SECONDARY EDUCATION DISPARITY: Something Must Be Done

By Orlando Augustine
July 01, 2009

A proposition aired by the Minister of Education in several of his meeting, as well as in the House of Representatives dictates indirectly to put an end to the use of primary school examination as the measuring requirement to enter secondary schools and inequality in education in rural schools. It must also be emphasized that Stann Creek West Area Representative resounded similar sentiment in his graduation addresses at various primary schools. During graduation ceremonies held in the district, every student who completes sixth standard education, Ministry of Education awarded a subsidy grant certificates of three hundred dollars towards secondary school registration. Since there is limited space in the secondary schools, especially Ecumenical High School, what will become of those who have the subsidy grant and could not enter a high school? Do primary school children of foreign origin benefit from the subsidy grant? In order to alleviate the space issue, I suggest that it is time for government or an organization to contemplate on building a secondary school midway in the Stann Creek District.

For those familiar with the politics of secondary education in the Stann Creek District, it is not surprising to learn that Ecumenical High School in Dangriga adamantly in some cases, did not fully endorse the minister’s proposal. A number of students with scores lower than sixty were turned down and told to return to see the principal after the school board decides if their scores are accepted. Some parents were assured that after the Board meets that they will be notified personally if their children are accepted. I took it as an insult when the principal told parents that they would be notified and there was no information taken from them to assure them that they would be informed. I felt that this was

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Ecumenical High School

Drowning in New River

Trial Farm Village

The body of Josue Elly Rivas was retrieved from the New River where he apparently went swimming and drowned. Lucio Rivas of #33 Bullet Tree Street, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District, reported to police that on June 29 at 12:30pm whilst at home he was informed that his brother Josue Elly Rivas who was swimming in the New River went under and did not resurface. With the assistance of friends, a search was conducted in the area his brother

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Ronny Pollard Arrested and Charged For THEFT

Belize City - July 1, 2009

Twenty-six year old RONNY POLLARD was charged with Burglary and two counts of Handling Stolen Goods. He was also sentenced in court today, July 1, 2009 after pleading guilty to stealing from his own brother. His brother, Justin Pollard, reported that upon returning to their home from work on Monday, his Gateway laptop, Dell

monitor and over one thousand five hundred dollars in cash were missing from his room. The estimated value of the stolen items is over five thousand dollars. The police later recovered the items but not the cash. Ronny pleaded guilty to the charges and Magistrate Aretha Ford sentenced him to one year for each count of the offences.
Guest Editorial

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Here I go again with my big mouth but please be patient with me for sharing my personal feelings and opinions with you all. You see, I saw all these political scandals coming a long time ago and as my late dad used to say, "You could fool some aduh people some aduh time but you can't fool all aduh people all aduh time". Brother Boogie Man, I hope this article will be able to help answer your question in last week's edition of the "Wabagari Post" and I want you to know that you're not alone. I promised to share my sentiments and concerns with you and every Grigalizeans for our own peace of mind and tranquility spirit, so here it is now "di puss wahn jump out deh laad". 

As I said before, the forgotten south has gone a very long way with the very same political bureaucracy that our elders and ancestors endured. These are the days of no promises, no guarantees, no political nonsense is so transparent that even "Mi Jew Blind Horse" can see it. Dem mek ih look good but "Di rich get rich and di poor get poor". 

Bro. Boogie Man, the latest corruption is about our health care system. This should have been the job of the govt to show some news to the people like "mi wahn in deh laad". The mothers that give birth or gave birth at the former Belize City Hospital now KHHM, Belize City had and still have Baby Cebs babies being deliver to their child right after giving birth. In Dangriga Hospital, they used to have "half ah aluminum bath pan modelled with stand and wheel" to put their baby into. "I noh know bout now". People in Belize City are whining about the poor services that they are supposedly receiving in the old capital, "then come live with we dah Griga and Toledo" maybe unu wah get di big picture". "Di rich get richa and di poor get poorah". 

Again people, please noh heng mi fu mi opinion ah only di blow off steam, ah tired ah si mi elders and young people fu wahn and ah want to assure them that there is always hope, which we have all lived by in the past. We all have to detect reality and know the truth. I will try my endeavour best to share some of the truth that I'm knowledgeable about. The truth is, we all have to understand that the reality of Belize is not an industrious nation and this should have been the perfect reason for any political party that is/was elected to office to share our allocate funds, no matter how small for the development of each and every District. I believe that allocation of funds was designed for the development of Belize City old capital (Di Battle Field) and San Pedro Ambergris Caye, so damn with the south, "Wi deh pax wi own after di left over if any". 

Noh nek no ghost fool yoh people, all dih ah fu dih local politics just like dih dibby dibby like me. Let's go down memory lane a bit once again. Most, if not all of our former politicians were not educationally certified but that don't mean that they still get whatever hand of cards they were dealt with. Then, we had some respectable and honorable human beings like the late Hon. Albert Ayres (deceased), Hon. David L. McKoy (deceased), Hon. Allan Arthurs (deceased), Hon. Paul Guerrero (deceased), Mayor. Carlos Nolberto (deceased) along with others that got into politics with the hopes of changing things for us, instead these people were criticized and another for not helping us who rallied behind them and elected them into office. I believe in my heart that, former Minister, Hon. Russell "CA" Cardwell (deceased) and current Minister, Hon. Arthur "Turo" Roaches was/is facing the same dilemma in the House of Representatives. Some of our people now dem honorble people try dem hardest fu beg fu we and it all fell on deaf ears, "We noh deh pah fu dem agency the dih public. "stop being nega tive and Minister Hulse is in his own little world "di do ih own ting, nih mek wi go deh right now" ah wah lef dat fu later, wi live enna wah weh know right now if fu we democracy really works (Freedom Of Speech). My Experience as "Temporary Relief Officer" at Dangriga District Office, Stann Creek Town under the administration of the late, Mr. Herman Musgrave Tillrett, District Officer. One of my assignment was to prepare Vouchers, Laborers' Pay Sheet, Administrative Payroll and handling of the "Vote Control Book". The Vote Control Book is similar to your Bank Book (Checks and Balance). This book consisted of funds allocated for different Heads and Subheads (Financial Projects) that was sent in form of a "Warrant Document or Draft" from Permanent Secretary in Belize City as required. I was responsible to inform the Chief Clerk, Mr. Emerson Rodney McKay (deceased) or "D.O." for when funds for any project was needed and to check if we have the funds in our bank account. I would send a memo or call the "P.S." for a Warrant/Funds which would be entered into the Vote Control Book. The "Vote Control Book" held a certain level of respect from their peers and elders, because they were considered people on their way up in the world. 

But something terrible happened, some say it began in the '90s others say the 80s but whatever the timeline is education lost its high place in the 'hood. Kids wanted to see immediate results from their studies. After that the 6 year old Barack would go off to school and study hard get a good education our community. One way for newspapers to fulfill part of its responsibility would be for the community. One way for newspapers to fulfill part of its responsibility would be for them to dedicate space for a children’s section which would include old PSE and BJAT exams on a weekly basis. Maybe this could start a discussion on how we might give our kids more chances of succeeding in life. After all life is a test. 
Secondary Education Disparity: Something must be done

By: Orlando Augustine

Schools in Dangriga Feeder with 60% and over

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Schools in Dangriga Feeder with 60% and over

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The inequities in the education system include huge disparities in the quality of facilities, teacher resources, the number of trained teachers and the ratio of teachers to students in rural schools. The level of education provided is also affected, because schools in rural communities tend to have less access to libraries and other forms of technology, and more limited access to end of sixth standard examination preparation mock tests. Complexing these existing inequalities is the fact that high rate of employment contributes significantly to the decline in education in the Stann Creek District comparison to other districts.
The cause of Michael Jackson's death yesterday was unknown at press time but an autopsy report is expected today. But Jackson family lawyer, Brian Oxman, confirmed to CNN that Jackson may have had trouble with prescription drugs as he prepared for his London show, his home at about 12:30 p.m. LA time.

Outside the hospital and in New York, outside the Apollo Theater, fans flocked to play his music, sing his songs and celebrate his life.

Jackson would have turned 51 on August 29th. He began in the music business as age five with his four brothers as the Jackson Five. Managed by their father Joe Jackson, a crane operator, the young group quickly rose to fame. Michael, at age 11, made his debut on national television and the world fell in love with him.

The group's first four singles 'I Want You Back', 'ABC', 'The Love You Save', and 'I'll Be There', went to number one on the Billboard pop chart, the first time any group had pulled off that feat. There was even a Jackson Five cartoon series on ABC. He launched his solo career in 1972 while still a member of the group. He released his first solo album in 1975 and 'Scream' made Jackson the first male artist in the Hot 100 era, and his solo career, more than any other artist, defined 'the new sound of popular music' as he prepared for his London show, his home at about 12:30 p.m. LA time.

The popularity of his music videos on MTV, such as 'Beat It', 'Billie Jean' and 'Thriller', created a new way of thinking about a music video transforming the music video into an art form and a promotional tool, helped bring the relatively new channel to fame. Interestingly, reports indicate the video directors and music channel had to be persuaded to play the video, a move on their part that created history and helped Jackson to continue through the years.

"Michael Jackson made culture accept a person of color," Reverend Al Sharpton said in a statement yesterday. "To say an 'icon' would only give these young people in Harlem a fraction of what he was. He was a historic figure that people will measure music and the industry by." Videos such as 'Black or White' and 'Scream' made Jackson an enduring staple on MTV in the 1990s. Black and White' sent a clear message of unity of races while 'Heal The World' hit also focused on just that.

With stage performances and music videos, Jackson popularized a number of physically complicated dance techniques, such as the robot and the moonwalk. His distinctive concert programmes gave the real style infinitely many hip hop, pop and contemporary R&B artists.

Jackson was a Father that we all loved. He was my mas costume creator, Trinidadian Rhea Escalera. "I feel terrible about it. He was my family, my dad," she told CNN. And the Caribbean fan base was no exception, of the Americas have expressed themselves loud and clear with regard to the acts of atrocity which occurred on Sunday the 28th of June. Zelaya has indicated that he will go back home tomorrow, accompanied by the presidents of Ecuador and Argentina and OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza, despite the military government saying that he will be arrested if he returns. "I'm back, people are going to say 'I'm back'," Zelaya said. However, in 2005 he had faced trouble with prescription drugs as he prepared for his London show, his home at about 12:30 p.m. LA time.

The UN resolution condemning what it called a coup d'etat and demanding "the immediate and unconditional restoration of the legitimate and constitutional government" of Zelaya, was passed yesterday, as the General Assembly met to discuss the situation in that Latin American country.

The UN resolution condemning what it called a coup d'etat and demanding "the immediate and unconditional restoration of the legitimate and constitutional government" of Zelaya, was passed yesterday, as the General Assembly met to discuss the situation in that Latin American country.

Zelaya was removed from office on Sunday in a military coup and forced on a plane to Costa Rica.

Speaking at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday, he hailed the resolution agreed to by the 192 member states.

"I consider that the United Nations has just adopted unanimously with the vote of all countries that are members this august assembly expresses the indignation of the people of Honduras and of people worldwide who continue to struggle for the only principles that can prevail in accordance with the United Nations charter," Zelaya said. "This resolution is historic, it is significant, and it will empower every last citizen of this world to be able to continue these great conquists of human kind." He further acknowledged the support he had received from the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Rio Group, stating that, "all countries, without exception, of the Americas have expressed themselves loud and clear, and will love our fight which occurred on Sunday the 28th of June. Zelaya has indicated that he will go back home tomorrow, accompanied by the presidents of Ecuador and Argentina and OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza, despite the military government saying that he will be arrested if he returns. "I'm back, people are going to say 'I'm back'," Zelaya said. However, in 2005 he had faced trouble with prescription drugs as he prepared for his London show, his home at about 12:30 p.m. LA time.
Children’s Corner

It Could Happen...

by Carol Moore

One day, overnight, the world turned violet. Just about everything turned violet from the sky and ocean and mountains to the trees and animals and people and from the tallest skyscrapers to the tiniest ant. People sat around looking at one another wondering if they were dreaming. But nobody woke up and things stayed violet, all except for a single Blue Jay who hadn’t changed color and stayed the brightest blue.

The smartest scientists in the world gathered to figure it out. Was something wrong with people’s eyes or was it a trick of nature? They did studies and tests and analyzed and evaluated and debated and wrote article after article but couldn’t explain it.

And no longer could people say they felt “blue” or were “green” with envy or had a “green” thumb. So what they said and how they said it began to change. Some people said violet was now the most important color in the world because it was everywhere. Others said that violet had no importance at all because there was too much of it. They discussed and argued, joined clubs, held debates, wrote books, and produced movies all about the issue of the importance or unimportance of the color violet.

The color of the Blue Jay was still the same color. No other than his special color he had such a little bit of blue and the world had such a whole lot of violet. People argued about the importance of that. Some said the Blue Jay must be a very special bird or maybe not a bird at all because he alone had kept his true color. Others said this was silly, that the Blue Jay ate bird seed and drank water and fluffed his feathers and that other than his special color he was still just a bird.

It was exactly one year to the day after the world had turned violet that people awoke to find the world had turned yellow. All except the Blue Jay.

In some ways a yellow world isn’t any different than a violet world. People simply said yellow instead of violet when they talked about things. Only now the Blue Jay was more important than ever because he alone had stayed the color blue and people argued about what that meant. They lined up for miles just to take a look at him.

Being the only thing in the world that wasn’t violet, he was caught and put in a cage.

People were shocked. Some were afraid and some were amazed and a few thought it funny, because along with everyone else, the President was very violet. Whole families were violet as were teachers, movie stars, doctors, nurses, gas station attendants, the Queen of England, the President of Mozambique, taxi-drivers,

For the next two years, exactly on the day the world had turned violet and then yellow, it turned new colors: first orange and then pink. Still the Blue Jay stayed blue, causing ever greater disagreement — until in the fifth year the whole world turned blue.

The first thing people asked was what about the Blue Jay. Had he stayed blue? Yes, he was still the same color. No longer were there two colors in the world but just one — the color blue. And because the Blue Jay was a color like everybody and everything else people began to lose interest.

Now that he was neither more nor less important crowds stopped coming and one day, six months into the year that the world had turned blue, somebody let him out of his cage and he flew off looking happy to be free. The very next morning the world regained its rainbow of colors as if nothing had ever happened. At first this was a novelty but soon people forgot the world had once been all violet. They forgot the world had once turned yellow, then orange, then pink, and then blue. They returned to saying they felt “blue” or were “green” with envy or had a “green” thumb.

But on occasion they wondered where the Blue Jay had gone and how he was doing and, most of all, if he was still the color blue and what it had all meant.

Drowning in New River Trial Farm Village

(Cont’d from pg. 1) was seen swimming and at 1: 45 pm the body was found. The body was transported to the Northern Regional Hospital where he was pronounced dead; it now awaits a postmortem.

Fatal traffic accident in Orange Walk

Orange Walk District - June 29

Upon information received at 3:35pm of a fatal traffic accident on the Indian Church village road, Orange Walk District Police visited the scene. When police arrived at the scene of the accident they saw a brown Ford Ranger pickup (BZ-C- 31747) on the left side of the road with its four wheels up and extensively damaged.

A male Hispanic decent person identified as Jose Perez, 38, of Guinea Grass Village was on the ground next to the pickup apparently dead. Investigation revealed that the victim was driving (accompanied by his mother and his brother), when he lost control of the vehicle and overturned. Alejandra (his mother) received injuries to the right eye, left ear and complained of pain to the neck. Julio (brother) received injuries to the right hand and complains of pain to the neck. Jose Perez’s body was transported to the Northern Regional Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The body awaits a postmortem.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that MARCIA CHIRINOS is applying for a renewal of PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2009 to operate JAS’ RESTAURAN located at Bella Vista Village, in the Stann Creek District.
Garifuna Pioneer will be at the Garifuna Reunion

The Pioneer of the Garifuna Movement in the United States of America

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 1, 1999
Contacts: José Francisco Ávila
(718) 402-7700 - New York

The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization is happy to announce that Ms. Dionisia (Ms. Nicha) Amaya will attend the Garifuna Reunion in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Yurumein) on April 12th, as the Arrival of the Garifuna Summit Meeting, and as well as the First to celebrate the Garifuna Bicentennial Dispersion, Reunification.

Ms. Amaya is a seventy six year old retired teacher from the New York City Board of Education who now resides in Honduras, where she operates the Barauda Bilingual School. She is the Pioneer of the Garifuna Movement in the United States and as a result was featured in the book Making it in America. A source book on Eminent Ethnic Americans by Elliott Robert Barkan and was honored for her community organizing work with a tribute by Congressman Edolphus Townsend from New York City in the United States House of Representatives in 2003. She’s also a founding member of Garinagu Women Pro Education (MUGAMA, Spanish Acronym), an organization whose goal has been to empower Garifuna Women and was the first to promote the Garifuna Culture in New York City, as well as the first to celebrate April 12th, as the Arrival of the Garifunas to Central America.

Ms. Amaya was one of the organizers of the First Garifuna Summit Meeting in New York City in July of 1991 with the theme “Uwala Busiganu, Garinagu Wagia,” Don’t be ashamed, We are Garifunas. As a result of the Summit Meeting, and the increased promotion of the Garifuna Culture, New York City’s Board of Education recognized Garifuna speaking English Proficiency as being entitled to Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language and were to receive instructional and/or support services in Garifuna. The outcome was the first Garifunas hired as teachers’ assistants to support these children. Ms Amaya also organized the first HIV/AIDS seminar in the Garifuna Community in 1991 by the founders of the organization known as Hondurans Against AIDS, Inc.

In 1992, she co-organized the Second Garifuna Summit Meeting in Los Angeles, California with the theme “Separation, Dispersion, Reunification.” it was the first time that Garifunas from St. Vincent, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and the United States got together under one roof. The only representative missing was from Nicaragua and it was due to the political situation faced by the country at that time. It is at this Summit that the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Garifunas Arrival to Central America was first conceived and in 1995 Ms Amaya organized the Garifuna Bicentennial Committee that was responsible for the Bicentennial Commemoration in Honduras, in April of 1997.

In May of 1998, she was a co-founder of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc and one of its original directors and in May 2000 became a co-founder of the New Horizon Investment Club in New York City.

We are proud and honored to make Ms. Nicha’s dream a reality, by joining us in this historic journey, she’s truly the pioneer of the Garifuna Movement in the United States, said Rejil Solis, Chairman of the Board of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.

José Francisco Ávila
www.newhorizoninvestclub.com
SHUSH!!!!!! SHUSH!!!!!!

1. Wabagari Post SALESMAN’S CARRIER BIKE STOLEN; any help leading to the recovery of the bike is appreciated and will be rewarded.

2. First year students in the S/C District, promoted to second year are also entitled to the 300 dollars government education grant.

3. Summer jobs at D T C. One week out of eight weeks must rotate among all the working students. Doing what?

4. Money available for education is $20,000. How many can get?

5. A brand new party colour, "Great Wall" vehicle is seen parked at the D T C compound. Put the plate on after all that is one of the jobs done there.

6. What are we doing about the many horses in town? They overturn ‘nough garbage cans; they have broken water pipes in people’s yards; eaten and trampled people’s gardens; they also pull down fences as in ever increasing numbers they rocket through our yards. Does someone have to be hurt, maybe a child, before something is done? Please help us?

7. The jetty is still there. Hear any news about it? P U P could help?

8. P U P moving forward, the concerned members must catch up. The office is in operation mode for the last few days.

9. The oil in front a Griga?? No watch no face!

FROM DI OUTSIDE LOOKING IN & PICK SENSE OUTTA NONSENSE

"Mr. Martinez, how much money we have left under di Pomona or Hopkins Community Center Project? If he thought in his mind that we had enough funds, I saw a relief in his facial expression otherwise, he would automatically go into a pause mode before he say to me, ‘nuff worry a wait hafo convince dem fu give mi more money but ah might need a little time, please inform Check (D.O. Tillett) fu mi. Back then, my Boss and the Chief Clerk were very creative, wonderful people to work with. They could take the initiative to legally ‘rob Peter to pay Paul’ anyway. My point is, people, this Minister along with other Ministers from the south were always under tremendous pressure getting funds for their constituency and I personally believe it is no different today or maybe even worse. This is one of the reasons why I said in last week’s edition that, we as people of Griga need to have signatures petitions with all of our concerns and request a Town Hall Meeting with our Prime Minister and "DT/C" Members. At least, this will provide our Area Rep. with written document to give to our Prime Minister and maybe he will have something to think about. If our Area Rep. can do this for us, which I have absolutely no doubt that he will, then we should not blame or criticize him unless he ignore our request.

Don’t get me wrong people, I’m not saying that there were no corruptions back then, if I did I would be lying to you all and “I stop do dat long time”. I find mi God and ah wah stay right deh. "Ah wah give unu wah few right now" but ah noh wah call no names, dah no do naah chap fit, let them wah right it”. Main wi gi dah Public Works and Tropic Zone, now called “New Rivera”. Deh mi say a peple from Public Works Department to Stann Creek Police Station, arrested them, charged and convicted for handling of stolen property/materials from the bodega. Wallah, “Tropic Zone was built and you find out the rest.

I was transferred from District Officer’s Office to Ministry of Agriculture as the very first “Temporary Relieving Officer” to handle the Vose Control for the Banana Industry in Cow Pen. Even though I had a Driver’s License at the time, I was never given a Land Rover, Mint Moke or a Bike and thank God. Again, no names. I resided in Mango Creek and the gas and diesel tanks were located in Cow Pen, so I had to depend on one of my Foremans to bring me pump readings every day to balance my books. The Administrator at the time and myself were the only persons that had keys for the pumps. Well guess what happened deh. Martinez, ah noh give you no meat and Stann Creek Hospital use to mi deh... “Ah wah give unu wah few right now” and they planning to do with the land and Stann Creek Hospital use to di meh pan dah property remember?. Brothers and sisters, let us all keep the FAITH God takes care of everything. All these corruptions are coming out for a reason. To be honest and to be fair to anyone, we have the deepest water port throughout Belize. The Cruise Ships would have been able to dock on the pier instead of the Jetty. We mi wah have jobs and wi economy mi wah be strong. They will give Hon. Anthony “Boots” Martinez all di money fu develop di Battle Field and di Boulevard with Griga and Punta Gorda because Hon. Turo Roaches and Hon. Edie Martinez from NG, nob got nothing fi get, trust me.

“N o M o n e y N e h D e h ” but our government is paying. What are they planning to do with the land and building where the Post Office was before? and why couldn’t they have made developments on the building to have it where it could be used for the Post Office, Lands Department and Treasury? Oh yeah, ah figer me yah meh no money noh deh, I’m sorry but ah di think lee bit, Social Security have wah beautiful building dah front deh and Stann Creek Hospital use to mi deh pan dah property remember?. Brothers and sisters, let us all keep the FAITH God takes care of everything. All these corruptions are coming out for a reason. To be honest and to be fair to anyone, we have the deepest water port throughout Belize. We need something for us to make a living here. What are we doing about the many horses in town? They overturn ‘nough garbage cans; they have broken water pipes in people’s yards; eaten and trampled people’s gardens; they also pull down fences as in ever increasing numbers they rocket through our yards. Does someone have to be hurt, maybe a child, before something is done? Please help us?

Terrence O. Martinez
I have been observing Belizean politics from the time I was a child and one of the major differences between the People’s United Party and the United Democratic Party, is that when the People’s United Party is in power, they are not afraid to do anything they please without the concerns of the public at large. Unlike the United Democratic Party members, who contemplate what the members of the People’s United Party will think or feel, before they implement policies on behalf of their supporters and the Belizean people. The People’s United Party in Belize behaves like the Republican Party and the United Democratic Party like the Democrats in the United States of America. One of the things I have learnt about politics in school is the utilization of political power when you have the opportunity to use it. People run for political office because they want to have the opportunity to use the power they are given by the people through the vote. This is the first UDP administration under the leadership of the Right Honorable Dean Barrow that came to office, with no fear to implement bold programs and initiatives on behalf of the Belizean people despite the mess they have inherited from the PUP government that was there for ten years. During the times when the Belizean people were protesting against the People’s United Party Government and even seven of Prime Minister Musa’s Cabinet Ministers were against him, Musa said that he was not going to bend or bow because the Belizean people gave him the mandate that he was going to serve every day in office until his term expired. The former Prime Minister stretched the definition of true democracy by making such statements because it is the people that put a politician in office and they can ask for those politicians to step down if they are dissatisfied with their performances despite the fixed terms that they have in place. In fact, if the people choose to remove an elected government, because they are dissatisfied with them, through public protest and mass demonstrations and other means, that can be considered democratic. The idea to form a commission to deal with these constitutional amendments is an attempt by the PUP to stall and stifle the progress the United Democratic Party is trying to make and it is laughable at best. The United Democratic Party will not stoop to such silly recommendations at a time when our country is going through many problems they inherited from the PUP. All those amendments that were presented are necessary for the reforms and cleaning up that our country needs at this juncture in the development of our country. The United Democratic Party now has the mandate and the support of the majority of Belizeans as was displayed in the last two elections that were held in Belize. They should go ahead and use the power that was given to them by the Belizean people to implement their programs. If they fail to act, they will be accused by the members of the People’s United Party as a do nothing government that is talking without any action in place. The PUPs are beginning to feel what it is like to be in the opposition and not having the power they once had. Well, it is only one year since they lost power and the United Democratic Party members were in that position for ten years. If they could have waited for ten years, then I cannot reason why the members of the People’s United Party cannot wait for nine more years. Are they so obsessed with power that they cannot live without it? They must realize that they were the ones who caused the power to leave their hands and nobody else. Belize is not going to progress without making constitutional reforms that should have been done many years ago. Belize is a young growing nation and we need to adopt changes as we go along. The countries of the world are becoming closer to each other and we must try to integrate and be a part of this movement. In their opposition to the amendments, the PUP is not even clear as to what their positions are on these amendments. To oppose is good but to oppose without any justifiable reason, to be engaging in stalling tactics just for opposing sake is irresponsible for any politician. Most Belizeans living in the United States applaud the UDP government for the job they are doing to give Belize a different image in the international arena and the move to give them a stake back in their country of birth.

Ministry of Human Development trains Social Workers

Belmopan - 01 July, 2009
The Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation in partnership with the Family Preservation Institute of New Mexico State University and UNICEF is currently conducting a two part training for 100 percent of its Social Workers. The training seminar entitled “Back to Basics – Reconnecting with our Values and Purpose” is intended as a refresher training course in the values and ethics of social work practice and family preservation principles. Participants will also be trained in new skills and methodologies for working with families in crisis and children who have experienced trauma and loss. The facilitators Alvin Sallee, P.J. Shannon, Dr. Robert Blair, Dr. Anita Barbee, Ms. Tracy Tippett and Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty - are six University Professors who are well published and have many years of experience in the area they will be presenting. The seminars are being conducted in two cycles from June 30 to July 3, 2009 at the Radisson Fort George. The Honourable Peter Martinez, Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation is opening both cycles of the training seminar. The first was on Tuesday, June 30 and the second will be on Thursday, July 2, 2009.

Agriculture Minister meets Farmers and Fishermen in Toledo

Belmopan - 01 July, 2009
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Rene Montero was on a two day consultation visit from the 25th - 26th June, 2009 with farmers and fishermen in the Toledo District. The purpose of his visit was to open dialogue and acquire some of the challenges, policies and role of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the promotion and development of the agriculture sector. During the consultation producer groups presented many of the challenges affecting their productive capacities and requested the intervention of the Ministry to support their cause. 25th June, 2009 Monkey River, Toledo
Met with some forty fishermen of Monkey River and presented some of the new legislations to regulate and improve current fishing practices, such as the passing of a mandate to prohibit net fishing and the implementation of a zoning regulation. Other matters discussed was: Catch Sharing, sport fishing and the granting of fishing license to Belizean’s fishermen only. The Fishermen of Monkey River also expressed interest in forming a fishing association for the development and implementation of a plan that would ensure the...
Agriculture Minister meets Farmers and Fishermen in Toledo

(Cont’d from pg. 8)

sustainability and use of the marine resources

26th June, 2009
Rio Grande, Toledo

Held session with fishermen of Rio Grande. Key topics discussed was the possibility of exporting fin fish to Jamaica, issuance of fishing license, net fishing and the sustainable harvest of sea cucumber. Also encouraged was the idea of diversifying into satellite farming of tilapia due to the suitable environmental conditions. Toledo Livestock Growers’ Assoc.

His tour of visit continued where he met with members of the Toledo Livestock Growers’ Association. Issues affecting the association such as the high cost of inputs such as fertilizer, barbwire, and the granting of forestry license for the extraction of farm post were discussed. Also mentioned of great interest for livestock producers is the market potential of exporting beef and other animal bi-products to Mexico in the near future. Minister Montero maintained his ministry continued support through the provision of technical support to producers in order to expand and ensure the development of the livestock industry. Toledo Grain Growers’ Assoc.

Minister met with the Toledo Grain Growers’ Association to address some of their concerns such as the price for rice seed and paddy rice. The Minister committed to ensure that farmers do receive a fair price for their produce. He also made commitment to continue the support to small farmers by providing farm machinery and other equipment to assist in land preparation and the provision of technical assistance to ensure increase production and profitability. Minister Montero also explained that he will be commissioning a delegation to Central America to seek markets for our grains (rice, corn). He also mentioned that he envisions the Toledo District to once again become the major producer of paddy rice for the country. The tour concluded at Rice Seed Production Seminar in which he presented the vote of thanks. This seminar was coordinated by the ROC Technical Mission in conjunction with the Agriculture Department. Some 40 rice farmers and technicians were present and during his presentations he highlighted the policy for grain production, its implementation and explained the existing market opportunities for the export of rice to countries in Central America, mainly to El Salvador and Honduras.

At the end of his visit Minister Montero expressed his complete satisfaction with all those who made it possible and says that the consultation will serve to chart a way forward for the development of agricultural sector for the Toledo District.
HOROSCOPE

July 03, 2009

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)
They may be a bit insensitive but they're telling the truth. You must respect that.
You're the vanguard of something big and new today -- and you might not even know what it is! You do know that you've got some great energy flowing, so make the most of it and see what happens!

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
An upcoming event will drain your financial resources but add to your education.
Your subconscious mind is working overtime today but that's not such a bad thing. If you feel worn out for no good reason, you just need a time-out to process all the weird ideas bubbling up from down deep.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
Become partners with someone who matches your drive but challenges your ideas.
No matter how tense things get today -- and depending on your people, they could get pretty ridiculous -- you still need to step up and take charge or at least guide the situation to a successful conclusion.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Invest in some self-nurturing. What makes you feel loved, comfortable and safe?
You're going through some pretty weird interpersonal stuff right now, possibly with coworkers. It's one of those times when you need to stand your ground, even though you're not sure of yourself.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)
Get ready for things to get much louder in your love life, as romance is amplified.
Your living, breathing energy is impossible to contain -- get out there and shake things up! You feel better than some think you have the right to feel but that is their problem, not yours!

VIRGO (August 23 - Sept 22)
You want to go with flow today. An easygoing nature will help you overcome conflict.
Once again, you prove your reliability to the right people by refusing to let go of an important responsibility. It's a good day to focus on what matters most and look toward the future.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Exploring high ideas may be a luxury today, as practical matters just can't wait.
You should find that your ability to communicate with your people is peaking today and that they are giving you good news -- to say the least! At least one message coming your way thrills you.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
A risk you took is about to pay off. Think about how you'd like to spend a windfall.
You and your coworkers need to be wary of big risks today -- it's not that your luck is bad so much that you don't have all the info you need. Try to delay any gambles for a few more days at least.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
A dose of admiration goes a long way to motivate someone. Dole out some compliments.
You've got exactly what it takes to handle the day -- you may not be sure what lies ahead, but that's all part of the fun! It's a great day to take the lead on anything that's new or fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Have you lost some of your idealism? People are essentially good -- remember that.
Sometimes you have to act like a hero -- pushing forward despite despair. Today, you feel certain that things aren't going to work out but if you persevere, you can break the cycle and succeed!

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Friends are the family you choose. Tell your closest companions how you value them.
You're feeling more connected than ever to all the right people -- and are incredibly welcoming of new folks, too! It's a great time to think about your position in the big picture.

PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20)
A blabbermouth might let your big secret slip today. Take preventative measures.
Someone very important decides to disagree with you -- maybe out of spite, or maybe legitimately. You should do your best to smooth over the argument for the time being, until you're on surer footing.

THREE THINGS

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back
1. Time 2. Words 3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person

Three things in life that you should never lose

Three things in life that are most valuable

Three things in life that are never certain
1. Fortune 2. Success 3. Dreams

Three things that make a person

Three things that are truly constant
Father - Son - Holy Spirit

I ask the Lord to bless you, as I pray for you today; to guide you and protect you, as you go along your way. God's love is always with you, God's promises are true. When you give God all your cares, you know God will see you through.
**Make Your Day**

**Rich Man Granting His Wish**

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?”

**In A Hurry**

A man and his wife walked into a dentist’s office. The man said to the dentist, “Doctor, I’m in one hell of a big hurry! I have two buddies sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf. So forget about the anesthetic and just pull the tooth and be done with it. I don’t have time to wait for the anesthetic to work!”

The dentist thought to himself, “My goodness, this sure is a very brave man, asking me to pull his tooth without using anything to kill the pain.”

So the dentist asked him, “Which tooth is it, sir?”

The man turned to his wife and said, “Open your mouth, Honey and show the doctor which tooth hurts.”

**From Ground to Table Mother Earth is Able**

**Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving**

powa2grow@yahoo.com

**Sautéed Cassava**

Cassava is one of the root crops that our people use. This is a very simple recipe and I hope that you try it.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 lbs. boiled deveined Cassava
- 4 large pimento peppers,
- 1 small onion,
- 2 table spoons margarine,
- 2 tablespoons salted cooking butter.

**METHOD**

In hot saucepan melt margarine and salted butter, add sliced pimento peppers and sliced onions, cook for approx 3 minutes. Add cassava and toss for two minutes.

**Agriculture Vibes**

**Unity - Power of One**

“Farming like nation building is a task for Giants. Small men see it and walk away.”

**Urban Gardening**

The folks who grow plants around the house in small areas are called gardeners. The beginning of a good garden stars with soil or planting medium. In nature we get this type of soil when trees die rot mix with mud or sand to form a type of soil called loam. Loam is made up of a lot of humus.

To achieve this same condition the gardener rakes up, piles, and mixes the leaves with chicken dropping (manure) and mud in a controlled environment. The stuff rots and breaks down after a few weeks. With repeated mixing during this period the stuff becomes one. When done properly the stuff obtained is rich in nitrogen plant food and has its own distinct smell. This stuff is called compost. If you want more details on how to make compost visit a library in your area.

Urban gardeners are small producers. They too can come together to facilitate a felt need. This we call cooperation. The group is called a cooperative. A cooperative is a group that has come together to deal with a felt need. For example a group of producers can come together to buy or sell as a group to save on cost. Another example might be a person who has a heap of leaves but does not have the time to do a garden. In order to get the job done at minimum cost, the gardener takes away the leaves, goes to the other person with a chicken coop, takes off the manure then piles it up in a controlled environment to form compost. See how many people are involved? This is cooperation.

A problem I encountered with small gardening is the buying of chemicals to control insect pest and diseases.

**Planting Dates**

**Farming**

Planting Dates for above the ground: July 11, 12
Planting Dates for below the ground: July 4, 5, 11
Planting Dates for Flowers: July 7, 26
Best Days to Destroy Weeds: July 18, 19, 23
Best Days to wean babies: July 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11
Best Fishing Days: July 11, 12, 20, 21

**FULL MOON WILL BE ON JULY 07**
**BELIZE PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFF RESULTS**

**Semi-Finals**

**Game 1**

28/6/09  FFB Football Field  
4:00PM  Belize Defence Force vs Hankook Verdes  
1 Dennis Serano 37min.  
Amin August 11min.

MCC Grounds  
4:00PM  F.C. Belize vs Nizhee Corozal  
2 Deon McCauley 14min.  
Tyrone Muschamp 39min. (PK)  
Vctor Morales 60min.  
Cesario Rosales 74min.

**Semi-Finals**

**Game 2**

5/7/09  Norman Broaster Stad.  
4:00PM  Hankook Verdes vs Belize Defence Force  
2

Ricalde Stad.  
4:00PM Nizhee Corozal vs F.C. Belize