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**CRABS FOR COMPUTERS:  
HARD WORK PAYS OFF**

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**INSIDE**



**Real Estate SECTION INSIDE**

# Man killed, prisoner on work release shot

**Police hunt hit-and-run driver after man killed**

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are hunting a hit-and-run driver whose vehicle struck and killed a man on Fox Hill road in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Police press liaison officer Sergeant Skippings said

**SEE page 13**

## Brother and sister also injured and under police guard

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

A BRAZEN daylight murder and double shooting of a brother and sister, which took place within a short distance of each other on Saturday afternoon, were the subject of an intense police probe yesterday.

Also being investigated is the shooting of a prison inmate who should have been under supervision at a work release programme, but instead, it was claimed, was with his friend who was shot and killed in Ridgeland Park. At the time, it was alleged, the two were together when they were ambushed by two men on bicycles.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT, DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, THERE WILL BE NO USATODAY IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE**

While police were not available to verify these details up to press time yesterday, *The Tribune* understands that the two crimes — the killing at Ridgeland Park and the later shooting in Yellow Elder — could be connected.

The shooting in Yellow Elder, which resulted in a Honda Accord being hit by as many as seven bullets sometime shortly before 4pm, is suspected to have been in retaliation for the earlier shooting which took the life of the young man in Ridgeland Park. The Honda was driven by a man with his sister at his side. Both were hit by the bullets fired at their car.

It is reported that the as-yet unidentified Ridgeland Park man and his friend, the prisoner on the work release programme, had stopped for something to eat on Colleton Street, Ridgeland Park west, at around 2pm when they were ambushed by two men on bicycles. The Ridgeland Park man, who is reported to

**SEE page 12**



**DAYLIGHT SHOOTINGS:** Grief at the scene of Saturday's fatal shooting (left) and bullet holes visible on the grey Honda Accord outside the hospital (right)

## FAMILY'S HOME DEMOLISHED 'WITHOUT WARNING'



**DEMOLITION:** Maria Gibson-Wood is emotional as her family helps her look under the rubble. Felipé Major/Tribune staff

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

A FAMILY of six will continue the search through the remains of their home today, still shell-shocked after it was demolished, they say, without warning on Friday.

The family believe the building, which took them eight years to complete, may have been knocked down by Arawak Homes after security guards presented them with a ruling bearing the name of the company and purported themselves as employees of its owner Franklyn Wilson.

However, the company's involvement could not be confirmed up to press time.

Describing themselves as an honest and hardworking Bahamian family, Frederick Wood, a 44-year-old auto mechanic, and his wife Maria

**SEE page 14**

## MP: School 'short of teachers, furniture'

NORTH Andros High School is suffering from a shortage of seven teachers, 120 chairs and 50 desks, its local MP has claimed.

Vincent Peet said a promise on September from Minister of Education Desmond Bannister that steps would be taken to ensure the teachers would be in place "within a week" has not been followed through.

He called on Mr Bannister "on behalf of the students, teachers and parents of the North Andros High School in particular, and all other schools" to "ensure

**SEE page 13**



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LOCAL NEWS

# Emergency runway lighting 'in working condition' at Deadman's Cay Airport

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nicollsn@tribunemedia.net

AN officer stationed with the Long Island police, said the emergency runway lighting system at the Deadman's Cay Airport is in working condi-

tion, contrary to reports that they "were not functioning".

A delegation of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) that recently visited Long Island, said it was brought to their attention that the lights were not working.

Assistant Superintendent Walter Evans, officer in charge of the Long Island District, could not be reached for comment. The Long Island Police oversee the operation of the Deadman's Cay Airport.

Another officer, who asked not to be quoted, said: "As far as I am aware I don't know of the lights having any problems."

He was not able to confirm the date of the last maintenance test, but said they were usually tested monthly. Problems are reported at that time.

The emergency flight log did not indicate there were any emergencies in the past week, according to the officer. The PLP statement did not say when the lights had allegedly malfunctioned.

"The runway lights are not

kept on 24 hours a day. The lights are only utilised when there is an emergency. We don't have that many emergencies that require the lights to be turned on," said the officer. "It would be too expensive to run them with complete power all the time."

## Flights

There are no scheduled flights after sunset in most islands in the southern Bahamas, including Deadman's Cay. Only Air Traffic Control can authorise a night flight to land, and in those instances the local police station has to be informed. They are the authority responsible for turning on the emergency lighting system, and inspecting the flights to ensure "it is not a drug run", said the officer.

After sunset, solar powered lights are used to power the runway. They are not programmed to run at full capacity, but they are programmed to turn on automatically.

"No one can just call an emergency."

"If it is a police matter or medical situation an emergency is called. Even then, communication has been made with the Air Traffic Controller. They would have to notify us," he said.

In the case of an emergency, or some other specially authorised night landing, the emergency lights have been turned on from a centralised control system, according to the officer.

Vincent Vanderpool Wallace, Minister of Tourism and Aviation was not available for comment.

## CLEANING UP XANADU BEACH



CLEAN-UP: Getting to work on Xanadu Beach.

PRIMARY and secondary students from five different institutions on Grand Bahama Island gathered to assist zone captains Gail Woon and Cecilia Bodie with the Xanadu Beach International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day (ICC) 2010 on Saturday morning.

Hugh W. Campbell Primary School, Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, Sunland Baptist Academy, Bishop Michael Eldon School, Grand Bahama Catholic High School,

EARTH CARE and the Bahamas National Trust participated in the Xanadu Beach ICC Day.

A grand total of 300 pounds of marine debris was collected, recorded and bagged for collection by Sanitation Services for the Xanadu Beach zone.

Past participants noted that the beach was cleaner this year than in prior years. Most of the marine debris found was debris from fast food, beach-goers, sports/games, celebrations and litter from streets.

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LOCAL NEWS



**150 suspected illegal immigrants apprehended by Defence Force**

ROYAL Bahamas Defence Force officers apprehended 150 suspected illegal immigrants, believed to be Haitians, in the Exuma chain on Friday morning.

Their overcrowded sailing sloop was boarded by the RBDF's HMBS Yellow Elder at around 10.35am around 18 miles off Norman's Cay, and the undocumented migrants were transferred to the defence force vessel.

A release from the force stated the migrants, who all appeared to be in "fair health", were expected to arrive in Nassau yesterday evening for processing.

Their apprehension brings number of immigrants captured in Bahamian waters this year by the RBDF to more than 600.

**Dominican and Haitian killed in race-fueled dispute**

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic

A DOMINICAN foreman allegedly fatally shot a Haitian worker during an argument over pay, touching off racial clashes Sunday at a construction site that killed a Dominican worker and injured another, police said, according to Associated Press.

The flare-up happened near the beach resorts of Bavaro-Punta Cana, an area in the east of the Dominican Republic that is popular with foreign tourists.

According to a police statement, Haitians working on the residential project were demanding unpaid wages Saturday when the foreman, whose identity was not released, drew a pistol and fired, killing 32-year-old Issac Louis.

The next day, Haitian workers attacked their Dominican supervisors with rocks and wooden poles, beating 34-year-old Maximiliano Hierro to death and wounding 36-year-old William Leonel de la Cruz, police said.

Police said they were searching for both the foreman and the Haitian workers accused in Sunday's attack while stepping up patrols in the area to guard against further violence.



**APPREHENDED:** The RBDF's HMBS Yellow Elder brings in the suspected illegal immigrants on Friday morning.

Photos/Petty Officer Jonathan Rolle

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## US strategists seek Afghan fixes outside the box

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — On a NATO base in Kabul, a five-member team is rethinking the war in Afghanistan and questioning some of the basic assumptions behind the effort to clean up corruption and gain the upper hand over the Taliban.

Among the ideas this so-called "Red Team" is generating:

— Accept that Afghanistan's entrenched system of graft won't change overnight, so pick your battles.

— Recognise that for Afghans, some corruption is worse than others, so tackle what affects them day-to-day first.

— Study how the Taliban won power by exploiting Afghanistan's system of payoffs and patronage in the 1990s, and borrow those tactics.

The Red Team's studies are part of an evolution of thinking among diplomats, commanders and analysts alike that applying Western standards to combat corruption has not produced results fast enough.

Further, concentrating on what is most important to Americans — such as raiding Afghan government offices over large-scale abuses — has served only to alienate the government of President Hamid Karzai. Such raids have done little to erase the nickel-and-dime bribes Afghans have to pay to drive down a highway, or see a government doctor — the daily shakedowns that drive the people into the arms of the insurgents, who provide similar services without the graft.

The Taliban, meanwhile, have used the Afghan government's behavior, and NATO's paralysis over the issue, to their advantage. The militants are seen as providing "cleaner" government in areas they control. And they pay off or intimidate local leaders and warlords behind the scenes, as they did the last time they took power.

Net result: NATO is losing this fight. It's unwelcome news that presents no easy answers for those trying to craft a new strategy to combat corruption. But the Red Team's job is to challenge the status quo, at the direction of the day-to-day commander of operations, Lt. Gen. David Rodriguez.

The Red Team itself is a concept that was developed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was used effectively in Iraq.

They call themselves "cognitive insurgents," fighting the established system with brainpower rather than firepower. Team leader Lt. Col. Brian Hammerness says they spend "a lot of time balancing" their analysis so commanders on the receiving end don't shoot the messenger. Hammerness often approaches his bosses saying, "I want to present this information to you, and you might not take this well."

For instance, if a local leader is lining his pockets but also cooperating with the NATO-led force, getting him fired may leave

a void for the Taliban to fill, says senior analyst Lt. Col. Michael McGee.

"Sometimes there's a trade-off there," he said. "Initially, you think you are doing the right thing, but it turns out to be much worse than if you'd just left the situation alone."

Some of the Red team's ideas seem to be getting attention. Its report on how the Taliban seized power in the 1990s — by building a network of dependencies with public officials — is required reading for commanders who want to re-evaluate how U.S. troops are prosecuting the war, and how a Western strategy can be tailored to Afghan culture.

The team studied how the Taliban first organised, as a motley crew of locals and returned refugees who had studied at religious schools in Pakistan led by Mullah Omar, the future Taliban leader. Taliban members then worked their way into territory of the Pashtuns, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, by expanding their influence until they were strong enough to take and hold Kabul by force, in 1996.

The Taliban capitalised on local anger at the violent excesses of feudal warlords, offering similar, often superior government-like services, explained lead report author Capt. Jeffrey Marrs.

"They would co-opt regional power-brokers by ... going to their power-base, which is the people," added team member Lt. Col. Bruce Ferrell. "They would sever the link of patronage."

In short, the Taliban gradually supplanted the local chiefs and became the go-to guys for the public's needs.

And they are doing it again now, according to intelligence reports from territory under Taliban control. Afghans can see a Taliban official within half a day, no bribes paid, to settle something like a land dispute, whereas a visit to an Afghan government office can take up to three days, with multiple bribes dispensed.

Not all warlords or local chiefs take well to being sidelined, so the Taliban uses either violence or payoffs to deal with resisters.

As the payoffs happen out of sight of locals, they are less likely to offend. Afghans are also more likely to look the other way, as long as their day-to-day needs are taken care of, the Red Team found.

So the officers recommend U.S. commanders do the same — monitor the graft and warn the local Afghan officials when their greed is driving the populace to the Taliban.

The NATO equivalent of the bribe comes in the form of U.S. military and development aid.

The ultimate goal is to teach the Afghan leaders to co-opt the locals better than the Taliban can.

(This article is by Kimberly Dozier of the Associated Press)

# Horrible experience with BTC account on Grand Bahama

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT IS with great disgust that I write this letter that I was driven to write after having a horrible experience with my account at BTC in Grand Bahama. I am a customer with an account at BTC, consisting of two Vibe lines, internet service and a land line at one flat rate of \$122.21 per month which is a good price. On December 31, 2009, even though I didn't get a bill in the mail, because of knowing the bill doesn't change, I went to BTC with the \$122.21 and the person at the window said the bill was only \$62.23.

I asked how come, she said she didn't know but that was the amount on the computer and that was all I needed to pay. I told her I would pay the amount that I was accustomed to in case it was a mistake. Just as I suspected, the bill for February totalled \$182.19 but it was already paid and the system had not picked it up by that time.

BTC has a web site that you could go on line and see your bill and you have the option of whether you want your bill mailed or not and you also have the option of paying on line and that site, went out of whack from early this year and to make matters worse, the phone bills were not being mailed in a timely manner and sometimes not at all and if personnel at BTC want to be honest they would admit that their billing system is the pits and their web site was not posting bills like it did when the Vibe was first set up and as we all know (out of sight, out of mind) and when you do get the bill, the due date has already passed.

The March bill came in April, totalling \$62.23 again. I told the person at the pay window about my experience with being billed that amount but it really should be \$122.21 but because of being unemployed, I was barely able to pay the \$62.23 not to mention the right amount, so I paid the \$62.23. April bill came in May and the same thing happened. I continued paying the \$62.23 because like I said earlier I was unemployed.

The person at the pay window told me to continue paying the posted amount until it was sorted out which I continued doing.

I tried to keep up with the payments by paying the \$62.23 without receiving a bill. I went to BTC on June 18th to make a payment and after paying the \$62.23, the person in the pay window said my balance was \$313.14 because the computer dropped my Vibe account for months and it was now sorted out. I made another payment of \$62.23 on June 21st and another on June 29, 2010. I was

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

temporarily employed and it ended on the 25th of June. I got no bill in July which was no surprise. I went to BTC on August 26th at which time I could only afford to pay \$50.00 that left a balance of \$322.46. I explained my situation to the person in the pay window who told me that was not sufficient and I would need to make another payment before the next bill.

I was unable to make a payment, and my phone was disconnected on Tuesday September 7, 2010. I went to BTC and spoke to an agent who told me I had to pay at least \$160.00 in order to have the phone turned back on. I told her the bill being out of hand was not my fault and I boasted of my record with BTC as not one of being a delinquent customer and in a situation where they (BTC) are at fault, there should be an exception for my phone to be left on with a payment plan instead of my being treated like someone who just allowed the bill to get out of hand. I was turned over to the person in charge of credit and collection to whom I repeated the same words that I said to the agent that I had spoken to earlier.

I was told by that individual, that I knew what my bill was supposed to be and I should not have only paid the \$62.23 and she had even worse news.

To my surprise I was told the system was not showing my Vibe account for August and September bill was already posted so it was obvious the system had dropped my Vibe account for those months again and my new total was \$502.48 and if I wanted the phone turned back on, I would have to come up with no less than \$250. I went on about my payment history and what ought to have been considered, but to no

avail. Again I say, if BTC's faulty computer system dropped a customer's account causing them to be billed partially, resulting in the customer being in arrears totalling hundreds of dollars; don't you, the general public, feel as if a payment plan should have been put in place instead of the customer being cut off as if they were delinquent?

The problem with us Bahamians is the fact that we complain to each other instead of using the print media and the internet to expose whatever injustice we face in this country. I say that mainly because everyone that I met who told me they were trying to contact me but was unable to because the recording on my phone said the number had been temporarily disconnected had either the same experience where they received an astronomical bill because of their Vibe account being dropped from the computer, not receiving a bill at all or some other horror story about their experienced with BTC and they were all willing to run BTC down to the ground to me who can do absolutely nothing instead of exposing them like I choose to do in this letter.

My phone is still disconnected, and I may never get the satisfaction I am looking for, but I will have the pleasure of exposing BTC. There are some of you out there who had the same experience and your phone is off also or maybe you were able to come up with the amount that was required to keep the phone on, or you just went ahead and paid the entire bill and saw no need to complain, but I trust that I would motivated some of you who are out there griping among yourselves over the exact experience or some other problem with BTC or some other establishment to speak out through the print media and the internet.

DEREK B RUSSELL Sr  
Freeport,  
Grand Bahama,  
September 22, 2010.

## Congratulations over the 'Crabs for Computers' Initiative

EDITOR, The Tribune.

PLEASE allow me space in your column to congratulate Administrator Gilbert Kemp and the students and residents of Mangrove Cay, Andros, for the huge success of the "Crabs for Computers" Initiative.

It was extremely refreshing to witness a programme such as this, which has undoubtedly instilled in the youth of that small community the value and reward of hard work. This is especially so in the context of what we now see around us, where so many of our youth find themselves involved in negative activities and a life of crime. Of equal importance, the "Crabs for Computers" initiative has shown that with a small bit of ingenuity and imagination, the resources that we so often take for granted can be used to steer our people down positive and obviously lucrative paths.

Having been a vehicle driving the youth in a positive and rewarding direction, this programme has afforded the students of Mangrove Cay a commodity absent from so many other island communities — personal laptops, and by extension, a gateway to the evolving and advancing technological world.

Administrator Kemp, the entire programme committee and the students of Mangrove Cay have shown us all through the Crabs for Computers theme that "Determination brings Progress."

Congratulations.

KRISTOPH FOX  
Nassau,  
September 26, 2010.



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LOCAL NEWS

# Police officer given 'time off' after downtown shooting

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE police officer who shot and killed a man outside the Straw Market last week was given "time off" after meeting with the force chaplain.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Glenn Miller directed all comments as to the status of the investigation to the Commissioner of Police, Elliston Greenslade, who was unable to be contacted.

ASP Miller was not sure how long the officer would be "off" for. With respect to any further action, such as administrative leave, he said a "determination has not been made as yet". And that the Commissioner would have to review the matter first.

As for the name of the officer, who is stationed with the mobile patrol unit, APS Miller said: "The commissioner, at his discretion, would have to release the name."

Police confirmed the man shot and killed on Thursday was Reginald Smith, 57, of Bay Geranium Avenue, Pinewood Gardens.

The shooting was reported to have taken place just before 4pm outside the Straw Market on Bay Street.

Police allege Mr Smith brandished a box cutter at the male officer, which resulted in him being shot in his upper thigh.

This followed a verbal exchange with a female officer, who asked Mr Smith to leave the area of the Colony Place building on Bay Street, where he was said to be "hanging



SHOOTING SCENE: Reginald Smith is taken to hospital.

around".

Police reports differ considerably from that of eyewitnesses, who claim the officer kicked Mr Smith in his back and had "a scuffle" before the shooting.

Eye witnesses also claim the man was allowed to "bleed to death", when a simple tourniquet would have been enough to save his life. There has been no official confirmation as to the cause of death.

One downtown worker, said she saw "so many police" on the scene "doing nothing", before and after the ambulance arrived. She questioned whether none of them had any emergency first response training.

A tourniquet is a "basic tool in first responding", according to an emergency medical services (EMS) professional. It can be any device, such as a bandage wrapped tightly around a person's leg, used to prevent severe blood loss by "forcibly compressing a blood vessel".

The EMS worker said she believes police officers "are supposed to be trained", but she did not know if that happened in practice.

Mr Smith was shot in the leg. He was pronounced dead at the hospital, after being transported by EMS. Concerns were also raised at the scene about the timeliness of EMS.

Angered pedestrians, some claiming to have witnessed the shooting, accused the police of "mishandling" the incident, claiming it has further tarnished the reputation of the police.

Some Tribune242 readers agreed.

"(The police) want to make the public believe that Mr Smith was a criminal. You need to get rid of your criminal police officers. We have some good police officers like Mr Greenslade and others, but we certainly have a lot of corrupt officers, who you'll continue to protect. We will never respect the police until we see you weeding out these criminals," said Denise, a Tribune242 reader.

A 76-year-old woman, who commented under the title "All that glitters is not gold", said: "This family will not get justice for their father's death, because he was killed by the police. So you people out there be very careful when you say you have information on the police, because you may not live to tell the tale. If you think you only have to be afraid of the criminal, think again, because some of them are on the police force. Be careful who you talk to. Me give information to the Police, you must be crazy. That police may just be one of the criminals. When it is all said and done, we also have some great police officers who keep us safe, but keep your eyes open. Don't let that uniform fool you."

Officers in the mobile division have been the subject of several recent investigations. Earlier this month, a woman claimed two officers from the mobile division extorted money from her.

When asked about the reports, Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna confirmed that two officers from the mobile division were subjects of an investigation. However, he declined to confirm or reject the

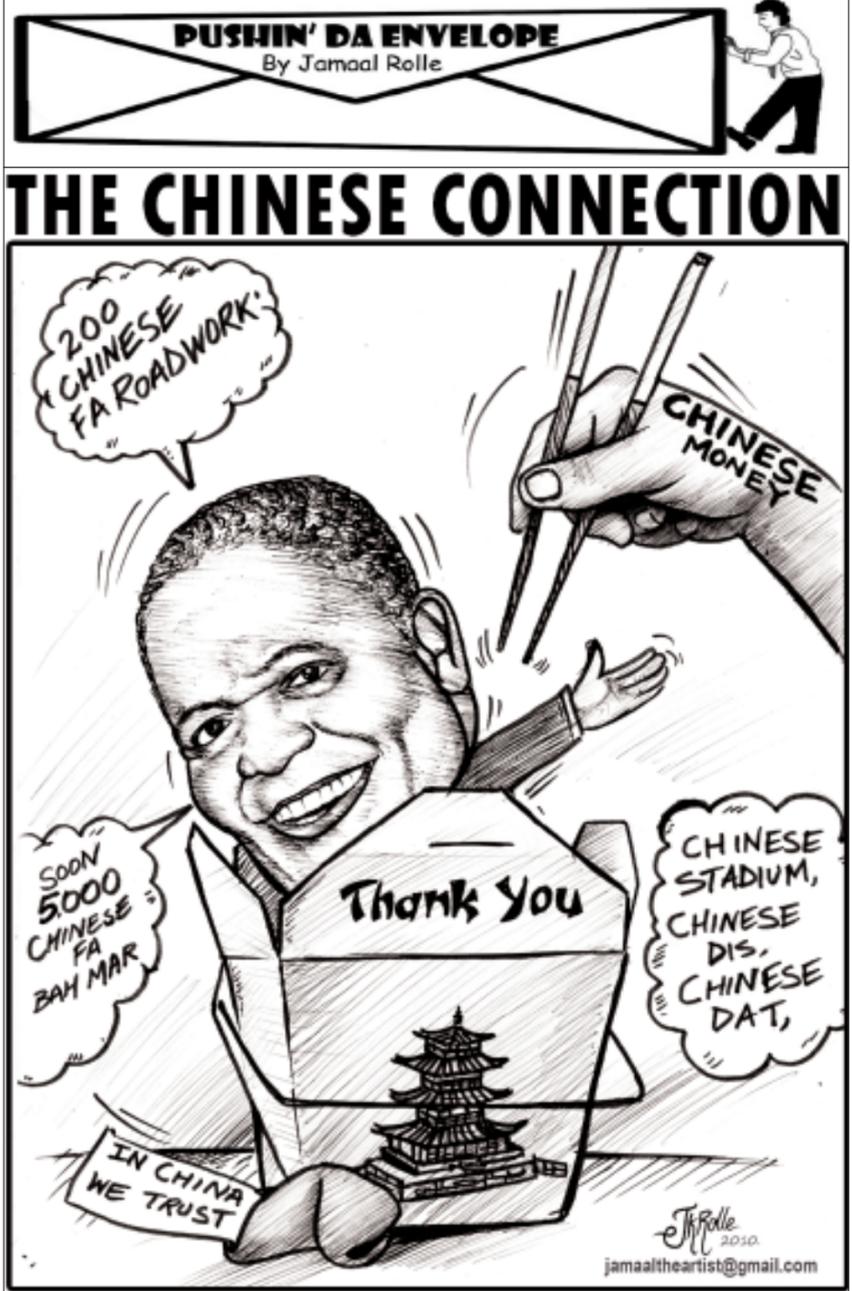
details of the allegations. It is unclear what was the outcome of that investigation.

Former assistant commissioner Paul Thompson said the latest police shooting is a reminder that the police need to invest in non-lethal weapons, such as tasers.

"For years since Commissioner Bernard Bonamy was in office I had been recommending police consider getting the taser. It's an enforcement weapon that's not deadly but immobilises the person on whom it is used. I feel in many instances in the Bahamas where we have

problems and officers are in fear of danger or life that instead of going for the gun they should go for a taser," said Mr Thompson.

It would help to avoid instances where people are "killed needlessly", or where "excessive force" is used, he said.



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LOCAL NEWS

# Property fire prompts mixed feelings from former employees

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport  
Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREPORT: As investigations continue into the cause of a fire at the for-

mer Princess Tower Hotel, former employees have expressed mixed feelings about the incident.

As flames consumed several floors of the resort on Thursday, former employees gathered at the north-

ern parking lot of the property near Goombay Park and watched as smoke poured out of the broken windows of the high-rise building.

The blaze was extinguished by firemen from the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Grand Bahama International Airport Company.

The property was then sold for \$33million to the Harcourt Group, an Irish development company.

Although the company announced plans to reopen and redevelop the property, nothing has transpired at the property. Due to global financial crisis, the company has had to further postpone its developmental plan.

A former employee was in a state of disbelief to see the once iconic tower resort engulfed in a cloud of black smoke.

"When I learned of fire I came out to see how bad the situation was. I was employed at this resort for 19 years. This place helped me purchase my house," she said.

Another worker said the vacant property is a magnet for undesirables and vagrants.

"They need to decide if they are going to open the



FORMER PRINCESS TOWER HOTEL: The fire was tackled by fireman last week.

## Operators

The former Princess Resort properties were purchased by the Driftwood Group, operators of the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort.

The company invested \$40million to refurbish the property, which was renamed Royal Oasis Resort. Amid financial troubles, the resort closed in 2004 after sustaining severe hurricane damage.

About 1,000 workers were laid off.

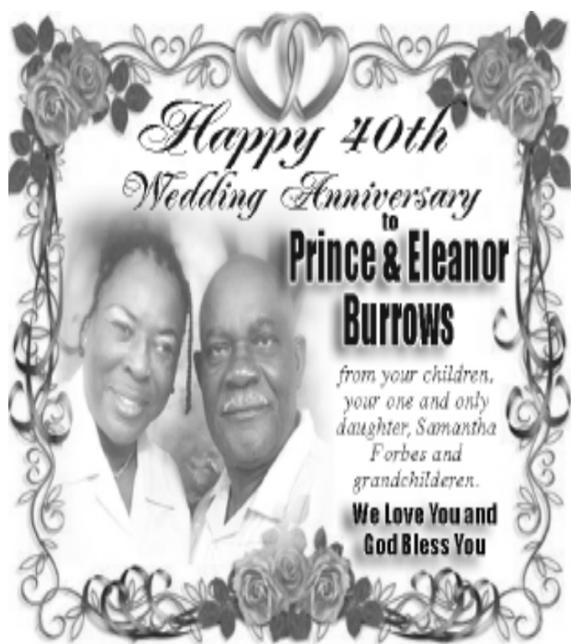
resort back up, or demolished the building," he said. "It has deteriorated and is an eyesore in the center of Freeport City."

## Highway

Some people want the portion of West Sunrise Highway which passed through the resort property

to be reopened. "The road was closed to accommodate the opening the Royal Oasis, and it should be reopened again and allow for the ease of traffic flow for residents," he said.

The issue of security was also concern and some residents feel that vagrants may have cut the fence to gain access to the property.



# Lionfish team to launch control experiment

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE Department of Marine Resources is preparing to launch a control experiment in three islands to "effectively measure" the impact of lionfish on native fish communities.

A multi-departmental Lionfish Task Team was formally established, after team members participated in a certification programme with the international research group, the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF).

The week-long training included theory based and practical training in fish identification. Based on the final assessment, each member of the Bahamian Task Team was able to identify 100 native fish species with a 93 per cent



average score to attain a level three or novice surveyor status.

They are expected to acquire the level 4 "expert" surveyor status next year after

a series of monthly proficiency fish surveys, according to Lakeshia Anderson, National Project Coordinator for the Regional Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project and Assistant Fisheries Officer with The Department of Marine Resources.

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

"I am pleased with the team assigned to conduct the data collection over the two-year course of the experiment. I am excited to be working closely with the task team while building capacity amongst the partner organizations," said Ms Anderson.

"The experiment's final goal is to determine which removal schedule is most effective in minimizing lionfish populations on patch reefs, mangrove estuaries and submerged artificial structures," she said.

Sites are to be selected around New Providence, South Eleuthera and the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park.

"It was a great week of fish id's. I feel like the group learned a lot and really came together well. We certainly met our goals with everyone passing the level 2 and 3 exams," said Lad Akins, Director of Operations at REEF, who instructed the team.

REEF is a Florida-based volunteer organisation that maintains a database of fish species and fish abundance on coral reefs in the Western and Mid-North Atlantic and Tropical Eastern Pacific Oceans.

Members trained in the prescribed survey method log on to REEF's website, or send in survey reports with their fish ID and abundance data. Data is regularly entered into REEF's database, and is accessible online.

The Task Team consists of technical officers from the Department of Marine Resources, The Bahamas National Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission and The Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation (BREEF).

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# Stop carping: Let the Commonwealth Games begin

## insight

### WORLD VIEW

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**

*(The Writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean Diplomat)*

AS I write this commentary, the media of the big Commonwealth countries are lambasting India over the preparations for the Commonwealth Games due to start in New Delhi on October 3.

Much of the criticism is unfair and unhelpful.

India has just endured a dreadful monsoon season which delayed construction work.

That was followed by an outbreak of dengue fever in Delhi, the Indian capital and the location for the games.

There are, therefore, some good reasons for the poor state of part of the accommodation for athletes from 54 independent Commonwealth countries and dependencies such as Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands. Not enough attention has been paid by the critics to these circumstances.

Much has been made of the collapse of a footbridge under construction near the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main Games venue. Yet, the collapse was due to an engineering issue and it has no impact on the games' main venues.

The state of the athletes' Village has also been heavily criticised with complaints of flooding, rooms soiled with excrement and stray dogs found on some beds. Little account was taken of the recent monsoons and flooding that occurred carrying waste in the Village, and, importantly, that these are problems that could be fixed.

It is worth remembering that India is home to some of the world's most luxurious hotels, where cleanliness, hygiene and excellent service have received international acclaim.

Some commentators have gone further to suggest that the problems India faces are good reasons why major sporting events should not be held in developing countries.

They seem to have forgotten, conveniently, China's breathtaking showing as host of the 2008 Olympic Games and South Africa's marvelous performance as host of the 2010 Football World Cup Tournament.

They have also overlooked that India has spent \$3 billion preparing for the games.

Among the things it has successfully done are installing new infrastructure at the international airport in Delhi and a new metro.

This is not to say that the organizers of the Games ought not to have been more vigilant and that the government of India, recognizing that the eyes of sports lovers all over the world would be upon them, should not have more zealously overseen the arrangements.

But, the Indians themselves have been alive to delays in construction and poor work in some places.

The vigorously independent Indian media has regularly dispensed its own share of harsh criticism of the organizers and the government. Both the Times of India and the Hindustani Times showed that the majority of Indians are deeply embarrassed by

reports of poor preparation of athletes' accommodation. The newspapers themselves took a hard line. For instance, The Times of India headlined one story: "Commonwealth Games, India's shame".

Obviously, since India took on the obligation of hosting the Commonwealth Games, Indians wanted the best possible portrayal of their country to the world.

The widespread sense of embarrassment is understandable; it should be treated sympathetically and encouragement given to India's desire to display itself in the best possible light.

The government has responded to the complaints with decisive action.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh summoned the Sports Minister, M S Gill, and the Urban Development Minister, Jaipal Reddy, to a meeting whose consequence was the deployment of even more resources to ensure that all problems with the athletes' accommodation are corrected on time.

Security concerns have also been raised particularly about the safety of athletes. Yet, the security arrangements fully measure up to international standards.

They include: a three-tier security around all competition venues, helicopter surveillance, over 2,000 Close Circuit Televisions to monitor every movement around important locations and special vehicles to transport guests. Athletes will be looked after by a team of dedicated security personnel drawn from the Delhi Police Force and the paramilitary forces, and the vehicles transporting them will undergo mandatory anti-sabotage clearance every morning.

Indian security forces are also accustomed to handling large crowds. Some events in India attract up to 60 million people. No other country in the world can make a similar claim.

For these reasons, the athletes who have pulled out of the games have shown extremely faint hearts. If they fear terrorists, they would have better reason to harbour such fears in London at the 2012 Olympic Games which will undoubtedly be a target for extremists.

On the other hand, if it is



SIR RONALD SANDERS

hygiene that is the issue, they also face that problem in any number of restaurants around the world whose kitchens occasionally lapse.

Fears were also expressed about South Africa's readiness to hold the 2010 World Cup Football Tournament. Today, few have reason to criticize South Africa.

In the end, India will correct the deficiencies and get it right.

The country has more than enough organizational, technological, and creative talent to ensure the success of the Games. What the government must do now is to pull all that talent together to showcase the country's capacity.

These Commonwealth Games are significant to India as host, but they are also important to the Commonwealth as an association of 54 states that have valued their close relations for over 60 years, and who believe that, collectively, they have a unique contribution to make to global understanding.

The Commonwealth represents one-third of all mankind and it straddles every continent in the world; its people are of all races and religions; and its countries are large and small, rich and poor.

The Games are a traditional celebration by its athletes of their fierce but friendly competition. It is also beneficial preparation for the Olympics.

It would be good if Jamaica's Usain Bolt would reconsider his decision not to participate in the Games. His presence would be a vote of confidence in the capacity of developing countries such as those in his native Caribbean. It would be a gesture that India would greatly appreciate and remember.

Whether Bolt reconsiders or not, all Commonwealth countries should give every support and encouragement to India, stop the undignified carping and let the Games begin.

Responses and previous commentaries at: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)



**GAMES VILLAGE:** Malaysian team members in the recreational area at the Commonwealth Games village in New Delhi, India, Sunday.

Gurinder Osan/AP

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Doctor: 1,500 pills don't prove Smith was addicted

By LINDA DEUTSCH  
AP Special  
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A pain-management doctor testified Wednesday that Anna Nicole Smith was not a drug addict, rebuffing a prosecutor who suggested the model's prescriptions for 1,500 pills in a single month amounted to an addiction.

"It speaks to potential danger and risk to the patient, but it doesn't speak to addiction," Dr. Perry G. Fine told jurors in the drug conspiracy trial.

Fine, who testified as a defence witness, said there might be a toxicity risk if Smith took all the drugs but added that her medical records showed no indication of actual harm.

The definition of an addict is central to the case

against Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, Dr. Kristine Eroshovich and Howard K. Stern, who have pleaded not guilty to providing drugs to an addict and other charges. They are not charged in Smith's drug overdose death in 2007.

Stern is a lawyer who was the late celebrity model's boyfriend.

## Records

Fine said he believed Smith had a high tolerance for drugs but was not addicted. He said medical records showed she had suffered fractured ribs and was seeking relief from chronic pain.

"She woke up and functioned from day to day," Fine said. "She was in recovery from rib fractures,

and anyone's function would be highly limited."

Deputy District Attorney David Barkhurst had asked Fine whether Smith's prescriptions for 1,500 drug tablets in June 2004 might help determine if Smith was an addict.

Fine agreed with Superior Court Judge Robert Perry that it was a lot of drugs but said it was antiquated thinking to equate the number of pills with addiction. The pills included various opiates, muscle relaxants and other drugs.

"The disease of addiction is viewed as largely present in genetic factors, and it takes social and environmental factors to bring it out," he said.

Fine said a typical addict would be driven to compulsive drug use to seek a sense of euphoria, but he had

reviewed many records of Smith's medical treatment and saw no mention of her seeking euphoria.

He said he saw many reports of her seeking relief from pain.

## Video

Later in the day, prosecutors showed jurors a 15-minute video of Smith in a bathtub with her baby, Danielynn, while she was living in the Bahamas. The video was pixelated to hide Smith's nakedness.

Prosecutors contend the video supports their theory that Smith was drugged during that time and unable to function normally. The judge told jurors to evaluate whether the actions on



THIS IMAGE provided by the Los Angeles County Superior Court shows Anna Nicole Smith and her daughter, Danielynn.  
Los Angeles County Superior Court/AP

screen were relevant to testimony they have heard.

Stern, operating the camera for the home movie, could be heard talking to Smith and to the infant.

Smith's speech was slow and somewhat slurred, but she communicated with Stern, asking for a bottle of baby soap, waving the

baby's hand at Stern and blowing kisses.

At one point the baby howls, but she eventually settles down on Smith's stomach as the new mother scoops water over her. For a brief moment, Smith sings a little song to the infant who appeared to be about 2 to 3 months old.

## REAL ESTATE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By MIKE LIGHTBOURN

WE ALL know the mantra of real estate: location, location, location. The neighbourhood is usually the most critical factor in determining a home's value. When you begin your home search, you should create a list of criteria for the neighbourhood in which you want to live, work, and play.

Ask yourself questions like how long is the commute to your workplace?

Is an urban setting or a rural area more suited to your lifestyle? What is the crime profile for the neighbourhoods that interest you? Is there an active crime watch group?

How convenient is it to get to shopping centres, churches, schools?

Even if you don't have or plan to have children, the quality of the school district is another significant factor that determines the home's future value, which will be important when the time comes to resell your house.



If you find that you're priced out of the neighbourhood you really love, try to locate fixer-uppers in the area. They may need work, yes, but you'll get your foot in the door, so to speak, and can expect your property value to rise along with the other neighbourhood properties and your improvements and repairs.

A real estate agent will help you locate a suitable neighbourhood and home, and protect your best interests. Make your list and make a call today.

**Tip of the Week** — Prepare a Punch List, outlining what you are looking for in a home. This would include location, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, environment and any special requests, such as a pool or beachfront property.

(Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty) Questions or comments? Email me at ask@ColdwellBankerBahamas.com.

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# Governor General makes presentation to 'Crabs for Computers' students

Sir Arthur Foulkes says hard work brings reward

GOVERNOR General Sir Arthur Foulkes flew to Andros on Wednesday to present 20 students with their hard earned computers and complement Mangrove Cay's administrator for teaching them an important lesson — "there is no free lunch in life."

Mangrove Cay administrator Gilbert Kemp conceived the novel idea of having students collect land crabs for sale to raise money to purchase much needed lap top computers for their studies. At Thursday's ceremony 20 computers were presented. Five more are awaiting promised funds before they can be purchased.

Mr Kemp, who flew the children to Nassau earlier this year to sell their bags of crabs — the Governor General being one of the purchasers — said at the time that there were two major objectives to the innovative scheme: to teach the island's children that there is a reward for hard work, and to enable them to be in a position to remain a part of the global village and hone their IT skills despite their isolation on the island.

"While the immediate and physical reward for the students are these beautiful and hi-tech laptops here today," Sir Arthur said, "let there be no doubt in your minds that an even greater reward has been achieved here today, being that hard work indeed brings a just reward."

"These young and budding entrepreneurs sitting before us today will undeniably benefit from their efforts, with the potential to build future capacity in an ever-growing, continuously changing, and technological world. Whether it be in the work place, in their school environment or simply just their casual undertakings, these students will be better prepared, immensely equipped and vastly skilled to become productive members of our community."

"The ability to put in a period of work, and at the end of the day receive a fair compensation is a value that must be echoed throughout the shoals and shores of our Bahamaland," said Sir Arthur. "We are ever faced with a challenging time, in our nation's history, where individuals are opting to resort to a deceitful and illegal means of gain. Yet, today, we see 20 young men and women, who have decided that, within themselves they intend to work hard at achieving their goals, and for that they should be commended."

"Who would have known," he said, "that an indigenous item, like the land crab, that are so familiar to us in New Providence throughout the summer months, on every street corner ... who would have thought, that this product would be



**HARD WORK PAYS OFF:** Students receive their computers from Lady Foulkes (above), Sir Arthur Foulkes (top right) and Darrell Rolle (right).

used for such an advantageous endeavour?"

Sir Arthur and Lady Foulkes were hosted to a banquet Wednesday evening, hosted by the Mangrove Cay District Council and the Crabs for Computers Committee. Entertainment was provided by the local band, "Foxies and the Boys", and Corporal Portia Bain of the Royal Bahamas Police Force was soloist.

Pastors and officials from the 10 churches on Mangrove Cay welcomed the governor general and his wife. One of the senior pastors told Sir Arthur that history was in the making as it marked the first time that a sitting governor-general would spend the night at Mangrove Cay. He was grateful that the governor thought so much of the Crabs for Computers initiative and the people of Mangrove Cay to stay for such a period.

Sir Arthur thanked the community for their invitation. He said he was pleased to be back at Mangrove Cay, mentioning that the first time that he was there was in 1929 when his late father, Dr Foulkes, was posted there as resident physician.

At noon on Thursday before the official presentation ceremony at the Administrator's Complex in Little Harbour, the governor and his wife visited the Mangrove Cay High School where the students displayed their talents through tributes and song. He then visited the Mangrove Cay Community Clinic, where Nursing Officer Gina Bennett-Rolle gave him a tour of the facilities.



Photo/Gilbert Kemp

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Man killed, prisoner on work release shot

FROM page one

have served a prison term, was shot in the head. The men on bicycles disappeared.

In what was described by eye witnesses as a hit-type killing, a man with dreadlocks is said to have shot at the victim with a handgun, resulting in him falling to the ground in front of a house and later being pronounced dead at the scene by Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Police confirmed that a man was seen leaving the area on a bicycle and called on members of the public who may have seen this individual or heard anything else relating to the incident which could be of use to police to make contact with officers as soon as possible.

"Any little bit of information is helpful. We want to bring a quick resolution to this," said Police Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings.

This newspaper further understands that stemming from these and other incidents there may be concern among prison officers about the integrity of the prison's work-release or "extra mural" programme — specifically with regard to an alleged "lack of supervision" over inmates who leave the prison to participate in the programme and the selection of individuals who are approved to take part in it.

This opinion was expressed after a man on an armed robbery charge who was involved in the programme — which sees inmates known for "good behaviour" released to an off-compound work site during work hours and returned to the prison in the afternoon — is also said to be suspected of involvement in the shooting of the Honda.

Again, police detectives and Prison Superintendent Elliston Rahming did not return messages seeking comment on the claim and Sgt Skippings could not confirm the allegations, but sources allege the prisoner showed up at Princess Margaret Hospital shortly after the brother and sister arrived seeking



THE BODY of the man is removed from the scene on Saturday.

treatment for a gunshot injury to one of his legs Saturday afternoon. He was then taken into custody and returned to the prison.

The Tribune understands that the prisoner, who was supposed to be at his extra-mural work site at the time, was a friend of the man who was killed on Colleton Street — also an ex-convict who had recently been released from Fox Hill prison. The inmate was alleged to have been on the scene at the time his friend was killed and is suspected to have had some involvement in the subsequent shooting in Yellow Elder. There is an unconfirmed report that the inmate had already served nine and a half years of a 15-year sentence for armed robbery and was due to be released from prison next year. He is now in the prison hospital where his wounded leg is being treated.

Meanwhile, Duty Nurse Joanne Oliver yesterday confirmed that the public hospital was placed on lockdown on Saturday for around two and a half hours beginning at around 4.45pm. While not confirming the circumstances surrounding the decision to take this step, Nurse Oliver said it was because of security concerns following the arrival of a number of individuals suffering from gunshot wounds.

Two of these people, believed to be the brother and sister who had been shot, had driven themselves to the hospital in a grey Honda Accord which was left parked outside the Emergency Room. The car had been damaged by a hail of bullets to its rear trunk area and windshield. It was reported the shooting at the car only stopped when the driver turned into the hospital compound.

The brother and sister who suffered "non-life threatening" injuries, are reported to be under heavy police guard in hospital.

Sgt Skippings appealed to the public yesterday to assist the police in this latest homicide and shooting investigation, which brings the country's murder toll to 70 for the year.

"We are appealing to anyone who may have heard something with regards to these incidents to kindly contact our police emergency number on 919, Central Detective Unit on 502 9991 or make an anonymous call to Crimestoppers on 328 TIPS.

"It's not just the responsibility of the police but of each person residing in this country to play a role in this fight against crime and we appeal to you to come forward and help us preserve this country for our children for the future of our country," said the police officer.

## Card Of Thanks &

Happy Birthday to



## Tiffany "Tiff"

A hollow spot and tender wound exists in the place you once filled. Your absence is heartfelt but we are comforted by our cherished memories, by the memory of your smile and the caring works of your hands. We find great solace in knowing that you are no longer hurting, but are at peace resting in the bosom of your first love. You are in our hearts forever.

Love coming from your son Trevell,  
brother, Trevor, aunts, uncles,  
cousins family, friends.

### Special thanks

Thanks you for your kind words of encouragements prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers food and other acts of kindness. Special thanks to the Dr's & Nurses of ICU, Nurses Association of The Bahamas, Mt Carmel Preparatory School, Nassau Block, Canon Tynes & St Barnabas family, Fr Saunders and St. Ambrose Parish family and the many others too numerous to mention.

The family

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# MP says school 'short of teachers and furniture'

FROM page one

immediate relief is brought" to the school. According to the MP, the school is missing teachers in English language, maths, music, technical drawing, social studies, religious knowledge and physical education.

Mr Bannister toured the government schools in central and north Andros on September 9 and 10.

"Students are entering their fifth week of classes and are nearing mid term without these critical posts being filled.

"The frustration level at North Andros High School is extremely high," said Mr Peet.

Referring to the shortage of desks and chairs, the MP said some students at the school have been forced to "sit on the floor during classes".

He said this shortfall in equipment is also affecting Lowe Sound Primary, Red Bays Primary, Nicholls Town Primary Mastic Point Primary.



SCHOOL CONCERNS:  
Vincent Peet

# Police hunt hit-and-run driver after man killed

FROM page one

eye witness reports indicate that the driver of the "silver or gray year 2000 type" Honda Accord alleged to have been involved in the incident is a white male.

Members of the public have been warned to keep an eye out for the vehicle, which is suspected to have sustained "extensive damage to the windshield and/or front end" as a result of the collision and to contact police if they have any information which could

assist in their investigation into the traffic death.

The hit and run occurred at around 1.15am on Saturday morning on Fox Hill Road near Sugar Hill Road.

The victim was found lifeless by police, having suffered "injuries to his head and extremities."

The man's age and identity have yet to be released. Anyone with information is advised to call the police Emergency Room on 919 Traffic Division at 393 7204...393 7713/4 or Crime Stoppers on 328 TIPS.

Another man lost his life this weekend in a traffic accident shortly after midnight on Sunday morning.

According to Sgt Skipplings the victim was riding a blue 2007 Suzuki 1300, license plate number 4225 south on Gladstone Road when he collided with a Ford Explorer.

The motorbike rider was taken to hospital by Emergency Medical Services but died of his injuries soon after.

The driver of the Ford Explorer was not reported to have been injured.

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LOCAL NEWS



# Home demolished 'without warning'

**FROM page one**

Gibson-Wood, a self-employed interior decorator, said they put every cent they had into purchasing land on

**A FAMILY** member is shown assisting Mrs Gibson-Wood with some of her fabric which was found unscathed beneath a pile of rubble yesterday.

the new subdivision being developed south of Charles W Saunders Highway and building a home they could call their own.

Mr Wood said: "You know what it makes me feel like? The aftermath in Haiti - I just go there and pick out my pieces. On Saturday I was there from eight in the morning just picking out pieces and pieces out of the rubble. I see what those people went through in Haiti now, that's how I feel in this country. We need justice in our people, this shouldn't be. I bought this land, this is my land. We need to come to a conclusion with justice in this country."

Neighbours say the demolition began on the Woods' home at around 7am, and with both his parents at work, Mr Wood's eldest son was the first to the scene.

Mr Wood's said by the time he and his wife were able to get to their home, which was after noon, the house was said completely flattened.

Mr Wood said: "Right now my son keep crying, he say 'Daddy this can't be happening, this is a dream, this can't be real'. I had to comfort my son, talk with my son, all of them - we haven't slept yet, every night we just comfort one another, they crying, they crying. It's wrong how they're doing the poor people, with all of my furniture's there in the house, they are going to tell me nothing was in there? We didn't been to court or nothing, and they just knock the building down with all our furniture in it. Everything we owned was in there. This morning we had to buy sanitary cups and plates to eat and drink out of."

His wife, Mrs Gibson-Wood added: "I say this to the people who he used, the man in the coat suit he never dirty his hands he goes to the poor and those who just want to drink or smoke and he use them, but y'all I don't blame y'all I blame him. If y'all know and have God in your heart get down and pray because guess what me and my family out here - even the ones that are not out here - we doing some tall praying."

When he got the call from his son that people were demolishing his home, Mr Gibson said he immediately called the police, who he said arrived at the already demolished site around the same time as he did. Mr Gibson said the police told him that the demolition should not have happened without police presence or some sort of court notice.

In the presence of officers, the security guards handed Mr Gibson a copy of a Supreme Court ruling showing Arawak Homes Limited as a plaintiff, John Sands as the first defendant, and Smith, Smith & Co (sued as a firm) as the second defendant. Mr Gibson said all the names listed in the ruling were meaningless to him and

also noted the document did not bear any official stamp.

Mr Wood added: "I built this out of my pocket, every dime out of my pocket, out of my pocket, me and my wife. Friday night and Saturday night would have been our last set of stuff we just bringing in. This house was completed a few weeks ago but we were just running the last set of wires for the meter box to get put in to town planning for electricity. We were sleeping in here temporarily using the generator, starting up the lights - the house was already light up. We built this out of our pocket, every dime of this."

"I guess only the poor people could suffer in this country, it's hard, they are trying to create more criminals in this country. That's why these school children today, their growing up and doing the things their doing today. They need to stop, it's coming from the head - what you think about the bottom."

When the security guards saw Mrs Gibson-Wood taking down licensing information, she said they told her 'you are wasting your time, this is Arawak Homes company vehicle.'

Mrs Gibson-Wood said: "They say a building, it was a home. This light will continue to shine, I tell my children cry, cry children cry, the weeping may endure for a night, but the joy cometh in the morning. We gotta weep, we gotta release, we gotta cry unto God because its only him, don't look to man, unless God sent that man to help us."

Yesterday, the mother of four stood on the cleared foundation where her home had stood, Bible clutched tightly in hand, and proclaimed to the people responsible - and all in earshot - that her faith was unshaken and her family would put all trust in God rather than seek vengeance.

Mrs Gibson-Wood said: "My son was two years old when he pulled the first weed, and he said to me 'mommy we are going to enjoy Christmas in here', that was in 2002. When we got this land, we went through all the right procedures, nobody never approach us about it, no one. We got our permit number, we've been to BEC, Ministry of Works - the ministry has the map, with everything that's laid out, so you know you can't just get a permit number, you can't thief that."

The Gibsons pointed out that the remains of their home were not simply pushed aside or dumped in one place, but scattered several yards away from their home and almost all of their appliances are gone.

Mr Wood said: "I did everything the right way, the honest way, and this is what I get today, for being righteous. I might as well have been crooked."

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## Five firms collapsing per week

Sector consultant says small businesses at 'crossroads', with sector contribution at just 3% of GDP

Bahamian small and medium-sized businesses are failing at the rate of five per week, a leading consultant to the sector estimates in today's Tribune Business, arguing that the sector's contribution to the overall economy has shrunk by two percentage points over the past three years to just 3 per cent.

Mark A. Turnquest, of Mark A. Turnquest Consulting, writes on Page 3B that Bahamian small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) are at a "crossroads", with their contribution to overall Bahamian gross domestic product (GDP) having fallen from 5 per cent in 2007.

Also calling for a plan to encourage 80,000 Bahamians to return to the Family Islands, enticed by successful business development in those locations, Mr Turnquest said: "All stakeholders that cater to SMEs need to do more if our country wants to diversify our economy, reduce our national debt and increase

SEE page 6B

## Tourism's most significant bit of infrastructure

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor



Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace

THE Ministry of Tourism's plans to develop an electronic booking engine for all Bahamian hotel accommodation have been lauded as "the most significant piece of infrastructure for the tourism sector for a long time", the minister of tourism and aviation describing it as key to converting "latent demand" for this nation into reality.

Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace said that even without promotional and marketing campaigns worldwide demand for a Bahamian vacation was strong, but without a universal booking engine that enabled potential visitors to reserve their airline tickets and rooms from anywhere in the world, at any time, those prospects would not become true customers.

Describing the creation of "an electronic booking engine for all the accom-

SEE page 4B

# 'Revenue neutral' BMA fee clean-up

\* Maritime Authority fee amendments ensure it is 'not priced out of the market', with 1/3-60% discounts for owners registering multiple vessels

\* Minister says registration process 'a lot cleaner and more efficient', as BMA strengthens client links in partner with Ministry and Hong Kong/Greece offices

\* Yacht code adopted, making fees competitive and taking dollars out the equation, as Commission tidies legislation to go to Parliament

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas Maritime Authority's (BMA) fee amendments will have a "revenue neutral" impact on its revenue streams, despite being designed to prevent it being "priced out of the market" for first-time registrants,

as it bids to make ship registration "a lot cleaner and more efficient".

Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, told Tribune Business that the BMA's decision to waive the registration fee for new shipowners, and provide incentives ranging from a one-third to 60 per cent reduction in fees for



RESPONSE:  
Earl Deveaux

owners registering multiple ships, was a response to the "creative things" being done by the Bahamas' chief ship

SEE page 6B

## PM urged to 'intervene' in Freeport Customs row

Leading QC accuses govt department of seeking to 'hold businesses hostage' over demand that has no basis in law

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

THE Prime Minister and minister of state for finance have been urged to "immediately intervene" over what one leading attorney described as Customs' attempt to "hold businesses hostage" in Freeport over demands for the submission of monthly bonded goods sales reports.

Fred Smith QC, the Callenders & Co attorney and partner who has won numerous Supreme Court verdicts against the Customs Department for violating the Hawksbill Creek Agreement's provisions, confirmed that there were no provisions in that treaty or the Customs Management Act requiring the submission of such reports.

Racing to the defence of Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) licencees, who had seen their business operations and wider economy thrown into "confusion" by Customs' latest demand, Mr Smith said: "I am shocked that Customs should be acting in such an arbitrary, heavy-handed manner towards licencees in Freeport.

"Customs does not have the right to hold businesses hostage by refusing to clear their trailers because the licencees may or may not be doing something else incorrect.

"The Hawksbill Creek Agreement and Customs Management Act provide for appropriate processes for the way something should be done, and the powers Customs has or does not have. Holding licencees to ransom by not clearing their trailers is a dictatorial abuse of their powers, and simply unacceptable.

"I call on the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, and Zhivargo Laing to immediately intervene to stop this flagrant abuse of power, and call upon the Port Authority and Ian Rolle, its president, to intervene on behalf of the licencees. This is no way to conduct business or enforce powers."

Mr Rolle did not return a call to Tribune Business seeking comment. Mr Smith, meanwhile, said he had been called by three separate Port Authority licencees asking



SHOCKED: Fred Smith

whether Customs had the power to withhold release of their imported trailer shipments unless they submitted reports on bonded goods sales to it.

Despite clarifying that Cus-

SEE page 5B

## Top law firm wants \$14 million action claim thrown out

\* Graham, Thompson & Co moves to dismiss action by US citizen, arguing no harm done during 16-day legal representation

\* Bahamian bank and its chief also moving to respond to allegations by purported account holde

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

A LEADING Bahamian law firm has moved to dismiss a legal action filed against it in relation to a dispute over an alleged \$14 million Bahamas-based account, arguing that the plaintiff had been unable to prove her interests had been damaged by its 16-day representation.

Graham, Thompson & Company's September 13, 2010, filing of a motion to dismiss is part of wider complaint brought against it, and Bahamas-based Corner Bank, in the Columbia District Court by a US citizen,

Tonya Day, who is allegedly acting as trustee/administrator for the estate of her late mother.

Day is alleging that her mother, Lavera Foelgner, accumulated some \$14 million in either an account or trust at Corner Bank (Overseas), and filed the action in an attempt to gain control over those assets and have them transferred to her.

Day's Utah-based attorney initially hired Graham, Thompson & Company to represent her, and the US resident is alleging malpractice and breach of fiduciary duty.

SEE page 8B

## Bahamas Waste biodiesel trials start this week

BISX-listed company seeking to 'double' recycled cardboard exports with five container, 110-tonne shipment

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

BAHAMAS Waste is hoping to begin trial production of biodiesel at its new \$750,000 facility this week, its managing director has told Tribune Business, as it looks to "double" shipments of recycled cardboard with its third load for export.

Francisco de Cardenas said "everyone has stepped up to the plate" in terms of the Gladstone Road-based facility's construction, adding that the use of biodiesel as a fuel for the company's 50-60-strong vehicle fleet would enable it to control operational costs by acting as a 'hedge' against global oil price volatility.

"The technicians are back and have been here the entire part of last week," he told

Tribune Business. "The electricity and all that will be finished today, and everybody is putting the finishing touches on the building. All the plumbing is being finished today, and as soon as we hook up the last tanks we should be ready to go through some trials next week.

"The sodium hydroxide is here, the methanol is on the dock. Everyone has stepped up to the place and done what they are supposed to do, so we're looking OK."

Mr de Cardenas told Tribune Business that Bahamas Waste had been approached to "showcase" its biodiesel facility, which could generate one million gallons per year if run as a '24/7' facility, at the October

SEE page 6B

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**BUSINESS**

**ROYALFIDELITY MARKET WRAP**

**By ROYALFIDELITY CAPITAL MARKETS**

IT WAS a moderate week of trading in the Bahamian stock market. Investors traded in six out of the 24 listed securities, with all securities remaining unchanged.

**EQUITY MARKET**

A total of 101,032 shares changed hands, representing an increase of 95,529 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 5,503 shares. Colina Holdings (CHL) was the volume leader last week, trading a volume of 100,000 shares to see its stock close unchanged at \$2.50.

**BOND MARKET**

No notes traded in the bond market last week.

**COMPANY NEWS**

Earnings Releases: First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) (CIB) released its unaudited financials

for the quarter ended July 31, 2010.

Net income attributable to equity holders for the quarter, of \$12.2 million, declined by \$6.3 million from \$18.5 million in the same period in the prior year, or by 34 per cent quarter-over quarter (QoQ).

Net interest income fell by \$3.5 million QoQ, from \$35.3 million to \$31.8 million, while operating income of \$12.1 million increased by \$4.3 million or 54 per cent in the quarter.

CIB's operating expenses increased marginally QoQ by \$1.1 million, from \$17.5 million to \$18.6 million, while loan loss expense doubled from \$6.2 million to \$12.5 million in the quarter.

Management indicated they are continuing to work with their clients to manage their debt, but depressed economic conditions continue to negatively impacted losses on the bank's credit portfolio.

Earnings per share for the quarter were \$0.11, compared

to \$0.16 in the comparative quarter.

Total assets and liabilities at July 31, 2010, were \$3.6 billion and \$3 billion respectively, compared to \$3.8 billion and \$3.1 billion at the previous fiscal year-end.

**DIVIDENDS NOTES:**

Commonwealth Bank (CBL) has declared a dividend of \$0.05 per share, payable on September 30, 2010, to all ordinary shareholders of record date September 15, 2010.

Cable Bahamas (CAB) has declared a dividend of \$0.08 per share, payable on September 30, 2010, to all ordinary shareholders of record date September 15, 2010.

Doctors Hospital Healthcare Systems (DHS) has declared a dividend of \$0.02 per share, payable on September 30, 2010, to all ordinary shareholders of record date September 23, 2010.

**EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS**

Week ending 24.09.10

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$1.01	\$-	0	-13.68%
BBL	\$0.18	\$-	0	-71.43%
BOB	\$4.90	\$-	0	-16.95%
BPF	\$10.63	\$-	0	-1.02%
BSL	\$5.01	\$-	0	-50.20%
BWL	\$3.15	\$-	150	0.00%
CAB	\$10.77	\$-	270	7.92%
CBL	\$6.28	\$-	300	-10.29%
CHL	\$2.50	\$-	100,000	-8.09%
CIB	\$9.74	\$-	37	-2.50%
CWCB	\$1.88	\$0.25	0	-34.04%
DHS	\$1.90	\$-	0	-25.49%
FAM	\$6.07	\$-	0	-6.47%
FBB	\$2.17	\$-	0	-8.44%
FCC	\$0.27	\$-	0	0.00%
FCL	\$5.46	\$-	0	14.47%
FCLB	\$1.00	\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$8.50	\$-	0	-8.41%
ICD	\$5.59	\$-	0	0.00%
JSJ	\$9.92	\$-	275	-0.30%
PRE	\$10.00	\$-	0	0.00%

**BOND MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS**

BISX SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	VOLUME	PAR VALUE
FBB13	FBB Series C Notes Due 2013	0	\$1,000
FBB15	FBB Series D Notes Due 2015	0	\$1,000
FBB17	FBB Series A Notes Due 2017	0	\$1,000
FBB22	FBB Series B Notes Due 2022	0	\$1,000

Free WiFi Now Available

# Vacation in Paradise

**ONLY \$69**  
per person\*

Bahamas residents only.

**Full Use of Atlantis**  
Including all pool and beach activities!

- Kids 15 and under stay free in room with parent
- Free Continental Breakfast daily
- Kids under 12 also Eat Free\*\*
- Air conditioned Jr. Suites w/ king size or two double beds
- Free Wi-Fi & Free Parking
- All new Flat Screen TVs with cable programming
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CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL®

\*\$69 per person per night dbl occupancy, Sun thru Wed., \$79 per person per night dbl occupancy, Thurs thru Sat. Rates available through December 25, 2010. Additional adults add \$40 each per night. Maximum 4 persons per room. Additional fees apply for mandatory taxes, mandatory housekeeping gratuities and utility service fees. Rates quoted are based on standard room category and subject to availability. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to arrival or a 1-night penalty will apply. \*\*Kids eat free under 12 years of age with paying adult - breakfast, lunch & dinner.

## BUSINESS

# Tourism's most 'significant bit of infrastructure'

FROM page one

modations in the Bahamas" as one of the key tourism innovations, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said his ministry was set to have conversations on the project within the next 10 days.

"We are now at the stage of exploring some real options," he said. "There is very high demand for the Bahamas, and it is key that we enable such demand to be booked very easily and inexpensively.

"The latent demand for the Bahamas is very strong, but if we do not enable people to book those reservations day and night, we will not convert that demand into active travel.

"That is the most significant piece of infrastructure rolling out into the tourism sector for a long time, so we're excited about the prospects for the next 10 days and into the future."

Meanwhile, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace cautioned that while charter airline, Air Transat, had been given approval to operate air services between Canada and the Bahamas, much remained to be done before this happened.

Given the Canadian market's reliance on tour operators as a distribution network, the minister said it was critical that "prices and a product" were developed that worked for all - the airline, tourist and the Bahamas. This nation, he pointed out, was relatively high-priced compared to other favoured Canadian destinations in the Caribbean, such as Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

The Companion Fly Free promotion, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said, was "giving and having the proximity of the Bahamas reflected in the cost to come here", and his Ministry was set to explore more options in this area.

He added that while more carriers were being encouraged to service the Bahamas, initiatives such as Companion Fly Free also brought the "magic combination" of lower air fares and better value for stopover visitors.



**SPONSORS AND SEMINAR PRESENTERS** - Front Row, left to right Annie Chinafat, KPMG; Tanya N. Rahming, BICA; Nadine Frazier, IIB; and Wendy Warren, BFSB. Back Row: Lennox McCartney, ICB superintendent; Ron Sulisz, Strategic Risk Solutions (Cayman); Stuart Jessop, Crusader International Management (Cayman); David Wade, Premier Environmental Services, Inc.; Alan Morris, KPMG Cayman Islands; Simon Townend, KPMG; and Benno Raeber, Prime Advisory Group. Missing from the Photo is T.C. Leshikar, KPMG Cayman Islands.

## BFSB focuses on captive markets

THE Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB), in cooperation with industry partners, hosted a one-day Captive Insurance Seminar last week to build awareness of the industry, and as a 'business solution'.

Captive insurance is an alternative form of risk management that is becoming more popular, as companies can protect themselves financially while having more control over how they are insured. The sector has undergone significant

changes, and the global market for captive insurance companies has become dynamic and sophisticated, with ongoing development of concepts and tools. Captives can be domiciled and licensed in a growing number of domiciles both onshore and offshore.

Captive insurance companies that are formed outside the US or offshore can make an IRC section 953(d) election to be taxed as a domestic US corporation for US tax purposes. This allows

a foreign-based captive insurance company to receive the same US tax benefits and treatment as a captive formed in any of the US states with captive insurance legislation.

A foreign-based captive generally has much lower costs of ownership and a far higher degree of flexibility for its US owners, compared to a captive which is formed in the US. For this reason most small captive insurance companies with annual premiums below \$1.2 million are formed offshore.

Several presenters outlined the development of a skills base and business

opportunities arising from the diverse role of managing captives, including requirements for corporate law, accounting, claims management, underwriting capability, and expert knowledge of the regulatory environment.

Simon Townend, Partner at KPMG Nassau, served as moderator. He pointed out that a key element of BFSB's insurance outreach is to ensure that market participants understand the business. It is anticipated that the orientation session today will be the first of a series of business seminars going forward.

### LEGAL NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

International Business Companies Act  
(No. 45 of 2000)

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No.45 of 2000), **BBR VENTURES LIMITED** is in dissolution. Kyrene Kelly is the Liquidator and can be contacted at CIT (Bahamas) Limited One Marina Drive, Paradise Island, P.O. Box SS-19140, Bahamas. All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator before the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2010.

Signed:   
Kyrene Kelly  
Liquidator

### NOTICE

MARONE HOLDINGS, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

**MARONE HOLDINGS, LTD.** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said Company commenced on the **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010** when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said Company is Delano Aranha of Ocean Centre, Montagu Foreshore, East Bay Street, P.O. Box N-3247, Nassau, Bahamas.

Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2010.

**H & J Corporate Services Ltd.**

Registered Agent  
for the above-named Company

### NOTICE

**MARONE HOLDINGS, LTD.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Creditors having debts or claims against the above-named Company are required to send particulars thereof to the undersigned at Ocean Centre, Montagu Foreshore, East Bay Street, P.O. Box N-3247, Nassau, Bahamas as sole Liquidator on or before the **4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010**. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made by the Liquidator.

Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2010.

**DELANO ARANHA**  
LIQUIDATOR

### Bahamas Property Fund Limited

#### Consolidated Income Statement For The Quarter Ended 30 June 2010 (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended 30 June 2010	Six Months Ended 30 June 2010	Six Months Ended 30 June 2009
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rental revenues	1,015,919	2,023,281	1,952,026
Other income	14,456	23,728	16,430
	<u>1,030,375</u>	<u>2,047,009</u>	<u>1,968,456</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Bank interest	209,736	420,074	448,294
Preference share dividends	87,500	175,000	-
Other expenses	255,825	514,078	365,495
	<u>553,061</u>	<u>1,109,152</u>	<u>813,789</u>
<b>FUNDS FROM OPERATIONS (FFO)</b>	<b>477,314</b>	<b>937,857</b>	<b>1,154,667</b>
Amortisation of deferred expenses	(35,441)	(67,842)	(55,618)
Bad debt expense	-	-	(33,752)
	<u>441,873</u>	<u>870,015</u>	<u>1,065,297</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>441,873</b>	<b>870,015</b>	<b>1,065,297</b>
<b>FFO PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$0.39</b>	<b>\$0.48</b>
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>	<b>\$0.36</b>	<b>\$0.44</b>
<b>NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$14.36</b>	<b>\$14.36</b>	<b>\$14.39</b>

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009/CLE/qui/01809

IN THE SUPREME COURT  
Common Law & Equity Side  
IN THE MATTER of the Quieting Titles Act  
AND  
IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Mizpah Lorranna Pratt

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF all that piece parcel or plot of land containing 6,475 square feet more or less and situate on the Southern side of Village Alley approximately 150 feet South of Poinciana Drive and 92 feet West of Baillou Hill Road and bounded on the North by the said Village Alley and running thereon 61.70 feet on The South by land said to be owned by one Huyler partly by persons unknown and partly by one Moss and running thereon 115.47 feet On the South by land said to be the property of one Maxwell and running thereon 48.86 Feet and on the West by land said to be the Property of Robert Jennings and running Thereon 115.47 feet with such positions marks shapes boundaries and dimensions as are delineated on a plan prepared by Daniel F. Wilkinson and is thereon coloured PINK.

COPIES of the said Plan may be inspected during Normal Office hours at the following places:-

- The Registry of the Supreme Court  
In the City of Nassau on the Island of New Providence
- Collie & Collie Law Chambers  
K. S. Darling Building  
Dowdeswell Street & School Lane  
in the City of Nassau on the Island of New Providence, The Bahamas

**NOTICE** is hereby given that any person having Dower or a right to Dower or any Adverse Claim or a Claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the 20th October 2010 day of 2010 file in the Supreme Court in the City of Nassau aforesaid and serve on the Petitioner a Statement of claim in the Prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a Statement of Claim on or before the day of 20th October 2010 will operate as a bar to such claim.

**Mizpah Lorranna Pratt**  
Petitioner

BUSINESS

FROM page one

# PM urged to 'intervene' in Freeport Customs row

toms did not possess such powers, Mr Smith added: "Unfortunately, three of them are non-Bahamian citizens who operate these businesses, so they are terrified of government because they are foreign, and do not wish to take action.

"Customs is banking on people caving in to this behaviour, and I do hope that the Comptroller of Customs, the Port Authority and relevant Ministry will intervene urgently to prevent this abuse."

Asked about the impact Customs' moves would have on the Freeport economy, Mr Smith told Tribune Business: "It sends everything into confusion once again. It demonstrates that the heavy hand of government abuse can be visited upon licencees at any time, and because it affects the economy and financial interests are involved, they [the licencees] simply put up with the abuse.

"By the time they've gone to court, it costs a lot of time and money, and often business comes to a halt because they can't clear their goods."

And the noted QC added: "It is unacceptable in a democratic country that Customs continues to behave in this blatant fashion. It is so unnecessary, as Customs have the powers, as stated in the Supreme Court decisions and the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, to conduct audits. There is no provision for these demands for monthly reports."

As previously revealed by Tribune Business, Customs initially wrote to GBPA licencees threatening to

"withdraw" their bonded goods rights unless they submitted reports on their sales to it.

A copy of the undated letter, signed by assistant comptroller of customs Lincoln Strachan, said: "As you are aware, the over-the-counter sale of bonded goods is conditioned upon the submission of monthly bonded sales reports.

"A perusal of our records indicates that your company has been delinquent in this regard. This, therefore, serves as a reminder that your monthly bonded goods sales report must be submitted to this office by the 15th of each month. Failure to comply may result in this

concession being withdrawn. Please be guided accordingly."

Customs Comptroller Glenn Gomez agreed with Tribune Business that this letter went too far, as his department had no powers to withdraw licencee rights enshrined in the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, so it appears that Customs in Freeport moved to a different tack - threatening to stop clearing trailers unless bonded goods sales reports were obtained.

All GBPA licencees submit to Customs on the 15th of each subsequent month a report on product sales where duties were post-paid, something that is totally dif-

ferent from the information now being requested.

"A duty-paid sales report has always been furnished as supporting documentation for a duty-paid sales entry, along with the remittance of the duty collected, just as invoices are furnished with an entry for import clearance," Christopher Lowe, operations manager at Kelly's (Freeport), explained last week.

"The two reports, duty paid and bonded, are not the same, and serve different purposes. This is a new and unprecedented demand, asking for proprietary and confidential business information, and furthermore is a new approach for the audit [of GBPA licencees] that the Supreme Court ruled to be unlawful."

Bonded goods sales is a practice whereby Freeport-based wholesalers, such as Dolly Madison, Kelly's (Freeport) and Bellevue Business Depot, are able to sell products to other GBPA licencees solely for use in their respective businesses, without any duty being paid to Customs/Government on their sale. It is a report on this activity that Customs is seeking, but Mr Lowe said this has never been required before.

"It is like a fishing expedition and audit in a different form. This is something new. It doesn't exist. I don't know what's in it and what they want. We don't know the format of it," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business. "This is another crushing blow to the legitimate trade."



GN-1103

## THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MARINE VESSELS INSURANCE FOR THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, through the Ministry of Finance, invites Tenders for the provision of insurance coverage for MARINE VESSELS INSURANCE FOR THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

All interested persons/companies are invited to collect the Tender Document which includes specifications of all vehicles between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 from:

The Ministry of Finance  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre  
P.O. Box N-3107  
West Bay Street  
Telephone #327-1530  
Nassau, Bahamas

The Tender bid must show the following coverage:

- (1) MARINE HULL & WAR RISKS

The tender Document must be completed in accordance with the instructions therein:-

The original, along with three (3) copies of the completed proposal must be placed in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Tender Document for the Provision of "Insurance coverage for all government vehicles" and deposited in the Tender's box at the Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Building, West Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas, no later than 9:30 a.m. on or before Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Persons submitting Tenders are invited to be present for the Tender opening on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 when the Tenders Board meets at 10:00 a.m.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Financial Secretary

### YACHT FOR SALE BY TENDER

#### YACHT "KALIK SIR"

#### NOTICE

TO BE SOLD BY TENDER PURSUANT TO ORDER No. 00128 OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE BAHAMAS, MADE THEREIN ON THE 3RD AUGUST 2010. THE YACHT "KALIK SIR", PRESENTLY BERTHED AT BROWNS BOAT BASIN, NASSAU, ENTAILS THE FOLOWING PARTICULARS:

Year Built: 2001  
Build/Type: SEARAY (460 SUN DANCER)  
Dimensions: LOA 45.6 Feet  
                  Breadth Moulded 14.8 Feet  
Tonnage: Dry Weight 28,000 lbs (12,700 kg)  
Machinery: 2 x 6 Cyl. 430 BHP CUMMINS 450c  
                  Main Engines (Inboard V-Drive type);  
                  1 x Bow Thruster (Vetus);  
                  1 x 10kW Westerbeke Generator.

Further particulars of the vessel, the conditions of sale and arrangement for inspection may be attained from Bahamas Maritime Connexion Limited, Joan's Heights, Nassau, The Bahamas; Phone: (242) 392-3514 or (242) 359-1424; Fax (242) 392-3518. Email: glenbain@maritimeconnexion.com or glenbain@hotmail.com

THE ABOVE PARTICULARS AND ANY FURTHER PARTICULARS THAT MAY BE GIVEN BY THE ADMIRALTY MARSHAL ARE AND WILL BE GIVEN IN GOOD FAITH AND NO RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR THEIR ACCURACY. IT IS ENCUMBERT UPON ALL INTERESTED PURCHASERS TO MAKE THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT ENQUIRIES.

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEALED ENVELOPE MARKED "TENDER FOR YACHT KALIK SIR" AND SHOULD REACH THE OFFICE OF THE ADMIRALTY MARSHAL NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2010, AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

The Office of the Admiralty Marshal  
P.O. Box N-8175  
Prince George Wharf  
Nassau, N.P.,  
The Bahamas

THE ADMIRALTY MARSHAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL TENDERS -  
Signed: Commander Patrick McNeil  
(Admiralty Marshal)

"I ensure that vital equipment around the hospital are in perfect working condition according to strict specifications, ensuring that you and your family receive safe and comfortable treatment, each and every time."

Rudy Ferguson, Associate Biomedical Technician

## We Welcome you

to be a part of our WOW service team.

### BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Qualifications

- BA or Associates degree in Biomedical Technology or Graduate of similar program with a certificate;
- Ability to troubleshoot machines and servicing of machines related to Healthcare service
- Knowledge of care of oxygen equipment a plus;
- Computer literate;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Good customer service/organizational skills
- Ability to work independently

The successful Candidate will:

Maintain the hospital's medical equipment in a state-of-the-art condition; Perform repairs and service of medical machines.

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Please submit resume to: Human Resources Department | Doctors Hospital  
P.O. Box N-3018 | Nassau, Bahamas | Website: www.doctorshospital.com  
spbain@doctorshosp.com

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:										
FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2010										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,500.57   CHG 0.07   %CHG 0.00   YTD -64.81   YTD % -4.14										
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00   YTD 00.00%   2009 -12.31%										
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM   TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330   FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.26	1.00	AML Foods Limited	1.01	1.01	0.00		0.250	0.040	4.0	3.96%
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00		0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%
6.18	4.50	Bank of Bahamas	4.90	4.90	0.00		0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00	150	0.168	0.090	15.8	2.86%
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00		0.016	0.040	135.6	1.84%
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	10.77	10.77	0.00	170	1.212	0.310	8.9	2.88%
2.84	2.50	Colma Holdings	2.50	2.50	0.00	100,000	0.781	0.040	3.2	1.60%
6.99	5.94	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.28	6.28	0.00		0.422	0.230	14.9	3.66%
10.20	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.81	1.88	0.07		0.111	0.052	16.9	2.77%
2.55	1.60	Doctor's Hospital	1.90	1.90	0.00		0.199	0.110	9.5	5.79%
6.99	5.94	Famguard	6.07	6.07	0.00		0.287	0.520	29.6	6.12%
10.20	8.50	Finco	8.50	8.50	0.00		0.645	0.350	15.1	3.59%
5.51	3.75	Focol (S)	5.46	5.46	0.00		0.366	0.170	14.9	3.11%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00		0.012	0.240	465.8	4.29%
10.50	9.92	J. S. Johnson	9.92	9.92	0.00		0.883	0.640	11.2	6.45%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.355	0.800	28.2	8.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
10.06	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)										
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date		
1.4904	1.4005	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4904	3.59%	6.42%	1.475244	1.452500	31-Jul-10		
2.9266	2.9266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9115	0.85%	0.23%	2.926483	-2.006205	31-Aug-10		
1.5543	1.4920	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5543	3.11%	4.36%	1.533976	1.518097	17-Sep-10		
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.8624	-8.16%	-7.49%			31-Aug-10		
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.4286	0.46%	2.40%			31-Aug-10		
109.3929	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	109.3929	5.20%	7.60%	107.570620	103.987340	30-Jun-10		
105.7795	93.1998	CFAL Global Equity Fund	100.1833	-1.52%	3.56%	105.779543	101.725415	30-Jun-10		
1.1223	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1272	3.43%	5.28%			31-Aug-10		
1.0917	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0948	2.51%	6.10%			31-Aug-10		
1.1198	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1275	3.37%	5.64%			31-Aug-10		
9.5955	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.5955	2.71%	5.96%			31-Jul-10		
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.3734	-3.69%	3.38%			31-Jul-10		
10.0000	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	9.1708	-8.29%	-8.29%			31-Aug-10		
7.9664	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.5827	-1.74%	11.58%			31-Aug-10		
MARKET TERMS										
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price										
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colma and Fidelity										
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colma and Fidelity										
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price										
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week										
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths										
NAV - Net Asset Value										
N/M - Not Meaningful										
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00										
52wk-HI - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks										
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks										
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume										
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume										
Change - Change in closing price from day to day										
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today										
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months										
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings										
(S1) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/9/2007										
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007										
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010   ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764   FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000   COLONIAL 242-502-7525										

FROM page one

# 'Revenue neutral' BMA fee clean-up

registry competitors.

And he added that the Bahamas had also "approved and adopted" a code for registering yachts, ensuring they would no longer have to pay fees under the Merchant Shipping Act and ensuring the "dollar" element was no longer a factor for owners and their advisers when it came to choosing a jurisdiction for their vessel.

Explaining that the BMA had "cleaned up the fees to make them more competitive with other jurisdictions", Mr Deveaux said: "We essentially waived the registration fee and then, for the various categories of ships, sought to ensure they matched the competitors' fees so we were not priced out of the market.

"Between Panama, Liberia and the Marshall Islands, they were doing a number of creative things that, in the short-term, made it appear that their registries were attractive, certainly for someone looking to register for the first time. So the initial fee is free, as opposed to putting a price on it, as they would not otherwise come here."

And the minister added: "The same thing is true with respect to the different classes of ship. We're very competitive in the large ton-

nage classes, no to in the other classes.

"The BMA looked at its revenue streams, the efficiency of getting a ship registered, and did a complete revamp of fees to make them competitive."

Mr Deveaux said the outcome of the fee incentives and waiving of others would be "revenue neutral" for the BMA, whose ship registry had around 1,650-1,700 vessels on it.

Describing this as a "very dynamic number", with the Bahamas also oscillating between having the third and fourth-largest tonnage on its registry, the minister said that when it came to the BMA's ship registration, the "whole process is a lot cleaner and more efficient for the client".

The BMA has always emphasised quality over quantity when it comes to the ship registry, seeking high-end vessels and owners such as the major cruise lines, Carnival and Royal Caribbean, and Mr Deveaux said efforts were directed at fostering current client relationships, in addition to building bridges to new owners and shipbuilders.

The opening of new BMA offices in Hong Kong and Greece, he added, a restructuring of its New York office and strengthened ties with the Ministry of Tourism's efforts in south Florida (home to the major cruise lines) all played into this strategy.

"We will shortly be opening the office in Hong Kong, and shortly opening the office in Greece, and that will put us in a position where

most ship builders and owners reside," Mr Deveaux explained. "That will give us a direct relationship with the client base.

"We are streamlining the New York office, and the BMA is working towards a closer relationship with the Ministry of Tourism in south Florida. In essence, we are putting a BMA presence in front of the major customers as often as possible."

Mr Deveaux said this was similar to the contact between financial services relationship managers and their clients, and said it would enable the BMA "to respond quickly to their concerns".

Meanwhile, the BMA continues to make progress on developing a Bahamian yacht registry, with the Law Reform and Review Commission now in the process of "tidying

up" draft legislation to create it, so this can be brought to Parliament.

Mr Deveaux said the code for the yacht registry had already been adopted, and the fee schedule embedded in this allowed the BMA to treat these vessels differently from the heavy-duty ships on its main registry.

"We're now in a position where if someone wants to register their yacht in the Bahamas, we have a code to accommodate that," the minister said. "We structured that fee to make us more competitive.

"Now, you won't depart the Bahamas just on the basis of money, although many of those decisions are not based on a dollar figure, other things being equal. But we don't want decisions made on a dollar figure."



GN-1107

Ministry of Finance

Public Notice

## 2010 Stamp Tax Amendments Waiver of Surcharge on Stamping of Documents

The 2010/11 Budget Communication included amendments to the Stamp Act that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. Among these amendments are:

- No surcharge will be payable on an instrument or transaction subject to a surcharge which is presented for stamping on or before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and the stamp duty payable will be at the rate payable prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010.
- The stamp duty payable on documents not stamped by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 will be subject to a surcharge.
- Any document or transaction presented for stamping after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 will pay the stamp duty in effect on that date and not the date when the document was created or when the transaction was executed.

The public is hereby advised that, in order to benefit from the waiver of the surcharge, documents must be presented for stamping before 5:00 PM on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

Ehud Cunningham  
Financial Secretary (Actg.)

## Five firms collapsing per week

FROM page one

our GDP.

"Conversely, the only way that our economy is going to grow is to reduce borrowing, focus more on SME development and increase the country's production levels via new entrepre-

neurial (innovation, manufacturing, commerce etc) activities.

"Stakeholders who focus on small business development have been unsuccessful in creating strategies/policies on how to mitigate the negative impact of the recession with regards to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Bahamas."

## Bahamas Waste biodiesel trials start this week

FROM page one

Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) conference at Atlantis on Paradise Island.

He added that "some of the bigger players" in the Bahamian restaurant industry were already on board in terms of supplying waste cooking oil to Bahamas Waste, its facility aiming to convert some 300,000-400,000 gallons of the estimated 500,000 gallons in waste generated in this nation per year.

Some two permanent jobs had already been created by the facility, with possibly three more to follow, with Mr de Cardenas describing it as one of the first of its kind in this part of the

Caribbean. Bahamas Waste was meeting today, he said, to determine the density of biodiesel blend it would produce, plus how many vehicles in its fleet would use it.

"I think it's important in a couple of senses," the Bahamas Waste managing director said of the biodiesel facility. "Number one, the Government and the Bahamian people need to know Bahamas Waste is committed to our environment, and just as important, that we can produce this biodiesel.

"No matter what blend we use, we should be able to control operating costs. If we get those wild swings in oil prices, we can use biodiesel as a hedge against this and pass the savings on to consumers."

As for Bahamas Waste's cardboard recycling, Mr de Cardenas said: "We are collecting more and more. We probably have about five container loads now, and are looking at scheduling a shipment.

"That'll be the third shipment, and will double everything we've done so far. We've done five container loads to date, and this will be at least a 110-tonne shipment of cardboard."

Describing the two projects as "quite demanding", Mr de Cardenas said: "We can't lose sight of the existing services and customers, and it's important to maintain this high level of service going forward. We are really stressing it to the operational staff and drivers, and can't lose sight of that."



GN 1094

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORT TRAFFIC SIGNALS SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE ON NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND

Interested Contractors are invited to tender for the Maintenance of Traffic Signals Systems on New Providence Island.

Tender Documents may be collected 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 through 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from:

Civil Engineering Section  
Department of Public Works  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor East Wing  
Ministry of Public Works & Transport  
John F. Kennedy Drive  
Nassau, Bahamas

Sealed tender submissions are to be deposited in the Tender Box located at:

Tenders Board  
Ministry of Finance  
Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
West Bay Street  
P.O. Box N-3017  
Nassau, Bahamas

Tender submissions will be received no later than 10:00am, Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Tenderers are invited to attend the Tender opening at 10:00am, Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at the Tenders Board.

Signed  
Mr. Colin Higgs  
Permanent Secretary



GN-1106

## CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

### Sale by Tender

It is hereby notified that the under-mentioned Vessel has been confiscated following breaches of the Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and will be sold by tender:-

YEAR	TYPE
2003	Sea Craft Vessel 23 ft

The Vessel may be inspected by contacting the Chief Customs Officer, Bahamas Customs, Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

Tender forms for submission are obtainable from the Office of the Comptroller of Customs, Bahamas Customs, Customs House, Thompson Boulevard, Nassau, Bahamas. Tenders should be submitted in SEALED ENVELOPES to the Office of the Comptroller of Customs, Bahamas Customs, Customs House, Thompson Boulevard, Nassau, Bahamas.

The face of the envelope should bear the words:-

"TENDER FOR VESSEL"

Tenders submitted with the foregoing should be received by 5:00 p.m. on ~~Thursday~~ <sup>Friday</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010.

The right is reserved to reject any or all tenders and the vessel is being sold "as is where is".

The successful bidder will, on making full payment assume all risks for the item sold and for making arrangements for its removal within seven (7) days after payment.

No guarantee is given as to the eligibility of the vessel for registration.

Signed:  
Glenn Gomez  
Comptroller of Customs

## BUSINESS

# Top law firm wants \$14m action claim thrown out

## FROM page one

ciary duty against the Bahamian law firm because, while representing her for 16 days, it failed to disclose it had represented Corner Bank (Overseas) on other matters - something that eventually prompted the firm itself to withdraw, to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

The failure to disclose that potential conflict upfront forms the basis of Day's allegations and complaint against Graham, Thompson & Company, but the Bahamian law firm is vehemently denying all allegations and moved to dismiss the claim against it.

According to documents obtained by Tribune Business, apart from arguing that the Columbia District is the wrong forum to hear the matter, and that it has no jurisdiction over it, Graham, Thompson & Co also alleged that Day had not proven she had suffered damage as a result of its representation.

"This action arises from Graham Thompson's short 16-day (June 16-July 2, 2008) legal representation in the Bahamas of plaintiff Tonya Day, a Nevada citizen, in which it wrote a letter to a Bahamian bank inquiring about an account number that allegedly belonged to Day's late mother," the Bahamian law firm and its attorneys said.

"After the letter was prepared, the law firm withdrew and recommended another Bahamian law firm to represent Day. Graham Thompson transferred the complete client file and the full retainer to this other law firm."

Arguing that a retainer contract with Day did not exist, Graham, Thompson & Co said it was first contacted by Day's Utah lawyers, Stanford A. Graham, on June 16, 2008, to help her gain access to her mother's alleged Bahamian bank account. A \$5,000 retainer was wired from the US law firm to its Bahamian

counterpart the next day.

"Graham Thompson prepared a letter to Corner Bank requesting that the bank provide all the information it had with respect to an account number that was provided by Stanford Graham, and that was believed to be associated with Foelgner and Day," the Bahamian law firm said.

"On Thursday, June 26, 2008, Day, who was in Nassau, Bahamas, requested that Cheryl Whyns, an attorney at Graham Thompson, accompany her to Corner Bank the next day to hand deliver the letter. Although Whyns did not accompany Day to the bank, she provided Day with a copy of the letter dated June 27, 2008.

"On July 2, 2008, Graham Thompson informed Stanford A. Graham that it had discontinued its representation of Day because it represented Corner Bank in unrelated matters. Graham Thompson recommended Genell Sands of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes to represent Day."

As a result, the complete file and \$5,000 retainer were transferred to McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes on June 21, 2008, and Graham Thompson & Company said that it did not represent Corner Bank in any matters involving Day.

"Sixteen days of delay in 2008 did not operate to deprive Day of anything of value," the Bahamian law firm added. "The complaint does not allege any injuries from Graham Thompson's legal representation. Although the complaint asserts that Graham Thompson was privy to confidential information, it does not allege that any injury occurred as a result. Second, the complaint does not allege any injury as a result of the change in legal representation....."

"The only tangible injury alleged in the complaint is that Day is being denied access to alleged funds in

her mother's alleged account. Graham Thompson's actions did not cause this injury."

Corner Bank and Mr Roberts have sought extra time to file their response to Day's allegations, having argued that they were not properly served when, on August 23, 2010, two persons entered the bank's 308 East Bay Street premises attempted to do this. Mr Roberts allegedly refused to accept any documents, although photocopies of the document were left.

The content of Day's claims seems odd, given that Renee Kemp, Corner Bank (Overseas) compliance officer, in an affidavit seen by Tribune Business, said the bank had no US clients.

She said: "Corner Bank has no depositors who are United States citizens or corporations, trusts or other entities with United States citizens as beneficiaries. As a matter of policy, Corner Bank does not accept deposits from US citizens." That, no doubt, is due to the exceedingly costly compliance burden US clients bring with them, plus regulatory risk.

In her complaint, Day alleged that her late mother accumulated the \$14 million from her family's participation in the oil industry. Her mother, she claimed, told her in several conversations that she had "set certain savings aside in an account in Nassau, the Bahamas".

Ultimately, Day said her mother showed her during a July 3, 2006, visit, the account number on a painting.

"Although Day did not realise at the time that the word 'Corner' referred not to some street address, but was actually the bank's name, Foelgner orally repeatedly named that bank, Corner Bank, saying that at least \$14 million had accumulated on account at that bank," she alleged.



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## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDNOL SMITH BOOK AWARD IN ACCOUNTING AT THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS



The College of The Bahamas is pleased to announce the establishment of "The Ednol Smith Book Award in Accounting" to assist in the education of Bahamian students who have chosen to major in accounting and who require financial assistance. The "Book Award" or scholarship fund was created to recognize prominent Bahamian Chartered Accountant and former Price WaterhouseCoopers partner, Ednol Smith, who has in recent years faced a significant health challenge and, through it all, has demonstrated confidence, dignity and a tenacity to enjoy his family and his life.

These unique characteristics, along with the fact that Ednol has always been a positive, respectful, caring and friendly person, who has conducted himself with the highest level of professionalism, have all proven to be a major impetus for The BICA Managing Partners, a group consisting of the managing partners of major accounting firms in The Bahamas, to establish a Perpetuity Scholarship Fund at the College of The Bahamas to honour Ednol. In essence, the Perpetuity Scholarship Fund established for Ednol Smith will continue in existence for many decades, perhaps even centuries, for as long as COB exists. Each year, scholarships will be awarded from the interest earned on the scholarship fund's principal.

Members of the BICA Managing Partners Group, who are also members of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants ("the BICA"), occasionally meet to discuss legislative changes and other matters affecting the development of the accounting profession in The Bahamas.

An acknowledgement from the BICA Managing Partners Group states that "it was a pleasure for the Group to meet recently with Ednol and his wife Andrea at Government House, as it gave each member an opportunity to tell Ednol how much of an inspirational person he is, and the positive impact that he continues to have on each member of the Group who admires his courage, contribution to the growth of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants ("the BICA") and his resolve." Although confined to a wheelchair and requiring constant medical attention, Ednol's smile and attitude during the meeting had a profound effect on his peers.

The BICA Managing Partners Group also wishes to thank Lady Joan Foulkes for providing a room at Government House for the meeting.

While the BICA Managing Partners Group was successful in "seeding" the Scholarship Fund, members of the general public who also wish to make a financial contribution to the Ednol Smith Book Award in Accounting, are asked to contact Ms. Gabriella Fraser, Associate Professor at The College of The Bahamas.

### BICA Managing Partners Group

- Ron Atkinson, CA  
**Ronald Atkinson & Co.**
- Alan Bates, CA  
**Alan E. H. Bates & Co.**
- Hubert Chipman, CA  
**Ernst & Young**
- Reece Chipman, CA  
**BICA**
- Clifford Culmer, CA  
**BDO**
- Danny Ferguson, CA  
**Daniel H. Ferguson & Co.**
- Phil Galanis, CA  
**HLB Galanis**
- Craig Tony Gomez, CA  
**Baker Tilly Gomez**
- Paul Andy Gomez, CA  
**Grant Thornton**
- Cifford Johnson, CA  
**PriceWaterhouseCoopers**
- Ronnie H. Knowles, CA  
**Ronnie H. Knowles & Co.**
- Tracy Knowles, CA  
**KPMG**
- Gerald Sawyer, CA  
**Gerald Sawyer & Co.**
- Philip B. Stubbs, CA  
**Ernst & Young (Ret.)**
- Mike Taylor, CA  
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- Ray Winder, CA  
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# INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

## A 'genuine' shift to rehabilitation, reintegration at Fox Hill prison

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

Much has been made about the reform agenda at Her Majesty's Prison and claims by Superintendent Dr Elliston Rahming that his team has successfully taken "a genuine philosophical shift from revenge and punishment to rehabilitation and reintegration."

So it was baffling to me when weeks after Dr Rahming's grand publication of his five-year prison reform report card, the Prison Staffers Association (PSA) went public with their opposition to his reappointment. His contract expires in about five months.

In the process, they aired a long list of complaints about the management of the prison, with Dr Rahming's "leadership" being their chief complaint, according to PSA president Gregory Archer.

What exactly is the "leadership" problem is unclear to me. However, various executives of the PSA are adamant that such a problem exists. They claim Dr Rahming's leadership "has demoralised senior officers, and the rank and file". The PSA treasurer claims Dr Rahming is straight up "ineffective" in prison reform, despite his boasted success.

With such a categorical claim, the PSA has a tall order to prove its accusations, but irrespective of their validity, the fact of such a discrepancy is enough to make you wonder.

I gather there is a perception amongst some in the prison that Dr Rahming is "self-centred," and perhaps consumed with "what he has accomplished." This has to be weighed against the real possibility that there are potential leadership candidates setting the stage to fight for Dr Rahming's post. And the claim by others that public statements by the PSA only represent the views of a small percentage of its members.

"The prison is bigger than one person. No one man can accomplish anything in an organisation without the help of the staff," said an officer.

The public launch of the prison reform progress report, covering the five-year period of Dr Rahming's leadership, would have certainly fuelled the perception held by those officers.

From my first interaction with Dr Rahming, I was struck by his ability to command attention. Many government officials do not have such a talent. As a former journalist himself, strategic communication is a



REFORM AGENDA: Dr Elliston Rahming, superintendent of Her Majesty's Prisons, Fox Hill...

skill he has mastered. With a doctorate title in front of his name, and the backing of two successive and opposing governments, a lack of confidence or self-esteem is probably not something he suffers from. Not to mention his ability to fill a 26-page book with a list of prison accomplishments achieved under his watch.

When the issue of his appointment in 2005 arose, there was a lot of bickering about the salary he would be paid. A union boss at the time said the "special contract" appointment of Dr Rahming could create certain pay anomalies "that (would) have a detrimental affect on the morale of civil servants."

Dr Rahming's response reveals something about how he feels about himself. "No one would question my pay if I were a foreign criminologist earning \$100,000 a year with a BA degree from a second rate university, with a government paid condo out west and my kids' school fees paid for in St Andrew's. Not a soul would question it."

"Here I am with 20 years experience in research, education, and administration and a PhD degree from a university that US News and World Report ranks in the top 10 among 700 colleges and universities in the United States, and I am being subjected to public utterings about my salary. Has anyone stopped to think what I'd be earning had I chosen to remain in the United States?"

It doesn't seem farfetched that some people perceive him to be "self-absorbed." But does that make

him a poor leader, or manager? Should that undermine his achievements as the leader of the pack? Some may draw that conclusion, but I don't think it necessarily follows.

The PSA itself agrees that Dr Rahming "has brought a lot to the table and implemented beneficial changes"; and they would support him being an adviser to the government. But on the matter of "leadership" they part ways.

If the prison progress report is anything to judge by then prison reform has been immensely successful. The report lists the creation of the following as some of the prison's achievements: Central Intake Facility with standardized inmate classification system; security processing centre complete with baggage and hand-held scanners; state of the art Health Diagnostic Unit, Faith-Based and Character Development Programme; annual jobs fair; proper laundry facilities; Inmate Enterprises, Inmate Activities and Pre-Release Services Unit; Officer Dependents Fund; renovated Female Correctional Centre; renovated Canine Unit, and the list goes on.

The 26-page document lists achievements in infrastructure development, staff enrichment and advancement, inmate services and activities, community outreach services, budget performance and regional leadership.

It is reasonable to assume, even if only by virtue of the progress report that much has happened in five years. If Dr Rahming opts to

request a renewal of contract, the government should investigate the value of these accomplishments.

They should test the claim asserted by attorney Paul Moss, founding member of Relief for Inmates and Prison Officers of our Prison (RIPOP) that Dr Rahming's appointment was "the single greatest appointment done by Prime Minister Perry Christie." This view must have been shared to some degree by the Free National Movement, when they reappointed him in 2007.

The PSA is arguing that Dr Rahming had five years to prove his worth, and having seen what he has to offer they want change.

There are family members of inmates who might agree. Minutes after leaving the prison compound, where I covered the ceremonial release of the report card, I ran into family members who had no shortage of "choice words" to describe the prison authorities.

The problem is, I don't think the angst was specific to Dr Rahming. When I inquired about him specifically they claimed to have little knowledge of who he was, or his so-called reform agenda.

They knew only that their children were being "starved of water," forced to live in inhumane conditions, and that the authorities — in their minds — had no respect or regard for their cries.

I participated in an extensive tour of the prison with other media personnel after the report launch, and after the tour I did not really feel more qualified to confirm or dis-

credit much of the accusations hurled at the prison.

According to Dr Rahming, the tour originally planned was a virtual tour. However, the projector malfunctioned and the virtual tour was cancelled. The physical tour was facilitated on the insistence of the media, which had always assumed there would have been a real tour.

Dr Rahming was certain to remind us that the physical tour was not originally planned, so there was no time to "fix up" the prison for the media. The cynics out there, of which there are many, would say that was a ruse. I took him at his word, but then I'm not a cynic.

At the time of the tour, the remand facility, known to be filled to capacity, was closed down to visitors because prisoners were being prepared for court. Having only walked past the facility, I can hardly verify any of the claims that are frequently asserted by inmates and family members.

While walking through the cell blocks of Central Intake, on the other hand, certain things were immediately noticeable, for example inmates were sleeping on beds made of wooden planks in the place of mattresses.

The explanation given by the officers was that the inmates at Central Intake "tear them up." Replacement mattresses were said to be "on order." I could only take the Superintendent at his word.

The cells were very dark inside; they were cooled by large rusted fans inside the hallway, and ventilation from windows lining the exterior walls. This was the standard setup in all of the prisons we visited, including Maximum Security.

I have heard family members complain that there is no ventilation inside the prison and it is "too hot in there." I sympathise with them, even though I did not feel any hotter inside the prison than I do on an average day in my home. Because the fans are stationed on the walls and in the hallways outside the cells, some oscillating, others not, I can say the air probably is not equally distributed to all of the cells, but that is about it.

Was it unreasonably hot inside the cells, where there were two, sometimes three inmates, in a space not much larger than two office cubicles? I cannot say.

There were no repulsive smells or striking odours inside the prison, except maybe the rawness of a locker room that lingers even after it is cleaned.

We walked through several blocks, including death row, and saw a few cells fitted with the controversial composting toilets.

According to the PSA, the real story of the toilets is this: "The ventilation system for them was installed wrong, it gives off a horrible odour throughout the prison. So now we are faced with not only the odour, but the inmates have to deal with bugs and flies being bred in these toilets, and we all know flies breed diseases."

That I did not observe any flies or bugs emanating from the toilets does not negate the claims of the

SEE page 2C

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INSIGHT

# A 'genuine' shift to rehabilitation, reintegration at Fox Hill prison

FROM page 1C

PSA. It makes me speculate that they may have embellished their claims, but it could very well be that the most problematic toilets were not the ones we happened to walk

past. Aside from the feeling of an aged facility, by virtue of the flaking paint on some walls and the rusted fans, the facility was clean. We viewed the infamous Block F, sort of. Block-F has a reputation inside and outside the prison for housing homosexuals, mentally unstable inmates and violent convicts. Despite the accusations, Dr Rahming has denied such a block exists. "They call F-Block, the block for fools. It has homosexuals, people who have AIDs and tuberculosis, mentally unstable people, people who can't live around other people, because they always cursing and carrying on," said a recently released inmate. "All they want is cigarettes. They take their stool buckets and throw it through the doors at the officers or at inmates. The officers have to carry cigarettes with them or else they can't travel through F-Block," he said. During the prison tour I asked to be taken to Block F. The immediate response from Assistant Superintendent Wilfred Ferguson, chief of Maximum Security, was to suggest I might not want to go there, because I might have something thrown at me. I would like to believe that ASP Ferguson felt I was a responsible journalist, so he would be inclined to tell the truth, but maybe this was a slip of the tongue, because he was reprimanded by Dr Rahming no sooner than the words came out of his mouth. Dr Rahming insisted he should not say things like that. There was a debate about what was appropriate to say, and an insistence that I could walk through there, to which ASP Ferguson also agreed. So did I walk through the infamous Block-F? No. Due to "time constraints," we were only allowed to stand behind

the grilled door at the end of the hallway. The hallway looked like any other, there were no shouts and groans of mad people, but my vantage point was limited. There was nothing alarming to me about the condition of the prison. Unfortunately, this view is only based on cursory glances and sneak peaks. It certainly looked like a place I would not want to live. It had a still and lifeless feel, even though there were people everywhere. I was sometimes reluctant to stare inside the cells, it invoked dark images, reminiscent of slave blocks at an auction house, where I imagine black men made impotent would be held. The reality is, unless I was to spend 23 hours a day like the inmates do in their caged boxes, I might never know what prison life is really like. And even then, when I might dare to speak, I would be discredited as a spiteful criminal. When I spoke to an insider, he said the real story behind prison reform is that "infrastructure development has taken place, but nothing systematic and consistent as it relates to rehabilitation (has occurred)." He said there is a fight in the prison between those wanting resources to be channeled into custodial care, or security related matters, and those wanting resources for programmes and services, such as rehabilitation. He claims the PSA supports the move towards a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration, but they believe Dr Rahming is not equipping them with the skills to actually manifest real change. If the country wants true reform, he agrees, officers need to be "rehabilitated" themselves before they can

SEE page 7C

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# Caribbean crime wave linked to US deportations

**INSIGHT**  
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By **MIKE MELIA**  
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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The crime was horrifying enough — a nightclub owner, hacked to death with a machete, was found buried in pieces. But what really outraged people was that the accused killer had been deported from the US to his native Grenada as a convicted felon.

As a foreign-bred criminal, the suspect never should have returned to the close-knit tropical nation, relatives of the victim and others said. Islanders called for more vigilance over deportees by the government, which says it needs help from Washington to handle the return of hardened convicts.

"I hope that my brother did not die in vain and something can be done to monitor these criminal deportees," said Gemma Raeburn-Baynes, a sister of the nightclub owner, Michael Raeburn-Delfish.

The United States has deported thousands of convicted criminals to the Caribbean annually since 1996, when Congress mandated that every non-citizen sentenced to a year or more in prison be kicked out of the country upon release.

In all, the US is responsible for about three-quarters of the region's returning criminal deportees, with the United Kingdom and Canada accounting for most of the other ex-cons arriving in the islands.

It's a phenomenon that also afflicts many parts of Central America, where street gangs that grew out of Los Angeles spread to the region through massive deportations. Brutal and powerful, the "Maras" are blamed for rampant violent crime, extortion and more recently acting as enforcers for drug cartels.

In the Caribbean, governments say deportees are exacerbating crime in nations with high levels of violence such as Jamaica. On the smaller islands such as Grenada, once considered idyllic havens from gang violence, officials say the returning deportees are partly to blame for increasingly bold and sophisticated crimes and homicide rates soaring to record levels.

The United States is attempting to defuse tensions with island governments by exploring programmes to help them reintegrate deportees. During a visit to Barbados in June, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the US is no longer ignoring complaints that have topped the Caribbean's diplomatic agenda for more than a decade.

US officials say privately that the deportations cannot be blamed for the increase in violent crime, but declined to

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— **Gemma Raeburn-Baynes**

discuss the issue on the record, saying the US does not want to hurt relations with Caribbean governments with which it cooperates on other issues.

The man accused in the machete attack in Grenada, Ronald Michael Phillip, 55, was deported from the United States on July 6, 2000, the day after leaving a state prison in Uncasville, Connecticut, where he had spent more than six years.

Island police know only the rough outline of his life abroad: Phillip moved overseas in 1986 and lived in Canada and Brooklyn, New York, before moving to New London, Connecticut. He was arrested in December 1993 on assault and drug charges.

But the officer who found Raeburn-Delfish's severed head and limbs in three shallow pits on September 5 said the nature of the murder led him to believe the suspect was a practiced killer.

"He had a level of experience with dealing with dead people or animals," forensics expert Trevor Modeste said. "We don't usually have crime like that. We don't usually have planned and executed murders."

Modeste said his suspicions were confirmed when Phillip, known locally as Ronald de Ally, boasted to police that he killed and buried two people in the United States who were never found.

Grenada police spokesman Troy Garvey said that claim has not been verified. Garvey said investigators' focus is on solving Raeburn-Delfish's slaying, but they will pass anything they learn about crimes in the US to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Raeburn-Delfish was Phillip's landlord, but no motive has been established in the slaying. Phillip, who is charged with murder, did not have an attorney at his first court appearance.

At the heart of the problem is the disparity of wealth between the United States, where migrants often learn their criminal ways, and their poor homelands, where jobs are scarce and police resources are limited. More-

over, islanders who often left their native lands as children return to countries they barely recognize, with no remaining family.

Jean Nemorin, 47, who returned to Haiti in 2008, more than three decades after he arrived in the United States with his family at age 11, said there is a stigma attached to people like him when locals learn of their criminal past, making it tough to find work or a place to live.

"I struggled to feed myself for the first six months," Nemorin said. He declined to describe his conviction in the United States but said he is crime-free today, operating a moto-taxi in Port-au-Prince that he bought with money from relatives overseas.

The biggest impact has been in heavily populated countries like Jamaica, where deportees are suspected in several violent crimes each week, according to Leslie Green, an assistant police commissioner.

But smaller islands are increasingly leading the calls for help from Washington. A Grenada government spokesman, Richard Simon, said they lack the counseling, monitoring and housing services needed to absorb deportees with serious criminal records.

In Dominica, at least one criminal deportee is suspected in a recent pair of brazen, daylight robberies by masked men, Security Minister Charles Savarin said.

In St Lucia, an island of 170,000 people that received 18 criminal deportees from the US last year, Security Minister Guy Mayers said some of the convicts were apparently recruited into local drug rings that exploit their contacts from overseas prisons.

"We are not responsible for them becoming monsters," Mayers said. "We need support to be able to rehabilitate these people."

In 2007, the US launched a pilot programme managed by the United Nations' International Organisation for Migration to help reintegrate deportees. The \$3 million project provided services including career counseling and housing assistance in Haiti, Guyana and the Bahamas.

US officials say they hope that effort will be the starting point for a regional discussion, but no money has been assigned so far to keep the programme going.

Island governments say the

deportee issue will remain a sticking point with Washington until they see more action.

"I raise this with US authorities every chance I get," Mayers said.

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# A 'genuine' shift to rehabilitation, reintegration at Fox Hill prison

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implement programmes and best practices that truly reflect a transition from punishment to corrections. He said the officers currently staffed at the prison "are really under trained as it relates to rehabilitation and corrections." Furthermore, the government would have to hire "at least 50 to 100 more officers," as the prison is "understaffed."

"There will always be a fight between security and programmes," said the insider. That fight is bigger than Dr Rahming and the prison staffers, he said. And resources are finite. "His budget is not sufficient, but he is trying," said the source of Dr Rahming.

This got me thinking about the prison progress report. It states, there has been "a genuine philosophical shift from revenge and punishment to rehabilitation and reintegration."

I hate to nit-pick, but I think Dr Rahming is someone who uses words purposefully. The report said there has been a "philosophical shift."

My source claims that prominent members of the PSA are staffed in areas that deal with rehabilitation, like pre release, case management, and education.

He said of the 98 officers who were sent on training over the past five years, very few were trained in areas related to rehabilitation. In my analysis of the progress

report, only 12 per cent of the training opportunities were related to rehabilitation. That represented less than 10 per cent of the 98 officers that were trained. An example of this category is the Cuban tour of prison industries and trade schools.

Most of the training (36 per cent) was geared towards general exposure and networking courses, such as a Women in Corrections Conference, a Study Tour or an Officer Exchange Programme.

Next to that was administrative courses, such as a computer upgrade conference, or a prison health services conference, which constituted 32 per cent. Custodial care courses, such as prison riot control course accounted for 20 per cent of the courses.

So perhaps the report is right, there has only been a "philosophical shift", and the real deal is yet to be seen. But one might say, at least the prison is on the right road, if that's where it genuinely wants to go.

From the standpoint of rhetoric, it would seem that inmate services and activities, ultimately aimed at reducing the rate of recidivism, has been the priority area of the reform agenda. But it is still unclear if this mirrors the way that resources have been managed at the prison.

Aside from rhetoric, the proof is in the pudding. Where did the money go and what were the results? The progress report states that the recidivism rate among admissions has been lowered to 19

per cent, but it fails to mention what figure it was lowered from.

If the vast majority of the prison's budget was spent over the past five years on infrastructure, and the vast majority of the changes were administrative and not programmatic, then one might question whether sufficient resources were allocated to rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Clearly the prison is a hard nut to crack, and for any management team it must be a tall order to keep staffers happy, prisoners comfortable, inmates' family members appeased and government officials satisfied.

In my best judgment, I think time will show that Dr Rahming played an instru-

mental role in prison reform, and that there are accomplishments to brag about over the past five years. At the same time, I highly doubt there has been full disclosure with the public about the realities of prison life.

Prison officials are quick to discount the cries of prisoners, but I give former inmates more credit than they would be prepared to. And even though the looming prison leadership race makes me suspect of the PSA, it would be foolhardy to discount their claims without a critical analysis.

It is evident that prison politics is heating up, and in my opinion the impending release of the draft Department of Corrections Bill will only spice things up further.

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