Football legend Robert “Rabu” Garcia departs this life

Mr. Robert “Rabu” Garcia

Saturday, 30th May 2009, ROBERT GARCIA, a man of humble beginning will be laid to rest in Dangriga Town. RABU lost the battle with cancer after three years. His treatment in Merida did bring some relief but later his abdominal pains were severe. It was not long after on Thursday 29th May 2009, that connection with the same incident. Jacob Holloway 21 year-old, University Student of the United States presently staying at the Chaleanor Hotel in Dangriga Town, reported to police that at about 11:45 p.m. on May 22, he was walking on Stanley Drive along with Casey Bailey 20 year-old, US National also staying at the same Chaleanor Hotel and 2 Canadian friends from Pal’s Guest House namely Richard and James when they reached the iron bridge near Jungle Hut they were attacked by three dark-skin males. Two of the attackers had their faces covered except for the tall slim gunman who relieved Mr. Holloway of his $160USD Bulovo watch. The other two robbers took Casey Bailey’s brown wallet containing a debit card; a $70USD Pulsar watch and one $70USD Cannon Camera. The total value of items stolen was $300 USD. The three men then got on their bicycles and rode off. Nothing was stolen from the two Canadians.

Belize Shakes as Magnitude 7 Earthquake hits Honduras

Quake Zone
A little after 2:20 this morning Dangrigans and other Belizeans were forced from their beds and into the streets because of earth tremors caused by an earthquake in nearby Honduras. According to reports from Aljazeera.net at least four people were killed and 40 others injured. Many homes on the Caribbean coast of Honduras fell. The 7.1 magnitude quake struck at 2.20 a.m. (0820GMT) on Thursday 64km from Roatan, the biggest of Honduras’ Bay Islands. “We have confirmed four dead,” Randolfo Funes, an official at Honduras’ civil protection agency told Aljazeera. “They were all asleep. Most of them died crushed ... There will be many more deaths.” A six-year-old girl in the Honduran beach town of Morazan was killed when one of the walls of her house fell on her. Another man in the nearby town of Tela suffered a heart attack when the quake struck and was taken for treatment.

Scenes of fear
Local residents told of scenes of fear as people struggled to find safety and some were trapped under buildings. “I felt the car rock and I started to hear little bits of debris from the building next door hitting the roof,” Pedro Ramirez, a security guard who was in his lorry outside an office building in Tegucigalpa when the tremor hit, said. “It was frightening because it was shaking a lot. I’ve never felt anything like it.”

Dangrigans gathered in the streets to share their experiences in the early morning hours. Most people say that they had never felt tremors this strong before. There was only minor damage and no deaths in Belize.

Dangriga Town
Police have arrested 25 year-old FRANCIS AUGUSTINE and a 14 year-old FRANCIS AUGUSTINE and a 14 year-old student pending charges of robbery after police found him with a watch that was reported stolen in a robbery. Police say that they are looking for GLENDFORD CASTILLO JR. and COREY BERMUDEZ in connection with the same incident. Jacob Holloway 21 year-old, University Student of the United States presently staying at the Chaleanor Hotel in Dangriga Town, reported to police that at about 11:45 p.m. on May 22, he was walking on Stanley Drive along with Casey Bailey 20 year-old, US National also staying at the same Chaleanor Hotel and 2 Canadian friends from Pal’s Guest House namely Richard and James when they reached the iron bridge near Jungle Hut they were attacked by three dark-skin males. Two of the attackers had their faces covered except for the tall slim gunman who relieved Mr. Holloway of his $160USD Bulovo watch. The other two robbers took Casey Bailey’s brown wallet containing a debit card; a $70USD Pulsar watch and one $70USD Cannon Camera. The total value of items stolen was $300 USD. The three men then got on their bicycles and rode off. Nothing was stolen from the two Canadians.

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Redemption Through Social Action

There are a number of men in our community who feel strongly enough to stand up and do something about what they see taking place around them. “Men for Social Change”, a faith-based organization, has taken up the challenge of confronting some of the social problems that plight the community of Danagrha. The group believes that men have been receiving a raw deal from society, (man da dwag), and their first plan of action is to respond “to the historical global perception that men are virtually non-existent in our homes and communities.” They “seek to rekindle and celebrate the God given qualities, position and role of men.”

Man’s rightful position, perceived or actual, cannot be above or below that of the rest of humanity. We, as human beings, are all equal. God is equally in all of us. This is what we fight for, for this fact to be recognized and accepted by all.

Throughout the fundamental and basic struggle of humankind, continues to be the one for equity, equality, human rights and an end to oppressive structures that value one role or one biological attribute over another. No one should need reminding that these are the same structures of oppression that we were chained to and now, seemingly, are unwilling or unable to let go of, even though it has proven over and over again that only a few have benefitted from it as the majority of us continue to suffer beneath this oppressive weight.

Perception is tricky business. It can lead us astray if we cannot interpret what it is we are seeing. There’s no doubt that as a category men have been blamed for much that is wrong in the world. And there’s also no doubt that all men benefit to a lesser or greater just because of the biological fact of their being males.

Still, it would be mistaken to believe that all men have the same degree of social and economic power. This is simply not true. Power, political power, economic power, military power, in other words, the power of coercion, the power to force others to do what you want them to do resides in the hands of the state which basically serves the interests of relatively small groups of men. In such a system all men are not created equal and many men (as well as women and children) are victims of this system of inequality. To be sure, even as men and women are exploited and oppressed by the state there are differences in how they are affected.

Although women do most of the hard work and provide most of the support for political parties and their candidates this hard work is not reflected by women’s representation in parliament. Women have not been able to take their rightful place in the arena of political power.

Generally speaking being male in our society carries more status than being female. Males make more money and are allowed to behave in certain ways that are denied women. The bottom line however is that this imbalance has created numerous social and economic problems for our community. Domestic violence is only one of the problems suffered mainly by women where men can really play a positive role to end it.

It means therefore that men’s rightful place in society is in the struggle side by side with women to overcome the problems that afflict our community. Aside from the problems associated with domestic violence there are several areas that need urgent attention in which men can step up and make a huge contribution.

It is obvious that our young people need mentoring and leadership from members of the community in which they live. This is not perception, it is reality. There are many spaces and areas where men can fit in to help our young people. Our young people need to learn how to be human and how to live together in peace. Besides our valuable women, who is there to help them learn this fact of life? Other critical areas of need include a school feeding program, support for an AIDS hospice and feeding program for those in need.

Men as active, positive contributing members of society have never been more needed. Whatever image problems that exist will change when men are seen to be doing positive things in their community. Social change is a process that only occurs through positive social action. And of course the change begins with us.

Letter to Grigalizeans

Continuation Lands Corruption

My fellow Belizeans,

With regards to last week’s edition of the “Wabagari Post” again, we have to admit that this continuous problem of corruption lies mostly among ourselves. I stated that this problem is sometimes caused by family members and people that are very close to us but there are also swindlers (Scam Artists) out there fulfilling their financial covning, greedy lifestyle. As we may all know Danagrha, Caye and somewhere else up north. These forgeries had absolutely nothing to do with the Public Servants of The Ministry Of Natural Resources and this was exactly what I was trying to share with you all.

I strongly believe that instead of pointing fingers at anyone, our Government need to restructure all departments to deter some or if not most of these activities. (e.g.) Make sure that a thorough property/land title search be conducted, written and signed instrument be issued to searcher by that department prior to preparation and registration of conveyances. This might not stop forgery or fraudulent conveyances but it will slow it down. Too many times I have seen conveyances that were prepared by Attorneys, signed by Attorneys and Justices Of The Peace with big time errors. Some of the documents were allowed to be registered. Ask me how I know, I have in my possession some of these conveyances that were registered or were held back by injunction filed by the ministry.

Buyer beware, word of advice to you. If you’re purchasing any property within The Ministry Of Natural Resources that is unregistered, visiting the Lands Department in Danagrha. If you’re purchasing in any other district, visit the Lands Department in that jurisdiction. Our Public Servants are there to help you and they will. Request to see index file for property you’re interested in purchasing and ask the officer to explain every detailed information to you in that index file up to the point of how and when title was granted to the Vendor (Seller). You can then go to Belmopan and conduct a secondary research at “Titles Department”. Once you are satisfied with your research, have vendor sign a declaration, witnessed and signed by an attorney or Justice Of The Peace that, he/she does not have mortgage (loan) against the property.

Seller, if you have your title, please don’t let go of it until you get your funds in your hands for your own security. You get paid, then you hand over all documents, trust me. I trusted a very good friend, so I thought and this person left payment we agreed upon but instead he left what he wanted with his mother-in-law in an envelope to give to me. I could have kicked myself in the butt, but it thought me a lesson. “Gawd noh like ugly”. People, please read these scriptures and share them with your family and friends (Luke l6:1-17) (Hebrews 13:1-16) (Matthew 19:24).

I don’t want to ruffle any feathers, so I would like to explain that the Justices Of The Peace that are signing all documents are doing it in good faith and are also victims of these swindlers acts. My advice to them would be to make sure that you are signing for all free from encumbrances before you sign these documents. We can point fingers all we want but it takes all of our efforts as Belizeans to help each other and not destroy each other.

People, we will all leave everything we ever accomplished here on earth behind one day. Even di plat da berring ground noh safe, ah hear family di quartel ova grave space lot ah time. I know of family members that claim that they’re throwing obyeah enna deh grand aunt yaad fi run ah outta shi own yaad. They just don’t know how our Maker work, so I’m praying for them because deh noh know how deh gwen. For those of you that are victims of fraud, I am willing to assist you with your investigations free of charge. You can reach me at: garbelromagic@yahoo.com This week’s Scriptures: (Proverbs 3:27-30) After all we noh di only wans weh involve eena dis ya ting Griga but we wah help wan anada ahn fite di devil. Scriptures for this week: (Proverbs 2:1-15) (Proverbs 10:1-32) (Matthew 7:1-29) (Matthew 18: 15-20) (Luke 12: 13-21) Galatians 5: 16-26) Galatians 6: 1-10) (Ephesians 6: 10-20) and final scripture of the week (James 5:7-20).


Null Respect

Terrence Martinez
As I begin to write this article, I ponder within my inner self if the elected Village Council members are familiar with the Village Council Act. I am saying this, because a number of councils allow themselves to be manipulated by our elected government officials. I do not even hear about any other community leaders within Stann Creek rural who are complaining or praising the effects of development in the area. Is it because most of the Village Council leaders are UDPs and opted to offend the Area Representative? Is it because they are afraid to speak out in fear of victimization? Whatever their reasons are, they need to be reminded that they are elected by the people and they must manage the affairs of their communities without fear or favour. They need to understand and accept that they are governed by an Act and should not allow government to shield some of its projects from the scrutiny of the residents who elected them to office.

Part Four of the Village Council Act Revised Edition 2000, stipulates clearly the powers and duties of Village Councils. In summary, it states that every village council shall be charged with the good government and improvement of its village and the enforcement of the provisions of any other laws and of all by-laws and regulations relating to the development of the community. It must be emphasized that if village leaders pay heed to this section of the Act there is no reason for them to be afraid to exercise their powers within their communities. In a number of cases, the village leaders wait on the government Ministry to tell them what they, the councils, need to do in their communities.

Furthermore, the Act also advises the Village Council that whenever it implements any of its plans or proposals, that it shall take into consideration the views and opinions of villagers. Regrettably, in most cases, this section of the Act is seriously violated. Often Village Councils put into action their plans without meeting with the residents to listen to their views. Equally, as a matter of fact, a number of projects are executed in the rural communities at the discretion of the Government Ministry or Department, rather than according to the Act. This action causes an ongoing disconnect between genuine project goals and actual funded activities.

The Act also warns the Government Ministry or Department that if there is intention to make any decision or policy or to carry out any act affecting a village, that the council shall be consulted before doing so. It continues to state that as far as practicable, the views of the council shall be taken into account. Often, violation of this section of the Act has led to the dormant behaviour of a number of Village Councils in the area. Before the end of the three-year term, a number of council members get frustrated and resigned. It gives the alternative that wherever the decision, policy or action affects the village the Ministry or Department shall consult with the Association of Village Councils. There is nothing in the Act that gives any Government Ministry or Department the power to decide policies in the communities.

Notwithstanding the spirit of the Act, let us not lose focus that the Association is politically motivated. Moreover, the Minister may make regulations for the composition of and procedures to be followed by the Association. Therefore, this is the case of who pays the piper calls the tune.

If for whatever cause the Ministry or Department decides (Turn to pg. 11)
CARICOM Chairman Dean Barrow

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad - May 25, 2009

A five-member task force is to be established to come up with a clear and focused response for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to the global economic crisis.

CARICOM Chairman Dean Barrow said yesterday that the task force, headed by Barbadian economist Dr. Delisle Worrell, would be looking specifically at how the region could access funds agreed to by the G20 group of nations at their meeting earlier this year.

“One of the immediate mandates of the task force is to ascertain exactly what the position is there and based on the information that would be forthcoming, help us design the modalities for access,” the Belize Prime Minister said at the end of a special one-day caucus of CARICOM heads yesterday, adding that the region will be making its voice heard on what should be done with the funds.

Guyana’s President Bharrat Jagdeo said the region would have to know how much and in what form the funds would be required.

“We also have to determine and make a case that we are different than the large countries, we are different from other countries in the world. Most of our countries are middle income countries but highly indebted but still very venerable,” he said. “We have to show our vulnerabilities; show that a single event could have a systemic impact on our societies. So we need special attention, a special facility, special instruments.”

Yesterday’s meeting was convened at the request of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning and was aimed at giving regional heads an opportunity to review the measures taken individually and regionally to combat the crisis and to fashion a response to the continuing effects of the global contagion. The caucus was held a week before, CARICOM Heads of Government are expected to participate with other world leaders at a United Nations (UN) Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development to be held at UN Headquarters in New York from June 1st to 3rd.

CARICOM Heads of Government, as a group, first addressed the challenge of the crisis at a meeting of the Bureau of Heads of Government last November in Antigua and Barbuda and looked at the situation again in Belize in March at their 20th Inter-Sessional Meeting.

Groups of leaders have also been meeting to address particular issues arising from the crisis.

Fire kills girls at correctional facility; Jamaica PM orders probe

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 25, 2009

Jamaica’s Prime Minister Bruce Golding has ordered an investigation into a fire at a correctional centre that claimed the lives of five of the inmates and injured 13 others.

He said a Commission of Enquiry will be ordered to determine exactly what took place at the Armadale Juvenile Correctional Centre.

Retired Court of Appeal President, Paul Harrison has agreed to be the sole Commissioner and the Commission will begin working once the instruments have been signed by the Governor General.

The tragedy unfolded around 8 pm last Friday at the institution, which housed 61 inmates.

Police reported that they were summoned to quell the rowdy behaviour of some of the girls and stones and missiles were hurled at the officers who visited the facility, which located in the central parish of St Ann.

It was during that time that police discovered that a section of the building which housed 23 girls, was on fire. The fire quickly spread, engulfing the entire building and trapping the girls inside.

The police rescued some of them through a rear window but when the fire was extinguished, the bodies of Ann-Marie Samuels, Nerrissa Gooden and Rachel King, all aged 17 and Kaychell Nelson and Shauna-Lee Kerr, both 15, were found.

Three of the 13 injured girls are being treated at the Kingston Public Hospital for second degree burns. The others are at the St Ann’s Bay Hospital.

The tragedy has prompted security at the correctional centre to be beefed up, with additional correctional officers and police officers now stationed there.

Prime Minister Golding, who visited the facility after the incident, also expressed grave concern about the safety of the girls because the facility had been set on fire before.

Part of the building had been abandoned because of a similar incident previously.

Children’s Advocate, Mary Clarke, has described the death of the five girls as a tragedy.

“It is a sad day for all Jamaica that five children should have died in a fire this way. The staff and the girls are very sad but it is encouraging to know the quick action that the Department of Correctional Services took, to get persons to counsel them - psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors are here with the girls,” she told JIS News.

Clarke said her office would be monitoring the developments in the matter.

“We will watch the proceedings. For us it is a long process. We have to find out exactly what happened, and then we have to wait on the police and the fire report. Our interest is always, down the line, to see if there is there need for a civil suit on behalf of the girls...we are here gathering our facts,” she said.
Children’s Corner
The Story of SQUIRREL NUTKIN

This is a Story about a tail - a tail that belonged to a little red squirrel and his name was Nutkin. He had a brother called Twinkleberry and many cousins; they lived in a wood at the edge of a lake. In the middle of the lake there is an island covered with trees and nuts and bushes amongst those trees stands a hollow oak-tree, which is the house of an owl who is called Old Brown.

One autumn when the nuts were ripe and the leaves on the hazel bushes were golden and green, Nutkin and Twinkleberry and all the other little squirrels came out of the wood, and down to the edge of the lake.

They made little rafts out of twigs and they paddled away over the water to Owl Island to gather nuts. Each squirrel had a little sack and a large one to spread out upon their tails for a sail. They also took with them an offering of three fat mice as a present for Old Brown and put them down upon the stone.

Then Twinkleberry and the other little squirrels made each a low bow and said politely - "Old Mr. Brown, will you favour us with permission to gather nuts upon your island?"

But Nutkin, who had no respect, began to dance up and down, tickling old Mr. Brown with a nettle and singing -

"Old Mr. B! Riddle-me-ree! Hitty Pitty within the wall, Hitty Pitty without the wall; If you catch Hitty Pitty Hitty Pitty will bite you!"

Mr. Brown woke up suddenly and he shut the door in Nutkin's face. Presently a little thread of blue smoke from a wood fire came up from the top of the tree, and Nutkin peeped through the key-hole and sang -

"A house full, a hole full! And you cannot gather a bowl-full!"

The squirrels searched for nuts over the island and filled their little sacks. But Nutkin gathered oak-apples - yellow and scarlet - and sat upon a beech-stump playing marbles and watching the door of Old Mr. Brown.

On the third day the squirrels came up very early and went fishing: they caught seven fat minnows as a present for Old Brown. They paddled over the lake and landed under a crooked chestnut-tree on Owl Island.

Twinkleberry and six other little squirrels each carried a fat minnow but Nutkin, who had no nice manners, brought no present at all. He ran in front singing -

"The man in the wilderness said to me, 'How many strawberries grow in the sea?' I answered him as I thought good - 'As many red herrings as grow in the wood.'"

But Old Mr. Brown took no interest in riddles - not even when the answer happened. The squirrels filled their little sacks with nuts. But Nutkin sat upon a big flat rock and played nine pins with a crab apple and green fir-cones.

On the fourth day the squirrels brought a present of six fat beetles, which were as good as plums in plum-pudding for Old Brown. Each beetle was wrapped up carefully in a leaf, fastened with a pine-needle pin. But Nutkin sang as rudely as ever - "Old Mr. B! riddle-me-ree! Flourof England, fruit of Spain. Met together in a shower of rain; Put in a bag tied round with a string; If you tell me this riddle I'll give you a ring!"

Which was ridiculous of Nutkin, because he had not got any ring to give to Old Brown.

"The other squirrels hunted up and down the nuts in hollies but Nutkin gathered robin's pin-cushions off a briar bush and stuck them full of pine-needle pins.

On the fifth day the squirrels brought a present of wild honey; it was so sweet and sticky that they licked their fingers as they put it down upon the stone. They had stolen it out of a bumble bee's nest on the tippity top of the hill. But Nutkin skipped down and jumped singing -

"Hum-a-bum! buzz! buzz! H u m - a - b u m b u z z ! As I went over Tipple-tine I met a flock of bonny swine; Some yellow-nacked, some yellow beaked. They were the very bonniest swine that e'er went over Tipple-tine."

Old Mr. Brown turned up his eyes in disgust at the impertinence of Nutkin but he ate up the honey!

On the sixth day, which was Saturday, the squirrels came again for the last time; they brought a new laid egg in a little rush basket as a last parting present for Old Brown. But Nutkin ran in front laughing and shouting -"Humpty Dumpty lies in the beck With a white counterpane round his neck. Forty doctors and forty wrights Cannot put Humpty Dumpty to rights!"

Now Old Mr. Brown took an interest in eggs; he opened one eye and shut it again. But still he did not speak.

Nutkin became more and more impertinent -

"Old Mr. B! Old Mr. B! Hickamore, Hackamore, on the King's kitchen door; All the King's horses, and all the King's men, Couldn't drive Hickamore, Hackamore, Off the King's kitchen door."

Nutkin danced up and down like a sunbeam but still Old Brown said nothing at all.

Then Twinkleberry and the other squirrels scuttled away into the bushes. When they came back very cautiously peeping round the tree - there was Old Brown sitting on his doorstep, quite still, with his eyes closed, as if nothing had happened.

But Nutkin was in his waistcoat pocket!

This looks like the end of the story but it isn't.

Old Brown carried Nutkin into his house, and held him up by the tail, intending to skin him but Nutkin pulled so very hard that his tail broke in two, and he dashed up the staircase and escaped out of the attic window.

And to this day if you meet Nutkin up a tree and ask him a riddle, he will throw sticks at you and stamp his feet and scold and shout -

"C u e k - c u e k - c u e k - c u e k - t o r - c u e k - k-i-k!

THE END
What’s On The Mind: Developmental Disabilities Awareness

Jenean Adderley Castillo, Ph.D.
whatsonthemind@hotmail.com

Last week in the Wabagari Post, I read the article titled, "Not Disabled, only Differently Able" and I would like to echo the sentiments of the author and continue the discussion. I work for an agency that provides services and supports to individuals with disabilities and their families. In my line of work, I encounter many with physical disabilities as well as cognitive or developmental disabilities. In addition, as the parent of a child with a developmental disability, I think it is also important that disability awareness includes not only those with a physical handicap but those with intellectual difficulties as well. And of course, we cannot ignore those with dual diagnoses or multiple disabilities.

Indeed, in Belize we have a long way to go before catching up to the needs and demands of all individuals with a disability. The first step, of course, is through education.

As mentioned last week, individuals with physical challenges may have unique talents, such as knitting, or some undiscovered talent because no one invested the time or energy to learn what they may be good at or to teach them a skill. In addition, these individuals often have a hard time upon first glance, individuals with a developmental disability might not be easily identifiable. There may not be any overt sign of a handicap, but as one observes their behavior it becomes obvious that the behaviors may not be typical. Individuals with a developmental disability do not necessarily have a physical handicap; however, they have impairments in mental or cognitive functioning and may require lifelong care. The term developmental disability is also used synonymously with cognitive disability and intellectual disability and includes mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome, for example. The causes include birth defects, genetic abnormalities, traumatic brain injury, or environmental hazards.

Regardless of the type of disability or the reason for it, it is important to remember that those affected are individuals too and deserving of the same standard of care and quality of life as the rest of us. While as a country and society, we have a long way to go to elevate the care and services for individuals with disabilities, each step in the right direction counts. This includes awareness campaigns such as Disabilities Week. I would also like to challenge our government and agencies to do more and this will happen more quickly through community pressure. Therefore, I also want to challenge each of you, particularly those of you without any limitations to your functioning, to take this opportunity to make a personal commitment to change or do one thing differently that would contribute towards the betterment of those who are differently able. It has been said that a society will be judged by the way it treats those who are least fortunate and that includes individuals with disabilities.

Out-a-Wageirale

Graduation time again, is overspending for this occasion necessary?

Beginning this weekend we will start to hear the pomp and circumstance resonating from all corners of our educational institutions. It will be playing and singing the praises of the achievement of our children in their educational career over periods of eight, twelve or fourteen years. For some it will be sixteen up to twenty years. It is therefore highly important that I take this week’s article to reflect on whether the successful completion of our children’s education is worth celebrating to the extent that we as parents so elaborately do at times.

An article of this nature will bring mixed reviews and it is an issue that is well worth asking you that they refuse to even bargain about or discuss because celebrating their children’s graduation like their christening is very important. It is worth buying the hundred dollars shoes, two hundred dollars dress and five hundred dollars chain. You see, parents hold the education of their children at such high esteem that it could only be equated to their religious or political belief. Yet I will try to provoke some thoughts about the expenses we go through at this moment and question whether or not it is worth it.

On Tuesday, I was listening to the radio when I heard someone call-in programs soliciting money for her child’s graduation. She was asked how much money she needed and she said just over seven hundred dollars to cover graduation fees, a graduation ring, prom, outfits and some other event. This caller caused me to reflect on whether some of the expenses we put out on our children/families through are really worth it. I graduated from High School some twenty nine years ago and I do not have a graduation ring. I kept wondering why did this mother stoop so low to beg for this. Her child will definitely not die if he/she do not go to prom or have a suit. The most important thing is to be certified to have completed his/her academic career up to a certain point.

Then comes the most important question, is our expenses finished after graduation? The answer is “no” because it could take years after graduation before your child is able to find a job to sustain himself. Then, is all the money on graduation worth it? Out of the thousands of Belizean children who graduate I am certain that only ten to twenty percent of them will be recognized for employment. I feel for those children who believe that they may leave Primary and High School and become gainfully employed. My message for them is that they are building castles in the sky. Like my old buddy Mr. Stann Creek often said, “They are pushing their spades where there is no dirt.” There is no space for them in this competitive world. Therefore, is it worth all the money being spent on them?

I am someone who believes in self evaluation. I think that our institutions of learning have got to do serious and sincere evaluation of their curriculum to determine the correlation between what the purpose or demands of the institution and the...
Out-a-Wageirale

Graduation time again, is overspending for this occasion necessary?

(Cont'd from pg. 6)

demands of the labor force. I am certain that while we focus heavily
on academia, it is also important
that emphasis must be placed on
the vocational and technical
aspects as well. You see,
we cannot all be doctors, lawyers,
public servants, nurses etc. This is
the exact reason why our public
service becomes top heavy. If we
will call a spade a spade we will
realize that our parents and
teachers telling children to ensure
that they learn at school in order
to fall reaching for the
stars and if by chance
they would have been given
an opportunity to enjoy some
measures of success as stipulated
by our pillar or education
learning to do.” Until this
genesis  I  am  certain  that
education will become more
adequately manage themselves
before our children are able to
time is here; spend moderately
out at nothing. Graduation
exercises because I am tired of
fitness of life
keeps us from ministering to
another as we should. I think
Paul Tripp hits it on the head
when asked, “What is the greatest
hindrance to cultivating
community in the American
culture?” Here is his reply:
The first thing that comes to
mind is frenetic western-culture
busyness.
I read a book on stress
a few years back and the author
made a side comment that
I thought was so insightful. He
said that the highest value of
materialistic western culture is
not possessing. It’s actually
acquiring.
If you’re a go-getter you never
stop. And so the guy who is
lavishly successful doesn’t quit,
because there are greater levels of
success. “My house could be
bigger, I could drive better cars,
I could have more power, I could
have more money.”

SHUSH!!!!! SHUSH!!!!!

1. The patron rear guards are on a SUV rental
spree. Lots of honey and plenty of milk.
2. Triple X movies now available with local stars at
a resort in the south.
3. The cleaning of the beach stop? Who will bell this
cat?
4. The P U P fielding petition to take back the party
hall? Stake must be high?
5. The recession finally reach Griga. The U D P
campaigners are now open about it. Two weeks work
just no cut it. Any report on the use of the beach up
north of Griga?
6. Just this hard time boy, everybody cannot find the
one with the money.

Acknowledgement

Dangriga’s very own and
former student of the
Dangriga
Holy Ghost School
Hermese Velasquez,
graduated from the
University of
Massachusetts -
Amherst with
a Bachelors degree
on Saturday,
May 23, 2009,
Hermese was
recently hired
as a Client Manager
at a prestigious
Insurance Company in
Boston.
My heartfelt
CONGRATULATIONS
TO HERMERE and her
mom.

From
Althea Lewis

Pastor's Corner

The Hindrance to Church Community

So, how busy has your week
been? Has it been so busy that
you haven’t had time to pray,
fellowship or call someone in
need? The reality is that all of us
are busy and the busyness of life
keeps us from ministering to
one another as we should. I think
Paul Tripp hits it on the head
when asked, “What is the greatest
hindrance to cultivating
community in the American
church?” Here is his reply:
The first thing that comes to
mind is frenetic western-culture
busyness.
I read a book on stress
a few years back and the author
made a side comment that
I thought was so insightful. He
said that the highest value of
materialistic western culture is
not possessing. It’s actually
acquiring.
If you’re a go-getter you never
stop. And so the guy who is
lavishly successful doesn’t quit,
because there are greater levels of
success. “My house could be
bigger, I could drive better cars,
I could have more power, I could
have more money.”
And so we’ve bought
an unbiblical definition of the
good life of success. Our kids
have to be skilled at three sports
and play four musical
instruments and our house has
to be lavish by whatever
standard. And all of that stuff is
eating time, eating energy,
eating money. And it doesn’t
promote community.
I think often that even the
programs of a local church are
so sectored and too busy. As if
we’re trying to program
godliness. And so the family is
actually never together because
they’re all in demographic
groupings. Where do we have
time where we are pursuing
relationships with one another,
living with one another, praying
with one another, talking with
one another?
I’ve talked to a lot of families
who literally think it’s a victory
to have 3 or 4 meals all together
with one another in a week,
because they’re so busy. Well,
if in that family unit they’re not
experiencing community,
there’s no hope of them
experiencing it outside of that
family unit.
We have families that will
show up at our church on
Sunday morning with the boys
dressed in their little league
outfits and I know what’s

(Turn to pg. 9)
HIGH TIME FOR THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT TO END BTL MONOPOLY OVER THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY IN BELIZE

Mr. Wellington C. Ramos

When the People’s United Party gave the company of BTL, the sole authority to control the telecommunications industry in Belize, it was a decision that benefitted them and their own self interest against the citizens of Belize. When I visit Belize, it is hard for me to accept the fact that many Belizeans have a telephone in their house and cannot make a telephone call because they are afraid of the huge cost to them if they make too many calls. Their telephone is just sitting there like an ornament in their homes. Many of them have to wait for somebody to give them a few dollars to go and buy some minutes to use their telephones.

The cards are sold by the same people who have them paying a monthly bill for the telephone that they cannot use. If they were to reduce their monthly rates, the money to buy the cards could be used to make regular telephone calls. Since the companies are making money the way it is now, they refuse to fix the problem to benefit the consumers. Most students in schools today need to get on the internet to obtain updated information to do their research assignments for their courses.

Many families in Belize cannot afford the telephone and cable rates so their children depend on the Internet Cafes to get online to do their school work. A majority of the libraries in Belize do not have updated books and materials for the students to gather information to complete their assignments.

The Supreme Court in Belize has now ruled that the contract signed between the past government and BTL is illegal. Since that ruling is now official, the contract is no longer valid and cannot be enforced. The Belize Government can now decide to open up the bidding process for other companies to come to Belize and compete with BTL or consider not allowing them to continue operating in Belize. This company, over the past year was even refusing to pay its taxes, despite the fact that they were making millions of dollars from the Belizean consumers. The Belize Government has and obligation to the citizens of Belize and not to BTL. The citizens of Belize should be given affordable and reliable services at all times.

Whenever any company fails to meet this important test, then it is time for the Government of Belize to re-examine their contractual obligations.

Economics teach us that competition is good for the consumers because it will create a climate where these businesses will always compete among themselves to provide reliable, affordable and dependable service. It also will lower the cost of the commodity that the supplier is making available to the consumers. Currently, we have BTL as a monopoly and that is not good for the consumers. They are the only company in this business and if they fail to provide a needed service, the Belizean people will be affected severely when they need to use the service. A good example is tuning on to the radio stations in the United States. There are many days when we are trying to access Belizean radio stations and cannot and when we do get through we constantly get cut off again. The Electrical Company in Belize is also causing a lot of problems to the country of Belize and I am against having a foreign country control our electrical supply because that will seriously affect our national security.

If I were to tell somebody that a company from Mexico is controlling our electrical supply and we can get cut off whenever the subsidiary company in Belize does not meet their obligation they would laugh at me. I just hope that all the agencies that are part of our National Security Network have generators to back us up in the event of a national security crisis. With this Guatemalan threat constantly going on, we need to get back control of our electricity so that we can control our own switch. Yet, based on the information I have received from reliable sources, this is the case with the electrical supply in Belize. In the past government got rid of a lot of governmental services by deregulating the governmental departments and creating family controlled monopolies. Those families are the same families that had a stake in everything at the expense of most Belizeans.

Belize does not belong to a few Belizean families but all Belizean families. Now this government must not have any fear in taking back Belize from these families and give our country back to all of us who make up the majority of people in this country. Belizeans are not foolish people and they are not going to tolerate all this foolishness that occurred under the previous People’s United Party government. This new administration is trying hard to clean up the mess they inherited but litigation and legislation must be the focus. While the court is doing its part in making decisions on those illegal contracts, the government must table legislation to correct all those injustices that happened under the previous administration. The issue of deregulations of our industries is one that is worth to be debated in our country because the impact of those deregulations are causing damage to our citizens.

Case of missing propellers

Dangriga Town - May 26, 2009

The propellers from Jorge Rosado’s glass skiff are missing and a police investigation is underway.

Mr. Rosado reported to police that at 5:00 p.m. on the 23rd May 2009, he left his 23ft fiber glass skiff, with a 40 horse power Yamaha engine docked in the Rivas Estate Area of Dangriga Town. When he returned at 4:00 p.m. on the 25th May 2009, Mr. Rosado noticed the propellers for the engine were missing.

Man attacked by six for his bicycle

Dangriga Town - May 24, 2009

Police have detained FRANCIS AUGUSTINE and a 14 year-old minor pending charges of robbery and are looking for GLENFORD CASTILLO JR., COREY BERMUDEZ and two others after Victor Torres a 45 year-old Belizean Labourer of 1st New Site, Dangriga Town, reported to police that at about 9:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2009 whilst he was riding bicycle on Citron Street Dangriga he was attacked by six male persons. One who he known as GLENFORD CASTILLO JR.

A.K.A. CONDENSE hit him with 2 pieces of stick, on the right side of his face. Another person known to him as BRANDON took away his blue coloured beach cruiser bicycle valued $195 and the other known to him as FRANCIS AUGUSTINE was armed with a pistol and uttered the following words to him: “a wah kill you” placing him in fear of his life.

Police have recovered a male beach cruiser bike and one imitation pistol believed to have been used in the robbery.

Curtis Molina of Monkey River Village

Arrested for Theft

Monkey River Village, S/C

Police have arrested and charged Curtis Molina of Monkey River Village with theft after police searched his residence and recovered a black 9mm Smith & Wesson pistol, with (1) magazine containing three 9mm live rounds.

The pistol is the property of Randolph Bowers Molina and is valued at $3000.
center field, RABU went up five feet, laid his body in mid air, with his head pointing to O W goal and bicycle kicked the ball into the far corner of the net for a 1 nil victory for S/C. There are many other stories of his ball breaking wooden goal post, post office windows and branches of the blackberry trees. His legs were like two in one; a most powerful athlete. ROB was also fond of music and dancing to the tune of Mary had singing, beating the drums and districts he would entertain us during those long journeys late at night from games played in other districts he would entertain us singing, beating the drums and dancing to the tune of Mary had

When we think about togetherness, we think about including everyone. When all persons (the disabled, the sick, the poor, the children and the adults) are included, then we can say that there is equality. Each and everyone of us are important. Can you do everything by yourself? No. Can the carbon dioxide which you alone breathe out make the trees grow? No. Can you make a circle by yourself? No, I don’t think so. We need everyone to make the circle complete. Persons with disabilities have much to offer. They are not here by chance. God puts them in our lives for a reason. They can think, they can do things and they can understand. And like you, they need love, they want to be respected and they want to be recognized. When you think about persons with disabilities, their differences makes our lives richer. What if all the flowers were the same colour, size and shape? What would life be like if all of us thought the same way, looked alike and did everything the same way? There are some things that you can do better than your friends as well as, there are some things that they can do better. And of course we like them for that.

What can you do to help persons with disabilities? First, you can respect these persons. You see, these persons do not want your sympathy, nor do they want to be ridiculed. Nobody wants to be laughed at. You must also be able to emphasize with them. You see, you must understand that it could be you, so treat the person with love. Treat them just like how you would want to be treated. All of us are aware that when we join hands and put our heads together, much can be done. Let us continue to work together to help those who do things differently. If persons with disabilities are given a chance to grow to their maximum potential, then we can really benefit and learn from them. Together Everyone Achieves More!!
PISCES

May 29, 2009

You’re in a new phase of boldness that will continue for a while. People will obey. Try not to get too worked up over anything that goes wrong today -- you can take care of it quickly and move on. You may stumble onto something big and cool and kind of crazy in your adventures.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

Your family is not totally in sync with you right now. Get some space from them. Someone proposes a closer relationship -- though it may be quite far from romance! You should see if you can get more of your people to sign on, as this is definitely power in numbers today.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

When someone’s behavior rubs you the wrong way, the friction will be stimulating! Someone close to you completely drops the ball and fails to understand you when you are plainly joking -- awkward! You may need to apologize for something that really isn’t worth it.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

The bargain basement is not for you today -- you want quality, not cheap stuff. Sometimes -- like today -- you feel as if you don’t deserve what you’ve got but you need to let go of that bad energy. Dare yourself to take a little more and see how it all works out for you.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Your creativity is critical to the effectiveness of all your communication today. Your big heart is making life better for everyone around you -- and that includes you! It’s a great time for you to add new people to the family, helps others out at work or just smile at strangers on the street.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept 22)

You cannot do something just because it makes you look good. Be true to yourself. Your plans need to be a bit more flexible than usual today or they’re sure to go awry. If you can adapt yourself to changing circumstances, you are sure to find yourself on the right end of someone’s temper.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Say what has been on your mind -- a lot of people will agree with your feelings. Your creative energy is stronger than ever now and you should find new ways to make your life more interesting and appealing if you take the time to explore all your big, crazy ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Don’t be afraid to ask stupid questions. Your ego is healthy enough for curiosity. This is not an auspicious time for you to ask for a raise at work -- or any kind of indulgence from friends or family, either! It’s not that you don’t deserve it, it’s just that nobody can afford it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Devote some time today to treating yourself right. Let people miss you for once. Your creative powers are dominant today and you can easily wow clients or friends with your big ideas. It’s a great time for you to push the boundaries and get outside of your usual thinking.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

If you are negotiating any business deals now, it’s not going to be an easy day. Your friends and family are all trying to get you to do various favors for them -- but you’ve only got so much time in one day! You should try to prioritize but you still have to say no a lot.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Contradictions will be more helpful to you than agreements today. Seek conflict. Today brings a big shift in thinking or in the way you live your life -- and it’s almost certainly positive! You should find that you’re better able to cope with changing circumstances that are on the way.

PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20)

Your vision has been clouded by wishful thinking -- you need a reality check today. You are much better off working on your own today, no matter what you are trying to do. It’s not that you can’t get along with others, though -- they are just all doing things their own way without compromise!

APPLES

FRUIT

PRUNE

ASYRAGUS

BERRIES

GARDEN

RAIN

ASPARAGUS

BROCCOLI

GRAPE

RAKE

Bugs

CAGE

GREEN

SEED

CALIFLLOWER

CHERRIES

HOE

SHOVEL

CROPS

FARM

HARVEST

SQUEASH

FERTILIZER

FIELD

HOE

SQUASH

FLOWERS

FRUIT

SHOVEL

PLOW

FRUIT

VEGETABLES

PLOW

SEED

VINES

THE BARGAIN BASEMENT IS NOT FOR YOU TODAY -- YOU WANT QUALITY, NOT CHEAP STUFF.

SOMETIMES -- LIKE TODAY -- YOU FEEL AS IF YOU DON’T DESERVE WHAT YOU’VE GOT BUT YOU NEED TO LET GO OF THAT BAD ENERGY.
A man has an hour to kill before his flight to Los Angeles. He decides to kill some time at an airport bar. He walks in and sits down next to a clearly nervous guy, who has three empty whisky glasses in front of him. The man introduces himself to the nervous guy, and buys him a drink. The man asks, “Nervous about flying?”

“Yeah, but we’re getting farther and farther away,” the other added.

The nervous guy replies, “Why'd you bring paving?”

The wife said, “No, I fly cross-country all the time. It’s my job.”

“Is this your first time flying?”

The man asked sarcastically, “Relatives of yours?”

As they passed a barnyard of circus different clowns”, the people animal was running around. Looking out the fence, the people animal was running around. The people animal was running around.

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

No time for experiment. Reactionary approach to planning is doing to us. We must look at what is happening.

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. Another hunter approached pulling his along way. “Hey, I don’t want to tell you how to do something ... but I can show you that it’s much easier if you use a food grinder or food processor. As I go to pen and paper I must stoplight.

A rich, Christian man was talking to God, “Can’t I take it with me when I go?”

God always answered the same way, “NO!” Finally one day the man talked God into it and God said, “Okay you can take two suitcases full of anything you want.”

The man filled up two suitcases full of gold. When the rich man reached the pearly gates St. Peter asked the rich man why he had two suitcases. The rich man said, “It’s okay I’ve already cleared it with God.”

St. Peter asked him to open the suitcases, when the rich man opened the suitcase, St. Peter said, “Why’d you bring paving?”

Presentation:

Ayo

John gone

Word to the Wise

Prepared for disaster – a catastrophe so great it will change the way we live. Process and store food as individuals and this will alleviate the pressure on the government so that they can focus on other things:

A) Mango jam
B) Guava jam and jellies
C) Mango juice

We must look at what Ping Pong approach to Development is doing to us. Reactionary approach to problems.

No time for experiment. We need to follow the direction on the label.

Fidel Castro’s approach to Development where the state sees itself as resourceful not “pawns” in the Political circus, at election time.

Quote Grandmaster “Same circus different clowns”. Look out folks!

Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving

INGREDIENTS

1 lb conch meat
1/2 lg onion
2 stalks celery
1/2 red pepper
1/2 green pepper
Salt to taste
1 egg
1/3 cup self rising cornmeal
1/3 cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 cup
1/4 tsp hot sauce

COOKING METHOD:

Put conch through food grinder or food processor. Process with onion, celery, red and green pepper and mix with conch, adding salt and egg. Mix well. Mix together cornmeal, flour and baking powder. Add conch mixture. Mixture should be thick. Add milk and hot sauce. Drop by heaping tablespoon into deep oil until light brown. Drain. Serve with mayonnaise and lime juice.

From Ground to Table Mother Earth is Able

Conch Fritters Recipe - A Caribbean Delicacy

Ayo

John gone

The Village Council Act

The rule of laws that govern the council

By: Orlando Augustine

(Cont’d from pg. 3)

not to follow the advice of the council or agency, as in a number of cases, it shall explain its reasons in writing to the council before effecting that decision and provide the council further opportunity to present its case to the Ministry or Department. Generally speaking, if the Act is a body of rules prescribed to govern the actions of the Village Council, it needs to be reinforced and free from political interference.

In conclusion, anyone who seeks to hold office as a member of the Village Council must first be familiar with the rule of laws that govern the council.
BPFL SCHEDULE

Weekend Schedule

SOUTH

Sat. 30
George Town Ibayani vs Scorpions
Tafari vs Wagiya
Michael Ashcroft Stad.
Union Field
7:30PM
7:30PM

Sun. 31
Ilagulei vs Hankook Verdes
Carl Ramos Stad.
4:00PM

Week 10

Sat. 6
Scorpions vs Tafari
Michael Ashcroft Stad.
7:30PM

Sun. 7
Hankook Verdes vs George Town Ibayani
Wagiya vs Ilagulei
Norman Broaster Stad.
Carl Ramos Stad.
4:00PM
4:00PM

SOUTH

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