

# STAR

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

No. 144

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## RAPE & ROBBERY - ROLANDO REMANDED

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday, March 6, 2008:**

One of the hardships we face in writing a community newspaper is that in many instances the people at the center of crime news are people we know. In some cases they are people we grew up with. They are our neighbors, our friends and sometimes even our relatives.

Such is the case this week with **Rolando Castillo**, charged with the serious crimes of rape and robbery. We grew up in the same

neighborhood on George Price Avenue in Santa Elena Town.

Rolando's latest brush with the law began on Sunday, February 17, 2008 in Belize City, when he engaged the services of 65 year old Belize City Taxi Driver, **Selvin Sutherland**, for a chartered taxi ride to Santa Elena. At the midway point in Belmopan, Castillo requested and received a \$20 loan from the cab driver when they made a stop at La Cabaña Restaurant on the outskirts of Belmopan.

Upon arrival in Santa Elena, Castillo reportedly instructed the cab driver to stop at the corner of Carillo Puerto and George Price Avenues. He got out of the car telling the cab driver that he was going to get the \$315 dollars payment for the service and the loan. That was the last time the cab driver saw Rolando Castillo.



**Rolando Castillo, 44**

Agriculture and Fisheries, **Hon Rene Montero**; Minister of State in the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, **Hon Elvin Penner**; Area Representative in the Cayo North Constituency, **Hon Salvador Fernandez**; The European Union's Ambassador to Belize posted at the Union's Delegation in Kingston Jamaica, **HE (His Excellency) Marco Mazzocchi Alemanni**; British Deputy High Commissioner to Belize, **HE David Spries** and Mrs.

**Please Turn To Page 4**

## New Market Inaugurated

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, March 4, 2008:**

In years gone by it was nothing more than a dream but that dream was transformed into a reality with today's official inauguration of the new and impressive San Ignacio/Santa Elena Farmers Market.

The ceremony began at 3:00 pm this Tuesday evening with **Dr. Marcelino Avila** from the BRDP (Belize Rural Development Programme) serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

Those in attendance included: Minister of Economic Development, **Hon Erwin Contreras**; Minister of



**The New San Ignacio/Santa Farmers Market**

## He Escaped, Escaped and Escaped Again

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, March 5, 2008:**

If it was not criminal, the case of three time escapee **Orlando "Landy" Sabido** could have easily fallen under the humor column this week – This is another of those instances in which the person at the center of the article is no stranger

to us – we were classmates at St. Andrews Primary School in San Ignacio Town.

Landy's story goes like this: During the midmorning hours on Thursday, 21 February, Sabido entered the Indita Maya Gift Shop located on the ground floor of the Venus Hotel on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town. His suspicious

behavior inside the store drew the attention of the proprietor of the Gift Shop when she saw him stuffing a few leather wallets into one of his front pants pocket. When she told him to return the wallets to the shelf, he took out two of them and placed them back on the shelf before rushing out of the store.

**Please Turn To Page 15**



**Orlando "Landy" Sabido, 46**

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## Zone 10 Watch Group Active As Ever

**SAN ELENA TOWN, Thursday, February 28, 2008:**

Santa Elena Town's Zone 10 Neighborhood Watch Group this evening held its monthly committee meeting on Salazar Street at the home of Mrs. Desol Neal, chairperson of the committee.

A total of 18 persons were in attendance including the Officer Commanding the Cayo (Police) District, **Sr. Supt. David Henderson**; Commander of Community Policing, **Sr. Supt. Miguel Segura** and Cayo's Community Liaison Officer, **Cpl#152 Darius Martinez**.

Apart from acknowledging a reduction of crimes in the specific zone which is the Group's primary mission, the opportunity was also taken to announce the planning of a



**Mrs. Desol Neal, chairperson of the committee. The driving force behind the group**

community cleanup campaign in Santa Elena Town as well as a Mother's Day program and a fundraising drive to feed the needy in the community.

The group also expressed its intention to seek assistance from the Ministry of Works and the Town Council for the construction of speed bumps in the area of the local Baptist

## RAPE & ROBBERY - ROLANDO REMANDED

**From Front Page**

The complainant then visited the police station in San Ignacio Town where he filed a report. The following day Castillo was detained, arrested and charged for obtaining property by deception. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was released on bail.

He was still out on bail when shortly after 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 1 the policeman posted at the VCP (Vehicle Check Point) in Red Creek, received a report by telephone. The caller, identified as a resident of Cotton Tree Village was seeking police assistance for the recovery of his small red Toyota Corona car reportedly stolen by the same Rolando Castillo, suspected to be heading towards Santa Elena Town.

The police had barely set down the telephone when he saw a vehicle fitting the description approaching the

Church and Pre-School which are located at the corner of Carillo Puerto and George Price Avenues.

Other expressed long term plans of the Neighborhood Watch Group is the establishment of a community center and a community clinic in Santa Elena potentially within an unused portion of land in the area of football field in Santa Elena.

The next scheduled meeting of the Zone 10 Neighborhood Watch Group is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>

March 2008 at the Chairperson's residence on Salazar Street in Santa Elena Town.



**Cpl. #152 Darius Martinez**



**The Small Red Toyota Corona Car CY-C-17325**

VCP. However, the car stopped a few yards before reaching in front of the booth to render assistance to another person who was obviously experiencing mechanical problems. Castillo exited the car whereby he was identified by the policeman at the VCP. The policeman was walking toward the two cars when he shouted to Castillo that he would like to speak to him. Castillo reportedly rushed back inside the red car and sped pass the VCP towards Santa Elena while reportedly ignoring the policeman's orders for him to stop. The information was instantly relayed by telephone to the head station in San Ignacio.

It was not until three days later that this policeman saw Castillo, this time inside the San Ignacio police station where he was being held on more serious charges. The policeman consequently took the opportunity to arrest and charge Castillo for the singular misdemeanor traffic offence of *"willfully refusing to stop when directed to do so"*.

On the more serious charges, San Ignacio police informs that on Monday, March 3, a 29 year old Guatemalan woman reported to police that at around 2:30 am that morning she was standing in front of the Legends Night Club on Bullet Tree Road in San Ignacio waiting for a taxi ride home. She told the police that she saw a male Hispanic person standing next to a small red car who offered her taxi service which she accepted and sat in the front passenger seat. It did not take long for the female to note that the driver was not heading to the requested destination and she reportedly threatened to jump out of the car. The

driver then stopped the car, reportedly grabbed her by the throat and began choking her. He reportedly ordered her to take off all her clothes. She complied with the order and was sitting nude in the car when the driver further ordered her to hand over the three gold rings she had on her fingers valued at \$325 as well as her \$500 Motorola cellular telephone.

The complainant further alleges that the man drove the car across the low laying wooden bridge and took her to a wooden house in Santa Elena where he had sexual intercourse with her against her will.

The investigation led police to the house in Santa Elena where the alleged rape occurred. A search of the house led to the discovery of a birth certificate belonging to Rolando Castillo. A few hours later he was detained and transported to the police station where he was positively identified by the complainant from a police line up.

Rolando Castillo, 44, Belizean butcher of a George Price Avenue address in Santa Elena was consequently arrested and formally charged for the crimes of robbery and rape.

He appeared in San Ignacio's Magistrate court on Tuesday, March 4 where he was arraigned on indictment before Magistrate Kathleen Lewis. Given his previous encounters with the law, Prosecutor George Gomez rose in objection to the offering of a second bail. Magistrate Lewis concurred with the prosecution's request thereby remanding Castillo to the Hattieville Central Prison until the next court date set for Thursday, April 3, 2008.




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## Said Musa Must Now Be Made To Face The Music

The chickens are now coming home to roost. Amidst public pressure, the severely chastised ex prime minister of Belize, and soon to be former leader of the People's United Party, **Said Musa**, has only now seen it fit to come to the nation with a poor excuse in the form of a public statement regarding the secret 20 million dollar portion of the total 40 million dollar grant from the government of Venezuela to the people of Belize.

In a nutshell Musa is telling the nation that he took all that money and gave it all to one man, **Lord Michael Ashcroft**. He is shamelessly telling the nation, after the fact, that he gave it all to Ashcroft for the Universal Health Services deal.

The 40 million dollar grant from Venezuela was the people's money. It was for the people of Belize. When Said Musa handed over that money to Michael Ashcroft he did so in his capacity as the prime minister of Belize, the same prime minister to whom the people of this nation publicly demonstrated that they were prepared to endanger their lives and even die in their opposition for the use of a single dollar to pay the debt of this failed private institution.

The transaction is downright illegal. It contravenes the Reformed Audit and Finance Act, the very same law enacted by the very same Said Musa which expressly prohibits the expenditure of any amount of public funds in excess of 10 million dollars without first seeking the approval of the House of Representatives. Now Said Musa is coming to the nation and telling us that he gave

Michael Ashcroft two times that amount of money at a time when general elections had already been called and the House of Representatives was dissolved. If this is not cause for the laying of criminal charges against Said Musa, then what is?

As the leadership crisis within the PUP intensifies; questions to their wanna-be leader, **Francis Fonseca**, the only one of the three vying for the post who was inside the Musa Cabinet at the relevant time, are: a) *were you aware that Said Musa gave Michael Ashcroft 20 million dollars of the peoples' money* and b) *are you in agreement with the transaction?*

Furthermore we hear Said Musa telling the nation that before releasing this shameful, if not criminal, statement, he met with **Prime Minister Dean Barrow** and advised him that Belize should continue the friendly relationship with Venezuela. Now of all things, what moral right does this man have to be offering advice to anyone, more so offering advice to the very man in whom, on February 7, 2008 the people of Belize overwhelming entrusted their vote of confidence to bring their nation back from the brink of destruction which undisputedly resulted from Said Musa's blatant mismanagement and widespread corruption over the last 10 years.

The pieces of the puzzle are only now coming together. Can this be the reason why today the Police Department now finds itself with an arsenal of almost half a million dollars worth of riot shields, riot helmets, bullet proof jackets, tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper spray and fire bomb launchers, all imported from abroad as well as over 300 large batons locally

manufactured, on overtime, by prisoners behind prison walls at Hattieville Jail?

Some policemen who know of the existence of this arsenal are of the opinion that the timing for the arrival of the shipment was late because it came in after the general elections. We beg to differ on this one, the timing was never wrong. In fact the timing was right on target. What was wrong was the Peoples' United Party's miscalculation of the power of the peoples' vote. They somehow were convinced that they could have bought the elections. With the return of a Peoples' United Party government and the coming to light that 20 million dollars of the people's money was used to pay the private debt of Universal Health Services, all hell would have broken loose in this once peaceful haven of democracy. The arsenal would have been unleashed upon the people and what a massacre it would have been. Let there be no doubt that the Lord certainly works in mysterious ways.

And who would have been the ones standing behind those shields, wearing those riot helmets and bullets proof

jackets, shooting off those many cases of tear gas and boxes of rubber bullets, pepper spray and fire bombs? As the pieces of the puzzle fall into place, is there anyone among us who is still wondering why over 120 policemen were rewarded with promotions a few days before the general elections? The biggest set of promotions, by far, in the history of the Belize Police Force/Department.

Now we see Said Musa running to the Prime Minister for cover, the very same individual who was the main target of his officially sanctioned propaganda machinery; the same Dean Barrow who was supposed to be dangerous for Belize. Who among us would seek the shelter of a dangerous man?

This one must not blow ova like wha lee breeze. The relevant laws are in place. Said Musa must now be made to face the music. The final decision should come from no place other than a competent court of law. If the tables were turned, we would have been mercilessly pounded with almost half a million dollars worth of rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, fire bombs and even live rounds of ammunition..

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## STAR Newspaper

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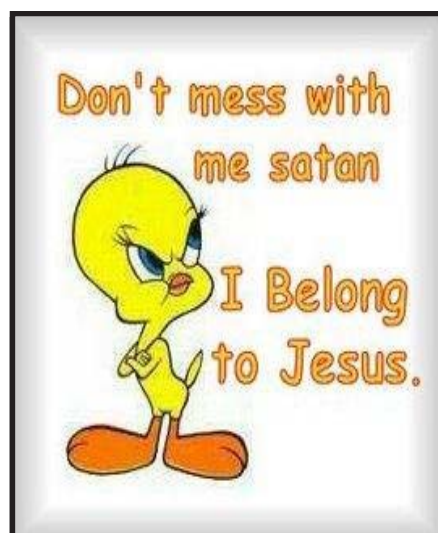
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# New Market Inaugurated

## From Front Page

Spires; BRDP's Project Director, Karl Geoppert; Mayors Simeon Lopez from Belmopan and Marconi Sosa from Benque Viejo Town as well the Chief Executive Officers in the Ministry of Works, Cadet Henderson and Gabino Canto from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The national anthem was played by the Linda Beliceña Marimba Group and the invocation and the blessing of the new facility was undertaken by the Reverend Lorenzo Echeverria from the Roman Catholic Church.

Despite the poor quality of the audio system from the beginning right up to the end, the program nevertheless pressed on.



**Mayor John Francis August**

In his welcome address the **Mayor of San Ignacio/Santa Elena, John August** took the opportunity to welcome all the dignitaries and invited guests to the momentous occasion. He told the gathering that the completion of Phase I of the project *"is a dream that has been transformed into a reality"* He thanked Ambassador Alemanni and Project Director Geoppert for putting their faith and trust behind the town council resulting in the magnificent structure. He also thanked his colleagues in the town council for standing firmly behind him as well the farmers for withstanding the temporary inconvenience of relocating from the site to make way for the project. Mayor John August also thanked the project's consulting architect, **Juan Polanco** from the Diema Consulting Company for the impressive design. He additionally extended a special thank you to **Rafael Marin** and his company Modern Construk for showing the level of works that can result from the honest expenditure of funds allotted for a project.

In winding up his presentation Mayor John August seized the opportunity to publicly seek approval from Ambassador Alemanni and Economic Development Minister Contreras for the realization of Phase II of the project which, according to the Mayor, *"is already in black and white"*.



**Agriculture & Fisheries Minister, Hon Rene Montero**  
(Photo AMS)

For his part, **Agriculture & Fisheries Minister Rene Montero** stressed the importance of the need for adequate marketing for farmers. *"It is important for our farmers to put their products on the market"* said Minister Montero. *"Recognizing that farming is important to economic development, the ministry of Agriculture will continue providing technical assistance and support for farmers"* continued Minister Montero. He also took the opportunity to inform the gathering that with the assistance of the European Union, government will soon undertake the improvement of farm roads and irrigation systems. In concluding Minister Montero encouraged users of the facility to take care of the new market and to use it wisely so that it can be of service for many years to come. He also encouraged the market management committee, whenever it is appointed, to keep up with the maintenance of the facility so that it can remain attractive for a long time.

Next to address the gathering was **HE Marco Mazzocchi Alemanni**. In his presentation Ambassador Alemanni thanked all those who played a role in making the market a reality including the local staff of the European Union, the staff of BRDP, the Mayor and his council,



**HE (His Excellency) Marco Mazzocchi Alemanni, European Union's Ambassador to Belize posted at the Union's Delegation in Kingston Jamaica**  
(Photo AMS)

Government officials, the Consulting Architect as well as the Contractor and his workforce. The ambassador ended his presentation by informing that as a native of Rome, *"as a Roman I recognizes that roads and markets are at the center of civilization, religion and country"*, concluded Ambassador Alemanni.



**Economic Development Minister Hon. Erwin Contreras**  
(Photo AMS)

In his presentation, the **Hon. Erwin Contreras** made reference to the project as *"a landmark in the development of the community"* he also told the gathering that *"A market is the hub of economic activity for any community"* and that this new market *"should serve as a model for other municipalities to follow"*. Minister Contreras then went on to speak at length about other EU grant

aids in the pipeline which over the years will be in the region of almost 200 million dollars which is the result he said *"of the approaching end of Belize's preferential market in Europe for Banana and Sugar"*. He made specific mention of improvements in the network of rural roads across the country. Minister Contreras ended his presentation by expressing gratitude, on behalf of the people and government of Belize, to the European Union for investing in this community oriented project. *He thanked the BRDP "for the splendid work they have been undertaking in the country and to Modern Construk for the successful management of the project."*

The vote of thanks was delivered by **Town Councilor Earl Trapp Jr.** Immediately after the vote of thanks, Ambassador Alemanni was invited to cut the ceremonial ribbon thereby symbolizing the official inauguration of the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Farmers Market.

Phase I of the Market was realized at a total cost 543 thousand dollars with 500 thousand dollars provided by way of a grant aid from the European Union through the Belize Rural Development Programme and the remaining 43 thousand dollars plus an additional 17 thousand dollars for the architectural design all for a total of 60 thousand dollars coming directly from the town council's funds.

Construction of the project began on August 16, 2007 with the official ground breaking ceremony on the site.

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# ATTENTION!!!

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## Letters to the Editor

### Incompetent Or Impotent?

Dear Editor;

Despite repeated requests to members of the council, the Mayor still insists that he is unable to do anything about the piles of scrap vehicles that have been dumped on the roadside in San Ignacio and Santa Elena – apparently by the same person.

Personally, I find it difficult to believe that there are no bye-laws, regulations, rules or laws that say you are not allowed to dump scrap vehicles or other trash on the streets of our towns.

Mr. Mayor, you can use the Health Authority, as the vehicles are a danger to children; perhaps the Environmental Department could be involved; definitely the police, but, Mr. Mayor, you need to address this problem.

This is your job. And if I am wrong and there are no bye-laws to prevent this, then it is also your job to create them.

I have a lot of respect for the office of the Mayor, and I have a lot of respect for you personally, but if you are unable, as you maintain, to do anything about this ugliness, then Mr. Mayor, Your Worship, it's time to stand down.

Believe it or not but there are a lot of people in these towns who take civic pride in how our towns are presented and this is not only ugly and dangerous, it is also unnecessary.

Mr. Mayor, how would you like to live next to this?

**John Acott**

Santa Elena

Photos show Bradley St., Santa Elena and Bullet Tree Rd., San Ignacio



**This is the scene on Bradley Street in Santa Elena**



**This is the scene on Bullet Tree Road in San Ignacio**

### Happy Birthday To Aunt Dominica Faber - From Karen

Dear Editor;

I am a resident of Santa Elena Cayo presently living abroad.

It is a real pleasure to have read the wonderful story last week "Mother & Son Reunited".

I must confess that stories like these are far fetched and are unheard of.

I must commend you and your

newspaper for a story well read and told. Congratulations!

Probably you can publish birthday greetings to my aunt in Santa Elena Mrs Dominica Faber. She will be celebrating her birthday on the 9th March.

Muchas Gracias

**Karen Simplis**



## Belmopan City Council

# Tax Relief Package For 2008/2009

As of January 14, 2008, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **20% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property fees made ON or BEFORE February 15, 2008.**
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property Fees between February 16 and March 15, 2008.**
- **10% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property Fees between March 16 and March 31, 2008.**
- **5% Discount for full payment of 2008/09 Property Fees between April 1 and December 31, 2008.**
- **5% Discount for full payment of 2007/08 Property Fees made ON or before March 31, 2008.**

**N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs or older) are eligible for an additional 5% discount for properties on which they reside.**

**Happy Baron Bliss Day to Belizeans Everywhere  
From Mayor Simeon Lopez & Councillors & Staff  
of The Belmopan City Council.**

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.  
City Administrator

## Mesh Brothers Donate Radio Equipment

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN HALL, Thursday, February 28, 2008:**

Communication within the various sections of the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council was today enhanced with the donation of 6 Motorola MT 1000 handheld radios and multi-charger valued at over \$4,500.

Mayor John Francis August and Councilor Eduardo “Eddy” Cano were on hand today to receive the generous donation from brothers **Casimiro and Jaime Mesh**, owners and operators of Mesh Bus Service providing daily commuter services between San Antonio Village and San Ignacio Town.

In acknowledging that instant communication is a crucial element to maximize efficiency, Mayor John



**All 6 Motorola MT 1000 handheld radios in the multi-charger**

August thanked the Mesh brothers for the communication equipment and assured them that it will go a long ways in increasing the efficient delivery of goods and services to the community while at the same time reducing the council’s expenditure on telephone.



**Handing over - (L-R) Jaime Mesh, Mayor John August, Casimiro Mesh, Luis Morataya (Traffic Officer) and Councilor Eddy Cano**

Mayor John August assured the Mesh brothers that the council will implement measures to safeguard and maintain the equipment in order that they may serve for many years. He additionally informed that the radios will be distributed among the Administration, Transport and Works sections of the council.

## Mesh Brothers Donate Motorcycle

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Tuesday, March 4, 2008:**

At the conclusion of the official ceremony for the inauguration of the New San Ignacio/Santa Elena Farmers Market, the announcement was made of yet another donation by the Mesh brothers to the Town Council.

Mayor John August was again on hand to receive a new Mielun Super ML100A motorcycle valued at \$2,000 as a donation courtesy of the Mesh Brothers from the village of San Antonio.

Casimiro Mesh, from Mesh Bus Service, made the official presentation. He told the gathering that it’s a pleasure for his company to be able to give back to the community.

In accepting the donation, Mayor John August informed that the council welcomes yet another donation from the Mesh brothers. *“The council looks forward to working with all members of the*

*Public Sector and we likewise welcome any assistance they might want to offer in order for the council to better perform its duties. This motorcycle will be used in the traffic section of the council and it could not have come at a better time”* said Mayor John August *“it comes at a time when the central government is seriously talking about handing over transport duties to the council as government moves towards creating greater autonomy for municipal governments”* concluded the Mayor.



**Making Things Happen -Casimiro Mesh (L) handing over key for new motorcycle to Mayor John F. August (R)**

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## A Note To Our Mother

*Dear Ma,*

*Its been 30 year since you are gone. For some it might seem like a long time, but for those of us who love you, it seems like it was just yesterday and the pain of your passing still hurts each one of us like a fresh wound.*

*We write you this little note to let you to know that your memories and the love you showed us is still embeded deep within our hearts.*

*We also want you to know that although we are all grown men and women, the pain of losing our mother will remain with us right up to the day we die.*

*You were only 38 years of age when you were taken taken away from us. Most of us have now surpassed you in age but our Dear Mother you will always be.*

*From our individual corners on this earth, we join hands and hearts in sending you our undying love. From all your children We still miss you Mama!!*



**Chriselda “Chris” Patnett  
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SUNSET: March 2, 1978**

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# A Letter To Mr. Raymond Cox

(Contributed)

San Ignacio Town, March 5, 2008:  
Dear Mr. Raymond Cox;

The way our employees perform their duties is a reflection of the kind of management style we practice. It shows the kind of training we provide and, at the very least, it shows if we are speaking with our employees on matters of acceptable civic behavior.

Over the past several months the town council has provided garbage drums to many residents in the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena. These drums enable residents to put out their household garbage at their convenience instead having to be on the constant lookout for the haphazard arrivals of your garbage compactor truck.

Those who do not have a drum sometimes purchase their own garbage bins which they would put out on the side of the street on those days when garbage is expected to be collected.

The area of concern is the manner in which your employees treat our drums and garbage receptacles. After emptying our drums and garbage bins, your employees do not care to restore them to their original position and instead resort to throwing them off to the side of the street and they could care less about the damage done to our drums and garbage bins.

Whenever your crew passes through a neighborhood, the devastation they leave behind is horrible. It is like a hurricane has passed through that neighborhood with garbage drums and other garbage receptacles flung all over the place along the sides of the streets and in drains. Apart from being unsightly,

this kind of behavior on the part of Cox Solid Waste Management is very disrespectful.

Your employees should be made to understand that when they are out there collecting our garbage, they are not doing us a favor. This is a service for which all of us are paying and therefore it is very disrespectful for

them to be throwing our garbage drums and bins all over the place because they are denting our drums and breaking our plastic garbage bins.

If you do not have time to train those people who represent you in public, then the very least we expect you to do is to speak with them and ask them to treat the property of

others with the same respect that they would like theirs to be treated. All we are asking is for them to put back our drums and garbage bins in the same place where they found them instead of throwing them along the street and in the drains.

In contrast, on those days when your company falls short and the slack is picked up by the Town Council, the treatment is much better. In fact, employees of the council would even go to the extent of picking up the bits and pieces of garbage that would spill outside of the drum.

In the case of your company however, there seems to be a constant race between your truck driver and the garbage collectors to reach the next drum down the street. And while this race is on, they could care less for the amount of garbage they spill and the place where they throw our drums after they have been emptied into the back of your truck.

There are many of us who are seriously wondering if we should not begin working on a massive petition to get the council to take back the task of collecting our garbage instead of contracting out the service.

I am sending this letter to the STAR since the one I addressed and sent to you personally about two months ago, appears to have fallen on deaf ears. It will now be left for the general public to see if you are at the least speaking with your employees.

## STAR HUMOR

### Jennifer Wants To Know

Jennifer sneaked off to visit the local obeah woman.

In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the obeah woman delivered the grave news.

*"Lady, there's no easy way to say this, so I'll just come out straight with this one: Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."*

Visibly shaken, Jennifer stared at the obeah woman's lined face as a single flickering candle was the only light in the dark room.

Jennifer took a few deep breaths to get a grip of herself. She simply had to know.

She met the obeah woman's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked her question. **"That's why I am here. Will I be acquitted?"**

### Bringing Them In Alive

Last weekend Lopez and his friend went tiger hunting in the Mountain Pine Ridge area.

The friend stayed in the cabin while Lopez went out looking for tigers.

He had not gone too far from the cabin when Lopez came upon a huge tiger.

He raised his rifle and shot at it but only wounded it. The enraged tiger charged toward him, he dropped his rifle and started running for the cabin as fast as he could.

He ran pretty fast but the tiger was just a little faster and gained on him with every step.

Just as he reached the open cabin door, he tripped and fell flat on his face.

Too close behind to stop, the tiger tripped over him and went rolling into the cabin.

Lopez jumped up, closed the cabin door and yelled to his friend inside, **"You skin this one while I go and get another!"**

### The Work Must Go On

The editor, the photographer and the publisher of a local newspaper were out early on Friday morning as they were getting ready to begin coverage of the commencement of the Annual La Ruta Maya River Challenge 2008.

They were strolling along the banks of the Macal River when the photographer suddenly stumbled upon a lamp.

As he rubbed the lamp a genie appeared and said **"Normally I would grant you three wishes, but since there are three of you, I will grant you each one wish."**

Since he was the one who found the lamp the photographer went first.

**"I would like to spend the rest of my life living in a huge house**

**on a beach in Miami with all the money in the world."**

The genie granted him his wish and off he went to begin living the good life.

The editor went next. **"I would like to spend the rest of my life living on a huge yacht sailing the Caribbean, with no money worries and with two beautiful babes at my side."**

The genie granted him his wish and sent him off. **"And you Sir, what would your wish be?"** asked the genie.

**"I want both of them back here in three hours time"** replied the publisher, **"because they must be here to meet this evening."**

**MORE STAR HUMOR**  
**On Page 11**

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# The Policeman Writes AGAIN

I read with both amusement and amazement the bold and irresponsible article appearing in the opposition Belize Times Newspaper of Sunday March 2, 2008, purportedly written by a senior policeman who feels that he is big enough to scare anybody with his evident immaturity and weakness.

To say that he is not putting his name to the article because he is afraid of what he could do, should have been followed by the words **"FORA LIVING"** if he is victimized by the Police Department. After all, he is not qualified to work anywhere else on earth so then his fears might actually be real.

## SYMBOLIC

The symbolic assurance apart, nothing has been initiated or proposed by the Police Department that is likely to reduce our crime problem. The obvious deafening silence on crime by the Police High Command in the transition period of government is not that our police officials are silly, but that crime fighting might not be at the top of their agenda, but rather, personal interest.

The troublesome crime situation however, cannot be reduced or eliminated by avoiding the reality or by the waving of a magic wand. For quite a long time now, the Police Top Brass has been summoning meetings on the Crime Situation and then there is no follow up action.

A pathetic press release is often given in the aftermath of these meetings and then we go about our merry ways until we reach another crisis situation usually one in which a number of citizens are shot dead again and the circus continues.

Knowing the cause of the problem on the one hand, and doing nothing significant about it, does not by itself reduce the threat, or give assurances that you have the means or the will even, to deal with the causes.

There is an enormous stock of illegal guns in Belize. These guns are in the hands of criminals who are said to be protected by people in high society. There are serious suspicions that some Policemen are connected to some of these high rollers.

The public image of the Police in Belize is at its lowest level ever. The once clean and tidy image of the **"The Proud Policeman in uniform"** is now a thing of the past. As we listen to the daily radio talk shows; we can readily conclude that at least 80% of the population is of the belief that the Police are abusive.

The vast majority of Belizeans finds the Police to be discourteous, a abusive and arrogant in their interaction with the public.

The confrontational instead of conversational attitude of the police is a common practice at almost every Police Station across the nation. It is often remarked that subordinates

follow examples set by their superiors. When was the last time any of us checked the attitude of the serving National Commander of operations.

Approximately seventy five percent of Belizeans will readily admit to knowing some level of dishonest dealings of the Police. This situation is manifested as we listen to the evening newscast.

Every dark cloud has a sliver lining and as such there are places where the public's attitude towards the Police is not as hostile and negative as in other places. This can hardly be of any comfort since 90% of the violent crimes are occurring in Belize City where the hostility can be felt in the air. This is the area of the country where more than ever, we need to activate Police-Citizen cooperation to improve our crime fighting capacity.

Any attempt to suggest that hard working rich Policemen have the right to be dishonest and corrupt because it is encouraged by very senior Officers and some Politicians, is ludicrous to say the least.

This brings me the point: what happened to the missing thousands of gallons of government fuel that went missing from the Eastern (Police) division of the Department?

Who was responsible to give that constable such level of unsupervised authority to dispense with Government property to the tune of almost a quarter of a million dollars?

What action has or is being taken against the senior commander under whose watch this massive embezzlement took place or is the rest of us to understand that the law is applicable only to those of us in the junior ranks?

When will somebody, other than the constable, be made to pay for these corrupt practices?

## CREDIBILITY

Apart from the poor police public relationship, the Police Department is a major part of the problem. The department is lacking in credibility; its intelligence gathering capacity borders between very poor to non existent.

The shoddy and vindictive oriented style of management that is widely practiced within the department continues to be the major reason why the very cream of the Department is rapidly parting ways and moving into other sectors of employment.

Other disparaging factors within the Department are those nonsensical briefings by senior officers as well as the deceit, dishonesty and abuse perpetuated against the citizens of this country on a daily basis.


**Turn Over To Page 10**

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# Who Stole The Plants That The Scouts Planted?

BY: Shalue Butcher

As part of Scouts Week 2008 the Santa Elena Scouts Troop #27 under the supervision of Troop Leader Cess Neal Flowers, embarked on a clean up/beautification project in Santa Elena on La Loma Luz boulevard.

The scouts cleaned up trash from the Western Highway to the entrance of The Aguada Hotel.

They chose a portion of the island on the boulevard to plant trees and flowers.

The plants and flowers were all purchased with funds raided by the scout group. Sadly, the following day a group went to water the plants to discover that someone had stolen



The Children planting trees and flowers on the boulevard. The very next day they were all gone - Stolen? Quite possibly

them. What is going on in our community?

## The Policeman Writes AGAIN

From Page 9

Decision makers are now routinely provided with wrong and misleading statistics.

The bottom line is that there are too many corrupt Policemen hanging on the job.

There is also the matter in which close friendship influence appointments and promotions.

The inevitable product of these irregularities is precisely that which plagues the department in these current times. There are too many police are engaged in criminal activities, too many policemen being brought before the courts for drugs, dishonesty, murder and even human trafficking.

It is next to impossible for any law abiding citizen to respect a Police Department that exhibits such high levels of visible criminality.

There are too many policemen who go back and inform drug dealers about police informants, either because they are involved in organized crime or, they seek financial rewards for these dangerous actions.

Too many Police are mixed up in drugs dealings and other illegalities.

Far too many policemen are living lifestyles that can be maintained only on a drug baron's income.

To find out who these Policemen are needs no trip to the moon all that needs to be done is simply to check the structures and the contents of the place they call home as well as the make, model and year of the vehicle they drive. Some of them are brazen with their illegal connections that they could care less about driving these vehicles to work.

The rot is now embedded deep within the current structure of the Department it therefore cannot be reformed. What is therefore needed is a total dismantling of the Department and a rebuilding process from the very foundation.

There is a cadre of educated Police Officers tucked away in the middle management bracket of the Department. Their mere presence

and the manner in which they handle the job, sends an automatic shock wave through those within the senior management bracket who often times lack the educational foundation to stand up to the challenge of these younger elements.

There is also the situation with the dire lack of supervision. The files are, for the most part not supervised by the ranks.

No real performance criterion is in place to determine who gets promoted.

In the final analysis, those who serve their friends loyally and are closely associated with the chief and his deputy, receive accelerated and unmerited promotions.

Frankly, the Department has become the laughing stock of other uniform organizations where, instead of planning and developing policies, the very senior management is more engaged in gossiping and wasteful expenditures thereby demoralizing the few good, honest and educated elements in the Department who are otherwise motivated by professionalism.

Unlike the Defense Force, which enjoys organizational discipline and a strong educated and professional leadership, our Police Department has neither, and instead of being a department working in the best interest of law and order, our Police have become a force of disorder, dishonesty, bribery and financial irregularities at the highest level. The only remedy for this undesirable condition is a total reorganization of the Department.

There are some of us who still remember when general elections was announced in 2003, there was at least four Policemen on the police telephone calling a now ex-minister offering him police protection during the campaign. No doubt, since then, all four them have been promoted with the ringleader being promoted at least four times in the last four years.

In a nutshell, as long as we continue to harass law abiding citizens, violate the rights of arrested persons and

The area is quite populated, homes on both sides of the street, busy shops located directly in front of the area that we planted these trees.



Members of Scouts Troop #27, busy planting trees and flowers

## Have Church Leaders Failed Us By Not Maintaining That Consistency?

When casino gambling was coming to Belize, the churches raised the alarm in opposition to it. The alarm of the churches was quelled by the PUP government of the day in 1999. *"There is no need to worry"* said the PUP officials to the church leaders, *"Casino gambling will be only for the tourists because it is their lifestyle and they are asking for it and we must provide it for them. Belizeans will not be allowed into the casino."*

The restriction started by imposing a big deposit for admittance into the casino. Indeed the poorer classes of people were kept out. But this did not last long.

The alarm of the churches went silent, in fact we can safely conclude that the alarm has gone DEAD.

\*\*\*\*\*

detainees, as long as we continue to display dishonest behavior, as long as we continue to commit crimes, kiss up to politicians and project an image that the force cannot be trusted by the public; no amount of guns, pepper spray, teargas, new vehicles, BDF, or new recruits will put a dent on the crime situation.

Our sincere prayers is for this government to do the right thing. The new administration must restore confidence in our democratic way of

Of course, no one saw anyone do anything. If we don't begin looking out for one another then we might as well be prepared to watch the crime escalate in our area.

Some may say, they are only plants and trees. It was more than that for these young people that took time, energy and money to do something positive for the community.

Now, we must to explain to them that they are the future of Belize and we have to continue to struggle against all the odds working against us. The scout troop will continue to give back to the community in various other projects.



Members of Scouts Troop #27, busy planting trees and flowers

## Have Church Leaders Failed Us By Not Maintaining That Consistency?

Today the deposit restriction is a thing of the past and now tourists are hardly seen in the casinos while large amounts of Belizeans can be seen pulling the arm of the one hand bandit or slipping coins into slot machines or placing *"chips"* on Poker and Black Jack tables.

Of late we see the Princess Casino baiting families and children to get them hooked onto those machines and tables.

In its most recent advertizing blitz the Casino is inviting Belizeans to a Family fun day at the Princess where the family can dine in their fancy restaurant and after dining *you will get \$10. worth of FREE chips to try your luck in the casino.*

Have the church leaders failed us by not maintaining that consistency?

\*\*\*\*\*

life. The wrongs must be corrected. The prevailing crime situation has got to be addressed; it demands a strong Leader at the head of the Police Department, a leader with the will and the drive to do that which is right, proper and decent.

Sending threatening letters by way of friendly media will not solve the problem.

Crime and the threat to public safety are real....the time to deal with this situation is **NOW. SEEN!!!!**

# Empowering The Future Generation

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 3, 2008:

The month of March is traditionally child stimulation month. It is that time of the year when focus is placed on the early education of our children at the Pre School level countrywide. This year’s activities are being held under the theme “*Early Childhood Education - Empowering the Future Generation*”.

The program for pre schools in the area of San Ignacio, Santa Elena and surrounding communities began this Monday, March 3, with a parade of



preschoolers, their parents and teachers. The parade began from in front of the Santa Elena Community Preschool on Carillo Puerto Avenue.

Apart from the Santa Elena Community Pre School, other like institutions in attendance included – Santa Elena Baptist Pre School, Hope Pre School Santa Elena,

Arms of Love Pre School San Ignacio, Cinderella Pre-School San Ignacio, San Ignacio Pre-School, Little Treasures Pre School San Ignacio. Cristo Rey RC Pre School, Georgeville’s Destiny Pre School and Bullet Tree Falls Pre School.

From Carillo Puerto Avenue in Santa Elena

the parade proceeded up the Western Highway, over the Hawksworth Bridge, down Burns

Avenue ending at the Macal River Park where the children along with their parents and teachers mingled for a while before dispersing to their various homes.

In her opening remarks, Local Coordinator for Pre Schools, **Mrs. Alma Crawford Fuller** thanked parents for accompanying their children and encouraged those in attendance to continue participating in the various activities planned by the Pre School their child attends.

Other activities planned for the weeks ahead include visit to the Fire/Police Station,

Octavia Waight Center for Senior Citizens as well as Festival of Arts; Video Show; Family Day; Hug Day, Flag Day and a Sports Day.



## MORE STAR HUMOR

### The Worng Patient

Mr. Garcia drives up to the RX Pharmacy in San Ignacio and asks the pharmacist if he can give him something for the hiccups.

The pharmacist promptly reaches over the counter, grabs Garcia by the shirt collar, pulls him up against the counter and slaps him across the face.

“What did you do that for?” asks Mr. Garcia.

“Well, you don’t have the hiccups anymore, do you?” says the Pharmacist

“No,” responded Mr. Garcia, “but my wife out in the car is still hiccupping!”

### Saved By The Word

Ms. Jones heard some rumbling in her living room. She got up and made her way from her bedroom in the darkness.

In the darkness she makes out a man with her TV in his hands. Not having any kind of weapon to scare him off, she raised her hand and said “Acts 2:38”.

The burglar froze in place and didn’t move. Ms. Jones then called 911; the police arrived. They were amazed to find the burglar still frozen where he stood.

“What did you say to him that kept him from moving?” asked one of the policemen.

“I just said Acts 2:38” responded Ms. Jones.

The police chuckled and escorted the burglar out to the patrol car. “Why did the woman’s quoting scripture scare you so much?” they asked.

“Scripture?” said the burglar, “I thought she said she had an ax and two 38’s!”



World Rotaract Week  
10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008



Rotaract Club of San Ignacio

### Itinerary of Events

<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> 3:30p.m. Octavia Waight Centre	<b>Tea Party at Octavia Waight Centre</b> <i>Snacks and entertainment to be provided to residents.</i>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b> 7:30p.m. – 8:30p.m. Bedran Hall, San Ignacio	<b>Rotaract Meeting</b> <i>A Rotarian from the Rotary Club of San Ignacio will make a presentation to Rotaractors. <u>Persons between the ages of 18 and 30 who are interested in knowing more about the club are welcomed to this meeting.</u></i>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> 7p.m. – 8p.m. Sacred Heart Junior College	<b>Rotaract Presentation at Sacred Heart Junior College</b> <i><u>All Junior College Students are invited to attend.</u></i>
<b>ROTARACT DAY (13 March)</b>	
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>  5:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m. Plaza Del Rio Mall San Ignacio	<b>Rotaract Presentation at Rotary Club of San Ignacio Meeting</b>  <b>Rewarding 40 Meritorious Children - Commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotaract</b> <i>Forty (40) children from middle schools in San Ignacio and Santa Elena will be selected on the basis of good behavior, leadership/responsibility and motivation in school. These children will be invited to attend the local cinema to watch a children's movie. They will be provided with snacks and treats.</i>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Spaghetti Night – Rotaractors and Rotarians</b>
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Social Event - Rotaractors</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> 6:30p.m. – 7:30p.m. Sacred Heart Church San Ignacio	<b>Church Service Attendance by Rotaractors</b>

**ROTARACT** is an international program for young men and women ages 18 to 30 whose objective is to make a difference in their community. ROTARACT clubs provide an opportunity for young adults to enhance their knowledge and skills that will assist them in their personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their community and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through friendship and service.

*Fellowship Through Service*

# Mercury In The Fish? What About Mercury In The Water We Drink?

**CULTURAL CENTER, San Ignacio Town, Tuesday, March 4, 2008:**

Representatives from the Ministry of Health; the Department of the Environment and the Pan American Health Organization, with technical assistance from the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL) and the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) are conducting a series of public presentations on *"The Macal Upstream Storage Facility"* while simultaneously sensitizing the public on the effects of the concentration of organic mercury (Methyl Mercury) within the fish population in the Macal River.

The group's first stop was in the village of Cristo Rey on Monday, March 4 and the second stop was at the Cultural Center in San Ignacio Town.

The group in attendance at the San Ignacio session included the main presenter, **John Bood**, Senior Public Health Inspector in the Ministry of Health, Belmopan as well as **Anthony Mai** and **Henry Sanchez** from the Department of the Environment; Jose Perez from the Pan American Health Organization, **Stephen Usher**, BECOL's Vice President of Operations and BEL's Corporate Communications Manager, **Dawn Sampson**.

The presentation began at 7:30 pm with a 10 minute video documentary on the definition of Mercury and information regarding the accepted tolerance level of the substance in the human body as well as the presence of the substance in fishes drawn from the river.

The documentary informs that a 2005 test confirmed the presence of organic mercury in the Sibun, Macal and Mopan Rivers. The documentary informs that, as a predator, the local Base Snook fish carries the largest concentration of organic mercury. A 2007 test advises that the permissible consumption of this fish should not exceed one half pound per week.

Several salient points were drawn from the presentation as follows:

a) Given that the test confirms the presence of Methyl Mercury in the Sibun, Macal and Mopan rivers, there is no data on the presence of the substance in the Belize Old River which appears somewhat strange especially when taken into context with the fact, that firstly, the Macal and Mopan joins at Branch Mouth to form the Belize Old River and secondly given that larger concentration of communities live along the Belize Old River these people are to a larger extent, more prone to consume fishes drawn from the Belize Old River.

b) While the emphasis, for the purposes of BECOL's compliance with environmental



**John Bood, Senior PHI**

regulations, rests solely on the testing of organic mercury in the fish population, very little, if any attention is placed on the concentration of this harmful substance in drinking water. Especially when, according to the documentary, if ingested in quantities above the accepted tolerance level, could result in poisoning and

permanent brain damage.

c) While the tests are concentrated on the presence of the substance in the Base Snook, no information was forthcoming on the presence of the substance in other river fish such as the Cat Fish and other river life.

In his presentation Bood informed that the next sample of fish will be taken in March and sent to Guatemala for testing. The result should be received six weeks later at which time it will be made public. He further informed that, dependent on the level of organic mercury in the river fish, the Ministry of Health can either impose a limitation on the use of the product as is the present case of safe consumption of half a pound of Base Snook per week, or the total discontinuance of the use of the product.

While Bood admitted that he was unable to provide answers to some of the questions presented he informed that the concerns have been



**Anthony Mai, DOE**

noted and that responses will be sought from more senior officials in the Ministry thereby necessitating a follow up meeting.

Bood informed that all government personnel on the team, including himself and the PAHO representative, are relative new on the job.

The community is therefore looking forward for the return of officials who will be able to provided us with scientific proof to support their statements especially in terms of the quality of the water that many of use to drink and all us use to bath, brush our teeth, wash our clothes and our eating utensils. Untils such time we keep our fingers crossed.

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# Brazen Oil Barons

BY: Ivan Roberts  
belcredit@yahoo.com

Some wise wit once commented that it only takes two Brits in a foreign country to believe they are the majority.

I recently had the opportunity to be one of the victims of such outrageous foreign arrogance when the brazen barons of oil gave a rude lesson about the oil company **Golden Rule**. The oil companies have the gold so they are going to rule.

Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> I was invited to be interviewed by a UK documentary film company concerning issues affecting revenues due me from oil production on the new well at Never Delay near Belmopan. **Clarity Productions**, the film company from Glasgow, Scotland, was producing a BBC documentary about the affects of foreign investors on a small country like Belize.

**Jim Cavanaugh**, the Consultant Geologist for Spanish Lookout was coordinating the Clarity Production's efforts and invited me to join **Allen Reimer** and Leonard Reimer, members of the Spanish Lookout Oil Board to discuss our involvements and problems with the new Belize oil industry for the documentary.

The documentary director, **Matt Milloy**, had been filming in Toledo earlier in the week and interviewed

Belize Natural Energy the day before. Milloy wanted an "oil background" for filming and **Allen Reimer**, the SLO Oil Board Chairman, suggested that well #5 would give a pleasant jungle setting for the interviews.

Allen Reimer led the way to the site. The camera woman got set up along the edge of drillsite and as the first interview was started, a BNE pickup drove up, with the driver aggressively demanding who we were and if we had permission to be filming there.

**Matt Milloy** explained he had advised BNE the day before they would be filming the Mennonite interviews at SLO. The BNE employee rudely said he would check to see if this was the truth. Now, mind you, we are on Mennonite land, filming an interview with Mennonite Oil Board members and in no way interfering with anything or anybody, and the BNE employee implies we may not be telling the truth. Not the best public relations. The BNE pickup departed.

The filming resumed for a few minutes when a second BNE pickup arrived. The BNE employee stated we do not have permission, so **Allen Reimer** advised he was the Chairman of the SLO Oil Board and we were simply filming interviews with the Mennonite community. The second pickup left.

The filming again resumed and quickly after my interview was started discussing how oil royalties would be distributed at Never Delay, two more BNE pickups arrived. They demanded to know who specifically had authorized us to be there. The Mennonites in their quiet way advised they would be finished with the filming soon and suggested that they hardly needed permission to be on their own land. The third and fourth pickup left.

The filming again resumed, with **Allen Reimer** and **Leonard Reimer** discussing the impact of the oil activities on the Mennonite community when yet another BNE pickup interrupted, quickly followed by **Daniel Guterrez**, the BNE public relations man, in still another pickup.

The filming crew were feeling very intimidated at this point, in fact they were quite frightened, not knowing what was going on, and were hoping that Daniel would stop all the nonsense and the interruptions and let the film crew get on with their work. But Daniel seemed to be hesitant, so **Jim Cavanaugh** pulled him aside and had a short discussion with him. Whatever Mr. Cavanaugh told him must have worked because Daniel immediately left. The fourth and fifth pickups departed.

Ah, now the filming could be finished. But as the crew started filming their interview with **Jim**

**Cavanaugh**, **Daniel Guterrez** returned. At this point the documentary director threw up his hands and suggested we leave and find someplace that wasn't so intimidating. It was decided to go out to Leonard Reimer's farm about 11 miles away and finish the filming.

When we arrived at the farm, Mrs. Reimer, smiling and friendly, came out to greet us with a warm handshake and an ice cold pitcher of lime juice, as she welcomed us warmly. What a shame, I thought, that the whole BNE crew could not have been there to experience a wonderful lesson in graciousness and simple courtesy.

The outrageous display of awful arrogance succeeded in creating the worse possible public relations for the oil company. And the worse part of it all was there was absolutely no excuse for such rudeness.

Sadly the arrogance of the brazen oil barons seems to be infecting even those Belizeans who are working for them.

A word of advice to Belize Natural Energy: You had better quickly learn how to live with us. We Belizeans make wonderful friendly neighbors, but when you treat us badly it will be at your own expense.

Comments, Suggestions please feel free to email the author  
**Ivan Roberts at belcredit@yahoo.com**

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## Crystal & Fanta Sponsor Concert for Children

Bowen & Bowen Ltd. managers Michael Kelly & Nick Pollard Jr. hand over a \$10,000 sponsorship cheque to Martha & Michelle Williams for two concerts to be held in Belize City on March 29th & San Ignacio on March 28th featuring famous artists EVERLIFE & CHASEN. Organizers of the concerts will use the proceeds for education of disadvantaged youth in Belize.

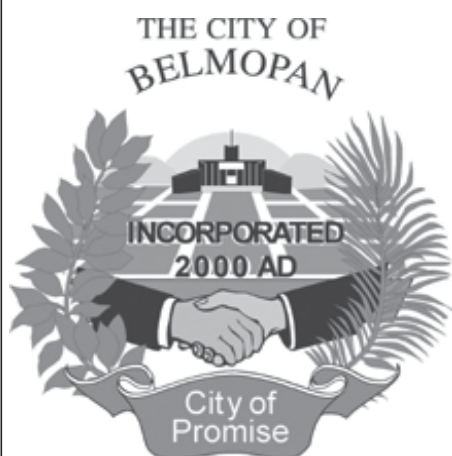
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Authorized bottler: Bowen & Bowen Ltd. Consumer Response #: 227-7031.



## Belmopan City Council

# NOTICE

All property owners in Belmopan City are hereby advised to visit the City Council to make suitable arrangements for the payment of all arrears on property taxes.

**Failure to comply with this request will lead to legal action being taken.**

Happy Baron Bliss Day to Belizeans Everywhere  
From Mayor Simeon Lopez & Councillors & Staff  
of The Belmopan City Council.

## Northern Suspect Nabbed In The West

**BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, March 5, 2008:**

A team of alert police personnel from the Benque Viejo police sub formation were on routine mobile patrol in the area of the Belize Western Border Station today when their attention was drawn to the presence of a male person suspected to be the same individual on the APB (*All Points Bulletin*) received earlier in the week from Corozal Police.

The person was momentarily detained and his identity was confirmed to be that of **Enrique Gonzalez, 24**, wanted by Corozal Police on an aggravated burglary charge.

This is in connection with a incident that took place in that northern municipality during which over 10 thousand Belize dollars in cash, a cellular phone and jewelry were reportedly stolen.

Gonzalez was transported to the



**Enrique Gonzalez, 24, The Accused**

local police station and later escorted to Corozal to face the music.

## He Escaped, Escaped and Escaped Again

### From Front Page

Suspecting that he might not have returned all the wallets, she enlisted the assistance of two male persons who also operate businesses in the same building. They caught up with Sabido and brought him back to the store where 6 additional wallets were retrieved from his person. The police were called in to take charge of the matter and when they arrived, the accused was handed over to them. He was placed inside the little three wheel police mobile for the ride to the station. Whilst on the way to the station, Sabido hopped out of the transport and escaped from the police.

He remained at large for eight days when, on Friday, February 29, the long arm of the law caught up with him as he was strolling along the Western Highway in his home village of Esperanza. He was brought to the station and held for the weekend. He was the first to appear in court on Monday morning, March 3; he pleaded not guilty to a theft charge and was granted bail. Whilst sitting inside the court room waiting to be returned to the holding cell, he got up and escaped. Within minutes of this second escape, he entered a Chinese store on a back street in San Ignacio, walked the isles, selected a few choice items and was walking out the store without stopping at the counter.

When the Chinese shopkeeper came from behind the counter and requested payment Sabido spun around and reportedly gave him a single punch in the face before

speeding off. The shopkeeper rushed behind the counter pulled out his handgun but by the time he came out to the street, Sabido was well in the distance. The shopkeeper reportedly fired several shots in his direction, one of which we were told shattered a louver from a neighborhood family home.

An off duty prison officer, in uniform on his way home from work, came upon Sabido, who is no stranger to prison officials, as he was fleeing the scene. The officer got a hold of him and was escorting him to the police station when Sabido wiggled himself loose of the officer's hold and, as they

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