



Rival calls for rally tomorrow to protest results

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Clashes leave 21 Palestinians and one Israeli dead

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The Royal Gazette

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BERMUDA, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006

TODAY'S HIGH 83°

DOUBLE TRAGEDY



Photo by Glenn Tucker

Crash scene: The damaged motorcycle at the scene of Bermuda's sixth road fatality of the year, which occurred outside the Terceira gas station on North Shore Road last night.

Cricketer returning from wake killed in North Shore collision

By Scott Neil

A 26-year-old St. George's man killed in a road accident on North Shore Road last night was believed to have been returning from a funeral and wake for teenager Derick Paynter Jr. who died in a motorcycle crash a week ago today.

Eyewitness tried to save the life of the motorcycleist after he was in collision with a turning car at the entrance to Terceira gas station in Devonshire.

The victim, the sixth road fatality on Bermuda's roads this year and the second within a week, is thought to be a talented St. George's Cup Match cricket player.

He was travelling west when his bike and a grey Ingis Suzuki car travelling east and turning into the gas station collided.

Police were last night withholding the victim's name until his next of kin had been informed.

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Photo by Glenn Tucker

Honour guard: Bermuda Cadet Corps members carry the coffin of Cadet Sergeant Derick Paynter at St. Peter's Church Cemetery in St. George's. Hundreds of people attended the funeral of the 17-year-old who died in a road accident last Thursday. **Story:** Page 6

Paedophile let out of jail by mistake

By Elizabeth Roberts

A paedophile was released from custody after less than three months to mingle with families at a music concert after a mistake by prison officials.

The 80-year-old was jailed for 16 months in February for preying on his two young step-grandchildren. He has not yet completed a sex offender treatment programme and is not eligible for release from Westgate until at least the end of the year.

Despite this, he was sent in April to the Transitional Living Centre (TLC), which helps offenders adjust to life after leaving jail. As part of this, the elderly man - who cannot be named because it would lead to the identification of his young victims - was able to attend the Bays Bay Park concert on June 24, accompanied by Centre staff. The Royal Gazette understands that a member of the public complained about spotting the man at the event, and when officials realised the mistake he

was sent straight back to Westgate.

A relative of the offender claims he has been spotted in public on at least six occasions - apparently unaccompanied by officials - including at the End to End walk celebrations in Dockyard on May 6.

She said: "Where is the law regarding the protection of our children and their convicted predators? Why is he allowed to be among the public and most of all among innocent children? There have been many confirmed sightings of this man enjoying his life socialising, dining in restaurants and enjoying the luxury of his car."

"He has been seen driving himself and family members around the Island sightseeing, visiting and just enjoying a normal everyday lifestyle as though he has been convicted of nothing. This is just one man who is allowed to roam free. How many others are out there?"

The woman said her own child had been abused by another

paedophile who had never been brought to justice, and added: "As a parent of a child who has experienced the other side, the strain of the damages and trauma these paedophiles cause innocent children and families, I find this an outrage and a disservice to the public."

The woman said she was told by Police that the man could have been on 'day release' because 'the jails are just totally full'.

Robert Horton, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs said yesterday: "An error in judgment led to him being placed at the Transitional Living Centre."

He said the move to the Centre had been 'premature' and he is now back at Westgate. He added that he understood the man was only allowed out once, on the evening of the concert.

The offender - who pleaded guilty to the sex charges - abused one of his young victims for more than three years.

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Murder victim's family calls for changes to double jeopardy law

Campaigners for justice for slain Canadian teenager Becky Middleton have renewed calls to change the law to stop people getting away with murder.

Rick Meens, who hosted the 17-year-old at his Smith's home when she made her fateful 1996 trip to Bermuda, has called for the end to the double jeopardy rule which bars defendants from being tried twice for the same crime.

Still angry about the lack of justice for Becky ten years on, Mr. Meens said: "It doesn't seem that much has changed in the way things are done. The way the system sits this could very well happen again. Laws need to be changed."

"If you are guilty you are guilty. Let's annihilate that saying 'got away with murder'." It seemed the criminal has more



Monday marked the tenth anniversary of the brutal murder of Canadian teenager Becky Middleton at Ferry Reach, St. George's. In the last part of the week-long series, Royal Gazette Chief Reporter Matthew Taylor reports on why Becky's family want the law on double jeopardy amended.

rights than the victims', said Mr. Meens.

"Where are victim's rights? Here's a child of 17 who was brutally murdered but nobody wanted to step up to the wicket here."

Former Police Commissioner Colin Coxall and others have called for Police to use the latest forensic techniques to re-open the case of the Canadian teen who was raped, stabbed and left

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INSIDE

N. Korea threatens more tests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea angrily mocked international criticism of its multiple missile tests yesterday, threatening to fire off more rockets even as South Korea pledged to press ahead with political and economic engagement with the volatile regime. **Page 14**

Suicide bomber kills 12

KUFA, Iraq (Reuters) - A suicide car bomber blasted two coaches carrying Iranian pilgrims outside a Shiite Muslim shrine in Iraq at dawn yesterday, killing 12 people and wounding 41, police and health officials said. **Page 16**

Al Qaeda tape on London bombs

DUBAI (Reuters) - On the eve of the anniversary of the London bombings, Al Jazeera television aired video footage of al Qaeda deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri praising one of the suicide bombers who also appeared on the tape to threaten more attacks. **Page 56**

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GIVING A HAND UP

From a job site to the operating room

By Stacey Smith

Sergio Virgil expected to spend this summer working on a construction site to pay for medical school - but instead he is volunteering his hours at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor.

That's because the president of A-Tec Contracting Services Ltd., where 23-year-old Virgil worked last summer, decided to pay him a salary for the hours that he volunteers at KEMH.

A-Tec president Raheem Shakir said: "Sergio was a good employee. He is in school and I thought this was the best way I could help him so that he is working in his field as opposed to doing construction."

"He's a good, likeable and well-mannered person," added Mr. Shakir, who has given similar support to other students.



Photo by Akil Simmons

Ideal summer job: Sergio Virgil is spending his summer at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, thanks to the generosity of a construction company president.

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"I felt worthy that someone would look at me in that light," said a grateful Mr. Virgil. "To know that he would be willing to put me in an area to

help me as opposed to putting me on a construction site where I'll be helping him ... to be so selfless and see potential in me inspires me even more to do what I have to do."

Mr. Virgil is studying medicine at St. George's University in Grenada and hopes to become an orthopaedic surgeon.

"I just find surgery fascinating because you have the power to heal and extend someone's life or extend happiness," he said. "It's the art of healing, helping others - the selflessness."

He has recently had the "phenomenal" opportunity of shadowing an orthopaedic surgeon at KEMH.

"The last surgery I was in involved loosening a tendon" he said.

Mr. Virgil has also worked in the pharmacy and has done diagnostic imaging, MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) and ultrasound.

His first taste of medicine came around the age of seven when he cared for his sick aunt.

"That consisted mainly of: 'Auntie are you all right? Do

you need anything? Where does it hurt?'," Mr. Virgil said.

"I didn't have an idea of what to do, if anything happened but at that age it was just the idea of caring for someone and feeling like you could help them."

Mr. Virgil said he has never had a problem with blood or wounds.

"You know, surprisingly, the only time I got a little knee bucking is when someone in my family or close to me goes under the knife or has to deal with a little post-operation. Other than that, I'm fine."

With four-and-a-half years of school remaining at St. George's University in Grenada, followed by rotations and his speciality, one obviously has to have the drive.

"I don't like to look at that. I just want to stay focused in the now, because if I look at where I have to go ... it's a long road ahead."

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Harrison Isaac

Isaac's sentencing delayed

By Elizabeth Roberts

Legal wrangling yesterday prevented the much-delayed sentencing of an accountant who stole almost \$2 million from the Bermuda Government.

Harrison Isaac Jr. admitted in January that he looted the money from a Bank of New York (BONY) account in the biggest fraud against the Government in history.

Isaac, who worked as a management accountant in the Accountant General's department, had sole access to the BONY account set up by the Government to pay vendors in US dollars.

The 35-year-old Bermudian, formerly of Crawl Point Lane West, Hamilton Parish, is being dealt with in New York City as the crime was committed there.

According to the charges, he caused \$1,899,888 to be wire transferred from the account to various bank accounts in the US and Bermuda between May, 2003 and February, 2004.

He was arrested in a Police swoop at Bermuda airport in April, 2004 and found with an outbound ticket to Atlanta. He was subsequently extradited to the US in January, 2005.

Isaac was set to be sentenced by United States District Judge Laura Taylor Swain last month, but a last-minute dispute over the wording of his original plea delayed proceedings.

The defendant entered a fresh guilty plea to a total of 15 fraud charges after further argument between US Government lawyers and his attorney yesterday. Isaac also recognised a requirement to forfeit the proceeds of his crime. The judge ordered that Isaac appear before her once again at Manhattan Federal Court on August 25 for sentencing. Prosecutors have calculated that he faces between 51 and 63 months behind bars.

An American national, 33-year-old Teketa Thompson, is alleged to have been a co-conspirator in the fraud. She maintains his innocence and is to go on trial later this year.

From a job site to the operating room

Continued from Page 1

"Of course" the years aren't so enticing, he said. "But that comes with it. You have to take it with a grain of salt."

"Nothing comes easy. If you look at anything successful that you've done in your life, it comes with a trial and a tribulation and it wouldn't be worth doing if it wasn't a trial or a tribulation."

He advises young people to

Paedophile released early – by mistake

Continued from Page 1

When he appeared before Magistrate Khamis Tokumbo to be sentenced on February 1, Crown counsel Graveney Bannister said: "It's an offence that has left great psychological and emotional scars for these girls."

The court heard that a pre-sentence report on the man said he "failed to accept the magnitude and gravity of the offending behaviour".

Mr Tokumbo told him at the time: "The psychologist's report concluded that the offences are the result of a lack of restraint

and dis-inhibition of sexual desires. To me that means there was nothing wrong with your judgment."

"You simply yielded to your own personal temptations. The sentence must reflect the degree of disdain with which society views these kind of offences."

The mother of the predator's two victims said last night that she regretted the error was being made public. She said: "It's been a very difficult situation for the family but I'm satisfied

that the proper measures were taken."

She said she alerted the authorities to the mistake after discovering that the man had served only two months and two weeks of his sentence at Westgate.

"I went through the proper channels and it was dealt with. It was dealt with the way it should have been dealt with."

"Yes, they made an error and they acknowledged their error and immediately they rectified the problem," she added.

Aquarium gets part of Trunk Island

By Stuart Roberts

Trunk Island, Harrington Sound, may one day become Bermuda's next Nonsuch thanks to a generous land donation.

The Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS) announced yesterday that it would restore Harrington Sound's largest island back to its natural state thanks to a donation by the late Frances Winslow Gardner.

Director of Conservation Services Jack Ward said the seven-acre island was right on the Aquarium's doorstep, and offered a fabulous opportunity to embark on a habitat restoration effort to replant native and endemic

species and cull invasive species.

"Through the kind-heartedness of Fran Gardner we have the opportunity to include excursions to Trunk Island in our education and conservation programmes, which is not only exciting, but also important for our entire island environment if we are to change present patterns of local land use," Mr Ward said in a BZS release on Thursday. "It's essential that students experience real-life examples of what we can lose in our community through unrestricted growth and development."

Miss Gardner owned two-thirds of the private island and

spent up to six weeks a year there for almost 50 years making journals of bird species and battling against invasive Brazil Pepper and Casuarina plants, it said.

Her last stay on Trunk Island was in September, 2002 and following her death in 2004, her ashes and the ashes of her parents, Rita and Warner Gardner, were scattered into Harrington Sound from Trunk Island.

Hannah Gardner said her sister always lived lightly on the land. "Her gift to the BZS is a product of that consciousness," she said. "Our parents began taking their four children, including Fran and me, to Trunk Island for the summer in 1955. It was a place that she loved and cared very much about at its future."

BZS president Robert Steinhoff said a commemorative plaque had been placed on Trunk Island in Miss Gardner's honour.

Cricketer killed

Continued from Page 1

Eyewitnesses Aden DeSilva and Aisha Jordan were pulling into the gas station at a second entrance at the time of the crash and saw the bike approach from the east seconds before the crash.

Ms Jordan said she saw the rider "fly over the top of the car" and land in bushes on the other side of the road.

"I jumped out of the car and phoned for an ambulance to come," she said.

Together with an off-duty ambulance paramedic who was on another motorbike, she rushed to the injured, semi-conscious motorcyclist and helped to give CPR before resuscitation to the victim. She had learned the technique as part of her training with The Bermuda Regiment.

She said: "I tried to talk to him. He was moaning a little."

Ms Jordan said it appeared the grey Suzuki car involved in the collision was attempting to

enter the gas station while a taxi was preparing to leave from the same entrance and exit point at the time of the accident, which happened around 8.45 p.m.

Bermuda Police Service spokesman Dwayne Gaines said: "It appears a 26-year-old St. George's man was travelling west on North Shore Road when he was involved in a collision with a grey Ingis Suzuki car that was turning into the Terceira's gas station."

"As a result the motorcyclist was taken to King Edward VII Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. No other information will be given out until next of kin has been notified."

A week ago today Derrick Paynter Jr. became the fifth road fatality of the year when his motorbike and a truck were involved in a collision on Mullet Bay Road, St. George's. His funeral service was held yesterday at the New Testament Church of God in St. David's.

atric neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson said his immediate goal is "to finish medical school, pass all my exams and be a positive role model to somebody else".

Health Council CEO accused of conflict

By Scott Neill

Government should re-examine its decision to make the head of a new "watchdog" Bermuda Health Council the same man who oversees hospital services that will be under the eye of the newly created council.

Last night the appointment was branded a conflict of interest and a case of "the fox guarding the chickens".

In a response to the concerns raised by the United Bermuda Party about Bermuda Hospitals Board chairman Anthony Richardson being made CEO of the new Health Council, Health Minister Patrice Minors has stated that Mr. Richardson would make himself absent from decisions of the BHB where there is felt to be a conflict of interest.

The doubling of the influential roles has been questioned by the UBP's Shadow Health Minister Louisa Jackson after Government put Anthony Richardson into both seats of influence at the same time.

She said: "He should step down. The question arises, how would he ensure himself?"

"Health services need a mature, experienced, executive professional who will devote their total energies to the hospital and not be conflicted in anyway."

In a reply to the concerns, Health Minister Mrs. Minors said that with the continuing search for a new CEO of the BHB and development plans to replace the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in the pipeline, it was preferable to have Mr. Richardson continue in



Anthony Richardson

both roles for the time being. She said: "Over the long term I will be evaluating the situation. My intention is to identify an individual who will step into the role of chairman of the BHB, thereby providing a period of transition and ultimately a smooth handover."

Mrs. Minors said the BHB members would monitor any perceived conflict of interest and Mr. Richardson would make himself absent from decisions if it was felt there was a conflict.

UBP MP Mrs. Jackson said: "The Minister is admitting there is a conflict. My whole thing is that the hospital is in a terrible situation now. This is not a time to be in transition. The Health Council was put there to improve the condition of the hospitals."

She believes there are a wealth of suitably qualified Bermudians who could chair the Health Council without requiring the same person to double up.

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From a job site to the operating room

By Stacey Smith

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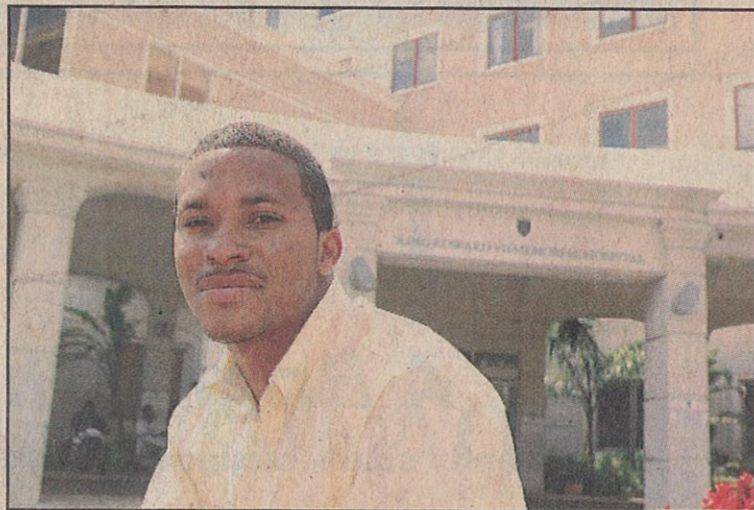


Photo by Akil Simmons

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Continued on Page 2

From a job site to the operating room

Continued from Page 1

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