

The Independent

Reformer Belize's Rebel Paper

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Whipping Boy

The former Chairman of the Development Finance Corporation Glenn Godfrey has not only gotten an injunction against government's posting of the first DCF Commission report filed by Herbert Lord, he is also lashing out at the people he says are truly responsible for the whole mess — and threatening to sue them.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by the Independent Weekly, has since been pulled from GOB's website and the Prime Minister's office has indicated it will wait for the second report from Commissioner Merlene Bailey-Martinez before it makes the Lord report public again.

The Lord report created a stir, not only because Justice Lord did not wait for his fellow commissioner before submitting his evaluation independently, but also because it seems to lay the blame for the failure of the DFC at the feet of the former Chairman.

That man, Glen Godfrey took his campaign to protect his name public last week when he appeared on the popular TV/radio talk show "Lik Road." He did not mince words with co-hosts Michael Finnegan and Michael



Former DFC chairman Glen Godfrey won't be anyone's whipping boy.

Peyrefitte, "... This government was trying to find a scapegoat, somebody who would roll over and play dead so that they could look good and they picked the wrong person."

He says not only were the Prime Minister and Minister Ralph Fonseca aware of what was taking place at the DFC,

they were pushing through certain projects, projects he believes they knew were not feasible. "Government more than knew. They negotiated it."

Mr. Godfrey claims Minister Ralph Fonseca told him not to worry about any losses because "Government will cover it." Godfrey said if he is guilty of

anything, it was being too trusting: "This government has no word. They have illustrated it many times, with Intelco, with the Port... several projects where they give an exclusive and then they turn around... (inaudible)."

He told co-host Michael Peyrefitte he believes his former friends and associates turned on him "because they feel I am expendable. They want somebody to take the lick so they can go on and win the elections."

Editor's Note: You should note that nothing can be "pulled from the Internet" once it's been up for more than a couple hours. There is free service that captures everything that's ever been put up on the Internet and archived. It's called [waybackmachine.com](http://www.waybackmachine.com). When the Musa Government decided to take down the Political Reform Commission Report, 2000 off the GOB website (on the same day we highlighted it in our first issue :11/28/06) we merely visited [waybackmachine.com](http://www.waybackmachine.com) and retrieved a copy. Therefore, Commissioner Lord's Report is still very much a live document on the Internet.

Ladyville Gas Station robbed again

The Highwayman Gas Station in Ladyville was hit yet again July 30 as the office opened a little after 6 a.m. Robbers were bare faced with no attempt to mask their identity but with great strategy to take down the entire weekend sales.

Since the place has been hit before, causing great bodily injury to the owner in the past, the establishment had installed security cameras that are highly visible. The robbers were oblivious to the cameras and made no attempt to conceal their identity, said one eyewitness. We expect them to be picked up shortly said one employee. We hope they get back the \$40,000 that was taken from the safe. Highwayman is a valued distributor of this newspaper.

Another key Independent depot, Bodale Shop was also recently robbed and owner Dale was stabbed repeatedly in his back. He is slowly recovering. We wish him well.



Highwayman Gas Station has been robbed repeatedly and staff held at gunpoint, shot at and robbed..

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Saying Goodbye to a fine teacher

Dear Editor

More than 300 people crowded into the George Price Centre auditorium on Sunday evening, 22nd July, to honour the life and memory of Peter G.F. Phillips.

This was a remarkable outpouring of love and respect for the recently murdered teacher of history at Belize Christian Academy; Peter had been in Belize only two years.

Representatives from BCA, Step of Faith Church, students and friends paid tribute to Peter's joy in life, to his faith in God, his dedication to doing the best job he could. We heard over and over again how Peter's faith had supported him in solving his problems, how dedicated he was to bringing out the best in his students, how funny and goofy he could be, and how he saw his life as an ongoing voyage of discovery, while honoring the best in everyone.

We heard how his colleagues and students drew strength from his caring and generosity, how he anonymously donated some of his scarce funds to stu-

dents who needed help... and how he took on extra janitorial work at the school, so that he could pay his own bills. (Peter found it hard to understand why some people considered this work inappropriate.) In his mind, all work had honour and merit.

It was this clarity of thought that made Peter so endearing. He felt humbled by the opportunity and responsibility to foster the growth of his students' minds. He saw that these young people had the chance to be the future leaders of Belize. He wanted to help them do the best they could.

Dr. Jennifer Morrow announced the establishment of a Scholarship Fund in Peter Phillips' memory. Substantial sums have already been received from Peter's family and friends in the States. Dr. Morrow hopes that there will be enough for one student to attend BCA on scholarship this coming school year. Contact BCA to make a contribution in Peter's memory.

Sandra Braaten, one of Peter's students at BCA, prepared a beautiful and moving Power-Point Tribute to her teacher. It included many photographs of Peter, at work and at play, with well-

designed graphics and stirring music. Copies of this presentation may be purchased for a donation to the Peter Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Featured speakers were: Mr. Derek Morrow, Pastor Ron Braaten, Mr. Lance Lewis, Miss Jade Ho, Mrs. Casie Jones, Ms. Dana Lain, Mr. Thom Moran, Dr. Jennifer Morrow.

Signed,
A friend of Peter's

Not in Goldson's name, please

Dear Editor

It was with dismay that we saw via the media, Mr. Okeke soliciting funds in the name of Philip Goldson. Mr. Goldson was a very humble man and the last thing he would have wanted would be to have a larger than life sculpture of him made at such great cost.

He loved Belize and the people of Belize, and if there is anyone willing to give their two, five or ten dollar bills, or even a shilling, there are many living in the Albert division facing dire poverty and for whom that money could be put (Please Turn To Page 15) 

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National Council on Ageing featured in Global Action newsletter

The International Organization, Global Action on Ageing, sponsored by the United Nations in New York, has published a new poster from Belize on the front cover of their latest Newsletter, which is distributed worldwide.

The poster, sponsored by the NCA and funded by the British High Commission small grants programme, has been printed for VOICE – the Representative Organization of Older Persons in Belize, which is a newly formed organization that seeks to unite older persons in collective action to raise awareness of their concerns and to lobby for an improvement in their quality of life.

The VOICE organization was formed in 2006 and came about as a recommendation made by the participants of a forum entitled “The Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Older Persons in Belize”, facilitated by consultants from PAHO/WHO in Washington, USA.

At this forum, older persons unanimously agreed that they wanted the opportunity to voice their concerns on all issues affecting their lives and therefore set in motion the formation of their representative organization.

VOICE has been holding public meetings in the various Districts across the country to inform all older persons about the importance of having a representative organization in Belize that will speak out and raise issues.

The National Council on Ageing is delighted that the poster has been recognized by an international organization for the contribution it is making to the improvement of the lives of older persons in Belize.

The National Council on Ageing is funded by the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Human Development.

For further information contact: Lindy Jeffery, Executive Director Telephone: 822-1546 or EMAIL: ncabze@yahoo.com. The Global Action on Aging website is www.globalaging.org





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Time Machine



By: Karla Heusner Vernon

The year is 1998 and Belizeans don't want to go on a diet. The Prime Minister, Manuel Esquivel is urging them to trim the fat now for better fitness tomorrow, but we don't want to lose anything we think we are entitled to. Not government jobs, not perks, not private sector tax breaks or concessions.

We believe things are very, very bad. No money no deh! We think the Belizean economy is a mess and Esquivel and his party have botched things up. So we switched parties, switched party leaders and switched off life as we knew it. The irony is the dreaded VAT Man did not plunge us into debt and poverty. The Fat Man, the supposed Money Man did. He and the people he hid behind, pretended

were the real leaders. Pretended so well they began to believe it themselves. Apparently still do.

I suppose people in the United States

Train and the Economic miracle, the ten thousand homes and 100,000 jobs, end to the BTL monopoly, lower utility bills, and all the other pie in the sky we were

thing in the trough of our national bounty. Give our all the contracts to their fellow swine, then stick their muddy noses in our televisions and grunt out their lies over and over. Daring anyone to punish them, or even try.

The people we trusted to guard our national patrimony have instead used this country as if it were their own personal estate. Supplied with slaves, household and timber camp, to do their bidding, no questions asked, no challenges to their authority.

Some of us tug at the chains we say the Great White Massa has shackled us with, ripping at his throat, calling him a Neo-colonizer. He and the other "investors" who turned out to be nothing more than absentee landowners repatriating the profits from our resources and labor to their home countries in the north.

But what to do we say to our own countrymen who, like the tribesmen of West Africa, captured and sold their own people into bondage. Whose crime is greater?

And what exactly has been our resis- (Please Turn To Page 10)

What if we had not invited the carpet-baggers to dinner, let them into our homes, allowed them to "borrow" our furniture and carry off our daughters?

must be asking themselves the big "What if?" right now too. What if they had chosen Al Gore over George Bush? Would the man who is now raising millions, perhaps billions, for environmental causes and save the earth campaign have led to them to what has become the third world war? What would have been his response to 9-11? Would 9-11 have even happened?

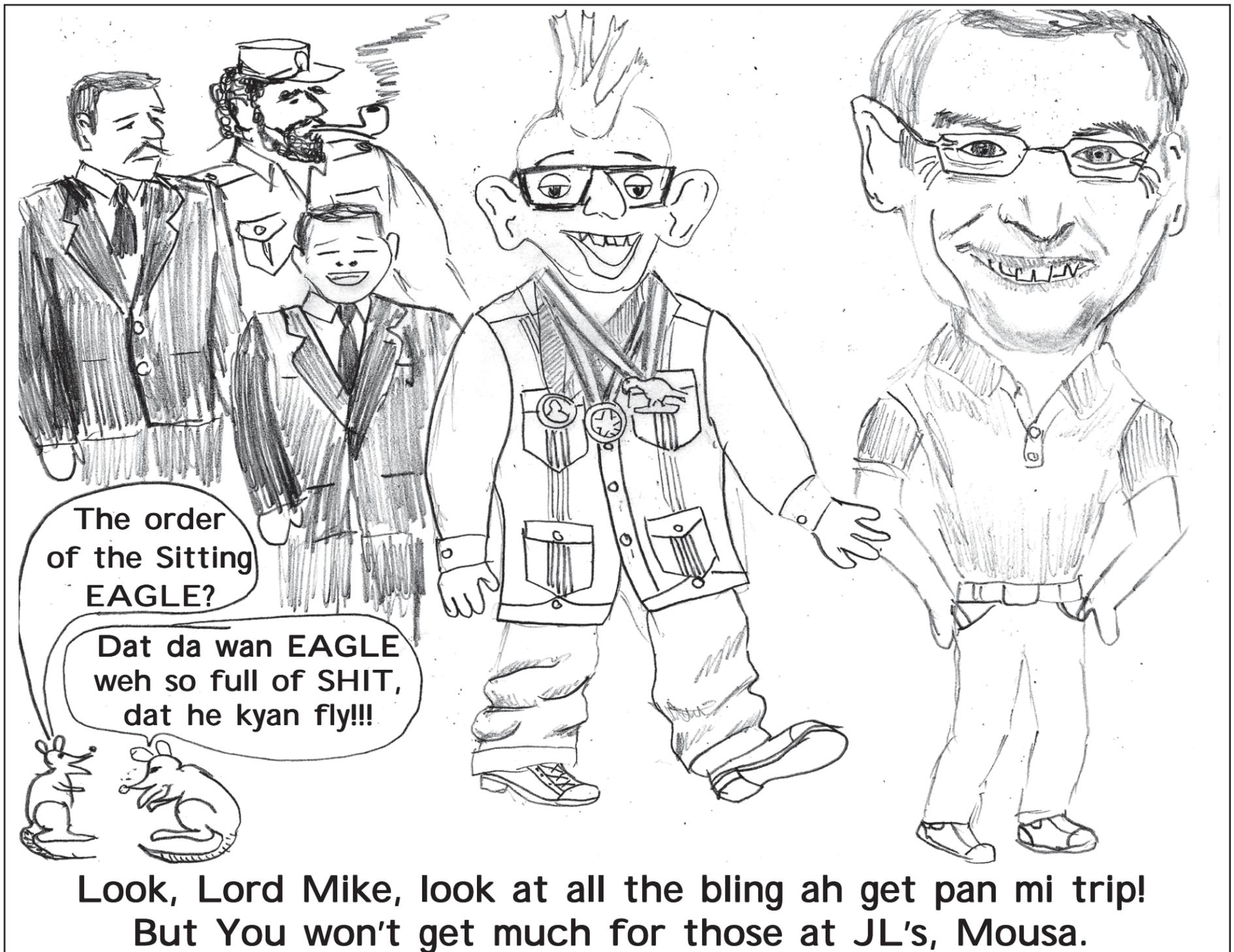
What if we here in Belize had not been seduced by the Good Time Good Ole Boys either? What if we had not invited the carpet-baggers to dinner, let them into our homes, allowed them to "borrow" our furniture and carry off our daughters?

What if we had ignored the Freedom

promised, but had eaten humble pie instead. If only we could have reigned in our desire to punish the people in power for our own lethargy and petty tribalism.

Was it our fault? They seemed so sincere. So full of promise, and promises. How could we know it was all deceit, that there was some grand design to destroy us instead of develop us? Who would have believed it that day they rode into Belize City on buses waving flags and sporting blue shirts. It was such an exciting day, the dawn of a new era, promise of a new beginning...

We thought we were choosing people to lead, not people to feed. Big fat greedy pigs who would hog up every-



Medals for Musa Secret Farewells?



By: Trevor Vernon

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Belize, Said W. Musa, was off traveling again this past weekend to add to his collection of farewell medals from leaders of foreign countries. This time it's from the Dominican Republic where he'll also be meeting with bankers and "businessmen in private". This story was first released, not in Belize, but from the Dominican Republic. Our source: (www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=24863)

"Santo Domingo.- Belize Prime Minister Said Musa will pay an official visit to the Dominican Republic from July 29-31, 2007."

In fact, we were hesitant to run it since Mr. Musa promised (last Tuesday in a political ad on www.7newsbelize.com)

to continue to sue those in the media who write lies about him. And since there is no official release from his press office on all these medals, he might want to tell the Belizean people that this medal collection jaunt did not happen, and sue us.

Maybe Press Office can inform us this week as to the exact extent of the collection of medals the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has been collecting, in the name of the people of Belize. And maybe they could list the dates of the award presentations too.

On the flip side, Belize's Prime Minister has been handing out lots of Belize National Awards. Can Press Office please bring us up to date on who his party leader has been giving awards to, especially foreign luminaries since taking office?

Is the PM out soliciting medals from foreign countries? Or, are these foreign countries merely wishing him an early farewell? Enquiring minds would like to know, as we should. We do live in a democracy, right? And last I read the Inter-American Democratic Charter he signed unto in 2001; he appears to have

committed himself to certain democratic principles.

"According to a Dominican Foreign Ministry source, Musa will meet with President Leonel Fernandez on Monday. Fernández will be awarding the Duarte, Sánchez and Mella Order of Merit to the Belizean PM. and later that same day the National District Council will present him with the Keys of the City."

In Belize, we are getting no reports of these awards from any official source. No one seems to know that Musa was planning to accept an award this weekend. Shouldn't there be some select senate committee to monitor and at least make transparent the acceptance of awards to our elected leaders? Why is there never any media release and when they issue it, it's after the fact?

When will President Bush line up and give the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister his award too? What's wrong with these people? Don't they know they have to give the ultimate demagogue his awards?

"The visiting PM is also due to meet with Foreign Minister Carlos Morales

to sign two agreements to set up a Belize-Dominican Republic Bi-National Commission and for Economic and Technical Cooperation." [From same article]

New agreements they say? Like the ones he signed with Columbia? Wonder if those agreements will ever be released in Belize and ever put in force. Will any Belize legislator get to review these agreements? Will the public? We need to know the details.

"On Tuesday Musa will hold private meetings with local politicians and business representatives." [From same article]

Can the Prime Minister brief the nation on his most recent trip to the Dominican Republic so we don't have to read about it in foreign newspapers? In most democracies, the travels of the Prime Minister/President are published information, except where it's of national security concern not to do so. Please Mr. PM, please let the nation know what all these expensive travels are about, unless of course the security of the nation isn't being handled by the Governor/Lord anymore.

What about our Oil Resources?

A statement from the NRP

When you are in Spanish Lookout on a hill around the Esso gas station at night and you look towards the east you see in approximately 2 miles east the air light up of a flame where Belize Natural Energy is wasting natural gas from the 5 producing oil wells all joined by a pipe underground. At times you can see the flame arising above the bushes from 2 miles away and the toxic smoke covering the whole area and the breeze blowing it towards residential areas. This has been going on since they open the first well and the complaints made and sickness caused by this waste have been completely ignored by BNE and other authorities.

The BNE is sending in various newspapers a colourful release on how much they have benefited Spanish Lookout, by sales of goods and fees, and how they have **one** person working from Spanish Lookout Also how they have pleased Spanish Lookout by removing the gas burning flame from near the houses which was sickening them over one year, to 2 miles down the road to where it blows over Spanish Lookout in a wider area than before and how

they are promising once more that they will get the royalty fee **some day**.

Then there are questions about the actual amount of oil being produced: the Spanish Lookout committee reports BNE informed them they are extracting 3200 barrels per day. But the record we have from the truckers indicates they are hauling 24 tankers per day which equals to 4800 barrels of oil per day. What is BNE trying to hide? Do they think they can hide a big semi-truck? And what is exactly the reason they bring out a colourful release of how great they are, while they are intoxicating our air and wasting our irreplaceable natural resources? They seem to sell their public image relations real cheap.

Information from other countries has also arrived. We happened to get a visit from an oil specialist from Houston Texas. He said that even in Nigeria, a country with little social and health control, they do not allow the burning of toxic gas at the oil wells, but they re-inject it back, not to damage the gas cap in the earth. He says the gas cap over the oil must stay there

until the well is depleted so we can expect approximately 60% of the deposit, in the case of letting the gas out maybe only 40% can be extracted. It is also important how fast the oil is extracted not to damage the core. He also stated that the gases should be pumped back into the gas cap in the earth in any case to get 20% more oil out.

One must ask the question: Are we so broke that we have to rush and get the 40% of our oil resource and run and not able to keep a record closer than 30% from 2300, to 4800 barrels and no matter who gets sick, who loses and what is wasted, and to dis-

regard peoples health, rights, environment and international rules? Some one sooner or later will have to answer these questions. Before too much negative vibes are created.

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Toledo News



**By: William Schmidt
PG correspondent for
Independent Weekly**

Coffee Growers form Association

More than 30 coffee growers met Saturday, 20th July at Nature's Way Guesthouse in Punta Gorda Town with Mr. Joel Alexander Sr., coffee importer with offices in Dallas, Texas and New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Mr. Alexander told how his son has a company that presently services more than 350 coffeehouses. Research they have recently completed shows that there is a market for a new and unique brand.

He has spent the last month visiting our local farms, getting to know our farmers and the different commodities they grow. The first of July he distributed fliers telling of the first meeting to find out if there was interest; it resulted in the second where BEGAT was formed. The word begat means to cause, to generate, and to produce; it is an acronym for the Belizean Ecological Growers Association of Toledo. Mr. Alexander plans to buy all the coffee offered at \$3.BZ per pound which is above world market coffee price, beginning the next season Oct. thru Dec. 2007

While the first and principal product is coffee, which will be marketed under the name "Maya Mountain Coffee". Mr.



US coffee importer Joel Alexander Sr. addresses growers at meeting at Nature's Way Guesthouse.

Alexander said there is also a market for black and red pepper, ginger, herbs & spices, teas and medicinal plants from Belize.

Mr. Armando Choco and Justino Peck of the Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA) have been very helpful with information and support, they attended the meeting. After explaining his goals, objectives and reasons for sponsoring the formation of this association, Mr. Alexander encouraged questions.

At that point, nominations were asked for a pro-tem administration for one year, when it is expected the association will have grown and new elections will be held. Mr. Alexander asked Mr. Justino Peck if he would nominate someone for the first chairperson. Mr. Peck said, "after hearing what Mr. Schmidt said about the importance of involving women in this association, he would nominate Mrs. Maria Ack". When asked if she would accept, she told how she was one of the first in Toledo to roast, grind, bottle and sell our local coffee, she would be pleased to serve.

The following persons were elected;
Maria Ack Chairperson

- Ignacio Ash Co-Chairperson
- Pablo Ack Secretary
- Victoriano Choc Vice-Sec.
- Emertio Sho Treasurer
- Julio Cal Vice-Treasurer
- Agapito Shal Councilor

In closing, Mr. Alexander gave recognition and thanks to Mr. Barry Palacio, Toledo District Agricultural Coordinator for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for his sincere encouragement and support.

The next meeting of BEGAT will be the last Saturday of August, 8:00 AM at Nature's Way, all farmers of Toledo are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PNP Paints PG Library

People's National Party (PNP) Leader Wil Mehia joined 40 youths on Saturday 21st July to fulfill the PNP's promise of painting the library. The youths were eager and excited to continue to show their support for PNP's plans to improve their community.

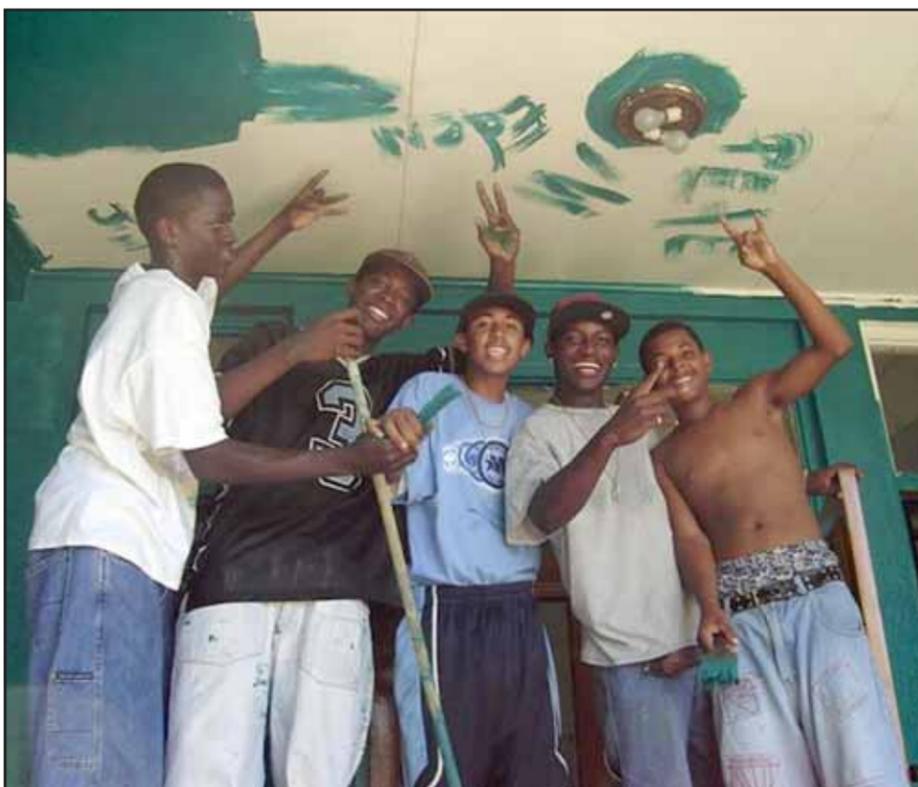
At the last event they gathered to learn about the Maritime Areas Act. This meeting was hosted by the Belize Covenant Movement. The next event will take place in the village of Big Falls where the PNP will host a volleyball tournament on Sunday 29th July commencing at 10:00 AM. There will be a cash prize for first and second place winners and an opportunity to learn more about PNP's plans for a better Toledo.

Mehia and his team have been regularly meeting in the rural villages, he says that interest and support for the PNP is steadily growing. "Its time for a real change, and our people know and want it.

For more information about the PNP Summer Program for Toledo Youths, contact Blues McKenzie at 614-8307 or 670- 8307

Still Waiting for Support from local

(Please Turn To Page 8)



PG youths obviously enjoyed their community improvement work



The volunteers hard at work painting PG Library

Top Secrets: How to win and never lose Pt II

--submitted by the National Reform Party

Leaders do not gain rights as they ascend to the top, just the opposite happens, they surrender their rights. How come? Well this sounds contradictory but the truth is that it works like love; you can only keep it by giving it away. That is how it goes. A man only fights for it until he sees he can do more by not fighting. Some end up battling themselves and have very little energy left to fight the enemy.

Leaders must surrender freedom for the sake of others to be great. Everyone wants to be thought of as a servant but no one wants to be treated like one.

Here are six blessings for a real leader

1. You are blessed when you see that you need more than you received and see how little you have.

2. You are blessed when you are content with just who you are and what you have.

3. You are blessed when you work up a good appetite for the truth. It will satisfy.

4. You are blessed when you care. The moment you care, you find yourself cared for. When you get your inside world right, that is your mind and heart at the right place then you can see God in the outside world.

5. You are blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of competing or fighting; that it is that you discover who you really are and your place in God's family.



6. You are blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecutions. The persecutions drive you deeper into God's kingdom and result in more rewards in both worlds.

The greatest temptation for political leaders:

1. To lean on their own strength and to be self reliant and not depend on God and not be open and vulnerable.

2. They will be tempted to be spectacular, be a celebrity, to have all about image and do not have integrity. To put on a show to impress others.

3. They are tempted to want to be powerful, be in charge, to manipulate and control, and to take short cuts which

are never right.

Immature leaders are often worried if they are receiving enough credit or getting enough prestige. They are quick to judge others' actions while they judge themselves by good intentions. In the our local newspapers we can find examples to clarify some of the points above.

These reflect our country leaderships' history but will also have an impact in the future. The young generations will have to sort through them again and again because this is how we can grow. How were our leaders tempted? How did they score in their field of work "test" while they carried the responsibility of our country destiny? We cannot ignore the past as we look into the future.

Belize historical leadership incidents. You may recall reading the follow excerpts which I will quote, please bear with me as we illustrate our points.

In June 17, 2007 it was described how the current leader of the opposition took over from Hon. Manuel Esquivel in 1989. The UDP called a meeting at its headquarters and explained briefly that Hon. Esquivel walked into a meeting as party leader. When he came out, Hon. Dean Barrow was the new party leader. People that were closed to Esquivel later testified that he was surprised to find out that he had lost his leadership position in that meeting. In the news it was reported that Esquivel had resigned.

In 1995, the UDP government retrenched over 800 people at once at Christmas time, apparently to please the IMF. Many of these people had important positions in different areas of services. These firings caused chaos in so many areas and a shock to Belizeans. Later many were rehired but many left the country and formed their own business. Others never recuperated. To this day people don't know who to blame for this, the then PM Hon. Esquivel or his deputy PM Hon. Dean Barrow. It certainly catapulted the country into deeper financial desperation with no

hope of improving.

Be it noted here that the then PM Hon. Esquivel was a man of principles in financial matters; paying foreign debts was one of his priorities. As a city person he saw the need mainly in a better phone company, hotels and a Central Bank building.

A newspaper, in June 17, 2007, described the PM Hon Said Musa in October 2003 signing a secret memorandum of understanding to buy out Carlisle 52% shareholding of BTL. "This has repercussion beyond belief. The party grass roots credentials, the government's credibility and our country's reputation was at stake; and an investment climate became a sad story of unbridled greed and a reckless disregard for the Belizean consumers and voters. The request on behalf of Mr. Ashcroft to become a "permitted person": permitted to illegally hold more than 25% of the company; permitted to extract tens of millions of dollars in management fees and deposits; permitted to withhold dividends from hundreds of small Belizeans shareholders; permitted to marginalize the Belizean management and staff; permitted to gouge the customers, enjoy a monopoly; then permitted to obstruct inter-connectivity and competition, avoid taxes, blur the line onshore and offshore and act against the national interest of the people."

Thousands of people in Belize should remember this nightmare. It was common that charges in their monthly phone bills were extremely high, while consumption was low. It seemed impossible to bring the bill down. For instance one contractor of a small business would have 8 employees in his construction company. He reported that they spent \$3000 dollars per month on BTL bills between 3 cell phones and two stationary phones per month. They felt taken because there was no other phone company until Intelco tried to surface. People looked forward with great hopes for lower rates. It was said that Intelco would cut the phone bills in half, then just as Intelco started operating they were not permitted to interconnect. The people were disappointed beyond words. When the company closed its doors, the equipment and towers became "mute white elephants" staring at us to this day; as we continue to pay very high prices for such a service.

RT Hon George Price, the political genius. George Price took no interest in sports, food or comfort but he loved classical music, politics dominated his life, and has always been a devoted catholic. He fully embraced his God and his church. He always quoted Mathew 6:33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteous, and all this things shall be added unto you". He built a bridge that enabled him alone to quietly ab-

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Toledo News

BTIA

➡ (Continued From Page 7)

In last week's paper, I told how the members of the Punta Gorda Conservation Committee had waited for this month's meeting to see if the Toledo Branch of the BTIA would provide the letter of support they requested. Unfortunately the support was not given; the issue was not even brought up. This is unfortunate for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that Valdemar Andrade, Executive Director of PACT told me that in order for PACT to be able to fund the Punta Gorda Conservation Committee we would need a letter of support from the BTIA and the Belize Tourist Board.

The BTB won't provide us with a letter unless the BTIA supports the program. The BTIA is probably the most powerful NGO in Belize. Most if not all the big time resorts and tourism businesses belong.

The Punta Gorda Conservation Committee who represent the urban part of the Toledo Peoples Eco Park on the other hand is made up for the most part of non-business owners and some of our District's and Nation's poorest citizens.

Until the wealthy make a real effort to help the poor, we will remain in poverty. Karl Marx said they will never freely do this, so far he has been right. After years of struggle some here are asking, is the peaceful, constructive Belizean revolution really possible for the poor? If so, when?

Last week's INdependent Reformer Toledo section also told of our Prime Minister and Area Representative Michael Espat's promise on July 12th of help for the further development of the Toledo Peoples Eco Park. We are still waiting to hear from Minister Espat, if he has obtained permission for us to use the old rice mill building and plaza for a temporary Toledo House of Culture and permission from Minister of Lands and Natural Resources to protect the last refuge of our areas endangered flora and fauna and the community's watershed. We have provided Minister Espat maps of these areas that were given to us by the Local Lands Office, and written descriptions of the programs. We are also looking for support from the Ministers of Tourism, and Culture. Power to all the people!



WIN-Belize attends 39th CEDAW Session at UN

Representatives of the Women's Issues Network of Belize attended the 39th Session on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), at the United Nations in New York from July 23rd to 27th. The purpose of the Session is for both the Government and the NGO community to present their official reports on the status of women in Belize and implementation of the CEDAW.

In 1990, Belize became a signatory to CEDAW and committed itself to promote women's human rights, and, to take national action to ensure access to, and enjoyment of, these rights and an end to discrimination. The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by

women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

Since 1999, there have been several modifications to Acts and implementation of policies in various areas affecting women. The desired results of these modifications and implementations have not been achieved. Women, primarily in the rural areas, are still not educated about their rights, health issues, and economic advancements.

The WIN-Belize Team which consisted of Carolyn Reynolds, Executive Director, Karen Cain, Director of the Youth Enhancement Services and two consultants Luis Constantino and Andrea Constantino, reported their findings in regards to whether those ultimately affected by national policies

and procedures are aware of the means at their disposal to improve their lives and, or living conditions. Additionally, the Team discussed the major issues affecting both rural and urban women.

In consultation with representatives of some member organizations of WIN Belize, the coordinating body for NGOs which address women's issues, interviews revealed the following concerns affecting the equality, development, and advancement of women in Belize.

Primary concerns:

1. The lack of implementation, or effective implementation, of existing policies.
2. The national budget allocations
3. The reality of Belize's economic condition is not conducive to the advancement of women.
4. The progress of the develop-

ment and advancement of women and women's issues is slow due to weak, or, no implementation of national/organizational policies, some inadequately designed, and/or insufficient resources, which contribute to poor coordination between/among organizations and agencies with objectives for the intervention and provision of services to address women's development and enhancement.

Other concerns:

- Sex roles and stereotyping
 - Trafficking of persons
 - Political and Public Life
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Health Care and Family Planning
 - Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
 - Rural Women
- release from the Women's Issue Network of Belize.

A brief look at the social classes of Belize

By: **Mario Lara**

When I look around the streets of Belize and see people *blinging* with their gold chains, hair extensions, hundred dollar plus sneakers, expensive cell phones, SUVs and what not, I do say to myself that things aren't so bad in Belize at all (economically speaking). Yet, there is a sense of "tings dread." How can this be?

The thing about being poor is its relative. You are poor compared to others, but sometimes to feel good about your lot, you have to pretend.

So let's compare the different classes in Belize: First you have your wealthy foreigners who own property and business interests in Belize but who mostly live away. They partner with local elites to manage their properties and interests in Belize.

Then, you have your local elites. These are Belizeans who vacation abroad, have getaway villas in Hopkins or on an islands where they go for extended weekends, own multiple properties, do most of their shopping in Miami a couple times a year, have bank accounts offshore, etc., etc. They're predominantly lawyers and well connected business people who have a monopoly (or virtual monopoly) in their given industries.

Next you have your prominent politicians. These are the folks who control the publicly owned resources in the interest of the wealthy foreigner and local elites and keep everyone else placated. For their troubles, they enjoy a rather



healthy lifestyle.

Then you have a gap. Very few people enjoy what might be called a moderate to upper middle class existence in Belize. They have either left the country or are so few in numbers that they don't really qualify as a social class or grouping.

That leaves us with the working professionals and small business owners. These are a small group of people who managed to get a higher education or to start a little business and are able to live a somewhat comfortable lifestyle, but teeter on the edge of financial ruin. Their security depends on the relationships they are able to develop with the politicians and local elites. Sometimes they get lucky and break into the higher social rankings through politics or marriage. Sometimes they have to leave the country to avoid a step down when things don't work out. Many times they

start all over again from scratch.

Then you have your hand-to-mouthers. These are people who spend every dime they earn. Some may be lucky enough to own property so they can take out small loans to close the financing gaps that open up when they need to take care of health problems or other needs. These are many of your

teachers, nurses, (single moms), and skilled workers. The only luxuries many of them can afford are hair extensions, gold chains, expensive cell phones so they can appear to be ambitious and a cut above the rest and hopefully attract someone from the higher social class to marry them.

Then you have your City and Town "poor" class. These are the unskilled laborers who catch and kill and eke out an existence. Good looks are valued more than brains to get you out of this level so many of them also like to bling up as much as they can and show some skin in how they dress.

Then you have the rural "poor" class or the mules. These are the farmers and other unskilled laborers who live outside the major towns and cities and are only valued for their labor.

This is pretty much the class structure that has developed in Belize and the elites have a vested interest in pursuing policies that will keep it that way.



TOPICAL TIDBITS

3-4 weeks delays for wire \$ transfers?

The San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is advising its members that a Canadian attempting to make a wire transfer to a company in Belize was told by his Canadian bank that new procedures now in effect to prevent terrorist funding and money laundering are causing wires to now pass through at least 3 U.S. checkpoints and will take at least 4 weeks to clear!

Is this happening from the US as well? If so, are Belizean businesses expected to ask clients to transfer money ONE MONTH before they are going to need to pay for something? Bad enough we have to wait for international checks to clear for weeks and now, now we are getting screwed with wire transfers too? Bet the big boys don't have to wait that long.

Typo? Or Freudian slip?

On Friday, July 27, Channel Five ran a story on the Association of Concerned Belizeans' case against the Gov-

ernment of Belize challenging the legality of the UHS guarantee. But in the internet transcript, ACB President David Vasquez is quoted as saying... "To get into the **crooks** of the matter concerning this case, it is a very strong basis from which we are bringing this action into the court..."

Yes, David, everyone would like to get to the crux of the matter, afraid we already have a pretty good idea who the crooks are....



Musa's award from the Maya

Heard the Maya of the south gave Musa an award recently entitled the

walking eagle award. What's a walking eagle? One that's too heavy with excess baggage to fly.

Sir George Brown, R.I.P

Our deepest condolences to the wife and family of the late Sir George Brown. He certainly left his mark in the courts, the sailing courses and the football fields across Belize.

Politician's foreign properties

We've been getting numerous reports of extravagant purchases of estates, homesteads, and condos particularly in the southern states of the United States of America by key players in Belize's political directorate, red & blue. Aren't politicians required by law to report these acquisitions in Belize to some commission?

Give the Mayor her diplomatic passport, already

What's wrong with Belmopan? Our duly elected and highly popular Mayor



should be granted her diplomatic passport. She goes to conferences to promote Belize not collect Medals like Said.

Bowen's big warts coming on stream?

Big advertisements in all the papers notifying PUC that Bowen will be producing his own power in the south... 7.5 MEGAWATTS worth of it. Wonder if he's using Chavez's crude or the Lord's? 7.5 Megs is a hell of a lot of power, more than the dams produce. Wonder when he'll start to sell power to BEL? Those warts generate some serious power.

Top Secrets: How to win and never lose Pt II

➡ (Continued From Page 7)
 extract his traverse between the political kingdom and the kingdom of God. He worked 7 days a week. He preferred interacting with the people to the technical work of governance. Price never chose between the political kingdom and the kingdom of God. He sought and served both well that is an accomplishment unique in this world; whether consciously or not, he steeped himself in Christianity before his emergence in politics. His lifestyle, his clean habits, his social justice thinking, his political kingdom, unceasing interaction with and service to ordinary people was his single political agenda. Price was never distracted by the lust for international prestige.

How could this leader with such principles and faith for over 40 years be forgotten by the Belizean folks? We hear some ridiculous things today that "Christians" cannot be in politics. Politics is evil. One has to keep political things and the kingdom of God far apart. People get together to talk about God's kingdom and don't want to talk political issues. There is always a huge gulf between what one believes and one's actions. In talk shows, people seem surprised when they have a politician talking about God and politics at the same time. Can good and evil mix? someone questions. Others see the need of God in emergency only, like in a hurricane.

You may ask, was George Price a true perfect leader? Some believe he missed out. He ended up putting the party ahead

of the people which has caused many problems. Party before people is a temporary thing. The people will not tolerate it in the long run and it opens the door for corrupt leaders to come in and misuse the party and abuse the people's rights and money.

Being a leader for forty years, where are his successors? Where are his disciples? He may have many, but are they standing up for his principles? Are they following his footsteps? Mr. Price valued principles over money. Unfortunately, this is not seen today within his party. A very critical writer said that "the people of Belize have become pawns of the same political party they have believed 57 years ago would lead them to freedom, justice and equality". Today it seems that parties become business corporations where the financial and human resources become their asset.

As the saying goes **oppression has no neutral grounds**. We are the ones that make the decision. "If we see evil and corruption around us and we don't do anything about it we are **guilty by association**". Are our religious leaders actively fighting against the evil? If not then they will be **guilty by association**. When have they voiced their opinions and given counsel to the desperate?

A pastor in the Belmopan area commented: "Some of us are afraid to speak up against corruption in the government". When he was asked why, he said because they may turn against them and

not grant the next exemption when they bring in a vehicle for a church. Many religious groups do not even vote or speak up to help the oppressed. By this they hope problems will just go away. Some say that evil is in politics so if they shun it they become better people and they just hope that the politicians will keep law and order among the rest of evil. But let us remind you of this top secret: **There is no neutral ground!** If we are not part of the solution we are part of the problem or maybe the problem itself. This is a very disturbing truth especially for those that are resting in the comfort zone.

A letter in the newspaper said the following: "March 27, 07 after the largest political demonstration of our history a group of church leaders of Belize City of 7 different denominations got together with our Prime Minister and also with the Leader of the Opposition to bring out their concerns. The accountability of the political leaders and governance of the country to respect the law and principles of the democratic process and the sacred rights of the people that in no way must there rights be suppressed or denied but given serious attention. The church by reason of its **faith in a God should demand justice**, especially for the most vulnerable among us. It has to speak prophetically to the interest and well being of God's people citizens of this country. We call on our political leaders and both sides of the political

spectrum in particular to exercise constraint and not to encourage or excite their followers to act in such a way that can lead to a regrettable outcome for us all. We call on our citizens to continue to pray for our country, pray for the guidance of God's Holy Spirit to inspire our leaders, to seek the greatest good, **to choose the lesser of two evils in every situation.**"

One question to begin with: Are we at the point in Belize where we have to choose between two evils? If that is the case we are in a bad shape. George Price and Philip Goldson have not taught us how to do this maybe because they did not know Belize would ever get in a position where we have to choose between two evils. They well knew about choosing between good and evil or the common phrase "**you shall choose this day whom you will serve**".

Back to the top secret: **Good choices will never let you loose, but bad choices will cause us to loose every time**. If we live with an overburdened mind of greed or fill our body with toxic foods causing pain and irritation that will not let us have a good attitude to make good choices. Overburdened debts cause people to live a life of what they would never choose. Ignorance, carelessness or cowardness of leaders causes a country to come into a condition and lifestyle they would have never chosen either.

Frankie Reneau - home to Teach & Perform

Belizean Concert Pianist and Composer Francis Reneau has returned home to offer piano lessons, master classes and perform in two scheduled concerts over the next month and a half. Reneau, who last year premiered Belize's largest musical project "We Are Belize" commissioned by the Government of Belize in commemoration of the 25th Independence Anniversary, has made this annual pilgrimage for a number of years in an effort to elevate playing standards of a growing pool of



Belizean pianists. He also hopes to continue promoting the Concert Piano art form.

Piano instruction for students of all playing levels above Grade I level of the Associate Board of the Royal Society of Music practical exams scale will be offered at Pallotti High School, Belize City beginning Monday August 6th and at the George Price Center beginning Wednesday August 8th.

These lessons run through the end of the month and culminate with selected

students from both municipalities performing in concert with Reneau on Friday August 31st at the George Price Center in Belmopan and the Bliss Institute for the Performing Arts in Belize City on Thursday September 6th.

It is noted that master classes will be open to all music students and musicians at the conclusion of each week.

Anyone interested in registering for lessons may call 227-1336 or 605-6217 or email soundboard@btl.net

Time Machine

➡ (Continued From Page 1)
 tance? A few skirmishes in the camps, on the riverside. Put down as easily as the "revolts" of old. A public flogging, a foot chopped off, castration. Thomas Paslow was a saint compared to some of these so-called men.

We were, we remain, such easy prey. Yes, we can pretend the morning talk shows and marches and rock hurling on the bridges and at the National Assembly show our displeasure. These are but gripe sessions in the kitchen, over the fence posts. A playing of the gumbay drums in the shacks, a parade at Christmas where the tribesmen wave their flags of origin. The tiniest, frailest vestige of a proud people now conquered.

We dance the Jonkunu and mimic the pink faced man, putting out our hand afterwards to receive whatever coins he tosses our way before he walks back inside the mansion we built and paid for. Enters the halls where we must sit at the back and mind our station, pull our mule and cart over on the road to let his carriage and footmen pass.

Where are our rebel leaders? Our Marcus Canuls, our Will and Sharper? Are we content to merely suck our teeth as these overseers walk by, spit in their lime juice? Does our contempt make us think we are not letting them steal our dignity?

No, it is not real slavery. It is not what so many of our ancestors endured.

But we are certainly not the liberated people we were at the time of Independence, or even ten years ago.

We know we brought our subjugation

on ourselves, which is why we do not protest that we must pay 100% tax on gasoline at the pump, 10% of the purchase price on everything we buy towards the \$30 million dollar surplus GST, tax on our phone, our electricity, water and medicine. Rather than shut down business and school and roads, we simply continue to about our business each day, handing over more money to the very criminals who have stolen so much money from the national coffers, swindled so many international lending and development agencies our of funds that should have gone to us and not their own pockets.

We meekly continue to fall into potholes, fall sick with illnesses for which we cannot afford treatment, struggle to keep our children in school and ourselves on the job, and spend every payday trying not to fall to pieces because the money done so quick! Blaming ourselves for the mismanagement of our money, inflation, and corruption instead of the people bringing it all on top of us.

Yet we did allow them to do it: perhaps not knowingly the first time and perhaps not intentionally the second, but by our own choice and own hand, all the same.

They say "Fool me once it is your fault, twice it is mine." The adage has no explanation for the state of mind of people who let others lie and steal from them over and over again.

We must like it, is all I can say. Or at least have grown used to it.

If not, prove it. The chance will come again in just a few months.

Belize, we gave up so much more than

we had been asked to give in 1998. We cannot change get any of it back, or even apologize to each other for our losses. But

we can stop the flow. We can stop being indentured and servile.

If we choose to. This time.

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Belize Limericks

Authored by members of the Belize-Culture internet list serve, July 2007
Members were presented with the first two stanzas and asked to develop the rest of the limerick, here are the results:

Six feet below lies a Crook
He was hung for the money he took...
Easy money on government street
Now a tag attached to his feet.....
On the tag it said "Hung,
For the wrong you have done."
Now, off to the Devil you'll greet!

Six feet below lays a Crook
He was hung for the money he took...
Stole the national pride
Took us all for a ride
But wi di pipple get di las juk!

Six feet below lies a crook
He was hung for the money he took
Might have gotten a bullet instead
But the people could not afford lead
Not even a penny he overlooked!

Six feet below lies a crook
He was hung for the money he took
Now the ones that had hung him
Drank one-barrel around him
Remembering how bad they got rooked.

Six feet below lies a crook,
He was hung for the money he took
No more said the sheeple
Will you lie to the people
The debt has now gone through the

roof.
Hip hip hoorah a few still holler
While others shout "Not another dollar"
Is it true that things dread?
Or are we being misled?
Think before you vote or don't bother

Six feet below lies a crook
He was hung for the money he took.
Lying and stealing,
the Pol found appealing.
"Go to hell, said St. Pete, with one look.
It's clear why these men turn to crime:
There's no blood in their brains half the

time.
With Viagra and money,
They just roll in the honey,
Pretending they're great, but they're slime.

They thief all the money for schools,
Think only of juks and their jewels.
Take the money and walk
'Cause they know we're all talk...
Thanks to lawyers, they break all the rules!

Why wait 'til the money's all hijacked
To make changes to have a good impact
The best time is now
The Chinese showed us how...
Figure out how to do it with tact.
Frustrated with Red, and broken hearted with Blue

Belizean voters were now at loss at what else to do
Political Reform was all that they wanted

But lots of corruption was what they were granted
The lesson in all this is, you reap what you sow

Six feet below lies a crook
He was hung for the money he took
The country is bankrupt
Politics still corrupt
Voters be bait on his hook

Six feet below lies a crook

He was hung for the money he took.
From one fund or another
Someones wife or their brother
Didn't matter all the same in his book.

Join the B Z -Culture list
Where we fight with our words not our fists
Tho we might disagree on
Many subjects we keep on
Trying hard to turn badness to bliss



ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

It's time to reconnect with some of the people you used to know. Your domestic scene could continue to be in an uproar this week. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Make changes regarding your friendships. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family. Overindulgence will mean poor health. Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Communication must be open, precise, and honest. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work. You can utilize your versa tile mind and dazzle others with your speed and accuracy. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Romance could develop through social activities or short trips. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more. You will find it easy to learn and excel. Try to get out and socialize. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Sudden changes could result in estrangement's. Someone you least expect may not have your best interests at heart. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You haven't been totally honest with yourself and it's time to review your motives. Generosity will put you in the poorhouse. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You will communicate easily and should be able to develop new friendships. You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members. Try out for a local sports team such as volleyball, tennis, lawn bowling, or whatever interests you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Don't get involved in joint ventures. It's time to consider putting money into long-term investments. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Difficulties with older females in your family may turn out to be quit trivial after all. Work quietly behind the scenes. You will accomplish the most in the work environment this week. You can get support from groups that you belong to if you're willing to step out on a limb and voice your opinions. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Resist any idle chatter. You will have excellent ideas for changing or renovating your home. Too much too fast will be the attitude surrounding your home environment. Get on with business. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. Don't overindulge in anyway. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative. Problems with your mate will develop if you don't let them have their way. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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What is best for the Nation?



By: Ray Auxillou

I think I've finally figured these myriad political parties out. I'm not sure, but as far as I can ascertain from reading the weekly newspapers; there are the NRP, the WTP, the VIP, the PNP, the UDP and the PUP going to run for the next national election.

How do they compare and stand against one another?

I've met the UDP and PUP standard bearers for my Central Cayo District. Both have been to my house, once or twice. I'm still waiting for the NRP, WTP, VIP and PNP candidates to come knocking on my front door and explain what they are about. I don't know who they are.

Generally speaking, I think the PUP have lost, or should lose, as they have wrecked the country financially and demonstrated time and again they cannot manage our money.

Even a political party made up of illiterates should be able to manage Belize our nation better than the PUP. I bet my two dogs could do a better job! This doesn't mean the PUP will not get elected next term, for they may. They are superb politicians as a party and can lie, cheat and steal with the best of them. But manage our government, no way Jose! Unfortunately there may be no other choice..

The WTP doesn't come across as a national party and as far as I know, they only have one decent, but worthwhile candidate living up in Corozal area. Maybe local people will vote for him. Probably they should; he has common sense and is patriotic. He would be an

asset to the nation in our legislature.

The VIP is a mystery party to me. Not sure who they are, except they come out of Belmopan. If they are going national, they are darned slow about it. Most of the articles I've read in the CAPITAL newspaper, FREE at my local bank, have been so-so. They sound academically intelligent, but not street smart. It is going to be a moot point anyway, as apparently they also are not NATIONAL and have no candidate in my electoral division.

The PNP (underdog) I would vote for in a flash, but they are not National in scope either. They have no candidates out here in Cayo West, at least not that I know about. I do know the party leader Wil Mahier and respect his smarts and can-do attitude. Still, if you don't buy a lottery ticket you can't win the lottery and if they don't have national candidates they cannot win the election either. I kinda favor the underdog and a bunch of common sense practical rural people from Toledo sounds to me they could do better than the PUP in governing our nation. The PUP are so smart, they run us into big debts, proving they are development dumb. Being an intellectual is no guarantee of being able to run a government.

Now the NRP looks like they could run our nation. The little bit of writings I've read from them have sounded good. Last week, the business article on relieving taxes on agriculture and farmers to get our economy and agrotech industry going, made a whole lot of common sense. Any reservations I've got are their tendency to push their religion. I believe in a SECULAR society and a separation between church and state. The Mennonites govern themselves VERY WELL, better than either the UDP or the PUP have done for the nation with a lot less. In that sense, they are like the Muslims, their religion is also their government. If they can separate that aspect of it, for the rest of us other religious types in the nation of Belize, to feel secure about our government, if they took over; I'd be very tempted to vote

for a NRP candidate because I do believe the NRP will do better at governing than either the UDP, or the PUP. I'm dead certain of it, as they have had a lot of practice in communal and volunteer government.

With the huge fiscal problems left by the PUP, it is going to take the Mennonite style of volunteerism governing to get Belize working again and progressing. I figure at least four years of no Capital 1 or 2 projects using foreign borrowed debt in the new government to let population and revenue growth put us back on course. The Mennonites would find a volunteer, or communal way of doing what is necessary in infrastructure and I'm all for that. The PUP, or UDP never could or would take that route. They don't even know how!

But again, is it a moot point? The NRP have signs all over our district, but I've never had the candidate for my electoral division come knocking on my front door...not yet. They either don't have a candidate, or they don't know how to campaign.

Then there is the UDP, seemingly a political party of one person. Or at best a bunch of academic townie intellectuals. There was some encouraging political reform in a sort of manifesto in last weeks party organ. I bought my first Guardian newspaper in months last week to see what they were doing. The re-

form offerings didn't go far enough, and are not complex enough for me. What there was, some of it was good for political reform, but I think if I had to choose between voting for the UDP or the NRP, I'd vote for the NRP as a more effective responsible nation building party. They at least with their communal governing experience offer HOPE for the future!

Then there is the PUP. They can't manage our nation, but they have a superb party campaign machine based on patronage. The patronage is borrowed money of course! There isn't much one can say about the PUP, for they know how to campaign and win elections. My two dogs know more about governing and managing the government, but that doesn't take elections.

As a swing voter I may end up voting for the PUP for lack of choice. Without candidates in Cayo West from the other parties we have no choice really.

All the political parties need to get their candidates visiting us voters and talking to us. Let us meet you! Start writing articles in the newspapers and let's hear your thoughts for the future!

As a SWING VOTER, I'm wavering between the NRP and the PUP. There may be a few months yet to change my mind. Let's hear from the others...

Announcement of Sale of Business

This article is to give notice that the business known as, C@fé Caye operating at 12 Burns Ave, San Ignacio, Cayo District is under contract for sale. Completion of sale to take place 28th August 2007.

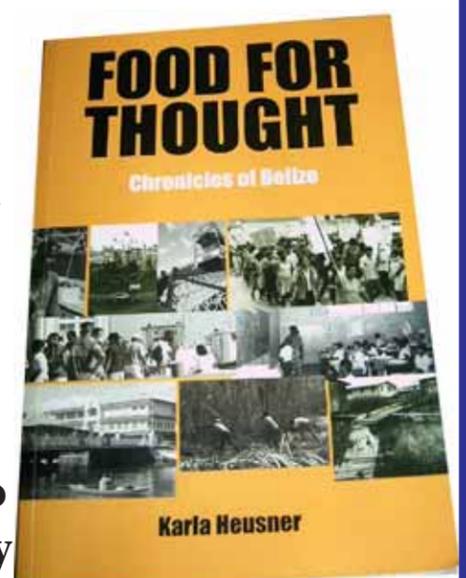
Any persons or businesses who believe they have outstanding accounts to be paid from said business should contact; Rainforest Realty, PO Box 195, San Ignacio, Cayo District, in writing 7 days before the date of completion.

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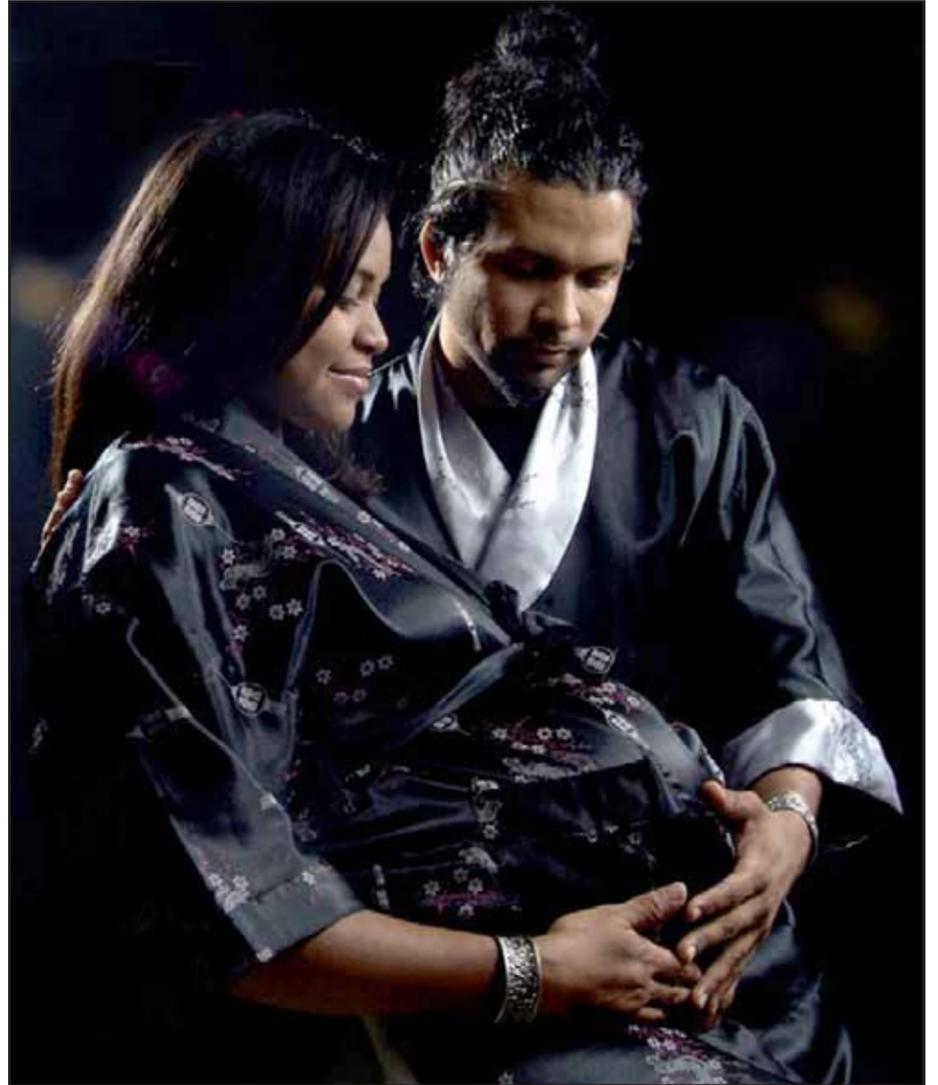
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Guest Gallery



IR publisher Trevor Verjnon (right) with Ruben Campos —only Belizean Health minister to be given an award by the Belize Medical & Dental Association. Also only Belizean health minister to chair Committee A in the world health assembly in Geneva, Switzerland and former Vice President of a past Directing Council at PAHO. What year was this taken?



Before: photographer Richard Holder gets into the picture as he and Amanda eagerly await the arrival of their twins



Fishing guide Claude Coye proudly displays this 70 pound Goliath grouper while Abel Rodriguez cleans one that looks even bigger???? Both fish caught last week.



After: Thaedra and Pierce arrive!

If you have any photos you would like to share with Independent readers in our Guest Gallery, send your digital jpg or tiff images to karlavernon_belize@yahoo.com.



This brother and sister, Ronnier and Vannia Leonardo, just love Bacab Eco-Park.

IR at Rio 2007 Panam Games

Independent Weekly desksop publishing technician/ reporter/ photographer William Ysaguirre was in Rio de Janiero for the 2007 Panam Games

and returned with these images.

Belize's seven athletes won no medals at the games, but Ysaguirre acquired a wealth of knowledge and ex-

perience during his visit to Brazil.

Jonathan Williams, Belize's best hope in the 400m hurdles, ran 49.84 secs but was edged out of the finals by Brasil's Mahau Sucuimati - by 0.01 second!

Tricia Flores, ran 12.37 seconds in the heats of the 100m, in which the USA's Mikela Barber clocked 11.15secs. Barber won the gold, setting a new Panam Games record of 11.02 secs.

Belize's Joel Wade hopped 5.97m

in the long jump, which Panama's Irving Saladino won with a leap of 8.28m, 10 cm less than he had jumped to qualify in the semifinals.

Lionel Jones ran 10.94 secs in the 100m heats. Churundy Martina of the Netherlands Antilles won the gold in the event clocking 10.15 secs.

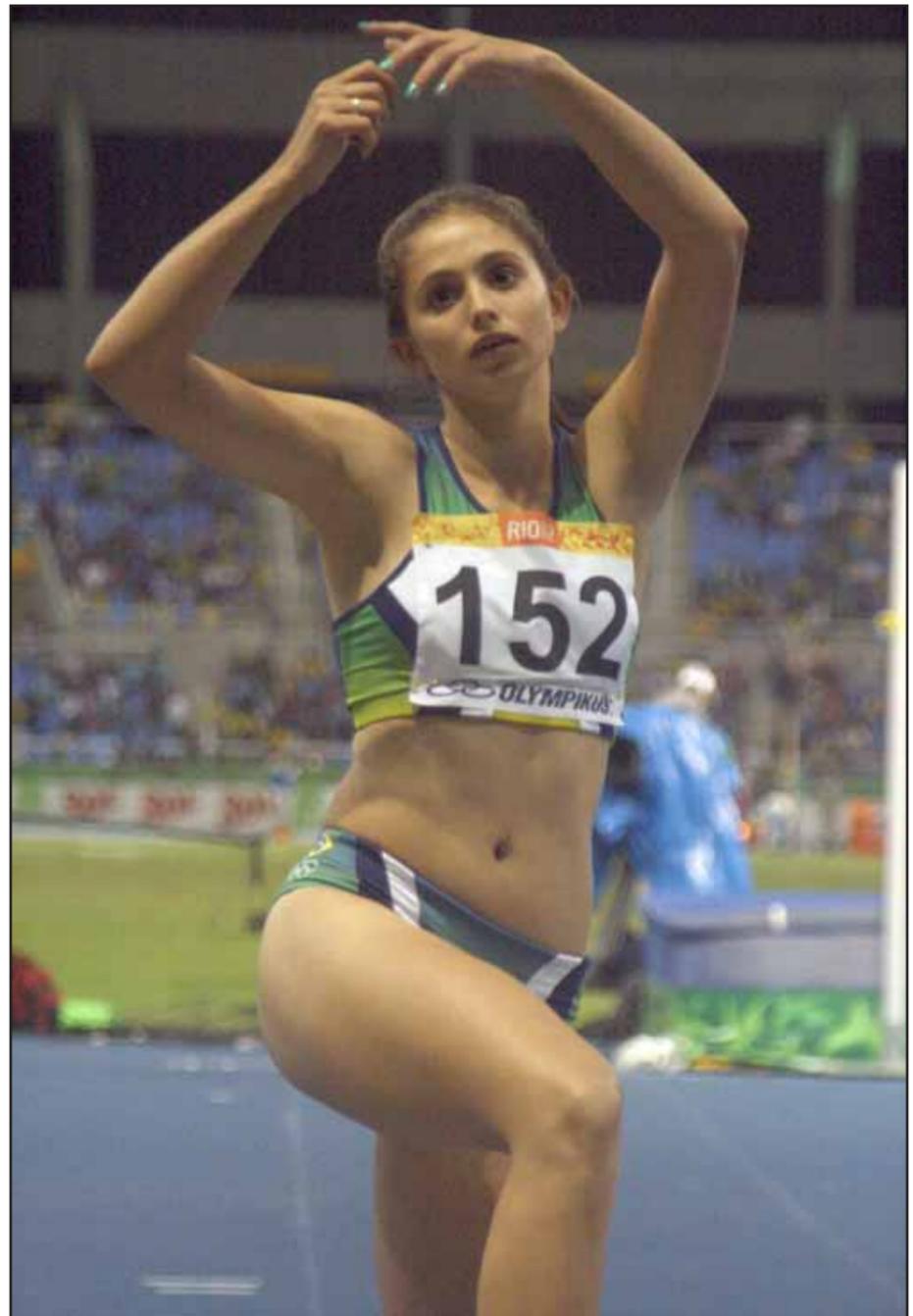
Belize's Kayde Vaughan jumped 1.65m in the high jump, in which Mexico's Maria Rifka won gold at 1.95m.



Belize's Jonathan Williams, (center) ran 49.84 secs in the heats of the 400m hurdles, but Brasil's Mahau Sucuimati (right) ran 0.01 second faster to enter the semifinals!



IR reporter William Ysaguirre stands at the base of one of the seven wonders of the world, the Christ the Redeemer Statue atop the Mount Corcovado in Rio de Janiero . The foundation for the statue was laid in 1923, but the statue was not completed and inaugurated until 1931. Designed by Carlos Oswald and sculpted by French sculptor Paul Landowski, it is the largest art deco statue in the world.



Brazil's Monica Freitas (above) mimes her jump for her coach before flipping over the bar at 1.79m (below). Mexico's Ana Rifka won the gold in this event at 1.96m.



Letters to the Editor

(Continued From Page 2)
 to good use, especially in the area of education, which he was very passionate about.

We truly believe using Philip Goldson's name to solicit that kind of money for some work of, and I use the term loosely, art, is indeed dishonoring the memory of the man we all knew and loved. We do not think this kind of begging should be supported or condoned.

The use of a good man's name should not be utilized in such a selfish manner.

Those who truly love and honor him may use their money in his name to help educate a young person in need, or take some flowers to his grave, or simply say a prayer for the people of Belize in these trying times.

Sincerely,
 Elizabeth DePaz
 Florence Goldson

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as we travel the world for fun, investment and profit." **For Rent:** A (2) bedroom flat located in King's Park, Belize City \$800/month One commercial building (4 offices, conference room, reception area) in King's Park \$1800.00/month Computers \$800/each Call: 223-1668/602-9182

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NOTICE TO ELECTORS

Change of Electoral Division

Two months are set aside each year by Law for transfer of electors from one electoral division to another.

These two (2) months are July and August.

Application for a change of electoral division from one electoral division to another, will be processed during normal working hours as of

July 1, 2007 to August 31, 2007.

Requirements to change from one electoral division to another are:

- **Be a registered voter**
- **Reside at the new address for not less than two months**

Visit an Elections and Boundaries District Office in the Electoral Division where you reside, for more information.

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

TEL: 222-4992/4042

www.belize-elections.org

