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# The Bahama Journal

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**VOL. 30 - NO. 24**

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20TH, 2017**

**75 CENTS**

## Pastors Call For Draconian Laws On Guns

BY RANECHEA ELLIS  
*Journal Staff Writer*

A group of pastors headed by Bishop Simeon Hall of New Covenant Baptist Church are calling for draconian measures in an all-out war on illegal guns, as well as the push for authorities to consider certain pro-

posals to curb the proliferation of firearms.

The group is convinced that there should be a 30-day amnesty period during which, people would be encouraged to turn in illegal guns. However this is not a new idea.

The government adopted the same approach back in October of 2011 amid national concern over the high level of violent crime in

the country.

Still, it is an idea the pastors are advancing along with the advice that parents with any knowledge that the child has a gun, turn him/her in.

Parents are further encouraged to refuse any and all benefits offered from their children involved in criminal activity.

■ See DRACONIAN LAWS ON / page 2...

## DAVIS SAYS HE'S EQUIPPED TO LEAD

BY RANECHEA ELLIS  
*Journal Staff Writer*



▶ Leader of the official opposition Philip "Brave" Davis (Journal file photo)

Asserting that he is well equipped to lead the country, the Leader of the official opposition Philip "Brave" Davis says the Minnis administration is delivering "hopelessness and terror."

Mr. Davis made the remark as he addressed the Eastern regional meeting of The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) in Fox Hill Wednesday night.

The PLP interim leader especially took aim at the National Security Minister in the face of increasing gun violence.

"Where is Marvin Dames? Didn't he tell us leading up to the general elections that he has all the solutions? Where are these plans and ideas? Take it from me ...He nor his FNM has any plans," he said.

"And yet, night after night the carnage on our streets is growing. Young children and babies are now victims in what appears to be a vicious assault on the innocent. This massacre of our people cannot continue and must come to an end."

Mr. Davis then charged the media with locating another "absent" MP.

■ See DAVIS SAYS / page 3...

## BIA wants National Disaster Risk Plan

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Chairman of the Bahamas Insurance Association (BIA) Emmanuel Komolafe is calling for a disaster risk plan.

Speaking with our news team yesterday Komolafe said he believes it is time for a serious conversation on the development of a robust and holistic national disaster risk plan that addresses several factors including the financing of rebuilding efforts after a natural disaster, the ongoing review and updating of the building code, and affordability of private insurance by reduction or elimination of taxes on insurance premiums.

"The BIA is in preliminary discussions with multilateral and regulatory agencies on the introduction of micro insurance to increase insurance penetration and serve the low income as well as small and medium sized enterprises in The Bahamas," Komolafe said.

■ See RISK PLAN / page 2...

## FOULKES MEETS WITH THE BANKS



▶ Pictured is the Minister of Labour, Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes, second right, and Cecilia Strachan, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, at right, listening to Nathaniel Beneby of RBC Finco at left as other attendees are pictured in the background.

## Culmer Is New FNM Chairman

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES  
*Journal Staff Writer*

The new chairman of the governing Free National Movement is Carl Culmer.

Mr. Culmer beat out Howard Grant in an election of the Central Council held at the Party's Headquarters on Mackey Street last evening.

The party held the election due to the resignation of former chairman Sidney Collie that took effect yesterday.

Mr. Culmer who previously held the post of Deputy Treasurer in the party, spoke with the Bahama Journal saying he is excited to serve in this capacity and help move his party forward.

"The idea is for us now to work together and continue the good work left behind by the former chairman (Sidney Collie) and unite behind our

government and ensure that we fulfill all the promises that we made to the Bahamian people," Mr. Culmer said.

Mr. Culmer also spoke about the frequent barbs traded between the chairman of the two major political parties in the country, something he says the country has outgrown.

"I think the Bahamian people have

outgrown that type of politics and I think the Bahamian people want to see, feel and touch things.

"I'm not going to be getting in battles with the opposition party, but I will speak on behalf of our party," Mr. Culmer said.

Although unsuccessful in his bid for chairmanship, Howard Grant said he did not see his defeat as a loss.



▶ FNM Council Members elected Carl Culmer as the new Chairman of The Free National Movement.

"I was not unsuccessful. There is victory in the opportunity I was given. I am happy that I was given the opportunity to convey my convictions to the council and I support the council's decision to elect someone they feel is more seasoned for this particular time.

"The democracy of our party was displayed tonight. They did not choose me, but I am not a loser. I am very thankful for the opportunity. My family and I continue to pray and move forward with our convictions and we shall continue to push forward under the banner of the FNM," Mr. Grant said.

The former Chairman, Mr. Collie was appointed Bahamas Ambassador to the United States in Washington. He will also serve as the permanent representative to the Organisation of American States (OAS) and non resident ambassador to Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil.

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# BCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVES PAY COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



Members of the Board of Directors and Executives of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas (BCB) paid a courtesy call on the Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling (centre) at Government House, October 18, 2017 in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of ZNS Television, which is being celebrated this week. Pictured from left: Deputy Chairman Patric Walkes; Director Elaine Gomez; DGM/HR & Training Sandra Duncombe-Knowles; Chairman Mike Smith; Dame Marguerite; GM Kayleaser Deveaux-Isaacs; Financial Consultant Eugene Higgs; DGM Radio, Plant & Maintenance Stanley Pinder; and AGM Sales & Business Development Sean Adderley. **(BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)**



**FORM B**  
Notice of Intended Marriage  
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely -

Daniel Joseph Boehm, Divorced,  
of 6330 Stockwell Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237, United States of America

and

Cheryl Anne Vaughn, Divorced,  
of 6330 Stockwell Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



**FORM B**  
Notice of Intended Marriage  
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely -

Eric Donald Frank, Single,  
of 3921 NE 24th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064, United States of America

and

Jessica Marie Hill, Single,  
of 3921 NE 24th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



**FORM B**  
Notice of Intended Marriage  
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely -

Stephen Anthony Brannon, Single,  
of 2511 Brown Noddy Lane, Apt 201, Tampla, FL 33619, United States of America

and

Ashley Brienne Dupree, Single,  
of 2511 Brown Noddy Lane, Apt 201, Tampla, FL 33619, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



**FORM B**  
Notice of Intended Marriage  
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely -

Christian Rodrigo Foncillas, Divorced,  
of San Jose De La Sierra 93, DPTO 117A, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

and

Anya Loreto Araya, Single,  
of San Jose De La Sierra 93, DPTO 117A, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

## Pastors Call For Draconian Laws On Guns

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“Every facet of society must enlist in this war against those who have declared war on civilized Bahamas. The tragic death of an infant and several teenagers in recent months all were perpetrated by criminals with illegal guns who have no regard for the sanctity of human life,” according to a statement from the pastors.

They say, “the political rhetoric and pronouncements made by politicians has done very little in the last twenty-five years to curb the escalating use of illegal guns throughout the country.”

Bishop Hall said the issue has gone as far as some criminals laughing at the ineffective pronouncements made.

Doubling the penalty

for those convicted of illegal gun possession is also on the list of demands; as well as removing the discretion from magistrates who impose sentencing on those convicted of illegal firearms; denying bail for those convicted for such a crime a second time and placing the act of importing guns illegally into the country on the level of treason.

“Draconian measures must set fear in the hearts of criminals. The fear and dread felt by Bahamians must be transferred to the criminal-minded,” he said.

Those other bishops joining Bishop Hall’s call include Bishop Gregory Minnis, Bishop Victor Cooper, Pastor Charles Lewis, Dr. J. Carl Rahming and Pastor Geoffrey Wood.

## BIA wants National Disaster Risk Plan

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He added that in the event that only the elimination of VAT on insurance or a reduction of the business license tax on insurance is implemented, consideration should be given to segregating all taxes on general insurance and earmarking them to go into a national disaster recovery fund which is professionally managed.

“The CCRIF policy should be augmented with private insurance of some public infrastructure to further protect public assets,” Komolafe said.

He added that while the damage from hurricane Irma was substantial, insurance penetration is low in the southern Bahamas when compared to the islands of New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco.

“Hence, the impact of hurricane Irma on the industry (in terms of incurred losses) is expected to be significantly less when compared to hurricane Matthew,” Komolafe said.

He added that the BIA is in the process of collecting and collating data from their member companies to thoroughly assess the impact of Hurricane Irma.

“Once this process is completed, we will be in a better position to quantify the impact of the hurricane on the insurance industry and provide the necessary details,” Komolafe said.

He added that it must also be acknowledged that we have seen progressive improvements in the government’s response to hurricanes over the last three hurricane seasons.

# 40 YOUNG MEN GET A JUMPSTART

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Forty young men graduated yesterday from the Ministry of Education's Jump Start Program.

The Jump Start program is designed to help male students with academic, behavioral or emotional disabilities that might otherwise be at-risk of leaving high school without the National High School Diploma.

The young men received

training from BTVI in the areas of carpentry, computers, electrical, plumbing and other technical certification.

The program is in its first year despite getting approval from in 2015 from the former government.

Michael Foulkes, Member of Parliament for Golden Gates filled in for Education Minister Jeffery Lloyd and said that the most important thing was that all of the young men worked together, some-

thing that would help in nation building.

"One of the young men who was originally accepted into the program from the RM Bailey high School, was brutally killed. The time of his death coincided with the time he would have been scheduled to be in the jump start program. If it had started at its original date, he might have been here today," Foulkes said.

Foulkes was referring to the 10th grade student that was shot by police in May

after he and three others allegedly robbed the Sea Grapes shopping plaza.

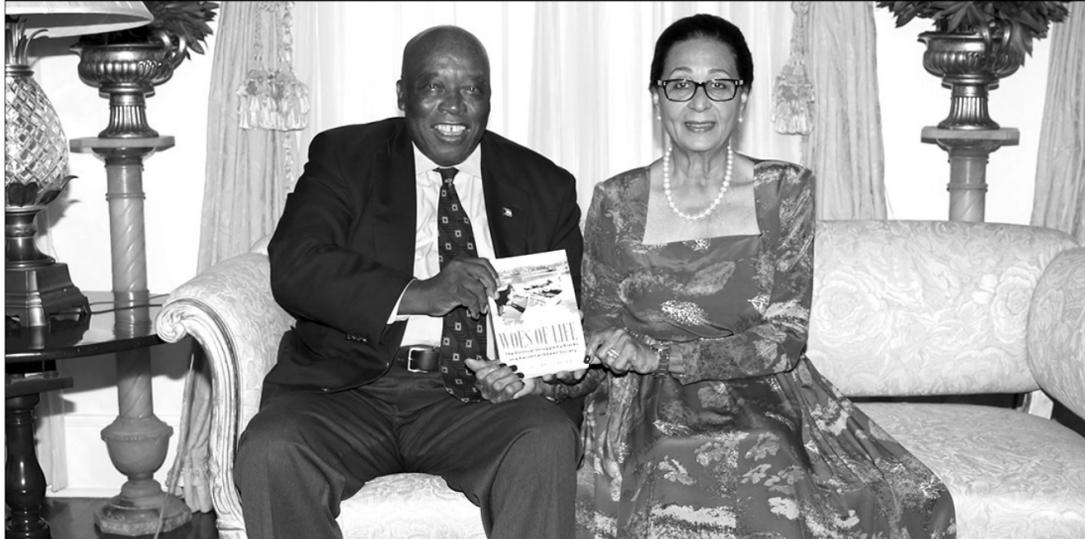
The twelve-week program took young men from eight different high schools. They were taught technical skills, about national pride, national identity, how to dress for success and conflict resolution.

The young men enjoyed field trips to places like the Royal Bahamas Defense Force base and had the opportunity to apprentice

with companies like Bahamas Power and Light, NEMA, University of the Bahamas and The Water and Sewerage

Corporation. Most of the young men have gotten accepted to BTVI to complete their certification in the field of their choice.

## OSWALD BROWN PRESENTS A COPY OF HIS BOOK



► Oswald Brown presented Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling with a copy of his book, *Woes of Life* during a courtesy call at Government House on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

## MAN ARRAIGNED FOR MURDER

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

A man appeared in Magistrate's Court yesterday accused of being the culprit behind the murder of 38 year old Shenique Hart on October 10th.

Twenty-year old Godfrey McKinney of Johnson Alley stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt facing a murder charge and two counts of attempted murder.

It was alleged that on the same date and in the same place where the

killing of Shenique Hart took place, McKinney also intentionally and by means of unlawful harm attempted to harm Andrew Nerenal and Absolom Sturup.

McKinney was not required to enter a plea.

His attorney, Nathan Smith requested medical attention for his client, stating that he has been experiencing breathing problems and discomfort in his chest area.

Mr. Smith claimed that his client was asthmatic.

Magistrate Pratt-Ferguson asked

the defendant if he was in fact asthmatic, to which he replied, yes. The Magistrate then asked where his inhaler was.

McKinney told the Judge, he did not have an inhaler. She was perplexed as to how an asthmatic person travelled without their inhaler.

The chief magistrate made a note of the defendants request before remanding him into custody.

McKinney is scheduled to return to the Magistrate's Court on November 17 through the presentation of a voluntary bill of indictment.

## DAVIS SAYS HE'S EQUIPPED TO LEAD

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I am advised that a barge loaded with fuel had broken away since over the weekend and crash onto the rocks in the community of Grays, Long Island. This is an environmental disaster that began five days ago. And yet, days later since the barge broke away, not one word in the press or from the Cabinet has come to address these developments," he said.

"Why the silence? Where are the officials to address this disaster? Where is the Minister for the Environment?"

Having bashed the FNM government, Mr. Davis sought to assure supporters that "Team Brave" is more than ready to reconnect the party following its stinging loss at the May 10th polls.

The PLP managed to hold on to just four seats in the political showdown and only one of those seats is here in New Providence.

With the past behind them, Mr. Davis said he looking to the future.

"I am committed to ensuring that women and young people are active leaders and participants on our parliamentary team, so that we reflect the demographics of our country," he said.

"I am no stranger to the PLP. I have always been your 'Clean Up Man', I am the 'Fix It Man', and now I submit my application to become your leader. I know how to organize the PLP into a fighting political machine and I know what it takes to deliver victory for the PLP."

Mr. Davis promised that under his leadership, the days of the PLP operating as a Tuck shop would be over.

The PLP heads into its convention next week.

## The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute

# WEEKLY PRICE REPORT

WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMSI Price	USDA-AMS		Retail Weight	BAMSI Price	USDA-AMS	
				HIGH	LOW			HIGH	LOW
Banana	40lbs		18.00	20.00	20.00	1lb.	0.49	0.72	0.49
Papaya	10lbs		14.00	18.00	16.00	each	1.59	1.57	1.57
Habanero Green	8lbs		16.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	2.50	1.88	1.50
Habanero Orange	8lbs		40.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50
Okra						1lb.	3.00	N/A	N/A

Wholesale Prices Weight		
Abaco Big Bird	Per lb.	2.14
Whole Chicken	40lbs	28.36
Leg Quarters	40lbs	66.04
Wings	40lbs	

Retail Prices Weight	
1 lb	2.39
10lbs	8.49
10lbs	19.24

Source: USDA-AMS Miami  
United States Department of Agriculture Market Service



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# A Time To Speak UP

We covered the start of this war with articles describing the battle over easement rights, the mysterious burning of a home, the blocks to rebuilding, and countless questionable court filings. This series of articles asks the needed questions and presents the arguments in full.

Why do so many Bahamians bury their heads in the sand and not seemingly care enough about what's going on in The Bahamas to speak out?

When our children, our grandchildren and our great grandchildren look back over the development of our society, what will they see?

Will they see a society that was always focused on making The Bahamas the best it could be? Or, will they see a society where individuals only care about themselves and did nothing to help shape The Bahamas into a better place with a great legacy?

Merriam Webster dictionary describes "legacy" as "something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past".

What will we be 'transmitting from our past' to future generations? Well as it stands, future generations are in danger of seeing some very pernicious things as our legacy in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The inheritors of our legacy are in danger of seeing a Bahamas where organizations like Save The Bays are getting away with maligning our good name, creating havoc with unjust attacks on individuals, and interfering in proper Governmental functioning.

They are in danger of seeing a Government that has allowed party politics to get in the way of human decency.

Citizens of every country should be conscious of the type of legacy they are leaving. In fact, it should be said about us that we each contributed to the positive growth and development of our nation.

As motivational speaker Jim Rohn once said, "All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine."

So, what legacy will we create as a nation? What will we be known for? What will future generations say about us after we die?

Will they say "many Bahamians achieved wealth and status but didn't care enough about what was going on to stand up and speak out about the injustices in our society"?

Will they say "many Bahamians lived

## THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

their lives as if no one else mattered simply burying their heads in the sand pretending not to see the abuses in our country?"

Or, will they say that we cared about those around us, cared about the health and well-being of our those in our society, and ensured the positive growth of our nation?

It matters because, if we don't, who will? Who will make the changes to ensure growth in the right direction?

Do you think that things change on their own? That they get better on their own? That our country will develop into a great nation on its own?

Governments are not there to simply control everything while we sit back and do nothing to direct their paths. As a citizen of the country we each have a responsibility to make a positive contribution to steer the country in the right direction.

Since the alarming spread of terrorism around the world, you see more and more efforts to mitigate it. These efforts can be seen in travels around the United States and other places.

The United States Homeland Security Department has a campaign to create awareness and induce people to be more aware of their surroundings in an era of potential terrorism acts. The core message to everyone everywhere and especially on trains, buses, and other means of transportation is, "If you see something, say something."

That's a very simple message and an easy thing to do. Why can't we adopt that to prevent the development of a legacy in The Bahamas that is really not representative of who we are and were not meant to be in the creation of our nation?

We may not be perfect in our efforts, but at least the inheritors of our legacy will say when they look back "they didn't just stand back and allow the country to devolve; they stood up and spoke out".

Let's create a legacy in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas that future generations can be proud of.

## INNER CITY BARBER GIVES BACK

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Not all young men are lost to guns, gangs and violence, and a local barber shop, its owner and patrons show this by giving back to the senior citizens of the country.

A group of men calling themselves the Super Kutz Group associated with the Super Kutz Barber shop on Nassau Street aim to spread positive vibes throughout the communities and did so with their 3rd annual Super Kutz Senior Citizens' Day.

Store patron, member of the group and volunteer Calvin Higgs explained that the idea is to give back to the seniors offering them free haircuts.

"It's the third annual Super Kutz Senior Citizens' Day. It's an event where we just go to several Senior Citizens homes in different areas, Fox Hill, Yellow Elder, East Street area.

"We try to get as much senior citizens as possible to bring them down to get their hair cut, feed them give them some quality time, good music and try to have them enjoy themselves.

"It's just an opportunity to give back and something to feel good about," Mr. Higgs said.

Held once a year, during May, Mr. Higgs said because of some technical difficulties the event was pushed to this month.

"We had the event later this year. We normally have it in May, but we had to push it back this year," Mr. Higgs said.

He stated that because it is such a positive event they are outgrowing the venue, the parking lot of Super Kutz.

"In total we had about 60 senior citizens and we also had some of the employees of the homes.

"We also had a few passer-bys, so about 70 or 80 in total today. We have family and friends, patrons of the business that volunteered to assist.

"It's getting bigger and bigger. I

think we have already outgrown this venue, so next year we will do it even bigger," he said.

Torico Major, another patron of the barber shop and the designated driver of the seniors said he did it to be a positive role model for other young men.

Mr. Major sent a message to the young men of the country, that violence is not the answer.

"I want to hit the ground running and let this be an example for each and every young man growing up in this Bahamas to put the gun down, put the knife down and let's join hearts in unity and let's bring change to the Bahamas.

"Let's try [to] take The Bahamas to where it needs to be, let's get back to basic and let's try to turn this country around and for our young men to be stronger and stronger each day.

Mr. Major said that the event was an idea, a vision of a group of men that frequented the barber shop who wanted to do something positive.

"We have a men's group that we have been holding now for about 5 years, we started in 2015, it was a vision at first and then we made it reality.

"Once you do something positive a lot of people tend to jump in, and once all hands are on deck we can make anything possible," Mr. Major said.

He stated that not all men are lost and subjected to guns, gangs, and violence and said the event brings together men that want to make a difference.

"We just want to spread positivity around the nation. We want to spread peace and love, to show that black men can make it in life.

"Once we come together we can make history in this Bahama land," Mr. Major said.

The group caters to seniors from Unity House, the Yellow Elder Senior Citizens Home, the Good Samaritan Senior Citizens Home, Pat's Senior Citizens Home and many others.



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Sir Durward Knowles, through his involvement with One Bahamas Foundation, has exemplified the mandate of the Foundation by his ability to encourage, love and promote unity among all Bahamians throughout our nation;

**AND WHEREAS**, the One Bahamas Programme, which was established in 1992, was the brain child of the Honourable Algernon Allen, former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture;

**AND WHEREAS**, in 1993, three outstanding individuals were elevated to the apex of the One Bahamas Foundation, Sir Orville Turnquest, former Governor General, became its Patron, while Sir Durward Knowles and Mr. Obie Ferguson became the organization's Co-Chairpersons;

**AND WHEREAS**, Sir Durward has the distinction of becoming the first Bahamian to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Sailing at the 1964 Olympic in Tokyo, Japan;

**AND WHEREAS**, Sir Durward's lifetime achievements in Sports, Rotary, Philanthropy and National Development are testaments to his legacy as a man for all seasons and a true Bahamian national hero;

**AND WHEREAS**, in celebration of Sir Durward Knowles' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, the One Bahamas Foundation has organize a schedule of events celebrate the life and work of this outstanding centenarian;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, as "SIR DURWARD KNOWLES' DAY".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my Hand and Seal  
this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

HUBERT A. MINNIS  
PRIME MINISTER

## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL RECEIVED LETTERS OF CREDENCE FROM IRELAND'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE



► Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling received Letters of Credence from His Excellency Jim Kelly, Ambassador-Designate of Ireland to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, in a brief ceremony at Government House on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

## “...Hallelujah & Amen...”

Having been obliged to rest awhile and thus there-with the resting having been convinced that Doctor care was urgently needed: I yielded to the good men and women who are God-called to lay on the likes of me their God-given hands as healers.

They did what they did; I did all that I could—and thus today, I am a witness to the fact that you can – on your way to the grave-yard/ or as it might also be named and as identified as a Dead-Man’s dead bones-burial-place: thus the moniker +Felix Mortis which came to me as I awoke to the reality that, the doctors and their assistants had – as it were – snatched me from Death’s waiting maw!

And so it now goes that: and this then also by way of further and perhaps an even better type of appropriate introduction, please permit me to remind you that: In the long ago years when I grew up [or was grown-up young and green in those same times]: I did so Out-East on Lyon Road as it abuts Shirley Street.

It was in those times that, I – too – would listen into those sounds/those rhythms and therefore also to the blessed riffs of a universe unfolding as it should and as it has always done—World Without End!

Even now: I recall how on the darkest of nights – with naught but a lonely street lamp as publicly available illumination [evidently put there – in part at least – for errant ‘sperrids’ [aka: Spirits] in need of such lighting in such a time and in such a place!

And so it now goes, my brothers and sisters, as I did then, so do I today as I marvel and marvel even more on how far God has brought me, mine and so very many others to these past seven decades --- and counting and hoping and praying – as long as breath lasts – for an even better

set of tomorrows piled luxuriously upon even more of those tomorrow-tomorrows!

Indeed, then, this is a fine time in my life—a kind of new lease on what life can and should be about; namely life abundant and with that also—a life rededicated to doing all it could to help reduce that dread quantum of human suffering which seems to be the fate of far too many hard-working, ever-diligent children of the living God!

Heaven help us all. God bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

And so today I wish—above all things firstly and with that sense of priority, then, I say this: Please – if you will—permit me a moment as I introduce you to a doppel-ganger of mine; namely The Honorable Senior Man: Monsignor + Felix Mortis.

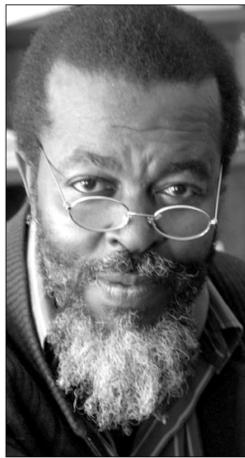
Whilst Mortis might be brand-new to you, I do confess to you my brothers and sisters that this Death-streaked, Fear-filled brother and friend has permeated my being for as long as I can remember; having been seized of memory and a modicum of good sense for at least sixty + years of the sixty eight years where and when – somehow or the other – I have tasted air, savored bitter and sweet – or for that matter ALSO when and during which [especially in my hot adolescence] when the sap was ever-rising and ever flowing; and with the sap there also came the babies—and by damn, did they arrive—and with them- also came a lifetime of ups and downs as I and their mothers did the best we could---WHAT A

W O N D E R F U L TIME!!!

My shout today screams: Hallelujah!

Wow! What a time; what a good life; what a time, Sweet Jesus!

What a time!  
What a tumult of time/



all those days and all those thousands of nights when – as fate would have it—some newer-still of God’s most precious designs named me [albeit sequentially]: Boy-Daddy/Daddy---and in more recent times- as Papa/ and also in even more recent of times remaining in these last and evil days, some of my grand-children call me Gramps—and not to be out-done, one of my grand-sons, calls me Old Grand-Father Clock—this –as I suspect- he sees me for the old man- the Senior- that, I am BE-COMING!

Tick-tock/Tick-Tock—and so it now goes- by the second: TICK-TOCK.

And so it now goes, second by second; minute by inexorable minute—hour by hour—Tick-Tock—

How so very mechanical.

Have mercy on me a sinner—Tick-Tock!

But yet I am reminded—GRAND-FATHER CLOCK or whatever- my preference is for my own heart-song with its relentless rhythm and mimicry of the drums I heard when in the Africa of my mind: I would remember and lament the cry of the drummer’s tum-tum drumming and the sweetest massage of that ever-ready strung-taught and therefore just-right dead-goat’s skin as it would awaken to that good-man’s laying-on-of-hands.

+Ad Gloriam Dei:  
Hallelujah & Amen!

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

# WORDS THAT MATTER

As even the littlest of children can and do intuit, there is a vital connection between coming and going [arrival and departure]. This is surely the fate of most peoples in the world.

On occasion, some people will be obliged to leave one country and take up residence in another, if only as part of a larger way of keeping body and soul together: thus the difference in definition between immigrate and emigrate.

Immigrate is to come into another country to live permanently.

Emigrate means to leave one’s country to live in another. Immigrate is to come into another country to live permanently. Migrate is to move, like birds in the winter. The choice between emigrate, immigrate, and migrate depends on the sentence’s point of view.

And thus we now know!

Nothing seems stable in a Bahamas; its region and the wider world where accustomed ways of thinking and being are currently being supplanted by change and personalities thrown hither and yon by – among other relevant social phenomena – globalization; itself no slouch for globalization.

Relevant here is a summary a CIA factsheet which suggests that:

“...Since attaining independence from the UK in 1973, The Bahamas has prospered through tourism, international banking, and investment management.”

Note also that: “...Because of its location, the country is a major transshipment point for illegal drugs, particularly shipments to the US and Europe, and its territory is used for smuggling illegal migrants into the US.”

And thus it is conceded that, the unwanted arrival of the newest immigrants currently provides us all a most exceptional set of reasons for wishing and wanting to believe that: YES—WE CAN [each one of us] MAKE THE BAHAMAS ONE OF THE GREATEST little nations in the world.

Poitier grew up in the Bahamas, then a British Crown colony. Because of his birth in the United States, he automatically received American citizenship.

Poitier’s uncle has claimed that the Poitier ancestors on his father’s side had migrated from Haiti and were probably part of the runaway slaves who had established maroon communities throughout the Bahamas, including Cat Island.

He mentions that the surname Poitier is a French name, and there were no white Poitiers from the Bahamas.

Poitier lived with his family on Cat Island

until he was 10, when they moved to Nassau. He was raised a Roman Catholic but, later became an agnostic with views closer to deism.

When it comes to the truly curious our Bahamas must be ranked at or near the top not only because –as immigrants to these islands, rocks and cays – all Bahamians have roots somewhere else and that for so very many reasons.

Things become even more curious[this time around bordering on the truly absurd] when we take time to note how and why any number of Afro-Bahamians are adamantly opposed to the orderly and humane settlement of so-called Haitian ‘illegals’ in their country.

Meanwhile, these same people take practically no note of the fact that, today’s Bahamas – despite rhetoric to the contrary – is fast becoming a polyglot collage of peoples hailing from countries all around the world.

In other words, then, vast demographic changes are afoot; and it sure seems that there is practically nothing real that be done to stem this new surge of new blood into a Bahamas where new blood is so very urgently needed.

One of the more curious aspects of social life in today’s Bahamas has to do with that morbid fascination some Bahamians have with so very many of their fellow Bahamians who happen to hail from the Republic of Haiti.

One aspect of this fascination [and perhaps, even awe] has to do with how the Haitian people have been able not only to make a great revolution; but also how – despite that plethora of odds – these people have been able to overcome so very many of the hurdles placed in their way.

But yet again, having been long denied rights due them in today’s Bahamians, facts now show that there are very many so-called Haitian Bahamians who now bide their time as they plot their way from a Bahamas that is becoming more and more intolerant by the day.

It is this dimension of that matter involving these people which today causes us no end of distress—and here we daresay that our pains and fears and sadness gone to bed now have their roots in what seems the rankest kind of hypocrisy.

Sadder still, we are getting the sense that we have in our midst a sliver of rabidly degenerate opinion that would blame the so-called “Haitian” Bahamian as traitors of the first order.

We beg to differ.

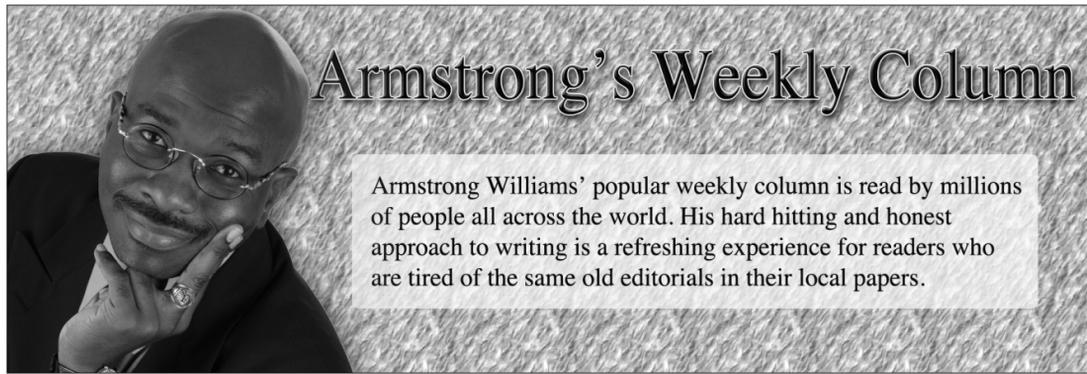
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NO BETTER READING

Headlines from the newspaper include: "Four Bodies Claimed", "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", "GO TANKLESS", "Deans Building Supplies", "Alleged Election Fraudster A No-Show In Court", "HAITIAN'S PLUMBING SUPPLIES", "WATER: NEW SOURCE?", "75 CENTS", "SODER: NEW SOURCE?".

# India's Conquest of IBM an Ominous Sign for US Workers

The New York Times article published recently discussing the fact that IBM now employs more workers in India than it does in the U.S. should come as no surprise. India continues to churn out science and technology graduates at a rate almost triple the United States, and at less than a third of the cost. For a country with a population of over 900 million – roughly three times the U.S. – India could soon overtake the United States as the world's hub for technology innovation and business.

The wizened old executives at IBM cannot be oblivious of this fact. For years, IBM and other technology companies have essentially



## Armstrong's Weekly Column

Armstrong Williams' popular weekly column is read by millions of people all across the world. His hard hitting and honest approach to writing is a refreshing experience for readers who are tired of the same old editorials in their local papers.

'insourced' lower cost Indian tech labor on a contract or consulting basis. In fact, some Indian firms – Infosys and Tata Consulting – have made multi-billion dollar businesses from labor arbitrage – importing Indian workers on HB-1 visas to work in the United States at a fraction of the cost of a U.S. educated worker.

As cloud-based services become increasingly common, the need to actually import Indian workers on U.S. work visas is becoming less important. With the cloud – IT services can become location-independent; customer's needs can be fulfilled by anyone, anytime, from any place on earth.

As the NYT article also points out, IBM is far from the only U.S. firm to capitalize on labor arbitrage. Tech manufacturers such as Apple and Dell have long relied upon a primarily foreign work force to manufacture its products. Apple's justification for this was that the manufacturing relied primarily upon

low-skilled workers, while the design and distribution were reserved for higher-skilled U.S. workers. But with manufacturers like Tesla and Solar City proving that uniting both design and production on the same shop floor can drastically improve quality and time-to-market, the offshoring rationale seems less and less justifiable.

IBM's primary business now consists of 'services' – data storage, cloud-based software, and outsourced IT consulting – which rely upon a college-educated tech work force. In the U.S. these services are primarily produced by college graduates as well. IBM's business has crept up the value chain, no longer consisting primarily of low-level support services, but increasingly focusing on high-level software design and problem solving traditionally reserved for the U.S.-based technological labor force.

While India is flourishing under the outsourced labor market scenario, the U.S. worker finds himself competing on a somewhat unfair playing field. It costs roughly \$100,000 to produce a competent software engineer in the U.S. The average cost of producing a software engineer in India is roughly \$20,000 – with the Indian government picking up the tab in many cases. Furthermore, while STEM education has become almost a dirty word among U.S. educators who prefer a more liberal-arts oriented curriculum, India rewards STEM degrees (math, science, engineering, and medicine) to the exclusion of almost all other professions.

What is not going to happen is that a shrinking of the world. Investments will flow where they are most richly rewarded. Customers will seek the lowest cost and highest value options among competing providers. An America First approach that attempts to merely impose trade sanctions on

imports of goods, labor and services will fail flatly. An appropriate response to rising global competition in tech goods and services should be a heightened investment in STEM education at all levels of the educational system. We should understand that an educated, technologically competent workforce is not merely a function of market demand, but a core national infrastructure priority. The U.S. government should continue to invest in technological innovation and education because it ultimately protects American interests from global competition. The Indians and Chinese have proven this model – provided state-sponsored education in core industries – and over the past two decades basically risen from starvation to prosperity to a real competitive threat to the United States.

While we should not lead with protectionism, the U.S. should not give away its intellectual property either. When asked during a quarterly earnings call in 2006 why his company had not moved more of its chip manufacturing facilities offshore, Intel CEO Andy Grove responded that "shop-floor" innovation drove chip design for a greater degree than most of its competitors understood. The Chinese, Korean and Indian firms that manufacture outsourced U.S. designs understand this all too well. Just compare an I-phone to a Samsung Galaxy smart phone. Their designs are remarkably similar because Samsung essentially produces all of Apple's designs – and borrows significantly from Apple's intellectual property along the way to developing its own competing products.

There are two primary reasons to protect the U.S. worker. The first is obvious: without a robust work force, no one will be able to afford all of the goods sold in the United States. The second reason, though at least as important, is slightly less obvious. By outsourcing manufacturing and services, we are essentially giving away the secret sauce that goes into technological innovation in the first place. We need to be careful that in the quest to find ever cheaper workers we don't give away the whole store to foreign competition.

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# Foulkes Meets with the Banks

The Minister of Labour, Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes met with the Chairman of the Clearing Banks Association, Mr. Ian Jennings and representatives of the six Clearing Banks in The Bahamas including RBC Finco, Scotiabank, Fidelity Bank,

Commonwealth Bank, Bank of The Bahamas and CIBC First Caribbean Bank on Thursday, 19 October, 2017 at the Ministry of Labour on Shirley and Charlotte Streets. Also in attendance were The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and

Employers Confederation, the Trade Union Congress and the National Congress of Trade Unions, the Prices Commission, the Consumer Protection Commission and The Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality Services.

Minister Foulkes also met with the Governor of the Central Bank of The Bahamas, Mr. John Rolle in a separate meeting.

Minister Foulkes and the banks had frank and open discussions on the recent increases in banking services. He said

that he understood the challenges of the banks and also appreciate the concerns of consumers.

Going forward the group all agreed to establish a working committee to discuss such issues.

## BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS EXECUTIVES VISIT MINISTER OF STATE FOR GRAND BAHAMA



► **FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA -- CELEBRATING 40 YEARS:** Executives from the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas (ZNS) paid a courtesy call on the Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at the Office of The Prime Minister. The courtesy call was part of the Corporation's 40th Anniversary recognition, which has been celebrated the entire week. On hand for the courtesy call were (from left); Patric Walkes, Deputy Chairman; Sandra Knowles, Deputy General Manager; Mike Smith, Executive Chairman; Minister Kwasi Thompson; Kayleaser Deveaux-Isaacs, General Manager (ZNS); Harcourt Brown, Permanent Secretary; Perez Burrows, Board Member; and Darren Meadows, Deputy General Manager. **(BIS photo by Lisa Davis)**

# Israel presents building supplies to NEMA for Hurricane Relief

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, received an assortment of hurricane relief supplies donated by the Government of Israel through the Embassy of Israel, during a presentation on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at the Penn's Building on Tonique Williams- Darling Highway.

The supplies will go towards hurricane

relief for those residents recently impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

On hand to receive the items was Chrystal Glinton, Deputy Permanent Secretary, NEMA.

Donated were felt roofing materials, bundles of plywood, shingles and nails, amongst other supplies.



► Pictured from left are Arthur Seligman, Honourary Consul for Israel in The Bahamas; Chrystal Glinton, Deputy Permanent Secretary, NEMA; Alon Lavi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel to Belize and The Bahamas; and Chanelle Brown, Head of Economic Trade and Sustainable Development Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **(BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)**



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