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**INSIDE**

**Students brush up for exhibition**

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**INSIDE**

**OBITUARIES and RELIGION**

**IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE**



**Vote for your Bahamian sports personality of the year**

**SEE PAGE EIGHTEEN**

## PLP on alert over MP 'resign' claim

### MP 'quitting seat' for senior court post say reports

By **PAUL G TURNQUEST**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net



MALCOLM ADDERLEY

PLP MP Malcolm Adderley refused last night to deny reports that he will be resigning from his seat in the House of Assembly and taking up a post as a new Supreme Court Justice early in the new year.

When contacted by *The Tribune* yesterday, Mr Adderley seemed more concerned with the source of the information.

"I want to know where that started from," he said. "When I get to the bottom of it, I will call you."

However, this response did not go over well with many within his party.

One former MP exclaimed: "Why is he waffling? Why doesn't he have a definitive answer!"

As the PLP's representative for the constituency of Elizabeth, Mr Adderley's allegiance with the party was first called into question

**SEE page 14**

### Students taken to hospital after school disturbance

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

**FREEPORT** - Several students were injured and taken to hospital following a disturbance at St Georges High School on Wednesday.

About five students were rushed by ambulance to the Rand Memorial Hospital, where they were seen and treated.

**SEE page 13**

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### COB PRESIDENT JANYNE HODDER TO STEP DOWN



**OUTGOING** College of Bahamas President Janyne Hodder speaks to the press yesterday.

By **ALISON LOWE**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

**PRESIDENT** of the College of Bahamas Janyne Hodder is to retire from her post effective June 2010, leaving the College to begin a search for a new leader after three and a half years.

Mrs Hodder, who has led the charge towards the College obtaining university status, said she wants to spend more time with her family, in particular her two-year-old grandson, and "enter a new stage" in her life with her husband.

"This has not been an easy decision to make. I have been torn between a sense of duty and knowledge of the great debt I owe this country for having welcomed me 40 years

**SEE page 20**

### Campaign launched to find missing young Bahamian



FRANCIS FARRINGTON

**AN ONLINE** campaign has been launched in an effort to help find a well known young Bahamian who went missing several weeks ago.

Police say they have no leads in their investigation into the bizarre disappearance of Francis Farrington, but his friends are using Facebook to spread

**SEE page 12**

### Man in court charged with the murder of Bahamasair pilot

By **NATARIO MCKENZIE**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

**A 31-YEAR-OLD** man charged with the murder of Bahamasair pilot Lionel McQueen was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Marvin Coleby, of Kennedy Subdivision is accused of the September 20th murder of McQueen

and the attempted murder of McQueen's cousin and roommate Montez Saunders. McQueen was found dead in his Golden Palms Estates home, near Kennedy subdivision, shortly after 4am on Sunday, September 20. He was shot several times. McQueen was engaged to be married in February next year.

**SEE page 12**

### Man in custody in connection with 18 tourists robbery

**Second person is wanted for questioning**

**THE police** have confirmed that a 21-year-old Chippingham man was taken into custody in connection with the robbery of the 18 visitors at Earth Village.

Police say the man is expected to appear in court today at 11am.

Meanwhile, a second man, Frederick Green Neely, 27, is wanted for questioning in connection with the matter. His last known address was Oasis Apartments on St Albans Drive.

In a statement issued yesterday, the police said they are grateful to the public for providing information in connection with the investigation. "It certainly shows that Bahamians understand the importance of tourism and the effects it has on our economy."

In other crime news, a man was arrested on Wednesday morning in connection with a stolen goods investigation.

Just after 5am, police received information that some men were stripping a vehicle on the corner of Moore Avenue and Wulff Road.

Officers responded to the call and when they arrived in the area, saw the door of the Shoe Land store swinging open.

They questioned a man in the area, who took them to an unattended vehicle.

"A check was made of the vehicle and an assortment of clothing believed to be the property of Shoe Land Store was discovered in the trunk. Police arrested a 21-year-old male resident of Sea Breeze. He is expected to appear in Court in connection with this matter," said a police spokesperson.

Police also confiscated a firearm this week.

Some time around 8am on Tuesday, officers acting on a tip, discovered a Beretta pistol in a garbage bin at a home in the McKinney Drive area.

"Once again the police would like to commend the Bahamian people for continuing to provide information on suspicious activities, suspicious persons, and suspicious vehicles. It is this kind of partnership between the police and the community that assists in combating crime," the police said in a statement.

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LOCAL NEWS

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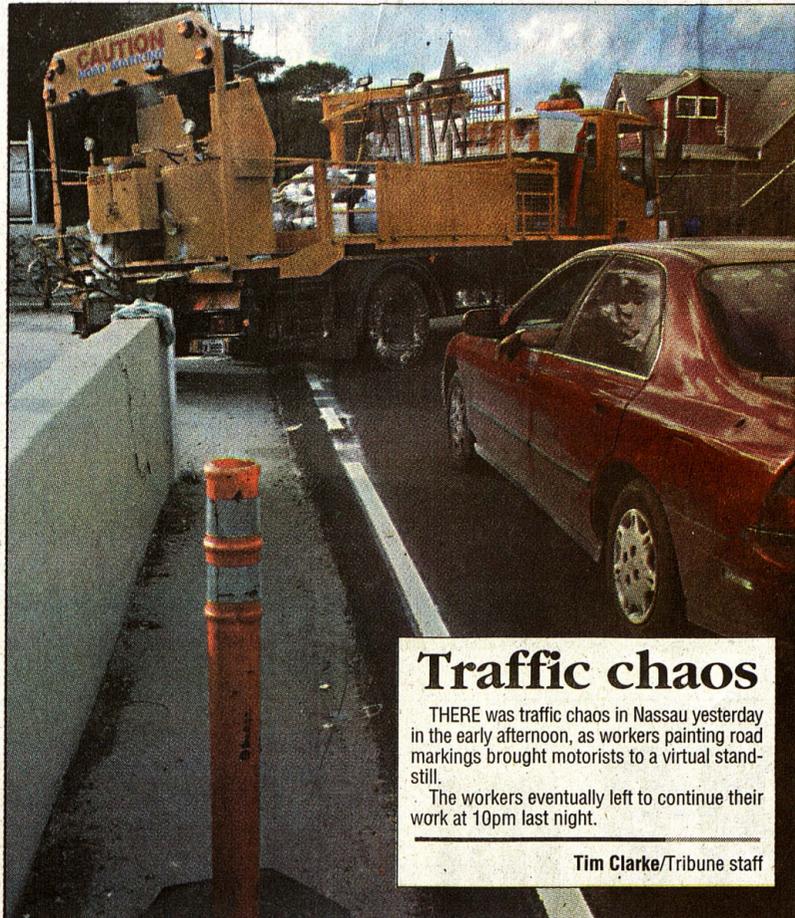


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Traffic chaos

THERE was traffic chaos in Nassau yesterday in the early afternoon, as workers painting road markings brought motorists to a virtual standstill.  
The workers eventually left to continue their work at 10pm last night.

Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

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Survey voters want vendors moved away from Montagu

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net



MINISTER of State for Social Development and MP for Montagu Loretta Butler-Turner

AN OVERWHELMING number of respondents to the Montagu Foreshore Steering Committee survey have voted to move vendors away from Montagu in an effort to improve the area.  
Their views have been documented in a detailed report presented to Montagu MP and Minister of State for Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner by Montagu Foreshore Steering Committee co-chair Diane Phillips yesterday.

The committee report, created over the last four months, addresses health and safety issues at Montagu ramp and in the surrounding area, as well as traffic congestion and outlines a way forward to create a pleasant public space.

For nearly 40 years vendors have worked in the hot sun without shade, lighting, running water, sanitary food preparation facilities, disposal areas or toilets. Unsanitary conditions also allow vendors to throw fish heads, guts and

offal into the water while families swim metres away. Vendors are not able to get business licenses for their trade which operates at four levels from the fisherman to the fish seller, fish cleaner, and vendor selling related items.

The indiscriminate commerce has been found to be a direct cause of traffic congestion in East Bay Street as drivers stop to purchase fish and

conch from the ramp. And the abandoned lot where the Montagu hotel once stood is being used as a dumping ground and urinal for vendors and visitors to Montagu Foreshore.

The committee report is intended to inspire government to renovate Montagu Foreshore at an expected cost of over \$2 million to make it clean and safe for an estimated 15,000 users while decreasing the mounting traffic.

A constituency meeting held in September led the committee to produce a preliminary report, and a town meeting was then held in October. Surveys were given to attendees and made available online.

Of the 124 respondents, 110 voted in favour of moving vendors away from Montagu Foreshore and 13 possible relocation sites have been identified in the report.

The survey responses differ wildly from a Tribune poll in which 75 of 137 readers voted to keep vendors in Montagu with better facilities, while just 33 said commercial activity should be removed from the area.

The committee plans include immediate provision of toilets and running water for vendors, and improved food preparation facilities subject to health inspection.

Traffic would access the ramp via a new separate road to prevent congestion in East Bay Street and a police officer at the site would direct traffic at peak times and enforce noise pollution and litter laws.

The committee also seeks government's full support in regenerating the beach and installing breakers in the sea to prevent further beach erosion, while developing the park and repairing the ramp.

Now the report has been completed, government will decide on the way forward.

Mrs Butler-Turner said: "This is not something that will be determined by the committee.

"The committee has been formed by myself, and I am just one agent in the government and I will present the government with the findings.

"Commerce has to be preserved because there are number of families who make their livelihood through the market.

"We will have to look at how the land use is divided up within Montagu Park, free the boat ramp for recreational boaters and ensure those individuals who make a living at Montagu are not thrown to the side without any viable options."

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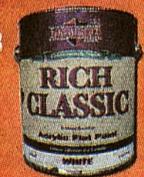
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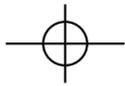
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LOCAL NEWS

COURT OF APPEAL: Lemuel Stephen Smith

# Entertainer 'Stevie S' resentenced to five years for sex with girl, 13

By NATARIO MCKENZIE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

THE COURT of Appeal yesterday resentenced Bahamian entertainer Lemuel Stephen Smith – better known as 'Stevie S' – to five years in prison after ruling that his one year sentence for having sex with a 13-year-old girl was "unduly lenient."

The sentence, which will take effect from April 30, the date of his conviction, was handed down yesterday by Justice Stanley John.

The Attorney General had appealed the original decision of Supreme Court Justice Vera Watkins, who in June sentenced Smith, 48, to a year in prison and ordered that he be placed on three years probation after his release.

Smith, a Bimini native, was accused of committing the offence on January 12, 2004, in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Following the testimony of the complainant, Smith pleaded guilty to the offence which carries a maximum sentence of seven years imprisonment.

Prosecutors stated that Smith lured his victim, a student at Jack Hayward High School at the time, into his car and took



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

**BAHAMIAN ENTERTAINER** Lemuel Stephen Smith commonly known as Stevie S outside the Court of Appeal on Charlotte Street yesterday. Smith was given a five year prison sentence for having unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl.

her to an unknown location on Farm Road, where he had sex with her against her will. Attorney Jilian Williams, who

appeared for the Crown, submitted that given the circumstances of the case, perhaps a five year sentence would have been appropriate. She said the judge ought not to have taken into consideration the medical condition of the accused, as the injury from which he continues to suffer occurred before he committed the offence.

### Injury

According to Smith's attorney Murrio Ducille, Smith sustained a spinal cord injury which left him barely able to walk. He was injured in 2001.

Mr Ducille told the court yesterday that Smith had been on the verge of being totally paralysed and that his case was not a normal one. In giving the decision of the appellate court, Justice John said, "Offences of this kind cannot be condoned and must never be condoned."

"We all know that the scars left on these young girls stay with them for a very long time."

"As much as the court feels for his medical challenges, they are of his own doing."

"The court has a duty to protect the young girls or flowers of the nation," Justice John said.

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### MAGISTRATE'S COURT

## Police Sergeant, another man charged with rape

A POLICE Sergeant and another man accused of raping a 28-year-old woman last month were arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Sergeant Sean Gibson, 38, of Sanford Drive and Rod Andrew Bethel, 44, of Winston Estates were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court 1, Bank Lane yesterday. It is alleged that the two men, being concerned together on Sunday, November 15, 2009, raped a 28-year-old woman.

Neither man was required to enter a plea to the charge. Smith, who was represented by attorney Wellington Olander, and Bethel, a former City Markets manager who was represented by attorney Lilith Smith, were each granted \$10,000 bail.

The case was adjourned to December 14 and transferred to Court 6, Parliament Street.

On Monday police Constable Daniel Paul Smith, 21, of Oakes Field, was arraigned in Magistrate's Court on a separate rape charge.



SERGEANT SEAN GIBSON, 38



ROD ANDREW BETHEL, 44

PHOTOS: Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

## Correction

IN yesterday's *Tribune*, it was incorrectly reported that a stabbing took place on Thompson Boulevard outside the Starbucks attached to the Chapter One Book Shop.

The incident did take place outside the book shop, however the Starbucks in question closed two months ago.

The *Tribune* apologises for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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INVICTUS	NEW	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
THE PRINCESS & THE FROG	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
ARMORED	C	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:40	10:50
EVERYBODY'S IS FINE	B	1:10	3:25	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:45
NINJA ASSASSIN	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:55
THE OLD DOGS	B	1:10	3:45	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:40
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
BLIND SIDE	B	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:00
2012	T	1:00	N/A	8:00	N/A	9:00	N/A
PLANET 51	A	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	N/A	N/A
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:35	10:35

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THE PRINCESS & THE FROG	NEW	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:30	N/A
ARMORED	C	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50
NINJA ASSASSIN	C	1:10	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:45
OLD DOGS	B	N/A	3:20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10:40
BLIND SIDE	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	7:10	N/A	10:10

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## New Police Commissioner must be impartial

IT IS being said that PLP chairman Bradley Roberts' congratulatory remarks on Elliston Greenslade's appointment as acting commissioner of police, coupled with his mean-spirited remarks about retiring Police Commissioner Reginald Ferguson, is the "kiss of death" for Mr Greenslade's career.

During the last days of the Christie administration when plans were afoot to sideline Mr Ferguson so that he could not become Commissioner of Police on the retirement of Commissioner Paul Farquharson, a rumour started to make the rounds. According to the snoop the PLP had their eyes on Elliston Greenslade, an officer with a promising career in the Royal Bahamas Police Force. He was earmarked as "their man." He was to be their new commissioner of police. "If that happens, they feel they will be running the show again!" commented one cynic.

There was much unease about this statement, because no police officer of whatever rank should be anybody's "man" — or "woman."

We knew that political interference in the police force was a heavy burden carried by Commissioner Farquharson in his last years on the Force. For example, one morning Commissioner Farquharson picked up his newspaper to learn that he had just acquired two newly appointed assistant commissioners. The announcement was made by government. He was never consulted.

We also knew that as deputy commissioner in charge of investigations Mr Ferguson, behind the scenes, was facing certain roadblocks.

The politicians soon took the measure of the man when he refused to back down to subtle suggestions. They certainly did not want him as commissioner. He was nobody's man — he was just a flat-footed policeman who did his job. Political favours and reward by promotion meant nothing to him. Obviously, he was no man for any political party that believed it could influence a police commissioner.

Mr Roberts' statement about the new appointment and the background against which it was made is certainly unfortunate. It appears to give credence to the rumours. No young man should have to face such a challenging job with such a perception hung like an unwanted albatross around his neck. It just means that he will have to work doubly hard to win the public's trust.

Assistant Commissioner Marvin Dames was the second man considered for the top job. He has been named to act as deputy commissioner of police until the final decision is made. We do not know Mr Dames. How-

ever, we have heard nothing but good about him. A solid police officer, with excellent training, good judgment, and nobody's man.

However, we do know Mr Greenslade and must admit that we have been impressed. He too is a good policeman. Therefore, we are most distressed at the perception that some people have of him — and which he will have to shed quickly if he is to be effective in his new role.

Several years ago, we looked up from our desk to see a frightened young man standing in front of us. It was important, he said, that he see us privately. We took him to our private office. He was being hunted by the police for kidnapping and attempted murder. He was also a gang leader, who was trying to get out of the gang and lead a decent life. However, he was caught in the middle of a gang war, and was being shot at by a rival gang. It was just a question of which bullet would silence him — the gang or the police. And so he threw himself on our mercy and asked us to turn him in.

We called the Commissioner of Police who sent Mr Greenslade to our office. The police officer and the young man sat and talked. Mr Greenslade showed tremendous compassion and understanding. We were most impressed with the young police officer as he left our office, his arm around the shoulders of the wayward, but contrite young man, who only wanted another chance at life. Mr Greenslade guided him through the courts. The young man was convicted and served his time. However, when he left prison he was a new man. He got a good job and is now a deacon in his church.

Last month another young man on the run from the police contacted a friend, who contacted us. He wanted us to arrange for him to be taken in by Mr Greenslade. But Mr Greenslade was out of town. He decided to stay in hiding until Mr Greenslade returned. He then turned himself in. And so we have nothing but praise for Mr Greenslade and hope he will not permit any political party to taint his image.

In 2007 Prime Minister Ingraham sent both Mr Greenslade and Mr Dames for further training to the Royal Canadian Police Force. Mr Ingraham said the reason for choosing the RCMP was because Royal Bahamas Police Force officers sometimes exhibited a "reluctance" to pursue allegations against public officials. The RCMP had no such difficulty, he said.

We hope that these two young officers have learned this lesson well, and that as a team the Bahamas will have a good, strong and impartial police force.

# Ingraham should cancel overseas trip and sort out public finances

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Revelations in leaked e-mail exchanges call into question the integrity of climate scientists at the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit (CRU).

More revelations are likely to unfold as "Climategate" casts doubt on IPCC.

It is the current hot topic stirring up the hallowed halls of science gathering momentum and tumbling The House of Gore.

So-called "settled science" on Global Warming is now a matter of unsettled scientists. The cat is out of the bag, and what has been described as the "greatest scam in history" by

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

John Coleman, founder of the Weather Channel is being turned on its head.

In spite of the recent revelations Prime Minister Ingraham is quoted by *The Tribune* on December 1st: "There is no longer any credible debate about the reality of global warming." Really?

Our concern is not the temperature or the science. It is the public finances.

Travel expenses for Prime

Ministers come high. They cannot stay in Bed and Breakfasts, nor can they join the plebs down at the wharf to sample the local fish.

In view of the revelations it would be reassuring if the Prime Minister cancelled his expensive trip and focused on getting the country's finances under control.

There is not a whit he can do about the Fahrenheit and the trip to Copenhagen is now likely to be a waste of his time and the tax payer's money.

THE NASSAU  
INSTITUTE

Nassau,  
December 3, 2009.

## Crime is everyone's problem, Mr Roberts

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Thank you for permitting me the opportunity to express myself on this subject. I've been really pained recently when reading reports of Bradley Roberts' public ranting about the Minister of National Security, OAT "Tommy" Turnquest and the terrible escalation of crime in this country.

It seems to me like Bradley Roberts' sole mission is to prove that he came in and made a BIG BANG as the new chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party — attacking everything and everyone in his path, even when it makes absolutely no sense. Don't get me wrong, I consider myself A-political for some time now, so this has absolutely nothing to do with politics on my part.

Crime, as I see it, is not the fault of the Minister of National Security and he should not be ostracized daily in the press for it and especially by a fellow politician who knows better. Of course Mr. Roberts has a job to do in keeping his FNM opponents on their toes, however, it should not be at the expense of the Member for Mount Moriah.

Mr. Roberts I say this to you, and I am sure you already know it, crime is everybody's problem. Criminals are at the point of attacking our tourists now.

Crime is the fault of the parents who know that their children are involved in the criminal element of this country, but do not consult law enforcement.

Crime is the fault of the grandmother who allows her grandson to hide drugs in her house because he gives her a "little something" on the side.

Crime is the fault of the mother who accepts stolen goods and drug money from her children.

Crime is the fault of the father who refuses to

mentor his son because he doesn't feel like being bothered.

Crime is the fault of neighbours who observe their neighbourhood being violated but choose not to call law enforcement because they do not "want to get involved."

Crime is the fault of rogue police officers who choose to take the "pay off" rather than do their jobs.

I can go on with this forever, but I am sure my point is made. Mr. Roberts, the Minister of National Security cannot guard every house and store and chastise every young man in this country for doing wrong. Please recognize that he is working very hard, along with the Commissioner of Police (outgoing and incoming), to put our criminal problem under control.

The most dangerous part of Mr. Roberts' attacks on Mr. Turnquest, is the fact that political pundits are not the only ones reading and viewing the negative media reports.

Not all members of the criminal element are illiterate. They read and totally enjoy the fact that instead of politicians putting their heads together to stamp them out, the politicians, or in this case POLITICIAN, chooses to rip out the proverbial throat of the Minister of National Security, pointing unfair fingers, accusing him of something he is trying all avenues to curtail.

Mr. Roberts, please stop — concentrate on making our country better. We know that you are "Big Bad Brad!" We know that you have a loud mouth and can put the strongest person in fear. Crime is everyone's problem, let's work together to get rid of it.

TANYA CARTWRIGHT

Nassau,  
December 9, 2009.

## On what planet is Tommy Turnquest living?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In your page 1 headline article of today's date (Dec. 8), "Minister speaks out on murder," the national security minister seeks to water down what will be a record murder rate in 2009.

On what Planet is Tommy Turnquest living?

Under the page 3 headline, "Police Initiative will tackle illegal weapons," Mr. Turnquest makes the astute observation that greater emphasis on gun control is the key to fighting crime.

This is certainly one of a myriad of measures that need to be taken. And it took how many years for the government

to arrive at this conclusion?

An island 21 by seven miles and weapons flow in as freely as the tide. Does that tell you anything?

Knock, knock. Is there anybody in there?

ATHENA DAMIANOS

Nassau,  
December 8, 2009

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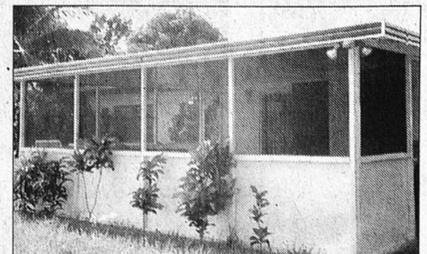
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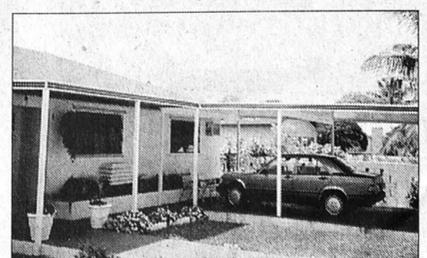
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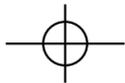


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LOCAL NEWS

# Loophole allowing Bahamians to manipulate spousal permit system

BY NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net



JETTA BAPTISTE: "What is a marriage of convenience?"

A JAMAICAN diplomat says that he is concerned that some Bahamians are using the Immigration Department as a "domestic court" to settle grievances or take revenge against their foreign born spouses.

While he does not deny there are those who arrange marriages to acquire legal work status for foreigners, Jamaican Honorary Consul, Patrick Hanlan, said there is another ongoing problem that needs to be addressed.

He said when relationships between Bahamians and foreign spouses fail some Bahamians try to use the Department as a "domestic court."

This is a problem he previously brought to the attention of immigration officials. In his experience, it particularly affects non-Bahamian women.

"If you have two Bahamians in a marriage and there is a problem, they go to counsellors in the social services, pastors, family members or the courts. Only the court has the legal right to dissolve a marriage," said Mr Hanlan.

In the case of some mixed marriages, he said, Bahamian spouses refuse to assist in the renewal process for a spousal permit.

"They take revenge on their spouses and sometimes the foreign spouse ends up in the Detention Centre. To me, something is wrong with that. If the problem is not addressed, Bahamians will believe they can always go to the Department of Immigration to settle their grievances," he said.

Meanwhile, the Immigration Department is concerned about marriages that are arranged solely to obtain legal work status for a foreign national. According to Director of Immigration, Jack Thompson, there has been a general rise in complaints over what he calls "marriages of convenience". Some of the recent complaints came from Bahamians who accepted deposits of up to \$1,500 from their non-Bahamian spouses. In these cases, the complainants were aggrieved because their

status letter to present to her employers. Some applicants have to apply for a one-year work permit at a total cost of \$1,100. Immigration officials said it is important for applicants to submit their forms for permanent residency at least six months before their spousal permits expire, because the process can take a long time.

Despite the expressed concern, the Department of Immigration has no definition of "marriage of convenience" in its internal policies. There is also no published criteria that speaks specifically to marriages of convenience.

This has immigration lawyer Jetta Baptiste concerned about how the Department adjudicates in these matters.

"What is a marriage of convenience? If someone has a shotgun wedding, is that a marriage of convenience? If someone gets pregnant and their parents force them to get married, is that a marriage of convenience?" she asked.

## Container with cash discovered

FREEPORT – A container with a large quantity of cash was discovered on Wednesday at the Freeport Container Port.

According to sources, the container was removed and taken into custody by police some time yesterday morning.

There have been several major drug seizures at the container port this year. It is not known whether the cash is drug-related.

When contacted by *The Tribune*, Asst Supt Loretta Mackey said she was not aware of any large cash seizure at the container port.

balance of payment was withheld. Not all cases were reported to include cash transactions.

One immigration official described a few situations in which Bahamian spouses realised they "get swing", or that they were not in love with the person, and asked the department to cancel the permit.

Once the Department of Immigration approves a spousal permit, the Bahamian spouse cannot request that the permit be revoked unless the courts have ruled on a divorce. However, once a permit has expired, or if an application is in the middle of being processed, a Bahamian spouse can refuse to apply for a renewal or cancel the application. Even though immigration officials said they do not get involved in domestic disputes, this loophole allows Bahamians to manipulate the system.

The problem is heightened because the process of approval is often lengthy. In one instance, a Jamaican woman married to a Bahamian man said her permanent residency took over a year to process. Between the time her five-year spousal permit expired and the approval of her residency, she had to visit the Department every three months to obtain a

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LOCAL NEWS

# BTC privatisation plans 'progressing'

## But still no announcement on date of sale

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

PLANS to privatise the Bahamas Telecommunications Company are reportedly progressing but the government remains tight-lipped about the anticipated date of sale.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has said the government hopes to privatise BTC by the end of the year, but Minister of Finance Zhivargo Laing was unable to confirm yesterday whether this deadline will be met.

He said: "The process is still moving forward, and I can only tell you that the process is moving forward."

The sale will be of a 51 per cent stake in BTC while government will retain the remaining 49 per cent.

An assessment of prospective buyers by the BTC privatisation committee found UK based communications firm Vodafone and One Equi-



HUBERT INGRAHAM

ty Partners (OEP) have the highest combined score in financial and technical ability.

### Assets

OEP is JP Morgan Chase's private equity arm and manages more than \$8 billion in assets and Vodafone is the world's largest cellular operator in terms of turnover.

UK media reports con-

firmed in November that Vodafone was considering whether to participate in a consortium being put together by JP Morgan Partners, in which it would effectively be the operating partner for a privatised BTC and provide the management/technical expertise should the group ultimately succeed in clinching a deal with the Bahamas government.

In return it was suggested Vodafone would receive an equity stake in BTC.

Other bidders said to have received the nod from the privatisation committee are Digicel Limited, Atlantic Tele- Network Incorporated and Trilogi International Partners.

It is unclear what purchase price the government expects to realise from the sale, although some close to the situation have suggested a figure of around \$200 million. However it is not known whether that figure includes a \$30 million dividend the government plans to take from BTC prior to privatisation.

The new owner would gain operational control over the company which currently provides services to more than 334,000 cellular customers, 132,000 landline customers and 18,500 broadband customers throughout the Bahamas.

The corporation also has 190 roaming agreements in place, serving over four million tourists visiting the Bahamas each year.

A series of seminars have been held for BTC staff in recent weeks to keep them abreast of the progress of the sale and offer practical advice on the process.



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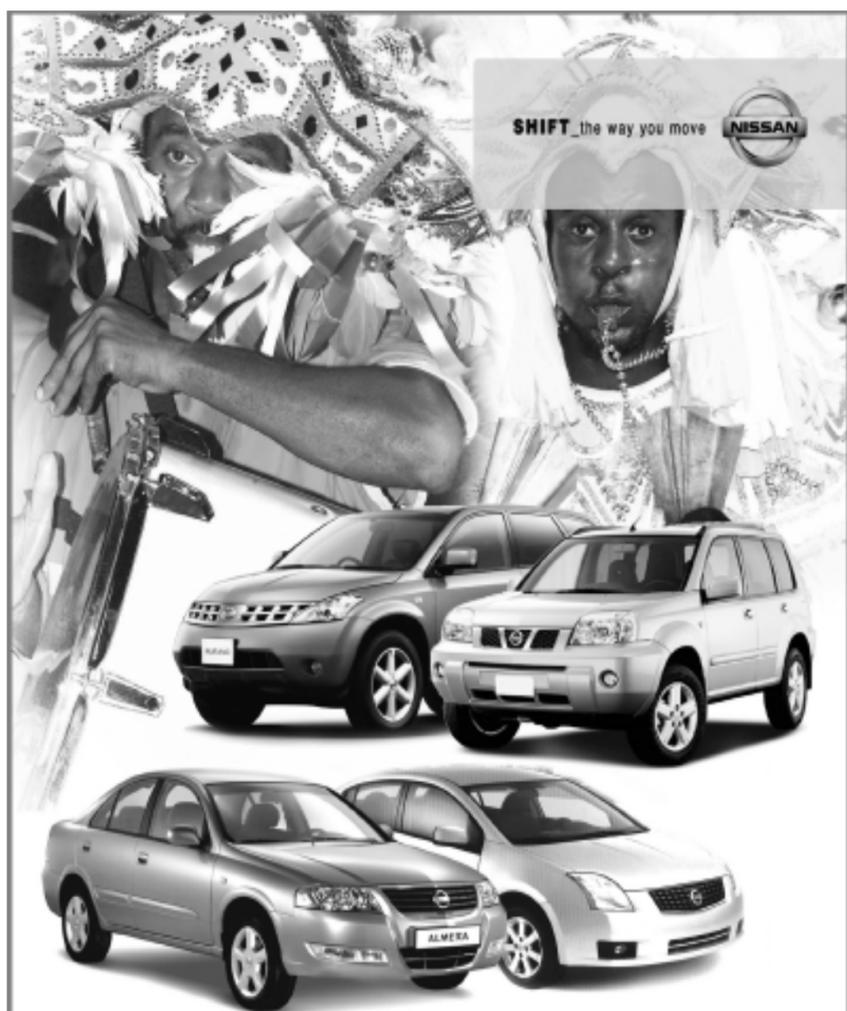
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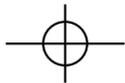
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LOCAL NEWS

# Move to tighten legal profession regulations

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

## Bar Council seeks to increase powers to discipline attorneys

Troubling experiences with lawyers refusing to abide by disciplinary rulings and continuing to practice despite criminal convictions have inspired the Bahamas Bar Council to seek to tighten regulations governing the profession and increase its powers to discipline attorneys.

And in an effort to build the public's trust in the effectiveness of the Bahamas Bar Council (BBC) as a regulatory body and the reputation of the profession as a whole the BBC intends to start making public the outcome of its hearings into complaints lodged against attorneys.

The association's ethics committee has been directed by President Ruth Bowe Darville to compile a "disciplinary index" detailing all complaints lodged against attorneys and the results of inquiries into those complaints by this Committee and its Disciplinary Tribunals.

"People need to know that the tribunals are working because many people don't think we take complaints seriously," said Mrs Bowe Darville.

The president revealed that there have been growing numbers of queries about the integrity of attorneys by cautious members of the public seeking legal assistance.

At present, only disbarments of attorneys are publicised - such as that of Andrew Thompson, Jan Ward and Michael Smith in the last year and a half - while confidentiality has shrouded the findings in cases where other outcomes are reached, such as the dismissal of the complaint or some lesser punishment being meted out.

In such instances, penalties

can include an attorney being temporarily suspended from practicing, being ordered to re-pay misappropriated funds or being ordered to pay the costs of their former client and complainant.

### Condemns

"Sometimes the tribunal condemns the lawyers in costs and they don't ever pay the costs so we have to find a way to enforce that," said Mrs Bowe Darville.

Earlier this year, former BBC president Wayne Munroe said he had been pushing for stricter regulations governing the legal profession for almost a decade, adding that the changes are a "no brainer."

In late 2008 he said the council was reviewing amendments and would likely forward them to the government for a decision on whether to move forward by the end of that year. He said he was concerned complaints against lawyers were taking too long to adjudicate and that there was a backlog of cases to be heard by the Tribunals.

**"Sometimes the tribunal condemns the lawyers in costs and they don't ever pay the costs so we have to find a way to enforce that."**

*Ruth Bowe Darville*

Yesterday, Ms Bowe Darville said that a slate of regulatory amendments to the Legal Professions Act were forwarded to the government as a result, but were ultimately

rejected by Cabinet "due to the inclusion of a provision relating to a legal practice certificate."

According to Ms Bowe Darville, it was the inclusion

of this clause which would require all attorneys to undergo annual continuing education in order to be eligible to practice that did not sit well with Cabinet ministers.



RUTH BOWE DARVILLE

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November 4	1201-1800	November 30	8101-8400
November 5	1801-2400	December 1	8401-8700
November 6	2401-3000	December 2	8701-9000
November 9	3001-3600	December 3	9001-9500
November 10	3601-4200	December 4	9501-10000
November 11	4201-4500	December 7	10001-10500
November 12	4501-4800	December 8	10501-11300
November 13	4801-5100	December 9	11301-12100
November 16	5101-5400	December 10	12101-13000
November 17	5401-5700	December 11	13001-14000
November 18	5701-6000	December 14	14001-15000
November 19	6001-6300	December 15	15001-16000
November 20	6301-6600	December 16	16001-17000
November 23	6601-6900	December 17	17001-18500
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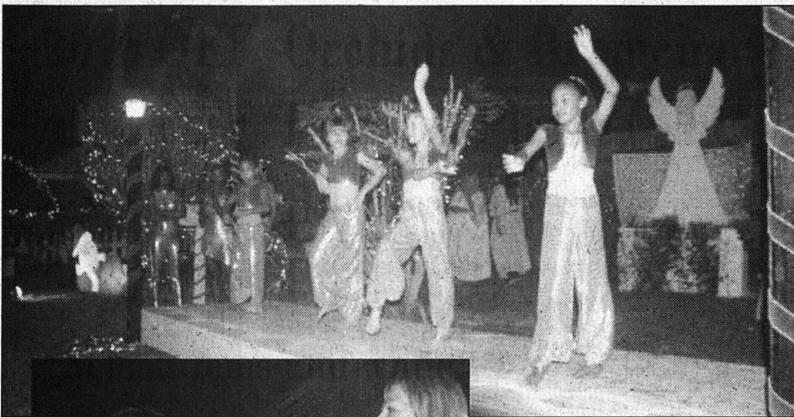
**LOCAL NEWS**



**SANTA AND MRS CLAUS** give toys to the children who attended the tree lighting and carol signing at the Shirlea Park on Saturday night.

**Shirlea Park hosts tree lighting ceremony**

BETTE COLE, along with the residents of Sears Road and Sweeting Lane, replaced an area of garbage with a beautiful park for the residents. Every year they have a carol and tree lighting ceremony at the park. People from as far off as Spanish Wells, Abaco and Eleuthera come for the special occasion.



**ABOVE:** Students of the Yodephy School of Dance and Modelling perform.



**LEFT:** Daphne Roberts and Pansy Russell sing carols to the enthusiastic crowd.



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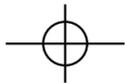
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LOCAL NEWS

# Senior police officers discuss holiday safety tips with businesses



**CHIEF INSPECTOR MAXINE LEARY**, Inspector Philip Rolle and reserve Assistant Superintendent Darville of the Southeastern Division give personal holiday safety tips to business owners in the Prince Charles shopping centre.

EMPLOYEES at the Medi-Clinic in the Prince Charles Shopping Centre are extremely grateful that local police officers took the time to discuss holiday safety tips with them.

The visit by senior officers was part of a wider effort by the Southeastern Division to visit businesses in the area to discuss how best to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Tess, a medical assistant at the clinic, said she and her fellow employees are very concerned about the recent spate of armed robberies.

She said: "We are extremely aware of it every day, not just during the holidays – especially so now, as crime is on the increase and a lot of people have lost their jobs."

Tess said the officers

responsible for policing Prince Charles Drive have always been very good about patrolling the shopping centre and making sure a police presence is felt in the area.

She said the visit by senior officers was "very useful" and it was good to see them out and about.

"They left their contacts, gave us suggestions, talked to us about how to be observant," she said.

## Walkabout

The holiday walkabout is just one of several initiatives by the Southeastern Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force to foster better relations between officers and the community.

Officer in charge of the

division, Supt Stephen Dean, believes this is the key to fighting crime effectively.

Last month, Supt Dean and his team presented groceries to the four homes for the elderly in his division.

In past years, the division would get the occupants of the homes together for a thanksgiving dinner.

Mr Dean said this year, they wanted the old folks to have more than one dinner, so the police decided to donate enough food and drinks for several meals.

In October the Southeastern Division hosted a domestic violence workshop in conjunction with community leaders in an effort to increase awareness about domestic violence and combat this growing problem.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Eastern Division pacesetters

DEVELOPING A DISCIPLINED CHARACTER THROUGH MUSIC

By REUBEN SHEARER  
Tribune Features Reporter  
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

"STAND at ease. Attention! Parade by the left. Slow march, right turn, left turn, quick march, toop treep" commands Travonne Knowles, a sergeant in the making who executes police marching drills to a group of 23 children that makes up the Eastern Division Pacesetters Community Youth Club and Marching Band.

Less than half of the students showed up today, a drastic slip from the 80-plus boys and girls who are registered in the programme from communities across New Providence. Many of them took part in a Christmas production at Thelma Gibson the night before, and were understandably tired from the performance.

Every week since November, Travonne and the many children who make up the Eastern Division Pacesetters travel from all ends of New Providence each Friday and Saturday to develop a disciplined character through music.

The programme is funded by the Eastern Community Association. It's the brainchild of Constable Carlton Smith, who was tapped by Supt David Deveaux of the Eastern Division Police Station to bring his proven programme to New Providence. Constable Smith has already brought it on-stream in the islands of Exuma, Ragged Island, Crooked



CONSTABLE Carlton Smith coaches Travonne Knowles on the clarinet

Island, Acklins and New Providence.

Just down the road from the Eastern Division Police Station in Elizabeth Estates, Constable Smith and Inspector Donna Barr lead the Eastern Pacesetters at Thelma Gibson Primary School. Every Friday at "the pavement" – an area at Thelma Gibson Primary school shaded by towering trees – they are taught music theory, and instructed on how to march.

On Saturday, they sing and practice drills. It takes a lot of concentration, and it's all in preparation for their debut performance tomorrow, at the Eastern Community Association's tree lighting ceremony.

Constable Smith takes the children, who range in age from nine to 16 years, to a bas-

ketball court to practice their marching drills. The sun's rays burn their bodies, and it just takes one youngster to say she needs to use the bathroom for everyone to tell the same tale.

Constable Smith knows it's an excuse to escape the assignment. So when "sergeant" in-training Knowles returns with the message that there will be no time to potty, the weary Pacesetters return to their starting positions.

Soon they are summoned back to "the pavement," for their well-deserved "cool off," and run like the wind back into the shaded spot they call "the pavement."

"I'm very good at marching," says a fidgety robust seven-year-old. "I'm an exercise person, so if you ask me to sit down, I'm gonna get up and move."

Trashea Davis is a bright young girl who is very excited about learning to play the clarinet. "I have to break it in, because it's very new," she said.

Trashea, like most of these youngsters, lives in the Eastern area and hails from Thelma Gibson, H.O. Nash, CV Bethel and Doris Johnson high schools. Some of the other children catch the bus on a Saturday morning all the way from Pinewood Gardens and in western parts of town to Thelma Gibson each weekend.

Fortunately for her, Trashea is dropped off and picked up by her mother who is very involved in her goal of grasping music well.

"Repetition counts," Constable Smith says as trombonist Jerrano Adderley plays his rendition of Silent Night on a bench by "the pavement." Jerrano will perform a Christmas carol at the Eastern Community's Tree Lighting Ceremony, and Constable Smith demands the best from him.

## Lessons

Jerrano, unlike the others, has been taking private music lessons. His family transferred him from Crooked Island to Nassau for better educational opportunities. Notably at a higher level musically, the children stand captivated by his winsome playing. Jerrano is eager to learn, even going back to Constable Smith for tutoring in his music booklet.

Jerrano hesitantly echoes a similar belief about Mr Smith's teaching style; calling it a little "unorthodox," but he says that frequent practice "will pay off in the end."

Constable Smith demands that the children report to him before he counts to 10. They run at his beck and call. After forming two lines, he's calling off directions, and for some he's in their faces.

When they mess up, he gets loud. To him, every single detail matters. T's are always crossed. I's must be dotted. They must be fluid in their movements. But it's a particular boon for these at-risk students to be immersed in an environment with high demands.

"That's the only way we get better if we work hard," one of the students explains. While Constable Smith's tone is described by all of the students as a little "rowdy", they see the method to his madness. "Mr Smith knows a lot about our instruments," he said.

And that's an understatement. The no-nonsense "band master" has self taught all of the instruments he plays: the trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, snare drum; and the far from usual violin.

"How many people does it take to mess up a drill team?" asks Constable Smith. The group unanimously reports: "One!" The tone of their voices sounds restless, and so he

SEE page 11

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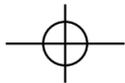


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LOCAL NEWS



THE EASTERN Division Pacesetters Community Youth Club and Marching band.

FROM page 10



BAND MEMBERS go over the script for their Friday performance.

asks again. All the while, they are attentive. Nothing stops the show. Not even the impetuous vomiting of a student in the front of the drill line. The boy, who didn't eat breakfast was relieved by Constable Smith who pats him on the back, and Inspector Barr further assists him.

The children are unperturbed, and serious. They look like officers performing at the Independence day event on Clifford park. No giggles or snickers can be heard. They know better.

If they mess up, some form of punishment awaits. Like running around the building a few times, or picking up 10 leaves, and reporting back to the group with a request to Constable Smith for re-entry into the march line.

The no-nonsense officer directs the 24 children with a didactic approach. He's giving them a review of what they learned under Travonne Knowles' instructions. But the children aren't put off, they hold him in high esteem. He says he balances the seriousness and lightens up quite often to foster respect and appreciation.

Constable Smith coaches them in their speech and helps with a "dramatic" Christmas reading. He encourages them to speak with more clarity, "Ya'll young people you know, don't drag it along," he tells them.

"We want these children to develop effective communication and speaking properly," says Constable Smith. He notices this deficiency in his working with Bahamian youth. Besides the benefits that effective communication offers, he thinks it will benefit them in their future careers.

Running just off donations, and a low budget, the Eastern Pacesetters programme is booming. A well-known businessman in Palmdale has already sponsored the band after seeing them perform on Bahamas at Sunrise.

The generous gift will go towards the funding of band uniforms, music stands, valve oils, and other necessities to keep the band up to standard.

On February 13, the Eastern Pacesetters will host their first solo pre-Valentine concert. They hope to get full financial support for this initiative to ensure good performances. Constable Smith sets high standards for the Eastern Pacesetters to perform with excellence, so that they will always be ready for sponsorship when opportunities present themselves.

"We're trying to teach them music as a skill," Constable Smith explains. Every Friday the children take a music test to see where they're at with music theory. Each week, the highest scorers take the grade one Royal Music Exam, which was developed in Britain.

Recently, 25 budding musicians got scores of 90 and above. At one sitting last year, 30 youngsters took the exam, and 16 passed grades 1 and 2.

Constable Smith explains that they know the programme can't help everyone, but he wants each child to have something to fall back on just in case.

"The things we've caught a few of these children doing, like ducking school, we don't put them in the criminal system for," said Inspector Donna Barr. "That will follow them forever, and we don't want them to have a police record at this age."

The officers have found in particular that many of the senior high students have problems with conflict resolution and anger management.

"Some of them don't need to go to Boy's Industrial School or Girl's Industrial School," said Constable Smith. "They just need some love and attention instead of society writing them off."

Both officers lament that

school administrators are "intolerant" in bestowing little graces for minor truancies, and instead issue "suspensions and expulsions."

They believe that these grievances should be further evaluated, by school officials, and other forms of punishment should be looked at. For instance, "bring them to school and let them clean up the yard and paint" says Inspector Barr.

To Smith and Barr, typical action of expulsion and suspension from schools is nothing but a slap on the wrist; leaving an open door for students to be involved in further criminality during the downtime. Furthermore, it leaves the problem unsolved for some who have more serious problems at home.

"I see the information we get from these kids, if the guidance counsellors at these schools would only question them, they would find out what's going on. And most of the times, these kids aren't lying."

Behaviour

The officers believe many of the children come from broken homes, where abuse and other unfortunate activity happens. It's the underlying problem of some of their acting out and participating in destructive behaviour, says Inspector Donna Barr.

Some senior administrators at local schools are just now recommending their troublesome students to the Eastern Pacesetters programme. At the moment, a number of high schoolers with bad records have been directed to the programme as part of community service.

"When these children come here, they open up to us," said Inspector Barr. "These kids are not forced to come here, they never miss a week. They are good children too, they are just looking for attention. They come right here, and fall in line."

One student, who's on community service didn't show up this week. Constable Smith is concerned, and will personally visit his house later in the day to find out why he wasn't there. The boy's parents sent him to the programme to be helped.

Constable Smith caught the young man in the back of his school smoking marijuana with his friends weeks ago.

Many lives have been changed through Constable Smith's formula of tough love, discipline and high expectations.

"No one can tell me the programme can't work," he said. "People say we're just wasting time, but in five or six years when they come out of school these kids won't be a problem to society."

He has seen success already, as a number of the children who have been brought up under his programme are now actively involved in society.

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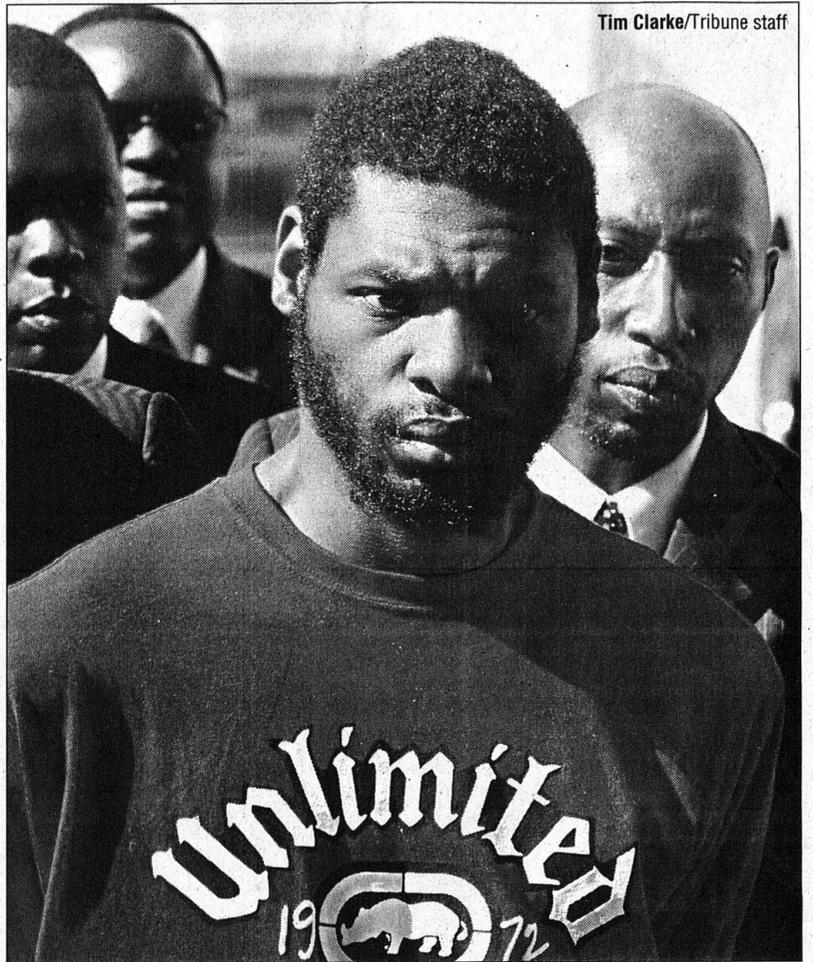
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## LOCAL NEWS



MURDER ACCUSED Marvin Coléby, 31, being escorted to court yesterday.

## Man in court charged with the murder of Bahamasair pilot

### FROM page one

Saunders was also shot multiple times.

Coleby, who was reportedly taken into police custody last Friday, is charged with Genear McKenzie, 20, and Rhonda Knowles, 19, in the murder of McQueen and the attempted murder of Saunders. McKenzie and Knowles have already been arraigned on the charges.

Coleby was not required to enter a plea to the charges and the matter was adjourned to March 3, 2010 for the start of a preliminary inquiry.

Coleby is also accused of conspiring to rob Enan Hanna and of robbing him of a \$260 Motorola cellular phone, and \$150 cash. He is also accused of robbing a cashier of the Pitt restaurant, Augusta Street, of \$300

on November 10, and robbing Lishanda Moore of a white 1999 Honda Accord valued at \$5,000. He was not required to enter a plea to the charges and the cases were adjourned to March 24, 2010.

Coleby is also accused of possession of a handgun with intent to endanger the life of detective Sergeant Michael Meronard. He was not required to enter a plea to the charge during his arraignment in Court 8 before Magistrate Carolita Bethel. Coleby was convicted yesterday on weapons and ammunitions charges and sentenced to 40 months in prison. Police say that last Friday, while searching Coleby's home, they found him hiding in a closet.

They also found two guns as well as ammunition under a bed.

## Campaign launched to find missing young Bahamian

### FROM page one

the word in an effort to find out what happened to the 28-year-old.

Details remained sketchy last night, but according to reports, the St Andrews School graduate vanished without a trace on November 25, after telling his sister he was stepping out for a few minutes.

His brother, Chance Farrington, said: "He just left the house and never came back. We don't know what to think."

*The Tribune* attempted to learn more about the matter from police, however senior officers were not available for comment up to press time last night.

Anyone with information regarding Mr Farrington's whereabouts is encouraged to call 328-TIPS anonymously, or contact their nearest police station.

## Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award.

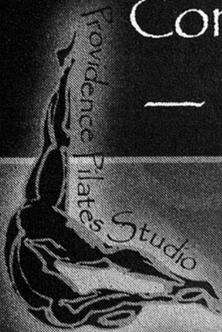
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## Aching Back?

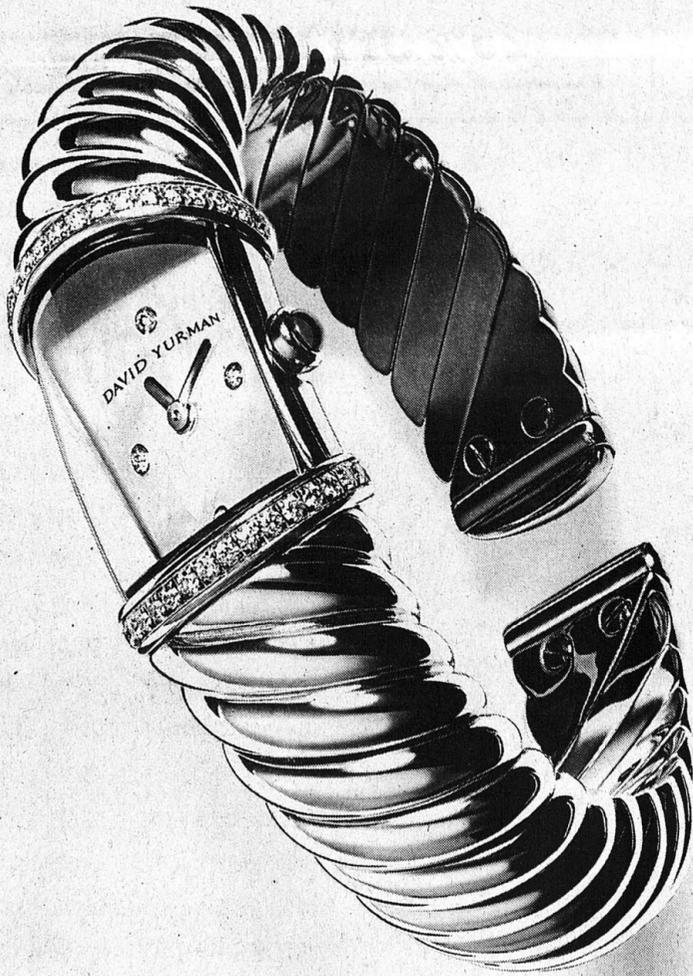


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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

ed by doctors. It is not known whether any of the students was detained overnight.

The incident occurred sometime after 1pm during lunch hour on the school campus.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey said police received a report around 1.20pm of a disturbance

Students taken to hospital after school disturbance

at the school.

She said several uniformed officers were dispatched to investigate the matter.

Community activist Troy Garvey was contacted by some concerned parents, who rushed to the hospital after learning news

of the incident.

School violence is a serious issue in the country. There have been stabbing incidents this year at schools in Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Abaco.

On December, 3, a student was attacked and stabbed by another student at Government High School.

The victim, a 17-year-old boy,

was taken to hospital where his injuries were treated.

In November, 2009, a male student was stabbed in the leg when he intercepted an argument between two school girls at SC McPherson Junior High School.

A 13-year-old girl and 12-year-old girl were arguing on the school campus in Baillou Hill

Road when they started attacking each other.

Two students at the CV Bethel High School were stabbed in November after an argument broke out over the alleged theft of his girlfriend's cell phone.

Both students were seriously injured and hospitalized at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

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FP1035

# PLP on alert over MP 'resign' claim

FROM page one

after he accepted the appointment of chairman of the Gaming Board from Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on the FNM's victory in 2007.

When this latest news broke, leaders within the PLP were on high alert, manning phones all over the country to ascertain whether or not the reports of Mr Adderley's ultimate departure from the party were in fact true. In fact, when contacted by *The Tribune* yesterday, many of the party's MPs and prospective candidates all asked "what the latest

report" had been.

Apart from his possible departure, the PLP is reportedly trying to ascertain what the repercussions would be for the constituency of Elizabeth as Mr Adderley's resignation would force a by-election for that seat.

As such, many within the party believe that former Ambassador Joshua Sears is the man tipped by the Prime Minister to lead the FNM's banner in that seat against the PLP's Ryan Pinder who is reported to be the front runner for that nomination in 2012.

If these reports are true, sources within the PLP sug-

gest that the PM may be using this opportunity of a by-election in Elizabeth to gauge the FNM's support on the ground which would determine whether or not an early election is called.

"If the PLP loses Elizabeth, we will lose the general election," a PLP MP said. "I don't see how we could afford to relax and let what we are seeing taking place here to happen right under our noses."

"We have to get on the ground and ensure that we retain that seat no matter what. It will send the wrong message if the FNM is able to capture Elizabeth," he said.



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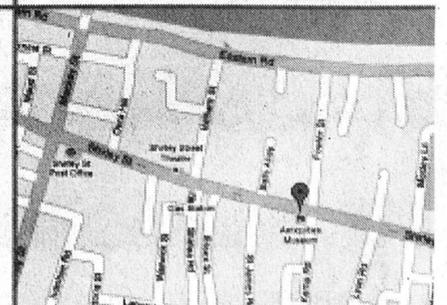
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# sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

PAGE 18 • Brent Stubbs' opinion...



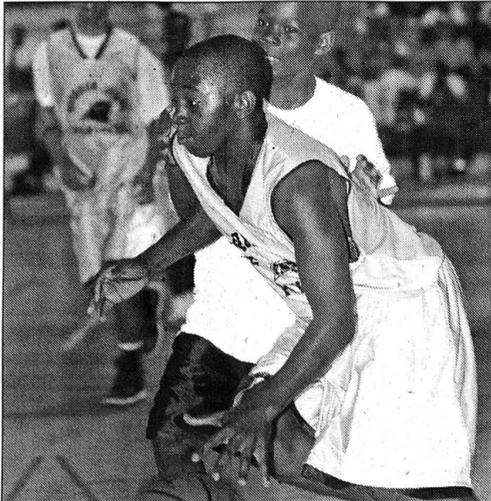
Judo athlete to represent Bahamas at Singapore youth camp...

See page 17

## Fr Marcian Peters highlights

By RENALDO DORSETT  
Sports Reporter  
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

Family Island schools highlighted play yesterday in the 25th Father Marcian Peters Basketball Classic, while a battle between Catholic schools opened the day in the primary division.



HARBOUR ISLAND Panthers' Deon Roberts drives...

Photo by Felipé Major/Tribune staff

**Junior Boys**  
Harbour Island Panthers - 48  
North Andros Seminoles - 6

The Panthers scored from the opening tip and staked their claim as a possible contender for the junior boys title with the most lopsided win of the tournament thus far.

With two players in double figures and another trio just a basket away from reaching double figures in scoring, the Panthers' balanced scoring attack easily topped the Seminoles.

More aggressive from the opening tip, Harbour Island adjusted to their new sur-

roundings quickly with an 8-2

lead after the first quarter.

In the second, the Panthers' lead reached double figures, 12-2, for the first time on a layup from pivot man Torin Sweetener with 4:34 left to play in the half.

An overmatched Seminoles team struggled to advance the ball beyond halfcourt against an airtight full court trap which forced a series of consecutive turnovers.

The Panthers' lead reached 20, 22-2, on running jumper

SEE next page



### POWER PRAYER SESSIONS

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FATHER YAHWEH SAID TO SOLOMOM "IF I SHUT UP THE HEAVENS SO THAT THERE IS NO RAIN, OR IF I COMMAND THE LOCUSTS SWARMS TO EAT UP ALL OF YOUR CROPS, OR IF I SEND AN EPIDEMIC AMONG YOU, THEN IF MY PEOPLE WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY, AND SEARCH FOR ME, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, I WILL HEAR THEM FROM HEAVEN AND FORGIVE THEIR SINS AND HEAL THEIR LAND, I WILL LISTEN, TO EVERY PRAYER....."

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SPORTS

25TH ANNUAL Father Marcian Peters Basketball Tournament highlights

from Rio Saunders and Harbour Island led 24-2 at the half. The lead continued to grow in the third, highlighted by an alley hoop from Lashan Higgs – the only female player in the junior division filled with all male teams – to Sweetner who was fouled on an acrobatic layup and converted at the line for a three point play. In the third, the lead ballooned to 30 on an Alvin Sweetner layup, assisted by Torin Sweetner, one of his many adept passes from the post position for a 32-2 lead. The Panthers led 36-4 heading

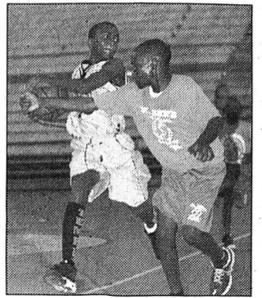
into the fourth quarter. A virtual layup drill for Harbour Island, the lead reached 40 on a fastbreak layup from Edwar Davis, which made the score 46-6. Saunders and Torin Sweetner finished with ten points apiece, while Higgs, Alvin Sweetner, and Davis each finished with eight. Philip Major led the Seminoles with six points.

**Primary Boys**  
**St Johns Giants 11**  
**TC Suns 21**  
 The Suns led 10-4 at the half and withstood a late Giants ral-

ly to come away with the win. In the fourth quarter, St John's trimmed the lead to four, 10-14 but The Suns pulled away late for the double figure win. Julius Nottage, who finished with a game high eight points, ended the game in thrilling fashion when he made a half court heave at the buzzer which sent the Temple Christian faithful into a frenzy. For the Suns, Andreas Seymour added four while Diargo smith finished with eight. Joshua Brennen led the Giants with five points.

**Primary Boys**  
**St Cecilia Strikers - 12**  
**Our Lady's Blue Flames - 9**  
 Free throws ultimately decided the winner in a duel between two Catholic school powerhouses in a defensive struggle. A slow start offensively for both teams with each making just one field goal. Blue Flames had an advantage at the line which led to 4-2 lead at the half. Tied at four on Steven Humes free throws with four minutes remaining in third. Took 5-4 lead when Humes again went to line and made one of two and Strikers kept the 5-4 lead heading into fourth. Both teams reached game high scoring marks in the final quarter with free throws as the deciding factor down the stretch. D'Angelo Murphy regained the lead for the Blue

Flames on first free throw and missed the second, however Charles Cooper grabbed the rebound to keep possession four Our Lady's and scored on a jump hook to take a 7-5 lead with 4:10 left to play. Humes tied game at 7 with a layup, Cooper gave the Blue Flames a one point lead at the line with 1:20 remaining, but the Strikers scored on very next trip upcourt to take a 9-8 lead. Our Lady's forward Eddie Dormeus split a pair at the line to tie game at nine with 40 seconds left, but the game got away from them defensively as the Strikers closed the game on a 3-0 run. Humes was fouled on his way to the basket with 28 secs left and made one for 10-9. The Strikers trap forced a turnover and Ivoine Ingraham scored the



TEMPLE CHRISTIAN Suns Julius Nottage is fouled as he tries to pass the ball...  
 Photo by Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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game clinching basket to give his team a 12-9 lead with three seconds left to play. Humes finished with six points while Cooper led the Blue Flames with five. And in a recap of Tuesday's action, Catholic primary schools continue to dominate at the 25th Father Marcian Peters basketball tournament, while Family Island teams made their debut.

**Primary Boys**  
**St Cecilia Strikers - 19**  
**Mt Carmel Cavs - 10**  
 The Strikers continue to ride a wave of confidence from a memorable regular season win over the St Bede's Crushers. Mt Carmel took an early 5-1 lead over the Strikers and led 5-3 at the end of the first quarter. Lead guard Ivoine Ingraham stole the inbound pass and dished an assist to tie the game at five early in the second. The Strikers led 9-7 at the half and 11-9 lead at the end of third. The Cavaliers' only score of the quarter came with 1:46 left to play, however a basket by Ingraham gave the Strikers their biggest lead of the game 19-10 with 40 seconds remaining.

**Senior Girls**  
**R M Bailey Pacers - 18**  
**Doris Johnson Mystic Marlins - 3**  
 After a sluggish first half from both teams, the Pacers rebounded in the second half for the blowout win. The Pacers took a 2-0 lead after the first quarter and led just 5-2 at the half.

Tonia Kaye Johnson's defence keyed a second half run for her team which broke the game open. Johnson came up with three consecutive steals which led to easy baskets and a 6-0 run for the Pacers. The Pacers' lead reached double figures for the first time with just under two minutes left to play in the game. Another steal from Johnson, her eighth of the game, followed by a fast-break layup made it 18-3 with seconds left to play.

**Primary Boys**  
**Our Lady's Blue Flames - 24**  
**Exuma Scorpions - 8**  
 The Blue Flames jumped out to an early 8-0 lead and held the Scorpions to just one first half field goal. Our Lady's placed two players in double figures led by D'Angelo Mackey with a game high 14 and Charles Cooper with 12. The Blue Flames held a 10-2 lead at the end of first quarter with the benefits of a stifling fullcourt trap and instant offence from Cooper. His layup gave the Blue Flames 12-2 lead late in the second quarter and another just before the half gave Our Lady's a 16-2 lead at the half. Mackey picked up the scoring slack in the third to extend the Blue Flames' advantage to nearly 20 on a jumpshot which gave his team a 20-2 lead heading into the fourth quarter. The Scorpions staged a late rally with Reno Brown's six points in the final period, however came up short in their second game of the night.

**Intermediate Boys**  
**CR Walker Knights - 25**  
**HO Nash Lions - 9**  
 The knights nearly scored as many points in the opening quarter as the Lions managed all game and cruised to victory. The Knights began the game on a 7-0 run lead 7-1 after the first quarter. The Lions managed just two field goals, no field goals in the opening half, and the Knights gained their first double figure lead, 13-3, on a Van Hutcheson layup. CR Walker led 17-5 at halftime. A turnover prone third period for both teams limited the scoring to just one score between both teams – a runner by the Knights Matthew Davis. Hutcheson finished the day with nine points and seven rebounds, while Michael Reckley added seven points. Other scores in Tuesday's action available up to press time:  
**Primary Boys**  
**Exuma Scorpions - 16,**  
**Galilee Miracles - 7**  
**CW Saunders Cougars - 12,**  
**Faith Temple Warriors - 11**

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SPORTS

# Judo athlete to represent Bahamas at Singapore youth camp

THE Bahamas Olympic Association (BOA) has selected 15-year-old judo athlete Cynthia Rahming to represent the Bahamas at a youth camp in Singapore.

The camp is a cultural friendship one where athletes will be exposed to other athletes from all over the world and also see the facilities that will be used at the Youth Olympic Games to be held in the summer of 2010.

Athletes will also have a chance to try another Olympic sport and participate in various cultural activities. "We are proud of Cynthia and her accomplishments," said BOA president Wellington Miller.

"We gave Cynthia a lot of information on the history of the Olympics in the Bahamas and we are certain that she will represent us well.



Cynthia Rahming and her father

Tourism also gave some gifts so that she will be able to share them with her new friends from around the world."

Cynthia expressed her gratitude to Miller and the BOA executives for having the confidence in her and promised to represent the country well.

"Cynthia has worked very hard both as athlete and student," said Cynthia's mother

Benita Rahming. "She trains at 5am every morning and then again in the evening. We have seen her grades improve as well."

The Bahamas Judo Federation (BJF) is also expected to travel to its final tournament of the year – the Barbados International – which is set for December 12.

Four athletes will compete against other Caribbean nations. For the first time the national team will have a family islander, Ashton Forbes of Abaco, who began judo earlier this year at St Francis De Sales School in Marsh Harbour.

"Ashton has worked hard and distinguished himself in competition. He is a strong addition to our team and this is his first tournament outside of the country," said Phil Kemp, strength and condi-

tioning coach for the BJF. Persons interested in judo

should contact the Bahamas Judo Federation at 364-6773

to find out the school closest to their local area.

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SPORTS

# 'Choo Choo' getting back on track with pro career

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter

JERMAINE 'Choo Choo' Mackey deserves another chance to fight for a title - any title.

After blowing the opportunity to defend his British Commonwealth title when he took an ill-advised fight in Canada in September, the Bahamian super middleweight champion is getting back on track with his professional career.

He has left for Trinidad & Tobago where he will take on a familiar foe in Kirk 'the Technician' Sinette for the World Boxing Association's FedeLatin title on Saturday.

The duo first met here at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium in 2007 when Mackey stopped Sinette in the second round for the unified WBC Caribbean Boxing Federation (CABOFE) and WBA FedeCaribe titles.

While Mackey still holds onto the CABOFE crown, he

## OPINION

relinquished the FedeCaribe title when he fought 12 grueling rounds with African Michael Gbenga before he pulled off the British Commonwealth title in 2008.

Mackey, 29, will be going into the fight with a 18-4 win-loss record. Unfortunately, all of his losses have come on the road. So hopefully, being a little

more hungry to regain the form that he marveled his opponents with here at home, including Sinette, Mackey would like nothing better than to come home with another title around his waist.

STUBBS



OPINION

## KNOWLES INV. ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOWING

Over the weekend, Mark Knowles held another version of his tennis celebrity invitational and for the first time, the venue was changed from Atlantis on Paradise Island to the National Tennis Center at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Center.

I'm sure that when Knowles decided to make the switch, he

knew he had an opportunity to expose more of the country's young players to the visiting professional players. The switch certainly accomplished that.

The NTC had the type of crowd that you would normally see at a Davis Cup event. And while there was only one other Bahamian player involved, Davis Cupper Marvin Rolle, it was truly an event to remember.

Knowles should be commended for assembling quite a field of players, who not only put on a high level of competition, but some very entertaining performances. We look forward to next year's event.

## UNTIMELY DEATH BETHEL WILL BE MISSED

A lot of people are still stunned at the untimely death of 110m hurdler Christopher 'Nipples' Bethel.

The St Augustine's College

graduate, who went on to McKendree State, had a very promising career as a well-rounded athlete.

Although he excelled in baseball as a pitcher for the Big Red Machine's junior boys during his high school days, Bethel went on to perform as a national team athlete in track and field at the collegiate level.

Bethel, 25, was one of those athletes who you just enjoyed being around.

He was really a vibrant and jovial person, who never hesitated to crack a joke about any and everything. I know at one time when I went to interview him after he competed, he quipped with a smile: "Why me, I didn't win the race."

Even when he did the interview, he was very cordial in his remarks. On behalf of my family and The Tribune newspaper, I wish to extend my condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace.

## YEAR-ENDING AWARDS GIVE US YOUR NOMINATIONS

EVERY year around this time, we in The Tribune sports department start to wrap our Christmas presents to present to you our readers, the Most Outstanding Athletes, Stories and Coaches of the Year.

This year, however, we will be doing something a little different. We want to get your input on the selection for the honorees. This is your chance to make a contribution.

Too many times, myself and Renaldo Dorsett are bombarded with calls and e-mails from the public as to why we selected this one and why didn't that one make the list. Well, here's your chance to participate in a meaningful way.

The categories are male and female athlete of the year, junior male and female athlete of the year (18-and-under), coach of the year, executive of the year, team of the year and story of the year.

Drop us a line at [bstubbs@tribunemedia.net](mailto:bstubbs@tribunemedia.net) or [rdorsett@tribunemedia.net](mailto:rdorsett@tribunemedia.net) or fax us at 328-2398 with your nominations. We will accept them up until Friday, December 18.

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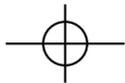
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CARIBBEAN NEWS

Govt to deploy 700 police officers to high-crime areas over holiday

KINGSTON, Jamaica

Jamaica is deploying more than 700 police officers to high-crime areas over the holiday season as the island nears a record number of killings, according to Associated Press.

Assistant Police Chief Glenmore Hinds says officers will patrol malls, bus stations and other busy spots across the island's 14 parishes.

He said Wednesday that some officers have been reassigned from desk duties while others are recent academy graduates.

Police expect to launch a new anti-gang initiative after recently announcing that nearly 1,600 killings have been reported so far this year, slightly more than all of 2008. A record 1,674 persons were killed in Jamaica in 2005. The island has one of the world's highest murder rates.

■ SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – One of Puerto Rico's most-wanted fugitives has been extradited from New Jersey to face charges that he killed a leader of a sewer workers union on the U.S. island.

FBI spokesman Harry Rodriguez says Jose Juan Viera Morales was flown to Puerto Rico on Wednesday and jailed at a federal detention center. Viera is charged with killing Wallis Rivera Rodriguez in 2007.

Prosecutors allege that a vacation complex manager now in prison hired Viera to kill Rivera because the union leader was going to reveal financial wrongdoing at the complex.

Viera also has been indicted on charges of conspiring to distribute drugs in Puerto Rico. He was arrested in September in New Jersey on money-laundering charges.

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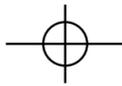
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BUSINESS



SANDALS Resorts executives celebrate at 16th World Travel Awards in London, where the chain won the Bahamas' Leading Resort honour for Sandals Royal Bahamian...

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SANDALS Resorts has launched a promotion to drive more visitors to the Bahamas, with guests booking a minimum four-night stay at either Sandals Royal Bahamian or Sandals Emerald Bay receiving a complimentary airfare for their companion.

The resort chain's Companion Flies Free promotion thus allows couples to travel to its two Bahamian resorts while only paying airfare for one. The promotion applies to

new bookings from major gateways in the US, and requires both passengers to be booked on the same flight and itinerary. Couples flying out of Florida are also treated to the promotion through a minimum stay of only three nights at Sandals Royal Bahamian, in a bid to make weekend getaways more attractive.

In addition to the Companion Flies Free promotion, Sandals said guests who book a stay at Sandals Royal Bahamian by January 7, 2010,

will also receive up to 60 per cent off regular rack rates for travel through select dates in 2010.

Guests who book a stay at Sandals Emerald Bay will receive up to 50 per cent off regular rack rates and one night free, when they book a seven-night minimum stay.

Tourists travelling to Sandals Emerald Bay will receive complimentary airfare for their companion for travel from January 22-June 23, 2010. Vacationers travelling to Sandals Royal Bahamian receive complimentary airfare for their companion for travel from January 4-June 23, 2010.

However, blackout dates and restrictions apply from March 19-April 18, 2010, while taxes and fees are not included, except for guests flying out of Florida.

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**THURSDAY**

December 9, 2009

Pg. 24

The Tribune

RELIGIOUS  
NEWS,  
STORIES  
AND  
CHURCH  
EVENTS



# 'I Am Praying'

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

**IN a time when crime is soaring to new heights and more and more persons are without work, many say that Christians need to get down on their knees and bow their heads in prayer.**

Taking this stance is a Christian non-profit organisation which has launched a new website - [www.iampraying.ning.com](http://www.iampraying.ning.com) - where people can send prayer requests and they will be prayed for.

Noel Browne, founder of "I Am Praying", spoke with *Tribune Religion*, explaining how the website works.

"Prayer videos are uploaded on the website, and the videos would show each person's face who is praying for the person who requested the prayer, creating a personal connection," he said.

"Minutes after the person is prayed for they can receive the video instead of having to wait a few days. The person can hear the distinct voice and emotions of the person praying for them. They can go back to the site and replay the prayer videos without fear of losing them."

Mr Browne said it is his desire to reach Christians all over the world with the website, but his immediate goal is to touch the lives of Bahamians, to get them to come together and join in prayer.

"If Christians in this society can come together and pray, then major crises can be averted and turned around for the better. God has the power to change any situation, if people only come together and get on their knees and pray," he said.

Mr Browne has already reached out to numerous persons, offering sympa-

thetic prayers for families who have lost a loved one, those who are sick, those who are depressed and those who have been victims of crimes.

During the month of November he uploaded his first four prayers to the "I Am Praying" website as well as to his YouTube channel. The videos included prayers for the Bahamas, United States President Barack Obama and for the end of the global recession.

Additionally, he uploaded a video on November 29 where he prayed for four police officers who were killed in Lakewood, Washington, and the shooter.

To date that video has been viewed 435 times.

"This might not seem much for YouTube, but consider that this occurred on a virtually new account with no subscriber base. The views came from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Bahamas, Germany, and the Netherlands," he said.

Mr Browne said that he wants persons to know that there is a support team praying for their well-being no matter which country they live in.

"Every day we post topics to pray about. There are also different sections on the website where we post featured prayers. For instance, we took the obituary section out of the papers last week and we prayed for the family of the deceased. We also prayed for the family of the track star (Christopher Bethel) that got killed in a car crash. We pray for the shut-ins and the depressed," he said.

"It's much better when people can see that they are being prayed for. It's different than when a person types a prayer onto a website as proof that they have prayed for that person. But the only unfortunate thing about that is

**SEE page 31**

NOEL Browne's "I Am Praying" website.

## RELIGIOUS NOTES

UNDER the patronage of Bishop Dr Elgarnet B Rahming, Bishop Dr John Humes and Bishop Robert McPhee, the Church of God of Prophecy Bahamas Brass Band will host an exciting benefit concert tomorrow night at the Church of God auditorium.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Ranfurly Home for Children, Great Commission

Ministry, and Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged.

Guest performers include the Church of God Centennial Mass Choir, Minister Denzil Rolle and High Praise, the Church of God Band and many others.

Attendees are encouraged to bring canned good items which will be donated to each organisation. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

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ding photographs, birth announcements and church activities schedule to be posted in upcoming *Tribune Religion* sections.

This service is free. Send all information, including (especially) photographs, to [features@tribunemedia.net](mailto:features@tribunemedia.net). Information can be hand delivered to *The Tribune* at Shirley and Deveaux Streets or call the Religion section @ 502.2368.

# ASSEMBLIES OF BRETHREN TO OPEN 'PREMIER' BIBLE COLLEGE IN 2010

By REUBEN SHEARER  
Tribune Features Reporter  
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

**THERE is a saying that what you don't know won't hurt you. But that's not pertinent in studying the Bible, says one pastor.**

According to scripture, Christians should "study to shew (show) thyself (yourself) approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV).

But many people do not consider Christian ministry a field which one has to go to school for.

Tell someone that you are training to be a pastor, or "teacher of the Word" and you may get some raised eyebrows.

But if you believe the Bible, the verse of 2 Timothy 2:15 becomes crucial when leading a congregation.

After all, you must know what you believe in order to practice and incor-

porate it into your life, and to take it further, in teaching a church.

It is in the spirit of this verse, that the Assemblies of Brethren in the Bahamas are spearheading a learning institution - the Hope College, scheduled to open in 2010.

"This is ours. The Baptists, the Methodists and the Anglicans have theirs, and I'm sure you want to see that you have yours," said a spokesperson for the College.

Today's generation must be articulate, while keeping with certain religious fundamentals, the spokesperson said.

And to achieve that goal one has to go off to Bible college.

But not everyone who realises they have a "calling" to the ministry or has a desire to study abroad at a seminary has the means to do so.

For these persons, Hope College wishes to provide the necessary training.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Hope College said: "We've been blessed with the wonderful opportunity to serve our community in various ways

at such a time as this.

"We expect to become the premier institution of the region, rooted in Biblical doctrine, providing a steady growth of graduates from a broad spectrum of programmes and courses.

"Hope College will produce a calibre of highly trained productive citizens impacting future generations for the Kingdom of God."

The college will also offer academic programmes as aims to foster development of the whole person - intellectually and spiritually.

A spokesperson for Hope College encouraged members of Brethren churches across the nation to "embrace the institution."

Introduction to early childhood education; professional caregivers certification; introduction to Creole and English as a second language; sign language; church administration and pharmacy technician certification examination preparation are all offered.

For students who are below college standards, a preparatory college programme to help them make up their

courses will also be available.

The preparatory programme at the college runs for one year, to allow students to complete the required course work.

The entire programme can be finished with a Saturday-only schedule or attending class on weekdays.

Persons can also enroll in the "second chance" programme which targets men and women who are seriously interested in turning their lives around.

In the first 18 months of the "second chance" programme, students take classes in basic skills, such as entrepreneurship, computer literacy, farming and/or landscaping, and basic investments.

Students then choose their specialty. They will participate in a three-month long internship with partnering agencies or companies willing to assist them.

The first group of 15 students for this programme will begin their courses on March 29, 2010.

Interested persons should sign up at Hope College as soon as possible to ensure a seat in the programme.

## 'Fall into Fashions' at St Margaret's Anglican Church

ST Margaret's Anglican Church Courtyard recently came alive with a burst of Autumn colours as the Decorating and Social Events Committee staged a tea party and fashion show under the theme, 'Fall into Fashions'.

The fashion show showcased its young and not so young members in designs for casual, church and ball wear, complete with masks.

Guests were entertained with the appearances of 'Miss Nitty' (Antoinette Thompson), DJ Perry Newton and St Margaret's very own 'MC Extraordinaire', Cherylee Pinder.





MEDITATION

# Putting Christ back in your Christmas

THESE are some ways for you to spiritualise rather than commercialise your holidays:

1. Go to church every week and focus on the coming Saviour.
2. Reflect on why you need a personal Saviour to come to you at this time.
3. Whenever you decorate your tree remember the tree that made the cross.
4. Be encouraged by the evergreen tree that survives even the harshest winter.
5. Add each ornament prayerfully.
6. Consider having a Crismon tree with only religious symbols as ornaments.
7. Allow your wreath to remind you of the never ending circle of God's love.
8. Consider what gift you will give to the Lord, as if you were one of the magi.
9. Send only Christian Christmas cards.
10. Invite some lonely people to your Christmas dinner.



REV. ANGELA  
C BOSFIELD  
PALACIOS

You are always free to add your own ideas to the list. There is so much that we miss about the deeper meaning of Christmas when we remain superficially connected to the season.

Create some new family traditions if your old ones seem to have no depth or significance any more. You may even decide to forego all personal gifts in the family (or for those who agree) and buy something for members of a needy family instead.

If Christmas is about loving and giving, then we may begin to consider more ways in which to make giving a

reality now and well into the New Year.

You may covenant with the Lord that this will become your way of life throughout your lifetime.

I am sharing these ideas while you still have time to incorporate some of them in this year's plans.

Whatever you do determine is the best way forward for you and your family, be faithful.

Even if you walk down your street and in your immediate neighbourhood to sing carols and give out a little party bag, it will capture the spirit of Christmas.

Contact Social Services or you nearest Urban Renewal office to discover who in the vicinity needs assistance.

You may help anonymously or agree to journey with the family regularly.

Let the recession be a blessing for us to adopt more gracious and loving ways when it comes to those in need.

What you do for the "least person", you do for Our Lord.

"Create some new family traditions if your old ones seem to have no depth or significance any more. You may even decide to forego all personal gifts in the family (or for those who agree) and buy something for members of a needy family instead."

## THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE BAHAMAS

# Rev John Daveys' account of the 1866 Hurricane Part 1

The Baptist Magazine of 1866 contains a letter from the Rev John Davey as follows:

THE ARRIVAL of the Rev John Davey enables us to furnish our readers with more particulars of the effects of the hurricane on the Mission property in Nassau. Through the good providence of God, Mr Davey and his family reached their destination in safety, but not without experiencing very severe weather on the way.

Under date of November 17, he writes: — "Our voyage across the Atlantic was a long and dangerous one, and we were detained in New York a month, which was a great disappointment both to ourselves and the people.

The *Corsica* reached the bar of Nassau early on the morning of the 7th, but found that the passengers would not be landed in boats the usual way on account of the heavy sea that was running. She gave signals respecting passengers and freight, and then proceeded in the direction of Cochrane's anchorage, in the hope



JIM  
LAWLOR

that schooners would soon be despatched to us, but no schooner came alongside till the following morning.

Though the people were looking and waiting for us all day, and there was great uncertainty as to the time the schooner would arrive on the morrow, yet when we got to the landing about noon, we found the shore lined with the members of the church, waiting to welcome us.

Their congratulations were very hearty, and two or three days after we arrived, we were fully employed in receiving visitors. But, though it was pleasant to see the people, it was distressing to hear their accounts of the desolating hurricane with which the colony had been visited.

I asked them in what light it was generally regarded and some said as a

judgment from God.

One aged African woman said to me, "Massa, God has punished we this year, nothing left to pick a copper," referring to the destruction of the crops."

The Mission property has sustained considerable damage through the hurricane. The portico of our large chapel, which was put up last year, was blown down, stripping away the cornice and the gutter, and thus laying the chapel open to the rams. The chapel gates were blown down and broken, and a great quantity of glass destroyed in the chapel. The roofs of the Mission-house and out-buildings were so damaged that they must be shingled immediately.

But the saddest part of the story remains to be told. Bethel, the original Baptist chapel in the Bahamas, in which Mr Burton laid the foundation of this Mission, after he was driven from Morant Bay, is levelled with the ground. This is a great grief to the poor people, especially the aged, who have worshipped in it so many years. It is very desirable that it should be rebuilt as speedily as possible, as the

bulk of the members live in the neighbourhood of that chapel.

But they cannot possibly rebuild it themselves in their present distressed circumstances, and therefore, I hope, that when the news of this great calamity reaches England, the friends of the Mission will kindly help us to repair our damaged chapel, and rebuild those that have been blown down.

The Episcopalians and Wesleyans have suffered as badly as ourselves, and therefore, we cannot look to them for help, who need all the means they have got to rebuild their own places of worship.

The hurricane was very severe upon other islands but I believe that the two principal chapels of our Society, beyond New Providence, sustained but little damage. There was not much injury done to property in Inagua, and though there was much private property destroyed at Turk's Island, yet the places of worship were not much damaged. Many of the Out-Island chapels were destroyed, but as they were not very costly buildings, I think they may soon be rebuilt."

# Destined for greatness

WHO told you that you had to accept the hardship that you're facing, or through ignorance religiously climb the rough side of the mountain?

Don't you know that you have a choice in the matter as it pertains to you living the good life; the God ordained abundant life (**John 10:10**)?

As we move into the New Year there are some changes that we as a people, both collectively and individually, must make in order to tap into the reservoir of greatness that lies within us.

Here are a few those changes:

**1. Proverbs 3:5-6** - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

**2.** Stay away from negative, murmuring and complaining people.

**3.** Change your words/your speech, and you will eventually change the world that you're living in. **Proverbs 18:21** - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

And also here's what **Mark 11:23** says about the power of your words.

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain; Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

It's about time that we rise up and be all that Yahweh has called and ordained us to be and do.



PASTOR  
MATTHEW  
ALLEN

As we make the transition into 2010 it is of the utmost importance that we lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us.

Listen, time-out for playing games!

The family structure as we know it is in trouble and the religious church can't effectively speak to this issue. Why? Because 75 per cent of the tithe-paying, offering-giving church membership are doing their own will and not God's will, and no religious leader wants to mess with the cash flow.

The divorce rate in the church is much higher than that of the world, but who cares?

Amidst all the prosperity preaching and conferences, everybody seems to forget that Yahweh is a covenant-keeping God.

One of the first signs of our nation heading in the wrong direction is when a clergyman can put aside or divorce his wife and take another as a man changes from one suit to another and fearlessly ascends the pulpit.

The two categories, the true church and the family, will forever be in the enemy's optical device, whose sole purpose is to render the church ineffective

and the family divided and powerless.

Addressing these sorts of issues is all part of unveiling the greatness that lies within us, and before we can take authority over any demonic spirits we've got to call a spade a spade.

The following is for those who've got the desire manifest greatness in 2010:

As children of God, as a people that truly knows and has a personal relationship with Yahweh, we shall be strong and do great exploits (**Daniel 11:32**), taking action against every contrary spirit such as the spirit of sickness and disease, the spirit of fear, the spirit of violence and murder, the spirit of strife and confusion, the spirit of poverty, every unclean sexual spirit.

If you have taken the time to read thus far then I'm convinced that this article has been divinely put together for you.

Despite all that might have gone wrong in your life this year, it's time for you to serve an eviction notice on every negative spirit and force that has been working against you.

Everything that you need to live the victorious, abundant life (**John 10:10**) has already been deposited within; the day you've accepted Yeshuwa Messiah as your Lord and Saviour.

Watch this!

Therefore your victory, your breakthrough, your healing, is not in the attendance of another conference or in your religious leader, but rather it is in the words that comes out of your mouth.

Are you prepared to go into a brand new year with the same old complaints of

blaming others for your failure to get up and try something new?

How much longer are you going to blame the PLP, the FNM, the Port Authority, etceteras?

What's your role in trying to make a better Bahamas?

Please know this, that evil triumphs when good people say and do nothing.

"Stop allowing where you are, to determine who you are."

As I've said before, so say I again: You're not the situation which you might be in at this time. Remember, I said that a Bahamian visiting Haiti or China doesn't make him or her a Haitian or a Chinese; likewise the bad or unfortunate situation that you're in is not who you are, for you are truly the righteousness of Yahweh in Yeshuwa Messiah.

You are destined for greatness, it's time for you to look in the mirror and speak the image that appears, and boldly declare **Isaiah 54:17** -

"No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against me in judgment I shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me saith the Lord."

.....  
• For questions or comments contact us via e-mail at [pastormallen@yahoo.com](mailto:pastormallen@yahoo.com) or telephone number 1-242-441-2021.

Pastors Matthew and Brendalee Allen  
Kingdom Minded Fellowship Center  
International

## St Andrew's Church in Arthur's Town, Cat Island receives massive makeover

THE excitement of the recent Patronal Festival of St Andrew's in Arthur's Town, Cat Island will linger in the hearts and minds of many residents.

But not only the locals were moved, Assistant Bishop Gilbert Thompson who visited in an official capacity to administer the sacrament of Confirmation was also affected.

This was a grand time for many, and especially Father Chester Burton, priest in-charge of the Anglican Churches in Cat Island.

As it has been Father Burton's custom since he took up his post at St Saviour's Parish, he follows the belief that Patronal Festivals and Feast of Titles are monumental and memorable occasions in the life of the parish and should never be celebrated in a lackluster fashion.

The mammoth task of organising the celebration was undertaken in a few short weeks with the complete removal of termite-infested and weather-corrod-

ed lumber from the existing window frames and doors of the church.

The parish purchased windows and mahogany doors from Community Hardware in New Providence for the refurbishment work.

Nigel 'Rod' Rolle, property and building contractor for the Anglican Churches in North Cat Island, liaised with Ernest 'Bowes' Sands to commence with the necessary repairs. Ray Moncur flew in from Nassau to rebuild the ancient gothic window frames and Frank LaFrance was engaged to install stained glass windows in the towering belfry which had stood windowless for many years.

The glass used was generously given by Father Stephen Grant, rector of St Mary Magdalene in West End, Grand Bahama.

After this, the church was electrically upgraded to accommodate the installa-

**SEE page 30**



# Is capital punishment mandated, prohibited or permitted?

## PART 2

By CEPHAS FERGUSON

### ACCORDING to scripture, under what conditions may a state carry out capital punishment?

The Old Testament law didn't simply address the "whether" of capital punishment, it also spoke of the "how."

Elaborate technical procedures were established for admitting evidence, appealing a verdict and conducting an execution.

Each of these provisions need not be literally carried out today for death penalty statutes to meet biblical standards. For example, Deuteronomy 17 required the condemning witnesses to throw the first stones.

This is impossible today because stoning is not a legal current method of execution and would certainly be held to be unconstitutional.

However, there are principles behind this provision.

It made witnesses responsible for the consequences of their testimony, thus encouraging truthfulness.

It also required witnesses to dissociate themselves from the conduct of the accused.

What principles then can be drawn from the procedures established by the Mosaic Law?

**1. PROPORTIONALITY** - The Mosaic Law restricted how much punishment could be imposed for various offences: "But if there is a serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise" (Exodus 21 :23-25).

The principle is that punishment must be proportionate to the offence. The extreme sanction of death should be considered only in the most serious offences.

**2. CERTAINTY OF GUILT** - Before a murderer could be executed, two witnesses had to confirm his or her guilt (Deuteronomy 17:6; Numbers 35:30).

This meant that capital crimes required a higher standard of proof than other offences. Deuteronomy 19 says that two witnesses are needed to establish any case.

But a party to the dispute such as the victim could be one of the witnesses.

For example, the Pharisees accused Christ of blasphemy, challenging His claim to be sent from God.

Christ said: "In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf" (John 8:17-18).

The purpose of the Deuteronomy 19 provision was to avoid a "swearing contest" between the victim and the accused as the only witnesses.

The victim had to support his charge with at least one other witness in order to prevail.

But a murder victim cannot testify. Thus, a murder case required at least two outside witnesses, instead of just one.

These witnesses were required to participate in the execution to underscore the seriousness of the charge and encourage truthful testimony.

The Jews apparently observed this technical requirement because they considered executing an innocent person a greater offence than letting a murderer go unpunished.

**3. INTENT** - Numbers 35: 22-24 exempts from the death penalty those who kill accidentally.

The law therefore limited the "creation covenant" of Genesis 9:6 to those who kill intentionally.

This suggests another principle of restraint-capital punishment should not be imposed when the offender did not act intentionally.

**4. DUE PROCESS** - Several provisions of the law insured that executions took place only after appropriate judicial procedure.

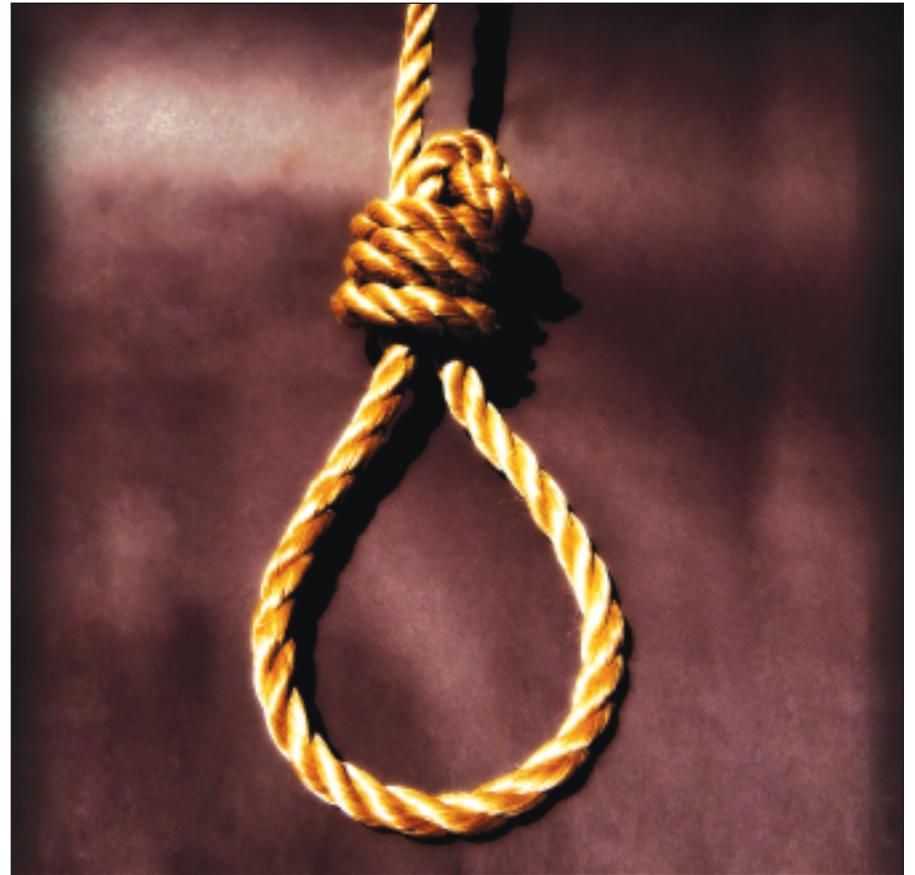
For example, Numbers 35 provided for cities of refuge to which a person who had caused another's death could flee.

The victim's family was prohibited from retaliating until the case was heard and the accused had presented his or her defence.

As noted earlier, Numbers 35 also said two eyewitnesses were required before the accused could be executed. And Deuteronomy 17: 8-9 provided that priests or judges should hear any difficult case.

Each of these demonstrates that due process of law was required in all cases.

The accused must be brought to trial, the trial must be supervised by persons qualified to do so, and certain-



ty of guilt must be reached by a specific, technical procedure.

The issue was not simply whether the accused were guilty, it was also whether they had a fair chance to prove their innocence.

**5. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY** - Deuteronomy 24:16 says people cannot be held responsible for the crimes of their parents or children.

This reflects two concepts: That a person is responsible for one's own actions and that one is not responsible for the actions of another.

**6. FAIRNESS** - Recognising that wealth or indigence could influence the outcome of legal proceedings, the law stipulated that neither the rich nor the poor should have an advantage (Exodus 23:3,6). The principle is that there should be equal justice regardless of economic or social status.

**7. RELUCTANCE TO EXECUTE** - Although the law sounds bloodthirsty, it was applied with great restraint.

In Ezekiel 33:11, God laments: "As surely as I live...I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked but rather that they turn from their ways and live.

Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel? The lawgiver Himself was reluctant to impose the death penalty, preferring that the wrong-doers repent.

Perhaps this underlies the call for Christians to forego revenge (Romans 12:19-21).

"Be reluctant to demand satisfaction" is the message.

And, as we have seen earlier, the Jewish tradition shows great reluctance to impose the death penalty.

Reluctance is not refusal. But it does imply that execution should be a last resort, and as Ezekiel 33 suggests, repentance or contrition could commute the death sentence.

Seven biblical principles then govern capital punishment: Proportionality, certainty of guilt, intent, due process, individual responsibility, fairness and reluctance to execute.

Those who hold that the Bible mandates capital punishment conclude their analysis here. But those who believe that capital punishment is permitted must consider the third question.

# Bethel Baptist Church celebrates 27th pastoral anniversary

**THE members of Bethel Baptist Church on Meeting Street in Nassau - the oldest Baptist church in the Bahamas and the oldest continuing Baptist Church in the Caribbean - celebrated Rev Timothy Stewart's 27th anniversary as pastor of the church last Sunday.**

To commemorate this event, a service of praise and thanksgiving was held as members, friends and family came together to demonstrate their love and appreciation for Pastor Stewart and his excellent and faithful service to God over the many years.

The theme for the occasion was "God's Will And Good Pleasure At Work", taken from Philippians 2:5-16, and the speaker for this combined service was Rev Dr John N T Rolle, the senior pastor of Bethel Deliverance Centre in Jones Town, Grand Bahama.

Special music was performed by Bethel Baptist's renowned choirs, and the melodious voices of the praise team.

Rev Stewart attended Prince William Baptist High School where he obtained his secondary education.

He matriculated at the American Baptist College where he obtained a BA in Bible and Theology with a minor in History and Social Science.

Rev Stewart went on to further his education at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for two years where he pursued a Master of Divinity Degree in Theology with a concentration in Preaching, but as a very young man anointed and appointed by God, was called home to be the pastor of Bethel Baptist before finishing his degree.

He became the pastor of Bethel Baptist in November 1982.

Under Rev Stewart's leadership, the church has experienced tremendous growth in its membership, and he has been able to accomplish many things including the renovation of the church and the acquisition of properties in the surrounding

area for further development.

He has been responsible for setting up Bethel's Soup Kitchen which serves approximately 1,000 meals weekly to the sick, shut-in and needy persons in the community; a clothing ministry; the senior saints ministry that meets once per week (on Tuesdays); an outreach ministry to the schools; a computer lab and an after-school programme to assist those that need help academically.

Additionally, a mentoring programme was established to target at-risk children and their families, and to provide counselling and some stability in the lives of those that are being mentored.

There is an Evangelistic programme; a vibrant youth and children's ministry; a marching band, and a liturgical dance ministry.

Pastor Stewart is also responsible for the formation of the first hand bell ringers group among the Baptist churches in the Bahamas and a music ministry that encompasses a sanctuary choir, a youth choir, a children's choir, a gospel choir and a praise team.

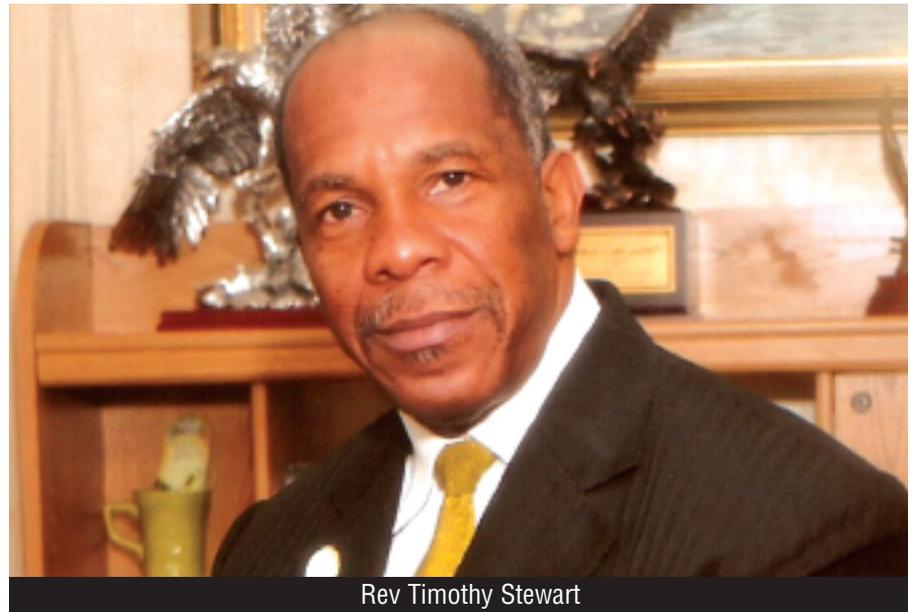
In addition to being the pastor of Bethel Baptist, Pastor Stewart is the moderator for the Bethel Baptist Association made up of 18 churches in New Providence, Andros, Eleuthera and Grand Bahama.

He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bahamas Development Bank (1988 - 1992); Assistant Chaplain of the House of Assembly (1989 - 1993), and as a member of the Bahamas Juvenile Panel for many years.

He was the second moderator for the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention 2002-2006. Pastor Stewart was appointed an international president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention USA (2003-2006) with responsibility for some 3,000 churches in Africa, Europe, Haiti and Cuba.

He is the son of the late Rev Henry and Rev Dr Lavania Stewart, and is married to the former Sharon Williams.

The couple have three sons, Timothy II, Henry and Gardner.



Rev Timothy Stewart

## St Andrew's Church gets massive makeover

FROM page 28

tion of two window air-condition units, and this was handled by Raphath Seymour whose mother Doramae Seymour is an ardent Anglican living in Smith's Bay.

The church was a beehive of activity and Father Burton feverishly painted the interior of the edifice from top to bottom trying to meet the deadline of Sunday, November 29.

After all the work was done he breathed a sigh of relief and waited with bated breath for the arrival of his former rector who groomed him for the priesthood.

Then last Sunday, droves of Anglicans and well-wishers entered the transformed St Andrew's Church.

Many were awestruck that the day had finally come when Anglicans in the settlement of Arthur's Town could worship in air-conditioned comfort.

Bishop Thomspon was amazed to see the amount of work done in so short a time.

The bishop in his welcoming remarks told the members that he expected nothing less from Father Burton.

Bishop Thompson said Father Burton was an excellent altar server many years ago, spending many a Saturday at St Barnabas getting the various altar accou-

trements polished and shined for service.

St Barnabas is where Father Burton's spiritual navel string is buried so to speak.

The 22 confirmands were drilled by the bishop after his warm and charming welcome remarks. As questions were asked, the boys and girls answered precisely as they were taught from the in-depth literature entitled "Instructions for Anglicans" written by Bishop Thompson himself.

The bishop wrote this book so that Anglicans throughout the archipelagic diocese would know what makes them Anglican and separates them from the Baptist, Pentecostal or even the Catholic faiths.

The book also teaches that the seven sacraments are a benchmark in the Anglican Church, and that the Bible and Book of Common Prayer are essential for corporate worship.

Father Burton told the bishop he wanted the young confirmands to know the importance of true Anglicanism and that is why he deterred confirming anyone until they were observed, taught and scrutinised.

After the service, members and well-wishers retreated to the Arthur's Town High School auditorium for a gala reception organised by Coral Patrice Burton, wife of Father Burton, and the parents of the confirmation candidates.

# When your pastor becomes your “Mannd of God”

THE gift of pastoring is a wonderful one. God placed this gift in the church for the purpose of perfecting the church, as said in Ephesians 4:11-13: “And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

What deserves the greatest attention is that God gave his church pastors with a heart (spirit, way of functioning) like his own. Jeremiah 3: 15 reads as follows: “I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

A true pastor, with a heart like God’s heart, is a true man of God. The spotlight of this exhortation is not on true (Jeremiah 3:15) pastors.

Here, we deal with what quite a number of Bahamian pastors have now willingly become.

## ‘Mannd of God’ - defined, and explained

The devil and his hosts of professional theologian-demons seem to have created an aberration called “your Mannd of God”, a counterfeit to the divine and sacred Ephesians 4:11 gift of the pastor-teacher, a role and image to which many well-meaning, God-called pastors have gleefully accepted and substituted for their real, God-approved and ordained, pastoral calling.

This has come about from the bastardisation of the story of the Prophet Elijah and the kind lady of Shunem (2 Kings 4:8ff) by stateside preachers, along with greed and the almost habitual desire of some to manipulate the gullible and unthinking among the people of God; in addition to the desire to don a



DR ALBERT FERGUSON, JP

new status of being a prophet.

You will recall that years ago, nationally, Bahamian pastors started to be “turned on” by being called “Rev”, which went to “Dr” when everybody went looking for someone to give them a “Dr” designation; that went to “The Reverend Doctor”, then to “Bishop”—pastors want to be called “Bishop”.

Now, we are in the “prophet” era, so pastors want to be a prophet, and with little encouragement from their international brethren, many have taken upon themselves the mantle and have become people’s “Mannd of God.”

The enemy of our souls, the arch-deceiver of Revelations 12:9 has given a ‘Mannd of God’, according to his heart, who makes the people of God fearful of himself, who manipulates the people of God to unduly enrich him, and who feeds them sermons with true Biblical text scriptures but a sermon body which is full of views, philosophies and interpretations designed to keep the minds of the people of God in bondage, and oblivious to the freedom which Jesus has given, according to Galatians 5:1.

## ‘Mannd of God’ vs. ‘Jeremiah 3:15 Pastors’

The ‘Mannd of God’ brainwashes you that he is your “covering” - you must get his views, stamp of approval and go-ahead for anything the Lord places on your heart, or else it will come to naught and the Lord will not bless you.

He preaches that once you step out

from under his “covering” you are now free prey for the devil. Therefore, you must stay attached, compliant and robotic to him, and ignorantly and sacrificially ‘give all of your resources into his bosom,’ because God never joined you to a church, God joined you to a person, your ‘Mannd of God.’

You cannot leave his church unless he releases you, or else, God will not bless anything you put your hands to do.

You must stay “connected” because “the anointing” flows from the head of the ‘Mannd’ of God downwards. Therefore, you are to sow into the life of the ‘Mannd of God’ as ‘down payments,’ so that your abundance can begin.

Try as you might, you cannot find these teachings in the Holy Bible.

My friends, all I can advise you is to tell these manipulating demons “no” whether he/she is in full collar, half collar, mitre or floor-length white dress, and run for cover to Galatians Chapter 5 and verse one.

Then I see pastors who have become people’s ‘Mannd of God’ ruling their dynasties (local church/God’s flock) with a demonic degree of fear.

No one can approach them. People fear them.

No one can express their ideas, views, ask questions or ask for church information.

To ask a question would require nerves of steel. No one can follow the dictates of their conscience if the ‘Mannd of God’ has issued an edict against something.

I know a “Mannd of God” who gave an order to his leaders not to visit or have fellowship with another church just because there was ‘bad blood’ between himself and that other pastor.

I have heard some ‘Mannds of God’ preaching with such fervor and passion about how church members ought to

obey and reverence them (and the ‘order’ which they say God has established in their church) that it would have made the average ‘floor member’ tremble.

That level of reverential fear is cultish. People don’t like that four letter word “cult” but a lot of behaviours I see, hear and experience in churches around me in this Bahamian society are cultish, as I understand cults.

Hear the God of the Bible who gave us “pastors” and moreover pastors with hearts like his heart, saying, in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind,” or Romans 8: 15-16, “For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”, and not, I would add, “pastor! Pastor!”

## Conclusion

I thank my God for keeping the promise of Jeremiah 3:15 and giving us pastors with hearts like His.

I cannot find anywhere in the Bible where the Sovereign Lord promised any other ministerial office or gift a promise like that in Jeremiah 3:15.

Whenever a pastor evolves into a ‘Mannd of God’, a hireling and a lord over God’s heritage (John 10:13 / 1 Peter 5:3), all I can say to my beloved brothers, sisters and friends is this: Try to find yourself one of those pastors with a heart like that of Jesus. You’ll identify them ‘by their fruit’ and not their public relations.

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•For responses, comments and discussion e-mail Dr Albert S Ferguson at [albertsferguson@gmail.com](mailto:albertsferguson@gmail.com).

Dr Ferguson is also the author of a book which includes his essays on “Issues in Religious Life in The Bahamas.”

## ‘I Am Praying’

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you don’t know if the persons praying are sincere at all. But with the video you will see the person’s emotion, and you can witness their sincerity”, he said.

Living in the computer age, he said that he is using the internet in a more

powerful way, and for a more meaningful purpose.

Mr Browne said “the enemy” has been using the internet to distract and deter people from the Holy Spirit.

People often spend more time on social networking sites than on improving their spiritual connection with God, he said.

“I am going to use technology in a more powerful way by recording my

prayers and uploading them on my website so that situations are turned around,” he said.

Mr Browne hopes that the Bahamas can be steered away from the negative direction in which it is currently headed.

He said “prayerful Christians” will weather the storm and come out stronger than ever.

To emphasise this point, Mr Browne

quotes 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

In essence, Mr Browne is calling for Christians everywhere to get together and pray “in one truth, under one body in Christ.”

# St Saviour's Parish holds its first ever Christmas Cantata

**O**N Friday, December 4 all roads led to St Mark's Anglican Church in the picturesque settlement of Port Howe, Cat Island, for its first ever Christmas Cantata.

The joyous spirit of Christmas was in the air as members and well-wishers sat in a festively decorated church to see the sights and sounds of the holiday season.

The palatial edifice which sits in Port Howe was refurbished and expanded by the generous people of Christ the King, Ridgeland Park, New Providence under the leadership of Archdeacon I Ranfurly Brown who was the former rector of that parish.

The parish and members of Christ the King gave selflessly to the restoration of this church in Port Howe, said Father Chester Burton, priest in-charge of Anglican Churches in Cat Island.

"This was an historic and Herculean effort that should be recorded in the annals and history books of the Anglican Diocese because something like this was never done in the history of the Diocese. So it was only fitting that the membership of this church show their appreciation and showcase the first ever Anglican Christmas Cantata on the island," he said.

Christmas tree lights adorned the art work and stained glass windows of the building and a Christmas tree stood proud in the church.

The task of organising the Christmas Cantata was undertaken by worshippers who assemble every Sunday morning for the Eucharistic celebration.

"Collectively (they) saw (that is would be) fitting and honourable in sight of Almighty God for them to host a concert," Father Burton said.

Catechist Bloneva Hunter and lay reader BIRTHELL Pratt worked closely with Mr Errie and Menawattie Samarroo, Guyana natives and educators, along with Mr Roy and Lucille Bowers, United States citizens who brought property and built a home on

Greenwood Beach in Port Howe.

The other supporting cast members were Catechists Cedric and Olga Wilson.

Eunice Pinder conducted the singing of the various Christmas carols while Geovano Bowe accompanied them on the keyboard. After an intense four weeks of practicing it was now time for the producer, Father Burton, to say "lights, camera, and action."

Life-sized animated animals such as a sheep, cow and donkey were created by the members of the parish.

On the day of the concert, the church was packed to capacity and people reflected on the original stable scene in Bethlehem where the baby Jesus was born.

Visitors from Greenwood Resort, Hawk's Nest Resort and Fernandez Bay Resort came to experience beautiful singing and the dramatisation of the greatest story ever told.

The treat of the night was when three German tourists sang "Silent Night" in their native language.

And the audience fell in love with the parish's own Dynamite Daisymae Hunter who emceed the grand Christmas Cantata.

Dynamite Daisy skated around the church asking people to give generously for the stellar renditions that were being performed.

At the conclusion of the concert every person was presented with a free compact disc loaded with devotional and meditative Christian Christmas music generously donated by Edison and Eunice Pinder whose task it is to take the message of the gospel to all government schools in Cat Island.

The gathering was then invited to the former teacher's residence owned by the government in Port Howe which has been selected to be turned into a hurricane shelter.

"However, the government of the Bahamas has refused to carry out the necessary repairs, but this arduous task has been manfully adopted by the membership of St Mark's. In an effort to secure the aesthetic beauty of the palatial edifice, St Mark's members have



THE Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus.



MEMBERS of St Mark's Anglican Church in Port Howe, Cat Island, sing Christmas music.

bravely and conscientiously painted the interior and exterior walls of the former teacher's residence so the market value of the property that St. Mark's sits on does not depreciate because of the close proximity of the dilapidated teacher's lodge," Father Burton said.

He joked that after completing so

many repairs on the teacher's home they can now rename it the "St Mark's Anglican Church Parish Hall Facility."

Father Burton thanked his multi-talented members for all their work.

All members of the congregation are now eagerly awaiting next year's Second Annual St Mark's Christmas Cantata.