

George Weech

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

In 1967 Glen Rolle, now deceased decided to adopt in honour of his daughter Glenda a 3.5 mile race along the streets of North Bimini from Porgy Bay to Alice Town now called the Glenda's Road Race. This year the 44<sup>th</sup> version of that race was held sponsored by his son Glenrick Rolle and the children and widow of Glen. Fred Mitchell MP has been the marshal of the race for at least a decade but this year he decided to run in the race and ended up coming ninth overall. The photo of the week then is the class picture of the runners as they pose for the start of the Glenda's Road Race in Porgy Bay, Bimini.

## COMMENT OF THE WEEK

### EVERYTHING IS BROKEN

*Seem like every time you stop and turn around  
Something else just hit the ground  
Broken cutters broken saws  
Broken buckles broken laws  
Broken bodies broken bones  
Broken voices on broken phones  
Take a deep breath feel like you're chokin'  
Everything is broken.*

*Bob Dylan*

You would be forgiven as you travel around this country, in and to this country, if you did not get the impression that everything in The Bahamas is broken. Nothing works the way it's supposed to work. You will see In Passing below that Barbados is now amongst the ranks of the developed countries. The Bahamas has not even set it as a goal. The

closest that we have come is that an internal committee of the PLP has adopted as a goal in its paper Vision 2020 that this country become a developed country by the year 2020.

Part of being a developed country is the reliability of its systems. The ability to deliver goods and services in a fair, certain and rational way and on time. Today's comment fixes itself on the question of time. It asks the question: how the FNM can fix on the PLP and its leader the bit about being late again when everything in this country is late. Nothing runs on time. The people themselves seem to have an inner resistance to doing anything on time.

This is one politician's story in the space of 48 hours:

Bahamasair:

Departure is scheduled from Miami on Bahamasair Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. This is the first flight out of Miami. The first flight is supposed to leave Nassau at 6:30 a.m., arrive at 7:30 a.m. and turn around and depart Miami at 8:10a.m. That is what the schedule says. There is a meeting scheduled in Nassau on the eastern side of the island of New Providence for 10:30 a.m. If the plane arrives as scheduled in Nassau at 9:10 a.m. with no customs declarations and baggage to clear, it should be possible to make the meeting for 10:30 a.m. with a 45 minute drive from the Lynden Pindling International Airport. Check in is fine. No mention of a late departure, although it must have been known at the time of check in that the departure would have been late. The time of check in is the time of the departure from Nassau to Miami; it is the aircraft on the Nassau to Miami run that will fly the flight back to Nassau. At 8:10 a.m. the time for departure from Miami arrives and the plane is just parking at the gate in Miami. The actual departure time, wheels up Miami, at 9:10 a.m., one hour late. It seems like Bahamasair

should have a permanent recording that says “we are sorry for the late departure and any inconvenience caused”. If you have time to spare fly Bahamasair.

#### Western Air:

This is the airline that Rex Rolle of Andros invented in North Andros to compete with Bahamasair. It had a reputation of flying bang on time, using these little 19 seater planes that resembled bullets and using foreign pilots that could barely speak English. But it got the job done If you wanted to get somewhere on time, just switch to Western Air. Don't depend on it being minutes late because they would leave you if you did not get there on time. That's the kind of airline you like. But now several years later, having upgraded to fancy new planes and all, they can't seem to get anywhere on time. Flight is to depart from Bimini Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August Nassau. No sign of the plane at its departure time at 9 a.m. No announcement. Finally one comes at 9:10. The plane is at the gate says the agent and once cleaned and refueled, they will board. Wheels up at 9:45 a.m. Forty five minutes late. The passengers who have only Western Air to depend on for Bimini to Nassau just accept it what can they say or do about it. Next morning. Departure time scheduled Bimini to Nassau for 9:30 a.m. At 8:30 a.m. as passengers arrive for check in there is no agent at the counter. The agent arrives at 9 a.m. The passengers mutter complaints then laugh. The plane says the agent will not be departing Nassau until 9:45 a.m. That means that the arrival cannot be before 10:30 a.m. Problem there is a funeral in Nassau for 11 a.m. A 9:30 a.m. departure from Bimini had it been on time, it would have gotten the passenger in at 10:15 a.m. and he could have gotten some of the funeral. But too bad. Wheels up Bimini 10:45 a.m. The plane's departure is one hour late. Arrival in Nassau 11:30 a.m.

## Sky Bahamas

It appears that there are few complaints about Sky Bahamas save that people are wary that they are expanding too fast and trying to take on Bahamasair with low prices, competing against an airline that has the public treasury as its backer. Then there are the stories about the financial stability of its foreign owner who newspaper reports say may be in trouble over tax evasion in the United States. There is also the decision of its Managing Director Randy Butler to become a politician in a business that requires the support of all people from all parties. Does not seem a wise political move to make? Can he in fact pay attention to the work of running an airline while trying to get elected to the House of Assembly?

## Regulatory Oversight

So we have raised here the issue of time. We have raised here the issue of the issue of money and the investment and expansion plans of airlines. We did not mention the concern that there is with Western Air building a four million dollars building in Freeport, the decision to fly to Jamaica which had to be abandoned when Caribbean Airlines came back into the market and knock the prices out from under them, the decision to expand in all the markets with too few planes that is stretching their schedule and making them late and unable to serve the destinations on time. Is there sufficient, capable and watchful oversight in The Bahamas of the private sector airlines in The Bahamas? This is after all not the kind of equipment that if you have a breakdown, you simply pull over to the side of the road. When something goes wrong, the plane falls out of the sky with disastrous consequences following.

Late again? Politically why would anyone be concerned We are always late. In a country that seems everything is broken, that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Number of hits for the week ending Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 up to midnight:

Number of hits for the month of August up to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 up to midnight:

Number of hits for the year 2011 up to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 up to midnight:

## PERRY CHRISTIE ON RADIO TODAY

(file photo of Perry Christie)

Please tune in at 4:00pm to hear Hon Perry G. Christie on PARLIAMENT STREET on Island 102.9fm with Patty Beardsley Roker this afternoon . It is a call in show, so be ready with your questions and comments. Steady moves towards the re election of the PLP to PUTTING BAHAMIANS FIRST!

## THE UNEMPLOYMENT STORY IS TOLD OR “MIS-TOLD”

The Bahamas government’s Department of Statistics issued its household labour survey data on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August. It said that unemployment in The Bahamas was overall 13.7 per cent, down from 14.2per cent two years ago. This is incredulous and no one for a minute believes that it is accurate. The government added that the figure does not represent those who have stopped looking for work, the so called discouraged workers. When you add them to the figure you have 18.7 per cent. The figure in Grand Bahama is 15.4 per cent. We don’t believe the figures. We think that they under represent the facts. We

remember the phrase **Lies Damn Lies and Statistics**. In any event it does not paint a pretty picture. It is counter intuitive to suggest given all that we see and experience that the situation is not more dire than those stats suggest. The Department of Statistics strains its professional credibility by the incredulity of those figures just released. We in this column smelled a rat as soon as the Director of Statistics called a press conference a few weeks ago to explain the details and background of the survey which the Department was doing. She pleaded at the time that she was only doing so because of the extraordinary interest in the figures. We said we did not believe a word of it. Something was up. We think we now know what it is because she knew or suspected that the results would show that they should not be believed so they were softening up the opposition to these incredible figures. No doubt the government can crow and say, we told you things are getting better. But we ask them, better for whom? Not the people at the bottom rung of this society that cannot now even depend on the public service to give an accurate picture of the state of where we are.

## ALEX TELLS THE LONG ISLANDER'S STORY

(file photos of Alex Storr and Larry Cartwright MP)

*Rashōmon* is a 1950 Japanese crime mystery film directed by Akira Kurosawa. In that film, it demonstrates quite clearly that there can be three sides to every story. That is what you are now getting out of Long Island. Long Island is the island where the founder of the PLP was born. The late Sir Henry Milton Taylor represented Long island when he founded the PLP in 1953. It has always resisted the PLP and today is considered a safe seat for the FNM. But there is no doubt that there is wide spread disgruntlement with the performance of Larry Cartwright, the Minister of Agriculture and the incumbent. Bitter complaints everywhere. Some have said that the FNM will replace him. There is a

lot of noise in the market. The noise was so much that the Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham decided to make a trip there on 23<sup>rd</sup> July to give awards to their supporters. The story came back that the turnout was not good. The PLP will field a candidate there for the first time since 1997. Alex Storr is that candidate: a good , solid citizen with great PLP credentials. He is doing patient, quiet work on the island. Larry Cartwright was forced after the reports came back of a poor turnout at the meeting for Mr. Ingraham to issue a statement to the press saying that it was not so. We present reports of what the story is on Long Island from Mr. Storr's point of view ( [click here](#)) and then from Larry Cartwright, the incumbent FNM's point of view ( [click here](#)).

## **PLP Candidates Point Of View On Long Island**

**Published On:**Wednesday, August 03, 2011

LONG Island has been neglected by the government for far too long, Progressive Liberal Party candidate Alex Storr said.

The political newcomer said that a widespread lack of running water and a rundown airport at Deadman's Cay are two points of concern for the local population.

"The water is especially a sore point with the residents. It's one of the only issues that affects everyone. It's an essential service so cost should not be a factor - every single person deserves fresh clean water," Mr. Storr told The Tribune yesterday.

"The Deadman's Cay Airport is in a sore state not fitting for an airport. It hasn't been painted in a number of years. . . most of the time passengers have to wait outside because there's not enough space to hold people."

At the Free National Movement's Long Island Constituency Association banquet last week, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham told those attending some of their woes will be addressed by his administration.

Mr. Ingraham singled out the Deadman's Cay airport and the water supply problems for attention, but Mr. Storr said this is a little too late.

"I think the fact that Long Island has been left behind in this regard is a really sad case and it's really a down point of the FNM administration.

"It's not good enough to say that the project is an expensive one, and it's not enough to rush to do something before the election," he said.

According to Mr. Storr, Deadman's Cay is the only settlement on Long Island with running water while other areas must rely on water deliveries or private well systems.

"Not everyone can afford to put in a pump system or a well system," he said. "In Salt Pond, because there are so many hills and it's close to the salt water it is not feasible for them to put in private wells."

State Minister for the Environment Phenton Neymour told The Tribune that government is working to organise funding for an expansive water project to benefit the entire island.

"We were seeking funding for the water project down there.

"Long Island, like many of our Family Islands, has some distribution systems in some of its major settlements but there are settlements that still require distribution mains like Salt Pond and Clarence Town.



"We began redevelopment of the Family Islands many years ago putting in water mains with road works. There is a lot more work to be done - Long Island is one of them," he said.

## **Long Island MP FNM Larry Cartwright's Position**

**Published On:**Friday, August 05, 2011

SUPPORT for the FNM on Long Island remains strong, according to island MP Larry Cartwright.

Responding to claims that a recent awards ceremony on the island - which was administered by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham - was poorly attended, Mr. Cartwright said the reports had "no credence."

"We had seating for 229 chairs in there," said the Long Island and Ragged Island MP. "Roughly 12 to 13 chairs were empty. There were also persons milling about sitting, standing, walking around and many were standing outside.

"We had a full house."

Held at the Clarence Town community centre, it had been speculated that the alleged low turnout to the FNM's Long Island Constituency Association banquet signaled a decline in voter confidence.

Yesterday, Mr. Cartwright reaffirmed there were no concerns about party's support base on the island, which he claimed was building momentum.

"The opposition hasn't seated a candidate here since 1997," said Mr. Cartwright, "and their new candidate is unknown to Long Islanders, so they are going to have to do a lot of work. It will take them quite a while to bring back support."

Alex Storr is the PLP candidate for the area.

## THE DEFENCE OF FOX HILL IS MOUNTED

### FRED MITCHELL AND THE BIMINI RUN

We present additional photos from the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Glenda's Road Race in Bimini sponsored by the family of the late Glen Rolle, led by his son Glenrick. The race took place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August and is for three and a half miles from the clinic in North Bimini to the Chalk Airlines Ramp and finishing at the Glen Rolle's All My Children Hotel. Fred Mitchell MP for Fox hill participated in the run and came ninth overall.

### TWO BEC EXECUTIVES SUSPENDED

Bahamasuncensored.com has learned that the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's General Manager Kevin Basden at the instance of BEC Chairman Michael Moss suspended two Assistant General Managers one for Energy Zhavonne Cambridge and the other Mark Hudson, responsible for Family Islands. The two are blamed for the power shut down in Abaco which the Corporation said was because there was no fuel for the machines. That turns out not to be true and staff are wondering what the two men had to do with the issue. The two have hired hot shot lawyer Wayne Munroe and legal action is to ensue. Mr. Cambridge has been suspended for one week and Mr. Hudson for two weeks.

### KENDAL MAJOR ON THE MACKEY YARD

The PLP's candidate for Garden Hills Dr. Kendal Major makes the case for Bahamians first when it comes to land.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=p-qiN\\_DrCVc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=p-qiN_DrCVc)

## EMANCIPATION DAY FOX HILL PHOTOS

(three photos)

We present scenes from the 177<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Fox Hill of the emancipation of slaves in The Bahamas on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1834. The photos were taken on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

## MITCHELL ON EMANCIPATION DAY AND AFTERMATH

(file photo of Fred Mitchell)

Fred Mitchell MP for Fox Hill spoke at the ecumenical service to mark the 177<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in The Bahamas. Mr. Mitchell expressed his concern that on the day that is called Emancipation Day, few media establishments sought fit to come and see for themselves that Fox Hill is a safe and secure community for the Fox Hill Emancipation Day Festival. The Junkanoo turnout was depressed by the fear of crime, yet no public official gave voice to the safety and security of the public during this Festival. He said that we cannot surrender to criminals and a society ought to fight back at all times and places. He assured the public that the police have at the highest levels given attention to safety and security. He said that Fox Hill is the last community that celebrates the event that gave the day its name. He decried what he called attempts to "De-Africanize" the day. He said: "While it is good to plant trees on any day, that effort should not in any way be part, unwittingly or not, of an effort to De-Africanize the importance of this day or to change history, to make this day something which it is not." The excerpt follows:

*Good morning everyone.*

*It is once again my honour to be able speak to you as representative of the last community with the possible exception of Gambier in the country that celebrates an event which 177 years ago set this country on the path on which we find ourselves today. We are a free people today.*

*Let me apologise for the absence of the Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes. I spoke to himself and his wife Lady Foulkes they are both suffering the ill effects from dengue fever and regretfully are unable to be here this morning.*

*Many of our foremothers and forefathers fought for this day. That freedom from slavery came on 1st August 1834. That was a day that started the long march to majority rule in 1967 and to Independence in 1973. Along the way, there was Burma Road, founding of the country's first political party the PLP in 1953, the General Strike of 1958, Black Tuesday of 1965. But 1st August 1834 began it all.*

*It was a day of freedom first of all for people of African descent, but we say again that as long as one man is not free, all are slaves. Today we continue to fight to maintain our freedom.*

*I would also like at this time to pay tribute to all the women of this country who 50 years ago yesterday saw the fight for universal adult suffrage come to fruition, with the coming into force of the right of women to vote on 31st July 1961. That was 50 years ago.*

*I want to say that today is a day of solemn remembrance for a shameful period in the history of our country. So many of the issues which we face today in our country can be traced to that shameful period: the preoccupation in the country with skin colour; the status of people of colour; the discrimination which wrought so many issues in the nation's history. Today, I believe that our refusal to integrate the true history of our country into the fabric of the way we raise our children has led to so many of the problems of self esteem in our country today.*

*I remain concerned about the attempt by some to sanitize this holiday and to turn it into something else. While it is good to plant trees on any day, that effort should not in any way be part unwittingly or not to be part of an effort to De-Africanize the importance of this day or to change history, to make this day something which it is not. There is already too much of that in The Bahamas and we are paying a bitter price for it in so many ways.*

*The constitution of our country says in part the following:*

*We Do Hereby Proclaim in Solemn Praise the Establishment of a Free and Democratic Sovereign Nation founded on Spiritual Values and in*

*which no Man, Woman or Child shall ever be Slave or Bondsman to anyone or their Labour exploited or their Lives frustrated by deprivation...*

*This is one of the few parts of the constitution actually drafted by the Bahamian founders of the country. They did that for a reason. They were painfully aware of the history of slavery in our country. They wanted to be sure that the new country that they were founding would be cognizant of that history and pledge never to repeat it.*

*History does not dictate what we do. But what we do know is that if we teach the children the history, when they see it coming they will know what it is.*

*End*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(photo of Forrester Carroll)

Forrester Carroll writes this week that Zhivargo Laing who is the Minister of State for Finance is living in an air of unreality given the conditions in which people actually live in Freeport. He outlines some specific instances of the living conditions of the people who live in Grand Bahama:

*While Zhivargo Laing prances up and down like a “goat on a wooden floor,” with his fancy FNM government spin on how good the economy is improving here in Freeport and Grand Bahama; this city (and Island) continues to plunge deeper and deeper into the doldrums of economic deprivation. “The last man who leaves the city, please turn the lights off” is how one businessman summed it up when giving his two cents, in conversation with me recently, about the prospects (short and long term) for this Island. Following are examples of real life scenarios, depicting true unedited real life stories, of economically bad conditions, which really do exist right here under Laing’s nose.*

*On the campaign trail a house was visited, in “the back of town” which is in the Pineridge constituency; immediately, upon entering, the condition was obvious, even to the most intelligence-deprived individual. House full of kids; some graduated from school since last year but have not been able to find work. The daddy is the only one working in the family but his job is in the construction field and if he gets two or three days per week he feels lucky. Need I tell you that the electricity, water and telephone services are all disconnected, which also means that there is no garbage collection services either? The family thanks God that their stove operates on propane and not electricity, like most of them do in Freeport.*

*An apartment was visited, in the Coral Gardens area, and found virtually the same depraved conditions, only this family was worse off. There were a single mother and seven children, most of whom were girls of school age, living in a studio apartment. The mother was the only one earning a little money and she did so by selling whatever she could find to sell, on the side of the street in downtown Freeport. Crabs from Andros, she said, were her most popular item. One of her daughters, who goes to one of the high schools in the general vicinity, told of how*

*she has to sneak her mother's prepaid cell phone onto the school's premises (it's against the rules of the school for the children to bring cell phones with them on campus) have cell phones on them on to have the battery charged in order for them to have some way of communicating from home in the event of an emergency in the family. For this family, they would tell you that living is like going through hell each day; the eight of them are all bungled up in this one open room apartment, on the second floor of this dilapidated building, for which they are obliged to pay rent of \$250.00 per month. They have no privacy and for the kids it is difficult for them to concentrate on their school work; and to add insult to injury they have no electricity. As you can well imagine everything is rationing including the girls' hygiene items. Their mother literally struggles daily to pay the rent and put a little food on the table. These families are wondering if Zhivargo Laing still lives in Freeport.*

*In South Bahamia, where once only the affluent, middle to upper middle-class resided, a family was found to be living in almost ghetto-like conditions. Father lost his good job about a year ago and hasn't found any steady work since. The mother, thank God, still has her \$285.00 per week job but really doesn't know, she says, how long it would be before she loses it as she barely escaped the company's downsizing exercise a few months ago. Mortgage payments of \$2000.00 per month are constantly in arrears; two kids had to be taken out of private school and sent to a government institution. When it came to choosing which bills to pay and which to put a hold on; food, gas for the car (which is paid for thank God) water and other bare essentials for the family won out. Consequently they have no electricity and no telephone, except for a pre-paid cell phone which, the wife said is often short on minutes. The family seems to be anticipating, any day now, the mortgage company moving in to re-possess; the only thing they believe is holding them off is*



*the fact that they are paying a little on the bill and that is considered a better arrangement than to evict them and leave the house at the mercy of the vandals.*

*A family (sorry two families existing together) over in the Marco City constituency (Zhivargo Laing's area) is barely coping; they are hoping and praying that they will not all be thrown out into the streets. Two sisters, and their grown children, had to come together about a year ago because one of the sisters and her children were evicted from their rented apartment. Her husband, who was the only one working in the family, took ill and died of a sickness that she believes he could have recovered from if he had gone to the doctor when he first felt the pains, in his stomach, months before. When he couldn't hold out any longer, and scrapped enough money to pay for the doctor's visit, it was then too late. When the family was ordered to vacate their apartment, the other sister, who is paying mortgage, invited them to move in with her and her children until she could catch herself. They explained that the only one who was working, in this now two family household, was one of the host sister's daughter. The young lady had what she thought was a good, steady and secured job, at the "Our Lucaya Resort," until she found herself on the list of 202 persons who the hotel dismissed a couple months ago. Now since all are unemployed, the mortgage on the house is not being paid and all the utilities are disconnected. They are all just waiting to be evicted any day now and put on the streets. While Zhivargo Laing is running around the country talking foolishness, these are the prevailing conditions that exist in his own backyard and constituency. The families claim and maintain that the husband of the one sister, who died, didn't have to if only Hubert Ingraham and Zhivargo Laing had implemented the national health insurance that the PLP left to be implemented. They said that their loved one died because he just couldn't afford to attend the doctor any earlier. Needless to say that*

*those two families are cussing Ingraham and Laing and are waiting patiently, they say, for Laing to come to their door with his lies.*

*Our team campaigned in the Hanna Hill area of the eight mile rock constituency, last week. Among other horrible, inhumane conditions they found a single unemployed mother with two young children and really no way to care for them financially. She claimed that she was unemployed for months, since being laid off from her job. She told, as well, how she called on her representative (Verna Grant) to assist her in trying to find something to do. Verna promised, she said, to get back to her but never did. She claimed she kept calling Mrs. Grant but never got a response. She saw Mrs. Grant a couple times at different places in the Eight Mile Rock area but she (Mrs. Grant) acted as though she didn't know her. Thank God one of our team members was able to employ the lady, in his business, and she was extremely grateful for the opportunity to work. She is one of the lucky ones from among the thousands who are tonight in similar situations.*

*Four years into Laing's FNM Administration (2007-2011) already more than four hundred licensees (businesses) have discontinued doing business in Freeport, with a number of them being fairly large enterprises. Many of the former proprietors would tell you that their problems started just after the FNM took office and Ingraham began his carnage on signed contracts and Heads of Agreements consummated by the Christie Administration. Investors saw that Ingraham's Administration had no intentions of honouring deals made by Christie, for whatever reason, and they began phasing out their operations and leaving Freeport, albeit, some of them very quietly. As the slow process of decline took effect, it was suddenly realized that not enough was coming in to meet the companies' recurrent expenditure demands and so, it became most apparent that staff had to be reduced and so the*

*layoffs began and hasn't stopped. For many, after cutting staff members to the bare minimum and could do no more, then the light bills became the focus of their problem. Draconian measures had to be employed and so, instead of running air conditions, and burning all their lights all day, business establishments began cutting off all unnecessary lights and air conditions. When walking around, or visiting many of the establishments, you would find them with their doors and windows opened for ventilation. Those in the food and restaurant businesses would maintain only the freezing/cooling capacity necessary to prevent their stocks from going bad and even then for only a minimum amount of hours in the day. All this in an effort to reduce power consumption to try and remain open for business; however over the years 400 have succumbed to the hardships experienced under this FNM government. The \$2 store on Logwood Road and the dozens of roadside vendors, who litter the sidewalks in Freeport, nowadays, selling crabs and anything else one can find in the food stores, shoe stores and dress shops, are the busiest places in this once proud and sophisticated city. Everybody, especially those with children, are out looking for bargains every day, in an effort to make ends meet, while Laing and Ingraham feed, at the public trough, sumptuously daily.*

*These are but a few examples of what life and business is like in Freeport and Grand Bahama, for thousands of families and businesses, since the FNM government came to office in 2007. Ours is a deepening and widening, chronic problem, with no relief in sight anytime soon, and it is very obvious to me that Sir Jack Hayward is not prepared to lift a finger so as long as Hubert Ingraham is in place as prime minister. He has lost confidence in the mongrel and is not prepared to move a step further with activities at the Port Authority until this cookie monster is gone off the scene. This is the way of rich British Aristocrats and Laing*

*and the rest of the FNM dudes are out of touch, to say the least, with understanding the reality of the situation on the ground here.*

*Hubert Ingraham and Zhivargo Laing have brought shame, scandal and disgrace on the FNM family and will pay for miss-management of the country's affairs with the loss of their seats in the North Abaco and Marco City constituencies respectively.*

*Thank you.*

*Forrester J Carroll J.P*

*Freeport, Grand Bahama*

*August 2011.*

## **Immigration Matters**

(file photo of Pierre Dupuch)

Pierre Dupuch, the former FNM Member of Parliament and minister of the government writes about the current policy of the FNM to grant citizenship to immigrants:

*Every red blooded Bahamian should be alarmed at the Government's actions!*

*Some years ago a PLP member of the House of Assembly employed a large number of Haitian Nationals and every five years, it was alleged, he saw that they got citizenship so that they could vote for him.*

*The FNM, then run by Sir Kendal Issacs and Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield, expressed concern that this was creating a dangerous precedent. Based on the Constitution we all accept that a child born of a Bahamian father is a Bahamian, and that a child born abroad of an unwed Bahamian woman is also a Bahamian.*

*It was also recognized that the section of the Constitution that provided that a child born of a Bahamian woman who is married to a foreign man carried the Nationality of the father should be changed.*

*There was no cynical reason for this provision; it had been modeled after many other countries where the bread winner was the father and the wife followed her husband.*

*This is no longer the case. Women are often, especially in The Bahamas, the sole bread winners in the family. It only makes sense, therefore, that the child should be entitled to take the Nationality of the father or mother. A simple law could fix this discrepancy.*

*With the FNM Government's naturalization of Haitian nationals, it seems as though the Government is trying to muddle legal with illegal and conclude that their recent immigration actions are "humanitarian". Being humanitarian is utter hogwash, and Brent Symonette knows so. He should be ashamed of himself. What is going on now is raw, nasty politics being played just before an election hoping that it will give them victory.*

*Any red blooded Bahamian should be alarmed at the Governments actions. Almost everyone knows that birth certificates are easy to come by. I am told that a number of JPs, especially one somewhere in Hawkins Hill (not in Immigration) are prepared to supply the witnesses and sign birth certificates for the right price in order to facilitate a citizenship application for an undocumented foreign national. While I am not certain that this is true, I assume that members of the Government are aware of it.*

*So, as it stands any government, the FNM, the PLP or some government twenty years from now could do this. It could test the waters and if found wanting it could grant citizenship to the irregulars here so they can vote, and then visit a downtrodden country and invite thousands more to come here with the promise of a better life and grant them citizenship so that they also can vote. And no matter what a bad job the government has done and no matter how the real Bahamians want to get rid of them at the polls, the government will win. And there goes democracy!!!*

*It is said that this can't happen because this will get out and somebody will end up in trouble. Not true. The government that has just won unfairly could have Immigration arrest those very people that were granted citizenship on the grounds that their documentation was fraudulent, confiscate their Bahamian passports and deport them. Voila!!! By the government winning, the deed has been done, and the evidence has been sent out of town!!!!*

*It becomes a revolving door!!!*

*It can't happen? Why not?*

*The Government can't be allowed to do with Immigration what they are now doing. Brent Symonette says that it is hard in many cases to get proper information on applicants because of the devastation in Haiti which at the best of times did not have good records.*

*But he says that he has ways of finding out the background of a person even if the earthquake in Haiti destroyed the individual's papers. Again, hogwash, utter hogwash!! If he has a way, tell us how. Or does he think the Bahamian people are not mature enough to understand?*

*Especially since the earthquake in Haiti has destroyed most personal identifications the process of giving citizenship should be slowed down, not speeded up. In fact, it should be put on hold until after the elections.*

*The government seems to forget that there is a category in The Bahamas called "Permanent Residency". This gives a person the right to reside and work here, but does not extend the right to vote. In fact, most people get Permanent Residency before they get citizenship.*

*If they're interested in being "humanitarian" why don't they grant Permanent Residency rather than Citizenship?*

*Ah, the Government believes we're stupid.*

*Brent, cover yourself ... your tail is showing!!!!*

-30-

## MEMORIAM TO GARVIN HALL

(video embed)

He was a traffic statistic perhaps to the general public but Garvin hall who died at the age of 30 in a car crash seemed to be popular and loved on Facebook among the young set. So much so that they mounted this tribute to the young man. Rest In Peace.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO0Si29Mj9Q&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO0Si29Mj9Q&feature=player_embedded)

## IN PASSING

### The Death of Stan Smith, Assistant Director Of Agriculture

Stanley Smith, Assistant Director of Agriculture, died Thursday after a long battle with diabetes and kidney problems. The Tribune reported the death on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August. The paper described him as a strong supporter of local farming and sustainable agriculture. It said that Mr. Smith, an agronomist, oversaw agricultural development of the southeast Bahamas and research at the Gladstone Road Agricultural Centre. "He has been totally committed for a long time to the degree where he spent more energy on work than may have been good for him, and I mean that



in a good way. "He was extremely well liked by all the staff which is a rarity. There was never a question of his commitment to the job and the Agricultural Centre," said Simeon Pinder, Director of Agriculture. He was a graduate of St. Augustine's College in Nassau. He later went abroad to study agriculture on a government scholarship and obtained a bachelor's degree in plants and soil. He worked as a crop research and demonstration officer for 10 years at the Gladstone Road research facility and the Bahamas Research and Training Development Project in North Andros before becoming a senior administrator in the ministry.

### The FNM Can't Help Its Own

We won't call his name but it should be clear to Hubert Ingraham, the Prime Minister and Zhivargo Laing, the Minister of State that they are in problems when one of their favourite and firm supporters in Freeport, the one who keeps the champagne coming makes a complaint to this column. He has a niece who has been out of work for almost a year, laid off from a well known insurance company. He has appealed to his government for help but been met with deaf ears. So the supporter asked: what is the use in supporting a group of men who will not respond in your time of need? It reminds us that Hubert Ingraham did not attend the funeral of his bosom boy hood friend Leonard Knowles of Abaco who died suddenly earlier this year. He went fishing instead. This is the same Leonard Knowles whose pot he used to share as a boy when he did not have anything. Things that make you go: "Hmmm!" Insensitive! Uncaring! Boorish! Obtuse!

### Stopping Scrap Metal Sales

(photo Nassau Guardian)

They got themselves on the front page of the newspaper. The scrap metal dealers in The Bahamas. They were summoned to a meeting with Minister of the Environment Earl Deveaux ( see photo). The government using a cannon for the job of a fly swat has banned for 90 days the export of scrap metal striking a blow again at small people trying to make an honest living. In this they join the phone card vendors who have lost their living as a result of the sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless. The scrap metal dealers join the list of the deprived under the FNM. After the ban, they are now trying to scrap together a regulatory framework for the export of the metal. The government says that the export is responsible for the theft of copper from government property which crippled both the broadcasting Corporation and BEC, the power company.

### Alex 242's Debut Soon

(photo sent)

The daughter of PLP Leader Perry Christie and his wife Bernadette is soon to have her musical debut under the name Alex 242. Her proper name Alexandra Christie. She is said to have finished her promotional shoot for the new album in Los Angeles and is expected to debut sometime this fall. She will be The Bahamas' answer to Barbados' Rihanna who performed in her home country to a packed stadium on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August.

### Low Registration In Bimini

Reports are that with just about 1200 people eligible to be registered in Bimini, only 300 are registered to vote. This should set off alarm bells. Reports are that the FNM's lack of attention to the island and

difficulties which people perceive about getting registered is the cause. The Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel was quoted in the Nassau Guardian of 6<sup>th</sup> August as saying that some 119,000 people nationwide have registered to vote.

### Bimini Needs Infrastructure Work

When you land in Bimini, the complaints start. The FNM government is neglecting Bimini. The FNM has control of the local government council through the leadership of Chief Councilor Leonard Edgecombe aka “Douda”. They say that he has the garbage contract and should not since he is the chief councilor and has the job of awarding the contract. They say that the airport building is too small, inadequate parking for the planes that land there, the sea walls are deteriorating on North Bimini, and that the school is inadequate. The tourism product is declining. There appears to be no political leadership from the government on the island. Another complaint the Department of Social Services is only allowing its coupons which are used to assist the under privileged to be used only at one store on Bimini. The other store owners are quite upset.

### Ingraham Promises Spanish Wells

We reported last week how Hubert Ingraham, the Prime Minister, went to Spanish Wells, the almost all white Bahamian enclave of fishermen off the coast of the island of Eleuthera to shore up his political support in the face of a political challenge by the PLP’s Clay Sweeting who is a 25 year old fisherman. Mr. Sweeting and PLP MP Ryan Pinder who also has Spanish Wells roots issued a statement last week in this column challenging the government’s record of support for the Bahamian fishing industry. Mr. Ingraham took the Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette who is also the Minister for Immigration. He accepted that there were genuine complaints of foreign fishermen fishing on

Bahamian boats and promised he would do something about that. He said that the Royal Bahamas Defence Force had too much territory to police but that he was not deaf to the cries of the fishermen.

### Long Island Big Disappointment For Ingraham

The look in the photograph in the newspaper of Hubert Ingraham, the Prime Minister, at the FNM Meritorious Councilor banquet in Clarence Town said it all. He had the look of a vacant stare as he faced the crowd of his supporters in the normally safe Long island FNM seat on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. It was the look of “what am I doing here?” Not so fast. There are credible reports that there was not such a crowd and that people are widely disgruntled with Larry Cartwright the FNM incumbent (see story above). Mr. Cartwright was so concerned about it that he issued a statement to the press saying that the reports that the banquet was poorly attended were incorrect. He said that the FNM’s support in Long island was strong.

### Alex Morley To Run In Englerston

(photo to come)

Attorney Alexander Morley, former Tribune reporter, announced that he will be a candidate in the next general election for the Englerston constituency as an independent. Mr. Morley has never run for office before. He said that he has established his practice in Englerston and has done pioneering work assisting the people of the community. Mr. Morley will be opposing the incumbent PLP Glenys Hanna Martin. The FNM has not announced a candidate yet in a usually safe PLP seat.

### K.D. Josey Way

(two photos. Please adjust the contrast in the photo of Marguerite Pindling)

The photos below show the widow of the founding Prime Minister of the country Dame Marguerite Pindling and former Governor General Arthur Hanna as they attended the renaming ceremony of Crooked Island Street in the PLP's Cynthia Pratt's St. Cecelia Constituency on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Fred Mitchell MP for Fox Hill also attended the ceremony. Bishop Lindo Wallace preached the sermon and reminded the audience of Bishop Josey's pioneering work in establishing the Coconut Grove community where the Highway Church of God is located that he founded. The widow of the late Bishop did the honours. The late Bishop Josey was a strong supporter of the PLP independence and the late Sir Lynden O. Pindling.

### Murder Count This Week

With three more murders since last week, we are now at 87 on the watch of Tommy Turnquest, the Minister of National Security from the year 2011. That makes 3 murders since he became the Minister in 2007.

### Barbados Is A Developed Country Says UN

A report from the United Nations circulated on 1 July says that Barbados is part of an elite club of nations in the world that are classified as developed countries. Barbados is the only country in the Caribbean and Latin American region to be part of that club. The Bahamas has not even set that as a goal. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves as a country that we cannot meet that limited objective. It is a sign of failed leadership and lack of discipline that we cannot do it. [You may click here for the full story.](#)

Barbados shines globally, joins ranks of 'developed' nations >>  
NEW YORK--Without the riches of the United States, Canada or Britain, > Barbados has joined the ranks of the world's "developed" nations, > albeit only in terms of providing people

with an excellent quality of life. > > Often called the "Singapore of the Caribbean", Barbados, according to > the United Nations, joins such countries as Israel, Hong Kong, > Singapore, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Lichtenstein, Bahrain, oil-rich > Qatar, Andorra, San Marino, Brunei Darussalam, Monaco, United Arab > Emirates and Estonia on the list of "developed" countries, based > purely on the Human Developed Index (HDI). > > The HDI, now in its 20th year, measures performances in health, > education, income and other quality of life indices. The > classification was contained in the 2010 UN Human Development Index > released worldwide a few days ago. > > > But that wasn't all about Barbados. With the exception of the Bahamas, > it outspends all of its Caribbean neighbours when it comes to > providing health care for each resident and it has one of the lowest > murder rates in the Caribbean and Latin America. > > Barbados was the only Caribbean and Latin American state to be > labelled "developed". It's among 16 states which don't belong to the > rich nations' club in Paris, the Organisation for Economic > Co-operation and Development (OECD), but which were placed in a > grouping set aside for "developed non-OECD members". > > Mexico, the lone Latin American and Caribbean country which belongs to > the OECD, wasn't included in the ranks of the "developed" states but > was placed among the 32 "developing" nations in the Western > Hemisphere. Barbados had previously articulated its desire to be > classified as a developed country, but it didn't set an exact deadline > for achieving that goal. Trinidad and Tobago says it wants to reach > that level by 2020. > > In the latest report, Barbados was listed among the nations worldwide > with a "very high" level of human development. It was third on the > list of members of the OAS that had attained that ranking. > > The others were the United States, fourth, and Canada, eighth. > Barbados was ranked 42nd. Narrowly missing the top classification was > the Bahamas, which was 43rd. > > > All of Barbados' Caricom neighbours, including energy-rich Trinidad > and Tobago, the Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St Lucia, St >

Vincent, Suriname, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname and Grenada were listed as > "developing" states. > > > So too were such emerging economic giants as India, Brazil, Chile, > South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and China. > > As the UN Development Programme's top administrator Helen Clark saw > it, success wasn't simply about money. > > "On one crucial point the evidence is compelling and clear: there is > much that countries can do to improve the quality of people's lives > even under adverse circumstances," she said, "Many countries have made > great gains in health and education despite only modest growth in > income, while some countries with strong economic performance have > failed to make similarly impressive progress in life expectancy." > > In the vital area of health, the UN report puts Barbados' per capita > expenditure on health care at US\$1,265 in 2007, a figure that was only > surpassed in the region by the Bahamas with US\$1,987. Trinidad and > Tobago had a per capita expenditure of US\$1,178. > > Barbados' per capita spending on health was at least three times > greater than Jamaica's (US\$357); about six times higher than Guyana's > (US\$197) and at least US\$400 per person more than Chile, Kuwait, > Mexico and Brazil. > > Barbados invested more per capita in the provision of care for > individuals than such rich countries as Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, > Libya, Kuwait and Algeria. And its outlay was ten times greater than > India's and about US\$300 more than Poland. >

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