

# Double murder on Electric Avenue



**Kendale Ramirez, deceased**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 4, 2022



**Cleon Smith, Jr., deceased**

Shots rang out in broad daylight on Sunday, December 4, in the St. Martin De Porres area of Belize City, where

**Kendale Ramirez, 30, and Cleon Smith, Jr., 26, were executed in broad daylight while sitting inside an SUV on Electric Avenue in the St. Martin De Porres area shortly after noon on Sunday, December 4.**

two men, identified as Cleon "CJ Tush" Smith, Jr., 26, of Placencia Village, Stann Creek District, and Kendale "Snakey" Ramirez, 30, of Seine Bight Village, Stann Creek District, were wounded numerous times by a storm

of bullets that were fired at the SUV in which they were sitting while Smith waited to pick up his 3-year-old son. According to initial reports, Smith

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## Governor General swears in 3 Justices



**(l-r) Justice Michelle Arana, Chief Justice Louise Esther Blenman and Justice Minette Hafiz-Bertram**

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Over the last week or so of November, three justices who have

taken up new positions in Belize's judicial system were sworn in by Governor General, H.E. Froyla Tzalam.

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## BTB loses second wrongful termination law-suit



**Misty Michael**

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec 2, 2022

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) has been ordered by the Supreme Court to compensate another former employee of the board for

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## UN welcomes extension of Amnesty program



extended to February 2023, a Cabinet release on Thursday announced. A three-month extension was approved for the registration period of the Amnesty program, which is aimed at regularizing the status of thousands of migrants living in Belize. Estimates from 2021

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022  
The Amnesty 2022 program has been

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## New US Ambassador to Belize arrives



**See story on page 4**

**H.E. Michelle Kwan, the new U.S. Ambassador to Belize; and Governor General H. E. Dame Froyla Tzalam**

# Corozal teen dies weeks after busito-ambulance collision

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 2, 2022

Jaheem Williams, 17, a student of Belize Adventist Junior College, was one of six persons who received severe injuries, as a result of a collision between a min-bus and an ambulance that occurred on October 11 between Miles 82 and 83 of the Philip Goldson Highway in Ranchito Village, Corozal District. Unlike Jorge Vargas, a 21-year-old student on the mini-bus who passed away shortly after the accident, Williams clung to life for several weeks, but passed away on Friday, December 2, at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, while his mother was purchasing critically needed medication for him in Mexico.

Williams, Vargas (a sixth-form student of Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College) and three other students had been passengers inside a mini-bus being driven by Carmelo Kau, 49, en route to Corozal Town after a regular day of classes when the busito collided with an ambulance, which was transporting a sick minor and her mother from the Corozal Community Hospital to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KHMHH) in Belize City.



Jaheem Williams, deceased

After the accident, Williams was admitted to the Corozal Community Hospital and then transported to the KHMHH, where he remained hospitalized, and was reportedly in and out of consciousness. At some point, he developed a lung infection, and was forced to breathe through a ventilator. However, early on Friday morning, December 2, Williams who had a love for football and dreamed of being a teacher, went into cardiac arrest and took

his last breath.

Members of the local media interviewed Williams' mother, Natticia Williams, who said that she was in Chetumal, where she went to pick up a life-saving medication for her son, when she received the news.

"Like the day before yesterday I came to the hospital and they told me that they have found bacteria in his lungs and he was passing it through his urine as well, and they had to put him in isolation because they are not sure if it was contagious or not. They had to put him under a new antibiotic. I went to Chetumal yesterday. I located that antibiotic at Clinica Carnazza, and they had to order it at Merida. So, I had to pay and go pick it up at one o'clock. So when I got the news about Jaheem passing this morning, I was on the bus at six-thirty this morning. The bus didn't leave as yet; it was still at the terminal. They called me and told me that he passed. I just jumped on the bus and came over here," she said.

"Right now, it's rough. People watch me and say this lady is strong, but I'm tearing up inside," she said.

She further informed reporters, "I have spoken to our families, and we're trying to see to get some legal advice on this situation. As I said, Jaheem was at the right place, at the wrong time, so I'm lost right now. I honestly don't know what to do or what to say right now. We're trying to see if we can get some legal help."

Carlos Magana, the public relations officer of Belize Adventist Junior College, where Williams was enrolled as a mathematics major, also commented

on the impact of Williams' death on those at the school.

"The news struck us very [strongly] this morning. We were in a small staff meeting discussing other plans for the end of the school year when I received the call [and] interrupted the staff meeting and said I have one of the saddest news at this moment, and there was no more willingness to continue the discussion of the meeting. We lost a very creative young mind from our institution, and it saddens us and brings a lot of pain to our hearts, as he is one of our students that pushed for many objectives that the school was looking forward to," he said.

He went on to tell reporters, "When we started the school year, he came in and said, 'Sir, I understand that we participate in ATLIB; we have to put a team together. I want to be a part of this team'. And I brought everything to the staff. It was his initiative, and it was him that decided that we are going to do this, and it was because of his enthusiasm I was able to contact other students and we were able to set up a team, and we will be participating. We were able to confirm to the ATLIB team that we will be participating. At this moment, when I shared the news with the club, it was just a broken heart from everyone. We couldn't believe it. As a pioneer in this year's team, he will not be with us."

While no one has so far been charged in connection with the collision that caused Vargas' and Williams' deaths, Williams' family was told by the Commanding Officer in Corozal that the file with information that was gathered about the accident was submitted to the DPP's office for review.

## Ministry of Home Affairs gets ICT equipment worth US \$44,000

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

On Thursday, December 1, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries received an assortment of ICT equipment that was handed over by the US Embassy's Acting Political and Economic Chief, Sydney Skov, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Belize Deputy Resident Representative, Ian King.

Together the pieces of equipment are valued at 44,695 USD. The donation was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s regional project known as InfoSegura, which generates information to contribute to citizens' security.

The donated equipment, which was handed over in Belmopan, includes workstations and GPS-enabled cameras and accessories, which are to be used by the Belize Police Department and the National Forensic Science Service, to help strengthen interagency data-sharing through the Belize Crime Observatory.

"This is essential, not just for the administration of justice in Belize but also to provide critical data analysis that will help me as a minister, our policymakers



(l-r) Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs; and Sydney Skov, US Embassy Acting Political and Economic Chief

in Cabinet, inter-agency partners including the Belize Central Prison, The Belize Crime Observatory and the Judiciary, and many other stakeholders and partners to be more effective in playing their role in helping to reduce crime and violence in Belize," said Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa.

"The US Embassy is so proud to celebrate this collaborative endeavor with USAID, with UNDP, and of course the government of Belize through a donation of, as was mentioned, this GPS-enabled cameras, and computer equipment, which will strengthen inter-agency sharing with the ultimate goal, of course, of improving security in Belize," said Skov.

## Rethinking Policing Initiative launched today



Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

The Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, believes that there has been a breakdown in policy implementation at the middle management level of the Police Department, and to address this breakdown and some of the shortfalls within its rank and file, the department has launched the "Rethinking Policing Initiative". The department is making an attempt to create more inclusive management policies by conducting surveys and assessments across the units of the department to pinpoint some of the major problem areas, as seen by the public and lower-ranking officers.

Commissioner Williams hopes that the data can be used to improve the everyday management decisions at the Police

Department and, as a result, its overall service to the public. The initiative will be carried out for six months in the first instance, with extensions to the program if needed.

For Commissioner Williams, one aspect of the department's operations that must be improved is its public relations.

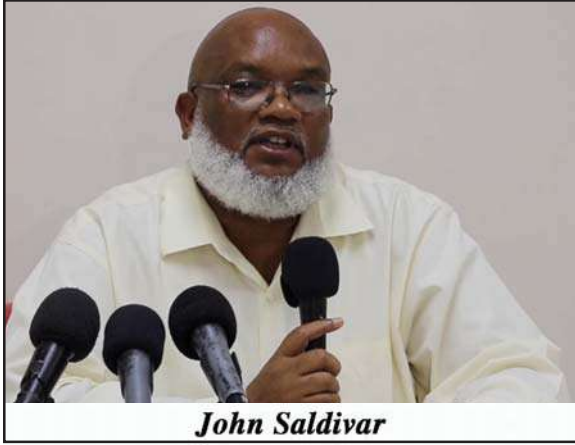
"We do a shabby job when it comes to public relations," Williams said, but he hastened to add that his comments are not an indictment of the department's communications director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood and his support team, since those persons are not public relations officers.

"Their task is to serve as our intermediary with the media. We don't have a public relations officer per se, and I think it's time for us to be able to employ someone," Commissioner Williams said.

He further noted that responding to public ire at times to explain the police version of incidents could benefit the department by increasing public confidence.

"We want to be able to have that as well. It's not to defend, but just to let the public see both sides, and then the public can make an assessment," he said. "If we were to do that, the public would see on many instances when we are being

# UDP Special Committee Rejects Saldivar



**John Saldivar**

by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 2, 2022

Up until Friday morning, the political fate of former UDP Cabinet minister and Belmopan area representative hopeful, John Saldivar remained in limbo, but later on that day, a UDP Special Committee convened to determine whether he should be allowed to participate in the upcoming Belmopan standard bearer convention and thereafter possibly represent the party in the 2025 General Elections. The party had decided to set up the committee to assess his eligibility after the U.S. State Department designated Saldivar as “significantly corrupt” for alleged acts of corruption he carried out during his tenure as Minister of National Security under the Barrow administration.

On Friday afternoon, the Special Committee ruled, following what was a split decision, to reject Saldivar’s bid

to seek to represent the party in the Belmopan constituency. Present at the closed meeting, which was held at the UDP headquarters on Youth for the Future Drive, were the seven delegates of the committee, as well as Saldivar, who following the announcement of their ruling, posted a statement on his Facebook page which indicated that he is still not completely relinquishing his hopes of representing the party. “I have been informed of the decision of the Special Committee of the UDP to refer the matter of my continued candidacy for the Belmopan Constituency to the National Party Council after a narrow vote against my candidacy. The final decision lies with the NPC and I therefore await the decision of that august body,” he stated in the post.

Saldivar’s hopes possibly rest on the influence he continues to have over a large number of UDP standard bearers due to his position as the reputed chairperson for the UDP Caucus for Change, which accounts for at least twenty constituencies and is said to have played a key role in Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow’s recent rise to party leadership. While Saldivar awaits a decision from the National Party Council (NPC), which should be handed down this week, questions are arising as to whether the Caucus can

sway the vote of the NPC in Saldivar’s favor.

At the close of the UDP Special Committee meeting, UDP leader, Hon. “Shyne” Barrow told local reporters at a press briefing that while the decision was a difficult one, he agrees “unconditionally” with the ruling levied against Saldivar:

“We were and continue to be in search of that regain of trust, that regain of confidence from the Belizean people. And that, all of our considerations had to put the institution, and the message that the institution wanted to send to the people as the government in waiting, whether or not we are ready to take the reins and lead the country in a direction away from the endemic corruption that has plagued Belize for that last 41 years. And I am pleased that the Special Committee has made a decision that indicates clearly to the nation and to the world that the United Democratic Party has a zero tolerance for endemic corruption. Has a zero tolerance for any of our members who engage repeatedly in personal misconduct or acts that even bring the scrutiny and the allegations of corruption. And this is what the special committee has said. It’s a decision today for everyone to appreciate and to understand that the UDP – this era of the UDP — has a zero tolerance for corruption and we’re moving forward, doing our best to regain the trust and confidence of the Belizean people,” Barrow stated.

Barrow went on to say that the committee, prior to reaching their decision to deny Saldivar the opportunity to possibly serve as a UDP standard bearer, considered a range of allegations of “significant corruption” on Saldivar’s part that date back to 2012. Barrow commented that, while he is grateful to John Saldivar for his contributions to the party and was championing an “opportunity for redemption,” he is of the belief that Saldivar should withdraw from politics, and noted that he “pleaded with him to stand down.” In regard to what position would be taken by the Caucus for Change, however, the Leader of the Opposition made it clear that he does not speak for that delegation.

Notably, a statement issued by the Caucus of Change on Friday indicates in no uncertain terms their support of John Saldivar, which they plan to demonstrate through their votes at the NPC. That statement reads,

“The Caucus for Change is aware of a decision of the Special Committee of the UDP to revert to the National Party Council (NPC) to make a decision on the candidacy of John Saldivar in the Belmopan constituency. Our Caucus is clear and determined in our support for John Saldivar in the absence of any evidence to prove his guilt. We believe it is only right and just that the people of Belmopan choose their leader. We will therefore vote accordingly at the NPC.”

## NEAC chairman: NEAC rejected Waterloo, but DOE decision pending

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

The CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and chairman of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), Kenrick Williams, has confirmed that the NEAC did decide, following a vote by its members, to reject Waterloo Holdings Ltd.’s proposal to construct a cruise terminal (along with the expansion of cargo capacity) at the Port of Belize Ltd. Last week, the NEAC, after reviewing the company’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (which, according to many environmental groups and members of

the public, did not sufficiently address a number of key concerns) handed down its recommendation to the Department of the Environment (DOE). And according to CEO Williams, the department is now reviewing the other components of the project, along with recent recommendations. It is unclear why there was apparent hesitation on the part of government officials to make known to the public what the NEAC had decided and what additional facts could exist that could provide any solid basis for the Department of Environment to make a decision contrary to the conclusion that was

reached by the NEAC.

When interviewed by local media last week, Williams said that the NEAC had several discussions on the various aspects of the project, the project’s EIA, and its addendums submitted by the project developers. The public’s feedback on the project was also taken into consideration, he said.

What Williams is now saying, however, is that no decision regarding the fate of the project is final until the DOE makes a final decision. This apparent extra kink in the decision-making process is seen as a surprise to many Belizeans, most of whom had



**Dr. Kenrick Williams, Chairman of NEAC**

assumed that the two bodies, in the face of the same set of facts and scientific data, worked in unison to reach one objective decision. It is now being said, however, that the DOE, based on a comprehensive analysis of the recommendations, public opinion, and reports provided, will make a final decision on the project, after which they will make a final response to the developers.



**Justice Lisa Shoman**

## Lisa Shoman takes post as CARICOM General Counsel

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Belizean attorney, Justice Lisa Shoman has reportedly left the judicial bench in Belize to serve as the General Counsel of CARICOM. She was first appointed to the Supreme Court (now High Court) in 2020 and sat in the Civil Division up until last Friday, her last official day on the job. She is now preparing to take up the post at CARICOM, where she will work alongside Dr. Carla Barnett, another Belizean at the helm of that regional body.

At this time, Justice Shoman also serves as the president of the IDB Administrative Tribunal and was

recently appointed in April 2022 to the Presidency of the Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal (CCAT) by her peers in CARICOM.

Called to the Bar in Belize in 1988, she has also served as a Foreign Minister, Ambassador, and Lead Opposition Senator in the House of Representatives. She joins a list of distinguished legal personnel to have served as CARICOM general counsel.

She was appointed to the Belize Supreme Court in September 2020, and by all indications, she was to have served as a Supreme Court judge until 2029.

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## Belize holds second binational commission with El Salvador



**Delegation at 2<sup>nd</sup> Binational Commission**

BELMOPAN, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Last Friday, delegations from the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador met in Belmopan to engage in the 2nd Binational Commission meeting between the two countries. The meeting was held at the vice-ministerial level, with the Belizean delegation being led by the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ambassador Amalia Mai. El Salvador's delegation was led by H.E. Adriana Mira, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for that country.

Belize and El Salvador first established diplomatic relations sometime around 1985 and have been working closely in the areas of trade, commerce, and tourism for many years. The commission was formed to facilitate the exchange of views between the countries on matters of mutual interest and to expand the bilateral relations between the two nations.

A Government Press Office release states that the parties "highlighted the strong and cordial relations between the

two nations as well as the interest to continue strengthening the constructive dialogue and expanding areas of mutual interest."

It states that both countries have agreed to put in place policy plans and programs in key areas such as "economy, trade and commerce, tourism, culture, security, migration, and agriculture."

Belize was also recognized by the delegation from El Salvador for its decision to extend the Amnesty 2022 program, an initiative which the country applauds.

"Both countries reiterated their commitment to continue addressing the issue of migration with a holistic view based on a human rights approach, shared responsibility, and non-discrimination," the release states.

A third binational meeting is scheduled to take place in 2024 in El Salvador on a date to be determined by the two countries. Officials from several ministries of both countries participated in the meeting.

## New US Ambassador to Belize arrives

**H.E. Michelle Kwan, the new US Ambassador to Belize, is a career US diplomat and world champion retired figure skater. She recently arrived in Belize with her family to take up the appointment.**

BELMOPAN, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Former world champion figure skater and the new US Ambassador to Belize, H.E. Michelle Kwan, has indicated her enthusiasm for her new role, after officially delivering her letters of credence to Governor General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam this morning.

Ambassador Kwan was appointed by President Joe Biden early this year—an appointment that was confirmed by the US Senate back in September, and on October 10 she was officially sworn in to be the new US Ambassador to Belize, the first since the departure of Carlos Moreno.

Kwan is the most decorated figure skater in US history, having won over

43 championships, including 5 world championships and 2 Olympic medals. Since 2006 she has served the US as a public diplomacy ambassador, traveling widely as an envoy working with youth and athletes. In December 2012 she was appointed as the US State Department's senior adviser for public diplomacy and public affairs.

"... noting the strong relationship shared with the U.S.... She committed to 'work to continue and expand these efforts regarding our many mutual goals shared by both Belizean citizens and the many U.S. citizens who reside in and visit Belize each year,'" the release issued by the Government Press Office states.

## Fire destroys Sandhill home where triple murder took place

**The wooden bungalow home in which police found the lifeless bodies of Emerson Garcia, 43; Jaheem Davis, 20; and Charleston Jenkins, 19, was set ablaze on Friday night.**



**House where triple murder occurred in Sandhill engulfed in flames (left), house on the right was before it was set ablaze**

*by Charles Gladden*

SANDHILL, Belize District, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

The home in Sandhill Village, Belize District, where marijuana sales reportedly took place, and in which, two weeks ago, three men—Emerson Garcia, 43; Jaheem Davis, 20; and Charleston Jenkins, 19—were shot to death, was set on fire on Friday, December 2.

According to initial reports, at around 7:06 p.m. that Friday, police responded to reports of a fire on the Philip Goldson Highway in the New Site area of Sandhill Village, and when they arrived at the scene, they saw the home engulfed in flames.

No one was reportedly injured by the blaze, and the home's value is still to be determined.

What is yet unknown, however, is what, or who, started the fire, and what

the motive could have been for destroying the home. Interestingly, it had been reported that police had detained a suspect in connection with the murder of the three men in that house, but did not reportedly have sufficient evidence to tie that person to the incident.

On Thursday, November 18, around 10:00 p.m., Garcia, Davis, and Jenkins were inside the wooden structure when a gunman or gunmen entered the home and fatally shot all three men. Police have indicated that the triple murder may have been drug-related, as marijuana was sold at the location. It has also been reported that Garcia, who lived at the home, was the intended target, and that Davis and Jenkins were at the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Charges have not yet been brought against anyone for the triple murder, although, as mentioned, a suspect had been detained.

and provided assistance in coordinating the concluding festivities at the Battlefield Park. The Minister of Human Development, Hon. Dolores Balderamos, was also present at the parade.

Other key participants in this year's Disability Awareness Week parade included the Department of Youth Services, the National Resource Center for Inclusive Education (NaRCIE), and the Belize Cancer Society.

## Disability Awareness Week 2022



**Disability Awareness Parade**

*by Kory Leslie (Freelance Writer)*

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 2, 2022

Last week was Disability Awareness Week 2022, and during that special week several events that reflected this year's theme, "Meaningful Inclusion Matters", were held. The Ministry of Human Development collaborated with the Stella Maris School to organize these advocacy activities, which concluded with a parade in Belize City in which over thirty schools and organizations participated.

The parade, in addition to having the participation of a range of educators,

advocacy groups and students carrying handmade placards, also featured a number of marching bands—making it the largest such procession to be held since its inception. The march started at the "Big Hand" roundabout on Cemetery Road and concluded in the downtown area at Battlefield Park. At the close of the festivities the principal of Stella Maris, Francelia Cantun, took the time to share with the media her delight in the success of this year's initiatives:

"This is a very huge success for us, because we saw a lot schools coming out, a lot of schools supporting us, and

also a lot of schools that are taking in children with disabilities, and that makes us feel good, because they are meeting the needs now of these children. And it's awareness. Everybody will become much more aware that other schools are taking in children with special needs," she said.

Principal Cantun and other participants also expressed their gratitude to the students and faculty of St. Catherine Academy, who were involved in the parade



# Whose country, Belize?

Monday, December 5, 2022

Two buzzwords that remained prominent throughout the years of agitation and reaching out to the international community for their support in our struggle to achieve independence, were “territorial integrity,” and another combined word just as integral to the effort, “self-determination.” In fact, the latter was a pivotal factor in our leaders’ case before the United Nations to recognize us as a new people, the Belizean people, with our own identity, anthem and all the attributes of a nation, with the right to determine our own future, as opposed to being subject to the whims of the colonial power in settling their age-old dispute with Guatemala. But in these modern days, sometimes one has to wonder if we are being taken seriously as a nation, or if powerful hidden hands are dictating to us behind the scenes.

“Self-determination of peoples” was a major plank in the new United Nations program of decolonisation following the end of World War II in 1945. As a number of English-speaking Caribbean countries progressed to their independence in the early and mid-1960s, Belize languished behind due to the Guatemalan claim that the United Kingdom, our then colonial masters, wished to settle with Guatemala at our expense. With much lobbying efforts from then leaders, premier George Price, deputy premier “Lindy” Rogers and minister Assad Shoman and others, as well as Opposition stalwarts in conjunction with the U.S.-based Belize Freedom Committee, that saw the likes of Philip Goldson and Compton Fairweather lobbying against Guatemala’s efforts at the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. overwhelmingly supported the Belizean people’s right to “self-determination” and “territorial integrity”; thus Belize became an independent nation in September 1981 with “full territorial integrity” – all 8,867 square miles, and with full respect for our new nation’s right to “self-determination.”

other nationalities at the mouth of what is now the Haulover Creek of the Belize River. That’s a relatively small population, predominantly descendants of slaves, to be so boisterous in defending their “inalienable right to self-determination.” In fact, at the start of the independence movement in 1950, when the British Governor’s devaluation of the Belize dollar sparked the formation of the People’s Committee, which later became the People’s United Party, the “party of independence”, the population was even smaller. According to [www.macrotrends.net](http://www.macrotrends.net), the official population figures for Belize over the ensuing decades were (our figures rounded to nearest thousand): 1950 – 69,000; 1960 – 91,000; 1970 – 121,000; 1980 – 145,000; 1990 – 183,000; 2000 – 240,000; 2010 – 322,000; and 2020 — 395,000.

The earliest recorded Belize census we could locate, from [sib.org.bz](http://sib.org.bz), was done in 1790, and it featured a total population of 2,493. Of these, 230 were classified as “white”; 1,923 as “slaves”, which would be predominantly African (black) or of mixed African origin; and 340 as “free persons,” which could also include some persons of African or mixed African origin. If we would classify say 100 of those “free persons” as being of mixed African origin, it would mean that what we now describe as the “Creole” or “Kriol” persons would have comprised around 80% of the settlement’s population.

The next census in 1816 showed 3,824 total; but it was more definitive in describing the ethnicity of persons counted. There were 149 “white persons”; 562 “coloured persons”; 371 “black free persons”; and 2,742 “slaves”, who we have to presume were black/African. The “Creole/Kriol” population then would be about 3,675, or practically 96% of the population.

Censuses listed by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) for 1820 onwards for many decades did not differentiate by color or ethnicity, just females and males. (It is likely that isolated Mayan villages in the far west and south were not included in those early censuses.)

With the “Caste War” in Mexico in the mid to latter nineteenth century, Belize’s population was significantly impacted by new Mestizo and Maya immigrants; and the civil wars that raged in Central America in the latter 1970s and 1980s led to many more refugees seeking safety and a new life in Belize. Another factor resulting in a major shift in the population demographics, was the large number of citizens, especially Creoles/Kriols from Belize City, which was devastated by Hurricane Hattie in 1961, who were given free passage to the U.S. as a humanitarian gesture. The “exodus” continued for decades after.

Kriols/Creoles remained the majority ethnic group until probably sometime in the mid-1980s.

A 1970 census did not mention ethnicity; but in 1980, Creoles/Kriols were still the majority group comprising 40.0% of the population, while Mestizos accounted for 33.4%. But by a 1991 census, those numbers had flipped, as the continued exodus north of Creole/Kriol Belizeans and the movement into Belize of Mestizo immigrants from Central America continued. In 1991, Creoles/Kriols were 29.8% of the population, Mestizos were 43.6%, Garifuna were 6.6%, and Maya were 11.0%. And by 2010 the disparity was even wider between Creoles/Kriols and Mestizos, while the other ethnic groups remained relatively constant. The 2010 census showed Creoles/Kriols at 25.9% of the population, Mestizos at 52.9%, Garifuna at 6.1%, and Maya at 11.3%.

What has been amazing, and a blessing of sorts, is that this young nation of Belize has not, and does not appear to be on the brink of any semblance of tribal or ethnic war. Of course, there is some prejudice, but this unique people in the “heart of the Caribbean basin” have somehow found a way to coexist and share enough of themselves with each other, so that human bonds restrain any tendency to large-scale ethnic barriers. Belize “Kriol/Creole” is still the common language spoken in many different variations across the Jewel. And the “founding fathers” experiment of “one nation, one people, the Belizean people” continues.

In this mix of circumstances and trials, even as the young Creole/Kriol male population seems on a suicidal path of drug-related rivalries, crime and violence, there is still hope that the national will to eradicate extreme poverty will see a return to “peace and love” among our young people.

There are some sincere politicians with the will to see things change for the betterment

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Of course, along the way in the mid-1960s there were the Webster’s Proposals that the United States tried to pressure our leaders to agree to; but Belizean citizens, around 100,000 of us at that time, rejected them vigorously with massive street demonstrations. It was in the interest of the U.S., who had a long-standing cozy relationship with the Guatemalan military oligarchs, to fulfill their promises to Guatemala at the expense of some Belizean territory or rights over some of our affairs, conditions to which Belizeans were adamantly opposed. And then the British, in trying to appease their American friends, again attempted to push through a deal packaged in what was called “The Heads of Agreement,” that was again violently rejected by the Belizean people months before our actual independence day on September 21, 1981.

At independence in 1981, those steadfast and determined Belizean people, who neither the coaxing of the slick Americans nor the diplomatic savvy of the experienced British could soften and cajole, only numbered less than 150,000, with the bulk of the population still based in the historic Belize City, site of the first settlement in the early 1600s by buccaneers/pirates of British and



(estb. 1969)

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# Bringing Public Health to the Digital Age

by Dr. Carissa Etienne, Director,  
Pan American Health  
Organization

The COVID-19 pandemic has left an indelible mark on our lives and on our societies. It has also reinforced the power and potential of digital technologies to advance public health.

Indeed, countries that leveraged digital innovations were better off.

Places with centralized disease reporting could track the spread of COVID and warn municipalities when it was time to adjust public health measures or reinforce hospital capacity, while countries with electronic medical records and digital certificates had an easier time rolling out COVID vaccines and tailoring outreach efforts to vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Digital technologies also had an enormous impact for our patients: those who had access to digital tools benefitted, while those who didn't suffered a greater impact from disruption in health services.

In places where telemedicine was available, patients could stay in touch with their doctors, even amid lockdowns, allowing them to continue receiving necessary care and medical treatments. Simple messaging and video apps helped patients get the guidance and prescription they needed from the safety and comfort of home.

Shouldn't this be our new normal?

Other sectors have long benefited from digital technologies.

Mobile cash transfers and digital transactions have brought millions of underserved people into the financial system.

Virtual schooling has expanded access to education – including for individuals with learning differences – and enabled more people to earn degrees on their own time.

Digital solutions have helped public transit systems operate more efficiently and improve the rider experience with real-time tracking.

It's time for the health sector to embrace digital technologies. By modernizing how we provide care, we can make our health workers' jobs easier, improve the patient experience and strengthen our health systems.

To help Ministries of Health look to the future, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has developed Guiding Principles for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector. This document lays out clear priorities and considerations to ensure health system improvements are equitable and sustainable.

First, it's important that *everyone* can access the Internet with sufficient bandwidth for tele-consultations and other online services. As more and more people rely on digital technologies to gather information and to engage with health systems – whether it's making

appointments or conducting virtual consultations – **universal connectivity** has become an important determinant of health.

Universal connectivity is key to achieving our goal of health for all. Yet across the Americas, 30% of people still lack access to the Internet. And within countries, stark disparities in Internet connectivity persist across urban and rural divides. Without access to the Internet, populations cannot benefit from digital advancements, and the most vulnerable will fall further behind.

That's why we must also promote **digital inclusion**.

While many people have grown accustomed to tools like computers and phones, access and familiarity with these technologies vary by age, income, and region. When embracing digital tools, countries must consider the needs of *all* people to avoid widening gaps in care.

Countries should pay special attention to ensuring that digital solutions are adapted to the social, cultural, environmental, and economic conditions where they will be applied.

Equally important is ensuring that our health workers, everywhere, are adequately trained in these technologies.

Data is the bedrock of good public health. It reveals trends, gaps and opportunities to target interventions. So as countries bolster patient registration systems, disease tracing, and surveillance, they must ensure that data can be broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and regions so vulnerable populations aren't left behind.

Real-time data made available through robust health information systems can improve how health systems are managed, since it can reveal problems and pinpoint where additional resources may be needed. That's why it's important that public health data be integrated and have **open access** across different platforms, so local and national health systems can access the information they need – at the right time and in the right format – to make decisions.

To encourage greater **public health collaboration**, it's critical that public health data is made available to the stakeholders that are responsible for priorities, funding, and programmatic actions.

Countries have no option but to bring our health systems into the digital age, but that will require sustained investments, political commitment, and a willingness to work with other sectors.

Technologies have shaped the world around us. Now we must harness their power to transform our health systems to build a more resilient, safer, and healthier future.

END

## Letters to the editor

### Culture Curricula

Dear Editor,

Looks like the thing most near and dear to people's concern these days next to the need for clean air and open government is the idea of suing the government. Your correspondent Mr. Wellington Ramos (*Amandala*, Friday, December 2) made it his third option in the list of actions he saw as necessary to enable the Garifuna people "... to learn how to speak, write, read and write [their] language..."

That's a long drawn-out process, costly for sure, and with no guarantee as to what the outcome will be. Nor is there any likelihood that the target beneficiaries, the Garinagu themselves, will abide well another government mandate. There's a quicker, more certain successful path to the cultural eminence he has in mind: let the home become the incubator as opposed to the classroom; the one begins at birth; the other sometime later when the child

has already begun its experiment with some other linguistic forms of communication. Here's how it's done:

We lived beside a Hispanic family in Oklahoma City (an English-speaking community). The parents absolutely allowed no other language to be spoken *in their home* but Spanish, and they only went to Spanish-speaking churches. The English the children learned was learned at school, the supermarket and the park. No, they would not leave the golden opportunity of bringing up the child in the cultural way before they entered an indifferent and ephemeral school system.

Nor can the Garinagu or any other ethnic group here in Belize seeking language parity take the easy way out of what has to remain a family affair.

Hart Tillett  
Belmopan.

## Honduran fisherman found dead

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Dec. 1, 2022

The motionless body of Juan Ramon Benitez, 57, a Honduran fisherman of Colson Range Caye, Stann Creek District, was found in an advanced state of decomposition by workers who were conducting checks on the island.

According to police reports, at around noon on Wednesday, November 22, Benitez was left behind to secure

the Colson Range Caye, which is 5 miles east of Dangriga Town, and a week later, on Tuesday, November 29, workers arrived on the island, at about 7:00 p.m. and discovered Benitez's body, while making checks.

There appeared to be no sign of physical injury on the body when it was found. Benitez was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police are investigating.



## Whose country, Belize?

Continued from Page 5

of our young people, who make up over 70% of the population; but in their quest for a brighter tomorrow, our leaders would be wise to consider seriously the long-term implications of their decisions. "Not all that glitters is gold," and they need to guard against the temptations advanced by the agents of corporate greed, whose selfish, profit-driven ego seldom places any value on the well-being of the small man/woman in society. Bigger is not necessarily better for little Belize.

Are the demographic convulsions experienced by the Belizean people too disrupting to see an upwelling of national resistance and rebellion against any perceived threat against our children's future or our right to "self-determination"? While our elected leaders ponder the exciting touristic possibilities, and our learned technocrats caution against the potentially disastrous impact of certain large ventures on our fragile ecosystem, will Belizeans sit back and allow one big, international corporate giant to simply dictate to all of us what they WILL DO inside our Jewel? "We've come a long way," Belize.

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# It's the two left feet, and the two right ones

by Colin Hyde

If you combine the nations of China and India, they have more than a quarter of the world's population, but neither is represented at the World Cup. Close cousins Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Taiwan aren't in Qatar either. I'm not making that up. Those are facts, and those facts mean that Indians and Chinese can't play football. Okay, if you know people, and I've seen enough of them to have a pretty good idea of how they operate, there will be screams of discrimination: how can I say that, who am I to come to such a conclusion. But like I said, facts, and they speak as clear as day about the lack of football talent of the Indians and the Chinese.

Some uptight people will rush to their defense, argue that Indians don't like the game, they only like cricket, and Chinese only like to play checkers and earn money. I remember a story about a fox that was after some grapes, and when he couldn't get them, that bohgaz declared that he didn't want them anyway, because they were green.

If you need to blame someone, blame God. The evidence says that Chinese are born with two left feet, and the Indians have two right ones. If those bohgaz were into intermarriage, they would have cleaned up this genetic fault a long time ago. Sorry, we don't need to know anything more. The simple fact is they can't play, and that's all because

of the two left feet, and the two right ones.

## MHA's cause is noble but not practical

So, the Mental Health Association (MHA) has written to Mayor Wagner over insensitive remarks he made re: moving people who live on the streets. I had written in a column some years back that if I ever take to living on the streets, I would want concerned leaders to find a place for me, because I wouldn't want any dog to come and sleep by my side. Whoa there, there are laws in our country that don't allow loitering. So, what is a homeless person living on the streets doing?

Krem News said the MHA told the mayor the body understands his frustration but "... the solution to these issues is far more complex than locking people up and out of sight." The report said the MHA said the present policy is being looked at by the Ministry of Health, and that it has "collaborated with the Belize City Council previously to provide social support to the homeless and mentally ill population of Belize City." The MHA pointed out "that more is needed to offer care and support to these individuals, such as forensic medical care to those who present a danger to themselves and others", and "that these types of care are more effective than simply relying

on institutions."

The MHA is to be applauded, except when it comes to loitering, where they aren't practical. When a person with mental issues or someone just out of badness decides they have such rights, and they place their mat beside the door of someone trying to sell some wares to make a living, what happens? The business person loses sales, the business person can't pay their employees or the bank; bam—the business person lays off workers, bam—the business person is evicted from their home, bam—the failed business person is pulling out a piece of cardboard and making a bed in front of someone's store.

The right to sleep on the street is no right at all. The correct help for our special needs brothers and sisters begins with good meals, good shelter, good bed, and a job in an area where they can contribute.

## Don't sell bbq, get a Piti Pat license

Having participated in the barbecue and tamales sales thing when I was active in sports in my village, I wonder what people make when they have dinner sales to raise funds to help a loved one pay off a medical bill. The sense I have is that people do a few bake/turkey dinner and barbecue sales, and very soon they get frustrated with what they earn from these sales and look to other ways to raise funds to pay off a local specialist or make a trip across the border.

Our sports clubs used to do these fundraisers, and the pittance realized after humongous efforts was discouraging. Maybe the results are different in the cities and towns, because they have much larger populations, but I don't think so, especially because the cost of ingredients is so high these days that not that many people can support.

Ah, in times like those, the sports clubs in Camalote would approach the chairman and ask him to acquire a gaming license. Then, on the weekends, they play Piti Pat, sometimes Bingo too, at the Community Center. In the considerable years I was involved in football and softball in my village, we never used a license until it expired. The money poured in hand over fist, enough to handily cover our expenses, and mercifully we shut it down when we hit our target.

Hey there, play Piti Pat! From far and near, people will pour in to support the good cause.

## Awaiting an African president

In September our government announced the official visit of H.E. Paul

Kagame, the president of the Republic of Rwanda, from September 14 to 15, 2022, and stated that it was a historic first by a head of state from Africa. But shortly after the announcement, the Press Office sent out a release that the visit was postponed "due to developing circumstances", and that a new date would "be announced when details are finalized."

Many people dispute the report that 6 million Jews were exterminated by the Nazis in WWII, between 1939 and 1945. I don't dispute it; I just can't wrap my mind around it. I don't know what 6 million dollars looks like, and I don't know what 6 million people being led into gas chambers looks like. What I do know, what I can wrap my mind around, is that a horrible massacre took place, and the Jews have every right, short of becoming like the enemy that exterminated their people, to work toward preventing it ever happening again.

These race wars have been common all over the world, and in Africa's case, most of the root of the evil is the Europeans who used their military might to divide up the continent so they could exploit its resources. Thanks to the Europeans, the borders in Africa are quite artificial. *DW News* says that in 1885 "representatives of 13 European states, the United States of America and the Ottoman Empire converged on Berlin at the invitation of German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck to divide up Africa among themselves 'in accordance with international law.' Africans were not invited to the meeting." Traditional boundaries were not considered.

Kagame is the president of a country that isn't a victim of European-made borders, but it is a victim of major interference by the Europeans. Rwanda went through one of the bloodiest civil wars ever, in the 1990s. History.com says "during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, also known as the genocide against the Tutsi, members of the Hutu ethnic majority in the east-central African nation of Rwanda murdered as many as 800,000 people, mostly of the Tutsi minority. Started by Hutu nationalists in the capital of Kigali, the genocide spread throughout the country with shocking speed and brutality, as ordinary citizens were incited by local officials and the Hutu Power government to take up arms against their neighbors. By the time the Tutsi-led Rwandese Patriotic Front gained control of the country through a military offensive in early July, hundreds of thousands of Rwandans were dead and 2 million refugees (mainly Hutus) fled Rwanda, exacerbating what had already become a full-blown humanitarian crisis."

I hope to continue this piece on Friday.



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All applicants should be practicing Christians and ready to abide by the principles upheld by the institution.

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- two recommendations
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- certified copies of transcripts and diplomas
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## ¿País de quién, Belize?

Lunes, 5 de diciembre de 2022

Dos palabras de moda que se mantuvieron prominentes a lo largo de los años de agitación y de buscar el apoyo de la comunidad internacional en nuestra lucha por lograr la independencia fueron “integridad territorial”; y otra palabra combinada igual de integral al esfuerzo, “autodeterminación”. De hecho, este último fue un factor fundamental en el caso de nuestros líderes ante las Naciones Unidas para reconocernos como un nuevo pueblo, el pueblo beliceño, con nuestra propia identidad, himno y todos los atributos de una nación, con derecho a determinar nuestro propio futuro, en lugar de estar sujetos a los caprichos del poder colonial en la búsqueda de una solución para su disputa inmemorial con Guatemala. Pero en estos días modernos, a veces uno tiene que preguntarse si nos están tomando en serio como nación, o si poderosas manos ocultas nos están dictando detrás de escena.

La “autodeterminación de los pueblos” fue un elemento importante en el nuevo programa de descolonización de las Naciones Unidas después del final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial en 1945. A medida que varios países del Caribe de habla inglesa avanzaban hacia su independencia a principios y mediados de la década de 1960, Belize languideció debido al reclamo guatemalteco de que el Reino Unido, nuestros entonces amos coloniales, deseaban resolver con Guatemala a nuestra costa. Con muchos esfuerzos de cabildeo de los líderes de entonces, el *premier* George Price, el *vice premier* “Lindy” Rogers y el ministro Assad Shoman y otros, así como los incondicionales de la oposición junto con el Comité de Libertad de Belize con sede en EE. UU., que vio a personas como Philip Goldson y Comptom Fairweather cabildeando contra los esfuerzos de Guatemala en la Asamblea General de la ONU, la ONU apoyó abrumadoramente el derecho del pueblo de Belize a la “autodeterminación” y la “integridad territorial”; así, Belize se convirtió en una nación independiente en septiembre de 1981 con “plena integridad territorial”: todas las 8,867 millas cuadradas, y con pleno respeto por el derecho de nuestra nueva nación a la “autodeterminación”.

Por supuesto, en el camino a mediados de la década de 1960 estaban las Propuestas de Webster que Estados Unidos trató de presionar a nuestros líderes para que aceptaran; pero los ciudadanos beliceños, alrededor de 100.000 de nosotros en ese momento, los rechazamos enérgicamente con masivas manifestaciones callejeras. Estaba en el interés de los EE. UU., que tenía una relación íntima de larga data con los oligarcas militares guatemaltecos, cumplir sus promesas a Guatemala a expensas de algún territorio beliceño o derechos sobre algunos de nuestros asuntos, condiciones a las que los beliceños se oponían rotundamente. Y luego los británicos, al tratar de apaciguar a sus amigos estadounidenses, nuevamente intentaron impulsar un acuerdo incluido en lo que se llamó “Las Bases de Acuerdo”, que nuevamente fue violentamente rechazado por el pueblo beliceño meses antes de nuestro día real de independencia el 21 de septiembre de 1981.

En el momento de la independencia en 1981, esos beliceños firmes y decididos, a quienes ni la persuasión de los hábiles estadounidenses ni la inteligencia diplomática de los experimentados británicos pudieron suavizar y engatusar, solo sumaban menos de 150,000, con la mayor parte de la población todavía basada en la histórica Ciudad de Belize, sitio del primer asentamiento a principios de 1600 por bucaneros/piratas británicos y de otras nacionalidades en la desembocadura de lo que ahora es el Aroyo Haulover del río Belize. Esa es una población relativamente pequeña, predominantemente descendientes de esclavos, para ser tan bulliciosos en la defensa de su “derecho inalienable a la autodeterminación”. De hecho, al comienzo del movimiento de independencia en 1950, cuando la devaluación del dólar beliceño por parte del gobernador británico provocó la formación del Comité del Pueblo, que luego se convirtió en el Partido Unido del Pueblo, el “partido de la independencia”, la población era aún más pequeña. Según [www.macrotrends.net](http://www.macrotrends.net), las cifras oficiales de la población de Belize durante las décadas siguientes fueron (nuestras cifras redondeadas al millar más cercano): **1950: 69 000; 1960: 91 000; 1970 – 121 000; 1980 – 145 000; 1990 – 183 000; 2000 – 240 000; 2010 – 322 000; y 2020—395 000.**

El primer censo registrado de Belize que pudimos ubicar, en [sib.org.bz](http://sib.org.bz), se realizó en 1790 y presentaba una población total de 2.493. De estos, 230 fueron clasificados como “blancos”; 1.923 como “esclavos”, que serían predominantemente africanos (negros) o de origen africano mixto; y 340 como “personas libres”, que también podrían incluir algunas personas de origen africano o africano mixto. Si clasificáramos, digamos, a 100 de esas “personas libres” como de origen africano mixto, significaría

que lo que ahora describimos como personas “criollas” o “kriol” habrían compuesto alrededor del 80% de la población del asentamiento.

El siguiente censo en 1816 mostró un total de 3.824; pero fue más definitivo al describir el origen étnico de las personas contadas. Había 149 “personas blancas”; 562 “personas de color”; 371 “personas negras libres”; y 2.742 “esclavos”, que tenemos que suponer eran negros/africanos. La población “criolla/kriol” sería entonces de unos 3.675, o sea, prácticamente el 96% de la población.

Los censos enumerados por el Instituto de Estadística de Belize (SIB por sus siglas en inglés) desde 1820 en adelante durante muchas décadas no diferenciaron por color o etnia, solo mujeres y hombres. (Es probable que los pueblos mayas aislados en el extremo oeste y el sur no fueran incluidos en esos primeros censos).

Con la “Guerra de castas” en México a mediados y finales del siglo XIX, la población de Belize se vio significativamente afectada por los nuevos inmigrantes mestizos y mayas; y las guerras civiles que asolaron América Central a finales de los años 70 y 80 llevaron a muchos más refugiados a buscar seguridad y una nueva vida en Belize. Otro factor que resultó en un cambio importante en la demografía de la población fue la gran cantidad de ciudadanos, especialmente criollos/‘kriol’ de la Ciudad de Belize, que fue devastada por el huracán Hattie en 1961, a quienes se les dio paso gratuito a los EE. UU. como un gesto humanitario. El “éxodo” continuó durante décadas después.

Los ‘kriol’/criollos siguieron siendo el grupo étnico mayoritario probablemente hasta mediados de la década de 1980.

Un censo de 1970 no mencionó el origen étnico; pero en 1980, los criollos/‘kriol’ seguían siendo el grupo mayoritario que comprendía el 40,0% de la población, mientras que los mestizos representaban el 33,4%. Pero según un censo de 1991, esos números se habían invertido, a medida que continuaba el éxodo al norte de beliceños criollos/‘kriol’ y el movimiento hacia Belize de inmigrantes mestizos de América Central. En 1991, los criollos/‘kriol’ eran el 29,8% de la población, los mestizos el 43,6%, los garífunas el 6,6% y los mayas el 11,0%. Y para 2010 la disparidad era aún mayor entre criollos/‘kriol’ y mestizos, mientras que los demás grupos étnicos permanecían relativamente constantes. El censo de 2010 mostró a los criollos/‘kriol’ en el 25,9% de la población, los mestizos en el 52,9%, los garífunas en el 6,1% y los mayas en el 11,3%.

Lo que ha sido sorprendente, y una especie de bendición, es que esta joven nación de Belize no ha estado ni parece estar al borde de ninguna guerra tribal o étnica. Por supuesto, hay algunos prejuicios, pero este pueblo único en el “corazón de la cuenca del Caribe” de alguna manera ha encontrado la manera de convivir y compartir lo suficiente entre sí, de modo que los lazos humanos restringen cualquier tendencia a las barreras étnicas a gran escala. El ‘Kriol/criollo’ de Belize sigue siendo el idioma común que se habla en muchas variaciones diferentes a lo largo de la Joya. Y continúa el experimento de los “padres fundadores” de “una nación, un pueblo, el pueblo beliceño”.

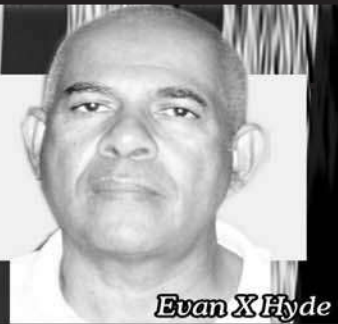
En esta mezcla de circunstancias y juicios, aun cuando la joven población masculina criolla/‘kriol’ parece estar en un camino suicida de rivalidades relacionadas con las drogas, el crimen y la violencia, aún existe la esperanza de que la voluntad nacional de erradicar la pobreza extrema vea un retorno a “paz y amor” entre nuestros jóvenes.

Hay algunos políticos sinceros con la voluntad de ver cambiar las cosas para el bien de nuestros jóvenes, que son más del 70% de la población; pero en su búsqueda de un mañana más brillante, nuestros líderes harían bien en considerar seriamente las implicaciones a largo plazo de sus decisiones. “No todo lo que reluce es oro”, y deben protegerse contra las tentaciones que presentan los agentes de la codicia corporativa, cuyo ego egoísta y motivado por las ganancias rara vez valora el bienestar del pequeño hombre/mujer en la sociedad. Más grande no es necesariamente mejor para el pequeño Belize.

¿Son las convulsiones demográficas experimentadas por el pueblo beliceño demasiado perturbadoras para ver un surgimiento de resistencia nacional y rebelión contra cualquier amenaza percibida contra el futuro de nuestros hijos o nuestro derecho a la “autodeterminación”? Mientras nuestros líderes electos reflexionan sobre las emocionantes posibilidades turísticas y nuestros sabios tecnócratas advierten sobre el impacto potencialmente desastroso de ciertas grandes empresas en nuestro frágil ecosistema, ¿se sentarán los beliceños y permitirán que un gran gigante corporativo internacional simplemente nos dicte a todos nosotros lo que HARÁN dentro de nuestra Joya? “Hemos recorrido un largo camino”, Belize.



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

I began college at Dartmouth in September of 1965. I was 18 years old. Dartmouth is located in Hanover, New Hampshire, a small town of about six or seven thousand people in the cold, mountainous northeast of the United States. Dartmouth is known as a skiing school.

There was one black family in Hanover: the father worked at the local post office.

The late Stokely Carmichael (later Kwame Toure), at the time a charismatic, eloquent activist for an organization called the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), began talking about black power in the spring of 1966 in Mississippi, which is probably the most racist and dangerous state in America.

(Incidentally, the Rt. Hon. George Price studied at a segregated, black Roman Catholic seminary in

Mississippi in the late 1930s. He later spent about a year at another Catholic seminary in Guatemala City.)

The “black power” slogan electrified black youth in America. Dartmouth, an Ivy League university with about 3,000 students in enrollment, and all-male at the time, enlarged its freshman class percentage of African Americans in the class admitted in 1967.

One student of the 1970 class was a young brother named Don Dayson, who became a physician working in Harlem, where he met Belizeans living in New York, gained contact with me, and we corresponded for a while.

Another brother in that class was Dandre DeSandies, who lived in the dormitory (Cohen) next to mine (Bissell), and with whom I became good friends. A couple decades ago, Dandre, who had become a professor

at a university in California, visited Belize while in charge of some students. We met, and talked some.

I believe Wally Ford was also a member of that 1970 class. I made contact with him recently through a Belizean, Astor Foreman, who lives next to Wally in New York. Wally is a professor at Medgar Evers College, and in 1969 he was the person of major assistance in the establishment of this newspaper, soliciting a donation from a Dartmouth professor of Chinese named Mirsky. Wally holds a special place in our newspaper’s 53-year history.

Renewing contact with Wally, I began touching bases with other Dartmouth classmates like Bob Bennett and Dennis Young (not the Belizean one). These brothers had heard various things about me over the decades.

Meanwhile, Dartmouth had become

co-ed around 1977 or 1978, and one of my granddaughters, Kameesha, graduated from Dartmouth and later did graduate work at Harvard. She is Cordel’s oldest child.

Chatting with Don Dayson recently by e-mail, he said he had heard back then that I had run for prime minister. I tried to explain how I had wanted to be a writer, and got dragged into Belize’s party politics. But, this is a long story, complex, and perhaps even subtle.

Politicians and writers are two different creatures. A politician tells people what they want to hear; writers tell people what they need to know.

Because of all the drama involved with my early adult life, I think I was able to advise Cordel sometimes about some things an aspiring politician should avoid, and so on and so forth.

Since Cordel became Belize’s Deputy Prime Minister two years ago, we have met maybe two or three times, held maybe three or four conversations. He is, of course, very busy. I do not interfere in his politics.

Nevertheless, the nature of the media businesses in which I am involved is such that a lot of politics is discussed, and some of that discussion is critical of the Cabinet in which Cordel works, and sometimes even critical of Cordel himself, if I am to judge by comments recently made to me by one of my younger siblings. I am therefore placed in a quandary from time to time. But, all I can do is try to adjust to these new millennial realities.

I was teaching at the Belize Technical College in late 1968 when all the discourse and action began, featuring Assad Shoman and Said Musa, which led to a street demonstration against an American propaganda film about the Vietnam War at the beginning of 1969. This discourse and action, in a way, sparked black conscious activism in Belize which led to the establishment of the United Black Association for Development (UBAD) in February of 1969.

Needless to say, a lot of things have changed in Belize since then. But, thinking back about it, maybe some of the ruling party thought I wanted to be prime minister when they charged me with seditious conspiracy in 1970. I would say my trial in the Supreme Court in July of 1970 was responsible for major changes in my life.

In conclusion, I would say that all I did was do what I had to do when I had to do it. There were good times, and there were times which were not so good, but it was always exciting. I couldn’t ask for anything more.

Blessings upon you.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Comencé la universidad en Dartmouth en septiembre de 1965. Tenía 18 años. Dartmouth se encuentra en Hanover, New Hampshire, un pequeño pueblo de unas seis o siete mil personas en el frío y montañoso noreste de los Estados Unidos. Dartmouth es conocida como una escuela de esquí.

Había una familia negra en Hanover: el padre trabajaba en la oficina de correos local.

El finado Stokely Carmichael (más tarde Kwame Toure), en ese momento un activista carismático y elocuente de una organización llamada Comité Coordinador Estudiantil No Violento (SNCC por sus siglas en inglés), comenzó a hablar sobre el poder negro en la primavera de 1966 en Mississippi, que es probablemente el estado más racista y peligroso de Estados Unidos.

(Por cierto, el Muy Honorable George Price estudió en un seminario católico romano negro segregado en Mississippi a fines de la década de 1930. Más tarde pasó aproximadamente un año en otro seminario católico en la Ciudad de Guatemala).

El eslogan de “poder negro” electrificó a la juventud negra en Estados Unidos. Dartmouth, una universidad de la Ivy League con unos 3.000 estudiantes matriculados y exclusivamente masculinos en ese momento, amplió el porcentaje de afroamericanos de primer año en la clase admitida en 1967.

Un estudiante de la clase de 1970 era un hombre joven llamado Don Dayson, quien se convirtió en médico trabajando en Harlem, donde conoció a beliceños que vivían en Nueva York, se puso en contacto conmigo y mantuvimos correspondencia durante un tiempo.

Otro hermano de esa clase era Dandre DeSandies, que vivía en el dormitorio (Cohen) junto al mío (Bissell), y con quien me hice muy amigo. Hace un par de décadas, Dandre, quien se había convertido en profesor en una universidad de California, visitó Belize mientras estaba a cargo de algunos estudiantes. Nos conocimos y hablamos un poco.

Creo que Wally Ford también fue miembro de esa clase de 1970. Me puse en contacto con él recientemente a través de un beliceño, Astor Foreman, que vive al lado de Wally en Nueva York. Wally es profesor en el Colegio Medgar Evers, y en 1969 fue la persona de mayor ayuda en el establecimiento de este periódico, solicitando una donación de un profesor de chino en Dartmouth llamado Mirsky. Wally ocupa un lugar especial en los 53 años de historia de nuestro periódico.

Al renovar el contacto con Wally, comencé a ponerme en contacto con otros compañeros de clase de Dartmouth como Bob Bennett y Dennis Young (no el de Belize). Estos hermanos habían oído varias cosas sobre mí a lo largo de las décadas.

Mientras tanto, Dartmouth se había

convertido en mixto alrededor de 1977 o 1978, y una de mis nietas, Kamisha, se graduó de Dartmouth y luego tomó cursos a nivel de licenciatura en Harvard. Ella es la hija mayor de Cordel.

Hablando con Don Dayson recientemente por correo electrónico, dijo que en ese entonces había escuchado que me había postulado para primer ministro. Traté de explicar que había querido ser escritor y fui arrastrado a la política partidista de Belize. Pero, esta es una historia larga, compleja y tal vez incluso sutil.

Los políticos y los escritores son dos criaturas diferentes. Un político le dice a la gente lo que quiere oír; los escritores le dicen a la gente lo que necesita saber.

Debido a todo el drama involucrado en mi temprana vida adulta, creo que a veces pude aconsejar a Cordel sobre algunas cosas que un aspirante a político debería evitar, y así sucesivamente.

Desde que Cordel se convirtió en Viceprimer Ministro de Belize hace dos años, nos hemos reunido tal vez dos o tres veces, hemos tenido unas tres o cuatro conversaciones. Él está, por supuesto, muy ocupado. No interfiero en su política.

Sin embargo, la naturaleza de los negocios de los medios en los que estoy involucrado es tal que se discute mucha política, y parte de esa



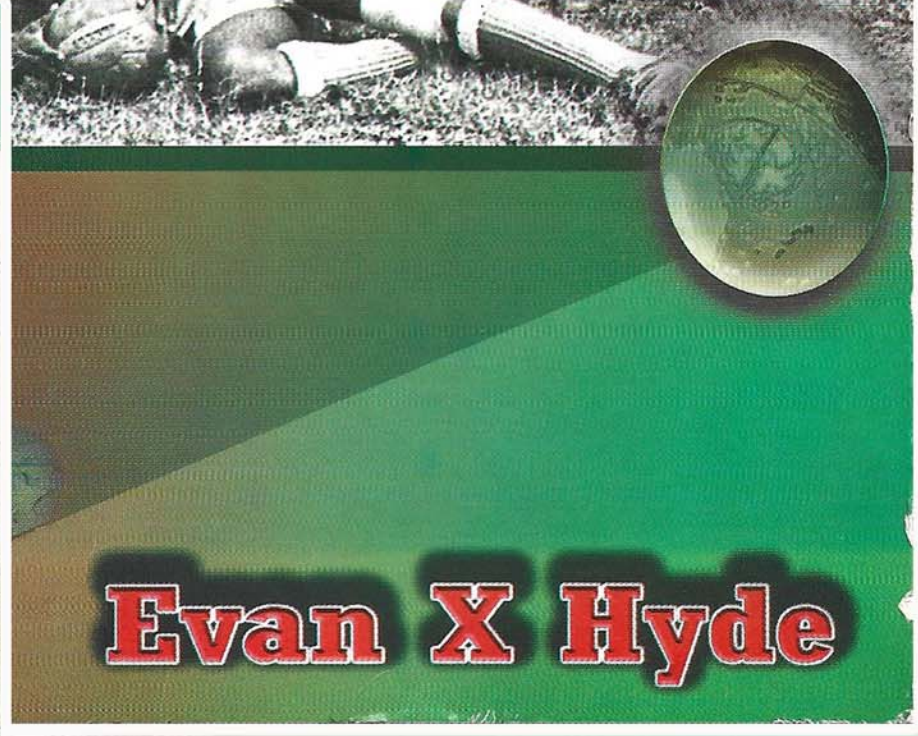
# SPORTS, SIN AND SUBVERSION



Ludwig Lightburn after he defeated New Orleans' Ralph Dupas, the no. 2 lightweight contender in the world, at New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1955. This was Lightburn's first nationally televised fight in the U.S. It was also seen in Mexico and Canada, and broadcast worldwide on shortwave radio. (The ring announcer is Johnny Addie.)

**Evan X Hyde**

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# Vladimir Putin's speech at the Valdai Foundation (Part 2)



by Clinton Canul Luna

On October 27, 2022, the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, gave a discourse at the Valdai Discussion Club Foundation which I find to be of much interest. Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you Part 2 of that speech:

So today, an overwhelming majority of the international community demands democracy in international affairs and rejects all forms of authoritarian rule by individual countries or groups of countries. What is this but the direct application of democratic principles to international relations? What position has the "civilized" West taken? If they are Democrats, they are supposed to embrace the natural desire for freedom expressed by billions of people, but they don't. The West calls it undermining the rule-based liberal order. It is resorting to economic and trade wars, sanctions, boycotts and color revolutions, and preparing and carrying out all kinds of coups. One of them had tragic consequences in Ukraine in 2014. They supported it and even specified how much money they had spent on this coup. They have the audacity to act as they please and have no scruples in everything they do. They killed Soleimani, an Iranian general. You

can think what you want about Soleimani, but he was an official of a foreign state. They killed him in a third country and took responsibility. What's that supposed to mean, for God's sake? What kind of world do we live in? They nip everything in the bud, and even do not hesitate to impose sanctions on their allies, who bow their heads in acquiescence.

As usual, Washington continues to refer to the current international order as American-style liberal, but in reality, this notorious "order" is multiplying chaos every day and, I might add, becoming increasingly intolerant even of Western countries and their attempts to act independently. For example, the Hungarian MEPs' proposals in July to codify the commitment to European Christian values and culture in the Treaty on European Union were taken not even as an affront, but as an act of blatant and hostile sabotage. What's that? What does it mean? Indeed, some may like it, others may not... It is incredible. Without exaggeration, this is not even a systemic crisis, but rather a doctrinal crisis of the US-style neoliberal model of international order. They have no ideas for progress and positive development. They simply have nothing to offer the world except

to perpetuate their rule. I am convinced that true democracy in a multipolar world consists mainly in the ability of any nation—I insist—any society or any civilization, to follow its own path and organize its own socio-political system. If the United States or the EU countries enjoy this right, the countries of Asia, the Islamic States, the monarchies of the Persian Gulf and the countries of other continents also have it, without a doubt. Of course, our country, Russia, also has this right, and no one will be able to tell our people what kind of society we should build and what principles should underlie it.

A direct threat to the Western political, economic, and ideological monopoly lies in the fact that the world can devise more effective alternative social models; I want to underline this, more effective today, brighter and more attractive than those that currently exist. These models will undoubtedly emerge. This is unavoidable. By the way, American political scientists and analysts also write about this. The truth is that their government doesn't listen to what they say, though they can't help but see these concepts in political science journals and mentioned in debates. Development must be based on a dialogue between civilizations and spiritual and moral values. Indeed, the understanding of what the human being is and the nature of it varies according to civilizations, but this difference is usually superficial, and everyone recognizes the ultimate dignity and spiritual essence of people. It is vitally important to have a common base on which we can and must build our future. Here is something I would like to underline. Traditional values are not a rigid set of tenets that everyone must adhere to, of course not.

The difference with the so-called neoliberal values is that they are unique in each particular case, because they come from the traditions of a specific society, its culture and its historical baggage. That is why traditional values cannot be imposed on anyone. You simply have to respect them and carefully handle everything that each nation has been choosing for itself over the centuries. This is how we understand traditional values, and the majority of humanity shares and accepts our approach. It is understandable, because the traditional societies of the East, Latin America, Africa and Eurasia form the basis of world civilization. Respect for the uses and customs of peoples and civilizations is in everyone's interest. Indeed, it is also in the interest of the 'West', which is fast becoming a minority on the international scene as it loses its dominance. Of course, the right of the Western minority to its own cultural identity—I want to underline this—must be guaranteed and respected, but, above all, on an equal footing with the rights of any other nation. If Western elites think they can get their people and their societies to adopt what I consider to be weird and

trendy ideas like dozens of genders or gay pride parades, so be it. Let them do whatever they want. But they certainly have no right to tell others to follow in their footsteps. We see the complicated demographic, political and social processes taking place in Western countries. This is, of course, your business. Russia does not interfere in these matters and does not intend to do so. Unlike the West, we mind our own business.

But we hope that pragmatism will triumph and that Russia's dialogue with the genuine and traditional West, as well as with other contemporary development centers, will become an important contribution to the construction of a multipolar world order. I will add that multipolarity is a real opportunity and, in fact, the only one for Europe to recover its political and economic identity. To tell the truth—and this idea is expressed explicitly in Europe today—Europe's legal capacity is very limited. I've tried to put it mildly so as not to offend anyone. I will add that multipolarity is a real opportunity and, in fact, the only one for Europe to recover its political and economic identity. The world is naturally diverse, and Western attempts to lump everyone into the same pattern are clearly doomed. Nothing will come of them. The conceited aspiration to achieve world supremacy and, essentially, to dictate or preserve leadership by dictation, is actually lowering the international prestige of the leaders of the Western world, including the United States, and increasing mistrust in their negotiating capacity in general.

Today they say one thing and tomorrow another; they sign documents and renounce them, they do what they want. There is no stability in anything. How the documents are signed, what has been discussed, what can we expect, all this is not at all clear. Before, only a few countries dared to argue with the United States, and it was almost sensational, while now it has become routine for all kinds of states to reject Washington's baseless demands, despite its continuous attempts to put pressure on everyone. This is a wrong policy that leads nowhere. But whether they do, is also their choice. I am convinced that the nations of the world will not turn a blind eye to a policy of coercion that has discredited itself. Each time the West will have to pay a higher price for its attempts to preserve its hegemony. If I were a Western elite, I would seriously consider this perspective. As I said, some political scientists and politicians in the United States are already thinking about it. Americophobia, Anglophobia,

**A Collection of Ideas and Opinions 2007-2012**  
by C B Hyde

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## Rugby Belize plays a friendly game

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 2, 2022

On Thursday, December 1, Belize's national rugby team, Team Camazotz, participated in a friendly tournament with teams from BATSUB (British Army Training and Support Unit Belize) and the BDF (Belize Defence Force).

Recently, Belize's rugby team participated in a regional tournament in Mexico hosted by the Mexican Rugby Federation (Rugby Mexico) and the Rugby Americas North (RAN) Super Sevens that ran from November 11-13 and served as a qualifying tournament for both 2023 Centro Caribe Games and the 2023 Pan American Games.

Director of Rugby Belize, Daniel Nicolle, told *Amandala* that the friendly tournament is aimed at building the experience of the Belizean players so that they are more fully prepared for their future tournaments.

"Here it's not as competitive; the



Rugby Belize team

overall tournament is just for fun. It's not a serious tournament as it was in Mexico for us, and again it is a bit more exposure and a bit more game for our Belizean players, so the next time we go to Mexico we have a bit more

experience in rugby," said Nicolle.

Nicolle further noted that training for Rugby Belize ends after the tournament, as they will be partaking in community outreach for the Christmas holidays, and training resumes in January followed by national training for local tournaments.

Captain of Team Camazotz, Raheem Cummings, told us that "The game is different [from] any other sport that is being played here in Belize. It's action-packed... Hard hits, hard contacts, so it is very exciting." "I encourage people to get involved and they will enjoy it," he said.

The national rugby tournament will be held in San Ignacio in the middle of next year.

## Vladimir Putin's speech at the Valdai Foundation (Part 2)

Continued from Page 11

Francophobia and Germanophobia are the same forms of racism as Russophobia or anti-Semitism, and, by the way, xenophobia in all its forms.

In the current conditions of intense conflict, I will be direct about certain things. As an independent and differentiated civilization, Russia has never considered itself and does not consider itself an enemy of the West. You just have to clearly understand that, as I said before, there are two Wests—at least two and perhaps more, but at least two—the West of traditional values, mainly Christian, of freedom, of patriotism, of great culture and now also of Islamic values—a substantial part of the population of many Western countries follows Islam. This West is close to us in something. We share common, even ancient, roots with him. But there is also a different West: aggressive, cosmopolitan and neocolonial. It acts as a tool of the neoliberal elites. Naturally, Russia will never reconcile itself to the dictates of this West. In the year 2000, after I was elected president, I will always remember what I faced: I will remember the price we paid for destroying the lair of terrorism in the North Caucasus, which the West almost openly

supported at the time. We are all adults here; most of those in this room understand what I'm talking about. We know that this is exactly what happened in practice: financial, political and informational support. We have all experienced it. Moreover, the West not only actively supported terrorists on Russian soil, but in many ways fueled this threat. This we know. However, when the situation stabilized, when the main terrorist gangs were defeated, including thanks to the courage of the Chechen people, we decided not to back down, not to act offended, but to move forward, to establish relations even with those who actually acted against us, establish and develop relationships with everyone who wishes, based on mutual benefit and respect for each other. We thought it was in everyone's interest. Russia, thank God, had survived all the difficulties of the time, stood firm, became stronger, was able to cope with internal and external terrorism, its economy was preserved, it began to develop, and its defense capabilities began to improve."

(To Be Continued)  
[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
 December 4, 2022  
 Finca Solana  
 Corozal Town

## Rethinking Policing Initiative launched today

Continued from Page 2

vilified, we don't deserve it," he added.

In regard to the national crime-fighting strategy, Williams said that he believes the department has a sound document but that there have been shortfalls in the implementation of the policies at the middle management level. He said that local commanders are given the leverage to create their own localized strategies, tailored to the needs and characteristics of their respective communities.

"But again, are they doing it right? Are they executing the strategy to its fullest? And many times we find that one of our greater shortcomings is not that management don't have things in place. If you were to look at our policy manual, you look at our national crimefighting

strategy. You look at what we publish in the departmental orders, you'll see that we do have good policies and a good structure in place to manage the Police Department," Williams said.

He pointed out that the failure most often occurs in the area of supervision—a shortcoming caused by a lack of effective middle management.

"So that's another area I expect that this project is going to fix. It's going to point out that we are failing at the middle management level in terms of executing the policy and strategies we have in place to be able to make the department function the way it should," Williams remarked.

And while some officers may look at this process as an arduous one within the department, COMPOL Williams believes that it will produce worthwhile results.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Continúa de página 9

discusión es crítica con el Gabinete en el que trabaja Cordel y, a veces, incluso con el propio Cordel, si he de juzgar por los comentarios que me hizo recientemente uno de mis hermanos menores. Por lo tanto, me encuentro en un dilema de vez en cuando. Pero, todo lo que puedo hacer es tratar de adaptarme a estas nuevas realidades milenarias.

Estaba enseñando en el Colegio Técnico de Belize a fines de 1968 cuando comenzó todo el discurso y la acción, protagonizada por Assad Shoman y Said Musa, que condujo a una manifestación callejera contra una película de propaganda estadounidense sobre la Guerra de Vietnam a principios de 1969. Este discurso y la acción, en cierto modo, provocó el activismo consciente

negro en Belize que condujo al establecimiento de la Asociación Negra Unida para el Desarrollo (UBAD por sus siglas en inglés) en febrero de 1969.

No hace falta decir que muchas cosas han cambiado en Belize desde entonces. Pero, pensando en ello, tal vez algunos del partido gobernante pensaron que quería ser primer ministro cuando me acusaron de conspiración sediciosa en 1970. Diría que mi juicio en la Corte Suprema en julio de 1970 fue responsable de cambios importantes en mi vida.

En conclusión, diría que todo lo que hice fue lo que tenía que hacer cuando tenía que hacerlo. Hubo buenos momentos, y hubo momentos que no fueron tan buenos, pero siempre fue emocionante. No podría pedir nada más.

Bendiciones sobre ustedes.

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# Orange Walk football - 40+ years back

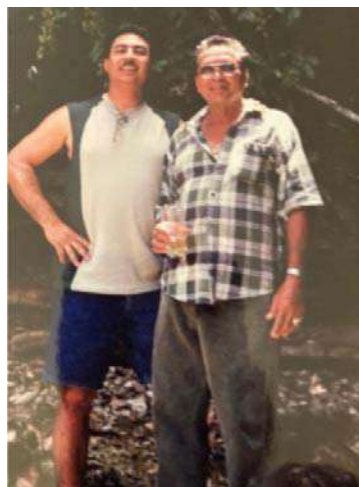
by Ely Fabro

In the mid 70's, a bunch of young kids would gather on the weekends to play football at the La Inmaculada Primary School's play yard. We all had really good times back then, times I still look upon fondly even after all these years. I could recall the nuns at the convent voicing their opposition to the soccer balls going over their fence and crashing into the garden, but all was good if we made it to morning mass during Lent.

During the week, this patch of grass and dirt was a school yard, but when the weekend came around it became a field where we all tested each other and became stronger as our love for the game grew. Several squads would show up and challenge one another - Riverside Squad, The Chicken Boys (us), Slaughter House and the Bakers Boys. We all descended upon this field on the weekends and played until we couldn't.



As our game grew, we decided to join the Orange Walk Football League and officially became competitive under the name BDI. We were coached by Maestro Henry Castillo, a man who did more than coaching, but was also a mentor to me and my teammates, many lessons learned and appreciated. We sought competition and a good time; we ended up finding both. We received sponsorship from Mr. Joe Loskot through the friendship of my uncle, Carmen Fabro. With this sponsorship we were given the opportunity to stay together as a team, and for that, to this day, I'm thankful. In 1977, at the end of the season we were crowned undefeated champions. This was our first taste of success, and for the years to come this success would continue.



We also had other team sponsors, the best ever sponsorship coming from Ismael "Miley" Gonzalez and Ricardo "Cook" Chell. With this sponsorship the team grew and were given the ability to focus on the game and succeed in many ways, both on and off the field. At the time, we were challenged by teams such as Chilino Cantun's, Paul Mar All-Stars, and Base Boys. These were some of the toughest teams, and introduced the competitive nature we needed as a team, and we learned that through them. They were some of the most formidable foes we faced (but we never lost).



After all these years as a respected team under the name Leonies', several players were selected for the Orange Walk Interdistrict All-Star Team - Mark Chavarria (cousin)-GK; Pash Leiva (cousin)-FW (best scorer); Hildardo "Gringo" Marchand-MF; Elvis "Cricket" Crawford-FW; Roberto "Titi" Rosado-MF/FW; Gregory "Gregzie" Jones-DF; Ely Fabro (myself)-CB; Johnny Briceño - Honorable Prime Minister-GK; Mandy Gomez-FW; Eloy Avila-DF; Frank Sharp-MF.

At this time the northern districts of Orange Walk and Corozal, and Cayo were the most competitive. In 1981 the MCC field was host to the final of the National Football Championship between Corozal and Orange Walk. The game would live on in infamy as we (Orange Walk) decided to walk off the field after a bad call. Corozal was crowned champion but called "Paper Champs" as the win wasn't legitimate. The referee made a horrible call by disallowing one of our goals scored by Pash. Looking back, it was...FUN!



After putting this fiasco behind us as a team, Chito's, the champions of Belize City, challenged us to a game. They

were looking for the strongest team to play and that was Leonies'. The final score after that game was 3-1, a very comfortable win over the champions of Belize City. Something the "Paper Champs" never did.

Orange Walk has a history of producing great football players/teams, and me and my teammates are only a small part of the history, a history that deserves to be remembered and enjoyed.

I'd like to acknowledge some of the teams and players (and villages) from Orange Walk that left an impact on the town.

TEAMS - Juca - Pio Urbina; Riverside - Amado Vasquez; United - Chicho Urbina.

VILLAGES - Guinea Grass; San Esteban; Douglas; Yo Creek; Pal Mar.

I'd also like to add recognition to these senior division players - Dick Garcia-MF; Francisco "Sad Sak" Garcia-FW; Caranza-MF; Orlando Lambey-CB; "Wico" Carballo-FW (best striker); "Bud" August-FW; "Stud" Hendricks-MF (most prolific).

I learned a lot through my time with football, and made lifelong relationships and memories.

I want to thank every person mentioned, and even those not mentioned. This was an attempt to bring back the past, and I acknowledge if anything is not factual. Thank you.



MCC - Belize City

## Pelé's family: COVID caused infection, death not imminent

**Mauricio Savarese**  
SAO PAULO (AP),  
Sun. Dec. 4, 2022

Two daughters and one grandson of Brazilian soccer great Pelé said the three-time World Cup winner has been hospitalized since Tuesday to treat a respiratory infection aggravated by COVID-19. They added that the 82-year-old is under no imminent risk of death.

Kely and Flavia Nascimento and Arthur Arantes do Nascimento said in an interview aired Sunday night that Pelé, who is also undergoing chemotherapy in his fight against cancer, is expected to leave the Albert Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo once he fully recovers from the respiratory infection. Neither the family nor the hospital have



**Santos soccer team supporters secure a banner with the image of former soccer star Pelé, in front of the Albert Einstein hospital where he is hospitalized in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sunday, (Dec.) 4, 2022. The 82-year-old Pelé has been at the hospital since Tuesday and officials say he is responding well to treatment for a respiratory infection. (AP Photo/Marcelo Chello)**  
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

any predictions in that regard.

The hospital said Saturday that Pelé is responding well to treatment for the



## World Cup Round of 16 results & fixtures

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Here are the latest results in WC Qatar 2022 Round of 16 knockout games played so far, as of noon today, and remaining fixtures. (winners in bold)

### ROUND OF 16

**Sat. Dec. 3** – Netherlands 3-1 United States; **Argentina** 2-1 Australia.

**Sun. Dec. 4** – France 3-1 Poland; **England** 3-0 Senegal.

**Mon. Dec. 5** – Japan 1-1 Croatia, **Croatia** 3-1 on penalties; **Brazil** 4-1 Korea Republic.

**Tues. Dec. 6** – Morocco vs Spain; Portugal vs Switzerland

The quarterfinals are scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10. Below are the quarterfinal fixtures with some team names to be determined according to results this afternoon and tomorrow.

### QUARTERFINALS

**Fri. Dec. 9** – Netherlands vs Argentina; Croatia vs Brazil

**Sat. Dec. 10** – England vs France; (winner of Morocco vs Spain) vs (winner of Portugal vs Switzerland)

## Mbappé is bringing soccer to a new dimension at World Cup

ANDREW DAMPF

DOHA, Qatar (AP), Mon. Dec. 5, 2022

Cristiano Ronaldo's precision. Lionel Messi's vision. The speed and power of the original Ronaldo—the one from Brazil.

Kylian Mbappé is elevating his performance to a new dimension at the World Cup.

As Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo play what will likely be their final World Cup, the France and Paris Saint-Germain striker is erasing any questions over who might succeed them as the sport's new superstar.

Mbappé delivered another stellar performance when he scored twice and set up another goal for defending champion France in a 3-1 win over Poland on Sunday to reach the quarterfinals of the tournament in Qatar.

"We know about Kylian, of course. He speaks on the soccer field," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "He can change a match in just a moment."

Having already scored four goals when he led his country to the title four years ago as a 19-year-old phenom, the now 23-year-old Mbappé has five and is the leading scorer in this edition of soccer's biggest event. His nine career World Cup goals make him the first player to score that many before the age of 24, breaking a record previously held by Pelé, who had seven at that point.

It's not just about goals for Mbappé, whose career arc continues to draw comparisons to Pelé, the Brazilian great who had won two World Cup titles by the time he turned 21.

Mbappé is ready to follow Pelé, Diego Maradona, Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi into the pantheon of soccer greats.

"He hurt us today but I am cheering for him because he is a real star," Poland coach Czesław Michniewicz said through a translator. "I'm talking about Messi, Ronaldo, (Robert) Lewandowski. If someone is going to take over, I think



France's Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring his side's third goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Poland, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner) ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mbappé will be the player to be the best one for many years."

Playing on the left wing against Poland, Mbappé's first hint of magic came with a pass to himself.

In an instant, Mbappé accelerated up to 35 kph (22 mph) as he kicked the ball forward into empty space then burst past Przemysław Frankowski to collect it several meters ahead. While that action didn't result in a goal, it laid the framework for what was to come on a night when Mbappé showed off his full arsenal of weapons.

Moving toward the center of the field, Mbappé then turned playmaker when he threaded a delicate pass through Poland's defense to set up Olivier Giroud's opener.

The two goals came with powerful shots in the second half as Poland's defenders struggled to keep up with Mbappé's pace and physicality.

Poland right back Matty Cash, who had faced Messi and Argentina four days earlier, and who defends against the world's best on a weekly basis with Aston Villa in the Premier League, put Mbappé's level into perspective.

"When you look at his finishing there, he's unbelievable," Cash said. "He's probably the best player I've played against."

Up next for Mbappé is a quarterfinal duel with England on Saturday.

## Lionel Messi gives Argentina lead with first career World Cup Knockout Stage goal

MIKE GAVIN

NBC Sports, Sat. Dec. 3, 2022

Lionel Messi took the field for his 1,000th career game and what could be his final career World Cup match.

But he's doing everything within his power to make sure the latter is not the case.

Messi broke a scoreless tie by scoring his first career knockout stage goal to give Argentina a 1-0 lead over Australia in the 35th minute.

After Messi's set piece from the right flank was headed out of the box, Argentina maintained possession. Messi delivered a give-and-go to Alexis Mac Allister, who sent a pass back into the box to Nicolás Otamendi. Otamendi one-



touched a short pass back to Messi, who fired a left-footed shot past a diving keeper and inside the far post.

It was Messi's ninth career World Cup goal, moving him past Diego Maradona for most goals in the tournament by an Argentine.

Argentina is looking to win its first World Cup since 1986. Messi's best finish was in 2014 when Argentina was runner-up to Germany.

## Pelé's family: COVID caused infection, death not imminent

Continued from Page 13

infection and his health condition had not worsened over the previous 24 hours. The hospital did not issue any statements on the former footballer's health Sunday.

"He is sick, he is old. But at the moment, he is there because of the lung infection. And once he feels better, he will go home again," Kely Nascimento told TV Globo. She lives in the United States and spoke on video.

"He is not saying goodbye in a hospital at the moment," she added.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, who is globally known as Pelé, had a colon tumor removed in September 2021, but

neither his family nor the hospital have said whether it had spread.

Flavia Nascimento said in the interview that Pelé is yet to have a remission of his colon cancer but is now regulating his medication with doctors to keep fighting.

"It is very unfair for people to say he is in the end of his life, in palliative care. Guys, that's not true. Believe us," she said. "He is not in intensive care; he is in a regular bedroom. He is not in risk; he is in treatment."

Newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reported Saturday that Pelé's chemotherapy is not working and that doctors had decided to put him on palliative care. The Associated Press could not confirm that information.

Arthur Arantes do Nascimento said he is debating World Cup matches with Pelé by phone, which he believes shows the 82-year-old is fully aware in hospital.

Pelé's grandson said the former footballer missed injured star Neymar at Brazil's latest two matches in Qatar—a 1-0 win against Switzerland and a 1-0 defeat of the reserves against Cameroon, both in group stage. Brazil faces South Korea on Monday in the round 16, with Neymar possibly returning to the team.

Arthur Arantes do Nascimento also said his grandfather was moved by tributes that have poured from around the world on the last few days. Since

Saturday, about a hundred fans of his lifelong club Santos came for a vigil, prayers and tributes to the soccer great. Fans, players and coaches taking part in the World Cup wished him well by multiple means.

"I see people telling me 'rest in peace' (for Pelé). One day it will happen, but it is not today," Arthur Arantes do Nascimento said. "He is going to be well; it is a matter of time. He will see Brazil lift the sixth title."

Pelé helped Brazil win the 1958, 1962 and 1970 World Cups and remains the team's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 matches.

# Double murder on Electric Avenue

Continued from Page 1

went to pick up his son at his ex-girlfriend's home on Electric Avenue, but when he reached her house, an argument ensued between Smith and his ex in the presence of her current boyfriend. Smith was told that his child wasn't ready and that he needed to return later, which he ultimately did. Shortly after noon, Smith returned driving a red KIA Sorento SUV along with Ramirez in the passenger seat and parked on the left side of the street, with the vehicle facing Mahogany Street, when they were ambushed by a gunman who fired shots in the direction of the vehicle while both men were inside.

Both men's bodies were later extracted from the SUV and transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH), where the two men were

pronounced dead on arrival. The murder scene was processed, and several expended shell casings and slugs were retrieved.

Today, Monday, December 5, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams told members of the local media that further investigations will be done and that both the mother of Smith's child and her current boyfriend will be questioned to determine whether either was involved in orchestrating the murder.

While no concrete motive for the shooting has been established, police are considering the possibility that the incident may be gang-related, since there are reports that Smith, who was charged earlier this year with "being a member of a gang", was affiliated with the Long Beach Crips gang in Placencia.

Communications Director of the

Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, reassured the public that the Police Department has already taken steps to ensure no retaliation takes place.

"We have officers that have been tasked with certain assignments, and while this is not believed to be of a gang nature, we cannot rule out that people

are related to Mr. Smith and would definitely want to seek revenge," he said.

While police are trying to solve this latest murder, a video of the murder scene is being circulated via social media and ASP Yearwood stated that the video violates the Belize Police Department's media policy and that the matter will be dealt with internally.

## BTB loses second wrongful termination law-suit

Continued from Page 1

wrongful termination, just a couple months after the court handed down a ruling in favor of former Director of Tourism, Karen Bevans, who had herself filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the board and is to receive a massive payout to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. That second employee who filed a lawsuit against the board, Misty Michael, was, like Bevans, part of the team that headed the board during the previous UDP administration. Michael, who served as the Director of Marketing and Industry Relations at the BTB, was, like Bevans, terminated just months after the PUP administration was elected, following the general elections in November 2020. In 2021, Michael received a letter notifying her that her contract, which had been renewed in 2020 under a UDP administration that was facing an impending election, and had extended her period of employment as Marketing Director until 2023, could not be honored. The BTB cited the COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact on the tourism sector as the main reason for Michael's termination. However, it is reported that her vacant post was filled the day after her departure from the BTB.

This prompted Michael to seek redress through the Supreme Court. She sued the BTB for over \$200,000 – the total amount of remuneration she would have collected if her contract had been honored. Michael contracted Senior Counsel Dean Barrow, who also represented Karen Bevans, to present her case, while Senior Counsel Andrew Marshalleck represented the BTB. Marshalleck argued that the contract between the BTB and Mrs. Michael was invalid and unenforceable, since the terms of that contract had not been approved by the Minister of Tourism. In the end, though, presiding judge, Justice Lisa Shoman ruled in favor of Michael, granting her over \$200,000 in

compensation along with 6% interest per annum from the date of her termination and the cost of legal fees.

While speaking with local reporters, Senior Counsel Barrow commented, "The excuse given, or the reason given by the BTB at the time was that the BTB had been left so strapped for cash, as a consequence of COVID, that it could no longer afford to pay them, and each of them had contracts that contained a clause saying, if the BTB is unable to pay you, the BTB can then exercise an option to terminate you. So, two things arose. Mrs. Michael sued, and we filed the claim on her behalf, and the B.T.B. said 'well, first of all, we are not liable because we exercised our right under that clause in the contract. We are saying that we were simply no longer able to pay, and so Mrs. Michael had to go.' But they also said, as they did in the Karen Bevans case, that the contract, because it contained not just that clause about the B.T.B.'s being able to terminate if the B.T.B. couldn't pay, it also contained a clause saying, but if there is no cause or if there is not termination for that reason of inability to pay and the B.T.B., nevertheless, dismisses the employee, then the B.T.B. must pay that employee up until the end of the contract. So, if there is a year to go, two years to go, the B.T.B. must pay. And that was the essence of our claim, that: number one, the B.T.B. was not broke. The B.T.B. was still functioning. Its finances may have become strained, but it was certainly not in a position where it could legitimately say that it was unable to pay."

As previously mentioned, this is the second wrongful termination suit that was successfully brought against the B.T.B. since the Briceño administration took office in 2020. Reports suggest that there are multiple impending suits against the government that are being filed for wrongful terminations by the B.T.B.

## UN welcomes extension of Amnesty program

Continued from Page 1

suggest that approximately 40,000 - 60,000 irregular migrants are currently living in the country.

Following the announcement, three UN agencies working in Belize released a joint statement welcoming the government's decision. The United Nations Children Fund, the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency have supported the processing of over 6,668 applications so far, well over half the total number of applicants.

"To reach as many vulnerable people as possible, including those living in remote communities, the UN agencies set up mobile clinics to ensure services were available to those in remote areas," the release issued last Friday states.

The majority of consultations at the migrant hubs took place in the Cayo and Toledo District. Guatemalan nationals living in Belize submitted the most applications, so far, according to the 2022 final report. Also, among those

who applied, the most frequently listed criterion which they met for qualification was the birth of at least one of their children in Belize before December 2021.

At the end of the process, those persons who have applied should be given permanent residency, and placed on a path to eventual citizenship, but poor turnout leading up to this week's deadline on November 30 has caused the government to decide to extend the program.

The purpose of the Amnesty program is to address the issue of migrants living in Belize illegally. Recommended asylum seekers may also participate. Eight qualifying criteria are laid out by the Ministry of Immigration, which has established asylum centers that are in operation in various parts of the country.

The processing period for applications already submitted was to begin in earnest on Thursday, December 1, and end in May 2023, but will be pushed back until a later date.

## Governor General swears in 3 Justices

Continued from Page 1

Among those judicial appointees was Chief Justice Louise Esther Blenman, who is a native of Georgetown, Guyana and has held various judicial posts in the Caribbean, including a ten-year tenure as Justice of Appeal in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. Blenman will now occupy the Chief Justice post following the crossover of Justice Michelle Arana, who served as acting Chief Justice from April of 2020 to September of 2022, to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Arana was sworn in on Wednesday, November 30 as a new Court of Appeal judge. Notably, while Justice Arana held the post of acting Chief Justice for over two years, she did not submit her name for consideration when the official post became vacant and was advertised both locally and internationally. Justice Arana's Supreme Court tenure dates all the way back to 2006, when she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Belize as the first female justice of that court. During her swearing in, Justice Arana expressed her gratitude to H.E. Tzalam for hosting the event and to her colleagues for their support throughout the years:

"I wish to thank my fellow judges, for all your support throughout the past years that we have labored together as judicial colleagues in the Supreme Court of Belize. I truly value our time together,

and the experiences shared, which I will always treasure. Your support has been invaluable, especially during my tenure as acting Chief Justice over the past two and a half years, during which we grappled with the many unprecedented challenges brought upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. We as judges, bolstered and supported by our indefatigable and resilient staff of the Supreme Court, pulled together as a team and kept the wheels of justice turning as we continued to deliver justice to the people of this nation during what was one of the most challenging periods in recent history. And for that, I salute you," she said.

Justice Arana also expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, for her appointment and shared her willingness to continue her 22-year tenure as judge in the country's highest resident court.

Prior to Justice Arana's swearing in, Justice Minette Hafiz-Bertram was also appointed as the president of the Court of Appeal on November 22. Justice Hafiz-Bertram was sworn in as the acting president of the court back in December of 2020 by former Governor General, H.E. Sir Colville Young. Justice Bertram, who likewise hails from Guyana, and was appointed as a justice of the Court of Appeal in 2013, also previously served as a Supreme Court judge, and as Registrar General and Registrar of the Supreme Court.

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# From the Hondo... to Mahogany!

## Sugar and Cream

Corozal Town - Orange Walk Town - Belize City

New Year's Day

2023



## Who will win?

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual kren FM

## CYCLING CLASSIC

## New Year's Day 2023!!



1991	Michael Lewis (first) Ernest Meighan (second)	(Ladies)	Lori Harkey (first)
1992	Francisco Flores (first) Fitzgerald Joseph (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) Carlos Hernandez (first)
1993	Derrick Mahler (first) Orlando Chavarria (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Manuel Hernandez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1994	Douglas Lamb (first) Ronald Sutherland (second)		Anthea Sutherland (second) Marco Salas (first)
1995	Robert Mariano (first) Gustavo Carillo (second)	(Ladies)	Juan Rojas (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1996	Nigel Matus (first) Ian Smith (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Geovanni Choto (first)
1997	Fred Usher (first) Michael Lewis (second)	(Ladies)	Byron Pope (second) Kaya Cattouse (first)
1998	Francisco Flores (first) James Frampton (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) David Henderson (first)
1999	Ernest Meighan (first) Skip Spangenburg (second)	(Ladies)	Gregory Lovell (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
2000	Ariel Rosado (first) Quinton Hamilton (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Byron Pope (first)
2001	Miguel Perez (first) Shane Vasquez (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Lopez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	(Ladies) Karen Rosito (First)		Gabrielle Lovell (second)
2002	Amlita Knowles (second) Barney Brown (first)	2015	Hector Rangel (first) David Santos (second)
	Hugo Rostrain Monterosa (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Ann Marie Bennett (first)	2016	Joel Adan Borland (first) Gregory Lovell (second)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first) Frank Cannon (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes Gonzalez (First)	2017	Ron Vasquez (first) Brandon Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first) Mateo Cruz (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)	2018	John DeLong (first) John DeLong (second)
2005	Claudett Maheia (second) Michael Lewis (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Shane Vasquez (second)	2019	John DeLong (First) Clayton Travis (Second)
2006	Marinette Flowers (first) Scottie Weiss (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
(Ladies)	Marlon Castillo (second)	2020	Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (First) Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (Second)
2007	Alicia Thompson (first) Marinette Flowers (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
	Shane Vasquez (first)	2021	<b>NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)</b>
(Ladies)	Marlon Castillo (second)	2022	Brandon Cattouse (first) Derrick Chavarria (second)
	Shalini Zabaneh (second)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2008	Neo German Camacho Villegas (first) Edward Reyes (second)		
(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)		
2009	Alicia Thompson (second) Marlon Castillo (first)		
	Gregory Lovell (second)		