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 reportedly paying. They remained seated and drinking at the bar for about 2 hours working toward the same cause.

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 already existing in the country that are working toward the same cause. The objective this newest NGO is
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 executive power to arrest, 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 suffer untold tortures, the prosecution would eventually request for the court to withdraw charges because of the “lack of evidence”. 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 incarcerate many innocent persons.

Unfortunately, in almost every instance, the victims of these abuses andpelican police are the poor and helpless 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 “proposed preventative detention orders” in a committee. On the surface, this might appear to provide an oversight against potential 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, the police must clearly “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”. Can you tell you or do they 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 National Prosecutors, who 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).

Moreover, we have learned that Magistrate Court acts as a first line of defense by way of the Preliminary Inquiry (PI) requirement which is the mechanism to ensure that there is enough evidence to commit a matter for trial. However, too often it 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 cases that are worthless in lieu of the reason 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 corrupt.

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 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 evidence to commit a matter for trial. A policeman can claim in front of a Justice of the Peace that illegally deprived of their constitutional right to liberty and the protection of the law.

2) We say that the system has become outrightly 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.

On a rather personal note, when we joined in the public demonstrations against government’s breach of their promise to increase the GST by 200% (from 1 to 3%), we became targets of that 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 Eulatio Canton (may his soul rest in peace) issued the instruction for the police to “search warrantdbus. Nonetheless, ACPT’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. However, we promptly arrived there 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 that he had no warrant. For 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 17 of his 17 paragraph report to the Police Commissioner 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 bill”, then at every announcement of a demonstration they would come for us and hold us in the name of “preventive detention”. If this was done to all those “radical elements” who stand up for that which the masses know to be an injustice against all of us.

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”.
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 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 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.

 Vacancies exist at Sacred Heart College for the posts of:
1 - Part Time Social Studies / Geography Teacher
1 - Part Time Religion / Spanish Teacher
1 - Full Time Information Technology Teacher
1 - Full Time Biology Teacher
2 - Full Time English Teachers
2 - Full Time Math Teachers
1 - Temporary Math Teacher (Sept. 08 – June 09)

A professional background in education would be an asset.

Minimum Qualification: Bachelor’s Degree

Deadline for Application: May 30, 2008
Letters to the Editor

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 may 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 defense 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.

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Such as cellular telephones, gold jewelry, fashion jewelry, watches, Music CD’s, DVD’s and much much more.

Drop in today and take advantage of our affordable prices.

WeBad Invites All To Movie Showing

On GMO's and Monsanto

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!!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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.

Eligibility Conditions

★ 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/education/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 breach 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 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.

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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 in a fair and impartial manner and on merit; (ii) the circumstances in which each contract is awarded or, as the case may be, terminated, does not involve any impropriety or irregularity; (iii) the implementation of each contract conforms with the terms of contract, 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, issuance, suspension or revocation do not involve any impropriety or irregularity.

(e) To perform all other functions assigned to the Contractor General by the Contractor General Act or any other law.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS:
The candidates should possess the following 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.

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 undischarged 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 (CCEIT), 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, unlabelled, 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-labelling 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 feeding them to people.

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 the introduction 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.

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Belize Electric Company Ltd.

A VACANCY

BECOL

A FORTIS COMPANY

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 appraised of all environmental concerns
• Preparing progress reports on environmental initiatives, with focus on various ECP and EMS 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 written and verbal communication skills
• Posses good time management and organizational skills
• Be assertive
• Posses 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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Telemedia’s HomeFone Service

Existing Fixed Line customers:
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New Fixed Line customers:
- Get 1/2 OFF Installation & a FREE $50 card*

Check out our NEW Phone Models + Get HUGE discounts on selected models

*Some rules apply. Visit Telemedia booth for details.

Sign up at the Telemedia booth for Karaoke Competition

Dial 0-800-CALL-BTL for more information
The owner looked at Miss Alice Chinese Lady selling the bird.

$15.00.

There was a sign on the cage that said spotted a large, beautiful parrot.

Market last Saturday morning and Miss Alice went to the San Ignacio in the cab, then the driver said, “Look Identifying The 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 spotted a large, beautiful parrot.

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.”

Another Successful Open Day at Galen University in Central Farm course. The winner may audit the 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 his win.

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 Education program.”

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 2009.

Juan Chuc’s Store
931 Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo Telephone #: 924-2146

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Monday: Draft Beer
Tuesday: Local Rum
Wednesday: Margaritas
Thursday: Piña Colada
Friday: Micheladas

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Monday thru Frid__ 5 to 7 P.M

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PLEASE FORWARD YOUR APPLICATION FORMS TO:
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#18 Buena Vista Street
San Ignacio, Cayo

ATTRACTION SALARY AND BENEFIT PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS IS:
WEDNESDAY MAY 21ST, 2008.
As many as 70% of students in infant 1 will not complete primary school indicates that more than half of students achieve 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 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 key to social justice and a safe, healthy environment. And line with this simplistic view...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.

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%
English teacher who had been waiting for me. She began quietly, "We are told, sir, that you manage a company that makes good ice cream." I smiled, "I make ice cream in America, Ma'am."

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

"Sixteen percent butterfat," I crowed.

"Premium ingredients?" she inquired.


"Mr. Vollmer," she said, leaning forward with a wrinkled eyebrow raised to the sky, "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 ADH, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and English as their second language. We take them all! This is very odd. And that, Mr. Vollmer, is why it’s not a business. It’s school!"

In an explosion, all 290 teachers, principals, assistant principals, 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. School are unable to control the quality of their raw material, they are dependent upon the vagaries of politics for a reliable reverse stream, and they are constantly at the mercy of disparate, competing customer groups that would send the best CEO screaming into the night.

None of them 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. We cannot do this alone; these changes can only occur 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 family backgrounds. To do anything less of disparate, competing customer groups and programs is not a reasonable solution. On the contrary, a community effort.

Therefore there is much to be learned from this story. Firstly, schools (the word education system) must become better by becoming more business-like in planning for and monitoring the quality of the education they provide. (To this end, the MoE will be instituting inspections of schools for quality assurance and requiring schools to plan for, implement and monitor school processes and outputs.) Secondly, in keeping with our theme, 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 efforts. As a member of the community each of us 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 each child is my child and it takes a village to raise a child. Therefore our theme says, Education is OUR key… and as you know keys do not open doors by themselves. Keys must be supported, possessed and used. Therefore it is up to each of us possessing the key in order to open a lock. Education is OUR key and it is up to us to support, position and turn the key to open the door to justice and a safe, healthy environment.
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 ORISA (on the site of the National Agriculture Show Grounds in Roaring Creek Village). After parting ways with ORISA, 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, Orfelia 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.

Mark Robateau Gets Five Years

Robateau was also asked to explain how he came about the other items containing his school identification card was found by the police in his possession.

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BEAT THE HEAT with our Icecoolers, Sunglasses, Umbrellas, caps and washrags
FEEL COMFORTABLE IN OUR BREEZY shortpants, blouses, sandals & purses for the ladies. Sandals for the children and other footwear for men.
There are many, many more items at Bismillah Stores
In San Ignacio Town and in Belmopan City

And When in Belmopan this weekend, we invite you to stop in at Bismillah Store on Constitution Drive where there are bargain prices for every member of the family.

For Quality Merchandise At Unbeatable Prices Always Visit Bismillah Stores Customer Satisfaction - Guaranteed!!!