL AT MARATHON clothing retailer has invested \$100,000 in the complete redesign of its store, which was facilitated by a Colombian firm specialising in such renovations, its marketing manager said yesterday.

Hosea Hinsey told Tribune Business that the Colombian firm took just over two weeks to completely overhaul Urban Nation and install a kiosk just outside the store, dedicated to Bob Marley

SEE page 6B

Small Business Act's September drafting target

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE first draft of a Bahamian Small Business Act should be ready for government review by September "next year", the chair of the committee responsible for developing it said yesterday, adding that the International Development Bank's (IDB) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) expertise would be employed to assist the effort.

Mark Turnquest, of Mark

- * Barbados government-guaranteed model suggested for venture capital fund
- * ILO and IDB assistance to be sought

Turnquest Consulting, said the proposed Act would be "Bahamas focused, but internationally recognised", adding that while the Government's plan to create more than 2,500 jobs was laudable, none of its initiatives were "feeding the population that creates 40-60 per cent of employment in the Bahamas" - small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Mr Turnquest told Tribune Business that the Small Business Act aimed to change this, and after the first meeting of private sector association heads to discuss the proposed legislation, it was agreed they would consult the IDB and ILO on "how we want to shape the initial draft".

The Small Business Act Committee, he added, would

meet with Zhivargo Laing, minister of state for finance, and all business and private industry heads throughout the Bahamas "so we can finalise and put their input into it".

"We want to make it Bahamian focused but internationally recognised," Mr Turnquest told Tribune Business.

SEE page 7B

'Scared to death' doing business in Bahamas

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

BUSINESSMEN are "scared to death about doing business in the Bahamas" due to the out-of-control crime situation and rapid increase in armed robberies as the Christmas season approaches, a former Chamber of Commerce president said yesterday, as he blasted the lack of a physical police presence on the streets.

Dionisio D'Aguilar, who is also Superwash's president, told Tribune Business that the soaring crime rate was encouraging many Bahamian businessmen to consider an 'exit route' from their ventures, given the increasingly unsafe operating environment

- * Ex-Chamber president says many firms 'petrified' to stay open, with many owners seeking exit routes, due to soaring crime
- * Blasts lack of police presence on the streets

many had to contend with, and the psychological and financial toll this was taking on them and their employees.

"In case the powers that be haven't gotten it yet, it's really, really scary to do business out there right now," Mr D'Aguilar said. "A lot of businesses are scared to death to open up, and there needs to be a greater police presence on the ground than presently."

The former Chamber president said "you hardly ever see" members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force patrolling on foot, instead seemingly preferring to drive past in comfortable, air-conditioned cars.

Mr D'Aguilar urged the police to increase their visibility on the streets, especially in 'high crime' neighbourhoods, through roadblocks and 'sweeps' that would at least give the impression that the criminals were not in charge.

The current crime situation was, together with the recession, a further discourage-

SEE page 6B

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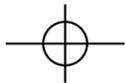
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BUSINESS

Don't bond future growth to today's foreign borrowing

By Wayne Johnson and Parrish Simmons

GUEST COMMENTARY

THE Bahamas needs to spend more time listening to the financial markets and deciphering what they are telling us.

As we reported a couple of weeks ago on 97.5 FM before the announcement was made official by the Government, the Bahamas recently floated its third major international bond issue in six years when it raised US\$300 million in new 20-year bonds. The issue was received strongly by the capital markets, and is trading at a premium of 0.5 per cent at the end of its first week of trading. In fact, the bonds are extremely difficult to come by, which takes us to our next point.

In 2003 and 2008, the Government issued US\$ 200 million and US\$100 million sovereigns, respectively, in two separate bond issues. Notably, the 10 largest owners of these bond issues are major US insurance companies, inarguably among the most conservative investors in the world. Risk-averse investors, including Genworth Life Insurance, American Bankers Life Assurance and American Family Life Assurance Company, have tucked these bonds away in their coffers, confident the Bahamas will be around in 25-30 years to pay the bond redemption (US life insurance policyholders certainly hope so, too).

The most recent data available indicates that foreign direct investment – the amount of international capital seeking investment opportunities in the Bahamas – now exceeds 10 per cent of Bahamian gross domestic

product (GDP), up from about 3 per cent in 2001. The Bahamas' annualised GDP per capita growth rate has fallen more than 2 per cent over the past three years. Simultaneously, the Bahamian consumer price index has accelerated over the past three years, and the Bahamas' current account deficit has remained stuck around 10 per cent of gross domestic product. Moreover, our country's trade balance has remained negative for more than a decade, a net drag on overall economic growth.

From a macroeconomic perspective, these data indicate that the Bahamas' peg to the US dollar has generated inflation, even while global economic growth has been offset by the financial crisis. Economic growth remains stagnant to anaemic at best, and our country has become increasingly dependent on foreign investment for economic growth – a well-timed development given fewer tourist visits.

The Bahamas must come to realise that international capital is a finite commodity, even with the tremendous amount of liquidity the global economy is awash in as a result of the unprecedented monetary stimulus and quantitative easing policies by central banks.

Our friends and neighbours perhaps realised this long before the Bahamas. A quick survey of regional sovereign debt issuance shows multiple Costa Rican issues maturing through 2014; Dominican Republic issues maturing in

2011 and 2018; El Salvadorian and Guatemalan issues maturing intermittently over the next two decades; Jamaican and Panamanian issues maturing across the yield curve; and Barbadian and Trinidadian issues that remain well-bid and maturing regularly across the yield – just to name a few. Concurrently, sovereign bond issues across the globe – including emerging market debt – have performed remarkably well.

At the corporate bond level, companies such as the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, Digicel, Air Jamaica, Clarendon Alumina Products and Columbus International have successfully raised billions of dollars through international bond issues – again at varying maturities across the yield curve.

There are important lessons to be gleaned from the capital markets. First, our friends and neighbours around the region have taken greater advantage of the relatively cheap capital available to them. While one can view foreign debt issuance in both a positive and negative light, our neighbours' governments have gotten a head start in familiarising the global credit markets with their stories.

Second, our friends and neighbours have succeeded in issuing debt at different maturities across the yield curve and, in doing so, have developed their investment and capital markets more and created a more diversified home

for international liquidity. Third, foreign capital has found its way into private industry around the Caribbean through international bond tenders more ably than it has in the Bahamas.

In conclusion, a country's ability to service its current and proposed future foreign debt must play an integral role in budget and fiscal negotiations. While today may not necessarily be the ideal time for the Bahamas to expand its foreign borrowing and develop its yield curve, it must remain aware of the fact that foreign capital is a finite commodity. As central banks and monetary authorities unwind their monetary largesse and implement less expansionary policies over the coming years, the emerging markets will become a more competitive environment for attracting risk capital, particularly as interest rates creep higher. The Bahamas risks jeopardising future private growth prospects if it does not gradually decouple from its long-standing, 'beggar-thy-neighbour' mentality and become a greater participant in the international capital markets.

NOTICE

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) PIGRECO LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 13th November, 2009 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said company is CST Administration (Bahamas) Limited, The Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, Bahamas

Dated this 24th day of November, A. D. 2009

CST Administration (Bahamas) Limited
Liquidator

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GULF AVIATION SERVICES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) GULF AVIATION SERVICES LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 24th November 2009 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Mr Peter Leppard of 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 25th day of November A. D. 2009

Mr Peter Leppard
Liquidator



Kings Realty is expanding our successful business and is looking for a number of highly motivated, focused and energetic sales agents to join our young vibrant team!

The Kings Realty Distinction:

- Base salary and generous commission structure!
- Excellent Monthly bonuses!
- Awesome cash incentives!
- Fantastic sales and marketing materials provided!
- Personal attention and sales training!
- Coaching, role playing, and mastering closing techniques!
- Impressive offices to add impact to your credibility!

REQUIREMENTS:

Active Real Estate License or willingness to sit the Real Estate Salesman exam in 2010.
Sales experience and a strong desire to succeed (Real Estate sales experience preferred but not required).
Must be computer and internet savvy
Comfortable in a very fast-paced, ever changing environment

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

Excellent local area knowledge of Nassau.
Energetic individuals with outstanding people skills.
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Apply with your resume or contact
Lillith Bostwick at (242) 323-8000 e-mail lillith@kingsrealty.com

Celebrate Thanksgiving with Checkers Cafe



Thur. Nov. 26th, 2009 - 11am

▶ Turkey & Ham Dinners
Peas & Rice, two sides,
stuffing & cranberry
sauce **\$12⁷⁵**

▶ Ham or Turkey
Dinners **\$10⁷⁵**

▶ Pumpkin Pie **\$2⁷⁵**
available **2 slice**

(To order 10 or more dinners from any location, feel free to FAX in your order to 394-6538 Prior to 5pm Tuesday Nov.24th)



"Serving Great Behaviour Food"

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Mackey St.
393-7214

Fox Hill
364-7020

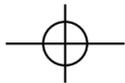
Robinson Rd.
356-5820

Phone orders taken until 12noon

BIFF 09 / DEC 10-17

for TIX: 242.356.5939 / www.bintliffilmfest.com





BUSINESS

Nassau resorts suffer 7.4% fall in room revenue

NEW Providence's major hotels suffered a 7.4 per cent room revenue drop in October 2009, due to an average \$18 daily room rate (ADR) drop, confirming the industry's current pricing weakness despite signs of occupancy stabilisation.

A joint release from the Ministry of Tourism & Aviation and Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA) said that while the average occupancy rate for the New Providence hotels had increased from 43.2 per cent the year before to 50.2 per cent in 2009, a seven percentage point rise, the figure was "distorted" by the absence of RIU Paradise Island's 379 rooms

from the calculations.

"Exclude RIU from the 2008 figures and the 2008 September occupancy rate falls to 41.5 per cent," the statement said. "The closure of RIU also distorts the room nights sold picture even more.

"Room nights sold increased by 2.7 per cent overall, 12.7 per cent when excluding RIU from 2008. However, an \$18 decrease in the average daily room rate (ADR) wiped out any gain in hotel room revenue expected from such an increase in room nights sold. In fact, room revenue fell 7.4 per cent in October, - 5.3 per cent, excluding RIU from the mix."

The New Providence hotel industry's ADR was \$167.25 for October 2009, compared to \$185.59 last year. October saw available room nights decrease by 11.6 per cent.

The BHA/Ministry of Tourism and Aviation said that nine of the 13 reporting hotels saw October room revenue increases that ranged from slight to solid growth. But where decreases in room revenue occurred, it was in the double digits.

"Despite the mixed results, the October performance indicators demonstrate a second consecutive month of either marginal improvements or single digit declines," the statement said.

"While this is a welcome change of course, any small improvements in occupancy and arrivals continue to be significantly offset by low ADR

and RevPAR as a result of a strong push by hotels to increase market share through value-added promotions. This suggests that with a gradual global recovery, as is now being widely predicted, hotels will continue to be challenged, needing to pay close attention to maintaining operational efficiency while aggressively marketing themselves and the destination to maximise revenue."

For 2009 to-date, New Providence hotel occupancy stood at 62.3 per cent compared to 66.2 per cent last year. The ADR was \$225.44, compared to \$249.82 for the first 10 months in 2008. Hotel revenue fell 20.4 per cent, with 12 of the 14 hotels reporting losses for the year so far. Hotel room nights sold decreased by 11.8 per cent.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **PETIT WILEME OF FOX HILL, NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE, THE BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/ naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **18TH** day of **NOVEMBER, 2009** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas.

PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **Austine Alexis Mills** of the Settlement of Treasure Cay on the Island of Abaco, Bahamas intend to change my daughter's name from **Kirtisha Kierra Cornish** to **KIERRA MICHAELLA ROLLE**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-792, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

Employment Opportunity

Warehouse/Delivery Coordinator

We seek to employ a talented, innovative, leader and team player with a passion for success, and the ability to initiate progress and maximum productivity.

Skills and Requirements

- ◆ A keen sense of punctuality and time management
- ◆ Excellent navigation and geographic knowledge
- ◆ Physical dexterity
- ◆ Amiable and reliable
- ◆ Excellent oral and communication skills
- ◆ Excellent motivation & coaching skills
- ◆ Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- ◆ Ability to multitask
- ◆ Possess excellent planning, organizational and implementation skills
- ◆ Strong leadership skills
- ◆ Ability to work well under pressure
- ◆ Ability to drive large delivery vehicles
- ◆ A team player

Minimum Requirements

- ◆ High School Diploma
- ◆ 5 BGCSE's or G.C.E.'s (Math and English required)
- ◆ Working knowledge of household appliances & electronics preferred
- ◆ Three years Warehouse-based experience
- ◆ Two years supervisory experience
- ◆ Truck driving experience desired, but not essential
- ◆ Valid Driver's License

APPLY VIA EMAIL TO:
humanresourcesready@yahoo.com

Party bookings decline by 15%

said their customers have used their services for some 20 years, throughout which they have built up a loyal customer base.

Through the recession, Reflections has sought to improve its product offering in order to remain ahead of the ever-expanding party rental market, introducing chair covers, sashes and table overlays.

"They (their competition) are going into it, but not doing it all the way," said the Reflections representative. "We pride ourselves on having the cleanest tents, nicest linens and a variety of chairs."

Meanwhile, a representative of Celebrations Party Supplies and Rentals said people were "cutting back and they are watching their dollars".

The representative, who also wished to remain anonymous, asserted that last year Celebrations saw a major decline in business as the recession began to bear down on the economy.

Executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Philip Simon, said party spending was discretionary and may not be a priority for many businesses.

According to Mr Simon, the Bahamas Chamber, which has two major social functions each year, is expected to have its annual Christmas Mix and Mingle, as its sponsors still seem to be committed.

Andros

1st Annual Harvest Fest

Lighthouse Yacht Club,
Andros Town, Central Andros
November 27 - 28

Featuring unique straw work and Bahamian crafts, fresh fruits and vegetables, crabs, lobster, conch and native cuisine on sale at the Market Place.

Entertainment: John "Chippie" Chipman, Elon "The Crab Man" Moxey, Out of the Bight, New Agenda Band, Junkanoo and Androsia Fashion Show

Items on sale at the **Old Fashion Market**

Friday, November 27th
People to People encounter at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 28th
Market Place Experience 10:00 a.m. Until

One Way - \$45.00
Round Trip - \$80.00

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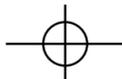
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BUSINESS

'Scared to death' doing business in Bahamas

FROM page 1B

ment to Bahamian and foreign investors when it came to business expansion/investment, Mr D'Aguilar suggesting that many were likely to be formulating "an exit strategy" due to the fact that both they and their staff were

scared to come to work. "People are petrified about staying open later, staying in business," he told Tribune Business. "They're already in a depressed mood over the economy, but are even more depressed over the crime situation. They're scared about doing business in the

Bahamas. "The vast majority of people and businessmen feel the police do not have a handle on it. While crime is a function of the economy and education, you need to adjust your game plan. People need to see the police have a presence out there all the time.

"This is a different time, a different scenario. I don't see a larger and more substantial police presence on the ground. I don't see a change in game plan. That's my problem. Both FNMs and PLPs are saying that something has to be done."

Mr D'Aguilar pointed out that the Bahamas' murder rate for 2009 was eight times that of Barbados, even though the two island nations had populations with a similar size.

"It's a boom for those businesses in the security industry," he added. "I would think it's having a substantial effect on them, because everyone's scared to death. Everyone's

petrified for their lives, and now they're even robbing tourists."

Owners

Business owners previously said they were increasingly fortifying their properties in an attempt to ward off criminals, whose activities typically spike during the December holiday season, while security firms revealed confirmed they had seen their business increase hand-in-hand with crime.

Current president of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, Khaalis Rolle, previously told Tribune Business that crime remains a serious

concern for businesses in the Bahamas, "particularly when it extends beyond the normal armed robbery".

Mr Rolle has spoken on the issue of crime in the Bahamas in several forums, and remains desperate to find a solution.

"I don't know where to start with this," he said. "I have said my piece a million times. From the business community, the best thing we can do in the short term is to secure our businesses and properties as best we can while we look for a long term solution.

"It is something that has to be addressed and the solution isn't an easy one."

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited (Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas)

Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)
As of 30 September 2009
(Amounts expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	30 September 2009 \$	31 December 2008 \$
ASSETS		
Cash on hand and at banks	22,098,943	18,646,538
Investment securities	31,846,079	36,615,975
Mortgages, consumer and other loans	205,494,214	198,861,978
Property, plant and equipment	12,281,632	12,286,606
Prepayments and other assets	6,834,793	6,079,617
TOTAL ASSETS	278,555,661	272,490,714
LIABILITIES		
Customer deposits	218,390,614	209,931,152
Debt securities	25,160,534	28,107,262
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	922,974	1,483,632
TOTAL LIABILITIES	244,474,122	239,522,046
EQUITY		
Share capital	20,000,001	20,000,001
Revaluation surplus	2,504,341	2,526,329
Retained earnings	11,577,197	10,442,338
TOTAL EQUITY	34,081,539	32,968,668
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	278,555,661	272,490,714

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited

Consolidated Income Statement (Unaudited)
For the Nine Months Ended 30 September 2009
(Amounts expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	9 Months Ended 30 September 2009 \$	30 September 2008 \$
INCOME		
Interest income	14,987,347	13,212,264
Interest expense	8,369,831	7,050,258
Net interest income	6,617,516	6,162,006
Non-interest income	4,072,521	4,197,305
Total income	10,690,037	10,359,311
EXPENSES		
Salaries and staff benefits	4,210,469	4,369,304
General and administrative	3,597,553	3,972,311
Provision for loan losses	772,787	428,630
Depreciation and amortisation	996,357	757,220
Total expenses	9,577,166	9,527,465
NET INCOME	1,112,871	831,846
Attributable to: Equity holders of the bank	1,112,871	831,846
Net income	1,112,871	831,846
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding		
	28,666,670	28,666,670
Earnings per share		
	\$0.039	\$0.029

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (Unaudited)
For the Nine Months Ended 30 September 2009
(Amounts expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Ordinary Shares \$	Revaluation Surplus \$	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
As of 1 January 2008	20,000,001	2,572,037	10,230,691	32,802,729
Depreciation transfer	-	(45,708)	45,708	-
Net income	-	-	1,312,606	1,312,606
Dividends on ordinary shares	-	-	(1,146,667)	(1,146,667)
As of 31 December 2008	20,000,001	2,526,329	10,442,338	32,968,668
As of 1 January 2009	20,000,001	2,526,329	10,442,338	32,968,668
Depreciation transfer	-	(21,988)	21,988	-
Net income	-	-	1,112,871	1,112,871
Dividends on ordinary shares	-	-	-	-
As of 30 September 2009	20,000,001	2,504,341	11,577,197	34,081,539

Store's 'big change' via \$100k refit

FROM page 1B

merchandise.

He said everything in the store was stripped, including lighting and shelves, and the old checkout counter discarded in favour of a new, aesthetically complementing display case/checkout counter.

While the old Urban Nation store was a veritable mass of clothing strewn across the walls, the new store is reminiscent of many mall stores in the US, with brick-faceted wallpaper, art deco lighting and televisions blaring contemporary 'urban' music.

According to Mr Hinsey, all of the store merchandise has been upgraded with the most up-to-date urban wear. And Urban Nation has added several new clothing lines to its stock, including Parish, Konvict and Akoo, rapper TI's clothing line.

He added that buyers for the store travel constantly to trade shows and acquire merchandise directly from suppliers. The store

reinvests constantly in its employees, sending them to trade shows in order for them to become more familiar with the products they sell.

"Everyone gets an opportunity to travel to a trade show," said Mr Hinsey.

With the transformation of the store, the upcoming holiday season is expected to be better than last year.

Mr Hinsey said foot traffic increased substantially following Urban Nation's reopening, and Christmas foot traffic through the mall is expected to translate into more sales for the store.

"We haven't even put our sign back up yet and people think it is a new store," he said. "They are impressed by it."

Mr Hinsey said his favourite feature of the new store is the tiered hat-rack that hangs above the accessory case, which doubles as a checkout counter.

One employee said to Tribune Business: "This is a big change from what it was before."

BAHAMAS ELECTRICITY CORPORATION



VACANCY NOTICE

PUBLIC RELATIONS & CORPORATE PROGRAMS OFFICER HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING

A Vacancy exists in the Corporation for the position of Public Relations & Corporate Programs Officer.

This job is responsible for assisting with the planning, development and implementation of a strategic public relations and communication program together with the effective and efficient planning and execution of all corporate events and activities.

Responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assisting with the development of a strategic Public Relations and Corporate Programs plan to support the Corporation's Mission, Goals and Objectives;
- Overseeing the implementation of the Corporation's annual Public Relations programs, plan and budget;
- Assisting with the communication of all activities throughout the Corporation and where necessary the wider community;
- Preparing and distributing the Corporation's Annual Report;
- Directing press relations, including activities such as the preparation of press releases, photographs, fact sheets, and interviews between executive management and media representatives;
- Coordinating the development and interpretation of employee and public opinion surveys;
- Providing assistance to Executive Management and Government officials in writing speeches, preparing letters and drafting articles to be publicized;
- Evaluating and assessing customer complaints, queries and disseminates information to management;
- Assisting with the development, implementation and management of external communication efforts;
- Coordinating Marketing and all advertising material in collaboration with the external Public Relations Firms and the Media;
- Identifying and liaising with service providers to secure speakers, presenters and entertainment for Corporate events;
- Liaising with vendors on the selection, purchase, delivery of materials i.e. awards, invitations, prizes, letters, BEC paraphernalia, etc. for all events, as necessary and maintain an inventory of the same;
- Preparing and distributing all documentations (e.g. public and staff notices) relative to Corporate activities, as necessary;
- Creating and updating all Standard Operations Procedures for all activities, as necessary;
- Ensuring timely preparation of purchase requisitions and prompt receipt of bills for all events and activities as necessary;
- Working closely with the AGM-Human Resources & Training to ensure that there is global publicity (internal and external), as necessary on all Corporate activities;
- Ensuring that the websites, bulletin boards and other media i.e. company newsletter and Internal PA system are used for the communication of information relative to corporate activities/events.

Job requirements include:

- A minimum of a Bachelors degree in Public Relations/Journalism/Marketing/Business Administration/Business Communication, or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years relevant experience at Supervisor/Management level.
- Ability to write speeches, press releases and articles for publication that conform to prescribed style and format;
- Ability to effectively present information to senior and executive management and public groups;
- Ability to disseminate information effectively, both orally and in writing
- Experience in managing special events and activities
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Excellent human relations and interpersonal skills
- Computer proficiency in Windows environment and Microsoft applications.
- Good analytical skills.
- Good judgment and sound reasoning ability

Interested persons should apply by completing and returning an Application Form to:

The Assistant Manager, Human Resources Department,
Bahamas Electricity Corporation, Blue Hill & Tucker,
P. O. Box N-7509
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

on or before Thursday, November 26, 2009



BUSINESS

Small Business Act's September drafting target

FROM page 1B

Business Licence Act, the Industries Encouragement Act and others, "come into line with the Small Business Act", thereby creating an omnibus piece of statute covering the sector.

Mr Turnquest suggested that the everlasting difficulties that Bahamian entrepreneurs and small businesses

faced in accessing financing could be solved, at least partly, by adopting the model Barbados had just implemented for its newly-launched venture capital fund.

The Barbadian government has agreed to provide a guarantee for the principal invested by private investors in the fund, a moved designed to attract outside backers to support an initiative that has been started with \$750,000 of government seed capital.

Mr Turnquest suggested that such a model could also be employed by the Bahamas' own government sponsored venture capital fund, and said he had put its administrator, Jerome Gomez, in contact with Basil Springer, the consultant who had masterminded the Barbadian fund's structure. To date, the Bahamas Entrepreneurial Venture Fund has drawn 100 per cent of its \$5 million capital from annual \$1 million taxpayer subsidies.

A more complete business support package was also urged by Mr Turnquest, citing his "business survival model" that combined financing with networking, consulting and trading functions in one support system.

This, he explained, would ensure Bahamian entrepreneurs were equipped with the marketing, management and accounting skills to ensure their ventures survived and prospered, giving lenders confidence that their credit would be repaid.

"This is the only way to move forward past this recession and make it in the Bahamas. We have to lend money to start small and medium-sized businesses, but there have to be shepherding, mentoring and business support programmes," Mr Turnquest told Tribune Business.

"Both government and the private commercial banks, the credit unions, whoever is in the business of lending mon-

ey, needs to look at this model.

"Tourism cannot sustain us. We need to be more entrepreneurial when it comes to agriculture, handicrafts and industrial products, plus products to export. We have to try to encourage entrepreneurs to take on that responsibility with the support of the Government. Once we increase exports, we increase GDP."

Mr Turnquest added: "The problem has been our model over the years. We rely too much on foreign direct investment, and have not seriously encouraged our entrepreneurs in Nassau and the Family Islands to produce products and services with natural benefits.

"We need to have the Family Islands planned for business, where the private sector, government, the banks and investors look at each island and identify how they could encourage business development on each island.

"Every island needs a clothing store, a laundromat. At the end of the day, everyone buys from each other, makes money and reduces the population drift to Nassau."

Despite the recession and gloomy Christmas economic outlook, Mr Turnquest said the future was still "bright" for Bahamian entrepreneurs and small businesses.

"Nothing great is going to happen this Christmas, so people are shaping their businesses," he said. "Christmas decorations are going up earlier this year to entice some type of using consumer spending, but everyone understands this is not going to be a very wonderful Christmas.

"We know there's been a lot of pain, a lot of casualties in business, people going broke. That's life. We are now cleansing the business environment, and a new business world is being created next year. We have to forward and not worry about the past."

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **PAIGE T ARAH NICOLE FENELON** of St. Michael s Road, Glenniston Gardens, Nassau, The Bahamas intend to change my name to **PAIGE T ARAH NICOLE MOSS**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.



Employment Opportunity: Full-Time Managers

REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST BE A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
- MUST HAVE A DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT OR MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
- MUST BE CUSTOMER SERVICE DRIVEN
- MUST BE RESULTS-ORIENTED & ARTICULATE
- MUST HAVE EXCELLENT INTER-PERSONAL SKILLS
- MUST HAVE EXCELLENT ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- PROFESSIONALISM REQUIRED
- EXPERIENCE IN RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT WOULD BE A PLUS

JOB SUMMARY:

To assist the restaurant Manager in maintaining the McDonald's formula for success - offering to the customer high QUALITY, moderately priced food; Fast, courteous SERVICE in immaculately CLEAN surroundings; and to assist in the attainment of Restaurant Goals.

GOAL:

To exceed the customer's expectations. McDonald's success is dependant upon providing services and products that meet and exceed each customer's expectations. Therefore, the goal of each McDonald's employee is Total Customer Satisfaction. Each employee's success will be based upon his/her contribution to this goal.

McDonald's offers excellent benefits!

Please submit Resume to:
Human Resources Department
McDonald's Head Office on Market St. North
P. O. Box SS-5925
Telephone: 325-4444
Nassau, Bahamas

NOTICE

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) hereby notifies its clients and the general public that effective Wednesday, November 25, 2009 our main telephone number will be #396-7800.

The current telephone number #393-7159 will remain active until January 1st, 2010.

The IDB apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

a new kind of Health Insurance



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No premium increases for two years for policies taken out before December 15th 2009.

No medical examination requirement.

Reduce your premium by deciding on the amount of deductible you want to carry.

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Our experienced team are here to help you get more from your coverage



Dashwell E. Flowers
President & C.E.O.



Anthony 'Tony' Longley
Director of Training & Business Development



Anna Williamson
General Insurance Account Executive
20yrs insurance experience



Denise V. Smith
Executive Financial Services Representative
25yrs insurance experience



Lincoln R. Deal
Executive Financial Services Representative
26yrs insurance experience



Clothie M. Lockhart
Executive Financial Services Representative
15yrs insurance experience



Janery P. Dames
Financial Services Representative
7yr insurance experience



Andrea Ferguson
Financial Services Representative
7yr insurance experience



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LLOYD'S



TASTE

The Tribune **Taste**

a new flavour

Marco's Pizza comes to Nassau

FRESH ingredients and authentic Italian recipes, this is what the new pizzeria on the island promises its customers.

Marco's Pizza officially celebrates its Nassau grand opening on December 2, but already the restaurant on Prince Charles Drive is welcoming Bahamians and offering them a new style of pizza, subs and salads.

With five to six more locations expected to open in New Providence, Marco's plans to wow its clientele with a new and dynamic flavour profile.

The restaurant chain especially prides itself on the fact that its pizzas are made in the authentic Italian tradition with seventeen premium toppings, including Italian sausage, feta cheese and banana peppers, and dough which is made fresh in the store daily.

Marco's also promises that its special blend of cheese is never frozen, and that its signature sauce is not made from processed tomato paste.

Tribune Taste was able to sample Marco's Meat Supremo and Chicken Fresco pizza, and all who participated in the tasting agreed that the latter, which was topped with grilled chicken, bacon, onions, four types of cheeses and slices of fresh tomatoes, was the clear favourite.

In addition to pizzas, which come with the original classic or the crispy thin crust, Marco's also serves up fresh baked subs, salads, wings, cheesy bread and desserts.

The chicken ranch salad with pepperoni, tomatoes, banana peppers, black olives, cheddar and feta cheese, which was served to *Tribune Taste* is a crisp and fresh alternative for those who want to watch their calories.

But those who wish to throw caution to the wind and really indulge themselves, then the cinna-squares are the perfect way to round off your excursion into Marco's brand of Italian cuisine.

The cinna-squares, topped with cinnamon sugar and served a side of vanilla icing, are the perfect dessert to share among family members or party guests.

Currently, Marco's only has one location, in the Solomon Spring's Plaza on Prince Charles Drive, but there is major growth in the horizon.

Chris and Terry Tsavoussis, who have the franchise for Marco's in the Bahamas, are no strangers to the pizza business and once again they're ready to take this quickly expanding brand and throw in their best practices and combined 50 years experience in the food business.

"As a company, we're also really excited about the prospects of growing this quality pizza brand both locally and within the Caribbean," they said.



PEPPERONI MUSHROOM PIZZA (below)

DELUXE UNO (above)



CHICKEN RANCH SALAD

ITALIAN SAUSAGE SUB

CINNA SQUARES

BUFFALO WINGS



Students showcase their work at the Bahamas Culinary Classic

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

AFTER weeks of preparing desserts for an international judging panel, eight students of the Bahamas Hotel Training College at the College of the Bahamas showed the results of their hard work at last Thursday's Bahamas Culinary Classic.

Extensive work went into the preparation of the dishes, some students even baked ahead of time to ensure that their brownies, buttercream and chocolate cakes would be ready in time for judging. Design and presentation

were key to capturing the top prize and the stakes were high. Friday was the last day of a week of competitions that featured the culinary creations of professional chefs and students.

Before members of the public attending the Culinary Classic could get to the desserts, the dining room was cleared to allow the judges to have a closer look at each dish. Chef Louis Perrote, a retired executive chef from Florida, and two other chefs were the first ones to view the delicacies.

Chef Perrote was accompanied by Chef Rick Potter, a

restaurateur and an adjunct faculty member at the Northern Kentucky University.

Each exhibit featured one buffet platter with eight to ten portions of a variety of desserts and confections.

Fancy cookies, chocolates and petit fours were on display. The judges scrutinised each dish, sampling for texture, freshness in taste and appearance, and even checked for consistency.

Flown straight from cities across the United States, the judges took time out from their busy schedules just to be a part of the week-long culinary competition.

"There's a lot of things involved," said Chef Perrote. "Today, we're judging the presentation and the general impression of the table. Then we're looking at the evenness of icing and the fondue," he told *Tribune Taste*.

"We're looking for proper techniques, proper cooking, proper icing, proper display, just basic fundamental techniques and nothing more. Accessibility, feasibility, and simplicity with elegance is also important."

The judges used culinary guidelines that are applied in competitions in Jamaica, the United States, and Europe.

One attendee said, "from

the looks of these displays, these chefs look like they can give these hotels competition."

Bernishka Roberts, 21, a chef apprentice at the Wyndham Hotel, produced a chocolate mousse in a shot glass. With chocolate cake at the bottom of the glass, strawberries, whipped cream and blueberries on top, the dessert proved to be a hit.

But it was Ryan Holbert's 'Evolution of Women' dessert spread that caught everyone's eye.

Mr Holbert told *Tribune Taste* that "the inspiration for my exhibit comes from the fact that you can relate the

female character to a certain food type."

'Exotic Desire', 'Hard Heel woman' and 'Religious' were the names of a few items in Mr Holbert's top-notch presentation.

CR Walker Senior High School student Amelia Pritchard attended the event with her classmates from a grade 11 Home Economics class.

The aspiring pastry chef said: "We're here for the culinary seminar and we're learning about all the pastries, how to cook chicken, how to keep ourselves sanitised, and getting ready for the culinary world."

The Tribune Entertainment

COLE'S OF NASSAU FUNDRAISING FASHION SHOW

By JEFFARAH GIBSON and REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporters
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

BOLD colours and dazzling designs enthralled guests at the Annual Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon in aid of the Bahamas Humane Society yesterday afternoon at the British Colonial Hilton.

The worthy event, which has been hosted by Diane Cole-Morley, owner of Cole's of Nassau and Morley for Men, for the past 30 years, gave Bahamians a glimpse of the exciting fashion trends for the Winter season which will be available in the stores.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Bahamas Humane Society to go towards the care of animals, and especially dogs - dogs like 'Farrah', a potcake named after Charlie's Angel Farrah Fawcett-Major, who strutted down the runway alongside one of the fashion models.

"We got her (Farrah) four hours before she was going to be killed," said Kim Aranha, president of the Bahamas Humane Society.

Farrah's owners wanted her to be put down because she had fleas and ticks, Ms Aranha said.

"We're trying to help the pound (the government-run Canine Control Unit) have better conditions. We're also trying to bring in more dogs from the pound over to the Humane Society.

"If we had responsible ownership in the Bahamas we would not have this problem," she said.

Dame Ivy Dumont was among the guests at the special fashion show and luncheon.

Having served as a vice-president of the Bahamas Humane Society in the past, she said: "I've been to many of these. Today was very interesting and I enjoyed it."

"I like to see the young models in



the fashions that I wouldn't normally wear at this stage of my life."

Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson took special time out of her hectic schedule to attend the event.

"This event was a wonderful fundraising opportunity," she told *Tribune Entertainment*.

As to the fashions, for women it was all about accentuating the décolleté.

Gowns with bright and dark colour schemes, ruffled strap cocktail dresses, and sexy embellished V-neck tops were all on display.

The men also did their thing on the catwalk, showing off cool and casual button-down shirts, stylish denims for a day out, and classic suits.

The designs showcased were by Jovani evening wear, Nicole Miller evening wear, Gottex of Israel swim suits, Emilio Pucci, and many more.

The event's attendees will receive a 15 per cent discount when shopping at the Cole's of Nassau and Morley for Men stores.



MODELS showcase evening gowns by big name european and american designers at the Coles of Nassau and Morley for Men fashion show.



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

things 2DO

• Miss Toastmasters Bahamas Contest

Eleven Toastmaster women vie for the title Miss Toastmaster Bahamas at the Wyndham Nassau Resort at 6pm this Sunday. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, available through any contestant or by calling 394-5400.

The public is invited to support this event.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organisation designed to improve the listening, speaking and thinking skills of individuals. It also seeks to competently foster individuals in their capacity to communicate effectively in their everyday activities and become meaningful leaders. Moreover, Toastmasters International has been in the Bahamas for 36 years.

"In an effort to sustain the positive contributions made to our society we have productively formed the Miss Toastmasters Bahamas Speech Pageant with the theme 'Defining the Phenomenal woman by more than Beauty,'" organisers said.

• Trinity Methodist Church Holiday Fair

Trinity Methodist Church invites the public to a Holiday Fair and Mini Festival dedicated to Noelle Roberts. On offer will be BBQ chicken and steak dinners, conch fritters, homemade ice-cream, and much more. There will also be gift items and holiday decorations.

The fair will be held on the church grounds on Frederick Street and Trinity Place. Call 326-1644 or email aallenstmc@batelnet.bs for more information.

• 'Know Your Status' photography exhibition at Doongalik Studios

The HIV/AIDS 'Know Your Status' will open this Friday at 6.30 at Doongalik Studios on Village Road. The dress code is smart casual.

Partners of the exhibition include the Bahamas AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Resource Committee SWK 404 (the College of the Bahamas), Sharad Lightbourne and Utah Taylor-Rolle.

Bel Canto Singers presents their 2009 Christmastide performance

THE holiday season is steadily creeping closer, and to help get the Bahamas in the mood for Christmas, the Bel Canto Singers will be presenting their 2009 Christmastide performance at St Andrews' Kirk next week.

This year's event, to be held under the patronage of Governor-General Arthur Hanna, promises to be an enjoyable one, as Yuletide music from various countries and periods will be performed.

Eldridge McPhee directs the vocal ensemble of 16 singers.

When the evening opens, the audience will be treated to a rendition of "Gloria" by modern-day composer Randall Bass. And Morten Lauridsen's "O Nata Lux" is nothing short of an angelic interpretation of the birth of Christ. Throughout the evening the audience will hear renditions of traditional carols from England, France and Poland.

Further, audience members will hear beautiful six- and eight-part arrangements of well-known carols that will highlight the rich and robust singing style that Bel Canto has become famous for.

Mr McPhee is pleased to present violin virtuoso and recording artist Martine Cardinal and Alexandre Da Costa, international recording artist, both of Montreal, Canada, along with string quartet "Strings n' Tings" as a part of the Christmastide



The Bel Canto Singers

event.

Alexandre Da Costa was born in Montreal in 1979 and showed an uncommon interest in both the violin and piano at a very early age. By the age of nine, he was performing his first concerts with stunning virtuosity on both instruments, which brought him recognition as a musical prodigy.

Dionne Cunningham, an accomplished and lettered musician, who is quickly making a name for himself in the Bahamian community, will accompany the group. Mr Cunningham will transport the audience through music to a winter wonderland with his piano rendition of a portion of Peter Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite".

"For the past three years, I have been realising my vision - to work with individuals through musical productions, to have an impact on the lives of our members, thereby impacting their communities," Mr McPhee said. "The mark of a good leader is one who is disciplined, and after having studied music for some 35 years, I know that

talent and discipline create success. This formula is not unique to music," he said.

The gala night of the 2009 Christmastide will be held on Saturday, November 28 at 8.15pm, and a second concert will take place on Sunday, November 29 at 6pm, both times at St Andrew's Kirk.

Gala night tickets are \$75 and include a concert, silent auction and full gourmet buffet reception. Proceeds to benefit the AIDS Foundation.

Bel Canto Singers, through their annual production of Christmastide, have raised more than \$40,000 for charities including the AIDS Foundation over the past three Yuletide seasons.

Tickets for Sunday's concert are \$25. The proceeds of this concert will assist in defraying the cost of the Singers' 2010 tour.

The concert will be recorded, as the group endeavors to reach more persons through the sale of CDs.

Tickets are available at the Nassau Florist on Shirley Street, telephone number 393-2223.

Graycliff Boutique and Smoking Divans opens in the Lynden Pindling International Airport

PERSONS passing through the Lynden Pindling International Airport now have an elegant, relaxing way to spend their time waiting on their flight - in the Graycliff Boutique and Smoking Divans.

The new 1,200-square foot lounge, which features both smoking and non-smoking areas, is designed in a tropical yet modern, warm and elegant style.

There are comfortable chairs and couches, as well as strategically placed flat-screen televisions - built in to the wood panelled walls - which allow guests to keep up with the news or their favourite sports.

A state-of-the-art ventilation system ensures the cleanest atmosphere possible in the smoking room.

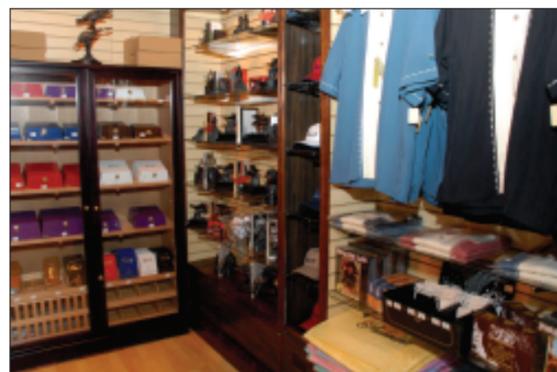
By paying a \$10 entrance lounge fee, guests can enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or other beverage.

In addition, a menu of light dishes will be available for purchase shortly.

A Graycliff Boutique offers Graycliff cigars, cigarettes, Graycliff coffee and chocolates and various gift items.

"As a frequent traveller myself, I've been frustrated by the lack of a luxurious, relaxing place to unwind, have a bite to eat or catch up on e-mails at our airport," said Paolo Garzaroli, president of the Graycliff Cigar Company, which owns the boutiques.

"It's very rewarding to have made this dream come true."



A GRAYCLIFF Boutique offers Graycliff cigars, cigarettes, Graycliff coffee and chocolates and various gift items.

Graycliff's chairman and CEO Enrico Garzaroli said: "As luxury hoteliers, our expectations for style and comfort are quite high. The new boutique is unlike anything currently available in the region. We've raised the bar, now they'll all have to catch up to the Bahamas."

The new Nassau lounge joins two existing Graycliff Boutique and Smoking Divans, located in the B and C terminals at Nashville International Airport, as well as one at the Graycliff Cigar Company and one at the Graycliff Hotel and Restaurant in Nassau.

ARTS

Vanishing Landscapes and Portable Seascapes

BAHAMIAN artist Ricardo 'Cardo' Knowles in his latest art show of vanishing Bahamian landscapes and seascapes uses images to portray a cross-section of "European glory with Bahamian memories."

The prolific artist returns home from France as a wanderer, using his exhibition to demonstrate art culture across the globe.

Ricardo, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, said he paints a story with a message.

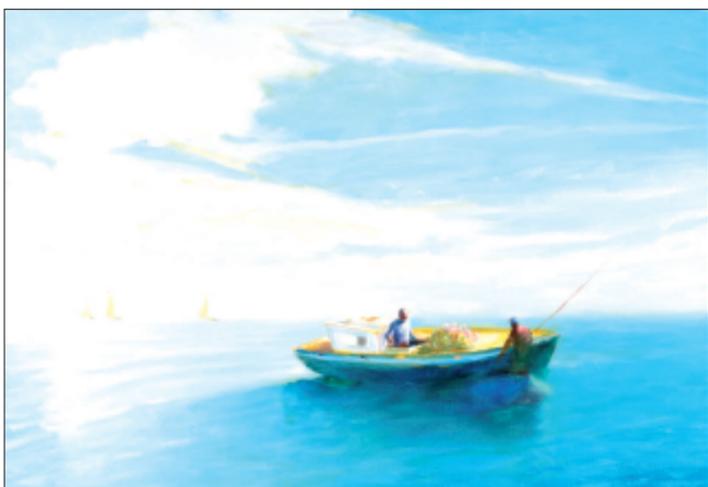
"Our landscapes and seascapes are vanishing, my paintings stay portable to be transcended anywhere and adorn any wall. Cut the painter from Nassau? No never! France is only the outcome of separation to secure my art where it belongs, that's at home here in the Bahamas," he said.

Being inspired by the works of Monet and impressionist movement, Ricardo left the Bahamas in 1996 to relocate to France, more specifically to the region of Normandy.

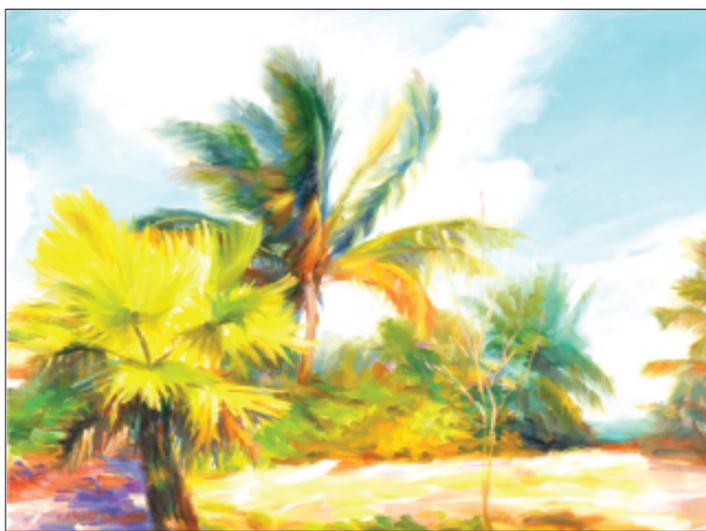
After moving from the Bahamas, Ricardo has been successful in selling his paintings to international collectors in England, Japan, Switzerland, France and the United States.

His exhibition of oil paintings, entitled "A Taste of Colour and Light", will be on display at a reception held at the Balmoral today from 5pm to 9pm, and tomorrow from 11am to 5pm

For more information call 362-0001.



VIOLET LIGHT, oil on canvas 100x81 cm. Here we have a blue, purple and white mix of colour to create the violet light across the water. The horizon displays the line at infinity in which the fishing boat cuts the parallel plane.



WEST HILL, oil on canvas 100x81 cm.



SPONGERS, oil on canvas 100x81 cm.

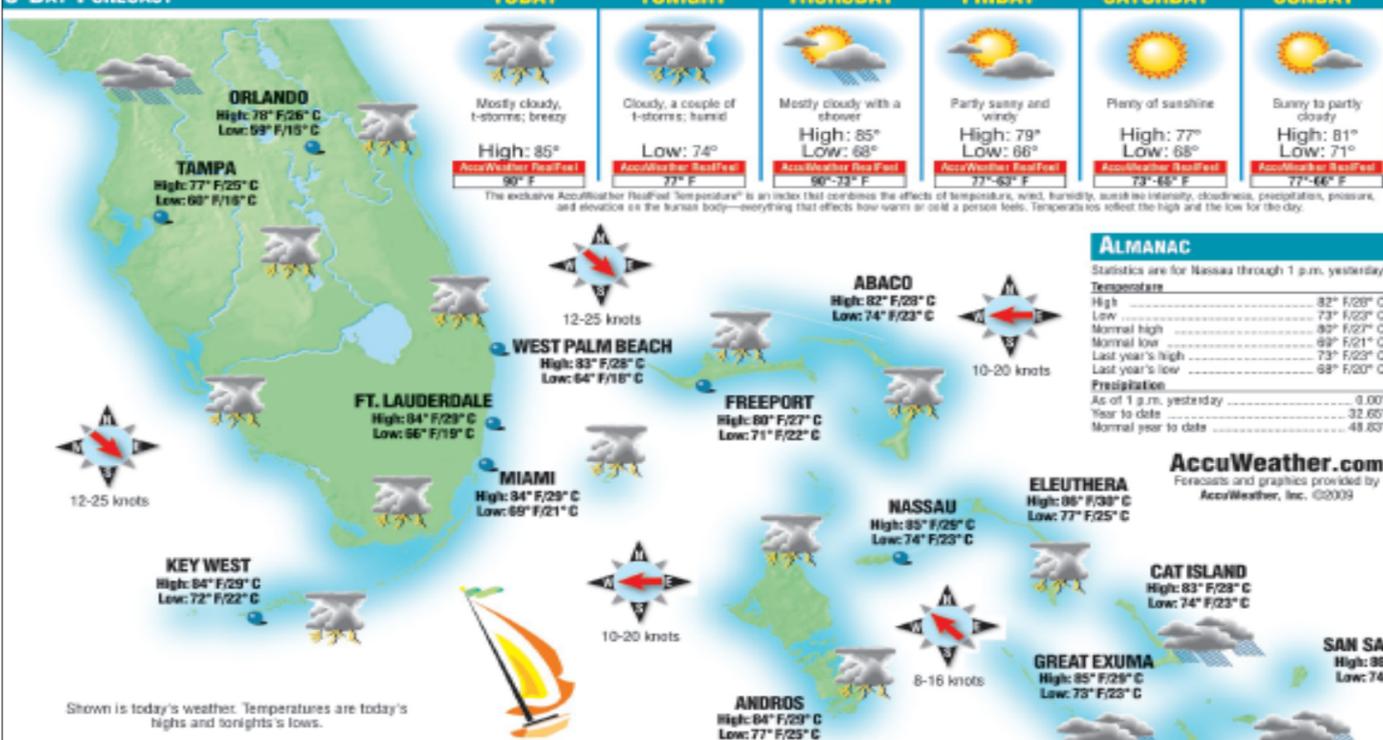


PORTABLE SCAPE, oil on canvas 100x81 cm.

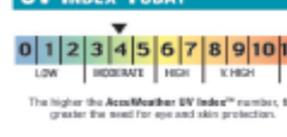
THE WEATHER REPORT

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



The higher the AccuWeather UV Index® number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	HR (ft.)	Low	HR (ft.)
Today	1:31 a.m.	2.3	7:37 a.m.	1.0
	1:41 p.m.	2.4	8:09 p.m.	0.6
Thursday	2:35 a.m.	2.4	8:39 a.m.	0.9
	2:33 p.m.	2.4	10:26 p.m.	0.4
Friday	3:16 a.m.	2.5	9:34 a.m.	0.7
	3:25 p.m.	2.3	9:41 p.m.	0.3
Saturday	4:06 a.m.	2.7	10:28 a.m.	0.6
	4:15 p.m.	2.4	10:26 p.m.	0.1
Sunday	4:52 a.m.	2.9	11:19 a.m.	0.3
	5:34 p.m.	2.4	11:12 p.m.	-0.1
Monday	5:39 a.m.	3.1	12:08 p.m.	0.1
	6:33 p.m.	2.5	11:58 p.m.	-0.3
Tuesday	6:26 a.m.	3.3	12:56 p.m.	-0.1
	6:41 p.m.	2.5	---	---

ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature
 High: 82° F/28° C
 Low: 73° F/23° C
 Normal high: 89° F/32° C
 Normal low: 69° F/21° C
 Last year's high: 73° F/23° C
 Last year's low: 68° F/20° C

Precipitation
 As of 1 p.m. yesterday: 3.00"
 Year to date: 32.60"
 Normal year to date: 48.63"

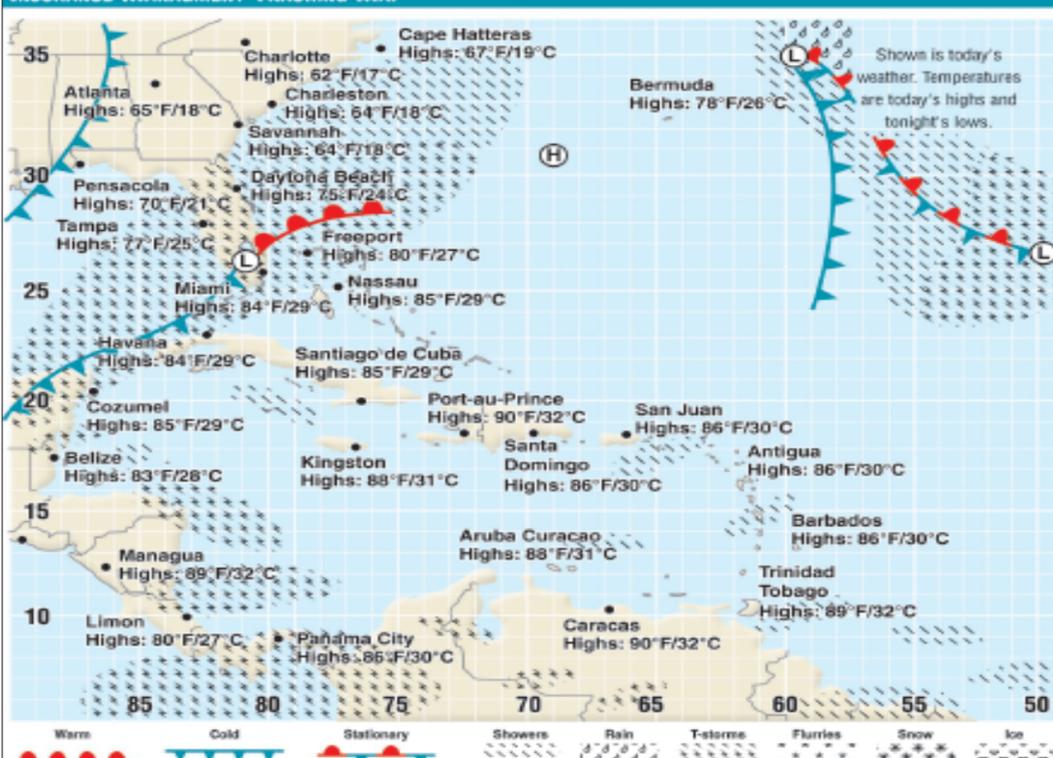
AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.	Moonrise: 12:47 p.m.
Sunset: 5:28 p.m.	Moonset: 12:09 a.m.

Full Moon: Dec. 2
 Last Moon: Dec. 8
 New Moon: Dec. 16
 First Moon: Dec. 24

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

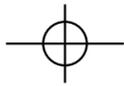


MARINE FORECAST

Location	Today	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: E at 10-20 Knots	E at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet	3 Miles	79° F
ANDROS	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	NW at 12-25 Knots	3-6 Feet	5 Miles	79° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: E at 10-20 Knots	E at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	5 Miles	79° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	NW at 12-25 Knots	2-4 Feet	5 Miles	81° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: ESE at 10-23 Knots	ESE at 10-23 Knots	2-4 Feet	8 Miles	83° F
FREEPORT	Today: SE at 10-20 Knots	SE at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	3 Miles	78° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	SE at 8-16 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	80° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: E at 8-16 Knots	E at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	83° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: W at 10-20 Knots	W at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	5 Miles	83° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots	ESE at 8-16 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	81° F
NASSAU	Today: E at 10-20 Knots	E at 10-20 Knots	4-7 Feet	5 Miles	82° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: WNW at 12-25 Knots	WNW at 12-25 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	79° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	SE at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	82° F

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Cole's of Nassau fashion show

See page 10

A new flavour: Marco's Pizza comes to Nassau

See page nine



The Arts

The Tribune SECTION C •

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

ALLAN P. WALLACE uses a variety of mediums to set the mood in each piece and to communicate effectively the events that have prompted changes in his life.



Birth of a Godhead

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

EXPLORING the abstract and the concept of surrealism is what visual artist Allan P Wallace does in his exhibition entitled "Birth of a Godhead".

The solo exhibition is set to open this Friday at New Providence Art and Antiques on Bank Lane, and features 20 intriguing and thought-provoking pieces.

The artist, who is known for his murals on the wall at the site of the original Straw Market, uses a variety of mediums to set the mood in each piece and to communicate effectively the events that have prompted changes in his life.

"It is me coming into myself really, and now I have a new state of mind and it shows how much I have grown over the years which was the motivation behind the title 'Birth of a Godhead'," he said.

Mr Wallace also uses this exhibition to simply show off his raw talent. And it shows in a piece that was created in pen.

"The piece that was completed in pen ink was done to create harmony between the mediums. I get bored quickly and I like to challenge myself so that was the reason behind using the pen ink," he said.

This particular piece took the artist approximately five days to finish, while the entire collection took about six weeks to complete.

Mr Wallace said he

hopes his work reignites the passion and appreciation people once had for art.

"One time ago there were a great deal of persons who could appreciate fine art, nowadays there is only a small few. However, I hope that my artwork will make those persons fall in love with art once again," he said.

He added: "The overall message I am trying to send out in this exhibition is that anyone can reach their highest potential once they rely on God."

Opening night of the exhibition is this Friday from 6pm to 10pm. The show runs until December 18.

For more information call 328-7916.



Junkanoo 2009 To Carnival 2010

Spend \$25 in fuel at participating Esso stations and you and a guest could be enjoying a VIP Junkanoo Vacation or carnival in Trinidad & Tobago!

Each week starting Nov. 13th one lucky customer will win a **VIP Junkanoo Vacation inclusive of a 2-night stay at the Atlantis Hotel & Resort* + 5 Junkanoo VIP passes OR a trip for two to Trinidad & Tobago's 2010 carnival inclusive of airfare, hotel accommodation and costumes**.**

Enjoy the best of Junkanoo 2009 and the best of Trinidad Carnival 2010.

Promotion runs from November 6th to December 18th 2009.

Happy Junkanoo!

See entry-form for more details

*Includes double occupancy stay in the Royal Towers at Atlantis Hotel & Resort from Dec. 25th - 27th, 2009.
**Includes costumes, food, drinks and entertainment for 2 on Feb. 15th 2010 with the Island People band.

