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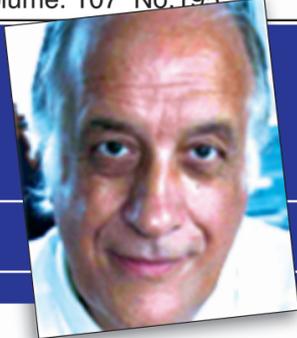
**THE PEOPLE'S PAPER  
BIGGEST AND BEST**



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## READ JOHN MARQUIS TODAY

ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PLP - SEE PAGE SIX

# Bran: why I quit my job at Immigration

## DNA leader claims his plans were blocked by PM

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

REPEATED efforts to address the country's immigration problems were "blocked" by "the man himself", Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, claimed Branville McCartney, leader of the Democratic National Alliance (DNA).  
Mr McCartney said he resigned as Minister of State for Immigration after Prime Minister Ingraham told him

on "repeated" occasions that his efforts amounted to "grand-standing."  
Mr Ingraham could not be reached for comment.  
"When I resigned I said my hands are tied. We are being stagnated. My hands are tied. Those are the words I used. When you have persons telling you, 'no one told you to do this'; 'you did not get my permission to do that'. When you have persons ahead of you telling you that,

SEE page nine

## HARBOUR ISLAND RESIDENTS CLAIM 'ELECTRICAL CRISIS'

SOME Harbour Island residents were without power for 13 hours yesterday, after a lightning storm knocked out power on the island.  
Residents complained of an "electrical crisis" because of damaged lines linking the island and Eleuthera. The problem

SEE page nine

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# DRUG DEALER'S BURNED BODY FOUND IN CAR

CONVICTED drug dealer Teron Fowler was the man found dead inside his burned out car on Hanna Road, according to a number of police sources.  
Fowler was at the centre of the infamous Cabinet fight between former Progressive Liberal Party Kennedy MP Kenyatta Gibson and then PLP Mount Moriah

MP Keod Smith.  
The married father-of-two was released from prison last December after serving a drug-related sentence.  
Fowler was shot a number of times before his car was set afire, said police.

SEE page eight

## SILT RUN-OFF FROM BAHAMAR PROJECT SEEPS INTO POND



A THIN FILM of suspected sediment was visible on turtles swimming (right) in the fresh water pond near Ruby Avenue (above).

Felipe Major/  
Tribune staff

By TANEKA THOMPSON  
Deputy Chief Reporter  
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

SILT run-off from the Baha Mar construction site has seeped into a fresh water pond near Ruby Avenue.  
Heavy rain last week Thursday forced sediment through silt tents that construction workers had put in place to mitigate against contamination of the wet land, said Robert Sands, senior vice-president of governmental and external affairs at Baha Mar.  
Mr Sands said the company was alerted about the incident by Cable Beach area residents and quickly took

SEE page nine

## US EMBASSY STILL NOT ISSUING TOURIST VISAS DESPITE COMPLAINTS

By SANCHESKA BROWN

DESPITE numerous complaints from the Bahamian public, US Embassy officials say they are still not accommodating any tourist visas at this time.  
Last week, the embassy said due to the large number of students attempting to go back to school in the next two months, college students will get first priority when it comes to visas.  
Since this announcement, Bahamians have called *The Tribune* to voice their concern.  
One woman said: "I already paid for my

SEE page nine

## WOMAN FIGHTS BEC FOR COMPENSATION AFTER '\$3,000 SURGE DAMAGE'

By SANCHESKA BROWN

AN ELDERLY woman is fighting the Bahamas Electricity Corporation for compensation after a power surge two years ago destroyed nearly \$3,000 worth of appliances in her home.  
Pensioner Rosena Johnson, 84, says in 2009, BEC employees were trimming trees in her neighbourhood when one of the trees fell on a power line. The impact caused a power surge that not only turned off her electricity but fried all of her appliances, including a refrig-

SEE page eight

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# THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR TOURS CUBA

**THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR** toured Cuba this year. One of the highlights was a performance at the residence of the Ambassador to the Bahamas in Cuba. It also performed at the Milanes Theatre in Pinar Del Rio city and the theatre San Jose de Las Lajas. The final performance was at Cathedral Square with the Cuban National Choir.



Donald Knowles/Choir Photographer

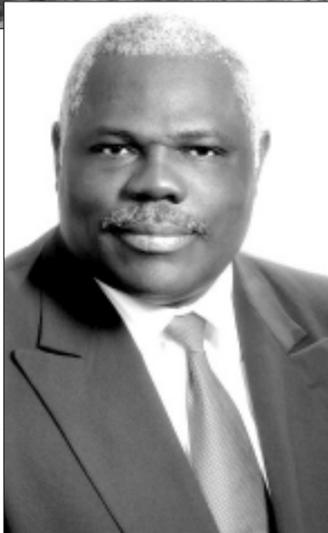


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LOCAL NEWS

# MINISTER: MACKEY YARD 'WAS ALWAYS CROWN LAND'



MINISTER OF HOUSING  
Kenneth Russell

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE land in Mackey Yard, currently under development for a 250-lot subdivision, was always Crown Land and never owned by the Mackey family, according to Minister of Housing Kenneth Russell.

Haitian residents who formerly lived in the housing scheme off Carmichael Road, were under the impression that the land was owned by Kenny Mackey. After the Christmas fire that levelled the housing scheme, residents claimed they received permission from Mr Mackey to live on the land.

Mr Russell said the Mackey family leased the land from the government some years ago, and it had been assumed for some time that they owned the land. The Christmas fire prompted an investigation, which revealed that the Mackey family stopped paying their lease and the land was all along Crown Land, according to Mr Russell.

When *The Tribune* contacted Mr Mackey, earlier this year, he denied being "responsible" for the land. He confirmed, however, that his family was once "involved" with the land, and authorised "some people" to live there.

"The only one who had permission are those my parents left there and one or two offspring who are no longer even there. Those people came there, they were told not to build," said Mr Mackey, speaking of newer residents.

Mr Russell said the Office of the

with the investigation part of it," said Mr Russell.

"The land many, many years ago was leased to a Mackey, who after a while stopped paying the lease. That is why we assumed all along the land was owned by the Mackeys. After the fire, an investigation was conducted and it determined the land was owned by the Bahamas government. Then some time afterwards the land was turned over to the minister of housing," he said.

The Ministry of Housing initiated its plan to transform the almost eight-acre plot into a government subdivision once the status of the land was cleared.

After the Christmas fire, government agencies documented 150 Haitians living in the yard, according to Mr Russell. A complete list of all residents was administered by the Office of the Prime Minister, he said.

Residents on that list who are Bahamian and qualify for the housing scheme, will constitute the group being offered "preference" when buying a lot in the new subdivision, said Mr Russell. So far, he said, he has seen no applications from amongst that group.

He also said the Land Adjudication Act gives Bahamians who have been living on a piece of land for a certain number of years the opportunity to apply for the adjudication of that land.

The Act states: "If the Adjudication Officer is satisfied that a person is in open and peaceable possession of a parcel of not more than one acre or in the discretion of the

Adjudication Officer not more than one and one quarter acre and has been in such possession by himself or his predecessors, for an uninterrupted period of 12 years or more; and has a good claim to the parcel by the production of relevant documents and oral evidence and that as far as can be ascertained no other person has acquired a title thereto under any law relating to prescription or limitation, the Adjudication Officer shall record that person as the owner of the parcel and declare his title to be absolute by issuing to the person after a period of 90 days a certificate of title."

The government's strategy has been to target shanty towns on government-owned land first, according to Brensil Rolle, Garden Hills Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing.

The government has compiled a list of shanty towns, according to *Tribune* sources; however it has yet to publish the list. It is unclear how many shanty towns on the list are located on Crown Land. Mr Rolle said he does not have a copy of the list.

"The Ministry of Works will have to require privately owned land to be developed in accordance with their building codes and their standards.

"Our position is, before the government could cause other people to do some things it has to do some things itself. That is why we are clearing land and causing it to be put in a position to develop," said Mr Rolle.

POLICE NEWS

## FIVE ARRESTS IN SPECIAL POLICE OPERATION

OFFICERS of the Southwestern Division discovered a marijuana field on Cowpen Road and arrested five people in connection with several break-ins and armed robberies during a special operation.

The mission was part of the division's ongoing efforts to send a clear message to law breakers that they will be caught, senior officers said.

Officers arrested two men on Monday – a 21-year-old Fox Hill resident and a 39-year-old resident of Roland Street, Ridgeland Park – in connection to a spate of home break-ins in Pride Estates and the surrounding areas.

The men were detained after police confiscated a number of items they believe to have been stolen, including flat screen televisions, cell phones, a watch and a mini lap top.

Press liaison officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skipings yesterday warned the public not to buy items they think might be stolen, as this could lead to criminal charges.

The other three suspects were detained in connection with armed robberies.

Police are questioning the two men and one juvenile about a number of armed robberies in the Allen Drive area.

No one has been taken into custody in connection with the Cowpen Road marijuana field, but police investigations continue.

Prime Minister looked into who owned the land. In one instance, he said "a woman, who was not a Mackey" was said to be collecting rent. It is not clear on whose behalf she acted. He said the investigation ended once the government determined the status of the land.

"It was not my investigation. It was the PM who was looking at that. Once the land was turned over to me, it became my job to ensure the persons who are on the land move off so we can do the subdivision, and that persons who have any claim to the land as Bahamians, and only Bahamians, can apply for a piece of the land. I am not involved



MELISSA DEAL outside of court.

COURT NEWS

## MOTHER OF SIX ACCUSED OF STEALING

By LAMECH JOHNSON

A WOMAN appeared in Magistrates Court yesterday to face allegations that she stole from five individuals.

Melissa Deal, 30, of Lumumba Lane was arraigned before Magistrate Derrence Rolle-Davis in Court 5, Bank Lane, charged with committing fraud under false pretenses, breach of trust, and stealing by reason of service.

The alleged victims are Marvin Archer, Felonie Shepherd, Idamae Russell, Adam McSweeney and Edison Mackey.

It is alleged that between Friday, August 7, 2008 and Friday, March 19, 2010, Ms Deal stole \$4,400 from Marvin Archer under false pretenses and as a result breach of trust.

It is alleged that Deal stole \$4,400 from Felonie Shepherd between Thursday, September 18, 2008 and Friday, March 9, 2011.

In the matter involving Idamae Russell, it is alleged that the accused stole \$6,000 from her between October 7, 2008 and March 22, 2010.

It is alleged that Deal stole \$4,000 from Adam McSweeney

between April 30, 2008 and August 27, 2008.

She is also accused of stealing \$4,350 from Edison Mackey between May 20 and May 30, 2008.

Deal, who is a mother of six, was not required to enter a plea in any of the five matters.

A preliminary inquiry will be held to determine if there is sufficient evidence for the cases to be heard in the Supreme Court.

She was not allowed bail as she was already on bail in connection with other matters.

Magistrate Rolle-Davis remanded her to Her Majesty's Prison until July 26.

## PLP CANDIDATE HITS OUT AT GOVT OVER REGULARISATION PROCESS

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

MISHANDLING of the regularisation process for immigrants could breed cultural animosity, warned a political hopeful who accused the government of mixing politics with cultural affairs.

During a tour of the constituency yesterday, PLP candidate for Carmichael Dr Danny Johnson criticised the government's decision to establish a unit to fast-track more than 1,000 long-standing citizenship applications.

As he seeks to represent an area which harbours one of the largest shanty towns on the island, Dr Johnson said that he would have preferred for the government to encourage national dialogue on the issue.

Dr Johnson said: "Why now? If you are going to regularise those two buildings over there, I would do that in my first term in office, I would not wait until the last six months of my term in office to undergo a massive regularisation plan that includes giving out passports and getting people involved in something that has been a hot button topic for years.

"To do that right before a general election is problematic, it is dishonest, and it is going to cause confusion that we do not need in this country at this time."

Minister of Immigration Brent Symon-

ette recently disclosed that a special team of 12 workers was hired to process 762 citizenship applications and about 600 permanent residency applications from individuals of various nationalities that have been "sitting in the filing cabinets for long periods of time because some form of document was not there."

The employees were hired under the government's recently announced job-creation programme.

Dr Johnson said: "I would have liked to see a discussion, a national dialogue at the level of the College of the Bahamas to flesh out exactly what these expectations are with this process that we're going through and make sure that the expectation and outcomes match each other."

It was further revealed that 1,144 applicants were granted citizenship between May 2, 2007 and June 30, 2010. In that same time, 1,165 permanent residence applications were approved; 1,506 spousal permits and 10,012 permits to reside.

Dr Johnson congratulated new citizens and regularised persons during an interview with the *Tribune* yesterday; however, he said that while he empathises with the plight of stateless persons, the process must be done in a "certain form and fashion".

Dr Johnson said: "It's simple, never try to accomplish a big thing in a abrupt and hasty fashion. Managers and middle-managers try to do things right, leaders do what is

right. We are about doing what is right to integrate our Haitian brothers and sisters into this community. They have been here for years, they are a part of our culture, they are a part of the economy, they are a part of the schools, they are a part of the community.

"We have to lead the charge as to how we are going to integrate them, that is the dialogue. It could take time but it has to be done properly. If you rush it, we're gonna make big mistakes and I think we're gonna set ourselves back many, many years.

"I think it's inconsistent, if you rush something you're going to have many inconsistencies, and the inconsistencies are going to make other people feel that they have been left out or in some way slipped short, that they have been hoodwinked or that there has been some discrepancy involved in this process and hence I have to tell you, wrong time, wrong method."

He added: "You do not bring politics into your cultural affairs. We have to support them but there is a way to do it and to politicise it is not the way to do it."

Between May 2, 2002 and May 2, 2007, under the PLP administration, Mr Symonette said, the government granted 2,083 citizenship requests; 1,582 permanent residence, 2,286 spousal permits and 22,839 requests for permits to reside. He said the department does not have collated statistics on the number of rejected applications.

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## Return of John Marquis to The Tribune

MONDAY'S rainstorm did The Tribune a favour by dampening the ardour of the number of Bahamians who wanted to climb The Tribune's stairs to welcome back our former managing editor, John Marquis. Not only did the half dozen who managed to brave the storm want to welcome him, but they also wanted to bend his ear about some of their problems and get his facile pen to champion their causes.

However, the rain did not dampen the phone calls — a mixed bag at that. Many callers were delighted that he was back, but others — mainly worried Opposition politicians — were concerned that he might have crawled under the Immigration net and somehow found his way through the cracks in the floorboards and settled back into his editorial chair on Shirley Street.

However, funniest of all was a website, popularly associated with the PLP. Whoever is behind those rantings are now having an epileptic fit about Mr Marquis' "return" — many of them feared his pen when he was here, and as a consequence hated his guts. They now want to blame the FNM government for his return. In this particular case, no government or branch of government can stop copy from Mr Marquis keyboard sliding through the Internet and into the columns of The Tribune. This is once no Immigration permit is required and no immigration fee has to be paid.

These retards must still be in the stone age of journalism if they believe that an editor has to be in the same country as the newspaper he is editing. If today's technology had been available during the Pindling administration we would have been able to have thumbed our nose at the "Father of the Nation" and told him to take a leap from the nearest hillock. As the Pindling regime was nearing its end, today's telecommunications technology was in its embryonic stage. We closely watched it grow, had the next Tribune generation trained from the moment it started to take its first baby steps. We were the first to experiment with it by the publication of The Miami Herald in our own plant using satellite technology from The Herald's Miami plant. That day we celebrated our freedom.

We have now perfected the system, and so should this country ever suffer the misfortune of threats to press freedom through Immigration restrictions as happened under the Pindling regime, The Tribune is insulated and ready for them.

We recall how easy it was three years ago when we were in Vienna to continue our

work at The Tribune as though we had never left our office.

Telecommunications is one of the many technologies that governments are going to find impossible to control — much of it has already slipped the noose.

And so, yes, John Marquis, through the columns of The Tribune, is now back in town. Before he retired from The Tribune it was agreed that he would take a long rest, a world tour, get his own affairs in order, outline at least one book that we knew he was interested in writing, and then turn his attention back to the Bahamas.

That day is now here. The Bahamas is really Mr Marquis' second home. Having lived and worked here from his early twenties, he knows most of the top players, is close to many "grassroots" Bahamians and certainly knows where skeletons are hidden in many of the cupboards. No wonder there are those who were pleased to see his back, but what they did not know was that when he left, he did not close the door behind him.

Yes, John Marquis is back. Although his home is still in England and he has no physical presence in the Bahamas, he will be visiting with us once a week through the columns of The Tribune.

Here at The Tribune we welcome his return!

••••

### WHAT IS BAHAMIAN CULTURE?

DNA leader Branville McCartney is upset because he says that classes he started when he was minister of state for Immigration was stopped after his resignation from the FNM government. However, Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette denies this. He says that classes were stopped while Mr McCartney was still minister of state. Mr Symonette added that the classes were only "a one morning issue" and not a comprehensive programme that lasted weeks.

Mr McCartney says that the classes would have ensured that the applicants could speak English, recite the national anthem, and pledge of allegiance, have an appreciation of Bahamian culture, our national heroes and "various other vital aspects of our country."

It would be interesting to know what these subjects embraced — especially who are our national heroes.

We don't believe many Bahamians would know the answers to most of these questions.

# Independence: Just what is it we are celebrating?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

This past weekend we "celebrated" what we called our 38th anniversary of Independence.

But, just what is it that we celebrate? I ask this question in all seriousness.

I ask the thinking citizen to objectively look at his/her environment — social, physical, spiritual, political, economic and familial — and determine for his or herself if what we have is good or if it needs improvement. If it is good, sleep well. If it needs improvement, become an active part of the solution rather than a casual part of the problem.

We suffer from a serious disconnect between those citizens who seem able to insulate themselves from deprivation— financial or social — and those who are mired in pain.

I consider our acceptance of a horrendous murder rate most disturbing. Yes, politicians, religious leaders and social activists offer criticism of either the government — and they must accept their share of blame — or the police; but, the community continues to facilitate casual lawbreaking and teaching petty thievery to our children.

Some well-to-do "Christians" regularly go to Church but rail against the institution of National Health Insurance as their having to pay for some deadbeat's medical care. Never mind Biblical injunctions to providing for the



poor and dispossessed as necessary to serve God.

Even though public education is generally failing to meet the needs of our young, we still have a cadre of talented citizens who are ignored by the government and business when it comes to challenging opportunities. A case in point is the awarding of a contract to a company out of Singapore by the Government, without offering a bid opportunity to Bahamians, to craft a system for providing government services online. Ministers, who are not themselves experts in software development, advised by public servants who are not experts in software development either, contracted with a foreign company at a cost of \$10,000,000 of tax dollars to provide a service that they could not themselves knowledgeably assess. The thinking must be that since the Singaporean live in a country with a respected government-on-line regime, they must know what they are doing. If you are going to make such a determination without having the skill set yourself then make it about Bahamian talent, who could themselves augment their skills from outside as they know is required.

The government signed a contract for \$71,000,000 to

build less than seven miles of airport roadway — albeit four lanes of road with underground utilities and landscaping — with a sister company to the company which loaned them 80 per cent of the total contracted price — at a discounted interest rate. The government signed this contract, again without going to competitive bid, and did so before the planned road was engineered and technically designed.

Yes, there were and are pretty pictures but these are not engineering design works as far as I am able to discern.

Improving New Providence roadways is a good initiative. But, the approach we are now suffering through is not a good idea — insulting to the community and expensive to many citizens.

One could go into so much more, and I would be happy to do so, but I really don't want to ask you to burden yourself with too much of my ruminations; rather, I would like to encourage you to demand more. Demand excellence and integrity from your political leaders, religious leaders, business leaders, civic leaders, educators and public service institutions. You get what you require and insist on. Require more of leaders and refuse to accept less.

PHILIP P SMITH  
Nassau,  
July 12, 2011.

## POLICE COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT VERY CONCERNING

EDITOR, The Tribune.

"We have a new breed of criminals that do not care. They will rob you, and even after they have your possessions, they will still shoot and kill you."

This is a summary of the statement made by Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade to the media this week on crime and the mounting murder count. If this is true, then it seems as if no one in the Bahamas is safe from this carnage of crime.

What is the use of complying with a robber's demand Sergeant Chrislyn Skipplings (Police Press Liaison Officer), when the commissioner says that this new breed of criminals will shoot and kill you anyhow? Surely there must be something that law abiding citizens can do to protect themselves. Are we as law-abiding citizens to

arm ourselves also if this new breed of criminals can't remain off the streets because of a failed criminal justice system? The commissioner did say that these men are locked up by police and then repeatedly given bail.

Inferring from the commissioner's statements, crime in the Bahamas is much bigger than most of us think.

The commissioner himself seemed to be a bit flustered at this new development of this new breed of criminals. As good citizens, the time is now for us as the commissioner said, "to turn these criminals in." Time is not on our side Bahamas. Today, it could be me. Today it could be you. This is serious business.

DEHAVILLAND MOSS  
Nassau,  
July 12, 2011.

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## To circulate amended Customs Act or not

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Mr Ryan Pinder, Member of Parliament, is correct to question why the Government has not circulated the new Customs Act throughout the business community for discussion.

But on the other hand, he confirms reading all 350 pages of it, yet he has not circulated it to the business community for discussion.

You've gotta love it when elections are in the air. This "political fight" reminds me of another great quote by H. L. Mencken:

"A national political campaign is better than the best circus ever heard of, with a mass baptism and a couple of hangings thrown in."

Surely if circulating the Bill is so important, and I agree it is, all Mr. Pinder has to do is send copies around and the matter is resolved?

One often wonders if our Parliament is elected to solve problems or create them?

RICK LOWE  
www.weblogbahamas.com  
Nassau,  
July 19, 2011.

## JUST A THOUGHT TO PONDER

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: Omega College Class of 2011

ON page A9 of today's Nassau Guardian, I note with interest that there is not one male in the graduating class. Just a thought to ponder.

PAT STRACHAN  
Nassau,  
July 18, 2011.

# Boats moved to Montagu

Area's residents annoyed as vessels shifted from Nassau Harbour

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net



THE BOATS were moved from Nassau Harbour to Montagu Foreshore. **Felipe Major/Tribune staff**

BOATERS ordered to move vessels from the restricted area of Nassau Harbour have relocated them to Montagu Foreshore to the annoyance of residents in the area.

Around 20 small boats, 15-30ft recreational vessels, have taken up residence in the shallow waters off Montagu this week after a crackdown on boats illegally anchored in the restricted area around Potter's Cay dock.

Residents said there were two or three boats anchored off Montagu last week, but since the forced removal of boats on the eastern side of the dock on Sunday, the number has swelled to an estimated 20.

And more could arrive this weekend as the move to clean up the area around the Paradise Island bridges continues.

Port Controller Patrick McNeil called for boat owners to move their vessels from the restricted area of the harbour around Potter's Cay dock by July 1, or have them removed on their behalf, as part of a public-private initiative to clean up the central area of Nassau Harbour.

On Sunday the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and port staff towed six to eight boats left on the eastern side of Potter's Cay dock to the

south side of Athol Island and secured them to an anchorage there.

The large wooden boat sinking in shallow waters near Williams Street, off East Bay Street, is the only one remaining on the eastern side of Potter's Cay and will soon be removed, Commander McNeil said.

Now efforts are being directed to the western side of Potter's Cay dock where boats will be towed from this weekend if owners do not claim their vessels.

However Commander McNeil does not have the right to refuse boat owners the right to anchor off Montagu.

"We advise them to carry their boats home or to a marina, because they cannot be in the restricted area," he said.

"But there is limited anchorage for small boats in Nassau Harbour and they don't want to pay for the

marina, or carry the boats home, so they responded by moving, and the problem has shifted to some place else.

"Now there is nothing I can do about it because there's nothing that would support me in moving them."

Commander McNeil said 80 per cent of the boats littering the harbour were collecting rain water and as it appeared no one was looking after them, they were soon likely to sink.

A Montagu resident said: "Hopefully all of them will sink and be removed," speaking of the boats in the new location.

"There is no need for Bahamians to have such ridiculous amounts of hope that they will one day fix these boats that litter the harbour and bays of Nassau."

Commander McNeil believes the problem lies with citizens relying on government to protect their investments.



"I don't know why citizens want the Port to take on their responsibility," he said.

"They want government to find them a place to put their boat, but the govern-

ment can't address everything - it's their responsibility, their investment - there is only so much in the coffers of the public treasury and it's not for private sector investment."

**TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS PHONE: 322-2157**

HUNDREDS TURN OUT TO REGISTER

# 60-YEAR-OLDS SIGN UP FOR JOB TRAINING IN GRAND BAHAMA

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
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FREEPORT - Hundreds of the people, including persons up to 60 years old, are turning out to register for the government's job readiness programme on Grand Bahama.

Sarah Rahming, executive officer at the Labour Department, said it was a busy second day of registration yesterday at the Jack Hayward High School.

Between 400 and 500 applicants had been processed during the morning hours and many persons were still turning up to register in the afternoon.

"It has been a nonstop process and persons have been flowing in continuously," Mrs Rahming told *The Tribune*.

## Selected

Men and women young and old turned out in large numbers in hopes of being among the 1,000 persons who will be selected for training and job placement on Grand Bahama.

Jack Hayward is one of four locations that persons can register. Registration is also being held at the Eight Mile Rock gymnasium, as well as High Rock Primary and West End Primary Schools.

The government has allocated \$25 million for the National Job Readiness Training initiative to provide Bahamians with training and job placement for a period of 52 weeks.

It is hoped that the programme will prepare Bahamians to take full advantage of the new opportunities when the economy rebounds after the recession.

Ms Rahming said: "We are seeing a lot of

high school students and persons over 30 years of age straight up to the age of 60.

"For the most part applicants, are bringing what is required of them for registration, including original documents and copies of documents, including the four pages of their passport, birth certificate, NIB card, and academic certificates; we then have to look at all original documents and certify them," she said.

Elise Lord, a young mother of three, was one of many persons waiting in line for hours at Jack Hayward.

## Opportunity

Ms Lord was laid off during downsizing at a local law firm in Freeport. She thinks the programme is an opportunity for her to gain training in a new area.

"It has been hard finding another job to help take care of my family and I see this as a great opportunity for training.

"I've always wanted to go back to school but I do not have the funds right now and this will give me and others the opportunity to gain a new skill without paying for it.

"I see it as something positive to look forward to. I hope it is not another political thing... and I thank God for this opportunity," said Ms Lord.

Tasha Bullard-Rolle, conciliation officer at the Labour Department, also reported that there has been a "diversified" group of applicants registering at the Eight Mile Rock gym.

Registration will continue until Friday, July 22. On Wednesday registration will continue for persons with surnames beginning with the letters N to R; and on Thursday with surnames beginning with T to Z. There will be open registration on Friday.

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# TELL ME IT'S NOT TRUE

By JOHN MARQUIS

WHEN the PLP was topped at the polls in 2007, everyone expected the ousted prime minister, Perry Christie, to be jettisoned by the party as the scapegoat for its defeat. Incredibly, he survived the post-election flak to beat off all other contenders for the party leadership and seems set to lead the PLP into next year's election.

SOON after the 2007 general election, when the PLP were unceremoniously dumped into what we all hoped would be the garbage bin of history, I wrote an INSIGHT article saying the party couldn't possibly seek the public's support again with Perry Christie at the helm.

If memory serves me right, I wrote something like this: "The one certainty in the election aftermath is that the PLP can't go into the 2012 campaign with Christie as its leader."

There was nothing particularly original about this statement. Nearly everyone was saying it.

At about the same time, I suggested that Bernard Nottage – Olympic sprinter turned medical doctor – was "the last man standing" in the tussle for the PLP leadership and that his comparative commonsense and rationality would be a godsend to a party on its knees.

Nottage, whatever his faults, appeared to offer quiet maturity, a measure of gravitas and something by way of cool judgment that his fellow contenders seemed to lack.

If there was one thing the PLP needed badly, it was a level-headed action man ready to grapple with the multitude of problems facing the party at the time.

## Mantle

By the late summer of 2007 it looked an odds-on bet that Dr Nottage would pick up the mantle and offer a thoroughly discredited party a fresh start. However, it was not to be. By the time I left Nassau two years ago, Nottage had become nigh invisible on the political scene.

His fans said he was biding his time. Critics felt he was scared to commit himself.

Whatever his reasons, his indecision gave Christie precious time to dig in for the long haul. Miraculously and incredibly, Christie is still in place.

Condemned as indecisive by his critics, as "a study in still life" by The Tribune, and a vacillating invertebrate by the cruellest of his detractors, he has somehow managed to survive four years of leadership wrangling with his status intact.

While conspirators, naysayers and sceptics have been whispering behind his back, the genial ex-premier and fabled junkanoo dancer has shimmied and shuffled his way through the raucous throng to emerge once more as the only contender with enough grassroots support to carry the day.

He reminds me of something an American newspaper editor once told me about his early days in journalism. "I worked out very quickly that so long as I



## MARQUIS AT LARGE

could stay sober, all other contenders for the editorship would fall down drunk around me," he said.

In his own way, Christie has done just that. While pretenders like Obie Wilcombe, Frank Smith and Paul Moss have come and gone (nothing to do with booze, incidentally), he stands as immovable and inscrutable as those famous stone faces on Easter Island.

No matter how much buffeting dear old Perry takes from the sundry windbags around him, he seems to remain admirably unruffled and intact.

Judging from afar – and I confess four thousand miles of ocean do blur one's perspective – I now see Philip "Brave" Davis as the only possible leader-in-waiting, the sole heir apparent to Pindling's tarnished crown.

There are, however, one or two impediments to his progress.

According to his critics, Davis's acknowledged skills as a courtroom advocate do not translate well into the political arena.

Just before I left Nassau in 2009, he was described to me by a political observer as "less charismatic than a BEC light-pole" with an oratorical style guaranteed to send you to sleep quicker than a boxful of mogadons.

If you're looking for a bit of zest and razzle-dazzle, Brave Davis is emphatically not your man, the observer said.

If you want to light up the night sky at big political rallies, better to buy a box of fireworks than rely on Davis to deliver any verbal pyrotechnics, he added.

So, with the election less than a year away, Christie appears to be the only PLP politician with enough support and survival savvy to lead the party into the fray.

Lamentable as he was as a prime minister last time around, he's the best the party has.

Doesn't say much for the PLP, does it?

The biggest fear for those, like me, who have real concern for the future of the Bahamas is that any suggestion of a vacuum at the top of the PLP in the future leaves the way open for the Marley's Ghost of Bahamian politics, Fred Mitchell.

There is no doubt that madcap Fred has entertained notions about leading the party ever since he sat on that hillock as a boy and fantasised about being prime minister. Over the years, his every move has been carefully choreo-

**"While conspirators, naysayers and sceptics have been whispering behind his back, the genial ex-premier and fabled junkanoo dancer has shimmied and shuffled his way through the raucous throng to emerge once more as the only contender with enough grassroots support to carry the day."**

graphed to achieve that aim.

At first he was seen by the late Sir Lynden Pindling as a real prospect. Then The Chief saw the light, changed his mind and saw him for what he was shaping up to be, a political liability of mammoth proportions.

On Mitchell's own admission, Pindling told him in his early days in politics that he had a personality disorder, a damning put-down that the indignant young politician felt inclined to reject. Those observing from the sidelines found themselves nodding in agreement...with Pindling, that is, not Mitchell.

In the dust-up that followed, both men threatened to reveal details of each other's private life, establishing a new low for political debate in the Bahamas and sparking speculation in every bar-room from West End, Grand Bahama, to Mathew Town, Inagua. Unfortunately, neither delivered on his threat, leaving Bahamians in a state of suspense wondering what the heck they were talking about.

## Protest

Subsequently, fiery Fred set the Bahamas constitution ablaze under the fig tree in Parliament Square, sent the ashes to Pindling to protest the disciplinary action proposed by the Bahamas Bar Council against him, and threatened to "smite the hand of every enemy that dares to launch out against" him.

So seemingly reckless was Mitchell's behaviour at the time that some felt he was a compelling candidate for therapy. One group of PLPs felt he needed "a good spanking" and said so publicly.

To make things worse, his first excursion into foreign affairs led to his ill-considered suggestion to invade Haiti and topple the military regime then in power. They were the days when he headed his own political party – the People's Democratic Force.

The scheme reflected perfectly Mitchell's grandiose notions about his own importance and infallibility, but prompted others to look askance at the young firebrand and wonder whether he was not several planks short of a truckload in the brain department.

Astonishingly, Fred felt 200 dinghy-borne marines of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force would make short work of Haiti's army, which then consisted of 5,000 troops full of ill-will who would not have taken kindly to a Bahamian assault on their national sovereignty.

Had Mitchell's plan gone ahead, it would have been the Bahamas' own version of the Bay of Pigs debacle of 1961, the ill-starred US

"invasion" of Castro's Cuba which left a number of desperadoes dead on the beach and America's foreign policy in tatters.

His idea would have been a good one, his critics suggested, only if Fred himself were allowed to lead the charge on to Haiti's northern shoreline.

All this, together with his five disastrous years as Minister of Foreign Affairs, ought to have been enough to see off any fanciful notions Mitchell might have had about national leadership.

But no. He's still hanging in there, the PLP's in-house Walter Mitty, a very poor pastiche of Barack Obama who still, unbelievably, sees himself as a rising political superstar.

It's partly because of Christie's taste for procrastination and prevarication that the PLP is still burdened with Fred, an irritant Hubert Ingraham wisely refused to accommodate within the FNM.

While Mitchell was flying all over the world as the nation's foreign affairs specialist, apparently making up policy on the hoof, Christie maintained his Buddha-like silence and inscrutability.

Critics gained the impression that Mitchell was a law unto himself, jetting off at great public expense to burnish his image as an international negotiator while his boss sat bemused in his Nassau bunker wondering what he would get up to next.

It's Christie's apparent inertia that causes most concern. In the face of crisis, he appears to be overcome by head-to-toe paralysis, a pathological incapacity to slap down recalcitrant colleagues and lay down the law.

The consensus seems to be that Perry is a very nice man who lacks the cutting edge required to control a mixed bag of opportunists and liberty-takers like the PLP hierarchy.

Mavericks like Kenyatta Gibson lost patience and jumped ship.

Others wondered how long Christie could brazen it out in the face of sustained – and usually justified – criticism.

Well, now we know. As the 2012 election looms ever closer, a former prime minister who once looked doomed for political oblivion now appears set to lead the charge into next year's campaign. What's worse, some observers feel that, despite his dire showing last time around, he has a reasonable chance of winning.

For the FNM, the PLP's failure to find an alternative to Christie is a blessing.

They can think of no bigger boost for their election chances than the continuing leadership of Perry Christie, a man more hesitant than



PLP LEADER PERRY CHRISTIE: 'Miraculously and incredibly, he is still in place'.



FRED MITCHELL: 'A late grab for power'?



PHILIP DAVIS: 'The only possible leader in waiting'.

Hamlet and as dynamic as a dodo.

With the old leader still in place, it will be much easier for the FNM to convince the electorate that little has changed in a party that disgraced itself during 25 years of Lynden Pindling's rule and made a complete hash of everything during the disastrous "comeback" administration of 2002-2007.

## Change

Many of the more intelligent PLPs are aware of this and want change before it's too late. Others see ponderous Perry as the best of a bad bunch. As the next few months tick away, they will be hoping that the alleged failings of the FNM in power will be enough to see them through, especially as the new DNA party threatens to split the anti-PLP vote.

However, it would be the height of foolhardiness if, at some future date, they were to opt for Mitchell in desperation. A party whose credibility is already threadbare would have none at all if the Fox Hill fantasist were to emerge as their default candidate in the leadership race.

Not only would the bell toll loudly for the PLP itself. It would boom across the

Bahamas like a signal of impending doom.

As I wrote once before, the nation would be chancing its arm to let Fred Mitchell lead a junkanoo parade, never mind a major political party.

You can, therefore, imagine my despair when I caught sight of an Internet story just a few days ago suggesting that the dreaded Fred, after three decades of disorientated rambling round the foothills of Bahamian politics, is actually positioning himself for a do-or-die crack at the top job.

This story said Mitchell still harboured a desire to fly in the face of his critics and make a late grab for power.

The man who threatened to expose Pindling's alleged peccadilloes, torched the constitution in an act of petulant rage, proposed an act of war on a neighbouring state, and flew all over the world achieving nothing as Minister of Foreign Affairs is reportedly hell-bent on turning his boyhood fantasies into fact.

Please tell me it's not true. And if it's true, please reassure me that no-one would be daft enough to support him.

Your future depends on it.

## 700 MARIJUANA PLANTS ARE DISCOVERED BY POLICE

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
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FREETPORT – Some 700 marijuana plants with an estimate street value of \$700,000 were discovered in East Grand Bahama on Tuesday.

Police reported that a team of officers spotted a small marijuana field in bushes in the South Riding Point area on the north side of the Grand Bahama Highway.

ASP Loretta Mackey, press liaison offi-

cer, said the discovery was made around 10.45am on Tuesday.

No arrest has been made and police are continuing their investigation into this latest matter.

This is the third field that has been discovered this year in bushes in East Grand Bahama, which is a hot spot for illegal cultivation of marijuana.

In June, police discovered 5,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$5 million in East Grand Bahama.

The field was discovered several miles east of the water tanks on Grand Bahama

Highway.

In April, 15,000 marijuana plants with estimated street value of \$15 million were discovered in bushes east of the water tanks in East Grand Bahama.

A makeshift tent was discovered in the area and officers also found a hose that was used to construct an irrigation system to water the plants.

No arrests have been made in connection with these discoveries.

Police are appealing to anyone with information to contact DEU at 350-3107/8 or call 911.

## TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIM NAMED

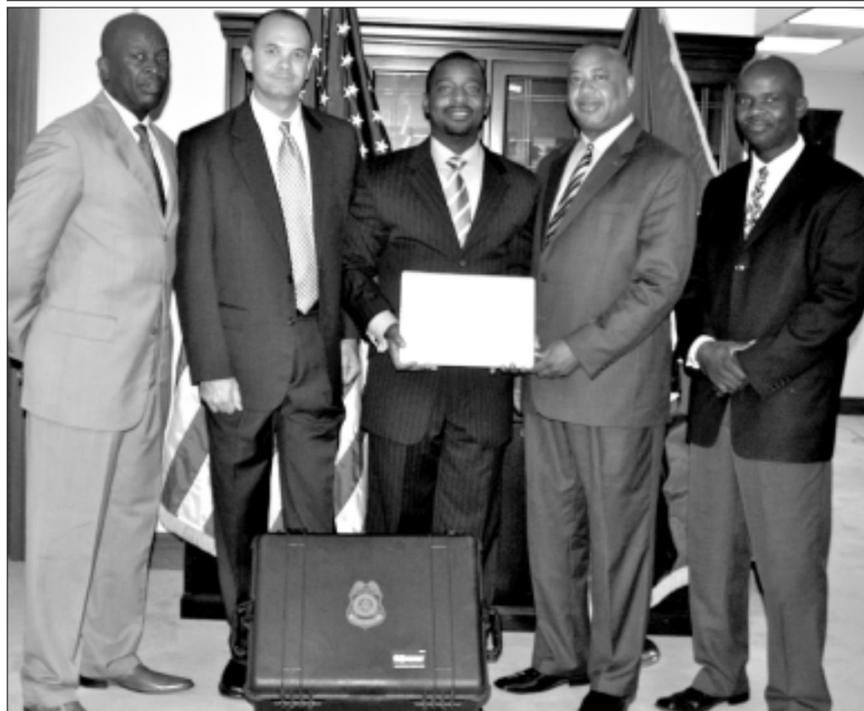
By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREETPORT – The Tribune has learned that the elderly man who died in a traffic accident is 68-year-old Leonard Knowles.

Knowles, a resident of South Bahama, was driving his truck on East Sunrise Highway on Saturday around 8pm when he crashed into tree.

Police are awaiting the results of an autopsy report to determine the cause of death.

LOCAL NEWS



FROM LEFT: ASP Bernard Bonamy; acting deputy chief of mission Bradley Lynn; assistant regional security officer Derrick Boyd; ASP Clayton Fernander and Sergeant Dale Strachan.

# Police receive digital forensics equipment from US Dept of State

THE US Embassy's acting deputy chief of Mission Bradley Lynn and regional security officer Derrick Boyd presented a Mac Book Pro computer forensics laptop package valued at more than \$14,000 to the Royal Bahamas Police Force's Central Detective Unit.

The package represents the first installment of a complete computer forensics lab valued at more than \$100,000, due to be donated to the RBPF in late Fall 2011.

The presentation was made to ASP Clayton Fernander, ASP Bernard Bonamy and Sergeant Dale Strachan on Monday.

The RBPF received the equipment as a result of its collaboration with the US Department of State's Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) programme.

Members of the CDU as well as the Royal Bahamas Defence Force have already

received two training sessions as part of the three phase course on the digital forensic investigations.

The third phase will include the donation of a complete computer forensics lab as well as two weeks of specialised training.

The forensics equipment package can be used to investigate and analyse computer-related crimes as well as develop evidence in cases involving computers, including drug trafficking, money laundering and counter terrorism investigations.

"This donation is just one example of the US Embassy's ongoing collaboration with the Royal Bahamas Police Force in its fight against crime and countering terrorism and we look forward to facilitating future training and equipment opportunities," said Bradley Lynn, the embassy's acting deputy chief of mission.

GROUP WANTS 'DEEPENING OF BAHAMIAN DEMOCRACY'

# CALL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW PROVIDENCE

A LOCAL social activism group is calling for a deepening of Bahamian democracy by the introduction of local government to New Providence.

The Bain and Grants Town Association commended the government for the smooth running of the recently held Local Government elections in the Family Islands, and asked why a system which has survived for 15 years in the rest of the country has yet to be implemented in the capital, where more than two thirds of the population lives.

"The time has come, indeed come and gone, for a modern, effective and transparent system of Local Government to be introduced in New Providence and we hereby issue a very strong and

urgent call for its formulation and implementation at the very earliest time possible", said Rev CB Moss, president of the association.

According to Rev Moss, Local Government should have been implemented in New Providence first and then extended to the Family Islands.

New Providence is one of the few significant democratic population centres in the world with only a single level of government, he pointed out.

"This anomaly has contributed to the stagnation of the development of the Bahamian society, as residents with tremendous potential residing in communities are underutilised and marginalised and their communities and the nation is deprived of their leadership skills and abilities to the detriment of all.

"Surely 41 persons in the national parliament cannot be expected, nor relied upon, to understand local concerns and aspirations, and to move the entire nation forward, upward, and onward."

Rev Moss pointed out that successive governments have promised to implement Local Government in New Providence, but none of them have delivered

"Bain Grants Town, also known as Over-the-Hill, has long been ready, willing and able to embrace Local Government in order to revitalise and renew what is the heartland of the Bahamas," he said.



REV CB MOSS, president of the Bain and Grants Town Association.

## ATLANTA STUDENTS ON WEEK-LONG MISSION IN BAHAMAS



SCHOLARS OF the Frank Ski Kids Foundation.

ATLANTA students will learn more about protecting the environment while on a week-long excursion in the Bahamas.

Ten students from Atlanta travelled to Nassau on July 16 to take part in the 2011 Frank Ski Kid's Foundation Planet Green Marine Biology Science Excursion.

The finalists were chosen after competing in the foundation's essay competition entitled "Massive oil spills, nuclear contamination, pollution, over-fishing and climate change are killing our oceans. What are the long

term effects on humanity if our oceans are not protected?"

Frank Ski is a leading radio personality in Atlanta. He is the host of the Frank and Wanda Morning Show with Wanda Smith, and he is devoted to protecting the environment.

Every year, the Frank Ski Kid's Foundation hosts an excursion outside of the United States to expose students to different eco-environments.

The mission of the non-profit foundation is to expose children to environ-

mentalism through science, technology, athletics and arts.

As a part of their one-week trip to the Bahamas, the students will take a scuba diving certification course at Stuart Cove's, a one day expedition to the Island School in Eleuthera and a trip to Blue Lagoon Island.

While in the Bahamas, the foundation will be assisted by the Ministry of Tourism, Breezes Resort, Mt Tabor Full Gospel Baptist Church, the Island School, SkyBahamas Airlines and Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## BRITISH TOURIST SLAIN IN VENEZUELA

CARACAS, Venezuela Associated Press

A BRITISH TOURIST was shot and killed during a robbery and his brother was wounded, Venezuelan police said Tuesday.

Thomas Ossel suffered a mortal wound in the jaw and his brother, Jack, also was wounded in the attack on Venezuela's Margarita Island, regional police official Luis Garavin told the Venezuelan radio station Union Radio.

He said the shooting happened Monday as

the two men were leaving an upscale inn to return home from the island, which is one of Venezuela's leading tourist destinations.

Investigators believe gunmen tried to rob the men and apparently opened fire when they resisted, Garavin said.

Britain's Foreign Office confirmed Ossel's death and said its officials were "providing consular assistance to the family."

Venezuela has one of the highest murder rates in Latin America. Last year, it reported a rate of 48 homicides for every 100,000 inhabitants.

# Tribune Trivia

## Yesterday's Question

How many gold medals did the Bahamas team win on the final day of the XXII Senior CAC Track and Field Championships in Puerto Rico?

## Yesterday's Answer

Five

## Yesterday's Winners

Penny Sirra	3pts
Tasia Blair	2pts
Megan Bethel	1pt

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

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# Lawyer's practical solutions to criminal justice failures

By LARRY SMITH



**"Munroe was called to the Bar in 1990 and has been calling for reform of the criminal justice system ever since. He pointed to the high level of frustration among lawyers like himself who had given freely of their time over the years to study the system and recommend improvements."**

"death-eligible."

"But nothing happened," he said. "The government changed in 2007, and still there was no legislation. The Court of Appeal said in 2008 that we needed to legislate, but again nothing happened. The Privy Council said this year that the death penalty needs to be defined, which is done by legislation. The government said it would do something, but has delayed again. And we called for this five years ago."

He said the onus was on legislators to legislate, and once they do the courts will apply the law. There are believed to be over 200 outstanding capital cases, and if politicians were serious about the death penalty, they would identify the barriers to implementation and then remove those barriers through legislation.

## Delays

Among the barriers he identified are the right of appeal beyond the Privy Council to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and to the Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy, which includes the Minister of National Security and the Attorney-General. The delays involved in these appeals often mean that convicts cannot be executed within the five-year rule established by the Privy Council.

"If you cut out the Inter-American Human Rights Commission then you should be able to execute the death penalty within three and a half years from sentencing," he said. "If you have a sensible system for the Prerogative of Mercy Committee, that appeal can be done in a

fairly short period and would be the last hope of avoiding execution."

Another cause of delay in implementing the death penalty is the appointment of lawyers to represent convicts in the Court of Appeal. "If lawyers are not willing to do the job then time passes and you may not be able to execute," he said, arguing that the solution to this was sensible legal aid.

He said an effective system of legal aid could be organized through the Bar Association rather than by setting up a public defenders office within the government. "The only administrative cost would be for a retired judge to manage the system and vet it for quality control. If you are going to execute someone we should ensure they have proper representation."

He said the extent of legal aid would be determined by the budget available. It could be limited to the trial process or extended as far as the initial detention in a police station. The reality is that most people cannot afford legal representation yet all the wealth, power and resources of the state are arrayed against them.

"People can be in custody up to 96 hours without an attorney to advise them. For a large portion of society, when you come to trial the only way you are represented is by the Crown appointing a lawyer for you. Quite often people are astounded by what happens in the system – look at Ivan Johnson, who is being educated daily by his treatment. What would it be like if he could not afford counsel?"

As far as bail was concerned, Munroe said persons charged with serious offences



are automatically remanded in the first instance, unless medical conditions warrant otherwise or a judge considers the evidence too weak.

"Before you get bail a judge will say 'when can this man be tried?' So if they were serious, and didn't want this man to get bail, they would schedule a trial. If this man is a career criminal why delay the trial? It would be better to try him and get him sentenced."

## Trials

Incessant delays in the courts were the result of systems failures, Munroe said. "Time is a finite resource, so if you waste time trying hopeless matters then you don't have time to try those that have substance. This year four judges directed acquittals in a number of cases where there was no evidence. Those trials occupied six to eight weeks of court time, which is no longer available to try cases that do have sufficient evidence."

He said the problems stemmed from a lack of leadership in the Attorney-General's Office and poor evaluation of cases being sent to trial.

"Prosecutors decide what cases to bring and ultimately that is the responsibility of the attorney-general," he said. "In recent memory we have not had an AG who was conversant with the criminal justice system from actual experience of it. That is most unfortunate when serious crime is on the rise."

The fixes that are needed are not in the judicial system but in the executive system, he argued. Magistrates set 30

or more cases a day and may still be finished by 1pm because of the inability of cases to proceed, often because a witness does not appear.

"There is a need for some 10,000 witnesses across all of the courts on New Providence every day and you have two or three policemen serving all of these summons. Why should the police be serving summons?"

"At the police station you should be given something that says come back on this date for your summons. That's terribly simple, but if you never been in the system it might not occur to you."

He said defence attorneys often double booked cases because they expected adjournments, "and if I have one case for the day and it doesn't come off, it means that one poor client has to pay my fee for the entire day, which would not be fair, right or just."

The way to fix this, was to set a "date certain" for trials, so that everyone would know that the scheduled case would proceed on the appointed day.

If the prosecution was not ready to proceed the case would be dismissed and if the defence was not ready, the case would still go on.

Currently, most cases are adjourned four or five times, he said.

If trials had to proceed, lawyers would have to change their behaviour.

According to Munroe, "the judge and jury are there every morning, but whether there is a case ready to go is another matter. So you have all of these problems, and they are compounded when you have unrepresented peo-

ple who might not know their rights until they ask in court and a judge has to assist them.

It's like pulling teeth sometime to get the prosecution to produce the simplest thing. All of this leads to delay but it's driven by the system, not the judges."

It was the failure of the political class to improve the criminal justice system over the past 20 years that led Munroe to offer as a candidate for the newly formed Democratic National Alliance – a party with no track record that says it is committed to fixing the system within 18 months of taking office.

"When I looked at the two major parties, these were the same people who I had been interacting with since 1990 when I was called to the Bar. The only person who has moved off the scene was (former prime minister) Sir Lynden Pindling, so if they were not responding from 1990 to 2010 why would joining them make a difference?" he asked.

"They never showed me the simplest respect of taking my work seriously. I found the DNA had a mindset and a vision that would be most likely to implement what we are seeking to do. I am not content with how things are going so my choice was made as a matter of necessity. We are reaching the point where we are about to lose this country and we have to do something to stop it."

What do you think?  
Send comments to  
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Or visit  
[www.bahamapundit.com](http://www.bahamapundit.com)

## WOMAN FIGHTS BEC FOR COMPENSATION AFTER '\$3,000 SURGE DAMAGE'

FROM page one

erator, a microwave, two televisions and two computers.

Since then Ms Johnson says she has been attempting to collect on the company's promise to pay for her destroyed appliances, but she has been constantly getting the run around.

"I had to pay almost \$3,000 to replace my stuff. They said they were going to pay me and it has been two years without me seeing a single dollar. I been in every office in BEC at least twice. I have taken them all the receipts from the appliances I replaced. Some BEC men even been in here and took pictures and notes of all my destroyed stuff but they are still refusing to pay me. They are making a fool of me, turning me around and not giving me any answers. They think I am stupid because I am old, but they owe me and refuse to pay."

To add insult to injury, Ms Johnson said BEC tried to turn her power off on Monday until she pays the entire bill in full.

"They tried to turn my power off, but the guy couldn't get in the back because I have a bad dog. But what am I supposed to do? I do not work, the only money I get is from National Insur-



**PENSIONER ROSENA JOHNSON** said she has been attempting to collect on the company's promise to pay for her destroyed appliances.

Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

ance and I pay \$150 every month on my light bill. They want me to pay the \$700 in full and I don't have it."

Ms Johnson said she made an appointment to see her Member of Parliament, Phenton Neymour, but he cancelled the meeting and never rescheduled.

BEC spokesperson, Arnette Ingraham admitted Ms Johnson had a legitimate claim, but said it is still pending.

"Regardless of what some people may think, we do pay people once BEC had determined we were at fault. We told her to bring in all her invoices and there are still some things missing in her file that is stopping us from moving forward. We sent her a letter in September

requesting repair quotes and as far as the files show, we still don't have them. We would gladly pay her if everything was in order.

"We just need some additional information to process the claim."

Mrs Ingraham also said there was a discrepancy in some of the bills.

"BEC only pays for appliances if they cannot be fixed. It seems that Ms Johnson bought new appliances without attempting to get them fixed. Another problem is that her quotes don't seem to match up with her appliances."

Ms Johnson says the entire ordeal had drained her emotionally and mentally, but despite it all she will continue to fight to get what is rightfully hers.

## DRUG DEALER'S BURNED BODY FOUND IN CAR

FROM page one

Residents of the area – near Marigold Farm Road off Joe Farrington Road – heard four gunshots shortly after 3 pm Monday.

When several of them went to inspect the scene, they found a Dodge Charger engulfed in flames, a source inside the Central Detective Unit told *The Tribune* yesterday.

Firemen were called to the scene and once the flames were extinguished, they found the corpse inside the car.

Although police sources told *The Tribune* they have connected Fowler to the scene, Assistant Commissioner Glenn Miller would only say the force believes he is the victim.

"I think we do suspect so, but we don't have that evidence at this point to say conclusively," said Mr Miller.

Police yesterday said they did not have a motive for the attack.

Fowler spent time behind bars in the United States on charges of importing and attempting to distribute cocaine into that country. He was arrested in November 2007 on a sealed indictment dating back from November 2006. At the time of his arrest, he was travelling on a fraudulent passport.

Fowler worked as a casino inspector at the Gaming Board while Mr Gibson served as board chairman.

A fight broke out between Mr Smith and Mr Gibson as they discussed the reported firing of Fowler from the Board.

In 2008, Mr Smith – Fowler's former attorney – said publicly that Mr Gibson was the aggressor in the Cabinet fight. Mr Gibson has denied this account and has said Mr Smith started the altercation, which caused \$769 worth of damage to the Cabinet Room.

Police have appealed for anyone with information on the crime to contact them at 911, 919, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

## LOCAL NEWS

## US EMBASSY STILL NOT ISSUING TOURIST VISAS DESPITE COMPLAINTS

FROM page one

cruise. I had to wait an extremely long time to get my passport and that held me up in applying for my visa.

"Now the embassy is telling me I can't get a visa until the end of September but my cruise is in August. What am I supposed to do now? What gives them the right to tell me I can't get my visa? This is ridiculous."

Another woman said: "I understand that students need to go to school but just like they are telling me I should have applied early, they need to tell them to do the same. Who is going to give me the money back I spent to go on my cruise?"

Embassy visa officer Kyle Hatcher said while the embassy sympathises with the cruise ship passengers, it is not a priority at this time.

He said: "I understand what they are going through, but it is the responsibility of the individual to make their appointment well ahead of their trip."

"We have made every effort to inform the public to apply as early as possible. We also encouraged people not to book a trip before you get your visa."

"As much as we would like to, we just cannot accommodate everyone. We have a limited capacity and we are working 110 per cent to help everyone."

Mr Hatcher said the embassy is providing expedited visas, but only in emergency situations.

He said: "We have to process at least 1,500 students. We have to get them to school on time, that is our priority right now. We have shifted our priority to students. We have set aside appointments just for them."

"You can still apply for your visa but you won't get a date until the end of September."

Mr Hatcher says the way things are looking the date may be extended to as late as October.

Those who qualify for expedited visas include applicants requiring urgent medical treatment in the US; applicants who must attend the funeral of a close relative; students whose classes start before the next available appointment; exchange visitors whose programme starts before the next available appointment; applicants claiming urgent business travel that could not have been previously planned, and temporary workers whose job starts before the next available appointment.

The embassy is encouraging all applicants to apply for a visa well in advance of making their travel plans.

Applicants meeting the requirements for an expedited visa appointment are encouraged to submit a request to visanasau@state.gov.

# Bran: why I quit my job at Immigration

FROM page one

what are you to do?" Mr McCartney asked.

"We do not have the political will to deal with this illegal immigration problem. We can deal with it, but we just need the political will. We won't eradicate it totally, but we can bring it down to a manageable level. The Free National Movement (FNM) does not have the political will to deal with it for some reason. Every time I tried to do things there was a problem," he said.

Mr McCartney said he had three key initiatives that were not supported in the FNM Cabinet. One initiative was a recommendation to amend the Immigration Act to make it an offence for Bahamians to "harbour illegals."

This amendment, he said, would place a greater burden of responsibility on land owners and landlords, as well as employers if they rented or leased to and employed illegal immigrants.

"That was something I had put forward and it was dismissed. That is not an offence in the Bahamas. I tried to put it by way of an amendment, but it was dismissed. The political will was not there. At the end of the day nothing came out of it," said Mr McCartney.

Asked if the amendment would open the way for discriminatory practices like Arizona-style profiling, Mr McCartney said, "No man."

"What is discriminatory if I say, I am not going to rent to you because you are here illegally. If



DNA LEADER Branville McCartney

you have a lease agreement, you can have that in there. You ought to confirm the status of your tenant. It is not discriminatory. I do not see how that comes into play. You ought to be in a position to say, 'Look, the law says I can be fined if I rent to someone illegally.' The onus ought to be on the landlords to make sure whoever they rent to is here legally," said Mr McCartney.

During his tenure at immigration, Mr McCartney said he also started a special unit to deal specifically with the problem of "shanty

towns." The unit was cross-departmental, including representatives from the Ministry of Housing, the Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Social Services, among others.

The unit was operational for under a year, leading up to Mr McCartney's resignation. During its time of operation, Mr McCartney said, he was "catching a lot of hell for it."

"The fact of the matter is, we started going into these shanty towns from a legal and humane basis, and we started the process

of dealing with the elimination of these shanty towns. And then I was told I was grandstanding. My hands were tied. I subsequently resigned," said Mr McCartney.

At every step of the way, Mr McCartney said he met up "against a brick wall." It was no different, he said, when he launched a programme called "immigration watch" in 2009.

Although it was designed for implementation across the country, the programme targeted the southern end of New Providence, particularly the Marshall Road area, according to Mr McCartney, because that is where "a lot of boats come in."

Immigration watch was set up similar to a crime watch. Community members would assist the law enforcement agencies by participating in an "immigration watch." They would call the government agencies if they heard about illegal activity, or spotted incoming ships they believed were suspicious looking.

Mr McCartney said he was told "that is not a policy of the FNM and why am I doing that. I shortly after resigned. Everything I tried to do, they did not have the political will."

"I am not talking about doing it in an inhumane way. I am talking about doing it right. I am not talking about being discriminatory. I am talking about doing it right. Over and repeatedly I was told from the man himself that I was grand standing," said Mr McCartney.

## Silt run-off from Baha Mar project seeps into pond

FROM page one

steps to rectify the problem and workers have put berms in place to divert run off away from the wetland.

However, when *The Tribune* visited the site yesterday, a thin film of suspected sediment was visible on turtles swimming in the pond and it appeared as if some run-off was still making its way into the area despite company preventative measures.

"As a result of heavy rains a small portion of the silt tents which were put in place were compromised (so) sediment laden run-off was allowed to flow into the wet land, this incident took place last week Thursday," Mr Sands said.

"We acknowledged the incident during the post-storm inspection as we do whenever there are major rains in that area. Urgent steps were taken to fix the broken fence, install

added barriers and implement additional preventative measures."

Mr Sands said turbidity levels have significantly decreased since last week and he said the developers have evidence to support this.

"We have taken a series of photos since last week up until the 18th which shows stages of decreased turbidity which means water is beginning to clear in the wetlands. This matter is on the way to correcting itself."

He stressed that Baha Mar is committed to having the least possible negative impact on the environment but conceded that sometimes "accidents" happen.

"From time to time things may happen which are accidents but not as a direct result of negligence," he said.

Baha Mar has notified the BEST Commission in writing about the incident, said Mr Sands however he

could not say if the agency had performed independent checks of the area.

Attempts to reach the commis-

sion's director Philip Weech were unsuccessful up to press time. An employee at BEST said he was out of office until Friday.

## Harbour Island residents claim 'electrical crisis'

FROM page one

was still not resolved into yesterday evening.

Arnette Ingraham, of Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC), said power was interrupted in Harbour Island and Eleuthera around 10pm Monday.

Ms Ingraham said power was restored within an hour on mainland Eleuthera, where the problem was originally located. However, Harbour Island was without power until 3am.

"Between 65-70 per cent of Harbour Island was restored at 3am (Tuesday). Power went off again at 1.30pm to facilitate more repairs," said Ms Ingraham.

Although it appeared that power was fully restored at 5pm, BEC technicians had further difficulties in Harbour Island and had to take the island off the grid.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## SYRIA FORCES FIRE ON FUNERAL PROCESSION

BEIRUT  
Associated Press

SYRIAN security forces opened fire on a funeral procession Tuesday, killing up to 10 people in a city that has been besieged for days by some of the most severe violence seen during the country's four-month-old uprising, activists said.

Dozens of people — possibly as many as 50 — have been killed in Homs since Saturday, according to activists, human rights groups and witnesses. Syria has banned independent media coverage, making it difficult to verify accounts from witnesses or Syrian authorities.

"We haven't slept since yesterday," a Homs resident told The Associated Press by telephone, the cracks of heavy machine-gun fire in the background. "I am lying down on the floor as I talk to you. Other people are hiding in bathrooms."

Snipers were positioned on rooftops, keeping a close watch on the deserted streets, he said, asking that has named not be published for fear of reprisals.

The shooting outside the Khaled bin Al-Waleed mosque erupted shortly after noon as families held funeral processions for 10 people killed a day before during a security sweep, said the Local Coordination Committees, an umbrella group that helps organize and document the protests in Syria.

The mother of a man being buried was among those killed at the funeral procession, said Mohammed Saleh, an activist in Homs.

The LCC confirmed 10 people were killed in the funeral procession shooting, said a spokesman for the group, Omar Idilbi. The figure could not be independently confirmed.

Damascus-based Abdul-Karim Rihawi, head of the Syrian Human Rights League, also said there were casualties in Homs, as did witnesses. But they did not have an exact figure.

Homs, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Damascus, has been under siege following reports of a wave of sectarian killings on Saturday and Sunday that left 30 people dead.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Saleh, the activist in Homs, confirmed the death toll was 30 and said they have the names of the victims. But other activists said the toll was lower and blamed security forces for the killings.

The discrepancy points to the confusion surrounding the violence in a country that has prevented any independent media coverage.

But it also illuminates the fear among some opposition members that reports of sectarian conflict would discredit their movement internationally at a time when the pro-democracy forces are hoping for greater support from the West.

**"We'll never forget the role the space shuttle played in its creation. Like a proud parent, we anticipate great things to follow . . . Farewell, ISS. Make us proud."**

Commander  
Christopher  
Ferguson

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.  
Associated Press

A SPACE SHUTTLE left the International Space Station for the very last time Tuesday, heading home to end the 30-year run of a vessel that kept U.S. astronauts flying to and from orbit longer than any other rock-etship.

Atlantis slipped away after performing a partial lap around the space station. Ten pairs of eyes pressed against the windows, four in the shuttle and six in the station.

All that remains of NASA's final shuttle voyage is the touchdown, targeted for the pre-dawn hours of Thursday back home in Florida.

"Get her home safely and enjoy the last couple days in space shuttle Atlantis," the station's Mission Control told commander Christopher Ferguson and his crew.

Replied Ferguson: "It's been an incredible ride."

The voice emanating from the shuttle Mission Control Center cracked with emotion, as the lead team of controllers signed off for the very last time. Another team will take over late Tuesday for landing.

"When you walk out the door of MCC there, turn around and make a memory," urged Ferguson.

Flight director Kwatsi Alibaruho did just that — actually turning around a couple of times on his way out. He'll return to Mission Control on landing day as a bystander, one of dozens of "extras" expected to jam the control room.

"The sense of wanting to be a part of that moment is very strong and is going to be building," Alibaruho later told reporters.

In keeping with tradition, Atlantis' departure was marked by the ringing of the naval ship's bell aboard the space station. The undocking occurred nearly 250 miles above the Pacific.

"Atlantis departing the International Space Station



A PHOTO MADE from NASA television shows the Atlantis as it passes under a solar panel on the Internatoinal Space Station after undocking Tuesday. Atlantis is the last Space Shuttle that will go to the International Space Station. (AP)

for the last time," space station astronaut Ronald Garan Jr. announced, ringing the bell three times. "We'll miss you guys. Godspeed."

Ferguson thanked the six station residents for their hospitality, then added:

"We'll never forget the role the space shuttle played in its creation. Like a proud parent, we anticipate great things to follow ... Farewell, ISS. Make us proud."

### Salute

As a final salute, the space station rotated 90 degrees to provide never-before-seen views of the complex. Atlantis flew halfway around the outpost, cameras whirring aboard both craft to record the historic event.

Flight controllers savored the dual TV images of the shuttle — the last ever seen from orbit — and the station. Mission Control called it the second-best view on Earth.

"It must look pretty spectacular," Ferguson said.

And it did: Atlantis sailing serenely against the black void of space, its payload bay wide open, and the space station, its huge solar wings glowing golden in the sunlight.

"We just want to give you a final goodbye," Ferguson told the station inhabitants just before Atlantis disappeared from sight.

To ensure their safe return to Earth, Ferguson and his crew conducted one final

END OF AN ERA AS VESSEL'S 30-YEAR RUN COMES TO A CLOSE

# SHUTTLE LEAVES THE SPACE STATION FOR THE LAST TIME

survey of the shuttle following the undocking, using the robotic arm and a laser-tipped extension. Experts on the ground scrutinized the images for signs of micrometeorite damage.

Atlantis spent eight days at the space station and left behind a year's worth of supplies, insurance in the event commercial providers encounter delays in launching their own cargo ships.

It was the 37th shuttle mission, over more than 12 years, dedicated to building and maintaining the space station — the largest structure ever to orbit the planet.

All told, shuttles spent 276 days — or nearly 40 weeks — docked to the station. It's now a sprawling complex with multiple science labs — 13 rooms in all and more than 900,000 pounds of mass, most of that delivered by shuttles.

"So large that some astronauts have even momentarily gotten lost in it — you can take it from me," said Mission Control communicator Daniel Tani, a former station resident. "Of course, the ISS wouldn't be here without the space shuttle so ... we wanted to say thank you and farewell to the magnificent machines that delivered, assembled and staffed

our world-class laboratory in space."

NASA and its international partners mean to keep it running until at least 2020.

With the retirement of the shuttle fleet, the space station now must rely solely on other countries for restocking, at least until the first privately funded rocket blasts off with a load. That could come by year's end.

Astronaut launches from U.S. soil, however, are three to five years away — at best. Until then, Americans will continue flying to and from the space station via Russian Soyuz capsules at a hefty price.

### Colleagues

Before leaving, the Atlantis crew gave their station colleagues a small U.S. flag that flew on the inaugural shuttle voyage in 1981. The flag is the prize for the first rocket maker that brings Americans back to the station, launching from America.

President Barack Obama described it last week as "a capture-the-flag moment here for commercial spaceflight."

Obama wants private companies taking over

Earth-to-orbit operations so NASA can concentrate on sending astronauts beyond. The goals: an asteroid by 2025 and Mars by the mid-2030s.

Alibaruho alluded to the potential difficulties ahead, as he described how he's dealt with his own discomforts regarding the end of the shuttle program and the uncertain future for space exploration.

"I try to look at that as an adventure, rather than focusing too much on the memories," he said.

Atlantis will join Discovery and Endeavour in retirement after this 13-day journey, the 135th for the shuttle program. All three will become museum displays.

As it turns out, Tuesday marked the 36th anniversary of the undocking of the Apollo spacecraft from a Soviet Soyuz in the first-of-its-kind joint flight.

Nearly six years passed between the end of that 1975 mission and the start of NASA's next: the space shuttle.

Mission Control said that gap — five years and nine months — is the mark to beat this time around.

And it said it was starting the clock.



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## INTERNATIONALS NEWS

TOP REPUBLICANS  
PRESS OBAMA ON  
DETENTION POLICYWASHINGTON  
Associated Press

THE Obama administration lacks a coherent policy for handling terror suspects captured outside of Afghanistan, the Republican leaders of five House of Representatives committees told President Barack Obama Tuesday.

The lawmakers signed a letter questioning why the administration decided to try a suspected Somali terrorist in a civilian court in New York rather than in a military commission at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The military captured Ahmed Abdulkarim Warsame on April 19 and then put him aboard a Navy warship, where he was interrogated at sea by intelligence officials.

He was later transferred to New York where he was indicted this month on federal charges.

"While the primary focus in the media on the Warsame case has been about forum selection for purposes of prosecution, our overarching concern is the lack of a comprehensive detention system to incapacitate and interrogate terrorists captured outside of Afghanistan," the lawmakers wrote.

Signing the letter, all Republicans, were Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon, Intelligence committee chairman Mike Rogers, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith and Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter King.

In the letter, the members cited recent congressional testimony from Vice Adm. William McRaven, who said decisions are made on a case by case basis on where to hold suspected terrorists captured by the U.S. military outside of Afghanistan and Iraq.

They wrote that the lack of a comprehensive military detention system will have detrimental results, including "the loss of critical detainee-provided intelligence and forcing the United States to be wholly dependent on foreign governments to hold and provide access to detainees."

Under interrogation, Warsame provided what U.S. officials said was important intelligence about al-Qaida in Yemen and its relationship with al-Shabab militants in Somalia. The two groups have been known to have ties, but the extent of that relationship has remained unclear.

The FBI later stepped in and began the interrogation from scratch, in a way that could be used in court. After the FBI read Warsame his right not to incriminate himself, which include the right to remain silent and speak with an attorney, he kept talking for days.

Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, disputed the Republican claims in the letter.

"The policy is fairly clear as long as you understand that it's not a black and white situation or a math problem. We hold everybody we can and get the most information we can," Smith said in an interview. The decision is either a civilian trial or military tribunal, and Smith said the administration "in this case, made the right call."

The House-passed defense bill spending bill has language that would limit Obama's authority to transfer terrorist suspects from the U.S. naval facility at Guantanamo to installations in the United States, even for trial. It also would make it difficult for the administration to move detainees to foreign countries. Smith said that Congress needs to "take the handcuffs off" and allow the president to use all tools available in the war on terror.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.



ISRAELI NAVAL BATTLE SHIP sails after escorting the vessel the Dignity al-Karama towards the port of Ashdod, Israel, Tuesday. Israeli naval commandos seized control of a French ship attempting to break Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, reporting no resistance during the takeover in international waters. The navy boarded the ship after the pro-Palestinian activists on board ignored calls to change course. (AP)

NO RESISTANCE REPORTED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS INCIDENT

ISRAELI NAVY TAKES OVER  
GAZA-BOUND FRENCH SHIPJERUSALEM  
Associated Press

ISRAELI naval commandos on Tuesday seized control of a French ship attempting to break Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip and towed it into port, reporting no resistance during the takeover in international waters.

The takeover was the latest in a series of run-ins on the high seas between the Israeli navy and pro-Palestinian activists trying to breach the blockade. In the most contentious incident, nine Turkish activists were killed in a clash with Israeli commandos last year.

Tuesday's operation at sea was far more subdued than the deadly clash last year. The navy intercepted the "Dignity al-Karama" some 40 miles (65 kilometers) off the coast and boarded the ship without incident after the crew ignored calls to change course.

"The takeover was orderly and done with restraint," the navy's deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Rani Ben-Yehudah told reporters at the southern Israeli port of Ashdod. "Nobody was hurt and the ship wasn't damaged."

The military had warned it would stop any attempt to break the sea blockade of Gaza, which Israel imposed four years ago in what it says is a measure to prevent arms smuggling to Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group.

The boat was not carrying aid supplies.

The white boat was taken to the port in Ashdod, where foreign activists were to be questioned and then deported "to their countries of origin as soon as possible," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor.

Passengers included activists from France, Sweden, Canada and Greece. There were also three jour-



ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDOS escorts the vessel the Dignity al-Karama towards the port of Ashdod, Israel, Tuesday. (AP)

nalists, including an Israeli, and several crew members.

In Paris, a spokeswoman for the organizers said the group had no contact with the ship's passengers.

"We have reasserted our request for the French authorities to be very firm in order to protect and repatriate as soon as possible our fellow citizens but also all the members of the Flotilla," said Julien Rivoire, a spokesman for A French boat for Gaza.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said his government advised activists not to take part in the flotilla because such activities "can only reinforce tensions." He also said the Gaza blockade must be lifted.

The Dignity al-Karama was the only ship remaining from a larger protest flotilla that had hoped to sail weeks ago but was blocked by Greek authorities.

There have been charges that Israel's seizure of boats on the high seas is piracy and contrary to international law. Israel claims it has the right to enforce a quarantine on Gaza to prevent weapons from reaching the territory's militant Hamas rulers, and many international law experts have backed up Israel's contention.

In a text message sent to reporters, the Hamas government in Gaza condemned the seizure of the boat.

Israel imposed the embargo in 2007 after Hamas, an Iranian-backed militant group dedicated to Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza.

Critics say the blockade has failed to weaken the group and instead has hurt the territory's economy, collectively punishing its 1.6 million people.

Israel withdrew its forces and settlers from Gaza in

2005, but it continues to control most border crossings, as well as its coastline and airspace.

The Israeli military released video footage of what it said was Tuesday's takeover. It showed several soldiers on board the Dignity al-Karama as a pair of navy boats bobbed in the water nearby. The military said the operation went smoothly, and soldiers gave the activists water and snacks.

With the land blockade greatly eased in the wake of the clash with the Turkish flotilla, large amounts of consumer goods now flow into Gaza. But restrictions remain on importing construction materials, which are sorely needed to repair damage caused by an Israeli military offensive two years ago. Israel says items like metal, cement and glass could be diverted for military purposes, and has approved individual con-

struction projects in coordination with the international community.

Despite the restrictions, builders in Gaza under Hamas supervision constructed a new shopping mall that was opened for business Tuesday in Rimal, an upscale neighborhood in Gaza City.

The \$4 million, three-story mall includes only the second escalator in the territory and a tiny movie theater, the first in Gaza since militants burned down movie houses in the 1980s. The new one has not opened yet.

Palmor said Israel welcomes development in Gaza, adding that the opening of the mall "speaks for the real economic situation in Gaza."

Also Tuesday, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he hopes to visit Gaza after a trip to Egypt in about two weeks. World leaders have rarely entered Gaza since Hamas took control.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# ATTACKED

## RUPERT MURDOCH SPLATTERED AT HACKING HEARING

NEW YORK Associated Press

FOR VIEWERS of Rupert Murdoch's appearance before Parliament, the pie in the face was just icing on the cake.

It was also a shocking and appalling twist: The paunchy, plaid-shirted intruder armed with a loaded pie plate had gained access to the presumably secure hearing chamber and splattered Murdoch with what seemed to be foam or shaving cream. Moments later the man was seen in a corridor in police custody, himself also splattered with his foam. Moments after that, he was outdoors, being whisked away in cuffs. He was soon identified as some sort of comedian named Jonnie Marbles.

"A story we just couldn't make up, no matter how hard we tried," said a shaken Fox News Channel commentator, voicing a typical response.

Even without this untoward stunt, the hearing had begun with a built-in curiosity level.

As MSNBC correspondent Michael Isikoff said, "Rupert Murdoch is this Wizard of Oz-type figure — somebody you hear a lot about, clearly very powerful, but very rarely seen in this kind of setting where he has to answer questions in public."

Presumably, many viewers had tuned in to see the man behind the curtain, especially after recent weeks of escalating coverage of phone-hacking scandals and other revelations that have rocked News Corp., the global media empire of which Murdoch is chairman and CEO.

Of-repeated file footage of Murdoch pictured him on a golf course, taking a phone call in his office, and beaming alongside Rebekah Brooks, his former U.K. newspaper chief



COMMITTEE MEMBERS react after a protestor, left checked shirt, named on Twitter as Jonnie Marbles, tries to throw a paper plate covered in shaving foam over Rupert Murdoch as he gave evidence to a House of Commons Committee in London, Tuesday on the News of the World phone hacking scandal. (AP)

who was arrested on Sunday (and testified after him on Tuesday).

But now here was a chance to see the 80-year-old media titan live, uncut and in the hot seat.

The media accommodated public interest. Extensive coverage in the U.S. was provided by networks including CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, Bloomberg TV, C-SPAN, Current TV, CNN International and CNN en Espanol, as well as Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, which are both owned by News Corp.

Facing a horseshoe-shaped panel occupied by the British lawmakers, Murdoch was seated at a table with his son, James Murdoch, the deputy chief operating officer of the company. Just behind him was the elder Murdoch's attractive young wife,

Wendi Deng, who looked on solemnly and occasionally seemed to pat him on the back reassuringly.

If Rupert Murdoch had always seemed by reputation a larger-than-life figure — and his accomplishments seemed to bear it out — here he appeared very Oz-like indeed: a wizened old man, hunched, with his face often downcast.

He interrupted his son's first response, placing his hand on his son's arm and stating: "I would just like to say one sentence: This is the most humble day of my life."

James Murdoch, smooth and corporate in style, did most of the talking. He never lost his composure and was crisply deferential, even if at times he got a bit tangled in syntax while expressing sorrow at not knowing more, and earlier, about

the company he helps run: It's "a matter of deep frustration, mine, I have to tell you, I know, and I sympathize with the frustration of this committee, and it's a matter of real regret that the facts could not emerge and could not be gotten to, to my understanding, faster," he said as part of one answer.

Meanwhile, Rupert Murdoch refused to be upstaged, or cowed.

At times, he was defiant in his lack of information. "I need to say something, and this is not an excuse, maybe it's an explanation," he declared at one point, before noting that News Corp. has 53,000 employees "who are proud and great and ethical and distinguished," and that he couldn't be expected to keep up with all of them.

After more than two hours of tes-

timony, the final questioner, Louis Mensch, was asking her first question to James Murdoch when viewers saw him glance to his left and register shock. He jumped to his feet, but Wendi Deng seemed to lunge for the would-be attacker, swatting him. After a short scuffle, he was taken away and the hearing was briefly recessed.

When the questioning resumed, the public and the press had been banished.

"My questions will be just as tough as ever they would have been," said Mensch, "had that unfortunate incident not occurred."

Rupert Murdoch, now in his shirt sleeves and clearly unfazed by the pie ambush, waited as she phrased her next query, "Before we were so rudely interrupted ..."

# Scotiabank Supports Summer Sporting Camps



Peace on the Streets Basketball



Jackie Conyers Volleyball Camp



Jeff Rodgers Basketball Camp



Sherman Smith Basketball Camp



Street Legends Basketball Camp



Southern Recreation Basketball Camp



Trevor Grant Basketball Camp



Caribbean Sports Agency Basketball Camp



\*Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence (where applicable).

# arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011

By CARA BRENNEN-BETHEL  
Tribune Features Editor

“Art is my life, I have no other life to live,” said 75-year-old Kendal Hanna at the opening of his art exhibit in the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas.

The exhibit - Happy Birthday to Me - The work of Kendal Hanna is a retrospective composition of the dazzling career of the celebrated abstract artist who blazed a trail in that particular form of self expression that is emulated today.

Gazing at the array of vastly different paintings is almost like sitting down with Hanna and having a conversation about the many stages of his life - the themes are ones which he finds important - emancipation-meaningful - a portrait of the late Bahamian businessman Vincent D'Aguilar or in some cases just fancies of imagination - bodies dancing in jubilee - but all tell a story about who this man is - as he puts it - "One thing I'm quite certain of is my identity exists in these works. People looking at these works will know that I am a black man and that I am Bahamian."

### SYMBOLISM

He said: "I believe in living life to the fullest and to the edge. My work is filled with symbolism. I have chosen this medium in my search for the truth and self discovery. This exhibit is my journey through life," he said.

And yet despite this being a retrospective, he believes there is more to tell in the Kendal Hanna story. Hanna is ready to delve into another medium of abstract expression - sculpture. He says that he has a passion for sculpture that is as strong as his desire to paint, noting that sculpture is a medium filled with much symbolism as well and that he is moved by its "strong solid lines" and that he is ready to marry the two. So perhaps in a few years - art patrons can expect a Kendal Hanna sculpture retrospective equally moving and expressive.

According to the NAGB website: In spite of there not being many examples to follow, Kendal Hanna always knew he wanted to be an artist. At an early age he met the American artist John St John (1911-1986) and undertook his first formal drawing lessons with him. Later he became one of the first Bahamians to join the now famous Chelsea Pottery. At the Pottery, he became friends with future Bahamian artist luminaries such as Maxwell Taylor and Brent Malone. Hanna has always had an experimental mind and at an early stage became immersed in the ideas and possibilities of Abstract Expressionism. While he concedes that his work may be difficult, he surmises:

"Everybody is more familiar with what is visible in an object, what the eye is focused on outwardly. When people express themselves like this it does surprise them. It is my subconscious mind expressing itself on In 2009, Kendal Hanna received the E. Clement Bethel Award for his contribution to Bahamian art from the College of The Bahamas. In 2011, he is being honored with a retrospective exhibition at the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas.

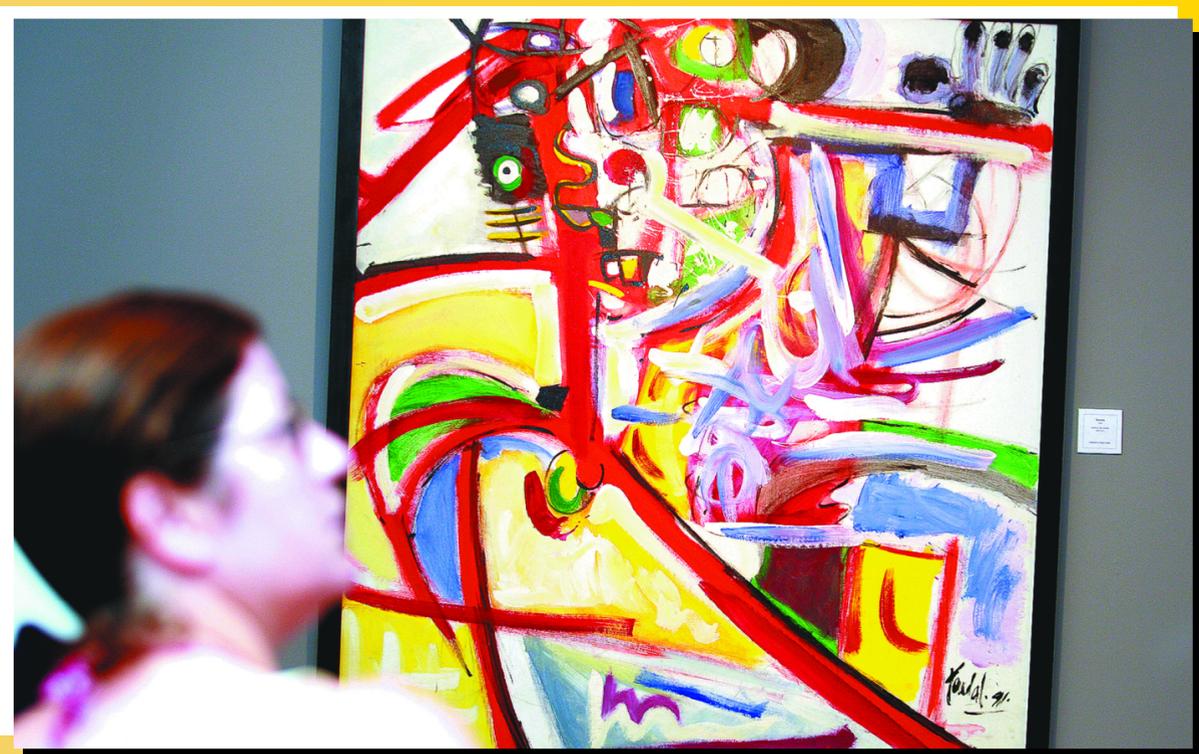
### A TRUE SCHOLAR

Speaking at the opening on Friday - Education minister Desmond Bannister noted that Hanna is a "a true scholar of the arts whose works are a treasure to behold. He said that he is a true example of what it means to rise above challenge and become a true ambassador of the Bahamas.

Fellow artists John Cox and Heino Schmid also noted the achievements of the artist. Mr Cox said that Hanna's ability to focus embody such a degree of passion in abstract painting in a time when it was difficult enough to be just be a painter is a true testament to him.

Mr Schmid added that Hanna "attacks every painting not like its his last, but his first. He has a slow moving way of painting that is the language of his practice."

Kendal Hanna - Happy Birthday to Me" Retrospective Exhibition runs at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas until Monday, January 2, 2012.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

## Kendal Hanna - A Retrospective Exhibition



Kendal Hanna, A Retrospective

From his days at Eastern Technical School, Kendal believed that he was born to be an artist. Though his instructor was the painter Horace Wright (1915-1986) in his final lesson would be a portrait of a man, he was surprised by chance as he worked to achieve it.

In the early 1950s Hanna met the American artist John St John (1911-1986) who was visiting Nassau to propose a portrait of the young Hanna, who was handling a work while on a vacation in the Bahamas. St John returned to the United States but returned to visit him in Florida during his next vacation, as Hanna later recounted.

The chance meeting would have a vast impact on Hanna. For three weeks in the early 1950s, while in Florida, St John, Kendal Hanna experienced the joy of being mentored. He and St John drew night and day, including in other. During the visit he was able to visit to the museum, The Lowe Museum at the University of Florida. It was also during this visit that he had his first experience with abstract art but perhaps most importantly, a critical philosophy grounded the young artist as to his work that was spiritual and centered on the artist's internal self as a work of art. St John's art with "having his mind" following his experience in World War II, a concept that would be able to intimately relate to in the coming years.

In 1958 a chance meeting with David Rawlinson led to visiting The Chelsea Pottery. He was one of the first to be recruited to participate in this new venture and was exciting time. At the Pottery he would become friends with Brent Malone and Max Taylor, who both later joined him, along with Clinton Pedler.

In 1961, Hanna and Vincent D'Aguilar, they would all benefit from Hanna's exposure to a series of art that in some ways aligned with that of St. John.

Hanna emigrated with the Potters through 1960. He spent time in London, where he worked in a factory. He then moved to Nassau, where he worked in a factory. He then moved to Nassau, where he worked in a factory. He then moved to Nassau, where he worked in a factory.

In 1970 the grandmother that raised him was tragically killed in a car accident. In 1972 his close friend the artist Vernon Cambridge died. Several years later, his neighbor was murdered and in 1980 his father died. In the late 1980s he lost almost everything, including years of his work, when his family home burned to the ground. As a result, this exhibition includes only two pieces from the 1970s and only six have been secretly dated to the 1980s.

The exhibition subtitle "Happy Birthday to Me" shares the name of an experimental painting Hanna completed on his 72nd birthday. It speaks to the artist's embrace of life and healthy sense of self. While entitled to it, the exhibition is arranged according to his time but themes, styles and ideas that have remained Hanna's essence over the years. It begins with his work from what Hanna calls his "youthful rebellion" at the Bahamas Art Gallery (BAG) in 1962. His friend, the artist Paul Cooper (1928-1991) had recently passed away and the months following Cooper's death, Hanna was unsure of what would be his first one-man show in 20 years. He was fifty-six years old.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff

# Miss Teen USA 2011



The picturesque Atlantis Resort served as the stunning background for the fourth consecutive year as the 50 contestants of the Miss Teen USA beauty pageant put their best stiletto foot forward before a sold out crowd of family and friends and celebrity judges on Saturday.

Eighteen-year-old Danielle Doty from Harlingen, Texas, emerged victorious succeeding the 2010 queen Kamie Crawford of Maryland.

Danielle wowed everyone in a stunning, strapless beaded white and silver evening gown, before demonstrating her poise as she answered her final question which was whether teens should undergo plastic surgery.

Danielle encouraged her peers to allow their bodies to fully develop before undergoing the knife, but also noted that self confidence and body image are also important to teens and said that once teens weighed all the options with their parents, in the end it was a personal choice.

The event held at the Paradise Island resort was reportedly attended by a record sell-out crowd of 1,400 including Sir Sol Kerzner, US Ambassador Nicole Avant, as well as the reigning Miss Universe and the reigning Miss USA.

According to Miss Universe organizers, the web stream of the finale attracted approximately 150,000 viewers this year compared to just 45,000 last year.

"Miss Teen USA has become a staple on the calendar of Atlantis and the Bahamas.

"Each year the pageant exceeds in the quality of its presentation.

"Atlantis and the Bahamas have become the ideal stage for the giant step taken by these young women whose future will always be impacted by their stay here," said Atlantis representatives.

"The exposure for Atlantis and for the country is immeasurable. The residual impact continues long after the guests and the contestants complete their week long stay. No doubt Atlantis and the Bahamas is a winner in the Miss Teen USA pageant."

Pictured are the ladies in competition as well as the evening's entertainment - Kia Hampton - Miss Kentucky USA who sang "Better Be Ready" a song which was written by R&B star Ne-Yo.



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff




mahogany house



## food – wine – market

- dinner**  
5pm-10pm  
tuesday to sunday
- lunch**  
11am-2pm  
tuesday to friday
- brunch**  
11am-2pm  
saturday
- market**  
9am-6pm  
monday
- 9am-9pm  
tuesday to sunday

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

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

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

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



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mahogany hill | west bay street south



THINGS 2DO

**JULY 22 - FRIDAY  
AN EVENING OF JAZZ &  
CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT**

• The Eastern Community Association presents 'An Evening of Jazz & Classical Music Concert' featuring the Eastern Community Association Page Setters Concert Band. Begins at 7pm at the Anglican Church of the Epiphany, Prince Charles Dr. Dress: casual smart. Donation: \$25 per person. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

**July 23 and 30  
JUNKANOO SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**

• The Junkanoo Summer Festival is being held at Arawak Cay from 10am-8.30pm. Features top artists and musicians, story time and Bahamian games, authentic Bahamian art and craft, Junkanoo rush-outs and much more. Delicious Bahamian food and cold drinks available.

**ONGOING THURSDAYS  
JAZZ 'N' WINE AT  
THE WINE LOUNGE**

• The Wine Lounge hosts Jazz n' Wine every Thursday night featuring a live band. Located on East Bay St, adjacent to Shell gas station. Cigar Catering by Guevara Cigars. Telephone: 356-0614. See www.winelounge.bs.

**ONGOING TUESDAYS  
AND THURSDAYS  
JAZZ AT THE HILTON**

• The British Colonial Hilton welcomes Vice Versa, featuring Jazz Vocalist Naomi Taylor. 6pm for start at 6.30pm every Tuesday and Thursday. Unwind with their sultry, smooth sounds in the elegant Bullion Bar while enjoying cocktails and delicious appetizers in the beautiful ambiance of the Hilton. Telephone: 322-3301.

**AUGUST 2 - 6 & AUGUST 8 - 12  
ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & POTTERY CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

• JB Pottery Studio on Cable Beach hosts art classes for kids aged 5 to 17 years and pottery classes for adults. Starting at \$225 for half day rate with all materials included. Learn tie dye & batik, mosaics, drawing, sculpture, pottery and ceramics, weaving and paper making. Adults learn pottery over a 6-week period with flexible times. Telephone: 327-8109 or 327-1151. Email: behagg@coral-wave.com.

**DARIA'S  
PAINTING**



**Art IS**

By **JEFFARAH GIBSON**  
Tribune Features Writer

If you are a singer, dancer, poet, musician, visual artist or just someone who loves to explore non traditional art forms, then the Art IS forum is for you.

This new platform for arts in the Bahamas is the brainchild of Nadine Thomas-Brown and Daria Delancey who both seek to merge artists of all styles under one roof.

Since her previous art forum, Express Yourself, has come to an end, Art IS is the new stage for artists to be raw, speak out loud, and be as impressionable as they can.

"The event 'Art IS' seeks to gather artists of all genres in one spot on a weekly basis in order for an outpouring of talent to take place. A sharing if you will, an opportunity to network and opine about the arts in all its forms," said Nadine Thomas Brown.

The first showing will be held tonight at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel at the coffee shop. As the forum is an ongoing initiative it will be held every Wednesday night. Performing tonight will be Bodine Johnson, Dr Ian Strachan, and Jah Voice. There will also be a visual artist at the event as well as a live band.

"This is a venue for the arts. This is a venue for the newcomer

to see where they can be and this is a place to see seasoned people in art. Art IS, is censored, you can bring the teenagers out to the event."

Nadine also said that forums like this one play a great role in advancing art in the country. "We have big hopes for Art IS. We need a forum like this that brings together artists of all genres," she explained.

The forum is not limited to traditional forms of art such as spoken word poetry or visual art.

"We want to embrace all forms of art. Art is what it is. Art is a choice to see a vision brought to life through whatever medium the sharer wishes. It cannot be defined or confined to any specific explanation, after all art is what you make of it," she said.

Nadine Thomas-Brown, is the executive producer of the now ended, long running successful open mic Express Yourself and the TV show Roots & Culture. Through her company, Tom.Brown Media & Entertainment Group she organises and promotes these types of events. Meanwhile, Delancey is a psychology major at the College of the Bahamas as well as a poet and visual artist.

The event is scheduled for a weekly run at the British Colonial Hilton on West Bay Street every Wednesday at 8pm. Admission is five dollars.



NADINE'S PAINTING



**LIVE IT UP!**

By **JEFFARAH GIBSON**  
Tribune Features Writer

AN EDGY upscale setting, brought to life by the upbeat rhythms of DJ Clean Cut is what the L.I.V. celebration is offering.

The party which is sponsored by Belvedere Vodka, Hennessy Pure White, & Veuve Cliquot, Phat Groove, 4ever entertainment, Black Berry, Arc Media, and Asue Draw will be held this Saturday at A Stone's Throw Away located West Bay Street.

Attendees can take full advantage of this bottle concept event by having their personal bottle of Veuve Cliquot, Hennessy, Belvedere, scotch whiskey, Baileys, Peach Schnapps, red or white wine.

Organisers of the event are calling all to come out, celebrate, and toast glasses to living. And since life is a celebration what better way to celebrate it than at the L.I.V. event.

"This is a concept party and we wanted

to do something different. We believe that life is a celebration and we want people to come out and just celebrate the gift of life in a great way," said Levin Wilson, the event's organiser.

This event is similar to one promoted by the organisers of L.I.V. in Florida, as it attracts a sophisticated crowd on the international scene. Thus they expect to attract the same group of attendees at the local L.I.V. celebration.

Their aim is to provide upscale entertainment to the Bahamian crowd at a reasonable cost. And they say attendees will get their money worth.

"It will be a great party and a great celebration. We want people to come out and have a good time. People can also expect a great crowd," he told *Tribune Entertainment*.

The music will be provided by sounds from DJ Clean Cut.

Bottles can be purchased in advance at Nassau Gals Boutique top of the hill Mackey Street.

For more information contact biglev@phat-grooveonline.com, fourevertentertainment@hotmail.com or call 677-4970.



PICTURE shows Josette Demeritte and Myriam Stapleton (MailBoat Designated Person Ashore & Secondary Person Ashore) who attended Lloyd's Maritime Academy in London for a 1 week Technical Fleet Management & Performance Monitoring Seminar. The annual Seminar is a practical guide towards improving ship performance and voyage efficiency.

**MAILBOAT COMPANY LTD. INDEPENDENCE DAY PROMOTION - 10TH CUSTOMER GIVE A WAY**

ON July 7, 2011 in honour of The Bahamas' 38 Years of Independence, The MailBoat Company Ltd. gave prizes and give a ways to the 10th customer at all office locations. Winners at the Head Office on Horseshoe Drive, Potters Cay, Arawak Cay and Freeport G.B were presented with gifts & prizes.

In addition to the 10th customer give a way, all customers retrieving shipments internationally on this day were given double points towards their Frequent Flyer

Accounts on either Bahamasair or American Airlines.

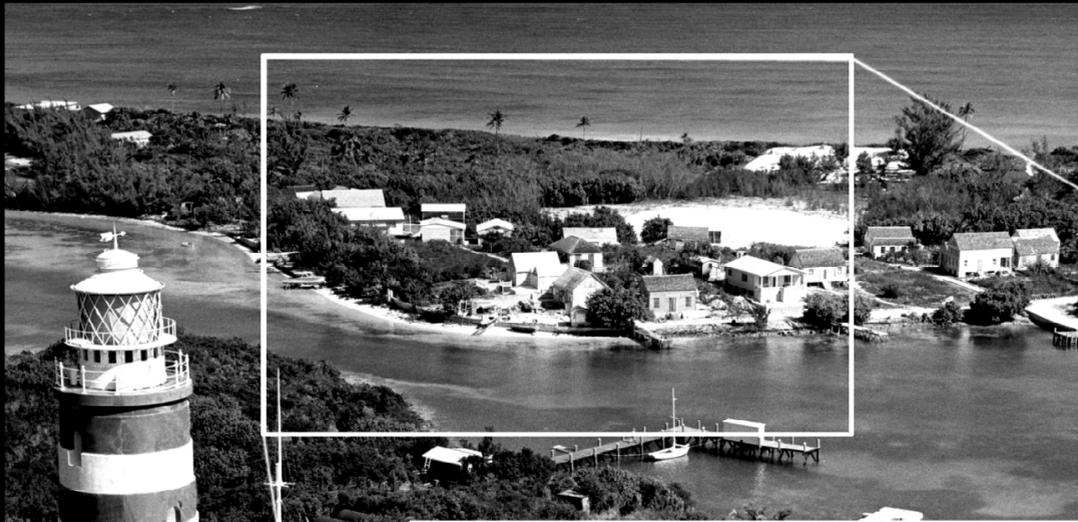
For every dollar spent when shipping with the MailBoat Company, Points/Miles are given towards either airline of your choice.

The MailBoat Company Ltd. operates a local passenger and freight service into Freeport GB three times weekly and offers International Freight Service from 3 ports in Florida- (Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando. Photo shows managers and winners from the various locations.

# Flash Back

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

BY ROLAND ROSE



Hope Town, Abaco 1960

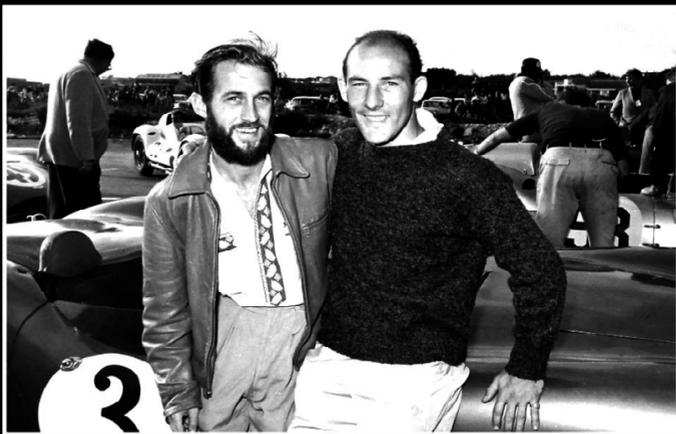


Hope Town Abaco, 2010

# Flash Back

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

BY ROLAND ROSE



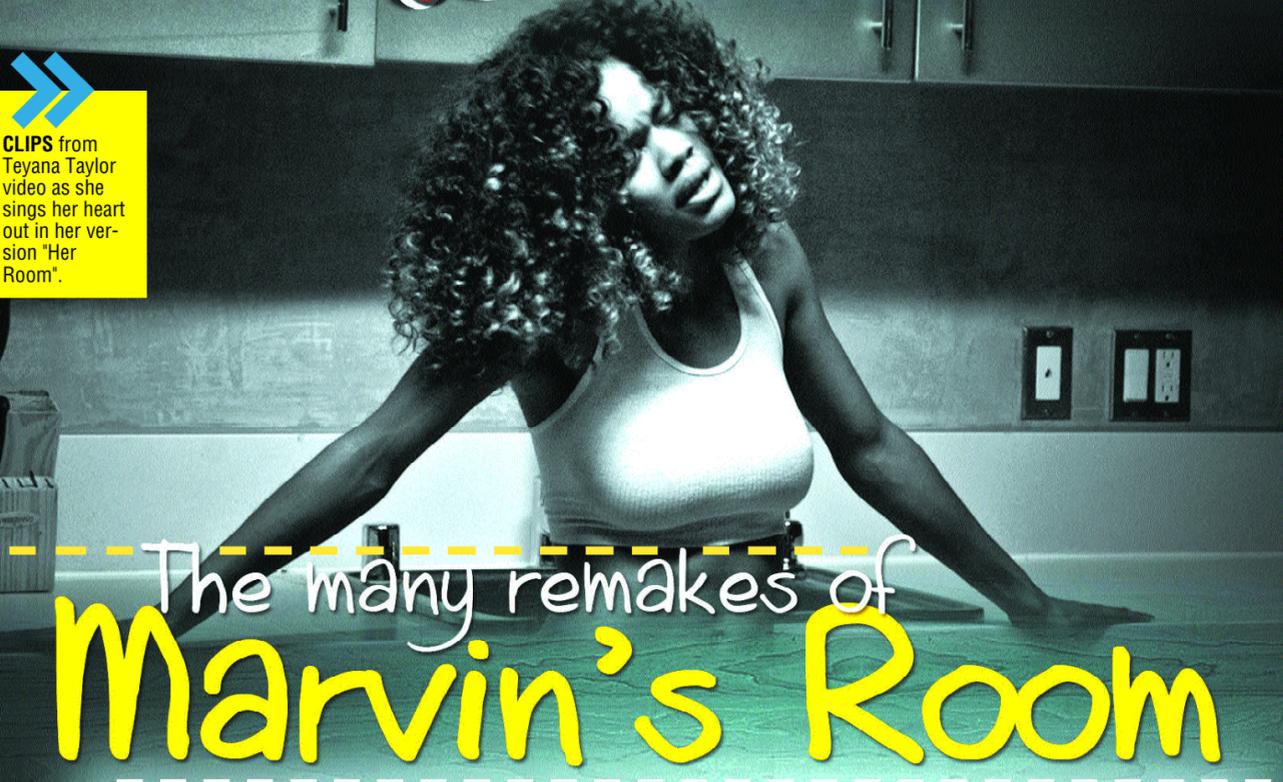
Memories of 12 glorious years - 1954 to 1966. Speed Week was first held at Windsor Field and later at Oakes Field over an exciting two weeks during which both international and local drivers competed. Some participants included Sterling Moss - pictured with Sir Norman Solomon, also an enthusiastic competitor - Lance Reventlow, Ricardo Rodrigues, Carol Shelby, Roger Penske and many more.





YA HEAR  
GOSSIP CORNER

CLIPS from Teyana Taylor video as she sings her heart out in her version "Her Room".



# The many remakes of Marvin's Room

By LESH

## IT'S AN EPIDEMIC

**D**RIZZY DRAKE has been keeping a low profile lately, but recently he gave us a track from his sophomore project, entitled *Take Care* coming out later this fall. He has released a new track that has taken over the Internet and various night clubs. The brand new hit is called *Marvin's Room*.

In the new song, Drake is apparently making a drunk call to his ex girlfriend who has moved on. He makes an attempt to persuade her to leave her man and meet up with him that night at the club.

He sings: "But I've been drinking so much that I'm a call her anyway and say, 'Forget that dude that you love so bad, I know you still think about the times we had, I say forget that dude that you think you found, And since you picked up, I know he not around?'" The lady on the other side of the phone line say, "Are you drunk right now"

Drake also gave us a visual into Marvin's Room, which shows him drowning in alcohol. The video is simple- he must have put it together the night before. It shows him staggering around the club before dialing his ex.

More than one month after Drake came out with the song, there have been numerous remakes of the single and countless home made versions by fans posted on YouTube. It's an epidemic!

Jojo, Teyana Taylor, Chris Brown, Sammie, Romeo, Lil Wayne and Tiffany Green have all jumped on the Marvin's Room "remake" train. Teyana Taylor took it as far as mak-

ing a video for her version of the song. Marvin's Room is turning into one of the most remixed songs of 2011.

Jojo added her spin on the track and I think it is the best remake of the song by far, she sounds great. The twenty year old is all grown up now and her talent has also grown. I love Drake, there is no other like him, but I actually prefer Jojo's version over his.

In her version, she responds to Drake's drunk dialing calls and she sings, "I'm just sayin' you could do better." She goes on to sing: " I hear you got a new chick, a dancer little Barbie doll. I feel so pathetic, but you still haven't heard it all. Forget that new girl that you like so bad, she's not crazy like me, I bet you like that."

Going further, just weeks after, singer Chris Brown tried his hand at the Marvin's Room fame and collaborated with singer Seven from Rich Girl and his "Deuces" collaborator Kevin McCall. Like Jojo, Chris Brown is telling his lady friend that, "she can't do better."

After his release, CB took it to twitter and tweeted: "Haven't given you'll free music in a while. Thought I would do something for the ladies! No diss record either for all the slow people out there! Just writing from the other perspective!"

Among the heap load of people, Teyana Taylor's cover of Marvin's room also was a shocker to most, her voice was soothing and she sang her heart out, calling her version of the song, "Her Room."

The singer noted: "Her Room" is a

depiction of the battle between our hearts and minds when our worlds are seemingly shattered by the downside of love. This piece is intended to relate to everyone that's been down a similar road. We hope this helps."

Now let's talk about Tiffany Green, remember her? Miss Green is the young lady that got her twenty minutes of fame on the BET Awards just a few weeks ago. She won a contest that had been sponsored by BET to present the Viewer's Choice Award during the broadcast.

During the Awards show, the twenty three- year -old was in the spotlight when she was called up to present the award and there was a huge confusion as to who won. While the TelePrompTer read Rihanna, the iPad she held in her hand said Chris Brown. Miss Green calls Brown's name first, but then quickly corrects herself after being prompted by a stage manager, and she shouts, " I'm sorry, it's Rihanna!"

Her name had immediately become a "trendy" topic on Twitter and since then everyone wants to know who is this Tiffany Green, can we all say "overnight star." Well kudos to her and her future, she messed up, but she's famous now!

Tiffany released her remake of Marvin's room and calls it, "Wifey's Room." Before starting to sing, she tells her fans that she is not a singer, she's a rapper, and she knows there are lots of remakes out on the track but she's adding a creative twist to it and giving them her version.

• **YA HEAR** Nicki Minaj was in a fight? Last week, rumors spread that Nicki Minaj had been involved in a verbal altercation with a young man identified as her hypeman Safaree Samuels SB that turned physical. According to TMZ, the argument began poolside and ended with the two in a hotel room where SB allegedly hit her in the lower lip.

Nicki Minaj took to Twitter denying the rumour: "The fact that you believe a man either slapped or punched me in the face & didn't leave on a stretcher w/his balls handgun off? #getAF\*ckinLife."

Safaree also took to twitter and said: "4the record I would never lay a hand on ANY woman, I have all sisters and No brothers And that's the last I'll say about that!!! God bless."

Here what the police report said: "Reporting officers spoke with the Complainant Nicki Minaj, who stated a verbal altercation took place at the location at the pool. When Minaj, returned to her hotel room, witness 1 Safaree Samuels was also back at the room. Samuels was also staying in the hotel room with the comp. Minaj told Samuels that she didn't want him taking anything out of the room. Samuels had some of his personal belongings in a suitcase, and as Minaj was looking into the suitcase, Samuels grabbed the suitcase and as he was picking it up, he shoved the suitcase across Minaj's chin and lower lip."

• **YA HEAR** R.Kelly facing foreclosure? The Grammy award winning artist faces a \$2.9 million foreclosure on his suburban Chicago mansion. Crain's Chicago Business reported last week Tuesday that JPMorgan Chase Bank filed the foreclosure lawsuit last month in Cook County Circuit Court. The complaint states that Kelly hasn't made monthly mortgage payments since June of last year. The principal due is more than \$2.9 million. The R&B singer's spokesman, Allan Mayer, declined to comment about the foreclosure. But he tells The Associated Press that Kelly isn't in financial trouble.

## TOP TEN RAP ALBUMS

HELL: THE SEQUEL (EP)  
Bad Meets Evil

FINALLY FAMOUS  
Big Sean

PLANET PIT  
Pitbull

PINK FRIDAY  
Nicki Minaj

ROLLING PAPERS  
Wiz Khalifa

RECOVERY  
Eminem

SORRY FOR PARTY ROCKING  
LMFAO

ALL 6'S & 7'S  
Tech N9ne

MAYBACH MUSIC GROUP PRESENTS...  
Various Artists

WEEKEND AT BURNIES  
Curren\$Y

## LINE OF THE DAY

Eminem  
NOT AFRAID

"I promise to focus solely on handling my responsibility's as a father  
So I solemnly swear to always treat this roof like my daughters and raise it  
You couldn't lift a single shingle on it  
Cause the way I feel, I'm strong enough to go to the club  
Or the corner pub and lift the whole liquor counter up  
Cause I'm raising the bar, I shoot for the moon  
But I'm too busy gazing at stars, I feel amazing and I'm not afraid"



JOJO calls her version " Marvin's Room, can't do better."

THE ORIGINAL Drizzy Drake making headlines for the most remixed song of 2011.

CHRIS BROWN adds his flavour to Marvin's Room.