

Israel raises the pressure



Conflict heats up as Hizbollah rockets hit warship

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India. arie is positive and proud of it



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Pocahontas celebrated

American Indians go to England in memory of famous ancestor



The Royal Gazette

75 CENTS

BERMUDA, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2006

TODAY'S HIGH 84°



Rally declares war on racism

Dozens gather for a lunchtime rally against racism at City Hall

By Dan Jones and Stacey Smith

Crowds gathered outside Hamilton City Hall yesterday for an anti-racism rally organised in the wake of the beating of Rui Medeiros.

More than 100 people looked on as politicians and community leaders lined up to condemn the vicious Front Street attack.

One speaker said it was time to "declare war on racism".

Organiser Jonathan Starling said he would have preferred a larger turnout yesterday lunchtime. But he said that because organisation for the demonstration only started at the beginning of the week the at-

tendance was better than he had realistically expected.

Lynne Winfield, of recently revived anti-racism organisation CURB, told the crowd - including Mr. Medeiros' father, Manuel - that if last week's violence outside Docksiders acted as a catalyst to boost the fight against racism "it would be a wonderful outcome to a tragic act".

Witnesses have said that racist insults were thrown at Bermudian Portugal fan Mr. Medeiros during the attack by four black Bermudians, which happened after a World Cup football match.

The CURB representative continued: "Racism is among us. We are not a healthy society. It's

up to us to heal ourselves. We need to declare war on racism - and white people need to be very, very involved in this fight."

Government Minister Dale Butler called for unity and said that a "genuine and sincere" dialogue on all aspects of race was needed in the community to prevent the kind of violence seen in the case of Mr. Medeiros happening again.

He said that everybody, not just anti-racism groups and blacks, needed to talk about race relations.

"I mean all of us have to face the facts if we are serious and not just paying lip-service or grandstanding at events like this."

He asked whether people would stand by when Filipino residents were being criticised for being part of the Island's community. "Are we going to speak up for all cultures?" he added.

Opposition Leader Wayne Furbert told the crowd that greater public debate, a process of healing and a mass campaign of empowerment may be needed. But he stated: "I believe that race in itself is of little significance."

"It is only when racial attributes bestow access to power and wealth that they take on real meaning. If we want to throw off the legacy of racism then we have to give all Bermudians the opportunity to acquire wealth, status and power."

He added: "From Front Street



Photo by Chris Burville

Anti Racism rally organiser Jonathan Starling, centre, steps in after Portuguese activist Robert Pires, left, angrily approached the podium after speaker, former Senator Calvin Smith made controversial comments and was heckled. Mr. Starling asked Mr. Smith to finish his speech.

to Court Street, we must build a Bermuda of one people of many races."

At one stage the one-hour rally briefly descended into chaos when former Government Senator Calvin Smith appeared to question whether an attack on a black person would have generated the same response in the media as that seen after what happened to Mr. Medeiros.

Amid boing from some sections of the crowd, event organiser Mr. Starling was forced to step

in and call for calm after Mr. Smith seemed to pick out one heckler and say: "I will talk about what I want to talk about and you can go to hell!"

That protestor, Valerie Martins, later said Mr. Smith's response was "degrading".

Mrs. Martins, a Bermudian of Portuguese descent, added: "We are here for a unifying purpose. It's not about one specific situation, or one incident being more important than another."

"It does not matter if you are

black, white, purple or green - you are disrespecting a human being. It does not matter who the victim is - it's a racial and violent issue that we are here about."

Referring to the attack on Mr. Medeiros, she said she was "appalled" that a Portuguese flag was burnt and an entire culture was shown disrespect. Now people were getting together, she said, and were saying: "This needs to stop."

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Photo by Aki Simmons

Hecklers challenge speaker former Progressive Labour Party Senator Calvin Smith during yesterday's anti-racism rally at City Hall.

INSIDE

Oil prices rocket

WASHINGTON - The price of oil briefly surpassed \$78 a barrel yesterday and finished four percent higher for the week after Israeli attacks against Lebanese militants stoked fears of a wider Middle East conflict and possible oil-supply disruption. — Page 6

Mosque attacks kill 16

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Bombs and mortars struck mosques on both sides of the sectarian divide in the Baghdad area yesterday, the latest in a week of attacks that have killed more than 250 people. — Page 7

Labour leadership challenge

LONDON - A leftist Labour Party MP yesterday declared his candidacy to succeed Prime Minister Tony Blair, calling for the party to take a turn to the left. — Page 36

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Natural light orchestra

By Elizabeth Roberts

They only spawn at full moon, the girls literally 'light up' at the prospect of finding a mate, and dozens of tourists hang out in boats to watch them at it. Welcome to the weird and wonderful world of Bermuda's famous fireworms.

Once a month during the summer season the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI) hosts a cruise to watch the female fireworm emit her strikingly beautiful green light as she whirls frantically in circles to attract a mate.

She releases her glowing eggs when he darts up and reaches the "bulb's eye" of her circle, producing a bright flash himself as he releases his sperm.

That's if everything goes to plan. However on the night I headed out to watch the worms, the males - less common than the females and often late for the beginning of the spawning burst - were nowhere to be seen.

The ladies were left spinning forlornly but spectacularly on their own without a partner in sight.

Having let out a chorus of "ooh" and "ah" reminiscent of kids at a fireworks display



when the fireworms first put in an appearance, the sympathies of those on the boat quickly focused on this unfortunate turn of events for the frustrated worms.

"Let's play a bit of Marvin Gaye or some Barry White?" suggested one wag.

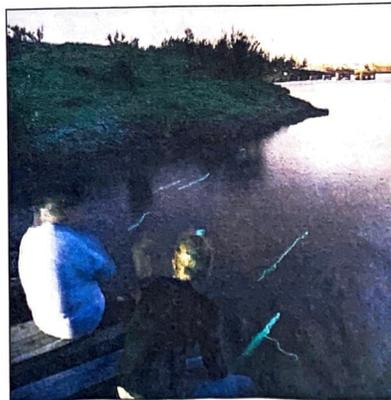
Another tourist - having carefully waited until her husband was out of earshot, mused: "They get all dolled up and then no men turn up. Don't you just hate it when that happens?"

It must have been an unlucky night for them - according to scientific studies, it's a common occurrence for several males to be attracted to a single female, which results in them all rotating in a tight circle as the males discharge their sperm into the water.

Spawning begins at full moon and reaches a peak three days afterwards.

The females appear at the water's surface between 51 and 65 minutes after sunset in a display that only lasts a few minutes.

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Royal Gazette cameraman Chris Burville used a long camera exposure to catch fireworms as they floated with the tide. He was on a small bridge to a small island in the northwest corner of Ferry Reach and looking south toward Coney Island which is in the background.

Witnesses sought after daylight assaults

By Stacey Smith

Police detectives have launched investigations into two serious incidents of robbery and attempted robbery in Hamilton on Thursday in which a 70-year-old man was sent to hospital and a taxi driver was roughed up.

The senior citizen was walking at the junction of Curving Avenue and King Street at 1.30 p.m. when three black men – believed to be between 18 and 20 and wearing white t-shirts and khaki pants – jumped him.

The trio took away seven rings, two gold chains and a cellular phone from the victim, who suffered bruising to his leg, arms and chest.

At 3.28 p.m., three men were involved in an altercation with a man and his wife at the junction of Queen and Church Streets. Police report that one of the three young men reached into a stationary car and slapped a passenger on his chin and left shoulder.

When the driver got out and confronted the trio, he was punched, as well. His wife and the passenger of the car were also roughed up.

A knife was brandished by

the trio – described as being between 18 and 20 – before they fled the scene in a taxi.

Once at their destination of Curving Avenue, one of the trio grabbed onto the cabbie's gold chains but was stopped. The driver instructed them to get out. His injuries were superficial.

The suspects in the Queen Street incident are described as a light brown-skinned male, about five feet, nine inches, of average build – around 160 pounds, narrow, slim features, light mustache, close haircut.

The man was sporting a big gold coloured chain around his neck, dressed in a white sleeveless vest and jeans.

Suspect two is dark brown-skinned, five feet, four inches in height, thin build and wearing a blue short sleeve t-shirt. The third man is also dark brown-skinned, five feet tall.

Police are appealing to members of the public who have witnessed these incidents or may have information pertaining to them to contact their respective Police Station, Police Headquarters at 295-0011 or the confidential Crimestoppers Hotline at 1 (800) 623-8477.

Calvin Smith heckled at anti racism rally

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Mr. Smith, who later told the crowd that the great disparity in wealth in Bermuda had to be addressed, later said that he got annoyed because he was trying to make a speech and some people were not listening to him.

He said that acts of violence against blacks happened regularly – and did not lead to City Hall demonstrations.

Earlier in the meeting, a man who did not give his name said he was not in any way defending the attack on Mr. Medeiros, but he pointed to problems many black Bermudians were having getting jobs.

He said that schoolchildren needed to be told about the contributions all ethnic groups had made to Bermuda's history, but called on a curb on blue collar immigration to help Bermudians find work.

What happened outside Dockside last Wednesday was just the "tip of the iceberg", the crowd heard, unless urgent social issues were addressed.

He said anger should be directed at Government and employers – not workers.

People attending the rally yesterday also spoke out against racism. Aziza Ahad, age 21, said: "I just think that Bermudians need to be a lot more tolerant of other people because if you think about it, no-one is from here, we all have ancestors from somewhere else."

Senior Muriel Archer said: "Bermuda is made up of so many different nationalities – so we have to learn to live together."

Neilson DeGraff said: "As far as burning somebody's flag, that is disgraceful – you shouldn't do that. When Bermuda eventually becomes Independent, we wouldn't want anyone to do that to our flag. It's just been fans gone a little too crazy, but it just says racism still exists from all angles."

Before the meeting, organiser Mr. Starling said he did not want the demonstration to just focus

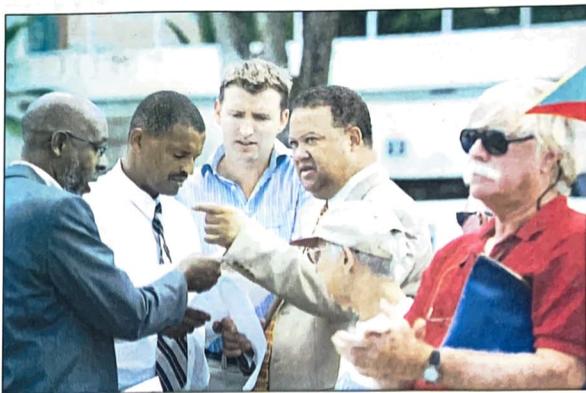


Photo By Aki Simmons

United Bermuda Party leader Wayne Furber (centre) speaks with UBP Senator Kim Swan and another man while others look on at yesterday's anti-racism rally.



Community Affairs Minister Dale Butler



Photo by Chris Burville

on the relationship between black Bermudians and the Portuguese community.

"It's about racism as a whole," he stated. Yesterday he said the meeting was a first step towards constructive dialogue.

Talk to the hand: Former PLP Senator Calvin Smith responds to a heckler, saying: "I will talk about what I want to talk about and you can go to hell!"

Sailor loses fingers at sea

"An oil tanker has been redirected to Bermuda so that its chief engineer can receive medical treatment after losing two fingers in an accident while at sea.

The tanker is expected to reach St. George's early this afternoon where the injured seaman will be brought ashore and taken to King Edward VII Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The *Hellespont Triumph*,

which sails under the flag of Liberia, set off from the port of Skikda in Algeria and was crossing the Atlantic when the crewman was injured.

A spokesman for Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre said the vessel, which has a crew of 25, had radioed its medical emergency and was diverting to Bermuda and was expected to reach St. George's around 2.30 p.m.

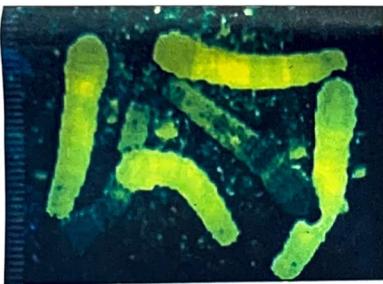


Photo supplied by the BUEI

A close up of glowworms.

Bermuda's natural light orchestra

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The mesmerising fireworms are actually marine relatives of the familiar earthworm and their Latin name – *Odontaspis enopla* – translates as 'the toothed and neckless worm'.

The creatures are only ten to 20 millimetres long and inhabit the sandy bottoms of Bermuda's bays and inlets, with Ferry Reach being one of the best spots to see them, according to seasoned worm watchers.

The males are smaller than the females but have larger eyes, in keeping with their sensitivity to the light given off by the females. According to a research paper published by Bermuda Biological Station for Research scientists in 1961 they are "equally stimulated by the beam from a flashlight".

When one unfortunate worm suffered the indignity of being scooped up in a fishing net and plunked in a jar for us to gaze at she looked very plain and ugly starved of her happy mating-fuelled glow.

Released back into the water, she quickly perked up and resumed her dance of light.

The green glow emitted by the fireworms – found throughout the tropical western Atlantic – is the product of bioluminescence, a light produced by a chemical reaction in a living organism. They only produce their dance of light during mating activities – although some scientists have observed that they also glow in response to being startled.

Little is known about what

exactly triggers the mating ritual which can be predicted with extraordinary accuracy and much mystery still surrounds these fascinating creatures.

It's even been suggested that they were responsible for the strange patches of light seen by Christopher Columbus four hours before he first made landfall in America.

Whether or not it's true that these creatures had a role in this 500-year-old mystery, according to BUEI volunteer Judie Cleo, the story of the fireworms itself is an age-old one: "It's all about sex, food, and hiding from your predators."

"People love being out there on the cruise and seeing something special," she added. "There's such anticipation as everyone peers over the side of the boat and watches how much light is emitted by such a small creature. Mother Nature is amazing."

The BUEI will host cruises on August 10 and September 9. Call 292 7219 to book.

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