

STAR

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



No. 129

Sunday, September 30, 2007

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ANOTHER WESTERN TAXI DRIVER IS DEAD

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, September 28, 2007:

Another Cayo taxi driver is dead, this one from the nation's western most town of Benque Viejo Del Carmen.

A preliminary report issued by the Police Press Office informed that shortly after 8:00 p.m on Thursday September 20, 2007, San Ignacio Police were actually responding to a reported traffic accident between miles 68 and 69 on the Western Highway between the western municipalities of San Ignacio and Benque Viejo Del Carmen

Upon arrival, the police came upon a red Toyota Corolla, 4-door car with taxi license plates CY-D-2521.

The car appeared to have collided into an electricity pole on the right side of the highway when traveling from Benque Viejo to San Ignacio.

Upon checking the vehicle, police encountered the motionless

body of a male person of Hispanic decent lying in the back section of the car with what appeared to be stab wounds to the throat, chin, chest and arms.

The police also recovered two blood stained knives inside the car which they suspect could be weapons used in the death of this taxi driver.

The body was removed from the vehicle and taken to the San Ignacio hospital where it was officially pronounced dead .

The body was subsequently confirmed to be that of **Jose Alfredo Howe Jr.**, 41, Belizean taxi driver of a Benque Viejo Town address.

Today, eight days later, San Ignacio Police is actively detaining, interviewing and releasing, mostly young boys from Santa Elena Town as they continue to search for a motive and those responsible for this latest gruesome murder.

Reports reaching us indicate that a relative reported to police seeing the deceased driving the car in



Howe's car on the compound of the San Ignacio Police Station

the new area of Benque Viejo Town earlier that evening with a maleperson in the front passenger seat.

The relative could not say if there were other persons in the back seat of the car as the tinted rear glasses were raised at the time when it was spotted.

Benque Viejo police manning a vehicle check point (VCP) on the

outskirts of the neighboring village of San Jose Succotz reported seeing the Toyota car speeding across the VCP as another vehicle was being searched.

Since they were not mobile, all the police did was to watch helplessly as the Corolla car sped away.

Probably unaware that the police were not mobile, the escaped car began racing away from the set of vehicle lights behind it until the driver lost control between miles 68 and 69 running off the right side of the Western Highway and crashing into an electricity pole.

Police do not suspect robbery, at this time as the victim was found still in possession of his cellular telephone, jewelry and 300 dollars cash inside his pants pocket.

Our investigation reveal that the Toyota Corola is insured in the name of **Lionel Howe**, the decease's brother who is reportedly residing in Mexico.

A Mother's Cry Has Been Heard

It gives us pleasure to report that on the heels of last week's headline article, prompt action was taken and today **Ernest "Didi" Wiltshire** is receiving treatment for his mental condition.

The following is a contributed article on the matter:

CONTRIBUTED:

Ernest Wilshire 'Didi' was successfully transported into the open arms of Belize's premiere and only psychiatrist **Dr.Claudina Cayetano**

this morning. Officer in Charge of San Ignacio Police, **David Henderson**, committed one of his officers to accompany Didi to the Psychiatric Wing at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.

The San Ignacio and Santa Elena Town Board provided the fuel and a driver, **Carlos "Boa T" August** to transfer Didi to the most modern psychiatric ward in the Country. The psychiatric ward in Belmopan was

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Ernest "Didi" Wiltshire

Please Turn To Page 2



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ANOTHER WESTERN TAXI DRIVER IS DEAD

Continued From Front Page

The car was also being operated without a license as it had expired at the end of August 2007.

Funeral services were held last Wednesday evening, September 26, 2007 in Benque Viejo Town

Jose Alfonso Howe, 41, is predeceased by his father Jose Maria Howe who passed away 9 years ago.

A Mother's Cry Has Been Heard

Continued From Front Page

constructed thanks to a grant from the Japanese and with full support of the Mental Health Association.

While in the ward, 'Didi' is being prescribed some of the most advanced psychotropics on the market today. These medications work with little collateral damage, in contrast to the older medications, which causes patients to have great aversions to these medications.

These medications come with very few side effects and as a result prevent relapses from a gamut of

His surviving relatives include his mother Pasquala Howe; wife, Rosa; one son, Daniel; four daughters, Maritza, Beatrice, Laura and Dalila as well as a step-son Ismael.

He is also survived by three brothers, Vildo and Juan Carlos both residing in Benque Viejo Town and Lionel Howe residing in Mexico as well as five sisters, Ofelia, Wilma Wilfreda, and Maria all residing in

mental disorders. The modern medications being prescribed to 'Didi' today have been available free of cost since 2005.

Only Belize and Panama within the Western Hemisphere, assist their mental patients with these modern drugs, free of cost, and at great benefit to society. Mental Patients on the newer atypical medications are therefore on their way to become less of a threat to themselves and the rest of society.

In comparison to about four years ago, when patients in Belize were given the older drugs, which caused them to tremble a lot, have parkinsonian symptoms, dry mouth, constipation and many other terrible side effects.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that EDDY and SHARON SHISH are applying for a PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENCE for the year 2007 to operate LA PLAZA MAYA located in the village of San Jose Succotz in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that GEORGINA ZABANEH are applying for a NIGHTCLUB LIQUOR LICENCE for the year 2007 to operate EALGLE'S LANDING located on Wyatt Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Benque Viejo Town and Emelda residing in Belize City.

He is also survived by a host of other relatives and countless friends.

With the August 31, brutal murder of San Ignacio taxi driver, Leopoldo "Polo" Waight, this latest incident is the second death of a western taxi driver in the last three weeks.

Today, the Belize Ministry of Health is giving patients, and at no cost, Risperdal, Zyprexa and many other of the novel drugs. Four years ago, a one milligram tablet of Risperdal would cost, at Brodies, about \$10.00 per tablet or about four thousand dollars a year. Today, patients like Didi can be placed on these medications, and in a few weeks go back to work as teachers, bankers, engineers; without the presence of any symptoms of their mental disorders.

By getting Didi to the Hospital, a life was saved and he will be able to go back to work as a mechanic, a trade that he is dexterous beyond compare.

Didi can dismantle a vehicle and put it back with an almost laser guided and robotic precision. Has anyone seen the movie, "A Beautiful Mind?" The only challenge to the Cayo Community remains that we

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is also featuring a family platter

must all work together to convince Didi--along with others like him--to take their medications, without failure, and as prescribed, for the rest of their highly extended and quality based lives. A final thanks to **Ms. Dina Hobbs** from the Belize Social Security for providing Didi with a monthly assistance.

Also, to the **Star Newspaper**, for raising a thunderous battle cry, in the barren wilderness. Didi's mother was very happy today and that makes an entire galaxy of difference!

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Letters to the Editor

Belizeans, The Time To Speak Up Is NOW!!!

This week's report from Transparency International should be cause for much concern among Belizeans everywhere.

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2007 indicates that *"Countries with a significant worsening in perceived levels of corruption in 2007 include Austria, Bahrain, BELIZE, (emphasis ours) Bhutan, Jordan, Laos, Macao, Malta, Mauritius, Oman, Papua New Guinea and Thailand."*

At the bottom of the list, along with the African nation of Somalia, is the South Eastern Asian nation of **Myanmar** with a 1.4 rating.

Myanmar, with a 2005 estimated population of 42,909,000 living on 261,789 square miles, is bounded on the west by Bangladesh, India, and the Bay of Bengal; on the north and northeast by China; on the east by Laos and Thailand; and on the south by the Andaman Sea.

The Associated Press, as recent as this Thursday is reporting continuing unrest and violent demonstrations in the capital city of Yangon in which the security forces fired automatic weapons into thousands of pro-democracy protesters resulting in the death of nine persons (including a Japanese Journalist) and the wounding of eleven others.

The situation in Myanmar is so volatile that the United States is responding by imposing economic sanctions against the nation's military government.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which usually raise issues of concern confidentially with national governments, publicly criticized Myanmar's military regime of major human rights abuses in June, 2007.

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2007 places Belize in position #99 with a rating of 3.0 alongside countries like the Dominican Republic, Armenia, Lebanon, Mongolia and Algeria.

The CPI scores ranges from "0", denoting *"Highly Corrupt"* to "10" denoting *"Highly Clean"*.

It was the late **Philip S.W. Goldson** who told us that *"The time to save our country is before we lose it."*

With absolutely no kind of axe to grind, it is Transparency International, a global civil society organization

leading the fight against corruption, that is alerting us to the fact that our nation is sliding down that dangerous slippery slope.

We must therefore take heed, for it is not the opposition United Democratic Party or any of the other opposition political parties that is opening our eyes to this reality.

It goes without saying therefore that the time to save our country is indeed NOW. We must each do our part to reverse this trend, maybe not for ourselves, but for our children and their children's children.

This situation appropriately reminds of the inspirational words of Nazi victim, **Pastor Martin Niemoeller**, as portrayed on a poster we came upon this week hanging inside **Mr. Godsmen Ellis'** San Ignacio Town Office.

The poster reads:

"They first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Trade Unionist and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Belize first came to the attention of Transparency International in 2003, precisely at the beginning of the Musa/Fonseca Administration's second term in office.

In 2003, Belize ranked 46th with a rating of 4.5.

In 2004 our position went down to 60th with a rating of 3.8.

It slid further down in 2005 to 62nd at 3.7.

In 2006 Belize's position went even further down to the 66th spot with a rating of 3.5.

The 2007 report places us in the 99th position with a rating of 3.0.

Let us not wait until we slide any further down Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index to the point from which we may never be able to return.

Belizeans, the time to save our country is before we lose it.

The time to speak up is NOW before there is no one left to speak.

Myanmar, One Of The Two Most Corrupt Nations, says Transparency International

A corrupt regime killing its people to retain power

From the Associated Press- YANGON, Myanmar, Thursday, September 27, 2007:

Security forces fired automatic weapons into thousands of pro-democracy protesters for a second day Thursday, and the military government said 9 people were killed and 11 wounded.

Tens of thousands defied the ruling military junta's crackdown with a 10th straight day of demonstrations in Myanmar's largest city, Yangon.

Security forces also raided several monasteries overnight, beating monks and arresting more than 100, according to a monk at one monastery.

The protests are the stiffest challenge to the generals in two decades, a crisis that began August 19 with protests over a fuel price hike, then expanded dramatically when monks started leading the marches. The crackdown has drawn increasing international pressure on the isolated regime.

Thousands of protesters ran through the streets of Yangon on Thursday after warning shots were fired into the crowds. Bloody sandals were left lying in the road.

"Give us freedom, give us freedom!" some shouted at the soldiers.

Ye Htut, a government spokesman, said riot police clashed with anti-government protesters in Yangon on Thursday, killing 9 people and injuring 11. Thirty-one government troops were also injured, he said.

The government said one person was killed Wednesday, although media and dissident reports said up to 8 died in the first day of the crackdown.

Among those killed Thursday was **Kenji Nagai**, a journalist for Japanese video news agency APF News. Nagai, 50, had been covering the protests in Yangon since Tuesday, APF representative Toru Yamaji said in Japan.

In Washington, Japan's new foreign minister, **Masahiko Komura**, said



Security forces fired automatic weapons into thousands of pro-democracy protesters

his country holds Myanmar *"strictly"* accountable for Nagai's death. He said US Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice** told him in a private meeting that the international community cannot allow peaceful protesters to be killed and injured.

Chief Cabinet Secretary **Nobutaka Machimura** said Tokyo will lodge a protest with Myanmar's military junta. *"We strongly protest the Myanmar government and demand an investigation (into the death). We demand (Myanmar) take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the Japanese citizens in that country,"* Machimura was quoted by the Kyodo News Agency as saying.

Witnesses said an estimated 70,000 people gathered in the streets, but there were only a handful of monks in the crowd, compared with previous days when thousands marched.

Witnesses and a Western diplomat told the Associated Press that dozens of men were arrested and severely beaten after soldiers fired into one crowd of protesters.

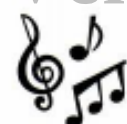
Troops in at least four locations fired into crowds after several thousand protesters ignored an order from security forces to disband, witnesses and diplomats said.

Some reports said the dead included Buddhist monks, who are widely revered in Myanmar, and the emergence of such martyrs could stoke public anger against the regime and escalate the violence.

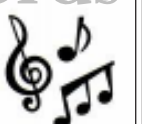
Before dawn Thursday, security forces raided several monasteries

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Presenting Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2007

“corruption remains an enormous drain on resources sorely needed for education, health and infrastructure,”

Transparency International is the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption.

The 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) looks at perceptions of public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories - the greatest country coverage of any CPI to date – and is a composite index that draws on 14 expert opinion surveys.

It scores countries on a scale from zero to ten, with zero indicating high levels of perceived corruption and ten indicating low levels of perceived corruption.

A strong correlation between corruption and poverty continues to be evident. Forty percent of those scoring below three, indicating that corruption is perceived as rampant, are classified by the World Bank as low income countries.

Somalia and Myanmar share the lowest score of 1.4, while Denmark has edged up to share the top score of 9.4 with perennial high-flyers Finland and New Zealand.

Scores are significantly higher in several African countries in the 2007 CPI. These include Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Swaziland. These results reflect the positive progress of anti-corruption efforts in Africa and show that genuine political will and reform can lower perceived levels of corruption.

Other countries with a significant improvement include Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominica, Italy, FYR Macedonia, Romania and Suriname.

Countries with a significant worsening in perceived levels of corruption in 2007 include Austria, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Jordan, Laos, Macao, Malta, Mauritius, Oman, Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

New Zealand 9.4 - Denmark 9.4 - Finland 9.4 - Singapore 9.3 - Sweden 9.3 - Iceland 9.2 - Netherlands 9.0 - Switzerland 9.0 - Norway 8.7 - Canada 8.7 - Australia 8.6 - Luxembourg 8.4 - United Kingdom 8.4 - Hong Kong 8.3 - Austria 8.1 - Germany 7.8 - Japan 7.5 - Ireland 7.5 - France 7.3 - USA 7.2 - Belgium 7.1 - Chile 7.0 - Barbados 6.9 - Saint Lucia 6.8 - Uruguay 6.7 - Spain 6.7 - Slovenia - Estonia 6.5 - Portugal 6.5 - Israel 6.1 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines 6.1 - Qatar 6.0 - Malta 5.8 - Macao 5.7 - Taiwan 5.7 - United Arab Emirates 5.7 - Dominica 5.6 - Botswana 5.4 - Hungary 5.3 - Cyprus 5.3 - Czech Republic 5.2 - Italy 5.2 - Malaysia 5.1 - South Korea 5.1 - South Africa 5.1 - Costa Rica 5.0 - Bhutan 5.0 - Bahrain 5.0 4 - Slovakia 4.9 - Cape Verde 4.9 - Latvia 4.8 - Lithuania 4.8

- Oman 4.7 - Jordan 4.7 - Mauritius 4.7 - Greece 4.6 - Namibia 4.5 - Seychelles 4.5 - Samoa 4.5 - Kuwait 4.3 - Cuba 4.2 - Poland 4.2 - Tunisia 4.2 - Bulgaria 4.1 - Croatia 4.1 - Turkey 4.1 - El Salvador 4.0 - Colombia 3.8 - Ghana 3.7 - Romania 3.7 - Senegal 3.6 - Morocco 3.5 - China 3.5 - Suriname 3.5 - India 3.5 - Mexico 3.5 - Peru 3.5 -Brazil 3.5 - Serbia 3.4 - Georgia 3.4 - Grenada 3.4 - Trinidad and Tobago 3.4 - Saudi Arabia 3.4 - Bosnia and Herzegovina 3.3 - Montenegro 3.3 - Maldives 3.3 - Jamaica 3.3 - Kiribati 3.3 - Gabon 3.3 - Swaziland 3.3 - Thailand 3.3 - Lesotho 3.3 - FYR Macedonia 3.3 - Madagascar 3.2 - Sri Lanka 3.2 - Panama 3.2 - Tanzania 3.2 - Vanuatu 3.1 - Dominican Republic 3.0 - Armenia 3.0 - Lebanon 3.0 - Mongolia 3.0 -Algeria 3.0 - **Belize 3.0** - Argentina 2.9 - Djibouti 2.9 - Albania 2.9 - Burkina Faso 2.9 - Bolivia 2.9 -Egypt 2.9 - Moldova 2.8 - Eritrea 2.8 - Guatemala 2.8 - Rwanda 2.8 - Solomon Islands 2.8 - Mozambique 2.8 - Uganda 2.8 - Mali 2.7 - Malawi 2.7 - Sao Tome and Principe 2.7 - Ukraine 2.7 - Benin 2.7 - Guyana 2.6 - Zambia 2.6 - Comoros 2.6 - Nicaragua 2.6 - Viet Nam 2.6 - Mauritania 2.6 - Niger 2.6 - Timor-Leste 2.6 - Nepal 2.5 - Yemen 2.5 - Philippines 2.5 - Burundi 2.5 - Libya 2.5 - Iran 2.5 - Honduras 2.5 - Pakistan 2.4 - Ethiopia 2.4- Paraguay 2.4 - Cameroon 2.4 - Syria 2.4 - Gambia 2.3 - Indonesia 2.3 - Togo 2.3 - Russia 2.3 - Angola 2.2 1.8 - Nigeria 2.2 - Guinea-Bissau 2.2 - Sierra Leone 2.1 - Kazakhstan 2.1 - Belarus 2.1 - Zimbabwe 2.1 - Côte d'Ivoire 2.1 - Tajikistan 2.1 - Liberia 2.1 - Congo, Republic 2.1 - Ecuador 2.1 - Azerbaijan 2.1 - Kenya 2.1 - Kyrgyzstan 2.1 - Bangladesh 2.0 - Papua New Guinea 2.0 - Turkmenistan 2.0 - Central African Republic 2.0 - Cambodia 2.0 - Venezuela 2.0 - Laos 1.9 - Equatorial Guinea 1.9 - Guinea 1.9 - Congo Democratic Republic 1.9 - Afghanistan 1.8 - Sudan 1.8 - Chad 1.8 - Uzbekistan 1.7 -Tonga 1.7 - Haiti 1.6 - Iraq 1.5 - Somalia 1.4 and **Myanmar 1.4**

The concentration of gainers in South East and Eastern Europe testifies to the galvanising effect of the European Union accession process on the fight against corruption.

At the same time, deeply troubled states such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, Somalia, and Sudan remain at the very bottom of the index. **“Countries torn apart by conflict pay a huge toll in their capacity to govern. With public institutions crippled or non-existent, mercenary**

individuals help themselves to public resources and corruption thrives,” said Labelle. **“Despite some gains, corruption remains an enormous drain on resources sorely needed for education, health and infrastructure,”** said **Huguette Labelle**, Chair of Transparency International. **“Low scoring countries need to take these results seriously and act now to**

Myanmar, One Of The Two Most Corrupt Nations, says Transparency International

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considered hotbeds of the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

A monk at Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery pointed to bloodstains on the concrete floor and said a number of monks were beaten and at least 100 were taken away in vehicles. Shots were fired in the air and tear gas was used to disperse a crowd of 1,500 supporters during the chaotic raid, he said.

“Soldiers slammed the monastery gate with the car, breaking the lock and forcing it into the monastery,” said the monk, who did not give his name for fear of reprisal. **“They smashed the doors down, broke windows and furniture. When monks resisted, they shot at the monks and used tear gas and beat up the monks and dragged them into trucks.”**

Empty bullet shells, broken doors, furniture and glass were strewn on the ground.

A female lay disciple said a number of monks also were arrested at the Moe Gaung monastery, which was being guarded by soldiers. Both monasteries are located in Yangon’s northern suburbs.

In Mandalay, the country’s second-largest city, about 430 miles north of Yangon, five army trucks with soldiers and three fire trucks were seen driving into the Mahamuni Pagoda, where hundreds of monks were locked inside by security forces. Another 60 soldiers blocked the road to the pagoda from the center of the city.

Also Thursday, security forces arrested **Myint Thein**, spokesman for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi’s political party, family members said.

An Asian diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity citing protocol told AP that **Suu Kyi**, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, remained at her Yangon residence, where she has been held under house arrest for much of the past 18 years.

The diplomat said the junta had deployed more security forces around her house and on the road leading to it, with more than 100 soldiers inside the compound.

Myanmar’s state-run newspaper blamed **“saboteurs inside and outside the nation”** for causing the protests in Yangon, and said the

strengthen accountability in public institutions. But action from top scoring countries is just as important, particularly in cracking down on corrupt activity in the private sector.”

Ed Note: Closer to home, with Haiti scraping the bottom of the barrel, how can we ever forget recent reports of mass murders in this poverty stricken Caribbean country?

demonstrations were much smaller than the media were reporting.

The crackdown has prompted condemnations from officials in the U.S. and Europe and statements of concern from regional powerhouse China, Myanmar’s chief diplomatic ally.

China has come under increasing pressure to use its regional influence to urge Myanmar’s ruling junta to show restraint in dealing with the protests.

On Wednesday, China refused to condemn Myanmar and ruled out imposing sanctions against the country, but for the first time agreed to a Security Council statement expressing concern at the violent crackdown and urging the country’s military rulers to allow in a U.N. envoy.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman **Jiang Yu** said in Beijing on Thursday that **“China hopes that all parties in Myanmar exercise restraint and properly handle the current issue so as to ensure the situation there does not escalate and get complicated.”**

The United States called on Myanmar’s military leaders to open a dialogue with the protesters and urged China to do what it can to prevent further bloodshed.

“We all need to agree on the fact that the Burmese government has got to stop thinking that this can be solved by police and military, and start thinking about the need for genuine reconciliation with the broad spectrum of political activists in the country,” said U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State **Christopher Hill** in Beijing.

Hill was expected to discuss the violence in Myanmar with Chinese officials on the sidelines of North Korean nuclear disarmament talks this week in Beijing.

European Union diplomats agreed to consider imposing more economic sanctions on Myanmar. Sanctions were first imposed in 1996 and include a ban on travel to Europe for top government officials, an assets freeze and a ban on arms sales to Myanmar.

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo, Foster Klug in Washington, Jan Sliva in Brussels, Belgium, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this story.

Two Belize City Men Injured In Shooting Incident

BELIZE CITY, Wednesday, September 26, 2007:

It was shortly after 4:00 p.m on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 when officers from Belize City's Crimes Investigations Branch were summoned to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital and were directed to the emergency room where they encountered two Belize City men suffering from gunshot wounds.

The two persons identified themselves to the police as **Steven "Cat" Arnold**, 34, Belizean laborer of a Zericote Street, Belize City address. Arnold was suffering from a gunshot wound to the left bicep and another to the left side of the abdomen.

The other person was identified as **Iarn "Horse" Reid**, 31, Belizean laborer of a Rivero Street, Belize City address. Reid was found to be suffering from a gunshot wound to the left side of the neck which appeared to have exited on the right side.



Ian "Horse" Reid, 31

Initial police investigations revealed that both men were seated inside a red Jeep Cherokee bearing license plate C-7990, which was parked on Dean Street, just across from the Kick-Down Fence Chinese Shop.

They were reportedly facing the canal when a lone male person, riding a bicycle from the direction of Dean Street bridge, rode pass the Cherokee and fired a single shot injuring both men.

They were rushed to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where they remain hospitalized with Steven Arnold being listed in a stablized condition. While Ian Reid said to be in critical condition, in a coma and on lifesupport.

Up to press time this Thursday night there has been no arrest as Belize City police continue the investigations. The police is therefore seeking the public's assistance to solve this latest shooting incident.



Steven "Cat" Arnold, 34

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- **Administration and Management** — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
- **Clerical** — Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, designing forms, reservations systems, maintaining log books and other office procedures and terminology.
- **English Language** — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- **Mathematics** — Knowledge of arithmetic and its applications.
- **Sales and Marketing** — Knowledge of principles and methods for showing, promoting, and selling products or services. This includes marketing strategy and tactics, product demonstration, sales techniques, and sales control systems.

Please forward your letter of application, two reference letters from past employers, one passport size photograph and a copy of your Police record to the below listed address before October 1, 2007. Those persons who are short listed will be contacted for an interview at a date, time and place to be later conveyed to them.

General Manager
Re.: Front Desk Vacancy
P.O. Box 135
Punta Gorda Town, Toledo
Belize

Wagner Gets 4 Years For Shotgun And Cartridge

DANGRIGA TOWN, Stann Creek District, Wednesday, September 26, 2007:

Dangriga Police reports that at about 4:20 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, a mobile patrol in Pomona Village was alerted to two individuals acting suspiciously.

They fled the area before the police could make contact with them but in the process of fleeing they left behind a black bag which, when searched, was found to contain a sawed off 16 gauge shotgun and one live cartridge for the shotgun.

The two persons were positively identified as **Arlon Casley** and **Sergio Wagner**.

Four days later, on Wednesday, 26 September, both individuals were located, detained, arrested and formally charged for keeping prohibited firearm and for keeping unlicensed ammunition.



Sergio Wagner, 25

Sergio Wagner, 25 and Arlon Castly, 26 appeared before Dangriga's **Magistrate Clive Lino** where Wagner took the wrap by pleading guilty to both charges. He was instantly sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for the shotgun and 1 year for the cartridge.

The sentences are to run consecutively for a total of 4 years. Charges were consequently withdrawn against the co-defendant, Arlon Castly.



The sawed off 16 gauge shotgun and the cartridge

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Experience with all types of farm machinery
Have a valid Driver's Permit
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Provide:

Two letters of reference
Clean Police Record

Call 670-4032 to arrange for an interview on or before
Friday, October 5, 2007
during normal working hours.

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STAR HUMOR

Read All About It

A newsboy, with a stack of papers, was standing at the corner of Albert and Orange Streets in Belize City, yelling, **“Read all about it. Read all about it - Fifty people swindled! Fifty people swindled!”**

Curious, a man walked over, bought a paper, and checked the front page. What he got was last week’s

newspaper.

The man walk back to the boy and said, **“Hey, this is an old paper, where’s the story about the big swindle?”**

The newsboy ignored him and went on calling out, **“Read all about it. Real all about it - Fifty-one people swindled!”**

Francesco Wants To Return To Poland

Francesco had only just arrived in town, from his native Poland, a weeks earlier, when last Saturday evening, he entered the San Ignacio police station to report that his Santa Elena girlfriend was planning to kill him.

The officer on duty was intrigued by this, and he asked, **“How sure are you that she is gonna kill you? Did she personally threaten to kill you?”**

“No, but I better return to Poland before she kill me” replied the nervous Franchesco.

“Did you hear her tell someone that she’s gonna kill you?”

“No.”

“Did someone tell you that your

Patience Is Truly A Virtue

It was a freezing December morning last year when Pre-school Teacher Carol who was helping little Robert put on his boots?

With her pulling and him pushing, the boots didn’t want to go on.

They managed to get the first one on and after much pushing and pulling they finally got the second one on, but not before Teacher Carol had worked up a sweat despite the very cold weather condition.

She almost whimpered when little Robert said, **“Teacher, they’re on the wrong feet.”**

She looked and sure enough, they were.

It wasn’t any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. Teacher Carol managed to keep her

girlfriend is gonna kill you?”

“No.”

“Then why do you think that she’s gonna kill you?” asked the exasperated police officer.

“Because I found bottle on dresser and I think she gonna poison me!”

He handed the police officer the suspect bottle.

The police officer took one look at the label on the bottle and started to laugh out loud.

Francesco became indignant and said, **“What so funny? Can’t you see the label on bottle said ‘POLISH REMOVER?’”**

cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, **“These aren’t my boots.”**

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, **“Why didn’t you say so?”** like she wanted to.

Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, **“They’re my brother’s boots. My Mom made me wear them.”**

She didn’t know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Then she asked, **“Now, where are your mittens?”**

He said, **“I stuffed them in the toes of my boots.”**

Old Habits Die Hard

The BDF Commandant finally retired last week and so he invested a portion of his retirement fund in the chicken farm he always wanted.

He took with him his life-long pet parrot.

The first morning at 0430 hours, the parrot squawked loudly and said, **“Reveille, Reveille. All hands up. It’s reveille time.”**

The former Commandant stumbled out of bed and went straight to the parrot and said, **“We are no longer in the BDF. Go back to sleep.”**

The next morning, the parrot did the same thing. This time he told the parrot, **“If you keep this up, I’ll put you in the chicken pen.”**

The next morning the parrot did the exact same thing again, and true to his word, the Commandant put him in the chicken pen and he went back to bed.

A few minutes later the Commandant was awakened by one heck of a ruckus in the chicken pen.

He went out to see what was the matter. This was when he saw that the parrot had about 40 white chickens at attention in formation, and on the ground laid 3 bruised and beaten brown chickens doing push ups.

The parrot was saying, **“By Lord, when I say FALL IN in white dress, I don’t mean Khakis!”**

Ed. Note: We apologize to our readers for not publishing a **STAR HUMOR** column over the past two weeks.

Your concerns have been taken into account, hence the reason for the additional dose of humor this week.

We encourage readers to continue sending us your bits of humor for possible publication. All we ask is that you keep them clean.

Reducing Stigma & Discrimination Relating To HIV/AIDS

The Women’s Issues Network of Belize (WIN-Belize), this week announced that it will be holding a three-day training workshop on **“The Role Of The Media In Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Relating to HIV & AIDS.”** to which the media is specifically invited.

The session is scheduled to be held during the weekend of October 26 to October 28 and the venue selected is St. George’s Caye.

WIN-Belize has selected this particular topic because it is of the opinion that it is one area that has been neglected.

WIN-Belize is a network of organizations with a special interest in women’s issues. It is committed to improving the social and economic opportunities for women and their families in Belize.

A major and current focus of WIN-Belize is on the elimination of both gender based violence and on HIV/AIDS issues.

The media is targeted for this specific workshop given the influence it has on the society and therefore it is believed that the media can take on an important role in the reduction of stigma and discrimination relating to HIV/AIDS

WIN-Belize is especially of the belief that the media is able to reach large segments of the population, and that the media is often times welcomed into areas where both governmental and non-governmental organizations are not; and as such the media has the potential of becoming an important medium to impart knowledge and in guiding public opinion and action.

"I am NOT HIV Positive" says Seidy Rivera

My name is **Seidy Rivera**. I am a Belizean bartender by profession, presently residing in San Ignacio Town, Cayo.

Over the past several weeks a malicious rumor, about me being HIV Positive, has been spreading around the community. This malicious rumor has had SERIOUS effects on my private and professional life.

In an effort to set the record straight, I submitted to an HIV test, on August 8, 2007, at the Cayo Clinical Laboratory Ltd. located at #6 Mossiah Street in San Ignacio Town.

The test was performed by Medical Technician, Reuben Yacab, (CASMET/MT-1).

The results, signed and certified by MT Yacab, clearly indicate a **“Non-Reactive”** finding as it pertains to my **“HIV 1&2”** status.

The certificate further informs that the **“results are true to the companies outmost procedures and following the International Standard Operations (ISO)”**.

I sincerely hope and trust that publishing this result will clear the air and set the record straight once and for all.

I am grateful to the people from the **STAR Newspaper** for agreeing to publish this result. They told me that they were uncertain of the effects it would cause as this is the very first time, in their seven years of



publishing the newspaper, that they had received such a request.

The request, I was told, was sent to the National AIDS Coordinator, **Mr. Rodel Beltran Perrera** for his advice but no response was received up to the time of publication on Thursday night.

I want the public to note that this is a paid advertisement and that I did it of my own free will and with the sole intention to put to final rest that malicious rumor that is making the rounds within the community.

This experience makes me seriously wonder about the level of discrimination faced by those persons who are actually infected with the virus. My heart goes out to all those individuals. Thank You Very Much.

Seidy Rivera,
San Ignacio Town.

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Applicant Name: <u>Seidy Rivera</u>	Age/Sex: <u>22 yrs/ female</u>
Physician: <u>Personal Request</u>	Date: <u>August 08, 2007</u>
Address: <u>San Ignacio</u>	
RESULT	
HIV 1 & 2: <u>Non-Reactive</u>	
VDRL: <u> </u>	
August 08, 2007	
Signature of Applicant: <u>Reuben Yacab (CASMET/MT-1)</u>	

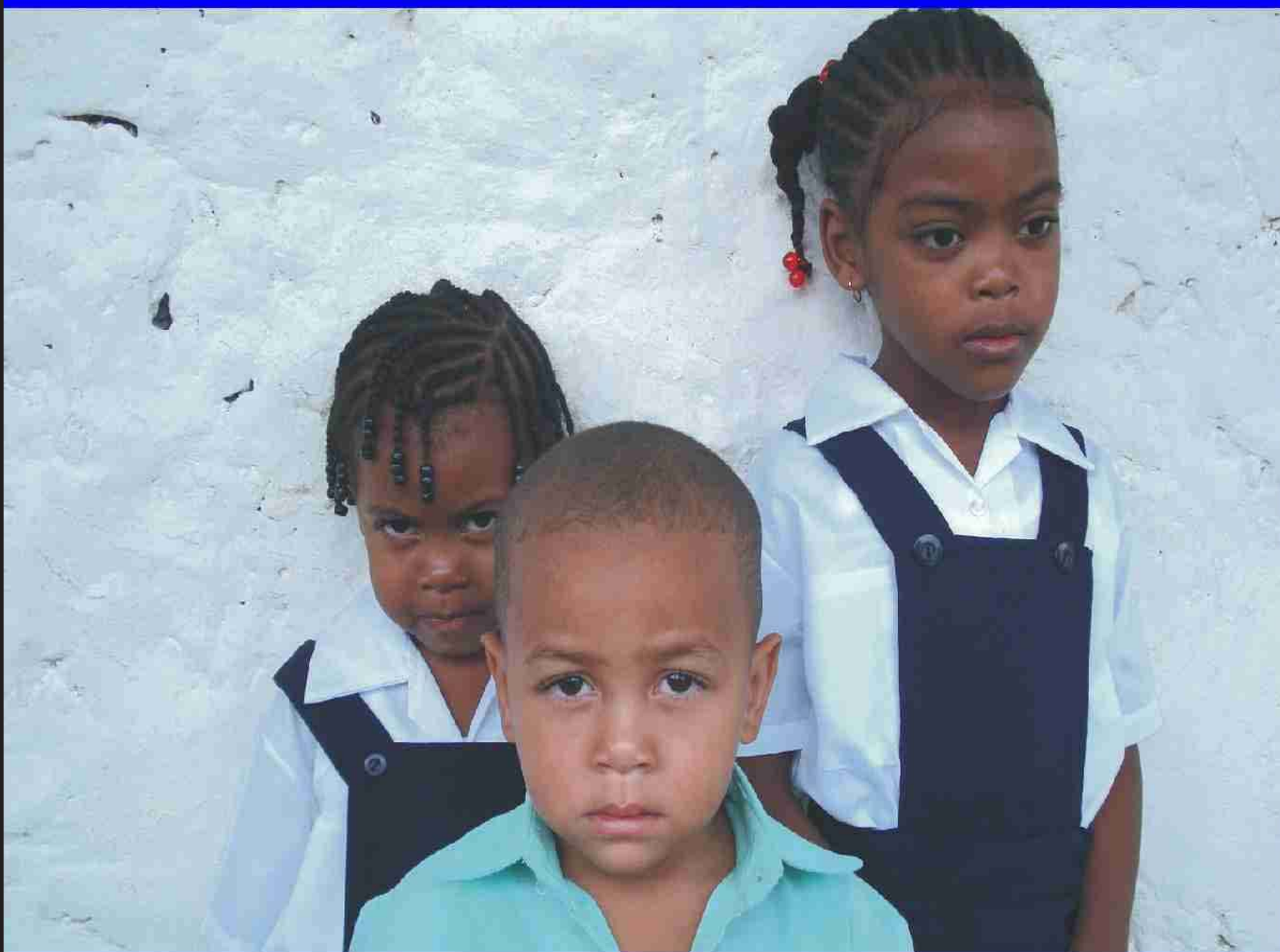
FREE Text Books...

BUT - spelled with a "B"

- the child cannot take the FREE TEXT BOOKS home.
- if the child damages the FREE TEXT BOOK, the child will have to pay for the FREE TEXT BOOK.
- if the child loses the FREE TEXT BOOK, the child will have to pay for the FREE TEXT BOOK.
- the child, at the end of the school year has to hand over the FREE TEXT BOOK back to the school.

Signed: Hon. Francis

Mr. Musa, weh FREE 'boet dat?



VOTE PUP AGAIN?

NEVA!

Letters to the Editor

From The Pen Of An Angry Parent

Dear Editor,

Please allow me space in your newspaper to share my frustration and disappointment in the present PUP government.

With the September celebrations now behind us, it is time for us to return to reality.

When I heard the news that our children would be getting free text books for the new school year, I was kind of happy but I still had my doubts because I know that whatever this government says and promises, almost always turns out to be a big lie.

Anyway, after attending the parents meeting at my child's school, we were made to understand that the books are to last 3 years. Can you imagine Madam Editor how frustrating it will be for parents, teachers and children alike to have to guard these books because any damage or loss will be charged to parents?

To make matters worse our children are not allowed to write in the workbooks. As far as I know it is our tax money that is paying for these books and so it leaves me wondering: What the hell is wrong with this Ministry of Education and the Government of Belize?

Belizeans, these books are not FREE. It is our tax money that is paying for them. So why do we have to go through all this when the books should be FREE.

It's been three weeks since school started and actual teaching is yet to begin in many primary schools because school managers, teachers and Ministry of Education personnel are still struggling to work out just how the bloody hell this text book thing will be administered.

We can recall that during the 2005 period of civil unrest, the Prime Ministers and all his ministers as well as their cronies were on radio and television condemning teachers for being out of their classrooms for a few days. We are now going on to a whole month and no teaching is taking place in our primary schools.

Mr. Musa and Mr. Minister of Education **Fonseca**, we wish you would take back all your books and stuff them up you know where. And don't tell me that I am disrespecting you because you are the ones that are perpetuating the disrespect. If you want us to respect you then you must show us some respect.

There must be a better way of making education affordable – and this free text book thing does not look like the way.

If you wanted to do something for us, you should have cancelled all those monumental registration fees and all those other burdensome additional fees for all students from pre-school to at least secondary school.

We have always found ways to

procure our children's books.

Text books have never been a problem of most parents. The problem has been, and will always be, those high registration and other fees – and if you don't believe me you can ask any school manager or principal and they will tell you how many children still have unpaid fees. Some of these children have finished primary school leaving unpaid fees behind. And if you still don't believe me just ask **Marshall Nunez** and **Darrel Carter** and they will tell you. This is the reality of the situation Messrs Musa & Fonseca.

How can we ever be thankful to the government for these so called **FREE TEXT BOOKS**? Their haste at politicking has backfired in their faces. This is because they **FAILED** to consult with **KEY** players in the education sector and as long as they insist on not consulting with stakeholders, they will continue making these major blunders which the prime minister has a habit of passing off as *"mistakes"*.

The question is, how many more of these *"mistakes"* will these people make before they begin to simply get it right?

In the final analysis we want all of them to know that we are not fool-fool anymore. Neither are we sucking our fingers. The George Price days are long gone. We are living in the era of instant messaging, instant communication and therefore instant knowledge. We are much more intelligent than we were in years gone by.

We want these people to understand that the nation is now holding its collective breath as it awaits the impending general election so that it may rid itself of this evil crowd while simultaneously ushering in a new dawn.

S/I. C. Green

A Bex San Ignacio Parent

Ed. Note:

We have been deliberately steering clear of the free text books for primary school student situation because quite frankly we were hoping that it would have worked out well especially for the benefit of those many parents who have not been able to afford text books for their children.

However, by all indications it looks like the half baked program is evolving into a major nightmare for **EVERYONE** involved as the actual teaching process is dangerously stalled in far too many primary schools across the nation.

In a Parents/Teachers meeting earlier this week at the Santa Elena RC Primary School, we were told that the poor principal had a group of very angry parents on hand many of whom walked out of his meeting while many others just simply refused to sign for the FREE books.

Ms. Pat Writes From Uxbridge, Canada

Dear Editor;

When I finished this latest edition I was about ready to cry - how such terrible things can be happening. And this is not even taking into account what might be happening in Belize City! I have not had the time to read the big newspapers and maybe it is just as well.

That is not to say that such things don't happen here, especially in the city of Toronto, which seems to be in

the midst of a run of violence, some of it even within schools.

Out here in my small town of Uxbridge things are not so bad but it happens every now and again too and we are not unaffected by what happens in the city since my nieces live there and so many of the townspeople work there.

It is very sad, to say the least.

S/Patricia Asling, Uxbridge, Canada

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Tuesday October 2, 2007
At 7:00 p.m.
See "The War On Democracy"
At the Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET)



A newly released Documentary by Australian Journalist/Commentator John Pilger which highlights the US involvement in Latin America in this thought provoking and forceful renunciation of America's bullying tactics.

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU



The Management of BISMILLAH STORES take this opportunity to extend a Heartfelt THANK YOU first to the hundreds of Belizeans who, despite the threat of rain, lined the streets of San Ignacio and Santa Elena to view our Annual Independence Parade as it made its way through the principal streets of the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

We also want to thank our customers for making Bismillah Stores their #1 choice for shopping.

We must also thank All those Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Businessplaces as well as those private individuals who assisted in making our parade this year even bigger and brighter than in previous years.

We would especially like to thank the Staff of Bismillah Stores for all the hardwork they placed into making the event a success.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

