

# STAR

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

No. 139

Sunday, December 9, 2007

Price \$1.00



## CASTELLANOS, RUIZ & TOT CHARGED FOR TRAFFICKING IN 108 POUNDS OF WEED

**CENTRAL FARM, CAYO, Monday, December 3, 2007:**

Officials from the Customs Department were round and about their regular duties on a feeder road in Central Farm when, a few minutes after 12 noon on Monday, December 3, they accidentally came upon a car with three occupants, moving two sacks of weed just five miles outside of San Ignacio Town.

After making the surprise discovery, Customs officials at the checkpoint immediately contacted police headquarters in Belmopan and a team of officers from the Anti-Drug Unit (ADU) was instantly dispatched to the location to take over the arrest.

When the ADU team arrived, Custom officials handed over the two sacks of marijuana, a black Toyota Camry car (without license plates) and the three male persons who were inside the vehicle when it approached the checkpoint.

The three occupants were



**Edward Castellanos, 33, Belizean Taxi driver**

subsequently identified as **Edward Castellanos**, 33, Belizean Taxi driver of a Santa Elena, Cayo address; **Romaldo DuarteTot**, 31, Taxi driver residing in Succotz Village,

Cayo and **William Ruiz**, 32, labourer from Arenal Village, Cayo.

The weed, the car and the three detainees were transported to the San Ignacio police station where the "*suspected marijuana*" was placed on a scale and tallied at 49 kilograms (108 pounds).

All three suspects were jointly charged with drug trafficking and taken before San

Ignacio's Magistrate **Kathleen Lewis** where they all pleaded not guilty to the charge. They are presently out on \$10,000 bail and will be reappearing in court on



**Romaldo DuarteTot, 31, Taxi driver**

Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

Police suspect that the car and it's occupants might have taken to the back road in the area of Bullet Tree, Santa Familia, Spanish Lookout and eventually Central Farm, in order to bypass the Red Creek Police checkpoint.



**William Ruiz, 32, labourer**

## Two Charged For Murder Of Benque Taxi Driver

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, December 5, 2007:**

With the formal arresting of one suspect and another arrest pending, San Ignacio police are today reporting a major breakthrough in the September 20, 2007 brutal stabbing

murder of a taxi driver from Benque Viejo Town.

**Marlon Eliseo Contreras**, aka "*Small Chilindrin*", 18, Belizean laborer of #2- 17<sup>th</sup> Street, San Ignacio, Cayo appeared, on Wednesday, December 5, before Magistrate **Kathleen Lewis** in San

Ignacio's magistrate court where the capital charge of murder was read to him. He was remanded to prison for the next court date on Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

In connection with the same incident, a similar murder charge will also be levied against **Abraham**

**Please Turn To Page 2**



### "BOREDOM ENDS HERE"

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## Editorial



### In This The Season Of Politics, We Have No Intention To Bury Our Heads In The Sand

This past week we received a letter from a reader/regular columnist expressing “concern” about what he refers to as the STAR shifting “to being a party organ”. He recommends that we “Go back to being a COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER before it is too late to redeem the reputation of the STAR.” He even went on to the point of asking if the UDP is “financing the STAR?”

Even the good book tells us that “For everything under the sun, there is a season. There is a season to be happy and there is a season to be sad. There is a season for war and there is a season for peace. There is a season to sow and there is a season to reap.”

This is the political season and so we must partake of the season. In this the season of politics we have no intention to bury our heads in the sand and let it “blow over like wah lee breeze”.

We must keep up with the times. We must keep our material current if we intend to keep our loyal readership informed and so in this the season of politics we will deal with politics. Readers expect to hear our views on current issues and at the end of the day they would have sifted through all the information available to them and each individual will come to their own intelligent conclusion.

Let there be no doubt in anyone’s mind that the STAR is 100% committed to the cause of ridding this country of that set of deceptive

politicians sitting in the seat of government. How can we support a bunch of deceptive politicians who one week raises the price of butane and the next week are asking us to clap for them because they have “reduced” the cost by removing their GST when in fact the price was cheaper, even with the GST, before they increased the price the week before? How can we support a bunch of politicians who tell us that they have removed the “15% KILLA VAT” and replaced it with their 10% GST when all prices have since gone up by 25% in addition to their 10% GST for a whopping increase of 35% being more than two times the “15% killa VAT.”

We have long come to realize that politicians have successfully turned the word “politics” into a “bad, ugly” and “dirty” word and this is the way how they are easily let off the hook with the many atrocities they commit against those they are elected to serve. And so when the people try to stand up for their rights the first thing that comes out of the mouths of these politicians is “da politics” and so not wanting to be associated with that “bad, ugly” and “dirty” thing called politics, the people shut their mouths, lap their proverbial tail between their legs and brace themselves for the licking that politicians dish out.

Readers must rest assured that when the new government is formed, we will not be deterred from the view that the welfare of the nation and its people are paramount to all other considerations.

### Two Charged For Murder Of Benque Taxi Driver From Front Page



Abraham Bernard Guerra, 17

Bernard Guerra, 17, Belizean unemployed of a Hummingbird Street, Cahal Pech area address in San Ignacio Town.

There appears to be no rush to get Guerra as he is well within the reach of the law serving a three year prison sentence at the Hattieville prison on a guilty plea in connection with the August 11 burglary of the Cahal Pech Museum and the October 17 burglary of his neighbor’s house.

After 11 weeks of intensive investigation, San Ignacio police believe that they have accumulated



Marlon Eliseo Contreras, aka “Small Chilindrin”, 18

enough evidence to successfully prosecute Contreras and Guerra for the stabbing death of Benque Viejo taxi operator, Alfredo Jose Howe Jr. 41, who, shortly after 8:00 p.m., on September 20, 2007, was found dead, with stab wounds to the throat, chin, chest and arms, on the back seat inside his red, 4 door Toyota Camry car which ran off the road and crashed into an electricity pole in the area of miles 68 and 69 on the Western Highway between San Ignacio and Benque Viejo Town.

**STAR Newspaper**  
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Belize Electricity Limited advises customers in the **Cayo District** that the supply of electricity will be interrupted on **Sunday, December 9, 2007.**



**Time:**

6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**Affected areas:**

All of San Ignacio Town, Santa Elena Town, Benque Viejo Town and surrounding villages including Arenal to Blackman Eddy; also the villages of San Antonio, Cristo Rey and Bullet Tree to Duck Run 2.



**Reason:**

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## Letters to the Editor

### The Loud Music Keep The Tourist Awake All Night

Dear Editor,

Firstly let me say how much I appreciate your newspaper, it is certainly an asset to the Twin Towns in particular and the country in general.

Something that concerned me on my last visit (I have been visiting twice a year for the past six years) was the level of noise pollution I encountered in downtown San Ignacio.

On Market Day I was at my usual spot in Lucy's Fast Food trying to enjoy my usual papaya juice and coffee and chatting with Elias; I could do neither. There was music blaring from the Sports Bar across the street and at the same time music was blaring from a restaurant and bar right next door.

This was very hard on the ears and made conversation impossible. Both places appeared to be void of patrons, and this is understandable. If the music is much too loud from several feet away from these establishments one can only imagine what it sounds like inside.

### The Worse Murder Rate In Belize History

Dear Editor;

I think it is a shame that you guys didn't have a machete and chop the fingers off. At least you would have had a fingerprint... maybe four them. But do the police have any forensic capability to use the finger if they were available? Worse, do the police have the desire to do anything?

Blackman Eddy has become a no-mans-land as far as police protection is concerned. About two years ago two men were shot on Society Hall road near the junction with the Western Highway.

The police didn't even talk to the people with homes near the murder site. Worse the neighbors knew that the young man who lived near the site was one of the murderers.

**SCORE; 2 murders-no convictions-no questions asked.**

A little later old John Casey was murdered with a machete, and a few months later a man, his wife and baby were murdered and burned in the same house where John Casey lived.

Several properties adjoined this unfortunate scene which are owned by Ireland, Wolf, Saqui, Cavanaugh, Sanchez and others,

I can't imagine anyone wanting to risk damaging their hearing by going inside; and conversation is out of the question.

I believe that the loud music is the reason for a lack of customers. There is also a bar/club on West Street that employs the same tactic to attract customers and it is mostly empty as well; the music begins around 9.30 pm and continues nonstop until 3.00 am.

There are several tourist accommodations in this area and the loud music keep the tourists awake all night making it difficult and uncomfortable for them to make the early time necessary to take the various tours. This is not good for repeat business.

I would like to see all businesses who use music to create an atmosphere keep the sound to a level that would be more appreciated by the people inside of the establishment without disturbing the people on the outside.

s/A loyal frequent visitor  
Bermuda WI

all who may have seen something, but none of them were ever questioned.

**SCORE: 6 murders-no convictions-no questions asked.**

Over a year ago, an entire family of six were murdered and their house set on fire to hide the murders. No one was questioned here, but an arrest was made.

And finally another man was murdered more recently in Blackman Eddy with a machete, and again no one was asked any questions.

**SCORE: 13 murders-1 arrest-no convictions-no questions asked.**

And even the man they arrested has never been tried because the police say they don't have his trial ready.

Our peaceful village of Blackman Eddy has only about 400 people and we all get along, but 13 murders with no investigation and no convictions really shows that the police don't give a damn about us, and they wont get off their fat lazy arses and do what they are paid to do. For shame.

How can we Belizeans expect justice when we have to depend on a corrupt police force?

Is the ComPol so blind to this incompetence or does he just not care

that the people he is in charge of aren't doing their job?

s/A Concerned Resident of Blackman Eddy

P.S. Please don't use my name. I

don't want the police to get pissed off and take revenge like they have with you. It is bad enough being ignored as we rack up the worse murder rate in Belize history.

## 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 **HAOLIAN CAI** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **HOT SUMMER BAR** located at #13 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town 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 **GOUNENG WU** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **MEI MEI** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town 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 **LIDE PAN** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **SUKI SUPER STORE** located in Esperanza Village 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 **DANIEL & MIRIAM SILVA** is applying for the renewal of their **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CAHAL PECH VILLAGE RESORT** located in the Cahal Pech Area, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **RAMON VARGAR** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **MUNCHIES** located in the Hillview Area, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CHRISTINE LANGS** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CAFÉ CAYO** located at #3 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ORLANDO MADRID** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **SANDALS BAR** located in Cristo Rey Village, 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 **MALCOLM/ NICOLE McCORMICK/DANIEL** is applying for the renewal of their **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ORLEANITO'S** located in the Savannah Area, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

## PUBLIC AUCTION PROPERTIES

### MOUNTAIN PINE RIDGE AREA

The following two properties are to be sold by private auction on Friday 14th December 2007 at 1:30pm at Hode's Place in San Ignacio Town.

2 parcels of 5 - acres FREEHOLD property in the little Vaqueros Enclave, Mt. Pine Ridge Area with main road-to-road access, near to Blancaneaux Airstrip. This is an excellent location one not to be missed.

**Contact Auctioneer:**  
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**for further information or**  
**belizeauctions@hotmail.com**



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**Friday: Micheladas**  
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## Former PUP Minister Daniel Silva Jr. Expresses Concern About Civil Works On The Bullet Tree Road

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday December 6, 2007:**

**By: Daniel Silva Jr.**

I am writing to express my concern on the works currently being undertaken in respect of the paving of the Bullet Tree Road.

The paving of the road from San Ignacio Town to the village of Bullet Tree Falls is welcome news for the residents of San Ignacio, Bullet Tree, Santa Familia and surrounding communities. We are happy that the project is being realized and would like to thank the present government for it. However it concerns me a great deal that the project is deceptive and that the pavement is of substandard quality as depicted in the accompanying photographs.

What is happening at present is that the contractor is taking a layer of white marl with a little amount of stones and dumping it into the potholes, after which the roller passes over it and the asphalt is applied.

This is an improper undertaking as the road has many soft spots all of which will gradually sink under the weight of heavy vehicular traffic thereby creating large potholes which will result in rapid deterioration.

I also noticed that the bridge was built with 3/8 steel and no chippings. This is a matter of urgent concern. It



**One of many large soft spots on the road surface**

is an accident waiting to happen when the bridge is subjected to the stress from the weight of heavy vehicles.

What is equally disturbing is the lack of supervision from the Ministry of Works. The time has come for those responsible to become more



**The deceptive sign in the area**

accountable to the people, our tax dollars are being wasted.

It is sad to see roads being paved here in the Cayo area then three months later they simply fall apart.

Another area of concern is the contract. There is a big sign erected in the areas which proudly announces that the works encompasses **“UPGRADING AND PAVING 3 MILES BULLET TREE ROAD”**. However when you check the distance with the odometer in your car, the distance is only 1.7 miles. It is not even two full miles.

I am therefore asking the people who awarded the contract, to measure the distance for themselves and then demand a refund from the contractor, as even if the road is paved all the way to downtown San Ignacio it will still not make up for the professed **“3 miles”**.

About a month ago I wrote a correspondence to **Michael Tewes** in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Works. In that correspondence I expressed concern about the quality of works being undertaken and, in the absence of a response, I can only suspect that the CEO has elected to ignore the concerns I raised.

I am of the firm belief that the people of Belize deserve roads that will last for 20 years or more. An example being that stretch of the Western Highway between the western municipalities of San Ignacio to Benque Viejo. We do not deserve, and can ill afford, projects like the one

that is being undertaken between San Ignacio and Bullet Tree Falls. This is hardly the first time that we are being taken for a ride as it pertains to the Bullet Tree road. This very same road has been **“paved”** twice in the last five years.

I am hereby calling on the Minister of Works to kindly investigate this matter of grave concern. I would like for the CEO - MOW to remember the infamous bridge at Iguana Creek which crumbled from its moorings and now sits at the bottom of the Belize Old River. The fiasco that was the Iguana Creek bridge should forever stand out as a bitter testimony of the wasteful spending of our scarce tax dollars.



**The 3/8 inch steel bridge**

**Ed. Note: Daniel Silva Jr. is a former PUP Minister of Government. He first served during the 89-93 Government under former Prime Minister George Price. He also served as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries during the 98-03 Musa Administration. He did not seek re-election in 2003.**

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## US Court Sentence Seawell To Serve Seventeen Years In Jail

**Guardian Unlimited - Saturday December 8, 2007**

**By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS - Associated Press Writer COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP):**

A man convicted in a scheme to ship cocaine to the United States in the shoes of young people recruited as couriers was sentenced Friday to 17 years in federal prison.

Duane Seawell, 34, a native of Belize, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James Graham after pleading guilty in July to money laundering and two counts of shipping cocaine into the United States.

Seawell will likely be deported after serving his prison term.

"I'm very sorry for my involvement," Seawell told Graham. "I'm very remorseful for what I did."

Prosecutors say Seawell is among three brothers and dozens of others who were part of a multimillion dollar plot that extended from Belize through Mexico to cities across the United States, including Columbus, Dallas and New Orleans.

To date, 70 people have been prosecuted and convicted in the case in courts in the United States and Mexico.

Seawell was arrested in Miami in February during a layover as

Jamaican authorities were deporting him to Belize for illegally entering Jamaica.

Before announcing his decision, Graham noted the size of the conspiracy, the number of people involved and the lives affected by the drug trafficking.

Prosecutors declined to comment. Seawell's lawyer said she had hoped her client's lack of a criminal record and willingness to be extradited to the United States would have resulted in a slightly lesser sentence.

For "someone of this level of criminal involvement to have no record whatsoever is pretty noteworthy," said attorney Diane Menashe.

She said he had a history of being employed and some college education.



**D. Seawell, 34**

**We Invite You To Read The STAR NEWSPAPER on line at belizenorth.com/ thestar.htm belizenews.com/thestar**



**Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio, Cayo**

## Grand Raffle

**Enter the Grand New Year's Give Away at COST-LESS MART with every \$50.00 purchase you can win any one of our 7 give-aways.**

**Drawing Date is December 31, 2007 at 9:00 p.m.**



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- 3) 1 - Stove**
- 4) 1 - Microwave**
- 5) 1 - Ham**
- 6) 1 - Iron**



**7) \$25.00 Shopping Spree @ COST-LESS MART**

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## Recognize and Honor the Stars of Tourism!

**\* Nominate by January 4, 2008 for the 8th Annual Tourism Awards**



The Belize Tourism Board welcomes your nomination for the 8th Annual National Tourism Awards. If you were impressed by the quality of service you received in any of the following categories, we encourage you to do your part to ensure that excellence receives the recognition it deserves. Deadline for nomination is January 4, 2008.

This year, each time you nominate, your name will be entered in a lucky draw. Nominate for the 8th Annual National Tourism Awards, and you may be the lucky Grand Prize Winner!

### Minister's Award\*

The Minister independently chooses a tourism personnel or entity recognizing their distinguished services and contributions in the tourism industry.

\* We welcome your suggestions

### Lifetime Achievement Award\*

The Tourism Awards Selection Committee choose a person who has been active in the tourism industry and who has shown tremendous dedication and commitment in the development of tourism in Belize.

## Awards for Nomination:

### Hotel of the Year

A Hotel that offers a gateway to paradise, where service exceeds excellence; positive attitude and attentiveness of staff, value for money, availability of outstanding facilities and services, ambience, innovation and the ability to provide visitors with a memorable stay.

### Tour Operator of the Year

A tour operator that offers a variety of tours which excels in service, product innovation, marketing, creativity, uniqueness, safety, reliability and value for money.

### Corporate Organization of the Year

An organization that offers a unique and spellbound Belizean product or service recognized locally and internationally. The organization must excel in product and marketing innovativeness, quality of product experience, value for money and operational performance.

### Tour Guide of the Year

A licensed tour guide who excels in tourism knowledge, the ability to capture an

audience's interest, communication and interpersonal skills, attitude, creativity, and the ability to provide a memorable tour experience.

### Frontline Person of the Year

A frontline employee who has interpersonal skills, the ability to welcome guests with great Belizean hospitality, provides general knowledge and a memorable experience.

### Environmental Organization of the Year

An organization that is a leader in the conservation and preservation of Belize's natural resources; practices sustainable management of Belize's natural resources, supports community development and promotes public awareness and education of environmental preservation.

### Education Award of the Year

A person or organization that provides insight on the significance of tourism on Belize's economy, vital information and training for persons in the tourism industry to improve efficiency of services and quality products.

### Cultural Award of the Year

A person or organization that exemplifies Belizean entertainment; instrumental in the creative arts; music and food; promotes and preserves Belize's cultural heritage.

### Receptive Service

A tourism business entity that offers exceptional service to customers, the ability to manage a business seamlessly; is sensitive to the needs of staff, flexible in adapting to change and accommodating to the industry's needs.

### Small Hotel of the Year

A small hotel that captures the essence of warmth and homeliness, excellent customer service, environmental best practices, and good management.

### Small Vendor of the Year

A small vendor who offer creative and quality products, value for money with exceptional service.

**Make your nominations for the 8th Annual National Tourism Awards at <http://www.travelbelize.org/award.html> Tourism Award Ceremony will be held on January 25th, 2008**



## 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 **XIN YAN TAN** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **DELICIOUS SEA FOOD** located at #11 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **GILBERTO GUERRA JR.** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **PICCADILLY** located at #35 Churchill Street, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **DE PEI ZHANG** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ROSES STORE** located on the Benque Viejo Road San Ignacio Town, 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 **DE PEI ZHANG** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ROSES RESTAURANT** located on the Benque Viejo Road San Ignacio Town, 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 **NORBERTO RANCHARAN** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CP GAS STATION** located at the Cor. of Western Highway and Carillo Puerto Avenue, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **BENIGNO CHAN** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **BENNY'S KITCHEN** located at Mile 72, Succotz Village 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 **FELIPE FLORES** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **FLORES VILLAS** located at La Loma de Rodeo Drive, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **WILLIAM PLEITEZ** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CHE CHEN HA** located at Waterhole Area, Hydro Road, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CARLOS POPPER** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **FIVE SISTERS LODGE** located in the Mountain Pine Ridge Area of 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 **MATILDE CHAVEZ** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **BAR EL CERRITO** located in the Duck Run 1 Area, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **LOIUS LESLIE** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CHICLERO CAMP** located in the Cahal Pech Area, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **NORA TORRES** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **PRIME TIME BAR** located on Burns Avenue, San Ignacio, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MELVA CONTRERAS** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **MELBI'S BAR** located at the Cor. Kennedy & Liberty Streets, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MICHAEL CANTO** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **KINICH AHAU MAYA BAR** located in San Antonio Village in the Cayo District.

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# Let Her Story Be Told

Dear Sister;

The concern you expressed about the cheating ways of your husband is any woman’s worst nightmare. To find out that the person you have pledged to love and spend the rest of your life with is cheating on you is heartbreaking to say the least. It becomes even more frustrating and difficult for most women when there are children involved, because oftentimes we tend to want to overlook the cheating ways of our spouses for the sake of keeping the family unit intact.

My Sister, you said that your husband isn’t physically abusive, he doesn’t drink, smoke, or gamble, BUT HE CHEATS. Well, because he cheats, doesn’t make the pain any less than if he was physically abusive or if he had gambled away your life savings. Sister, cheating is cheating and cheating hurts. No matter how much you love someone, it is not an invitation for them to betray your trust and your love.

You also said that due to his cheating ways your husband has fathered many children over the years. Going by your calculations, the one you are pregnant with makes ten in all with three being born during the time we are married to him.

Now, let me start dishing out the advice you requested. Do you love yourself? If you truly love yourself, you would not let anybody, husband or not, take you through hell and back because of an offensive habit that can be easily remedied if only he would first remember he is married and second keep his pants zipped up until he is inside his legitimate home.

My Sister, love is reciprocal. One person is not supposed to do all the

loving while the other does all the hurting. Love should be given and taken in like manner, this is one of the first lessons you need to learn. Never love anybody more than they love you and more than you love yourself. The only persons who absolutely deserve your undying and never-ending love and tears are your God and your children.

Secondly, why are you giving this man the impression that he is irreplaceable? My Sister, you don’t have to stay in a relationship where your husband is constantly disrespecting you by cheating on you. If you don’t like it, change it. You are not required to grin and bear just because he is your husband. Always be mindful that you have feelings too.

Just think about how ridiculous he is making you look by picking up and impregnating those women out there while he is supposed to be in a committed relationship with you. Whether we want to admit it or not, people treat us in the same manner that they see those closest to us treat us. What is to stop those tramps from interfering and disrespecting you if that is exactly what he is doing by being intimately involved with them even though he is married to you?

How much does he really love you if he is continuing to stress you out by cheating even though he knows that you can ill afford to be stressed out during your pregnancy?

My Sister, life is not perfect, but that does not mean that we should simply settle for anything and hope that change will eventually come.

We are masters of our own destiny. Take hold of your life and live exactly how you feel is best for

you and your children. I have seen enough women try to hang on to a relationship in which the men in their lives are no longer interested. In the end they spend the major portion of their lives hoping and praying for a change in their men’s behavior a change that will never come and as a result these women lead miserable lives never knowing what it would have been like to really and truly live their lives to the fullest.

Finally, you say that despite your husband’s cheating ways, you want things to work out because you love him. Well, again I ask, does your husband love you? Do you think that he loves you the same way you love him? Those two questions are very important because while it is perfectly fine to love your husband you must also love yourself. Love yourself enough to realize and recognize when someone is taking advantage of your kind and forgiving heart.

Not because your husband chose to man up and marry you means that such is what he really wants. Many times you can tell how a person will react from their past. My Sister, this man was a womanizer long before you met him, he continued even after you were married, you are having your third child together and he hasn’t stopped, do really think he is going to stop or change any time soon? These are questions you need to consider. Maybe you even need to ask him if he really, deep down inside, wants to be married. You are both getting older my Sister, and if you want to remain

in this marriage you need to know what his true intentions are and in what direction he wants his life to go. If you are to stay together you need to get a clear commitment that you are singing from the same song sheet and everything else will automatically fall in place.

Life is not perfect, but that does not mean that we should allow those we love and those who claim to love us in return, to take advantage of us. Every time your husband goes out and cheats, he is putting you at risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease. If he is fathering all these children all over the place then it is obvious that he hardly ever uses protection. In doing so, is he showing you any consideration and love?

My Sister, my intention is not to have you leave your husband, but it is important for you to sit down and take stock of exactly what he is doing to you and your self esteem. As I always tell those seeking advice, after all is said and done, the choice is yours. I can only show you the pros and cons of remaining in this current situation, at the end of the day, no matter what I say if you want to remain with your husband you will, if you have had enough and want a better life for you and your children, you will leave. Whatever your choice may be, I wish you only the best and advise you to try and remain calm considering that you are pregnant. You are in my prayers.

Love, Your Sister

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# STAR HUMOR

## No Bull

A big-time Belize City lawyer was representing the Oil Company in a lawsuit filed by an old rancher.

The old rancher's prize bull was missing from the ranch when the oil company workers left the gate open after entering the property to test for oil.

The rancher claimed that the bull must have escaped and by now might have been stolen, slaughtered and the meat sold on the parallel market.

The rancher wanted to be paid the fair value of the bull.

The case was scheduled to be heard before the Chief Justice last Monday morning.

As soon as the old rancher showed up at the Supreme Court building for the case, the big-time Belize City Attorney for the oil company pulled him aside and tried to get him to settle out of court. The lawyer did his best selling job, and finally the old rancher agreed to take half of what he was originally demanding.

In the presence of the Chief Justice the old rancher signed the release and took the check and walked out of the Chief Justice's chambers.

While walking down the steps of the Supreme Court Building, the big-time Belize City lawyer caught up with him and couldn't resist gloating a little over his success, telling the old rancher, "You know, I hate to tell you this, old man, but I put one over on you in there. I couldn't

have won the case. The entire crew that entered your property on the day in question was drunk and they slept under a tree on your property throughout that entire day. I didn't have one witness to put on the stand. I bluffed you!"

The old rancher replied, "Well, I'll tell you, Sir, I was a little worried myself about winning the case but you offered me a deal before I had a chance to tell you. So now I can tell you that the darned bull came home a few days ago. Thanks for the free money."

## Be Careful How You Follow Others

The prisoners were being transferred by airplane from one prison to a more secure facility and one of the prisoners was seated next to a parrot.

After taking off, the warden comes around to serve the prisoner, in a cool and calm manner, the prisoner asks for a cup of water.

The parrot squawks: "And get

ME a coke...this very moment and I mean NOW!"

The warden, flustered by the parrot's attitude, brings back a coke for the parrot. However, he forgets the water for the prisoner.

As the prisoner points this out, the parrot drains his bottle and screams, "Get me another coke or I'll really create a scene!"

Quite upset, the warden comes back shaking, with another coke, but still no water.

Irritated at his forgetfulness, the prisoner decides to try the parrot's approach. "I've asked you twice for a water. Go and get it right now", he shouted "or I'll create a scene that will make this parrot look like Mother Teresa!"

The next moment, both the prisoner and the parrot are grabbed and thrown out of the emergency exit by two burly guards.

Hurling towards earth, the parrot turns to the prisoner and says: "Your outburst in the plane was pretty stupid for a guy who can't fly!"



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# Ivan Roberts Interviews Geologist Jim Cavanaugh

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, December 3, 2007: CAVANAUGH SPEAKS OUT**  
**An Interview with Consultant Geologist Jim Cavanaugh**  
**By: Ivan Roberts 604-3258 belcredit@yahoo.com**

The presentations sponsored by UBAD at Bishop Sylvester Center in Belize City on November 28<sup>th</sup> were a great help for us Belizeans who would like to know more about what is going on with oil in Belize and how it is going to affect the Belizean people.

Jim Cavanaugh's presentation was an eye opener, but there seems to be quite a difference in what this experienced oil geologist is telling us and what both BNE and the Petroleum Department are claiming. In fact there is a lot of confusion between what Cavanaugh says and what BNE and GOB says he means or doesn't mean.

For instance The Reporter ran an article on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with the heading: *"What's this about oil and Quakes? Geological Survey says it does happen!"*

In another article in the same issue of the newspaper, Belize Natural Energy (BNE) claims that Jungle Jim (Cavanaugh) *"continues to be unscientific and alarmist"*.

I went on the internet search and typed in *"Oil production subsidence"* and was surprised to find there were 332,000 entries.

I also typed in *"oil production earthquakes"* and found an amazing 1,510,000 entries! Obviously oil production can cause subsidence and/or earthquakes.

From what most of us have heard so far, Cavanaugh is obviously a very sound scientist, in fact he seems to be about the only real scientist speaking out on behalf of Belizeans.

To settle some of the confusion for myself I decided to go to the horse's mouth so to speak.

The following interview with Cavanaugh explains his position while it also opens up even more questions.

**Roberts:** Jim, how do you feel the UBAD presentation turned out? At the presentation there was not enough time for me to ask all the questions I wanted to.

**Cavanaugh:** The presentation was fantastic! Not because of any side winning an argument, but because this type of forum is so valuable in getting information out to the Belizean people. We definitely need more of them especially whenever a contentious issue needs to be aired. These presentations are of value to everyone, the Belizean people, political leaders and power brokers. It is about the only forum where the people can speak out... and speak they did.

**Roberts:** I had a number of questions for Andre Cho. It is a real shame he did not shows up. What do you think his reason was for not showing?

**Cavanaugh:** Naturally you will have to ask Cho that. Personally I was pleased he didn't show because it gave me more time to cover the abuses and problems of oil activities, which he apparently supports or condones. I want to emphatically stress that the purpose of my work is not to create confrontation but to avoid it. My goal is to inform and educate Belizeans in an effort to prevent the dreadful abuses that have occurred in other countries with new oil discoveries. Many of the activities of BNE, and especially their seismic subcontractors, have violated our laws and abused the

rights of our landowners. Cho's lack of experience in the oil business has resulted in a number of very wrong interpretations which work against our Belizean people while supporting the improper and illegal activities of foreign oil companies. I did not want to have to waste valuable time in arguing over such nonsense... but will welcome the opportunity to debate these issues at a later forum which is organized just for that purpose.

**Roberts:** Jim, a BNE article in The Reporter says you blame California's earthquakes on oil production. Can you explain how that happens?

**Cavanaugh:** My Goodness! NO. I can't explain that because it is not true and I didn't say that. I am a professional geologist and certainly understand that the principal cause of earthquakes are volcanic activity, fault movements and moving earth plates. What I said was that oil production can cause subsidence which can cause mini earthquakes when the rock overlying a reservoir settles or adjusts. There is no mystery about this and the phenomena is well known, and is the possible cause of the small shock they felt at Spanish Lookout. This is hardly being alarmist!

**Roberts:** Your presentation showed that reservoirs were hard rocks with pore spaces where the oil was stored, kind of like a rock sponge. One of the recent articles said that *"Oil generally is found in permeable sediment that are soft and squishy, not in hard rock."* Can you explain this disagreement?

**Cavanaugh:** Whoever wrote that simply doesn't know what he is talking about. Most of our oil was formed from 60 to 300 million years ago... sometimes more, and believe me, any soft and squishy sediments that old have long since become hard rock. Reservoirs are formed in porous hard rocks, generally sandstones and limestones, solid rock but never in soft squishy sediments.

**Roberts:** Belizeans have been asking how much oil do we have. The numbers given by BNE seem to change a lot, varying between 3 and now 11 million barrels of oil reserves. If this is all the oil we have our oil industry has a short life. Are we being told the right numbers?

**Cavanaugh:** NO. There is an old saying in the oil patch, *"You don't get high production from a bucket."* Wells producing an average of 750 bbls/day are not pumping from a bucket, but instead from a rather large reservoir. I am not allowed to see the data, but just working from experience and what is known of the thickness and size of the reservoir, we can expect total production of 100-150 million barrels from the Spanish Lookout Field alone. This is a giant field, and I am confident that Never Delay will be of comparable size. When we were first doing petroleum recon in Belize in the 1970s after the Arab embargo, the entire area from the Belize River northward was the highest priority area, thus we can expect more discoveries from other contactors.

What this means is that we have the opportunity at hand from oil revenues to give Belizeans the highest standard of living in Central and South America, IF we can prevent the corruption that is already siphoning off our benefits.

**Roberts:** Can you explain why such a big difference from 11 million to 100-150 million barrels?

**Cavanaugh:** One reason would be caution, although the numbers being

released are a bit too cautious. Of course I will be long dead before my projections can be proven right or wrong. But there is another reason for undervaluing the reserves which has rather evil implications. That has to do with the 10% GOB ownership of the oil company, BNE. GOB has already started talking about selling these shares which will deprive the Belizean people of revenues. If the reserves are set at the latest published figure, the value of the stock is being set based on 11 million barrels instead of 100-150 million. This means that the stock could be sold to political cronies at less than 10% of their true value. Actually Belizean public must prevent the stock from being sold at all, and instead demand that the revenues be directed straight into benefits for Belizeans.

**Roberts:** At the UBAD forum I asked about flaring problems. Are we wasting a valuable natural resource and losing a lot of money?

**Cavanaugh:** Yes, of course we are wasting the gas. BNE reports they are producing 3200 bbls of oil per day and flaring 250 cubic feet of gas for each barrel of oil. What this means in dollars and cents is an enormous loss of 800,000 cubic feet of gas a day or about 300 million cubic feet a year, which is about 8,350,000 gallons of liquid petroleum gas (LPG). At the recent price of \$120 for a 100 pound cylinder we are wasting some ten million dollars of gas a year just with the present production of the 5 wells at Spanish Lookout. The Spanish Lookout field, when fully developed, will produce some \$50 million a year in LPG, and it is now being burned off to contaminate our air and countryside. And worse, we are importing LPG at a drain to our already heavily in-debted economy.

**Roberts:** Measuring our oil production seems to be a controversial problem. BNE and GOB claim they are satisfied with the way the oil is measured, but you say this is not satisfactory. Is it not the responsibility of GOB to protect the interest of the Belizean people by insuring absolute accurate measuring and accountability?

**Cavanaugh:** It appears that GOB and BNE do not want the public to know exactly how much oil is produced. If oil production is measured at each well head, we simply have to add up the total wells to know how much oil should be sold. This is a world wide practice... except for Iraq and Belize. If we sell less than what is measured at the wellheads, some one is either stealing the oil or the loss is contaminating the environment as a leak somewhere. The universally accepted definition of **royalty** is proportionate payment for the oil produced as measured at the wellhead. Obviously this does not mean after it has changed hands and no one can verify the measuring. When governments or royalty owners are involved in the revenues accurate measuring at the point of production is always mandatory... except in Belize. To claim they don't have to install accurate and verifiable meters is outrageously arrogant and it demands that the landowners have to accept whatever GOB/BNE tells them was produced without any way to verify the numbers.

**Roberts:** There seems to be a problem with the numbers being reported for revenues and royalties. Dr. Canton reported at the UBAD forum that 886,000 barrels of oil were produced in 2006, with the government



**Jim Cavanaugh, Consultant Geologist**

receiving \$23.4 million and BNE profits of \$9.7 million. This doesn't add up correctly at all. Can you explain the accounting?

**Cavanaugh:** No. And I don't imagine that any competent accountant can either. It looks like BNE is deducting their capital investment from oil income, but exploration and drilling costs are venture capital investment, not expenses. If a well is dry, the investors lose. If it produces they have a capital gain. Because no one will supply an accounting, the figures are meaningless. It is a bit insulting to think that a legitimate company would expect Belizeans to be that stupid.

**Roberts:** Dr. Canton reported that the first royalty payment was finally paid to Spanish Lookout, after more than two and a half years of production. Is it going to take Belizean landowners that long to get their money...and why?

**Cavanaugh:** Yes, it is really dreadful that it took over two years to make the first royalty payment. The financial system is straight forward: the oil produced is sold to the refinery who promptly pays for the oil received. My experience has been when there is a divided interest, like we have in Belize with the producer (BNE), government (GOB) and landowners receiving a share of the production, the buyer of the oil pays all the interest holders direct to make sure all interests are paid. With an international sale, perhaps that responsibility would fall on the Oil Contractor (BNE). The buyer pays on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the purchase, so BNE and/or GOB have had the money from oil sales in hand since the first deliveries over two years ago. However, the Department of Petroleum is totally confused about how to distribute the payments, or even how they should be computed, and unless and until this gets straightened out, landowners will not know if what they are paid is correct.

The seeds of our infant oil industry have been planted in poor soil. Instead of good water and proper fertilizer, the seeds are struggling with a flood of ignorance and an oversupply of corruption. It will survive but will Belizeans ever see the benefits? That worries me.

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# Bateman & Requena Remanded For Robbery

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, December 4, 2007:

Two Cayo boys, Francis “France” Requena and Simon Bateman Jr., were today remanded to the Hattieville Prison after pleading not guilty to robbery.

Police reports that over the past few weeks they have been receiving an alarming increase in reported robberies in the Santa Elena area with the victims on most occasions being male persons walking the streets of often on their way home after a night of drinking on the town.



Simon Bateman, 21

A break in the chain took place when Francis “France” Requena, 19, Belizean mason of #6 Western Highway, Santa Elena, attempted to

use a Belize Bank ATM card, belonging to Teodulo Ho, to purchase 2 bottles Campari liquor and 2 Red Bull energy drinks at a Chinese Store on the Western Highway in Santa Elena while the second accused Simon Bateman, 21, Belizean labourer of a Buena Vista Street address in San Ignacio, waited outside the store.

The incident was captured by the store’s surveillance system thereby prompting an investigation.

Requena reportedly led police to an area near the Santa Elena approach to the Hawksworth Bridge on the bank of the Macal river where a brown leather wallet, as well as a social card and a voter’s identification card, both in the name of Teodulo Ho, were recovered.

A quick check of police records revealed no report lodged by Ho. However when the police found Ho, an employee of the Ministry of Natural Resources, he informed that during the night of Saturday, November 24, he was attacked by two male persons as he was walking on the Western Highway in Santa Elena Town.

The attackers said Ho, made off with his brown leather wallet containing his social security card, his voters’ identification card, and his Belize Bank ATM card.

San Ignacio police informed that



Francis “France” Requena, 19,

apart from the unreported attack on Ho, there were at least three reported similar incidents that took place in Santa Elena Town within a time span of two hours on that same Saturday, November 24, 2007.

The police hereby warn the public to refrain from walking the streets especially after a night of drinking, as staggering movements will alert predators to the presence of a prey to pounce upon.

In most of these case, victims of these attacks have very little if any cash in their possession as they usually spend most, if not all, of their money on drinks to the point where they are unable to even pay a taxi fare for the ride to their homes Apart from suffering bodily injuries in these attacks, a victim could end up dead as predators attempt the take the very little they have

The most cases the prize catch is the victim’s cellular telephone which, depending on the brand, will net the robber anywhere between \$50 and \$100 on the streets.

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