

STAR

"The Newspaper That Cares And Dares To Bring Out The Truth"



No. 126

Sunday, 9th September 2007

Price \$1.00

Taxi Driver, Polo Waight, Brutally Murdered

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, September 6, 2007:

The San Ignacio/Santa Elena community woke up last Saturday morning, September 1, 2007 to the shocking news of the brutal shooting death of one its veteran and popular taxi drivers.

It was shortly after 8:00 a.m. last Saturday morning when San Ignacio Police were alerted to the presence of the dead body of a male person on the side of an isolated road in an area due north of the Cahal Pech Village Resort in San Ignacio Town.

When the police arrived on the scene they came upon the lifeless body of 47-year old, Belizean taxi driver, **Leopoldo "Polo" Austin Waight** of #4 - 4th Street, San Ignacio Town, with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the head and another to the upper mid section of the body.

One relative said that she observed what appeared to be the marks of a vehicle tire across the right hand of the deceased thereby suggesting that at the very least his hand might have been run over by a vehicle quite possibly his own car.

After conducting a preliminary forensic examination of the scene, the body was removed and transported to the San Ignacio Town Hospital where it was officially pronounced dead.

A postmortem examination conducted, on Monday, September 3, by Forensic Specialist, **Dr. Mario Estradaban** certified that Polo Waight died as a consequence of *"Trauma shock multiple injuries to head and chest due to shotgun"*.

Polo was laid to rest inside the Santa Rita Cemetery in San Ignacio

Town after funeral services at St. Andrews Anglican Church in San Ignacio at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007.

Polo is survived by his common-law wife of 28 years, **Yolanda Martinez Coyoc**; two daughters: **Aidi Waight** and **Lucecita Martinez Waight**; four sons: **Leopoldo Austin Waight Jr.**, **Gilbert**, **Eluid**, and **Anthony Michael Waight**. He is also survived by five sisters

Michaela Zetina and **Octavia Craney** residing in California, USA; **Dorlina Taylor** residing in Northern Ireland as well as **Desol Neal** residing in Santa Elena, Cayo, and **Doris Wollacott** residing in San Ignacio Cayo. He is also survived by three brothers **Eluid Cruz**, **Alfonso Cruz** and **Lyle Waight Jr.**

Polo is predeceased by his parents and one brother **Lyle Waight** and **Madgalena Zetina** and **Clifton "Bill" Waight** respectively.

Police investigations revealed that Polo, who was known to be a nighttime taxi operator, was about his regular business driving his Blue Toyota Camry car with license plates, CY-D 3276 on Friday night and probably even into the early morning hours on Saturday, September 1, 2007 when his service was



Leopoldo "Polo" Austin Waight, 47
SUNRISE: September 23, 1959
SUNSET: September 1, 2007

reportedly engaged by four persons after which he was not seen alive again until the gruesome discovery of his dead body on Saturday morning.

Reports reaching us indicated that even before the body was found, a resident from Branch Mouth Road was walking into town and upon reaching the drive-in area at Hode's Restaurant on Savannah Street, he found the deceased's drivers license on the street. He immediately recognized the picture on the license and continued on his way into San Ignacio stopping off at the Savannah Taxi stand where he handed the driver's license to a taxi driver who was on the stand at the time requesting that the license be handed over to its owner. When the gruesome discovery became public knowledge,

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Cayo's New Deputy Police Commander

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Wednesday, September 5, 2007:

After being without a Deputy Commander for several months following the interdiction from duty of **ASP Jeffery Martinez** in connection with a road traffic accident which claimed the life of the son of a police Sergeant, the Cayo (Police) District this week is welcoming a replacement Deputy Commanding Officer in the person of **Inspector of Police Eugenio Sylvestre Fuentes**.

During his twenty one-year career in the Belize Police Department Inspector Fuentes has served in the



Insp. of Police Eugenio S. Fuentes

Please Turn To Page 11



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Taxi Driver, Polo Waight, Brutally Murdered

Continued From Front Page

the taxi driver handed over the license to the police. Reports reaching us indicate that several other pieces of documents including the vehicle's insurance paper and receipts were found in the area of Hodes Place in the Savannah area. A close relative informed that the information reaching her indicate that it was probably Polo who began throwing these documents out the car window in an effort to raise the alarm that he was in danger.

Although some witnesses are saying that he was last seen alive at around 3:00 a.m. or maybe even up to 4:00 a.m. that Saturday morning at

least on relative is however contending that the incident could have occurred much earlier even up to around 9:30 p.m. on Friday, August 31. This relative is also of the opinion that robbery could have been the motive behind the death as he was reportedly in possession of no less than five 100 dollar bills of which not even a dime was found in his possession. His cellular telephone and his car were also missing. The relative is further contending that the terrible act could have been conducted by someone that the deceased knew especially since the deceased was fully aware of the dangers involved in operating a nighttime taxi service and as such he



The Toyota Camry CY-D 3276 At The San Ignacio Police Station

would refuse all requests for service by individual he did not actually know.

It was not until 3 days later, on Tuesday, September 3, that the car was found abandoned on the road leading to the village of Cristo Rey on the outskirts of Santa Elena Town.

Up to press time this Thursday

night, several persons have been detained, questioned and released as police continue the search for that single crack needed to bring those responsible to justice. The assistance from the general public is requested. Anyone with information is asked to contact the nearest police station.



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Early Morning Robbery At 8 & 8 Supermarket

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, September 5, 2007:

Another Santa Elena Chinese Shopkeeper today fell victim to a brazen early morning robbery.

The single surveillance camera inside the Chinese 8 & 8 Supermarket on Bishop Martin Street in Santa Elena captured the entire incident and clocked it between 8:55 and 8:59 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th September 2007.

The four-minute camera footage showed two masked men, one peddling a bicycle and the other on the handle bar, riding directly off the street and into the shop. The one on the handle bar held a shotgun while the other was in possession of a large dark blue traveling bag.

The armed gunman slid off the handle bar directly in front of the cashier placing the gun to his head and demanded money. He then moved over to a young Belizean male employee who was standing at the front door. He placed the gun to the employee's head and shoved him face downwards to the floor. He then moved over to a little Chinese boy who was standing on the other side of the front door and did likewise with him.

The gunman then moved behind the counter and began helping himself to several packs of Phillies cigars which

he threw into the open bag held by the accomplice who was standing on the other side of the low counter. The gunman then moved to the set of drawers behind the counter and began emptying them, the contents of which he threw into the open bag. The cashier complied with their request and handed over everything that was inside the cash register.

The masked robbers then rushed out of the store, hopped on the bicycle and sped off with the gun totting robber assuming his original position on the handle bar. They rode down Bishop Martin Street onto Perez Street and headed towards the Trapiche area.

After they departed, the young Belizean male shop assistant who was forced to the floor sprang up and set chase behind them on foot. Along the trail, in the roadside bushes, he came upon one of the masks that is believed to have been discarded by one of the robbers. When the police arrived, they were directed to the area where the robbers had fled and with the assistance of at least one member of the public, they were directed to an unfinished cement bungalow structure located about 100 yards off George Price Avenue in a bushy area.

At first, the policemen, with only one armed element in their midst, were hesitant to venture into the area. However, when they entered the



The scene of the crime - Chinese 8 & 8 Supermarket on Bishop Martin Street, Santa Elena, Cayo

structure they came upon one of the robbers still holding the shotgun and with the dark blue traveling bag at his feet.

Probably unaware that the police were handicapped, he offered no resistance and surrendered. A search of the bag revealed almost all of the items reported stolen including cash, cigars, telephone cards, a camera and a handheld computer.

The gunman was identified as **Joel Sierra**, 16, of #7 Cemetery Street, Santa Elena. He was immediately detained and transported along with the gun and travel bag to the San Ignacio police station.

Further investigation led, shortly thereafter, to the detention of **Edwin**

Nigel McKoy, 18, Belizean laborer of a Santa Cruz, Santa Elena address.

The two suspects were placed inside separate holding cells at the San Ignacio police station. It was after 9:00 p.m. that same Wednesday night when police reportedly found the bottom section of the cell door in which Sierra was housed, to be bent outwards and upon checking they found out that Sierra was nowhere inside the cell and therefore listed as an escaped prisoner.

Those at the senior rank of the local police detachment are still baffled as to how a detainee, who is not even allowed to enter the cell with his shoes and not even a plastic fork

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SYNERGY PROMOTIONS PRESENTS

Soca INVASION

AN EARTH DAY BASH

FEATURING OSCAR B
FORMERLY OF BYRON LEE & THE DRAGONAIRES

SUPA P
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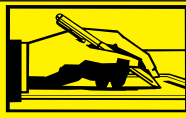
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ADM/DOOR

LIVE INSIDE CAHAL PECH NIGHT CLUB



Editorial



"STAR Like To Write, We Will Give Him Something To Write About" says the police.

This section of the newspaper is usually reserved for the expression of personal opinions and the forwarding of suggestions usually on current issues of general importance.

This week however, we deviate from the normal as the week just gone was no normal week.

It all started off with Saturday morning's reported discovery of the lifeless body of San Ignacio Taxi Driver **Leopoldo "Polo" Waight** and the subsequent detention of my younger brother for questioning in connection with the incident.

His detention was followed by the leaking of misleading information leading to widespread speculation.

In particular the **TOTALLY** untruthful leaked statement that my brother was found in possession of a cellular telephone belonging to the deceased.

Then the police, with obvious intent at getting at the **STAR** for whatever reason, began to allow that bias to dangerously hamper the investigation to the point where they witnessed the post mortem examination and received the forensic report but none of them saw the obvious flaw on the report which any skillfull attorney could use to secure a not guilty plea against a client.

Notwithstanding, the police, unable to withhold their bias, began to openly flaunt the statement, *"STAR like to write - We will give him something to write about - Even if da noh you du it, we will pin this murder pan you and mek yu breda write about that"*.

Writing is our business - we don't **"like to write"** in fact **we actually LOVE to write.** We can sit here all night on Wednesdays and Thursdays, like we've been doing for the past seven years, and write from sunset to sunrise.

Amidst the mountain of misinformation, we know that those who faithfully buy and read the **STAR** every week will be looking forward to reading what we have to write on this matter as it was the talk of the town.

The situation shifted drastically when it became obvious that the police were indeed serious about *"giving the STAR something to write about"* and in the process putting an innocent man down all because he is guilty of being related to the publisher of this newspaper.

It is therefore for this purpose, that we will share with you the correspondence we wrote to the Commissioner of Police. It was copied to our legal advisor, the Ombudsman and every single one of those policemen named in the correspondence as we did not want

them to feel like we were doing anything behind their backs.

Many of you have heard the talking on the street that **"Da STAR Breda Kill Polo"** Some of you have approached us personally and inquired if this was so. Others have looked at us with suspicion. Therefore, it is only fitting that we provide you with a full account of what actually transpired and the best way to do so is by sharing with you the full correspondence we wrote to the Commissioner of Police as follows:

Dear Mr. Commissioner;

I write in respect of the following report.

CAYO POLICE INVESTIGATE APPARENT MURDER

San Ignacio Police are investigating the apparent death of a 48 year old taxi driver of San Ignacio Town. Sometime around 8am of today, Saturday September 1st., Police acting upon information received, visited an area north of Cahal Pech Resort where they observed the apparent lifeless body of a male person lying face down on the ground with apparent gunshot injuries to the head and back. Said individual was transported to the San Ignacio Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival and identified as 48 year old Leopoldo Waight. Initial investigations reveal that Waight was driving his blue Toyota Camry taxi in San Ignacio when he picked up four passengers and was not seen again. Police are investigating and have not yet recovered the car. Anyone with information is asked to please call the Police or Crime Stoppers.

G. Michael Reid Police Press Officer 227-2222 ext. 302"

As a result of the above police press report for Saturday 1st September 2007, the police requested my assistance to get my younger brother as he was needed for questioning. I immediately contacted him at his home in the Maxboro community on the Northern Highway.

STAR
NEWSPAPER

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Santa Elena Town,
Cayo District, Belize,
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I related the incident to him and he denied any involvement. His denial meant very little to me and I made that known to him. I told him to come to San Ignacio and that I will leave it up to the police to tell me if he was or was not involved in the crime. He agreed to come to San Ignacio and to make himself available to the police for questioning.

He was at my home in Santa Elena at 8:00 a.m. that Sunday morning. I immediately contacted the police and they told me to wait until 11:00 a.m. at which time I should bring him to the police station.

We showed up at the police station at exactly 11:00 where I left him. I told him to call me as soon as the interview was completed so that I could return for him.

When he did not call at around 2:30 p.m. (being a full 3 1/2 hours later) I inquired at the station and I was told that he was still being interviewed by Special Branch and Crimes Investigation Branch personnel. I visited the station 4 hours later, at 3:00 p.m. and was told that the interview had just been completed and that he would *"soon be released as there was one detail that needed verification"*.

I waited around the police station for about an hour after which I left



Sgt. #1 Enrique Aldana

to begin preparations for the approaching hurricane.

When I arrived at the police station a few hours later, I came upon the police searching him and getting ready to lock him away. Nevertheless, I was told that his story checked out and that he would be released but that **Sgt. #1 Enrique Aldana**, who heads the local Crimes Investigation Branch, wanted to speak to him before his release. I was told that Aldana was on his way from Corozal as he was coming in due to the threat of the hurricane and that he would have been at the station by 7:00 p.m.

It was after 8:00 p.m. when Aldana finally arrived. I waited at the station for another 2 hours and when I inquired, Aldana told me that my

Please Turn To Page 9

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It Was Not Cozy At Cozy Corner Last Saturday Night

SANTA ELENA, Cayo, Saturday, September 1, 2007:

It was exactly 10:45 p.m., on Saturday, September 1, 2007 when a group of masked armed gunmen stormed into Cosy Corner Bar and proceeded to rob the owner and customers of the establishment.

According to **Hayden Rodriguez**, owner of the Bar, he was sitting with some customers under one of the palapas on the lawn in front of the establishment, when he got up and entered the building to change the music. He proceeded behind the counter and was only there for about 15 minutes when one of the waitresses ran inside and shouted **“Ladrones”** (thieves) by the time he attempted to turn around one of two gunmen who rushed into the bar held a shotgun to his head and told him **“don’t move pussy”**. He then proceeded to search Rodriguez’ pocket and in the process relieved him of a V3I red Motorola Razor cellular telephone (valued at \$850.), a bunch of receipts and his wallet containing \$450.00, his learners driver’s permit, social security card, voters identification card, Scotia and Atlantic Bank cards, his daughter’s birth certificate and other documents.

Shortly thereafter two other masked gunmen entered into the bar with all the clients whom they had rounded up from the outside. All clients were



Scene of the Crime - Cosy Corner Bar

relieved of their cash, cellular telephones and jewelry.

Three of the gunmen were armed with shotguns while the fourth was armed with a short firearm believed to be a point 38 revolver.

One of the gunmen then ordered the cashier to go behind the counter and open the cash register. It took her a while to activate the button and he told her to hurry up. He subsequently took possession of the 90 to 95 dollars in cash that was inside the register. One of them then helped himself to Rodriguez’ white pants that he had purchased the day before which was laying on a shelf under the counter.

One of them took four sealed Belikin beers out of the freezer along with an opened one that was on the

counter which one of the waitresses had taken out to serve to a customer. He also took a dish of retail cigarettes from under the counter along with some CD’s

One of them then ordered the others to **“Let’s Go”** and they all rushed out of building but not before one of them punched one of the waitresses in the neck area.

They ran behind the building where they boarded a gray, open back, single cab Tacoma pickup truck and sped off into the darkness

Although this bar has been jacked several times, Rodriguez informed that this is the first time that the establishment has been attacked since his taking over the business almost three months ago.

“Everything happened so fast” said Rodriguez **“It only took them about 3 to 4 minutes to pull off the robbery”** concluded Rodriguez.

Up to press time this Thursday night, an arrest is yet to be made, as police continue to investigate.

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Mayor John August Visits Hospitals & Senior Citizen Center

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Friday September 7, 2007:

Keeping the tradition of his administration alive, today San Ignacio/Santa Elena's **Mayor John Francis August** made the rounds as part of the program of events for the September Season.

Mayor August today made the first stop at La Loma Luz Hospital in Santa Elena where he was met by the **Hospital's Administrator, Grant McPherson** with whom he held brief discussions while donating a 10 speed Sun Beam Blender to the hospital.

Mr. McPherson took the opportunity to brief the Mayor on this weekend's arrival of some 22 specialists from Denver, Colorado to conduct medical services at La Loma Luz Hospital. He said that the team is scheduled to arrive on Sunday, September 9 and will provide services right up to Friday, September 14. The



(L-R) Councilor Bernadette Andrews-Fernandez; Administrator Grant McPherson, Mayor John F. August and Deputy Mayor Eduardo "Eddy" Cano

hospital expects these visits to be conducted on a semi-annual basis and, according to Mr. McPherson, this undertaking is certainly not intended to disrupt services provided

by local medical professionals but rather to cater for those persons who are unable to otherwise pay for them. Mr. McPherson also took the opportunity to brief the Mayor on the

wheelchair program. He informed that since the inception of the project, almost 400 wheel chairs have been donated to needy individuals. The next round of wheelchair donations, he said, will include 25 going to the Octavia Waight Center for Senior Citizens and an additional 5 going to the San Ignacio Hospital.

The Mayor's next stop was at the Octavia Waight Center where he donated a wide assortment of grocery and other food items. He also took the opportunity to discuss with administrators of the Center and to interact with residents.

The final stop on the tour was at the San Ignacio Hospital where he donated kitchen appliances and linen. He also held brief discussions with hospital administrators.

During these visits, **Mayor John August** was accompanied by Deputy Mayor **Eduardo "Eddy" Cano** and Councilor **Bernadette Andrews-Fernandez**.

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FEATURING OSCAR B
FORMERLY OF BYRON LEE & THE DRAGONAIRES

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LIVE INSIDE CAHAL PECH NIGHT CLUB



STAR HUMOR



The Things Our Children Say

SUBMITTED BY: Hilberto Castillo

A kindergarten pupil told his teacher he'd found a cat, but it was dead.

"How do you know that the cat was dead?" she asked her pupil.

"Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move," answered the child innocently.

"You did WHAT?!" the teacher exclaimed in surprise.

"You know," explained the boy, "I leaned over and went 'Pssst!' and it didn't move."

A little boy is sent to bed by his father.

Five minutes later....."Da-ad...."

"What?"

"I'm thirsty. Can you bring drink of water?"

"No, You had your chance. Lights out."

Five minutes later:
"Da-aaaad....."

"WHAT?"

"I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water??"

"I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to spank you!!"

Five minutes later..."Da-aaa-aaaad....."

"WHAT!"

"When you come in to spank me, can you bring a drink of water?"

One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part of the story where Chicken Little tried to warn the farmer. She read, ".... and so Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, 'The sky is falling, the sky is falling!'"

The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?"

One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said: 'Holy Shit! A talking chicken!'"

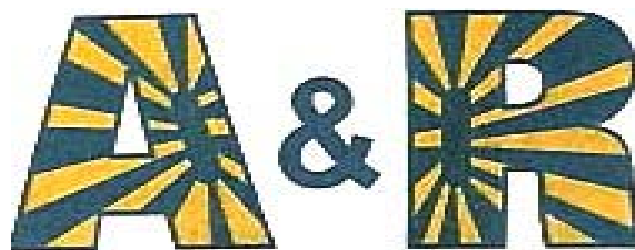
The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

A little girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Mr. Thimpson's daughter."

Her mother told her this was wrong, she must say, "I'm Jane Thompson."

The Pastor spoke to her in Sunday School, and said, "Aren't you Mr. Thompson's daughter?"

She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."



The Management and Staff
of **A&R**

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the 209th Anniversary of the
Battle of St. George's Caye Day 2007.

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"STAR Like To Write, We Will Give Him Something To Write About" says the police.

Continued From Page 4

brother would remain in police lock up under investigation in connection with the crime.

Given that he was extensively interviewed and that he could not be implicated, although it seemed unfair at that point, there was not much that could be done because the police are within their legal rights to hold anyone for 48 hours. By this time they were fully aware that my brother was in no way linked to the crime. However, it was evident that Aldana instead elected to abuse this legally afforded privilege.

When it became even more evident by the evening hours on Monday, 3rd September that my brother was not the person they were looking for, armed with the detailed voluntary statement my brother gave them, **Sgt. Enrique Aldana** aided and abetted by Special Branch **Corporal #637 Dalton Sanchez** went around town looking for one **Miguel Angel Aguilar** a taxi driver with whom my brother had an exchange of harsh words three days earlier (during the evening hours on Friday, 31st August). Aldana and Sanchez located Aguilar and brought him to the station. They questioned him about the encounter he had with my brother and got him to give a statement against my brother promising that, on the basis of his statement, they would press charges against my brother.

The situation with Aguilar, Mr. Commissioner, is that about a month ago he purchased a car from my brother for the agreed price of \$2,500 for which he paid \$2,100 up front on the promise to pay the remaining \$400.00 in two week's time from the proceeds he earned while using the car as a taxi cab.

It was into the third week when my brother requested that I collect the remaining \$400. from Aguilar and deposit it into his account. When I asked Aguilar about the balance he told me that he would not pay any more money and that he wanted to speak to my brother because, in his words ***"Danny sold me a piece of shi"***. I conveyed Aguilar's message to my brother who told me that he would come to San Ignacio and personally collect his money from Aguilar.

He came to San Ignacio that Friday evening and met Aguilar at the Savannah Taxi stand where he normally hangs out. There was indeed an exchange of harsh words between my brother and Aguilar.

The fact of the matter Mr. Commissioner is, if Aguilar was of the opinion that he was insulted or even threatened by my brother, that Friday evening, why on earth did he not immediately report the matter to the police that same Friday evening or

maybe during the entire course of the day on Saturday, or maybe Sunday or even up to Monday. Why did it take for Sgt. Aldana and Corporal Sanchez to convince Aguilar that he was **"Insulted"** or **"Threatened"** and in the process extracted a statement from him? It appears to be evident here that Aguilar was fully aware that he was confronted by an individual to whom he was indebted and that this person was seeking due payment. **Mr. Commissioner, if Aldana and Sanchez' action is not tantamount to malicious prosecution, then pray tell, what is?**

The unfortunate aspect of the action on the part of Aldana and Sanchez, Mr. Commissioner is that these are no ordinary policemen. These two individuals are at the helm of this community's all important Crimes Investigation Branch and Special Branch respectively with junior officers under their supervision. It is often said that we lead by example. Is this the kind of example that they are giving to those under their supervision?

Getting back to the issue at hand Mr. Commissioner; with the threat of hurricane Felix, I had to rush to Belize City on Monday evening to take care of my brother's family as, being in police lock up, he could not do so himself. Whilst in Belize City I also took the opportunity to enlist the services of **Attorney Richard Stuart** on instructions that he ensure that my brother not be detained beyond the legal 48 hours without being formally arrested and charged especially as I have made it known to my brother that if he is found to be involved in the crime then he **MUST** face the music at which point I would be drawing out of the matter altogether.

I returned to San Ignacio at around 8:00 p.m. and drove straight to the San Ignacio Police Station where asked if they would accept food for him. This was when **Sgt #10 Mark Augustine** told me that my brother was transported to Belmopan. My inclination was that transporting detainees to Belmopan might just be a part of the police hurricane emergency plan. However, I found out that this was not the case as he was the only one from among all the other detainees for this treatment. At this point my concern was heightened given the fact that the Belmopan police station is subordinate to the Cayo Police formation and with my brother's transfer to Belmopan obviously having nothing to do with the threat of the hurricane, then the probable next reason for the transfer is that he might indeed be involved in the crime and that he would be further questioned by senior officers from the National Crimes Investigation Branch at the Police Headquarters level.

Realizing that communication between myself and Sgt. Aldana had deteriorated and that the Officer Commanding Cayo (Police) District **Sr. Supt. David Henderson**, showed extremely poor management and decision making skills, as confirmed by the final outcome of this matter, I called the Police Press Officer, **G. Michael Reid** requesting that he ask yourself and **Sr. Supt James Magdaleno** to return my call. I requested to speak to Mr. Magdaleno, as he is normally pressed into action on matters of this magnitude and with the feeling that he might have been the one who actually requested for my brother to be brought to Belmopan for further questioning. Within minutes Mr. Magdaleno was on the line. I related my concern to him. He said that he was fully aware of the crime. I was utterly surprised however when he told me that he had absolutely no knowledge of my brother's transfer to Belmopan. He promised to look into the matter.

I contacted Mr. Magdaleno again on Tuesday morning. He told me that he had directed Belmopan's CIB **Sgt. Sinquest Martinez** to check into the matter. He also informed that **Attorney Richard Stuart** had also contacted him on the same matter.

The overriding concern here, Mr. Commissioner, is that the legally stipulated 48 hours detention period elapsed at 11:00 a.m on Tuesday morning and when I contacted the Belmopan police station 6 hours later at 5:00 p.m, I was told that my brother was **STILL** in lock up at the Belmopan police station. Since there is no point in questioning Belmopan police on a matter like this as they would never know, I resigned myself to the thought that my brother was connected to the crime and that he was therefore formally arrested and charged as ***(still giving them the benefit of the doubt)*** the police would not engage themselves in such a blatant abuse of a citizen's constitutional rights.

Then a sense of uneasiness overtook me between 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. - **If my little brother was arrested and charged for any crime connected to the murder of another human being- then I could not go to sleep without knowing so.** I picked up the telephone and contacted Sr. Supt. Magdaleno. Imagine my surprise when Mr. Magdaleno told me that he had apprised himself of the situation and that it was determined that my brother had nothing to do with the murder of **Lepolodo Waight**. He said that had issued instructions for my brother to be released. He informed however that San Ignacio police told him that they will be arresting and charging him for ***"Insulting or threatening words committed against someone with whom he had a harsh exchange and that he was transported to San Ignacio"***. Mr.

Magdaleno was surprised when I told him that my brother was **STILL** in custody at the Belmopan Police station. The conversation ended with him promising to look into the matter.

"Insulting or threatening words" Mr. Commissioner, is a charge that, had it not been for the obvious vindictive and childish behavior on the part of Sgt. Aldana and Corporal Sanchez, my brother could have gotten a simple police bail today instead of spending yet another night in jail.

My general concern on this matter, Mr. Commissioner, is that I feel utterly betrayed by **Henderson, Aldana and Sanchez** in this matter when I, as a good citizen, was of the opinion that I was doing my civic duty in delivering brother to them to assist in the investigation of this serious crime, in the end only to be treated in such an utterly disrespectful and degrading manner. I feel further betrayed Mr. Commissioner, when one of their own colleagues told me that Aldana and Sanchez took my brother to Belmopan ***to make it hard for me to bring food for him and that they will make sure that he eats jail food.***

Mr. Commissioner, this has been a tough learning experience for me and quite frankly I have lost **ALL** respect for Aldana and Sanchez especially with them going around saying that they ***"Want the STAR to write this"*** Mr. Commissioner, as you are aware, I take **SEROUSLY** the commitment to all those persons who spend their \$1.00 each week to purchase a **STAR Newspaper** and you can bet your bottom dollar that if my brother was found to be involved in the senseless murder of that taxi driver, he would have been right up there on the headlines of the **STAR Newspaper**. However, I certainly do not and will never appreciate the likes of Aldana and Sanchez acting in such an unprofessional, immature and vindictive manner.

Other relatives of mine have had to endure similar hardships as in the case of another brother who was locked up for a whole day all because he was found riding a bicycle up a one way street when other persons committing these offences are merely issued with a ticket. Fortunately, the presiding magistrate saw through the abuse and dismissed the charge as in her view he should have never been locked up for an hour much less an entire day for such a simple offence.

Mr. Commissioner, my brothers are no saints and like I always tell them:- At the STAR we don't make the news – All we do is write the news. So the choice is theirs.

On a final note Mr. Commissioner with the continued presence of Aldana and Sanchez at this formation, **it will take a very, very, very long time for the wounds of this betrayal to heal.** With All Due Respect
**s/Alberto August
STAR Publisher**

Early Morning Robbery At 8 & 8 Supermarket

Continued From Page 3

to eat the food he gets from the outside, could have managed to bend those solid burglar bars without the policemen on duty being alerted of the violation taking place.

San Ignacio police has subsequently issued an APB (All Points Bulletin) and are seeking the public's assistance in the recapture of this escaped prisoner whom they also believe could assist them in the investigation of several incidents in and around the Santa Elena area.

At the time of the robbery, the store owner, **Zhao Zheng Rong**, 37, Belizean Chinese merchant of the same address, was not present at the store. After the incident his cousin, the cashier, called him and told him about it. He then placed a call to the police and reported the incident to them after which he sped off to his store with the policemen arriving a few minutes later.

Store owner Zhao Zheng Rong reported that apart from the cigars, camera and handheld computer, the robbers made off with about \$2,300

in cash and about \$1,500 in Digicell and Smart pre-paid telephone cards.



Joel Sierra, 16



Edwin Nigel McKoy, 18



The shotgun and 4 cartridges now in Police Custody

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Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Burns and family
join with the Staff of Hode's Place
in taking time out to give due
thanks and praises to the Almighty
for having spared our wonderful nation
from the effects of not one but two
potentially catastrophic category 5 hurricanes
over the past two weeks.

As we enter into the second half
of this year's hurricane season which
has been predicted to be a very
active one, let us take time out to continue
asking the Almighty to always keep
us safe from these natural phenomenoms.

With Best Wishes from the
Management & Staff of Hode's Place.

Cox Solid Waste Management Ltd.

1456 Trench Town, Kontiki Area, San Ignacio Town, Cayo

Telephone #: 804-3481

Fax: 824-3487



The Management & Staff of
Cox Solid Waste Management Ltd.
take this opportunity to extend
warm greetings to Belizeans at home
and abroad on the occasion of the
209th Anniversary of the
Battle of St. George's Caye Day.

As we go about participating and
enjoying the various activities for the
festive occasion let us do so in a safe
and responsible manner remembering
at all times to exercise our civic pride by
placing garbage in its rightful place as
together we each do our part to keep our
respective communities clean.

Happy 10th September to ALL!!!!
From the Management & Staff of
Cox Solid Waste Management Ltd.

Benque Viejo Police Nab Gas Station Robbers

BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, September 5, 2007:

Swift action on the part of Benque Viejo Police today led to the apprehension of three male persons suspected to be involved in the robbery of a Texaco Gas Station in that municipality.

Police reports that it was shortly after 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, when they responded to reports of a robbery in progress at the Texaco Gas Station located at the corner of Victoria and George Streets in Benque Viejo Town.

Upon arrival, the police team saw three male persons fleeing the area. The police immediately set chase and saw when all three of them jumped into the nearby Mopan River and began swimming across. Despite the darkness in the area police likewise jumped into the water resulting in the apprehension of two of the suspects.

An on-the-spot search one of the individuals led to the discovery of a magazine containing 9 live rounds of 9mm ammunition inside his pants pocket.

A search of the immediate area resulted in the discovery of a chrome 9mm pistol complete with a magazine containing an additional 9 live rounds of 9mm ammunition as well as a sawed off shotgun loaded with one live cartridge.

Not satisfied with having apprehended only two of the suspects, police extended the search to a wider area and in so doing, they came upon the third suspect, soaking wet and hiding in the bushes.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the men held up the gas station clerk and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash, BTL and Smart phone cards and several packs of cigarettes.

The detainees were identified as **Rafael Martinez**, 19 of a Benque Viejo Town address; **William Pagett Jr.**, 18, of a High Street address in Santa Elena Town and **Thomas Ivan Caretella Jr.**, 23, of a Cristo Rey Road, Santa Elena Town address.

All three suspects were transported to the police station in Benque Viejo Town where they were formally arrested and charged for the serious crimes of robbery, possession of unlicensed firearms, possession of a



Thomas Ivan Caretella Jr., 23

prohibited firearm (being the sawed off shotgun) and possession of unlicensed ammunition.

Prior today's detention, Thomas Caretella Jr., was out on bail in connection with the March 13, 2007 discovery, by San Ignacio police, of a pump action shotgun which was found inside a knapsack at a house near his residence on Cristo Rey Road in Santa Elena. In this incident, Caretella was arrested along with

Cayo's New Deputy Police Commander

Continued From Front Page

districts of Corozal, Orange Walk, Punta Gorda, Belize and Cayo.

In the Belize District his service was confined to the Belize City area. In the Cayo District he has served in Belmopan and now in San Ignacio. This is Inspector Fuentes' first tour of duty at the San Ignacio police station.

He comes to San Ignacio from Police Headquarters in Belmopan where he was serving as the Commander of the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center (JICC) a position he handed over to Sergeant Bert Boddien.

Inspector Fuentes is originally from Punta Gorda Town but grew up in the Libertad area of the Corozal District. He graduated from St. Francis Xavier College in Corozal and immediately upon graduating he entered the

teaching profession. He holds a first class teachers diploma and was a primary school teacher for five years before enlisting in the police department in 1986.

In a brief chat with us this afternoon, Inspector Fuentes informed that his teaching experience has served his well in his police career as it has sharpened his ability to interact with the community. He said that with vast experience in criminal investigation, he comes to San Ignacio with the humble desire and the will to serve the community to the very best of his ability.

Inspector Fuentes recently returned from El Salvador where he attended a senior management course along with counterparts from the entire Central American region. The objective of the course he said was for participants to realize that in terms of the interdiction of crime, and criminal activities the Central American region can be reduced in

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory
of a Dear Wife,
Mother & Grandmother

Sylvia Joanne Swift

Who passed away
ten sad years ago
on September 6, 1996

*Although you are gone,
your memory lingers on.
Not a single day goes
by without thinking about you.*

**Your family misses you
terribly!!!
Rest in Peace Mam.**

David Thomas, 31 and Edilberto Madrid, 19.

Officer Commanding Benque Viejo Police, **ASP Louise Willis** and members of the detachment under her command extends grateful appreciation to all those members of the community who assisted in the successful apprehension of all three suspects.

size as each participant remains a mere e-mail away from each other in the regional fight against crime.

We join with the rest of the community to welcome Inspector Fuentes and to wish him all the very best in his new post of service without fear, favor, ill-will or affection.

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Happy 10th September!!!

**From Mayor John August & Councilors
of San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town**



As we prepare to commemorate the 209th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye on Monday, September 10, 2007, please allow me to take this opportunity, on behalf of the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council to wish everyone, especially the residents of San Ignacio/Santa Elena a truly Happy, Safe and Enjoyable 10th September.

We encourage you to take part in the planned activities for the season and especially encourage you to participate in official ceremonies marking this historic occasion which begins at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, 9th September with the flag raising ceremony and fireworks display at the Columbus Park followed by a big jump up on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio.

Activities continue at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, 10th September at the Macal River Park with the Inspection of the Guard of Honor, Float Competition and Parade through the principal streets of San Ignacio and Santa Elena, culminating with a jump up also at the Macal River Park. We also encourage you to enter the float and best decorated vehicle competition to win cash prizes.

**Have a Happy, Safe and Enjoyable September Celebrations
from the Mayor, Councilors and Staff of the San Ignacio/Santa Elena
Town Council.**