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# STAR



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

No. 218 Sunday, February 28, 2010 Price \$1.00

## POLICE FIND WEED AND WEAPON MOTHER AND SON ARRESTED

**FRIDAY, February, 26, 2010:**

On Wednesday, February 24, a man and his mother were arrested and charged for the possession of weed and a weapon.

Benque Viejo Police executed a search warrant on a premises

located at #24 St. Joseph Street in that western municipality.

The search inside a room resulted in the discovery of a grey plastic bag containing four individual black plastic bags with loose cannabis.

A further search inside the yard resulted in the discovery of a point 25 pistol in a plastic bag concealed among a pile of garbage.

The discovery led to the arrest of the occupier of the house



**Sentenced to two years in jail, Ovidio Garcia Aguallo, 21**

## Over 10 Grand For Victims in Haiti Raised By Princess International San Ignacio

**PRINCESS INTERNATIONAL SAN IGNACIO LIMITED, Cayo, Thursday, February 25, 2010:**

The fundraiser, spearheaded by Princess International San Ignacio Limited, in support of the earthquake victims in Haiti, was held on Sunday, January 31, 2010, and today a cash donation of over ten thousand dollars, proceeds of the event, was handed over to the Red Cross.

Fresh in town from an overseas business trip, the General Manager of Princess International San Ignacio Limited, **Bulent Yesilyurt**, was on hand to personally present the manila envelope with exactly \$10,079.00 in cash to the Red Cross.



**General Manager, Bulent Yesilyurt (L), handing over cash donation to Local Red Cross Chairperson, Cynthia Ellis (R)**

behalf of the Red Cross was Ms. **Cynthia Ellis** in her capacity as

Chairperson of the San Ignacio

**Please Turn To Page 11**

**Ovidio Garcia Aguallo, 21**, Belizean construction worker and his mother, **Estela Aguallo, 48**, Belizean domestic who was visiting at the time of the search but residing nearby at #21 also on St Joseph Street

The mother, son, weed and the weapon were transported to the Benque Viejo Police Station where the drugs was weight at 575.5grams.

On Thursday, February 25,

**Please Turn To Page 11**

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## Life Would Have Been Much, Much Worse Under A PUP Government.

Challenges confronting the national economy are by no means minuscule as publicly announced by the Nation's Prime Minister/Minister of Finance, **Hon. Dean Barrow**.

There is an estimated \$M60 deficit in the up-coming budget. This is the current reality. However, we can only imagine what life would have been like if there was not a change of government two years ago.

Prior to the United Democratic Party (UDP) victory at the polls on February 7, 2008, for all intents and purposes, the international financial structure was still intact. It was only subsequent to the UDP victory at the polls, two years ago, that the international financial collapse began.

Belize's finances however, began to feel the strain around midway in the second term of the Musa administration.

We recall that the nation was defaulting on its debt payment. Belize's financial ratings was at the very bottom of the barrel. International Financial Institutions like the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank were simply refusing to do any business with the previous administration primarily because of the nation's poor credit ratings. In desperation, the government of the day was forced to scramble for expensive money and so they turned to loan sharks just to keep the national economy from total collapse resulting in the ballooning of the national debt to almost 3 Billions dollar with nothing to show for it as, in most instances, the expensive finance was consumed in recurrent expenditures primarily for salaries and wages.

All of this was taking place while a privileged "accommodated" few dodged paying their rightful share of taxes while others were outright stealing the expensive money.

In those days the financial credibility of that administration was virtually nonexistent. We emerged from that era when, in the face of natural disasters, donor agencies routinely bypassed the elected government of the day and instead channelled assistance to those affected through private institutions.

Life today in Belize is certainly not a bed of roses, but imagine what it would have been like today if the PUP was returned to government. Assistance from international financial institutions evaporated at least 2 1/2 years before the PUP was booted out of office.

The expensive money was getting out of control and like Mark Espat predicted "One of those bullets will eventually strike through the heart of the Belizean economy".

There was a change of government on February 7, 2008. The change, coupled with the hard work and dedication on the part of the new Prime Minister/Minister of Finance, signalled the gradual restoration of fiscal credibility for a collapsing nation as new affordable financing and grants are now beginning to trickle in.

The opposition says: "No Job Noh Deh". The reality is that the pervious administration was heading to the point, like a Caribbean sister nation, of being unable to meet their wage bill. And like the other sister Caribbean nation state having to turn to the dreaded International Monetary Fund for bail out financing

"No Job Deh" the opposition cries. The reality, under a PUP government, would have been far worst as while public officers worked, their pay would have been delayed or even worse they would get no pay at all. This would have been nothing new for the PUP as some public officers still recall those days when

## News From The Cabinet

**BELMOPAN CITY, Cayo, Friday, February 26, 2010:**

The office of the Prime Minister today informed that Cabinet met in special session on Thursday, February 25, 2010, to continue discussion of the budget for FY 2010/2011.

The budget for the upcoming fiscal year will be presented in the House of Representatives by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the **Hon. Dean O. Barrow**, on Monday, March 15th.

### PRIME MINISTER TO SAN SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA CITY

Prime Minister, the **Hon. Dean O. Barrow**, is scheduled to be away from Belize March 3rd-6th.

On March 4th-5th he will participate in the IDB's XXIV Meeting of the Governors of the countries of the Central American Isthmus and the

Dominican Republic in San Salvador. He will be accompanied by the CEO in the Ministry of Economic Development, Commerce & Industry, and Consumer Protection, **Mrs. Yvonne Hyde**.

### MEETING WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

On March 5th the Prime Minister will travel to Guatemala City to participate in a meeting of Central American Heads of Government and US Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the **Hon. Gaspar Vega**, will act as Prime Minister while Prime Minister Barrow is out of the country.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cabinet is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

they were routinely paid with promissory notes.

The bottom line is that we must be thankful for small mercies and we must count our blessings. Life is certainly not a bed of roses but we must take comfort in the fact that it would have been much, much worse under a PUP government.

## March 1 -26 Is Child Stimulation Month

BY: Alma Crawford

**Cayo District Education Center, Santa Elena, Thursday, February 25, 2010:**

This year's Child Stimulation Month in Belize will be celebrated from March 1-26, 2010 under the theme: "Investing In Early Childhood Education = A Better Belize"

There are special days set aside where all preschools will be simultaneously doing the same activities.

Some of the activities for this year are: Church Service, Uniform Parade, Hug Day, Flag Day, Festival of Arts, Sports Day and Parade/Rally.

Preschools in the Cayo

District will commence the month of activities by parading in Belmopan City as well as in the towns of Santa Elena/San Ignacio and Benque Viejo.

Parents and the general public are encouraged to come out and support the children of our community in all activities that will be taking place at the various

centers in these areas.

A cordial invitation is especially extended to everyone to make that extra effort to attend the Festival of Arts which is will be held at ITVET in San Ignacio on March 9 and 10 commencing at 6 p.m.

In Belmopan the Festival of Arts will be held at the Seventh Day Adventist Auditorium commencing at 1:00 p.m. and at Marshelleck Cancha in Benque Viejo Town commencing at 1:30 p.m also on the March 9 and 10.

The general public is invited to come and be a part of this year's program of activities for child stimulation month.

## Minister Of Agriculture Distributes Farming Supplies To Farmers In San Antonio, Cayo

**SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE, Cayo District, Tuesday, February 23, 2010:**

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, **Hon. Rene Montero** today delivered over four thousand pounds of cassava seedlings along with another four thousand coco yams and three hundred Chaya cuttings to farmers of the Maya Green Growers Association of San Antonio Village, Cayo District.

This is in an effort by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to increase the quality and quantity of root crops

production in the area.

Minister Montero also delivered vegetable seedlings and one hundred Rhode Island Red Roosters to the villagers. This particular breed of roosters will be used for breeding purposes with the aim of increasing egg production in the area.

Today's event is in line with the Ministry's Platform of Food Security which focuses on rural development and the concept of the "Farm Family".

In making the presentation, Minister Montero reiterated

that the objective of this undertaking is to create employment for Farming Families especially the young farmers, thus minimizing the urgency for their migration to urban areas in search of jobs or subsistence.

Minister Montero also informed that this initiative is intended to serve as an intervention geared towards improving the Farm Family Nutritional Dietary Food intake, and their income.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Chief Executive Officer, **Gabino Canto** at 822-2241 or 822-2242.

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSIONS

In accordance with Section 8.24 of the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) of April 5, 2002, the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL) advises that it will host Public Information Sessions on the Macal River Upstream Storage Facility, also known as the Chalillo Hydro Project.

The first session will take place on February 25, 2010 in Cristo Rey Village at the Village Community Center, at 7:00 p.m. On February 26, 2010, the session will take place in San Ignacio Town at the Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m.

The sessions will focus on the project description; the critical issues identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the assessment of their impacts and the mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP).

For more information please contact BECOL at 824-3016.

# The Erwin Contreras Cayo West Cup Football Tournament Is Off To A Start

BY: Alejandro "Alex" Rios

**BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo, Sunday, February 21, 2010:**

It's been 15 years in the running and today the Erwin Contreras Cayo West Cup Football Tournament officially began in Benque Viejo Town and San Jose Succotz Vilage, with the traditional marathon.

A total of 23 football teams (16 in Benque Viejo Town and 7 in the village of San Jose Succotz) are participating in this year's tournament.

The tradition was started 15 years ago buy Cayo West Area Representative and now Minister of Economic Development, Industry and Commerce and Consumer Protection, **Hon. Erwin Contreras**. Today the tournament is moving from strength to strenght with the unending and personal support from the Hon. Erwin Contreras.

Prior to the commencement of today's marathon, Minister Contreras was on hand to personally deliver a full set of uniform to all members of the participating 23 teams. He also handed over 11 football to each of the 24 teams.

Minister Contreras stated off at 9:00 am at the Marshallleck Cancha in Benque Viejo Town and later journeyed to the Cancha in San Jose Succotz where the handing over of uniform and other equipment continued to participating teams.

The first encounter of the day was between two teams from Arenal village resulting in **Arenal Football Club** defeating **Club Deportiva Arenal** by a



**At the Marshallleck Cancha in Benque Viejo Town, the Hon. Erwin Contreras (R) handing over uniforms, shoes, socks and footballs to all participating teams**

score of 4 to nil. With three of the four goals to his credit, Arenal FC's **Miguel Aguilar** emerged as the top scorer.

In the second game, after the 30 minutes of playing **Regaee Boyz Veterans** and **Border Team** emerged with a scoreless draw eventually ending in Regaee Boyz Veterans defeating Border Team in penalty shots.

**Falcons F.C** blasted **Falcons Juniors** by a score of 5 goals to nil.

In the fourth game, the new team on the block, **Riverside FC** defeated **Deportivo Santa Cruz**, also a new team on the block by a score of 3 goals to nil.

**Juventus**, a team of young college boys defeated Flamingo by a score of 2 to nil.

In regulation time, reigning champions, **Jaguars** emerged with a 1-1 draw against **Benque Fire**. However, after penalty shots were taken, Jaguar emerged victorious over the Benque Fire Team.

**Pumas FC** likewise defeated the **Green Machine** by way of penalty shots and the reigning Sub Champions, **Real Benqueño** eliminated **Benque United** by a score of 3 goals to 1.

In the first game of the second round Arenal FC defeated Regaee Boyz by a score of 4 to nil. Falcons FC edged Riverside FC 2 -1 and Juventus y Jaguars played to a scoreless draw resulting a victory for Juventus

from penalty shots. Pumas FC scraped to the finals after a tight encounter against Real Benqueño.

In the semi final round, Arenal FC defeated Falcons in penalty shots and in similar fashion Pumas emerged victorious over Juventus.

**The marathon ended shortly after 10:30 pm with Arenal FC in first place followed by Jaguars FC in second and Pumas FC rounding of the three top finishers.**

Meanwhile in the nearby village of San Jose Succotz, the ceremony began at 11:00 am with Hon. Erwin Contreras delivering uniforms and football to each of the 7 participating teams.

The action began at 12 noon at

the Cancha in San Jose Succotz. The participating teams included 1) **La Jube FC**, 2) **D'Revolutions** 3) **La Tribu** 4) **West Boyz** 5) **Arsenal** 6) **Corozalito** and 7) **River Plate**.

After many hours of fierce competition the first place trophy was captured by La Tribu and Arenal in second place. William Can was named as the top goal scorer while Tomas Moh emerged as the Best Goalkeeper. Music was provided by Inecos Box and the event coordinator in San Jose Succotz is **Wilson Patt**.

During its 15 years in existence, the Cayo West Cup continues getting better and better each year. The success of the tournament is due in part to the selfless efforts of its organizers which includes **Luis Aldana Jr**, **Geovany Pinelo**, **Alejandro Rios** and **Mr. Pablo Uc**.

While this Sunday's marathon signaled the commencement of the battle for the **Erwin Contreras Cayo West Cup**, regular games will be played every weekend culminating with the grand championship games playing around the middle of July 2010.

The tournament promises to be competitive and excited. The public is especially invited to attend the games and to support their team of choice.

The organizers of the event, the players, and the people of Cayo West in particular, extend sincere gratitude to their Area Representative, Hon. Erwin Contreras for his unending supporting in offering the youth of Cayo West with sporting activities as an alternative to crime and violence.



**Hon. Erwin Contreras (L) in San Jose Succotz**

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BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

# TOURISM NEWS

## BTB launches new Belize Specialist Program

The Belize Tourism Board is pleased to advise of its new Belize Specialist Certification course for travel agents. The BTB-sponsored Belize Specialist course executed under Travel Agent University; an on-line travel education site targeted at travel agency professionals and is linked to "Travel Agent Magazine". Travel Agent University boasts being the industry's largest online travel education site and of having graduated more specialists than any other agent education program and for Belize Travel Agent guarantees 4,000 agent graduates.

The purpose of the program is to encourage the international trade to become Belize specialists. Through the Belize Specialist program the BTB seeks to develop a comprehensive curriculum for the travel agent community that will cover basic and important aspects of Belize that a travel agent would want and need to know about the country in order to recommend and structure a hassle free vacation, group trip or even a wedding for their clients, and more. The Belize Specialist program will also allow for the Private sector to participate by sending news, videos and offers for program graduates, trade show mentions and listings.

The Program is accredited by TAU and successful applicants receive a diploma recognizing them as Belize Specialists.



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

Belize had a distinct presence at the 15th 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 gateway. The show attracted more than 20,000 travel aficionados over the two day event.

While in California, the BTB delegation had the opportunity to educate consumers, travel trade and wholesalers on Belize's product offerings by conducting an audio visual presentation which highlighted Belize's reef, rainforest, archaeology, and culture. During the presentation, over 160 attendees 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.



Private sector participants included Belize Vacation Partners, Belize Hotel Association and Hugh Parkey's Belize Adventures. Representing the Belize Tourism Board were Marketing Officers Michelle Bowers and Althea Sebastian.

## The Belize Tourism Board donates to two Humanitarian Organizations

Last week the Belize Tourism Board represented by the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Manuel Heredia pledged its support to two long standing organizations- the Belize Red Cross and the Rotary Club of Belize. Both donations totaled \$7,500.00.

The Belize Red Cross founded in 1950 is accredited to National Society from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Part of their activities undertakes disaster management projects and relief to victims of natural disasters. The donation for the Belize Red Cross will go towards the Haiti Relief as a pledge of support in a time of need.

The BTB also pledged its support to the Rotary Club of Belize hosting its conference in Belize February 24th to the 27th representing 250 Rotarians from Guatemala and Honduras.

Founded in 1957, the Rotary Club of Belize fosters goodwill, peace, development and community service around the globe.

The BTB is also extending a warm welcome to these international delegates at the PGIA and encourages them to explore Belize in all its wonders. During their week's session the attendees will be introduced to the Belizean experience complete with a good dose of Belizean cuisine, music and culture as well as taking time out to explore Belize.

This conference provides Belize with a tourism opportunity to further influence Central American visitors which is an emerging market for Belize. The BTB is pleased to welcome these delegates to Belize and wishes them much success with this 2009-2010 conference.



Minister of Tourism Hon. Manuel Heredia with Mr. Arturo Vasquez from the Belize Red Cross



Minister of Tourism Hon. Manuel Heredia with Mr. Rene Villanueva Sr. from The Rotary Club of Belize

## Chinese "Belize Guide & Map" Travel Guide launched in Taiwan

The 2010 Taipei International Book Exhibition was the ideal event to present the new "Belize Guide & Map" which took place from January 27th to February 1st.

The Embassy of Belize in Taiwan along with the Central American Trade Office (CATO) also in Taiwan together with support from the Belize Tourism Board and the Embassy of Belize in Taiwan joined efforts in the production of the a "Belize Guide and Map" in Chinese with English sub-titles.

The Belize Guide & Map was launched at the 2010 Taipei International Book Exhibition held earlier this year from January 27th to February 1st, 2010 by Belize's Embassy in Taiwan.

The Chinese written Belize Guide & Map was put together by a team of travel writers who visited Belize last year and were hosted by the Belize Tourism Board and the tourism private sector. It is complete with destination information on Belize's tourism attractions, maps, lists of "must eat local cuisines", "must-buy souvenirs", "must-try popular activities" and even a segment on "Plus+ Life in Belize by Taiwanese immigrants", and sources of information needed in the planning of trips to Belize. The Guide was developed to promote Belize in Taiwan and other Asian markets interested in visiting Belize.

The Belize Tourism Board is pleased to have partnered with the Embassy of Belize in Taiwan, the Central America Trade Office and the Embassy of Belize in Taiwan in their efforts to promote Belize in Taiwan and Asia and looks forward to a continued working relationship.

The Asian market has slowly demonstrated interest in Belize both as a vacation and investment destination.



For more information on events taking place in Belize's tourism industry, please contact the Belize Tourism Board at 227-2420, via email: [btbb@btl.net](mailto:btbb@btl.net) or visit our website [www.belize tourism.org](http://www.belize tourism.org).

# Two Major Constitutional Amendments Passed

BY: Wellington C. Ramos



**WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2010:**

Last Friday Belize's House of Representatives passed two major constitutional reforms as follows:

a) The appointment of an Attorney General from the private Lawyers field removing the requirement for that individual to either be an elected member of the House of Representatives or an appointed member of the Senate and

b) To make the Caribbean Court of Justice the final court for all appeals thus effectively replacing the Privy Council in London. With this particular constitutional amendment, Belize now joins Guyana and Barbados as the only three English speaking former British colonies in the Caribbean to move in that direction. Notwithstanding, many other inland states in the Caribbean are speeding up legislation in their respective jurisdictions to do likewise.

These two constitutional amendments were passed into law after the ruling United Democratic Party (UDP) government withdrew a provision that would have allowed Belizeans with dual

citizenships, mainly Belizean Americans, to seek election to the House of Representatives or for appointment to the Senate while retaining dual nationality status.

The proposed dual citizenship amendment was strongly rejected by the opposition People's United Party (PUP) and other Belizeans who are disgruntled with Belizean American citizens for leaving their country.

Notwithstanding the PUP's opposition to the proposed amendment, the ruling UDP government has a 25-6 majority of seats in the current House of Representatives.

This supermajority is more than enough for the government to proceed with any amend the Constitution of Belize.

Prior to enacting these amendments, a constitutional reform committee was created in the House of Representatives to conduct consultations throughout the six districts of Belize to hear out the views of the Belizean population.

Most of these community meetings were packed and many Belizeans expressed their views and concerns over these issues.

With the rising murder rate currently in Belize, Belizeans are disgusted with the current system where the Privy Council in London continues to commute the sentences of murderers from the death penalty to life in prison or at times acquittals due to some technicality or another.

The provision to grant Belizeans with dual nationality the right to contest elections to the House of Representative or appointment to the Senate caused heated arguments and debates during the consultation process.

Belizean in the United States were more in support of this legislation than those living in Belize.

The decision to withdraw this provision when the UDP has the majority votes to pass it, was, in my opinion, not a wise one.

The PUP has always been a party that delivers whatever their people want despite the opposition coming from other quarters.

If the UDP had passed that legislation, Belizean Americans

would have consolidated their support for them indefinitely. Now that they have failed to deliver this promise, Belizean Americans might start to think that both the UDP and the PUP are the same when it comes to addressing the concerns of Belizeans living in the United States and elsewhere.

Over the years, Belizean politicians, from both major political parties, have been visiting the United States during election time making lots of promises but have failed in delivering them.

Most Belizeans possess dual citizenships as is spelled out in the Belize constitution. In addition, they have played and still play a vital role in the development of their homeland. However, there has been no program by the governments of Belize that will benefit and encourage Belizeans living abroad to get involved and do some significant things for their country.

In major US cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Detroit, New Orleans and other metropolitan areas where Belizeans reside, they encounter hard times renewing their passports, obtaining Belizean documents and communicating with their diplomatic representatives regularly on matters of major concern and interest. In other words, Belize's diplomatic service in the USA is poor.

The right to vote by proxy from abroad is not even being discussed and it appears as if both political parties are against it despite the fact that this is a constitutional right to which Belizeans living abroad are entitled. I am yet to hear of the current government's position on this issue.

With the passage of this latest constitutional amendment, I expect the PUP to continue opposing the provision that will now legally allow private attorneys to be appointed as Attorney General without being either a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate. The opposition PUP is using the arguments of accountability to the people as the main reason why they are against it and the fear that the current Prime Minister will appoint a close

friend or a relative to that position.

Every political party in Belize is guilty of appointing friends and relatives to public offices in Belize.

In many cases some of those appointed by the PUP, were not even qualified for the posts to which they were appointed. Most appointments were due to loyalty and dedication to their political party.

As for the change to the Caribbean Court of Justice, the PUP was always in support of that change.

Belizeans with dual citizenships will not sit down idly by and drop dead. They will now have to launch an aggressive campaign to bring this issue back to the forefront of Belizean politics.

Another way to achieve their constitutional rights might be to file a case at the Belize Supreme Court on behalf of Belizeans who Possess dual citizenship to force the Belize government to grant them the right to vote by proxy, to become members of the National Assembly as citizens of Belize, to be entitled for land and other benefits that Belize has to offer to all citizens.

The failure to present the 7 Constitutional Amendment Bill for passage with the dual nationality provision is similar to the Democrats in the United States becoming complacent in passing Universal Health Care Coverage to all Americans because of the Republicans obstructionist tactics, when they control a majority in both houses of congress and have a member of their party as the president.

Political science teaches us, that the reason why people give their government power is because they expect them to enforce it and deliver on their promises.

Whenever a government fails to deliver to its people, despite the fact that they possess the means to deliver, the people will become angry and frustrated and remove them from power.

The opposition party will always oppose, complain and distract because their overall objective is to take the reigns of government from the governing party so that they can form the new government. In most cases, it does not guarantee that they will and can do better than the party in power.

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# ★ STAR HUMOR

## A Pact Between Pals

Ben and Joe were best of friends since childhood days.

As they approached the twilight of their years they made a pact of friendship:

When one passed on, the other would take a whole bottle of fine Caribbean Rum and sprinkle it over the grave of the dearly departed friend.

As fate would have it, Ben became ill and so he sent for Joe to come visit him one last time.

As he sat beside the bed of his feeble friend Joe asked, "Ben, can you hear me?"

Faintly, Ben replied, "Yes, Joe, I can hear you."

"Do you remember our

pact?" Joe asked.

"Yes, I do," replied Ben

"So, you remember that I am to sprinkle a whole bottle of fine Caribbean Rum over your grave?" asked Joe.

"Yes, I do," whispered Ben

"You will agree that it's a whole bottle of fine Caribbean Rum" urged Joe.

"And what are you getting' at Joe?" asked Ben, briskly.

"Well Ben, before I sprinkle that whole bottle of fine Caribbean Rum over your grave, would you mind if I filter it through my bladder first?"

## My Rosary And My Wine

Father Leslie, a young priest, was sent to a very small church in the backwoods of the Toledo District in Southern Belize.

After a couple of years the Bishop decided to pay the priest a visit to see how he was doing.

Father Leslie said "This is a very lonely job and I don't think that I could have made it this long without my Rosary and two shots of wine each day."

"What?!" Exclaimed the Bishop. "You've taken to drinking? What kind of example is that to set for the community? This doesn't reflect well on the church."

"But the loneliness, I just couldn't stand it. If it weren't for my Rosary and those two

shots of wine each day, I would surely have gone insane," responded Father Leslie.

The Bishop thought a moment, then said "I guess that is understandable considering..."

With that the priest said to the Bishop, "Would you like to have a shot of wine with me?"

The Bishop said, "well, I really shouldn't but...Yes, that would be nice. I think I will, but just this once."

The priest turned around and hollered toward the kitchen, "fix us two shots of wine please?"

"And who is this young lady bringing the wine?" asked the Bishop.

"Please allow me to introduce you to Rosary" responded Father Leslie.

## One Of Those Blonde Jokes

A beautiful young blonde woman boards a plane at the Phillip Goldson International Airport in Belize with a ticket for the coach section.

She looks at the seats in coach and then looks ahead to the first class seats. Seeing that the first class seats appear to be much larger and more comfortable, she moves forward to the last empty one.

The flight attendant checks her ticket and tells her that her seat is in coach.

The blonde replies, "I'm young, blonde and beautiful, and I'm going to sit here all the way to LA."

Flustered, the flight attendant goes to the cockpit and informs the captain of the blonde problem.

The captain goes back and tells the woman that her assigned seat is in coach.

Again, the blonde replies, "I'm

young, blonde and beautiful, and I'm going to sit here all the way to LA."

The captain doesn't want to cause a commotion, and so returns to the cockpit to discuss the situation with the co-pilot.

The co-pilot says that he has a blonde girlfriend, and that he can take care of the problem.

He then goes back and briefly whispers something into the blonde's ear.

She immediately gets up, says, "Thank you so much," hugs the co-pilot, and rushes back to her seat in the coach section.

The pilot and flight attendant, who were watching with close attention, together asked the co-pilot what he had said to the woman.

He replies, "I just told her that the first class section isn't going to LA."

## Woops----Wrong Person

Regulation at the new San Ignacio Community Hospitals require for patients being discharged to be wheeled out of the hospital.

One morning an attendant found an elderly gentleman --- already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet-- who insisted he didn't need any help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about having a job

to do and about rules being rules, the elderly man reluctantly let the attendant wheel him out of the hospital.

After leaving him outside the Attendant asked if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," said the elderly man. "she is still back there in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

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## Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers



### **ARIES:**

**March 22 to April 20**

Workplace issues will need to be dealt with, temperamental colleagues to be handled and money matters to be sorted out. There will be much socialising and networking to be done. You may be tempted to rush through a lucrative deal, but allow things to run their course naturally. **Lucky Numbers: 07, 44, 61.**



### **TAURUS:**

**April 21 to May 21**

The largest of your worries will be money related, as expenses soar. You may have to tap sundry resources to gather funds. Keep your attitude in check or you may hurt your loved ones with your harshness. You could be attracted towards spirituality and religion. **Lucky Numbers: 03, 25, 88.**



### **GEMINI:**

**May 22 to June 21**

The coming week sees you tackling home related issues and chores with renewed energy. You could be involved in some renovation at home. Keep in mind that you will not be able to please everybody, even if you push yourself to the limits. **Lucky Numbers: 04, 17, 36.**



### **CANCER:**

**June 22 to July 23**

There will be increased interest in work. You will be bubbling with ideas – ones that are not only feasible, but inspire a good amount of confidence in your abilities. Consequently, extra effort in research and more hours at work are a huge possibility. **Lucky Numbers: 09, 53, 72.**



### **LEO:**

**July 24 to August 21**

You are likely to gain confidence and have belief restored in personal convictions. A secure personal life now spurs you into pursuit of more ambitious professional targets. There will be more time spent with seniors, discussing blueprints for expansion of work or venturing into a whole new sector. **Lucky Numbers: 06, 65, 96.**



### **VIRGO:**

**August 22 to September 21**

Work takes a backseat for a while. You are definitely inclined towards spending more time with your family and loved ones. There will also be enhanced focus on activities that lead to bonding with loved ones. Travel is likely. You need to take care of your health as

going overboard could lead to a burnout. **Lucky Numbers: 13, 28, 49.**



### **LIBRA:**

**September 22 to October 23**

The coming week moves is likely to exert demands on you. You will have to cope with contradicting emotions. There could be misunderstandings due to which you come under fire. The entire scenario is likely to make you more withdrawn for a while. Be prepared for the same. **Lucky Numbers: 19, 67, 91.**



### **SCORPIO:**

**October 24 to November 21**

You try and focus more on your professional life. You want mental stimulation and growth from work. This could call for an extra degree of effort, which will prove worthwhile. Personal relationships begin to appear quite wearisome, irrespective of the degree of closeness. **Lucky Numbers: 33, 58, 93.**



### **SAGITTARIUS:**

**November 22 to December 21**

You may feel that you are being torn apart by varied responsibilities. Although you strive hard to cope up with the challenges of your life, there is also the jealousy and negative attitude of people around you that you must handle. It will

be probably disguised as competitiveness. **Lucky Numbers: 10, 55, 79.**



### **CAPRICORN:**

**December 22 to January 20**

Conflicts and cold vibes tire you and you work towards reducing any kind of tension. A long pending dispute is brought to a conclusion. There will be temptation to settle old scores but refrain from it. Disturbance or lack of sleep could cause you to be a bit irritable and impatient. **Lucky Numbers: 09, 30, 52.**



### **AQUARIUS:**

**January 21 to February 19**

There will be celebrations and indulgences, not to mention all the hobnobbing with social elite. However, what truly occupies your mind space is personal growth, achievement of more serious objectives and spiritual goals. Be careful while driving. Avoid giving into road rage. **Lucky Numbers: 20, 34, 66.**



### **PISCES:**

**February 20 to March 21**

You will gravitate towards home and family. Your caring streak comes to surface, as you look after an ailing member of the family and work with children. Worldly temptations will try to attract you. Resist the lure. Keep yourself constructively occupied so that you keep depressive tendencies at bay. **Lucky Numbers: 16, 22, 77.**

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Readers Write


**There are more of the good people than there are of the bad ones**

Dear Editor;

On the evening news this week it was reported that a shopkeeper at the Novelo bus terminal was robbed in broad daylight by two gun wielding thieves; sadly, this is nothing out of the ordinary, but what is most disturbing

is that the entire incident was "*watched*" by a nearby shopkeeper who did nothing but "*watch*"; because he did not wish to become involved.

It would appear that criminal elements have effectively covered the popula-

tion of good honest people.

Here is one honest hardworking person being robbed by two thieves (*with guns no less*) while another honest hardworking person look on and does absolutely nothing to help.

It appears as if the good honest people have all lost their backbones and live in abject fear of the criminals. They have been cowered and gone into hiding.

When will they realize that there are more of the good

people than there are of the bad ones?

All that is necessary to crush the criminals is for the good people to organize and move against the bad ones; and the Police should be assisting with the organization.

To the person that did nothing I ask "*what if it was you that was being robbed; should people look away and do nothing?*"

Now that I got that off my chest I'll get back to house-keeping.

Al,  
San Ignacio

**A Policeman, A Soldier, An Electrician, All Facing Criminal Charges On La Isla Bonita, San Pedro**

BY: Bart Jones, ASP  
Police Press Officer  
WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2010:

On Sunday, February 21, 2010 about 12:30 am, San Pedro Police visited the Bayside Bar to conduct an investigation into a reported robbery.

Upon arrival the police met **Juan Perez**, 45, a fruit vender of the Corozal District who reported that about half an hour earlier at around 12:00 midnight he was inside his boat named "*Princess Liliani*" along with a helper who is a minor.

Perez informed that they were sleeping when they were suddenly awoken by three men, who identified themselves as Police and BDF officers as they began demanding for "*the drugs*" to be handed over to them. Perez reportedly told them that he had no drugs.

According to Perez one of the men then began to hit him over the head repeatedly. He was reportedly searched and relieved of a reported \$650.00 dollars in US and Belize currency.

Perez said that he was taken outside of his boat by two of the men whilst the third one searched both the minor and the boat.

The man searching the minor



**Derrick Gideon, 23, Policeman**

reportedly took out a chrome handgun and placed it to the minor's head demanding to know where the drugs were.

The man then began hitting the minor with he gun until he fell unconscious to the ground.

Perez reportedly managed to escape from the captors and ran for help whereby the police were alerted.

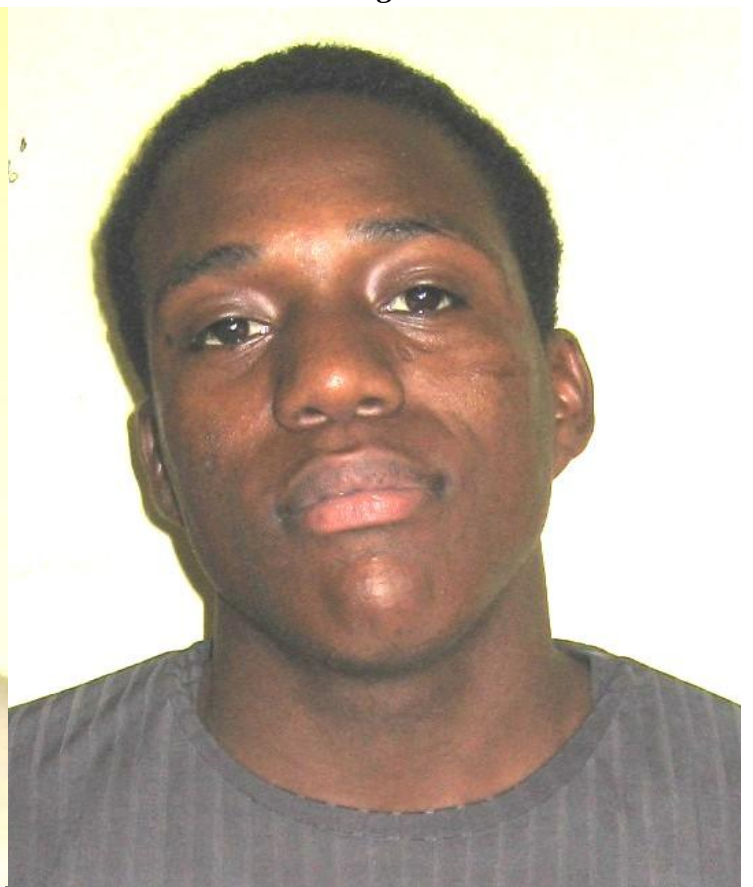
The investigation let to the detention of three individuals who were identified as **Derrick Gideon**, 23, Policeman of a Belize City address, **Justin Cassimiro**, 21, Belize Defence Force soldier residing in Biscayne Village and **John Cus**, 29, Electrician of San Pedro Town all of whom were later charged for aggravated burglary, conspiracy to commit aggravated burglary and kidnapping.

Derrick Gideon was additionally charged for resisting arrest and harm while John Cus was additionally charged with for harm.

Gideon has been interdicted from active police duties and placed on half pay, pending the outcome of the charges against him.

The Commissioner of Police takes this opportunity to assure the general public that wrong doing on the part of Police Officers will not be condoned in any way. Commissioner Jefferies reiterates that any police officer, who commits a crime will be dealt with accordingly.

In other news, the policeman found sleeping



**Justin Cassimiro, 21, Belize Defence Force Soldier**



**John Cus, 29, Electrician from San Pedro Town**

with the soldier when the soldier's M-16 rifle went missing, was internally charged for Prejudice to Good Order and Discipline and Dereliction of Duty. He appeared before a tribunal where he pleaded not guilty. The hearing continues.

**LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance, Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000, **ANGEL HERRERA** is applying for a **RESTAURANT & BAR** liquor license for the year 2010 to operate **ANGIE'S RESTAURANT & BAR** located on 16th Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District

# A Layman's Guide To Climate Change Far More Questions Than Answers

BY: Rudolph A. Bowman, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA  
[rbowman2@gmail.com](mailto:rbowman2@gmail.com)

THURSDAY, February 25, 2010:

Climate change, and its predicted effects for low-lying underdeveloped countries, creates great angst and uncertainty for ordinary citizens and politicians alike.

They want to know how real it is, how imminent it is, how severe the threats are, and in what forms do they occur.

They question whether enough data have been collected to show irrefutably that we are heading towards an irreversible tipping point with respect to uncontrolled global warming.

They ask if we should hedge our bets and wait, since much of the warming is alleged to be occurring in colder Arctic areas; or should we just play it safe and act. And what should our actions be?

Will these actions have deleterious and negative effects on the country's economy, on development, on everyday lives?

Should the cost of these changes for alleviation be subsidized or financed by the main contributors to global warming?

What should our role be if funds exist, if they do not exist?

What would be ethically and legally required of us under either scenario?

Should the local government provide incentives?

These are just some of the questions that a nation's brain trust must address, and hope in the end, that they have selected wisely and correctly.

Before we continue, some definitions are necessary. While climate change can mean many things, the term is broadly used as a surrogate for global warming: *the increased temperature changes because of the greenhouse effect.*

Basically, ground reflected infrared radiation heat is trapped in the atmosphere (*like in a glass greenhouse or in an enclosed car*) principally by the so-called greenhouse gases (GHG), water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). This action invariably results in higher near-surface land and ocean temperatures.

This is a good thing; it causes the earth to have an average temperature of 59 degrees F (15 C) instead of below freezing.

If that heat had escaped, life on earth would have been impossible!

However, some of these GHG, like CO<sub>2</sub> (*organic combustion*), CH<sub>4</sub> (*cattle burps and rice paddies*), have increased beyond its natural levels because of human's activities (*anthropogenic GHG*).

Carbon dioxide concentration, the principal contributor, has been increasing since the industrial revolution.

In the last 50 years or so, David Keeling (1928-2005) at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, found a direct correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and temperature. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increased from about 310 parts per million (ppm) to about 380 ppm while the temperature increased 1 to 2 degrees F.

Although other natural warming exists from volcanoes, sunspots, and uncertainties exist because of the role of clouds, most of this new increase is said to have been caused by increased fossil fuel (*oil, coal, gas, wood*) burning and deforestation and grassland plowing for crops, cattle, and wood.

While oil is still used the most, coal, second in use, is relatively cheap and abundant, but very polluting. It remains a dominant source of electrical energy for the USA, and for growing economies such as India and China, now the largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The US by far, though, is the largest emitter per capita.

So, is global warming real? Are the scientists and their data reliable?

What do the data show with respect to man-made GHG from a consensus of climate change scientists as exemplified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)? While contrarian views exist, especially after the East Anglia fiasco in Britain, government officials and ordinary citizens still need to rely on some source of expert analysis for direction.

The IPCC, with representation from a majority of countries, and university and government scientists, and with official mandate from the UN and the World Meteorological Organization, presents such analysis. It is their opinion then, that there is a 90% probability that anthropogenic global warming is real, and will get worse.

They contend that the concomitant drop in oxygen concentration as CO<sub>2</sub> increases, means that volcanoes are not the cause, and that only the lower atmosphere is warming and not the upper, as would be happening if solar activities were the cause.

What should governments do? What should the role of the USA and the European Union (EU), China and India, be, with regards to GHG emissions and technology?

Should there be a Cap-and-Trade program where less developed countries can benefit from being less polluting, and from fixing more carbon

(sequestration)?

Should the USA and EU share their emerging technologies (*clean coal*) with China and India so that together they can produce better and more efficient "green technologies"?

Should local governments provide businesses and individuals tax incentives for reducing GHG?

How will all this impact local food production and security?

The next pressing questions deserving answers are:

How much time do we have, and how severe are these threats?

Will our lowlands be inundated in the next 5 years from polar and glacial melting and expanded warm oceans waters, our coral reefs gone from bleaching and acidification from increased CO<sub>2</sub>, our lands threatened by more storms from earlier warm temperatures off the coast of Africa, our usable waters reduced, our crops scorched, our tourism shattered, our people in disarray?

While a consensus exists that these events are occurring, and that they will get worse based on global warming circulation models, there appears to be no danger in the short term, but a stern warning that we need to change our ways now and reduce our carbon footprints.

We must conserve, reduce, reuse, use incentives to convert to more renewable energy, preserve flora and fauna (*diversity*), manage chemicals wisely, reforest, revegetate, especially grasses near our waterways, and, yes, stabilize our world's population this century, before we reach that irreversible tipping point!

But what if human global warming is a hoax (*less than half in the US believes it's a problem*), and just data cherry-picking by scientists to get grants and fame; how uncomfortable would you still be to follow the above prescriptions?

Comments appreciated and can be directed to the author at: [bowman2@gmail.com](mailto:bowman2@gmail.com)

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## Over 10 Grand For Victims in Haiti Raised By Princess International San Ignacio

**Continued From Front Page**

Branch. In accepting the contribution Ms. Ellis said that she has been informed by the Director of the Red Cross, Mrs. Lily Bowman, that every single penny of today's donation will be going directly to the relief effort and that not a single dime will be used for any local administrative expense of the Red Cross.

In making the presentation, General Manager Bulent Yesilyurt informed that the undertaking was all a part of Princess International's global fundraising drive to help those in need, especially the children suffering from the devastating effects of the earthquake in Haiti.

Ms. Ellis capitalized on the occasion by sending out an appeal to the general public to come in and sign up to join the local branch of the Red Cross. *"Let us not wait until a disaster strikes for us to jump into action"* she said. *"It is in these quiet times that we, at the Red Cross, are better able to provide adequate training to all volunteers. The Red Cross is working overtime in its Haiti Relief Campaign because we are cognizant of the fact that today it's Haiti and that tomorrow it can very well be us. I also want to advise the public that while the focus is currently on Haiti, let us be equally mindful, that there is likewise tremendous need right here in Belize so we must therefore not hesitate to volunteer our time and resources in aid of those in need in our own backyard."*

Apart from a **GENEROUS MOTHER AND SON ARRESTED...**

**Continued From Front Page**

they were arraigned inside Benque Viejo's Magistrate Court where Ovidio pleaded guilty to both charges. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$905 by May, 2010, for drug trafficking in default 1 year imprisonment.

On the weapon charge, he was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

All charges against the mother were withdrawn.

The son elected not to pay the fine and was transported to the Hattieville prison where he will spend the next two years.

personal donation from Princess International San Ignacio Limited, other sponsors of the January 31 fundraising event include: **Amandala Press, STAR Newspaper, Supa G, Jade Band, DJ Skanless, Escandar Bedran, San Ignacio Resort Hotel, Old Belize, Michael Blease, Asian Community (San Ignacio, Santa Elena & Benque Viejo), Santiago Castillo Limited, Love FM, Oye FM Radio, Cayo Cable Vision, Belize Telemedia, Dolphin Production, Touch of Class Printing, Jeimmy Rees and Javier Gutierrez (MC's for the event)**



**The Belize Bank Limited hereby informs its customers that the San Pedro and San Ignacio branches will be closed for business on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

*For everyday banking transactions, please use our ATM machines available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week or your Belize Bank VISA Debit Card.*

**The Belize Bank Limited takes this opportunity wish its customers and all Belizeans a safe and happy *Baron Bliss Day*.**



## CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE NOTICE

### Sale of US Dollars by Authorized Dealers

The Central Bank of Belize advised the public that the prescribed selling rate for one United States (US) dollar remains fixed at a maximum of BZ\$2.0175, which includes the commission of the Authorized Dealers.

For example, on the sale of one (1) US dollar, the following is payable

Basic rate	BZ\$2.00
Maximum Commission	+BZ\$0.0175
Selling Rate	<u>BZ\$2.0175</u>

While no additional commission may be charged on the US Dollar sale, the following are justified costs that may be incurred on the sale transaction:

- stamp duty of 1.25% on the Belize dollar equivalent of foreign currency purchases that are greater than BZ\$100.00 in value
- wire/telegraphic transfer cost
- bank draft cost
- recovery of miscellaneous charges levied by foreign banks

Any person who has a complaint regarding the selling rate charged on US dollar sales may lodge a report to the Central Bank of Belize at 223-6194 with the Manager, International Payments Unit.

The Central Bank of Belize further advised the public that only Authorized Dealers are permitted to engage in the buying and selling of foreign currency. The following entities are Authorized Dealers:

- Heritage Bank Limited
- Atlantic Bank Limited
- First Caribbean International (Barbados) Bank
- Scotiabank (Belize) Limited
- Belize Bank Limited
- Post Master General
- Accountant General
- Belize Global travel services

Any unauthorized person or entity who engages in the buying or selling of foreign currency contravenes the Exchange Control Regulations and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment on a first offence.

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