Our lives, our stories!! Our lives, our stories!! Our lives, our stories!! Our lives, our stories!! Our lives, our stories!!

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**By Orlando Augustine**

Over a year ago the raging flood of Tropical Storm Arthur destroyed Kendal Bridge the gateway which links the southern districts with other communities of country. Just a week ago, the residents of Stann Creek and Toledo Districts were compelled to endure the inconvenience of travelling to work and home as a result of recent obstruction because the bridge has not been replaced and moreover, the temporary causeway was underwater. It seems that the norm in Belize is that the temporary becomes permanent. Since the rainy season is upon the country, no doubt, we will experience more problems with the Kendal causeway underwater. Whatever the delay that causes the construction of Kendal Bridge, it appears that the minister responsible for roads and bridges do not see the replacement of this important artery as a priority on his list of projects. The effort of the government is insufficient and it needs to prove itself that it cares about the people of the south. I wonder if the same neglect would have happened in the northern and western districts. Where is our elected area representative to inform his colleagues about the urgency of this essential gateway?

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**Dangriga Beauty wins Miss Teen Belize**

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, the second annual Miss Teen Belize was held in Belize City at the Princess Hotel and Casino, King’s Room. Ten beautiful and talented contestants throughout the country vied for this prestigious title. Among the contestants was charming and lovely seventeen years old, Miss Jacy-Lee Pou who proudly represented her hometown, Dangriga. She displayed her extraordinary talents, grace, confidence and pride which wooed the judges and the audience. When the final decision was made, she captured the coveted title of Miss Teen Belize 2009-2010. Moreover, she won Miss Amity, which proves that Dangriga has friendly and pleasant people. Due to the inclement weather, it was obvious that there was not enough support in the audience from Dangriga. Despite this, it did not deter Jacy-Lee’s determination since her objective was to do her best to make Dangriga people proud. Among other prizes received, Jacy-Lee won herself a fully loaded computer and a trip (Turn to pg. 3)

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**Minor Missing in Dangriga**

Dangriga - June 21, 2009

Police are investigating the case of a missing girl. Mary Bernardz, 49 year-old of Dangriga, reported to police that her 14 year-old daughter left home on June 21 to an unknown destination and has not returned home. The child is of dark complexion, slimly built, narrow face with dark brown eyes and weighs about 130lbs The 14 year old girl was last seen wearing a blue and white blouse along with a light blue long pants and a pair of silver sandals.

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**Police Seek Help of Public in Southern Highway Murder**

Southern Highway, Stann Creek - June 14, 2009

Police are investigating the death of LUCAS ICAL, a 29 year-old Guatemalan construction worker of Red Bank Village Stann Creek District whose body was found by police in an area between mile 34 and 35 on the Southern Highway. Initial investigations reveal that at 5:00 a.m. on June 13, 2009 ICAL left home en route to Placencia Village to work and did not return to his home in Red Bank Village. (Turn to pg. 9)
**DUAL CITIZENSHIP: THE MIND THE HEART AND FOOTBALL**

There are several very good arguments to be made for dual citizenship and Belizens know all of them. This knowledge is inscribed on the bodies and carved into the hearts of those Belizens who were forced to leave Belize to seek a better life for themselves and their families. It was not economic necessity only that forced Belizens to leave the land they love so dearly. It was a combination of oppressive measures the most dominant being the rule of the colonial regime; but it also included ethnic bias, colorism as X put it, class discrimination and political victimization among a variety of oppressive practices that forced many Belizens to leave their homeland and seek their fortunes elsewhere.

Belizens know the benefits - the economic benefits and the opportunity for personal development that opened up when they moved to a different country. For many Belizens, the chance to gain an education, earn enough money to take care of their families back home, save enough money to bring them to foreign, and also save enough to buy a home was only possible outside of the social and political confines of Belize.

Acquiring another nationality also provides other advantages for one’s family. Being a national of another country makes it easier to get permanent immigrant status for family members and close relatives. In addition Belizen nationals residing overseas can be a source of intellectual capital for Belize because of their unique experiences gained in their host country which can be brought to bear in supporting Belize’s socio-economic and political development process. Dr. Grant and his cancer treatment facility right here in Dangriga is an example of that. So, Belizens are quite aware of the benefits both to the individual and the nation that are possible under dual nationality.

This however is not the same thing as having a non-native Belizen being able to become Prime Minister of Belize; by non-Belizen one simply means someone who was not born here. Personally, I see nothing wrong with a “natural-born” Belizen with dual nationality running for the highest office in the land, with one proviso: that person would have to give up their other nationality. It is an obvious conflict of interest.

One argument put forward is that as it stands, the constitution discriminates against native-born Belizens with dual nationality and rewards persons who:

> “Never ever seeing Belize until they are 50 years old, having been born and grown up their entire life in a foreign country, they can sit, in (Parliament) but the Belizen who was born here, spent his entire childhood here, half of his adult life, and went away to the States and got the second nationality, he can’t sit until his renounces that second nationality.”

There is a simple solution. Change the law so that a non-native has to renounce his former nationality the same way that a native Belizen is now required to do. You’ve got to give up something to get something.

Surely, if nationality means anything, it must be that native born people have some rights that come with being a native or “natural-born.” There must be some reward for giving unwavering allegiance and loyalty to only the country of birth. This must have some value. It must mean something!

How does football fit into this argument? Until the 1990s African football was of little importance on the world scene. But during the 1990 World Cup elimination, the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon defeated the defending champions Argentina 1-0 and shocked the world. To advance to the next round Cameroon needed only a draw or not allow the Soviet Union to score more than 2 goals. Coaching the Indomitable Lions in that World Cup was Valeri Nepomniatchi a Russian, when he was asked about his feelings going into the match Nepomniatchi said that his “heart was with the Soviet Union, but his mind was with the Indomitable Lions”. Under suspicious circumstances The Lions lost a game they should have won to a weak Soviet team 4-0.

**Letter to the Editor**

**“A PROMISE IS A COMFORT FOR A FOOL” (SIX AH WAN HALF A DOZEN AH DI ADDA)**

My Beloved Grizalizeans,

First, nuff respect to my brother Mr. Jose Lewis and Rad. I want you both to know that you have my full support towards reaching our politicians for a better Griga. This is just my respect to the people, and I want you all to understand where I'm coming from. In past editions of the "Wabagari Post", I mentioned about visitors from NICH, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Hereidia's future "BBT" project meeting held at the Pelican Resort, and the erosion of our Beach. Personally, I am tired of these people taking us, the people of the forgotten South, for granted. Almost everything that came out of their mouths was a bunch of (B.S) and broken promises, which we are all immune to by now. These Clowns and their Puppets come into our Districts on our tax dollars with a bag of carbon dioxide and return to their villas thinking that they put another one on us. Then, we have our very own (Governmentally) local politicians that are in some call-power that look down on their own people to go right along with the above-mentioned Clowns’ programs thinking that they themselves look good but are only being used as puppets (as usual). I keep referring to our elders and ancestors for the development of our beautiful town because they all worked hard for little of nothing to get us where we are today. If they complained it was rarely ever heard because they were willing to comply with whatever they were called upon to do for our survival.

We have had and presently have respectable and honorable people representing our town, and it is only after they are elected that they understand the magnitude of their responsibilities. I have said before, most of these people didn’t know what they were getting into and the people before them did not try to educate them about what they should expect before they made campaign promises. After all, our politicians from the forgotten South are not members of the Political First Family, "Hunter", "Silva", "Barrow" etc., so who gives a damn if funds should be available to our Area Representatives for the development of our people? Funds are allocated for different projects at the "Battle Field" we call the old Capital and they claim that this is to enhance tourism in our country, no problem. If this is the case, then why not share the wealth if there's any and give just a drop of the benefits to the birthplace of Punta Gorda? After all we are more peaceful in the South, we also have deep water ports with one jetty pier which somehow got out of our hands and we have the longest sea coast within the country. At the end of the day, we are depending on mostly foreign investors to accommodate our southern tourism industry; no problem, but “deh moni goh right back to fi deh country” even though it helps our local economy, "Wi tek di good with di bad" no choice.

People, I think "no money noh deh fi run "DTC” no before. This is just my opinion; please don't hang me for it. "DTC" cannot collect enough daily or monthly revenues to control its budget, "we di citizens can’t afford to pay our proper tax to begin with and dis da part ah di revenue weh dem need fi run tings down deh". "Dis yah ting shing ah shah gah like dis" the Mayor need to meet with the Area Representative with a financial budget to run the town. The Area Rep should then run to Belmopan and beg fi money fu, that we noh burden "DTC" members about serious problems of people with funds that they don't have to work with, otherwise they will have to do like Orange Walk Town mayor, borrowing funds from pawn shop last year. Brother Lewis and Rad, this dah weh wi come een. We can help by starting a peaceful coalition by having our citizens sign a petition with all our concerns for our town, this will take a little sacrifice but at the end it will worth it for our benefit.

Start by having petition signed by our citizens about all our concerns, make a copy of signed petition for every one of us and having these petitions signed for their own record. Send by registered mail a memorandum with copy of signed petition attached to our Area Representative and Prime Minister requesting a Town Hall meeting at date convenient for the Area (Turn to pg. 5).
Kendal Bridge Needs Urgent Replacement

By: Orlando Augustine

or Kendal Bridge; it is far behind schedule.

Imagine the populace frustration and loss of revenues whenever the causeway is underwater for days. The unfortunate portion of the equation is that on the road to economic recovery, the same poor people who are deprived to transact business because the causeway is underwater will pay the prize. They will be the ones to endure the high cost of fuel, services and goods to cover for the days the causeway is impassable.

I suggest that if the government is experiencing financial constraint to replace our needed bridge, it needs to turn to the private sector for assistance without hurting their investments. The investors could be rewarded with duty free goods and services that are related to their investments.

On a final note I anticipate it sooner than later that our elected representatives must act as honourable gentlemen during our House meetings. It is disgraceful to witness the unprofessional behaviour of government officials during their deliberations of the nation’s business. No means of disrespect, the actions of our honourable representatives are totally out of order and disrespectful to us the electorates. Take heed, the world is watching.

Moreover, I could appreciate if the Area Representative tells the residents of Hopkins who is paying for the equipment that is used to destroy our wetland and the dredging of our waterway. Time and again, I wonder if the area representative has love and respect for the Garinagu because I believe that it is only in Hopkins he exercise his intolerable activities. I hope that the Garinagu of Hopkins who benefit from the area representative ignoble project are conscious of what they are doing. My brothers and sisters, this is not politics, this is hard facts and we need to tell it like it is. If you do not see it, something is seriously wrong with you. It is time for us to join forces to protect our cultural heritage.

Dangriga Beauty wins Miss Teen Belize

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

a trip for two to Houston, Texas. According to Miss Teen Belize, her achievement would not have been possible without the love and graciousness of our Father God, her loving and ever supporting mother Ms. Emelina Guy and her grandmother, Ms. Grace Fairweather. She also extended gratitude to the support of her persistent and patient coach Miss Sherima Usher, her family and friends from Dangriga and Belize City. She continues to say that a winner is only a winner when she acknowledges the help and assistance she received from others.

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Thought for the Day:

“The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES IN THE STANN CREEK DISTRICT!
Belize PM orders investigation into corruption at hospital

Prime Minister Barrow had promised, during a sitting of parliament last Friday when Briceno brought up the allegations of corruption at KHMH, that the matter would be investigated.

BELMOPAN, Belize - June 22, 2009

The Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow has ordered an investigation into allegations of corruption in the procurement of supplies at the country's flagship healthcare provider, Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMH).

He said he has commissioned a team to begin the probe into the claims made by Opposition Leader John Briceno that inflated prices are being paid for medical supplies that could have been acquired at far cheaper prices.

“This team will continue with a comprehensive audit and investigation but in the meantime the Prime Minister views this matter as extremely urgent and therefore, requires an urgent response,” a release from the government said.

The team of auditors began its work today. It comprises the Financial Officer from the Ministry of Finance and two senior auditors from the Auditor General’s Department.

Prime Minister Barrow had promised, during a sitting of parliament last Friday when Briceno brought up the allegations of corruption at KHMH, that the matter would be investigated.

He said if the Opposition’s contentions were, in fact, accurate “heads would have to roll”.

IDB helping to prevent and control Swine Flu spread in region

A regional meeting is expected to be held for countries to share experiences and identify best practices to deal with the H1N1 virus.

WASHINGTON, United States, June 22, 2009

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a US$5 million grant for a programme aimed at supporting prevention and control of the A (H1N1) influenza epidemic and other infectious diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Japan is the top donor country for this initiative, providing US$2 million of the total funds through its Japan Special Fund.

“The operation starts with Central America but it is not limited to Central America,” said Amanda Glassman, a principal social development specialist at the IDB.

“It builds on previous regional efforts to strengthen epidemiological surveillance through the Mesoamerican Epidemiological Surveillance Project and it will also build on Mexico’s experience to control spread of the disease.”

A regional meeting is expected to be held for countries to share experiences and identify best practices to deal with the H1N1 virus.

Prevention of youth crime, gang violence under discussion

“Today, there are unmistakable trans-border dimensions to crime. Crime is an issue that must be kept on the front burner. It is the first order of business here in St Kitts and Nevis as it is in several other countries in the region. This trans-border criminality takes many forms. It can involve the physical movement of persons, the movement via the media of criminal values and behaviours, the movement of illegal narcotics and illegal weapons across national borders or the movement of funds via global telecommunications networks,” said host Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas ahead of the meeting.

“While Caribbean countries will implement their own strategies on crime, we are nonetheless increasingly committed to high-level regional collaboration in response to this regional challenge - particularly the phenomenon of gang violence.”

Douglas, the current Chair of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Security System - CARICOM’s premiere national security establishment - said that the regional and international national security officials and experts will be tackling issues of intervention and prevention; rehabilitation and integration and the governance implications of violence.

“This is reflective of unequivocal determination - as a region - to strengthen and sharpen our insights, strategies and counter-measures where gang violence is concerned,” he said.

The conference is expected to provide a useful framework for the continued investigation and understanding of the causes and consequences of violence and for preventing violence from occurring through primary prevention programmes, policy interventions and advocacy.

It will also consider the scientifically-tested and proven principles and recommendations described in the world report on violence and health. The prescribed approaches to violence prevention, including public health, seek to improve safety and security of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual can become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

All Caribbean countries are expected to be represented.
Once upon a time, there was a little girl called Susana; and she was a very good girl —and she was very pretty —and she was very clever; —and her mummy —and daddy loved her ——very much. One day, Susana, started limping, she couldn’t walk properly —and her leg hurt —and her mummy —and daddy were very worried, because they didn’t know how it had happened or why it had happened or when it had happened.

So they decided to take her to the fairy doctor. So they got into the car —and they drove out of the garage —and they drove to the fairy doctor’s surgery —and when they got there they sat in the waiting room for a while, waiting for the fairy doctor to come out —and when she came out she said “hello Susana —and what’s the matter with you?” —and Susana said “oh, doctor, my leg hurts, —and I can’t walk properly” —and the doctor said “well come into my office —and lie down on the bed —and we’ll see what we can do”. So Susana lay down on the bed —and the fairy doctor started to feel her left leg (massage, massage, prod, prod) —and she worked her way from the thigh right down to the foot —and up again —and then she said “no, that’s not the leg, it must be the other leg” —and she went to the right

leg —and she worked her way from the thigh right down to the foot —and up again —and then she said “I know what the problem is, the problem is —— the knee” —and so she went fiddle, fiddle, prod, prod, prod

massage, massage, massage —— CLICK —and Susana said “doctor, doctor, my leg doesn’t hurt anymore” —— the fairy doctor said “get down off the bed —— and walk across the room” —— and Susana walked across the room —— and she didn’t limp —— and she rushed over to the fairy doctor and she gave her a big kiss —— and she said “doctor, doctor, thank you for making my leg all better” —— and the magic doctor said “it was a pleasure, come back any time” —— And Susana —— and her mummy —— and her daddy got back in the car —— and they drove home —— and when they got home Susana had a lovely warm bath —— and got into her lovely warm pyjamas —— and she had some lovely warm supper —— and then, she practiced walking —— and she walked from the telly to the sofa —— and from the computer to the dining room table —— and her leg didn’t hurt —— and she could walk properly —— and then she went to bed —— and she went straight to sleep because she was very tired —— and it had been a very long day —— and that’s the end of the story —— and they all lived happily ever after —— and now ~~~~ SLEEP!
What’s On The Mind:
FEELINGS

Everyone, including children, experience different feelings. Feelings are natural reaction to our thoughts and experiences. We don’t choose how we feel, it just occurs. Feelings include happy, sad, angry and frustrated. There is no right or wrong, good or bad feeling. What makes the difference is not how you feel but how you react or behave in response to those feelings.

Children, like adults, experience a wide range of different emotions. However, they may not always be able to recognize or label what it is they are feeling. It is important to encourage children to recognize their emotions and identify what it is they are feeling and help them to deal or respond in a positive way. Talk with your child not just about what he is feeling but why he may be feeling a particular way. Help them to identify appropriate ways in which they can deal with their feeling. For example, your child might be upset because he did not get to go outside and play after school. Help the child to realize why they didn’t get to go outside; perhaps they didn’t finish their homework in time. Your child might cry and fuss or even hit his sibling because he’s upset about the missed opportunity. He may need help to appropriately channel those feelings. Let your child know that it’s okay to feel mad but that hitting when angry is not acceptable. Instead, teach them other ways they can calm down, such as counting ten or just talking about their feelings. Offer your child alternative activities to the missed event. While he may not get to play outside does not mean that he cannot play indoors. He can choose to play a game or watch a movie with you or his siblings.

The best way to teach kids about feelings is by modeling your own feelings for them. Reflect on your feelings with your child, including what caused you to feel that way. For example, I was sad when I heard that the neighbor died. Share with your child ways in which you deal with your feelings. For example, when I get sad I like to listen to songs on the radio and sing along. Let your child know why this action is reassuring for you. Tell your child that music can be calming and that help to make you feel better.

Help your child to understand feelings by helping them to acknowledge how they feel, identify or name their feeling, discuss ways to deal with the feeling and explain the situation or circumstances that led to the feeling.

Who’s the boss?
Out-a-Wageirale

Email: Chamer2547@yahoo.com or wageirale.2547@yahoo.com

This week, I will spend some time to reflect on our role as parents in an attempt to demonstrate some of our weaknesses thereby resulting in undue harm to our children. I write this article because I have for some time now been noticing that several children are either out late, are on our streets inappropriately dressed, are now getting involved in crime or the illicit drug trade or are making themselves vulnerable to danger and trouble.

As a person who grew up all my life in Dangriga I was able to easily identify that our society was divided into the haves and the have-nots. Although we all seemed to accept each others as peers it was obvious that there were distinct differences. Yes, I mean that there were several individuals who were being raised by grandparents, who I will say, were already tired to rule or cope with the demands of raising the young generation. These children, under the care of these grandparents, basically grew up by their own accord.

I also noticed that the parents of the children were out in the states shipping home the Yankee dollars and America itself if they could. These very children left behind were given a sense of “false reality.” They were led to believe that everything they wanted could be picked up on the streets of American and sent behind were given a sense of “magic wand.” While the grandparents provided the care, the parents out in Babylon provided “phone or mail love and attention.” I had a buddy who could not even wash dishes because his parents were in the states and providing the financial needs of the home. The end result of this “make belief reality” was that he like most of the children left behind never properly developed a sense of responsibility.

Today, I clearly observe that while some of the children of these expatriates later migrated after their parents to the US, some remained here and continued to believe that life would always be the same way. With the hardening of time in the US, the Yankee Dollars started getting few and scarce. This leads to frustration and there is a breakdown or erosion of family values since the parents themselves lack the basic skills to cope with their own children. As a result, the children of those same children are allowed to roam the streets at night, visit the bars and engage in activities which endanger their lives. Some of these very parents are the ones who are very quick to quarrel with or attack anyone who has any negative comments about their children.

A couple days ago, I was met by a parent who complained that she could not control her fourteen year-old daughter. I took the opportunity to draw out from the parent why she, a woman of fifty years could not control her daughter who is only fourteen? I then aired my concern about the inappropriate and compromising way I saw the child dressed over the weekend. The mother was shocked saying that she thought the child had gotten home early after visiting with friends. I further commented to the mother about the clothing worn by the child and why she allowed her child to be dressed that way. The response was merely that she cannot stop her and that the child does not allow her to buy clothing for her but that she gives her the money to do so just like her grandmother did when the clocks came.

By God, I find it hard to believe that there are still parents around who just cannot control their child in any way. It seems that parents have relegated themselves to the role of the child. Is it that we love our children so much that we are now afraid of them? Do we love them so much that we are prepared to open them up to harms way without correcting
The economic situation in Dangriga is yet to improve. Every since voters removed the P U P government and replaced it with the U D P government they were optimistic that the economic situation was going to get better. So much was heralded about corruption in the previous government and that the oil strike was our salvation so all we needed was an accountable government. Accompanying the change of government was also the global recession and fall in oil prices. The recession and the drop in oil price are the two main reasons given for the economic situation to be as it is.

The reading of the Belizean budget came with great fan fare as promises were made as to how government was to collect its money and how the money was to be spent. We all saw this exercise as a relief; our new government was spending more than the previous one; things should get better.

Today the situation is not as promised by the government in the budget, the projects are yet to commence, nor as hoped for by the people and on top no one is talking to us about it. It would somehow ease if we could be told what is being done to correct this situation.

As we follow the U S A on our television we can see the great America in a similar situation and hear that Europe too is having the same problem. But we also hear about their efforts to remedy the depression. These countries are talking about stimulating their economy so as to improve the condition. They are putting new money into their economy.

For us, despite being affected by the same recession, is yet to hear about a stimulus plan. But our government is broadening its tax base by including small companies as sale tax agents; taking more money out the working people who are yet to receive a raise. The action is removing money out the economy which is not consistent with those of other countries in the recession.

Today the situation is down graded to desperate, corruption is again in the news, the oil is as it was and some of us will be paying more taxes. So much for a change.

1. Bus Run for the schools are to be renewed. The best runs went to the rural even to a civil servant. Doing only as his boss?
2. What is the unemployment rate in Belize? 15%? In Dangriga it must be double?
3. We are yet to see another street being paved or preparing for pavement since the election. No more advancement only maintenance?
4. P U P still divided after meeting with concerned members. Only until after the leadership convention next year? Early?
5. NEMO Office at new location. Is this building still under the bank or is this a favour?
6. It took the P U P 10 years for the corruption to surface, the U D P needed only 2 years. We change fu small change.
7. Transferring teachers situation remain the same. Will there be a strike? Will there be any support from the rest? U next?
8. Teaching services commission was in town to discuss teaching policy. No show from the management groups less the catholic. Whipping of children is to be outlawed. How about parents beating teachers?
9. Light and water back at the Party Hall, thanks to private intervention.

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

1. Remembering you most vividly you’ve molded me so intricately time spent with you I won’t regret.
2. Memories lasting, I can’t forget.
3. You meant more to me than just a home.
4. Thanks for taking me from my Mom’s nest.
5. I felt it was no “one – two – three…”
6. But I chanced it all – oh, adventurous me;
7. I learnt that it was attentive – absorbing and in for much more.
8. Freely you gave your soul to all;
9. happy are they who answered the call.
10. I knew not where you were taking me
11. into glory, fame and precious gains.
12. I’ll never forget to follow your lead.
13. How do you stand to turn my pains
14. Because of you my life’s now blest,
15. I leave you now, I’m on my way…
16. Where you are taking me
17. to teach, to take and talk with me.
18. Lucky I was to find you in time,
19. I look at life as a fine tooth comb.
20. Within me is planted your fertile seed.
21. I’ll always hold you in my hands
22. for your greatness extends through many lands.
23. You, like a friend, my burden hold.
24. But you’ve given me true liberty.
25. when blind I was and led by thee.
26. I learnt that it was no “one – two – three…’’
27. so, from you, I still won’t part
28. you’ll always be in my yearning heart.

ALMA MATER
by Amos D. Mark

Remembering you most vividly you’ve molded me so intricately time spent with you I won’t regret. Memories lasting, I can’t forget.

Because of you my life’s now blest, thanks for taking me from my Mom’s nest.

It works out well for all who were attentive – absorbing and in for much more.

Freely you gave your soul to all; happy are they who answered the call.

I knew not where you were taking me but I chanced it all – oh, adventurous me; just to find that now I see: when blind I was and led by thee.

I learnt that it was no “one – two – three…’’ but you’ve given me true liberty.

I’ll always hold you in my hands for your greatness extends through many lands.

How do you stand to turn my pains into glory, fame and precious gains.

I’ll never forget to follow your lead.

Within me is planted your fertile seed.

Lucky I was to find you in time, when I needed a friend to show me the world to teach, to talk and talk with me.

You, like a friend, my burden hold.

Like apples in winter – wisdom abundant given to me with your caring heart.

I leave you now, I’m on my way… my soul will cling like sun to the day; so, from you, I still won’t part you’ll always be in my yearning heart.
The UDP Government is delivering again to Belizeans who possess Dual Citizenship

By: Mr. Wellington C. Ramos

Courtenay when the People’s United Party his party was granting Guatemalans and Salvadorans Belizean citizenships with the hope that they will vote for his party so that they can remain in power indefinitely? Also, when they implemented the Economic Citizenship program and sold passports all over the world and Natural born Belize Citizens could not get any passport to travel. The Belizeans living in the United States were born in Belize and that is their country of birth. After years of living in the United States, they are better off becoming American citizens. They are entitled to the benefits they have worked for all those years they lived in the United States. For those who were not born in Belize, the Belizean Constitution affords them the right to become citizens through descent if they file for it.

Due to the fact that the country of Belize possesses Dual Citizenship, those with dual nationality are also entitled to run for any office they choose to seek, when they go back to Belize while retaining their American Citizenship. They are also entitled to the right to vote by proxy and the government is aware of that fact. Giving people Dual Citizenships without the fundamental right to vote is like giving a person land without any title to it. The right to vote is one of the most fundamental rights a citizen can have. With this right, a person can change the government he is not happy with. Belizeans living in the United States contribute to the development of Belize financially and in many other ways.

There are probably more Belizeans living in the United States than in their native country. Over the years governments have been granting citizenships to several groups of people from Guatemala, Salvador and other countries and citizenships to people from Taiwan, China and elsewhere. To give the Belizeans living in the United States the right to run for office, it will help to prevent foreigners from taking over our country.

Mr. Courtenay is an attorney, former Senator and current Minister of Government. He can encourage one of his PUP colleagues to introduce and amendment to this bill that will exclude Guatemalans from becoming members of the Belize House of Representative and Senate if he feels like doing so. If he propose such an amendment, that will be an unchallenged in the country of a Belizean of Guatemalan parenthood or one who has been granted Belizean Citizenship through amnesty or the current naturalization process, cannot be denied the right to run for office, unless there are other qualifications that he or she fails to meet under the laws of Belize. For those with economic citizenships, that also could be addressed with an amendment, saying they will be disqualified from seeking office in the National Assembly. I applaud the Belize UDP Government and our Prime Minister Dean Barrow for introducing this amendment on behalf of the thousands of Belizeans who live in the United States and abroad. I am writing this article to alert all Belizeans about the importance of this constitutional amendment. We intend to follow the progress of this legislation until it becomes law. Our government is fixing the constitution to ensure that our fundamental rights as Belizeans are being respected, even though we live in the United States and other countries.

Promotions for Public Officers

Belmopan – 22 June, 2009
A large number of public officers were today awarded with letters of promotion in the Public Service of Belize. The ceremonies took place at the Customs Conference Room in Belize City and Minister of the Public Service, Hon. John Saldivar was the invited guest.

In his remarks to the officers, Minister Saldivar pointed out that the action has as the result of consultations with public officers of every level, therefore they have had an input and have professionally collaborated to make this promotional awards a reality.

Minister Saldivar added that this effort is all part of this Government’s policy of total transparency and accountability. Ceremonies such as these, he added, will be held every six months and will no longer take the form of just a promotional letter out to the officer receiving a promotion.

For his part, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Public Service, Charles Gibson, again stressed: “In the past we used to just send out a letter but now we want to make this occasion more personal and specially during this Public Service Week, I want to say “Kudos” to all these professional officers receiving their promotional letters today!”

CEO Gibson further stated: “We are in the process of preparing for a second round of consultations, we will visit every single department we know today!”

Other activities for Public Service Week include the Official Ceremonies to take place tomorrow in Corozal, at the Corozal Civic Center and similar ceremonies will be held in districts and in the capital Belmopan. On Thursday, 25th June, 2009 professional awards will be distributed to public officers in Dangriga, Belmopan and San Ignacio and a Sports Day on Saturday, 26 June, 2009 at the Great Saturday Grounds in Belmopan, among other activities.

For more details please contact: Justin Palacio
Director of Human Resources
Ministry of the Public Service
Belmopan. Tel: 822-2204

Who’s the boss?
Out-a-Wageirale

(Cont’d from pg. 6) them! Do we think we are doing the right thing when we allow such things to happen to our children?

Our children are our future and it is our God given responsibility to correct them when we have to do so. We must lead them in the right direction even if it takes having to use the “rod of correction.” I have seen too many children stray, thereby ending up in serious trouble out here because of the lack of proper guidance and control.

Parents, it does not make any sense to bury your heads in the sand like the ostrich with the hope that things will play themselves out. From now on parents, do all you can to provide guidance for your children. Be stern if needed and monitor their every move regardless if they call you a “grumpy or peeping Tom.” Yet, keep an open dialogue with your children so that if there is a problem they will not be afraid to come to you.

Concluding, I want to big up all parents who stay the course and let us know who is the boss and like what one of my late buddies used to say “who wears the biggest pants in the house is the boss.” Just wear it parents.
Police Seek Help of Public in Southern Highway Murder

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

Police found ICAL’S body with chop wounds to the upper area and neck about 150 feet off the highway. The body was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital where it was pronounced dead on arrival. A postmortem examination was conducted on the body and the examiner certified the cause of death to be excessive bleeding suffered as a consequence of chop wounds to the neck. Police are calling for the public’s support in solving this murder.

Punta Gorda Teen Missing

Punta Gorda, Toledo Dist.

On June 18, Cecelia Flores of Punta Gorda reported to police that her nephew, Kenroy Smith, 15, left home en route to school (Julian Cho High) and up to the time of making the report he had not returned. Kenroy Smith was last seen wearing a white short sleeve shirt and long grey pants. Kenroy is approximately 4 ft in height, slim built and has a tattoo to his left or right hand. Police are investigating.

Police Burn Ganja Plantation in Independence

Independence Village, Stann Creek District

Police conducting an anti-drug operation behind a shrimp farm in Independence Village, Stann Creek District, June 13, 2009 found a marijuana plantation containing 600 marijuana plants ranging 3’ to 9’ in height. No one was found in the area and the plants were uprooted and destroyed by fire.

Prime Minister to Participate In UN Conference On World Financial Crisis

Belmopan – 22 June, 2009

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Dean O. Barrow, will leave Belize tomorrow, Tuesday, 23 June, 2009 for New York, where he will participate in the “United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development.”

The UN is convening the three-day summit of world leaders from 24th to 26th June to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. The aim is to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all UN Member States.

The Prime Minister will be supported at the summit by the Charge d’affaires and staff of the Permanent Mission of Belize to the UN. He returns to Belize on Saturday, June 27th. During the Prime Minister’s absence from Belize, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Hon. Gaspar Vega, will serve as Acting Prime Minister.

Office of the Prime Minister
Belmopan
Cayo District
HOROSCOPE
June 26, 2009

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)
Protect yourself but keep an open mind. A conflict leaves you feeling defensive.
Just let yourself slide into your routines -- they can really help you move today! It may get a little boring at some point but it’s worth it if you don’t have to work overtime or catch up.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
When it’s easy, it’s right. Trust this and be glad you don’t have to work so hard.
Try to have fun with your workload today -- it’s easier than you think! Your amazing energy helps you get in the flow and move forward with more speed than you would have imagined possible.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
An amusing busybody will get their just desserts -- enjoy the show but be kind.
Don’t feel too disappointed if your closest family members misread you today -- it’s just par for the course! Every now and then, you find yourself crossing lines and it’s not a sign of anything traumatic.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Try one more time to make that connection -- you’ll finally get through to them.
It’s somewhat easier for you to make yourself heard, even in a room full of alpha dogs. Your ability to say what needs to be said and to read other people’s faces makes communication a snap!

LEO (July 23 - August 22)
Take a look at your plans -- and make some revisions. Do it sooner than later.
Even if you’re dreading it, you need to face those financial issues today. Even if you’re dreading it, you need to face those financial issues today.

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept 22)
Your mental energy is just right for them, so there’s no need to worry about how you’ll manage. Go for it!

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Your intuition is strong now -- but it may keep you from living in the moment.
You need to use those powers of perception to see if you can dig up any new clues -- it’s not so hard for you! It may not be the best time to act on your new knowledge but you can bide your time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You love them but they can drive you nuts. Take time away for the relationship.
You’re having a really hard time dealing with authority today -- maybe the boss, maybe the government or maybe your mate. One way or another, you need to reconcile your feelings with reality!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You’ve accomplished great things but staying grounded and humble is wise.
You’re at your best when you’re planning today -- setting yourself up for future success! Use that great mental energy to move forward with something really spectacular and life-changing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You may not realize it but your open mind has let you make deep connections.
You need to be extra careful when dealing with coworkers or others who might have some impact on your career. It’s not that you’re likely to insult them but they are more sensitive to details.

PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20)
You see a new side of someone -- and it’s making you nervous. Give them a chance.
You and your friends are all in sync today and it’s the best time for you to all work or play together. You may need to nudge them into action but once they’re there, they don’t stop!
MAKE YOUR DAY

Hawaiian Vacation

Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on vacation.

They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy.

As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their “tourist” garb. They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a “drop dead gorgeous” blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn’t help but stare.

As the blonde passed them she smiled and said “Good Morning, Father ~ Good Morning, Father,” nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she passed on by. They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests? So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits.

These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them! Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.

After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different colored topless bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them and said: “Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father” and started to walk away. One of the priests couldn’t stand it any longer and said, “Just a minute, young lady.” “Yes, Father?” “We are priests and proud of it but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?” She replied, “Father, it’s me,............ Sister Kathleen!”

From: Gloria Higinio

From Ground to Table Mother Earth is Able

Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving

powa2grow@yahoo.com

Conch Salad Recipe - West Indian Recipe (A Nevis Favorite)

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Pounds conch, skinned, finely diced (cooked diced lobster may be used instead)
- 2 Scotch bonnet peppers, finely chopped (Habanero peppers will work also)
- 2 Celery ribs, finely chopped
- 1 Medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 Green peppers, finely chopped
- 1 Small cucumber, peeled and finely diced
- 1/2 Cup fresh lime juice or lemon juice
- Salt to taste

COOKING METHOD

The conch has to be prepared by using two large bowls of salt water.

1. Wash conch thoroughly in first bowl.
2. Dice finelly and put into second bowl to soak for about 30 minutes; drain.
3. Combine all ingredients in medium mixing bowl. Allow mixture to marinate 30 minutes to 1 hour in refrigerator. Serve cold on lettuce leaves.

Agriculture Vibes Unity - Power of One

Presentation: John Antonio

HOME GARDEN VEGETABLE CHART

The amounts of seed shown in this chart are suggested for an average Family of Five.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VEGETABLE</th>
<th>SEED TO SOW</th>
<th>WHEN TO SOW</th>
<th>GROWING TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>1 pkt.</td>
<td>Rainy Season</td>
<td>6 – 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans (Bush)</td>
<td>1 ½ lbs.</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>6 – 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>1 pkt.</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>6 – 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>½ oz.</td>
<td>Begin in June</td>
<td>10 – 15 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plant every week for Constant Supply</td>
<td>8 – 9 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>2 lbs.</td>
<td>Plant every wk.</td>
<td>8 – 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>4 pks.</td>
<td>Sow every wk.</td>
<td>8 – 10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td>3 oz.</td>
<td>Sow every 2 weeks</td>
<td>4 – 6 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seed is the mother of all foods, for Man or Beast.

Planting Dates

Planting Dates for above the ground: July 1, 2, 11
Planting Dates for below the ground: July 4, 5, 11
Planting Dates for Flowers: June 28, 30
Best Days to Destroy Weeds: June 25, 26, 27
Best Days to wean babies: July 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10
Best Fishing Days: July 1, 2, 11, 12

FIRST QUARTER WILL BE ON JUNE 29
BELIZE PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PLAYOFF RESULTS

Round 2
24/6/09 Ricalde Stad.
7:30PM Nizhee Corozal vs George Town Ibayani
2             1
Sergio Gilharry 12min.       Ashley Torres 30min.
Deris Benavides 67min.

The game between Scorpions and Belize Defence Force will be played today,
Thursday, 25th June 2009, at the Michael Ashcroft Stadium at 7:30pm.

Semi-Finals
28/6/09 MCC Grounds
4:00PM F.C. Belize vs Nizhee Corozal

The winner between Scorpions and Belize Defence Force will play Hankook Verdes.

Teams will be seeded:
Most points
Best goal difference

Championship Games
Game 1 July 11/12
Game 2 July 18/19

Public Service Week: 2009
Belmopan - 18 June, 2009
Public Service Week will be observed in Belize from
21st – 27th June, 2009. The official ceremonies will be held
at the Corozal Civic Centre, Corozal Town, on Tuesday,
23rd commencing at 10:30 a.m.

Public officers will be awarded for twenty five years of service
and there will also be a Ministry/Department of the Year Award.
Promotion letters for qualifying officers will be handed out
during the week at the different venues. The theme for the Week
will be “A Renewed Public Service: Reaching Higher Heights
on Professionalism, Efficiency, Accountability and
Transparency”.

The programme for the Week is as follows:
Sunday 21st: Minister of Public Service declares the week open.
Monday 22nd: Talk shows on countrywide radio stations
promoting Public Service Week.
Tuesday 23rd: Location for the Official Ceremony is
Corozal Civic Center, there will be a wide array of displays in all
other six districts.
Wednesday 24th: Talent/Variety Show Night in all districts for
the entertainment of all public officers.
Thursday 25th: Community Outreach Day: Public Officers will
volunteer their time doing community service in their district.
Friday 26th: Public Service Ball in Belize City. There will
also be social night in the remaining six districts.
Saturday 27th: Sports Day in all seven districts.

For further details on transportation to and from the venue or
any other concern, please contact the District Area Representative
or call 822-2204 or e-mail it@mps.gov.bz.