

STAR

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



No. 146

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HERMAN GETS TWO YEARS FOR BURGLARY

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, March 18, 2008:

Herman Kenneth Bain, 38, Belizean laborer of a San Ignacio Town address, pleaded guilty to the charge of burglary in San Ignacio's Magistrate's Court today and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

The facts as presented in court by prosecutor **George Gomez** is that

sometime between Sunday, 6th and Monday 7th January 2008, the Movie R Us video rental store on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town was burglarized. According to the owner of the store, **Carla Castillo**, as she was preparing to reopen for business, on Monday, January 7, she observed that her store was burglarized and that entry was gained by the removal of

four louver blades from a window.

Upon checking **Ms. Castillo** noted that missing from her store were 40 DVD movies valued at \$400 and a white Coby DVD player valued at \$200 for total value of \$600.

Police investigation led to the arrest of **Herman Bain**. He pleaded guilty to the charge and when **magistrate Kathleen Lewis** asked if he had anything to say before she handed down sentence, **Bain** told the magistrate that he has a drug



Herman Kenneth Bain, 38

dependency problem and that he would like to go to jail "to take a break". He was subsequently sentenced to spend the next two years in jail.

"Belize Can Go Solar"

BY: Dr. Leo Antonio Obando MADRID SPAIN, Thursday March 6, 2008:

It is time to think seriously about the medium - long term benefits that Solar Energy can bring to developing countries like Belize - says **Dr. Leo Antonio Obando**, Belizean Ph.D. student at Complutense University in Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Obando adds - To think Solar, is to guarantee the economic future of Belize, as the number one country in sustainable development in the region and the number one leader against Global Warming. Solar Energy is the energy of the future. It is renewable, cleaner, cheaper and sustainable in the medium and long term.

We are looking at critical components of electrical supply in Belize which demands careful considerations, - says **Dr. Obando** - for example:

1) The electricity supply that is produced through the use of hydro dams in the Cayo District is polluting the biggest source of

drinkable fresh water in Belize. It is jeopardizing people, animal and plant life in the country.

2) These dams have a very short life span and soon will be producing zero electricity, while our rivers in the western and central regions of the country, will be totally destroyed and useless.

3) We do not and might never possess the resources to compensate nature for lost of biodiversity. The compensation is simply priceless!

Presently, we import a sizeable percentage of our electricity supply from Mexico; with the increase of oil prices on the international market, we can expect Mexico to increase its prices per kilowatt hour, thereby forcing the local provider, **BEL** (Belize Electricity Limited) to pass these increased onto Belizean consumers.

If we go solar - says **Dr. Obando** - we will be watching several birds with one eye (the people from the Audubon Society would

Please Turn To Page 15

Destroyed By Fire Near Police Booth

RED CREEK, Cayo, Saturday, March 15, 2008:

It's hard to miss the burnt remains of a vehicle near the permanent police checkpoint at Red Creek on the outskirts of Santa Elena.

In the absence of an official report, San Ignacio police can only say that Transport Department records indicate that the vehicle, bearing Cayo license plates **CY-C-19523**, was last registered in the name of a Belizean woman from the village of **Blackman Eddy** in the Cayo District. According



Remains of the burnt Ford Ranger

to the police, this person is currently in the United States of America.

Police are of the belief that relatives who were left to care for the

Please Turn To Page 15

GRAND OPENING

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Editorial



Increased Electricity Rates - UDP Manifesto Pledge - The War In Iraq - Municipal Elections, March 4, 2009

The Belize Electricity Limited's gift to new administration on its first month anniversary in Government comes in the form of a request for a hefty 15% increase in electricity rates. This request poses quite a challenge for **Prime Minister Dean Barrow** and his government.

The very first words in the United Democratic Party's Manifesto "*imagine the possibilities*" are "*We, the United Democratic Party, do hereby pledge to... Ease the cost of living by lowering electricity rates and telephone rates.*"

We can recall that no sooner had these words left the mouth of the prime minister to be, when they were met with thunderous applause on the occasion of the launching of the United Democratic Party's 21 pledges at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City. Simply put, the people of Belize came out early and in large numbers on February 7 and voted for a change of government primarily because they wanted an ease in the cost of living and nothing less.

We were on the campaign trail and on the political rostrums asking the people of Belize to vote for Dean Barrow and the United Democratic Party because we truly believed that the United Democratic Party has what it takes to "*ease the cost of living*" for the Belizean people.

With its firm pledge to lower electricity rates and with municipal elections less than 12 months away, the new UDP government can ill afford to approve any increase in electricity rates.

At the very heart of high prices worldwide is the raising cost of oil on the international market resulting primarily from the war in Iraq. It is therefore high time for the world to unite with one voice in calling for an end to this war.

The citizens of the world are paying dearly for this war. Let Belize begin by telling the Canadian shareholders of BEL/Fortis that we will not continue paying for the war in Iraq.

On February 7, Belizeans voted for a change in the way thing were done in our country. We can no longer afford to guarantee healthy annual profits for those wealthy Canadian shareholders of the electricity company operating in Belize as these people could care less if the price of oil reaches 200 dollars per barrel because, under the previous arrangement, they aer still reaping the same huge profits while the people of Belize are paying through our noses for this vital commodity.

The pockets of the Belizean people have been feeling the pinch for much too long. Maybe when these

influential Canadians begin to feel the effects as we have been doing for so long, they might be prompted to use their lobbying power to pressure their powerful government to begin leading the call for an end to the war. And when the war is finally ended only then might the world return to normalcy and all of us should be happy.

The previous government led us to believe that there was nothing we could do about the rising cost of fuel and so they allowed the BEL to gradually tighten the noose around our necks while using us to cushion the effects on their shareholders.

Britain was the United States of America's first ally in the invasion of Iraq. The British people felt the effects of the war and they promptly reacted to the condition resulting in their once popular **Prime Minister Tony Blair** going into early retirement.

The Belizean people have been suffering from the high cost of living and we reacted by voting for a change at every available opportunity beginning with the municipal elections, followed by village council elections culminating in a landslide change in the February 7, 2008 general elections.

It would do well for the new UDP government to hold off on BEL's request to further drain the pockets of the Belizean people, and the national economy by extension, as there are no less than two approaching lights at the end of the tunnel, the first being the November 2008 elections in the United States of America and secondly, the coming on stream, in early 2009, of the third Hydro Electricity dam at Vaca Falls on the Macal River and further down the tunnel there is the third light in the form of the BELCOGEN electricity generating facility in Orange Walk.

Belizean voters will be closely monitoring the results of this latest BEL request for higher rates. If any increase is approved, oh what a

powerful arsenal will it provide to any opposition party as the nation gets

ready for municipal elections on Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

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STAR Newspaper

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Friends and Families for an Enjoyable, Safe and
Blessed Easter Holiday*

Police Bullets Flying In A Populated Neighborhood

CONTRIBUTED

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 17, 2008:

How times have changed. I witnessed the frightening experience last Sunday evening as a group of policemen were firing shots in a populated neighborhood in Santa Elena Town while chasing after a boy.

I was concerned for the safety of the people in the area as it sounded like we were in a war zone.

The boy was eventually shot in the foot and now lies in a

hospital recuperating.

As a former police officer, this incident begs the questions: *Has the policeman's terms of engagement changed?* It used to be in times gone by that the only time a policeman would shoot at anyone was when his life, or the life of another, was in imminent danger.

It also used to be in times gone by when the pen in hands of a policeman was mightier than the gun if ever he carried a gun.

This boy might have broken the law hence the effort to rightfully

apprehend him. However, in times gone by the police were trained in the use of justifiable force for the apprehension of suspects.

I now also ask: When has the "long arm of the law" become so short that our policemen must now shoot down suspects to apprehend them?

Every policeman in this community knows this boy. He is no stranger to the police. They know where he lives. They know the group he hangs out with. They know the places he frequents. In fact they even have his photograph on their file. Why shoot him then? Was he in the process of killing someone? NO!

It also used to be in times gone by when, in cases like these, the might police pen would be pulled out of the pocket and a relevant entry would be made in the all powerful police report diary. All policemen would read the diary and the suspect would be sought by all members of the detachment until he eventually falls into the long arm of the law.

On a final note, it used to be in times gone by that policemen were required to maintain a current account of every single

bullet in the service revolver and a detailed report was a must for every single missing bullet. Have we now gone pass those days? Have we reached the stage where the police are playing with fire which could result in innocent people getting burnt?

This incident has not made it to the official police news bulletin to the media. Therefore we are not aware if "the Commissioner of Police has, as in all cases involved shooting by the police, ordered a full investigation into the incident" which are words used to end all police press reports of this nature.

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due Thank You Mr. Raymond Cox

CONTRIBUTED

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Tuesday, March 18, 2008:

The things that can be achieved by publicly voicing our concerns are truly amazing.

I want to publicly thank Mr. Raymond Cox for taking swift action in correcting the concern I expressed in the last edition of the STAR Newspaper about the workmen on his garbage. Those same workmen who were throwing our drums and garbage receptacles in the drains and street sides after they have emptied the garbage thereby leaving an ugly and disorderly sight behind them.

It pleases our hearts to see how these workmen are neatly replacing our drums as they go about their important duties of keeping our community clean.

I voiced the concern when the problem existed. The situation has been rectified. It is therefore only fitting for me to give credit where credit is due and so I publicly thank Mr. Raymond Cox and his crew for addressing the concern.

I ask Mr. Cox to make this a part of the standard operating procedures for his company as, with the replacement of staff, we would not want to revert to days of the past.

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- ◆ Conversant with use of email and internet
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ATTENTION!!!

The Annual San Ignacio/Santa Elena Municipal Easter Fair will be held on Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday, March 22nd & 23rd at the Macal Park in San Ignacio Town, Cayo.



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Letters to the Editor

My Encounter With A Pair Of Nigerian Nurses

Like many Belizeans, I was patiently awaiting last Friday's ceremony for the inauguration of the new House of Representatives.

I was planning to be in Belmopan to personally witness the historic event. However, this was not to be as, just two days before the event, I had an accidental inhalation of muriatic acid while cleaning the bathroom.

I was rushed to the San Ignacio Hospital barely breathing and vomiting as the inhalation was suffocating me.

My experience at the hospital was the worse I've ever had. There I was feeling like I was going to die when I had an unfortunate encounter with a pair of Nigerian nurses who could care less about my condition.

Without rehashing all the details, I will summarize the experience as a nightmare that I hope I will never have to go through ever again.

To compound the situation these Nigerian nurses started communicating in their native tongue and by mere human instincts I knew that I was the target of their harsh utterances. It reached to the point where I could take it no longer and after

a while, still feeling shaky, I discharged myself from the hospital as I preferred to die at home than in that hospital.

I am told that I need further medical attention to treat any possible damage that the inhalation might have caused to my lungs and other vital organs but I cannot see myself returning to the San Ignacio Hospital.

Coming from a family of little financial means, I am staying at home and praying to my God that he strengthens my body to heal itself.

With a little over a month in office, the general feeling out here is that our New Prime Minister and his government are on the right track.

The throne speech from the new government, delivered by the Governor General, was right on target and although I was weak and in bed, I clearly heard the new government's public commitment to reopen the Belize School of Nursing. This is wonderful news because I continue to wonder - Where have all our Belizean nurses gone? Why did the previous government see the need to import these foreign nurses when there are so many educated and jobless

Belizean males and females out here who could very well enter the nursing profession?

As an avid reader of the STAR, I can recall an article in the newspaper a few months ago about a similar situation involving some Nigerian nurses. The article prompted a quick response, also published in the STAR, from the Nigerian High Commission in Jamaica.

If these officials want more

details on my unfortunate encounter with their country folks, they can call me at 623-7478 and I would be happy to recount in detail what I went through.

I am now gradually recuperating at home and should be well enough to return to work soon and for this I give praises to the Lord who watches over me.

*Isolina Perez,
Santa Elena, Cayo*

Convicted Of Fraud And Jailed

Dear Editor;

Thank you for your editorial of March 16. It was forwarded to me by a valued friend, Pat Asling, formerly of Benque.

To me, your words, especially the last paragraph, were well and truly spoken.

In Canada, there was the "sponsorship scandal". Millions of dollars were siphoned by a civil servant to a

printer who was a friend of his. The printing was never done.

There was a public inquiry, and then a civil trial. **Chuck Guite** was convicted of fraud, and given jail time.

Is this route an option for Belize?

An admirer of Belize,
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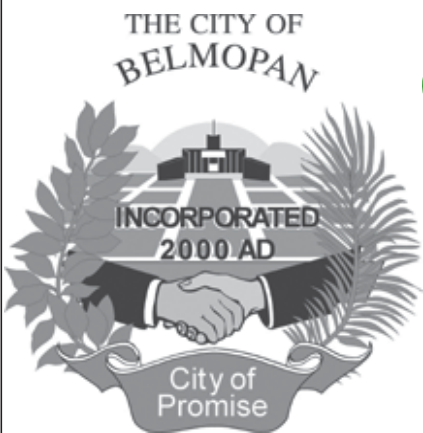
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Belmopan City Council

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As of January 14, 2008, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **20% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property fees made ON or BEFORE February 15, 2008.**
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property Fees between February 16 and March 15, 2008.**
- **10% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property Fees between March 16 and March 31, 2008.**
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- **5% Discount for full payment of 2007/08 Property Fees made ON or before March 31, 2008.**

N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs or older) are eligible for an additional 5% discount for properties on which they reside.

**Wishing Everyone a Happy, Safe & Blessed Easter Holiday
From Mayor Simeon Lopez & Councillors & Staff
of The Belmopan City Council.**

Dated 14th January, 2008.
City Administrator

Oil Prices, Rate Stabilization Account & Electricity Rates

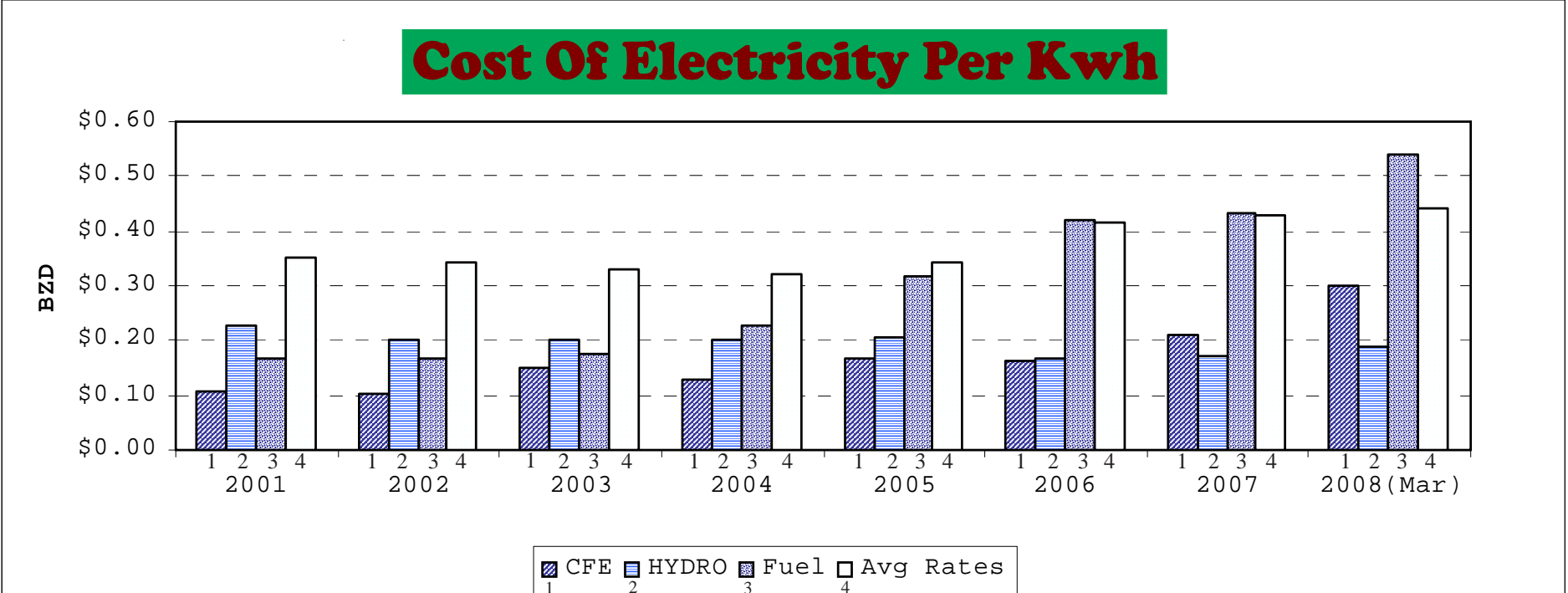
Contributed by Belize Electricity Limited, Tuesday, March 18, 2008:

With oil prices increasing by more than 500 per cent in less than ten years, Belize like every other oil importing country has been hard hit. Electricity is a convenient form of energy, but it is not a primary form. It is a form in which energy gets delivered cleanly and safely. The transformation of the primary fuel into electricity is capital intensive as well as the transmission and delivery of electricity. However, the immediate driver of electricity rates today is the cost of the primary energy, the majority of which continues to be oil.

On March 13, 2008, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) submitted a request to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a 15 per cent average increase in electricity rates to meet the increasing cost of procuring and generating power. During the last Annual Rate Review Proceeding, the approved reference cost of power was based on a forecast by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) of US\$65 per barrel. Since the year began, the actual price per barrel has averaged around US\$95 per barrel and forecasters are now saying that the price will remain over US\$100 per barrel in the immediate future. Each US\$10 increase in the per barrel price

Had the Chalillo Hydroelectric Facility been brought on line as scheduled in 2004, this would have undoubtedly eased the impact of oil prices on local cost of power. After a two year delay, the project was finally completed in 2006 and enabled savings of approximately \$14.3 million in 2007, which helped to offset increase in cost from Mexico and from diesel generation. As of February 2008, the RSA balance was \$24.5 million, which includes interest of 12 per cent. As BEL defers excess cost of power into the RSA for later recovery from customers, it has to pay the cost of financing this deferral. BEL pays up front to suppliers the full cost of power

in the cost of power component of the electricity rate is approved. In the meantime, BEL is looking forward to bringing on line Belize Electric Company's Limited's Vaca Hydroelectric Facility and the Belize Cogeneration Energy Limited's cogeneration plant in 2009. BEL is also exploring wind generation. The local oil is also being explored as a source of energy. BEL has received quotes. However, these are also tied to World Oil Prices and though cheaper than importing fuel, would still be more expensive than purchasing power from Mexico. Current forecasts suggest that world oil prices are not likely to fall



Graph shows cost of power from various energy sources and average rates

As a result, Belize, like all other oil importing countries, will not see reductions in electricity costs until oil prices start falling, unless we can totally eliminate our dependence on oil sources. Currently, 40 per cent of Belize's energy is sourced from hydroelectricity and 60 per cent from oil dependent sources; Mexico (50 per cent) and BEL's local diesel generators (10 per cent). With world oil prices rising from an average US\$65 per barrel since the last electricity rate increase in January 2006 to approximately US\$111 per barrel by mid March 2008, an increase in the cost of electricity from oil dependent sources was inevitable, as well as the consequent impact on the electricity rates in Belize.

of oil results in an increase in the cost of power by approximately BZ\$6 million per annum, due to increases in the price of purchased power from Mexico, which is indexed to oil prices and due to the extra cost of diesel generation used for peaking. In its request to the Public Utilities Commission, BEL is not asking for any change to the Value Added Delivery (VAD) component of electricity tariffs and the current rate of recovery from the Rate Stabilization Account (RSA). The VAD covers the cost of delivering electricity through the wires, transformers etc. and allows BEL to make a return in order to maintain investment and service its loans and other financial needs. BEL currently makes a return of about 10 per cent which is the minimum allowed by the PUC and is comparable to the lower end of the scale of earnings in the country by other businesses. The RSA component is to recover extra costs that were not passed on to customers in previous years. The RSA was established in 2000 and in its first five years, helped to keep rates stable for customers. Unfortunately, no one could have predicted the sharp increases since 2005. The RSA is designed for gradual changes up and down. Had oil prices moved more gradually, the rate increases might not have been necessary.

including the excess cost of power deferred into the RSA on behalf of customers. At the current rate of recovery, the RSA balance could be cleared by 2010, providing world oil prices do not increase further and the increase

significantly over the next two years. With that in mind, BEL will continue to concentrate on employing more renewable sources of energy and maintaining a steady rate of recovery from the RSA to try to minimize the need for further adjustments.

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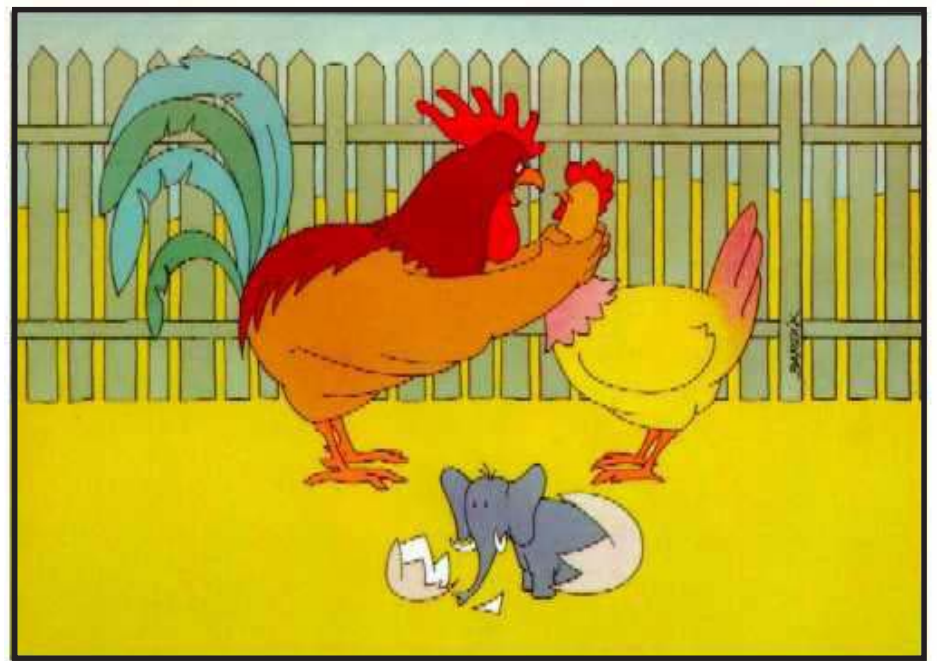
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James came early from work last Friday afternoon and found his wife in bed with his friend. He pulls out his gun and kills him.

Wife says "Control yourself James. If you behave like this, you will lose ALL your friends."

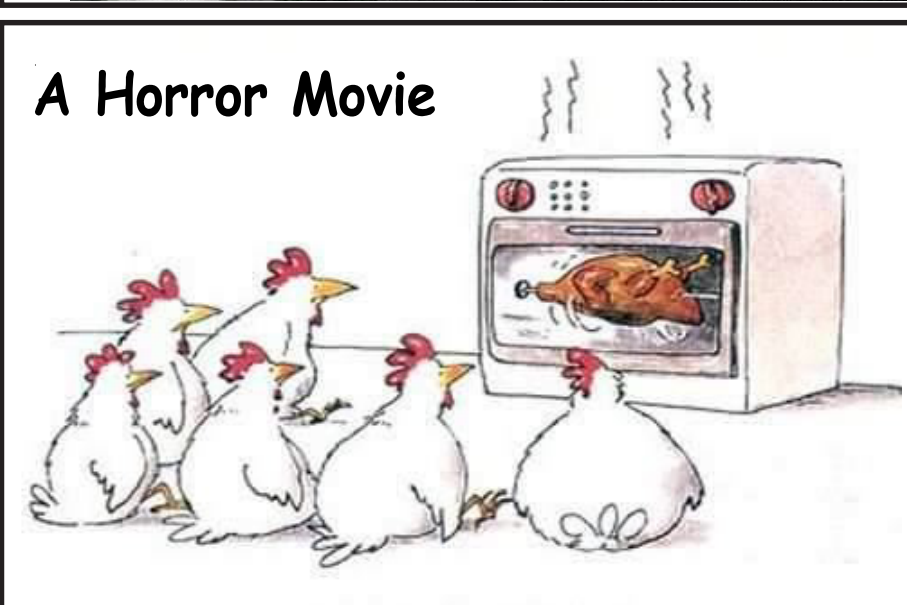
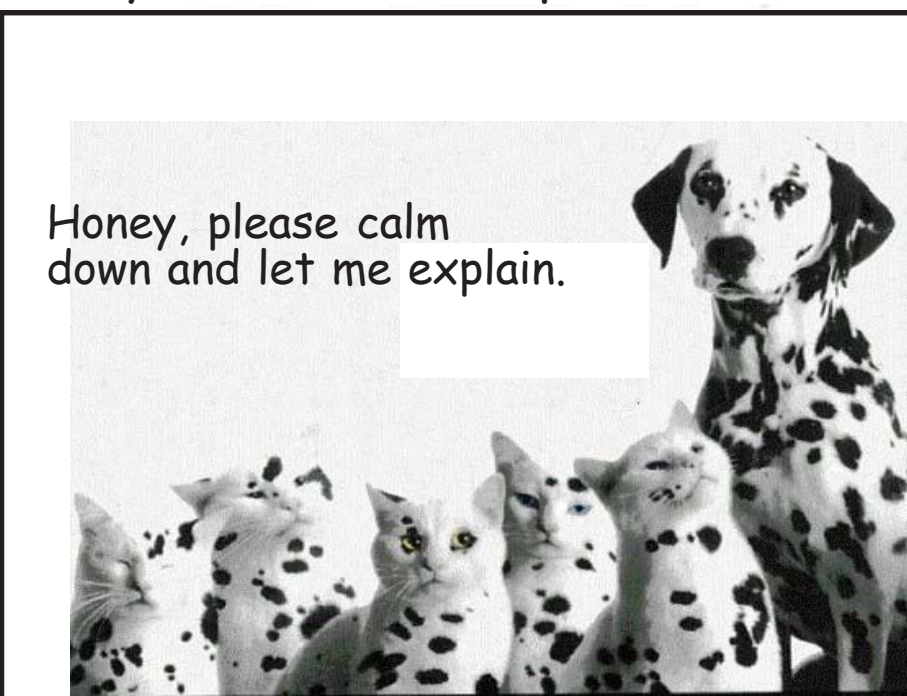
Confident vs Confidential

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Belize Fly-In, Successful



BY: Ray Auxillou
Falconview Hostel, Santa Elena,
Sunday, March 16, 2008:

The very first FLY IN, recorded in Belize occurred this past Sunday, March 16th, 2008 at the airstrip in Central Farm, Cayo District.

No more than 20 guests were expected along with a couple of invited airplanes from distant parts of the nation of Belize, plus the local ultra light and experimental. However, in attendance were over 30 persons and families with children and 7 different types of aircraft, along with a couple of helicopters.

Tom the airplane hanger guy organized the show up fine. A barbeque tent, beer and soft drinks were available and under another tent giving shade on the hanger airport apron, a dozen or more tables and sets of chairs were set

up for hanger talk in the shade.

Throughout the day, the BDF helicopter across the strip came and went on military errands.

This first FLY IN was a superb setup, done just right. Pilot families with children came to see the planes. All in all, there were seven different types of aircraft. Among these were Mike Green's TRIKE and ultra light, Andreas with his amphibious dinghy, bigger EXPERIMENTAL rated TRIKE, a MAULE a very famous rough field short take off aircraft. Astrum with their helicopter, the BDF with their helicopter, a Cessna 150, a Cessna 172, an ANGEL an eight passenger private twin pusher prop on Lycoming 360 engines with enough range to operate as a local CARICOM passenger plane around the Caribbean.

Somebody made embroidered T-shirts to memorialize the occasion and they sold out like hot cakes.

The conversation was interesting, curious and scintillating.

Even the Mennonites from Spanish Lookout showed up with their Cessna 172 aircraft.

Andreas located at this local municipal airstrip operates his AMPHIBIOUS TRIKE with a 65 hp Rotax engine and takes people up for introductory rides along the Belize River Valley.

Mike Green located normally

at the Lodge at CHAA CREEK has a smaller TRIKE ultralight with a 47 hp Rotax motor and can often be seen skimming jungle treetop levels nearby.

The Cessna 150, two place aircraft, for Tom had been for sale for over a year, but was promptly sold to a retiree from Corozal who was 81 years old. Said he wanted to get in some fun flying while he was still physically able.

Dr. Trummer from Corozal who built the first Experimental aircraft in Belize, called a single seat Mini Max, built of dacron sailcloth, mahogany wood framing and with a Volkswagen engine didn't show up, which was a disappointment to many.

The highlights for me were the MAULE short take off rough field aircraft used for local commuting. Also the ANGEL, the large twin pusher prop, eight passenger private aircraft. The owners live in Sarteneja and spend winters at their home there and summers in Europe. They fly back to Denmark and Vienna, Austria, via the great circle route, which includes Newfoundland, Canada, Greenland and Iceland

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **LUCY MARTINEZ** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT & BAR LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **MARTZ RESTAURANT** located at #89 Benque Viejo Rd., San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **BENJAMIN MENDEZ** is applying for the renewal of his **NIGHTCLUB LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **FIVE FLAGS** located on Santa Cruz Street, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

then to the United Kingdom and over to German speaking European territory. They have been winter snow birds in Sarteneja for ten years.

This plane a new one to me, would make an ideal first aircraft, for CARICOM passenger transportation between Belize and Jamaica. Can fly on one engine in an emergency, has long range and is a short rough field aircraft.

It was a great day and beautiful weather. As mentioned earlier, the hanger talk really enjoyable.

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Hon. Mark Espat Speaks Out Again



Hon. Mark Espat
BELIZE CITY, Monday,
March 17, 2008:

My friends, last week, a P.U.P. National Council meeting chaired by Party Leader Said Musa rejected the two reforms endorsed by 16 of the 31 constituency branches.

These proposals centered on two fundamental changes for greater democracy and accountability - that more P.U.P. members attend and vote at National Conventions, and for the timely provision of the voters list.

I sought to reverse the loss of political representation suffered by increasing numbers of Belizeans. The status quo's rejection of change does not do justice to the Party's membership or the ambitions of a more democratic institution. The special-interest groups that control the Party won again.

Their victory guarantees the

exclusion of the vast majority of PUP supporters from choosing their leader.

The sad truth is that even when the Party loses, the special interest groups still win. They don't suffer being in Opposition, as our rank and file members do - they simply return to their law firms and businesses, safe from the jaws of victimization; their quality of life remains the same while many PUP's suffer for their mistakes.

Party Leader Said Musa announced his resignation on 13 February 2008. Prior even to his announcement, he and a tiny cabal have been doing everything possible to anoint Francis Fonseca as the new P.U.P. leader.

On February 14th Said Musa informed Hon. Cordel Hyde and me that his choice for leader is Francis Fonseca.

Without consulting the elected P.U.P. Parliamentary caucus, Said Musa nominated as senators Francis Fonseca's campaign manager and the sister of Fonseca's main political supporter from the North.

Chairpersons of Constituency Branches have been threatened with removal while lifetime P.U.P. supporters are being

locked out of the Convention because they refuse to pledge allegiance to Fonseca for leader.

The Party's Radio Station, Positive Vibes and its newspaper, the Belize Times have been used to repeatedly attack Hon. John Briceno and myself while promoting Fonseca.

Two sons of Party Leader Said Musa, one as the Public Relations Director for the Party and the other as Secretary General, have openly campaigned for Fonseca, sullyng the offices they were gifted. It is this same Secretary General who is to manage the leadership election on 30th March.

It is abundantly clear that no tactic is too low to ensure the crowning of Francis Fonseca as P.U.P. leader.

Our P.U.P. Constitution says that *"the best form of government is based on democratic principles that guarantee the right to vote in free and fair elections and where governments are accountable to the people."*

How dishonorable then that the current leadership of the P.U.P. oppose greater democracy, refuse to give more P.U.P. supporters the right to vote for their new leader, and conspire to install their own candidate by any means necessary. From the beginning of the people's movement, the redeeming quality of P.U.P. politics has been the capacity for self-correction. This capacity is now endangered.

Of the more than 49,000 Belizeans who voted for the P.U.P. on 7th February, the status quo will allow only 654 persons to make one of the most important decisions in the Party's history. This Convention is being kept deliberately

undemocratic to achieve a pre-determined outcome.

I have been clear and consistent in my campaign to Party members and supporters. My candidacy is dependent on a free and fair convention. Today, with just 7 working days to go before the Convention, I still do not know who will vote to elect the new leader on 30th March. And the leadership insisted that more Belizeans will not have a voice in electing the next PUP leader.

Under these conditions, I will not offer myself for leader in a closed, undemocratic and fixed convention. I know that my decision will disappoint so many PUPs across the country. But I do not seek to become leader of our Party at a convention that denies the right to vote to 99% of those who voted for the P.U.P. in the last general election. It is only from the many that the PUP and this nation can realize its larger qualities.

Last week's decision by the P.U.P. leadership to offer more of the same does not end the fight; in so many ways, the fight for change and justice may be only just beginning. I shall continue to be busy for a better, stronger and prouder nation as we advance the politics of restoration. I shall continue to represent the Albert constituency to the best of my ability.

My encounters with the larger community during this campaign, with many of you, have made me even more optimistic about the vast potential for democratic and social renewal.

I thank all of you who have joined with us in claiming your right to help define the larger destiny of the People's United Party, our communities, our nation.

Let us look forward to the future rather than holding on to the ruins of the past.

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Another Young Girl Gone Missing

COROZAL TOWN, Monday, March 17, 2008:

Corozal police reports that on Monday, March 17, **Carolyn Garcia** 38, Belizean housewife of Libertad Village in the Corozal District visit the station and reported that on Friday March 15, 2008 at about 7:15 a.m. her 16 year old daughter, **Roselyn Garcia**, Belizean student attending Belize Adventist College in Calcutta Village left home en route to school and has not returned home.

The mother informed that her daughter was last seen wearing a white uniform blouse, blue uniform skirt, black shoes, white socks and carrying a brown bag.

She is described as being of dark complexion, standing about 5 feet in height, weighing about 120 lbs, with a round face, thin eyebrows, brown eyes, small nose and small thin lips.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Roselyn Garcia is asked to please call the nearest police station or call 0800-922-TIPS.

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Belmopan City Council

NOTICE

All property owners in Belmopan City
are hereby advised to visit the City Council
to make suitable arrangements for the
payment of all arrears on property taxes.

**Failure to comply with this request
will lead to legal action being taken.**

Wishing Belizeans Everywhere a Blessed, Safe and Enjoyable
Easter Holiday. From Mayor Simeon Lopez & Councillors & Staff
of The Belmopan City Council.

"Belize Can Go Solar"

From Front Page

not want us to be talking about killing several birds with one stone), such as:

1) Solar Energy is renewable, which means that once we have sunlight, we have energy;

2) We attract millions of dollars in much needed new investment to Belize;

3) We buy our own electricity produced in Belize; (we are currently buying 40% of the hydro-electricity produced in Belize by way Belizean natural resource as is the Macal river, unfortunately we are buying it from the Canadians who are the true owners of the dams and the distribution company)

4) We create highly technical and better paying jobs;

5) We become the leader in Solar Energy in the region;

6) We are no longer dependent on non-renewable energy like hydro and fossil fuel energy;

7) We become the first country in the region to lead the fight against global warming;

8) We strike a balance between conservation and sustainable development, considering that

Eco tourism continues to be the viable product for Belize;

9) We secure the economic future for Belize based on long term prospects and respect for environmental health of our people as well as the national flora and fauna.

The future of Belize lies on good and solid ideas - like Solar Energy - which seeks to provide a secure future for Belize and Belizeans: stability to our Eco tourism industry, more technical jobs for Belizeans, more Science oriented courses at UB, enact new environmental health laws to prevent the degradation and mismanagement of our natural resources: air, rivers, mangroves, forest, seas and land.

Fossil fuels are highly toxic and dangerous to human, plant and animal life. Even though we have found gold in our backyard, we need to acknowledge that this resource will end sooner than later. Hence, any investment for the future must be wise and for the long term. It must consider Energy that is Renewable, Cleaner, cheaper, and Sustainable.

If we go Solar, we will be

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adding value to our future; we will be moving to a higher level of technological capability and economic prosperity. Belize

must go Solar!

(Article by: Dr. Leo Antonio Obando Ph.D. - Director of SPECTE - advocate!)

Destroyed By Fire Near Police Booth

From Front Page

vehicle and the house while the person is away, might have taken a ride into San Ignacio and were on the way back to the village when shortly after 4:30 on Saturday morning, March 15, the vehicle began experiencing mechanical problems while approaching the checkpoint. The driver managed to pass the police booth and pulled a little way up past the booth to the side of the highway after which the vehicle burst into

flames.

Although the incident occurred near the booth, police information is sketchy because the booth was unmanned at the time due to personnel shortage.

Apart from the name of the last registered owner of the vehicle, the only additional information that the police could come up with from the burnt remains is that the vehicle was a super cab Ford Ranger with Cayo license plates CY-C- 19523.

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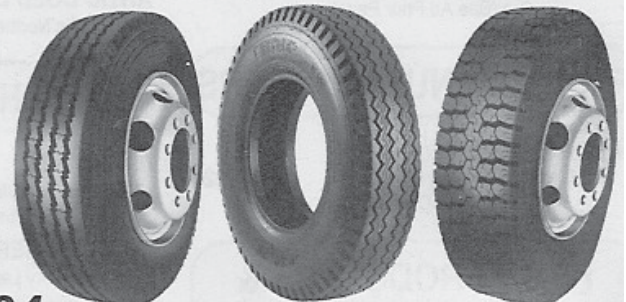
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