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Ambition and motivation

The Georgette and Wallace Groves Foundation was established in memory of Freeport's founders, and was funded by the generosity of their estates. The Foundation's original mission was to assist in the care and maintenance of Freeport's Garden of the Groves, a botanical garden created in honour of Georgette and Wallace Groves. In 1996, the Foundation agreed to sell the Garden of the Groves to the Grand Bahama Development Company Ltd. as part of a plan to bring Parrot Jungle of Miami to Freeport.

Following the sale of the garden, members of the Groves family and the Foundation's Trustees decided to commit the Foundation's capital for a scholarship programme to assist students from Grand Bahama island in the pursuit of a university education. The Trustees evaluated several other scholarship programmes already operating in The Bahamas and found that while numerous grants were being awarded, most did not provide adequate funds to make a significant impact on the cost of four years of university in the United States.

In 1997, the Foundation established a programme to award a limited number of scholarships to selected students for up to 50 per cent of the tuition expenses to earn a Bachelor's Degree in their study of choice. To date the Foundation has granted over \$200,000 in scholarships to Bahamian students from Grand Bahama. The scholarships are awarded with the hope that upon completing their education, the recipients will eventually return to The Bahamas and apply their new skills and knowledge for the benefit of all Bahamians. In addition to the Universities of Oklahoma and Richmond, scholarship students are currently enrolled at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Baylor University, Macalester College, Methodist College, Florida International University, Liberty University, Oklahoma State University and the College of The Bahamas.

The scholarship recipients are pursuing a diverse range of studies, including health care, teaching, computer technology, pre-medicine and the sciences. The Foundation's Trustees are pleased and proud of the students' achievements and feel that providing the opportunity for higher education to the students of Grand Bahama has been and will continue to be a way to honour Georgette and Wallace Groves.

On Monday seven more Bahamian students were the recipients of assistance from the Georgette Groves Scholarship Fund, with the presentations being made at a special luncheon meeting of the Grand Bahama American Women's Club at Freeport's Ruby Swiss Restaurant by Gloria McGlone, who directs the club's fund-raising. She told the luncheon that the club sends letters into the community requesting students in need of financial assistance to write to the club ... "Just letting us know that their goal is furthering their education and bringing whatever they learn back to the community: that is what is the important thing."

On May 10 we published a touching letter from T. J. Nixon - a Bahamian student studying abroad - who expressed concern about the future of young men in the Bahamian society. He was troubled by what he perceived as so much being done for young women and not, in his view, enough being done for the young men. The fact is that the young men are just as free to apply for scholarships as are the young women. The real problem seems to be that too many young men are missing the boat while the young women - motivated by ambition and energised by opportunity - are missing no opportunity to forge ahead at full speed.

Dear Editor:

On Sunday morning, April 29, I visited Taino Beach Park. I was horrified to find that it looked like the day after the Holocaust. Apparently the park played host to several functions the day before and the park's guests left a terrible mess in their wake. There were styrofoam plates stacked with greasy food scraps and bones, dirty plastic forks, sticky soda spilling out of overturned cans, crushed styrofoam cups, candy and chip wrappers, used pampers, ripped up boxes of various sizes, a foil pan with some left over pieces of macaroni and cheese, and on and on...Someone had even dumped out a pot of peas 'n' rice on the ground within 30 feet of the dumpster. Now come on. This is difficult enough to read about. Can you imagine how I felt looking at such squalor? And check the menu. Tourists were not responsible for this. The really disgusting thing was that as I walked around there were five big buzzards picking and flapping through the mess. This is where we bring our children to play?

There happened to be an employee of Sanitation Services also surveying the scene. He assured me that they would have the park clean in a couple of days. I appreciated his concern, but Sanitation Services is not the point. Our community helpers should not have to waste their time picking up garbage that shouldn't be on the ground in the first place. Do we allow our children to trash the home because good ole mom and dad are going to have it clean in a couple of days? The job of Sanitation Services is to empty the dumpster and the garbage cans, which they have on Taino Beach. We, the people, are responsible for getting the garbage into the cans. It must be that all of those prominent garbage receptacles are invisible on Saturdays.

I have always been impressed with what a spiritually strong, Christian country this is. However, we are so taken with our religious

fervour that we seem to be forgetting one of the most practical aspects of Christianity, and that is keeping God's world beautiful! It is possible to come together, enjoy good food, beer, loud music, and still remember your manners and respect nature.

As I understand it, Taino Beach Park is owned by the Port Authority and managed by the Freeport City Council. Now, if you were the Port Authority and your property was not being maintained to your satisfaction, you just might take it away and give it to someone else - a foreign developer for example. You see? We had better get our act together, especially when you consider the fact that Taino Beach Park is the only public beach park Freeport has to offer its citizens. I challenge Burton Miller and his City Council to do the following:

1. Post the park rules and the penalties for breaking the rules.
2. Hire a uniformed Park Superintendent equipped with a cellphone (for calling the police) to be there (especially on weekends) to enforce the rules.
3. Require groups that are having official functions to register in advance.
4. Hire someone to maintain the bathrooms properly. When the bathrooms were first built, they were always spotlessly clean and consistently locked at night so there was less vandalism. There seems to be a new janitorial service which often leaves the bathrooms unclean and locked during the day.
5. Put a phone in a well-lit, central location. The phone was on the wall of the bath house but it was ripped out so many times that I think BaTelCo finally gave up.

I would like to thank Sanitation Services and the police for their diligence in maintaining a clean, orderly public park. Please, let's help ourselves by helping them.

Eugenia Yeuell

Kindergarten Teacher

Freeport, Grand Bahama
May 14, 2001

Positive curve

Dear Editor:

I appreciate the welcoming comments in *The Freeport News* editorial on Thursday, May 10, 2001. I am particularly pleased with

recognition given to Mr. Rodger Johnson.

Mr. Johnson served the company as Director of Transmission and Distribution for 16 years. I encouraged Mr. Johnson to
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