

THE JUDGE FINDS SALAZAR NOT GUILTY

BELIZE CITY, Monday, February 16, 2009:

It was over two years ago, on December 8, 2006 when a 12 member jury of his peers, unanimously found him guilty of murder and today, in a retrial, after withdrawing the jury from the case, and directing them to bring a not guilty verdict, the new trial judge, **Justice Herbert Lord**, told the previously convicted murderer, **Dionicio “Life” Salazar Jr.**, that he was free to go.

It was four years and seven months ago, during the afternoon hours on June 28, 2004 when **Rodney Richard August**, 22, the eldest son of the Publisher of this newspaper, and **Janelle Longworth** were sitting on the San Ignacio bank of the Macal River, when a lone man, brandishing a machete sneaked up from behind out of nearby bushes, and with a single swing of the machete chopped Rodney in the back almost cutting him in half. He

held the machete to the girl’s neck and told her that if she ever squeals on him, he would kill her.

Rodney passed away 8 hours later whilst undergoing emergency medical treatment at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan but not before, in a dying declaration, separately telling a Justice of the Peace, his mother and the police that, *“Life”* was the person who chopped him.

During the investigation, statements were recorded from the



Dionicio “Life” Salazar Jr.

eyewitness, Janelle Longworth, the Justice of the Peace, the mother and the police. Three days after the incident, on July 1, 2004, an identification parade was conducted at the Queen Street Police Station in Belize City where the eyewitness positively identified **Dionicio Salazar Jr.**, from among eight others, as the person with the machete who held it to her throat and threatened to kill her if ever she squealed on him. The case file shows an immaculate identification parade conducted by then **Inspector Oscar Puga**.

When the case first went to trial in November 2006, the prosecutor did not tender the police identification parade into evidence but instead relied on a dock identification of the accused by the eyewitness. The dock identification was admitted into evidence but not before the learned trial Judge, **Justice Adolph Lucas**, advised the jury of the weakness of this form of identification as opposed to the police identification parade where the accused is placed

The Sudden Passing Of Kenny Gibbs

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Saturday, February 21, 2009:

It is with profound sadness that we record the passing of **Kenneth George “Kenny” Gibbs**, 58, of San Ignacio, Cayo, who passed away suddenly in Corozal Town on Monday, February 16, 2009 whilst on a business trip in that northernmost municipality.

A relative of the deceased informed that Kenny Gibbs left his home on Blue Hole Street in the Cahal Pech Area, San Ignacio shortly after 5:00 am for the trip to Corozal Town along with his son-in-law, Fernando, to pick up a vehicle for his daughter.

It was shortly after 2:00 p.m. that evening when he called his wife informing her that he was getting ready to leave Corozal Town on his way back home.

The relative informed that he was getting into the vehicle to drive

back to San Ignacio, when he reportedly called out to Fernando informing him that he was getting numb. Since he is known to be always joking, at first Fernando did not take it seriously but this soon changed when Kenny Gibbs collapsed to the ground. He was rushed to the Corozal hospital and passed away at 3:45 p.m. whilst undergoing emergency medical treatment.

The relative informed that at the time of his passing, he was on a strict diet as advised



Kenneth George “Kenny” Gibbs, 58
SUNRISE: December 31, 1950
SUNSET: February 16, 2009

Please Turn To Page 11

Please Turn To Page 15

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Guest Editorial



A Very Bitter Taste In My Mouth

BY: Janel August, Student, San Francisco, USA

There comes a time in life when you look around and realize that the picture painted, the facade put up, is just that - a deflector to curb the flow of how things ought to be rather than the way they are.

The scales of justice are supposed to be fair, equal, unbiased, and free of corruption. If tipped in one direction, it fails to be balanced and becomes a mere curtain, covering greed, self-centeredness, malpractices and maybe even corruption.

Things are never as bad as they seem until the tide turns, and your ship becomes the one being tossed back and forth by the rough winds of injustice.

I was raised to believe that when someone does you wrong, you put it in the hands of the law. If someone steals your car, you file a report and let the law handle it. Do it any other way and vigilante justice steps in. Justice should never be construed as a payback or revenge; otherwise, it fails to live up to its true intentions and expectations.

Over four and a half years ago, on June 28th, 2004, my brother **Rodney Richard August**, a young resident of Santa Elena Town was killed when he was chopped almost in half as he was attacked from behind by a coward who an eyewitness identified as **“Life”**.

On December 8th, 2006, ironically on what should have been Rodney’s 24th birthday, the coward was found guilty, beyond all reasonable doubt, of the heinous crime by a 12 member jury of his peers and was sentenced to spend the rest of natural life in jail.

To the family who lost a loved one at the hands of a coward, this seemed as fair a justice as can be expected. The law of the land prevailed. The monster that decided he couldn’t coexist with Rodney was handed a punishment fit for the crime.

Under the laws of Belize, every citizen is given the right to an appeal to which **“Life”** was no exception. In 2008, the defense attorney filed an appeal and the court ordered a retrial.

During the period of the conviction and the appeal, situation changed and the sole eyewitness, a female, now sits inside a jail in Guatemala on a drug charge. She was ready and willing to take the witness stand for a second time. The Guatemalan authorities refused the request to have her transferred to Belize for the day or two to testify in the retrial. Notwithstanding, her statements were allowed to be read into evidence and it again points to one perpetrator, **“Life”**.

On February 16th 2009, the victims’s family, and indeed the close knitted community is slapped with the news that, in his wisdom the trial judge, **not a jury of his peers**, sets this once convicted murderer free. And what is his reason for setting this person free, - because he says, in the deposition the eyewitness failed to link **“Life”** to the accused, although the evidence shows that when he was placed in a police identification parade along with 8 persons of his choosing, the eyewitness in an instant positively pointed him out from the police line up.

In his individual wisdom however, the trial judge came to the determination that the eyewitness failed to make the connection between **“Life”** and the accused. And with the single stroke of the Judge’s pen, a once convicted murderer was set free after serving a measly four and a half years for depriving a young person of his God given right to **life**.

Let me put myself in this man’s shoes for a second. Here I am, a previously convicted murderer, facing a life term in prison. I am sitting in court, I hear my defense attorney going to great extremes to strip me of the identity I grew up with while I sit in court with these exact identifying words branded for **life** on my neck and on my arm. I am known on the streets and in the hood as **“Life”** and here is this man trying to take away my identity. To heck with that I say, I do not care I say because if he succeeds in convincing the judge that I am not **“Life”** then I will get a new lease on **“Life”**.

A tattoo is a distinguishing mark. The bearer is branded for **life** of his own accord. That which is voluntarily etched into his skin is

what he believes in and what he claims. Bikers tattoo the name of their cliques to identify them. Gangs use tattoos as a territorial mark that divides, unites and distinguishes them. Wouldn’t a tattoo bearing the word **“Life”** be reason enough to establish the connection?

As **Dionicio Salazar Jr.** a.k.a. **“Life”** sat in that courtroom, looking down at his forearm at the very word **“Life”** etched deep into his skin, his mind probably raced. Doesn’t this support the fact that **“Life”** and the accused are one and the same? It is amazing how one can be who and what one wants to be when it is convenient. On the streets they know me as **“Life”**, but in a courtroom, I bear no knowledge of who this **“Life”** could possibly be. As he continues wearing this mark, he must realize that he is doing so in shame as he has allowed total separation from it.

I am just a twenty two year old college student and sister of the deceased. I am looking at questionable justice being served on my still grieving family at loss of a loved one.

On February 16th, 2009 **“Life’s”** defense attorney made a no case submission on his behalf and the trial judge ruled that based on defense’s submission, the once, jury convicted, murderer had no case to answer. The star witness was absent from the retrial as she is held in Guatemala on an unrelated charge. According to her evidence in the 2004 trail, she placed the accused on the scene of the crime holding the machete and she knew him as **life**. In his dying declaration, Rodney told a Justice of the Peace, his mother and the police that **“Life”** was the one who chopped him.

In the police identification parade and on the dock inside the courtroom, the eyewitness pointed him out as the person who crept up from behind and fatally chopped Rodney Richard August across the back as he sat with her in a secluded area on the banks of the Macal River in San Ignacio Town on that June 28th 2004 afternoon.

With his identity successfully stripped, by his defense attorney, at least in the eyes of the learned trial judge, what is Dionicio **“Life”** Salazar Jr. now going to be? Perhaps **“After Life”**, **“Another Life”** **“Pitiful Life”**? Certainly not **“No Life”** because that one was forced onto Rodney. I now await this coward’s new alias.

Quite frankly, I never thought I would see the day when I fear raising a family in Belize - the land of my birth - that supposed **“Beautiful Jewel Of Ours”**.

I fear for my yet unborn children walking the streets where convicted murderers get off in these flippant ways.

I fear leaving my home knowing that the very person, hands stained with someone else’s blood, drenched in his own misery and cowardly stripped of his alias, roams freely.

What messages are we sending to the citizens of Belize? The **“Life”** of a fellow human being is worthless - Take the law into your hands - By pass the justice system, use your machets and your guns to settle differences - Justice is best served when you take **“an eye for an eye”** - Kill and get off free by claiming you are not whom they claim you are?

Has the Belizean life become so insignificant that our judicial system fails to protect it? Maybe we should resort to living like savages, in a Darwinian world. While I refuse to buy into the notion that lady justice is peeping from behind her blindfold, this personal brush with the system certainly leaves a very bitter taste in my mouth.

Sunday Night Shooting In Santa Elena

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Sunday, February 22, 2009:

The information reaching us is still sketchy but police are tonight reporting a shooting incident at the intersection of Carmen Street and Carillo Puerto Avenue in Santa Elena Town, Cayo.

Reports indicate that it was exactly 8:50 pm on Sunday night, February 22, 2009 when they received the report of the firing of gunshots in the area.

Within five minutes of the report, members of the Police Quick Response Team were on the scene followed shortly thereafter by the regular elements on duty.

Upon arrival the police came upon an injured man on the ground near a drain on the side of the street. He was placed in the police vehicle and rushed across the wooden bridge to the San Ignacio Town Hospital where he was identified as **Osberto Alcaraz**, 20, Belizean unemployed, residing at #3 Teacher's Lane, Santa Elena - just up the street from where the shooting occurred.

The victim was found with what

appeared to be a gunshot wound to the upper portion of the right thigh with an exit wound on the other side, between the legs. There were also signs of a graze in the same area.

When his pants were removed in the emergency room, the lead from two bullets fell to the floor. One of the lead was found to be smashed while the other was almost intact thereby leading police to suspect that the smashed lead was the one that penetrated the victim while other could have been the one that grazed him.

Despite a thorough search of the crime scene, police did not find a single expended shell which, when combined with the lead that fell from the victim's pants at the hospital, is leading investigators to suspect that the shots were fired from a 38 revolver being the kind of firearm that retains expended casings in the chamber.

From the San Ignacio Hospital the victim was transferred to La Loma Luz hospital for x-ray but, upon arrival, the medical personnel were informed that the x-ray machine at the Loma Luz Hospital was not

working and so the ambulance continued on to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.

While the victim is reportedly not fully cooperating with the police during the preliminary investigation, the reports indicate that a lone gunman came riding a bicycle up Carillo Puerto Avenue from the direction of George Price Avenue heading towards the Western Highway and upon reaching near the midway point, in the

area where Carmen Street crosses Carillo Puerto Avenue, he came upon three young men hanging out at the intersection.

While the police are saying that the gunman was unmasked, another report indicates that the gunman's face was covered by a red rag and the hood of his jacket was pulled over his head.

The gunman reportedly rode up to the boys and pulled out a gun

Please Turn To Page 15

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BELIZE TOURISM BOARD BTB TOURISM NEWS

Belize is Showcased to the consumers, travel agents and wholesalers in California

Belize City, Tuesday, February 17th, 2009- On February 14th and February 15th, 2009, thousands of travel experts from around the world converged at the Los Angeles Convention Center to assist consumers to find their next incredible vacation. Representing the Belize Tourism Board at this event were Director of Marketing, Shakira Oxley-Tsai and Marketing Officer Vivienne Acosta.

The 14th Annual Los Angeles Times Travel & Adventure Show showcased the most sought after domestic and international destinations. More than 550 exhibitors from around the world were there to help visitors gather insight to help plan their adventure or quick weekend getaway. From safaris to scuba diving, wind surfing to wine tours, archaeology excursions to relaxing on a pristine beach, visitors were able to discover amazing travel destinations, attractions, activities, resorts, products, luxury goods and services.

While in California, the BTB delegation had the opportunity to educate both wholesalers and the retail travel trade on Belize's product offerings by conducting an audio visual presentation which highlighted Belize's reef, rainforest, archaeology, and culture. The first presentation was done to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) San Diego chapter. During the presentation, agents were introduced to various scenes and sounds of Belize, increasing their awareness and knowledge, in an effort to effectively promote and sell Belize as a vacation destination to their clients.

On this trip, the Belize delegation also met with one of the largest wholesalers in the California area, Pleasant Holidays. The company has long term partnerships with some of the world's leading airlines, hotels, cruise lines and travel agencies. The Pleasant Holidays brands have sold over 9 million vacation packages since 1959 and the Belize Tourism Board is proud to announce that Pleasant Holidays will launch Belize as a new destination in April of 2009.

BTB representatives also met with the local press and conducted two on-camera interviews talking about Belize as a premier vacation destination. Private sector participants included Belize Vacation Partners and Hugh Parkey's Belize Adventures. The Belize Tourism Board would like to thank the consulate of Belize in California, Mr. Roland Yorke for his invaluable support at both presentations and the Los Angeles Times Travel & Adventure Show.



BTB & CTO San Diego Travel Agent



Belize at the LA Times Show



BTB and Pleasant Vacations

The Belizean Adventure Showcased in the Big Apple

Belize City, Thursday, February 11th, 2009 - Icy winds and wintry cold temperatures did not restrain adventure enthusiasts from attending the New York Times Trade Show, where Belize had the distinct pleasure of being a part of this past weekend at the Jacob J. Javits Convention Center in downtown Manhattan, February 6th through 8th, 2009.

The floor of the Jacob Javits Convention Centre was transformed into a sea of adventure travel and the New York Times Show heated up the travel market, attracting more than 7,000 trade professionals and 28,000 attendees and 7,000 trade professionals during the two and a half days who visited the booths of over 500 globe-spanning exhibitors. The fifth annual New York Times Travel Show presented by American Express is a passport to discovery, a dynamic, interactive experience where everyone passionate about travel could explore premier destinations, properties, products and services.

The New York Times Show hosted a Trade Day on the afternoon of February 6th, and included four spectacular conferences for travel industry professions featuring industry experts presenting the latest trends and issues. The trade day included conferences for travel Executives, Tourism Boards, Travel Writers and Travel Agents; a luncheon for attendees, visits to the exhibition floor, and an exclusive industry reception to end off the evening.

February 7th and February 8th were both open to the public and had a steady flow of enthusiastic individuals wanting to learn more about Belize. The show also brought together hundreds of destinations, resorts, outfitters and gear manufacturers from around the globe to showcase the best in adventure travel. It is a US 115 billion dollar a year industry and growing.

As a bonus to BTB's presence in New York, an interview was arranged through BTB's International PR team, BVK with Editor Joe Pike of Travel Agent Magazine. The meeting discussed recent efforts of the Belize Government in support of the Sustainable Tourism Plan for Belize and the recent Sport Fishing Legislation that was passed on January 19th, 2009.

Request for information from the Belize toll free number has demonstrated that New York, California and Florida are the top three states in the United States that has shown interest in Belize as a tourism destination. It is noteworthy to mention that New York is also the third largest and the most populated city in the United States.

Representing the Belize Tourism Board were Melecia Banks and Gale Ozeata. Private sector representative included Belize Vacation Partners.



For more information on events taking place in Belize's tourism industry, please contact the Marketing Department, Belize Tourism Boards at 227-2420, via email: btbb@btl.net or visit our website www.travelbelize.org.

Ten Mac Laptops For St. Barnabas

BY: Candace Willacey, Marketing Officer Galen University, Central Farm, Cayo, Wednesday, February 18, 2009:

Galen University (GU) students presented 10 Mac Laptop computers and two routers to St. Barnabas Anglican Primary School in Central Farm, Cayo.

The generous donation was made during a brief 4:30 pm. ceremony at the school on Tuesday, February 17.

The equipment will be used for the setting up of a wireless computer lab.

The Applications of Sustainable Development course at Galen University has a service learning component. Groups of students in this course develop a community project and, in this instance, this was one of their projects.

The main goal of the four students currently working on this



Photo left - right: Dylan Gart, International Student; Raul Martinez, GU Undergraduate Student; Inar Cayetano, GU Undergraduate Student; Mrs. Joyce Shaw, Principal St Barnabas Anglican Primary School; and Georgia Middleton, GU Undergraduate Student

project is to educate the primary school teachers, who have virtually no experience with computers, on

basic computer skills that they can in turn use for their work and then pass along to the children in their

Rotaract Says Thank You To Elly Ruge

Dear Ms. Elly Ruge,

On behalf of the Rotaract Club of San Ignacio (District 4250), I wish to express our gratitude for

your kind donation of BZ \$1,040 to our Flood Relief Efforts.

We received the money through **Mr. John Acott**, Rotarian from our

sponsoring Rotary Club.

In October and November, following the devastating floods in our country, our club executed several Flood Relief projects. Among those was one executed in the Calla Creek Village in the Cayo District - one of the villages in Belize most affected by the flood.

Through a clothes and food drive, and sponsorship from 2 Rotary Clubs in Belize our club distributed a total of 56 family hampers containing basic necessities such as corn flour, beans, rice, canned food, toilet paper, soap, mosquito repellent and clothes including sheets and blankets to the neediest families in Calla Creek village.

With this additional money, we will be able to help more people who, due to the floods, have had a

difficult time in restoring their day to day life back to normalcy.

Mrs. Joyce Shaw, the principal of St. Barnabas Anglican Primary School, commented: *"We are grateful for such a donation. I know my teachers will utilize these laptops to the fullest and whatever is being taught to them will be passed down to the students of St. Barnabas Primary School."*

Galen University is a community oriented university which strives to promote sustainable development.



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difficult time in restoring their day to day life back to normalcy.

Once the project is executed, which we hope will be possible this month, we will be sending you a report and photographs. Attached please find a small token of our appreciation.

Thank you again.

Yours in Rotaract,

Emogene Habet

President (2008 - 2009)

Rotaract Club of San Ignacio

District 4250

An Open Invitation To Attend The Public Forum On Guatemala's Claim To Belize

BY: Stephen Duncan

**Methodist Men's Commission
BELIZE CITY, Wednesday,
February 18, 2009:**

The Methodist Church Men's Commission is organizing a public forum on the Guatemalan claim to Belize and the impending referendum.

The Commission is seeking to pass on as much knowledge of the topic to the general public in the event that a referendum is held.


The Commission is therefore extending an open invitation to everyone to attend the forum which will be held on Sunday, February

22, 2009 at Wesley Church on Albert Street in Belize City, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

There will be presentations from a distinguished panel of Belizeans including Ambassadors **Fred Martinez, Lisa Shoman, Eamon Courtenay** and **James Murphy** as well as a presentation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, **the Honourable Wilfred Elrington**.

The forum will also include a question and answer session.

Facilitator for the event will be **Mrs. Brenda Armstrong**, Principal of Westley Methodist College.



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★ STAR HUMOR

Lawyer Takes The Goods

Carlson was charged with stealing a Mercedes Benz and with a crafty lawyer defending him, the judge acquitted him.

Later that day Carlson came back to the judge who had presided at the hearing.

"Your honour," he said, "I wanna get out a warrant for that

A Sure Indicator Of The Cold Weather

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Chuc were sitting on a bench in the Columbus Park when Mr. Thompson struck up a conversation

"It looks like a very heavy north breeze is blowing down because it was very cold this

Only The PUP Benefits

The PUP was having the launching of its manifesto bash at the Macal River Park.

A man steps up to the bar and orders a beer. "That will be two dollars," says the bartender.

"Two dollars!" the customer protests, "but at these polirical functions you usually sell Dalla Beers!"

"Well," replies the bartender, "it's a Dalla for the beer and a Dalla for the PUP."

Reluctantly, the man gives the bartender the two dollars, and is

The Wrong Patient

Mr. Castillo goes into a drugstore on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town and asks the pharmacist if he can give him something for the hiccups.

The pharmacist promptly reaches over the counter and slaps Mr. Castillo in the face.

"What did you do that for?" asks Mr. Castillo.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?" asks the pharmacist.

After shaking off the slap Mr. Castillo says, "No, but my wife out in the car still does!"

dirty lawyer of mine."

"Why ?" asked the judge. "He won the case for you. Why do you now want to have him arrested?"

"Well, your honour," replied Carlson, "I didn't have the money to pay his fee, so he went to my house and took the Mercedes Benz I stole."

morning." says Mr. Thompson.

"How cold was it?" asked Mr. Chuc.

"I do not know. All I know that it was unusually cold because this morning I saw a lawyer walking down the street with his hands in his own pockets."

surprised when the bartender gives him back a dollar change and says, "We are out of beers."

The People Of Bradley's Bank Says Thank You To Agriculture Minister Rene Montero

Submitted By: Orlando Pulido, Santa Elena, Cayo

To Mr. Rene Montero
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Area Representative of the Cayo Central Division
Dear Sir;

We the, the undersigned residents of Bradley's Bank, located behind the Novelos Convention Centre in Santa Elena

Town, Cayo, would like to thank you for the expansion of water services in our area.

This milestone development will bring great health benefits to our residents.

We would appreciate if electricity is also extended to Bradley's Bank.

We thank you in advance for your efforts in bringing energy to our homes.

Philip Leslie
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Jefferson Dawson
Santos Gonzalez
Philip LESLIE
Damaris Arriola
Antonio Varguez
Amalia Cho J
Evoangelina Lemus
Lamella Dawson
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"BNE Goes To Court", says Channel 7

CHANNEL 7, Belize City, Monday, February 16, 2009:

In its TV newscast for Monday, February 16, 2009, Tropical Vision, Channel 7 reported on the scheduled court appearance of officials from the Belize Natural Energy (BNE) Ltd. to answer a charge in connection with the alleged non-reporting of a minor oil spill that took place on the company’s Iguana Creek Road compound near the Mennonite community of Spanish Lookout, in the Cayo District

CHANNEL 7’s REPORT

There was once a time when it was widely felt that, as Belize’s only oil producer and a main revenue source for government, Belize Natural Energy could “get over” on the Department of the Environment (DOE).

Things have changed in Belmopan and a sure sign of that will come tomorrow when BNE is made to appear in San Ignacio Magistrate’s Court charged for an environmental offence.

It’s not a major offence: the non

reporting of an oil spill....but it is significant that it has gotten to this stage without executive intercession – that’s probably a first.

On February 12th the DOE presented a summons for BNE to appear Court.

According to our reports, the spill happened in the first week of February, when what the Department of the Environment estimates was 10 barrels of oil spilled into a creek within BNE’s compound in the Iguana Creek

area.

According to Chief Environmental Officer Martin Alegria, the main concern is that the oil could drain off into the Iguana Creek proper which is a tributary of the Belize River. He claims that BNE did not report it to his office and when DOE got there, BNE staffers had already taken measures to mop it up.

BNE has highly specialized equipment to conduct oil spill cleanups. Still, it’s the law and the requirements of their compliance plan that it be reported to the department. And they’ve been using it because according to Alegria, this is the third oil spill since November.

The charge was read by Magistrate Kathlene Lewis in the presence of BNE’s legal representative and the matter was adjourned for Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Tuesday, February 17, 2009:

In response to Channel 7’s Newscast (*above*), Belize Natural Energy (BNE) limited, this morning, fired off the following press release:

BNE’s RESPONSE

IGUANA CREEK, CAYO, Tuesday, February 17, 2009:

“BNE’s unwavering commitment to its environmental and safety responsibilities is soundly demonstrated in its achievements in not only operational matters but also capacity building and training. BNE has never tried to “get over” anyone as this would be irresponsible and

counterproductive.

On 4th of February 2009, a minor spill of an estimated 5 to 7 barrels of crude oil occurred within the compound of Belize Natural Energy’s handling and storage facility in Iguana Creek, Cayo District.

BNE trained personnel responded immediately to contain the spill and implement proven cleanup procedures to minimize any adverse impact on the surrounding environment.

The cleanup and restoration was successfully concluded with monitoring by the Department of the Environment and the Petroleum Department.

BNE has invested tremendous amounts of resources in the training and equipping of personnel for the prevention of spills, and for effective response when spills do occur.

BNE has assisted the DOE in incidents that were unrelated to BNE’s operations and worked with the DOE in workshops such as the recently held Spill Response Workshop in which we provided equipment and supplies.

BNE, under the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) signed with the Department of the Environment (DOE), is required to report all spills and provide a written report on the incident to the DOE within 72 hours.

BNE has carried through on these reporting requirements on all “Energy for Life” prior incidents. A report on the spill referred to by Channel 7 was provided to the DOE in the specified time.

The biggest weakness in the reporting requirements which this recent incident has highlighted and which BNE and the DOE will have to immediately address is the matter of clear 24/7 access to a reporting mechanism within the

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DOE along the lines of a manned 911 call.

At this time, the Department of Environment has no reporting system in place (i.e no hotline or direct line for this purpose).

Boy Marries Dog To Ward Off Tiger Attacks

By Jatindra Dash

BHUBANESWAR, India (Reuters)

An infant boy was married off to his neighbors’ dog in eastern India by villagers, who said it will stop the groom from being killed by wild animals, officials and witnesses said on Wednesday.

Around 150 tribespeople performed the ritual recently in a hamlet in the state of Orissa’s Jajpur district after the boy, who is under two years old, grew a tooth on his upper gum.

The Munda tribe see such a growth in young children as a bad omen and believe it makes them prone to attacks by tigers and other animals. The tribal god will bless the child and ward off evil spirits after the marriage.

“We performed the marriage because it will overcome any curse that might fall on the child as well

on us,” the boy’s father, Sanarumala Munda, was quoted as saying by a local newspaper.

The groom, Sagula, was carried by his family in a procession to the village temple, where a priest solemnized the marriage between Sagula and his bride, Jyoti, by chanting Sanskrit hymns, a witness said.

The dog belongs to the groom’s neighbors and was set free to roam around the area after the ceremony. No dowry was exchanged, the witness said, and the boy will still be able to marry a human bride in the future without filing for divorce.

Indian law does not recognize weddings between people and animals, but the ritual survives in rural and tribal areas of the country. (Editing by Matthias Williams, Leslie Gevirtz)

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Readers Write



You all have made me proud!

Dear Editor

I would like some space in your much informational newspaper to share my views and comments on an article appearing in the February 15, 2009 edition of your newspaper under the heading "**Sacred Heart Junior College School Support Program.**"

I have personally been involved in this program and it is with great pleasure that I applaud the students who with great effort always "*put a smile on children's face*".

I know Sacred Heart Junior College students who have been involved in the program from the beginning and are always working to make every fund raiser a great success.

I can recall waking up at 5 a.m to prepare for a "*market day*" or a bake sale, or asking for a dollar on Saturdays up until 2:00 pm to raise the money needed to make the so long awaited trip to visit children at the much needed rural schools.

Planning fundraising events were always fun, as the ideas these students bring to make the efforts a success were always with high expectations, and were always met!

The program is very dear to me, and the students who are in the program are always keeping me updated with the program's success.

The experience of being a part of the program is ever gratifying. The smiles on children's face when they receive the gifts make the members work endlessly and with vigor to fund raise.

The teachers who guide these students to make the program a success are hard at work trying to get students together for meetings to making the SSP help more schools.

The program wouldn't be a success without the business sector. Students send letters to the business community and the response is always good. The philosophy of the program, "*helping to educate our children*" is always welcomed by the local businesses community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following people who make SSP the great success that it is:

LECTURERS: Mrs. Maria Marin Mendez, Mrs. Natalie

Williams, Mr. Keith Westbly, Ms. Jan Throwsmith, **STUDENTS:** Judy Vasquez, Hugo Salazar, Delsie Pinelo, Molly Paggett, and all the rest of

Principal Tun Is A Reasonable Man

Dear Editor

I read with much interest the **Michael Hyde** article on the expulsion of his son in last week's edition of the **STAR Newspaper.**

There are many things that Mr. Hyde failed to bring to the attention of your newspaper and what he recounted to you is only selected clips of that particular incident.

I guess that he has good reasons why he might not want **STAR readers** to get the full story.

One of the persons who can shed more light on the saga is **Principal Francisco Tun** himself but this might never be because Mr. Tun is guided by the principles and rules

the students, present and past who have made the SSP a great success. You all have made me proud! Thanks very much.

Ian Segura

governing disclosure to the media.

I would also like to bring some of this information to the forefront but as a policeman, I too am restricted by the rules governing the department.

All I will confine myself in saying is that **Principal Tun is a reasonable man** and I trust that he will do what is in the best interest of maintaining discipline and security at Mopan Technical High School while also taking into consideration the interest of Mr. Hyde's son as well as those of the students and staff at his school.

Please Do Not Publish My Name Benque Viejo Town.

Winsom Foundation - Festival Of Lights

"KEEP IT IN THE LIGHT"

Please mark the date on your calendar. It's the Winsom Foundation Festival of Lights to be held under the theme "**KEEP IT IN THE LIGHT**"

The event takes place on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

For more information we invite

you to visit our website at www.winsomfoundation.com.

We also ask you to kindly tell your friends about the Festival. Tell all your friends living in Belize as well as those from abroad who might be visiting around the time.

Thank You - Winsom Foundation

BELIZE TOURISM BOARD TOURISM VACANCY

THE BELIZE TOURISM BOARD has an opening for an experienced INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and implementation of an organizational internal audit strategy to cover the different departments of the Board by obtaining an understanding of and documenting key business processes and internal controls and providing reports and risk analyses of the functions carried out at the various work levels on a monthly basis.

The Auditor will work independently but closely with management to provide risk-based operational, financial and compliance reviews and appraisals of the effectiveness of the policies, procedures and standards by which the resources of the various companies are being managed.

JOB TITLE: INTERNAL AUDITOR

Duties: The Auditor will:-

- To work with Board of Directors and management to ensure a system is in place which ensures that all major risks of the Board are identified and analyzed, on an annual basis.
- To plan, organize and carry out the internal audit function including the preparation of an audit plan which fulfils the responsibility of the department, scheduling and assigning work and estimating resource needs.
- To report to the Board on the policies, programs and activities of the department.
- To coordinate coverage with the external auditors and ensure that each party is aware of the other's work and also well briefed on areas of concern.
- To make recommendations on the systems and procedures being reviewed, report on the findings and recommendations and monitor management's response and implementation.
- To review and report on the accuracy, timelessness and relevance of the financial and other information that is provided for management.
- To conduct any reviews or tasks requested by Board of Directors, provided that such reviews and task do not compromise the independence or objectivity of the internal audit function.
- To provide the Board of Directors with an opinion on the internal controls in the Board.
- To support the development and maintenance of governance and risk management processes.
- To challenge the Board's assessment of risk and the controls in place to manage the identified risks.
- To evaluate and test the effectiveness of controls in place to manage the identified risks.

Qualifications/Skills:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in Accounting and 4 – 6 years experience in Auditing / Accounting
- Detailed knowledge of business, financial operations, internal accounting and management controls, and audit processes
- Knowledge of audit procedures, including planning, techniques, test and sampling methods involved in conducting audits
- Knowledge of spreadsheet, word processing, business and accounting software
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with all levels of management and staff
- The ability to work with minimal supervision

Salary:

- Negotiable - based on experience and qualification

CLOSING DATE: March 6th, 2009

Interested person are asked to submit resume and salary requirements to:

Chairman, Board of Director
P.O. Box 325, Belize Tourism Board, 64 Regent Street, Belize City, Belize

REPORT ON THE NORTHERN HIGHWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT

BEFORE

After Many Years Of Neglect



For many years the motoring public has been complaining about the bad condition of this section of the Northern Highway the condition of which can be attributed to very poor or non-existent maintainance

Drivers maneuvering through the deplorable condition of the road surface.



Breaking up many vehicles and costing the motoring public millions of dollars in replacement parts and repairs.

REPORT ON THE NORTHERN HIGHWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Hon. Anthony "Boots" Martinez And The Ministry Of Works Stepping Up To The Challenge

*The Ministry Of Works -
Turning Possibilities into Reality*
Delivering The Goods And Services



Minister of Works
Hon. Anthony "Boots" Martinez

The Government of Belize allocated the sum of 2.3 million Belize dollars for the rehabilitation of some 9,900 feet of the Northern Highway, which was severely affected by Tropical Depression #16, late last year.

THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE ARE NOW GETTING TRUE VALUE FOR THEIR TAX DOLLARS

AFTER



The Ministry of Works is rehabilitating some 9,900 feet of the Northern Highway from Chetumal Street located at Miles 2.2 to miles 4.6 on the Northern Highway. This includes resurfacing, drainage and culverts along the highway.

Work on this project has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of March, long before the rainy season.

In the interim the cooperation and patience of the public is being sought as the Ministry of Works improves this portion of the highway.





U.S. Embassy, Belmopan, Friday, February 20, 2009:

A media release from the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan today informed of the offering of a Summer Exchange Programs to Student Leaders.

The release informs that the Embassy of the United States of America in Belmopan invites

young Belizeans to apply for a five-week course from July 11 – August 15, 2009 at a U.S. institution to strengthen their leadership skills, meet with their American peers, engage in local community and service activities, and learn more about the U.S.

The Student Leaders course offered through the Study of United States Institutes (SUSI) is open to student leaders from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Twenty students will be selected from this region to participate in four weeks of coursework and classroom activities, one week of domestic travel, and a 2-3 day program in Washington, D.C.

The program covers participants' costs including: international and domestic travel, ground transportation, books, cultural events, mailing and incidental allowances, housing, and subsistence allowances.

Participants are expected to be

highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities.

This Exchange Program is targeted at students between the ages of 18 and 25 who have little or no prior experience outside of Belize.

If you are interested in applying, please fill out an application form and return it to the U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Office, Floral Park Road, Belmopan by 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 27.

The submission of a prescribed three page application form is required which can be downloaded from the Embassy's website at <http://belize.usembassy.gov>.

Student leaders interested in obtaining more information about the program can do so by writing the Embassy at: Embbelize@state.gov.

After Almost 4 Years, The Kriol Council Will Be Holding It's Annual General Meeting

BY: Myrna Manzanares, President, National Kriol Council

BELIZE CITY, Wednesday, February 18, 2009:

The National Kriol Council is conducting its Annual General Meeting at the House of Culture on Saturday February 28th commencing at 10:30 a.m.

The Council last held a General Meeting in 2005, and it is expected that hereafter, the General Meetings, held every two years, will proceed as such.

Over the past few months, the

Kriol Council has been on a membership drive, travelling to various regions in the country recruiting members. This has been done with the kind support of SIF, (Social Investment Fund). The business of the General Meeting is to receive and adopt the report of the executive, to receive and adopt the financial report, to select officers to the executive and to transact other business as may be determined.

Kriol committees from the various districts are submitting nominations for the executive

posts, and nominations are being accepted from interested persons. This can be done in writing via email to kriolk@yahoo.com or dropped off at the Council's office at the House of Culture on Regent Street in Belize City, between the hours of 9 am to 2 pm workdays, or on the day of the meeting itself.

All Kriol Council members, supporters and interested Belizeans are invited to attend this year's General Meeting.

Buses will be leaving from the different districts and the Belize River Valley.

Schedules of the times of departure will be announced closer to the date of the meeting.

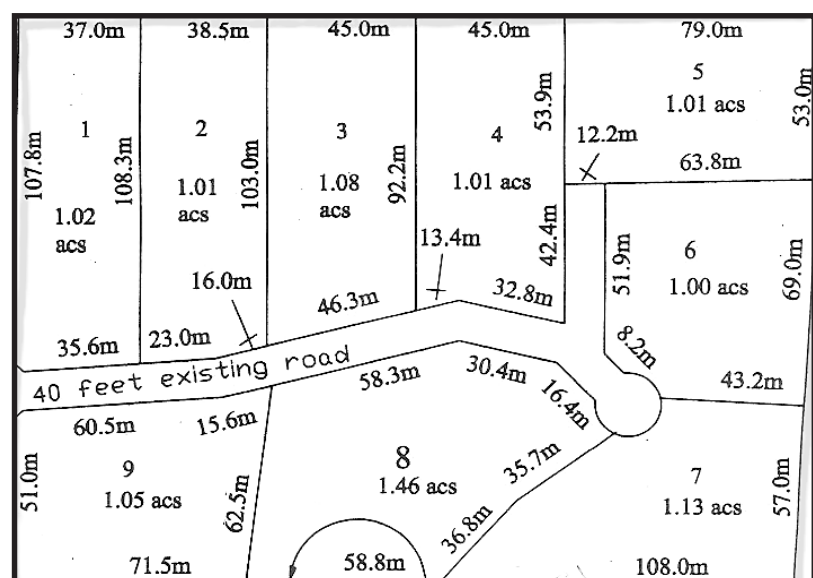
For more information, interested persons can contact the Administrative Secretary **Jamelia** at 602-5282 or the Council's President **Myrna Manzanares** at 605-7671.

Since the last General meeting, the Kriol Council has been active in promoting the rich Kriol language and culture, with highlights being the publication of a grammar book in 2005, the Kriol-English dictionary in 2007, a Traditional Games book also in 2007, and two ethno-music workshops with resulting CDs of music and Kriol lyrics in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

The Council is also a consistent resource for Schools and students.

In other related news, the Kriol Council was the 2006 recipient of the Belize Tourism Board's Cultural Tourism award. It has also embarked on two funded projects – the membership recruitment drive with the assistance of the **Social Investment Fund and the IDB** for the preservation of the Kriol traditional dance, and brokdong music through the training of a starter group of teachers and students in five upper elementary pilot schools which is in its preliminary stages.

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The Junior Humane Society Gets Active

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, February 20, 2009:

Junior members of the San Ignacio Humane Society are getting active as they launched their activities this week with the setting up of a fundraising art program at the San Ignacio Library for children.

Twelve children from the San Ignacio/Santa Elena area arrived to paint t-shirts with themes related to pets. They painted 22 t-shirts that will be sold to raise funds for the work of the humane society.

The t-shirt painting is a way to raise awareness that stray, abused, neglected and unhealthy animals are a community problem that needs community action to solve.

Many thanks are owed to Librarian , **Ms. Terasita Ulloa** , who offered the use of the San Ignacio Library for use by Junior Members. A special thank you is also extended to **Sophie Cohen**, the San Ignacio Humane Society Vice President who organized the event.

The San Ignacio Humane Society (SIHS) is a volunteer-run organization that is dedicated to improving the welfare of animals and promoting the humane treatment of animals.

The organization rehabilitates strays and finds them safe, new homes, assists owners in getting treatment for animals with mange and other health problems and organizes activities that promote

responsible pet care.

The work of the organization is carried out by the very few active members and though the membership is rising steadily, it is rising slowly and there is a constant need for new members from the community.

Led by Ms. Cohen, the new junior members have already proven to be a small, but active and enterprising group. Jointly they have helped to rehabilitate a puppy, **Penny**, who now has a safe, new

The Sudden Passing Of Kenny Gibbs

From Front Page
by his doctor and that they began getting hints of his medical condition as over the past two weeks he was often times

home, off the streets and in a spacious, fenced yard.

The recent t-shirt painting event was such a hit with the members and those that came to join the fun, that they have decided to hold another one.

Children are welcome to join the group again on February 28, 2009 at the San Ignacio Library. The activity is free, fun and for a good cause.

Anyone wishing to become active in the society should contact the Vice President, **Sophie Cohen** at 672-1011 or email sihumanesociety@gmail.com.

incoherent in his speech which made it difficult for members of his family to understand what he was saying.

Kenneth George “Kenny” Gibbs is originally from Belize City. He lived for several years in Dangriga before relocating to San Ignacio Town where, along with his wife, **Joan Ritchie Gibbs** and their children, he began operating the **J&K Bar and Grill** on Blue Hole Street in San Ignacio.

His unique personality made it hard for anyone to miss his presence in any gathering making him a well known person in the community.

Kenneth George “Kenny” Gibbs was the only child born to his parents **George Gibbs** and **Eva Wade** of Belize City both of whom passed away several years ago.

He is survived by his wife **Joan Ritchie Gibbs**; sons, **Kenneth Charles** and **Kenneth Jr.**; he is also survived by two daughters: **Kendra** and **Kenberly** as well as several other relatives and many friends.

A memorial mass was held at St. Andrews Anglican Church, on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town on Thursday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m.

In compliance with his wishes, the family did not hold a big wake. The body was brought in from Belize City, on Thursday evening for a couple hours at the family home after which the funeral procession led to the church.

Immediately after the memorial mass the body was returned to Belize City and taken to a remote location where it was cremated, as was his wish. The ashes were returned to the family home in San Ignacio.

We take this opportunity to express our sincerest sympathies to Ms. Joan and the family at the sudden passing of their loved one. May the soul of **Kenneth George “Kenny” Gibbs** rest in eternal peace.



SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO PURCHASE SSB PROPERTY

On St. George’s Caye, Belize District

The **Social Security Board** (SSB) hereby informs the general public of its intention to sell, and invites sealed bids to purchase the following property:

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land demised to the Social Security Board under a Transfer Certificate of Title dated 6th April, 2000 and recorded in Volume 36 at folio 74. The property is situate at St. George’s Caye being Lot Number 18 and known as Egg Bouy Cottage measuring in width fronting the sea one hundred and twenty-six feet or thereabouts and at the back thereon one hundred and eight feet or thereabouts and in dept on the Northerly side adjoining Lot Number 17 now or formerly in the possession of William Cadle Price two hundred and five feet or thereabouts and on the Southerly side adjoining Crown land two hundred and fifteen feet or thereabouts be the said several dimensions little more or less **TOGETHER** with all buildings erections and developments standing and being thereon.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing addressed to the **General Manager, Investment Services, Social Security Board, P. O. Box 18, Belmopan City**, from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained. Potential buyers must submit bids **by February 27, 2009. Late bids will not be accepted. No preference shall be given to any individual or group.**

The Social Security Board reserves all rights, including the right to refuse any or all bid(s) or offer(s), to withdraw the property from the sale at any time before full payment, and to consider the bid price and currency offered. **Acceptance of a bid is conditional upon full payment. Successful buyer(s) must pay the bid price in full upon notification by SSB.**

DATED the 9th day of February, 2009.

Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES (March 22 to April 20)



New circumstances enhance the outgoing and sociable side of your personality. You get an opportunity to widen your social contacts. This brings admirers into your orbit and possible partners to the heart free! Good fortune forecast on: Wednesday. **Lucky Numbers: 19, 25, 56.**

TAURUS (April 21 to May 21)



An old friendship is about to be renewed and it may be a surprise change in events that throws you together. Using your initiative at work gets good results. Good day for luck: Thursday. **Lucky Numbers: 5, 34, 72.**

GEMINI (May 22 to June 21)



The Sun hits the top of your chart, Mercury enters your travel sector and you're more confident about making beneficial changes that give you a wider field of self expression. Best day for luck: Friday. **Lucky Numbers: 24, 19, 86.**

CANCER (June 22 to July 23)



A recent financial transaction will bring results you weren't even dreaming of. An offer of some money recently applied for, may come your way sooner than expected. Lucky day: Sunday. **Lucky Numbers: 22, 67, 91.**

LEO (July 24 to August 21)



Should you need to ask for a favour, this is the time to do so. If someone owes you money and they seem to have forgotten about it, bring the

subject up *'tactfully'* this week and they will swiftly cough up! Fortunate on: Wednesday. **Lucky Numbers: 18, 33, 75.**

VIRGO (August 22 to September 21)



Before you can achieve anything special you must know what you want. This is a good week to make firm long term goals. It will be surprising how swiftly you progress once you focus on a specific target. Good day for luck: Monday. **Lucky Numbers: 2, 45, 92.**

LIBRA (September 22 to October 23)



A new creative project is starting to take up a lot of your time. You're discovering a talent you hadn't previously acknowledged and when you realize your ability, all you will want to do, is develop it. Expect luck on: Sunday. **Lucky Numbers: 7, 38, 49.**

SCORPIO (October 24 to November 21)



With the Sun moving into a lucky area of your chart, this could be a time for romance and merrymaking. Even so, practical matters must also be considered, in particular those relating to the family need attention. Fortunate on: Tuesday. **Lucky Numbers: 13, 28, 42.**

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)



Arrangements and deals made now won't be minor ones. You will need all your wits about you. Don't be in such a rush that you skim over important details or you will miss

a crucial point. Good fortune forecast on: Thursday. **Lucky Numbers: 16, 17, 44.**

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20)



You could get to establish some interesting new contacts. Expect a shift in the pattern of your relationships these next few weeks as new people enter your life. Lucky day: Sunday. **Lucky Numbers: 15, 64, 83.**

AQUARIUS (January 21 to 18)



You have good ideas on how to bring improvements into your life; your plans

aren't small ones. There are none of the objections you had been expecting. People take to your schemes like ducks to water. Best day for luck: Monday. **Lucky Numbers: 21, 52, 78.**

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)



There's an assertiveness and direct approach to your dealings that brooks no argument or interference. The Sun moving into your sign warrants a fresh approach to issues which weren't adequately solved in the past. Expect luck on: Friday. **Lucky Numbers: 8, 76, 95.**

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- Trip Advisor Member, August 3, 2008

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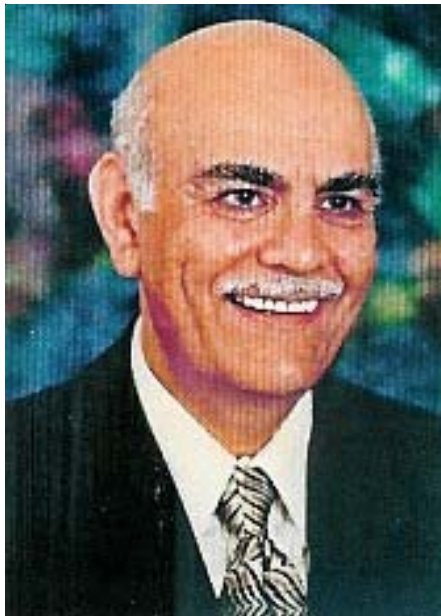
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Promoting The Unity of Mankind

What is the Bahá'í Faith all about? (Continuation)

BY: Mohsen Badiyan



In the Sunday January 18, 2009 edition of your favorite **STAR Newspaper**, you probably read an article, a brief explanation about the Bahá'í Faith and the Dawn of the New Day.

This article today gives more information about the life of **Bahá'u'lláh**, the nineteenth-century Prophet Founder of the Bahá'í Faith and His teachings.

With the new millennium upon us, the crucial need facing the nature of man and society. Such a vision unfolds in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Throughout history, there has been a driving force to civilize human nature. The challenge is to accept that we are one people, to free ourselves from the limited identities and creeds of the past, and to build together the foundations of global civilization.

Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), whose name means *"The Glory of God"*, was born into a family descended from Persia's imperial past. As a young man He declined the ministerial career open to Him in government to devote His energies to a range of philanthropies which had, by the early 1840s, earned Him widespread renown as *"Father of the Poor."*

The early nineteenth century was a period of messianic expectations on many lands. People from various religious backgrounds turned to the scriptures of their faiths and expected the fulfillment of prophecies about the Promised One. Christians awaited the return of Christ from passages like: *"I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you unto all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come"* (John 16:12). Other religions had similar expectations. In 1863 Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed that He was the One promised by all religions and that God had entrusted Him with a revelation addressing humanity's present-day needs.

Opposed by the Muslim clergy and the Persian government, Bahá'u'lláh suffered exile, imprisonment, and persecution that climaxed with His banishment to the Turkish prison city

of 'Akká in the Holy Land. Although outwardly a captive, Bahá'u'lláh opened a new vision to men's hearts and minds through His writings.

In September 1867, Bahá'u'lláh began writing a series of letters to the world leaders of His time, addressing, among others, **Emperor Napoleon III, Queen Victoria, Kaiser Wilhelm I, Tsar Alexander II of Russia, Emperor Franz Joseph, Pope Pius IX, Sultan-Aziz of Ottoman Empire, the Persian ruler, Nasíri-Din Shah.**

In these letters, Bahá'u'lláh openly proclaimed His station. He spoke of the dawn of a new age. But first, He warned, there would be catastrophic upheavals in the world's political and social order. He called for general efforts at disarmament, and urged the world's leaders to pursue justice and show forth compassion. Only by acting collectively, He said, could a lasting peace be established.

SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS

The foremost theme of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings is **UNITY**. He taught that there is only one God, that there is only one human race, and that all the world's religions have been stages in the revelation of God's will and purpose for humanity.

Throughout history, God has revealed Himself to humanity through a series of Divine Messengers-each of whom has founded a new religion. This succession of Divine Teachers reflects a single historic *"plan of God"* for educating mankind about the Creator and for cultivating the spiritual, intellectual, and moral capacities of humanity. The goal has been to prepare the way for a single, global and ever-advancing civilization.

The essential identity of each person is defined by an invisible, rational, and everlasting soul. It grows and develops through the individual's relationship with God, mediated by His Messengers. This relationship is fostered through prayer, knowledge of the scriptures revealed by these Teachers, love for God, moral self-discipline, and service to humanity. This process is what gives meaning to life.

SOCIAL AND MORAL TEACHINGS

One of the extraordinary features of the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh is the degree to which they accurately forecast the increasing number of critical issues that humanity has faced in the twentieth century. Throughout His writings, Bahá'u'lláh called for a complete restructuring of the global social order. His vision of renewal touches on all aspects of life, from personal morality to economics and governance, from community development to religious practice.

Through an irresistible historical process, the traditional barriers of race, class, creed, faith and nation will break down. These forces will give birth in time to a new global civilization. Over a century ago, Bahá'u'lláh said, for a

global society to flourish it must be based on certain fundamental principles. They include, among others, the elimination of all forms of prejudice; equality of woman and man; recognition of the oneness of the world's great religions the security and progress of the family; the elimination of extremes of poverty and wealth; universal education; a high standard of personal conduct; the harmony of science and religion; a sustainable balance between nature and technology; and the establishment of social justice. In over one hundred volumes of His writings, Bahá'u'lláh addresses the spiritual and material needs of the individual and society.

In just over 100 years, the Bahá'í Faith has grown from an obscure movement in the Middle East to the second most widespread of the independent world religions. Embracing people from more than 2,100 ethnic, racial and tribal groups, it is quite likely the most diverse organized body of people on the planet. Its unity challenges prevailing theories about human nature and the prospects for our common future.

Out of the voluminous Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, which were revealed over a period of forty years, a few are cited here to give the reader a flavor of His writings, and serve as a source of meditation and spiritual enrichment.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

"Thy name is my healing, O my god, and remembrance of Thee is my remedy. Nearness to Thee is my hope, and love for Thee is my companion. Thy mercy to me is my healing... Thou, verily, art the All-Bountiful, the All Knowing, the All-Wise."

SEEKING DIVINE ASSISTANCE

"Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope... Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine ever lasting melodies breathe tranquility on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master..."

PRAISE AND GRATITUDE

"All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor, of sovereignty and dominion, of loftiness and grace, of awe and power... Illumine, O Lord, the faces of Thy servants that they may turn unto the court of Thy heavenly favors... Verily, Thou art the Lord of all worlds."

HEAVENLY COUNSEL

"Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, and admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy... Be fair in

thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech... Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, and upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts..."

RENEWAL OF THE DIVINE COVENANT

The power that is awakening man's spiritual consciousness throughout the world is the universal Revelation of God promised in all the scriptures of mankind's past. Its spokesman is Bahá'u'lláh whose growing influence is the greatest untold story of our time. In this day, the driving force to civilize man comes from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh has revealed a system of laws and institutions designed to give practical effect to the principles in His writings. At the heart of this system is what Bahá'u'lláh termed a new Covenant between God and humanity. God has promised never to leave man without His loving guidance. Bahá'u'lláh is the fulfillment of that promise for this day. The life of Bahá'u'lláh, the many volumes of His writings, and the example of the growing worldwide Bahá'í community support His claim to be the Messenger of God for the coming of age of the human race. As the people of the world embrace the spiritual authority inherent in the guidance of the revelation of God for this age, Bahá'u'lláh said, they will find in themselves a spiritual enrichment which human effort alone has proven incapable of generating.

The Bahá'í community demonstrates the power of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant to heal the ills that divide the human race. Although still in its infancy, the Bahá'í community has already unified many diverse elements of the human family, from virtually every nationality, religious background, ethnic group and social class. The emergence of this community offers clear evidence of the far-reaching effect Bahá'u'lláh's teachings eventually will have on humanity.

For more information, there are some Bahá'í websites as follows:

www.bahai.org

<http://reference.bahai.org>

www.bahaiworldnews.org

www.bahairadio.org

Telephone contact in Belize, San Ignacio is 604 4330; 674 1919; or 824 3019

Email; suzi1844@gmail.com

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The Weekly Chess Column

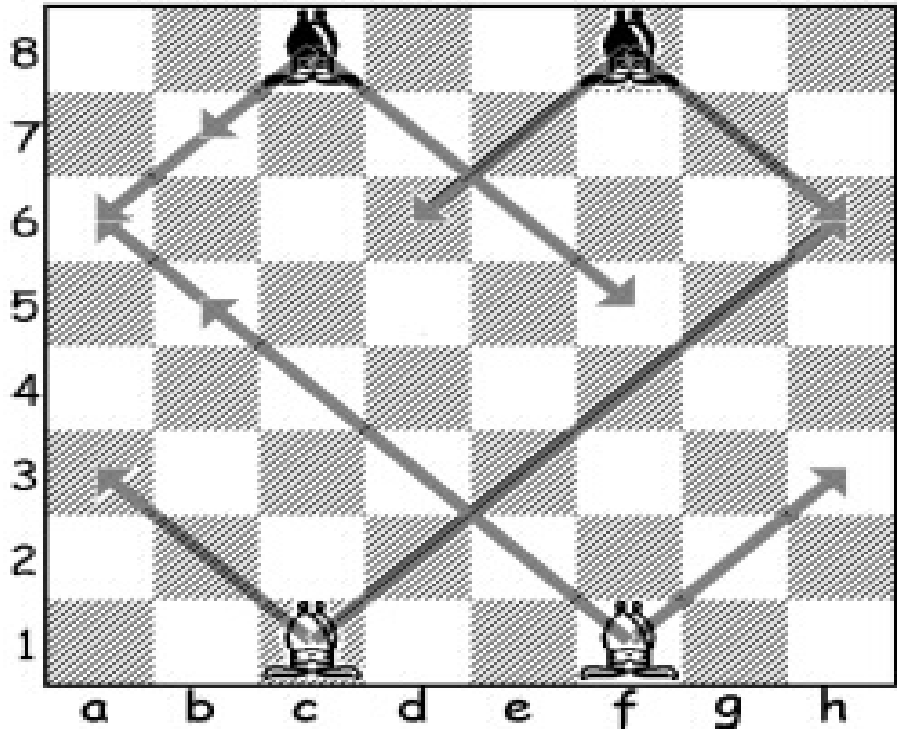
BY: David Coombs,
Cayo Chess Coordinator



This week we take a look at **BISHOPS**, they move at an angle, diagonally.

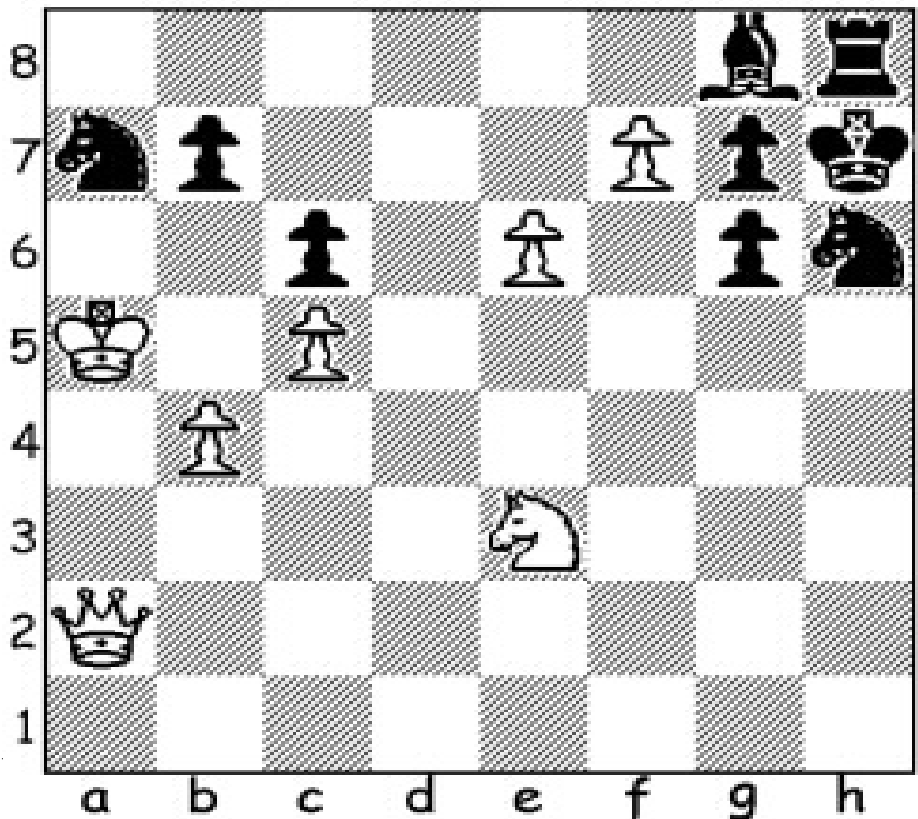
Notice that for each side one bishop starts on a white square and one starts on a dark square, they stay on the same colour squares

throughout the game. They can move forwards and backwards and as far as they are able without jumping, remember only the knight can jump. Towards the end of the game if your opponent has only one bishop you can place your pieces on the opposite colour squares and they cannot be attacked by that bishop. Now you know the bishops, knights and pawns you can practice a game with only these pieces just to get used to how they move. If you have missed a column or have questions write to me at lightningcoombs@yahoo.com



Puzzle for those who know how to play chess, SEE THE BOARD BELOW. This is a tricky one. White to move and checkmate in one move. If you work it out, send the answer

to lightningcoombs@yahoo.com the first three to get it correct will have their names in the next chess column. If any business would like to donate a prize please let me know!



Chavez Victorious In Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela, Sunday, February 15, 2009:

By a margin of 54.4% to 45.6%, Venezuelans voted to eliminate two-term limit on all elected office.

Venezuelans went to the polls on Sunday, February 15 and supported a constitutional amendment to eliminate the two-term limit on all elected offices.

By 9:30 on Sunday night, three and a half hours after polls closed and with nearly 95% of votes counted, Venezuela's National Electoral Council announced that Venezuelans had voted nearly 55% in favor of the constitutional amendment to eliminate term limits.

Chávez supporters took to the streets, to celebrate the nearly 9-point victory margin with enthusiasm, as it will allow President Hugo Chávez to run for a third full term in 2012.

Thousands descended on Venezuela's presidential palace, Miraflores, where President Chavez addressed the crowd.



President Hugo Chávez

According to the Electoral Council, participation was relatively high. Just under 70% of the 16 million registered to vote, cast their ballot on Sunday.

This is roughly two million more voters than in 2007, during the failed constitutional reform referendum that would have altered 70 articles of Venezuela's constitution. Chávez and his supporters had argued that the elimination of term limits is necessary to allow Chávez to govern for longer than the four years remaining in his term, in order to complete Venezuela's transition to "Bolivarian Socialism."



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THE JUDGE FINDS SALAZAR NOT GUILTY

From Front Page
among other persons of near similar physical appearances.

The Court of Appeal ordered a retrial on the basis that although Justice Adolph Lucas advised the jury of the weakness of the dock identification, he

Sunday Night Shooting In Santa Elena

From Front Page
which he aimed at the upper section of the victim's body but before he could pull off the first shot, the victim fell to the ground for cover, the gunman nevertheless squeezed off about 4 or 6 shots as he continued riding pass the group. He then took into the first left street off Carillo Puerto Avenue riding pass the victim's house on Teacher's Lane, before disappearing into the darkness.

Since no Police informed that an intensive

did not sufficiently emphasize the point and a retrial was ordered.

The new trial began on February 2, 2009. The eyewitness, Janelle Longworth was unable to take the witness stand as she is incarcerated in a Guatemalan prison on a drug

investigation is underway as the search continues for the person responsible for this most recent breach of the peace.

The police is also issuing a warning to those persons, especially those young boys, who habitually hang out on street corners after sunset, to be ever mindful of the dangers associated with doing so as they run the risk of being at the wrong place at the wrong time and could become the unfortunate innocent victims of random shootings.

possession charge and despite countless telephone calls to Guatemala and a visit to the prison in Santa Elena, Peten, combined with the best efforts of the new prosecuting Attorney, **Cecil Ramirez** and by way of the diplomatic channel through the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala, her transfer to take the witness stand in the new trial could not be obtained.

Notwithstanding however, the judge allowed for her deposition to be read into evidence ultimately resulting in the trial Judge, Justice Herbert Lord, ruling that the eyewitness did not make the link between the person she referred to as "Life" and the accused murderer, Dionicio Salazar Jr. He subsequently recalled the jury and directed them to return a not guilty verdict against the accused and ordered him to walk free of the capital charge.

The prosecution has indicated its intention to appeal the decision of the trial judge.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MARIA BOITON** is applying for the renewal of her **SHOP LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **BEL-CHI SUPERSTORE** located on La Loma Boulevard, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **BLANCA ASCENCIO** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **BL's COOL SPOT** located 23rd Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Let Progress And Development Continue



Eduardo "Eddie" Cano



Moses Chuc



BERNADETTE FERNANDEZ

The Choice Is Clear On March 4, 2009 VOTE UDP 7 SOLID



JOHN FRANCIS AUGUST Jr

**VOTE UDP 7
FOR MAYOR
KEEPING PROGRESS ALIVE**



Desol Neal



Jeanene Vanessa Neal



Earl Trapp Jr

Let Progress And Development Continue



On Wednesday, March 4, Vote UDP 7

Despite suffering for 2 long years under a repressive, hostile and vindictive PUP Central Government, Mayor John August and his Team were able to accomplish much more than most Mayors who came before him. THE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS STANDS OUT FOR ALL TO SEE. "Let Progress and Development Continue - on March 4th -Vote UDP 7!!!

* The first phase of a new and modern farmers market, to serve the people of San Ignacio & Santa Elena and indeed the entire Cayo District, is today a reality. No longer are we walking like pigs in the mud when it rains on market day. No longer are we buying our fruits and vegetables from among the mud. The new market has attracted in excess of a 100% more fruit and vegetable vendors as well as other enterprising Belizeans. The other phase of the development of the market must continue. Mayor John August kept his promise to build a new market and today the new market is a testimony of a promise kept. He has promised to construct the other phase and when re-elected with his team on March 4, 2009, he will continue the development of the market.

* Many are the Mayors and Councillors before John August and his team who expected us to be satisfied with a little scraping and painting of the outdated Columbus Park. But NOT John August and his team. When the Shell Gas Station requested an expansion, Mayor John August successfully negotiated for the total demolition and upgrading of the Columbus Park and today the new park stands as another testimony of his ability to bring progress to the residents of San Ignacio and Santa Elena. *"You want to expand"* said Mayor John August *"Then build a park for my people"* and after much negotiation and hard work the park is yet another milestone in Mayor John August's vision for the community.

* In just a few months after a friendly UDP central government was elected, Mayor John August went to Belmopan and successfully negotiated for the removal of the Cox Garbage Yoke from around our necks. Today the residents of the Twin Towns are free of that yoke.

* Many are the Mayors before John August who sat in the Town Hall and never as much as painted it once during their term in office. Not so with Mayor John August. He has not only painted the building but have consistently upgraded and improved it every single year. Today the Town Hall is much more improved from when he inherited it in 2006.

* No longer are street side cutters sharing machete and files to get the job done. In fact today, under the leadership of Mayor John August and his team, machetes and files are tools of the past for street side cutters. Today, street side cutters are using high powered weed cutters bought and paid for by Mayor John August and his team. Council workers have no intention of returning to the days of machetes and the sharing of a file.

* In 2006 Mayor John August and his team inherited a Town Council in deep financial crisis. It was a Council that had a hard time to pay its workers. A Council that could not get credit from local businesses. A council that could barely purchase fuel for the single vehicle it had. Today, with the prudent management skills of Mayor John August and his team, the Council's financial head is now floating above the water.

* Under the stewardship of Mayor John August and his team, the Council has moved from owning a single vehicle to now owning over **ONE MILLION DOLLARS** worth of equipment from weed cutters, to tractors, trucks and more recently a **FIRST EVER** Compactor Truck and a **FIRST EVER** Grader.

* In one short term, Mayor John August and his team have paved and repaired more streets than any of his predecessors.

* Much, much more has been accomplished. Much, much more is left to be done. If Mayor John August and his team were able to achieve so much under a **HOSTILE PUP** Central Government - **IMAGINE** how much more he can achieve under a friendly UDP Central Government.

**There Is No Turning Back To Those Days of Corruption and Thievery
LET PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT CONTINUE
Vote For Mayor John August and His RED Team**