

Belize's leading newspaper

BTL tech falls to his death



Edwin Sho – deceased

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

A tragic Valentine's day accident claimed the life of a technician of Belize Telemedia Limited after a lamppost on which he was working snapped in two, which caused him to fall to his death. Edwin Sho, the victim of this terrible accident, was reportedly

doing an installation for Jubilee Church in Roaring Creek village. A church member said that, while showing Sho's coworker where to run the installation wire, they heard a very loud bang.

"As we ran outside, the guy flat on the ground, motionless. I guess from the height he fell – the lamppost and the ladder on the ground, and he on one side, and when we got outside, we saw the lamppost, you know, broke, snapped," Jason Twist, a member of the church, said.

It was a routine installation that went dreadfully wrong. Twist said that they later discovered, when they took a look at the inside of the post, that the post was rotten, but this was not something that could have been determined by looking at the outside

of the log.

"Well, as you can see, the post that rotten, it's rotten to the bottom, hollow, so I guess that could have changed from long time, but who would have known, because, you know, when you look at the post visually, I mean only now you know that it's rotten because it wouldn't a look like something weh rotten," he said.

"I would think he probably panic and probably just fell off or jump off or something but, I mean he could have fell on the other side where the grass is, but man, it was on the cold, hard cement," Twist commented.

Edwin Sho, a resident of Roaring Creek, was a well-loved musician in

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Is JPAC another dud?



Tracy Taegar Pantón - Chairperson



Osmany Salas - member



Julius Espat - member

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

A new Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC) was formed in 2021 by the Briceño administration to scrutinize public spending, and during a Senate meeting last week, Osmany Salas, the outgoing

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PBL sues CWU

Last Thursday the Port of Belize filed a claim seeking damages to the tune of \$1.03 million from the Christian Workers Union



Evan "Mose" Hyde – President, CWU

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

The Christian Workers Union (CWU) and the Port of Belize Limited (PBL) are locked in a legal battle following a lawsuit filed by the PBL against the union; its president, Evan "Mose" Hyde, and five of its members. The PBL is seeking \$1,034,403.00 in special damages, interest, and costs for losses it claims it suffered due to what they are classifying as an illegal strike on the part of the union and its members.

The claim, signed by PBL's CEO Andy Lane, is a case being brought against the CWU based on the tort of interference and an assertion that the company incurred financial losses caused directly by the so-called

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Young mother killed in Bmp shooting

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

At about 11:15 p.m. on Saturday night, February 12, a vehicle ferrying eight persons from Stars Restaurant in Belmopan came under fire from the occupant(s) of an SUV who unleashed a torrent of bullets at the van. One of those bullets fatally wounded a young mother, Karina Andrews, 20, in the head. She would be pronounced dead shortly after, while being treated at the Western Regional Hospital.

Andrews and the other occupants of the vehicle had been socializing at Stars Restaurant in Belmopan, when they reportedly noticed a suspicious individual making multiple trips in and out of the establishment. The group, reportedly



Karina Andrews, deceased

unnerved by that person's movements, decided to leave the establishment and were heading to their homes in a white van when an SUV overtook them at a speed bump near Blue Moon Restaurant, at the entrance to Belmopan. Over 20

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Sir Manuel Esquivel to be honoured with State Memorial

(See story on page 14)

PSU decries GoB's selective salary increase

The president of the Public Service Union, Dean Flowers, in a press conference last week said that the union will actively oppose a proposed increase in the legal services payscale, "at all costs."



Dean Flowers - president, PSU

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

In a letter dated February 4, written to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, the president of the Public Service Union (PSU), Dean Flowers, opposed a proposed adjustment in the payscale of legal professionals in the public service, which, according to him, will result in a 17% increase in the salaries of those working in those offices. The Attorney General, Hon. Magali Marin-Young, has publicly said that what is being proposed is actually a 7% salary increase for Crown Counsels working in the government service, an increase that, according to her, was approved under the Barrow administration and is owed to them.

The PSU, in its letter to the PM, however, called the submission "unconscionable," and remarked that it would be shameful for those legal officers and the office of the Ministry of Finance to support such an increase. The PSU has pointed out that those lawyers are "no more special"—no more technically proficient or diligent in carrying out their duties—than the professionals who work in other departments within the public sector, and yet he noted that those legal public servants already enjoy higher salaries than their colleagues.

"I want to state that we have respect for those officers, because they are public officers like ourselves. But I want us to speak without any apology. They are no more special than other technical experts in different fields that we have within the public service: absolutely no different, and absolutely no more special than any other expert in the public service. And so, we felt compelled to state to the Prime Minister that we will not tolerate that anomaly or that further anomaly to be expounded upon, because legal services officers—as it is—enjoy better compensation, much to the detriment of other public officers, and other expert officers and technical officers in the public service," Flowers stated.

He said that the union registered their "utmost disgust and objection for any consideration" of such a proposal by the Solicitor General. He further noted a widening gap between the pay scale enjoyed by legal members of the public service and other highly qualified technical experts within the government service, and he pointed to the discriminatory nature of any further salary increase that would benefit just

one category of public workers.

"In no way, shape, or form, am I putting down legal services officers, because this is something that I believe—and I want to call them out as well, I'm not fighting with them—in that they should have said to the Sol. Gen., this is unconscionable, this is foolishness, this is nonsense, this is selfishness, this is being very egocentric. We cannot in good conscience support your proposal for a 17% increase for us, while our fellow brothers and sisters, who perhaps spent more than us and who work harder than us, to continue to be subjected to a 10% cut while you are proposing for us to benefit from a 17% increase when we are already higher paid than most public officers in the system, including technically qualified officers," he said.

He claimed that in addition to the proposal, a submission has been made to purchase a van to transport legal services officers to work while other public officers are required to use their own mode of transportation, and he estimated the price of that van to be in the range of \$90,000.

"We have been made to understand that legal services officers are in receipt of many allowances, including a housing and transportation allowance. So is it that, in that submission that it was proposed for it to be removed from them? The audacity of the leadership in the Solicitor General's ministry is mindboggling, it's really mindboggling, and it needs to be condemned and called out," Flowers said.

He remarked that the proposed payscale submitted for the legal services officers "blows the public service payscale out of the waters", and called it a disgrace, but he added that the office of the Solicitor General may have skipped an important step that he said is necessary in any such payscale adjustment process: consultation with the Ministry of the Public Service and the PSU.

"It is also come to our attention that they are submitting or are about to submit for consideration their own regulations. They don't want to be governed by the Public Service Regulations, as if they're not public officers. Now these are supposed to be people of legal, sound minds, and it never seemed to have dawned on them that once you are a public officer you must be governed by the Public Service Regulations. In addition to that—unless of course you fall within the judicial services or the security forces – but in addition to that, the disrespect coming out of this office towards the Ministry of Public Service and the Public Service Union, because the regulations that govern the Solicitor General and everybody else beneath her is clear—that where classification of post, grievances, salary and allowances and the terms of condition of employment, those must be done in conjunction, between

the Ministry of Public Service and the Public Service Union. That is the recognised representative of public officers."

The Joint Union Negotiations Team (JUNT), comprising unions representing the various public servants of the country, is scheduled to meet on February 16 with representatives from the government to continue the discussion of the data presented by the GoB reps on the current fiscal state of the country and whether it is possible to bring an early end to the 10% cut to the salaries of these workers. The PSU president commented, however, that the government has no fiscal strategy or roadmap; and likened their spending to that of drunken sailors—pointing out that they have no benchmark to determine a suitable time to call for a reinstatement of public servants' full salaries.

"When you are dealing with a government, and government—red or blue—who do not have a fiscal strategy statement or, a strategic direction in which they want to grow the economy, it's difficult for us to have a fresh in terms of—or a benchmark, in terms of where we want to be, or where we really want to go. What is the sense of budgeting? Each and every year, you pass a revenue appropriation bill, every March or April of each year. And then you come back, and you ask for more, and you ask for more. But, you fail to identify where the revenues will come to offset the request for additional expenditures. Governments, on the whole, PUDP, can be classified as drunken sailors, spending like drunken sailors, the

people's money. They don't have any plans," Flowers asserted.

In regard to the current state of mind of many public servants, Flowers said, "Some public officers believe that they have no reason to be afraid anymore. And so, it will be interesting to see what would be the end result of that meeting on the 16th, because, guided by the sentiments that are being expressed across this country, 2022 may very well be a year of reckoning for the political parties that have raped and pillaged our resources, and who have enriched themselves, their families and their political cronies. It could very well be a year of reckoning and, we all just need to be alert, prepared, and ready for anything. So we will know what happens next."

According to local reports, Hon. Marin-Young has said that what is being proposed is a 7% salary increase (rather than 17%) for legal professionals in the public service that had been approved by the Barrow administration between 2014 and 2017 but was never applied to their salaries. She said that the GoB's current efforts are aimed simply at correcting the issue for Crown Counsels. PSU president Flowers said that the proposal is currently before the Prime Minister, and that they are calling for any increase in the salaries of legal services officers to be put into effect for all other public servants.

"We're saying that it is before the Prime Minister, and we're saying, we object to it. We will stand up against it, and if there is any, any increase in salaries to legal services officers, that increase must apply to every single public officer, every single public officer...." Flowers said.

Belize City man killed on Kut Avenue

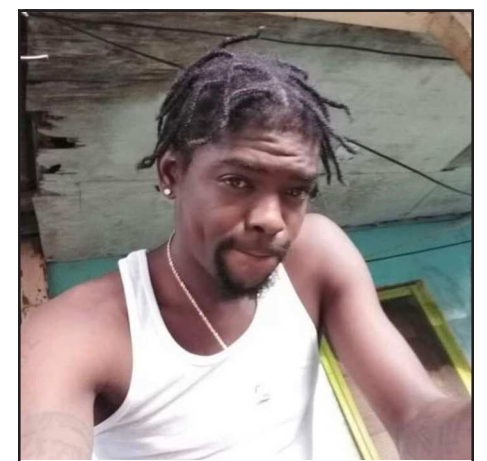
by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

A Belize City man was killed on Saturday night, February 12, after being ambushed by two men riding a motorcycle. Supal Street resident, 30-year-old Nimrod Fitzgibbon, also known as "Son Son" was walking on Kut Avenue when he was shot several times by one of two men who approached him on a motorcycle.

Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, told the media that they do not yet know the motive for this murder. He noted, however, that Nimrod Fitzgibbon was no stranger to police.

"There is no current motive as yet, and yes, you're right in saying that he's no stranger to the law. But in a murder where it was only him on that street [at] that particular time and his two assailants. We would have to really do some deep canvassing to try to get to the bottom of this one.



Nimrod Fitzgibbon, deceased

Nonetheless, our officers remain on that scene from that night, and I am certain they are out there trying to put this together and see how quickly we can bring it to a close," stated Yearwood.

Fitzgibbon's girlfriend, Shaday Martinez, recalled the moment she found out that her boyfriend had been killed. "I just finished from taking a

Integrity Commission members named. Still no Auditor General.

PSU president Dean Flowers applauded the appointment of new members, but emphasized that there's still much more to be done, both in terms of the Integrity Commission and the still vacant post of Auditor General

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

This past week, the new members of the Integrity Commission were

selected and their names forwarded to the Governor General. In a brief interview with local media, Prime Minister John Briceño shared that those names included Zoey Zetina,

Rick Moguel, and Andrea McSweeney McKoy, who is set to become the chairperson of the Commission. In regards to when the Integrity Commission will be fully operational, the PM stated that it's now only a matter of waiting for the Governor General to send out the actual Instrument of the appointments.



Andrea McSweeney

Established under the Prevention of Corruption in Public Life Act, the Integrity Commission plays a vital role in monitoring, preventing, and combating corruption. The commission examines declarations of physical assets and financial positions filed by public officers and is also able to investigate allegations of corruption made against those public officers. President of the Public Service Union (PSU), Dean Flowers shared his thoughts on the selection of new members, stating that while the PSU is pleased with the move, there is still much more to be done. Flowers expressed disappointment in the fact that, within the Government's supplementary allocations, there have been no provisions for the strengthening of the Commission.

judgement of those who should be holding the government to task. Additionally, Flowers expressed his own personal lack of confidence in the former Auditor General.

"The former Auditor General has served. She has left a lot to be desired in terms of the quantity and quality of work that should have been produced from that office. We are fully aware that it is not solely her fault. It had to do with the Ministry of Finance, the Accountant General's office, who had to prepare financials for her to review. But with all that, where she has left us is unable to produce an audit of the hot-bed of corruption which started, I don't know, some 10 years ago. Under no circumstances can the union support any extension of employment for the former Auditor General. We believe there are more technically sound, more knowledgeable, more experienced, and more competent auditors out there that can fill the post," stated Flowers.

"We do not, and we place on record, that we do not support the renewing or the issuing of a contract to retired public officers," he added, noting that the PSU plans to submit their stance in writing to the Prime Minister.

Flowers also stated that the PSU was taken aback by the Prime Minister's comment that the Government cannot find a suitable candidate for the Auditor General post, pointing out that they have not yet issued an advertisement for the post of Auditor General.

"The Ministry of Public Service is the Ministry responsible for vacancies. And I can say that at the meeting with the Ministry of Public Service, which was two weeks ago, we were informed categorically that they're putting together the advertisement for the post of Auditor General. So if you have not advertised the post, how can you come to the Belizean public and say that there is nobody suitable to fill that post?" said Flowers.

The PSU has also issued a call for the strengthening of the Auditor General's office and for a salary increase for the post, something else which, Flowers noted, was not included in the Government's supplementary appropriation bill.

PG cop remanded for child rape

COMPOL purging department of rogue officers

PUNTA GORDA, Toledo District, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

A police officer from Punta Gorda Town is currently out on bail after spending a few nights at the Belize Central Prison on two counts of unlawful carnal knowledge, after he was caught on Tuesday inside a house with a 13-year-old minor and two other females. PC Giovanni Choc was arrested and charged on Tuesday after the 13-year-old minor made a report in the presence of her mother,



Giovanni Choc - remanded for child rape

that Choc, 23, had sexual intercourse with her on two separate occasions, including as recently as the day of the report. PC Choc was arraigned on Thursday and transported to the Belize Central Prison, where he is remanded until his next court date on May 11.

It was a tip to Punta Gorda police that led them to search the house in Indianville where Choc was found. Police were told that he was in a house alone with a minor, but the officers who went to the home found three female persons in the house, including the child. The age of the other two females, and the nature of their relationship with Choc and the minor, are currently not known.

Reports are that the first act of alleged rape occurred on December 5, 2021, and the other on Tuesday, February 8—the day Choc was found by police in the house. A medical examination to determine if the child had been carnally known has been conducted, but no results have yet been released.

During an interview today, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams stated, "The policeman in Punta Gorda Town was charged with unlawful carnal knowledge of a 13-year-old. The 13-year-old reported [she] has had sexual intercourse with the officer and based on that we did our investigation."

The officer is currently interdicted and awaiting results of an internal investigation. The COMPOL also noted that he is hoping for a hearing in the short term in order for the department to hand down an internal decision against the officer. COMPOL Williams said that the department will discharge Choc if they have sufficient evidence to do so.

Commissioner Williams

additionally stated that a police officer stationed in San Pedro may soon be dismissed as well from the department after he teamed up with a civilian to physically assault a woman. According to Williams, that officer has been charged criminally and has been interdicted as well.

"PSB (Professional Standards Branch) is also pursuing the internal aspect of those investigations, and we hope that they will be heard very quickly and we will be able to deal with them internally as well. Again, it goes to show as a department we are going after our officers who are accused of having committed any irregularities, regardless of the extent, and if there is evidence that is sufficient to rid ourselves of them, then we will do," stated the Police Commissioner.

He added that Inspector David Mckoy is currently detained in Belize for a domestic issue. He is to be charged by the end of the day, COMPOL Williams said.

"Again, the chips may fall where they may because again we are not going to countenance any domestic issue on the part of our officers. We have spent extensive hours training them and talking to them about the importance of not getting involved in domestic issues, so when they find themselves on that side of the law, then we will do what needs to be done." COMPOL Williams said.

He added, "Since we had the recruited squad 95, we have lost more than 2/3 of those officers to attrition, majority of whom are by dismissal, cause everyday we dismiss police officers. It's just the public don't know, but everyday police officers are being dismissed, cause as they commit irregularities, the evidence is there, we do what needs to be done."

Public sports competitions to resume in 3 weeks

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Feb. 13, 2022

About a month ago, the sports portfolio of Hon. Kevin Bernard was reassigned to Hon. Rodwell Ferguson after Hon. Bernard became the new Minister of Health and Wellness. Since then, Hon. Ferguson has been making an assessment of local sporting facilities as the country nears a possible resumption of social activities following what is projected to be an imminent end of the most recent Covid-19 wave. Last week, on Thursday, February 10, Minister Ferguson and his team went to the Orange Walk District to assess the sporting facilities in that locality.

During his visit, Minister Ferguson announced that sports activities will be resuming in the country within the next three weeks—with basketball

games being the first of such activities to be taking place publicly. “With the limited resources, we have agreed that within the next three weeks we are going to start basketball competitions across the country at high levels, in all districts, in all communities if possible, cause we must reach out to our young people,” he said.

Hon. Ferguson further explained, “We have a management meeting every Monday, and we all sit down together and plan, and together we have seen major strides and some major accomplishments. We are going to start with basketball within a couple of weeks and across the country of Belize, where everybody will have the opportunity to play basketball. Football is in a certain standard, because we have the FFB and we also plan to work with

volleyball to reach out to every youth across the country. So it’s a tremendous task.”

Minister Ferguson went on to express his belief that in order to reduce crimes and violence in the country, young people must be involved in sports.

“I strongly believe that we can curve the crime situation in this country by first instilling our youths, promoting sports, and while we’re promoting sports, we have to find opportunities for them to be employed. But once you occupy them in sports, we’re going to see a complete difference,” he said.

During the minister’s visit, he



**Hon. Rodwell Ferguson -
Minister of Sports**

donated several pieces of sporting equipment to the Orange Walk Sports Council.

CDB launches Belize Trade Program



**Dr. Hyginus “Gene” Leon -
president, Caribbean
Development Bank**

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Sun. Feb. 13, 2022

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration, launched the bank’s Belize Trade Program and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/CARICOM Single Market Economy (CSME) Standby Facility Projects this past Thursday. The aim of the projects, made possible through approximately US\$1.5 million worth of funding, is to assist and enhance the capacity of trade-interfacing agencies like the Customs and Excise Department, Belize Bureau of Standards, and Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) as well as the Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA). To accomplish this goal, the CDB will be supporting four projects implemented by the agencies, namely the Enhancing the Capacity of the Government of Belize to Facilitate Trade Project; the Development of a Risk-based Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Import and Export Control System for Belize Project; the Increasing Participation

of the Belizean Cacao Industry in the Cocoa-Chocolate Global Value Chain Project; and the Enhancing the Belize National Quality Infrastructure Project.

The Belize Trade Program and the EPA/CSME Standby Facility Projects are expected to improve trade facilitation in Belize, something which Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, says plays a significant role in the Government’s commitment to enhancing the competitiveness of Belize’s economy.

During the launch, Dr. Hyginus “Gene” Leon, the president of the CDB, remarked that the bank recognizes its role in supporting development and reducing poverty in the country, and through the projects, will be increasing the prominence of trade-related initiatives.

“CDB’s relationship with Belize extends beyond five decades and remains closely aligned and focused on helping you, the people of Belize, to attain your Sustainable Development Goals. The bank, as the second largest contributor to the Government of Belize’s current suite of development-related projects, has clearly signaled our intent to sustain and increasingly collaborate with the Government and development partners to attain key social, economic, environmental, and institutional targets,” said Dr. Leon.

The program launch was a part of the CDB president’s week-long high-level mission to Belize, which began on February 7. Dr. Leon was accompanied by several other CDB staff, including Mr. Isaac Solomon, Vice President (Operations); Mr. Shelton Nicholls, Senior Advisor; Mr. Daniel Best, Director of Projects; Ms. Andrea Power, Coordinator – Regional Integration; and Ms. Cassie-Ann James, Communications Officer.

PM’s cable company dominates market

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

Last week, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño was asked if he believes he must recuse himself as the Minister responsible for the country’s broadcast sector given his personal

investments in the cable and internet industry in Belize. It is no secret that the PM is the owner of Centaur Cable, the powerhouse cable network which supplies the north of the country with cable television and internet services. The company - along with Central Television and Internet (CTI) - acquired Southern Cable Vision in December of last year. Centaur, according to reports, is now providing service down south, thus significantly expanding its reach after joining forces with CTI. Prime Minister Briceño, when asked about these moves that seem to have consolidated control of the local market for cable and internet services, said that these advancements are business as usual, and are a part of their strategy to be a financially viable company.

“To be financial viable, you need to have numbers; you have to grow with the number of customers, and that is what we have been doing. Doing that now, it also allows us as a company, Centaur, to be able to provide a better service; that we have the cash flows to be able to invest, because it requires heavy investment. But I think what you forget to point out, and I think deliberately, is that cable is as you know— you were on the board for many years— cable as an industry is regulated,” PM Briceño told 7News director Jules Vasquez .

While cable is a regulated industry in Belize with diminished market presence due to the various new online platforms through which Belizeans can access content, a third of all households and hotels are still connected to cable networks— amounting to sizeable profits for



cable companies despite the rise of streaming services online. While he did not answer the question posed to him, on whether or not he believes that his roles as both broadcast minister and a major player in the industry have resulted in a conflict of interest, he did note that the Belize Broadcast Authority is the ultimate regulator and decision-making body within Belize’s broadcast industry.

“So it is not that you can tomorrow do as you wish; you have to get approval from the regulator, which is the Broadcasting Authority. Secondly, what influence can I have?” PM Briceño asked.

Belize City man killed on Kut Avenue

Continued from Page 2

shower and changing my clothes, and that was so I heard the shots, but when I heard the shots, I knew he wasn’t here home with me. So I said to myself, ‘let me go check and see who it is’, but when I was around the lane, I heard his friends saying it was ‘Son Son’, so when I ran towards him I saw him on the ground with his shots and foam coming out of his mouth,” she said.

Martinez said that she wants people to remember her boyfriend as a hard-working man with a dream who was passionate about his kids and upholstery business.

Police investigations continue.



Stars and strife



Larry "Charro" Bennett

Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

When, on January 14, the National Sports Council announced the decision, beginning January 15, to allow 50% capacity attendance of fans at its sporting facilities, it marked a dramatic turning point in the level of social interaction experienced over the past twenty-two months, during which there had been a total prohibition of the attendance of fans at sporting events; and like the damage assessment after the passage of a major hurricane, sports fans are slowly coming to a realization of the

plight of some of their acquaintances and former stars of which they were not aware during the lockdown and fan-restriction period.

Now that fans are being allowed to attend sporting events, albeit wearing masks, sanitizing hands and maintaining some social distancing, the increased congregation in the sporting arenas has allowed for an accelerated flow of information and updates on the well-being of friends and acquaintances that form part of the regular exchange at these social gatherings. And while some close friends and relatives have kept abreast of each other's situation through phone contact during the past almost two years of the pandemic, many are only now finding out about the crises that were faced and

are still being endured by others in the community through direct conversation or overheard exchanges with other fans at the ball park. While many individuals were suffering in silence and solitude during the raging storm of the pandemic over this long period, the recent lifting of restrictions on fan attendance at sporting events has been accompanied by the highlighting of some prominent sports persons in need of assistance; and, as sports mirror the rest of society, it reminds us of the sad fact that our system is still not providing an adequate safety net for citizens most affected by the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, which resulted in loss of jobs and means of sustenance.

While football is generally considered a sport dominated by the poorer classes, perhaps because of its not requiring any expensive attire, just a ball to kick, the unfortunate truth is that some of the sport's biggest stars in Belize, where professionalism is a fairly recent occurrence (1991, and still at a very primitive stage), were not highly educated outside of the sport, and thus were ill-prepared to secure steady employment once their playing days were over. Of course, many footballers were academically or technically skilled and trained in another profession, which they continued to pursue after retiring from

football; but some others were not so equipped, and the aging unskilled become the most vulnerable in an economy that is under stress, with high unemployment and rising costs of everything. And while one may have been a big star in bygone days, with many fans eager to give a handout or buy one some drinks, an aging former champion is now in a bad place, with everybody crying hard time, and few even aware of his precarious circumstances. Ironically, the evidence so far would seem to indicate that the personal dignity and sense of self-worth attained by some of our prominent sportsmen impels them to pursue their sustenance on the right side of the law, although some have difficulty securing jobs in construction; and even the car washing business, once the domain of guys from the "base," has now become a competitive and increasingly mechanized field.

A few years ago, even before Covid-19, the once highly regarded footballer of 1990's Juventus fame, Ian "Coco" Henry, was stricken with complications from diabetes, and up until he passed in 2020 was unable to secure a reliable and consistent source of funds, so that he would not have to be repeatedly calling on old friends in the sport to help out financially.

Recently, we have learned of former Orange Walk great, Juvencio "Bud" August experiencing a difficult situation and needing assistance, though the exact details have not been disclosed.

In the unofficial football culture in Belize, one Allan "Bubbler" Valerio is a veteran who has been involved in playing and promoting the sport in the villages for many years. In his youth, the Bubbler once played for Belize City 2nd Division champions HRCU back in the mid-1980s; but he has been suffering from diabetes, and is reportedly now almost blind and has recently lost a leg.

Larry "Charro" Bennett played defense for a number of Belize City champion teams back in the 1970s and 80s, from Berger-404 to Belikin. Unable to work for some time, Charro has not been doing well recently.

For sure, in the other districts of our country there are some veteran ballers, big stars in their day, whose circumstances are now tragic and would appreciate some assistance.

In the USA and other advanced societies, there is such a thing as unemployment benefits. In Belize, if you have been a contributor to the Social Security Fund over x number of years, you become at retirement age entitled to a monthly payment, which may barely sustain an individual in these inflationary times, but it is still something. In the case of aging veterans who did not contribute to Social Security in their productive years, there is an application process whereby such individuals may possibly access a monthly stipend of \$100.00 from the Fund.

If one has no earnings and absolutely no means of other income, the \$100.00 monthly from Social Security "beats nothing to hell"; but it would be preferable if a more substantial monthly amount could be secured to assist our "ballers in distress."

The essence of sports is team spirit – all for one, and one for all. Some of us have made bad decisions along the way, and we all have at times fallen short of the glory. But we are all just passing through, and, to paraphrase Ali, "We all must fall in the round He calls." Therefore, it is good when a group of fans, friends or past teammates can join together in an effort to provide some consistent financial support to a former sportsman who gave it all in his day on the field of play, but now is in need of assistance to trod the remainder of his life journey with dignity.

The late, great Jacinto "Tash" Gutierrez was one retired footballer who also had a profession besides football; a trained surveyor, Tash reached out till the very end to contribute his resources along with a group of like-minded brothers toward the assistance of disabled former football greats, Peru and Hogman Olivera. Together we can, Belize! Calling on their past teammates, friends and fans to start organizing a support group for each of our other ballers in distress. Some brothers have organized an event in Cayo on Saturday to assist the Bubbler; but they will need to design something that they can sustain over the long haul. Many hands make the work light. We need the same for Bud, and for Charro. Just like we have a Peru/Hogman Support Team, we could have a Bubbler Support Team, a Bud August Support Team, a Charro Support Team, etc. Only the people can save the people. Peace and love, Belize!



(estb. 1969)

Business and editorial offices:
3304 Partridge Street, Belize
City, Belize, Central America
is printed twice weekly by the
Amandala Press.

Telephones: 501-280-4703/
501-202-4477

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Amandala's website:
amandala.com.bz

UBAD!!!

Growing up in colonial Belize and the immediate post-colonial era, we were taught, and accepted, mediocrity, as a fulfilling goal in life. To work at a bank, or to have a career in the civil service, was enough. We didn't think about making money, being independent, starting a company, or even attending a university. Farfetched ideas for most of us. Our ambitions were tailored to the environment in which we were brought up. There were exceptions to that rule, of course. Some knew that they wanted to become lawyers or doctors, and of course, many followed their parents into the family business. So many of us who could've done much better in life, who could have pursued unimagined dreams, of becoming scientists or architects, settled for less, or for just what was in front of us. No foresight, no incentive to really break out of that system that we were born in.

I know that some are wondering where I'm going with this. We had good schools, our literacy rate was in the 90 percent range, we excelled at universities because of our primary and secondary schooling! I remember that when I applied to university, I was given 60 credit hours because of my GCEs. So our educational foundation was excellent, but still, you know, too passive, too colonial. This is where UBAD comes in.

Back in 1969, when this ragtag band of revolutionaries starting agitating in the streets of the old Capital, most of us were wary of their messages! Who were these upstarts trying to upset the social order, the very smooth ways things always were, and should remain? Sure, the message made sense, but we weren't prepared to listen, for the most part, except for the roots brothers and sisters! They awakened something in young people. The late 60s was a time of worldwide revolution and protests and unease with the social order, just not in Belize. The schools and the colonial masters made sure of that. We didn't have a Manley or a Bishop to inspire us, so we existed in this unhealthy bubble.

UBAD changed that! Not immediately, but gradually. Young

people began questioning their parents, the system. Instead of Price and Goldson, they began to relate more to Evan X, Musa, Shoman, and their more socially progressive ideas. Shabazz, and Galento and Justice and Fairweather were all preaching about acceptance of whom we were, self-reliance, the need for us to free ourselves from the bondage we were unaware of. The X man started publishing the *Amandala*, which quickly became Belize's no.1 newspaper, supplanting the *Reporter, Times, Beacon*, and all others because of its message and its honesty. These brothers were prepared to go to jail for their core beliefs. They were arrested and harassed and marginalized. They were too good to last, so they were fractured into many pieces, but they served their purpose!

They were beaten, but not defeated. From that ragtag team of misfits came an awareness of our history, our culture, a resurgence of national pride, well maybe not a resurgence, there was no fierce national pride before, at least not our own. They taught us to love ourselves, our roots, our ancestors, not the imported ones, but true Belizean heroes and patriots. They made us look at ourselves, not as Creoles, or Garifunas, or Mayas, or Coolies (derogatory word), but you get my drift, but as Belizeans. All ah wi dah wan! We delved into, and learned about our history, not what we were taught in schools, in my time, but about the Caste War, 1919, the labor movement! They taught us to respect ourselves! "Get rid of those hot combs and hair straighteners and to be natural, be self-sufficient!" Roots culture!

Today we are at a crossroads. Belize is changing ethnically at almost supersonic speed. I think that without UBAD and its influence, its indelible stamp on our country, we'd have been lost already. Not waiting to exhale, we would have already been overrun by the barbarians at the gate. I'm not trying to romanticize or exaggerate this phenomena, UBAD; it just is what it was! Amandla!

Early travels of the Hon. Leigh Richardson

(The following story originally appeared on page 4 of THE BELIZE BILLBOARD of September 18, 1949.)

The report has been received by cable that Mr. Leigh Richardson, News Editor of THE BELIZE BILLBOARD, arrived in London on Tuesday.

Mr. Richardson left Belize on August 26 by BWIA for Jamaica en route to England where under a Colonial Office scholarship, he will study English newspaper methods for one year.

Mr. Richardson, who is 25 years of age, joined THE BILLBOARD in February of 1946, three weeks after the paper was founded, and by the vigour

and style of his reporting helped to make this bi-weekly BH's most popular (it has broken all circulation records) newspaper of all time.

In January of 1945, he became Associate Editor of the literary quarterly, THE OUTLOOK. He quit First Class teaching in the Methodist schools to take up journalism in 1945.

Mr. Richardson is also local correspondent for the United Press Association of New York, the DAILY GLEANER, SPOTLIGHT TRINIDAD, GUARDIAN, BARBADOS ADVOCATE, GUIANA GRAPHIC, and other leading West Indian publications.

Cyclists call for Cycling Federation of Belize to hold elections



Tariq Cano,
candidate vying to be Cycling
Federation of Belize president

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 9, 2022

A group of cyclists who are members of the Cycling Federation of Belize held a press conference on Tuesday at which they called for an extraordinary general meeting to be held so that a new executive of the federation can be elected.

According to Tariq Cano, who addressed the media at the press conference and who is seeking to be elected as the federation's new president, and Alexi Ordonez, who is vying for the post of vice president of the federation, they have given the current executive of the federation a requisition form that bears the signatures of approximately thirty members of the federation (twice the minimum number of signatures required) who are in favor of the motion.

The efforts to elect a new executive, said Cano and Ordonez, are a response to what they perceive to be a disturbing decline in the sport of cycling in Belize over the years and an urgent need to revitalize the sport and pave the way for the entry of a new generation of riders.

"Cycling has been in a downfall for the past five years, you could say. Our youths in cycling have dwindled from my days, which was about seventy young riders, to now you have not even ten riders signing up for classics, and that's the future of the sport. You have these young athletes, ten of them, and out of that ten, maybe five will transition into an elite rider. Then what

happens to the generation of cyclists—it's dying off. The females are also dying off, and we're trying to revive that back. We do believe if we get at the helm of it, we'll be able to do even more than what we can be doing without being in power," said Cano.

Cano went on to say that over the last three years he and Ordonez and a few others, although not a part of the executive, have been engaged in efforts to get that revitalization of the sport underway.

"Almost for the past, I would say like a decade, the Cattouse family and Kaya, herself, have been doing things for the development of very young cyclists. Just recently, my family, my dad and my brother and myself, we started a livestreaming event where we highlight cycling, the coverage of the races, as well we highlight the cyclists. We review all the events from the past week. With that being done now, cycling is getting the attention that it needs, and we believe, like Mr. Cano said, if we had the chance once again, we can do much more if we are actually in power," stated Ordonez.

Ordonez also mentioned that his and Cano's call for elections within the federation have been met with resistance by the current executive of the federation—a scenario that he said they have faced before.

"Honestly, the same situation is repeating itself again, and we didn't give up last time, so I don't think me or Mr. Cano tend to bow down again. We want cycling to get back to where it once was or even better," he said.

"We already got Kaya Cattouse to become the first female pro-cyclist. We're now getting Derrick Chavarria to be the first cyclist from Belize to be accepted into a university for collegiate racing, and these are the kind of things a president need to get done. I really honestly want to see our Belizean cyclists reach the next level," expressed Cano.

The Cycling Federation of Belize was founded in 1928, with the inception of the Annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic, which is the longest-running cycling race in the Western Hemisphere.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Maintenance Mechanic (Generator Mechanic)

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-03-R

Closing date: February 25, 2022

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

Master B's failed revenge plans back on again

by Colin Hyde

So, after the dud convention in February 2020, we have a UDP searching for a new leader, and seemingly no one wants the job. But wait, can there be any truth to the rumor that Patrick noh get nof, after getting dusted off so badly? My, my, no one believed that Patrick would enter the race for UDP leadership again, definitely not so soon.

Five months after the corrupt group that now calls itself Caucus for Change had ganged up and beat the tar out of Faber, the UDP's slim chances in the upcoming general elections had slipped to zero. It sure looked like it would have been better for Patrick's star if he had allowed a sacrificial "ram" to lead the flock to the slaughter when the big election was called.

It must be a case of what we call, over-eager. We all know what happened next. Faber announced he would run again, and the disgraced John, who had won in February and then fell from grace three days later, said if Patrick run hihn wahn run tu.

This John move, coupled with Patrick's second bid, was some boomerang. Boohoo, after all

Barrow's best laid plans, he was still stuck with Patrick and John. For the UDP PM, it really was a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't situation, but there was clearly a lesser of two evils in this faceoff, and all the Barrow gang turned to Patrick, which was enough to get him over the caucus.

Ai, I forgot to mention that external instructions were also saying no-way to John, and that's another reason why the Barrows had to pile their forces behind Mr. Patrick, whose main public fault was this button that women pushed and made him go ballistic.

Ouch, Patrick and the UDP get wap in the generals, the municipal elections tu, and mere weeks after that last defeat, the infernal button is pushed, Patrick loses it and stomps a door, and he is on the ropes. He is replaced in the House, as UDP leader, and he has to go to a convention and fight off this Caucus for Change, to remain leader of the party.

You know, we should give the original red devil some respect for not calling himself a saint. He once was, but that long behind him, his sole business is encouraging sins of the

flesh. I am thinking about this caucus. It's the lowest subterfuge for them to be posing in sheep's skin.

I know I'm getting boring now, all this part being so recent, but just a moment more and I'll have muddled through. Patrick survives the caucus, he gets back all the epaulets he lost, and all is relatively tranquilo in his world again, and then bam, dehn push ih button, and jos like that Master Barrow's failed revenge plans are back on again.

Dr. Shanikka shudn feel too guilty

I get the sense from an article I read in the *Reporter* that Dr. Shanikka Arnold is big on a Catholic-type guilt trip over how her common-law/or boyfriend got kicked out of his seat as Leader of the UDP and Leader of the Opposition in the House. There was a domestic issue, Dr. Shanikka made a report to the police, she later withdrew her complaint, but re: Patrick's political career, the damage was done.

Ms. Michelle Sutherland, the author of the story, which is titled, "Faber's fiancée emerge to call him hero", said that Arnold, in a personal facebook post, said big in the dispute was a personality issue of hers that she had been diagnosed with about 3 years ago, but had not publicized. It was a private matter until the little blowup.

Hmm, I can see where the young lady is feeling some agony, but taking a dispassionate view, it looks to me like she and the former UDP leader were on a high-wire act, and the question really was how long they could stay up there before they had a fall.

Okay, the doctor seems to have her own anger issues. The Faber/Arnold household isn't alone in that. Anger issues are common. Some of us keep it down by keeping to ourselves.

If I were her friend, here's what I'd say to the young lady. Life is crazy. Very often we get condemned for sins we didn't commit, and we get a pass for things that should get us hung. Your guy, that Mr. Faber, really, he needs more than anger management; for the many times he messed up that way he needs to wear sackcloth. If it's any consolation to her, Faber's political career isn't over if he does the right things. But that's for another time.

That disappointing Bradley, and did he set up Shyne?

The famous Richard Bradley made the rounds on the morning shows recently, and much of what he had to say did not go down with me. The brother is an outstanding entertainer, a brilliant politician who came within a delayed plane from foreign of unseating Dean Barrow in the 1998 general elections, and he has

evened or maybe eclipsed Barrow in the world of criminal lawyers. Remember in the 1980's Barrow increased his "fame" by defending men accused of the worst crime, and today Mr. Bradley is the lawyer people look for when Chester and his men are sifting through data in the forensics lab.

Nothing being impossible under the sun, Bradley might have been thinking about his and Selgado's batting average when he called for Belize to do away with murder trials by judge. Boo, we heard all the reasons why fairness demands trials by juries, but before trials by judge were implemented in serious criminal cases the state's batting average was 5%, and everyone who could afford a high-priced criminal lawyer was guaranteed not guilty, like the foreign OJ.

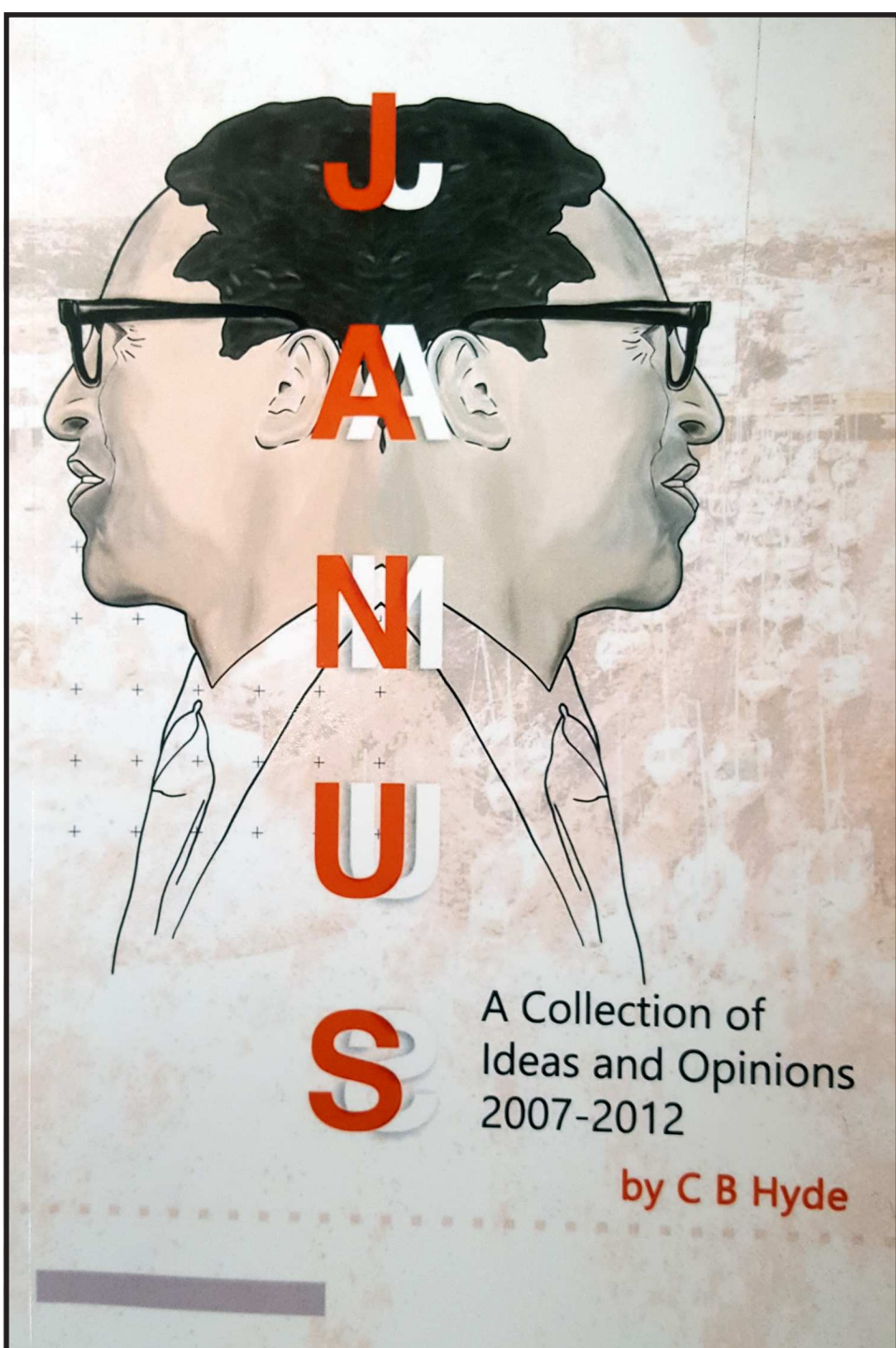
We really need to look at justice in our country. It's absolute madness. Because of our justice system's woeful failure we have sunk to a state where it's revenge in the streets, where it's all about the families Hatfield and McCoy. I can't believe that in the midst of this craziness Bradley wants to bring back terrified juries. Of course, trial by judge isn't the ideal, but suggesting that we go back to a more hopeless time, that's hard to follow.

Now why did Bradley mention the names of Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X when he was discussing the terrible crime? Was he, with his wild connection, sincerely trying to make us see virtue in men who have committed violent crimes, or was he setting bait?

Look, let's get this out of the way. There aren't many men in this world who are total pacifists. Jesus said if you just harbor the thought you are guilty. Almost all of us come short of the glory. God will decide about our hearts in the great tomorrow. Here the story is about the flesh. Here thinking about it and following through are vastly different things.

Bradley is from the belly of George Price's paati. His incredible insertion of Mandela and Malcolm in his violent crime mitigation might have been to sucker Shyne into the blunder of comparing his case to those two giants. Mandela was never a thug. He fought apartheid. Malcolm X's dad was killed when he was a little boy. Under the strain of raising 8 children, his mother broke down when he was 12. Malcolm and his siblings lived in foster homes. Really, I don't need to continue this.

Second chances, we've all had our share, so none can criticize it. The big question is WHERE. I expect even a rapist deserves a second chance, after they have spent 8 or 12 years. But you'd be a fool and a criminal to place one as a teacher in a girls' school.





Estrellas y lucha

Lun. 14 de febrero de 2022

Cuando, el 14 de enero, el Consejo Nacional de Deportes anunció la decisión, a partir del 15 de enero, de permitir la asistencia del 50% de la capacidad de los aficionados en sus instalaciones deportivas, marcó un punto de inflexión dramático en el nivel de interacción social experimentado en los últimos veintidós meses, durante los cuales hubo una prohibición total de asistencia de aficionados a los eventos deportivos; y al igual que la evaluación de daños después del paso de un gran huracán, los fanáticos de los deportes se están dando cuenta lentamente de la difícil situación de algunos de sus conocidos y ex estrellas de la que no estaban al tanto durante el período de cierre y restricción de aficionados.

Ahora que se permite a los fanáticos asistir a eventos deportivos, aunque usen máscaras, se desinfecten las manos y mantengan cierto distanciamiento social, el aumento de la congregación en los estadios deportivos ha permitido un flujo acelerado de información y actualizaciones sobre el bienestar de amigos y conocidos que forman parte del intercambio regular en estas reuniones sociales. Y aunque algunos amigos cercanos y parientes se han mantenido al tanto de la situación de los demás a través del contacto telefónico durante los últimos casi dos años de la pandemia, muchos solo ahora se están enterando de las crisis que enfrentaron y aún están soportando otros en la comunidad a través de conversaciones directas o intercambios escuchados con otros fanáticos en el campo de pelota. Si bien muchas personas sufrieron en silencio y soledad durante la furiosa tormenta de la pandemia durante este largo período, el reciente levantamiento de las restricciones a la asistencia de fanáticos a los eventos deportivos ha estado acompañado por el hecho de que algunos deportistas destacados necesitan asistencia; y, como los deportes reflejan al resto de la sociedad, nos recuerda el triste hecho de que nuestro sistema aún no brinda una red de seguridad adecuada para los ciudadanos más afectados por la recesión económica causada por la pandemia, que resultó en la pérdida de empleos y medios de sustento.

Si bien el fútbol generalmente se considera un deporte dominado por las clases más pobres, quizás porque no requiere ningún atuendo costoso, solo una pelota para patear, la desafortunada verdad es que algunas de las estrellas más grandes del deporte en Belize, donde el profesionalismo es un hecho bastante reciente (1991, y todavía en una etapa muy primitiva), no tenían un alto nivel de educación fuera del deporte y, por lo tanto, estaban mal preparados para asegurar un empleo estable una vez que terminaron sus días de juego. Por supuesto, muchos futbolistas tenían habilidades académicas o técnicas y se formaron en otra profesión, que continuaron ejerciendo después de jubilarse del fútbol; pero algunos otros no estaban tan equipados, y los no calificados que envejecen se vuelven los más vulnerables en una economía que está bajo estrés, con alto desempleo y costos crecientes de todo. Y mientras uno habría sido una gran estrella en días pasados, con muchos aficionados deseosos de dar una limosna o invitar a uno a algunos tragos, un ex campeón envejecido ahora está en un mal lugar, con todos lamentando los malos tiempos y pocos incluso conscientes de sus precarias circunstancias. Irónicamente, la evidencia hasta el momento parecería indicar que la dignidad personal y el sentido de autoestima alcanzado por algunos de nuestros destacados deportistas los impulsa a buscar su sustento en el lado correcto de la ley, aunque algunos tienen dificultades para conseguir trabajos en la construcción; e incluso el negocio de lavado de autos, que alguna vez fue dominio de los muchachos de la "base", ahora se ha convertido en un campo competitivo y cada vez más mecanizado.

Hace unos años, incluso antes de la COVID-19, el alguna vez muy respetado futbolista de Juventus de 1990, Ian "Coco"

Henry, sufrió complicaciones por la diabetes, y hasta su fallecimiento en 2020 no pudo obtener una fuente confiable y consistente de fondos, para que no tuviera que llamar repetidamente a viejos amigos en el deporte para que lo ayudaran financieramente.

Recientemente, supimos que el ex grande de Orange Walk, Juvencio "Bud" August, estaba pasando por una situación difícil y necesitaba ayuda, aunque no se han revelado los detalles exactos.

En la cultura futbolística no oficial de Belize, Allan "Bubbler" Valerio es un veterano que ha estado involucrado en jugar y promover el deporte en las aldeas durante muchos años. En su juventud, el Bubbler una vez jugó para los campeones de 2da División de la Ciudad de Belize, HRCU, a mediados de la década de 1980; pero ha estado sufriendo de diabetes y, según los informes, ahora está casi ciego y recientemente perdió una pierna.

Larry "Charro" Bennett jugó de defensa para varios equipos campeones de la Ciudad de Belize en las décadas de 1970 y 1980, desde Berger-404 hasta Belikin. Incapaz de trabajar por algún tiempo, Charro no ha estado bien últimamente.

Seguro que en los demás distritos de nuestro país hay algunos jugadores veteranos, grandes estrellas en su día, cuyas circunstancias ahora son trágicas y agradecerían alguna ayuda.

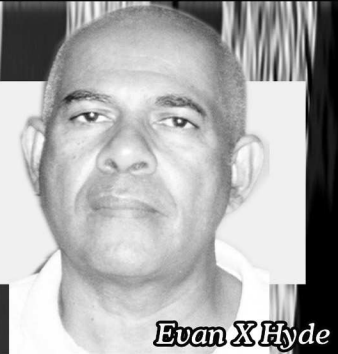
En los EE. UU. y otras sociedades avanzadas, existen las prestaciones por desempleo. En Belize, si usted ha sido un contribuyente al Fondo de Seguridad Social durante x número de años, al llegar a la edad de jubilación tiene derecho a un pago mensual, que apenas puede sostener a una persona en estos tiempos inflacionarios, pero aún así es algo. En el caso de los veteranos de edad avanzada que no contribuyeron al Seguro Social en sus años productivos, existe un proceso de solicitud mediante el cual dichas personas posiblemente puedan acceder a un estipendio mensual de \$100.00 del Fondo.

Si uno no tiene ingresos y absolutamente ningún medio de otros ingresos, a los \$ 100.00 mensuales del Seguro Social "no le gana nada"; pero sería preferible si se pudiera asegurar una cantidad mensual más sustancial para ayudar a nuestros "jugadores en apuros".

La esencia del deporte es el espíritu de equipo: todos para uno y uno para todos. Algunos de nosotros hemos tomado malas decisiones a lo largo del camino, y todos en ocasiones nos hemos quedado cortos de la gloria. Pero todos estamos de paso y, parafraseando a Ali, "todos debemos caer en la ronda que Él llama". Por lo tanto, es bueno cuando un grupo de aficionados, amigos o excompañeros pueden unirse en un esfuerzo por brindar un apoyo financiero constante a un exdeportista que lo dio todo en su día en el campo de juego, pero que ahora necesita asistencia para transitar el resto del viaje de su vida con dignidad.

El finado y gran Jacinto "Tash" Gutiérrez fue un futbolista jubilado que también tenía una profesión además del fútbol; un topógrafo capacitado, Tash se acercó hasta el final para contribuir con sus recursos junto con un grupo de hermanos de ideas afines para ayudar a los ex grandes del fútbol discapacitados, Perú y Hogman Olivera. ¡Juntos podemos, Belize! Hacemos un llamado a sus antiguos compañeros de equipo, amigos y aficionados para que comiencen a organizar un grupo de apoyo para cada uno de nuestros otros jugadores en apuros. Unos hermanos han organizado un evento en Cayo el sábado para ayudar al Bubbler; pero tendrán que diseñar algo que puedan sostener a largo plazo. Muchas manos hacen que el trabajo sea ligero. Necesitamos lo mismo para Bud y para Charro. Así como tenemos un equipo de apoyo de Perú/Hogman, podríamos tener un equipo de apoyo de Bubbler, un equipo de apoyo de Bud August, un equipo de apoyo de Charro, etc. Solo el pueblo salva el pueblo. ¡Paz y amor, Belize!

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

As one ages, one is better able to accept one's flaws and inadequacies. Personally, I have a problem with NORTH AMERIKKAN BLUES, which I wrote in early 1971, because I know I was trying to "show myself," as we say in the streets.

The street/military leader of UBAD, Charles X "Justice" Eagan, had been sentenced to five years in jail in January of 1971, and Norman Fairweather, who returned from New York around the same time, had not yet re-established himself as a street force. I knew I was puffing out my chest in BLUES, but I was just 23, 24,

so perhaps history will forgive me.

A lot of things have changed since 1971, and they have changed drastically and dramatically. In 1971, the weed business in the capital city was small and confined to "cross the Yabra bridge." One of the reasons the weed industry was still small was because a lot of city youth were still accepting the propaganda that weed made you "get crazy."

As an export industry, my sense is that weed became an item in British Honduras in the early 1960s, and it involved Americans, in the first instance. I remember the name of Vic

Stadter. The most prominent Belizean who was involved with the Americans was a stud named Dickie Gardiner, who had been a big Panama lottery man in the streets. with Nacho Coye, after their return from Panama. Late 1940s, early 1950s, I guess. (Gardiner served two different prison terms in the United States.)

Around 1975 or so, when the Melting Pot disco was beginning to kick up a lot of dust in Belize City, it was being run by two African Americans — an attorney named Ben Darden and his sidekick, Willie Trapp. Darden was in an affair with a Belizean lady by the name of Gail Dunn, whose father was Kenneth Dunn, the Commissioner of Labor at the time, if I remember correctly.

Darden and Trapp ran afoul of Deputy Premier, C. L. B. Rogers, who was the Minister of Police, and Rogers deported them after they were accused of exporting cocaine to America inside frozen lobsters.

The likelihood is that cocaine, for all intents and purposes, began becoming an item in Belize through the Melting Pot disco, of which Roy "Bullet" Craig became the owner after Darden. Craig had made millions selling stuff in New York City with his 123rd group of Belizeans. Precisely when they were busted by the American feds I can't say, although the late Patrick "Beans" Lawrence was always giving me stats on 123rd.

Anyway, around 1978 a Colombian by the name of Carlos Lehder Russell was looking for a safe haven from which to export cocaine into the United States. He was talking to people in the Belize government, it seemed to me, but he ended up buying an island in the Bahamas, where he set up his cocaine export business before the feds got ahold of him.

The bottomline of everything that has happened in Belize is that there was this exponentially growing demand in the United States, then clearly the richest country in the world, for marijuana in the 1960s, and then cocaine in the 1970s and 1980s. The Americans had made these substances illegal in the 1930s, so in a manner similar to how the American government's declaring alcohol illegal in 1919 (Prohibition) had spawned the growth of a deadly Italian Mafia in the 1920s, the "illegalization" of marijuana and cocaine has led our region to where we are today, from South America through Central America and the Caribbean, and, ultimately, Mexico. Life "south of the border" is cheap. As Sergio Leone wrote in one of his Western movies, "Where life has no value, death sometimes has its price."

Around 1975, I was running the streets, unemployed as such, when a friend kept urging me to buy some

Orange Walk weed from him. My thinking was that I needed to do research on what the profit margin was in the business, for my personal understanding. I bought a pound of weed from him. The price back then was \$70. The weed was good. How the weed got from Sugar City to Belize City was somewhat of an adventure in itself, but once a friend rolled off the weed for me, I quickly found out something very basic: you had to be a tough guy in this business, because people would "games" you. I am definitely not a tough guy, so when that pound was done, I got the hell out of there.

Here's the point I want to make in this column: cocaine, amphetamines, and marijuana are in demand on the American market. Let's focus on the cocaine trade, where the biggest profits and the most incredible violence take place. Consider our youth in the old capital -- unemployed, uneducated, broke, hungry, and desperate. They become mules and cannon fodder for Belize's cocaine dons. But, the root cause of the problem is in the sanctimonious United States, where so many Americans are so hungry for a high.

I will end by saying this to those of you Belizeans who are innocent. The tourists who come to Belize want drugs. So, apart from the export market, there is a domestic market for drugs in Belize, in every tourist destination in The Jewel. When our youth are murdering each other, they are doing so in the war for control of the market.

Sometimes, the general consensus is that the late, great Rt. Hon. George Price was a saint. Personally, I don't believe this, but I believe he would have fought to save young Belizeans from themselves where this drug violence is concerned.

Perhaps I am wrong, but in Belize City I know that the gangs and drug violence became bad after the Americans sprayed our weed fields with paraquat in 1985. Sandra Coye has claimed that there was a period (presumably in the late 1970s, early 1980s) when drugs, presumably marijuana, had become so big in Orange Walk that everybody did business in U.S. currency. Can you dig it?

This column is saying that most of our Belizean problem begins in the United States of America. Don't condemn our Belizean youth. Blame the Americans who are desperate for the high.

Yes, I know a lot of youth have died because of the high-grade Mexican weed market in Belize. But, you must ask yourself this question, at least yours truly does: would this have been the case if the paraquat had not been sprayed here? Food for thought, beloved, food for thought.



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Captain and First Mate required...

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You both will be expected to demonstrate first class boat handling skills. Captains should have the RYA (commercially endorsed) Sailing Skipper's license or its practical equivalent. The First Mate must hold the level 2, Basic Food Hygiene qualification. Both of you will have a valid STCW qualification and one of you should be a qualified Dive Master (or quickly become one). **Captains** should demonstrate sound leadership and hosting skills, have solid charter delivery experience, together with a good grasp of boat maintenance. They are expected to Assist the First Mate, and split the cleaning chores, such as dishes, cabins, and midweek turnaround. **First Mates** need to go the extra mile in food delivery, taste, presentation and being a well-rounded hostess, are their passion while able to assist the Captain where needed and with boat handling.

Interested crew couples should send an up-to-date CV containing reference contacts, together with a covering email stating why they should be considered for the positions to:

geoff@trade-winds.com

Occasionally we have need of Relief Captains or First Mates, if the above criteria fit your experience and flexible personality, kindly send your Resume & References with availability.

Vladimir Putin's annual press conference—Part 8

We know perfectly well that Belize has been recolonized; we know perfectly well how the agents of the different countries interested in this small part of Central America work. The system here has wanted us to be Caribbean, but there is a serious mistake, because 65 percent of Belizeans are Latino, whether from Mexico, Central America, or from those of us who have been here since long ago. And we know that the place that Belize plays in that region is very important for external forces; it is a door through which it is possible to enter both the north and the south. Everything is about being able to dominate the market in this part of the world; everything is money; everything is to hold the people in slavery. We need to have an open mind and we need an education more than anything that allows us to have an open mind and allows us to be critical, critical thinkers, to realize the game played by the powers that want to dominate the world. Something impossible throughout history—great empires have risen and fallen, but at the moment those who suffer are those of us who are here today, alive. I love the history of Russia; it is very interesting. Therefore, dear readers of this column, let me continue with the eighth part of Vladimir Putin's annual press conference:

Petr Kozlov: Good afternoon, Mr. President. Petr Kozlov, BBC Russian Service.

Vladimir Putin: Good afternoon.

Petr Kozlov: Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation and headquarters were designated as extremist organisations and disbanded this year. He is in prison now, after being poisoned, conducting an investigation into the poisoning and claiming to have identified the individuals involved. Over 100 media outlets have been put on the foreign agents' registry. Most of them were listed this year, actually, during the past six months. What happened in Russia recently for the number of those who the authorities consider extremists, undesirable organisations or foreign agents to have grown so fast? Let me say a few words about history. You often talk about history, and you know it. Probably, you remember that each time power in Russia was concentrated in the hands of one person in the absence of active opposition, when Russia was in a state of active, acute confrontation with the West, ultimately this situation prompted a response which plunged the country into the abyss of wars and revolutions. Do you not think that you, possessing all the power, are now laying the foundation, perhaps, for such wars and revolutions? Thank you.

Vladimir Putin: First of all, speaking of history, as a reminder, our opponents have been saying throughout the centuries that Russia cannot be defeated, but can only be destroyed

from within, which they successfully accomplished during World War I, or rather, after it ended, and then in the 1990s, when the Soviet Union was being dismantled from within. Who was doing it? Someone serving the interests of others that run counter to the interests of the Russian and other peoples of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation today.

You mentioned the person who was allegedly poisoned. The Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation has sent multiple official inquiries asking to provide at least some materials corroborating that he was in fact poisoned. There are none. How can this be explained? Not a single thing about Novichok or whatever you call it. We suggested that our specialists go there and join the investigation. I spoke with the President of France and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, asking them to allow our specialists to come, take samples and verify things, so that we can at least have some grounds to open a criminal case. No response whatsoever. We ask them: how can this be explained? Silence. So, there is no need to discuss it, let us turn the page if there is nothing to say in response.

As for inmates, every country has always had them, and that is never going to change. Do not commit criminal offences under the guise of political activity. Next, regarding the list of media acting as foreign agents and media outlets designated as foreign agents. I agree with you, it's not good. But let me remind you once again that this law was not invented here; it was invented in a state that— you represent the UK here, and the UK is the closest ally of the United States— a state everyone considers to be the beacon of democracy. The United States adopted this act back in the 1930s, but this is not the point. What is important is that it is in effect now. It is in force today. About 0.034 [percent] organisations have been labelled foreign agents there. Is this surprising now? We have the same share of foreign agents, 0.034, the same number. What is the difference? The difference is that in the United States, if you have not shut down, you face criminal liability, up to five years in prison. Even if you stop any activity and close the organisation it does not exempt you from criminal liability— five years. We do nothing like that. We do not prohibit the work of these organisations; we just want organisations that are engaged in internal political activity in Russia to clearly explain and disclose the sources of funding for their operations. That is all, they can continue doing what they are doing. Our law is much more liberal.

If you think this is not enough; if, like your colleague here, you think we need to introduce liability, administrative or criminal, for failure to get vaccinated— why don't we introduce criminal

liability for foreign agents' operations if the organisation fails to close, like in the US? But we do not even demand termination of their operations— we just want them to be honest about their sources of funding. There may be questions about the understanding of 'political activity.' I agree with you here. There may be questions about regulating this kind of activity. We have 74 organisations designated as foreign agents of 200,000 registered NGOs— that's 0.034. Just like in the States, but we do not have such severe penalties, which include criminal liability. Now, regarding keeping power in the same hands. We have distinct branches of power— the executive, legislative and judicial authorities. Clearly, the delineation of authority between these branches can have minor variations depending on the specific country at a



by Clinton Canul Luna

specific stage of its development. We will strive to ensure that they are independent, so that the country is cohesive, efficient and forward-looking. And in the end, it will be up to the Russian people to choose their system of society and state, not up to those who you serve today. Next, please.

(To Be Continued)

fincasolan@gmail.com

February 12, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



Eastern Europe braces for refugees as Ukraine tensions simmer

Countries including Poland, Romania, Latvia, brace for potential arrival of thousands from Ukraine as tensions with Russia simmer.



Members of the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service attend a training session near the border with Belarus and Poland in the Volyn region, Ukraine [File: Gleb Garanich/Reuters]

Countries in Eastern Europe are making preparations for potentially hundreds of thousands of people fleeing Ukraine if the crisis with Russia escalates, with some Polish towns already listing places available and Romania considering refugee camps.

Memories of the Iron Curtain and Soviet influence are still very much alive on the European Union's eastern flank, where people are wary of any instability that could hit their economies and unleash a wave of migration last seen in the 1990s during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

Russia has more than 100,000 troops massed near Ukraine, and the United States has warned that an attack could begin in the coming days. Moscow denies any such plans and has accused

the West of "hysteria".

Nonetheless, governments and towns near the Ukrainian border, from north to south, are getting ready to take in refugees, if needed.

Poland, which is home to between 1 million and 2 million Ukrainians, who mostly came to the country to work, said on Monday it was preparing for a worst-case scenario. Deputy foreign minister

Marcin Przydacz told Catholic broadcaster Radio Plus he was "preparing for large numbers so as to be better prepared".

The mayor of the eastern Polish town of Ciechanow, which has a population of about 44,000, said it was ready to receive about 80 refugees in a hotel within 48 hours, at a cost of 140 zlotys per night including food.

"We have been assured that the state budget will fully cover the costs," Krzysztof Kosinski told Reuters.

On Sunday, the northern town of Elblag said it had 420 places available. The central Polish city of Torun said it had 96 places for refugees. In the south, the city of Czestochowa said it has

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

A medida que uno envejece, es más capaz de aceptar sus defectos e insuficiencias. Personalmente, tengo un problema con NORTH AMERIKKAN BLUES, que escribí a principios de 1971, porque sé que estaba tratando de "fanfarronear", como decimos en la calle.

El líder callejero/militar de UBAD, Charles X "Justice" Eagan, había sido sentenciado a cinco años de prisión en enero de 1971, y Norman Fairweather, quien regresó de Nueva York alrededor del mismo tiempo, aún no se había reestablecido como una fuerza callejera. Sabía que estaba sacando pecho en BLUES, pero solo tenía 23, 24 años, así que quizás la historia me perdone.

Muchas cosas han cambiado desde 1971, y han cambiado drásticamente. En 1971, el negocio de la marihuana en la ciudad capital era pequeño y se limitaba al otro lado del puente Yabra. Una de las razones por las que la industria de la marihuana aún era pequeña era que muchos jóvenes de la ciudad todavía aceptaban la propaganda de que la marihuana te "volvía loco".

Como industria de exportación, mi sensación es que la marihuana se convirtió en algo en Honduras Británica a principios de la década de 1960 e involucró a los

estadounidenses, en primera instancia. Recuerdo el nombre de Vic Stadter. El beliceño más prominente que estuvo involucrado con los estadounidenses fue un semental llamado Dickie Gardiner, que había sido un gran hombre de lotería de Panamá en las calles con Nacho Coye, tras su regreso de Panamá. Supongo que a finales de los 40, principios de los 50. (Gardiner cumplió dos penas de prisión diferentes en los Estados Unidos).

Alrededor de 1975, cuando la discoteca Melting Pot comenzaba a levantar mucho polvo en la Ciudad de Belize, estaba dirigida por dos afroamericanos: un abogado llamado Ben Darden y su compañero, Willie Trapp. Darden estaba en una aventura con una mujer beliceña llamada Gail Dunn, cuyo padre era Kenneth Dunn, el Comisionado de Trabajo en ese momento, si no recuerdo mal.

Darden y Trapp entraron en conflicto con el vicepremier, C. L. B. Rogers, que era el ministro de Policía, y Rogers los deportó después de que los acusaran de exportar cocaína a Estados Unidos dentro de langostas congeladas.

Lo más probable es que la cocaína, para todos los efectos, comenzó a convertirse en algo en Belize a través de la discoteca Melting Pot, de la cual Roy "Bullet" Craig se convirtió en

propietario después de Darden. Craig había ganado millones vendiendo cosas en la Ciudad de Nueva York con su grupo de beliceños 123. Precisamente cuándo fueron arrestados por los federales estadounidenses, no puedo decirlo, aunque el finado Patrick "Beans" Lawrence siempre me estaba dando estadísticas sobre el 123.

De todos modos, alrededor de 1978, un colombiano de nombre Carlos Lehder Russell estaba buscando un refugio seguro desde el cual exportar cocaína a los Estados Unidos. Estaba hablando con gente del gobierno de Belize, me pareció, pero terminó comprando una isla en las Bahamas, donde instaló su negocio de exportación de cocaína antes de que los federales se apoderaran de él.

El resultado final de todo lo que ha sucedido en Belize es que hubo una demanda exponencialmente creciente en los Estados Unidos, entonces claramente el país más rico del mundo, de marihuana en la década de 1960 y luego de cocaína en las décadas de 1970 y 1980. Los estadounidenses habían ilegalizado estas sustancias en la década de 1930, por lo que, de manera similar a como cuando el gobierno estadounidense declaró ilegal el alcohol en 1919 (Prohibición) generó el crecimiento de una mortífera mafia italiana en la década de 1920, la "ilegalización" de la marihuana y la cocaína ha llevado a nuestra región a donde estamos hoy, desde América del Sur a través de América Central y el Caribe y, en última instancia, México. La vida "al sur de la frontera" es barata. Como escribió Sergio Leone en una de sus películas del oeste, "Donde la vida no tiene valor, la muerte a veces tiene su precio".

Alrededor de 1975, estaba corriendo las calles, desempleado como tal, cuando un amigo me instó a que le comprara un poco de mota de Orange Walk. Mi pensamiento fue que necesitaba investigar cuál era el margen de ganancia en el negocio, para mi comprensión personal. Le compré una libra de mota. El precio en ese entonces era de \$70. La mota era buena. Cómo llegó la mota de la Ciudad de Azúcar a la Ciudad de Belize fue una especie de aventura en sí misma, pero una vez que un amigo me enrollaba la mota en porciones pequeñas, rápidamente descubrí algo muy básico: uno tenía que ser un tipo duro en este negocio, porque la gente le jugaría juegos a uno. Definitivamente no soy un tipo duro, así que cuando terminé esa libra, me largué de allí.

Este es el punto que quiero resaltar en esta columna: la cocaína, las anfetaminas y la marihuana tienen demanda en el mercado estadounidense. Centrémonos en el tráfico de cocaína, donde tienen lugar las mayores ganancias y la violencia más increíble. Consideren a nuestra juventud en la antigua capital: desempleados, sin educación, sin dinero, hambrientos y desesperados. Se convierten en mulas y carne de cañón para los capos de la cocaína de Belize. Pero, la raíz del problema está en el santurrón Estados Unidos, donde tantos estadounidenses están hambrientos de un subsidio.

Terminaré diciéndoles esto a aquellos de ustedes, beliceños, que son inocentes. Los turistas que vienen a Belize quieren drogas. Entonces, además del mercado de exportación, hay un mercado interno de drogas en Belize, en todos los destinos turísticos de La Joya. Cuando nuestra juventud se está asesinando entre sí, lo está haciendo en la guerra por el control del mercado.

A veces, el consenso general es que el finado gran Muy Honorable George Price era un santo. Personalmente, no lo creo, pero creo que él habría luchado para salvar a los jóvenes beliceños de sí mismos en lo que respecta a esta violencia de las drogas.

Tal vez me equivoque, pero en la Ciudad de Belize sé que las pandillas y la violencia de las drogas empeoraron después de que los estadounidenses rociaron nuestros campos de marihuana con paraquat en 1985. Sandra Coye ha afirmado que hubo un período (presumiblemente a fines de la década de 1970, principios de la de 1980) cuando las drogas, presumiblemente la marihuana, se habían vuelto tan grandes en Orange Walk que todos hacían negocios en moneda estadounidense. ¿Pueden entender?

Esta columna está diciendo que la mayor parte de nuestro problema beliceño comienza en los Estados Unidos de América. No condenen a nuestra juventud beliceña. Culpen a los estadounidenses que están desesperados por el subsidio.

Sí, sé que muchos jóvenes han muerto a causa del mercado en Belize para la mota mexicana de alta calidad. Pero, ustedes deben hacerse esta pregunta, al menos su servidor lo hace: ¿habría sido así si el paraquat no se hubiera rociado aquí? Alimento para el pensamiento, queridos, alimento para el pensamiento.

EDEN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL

Eden Drive, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District
Tel. 824 – 2966 / 824 – 4479

*Applications are invited from a suitable qualified individual to fill the post of **Principal** commencing July 1, 2022. This is a full-time position.

Applicant should possess a Master of Education Degree – Educational Leadership.

Should be a practicing Christian and ready to abide by the principles upheld by the institution.

The applicant shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the institution, provide educational leadership and lead in the development of the school, liaise with parents, the community, and the Ministry of Education, and fulfill duties as secretary of the school board and any other responsibilities while in the role as principal. Experience as principal will be an asset.

Temporary Vacancy for a **teacher of Office Administration and Information Technology; March 28, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

Qualification for the teaching position: Applicants should possess a bachelor's degree in Business Education. Associates degree may be considered.

Salary is based on qualifications and in accordance with the government pay scale.

Interested persons must submit a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, two recent letters of recommendation, certified copies of transcripts and diplomas, and certified copy of a valid teacher's license.

Application package should be sent to the address below by Monday March 14, 2022.

The Chairman
Eden SDA High School Board
P.O. Box 68
San Ignacio Town, Cayo District

Belize's World War II dead

(The following is excerpted from the November 10, 1949 issue of THE BELIZE BILLBOARD. The story, on page 3, was reporting on Remembrance Day 1949 at the Memorial Park in Belize City. The following are the names of those British Hondurans who gave their lives in the World War II effort by the Allied Forces.)

Sub Lieutenant J. W. Biddle of the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm - killed in action at sea off Gibraltar.

Flight Lieutenant C. H. Eves, D.F.C. of the Royal Air Force, killed in action in India.

Flight Lieutenant G. W. Fairweather, D.F.C. of the Royal Air Force, killed in action over Germany.

Flying Officer C. J. Marchand, of the Royal Air Force, killed in action over Holland.

Leading Aircraftman W. L. N. Starkey, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, killed on active service in

BELIZE- TOLEDO CACAO GROWERS ASSOCIATION (TCGA)**INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF THE BELIZEAN CACAO INDUSTRY IN THE COCOA-CHOCOLATE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN****CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DESIGN, PREPARE BILL OF QUANTITIES AND FACILITATE THE SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF A COCOA PROCESSING FACILITY FOR THE TOLEDO CACAO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION IN BELIZE****REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA) has received financing from the CDB in an amount equivalent to USD \$515,727 towards the costs of "Increasing Participation of The Belizean Cacao Industry in the Cocoa-Chocolate Global Value Chain" Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of TCGA and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than TCGA shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The TCGA being the implementing agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services to "Design, Prepare Bill of Quantities and Facilitate Supervision of Construction for the Cocoa Processing Facility for the Toledo Cacao Growers' Association in Belize."

The objective of the consultancy is to provide architectural, engineering, project management services to facilitate the construction of a 3,000 square foot cacao processing facility which will be adjoined to the existing building of the TCGA in Toledo District, Belize. The TCGA requires that the design and construction of the building remain in keeping with the existing regulatory requirements of the GOBZ as well as international acceptable standards for certification of processing facilities. The duration of the assignment is expected to be implemented in 100 person-days over a period of 14 calendar months. Further details can be found in the draft Terms of Reference (TOR).

TCGA now invites interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) the persons are citizens or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country; and
- (b) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB¹

¹ Occasionally contracts may be financed out of special programs that would further expand or restrict eligibility to a particular group of member countries. When this is the case, it should be mentioned in this paragraph.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 5.15 and 5.17 of Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (2019), setting forth CDB's policy on conflict of interest for the selection of consultants.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments.

All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between 0800- and 1600-hours Monday to Friday.

Three hard copies of the Expressions of Interest must be received at the first address below no later than 1400 hours (central standard time) on Wednesday March 2nd, 2022 and one electronic copy must be sent simultaneously to CDB at the second address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services to Design, Prepare Bill of Quantities and Facilitate the Supervision of Construction for A Cocoa Processing Facility."

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. TCGA reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

1. Mr. Orlando Coc
Project Manager
Toledo Cacao Growers Association
(TCGA)
George Price Street, Punta Gorda Town,
Toledo, Belize
Contact: (501) 670-6874
E-mail: orlando@belizetcga.com

2. Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
P.O. Box 408
Willey
St Michael
Barbados, WI. BB11000
Tel: (246) 539 1600
E-mail: procurement@caribank.org



Letters to the Editor

FPIC submission: a cause for concern

Dear Amandala,

I am a cultural anthropologist and have carried out research in Belize for more than 20 years. I stood on the field in San Antonio, Toledo and watched as the Ten Points Agreement was signed in 2000, and since that time, I have seen the long and arduous process for Maya communities—and individuals—to have their land rights recognized and now act on those rights to decide how lands in Maya villages in Toledo should be sustained and used. Respectfully, recent events with the Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) process submitted to the CCJ are cause for concern.

Differing views in Maya communities about how to implement the CCJ consent order as well as about representation do not take away from the fact that Maya individuals, families, and villages are now able to decide how they want to use village lands, with rights that have been acknowledged and described by that body. The CCJ Consent Order states that decisions are to be made by village leadership with regards to community land, leased land, or resources such as forests, farms and rivers, through a FPIC process that involves ongoing and long-term dialogue by all village leaders and organizations that represent their interests.

The Maya Leaders Alliance (MLA)

and the Toledo Alcaldes Association (TAA) were signatories to the 2015 Consent Order and represent those interests. The TAA is an active group of dozens of alcaldes, who are elected by their respective villages. However, they appear to have been left out of the most recent steps in the process. The TAA, as well as the organizations that have made up the MLA, represent the varied interests and views of those who live in Maya villages; they should have the opportunity to agree on the FPIC documents that will guide the next steps in the implementation process. What is at stake are future decisions about farms and forests that support Belizean Maya families, trees that are to be logged, oil that is to be extracted, hilltops that will be removed, and land to be sold to interests within and well beyond the borders of Belize. The parties that have engaged with the legal process to date need to continue to have a seat at the table.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Zarger
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of South Florida
President, Anthropology &
Environment Society
Strong Coasts NSF
Research Traineeship Program

Eastern Europe braces for...

Continued from Page 10

1,100 places.

'No hope of return'

Romania, which also shares a long border with Ukraine, finalised an action plan on Sunday, interior minister Lucian Bode told television station B1.

"We know that Poland is preparing to take 1 million migrants. Is Romania ready to take hundreds of thousands of refugees in an uncontrolled influx?" he said.

"We have taken several hypotheses into account ... We are currently analysing how many refugee camps we can install in a relatively short time, 10, 12, 24 hours. We are analysing existing lodging capacities in border counties but we are also discussing the second stage, with neighbouring counties, and the third stage across the country."

Slovakia's defence minister has said that there may be tens of thousands of refugees even under a limited conflict. Interior minister Roman Mikulec said the government was preparing for various scenarios with its armed forces and was in close contact with the authorities in Ukraine.

Hungary is also making preparations.

"We also have a playbook and an action plan in the event of war," Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday, stressing that "Hungary's interests are clear: first and foremost, war must be avoided."

Orban flagged the possibility of hundreds of thousands of refugees arriving in the case of war.

"Think back to the 1990s, when tens of thousands of people arrived from the former Yugoslav territories. That was not easy either – but many more would come from Ukraine, probably with no hope of return," he said.

The Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have also said they were readying to accept refugees. Lithuania's interior minister last week said the government asked municipalities to list available housing, adding they expected refugees to come mainly from Poland and on flights.

The Latvian interior ministry is considering a string of refugee centres along its eastern border to house undocumented Ukrainian refugees with no place to stay, BNS news wire reported on Monday. The plan would need government approval.

First published by Aljazeera News.



CFB Elite/U23/Masters Race 2 won by Derrick Chavarria

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 10, 2022

On Sunday, February 6, the Cycling Federation of Belize (CFB) held an 83-mile road race for Elites/Under 23 & Masters cyclists that travelled from the Belmopan Roundabout to the Coastal Road Junction and back to Armenia Village. Following the Krem New Year's Classic, this is the second major race being supervised by the CFB, as fans and cyclists prepare for the return of the Annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic, which has been suspended for the last two years due to Covid-19.

Some 41 cyclists started, and 36 completed the journey within the prescribed time limit. U23 cyclist Derrick Chavarria of the 501 Valvoline Cycling Team took top honors, finishing the ride in 3:38:47.

Here are the OVERALL finishing results: 1st Place – Derrick Chavarria (501 Valvoline, 03:38:47); 2nd Jafari Castro (Westrac Alliance, 03:38:59); 3rd Tevin Chaplin (G-Flow, 03:38:59); 4th Carroll Devin Azueta (M&M Engineering, 03:39:32); 5th Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (501 Valvoline,

03:40:49); 6th Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (501 Valvoline, 03:40:56); 7th Giovanni Lovell (G-Flow, 03:41:23); 8th Shawn Codd (G-Flow, 03:41:37); 9th Renan Codd (G-Flow, 03:43:55); 10th Byron Pope (Westrac Alliance, 03:45:21); 11th Sherwin Roca (FAL Cycling, 03:46:01); 12th Shane Jones (unattached, 03:46:01); 13th Jyven Gonzalez (G-Flow, 03:46:01); 14th Angel Tzib (Westrac Alliance, 03:46:47); 15th Joshua Fuller (501 Valvoline, 03:46:57); 16th Shervin Budna (Team Cycology, 03:50:21); 17th Brandon Cattouse (501 Valvoline, 03:50:21); 18th Ernesto Bradley (FAL Cycling, 03:52:40); 19th Kevin Gentle (Team Cycology, 03:54:14); 20th Richard Santiago (unattached, 03:55:36); 21st Nashen Ysaguirre (unattached, 03:58:05); 22nd Fernando Rosado (Westrac Alliance, 03:57:58); 23rd Gian Lino (G-Flow, 03:57:58); 24th Marlon "Diesel" Castillo, 03:57:58); 25th Hollis Baptist (FAL Cycling, 03:57:58); 26th Shamin Burns (501 Valvoline, 03:59:39); 27th Renan Matus (M&M Engineering, 03:59:39); 28th Goran Gabourel (C-Ray Cycling,

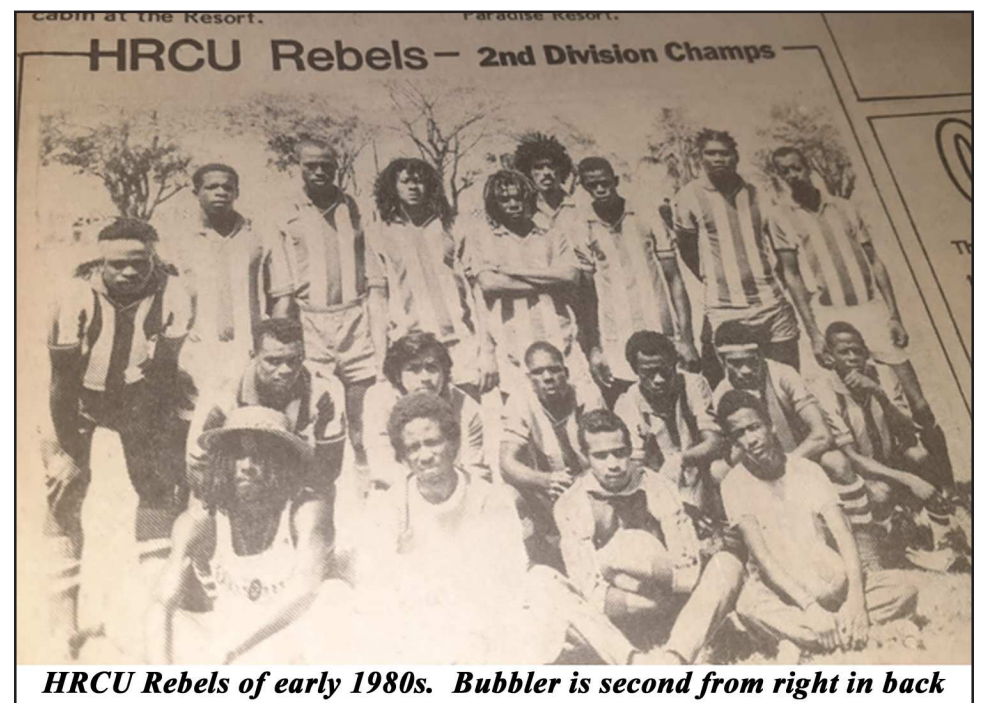
03:59:39); 29th Sherwin Requeña (unattached, 04:00:59); 30th Eric Trapp (Westrac Alliance, 04:03:55); 31st Dwayne Wade (Team Cycology, 04:05:54); 32nd Carlton Robinson (Westrac Alliance, 04:07:17); 33rd Gregory "Bullett" Lovell (G-Flow, 04:11:36); 34th Alan Auil (M&M Engineering, 04:19:48); 35th Claude Young (FAL Cycling, 04:23:10); and 36th Roque Matus (M&M Engineering, 4:27:00).

Top finishers in MASTERS 35+ :

1st Brandon Cattouse; 2nd Dwayne Wade; 3rd Gregory "Bullett" Lovell.

STATION PRIZE winners: St. Margaret's Police Station Going – Carroll Devin Azueta [CFB]; Top of Cisco Hill Going – Kevin Gentle [CFB]; Pomona Factory Going – Shawn Codd [CFB]; Top of the Gap Return – Derrick Chavarria [CFB]; St. Margaret's Police Station Return – Carroll Devin Azueta [CFB]; Top of Armenia Return – Derrick Chavarria [CFB].

One-Day Football Quadrangular for Bubbler on Saturday at Norman Broaster Stadium



BELIZE CITY, Mon. Feb. 14, 2022

A group of veteran footballers from Belize City and Cayo have gotten together to hold a one-day football quadrangular fund raiser for sixty-year-old Allan "Bubbler" Valerio, former footballer who recently lost a leg to diabetes.

There will be 3 rounds of games involving the 4 teams on Saturday, February 19, starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio.

Entrance: \$3.00 at the gate or donation.

Saturday, February 19

Round 1

1:00 p.m. – Quintas Vets vs Lake Vets
2:00 p.m. – Kulture Vets vs Royal Warriors Vets

Round 2

3:00 p.m. – Lake Vets vs Kulture Vets

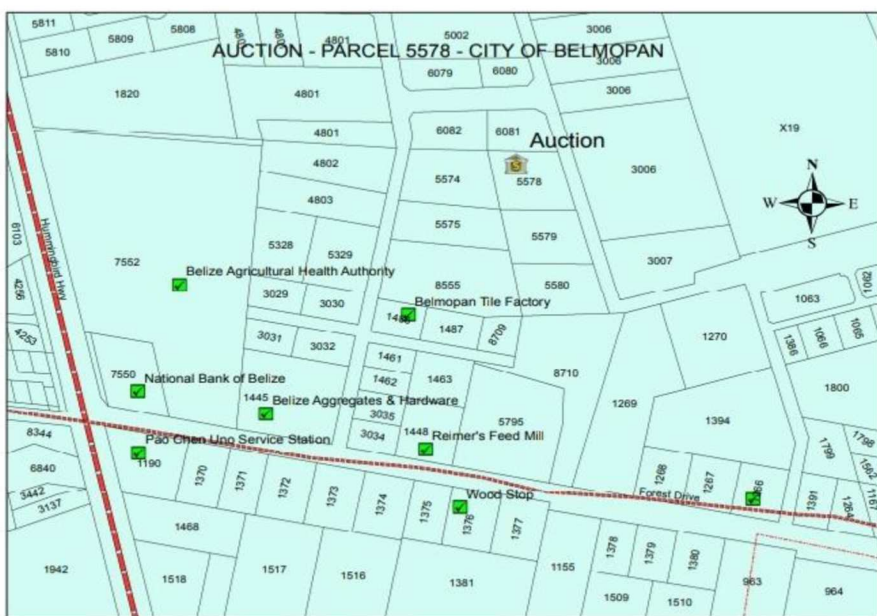
4:00 p.m. – Royal Warriors Vets vs Quintas Vets

Round 3

5:00 p.m. – Kulture Vets vs Quintas Vets

6:00 p.m. – Lake Vets vs Royal Warriors Vets

By Order of the Supreme Court of Belize License Auctioneer Noel J. Codd will sell the following on Thursday 17th February 2022 on site at 10:00 a.m.



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcels 5578 Block 20, Registration Section Belmopan City. The property is situated in the Industrial area of Belmopan City and measures 4,840 square yards. All major utilities are in the area.

NOEL J. CODD
Licensed Auctioneer
Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District
Tel: Office: 677-5184 cell: 624-5184
Email: noelcoddauktion@yahoo.com



@Noel Codd Auctioneer

Belize's World War II dead

Continued from Page 11

Canada.
Members of the Forestry Unit and others:

- O. Lemon — died in Scotland
- H. Velasquez — died in Scotland
- C. Gilayo — died in Scotland
- W. Young — died in the U.S.A.
- R. C. Domingo -- died in Scotland
- H. F. L. Moss -- died in Scotland

- I. Mendez — died in Scotland
- V. Baker — died in Scotland
- I. MacKenzie — died in Scotland
- A. V. Zuniga — died in Scotland
- P. Crawford — died in England
- R. Law — died in Scotland
- C. A. Trapp — died in Scotland
- W. A. Blackman — died in England
- C. Torres — died in Scotland
- E. Robinson — died in Scotland
- W. A. Meighan — died in England

Sir Manuel Esquivel to be honoured with State Memorial

(From page 1)

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Sun. Feb. 13, 2022

Monday, February 14, to Wednesday, February 16, has been designated as a period of mourning for former Prime Minister of Belize, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Manuel Esquivel, KCMG, PC, who passed away on February 10, 2022. Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has ordered that all flags be flown at half-mast during the period. On Tuesday, the urn containing the ashes of the former Prime Minister will be transported to the Government House in Belize City and will lie in state in the House's former State Dining Room. From 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. invited guests will be paying their respects.

A State Memorial for Sir Esquivel will be held at the Government House on Wednesday, beginning with a procession at 2:10 p.m. that will commence at Sir Esquivel's home and end at the House of Culture. It will be followed by a memorial service at 3:00 p.m.

The two events, both of which are closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, will be covered live on the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook page and YouTube channel. It will also be broadcasted on television through all the major media houses.

Since Thursday, many have extended condolences to the former Prime Minister's family and have expressed sorrow at his passing, including CARICOM Secretary General Dr. Carla Barnett.

"It is with profound sorrow that I received the news of the passing of Sir Manuel Esquivel KCMG, former two-time Prime Minister of Belize. I viewed Sir Manuel as a calm, thoughtful leader whose importance to the evolution of an independent Belize cannot be overestimated. His scientific training imbued his actions with a deliberate logic which allied to his personal integrity and honesty made him a formidable presence in Belize's public life. His presence and contributions to the landmark meetings of CARICOM Heads of Government including at Grand Anse and his influence on the Community's Charter of Civil Society were indicative of his commitment to regional integration," stated the Secretary General's message of condolence.

In addition to extending her deepest condolences to Lady Kathy Esquivel and the Esquivel family, the Government of Belize, and the People of Belize, Dr. Barnett also remarked that Sir Manuel was "truly a fine example of what a life in public service should be."

Sir Manuel Esquivel was Belize's



Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Manuel Esquivel, KCMG, PC

second Prime Minister, first serving from 1984-1989 and then again from 1993-1998. Born on May 2, 1940, in Belize City, Sir Esquivel obtained a Bachelor's degree in Physics from Loyola University in New Orleans and would also go on to receive an honorary Doctorate from the university. In December of 1984, he would lead the United Democratic Party (UDP) to what would be known as the first-ever victory for an opposition party in the country.

"Our nation recognizes his service with gratitude ... as an educator ... an activist ... as a politician ... as a leader ... as the 2nd Prime Minister of the nation ... He stood more on his personal convictions of what needed to be done for the nation and less so on political expediency. A plain speaker ... with a firm grip on personal integrity," said Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño.

Sir Esquivel played a pivotal role in the development of a newly independent Belize. And even long after serving as the country's Prime Minister, the former UDP leader still gave his opinion on public matters, advocating for the standardization of the Belizean flag in 2015, voicing support for the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana in 2017, expressing support for taking the Guatemala-Belize territorial dispute to the ICJ in 2019 via a newspaper editorial, and most recently, showing support for the COVID-19 vaccine by being one of the first to receive it, alongside his wife Kathy.

Throughout his lifetime, Sir Manuel Esquivel has received several honours and accolades. In 1986, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him to her Privy Council, earning him the title of Right Honourable. And in 2010, he was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG), a British order of chivalry. In 2021, the Pallotti overpass in Belize City was renamed in his honour and is now known as the Dr. Manuel Esquivel Overpass.

Is JPAC another dud?

Continued from Page 1

senator representing the country's NGO's, petitioned for the government to provide the financial support needed in its next budget to activate that committee.

"I won't be able to debate the budget, but I want to ask our government to ensure that in the new budget there are resources in there to support the work of the Joint Public Accounts Committee, to support the clerk's office so that they can give the support that the JPAC needs to strengthen the Auditor General," Senator Salas stated.

He pointed out that the purpose of the JPAC is to ensure there is accountability, but they have not done any work to forward their mandate within the 7 months since its establishment.

"I hope I speak for my fellow social partners when I say how frustrated I have been that the JPAC was set up seven months ago, and we are nowhere close to doing what the JPAC was set up to do, which is to examine, consider and report on the accounts. Politics take precedence as usual," he remarked.

UDP Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Panton is the chairperson of the JPAC, and the other members of that committee are Hon. Julius Espot, Hon. Kareem Musa, Hon. Kevin Bernard, Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Hon. Hugo Patt, Senator Kevin Herrera, Senator Elena Smith, and Senator Osmany Salas. According to Lead Government Senator, Eamon Courtenay, however, a quorum has not yet been made within the committee.

"There is a Joint Public Accounts Committee. I didn't hear anybody over there talk about it, I wonder why. Senator Peyrefitte, you know who chairs the JPAC? The purpose of the

Joint Public Accounts Committee is to exercise oversight over public expenditure, chaired by Tracey Taegar Panton, United Democratic Party. You hear Senator Salas—seven months and absolutely nothing has been done because you all didn't make a quorum. The chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee is Tracey Taegar, U.D.P. opposition. The majority of the members are not government people. You all have the majority, you have not met, and you come here and hurl words of hustle. You, Senator Peyrefitte, as the chairman of the UDP, you should get Tracey Taegar to do her work and to call the committee to scrutinize what has been done," Hon. Eamon Courtenay retorted.

In an interview last week, the president of the Public Service Union, Dean Flowers, also tongue-lashed the opposition for its perceived inaction.

"I want to call on the Opposition to get their darn act together, and to start seeing that the JPAC starts functioning. We're not interested in the nonsense that's happening in their organization. We're interested in the affairs of the general public. Again, approximately 200 million dollars of additional funding has passed through the House, not a single cent to empower the JPAC with experts that they will need. Not all members of the JPAC are able to interpret and analyze financial statements, and so they may need to consult people—not a single cent to empower the JPAC and the Integrity Commission so that they're able to hold past elected officials and current elected officials accountable. Belizean people, we need to wake up. It is not Barrow's money that was spent. It is not Briceño's money that is being spent. It is your money that is being spent, and no one is overseeing this spending, and holding leaders accountable," Flowers said.

BTL tech falls to his death

Continued from Page 1

his community, dubbed the "Maya Pandanero," and had released a recording done at Ak'a'wada Studio, which is located in the area.

A release issued today by BTL expressed condolences to Sho's family and stated, "We are deeply saddened by the passing of our colleague, Edwin Sho. Initial information shared indicates that Edwin fell from a BEL pole while executing his duties in Roaring Creek village in the Cayo District. Digi, BEL and all relevant authorities are currently conducting a thorough investigation into this unfortunate

incident. This is undeniably a horrible incident that has never occurred before."

The release further noted, "Edwin joined the company in January 2017 and was currently employed as a 'Service Operations & Maintenance Technician' in the Consumer Sales & Service Operations West Department in our Commercial Division."

The BTL release stated at its conclusion: "We extend our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to his wife and family, and also his BTL family. Let's pray for God's strength during this difficult time. Edwin will be missed dearly. May his soul rest in peace."

AMANDALA
the newspaper with the greatest circulation in Belize!

Young mother killed in Bmp shooting

Continued from Page 1

expended shells would later be recovered from the scene of the ambush—a clear indication of the deadly intent of the person(s) in the SUV, who unleashed a hail of bullets that not only caused Andrews' death but injured several of the other persons in the van.

The other persons who were injured during the incident were identified as Joshua Jones, Devin Vasquez, and Emerson Rhaburn, all of whom are from the Belmopan area.

When asked by reporters during a police press briefing on Monday whether Karina Andrews was the intended target of the shooters, Commissioner of Police, Chester

Williams said that she could have been the target or it could have been one of the male passengers of the vehicle. According to COMPOL Williams, Andrews had a few run-ins with the law in the past, but had no history of violence.

"Perhaps she could be [the target]; there're other persons who could've been the intended target, and we do believe that motive is gang-related. Her name is not new to the police; I'm not saying that she's a gang member, but you know that if it is that you affiliate yourself with gang members, then you become a target as well, and it is rather unfortunate, because the truth is no one deserve to die the way she did, and she is not known to be a violent person and it's just a matter of her affiliation," Commissioner Williams said.

COMPOL Williams told reporters that their priority is to arrest the persons responsible for the shooting before any retaliation can occur as a result of this murder.

"Our priorities are to find the perpetrators of this crime and ensure they are charged, and yes we might look at mediation to avert any possible retaliation, but we want to ensure that the persons responsible are found and sent to prison," Commissioner Williams said.

He stated that with the help of surveillance footage, investigators were able to gather useful information, so police are hopeful that they will be able to make a formal arrest shortly.

Currently, the vehicle used in Saturday night's murder is in police custody along with two persons of interest who police believe are connected to the shooting. But no charges have been filed as yet.

Darida Galvez, the mother-in-law of Karina Andrews, recounted the last time that she saw and spoke to Karina.

"I talk to Karina about after 8:00 that same night, because I had the baby. She came to pick up the baby,

because she wasn't going anywhere. My son brought her to pick up the baby, because I had the baby from the afternoon, and they came. But when they came, the baby was sleeping so my son was trying to wake the baby, then she told me she wanted to go out, right in front of my son, and my son told her, 'no, you're not going,' then she's like, 'I want to go, I work hard, I need a little break', so, between that time my son was trying to wake the baby, I guess for her to stay, so I told my him, 'Leave her, let her go, and watch the baby', and that's when he said, 'okay, I'll take you,' and he was the one that dropped them at Stars Club," she said.

Galvez recalled what kind of person her daughter-in-law was. "She was very kind, she was always happy, always smiling. Karina had a big smile on her face; she was a party person. When she walked [into] any room she would light up, she was very loving. Karina was a happy young girl."

The location at which the shooting occurred—near Blue Moon Restaurant—is known by Belmopan residents to be dimly lit and has been a prime area in which criminals target vulnerable citizens. The owner of Blue Moon Restaurant, Marwan Haddad, said that he has been pleading with the Belmopan City Council to repair the lights in the area, since the lights became non-functional days after being installed.

"They've been out for a long time. They come in and fix them, and it takes an act of congress to come and fix them, but when they come, they work for a few days and they go out and it takes them a long time to back to fix them. And this corner is very dark, so lots of things happen right here because there's no lighting to help the people. They need to fix those lights, put brighter ones if they can." Haddad said.

Karina Andrews was the mother of a 1-year-old daughter.

PBL sues CWU

Continued from Page 1

illegal strike, which, Lane is claiming, unlawfully prevented the loading and unloading of cargo from at least 6 vessels.

The unions engaged in industrial action in late January following PBL's refusal to accept key recommendations that the union's membership had agreed on via a vote, as well as its submission of proposals to the union in regard to possible forms of compensation for losses due to the shift of sugar-loading to the Big Creek Port that were seen as insulting and provocative by the stevedores. This led the members of the unions to agree to activate a notice of industrial action that had been issued in November of 2021 but had not been acted upon at that time.

The strike lasted for 8 days, and according to the claim form from PBL, costed the port \$114,934.00 for each of the eight days during which the industrial action was ongoing—resulting in a total loss of \$1,034,403.00, according to their calculations, which they are seeking to recover. They are also asking the court to award damages for "the tort of interference with economic interests by unlawful means, namely, for financial loss suffered by the Claimant arising directly from the Defendants' illegal strike"—as well as interest in accordance to sections 166 and 167 of the Supreme Court rules, cost, and further relief the court deems fit.

This lawsuit was filed just a week following the government's decision to provide hardship compensation to the stevedores who have suffered loss of income and other purported violations of their rights as employees due to the privatizations of the PBL. The Government committed to pay \$1.5 million dollars in relief compensation to the CWU on behalf of the affected stevedores. However, the billionaire who is believed to be the man who holds the purse and pulls the strings behind the scenes at PBL via his ownership of Belize Bank, Lord Michael Ashcroft, did something rather unusual. He temporarily discarded what has appeared to be shrouds of invisibility and silence that typically blur his connection to the actions of such entities as PBL to make a public statement via a Twitter post. In that post, the billionaire, who has at times been portrayed as a "Good Samaritan", questioned which of the

stevedores (many from Southside communities who feed and clothe low-income family members) would be awarded a portion of the compensation provided by the government. It appeared to be so important that this quip be publicized that the television station he is said to own, Channel 5, found a spot in their newscast to report on it. (Interestingly, there might be said to be some subtle, coincidental similarities in the line of reasoning deployed by the British billionaire and the arguments used internationally by those persons who oppose reparations—and who question which descendants of the slaves should be compensated for the damages caused by slavery.)

The amount being demanded via court action by PBL is notably almost equal to what the stevedores were given by the government. It remains to be seen whether PBL will ultimately open its books during this court action to indicate the profits it is currently collecting as part of its efforts to do when the CWU had asked it to let the union see its financial statements when it attempted to reduce the salaries of PBL staff about two years ago.

The CWU president, Evan "Mose" Hyde, has not made a public statement on this latest advancement as yet, but had noted in an interview early this month that they would leave it up to the court to determine the legal status of their strike action. "I think unless a court has ruled that we are illegal, you cannot put that on the record, with all due respect. I am saying to you that things are confirmed illegal by the courts. I don't know that any courts have ruled that we have acted illegal," Hyde had told a reporter at a press conference held by the union.

PBL's CEO had claimed in an interview that the strike was illegal since the parties were in conversation via the Essential Services Arbitration Tribunal. According to PBL, the losses resulted from the disruption in the loading of 7 vessels: *Tropical Mist*, *Vanquish*, *Contship Pro*, *Caribe Mariner*, *Taipei Trader*, and *Midnight Tzar*.

The claim form lists Port of Belize Ltd. as the single claimant, and along with the CWU and its president, also lists Guy Neal, Winfield Dennison, Kenton Blanco, James Neal, and Wendell Whitaker as defendants.

We will continue to follow.

STAYING COVID FREE

wash your hands

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, clean your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

practice social distancing

- Stay a safe distance - at least 6 feet apart - from others not in your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

wear a mask

- Wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth in public spaces. Face masks can help protect others and prevent both asymptomatic and symptomatic spread of COVID-19.





Sales Agents

BELIZE CITY

- * Puma Roundabout
- * Puma, 2 Mls.
- * Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- * Community Drug Store
- * William Supermarket, C.A. Boulevard
- * Fuel Logistics/Bel-China
- * Puma Freetown
- * Cambranes
- * J & K Supermarket
- * Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- * Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- * Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- * JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- * 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- * Freetown Drug Store
- * Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- * Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- * James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
- * 1st Choice Pharmacy
- * Save-U Supermarket

PLACENCIA

- * Placencia Office Supplies

LADYVILLE

- * Puma Service Station
- * Shell Service Station
- * Low's Supermarket

ORANGEWALK

- * One Stop Service Station
- * People's Store

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
6 Diaz St., Benque

CAYO

- * Amini Habet
C/o Shell Service Station
San Ignacio
- * Venus Store

BELMOPAN

- Dakers Stationery & Books
- * Hydes Mini Market
- * First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- * Shell Service Station
- * Medicare Plus Pharmacy

STANN CREEK

- * Xaibel Service Station
- * S & S One Stop
C/o Uno Belize
- * St. Vincent Convenience Store

COROZAL

- * Aguilar Car Care Products # 60 4th Avenue,
Corozal Town
- * Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies
99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare
Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

INDEPENDENCE

- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

Amandala business and editorial offices:
3304 Partridge Street, Belize City, Belize, Central America
is printed twice weekly by the
Amandala Press.

Telephones: 501-280-4703/202-4477

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