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Volume: 107 No.323 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011 PRICE – 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama $1.25)

INSIGHT

POLICE BRUTALITY: OFFICER'S VIEW

SEE INSIGHT ON PAGE 12B

NFL ACTION: WEEK 10

DOLPHINS EARN HOME WIN

SEE SPORTS SECTION E

Career criminal killed in shootout

Two others left wounded outside bar

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Deputy Chief Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net
and NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter

A CAREER criminal was killed and two others wounded during an early morning shoot-out outside a bar on Kemp Road.

Randino "Dinghy" Pratt, 29, had been celebrating with friends at a nightspot on St James Road during the early hours of Saturday morning.

Police got an emergency call at 2.18am, and when officers arrived at the scene they found the body of "known" criminal Pratt.

Superintendent Paul Rolle, head of the Central Detective Unit (CDU), told *The Tribune* yesterday: "We know that there was an argument inside a club and that argument spilled to the outside. Shots were fired and three persons were struck, one fatally."

Supt Rolle, while not releasing the identity of the victim, told *The Tribune*: "He is known to police."

He was unable to confirm whether the victim was on bail for an offence at the time of his death.

It is believed the two men who were wounded during the shooting were not involved in the altercation at the club. One of them was allowed home on Saturday while the other remains in hospital.

Pratt and Deslin Nichols, alias "Limbo" who was killed earlier this year, were previously charged with murder in 2005 after being on the run for nearly three years. The two men were accused of the 2002 murder of Kirk "Tank Dog" Ferguson which is believed to have sparked the retaliation killing of Pratt's mother and her son.

Ferguson, 30, was gunned

SEE page 9

A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

FLOWERS SURROUND the Cenotaph in the garden of remembrance as tribute is paid yesterday to fallen soldiers. See more pictures on page 2. Photo: **Felipé Major**/Tribune Staff

MANHUNT AS FARMER IS SHOT

BY NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are hunting for three men who shot a 65-year-old man at his farm on Marshall Road yesterday.

The shooting is part of a bloody weekend that left five people in hospital in separate gun attacks.

At 12.30pm yesterday, three men – described as of dark complexion – went to the victim's farm.

Although details were sketchy up to last night, police said that, at some point, one of the suspects shot the farmer in his upper right thigh before all three escaped.

Last night, police said they were still trying to put the pieces of the incident together and issued an appeal for anyone with information on the shooting to come forward.

"We're still trying to unravel it, we're trying to put it together now," said Superintendent Stephen Dean.

He said nothing was stolen from the victim, who was left in serious condition in hospital. It was speculated that the man was shot because he had

SEE page 8

BODY FOUND IN CAR WAS DRUG DEALER

POLICE have confirmed that a dead man found burned beyond recognition in the back of a car in July is convicted drug dealer Teron Fowler.

Police were awaiting the results of DNA tests before they could confirm the former Gaming Board casino inspector's death, although circumstantial evidence had tentatively identified him as the dead man.

On July 18, Fowler's body was found inside a burning vehicle on Hanna Road.

He had been shot a number of times before his car was set on fire, said police.

Residents of Joe Farrington Road told police they had heard gunshots just after 3pm on that day. When they went to investigate, they found a car engulfed in flames.

Firefighters were called. When the blaze was put out, they found a man's body in the car.

A discussion over Fowler was at the centre of the infamous fight in the Cabinet room between former Pro-

SEE page 8

PM THANKS CHURCH LEADERS

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham thanked leaders of the Church of God for their commitment to Christian values, unwavering support of the poor and contribution to society yesterday.

The nation's chief said the Church of God "is special to me" and recalled it as his childhood place of worship while growing up in Cooper's Town, Abaco.

He said he was very happy to join the congregation as they dedicated "a monument to honour, and in memoriam of the late Bishop William M Johnson, the first National Overseer of the Church of God in the Bahamas".

SEE page 9

EXUMA BOUNDARY MOVE?

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Deputy Chief Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

THE Constituencies Commission has reportedly recommended separating Ragged Island from the Long Island constituency and attaching it to Exuma, *The Tribune* understands.

This recommendation was made during the commission's most recent meeting on Friday. A well-placed source said this could be another move by the Free National Movement to decimate seats currently held by the Progressive Liberal Party.

"I presume that was done to help out the (FNM's) candidate in Exuma," said the source.

Currently, Agricultural Minister Larry Cartwright holds the Long Island and Ragged Island seat while PLP MP Anthony Moss represents Exuma and its cays.

Mr Moss yesterday said he would be prepared to fight to retain his seat in the House of Assembly regardless of any new changes in the parameters of the areas he represents.

"I'm sure there will be support for both parties on that island (Ragged Island). If that is the case, I've just got to work with it."

When contacted for comment yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette, who sits on the commission, did not confirm or deny

SEE page 8

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LOCAL NEWS

COMMODORE of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Roderick Bowe lays his wreath during the service of remembrance.

Remembering the FALLEN

GOVERNOR GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes lays his wreath.

A YOUNG girl takes part in the Remembrance Parade with the Red Cross.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER Brent Symonette lays a wreath yesterday at the Cenotaph.

ROYAL NAVY VETERAN Chester Thompson salutes at the ceremony.

MUSICIANS in full uniform at the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in the Nassau Gardens of Remembrance.

Photos: **Felipé Major**/Tribune Staff

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LOCAL NEWS

HAITIAN MIGRANTS onboard the distressed vessel in the northern Bahamas on Saturday afternoon.

43 Haitians picked up as vessel runs aground

THE Royal Bahamas Defence Force apprehended 43 Haitian men in the northern Bahamas after their vessel ran aground.

HMBS P43 received information that a Haitian freighter had run aground off Pelican Point, nine miles south of Marsh Harbour, Abaco, on Saturday.

When officers arrived at the scene shortly after noon, they found the 75-ft vessel with 43 undocumented Haitian men onboard.

The illegal immigrants were removed from their distressed vessel with the assistance of BASRA officials and handed over to police and immigration authorities in Marsh Harbour for further processing.

Investigation into this matter continues.

The Department of Immigration has stepped up patrols for illegal immigrants in anticipation of a busy season for illegal migration over the next few months.

Last weekend, immigration officials picked up 101 illegal migrants.

Immigration Director Jack Thompson said 2,784 persons have been sent to their home countries so far this year - 2,117 of them being Haitian.

He added that Jamaicans, followed by Dominicans, were the second and third largest groups of foreigners to be repatriated.

For the 2011/2012 fiscal year, Government has spent $193,533 out of its $1m budget for repatriation efforts.

THE MIGRANTS onboard the Defence Force patrol craft after they were apprehended in the northern Bahamas on Saturday.

POLICE ARREST ROBBERY SUSPECTS

QUICK-ACTING police caught a pair of suspected armed robbers shortly after they made off with cash from a Shell Service Station.

The gas station in Oakes Field was robbed just before 3am yesterday, with cash and other items stolen.

The two robbers escaped in a gray Chevy S-10 truck, license plate 23515.

Police caught up with two men driving in a car fitting the description of the getaway vehicle as they drove along Wulff Road.

Cash and other items believed to be stolen from the gas station were also found in the car.

Two men, aged 23 and 44, were arrested.

Police investigations continue.

Meanwhile, officers of the Selective Enforcement Team (SET) made arrests in the Fire Trail Road area.

On Friday morning, a father and his teenage son were arrested for alleged marijuana possession.

The 16-year-old boy was arrested at 11am Friday after police saw him acting suspiciously as they patrolled Moonshine Drive in Sunshine Park.

A search of the teenager revealed suspected marijuana.

Police then executed a search warrant at the boy's home - at Fire Trail Road - and found an additional amount of suspected marijuana.

The boy and his 38-year-old father were taken in for questioning.

About 45 minutes later, police arrested an 18-year-old man on Moonshine Drive after he was allegedly found with marijuana. Police, acting on information, then executed a search warrant on the suspect's residence in Fire Trail Road and discovered an additional amount of suspected marijuana.

Police later took a 19-year-old male into custody as a result of that search.

At 2pm on Friday, SET searched another home at Fire Trail Road where they found ammunition.

Two women, ages 68 and 23, were taken into custody.

Investigations continue.

BABY DEATH PROBE COMPLETE

POLICE have concluded their investigations into the death of the newborn baby found earlier this month and the matter has now been forwarded to the Coroner's Court.

The partially decomposed body of the infant was found inside a home on McQuay Street on October 14.

An autopsy of the child has been completed and the mother has been released after being questioned.

Central Detective Unit head Superintendent Paul Rolle said: "She is no longer in police custody and we are not at liberty at this time to discuss the outcome of that procedure."

The child was found dead by the mother's sister when she smelled a foul odour coming from the bedroom.

After searching the room, the decomposing remains of the baby boy were found in a plastic bag in the trash can.

MAN SHOT IN LEG

A 22-YEAR- OLD man is recovering in hospital after being shot in the leg.

Police say around 1pm on Thursday, the victim was walking on Apache Alley off Kemp Road when he was approached by a man who shot him in the right leg.

He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he is detained in stable condition.

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JACK AND JILL	NEW	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
TOWER HEIST	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
HAROLD AND KUMAR 3D	C	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
IN TIME	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D	B	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	T	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
THE THING	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
REAL STEEL	B	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05
COURAGEOUS	B	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
ABDUCTION	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:45

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IMMORTALS	NEW	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
TOWER HEIST	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:50
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D	B	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:40	10:30
IN TIME	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:45
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	T	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:55

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A bid to neutralise the dengue mosquito

LAST WEEK, the talk in some quarters was that dengue fever had been banished forever from the Caymans. Of course, the next rumble was: If the Caymans can do it, why not the Bahamas?

That's where we should slow down and do some thinking.

The Caymans is now undergoing a controlled scientific experiment that shows great promise — that is if there is no adverse fall-out from man's attempt once again to tweak nature.

While the Bahamas had more than 1,500 persons with dengue-like symptoms this summer, last month the Caymans reported its first local case, explaining that it was "most probably imported from the Bahamas by a returning resident".

Although the dengue carrying mosquito (aedes aegyptii) is in the Caymans, it has not been active. It is said that dengue fever is not endemic to those islands.

Up until last month, according to the Pan American Health Organisation, Caribbean countries reported 47 confirmed dengue fever cases, with the Bahamas and Aruba on the very high end of the scale.

According to a Wall Street Journal article researchers in 2010 released 3.3 million male mosquitoes that had been geneticallly altered so that they were born sterile. These mated with females in a small test area, passing on their defect. In turn, this killed their offspring at the larval stage. This, it was reported, triggered a population collapse.

However, scientists hailed the success with a great deal of caution. They are only too aware that every time an attempt is made to alter the natural state of the ecosystem there can be adverse reactions. This brings us to Newton's third law of physics that states that for every action there is a reaction of equal magnitude, but in the opposite direction.

There is perfect balance in nature, when that balance is upset there are consequences. What if, say some scientists, the DNA from the genetically altered mosquito gets into other bugs – or even man. They could cause even more harm.

So this government when offered to be a part of the experiment took a wait-and-see attitude before exposing the Bahamas to the results of a test-tube experiment.

Environment Minister Dr Earl Deveaux said the company conducting the trial had approached the Bahamas government. However, at the time the Government was not convinced that it was a viable option as there were too many unknown factors associated with it. Wisely, the government declined, with the Minister continuing to hold a watching brief.

One only has to understand the threat of the quickly multiplying lion fish in our waters — a threat to our marine ecosystem with no natural predator to control its population — to understand Dr Deveaux's caution. In their natural habitat — the Pacific — nature has provided a predator to control lion fish schools. However, this colourful fish has been thoughtlessly introduced to our waters. With no natural population control in place, they threaten our very way of life.

To control skin cancer, scientists have created skin creams to block the sun's damaging rays. However, in the US, when one goes for an annual physical, a blood test usually given only in the north, has now been introduced to the south — the land of sunshine — because it was found that southerners using the sunblockers, were, like their northern brothers, no longer getting enough vitamin D. Vitamin D is the natural gift of the sun. And so vitamin D supplements are the answer to what has been removed from nature.

In 1872, a few Jamaican sugar planters were scratching their heads as to how to control the rat population that was decimating their sugar cane fields. A man by the name of W B Espeut got the bright idea of importing the Indian mongoose to eat the rats. The experiment was so successful that Hawaii heard of the magical mongoose and soon Espeut was in the mongoose export business. In 1883, against the wishes of some Hawaiian farmers, 72 mongoose were ordered from Jamaica. It did the job all right, but the little critters ate more than rats, it ate everything it could sink its sharp teeth into. It also carried several diseases, including rabies and leptospirosis. In Hawaii, without a natural predator, the mongoose, even today, is a menace in those islands.

Even Egypt's Aswan Dam on the Nile — the world's longest river— has been a tremendous boon in one sense, but a menace in another. It created more land for farmers, it was used for irrigation, it created a large fishing industry and a hydro electric plant. But for farmers downstream it has radically changed their lives. Without the annual flooding of the river to deposit fertile soil from upstream, farmers have to buy fertilisers making farming more expensive. Today, the soil on more than half of Egypt's farmland is rated from medium to poor. It is reported that the parasitic disease schistosomiasis has been associated with the stagnant water of the fields and reservoir.

And so Dr Deveaux was wise to wait and see, because for every action there is always an opposite reaction.

We must steer young from crime

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

EDITOR, The Tribune.

It is so disheartening when those who are responsible to be lead agencies of the Government assigned to prevent, control and/or deal with the adverse social effects in society, seem to vacillate on issues which can prove detrimental to the health, safety and life of Bahamians.

In many instances, each related ministry comes out with a "plan" or "strategy" with little or no interaction or collaboration with other agencies that have to do with some aspect of the same issue. This mode of operation leads to waste of resources, inclusive of time and energy.

From all indications, it would appear that there is some underlying concern that Bahamians have in general and the politicians have in particular as to who initiated a programme or project.

Whether the matter will take off or obtain support seems to be predicated on who is going to get the recognition. A number of programmes were brought on stream each with some positive elements to assist in resolving the crime issue facing the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Programmes which have impacted young people in a positive way include, but are not limited to: the various Cadet Programmes, Urban Renewal Programme, Bahamas against Crime (BAC) and many others.

I am not in possession of any empirical data, but I would venture to say that approximately 85 per cent of the crimes against the person and property are committed by young black youth in society.

At a recent visit to Her Majesty's Fox Hill Prison, I was amazed that all of the males were black men, not one white man was seen. This should tell us something very serious is going on in our society and no band-aid approach can solve the problem. The resolution to this dilemma calls for genuine and deliberate effort to stem the tide of crime, which in short order can result in serious economic consequences.

When the clarion call is made for true action with a specific goal and objectives clearly stipulated, some unprecedented action will be taken by those who call on all Bahamians to get involved. The church and other civic organisations indeed should be asked to take an active part.

The black youth needs guidance and special bonding from infancy through the formative years, adolescence and late teens. It may be that some single moms cannot offer the guidance and discipline that today's young boys in particular need. This should help us to recognise that the presence of the male figure may be needed in the home, not just to sleep, but to spend quality time and helping to rear the boys in particular.

While we verbally expressed that there is the need for the male figure to help at home we do nothing to make this a reality, instead there is a consistent proliferation of liquor establishments which draw more and more males away from home.

Yes, in many instances the home suffers lack of the basic necessities as a result. This proliferation is so significant that areas (inhabited mostly by blacks) and zoned as residential are in short order encroached upon by these type of facilities which are granted licenses to operate. What is interesting is that areas occupied by whites or a mixture in so-called more elite areas do not have this problem of encroachment. Why is this so?

I would suggest that a part of a comprehensive plan to combat crime include a moratorium on the granting of licenses on alcoholic beverages throughout the island of New Providence in particular.

MICHAEL E TURNER
Nassau,
November 18, 2011.

Demolish Ocean Place

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: Montagu Foreshore Redevelopment Project The Tribune, September 23, 2011

There is an officially designated scenic View Point for tourists, next to the Montagu Fort.

It affords a wonderful view of the harbour as well as one of the most architecturally repulsive buildings in The Bahamas – Ocean Place condos on P I.

Once the redevelopment of the Montagu Foreshore is a reality, why not also greatly improve the view of PI by demolishing the totally out-of-place eyesore known as Ocean Place.

Perhaps the monstrosity could be shipped to Miami Beach where its ugliness would probably blend in very nicely.

If the architects were Bahamian, consideration could also be given to sending them into exile along with it – before they defile our scenery any further.

KEN W KNOWLES, MD
Nassau,
October 18, 2011.

The power to see the future

Helen Blocker-Adams

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Reference your letter today November 7th penned by Helen Blocker-Adams.

She really is an inspirational speaker as she managed to write a letter dated November 1st about her visit to the Bahamas on November 24th. Not only is she inspirational but she also must be clairvoyant!

PATRICK THOMSON
Nassau,
November 7, 2011.

MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAY STREET DRAINAGE/ PAVING/KERB PROJECT EAST STREET NORTH

Drainage Rehabilitation

East Street North Roadway Closure

Due to the on-going roadway construction on the project, the General Public are advised of the temporary roadway closure along East Street North, and are encouraged to follow the displayed traffic management signage at all times.

Temporary closure will be implemented on the 13th November 2011.

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Psychiatric reports for man who raped 69-year-old

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT: The attorney for Eric Oneil Strachan, the man convicted of raping an elderly woman, has requested a mental evaluation of his client before sentence is passed.

At a sentence hearing in the Supreme Court, attorney Devard Williams told Justice Hartman Longley that based on the findings in a probationary report he felt psychological and psychiatric reports were also necessary.

Strachan, 26, was found guilty on September 21 of rape, two counts of attempted rape, and one of indecent assault of a 69-year-old woman last December.

The victim had been staying at a residence with family in Andros Town, Eight Mile Rock, on December 10, 2010, when she was dragged from a sofa into Strachan's bedroom and raped.

While addressing the court, Mr Williams stated there appears to be some indication his client "is not the correct frame of mind", and may require mental treatment.

"After reading the report, I am compelled to make a request for psychological and psychiatric reports," he said.

ERIC ONEIL STRACHAN, who was convicted of raping a 69-year-old woman, is led away in handcuffs on Friday after his sentence hearing was adjourned.
Photo: Vandyke Hepburn

In the probation report, Mr Williams said Strachan had been involved in juvenile incest with a cousin.

He also noted his client had been sent to Sandilands six times for drug treatment due to an addiction to cocaine and crack, but never completed the programme.

Additionally, he said Strachan has committed a number of crimes including house break-ins, and shop break-ins and stealing.

Mr Williams noted that his mother had also indicated that Strachan was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

He further noted that Strachan cannot read or write, and has a mental capacity below that of an adult man his age.

Prosecutor Olivia Blatch said the Crown did not object to the psychological and psychiatric reports.

Mr Williams also expressed concerns about a prison report dismissing alleged complaints of brutality against his client in prison.

He said the officer accused of slapping Strachan was on leave when investigations were conducted into abuse complaints.

Strachan told Justice Longley he has been referred to as a "snitch" and fears retaliation from prison officers.

Justice Longley assured Strachan his concerns would be documented and sent to the prison superintendent. He also said a proper investigation would be ordered into the complaints.

Justice Longley adjourned sentencing to November 29.

MURDER TRIAL TO RESUME TODAY

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE Supreme Court trial of a man accused of murder will resume today when three prosecution witnesses are expected to give evidence.

The prosecution has already presented four witnesses who have given evidence about the October 10, 2009, killing of Jonathan Linden.

The prosecution has alleged that Tyrone Francis Jr intentionally drove his 2002 Hyundai Accent into Mr Linden, who died of his injuries.

Three more witnesses are expected to give evidence before judge Justice Vera Watkins and a 12-member jury. One is Dr Caryn Sands, a pathologist at the Princess Margaret Hospital Rand laboratory. The other witnesses are police officers. The trial resumes at 10am.

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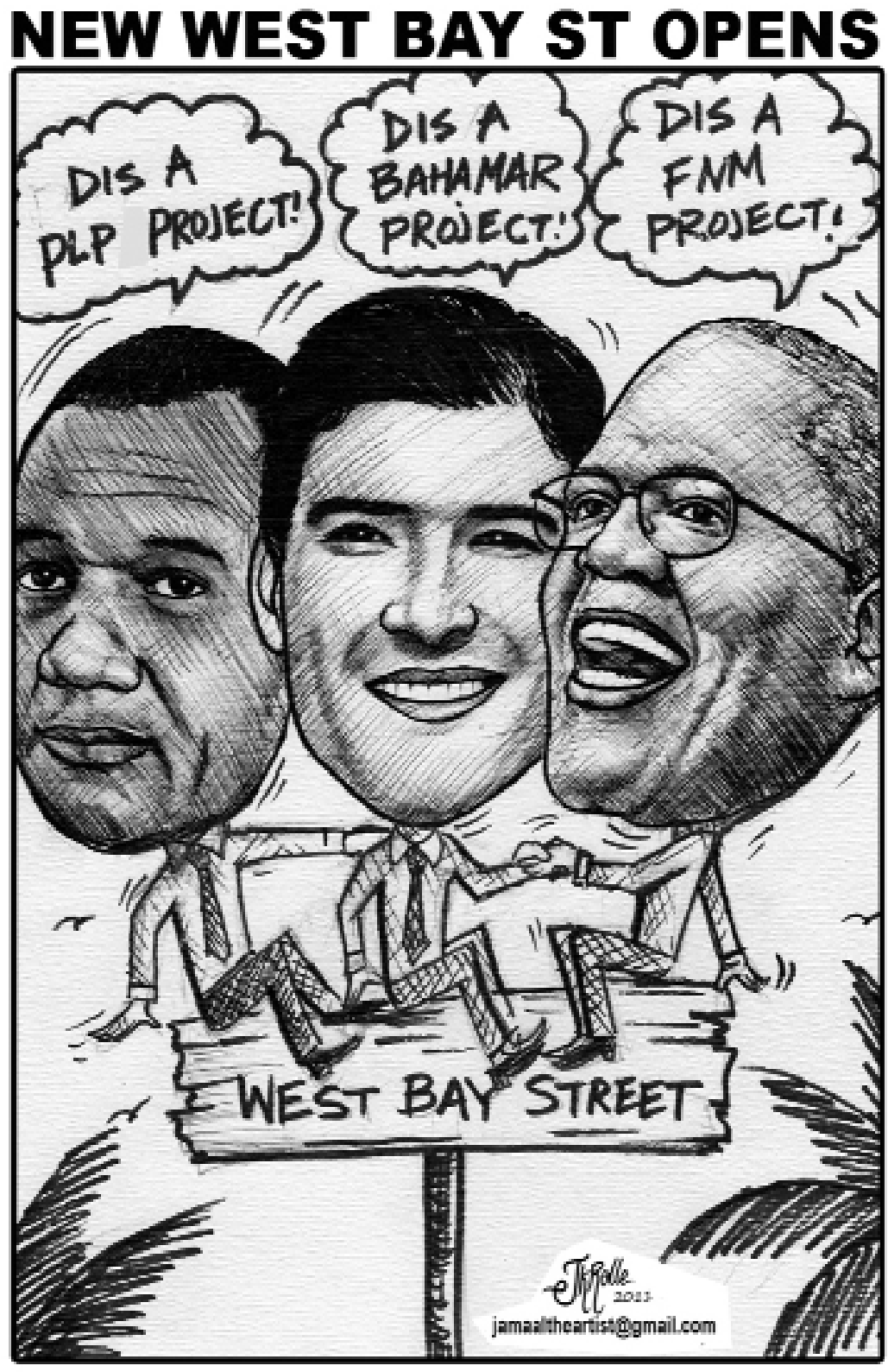
Woe to Evildoers

Micah 2:1-5

Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the LORD: " Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time. In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me!

To a turncoat He has divided our fields.' Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.



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GRAND BAHAMA HOME FOR THE AGED BENEFITS FROM FORCE'S CONCERT FUNDRAISING

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Royal Bahamas Police Force officers presented a donation to the Grand Bahama Home for the Aged.

Emrick Seymour, acting Assistant Commissioner of Police, said the force has been staging "Police in Concert" events to raise money for local charitable organisations on the island.

The first to be aided was the Cancer Association.

Mr Seymour said they also promised to make a donation to the Grand Bahama Home for the Aged – and last week, made good on that pledge.

"Today, we have come to make good on our promise to the Home for the Aged, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year.

"We want to encourage Ms Agatha Thompson and her team for the work they are doing in taking care of the elderly in the community.

"We hope this donation will assist in meeting the needs of the elderly residents and we want to encourage other members of the community who can assist to make similar contributions."

GBHA administrator Agatha Thompson commended the force for putting on a spectacular concert last week.

She also thanked Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade and his wife, who were in attendance and made a pledge to match the funds raised.

Mrs Thompson said Mr Greenslade and his wife were always supporters of the home when they lived in Grand Bahama.

"He leads a fine group of talented, caring men who have the big task of keeping the nation safe while finding the time to raise funds for various charities on the island and I salute the police force for what they are doing," she said.

Police cadets challenged to put best foot forward

EMRICK SEYMOUR

FREEPORT – Around 30 students from various high schools were inducted in the Royal Bahamas Police Cadet Corps programme on Grand Bahama.

An induction ceremony was held last week at Police Headquarters for 29 young law enforcement hopefuls.

Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police Emrick Seymour commended the students for their interest in law enforcement, especially at such a critical time in the fight against crime.

Mr Seymour told the first group of cadets that they will serve as pace-setters for the programme, and challenged them to put their best foot forward.

This is the first time the two-year programme has been undertaken in Grand Bahama.

Work on the Grand Bahama branch of the programme began in May under the leadership of then Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Quinn McCartney.

He said that, through the initiative, cadets will receive educational, physical, social and spiritual training.

Sergeant Terry Barry and Corporal Natasha Stuart visited high schools throughout the island to speak to students about becoming cadets.

Cadets must be 16 years old and entering grade 10 or 11.

They must also have five or more BJCs of grade C or above, including mathematics and English, and a grade point average of 2.5 or above. The cadets will spend 18 hours a week in the programme and will receive a small stipend.

The Police Cadet Corps was first introduced to the Royal Bahamas Police Force in 1969. It was suspended in 1971 and reinstated on September 28, 1988 in New Providence.

While the focus is on encouraging talented young men and women to join the Royal Bahamas Police Force, there is no obligation to join the organisation.

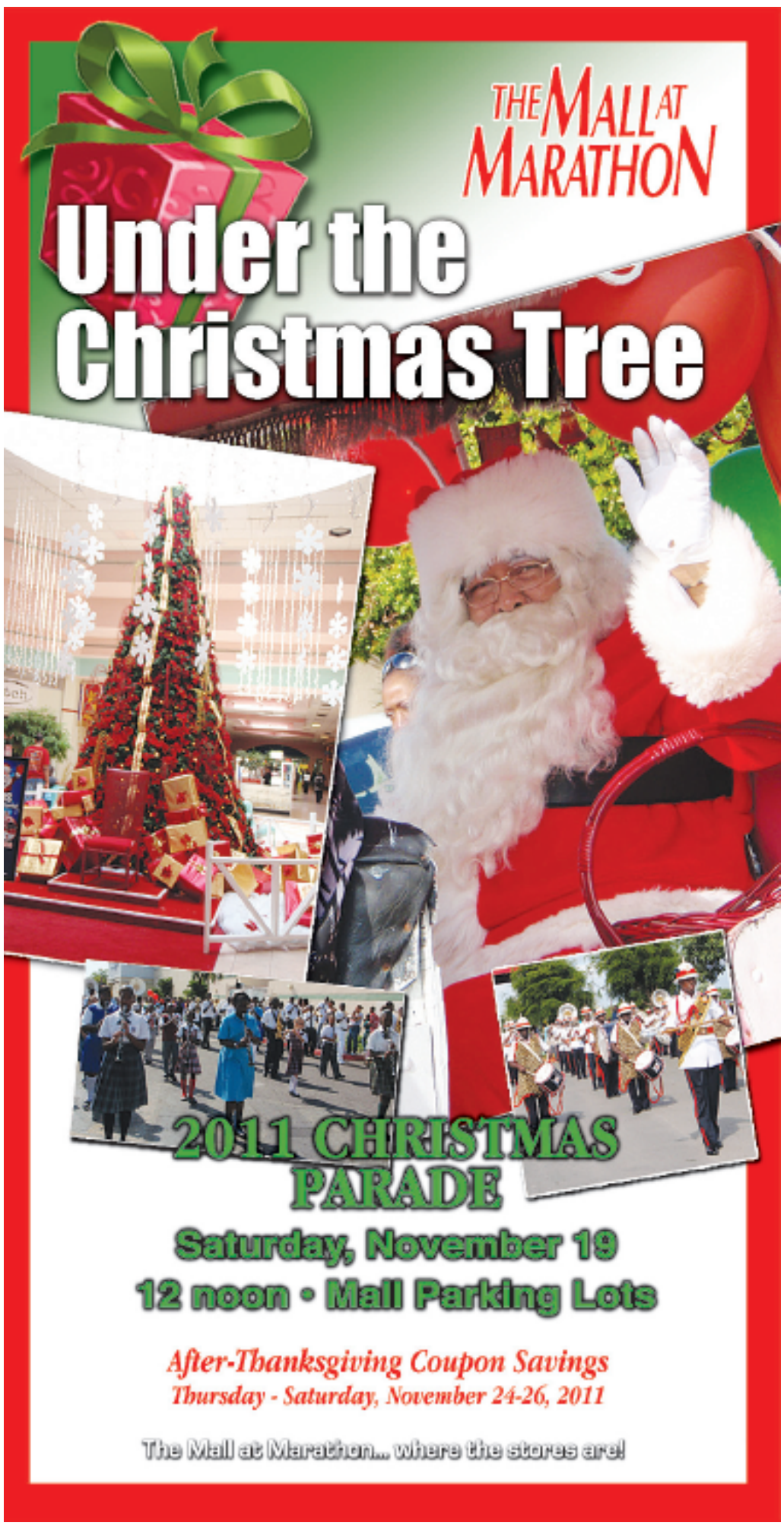
The Cadet Corps programme also allows students to continue taking part while they are in college.

Those who remain in the programme and wish to attend the College of the Bahamas will have their fees paid, however they are required to re-pay the force if they do not join.

According to a senior police officer, persons who pass through the programme usually make better police officers.

In September, National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest said that crime and its impact on public safety are among the major challenges facing Bahamian society today.

Mr Turnquest stressed that the government sees the fight against crime as a priority and intends to keep it at the forefront of the agenda.



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Betty Taylor
Journalist / Entrepreneur

Quote of the week

*Some memories linger longer than others. The memories that give you **strength** to **survive**, hold on to them...Let the others go!*

~ Betty Taylor ~

Original Author

LOCAL NEWS

South Beach 'to be flooded by 2050'

CLIMATE change is expected to reduce South Beach into a flooded district by 2050, should local residents not actively participate in reducing their high electricity bills, said State Environment Minister Phenton Neymour.

During the 2011 Energy Awareness Week, senior class students of Anatol Rodgers and CV Bethel high schools were told about the serious consequences of global warming.

"Energy and energy conservation is a matter of life and death for Bahamians. It's really about the fact that throughout the world we are burning either petroleum or coal products, which emit carbon dioxide, and it's causing what they call 'global warming'. It's from using oil to generate electricity, burning coal for heating, and also burning gasoline in our cars," said Mr Neymour.

"If the world increases in temperature by just about two degrees Celsius, we can expect the sea level to rise up to five feet or that's 15 feet. Now, when you look around the Bahamas, 80 per cent of the Bahamas lies below 10 feet of sea level. So, when it is expected to rise 15 feet and 80 per cent is below 10 feet, what that means is by the year 2050, there's a possibility that the vast majority of The Bahamas will be under water."

Mr Neymour told the students the world is getting warmer and ice caps are melting in the north and south Arctic circles. He also advised both student bodies about how the deterioration of the weather would sink the South Beach community below sea level, along with 80 per cent of the Bahamas.

He advised the students to conserve as much energy as possible to lower the consumption of fossil fuels.

"We must reduce the amount of oil we are consuming every day. A lot of it is used to move cars, your parents' cars. And so you have a direct impact on your future and it's critical you understand this," said Mr Neymour.

ENVIRONMENT STATE MINISTER Phenton Neymour speaks at Anatol Rodgers School on the energy conservation.

"In the Bahamas, we consume about a million gallons of petroleum, gasoline and diesel per day. The majority of it is used to generate electricity at BEC. Young men and ladies, where do you think you burn the most electricity in your house? It is in fact your water heater. A lot of us, in our homes, turn the hot water on, and then we use cold water to cool it down. Why do we heat it up, and then cool it back down? The problem is that we have the thermostat set too high."

He said Anatol Rodgers and C.V. Bethel schools are only a couple of feet above sea level and the sea is just down the street.

"When it rains hard, you flood. If the sea level continues to rise, Anatol Rodgers School will be no more. The vast majority of you are expected to be around, still alive, in the year 2050. What I am talking about are the consequences that you are expected to experience," said Mr. Neymour.

Minister Neymour advised the students their job is to help their parents reduce energy consumption.

"We need to ask our parents to turn the thermostat down. We need to tell our parents to change the heating element at the bottom of that heater, every two to three years. They also need to flush out the water heater every year. There's a drain at the bottom you can hook your garden hose to it. That will help them save electricity," said Mr Neymour.

"That water heater represents between one fifth and one third of your electricity bill. So, go home and look at your water heater first. Make sure your water heater is not oversized. Your mummy and daddy have this big huge water heater. That, too, is causing the bill to be too high."

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BODY FOUND IN CAR WAS DRUG DEALER

from page one

gressive Liberal Party Kennedy MP Kenyatta Gibson and then PLP Mount Moriah MP Keod Smith.

Fowler spent time behind bars in the US on charges of importing and attempting to distribute cocaine.

He was arrested in November 2007 on a sealed indictment dating back to November 2006. At the time of his arrest, he was travelling on a fraudulent passport.

The married father of two was released from prison last December after serving a drug-related sentence.

After Fowler's death, West End and Bimini MP Obie Wilchcombe revealed that the drug dealer had ordered a hit man to kill him.

Fowler was a casino inspector when Mr Wilchcombe served as minister of tourism with responsibility for the Gaming Board. Mr Wilchcombe said Fowler had taken photographs of a cage in the casino, a serious breach, and was subsequently fired.

Fowler reportedly hired Grand Bahama resident Sylvano "American Boy" Yasmin to carry out the assassination. He too is dead.

Mr Wilchcombe said he was alerted to the threat to his life in 2007 by the Ministry of National Security, and was provided with armed guards.

Police are appealing to anyone with information regarding Fowler's death to contact them at 911 or 919, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 328-TIPS or the nearest police station.

Exuma boundary move?

from page one

the report.

"I'm not going to conduct it (the work of the commission) through the press, if the other side wants to that's their business," said Mr Symonette.

Last week, *The Tribune* revealed that the Constituencies Commission had recommended reducing the number of House of Assembly seats from 41 to 38 - Clifton, Kennedy and Eight Mile Rock are said to be on the chopping block.

These seats are held by three sitting FNM members of Parliament - Kendal Wright, Kenyatta Gibson and Verna Grant respectively.

Other changes to the make-up of the constituencies shows drastic cuts will be made to many of the "inner city" areas, such as Mount Moriah, St Cecilia, Farm Road, and Englerston.

Elizabeth, Yamacraw, Sea Breeze, Pinewood, and Bamboo Town have also seen the removal of a number of their polling divisions as the Commission moves to reduce the number of seats in New Providence to 23 and five in Grand Bahama.

According to well-placed sources within the PLP, it is believed the government, through this report, is trying to place as many PLP supporters into one seat - therefore allowing the loss of one, rather than the possibility of two or three seats.

The commission meets again on Wednesday.

LARRY CARTWRIGHT MP, whose Long Island and Ragged Island constituency could be divided up in boundary changes.

MANHUNT AS FARMER IS SHOT

from page one

startled the gunman.

Mr Dean urged anyone who might have seen the suspects – one of whom was wearing blue trousers – or who knows more about the shooting, to contact the police.

Police are also investigating an attack on a man and a woman who were left in hospital after they were shot at a party in Wilson Track at 1.30am yesterday.

The partygoers, both 20, reported hearing gunshots. They later realised that they had been shot.

The woman was wounded in her buttocks and the man was shot in his legs.

They were both taken in a private vehicle to hospital where they remain in stable condition.

Police are also investigating another shooting which left a 25-year-old man in hospital.

At 3.30am yesterday, the man was walking down a track road off Brougham Street when he was approached by another man, who shot him in his shoulder.

The victim was taken to hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

An 18-year-old youth of Sunset Park is also in hospital after he was held up by a gunman.

The incident occurred shortly after 8pm on Friday at Seven Hills off Baillou Hill Road south.

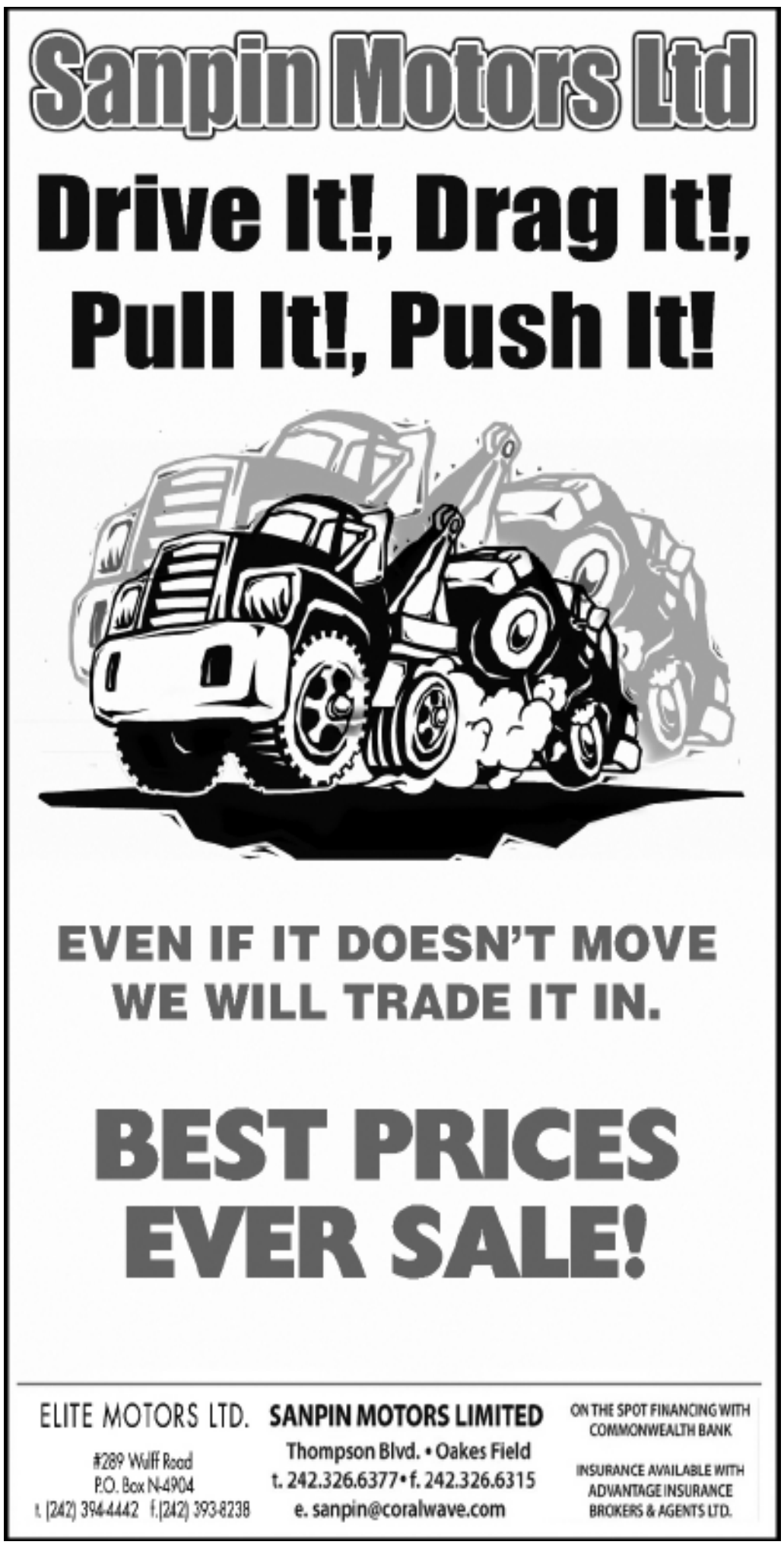
Police said the victim and two men were inside a Nissan Sentra when they were approached by a man wearing a hooded jacket.

The gunman opened fire on the men resulting in the driver being shot in his side.

The victim was taken to hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

Police investigations continue.

Anyone with information regarding these crimes is asked to contact police at 911, 919, 322-3333, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.



LOCAL NEWS

PM thanks church leaders

from page one

Not only was the Church of God the church of his childhood, but "so was Bishop Johnson, whose memory I cherish."

Mr Ingraham said the history of the Church of God is replete with examples of Christian charity.

His comments came as he spoke at a dedication ceremony for new offices at the church's Joe Farrington Road location.

Mr Ingraham said: "Since its earliest days, the Church of God has been involved in bringing comfort, relief and support to those in need, especially during periods of hardship.

"The counseling and guidance you provide serve as a spiritual and moral compass to your membership as well as the wider community."

He added: "Like many in our community, I am impressed with the emphasis you place on developing a strong family life. Your promotion and encouragement of responsibility, within the family, the community and indeed the nation is both timeless and urgently needed today.

"Your many programmes and initiatives have encouraged many people to live healthier lifestyles and to embrace other wholesome ways to benefit their own lives and that of their families and indeed our nation."

Mr Ingraham added that his Government is conscious of the need to reinforce the spirit of volunteerism in the country and added that far too many people prize material wealth over above all else.

"We in Government are particularly conscious of the need to develop and strengthen positive attitudes and to reinforce the spirit of volunteerism and giving among our people, most particularly among young people."

He added: "This is so because notwithstanding the wonderful programmes offered by yourselves and indeed, a host of other denominations in our country, there remains a small but stubborn minority among us who disregard the law, the life and the property of others.

"Far too many people in our land see material things as their purpose for living rather than their true purpose on earth – to love God, and love our neighbour as ourselves."

Mr Ingraham has called for "a new era of volunteerism" with the launch of Volunteer Bahamas, an innovative programme geared towards harnessing the generosity of Bahamians and residents.

PRIME MINISTER HUBERT INGRAHAM thanked leaders of the Church of God

CAREER CRIMINAL KILLED IN SHOOTOUT

from page one

down in broad daylight in February 2002, near Sandilands Primary school. He was thought to be the victim of a gang execution as either part of a turf war of rival gangs and drug dealers or as reprisal for incidents in which he was reportedly involved.

The double murder of Rosemary Bennett Wright, Pratt's mother and her seven-year-old son Jakeel Wright on March 6, 2005, is believed to have been a revenge killing for Ferguson's death. Both were shot dead in their beds at their home on Adderley Street.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact them at 911, 919, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910 or Crime Stoppers at 328- TIPS.

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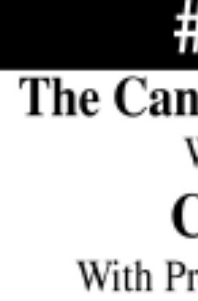
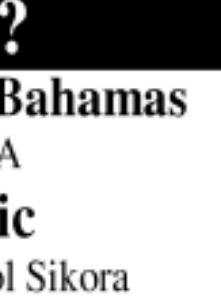


Professor Dr. Karol Sikora
MA, PhD. FRCR, FRCP, FFPM
Director of Medical Oncology &
Director, CancerPartnersUK, London



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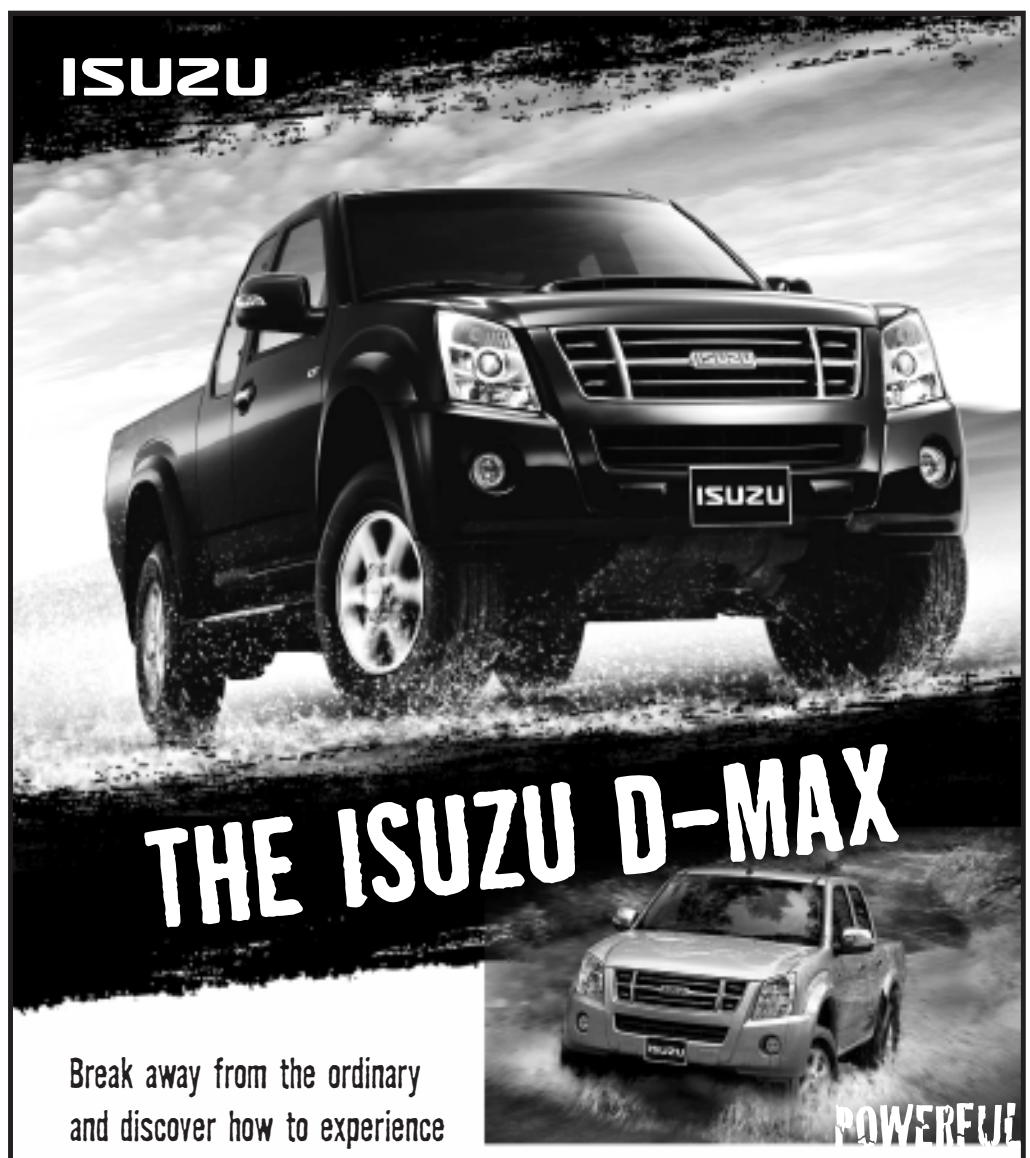

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ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

Advice for the disabled

By Constable 3011 MAKELLE PINDER

A PHYSICAL disability - impaired vision, hearing, or mobility - doesn't prevent you from being a victim of crime. The following common sense actions can reduce your risk.

Stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings, whether on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, or waiting for a bus.

Send a message that you're calm, confident and know where you're going.

Be realistic about your limitations. Avoid places or situations that put you at risk.

Know the neighborhood where you live and work. Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, restaurants, or stores that are open and accessible.

Avoid establishing predictable activity patterns. Most of us have daily routines, but never varying them may increase your vulnerability to crime.

AT HOME

Put good locks on all your doors. Police recommend double-cylinder, deadbolt locks, but make sure you can easily use the locks you install.

Install peepholes on front and back doors at your eye level. This is especially important if you use a wheelchair.

Get to know your neighbors. Watchful neighbors who look out for you as well as themselves are a frontline defense against crime.

If you have difficulty speaking, have a friend record a message (giving your name, address, and type of disability) to use in emergencies. Keep the tape in a recorder next to your phone.

Ask your police department to conduct a free home security survey and to help identify your individual needs.

OUT AND ABOUT

If possible, go with a friend.

Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through vacant lots, wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.

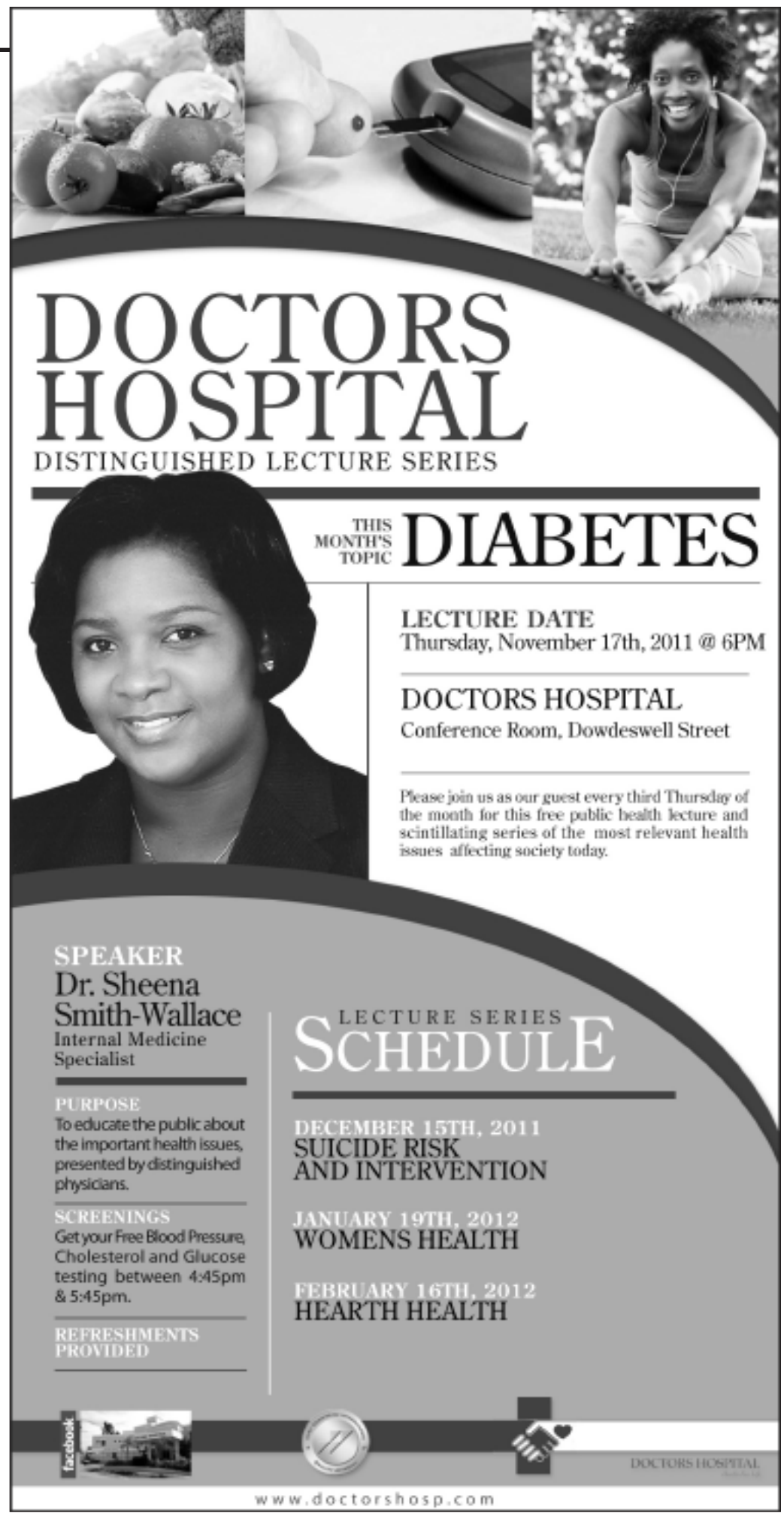
Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket. If you use a wheelchair, keep your purse or wallet tucked snugly between you and the inside of the chair.

If you use a knapsack, make sure it is securely shut.

Always carry your medical information, in case of an emergency.

Consider installing a cellular phone or CB radio in your vehicle.



LOCAL NEWS

Gays have rights too - the Caribbean dilemma

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

insight
WORLD VIEW

A STATEMENT by the Prime Minister of Britain, David Cameron, that his government will not provide budgetary aid to governments that violate human rights including by discriminating against homosexuals and lesbians, has angered sections of Caribbean society.

The angry response may have arisen over a misunderstanding of Cameron's remarks made in a BBC interview at the end of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Australia, from 28 to 30 October. The remarks were not made at CHOGM itself.

While Cameron did say that his government would not provide general budget support to governments that do not uphold human rights including the rights of homosexuals, lesbians and vulnerable communities such as young girls, his remarks were not specifically about homosexuals and he did not say that all aid would be withheld. In any event, no independent Caribbean country is a recipient of general budget aid from Britain, and, therefore, none would be affected. In this regard, the response to Cameron's remarks would have benefitted from more careful study.

Cameron did not state a new position. What he said has been the British Government's published policy since earlier this year when the Department for International Development (DFID) conducted a study, involving a wide range of organisations and countries, from which it was decided that general budget aid to governments should be linked to good governance, accountability and respect for human rights. British budgetary support is only 16 per cent of the UK's annual aid budget of £7.46bn (US$12.1bn).

Nevertheless, the policies, laws and practices applicable to homosexuals and lesbians are real and growing issues in the Caribbean, not only from a human rights standpoint, but as a public health one too.

At the CHOGM in Perth, an Eminent Persons Group (EPG), of which I am a member, delivered a report to Heads of Government, who commissioned it at their meeting in Trinidad two years ago, on ways to reform the Commonwealth to make it relevant to its times and its people.

Included in the 106 recommendations in the report was one that governments "should take steps to encourage the repeal of discriminatory laws that impede the effective response of Commonwealth countries to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and commit to programmes of education that would help a repeal of such laws." Among these laws are those that criminalise homosexuality.

The recommendation proved to be difficult for many African and Caribbean governments. Of the current 53 nations of the Commonwealth, 41 retain laws that criminalise homosexuality. Some of these laws dictate homosexuals should be flogged and jailed. Of the 41 states with such laws, all 12 of the independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries are included.

Remarkably, these laws are relics of the colonial past. They were introduced in the Caribbean by the British Colonial government. But, while Britain, like the majority of countries in the world, has moved on to decriminalise homosexuality, the colonial laws remain in many parts of Africa and the Caribbean.

In Britain, Australia, Canada, the US and the majority of European and Latin American nations, many homosexuals and lesbians, freed from the criminalisation of their sexual preferences, have risen to the top of their careers. Many are captains of industries, government ministers, leading sports persons and even members of the armed forces doing duty in dangerous places such as Iraq and Afghanistan. In the Caribbean, however, homosexuals are marginalised and the majority remain hidden, terrified of the consequences of "coming out".

Caribbean governments face serious difficulties over this issue. There is a strong prejudice in societies based on both a lack of education and reluctance to engage the issue in public fora. The churches in the Caribbean are the most unyielding, constraining political parties from adopting a more enlightened and modern-day view of the matter.

The facts indicate that 60 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV and 33.3 million presently live with the virus. Over 60 per cent of the people living with HIV reside in Commonwealth countries. The region with the highest rate of HIV/Aids per capita is the Caribbean. In this sense, the problem for the Caribbean is one both of human rights and public health.

Homosexuals who live under the risk of flogging and jail are reluctant to reveal themselves if and when they become HIV infected. Consequently, they are left untreated and the disease spreads and eventually they die, although the real cause of death is usually hidden.

In any event, the laws criminalising homosexuality are depriving the Caribbean of the use of remarkably talented people in all fields of life who could be contributing to the development and prosperity of every Caribbean country. Some homosexuals have already emerged – despite the laws and the stigma – as outstanding Caribbean citizens, revered not only in the region but in other parts of the world, but they have been persons of great courage and unquestionable ability. Others have simply fallen by the wayside, or are living lives of lies.

On the eve of CHOGM in Perth, Helen Clark, the Head of the United Nations Development Programme wrote to Commonwealth leaders pointing out that "it is important and urgent" for them "to promote and secure the repeal of the discriminatory laws which impede effective national HIV responses". She called for "legislative initiatives and programmes which will repeal discriminatory laws" that "can not only turn back the HIV epidemic, but also improve the health and development of their citizens." She urged leaders "to seize this opportunity for the Commonwealth to turn a corner in preventing and controlling HIV by embracing the proposals to repeal laws which impede effective HIV responses".

In part, it was to this urging that the British Prime Minister was responding when he spoke in the BBC interview of the need to repeal discriminatory laws.

The issue will not go away. Britain's linking of General Budget Aid to respect for human rights is one response. Others will follow in different ways. As the international community sees it, homosexuals and lesbians are entitled to rights too, as long as they do not affect the rights and preferences of others.

The Caribbean will have to face up to that reality – as most of the rest of the world has. The best way to start is by informed public discussion.

Responses and other commentaries at www.sirronald-sanders.com

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LOCAL NEWS

OFFICERS ON PARADE at the graduation ceremony. Photos: **Felipé Major**/Tribune Staff

A high bar is set for new police graduates

THE COMMISSIONER of police has fired 30 officers this year for various infractions, including criminal behaviour, National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest said.

The revelation came as he spoke to 61 new graduates from the Police Training College and encouraged them to uphold and carry out the law.

"Graduates, the Commissioner of Police has dismissed 30 officers so far this year under various provisions of the Police Force Act. The reasons range from committing criminal offences; ceasing to be efficient and effective officers; being absent from duty without satisfactory explanation; and engaging in activities that bring ill-repute to the force such that it was deemed necessary in the public interest to discharge them.

"I highlight this to underscore the fact that there is zero tolerance for impropriety and illegality on the force.

"As police officers, you must uphold the law in both your public and private lives.

"I again remind you that all officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force are required to be more vigilant and attentive in the execution of their daily duties and must address all offences committed, whether within their view or reported; be they major or minor."

He also revealed that 196 persons are being monitored by electronic ankle bracelets, which he lauded as a valuable tool in the country's crime-fighting arsenal.

Mr Turnquest told the 61 new constables that their new work will be demanding and subject to intense scrutiny.

"You have been selected for training from a long list of persons and considerable time and resources have been invested in your training. You are entering a new role now, one that is subject to intense scrutiny and constant demands.

"I am confident, however, that the rigorous training you have just completed will greatly assist you in carrying out your duties. I urge you to bring your professionalism, character, and training to all the challenges you will undoubtedly face during your policing career," said Mr Turnquest.

At the ceremony, Constable 3546 Leslie Brown, from 'B' Squad, and Constable 3572 Jameca Basden, of 'C' Squad, received the Commandant's Awards for obtaining the best academic performance.

Constable 3538 Nikita Rolle, of 'B' Squad, and Constable 3572 Jameca Basden, of 'C' Squad, received the coveted Baton of Honour Award for overall best performance in all disciplines of training.

A FEMALE CONSTABLE shows her skills in a drill.

STANDING TO ATTENTION are the newly commissioned new constables at yesterday's ceremony.

CORNÈR

Cornèr Bank (Overseas) Limited
a wholly owned subsidiary of Cornèr Bank, SA based in Lugano, Switzerland is seeking to fill the position of:

RELATIONSHIP OFFICER, PRIVATE BANKING

This is a new position and we are accepting applications from qualified, experienced individuals only whose background must match the following profile for consideration or acknowledgment:

- An absolute minimum of 5 years experience at a senior position in Private Banking.
- Excellent managerial, organizational and communication skills.
- Comfortable with setting, managing and tracking goal-oriented objectives in concert with the Private Banking team.
- Familiarity with Swiss banking regulations.
- Computer literacy – particularly in spreadsheets and word processing.
- The Bank's various Management Information Systems and businesses exist in various languages in addition to English. Additionally there will be daily contact with countries, companies, individuals and banks overseas and consequently foreign language skills are an absolute requirement – especially fluency in German and Italian (note: candidates will be interviewed in either or both of these languages) . French and/or Spanish would be of additional benefit.

Applications should be submitted in writing only, by post or delivered to our offices. These should include a full Curriculum Vitae detailing educational achievement and any professional development undertaken throughout the applicant's career.

Only candidates whose curriculum vitae fulfills all the above requirements can expect to be contacted.

We regret we cannot entertain telephone contacts.

Cornèr Bank (Overseas) Limited
308 East Bay Street
P. O. Box N-7134
Nassau, BAHAMAS

Tribune Trivia

Friday's Question

Where will the Bahamas Tourist Office attend the International Luxury Travel Market in December?

Friday's Answer

Cannes, France

Friday's Winners

Stephen Aranha 3pts
Rachel Burrows 2pts
Delron Inniss 1pt

Click the '*Like*' button on the Tribune News Network Facebook page to play Tribune Trivia

*Nassau Residents Only

Win!!!

One Lucky **Winner** monthly. Pick up a copy of TheTribune and visit us on facebook.

Best Western
1 day Hotel

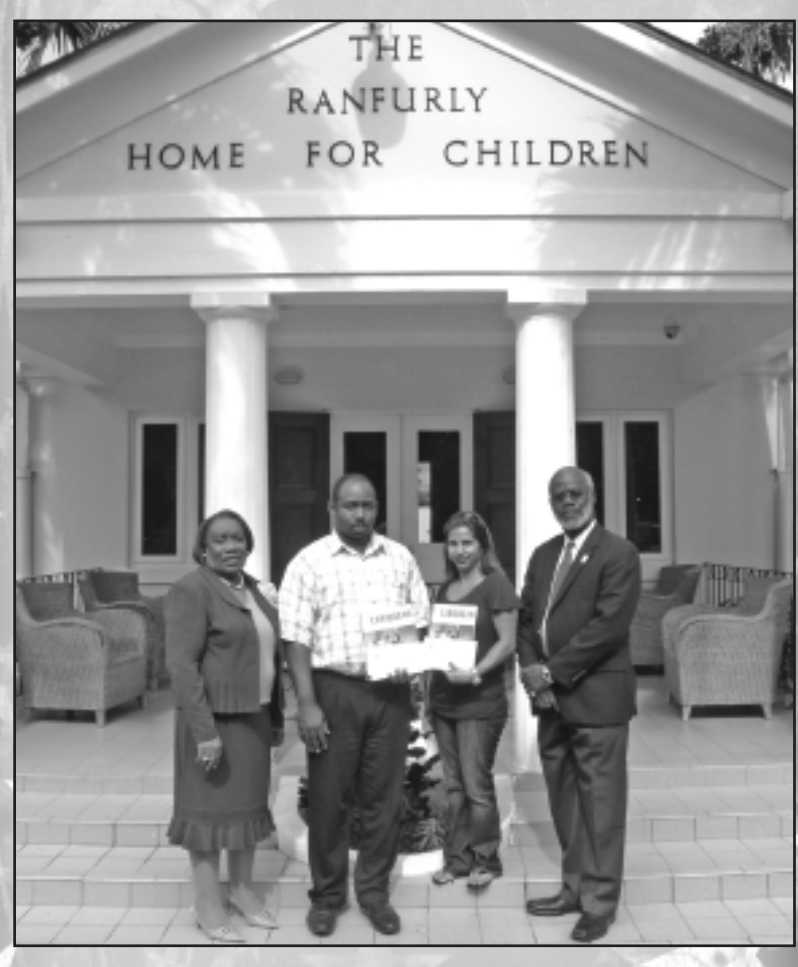
Thrifty Car Rental
DOLLAR RENT A CAR
1 day car rental

(1) Roundtrip Airfare
Nassau to Miami

When booking your next trip to Florida, choose Bahamasair, Dollar/Thrifty and The Best Western

ranfurly homes for children

Congratulations
to
The Winners of the Annual Grand Raffle held on October 29th, 2011



1ST PRIZE WINNER - Marco Bethel
A cruise for 2 on Royal Caribbean

2ND PRIZE WINNER - Mrs. Thomas
A cruise for 2 on Carnival