The drama surrounding the degradation of the man-
groves in Guana Cay has been
reported on the international stage
during the 10th Annual Conference of
the Save Guana Cay Reef Association (SGCRA)
attended by the United Nations Commission
on the Oceans and the Environment.

Grand Bahama Human
Rights and Environmental
Advocacy (GBHRA) President Fred
Smith, and other "Save Guana Cay"
representatives addressed the dele-
gates at this year's conference.

Smith was accompanied by Thomas Goruea, president of
the Global Reef Alliance, and Troy Albury of the
Save Guana Cay Reef Association, who also
represented the group in addressing
the Internet broadcast live over the
Internet.

In his address, Smith explained that the mangroves
are being destroyed as a result of
shoal protection and fish-
ries activities.

"They are essential to a
healthy coastal environment,
and yet they are being destroyed
worldwide at an accelerating
cpace. They represent an
resource that is little under-
stood or appreciated," he
said.

In the Bahamas, Smith added, vast areas of man-
groves are being destroyed by
seafront developments and fish-
ries activities.

"The Bahamian government
has encouraged and promot-
ed this at the altar of
economic development zones in
The Bahamas," Smith said.

"Lastly, the environment,
investment and concession
laws should apply equally to
Bahamians and foreigners.
"The real stench of the awful
reality of rank disci-
plinary governments, Smith
explained.

"They are essential to a
diverse set of environmental
issues," he said.

"What we've been able to
prove is that our tycoons will
pay less for seating to
Junkanooers will in fact, be
able to purchase a seat in the
traditional seating for $20,
however, the harvest is
increased at the request of the
Junkanoo leaders and now
stands at around $135,000
to $150,000.

This has been made possi-
ble by the addition of sev-
everal sponsors who have come
to the aid of the JPL
Parade.

The corporate sponsors
include the Grand Bahama
Power Company, the
Ministry of Tourism, KALIK and
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