

Men attack, beat priest

■ **From A1**
 attack on the priest, it was a sad state of affairs in The Bahamas when anyone is attacked. "The country has to galvanize itself and teach young men how to respect themselves and others," Mr Ramsey said. He also pointed out that the government has to find avenues by which young people and in particular young men can become occupied as this will keep them from hanging on the road and getting into trouble.

Last week President of The Bahamas Christian Council, Rev William Thompson commented on increasing crime levels within the country, calling it unacceptable. Reverend Thompson and other members of religious groups around the Bahamas have been calling for government and other bodies to develop a means by which to teach young men in particular how to resolve conflicts.

On Monday 19-year-old Devon Johnson and 15-year-old Denico Bowe appeared in front of Magistrate Susan Sylvester in court No. 10 to be arraigned in connection with the priest's attack.

The two were charged with allegedly causing harm to Father Alain Laverne on Saturday March 10, 2007. Both men pleaded not guilty and were each given bail in the sum of \$5,000. The case will resume on June 14.

Homicide

■ **From A1**
 having been burnt in that area. "Upon making inquires about 50 yards off Marshall Road they discovered a late model Honda Accord completely destroyed and in that vehicle was what appeared to be the remains of a human. We are conducting inquiries into this matter along with the forensic pathologist and hopefully at the end of the day we will be able to determine exactly what happened here," Superintendent Miller reported.

The Accord was found behind a huge wall labeled *Southern Winds*, behind which a bushy track road was said to be. The car was burned to the point where the rims had melted and turned into liquid. The surrounding trees and bush were also burnt. The license plates were visible but *The Guardian* was unable to determine the number.

Butler's Funeral Home removed the remains on a stretcher and loaded it in the back of a hearse. "At present we are treating this as a homicide and we are actively following lines of inquiry in respect of this as we speak," Superintendent Miller said.

Police had to call in forensic pathologists because the body was so badly decomposed. "The forensic evidence is very powerful," Mr Miller said, "we intend to use that in this case to determine exactly who this individual is. Whether it is a male or female and to establish the identity of this individual." When asked if it was customary to use pathologists in similar incidents, he responded: "It is a practice that we use in some cases and this is one of the cases where we would use the forensic pathologist to obtain evidence from the

A Big Deal



■ **Huge project:** Acting General Manager of the Bahamas Water and Sewerage Co-operation, Godfrey Sherman unveils plans for a waste treatment facility on Gladstone Road
Photo: FARRENO FERGUSON

scene and the morgue."

From their cursory investigations so far police were unable to determine how long the body had been stashed in the bushes, but it is possible that the body was there longer than 24 hours, Miller reported. It is also undetermined how the fire started or where the reminder to the victim's body is and what could have happen to it.

Police also noted that a number of persons are missing though they could not give an exact figure. They are presently looking at that list in hopes of finding a connection.

According to Superintendent Miller, although this is the first body to be burned for the year, the police are concerned that a 'trend' may be redeveloping. "We have seen a pattern in Grand Bahama and also here in Nassau. We've seen a couple of cases last year and we are certainly concerned about it," he said. This concern was also shared by religious leaders, including National Overseer of the Church of God of Prophecy Bishop Elgarnet Rahming and Deputy Prime Minister Cynthia "Mother" Pratt who have spoken out on the increasing levels of crime and

violence in the capital.

Gibson

■ **From A1**
 headline appearances of late may affect the PLP's backing of Gibson in the upcoming election, chairman of the PLP, Raynard Rigby said he believed that some sectors of the media may be sensationalizing the story because, in his opinion, there was nothing to be worried about.

"I have not heard the tapes," admitted Rigby. "If the story is correct then I don't see the issue. I think we have to be careful that we don't take the form of sensationalism that occurs in the US. I could see if there was an issue, but there is none."

Deputy leader of the BDM, Omar Smith, agreed with Rigby saying that the phone messages did not definitively prove that an inappropriate relationship existed between the two. However, he conceded that it did give one room to wonder.

"It's up to the PLP if they want to put him up for reelection," said Smith. "I wouldn't vote for him because he showed poor judgment. There is no actual proof, but he has put doubt in our minds and a leader should

not have an apparent conflict of interest"

The FNM newcomer now running in Gibson's constituency, Don Saunders, said that although he was not making a judgment against Gibson in respect to the phone calls, he said he questions the manner in which Gibson handled the permanent residency situation.

"It goes back to the root of our concerns regarding the inappropriate or unusual relationship between a minister in the Bahamas government with someone who he assisted in securing permanent residency which could be seen as a privilege to foreigners."

On the heels of his resignation after photos of Smith and himself appeared in the local and international media, Gibson captured headlines Monday in the international media after phone messages left by Gibson on Smith's California voicemail in December materialized on the web site www.TMZ.com.

The web site alleged that the link to the phone messages, which is provided on the site, shows how Gibson called Smith seven times from 15 to 17 December and left six messages for her to return his calls.

According to TMZ.com, one call was left at 9.05 Pacific standard time on Smith's voicemail, which would have made it 12.05 am in The Bahamas.

The Guardian was able to access the website and listened to the messages. In the messages, Mr Gibson identified himself, indicated the local time in Nassau and asked Ms Smith to call him back. There was no suggestion in any of the messages of anything of a sexual, or improper nature. The messages were all very brief.

Facility

■ **From A1**
 constructed in the Gladstone Road area.

The corporation has partnered with Chester Engineers, a Pittsburgh-based company to develop plans for the modern facility, which will be the first of its kind for the country. The projected completion date for the wastewater plant is October 2008. Chairman of Water and Sewerage, Donald Demeritte, explained that although sewerage and wastewater are listed as key areas of concern for the enterprise, they have never received proper attention from the government or the corporation over the past years.

"Sewerage wastewater has perennially been a problem for the corporation. Past administrations, past executives of the corporation have never really given this the attention that it deserves, and I think, in my mind primarily because of the capital expenditure that we know we need to inject to make this a reality," he said.

"But today in this age of public-private partnership we are able to embrace and tackle this legacy problem with ease."

Mr Demeritte said it is crucial at this time to ensure that quality potable wastewater services are available throughout the country in the shortest possible time-frame.

"This area is potentially extremely damaging for The Bahamas because as we all can appreciate we have a touristic brand that we need to protect. It is the brand that is our lifeline for the future, so we need to address these wastewater needs promptly and properly.

"Perhaps a more telling statistic of the state of affairs of wastewater service in New Providence, is the fact that out of our five current wastewater plans only one today can be described as meeting international utility standards," he maintained.

Mr Demeritte said while the corporation is now proactively addressing the problem, and has already introduced plans to expand and enhance these plants, it is cognizant of the need to build new and modern facilities.

He disclosed that the corporation's announced strategy is to take advantage of every major development in this country, to introduce or modernize new and existing facilities. The Gladstone Road Plant will be able to facilitate the wastewater needs for Faith and Flamingo Gardens, South Westridge, Cable Beach, including the Baha Mar project and any new development in that area.

The Corporation is also planning to build state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facilities in the east to service that area and Kerzner International and in the southwest to facilitate the needs for the new South Ocean Development, the relocated port and the Albany development.

Report

■ **From A1**
 Cross and St Margaret's, *The Guardian* was told.

While the modified report, according to sources, calls for a change in the name of Holy Cross to Seabreeze, St Margaret's will, for the next general poll, be eradicated as a constituency.

Final modifications to the Commission's report were said to have been ironed out Monday night during a meeting of Christie's inner circle at his Cable Beach home. It was unclear whether there were changes recommended for the number of constituencies, which now stands at 40.

The tabling of the document will make way for the governing Progressive Liberal Party to ratify and name its candidates for the election, as party officials have said its candidate selection was in part contingent on the Commission's report.

Meanwhile, present PLP Holy Cross MP Sidney Stubbs was still being labeled as the only majority incumbent that will not get a nomination.

Stubbs lost his appeal after being embroiled in a number of reported scandals, including a bankruptcy declaration, for which he was eventually cleared.

Although reports reaching *The Guardian* indicate Stubbs was still campaigning in the constituency, a source close to the party said most of his campaign generals had jumped ship and thrown their support behind Attorney Hope Strachan, whom the PLP candidates committee has reportedly ratified as

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **JAMES JULMIS**, of 6 Apple Street, Nassau, The Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for Registration/Naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 14th day of March, 2007, to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147 Nassau, Bahamas.

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