

TWO WEEKS - TWO MURDERS - IN SAN IGNACIO - NO ARRES

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Friday, May 16, 2008:

Two weeks, two unsolved murders in San Ignacio, police are clueless. This does not look good for the community or the police. It must come to an end.

Last week we reported the murder of San Ignacio resident **Feliciano Mancia Martinez**, 56.

This week it's **Ali Orlando Flores**, a man known by many, especially farmers from neighboring communities who frequently had contact with him during the seven years he worked in a senior capacity at the San Ignacio Branch of Prosser Fertilizer on West Street.

Police reports that they visited a location at the corner of 8th and Guadalupe Streets in San Ignacio where upon arrival at around 12:50 on the morning of Sunday, May 11,

they encountered the suspected lifeless body of a male Hispanic person lying on his back on the street.

The person, with multiple stab wounds to the chest and a large cut to the neck, was identified as **Ali Orlando Flores,** 36, Belizean Sales Agent of a 10th Street address in San Ignacio. He was transported to the nearby San Ignacio Town Hospital where he was officially pronounced dead by the medical officer on duty.

The common-law wife of the deceased, **Aidi Martinez**, informed that the last time she saw Ali alive was about two hours earlier, at around 10:30 p.m., that Saturday night at Sankar Restaurant & Bar on Joseph Andrews Drive in San Ignacio, as she was returning from Hode's Place along with her children. She reportedly entered the bar and requested that he accompany her and the children for

the walk home. He did not leave immediately but promised to do so shortly.

The next time she saw him was when he was found on the street, a short distance from his mother's house, drenched in blood and still wearing the red short pants and white t-shirt with his pair of black and white slippers nearby and clutching what appeared to be a light blue wave wrap in his right hand.

Our investigation revealed that it was shortly after 10:00 p.m., that Saturday night when the deceased, accompanied by a young male Hispanic person entered the Sankar Chinese Restaurant & Bar and began drinking beers for which the younger male Hispanic person was



Ali Orlando Flores, 36 reportedly paying.

They remained seated and drinking at the bar for about 2 hours **Continue on Page 11**

Mark Robateau Gets Five Years

Mary Open Doors At long last a place, in Cayo, where abused women and children can seek assistance

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Monday, May 12, 2008:

Official launching ceremony was held at 3:00 pm this past Saturday, May, 10 for Mary Open Doors, Belize's newest Non Governmental Organization addressing the issues of domestic violence in the Cayo District.

The objective of the organization is to become a community resource working in close collaboration with other communities based resources while endeavoring to for sister relationships with organizations



working toward the same cause. The objective this newest NGO is

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, May 16, 2008:

After going through no less than six adjournments, the case of **Mark Robateau**, 22, Belizean laborer of #116 Western Highway, Santa Elena, was concluded in San Ignacio's magistrate court, on Wednesday, May 14, where he was found guilty of robbery and sentenced to spend the next five years in jail.

The robbery conviction stems from a December 29, 2007 incident in which Robateau was accused of the violent attack upon a 16 year old student as he was resting on the steps of Gitz Office Supplies in San Ignacio while in the process of going home with some shopping bags for his mother.

With the assistance of a lady who



Mark Robateau, 22

and within 15 minutes of the incident, Robateau was rounded up and a search of his person yielded all the items reported stolen by the student. In evidence the student testified that he recognized the defendant as the person who choked him and punched him in the nose causing him



Page 2 STAR -Tel:- 626-8822 & 626-3788 -Email:starnewspaper@gmail.com - Sunday, May 18, 2008



We Are Against The "Proposed Preventative Detention Bill"

Let the record show that we are among the current vocal minority that is against the "proposed preventative detention bill".

Whereas it is no secret that we were among those many individuals who labored long hours to assist in the effort to rid this nation of the worst government ever, and whereas we feel that we could have more privately expressed to Prime Minister Dean **Barrow** our opposition to the bill, we do it in this manner first of all to let readers know exactly where we stand on this issue. And secondly, we do it in this manner to heed the Prime Minister's call for public vocal comments on the bill.

We are opposed to the bill primarily because we hold steadfast to the Constitutional provision that "Every person who is charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proven guilty or has pleaded guilty".

While those who are "charged with a criminal offence" are constitutionally entitled to this fundamental right - more so should those who are NOT EVEN CRIMINALLY CHARGED.

Notwithstanding however, we likewise hold steadfast to the principle that "if you do the crime, then you MUST do the time" - No two ways about that.

Imagine what a society we would live in if ever this proposed bill is passed into law.

In the absence of this proposed legal authority, the police have, for many years, been abusing their existing authority as they are frequently arresting, charging and remanding innocent people to prison while they conduct "their investigations" only to find out that after an individual has spent an entire month in jail and several months thereafter on bail, the prosecution would eventually request for the court to withdraw charges because of the "lack of evidence".

abuse. However, history has shown us that with time, these oversight mechanisms either deteriorate or they become outrightly corrupt. We have been there; we have done that and we continue to experience it.

Take for example the justice system we inherited from the colonial era: Before anyone is formally arrested and charged, a policeman must first "swear to an information and complaint and obtain a warrant in the first instance" signed by a Justice of Peace before whom a police must "swear to an information and complaint". This system was specifically designed to protect citizens from abuse and arbitrary arrests. In other words, under this system, no policeman can arbitrarily arrest, charge and take anyone before a court without a warrant signed by a Justice of the Peace.

Ask any policeman today what it is to "swear to an information and complaint" and they will tell you that they do not have a clue. Yet even to this very day, policemen appear on the witness stand and tell the court "I then swore to an information and complaint. Obtained a warrant in the first instance and arrested the defendant for the crime he now stands trial". Nothing could be further from the truth.

Ask any instructor at the Police Training Academy, if they have ever provided instructions to policemen in training on the procedure required for the "swearing to an information and complaint" and the response will be a resounding NO!

In fact, ask any instructor if they themselves have ever put into practice the "swearing to an information and complaint "and they will tell you NO!

What does "swearing to an information and complaint" mean? In the system we inherited, it means that before any policeman proceed to formally arrest and charge anyone, that policeman should first have the documented facts of the arrest reviewed by a Justice of the Peace and only after that Justice of the Peace, as an officer of the court, is satisfied that there is sufficient documented cause for the police to proceed with depriving that individual of his liberty, should that Justice of the Peace proceed with the signing of that arrest warrant (it started off with a few Justices of the Peace, much like the proposed committee that will be vested with the authority to approve preventative detention warrants and in the next few paragraphs we will show you how this system has deteriorated).

mechanism to ensure that there is enough evidence to commit a matter for trial in the Supreme Court, so too was the Justice of the Peace system designed to ensure that there is enough evidence to commit a matter for trial at the magistrate court level instead of wasting the court's time in hearing worthless cases and dismissing them for lack of evidence with innocent persons already deprived their right to be free.

Over the years however, this system has either deteriorated or has become outrightly corrupted.

1) Deteriorated, we say because as the situation now stands:

(a) Very few, if any are the policemen, who knows what it is to "swear to an information and *complaint*" much less to go through the motion.

(b) Very few are the Justices of the Peace who know that before signing any warrant for the arrest of anyone, the police is legally required to show adequate documented cause as to why they should sign that "warrant in the first instance". There are Justices of the Peace who will automatically sign anything that the police put before them, some of them without even reading what they are signing.

(c) In fact, the system has deteriorated to the point where the police does not even need the signature of a Justice of the Peace as that signature can be provided by the commanding officer or his deputy.

(d) Furthermore, it is has long become the rule, rather than the exception, for the police to not even prepare a case file before they proceed to arrest and charge. Therefore, in this case if the Justice of the Peace would express a desire to exercise his legal authority to review the facts of the case before signing a warrant, the police would have no documentary evidence to present to the Justice of the Peace in his capacity as an officer of the court. In these instances, a Justice of the Peace would be well within his rights to refuse to sign any such warrant. They sign because no one has ever taken up the cause of injustice against those with little means and filed a suit against all involved, including the Justice of the Peace, for his role in signing the instrument that illegally deprived that person of his constitutional right to liberty and the protection of the law. (2) We say that the system has become out rightly corrupted because, over the years, appointments of Justices of the Peace have reached the stage where it has evolved into being almost, if not totally, consumed by politics as it is frequently used by politicians, when in government, to reward those faithful to their party.

administration.

After that demonstration they came for us, but we spent a few days away from home while the tension subsided until the police legal advisor, **Assistant Commissioner Eulalio Canton** (may his soul rest in peace) issued the instruction for the police to *"ease off"* from us.

Notwithstanding, ACP Canton's instructions, the harassment continued. It was going on to 10 o'clock one Friday night when a Police Corporal was sent for us during a black out. He arrived obviously unprepared as we caught him standing in the driveway fraudulently preparing a search warrant and when he presented it and we told him that we saw him preparing it in the driveway and we asked him to see the Justice of the Peace's signature, he crushed it and said that he did not need a search warrant and that he was shifting the operation to a search for arms and ammunition. When he found neither arms nor ammunition, he still proceeded to illegally detain us for more than 12 hours without any charge.

We again joined the public demonstrations against government's intention to use public funds to pay the private debt of Universal Health Services and, in highlighting our participation in the demonstration, at paragraph 13 of his 17 paragraph report to the Police Minister Ralph Fonseca, the Commissioner of Police wrote "radical elements including Alberto AUGUST".

In other words, if you dare to join in the fight for the people's rights you are labeled, by the police, as a "radical element" Imagine, if ever the police would have had the legal authority for the "preventative detention of "radical elements" then at every announcement of a demonstration they would come for us and hold us in the name of "preventative detention". If this was done to all those "radical elements" who then would be left to stand up for that which the masses know to be an injustice against all of

While we have always maintained that depriving an individual of his constitutional right to liberty must be the product of an investigation, the police have, for many years, been putting the cart before the horse as they first arrest and then investigate which has resulted in the incarceration of many innocent persons.

Unfortunately, in almost every instance, the victims of these abuses are the poor and disadvantaged, who, despite being innocently deprived of their freedom, are prone to express gratitude to the abusers for restoring their liberty.

We hear of vesting the authority for the issuance of "preventative detention orders" in a committee. On the surface, this might appear to provide an oversight against potential

Much in the same manner that Magistrate Court acts as a first line of defense by way of the Preliminary Inquiry (PI) requirement which is the

On a rather personal note, when we joined in the public demonstrations against government's intention to increase the GST by 200% (from 1 to 3%), we became targets of that

It is for these reasons that we say a resounding NO! to the "preventative detention bill".

This is not the way to tackle the current crime situation. We trust that the Jamaican expert, whenever he arrives, will point the government in the direction to lesser crimes without the need for any "preventative detention"...



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To Ma hoice Is Yours ke he

SANTA ELENA, Cayo. Friday, May 16, 2008:

We have said it before and we are going to say it again. For those who have ears, let them hear.

There are groups, comprising mostly of young boys who move around on bicycles mainly after the midnight hour in both San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

The Santa Elena boys do not cross the bridge into San Ignacio and similarly the San Ignacio boys do not venture into Santa Elena.

These boys sleep for most of the daytime hours and come out closer to the midnight hour.

They scout the late night bars and seek out preys in persons who have obviously had too much to drink and must either walk or ride a bicycle to move from point A to point B.

They lay wait the victims in dark and scarcely populated areas where they

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pounce on them with intention to rob them. They are looking for cash, jewelry and cell phones.

In the process of the robbery any number can play and the victim could end up without any bodily harm, seriously wounded or even dead.

These persons become easy preys because of their state of drunkenness which minimizes their ability to defend themselves and also because those who survive these attacks are either too ashamed to report the matter to the police as they seek minimum publicity for their ordeal which they attribute to their lack of better judgement in their personal safety or

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because they believe that the police would pay little attention to their complaint due to their drunkeness.

We are tempted to advise the police that if they see someone staggering on the streets, especially after the midnight hour, to pick them up and have them spend the night at the station and release them in the morning but then again life is real, and

hard as it may seem, it must be said that if you enter the police station with a lot of money, expensive jewelry and a nice phone, chances are that, after sobering up, you might walk out of the station without bodily injuries but short of your cash, bling and phone.

You have been advised of the possible threats to your life and your property, the choice is now yours to make.



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- 2- Full Time English Teachers
- **2 Full Time Math Teachers**
- **1 Temporary Math Teacher (Sept. 08 June 09)**

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Minimum Qualification: Bachelor's Degree

Deadline for Application: May 30, 2008



Please send application to:

Chairman **Board of Governors** Sacred Heart College Inc. **P. O. Box 163** San Ignacio



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Email:starnewspaper@gmail.com - Sunday, May 18, 2008



Those Guatemalan School Aged Shoe Shine Boys

Dear Editor

I am seriously concerned about the increasing number of school aged shoe shine boys on the streets of San Ignacio during regular school hours.

The irony of this condition is that these boys are all from across the western border in Melchor de Mencos, Peten, Guatemala.

While many of us will know that these boys are not our Belizean children, the foreign visitor will, without finding out, erroneously assume that they are ours and therefore maybe take back that image of us to their native lands.

This kind of image is not good for us especially given that the welfare of a country is universally measured by the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens being the young and the very old.

I have no problem with these young entrepreneurs coming across our

border to make a buck, all I am saying is that they should not be allowed to do so during school hours due to the negative image it casts upon the entire nation.

As a front line of defense, I am calling on the Immigration officials at the western border station to dissuade them from coming over on weekdays. Some of them will undoubtedly seep thorough the cracks as they will find innovative ways to "*beat the system*".

As a second line of defence therefore, I am calling on the police to take appropriate action whenever these boys are found to have bypassed the first line of defense. After all child labor, apart from contravening the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, is illegal in Belize.

Taxi Operator, San Ignacio

Amazing





Modern Construck Donates To San Ignacio Police

In the midst of the recent increases in criminal activities, the business community and the Modern Construck, Construction Company Ltd. recently came forward to assist San Ignacio Police in its effort to bridge the Information Technology gap existent at the Police Station.

In this endeavor, **Rafael Marin**, Managing Director of Modern Construck Construction Company, handed over to the police two computers and a Color Sphere Hewlett Packard State of the Art Laser Printer. In expressing gratitude for the generous donation, **Sgt. Mark Flowers** who was on hand to accept the gifts on behalf of the Officer Commanding (Cayo) Police District, **Sr. Superintendent David Henderson**, informed Mr. Marin that the equipment will be put to immediate good use to enhance the detachment's deliver of improved quality service to the community.

Mr. Marin informed that his company will continue to look at ways to assist the Police in its ongoing crime fighting campaign.



Sgt. Mark Flowers (L) shaking hands with Rafael Marin (R) during handing over ceremony of the computers and printers at the San Igncio Policce Station



The Public Utilities Commission informs the general public that applications are being accepted for the 2008 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) "Youth Education Scheme (YES)" Scholarship. The Scholarship forms a part of the ITU's Children and Youth Special Initiative, in support of needy and deserving young people, from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developing countries who wish to complete their tertiary education in the information and communication technologies (ICTs) and related fields.

WeBAD is inviting those interested in their children, the community and the environment, to come and see this informative video especially church leaders, politicians, health workers, farmers and parents.

Will be showing the video on GMOs and Monsanto on Thursday, May 22 at 7pm at Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET), San Ignacio Town.

No Charge - Bring an open mind!!

<u>Eligibility Conditions</u>

- * Applicants must be Belizean
- * Be between 20 and 30 years of age
- * Provide a very good school curriculum
- Provide two letters of recommendation (preferably from teachers from the most recent schools attended)
- Provide an essay indicating their motivation to complete their studies

Priority will be given to applicants who wish to pursue their studies in their own country or in a neighbouring country, or region. The ITU Youth Education Scheme scholarship covers tuition fees (registration and studies), up to a maximum of ten thousand US dollars (US\$10,000). Tuition fees will be paid by the ITU directly to the relevant university.

Applications are being accepted by the ITU until May 25, 2008.

Application forms and other information can be accessed through the ITU link on the PUC website, www.puc.bz, or from *http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/youth/yes/youth_education_scheme.html*

VACANCY NOTICE OMBUDSMAN

Applications are invited from suitably-qualified persons to fill the vacant position of **OMBUDSMAN**.

Under section 3 of the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 5 of the Laws of Belize, the Ombudsman is a Parliamentary Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor-General, acting on recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf. The Office of the Ombudsman is not deemed to be an office in the Public Service.

FUNCTIONS:

The main functions of the Ombudsman are the following:-

- (a) To investigate complaints received from the public under the Ombudsman Act about the administrative act and decisions of the Central Government Departments (including the Belize Police Department), local authorities, and other public statutory bodies and State-owned enterprises, involving official corruption or other wrong doing.
- (b) To make recommendations to the competent authorities for appropriate action against the person(s) responsible, where there is evidence of a breech of duty, or misconduct or the commission of a criminal offence.
- (c) To review the decisions of the authorities in accordance with Part V of the Freedom of Information Act, where access to a document has been refused by a government department or other prescribed authority.
- (d) To perform all other functions assigned to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act or any other law.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

The candidates should possess the following qualifications and skills:-

- (a) Bachelor's degree in law, Business or Public Administration or other related discipline.
- (b) Experience in complaint investigation and resolution in the public sector.
- (c) Ability to deal with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds and to maintain an objective understanding of different perspectives.
- (d) Professional demeanor and impeccable credentials.
- (e) A thorough knowledge of the Ombudsman Act of Belize and the procedure prescribed therein for the investigation of complaint.
- (f) If possible familiarity of the workings of Ombudsman in other

VACANCY NOTICE CONTRACTOR GENERAL

Applications are invited from suitably-qualified persons to fill the vacant position of **CONTRACTOR GENERAL**.

Under section 3 of the Contractor General Act, Chapter 6 of the Laws of Belize, the Contractor General is appointed by the Governor-General, acting on recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf. The Office of the Contractor General is not deemed to be an office in the Public Service.

FUNCTIONS:

The main functions of the Contractor General are the following:-

- (a) To monitor the award and implementation of public contracts with a view to ensuring that (i) such contracts are awarded im partially and on merit; (ii) the circumstance in which each con tract is awarded or, as the case may be, terminated, do not in volve any impropriety or irregularity; (iii) the implementation of each contract conforms with the terms thereof; and (iv) there is no fraud, corruption, mismanagement, waste or abuse in the awarding of contracts by a public body;
- (b) To investigate any such fraud, mismanagement, waste or abuse, and take appropriate action;
- (c) To develop policy guidelines, evaluate programme performance and monitor actions taken by a public body with respect to the award, execution and termination of contract;
- (d) To monitor the grant, issue, suspension and revocation of any prescribed license, with a view to ensuring that the circumstances of such grant, issue, suspension or revocation do not involve any impropriety or irregularity.
- (e) To perform all other functions assigned to the Contractor under the General the Contractor General Act or any other law.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:

- (a) Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business or Public Administration, Law, Financial Analysis, Management Analysis or other related discipline.
- (b) Experience in the award and monitoring of public contracts.
- (c) A thorough knowledge of the Contractor General Act of Belize.
- (d) Professionalism and objectivity in financial analysis.
- (e) Impartiality, integrity and independence of judgment.
- (f) If possible familiarity of the work of in other jurisdictions.

The Contractor General shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in the above disciplines.

jurisdictions.

The Ombudsman must be non-partisan and a person of integrity and high national standing.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Under section 5 of the Ombudsman Act, no person is qualified for appointment as Ombudsman if he (a) is a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or (b) is a member of a local authority; or (c) is an undischarged bankrupt; or (d) has at anytime been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

AGE LIMIT:

Candidates should be between 30 and 62 years of age.

SALARY:

Subject to negotiation and subsequent confirmation by the National Assembly.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications and experience should submit their applications to the Clerk, National Assembly, Belmopan, **no later than May 31, 2008.**

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Under section 7 of the Contractor General Act, no person is qualified for appointment as Contractor General if he (a) is a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or (b) is a member of a local authority; or (c) is an un-discharged bankrupt; or (d) has at anytime been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude; or (e) is a party to, or partner in a firm, or a director or manager of a company which to his knowledge is a party to any contract with a public body.

AGE LIMIT:

Candidates should be between 30 and 62 years of age.

SALARY:

Subject to negotiation and subsequent confirmation by the National Assembly.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications and experience should submit their applications to the Clerk, National Assembly, Belmopan, **no later than May 31, 2008.**

Learn About The Risks Of Genetically Engineered Food

BY; George & Candy Gonzalez, SAN IGNACIO, Tuesday, May 13, 2008:

WeBAD is showing a video on GMOs and Monsanto on Thursday, May 22 at 7pm at Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET), San Ignacio Town.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) refer to plants, animals or microorganisms that are transformed by genetic engineering.

Multinational corporations (mainly Monsanto) have been filling market shelves for over 10 years with patented, unlabeled, genetically engineered food, part of an attempt to control the world's seed and food supply.

People have been told that it is safe, like we were told DDT and PCBs were safe for humans and the environment.

The technology is so new that the changes may have unintended, harmful consequences to people, animals and plants. In Europe, public concern over the safety of modified organisms has led to tight restrictions on imports and to consumer-labeling laws. In late March, a French court upheld a controversial ban on a variety of pest-resistant corn produced by Monsanto.

Below are excerpts from an article "Dangers of Genetically Engineered Foods" by Jeffrey M. Smith, author of the book Seeds of Deception, presenting some dangers of genetically modified foods and reasons to avoid them to safeguard our health.

Though the biotech industry claims the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has thoroughly evaluated GM foods and found them safe, that is not true. A manufacturer, in the U.S., can introduce a GM food without even informing the government or consumers because they claim the food is no different and doesn't need safety testing.

A 2002 report by the UK's Royal Society said that genetic modification "could lead to unpredicted harmful changes in the nutritional state of foods," and recommended that potential health effects of GM foods be rigorously researched before being fed to pregnant or breastfeeding women, elderly people, those suffering from chronic disease, and babies.

There are only about two dozen published, peer-reviewed animal feeding studies on the health effects of GM foods.

• One study showed evidence of damage to the immune system and vital organs, and a potentially pre-cancerous condition. When the scientist tried to alert the public about these alarming discoveries, he lost his job and was silenced with threats of a lawsuit.

• Two other studies also showed evidence of a potentially pre-cancerous condition. The other seven studies, which were superficial in their design, were not designed to identify these details.

• In an unpublished study, laboratory rats fed a GM crop developed stomach lesions and seven of the forty died within two weeks. The crop was approved without further tests.

With soybeans, serious nutritional

differences between GM and natural soy were omitted from a published paper.

There are no adequate tests to verify that GM food will not create dangerous allergic reactions.

The only human feeding trial ever conducted confirmed that genetically engineered genes from soy transferred to the bacteria inside the

digestive tract. (The biotech industry had previously said that such a transfer was impossible.)

The World Health Organization, the British and American Medical Associations, and several other groups have expressed concern that if the "antibiotic resistant marker genes " used in GM foods got transferred to bacteria, it could create super-diseases that are mune to antibiotics

The biotech industry says that millions have been eating GM foods without ill effect. This is misleading.

• About 100 people died and 5-10,000 to fell seriously ill when they consumed the food supplement L- tryptophan. Only those who consumed the variety that was genetically modified became ill.

• Milk from rbGH-treated cows contains an increased amount of the hormone IGF-1, which is one of the highest risk factors associated with breast and prostate cancer, among others.

• Soy allergies skyrocketed by 50% in the UK, coinciding with theintroduction of GM soy imports from the U.S.

Isn't it better to err on the side of caution?? You decide. Come see the DVD on the subject and find out how to get more information.

Presently Belize has no laws to protect people, farmers, or the environment from the unknown impacts of GMOs. And we have no requirement that products be labeled if they contain GMOs.

We can't gamble with our health by accepting unsupported assurances that eating these foods or serving them to our children is okay. That would be overly optimistic or foolhardy.



A vacancy exists for the post of *Environmental Officer* at the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL).

Position Purpose: To manage BECOL's environmental activities in a professional manner with minimal supervision.

Duties:

- Coordinating and supervising activities under BECOL's Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) such as, water quality monitoring, wildlife and scarlet macaw surveys
- Coordinating and supervising BECOL's Public Education Program, aimed at various stakeholders. This program focuses on BECOL's environmental operations. Activities may include, conducting presentations, hosting booths at trade shows and coordinating public meetings
- Coordinating BECOL'staff training in relation to the Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Ensuring spill response kits and other EMS requirements are available at each hydro plant
- Preparing press releases and coordinating responses to media enquiries.
- Coordinating environmental sponsorship initiatives
- Coordinating and supervising internal and external communication initiatives relating to BECOL's environmental operations
- Liaising with local government, environmental groups and other stakeholders
- Managing BECOL's ISO14001 Management System
- Ensuring senior management apprised of all environmental concerns
- Preparing progress reports on environmental initiatives, with focus on various ECP and EMS



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- requirements
- Assist BECOL with other administrative support duties as the need arises

Qualifications:

- Minimum of Associate Degree in Environmental Science, Biology, or equivalent program
- Be computer literate with working knowledge of word-processing and spreadsheet applications
- Good command of the English language; an added proficiency in Spanish would also be an asset

Requirements:

- Posses good verbal and written communication skills
- Possess good time management and organizational skills
- Be assertive
- Possess good human relations skills
- Demonstrate initiative
- Must reside in or relocate to San Ignacio\Santa Elena or Benque Viejo Town

Salary:

The remuneration package is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested persons should send a letter of application along with their curriculum Vitae and letters of reference	
by May 31, 2008 to:	Administrative Assistant
	Belize Electric Company Limited
	P.O. Box 87
	San Ignacio Town, Cayo District

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* STAR HUMOR*

Passenger Scares The Cab Driver

The taxi driver is driving down Burns Avenue when the passenger tapped him on the shoulder intending to for him to stop at Evas Restaurant.

The driver screamed, lost control of the car as it jumps over the drain, knocks down a table and some chairs in fornt of the restaurant and stops just inches from the door.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look

Identifying The Frequent Visitor

Miss Alice went to the San Ignacio Market last Saturday morning and spotted a large, beautiful parrot. There was a sign on the cage that said \$15.00.

"Why so little?" she asked the Chinese Lady selling the bird.

The owner looked at Miss Alice

sir, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "It's okay, that's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a funeral van for the last 25 years."

and said, "This bird used to live in a house of prostitution and sometimes it says some pretty vulgar stuff."

Miss Alice thought about this, but decided she had to have the bird anyway. She took it home, hung the bird's cage up in her living room and



waited for it to say something.

The bird looked around the room, then at her, and said, "New house, new madam."

Miss Alice was a bit shocked at the implication, but then thought, "That's really not so bad."

When her two daughters returned from school the parrot took on look at them and said, "New house, new

madam, new girls."

The girls and their mother were a bit offended but then began to laugh about the situation considering how the bird was raised and where it came from.

Moments later, Miss Alice's husband came home from work.

The bird took one look at him and said "Hi Keith!"

Another Successful Open Day at **Galen University in Central Farm** PRESS RELEASE - Galen course. The winner may audit the

University, Wednesday, May 14, 2008:

About 350 students from various high schools and junior colleges, parents, prospective students and the general public visited Galen University on Friday May 9th and Saturday May 10th for the University's Open Day.

Visitors learned generally about Galen University and had a chance to

course or, if they qualify for admission to Galen University, they can take the course for credit. The lucky winner for this year's grand raffle was Charles Cucul a third year student of Baptist High School. Charles says that while he will not use his prize in the coming academic year, he hopes to use it later when he is ready for university. Galen University congratulates Charles Cucul on

Candace Willacey, Galen's Marketing Officer, remarked, "The event was very successful. Our guests had a chance to hear about our US dual degrees and Galen's new Bachelor in Elementary

Galen would like to thank all the guests and schools who showed up to make this event a successful one. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you for Open Day



BE WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS PREVIOUS WORKING REFERENCI

Sunday, May 18, 2008 - STAR - Tel:- 626-8822 & 626-3788 - Email:starnewspaper@gmail.com - Page 9

Education Week 2008 11 to 17 May

Address by Minister of Education,

Hon. Patrick Faber

on the Opening of Education Week, May 12, 2008



Hon. Patrick Faber, Minister of Education

This morning we are here for the launch of Education Week 2008 with the theme: "Education: OUR key to social justice and a safe, healthy environment". Let us examine this theme in more depth.

There is a widely held view that education cures all ills in society...that somehow if we get education right that we would rid ourselves of all our other social problems. You just have to listen to the talk shows, have conversations with friends, listen to community members...everyone is saying that education is the key! This is borne out further by the observation that every sector of society wants to have their concern addressed through education...

The environmentalists want to ensure that environmental education is taught in our schools...

Those involved in the fight against HIV-AIDS and other health issues want to have space in the curriculum...

The business sector wants us to teach entrepreneurship in our schools...

Still others are calling for farming/ agriculture to be a part of the curriculum...

Those fighting the scourge of drug abuse want children to be taught the dangers of drug use...

Faced with rising crime and violence, many call for the teaching of life skills...

Faced with a breakdown of family structures and values, others want family life education...

Education is clearly seen as the answer to all our problems! And when we continue to have these problems despite the investment in education, we conclude that the education system is failing and lay blame at the feet of those involved in education...the Ministry of Education, schools, principals and teachers. Secondary school repetition rate (2005-2006): 7.4%

Secondary school dropout rate (2005-2006): 10.4%

Secondary completion rate (2005-2006): 59.7%

42% of students achieving less than Satisfactory Level on CXC English A (2004)

45% of students achieving less than Satisfactory Level on CXC Mathematics(2004)

(The statistics for boys is worse than that for girls in all cases.)

Percentage of trained teachers at primary level (2005-2006): 46.7% (as low as 36% in the Toledo district)

Percentage of trained secondary school teachers (2005-2006): 34.8%

22.5% of recurrent budget spent on education (2004-2005)—as much as 90% goes to salaries.

Can we blame anyone for concluding that if the education system was fulfilling its role that many, if not most, of our social ills would disappear?

Yet this view is of a very black and white picture...it is a very simplistic, perhaps superficial, view of cause and effect in education. It paints a picture of an education system that is somehow insulated from the society it serves but yet able to influence/ improve that society through its educational outputs and outcomes (the students and what they learn in school). It's a picture of schools that, though they draw the students, teachers, and administrators from the surrounding society, are somehow able to insulate them from that society without, and then transform and release them into that same society to create a better society.

You will rightly note that our theme for Education Week seems quite in line with this simplistic view...that education is our key to social justice and a safe, healthy environment. And indeed, my own passion for education is because of its potential for positively transforming our Belizean society. However, I wish to challenge all of us to examine the theme a little more deeply to see that it goes beyond the simple black and white picture that I alluded to previously. To do this, I wish to relate to you a story as told by Jamie Vollmer, the former CEO of the Great Midwestern Ice Cream Company - People Magazine's choice as the "Best Ice Cream in America". The story is called the "Blueberry Story: The teacher gives the businessman a lesson", perhaps you have heard it before. Here it is as told by Mr. Vollmer: *"If I ran my business the way you"* people operate your schools, I wouldn't be in business very long!" I stood before an auditorium filled with outraged teachers who were becoming angrier by the minute. My speech had entirely consumed their precious 90 minutes of in-service. Their initial icy glares had turned Continue on Page 10



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NOTICE Government of Belize

Professional and Technical Scholarship Awards 2008

The Government of Belize is offering Professional and Technical Scholarship Awards for 2008. These scholarships are tenable **ONLY** at the University of the West Indies, the University of Technology in Jamaica, and the University of Guyana.

Limitation to the Awards

The scholarship award is limited to **Bachelor's Degree Programs** only and is applicable for a maximum of three (3) consecutive academic years of study in so far as students remain in good standing for the duration of the program. Only in exceptional cases will the Ministry of Education consider **Post Graduate Programs**.

Coverage of the Awards

The scholarship covers tuition (including Economic Cost), allowances for room and board, books, and incidental expenses. The quantum of such allowances will be based on recommendations obtained by the Ministry of Education from the respective Universities. Airfare and matriculation cost will **NOT** be covered under the scholarship award.

<u>Eligibility</u>

1. Applicant must be citizen of Belize

2. Applicant must gain acceptance into the respective Faculty of the University at which he/she proposes to attend.

3. Applicant's course of studies must be from among the following national priorities, which are not listed in order of preference

- **a.** Agricultural Economics
- **b.** Agriculture Marketing/Trade
- c. Chemical/Civil Electrical/
- Mechanical Engineering
- d. Computer Science
- e. Curriculum Development
- **f.** Economics
- g. Geology
- **h.** Public Administration
- i. Early Childhood Education & Development
- j. Special Education
- **k.** Vocational and Technical Education Administration
- I. Hospital Management and Planning
- **m.** Finance
- **n.** Psychiatry
- **o.** Nursing Administration
- **p.** Transport Technology
- **q.** Labour and Employment Relations

Who can challenge this view in the face of the statistics?

9.4% primary school repetition rate (2004-2005) (10.6% for boys)

Primary school survival rate (2005) shows that about 10% of students entering infant 1 will not survive to complete primary school

Primary completion rate (2005) indicates that more than half of students in infant 1 will not complete primary school in 8 years.

As many as 70% of students achieved below satisfactory level on PSE (2006)

Secondary school net enrolment rate (2005-2006): 45.3%

(Please note that Law and Medicine are not included in the list of National Priorities)

Other Conditions of the Scholarship Award

Each Scholarship recipient will be required to return to Belize whenever he/she successfully completes his/her course of study and to serve the Government of Belize (or with the permission of the Government of Belize, serve in the private sector in his profession or calling) for a period of four years commencing from the date of employment in Belize. Applicants will be required to sign a Bond Agreement with the Government of Belize in this respect.

The scholarship is normally for the duration of the program of studies and requires that the scholarship holder maintains passing grades at the University where he/she is enrolled.

Application Forms can be obtained from the District Education Centers or at the Ministry of Education in Belmopan.

All completed Forms must reach the Ministry of Education in Belmopan no later than Friday, June 6, 2008.

Address by Minister of Education, Hon. Patrick Faber on the Opening of Education Week, May 12, 2008 From Page 9 English teacher who had b

to restless agitation. You could cut the hostility with a knife.

I represented a group of business people dedicated to improving public schools. I was an executive at an ice cream company that became famous in the middle1980s when People Magazine chose our blueberry as the "Best Ice Cream in America."

I was convinced of two things. First, public schools needed to change; they were archaic selecting and sorting mechanisms designed for the industrial age and out of step with the needs of our emerging "knowledge society". Second, educators were a major part of the problem: they resisted change, hunkered down in their feathered nests, protected by tenure and shielded by a bureaucratic monopoly. They needed to look to business. We knew how to produce quality.Zero defects! TQM! Continuous improvement!

In retrospect, the speech was perfectly balanced - equal parts ignorance and arrogance.

As soon as I finished, a woman's hand shot up. She appeared polite, pleasant – she was, in fact, a razor-edged, veteran, high school English teacher who had been waiting to unload.

She began quietly, "We are told, sir, that you manage a company that makes good ice cream."

I smugly replied, "Best ice cream in America, Ma'am."

"How nice," she said. "Is it rich and smooth?"

"Sixteen percent butterfat," I crowed.

"Premium ingredients?" she inquired.

"Super-premium! Nothing but triple A." I was on a roll. I never saw the next line coming.

"Mr. Vollmer," she said, leaning forward with a wicked eyebrow raised to the sky, "when you are standing on your receiving dock and you see an inferior shipment of blueberries arrive, what do you do?"

In the silence of that room, I could hear the trap snap.... I was dead meat, but I wasn't going to lie. "*I send them back.*"

"That's right!" she barked, "and we can never send back our blueberries. We take them big, small, rich, poor, gifted, exceptional, abused, frightened, confident, homeless, rude, and brilliant. We take them with ADHD, junior



HOUSE FOR RENT

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Beach, restaurants, and grocery stores are just a few minutes walk away.

Monthly \$2,500.00 USD plus electricity (water and gas included). (Water and gas included) Weekly \$500.00 USD plus electricity. (Water and gas included) Call: 226 3420 <u>APARTMENT FOR RENT</u> (Monthly –Weekly rates)

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye Villa Three (1 Bedroom, 1 bathroom) Pool, San Pedro, Royal Palm Area.

700 square feet of living space. Will sleep 4. Bedroom has 2 single beds and living room has a queen futon. Full sized fridge, air conditioned, telephone, hot water. Cable TV, microwave, small toaster oven, electric 2-burner stove, dishes, cookware, coffee maker and blender, towels and linens are also provided. rheumatoid arthritis, and English as their second language. We take them all! Every one! And that, Mr. Vollmer, is why it's not a business. It's school!"

In an explosion, all 290 teachers, principals, bus drivers, aides, custodians and secretaries jumped to their feet and yelled, "Yeah! Blueberries! Blueberries!"

And so began my long transformation. Since then, I have visited hundreds of schools. I have learned that a school is not a business. Schools are unable to control the quality of their raw material, they are dependent upon the vagaries of politics for a reliable revenue stream, and they are constantly mauled by a howling horde of disparate, competing customer groups that would send the best CEO screaming into the night.

None of this negates the need for change. We must change what, when, and how we teach to give all children maximum opportunity to thrive in a post-industrial society. But educators cannot do this alone; these changes can occur only with the understanding, trust, permission and active support of the surrounding community. For the most important thing I have learned is that schools reflect the attitudes, beliefs and health of the communities they serve, and therefore, to improve public education means more than changing our schools, it means changing America.

The shortcomings of the business model as applied to education are easily identifiable from this story. In the business model it is useful to think of a business in terms of inputs (financial, material and human resources invested), processes (the business and industrial processes used to convert inputs into products and services) and the outputs/outcomes (the services and products that are produced). Accordingly, in the story above the student is viewed as an input and whereas in the ice cream business blueberry inputs that did not meet a certain standard could be sent back, in the education business by the very nature of our endeavor we have a moral responsibility to students notwithstanding their genetic and/or socioeconomic and family backgrounds. To do anything less would be to undermine the higher of the student does not realize that teacher/school cannot do it without their active participation and support. Similarly, the teacher/school who gives up on a student because he is 'not up to standard' does not realize that they are providing a service to a client to whom they are accountable.

I do not wish you to leave from here thinking that the point of the Blueberry story is to suggest that schools have nothing to learn from operating like businesses. In fact, I am of the opposite view that there is a lot to be had by operating our schools more like businesses, especially as it relates to planning for improvement and monitoring the quality of the services and products we offer. Additionally, I do not know of any business which survives without consulting and being accountable to its clients and having friendly relations with the community it serves. However, I wish to make the point that schools cannot do it alone. Whereas schools like businesses must reach out to their clients and surrounding communities, unlike businesses, because of their higher purpose and the resultant role conflict described, there is need for mutual understanding and support between schools and the communities they serve and that schools cannot change the community alone...it has to be a community effort.

Therefore there is much to be learned from this story. Firstly, schools (the wider education system) can become better by becoming more business-like in planning for and monitoring the quality of the education they provide to their clients. (To this end, the MoE will be instituting inspections of schools for quality assurance and requiring schools to plan for, implement and monitor school improvement.) Secondly, in keeping with our theme, there is the recognition that for things to change, "educators cannot do it alone...that changes can occur only with the understanding, trust, permission and active support of the surrounding community"...and that means each of us. (MoE is working collaboratively with the Ministry of Human Development to address the issue of truancy.) Furthermore, there is the recognition that "schools reflect the attitudes, beliefs and health of the communities they serve and therefore to improve them means more than changing our schools, it means changing Belize." Again this requires that each of us be actively involved through our individual and collective actions. Every member of the community must act in a manner that shows human solidarity. A neighbour must not be just in a physical sense of proximity. As parents, we must adopt the attitude that any child is my child and it takes a village to raise a child. Therefore as our theme says, Education is OUR key...and as you know keys do not open doors by themselves. Keys must be supported, positioned and turned by the person possessing the key in order to open a lock. Education is OUR key and it is up to us to support, position and turn this key to open the door to social justice and a safe, healthy environment.

Weekly - \$700.00 USD plus electricity (water and gas included). Call: 226-3420.

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purpose of education in transforming individuals and society.

But it goes further than this. It goes to how we view the student and his parents and how that student and his parents view themselves. Are the student and his parents to be considered inputs to the educational process? Are they a part of the process? Is not the student a product/outcome of the process based on what he has learned? Or are the student and his parents clients purchasing an educational service or product? I would like to argue they are all of the above and hence the role conflict that students, parents, teachers, schools and the community often find themselves in. The student/ parent who wants the teacher/school to go easy on him does not realize that he is shortchanging himself.

Alternatively, the student/parent who believes that the teacher/school bears all the responsibility for the education

WO WEEKS - TWO MURDERS >>> **From Front Page**

when shortly after 12 midnight, the companion ordered and paid for a single shot of tequila and at his insistence, Ali swallowed the drink. Ali and the companion, who was wearing a red t-shirt, were the only customers sitting inside the establishment after midnight while there was a group of customers, who live just across the street, sitting outside in the yard under a palapa.

Just before leaving, Ali reportedly requested two stouts on credit and being a regular customer of the bar, the Chinese owner honored his request. He had not finished drinking the stout when he left the pint on the counter and exited the bar at around 12:20 a.m.

The other person who is not a known patron of the bar, reportedly asked the Chinese owner if Ali was gone and when Ali was pointed out walking up Joseph Andrews Drive heading in the direction of the Bullet Tree Road, the younger male person likewise left the bar heading in the same direction. And that was the last time the deceased and his companion were seen.

The bar was closed for business at around 12:45 after the customers sitting under the palapa left.

Although the time line is somewhat close, investigators are baffled by the swiftness of the occurrence combined with the fact that although Ali was literally butchered, residents in the neighborhood could provide very little information on hearing a commotion. This therefore tends to suggest that Ali might have been approached from behind and the first injury he received was the large cut wound to the throat thereby muffling any sound. This could likewise be factored into the reason why he was found lying on his back after which he might have been pounced upon and repeatedly stabbed, more than 15 times in the chest.

The common-law wife informed that Ali is not the kind of person who would have a large amount of cash in his possession and although he had money at home, she later found out that the only cash missing was fifty dollars.

After parting ways with Prosser Fertilizer, Ali worked as a field supervisor with BNE (Belize Natural Energy). He also worked at OIRSA (on the site of the National Agriculture Show Grounds in Roaring Creek Village). After parting ways with OIRSA, he worked for a short time at the San Ignacio Commercial Center and lastly as a sales agent with Belize Food Supplies.

A female relative described Ali as an easy going and fun loving person who was very close to his family and parents. "He was a regular drinker and would mostly frequent the neighborhood bars such as Legends and the nearby Chinese establishments like Sankar and Pin Mei. He was not a trouble maker" said the relative "If he would get drunk in any of these places he would take a nap there

to revive after which he would usually buy a food and bring it home to his family. We will all miss him very much." concluded the relative.

Ali Orlando Flores is survived by his parents, Orfelina and Francisco Flores; Two sisters Gladys and Lilly Flores and one brother Roberto Flores. He is also survived by a common-law wife, Aidi Martinez,

one son and a daughter as well as two step children.

Funeral service was held at 3:00 pm, on Tuesday, May 13, at Sacred Heart Church in San Ignacio and the body was laid to rest inside the Santa Rita Cemetery also in San Ignacio. Our sympathies go out to the bereaved family as we pray for the eternal resting of the soul of Ali **Orlando Flores.**

Robateau Gets Five Years ark possession. From Front Page

to experience tremendous pain and to lose a lot of blood from the injury.

He also gave evidence that the accused stole his cellular telephone complete with carrying case, wallet containing his student's identification card, his white and dark blue K-Swiss tennis shoe and \$15 worth of digicell telephone cards, all for a total value of \$779.

In his defense, Robateau gave a sworn statement from the witness stand denying his involvement in the crime but his attempts at a defense quickly crumbled when prosecutor George Gomez asked him to explain how was it that the students's wallet containing his school identification card was found by the police in his Robateau was also asked to explain

how he came about the other items including the Sony Erickson cellular telephone and the K-Swiss tennis shoe.

He was unable to provide the court with a credible explanation and in the end Mark Robateau was found guilty of robbery and was sentenced to spend the next 5 years in jail.





At long last, a place in Cayo, where abused women and children can seek assistance

NOTICES

LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SULLY SANDOVAL** is applying for a **RESTAURANT LIQUOR** LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate ZULY'S PARADISE located in the Baking Pot Area of Central Farm 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 **DAVID MOLINA** is applying for a NIGHT CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate POOMBA ROOM located on Buena Vista Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

From Front Page

to strengthen and ensure the safety and protection of women and children affected by domestic violence.

The organization presently offer 24 hours access to a safe shelter, supportive confidential counseling as well as education and information.

It's mission statement is "By providing safe shelter, support and education Mary Open Doors is committed to empower and improve the well-being of women and children in the Cayo District, affected by domestic violence.

A safe shelter in the Cayo district is critical and Mary Open Doors intends to fill that void by creating a resource that will serve our community and open its doors to sister organizations

throughout the country.

Mary Open Doors serve clients with utmost respect for their basic values of human dignity, integrity and confidentiality and without discrimination as to color, creed, religious or political persuasion, social status, educational background or nationality.

The office is located on the corner of Bullet Tree Road and Church Street, San Ignacio Town. Some of the older folks will recognize the location as the old offices to the Town Board.

The postal address is Mary Open Doors, P. O. Box 93, San Ignacio Town, Cayo.

Mary Open Doors can also be reached by telephone number 626-5780 or by email at maryopendoors@gmail.com

such as Plywood, Celotex, Lumber, Maya & Cessa Cement, Cement Blocks in all sizes, Roofing, Doors, Windows and a whole lot more. **MONTERO'S** LUMBER YARD At your service always Jose Marin, Manager

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