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Parents who spoil children 'rotten' are partly to blame for under-achieving young men, says Minister

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The Royal Gazette

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BERMUDA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006

TODAY'S HIGH 84°



Rescue bid: Terrence Smith's house on Tee Street, which his wife is now trying to save.

Smith's wife tries to save luxury home

By Elizabeth Roberts

The wife of convicted fraudster Terrence Smith has made a financial bid to save their luxury family home in Devonshire from being repossessed by Capital G bank.

The bank mortgaged the Tee Street property which Smith then renovated with money swindled from the Bermuda Housing Corporation. It is now planning to send in bailiffs to seize the house, and sell it to recover its losses.

Smith was jailed for eight years in May after being convicted of a \$1.2 million fraud against the BHC where he worked as a property officer. The trial jury heard how he lived a life of luxury at Tee Street – which boasts a large pool and home movie theatre – after reaping the profits from an invoice scam.

Chief Justice Richard Ground subsequently made an order giving Capital G possession of the house in order to recover the mortgage money it had lent Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

He set the sum of \$2.5 million as the reserve sale price for the property which, *The Royal Gazette* understands, currently has mortgage arrears topping \$1 million.

The Crown has also launched a Proceeds of Crime case in a bid to confiscate Smith's profits from the fraud. Mr. Justice Ground has ruled that after the sale of the home at auction, Capital G would be entitled to the mortgage amount and interest and the Crown would be entitled to an amount to be decided in future court hearings.

Smith's defence lawyer Larry Scott has confirmed that Smith's wife Veronica had submitted a financial proposal which she hopes will safeguard the Tee Street home where she lives with their two children.

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INSIDE

Israel expands the war

JERUSALEM (Reuters) – Israel moved yesterday to expand its ground offensive in Lebanon, and Hezbollah's leader vowed to turn it into a graveyard for Israeli troops and unleash more rockets on the city of Haifa. – Page 8

Brazil's cocaine problem

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) – "Get out of the street! There's going to be a shootout," shouts a police officer through a loudspeaker as the Big Skull armoured vehicle rolls through the labyrinthine alleys of Rio's Alemao slum, a stronghold of cocaine dealers. – Page 9

Independent Lieberman?

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) – Top Democrats on Capitol Hill abandoned Senator Joe Lieberman and threw their support to Ned Lamont. But Lieberman said his conscience demands that he run as an independent in November. – Page 10

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Parents who spoil children 'rotten' are partly to blame for under-achieving young men, says Minister

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FIRE FALLOUT: Man's door smashed



Photo by Tamell Simons

Shattered glass: Kenneth Butterfield surveys the damage to the door at his Scott's Hill Road, Somerset home, caused by a concrete block being thrown at it at 3 a.m. in the morning.

Door smashed at site of Sandys house fire

By Stacee Smith

A concrete block has been thrown through the sliding glass door of a man whose apartment was damaged by fire two nights earlier.

It is not known if there is any connection between the two incidents, but for Somerset resident Kenneth Butterfield, the broken door is one more concern to add to a list of problems that started on Monday night when fire broke out at his apartment in Scott's Hill Road while he was visiting neighbours.

The cause of the fire, which took firefighters 25 minutes to extinguish, is still being investigated and arson has not been ruled out. It is understood it may have been caused by an electrical fault.

Mr. Butterfield was sleeping at 3 a.m. yesterday morning when the concrete block was thrown through the glass sliding door.

"I heard a big bash and jumped out of my bed. The block had broken through both panes of the sliding door – it's still in the room now. My door is all messed up," said Mr. Butterfield, who does not know why anyone would want to have targeted his door.

Mr. Butterfield immediately called the police. He said: "The person I thought might have done it didn't do it."

"I think someone may have tried to frame him."

According to Mr. Butterfield, it was only about four or five months ago when a pipe was thrown into the opposite side of the same door, though just one of the two panes were penetrated.

Luckily, no one was injured when the block crashed through the door on Wednesday morning.

Fire gutted a room in the same apartment building around 10 p.m. on Monday. "No one was hurt," said Mr. Butterfield, who lives in the apartment that was damaged. He had left the building about five minutes before the fire started.

"I was in my neighbour's house, which is two houses down, when I heard people talking about 'your house is on fire.'

"I didn't smell smoke or anything but I ran up the hill (to his apartment) and that's when I noticed it."

Mr. Butterfield's car was parked directly in front of the burning room.

"I tried to move my car out of the way but I couldn't and it got destroyed."

His windscreen and both of the doors on the right hand side went up in flames.

Feeling the agonising sense of dejection he said: "I had just put the windscreen, the back window and the driver's window in."

He is still wondering what triggered the fire.

Elliot Smith, resident of the upstairs apartment, was at home with his family at the time of the fire, he said: "I saw it (the fire) from beginning to end."

"We were alerted by a flicker of lights. My daughter, my brother in law and myself came outside, looked around, smelled something and then we heard some crackling in the roof next to the garage. I knew something wasn't right so we ran over to the garage and saw the fire."

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GPS DEADLINE

Taxi driver ready to go to prison over GPS

By Sam Strangeways and Ruth O'Kelly-Lynch

A tax driver claimed last night that he was willing to go to prison over his refusal to have a new mandatory satellite navigation system installed in his taxi.

Keith Darrell said Government's insistence that all taxis be fitted with the high-tech GPS equipment – which has led to some cabbies being ordered by the Transport Control Department (TCD) to stop taking fares this week – was "unacceptable" and unenforceable in law.

His remarks came as it emerged that one of the Island's three taxi dispatching firms had run out of the systems and was unable to fit any cabs with GPS.

Co-Op Taxis is waiting for the arrival of its equipment from Toronto. President, Alaine Mouchette, said they will be going to today's Public Service Vehicle Licensing Board meeting to plead their case.

"Our order was pushed back," she said. "I am hoping it will arrive in the next few days. We have been trying to do our due diligence and meet the deadline but due to circumstances beyond our control we couldn't. We hope that they will be understanding."

She added there were others in the same position and said she will go to today's meeting armed with documentation proving that it was beyond her control that the equipment is not here.

BTA (Dispatching) has five systems available and is about to order more. Radio Cabs owner Eddie Darrell has already fitted 150 cabs and just collected an order of 60 systems from Atlanta. He arrived yesterday and went straight to work to fit more taxis

with the mandatory equipment. Mr. Darrell, who was installing a system while speaking to *The Royal Gazette* last night, said he personally flew to Atlanta to collect the equipment.

He added that the equipment will be used to finish equipping his company's customers as well as for other drivers who have given him money to purchase equipment. He said they would be installed very quickly.

TCD traffic officers have been inspecting cabs at the airport and cruise ship ports all week and telling those without the new kit that they cannot pick up passengers.

Mr. Keith Darrell, 55, of Smith's, who has driven taxis on the Island for 34 years, said the height of the tourist season was the wrong time for the Government to be ordering taxis off the road.

"They are pulling them off the road when their services are needed," he said. "There are about 200 cabs without GPS. If you pull those off the roads you are going to have a taxi shortage."

"And what legislation are they penalising the drivers under? There isn't any. There aren't any penalties. They have to go back to the House (of Assembly) and revamp it."

Mr. Darrell said it was unfair that he had paid about \$300 for a taxi licence and \$1,600 for insurance but was being told he could not work. He said he would get the new system eventually but was opting to go with Co-op so could not get fitted at the moment.

He added: "It's totally unacceptable. I'm going to continue to drive. I'm willing to go to prison. GPS is a failure."

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PLP marks anniversary of 'Freddy' Wade's death

By Elizabeth Roberts

The Progressive Labour Party will hold several events this week dedicated to the memory of former leader L. Frederick Wade who died ten years ago on Sunday.

Tonight, a public forum at the Leopard's Club in Brunswick Street, Hamilton, will discuss Mr. Wade's contribution to politics and to Bermuda.

The panel will feature Premier Alex Scott, Finance Minister Paula Cox and former party leader Dame Lois Browne-Evans. The event starts at 7.30 p.m.

Tomorrow, a cocktail reception and exhibition will be held at the PLP's Alaska Hall headquarters in Court Street, Hamilton. The event, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. will be open

to the public.

On Sunday, a morning worship service will take place at 11 a.m. at St. Paul AME Church, Court Street. The final event at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday evening will feature the group *Next Level* performing at the Bermuda Industrial Union headquarters in Union Street, Hamilton. Tickets, priced at \$50, are available from PLP headquarters which can be contacted on 292-2264 or info@plp.bm.

A PLP statement announcing the events yesterday described Mr. Wade, who led the party from 1985 until his death, as "a very important Bermudian hero who was not only important to our party but to the people of Bermuda and has left an indelible mark on Bermuda's political landscape".

Smith's wife bids to save house

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Scott said: "Mr. Smith can't do anything because he's incarcerated and not working but his wife is outside and that's their family home. What they're trying to do is save the property. It's only natural - she has children and needs some place to live. Capital G has an order for possession but we are trying to make arrangements to do the financing and Capital G are considering our application. They could tell us 'no' because they have a claim higher than anyone else."

Mr. Scott said that once the criminal proceedings against Smith had begun, the Director of Public Prosecutions instructed Capital G not to have any business dealings with him. This meant that if he had wanted to pay off the mortgage either before or after his trial he would have been unable to do so. It also meant that the mortgage fell into arrears.

Mr. Scott explained that Mrs. Smith hoped to "regularise" the mortgage by paying off the arrears and then go forward with a regular payment. He would not comment on how she intended to raise the funds, but confirmed that Terrence Smith continues with plans to appeal against his fraud conviction.

During the trial earlier this year, the court heard how Smith made false claims to be an architect at the Corporation and also gave inflated salary figures when applying for Capital G loans totalling \$840,000 for Tee Street. In evidence, Capital G mortgage officer Andrea Proctor confirmed that the bank did not verify this information before granting the loans.

Justin Williams, lawyer for Capital G, said yesterday that Mrs. Smith's lawyer had been in touch and that Capital G would consider any reasonable proposal made in the matter.

Taxi driver stands his ground on GPS

Continued from Page 1

TCD Director Randy Brangman said taxi drivers had been given more than ample time to get installed with the equipment.

"Everybody knew it was coming since last year this time and February was the deadline," he said. "There was a six-month grace period given after that. Now we are getting these issues arising."

"This could have been addressed a long time ago if they had complied by the February deadline."

He said Mr. Darrell was wrong about the new law - the Motor Car Amendment Act 2005 - being unenforceable.

"Under the new legislation it says no person shall operate a taxi unless it's registered with a dispatching company and the vehicle is properly equipped."

He said he could not say what the penalty for non-compliance would be. The Public Service Vehicle Licensing Board will decide that following a special meeting today with taxi drivers caught without GPS.

"I don't want to pre-empt what the board is doing," said Mr. Brangman.



TCD Director Randy Brangman

"Once the board makes a decision on that, TCD will be guided accordingly."

He added that he could not speak on behalf of the board regarding Taxi Co-op's bind and would not say whether he thought they would be ordered off the road or allowed to remain in service.

Michael Ray, president of Bermuda Taxi Association and president and a shareholder in

BTA (Dispatching), said he hoped those cabbies who had not complied would not lose their licences.

"If they have to appear before the board they should be given an ultimatum and have to have it before a certain date," he said.

He said of Mr. Darrell: "If he refuses to obey the law he should not complain about the consequences that follow."

"This fight has been going on for five years and it's been lost since 2005."

"I think his is a lame excuse. I'm not going to go to jail for that but some taxi owners or drivers feel that strong. If he feels that strong, then that's his prerogative."

Mr. Ray added that Government should have let drivers know the penalties they would face well in advance of GPS becoming mandatory.

But Mr. Brangman said: "I would have thought that taxi drivers would have just wanted to adhere to the law. If the law says it's got to be done, then it's got to be done."

The Royal Gazette revealed on Tuesday that 120 of the Island's 600 taxis - 20 percent of the fleet - had still not had GPS fitted.

Door smashed at site of fire

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"That's when I told my daughter to get all of our family out of the house, my brother-in-law called 911 and we alerted everyone in the complex to get out. We didn't know how far it was going to go. I started moving bikes that were parked in front of the burning room."

"When I first saw the fire it was still small enough to try to put out. So I tried to get out a hose but that didn't work and it was spreading quickly and started coming out of the windows."

The bikes were parked behind Mr. Butterfield's car. "After we moved the bikes we tried to move the car but we couldn't get it open because the flames were coming too close."

"Later, the owner of the car came by and was able to open the car but we couldn't move it be-

cause of the flames."

As reported in yesterday's *Royal Gazette* fire-fighters took around 25 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

"They had problems because it kept spreading every time they put water on it - but they were able to get it out," Mr. Smith said.

All the electricity meters for the building were in the room damaged by the fire. Belco workmen were yesterday afternoon working to restore the power supply. Mr. Smith, who is an employee at Belco himself, had set up a temporary power supply in the meantime.

Although the cause of the fire has not been determined as yet, Mr. Smith said: "According to the report of the investigator, there was a box with loose wires that he suggested may have come together and started the fire."

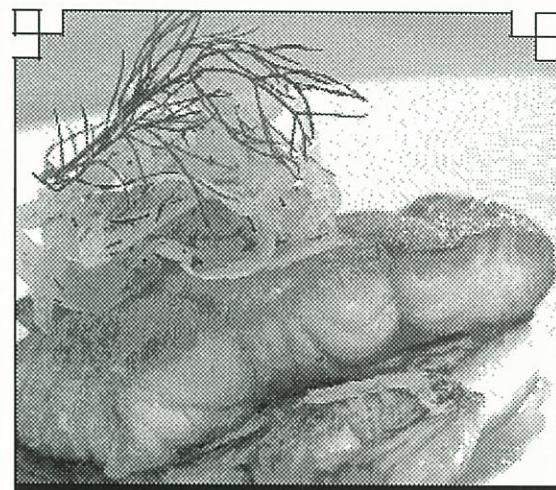


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