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WEDNESDAY - MAY 16TH, 2018

75 CENTS

Minister And Union Leader In Conflict

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Transport Frankie Campbell, responsible for the General Post Office and Bahamas Public Services Union President Kimsley Ferguson experienced some friction on yesterday's decision to allow post office workers short work days.

This disagreement followed a power outage at the East Street post office that worsened by the fact that there were no batteries for the building's backup generator.



▶ Minister of Transport Frankie Campbell (Journal file photo)

■ See UNION LEADER / page 2...

Key Witness In Smith's Trial Tested On Loan

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Various outbursts and frustration of the prosecution's key witness Barbara Hanna marked yesterday's trial in the ongoing bribery and extortion case of former Chairman of the Public Hospitals Authority, Frank Smith. She told the court that the truth will come out at the end of the trial.

Defense attorney, Keith Knight QC, insisted during cross-examination that Mrs. Hanna was "not a truthful person", particularly regarding her responses to his questions.

■ See KEY WITNESS IN SMITH'S on PAGE 2...



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest (Journal file photo)

CLICO POLICY HOLDERS STILL HOPEFUL

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Very little has been said about CLICO in recent months, but years after the insurance company flopped, thousands of its policyholders are still holding on to hope that there will be some resolution.

■ See CLICO POLICY / page 2...

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LEAVES ONE DEAD

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Police are investigating a late night traffic accident that left one man dead and another injured in Grand Bahama Monday night.

The incident happened shortly before 11pm on the Warren J. Levarity Highway which involved a group of male pedestrians and a grey Plymouth Voyager.

Quite a number of accidents occur on the Warren J. Levarity Highway and officers have also advised driv-

ers in the past to review the Driver's Manual to ensure that they are conscious of the rules of the road.

Police said that one of the pedestrians died on the scene and the other was rushed into the Rand Memorial Hospital listed in serious condition.

Authorities caution all motorists to always drive with care and attention to avoid accidents.

In the past, Grand Bahama police have conducted road check exercises on the highway in an effort to keep the streets safe.

STUDENTS FROM LONG ISLAND CHAT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT CABINET OFFICE



▶ Students of grades five and six, and teachers, of Lower Deadman's Cay Primary School in Long Island visited the Cabinet Office in Churchill Building on Monday, May 14, 2018. The group had the opportunity to chat with Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (seated centre left) at the table, while Cabinet Ministers of the government looked on. (BIS Photos/Peter Ramsay)

MINISTER WANTS TO DOUBLE FOOD PRODUCTION

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

A two-day convention is planned for farmers to discuss the way ahead, according to Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Renward Wells.

This as the government continues to push to reduce the country's food

import bill of \$1 plus billion a year. "We are now going to have a two-day conclave, a convention for farmers in the country, where we speak to them about the new scientific kind of production processes that's available to them whether its green house, hydroponics, aquaponics, all of these things to show that [by] backyard farming, they can produce

more from what they currently have," Wells said.

Minister Wells said there was a disconnect between farmers, fishermen and the government which required a strategic reset.

"We are only producing eight per cent, if I can double that to 16 per cent, imagine what that means for the economic impact of money stay-

ing in the country, even if I could increase it to 20 per cent," he said.

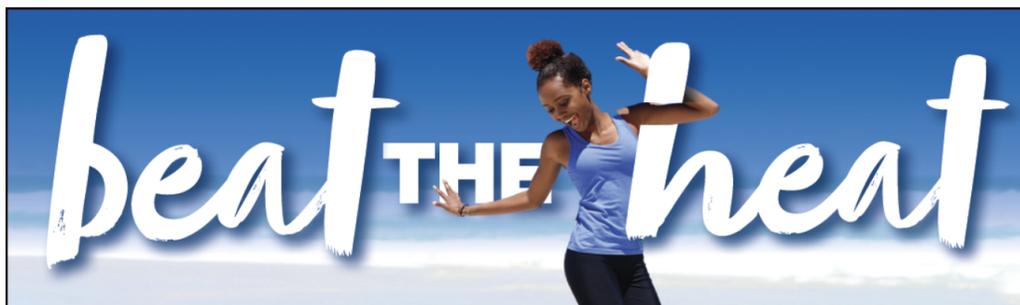
"So I see myself as laying the foundation first and then bringing greater efficiency to agriculture and the exact same thing I'm going to do with the fishermen.

"We're having a meeting with the fishermen and then in June we're going to have a two-day convention

with the fishermen, so that we can let them know about new techniques," Wells said.

When asked his ministry's plans to cut out the middle man when it comes to the importing of food, the minister said they're dealing with it holistically.

■ See MINISTER WANTS / page 2...



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STUDENTS FROM LONG ISLAND CHAT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT CABINET OFFICE



► Students of grades five and six, and teachers, of Lower Deadman's Cay Primary School in Long Island visited the Cabinet Office in Churchill Building on Monday, May 14, 2018. The group had the opportunity to chat with Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (seated centre left) at the table, while Cabinet Ministers of the government looked on. (BIS Photos/Peter Ramsay)

Minister And Union Leader In Conflict

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The decision was ultimately made to minimize the post office's operating hours from 8:30 am to noon until further notice, but Mr. Ferguson has an issue with the fact that he was not consulted.

Minister Campbell said, "I feel that there is a need to consult if there is a problem that is not being resolved. The matter was being resolved. The Ministry of Works, who is the authority on matters of that nature, was satisfied that it was safe for the people to be there; and I acted based on their advice."

He added, "I want to say to the staff at the post office and general public that this minister and this ministry is actively pursuing all possibilities to ensure that they are in a safe environment and that they are able to produce what the public needs."

The minister further noted that considering the East Hill Street facility is old, more issues are to be expected.

He also said, "the questions continue to come, 'are they going to the new location?'. They will move to the new location once we have taken possession of the building, which we have not done.

It is only upon taking possession of the building that we will be able to go in and inspect and do a costing."

He added, "it is only after the costing that the work will be done, and it's only after the work is done that we will move, but I think in earnest people should be satisfied that there is a serious movement towards that, as opposed to where we would have been a year ago, and I'm of the opinion that the president of the union should be happy with where we are."

The minister said he cannot give a specific date on when staff will be able to

move to the new post office location. However he said that the government expects to receive a "letter of possession" any day now.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The Treasurer of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is conducting a new vendor verification exercise to prepare for an upgrade to its digital payment processing system on **June 15**. This will affect all individuals and businesses providing goods and services to the Government.

It is very important for all vendors to participate in this verification exercise so they do not experience any discontinuation of payments. Failure to participate in the vendor verification process will result in the discontinuation of payments.

Vendors must **submit or confirm banking information and email contact information** with the Public Treasury. This must be done by completing a Vendor Verification Form, available online (Go to www.bahamas.gov.bs, go to Forms top left click on vendor verification form and download).

For the past three years, the Public Treasury has been transitioning away from the use of cheque payments and other manual processes. This year, the Treasury plans to eliminate cheque payments all together. Payments will be made by direct deposit. And as of **July 1**, all notifications of payments will be sent by email. This will allow vendors to receive immediate notification when payments are sent to their accounts.

Vendor Verification Process

1. Download Vendor Verification Form
2. Complete Form and Email to controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs
3. Or Fax to 397-5098

Vendor verification forms can also be obtained at the Treasury Department in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco or by request via email controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs, and hand delivered at the Public Treasury, East & North Streets (opposite the Police Head-quarters, East Street)

Vendor Verification Information Required

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- b) Email Address
- c) Tax Identification Number (TIN)

For further details, please contact the Public Treasury Department at the following telephone numbers: 242-356-4219, 242-302-0534 or 242-302-0545 242-302-0525.

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

CLICO POLICY HOLDERS STILL HOPEFUL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Minnis administration has followed the lead of previous governments in trying to make both policy and annuity holders whole.

However, liquidators agreed just earlier this year to cease the medical insurance component; a decision that affects hundreds. The cancellations take effect Friday, May 18, 2018.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest acknowledged this was just unsustainable.

"We're finding that the level of claims just far outweighs the amount of premium income and it just became unsustainable for the government to subsidize that differential, but we continue with our commitment to make the existing life and annuity policy holders at whole, as much as that budget allows us to do that," Turnquest said.

The Minnis-led administration budgeted \$10 million to pay out the funds owed to CLICO policyholders during the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!

Key Witness In Smith's Trial Tested On Loan

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mrs. Hanna on the defensive, adamantly denied not being truthful and stated that she was truthful, and that God will reveal the truth.

"I stand here and tell you today that I am sir! God will prove the truth in this court. When it's all over, the truth will be revealed in Jesus name!

"I stand here today in the name of Jesus and I decree, and I declare the truth and nothing but the whole truth, so help me God I speak the truth," Mrs. Hanna said.

Mrs. Hanna was being questioned regarding testimony that she had given November 30, 2017, when she told the court that she did not recognize a signature on a cheque that son had gotten after being granted a loan by Pouland Limited, a lending company owned by Smith's family.

When asked yesterday, if she had ever seen her son's signature, Mrs. Hanna responded "no," stating that when she was shown a document last year, the signature that was referenced to her was not clear.

Mrs. Hanna testified that she did not sign for a loan with her son Adrian Hanna, but instead only signed documents acknowledging receipt of a cheque for \$3,000 because she was asked to do so by Mr. Smith to ensure repayment of the loan, because her son could no longer have salary deductions as he has resigned from his government job.

Mrs. Hanna was also again questioned about Edgar Hanna, whom she denied knowing in November last year. Yesterday, she acknowledged that she had put in the name as it was her husband.

When pressed about her denial of knowing him last year, Mr. Knight repeated from the court transcripts what Mrs. Hanna had stated last year. He then advised her that she had denied knowing the name as a result of being frustrated.

Mrs. Hanna was further questioned on Tenders she submitted for cleaning several healthcare facilities in particular the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, which she had put in a bid for \$2,376,405. Mrs. Hanna acknowledged that she had put in a bid for the project, but she was not awarded the contract.

It was during this line of questioning that frustrated Mrs. Hanna to another out-

burst.

"Whatever it is that is being presented to hide what is the truth; it will come forth. Edgar Hanna do not have nothing and no bearing to do with the \$5,000.

"It was not disbursed between that, my mortgage has nothing to do with that, all these things that are being presented to me and last year, has no bearing with the \$5,000.

"I give Mr. Smith \$5,000 when I paid the loan for my son. Sir with all respect, I refuse to allow people to make me look like I'm stupid, or I'm simple, or I don't understand. But the truth about the matter is I gave him \$5,000 and he know and he's sitting here today, and he know that I gave him \$5,000 in cash.

"The bad part about it is he did not sign as proof to say he received it and I do not have a paper trail; that's the thing about it, but I give him \$5,000 from after I get the first payment from the contract at PMH up to April, I gave him the last \$5,000. In May I didn't give him none," Mrs. Hanna said.

She charged that he had called her for it, but she did not go to him.

"I Barbara Hanna went to Mr. Smith office on Village Road every time after my checked cleared, three days after and I present him with the envelop and only me and him be in that office and the doors closed," Mrs. Hanna said.

To her outburst, Mr. Knight called a recitation

Calling her outburst a recitation, Mr. Knight told Hanna "the only thing that you recite as a recitation is that you gave him \$5,000. Every other aspect that you can be challenged on you have lied," Mr. Knight said.

Mr. Knight questioned the credibility of the prosecution's key witness.

The prosecution alleges that Mrs. Hanna, the owner of Magic Touch Cleaning, paid Smith \$5,000 per month as he allegedly used his position as Chairman of PHA to help her company get a contract of a little over \$500,000 to clean the Critical Care Block at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mrs. Hanna last took the stand in December. However, not much was able to be done because the defense did not have certain documents.

The trial resumes today at 10am.

MINISTER WANTS TO DOUBLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I would say that we have foreign labour, we have a vast pool of persons who are here illegally already that we're going to seek to have to do something with and about

how we regularize them.

"We have a lot of persons in Andros already, who are living in Andros, who are a part of farms, farms that have gone bust, who are still in Andros on some of that land, and the government is looking

as to how we deal with that situation in a very holistic and humanitarian kind of way."

Minister Wells comments came while a guest on the weekly talk show Nation Building, with host Winston Pinnock.



► The Hon. Frankie Campbell Minister of Transport and Local Government takes a ride in the Formula One race simulator at the Mall at Marathon located outside Kelly's House & Home entrance on Saturday, May 12. Staged in honour of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week, the exhibit was hosted by the Bahamas Motor Sports Association; the FIA, the governing body for motor sports world-wide; the Ministry of Transport, and the National and Junior Road Safety Committees.

Road Safety Exhibit Shifts Driving Culture

When Frankie Campbell was a first grader at William Gordon Primary School he was hit by a car while crossing Wulff Road. Frightened, the six-year-old returned home. Too afraid to tell his mother he kept the news a secret until the pain in his left leg grew unbearable, forcing him to speak up.

"I'm grateful it wasn't worse than that, but it could have been," said Mr. Campbell, the Minister of Transport and Local Government. "I'm privileged to be in a position where I could help prevent that from happening to somebody else."

Mr. Campbell's comments came on the sidelines of a road safety exhibit held at the Mall at Marathon on Saturday, May 12, in commemoration of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week, an initiative backed by the FIA, the governing body for motor sports world-wide;

the Ministry of Transport; the Bahamas Motor Sports Association, and the National and Junior Road Safety Committees.

Citing the two dozen or so traffic fatalities occurring this year the Minister is troubled by road deaths mounting almost as quickly as homicides which numbers around 30.

"For every person who dies there is a family affected," said Mr. Campbell, a retired police force officer who spent 29 years in law enforcement. "What is worse, we don't hear about the persons who don't die, but become disabled or totally dependent on constant care. Those numbers we don't hear about because they do not make headlines."

A ride in the Formula One race simulator, which sat just outside Kelly's House & Home entrance, drove home the message that texting and driving do not mix. Across the

globe, distracted driving – mostly due to texting – is contributing to a spike in traffic fatalities. According to world stats, a child dies on his or her way to school every 30 seconds.

■ See ROAD SAFETY / page 4...

MAN MURDERED IN DRIVEBY SHOOTING

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Another family is left without a father as a result of a fatal shooting in the capital Monday evening.

The shooting took place off Robinson Road while a group of men were standing in front of a barber shop on Fourth Street, the Grove after 10pm.

A white Nissan March pulled up and an occupant of the vehicle opened fire hitting one of the men who has since been identified as Jason Edgecombe aka "Lyrics".

Paramedics were called, but the victim died on the scene.

Sexual Assault On Teen Girls Investigated

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Police are investigating two sexual assaults involving minors.

The incidents which allegedly took place within the Englerston Community on May 5th and May 14th, involves young girls according to the police.

Authorities are asking

anyone with information as to the identification of the accused to call 919 or 911 urgently.

These incidents come less than a week after a 65-year-old former teacher pleaded not guilty to the indecent assault of three minors.

Garfield Hepburn was granted bail in the amount of \$7,500.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

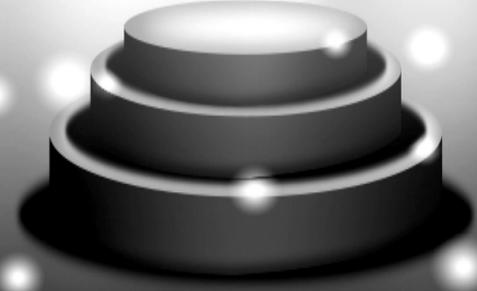
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Road Safety Exhibit Shifts Driving Culture

Continued from / PAGE 3...

At the legal speed limit of 30 mph, a car travels 44 feet every second so just glancing at a cell phone can easily cause an accident resulting in injury, or worse.

"People texting while driving is absolutely lethal," said event organizer David McLaughlin, FIA representative and president of the Bahamas Motor Sports Association. "Kids have a tremendous influence on their

parents so we hope that they return home and take the message of the 10 Golden Rules of Road Safety."

Those leaflets were distributed by the Junior Road Safety Officers to members of the public browsing the mall Saturday. The group of fourth and fifth graders of Columbus Primary School and Gavin Tynes Primary School hope to change a driving culture for the better.

"Drivers do not often observe rules and regulations as it

relates to road safety," said Ross Smith, Road Traffic Controller. "This is the beginning, I think, to get people aware and more importantly ensure that our children are safe on the streets."

After test driving the simulator Mr. Campbell came to a startling realization. "I'm not as good a driver as I thought I was. I'll practice some more and get it right," he assured. "Through the simulator I'm satisfied that our youngsters will get a real feel of what it's

like to be on the road."

The Ministry of Transport has adopted the slogan, "Road Safety Is Everybody's Business All The Time."

"We understand the importance of road safety and know how vital it is for children, particularly those who walk to school, to understand the importance of road safety," said Royal Bahamas Defence Force officer, Delvonne Duncombe who came out to support the exhibit.

Through an EduKarting part-

nership, Lieutenant Duncombe will oversee the popular go-kart program's delivery to junior and senior high school students enrolled in the RBDF Rangers (junior marines) on New Providence and the Family Islands.

Said Lieutenant Duncombe: "It's important to focus on the pedestrian role in road safety for our younger kids, but equally important to focus on road safety as it relates to teen drivers on and off the race course."

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Participants will be assessed on a quarterly basis and must meet all the requirements of the program to be retained in the Apprenticeship Program. Come Grow With Us! Because at Fidelity "We're Good For You!"

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20th, 2018

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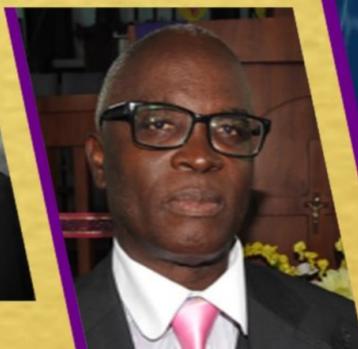
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NASSAU, BAHAMAS

“MEASUREMENT OF MY SUCCESS—HOW I SHARE MONEY”

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.

“My measurement of my success was not about how much money I made. I never really measured my success that way. I measure my success on what I could do and how I could share it.” Peter Nygard

It makes sense, doesn't it? It makes sense that fashion mogul Peter Nygard strongly believes that the measure of his success is how much he shares his money.

This explains why he has donated 22 million dollars to cancer over the years. It explains why he has donated millions of dollars to various causes in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It also explains why he has returned to the country of his birth, Finland and donated to the veteran causes there.

By his measurement, based on the millions of dollars Nygard has donated around the world he is pretty successful.

It is really interesting to note his perspective on money. For those of us who have never been there, never made millions of dollars, it is a bit difficult for us to compute the idea of giving away millions.

Nevertheless, Peter Nygard's views on money and success are admirable.

For example, when he was twenty-six years old, he once told a reporter who wanted to know if he was aiming to become a millionaire by age thirty, “I don't think about becoming a millionaire. I just think about doing a better job the next day.”

When asked about his next level goal in terms of the amount of millions he wanted to make, Nygard said, “The number itself is not so magical. Even the billion-dollar number is not that much different to us than when we were at \$100 million. It's just the next level.”

Additionally, he has said the following. “For me, it was never about the toys. It's about being the best. When I was at Eaton's and I had to sweep the floors, I was going to be the best at it. All those toys came as a consequence. I never envisioned the plane, the boat, an island paradise. That was never important to me because I didn't come from that lifestyle. I

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.

came from a little coal shack with an outhouse and no running water. For me, it was always about being the best at everything that I do.”

What does this tell us about Peter Nygard? It tells us where his focus is. He is focused on always being the best and that has brought about his success in terms of the millions that he has made.

However, to achieve the level of success that he has, obviously it's not as simple as 'being the best'. Nygard is quite strategic about it. He has said, “I'm going to find the guy who knows the most about it, who is the best at it, and be better than him.”

Now that approach will definitely take you to the summit of any endeavour. In addition to that approach though, Nygard has several characteristics that serve to give him an advantage over others without these characteristics.

Peter Nygard believes that nothing is impossible, that grit and determination will get you to your goal, that if 16-hour days are required, that's what you do.

In everything he does he is the perfectionist because he wants to be the best; so he is always focused on continuous improvement. Nygard is also detail oriented and pays attention to the minute details of every single thing he works on.

Because of these attributes, his approach, and his attitude toward everything he does and achieves, it appears that financial success will always be inevitable.

And because of his kind-heartedness, success—in terms of his measurement of how much he shares his money—will always be tenfold.

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

SPEAKING HIS MIND

“The Free National Movement should have no problem with nobody protesting because after all they are people, and it's the people's time.”

As the public record reveals, McAlpine is reported to have said that the FNM government's performance has been disappointing.

Evidently, this is that man's opinion! One angry man who is apparently a strong supporter of the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis has by way of letter to an editor has claimed that:-- "...The Pineridge MP, Reverend Frederick A. McAlpine hardly has anything good to say about the Minnis administration..."

Whilst this angry letter writer does have a right to his opinion, we dare suggest that this man may well be totally mistaken when he suggests that:-- "...In his campaign to tear down the government, McAlpine has conflated constructive criticism with destructive criticism..."

This we do not get; and indeed, the conclusion we have reached - after listening in to all of McAlpine's critiques and criticisms- we have concluded that he spoke as he did precisely because he was responding - as is to be expected of the conscientious parliamentarian - to demands directed his way by his constituents.

At issue are those various and sundry suggestions to the effect that, this pesky critic must be stopped; that he should be made to pay for his effrontery, his gall and apparently for the fact that, not only did he find the gumption to have his say - as a member of parliament - but that he also managed [so to speak] to get under his leader's skin.

And thus Frederick A. McAlpine spoke as he unburdened himself of opinion said to be adverse to the current administration's perception of itself--and thus today, some commentary on what seems nought but a tasty little teapot filled with exaggeration and tainted with fear.

And thus, clearly:-- This intrepid parliamentarian -apparently disappointed by what he said his party did not do or could not achieve in its first year in office- has spoken to the matter and in doing so, did suggest that while the players may have been shuffled in and out of office, an old and now worn

script is still the order of the day. And so today, we return - as it were - to look in on how some big names in the Free National Movement now think of a man who was their choice just one year ago.

In order of priority, then, please note that:-- Prime Minister Hubert Minnis warned party members not to attack each other or criticise the government's efforts publicly because it would prop up the opposition's campaign.

Wow! One man allowed to speak and with that, shades of apocalypse now--[members warned] not to attack each other or criticize the government's efforts [publicly] because it would prop up the opposition's campaign!

The truth of the matter is this:-- The Campaign is over; the Free National Movement is large and in charge! Why then, this fear of the opposition? Have they not been decisively trounced?

Why, then, all of that anger hurled the way of Reverend Frederick A. McAlpine?

But yet, what we know for sure is this:-- Lots of quite ordinary people just love it when someone or the other plucks up the courage and insists that he has something on his mind that might lead - once ventilated - to some good that matters to the community at large!

Reverend Frederick A. McAlpine is one such man!

Whilst making a protest in Rawson Square, this Member of Parliament said that:-- All Bahamians have the right to hold the government to account on national matters. You have a right to protest, once you do so decently and in order. You have a right to hold your government accountable and transparent, and we should have no problem..."

We agree with him as he speaks what we know to be a series of truths that go well beyond party-loyalty and cheesy-designed public relations stunts.

And thus, today, we insist that: We find no real fault in how and where this good man spoke as he did on matters germane to his role as a law-maker in this country.

May he continue to speak his mind in the morning, at high-noon and in the evening also, if needs be!

Letter to the Editor Editorial False Claims

Dear Editor,
I read with interest a Nassau Guardian editorial titled, "Carnival continues, as it should", dated May 4, 2018, and thought I should respond to two glaringly false claims made therein. Time does not allow me to respond to more.

First, while making what is clearly a bad case for the continuation of carnival, the editorial writer makes a false claim that "the road march dancing is the same you'd see at any party hosted by young Caribbean people." Further, he wrote that "those who think otherwise do not get out enough." While all of the parties hosted by young Caribbean people that the editorial writer attended may very well have had the same dancing as displayed on the carnival road march, the editorial writer is in no position to universalize because he has not attended all parties hosted by all young Caribbean people. There are parties hosted by young Caribbean people that do not reflect anything close to road march dancing; I and others attended some. So, perhaps it's the editorial writer who needs to get out more and experience parties hosted by young Caribbean people where debauchery, vulgarity, and lewdity, all of which are signature marks of the carnival road march, are absent.

Connected to that false claim, I believe the editorial writer also makes a false comparison. I'm tentative on this point because the parties hosted by young Caribbean people that the editorial writer attended may very well have had women wearing G-strings and thongs and nothing more than patches on the nipples of their breasts, and they may have been wining and jiggling and twerking and jerking their bare bottoms on the genitals of men (conduct typically engaged in during carnival road marches). But I doubt it. At best, it seems more reasonable that even if the style of dancing at those parties matched road march dancing, the women at those parties wore clothes. So, to compare dancing in both contexts is a false comparison, all in a futile attempt to make what happens in carnival seem normal.

The second false claim the editorial writer makes is that in The Bahamas we live in a secular democratic society. While I agree with the editorial writer that we live in a democratic society, I strongly disagree that our democracy is of a secular kind. According to the Cambridge Academic

Content Dictionary, the word "secular" means "not having any connection with religion". Clearly, The Bahamas has a very strong connection with the Christian religion, so I'm at a loss as to how the editorial writer can make the false claim that we are a secular democratic society.

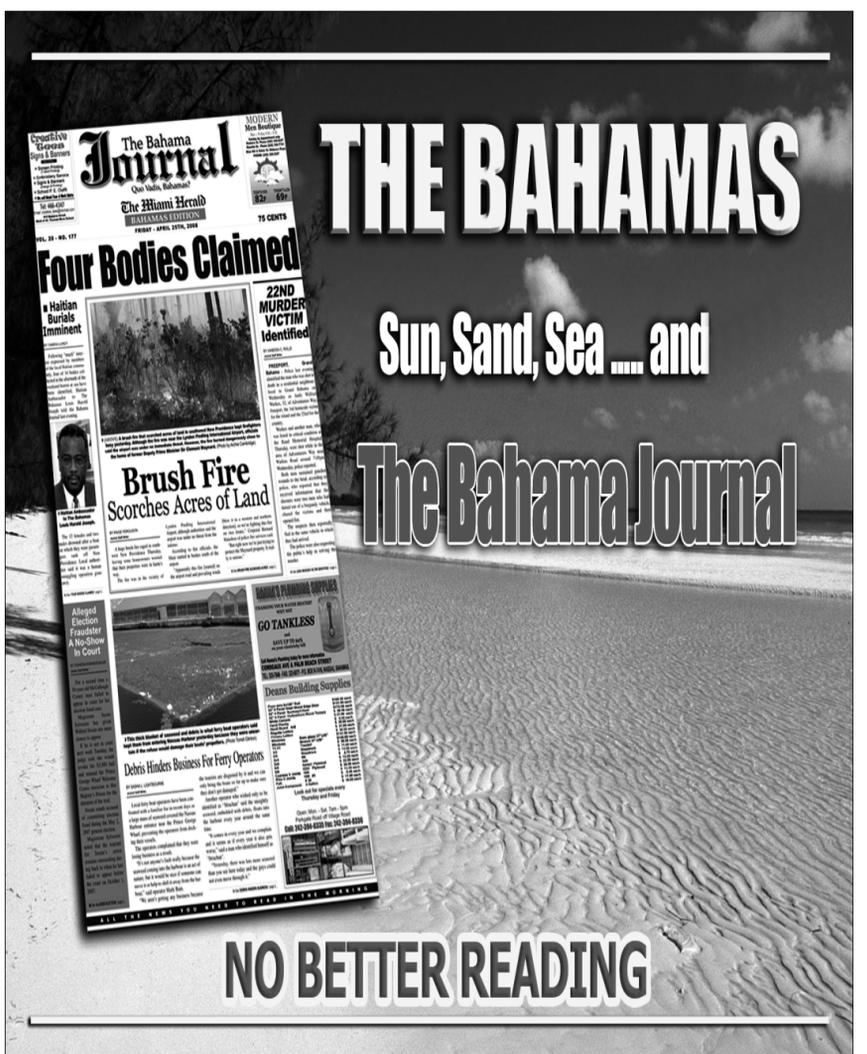
Officially, the best evidence of the kind of democracy we have is found in our constitution, and the word secular is not even mentioned there. On the other hand, the preamble to our constitution states that we as a people recognize that the preservation of our freedom will be guaranteed by an abiding respect for Christian values, among other things. Secularism is not listed among those other things.

Further, the preamble to our constitution states that we recognize the supremacy of God and that we agree for the articles of our constitution to provide for the indivisible unity and creation under God of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. I have no doubt that the editorial writer knows the content of our constitution's preamble. Why then does he ignore it and say that we live in a secular democratic society?

Many people are surprised to learn that, in The Bahamas, the observation of worship and the teaching of religion in government-maintained schools are mandated by law. The Education Act requires that "the school day in every maintained school shall begin with collective worship on the part of all pupils in attendance at the school" and that "religious instruction shall be given in every maintained school" (Section 17). In addition, every session of Parliament opens with Christian prayers, and the same is true for virtually every official function or meeting in government ministries and departments, and on government appointed boards.

So why does the editorial writer make the false claim that we live in a secular democratic society? Could it be that he is expressing his wish rather than making a claim? Perhaps in a future editorial, he should tell us. And at the same time, he should tell us if he has seen people attend parties hosted by young Caribbean people dressed like those who go to the carnival road march (especially the females).

Yours sincerely,
Pastor Cedric Moss



THE BAHAMAS

Sun, Sand, Sea ... and

The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

Clippings include: "Four Bodies Claimed", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", "GO TANKLESS", "Deans Building Supplies", "Alleged Election Fraudster A No-Show In Court".