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75 CENTS

"FNM Chairman Is Lost"



► Free National Movement Chairman Carl Culmer (Journal file photo)



► Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN of The Progressive Liberal Party, Senator Fred Mitchell says "the Chairman of the FNM is blind deaf and dumb to the suffering inflicted on the Bahamian people since the Free National Movement came to office.

The FNM Chairman, Carl Culmer recently said that the present government started to right the ship and has taken positive steps in the right direction. However,

Mr. Mitchell said Culmer's statement of "everything is rosy" is an appalling lack of sensitivity".

The former MP for Fox Hill said, "the list of FNM missteps includes, but is not limited to cutting back on social services to the poor, firing entry level workers in the public service and sending them to the bread lines, jailing their PLP opponents with the FNM's brand of victor's justice and most glaringly of all the FNM have not fixed Grand Bahama. We remind Mr. Culmer of the demonstration

led by FNM businessmen in Freeport late last year who said that the economy of Grand Bahama is the worse it has ever been.

"We are unsure of the source of FNM Chairman Culmer's information, but his rhetoric and diatribe are typical FNM propaganda, riddled with errors and untruths, said Senator Mitchell.

"For the record, here are the facts on the economy from official sources: In May of 2012, unemployment stood at 14.7% and had doubled under the gover-

nance of the FNM from 2007 and 2012.

"During the last term of the PLP, 39,505 jobs were added to the local economy and by May 2017, unemployment was reduced to single digits, 9.9%. Clearly, the Bahamas was on the economic rebound long before the FNM came to office. There is evidence, however, that the actions of the FNM government have hurt the country's economy and international reputation, noted Senator Mitchell.

■ See FNM CHAIRMAN / page 2...

ACTING PM MEETS WITH CARICOM REGIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIJUANA



► Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest (fourth from right) chats with members of the CARICOM Regional Commission on Marijuana during a Courtesy Call and working meeting at the Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Centre, Thursday, January 4, 2018. The Commissioners were led by Commission Chairperson, Professor Rose Marie Bell-Antoine -- sitting opposite the Acting Prime Minister. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

BAHAMAS CHALLENGED ON MARIJUANA

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Decriminalizing marijuana is not the issue; taking a stand is not even the issue, according to Bishop Simeon Hall, who represents The Bahamas on the CARICOM's Regional Commission on marijuana. He said that the idea of the Commission, established by CARICOM Heads Of Government is only to act as a research on the pro's and con's of the herb plant.

Speaking with the Journal, Bishop Hall said that CARICOM is moving across the Caribbean listening to how people of the Caribbean feel about the plant.

"The CARICOM community has agreed that some research should be done on this matter pros and con.

"It isn't that anyone has taken a position on it. They are just studying it; 'how do Caribbean people feel about this wide spread usage about this herb', and basically that's all I've been doing, is listening.

■ See CHALLENGED ON MARIJUANA on PAGE 2...

BAND OWNERS WANT SEPARATION OF 'JUNKANOO' IN CARNIVAL

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

President of The Bahamas Carnival Band Owners Association and Island Rhythms Carnival band owner, Dario Tirelli agrees wholeheartedly with the word 'Junkanoo' being stripped from Junkanoo Carnival.

Recently, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard announced that the word Junkanoo needs to be separate from the word Carnival.

"We believe that we need to separate the word Junkanoo from Carnival. It is not good for the Junkanoos or those

who are committed to carnival," Mr. Pintard said.

Agreeing with the Minister's declaration, yesterday Mr. Tirelli told the Bahama Journal he went on record the first year of Junkanoo Carnival that the word Junkanoo should be removed.

"Carnival is a totally separate industry. Junkanoo is the most unique street parade in the world; it's a street parade. Carnival is a street party, a street festival where people pay to play. We (Junkanoo Carnival organizers) want to separate it," Mr. Tirelli stated.

■ See BAND OWNERS / page 4...

POLICE SEARCH FOR MISSING TEEN GIRL

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Police seeking the public's assistance in locating a teen girl who has been missing since Saturday, December 30, 2017.

Fifteen year-old Nia Savannah Williams of Mount Pleasant Village was reported missing by family members.

■ See POLICE SEARCH / page 7...

TECHNOLOGY CRITICAL TO ADDRESS SKILLS GAP

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Intern

With a significant skills gap experienced in The Bahamas, the President of Bahamas Technical Vocational Institute (BTVI) Dr. Robert Robertson is drilling home the message that we must try creative ways to address the issue.

"Students are learning differently than they did in my era. We probably in the next year or two here will see that we can only use online textbook and most people like hard copy textbook, but publishers are simply not publishing hard copies textbook anymore," said Robertson.

Nowadays, education is ever changing. You can not only be taught in the four walls of a classroom, but on a screen of a computer.

BTVI has programs in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco and are trying to use online classes to reach other islands.

The president highlighted that technology is an important part advancing skills.

"If you are the kind of person who has a math phobia, you're not going to stand up if someone asks you for an answer and you give a wrong answer. It's embarrassing to everyone - you wouldn't do it. But if you're at home alone at a computer, you can take the risk and chance and actually learn," added Robertson.

He suggested that we look at the technical side of skill and match those with the interests of the students.

Robertson emphasized, "rather than get them in and teach them Math, you have to show them why it's related to the subject area relevant."

Available at the college is a program to allow students to gain college credits while in high school. They also have a scholarship program for children at the Ranfurly Home to be able to afford classes at the college.

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"FNM Chairman Is Lost"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He said according to both Moodys and Standard and Poors, the downgrades the country experienced between 2012 and 2017 were

not due to any policy decision of the PLP, but due to multiple hurricanes, the Baha Mar bankruptcy, the poor state of the economy and the country's deteriorating public finances inherited by the PLP in May 2012.

"We took the necessary policy actions inclusive of tax reform, the rescue and opening of Baha Mar and implemented the fiscal consolidation plan and a pro growth strategy. These difficult, tough, unpopular but necessary policy measures proved successful and the PLP government was commended by the IMF and the credit rating agencies for these actions taken.

"The PLP government laid a firm and solid foundation of progress on which to build.

"One glaring and irrefutable fact is that not one relevant policy measure taken by the PLP

government to restore this country's ailing economy and deteriorating public finances was repealed by the incoming FNM government. They adopted the policies of the PLP government wholesale, including value added tax and they fully embraced the now opened Baha Mar, its new owners and relished the 5,000 jobs this successful project has produced to date," said Senator Mitchell.

He said, "Mr. Culmer needs to give the political posturing and bluster a rest. His statement is embarrassing for its level of wanton errors and untruths that can be effortlessly debunked with the facts of record. He ought to be ashamed of himself.

"The FNM statement lacks credibility and is not worth the paper it is written on," said the PLP Chairman.

BAHAMAS CHALLENGED ON MARIJUANA

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"What the CARICOM heads have agreed on is to study how Caribbean people feel about this herb that grows on almost every Caribbean island nation," Bishop Hall said.

He stated that the Commission has traveled to some eight countries in the region.

"We've been to about eight different Caribbean island nations. We've been to Surinam; we've been to Trinidad, and we've been to Barbados," Bishop Hall said.

As to The Bahamas' position on marijuana, Bishop Hall said that it remains as it always was.

"The Bahamas' position is clear; marijuana or the use of marijuana on any level is illegal," he said.

As to what he anticipates after the discussions, Bishop Hall indicated that his hope is that intelligent conversation can follow, although he

himself cannot take a position on the topic.

"All I've been calling for is an intelligent conversation and I hope that's what we can achieve tonight when we meet at Holy Trinity at 6pm. Let's just discuss the issue.

"I cannot take a position that's ultra vires what The Bahamas' position is, but when the report is finished again, I say all I would suggest is that we have an intelligent conversation, where we look at all the ramifications and the legalities and just move forward," Bishop Hall said.

However, Democratic National Alliance Interim Leader, Christopher Mortimer has a different take on how the government should address the topic.

In a press statement, Mr. Mortimer said that the government should not take a backseat approach, but rather do the necessary leg-work to ensure that the will of Bahamians is done.

"The past 24 hours has seen social media explode with public opinion regarding the possible decriminalization of marijuana in the Bahamas.

"The chatter comes ahead of a planned CARICOM sponsored meeting designed to obtain information on the social, economic, health and legal issues related to marijuana use and gauge regional opinions on this global issue.

"While it should be noted that the Democratic National Alliance has been clear on its position, we remain concerned however, that the country's current leadership has not made its position clear - a reality which paves the way for the narrative on this issue to be written for us," the statement said.

Mr. Mortimer said that an aggressive approach would save the lives of young Bahamian men, which is something the party addressed during campaigning ahead of the May 2017 General Election.

"The DNA indicated prior to the last election that we, taking a look at what is happening in the region and

throughout the world, we thought it would be a progressive proactive step for any government to deal up front with the issue of the decriminalization of the marijuana; mainly because of the vast numbers of young men and women that we are losing and the fact that national leaders from around the world realize that it ultimately means that through dollars, it emboldens the criminal sector," Mr. Mortimer said.

He further criticized Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands, while challenging the government to take a position.

"I know prior to becoming the Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands had the position where he thought marijuana should be decriminalized. Now in government, he is saying that they don't have a position.

"The fact of the matter is what we are encouraging the government to do is to formulate a strategy moving forward with respect to this particular issue, and allow the Bahamian people to weigh in on what they believe should happen once they've had the opportunity to see what all of the facts are and it is our hope that the Bahamas government doesn't do what they've always done with respect to progressive legislation, which is to wait until the end and then allow every other country around the world to determine what the Bahamas is going to do, as oppose to the Bahamas deciding for itself what it is going to do," Mr. Mortimer said.

Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell said in a press statement that the PLP believes in informed choices, and is interested in saving Bahamians from the stigmatization of their lives as a result of the use of marijuana, particularly young men.

The Regional Commission marijuana headed by CARICOM will hold a town meeting tonight at 6pm at the Holy Trinity Activity Center.



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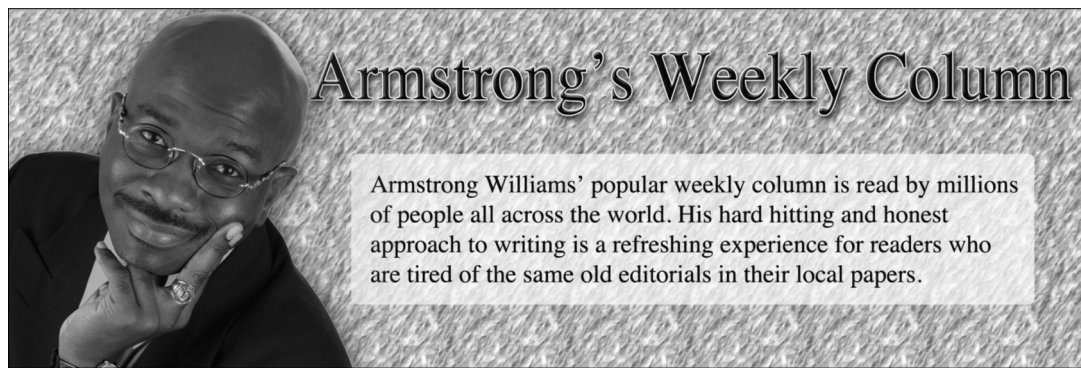
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Armstrong's Weekly Column

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.

2018, The year of Refinement for the President

If you were to ask me, I would have to say that I think the President has had a pretty successful first year. The stock markets are booming because of investor confidence in the policies pushed and advocated for by his administration and unemployment is at a 17-year low. With the passage of the new tax bill, the corporate tax rates are being lowered allowing corporations to bring more money home and reinvest in cities across America. We have already seen major companies such as Southwest, AT&T, Comcast, Wells Fargo, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Howard Stirk Holdings, and others giving one time bonuses of \$1,000 dollars to employees, and in some cases increasing their lowest wages to \$15 dollars an hour which will benefit many hardworking Americans on the lower end of the economic spectrum.

When you sum it up, the President has been considerably successful. However, his success hasn't been without its troubles, many of which have been caused by the President himself.

While I agree that Twitter is a powerful tool that allows the President to circumvent traditional media and speak directly to his followers, supporters, and rest of the world, it has also harmed the President's agenda. He has attacked his own Attorney General, undermining his authority at the DOJ as well as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, unnecessarily complicating the Senate's ability to get things done. Why would anyone feel motivated to continue working with someone who attacks and undermines them? Without McConnell, tax reform wouldn't have passed and the continuance of such attacks in the future will further complicate the President's relationship with Hill leaders when he needs

them most.

It's also a dangerous game to get into spats with unpredictable dictators such as Kim Jong Un, the professed dear leader of North Korea. The President recently got into a pissing match with Un over a nuclear button, with the President tweeting: "North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!" Such irresponsible language could cause further instability from the already unpredictable young leader. While I understand the President's desire to be strong and tough, this is not a situation where such behavior should be fully displayed on a social media platform. Discernment is a critical characteristic that the President sometimes misses.

As the President goes into his second year in office, he should be more tactful in how he uses social media. While it's a powerful tool that has many positive and effective attributes, it is also a tool that complicates and undermines the President's ability to effectively achieve certain legislative goals and properly address certain international crises.

The President is a proven communicator and his years of television experience have refined his ability to promote himself and his agenda to the American people. Despite his effectiveness, he has also managed to further divide the country. While the division that we see existed before the 45th president, I think it is safe to say it has increased as a result of some of his comments. While divisiveness may not be his intent, the result speaks for itself and despite how well the economy is doing, many

are so opposed to the President because of his words they negate how effective he has been. The result of this could mean that Republicans lose the House effectively ending the President's ability to pass legislation. With 39 percent approval from half of the country, Democrats don't have the impetus to work with the President on much of anything—similar to Republicans during the Obama years. The net result for the American people was negative because not much was accomplished beyond executive orders.

I would like to see the President host rallies and town halls in front of unfamiliar audiences and disparate groups. Sure, they will be tough crowds and may not agree with the president, however, I strongly believe iron sharpens iron and leaders only grow when their ideas are challenged. The White House may also find that they're able to change a few minds on economic issues that impact certain demographics more than others.

The presidency will be whatever Donald Trump makes it and at the end of the day he is responsible for his success. I strongly believe he can turn things around. He needs to change his tune and talk directly to all people about how his policies will benefit them relative to the status quo. He has proven that he is his best salesperson, and he has to have discernment and discipline to see his ideas through with a methodical and objective message.

2018 should be the year of refinement for the President. With midterms quickly approaching, the President could significantly expand his base by changing his behavior. He could do what President Obama wasn't able to do, bring the country together.



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS WATER & SEWERAGE CORPORATION WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS – LONG ISLAND

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GOCB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US\$28.5 million towards the cost of the Water Supply Improvement Project (the Project) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOCB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than the GOCB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Project is being implemented by the Water & Sewerage Corporation (WSC).

WSC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the design and construction of the water supply infrastructure upgrade for Long Island. The works include the installation of water mains, site preparation works including an access roadway; and the construction of a booster pumping station. Provision is to be made for connections to the WSC's existing and potential customers. The distribution system is to include side streets in between the start and end point as indicated on the drawings. Bidders may bid for any individual Lot or for both Lots, as follows:

LOT NO. 1: North Long Island Lot from northern end of Salt Pond Settlement ending at Boat Harbour Drive, Gray's Settlement

The design, supply and installation of approximately 45,000 feet (13,716 m) of 4-inch C900 PVC DR 18 water main and 15,000 feet (4,572 m) of 2-inch SDR 21 PVC water mains and 200 service connections, and all associated appurtenances as shown in the preliminary drawings. Design, supply and construction of the Optional Booster Station's access road, inclusive of all utilities, water main, drainage and photovoltaic street lighting. Perform site preparation of 20feet x 20feet of land designated for the Optional Booster Station and appurtenances foot print. Design, supply and construction of the Optional Booster Station in accordance with the Employer's Requirements and preliminary drawings.

LOT NO. 2: South Long Island Lot from Turtle Cove in Stevens Settlement to the Southern end of Clarence Town Settlement

The design, supply and installation of approximately 26,000 feet (7,925m) of 4-inch C900 DR 18 water mains and 14,000 feet (4,267m) of 2-inch SDR 21 PVC water mains, and 100 service connections, and all associated appurtenances as show in the preliminary drawings.

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms, which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country, or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- owned or controlled by the Government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

All countries are eligible.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualifications to perform the contract. Bid and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective contractor's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements in respect of each individual Lot include, inter alia:

- an average annual construction turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Four Million United States Dollars (USD4.0M) for Lot 1 and Two Million United States Dollars (USD2.0M) for Lot 2.
- an average annual design of works turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand United States Dollars (USD360,000) for Lot 1 and Two hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars (USD270,000) for Lot 2.
- a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Seven Hundred and Forty Thousand United States dollars (USD740,000) for Lot 1 and Five Hundred and Forty Thousand United States Dollars (USD540,000) for Lot 2.
- experience as a contractor/sub-contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last ten (10) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).
- experience as a designer of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last ten (10) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below, as of Thursday December 21, 2017 at 10:00 hrs Bahamas time, for a non-refundable fee equivalent to Fifty United States Dollars (USD50.00) for each Lot. Requests may be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Request for Bidding Documents for the Design & Construction of Water Supply Systems – Long Island" along with the relevant Lot Number(s).** Written requests must also include the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which

Bidding Documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer, bank draft or bank guaranteed cheque made payable to: **Water & Sewerage Corporation.**

Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below.

Applicants who request that documents be forwarded to them must submit an account number from a local courier agent that accepts freight collect charges. Documents will be promptly dispatched, but under no circumstance will GOCB or WSC or their authorised agent be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so transmitted.

Submissions in sealed envelopes clearly marked **"Bid for the Design & Construction of Water Supply Systems – Long Island" along with the relevant Lot Number(s)** and must be received at the second address below not later than **16:00 hrs Bahamas time** on the 1st February, 2018. Bid opening will take place immediately after the deadline for submission at the second address below in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Qualification information **only** must be simultaneously submitted to the third address below. All bids must be accompanied by a completed Form of Bid Securing Declaration.

GOCB/WSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOCB/WSC action. GOCB/WSC will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

1.	Address for Correspondence	2.	Address for Bid Submission and Bid Opening
	The Project Coordinator Water Supply Improvement Project Water & Sewerage Corporation #38 University Drive Nassau, New Providence COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS Tel: (242) 302-5548 Fax: (242) 302-5547 E-mail: wccdbproject@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: wccleslie@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: dnairn@acojvbahamas.com E-mail copy to: mybastian@acojvbahamas.com		The Office of the General Manager Attn: Internal Control and Compliance Division Water Supply Improvement Project Water & Sewerage Corporation #38 University Drive Nassau, New Providence COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
3.	Address for Completed Qualification Information Only		
	Procurement Officer Caribbean Development Bank P.O. Box 408, Wildey St. Michael BARBADOS, W.I., BB 11000 Tel: (246) 431-1600 Fax: (246) 426-7269 Email: procurement@caribank.org		

BAND OWNERS WANT SEPARATION OF 'JUNKANOO' IN CARNIVAL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

As the Bahamas is gearing up for the fete in a few months, Junkanoo Carnival will be experiencing some changes nonetheless. In addition to the removal of the word Junkanoo, more aspects of privatization will also be encouraged.

Mr. Tirelli said, "It was already privatized. Nobody owns the band owner other than the owners themselves.

"I own my company outright. Island Rhythms is owned by Dario Tirelli and his operating partners."

The soon to be former Junkanoo Carnival has made a positive impact on the local music scene. However through the introduction of the

Music Masters competition, local musicians perform new songs for Bahamians and notable international music executives such as Sony Music.

Mr. Tirelli's only wish is that the government continues to assist with international marketing or partnering with carnival organizers to help promote carnival further to the world.

Carnival is slated to begin Saturday, May 5th.

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A Tumultuous ADVENT

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

How does one go from a poor boy to a multimillionaire as fashion mogul Peter Nygard did?

There are a number of factors that shape our lives, that help to determine our individual paths. For Peter John Nygård, it was no different. His path seemed preordained with early experiences that led to a life of astounding achievements.

The early days of Pekka Juhani, as Peter was named, were filled with the realities of war having entered the world on July 24th of 1941 Helsinki, Finland. As the sirens were blaring on the way home from the hospital, Pekka's father, Eeli, had to take his young family directly into a bomb shelter. It was a new mother's worse nightmare. Yet, despite being born in the midst of the turmoil of World War II with constant blasting of sirens and dashing to bomb shelters, Pekka Juhani knew a sense of security and protection. His mother Hilikka whispered loving words in his ear as they waited.

The war raged on around him as Pekka grew. At age three, a bomb blast shook the family's apartment covering Pekka and his father with shattered glass while they were trying to make their way out the door to the bomb shelter. Following that incident Pekka and his two-year-old sister Liisa were whisked off to the Nygård family farm away from the frightful noises and scenes of war. Hilikka stayed with the children on the farm while Eeli remained in Helsinki working.

Pekka and Liisa enjoyed wonderful adventures on the farm frolicking about and spending time with their grandparents.

Competition: A New Passion

After the family returned to Helsinki, Pekka encountered the single most driving force of his life: competition! Finland always prided itself on its sporting abilities. With the upcoming 1952 Summer Olympics taking place in Finland, special attention was placed on training, and preparations.

Given the Finnish culture's emphasis on sports, it should be of no surprise that growing up in Finland meant engaging in various sporting activities and competing at different levels. It was a wonder to many that, despite the size

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.

of Finland's population, Finland would consistently end up in the top five of the medal standings at various Olympic Games. Clearly, Finland's focus on competition was paying off.

For Pekka, a new passion was born—a new love in his life to which he was determined to prove his merit. He gladly participated in sporting events as a young kid and earning first place was paramount.

That competitive spirit became ingrained in his character. As an ever-growing seed, it was to become the catalyst that spurred his rise in the new world.

A New Beginning

As was its history with Finland, Russia continued its attempts to control Finland and force its Communist ideals on this free land. After refusing to join the Communist party, and plagued by fears of a possible Communist Finland, Eeli sought to escape with his family. The decision was made. It was time to leave.

They sold everything they had to pay for their journey to a new life. That new life would be in Winnipeg Canada.

From the joys of sailing through the vast ocean, to the unavoidable sickness caused by an upheaving vessel, and from the thrilling train ride through curious scenery, to the discomfort of days spent on hard wooden benches, the journey to their new land was both exciting and difficult. Even the journey's end did not signal the cessation of challenges for Eeli, Hilikka, Liisa and Peter John Nygård.

Challenged though they were, they were excited by the potential for a great new life in this new land.

Imagine beginning here and ending up at the top. How'd he do it? We'll continue to explore to discover the secrets to Peter Nygård's success.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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EDITORIAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

We've got some difficult days ahead. ... Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I am not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. Martin Luther King, Jr—April 3rd. 1968.

He was murdered [and therefore also became martyred for Christ] on April 4th. 1968.

May his soul rest in peace! "Love is a force for justice. But love is not justice. Unity can ignite justice. But unity is not justice. The issue is injustice." Reverend Bernice King.

Dearly beloved: Within a matter of days, people around the United States will remember that there was once upon a time when a singularly gifted young African-American theologian did strive and did struggle with a broad cross-section of other Americans – inclusive of those who were Jewish, Roman Catholic and with any number of other Americans [red, yellow, black or white] who understood that when one is degraded and with disrespect, the rights of all others were being threatened.

The man to whom we refer is none other than the Christian martyr, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was born on January 15th. 1929 and who – tragically – was murdered on April 4th. 1968—thus celebrations around the world in honor of his life, work, legacy and his myriad of contributions to the struggle for rights civic and human for not only Americans but for peoples around the world.

As we know [and as so very many other Bahamians might wish to do were they wiser about the facts] we want to advise that: King's methodology was grounded in his views concerning how soul-force could be used to counter brute-force.

And so, even though his enemies did kill him—the record shows that what he stood for remains a beacon of hope for billions of people around the world who know that love conquers all!

And so: For what it is worth, we do believe that it would do all of us a world of good to not only remember this great man's contributions to the ongoing struggle for freedom and digni-

ty and justice for all; but also to see to it that our youth are better informed about who they really are; and to the connection extant between what they do, how they treat each other and to the extent to which all of this is grounded in an educational system that has robbed them of both agency and voice.

And thus it now goes [and sadly so it does]: As so very many Bahamians – young and old alike – know so little of their own connections to some of the forces that now impinge upon them and which – either directly or indirectly – determine their life chances!

Alas! One of the more interesting paradoxes extant in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with how – as a people –Bahamians emulate and esteem so many practices which – like American foot-ball; American baseball; American Thanksgiving; American Wal-Mart's; and of course, American fast-food binge eating!

And sadder yet: How so very many young Black Bahamian men routinely ape and mimic the nastiest of behaviors of Black American men –armed and dangerous—who routinely turn their anger on each other: thus that epidemic of gun-violence now surging in places such as Chicago.

Tragically, this is also the case in today's Bahamas where armed young black men – most of them American-styled gun-men – routinely maim and kill their fellows.

And so: There it goes from ham and turkey binge eating; to shopping on so-called Black Friday to that macabre scene on the ground where the remains of another Black man gunned down on this or that mean street in Chicago or for that matter, its mean-street counter-part on the island of New Providence, Bahamas.

Bahamians alive appreciate the enormity of the fact that –as a people—we have come out of a social situation suffused with hate, pain and with indignity piled upon even more shameful oppression.

But whilst this is true, there is no doubting as fact that: We have failed at the levels of both Church and State to acquaint our nation's youth with who they are; what they should be about- and with that, too, we have collectively failed to inculcate in them how their struggles for voice and agency in this world is directly connected to similar struggles world-wide.

This we must remedy!

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DR. ROBIN ROBERTS GRATEFUL FOR QUEEN'S HONOUR

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Noted Urologist, Doctor Robin Roberts says honours given recently by Her Majesty the Queen, are really awards by the Bahamian people.

Earlier this week, Government House announced the Queen's 2018 New Year's Honours recognizing the accomplishments of individuals who have made major contributions to The Bahamas with their professions.

Doctor Roberts received the Order of the British Empire Award (OBE) for his contributions in medicine.

He began his tenure in the medical profession in 1987 after returning to the Bahamas after medical studies in Canada.

Speaking with The Bahama Journal yesterday, Dr. Roberts shared his sentiments receiving the award.

"I'd like to believe I've made a contribution on all aspects of healthcare service in The Bahamas.

"With regards to receiving this honour, I am reminded of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of The United States of America. He put it very, very clearly for me."

He said, "No person was ever honoured for what he received, honour has been the reward for what he gave," Dr. Roberts said.

He said, "I've tried to give the best that I could and everything I could for a better Bahamas.

"So, I am very pleased, I am honoured, I feel privileged and I am humbled to be given such a high award."

Dr. Roberts additionally expressed his gratitude to the

people of the Bahamas.

"I think the government gave me this on behalf of the people of the Bahamas. So who I really want to thank, is the people of The Bahamas for recognizing the accomplishments they feel I have made."

Recently, Father Sebastian

Campbell Jr. spoke out about the awards and expressed his anger towards them, stating that honourees ought to reject the awards.

Father Campbell feels that the Queen's honour is inferior and that the country should uphold the National Awards instead, which he

feels is in higher esteem.

In response to Father Campbell's remarks, Dr. Roberts said, "First of all, I support Father Campbell and the long journey he has made in trying to create National Honours, I agree.

"This particular honour from my understanding of it

is given by the Bahamian people.

"This is a representation of the Bahamian people at this point in time, so I welcome that," Dr. Roberts said.

Dr. Roberts further stated that he will welcome the time when National Honours are established.



▶ Dr. Robin Roberts will be receiving the Order of the British Empire Award (OBE) from the Queen. Photo: Rayvon Morrison

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CARICOM COMMISSION MEETS WITH ACTING PM

Members of the CARICOM Regional Commission on Marijuana paid a courtesy call yesterday, on Acting Prime Minister, K. Peter Turnquest.

The regional commission is in town for a town hall meeting to be held today at Holy Trinity Activity Centre.

The objectives of the Regional Commission on Marijuana are to conduct a rigorous enquiry into the social, economic, health and legal issues surrounding marijuana use in the Caribbean.

The group will attempt to determine whether there should be a change in the current drug classification of marijuana, thereby making the drug more accessible for all types of usage (religious, recreational, medical and research), and to recommend, if there is to be a re-classification, the legal and administrative conditions that apply.

The Bahamas is not the first CARICOM Member State in which Commissioners have held consulta-

tions.

Commissioners most recently held consultations in Guyana in November 2017, and Antigua and Barbuda in May 2017.

The meeting which was held at the Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Centre, brought together Bahamas Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency Reuben Rahming; His Excellency Joshua Sears, former Bahamas Ambassador to the United States, who now serves as government Senior Policy Advisor and Mr. Jack Thompson, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, along with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Regional Commission on Marijuana was established by the decision of the Twenty-Fifth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in March 2014 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Commission is headed by Professor Rose Marie Bell-Antoine, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and is composed of practitioners with expert knowledge in a variety of disciplines, including medicine and allied health, health research, law enforcement, ethics, education, anthropology/sociology/culture.

Professor Bell-Antoine led the contingent of Commissioners and was accompanied by Dr. Alana Griffith (Barbados), Dr. Maxine Gossell-Williams (Jamaica), Mr. Dornah Harrison (Jamaica), Ms. Esther Best (Trinidad and Tobago) and Dr. Kishore Shallow (St. Vincent and the Grenadines). Bahamian, Bishop Simeon Hall also serves as a Commissioner.

The Commissioners were accompanied by Ms. Beverly Reynolds, CARICOM Staff Coordinator, and Ms. Anna Lisa Jones-Reis, CARICOM Staff Project Officer.

POLICE SEARCH FOR MISSING TEEN GIRL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

According to Police reports, the teen is of a dark brown complexion, slim built and stands between 5feet 7inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall. She was last seen on by family on Saturday.

Anyone with information on Williams' whereabouts is asked to contact the police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-tips.

Police are also aggressively searching for a male suspect responsible for a shooting that occurred late Tuesday night that left one man in hospital.

Reports are that shortly after 11pm on Tuesday January 2, a man was standing outside a residence on St. John's road, Pinewood Gardens when he was approached by a man who was armed with a firearm.

The suspect shot the man before running off.

The victim was taken to hospital where he is listed in stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.



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