

# STAR

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



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## DID POLICE NEGLIGENCE COST A MAN HIS LIFE?

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, April 22, 2008:**

One man is dead and another, charged for the murder, is remanded to prison – while the community asks: *“could a life have been saved if there was a quicker police response?”*

The front and side steps of the San Ignacio Post Office next to Hudson Supermarket on Hudson Street in San Ignacio town is the usual hang out spot for a group comprising of mostly unemployed adult males with alcohol dependency.

The regulars were doing what they usually do in the area this past Sunday afternoon when a commotion erupted and the hang out spot was transformed into a crime scene.

Reports reaching us indicate that it was shortly after 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 20, when **Ismael Pulido**, one of the regulars, arrived

in the area and spotted **Jose Luis Garcia** with whom he allegedly had a prior misunderstanding.

Two other regulars, **Solomon “Pepso” Gordon** and senior citizen **Daniel Morris** were sitting on the steps of the post office when Pulido allegedly approached Morris and grabbed a wood chisel from his hand. Pulido then advanced to Jose Luis Garcia and stabbed him with the chisel in the abdomen resulting in Garcia falling to the ground.

Upon witnessing the incident Pepso shouted to Pulido that he had killed the man. Pulido, with the chisel still in his hand, set chase after Pepso who ran up Hudson Street and into the police station with Pulido in hot pursuit. Pepso ran into the police station and had to seek refuge behind the counter with Pulido also going after him behind the counter. Pulido eventually surrendered the chisel

after one of the policemen threatened to shoot him if he did not give it up. Pulido was subsequently detained.

Pepso said, *“I am happy that I was sober and could have run from him, if I was drunk I would not have been able to escape from him. After the police took away the chisel from him I told the Corporal who was in uniform in the station, that the man has just stabbed another man by the post office. I left the police station and went straight home. I did not return to the post office*



**Ismael Pulido, 39, The Accused**

*because I was scared that he would come back”* said Pepso.

The injured Jose Luis Garcia remained on the cement pavement in front of Hudson Supermarket for over three and a half hours when shortly before 4:30 pm, a senior Justice of the Peace arrived in the area and one of the regulars drew his attention to the injured Garcia on the ground. *“He was wearing a red T-shirt and it looked damp. When I lifted up the edge of his shirt I saw that he had*

**Please Turn To Page 11**

## Announcing The Death Of Two Stalwart UDP Women

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday, April 24, 2008:**

United Democratic Party’s Secretary General, **Mrs. Phillipa Griffith Bailey**, today informed that it is with profound sadness that Party Leader Dean Barrow and the United Democratic Party family extend deepest sympathies to the families and friends in the deaths, this week, of two Santa Elena party stalwarts: **Mrs. Doris Grace Arnold Tate** and **Ms. Maria Eva Urbina**.

Miss Doris, 81, was born on October 22, 1926. She passed away quietly at around 9:30 a.m on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at her home located on Eduardo Juan Street, Santa Elena where she lived for the past 20 years.



**Mrs. Doris Tate**

Prior to moving to Santa Elena, Miss Doris resided, for many years, in the Baking Pot area of Central Farm, Cayo, where her husband,



**“Miss Eve”**

**Gerald Tate**, worked as a cowboy in the livestock section of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Please Turn To Page 11**



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Published on Tuesday, April 22, 2008:

## Food Shortage: How Will We Feed The World?

**A global food shortage threatens the lives of millions. Charles Clover reports on the possible solutions to the crisis**

The era of cheap food is over. In Britain, a standard white loaf costs more than £1, grocery bills are driving up inflation and land prices are going through the roof. But steep rises in the price of staples such as wheat and rice are having an even bigger impact on poor countries.

### HARVESTING WHEAT

Global shortages mean wheat is now in high demand.

In Cameroon, 24 people have been killed in food riots since February, while in Haiti, protesters chanting, "*We're hungry*" forced the prime minister to resign this month.

In the past month, there have been food riots in Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Madagascar.

The World Bank now believes that some 33 countries are in danger of being destabilised by food price inflation, while **Ban Ki-Moon**, the UN secretary-general, said that higher food prices risked wiping out progress towards reducing poverty and could harm global growth and security.

Why has this happened so quickly? Can science and technology get us out of the hole we appear to be in.

### WHAT CAUSED THE PRICE RISES?

**Bob Watson**, the chief scientist at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, puts the rise in the price of commodity crops such as wheat down to a number of factors: higher demand for grain to feed livestock in China, where increasing affluence means more people want to eat meat; drought in Australia for three years, meaning it has had to import wheat; market jitters brought on by the sight of several countries stopping exporting grain; speculators seeing a chance to make money; and, of course, the sudden extra demand for food crops such as maize for use in biofuels, in both Europe and the United States.

A few years ago, he points out, no one could have predicted that we would be aiming to produce five to 10 per cent of our petrol and diesel from crops.

### WHY SHOULD THE PRICE OF RICE HAVE GONE UP, TOO?

Since January 2007, the price of wheat has risen by as much as two and a half times, while the rice price has almost trebled.

This, says the International Rice Research Institute, is partly because rice-growing land in countries such as

the Philippines is being lost to industrialisation and urbanisation, while the growing appetite for meat and dairy products among Asia's burgeoning middle class is leading farmers to abandon rice growing. Flooding in Indonesia and Bangladesh and cold weather in Vietnam and China have also hit production.

### WHO IS WORST AFFECTED?

Food price inflation inevitably hits the poor hardest. Food represents about 10 to 20 per cent of consumer spending in the rich world, but as much as 60 to 80 per cent in developing countries, many of which are net food importers, according to **Henri Josserand**, of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

**Bob Zoellick**, president of the World Bank, calculates that food inflation could push 100 million people back into poverty, wiping out the gains of a decade of economic growth.

The World Food Programme has warned that we could be living in a world of food supply imbalances until 2010 at least.

### WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

In the short term, farmers in the developed world are likely to be attracted by high prices and try to grow more staple crops. In Europe, Brussels has abolished set-aside, the practice of paying farmers to leave land fallow, and the signs are that Europe's farmers will grow 13 per cent more cereals this year.

In the developing world, things are less certain, because the poorest in Africa and India have been selling their tools, their animals and the sheets of tin over their heads just to buy food.

For the poorest, recovery is more difficult and aid will be needed. The balance will eventually be restored - nearly half of the world's potential agricultural land is unused.

### CAN'T TECHNOLOGY HELP?

The development of better crop varieties, pesticides and fertilisers has kept the world's food supply growing faster than its population, even though the latter figure is set to hit nine billion by 2050.

However, the rate of progress has slowed. According to **Dr Watson**, who chaired the four-year International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), enormous improvements have been made in productivity, particularly in Asia, but food production in sub-Saharan Africa has decreased. More than 800 million people still go

hungry at night and, even in India, where the Green Revolution made some of its biggest strides, some 50 per cent of children in rural areas are malnourished.

### COULD GM FOOD SAVE US?

To the exasperation of the big agrosience companies, and countries such as the United States, Australia and Canada, the 2,500-page IAASTD report, backed by the World Bank and UN, did not push for big technical fixes.

It came down on the side of "*multi-functional*" agriculture, which incorporates goals such as poverty reduction, water conservation and climate change adaptation alongside conventional efforts to increase production.

It said that the biggest gains will come not from new "*miracle crops*", but from making existing science and technology available to the small-scale farmers responsible for tilling a third of the world's land surface.

Only by helping them to feed themselves - partly by improving distribution and markets - will the challenges of sustainability, better health and poverty reduction be met.

### WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE BIOTECHNOLOGY?

Partly in the cold. Biotechnology, in the sense of rapid development of plant varieties, will play a central role in feeding the world this century, says Dr Watson.

But whether transgenic crops and animals - those that have had genes inserted into them - have increased productivity at all is open for debate. Technologies such as high-yielding crops, agrochemicals and mechanisation have mostly helped the better-off.

With the right controls, he says, biotechnology could contribute to greater food production - but he adds that some forms of organic agriculture have a part to play in feeding the poor.

This has led to criticism from the US and other countries, who take a simpler view of GM crops. Sixty countries have endorsed the report. Britain, typically, has yet to decide.

### SO, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT BIOFUELS?

Watson's lot say using food crops for fuel is environmentally, socially and

economically unacceptable. Some would argue that using maize for fuel achieves a 50 per cent reduction in carbon emissions once the fossil fuels used to make them are taken into account.

Others argue that there could be an increase in the greenhouse gases produced, because of the displacement of soya crops from the US into Brazil, where they are grown on land cleared from the forest and where livestock is then displaced on to forest land, which has led to a new peak in its destruction.

### ARE ALL BIOFUELS EQUALLY BAD?

Some first-generation biofuels, such as sugar cane, look pretty good, according to Watson. Brazil has some 500 commercial varieties and, arguably, sugar cane does not displace livestock into the rainforest.

Everyone is agreed that the role for science and technology is to bring forward second-generation biofuels - using enzymes to break down cellulose in woody crops such as switchgrass and miscanthus, and farm wastes such as straw.

There are other plans to use plain domestic rubbish. Then there are third-generation biofuels such as algae and bacteria. Watson is pessimistic, believing that it will take five to 15 years for the first second-generation biofuels to become available in sufficient quantities.

In the meantime, Europe and America's targets for including more biofuels in what is sold on the forecourt will place greater pressure on food crops.

### IS THERE A SILVER LINING?

The good news, believe experts such as **Richard Murphy**, a reader in plant science at Imperial College London, is that fuels made from wastes and woody crops grown on marginal land should eventually beat fuels made from food crops on price.

Cellulose breakdown, he points out, happens on the forest floor every day, thanks to the work of fungi and termites. If we could crack it on a large scale, it would make fuel from waste and woody crops as "cheap as chips" - and the continent capable of growing the largest quantities of woody crops is Africa.

So the solutions to the present crisis may, in the end, help fight poverty and save the planet at the same time.

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## "I Am No Car Thief", says Willie Bee

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, April 22, 2008:**

San Ignacio police reports that **Cecilia Flowers**, 34, Belizean tour operator of Santa Cruz Area, Santa Elena Town visited the station today and reported that at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 21, 2008, she as informed by her secretary **Sarita Coc** that the company's vehicle was missing.

Mrs. Flowers inform that the vehicle is a 1990 blue Isuzu Trooper, bearing Cayo license plates C-23884 and Vehicle Identification Number JACCH5813XL8907443 valued at \$10,000.00 being the joint property of herself and her **Elbert Flowers** as an asset of their of Cayo Adventure Tours company.

She additionally informed the police that the last time she saw the Trooper was at 5:50 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 when the

handyman **Darrel Smith**, cleaned it.

In summing up the complaint to the police, Cecilia Flowers informed that she had received, what she suspected to have been a threatening phone call from one **Rene "Willie-Bee" August** and said that he might have something to do with the missing vehicle.

The report concluded by informing that *"the police are looking for one Rene August pending investigations."*

Rene August visited the **STAR Newspaper** on Friday morning to express his displeasure at the manner in which the entire incident was handled.

He said that without conducting any kind of investigation whatsoever, San Ignacio Police rushed to issue a hasty release to the media, resulting in Love FM Raido broadcasting his name across the nation for an entire day as



**Rene "Willie-Bee" August**

a **"CAR THIEF"**.

He contends that if only the police had waited to, at the very least, speak to him before issuing the release, he could have provided them with documentary evidence to show that he was in Houston Texas during the period when Cecilia Flowers said that the vehicle was stolen.

Rene believes that the attempt to tarnish his reputation is nothing more than a malicious act as he continues to seek compensation from the Flowers family for the 13 years of



**ABOVE - The US Immigration Stamp at Bush International Airport in Houston dated April 19, 2008**

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## Letters to the Editor

### Stealing Our Crops In Bullet Tree

Dear Editor;

I write to inform that, in recent months, we the farmers living in the village of Bullet Tree Falls in the Cayo District are going through some difficult times with the increasing number of instances in which intruders are entering our farms and making off with our crops.

For my part, I feel helpless when, after repeated loss of my produce, I reported the matter to the village police and the advice I got was that I should desist from the effort to entrap those who are stealing off my hard labor because of the possibility that thieves could hurt me one of these days if I should intercept them in their criminal actions.

We the original villagers of Bullet Tree Falls are hardworking people but it looks like some of the new comers and those coming from outside of our village want to reap but they do not want to sow.

I am calling on these thieves to please stop stealing our crops because one of these days, God forbids, someone is going to get hurt real bad because there is only so much that we the hardworking and law abiding farmers of Bullet Tree Falls can take. I am calling on the authorities to please do something to help us before the problem reaches that other level.

*Please do not publish my name  
Bullet Tree Farmer*

### I Don't Blame The Government of Belize For High Prices

Dear Editor;

I am not a complainer! This is due to the fact that people don't really listen when you complain and if you stop and think before complaining you would know that everyone has their own problems, so why burden them with more.

However, the pinch that we are feeling from the rising cost of food is becoming more like a pit bull's bite. The vegetable oil I bought before for \$3.75 went up to \$4.95, then \$5.95 and now \$6.95. I am very price conscious and try to shop where it is cheap, but even those are not cheap anymore.

I live out of town where lots of cohune grows; I have already started making my own oil. To save on gas I have my fire hearth so that \$50.00 butane lasts me 3 months. So when there was no flour, I made corn tortilla. (No, I didn't grow corn; I bought masa in the village.) If or when the price of vegetables go up, I will "try" to grow them myself, soil, water, sunlight, seeds – good to go. Whatever I can no longer afford, I will try my best to substitute with something I can afford.

The part that really pulls on my mind is how do people with a salary under \$250.00 weekly, with 2-3 children,

rent and utilities get by? **HOW???** How do they do it without losing their minds? There isn't much you can get at the shop with \$100.00. So you have to at least \$150.00 toward groceries, and then ration the rest for the bills. God forbid an emergency should occur.

My husband is European and right now the Euro is doing well, but we are still very, very price conscious – we shop where it is cheap, ask for discounts when/where possible and we try not to waste anything at home. We could live a lavish life, but I wasn't brought up like that, thanks to my mother.

Madam Editor, please let it be clear that I don't blame the skyrocketing prices on the Government of Belize. From what I've gathered, they are not totally to blame. The world over food prices are raising. Nevertheless, I am still overjoyed that on February 7, I voted for a change! If I didn't vote for a change I would be complaining, screaming to be heard and getting ready to riot, even if it would have been by myself. I would have refused to take anymore crap from that previous government.

Sincerely,

**Ms. R&R**

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# Caye Caulker Chronicle Writes

**BY: Wendy Auxillou, Caye Caulker Cronicle, Sunday, April 20, 2008:**

Did I hear Prime Minister Barrow right? Was PM Barrow really suggesting we fight crime by falsely imprisoning innocent citizens and by listening in to their private conversations? Now, sah!

Every single Belizean should be more than outraged at Prime Minister Barrow's beyond-slippery-

slope proposals to supposedly "*curb crime*". Personally, it makes the hairs on my spine shoot straight up.

PM Barrow's very reprehensible "*guilty until proven innocent*" law can be used to detain someone without the benefit of even knowing what they are being detained for, and for certain without the current benefit of a trial or legal counsel. The proposal is nothing short of Prime Minister Barrow wanting to curtail our

current civil and constitutional rights as citizens. It more than begs the question: Why?

What is being proposed is only a step short of "*detention if we don't like you or what you say and you can't do anything about it.*" It is a measure that is obviously meant, to me, to quell dissent and many of the freedoms of assembly and protest we currently enjoy.

As to the legalizing of wiretapping,

the first thing that comes to my mind is that the UDP wants to make sure it has a legal excuse to listen in on the phone conversations of its political opponents. PM Barrow is simply using "*crime*" as the spin to get permission to legally eavesdrop on the Opposition PUP.

So, Belizeans, be forewarned. If you do not voice your fiercest objections to this vile proposal, as sure as day turns into night, these laws will be used against any of you the very first time you try to protest against something the government does that you don't like. It is the dreaded SIS (Special Investigation Branch) that was so loathed under the last UDP regime being resurrected once again.

I, personally, find it quite cagey that these arbitrary curtailings of our freedoms are being packaged as "*anti-crime*" solutions. Nothing no goh soh!

Just ask anybody in any town or village who the criminals are and they can easily point them out to you. If you and I know who the criminals are, it stands to reason then, that the police also know who they are. We don't need wiretapping or false imprisonment of our Belizean citizens to find them. The police, with the limited resources that they currently have, do a great job of arresting criminals. The disheartening part is that the police seem to be unable to get convictions. And so well-known criminals are released back into society when they should really be rehabilitating. What needs to happen is that the government needs to equip the police department with all the tools it needs to get those convictions — including the manpower, the know how, and the forensics and dna labs it so badly needs.

EVERY citizen of Belize, be rightfully outraged at this law! I know I am.

P.S. And why are we looking to Jamaica for solutions to our crime situation when the crime problems in Jamaica are so much worse than ours, and they do not seem to have a solution themselves yet? That's like asking the very blind to lead the blind.

## The STAR Newspaper Responds

Thank you for your comments.

As a senior attorney and one who is considered Belize's BEST Constitutional Lawyer, I am sure that Prime Minister Dean Barrow is fully versed with the 30 Articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically articles 12 and 13 which addresses the concerns you raised.

Addressing the crime situation is the #1 priority of the Minister of National Security and he is expending overtime in coming up with a workable plan to address this situation.

The assistance from the Jamaican expert is but one of the several avenues that the minister and his technical team is exploring.

The nation has emerged from almost 10 years of senseless murders

which has either personally touched many of our lives or has come VERY close to touching us.

The spate of senseless murders CANNOT be allowed to continue and the nation is collectively monitoring the situation which, apart from addressing other pressing concerns like the raising cost of living, will be the barometer by which the performance of Prime Minister Barrow and his government will be measured.

Personally I will not to jump to conclusions, by using the Jamaican experience as a measuring stick to write off the contribution that the Jamaican expert brings to the table. In fact I am encouraged that the government is seeking outside assistance in addressing this matter of

national concern. In this connection, I equate the previous minister of police to the driver who is lost in a strange city and he chose to remain lost for 10 years instead of coming out and asking for directions, as the record has shown.

Many of us are prepared to give the new government breathing space to address the crime situation and other pressing national issues. Not like the obviously politically biased Positive Vibes person who continues to embarrass himself on that medium by calling for the resignation of the Minister of National Security, while he was silent for 10 long years during which many of our brothers were senselessly murdered.

Notwithstanding, your comments are ALWAYS appreciated.

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# STAR Newspaper

*"The Newspaper that cares  
and dares to bring out the truth"*

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## Complying With Otto Coleman's Request

**Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, Sunday, April 20, 2008:**

At his request we resurrect the **Otto Coleman** incident of a couple weeks ago, in which he was arrested and charged with handling goods.

Through this medium Mr. Coleman wants to inform that he was the one who alerted the police about the glass being sold and that he led the police to his house where, the evidence, the rear windshield of the Trooper was retrieved.

By way of an email to the [starnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:starnewspaper@gmail.com) Coleman wrote:

*"I, Otto Coleman, served the UDP for 18 years since 1985 and I am certain that I do not deserve to have my reputation destroyed because of malice and your misleading article.*

*You could have at least mentioned that I alerted the police about a glass being sold and led the police to my house.*

(all of which was contained in the article as was conveyed to us when



**Otto Coleman**

we initially spoke to Coleman but which he might have overlooked when reading the article. However, this information was subsequently denied by a senior police officer).

*You will defend yourself by saying that the police gave you information; but did you speak with the investigating officer?*

*I would appreciate that when I am acquitted you grant me an interview. Your article gave me the opportunity to reconcile with some UDPs whom I did not know were still holding me in high esteem. One by one they have been calling or coming to see me and expressing their full confidence and stating that they know I would not get involved in those deals.*

*I have received lots of support and encouragement from*

*UDPs in Cayo and I am very happy for that. Soon I will be asking for a speedy trial because I need to move beyond this and get back to my private life.*

*Remember I am out of PUP politics and technically neutral. I am free to support and vote for whom I want now."* wrote Coleman.

This occasion gives us the opportunity to again reiterate that at the **STAR Newspaper**; we do not make the NEWS – all we do is simply report the NEWS.

We report the NEWS from the basis of the elementary journalistic definition of what is "NEWS".

Journalism 101 tells us that "NEWS" is *"something happening somewhere that someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising."*

**For example:** Did Said Musa and Amalia Mai want the public to know that they diverted 20 million dollars to the Belize Bank to pay for the private debt of the principals of Universal Health Service in violation of the signed agreement with the Venezuelan grant providers and the

wishes of the masses of the Belizean people?, **certainly NOT** – This was **"something happening somewhere that Said Musa, Amalia Mai and others wanted suppressed."** This, my friend, is **"NEWS"**.

On the other hand, did the XYZ Group want the public know that they donated a computer to the police. Of course they wanted everyone to know! – Although such an article often appears in the media disguised as "NEWS", it is nothing more than advertising the good works of the provider.

Notwithstanding, as Mr. Coleman requested: *"I would appreciate that when I am acquitted you grant me an interview"*.

As the cycle continues – if Coleman is found guilty – it might be something he wants suppressed – if he is acquitted, as he strongly believes he will – Then of course we will be happy to "advertise" it for him.

So ends this lesson in Journalism 101.

The STAR is a "NEWS" paper. Could simply abiding by this fundamental principle of journalism, be the reason why the **STAR** is so sought after by readers at home and abroad?

## Dr. Obando, Offering To Help The National Football Team As They Prepare For Mexico

**BY: Leo Obando PhD, Madrid, Spain, Monday 21 April 2008:**

Thank you for the editorial in last weekend's edition of the **STAR Newspaper!**

I recommend that we give the Belize National Football Selection, the needed push (positive publicity and moral support), as they prepare to play Mexico in June 2008, first in Houston and then in Mexico City.

We cannot enter the battle field demoralized or thinking that **David** cannot defeat **Goliath** because Mexico is going to rip us apart.

I believe that the media can help in many ways...despite other set backs we have, our team is not to blame for it.

I recall when Verdes - the Mighty Green Machine with **Erwin Contreras** and the guy **Cano**, among others, played Cruz Azul in Mexico, Cruz Azul's bench defeated the Verdes team by a score of 21 to nil ...if you don't believe me ...ask Erwin Contreras.

After the game the Mexican press said about us:- *"The Belizean team was not even good enough for a practice match"*.

During my four years studying in Mexico City, I played with my university and I captured the trophy for the best goal scorer. I played with the Belize selection in the early 80's, having played with guys like Calbert "Culebra" Neal, Arturo "Turo" Azueta, Anthony "Garrincha" Adderly, Tash Guitierrez, Coco Orio, among others, (this was in the twilight of these guys' glory years) after which I went on to play for my university in Chile in 1990.



With this exposure, I have made available, free of cost, my Know How in Professional Football (phyco-logical coaching - which I think is missing in the Belize Team ) to **Dr. Berti Chimilio** considering that **Salas** is out - in preparation to the Belize-Mexico game in June -08.

I am convince that if the boys play their shirts off for the love of Belize (having the full moral support of the media and Belizeans at large ), we can win the Powerhouse called Mexico.

On the football field, every player is an atomic bomb ...some will explode for the better and others for the worse ...EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, STRATEGY, PACE, MATH, PHYSICS and STAMINA, will mark the difference!

During my time in Santa Familia, Cayo - I lead the village team to the final against Santa Elena's mighty Steels. We also blasted the Verdes team on their home turf in Benque Viejo Town and likewise at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio. Please keep me posted!

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### VACANCY NOTICE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR LAND AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE



Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Principal Surveyor in the Surveys and Mapping Section, Land and Surveys Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. The qualification requirement for appointment to the post and its associated duties and responsibilities are as follows:

**Position:** Principal Surveyor  
**Qualifications:** Bachelor's Degree in Land Surveying and Certificate /Diploma in Management  
**Skills:** Supervisory/management skills, good communication skills, public relations skills  
**Experience:** 5 years in field of surveying and 5 years in supervisory/management position

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- Supervise, verify and monitor the execution of all Government of Belize and private cadastral surveys
- Execute surveys on national land
- Request owners' permission to survey private lands
- Plan field work and process information collected
- Examine and authenticate plans for all legal surveys
- Assist with settling of land disputes
- Prepare cadastral and registry index maps and produce copies of cadastral maps covering the entire country at different scales
- Maintain and provide information on the horizontal and vertical control network to which all surveys are tied
- Prepare descriptions for lease fiats
- Authorize permission to survey
- Advise Government and private surveyors on survey technology
- Train staff and supervise survey officers country-wide
- Respond to queries from the public
- Other related duties as assigned from time to time

**Salary:** Payscale 19 of \$29,652 X \$1,223 - \$52,908

#### Deadline for applications:

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications are to submit their application to the **Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Market Square, City of Belmopan** no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.



# A Constitutional Wrong Is Hard To Make Right

BY: George & Candy Gonzalez, San Ignacio Cayo, Tuesday, April 22, 2008:

We wholeheartedly agree with Frankie Rhys' remarks printed as "An open letter to Prime Minister Barrow" (Amandala April 20, 2008). It concerns proposed changes to the Constitution that gives more power to the police in the name of fighting crime.

If anyone did not read it, we strongly suggest you get the April 20 edition of the Amandala, and read it.

To change the Constitution to allow for increased police powers like "preventive detention" and interception of private communications (like phone calls, emails, etc.) is an attack on our fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right of privacy and to be safe in our homes.

When we can be locked up because of what someone thinks we might do, we no longer live in a democracy; we are in a police state.

Had these law been in effect in the

past, any number of people could have been jailed for the "crime" of speaking out, sharing differing points of view, making their voices heard.

This could include those who were opposing the construction of the Chalillo Dam who were labeled "eco-terrorists" in the Belize Times.

It was then Senator Barry Bowen who said that opposition to the dam was equivalent to treason. That sounds like the Bush Administration's laws that allow for arresting people without bail, without a right to an

attorney, without a right to call anyone to alert family of their whereabouts. This was done under the name of "War on Terrorism". It is universally believed that none of these things have made the people of the United States any safer from terrorist attacks. In fact, they are more at risk from attacks, including those from their own government.

The list would also include Prime Minister Barrow who supported the protest demonstrations in Belmopan and Belize City in 2005 and 2006; or calling for demonstrations in front of the National Assembly on May 25, 2007 to oppose the Universal Health Services bailout. When interviewed by Channel 5 on the eve of that demonstration, Barrow said, "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance . . ."

The price of freedom, Mr. Prime Minister, is not more laws limiting our freedom, but vigilance that we all are held to the same standards of the law and the Constitution. None of us is above the Constitution.

We cannot endorse the jailing of people for what they might do. How many of us could end up in jail in the name of preventing crimes because a neighbor or associate or persons with a different opinion called in a charge that we were about to commit a crime.

The new UDP government has suggested many positive changes to our democracy. We sincerely hope they do not tarnish their actions with this assault on our fundamental rights.

## In Hillview, It's Like We Jumped From Rural Stone Age To Modern Civilization Courtesy Of The U.D.P

BY: Ray Auxillou, Hillview, Santa Elena, Wednesday, April 22, 2008:

Last days of five days work by Public Works grader, two bulldozers and trucks and roller and water truck today in both Hillview and Santa Cruz, but I will talk about Hillview village a suburb of Santa Elena Town on the slope of Green Parrot Valley.

Much needed street works was done in Hillview. Some streets were widened, some were left as okay as is. A couple of new streets were opened and the street serving the houses at the bottom of the valley finally got much needed attention after over 15 years of neglect.



Generally speaking the feeling is sort of like we jumped from rural stone age, to modern civilization. The streets won't last of course after June rains. Still the basic rounding and digging was done were needed. They were were working on old streets going almost up at 45 degrees on the hill this morning. There is a subdivision of expensive lots up there privately held. Earth street was made into a boulevard sort of. Several streets are now 24 feet wide and you

could pass a vehicle now.

All in all, the UDP did it up okay! They spent more money than I would have expected them to spend and it is appreciated. Where they are getting the money from I don't know? Things should get financially better next year for the government though.



Ministry of Works Grader Working In The Area

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### Vacancy exist at Sacred Heart College for the post of Principal/Chief Administrative Officer



The Board of Governors of Sacred Heart College invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the full-time post of Principal/Chief Administrative Officer. The position will be effective July 1, 2008.

The Principal/Chief Administrative Officer has oversight for the academic and administrative affairs of the College (high school and junior college divisions). He or she has the ultimate responsibility for general administration, the relationship between the school and its public, and overseeing the implementation of the policies and programs of the school in cooperation with the Board of Governors and Ministry of Education. He or she reports to the Sacred Heart College Board of Governors and is an ex-officio member of the Board. SHC is a Catholic institution and such its academic and administrative practices are molded by Catholic traditions

The Principal/Chief Administrative Officer will be a person who: is familiar with and supportive of the mission of Sacred Heart College;

Is capable of working as part of the College's senior management team which includes the Dean of the Junior College and the

Associate Principal of the High School; Is accessible and consultative when making decisions; Has excellent communication and interpersonal skills;

Has the ability to articulate effectively the school's mission to the College community, alumni and to the public-at-large; and

Possesses leadership and management skills.

Education and Experience: Preference will be given to applicants who possess a Master's Degree in Educational Administration (or related field) from an accredited institution, and a minimum of five years experience in teaching or administration in the Belizean educational system. Fluency in Spanish will be an asset.

Remuneration: In accordance with salary scales approved by the Ministry of Education.

Application Deadline: May 16, 2008.

Send or deliver completed application along with resume to:

The Secretary  
Board of Governors  
Sacred Heart College  
P.O. Box 163  
San Ignacio, Cayo



## STAR HUMOR

### Bill Proudly Takes The Rap

Submitted by: Jose Mendoza  
San Ignacio, Cayo



Bill and Sam, two elderly friends, met and sit on the steps of the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world affairs.

One day Bill didn't show up. Sam wasn't concerned; he thought Bill might have a cold or some urgent appointment. But after Bill hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried.

Since Sam didn't know where Bill lived he was unable to find out what had happened to him.

After a month had passed, Sam figured he will never see Bill again.

On his next visit to the park, however, Bill was sitting on the usual step waiting for him.

Amazed and delighted, Sam exclaimed, "*What in the world happened to you?*"

Bill replied, "*I've been in jail.*"

"*Jail?*" cried Sam. "*You?! What on earth for?*"

"*Well,*" Bill said, "*you remember Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometimes go?*"

"*Yes,*" said Sam, "*I remember her. What about her?*"

"*Well,*" said Bill "*One day she filed rape charges against me. At age 93, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pleaded 'GUILTY'. The judge gave me 30 days for perjury.*"

## The Little She Had Was Yanked Away

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Monday, 21 April 2008:

San Ignacio Police has detained one person in connection with the robbery of \$45 from Miss Poly.

It was around 7:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 17. when three masked male persons in camouflage pants entered the little gift shop operated by Mrs. Epolita "*Miss Poly*" August and made off with \$45 from the cash register.

Miss Poly, 64, Belizean business woman who owns the shop located on George Price Avenue in Santa

Elena Town, told the police that one of the three masked men placed a silver hand gun to her face and demanded money.

Fearing for her life, Miss Poly wasted no time in handing over the cash register which contained \$45.

After taking possession of the cash, all three assailants walked out of the shop and disappeared into the darkness of the night.

Police investigation has since led to the detention of **Joel Sierra**, 17, Belizean unemployed of #7 Cemetery Road, Santa Elena Town.

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### Vacancy Notice

Petroleum Accountant



Geology and Petroleum Department  
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment  
Government of Belize

Applications are invited from suitable qualified persons for the post of **Petroleum Accountant** in the Geology and Petroleum Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. The qualification requirement for appointment to the post and its associated duties and responsibilities are as follows:

**Position:** Petroleum Accountant

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or alternately in Economics with a minor in Accounting or a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with a major in Accounting. Training and experience in petroleum accounting would be an asset.

**Skills for the post:** Supervisory skills, familiarity with standard computer applications, good communications, writing and interpersonal skills.

**Experience:** 3 years in accounting field

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- Auditing the petroleum accounts of contractors
- Auditing and monitoring of Government petroleum revenues including:- Royalties, Petroleum Shares and Revenues from Government's participation in commercial fields.
- Evaluate oil/gas field economics.
- Assist the Income Tax Department in the auditing of the petroleum accounts of contractors.
- Other duties relating to petroleum accounting, economics and finance.

**Salary:** Pay Scale 16 of \$25,584 X \$1,104 - \$46,560

#### Deadline for application:

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications are to submit their applications to the Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Market Square, Belmopan City no later than April 30, 2008.



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**Thursday: Piña Colada  
\$9.95**

**Friday: Micheladas  
\$4.00**

**Rolson  
is also featuring a family  
platter**



# Castellanos Killed Inside Local Bar

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, April 25, 2008:**

A Santa Elena youth is today dead after receiving a single shot to the chest inside a local bar.

San Ignacio police reports that it was at around 1:00 a.m., on Wednesday, April 23 when they were summoned to the Cinco Banderas Bar (formerly /Aqui Me Quedo) located in the Santa Cruz Area, Santa Elena Town where they encountered **Victor "Skully" Castellanos**, 20, on the ground inside the bar with a gun shot wound to the right side of the chest.

The victim was rushed to the San Ignacio Town Hospital where he died whilst undergoing treatment.

The proprietor of Cinco Banderas Bar, **Benjamin Mendez**, 46, Salvadoran, naturalized Belizean reported to the police that shortly after midnight four men entered his establishment where they became involved in a fight with an unidentified immigration officer.

The deceased was reportedly trying to relieve the immigration



**The Deceased - Victor "Skully" Castellanos, 20**

officer of his firearm. Mendez told the police that he intervened on behalf of the immigration officer by

pushing away the deceased.

The deceased reportedly turned around and punched Mendez several

times in the face.

Mendez told the police that after the attack, he ran out of the bar. The deceased, armed with a knife in his right hand reportedly followed him outside.

In the process of defending himself, Mendez pulled out his licensed 9mm pistol and fired a shot which caught the victim in the right side of the chest.

Police investigation led to the detention of **Luis Castellanos**, 30, Belizean laborer of Santa Cruz Area, **Joel "Bugs" Fuentes**, 23, Belizean laborer of #187 Western Highway and **Marva Castro**, 27, Belizean domestic of Santa Cruz Area all of whom were believed to be accompanying the deceased at the time of the incident.

Despite Mendez' report of the firing of one shot, neighbours contend hearing 4 distinct shots. Family members also contend that Skully did not follow Mendez outside the bar and that he was actually shot, from point blank range inside the bar and that after the shooting, Mendez locked the burglar barred door and refused anyone to offer assistance to the victim indicating that no one will be allowed to touch the body until the police arrived on the scene.

Latest information reaching us on Friday afternoon indicate that Benjamin Mendez was formally arrested and charged with one count of manslaughter by negligence. He appeared in San Ignacio's magistrate court on Friday April 25, 2008. He was offered and met bail in the sum of \$6,000 to reappear in court on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

As we go to press we are told that the family of the deceased is waiting for the completion of the post mortem examination while they continue to make funeral arrangements.

## Guatemalans Trafficking In Chinese Or Just An Isolated Case Of Illegal Entry

**BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo, Tuesday, April 22, 2008:**

At 12:40 pm on Tuesday, April, 22 whilst on patrol in the Paslow Falls Area near Bullet Tree Falls village

Police came upon a black Toyota 4 Runner with Guatemalan license plates, P-198CYJ.

Police intercepted the vehicle and they saw four male persons alighting

the vehicle and running into nearby bushes.

Two of the escapees are believed to be Guatemalans and the other two are believed to be Chinese.

Another chinese, identified as Xiang Zeng, 21, was detained and charged for illegal entry.

A search of the vehicle led to the discovery of thirteen .22 rounds of ammunition as well as a guatemalan gun license for a .22 rifle issued in the name of **Jose Sandoval Leon** of Moralez Izabal Guatemala, was found inside the vehicle.



**The Toyota 4 Runner with Guatemalan license plates P-198CYJ at the San Ignacio Police Station**

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## Galen University Celebrates Cultural Diversity

**PRESS RELEASE, Galen University, Tuesday, April 22, 2008:**

Another stepping stone for Galen University was its First Annual Culture Day when Belizean and international students, guests, faculty and staff celebrated the diversity that is represented at Galen.

The event ran from 11:00 a.m. to about 3:30 p.m. at the Galen University Campus, 62 ½ Miles Western Highway, San Ignacio, Cayo District.

Participants, students and guests had the opportunity to honor cultural and ethnic differences, to learn from the decorated and informative booths and observe the musical and dance performances.

Students from nearby primary and high schools read about the native cultures of Belize as well as Sweden, Ireland and the Mennonites. Each group prepared food items, various forms of entertainment and leisure activities that are common to their



**Governor General, Sir Colville Young**

culture.

All participants were given prizes. The overall winner was the Mestizo group followed by the Garifuna and the Creole groups.

Galen University thanks all its sponsors and participants. A special thank you is extended to **Governor General, Sir Colville Young**, who graced us with his presence.

The success of this first event has



**One of the cultural groups**

propelled students, faculty and staff to begin planning for Cultural Day 2009.

## Join The Rotaract Club

**BY: John Acott, San Ignacio Town, Cayo, Wednesday, April 23, 2008:**

Members of the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of San Ignacio came together at the market last Saturday in a joint “*Spaghetti Day*” fundraiser to raise money for various community projects. Both clubs have similar ideals and all of the members are dedicated to helping others.

Rotaract is a younger version of Rotary and consists of ordinary people from the community who want to make a life a little easier for those



**PHOTO: (L-R) Cynthia Allen, Jack Barnes and Carrie Roberson serving up the spaghetti**

in need. Any person between the ages of 18 and 30 is welcome to join and the club meets at the San Ignacio Hotel (Bedran Hall) every Monday at 7:30pm – next meeting 5th May. More details are available from Emogene Habet. She can be emailed at [emogenehabet@hotmail.com](mailto:emogenehabet@hotmail.com).

## DID POLICE NEGLIGENCE COST A MAN HIS LIFE?

**From Front Page**

*a small cut wound on his side. I immediately called the police and they responded quickly. They took the man to the hospital and I was told that he was pronounced dead on arrival” said the JP.*

While Garcia is dead and Pulido is in jail, the community is asking: Were the police

negligent in not responding to the initial report of the stabbing incident near the post office?

**Ismael Pulido**, 39, Belizean Laborer, of #3 Guerra Street, San Ignacio was consequently arrested and formally charged for the murder



**Scene of the Crime in front of Hudson Street near the Post Office in San Ignacio**

of Guatemalan national **Jose Luis Garcia**. Pulido appeared before San Ignacio’s Magistrate, **Kathleen Lewis**, on Tuesday, April 22 and was remanded to prison for the next court date on Thursday, May 22, 2008.

## Announcing The Death Of Two Stalwart UDP Women

**From Front Page**

Miss Doris is survived by one daughter **Juanita Tate** residing in Los Angeles, California and **Manuel Tate** also of Los Angeles, California. Although not her biological son, Miss Doris took custody of Manuel since he was a month old. For Manuel, Miss Doris “*da Mama*” and to Miss Doris, Manuel was nothing less than a true son. She is also survived by several grandchildren including **James, Doris** and **Natasha** who were closest to her as they tended to her every need for many years right up to the very day of her passing. She is also survived by several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews other relatives and countless friends.

Miss Doris is predeceased by her husband, **Gerald Tate** (October 1984); son, **David Tate** (May 1990) and daughter, **Rita Tate** (December 2005).

Funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, 2008.

Ms. Maria Eva Urbina, 62, “*Miss Eve*”, as she was popularly and affectionately known, was born on August 12, 1945. She passed away at 9:40 a.m on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at Universal Health Services Hospital in Belize City.

Miss Eve is survived by seven children: Four daughters, **Michelle “Shalue”, Samantha, Shirley “Lisa”** and **Gisselle**; Three sons: **Zaid, Mark** and **Geovanni**.

The home funeral service for Miss Eve was held on Mabel Pitts Street in Santa Elena at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2008 after which the procession proceeded to the Carmen Memorial Cemetery in Santa Elena.

Despite the sadness of losing a loving mother, and between tears, Lisa told the **STAR Newspaper** that she will always remember her mother as a strong, dedicated and loving person. “*She dedicated all her life to raising us*” said Lisa. “*She was full of love and although she is gone, we take comfort in the knowledge that she lived a full and happy life. She was known throughout the country because of her profession as a quality seamstress. Apart from her children, her second love was sewing and she worked hard and long hours behind the sewing machine to provide for her children. We will miss her very much*”, concluded Lisa.

We join with the community in expressing condolences to the bereaved families of Miss Doris and Miss Eve. May their souls rest in Eternal Peace.

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